

THE ORIGINALS



DISCUSSIONS OF THE FUTURE WITH THE PRINCIPAL

TOT: What is your vision for the school academic year 2021-2022?

MMS: The vision has always been the same, “To give a platform to each girl to explore her latent talent in the desired field.” It is a little complicated, given the new norms. So, we will... plan, short-term, and keep planning short-term. This being a different year.

TOT: How has the virus impacted the school?

MMS: That’s a tough one. Boarding schools have really been affected. The governments have come out with certain advisories and certain notices. Which have been harsh. Boarding schools cannot rent out their facilities, boarding schools have a large number of staff that they have to take care of, almost double of that of a day school. Boarding schools have to also take care of upkeep of the school, which is spread out in large areas, like 40 acres. There are a lot of vulnerable societies and businesses which are associated with boarding schools. It’s not just the school but everybody gets impacted. The management has been very kind and has tried to absorb the impact to a great extent, but the impact is definitely there. However, we are hopeful that we will come out of this and 2021 will be a better year.

TOT: How will you remember the year 2020?

MMS: A year of opportunities, a year of growth, and a year of love, which was distant because none of my girls were on campus. Love, yet, but distant love.

TOT: The seniors are back to school and will eventually be settled but how do you plan to repeat the same tedious process all over again in welcoming the juniors?

MMS: I think there should not be any problem because we have experienced it with the seniors. So, the process can be followed similarly, the second time is always easier

TOT: What changes have been made in the school that the stakeholders should be looking forward to?

MMS: For the safety and the wellbeing of all stakeholders, we have followed all protocols, the protocols to ensure social distancing and regular sanitisation etc. But besides that, we have introduced certain subjects like ‘Sports Exercise Health Sciences’, so that girls who are not science oriented can pick this up as a subject, ‘Theatre’, ‘Bharatanatyam’ and ‘Kathak’ are now not limited to students as passions but can be opted for as a subject. The green field has been extended so that there is more area for the girls to play, the new dorms already in place, the labs have been upgraded, a lot of teacher training and professional development has been done. We have newly hired chefs and a new baker, who have taken the food to another level, variety has been introduced, we, now, have specialists in Chinese, Continental, South Indian and Indian food. School bakery has been upgraded. The girls are in for a finger-licking treat.



(From left to right- Tanisha Agarwal, Samiksha Singh, Ms. Meeta Sharma (The Principal), Riddhima Agarwal, Nirali Sawarhia.)

**TOT-The Originals Team
MMS- Ms. Meeta Sharma*

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2020 IN NEWS

~ Unnati Pattnaik

In a rather unfortunate turn of events, it will be fair to say that making it through last year was like a roller coaster ride. So, for you to have a quick recap, here is a summary of 2020 in NEWS. The year kick-started with us having our first Chief of Defence Staff, while the Bombay High Court made it clear to the police as to when and where they can interfere in its citizen's life. Then followed the apocalyptic phase. While America ran out of toilet paper, we ran out of face masks! The number of Covid-19 cases hit a whopping 10 million globally, TikTok is no longer a thing in the country, the 8 minutes and 46-second long video of George Floyd gets out to the world. All this happened in just one summer! Thankfully we have begun the new year and are at a stage where countries have started giving out vaccines to its citizens, and schools and businesses are carefully reopening. However, if you turn out to be that kid who participated in a new year's eve party just to wish everyone a happy new year at midnight, I, on behalf of every sensible MISTar say this, you will be the one eating everyone's share of *kathal* for the entire year.

THAT AESTHETE

~ Ariel

I remember someone from my memory. Someone who resonated with my soul. Someone whose words were scented with the reality of the petrichor. Someone who made, even my angst, sumptuous. Someone who led me to the nadir of my life and yet made me believe it was my zenith. Someone who left her scintilla everywhere she went. Someone who felt like the elixir of felicity. Someone who was as quintessential as one can be but yet was a plethora of unusual strangeness. Someone who was my nemesis but yet the sole cause of my sanguine thoughts. She was an axiom. My memory.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS GLOBE

- In what may indicate further wait for operationalisation Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the home ministry on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that the committees on subordinate legislation for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have granted extended time until April 9, 2021 and July 9, 2021 respectively to frame the rules under CAA.
- Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against Covid-19 has shown 91.6 per cent efficacy in the phase 3 trial without any serious side effects, according to an interim analysis of data published in The Lancet journal on Tuesday.
- The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund to pay Rs 9,122 Crore among unit-holders of six mutual fund schemes that were shut down by the company abruptly.
- A new research has shown that expectant mothers can draw comfort from the fact that coronavirus antibodies in a woman have a protective effect on her baby.
- Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and senior journalists Rajdeep Sardesai and Mrinal Pande have moved the Supreme Court against charges of sedition, promotion of enmity and criminal conspiracy levelled against them for posting "malafide, defamatory, false and misleading" tweets accusing the Delhi Police of killing a farmer during the tractor parade on Republic Day

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THE ORIGINALS

TO WELCOME AND TO BE WELCOMED

TOT grabs every opportunity that we get, and we did just that this time. With students finally stepping onto campus after eleven months, everybody had different emotions running in their minds, and we captured some of them.

Being here in campus with no kids around can be lonely, Mr. Mayank talked to us about his hardships in the past year,

TOT: How do you feel about the students returning back to school?

SMC: See, a school is only known as long as the kids are there, when the kids were not there it looked as if there was a barren land. After the children came, they brought life back to the school and we all are enjoying the moment here right now.

TOT: How was your experience with zoom classes and what changes do you expect now?

SMC: When we started with zoom and online classes, everything was a new experience for us and in this age, it was a difficult task especially when we had to pick up new things, yet we pulled through. One after another, we still see new things coming up and we are still learning how technology has taken over conventional teaching and we are getting better day by day.

Ms. Nivedita recently joined our family as a faculty of the science department, and we got the opportunity to portray her emotions,

TOT: Being one of the new faculty members, how do you feel about the time you have spent here so far?

MNS: I feel very positive, the campus is very beautiful. The atmosphere is really good, not to mention the students, they are amazing. Mussoorie, itself, is a very beautiful place to live in. I've always dreamed of living in a hill station, and that dream has finally come true.

TOT: How do you feel about finally conducting classes in person and not online?

MNS: I feel excited, of course. When you teach online, there are many things that you are unsure about, for example, when you face to face, you see the students' expressions and that in itself speaks more than the answers we receive. So, in person teaching is much more effective for the student and very helpful for the teachers too. Yes, so I'm very excited about teaching face to face again.

**TOT- The Originals Team*

SMC- Sir Mayank Chaturvedi

MNS - Maam Nivedita Singh

STEPS OF A NEW JOURNEY

~ Mahima Juyal

Walking through the arched gate, I felt two emotions: excitement and exhaustion. The excitement came from meeting my new friends for the first time, with the absence of the screen I first saw them on. The exhaustion came from the weight of my luggage. Oh, and walking up the countless ramps and stairs. My journey on the steep pathways were only lengthened. I entered the wrong building, thinking my cubicle was there, but once I got to our building I was greeted with familiar faces and laughs. Eight months of friendship, yet this was the first time we met face to face! Two days later, that surreal feeling of it all has disintegrated. Shifting into a completely new environment is difficult, but is made so much easier with the help of a welcoming community!

THE TROUBLES ARE OVER

~ Samiksha Singh (Ed. In Chief)

We are back in school, it's a new beginning again. The past year had been troublesome, especially for the team, we worked from different parts of the globe, struggled with deadlines and writers who refused to write 5 mins before deadlines. It was hard. But now, we are back and we are ready. TOT is all ready and geared up to make issues that will keep you updated even during school 'quarantine'. Even if we are a school newsletter, we are yet the press, we are the MISStars' voice, we will express your views and amplify them. I look forward this year, who knows what surprises and scandals the year has in store for us.

Our Two Cents



LETS TALK PRONOUNS

As we globalise, and meet the mosaic of humanity, it gets increasingly important to recognise and support those that are unlike us. To make the world an inclusive safe-space for all, we must use pronouns in signatures, introductions and social media biographies to help normalise discussions about gender, especially for the trans and non-binary communities.

Now you may ask, how are pronouns related to creating a positive community? To understand this, you must first know that 'gender' and 'sex' are different concepts. 'Sex' is binary (male and female) and biological; whereas, 'gender' is fluid and is represented through pronouns. While the majority identify with 'he/him' and 'she/her', many also use 'they/them' (or an assortment of all) to reflect where they are on the gender spectrum. It is because of this variation that we must be careful not to assume one's gender, and volunteering pronouns, during initial interactions, is a great way to show solidarity. This helps us familiarise ourselves with all the different gender identities, and reduces the psychological damage that misgendering may cause on queer and trans folks. We must learn how to refer to people in whatever way they see themselves, and choose to be seen. Words have power, and the language we use ultimately ends up shaping our society, and respecting one's preferred pronouns is the least we can do to show our unanimity.

WEB SERIES AND FILL

Complete the sentences with the names of famous web series.

1. What time _____ you?
2. A queen never puts _____ down.
3. A huge amount of money was stolen in a _____ last week.
4. _____ online schooling needs to stop.
5. Do you want to play _____ ?
6. The _____ explains how the world came into existence.
7. A coup d'état was staged to kill all members of the _____.
8. It was an eerie, _____ room.
9. _____ are quite the woman.
10. It's the _____ that matter.

Answer Key: 1. Suits, 2. The Crown, 3. Money Heist, 4. 13 Reasons Why, 5. Never Have I Ever, 6. Big Bang Theory, 7. Dynasty, 8. Dark, 9. You, 10. Little Things



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Mussoorie International School

Established in 1984