
THE ORIGINALS

Chapter 50

Congratulations to the entire team of The Originals as we celebrate the 50th edition. I am glad, and this is indeed a matter of unparalleled pride and joy. MIS has produced more than 4000 graduates in the last 39 years of its inception and has established itself as one of the best schools, nationally and internationally providing outstanding education and opportunities to be successful in life. "The Originals" is a testimony of the same. The Originals is an endeavour that extends beyond the classroom teaching, combining research and communication, to prepare our girls to work in fields related to journalism, communication, and media. It has become a platform for all ages of the learning community to discuss, express and deliberate. As we come together to enjoy the milestone that showcases the incredible journalistic work done, I would like to thank and applaud the Team behind the publication "The Originals" that has been instrumental in exploring many ideologies, shaping the thoughts and skills of budding editors, correspondents, reporters, graphic designers, and page setters.

Principal's Note To The Originals

I applaud the collaboration and all the toil, even during the vacations or assessment period at school.

Dear Team, The Originals today is an amazingly popular newsletter at school and among other stakeholders. People eagerly await the arrival of a Saturday to set their eyes on it. This credit goes solely to all the editors, illustrators, and writers. I thank all the editors-in-chief for their insight, diligence, and leadership capabilities that have enabled them to reach the milestone.

I hope 'The Originals' reaches greater heights in the future and is a true indicator of MIS's innovation and educational excellence. I hope it keeps entertaining/ informing passionate readers about all that goes on in school and beyond, as it has continued doing week-after-week.

Once again, a hearty congratulations to the current 'The Originals' team on the 50th edition of history-making with freedom of expression at MIS.

Here is to the next 50 and beyond, Cheers!

Appreciation Of The Finest

~ Vardhiniie Jain

When we talk about the originals, the one prevalent thought is the endless effort put into the making of it, and how amazingly the students translate their thoughts into words. Even though we are not in school, all members of the team do their best to get so many well-written, and well-informed articles, and then share them with all of us. The Originals is a platform that encourages the students to write more. It makes us more aware of different perceptions and allows us the tools to accept them all, which, to be very honest, is exactly what we need. As a regular writer, whenever a piece of my writing is published, it only pushes me forward to write more and more every day. There is some serious hard work put into the making of the newsletter- an endless circle of collecting, writing, editing, and publishing. However, we all agree that all that effort is worth it. The Originals has become an important part of Mussoorie International School's framework, and we look forward to all the upcoming issues to come.

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Where It All Began

~ Riddhima Agrawal (TOT'19)

The 'Originals', a journey that started as a CAS project by the IB girls, is now a whole school platform beyond the distinction of the word. It was a Saturday night where all the IB girls were sitting and had decided to come up with a school publication where the MISTars were allowed to express their feelings, talent and be able to catch up with the school's gossip. Everyone was excited, we worked the whole night deciding how we would pitch in the idea for a newsletter. Finally, the day to pitch our idea arrived. The first thing we did in the morning after assembly was to go to Ms. Vatsala, as she was our CAS coordinator. She immensely supported us and told us to pitch in the idea to the new principal, Ms Meeta Sharma, who seemed hugely interested and showed great enthusiasm. Right after the meeting ended, she started the process by giving references, for us to learn, from different schools. There were many developments in the school after the newsletter was published. The school found a new mascot, everyone in the corridor was holding a newsletter, reading, playing sudoku, and catching up on the largely famous anonymous and unfiltered weekly recap, written by the School Prefect which was revealed during the farewell. I think sitting in the conference room before the day of publication united the IB and ICSE girls, getting nervous every time Ms Meeta called us or anytime we entered her office the conversation always started with 'shoot', and convincing her to come to a middle ground was hard, meeting her expectations of the newsletter with IB results were tough, but there were justified to reach the level we wanted to achieve. Dr Ponny Chacko, our IB coordinator, without her it would have been a very stressful journey, she managed to balance all of us. MIS is not just a boarding school, it is a home where everyone can grow in friendship, body and mind.

Journey Through the Mysterious Globe:

- Israel swears in new president, Isaac Herzog, as the 11th president on July 7th.
- On 7th July, Israeli forces demolished the homes and farming equipment of the Palestine Bedouin community of the Hamsa al-Baq'a occupied in the Jordan Valley. This was the 7th destroyed community in the West Bank.
- An underwater gas leak in an undersea pipeline caused a massive blaze in the Gulf Of Mexico on 3rd July.
- In the Ming Dih Chemical factory of Thailand, two massive cases of fire broke out. The first blaze took more than 24 hours to extinguish, and the second was equally worse. More than 60 people were injured in the disaster, including multiple emergency responders, and more than 30 had to be hospitalised. However, the main public response is garnered towards the jarring lack of equipment provided to the firefighters, which included use of surgical masks against potentially carcinogenic chemicals.

OODDLE DOODLE



~ Shreya Ranjan

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EIC: In Retrospection

~ Unnati Pattnaik (TOT EIC' 20)

I was going through a past issue of the newsletter just a few days ago, and the memories came in gushing. It feels like yesterday that the team and I were working late at night in the cubies, begging ma'am Fizah to let us work for an extra 30 minutes after lights out. All the times we had to, in the literal sense of the word, run in the campus to get articles approved from teachers in charge or to get that beautiful, gorgeous, stunning 0% plagiarism report from Sir Mahajan to show it off in front of Ma'am Meeta. Those were the good old days. Be it the time when we had to make a whole issue in just a day, after converting the staff room into our work station, or be it the time when one of our teacher-in-charge took a "special meeting" with us in the terrace classes (if you know, you know). Then came the real 2020. Initially adjusting to the online mode for working was hard without a doubt. The lack of physical communication, students not responding to texts last minute, certain departments of the newsletter having to stay up all night to meet deadlines, annoying the life out of the people at the Delhi office to update the school website every week, things looked worse than founding days; however, we eventually got a hang of it. We had to, for there was no second option.

What yet amuses me is that even while working virtually, we made memories that we could cherish. While working, we started to value every small, little victory that came our way. Being able to speak about real-world issues without fearing judgement, seeing our juniors put forward their opinions without hesitation, we were, and we still are, proud of what The Originals has transformed into.

From articles like 'The Communist Masters' [issue 26] to 'I Can't Breathe' [issue 19], I am nothing but proud of all the MISTars who chose to speak up. Very honestly, somewhere deep down, there was this feeling that maybe people after us would not take this weekly as seriously and dearly as we did. Then again, every success story has its ups and downs, and the fact that the current team managed to reach issue 50 is a victory in itself.

To everyone who has been reading and supporting the newsletter since day 1- thank you. Thank you for being a reason for this success. For the current team always remember to cherish your flaws, to remember that you are no perfect beings but mavericks, for YOU are The Originals.

A Letter to The Editor

Dear Editor,

On May 1st, 2021, in their 45th issue, The Originals published an article on "Our Two Cents" about anxiousness vs. anxiety. I would like to thank the team for bringing awareness to the topic. Some people who are close to me that suffer from anxiety completely agree with the article.

Firstly, it is true that many people claim they are suffering from anxiety just because they got anxious, or worried, over something. That is one reason why society does not take anxiety seriously anymore: the over-usage of medical terms as common colloquial expressions.

I have personally seen people self-diagnosing themselves with anxiety, depression, or ADHD and it may lead to serious issues in the future. I want to applaud the originals for explaining the situation we are in so perfectly.

Respectfully,
Rashi Parihar

Awaited Results

My eyes broke its dams,
As it came into view,
The product,
Of my hard work overdue.
The word imbued pages,
The strokes like gossamer,
The beauty like that of an ingénue woman,
It was a piece of art,
My art, our art.
I basked,
In this fugacious contentment,
For the process is still incipient,
And this moment ephemeral.

~ Ariel

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Editor In Chief's Thoughts

1) TOT: What is that one change that you hoped to achieve when you were first selected as the Editor in Chief and would like to believe that you have achieved?

EIC: To be very honest, if I have to talk about achievements when I became Editor in Chief, I never thought of a specific one. Unnati was doing a great job, being the Editor in Chief that time. I wanted to keep the legacy going, I wanted it to go as good as it was going before. I thought that we will just progress as we go because keeping a set achievement that I would want to achieve during a year like that, or a year like this would be unrealistic. As you would not always get the same opportunities. So, I was just waiting to come across something which could be done better by us than by the other teams. If I have to talk about something that we have achieved, I think it will be our special issues. All the special issues that we have released are amazing. I think that is an achievement because we have made the special issues special.

2) TOT: How do you manage being the Deputy Head Girl and the Editor in Chief- these are both very demanding roles.

EIC: People might think that both of these posts might be something that would be hard to handle. But if you see, both of them are quite similar jobs. As Deputy Head Girl, I am the voice of the students, I represent them. As the Editor in Chief, of a form of media, I do the same. I represent the voice of the MISTars. So, it's not really different. If you talk about the pressure of doing these tasks simultaneously, yes, the pressure is always there. For example, if it is Founder's, even though it is a cultural event, and the cultural department does most of it, we as the council body help them. We all have a lot of work. But as the Editor in Chief, I have the special issue to look after. Overall, it is not really that hard because as the Deputy Head Girl I have a team with me and as editor in chief I have a team as well. So, we're all doing stuff, juggling through life and I consider it as an opportunity to learn.

3) TOT: What is your opinion on the growth of The Originals over the years?

EIC: The growth is immense. If I talk about the layout, the layout of the first few issues is very different from the one we have now. It changed when Unnati stepped in. If I would say it's better even, there used to be a lot of small mistakes in the newsletter before. Obviously, because it was the first time we were handling something so big, our seniors were handling something so big. So, there were mistakes such as editing problems, which we still have, but it has come to a smaller number. Like I said before, our special issues have evolved, and may I point out that the special issues have evolved after our team came in. The number of team members has evolved, the passion of the team members has changed, there are a lot of other things and I think The Originals is growing at an immense pace. I'm not sure if this will go on but I hope it does. This is for the future batch, that will take our place, I hope you keep this treasure of mine safe. It is growing and it

will grow. It is something that we all cherish so much; it will be heart-breaking to see it stop.

4) TOT: How has The Originals helped you grow both personally and professionally?

EIC: If we talk about growth professionally, I think one thing I have learned is how to deal with people. As the editor in chief, a part of media, I have met a lot of people- there are writers, there are our interviewees and so many more. There are always some problematic people, for example, not keeping up with the deadlines, or just vanishing at the last moment. I have learned how to handle those situations where we have to fix everything at the last moment.

Personally, if you ask me, I don't know if it counts as growth, but The Originals has given me something more than just memories, I cherish The Originals itself. I love it with all my heart and I do not have a particular explanation. If you read my article as the Editor in Chief in this very same issue, I have depicted my love. It is quite funny that I realised this love after I lost this post the first time. That time, I realised there are some things in life that I cannot just let go of. Since I have it back now, it personally makes me stronger.

5) TOT: Like you have mentioned before, that your interviewees are not cooperative or your writers are not cooperative, there might also be times that your team members are failing to live up to your expectations and work, to the required standards, so what do you do to keep your team united despite the circumstances that are put to you?

EIC: If we're talking about team members specifically, most of the time, most of my team members are very cooperative- they do their duties on time, we have a lot of fun while working as well, we pitch in ideas and all. If there is something new to add, or even if it is something small, I ask the team members for their opinions as well. If the majority does not agree, we do not do it, even if it is my idea. Whereas if the majority agrees, even if it is not my idea and I do not like it, we still do it. I think this makes them feel accepted and listened to, that their opinions matter too and they are not only the voice of the other MISTars but they can raise their own voice. So, this is one motivating factor that keeps us united. I think another major factor is my enthusiasm for this newsletter. I think it is contagious enough to affect them.

6) TOT: As the editor-in-chief, there might be times that you have to make a lot of decisions and you are expected to know it all. But there can be situations where you seem lost. So how do you manage to overcome those situations? Are you a fighter or do you lose hope?

EIC: There are times when I lose hope. But when The Originals is concerned, losing hope is not even an option. I will do everything that I can to fix that problem. If it's something that I don't know about, or I need help, there is one person I will always go to. That person is Unnati. Anytime, I have an issue related to The Originals, I approach her. If not her, then I approach Mr. Marks. These two people will always provide me with an idea of

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My Voyage With *EOE*

Hello all,

It is finally the 50th Issue of The Originals and it could not have been any better, if my not-so-modest self says so. It is quite surreal to be honest. My journey with The Originals has been something which is not commonly seen. I was appointed as the Editor in Chief online and loved working with the gazette, then all came crashing down when I got stripped of the title to gain another, and then after some excruciatingly painful months I was back. And so was The Originals. The Originals is the weekly gazette of Mussoorie International School. It serves as a connecting bridge between MISStars and the outside world. We publish articles pertaining to global issues and the happenings of the school, combining these two aspects to create a sense of knowledge, awareness and social responsibility. The Originals stands as the voice of all MISStars and delivers their opinions to the school community, teaching them both, to raise their voice, and respect others'. We are another step taken by Mussoorie International School towards creating internationally responsible human beings. Some might call me overdramatic, or even an attention seeker, but I yet remember days when people would mock the newsletter, telling me that no one even read the gazette, and nobody cared about what went on with it, all this right in my face, and I would fight them, be it whoever I would not let anybody talk down something I cherished so much. And I yet can't. Working for this team since Issue 17, I cannot and will not leave this child of mine, and all the other Chief Editors', alone. No one can make me do that. People who agree to write articles but ghost us after leaping through the deadline, people who see the issues in the Whatsapp groups but never read them, people who think The Originals is useless and dumb, I used to dislike them, they would make me so mad, I can't even explain, but now? Now it is not maddening anymore, its motivation, motivation to make me push my team to make issues so extraordinary that people would fight to get their work published, people would wait for the issues to be sent on the groups and read them as soon as possible, it wouldn't be useless anymore, it would be an opportunity. It would be ORIGINAL. Graphs usually start from zero, but The Originals is an exponential graph, we had our ups and downs and now we are on our way to infinity.

~ Samiksha Singh (Editor in Chief'21)

A Parent's Take On The Originals

~ Debasish Roy (MIS Parent)

As a busy body, I do not indulge in reading as much as I once used to, but strangely am always able to peek through every page of the MIS newsletter – “The Originals”. An apt name, given the originality and ingenuity of various articles that the students pen – weird, witty, and often indescribable!

An excellent and brilliant initiative by the students of MIS, well supported by the teachers, to come up with such a newsletter that is modern, trendy, and yet very traditional that keeps one looking forward to the next edition every couple of weeks. It reflects the vibrancy of the school while keeping education as the centerpiece.

'The Originals' not only brings about improving one's writing skills but also broadens imagination, instills humour and fun. Most importantly, it brings about a great sense of collaboration and teamwork amongst the students and instills in them that sense of belonging towards the institution. It also keeps the parents engaged with the school, or at least in my case it did, as it is always intriguing to know how this generation thinks and their prism to the world!

I wish many more students will start to contribute, taking this wonderful and engaging legacy to another level in the future, and I wouldn't forget to congratulate “The Originals” for completing its 50th edition!

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A Teachers Note To The Originals

Congratulations team. It's been a long journey but you all finally made it!

Dear Originals Team,

Job well done! You have worked hard and it has finally paid off. I want to take a moment to point out how proud I am of you all because handling a School Newsletter is not only a big responsibility, but it is a matter of pride as well. Publishing your 50th edition is a feather to all of your caps, and I know you have faced many challenges but at the end what counts is the success and victory. And your dedication comes with a reward, it is not a physical award right now but it will pay all in a big way in the future, when you all will be striving for your career goals and will proclaim your achievements at school level, you can only imagine the pride that you will feel at that moment for the difficulties you have faced during the journey.

For this instance, I remembered the words of a great philosopher.

"Would you like me to give you a formula for success? It's quite simple, really: Double your rate of failure. You're thinking of failure as the enemy of success. But it isn't at all. You can be discouraged by failure or you can learn from it, so go ahead and make mistakes. Make all you can. Because remember that's where you will find success."

-Thomas J. Watson

He was a man of wisdom and his words hold much weight, and you can well imagine what he wanted to convey: That there is no fixed formula to success but consistency. So, my mantra to all of you is to be consistent and persistent in your path and eventually you will realize that this path only will be a path of glory and success which will bring achievements and trophies to all of you, and that will be your personal gains.

I would like to extend all the luck and wishes to our very own 'Original's Team' who have proved their mettle over the period of time and showed everyone that even the odds of this disastrous situation cannot even bring you down and you all will fathom eventually.

Best Regards & Wishes,

~ Mayank Chaturvedi

Our Readers

'The Originals' has reached its 50th issue and the growth is commendable. I have benefitted from reading this newsletter on a regular basis through my knowledge advancement. Congratulations to the finest team for their outstanding work and keep improving every day.

~ Sakshi Dharnidharka

For its smooth functioning, every organization needs a means to represent the voice of its members. 'The Originals' acts as that means to know and understand the views of the student body. This Weekly holds the greatest power in the school. It is what connects the students with the school administration and gets them involved in running the school.

~ Srimita Saha

'The Originals' is the beacon of enlightenment and inquisitiveness for the MISTARS. This publication serves as a platform for expressing our thoughts, opinions and articulating our comprehensive and literary skills to the public. With an array of captivating works brimming with originality, creative impressions and knowledge lurking within each masterpiece, 'The Originals' has raised inspiration for students, discovering a love for writing and unleashing our true spirits.

~ Naomi Chauhan

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We Are Proud

I've now been working as illustrator for The Originals for almost a year and it's surreal to think that together as a team we've come out with 25 issues and have reached the 50th issue. Although the journey has had bumps on the way, to look back and witness the growth that I've had individually as well as the entire team has made me feel like all our hard work has been rewarded. Working for The Originals has definitely been a once in a lifetime experience.

~ Shreya Ranjan, *Illustrator*

Being a part of The Originals team has been extremely delightful. I had the wonderful opportunity of serving as an IT associate in the team. It was quite an experience. What I have learned and gained during this journey is beyond comparison. I got to work with one of the best teams there can be. I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity.

~ Khushi Dixit, *IT Member*

Getting into the editors' team is a moment I will forever admire. I recall the moment when the recruitments for The Originals Team started, I was unsure about it at first because I was new to this. As a new student, I felt that I would not be given much preference and that had me thinking twice. But lo and behold, here I am, it is the efforts that matter! I am obliged to be a part of this outstanding team.

~ Gurleen Kaur Dhillon, *Editor*

MESSAGE FROM TOT:

We are hiring!

Do you want to voice your opinion? Or help others shape theirs?

This is the perfect opportunity for you to contribute to the school community and showcase, and build upon, your journalism skills. You can apply as an Editor, Illustrator, or as the IT team, the horizons are endless!

Further details on the process will be shared in the course of the next few days.

How Well Do You Know Us?

Guess the newsletter segment with the help of the clues.

1. Your tongue slips, our pen slips
2. Voyage with the news
3. Scribbles of a bored MIStar
4. Advice from some not-so-smart people
5. Rantings of the day by another bored MIStar
6. List of things that are ought to be broken
7. Your local paparazzi
8. Our questions your answers

ANSWERS: 1. Simon Says, 2. Journey Through the Mysterious Globe, 3. Oodle Doodle, 4. Our Two Cents 5. Diary of a MIStar, 6. Bill of Rights, 7. Previously on Campus, 8. Interviews.



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