

QUEST

AN ODYSSEY OF EXCELLENCE

**MARCH - APRIL
2026**

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Our Anthem

*In the school, we are brothers and sisters;
In the school, we learn to pray.
For God is our Creator,
Who guides us on our way.*

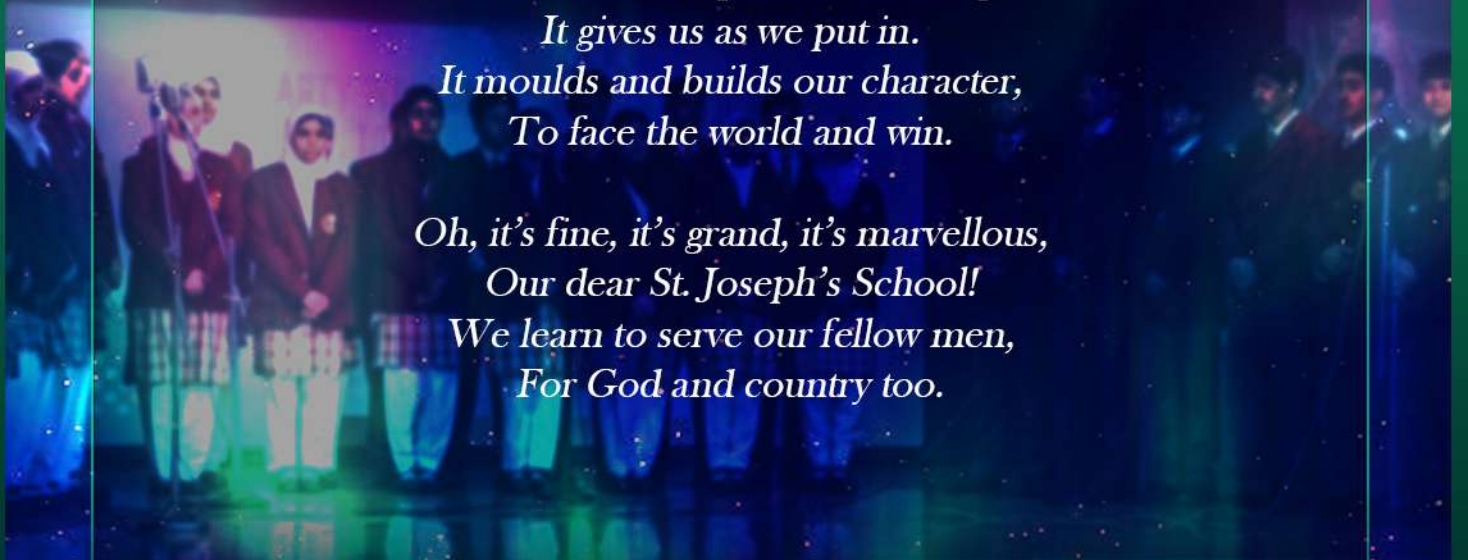
*Oh, it's fine, it's grand, it's marvellous,
Our dear St. Joseph's School!
We learn to serve our fellow men,
For God and country too.*

*Rich and poor, we come together,
Lending all a helping hand.
People of all religions,
As one family we stand.*

*Oh, it's fine, it's grand, it's marvellous,
Our dear St. Joseph's School!
We learn to serve our fellow men,
For God and country too.*

*Our school is a place of learning;
It gives us as we put in.
It moulds and builds our character,
To face the world and win.*

*Oh, it's fine, it's grand, it's marvellous,
Our dear St. Joseph's School!
We learn to serve our fellow men,
For God and country too.*





Saint Joseph
Our Patron.

OUR THEME *Aurora*

Aurora, the quiet rebellion of light against the tyranny of darkness. It is the sky remembering how to breathe after a long night. It arrives like an unspoken promise, painting the horizon with the courage to begin again. Every shade it carries is a fragment of hope, every shimmer a whisper that endings are never final – only disguised doorways. In the code of existence, Aurora is the soul's awakening. It is the moment when the broken hours gather themselves into something complete, when the past loosens its grip and the coming time gently takes its form.

Thus, Aurora is not just visible; it's not just seen, but felt. A reminder that even the darkest nights cannot forbid the arrival of light, and that within every fading darkness lies the quiet birth of new beginnings.

- Rutba Javed.

From The Principal's Desk

Respected Students, Teachers, and Parents,

It gives me immense pleasure to present before you this edition of our E-Magazine "QUEST," beautifully woven around the inspiring theme "Aurora". The word itself evokes the image of the first light breaking through the darkness—a symbol of hope, renewal, and endless possibilities.



Just like the aurora that lights up the sky with vibrant hues after the darkest hours, our students too shine with creativity, resilience, and promise. Each page of this magazine reflects their thoughts, talents, and aspirations, illuminating the path towards a brighter future.

In today's ever-changing world, it is essential to nurture minds that are not only academically strong but also imaginative, creative, and innovative. This magazine stands as a testimony to the fact that our students are ready to embrace new beginnings, explore uncharted horizons, and rise with confidence like the dawn.

I congratulate all the contributors, editors, and teachers who have worked tirelessly to bring this publication to life. Your dedication and creativity have truly made this "Aurora" a celebration of youthful expression and intellectual brilliance.

May this magazine inspire every reader to believe in the power of new beginnings, to rise above challenges, and to spread light wherever they go. Wishing you all a future as radiant and hopeful as the Aurora.

-Rev. Father Suresh Britto

Vice Principal's Desk



Respected Students, Teachers, and Parents,

It brings me immense joy to witness the launch of our latest e-magazine, Aurora. The name itself suggests a new dawn—a luminous display of creativity and intellect that reflects the vibrant spirit of our student body.

In this digital era, it is heartening to see our students channeling their energy into a project that showcases their diverse talents. Aurora is more than just a collection of articles and art; it is a testament to the fact that our students are not just learners, but creators and thinkers.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Core Team. The birth of this magazine is the direct result of their unwavering commitment, dedication, and discipline. They stayed true to the vision of "Aurora" despite their academic rigors. Every page reflects the hours of editing, designing, and refining.

This initiative has done much more than simply encouraging the students to write. It has provided a spark of inspiration that will undoubtedly propel them to achieve much more in their personal and professional lives. I am confident that with this level of perseverance, they are well on their way to becoming successful global citizens.

This achievement would not be possible without the steady support of our parents. Thank you for encouraging your children to explore their passions beyond the classroom and for being our partners in their holistic development.

Once again, congratulations to the quest core team and all the contributors. May the light of Aurora continue to shine bright!

-Rev. Father Soosai Rajan

Mentor's Message

The name Aurora is more than just a title; it is a promise of renewal and the persistent triumph of light over the shadows of uncertainty. As we unveil this edition, we invite you to view it not merely as a collection of pages, but as the first flush of dawn in your intellectual journey. Just as the morning sky transforms through a spectrum of colors, your thoughts and creativity have the power to reshape the world around you, turning the mundane into the extraordinary.

In the pursuit of knowledge, we often focus on the destination, yet the true essence of Aurora lies in the process of becoming. Each article, poem, and artwork is a heartbeat of self-discovery. We encourage you to embrace the “dawn” within yourselves—that quiet moment of clarity before an idea takes flight. Philosophy teaches us that we are the architects of our own enlightenment; let this magazine be the scaffolding upon which you build your highest aspirations.

True brilliance is rarely a solitary endeavor. Like the atmospheric dance of particles that creates the polar lights, our collective intelligence shines brightest when we collaborate and support one another. We, as your teachers, see ourselves as custodians of this light. Our role is not to dictate the path, but to ensure that the environment remains fertile for your curiosity to bloom. In these pages, diversity of thought is our greatest strength, and your unique voices are the rays that pierce the darkness.

As you move forward, carry the spirit of Aurora with you. Understand that every end is merely a precursor to a new beginning, and that even the smallest spark of creativity can ignite a revolution of the mind. Stay restless in your quest for truth, remain compassionate in your interactions, and never lose the wonder that comes with seeing the world anew every single day. The dawn is not a one-time event; it is a choice we make every morning.

-Pujinder Ma'am & Qurat-Ul-Ain Ma'am.

-Acknowledgements-

The realization of this publication stands as a testament to the power of collaborative intellect and shared vision. We are profoundly indebted to the patrons, mentors and contributors who navigated this creative odyssey alongside us.

Patrons of Excellence

Our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude go to our Principal, Rev. Fr. Suresh Britto, and Vice Principal, Rev. Fr. Soosai Rajan. Your leadership and unwavering patronage provided the essential foundation for this project.

Distinguished Mentors

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Ms. Pujinder and Ms. Qurat Ul Ain. Your sophisticated guidance and tireless mentorship served as the North Star for our team, refining our efforts into the polished work presented here.

The Creative Stars

We celebrate the Content Writers for their literary excellence and enthusiasm. Together, you have ensured that every page resonates with quality and purpose. To all who contributed their time and talent to this journey, we offer our deepest appreciation.

- The Quest Team (Raidah Hassan)

Glaze of the Divine.

Whimsical hues reflect the divine,
Making the soul shine with eternal glow,
Beauty beyond praise
That makes the heart ache.

Spread as waves in the ocean of sky,
Swirling silk of northern lights.
Filling hearts with glee and gaiety,
Free-flowing o'er northern hills.

Fierce like fire, inspiring passion deep within.
Depths discovered in the scene,
Nature's love, sown in fancy;
For bright aurora demands my gaze.

- Irtiza Javid

غزل

ہم نے منصف کو سزایاب دیکھا
منافقوں کا آب و تاب دیکھا

ہم اس سماج کے فرد ہیں جہاں
ہر بشر کو بے چین بے تاب دیکھا

ہر کوشش میں ناکام ہی رہے
جد و جہد کا غروب آفتاب دیکھا

پہچان لیے لوگوں کے بدلتے چہرے
پیوند لگا ہوا کھنواہ دیکھا

جن کی تعبیر ممکن نہ تھی کبھی
بار بار ہم نے ایسا خواب دیکھا

میرے کردار کی گواہی دینے والے محفل
تیری حیا کا چلن تو نایاب دیکھا۔



Board Examinations

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students who have successfully cleared their board examinations. Your hard work has led you to this proud moment and you truly deserve every bit of this achievement. May this success inspire you to aim higher in whatever path you choose next. At the same time, it is important to remember that results do not define one's true potential.

For those who may not have achieved the desired outcome, this is not the end but is the beginning of growth and learning. Every challenge is an opportunity to rise stronger and wiser.

As celebrations begin, we must also acknowledge the unwavering support of teachers and parents, whose guidance and encouragement have played a crucial role in shaping these successes. Their belief and dedication remain the backbone of every student's journey.

Let us remember the words of Nelson Mandela, who once said, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." These words remind us that success is not just about achievement, but also about resilience and the encourage to keep moving forward.

Let us embrace the spirit of learning and growing together, celebrating not just the outcomes but the efforts behind them. Once again, congratulations to all successful students. Your future is bright and this is only the beginning of many achievements to come.

- Talha Qayoom Khan

Reopening of the School

With the reopening of SJS, the once quiet campus came back alive with the cheerful voices of students and the teaching staff, bringing life back to corridors that had stayed silent for months. The spirit of learning slowly returning as students walked through the classes, filling the school with excitement once again.

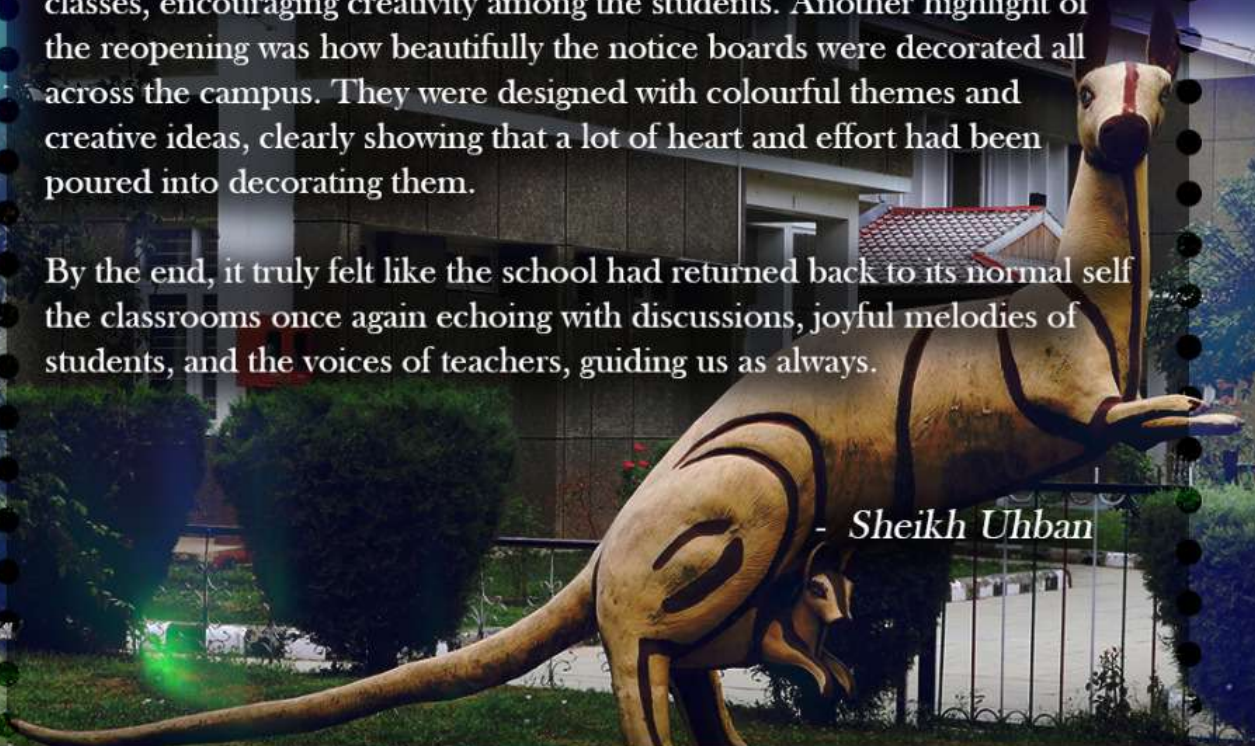
Lots of preparations had been made for the students. As they approached the campus, many of which were pleasantly surprised, being greeted by the NCC cadets standing right at the entrance, welcoming everyone with great enthusiasm. Their neat uniforms and confident presence immediately caught the attention of almost everyone.

A warm and thoughtful welcome speech was delivered by the school management, which set a positive tone for the students and reminded everyone about the importance of learning and growth.

Various programs were held, beginning from the first week. One of which was a programme on the topic of Astronomy, greatly adding to the knowledge of the students. An art competition was also held for different classes, encouraging creativity among the students. Another highlight of the reopening was how beautifully the notice boards were decorated all across the campus. They were designed with colourful themes and creative ideas, clearly showing that a lot of heart and effort had been poured into decorating them.

By the end, it truly felt like the school had returned back to its normal self the classrooms once again echoing with discussions, joyful melodies of students, and the voices of teachers, guiding us as always.

- Sheikh Uhban



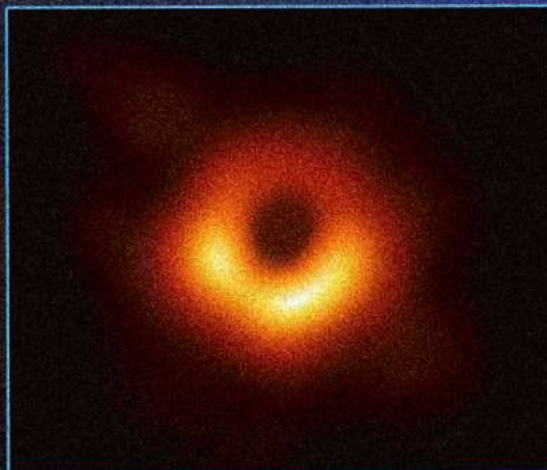
Astrophysics Seminar

Our institution recently organized an engaging and insightful seminar that brought together enthusiastic students and a distinguished chief guest Mr. Muneer Ahmad making it a truly memorable academic event. The seminar aimed to ignite curiosity about the universe and deepen students understanding of astronomy and space science.

The program commenced with a warm welcome to the chief guest, whose presence added great value and inspiration to the occasion. In his address, Mr. Muneer shared fascinating insights into the wonders of the cosmos, recent advancements in space exploration, and the importance of scientific thinking among young learners. Their words encouraged students to look beyond textbooks and explore the mysteries of the universe. With curiosity and determination, students actively participated in the seminar through presentations, discussion and interactive sessions. Topics such as planetary systems, black holes, space missions, and the future of space technology were explored with great enthusiasm. The seminar provided a platform for students to showcase their knowledge, ask questions, and engage in meaningful scientific dialogues

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the chief guest for an enlightening presence and to all participants for making the seminar a success. Overall, the seminar was an enriching experience that inspired students to develop a deeper interest in astronomy and scientific exploration.

- Fatima Tuz Zuhra



Botanical Seminar

In a world of instant solutions—where a headache means a quick pill and a cold sends us straight to a pharmacy, we rarely stop to think about where healing truly began. Long before labs, prescriptions, and chemical formulas, there was nature — quietly doing its job, no noise, no labels, just results. Hidden in its leaves, roots, and stems are solutions that have been tested not for years, but for centuries. Yet somehow, in the midst of our fast, screen-filled, quick-solution life, we've started to forget this green wisdom. Maybe the problem isn't that these remedies disappeared—maybe it's that we stopped noticing them.

With this idea of reconnecting with nature in a modern world, St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School in March organized a seminar on the importance of medicinal plants for the students of the higher secondary block, aiming to remind us that sometimes the most advanced solutions are also the most natural ones.

The seminar featured Dr Mudasir Ahmad Dar as the keynote speaker, who delivered an insightful address and shared valuable insights on the importance of medicinal plants, especially in India and Kashmir. As students, we gained a deeper understanding of how closely human health is connected to nature and how this connection has been recognized for centuries.

The session began with a discussion on modern medicine, highlighting how it has undoubtedly revolutionized healthcare and made treatments more efficient and accessible. However, we also learned that despite its effectiveness, it often comes with side effects that may affect overall well-being. This led to the introduction of botanical remedies, where we were made aware of the healing power of medicinal plants that have been used traditionally and are known for having minimal or no side effects.

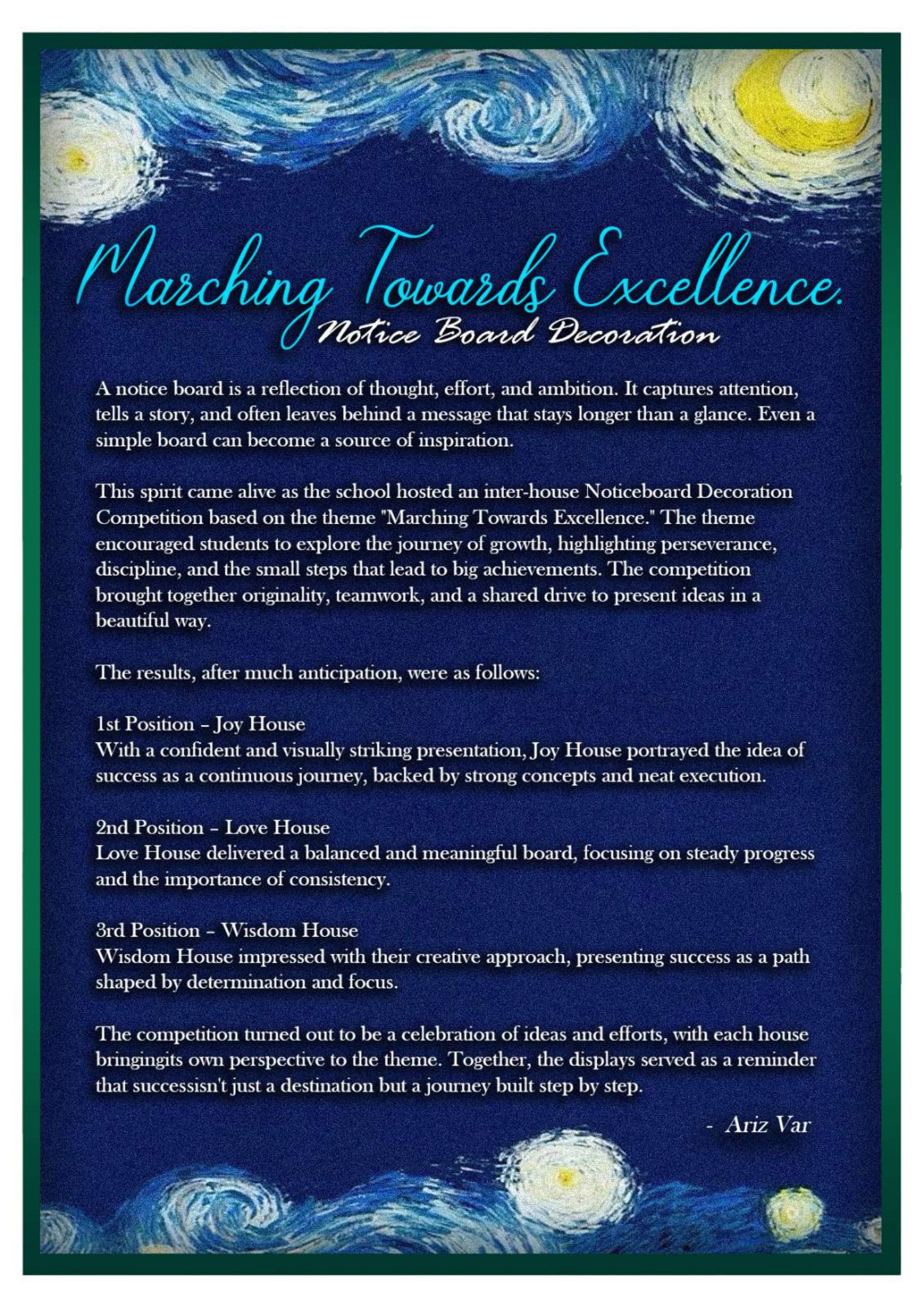
It was particularly interesting to learn that such natural remedies can even play a significant role in managing serious diseases like cancer, especially when combined with modern medical practices.

As the seminar progressed, we were introduced to the idea that a balanced approach—bringing together modern medicine and traditional systems like Ayurveda—can offer more holistic and sustainable healthcare solutions. This connection between ancient knowledge and scientific advancement made us realize how important it is not to overlook traditional practices in today's rapidly advancing world. The discussion became even more relevant when the focus shifted to our own region, Kashmir, which is rich in a wide variety of medicinal plants. The students were also presented with a series of slides showcasing various botanical plants, highlighting their benefits and methods of utilization. Despite this natural abundance, we learned that these resources remain largely underutilized due to a lack of awareness and limited educational emphasis on their importance.

The seminar concluded on a thoughtful and impactful note, reinforcing the importance of promoting awareness and encouraging academic engagement with the study of medicinal plants. It emphasized the responsibility of the younger generation to recognize, preserve, and responsibly utilize these natural resources. The session left a lasting impression on all present, highlighting the enduring relevance of plants in our lives and the urgent need to preserve nature. As the keynote speaker concluded, he left us with these powerful words:

“When the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten and the last stream poisoned you will realize that YOU CANNOT EAT MONEY.”

- *Toiba Mushtaq Bacha*

The background of the entire page is a reproduction of J.M.W. Turner's painting 'Starry Night'. It features a dark blue, swirling night sky with prominent white and yellow stars and a large, glowing yellow moon in the upper right corner. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Marching Towards Excellence.

Notice Board Decoration

A notice board is a reflection of thought, effort, and ambition. It captures attention, tells a story, and often leaves behind a message that stays longer than a glance. Even a simple board can become a source of inspiration.

This spirit came alive as the school hosted an inter-house Noticeboard Decoration Competition based on the theme "Marching Towards Excellence." The theme encouraged students to explore the journey of growth, highlighting perseverance, discipline, and the small steps that lead to big achievements. The competition brought together originality, teamwork, and a shared drive to present ideas in a beautiful way.

The results, after much anticipation, were as follows:

1st Position – Joy House

With a confident and visually striking presentation, Joy House portrayed the idea of success as a continuous journey, backed by strong concepts and neat execution.

2nd Position – Love House

Love House delivered a balanced and meaningful board, focusing on steady progress and the importance of consistency.

3rd Position – Wisdom House

Wisdom House impressed with their creative approach, presenting success as a path shaped by determination and focus.

The competition turned out to be a celebration of ideas and efforts, with each house bringing its own perspective to the theme. Together, the displays served as a reminder that success isn't just a destination but a journey built step by step.

- Ariz Var



St. Joseph's Day

On March 19, 2026, St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Baramulla, reached a monumental milestone—one hundred years of academic excellence and spiritual fortitude. The Centenary Jubilee was a masterful blend of solemn reflection and vibrant celebration, marking a century since the school first opened its doors to the valley.

The day's proceedings commenced with a deeply moving service at the SJS Church. This quiet moment of prayer allowed the community to honor the spiritual bedrock upon which the institution stands. Following the service, the energy shifted to the primary school auditorium for a grand cultural extravaganza.

We were profoundly honored by the presence of our esteemed chief guests, including DSP Maqsood Zaman and Syed Untoo, alongside Fr. Sebastian Nagathunkhul. Each dignitary was presented with a floral bouquet and a commemorative memento—symbols of our deep gratitude for their support of our educational mission. Some of the highly respected and distinguished personalities namely - Rev. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto and Rev. Bishop Ivan Pereira attended the celebration.

The cultural program opened with a serene prayer choir by the students of Class 9, setting a tranquil tone for the morning's most poignant segment: a historical skit. This theatrical performance chronicled the church's 100-year legacy, moving the audience as it depicted the immense struggles and ultimate sacrifices of figures such as Mother Teresalina, Sir Bhide, Colonel Tom, and Ms. Pandita.



It was a powerful reminder that our current success is built upon the courage of those who came before us.

The celebration soon transitioned into a breathtaking display of India's cultural wealth. The stage came alive with the rhythmic grace of a Rajasthani performance, the traditional elegance of the Kashmiri Rouf, and a precise and vibrant South Indian display. The event reached an electrifying crescendo with a high-energy Bhangra. Showcasing Sikh traditions through spirited choreography, the performance reinvigorated the audience and served as a fitting finale to a historic day. As we look toward the next century, the jubilee remains a testament to the exceptional talent and enduring spirit of the St. Joseph's community.

- Bareena Shah



Baisakhi

Golden wheat sways like a sea of fire under the April sun. Dhol drums pound like war cries, and the earth pulses with unbreakable joy—that's Baisakhi, Punjab's explosive harvest festival that has been shaking souls forever! Baisakhi isn't just a party; it's a revolution on repeat. Every April 13th or 14th, farmers charge into amber fields, sickles flashing, reaping a year's grind into golden glory.

From fields to frenzy: gurdwaras glow at dawn, melas erupt with bhangra, giddhathunder-claps, pinnis sticking to fingers, saag-makki bliss, and langar feeding souls.

This year at SJS, Baisakhi notice board was a great success as it showed the vibrant colours and diversity of this festival.

The school's Higher Secondary Block Baisakhi showdown was pure fire! and the winners were:

1st position- Wisdom house.

A vibrant and creative presentation that stood out for its overall appeal and effort and bagged the first position.

2nd position- Joy House.

A beautiful and well-coordinated display showcasing creativity and teamwork.

3rd position- Peace and Love House

An impressive effort with thoughtful design and neat presentation.

Congratulations to all the participants for their wonderful efforts and enthusiastic participation. Every effort added a spark to the celebration—well done to all!

- Aqsa Shabir

Baisakhi

Notice Board Decoration



Wisdom House



Joy House



Peace House



Love House



Charity House



Grace House

November Elections.

Leadership isn't just about holding a position or wearing a badge; it's about responsibility, trust, and the ability to stand for others when it truly matters.

The school recently conducted elections to appoint student leaders for key positions. Apart from being a formal procedure, this was an opportunity for students to actively participate in shaping their school environment by choosing individuals they believed were deserving and had the qualities of a leader.

The process began with nominations, where students stepped forward as candidates. This was followed by a period of campaigning, where candidates expressed their ideas, goals, and plans for school. Their speeches had determination and a genuine desire to make a positive difference. This whole process was thoughtful and engaging as students discussed among themselves, forming opinions and voting for the best and most deserving candidates.

The atmosphere across the school was filled with excitement and curiosity. Students shared their views and supported their preferred candidates. The voting process was conducted in a fair and organised manner, making every student feel that their voice truly matters. The results were announced, and it was a moment to remember. While the winners were celebrated, it was equally important to appreciate all the candidates who contested. The results brought forward a team of promising leaders. Vice captains who turned victorious: Afeefa Majid emerged as the representative of Wisdom House, while Atoofa Rouf stepped forward for Love House. Tarooba Jan was chosen to lead Peace House. Taseen Khan took the responsibility for Charity House and Mohammad Mouzam Shah was elected for Grace House. Strengthening this leadership team further, the positions of Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl were entrusted to Rumaan Reyaz and Zara Wani. As they all step into these roles, we can only hope that their leadership brings positive changes and new ideas. Their leadership will showcase their determination, ensuring their holistic development. Elections bridge the gap between students and school administration. The elected representatives are responsible for addressing the issues of their peers.

These elections may have come to an end, but the journey of leadership has just begun. Elections are not just about positions or titles, but about the voices we choose to trust and the future we choose to shape. True leadership is having the courage to stand for others. Let's stay positive and hope for the best in the future. Let the journey bloom with our talents together, let each of us rise and shine together.

- *Xeba Fatima*

Captaincy Elections.

The 28th of March 2026 marked a truly memorable and unprecedented day in the history of SJS. It was not just another routine school event, but a day that blended leadership, celebration, and controversy in a way that left everyone talking.

For the first time ever, the election of captains and their felicitation ceremony were conducted on the same day. While positions like deputies, vice-captains, and head boys had already been decided earlier, the captains remained to be chosen—building anticipation among students. However, what followed was completely unexpected. Until the very last moment, the procedure for selecting captains remained undisclosed. Students prepared for a voting-based election, but just before the process began, a sudden decision was announced, voting would be cancelled altogether. Instead, captains would be selected based on attendance percentages, with the nominated student having the highest attendance in each section being appointed.

This decision initially sparked confusion and controversy among students. As they had been anticipating a democratic election. Yet, as discussions unfolded, the reasoning behind the change began to make sense. A voting system could have led to an imbalance, with multiple captains possibly being selected from the same section. The attendance-based system, though unexpected, ensured a pretty balanced representation across sections and also rewarded the consistency. Following the announcement, the atmosphere gradually shifted from debate to celebration as the felicitation ceremony commenced in the school auditorium.

The event was absolutely nothing short of spectacular. The newly selected student council members were honored in the presence of the esteemed Chief Guests, IPS Hariprasad K.K. and IPS Neha Jain whose presence added dignity and pride to the felicitation. The ceremony was filled with vibrant cultural performances that captivated the audience. Traditional Rouf performances showcased grace and heritage of our Kashmir, while the choir enchanted everyone with their melodious voices. Various presentations and performances by students further elevated the spirit of the event, making it a celebration of talent as well as leadership.

The Honorable Chief Guests addressed the gathering with inspiring words, emphasizing the importance of responsibility, discipline, and leadership among students. The felicitation of the council members was carried out with great enthusiasm, marking the beginning of their journey as leaders of the school.

In the end, what began as a day of uncertainty and roller coaster of controversies transformed into a celebration of unity, talent, and new beginnings. The events of the day proved that sometimes, unexpected decisions can lead to meaningful outcomes.

- Sheikh Ubban

Investiture Ceremony

“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality”. This quote by Warren Bennis set the tone for this year’s Investiture Ceremony at St. Joseph’s Higher Secondary School, Baramulla. The event showed that our school not only teaches students but also helps them grow into responsible future leaders.

The program began with our Guests of Honour, Mr Hariprasad K.K, IPS and Neha Jain, IPS. They joined our Principal and officially started the ceremony by handing over responsibility to the new student council. Their presence added importance to the occasion and inspired the students present.

Before the main ceremony, there was a special moment to appreciate our athletes. Students who took part in the skiing competition were honoured for their efforts. The air was filled with excitement and enthusiasm as their hard work was recognized. It was a proud moment for everyone, and the audience cheered warmly for the winners and the participants.

Then came the main part of the event—the introduction of the new student council. The hall was full of excitement and loud applause as Head Boy, Aariz Farooq Shah and Head Girl, Prableen Kour walked onto the stage. They were followed by Deputy Head Boy, Rumaan Riyaz and Deputy Head Girl, Zara Wani. These students will now take on the responsibility of representing the student body. After this, the House Captains were also announced and given their house flags, ready to lead their respective houses in the coming year.

The ceremony ended with the oath-taking session. The newly appointed leaders promised to follow the values and discipline of the school and carry out their duties sincerely. There was a feeling of pride and confidence in the hall as everyone watched the new council take charge. With their badges and sashes on, their journey as leaders has now begun.

- Sharleez Athar





Drama Fest

The Mehboob Cultural Society (MCI) led by the highly reputed Amin Bhat of DD Kashmir, recently conducted a vibrant drama fest. For fifty years, MCI has championed Kashmiri language and culture through traditional plays like Band Pather and Ladishah, even reviving old Kashmiri Pandit traditions. The society prides itself on inclusivity- featuring veteran actors of 40+ years of experience like Ishfaq Nagoo and Ghulam Din Bahar alongside intellectually challenged performers while generously donating portions of their earnings.

- Ruman Riyaz

Labours' Day.

Notice Board Decoration

The often unnoticed notice board holds a lot more than what meets the eye. Notice board is a living canvas of creativity, expression, efforts and silent collaborations. Even in its simplicity, it may ignite a spark of thought within an individual.

Amid the intra-school notice board decoration competition, the theme 'Labor Day' creatively portrayed the significance of the workforce in our lives. Workers are superior to capital and deserve far greater consideration and the competition was just a small tribute to those workers who work relentlessly.

Bringing the event to a fulfilling conclusion, the results were declared for class 6th:

-1st Position: Peace House

Securing the first position with brilliance and creativity, the peace house truly set a benchmark, inspiring every participant to keep striving and shining brighter.

-2nd Position: Love House

A commendable second place, celebrating the remarkable efforts and spirit of Love House.

-3rd Position: Grace House

Claiming third with confidence, grace house's creativity leaves a lasting mark.

The notice boards of class 8th shined with the sparks of labour day. The top positions were bagged by:

-1st Position: Peace House

The peace house emerged with vibrance and colours leading and securing the first position.

-2nd Position: Charity House

The second place was bagged by Charity house whose performance was a masterclass in teamwork.

-3rd Position: Wisdom House

Wisdom house claimed the third position with its great efforts. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and collective spirit of every member.

This competition blossomed into the showcase of imagination as well as passion. Each house reflected the theme in their own unique way. The boards were not just decorated, but also devoted to honoring the dignity of labor in each detail. A tribute that turned creativity into gratitude

- Ayda Yousuf

Labours' Day.

Notice Board Decoration



Wisdom House



Joy House



Peace House



Love House



Charity House



Grace House

Labours' Day Celebration.

Labour Day was celebrated in St Joseph School with great zeal and as a token of admiration for the hard-working individuals who contribute to the smooth functioning of our daily lives. The event, held on 30th April 2026, paid tribute to the dignity of labour.

The programme kicked off with a special skit performed by students, which highlighted the contributions of labourers in society. The skit conveyed a strong message about equality, respect, and gratitude towards all forms of work.

A highlight of the celebration was a special speech delivered by Mr Shams-ud-din, a valued member of the support staff. His heartfelt words about his personal experiences and dedication touched everyone present.

Adding to the uniqueness of the event was a trilingual speech presented in English, Urdu and Punjabi, which reflected the diversity and unity within the school and ensured that the message of Labours' Day reached everyone effectively.

One of the most impactful activities of the day was the Mega Cleanliness Drive, where students took on the role of labourers for a day. They actively participated in cleaning and administrative activities, and this hands-on experience helped them understand the value of hard work and the effort that goes into maintaining cleanliness.

The celebration also included the distribution of gifts to the support staff as a token of love for their relentless service. Students further expressed their gratitude by presenting handmade cards, each filled with heartfelt messages.

The Labours' Day celebration was not just an event but a celebration of the valued efforts put in by our support staff in running the school seamlessly.

- Zainab Khursheed



SJS Ted Talks.

St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School successfully conducted its much-anticipated SJS Talks on 30 April 2026, a TED-style speaking event, in the school auditorium. The programme was organised with the aim of providing students a platform to express ideas, share perspectives and build confidence in public speaking.

The event witnessed 22 enthusiastic participations from students of Classes XI and XII. Each participant was allotted approximately five to six minutes to present their ideas on a wide range of thought-provoking topics. The talks reflected creativity, awareness, and a commendable depth of understanding among the students.

The programme commenced with an introduction highlighting the purpose of SJS Talks to encourage independent thinking and articulate expression. The speakers then took to the stage one by one, presenting their ideas with confidence and clarity. Their performances were evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges, including Dr Syed Humayoun Shabir, who had been specially invited for the occasion.

After the first phase of presentations, ten students were shortlisted for the next round based on their content, delivery, and overall impact. The next round is scheduled to take place in the coming week, where the shortlisted participants will compete further, and three finalists will be selected to represent the school. The audience remained highly engaged throughout, appreciating the efforts and ideas presented by the speakers.

SJS Talks proved to be a highly enriching experience, fostering confidence, creativity, and critical thinking among students. The event highlighted the importance of communication skills and provided a meaningful platform for young voices to be heard.

- Raidah Hassan



Students' Achievements.

Solo Singing Competition

The school organised a Solo Singing Competition for students of classes 9th and 10th on 27th of March 2026, filling the campus with music and melody. The event provided students with a wonderful platform to showcase their vocal talent and stage confidence. Participants from various sections of Classes 9th and 10th took part in the competition with great zeal and enthusiasm. The performances were judged by Ms. Mehfil and Ms. Farheen, whose valuable presence added grace to the occasion. Adeeba Masoodi of 10th Freesia secured 1st position, followed by Mehreen of 9th in 2nd place, while Fatima Tuz Zuhra of 10th Dahlia claimed 3rd position. The event beautifully celebrated the musical talent of the Josephites and filled the day with joy and music.

- Zainab Khursheed

Wushu Competition

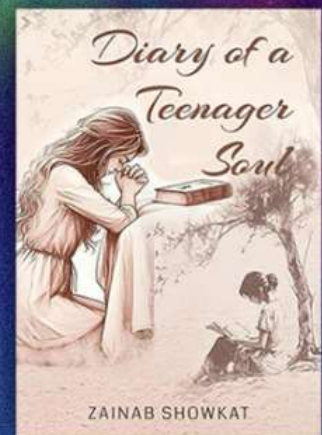
Amaanullah Bhat, a student of class 7th freesia, claimed the sole gold medal for Baramulla at the recent Wushu competition in Jammu, held from March 27th to 30th, competing against 54 participants. The top ranked Kashmir athlete and former National medalist defeated opponents from Kupwara, Jammu and Handwara to secure his victory. The 25-member Baramulla contingent also proudly earned one silver and two bronze medals at the Bhagawati Nagar event, showcasing their martial arts talent.

- Ruman Riyaz

From SJS to Storytelling

Zainab Showkat, a Class 10 student, recently entered the literary world with her book, *Diary of a Teenager Soul*. Her journey began in 2024, inspired by reading Anne Frank's diary for her school coursework. This experience sparked a transformative desire to document her own thoughts and emotions.

Guided and inspired by Fr. Soosai Rajan, Zainab completed her book by late 2025. Her writing captures the essence of teenage life with a specific purpose: to help peers understand and overcome emotional struggles like depression. Through her reflections, she aims to provide comfort, awareness, and hope. Despite the praise she has received, Zainab remains committed to her growth as an author. She is currently preparing a second edition to refine her message and reach a wider audience. Her story stands as a testament to the power of a young voice to create a meaningful impact.



- Raidah Hassan

Students' Achievements

Inter-School Debate Competition

An Inter-School Debate Competition was organized by the 46 RR Battalion as part of an outreach program, carrying forward the theme "Kashmiriyat – A Shared Heritage or a Relic of the Past." The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various schools and provided a meaningful platform for students to express their ideas and perspectives.

Phase I of the competition was held from 9th to 11th April 2026 at Budding Bloom Experimental School, Khwajabagh. Four students from our school represented us with confidence and enthusiasm—Hafsa Tanveer (Class 9th), Rutba Riyaz (Class 10th), Manseerat Kour (Class 11th), and Toiba Mushtaq (Class 12th).

All participants performed commendably, demonstrating strong speaking skills and thoughtful arguments. Toiba Mushtaq secured the first position, while Manseerat Kour achieved the second position, bringing great pride to the school. Both winners have qualified to compete at the final level of the competition.

The event proved to be a valuable and enriching experience, encouraging students to think critically and communicate with clarity and confidence.

Inter-School Rolling Trophy Debate Competition

An Inter-School Rolling Trophy Debate Competition was organized by Presentation Convent Secondary School, Rajbagh, bringing together students from various leading schools across the Kashmir Valley. Held on 23rd April 2026, the event provided a vibrant platform for young minds to express their ideas and showcase their public speaking skills.

The participants debated on the topic "NEP 2020 Ensures Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Lifelong Opportunities for All," presenting their viewpoints with confidence, clarity, and thoughtful understanding.

St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Baramulla also participated in the competition with great enthusiasm. The students performed remarkably well, reflecting dedication and strong preparation. After a closely contested debate, our school secured the runner-up position, bringing pride and recognition.

A highlight of the event was the outstanding performance of Toiba Mushtaq, who was honoured with the Best Speaker award, marking a significant achievement for the school.

Overall, the competition was an enriching experience that encouraged students to think critically, express themselves confidently, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

- Hafsa Asgar Mir

Students' Achievements.

Badminton Competition

A badminton competition was held at Bipin Rawat Stadium and was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports. The event hosted enthusiastic participation from students of various schools, and St. Joseph's School proudly made its mark with outstanding performances.

In the Under-14 Boys (Singles) category, Gurman Singh of Class 7th secured the 1st position with excellent skills and determination. In the Under-14 Boys (Doubles) category, the pair of Mohd. Ali Ahmed (7th) and Saad Kantroo (8th) also performed brilliantly and achieved the 1st position.

The girls also brought pride to the school. In the Under-14 Girls (Singles) category, Salwa Jehangir of Class 7th secured the 1st position. In the Under-14 Girls (Doubles) category, Ieera Showkat and Aqsa Ahsan (7th) worked as a strong team and secured the 1st position.

In the Under-17 Boys (Singles) category, Abdullah Afaq delivered a commendable performance and secured the 2nd position, adding to the school's success.

In the Under-17 Girls (Doubles) category, Sheenam Shah and Hadiya Manzoor (9th) also performed well and secured the 1st position.

These remarkable achievements of students reflect their hard work and sportsmanship. The school administration feels proud of its success and congratulates all the winners for their excellent performance.

Chess Competition

The Inter-Zone Chess Competition was held at Deewanbagh High School, Baramulla. Students from different schools participated with great enthusiasm, making the event competitive and highlighting the talent of young chess players.

In the Under-14 Girls Category, two brilliant students from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School qualified for the finals and secured top positions. Toiba of Class 6th claimed the 1st position, while Aira of Class 6th performed brilliantly to secure the 2nd position.

In the Under-17 Girls Category, Sheenam of Class 9th brought pride to the school by winning the 2nd position.

The boys also showcased excellent performance in the Under-17 Category. Abdullah Afaq secured the 2nd position, while Ahmed Hussain Kantroo earned the 3rd position.

These commendable achievements of the students have brought great pride to the institution and inspired all the Josephites to strive for excellence.

- Zainab Khursheed

Photo Gallery







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Manners Maketh Man