The Various Hues of Deepanam

Last Issue of the School year 2018-19
In a few words, who you are and your role in AV in general, at Deepanam in particular...

I have been in Auroville for about 8 years now... My passion has always been teaching, being with the students... Indeed, being with the students, every day is different... I like the challenges which are there every day... Also going to the school every day makes a big difference in my life, progressing both Internally and externally...

At Deepanam, I am mainly a facilitator... I handle the age-group 12 to 14 (Faith Group now, previously known as Giraffe) and have been doing so for the last seven years now... I like being with this age group working on things...

I heard you had a dream... that implies a newspaper or a magazine... Tell us more about that?

Yes I did... I had read a book... couple of years back... three years back... It gave me the idea of having one day a publication by the students (The book Mahavir is referring to is : « Sometimes a shining moment : The Foxfire experience » by Eliot Wigginton)... After reading the book I started having dreams about it... So last year I made a timid attempt... It didn't work out eventually... But this year we managed to get this idea forward in the form of Kaleidoscope, their « monthly » magazine... And I hope it can carry on next year...

Would you say that Faith Group has brought this dream to fruition?

Definitely ! They have come together... this bunch of talented students... and they have made it ! I mean It is all their work... We just give an idea... They took it up... The results is everybody to see now... (You can check us on https://issuu.com/faithclass/docs)

In the city of un-ending youth & education, do you feel as young or younger than when you started the year & having learnt new things?

I feel that every year I have grown a little bit... understanding myself... especially in the Education environment and that is something which is helping me progress... also to see the generation that is coming up in Auroville, the young generation... I am trying to ignite a spark somewhere in them to see them develop and going forward and seeing Auroville in the form of this youth I am experiencing right now and what little contribution I can make...

I also heard that you had another experiment with your group : to give them a lot more freedom on their curriculum. How did all this go?

After seeing the success of the magazine, as well as NaNoWriMo where there was very minimal interference from the teachers, I proposed them to have some « electives » that they could select... Part success, part failure... I am still contemplating how to carry on with this as some students are quite self-motivated while others do not manage on their own... I think that if we would start this at an earlier age they would gradually get better at it, get more and more independent... Something quite similar which came before (2 school years ago) is what I call the « Genius » hour... I got the idea from the 20/80 weeks by Google where Google wants their employee to allocate 20% of their time to something that they select and that hopefully passionate them... Photography with Shaalini, Fashion designing with Narmadha, Model making, Scratch Programming came out of that...
Now, one word which is not quite a word: NANOWRIMO. (National Novel Writing Movement, https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/classrooms/faith-in-deepanam-with-kaleidoscopoliver) Tell us how you found about it and how was the experience from your perspective?

Well I was reading an article on Education on the Net... I do so everyday to find inspiration and ideas, and I came across NaNoWriMo on a blog... Then I went on their web-site to have a closer look at it... Found it quite fascinating... Thought it could be worth giving it a chance... Then I shared it with you... You also found it quite interesting... We never knew that this « scale » could be possible... the kids reaction was quite beautiful too... Lots of them struggled at first, but soon it became more and more exciting and they wanted to write more and more... It was a big success, beyond my expectation... When they shared with the parents on Open days it was tremendous... It is amazing to see that whatever creative work they are doing is always carrying the values...

Would you like to run the same projects next year? Make them a part of Deepanam's identity?

Well we asked for their feed-back and basically 9 out of 10 suggested that we should keep on with it, and that is one thing, but moreover most of them also said that they learnt something through and that is quite something... Next year a lot of them are leaving (only 3 students out of the 14 from the group will remain) and I feel it is a little sad to somehow lose some of that expertise... I wish those who stay will be able to transmit what they have learnt... The working collaboratively... The being linked to a collective deadline... The writing... The Editor aspect of the work... All that...

Quite a lot of the students you had for years now will be moving on, would you have a few pieces of advice to give them? Any messages?

I want to tell them to keep at all the creative things they have been doing... Whatever they initiated here... creatively... Drawing... Acting... Writing... Please take it along with you... It should stay with you... Dig out into your passion... Not to only pursue some degrees... but also pursue with the creative side... the languages... Please keep that flame burning...

And I have to say this is the best bunch I had so far... By far... I know they will be doing well...

Finally, any other Dreams of yours you would like to share?

Yessssss ! My final dream is that in Deepanam from 11 till 14, the kids will have their own Curriculum design... Teachers can give help of course, but let's make it come from them... Because if it comes from them, the desire to learn then it is becoming easy and so exciting... It is to me the pinnacle... I get so excited when the kids are coming to me saying I want to do this... I would like that to happen to all the students here. I think the learning should be continuous interlinked and more students motivated... Going away from the adult imposing on them their vision of what they think is best for them...

In short I am searching for that desire to learn in the kids and finding it is my next dream...
Editorial & Gratitude

Well, here we are, it is the end of the School year again... It has been a roller coaster of a year for everybody I guess. It surely was for us. We wanted to get 10 issues of Kaleidoscope, our monthly magazine, we achieved 8. This eighth is a rather special one. A near to full color edition. With two pages under the absolute direction and supervision of each and everyone of the students of this Faith Group. So 8, not 10, failing that is... But when one thinks about it, 8 just has got to be pushed a little on the side, till it falls, and it becomes Infinity. I think we are on the right track. And talking about track, if you kept a good one of the evolution of this adventure you will undoubtedly have noticed all the changes, the progress, all the details that makes it all quite readable and more and more so every time. We feel this self proclaimed bunch of 14 « Weirdos » have improved a lot, that through this fun, though quite often tedious process, they have learnt a lot more than they think and have developed some qualities that they will carry on with them wherever they go next. Next, yes you read it well, as 11 of them will move on. No better time to wish them well. Let's say it out loud : « we are quite proud of you ! ». For the remaining 3 : « See you next year and let's keep it up! »

It is also a good time for bowing down and saying : « Thank you very much » ; « Merci Beaucoup » ; « Rommba Nandri ». Indeed we want to thank all our “faith-full” supporters, starting with SAIIER as it feels that none of the above would have been possible without their essential participation ; Inside India for some important Rs at the right time and some coming computers to continue the adventure next year ; Naturellement and Neem Tree for some money and feeding our Writers/Photographers/Page-makers/Editors/Ever-growing Teenagers... Above all we want to thank these 14 individuals who made it. This special edition is a perfect representation of who they are, full of color, plenty of joyful, interesting and diverse ideas, a very special mix that illustrates Human Unity in its full Diversity. As we are contemplating the continuation of this exciting project next year, hopefully for many years more, we will need more supporters. Of course you do not have to be a Unit of Auroville to support us (though it does help tremendously), you may do so by reading us regularly and engaging with us too : deepanamkaleidoscope@gmail.com. Looking forward to reading you soon, in the meantime : « Enjoy and have a great Summer »...
In few words, who you are? how long you have been at Deepanam? Your role in end of year play by Faith group?

I am Vyomini of faith group in Deepanam. 14 years old, I am a crazy little kid that runs around and takes on any project that challenges me. It’s my last year in Deepanam. It’s also been my most flourishing year. I have got a lot of really cool opportunities and experiences. It’s been a lot of 3 years since I moved to Auroville. And in this last year at School I got to direct a play done by our class

Last year it was “Blue Bird”, directed by Bhakti (then your class teacher) ; now “Sadako & the thousand paper cranes” under your direction & barely any adult interference. The two seem miles away from one another. Briefly, how did it all happen?

Last year, we were a year younger. I think more than that, we weren't as close as we are today. Blue bird was a great achievement when it had happened. And I think one of the most scary aspects of this year play was that it had to be a level above blue bird. For the choice of having a more serious play I would say it was difficult to act but everyone knew they wanted something different since most of us won't ever come back to that amphitheater. (11 out of 14 are moving on…)

You guys have worked real hard to come up with a rather impressive result I must say... Could you describe how it all went?

The rehearsals... The costumes... The choices on the lines and the different actors... The challenges... All

The play is more serious and has to convey a very sincere message, thus it required good acting. Our class does have some good actors but not everyone is blessed with the ability to act perfectly. In the beginning, we were struggling to remember the lines, so our expectations were to memorize lines and nothing else. After a few days, I started to realize we would need some alternative ideas to improve there acting. Some of them, I told to use multiple hand gesture and that looked nice, but that can't work for everyone. So in some scenes, I added effects and music to bring it to life. We also learned the Japanese culture with the help of Tomoko, it included learning how to pray, bow, act around elders and younger. Everyone was very supportive for the first few weeks, but since I had so many crazy ideas like the candles lighting up altogether, I had to call them to school on multiple nights to practice. I could totally understand how annoying it must have been. For the duration of the practice, I would get so many mean comments and all their anger would be directed to me and the teachers. I would get so discouraged since sometimes they just didn't want to focus, and some days they did so well. It was never consistent. I also made a lot of changes in the script while doing practices. Almost 60% was changed to suit our actors and props. A lot of ideas were not thought through well when they crossed my mind but I had a very clear vision of what I wanted it to look like. we used to use the trial and error method to try and figure out how it's possible. Even though there were a lot of discouraging comments going around we always managed to figure it out and people would always attend practices, that's what made the play good because genuinely wanted to show a great performance.

Finally, from your perspective, how did it go on the night itself?

I didn't feel anything different to be honest. I was a little nervous right before the play started but as soon as I finished singing I just enjoyed the show and eased myself. I did what I could by being very conscious and fixings some of the scene’s props and lighting. But in the back of my mind I thought “what is meant to happen will happen” since the last rehearsal was absolutely tragic. There was no Co-operation and it left my heart aching. But on the night itself, everything went fine and everyone really tried their best and made no mistakes. I couldn't ask for more. I would love to say that I had this feeling where It set into me and I started crying but I didn't. To me it felt like just another rehearsal. What I did feel emotional about was how we have come to only about 2 weeks until we all separate.

(*)A post-mortem (in the case of a Music or Theatre Performance) is a meeting of the production team, after the show happened, to go over how things went and what can be learned from it. It's also a way to formally “close out” the project for the team... In other words, as there is also a “future” component to autopsies, it can also work in a similar way in Theatre.
This year our class has done many things together, as a class and as friends. Some of the stuff we’ve done were so weird and retarded I think society isn’t ready to know about it. Don’t take me wrong...we only do stuff appropriate for our age, I remember one occasion on the trip, it was going to be Lamo’s birthday the next day, so all of us stayed up late, making sure that Lamo went to sleep. We asked the driver to bring balloons, because obviously no one did, and around 11:45 pm, after a long boring wait, we went in his room, we tried to make very little noise, but failed. But I guess he was tired so he didn’t wake up. We blew up the balloons and put them on the bed and waited for some time. Then when it was almost 12 we started counting down, I think we followed Gayatri’s watches time, because it was the closest to 12. And when it was exactly 12 (on Gayatri’s watch) we screamed happy birthday, forgetting our neighbours and teachers. Rudra threw the cushion at his face and then I don’t remember what happened, I just remembered Bhakti came to the room and told us it was time to sleep. We’ve worked a lot as a class, with the magazine, and the play, the play was quite tough, because we first had theatre classes with Celine, but those didn’t seem to suit us, then we wanted to do a play with Carlos...but that never happened either, so we finally decided, as a team to do it ourselves, we made Vyomini the director, because she is the most responsible person, and I personally think it came out great. I think Deepanam and the magazine have helped me embrace myself, I just felt like saying that...don’t judge me...I’m in a retarded mood.

I don’t know what to write anymore, and since this is MY page and I can design it like I want....

Imma make it arati style

Have you ever seen this emoji? ...

Cuz I haven’t...it’s a little scary...but it’s weird and I like it.
MY EXPERIENCE

Over all my experience in deepanam has been fabulouse. there have been a lot of ups and downs, but it was worth it. And altho im exited to go to last school, I feel like it will be very diferent from deepanam and im going to miss this school and the people a lot. there were times were I felt like I wasnt learning enough, but in the end i feel like ive learnt a lot, not neseserily about academic stuff, Ive learnt a lot about myself too. its realy sad that we are going to graduate now that our class finally feels like one big friend group. we do have our separate little groups...but it feels different from before, I think we became friendlier after the trip to chinar. I liked that trip a lot, personaly I love bus rides, because you have to bond with people wether you like it or not because your stuck with your classmates, and in the end its always for the better...i dont know what im saying. What I mean is that this year has been realy great and ive made new friends who were just classmates. I have had many days which im going to remember, and a bunch of trips which were worth traveling, and many plays I wouldnt mind replaying. to be honest im scared, scared that I will forget a lot of the little important memorable details of my deepanam experience. Going forward I realy want to become an actress, and I feel like deepanam has helped me at least a little.

Personaly I think acting on stage and on camera is very different, because on stage you have to really exagurate your actions so that the audience can understand whats going on, where as on camera you have to be more realistic and the cameras different angles will let the veiwers understand...im not sure how to explain myself exactly...but..yeah. enyway, I am very grateful to depanam for teaching me what it has taught me, and for helping me become who I am. When I thatnk depanam I am naturaly thanking the people in it to, teachers, and students.
History of Auroville

Auroville was founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa, also known as 'The Mother'. Auroville is an experimental township or a universel. Designed by the famous architect Roger Anger, Auroville is a must-visit attraction.

**Who founded Auroville?**
Auroville [city of dawn] has its origins in the French language, “aurora” meaning dawn and “ville” meaning city. Additionally, it is named after Sri Aurobindo [1872-1950].

**When did Auroville start?**
On 28th February 1968, some 5,000 people assembled near the Banyan tree at the centre of the future township for an inauguration ceremony attended by representatives of 124 nations, including all the states of India.

**Why was Auroville created?**
The Ashram itself, formally created in 1926, was a first attempt in that direction. It was only in 1964 that the mother felt that the time had come for such a bold experiment to be started on the bigger scale of a township.

**What is special about Auroville?**
Auroville is an experimental township in Villupuram district mostly in the state of Tamil Nadu, India with some parts in the Union Territory of Puducherry in South India. Auroville wants to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities. The purpose of Auroville is to realise human unity.
My Experience in Deepanam School

Deepanam has a beautiful campus with nature’s glory all around. Its clean garden and the vegetable garden which is being developed by the Students with the valuable assistance from our dedicated Teachers are going to set an example for others to follow. Oh! My classroom, I just love it, it is so spacious, clean and neatly arranged and feels great to be in. Another feature of my school campus is the Life Science classroom; the large aquariums and the snake pit are the highlights. The Theater in our school is one of a kind, it’s so unique, and the doom of the Theater is an engineering marvel. Our Art & Craft class is very beautiful and convenient to do our art work. Our playground is another best part of our school campus; we have a mini Football ground, a basketball and Badminton court along with space many other sports like Frisbee etc., all the buildings in the campus has a unique design and great effort has and is being taken to make our campus environmentally friendly.

The atmosphere in our School is so vibrant, our Teachers are our very best friends, they make everything so easy for us, it is fun to go to school, I love my School, I always want to be at school, and my schoolmates are the best in the world. Apart from our own Teachers we also have Teachers visiting our school and giving classes on Creative Writing, Capoeira etc., they are a delight, they will continue to be our Teachers even if we move to other schools. I love my Teachers all of them. Apart from our friends, All schoolmates are my best friends. We do projects together and we help each other when we need. Even All the small kids are my best friends. We play together and we help each other when we need. I love my school so munch and I am sure I will miss everybody.
I opened my eyes to see a pale light. It was the moon, it shined so bright. I heard how waves were hitting on the shore. They were too loud, they couldn’t be ignored. I raised myself, and walked towards the water. It seemed so still, but noise had cut the silence like a cutter. I stepped in waves, they were so arctic cold. It felt as bad as those mean words that once were told. I didn’t stop because of pain. I kept on walking. I felt the pain again. My tears were falling from my eyes. They weren’t caused by pain, I cried due to many lies. I didn’t feel the sand beneath my feet. I felt how heart of mine was slowing down it’s beat.

“my tears are invisible
now that I’m drowning.”

The last thing that I saw, was a small, tiny spark. It was the only light that I saw in the deep dark.

I opened my eyes to see a pale light. It was my phone it showed the time. In three minutes it ringed telling me that it’s time to wake up. I switched it off, and looked outside. Sun just raised above other buildings. I had spent sometime looking outside of my window. After ten minutes another alarm announced me that it’s time to get ready for work.

- Good morning me...
I think that word and the power of a speech is one of the greatest weapons that man wields. With words that you speak you can: hurt, heal, make person happy, or make them sad, make people think deeper and many more things. Sometimes we don’t even understand what we have said until it makes another person feel bad. Most of the times we don’t remember what we said, or to who did we said it. I feel that because of the way we have spoken to a particular person in particular moment might have ruined, or given us a chance. Sometimes we don’t even know how a person would react if we would say what we want to say, not what they want to hear. I feel that sometimes we should remember what we have said to whom, and if it was something bad I think that you still have a chance to say sorry.

This is a list of things you might have said to someone. And I want you to remember what, and to who you said it. I want you to remember the most memorable ones that there are.

1. things you said through your teeth.
2. things you said too quietly.
3. things you said over a phone.
4. things you didn’t say at all, but you wished you did.
5. things you said while looking at the stars.
6. things you said while you were driving with someone.
7. things you said when you were crying.
8. things you said when someone else was crying.
9. things you said that made the other person feel bad.
10. things you said when you thought that the other someone couldn’t hear you.
11. things you said at the kitchen table.
12. things you said to someone who was really far away from you.
13. things you said to someone who you felt really close to.
14. things you said that you wish you didn’t.
15. things you said when you were scared.
16. things you said in the most happy minutes of your life.

And now try to be on the other side of this sentence. What were the things that someone had told you? Sometimes you don’t even have to say things to the other person, they just understand you, understand what you meant.
sometimes i want to blame others for changing me... but i should blame myself for accepting those changes.
At that moment I wrote that sentence I couldn't take it anymore, I had to pour my feelings somewhere, on something! I looked around my room and saw my notebook. I took it and wrote on it. Honestly after writing how I felt, I felt like a huge rock that was pressing on my heart left, that it just disappeared. Sometimes writing or telling someone how you feel will just make you feel better ^^ fighting!
I vaguely remember one of my earliest drawings. It was a girl. A round head atop an upside down triangular body. She had a rainbow dress. One of those childish drawings. Soon enough, I found myself drawing cats. I drew tributes to a camel doll I’d lost, goldfish that had died and for a camera that had stopped working. I kept drawing. Soon enough, when I started reading Warriors (a series about cats that live in the wild) I was introduced to fanart. I found a particular artist that I really liked. I tried drawing like that artist. I got used to that person’s art so I could draw like that person even without looking at that person. Now, you may say that I’m stealing that person’s art style. Yes, yes I was. But I’d rather call it more like “gathering styles”. Basically, I was trying out many styles to see which one fit me best and personalize it.

Then, I was introduced to anime. Inuyasha in particular. I tried drawing things in anime. Now, if you’ve drawn cats for year, this is a challenge. If I look at any drawing from the past, I might puke. I’ll probably feel like that in a few years time as I look at my art today. So, I drew cats and humans. Slowly, my art changed as I tried out many styles and added styles and subtracted some. In the end, I ended up with my own style. I’m still trying out many things and I’m still not exactly satisfied with my art. I remember I was so proud of being able to draw in an anime style so I told my younger brother I’d draw him. After about a year or so, I remembered that I’d drawn him. I tried finding it as I had remembered how proud I was of that drawing. When I found it, I was surprised. “That’s pretty ugly.” I thought and I re-drew it. And so, I decided I’d make a drawing of him each year to see how much I’d progressed. From 2016 to 2018, I have every single one of them. Back when I was younger, I’d either erase everything and re-draw it or I’d throw it in the bin if I didn’t like a drawing from about a year ago. Now, I regret doing that as I can’t see how much my art progressed. Now, I’d be more than exhilarated to find one of my older drawings so I could see what mistakes I used to make. I’m still pretty reluctant to draw in front of others or draw for others because “it might not be good enough” or “what if they find it weird?”. Some days I can’t even bring myself to touch a pencil. I have huge art blocks and don’t draw for months sometimes, but, in then I always end up drawing one way or the other. Finding something I like helps remove anything preventing me from drawing as I’m bound to start drawing that thing. Songs also inspire me a lot so I tend to try out many songs. Sometimes I draw things out of my feelings or from my day to day basis. I basically try to draw as much as I can as I can see what I’m better at and what I’m worse at.
These drawings were the ones I re-drew over the years. (You might not be able to see them well as I did not over-write it in pen.) I haven’t done the 2019 one because I usually draw them toward the end of the year.

I wonder if you can guess who I am!
cold, smooth & tasty.

A refreshing gift from me to you.
The first photo was taken in Madras Cricket Club. I played my first Men's tournament over there. There were 4 rounds to qualify into the main draw. The total prize money in the tournament was 5 Lakhs RS. Players were really good. I played my first round against a 20 year old guy who was ranked 197 in India. He was hitting the balls really fast. The match lasted about an hour but I lost 8:3. It was a great experience playing against an adult. After the match I went to the cricket stadium in Madras cricket club to click some pictures. The stadium really was big and they even host IPL and some other international cricket tournaments.
The second photo was taken in Krishna tennis centre. I have played there 3 rounds of qualifying to get in the main draw. The photo was taken at the 2nd round of qualifying day. My match just finished and it started raining. The tournament category was under 14. I can say that it was one of the best facilities over there. The tournament went not so good because I lost in the round of 16.
my years in deepanam

when i joined deepanam 3 years ago, i was very scared and nervous and at the same time tremendously excited as i for the most parts of my life was home schooled, though i have in the past been to schools but only for a very brief time.

when i stepped into the campus for the first time to meet the teacher for the first time, who i found out later, was none other than bhakti, she was very friendly and welcoming and to this day she still is that.

in the beginning, i would have to say my favourite class was English, but now that place is held by photography which is also my hobby as you would have noticed from the previous issues. now that there is only 2 weeks left for me in Deepanam at the time of me writing this, i'm not looking forward to again moving schools, though i still do feel exited and enthusiastic about it, but i will miss deepanam a lot as i know there are very few schools in the world out there that offer this kind of freedom and education, i feel very thankful to all the teachers, students, staff who i have grown and learned alongside. i am quite certain that in the future i will look back at my days in deepanam and think to myself how much i learned and how much deepanam improved me as a person in general.

every year at the end of the academic year the class has a collective play, of which i have been part of two, the first was king Arthur, i liked that play a lot, then the next year i was sadly absent at the time of the play so i could not participate, then this year, the play was called the thousand cranes, this was in fact a very touching story if you think about it. my character was a 13 year old Japanese school boy, he is the friend of sadako who is the 12 year old runner who gets diagnosed with leukaemia.

side note: i am very proud of my decision to quit playing pubg mobile, which i realised was taking up my whole day and i was becoming dependant on it, i am not in favour of banning it, that is not what i am saying, all i am saying is people should control the time spent on gaming.
I thought a lot about this topic when someone told me that I had to fill two pages. It needed to be something I really enjoy so I thought ‘How about the very thing that I’m going to be doing for the next forty or so years?’ Yes, you guessed it (or not) - my future job! When I was little I went through several phases:

First I wanted to be a cornflake because... well I probably liked cornflakes and it didn’t look like much work. That was when I was about three (What do you think, I was ten and wanted to be a cornflake?)

Then I wanted to be a scientist because I liked lab coats and wanted to mix different coloured liquids and make explosions (What? It looked fun!) I think I was four then.

After that, I wanted to be a librarian because scanning books looked amusing. Then I think I was still four.

When I was five I wanted to be a princess and be waited on hand and foot. Believe it or not, I actually thought that was achievable!

I wanted to be a singer when I was six.

After that, I wanted to be an actress because it looked glamorous (and people have told me I’m dramatic). That was when I was seven.

When I was eight I wanted to be a model. That lasted until I was eleven, and that’s when I realised I was much too fond of unhealthy food.

Lastly, I’m going to run a dating agency. At long last I have chosen a job that’s not deathly boring, or completely out of my reach: it’s fun, above minimum wage, and without a boss breathing down my neck; it meets every standard my extremely small mind could come up with!

I will work my own hours, and have absolutely no chance of being fired. What’s not to like? Why I never thought of this before I don’t know. You’re probably wondering why I named this article Star Struck? Well, you guessed it (or not) that will be the name of my dating agency! Before it was Scarlet Hearts but since my name isn’t Scarlet, that name doesn’t make much sense, therefore I kept thinking until I came up with something better, and as it turns out I did! That job is great because not many people think of it so there isn’t that much competition. There are millions of cornflakes, scientists and librarians but how many people want to run a dating agency? A thousand? The point is it’s the best job I could have thought of. After that, I thought a lot about my future to the point where I know practically everything about what’s going to happen from the sofa shape (L) to how many children I’m going to adopt (two). Right now, my future couldn’t be more clear, so I might as well tell you what’s going to happen on a day to day basis.
So, I will start by waking up at 7 am (What did you think I was going to say - pm?), wash my face, brush my teeth, brush my hair and pad downstairs for breakfast. Start by dropping three slices of toast in the toaster, getting the butter out of the fridge grabbing the Frosties out of the cupboard and go upstairs to wake Lily and Louise, my two adopted children that look like me, and carry them down the stairs until they wake up. That should be a good kick start to the day! We will then eat breakfast together whilst chatting about recent events. Then they will put on their uniforms and catch the bus for school. I, meanwhile, will check my phone for reminders and get dressed in an outfit too perfect for description. I look at my watch and see if I have time to pop by Costa for a hot chocolate with extra whipped cream and marshmallows, and after I’ve done that I will start making my way to my next appointment with my handbag and camera. I reach there and say ‘Hello’ to the client, make small talk and eventually get to the point. I take their photo and ask various questions before finally reassuring the person that I will get back to them soon, and I go home. Make my lunch of hummus and pita with falafel and crudites, go to my room and start working on my laptop and start making the person’s profile. That would take roughly an hour and look for people that would be perfect for each other. At five I finish work and go food shopping, and then start preparing a meal of bangers (sausage) and mash with gravy and vegetables. Both girls come home, we eat and make dessert and then watch TV until 10 pm, then bed at 11. I will go to bed shortly after with a microwavable teddy and a good book.

So that is a day in my future life. You should feel honored that I told you all this. This must be a really big day for you. One of the only things I don’t know, is how much to charge my precious clientele. Well I guess that all depends on inflation or deflation... I suppose nothing is ever certain no matter how many plans you make. You know what they say, “Life happens when you’re busy making other plans.” and that’s true but, since I’ve spent so much time on it, I sort of don’t want to believe it. Get what I’m saying? Well, I just hope life happens in accordance with my plans! It would be a shame to think I’ve wasted all that time... I could have chosen to become anything in my life... well not anything but I could have chosen to become a vet or even a chimney sweep but I didn’t. I chose to found a dating agency and that’s (hopefully) what I’m going to do! I love my choice, so much so that I’ve even thought of a logo! You now have the pleasure of knowing several things about my future house: My L shaped sofa will be both furry and bouncy, chic and comfy, I’ve even chosen which spot each of us will take on the sofa: I will take the corner and my two adoptees can choose from the remaining three seats. Maybe we can have a vote? Of course, MY seat is set in stone. My dining table will be long and rectangular for eight people, it must be glass and I will get matching seats. (Glass is easy to clean, and my adoptees will not exactly drop the table!) With a marble breakfast bar my future home will be complete!

So I guess those are my two pages! I really hope you enjoyed what I’ve done for the past year, this is probably going to be my last article so...

FAREWELL, UNTIL WE MEETETH AGAIN!

LEAH
Add a little bit I can't wait for summer holiday. It was very hot day, it will get burn and wet. Some people go out to work or school. I will get tired. Now it was holiday will go out to other place and country. But I don't know, I want to go for holiday. Because my mom and dad don't have time to go for holiday. It's okay, they don't have time. I told my mom I want to go to Mizoram, it will be cold place. She said okay not now, we go on next year maybe. It was so far day. I need to stay here in auroville for two months. It was fine to stay here. My school and another school, my classmate friends they are going to auroville camp. It was very cold place. But I don't want to go there. I went there two year ago. It was fun but in the bus will get dizzy and feel sick. Now they are going to have fun. I hope, I will go for holiday. You will see and I am going to write story of my holiday.

Have fun for your holiday!

By
Pallavi
Why I don't know how to speak Tamil...

Because when I was small, I knew how to speak Tamil....

I went to Deepanam school. It's was my first year.
I was first grad, I had Tamil class first time. Then it was so easy for me.
Tamil can also be used to sing small song. It was fun for me.

But after 3 year I was fourth grad.
I went to Tamil room. But I was bit afraid of Tamil class.
Because I forget everything of the Tamil, I don't know how to say and write sentence.

After next year it was hard for me to do Tamil. I try to study hard and I don't understand when they speak Tamil to me.
I started to cry but I don't want to do Tamil class. Then my mom and dad came to school to meet my teacher.
The teacher said all study class was good.
But one class of Tamil, the teacher don't want to put me in Tamil class. Because I am not good for to speak Tamil class.
So I stop Tamil class. My mom and dad know how to speak Tamil.
They can help me to do Tamil, not everyday, sometime. They can speak to me like one world.

Because I like to speak English.
MY PHOTOGRAPHS

RUDRA
Our School
I joined Deepanam two years ago, though compared to most people in my class, it is a small amount of time, I have made tons of memories. That is what I will carry forward when I leave. Now that I am leaving Deepanam, I have a lot to say, so bear with it. I will surely miss my friends who are going to different schools, the freedom and everything about Deepanam (don't add the food in there). Being a Faith Grouper has many advantages and one of my favorites is that we have our own toilets which we don't have to share with the rest of the school :) Everyone in the school have to use a common toilet except for us and the teachers. I am glad that I came here. I have been in the best group one can ask to be in, Faith group (I haven't experienced any other group, so I can't really judge but still...I think it is the best!!!)

In the last term of this year, WE changed our schedule. "WE" literally means us, the students. We were given the choice of what classes to attend. The usual classes were still on, it was not like they had stopped, we still had craft, painting, anthropology, etc but we had the choice to either continue those subjects or to drop them and learn something new. We had the liberty to use computers at school and could also learn a new language or a new subject like economics or something like that...Then, at the end of the term, we were supposed to present what we did. In the beginning, it did not work out as we had always been given the schedule and everybody had followed it. Some of us really badly wanted to go back to the original schedule as at first most of us were confused and did not know what to do, it was all very new. But our class teacher, Mahavir continued this new experiment on us. It was as if we were lab mice and he was the scientist quietly observing us after trying something new on us... Anyways we continued with our new personalized schedules. We were allowed to stop any subjects except for Maths, Science, English, Magazine hour and A.T.B (A.T.B means Awareness Through Body for the people who do not know what it means) I never knew that A.T.B was that important and nobody was allowed to stop it even if they wanted to. It was probably a different experience and a challenging task for everyone as we were the ones in charge of what to learn. That is a big responsibility. In the beginning, I wanted to stop both the Language classes (Tamil and French) but in the end, I did not.

The past two years have been a roller coaster ride for me. From being the “new kid” to finally fitting in with the rest and now graduating with my friends and classmates. Many people are going in different ways and it is a bit sad.
At the end of my first year at Deepanam, we were told that from the two main teachers handling Faith Group one of them would be leaving to be the class teacher of a new group. Which came to us as a bad surprise and was shocking. We were close to the teacher who was going to leave us, so we decided to have a petition to make her stay. But that failed in the end.

What scared most of us that the balance in our class was going to be disturbed by Bhakti leaving as she was the teacher that was labeled “fun” and our other teacher, Mahavir was labeled “work”. So we had both fun and work. As the “fun” teacher was going to leave we thought that the dynamic would not be right. Eventually this year was pretty fun. Also Bhakti was able to join us for our trip to Kerala and that was fun!

2018-19 has been rather an eventful school year.

We began a monthly magazine, that you are currently reading, with which we have progressed immensely since the first issue! and I hope that Kaleidoscope will continue on next year... I have improved a lot in my English, thanks to the magazine. Which we had to write articles for as well as play the role of page maker, photographer and editor...

The whole class participated in the Nanowrimo challenge where we had to either write a short story or a novel within the month of November. I had given up on it at the beginning but started writing a few words every 3 to 4 days. I knew that if it continued like this I would not go anywhere but even knowing that I did not wake up and took the task lightly until only a week was left, then suddenly I really badly wanted to finish writing my story, and I wrote almost 2000 words each day to finish my word goal. Writing a story might sound easy but it is NOT, believe me. I am not discouraging you but stating the fact!

We also visited a tribal village in Kerala, we had to write a report on them.

To top it all off we ended with a play. Not any play, rather our play! script had some dark dialogues which were pretty scary. Before joining Deepanam I did not pay much attention to the maths class at my old school and was probably one of the worst in Maths. And I think I have progressed a lot since then. Since coming to Auroville I got quite interested in Anime (which was all because a few people in my class couldn't stop talking about an Anime called “Inuyasha”) so, I tried watching it and since then I fell in love with Anime (My favorite is Fairy Tail) and later on I started learning Japanese on my own but a few months ago I started learning from one of my friends mother, who is Japanese.

The class was not always together, we were usually in our little groups but we especially grew closer on the trip to Kerala, I guess 12 hours on a bus does not really give anyone many choices on how to pass the time and most of the time we talked to each other or slept. I learned that Time does not wait for you whether you are ready or not for certain things (even on the bus ride to Kerala the time went pretty fast but towards the middle it seemed to drag on...), it especially goes fast when enjoying something and it tends to go rather slow when its something boring that you want to get over with. It's like a ticking time bomb, it stops when you die so you got to use it well with no regrets while you still can (I realized that this bit sounds a bit dark but deal with it, personally I think our play, The 1000 Cranes script had many more dark dialogues...)

Have you ever been scared of yourself? Because I have... Just two years ago it scared me that my older self would not pursue what I wanted to do in life, back then but people change just as taste buds do!

I wholeheartedly want to THANK My Best Friend, Friends, Classmates, My Class Teacher, and all the other Teachers, My Mother, and My Cat, Tuffy! Who have made it worth going to school though there have been bad days... Only the good ones count...

This is my last article for Kaleidoscope.

Signing off as Sana, Kawaiicats6, and nobody can forget Manhouse Queen! (Manhouse Queen is a nickname that I earned.)

I don't want to leave DEEPANAM!!! I wish I could stay longer (T __ T) But I got no choice.

I think this the longest article I have written yet! yassss!!!
When we say nano it means very small, 1 nano meter is 1 billionth of a meter, which is about 100 thousand times smaller than the thickness of a human hair...

Making new things in this incredible size is called nanotechnology and it is the most interesting and fast moving thing these days.

Scientists can create nanostructures them self

Nanotech is manipulation of matter on an atomic, molecular, and supramolecular scale. The earliest, widespread description of nanotechnology referred to the particular technological goal of precisely manipulating atoms and molecules for fabrication of macroscale products, also now referred to as molecular nanotechnology. A more generalized description of nanotechnology was subsequently established by the National Nanotechnology Initiative, which defines nanotechnology as the manipulation of matter with at least one dimension sized from 1 to 100 nanometers. That is quite small, believe me...

Nanoparticles can help us make a product stronger and lighter, a combination of millions and millions and millions of nanoparticles can make a thin metal sheet witch is hundred times stronger and lighter than any material currently available...

Imagine that!

Now i wonder how is all this even possible... How can it be stronger AND lighter? All this is questioning my mindset, and I like it...
Now, as much as I like Science and Technology in general, Nanotech in particular, I still have a lot of interest into sport. Sports is my hobby and I practice Archery and Running in particular. I really like Archery because it makes me feel better than when I started it. I like the way I understand my bow and somehow, I like the way my bow understands me too. Quite often I feel my bow and I we are like one. In other words, Archery helps me grow mentally and physically.

Now, if Archery makes me better, how can nanotechnology make archery better?

From what I know Nanotech are not into Archery yet. So I can only dream of it... For instance, a bows weight depend upon its power, therefore the more powerful the heavier it becomes. The heavier it is the harder it is to handle. I think that Nano-particles could be used here to make some super powerful Bows that would weigh up to hundred times less. That would weigh less than the feather which were used for the fletch of the arrow... This would be incredible! I could also dream of nano-tech being used for the arrows to make it weightless while super rigid, the string also...

For now I will keep on using my current faithful bow, you may call it Gandiva, I don't...
"ME ON A PAGE"
Every time I start something, I fall in love with it. I get consumed by the activity. After a while of focusing solely on it, I organically improve my skills. Pride starts to make my shoulders rise a bit. That only lasts for a few days, since I can't see anything other than people whose work is much better than mine. I begin to feel that I am not good at all, start feeling insecure and incompetent. I struggle to improve quickly, but I fall into endless nights of feeling dejected. I then decide to bury it and find a new activity, and the cycle continues.

Slowly, I became aware of this cycle, but I didn't know how to face it. Every time I tried to control it, I either became pompous or very discouraged.

After a lot of sleepless night and attitude changes, I realized. I remembered how painting and drawing made me go into a whole new space, how it was something personal, how it was something I did because "I" loved it and not to be better and not to prove myself better than someone else. I thrive at being able to look at my finished work and smile, go to bed proud of the improvement in myself, proud of how happy I was doing it. Trying to revive the spirit it began with. And I learned something that I use in a lot of circumstances nowadays.

"Work to satisfy yourself, do it solely for yourself, don't tell your mind what to think"

Now I am in the best place I have ever been
In few words, who you are, your role in AV, at Deepanam in particular? Also a little about your connection with Photography...

Two and a half years ago, I came to Auroville with my family and almost instantly decided to be part of the adventure, as we felt deeply aligned with the dream. Have been sharing my gifts with Deepanam school through weekly Kindness Circles for 9-10 year olds and offering Photography as part of the Genius Hour for 12-14 year olds. Am lucky to have picked up an SLR (with film rolls) when I was 17 years old and learnt a lot from seniors in college as part of a hobby club. I particularly enjoyed shooting portraits and events. When I was in my early twenties, my sister supported my passion by gifting me a digital camera. After working in the domain of Media and Marketing Communications for 10 years where I got to use my photography skills, I decided to follow my heart and started a Child photography service in 2011.

During this period, I also felt a deep inner connection with the process of photographing and it taught me a couple of things about life. Presence: It helped me to be more in the moment and connect to the subject completely and be fully present to what is in front of me; Perspective: When challenges came up, it helped me develop the capacity to see people, situations from various angles and perspectives so I could expand my heart a little more.

For the first time in Deepanam, Photography has been offered in the curriculum of the Faith Group (Age 12 to 14), and you were running the show... Can you tell us how it all went? Maybe a few highs and one low if any?

When Mahavir mentioned about the Genius Hour and how a few students from Faith group are keen to explore Photography, I was excited to participate as I was looking for ways to meaningfully engage with photography again after taking a break. It sounded like a bit of a challenge too, as I had no experience in holding a class on Photography. With an open mind, took up the invitation and it turned out to be an immensely satisfying experience to share what I’d learnt over the years.

In the first two terms of the year, we focused on cultivating the art of observation and seeing a picture without a camera — we began by observing nature, seeing the same surroundings with a fresh pair of eyes every week and discovering something new, exploring Black & White Photography, light and shade, learning about different composition techniques and then moved on to the technical bits about shooting in Manual Mode and editing in the last term. It was heartening to see the enthusiasm of the group and some of them really progressed and refined their art through creative compositions and innovative concepts. Some of them, who had never held a professional camera before, learnt quickly and created beautiful memories for themselves in the form of a personalized Photo Calendar.

We had 45-minute sessions for the first two terms; it was very interesting for me to see how the group learnt to work with the big constraint of being in the same campus week after week, yet managing to find the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Lows? Can’t think of any, need to ask the students, am sure they have something to add here: Wish we had stepped out of the school more!
Through the kids photography you have been a very active contributor of Kaleidoscope, can you tell us all about this experience too?

It was incredible to see the Faith group work on the magazine day in and day out, almost with no break to keep up the monthly frequency of publishing. It was a brilliant platform to showcase the varied talents to come up with conceptual illustrations, comic strips, photography, poems, riddles and reflective pieces of writing. With a regular “Gallery” section in the magazine to feature photographs, the group of students were motivated to click photos through the week and not wait for the weekly sessions. They learnt to collaborate by understanding what the editorial team is looking for and contribute photographs for articles and the magazine cover. We enjoyed visiting a few restaurants to do food photography and compose shots to fit the cover theme. All of us used to look forward to the magazine so much and see how the photographs turned out. In my mind, the magazine was an integral part of the photography sessions and brought in a sense of purpose to our learning and exploration. Thank you, Olivier and Mahavir for bringing to life the idea of a school magazine.

Recently, Pitanga had an exhibition of a selection of the best shots taken by Faith group this year. I had the opportunity to see it. I must say I got quite impressed: It felt a little like a coming of age for the group. How did this idea develop and finally manifest?

At the beginning of the first term, Mahavir casually suggested putting up an exhibition of photographs clicked by the students perhaps in a space like Pitanga. I almost forgot about it until the third term… :) One day, when I was looking through all the photos clicked over three terms, I felt that the group would receive so much more encouragement when the work is presented and shared with the larger community.

We approached Kumar at Pitanga last month and shared a few photographs clicked by Faith group. Without many questions, he was more than happy to offer the space for three weeks in April! I realized once more that being in Auroville is such a blessing, where every space/unit is willing to support and encourage schools and students.

...A NEW LOVE & KINDNESS STORY

Shaalini selected the 4 most memorable shots of the year with a little explanation... You may see them on page 4, 34 and here

1. “The diagonal composition adds to the beauty of this fleeting moment captured using a prime lens. It takes some training of the eyes to find an interesting subject in familiar surroundings.”
2. “I love the way the frame has been imagined and conceptualised. The student has managed to shoot her own shadow without making it very obvious.”
3. “There was an urgency and deadline to get this shot for the magazine. Without any planning, we landed up in a cafe and had to work with what we got. It took only 10 minutes from set up to shooting and the student got this in two clicks.”
4. “I love the way the frame has been thought about and geometry add depth to this photo of an ordinary amphitheater in the school.”
Faith - 2018-19
Farewell & Bonne Chance!