

THE LAWRENCE SCHOOL, SANAWAR

The Red Roof Osceen

ISSUE 1 *"The unspoken at the edge of the spoken"* JULY 21, 2020

"Life is About Taking Chances"

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*The Flix Journal, Riddles and
more!*

The Road Less Taken

Avanti Aggarwal

It is rare that we find moments in our lives that give us a chance to define ourselves. When this rarity arises, you can either continue upon the path that you have been treading, or you can jump across the flighty chasm between you and your ambition. You convince yourself to jump over to the other side but then again, your brain rattles with innumerable thoughts about the uncertainty of your success. Even with this flooded mind, all you know is that if you do succeed, you will have done something truly spectacular.

“The Editorial Board wants ‘The Red Roof Oscen’ to characterize the lives of Sanawarians for years to come and to embed itself in the legacy of this great institution”

It might strike the reader’s mind as to why such philosophy is being penned down. Allow me to rewind a little. The momentous opportunity coming my way laid its foundation in March, when the school was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. At that time, I must admit, I was thrilled at the prospect of getting a break from the excruciating routine we all had been in. However, as staying productive became more and more grueling, and the lockdown more and more prolonged, I finally saw two choices clearly laid out in front of me. I could either go on enjoying this interlude, or I could transcend the normal definition of what a Sanawarian stands for and be a symbol of perseverance. It was then that I took the decision of taking a leap towards my ambition and give shape to the idea of this editorial. My train of thoughts had finally found its station.

However seductive the result may have been, the challenges involved in the process were too horrific to even think of. One thought constantly plagued my mind- will I be successful in changing the mindset of the student body? I never liked this nonchalance but I ignored it because I did not want my middle name to be ‘Curriculum Vitae’.

Most people would probably dismiss me as if I were crazy. Actually, I do think I’m crazy to have such a sense of responsibility. As I don’t really see it around often, so it must be abnormal to have it. Another uncertainty that haunted me was whether I would be able to garner enough support. How would we gather enough content for a fortnightly issue? Truth be told, these questions made the idea seem unrealistic.

However, beyond the bundle of uncertainties laid a tantalizing promise of a new legacy- a memory in everyone’s minds of what the school had been able to achieve in the toughest of times. The promise of a new meaning of ‘Never Give In’, of setting a new trend before my time runs out.

The Editorial Board wants ‘The Red Roof Oscen’ to characterize the lives of Sanawarians for years to come and to embed itself in the legacy of this great institution- and in doing so, we want to present ‘the unspoken at the edge of the spoken’, i.e. provide a platform to put forward the words that are at the brink of coming out. The ‘Red Roof’ has been incorporated in the title of this newsletter as it is something very specific to Sanawar. The word ‘Oscen’ is a Latin word which literally translates to songbird, signifying the happy and chirpy students of our school. If we are able to continue delivering this newsletter to the Sanawar family every fortnight, it would not only keep us together in spirit but also provide a platform to document the surreal experiences at Sanawar.

So, after extensive ideation on how to make this work, the Editorial Board presents to you the inaugural edition of The Red Roof Oscen. There will be moments of pain, discomfort and exasperation for all of us, but it will be in those moments that the ‘Never Give In’ spirit of our school will keep us going. I hope that the level of involvement in this editorial will rise in the years to come. Meanwhile, I wish you all a happy and a successful term ahead and whatever the circumstances are in the next few months, I look forward to delivering to you the essence of Sanawar every alternate Monday morning!

Life is About Taking Chances!

Mrs. Neelam Tahlan

What the world is going through right now is nothing short of a nightmare. Unprecedented and tough times like these are challenging for everyone. A pessimist will use it as an excuse for taking a back seat and not do anything but an optimist will identify these challenges with new opportunities. Those who take hardships head on are the ones who define success.

We, as teachers, keep on telling our students to be creative and innovative because creativity is thinking up new things and innovation is doing new things. We must challenge ourselves in new ways for our growth and progress even when we are going through a

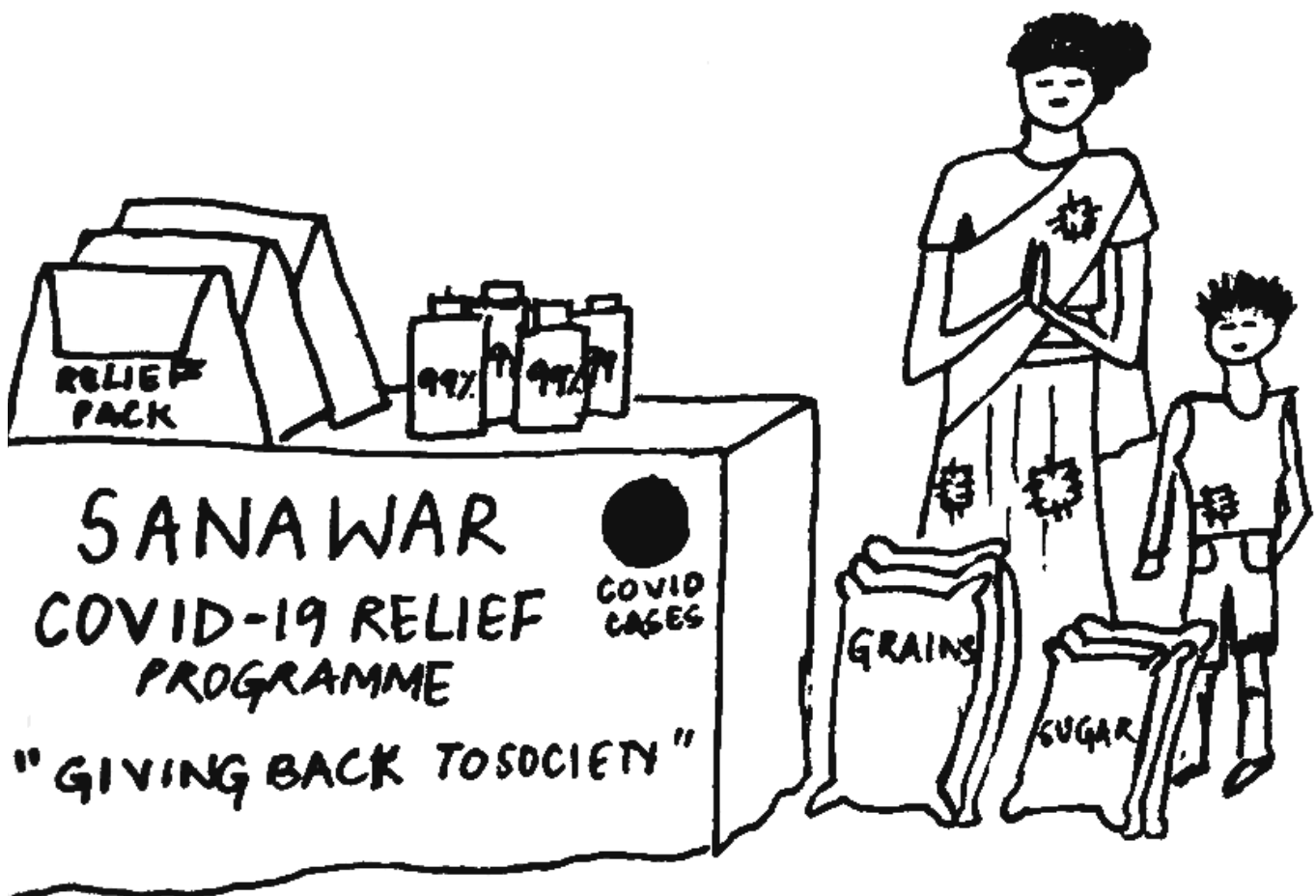
rough patch in life. The challenges may not always be extreme. It can be as simple as trying a new skill you have never done.

It is heartening to know that many of our students have taken on themselves to take initiative in different fields. Much that I applaud their initiative, instantaneously roll out a word of caution as well - that all their new ideas aren't going to work, but when they will find the one that does, it is going to be extremely gratifying.

Always remember that a true initiation never ends and there is nothing that cannot be achieved if you set your mind to it. So go on-explore, create...and of course, express. Stay safe, stay healthy and continue to be innovative and happy! I will pen down with a famous quote of Carl Bard:

"Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

DOODLEVERSE



They all got it Wrong, Sanawar is a Feeling

Esha Malhotra

“It is always the same with mountains. Once you have lived with them for any length of time, you belong to them. There is no escape.”— Ruskin Bond.

At the beginning of grade 12th, as I took the responsibility of becoming a prefect and continuing this journey with more diligence, I believed that my education at Sanawar would draw to a close, that the majority of my learning experiences both as a student and Sanawarian would now be hindered. However, the truth could not be far from just that. These past months have been resplendent with trials and triumphs, enveloping within me and passing onto me the values and lessons that the school has upheld since its 172 years of being and which shall be cherished by me for the years to come. For all that it offers, I carry immense gratitude and it is my proud privilege to be the Senior Editor for this great institution.

When I travel down the memory lane (yes, despite the sojourn in Sanawar I have been rather lucky to have had shared some of the most beautiful memories with the most decorative bunch of students at this very institute), I view the road transversed by the Sanawarians of yester years and all the milestones of achievements. Well dear readers, this newsletter is itself a proof of the “legacy” we uphold and the motto we look up to in the darkest of days and the worst of pandemics- “Never give in”.

Here, I must try to reach out to all Sanawarians. From those who have recently joined the school and haven’t had the chance to discover the myriad of opportunities this institution has to offer and to those who are closing their journey on this mesmerizing

hill top, although it does not end here. If I can offer a page from my book , sketched with my experiences ,it will be this- "It always gets better and it will always surprise you". Remember that the little things matter the most. I first thought of having a school newsletter at the beginning of this year. Yet, I was not eager enough to communicate it through. Thanks to one of my confidante who approached me sharing how she was interested in changing the old one and I was all ears. And well, here you are reading this. You may often question or doubt yourself. In those moments, seek from the motto of our institution and seek comfort from your peers. And if you are as lucky as I have been with my peers, my Batch of 2021, it will be all too well.

“These past months have been resplendent with trials and triumphs, enveloping within me and passing onto me the values and lessons that the school has upheld since its 172 years of being .”

Lastly, I would like to thank all the people who’ve believed in me. From the Headmaster to the teachers and even the bearers , thank you to anyone and everyone who have made me feel belonged and loved at school. My nostalgia kicks in for all the cribbing we did for no rain during PT and for the smell that surrounded Sanawar at this time of the year, while the grass and dew drops
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overwhelmed the Peacestead.

I miss the children walking to classes, the “after you” for the Saturday dinners and the gossips during fall ins, the five minute baths, the assembly prayers and the dressing up for socials. Now I remember feeling pretty bored with this routine, it was monotonous but I am still filled with enthusiasm at 3 am to go back to it! I’ve come to realize that in the moments of hurry and in the sense of competition and striving for the best, now when I go back, I will listen for the scolding of the matrons and

the long walks in the corridors, cherish the “old conversations,” “the old school pullovers” and red coats and black over coats, the warm soup and the smile after having a good tuck shop meal. I can’t wait to feel all this again. These little details will stay with me for a lifetime.

And in the end all I can say is if we lead out of the chapel for the last time this year, this year won’t be that bad after all. I hope you have a delight reading the rest of “The Red Roof Oscen.”

Until then, stay safe and let the show go on!

Games of the Globe

Simar Singh Ghabdia takes you round the world in 2 minutes

The world witnessed another week of unexpected news (though nothing remains “unexpected” in 2020). The American presidential race maneuvered another candidate. At a stage anyone would call imprudent to enter (unless it was meant to be), Kanye West had announced his candidacy, though his agenda, intentions and support seemed to be uncertain and hence not within 2 weeks was he forced to drop out. (Americans don’t really like the idea of Kim K as FLOTUS). Though life has somewhat resumed, across the world, the COVID-19 cases are not dipping and nations are now shutting down again. Fuel to the fire is Donald Trump’s decision to cease American membership of the WHO after July 2021. Police Brutality comes into the spotlight yet again, across the globe as Black Lives Matter movement refuses to fade out. In the Middle East United Arab Emirates has announced its own Mission to Mars. Clashes between India and China continue to upsurge, with recent boycott of Chinese goods in India. We’ll find out in next week’s column who nukes the other first!



VACATION INTERROGATION

1: How has being at home changed you?

Being at home has transformed me. I'm a changed person now. I have started valuing the school's systems and routine since we may never get to follow it again after graduating. I have become a more patient and self-controlled individual.

Arjun Singh Sandhu, Upper 6

2: Have you learnt anything new over the course of the pandemic?

I learnt that Nestle has been lying to us for ages because Maggi takes 4 minutes and 46 seconds to get ready and not 2 minutes.

Saina Sodhi, OS

3: How did you pass your time during the summer holidays?

During summer holidays, I rejuvenated myself because it was the first worthwhile break our batch got after boards. I also caught up with a lot of reading, current affairs and cooking.

Kahakashan Sehgal, Lower 6

4: What do you miss the most about the school?

I miss everything about school as whatever we would have done this year would have been for the last time. From tuck shop and Saturday nights to real-time classes and sport sessions, I miss it all. However, something that I miss the most is my friends. I do hope that we return soon and get a chance to experience everything for one last time.

Yuvraj Chawla, Upper 6

Edward Cullen or Tony Stark?

Aarushi Thakur

Sometimes I wonder what it is that we fear the most- death or oblivion. It takes courage to live knowing that one day you won't wake up, that one day all that is left of you will be the distorted version of you living in the memories of people, who quite frankly, only know you for what was created by their perception. And that's where oblivion comes in: it is the scary reality that one day, you won't be a memory anymore, just a fragment of a past that isn't going to be written down in history or turned into a biopic where at the end the audience cries at the loss of a marvel. You'll be forgotten in a way where no one has a memory of your exist-

"I wonder what it is that you fear the most, because I think I'd rather be part of the dead that live past their physical existence than the living that are forgotten before they become a memory."

ence.

On some rainy day where your philosophical self was in deep thought (*Continued on page 6*)

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your mind must have come across the hope that one day there'll be a

medical breakthrough and death would be cured or somehow due to fate you'll discover the undying world of the breath-taking vampires and spend an immortal existence with your Edward or Bella. Not to forget eternal High-School. But is that it? Is that our greatest fear; growing old and dying? Or is it deeper than the thought of never walking this earth again, is it more about the ever creeping insecurity that we will spiral down into oblivion, that we will never leave an impact on this world, that we'll just be another face amongst the dead that lie in unmarked graves. When a person dies it is said that they live on in the memories of people but the

thought that you might not be the person living on as a memory and might fade away like desert footprints, does give a scare.

I wonder what it is you fear the most, because for me, the thought that follows death isn't, "it'll be the end" but rather, "who'll miss me?" And honestly, would not you like to be the Tony Stark, who lives on despite ceasing to exist, where even the endgame isn't the end? Does it not scare you that you'll be that part of the universe that lives on only to be forgotten.

I wonder what it is that you fear the most, because I think I'd rather be part of the dead that live past their physical existence than the living that are forgotten before they become a memory.

THE FLIX JOURNAL

TV SHOWS OF THE EDITION

Breaking Bad

Sherlock

SONG OF THE EDITION

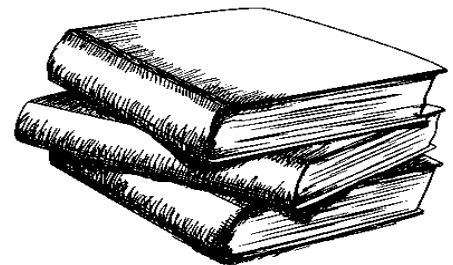
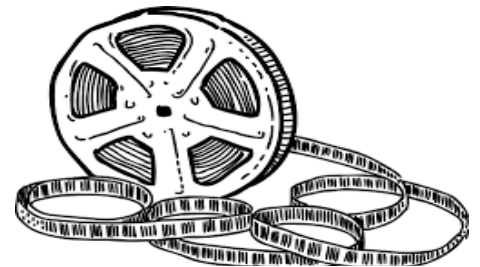
Are You Bored Yet? by Wallow

BOOKS OF THE EDITION

Famous Five by Enid Blyton

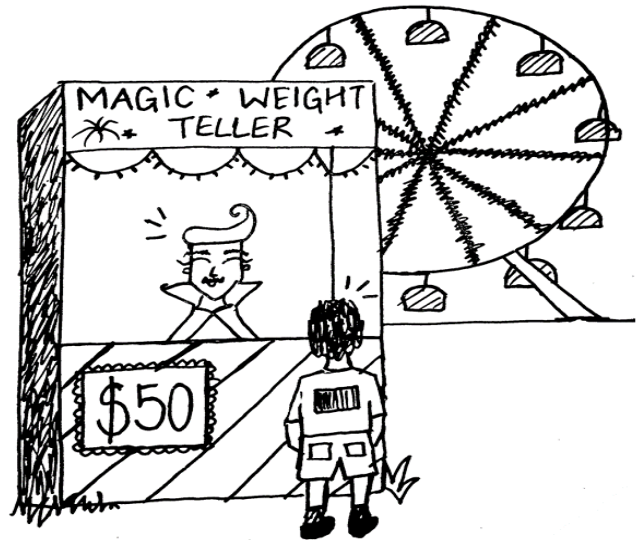
Worth Dying For by Lee Child

Origins by Dan Brown



LITTLE RIDDLES

A boy was at a carnival and went to a booth where a man said to the boy, "If I write your exact weight on this piece of paper then you have to give me \$50, but if I cannot, I will pay you \$50." The boy looked around and saw no scale so he agrees, thinking no matter what the carny writes he'll just say he weighs more or less. In the end the boy ended up paying the man \$50. How did the man win the bet?



Ans: The man did exactly as he said he would and wrote "your exact weight" on the paper.

Have a Great Week Ahead!

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Senior Editors: Esha Malhotra, Simar S. Gabadia **Associate Editor:** Aarushi Thakur

Interviewers: Nachael Gill, Vedant Mehra, Seerat Sandhu **Cartoonist:** Zoya Khurana

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