

Queen Mary's School

Northend, Model Town, Delhi

Celebrating Our Environment





Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Greetings in the name of our God Almighty.

I am very fortunate to be a part of a dedicated team of parents, staff members, and students. I find each day an adventure filled with new experiences, learning for all, and a chance to constantly widen our horizons.

On this World Environment Day, as many are isolated at home, it is the time to reflect on our past actions. The COVID19 pandemic is a reminder that human health is directly linked to the health of this Blue Planet. The food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all this is the gift from Nature.

Yet, during these exceptional times we should listen to the message that Nature is sending us and learn from our past mistakes. During the lockdown period, understand the importance of Nature in our lives and thank God for all His Blessings

Dear Children, now that you are confined to your homes, it is the perfect opportunity to learn more about our Environment, its habitat, different plant and animal species that coexist with us on Earth. Quarantine time can be utilized as a chance to reflect on the role of nature and the ways in which we can mend past loss for positive change in future.

Anupma Singh

Principal

Stay Home, Stay Safe





Nature Rebounding...

We are witnessing a global change in our daily lives to a degree that did not happen for decades. Since earlier times, humans have needed to be sensitive towards their surroundings to survive, which means, that we need to have

complete awareness about our environment. It is imperative to understand the relationships between biodiversity, ecosystems, and their benefits to society. The different ways in which individuals can cope with threats, respond to challenges, make use of opportunities and mediate the harmful effects of their surroundings is important for predicting their ability to function in a rapidly changing world.

However, the self-revival rate of nature shall continue post-lockdown period and a master plan must be drafted by all the countries in the world to revive Mother Nature.

“The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest, it is the one thing which we all share.”

Astha Parashar

Primary Coordinator

Lady Bird Johnson



Be The Voice For Nature

"The Earth has music for those who listen."

George Santayana.



Music is what we all enjoy listening to. Don't we? We all have our favourites, which we listen to every now and then. But somehow, we are offering our deaf ears to the music offered by nature.

Our greed has plugged us off the sound of nature. We have forgotten that we need the Planet, the Planet does not need us. Nature is giving us signals from time to time, to mend our ways. It's

time for us to stop now and rethink-Where are we going wrong?

We take a lot from nature that is useful and in return we give all that is harmful. We take fresh air and return pollution. Nature offers us green trees, plants, animals and much more but what do we give in return? We give it back a CONCRETE JUNGLE. We have interfered a lot into nature. It's time to give a pause now, let it heal. We all need to do our bit to help it revive back. Let's make a better place for you and for me.

In this effort, our children have some messages for you all.

Annie Bakshi
Educator



One Earth, One World, One Home

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” - Rachel Carson



In the beginning, God created this world and He called it beautiful. God has entrusted the Earth to human care. Care for the Earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement in our daily lives. We human beings are not only the beneficiaries of this world but also the caretakers of the other life forms. We are called to respect and protect our environment and its resources. Mother Earth is a God's gift to everyone, and as we avail its resources and benefits we ought to be

responsible towards restoring it, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. The sense of responsibility is well described in this quote by a famous American environmentalist, *“Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty. The objective is an environment of decency, quality and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures.”*— **Gaylord Nelson**

The **COVID-19 pandemic** is the defining global health crisis of our time and is the greatest challenge we are currently facing, it has shaken up all the aspects of our lives. Looking closely at this situation we will figure out that this challenge has fundamental, moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

The tiny, ‘invisible’ Corona virus monster has emerged due to the very much ‘visible’ ignorance of human race towards the environment. During this time of uncertainty and despair now is the right time for humans to let go of their selfish behaviour and advance towards “Togetherness”. Once Mahatma Gandhi said, *“There is sufficiency in the world for man’s need but not for man’s greed.”* We have only one earth, and how we choose to live in it matters.

Although COVID 19 has brought uncertainty but I wish to view it as an opportunity at hand which will ignite the spark of Hope, Unity and Empathy among humanity and bring in a new revolution. Humankind is the most important element of existence and the best quality of humans is that if we have the willingness then nothing can stop us. It is time to reformulate man’s relationship with the environment. It is high time to restore equilibrium between man and nature.

Together we can overcome, together we are stronger and together we are unbeatable.

LET’S CREATE A PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE!

I want to end my article with this heart touching warm thought by John Denver —

“Love the Earth as you would love yourself.”

Aashish Masih

Educator

Footprints....What We Leave Behind



Mother Earth, as we lovingly call our planet, has been kindly providing us with all we need and even more. Always giving, never seeking. But recently, we have observed a sudden change in the way our Mother Earth has been responding. Earthquakes, cyclones, draughts, floods and what not... Or is this the only way left for our planet to communicate her pain? Are we humans listening?

It is for sure that the planet had plenty to give and it gave its best. Unfortunately, we humans have made an indelible mark on our one and only home. We have altered the Earth system, in such ways that question our very survival, over the coming few centuries. We even forget, if we use up all the beautiful colours that the planet has to offer, what will our children be left with?

What legacy are we leaving behind for our children? Are we leaving behind all greys and blacks?

So, this lockdown, let us ponder over all that is happening around us and find out ways to give something good to the earth in return. Let us help our earth heal. Let us be kind to nature, let us nurture our mother earth to flourish and revive. Let us teach our children to care for the earth, let us tell them to be mindful when using resources and together paint a beautiful future for generations to come. I hope after this crisis, we may take it as a beginning of another era, an era of responsibility towards ourselves, towards each other and towards nature and our planet at large!

To conclude, I would like to share this impactful quote by David Brower-

We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

Supriya Sharma
Educator

Celebrating Environment

Sooner or later, we will have to recognise that the Earth has rights, too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans.

– Evo Morales



Do you think that you can control Nature? Do you think whenever your greed increases you can destroy it and whenever you feel the need, you can preserve it? Don't you think we are trying to take place of God who has created this beautiful planet for our survival? Very well said by Mahatma Gandhi, "Earth provides enough to satisfy man's needs, but not every man's greed". Mother Earth has everything for us to survive. It has enough food, enough air, enough water and enough space for all the living creatures on Earth. But I think despite being the most intelligent specie we are too selfish. God has given us words or voice to speak but that doesn't mean that the creatures without words have no right to breathe. It is also said that *Meaningful silence is much better than meaningless words* This is what our nature teaches us.

These pandemic times reinforces the fact that nature has its own ways to communicate. Today this tiny virus named CORONA has brought down the whole world to its knees. And we all know that CORONA is a zoonotic virus i.e. it is transmitted to humans from animals.

This is not the first time that we are facing this zoonotic infection, 75 percent of all emerging infectious diseases are of zoonotic origins like Ebola, SARS, Zika virus and bird flu. All these infectious germs, spread from animals to humans. Now you must be thinking how harmful animals are for humans. But here my friends, let me correct you. This is not due to those innocent creatures. It is due to human expansion into their territory or you can say human encroachment in nature.

This is the language of nature which is giving us warnings time and again that we are degrading it at the cost of our own health, peace and prosperity. It is a reminder that we are continuously disturbing the equilibrium of Earth's ecosystems and biodiversity.

It is the time nature has given us and to itself to Rethink, Rejuvenate and Recreate an environment which doesn't need our protection or permission to survive. It wants its rights back which we have taken.

This lockdown has proved that the environment doesn't need any silver lining, nature can flourish without us which is quite evident through clearer skies, crystal blue water, chirping of birds around and sight of rare animals on streets. Keeping this view in mind the **UN devotes this 2020 Environment Day to "Biodiversity"**.

Our words have promises, our brain has solutions but I think our heart lack love for nature. Because love is always unconditional and if we really care for our Mother Earth and if we really love nature we have to love all forms of life the same way...we have to take care of all the components of environment weather they are biotic or abiotic. Remembering and making promises on special days like Environment day, Earth day will not serve the purpose of humanity. We cannot get away from our constant responsibility.

In the end I would like to conclude with this quote *"That we don't need a world to protect environment, we need a world where environment doesn't need any protection."*

Divya Gupta
Educator

Leaning into Hope

“The power we discover inside ourselves as we survive a life-threatening experience can be utilized equally well outside of crisis, too. I am, in every moment, capable of mustering the strength to survive again or of tapping that strength in other good, productive, healthy ways.”

— Michele Rosenthal, *Before the World Intruded*



We are currently going through an unprecedented series of events and regardless of location, nationality, income, social status. We all are familiar by now of this new virus called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) responsible for the disease COVID-19 has consumed millions of lives.

The world is changing by leaps and bounds and we need to have answers, set deadlines, think about what will happen after these quarantines? Unfortunately, we do not have clear answers to these questions, which frustrates us, but we can reflect on what we have learned from history, we have battled with the 1918 flu, also known as the Spanish Flu, lasted until 1920 and is considered the deadliest pandemic in modern history. Today, as the world grinds to a halt in response to the coronavirus, scientists and historians are studying the 1918 outbreak for clues to the most effective way to stop a global pandemic and we will win this war against this ‘invisible-crown-of-death’.

Solidarity is the prime response to this crisis, shared knowledge is the key to developing vaccines and medicines against Covid-19, something that can be extended to other global diseases. As humans we have learnt to deal with most brutal of the situations and we have averted many predicaments. We have come closer more than ever as a global society, from telecommuting for work or school, to supply chain management, to support for health care systems, and small and medium enterprises, to mental health support across borders or simply across the street, COVID-19 has forced us to look at how we work in close alliance, as a species on this planet.

I would like to quote *Prof. Yuval Noah Harari* said in one of his interview “But I hope that we will be able to develop our compassion, and not our hatred, to react with global solidarity, which will develop our generosity to help people in need. And that we develop our ability to discern the truth and not believe all these conspiracy theories. If we do that, I have no doubt that we can easily overcome this crisis”.

Amidst the pain that we continue to endure, we should find comfort in the stories of hope and solidarity, and continue to see the value in the positive, encouraging lessons that are emerging for our post-COVID world.

*Rebecca Alick,
Educator*

Hope Amidst Covid

Bhoomi Chugh V-B



No one was sure that there would be a day when they would see, at least in this lifetime, nature recovering after a fallow due to excessive pollution including dumping of industrial and domestic waste, irresponsible chopping of trees, and every possible abuse. But, the lockdown has turned the tables. Not just the skyline is becoming clearer with each passing day, the rivers are visibly purer, and the once endangered flora and fauna is now coming back to life. Here's a glimpse of how the Earth has healed itself amid the lockdown.

Our Lifelines — Rivers - You can see the surface of river Ganga, which could not be cleaned despite spending crores of rupees is now cleaner than ever as reportedly none of the industrial waste is being dumped in it. According to a report in HT, Ganga may be cleaner today, than it was in 1986 — the year when efforts to clean the river were first launched. And, a similar case is with Yamuna. Due to a blanket reduction in industrial pollutants, and increased discharge of water from Haryana to Delhi, a cleaner Yamuna is visible these days. Both the factors have increased the self purification capacity of the river. Clear skies, and clearer skyline- With absolutely limited movement of vehicles on the roads, most of the metro cities in India are breathing in much cleaner air with relatively safer levels of pollutants to deal with, as compared to the time before the lockdown. Metro cities have reported 'satisfactory' AQI, and those who had been battling smog in Delhi-NCR can vouch for it anytime!

Feathers flock together- The news of pink flamingos return in huge numbers to Mumbai beach is certainly something to rejoice about. The reduction in intensity of human activities at and around the city is being touted as a major reason for the possibility of flamingos to flock the city in such large numbers. The Bombay Natural History Society has stated that their number is 25% more than it was in the last year.

A Himalayan view- People in Jalandhar can see Himalayas from their roof top, for the first time in decades! The lockdown has cleared the air pollution to the extent that people in Punjab could catch a sight of Himalayas from some of its cities. The Himalayan range is more than 100 miles away from Punjab, and when spotted, its sight left many.



Healing Of Nature During Covid

Novalee Tamang 5-A



Our mother Earth has been ravaged by sewage and garbage disposal, litter of plastic, reduction of forest area, extinction of rare plants and animal species, wildlife getting displaced from their natural habitat and it's water bodies getting poisoned by industrial and chemical waste. Then the unthinkable happened. It seemed that Mother Nature had enough. Humans have exploited the Earth to such an extent that we have to face the results of our actions.

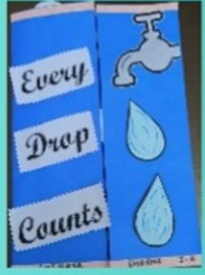
The pandemic of COVID hit us with such force, that left millions of people dead and many more infected. The countries all over the world declared lock down and people were forced to stay inside their homes. This was a miracle in disguise for our beloved Mother Nature and she started to heal slowly. The world came to a stop and nature took over. I feel nature must have been so happy to be left on her own, her forests, her air, her wildlife, her lands and her water bodies, to be untouched and uninfected by us. It must have been a respite for nature from the unending activities of man.

– We took hundreds of years to pollute nature and look what she could undo in just few weeks of lock down! That is the power of nature to correct the mistakes we made. *Nature does not belong to us, we belong to the nature.*





Shinaya Sharma
Class 1-A
Theme - Water



This Earth
was made for
ALL BEINGS
not just human beings.

