

# Franciscan Springs

St. Francis Convent School, Sikandra, Agra

—A Quarterly News Letter

“...The Lord has given you a vineyard;  
you will be fortunate if you make it fruitful.” —Mother Seraphina



Let the little children come to me...  
for theirs is the kingdom of God. —The Holy Bible

According to Venerable Seraphina Farolfi - the visionary foundress of the CFMSS- the purpose of education is to bring out the best in a person and enable him/ her to be a responsible and active participant in building up a universal humane society. Hence, the primary duty of an educator is to recognize and nurture the unique resources and gifts of her/his pupils: their interests, sensitivities, abilities, attitudes and purpose so that each student can be guided not only to the realization of his/ her potentialities, but also to use them wisely in the pursuit of goals that are beneficial to the society.

Following in the footsteps of its charismatic Foundress, St. Francis Convent School, Sikandra is committed to discovering and fostering the innate qualities and abilities of its students and forming leaders of conscience, compassion and commitment for tomorrow. And a personalized set of values and attitudes enables a person to act with conviction and commitment. Consequently, the School is constantly in search for new initiatives which would provide new avenues to promote sound principles, inculcate positive value systems and develop various leadership qualities in our students, equip them with life skills and enhance their personality. And Franciscan Springs - the quarterly news letter is one such venture aimed at assisting them to reflect over various facets of life around them and unleashing the creative energies of our young visionaries and dreamers: budding intellectuals and artists, scientists and environmentalists, philosophers and reformers, statesmen and bureaucrats, technocrats and social activists, cartoonists and novelists, journalist and jurists, poets and literary persons, et al.

It is hoped that this new initiative will provide these pre-adolescents an opportunity to freely express their "Man ki baat" on various issues in variety of ways before their elders - teachers, parents, general public, challenging us to review our thinking, attitudes and behaviour. Simultaneously, through their work they hope to draw our attention to the pristine beauty of their world – the world of ceaseless innocent queries, relentless chatter, joyful sharing and caring of their care free days, never ending pranks, frolic and fun and fluctuating moods of turbulent adolescent years - paving the way for responsible adulthood and purposeful life. And they invite each one of us to pause and ponder and do all that we can to ensure safe and secure environment for every child in the country enabling them to safely reach their destination, because the future of any nation is built on the present experiences of its children. In addition, this News Letter would give a peek into our school and provide you with glimpses of life in St. Francis Convent School since the commencement of the current academic session.

It is the dream of the maiden issue of Franciscan Springs that every child has the opportunity to give wings to his/her dreams - the possibility to develop his/her talents - and become a responsible member of the society .

I wish the Franciscan Springs a successful launch in communicating its message and realizing its objectives through its successive issues.

God Bless You  
Principal

Go my children, enkindle the love of Jesus in every heart —Mother Seraphina



# Reports



## Vidyarambh Samaroah



By the grace of Almighty God, we organized Vidyarambh Samaroah on March 27, 2015 in the premises of St. Francis Convent School, Sikandra, Agra. Rev. Fr. Arun was the chief guest who emphasized on the need for values in today's generation. The program comprised of various prayers, dance performances, etc. by the students of classes UKG – V. Powerpoint presentation under the direction of Rev. Sr. Rose was quite impressive. A value based skit written and directed by Rev. Sr. Rose was also staged. All the performances were mesmerising. The ceremony concluded with children writing the letter 'A' in rice and taking blessings of the Almighty and of the Principal Rev. Sr. Joyce.

## Seminar On 'Adolescence – A Crucial Stage Of Life'

On March 30 and 31, 2015 the students of class IX and X attended a seminar on 'Adolescence- A Crucial stage of life', which was conducted by Sr. Agnes Jacob and Sr. Tresa Francis. The topic dealt with adolescence and changes occurring at this stage, stages of development and how to become a good teenager. It was an interesting and interactive session. The students were encouraged to develop their skills and personality. Practical tips were given on expressing emotions in a positive manner, developing goals for life and forming right and healthy relationships. It was also stated that having attraction towards the opposite gender is normal in adolescence. Most importantly, teenagers must not control their



feelings, rather should manage them in an effective manner, without ruining their relationships with others.

Exercising through finger tips and brain games were demonstrated on video clips and other presentations. The highlight of the seminar was the question- round wherein students clarified their doubts and quenched their queries with the help of the resource person. The students admit to have learnt something important for life and to have a better future.

### Monthly Activity of April



Monthly Activity of April was held class wise on April 18, 2015 in the activity period. Students from class 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> took part in this activity. It was organized in order to spread joy of painting and awareness about

Mother Seraphina's mission in the form of Quotation writing.

Students of class 1<sup>st</sup> drew bunch of flowers and coloured them beautifully. Students of class got the topic 'GARDEN' in which they had to make a garden scene while students of class 3<sup>rd</sup> made landscape. Students showed their interest in these activities and participated with full enthusiasm and fervour.

Class 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> students corresponded the Golden words of Mother Seraphina in a creative way. They inscribed Quotations of Mother Seraphina.

The best part of this activity was that students whole heartedly participated and made this activity a memorable one.

### Earth Day.....



On 22 April, Wednesday; students set off with a motive of 'Everyday is Earth Day'. They celebrated the Earth Day with full enthusiasm. The whole school was filled with heartwarming and poignant artworks displayed by the students of various ages. Charts and models were the highlight, as they portrayed how people can integrate with the environment.

Students showed their interest through various performances, such as song, skit and also took pledge to be an aware and responsible citizen. Students' participation along with their teachers' guidance. This weeklong celebration literally conscientized every one us about their duties towards Mother Earth.

### Institute Week



The students of St. Francis Convent School, celebrated the Institute week from April 28 to May 2, 2015 in remembrance of our Foundress Venerable Mother Seraphina. It was guided by the members of "Creative Club".

Everyday an inspirational assembly was conducted followed by various competitions like poster making, painting with caption, dancing, singing etc. in which students avidly participated.

On May 1, 2015 Institution day & labour day was celebrated. On this auspicious occasion, teachers started the day by singing prayer song in their melodious voice which was complemented by two dance performances. Creative club members presented a skit based on our founderess Mother Seraphina, her mission & her vision.

The labour day was celebrated to honour the dignity of work. The helping staff was esteemed by a token of love in the form of 'gifts' presented by our principal Rev. Sr. Joyce & manager Rev. Sr. Rose. The program came to an end with an alluring dance performances given by the sweet-little darlings of our school.

To draw the curtains of this Institute week, our principal congratulated all the participants, organizers, managers & the working class for their appreciable efforts.

### Installation Ceremony



For every institution, there is a need of some individuals who can lead it and can help it achieve its goal.

For session 2015-2016, a new school cabinet was formed in order to train our students hold bigger responsibility and grow into sensible citizens who could take India to greater heights.



To invoke the blessings of God to help them in their new venture, a lamp was lit by our school manager. It was followed by an introduction to the ceremony. After that, the former school cabinet was awarded with certificates.

The ceremony proceeded by inviting the new council members on stage and providing them badges and sash of their respective portfolios.

### Farewell To Our Vice Principal Rev. Sister Princy

On July 7, 2015 the whole Franciscan family bid farewell to the Vice Principal Rev. Sister Princy, with heavy heart. Our students organised a small programme on this occasion. The event consisted of a small prayer two group songs, a farewell speech, a prayer dance and some precious words by Rev. Sister Princy. The students and the whole staff waved goodbye to Sister Princy with smile on their lips and tears in their eyes. She will always be in our hearts for her contribution towards the management, for the values she instilled in our students and for her support to the staff. All of us wish her path of life filled with His glory and blessings.

### Welcoming the new Vice Principal Rev Sr Abha

July 8, 2015 was an auspicious day when the school welcomed its new Vice Principal Rev. Sister Abha in a traditional manner with a bouquet. The ceremony was followed by a prayer, a dance and a welcome speech. At the end of the ceremony Rev. Sister Abha addressed the students, teachers and all the staff members. She blessed them for their bright and prosperous future and thanked them for such a warm welcome.

### World Ozone Day

July 16, was observed as World Ozone Day. The motive behind the event was to spread awareness, about the importance of Ozone layer for the Earth, among the students. All the students as well as the teachers actively participated in the event and made it a grand success.

### USM Day Celebration

"Light a candle instead of cursing the darkness, to create a civilization of love, here and now"

16th July, 2015 was celebrated as USM Day (Universal Solidarity Movement) in St. Francis Convent School. The day was dedicated to every person who is in pursuit of spirituality and Inter religious harmony, promoting values of peace and fellowship.

The students spread the message through a skit and colorful dance performances. Our Principal Rev. Sr. Joyce emphasized on the importance of five paths of USM and on transforming the world through self-

transformation. At last, the students also vowed to follow five paths for personal transformation and self-realization (1) Pray daily for peace (2) Skip a meal a week to express solidarity with the hungry and contribute the savings to the poor and needy. (3) Do a good deed a day without any selfish motive to develop loving concern for the nation. (4) Respect parents, teachers and all human beings. (5) Respect the earth and save its resources. A 10 point action plan was also unveiled to bring a positive change in students.

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up"

Keeping alive true Franciscan Spirit 'for it is in giving that we receive' the staff and students of St. Francis Convent School, Sikandra contributed ₹ 1,21,163/- for the rehabilitation of Nepal earthquake victims.

### ECO Club Activities

"We won't have a society if we destroy the environment"

This Idea provoked the students to conserve the environment. By keeping this thought in mind Eco Club had organized various activities from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> July to sensitize the students.

Under this program students planted saplings of plants in the school campus as well as outside. Many other activities like quiz, poster making, PowerPoint presentation and model making took place to make them more sensitive towards the environment.

During the whole week, information on different Issues related to the environment were also provided to the students in the assembly.

### English Fiesta (July 24-25, 2015)

It is rightly said that if you want to excel in any language then learn it till its depth. We at St. Francis Convent School, Sikandra did the same. A two day literary fiesta was organized under the banner of literary club (English). In this, variety of competitions were held to bring out the latent talent of children. Where class 10<sup>th</sup> was given an opportunity to express their views on a debate (Tutions are lifeline of students), class 9<sup>th</sup> dramatized scenes from different Shakespearean plays. It was indeed a treat to watch them perform and speak with confidence and precision. Classes 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> tried their luck at spellathon, paving the way for better vocabulary and learning. In order to judge the creativity, students of class 6<sup>th</sup> were given picture composition competition. Students of class 4<sup>th</sup> And 5<sup>th</sup> took part in Story Narration, teaching us the importance of character building through their presentation through their competition they not only entertained but also proved their worth. We hope and wish that our students continue to strive for perfection and come out with flying colours.



# Speak your Mind

**"Everyday do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow."**

"Everyday do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow." These lines which are spoken by 'Doug Fire Bough' have touched my soul. Actually if we think practically, we will observe these lines in our day-to-day life , especially in student life. For a bright future ,the first step is to learn from great personalities &their teachings. If we really want to achieve our goal, we must give our best. And the same meaning this line expresses . Reading more & more books will help to increase our vocabulary because a person who isn't well versed in English will not be able to understand things easily & in this modern world everyone wants to be the best.

Concentration is necessary for doing any task. The main thing is, that if we decide to do anything by heart, we can definitely do it. To achieve success in life one thing we must keep in mind "Compete with yourself , not with others . If you complete with others your mind will be diverted to do competition & your aim will be left behind".

Advika Kulshrestha

Class - IX C

## Let the Imagination Soar High

### The Hijacking

I was returning to India after having completed my studies in London. The yearning to meet my family grew with every passing minute as I boarded the plane. Seated next to me was a boy who was about 5 years old, he was travelling with his grandma. Next to him were two old ladies , who despite their grey hair were bubbling with excitement & chattering excitedly causing some distraction. No sooner had the plane taken off from London aerodrome than the boy jumped out of his seat removing his seat belt & started roaming about in the plane . He spoke to everyone in the plane . The old ladies called the boy and gave him two chocolates ,he sat near them and answered all their questions with child like innocence. The air- hostess brought some snacks and tea ,which was indeed very tempting. After having my refreshment , I settled down to complete the novel that I had brought with me. I had completed my novel , when I heard the captain requesting passengers to fasten the safety belts, as we were about to land at the Palam airport.

Just then a young man seated behind me got up & caught hold of the boy, placing a knife on his neck. He warned us to stick to our chairs. Entering the cockpit, he ordered the pilot not to land the plane & proceed to Kabul after refueling. Seeing the delicate situation, the pilot obeyed the hijacker's instructions. The hijacker demanded the immediate release of a hard-core terrorist from the Tihar Jail in Delhi. As if this problem was not enough, the pilot announced that he had fuel for another twenty minutes only. The ground authorities requested the hijacker that they were considering his demands, but he must allow the plane to land safely. The hijacker was adamant & wanted the release of the terrorist, before he would allow the plane to land.

Suddenly one of the old ladies collapsed on the floor, seeing this the other lady shouted at the hijacker for having caused her a heart attack. The Hijacker's attention was momentarily diverted. Sensing this, a well- built young man sitting just near the hijacker, freed the boy in the process. He was overpowered & everybody heaved a sigh of relief.

I was surprised to see the old lady who had collapsed on the floor get up & hug her companion . Their plan had



worked. The plane finally landed at the airport & the hijacker was arrested. The child leaped into the open arms of his grandma ,who hugged him lovingly . The two old ladies were the guiding stars of all eyes & they seemed to be enjoying every bit of it. It was indeed a very eventful homecoming for all of us.

Moral: It is very truly said that “The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of child into old age, which means never lose your enthusiasm. And we should keep on trying like those old ladies in any of the toughest situation of the life.

Drishiti Bharadwaj  
Class -X A

## Comic Strip



Himanshu Giri  
Class -IX B

## Spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings

### Teenagers

I am a simple teen,  
And not get easily seen.  
Talking mobile in my hand,  
And listening a song of my band.  
Computer is like my habit,  
Opening it and getting mouse selected.  
The games I play want in real,  
And on T.V seeing my mother serial.  
I also see cartoons for passing my time,  
And the movies make me shine,  
For me studies are secondary and boring ,  
For me it is also love and scoring.  
But then also I have to study,  
For getting passed like my buddy.

Pulkit Yadav  
Class - VII C

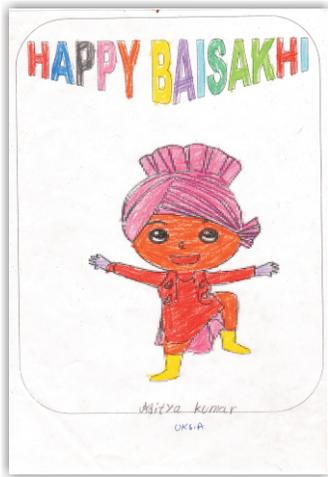
### Thank you Mumma .....

For the love, strength and care  
For in this world that is not very fair  
For being my guardian and my guide.  
You brought me my first toy  
My first scooty and a badminton set  
You filled my heart with joy  
And you filled my life with love.  
She is the whole world to me  
There is nothing she can't handle, I see  
She is the burning candle spreading light.  
Pushing darkness away , inviting it to be bright.

Shryanshi  
Class - VII C



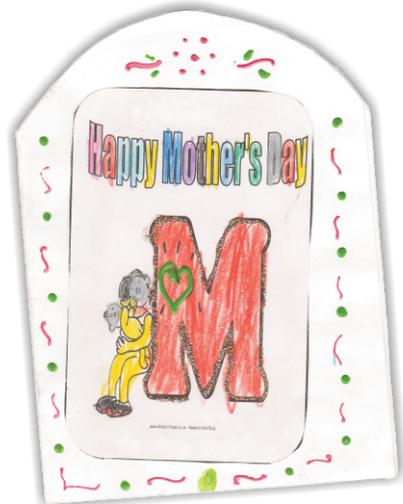
# Young Artists



Manushree U.K.G. B



Vaibhav U.K.G. A



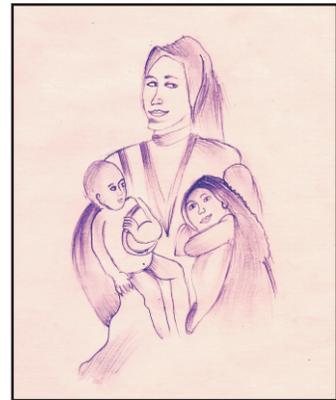
Agrima Singh U.K.G. C



Kshirin Singh U.K.G. A



Aishwarya Gupta U.K.G. B



Aviral Nagar IV C



Shreya Johri, III B



## Some Interesting facts

1. The sentence, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language
2. "I Am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language
3. There are only two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."
4. The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
5. The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.
6. Rhythm" is the longest English word without a vowel.
7. Each king in a pack of playing cards represents great king from history.  
Spades - King David  
Clubs - Alexander the Great,  
Hearts - Charlemagne  
Diamonds - Julius Caesar.
8. Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
9. The most common letter in English is "e".
10. The most common vowel in English is "e", followed by "a".
11. The most common consonant in English is "r", followed by "t"
12. Every syllable in English must have a vowel (sound). Not all syllables have consonants.
13. Only two English words in current use end in "-gry". They are "angry" and "hungry".
14. The word "bookkeeper" (along with its associate "bookkeeping") is the only unhyphenated English word with three consecutive double letters. Other such words, like "sweet-toothed", require a hyphen to be readily readable.
15. The word "triskaidekaphobia" means "extreme fear of the number 13". This superstition is related to "paraskevidekatriaphobia", which means "fear of Friday the 13th".
16. More English words begin with the letter "s" than with any other letter.
17. A preposition is always followed by a noun (ie noun, proper noun, pronoun, noun group, gerund).
18. The word "uncopyrightable" is the longest English word in normal use that contains no letter more than once.
19. A sentence that contains all 26 letters of the alphabet is called a "pangram".
20. The following sentence contains all 26 letters of the alphabet: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." This sentence is often used to test typewriters or keyboards.
21. The only word in English that ends with the letters "-mt" is "dreamt" (which is a variant spelling of "dreamed") - as well of course as "undreamt" :)
22. A word formed by joining together parts of existing words is called a "blend" (or, less commonly, a "portmanteau word"). Many new words enter the English language in this way. Examples are "brunch" (breakfast + lunch); "motel" (motorcar + hotel); and "guesstimate" (guess + estimate). Note that blends are not the same as compounds or compound nouns, which form when two whole words join together, for example: website, blackboard, darkroom.
23. The word "alphabet" comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: alpha, be ta.
24. The dot over the letter "i" and the letter "j" is called a "superscript dot".
25. In normal usage, the # symbol has several names, for example: hash, pound sign, number sign.

## Cross Word

1						2	2			
		9					7			
5		8				10				
			3	3	6					
						4	6			
	7						5			
								9		
						4				
		8								

### Across

1. Against (4)
2. Neither (3)
3. Smile broadly (4)
4. Impolite (4)
5. A sad song or poem (5)
6. Opposite of subtract (3)
7. Speak to God (4)
8. Vase (3)
9. Before (3)
10. A divine being (5)

### Down

1. End of a prayer (4)
2. Opposite of shuts (5)
3. Rough Person (5)
4. Frighten (5)
5. Not old (5)
6. Sugary layer on a cake (5)
7. Unaccompanied (4)
8. Liquid which gives eternal life (6)
9. Poems (4)

### Spellathon



1. Form words using 4-7 letters.
2. 'B' must be used in every word.

