



Victorious Kidss Educares



NEW PERSPECTIVE



Beyond Traditional Schooling

President's Message

MYP-DP
July, 2020

Dear Parents and my very special friends as students, 'The Saga of Victory Continues at VKE'. Being hardworking, diligent, and sedulous results in to 'being victorious'! The synchronised effort, relentless to the challenging work and dedication along with commitment of every VKE student have been crowned, again and again, with success, bringing laurels to the school adding colorful leaf to the unending narrative of VKE's prodigious accomplishments.

Victorious Kidss Educares believes in the holistic growth of every child and all-round education in academics, sports, technology, civic awareness, and the performing arts. This culture does strongly reflect in VKE's #1 ranking under the parameters of academic reputation and co-curricular education.

As VKE has always been centered with Vedantic principles which values the diversity of cultures and perspectives that exist in local, national and global communities, working hard at enriching the diverse approaches to teaching, broadening our explorations of learner-centered practices that benefit inquiry based teaching and learning; designing our curriculum, getting various topics together and making teaching and learning transdisciplinary has been very interesting and rewarding.



The goal has always been clear to us – our focus has been the process and the learning experience. Building a community of learner, from the moment we plan our curriculum and our classes, to the moment when we experience the creation of new understandings, has just been a very pleasing side effect. Evidently, in this journey, you all are included.

“The wings of hope carry us, soaring high above the driving winds of life.”

— Ana Jacob

To all my students, I would say, "this is your time, this is your school life, you should take the best while you are here, gain as much experience and have a school life that could be cherished forever".

Thank you for being a part of the Victorious Community!

From the Principal's Desk



Dear VKE Family and Community, I would like to convey my regards to all the members of our VKE family - Parents, students, teaching and non-teaching staff. We have been facing with a global phenomenon which is not only impacting our physical health, mental wellbeing, and social interactions but also adversely affecting our family and group dynamics, flow of economics and causing a severe limitation of resources. I would like you to know that I completely understand and acknowledge your concerns and anxiety about the same. In every prayer at "Ashram", we pray for health and safety for all.

We are a community who are inclusive of many front line workers- doctors, bankers, and leaders. I take this opportunity to thank you all for the huge risk you all have taken for us all. We are in gratitude of your sacrifice and salute you for this enormous deed that you do every day.

Dear VKE Parents, as you are aware that we are following all the government norms regarding keeping the school under strict lockdown and all the classes are being managed virtually through online learning only. We would like to thank you for supporting us in this process.

It's wonderful to see that with your motivation, support and guidance, our VKE champions are continuing to blossom as Life- long Learners.

Our Dear VKE Champions, you are our future. You are most important and precious for us. For your safety and wellbeing, please follow the lockdown protocols, safety precautions and stay indoors. Please avoid going out unnecessarily.

I completely understand that you are missing your friends and outdoor activity, but nothing is worth the risk that can harm your health and that of the others around you. Your teachers and supervisors have been planning for your classes to make them more interactive so that you continue to progress towards being an Internationally Minded Global Citizens.

I suggest you explore the wonderful attributes of different Learner Profile through your virtual learning environment. We are aware that you are concerned about your assessments and exams, and I assure we have made plans for the same but will be put in action only after the Government officially announces the lift of Lockdown.

Let us all continue to help each other, follow the protocol to keep us and others around safe. Eat healthy and nourishing food. Engage in activities which liberate our mind and soul. May you all find stay safe and stay healthy.



Social Initiatives by Students

- By Antara Manurkar



The world is in a stage of continuous flux where terms like socio-economic strata, nationality, I and me are being replaced by one country and one universe. In the current environment of a pandemic, each one of us must contribute our tiny bit to help save our country and hence our future. Social initiatives and community service programs are an integral part of an IB learner and these students are a true example of taking learning outside the school environment.

Vivan Deshmankar, an MYP 5 student in VKE has come up with a small organization called "The Boop Project". It's an initiative towards saving and adopting our street dog population, with the aim of finding a safe and loving home for dogs who are on the streets and reduce the number of street dog population in the Pune Metropolitan City area. He further plans to explore a new direction of media and create a social zone for dog owners to discuss about the welfare of their newly adopted dogs. As the demand for pets is ever increasing, **The Boop Project** is just a small but essential step towards saving our stray dog population.

Kshitij Palekar, a DP 2 student has lit up the houses of several families during the time of the Nisarg Cyclone, literally! While we all know that the cyclone did not affect big cities such as Mumbai and Pune, it had a huge impact on a lot of tribal areas. Almost 40 different localities were tribes that did not have electricity or even a roof over their heads. Kshitij is part of a trekking group called "Pune Trek Group", and while they explore the wilderness, these are the same communities who helped them along the way. They bought almost 150 huge plastic sheets and 150 solar panels, the sheets could be used as a roof for the homes and solar panels for electricity. Not only did the members of the group do their bit, but all their relatives and friends too contributed their part to collect sufficient amount of money help those who helped them.

Pavani Madhvapathi, an MYP 5 student is yet another example of helping those in need. During the time of a pandemic, all of us are aware that not everyone has access to essential good, that is all the more reason to for us, the privileged, to help them out. Pavani and her family have supported close to 500 families till date. They collect donations and bring together good quality groceries, which are then distributed by helpers to those in need on a monthly basis. These are just a few examples of initiatives our fellow learners have taken. I'm sure there are many out there who need our help and I hope all of us continue doing our part for the common good of our communities.

Celebrating the Success of IBDP (Grade 12) Results at Victorious Kidss Educares ~ An IB World School



Krishan Glover 43/45

Tasneem Godhrawala 42/45

Karan Shah 41/45

IBDP Results May 2020

In early July, IB candidates graduating in May 2020 around the world patiently waited to find out what their grades would be. In an incredibly rare turn of events, the IBO had announced that May 2020 examinations would no longer be held due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, stating students would be assessed on their year-round performances, as well as respective internal assessments for each subject.

However, the graduating class of VKE remained undeterred from this news, and carried on working towards their goals for the future, and for their final high school days. Tasneem Godhrawala and Shubhankar Darbari are two of many students who have graduated in May 2020, with Tasneem stating "I'm sixteen and grateful that I was part of this wonderful school community". On the topic of internal assessments, Tasneem said "Our internal assessments which we worked meticulously for, definitely gave us the edge in our results".

Shubhankar cited his experience at VKE being "quite phenomenal", as he graduated in 2020 with the aim of majoring in Public Health, at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We at VKE, like to think Shubhankar summed up the DP experience best, in saying, "I am very thankful to have received the opportunities this school has provided me, and forever grateful to the hardwork the teachers and coordinators have put in to make the high school experience a wonderful one"

Throughout these tough and trying times, our graduates have remained focused, prepared, and ready for whatever may come next. We wholeheartedly congratulate the graduating class of 2020, especially for making it through the DP programme in the circumstances that they've had to face. We at VKE are incredibly proud of our 100% passing record for each and every graduate, along with our top 3 performers! Krishan Glover, Tasneem Godhrawala, and Karan Shah, who achieved scores of 43, 42, and 41 respectively. We wish all of our graduates the very best for wherever the future may take them!

- By Ehsas Kakkar



MYP 5 Personal Project 2020-21

- By Sai Agate

Day by day 2020 are hit by a number of issues, which is making it hard for everyone. Our school tries its best to make learning easier for us. Teachers make so many efforts to make it easy to learn.

Students aspire to make it easier for their teachers too. MYP students have faced many issues, from academics to the Personal Project, it has been a tough road adjusting to these new circumstances.

The Personal Project has changed for all of us, students are trying to make a lot of changes, from making virtual journals to changing the topics they expected for a while. It is challenging, yet the students find their way through this tough time.

Despite a downward turn in 2020, VKE students are making the most of it. MYP 5 students had to change their subjects quite a few times because they were unable to meet their primary sources. It's very difficult to change topics multiple times because students spend a lot of time on each subject they select. In order to make things simpler, the school has adjusted the time schedule, e.g. Wednesdays are allocated only to PP. All day long students work on their process journal or some other assignment provided by their teachers, they have multiple meetings throughout.

Personally, I think it's very helpful because it gives us more time to focus on our project. This change in timetable also helps us to keep our academics and personal project in balance. In this difficult time, I think the school has been very considerate and understanding, the teachers made several lifestyle changes in order to be approachable to us students at even the most uncomfortable hour of the day!

How to Apply to Universities Worldwide & Tips for Being Accepted in 2020

Applying to an international university is usually the most daunting task for a student who wants to study abroad, but it is usually not so difficult. Here we will look at it step by step.

-From the desk of Career Counselor

When should I apply?

The basic rule is the sooner, the better. If you apply early, you have a greater chance of arranging everything on time, and you will be able to apply for another school if you are not accepted. Early applications also give you greater chances of getting a scholarship. High-ranking universities often have an application deadline of up to one year before the start of the course. The University of Cambridge in England, for example, has their application deadline in October for the programs that start in October the following year. Ordinary universities often have deadlines approximately six months before the start of the course while smaller colleges and low-ranking universities often take applications up to a month or two before the semester starts. However, it is always better to apply early, so you have enough time to submit a complete application and get a visa on time.

VKE IBDP Student Placement



LEENA THAWANI- MONASH UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA

"I am extremely grateful to have acquired this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study at one of the most prestigious universities in the world, and receiving this esteemed scholarship is the cherry of top. I hope to continue reaching my fullest potential and strive to greater heights."

ARHAN KAMATH- UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER, UK

"I am tremendously thankful to my teachers for their continuous guidance in my growth. I also received offers from University of Edinburgh, UK and Kings College London, UK."



SHUBHANKAR DARBARI- UNC CHAPEL HILL

"Getting admission in one of the top US university with an excellent scholarship is what any student can dream of. My heartfelt gratitude to my parents and teachers for my success."



How many schools should I apply for?

It is better to make one good application than many bad ones. Often you can get a reply within a month, so if you apply early, you still have the chance to apply for more schools if you don't get accepted. For low-ranking universities, community colleges and language schools it is easy to get accepted so applying to one school is usually enough, but if you apply for high-ranking universities, it will be harder. Then you might apply for a couple at the same time.

Where do I apply?

Nowadays applications are usually made online on the school's website. In the UK most university applications are made online through UCAS whereas, In US most university applications are made online through The Common Application.

Our counselors can help you with the applications to all schools and universities abroad.

What are the requirements to get accepted to a university abroad?

Each school and program have their own admission requirements which you can look up on the school's website.

To apply for an undergraduate program, you need to have graduated from high school, and you will need to fulfill the school's language requirements. However, for IB students some universities have points criteria as per the chosen course.



What documents do I need to submit when I apply?

What you should submit with your application differs from school to school. You will find this information under Admission Requirements (or a similar headline) on the school's website. Here are some of the most common documents that you need to submit when you apply to a university abroad:

- The school's application form.
- Your grades from high school and college.
- A copy of your passport so that the school can issue a visa letter.
- Proof that you meet the school's English language requirement. (TOEFL/IELTS/Cambridge exam)
- Standardized tests If you are applying for degree programs in the US and some other countries you might need to take a standardized test such as SAT for undergraduate level and GMAT or GRE for Master programs.
- A financial statement to show that you can pay for your studies and living expenses.
- Motivation letters and reference letters.

Staying Hopeful in a Time of Despair

The corona pandemic has made it easy for so many of us to have fallen into a disappointed loop, where day on day goes by and we might feel helpless from within the four walls of our house. Especially as a student, it can be a saddening thought to think about perhaps not being able to attend university after passing out, but it is essential, now more than ever, that we maintain hope for a quick recovery to normalcy. It is our duty to remain positive and optimistic about the situation, that sentiment is what will drive the nation to work faster towards a solution. At VKE, the philosophy of Vedanta ingrains in us the importance of positive thinking and visualization, the phenomenon of manifesting our hopes and dreams by actualizing our thoughts. Our greatest challenge today is to not succumb to the disappointing scenario around us, and to work hard and will our dreams into existence. And like the saying goes, 'jo hota hai, acche ke liye hota hai.'. It is just a matter of sitting tight, things will eventually work out!

Here are some of the things that VKEites have been doing to direct their creative energies and keep themselves busy during the lockdown:

Tushar Khandekar from MYP1D has been exploring the realm of wildlife photography. Here's what his father says, "Tushar, like any other child, has been trapped in the confines of our society since about 2 months. Although he was blessed to be living in a gated society of bungalows with a lot of greenery, there was little else to get him engaged except the TV and the Internet. However, to cut down on his screen time and tap into his creativity, I encouraged him to take up photography in the wooded surroundings of society. Tushar is a nature-lover and has passion and empathy for animals, particularly wild animals and birds. The only visitors in the colony during lockdown were winged ones, for whom there applied no restrictions of space and boundaries and nor were they shackled by traffic restrictions of lockdown. To watch them from terrace and garden, displaying their resplendent colours was not only reinvigorating but was also very fascinating. It was a practical and hands on familiarisation with avian biodiversity.

Tushar tried to capture these birds in various states of their daily life. The lenses and camera were heavy, yet he moved around with these without any complaint whatsoever. He used to wake up early in morning, at around 6 am when birds are at their most active, to capture their beauty."



Saisha Sharma from MYP1C, on the other hand, is spreading her creativity from the comfort of her cozy home. She has been indulging in her love for literature by penning down her thoughts as poems and blog posts. Saisha's mother writes, "During this pandemic many kids are going through varied emotions and learning to manage themselves along with other responsibilities, which were not a part of their routine earlier. I am glad that the education given to them so far has inculcated the habit of looking at situations positively and giving others hope instead of giving up." A young and avid reader, Saisha is trying to spread her love for books with other people her age. Here is one of Saisha's poems:

"Life - A Poem"

Life is a roller coaster,
And a scary one at that.
Though all the others seem to end,
And pretty fast too,
This one goes on and on,
So you get really bored,
And probably a little blue.

So when you get that feeling,
Up inside your head,
Follow me to shake it off,
There's much more fun ahead!

Open your eyes and take a breath,
And break out a shining smile.
Remember never ever to fret,
Upon a broken tile.

When your life seems black & white,
It's doesn't mean the end.
Take some paint,
And a brush,
And start colouring in,
It's just a huge colouring sheet,
Not a charging bull!

Yes, life can be a roller coaster,
But it's made by you!
So whenever the rails are bumpy,
Call yourself an engineer,
And make it perfect and smooth!



Meanwhile, **Rakeysh Gupta** from PYP 5, has always been fond of public speaking, debating and participating in MUNs. During the lockdown, he has participated in over 14 MUN conferences. His father narrates the story, "One fine day, one of his best friends - Akshad Surve - gave him a call and proposed that they should organize their very own conference. Rakeysh served as the Secretary-General and as the Head of Delegate Affairs in many for their conferences.

Rakeysh and Akshad initially organized two free conferences for the better of society, so that students could develop skills like diplomacy and leadership without the hassle of having to pay. After organizing two successful online MUNs, they realized that if they organized paid conferences, they could use the funds to contribute towards the community by helping the underprivileged!". Rakeysh and Akshad went on to organize the maiden edition of the Diplomaze Online Model United Nations.

They are in the process of distributing much needed items like sanitizers, masks, basic grocery to those who cannot afford it.

Managing all the registrations and applications is indeed a tedious task, which Rakeysh aced! With that, he has also managed to get a stellar Executive Board at the conference to make sure that everyone has an amazing experience. It doesn't stop there! Rakeysh is also serving as an Adjudicatory Board Member at the Aristotle Scholastic Fest (ASF) organized by Ctronic™ on 8th and 9th of August.

Another champion, **Arjun Iyer** has been interested in creative writing ever since he could write at the age of 4. His mother recounts, "What started out as small stories with just 4-5 lines, has now turned into a stronger voice and ability to express himself even more clearly. Arjun spends his school breaks in writing opinion pieces, poems, and short stories. This long summer break saw Arjun devoured in the Famous Five series, which in turn, inspired him to writing his very own adventure story with our pet dog and cousins as protagonists, whom he was unable to meet this summer."

Here is one of Arjun's poems dedicated to a friend:

To my little monkey

Guess what's today,
It's your birthday, yay!
A champ was born,
Seven years ago at dawn.
He is naughty as a brat,
But I anyways love THE RAT.

I know there isn't a party,
But, trust me, our love and wishes shall
not be tardy.

We miss you,
And there flew a kangaroo!
Whatever this year brings, I will always
be with you.
Shine on, cause starting tomorrow is a
year brand new.

Seven is a big boy age,
Time to stop diapers and whining on
stage.

Love,
Arjun.



One of VKEs most active students, **Valentino Joseph**, 11, spends his time by competing in international competitions, filling his sketchbook, and writing stories.

He believes that doing so will bring people's suffering to an eventual end by making art to soothe people's emotions, sketching to rid of his boredom, and writing mythological stories to bring a drop of freshness into his people's troubled mind.

Valentino has always strived to attend MUNs with the sole aim of solving people's problems, having participated in 7 MUNs, he has won 2 best delegate awards, 2 high commendations awards and 2 verbal mentions. Valentino believes that depicting and shaping the lives of today are more important than reminiscing on the lives of the past, hence, his sketches depict the effects of the current situation on wildlife. Animals in the Kaziranga National Park have been suffering from the flood, Valentino sketched a Rhino from the North-east in honour of the lives who tried their best to move on but passed away. He has also been quite immersed in mythology, he has written a mythological story called 'The Dragon Slayer', which he hopes will give people the adrenaline rush that they've been missing ever since lockdown. Valentino writes stories to change people's mindset and hopes the bring a difference in the world. As Ira Glass has rightly said, "Great stories happen to those who can tell them."

Yet another star, **Meenakshi Nambiar** has also had her hands full, from engaging herself in piano and guitar classes and learning to code, to learning vocal Carnatic music and researching 'dog behaviour' (inspired by her new friend, 'Bunny' in Kerala), Meenakshi is making optimal use of her time. She recently got titled as a 'Junior Coder' in her online class, kudos!

