

August was a very important month on the timeline of BHIS, Andheri, as we had a line-up of significant events.

We explored freedom in our own way, and reveled in the freedom of celebrating festivals across our nation. Despite the distance, we have enjoyed each and every celebration.

Simon says swim-

Atiksh Chavali, Grade 3 Elm



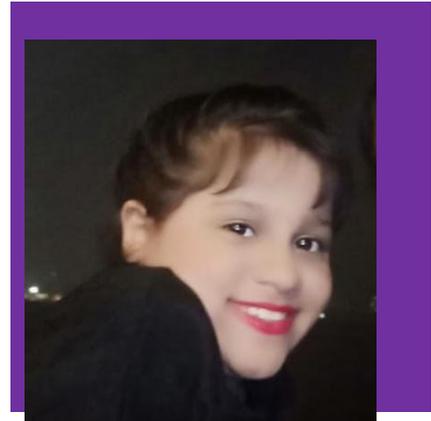
I am standing in front of the pool full of water. I am excited and cannot wait to get in the water. I was excited and scared at the same time to get into the pool. I dip my toe in the water, it was as cold as ice. I stood shivering with my friends, dripping with water after the shower, waiting for the whistle to blow.

When it was time, I put on my goggles and slowly went into the cold water, and soon the water became warm around me. When it was my turn, Sir put my head in the water. I was facing the floor of the pool and started swimming towards the other end of the pool. But in the middle of the pool, I stopped, out of breath and tired. I looked for Sir all around me but found that I was alone in the middle of the pool. I called Sir for help, as I started to drown. He did not come to me but told me to put my head down and start swimming again. I could hear him say, "Come on, you can do this". I had no choice, so I put my head down again and started swimming forward. I was able to reach the other end of the pool. I could not believe it. I had made my first full lap of the pool. Sir gave me an hi-five. Now the pool did not look so scary.



Real-life incident in relation to Freedom-Kashish Lobo, Grade 6 Lyra

Has anyone ever realised what our forefathers went through when India did not have freedom or independence, or maybe the birds or animals who are supposed to fly or move independently when we cage them and take away their freedom? We only realise when we go through the same. Today my friends and I want to share my real-life incident related to freedom. Until the lockdown was imposed, I never felt I was stopped from going anywhere or doing things. It's been since mid-March that we all are under house arrest. We can't step out and do what we wish too. I know this is just not with me but all others too. But the situation is quite different to each person. I am a person who loves to interact and enjoy when I have people around me. I hate talking to anyone on any type of social media platform. Hence, I am facing a challenge. Maybe when it comes to online studies or maybe if I have to speak to my friends or my family (My family members who don't stay with us like my Nani, Nanu and my aunt). I used to spend most of my time at my Nani's house before lockdown and now I have not seen them for 5 months ...Oh my God, I have not met my friends, I have not played with the pet dogs in the building, I missed out on going for summer vacation which we wait for the entire year and I also miss ice-creams. But, above all I miss my school the most, the fun with teachers and my friends. I feel we have forgotten how to live a normal life at this point and the list goes on and on. I feel we have been caged.



Freedom for me means we don't have to wear these masks, we don't have to stay 24x7 inside the house, we can eat whatever we want, go to movies, and parties and enjoy life the way it was before this the Pandemic came..I wish and pray to God that soon a vaccine is invented, and we are out. We can be outside of the house and be able to run to our school which I am really missing every single day. There can be no other incident compared to the Pandemic situation where we are so helpless, and it feels like we are in a jail whereas animals are freely moving around the world. This lockdown has also made us realise the true value of freedom. We need to revere freedom.. Freedom means to coexist with each other. It's incredible how our perspective towards freedom has changed. We took freedom for granted.

We should thank God that we had freedom to do whatever we wanted and now everyone is waiting for the same. HOPE and PRAYERS will work, and I am sure we will come out of this situation



FREEDOM TO BE YOURSELF-

Samayra Srivastava, Grade 9 Kalam



“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others”. - Nelson Mandela

What is the meaning of Freedom? Freedom is the power or right to act, speak or think as one wants without any hindrance and restrictions. It is the state of not being enslaved by any means. We should often ask ourselves these questions – Are we free? Are we using our freedom wisely? Is it benefitting us? Is it benefitting people around us?

It is important to know what freedom means for each individual. Most of us do not even have the freedom to be our true selves maybe because we do not know what that means, or we fear it or are forced to keep it hidden. However, we need to understand that freedom is just not about our fundamental rights but also how we perceive our own selves.

Our true characters should not be based on what others expect us to be or how the society wants us to be. Sometimes in order to achieve ‘freedom to be yourself’, we need to have the ‘me-before-everyone’ attitude. Along with that, we need to apprehend, when that is necessary and when it is not. We should also not have the fear that others might think of us as a narcissist. Therefore, we should not get affected by what the society thinks of us and how it wants us to be, we have the right to be ourselves.

In conclusion, our growth and development are best only when we are our own true-self characters.



“Freedom to pursue what you want to”- Krishaa Agrawal, Grade 6 Lyra

Hello friends, I am Krishaa Agarwal. I am in sixth grade. Today, I will tell you about a real life experience related to freedom. So freedom to me is power or right to “speak, act, or do your choice”. “I was free to do a multitude of things, except to decide what I want to pursue in life. However, that changed after a certain incident which I will tell you about”. Before I tell you about the incident, I must mention that I inherited my talent from my mom and because of that talent, my mom thought I was interested in every field when I was five years old. But truth be told, I was not. Because of that mindset, she put me in various classes, camps and institutions. All of that aside, we have to remember that I was still only a five-year-old and I did not understand all that was happening around me.

Two years later, I became seven. I grew to be more understanding of what was going on around me and also understood that I simply could not handle all the work and pressure, especially since I had a lot of studies, too. “She still did not understand”

“I did not want to do singing, drawing and a lot more” should instead be “I did not want to do singing, drawing and a lot of other things my mom wanted me to do.

“Despite that, she still thought I wanted to. The cycle continued for about a year more until things finally got out of hand and my mom understood everything about how I felt. I don’t blame her for this but I just thought I should share this incident since it relates to the topic so well.

Anyway, I was satisfied because I convinced my mom, moreover I was now able to shape my future to my liking. It was not her mistake, it’s just that her view and thoughts for my future were not what I desired. At least now I know a little about each field and that will help me achieve my future

Pay It Forward Kinara Goyal, Grade 3 Elm



Once there lived a little girl named Salsa. She loved forests and she could see one right through the window of her high-rise apartment. Quite often she would go down there for a walk, and enjoy herself.

One day her father was reading the news, when he saw an article about people planning to cut down many trees in the forest. He was very upset. He told Salsa and her mom about it. On reading the news Salsa and her family became glum..

Suddenly, Salsa had an idea. She told her parents that they should organize a protest and advertise it on Facebook. Her parents debated about it, and then agreed. She had no idea but organizing a protest would be difficult especially in the monsoon.

They urged participants to prepare themselves with accessories such as laminated posters, charts, cloth banners decorated in acrylic, and sock or cardboard puppets, and slogans to chant. She also suggested her people not to forget to carry their umbrellas, a bottle of drinking water etc.

On the first day itself, it simply *had* to pour. In an hour many worries crept into Salsa's head, as there were barely 50 people at the protest place in the forest and many were already leaving. Just as she was about to speak of her worries, the rain stopped and few school buses followed by a group of vans from an environmental agency arrived.

Soon Salsa's worries died away and she got quite excited and actually believed her plan had a chance to work.



On the second day, there were loads of people from the media with their cameras ready. As she looked around she was happy to see at least a thousand people. Salsa's protest was successful.

The protest continued until the 7th day. It became even bigger as few policemen and wood cutters gathered around the area. They were worried that protests would cause some kind of a problem. So Salsa's luck was probably ending. Everybody froze with fear.

As this protest turned out to be a huge hit with a massive crowd gathering in the forests. One of the protesters had a sudden idea. "On billboards it says save trees and all we are doing is saving trees just as it is advised." He yelled pointing at a nearby billboard. The idea was to encourage a healthy argument and discussion on the trees that help us survive.

Salsa argued with great zeal. She made others realise the motto of this drive was to be able to live freely, breathe fresh air and keep our environment healthy but this comes with the responsibility of saving enough for the generations after us. As only saving trees will help us!

Nobody could easily argue with her statements. Even after such an exertion it did not stop the government from cutting down the trees. But she didn't give up. She continued to protest and soon it became a state wide movement.

Much later, Salsa and her followers got a sigh of relief as the problem got resolved. It was only possible with the wishes and the problem and vigorous effort of hers. The government had to listen to her as she was determined not to step down.

Salsa celebrated happily with her parents. She was super glad to still have the beautiful green forest view. She sat out on the balcony to read a book.



Freedom-

Divya Tiwari, Grade 2 Toucan



Freedom is something that everybody has heard about but if we ask for its meaning then everyone will have a different meaning to it. This is because everyone has a different opinion about freedom, for some freedom means the freedom of going anywhere they like, for some it means to speak for themselves, and for some it is like to do anything they like.



What does freedom mean to me?-

Vedika Shahane, Grade 9 Kalam

Freedom to me is a birthright which every single person should have regardless of their physical appearance, status, gender, speech, age and every other thing which limits us to think if one is 'qualified' enough of having freedom. Freedom to me is spreading your wings in order to achieve your goals and soaring high. It is pushing yourself to greater limits each time you try but keeping in mind your boundaries and how to maintain them; freedom to me is a right but a want and a need to many out there.. In my perspective, each one should feel free to voice out their opinions and views and in order to do this, one should have freedom.





Freedom of making a difference-

Riddhi Wadhwa, Grade 3 Oak

For me freedom is to be free and to do things that you like to do freely. However, recently during the lockdown I realised it's not only doing things freely but Freedom also comes with responsibility. For example our PM Modi has all the powers for our country's betterment which he uses responsibly and also at the right time. He took the decision of country wide lockdown for good for people to stop the spread of COVID and before it could spread.

This happened with me too during pandemic. Since March 2020 there was a lockdown and we had to stay at home. After a few days of enjoying at home, I started missing my school, friends, tuitions and most importantly my play time in the playground. I was disappointed, bored and sad. I had a lot of free time which was getting converted into screen time or bore time. Parents were also busy with work so I started to be upset with them and really unhappy about the lockdown.

One day my mother asked me if I would like to join an online painting class. I immediately said yes and collected things for the workshop. I couldn't wait for it to start. It started and at the end of the workshop me and my mother both had made the same paintings and were very happy to utilise our time to learn something new and creative. She also enrolled me in another workshop 'Best out of waste' where I won 2nd prize. I used to do all this after school or on weekends. I enrolled in an online summer camp where everyday we used to learn something new like art and craft, dancing, no fire cooking, quiz, fancy dress which kept me busy and happy. With these activities I didn't feel bored at home and I was always busy learning something new and exciting. I made a difference to myself during lock down instead of complaining. I started to learn.



Poetry pot



Freedom of speech, a blessing in disguise- Niyati Ved, Grade 8 Athena



They say words are more powerful than the gun,
Violence can begin and end with communication
If words can hurt, they can also heal
Then there will be no need to waste your zest and zeal.

Sometimes those opinions will be ones you don't like.
Sometimes those opinions won't be very nice.
The people expressing those may be a foe.
But they can be the ones to help you through your low.

What this generation will tolerate the next will embrace,
We all know that will be a disgrace;
Let us dare to wisely read, think, speak, and write.
Freedom of speech is truly a blessing in disguise.

Freedom of speech is a boon, not a curse,
Use it till you are forced in the hearse.
It is not a license to abuse, nor to hurt
Think twice about your words, they can cause the only
discomfort.

Choose words that will be your eyes;
After you say them there should be no 'whys!'
Let us dare to wisely read, think, speak, and write.
Freedom of speech is truly a blessing in disguise.



Poetry pot



Freedom!- Kaavya Gala, Grade 9 Kalam

Freedom is the inborn right which humans have since their first cry. Everyone has their own perspectives, thoughts and ideas of freedom. I think freedom comes with independence and victory. Religion has a vital space in our society. The concept of freedom is also different in most religious texts. Enjoying freedom does not mean that we overlook other's rights and live the way we want instead we need to understand everyone's feelings and take a step together. To sum it up no one wants to live in deception.

Freedom cannot be bestowed! It must be achieved.

I would conclude with a poem

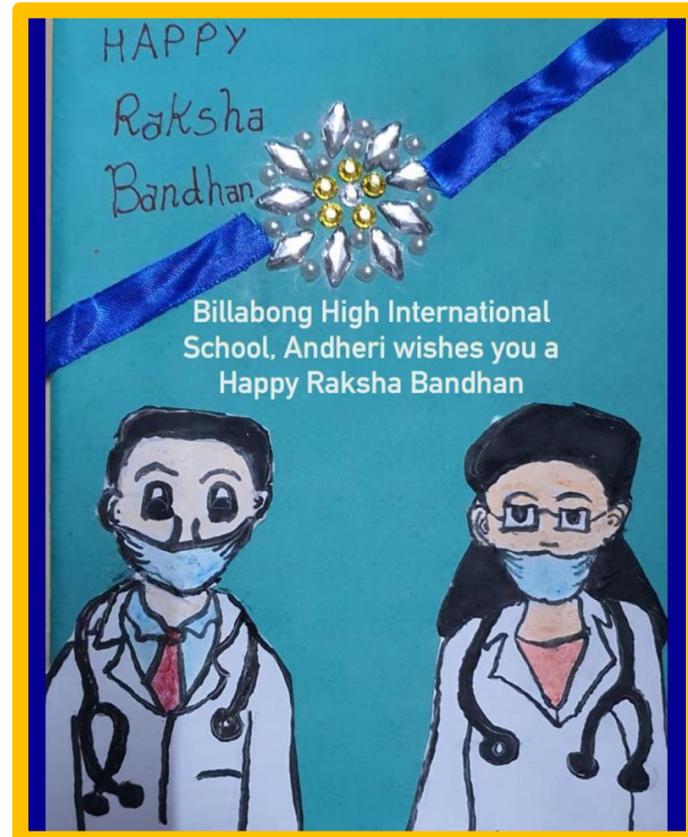
शुरुआत है एक ऐसे कल की,
जो खोल दें सभी राहे उलझी,
मंजिलों का जहां होगा कारवाह।
पोटली सपनों की है बांधी,
जेब में हौसलों की है आंधी, चल पड़े जहां रहता सिकंदर वहां।



Events

August 2020 Edition

Raksha Bandhan, a vibrant festival celebrated by millions of Indians each year has always been about following age-old traditions and celebrating the bond between siblings, but this year, with everything acclimatising to a new normal, we found ourselves celebrating differently this year. The students had an opportunity to give back to the frontline warriors, who stepped for us in this difficult period. They creatively designed digital rakhis and artworks that were sent to Kasturba hospital and in return the hospital showed us their gratitude by displaying the greeting card in their premises.



Billabong began the month of August with Eid

celebrations. Students came dressed in festive attire to celebrate the occasion. Through the video of Sara's Eid, the message of giving and sharing with the less privileged was conveyed to the students.



Lord Krishna's birthday was celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal. The students of BHIS had a special assembly, where a skit was performed by the teachers for our students. However, with the ongoing lockdown the handi could not be broken and celebrated with everyone. But BHIS, Andheri did not hold back from celebrating this festival with the same intensity and grandeur like every year. The students congregated in an online class to witness an enactment put up by our teaching staff which brought our little Kanha and his friends alive. It was followed with a scintillating dance performance by our teacher. The programme ended with a motivational message of teamwork which left a positive impact on the students. Our nursery tots looked spectacular as the girls were dressed as Radha and Krishna. The festival added value to the students learning as elements such as pyramid, flowers related to Lord Krishna were interspersed with the teachings in the day.



A New Beginning- THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

This month, the newly elected young leaders of our school were formally invested through an online investiture ceremony. The event started off with marching, an excellent showcase of our student's dedication and discipline, which was followed by the facilitation of the leaders with sashes and badges by the parents. It was truly a parent's dream come true. The event was also accompanied by a touching speech given by the parents of the school captain and the vice school captain. The event was live on billabong Andheri's Facebook account. The whole event was excellently co-ordinated, thanks to the weeks of hard work and dedication of the students and the teachers. BHIS Andheri is truly proud to have these young leaders represent its students.



Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated annually to mark the birth of Lord Ganesha, the God of new beginnings and a fresh start. Billabong High International School, Andheri added a colourful tinge of joy and happiness to the monotonous routine by explaining to the young students the significance of celebrating this festival and organising an activity of making cards on account of this occasion.



Independence Day

BHIS celebrated the country's 74th independence on our campus with fervent zeal and patriotism. Our trustee, our principal, and a few staff members gathered to celebrate the occasion, while our parent community attended it virtually.

Our respected trustee Mr Dewoolkar hoisted the flag. It was followed by the national anthem and the jhanda song. He shared his thoughts that we all should be proud of being a part of a country which is known for unity in diversity. We sang patriotic songs and students gave speeches about what freedom means to them. The programme was concluded with our Principal sharing her thoughts for having responsible and accountable young minds in the campus.



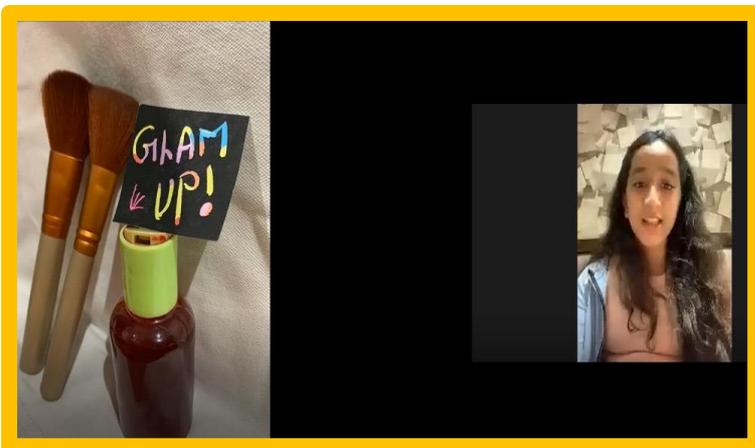
Events

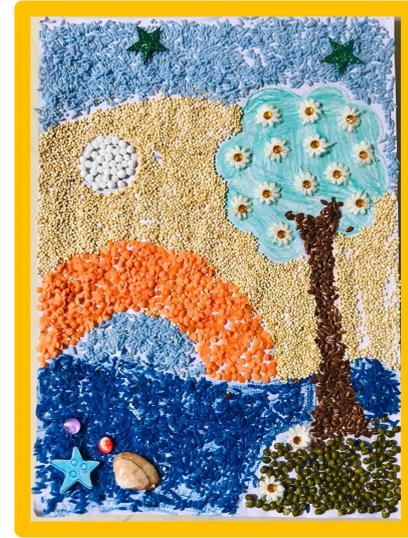
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Don't be SAD, here comes AD Mad! -Explore your Imagination

BHIS Andheri organized the Ad Mad competition for students to get a real life creative experience. The students had to come up with unique promotional strategies to present their brand. AD Mad competition being a perfect platform to showcase the knack to advertise and win hearts. Excitement level of students of Grade 5 to 9 reached sky high while preparing their scripts for the contest. They showcased their acting skills but also premeditated their ability to use the cognitive skill to make persuasive advertisements. All students came up with an exhilarating live performance complemented by jingles to promote their products. It was difficult to judge the copy, the idea, as almost all were successful in creating an emotional connect with its audience. Each one had used a perfect, well thought and creative mind to build its product.. Their ideas were powerful, full of creativity and carried a positive message. The overall idea of the competition was to enhance their presentation skills and creative skills.

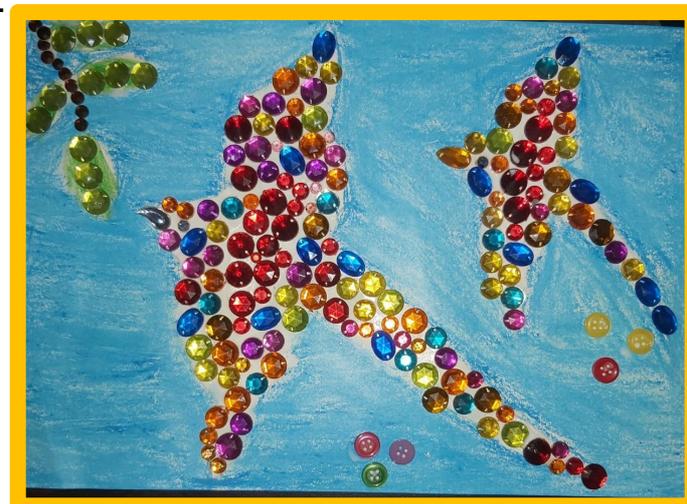




Unleashing our inner artist-

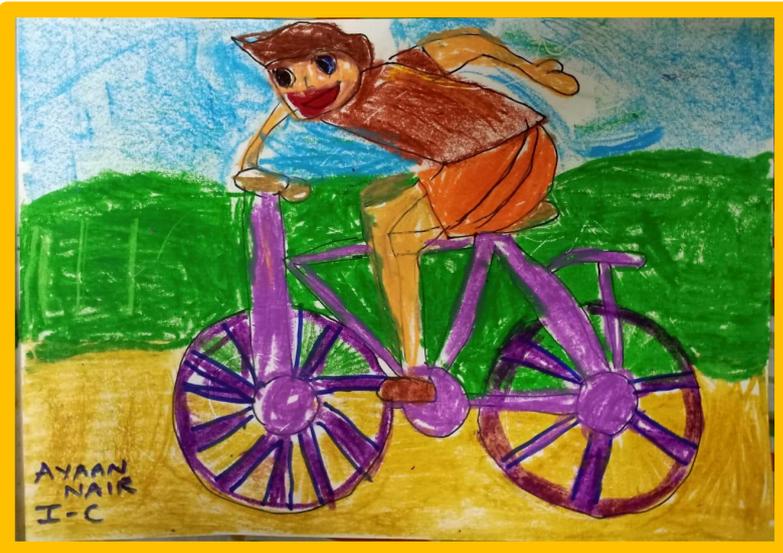
Mosaic art competition

This month the students participated in a Mosaic art competition. This artistic technique to use tiny objects to make a whole canvas is unique and traditional. All the participants enjoyed creating an impressive artwork to unleash their artistic side. Never seen before such a unique gathering in which many children came together to participate. The students were encouraged to do so through a mosaic art competition. Mosaic art is a very creative and innovative form of art and the young stars of BHIS Andheri expressed their creativity. The theme of the competition for this month being 'Nature'. Many students were seen creating their art and patterns from different materials such as beads , leaves etc.to express their unique interpretation of 'nature'. Using these basic materials, the participants were able to produce beautiful and innovative art pieces. This competition has not only helped them to maintain a healthy competitive spirit but has also helped to productively channel their creativity.



Crazy artsy

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Ayaan Nair, Grade 1
Hyacinth



Aaradhya Tupe, Grade 1
Amaryllis



Akshaj Tiwari, Grade 1
Amaryllis



Crazy artsy

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Aiza Asharafi, Grade 1
Amaryllis



Aarav Gupta, Sr.kg
Jaguar



Afsheen Khan, PSY4
Jaguar



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Ruhi Walanj, Grade 1
Amaryllis



Hridhyaa Gangatkar, Grade 1
Frangipani



Ira Batra, Grade 1
Hyacinth

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Ayaan Vishwakarma,
Grade 1 Amaryllis



Angad Arolkar, PSY 4
Jaguar

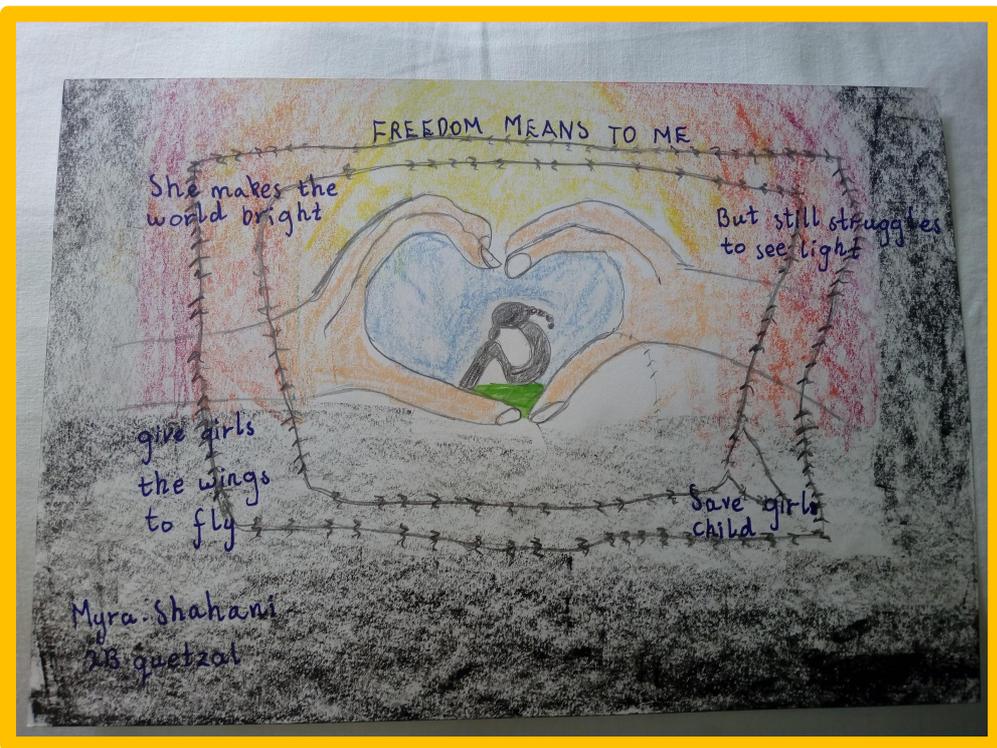


Crazy artsy

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Aadhya Tupe, grade 1
Amaryllis



Myra Shahani, Grade 2
Quetzal

