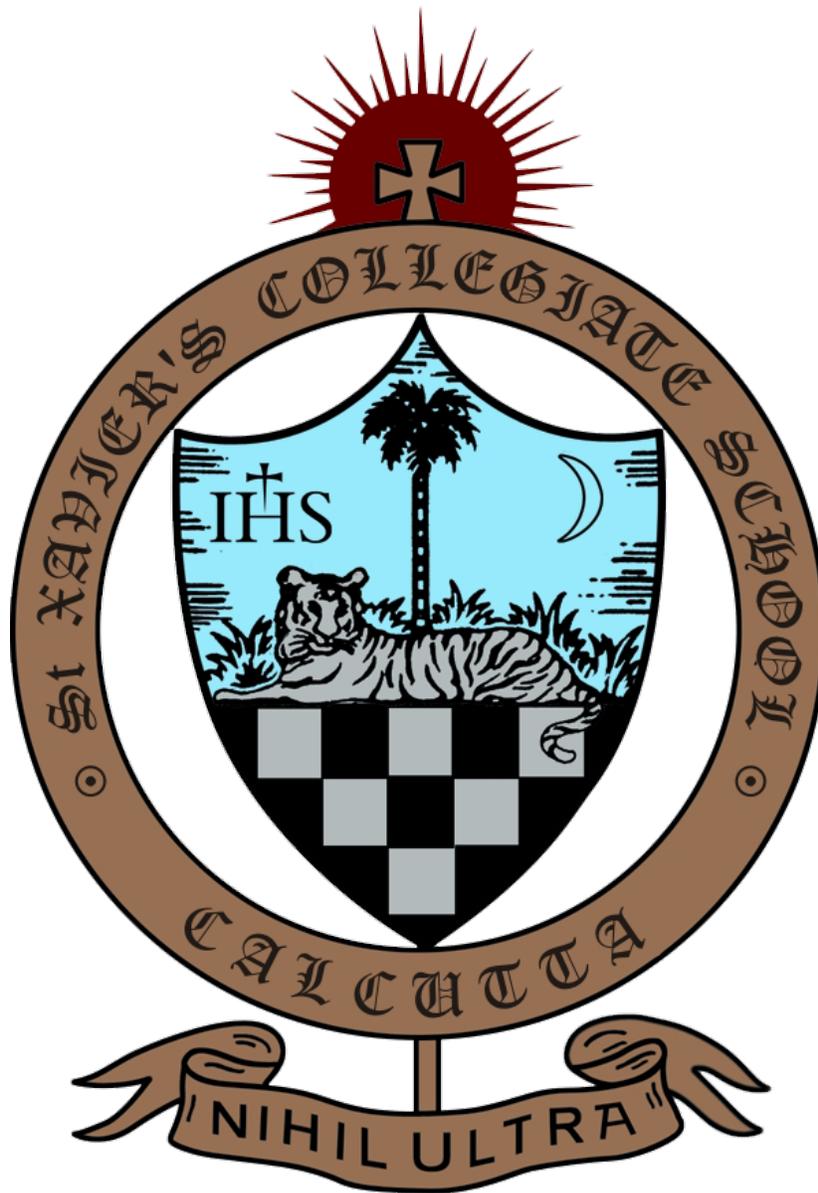


# Nihil Ultra

The School Newsletter from the Writer's Club



## **DURGA PUJA**

Durga Puja is considered to be the most loved and auspicious festival in India, particularly Kolkata. It is also referred to as “the festival of joy”. Such excitement this festival infuses in the hearts of the people, that millions of them eagerly wait for this period of five days every year. It is celebrated all over West Bengal and other parts of the country as well. This prodigious festival has its relevance in the Western world too where millions of Bengalis celebrate this festival with equal pomp and show.

In this festival, we celebrate the victory of Goddess Durga over the evil demon Ravana, who forced all the people of the three worlds (Earth, Hell and Heaven) to worship nobody except him. During the days of Durga Puja, we also celebrate the end of the evil Mahishasura's reign over the three worlds. To enjoy this festival, people buy new clothes and distribute sweets. Many go and spend their holidays in or outside India. Most people in India go and enjoy the essence of Pandal hopping. People visit the pandals, which are humongous structures built in many shapes and decorated in many themes. Some companies also give out awards to the best pandals of the year. Each pandal has a different theme.

This festival is widely celebrated in almost all the parts of West Bengal. These are some of the many reasons why this festival is called the festival of joy. This year, Durga Puja is in mid- October. I hope this excitement and happiness prevails through the ages.

**Rayan Bose, 6 B**

Durga Puja is the festival of joy. It is an annual Hindu festival celebrated all over India to worship goddess Durga and commemorate her victory over a demon called Mahishasura. It is celebrated in autumn with great enthusiasm and belief. Goddess Durga is worshipped on Navaratri because it is considered that she had killed Mahishasura 10 days after the battle. She has ten hands, each with a unique weapon given by other gods. During this festival, Goddess Durga is worshiped by the people for all nine days. The idol of goddess Durga is immersed on the last day to mark the ending of this auspicious festival. People believe that Maa Durga will bring lots of blessings and happiness, keeping us away from all negativity and problems.

**Rishit Kamani, 6 C**

Durga Puja is one of the most important festivals of the Hindu religion. It is celebrated every year in the autumn season.

During the four days, the Puja fever grips the heart of everyone in the city regardless of age, caste, class or gender. The entire state of West Bengal welcomes Goddess Durga and her children, along with the mighty demon Mahishasura, with open arms and hearts filled with incomprehensible emotions of togetherness. People start the ceremonies from ‘Shashti’ which continues till “Dashami”. During these days, devotees throng to the pandals set up for the puja.

Navaratri or Durga puja is celebrated as a tribute to the victory of good over evil. It is believed by the devotees that on this day, goddess Durga eliminated the bull demon, Mahishasura. She was created by the combined effort of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Shiva, to kill this demon and make the world free

of evil. After ten days of battle she finally killed him. The last day is called as Dussehra. Navaratri signifies the nine days and nights of battle between goddess Durga and devil Mahishasura.

It is widely celebrated in many places in India such as Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Manipur, West Bengal, etc. In some places it becomes a five-day annual holiday. It is a religious and socio-cultural event, which has been celebrated for years with a lot of enthusiasm and devotion.

This festival comes to an end with the immersion ceremony. The idols of goddess Durga are immersed in the river or lakes. The devotees pray for her return the next year, bringing with her joy and peace.

**Aalap Roy, 11 D**

### **TEACHER'S DAY**

So here goes an attempt to ensnare the readers into a writing, which holds prodigious value in our lives as students. In the recently held Teacher's Day celebration in St. Xavier's Collegiate School, I have had the honour to give not one but two speeches on that day which gave me an opportunity to show my gratitude to the teachers. The morning of the 5th of September in our esteemed institution, saw students from various classes bustling into the auditorium. Even in the most minimal way, the students did not fail to express their respect and gratitude for the teachers as they were welcomed with a loud round of applause. To be honest, I'm not an erudite in respect of academics but coming up with two speeches for the teachers made me realize that their contribution in our lives is not limited to academics.

Xaverians from various classes captured the attention of the teachers as they performed songs, drama, dance and musical presentation. The members of the Drama Club made us laugh boisterously. Nevertheless, our school dance team made that day more colourful with their swift steps and catchy beats. The musical presentation kept everyone amazed, the *jugalbandi* of the sitar, violin and tabla hypnotized the audience.

As someone has rightly said, "If there's only one day in a year to show what it means in your life, give it your best shot".

Even after the function, the teachers didn't fail to surprise us by mentioning each and every student's name and thanking them for the performances.

Not extending the writing any longer, I eagerly wait for Children's Day.

**Riddhiraj Mukherjee, 11 E**

### **X-PLORE 2018**

The amalgamation of tactfulness and creativity, an undying love and inquisitiveness for knowledge and the persistence of the Science students of St. Xavier's Collegiate School gave birth to the first edition of X-Plore, an inter-school Scientific Convention. X-Plore 2018 wouldn't have been possible without the constant help and encouragement of our teachers and the endeavour of our students. Ranging over three eventful days, at X-Plore 2018 we witnessed the work of young inventors, argued with the brightest young minds in India and imbibed knowledge as we saw young minds crack codes of the highest difficulty. The events in order were as follows:-

## **THE SCIENCE EXHIBITION**

When it came to the science exhibition, the audition hall was brimming with students from 6 to 12 with rigorous enthusiasm, eyes filled with hope and of course, projects and working models which were unique in their very own way. After much consideration, the President of the Science club carefully picked out 4 of the best projects which were to be put on display on the final day of the competition, against other schools. Out of these, the projects that stood out were impeccable in quality and unparalleled in theory. The competition however reached its climax when students from various schools brought in their models. La Martiniere for Boys bagged the first prize and St. Xavier's was placed second.

## **THE SCIENCE QUIZ**

The Convention would obviously be incomplete without a quiz because the best way to test one's knowledge is to ask them questions. 8 teams had qualified after the preliminary stage and through 8 rounds of intense competition Don Bosco and Xavier's secured the top two positions. The questions were interesting and the Quiz master's personal way of managing the rounds made the event delightful to say the least.

## **THE SCIENCE DEBATE**

It is a fact that Science not only teaches us to answer the questions but shows us how to question the answers. With brimming enthusiasm students from participating schools set out in teams of two to embark in a fierce battle of words among themselves. "Artificial Intelligence is a boon to mankind," argued the proposition and the opposition refused to concur. Birla High School and Don Bosco Park Circus bagged the best speaker awards with the help of proficient vocabulary and apt logic.

## **THE CODING EVENT**

Science and technology have always progressed hand in hand. In fact, without the help of computers and the beautiful languages of programming, Science wouldn't have progressed as far. In the coding round, students from the participating schools solved five programs over a span of 2 hours. La Martiniere for Boys, having solved the highest number of problems, was placed first followed by Don Bosco, Park Circus.

## **THE SEMINARS**

On the second and third day, X-Plore invited esteemed stalwarts to conduct seminars. On the second day, a seminar was conducted by a Fellow of CSIR who spoke about Neuroscience and the ongoing fight against cancer. On the third day we had a Tech consultant who enlightened us about the advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence and the growth of Big Data.

The Science Convention concluded, leaving a lasting impression in the minds of all the participants and contestants. St. Xavier's Collegiate School pioneered yet another renaissance, a revolution and movement of science.

**Tirtharaj Sengupta, 12 B**