Dear Reader,

We are the voice of the senior most grade at Jhamtse Gatsal. We are the hidden voices of the unsung heroes of this Community. We are the voice of the stories waiting to be written of the people in the villages around us. We are The Voice.

We, the students of Grade 12 along with our teacher, Ms. Monat-chi Prabhu, have compiled, written, and travelled many miles to publish the very first edition of our first community newspaper, The Voice. We have started this initiative as an opportunity to bring out the hidden voices of our people. Our Community is not just one voice, but many who strive to make it what it is today. These people have their own strengths and skills. We shall try our best to shine a spotlight on their strengths and share that with our readers.

We are but big fish in a small pond, and there lie oceans beyond our borders. If we want to stride into the open seas one day, we need to be aware of what is happening in the world around us. We live in a place where newspapers are not easily accessible. Hence, we are here to bring you news, not only of the world around us, but also news about the world that we live in, our Community—Jhamtse Gatsal. We will deliver articles that also focus on our culture and daily life. Within our power, we will travel to the more remote villages that surround us, and collect stories about people. Those human stories will not only make us more aware of our Community, but also give us a chance to be inspired by them. We believe that there are some lessons to be learnt from the people living around us, and sometimes, even within us. We shall strive to unearth these stories and bring them to light.

As a newcomer to the journalistic community, our work may be amateur and raw, but we promise to get better with every edition. We will strive to perfect the art of writing articles and sharing our thoughts with you about the events happening around us. We will also give our perspectives as editors in the Editorial section. We have invested a lot of our effort, time, and energy into the creation of this edition, which we will continue to do every month when a new edition is printed.

Our Community has grown a lot in the last 12 years. In 2006, we didn’t have Lakpar, we never had so many musical instruments, our children could hardly speak in English, the nights were darker then, without lights, and we were fewer in number. We had a lot of challenges to face. Twelve years later, we have, grown so much—Solar power, Internet, Experiential learning, Resources, etc. You name it, we have it! But, we still have challenges. Our children struggle when it comes to articulation and communication. What our children lack is a voice. Sometimes, we are afraid of raising our voices.

This newspaper, we hope, is an opportunity to reveal our hidden voices.

There is so much happening in our Community every day that we forget to enjoy and relish each experience. Having a newspaper keeps a record of our events, and will help us remember the memories created long ago. We don’t want to make promises yet, but we will do our best to give you innovative, creative, and thought-provoking articles with each edition.

We are happy to share this month’s edition with you. We hope that you can see and appreciate the effort that has gone into the making of this newspaper. We also hope these articles inspire you and stimulate your brain cells.

To us, this is not just a newspaper; it is a record of our thoughts and experiences. We hope that you enjoy reading it!
The language of love and tears

“I will do everything possible to give the children a good education. But after that, it is their job to get good marks.”

Tenzin Drolma B. Lobsang Wangchu

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

At the foothills of the Himalayas lies a village called Bagar. A beautiful lady has spent her life in the farms of Bagar, burning in the hot sun. When Lungta Drema was 12 years old, she was married in Bagar, her second home. She has 5 children; 3 girls and 2 boys, aged between 6 and 10. She educated her children by getting loans from the villagers. Sometimes, she would sell millet harvested from the farm to get some money. Every month, she has to spend around Rs. 15,000 just to provide basic needs for her children, who are studying in Kharteng. Her children study in Pharmey school, and some of them study in Melonghar school.

Her oldest is in Dharmsala. She left home at a very young age and has now forgotten the Monpa language. She can speak fluently in Bhoti. However, her mother does not understand Tibetan language. When they talk over the phone, sometimes they share their feelings though tears and sobs. Years go by without seeing each other and, when the girl comes home, the only language they can both understand is tears.

Lungta Drema’s parents left her when she was very young. In her time, there were no hospitals or roads for cars. Home births are common in these parts. She says that she has given birth to all her children at her home. When asked if there arose any complications, she said that she gave birth to a dead child once. The nearest public health center is many kilometers away and there were no proper roads or means of transport at that time. If anyone got a cold, fever or stomach ache, they would relieve it using their knowledge of medicinal plants.

Lungta also says that the life expectancy was much higher in those times. “Today, people get so many diseases. Before, we would treat our plants with natural fertilizer. Nowadays, many of the people in the village have started using chemical fertilizers and the soil has become dry, cracked and infertile.” They toil in the land all day long, in the hot sun. They wait in earnest for the monsoons which have not yet graced these farms. They water the farms and collect firewood in the day. Lungta also says that it’s not all work for them. After working hard, they sit together and drink in the evenings and play games.

Lungta brews her own alcohol called chang in these parts, which is manufactured by fermenting millets.

When asked about her vision for her children, she says that “she will do everything possible to give the children a good education. But after that, it is their job to get good marks and make a good life for themselves. They should know that if they don’t do their best, then they will have no other option other than to work in the fields with me all day.”
main aspects—compassion, value for things, and ownership. As the children get everything free of cost, she feels that we do not fully understand the value of the things that we have. She thinks that we do not care about each other’s duties and only worry about our own. When asked about the problems in the Community that she would help solve, she had this to say: “The Community should come together, discuss, and debate on the problems we face. We should also arrive at an agreement as a whole family.” Dorjee Choizom has an added advantage over other candidates as she has already been a temporary captain for the past two months. This may give her an edge over her fellow contestants.

Voice of Lobsang Tenzin, potential candidate for representative, rings loud with his “Health is Wealth” campaign

Rinchen Drolma

Q: Why do you want to stand for the election?
A: I want to stand for the election because I want to develop my leadership skills and want to bring change in Jhamtse, i.e., discipline, respect, cleanliness, and communication.

Q: Do you think you deserve this post? Why?
A: Yes, I do. Studying in the most senior class in the Community, I should take the responsibility.

Q: What are the problems you see in our Community?
A: I see plastic everywhere. The garbage dumping area is very dirty. This, in my opinion, is the biggest problem in our Community.

Q: What will you do to make a difference?
A: As I said before, my main focus is on cleanliness of our surrounding. Cleanliness is most important to stay healthy. Health is Wealth.

Q: You were a temporary captain these last two months. How was your experience?
A: Last two months, I experienced a lot, like involving in the teachers’ meetings, discussing problems with elders, taking responsibility, and, most importantly, leading by example. It doesn’t matter whether I win or lose. But for me, the most important thing that matters is what I learn from participating in the process of election.

R: I wish you all the best.
LT: Thank you!

FUNNY MOMENTS WITH THE AUDIENCE

1. The crowd roared with laughter at Konchok’s answer to Tenzin Drolma B’s question “For those who are not interested in sports, what will you do?” To which Konchok answered, “I will give them a doll to play with.”

2. Leki’s face turned red when Sangey Ngudup said in his speech, “I promise I will take you on a picnic if I win. We have not gone on a picnic for a long time. Last year, candidate for vice-representative promised he would take us on a picnic, but never did.”

3. In a tense moment between Tenzin Tashi and candidate for vice-representative, Sangey Ngudup, Tenzin asked, “You just want to win. You are trying to manipulate us.” To which Sangey answered, “I stood here as vice-representative to win. Why else am I standing here?”

4. When the results came out and the students came forward to congratulate the representative and vice-representative, Tenzin Norbu came on stage to start his legendary speech. “I had an awesome speech written, but I seem to have lost my paper.”

5. When Lobsang Tenzin introduced his idea of imposing fines on garbage found in the Community, Accountant Teke Subba had a question for him. “Mr. Lobsang Tenzin, you said that you would fine Rs. 500 if garbage is found. What if lot of garbage is found in one place?” Lobsang Tenzin replied, “Then, you have to pay Rs. 1,000.”

Inspired by Gen Lobsang la, candidate for representative, Raju Kumar started off the election day with a thought-provoking idea.

He arranged four different types of glasses on a table. One of them had a hole at the bottom. The second was kept inverted. The third had red ink in it. And the fourth was an empty glass placed erect.

He poured water into each of the glasses. He said, “There are four different kinds of people in this room. One type has a hole at the bottom. No matter how much information or ideas I give them, it will fall out from the bottom, just like this glass.

The second type of people, from the start, they will say, ‘Ah! What does he know? He cannot influence us’ and they will block whatever I say. The third type of people are the ones with negativity just like this red ink. No matter how much positivity I try to pour into them, they will turn it more red (negative). The last type of people are the neutral ones. They will take what I say and add it to what they already have.” He then looked at the crowd and said: “Now you decide who you want to be.”
A compassionate election

“Even if you are not interested in politics, politics is interested in you!”

Lobsang Tenzin, Raju Kumar

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Jhamtse Election Day took place on 21st July, 2018, in the Community Hall. The elections were held for the post of representative and vice-representative. A total of 11 candidates stood for election; 6 for vice-representative and 3 for representative. Mani Wangmu, Sonam Chodron, Dorjee Wangchu, Shanti Tamang, Sangey Ngudup and Konchok Norbu stood for the post of vice-representative. Raju Kumar, Dorjee Choizom and Lobsang Tenzin stood for the post of representative. Innovative ideas towards language, responsibility, respect, sports, and relationships were given.

The day began with Ms. Anita Kumari, Head Teacher, inaugurating the event with a welcome address. All of the Community members were present, except for Ms. Vasudha Wangchoo, Mr. Saurabh Sharma and Gen Lobsang la.

Following the welcome address, each candidate came forward to explain the points of their agenda in order to sway the crowd towards their side.

Candidate for representative, Lobsang Tenzin, said that he would place emphasis on responsibility in taking care of uniform, books and all school property.

Candidate for vice-representative, Sangey Ngudup’s agenda prioritized sports. He promised that he would take the students to the MLA grounds for playing football. His idea of having computer classes for all students was also a big hit.

Candidate for vice-representative, Konchok Norbu, promised a pair of socks to each student, if he won. Sports Teacher, Kalsang Tsetan, was impressed with his idea of showing movies related to sports to expand the students’ knowledge of sports.

Candidate for representative, Raju Kumar focused on relationships in general and organic families in particular. He said that “family is very important. We should create organic families where we want to gather with our family members because we want to, and not just because it is mandatory.” The staff were blown away by his speech when he said that “We need to get rid of our narrow idea of education. We are here to learn. Learning facts but not implementing them is of no use.” He looked sad as he said, “Sometimes I also fall into this path. We are products of Jhamtse Gatsal but we should not just be governed by facts.”

Candidate for vice-representative, Sonam Chodron, gave an innovative idea to help with the overuse and abuse of stationery in Jhamtse Gatsal. She said that “Pen refills should be bought and not pens, so that children take care of their stationery.”

Following the speech, the voting process took place after lunch. The staff cast their votes in a ballot box placed in the Office. Classes 6-8 cast their votes in the Library, and Classes 9-12 gave their votes in the Sitting Room ballot box. The process continued smoothly, however, a tense moment prevailed when there were extra votes registered in Class 9-12 group. This led to a re-vote. Lobsang Tenzin was elected representative and Dorjee Wangchu was elected vice-representative of Jhamtse Gatsal for the coming year.

We need to get rid of our narrow idea of education. We are here to learn.

Raju Kumar and Lobsang Tenzin study in Class 12 at Jhamtse Gatsal Children’s Community. Lobsang Tenzin is also the student representative of JGCC.
Quotes that touched our hearts

“...And I promise I will not sleep until I find the answer; until I achieve my vision. For, I have miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep...

Dorjee Choizom

“Look at our families today. We are disjointed and we call ourselves a family. We should give and take, practice interdependence. You depend on your father, that’s why you are here.

Raju Kumar

“I was just like the piper; scared, not able to come on stage. I want to encourage myself and be more confident.

Shanti Tamang

“Do you want to know what my most favourite place is? Yes, you’re right, it’s the library. A library is a treasure chest for a curious mind.

Mani Wangmu
All the world’s a stage and we are but actors

Dorjee Choizom, Tenzin Lhamu and Meenatchi Prabhu

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

When a person stands in front of a stage, they show the world who they really are. On 21st July, 2018, Jhamtse Gatsal celebrated Election Day. Six candidates from Class 11 and three candidates from Class 12 stood for the election. At the end of the day, one vice-representative from Class 11 and one representative from Class 12 would be chosen. The end result was just a part of the process. The real magic lay in the speeches the candidates gave and the emotions the day brought.

Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. In a way, those who win are those that can influence the minds of people. The world, however, consists not only of the talkers. They also have a huge portion of the silent do-ers.

There are also people who are in the middle of the spectrum. The Election Day of Jhamtse Gatsal was in a way, a miniature version of what happens in the world outside. When people come on stage and present their vision, they not only present words, but they also present a little bit of themselves.

Mani Wangmu is a book-lover and her speech revolted a lot around the Library. She has the experience of having been a library captain before and hence, feels very strongly about this. She stressed on the importance of respecting the Jhamtse Library which houses more than 5,000 books. Mani is a shy person. When asked if she was afraid of giving speeches, she said that “Magic happens outside your comfort zone.”

On the other end of the spectrum, Dorjee Wangchu’s speech swept people off their feet with its charisma and magnetism. He focused a lot on the “pettius” and “tyres” of the teachers and with every laugh, he also counted his votes. His speech was to the point and precise. He would take examples of people in the audience and focus on what he would do for them. Cleverly, Dorjee has clearly figured out the tricks of democracy and the secret to winning people’s hearts.

Shanti Tamang’s speech was a reflection of herself as she stood on the dais and talked about the person that she was. She said that she is an “introverted person with a lot of self doubt. But I want to be confident. I want to build confidence.” The essence of her character was captured in a short animated film she played called “Piper”, as she felt she “was a lot like the little bird you see on the screen.”

Konchok Norbu is a jolly, jovial person. Towards the end of the speeches, when children were starting to get restless, his jokes and promises made the atmosphere lighter and filled the Sitting Room with the ringing sound of laughter. His promise to “give each child a pair of socks if I win the election” tickled the laughs out of the crowd.

Sangey Ngudup is a soft-spoken, shy person, but showed a tremendous amount of courage when he came on stage. One idea of his that attracted everyone’s attention was having computer classes. Sonam Chodron was confident and clear, with great points. Leadership does not come naturally to her, but wants to try taking on that responsibility. Her point about children not having value for the things that they have got a huge nod from the teachers. One of her ideas was to give children refills and not new pens every time. She stressed a lot on the importance of ownership and valuing things. When interviewed, she said that “Taking care of things comes naturally to me.”

Inspired by Genia, Raju hooked everyone’s attention with an experiment where he talked about different kinds of people. Initially, he was a little nervous but as the speech went on, he became comfortable with the crowd. He is also a people’s person and knew what to say to get people on his side. He was honest, heart warming and his idea of organic family caught everyone’s attention. Another point he brought out in his speech was the narrow idea of education.

Lobsang Tenzin’s booming voice, loudness, and clarity of speech, backed by strong points, won him the election. Waste management was one of his key points. Not only did he stress on the needs of the Community, he also talked about how it would be a leadership development opportunity for him.

Dorjee Choizom exhibited a great amount of grace in her speech. She is a soft spoken, calm, quiet girl. Her speech was backed by strong points, real-life examples, and she delivered them with conviction. Her vision rang loud and clear through the whole speech. She was a little shy. If one listened to her speech, one would be moved by the strength of her vision, and her will to see it through.

The atmosphere in the room was one of happiness, optimism and joy. Though we did not explicitly say it, everyone felt like a part of the Community that day. Everyone wanted to add a bit of themselves to the magic of the day, and no one wanted it to end. The people in the audience were empowered and were given a dose of courage by the beautiful souls who had given their speeches. We don’t think that the day would have been as beautiful if these candidates had not given their all for this day. People who lost were not discouraged. However, they were happy that they had gotten an opportunity to be themselves and build confidence. Though it started with the speeches of the candidates, the day ended with students just coming on stage and giving their views. Many people felt like “a real election had taken place” and they felt proud to be a part of it. It is amazing how, in a small place like Jhamtse Gatsal, a worldly experience was created. And no classroom teaching could ever match a learning experience such as this.

Tenzin Lhamu and Dorjee Choizom study in Class 12 at Jhamtse Gatsal Children’s Community. Meenatchi Prabhu teaches English for Classes 9-12 at Jhamtse Gatsal.
**Apni Ungli ko Educated Banao**

**Tashi Yangzom, Leki Norbu**

Jhamtse Gatsal has introduced a fellowship program called Lakpar to educate the children and make them more skilled. When Jhamtse Gatsal founder was asked about Lakpar, he said, “Apne Ungli ko Educated Banao.”

He stressed on the importance of educating our body as well as our mind. This year, Lakpar fellowship has taken impetus with two fellows, Ananya and Sunil, who are working on art, design and science Lakpar respectively.

**What is Lakpar?**

Lak means “hand” and Par means “helping.” Gen Lobsang la talked about the historical background of Lakpar and about how there are no homeless people in the Mon region. This is because everyone in the region is skilled in the construction of houses from available material. The locals are skilled and meet their needs with what is available around them.

**A new addition to the Community**

Ananya Agrawal from Lucknow has joined Jhamtse Gatsal this year as the first Lakpar fellow. Jhamtse Gatsal teachers sent out emails to friends of friends asking for fellows to join Lakpar, and Ananya was one of many who applied for it. Her interest in building a curriculum for experiential education brought her here. This is her first time teaching, and she says that she is “extremely excited about it.” She is getting into the groove and focusing on activities for the children. She works with all of the students from Kindergarten to Class 10. “My biggest challenge lies in procuring material and figuring out activities for each group,” she says.

**Activities**

The activities that Classes 2 through 5 will be working on are photographing shapes and patterns, creating shapes using paper bits by folding, working with paint on the computer. They are also making hand puppets and structures from toothpicks. Their current project is making baskets out of bangles. Classes 6 through 8 will be making dustbins out of cardboard. Some other activities lined up for them this year are drawing human portraits, human pyramids, Navrasa (nine emotive expressions), and photography. They are also focusing on sketching still life objects.

Classes 9 and 10 are focusing on object drawing, wood painting, etc. As a part of Science Lakpar, they are also working on programming, balloon propelled cars and hydraulics. Sunil Rath, a Math and Physics teacher for Classes 11 and 12, is currently working on Science Lakpar projects.

A recent initiative to include Classes 11 and 12 in this process has resulted in the science students taking responsibility of Science Lakpar once a week.

**The seniors teach the young ones**

Tenzin Lhadron B and Lungta Lhamu from Class 11 have introduced an air immersion activity to Classes 6 through 8. They also taught the tiny tots how to write secret messages using lemons and revealed the message using heat from a candle.

The Lakpar classes are a part of their regular schedule with one hour per day allotted for the Classes 6 through 8 and two hours a week scheduled for Classes 9 and 10.

**Hydraulics**

Rinchen Nima of Class 9 and Abhijit Sutradr of Class 4 were brimming with pride as they showcased their creation—a working model of a JCB, following the principle of hydraulics. When asked from where they got the inspiration to build the machine, they answered that Sunil Sir, their Maths teacher, had showed them a video and explained the hydraulics principle. Inspired by this, Rinchen and Abhijit decided to build their own JCB. It took them 3 days to complete this masterpiece which could perform functions such as lifting sand and transporting it to another place. It worked entirely on syringes and water pipes. The structure was made from wood, toothpicks, tins and ice-cream sticks. When asked how he felt, Rinchen said that “I feel just like how Genla said. I feel like my fingers are a little more educated.”

**Balloon car**

Class 12 Science students of Jhamtse Gatsal teamed up with students from Classes 6 to 8 with the objective of making a car powered by balloons. Each team was given a variety of articles from bottles, bottle caps, straws, cardboard and cartons to make their cars. After the completion of models, a race was announced. Raju’s group won first place followed by Dawa Dorjee’s group. When Dawa was interviewed by our newspaper he said that “I feel fantastic! I think my model was the most creative and energetic. We did something nobody else thought of. We had two balloons instead of one and that gave us the edge over the other teams. I am a Mechanical man, and this came very easily to me. If I have the available resources, I have no doubt that I could make a life-size car too.”
Let there be light

Joyineering, Goal Zero and Dell companies visited Jhamtse Gatsal at the beginning of June to provide Internet connectivity, laptops and solar-powered lights. Joyineering founder Mike Lebecki, visited with his family. Their goal is to provide Internet connectivity, laptops and connections to the outside world to remote places such as ours. Goal Zero is a company based in Utah, USA. They manufacture solar panels, batteries and lamps. Goal Zero installed solar panels, batteries and lamps in all of the classrooms, family houses, kitchen, clinic, office, library, sitting room, guest house and the cob houses. Now, on dark nights with no electricity, light is only a flick of a switch away! With our ‘YETI’ 150, 400 and 1200, we now have light. We are slowly, but surely inching closer and closer to our goal of being a self-sustaining community.

The art of giving

On 20th August, Jhamtse Gatsal Children’s Community decided to forgo dinner to feed children in the village of Dudunghar, which is located in a more remote corner of our region.

Jhamtse Gatsal is prospering today because of the big hearts of many people around the world. They say one act of kindness leads to another. Jhamtse Gatsal wanted to give something back to fill the stomachs of children in a school, where, sometimes they have to ask families around the school for food. By foregoing one meal, the kitchen was able to save 16 kgs of rice, 4 kgs of dal, and 2 litres of oil. We have planned to continue this tradition every week. Mani Wangmu of Class 11 says with a laugh, “I am used to missing meals, but my stomach began to rumble and make funny noises that day.”

Try with Destiny

Tenzin Yudron

On 15th August, 2018, Lumla celebrated Independence day in grandeur. The celebrations were held in the MLA grounds. Most of the people in Lumla graced the occasion along with the students from Eklavya School, Jhamtse Gatsal, Lumla Higher Sec. School, RGBV, Mangnham Middle School, Melonghar School, Gispu Middle School and Tsongkhapa English School. There were various dance troupes which had come, including Bhutanese, Assamese and Nyishi dance groups. The celebrations started when the Indian flag was hoisted. Following this, the parade commenced. The MLA's speech followed shortly afterwards. It was a hot day in Lumla and many students including an SSB officer fainted on the grounds. Jhamtse Gatsal and Eklavya School proved to be the strongest of the lot with all of their students standing proudly in the hot sun, without fainting. The MLA, in his speech, promised quite a lot. He said, “If the students from Classes 6, 8 and 9 score good marks in Maths and English, the government will credit Rs. 10,000 in their accounts.” He also said that, “Next year, I will try to bring a science teacher to Lumla School.” He cautioned the villagers not to use pesticides in their farms and advised them to follow organic farming instead. As an incentive, he also promised to give a loan of Rs. 2,000 to farmers who were interested in practicing organic farming.

“It is election time now, so I advice you all not to fight with the opposing party. Everyone has the right to choose their leader. It is our responsibility as politicians to lead our election campaigns.” He said in his speech. Following the speech were the performances by the various schools and dance groups. Jhamtse Gatsal had two dances to offer; a Tibetan dance and a Hindi dance.

People’s belief in the supernatural piqued when a girl from Eklavya School astounded everyone with her mind reading capabilities. She could read words off a piece of paper with her eyes blindfolded. MLA Jambey Tashi was swept off his feet by her feat and awarded her with a hug and ‘khada’ (white scarf). It was a fitting end to the day with the final match of the football tournament between BTK and Kharteng teams. Kharteng emerged victorious with a stunning score of 5-0, but BTK played a better game. The children returned to the school tired and exhausted, but it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. India may have made its tryst with destiny 71 years ago, but the students of Jhamtse Gatsal made their tryst with freedom and joy on that day.

Tryst with Destiny

The students of Jhamtse Gatsal before the Independence Day parade
The lives we live

Personal life:
Janecke and Bert have been married for 27 years. She’s 64 years old and he’s 64. They have two sons. Their eldest son, Marx is 26 years old. His brother, Felix is 25. “Sadly, they have girlfriends. So girls, we have no options for you. But, if they break up, we’ll surely let you know”, jokes Bert as he begins the presentation, sharing with the children about his life back at home. “We have two cats, which sleep everywhere. One of them’s named Mouse,” he says.

Janecke and Bert live in a village in the Netherlands. The village has a small church. There are many fruit trees in their village. They also have 4 chickens. Janecke likes to collect herbs and make tea from them. Netherlands is famous for tulips, which they grow in their garden. They also have a special tree that blossoms only once in four-five years. “The sad part however, is that after four days, the flowers fall down,” says Bert.

“Sometimes, it snows, and it snows a lot. We make snowmen and it’s a tradition to make carrot-nosed snowmen,” says Janecke, as she shows us a picture of a snowman. In the spring, Bert collects berries, vegetables, cucumbers and pumpkins. His other hobby, complementary to his interest in farming, is cooking. He makes dishes out of the vegetables he harvests from the farm. The excess vegetables are stored for a later time. He makes marmalade and jelly out of the fruits from the garden. Another hobby of his is bee-keeping. “In the summer, we collect the honey in jars. We try to make the food ourselves. We don’t use chemicals, fertilizers or preservatives.” says Bert, with a smile on his face.

School of Life:
Janecke and Bert are a part of the School of Life. “We come together once in six weeks for two days. We explore questions such as - Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose? This is what we learn in the School of Life,” says Janecke. In the School of Life, they also read, analyze and interpret the texts of His Holiness and Bishop Tutu. They form a community with similar minded people, do a lot of activities together, such as planting trees. Together, they have planted around 40000 trees. On her 65th birthday, they wanted to give Kora (the founder of the school of life) a gift, so they gifted her a foundation, which would work towards the preservation of Tibetan culture and help displaced people.

Who and why do we support?
Janecke and Bert support two organizations. The Tibetan children villages (TCVs) in India and Jhamtse Gatsal. They have supported TCVs in a multitude of ways - helping in the manufacture of water purification stations, repair works and in acquiring traditional Tibetan costumes for performances. They have been supporting TCVs for over 6 years. “We watched Tashi and the monk and were inspired to support your community as well,” says Janecke.

“We noticed that you children are very much aware and conscious about your goals, yourselves. Our kids back at home are more focused on entertainment. It’s not all over the world that kids your age are so conscious of themselves,” adds Bert.

Another main reason Janecke and Bert feel strongly about contributing to this purpose is because of the children’s parents. “The parents send their children across the Himalayas over to India in the hope that they have a better life here. It is difficult to let them go, but they were prepared to do that, for their good. As parents of the world, we wanted to pay our respect to all those whose parents have sent you here. We support you but we also support your parents,” says Janecke.

Where does the money come from?
“We do have money, but not so much. Netherlands is a good place, where the police are not corrupt, and we have a working democracy, so we do save a lot of our money. You may think that donors are loaded with money that they don’t know what to do with all that money. But, that’s not true. We need to work hard to get this money. We have celebrations- christmas, spring time, when we collect money,” says Janecke. “In addition to that, we started an enterprise, called Joy Enterprise, where we buy goods at a lower price and sell it for less than it is sold in the high price shops. The profits that they get, go to the Tibetan children villages.”

They have a ticket system for workshops conducted by the various people in the school of life. Each one has a specific area of expertise and they leverage that to obtain more profits. Bert says that he “has an affinity towards bee-keeping.” He conducts workshops to teach people the art of bee-keeping, making marmalade, jelly and even honey”. People pay a nominal price to attend these workshops and the profits go to the foundation. Janecke takes guided tours around art galleries and museums. “It’s a part of our life. It doesn’t feel like working. It feels like sharing,” says Janecke.

Janecke does the communications, and Bert is a part of the treasury for the foundation. “We have been supporting Jhamtse Gatsal for a long time, but we never really knew you. We wanted to make contact with you; to see how you live and how your education goes. We will go back and share the stories with the rest of our community, and it will inspire them to donate more. We only had a website before, but now we have faces and experiences that we’ve shared together,” says Janecke.

Janecke and Bert have been spending a lot of time with the children, trying to get to know them better. Bert says “I have gotten so many hugs from you guys, I think I have gotten more hugs in the last couple of days than I’ve gotten all my life.”

Raju Kumar from Class 12 inquired the reason why they supported only the TCVs in India, and not elsewhere. “Though we’ve never really researched, we assumed that the need lies in India. Given the proximity, we wanted to support the parents who have sent their kids through the Himalayas to India” answers Janecke.

Tenzin Dondul, who teaches geography for Classes 9 through 12 had this to say: “I feel really grateful. I am also from TCV and so is Kelsang(Class 9-12 Political Science teacher) and Tselha(Music and Dance teacher). Thank you so much for your support. It is because of people like you, that we are where we are today. Now, it is our turn contribute to the society which needs us.”

The presentation attracted a huge round of applause from the children when Bert ended the talk with the Monpa equivalent of Thank you. “Pu chi Che la”
Listen - Learn - Explore

Shalom Logos

It was just another regular Biology class for the Class 12 Science students as they learned about sex determination in different organisms, or at least until the kids started learning about sex determination in honey bees. It fascinated us to learn how the fertilised eggs of the honeybee grow into females (Queen or Workers) and the unfertilised eggs become male bees (Drones). The kids got more curious about honey bees, but all the knowledge that I had gained from reading books over the years was not enough to satisfy them. This was after all, a lesson on Genetics and Inheritance and I didn’t want to stray off-topic too much.

At the breakfast table with Bert, he asked me if he could observe one of my classes. I briefed him on the lesson on sex determination I had taught the previous day and how the kids were fascinated by honey bees. Bert is from Holland and he was visiting Jhamtse Gatsal. He had been here for a week then. Bert was ecstatic when I mentioned Honey bees and said, “I do bee keeping in Holland. I can talk about bees to the kids if you like.” I loved the idea and agreed instantly.

Bert captured the kids’ attention as he told of his experiences of bee-keeping. Only later did I learn that Bert had been a teacher in the 70’s. He drew pictures, enacted the bees and imitated their sound as he narrated the art of bee-keeping as a story. He told the kids about the products we get from bee-keeping - honey, bees- wax and propolis. He explained how the bees make these products in their hives. He also talked about the different kinds of bees, their life span and their role in the hive. The kids listened keenly as he told them the role of the queen and how a queen is born. What we thought would be a 5 minute talk went on for longer and none of us wanted it to end.

The kids had a lot of questions for Bert after he finished. They wanted to know how to identify a queen, how the scientists conduct studies on bees, why Bert did bee-keeping. They even wanted to know how to start bee-keeping themselves!

Bert ended the discussion by letting us know the importance of keeping bees. We need bees not just for the products we get from them, but also because of the important role they play in the pollination of various plant species and thereby sustaining life on earth.

Kids were inspired to start bee-keeping themselves. They wrote down their “Learnings from Bert”. I realised that we had the opportunity to learn something we could never have learned from reading books. We learned more than just bee-keeping from Bert. We learned to learn from each other. We meet a lot of people in our lives. How often have we missed the opportunity of learning from each other?

Meenakshi Prabhu

Co-founder of Joyineering, Mike Lebecki said on 11th June in a talk with the students of Jhamtse Gatsal, a children’s community located in Arunachal Pradesh, that “Nature will take all your worries away”. Mike Lebecki, 41, works with National Geographic channel as a wildlife explorer. On a recent trip to Jhamtse Gatsal, Mike shared with the students his journey as an explorer and a joyinner. “When you face a struggle, or the loss of something, what you are facing is pre-joy” said Mike in his lecture. He also stressed on the importance of joy and spreading joy. “Hence, the name Joyineering,” Mike says with a wide smile on his face.

His daughter, Lilliana Libecki also joins him in these expeditions to remote places of the world where they help various communities with installation of solar panels and technological implements like laptops and internet connectivity. “Most of the kids in schools where we install laptops, have never even seen a laptop before. It becomes our job therefore to teach them and guide them to use it properly,” says Miss. Libecki.

Miss Libecki’s interest in exploring and mountaineering was piqued when her father, Mike addressed the students of her class on his expedition to the Antarctic. Lilliana also wished to go to the Antarctic and made her wish known to her father: Like any other father, he promised her he would fulfill her wish if she got straight A’s in all her subjects. However, unlike any other father, Mike actually got a grant and collected enough money to take his daughter to the Antarctic, with a crew and a ship.

In an analysis done on the ice collected at the Antarctic region, micro-plastics were seen. Since then, Mike has taken an oath to reduce the use of plastics and stick to more nature-friendly materials. He asked the youth to imagine a “World without plastic”. He also asked them to “think about the millions of whales and sea life that are dying owing to the millions of tons of plastic being dumped into the ocean every year with no regard to the ocean life.”

Use of plastic has become a concern, and hence we’ve just gotten accustomed to using it. We know its ill-effects, but we often wonder if the action of one person is sufficient to create a positive ecological impact. Imagine if every one did their bit. The world would be a much better place to live in. We need to live with integrity. Strip yourself of this convenience to be of a greater service to nature,” Mike added.

Sehwang, one of the graduate students of Jhamtse Gatsal asked him if he found it difficult to choose a career in a non-traditional path. “Yes, indeed. The path to anything is going to be arduous. But if you have enough people to love and support you, there is nothing to stop you,” he replied.

He then pulled a chain out from around his neck. The pendant was made of stone. “This pendant was taken from the summit of a hill that I named after my grandmother. My grandmother worked in a farm with her many brothers and sisters, and she had to work in the farm all day. If you didn’t work one day, then you didn’t get food. She wanted to do a lot of things, but she never had the opportunity. She encouraged me to follow my passion no matter what it was. That is one of the major reasons I’m here today in front of you” he said. “In a world where you can be and do anything, be kind and do good” he added. “This was what my daughter said one day, and it has become the motto of our NGO.” He added the words of his grandmother, and said these are the words he lives by. “You need to have people you love, something to do and something to look forward to.”

When asked about the relationship with his daughter, he said that he shares a very open relationship with his daughter, and he urges her to be TBS; Tough, brave and strong. He says that children should be able to rely on and trust the parent if any kind of connection has to be forged.

“I always tell my daughter that I am her rock. No matter how bad it is, I will not judge her for doing something bad. If she did it, I would understand. This is the advice I would give to everyone.”

He stresses on the importance of family, and how it shapes us into the person we are. He likes drawing lines to understand the decisions that led him to where he is currently. He ended his lecture with a mammoth quote: “What is the time? The time is now.”
It's Puzzles time!

**Kakuro #1-4**

**SUDOKU**

**Activity: The Seven Bridges of Königsberg**

The old town of Königsberg has seven bridges.

Can you take a walk through the town, visiting each part of the town and crossing each bridge only once?

This question was given to a famous mathematician called Leonard Euler; but let's try to answer it ourselves!

So instead of taking long walks through the town, you can now just draw lines with a pencil.

**#1. Openings**

**Across**

1. Made of a very precious metal
2. Article
3. Not sweet
4. At any time
5. That is (abbr.)
6. Therefore
7. Opening in a wall to let in light and air

**Down**

1. Opening in a wall or fence for a passageway
2. Upon; above and supported by
3. Entrance to a room or building
4. Not wide
5. Observed
6. Seven (Roman numerals)
7. Thus
THE VOICE
August, 2018

Voices of the books

The wicked man & the wind

It was time to fly a kite
The kite wanted to go to the sky
But wicked man and the wind will not let it happen
The more kites fly, the more disturbance they will cause
Strong or weak, near or far
It doesn’t matter. What matters are the wind and the man.
The wind is strong
The kite is about to go to the sky
But man is wicked
He will not let go
Before death, it reaches its death
For he cannot reach his dream- the sky

I fly

On a very windy day
A strong force hiker me up
With my colorful tail behind
But, some things didn’t work
Oh! what is this wind? Everything goes unbalanced
I stumbled and tumbled till I hit the ground.
Anyway, now I can do it again! Shhh... the wind blows me up.
It blows me down high
That I was able to kiss the sky

Leaning against the wall
Outside my home I sat, lost
In a world not like the one you know.
It is the world of words.
Engrossed in my universe,
It was the best day.
The sun setting low,
I quenched my pace
For soon there will be no light.
Obvious to being captured, Frozen, I was.
Come to my world
It seems you are lost in yours.
Once, I never liked reading
But now, I only hear the books’ voice
Waiting for the bell to signal my time.
As the bell rings,
I run to my book.
I love my books.
There is no ending to this love.
I’m still the same
Always waiting for the bell to ring
So I can go to my world of words

First Love

Sonam Chodron

It is a bright day, sunny and cool.
I sit in the verandah, lonely.
The unknown boy across me smiles;
A dimple on his face, I smile back at him.
Thick hair, handsome,
Each day, he looks at me and just smiles.
There’s no other way to say this; I fall in love.

Knowing you is like the moon in the sky,
Giving me light while I’m in the dark.
I discovered how easy it is to care,
Be cared for and understood by you.
The freedom of being your friend,
Helps me smile.

For every moment,
You are the moon,
Giving me light in the dark.
My fears fly like the birds,
But my friendship will never die.
Until then, I will be your friend.

Den-dur (competition)

You have collected many possessions
More than anyone else.
Even then, the heart is still under competition.

Jhamdhang - ning-jae:
This school is different from any other
Love and compassion in practice.
Gives us the upper hand for you and for me.
For those who practice this

Peace in Life:
Everyone wants a peaceful heart.
In this life, everyone wants to be free of suffering.
To remain a human in your next life, you must do good.
To fulfill that, I pray to you.

Thak-dok (Jealousy)

Jealous people don’t understand the suffering and pain of others.
You already have possessions.
Even then, you still want what the other owns.

Lob-jong (Education)

Since childhood, we have been learned that the feeling of ‘ego’ in our heart.
Will make us feel that everyone is inferior.
So, we have to convert that learning into practice.

Few things left unsaid...

by Srijana Subba

This is a story that took place not too long ago, not very recently either. This story might stimulate the youth, in such a way that they do not succumb to compromising in love, for you see, love cannot be earned or bought like Russian rubles and it can’t be hawked either. This is a true story, of which I have forgotten most parts, but I will tell you the remnants of it in my memory.

It was in a village, situated on the outskirts of the city. Ostensibly, the only school in the whole area was in the city. It once happened that a family, who had emigrated from another place had come to live in that village. The family comprised of a mother and a daughter. The girl suffered from tuberculosis, which led to a depreciation in her appetite. In the same village, a boy (of the same age as the girl) lived with his family. As destiny was propitious towards them, they happened to meet on the first day of school. The boy, having come from a rich background and the girl, who had only a mother to raise her, it was not quite a good match. On the first day, the teacher seated them together. At the first glance, the girl felt something inside her change. From that moment on, she started to feel closer to the boy. The boy even gifted her a brooch. They would return home from school together, walking, running, andambling on their way home. In the artless face of the boy, the girl saw her ideal partner. The girl wrote all her feelings in her diary. She also started to feel closer to the boy. The boy even gifted her a brooch. They would return home from school together, walking, running, andambling on their way home. In the artless face of the boy, the girl saw her ideal partner. The girl wrote all her feelings in her diary. She also discovered how easy it is to care, be cared for and understood by you. The freedom of being your friend, helps me smile.

For every moment, you are the moon, giving me light in the dark.
My fears fly like the birds, But my friendship will never die. Until then, I will be your friend.

B H O T I C O R N E R
**Humanity**

Dorjee Wangchuk

We're never going to reach our dream; Where Hindus and Muslims live together.

Hindus practice caste, sati and untouchability, never let low caste touch their utensils, While they sleep with prostitutes, they forget everything. Where is the Humanity?

Prophets say to the world, “Eating cows is to be punished” but they themselves eat beef, hiding, Then, Where is the Humanity? As a poet, I advise you all Forget all the religions, and worship one god. Fate will be overcome, Our dream will be realised. That is Humanity. Don’t snap the threads of relationships. It’s hard to join If you do join, knots will remain in your relationship This is Humanity!

**What is life?**

Life is not what we do to make ourselves happy. It is making others’ life more meaningful, thinking about other’s more than thinking about ourselves. In a simple way; it requires us to be selfless.

Embrace each and every breath that you’re taking. Celebrate your life, live it. We only live one routine a day for 75 years and we call it life, no that’s not life.

If you guys are still thinking why you have been sent to this world, if you are still juggling with the concept of why you are here, then you haven’t lived life. You work hard, you make money, you do it all for yourself, that’s not life.

You go out, you seek others who need your help, you make them live life in a better way; you become that sponge which absorbs beautiful positive vibes and when you realize you have changed someone’s life and because of you, that person didn’t give up; that’s life. As simple as that. That’s the day you truly live your life.

Whenever you get free from your so-called “busy life”, please take your eyes off your computer. Go near a person and tell him/her how much you love them. It’s very simple, only 3 words; I love you. This will leave an impact on the other’s mind, and force them to say these words to another.

Accept yourself the way you are. Be kind to yourself too, only then can you be kind to others. Love yourself and spread that love. Life will be hard. There will be problems, there will be long trails, but they will only make you stronger.

“The road will be long, and the climb will be steep, but we can get there when you work hard.” This is a quote by Barack Obama, and I strongly believe in this. Never give up, real happiness doesn’t lie in money, success or fame. Bill Gates has all this, so does Ambani. But, they never wanted this.

Real Happiness lies in GRATITUDE. So, be grateful, be alive and live every moment of your life, even the tiniest, tiniest one.
8 interesting courses to combine your passion with your career

For the ones who want to start business at their door step, there are some courses which can be the best option for them, soon after getting a diploma or a degree in it. There are some courses with the name of popular institutes which are jotted down below. The employability rate nowadays is very less. The fact is, on an average more than 50 lakh students graduate every year in India. More than 75% students are entering the job market and nearly 47% graduates in India are unemployed.

2 reasons why students lack job specific skills

1. Our education system is more oriented towards bookish knowledge rather than application of what is learned. The system is slowly changing, but there needs to be a perfect balance between the two.
2. People have strong belief in the myth that, if you pursue a degree you will get a job. It doesn’t matter if you are a graduate. While acquiring a degree, students rarely think about what job they must get so that they have a better chance of getting jobs.

Here are some of the courses which will prove to be really helpful if you have interest in any of it

GRAPHIC DESIGN

A picture is worth a thousand words. Every sector works with visuals these days. Graphic designing has become one of the most sought after courses today. Graphic designing is a form of visual communication with the use of photography, illustrations and text. Every organization these days works with graphic designing.

Courses:
- Diploma in Graphics Design Rich Media
- Popular Institutes:
  1. National Institute of Design (Ahmadabad)
  2. Industrial Design Centre (IDC) - (Mumbai)
  3. Instrument Design and development centre (Delhi)
  4. Department of Design (Guwahati)

ANIMATION DESIGN

From films to advertisements, books to blogs, animation is used almost everywhere. The use of animation has increased a lot. The cartoon channels have also increased on a large scale. But, the students who are learning this course and moving forward in this field are very less, as compared to other courses. In these conditions, this course could be the best option for any student who is art oriented. These courses can be done just after 12th grade.

Courses of Animation:
- B.Sc Animation
- Diploma 3D Animation
- Diploma in Animation
- Digital Graphics Animation

Popular Institutes:
- 1. Arena Multimedia (Delhi, Bengaluru, Noida, Mumbai)
- 2. Global School of Animation (New Delhi, Chennai)
- 3. Maya Academy of Advanced Cinematic (MAAC), Mumbai
- 4. Tekno Point Multimedia (Bangalore)

VIDEO EDITING

The people who record videos are called video editors. During this process, raw videos are edited according to certain parameters. Video is edited for marriages, films, media, etc using different software.

Courses for Video Editing:
- 1. MFA in Media Design
- 2. BS in Digital Cinematography
- 3. Master of Arts in Film and TV

Popular Institutes:
- 1. Film and Television Institute of India (Pune)
- 2. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (Kolkata)
- 3. Whistling Woods International (Mumbai)
- 4. Center for research in Art of Film and Televisi (Delhi)
- 5. Asian Academy of Film and Television (Noida)

SPA MANAGEMENT

Spa management is a new and better option. Diploma and degree courses are available for this. After doing this course, one can start their own business at home. Even now, spas are available only in the big cities, though it is easy to start one.

Courses on Spa Management:
- Spa Management Certificate
- Spa and Hospitality Management
- Spa Management BA (Hons)

Popular Institutes:
- 1. Ananda Spa Institute (Hyderabad)
- 2. Orient Spa Academy (Jaipur)
- 3. International Spa Academy (Kerala)
- 4. Spa Consultants (Pune)

BEAUTICIAN COURSES

Be it a girl or a boy, beauty parlours are available for both. The number of parlours for girls however, are more than men. But, there is a great trend of getting a good beautician for a lot of money in both men and women. People with higher qualities or standards are paid a lot of money. There is a demand for good beauticians today.

Beautician Certificate Courses:
- Diploma in Hair Designing
- Diploma in Cosmetics
- Diploma in Electrology
- Diploma in Hair Styling and Hair Coloring
- CIDEISCO Diploma in Beauty Therapy

Popular Institutes:
- 1. Butic Institute of Beauty Therapy and Hair Dressing (Mumbai)
- 2. Christine Valmy International School of Esthetics (Mumbai)
- 3. Enrich Salon and Academy (Mumbai)
- 4. L.T.A. School of Beauty (Mumbai)

FOOD CHEMIST:

Students who have interest in or knowledge about food can take up this course, and set their career in this direction. Food chemists check the quality of food, like biscuits, toothpaste, etc. They can even be a cook later, or teach other people and set up their own classes at home.

Courses for Food Chemistry:
- 1. B.Sc in Food Chemistry
- 2. M.Sc in Food Chemistry

Popular Institutes:
- 1. Donapakkiam Krishnasamy Mudalai College for Women, Tamil Nadu
- 2. Loyola College, Tamil Nadu
- 3. Mar-Athanasius College for Advanced Studies (MACFAST), Kerala

Information from: https://yourstory.com/2016/06/business-skill-courses-india/
CALL FOR FREELANCE JOURNALISTS

We, the editors of the newspaper, 'The Voice' are calling for freelance journalists.

Freelance journalists are those who are interested in writing articles, and can submit these articles to us whenever you find the time.

Those who are interested can submit articles, essays, poems and photographs, written or typed neatly on an A4 sheet of paper. The article should be clear and neat.

The best articles will be chosen and published in next month's edition of 'The Voice'.

Teachers are also welcome to send in your articles and poems to the email address given below. Those who do not have access to e-mail can submit their work to Dorjee Choizom from Grade 12 during the independent time from 4:30 - 5:30. For additional information, kindly contact the undersigned.

Dorjee Choizom
Sub-editor,
'The Voice'

email id for submissions:
submissions.thevoice@gmail.com

NOW HIRING!

This is to inform all the students and staff of Jhamtse Gatsal Children's Community that the students of Class 12 under the guidance of Madam Meena are starting a newspaper named 'The Voice'. We are in need of 5 reporters and 2 photographers.

Those who are interested are requested to attend a meeting on Saturday, the 1st of September at 1:30 pm in the Library. Classes 8 to 12 are welcome to attend the meeting. For further information, kindly contact the undersigned.

Tenzin Yudron
Sub-editor,
'The Voice'

Our Team

Dawa Dorjee, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Dorjee Choizom, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Lobsang Tenzin, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Leki Norbu, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Lobsang Wangchu, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Raju Kumar, Class 12, Sub-Editor

Rinchen Drolma, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Tashi Yangzom, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Tenzin Drolma B, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Tenzin Lhamu, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Tenzin Yudron, Class 12, Sub-Editor
Meenakshi Prabhu, Class 9-12 English teacher, Editor.