MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAINS

Yeshi L. - Grade 9

Remember that not getting what you want is a wonderful stroke of life. Not getting what you want is something that happens in everyone’s life. We fail in some exams and we think we cannot become a good person in life.

But, that is where we would be wrong. That is not the real truth. If we try to work hard, maybe our luck will change. What is luck anyway? Luck is nothing but the result of hard work. If you work hard, luck will remain with you. Hard work can turn our life around.

There are lot of examples of people whose lives have changed this way. We should take inspiration from these people who know the world more than we do. Hard work has changed these people into famous celebrities today. So, we should always work hard.

Konchok N. - Grade 10

As I stood up for the elections for the second time, I was not nervous. I had a great feeling that I would win this time. I am the sort of person who gets along with everyone and that is what helped me win this election. I don’t particularly have an agenda for what I will do now that I am captain, but I am fully prepared to resolve any problem that comes in my way.

I will make sure that every decision I take will be fair and just to everyone. I plan to ensure the smooth functioning of our school and at the same time, fulfill my responsibilities.

But, in order to do this, I want all of you to operate with me, support me with my decisions and give honest feedback. You all know that I won’t get angry and will only try to improve myself. Sometimes, when my decisions seem harsh to you, do consider my situation and support me. If this continues, I assure you that this year will be fun.
**THE GIRL WITH A TASTE FOR MORBIDITY**
A glimpse into Lungta S.’s craziness

Meenatchi Prabhu - Teacher

“Children are not meant to be moulded, they’re meant to be unfolded.” Perhaps, like all things in life, even this is a balance. Lungta S. from Kharteng village is a Grade 8 student. If one were to visit the Khemsang (family houses) late at night, one is sure to find Lungta crouched in a foetal position, pencil in her mouth, trying to solve a maths question for fear that if she moved, the answer would somehow fly away. One might even see her on the top of the Khemsang closet squatting, holding a file in her hand in an attempt to alleviate the stress, that one wonders how such a young child can have so much stress. In the evenings, Lungta is often seen running behind first grader, Tsering D., trying to get her to behave. “She is a perfect mommy,” jokes (but not quite jokes) her English teacher, Ophelia Lobo. In class, she is often the most silent child, but the thoughts in her head are anything but miniscule. This child has a vibrant personality and a colorful mind. She is one of the children with a lot of love to give and warmth in her heart. Her words are genuine and her smile is disarming. She is an intrinsically motivated child and responsible too. Some people call her Morbid Lungta. If you want endless hours of dark humor and morbid jokes, then be sure to contact Lungta from Grade 8. She will definitely pack a punch or even two. Her “Maggot Maggie” jokes are a hit among her teachers and extensively debated on. Lungta is someone who feels very deeply but shows very little. Her intellect, capacity for goodness and childishness make her an interesting book to read and an amazing person to befriend. Her love hides behind her humor, her talent behind her silent exterior. She’s an endless talk show. Her moods are an erratic wave, oscillating between being extremely moody at times to being extravagantly hyperactive at others. Her erratic nature makes her as interesting as it is difficult to understand her at times. She does not open up to everyone and is even considered as an ‘introvert’ by some. Her beautiful singing voice can melt the hearts of many. Her Bhutanese singing performance in the teacher’s day celebration is a testament to this.

From teachers to students, the common conception is that Lungta is extremely dependable and can be trusted, be it work or a shoulder to cry on in times of trouble. “When we get into trouble, she will help us. Some people run away saying they’re scared, but she will stay with us and help us,” say Grade 9 students, Lobsang D. and Dawa C. She is kind, caring, supportive and hardworking. “History is something that comes naturally to her. I have seen her not only understand the concepts, she is also able to articulate it, it’s beautiful to watch,” says her Social Science teacher, Ishika Das. Lungta S. is focused, self-driven and likes to work alone. One day, she wants to become a doctor. She likes working with her hands and the notion of performing intricate surgeries excites her. She finds joy in the small things; a smile, a kind word, a pat on the back mean more to her than grand gestures.

**MARK FOLEY: THE STORYTELLER**

Lungta L. - Grade 11

“I got married to an angel named Debbie 32 years ago. An angel who supported me in everything. I am blessed to have Deb as my wife,” says Mark Foley, Executive Director of Jhamtse International. He was later blessed with two daughters, Rebecca and Hannah. He and his family share a very close bond. His mom was sick for a long time and departed the world a few months ago. His bi-ological father left him and the world when he was 10 years old. Mark met Gen Lobsang Phuntsok La in Massachusetts when Genla was teaching meditation there. In December, 2001 Mark read a newspaper clipping about Gen Lobsang Phuntsok La. He, along with 30 other people, continued to listen to Genla’s teachings on Buddhism. In the year 2003, Gen La shared his vision of love and compassion and Mark raised his hand to help Genla achieve that vision. He said that “this vision has become an important part of my life.” Last October, in the year 2018, he gave up his job and dedicated his life to the vision of Jhamtse. He had worked in sales and marketing for 30 years, he was paid a good salary, yet, he was not satisfied with what he was doing. He wanted to do something for the people. So he gave up his job to help Genla with his vision. His Holiness the Dalai Lama said, “the more you are motivated by love, the more fearless and free your actions will be.” Genla gifted him a poster of the Dalai Lama with this quote saying that “this is a great motivator for my life.”

Mark is proud to be a very important part of Jhamtse today.
Together We Can Move Mountains

Kevin Wilkinson (supporter) shares some thoughts about his visit to Jhamtse Gatsal

After reading Gen Phuntsok La’s article titled, “From Right Speech to Right Speech,” in the November issue of The Voice, I’m moved to explore Gen La’s words as they relate to an idea or two from my travels, my music studies, and my life in general. I will try to connect “right speech,” overcoming obstacles, and “experiences gleaned from my most recent stay at my beloved Jhamtse Gatsal Children’s Community.

The dharma talks that Gen La shared over many years, several of them based on the writings of Shantideva, give a basic structure to the kind of human being that I aspire to become. Some days the words are clear and uplifting for me. However, there are innumerable times when those wise words seem hidden behind a high mountain that I can not find a way to climb. Gen La’s article on “Right Speech” points to a particularly high mountain for me. I can go from speaking gently and unselfishly to a man who seems to care nothing for “harmony, peace, or unity”—all in a blink of an eye! I mustn’t be alone here, or I would not meet so many people who are ready and willing to compete with me in an “ugly speech battle.” How quickly we jump at the shiny hook, like fish in a lake! All too often I lunge toward “my little.” How quickly we jump at the chance to be a connected family and never in my life thought that love could change another’s life. I never thought I could become a kind person. In short, I was a very selfish person back then. But, I feel everything has changed.

Bhishm croga agus cinealta

My views and feelings towards Jhamtse Gatsal have changed a lot too. I can see few changes in myself because of the Community, Genla and all those who support the Community. I see that I value the principles (love, compassion, care) when I once had no idea about them. I feel that Jhamtse is a part of my life and it is my first home. Being a member of the Jhamtse family, it is my duty to practice love and compassion towards everyone. The biggest change perhaps, that I’ve seen in my self is that I am willing to help anyone without any conditions.
Here are some end of year reflections of some major developments in our community
Project Earth and Jhamtse Durbar

Project Earth:
small drops make a mighty ocean

Uday Nair - Teacher

The Community has supported Project Earth with all their heart and soul. The students, especially the younger ones, have shown intrinsic motivation towards cleaning our surroundings for which the Project and Mother Earth are eternally grateful. The project faced a huge setback after the termination of last year’s Lakpar for which Ananya Agrawal was the guiding factor helping students re-use and recycle recovered trash in creative ways.

We are still at a place where we are motivated, as a community, to clean our surroundings and recover trash. However the biggest challenge of managing the recovered trash still remains. We continue to segregate metal and glass, which go to the city for recycling. Paper and cardboard waste is mostly used for vermi-composting but plastic — the inevitable evil — is still finding its way to harm the planet. The only solution we have found for plastic is to burn it which is harmful and painful to watch.

We have noticed a huge shift in the mindset of all the Community members when it comes to their consumption and disposal of personal goods. Community members try to take simple steps such as buying bigger quantities of goods available in a single commercial packaging option rather than smaller quantities in multiple packets. The kitchen provides us snacks which are prepared using waste, Tashi P from Grade 9 played the flute, Sonam G from Grade 9 sang a Tibetan song and the primary school children danced. All the performances gripped me as I sat in a corner with a constant smile on my face that entire evening as different emotions swept the room in harmony.

The only regret was that I didn’t give away any of the Performances. Thanks to the performers and the audience, the Durbar grew with each edition. After 7 editions of the Durbar, we thought we should give the responsibility of organizing the Durbar to the children. Raju K volunteered to manage the media, Shanti T was interested in designing the space of the Durbar and Tenzin T was interested in anchoring. Honestly, I had my doubts about my decision to handover all the responsibilities to the children but I still wanted to give the children this opportunity. Ophelia and I stepped away completely from the 8th Durbar.

Secondly, most of us teachers saw that children did not consciously think outside the academic setting of the classroom, they feared failure and judgement, they lacked leadership qualities and very few of them knew what they are good at other than academics. I thought that an open and non-judgemental space for children to express themselves and try different things would help them overcome these non-academic challenges.

Ophelia, the middle school English teacher, shared the same intentions as mine and she volunteered to create this space with me. Jhamtse Gatsal Children’s Community had decided in the last year, to fast four nights in a month to support a school in Duddhunhar. We decided to keep the Durbar on those nights, so that the entire Community could come together. Anyone in the Community could perform or be an audience. We decided to limit it to 8 minutes per performance.

Firstly, in the current age, technology has engulfed most of our time leaving us with very little time for building relationships, culture, collaboration, sharing experiences and learning from each other. And technology has found its way into the remoteness of Jhamtse as well. Though I myself believed that technology is a good thing, I did not want to indulge so much in it that I did not have the time for one of the most important things, the people around me. It came upon my mind to create the space and time for people to come together.

Jhamtse Durbar started as an open space with unlimited possibilities. Jhamtse Durbar wasn’t meant to be one specific thing rather it was meant to be whatever the participants wanted it to be. The participants included the performers, audience and the ones who organised it. But, I decided to begin Jhamtse Durbar for two reasons.

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Project Earth, this year, aims to drive also a butterfly effect of ignorance and lack of awareness sustained at a micro level. Project Earth, this year, aims to drive these micro level changes within the Community so that they can be sustained long enough to bring about a ripple effect to change the course of our Planet’s future.

Jhamtse Durbar:
A place where you can be anything you want, anyone you want

Shalom Logos - Teacher

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I wasn’t sure about how it would turn out but the only way to find it was to try it out. The first Durbar was on 51st January. We had 9 different performances from diverse performers. We had an equal mixture of students and staff perform at the first Durbar, which was witnessed by 70 Community members. Sunil, the high school science teacher, delivered a spoken word, Sanu, a transport staff, beatboxed, Ananya, the Lakpar teacher, performed a cultural dance, Tenzin T. of Grade 8 did a remix, Lobsang W. of Grade 12 read a Hindi shayari, Shanti T. of Grade 10 showed us how to reuse waste by creating a snowman from waste, Tashi P. from Grade 9 played the flute, Sonam G. from Grade 9 sang a Tibetan song and the primary school children danced. All the performances gripped me as I sat in a corner with a constant smile on my face that entire evening as different emotions swept the room in harmony. My big take-away from that Durbar was what Sonam G. said before he performed. He said, “It’s not my talent; but it’s my interest”. At that moment, I was convinced that Jhamtse Durbar was everything I wanted it to be. An open space of unlimited opportunities where anyone can do what they love doing.

Ophelia and I organized the first 7 editions of the Durbar. We brainstormed and planned a lot before each Durbar and we reflected after each Durbar. Thanks to the performers and the audience, the Durbar grew with each edition.

After 7 editions of the Durbar, we thought we should give the responsibility of organizing the Durbar to the children. Raju K volunteered to manage the media, Shanti T. was interested in designing the space of the Durbar and Tenzin T. was interested in anchoring. Honestly, I had my doubts about my decision to handover all the responsibilities to the children but I still wanted to give the children this opportunity. Ophelia and I stepped away completely from the 8th Durbar. After witnessing every durbar since then, my only regret was that I didn’t give away the responsibility to the children earlier. The children did a far better job than me.

When Ophelia and I began the Durbar, we wanted the Durbar to be whatever the Community wanted it to be. 12 editions of the Durbar have gone by and when I asked a few children and staff in the community what the Durbar means to them, they said, “It’s family time”. I wanted the Durbar to be an open space with unlimited opportunities. I cannot think of a more open space with more unlimited opportunities than a family.

Jhamtse Durbar could have been anything but I’m glad the Community chose to make it a family time.
LEARNING FROM NATURE:
Grade 10 student, Lungta N., shares his reflections of the past academic year

How was this year for me?
This year was my mother who taught me what was right and what’s wrong.
This year, I have given more importance to doing good work and helping others out of their problems.
This year, I tried to solve most of my problems on my own. I didn’t go to anyone for solving my problems.
I spent most of my time with nature as nature acts on me like a medicine that cures my heart’s pain. I try to rely on nature, not just on my friends. Nature has worked better than my friends and my family. My attention was drowned by nature when I was upset or unhappy. Most of my year, I had a fun and quiet time with nature because nature can’t talk with me but it showed me some examples like birds which fly very high and try very hard to get food. I tried very hard in class to get full marks.
The air gave me positive energy like my lovely teachers did when the year started. I faced a lot of challenges this year. Some moments were happy but most of the moments were unhappy because of some challenges I could not face or maybe, I was not ready for facing these problems. I could not do well in studies but after facing so many problems I tried to be mindful and study because I knew that if I didn’t study, I would face many more challenges that I don’t deserve. What was this year for me? What do I say? It was terrible at times, like a rain of terror and at other times, it was like I had the riches of heaven like the gods. Sometimes, I had to let the river flow from my tiny eyes. I feel I challenged as well learned a lot about how to control my emotions this year.

WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND THE CLOSED DOORS OF “TEACHERS’ MEETINGS”?
... A LOT

Humaira Farheen - Teacher

It has been an unanticipat-ed rollercoaster ride this year for the teachers of Jhamste Gatsal. The rest of the Community must have wondered at many an occasion as to what happens behind closed doors in the “teachers’ meetings”. This year, the answer to that question can be put into two words: A LOT!

The academic year 2018-19 had a very positive vibe for the teachers of Jhamtse. Many new initiatives were started and at the same time, teachers came to an understanding that all existing and new initiatives had to be seen through consistently. A lot of problems were identified, and teachers began to work through each problem, attempting to solve them with different perspectives.

- Teachers around the globe struggle with issues of low student motivation, test anxiety, low grades, etc. Jhamtse faced a lot of similar issues.

This year, teachers decided to dig deeper, to understand what the underlying problems could be. They started with giving standardised grade level assessments to students which covered critical thinking, logical thinking as well as subject matter.

This helped in identifying which skills the students lacked and to understand just how far behind or ahead students were when compared to their grade level.

- This turned out to be just a start. Once the areas of concern were identified, the respective teachers began remediation classes. These classes focused solely on basic skills needed for a student to be in a particular grade. From English to Math, students spent a month working only on their basics. At the end of the month, when the teachers compared the pre-remedial scores with the post-remedial scores, the results were astounding. They were proof that if students were taught as per their current knowledge, they will excel. In tandem with this realisation, many other initiatives came into being.

- To organise their methods of teaching better. Taking inspiration from teaching communities worldwide, they decided that they would submit teaching plans for the year to the head teacher.

- To keep a close eye on the effectiveness of their instruction and the performance of the students, teachers decided to split the year into four units. At the end of each unit, the students would give unit tests, which would help teachers gauge the understanding of the students and give students a sense of where they stand.

At the end of every unit, the teachers will also have their unit plans reviewed to ensure smooth completion of portions.

- To ensure smooth handover between teachers at the end of every grade, they decided to maintain detailed academic and anecdotal records of all students which they could pass on to the next teacher.

Gen Lobsang spent time with teachers talking about how test anxiety can destroy the morale of students. Students needed to see exams as a way of gauging their learning and not as another milestone to reach.

Teachers needed to see exams as way of understanding the effectiveness of their teaching and not just as a measure of student effort and learning.
- In another workshop teachers identified that this year, the focus would be on critical thinking, respect for self and others, and responsibility. Teachers split themselves into groups and worked on structures for each of these areas and shared with the others for feedback and implementation.
- Teachers had experiment-ed with peer observation this year, but now they knew that they had to go at it full swing – with utmost consistency. The amount of insight and experience in the teaching community was immense. To fully utilize these skills, peer observation needed to be done consistently.
- From interactions between students, teachers and Genla, another fact peered.

- Students were the best source of learning for teachers. Their feedback was extremely valuable. Keeping this in mind, a weekly feedback system was set up so that teachers get up to date feedback from the students on their teaching effectiveness and on the students’ learning.

Across the discussions throughout the year, the primary theme for the next academic year seemed pretty clear.

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Teachers had to emulate consistency. They had to hold each other accountable to be good role models for their students. With the new structures and the renewed energy, a very interesting year lies ahead for the teachers at Jhamtse. Here, teachers are not just teachers – they are guides, mentors and parents as well. Perhaps this is the rarest of combinations and that is what makes them unique. They have incredible motivation to do all that it takes to help the students excel in anything they pursue.

As the year draws to a close, this close-knit team of teachers wraps up, knowing that the coming year shows a lot of promise, a lot of hope.
BEST SCIENCE CLASS EVER

Lobsang D.

On 8th April, three science teachers, Jess, Renee and Nancy came to our class and taught science for two days. They absolutely loved science and shared their opinion about what they felt science is. Our teachers told us that science is cool and interesting. Everything in the world is related to science and there is science behind everything. Yes! I agree with what they have said. Our teachers started teaching the first science chapter with a short drama. When I looked around the class, I saw all my classmates’ interest and attention caught by the new teachers. It was amazing. I have never seen my classmates like that. Few minutes later, they passed around a stethoscope to listen to our friends’ heartbeats. We all got to experience so many new things. I felt science can be more interesting and easy to understand if we learned by means of touching, experimenting and classes. The class was so interesting that I forgot to even look at the time when I heard the bell ringing. My classmates exclaimed, “What! Time’s up????!!” That was something magical for me and for my classmates. I realized that this science class was the best class ever.

Now a day, I often like to read my own. Do you know why? Recently, we had remedial classes through which I felt my basics have improved. I felt that remedial classes were very important because if we don’t have our basics strong in any subject, then we struggle a lot and even become hopeless while studying. Most of our senior students struggle a lot because they study for hours what can be learned in an hour because their basics are weak. I hope we do not struggle like they did. I feel we are very lucky that we are getting the chance to improve our basics before it is too late as none of the other students had got this opportunity before. I hope that the remedial classes were useful for all the students. In my opinion, it was useful for me because I was able to solve sums by myself, even the ones that I used to struggle a lot with. I think it was useful even for the teachers because they were able to cover up chapters as they had planned. Our teachers worked very hard for us. They worked day and night for planning topics for us. We are very thankful to them. It has benefitted lots of students. Grade 8 student, Mani S. said that “I had many doubts before the remedial classes, but after the classes, I was able to clear her doubts as I had learned the topic in detail. I’m very happy.” After the exams at the end of the remedial classes, many students started liking the chapters that they hated once during normal classes as it was hard to understand then, when they didn’t have the basics to understand it. I wish this can be continued for all the junior grades so that they can also be top students, matched to their grade level. In conclusion, I would like to thank the teachers for their hard work and support during this time.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT CLASSES BEGIN, TO REINFORCE THE BASICS AND STRENGTHEN CONCEPTS

Mani W. - Grade 8

After we finished our annual exams in March we had skill development classes, which focused on learning basic language and mathematics. Earlier we did not know where we were lagging behind, later when we attended these classes we got to know which level we were at but later, when we attended these classes we got to know which level we were actually in. During these classes we were learning something new every day and we were tested the next day. She would teach a certain level in a different method. Skill development was easy but, we had to work very hard because teachers gave us a lot of homework that sometimes, we would have to stay up till midnight to finish. After skill development I feel like I have developed my language a lot. I would like to thank all the teachers and my family members for supporting us through this.

Malting Y. - Grade 9

Grades 9, 10 and 12 started skill development classes in the month of March, to strengthen our basics in English, Mathematics and Science. Our teachers, Meenatchi Prabhu, Shalom Logos, Humaira Farheen and Sunil Kumar Rath, taught these classes for us after our final exams. When I first heard that we would be taught the basics from classes 5, 6 and 7, I was not too excited, but later I saw that I was wrong. Those skill development classes taught me many new things that I should have learned in my earlier grades. These classes helped me cover my basics for the next grade. We used to study concepts on one day and we were tested the next day. The teachers put in a lot of effort to make the classes interesting for us.

MICROSCOPES TO FOLDOSCOPES!

Having class on a holiday is one of the most horrible things to happen to a student. We were looking in agony at the students who were enjoying their holiday. And that too, we were going to have two hours of science class. We came to know that we were having class in the sitting room and the projector was set up too. We sat with a partner and prepared for what was about to happen with a lot of excitement. As our science teacher, Madam Humaira, entered the class, she gave us an introduction to the class. She showed us a short video about foldoscopes. A foldoscope is a very simple type of microscope, very easy to make and is made of paper. The foldoscope doesn’t cost much. It was invented by two scientists, Manu Prakash and Jim Cybulski. They built it to provide access to people who could not afford a big microscope. The two scientists met at Stanford University. After the short video, Humaira Madam gave us instructions to make the foldoscope. We were very excited by all this so we learned it quickly and started making it as fast as we could. After we finished making our foldoscope, we were impatient to look through it that we took it out and shared it with our elders and younger ones. They were also excited to see our foldoscope. We were all proud of ourselves. One thing that we realized is that judging in the beginning fully knowing something was wrong. On a Sunday, we learned a very important lesson which we wouldn’t forget forever.

Dorjee Y.

Lungta S. - Grade 8

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**ABOUT MYSELF**

My name is Tenzin Dhyen.
I am seven years old.
I like to read books.
I like to play.

My parents' color is green.
My parents' subject are Math and Science.
My favorite animal is donkey.
My mother's name is Namgyal Tseten.
My father's name is Tshang Dorje.
My father likes to play volleyball.
My mother likes to go to garden.
My sister likes to read books. She likes to go where there are lots of flowers.

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**The Football**

I like football because it is my ambition to be a football player. But I cannot play from now. I am trying to play football. It is my outdoor game. We play with our friends in the park. I enjoy playing.

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**MY NEW CLASS**

I started my new class like a cloudy day.
I am feeling like I have grown much, more bigger and more confident. We are learning about layers of the atmosphere in our new class. We learned the recipe of cheese chow and we enjoyed eating it. We learned and watched documentary about layers of atmosphere on layers of earth and also children of humanity and I am excited about the future days of figuring them out.

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**ABOUT THE LEGO**

I like to play LEGO. It is one of my favorite indoor game. It is very hard to make the LEGO. But I try to make trucks and small cars. Our teacher brought us LEGO and we play together. It is nice, but sometimes we fight for right but we share the LEGO together and we play the LEGO. We have two friends. Maling also like to make LEGO and play together.

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**ONLY THE MOON**

When I was a child I thought the new moon was a smile. The full moon was growing round like a big cake.

When I was a child I knew the moon I thought it was what I wanted to see.

And now I see the moon in the moon sky, the moon and nothing but the moon.

By Tsering Deki

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**TSERING D.**

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**MALING T.**

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**LOBANG T.**

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**TENZIN P.**
EDITORIAL

STEPPING INTO THE WORLD OUTSIDE

We, the students of Grade 12 in Jhamtse Gatsal Children's Community, the “garden of love and compassion” would like to direct your attention towards how we feel about our current situation where we are about to step out into the outside world. It worries us, but at the same time, it excites us too. Furthermore, we thought it is important to share our experience and decided to convey our feelings through *The Voice*. We saw this as a good opportunity for us to share our feelings and we thought it is relevant too. Without any further ado, let us begin.

To begin with, we are a bit nervous because we have to compete with people who come from different backgrounds in terms of all aspects, but we are equally excited too. The reason for that is that we are now getting a platform where we will be exposed to different cultures, environment, religion and languages. In addition, we think we will get to know the world a little better because we will be dealing with the world directly or indirectly. Also, we will be more connected to the world through social media, etc. The above-stated sentences are facts that we have heard from our parents and adults which then made us think carefully about our lives outside Jhamtse Gatsal.

I also think we had incorrect notions about college life for a long time. We thought college is all about having fun, hanging out with friends and less or no academics. But then, our seniors told us that we were wrong in this context and they said that we do have to work a lot and it is all about how driven we are, and how much commitment we have towards our studies, aspirations and dreams. There will not be any adults to guide us in the right path, we have to be responsible for ourselves.

BJP wins 41 seats in 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly

Assembly elections were held for 57 seats as three BJP candidates were earlier declared elected unopposed. The BJP has won 41 seats in the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly after results of all the constituencies were announced, an election official said on Saturday. Assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh were held for 57 seats as 3 BJP candidates were earlier declared elected unopposed.

Interview with Sonam Tyopke:

*The Voice* reporter, Tenzin T., interviewed public leader, Sonam Tyopke, before the election results

Tenzin: Can you tell me a little about yourself and your work? Sonam: My name is Sonam Tyopke. I am from Zemithang. Today I work as a public leader under our M.L.A., Jambey Tashi.

Tenzin: How did you become a leader? What did you used to do before this? Sonam: Before I became a leader, I was just a house-husband. I used to work as a laborer for sustaining my family. My family is very poor. There are nights when we go to sleep without food. One day I went to the M.L.A. for help. He gave me a job. I had to work in a team. Owing to my work, my style of speaking and my leadership skills, I was chosen to be a public leader.

Tenzin: How did you life change after that? Sonam: Firstly, I want to thank M.L.A. Jambey Tashi, because whatever I am today is all because of our M.L.A., Jambey sir. Today my family gets good food and we do not suffer from lack of money. Today, my children go to a good school. They are all happy and healthy. Today my family gets good food and we do not suffer from lack of money. Today, my children go to a good school. They are all happy and healthy.

Tenzin: Election results are coming soon. How are you feeling? Sonam: Right now, I am a little scared and worried, but not too much because I am 100% sure that our Jambey sir will win the election.

Tenzin: What makes you so sure? Sonam: Today, Jambey Tashi is known as the king of politicians. It's not only me, even the public are 100% that he is going to win the election.

Tenzin: In case Jambey Tashi loses the election, how will it affect you? Sonam: If Jambey loses the election, I will probably become a house-husband again but I am sure he will not lose.

Tenzin: Why are you not supporting Rinpoche? Sonam: It is difficult to support Rinpoche because whatever I am today is because of Jambey Tashi sir. I don’t want to break his heart. He trusts me. Tenzin: Thank you. Wish you all the best.

Source: PTI

BJP wins 41 seats in 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu, reacts after winning his seat.

BJP wins 41 seats in 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly

The Janata Dal (United) won seven seats, the National People’s Party (NPP) five, the Congress four, the People’s Party of Arunachal (PPA) one and Independents two.

Source: PTI
Jhamtse Football Club was started by High school Geography teacher, Tenzin Dheudhul, who is a football fanatic. Later, it was sponsored by Michael Gonzalez from the U.S. where he coaches a women’s football team. Recently, Mark Foley (board member) has promised that he would also sponsor the Jhamtse Gatsal Football Club (JGFC). JGFC is a result of the students’ interest and hardwork towards football. Football training happen every day from 5:00 to 6:00 A.M in the morning. JGFC is a dream begun by the boys of Jhamtse Gatsal who one day hope it will become JIFC (Jhamtse International Football Club).

Rinchen N.

Football is a game of teamwork and the brain. Everybody in the world knows about football because they know about Messi and Ronaldo. Football is a famous game.

Also, at Jhamtse Gatsal, all boys above Grade 3 play football. We also have a coach, High school Geography teacher, Tenzin Dheudhul. He used to play football but he never got a chance to play football in a tournament. Football is a game where we can’t hold the ball with our hands, we have to use our legs. Legs are the most important part of football. Playing football is good and funny too, because we can show our skill and also fool people. It keeps us fit and fine. It is also a game which creates enemity between two nations. Football is a game of the mind and it is a game where you have to show your skills to the world in order to win the hearts of people around the world. Football is a game where the poor countries can show the richer countries that even if don’t have a good economy they are still good at something.

COMING SOON... IN THE UPCOMING EDITIONS OF THE VOICE

"If you don't challenge you don't change"

Jhamtse F.C. Girls team

5 F Players VS Wonder women

Jhamtse League Cup 2019

Six teams - One title

JFC would like to welcome all community members!

500 from 6th Saturday Venue: JFC Ground behind hotel Time: 3:00 PM onwards Matches on Saturday only
YOU DON'T NEED A HUSBAND TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

A TRAVEL SERIES - LADAKH DIARIES
EMBARKING ON A NEW JOURNEY - THE REWIND

Ophelia Lobo - Teacher

I hail from a disciplined Roman Catholic family in Mumbai. I was brought up in an inelaborate, down-to-earth, one HK (hall-kitchen) apartment in the lively city of Mumbai which was swarmed with busy streets by day and coloured with lit-up stalls and traffic by night. We followed a simple lifestyle, meeting just basic needs and indulging in some fresh tender coconut water, lime soda or mango bite candies (the ‘wants’ of small children back in the time) only on Sundays, when Mama had earned some extra bucks during the week with working over-time on a shorthand typewriter at work. Picnics were limited to the local parks and zoos, and sometimes to the beaches on the outskirts of Mumbai at max. Long holidays were always reserved to visit our native village flanked by coconut and areca palm trees on the Konkan coastline, called Mangalore. As I moved to Pune, most holidays, long vacations and travel did not comprise of visiting any other state except the ones in South-India. I enjoyed all my travel trips, no doubt! But I connected with village life so much that I wanted to travel to different villages all over India especially the mountainous terrains to witness the life of shepherd. Pune has a few mountain terrains as it is located in the Western Ghats but I never felt overwhelmed with their grandness and might. Yet, I was thankful to experience the change in landscapes constantly from beaches, plains, plateaus to small mountains. As I grew up, so did the landsforms (in height). ☺️

I felt as though my dream to travel to other states of India was more achievable and alive as I graduated from college and worked as a Psychologist for most part of my professional life. I made good money here and my work was extremely satisfying. I did a few road trips and that is when biking became a big part of travel. I covered plenty of tourist spots down south but knew I wasn’t getting any closer to the mountains, and that bothered me. I had the money, I had the independence but I had no time and no plans to move away from work and home. As soon as I received an offer from Jhamtse and got through the interviews, May, being the hottest month in Pune turned out not so distressing because I knew I knew so well, that I would be able to experience something new – a new job, a new home, a new family, new skills to learn and apply AND MASSIVE, NEW MOUNTAINS, which are very much part of the Himalayas.

When I was a little girl, I used to watch a lot of television. My mom wouldn’t always let me watch cartoons. She would occasionally tune into channels like Travel and Living so that I would improve my English. I really did improve my English this way, but there was another unintended consequence. I became mesmerized by the cultures of different places. The colours of each city, the cuisines of each city and most of all the people of the world - they were unbelievably intriguing to me. Exhilarated after watching these shows, I would run up to my mom and say, “Ammi, I want to travel the world!” She would smile lovingly, wrap her arms around me and reply, “Of course darling, once you are married your husband will take you wherever you want to go!” I was confused. Does that mean I can’t travel without a husband? All those women on TV seemed to be travelling without husbands – and quite happily, apparently. It made no sense. I told my mom so. 15 years since, I still tell her the same. In the past decade of my life, I have travelled to more than 19 states in India. Some with friends, some with family, but most alone – and those were the best ones. From the foothills of the Himalayas to the coasts of South India, it was something liberating about letting my feet take me wherever they wanted to go. To not be bound by someone else’s schedules and preferences. To do exactly what I wanted, when I wanted it. I could spend my entire day at a beach or in front of a painting in a gallery. I could go diving in the sea or I could go hiking in the snow. I could run alive in the rain or get drenched in the rain. It felt like freedom. More often than I can remember, I had to answer a billion questions from absolute strangers. Some out of curiosity, some out of awe and some out of plain disbelief. “How is it possible for a girl to travel so far away from home by herself?” They would ask. I would laugh and respond, “Well, if I can cook food by myself, handle a family by myself, why can’t I travel by myself?” Either amused or offended, they’d nervously laugh and walk away. I would definitely be a cautionary tale in their dinnertime conversation. Solo travelling also has a flipside to it much like anything else, I take more effort in planning my travel and my stays. I spend more time researching the areas that I want to visit. Primarily from the aspect of safety. As a solo female traveller, I believe this is the most important thing to keep in mind. Always be alert, always plan ahead. Truthfully, I have had too many unpleasant experiences. I have been cattolised. I have stayed up all night ready to call the police because I thought someone was trying to get into my hotel room. I have lost my way, missed trains been stranded on roads and messed up my own plans more times than I can count. Despite all the roadblocks and surprises, one thing I have always been able to count on is humanity. The police inspector who asked if someone was after watching me alone in Udaipur who arranged for a one-man police escort for me in Ajmer so that I could safely brave the crowds in the Ajmer Sharif Dargah. The middle-aged man I met in Manali who gave me a ride to my guesthouse late one night, purely because he was concerned for my safety. The concerned lady in the Singapore metro station who checked on me just because I appeared to be staring at the metro map in utter confusion. The hotel owner in Pondicherry who fielded many of my panic-ridden calls and came to check on me in the middle of the night because I felt there was a stranger trying to break into my room. So many beautiful instances of human beings just being good. Honestly, travelling solo is like living a dream. It is nightmarish sometimes, but that is what makes it breathtaking. The friends you make along the way last for eons to come. You get a chance to see the best in humanity. You get to meet people who have embodied the ancient Indian sentiment of atithi devo bhava – the guest is akin to God. And guess what, you really don’t need a husband to travel the world!
A TRAVEL SERIES - LADAKH DIARIES
EMBARKING ON A NEW JOURNEY

One Year Down The Line

I took my time to settle here, and every day I woke up to forest-laden mountains clad in clouds which is almost enough to “have a nice day” and that was mostly a struggle back in the city given the pollution, population and the general ‘noise’ of the place. I like the noise here though. The ‘noise’ of children, the ‘noise’ of birds and dogs and insects, the ‘noise’ of colleagues and other staff cum friends cum family who sing off-pitch (not always) in the corridors, laugh their lungs out, and work their brains out every single day.

The Recent Past – ‘The Planning Stage’

The plan for this trip had been brewing in the minds of four nature-lovers since November 2018, my first academic work year at Jhamtse Gatsel. Come spring, we were preparing ourselves thoroughly right from investing in valuable biking gear and winter wear to sketching our road map with all the pit stops for the journey. Yes! It was a good four months after Christmas of meticulous and assiduous brain-storming for an experience of a lifetime. This was just the beginning of a dream, a dream that was fashioned years ago, and was now coming to fruition with all its rich experiences and life lessons.

Embarking upon THE Journey ~ April 27, 2019

A night before, bound by pack- ing of clothes in just the right amount, loading and unloading the unnecessary, and of sad yet hopeful goodbyes, I had only five hours of rest before the first day of biking. And by the way, that isn’t the ideal sleep time one ought to have before a loooonng bike trip. This was to be a 36 days on-road trip which demanded mental stabil-
WHAT ARE DREAMS?

Kunsang D. - Grade 8

What are dreams?
In my opinion, dreams are an experience that appear when the stars come up and the sun goes down. It feels strange and funny too. It feels strange because ghosts and witches appear and funny because we see our own future in luxury, which only god can tell how it really is.

Dreams are like lovers not knowing how to love.
Dreams are like an interesting book having no pages in it.
Dreams are like singers who are not able to sing.
But…Something is still there Which every dream has.
It is…
The hope for a good dream every night and the adventure to fight as a real hero.

HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE

Tsering L. - Grade 9

Life is full of surprises and shocks, good news and bad news, unexpected turns and sudden passes your way. At times, some fortune tastes sweet like honey but at other times, fortune tastes like a bitter gourd. I found myself in this situation too and it brought the happiest day of my life. I remember it was a Monday morning on 06th July, 2009. It was when I first arrived in Jamtse Gatsal. We had started class and it was my first day at school. I was very shy and I seated myself in the corner. A cute little girl my age came near and sat beside me. She began to talk as if we had known each other for years. I did not know then that she would be the one who would walk beside me and who would extend her hands to mine. When I am about to slip and fall, she is my greatest asset who I trust more than anything.

She has become my best friend, it was asset who I trust more than anything. She extended her hands to mine. When I am about to slip and fall, she is my greatest asset who I trust more than anything.

THE INCOMPLETE STORY

Chapter 2

Tsering C. - Grade 10

Arjun couldn’t wait to meet the girl. Finally he mustered the courage to go toward the building, but he did not have the potential to knock the door. He went back again. Next morning, when Arjun was on his way to college, he saw a young girl with long hair, just like the girl he’d seen the previous day. He quickly followed her, but he lost his way. He asked his friends about the girl. They told him that she was new to the college and the place. “Her name is Rupali,” said one of his friends.

Rupali had recently moved from Bihar to Raipur for her higher education. She lived with her father who loved her dearly. Rupali’s father was a severe man with broad shoulders and bright eyes. He kept brooding over his beautiful, sweet daughter. He was extremely finnicky and would spend whole hours thinking about his daughter’s higher education and future. The next day was Rupali’s first day of college. So, her father gave her some money and flowers to see her happy before she left to college.

Rupali said goodbye to her father and went to college. When she went to college, she realized that everyone was looking at her. Without saying anything, she went towards the corridor. Suddenly, she collided with a boy who was also coming in the same direction...

…to be continued
TIME IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

Time is more precious than gold. The reason I say this is because time is more scarce than gold. You are born as a human being, which is very precious. The life that you have, don't waste it. Instead, respect your teacher and study hard for days, months and years. This is really important. Education is like your eyes which give you vision. If you keep ignoring the advice given by teachers, you will face the loss. Oy student! If you consider me as your friend, do analyze my advice and try implementing it.

Class 6 students

MY RESPECTED TEACHERS

We build schools for students
To educate, we give lot of advice
To learn Buddhism, we have Bhoti
Oh, our beloved Genla

Bestow love upon us poor children
Always giving advice without giving up
We won't be able to erase your love from our hearts
Great reverence for our Genla.

Your thoughts are deeper than the ocean
Your guidance is more precious than gems
Your advice is bright like the sun
Genla, we value you more than gold

To have a bright future
To eradicate the problems of the poor
Like the sun that shines on the snow
Genla, you have brightened the Monyul region

All the student's sponsors
Look after us like a parent
I won't be able to erase it
I always think of them again and again

Class 8 students
सभीने उसे बहुत पसंद हैं। दूध-दही से युक्त भोजन उसे प्रिय है। हरी-ताजी सब्जियां उसके तन-मन को संतुष्ट करती हैं। वह यह भी बताता है कि यह एक अच्छा चीज़ है।

कुछ छोटे सपनों के बदले,
बड़ी नीद का सौदा करने,
निकल पड़े हैं पांव अभागे,जाने कौन डागर ठहरेंगे।
वही पास के अग्रदूत मोलिंग,
बड़ी धूप की सुखद कहानी,
बड़ी आँख में घुटकर मरती,
आंसू की खुदरा जयानी,
हर मोहर की मूक विवाहता, चोरस के खाने क्या जाने हार जीत तय करती है?

इस बाद जैसे कसर सुझा अनजान, उसे अपने सरलीने बदलने लगती है। कसरों का उग्रता वह मिल जाता है। तब में में बच्चे नौ हो सकते हैं। उन्हें मिल जाते हैं। जल्दी समय दूर जाते हैं।

भारतीय किसानों का प्रकृति से लंबी लंबी लंबी पहाड़ी है। चुकी हमारे देश में दो-हीढ़ की नृत्य वर्ण समस्या पर आधारित है इसलिए किसानों का क्षेत्र सुझा

समय पर धूप न झारी तो कसरों पर चट्टा बोल अनप्रभ कर पाया,
मंजिल के गुनाहम भरोसे,
सपनों का लाचार बनाने,
जिनकी जिद आप सूजुन, मोरमंजिल से छाया मांगे,
उन के भी दूर इतयाद, वीणा के स्वर पर ठहरेंगे
निकल पड़े हैं पांव अभागे,जाने कौन डागर ठहरेंगे!!

सुभा राज बननी