



# AMHS CONNECT

TEACHER'S DAY SPECIAL

SEPTEMBER '20

# FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Modernites,

We are delighted to present a very special edition of our newsletter 5.0 to you.

5<sup>th</sup> September as we all know is Teacher's Day, a day that brings smiles and rekindles precious memories in our hearts as we fondly recall our days as students of Modern High. Each one of us surely had that one teacher we loved the most, that one teacher we were most scared of and that one teacher who later became a friend. Rightfully then, we dedicate this edition to our wonderful teachers as our mark of gratitude.

Thank you dear teachers for responding to our request for this edition. At the same time, we regret not been able to reach out and connect with some of our respected teachers and would wait to hear from them sometime soon, through this Newsletter.

After a discussion with the Alumni Committee regarding our need to connect during the Pandemic, this endeavour was started by our President Shailaja Mundra. So far, the three of us (Sushma, Ritu & Harshita) have been putting together these newsletters and bringing you a new edition every month. We're delighted to let you know, that our forces stand further strengthened as we welcome, Supriya Newar (Batch of 1994) on board. She is a celebrated writer and communications specialist and we're sure her experience will be valuable to us.

As we enter the festive season, let us all do our bit to keep the pandemic in check. Stay safe!

Warm wishes,

**Sushma Nevatia**  
Batch of 1989



**Ritu Singhania**  
Batch of 1989



**Harshita Goenka**  
Batch of 2010



PS: Our next edition will focus on Durga Puja. Send us your best clicks of Durga Puja and we'll feature them in our next newsletter.

## FELICITATION OF EX-STUDENT ANITA BHATIA, BATCH OF 1979

### DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT UN WOMEN

MODERN HIGH ALUMNA STRESSES WOMEN'S SUCCESS IN COVID FIGHT

## Need women leaders to change lives

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: Modern High School alumna Anita Bhatia, the UN Women deputy executive director, stressed the need for women leaders in decision-making roles, influencing policy and changing laws while speaking from New York with students of her school.

"The problems that the world faces today, the existential threats of climate change, the erosion of democracy, the erosion of liberal values, and the erosion of secularism, require a new kind of leadership. Is it any surprise

that the countries that have done the best job in dealing with this pandemic are countries run by women — Germany, New Zealand, Finland, Taiwan among others," she said while speaking to the students on 15th week.

Bhatia is the assistant secretary general for resource management, sustainability and partnerships and the deputy executive director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women (UN Women).

The girl from the Class of 1979 said, "We need more female leaders. We need

women at the table, making decisions, influencing policy and changing lives. And I am so proud to be part of the family of Modern High School because every day Modern High School produces leaders who are capable of doing just that."

Bhatia has been working with women globally, addressing gender rights and issues of discrimination.

The school recognised her as the "distinguished alumna" of 2020 during a webinar attended by present and past students and teachers joining from various time zones.



Anita Bhatia, deputy executive director of the UN Women, addresses Modern High School students from New York.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ►



The online felicitation was covered by The Telegraph

# WE LOVE YOU!



Mrs. Wilson De Roze  
Headmistress  
1965 - 2000

On this day Amhs Connect fondly remembers and conveys its heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Wilson De Roze. MHS would not be the same without her. Stay well Miss and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

“O teach us Alma Mater  
to be  
both pure and true...”



The hallowed room that was her office for years.



# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Mrs. Devi Kar**  
**Director - Modern High School for Girls**  
**Years of association:**  
**with MHS Over 20 Years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**

Whenever old students and teachers come visiting.

**Favourite spot at School?**

Our beautiful School garden with its giant old trees and flowering shrubs - especially at dawn when we go birdwatching and at dusk.

**One of your best memories at School**

Unable to select one out of so many...

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

A middle school student was found crouching under a table inside the staff room well after school hours. It appeared that she was just curious about what was inside the mysterious, forbidden room.

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

Alas, I have never had this exciting experience.

**Your message to us?**

Keep shining brightly - you are all stars that light up the world. Your Alma Mater is proud of you.

"THE TRUE  
TEACHERS  
ARE THOSE  
WHO HELP  
US THINK FOR  
OURSELVES"

-DR SARVAPALLI  
RADHAKRISHNAN

# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Mrs. Mary Ann Dasgupta**  
**Assistant Headmistress to**  
**Mrs. Wilson de Roze**  
**Years of association:**  
**10 Years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**

Students playing the piano in the hall as lines came back from assembly and at dispersal time. One name I remember is that of Rosina Ahmed.

**Favourite spot at School?**

The garden

**One of your best memories at School**

"Shakuntala" on ice and the Shakespeare plays

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

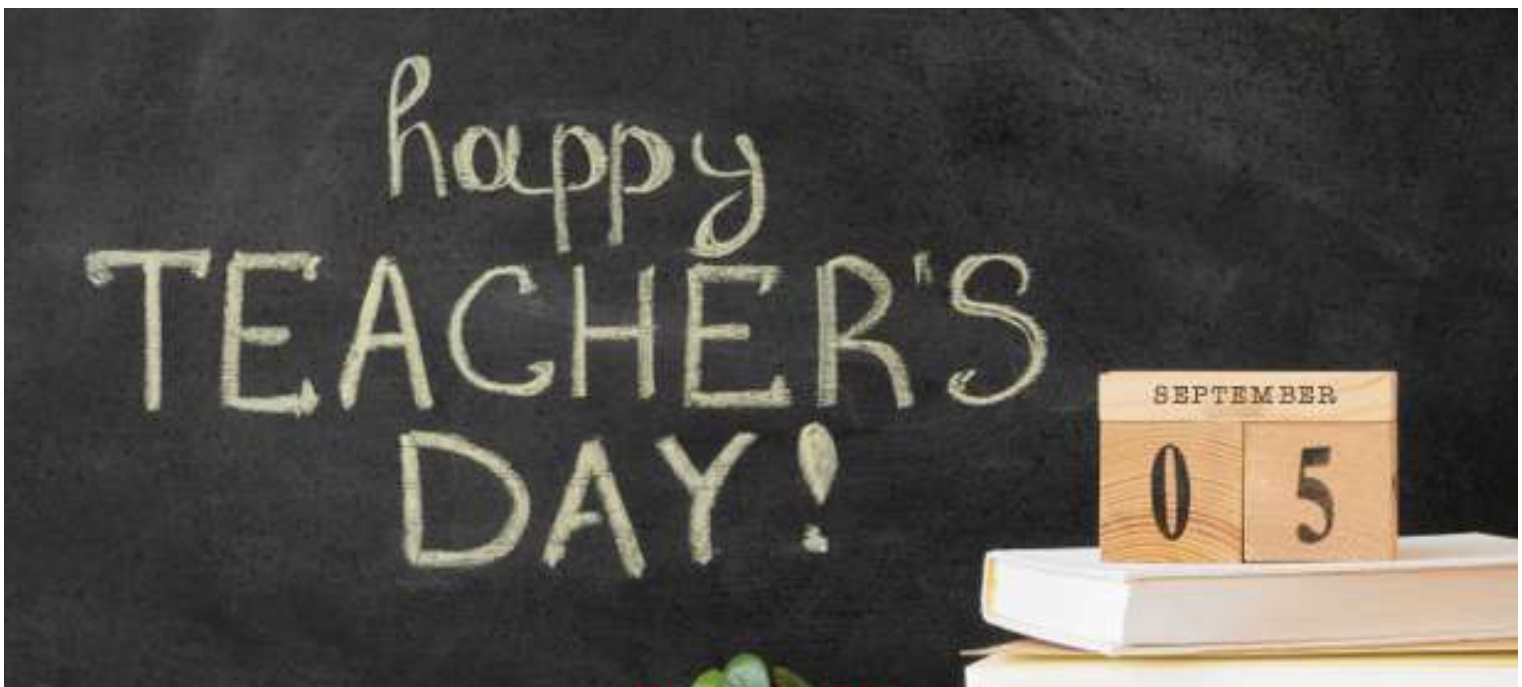
Staff rooms were out-of-bounds for non-teaching staff.

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

None

**Your message to us?**

Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of man, but from doing something worthwhile.



# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Ms. Nalini Sicka**  
**Various Subjects**  
**Former Vice Principal**  
**Associated as a Student:**  
**9 years**  
**Associated as a Teacher:**  
**35 years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**

“Good.....morning.....Miss” which came with a beautiful smile and at times with a flower.....  
Made my day!

**Favourite spot at School?**

As a teacher, during lunch time, walking up the stairs and chasing students who were hiding in the class rooms instead of going down to the garden but you all were smart, went down one staircase and came up by the other! Playing table tennis rounds with the younger lot & shooting a basket with their basket ball was great fun.

**One of your best memories at School?**

My Farewell in 2006 ...my eyes filled up with tears and heart stood still with all the love I got from the Modern High School for Girls family, teachers, students, support and office staff et al.

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

As a young student I cut my finger. ..nearly into half. I knocked at the staff room door and Mrs R Banerjee came to my aid. I got a scolding but the care, courage and sympathy I got stopped the bleeding..... but left a lingering thank you in my heart.

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

As a Guide we went to Sangam, Pune then Bombay Juhu beach ....very enjoyable. The return trip on the train was spent in guarding our girls from college boys who were trying to draw their attention. Indeed a difficult task!

**Your message to us?**

KEEP THE MHS FLAG FLYING HIGH! BE HAPPY..... ALWAYS! LOVE LIFE AND SPREAD THE SUNSHINE OF JOY!  
PROUD TO BE A MODERNITE! With fond remembrances , wonderful memories , love and best wishes.



**Mrs. B. Majumdar**  
**Class Teacher Upper Infant**

**Your message to us?**

Girls, I first saw you as babies. Last year I saw you again at the school campus. You have all become young ladies in different professions and I was very happy to see you all. Now I am waiting to see you again!  
Love and Best Wishes

# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Mrs. Chandrima Sood**  
**Mathematics**  
**Years of association:**  
**27 years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**  
During Camps both Guides and IAYP

**Favourite spot at School?**  
Classroom 8A,9A and 10A

**One of your best memories at School**

During Sports Day

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

There are so many. Very difficult to write about them

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

All excursions were special

**Your message to us?**

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Love you all.

**Fondest Memory with students?**

It is impossible for me to select any one from the myriad memories that I have over so many years. Each year, each class, each girl has a special and unique place in my mind and heart.

**Favourite spot at School?**

There are beautiful memories associated with different parts of the school. I feel every brick of every room in the school has something special about it. But if I had to pick one, I would choose the garden - it is magical.

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

I remember how awkward I was the first time I entered the staffroom as a teacher. It had always been the forbidden space that we were so curious about! I found it difficult to sit as all around me were my former teachers and everyone was greatly amused as I kept jumping up each time any one spoke to me!

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

The one that comes to my mind immediately is when I escorted a small group of students to Dehradun to participate in the Welham Girls' School fest. We really made some beautiful memories.

**Your message to us?**

Thank you AMHS for reaching out to me. It has helped me to relive so many cherished moments and suffused me with an overwhelming sense of nostalgia. I hope and pray that we may ever be worthy of what our beloved Alma Mater has given us.



**Mrs. Amita Prasad**  
**History**  
**Associated as a Student:**  
**14 years**  
**Associated as a Teacher:**  
**20 years**

# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Mrs. Saugata Banerjee**  
**Mathematics**  
**Years of association:**  
**Close to 50 years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**  
Classes and rehearsals for various school programmes

**Favourite spot at School?**  
Second floor staff room

**One of your best memories at School**

There are many, can't single out any

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

Returning lost Lesson Plan books, or Mark registers, or test papers to nervous and harrassed colleagues in exchange of "gorom singara" or "jilipi"

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

All IAYP camps and Class VIII excursions/ day trips

**Your message to us?**

May this special day for teachers bring us new hope, teach us to love more, forgive more, share more, understand more, value each individual more, and teach us not to destroy but to nurture, preserve and treasure whatever we have. Stay safe and happy.

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**Fondest Memory with students?**

The laughter and the smiles, the times spent together working on projects and displays and shows .. Too many to put in here but all holding a very special place in my heart

**Favourite spot at School?**

The staffroom, the classroom where I was class teacher

**One of your best memories at School?**

Being the coordinator for the school's 50th anniversary celebration:  
The Jungle Story

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

The first time I saw some of my teachers (now my colleagues) who I used to be terrified of, smile! Nearly fainted!

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

Yes! To Kanha .. we missed the train on the way back and had quite an adventure getting back to Kolkata with panic stricken parents calling up and the tour organizers going completely beserk trying to get us back to Kolkata. Despite this it was a wonderful trip!

**Your message to us?**

Keep the MHS flag flying high!



**Mrs. Shampa Mukherji**  
**Consultant teacher of**  
**English language & Literature**  
**Associated as a Student:**  
**13 years**  
**Associated as a Teacher:**  
**25 years**



# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Mrs. Anasuya Sircar**  
**History**

**Years of association:**  
**Student - 11 years**  
**Teacher - 16 years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**  
Lively interactions in and outside class.

**Favourite spot at School?**  
The library

**One of your best memories at School**  
Lots as a student. As a teacher, on one Teachers Day my class presented me with a bouquet which measured my height.

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

Nothing in particular, except my ex teachers were fiercely protective of me and I could always rely on them for help and advice.

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

We didn't have frequent excursions at that time.

**Your message to us?**

MHS has instilled certain values and habits, which I still follow. I'm sure you all feel the same. So please carry this forward as MHS Trailblazers!

**Fondest Memory with students?**

A history class that goes perfectly. Watching an entire class completely lost in the words I speak.

**Favourite spot at School?**

The garden

**One of your best memories at School**

Awesome History results for Madhyamik

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

The staff room was home and one of the best things I remember about my staff room were the frequent surprise treats, the fragrance of goodies wafting out of the door as you approached after a class.

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

Didn't have that opportunity.

**Your message to us?**

"Our lives are not our own. We are bound to others, past and present, and by each crime and every kindness, we birth our future." David Mitchell says it far better than me. May MHS bind us always with bonds of love and affection.



**Mrs. Meena Philip**  
**History**  
**Years of associaton:**  
**25 years**

# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Mrs. Kajal Sett**

**Librarian**

**Years of association:**

**30 Years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**

There is no one memory. All girls used to visit the library and I enjoyed watching them grow into young adults. It was lovely to recommend books and watch them develop a love for reading.

**Favourite spot at School?**

The Library

**One of your best memories at School**

The interactions with the girls and knowing of their successes and later plans.

**Your message to us?**

Wishing you success and happiness in all your endeavours!

**Fondest Memory with students?**

The day Mrs. Wilson De Roze told me come and see me in my office three years after I left School. Spent sleepless nights till I went to see her and she handed me that appointment letter. Spent some great times and have fond memories, No one single memory can be given the tag of "fondest" as such because every one of them are very dear to my heart

**Favourite spot at School?**

I loved many a spot in school - the garden, the library, the staff room.

**One of your best memories at School?**

Each and every moment is a special moment and very dear to my heart. Each carried a tale with it to tell. Cannot be penned down in a few words only.

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

When I joined school as a teacher barely three years after passing out of school, immediately after I completed my graduation, I was very scared even then to enter the staff room as all my teachers were still there and I still felt the staff room to be an "Out of Bound" place for me in school. I use to sit alone in the small room next to the Home science Room, Mrs S. Majumdar one day came and took me in into the staff room. that was my first entry in there. Then on, since I was the youngest all my teachers took turns to give me an ice-cream every lunch break to make me feel comfortable. Over the years, of course, there have been many many wonderful incidents and staff room moments that are so so memorable.

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

All excursions have been great fun. The tsunami year -2008 has many a tale to tell. We were 11 teachers with 82 girls on board the train to Chennai the day the tsunami hit the Chennai Coast. Frantic phone calls from parents, requests to stop, to cancel and abort trip came at every station. But we went ahead. Adventurous that we were but of course changed our itinerary a little. Because of this we had no hotel booking, spent nights at Madurai station platform and finally when we did get rooms in a hotel, it was just seven rooms for the whole group. Spent two days and one night packed like sardines in them. It was an experience, fun of a different sort. There have been many many more enjoyable moments at the various Guide Camps that we went to. I often see my guides relive those moments with pictures on Face book pages.

**Your message to us?**

MHS gives one a different type of experience that you probably do not get anywhere. So enjoy every moment and cherish it close to your heart like I have done over the years not forgetting to live the values it has taught you,



**Mrs. Bhaswati Roy**  
**Home Science**  
**Years of Association:**  
**25+ years**

# FROM OUR TEACHERS



**Mrs. Supriya Roy**  
**Librarian/English Teacher**  
**Years of association:**  
**25 Years**

**Fondest Memory with students?**

Always fond memories with my students, even now after so many years, they are precious gems in my life

**Favourite spot at School?**

That is a difficult question to answer, class rooms I suppose, cannot say the staff rooms, all experiences are not so pleasant

**One of your best memories at School**

When my daughter Ananya Roy received special honour as an outstanding student and an achiever

**A staff room anecdote that you fondly remember**

Two teachers, Sudarshana Bagchi and Nilima Sen Gangapadhay, the staff room was a pleasant place for me, I will never forget their kindness

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

A trip to Kashmir organised by Neena Singh

**Your message to us?**

Be true to yourself. Please have a hobby even if it is silly to somebody else, this I learnt at a very critical juncture in my life. A book that changed my life Bertrand Russell 's 'The Conquest of Happiness' , that is exactly what I am doing now, reading and writing because that gives me immense pleasure, it can be sewing, it can be dancing, it can be cooking, it does not matter, if you are happy and positive you will spread that to others.

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**Fondest Memory with students?**

As a Class teacher; in the lab during practical classes.

**Favourite spot at School?**

My office & the Clean club vegetable patch.

**One of your best memories at School?**

When ex students came back to talk about their achievements and said they still remembered my classes.

**An excursion you really enjoyed with students?**

Been to numerous excursions: Batch trips, Biology excursions, Guide camps.... enjoyed each & every one of them!

**Your message to us?**

Wherever you are, whatever you do, keep the MHS flag flying high!



**Dr. Rajeshwari De**  
**Biology Teacher & Advisor**  
**Associated as a Student:**  
**14 years**  
**Associated as a Teacher:**  
**40 years & 8 months**

# MEMORIES OF TEACHERS' DAY AT SCHOOL



Teachers' Day always brings back fond memories of our time at MHS. Celebrations at college and university were special in their own way, but they never matched the grandeur of the MHS days, particularly during middle school, when we used to put up little shows in our respective classrooms, and our teachers dropped by to see our performances. It was a time to let the budding playwright, choreographer and performers in us to flourish, and we thoroughly enjoyed the practice sessions during the 10-minutes and lunch breaks and all the planning, discussions and disagreements that preceded it. The end result, if not world class, was certainly always enjoyable for us and hopefully for the teachers as well. At least, they sat through all of it with a smile on their faces! My own group of friends mostly ended up putting together elaborate dance performances thanks to some of the passionate dancers among us. I cannot dance to save my life even today, but I somehow ended up enjoying those rehearsals immensely. To this day, we can not listen to certain songs from the 90s without bursting out in peals of laughter or going all dewy eyed with nostalgia (Kahin aag lage lag jaye, Mehendi laga ke rakhna and Un dos tres y'all!), and other people around us have no clue what is going on! The other attraction was rustling up snacks in the classroom without using fire, and making cards for all our teachers. Our class specialized in making gigantic handmade cards where we all signed and put in little messages. When I say "we" made it, I of course mean a couple of artistic girls actually did all the work, while the rest of us stood around watching its progress. But that was part of the fun and build-up to the final day. While our celebrations turned more mature as we grew older (we are allowed to cook using fire now, for instance), nothing can ever match the excitement we felt back then as soon as we entered the last week of August.

**Sayantani Sen**  
Batch of 2005

## THANK YOU MRS. PRASAD

We loved them all  
But we loved you a little more.  
Was it your poise, your grace  
The gestures of your hands  
as you explained with conviction  
The soft voice that didn't rise  
even in those rare uproars  
The shawls draped over the silk  
sarees like "uttoriyos"  
Or was it that even our nascent minds  
Could perceive  
The brilliance, the intellect  
Inspiring us.... to emulate,  
To achieve, to impress.  
Perhaps you were made for more  
It's so easy to see you there  
In hallowed classes across the world  
But thank you miss  
For staying back, to teach, to guide  
To shape our minds  
Inspire our souls  
And forever etch your presence  
In each of us.



**Aparna Sircar**  
Batch of 1989



## ALUMNI OF MHS MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Fee: Rs 4500 (for life membership)

Website: <https://mhsalumni.in>

For queries, contact:

Ritu Singhania: +91 98302 49817

Urmi Basu: +91 98310 90103

# ACTS OF KINDNESS - TRIBUTE IN TEARS

Rakhi Sircar  
Batch of 1989

1976

A small girl with a checked apron standing outside Upper Infant "A"; was made to do so because she didn't have a particular book. That the book was not available in 'Metropolitan Book Company' - the girl couldn't utter. Up came an angel, touched her on the shoulders - took her to her room, made her sit, stroking her hair she said in pure Bengali "মষ্টি ঔষুধ, খযে নাও".

Unconditional love and forgiveness - my salute to you after 45 years - Mrs. Diana Biswas.

1980

A 10 year old girl writes her "desired rank and marks" in the last page of the Report Book - forgets to erase it off. The teacher calls her next to her desk, opens the page; the 10-year-old still trembling - the lady just touches her hands and says softly "Child don't do this again" and smiles.

Dignity and grace - I bow to thee after 40 years - Mrs. Patricia A Roy.

1986

Merchant of Venice and Julius Caesar all by her, even Wren & Martin, stern and disciplined to the core. Never thought she quite recognized me - such was her persona. After our board results came out on a drizzling day, she brought tears to my eyes; when she hugged me and declared that I was one of the best.

My "Pronam" after 33 years - Mrs. K Ray.

The list goes on ..... engraved in memory are much more - these acts of kindness from Gurus who were like Gods and teachers who have taught us through life.

- Dr Rakhi Sircar (nee Raychaudhuri), an ex-MHS has been a Mordernite all through. She joined the Medical School later for her graduation and post-graduation. She currently stays in Bangalore and is a leading Paediatrician & Neonatologist.



## FEEDBACK CORNER

Enjoying the Alumni monthly newsletter? Share your feedback and comments and we'll publish the best ones in our next edition. Write to us at [amhsconnect@gmail.com](mailto:amhsconnect@gmail.com)



It may have been ages since we met any of you. Some of you have even left us...But each one of you has shaped our lives in so many ways. Your faces, your voices and your lessons will remain etched in the hearts of an entire generation of Modernites. Thank you dear teachers, today and always.



Designed by: GraphicsQue - 9874891891  
Harshita Goenka (Batch of 2010)