



# AMHS CONNECT

FEBRUARY '21

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Modernites,

Chiselled to perfection in marble, most of the year, she remained pristine white. Maybe an odd garland or two on some special days. But on her own day, Maa Saraswati was bathed in the colours of spring; clad in bright yellow and orange robes, an odhna gracefully draped over her head and fresh marigold garlands adorning her entire self. We lit lamps, offered prayers, sang and danced. Just like her, on that day, we would also shed our white frocks and skirts to don some Basanti colours.

She's watched us all through the years, her gaze all perceiving yet benign. Her presence was so confirmed that sometimes, we even failed to take cognizance of her. But as we grow older, we realize how fortunate we were to receive her blessings, her benevolence. May Maa Saraswati continue to guide and guard us all. This issue of 'Connect' has been dressed up in green and yellow and is our alumni's humble offering.

Wishing you a renewed spring in your spirit and step.

- Supriya Newar  
Batch of 1994



# OUR MOST ENDURING AND ENDEARING SCHOOL SYMBOL

So, it is down memory lane again with the batch of 1966.

We delve into old photographs of our teachers and identify them one by one.

We transition from Theatre Road to our one of its kind, new school building on Syed Amir Ali Avenue. It is 1960; We are in class VI, the junior most class here on the ground floor.

The marble floors and venetian blinds, the smart desks and verdant grounds are all so enchanting. But the one enduring, inspiring image that remains imprinted on our psyche, is that of our Sarasvati pratima, upon whom we lay our eyes and have her darshan, the moment we step into school.



Greeted differently each day, but never ever ignored. Sometimes it is a rushed folding of hands as we run to take our place, or duck a dreaded teacher. In exam times, there is the longer, reverential, whispered prayer. In the mornings, we walk past her in assembly line formations, our mischief often escaping the eagle eyes of Miss Bose and we give her a conspiratorial look, knowing that nothing can escape Her, finding reassurance in her quiet benevolence.

We move on to the higher floors, as we move on in years and in classes.

They say that change is the only constant. But for us, it was our Sarasvati pratima that remained constant as it does to this day, more than sixty years down the line.

Vasant Panchami, heralding the advent of spring is celebrated in different ways all over India. Characteristically, in Bengal, it is linked to Goddess Sarasvati and since she is linked to our pursuit of knowledge, we gathered in school every Vasant Panchami to offer our prayers to her.

Jogging our batch-brains, the shared memories are of those of yellow garments, group dances to Rabindra Sangeet and Hindi poetry, some recitation, a short speech and more.

Our school Sarasvati adorned with a marigold garland, beautiful alpanas at her feet and the steady flame of the tall brass lamp.

Every school has or should have a lasting symbol. Ours is our Sarasvati Ma - Sakhi, Guru, all rolled into one. Imbued with the hopes, aspirations and energy of the alumni who have gone forth into the world with her blessings, she continues to encourage, support, inspire and empower our youngest lotus buds.

- Pramila Kedia Poddar  
Batch of 1966

वर दे, वीणावादनी वर दे  
प्रिय स्वतंत्र-रव अमृत-मंत्र नव  
भारत में भर दे  
काट अंध-उर के बंधन-स्तर  
बहा जननि, ज्योतरिर्मय नर्झिर  
कलुष-भेद-तम हर प्रकाश भर  
जगमग जग कर दे  
नव गति, नव लय, ताल-छंद नव  
नवल कंठ, नव जलद-मन्द्र रव  
नव नभ के नव वहिग-वृंद को  
नव पर, नव स्वर दे  
महाकवि सूर्यकांत त्रिपाठी  
निराला

# PICNIC '21

The heralding of Spring, the season of Life (and Hope) was celebrated in a unique way by members of AMHS. A picnic was organized on Saturday, 13th Feb 2021 at Panchwati farms (Joka), courtesy Sudha Gupta (batch of 1968) and attended by 12 ladies from various batches spanning decades.

The balmy spring air, bonding and bonhomie over nostalgic natter created a magical ambience. Delicious chaats and farm fresh salads made the day even more memorable for all those who attended.

Many were stepping out of their homes for a day trip for the first time in 9 months, but proper precautions against the slowly receding virus reassured everyone that a day spent in the sun in a large open, green space can only bring health benefits to all. And of course, many believe that Vitamin F (Friends!) is also a great immunity booster!

A hamper of fresh vegetables from the farm was gifted to all, and the afternoon ended with everyone promising to be more pro-active in organizing such events, and attending future events diligently!

- Varsha Sheth  
Batch of 1982



# HERITAGE WALK

In February 2019, we at AMHS had organised a Heritage Walk to explore our own City of Joy. This event was well attended by our ex-students, as well as their families and friends.

The Walk was conducted by 'Calcutta Walks' and our guides Ritwick and Ramanuj took us on the intriguing White Town Walk, called 'In the Footsteps of the Raj.' The British had sought to build the 'Second city of the Empire' right here, and through the course of the Walk, we were shown the 'European' areas of what was once the capital of the British Empire in India.

The party assembled in front of the Lalit Great Eastern Bakery. There was excited banter, along with steaming cups of tea and hot samosas. Post this, our conductors took us through the magical tour, making us witness the rich cultural heritage of our beautiful city, and whetting our appetites for 'all things Raj.'

The Walk ended at the famous Share Market, where all our participants were treated to a sumptuous breakfast. This was the end of a very enriching experience, and everyone departed, taking back beautiful memories of a Sunday morning well spent!

- Ritu Singhania  
Batch of 1989



We welcome ex-students to share their thoughts, memories and articles with us.

Write to us at [amhsconnect@gmail.com](mailto:amhsconnect@gmail.com)



## ALUMNI OF MHS MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

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## 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)



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Harshita Goenka (Batch of 2010)