

## DESH APNAYEN NEWSLETTER

9<sup>th</sup> Issue, April 2016

### From the Editor's desk

Dear readers,

Hello!

At a time when schools are about to close and the excitement of holidays is in the air, we came across a story by fourth grader Hrithvik Sood from New South Wales that made our summer brighter.

Yesterday morning, Mrs. Sood went to the market. She carried her umbrella with her. There was a bench in front of a jewellery shop. She was tired and sat on it. A white car came and stopped in front of the shop. A man got off the car. He had a cap on his head and a scarf round his face and neck. He was tall, thin and carried a big bag. He threw a big stone at the window of the jewellery shop. The glass pane broke. The man quickly jumped in through the hole. He stole a number of gold chains and bangles into his bag. Then he rushed towards his car. Mrs Sood saw all this. As the man came near the bench she pushed her umbrella in front. The man tripped and fell. 'Thief! Thief!' shouted Mrs Sood. Just then a police van came. Two policeman ran up and caught the thief red-handed. Meanwhile the shopkeeper also came along. The policeman told him the whole story. The shopkeeper collected his gold ornaments. Then he went up to Mrs Sood. 'Thank you, madam,' he said. 'You're brave and clever.' He took her inside the shop. Giving her a gold ring he said, 'This is my way of saying 'Thank you' to you.' Mrs. Sood smiled, thanked the shopkeeper but she didn't take the gold ring. 'I'm a good Citizen and a good Citizen is not paid for being one.

Isn't it wonderful that little children are sensitised to the fact that being a good citizen is its own reward? This is the wellspring of change.

Curious, imaginative children are the key to our future. This summer break, inspire your children to help someone less fortunate, save water and be an agent of good in your homes, societies and communities.

## Responsibility in times of drought

Nearly 90 lakh farmers in Maharashtra have been impacted by the drought that has devastated the kharif crop, official data shows. The figure is almost on a par with the population of Sweden.

Maharashtra is already known for its farm crisis and reports the highest number of farmer's suicides in the country. The drought — brought on by a delayed and inadequate monsoon — is set to deepen the distress for its cultivators.

It comes close on the heels of the crop distress wreaked by the hailstorms last year which hit cultivators hard.

Data with the agriculture department shows that two-thirds of the state's 1.37 crore farmers have been affected by the drought which has impacted mainly the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.

(Source - Kakodkar, P. (2015, April 23). Drought hits 90 lakh farmers in Maharashtra. Retrieved April 28, 2016, from <https://ruralindiaonline.org/articles/drought-hits-90-lakhs-farmers-in-maharashtra/>)

This is time for collective action, for all of us to do our bit. Here are some easy tips to save water at our end, so someone who needs it can benefit.

1. Have a bucket bath



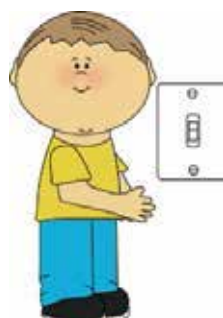
3. Finish your glass of water at a restaurant



2. Water your plants with a glass or a watering can



4. Turn off lights and fans you're not using



5. Run the washing machine only on full loads



8. Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth – this can save 6 litres of water per minute.



6. Rinse your dishes into a bucket near the sink and use that to water your plants



9. Fix a dripping tap. A dripping tap can waste 15 litres of water a day, or 5,500 litres of water a year.



7. Carry a bucket of water up three flights of stairs and see why you're blessed to have running water



## Contribution from partner schools

JB Petit is an all-girls' school in Mumbai. Over the last few months, they have done a commendable job understanding indigenous flora and fauna of our country and ways to protect it. Guest speaker Mrs. Katie Bagli, environmental enthusiast, spoke about protecting flora and fauna through series of stories and songs.

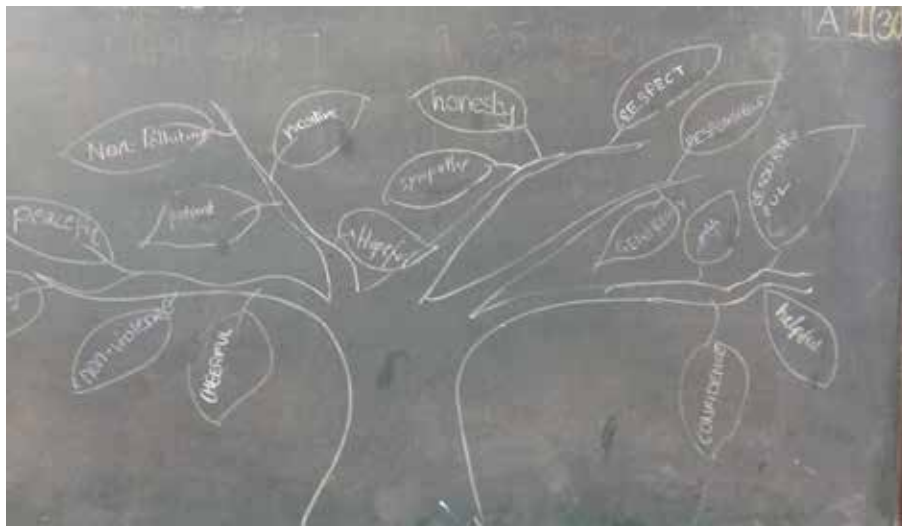
Fifth grade children narrated a story called 'The Sacred Grove' followed by a song. This engaging story was based on the prevention of destroying trees and forests. This was followed by an activity called drawing the tree of virtue.

The children not only worked to save flora but also sensitised themselves and other on the importance of animals and saving them from cruelty. Through a story called "Monkey Business", the children of sixth grade were made aware of animal cruelty and then did an activity where they listed three ways to save animals from this fate.

Senior, grade seven children, held a discussion on "The less liked lovable", Creatures like spiders, lizards, bats, owls, rats and the myths and superstitions which surround them, followed by a story followed by puzzle. This puzzle enabled the children to be empathetic as they had to write something from the animal's point of view.

We celebrate our partner school and wish them much success in the future.







## Contribution from partner schools

City International school is a co-educational school in Mumbai. One of their teachers, Ms. Effie Mathais, has written a beautiful poem for Desh Apnayen.

### **YOU TOUCHED ME!**

We needed a spark  
to let the fire going!  
Unexpectedly you came along  
And made us feel that we belong  
To a nation so very rich  
In culture and diversity  
Which a web of university  
That leads us to enrich  
ourselves and others.

I am touched by the concept  
My heart was moved to accept  
That I have to do something  
And not let my life be 'worth nothing'.  
As a teacher, I have to teach  
The young and old, I can reach  
My attitude, my being and thought can touch  
Where I may not be involved to do much!  
A movement from Apathy to Ownership  
Leads me into fellowship.  
I need to take the grip  
To extend a hand of friendship

### **DESH APNAYEN**

A noble cause with nothing to lose  
Yet! so much to do! and repose  
Along with Sahayog Foundation  
Let us be a drop in the ocean  
And make our 'DESH' a true nation  
Let us not be like aliens!  
But proud to be INDIANS!  
A movement to DESH APNAYEN has begun  
Your contribution can be a good 'Shagun'  
It takes us all along  
For this is where we belong.

## Our Monthly Favourites

### Website of the month

Our website of the month is [www.water.org](http://www.water.org) Maharashtra is reeling from consecutive droughts. We need solutions, and quickly, to help those in need.

Water.org is an international nonprofit organization that has positively transformed more than four million lives around the world through access to safe water and sanitation. Founded by Gary White and hollywood star Matt Damon, they have been pioneering innovative, sustainable solutions to the global water crisis for 25 years, giving women hope, children health and communities a future.

The organisation believes that water is the way. To break the cycle of poverty. To achieve global equality. To make a bright future possible for all. We are here to break down the barriers between people and access to safe water and sanitation.

Water is a fundamental human need, yet 660 million people worldwide lack access to safe water. 2.4 billion people worldwide lack access to a toilet. When it takes everyday hours to find and collect water, it's hard to find time for commerce and community. It's hard to get through a full day at school. It's hard to prosper without safe water.

[This](#) is the solutions section of the website. What can we do in Maharashtra to solve our water crisis?





## Fun and games

Find all these easy ways to save water from the word search box below.

S R E L K N I R P S T S U J D A  
 T U Q A Z B Y R F C N K I O L M  
 N I S H O R T S H O W E R S N P  
 A B X E T G C E A L Z L I J M K  
 L Q Z U M B A O V L P Z Y I V S  
 P X Z J I U M Y U E Q Z E S K K  
 E U B V M X L J M C C O V X E A  
 V Z O K O A U C R T W N P L M E  
 I U N R O E X W H R L E P J C L  
 T I M E R S W E P A C S I R E X  
 A A B C B Z T E P I C O I R E I  
 N V E P I U H V J N L H O X E F  
 X M W A T E R D E E P L Y R I S

### FIND ALL THESE EASY WAYS TO SAVE WATER

- HOSE NOZZLE
- SHORT SHOWERS
- BROOM
- FIX LEAKS
- NATIVE PLANTS
- COLLECT RAIN
- TIMER
- WATER DEEPLY
- ADJUST SPRINKLERS
- USE MULCH
- XERISCAPE

Match the water saving tip to the amount of water saved.

1. Use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car or bike and save this much water.

2. You'll save this much water if you time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes.

3. If you turn off the shower while you shampoo, how many gallons will you save?

4. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and you'll keep this much water from going down the drain.

5. Use a broom instead of a hose to wash off driveways and sidewalks and save this much water.

1. More than 50 gallons a week
  2. Up to 80 gallons each time
  3. Four gallons every minute
  4. More than 100 gallons
  5. More than 100 gallons a month
- p.s. 1 gallon = 3.8 litres

### Answers for last month's fun and games:

1. Mithali Raj
2. Sneha Rana, 32
3. Smriti Mandhana
4. (Subjective answers)
5. Fourth