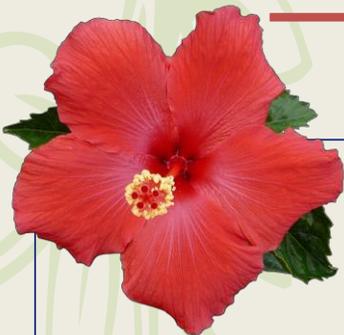


BKPA Presents:

E-Magination  
Fall 2017



This copy belongs to:



**BKPA Kali Puja**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2017**  
**Tagore Hall, Somerset, NJ**

2:30 – 3:00	Guest Arrival
3:00 – 4:00	Shyama-Sangeet
4:00 – 6:00	Puja + Anjali
4:30 – 5:30	Magic Show (upstairs)
6:00 – 6:30	Snacks
6:30 – 7:30	Cultural Program Opening Dance Drama Stand up Comedy
7:30 – 8:00	Sparkler Time
8:00 – 9:00	Cultural Program <b>IMON Band</b>
9:00 – 11:00	Kids' Dinner / Movie
10:00 – 11:00	Adults' Dinner

**Thank you for joining us today!**  
**See you at our future events.**

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to be writing the welcome message in this year's E-Magazine. The Bengali Kids of Princeton Area (BKPA) has come a long way since it was first conceptualized in the early 2000s. I still vividly remember sitting at my family's kitchen table talking to my parents about my frustration that my school friends of other cultural backgrounds had organizations and venues to learn about their unique heritage, but I did not. My information came from my parents and both sets of grandparents at home, and while they taught me a plethora of information regarding our Bengali culture, I felt restricted that I could not share a part of myself outside our home.

When we first started this organization, I did not believe that BKPA would amount to much besides a club which held five events a year and taught Bangla informally on weekends. That belief seems foolish now, as our organization has made an astounding name for itself not only in the tri-state area but internationally as well. I would be remiss if I did not thank all the members and families who have been involved with BKPA since its conception – their hard work, ambition, and dedication is what has made a child's dream into a 501c3 non-profit organization and much, much more. I will not list all of BKPA's community service work, achievements, recognition, etc. in this short letter, but you can easily find this information on our website ([www.bkpa.org](http://www.bkpa.org)).

I apologize for missing our second annual Kali Puja, as I am currently writing this letter from Uganda (where I am conducting my Master's degree research work). It was very hard for me to be away from my family and friends this Durga Puja. However, I spent this past summer in Kolkata, India participating in the U.S. State Department's Critical Language Program for Bangla. It was a two-month intensive language learning program, which also allowed its participants to explore West Bengal. During this time, I visited Kumartuli, where the Kali Thakur statue you see before you was being made by Mr. Sunil Paul, a recipient of the Presidential Medal for his magnificent work. I cannot stress how unique BKPA is, an organization for the kids and run by the kids to learn about the Bengali heritage and culture. Mr. Sunil Paul was overjoyed that such an organization exists outside of Bengal, and in the United States no less. He shook my hand and told me to make sure that BKPA continues to thrive. And the reality is, every time I mentioned BKPA in Kolkata this summer, I was met with awestruck expressions of wonder and curiosity, followed by many questions for more details about BKPA.

Therefore, this letter is not just a welcome message for this year's magazine. This letter is a thank you letter from me, personally, to everyone who has been involved with The Bengali Kids of Princeton Area since it was conceptualized at that kitchen table almost 15 years ago. I am humbled as I remember all the people, past and present, who believed in this organization and put in the time to make it something inspiring. Let us move forward in the future remembering that our Bengali language, culture, and heritage are aspects of ourselves that we should always take pride in and never keep hidden.

Sincerely,

Anita Dam  
*Founder of BKPA*

# Our Sincere Gratitude to...



**Artisan Sunil Paul**

*for sculpting this beautiful Idol  
at Kumartuli, Kolkata, India*

**Mr. Pradip Choudhury**

of Poets Foundation

*for monitoring the whole process and  
being liaison between BKPA and the  
Artisan.*

**Dr. Suprasad Baidyoroj** of Princeton

*for bringing this beautiful Idol to USA.*

**BKPA Parents**

*for your guidance, dedication and  
contributions*

**Thank you!**



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल  
न्यू यार्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA  
NEW YORK



October 16, 2017

**MESSAGE**

I am delighted to know that The Bengali Kids of Princeton Area (BKPA) is organizing Kali Puja & Diwali celebration on Saturday, October 21, 2017 in Somerset, New Jersey. I am also happy to know that BKPA is bringing out a magazine to mark the celebrations.

I congratulate BKPA on the commendable work being done by them to support and serve the Bengali population in the NJ - PA area over the last 15 years. The focus of the organization on four pillars of Education, Cultural, Literary and Charity is indeed admirable.

On this auspicious occasion, I convey my greeting to the organizers as well as to all members of Indian community and hope it brings in happiness, prosperity and peace in our lives.

संदीप चक्रवर्ती

Sandeep Chakravorty

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल

Consul General of India

न्यू यॉर्क

New York



# পোয়েটস ফাউন্ডেশন

( আন্তর্জাতিক শিক্ষা-সাহিত্য-সংস্কৃতি-সামাজ্যসেবা সংস্থা )

৮/২০ ফার্ন রোড, কলকাতা – ৭০০০১৯, ভারতবর্ষ

ইমেইল - poetfoundation@gmail.com :: Website : www.poetsfoundation.com

Phone : +91 9830066310

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## শুভেচ্ছা বার্তা

আমার প্রিয় BKPA -র সদস্য-সদস্যবৃন্দ,

তোমরা আমার শুভ বিজয়া ও দীপাবলির আদর ও ভালবাসা নিও। তোমাদের মা-বাবাকে আমার প্রীতি ও শুভেচ্ছা জানিও। নিউজার্সিতে তোমরা দুর্গা পুজোয় খুব আনন্দ করেছো। আমরাও কলকাতায় খুব আনন্দ করেছি।

এবার আনন্দ সংবাদ জানাই,- BKPA -র জন্য তোমরা আমাকে কুমারটুলি থেকে কালী ঠাকুর বানানোর দায়িত্ব দিয়েছিলে। তোমাদের ৭৪ বছরের যুবক দাদু ঠিক মতো সে কাজ করতে পেরেছে কিনা জানাবে। তোমরা দীপাবলিতে খুব আনন্দ করো।

পোয়েটস ফাউন্ডেশনের বার্ষিক স্কলারশিপ প্রোগ্রাম ১০-১২ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৮ কলকাতায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সেই অনুষ্ঠানে BKPA -র কোন প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকলে আমরা খুবই খুশী হবো। তোমরা সবাই ভালো থাকো। ইতি-

তোমাদের প্রিয় দাদু  
প্রদীপ কুমার চৌধুরী



# বঙ্গ সংস্কৃতি সংঘ

**CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF BENGAL, NY**  
**FOUNDER OF NORTH AMERICAN BENGALI CONFERENCE**  
**(NABC)**



10/12/2017

**CULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
BENGAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**President**

Milan Awon

**President Elect**

Dilip Chakrabarti

**Vice-Presidents**

Debi P Palit

Tapas Sanyal

**Secretary**

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Pranab Das

Arun Bhattacharya

Asok Motayed

Asoke Dey Sarkar

Samprakash Majumdar

Purna Bhattacharya

Kumar Sankar Mondal

Dear Mitali and Sahil,

Thank you for reaching out to me and sharing information about your organization. I enjoyed learning about The Bengali Kids of Princeton Area, and I am proud of its achievement over the past decade and a half. It is up to you and your members to carry on the torch of learning and promoting the Bengali culture and language.

Continue to stay focus on the objectives of BKPA and encourage others to join in. Your passion and dedication towards the four pillars of BKPA will truly make each one of you a strong global citizen. I look forward to learning more about BKPA's future activities and providing you guidance along the way.

Congratulations on your second year of Kali Puja. Due to a previous commitment, I will not be able to attend but look forward to meeting the BKPA community in the future.

Best Wishes,

*Milan K. Awon*  
Milan K. Awon

President

Cultural Association of Bengal (CAB) NY

**Milan Awon : 43 CENTRAL AVE 2ND FLOOR. WESTBURY , NY 11590**

# আমার বাংলা

—কার্তিক দত্ত  
(পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, ভারত)

আমার বাংলা- শ্রুতিমধুর বিশ্ব জুড়ে স্মরণ করে  
আমার বাংলা মায়ের হাঁসি চাঁদের বুকে ঝরে।  
আমার বাংলা- সাধক-সন্ন্যাসী রামকৃষ্ণ-বিবেকানন্দ  
কত পুণ্যস্থান তারাপীঠ, দক্ষিণেশ্বর, মঠ আনন্দ।  
আমার বাংলা- শরৎ-বন্ধিম-বিভূতি আরও কত নাম  
সুজলাং সুফলাং মলয়জশীতলাম্ শস্যশ্যামলা মাতরম্।  
আমার বাংলা- ভাটিয়ালী-পল্লীগীতি-বাউল-কীর্তন  
কত বিদ্বান প্রাণ-গুণীজন সাধন-ভজন-পূজন।  
আমার বাংলা- কত বিপ্লবী বন্ধুর রক্তে রাঙা  
করার ওই লৌহ কপাট, বন্দীশালার শিকল ভাঙা।  
আমার বাংলা- সুকুমার-জীবনানন্দ-রবীন্দ্র  
অশ্বিনের শারদ প্রাতে বীরেন্দ্র কৃষ্ণ ভদ্র।  
আমার বাংলা- দুর্গা পূজায় আনন্দ আর সুখ  
গুরুজন প্রণাম বিজয়াতে আর মিষ্টি মুখ।  
আমার বাংলা- কবি গুরুর সেই কথাটা মনে রাখে  
ছয় ঋতু আর বারো মাস সাজিয়ে রাখে বাংলা মা'কে।  
আমার বাংলা- নলেন গুড়, ইলিশ-চিংড়ির বাহারে  
খাই খাই কেন কর এস বসো আহারে।  
আমার বাংলা- শীতের সকাল বসন্ত পঞ্চমী তিথি  
তোমায় দিলাম খোলা চিঠি সরস্বতী বিদ্যাপতি।  
আমার বাংলা- কালি পূজায় বাজির শব্দে ভয়  
দোলের সময় রং দেবনা তাই কখনও হয়।  
আমার বাংলা- মায়ের মুখের মধুর হাঁসি  
বল বল বল সবে বাংলা তোমায় ভালো বাসি।

(বি কে পি এ - র ' কালীপূজা-২০১৭'-এর মণ্ডপ সজ্জার কিছু কাজ  
ও অন্যান্য কিছু কাজ করার সুযোগ পেয়ে নিজেকে ধন্য মনে করছি,  
আমি এতটাই অনুপ্রাণিত সেখান থেকে আমার এই কবিতার সূচনা।  
আন্তরিক ভাবে বি কে পি এ - র অনেক অনেক সাফল্য কামনা করি।)

# Message from Co-Presidents:

Dear BKPA Families and Friends,

Welcome to our second year Kali Puja celebration!

With a little over 15 years serving the Bengali population in the NJ-PA Area, our organization, The Bengali Kids of Princeton Area (BKPA), is very proud to be publishing our second hard copy magazine for Kali Puja Celebration! BKPA was founded by kids for kids and intended to be a fun introduction to Bengali heritage and culture.

Bengali Heritage Class teaches us teamwork, leadership skills, public speaking, professionalism, and values that promote hard work, honesty, discipline, fairness, and respect.

Our teachers help us to prepare for college by holding resume workshops, practicing writing skills, identifying community work and Summer Internships for the high school years. BKPA gives its members the opportunity to have a never-ending learning experience.

As American Bengali Kids, our goals are to pursue higher education, establish ourselves as good citizens, give back to the local and global community, and learn about our Bengali Heritage while continuing the legacy of our rich Bengali culture.

We started Kali Puja last year and by popular demand, we have opened it up to the greater BKPA community. Friends and extended family members of BKPA have come from Tri-State area to be a part of this special day making it a Grand Celebration! Thank you!

Apart from celebrating Kali Puja, BKPA also celebrates Saraswati Pujo, Bengali Heritage Day (close to the Bengali New Year in April), and enjoys Summer Picnic, and Holiday Outing.

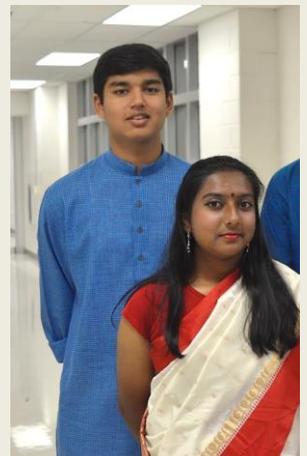
We would like to take this opportunity to extend a word of thanks to all our parents, grandparents and Kids' Committee Members for their continued support.

We hope you enjoy this magazine and our heartfelt thanks to our Sponsors for their generosity!

We feel proud and honored to be a part of this unique organization. It has been a great pleasure to serve as the Co-Presidents of 2017.

We wish everyone a very Happy Kali Puja and Diwali.

**Mitali Chowdhury and Sahil Banerjee**  
**Co-Presidents of BKPA, 2017**



## Committee Members:

Vice Presidents:	Sanjukta Mahata, Sohan Pramanik,
Executives :	Sahil Banerjee, Mitali Chowdhury, Sanjukta Mahata, Sohan Pramanik
Officers:	Anisha Das, Anushka Purkayastha
Staff:	Shalin Banerjee, Reyan Bhattacharjee, Anish Bhattacharya, Pratyush Chakraborty, Ishani Chowdhury, Ayan Das, Bipasha Mazumdar, Biswajoy Mazumdar, Saraswati Mookerjee, Ayushee Mukhopadhyay, Nidhi Pramanik, Akansha Purkayastha, Saesha Purkayastha, Swarnab Roy, Arush Sanbui
Assistants:	Amolika Chatterjee, Raima Bhattacharjee, Mia Saha, Mritsha Saha, Raj Saha, Rishi Sanbui, Roopkatha Bagchi

## Thank you, to our past Presidents:

Sohan Pramanik & Sanjukta Mahata  
Soham Bhattacharya  
Arnob Dam  
Pia Pal  
Anu Gupta  
Anita Dam  
Nikhilesh Dey  
Subha Samanta  
Sneha Basu  
Nimita Mittra

# BKPA Mission:

BKPA stands for “The Bengali Kids of Princeton Area”. Our unique organization is run by kids, and is for anyone who wants to learn about the rich Bengali Heritage, Language and Culture in a fun way.

Our goal is to provide our members with the opportunity to have a life long Bengali learning experience. We are grateful for the help and guidance given to us by our elders.

BKPA is a registered nonprofit organization focused on four pillars:

## EDUCATIONAL

- ❖ Weekly Bengali Heritage Class
- ❖ Trips/ Tours
- ❖ Physician Shadowing Program in India

## LITERARY

- ❖ E-Magazines
- ❖ Book Publishing
- ❖ Providing Academic Scholarships

## CULTURAL

- ❖ Saraswati Puja
- ❖ Bengali New Year
- ❖ Summer Picnic
- ❖ Kali Puja
- ❖ Holiday Play Outing

## CHARITABLE

- ❖ Autism Walk
- ❖ Performance at Nursing Homes
- ❖ Volunteering Abroad

Thank you, to our  
Volunteer Bengali  
Heritage Class  
Teachers:



Language  
Performing Arts  
Costume & Makeup

# Bengali Heritage Class Teachers:

Costume & Makeup



Performing Arts

Language



The following pages highlight work by our students & members:





The Bengali Heritage Class concentrates in exposing kids to our Bengali language, culture, heritage and helps them to learn the material in a FUN WAY.



Aaryan	Biswajoy	Rupkatha
Akanksha	Ishani	Rupsha
Amolika	Kavisha	Saasha
Anish	Krittika	Sahil
Anisha	Mia	Sanjukta
Anushka	Mitali	Saraswati
Aritra	Mritsa	Sayan Shuvra
Arkayan	Nidhi	Shaina
Arush K	Pratyush	Shalin
Arush S	Raima	Shreshtha
Autri	Raj	Sohan
Ayan	Reyan	Sreya
Ayushee	Rishi	Swarnab
Bipasha	Roopkatha	Swayam Shuvra

## Hello Friends,

By: Mritsa Saha

I'm Mritsa. Today, I will tell you about my grandparents. I have four grandparents.

I call my paternal grandfather "Big dadu". He is eldest among my all grandparents. His hair is all white and my paternal grandmother is "Thammu". She has very long hair. They live at Khardah, India.

And I call my maternal grandfather "Tall dadu". He is very tall, 6 feet and 3 inches. Every morning "Tall dadu" sings Gayatri mantra and practices Pranayam(Yoga). He reads books all the time. My grandmother is "Rai". She tells me lots of story and taught me how to count in Bengali. They live at Ranaghat, India.

Last year Big Dadu, Thammu and Rai came to visit us. We were so happy and had lots of fun. We went to visit New York City, Niagara Falls and Washington D.C and Shenandoah national park. They bought so many gifts for me. When they went back in India, I was super-duper sad. Then they promised that they will visit us again.

I love all my grandparents and they love me too.



Ishani Chowdhury 16

## The Person I Most Admire in my Life

By: Ayan Das

The person I admire most in my life is my *Mom*. To the world she might seem like an ordinary person, but to my family and me, she is our hero.

While my dad is at work, my mom does everything she can to take care of us. She always takes us to music lessons, practices, and many other things. We do lots of fun things together. No matter how tired she is, she always cooks a meal for us. She plays with me when I am alone and also does all these silly dances to make me laugh when I am sad. My mom is always there for us, even though we can get very annoying sometimes. When my sister and I are fighting, she always helps us solve our problems. She does everything she can to make us happy. She is also the best story teller ever. Every night before I go to bed, my mom makes up the most interesting and adventurous stories in which my sister and I are heroic character's all the time.

I also admire her because she always puts us first. She makes sure we have everything we need before she even thinks about herself. She always says that my sister and I are the most important people in her life. My mom also teaches me to respect others and to be kind to everyone I meet. I love my mom very much and she is definitely one of the most admirable figures in my life.

# The Most Memorable Days of My Life

By: Anisha Das

Last year I had a chance to go to *Orlando Disneyworld and Universal Studio* with my family during the Thanksgiving holidays. This trip was a dream come true for me as I have been looking forward to visit those places for a long time.

We arrived at Orlando airport in time and we got a rental car. We headed for a Villa that we booked for the first four days of our trip. The first day we relaxed in the hotel and at the pool. We knew the next few days would be fun but also stressful – so we had to get our rest.

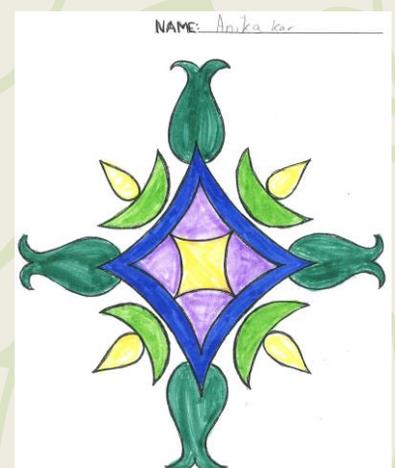
The next day the adventure started with *Disney's Magic Kingdom*. We had a fun time going all over the parks. The *Cinderella Castle* was fantastic. We saw the parade and got awed by the fire spitting dragon. I also got a chance to meet *Mickey Mouse* and take pictures with him. At the end of the night, we saw breathtaking fireworks. The environment all together was mesmerizing.

The next day we went to the *Epcot Center*. I was all excited because Epcot has many rides related to science and technology. We started with the *Frozen* ride and then completed the rest of the rides in the morning. The other part of the Epcot Center represents a replica of places around the world. We travelled around many “countries” around the lake and enjoyed food from all over the world.

Then came the Universal resort which is by far most gorgeous hotel I have ever been to. After the first three days we were very tired going from park to park and standing in line for the rides. We had Universal fast pass and early entry to the park so we could skip long lines.

Universal Orland has two theme parks side by side connected by Universal city walk. The main attraction of both the parks was the *Harry Potter* rides. This was very exciting for me being an avid Harry Potter fan. We took *Hogwarts Express* several times which travels between the parks. We also did the Harry Potter rides in both parks many times. Between the rides we managed to stroll in the *Dragon Alley*, getting our wizard wands and sitting down to drink *Butter Beer*. My brother was more excited about the *Marvel comics* section but I rode all the big roller coasters. But the best ride was undoubtedly *King Kong* and the *Skull Island*. I would never forget Kong throwing dinosaur's from one side of our car to the other side.

And this, in short are a few moments from one of most memorable days in my life. I hope you enjoyed reading this as I enjoyed being there.



Anika Kar



Akanksha Purkayastha

## My Parents

By: Akanksha  
Purkayastha

I love my Parents, My Mom and dad. I have reasons why I love them. Read on to find out my reasons.

### My Mom

My mom does a lot of special things and common things like how everyone does work. My mom makes food for the family, cleans the house, wakes me and my sister up for school!

And for BKPA she's a singing teacher! That's why I love my Mom.

### My Dad

My Dad does a lot of special and common things to! My dad helps by working at his office to earn money for him and the family, he cares for us when we're sick and helps us with school assignments. My dad is also funny, responsible and a great dad I love my dad and both of my parents!

Akanksha Purkayastha

## My Sister

By: Akanksha Purkayastha

I Love my sister. She helps me get ready for the future like teaching me new things I never knew, she always tries to cheer me up when I'm down. She's always nice to me and makes me laugh like crazy! I look up to her and I'm glad I do! She's the best sister I could ask for!

Akanksha Purkayastha

## আমাদের ব্যার্ট

সে দিনটা ছিল আমাদের জীবনের একটি Special Day, স্নান বিশেষ দিন। গরুর হুঁরী প্রফুল্ল জীবিত। আমি, স্নান, (Mona) বাবা আর দাদাভাই YMCA তে গিয়েছিলাম স্নানের ব্যার্টে। আমি আর স্নান স্নান করে অপেক্ষা করছিলাম দাদাভাই আর বাবাকে। গুরা প্রফুল্লা একটা অক্ষয়কুমার দ্বান ফিলাছিল। নবির একটি বোনাম বড় একটি Tide Detergent এর ব্যাগ রাখা ছিল। হঠাৎ আমি দেখলাম ব্যাগটার ভেতরে দুই দুই বছর আগুয়ান্ট হচ্ছে। আমি ভয় পেয়ে স্নানকে দেখলাম - "দেখো! ব্যাগটা নিচে নিচেই গরু যাক্ আমর হাঁকু সর হাত ফিঁচ ফিঁচ আগুয়ান্ট হচ্ছে!!" স্নানও অবাক হয় গেল আর আমাকে বলল, "চল তো দেখি, ব্যাগটা গর্বিৎ কি আছে?" আমাকে ভয় ভয়ে ব্যাগটার সামনে আস্ত আস্ত গিয়ে উঁকি দিলে দেখি একটি ছোট্ট মাছ বল গুঁথে। ব্যাগটার গর্বিৎ অক্ষয় দুটো ছোট্ট ছোট্ট beady চোখ। গুরে দেখে আমরা খুব গুল নাগ আর আমি লালিয়ে গেলাম, আমরা অক্ষয় হ দেখি স্নান গুই স্নান ব্যাগটা বে আমর করে - "এই পাগল, এটা একটা ছোট্ট গিনিপিজ (Guinea Pig)" স্নান বলল।

- "তুমি কি বন্ধ জানলে?" আমি জিজ্ঞেস করলাম।

- "ছোটবেলায় আমার অনেক খরগোশ (rabbit আর Guinea pig) ছিল।"

স্নানকে আমর করে দেখে receptionist স্নানকে বলল,

- "Do you want to keep her?"

- "Can we really?"

- "Yes, her owner abandoned her here, but you can have her if you want!" 3 বলল

- "Let me check with the whole family!" স্নান বলল।

প্রফুল্ল আমি স্নান কে বর বর বললাম - "আমরা কি গুরে বাড়ি নিয়ে যেতে পারি, তুমি বলেছিলে অন্যদিনে আমরা Hamster কিনে দেবে, কিন্তু প্রফুল্ল আমি গুরেই চাই!! আমি Hamster চাই না!"

আমর গুরে কথা যখন এল, প্রফুল্ল আমরাকে চিব করল যে আমরা গুরে বাড়ি নিয়ে যাব। আমর আমর নাড়িত যেতে যেতে স্নান চিব করল। আমর owner বলেছিল ও গুরে গুরে খুব ভালবাসে, এই আমরা গুরে নাগ রাখলাম Carrot। আমর আমর ছোট্ট শিশু Carrot আমরকে সাফাই বড় হতে লাগলো, আর আমরা কেউ কেউ কেউ দাদা হাম করে পাগল না। আমরা যখন দুলে যেসম ও হাম গুরে ফাঁকু। আর স্নান আমরকে ব্যাগটা বিক্রি কিনে দিলেই ও লাগলো লাগি শুরু করে স্নান প্রফুল্ল গুরে আমর হাম গুরে ছেড়ে দিত আর ও আমরকে সাফাই মাগা বাড়ি গুরে বেড়াতো। ছয় বছর পর Carrot আমরকে ছেড়ে চলে গেল। প্রফুল্ল আমি Carrot ফাই না, আমরা Carrot দেখলেই আমরা গুরে স্নান করে, আমি গুরে খুব মিলে বসি কিন্তু আমি জেনি ও আমরকে সাফাই সব স্নান আমর।

In memory of Carrot।  
সামান্তুল্ল চক্রবর্তী।  
বয়স - ১১।

my inspiration, my family.

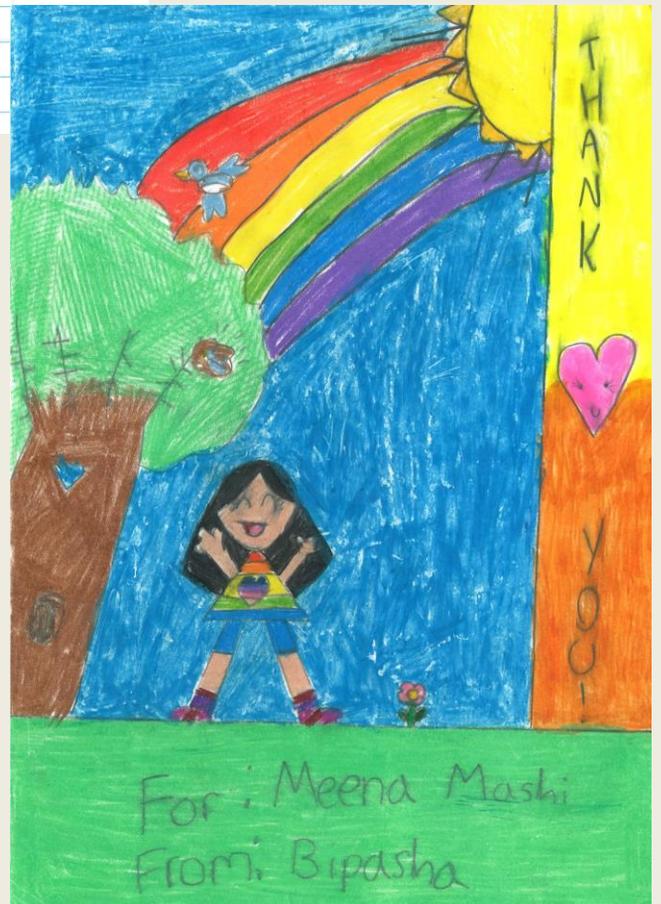
A Family of four. Each with a special role. First, my dad. My dad always leads me to the choices that are right for me. He is very wise and is really funny too. Second, my mom. She also leads me to the path which will make me succeed. She makes me eat healthy as well as help me do well in school. Third, my crazy sister. She is really weird and pretty annoying, but she has also changed me as a person. She gives me her opinions on various things and joins me on my weirdness. I'm happy to be someone she can look up to and learn from my mistakes. My family as a whole is very unique. We all love teasing each other and correcting each others mistakes aside from fooling around.

"Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one."

By: Anushka Purkayastha



Shaina Mitra





Rishi Sanbui

## Memorable Experience

By: Arush Sanbui

The short trip to New York during this summer was a happy experience for me and my family and it's memory is still green in my mind. It was filled with adventure, fun, love and so much more.

We drove to our hotel, Westin on 42nd Street in New York. Madame Tussauds museum was right opposite to our hotel. It was interesting to learn that Madame Tussauds was a French artist known for her wax sculptures. Being a soccer fan, I was delighted to see Messi's wax figure. It was so real.

We saw The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe -off Broadway at St. Luke's theatre. It's based on a novel by C.S . Lewis about four siblings visiting Narnia. Peter and Lucy took us to Narnia where the white witch has cast a spell. They did a good job of connecting with all of us in the audience through their storytelling. We all enjoyed it thoroughly.

Visiting Museum of Modern Art on Midtown Manhattan was an inspiring experience. Amongst many exhibits, work of architecture, painting, sculpture, photography, Claude Monet's Reflection of Clouds on the water lily pond left a favorable impression on my mind. It's peaceful and my favorite color blue.

Watching U.S open tennis match was like a dream come true. I watched three matches. Rafael Nadal went on to winning the Men's singles and Sloane Stephens won the women's singles.

In this trip, me and my brother got to buy a lot of souvenirs from all the places we visited. Staten Island ferry ride was another breathtaking experience. It's about 5 miles and takes half an hour. From the deck of the ferry you can have a perfect view of The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

It's great to reminisce about good memories. This fun filled trip will definitely be one of them.

## শান্তিনিবেশনের গল্প অনিতা দাস

এই বছর গরমকালে আমি বন্ধবগতায় দুই সাতা কাটিয়েছি। সেই সাতা আমি আর আমার বন্ধু তিন দিন শান্তিনিবেশনে কাটিয়েছি। আমার অনেক দিন ধরেই শান্তিনিবেশন দেখবার ইচ্ছে ছিলো বগবন আমি রবি ঠাকুরকে খুব সন্তান করি। আমি আর আমার বন্ধু হাওড়া স্টেশনে রেলগাড়িতে উঠেছি। দুই ঘণ্টা পরে আমরা বোলপুর স্টেশনে নেমেছি। প্রথম দিন আমরা শ্রমণ কিছু করিনি। দুপুরের খাবার খাওয়ার পরে আমরা একটা টো-টো ধরেছি। আমরা আগে একটা কালী মন্দিরে গেছি। তারপর বেগানাই নদীর তীরে ধরে গেছি। নদীর পাশে আমরা বাউল-গান শুনেছি। দ্বিতীয় দিন আমরা অনেক ঘরেছি। একটা গার্ড আমাদেবকে বিশ্বভারতী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অব ডবন দেখিয়েছে - প্রথম ডবনের নাম ছিল শান্তিনিবেশন। আমরা ঠাকুর পরিবারের ছুটা বাড়ি দেখেছি। অব থেকে বড় বাড়িতে একটা ডান করে যাদুঘর তৈরি করেছেন। এখন থেকে রবি ঠাকুরের মোবল আইজ চুরি হয়ে গেছিল। দুপুরে আমরা বেগানাই মেনাতে অনেক বেলা কাটি করেছি। শান্তিনিবেশনে আমি অনেক ইতিহাস শিখেছি এবং বন্ধুর সঙ্গে খুব আনন্দ হয়েছিল।



**Bolpur Train Station**



**Tow-Tow Car**



**Kali Mandir**



**Baul Gaan next to Kopai Nodi**



**The 1st Bhavan which is called Santiniketan**



**One of the six houses on the Tagore estate (this one Rabi Thakur built for his immediate family)**



আমার প্রথম ভেটু জেল এই নিয়ে তিন বার হল। একবার একটা য় একবার দুটো য় আর এখন কাজে তিনটা। Orlando second year 'কিউ এক' ঘুরটাও তিনা য়মোটে মারছি না। আর মাত্র দাঁট ঘুরটা আর সবই মৌটে যাবো আমার স্বপ্নের স্টেশন। না না Disney World নয় আমান বি Harry Potter এর ট্রাক্স ও নয়ে তম্বার স্বপ্নের ট্রাক্স NASA, মাত্র Kennedy Space Center।

একবার জেট য়েই আমার য়েই ছিল Astrobiologist য়েই, আর য়েই য়েই টা তেরী বরে ছিল আমার জেডদাদু মাত্র আমান মাত্র জেট মাত্র। আমার জেডদাদু Rocket Scientist। ক্যাজ করতেন Lockheed Martin। দাদুর ক্যাজ বর্ষা শুধু এই Company Apollo 11 এর propulsion system টা বানিয়ে ছিল। আর জেডদাদু এর ওমর ক্যাজ ও ক্যাজিয়েন।

জেটেরোনা জেট দুটি তে আমান মাত্র Connecticut য়েই জেডদাদুর বাড়িতে। আর ওমর জেট য়েই জেডদাদু নিজের কাজে গল্প সনায়ে, আর অরর space related picturebook দিইন সবজো য়েই মাত্রকালর জেই সব amazing ছবি জেই আমান ড়াল লম্বা সব হযেছিল। আমানর আমান আমান য়েই বয়ে হযেই ছবির সাথে সাত নম্বরবম্বের fact ও মাত্র শুধু ক্যাজ করলাম। এইভারেই জেট য়েই আমানর space এর ওমর interest তেরী হযেছিল। আমানর মাত্র হযে আমানর জেডদাদু আমানর ওমর সব য়েই বড় influence।

আমান জেডদাদু Florida তে মাত্রজা, কিন্তু আমান আমান হযেই ক্যাজ বলে জেডদাদুর সাথে, আর মাত্র আমান জেডদাদু Connecticut এ আমান আমানর ক্যাজ ও আমান

আমাজে আমান Kennedy Space Center য়েই য়েই মাত্র। য়েই ক্যাজ সবায় সাথে এই wonderful experience টা share করি। সবায় মাত্র জেই মাত্র, astronaut এর space suit, আর original Apollo 11 space ship সব দেখেই। য়েই সব য়েই আমানর মাত্র আমান আমান astronaut এর space travel এর experience আর আর জেই গল্প শুধু, আর সাথে ক্যাজ বনেই। আর মাত্র আমানর original Apollo 11 control center য়ে টা আমান Apollo 11 এর launch simulation theater hall। আমান আমানর real launch এর simulation দেখেই।

এর মাত্র আমান একটা bus tour য়েই সব space launch pad মাত্র দেখলাম। আমান এই bus tour এই জেই মাত্র মাত্র য়েই একটা space launch মাত্র, আর মাত্র দিন এই। আর ওই launch দেখার সব য়েই জেই জেই আমানর miami মাত্র মাত্র।

আর মাত্র দিন আমান Cocoa beach এ মাত্র মাত্র, launch টার মাত্র য়েই য়েই মাত্র আমানর মাত্র মাত্র য়েই আমান launch দেখেই জেই মাত্র জেই মাত্র launch দেখার মাত্র। ওমর মাত্র minute মাত্র আমানর rocket টা মাত্র আমান। আর মাত্র আমানর একটা NASA software designer য়েই মাত্র আমানর মাত্র আমানর মাত্র। জেই মাত্র য়েই -you can always reach your dreams, just keep the dream alive। আর মাত্র জেই মাত্র মাত্র য়েই -I will save an employee parking spot for you। আমানর জেডদাদুর মাত্র জেই Steve এর মাত্র আমানর inspiration list এ য়েই মাত্র।



Anish Bhattacharya



Nidhi Ramanik

এখন রাত ২টা। আমার বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের হস্টেলের ঘরে বসে আছি। আগামীকাল ক্লাসের জন্য অনেক কাজ করতে হবে। কাজগুলো বাকিরেখে ঘুমোতে গেলে মানসিক চাপ বাড়বে, আবার কাজগুলো আগামীকাল শেষ করার তাগিদ থাকবে – কিন্তু কাজগুলো এখন শেষ করে রাখলে, আবার শরীরের ওপর তার চাপ পড়বে।

— — — এখন আমি কি করব ?

BKPA-এর সবাইকে আমার শুভেচ্ছা জানাই।

- অর্ণব দাম

Arnob Dam



# In Memory of My Dida

By: Soham Bhattacharya

September 28th, 2017. That was the day my grandmother from my mother's side passed away. My family and I were woken up by a phone call from relatives back in India. I quite vividly recall how my mother's world was shattered in that very instant. My father and I tried our best to comfort her through her grief.

I remember feeling quite numb emotionally myself when I learned about all of this. This was the first time in my life in which I was dealing with a death of a direct family member. Accepting the fact that my grandmother had passed away has turned out to be quite difficult for me. I find myself often reminiscing about the times I spent with her when my family and I visited her back in Bandel. From the delicious meals she would cook for us to all the stories she would tell me regarding her own life experiences, she always knew how to put a smile on my face. She truly was one of the most extraordinarily kind, compassionate, and caring people I have ever been with my entire life. I would go as far as to even consider her a "second mother" (after my own mom obviously). All of this has often made me mourn her death silently and even at times nearly lose interest from doing my college work and other activities to keep myself happy in life. However, whenever such instances nearly happen, I always remind myself that my grandmother would not want me to bash myself over her death to such a degree that it eventually hurts my life. And thus, with that mindset, my parents and I continue to go on with our lives. Obviously, there are quite a lot of rough patches that we are still working through regarding her passing. However, I am confident that we shall all eventually be able to move on from this tragedy in a positive manner and go back to living a happier family life, which is what my grandmother would want.



Rupkatha Basu



Autri Ojha

## ...the person who inspired me.

By: Sahil Banerjee

The person who inspired me in sports was my PE teacher and first basketball coach in Elementary School in California. He consistently motivated me to take interest in sports and said, "you can do it". He believed in me and suggested me to play basketball. It looks impossible to me at first but his continuous encouragements slowly inclined me towards the essence of sports. I still remember when he used to discuss about obstacles, failures, doubts, hard work, teamwork and determination and taught me everything. That unknowingly inspired me to be "simply myself".

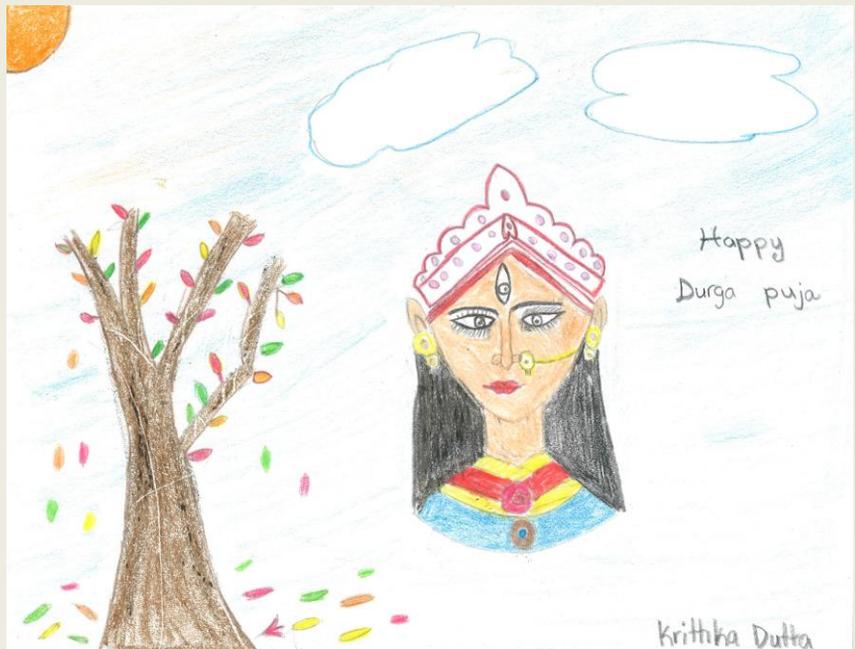
The journey continued.... he doesn't know that how his words and training changed my life and attitude towards the game. I dedicate my 'love to sports' to **Mr. Michael Sordello**, who was the mentor behind encouragement and my success. The small success story initiated in California led me to High School Basketball team in New Jersey.

I believe, "if your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then you are a leader". Leadership is not about making someone's life better with your presence but the impact should last in your absence. It applies to my teacher who is my role model till date.

## "Our biggest festival"

Last week of September 2017 was my biggest festival of my native land which I celebrated with family and friends in New Jersey. Its called Durga puja, its "victory of good over the evil". Goddess Durga stands for power and strenght and celebrated for ten days. We wear new cloths, visit temple last four days. We eat different types foods and sweets. Last day is called Bijoya dashmi, when we touch our elders feets and convey the message "Shubho Bijoya".  
- Swarnab Roy

Swarnab Roy



Krithika Dutta

## The Memorable Day of My Life

By: Shalin Banerjee

Travelling is fun and I love to go to new and beautiful places. My friends always share their travelling experiences to far places especially by cruise. I too had been to great places by air. I had a dream of travelling in a big ship to a beautiful island.



My dream came true and December 27, 2015 became a **Memorable Day of my life**. I was standing on a boarding embarkment in NY in front of a giant, colorful cruise ship, 'Norwegian Breakaway'. A seven-day memorable trip to Bahamas with family and friends. My cabin with balcony added charms to my joyful trip. This fun-filled trip was full of memories having so many restaurants, events, arcades, water sports, movies and many more...We also had a grand 'New Year' celebration on the ship deck while cruising.

## The Magical Potion at Hershey

By: Arush Kundu

"We shall call the the minister minister helping chief'replied one of the workers. One of the workers talked to a radio but'it was off. He must have cut the line, and that's why we can't get help. "We are locked up!" cried one of the workers. "Why is he so deceitful". "We need some rope for climbing up and out of the basement." "Gather all the stuff nearby. Get hooks and ropes". "The only place we can get these things from is the basement," but it's up there in the rope." "I'll do it," replied Arush. Arush can climb hundred thousand feet high. The size rope was one hundred thousand feet high. Go on Arush, I depend on you.

He started to climb the rope, and in five minutes he climbed the whole rope. He saw a map which said how to get out if you're locked up. So he took a lot of maps with him. When he come back, he exclaimed, " I have brought a lot of maps!" "You know you need to get the key;" a worker reminded him. "Wait a minute the key is made out of rubber," the worker noticed. "That's why we needed, the map."

Three cheers for Arush! Hip, Hip, Hooray! "There's an exit but you have to find the magical potion," offered another worker, "But where it is, that's what we have to find out". Arush suggested a great idea, "Let's split the teams and the team A looks at the roof and the basement, while team B looks at the floor. If you find the magical potion, then shout to let someone know that you've found it. "It's here! It's Here!" Arush shouted with joy. He then thought to himself, *put the bottle in your pocket because we are going to team B*. Are you ready? Yes. Whoo hoo whoo hoo. Pour it to the chocolate "Yes sir". So he

poured the magical potion into the chocolate. And a breeze filled the air and the exit opened. "Should we go there?" "Yes, that's our only exit," Arush explained. They found a ladder which helped them to climb down into the lower basement. There they found a bus. They boarded the bus and Arush had the idea to surround the guy who was making the chocolate sour. His watch told Arush that the man making the chocolate sour would be leaving at 12 midnight. And ... they raced away and surrounded the man and kept him there until the police came.



## Definition of Inspiration

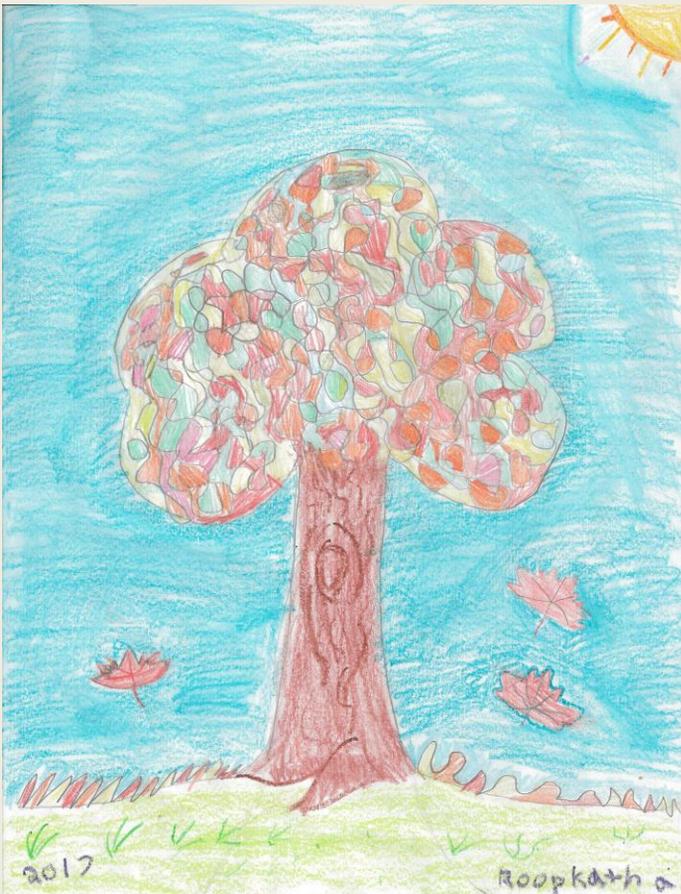
By: Sohan Pramanik

**Inspiration.** What is the meaning of this simple yet complex noun? Well when broken down, it splits into inspire and 'tion. The word inspire, by definition, means to have a sudden urge to do something, and it might be creative. And 'tion is a suffix used to form abstract nouns from verbs. This still doesn't help to define the real meaning of the complex, sophisticated word; inspiration. This word can be used in many places depending which context it's used in. Songs, quotes, a specific action, an object, and even people can be inspirational. All of these things can make someone "inspired" by encouraging or motivating them. Though inspire is the root word of inspiration, they both are still two very different words. Inspiration is a word that describes a process, a process where one receives the benefit from someone or something else, to become a better person. It is a kind of action where people learn and understand by a teacher, though the teacher could be anything or anyone. This is the broad way of looking at inspiration, the way that people can get a full understanding and feeling of what inspiration really means.

Now that there is a broad sense of inspiration, let's construct it to be more concise. When looking at inspiration, there can be many properties to make one inspired, and people are one of them. When looking at people who inspire others, they can be celebrities, or others who are famous. Though many people forget or unsure of the real people who are inspirational. They might be people who they see everyday, or even people who they don't know. But, they all connect together by making a change to the world. When characterizing in a deeper sense, people who are inspirational can fall onto two different categories. They can be inspirational by helping others and changing the world, or they can do something that would benefit themselves solely. It is hard to say that many people define inspiration as a category that would benefit themselves. We as a whole are forgetting about others who aren't famous but still do the right action for the well-being of others. These people will help the world be a better place, even though they don't get any recognition. One of the many examples of the real definition of inspiration is Anand Kumar.

Anand Kumar is a perfect example of inspiration because he spends his time teaching others and helping them to succeed. He is a professor of a school that he owns called Super 30: Ramanujan School of Mathematics . He accepts only 30 students from economically impoverished sections and hone their skills by providing a conducive environment. These students get free coaching, lodging, and food for preparation to get into the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Super 30 completed its 16 years on journey sending altogether 428 students to IIT since its inception from 2002, an impressive average of 90% success rate.

In 1994, Mr. Kumar got an opportunity to pursue higher education in Cambridge University, but his poor financial health came in the way. Having witnessed extreme financial hardship since childhood, he felt the sudden pain of poverty so much that he decided to do something for the poor students, which led to the birth of 'Ramanujam School of Mathematics'. Mr. Kumar is a brilliant example and the real definition of inspiration because he helps others to thrive in life, and he doesn't expect anything in return. He is changing the world without getting any remembrance. On the other hand, celebrities only care about themselves by showing off their fame and money.



Roopkatha Bagchi

## I Love Winter

By: Biswajoy Mazumdar

I love winter! Winter is cold.  
It's Christmas with sleds.

It's warm snuggly beds. It's  
silver snowflakes. It's skating  
on lakes.

It's snowmen that stand. In a  
snowy, white land. It's blue  
jays that feed On sunflower  
seeds.

It's angels that pose. In  
wintertime clothes. It's a  
polka-dot sky.

It's winter. That's why ....

I love winter.

### Me and My MOM in 99 words



~ by निधि 9yrs

We and my mom nurture and share a wonderful relation. We do this by spending a lot of time together, sharing everything in our daily lives. We watch television, shop, talk, play, share problems and viewpoint etc.

We care for each other. I help her with chores; dish washer, laundry, organizing, and making bed. She takes me to swim practice, dance class, BKPA. We also share stories every night.

My mom and I have a special bond. She encourages me, inspires me to try new things. To me my mom is my friend as well as MOM.

Nidhi Pramanik

## Memorable Day

By: Shreshtha Halder



My 10th birthday was the best birthday of my life! My party was super fun we played, we ate and we laughed It's a day I will never forget something I will never forget.

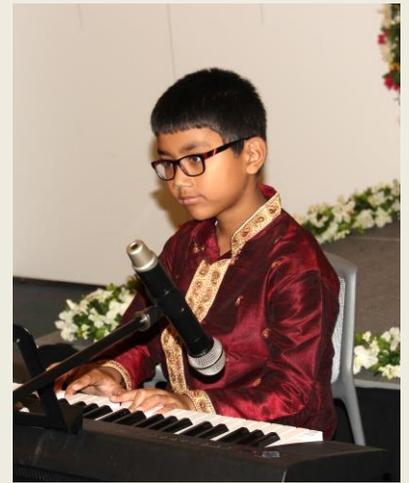
Before moving to America I used to live in India, and when I did move to America, I was little lonely but then as soon school started I made lots friends. Some were from my school and some from my neighborhood. I played with them all year it was lot fun then my birthday rolled around on April 15th. I told my parents I wanted to have my birthday at bounceU and they agreed. I invited all of my friends to my party and I thought it was going to be a lot of fun!

When finally my birthday rolled around I was super excited! When all my friends had come we started, first we went to one room with bouncy obstacle courses so we all raced each other and it was a lot of fun, next we went to another room with more bounce houses but they weren't obstacle courses they were just normal bouncy houses it was a lot of fun. After the bounce time, it was cake cutting time. We cut the cake it was a ice cream cake it was super yummy, next we ate the pizza it super yummy too. Finally, all my friends parents came to pick up my friends and then my party ended happily and peacefully

I always dreamt of having a grand celebration of my double digit birthday and it happened just like that, so my 10th birthday would remain as the most memorable day of my life.



# Educational Moments:



## Physician Shadowing Program in Kolkata, India

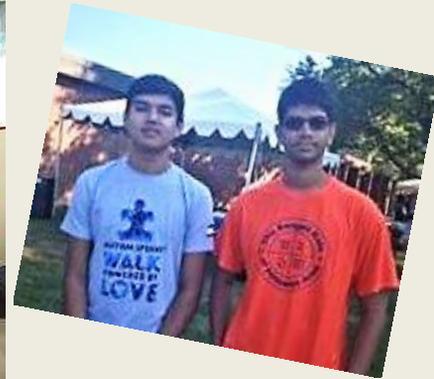
This BKPA pioneered program will definitely expose a high school student in how medicine is practiced in developing countries.



# Celebrations:



# Charitable Causes:



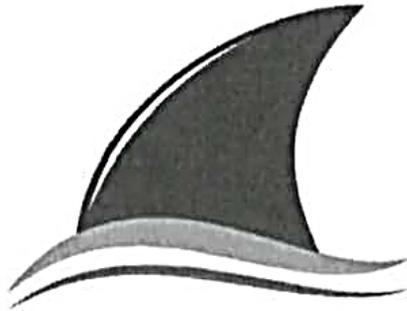
**Scholarship Fund**  
With help of Poets Foundation of Kolkata, India, BKPA members set up scholarship funds for needy students of West Bengal.  
  
Twelve such students receive funds every year.

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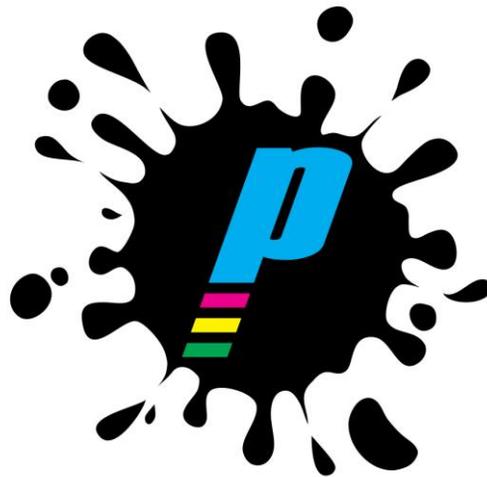
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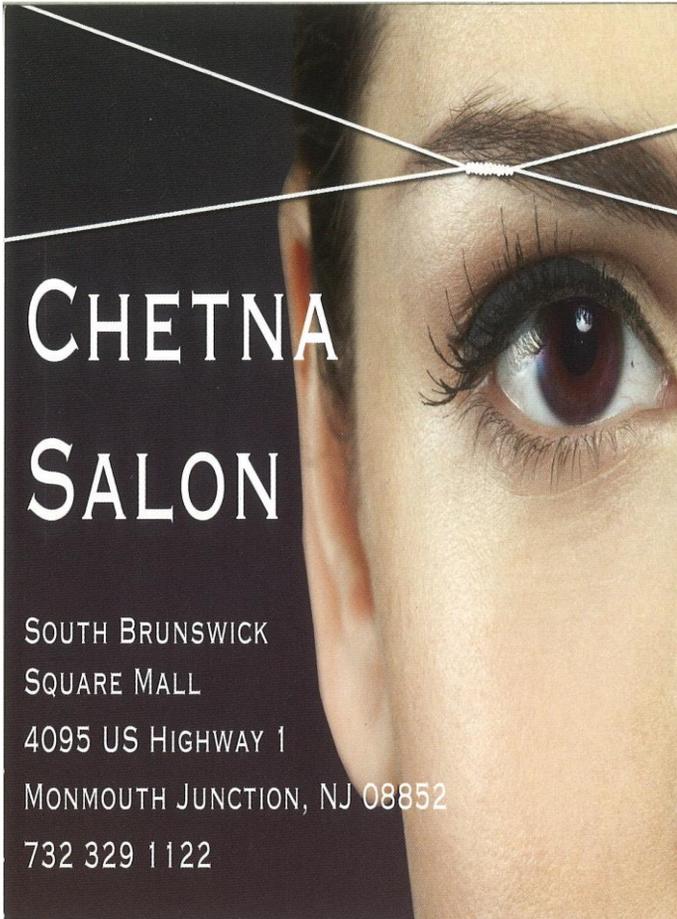
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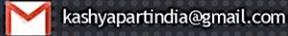
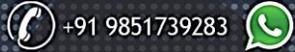
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