

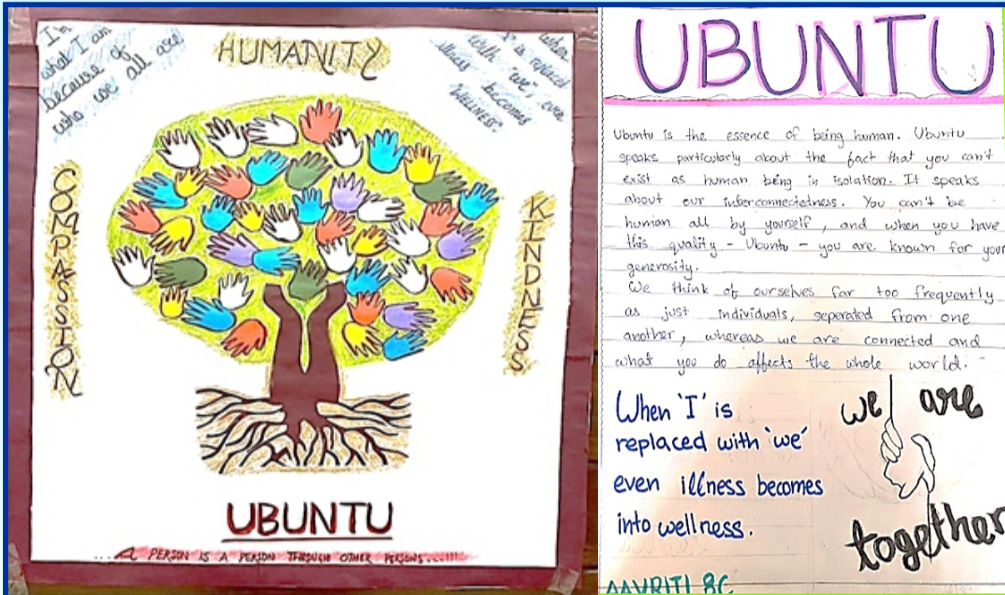
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Presented to you by the editorial team of grade 7, this edition captures UBUNTU in action, along with the other happenings that keep the corridors of Deens buzzing with excitement.

- Ms. Hemlata Pande, Principal, Gunjur Campus

Section 1- Theme of the month- UBUNTU

I am because we are- Instances of Ubuntu across history.



"I am a person through other people. My humanity is tied to yours." - **Zulu proverb**

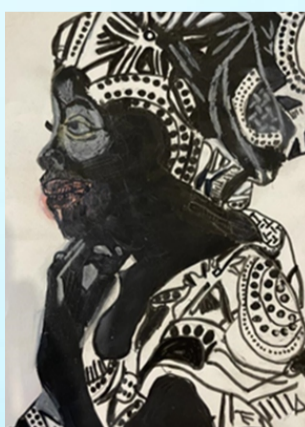
If you ever tried to search the meaning of 'UBUNTU' on google, it should suggest something like 'humanity to others.'; and that is exactly what I am going to talk about. "You can't be a human all by yourself." said Desmond Tutu. Ubuntu is the essence of us, not me. In a way, ubuntu is an existential matter, for, I exist because all of us exist. Ubuntu is based on many things like help, and gratitude. Even though, these days everybody thinks that they are the best and can do everything without anyone's help, 'help' remains essential. For example, who makes you breakfast in the morning? Your mom or cook or your dad HELPS you. You must be thanking them(it is basic etiquette), that is where gratitude comes into the picture. We cannot live without each other's help and gratitude. Thus, I conclude that we are bound to each other, and I am a person through other people - my humanity is tied to yours.

-Aatrey Rath, 7A/ Artwork by sibling duo
- Smayan, 8C and Arjun, 1E / Aavruti, 8C

Different strokes- art and words that bind



UBUNTU is an African philosophy that emphasizes the idea that we exist and become human through other people. It's often translated as "I am what I am because of who we all are." one day in school, a teacher announced a surprise test. Adhya, who was usually good at the subject, had had a bad day and couldn't answer many questions. Seeing her struggle, her friend Sanjana, who had studied hard the previous night and understood the subject well, offered to help her after school. She could have simply gone home and enjoyed her high scores, but she chose to help her friend. This is an example of Ubuntu. Sanjana recognized that she is a part of a community and it's important to help each other grow. Her success is not just about her own scores, but about how she contributes to others and her community.



- Dhriti, 5B

UBUNTU - "Humanity" or "I am because we are."

A very nice story from Africa...
An Anthropologist proposed a game to the African tribal children ...He placed a basket of sweets near a tree and made the children stand 100 meters away.
Then announced that whoever reaches first would get all the sweets in the basket.
When he said 'ready steady go!
Do you know what these children did?
They all held each other's hands, ran together towards the tree, divided the sweets equally among themselves, ate the sweets and enjoyed it.
When the Anthropologist asked them why they did so,
They answered 'Ubuntu'. Which meant ..
'How can one be happy when the others are sad?'
Ubuntu in their language means - 'I am because we are!'
Let all of us always have this attitude and spread happiness wherever we go.



By, Ayesha Naaz, 7C

Ubuntu

On the first day of school, the first thing I noticed were the "Ubuntu" posters. I had no idea what it meant, though. When my class teacher was doing her "first day of school" speech, she gave us a introduction to its meaning. She said, 'It means, we are who we are because of everyone else'. At first, my friends and I did not absorb it, but I decided to understand it from a different perspective. The more I pondered, the more the term made sense and the more profound it became. Ubuntu is a term from South Africa that represents the interconnectedness of the people. The concept of ubuntu is often expressed through the proverb 'Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu,' which can be translated as 'A person is a person through other persons.' Ubuntu teaches us that we are not isolated individuals; rather, our identities and experiences are shaped by our relationships and interactions with others. If it weren't for my parents, I wouldn't even exist. It's because of my teachers that I possess most of my knowledge. It's because of my friends that I possess certain strong character traits- I learned to be brave from Aadya. Rishika makes me focus in class.

Swadha showed me how to balance maturity and childishness. Tanisha showed me how to be a good friend. The list is endless. So, instead of brushing off Ubuntu as something silly or alien, let's appreciate how it defines who we are. The next time you see those posters, take a moment to think about the amazing people in your life who have shaped you into the person you are today. Ubuntu is a reminder that we're all connected and that together we can make the world a better place...

-Varshini Appana, 7E

Ubuntu-Through the ages

In the heart of Africa, Ubuntu's birthplace,
Wisdom whispered in the wind's gentle embrace.
From the great pyramids to the Nile's flow,
Ubuntu's legacy began to grow.

Through the pages of history, Ubuntu's tale,
Revealed in acts of love that could never fail.
Nelson Mandela, a symbol of Ubuntu's might,
Forgiveness and unity, his guiding light.

In the ancient lands, where civilization bloomed,
Ubuntu's presence illuminated each room.
The pyramids of Egypt, towering and grand,
Built through collective effort, hand in hand.

Today, across the globe, Ubuntu prevails,
In countless instances where love never fails.
Neighbours helping neighbours, strangers lending a hand,
Ubuntu's spirit, a bond that withstands.

For in each instance where Ubuntu shines,
Humanity's tapestry beautifully aligns.
"I am because we are," forever we will say,
Ubuntu's legacy, guiding us on our way.

So let us carry Ubuntu's flame within,
Embracing the truth that we all are akin.
Through history's chapters, Ubuntu has thrived,
A reminder that love and compassion can't be denied.

- Mantika Bhardwaj, 7B

An ode to Ubuntu

I am because we are.
Even if I am a Tsar.
My lever of reach grows
As my boat of imagination rows
I will encounter defeats.
But shall not be defeated.

Such is the anthem of this lance.
Nary will it make you want to dance.
Though it makes one look askance,
Perhaps you could give it a glance?

Through compassion and respect alone,
will the seeds of the future be sown.
Hence only with our actions and not the mouth,
can we stop kindness, morality, and joy's drouth.

A word of Africa used as a muse
to help paint a world of different hues.
Where people confuse, misuse and accuse,
this word can be used to subdue.

Today we see a basin dry
Filled with deception and rotten lies.
Still, however, exceptions can be seen,
if one would do so much as to glean.

Glean through our history,
not of any country, but of this Earth,
for someone from this very dirt.

Harold Lowe, original survivor of the Titanic.
Would the six others have survived,
if he hadn't rushed back to save them in a panic?
Mother Teresa, a saint, a deserving hero.
The Christmas truce, which creates a halo
On the world war's metaphorical tornado.
Nelson Mandela, who fought for his kin;
and was one of the many
who helped Ubuntu begin.

For Ubuntu is anything
but a simple word.
It shall heal and become a foreword,
for the new chapter of the world.

- Anya Narula, IX B

UBUNTU-

In a world where we want all the praise,
Where we think that life is a race,
Minds always occupied with how to be the best,
Always thinking about moving the fastest.

Constantly trying to be better than another,
Sometimes we forget we are in this together.
It's time to realize that "I" isn't right,
"We" are the people who can find the light.

Compassion to all is a necessity
We are defined by our show of humanity.
I am only here because of all of you,
Together, let's follow the principle of UBUNTU.

-Akshara Madhusudhanan,7B

Ubuntu in "The Boy at the Back of the Class" by Onjali Q. Rauf

Ubuntu is an ancient African proverb meaning 'Humanity to others. One of my favourite stories, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class', shows a remarkable act of kindness that can be described as an instance of Ubuntu. It all started with the empty chair at the back of Alexa's class. There was nothing special with that chair. But on the third Tuesday of the Term, the chair was no longer empty. There was a new kid. His name was Ahmet. He never spoke and never smiled. But then Alexa found out he wasn't strange at all. She found out that he was a refugee. Refugees are homeless people who had been forced to leave their country because of wars and natural or man-made calamities. Ahmet and his family had run away from Syria. They had to trek across the mountains, squeeze into a lifeboat, walk to France from Greece from where Ahmet alone had come to England. He had lost his sister to the sea and had been separated from his parents. The more they learnt about him, the more Alexa and her friends wanted to help him. So, when they hear that the borders would be shut, they came up with a plan. If this plan didn't work, then Ahmet would never see his parents again. From fighting against school bullies to breaking into a castle for their friend, Alexa and her gang help Ahmet find happiness in England and see his parents again. Though merely children, Alexa, Michael, Tom and Josie risked being expelled from school and worse, being sent to prison for a refugee boy called Ahmet. Their actions strongly conveyed the feeling of Ubuntu, feeling lost to humans, as they risked a lot just to help a friend in need.

- Mrinalini Biswas, 6E

Ubuntu- A universal Concept

Once, in a village near Cochin, in Kerala, Arun was ploughing his fields. Arun had finished all his chores and was about to go play football with his friends, when he heard a cry for help. The voices were very faint, but, fortunately, Arun had a good set of ears. He went hunting with his father on weekends so, Arun had been trained to even hear a soft sounds like leaves rustling.

Arun headed towards the screams and ended up in the backwaters. He saw a boy was drowning. The boy was on the brink of death. Arun saw many kayaks docked. He jumped on a kayak and started paddling. Soon, he reached the boy, who was gasping and grappling. Arun got him on board but, as soon as he was out of the water, he lost consciousness. Arun gave him CPR, which he had learnt at school. Thankfully, the boy gained consciousness minutes after he was rescued. The boy was pale from shock.

"Oh my god! You saved me. How can I ever repay you?," The boy asked. The boy's name was Akash, and he was the village headman's son. Arun refused the reward. It just didn't feel right. "I don't want any riches. I believe that helping people whenever they are in need is what we humans should do. I believe in Ubuntu. If you think you must do something, then join me in helping the boys and girls in our village learn basic life skills like swimming, first aid, etc. That way, we can give back to the community, which nurtures us.

-Karthik Menon, 7B

Ubuntu in Agriculture

I am sure, that everyone who reads the newsletter and is part of our school knows and understands the importance of Ubuntu. I am not going to expediate what Ubuntu is, or why is it important, because there have been numerous articles already written about it. However, I am going to recount a trepidation we face in our country- corruption towards farmers. If anyone could reminiscence the recent formation of Agricultural produce market committee goal (APMC) was to safeguard farmers from getting exploited by people who we call, agriculture small-scale businessmen who act a middleman, and end up bankrupting the farmers in the end. This is not Ubuntu, is it? Ubuntu is *let's help each other, and together enjoy its results*. Here only one party is getting benefitted. After that, as we all remember protests and demands for removing the APMC, because most of the farmers thought that it will end their relationship with the middlemen. It just shows how badly corruption lies in the agriculture industry and the need or reiterating the concept of Ubuntu. That is leading the farmers to think the APMC will taboo their MSPs. It is now up to us, to think into the matter and try to focus on UBUNTU, to every person we show gratitude. It might be a farmer who supplied this week's vegetables too. We owe something to every person who helps us. So, let's try and act against this injustice and bring on equality with UBUNTU.

- Arnav Gujar (7A)

Investiture Ceremony



The investiture ceremony, where we invest the student council with their titles and responsibilities was held on Wednesday, 14th of June. After the rigorous campaigning, the voting was conducted on Friday, 9th June, and we finally had our leaders, who would show us the path of righteousness. - We wish them all the best!

The ceremony was nothing short of magnificent, as it brought together a gathering of enthusiastic students, dedicated teachers, and supportive parents. At Deens Academy, leadership is not only recognized but also nurtured and encouraged, as it is a valuable skill that will undoubtedly shape the students' futures in a profound and enduring way. The presence of esteemed individuals such as Mr. Adil, President, Deens Educational Trust, the Founder Principal, Ms. Shanthi Menon added an aura of significance to the ceremony, making it a resounding success. This event was made possible through the unwavering commitment and support of our beloved Principal, Ms. Hemlata Pande and head mistress Ms. Kavitha Mohan, with all our dear teachers.

The student council for this year is as follows:

Head girl- Ishita Kamath

Cultural secretary-Aashvi Gautam (9A)

Sports captain- Akshaya Rambabu (10C)

The Student Council of the PU college-

College Student Representative-Arnab Naik

Student Representative PUC-1-Chinmayee Madhavan

Student Representative PUC-2-Vinusha Nayak

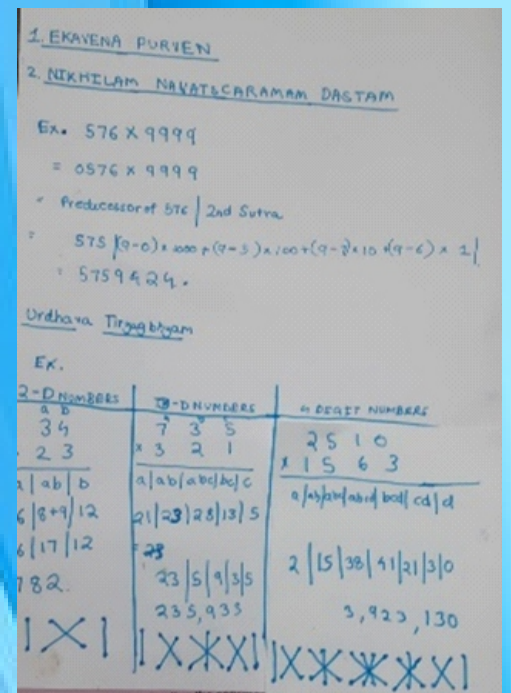
This diverse council structure ensures effective leadership distribution, fostering teamwork, responsibility, and active engagement. The house captains, vice captains, prefects were also invested with their badges and responsibilities. It was an inspiring moment for all students, who looked at their leaders in awe, perhaps hoping to be there in the future.

- Aryaman Gupta, 7A and Avani Suraj, 9D

There was rousing effect when the third sutra was expediated- **Urdhava Tiryagbhyam**. Using this method, we could multiply any number with any number before you read this sentence.

I do not think I saw anyone sitting still but raising their hand in unison with excited speeches. We surely now could crack any problem about multiplication with this. To give you an idea, for 32×23 , we had to do $3 \times 2 \times 100 + (\text{carry over} = 1) + 3 \times 3 + 2 \times 2 \times 10 + 3 \times 2$, which is 736. It was a treat to know that that we could now ace our math test in a jiffy! That was how alluring the magic of Vedic Math was to all of us. We must all strive to observe little things in life These little things will then help us discover relatively grandiose things in life just like Bharati Krishna Tirthaji, who 'excavated' the math in the Vedas.

- Arnav Gujar, 7A



Ubuntu in "The Boy at the Back of the Class" by Onjali Q. Rauf



"The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more", rightly said by Jonas Salk. Rewarding the meritorious students for their hard work and achievement is always a righteous approach to have them reach high places in future. The awards ceremony at our school is one such event which was organised with the intent to encourage students.

14th June 2023, Wednesday – the cheers and claps of the parents and fellow students still echo my ears. This was the day when we had our awards ceremony to reward all the outstanding performers in all subjects from all grades for the year 2022-2023. Our school also rewards those who have shown a noteworthy improvement in their academics for the year with "Progressive Stride" award. I am glad to be one of these awardees to be rewarded for my outstanding performance in the second language, French. All the awardees rehearsed the stage etiquette under the guidance of our teachers well before the D-day.

On the day of the event, the awardees who sat backstage, were all called, one by one to collect the awards. The chief guests for the day, who gave away the awards were Mr. Adil, President, Deens Educational Trust, Ms. Shanti Menon, the founder Principal and Ms. Kavitha Mohan, the Head Mistress. The senior students did a commendable job of compering the program. It was a splendid event which all of us will cherish for the entire academic year. I cannot thank the school management enough for conducting this event.

- Sai Rakshith, 7A

2.3 -Guest Lecture on Vedic Mathematics-Grade 6, 7 and 8

It was a pleasant surprise when our teacher announced that our first guest lecture of the session was on Vedic Mathematics. The lecturer introduced us to three of the sixteen sutras presented by Bharati Krishna Tirthaji Maharaj.

The two of the three sutras where: **Ekanvena Purven** that means predecessor, and the second being **Nikhilam navatscaramam Dastam** which means "All nine lost from 10" It was a treatise on what patterns distributive property (which we have been learning in school) when multiplied by any digit with nine in all its places. It means that we should take the predecessor of the multiplicand and subtract the number from ...9|9|9|10 pattern for the respective places. And the answer will be Predecessor | 2nd sutra.

2.3 -A 'circle time' on UBUNTU

The students of grade 7 had circle time based on the topic of Ubuntu. They discussed the word and its meaning. They spoke of how people should keep the concept of ubuntu in their minds while taking actions. The students were encouraged to reflect on their daily activities and see how they managed to incorporate Ubuntu in their actions. The above picture shows the reflections of the students of 7A after the session.



Yoga Day at School



This Yoga Day celebrated on the summer solstice of two-thousand twenty-three, 21st June 2023 to be precise, at our school campus epitomised the teachings and the philosophy of Patanjali. In the hotch-potch environment around us, attaining tranquillity as difficult as learning French in a day. Even though we do not need a particular special day to start, rediscovering the principles of Yoga on this special day, along with our classmates and teachers, made it a day to remember.

Fresh in the morning, we practiced many such asanas and pranayama techniques like Surya namaskar, tad asana, Anuloma Villoma Pranayama, in addition to meditation. The program was presided over by our Yoga Teacher and all the PE teachers. The session helped us get rid of negative thoughts without reacting, accomplish a clarity of a mind and refine our internal conscience. We also took a pledge to practice Yoga daily to maintain our physical, mental and spiritual health. As Buddha rightly said, "Each morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most."

- Arnav Gujar, 7A

Bagless day – Grade 7, 8, 9, 10



What is the first thing that comes into your mind when you hear the term “Bagless Day”. To me, well, the term speaks for itself, a day where you don't carry your bag. Grade 7 had their bagless day on Tuesday, 27th June 2023, with an amazing and informative lecture on emotional intelligence, by Mr. Jyothi Prasad Rath, A lip smacking session on chocolate making by Ms. Anois , A fabulous hands-on carpentry experience with Mr, Aslam, not to mention the computer hardware with Mr. Salman. Students let loose their creativity in the T shirt painting and quilling sessions with Vidya Ma'am and the nature art activity under Romel Sir. A short talk on first aid and basic medicines was also a part of our day. This day really thought us on how our knowledge is not dependent on books and is fuelled by our creativity and out of the box thinking.

-Anwita Prasad, 7A

They say that learning is much better when the students are on their feet rather than on their seat. In tandem with this thought, Deens Academy observed a “bagless day” for the students of grade 8 on 28th June 2023 to give learning a new dimension and to encourage students to explore new skills and experiences. It was rather exciting to board the bus with just the lunch bag. No books at all! Students were looking forward to what the day held for them. We started the day by going to the music room and had an activity, in which we made songs with our teams and sang it in front of our peers. It was, to say the least, a melodious experience. Next was a very informative session by Ms.Konaukanjoli, a special guest speaker who was invited to speak on the topic “MUN (Model United Nations)”.

Here we learned about the UN and how it functions, along with how many schools, such as ours, hold MUNs every year. Later, we were sorted into groups. Our task was to make a poster and deliver a 1 minute speech to be presented, as delegates. After an amazing time posing as delegates of nations, we moved on to fixing the cubbies in the foyer area. The students arranged them and wiped them clean. After lunch we moved to our respective activities which included carpentry, chocolate making, plantation and IT hardware. It was experiential learning at its best! To end the day we all headed back to our classes and had a small time for reflections, in which we reflected on how our day was, what was the best part and about our respective activities. This break from the mundane routine was refreshing and welcomed! We students surely look forward to the next “bagless day”.

-Nipun Gaur, 8B

We grumble day and night when our parents wake us up in the morning for school, but have we ever asked ourselves why do we go to school? The purpose of school is not just to graduate with straight A's on your report card and make your way into the finest colleges. It is to learn about life. John Dewey once said, “Education is not preparation for life but life itself.” With that idea in mind, grade 9 had Bagless Day on the 20th of June to teach us various life skills, where our bags were filled with art supplies, sewing kits and a delicious lunch instead of textbooks.

There was so much we learned that day through all the fun-filled activities planned: Terra cotta sculpting urged us to express our creativity through a brand-new medium. Gardening gave us a sense of the great outdoors. MUN sharpened our knowledge on current affairs. We even learned how to sew on a button without poking ourselves in the eye. But the most important thing that we learned was that you don't need a textbook to learn something new.

-Shaili, 9C

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Spell Bee- Grades 6-8



The much-awaited Spell Bee competition was held in the Gunjur campus, across grades 6 to 8 on Friday, 16th June ,2023. Preceding this nail-biting event was the preliminary round from which 2 finalists were selected from every section. On the D Day, students from each grade gathered at specific venues and cheered for their friends. There were moments of joy and tension, as the finalists took turns in spelling the words set out to them. After a round of tie breakers, the winners finally breathed easy! The spelling champions for 2023-24 are-
Grade 6-1st-Anagha Nair (6A) 2nd-Abhishek Kumble (6B), 3rd-Stuti Dutta (6B)
Grade 7-1st - Akilan Nagarajan (7C), 2nd-Aiden Mathews (7D), 3rd-Akshara Madhusudhan (7B)
Grade 8-1st- Advay Sreejith (8E), 2nd - Asmi Deshmukh, (8B) 3rd - Niharika Deb (8C) and Maithreyi Deshpande (8E)

Grade 6- Special Assembly



School Reading Week

Our school celebrated the reading week with the objective of promoting the reading habit in students, the English department had organized various activities for different grades as part this program, from June 19 – 24 ,2023 with activities such as book talks, book recommendations, quizzes, book discussions, reflection-based activities etc. The activities for the lower grades included not just reading, but making finger puppets, character sketches and artwork.



Section 3- WOW Moments in the Classroom



A giant leap for these babies! The first day of grade 1 was celebrated with fun activities and interactions- wishing them all the very best!

KIDEENS

Our LKG and UKG students had a memorable month, and this is evident from their joyous faces, intent in savouring the amazing activities set out by their teachers! Red Day, discovery-based learning, art and craft, brain gym and PE! The PG babies, we are sure, are loving every bit of school! With so many activities, school is a fun place to be!



Hands And Minds That Worked Together



Aatrey Rath, Anwita Prasad, Arnav Gujar, Aryaman Gupta, Sai Rakshit Vutkuru -7A

Mentor Teachers: Chandan Shenoy and Mini Jose