



AMHS CONNECT

JUNE '21

1st Anniversary Issue

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Modernites,

First off, I hope you and your loved ones are keeping safe and are on your way to complete vaccination. It is hard to believe that six months of the new year, the year that we believed would be much better than the last when the pandemic broke out are already over and have been anything but. We've faced loss, ill-health and suffering and a nightmarish fear and uncertainty looming large over our lives. Every human life has been affected in some way or the other and it is highly probable that these days and months will leave their impressions on our hearts and souls much after the pandemic is declared over.

Our only choice in the matter, it seems therefore, is to deeply perceive all that is going on around us and figure out for ourselves what at the end of the day, really matters to us. What is it that makes living worthwhile; that clears our head and offers us hope even in the darkest of times? It could be the utterly mundane or the supremely divine. It doesn't matter what it is as long as it keeps us going. As long as it gives us succour and strength instead of weakness and dismay; as long as it brings a smile instead of gloom; as long as it gives us purpose instead of making us feel lost... I do hope we hold on to this seemingly small but potentially path breaking realization in future too.

Now, onto more merrier missives. We have for you in this edition of Connect, not one or two, but three wonderful messages from the foremost pillars of our dear school. The first, from none other than our dear Mrs. Wilson de Rose all the way from USA, the second from our respected Chairperson, Mrs. Nirmala Birla and finally the third from our very own Director, Mrs. Devi Kar. Finally, our heartfelt and sincerest condolences to those who lost their loved ones in this raging viral battle. You are in our prayers.

Until we see you again in the next quarter, do stay well and get your jobs.

Warmly,
Supriya Newar

Ps: We'll be more than happy to hear from you. Share your school memories, life experiences or just your feedback on these newsletters! Thank You.



Our heartfelt condolences to those who lost their loved ones to this pandemic. We wish you and your families strength to overcome the loss.

HEART WARMING MESSAGES

"I congratulate you on this anniversary issue of AMHS CONNECT and I also congratulate you on all the things you have been doing for MHS and for society in general. You are my pride!

As you all know, your School was founded by my mother-in-law, Smt Rukmani Devi Birla and I was trained by her to look after the school which was established in 1952, the same that I came to the Birla family as a young bride. My sister-in-law, Smt Ganga Somani also helped in nurturing the new school.

Before my eyes the School grew in size and reputation and I cannot believe that we will be celebrating its 70th Foundation Day or Platinum Jubilee on the 3rd of January, 2022. My dream is that it keeps growing from strength to strength and its students continue to bring honour to its name."

- Mrs N. Birla
(Chairperson)



We're sure everyone will be delighted to learn that Mrs. Wilson-de-Roze is keeping well and has received both her vaccine shots. She sends us her love and blessings and wishes the school continued success.

"I hope it will be a wonderful year for the school, with things getting back to normal again. It seems just yesterday that we were waiting for the 21st century to begin and now we are in its third decade. Is Modern High planning a big celebration for the 70th anniversary? I know it will be something out of the ordinary.

I can imagine how beautiful the new building must be. I am sure it must have been conceived in line with the design of the school building.

We're enjoying the Spring burst here and do hope you will continue to keep safe even after taking your vaccines."

Sincerely, with warm regards,
I.L. Wilson-deRoze
(Former Principal)



A CANDID CONVERSATION WITH OUR DIRECTOR

Q1. As someone whom we hold in high regard and look up to, we'd like to know who have been your role models and inspirations?

After reflecting on your question for a while, I came to the conclusion that I have never had a role model as such. Yet I admire many, many people and have been inspired by their individual traits. Mrs. Wilson-de Roze is one such person. Her generosity, uprightness, compassion, erudition and generally her beautiful personality have left a lasting impression on me.

Q2. You have been instrumental behind the successful formation and growth of our Alumni Association. What is your vision for the future?

I would like AMHS to continue to be a vibrant organization bursting with ideas and energy. It should be closely linked with the mother institution and every student who passes out of MHS should aspire to be a valued member of the Association.

Q3. The last year has been quite a roller coaster ride for everyone. What have been some of your key lessons that you'd like to share with us.

The "roller coaster ride" has not ended, it appears to be taking us on a very long and bumpy journey. The key lesson I have learnt is that we have to be prepared for all circumstances and make the most of them. You will be amused when I tell you that I keep thinking of the old Boy Scouts' motto, "Be prepared". When Baden-Powell, who had coined the Scout motto, was asked, "Prepared for what?" He answered, "For any old thing." The pandemic has taught me that life is totally unpredictable so we must be in a perpetual state of readiness for any contingency.

Q4. Could you share an incident related to a student that has remained etched in your heart in all these years?

Years ago, I learnt a great lesson from an extraordinary student. She always produced outstanding academic results and was generally considered head and shoulders above the rest of her class. However, in the school-leaving Board examination, to her teachers' surprise, she had scored a couple of marks less than the student who had come first in School. When I asked her whether she was disappointed, she looked surprised and asked me in turn, "Have I not done well?" I realized with wonder that this student was far above petty concerns- a few marks here and there did not matter to her. I think she was a true scholar and mature beyond her years. I wish all my students would focus on learning and be less anxious about marks.

Q5. We know you as the Director of our dear MHS. Please share a bit about the person behind the Director.

You must ask other people to tell you this – I have often seen that one's self-perception doesn't match that of others!

Q6. With regard to any discipline issues related to students, at what point do you think it is appropriate to involve the parents?

As far as possible, the School should not involve parents in matters of discipline. It is the School's responsibility to discipline its students while they are in School. But if we discover that the home environment was affecting a student's behaviour or performance, we must definitely reach out to parents.

Q7. If you could change one thing and retain one thing about MHS as it is today, what would they each be?

I would retain the intangible aspects which make up the 'soul' of the School. As the mission of our School is "continuous improvement", change is bound to take place. I want MHS to always remain a thinking and caring school and yet keep changing for the better.

Q8. When you took over MHS, you were filling in the rather large shoes of Mrs. Wilson de Rose. How did you prepare yourself to take on the challenge and what is the secret behind your fulfilling the responsibility so wonderfully?

I am delighted that you think that I have fulfilled the expectations that you had from me as Mrs. Wilson-de Roze's successor. I had her full support, encouragement and blessings. In hindsight, I think that perhaps it was a good thing that I never thought of the "big shoes" that I had to fill. I am sure it would have unnerved me and robbed me of my confidence! I just went ahead and did what had to be done.

Q9. What in this day and age of heightened interconnectedness and information overdrive, makes for a good teacher?

In my opinion the qualities of a good teacher are perennial – it is only the instruments and aids that she uses that have changed over the years. A student will always recognize the magic of a great teacher.

- Mrs D. Kar
(Director)



Left to right:
Sushma Nevatia - Batch of 1989
Ritu Singhania - Batch of 1989
Harshita Goenka - Batch of 2010
Supriya Newar - Batch of 1994

DOWN MEMORY LANE



MHS IN QUARANTINE



MHS IN QUARANTINE

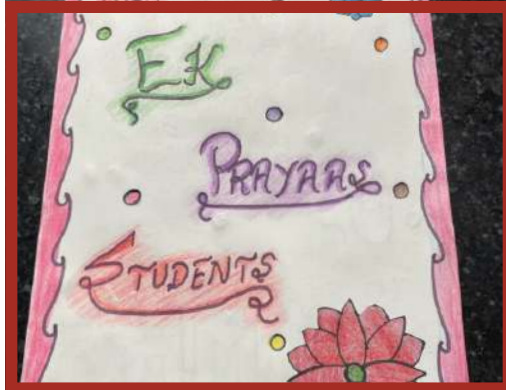


**PICTURE
CREDITS:**

**RITU
SINGHANIA**
(BATCH OF 1989)

**SUPRIYA
NEWAR**
(BATCH OF 1994)

CHARITY FOR HUMANITY



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



FEEDBACK CORNER

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



During these troubled times, many among the economically needy, have found it very difficult to even arrange for two square meals a day. With this in mind, the AMHS COMMITTEE planned a food donation drive so as to fulfill our commitment towards our social responsibilities. We decided to distribute ration packets to the needy especially to those who have lost their means of livelihood. We then reached out to our members and ex Modernites who have always been eager to support such endeavours. The Committee is overwhelmed with the generous donations which have come in from all of you and your families. Your willingness to help, provided us with immense support to be able to serve the economically underprivileged. Here are some of the places which gave us this opportunity to serve to the rightful -

Ek Prayaas- A primary school and NGO founded by 2 of our Alumnae.

Parivarikee- An institution focussing on uplifting underprivileged women and children and also managed by an Alumna.

Aamader Padakhep- A welfare society working for the betterment of the less fortunate segment and run by an ex non teaching staff of MHS.

Parichiti- An NGO working on issues related to women's rights and headed by an Alumna.

All Bengal Women's Union, Swadhar Project- ABWU is an NGO which also provides a shelter home only for trafficked and abused women. An Alumna is in charge of this project.

Some roadside dwellers in Southern Avenue, Ballygunge, Saltlake and North Kolkata areas.

Each Committee Member took up various responsibilities and together we have tried to do our best. We look forward to such eager participation from our members and thank them for their support.

- Sushma Nevatia (Batch of 1989)

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