



AMHS CONNECT

The Alumni Newsletter

APRIL '24

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We are back with our annual issue of AMHS Connect to share what the association has been up to recently (in case you missed all the fun). What an eventful year this has been! AMHS hosted their signature inter-alumni competition 'Alumni Idol' in August. Apart from the usual fun, it allowed us a peek into the new Modern High School International building – something admittedly all ex-students have been curious about. In February this year, we had a heritage walk in the much-revered grounds of the Fort William. The seats were limited for this one, but those who managed to get in certainly had lots of stories to tell! We also participated in a number of alumni events organized by the alumni associations of other schools and bagged the 11th Lions Gurukul Award for the Most Active School Alumni to AMHS by Lions Club Kolkata.

The cherry on the cake this last year was of course the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in December, when our chairperson Mrs. Birla treated all her old 'girls' on the occasion of MHS completing seven glorious decades of existence.

We bring to you glimpses of all of these events in this issue of the Connect and hope to see more of you join AMHS, and the working committee. Hoping to 'connect' with more of you in the next alumni event. Till then, wish you all health and happiness. Keep the MHS flag flying high in everything you do

Sayantani Sen ~ Class of 2005



PRESIDENT'S DESK

To be a part of the alumni association is the best way one can stay connected to one's alma mater. Like the branches of a tree, we grow and spread in different directions but our roots remain in the place from where we began, and a piece of our heart always belongs to our beloved school.

It's a matter of honour for me to serve as President of the AMHS. We are a strong, committed and enthusiastic team of Modernites across all batches who work with zest to put together various events and activities for AMHS. We have been ironing out many issues and growing each year.

Do visit our website for relevant information and details about

our Alumni Association. You must browse through our newsletter 'AMHS Connect' which was our humble initiative during the pandemic. This will give you a comprehensive overview of our activities. The committee works together as a team to keep the banner of AMHS flying high and you will be proud to know that we have received an award for the most active alumni association from Lions club, last year.

We are always welcome to ideas and initiatives which our members are willing to propose and execute.

We would appreciate sponsorships and support for our main events.

Regular mails and updates on our website keep us connected together.

I urge all Modernites across the globe to come forward and help strengthen our alumni association in whatever way possible for each.

That we may ever serve thee in grace and virtue too...

Our calendar events are usually the following -

1. The AGM in March or April.
2. Workshops and interactive talks each year.
3. Alumni Idol, an inter alumni singing competition hosted by us, between July & September each year.
4. Modernite, reunion across all batches in December.
5. An outing in the winters in January or February
6. Participation in inter alumni events held in Kolkata.
7. AMHS plans an annual donation for a cause.

Sushma Mimani Nevatia ~ Class of 1989

CELEBRATING 7 GLORIOUS DECADES

Our Alma Mater had completed 7 glorious decades and the school was going to celebrate its Platinum Jubilee on 16th December 2023. We, the alumni members were very much involved in the planning and execution of the event. From the first half of the year, we had numerous meetings with our Chairperson Mrs. Nirmala Birla and Director Mrs. Devi Kar. Lists were made and remade – of events, invitees, food, décor and so on. Finally, it was decided that the program would be divided into three parts.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Nilanjana Ganguly, one of our ex-teachers, along with Sharmila Ghosh Sinha (Mona), a distinguished alum.

First the school felicitated 3 distinguished alums: Nandini Bhowmik of the Class of 1978, Piali Sengupta of the Class of 1981, and Jaya Bhagat of the Class of 1990. The achievements of each of these ladies were read out by one of their batchmates.

Amita Prasad introduced Nandini Bhowmik who is an Indologist, priest, professor and theatre artist. A Sanskrit scholar, she has broken gender stereotypes as a priestess and challenged our perception of rituals, revealing the true beauty of our heritage. The special guest of the evening, space scientist Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan handed over the award.

Piali Sengupta, a Neurogeneticist, Harold and Bernice Davis Professor, Brandeis University, Massachusetts has a laboratory named after her in the University – The Sengupta Lab. Since she could not attend the ceremony, her batchmate Rosina Ahmed, also a distinguished alum, introduced her and accepted the award on her behalf from Prof. Suranjan Das.

Jaya Bhagat was introduced by Joyita Lakhmani as a Senior Civil Servant and Principal Accountant General of the Maharashtra office who designed and implemented the 'Pension at your doorstep' initiative and introduced electronic pension payment services for the first time in Maharashtra. Dr. Anuradha Lohia, herself a distinguished alum, handed over the award to Jaya.

The felicitation ceremony was followed by a welcome dance 'Samarohe esho hey' by the students of the school, and the school choir sang 'Unstoppable'. The junior department put up a themed dance performance based on Rabindranath Tagore's 'Sahaj Path', where young girls were attempting to learn the Bengali alphabets. And that showed us exactly how we started our journey through school learning the basic alphabets of different languages. This segment of the program ended with the school song led by the choir and everybody joined in.

After this the dignitaries and invitees enjoyed the high tea meticulously curated by our chairperson herself. The garden was a sight to behold...twinkling lights, neat rows of food stalls and happy faces all around! There were beautiful installations set up at various points, a photo booth where different batches posed to capture the moment. We also had our memorabilia stall with the tag line 'Little things....Big memories'. It was so good to see old students 'catching up' with each other. Irrespective of whether they were young college goers, middle aged ladies well established in their own field of work or retired senior citizens, the squeal of excitement at meeting each other was a delight to watch. It was one 'big family' returning to its roots to celebrate a milestone year!

The last segment of the program was a musical performance by the well-known duo Sourendro – Soumyojit. The stage was set, and they started off with a gusto. The audience gravitated back to their seats and enjoyed – sometimes singing along, clapping to their beats, and finally taking to the floor and dancing to the rhythm of the songs.

It was an evening well enjoyed and appreciated by all. And for us, the months of planning had been well executed, thanks to the cooperation of all alumni members who reached out to the committee to make the event a success.

We wish our Alma Mater many, many more successful milestones. And as always, "We pledge ourselves to serve thee, bring honour to thy name."

Rajeshwari De ~ Class of 1968



CELEBRATING 7 GLORIOUS DECADES



We all love MHS



The Sahaj Path dance by the junior school students



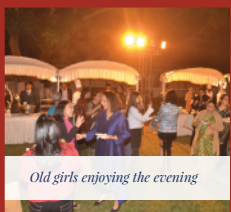
School grounds in their splendour



Soumyajit, of the Sourendra and Soumyojit musical duo



Ya kundendu-tushar haar dhavala



Old girls enjoying the evening



The opening dance by the school students



Little things...big memories



The AMHS committee members singing the school song at the end of the school program

ALUMNI IDOL SEASON 8



Winner and Runner Up of Alumni Idol Season 8

The AMHS hosted Alumni Idol Season 8 on Saturday, 19th August 2023. The alumni associations of various Kolkata schools participate in this singing competition every year and really look forward to this annual inter Alumni event. This year Alumni Idol was held in the new auditorium at MHSL. Each participant was welcomed with much warmth and encouragement. The esteemed judges for the evening were sarode artist Pt. Anindya Sarkar, table maestro Pt. Kumar Mukherjee, and composer and singer Mr. Sumit Roy. The supportive audience was rapt as the participants belted out some beautiful melodies –

Abhi mujh me kahi....
Pal pal Dil ke paas...
Itni si hasi...
Aaj jaane ki zid na karo...

As the first round was over and the AMHS committee was tabulating the judges' sheets to announce the finalists, the host for the evening- Supriya Newar engaged the entire audience to sing along with her – yeh shaam mastaani – which was indeed a perfect song for the perfect evening! The winner for the evening was Dr. Suranjana Banerji from the South Point Alumni Association, and Mr. Manish Yaduka from Nopany Alumni Association was declared the runner up. The energetic and lilting renditions transported us all to our school fest days. The winner and runner up were felicitated and AMHS thanked all the alumni associations for their enthusiastic participation. This sense of camaraderie amongst the alumni associations is what Alumni Idol is all about.

The AMHS COMMITTEE looks forward to hosting many such seasons of Alumni Idol in the future.

Sushma Nevatia
Class of 1989



The judges, winners, and emcee with the AMHS committee members at Alumni Idol Season 8

MEET THE AMHS COMMITTEE



Sushma Nevatia
President



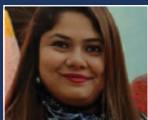
Rajeshwari De
Vice President



Sayantani Sen
Secretary



Ritu Singhania
Jt. Secretary



Payal Khetawat
Jt. Secretary



Archana Poddar
Treasurer



Sarika Pasari
Jt. Treasurer



Vasundhara Sawalka
Member



Vandana Agarwal
Member



Vineeta Jhunjhunwala
Member



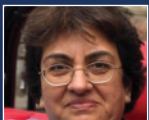
Harshita Goenka
Member



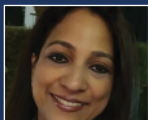
Suchi Dhurka
Member



Urmi Basu
Member



Shailaja Mundra
Member



Joyita Lakhmani
Member

EXPLORING THE HISTORIC TREASURES OF FORT WILLIAM, KOLKATA: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



Nestled in the heart of Kolkata, Fort William stands as an emblem of the city's rich history and colonial legacy. On February 11, 2024 the Alumni of Modern High School (AMHS) organized a captivating heritage walk, offering members and guests with an opportunity to get a glimpse into the intriguing past of this majestic fortress.

The expedition commenced from the East Gate of Fort William, where eager enthusiasts embarked on a journey through time. Named after King William III, the fort has witnessed significant events, from the notorious Black Hole of Calcutta to the fabled confinement of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Through this initiative, the army aims to shed light on the hidden narratives beyond the imposing walls of this British-era military stronghold.

Led by a knowledgeable soldier-guide, the exploration unfolded with a visit to the 'Vijay Smarak' (war memorial), a poignant tribute inaugurated by Lt. Gen. R. N. Batra in 1996. Here, amidst solemn remembrance, visitors pay homage to the valiant souls who sacrificed their lives for their nation.

Continuing the odyssey, participants were led to the ancient moat, a testament to Fort William's strategic defenses during the British Raj. This sprawling channel, once filled with water, stood as a formidable barrier against adversaries.

The journey through history proceeded to the iconic Kitchener House, erected in 1771. Within its hallowed halls, a time-honored tradition persists with the display of a historic time gun, once instrumental in signaling ships along the Hooghly River. Today, it serves as an officers' mess, preserving tales of yore.

The tour's next stop unveiled the Dalhousie Barrack, a towering edifice that once housed over a thousand soldiers. Steeped in lore, it is here that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was purportedly detained in 1940, a poignant reminder of his indelible mark on the annals of Indian history.

Transitioning from barracks to relics, visitors were ushered into the Command Museum, once a repository of arms and ammunition. Within its chambers, galleries adorned with the legacies of army commanders and historical artefacts awaited discovery. Notably, the museum commemorates the independence of Bangladesh, showcasing poignant symbols such as the bulletproof door and the Instrument of Surrender signed in 1971.

Amidst the echoes of the past, the expedition concluded at the oldest church within Fort William, now home to the Command Library. Here, amidst rare tomes and historic relics, the essence of Fort William's enduring legacy finds its sanctuary.

As participants bid farewell to this timeless bastion, they carried with them not only memories but a profound appreciation for the intricate tapestry of history woven within the walls of Fort William. In uncovering its secrets, they unearthed not just artefacts, but the soul of a bygone era, immortalized in stone and memory.

The Heritage Walk was well-received by the visitors and achieved a full house attendance. We, at AMHS, look forward to such active participation in future events also.

Vasundhara Sawalka
Class of 2007



ALUMNI OF MHS MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Fee: Rs. 5500 (for life membership)

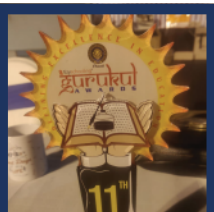
Website: <https://mhsalumni.in>

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Arni Agarwal & Anuja Parasramka
representing AMHS at
Funtakshari, organised by the
Birla High School Alumni



The Lions Gurukul award
for most active school
Alumni won by AMHS

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



TEAM CONNECT

Rajeshwari De - Batch of 1968

Ritu Singhania - Batch of 1989

Sushma Nevatia - Batch of 1989

Sayantani Sen - Batch of 2005

Vasundhara Sawalka - Batch of 2007

Harshita Goenka - Batch of 2010

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