



WORLD INFORMO

A USO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1958

MARCH 2022 • ONLINE ISSUE 12 VOLUME 01

Hello to all of you!

March is here... the last month before the start of the new academic session for schools and for us at USO. We are winding down our activities for the year, and planning for new and exciting competitions and programs for schools for the upcoming year.

But, let me start with this month's activities.

In addition to sending all medals, trophies, certificates to schools for their participation in DhanGyan and National Science Painting Competition for Specially-Abled Students, there are two major activities that will take place this month. The first is the **World Water Day** celebrations on March 22 at the UNESCO Auditorium, New Delhi in which we shall release the animation movies from the H2Ooooh! Program conducted last year. The First, Second and Third Prize winning students shall also be awarded trophies and certificates. The second is the **USO Member School Awards** on March 31. This online event shall honour our member schools, principals and teachers on various USO accomplishments. We are truly looking forward to both these events!!!

As you know, USO membership is valid from March 31 to April 1 each year. I would request schools to apply for their annual membership which starts on April 1.

In this edition, we are honoured to have eye-opening articles from principals and students on the following pages. Some of these articles shall also be featured in the newsletter by Namami Gange.

Happy Reading!

Nina Jain
Secretary General

KEY DATES

MARCH 22

WORLD WATER DAY
CELEBRATIONS

MARCH 31

USO MEMBER SCHOOL
AWARDS

ONGOING

USO MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FOR SCHOOLS

EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS

Invitation to attend the online celebrations of World Water Day at UNESCO Auditorium.

Invitation for the online event for USO Member School Awards

Submit an article by 20th of each month to be published in World Informo. Selected articles may also be published in the newsletter by **Namami Gange**.



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OUR ONGOING ACTIVITIES

DHANGYAN FOR STD. 8

Our Financial Literacy Program for Std. 8 students was very well received. We are presently in the process of dispatching certificates, medals, trophies, and USO goodies to schools for distribution to the successful students. Participation E-Certificates have all been sent via email.

We are thrilled that schools have embraced this program so well. It was lovely to hear that students have understood the value of saving, and many have begun doing so already. Some have also informed their parents about the importance of investing.

A big thank you to the teachers for encouraging so many students to participate.

This program was organised by USO exclusively for Member Schools nationally, in collaboration with Tata Capital and IDOBRO Impact Solutions.

WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATIONS

H2Ooooh! Waterwise Program for Children of India culminates with the release of the animated films stories of which are from the students themselves. This year too, the celebration shall take place on March 22, 2022 at UNESCO Auditorium.

This year the first 3 winners, along with the school principal are invited to collect their trophies in person. Expenses for air travel, accommodation, meals shall be borne by the partners. We are really looking forward to their visit, and the event!

A huge thank you to the teachers, who put in so much effort and ensured the success of the program in spite of COVID!

This program was organised by USO exclusively for Member Schools nationally, in collaboration with UNESCO, Ri8Brain, Namami Gange and Water Digest.

NATIONAL SCIENCE PAINTING COMPETITION FOR SPECIALLY ABLED CHILDREN

The winning painting are absolutely wonderful, and have been put up on our website. Please do take a moment to see the world from the eyes of young children. Their creativity is absolutely refreshing.

We are in the process of dispatching certificates, trophies, medals and some USO goodies to schools. All Participation E-Certificates have been shared with schools via email.

Since COVID-19, special schools have faced the most brunt of school closures. We truly want to thank the teachers who went to each student home to collect their painting and then send to us for this competition.

This competition was geared towards specially-abled schools nationally, and was organised by USO in collaboration with UNESCO and CSIR-NIScPR.

USO MEMBER SCHOOL AWARDS

Yes! This online event is our most awaited. Our member schools are our lifeline. During the course of the year, we build a special bond with the USO Activities Coordinator and the School Principal. This is our way to thank them for their never-ending efforts.

Being an educator is special, because we get to influence the lives of so many young minds. The passion of the teachers touches the heart. Even if our events are online, they push the students to do better when they know that this is valuable for their future.

During this online event, we shall be awarding school, principal and teachers from USO Member Schools and recognise their efforts.

This event shall be held on Thursday, March 31, 2022 via Teams Meeting. Official invite to follow.

OUR UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



USO SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We have begun accepting membership applications from schools for the year 2022-2023. The form with payment link can be filled online. Once received, we shall issue a Membership Certificate along with E-Receipt in the name of the school.

USO Membership ensures continuity of member school's participation in all of our national activities. There are several schools that have been a USO Member School for the last 30+ years!



Scan the QR Code and watch a short video about our numerous activities.

USO ANNUAL PLANNER: 2022-2023

We are currently planning our activities for the upcoming year, and shall be sharing the annual planner with member schools very soon.

It is our constant endeavour to bring out the creativity of the students - whether it is in the field of science or art, whether it is a fun competition, or an involved program, or an extra-curricular test. These are all meant to increase every students potential.

This year, keeping in mind how technology has changed education, we shall be incorporating several new programs.

We are truly excited to embark on this new journey of learning, teaching, imbibing, adapting, improving and evolving with all our schools.

ASN Senior Secondary School has been a USO Member School for several years, and is a very active participant in all USO activities. This article has been sent to the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India (to publish in their newsletter) due to the unique form of education by Ms. Luthra.



RIVER REJUVENATION - REKINDLING HOPE
- BY -
MS. SWARNIMA LUTHRA, PRINCIPAL
ASN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, NEW DELHI

With rapidly drying rivers, rising pollution and more than half of the sub-continent turning into a water-stressed dust bowl, experts opine that by 2025, the country will be facing an acute water crisis if no preventive measures are taken today. In face of this daunting challenge, it is critical that we adopt a country wide holistic, sustainable long term river rejuvenation project with latest technology, insightful scientific know-how and guidance by environmentalists and river experts. The river projects initiated in the past decades need to renew their commitment to not just reviving rivers but also to rebuilding lives by mobilizing and empowering youth and communities to work for a sustainable nation.

The impart of education at ASN follows acronym ACCT- Aware, Connect Commit and Transform which essentially is building 'Awareness' and knowledge of learners, enabling them to make real life 'Connect' followed by developing values and attitudes, empowering them with necessary skill sets and competencies to 'Commit' and 'Transform' their world with positive actions.

The learners through various year around co-curricular and curricular activities, whole school projects, practices are made to understand about the significance of water conservation and river rejuvenation and how their sustainable actions contribute towards environment well - being. The onus is on us to inculcate in them the practices of not just saving but respecting water and rivers. Regular water audits by students, water conservation strategies along with installation of rainwater harvesting plants in the school promotes sustainable consumption of water and inculcate sustainable habits in the learners.

Keeping in view the deplorable conditions of rivers and the dire need to take sustainable actions, our school conceptualized and organized a sensitization drive ASN Yamuna Wealth Inter School Cultural & Literary Fest in 2011 with the aim of creating awareness on revival of River Yamuna and to motivate learners to contribute towards the rejuvenation of the river Yamuna- our great wealth. This six long day fest with 110 inter-school sports, literary, creative and cultural competitions engaged around 10,000 students from 160 schools of Delhi & NCR. Since then, ASN Yamuna Wealth has become our flagship event, organized annually on pertinent social, global and environmental relevant themes which receives an overwhelming response from the students of schools in Delhi NCR.

Organizing events like exhibition of students' work titled, 'YamunaSaga' depicting the plight of River Yamuna and solutions, exhibition Seeds of Hope in association with Bharat Soka Gagkai, an interactive session with Water Man of India, Shri Rajendra Kumar for the learners went a long way in building student's awareness about the importance of water in sustenance of life on this earth. The school also released a Souvenir related to River Yamuna titled, 'Yamuna Samridhi' which was a beautiful compilation of student's expressions and thoughts on rejuvenation of rivers. ASN was privileged to be a part of 'Nadi Utsav'-the festivals of rivers by Govt of India, where ASNites presented cultural performances at the opening and closing ceremony organized by SDM office. Celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahaotsav, the primary wing students al so presented an online musical ball ad Ganga Gatha which was presided by Chief Guest Shri Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga.

As rightly said by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar that we are waging a war against pollution in our rivers. The government alone cannot do it. We all have to come together for this noble cause and schools of today must play a larger role in building sustainable mindsets and greener societal behaviour; rekindling hope and revival of rivers.

RMK Senior Secondary School students have their own creative ideas on how water can be saved. This article has been sent to the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India (to publish in their newsletter) as the students share their unique perspective.



DRIP, DROP, DRIP, DROP!
THIS KIND OF CLOCK MUST BE STOPPED
- BY -
YAAZHINI DHAMODHARAN
RMK SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHENNAI
CLASS: VIII D

You use 2.5 gallons of water each minute you have your shower on. A faucet that is left running, wastes 3-5 gallons of water each minute. We carelessly wastewater in our life every day like this. 2.5% is fresh water on the earth. And only 0.3% of it is in liquid form on the surface. The rest of it is present in the form of glaciers, polar ice caps, water vapors, rivers, streams, etc. The total population of the world according to the 2021 census is over 7.9 billion. 0.3% of fresh water is not sufficient for 7.9 billion people in the world. Many countries already have water scarcity.

A world without water is unimaginable. In order to retain fresh water on the earth we can follow steps like:

- Turning off the tap when we brush our teeth or cleaning vegetables;
- Take shorter showers;
- Check for leaks in pipes and faucets;
- Turn off the shower when you soap your body;
- Rooftop rainwater harvesting: Rainwater is captured from the roof catchments and stored in reservoirs. It can be used to meet household needs through storage in tanks;
- Cycle run water pump: It is a centrifugal water pump which consists of a bicycle, rim, belt-pulley, impeller, inlet and delivery pipes. Energy generated by pedaling is used to lift the water and push it from pipes for cultivation;
- Joy pumps: They are see-saw pumps that use the playful energy of children to pump water from a borewell, a sump or rain water harvesting tank.

Water is a precious resource that is given to us by nature. The next time you waste water or see water being wasted by somebody else then, stop it immediately. Save water because every single drop counts!

DIVERSITY OF LIFE ON EARTH
- BY -

MS. HAASHINY SATHISH, RMK SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHENNAI
CLASS: VIII C

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living, species on Earth, including plants, animals, microorganisms etc. It can be said more specifically to refer to all the species in one region of ecosystem. It is one of the most important features of our planet and the main reason life cycle even exists. If one of the species on earth disappears, it can cause significant damage to the stability of the bio system on our world.

Biodiversity has a lake of resources for the manufacture of food, cosmetic and medical products. Agriculture, forests and fishery are a rich source of food. Wild plants such as mayflower and yellow birch are used for medicinal purposes. Woods, fibres, rubber, resins, lubricants etc. are derived from different plant species. Therefore, to avoid damaging our biodiversity, we should:

- Not voluntarily extinct an animal out of our world as they have a part in this nature's economical system.
- Endangered species like the Bengal tiger, should be preserved in wildlife sanctuaries to sustain their population.
- We should appreciate the diversity in our world, not only in culture, but also in animals, plants and trees, etc.
- Therefore, it is important to protect the biodiversity on earth to sustain our living.