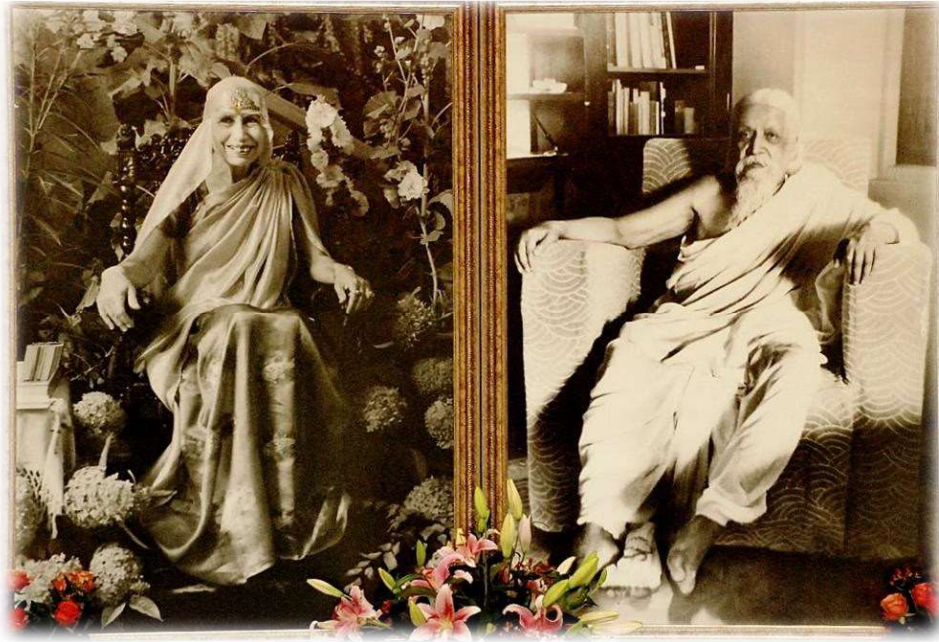




Mother's Blossoms
connect collaborate contribute

Surabhi

Souvenir 2020



GLORY to Thee, O Lord, who triumphest over every obstacle.

Grant that nothing in us shall be an obstacle in Thy work.

Grant that nothing may retard Thy manifestation.

Grant that Thy will may be done in all things and at every moment.

We stand here before Thee that Thy will may be fulfilled in us,

in every element, in every activity of our being,

from our supreme heights to the smallest cells of the body.

Grant that we may be faithful to Thee utterly and forever.

We would be completely under Thy influence to the exclusion of every other.

Grant that we may never forget to own towards Thee a deep, an intense gratitude.

Grant that we may never squander any of the marvelous things
that are Thy gifts to us at every instant.

Grant that everything in us may collaborate in Thy work
and all be ready for Thy realisation.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Supreme Master of all realisation.

Give us a faith active and ardent, absolute and unshakable in Thy Victory.



Mother's Blossoms
connect collaborate contribute

Surabhi is an annual publication of the Mother's Blossoms. It highlights the activities under the Connect, Collaborate and Contribute programs. It also gives a glimpse of the alumni's school memories.

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*Mother's
Blossoms
Activities
Report*

Year 2019-20



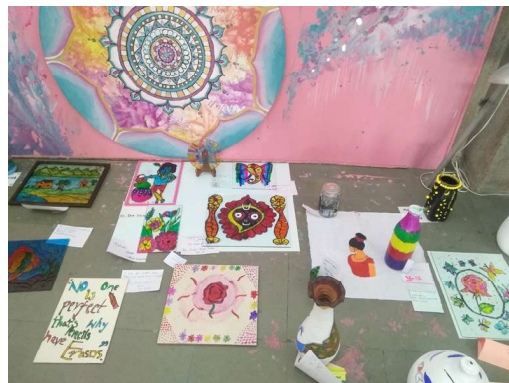


The Batch of 1995 led in organising the event and many ex-students took out time from their busy schedules to join the celebrations.



Every child participated in one of the many events of creative expression including Music, Dance, Dramatics, Creative Writing, Painting, Craft, Cooking, Audio-Visual Displays, and many more.

Mother's Blossoms Activities



Bhajan Sandhya

A mesmerising evening of soulful devotional school bhajans and recitations conducted by the Alumni on 27th Apr.'19 transported us all to another world. Surabhi (a souvenir by Mother's Blossoms) for the year was released on this occasion.



Dental Camp at Ramgarh

Mother's Blossoms sponsored a 14 day curative and educative dental program in Madhuban, Ramgarh from 24th Jun to 6th July 2019.

Mother's
Blossoms
Social Welfare
Initiatives

A team of four members from Auroville Dental Centre Education Research Rural Action (ADCERRA) did check-ups, scaling, sealants and ART treatment to those required and also provided education on oral health and nutrition, child safety.



More than **200**
students and staff
from **17** villages near
Madhuban benefitted
from the program.





Playgrounds at Madhuban

Mother's Blossoms is proud to be a part of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Delhi's vibrant village outreach program in Madhuban, Ramgarh. This program is for the villages and schools in the neighborhood. **This year the emphasis has been on physical education and building the village youths capacity for discipline and fitness through sports.**

Mother's
Blossoms
Social Welfare
Initiatives





Mother's Blossoms sponsored the **construction** of Basketball Court, Volleyball Court, general play area, stage and sitting area in Madhuban.





The courts and play area are used by the **village children, youth,** nearby schools and by the visitors and children coming in camps to the ashram.

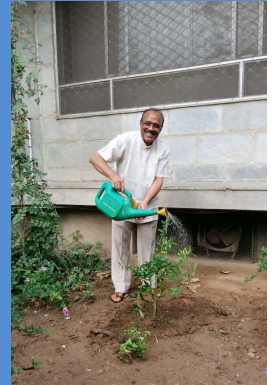
Bhumi Mangalam - Tree Plantation Drive at Delhi

Mother's
Blossoms
Social Welfare
Initiatives

Was held on 5th July, 2019. Fruit and flower trees were planted by the ex-students, their children, parents and ex-teachers across the school and ashram campus. Such occasions remind us that we are all connected to one another and to the Mother Earth.







We are all
connected
to one another
and to the
Mother
Earth.





Let us connect,
collaborate and **contribute**
to make our planet green.

Come and plant



Celebrate your birthday, plant a tree.
Come with your family – spouse, children and specially your parents.

Connect with Mother's Blossoms Coordinator, Ms. Jyoti Patankar
on +91-11-8851 73 1925, +91-11-8826 28 8093.

Children's Day

Mother's Blossoms, Batch of 1995 organised a dance workshop for the Primary school and Illusionist show for the middle and senior school. Chocolates were also distributed to all the children.



Alumni Sports Day was held on 15th Dec.'19.

Alumni from various batches relived the school days and played Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Badminton and Table Tennis matches with School teams. Everyone participated with great passion. The event was sponsored by the Batch of 1995.



Badminton



Basketball



Football



Cricket



Volleyball



Table Tennis



Mother's Blossoms Activities

Badminton
Winners



Volleyball
Winning
Team





Football
Winning
Team



Table Tennis
Winners



Become a Mother's Blossoms member.

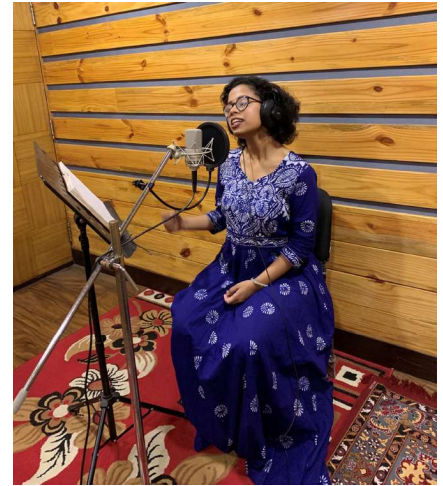
Join the Sunday Sports.

Connect with Mother's Blossoms Coordinator, Ms. Jyoti Patankar
on +91-11-8851 73 1925, +91-11-8826 28 8093.

Sada Namaami Maataram, A devotional music album



The album dedicated to The Mother, was sponsored for production as part of the centenary celebrations of The Mother's final arrival in Pondicherry.



Sada Namaami Maataram

A Bouquet of Devotional Songs

Dedicated to The Mother

by

Mitra, Durba & Shantanu Bhattacharyya

- ♦ Bandou Matri Charan - Durba
- ♦ Har Swaas Meri - Mitra & Durba
- ♦ De Ma - Shantanu
- ♦ Aishwaryagoonsampannaam - Durba & Shantanu
- ♦ Tere Charan - Mitra
- ♦ Mai Tera Ma - Mitra & Shantanu
- ♦ Prem Udachi Ki - Shantanu
- ♦ Sada Namaami Maataram - Mitra, Durba & Shantanu



Greetings



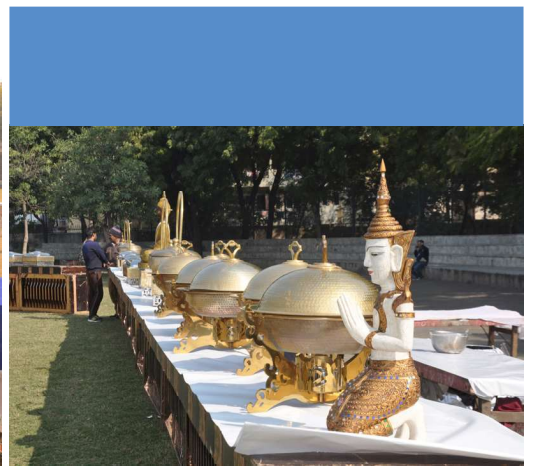
Alumni Meet

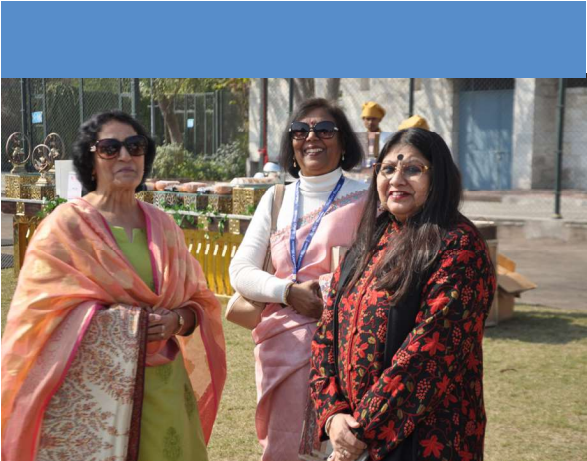
It was a proud moment for the MIS family as the Batch of 1970 completed 50 years and Batch of 1995 completed 25 years of graduating from school. The batches celebrated this occasion with great enthusiasm on 26th Jan, 2020.





Mother's Blossoms Activities







Batch of 1995



Batch of 1970

Write about your life's story, your achievements and successes along with your trials, tribulations and comebacks. Share your learnings from the school called life.

Publish on the Mother's Blossoms website. Write to us at info@mothersblossoms.com

Sport's Promotion at AMVM, Kechala, Odisha

Mother's
Blossoms
Social Welfare
Initiatives

The Mother's Blossoms most happily provided sports and basketball court equipment at the tribal village school Auro Mira Vidya Mandir in Kechala, Odisha. As we all know

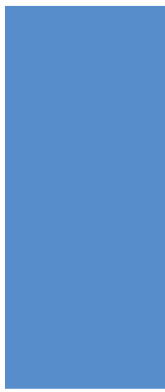
- Sports activities help in enhancing metabolism and energy levels,
- Channelize energies of the children towards healthy and value-added activities
- Build courage, stamina and self-confidence.
- Enhance physical fitness and agility in the kids/youth and results in their overall development.

With the sponsoring of the sports equipment, Mother's Blossoms encouraged children for better health, fitness and physical activity. The children have been using the equipment and practice sports on a daily basis as a part of the school schedule.



Kechla, a village of 6 hamlets, and a few surrounding villages with population of around 5,000 people is an extremely primitive but scenic region in Koraput district of the state of Odisha. Auro Mira Vidya Mandir, is a fully residential school in Kechla. Most of the children attending school are from Kechla village and just a few belong to the adjoining villages.

The main aim of setting up this school was to develop this tribal area by providing high education, vocational training. Ever since the school started 12 years back, it has been growing in its reach and capacities every year. A steady progress has ensured a vibrant nourishing environment for students and teachers alike.



The student strength of the school is currently is 140+ students. The learning of these children is interwoven with the life chores that they do during the entire day. The physical, vital, mental, psychic and spiritual aspects of their personality are nurtured and the children are guided towards greater awareness and conscious living.



The effort is to bring Integral Health as envisioned by the Mother & Sri Aurobindo. Integral Health is a state of being in which the individual's body (the physical), emotions and life energies (the vital), and thoughts (the mental) are in harmony with the inmost self, the Soul. Absence of such harmony manifests as disease or illness.

*School
Memories*

Batch of 1970

completes 50 Years

&

Batch of 1995

completes 25 Years



The Batch of 1970

MIS: Some Enduring Memories

formed our approach towards life in general and our attempts to understand it in all its aspects.

My childhood memories date back to our being in class III when we would run into the rooms of our Ashram building, leaving our shoes behind in the class to play a game of Hide and Seek.

I also remember gardening in the back of our school where we used to make flowerbeds and sow seeds of

different plants. In the 4th std. our teacher used to tell us about the stories of our forces at the Front during the Indo-China war in 1962.

My most cherished memories are of Class X, when we had our school trips to Nainital and Pondicherry. We would go for hikes in the mountains and walk about in the lanes of Pondicherry. Having Mother's Balcony Darshan is a lifetime memory.

The mention of Mother's International School, our Alma Mater, evokes a rush of memories, some pleasant, some hilarious and some pensive and reflective. These articles are a collation and collection of some of heart-warming memories that we have of our school, its environment, its teachers and our school mates. What I remember of my school...

The Mother's International School, our Alma Mater evokes a lot of memories about the experiences that



BATCH OF 1970

Abha Sharma nee Marwah, Batch of 1970

I Am Indebted To My School

The MIS school has amazing teachers and facilities to support the students in academic and extracurricular activities. It is to their credit that we did so well in the school and later in life.

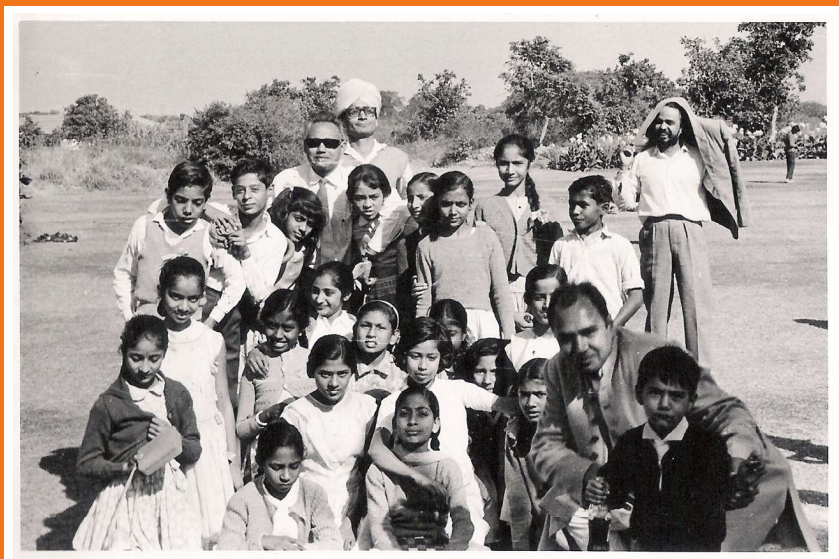
The setting up of houses/clubs helped in developing the camaraderie between students from different grade levels and also provided a means to develop our talents and many skills. I remember the houses were named Gratitude, Honesty, Kindness, Sincerity, Peace and Perfection.

Today very few schools have the academic, sports and building facilities to offer as our school does.

I strongly believe that students excel in sports, theatre and soft skills due to the provision of these facilities and the support from their teachers. I exhort the current students to fully take advantage of them and fully participate in all the school activities.

I had great classmates who were friendly, civil and helpful. It is indeed gratifying to be able to connect to them again.

Anil Wagh, Batch of 1970



BATCH OF 1970

A Supportive Atmosphere

My stay in the school was brief but there are certain indelible memories.

It was the year 1969 and our Board examinations were threateningly close. We decided that it would be prudent if I joined the hostel, probably I would get inspired by my friend Rajiv Ratti (who was in the hostel) and study for the final year. I guess that was not to happen, I barely got through the finals with the help of my classmates. But the support I received from some of my friends was invaluable. To them, I am forever indebted.

Atuull Mehta, Batch of 1970



Alma Mater A Guiding Light

My school gave me the strength and faith that have taken me through the various phases of life.

I will always be indebted to my alma mater and the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother for being my inspiration and guide.

**Kiran Mahendroo nee Narula,
Batch of 1970**



The Mention Of My School Reignites Fond Memories

There are many memories of my school days which if collated would make an exhaustive list. Let me attempt to revisit a few for my old classmates to read.

I also remember the daily morning school prayer in the Assembly Hall, with the students on the durrie on the floor and the teachers on the side benches, singing our bhajans with Uma Madam and Anna Didi in the lead. I can still recall some of the lines of those bhajans.

The long speeches that Jauhar Sir delivered on character, virtue and moral building are difficult to forget. And there were Prashar Sir's speeches on "Indian Culture". In this context, I think it would not be out of place to mention our participation in delivering the speeches on subjects finalised by Prasher Sir.

The foremost memory that comes to my mind, is Jauhar Sir telling us about the figure 23456 that was uttered by the Mother, when he asked her to suggest a date for the foundation of our school i.e. 23rd April 1956. We found it to be quite interesting.

Once, we were surprised to find Kiran, who was as glamorous as she was popular, struggling for words when asked to speak in Punjabi. And then, who can forget, the extempore delivery of long poems by our Hindi teacher Om Prakash Sir as a welcome relief after long sessions of speech on moral values.



I also remember our shram daan sessions, during which we carried bricks for building the stage of the Auditorium and removed stones, paper and dirt lying below the hedges and on the walkways filled with gravel.

Among many extra-curricular activities, which we took part in, I fondly remember the school sports activities, of which I was an unfailing active participant throughout my school days.

I was in Peace and I am proud to say that our house was adjudged the Champion House having been declared champions in Football, Volleyball and Athletics. I was adjudged the

We would have student vs teachers cricket matches in which our teachers like Pradhan Sir, Madhok Sir, Karim Sir and students like Ashok Rattan, Virender Bajaj, Vipin Kaahyap, Tandon (1969 batch) and Arun Kapoor, Vipin Kapoor, Surya Kant, Dinesh Kalia (of the junior batch) and I participated with gusto.



"Best Sportsman" and received the trophy from our the then Principal, Shri M.P. Chhaya.

This reminds me of his daughter and our batchmate Twisha, with whom I was in the "Oath taking ceremony" and in the lead during the march past on the Annual Day Celebration.

I remember our teachers, namely, Katyal Sir, Ray Sir, Tomar Sir, Mrs. Chatterjee, Goyal Sir, Verma Sr and Cutting Madam. I also remember our Principals mainly Bhagowalia Sir, Chhaya Sir and Col. Narang Sir.

Last but not the least, I have my ever-lasting sweet memory to be a proud member of 1970 batch, as we can boast of our two jewels Partha Pal and Shefali (Biswas) Ray for bagging the National Merit of CBSE 1970 from our school for the first time ever and creating history.

Anup Basu, Batch of 1970

Spirituality, Culture And Simplicity

I fondly remember the good old Mother's International School days during 1967 -1970, studying under the tin shed roofs. Starting with the morning assembly prayers, various co-curricular activities under five Houses - Honesty, Peace, Gratitude, Harmony, Kindness and Perfection were conducted in those simple structures.

I remember I was the vice-captain of the House. Art was learnt under the guidance of our teacher Mr. Lall Chand and we did things like painting, clay modelling, and batik work.

I took part in athletics and stood first in the 1500mtrs, 800mtrs and 4x100mtrs relay race. I played football and remember Anup Basu playing the front aggression position and sometimes goal -keeping as well.

To put it briefly, the whole atmosphere at school was spiritual, intellectual and cultural; something rare to find.

I took part in the Table Tennis tournament and was pitted against the then champion Anil Wagh; I being a beginner, every one cheered and encouraged me although no score was made by me.

Arun Gupta, Batch of 1970

An Expression of Gratitude

I came to Mother's School in the VIII class in 1966 along with my sister Vijayalakshmi (class of '71) as our elder brother Ravi was already studying here (class of '67). Most of us

Mother's School thus became a family school for us, as was the case for many other students.

knew not only our own classmates but each other's siblings as well.

My enduring memories of the School are around the playing fields, the library and the serenity of the Ashram atmosphere. Very few city schools in those days had such extensive grounds. Especially vivid are memories of the wonderful trips to Nainital and Pondicherry which were pure fun. I also remember with gratitude our teachers, notably Mr. Pradhan – History, Mr. Bakshi – Economics, Mr. Katyal & Mr Manchanda – English, Mrs. Kumar – Domestic Sc., Mr. Gupta – Maths, and off course, the absolutely wonderful principals, Mr. Chayya & Col. Narang.

Sudha Malhotra nee Khanna, Batch of 1970



Creating Rounded Personalities

The very mention of school opens up a Pandora's box of memories. The foremost thought which comes to my mind is the lovely ambience, the environment, the vast open spaces. We had a huge sports ground, the lawns, Aurobindo Samadhi and I remember, the primary section even had a mini zoo.

Then the morning assembly, the houses and the extracurricular activities, annual day celebrations, our drama rehearsals in the evenings.

Our teachers played an important part in shaping our personalities. They were affectionate, encouraging and guided us well. I still have fond memories of them.

Madhuri Nadkarni nee Chiplonkar, Batch of 1970

An Assuring And Comforting Environment

I joined MIS in the secondary section, when my father Mr. Chaaya joined as the principal of the school. Initially, I felt very shy in MIS, having come from a small town. But I soon made friends. I still remember the fun we had in our English classes and in our science laboratory work during which the boys played many pranks.

Twisha Jhala, Batch of 1970



Though my stint in Mothers International was relatively short since I joined much later than my other classmates, I have the loveliest memories of that period of my life.

Our trips to Nainital and Pondicherry are very much intact in my mind and I often tell my kids stories from those visits. I also have some fun memories of the yearly Mela that we would have.

I feel very blessed to have made such good friends and having been able to keep in touch with so many of them through the years has been wonderful.

Short But Memorable Stint In MIS

Kamini Jain, Batch of 1970

My School Developed My Spiritual Side

The Mother's School paved the way for me to take up spiritual courses, like, Reiki, Art of living and Buddhist chanting. This has helped me to live a cheerful and a contented life. I have been in constant touch with many of my classmates and the school which I love visiting.

I wish I could give back to the school much more than I am able to do now.

Anita Puri, Batch of 1970

The Umbilical Cord With The Alma Mater Still Holds

I am forever indebted to MIS for all the nurturing I received from the teachers and the management. I feel whatever I do for the school is just a drop in the ocean. But I persevere.

I have been in constant touch with MIS. My wife, Sunita, who is incidentally an alumna of MIS too, and I have been attending the annual alumni meets religiously. There have been occasions when I had the opportunity to serve my alma mater in different ways. We shall continue to do so.

Devendra Nagpal, Batch of 1970

The Simple Joys And Adventures While In School

I still recall, Mr Prashar from Pondicherry ashram, taking our meditation class, which many of us found very boring at the time. Some of us would open an eye to check if Prashar Sir himself was meditating or not. However, it seeded spirituality in the subconscious which went a long way in helping me face the world, in college and thereafter.

The memories of my life in the school are so many that when I begin to think, I can feel the rush. Apparently simple and humble settings the school provided great infrastructure for different kinds of academic or co-curricular activities. Lots of open space,



the large playgrounds, the vegetable fields: these are what I can recall about my school. We children would enjoy radish and cauliflower, fresh from the field that grew next to our football field. Our hands-on gardening classes were very interesting and exciting too.

A major highlight was the introduction of annual travel trips by Mr Chayya, one of the best principals we ever had. Our first trip to Pondicherry ashram, for Mother's darshan, the meditation experience there, the commune style self-service dining and cleaning are all etched in my memory. Personally, my first experience of going into the sea was in Pondicherry, where I was saved from drowning by my friend, Anil Wagh. Thanks to Anil, for saving my life. It took me more than 30 yrs to learn to swim, after that experience of drowning.

Sushil Anand, Batch of 1970

I was admitted to Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1959. I with my elder sister Shyamoly were fortunate to be one of the earliest entrants to the primary school. I think Sushil also started off like me. Tara Madam, Prasher Sir and few other dedicated ashramites took care of us youngsters. Our intellectual as well as spiritual journey started that year and continued till we graduated in the year 1970.

Throughout these school years Sushil and I were inseparable friends. We grew together and our journey continued in IIT Kharagpur from 1970-1975.

Ashok Chatterjee, Batch of 1970

Opportunities To **GROW** Intellectually, Spiritually And Creatively

Ironically VI is a class I never studied myself. Those days we used to have a system of double promotion and I went from V to VII (after clearing an exam of course).

So, it was Mother's way of making me repeat the class I had jumped over and over again.

I feel we are fortunate to have been associated with this great institution. The environment of the place is such that it has given us a lot of opportunity to grow which can only be measured in terms of our overall personality. Each day in school has been a

learning experience.

I wanted to give something more back to the school so while I worked here, I began to work assiduously towards compiling a book on the history of the school which my friends and Mother's Blossoms helped to get printed.

Neena Sethi, Batch of 1970



A World Traveller's Reminiscences

I joined MIS – (Then known as “Sri Aurobindo Ashram”) in 1963 in class 3. Small classrooms close to each other within nice square enclaves and our assembly hall with tin roofs. It is here we watched

Yuri Gagarin on TV and plays performed on stage by our schoolmates. In fact, so many events took place in that simple and unassuming structure we called the assembly hall.

There are a lot of fleeting memories – including that of the tall personality of Mr. Jauhar in his signature achkan and churidar, addressing us in the assembly hall and picking up trash while he walked with equanimity.

I remember the numerous visitors from Pondicherry, the yogis from all over India and the world, who came to visit the school and left behind something of themselves. These were wise men and women who came to share their life experiences with us.

On my part, I was a nondescript student with no real outstanding skills; just an average kid thinking more about games/ sports (mostly from the sidelines!) than academics and with nary a care in the world. A strong memory of Parashar Sir holding classes on “Indian Culture”, with agnostic leanings, and a secular class with a spiritual bend: that has stayed with me.

I am in debt of MIS for providing me with early stage life skills that have stayed with me even though my life's journey took me away from academics, at the young age of 18, into the big wide world that becomes smaller every moment.

Rajesh Mehrotra, Batch of 1970

The Laying Of A Solid Foundation

I can assure my life has been a bumpy yet enjoyable ride and I simply couldn't have done it without a solid foundation, laid in MIS. Thank you, my Alma Mater of 61 years, my beloved teachers and my dear fellow mates.

Shubhra Dasgupta nee Mazumdar, Batch of 1970

The Mind Continues To Draw Upon The Font Of Spirituality

I have immense fondness in my heart for MIS which is the only school I have ever known, joining as a Nursery student in 1957 and passing out of high school in 1970. We were four siblings in the same school. Those days the ashram and the school premises merged into each other and we children had a free run of the place.

It was in the silence of the meditation hall and the beauty and dignity of the pure white samadhi that we had our initial brush with spirituality and purity.

Amongst the memories of the school, our trip to Pondicherry is one unforgettable experience which included visits to the beach and various parts of the ashram.

The environment in the school was a nurturing one where the teachers reached out to every student, as the classes were small. One can never forget Mr Parashar who was gently persuasive and encouraging.

The warmth, the personal touch, the spiritual atmosphere and the encouraging but non-competitive spirit of MIS makes me what I am today. Even now when I go to the school and the ashram, a sense

of peace and calm descends upon me. The memory of some of the classmates, teachers and events is etched in my memory, lovingly retrieved to reminisce upon.

One hallmark of the trip was the laying of the foundation of the unique township called, Auroville.

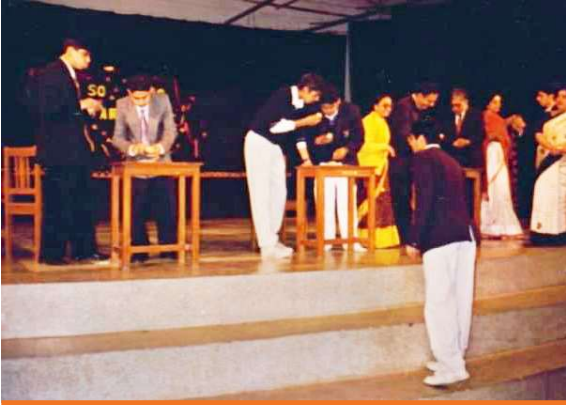
Looking up to view Mother's holy presence in the balcony offered an ethereal vision.



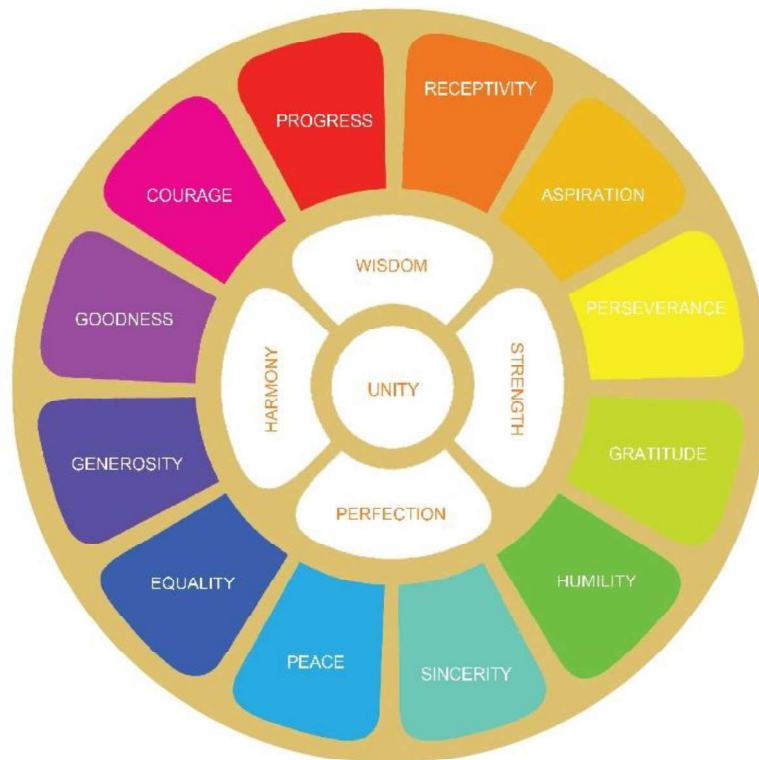
Shefali Ray nee Biswas, Batch of 1970

The Batch of 1995





The Mother's Symbol



The central circle represents the Divine Consciousness,
the Supreme Mother, the Mahashakti.

The four central petals represent the four powers of the Mother.

The twelve petals represent, her twelve attributes, the powers of
the Mother manifested for Her work.

The four petals of the Mother's symbol represent
the four Aspects or Personalities
of the Mother: Maheshwari (Wisdom), Mahalakshmi (Harmony),
Mahakali (Strength) and Mahasaraswati (Perfection).

The twelve petals of the Mother's symbol represent the twelve Aspects:
Sincerity Humility Gratitude Perseverance Aspiration Receptivity
Progress Courage Goodness Generosity Equality Peace

Thank

You

Contributors

and

Patrons



LAPTOP
SLEEVES

MESSAGE
MAGNETS

MB SCHOOL
BOOK

JACKETS



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CAPS

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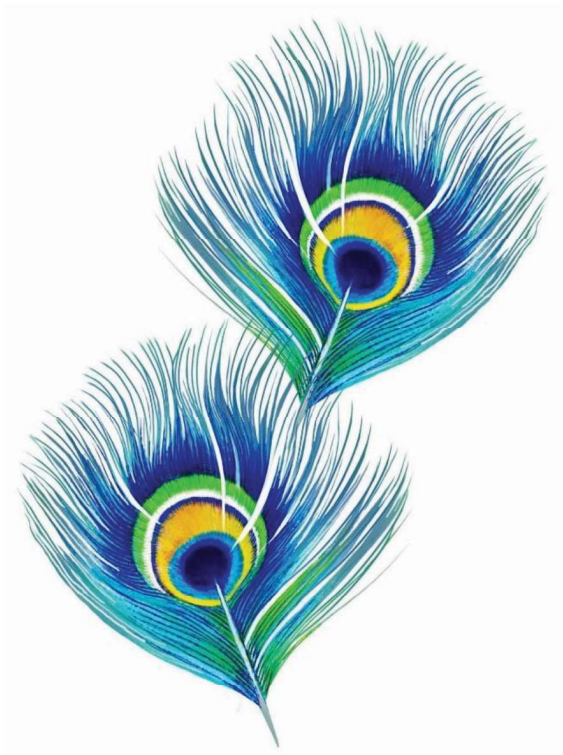
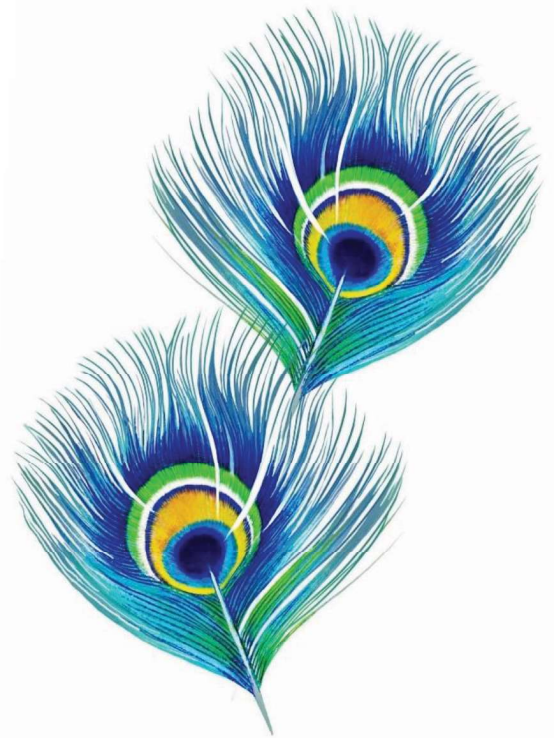
LAPTOP BAGS

T-SHIRTS

Krishna, By Sri Aurobindo

At last I find a meaning of soul's birth
Into this universe terrible and sweet,
I who have felt the hungry heart of earth
Aspiring beyond heaven to Krishna's feet.

I have seen the beauty of immortal eyes,
And heard the passion of the Lover's flute,
And known a deathless ecstasy's surprise
And sorrow in my heart for ever mute.



Nearer and nearer now the music draws,
Life shudders with a strange felicity;
All Nature is a wide enamoured pause
Hoping her lord to touch, to clasp, to be.

For this one moment lived the ages past;
The world now throbs fulfilled in me at last.

With Best Compliments, Raghvinder Singh



Mother's Blossoms
connect collaborate contribute

The Mother's Blossoms is the alumni body of The Mother's International School. It is a registered society that works with the motto to – connect, collaborate and contribute.

Its primary aim is to promote a sense of belonging and connection of the alumni not only with its Alma Mater, but also amongst themselves, like an extended family. In addition to this, the Society aims to serve as a conduit for the alumni in all its endeavors to support social welfare causes.

In case of any queries, you may

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