



**SCINDIA  
KANYA  
VIDYALAYA**

Top Ranked Girls Boarding School

# ENRICHING LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

Newsletter / April 2020



# Principal's Message

Within the space of one month, we have seen the announcements of 3 lockdowns. While this was expected and understood that it is for the greater good, we are experiencing a spectrum of thoughts and emotions. Our first thought was to reach out to underprivileged women in the city as well as our support staff. We supplied 11400 sanitary napkins during this difficult time. This stock had been created by our own students and the women from the unit we have established in Jargah. We also distributed rations among our support staff and regularly supplied food and rations to the colony of migrant labour, who camp outside our school. It is a time for reaching out. And reach out we did. This time we asked our alumni to tell us how they are spending time in the lockdown. We were delighted to get responses, especially from teachers and students of the first batch of our school!

I hope, seeing so many Old Girls featured in this issue of the SKV newsletter, many connections will be revived and new ones will be made. Meanwhile, our girls are on summer holiday till the 2nd of June. I hope they are finding the time to connect meaningfully with the world and with themselves. Delve deep, dear girls, that's where the gems lay hidden. Presenting: our lockdown days in April.



# Sankalp Sanitary Napkin Distribution

While most of us are primarily concerned about receiving a sufficient quantity of rations, many underprivileged women are troubled by the unavailability and cost of other essential items.

To help these women live through the lockdown period without compromising their dignity, SKV provided 11,400 Sankalp Sanitary Napkins to the Department of Food & Civil Supplies, Gwalior, to support underprivileged women who have lost their livelihoods during lockdown and, therefore, cannot access this essential hygiene product.



# Distribution of Food Packets

In these days of lockdown and isolation, reaching out to others may seem like an anomaly - but it needs to be done. In such trying times, the most impacted are those on the periphery of our social sphere, the itinerant labourers and the daily wage earners. To ease their burden and provide some sustenance, the staff living in residence at SKV reached out with food packets to the needy encamped outside the rear gates of the school. It is truly in the act of giving that we receive.



**Small acts of kindness and care help remind us that we are human, and that we are all a part of one world.**

# Lives during lockdown

With the spread of the Coronavirus being a major factor in our lives, we're all doing our part to contribute to a safer world. However, the experiences of people during this situation have been diverse. We'd like to share what some of our alumni are up to during COVID-19.

## Alumni Edition

# Alumni Edition

## Sushama (Moghe) Varma (Teacher 1956 - 1965)



Sushama entered her 90th year recently! She joined SKV in July 1956 before classes started on 1st August. During almost a decade in SKV, she taught English, language and literature, to all the classes. "Nowadays, reading is a pleasure – almost an addiction!"

## Sareena (Joseph) Mathews (1958 Batch)



After 47 years in the US, Sareena retired in Chennai. She was a 'reading specialist' in public schools in USA. Currently, she is active as the President of Women's Christian College's alumnae association. She has been reading, pottering around the apartment, and finding that her clocks needed new batteries.

## Rita (Mehta) Gharekhan (1958 Batch)



She started porcelain painting when she was posted in Switzerland about 40 years ago. This has since become her passion and keeps her busy. She has won prizes in international Porcelain painting competitions and been featured in the International Porcelain painters and Teachers 60th Anniversary commemorative volume.

## Radha (Piplani) Rastogi (1959 Batch)



Rising early makes Radha feel in control of her day. She unwinds with her favourite Vedic hymns, a cup of tea and rumination and yoga. Without the usual help, she keeps busy with the house, especially with cooking. She reads, watches films, but finds that staying connected with family and friends is her lifeline in these times.

## Rama (Bhargava) Bhargava (1961 Batch)



Rama is investing her time in glorious sunshine during these times of darkness. Since his arrival last year, my grandson Anant has changed her life! She's currently experiencing the bliss of becoming a grandmother!

## Asha (Goel) Aggarwal (1961 Batch)



Asha is an avid Bridge player, even in lockdown! Her spare time gave her the opportunity to pamper her grandkids Riya, 21, and Risha, 16, with homemade dishes. They join her in the kitchen and together, they experiment with exotic dishes.

# Alumni Edition

## Amita (Dev) Sarwal (1961 Batch)



The lockdown has helped Amita catch up on her pending 'To Do list'. Her days start before sunrise with an hour of meditation, pranayama and yoga and continues with movies in the evenings. Amita has been writing since 1973 – and heading the list among her prized works is the 'The Spirit of SKV – Chronicle of a Girl's School'; perhaps the first book about a girl's school in India.

## Mani (Verma) Sinha (1961 Batch)



Her love for literature and the language led her to teaching English in a school and college for two decades. She is an avid reader. William Dalrymple is one of her favourites, as she enjoys novels with a historical backdrop. Now she mostly watches the news, cookery and lifestyle shows. She has been coaching her granddaughter Suhani online for her English exams.

## Indrani (Moitra) Gurumurthy (1961 Batch)



Indrani got married in 1962 and joined her husband in UK in 1965. She has three children and six grandchildren there. She loves to visit gardens, which are allowed while maintaining social distance, during the lockdown. She enjoys the gardens in her neighbourhood that are filled with spring flowers.

## Promila (Modi) Saraf (1961 Batch)



As a hobby, Promila loves playing bridge as it's a very interesting and engaging game which keeps her busy. She has been playing several tournaments with her team. Below is the result of an online tournament where they won the first place!

## Madhu (Bhargava) Gupta (1961 Batch)



Madhu and her husband, Satish, are both Ophthalmologists, practising since 1972. Since the lockdown, she has been keeping busy by reading books, watching movies and communicating on the internet. She is not very fond of cooking, but is trying out a few new recipes.

# Alumni Edition

## **Bharati (Naik) Sukhatankar (1962 Batch)**



Bharati is spending her lockdown time by making mats from chindis. These will later be sold to the ladies who attend her weekly Bhagavad Geeta classes. The proceeds go to help daily wage workers. She is also the editor of Bal Vihar, the Chinmaya Mission's children's monthly magazine.

## **Kumkum (Sabharwal) Chandhoke (1962 Batch)**



"With the Divine Grace and Blessings of my Guruma of Adyapeth, I am spending quality time with the Lord."

## **Dr. Chitra (Ganapathy) Chandran (1962 Batch)**



Being a Paediatrician, Dr. Chitra is now doing online telemedicine. She is able to go for walks in the neighbouring Fitzroy Garden, where they also have a vegetable patch and get enough zucchini, tomatoes, chillies and herbs, for their consumption. Besides that, she uses her time to watch TV and talk with her husband, Chandran.

## **Livleen (Dhillon) Kahlon (1962 Batch)**



Livleen Kahlon joined SKV on opening day - 1st August, 1956. She presently lives in Austin with her grandchildren, Jahan and Hu Die. Her daughter, Mini Kahlon, and son-in-law, Raj Patel, are committed to the Austin community's medical needs during this COVID situation.

## **Indu (Nagrath) Wig (1962 Batch)**



As their servants and maids are also under lockdown, Indu and her daughter-in-law, Indrani, are busy with all aspects of the home. They are also taking care of her husband, who isn't keeping too well.

## **Manju (Nagrath) Saigal (1962 Batch)**



Manju is utilising this bounty of undisturbed free-time in reading the Holy Scriptures (PURAN).



# Alumni Edition

**Renu (Verma) Srivastava  
(1962 Batch)**



After teaching for over 30 years in Melbourne, Papua New Guinea, Canberra, Perth and Hong Kong, Renu Srivastava is back at home in Melbourne. She cooks a lot and these days, and often gets a glimpse of her children when they come to her door to deliver groceries and to pick up the food that she cooks for them.

**Usha (Gupta) Merchia  
(1962 Batch)**



At SKV, Usha won many prizes for singing, and she still sings. In 1975, she immigrated to USA. Her three sons and their families are also in America. She and her husband, Jiwan, are currently in their home in Boca Raton, Florida, where the weather is beautiful and they are enjoying the fruits from their trees.

**Bharti (Bhaskar)  
Deveshwar (1963 Batch)**



“Music has been my soulmate since school days... sukh mein aur dukh mein bhee! The tanpura was gifted by my father in 1961, as I was learning music from Sathianathan Tai in SKV.”

**Neera (Khosla) Vij (1963  
Batch)**



Being fond of embroidery and stitching, her COVID lockdown creations keep her busy. Some of these are for her domestic staff's children.

**Sarayu (Bahadur)  
Khajuria (1963 Batch)**



She is a part of a household of six adults in the lockdown! She and the other ladies, including her daughter-in-law, Chitra, are constantly cooking, washing dishes and cleaning up. But they do find time to play cards, watch TV and do gardening.

**Nirmala Tambe née Nirmala  
Deoskar aka Ganjee!  
(1964 Batch)**



Nirmala spends her lockdown time tending to her garden

# Alumni Edition

## Nisha (Bahadur) Jaitly (1965 Batch)



Besides household chores with no help these days, Nisha indulges in gardening on her terrace. The flowers are in full bloom – and grapes are growing on the vines.

## Anju (Modi) Poddar (1966 Batch)



As a writer, Anju has published eight books. These cover her father KK Modi's biography, religion, spirituality, travel and cookery. She is now pursuing and enjoying art, and engaged in dialogues with weavers and crafts persons.

## Vandana Bhaskar Choudhry (1972 Batch)



She is perusing her hobbies to keep herself occupied during this period of lockdown. Staying at home has been her way of doing her part to prevent the spread of the virus.

## Dr Sonal Mehta (1992 Batch)



**“Lockdown has neither knocked me down nor has it locked my spirits.”**

- Holding sessions on FM Radio Chaska (Gwalior) and Radio Dastak (Ujjain)
- Arranging online classes for the school she runs, which is situated in the rural area of Raisen District.
- Giving Coronavirus safety advice after lockdown on Doordarshan.

## Lt Col (Dr)Suprita Kalra



Dr. Suprita going to the hospital in battle fatigues because this uniform is most easily sanitised post duty, guess it's meant for all battles. She also provide OPD consultation to her patients through video calling who are unable to reach the hospital due to the lockdown.

## Sanya Agrawal (2005 Batch)

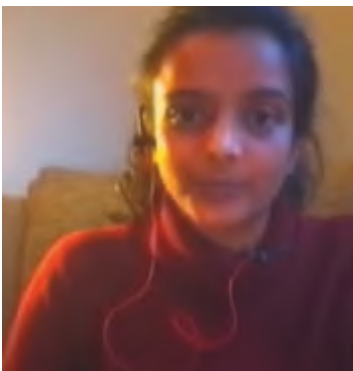


She is trying her best to stay at home and help street dogs and cows and poor people in this lockdown.

# Alumni Edition

## Pavitra Arora (2004 Batch)

Pavitra Arora finds immense happiness in watching the birds in and around her balcony. She keeps food out for them so that they can have some extra sustenance during this lockdown. She's been keeping busy by observing other beings live their life as well. Here are few shots that have been documented by her.



## Dr Himansha Singh (2007 Batch)

"I have also been working with the Cambridge research team to help in developing a vaccine and I'm pleased to say that our contributions, together with scientists at Oxford, have gone into its first clinical trials this Thursday. Positive results are due in September." She gave a small interview on Coronavirus.

Watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkieqiZfytk>

## Jasleen Makhija Sethi (2009 Batch)

She and her husband took the initiative of distributing 500 food packages, twice a week, in the rural and slum areas of Kanpur Dehat. She says, "It is a divine feeling to feed those hands who can't have a meal for even one time."

## Priyanshi Hirwani (2013 Batch)

Priyanshi Hirwani believes that the most important thing is that we have gotten closer to our family, we spend more time together and that even nature has started rejuvenating itself. During this quarantine period, she has started trying new dishes every day, painting, feeding stray dogs and even her own kitchen garden.

## Promilla (Sabharwal) Gambhir



Promilla Gambhir assists her husband Vinod, who helmed Dynamic Business Management Centre Pvt. Ltd. They published books on Higher Studies & Scholarships. Now she does yoga and knits mufflers for family and friends.

**WE ARE VERY PROUD OF HOW OUR GIRLS  
ARE GOING OUT THERE IN THE WORLD AND BEING  
PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY**



SKVian Neha Goel, class of 2002, is currently a lead scientist at Cambridge University Hospital, National Health Service, UK, and also a Director of Scientific Marketing at DRW (Diagnostics for the Real World).

The DRW has been tirelessly working at developing a testing kit for COVID-19 & has finally been successful in devising it; giving the world a kit that will provide test results in just 90 minutes. Neha, thank you for your contribution. It gives us the strength to sit tight at home and wait as people with relevant knowledge work towards finding a solution to the crisis at hand. Our glimmer of hope just got brighter.

To read the news article that has covered this story and her team, visit:

**<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2020-04-02/cambridge-team-develop-test-that-can-diagnose-covid-19-in-less-than-90-minutes/>**

# Online Classes

Having conducted our first term of online classes, we can now look back and say that it has been a learning, but joyful experience. Here's a look at our teachers conducting their online classes.

Class 12 Chemistry Nucleophilic substitution reactions  
Imparting knowledge to our learners to grow.

Enriching students with ancient language Sanskrit  
through live sessions on Microsoft Teams.



# Online Activity Classes Report

In the wake of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, to keep the learning wheel moving for students, Performing and Visual Arts department started with Online Activity classes from 8<sup>th</sup> April. Each student was asked to choose two activities from the categories of Western Instrument, Painting, Indian Instrument (Tabla), Bharatnatyam and Western Vocal. Based on their choices, students were divided in to Basic and Advanced groups.

Teachers conducted Live classes via multiple online modes to impart lessons. Students showed great enthusiasm in learning each activity and were proactive in sharing their learnings with their teachers via videos. Let's explore teachings of each activity:

## Painting: Creative thinking inspired ideas

When teaching online, one has to be mindful of what material to use during a lockdown. To keep students creatively involved, painting on newspapers, drawing and shading activities were included. They learnt to draw freehand lines and shapes to make beautiful designs, to sketch faces, make perspective drawing and monoprints. To decorate their houses, they learnt to make Wall Décor paintings from newspaper. The students had a positive response, sharing a few pieces of art that was made by them.

## Dance: Utilizing tradition as a form of expression

Dance is a medium to express one's feelings and emotions. To utilize the medium, students of the basic group, were taught the Bharatnatyam terms, the Namaskaram tradition in classical dance style, Armandi and its importance, and Hastamudra. In the advance group, both the groups could understand the Bhakti Bhava and different Angbhangima of particular terms. Kathak girls could understand the 'Chakradhar' and the importance of 'Sam' in Kathak. Bharatnatyam girls could learn Kartari Adavu and Dhitta Adavu. Here are a few images of students gracefully learning and expressing themselves.



# Online Parent Teacher Meeting Report

Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya held its first ever online Parent Teacher Meeting from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. After five weeks of online classes, it was necessary for subject teachers to connect with the parents and students. The Parent Teacher Meeting helped the parents to understand the work done, information about assignments completed, etc.

Students received the Holiday Homework for all subjects and parents were able to share valuable feedback with the subject teachers as well. Like online classes, this too was a learning experience for both the faculty members and parents. Valuable feedback received from the parents through the feedback forms will help the school to fine tune the online classes and make the learning process more interactive and effective. Keeping the interest of the students as a priority, we, at SKV, constantly endeavour to provide the best possible solutions to our students.

In June, we plan to take online classes to a new level. Live classes will be held for all classes on Microsoft Teams. These classes will follow a set time table and reduce the amount of screen time for students, thus giving them time to pursue other interests and hobbies and also have time for self- study.

Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya is one of the showcase Schools of Microsoft and we have

the campus license for all our faculty members as well as students. Microsoft Teams is a secure and safe platform for teaching and learning, as only authorized users can enter the platform. Within Teams, teachers can create a classroom, channels (for different topics or chapters), upload videos and URL links, all in addition to conducting live meetings at scheduled times. Teachers can quickly converse with students, share files and websites, create a OneNote Class Notebook, and distribute and grade assignments. Built-in OneNote Class Notebooks and end-to-end assignment management allows teachers to organize interactive lessons and provide effective and timely feedback. Teachers can also use the whiteboard facility to write on the board during the live class. These classes can be recorded, so they can be viewed by the student later as well.

The past five weeks of online classes have ensured that the learning process remained uninterrupted. Our students' wellbeing remains our primary concern. The faculty members will continue to acquire new skills to ensure that learning remains a joyful and interesting experience for all.

Though there can be nothing better than having our students back with us, Live classes will enable all students and teachers to interact with each other regularly, till we meet again.

**We present to you this poster by Sanishka Agarwal, as we find that it reflects the quiet beauty of our current lives.**

**Title:** Faded Beauty

**Medium:** Shading pencils & poster colours

In SKV, today the blackboards are silent and the classes are empty. Deep inside somewhere we are guilty, as we are the one who made the mother earth dirty. But somehow, it's healing its beauty and after years of wait, nature is at its peak. (The school building is so faded and is not lively without the SKVians and nature is at its best because it is pollution free)



**Creating  
while  
waiting**

**Sanishka agarwal  
10C  
Usha house**



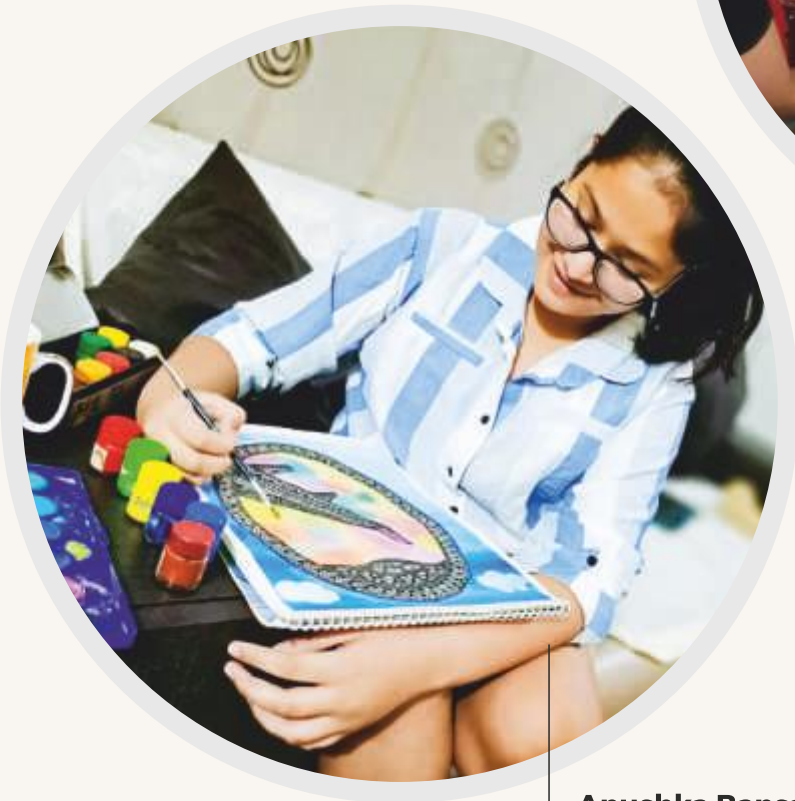
# Student Undertakings

Our students have been using their time while in lockdown to pursue their interests; many have taken up art and craft projects to hone their creative skills while others have decided to spend more quality time with family. Take a look at how are spending their time in lockdown.



**Ritagya, Class 8A**

Making celebrations magical in whatever way we can.



**Anushka Bansal, Class 9A**

Locked-down, but our imagination is still free. Painting to set my mind free.

**Tanisha Bansal, Class 9B**

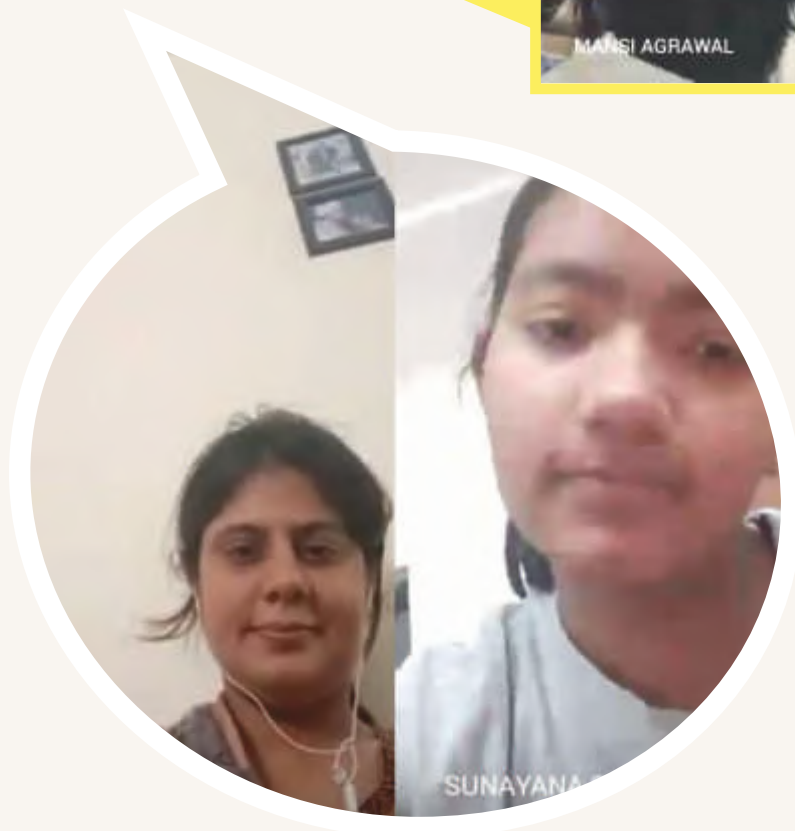
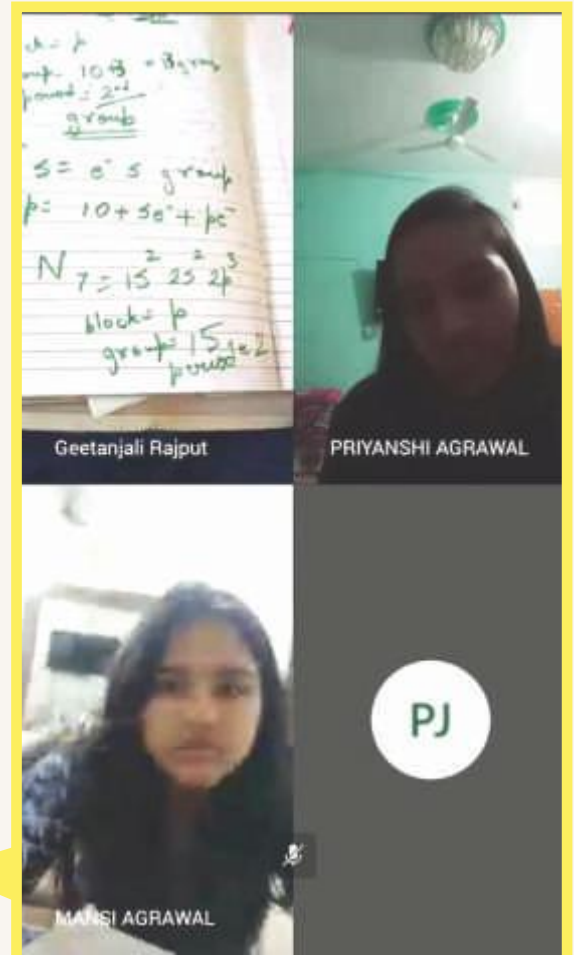
Making and distributing masks to the staff at my house

# Keeping dreams alive

## National Talent Search Examination

Despite the compulsory closure, SKV has endeavoured to provide regular student support with SAT-NTSE coaching being provided for our Class 10 students on Google classroom in science, maths and the social sciences.

The current Class 10 receive material to work with independently, along with individual help and audio-visual learning aids. These classes will continue during the summer break, with the school adding to the number with selected Class 9 students. Regular SAT-NTSE classes will restart when school reopens.



# Live classes with Microsoft Teams

After a short summer break, SKV will move into the second phase of online teaching, with the commencement of “live” online classes in June. A few of the senior students have already participated in live classes in selected subjects, but in June, the entire school will be included for all disciplines. The school has decided on using Microsoft Teams as the chosen platform for these classes; it has already been tried and tested in the senior groups.

It is an occasion to be proud, as Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya is one of the showcase schools of Microsoft in India to be granted a campus license to use “Teams” for the entire faculty members and student community. Only authorized users can utilize this software, which is encrypted and therefore a safe platform for teaching and learning to take place.

Every student and teacher has been given an account on Microsoft Teams on the Microsoft office 365 portal. As mentioned earlier, Class 12 subject teachers have already commenced using this software to deliver live lectures in April. Come June, SKV would have the entire school transitioning smoothly to virtual classes.

Using “Team”, teachers can create an appropriate classroom environment and can upload videos on various channels (for different topics or chapters) and send students URL links for study material, as well as conduct live meetings that simulate actual classes at scheduled times.

Teachers can easily interact with students, share files and websites, create a OneNote Class Notebook, and distribute and grade assignments. With the facility to construct OneNote Class Notebooks and end-to-end assignment management, teachers have

the ability to effectively organize interactive lessons and provide students with timely feedback.

Teacher can also use the virtual whiteboard included on the platform to write on during teaching, just like in an actual classroom. These classes can be recorded, enabling students to view them repeatedly at home. These recordings can become part of the instructional resources of the school. Attendance to these classes are recorded and an Excel sheet of the class record can be downloaded and printed out.

What is particularly interesting is a feature that is being incorporated, that provides a touch of realism in the virtual setting. This is the “raise your hand” feature, where the student can raise a hand and interact with the teacher in real time. This truly transforms the setting into an actual classroom, even with the students at home.

SKV is looking forward to using technology to its advantage in providing uninterrupted education to its students. It is undoubtedly a learning curve, but, in the end, only goes to prove that both students and teachers are intricately involved with each other in the field of education.



# Beating the Quarantine with Quarazine



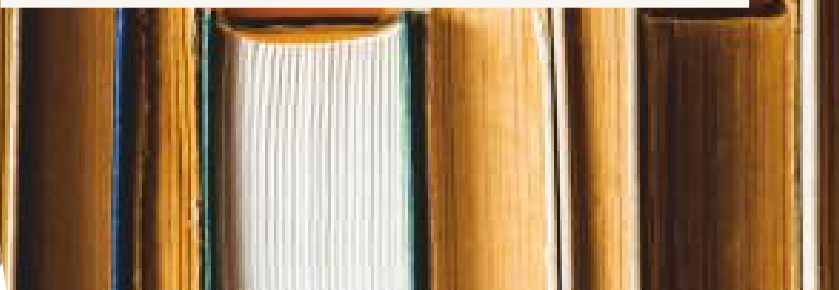
The nation-wide lockdown has brought an abrupt pause to our children's school life. However, the sudden transition to online learning has not addressed the immediate loss of interaction that is felt from reconnecting digitally. Our students feel disconnected from their school, and we cannot just wait and watch.

**To bridge the gap in interaction and help students feel engaged in their newly discovered virtual school life, we at SKV, began the production of our digital publication 'Quarazine - the Lockdown Magazine'. The magazine helps dispel the disengagement of lockdown learning.**

The weekly magazine has brought back a sense of vigour in school activities, and both students and teachers have found a new sense of fulfilment in this 'lockdown life'.

THE LOCKDOWN MAGAZINE

# QUARAZINE



# Become a part of the Sankalp Initiative.

Help underprivileged women live with pride by sponsoring hygienic menstrual alternatives to cloth and sand, as not every woman can afford sanitary napkins every month.

Sponsor a year's supply of sanitary napkins at Rs. 450.

Be a part of the initiative, however big or small!

[Click here to Sponsor](#)

<https://forms.eduqfix.com/sankalponlineform/add>

