

The Horizons

Newsletter June 2025 Edition



**Endings &
New Beginnings**

Table of Contents

Editor's Note

1

A special message. **Page 1**

2

Current Events

The Launch of NASA's Artemis III

The 2025 Paris Climate Summit

The Global Huddle: How Sports unite us all by Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

3

General Writing

A Suitcase of Lessons by Amreen Kaur Maan, Grade 9

Saying Goodbye to Familiar by Amreen Kaur Maan

I Sacrificed My Queen in October by Azmah Alomari, Grade 11

The Philosophy of Impermanence: Embracing Change as Life's Constant by Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

4

Creative Writing

You Were Not Meant to Fold (Poetry) by Fatima Nihal, Grade 12

A Mysterious Suitcase (Short Story) by Jada Montalbetti, Grade 7

5

Finale

Visual Feature - Artwork

Closing Note

This month's Special Note for you!

Dear Horizons Readers,

As we bring you this special edition of Horizons, I wanted to write to you not just as this edition's editor, but as someone who has watched this amazing community grow. This time of the year always feels like a moment of change - moving to a new grade, wrapping up an academic year, or starting a completely new chapter in life.

This edition is all about those transitions. Whether you are saying goodbye to a grade, preparing for exams, moving toward graduation, or simply taking in the lessons this year has taught you; this issue is a celebration of that journey.

Every piece in this newsletter is a reflection of the strength, creativity, and growth within our student community. I hope that as you read, you are inspired to embrace your own changes with courage, excitement, and hope.

*With warmth and pride,
Social Engagement Officer
International Schooling*

"In this season of change, we bid adieu to old stories and welcome the dawn of new adventures."

The Launch of NASA's Artemis III: A New Era of Space Exploration

The Artemis III mission marks a historic moment as NASA prepares to return humans to the Moon after more than 50 years. This mission represents not just scientific progress but a symbol of how endings can lead to groundbreaking new beginnings in space exploration.

With the aim of landing the first woman and the first person of color on the lunar surface, this mission speaks to progress, diversity, and humanity's renewed commitment to pushing boundaries beyond Earth. Artemis III is part of a broader vision that includes building a sustainable presence on the Moon and setting the stage for future missions to Mars.

Lunar Landing

After decades without human presence on the Moon, Artemis III will mark humanity's return to our nearest celestial neighbor with advanced technology and broader representation.

Sustainable Presence

Unlike the Apollo missions, Artemis aims to establish long-term facilities and operations on the lunar surface, creating a gateway for deeper space exploration.

Journey to Mars

The knowledge and technologies developed through Artemis will serve as stepping stones for humanity's next giant leap - sending astronauts to Mars in the coming decades.

This launch inspires not only scientists and astronauts but also young dreamers worldwide, reminding us that every ending, even decades of pause in lunar missions can lead to magnificent new beginnings.

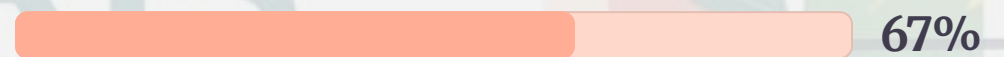
The 2025 Paris Climate Summit: Global Commitments for a Greener Future

This year's Paris Climate Summit has drawn the eyes of the world as global leaders gather to discuss the urgent need for stronger climate action. With rising temperatures, increasing wildfires, and sea levels threatening many parts of the world, the stakes have never been higher.

The summit focused on reinforcing commitments to carbon reduction, increasing investments in renewable energy, and establishing global cooperation for climate adaptation strategies. Countries are setting more aggressive targets to meet net-zero goals by 2050.

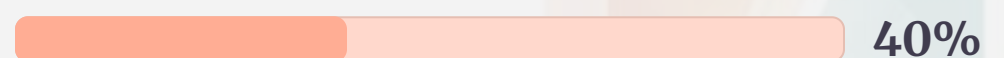
For the younger generation, this summit is a powerful reminder that their voices matter. The decisions made here will shape the world they inherit. It is a clear example of how global communities are choosing new beginnings for the health of our planet.

"The choices we make today determine the climate our children will inherit tomorrow."



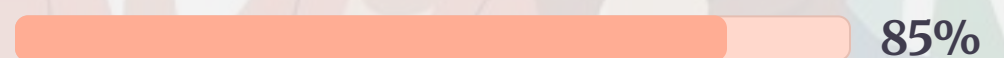
Carbon Reduction

Target reduction in global carbon emissions by 2035 compared to 2005 levels



Renewable Energy

Portion of global energy to come from renewable sources by 2030



Youth Support

Percentage of young people globally who consider climate action a top priority

The Global Huddle: How Sports Unites Us All

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

I'll be honest, my personal best in any athletic pursuit usually involves reaching for the remote control before the end credits roll. So, the concept of individuals voluntarily subjecting themselves to intense physical exertion for the sake of a ball, a medal, or simply bragging rights, remains a fascinating mystery to me. Yet, as I've peered over the metaphorical fence from my cozy reading nook, I've observed something truly remarkable: these grand spectacles of human athleticism are, in fact, incredibly powerful engines of global friendship and understanding.

Indeed, from the colossal arenas of the Olympic Games to the electrifying pitches of professional leagues and even to the inspiring stages of adaptive sports, the universal language of competition and camaraderie transcends borders, forging bonds that defy geographical distance and cultural differences. It's a phenomenon where the cheers for a winning goal echo across continents, and the shared gasp at an incredible feat of strength unites spectators from every walk of life.

The Olympics: Where the World Shows Off (and Hugs It Out)

Let's kick things off with the grandest show on Earth, the ultimate global gathering of human agility and sheer, unadulterated grit: the Olympic Games. The Summer Olympics graced Paris last year, and honestly, the sheer scale of it boggles the mind. Imagine! Thousands upon thousands of athletes, each honed to peak physical perfection, descending upon one city. They're not there for a book club meeting (though I'm sure some of them are avid readers!), nor are they debating the philosophical implications of existentialism. No, they're there to run faster, jump higher, and throw things further than anyone else. It's a spectacle of human potential that, even for a certified non-athlete like myself, is undeniably thrilling.

The Global Huddle: How Sports Unites Us All

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

And here's where the magic truly happens: after the nail-biting finishes, the triumphant roars, and perhaps a few dramatic tumbles, these fierce competitors often embrace. They exchange flags, share smiles, and offer words of encouragement. It's truly baffling and beautiful. One minute, they're locked in intense rivalry, pushing their bodies to the absolute limit against each other; the next, they're swapping jerseys like trading cards. It's like watching a real-life, global version of "make new friends but keep the old," proving that even the fiercest competition can culminate in genuine respect and connection. The Olympics are more than just a series of athletic events; they're a four-yearly testament to humanity's shared spirit, proving that when we focus on common goals, our differences often become strengths.

From Pitches to Courts: When Leagues Become Global Villages

But the unity doesn't stop with the Olympic rings. Oh no, the professional sporting leagues around the world are veritable melting pots of international talent, transforming individual teams into miniature global villages. Take football (or soccer, as some prefer, though I still maintain "football" makes more sense, given the amount of foot-to-ball action involved). Leagues like the English Premier League, the Spanish La Liga, or even the Indian Premier League (IPL) in cricket – they're not just national competitions anymore. They are global stages where athletes from every continent converge.

You'll find a striker from Argentina playing alongside a midfielder from Egypt, coached by someone from Portugal, all united under the banner of a single club in Germany. They navigate language barriers, learn about different cultures, and forge incredibly strong bonds, all while trying to score goals or hit sixes. It's like the ultimate cultural exchange program, but instead of writing essays, they're performing dazzling feats of athleticism. Remember the Rugby World Cup in 2023, hosted in France? Seeing teams from powerhouse nations like South Africa battle it out against teams from smaller, emerging rugby nations was incredible. After every bruising tackle and every glorious try, there was that immediate handshake, the pat on the back – a universal sign of mutual respect that speaks louder than any words. These daily interactions within teams and leagues cultivate deep, personal friendships that stretch across the globe, proving that a shared passion for a game can truly overcome any perceived divide.

The Global Huddle: How Sports Unites Us All

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

Beyond the Expected: Inspiring Feats and Inclusivity

And the unifying power of sport extends far beyond the traditional, high-profile events. Think about the incredible impact of initiatives like Prince Harry's Invictus Games. This isn't just about athletic competition; it's about celebrating the resilience of wounded, injured, and sick servicemen and women from around the world. These athletes, many of whom have faced unimaginable challenges, come together not only to compete but to support each other, share their stories, and inspire millions. Watching their determination and camaraderie is a powerful reminder that the human spirit, especially when fueled by a shared goal, knows no bounds – physical or otherwise. It's a testament to how sport can be a powerful tool for rehabilitation, community, and profound global empathy.

Our Own Global Playground: International Schooling and the Spirit of Sport

Here at International Schooling, we see this global unity in action every day. We have student-athletes from all across the globe – from the frosty peaks of Norway to the sunny beaches of Australia, from the bustling cities of Japan to the vibrant landscapes of Brazil. I'm sure they're swapping training tips, cheering each other on during Zoom meetings, and forming friendships that transcend time zones and continents.

So, while I'll still be firmly planted on my couch, cheering on these incredible athletes from a safe and comfortable distance, I can genuinely appreciate the profound impact they have. Sports, in all their quirky, competitive glory, are truly a global phenomenon that fosters understanding, respect, and enduring friendships. They remind us that no matter where we come from, we can always find common ground – perhaps even over a hotly debated call from the referee! Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I heard the kettle whistle. Time for a well-deserved break... from all this intense typing!

A Suitcase of Lessons

By Amreen Kaur Maan, Grade 9

I carry a suitcase—

not filled with clothes or trinkets,
but heavy with memories and lessons,
folded moments that shaped me.

Inside are the late nights when worry felt
endless,

the trembling before tests,
the small joys of surprise success,
the warmth of friends who stood by me
when I thought I couldn't go on.

This suitcase is not neat—

it's bulging, messy, full of crumpled hopes,
broken pieces and shining fragments
alike.

It holds the ache of mistakes,
the sting of things I wish I'd done
differently,
but also the quiet pride
of how far I've come.

Some lessons are sharp—

cutting deep but making me
stronger.

Others are gentle whispers,
soft reminders to keep moving
forward.

I carry this suitcase with me,
because these lessons are not
baggage—

they are the map,
the light,

the roots beneath my feet.

And though the road ahead is
unknown,

I know I am ready—

ready to unpack,

to learn again,

to carry these pieces into the
stories yet to come.

Saying Goodbye to Familiar: How Leaving a Grade Feels

By Amreen Kaur Maan, Grade 9

There's something quietly heavy about endings. Not the loud, dramatic kind, no fireworks or grand speeches, but the kind that settles in your chest and lingers in the spaces between moments. When the school year finally wraps up and you pack away your notebooks, it's not just the end of classes or exams. It's the closing of a chapter that holds pieces of you that you might not even have noticed growing inside.

Leaving a grade feels like stepping away from a place that's been home for months or years, even if you never called it that before. The hallways you walked a thousand times, the classrooms that witnessed your laughter and your nerves, the friends who shared jokes and secrets, all these become fragments of something you have to say goodbye to.

And it's strange because at the time, they felt so ordinary, so part of your daily rhythm. But now, standing on the edge of what's next, you realize how much you'll miss them. It's not just about the people, either. It's the routines that give structure to your days, the buzz of the morning announcements, the smell of cafeteria food, the nervous energy before a test, the relief when the final bell rang. Those little things that once felt mundane suddenly feel precious. And in that sudden shift, you realize that endings aren't just about leaving, they're about remembering.

And yet, there's more than just sadness in saying goodbye. There's pride, too. Pride in what you've survived. Maybe this year was hard, maybe the challenges piled up in ways you never expected. Maybe you struggled to keep up or felt invisible in a sea of faces. But you made it. You showed up, day after day, even when you didn't feel like it. That counts for something.

Saying Goodbye to Familiar: How Leaving a Grade Feels

By Amreen Kaur Maan, Grade 9

But the mix of pride and sadness often stirs something else, a nervous kind of hope. What comes next? The new grade, new teachers, new faces, it all feels so unknown. And that can be scary. What if it's harder? What if you don't fit in? What if you're not ready?

These questions swirl inside, quietly, sometimes overwhelming you in the middle of a crowded room or just as you're about to fall asleep. And that's okay. Because endings always bring uncertainty. And it's natural to feel afraid of what we don't yet know.

But here's the thing, you're not just leaving something behind. You're carrying pieces of it with you. Every late night study session, every laugh with friends, every moment of doubt and discovery, those are the building blocks of who you are now, who you're becoming. And while the path ahead might look unfamiliar, it's also yours to shape.

Saying goodbye to a grade is really saying goodbye to a version of yourself, the you who struggled, grew, stumbled, and soared in that space. It's a quiet, sometimes painful letting go, but also a chance to honor how far you've come.

So if you're feeling that mix of sadness and hope, that ache in your chest when you think about moving on, know that you're not alone. This is part of growing, part of learning to embrace change even when it feels hard.

Because every ending, no matter how small or large, is also a beginning. It's the space where new stories can take root, where new friendships will bloom, and where new parts of yourself will emerge. And while the goodbyes feel heavy, they also make room for all the possibilities waiting just around the corner.

I Sacrificed My Queen in October

By Azmah Alomari, Grade 11

By someone who's always five moves ahead, even when no one's watching, life this year felt like one long chess match, except I didn't get to pick which side I played.

Some days I was white, opening the board with control and clarity. Other days I was black, forced to respond to chaos I didn't cause teachers who uploaded the wrong test rubric, group partners who thought "I'll do my part later" was a strategic maneuver, and an academic system held together by duct tape and due dates.

Either way, the board was set before I even sat down.

They say chess is about patience, logic, and foresight. That's true if you're playing the game they teach you in clubs. But real life chess? It's about knowing when to pretend you're losing so no one sees you planning the checkmate. It's about knowing when to sacrifice your queen not out of weakness, but to bait your opponent into thinking they've won.

I sacrificed mine in October.

Not literally, obviously. But metaphorically, emotionally, strategically. I gave up on sleeping. Sanity. That one chem quiz I absolutely could've passed if I cared enough. I gave those things up so I could conserve my real power: attention, control, unpredictability.

That's the part no one teaches you. In school, people reward consistency. Predictability. You show up, you do your homework, you get your gold star. But in chess and in life if you're too predictable, you die fast.

So I started playing differently.

I spoke less. Observed more. Let others make the first move, especially the teachers who thought they could break students with a five project week. (Spoiler: they couldn't break me. I'd already broken myself for fun the week before.)

I Sacrificed My Queen in October

By Azmah Alomari, Grade 11

I learned to lose with intention. Turn a failed test into a learning arc. Turn a bad day into a dramatic monologue. Turn a breakdown into a personality trait. Not because I'm dramatic though I am but because even losses can be weaponized. Even pawns can become queens. Especially when no one expects them to.

Endings are funny in chess. Sometimes they come quickly as a surprise mate in three. Other times it's a slow bleed, fifty moves deep, where no one's really sure what they're playing for anymore. That's how school feels in June. You're not winning. You're not even sure the game matters. But you keep playing anyway.

Because you have to.

And so here we are. Endgame.

The seniors are leaving. Pawns have crossed the board. Some of them are queens now. Others are still figuring out what piece they even are. That's okay. Not everyone needs to be the king to win the game. Personally, I prefer being the player behind the board, quiet, calculating, and dangerous.

As for next year? I'm not resetting. I'm not "starting fresh." I'm carrying every move with me the mistakes, the brilliance, the rage fueled 2 AM essay that somehow got a 97. I'm not erasing the board. I'm building a new one. Bigger. Sharper.

And if the game changes?

Then I will change faster.

Checkmate.

The Philosophy of Impermanence: Embracing Change as Life's Constant

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

Have you ever paused to consider that the only truly constant thing in our universe is change itself? From the fleeting bloom of a vibrant protea to the slow, relentless shaping of ancient mountains, everything around us is in a perpetual state of flux. For many students right now, as school years conclude and new chapters loom, this truth resonates more powerfully than ever. We often resist this fundamental reality, clinging to familiarity, yet it's in understanding and accepting this ceaseless motion that we unlock the secret to a resilient and profoundly fulfilling life. From the profound wisdom of Hindu scriptures, the tranquil resolve of Stoicism, and the insights of Buddhism and Daoism, this truth was evident even to ancient thinkers. From my own personal experiences, I've seen how life's transitions sculpt us. Ultimately, welcoming impermanence isn't just about coping; it's about finding true liberation and growth.

Ancient Whispers: Philosophies of Flux

The notion that everything is in a state of flux isn't just a trendy hashtag; it's a profound understanding articulated by some of history's greatest thinkers. Across diverse philosophical traditions, the idea of impermanence emerges as a fundamental principle of human existence, offering timeless wisdom on how to navigate the ever-changing currents of life.

Hindu Philosophy: The Cosmic Dance of Maya

In Hindu philosophy, often known as Sanatana Dharma, the theme of impermanence is central to its teachings. The material world we perceive, with its vast array of forms and transient experiences, is frequently described as Maya— unreal in the sense of being a fake, complex, ever-changing illusion. This perspective implies that its reality is fluid, transient, and not the ultimate, unchanging truth. The true essence of reality, in Hindu thought, resides beyond these temporal changes, found in Brahman (the universal consciousness) and Atman (the individual soul), which are eternal and unwavering.

Recognizing the nature of Maya invites a significant shift in how we perceive life. Understanding that everything we encounter—successes, failures, joys, and sorrows—is temporary helps foster a sense of healthy detachment. This isn't about indifference, but a state where our inner peace remains unaffected by external circumstances. Accepting that while external forms may vary, the core essence remains constant resonates with the cyclical nature of existence, illustrated by the concept of Samsara, the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. Here, each ending signifies a new beginning, reflecting an ongoing journey of growth and renewal.

The Philosophy of Impermanence: Embracing Change as Life's Constant

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

Stoicism: Mastering the Internal Game

Shifting to Western thought, Stoicism, embraced by the ancient Greeks and Romans, provides a powerful framework for managing change by emphasizing what is within our control. Stoics argued that most external events—from weather conditions to the opinions of others, and the relentless passage of time—lie beyond our influence. Our focus, therefore, should instead be on controlling our own judgments, attitudes, and responses to these external factors.

This foundational idea leads to the Stoic virtue of *amor fati*, or "love of fate." This concept embodies active acceptance—not viewing circumstances passively, but recognizing everything that occurs as necessary and even beneficial within the greater cosmic order. Stoic philosophers like Seneca, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius advocated for mental resilience amidst life's inevitable changes. By prioritizing the development of inner virtues such as wisdom, courage, justice, and temperance, they sought to create a stable internal environment that would withstand external upheaval. Stoics understood that while the surrounding world is perpetually changing, one's inner state could remain unwavering.

Eastern Flow: Buddhism, Daoism, and the River of Life

In Eastern philosophical traditions, especially Buddhism, the doctrine of Anicca, which signifies impermanence, stands as one of the three fundamental "Marks of Existence," alongside suffering (*Dukkha*) and non-self (*Anatta*). Anicca reveals that all things—ranging from physical objects to thoughts, emotions, and even one's identity—are in constant flux. No element possesses a fixed or unchanging essence. A useful analogy is that of a river always flowing: although one can step into the same river on different occasions, the water and current are never identical. Similarly, our lives unfold as an ongoing stream of fleeting moments, never remaining static. Grasping the significance of Anicca is essential in Buddhism for alleviating suffering, which often stems from clinging to things we wish would remain permanent.

Beyond Buddhism, the concept of adaptability and change is also integral to Daoism, another prominent Eastern philosophy. Daoism advocates for aligning oneself with the Dao—the natural, spontaneous, and ever-changing flow of the universe. It champions flexibility and a non-resistant approach to life's transitions. When we try to force things to remain unchanged or resist the natural current, we create friction and discontent. Daoist wisdom encourages embracing the cyclical essence of existence and "going with the flow," much like how water gracefully shapes the landscape, creating harmony rather than conflict.

The Philosophy of Impermanence: Embracing Change as Life's Constant

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

My Own Uncharted Territory

While ancient philosophers provided the theoretical framework, the true test of embracing impermanence comes in our everyday lives. For me, life has been a dynamic tapestry woven with constant shifts, each one a lesson in letting go and starting anew.

My early years were a whirlwind of constant relocation and travel. We moved house a lot, not just cities, but across different climates and cultures. This nomadic upbringing meant that the concept of a "constant house" or a single, unchanging hometown simply didn't exist for me. Packing rooms, sorting belongings, and preparing for the next journey became second nature. It was more than just adapting to new physical spaces; it was about learning to thrive in unfamiliar surroundings. This perpetual motion taught me to build connections that transcended borders, races, and nationalities. It instilled in me a deep understanding that material possessions and fixed locations are temporary anchors. The real stability comes from within, from the ability to find comfort and belonging wherever I am, and to know that friendships, true connections, are not confined by geography. It's a lesson that life is anything but boring when you're open to its many addresses.

One of the most significant shifts in my life was the transition from homeschooling to online schooling. My early education was truly a unique blend of freedom and discovery. Those were the days of doing algebra problems in the sunlit park, perhaps while enjoying a picnic. Learning about literature involved writing, performing, and depicting plays for special occasions, all while immersed in the works of Shakespeare. It was an incredibly hands-on, creative experience, where curiosity led the way. Then came the leap into the more rigid world of online schooling. Suddenly, the carefree park days gave way to a screen-centric routine, with due dates looming and assignments pouring in from every direction. It was a stark contrast to my previous, sun-drenched education. While it meant less time outdoors and a more formalized approach, this change wasn't a burden. It was a different kind of challenge, one that demanded new levels of self-discipline and adaptability. This transition, though a clear ending of one educational phase, has been a significant and positive step, bringing me closer to achieving my academic and personal goals.

The Philosophy of Impermanence: Embracing Change as Life's Constant

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

Looking back, these disparate experiences, from constantly changing addresses to navigating educational shifts, are all powerful examples of impermanence in action. Each presented an opportunity to practice letting go—of old routines, familiar surroundings, and established ways of learning. They weren't always easy, sometimes requiring a deep breath and a leap of faith into the unknown. Yet, it was precisely these moments of transition that shaped my character, teaching me invaluable lessons about resilience, adaptability, and the profound power of perspective. They underscore the idea that growth often blossoms where comfort zones end.

Leaders in Flux: Wisdom from World Stages

The ability to embrace change isn't just a personal virtue; it's a defining characteristic of history's most impactful leaders. They understood that progress often demands the courage to let go of the past and step into the unknown.

Consider Nelson Mandela, whose journey from political prisoner to president of a free South Africa is the ultimate testament to transformative change. After 27 years of incarceration, he didn't emerge filled with vengeance, but with a profound commitment to reconciliation, guiding a nation from the brutal ending of apartheid to a new beginning of democracy. His leadership exemplified a radical embrace of a different future, inspiring a country—and the world—to shed old hatreds for unity.

Then there's Angela Merkel, who steered Germany, and effectively much of Europe, for 16 years. During her tenure, she navigated multiple seismic shifts, from the 2008 financial crisis and the European refugee crisis to Brexit and the initial years of the COVID-19 pandemic. A trained physicist, Merkel approached these challenges with a pragmatic, adaptive mindset, constantly adjusting policies and leadership styles as realities evolved. Her steady hand in the face of relentless change earned her global respect, demonstrating that embracing uncertainty isn't about being directionless, but about being responsive and resilient.

These figures remind us that whether on a global stage or in our own lives, embracing new beginnings amidst profound endings isn't just about survival; it's about shaping a more hopeful future.

The Philosophy of Impermanence: Embracing Change as Life's Constant

By Shreya Maharaj Chettiar, Grade 9

Conclusion: Embracing the Wisdom of Impermanence

Throughout history, humanity has grappled with the concept of change, a universal constant that echoes through the teachings of ancient philosophies. From the profound insights of Hinduism and the unwavering resilience of Stoicism to the fluid wisdom of Buddhism and Daoism, we learn that transformation is the very rhythm of the universe.

My own journey mirrors these timeless truths. It serves as a testament to how life's shifts, although often challenging, are powerful catalysts for personal growth and evolution. Just as Nelson Mandela rebuilt a nation from the rubble of oppression, and Angela Merkel guided a continent through relentless crises, these leaders exemplify the extraordinary impact that can arise from actively engaging with change.

To embrace impermanence is not to resign ourselves to fate; rather, it is a pathway to liberation. It invites us to recognize that clinging to the past stifles our potential to embrace new beginnings. As we find ourselves at the close of one school year and on the brink of countless new adventures, let us choose to perceive every ending not as a loss, but as a doorway to new possibilities.

In life's perpetual ebb and flow, in its beautiful, unending dance of arrival and departure, lies the true essence of resilience and adaptability. This recognition empowers us to embark on the magnificent journey of unfolding into our best selves. Let us celebrate change, lean into the unknown, and step boldly into the future that awaits us, for this is where our greatest potential resides.

You Were Not Meant to Fold!

By Fatima Nihal, Grade 12

You were born with wings to soar,
not to shrink, not to adore
a cage made warm by borrowed
light—
you were made for your own
flight.

Must every flame burn the same?
Must every bird wear just one
name?
O soul, if all were shaped alike,
what beauty would remain?

The stars don't beg to be the sun,
each shines where it was gently
spun .

The rose does not compare its
bloom—
its scent is known, it needs no
room.

So do not bend to fit their view,
you lose yourself when you undo
what the Divine has carved with
care—
your path, your light, your form,
your prayer.

To be the best is not the goal—
but to be whole,
to walk in truth, to stand
unmasked,
to carry what your spirit asked.

Unfold, unclip, let self be told—
you are the story still untold.

A Mysterious Suitcase (Short Story)

By Jada Montalbetti, Grade 7

CHAPTER 1 THE SUITCASE

The intercom sounded loudly. It was 10:00 am and Ace was still sleeping because it was Sunday. He just completed a week of incredible investigation about a missing gold bar.

"Hello, who is it?"

"Mailman, there is a package for Mr. Ace Karen Fredrick."

"Thanks, just drop it in front of the door, please."

After dressing up with a jeans and a sweater, Ace went downstairs to pick up the package.

He eagerly opened the box and he found an old suitcase in it, similar to those ones used by lawyers or investigators decades years ago.

He immediately opened the suitcase and found some money, a block note, and a map. He grabbed the note and immediately read it.

"Ace, I need your help to continue my investigation about a group of children kidnappers in Santa Monica. The money are for the ticket to California. If you are reading this notes, I am dead - Uncle George."

Ace urgently called his friend Sam.

"Hey Ace, what's up?", asked Sam.

"Hey Sam, there's something I would like to show you, come quickly", replied Ace.

"Ops, Ok, Fine, I am coming right over", sighed Sam.

A Mysterious Suitcase (Short Story)

By Jada Montalbetti, Grade 7

CHAPTER 1 THE SUITCASE

While Ace was waiting for Sam, he began to first investigate the map. It was a map of Santa Monica and there was a red circle on a police station. Finally, Sam arrived to Ace's house, however not alone. He brought Kira and Alessia with him.

"Why are we here for?" asked Alessia as she yawned in front of Ace's door.

"We are here because Ace wanted to show me something. How many times do I have to tell you?" explained Sam.

"Don't worry! I was just playing with ya!" giggled Alessia.

Sam rang the doorbell and the friends waited behind him for Ace to open the door.

"Hi Sam, you're finally here. I am glad you brought also Kira and Alessia. They will help us too." exclaimed Ace.

The friends sat on the couch in the living room with the suitcase on the coffee table next to Ace.

"So is this what you wanted us to see? Just an old suitcase?" sarcastically asked Sam, who looked a bit disappointed.

"Hold on, I haven't revealed what is inside the suitcase yet!" exclaimed Ace.

Ace slowly opened the suitcase and revealed what was inside.

"I just got this suitcase from my uncle George from California. He was an investigator...." Explained Ace.

"Was?" asked Kira

A Mysterious Suitcase (Short Story)

By Jada Montalbetti, Grade 7

CHAPTER 1 THE SUITCASE

“Well yes... apparently he has been killed!”, replied Ace.

“WOAH! That sounds very creepy, but interesting! It sounds like one of those detective stories on TV!” exclaimed Alessia.

“Is this a block note?” asked Kira staring at the suitcase.

“Correct, this block note will answer all your questions”, replied Ace.

Ace grabbed the blocknote and handed over to Kira. “Please, read it”.

Kira silently read it while Sam and Alessia peeked at it from behind her.

“Oh... Well I am sorry for the loss for your uncle, Ace”, said Kira sadly.

“It’s fine, I haven’t seen him since I was very young. I only know that he was a famous detective in Santa Monica, as I am....”, grinned Ace.

“Hmm, I guess we have to fly to Santa Monica now! This is gonna be a lot of fun! I have never been there!” smiled Alessia enthusiastically.

“Wait, I mean, it is Ace’s choice”, pointed out Sam.

“Of course we have! I really want to find out what’s happening in Santa Monica and what happened to my uncle” replied Ace.

“I can come to, since I haven’t any investigations to complete here at the moment” stated Kira.

Curious to know the full story and reveal the truth about the mysterious suitcase, go here:

[The Mysterious Suitcase - Full Story](#)

A Note to Our Graduates & the International Schooling Community!

As this academic year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to celebrate every one of you.

To our graduates, congratulations on reaching this wonderful milestone. You are moving forward, ready to begin new adventures, equipped with the knowledge, resilience, and compassion you have nurtured here.

To those who have just stepped into a new grade, welcome to your next chapter. A year filled with new learnings, new challenges, and new possibilities awaits you.

And to our students who are preparing for their segment exams and looking forward to graduating or finishing their academic year this year, this is your time to focus, grow, and cherish every step of this journey.

No matter where you are on your path, remember that learning never stops and that growth sometimes happens quietly, sometimes boldly, but always beautifully.

Wishing you a year full of inspiration, achievement, and joyful discovery.

**With pride and warmest wishes,
Social Engagement Officer
International Schooling**

