CONNECTING FRAMES

A Comic Series

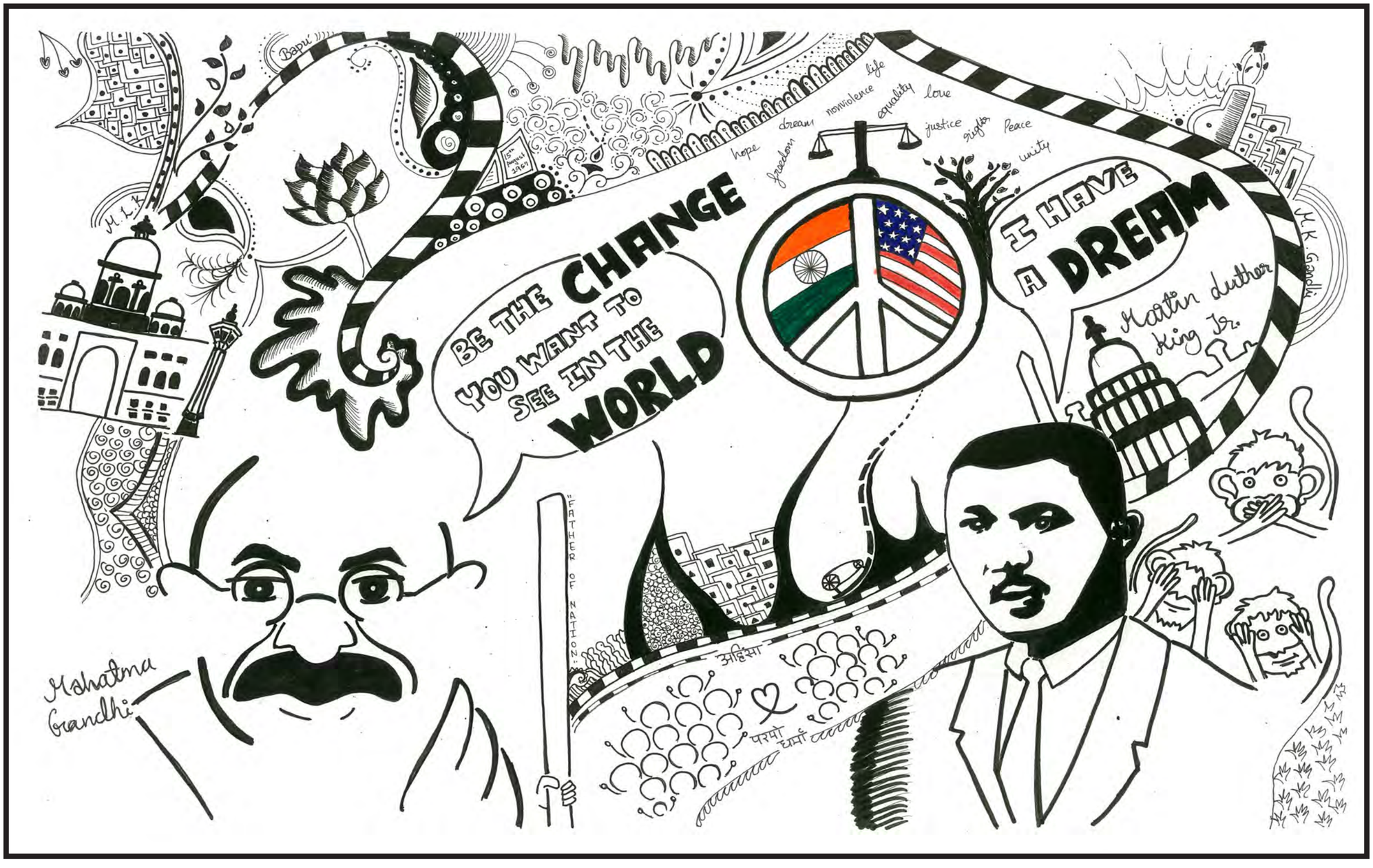

Illustration : Yehee Lee

Mahatma Gandhi सत्यः International School

360+ Leadership Collective India, 2016

CONNECTING FRAMES

A Comic Series

Mahatma Gandhi सत्य: International School

360+ Leadership Collective India, 2016

Founder of Mahatma Gandhi International School
Anju Musafir
Dr. Pascal Chazot

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Printed at
Tushar Xerox

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Michelle Estrada
Ohaji Williams
Raven Swing
Saphire Johnson
Talia Lvry

Remembering Tara

Tara Chazot our daughter and sister of Lissa, was part of this grade 10 group at MGIS who created this comic strip. She was born in 2001 and left this physical dimension in 2014. She left behind notes and scribbles of profound wisdom that surpassed her chronological age of 9 years at the time of writing, revealing deep insights into the nature of human life. Amongst her writings, we produce here 2 that are apt to this work. You can ponder over it awhile. – Anju and Pascal Chazot

"Justice lies in me, justice lies in you. But to use it, it takes a lifetime."

"Negative and positive energies are both the same. They are both energies. Only thing is negative thoughts lead to negative action. Positive thoughts lead to positive action. It is a matter of choice. What do you choose – negative or positive?"

(Published in "Bridging the Gap", Ahmedabad Mirror, August 30, 2011)

Tara Musafir Chazot

Forward

Legacy of Peace

Bapu said 'If we want to establish world peace we must instill the habit of nonviolence in our children. Dr. King, Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama have all worked relentlessly to establish a world without violence, hate, prejudice, injustice, inequality and discrimination.

Prejudice and the lack of understanding, resulting in a lack of acceptance of our differences and respect for our different ways of life, are the seeds of hate. Bapu said that it is the duty of every individual to do a friendly study of all religious scriptures .Only then can we understand the essence of what religion is really about. Those of us who do such an exercise often study with a critical attitude where the objective is to find out what is wrong in other religions but when we do a friendly study we find what is common to every religion and then it becomes easier to accept the differences. This is equally true for those of us who do not believe in the institution of religion. Knowledge never hurts and rejecting after understanding is a far more healthy attitude rather than rejecting something without understanding it. It is harmful too ,because it breeds hate and contempt and prevents understanding and enlightenment.
All those we venerate as icons of peace experienced hate, abuse and violence. They must have felt angry: they must have contemplated retaliation too ,but they retaliated in a positive constructive manner not in a tit for tat gesture. They all had the faith that there was goodness in every human being and that compassion was a human trait. Sometimes and in some people it is suppressed but if appealed to ,we can awaken it sometimes through our ability to absorb their brutality without retaliating in an equally brutish manner. Their victory was due to their ability to retaliate to violence with love and compassion and that were the seeds of their eventual victory.

I believe, strongly that if Bapu, Dr. King and Mandela were to come back today they would be working amongst our children and youth sowing seeds of peace, nonviolence, love and the steadfast adherence to truth.

What all of us need to do today is to find the Gandhi, King, Mandela and Dalai Lama within us and let them be our shepherds.
All these icons are today like the Lighthouses on the shores, warning seafarers of the dangers of unseen rocks and keeping them safe from disasters and destruction. They provide the beacon and it is for us to recognise the danger and steer clear of it.
All of you have embarked on a journey of discovery. Your journey is within yourself to discover the goodness within you and to help others by inspiring them to join you in this journey of discovery.

My best wishes.
Tushar.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

'Connecting Frames' a comic book, is based on the collaborative work of school students from America and the Mahatma Gandhi International School (India) while exploring the philosophy of non-violence as practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

This project brings together children from diverse backgrounds in terms of religion, ethnicities, socio-economic status and abilities to collectively explore constructive ways in dealing with injustice, discrimination and prejudice and go towards the creation of an equitable and harmonious society. The format of the comic strip allowed children greater freedom to explore their imagination and its expression. By actually working together with pen and paper, the experience was embodied and visceral. By drawing lines on paper in a creative effort, we hope to erase those that divide us and go towards the common goal of world peace based on mutual understanding and respect.

This project also fits in with in the Generated Resources Learning (GRL) pedagogy created at MGIS, wherein students create their own resources that become a tool for further learning for their own or other groups. To fulfill that objective, this e-book is released for use by other schools.

Founder of Mahatama Gandhi International School

Anju Musafir

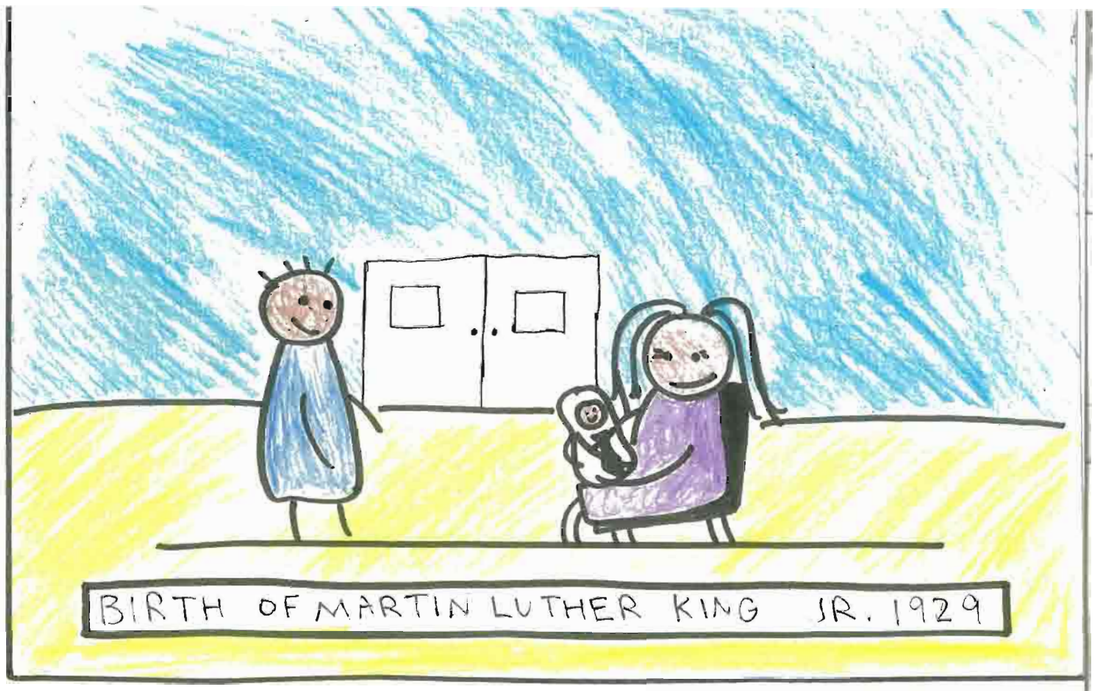
Dr. Pascal Chazot

CONNECTING FRAMES
A Comic Series

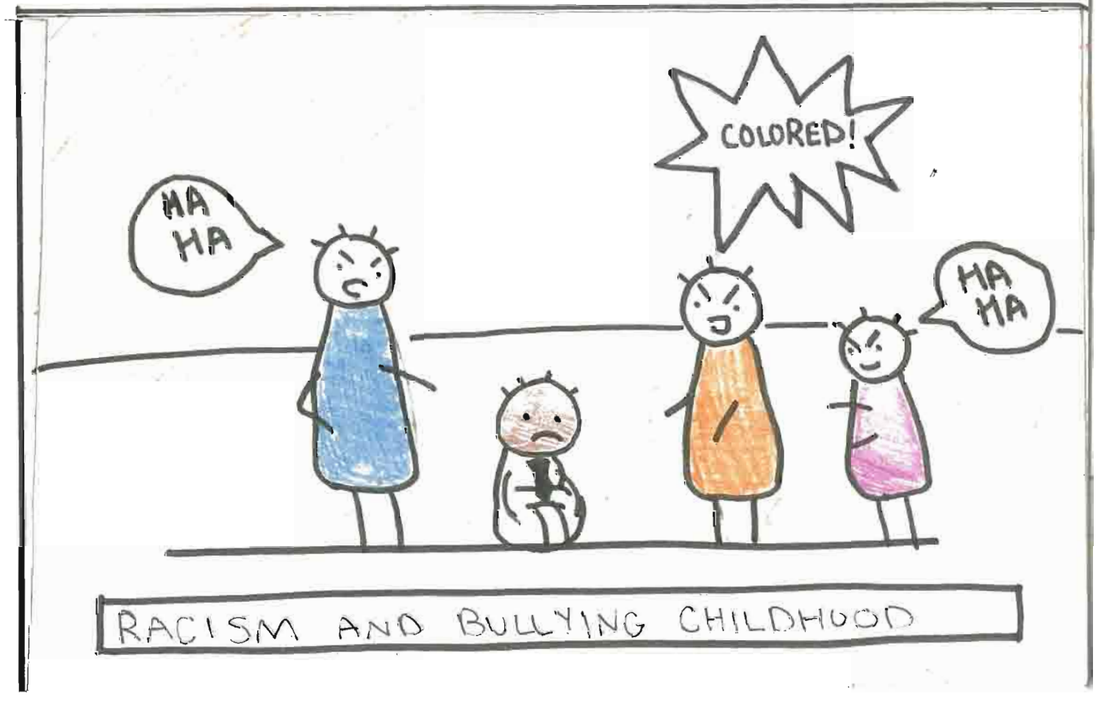
IF YOU HAVE A DREAM, BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE

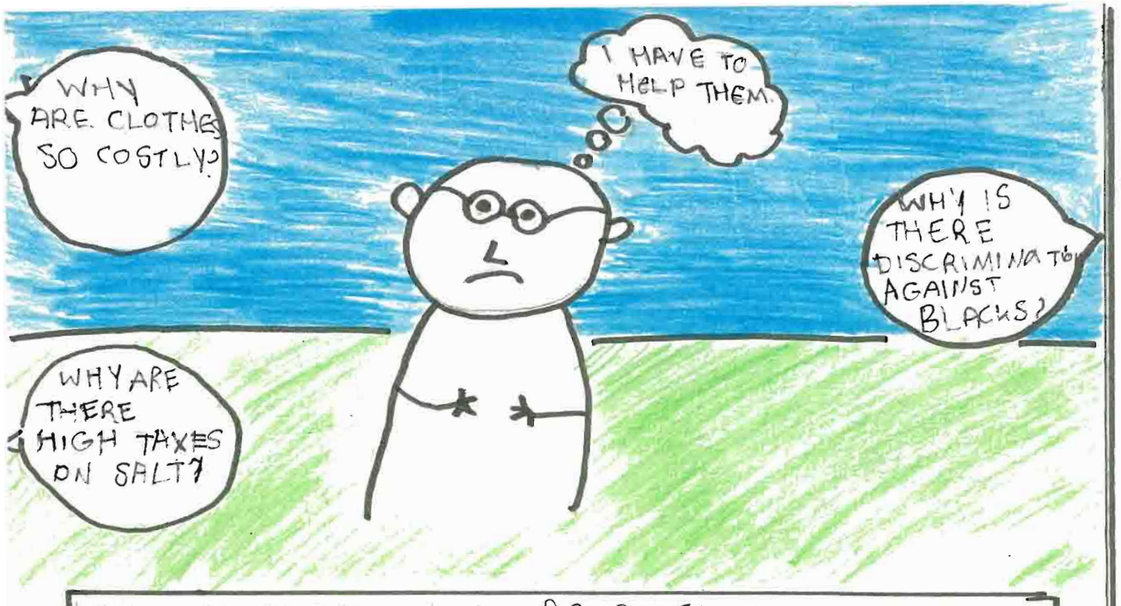
– BY, SANJANA . YUVRAJ . SIDDHARTH, EMMA . DANIELLE

MOHANDAS GANDHI'S BIRTH ON 2ND OCTOBER 1869. IN GUJARAT

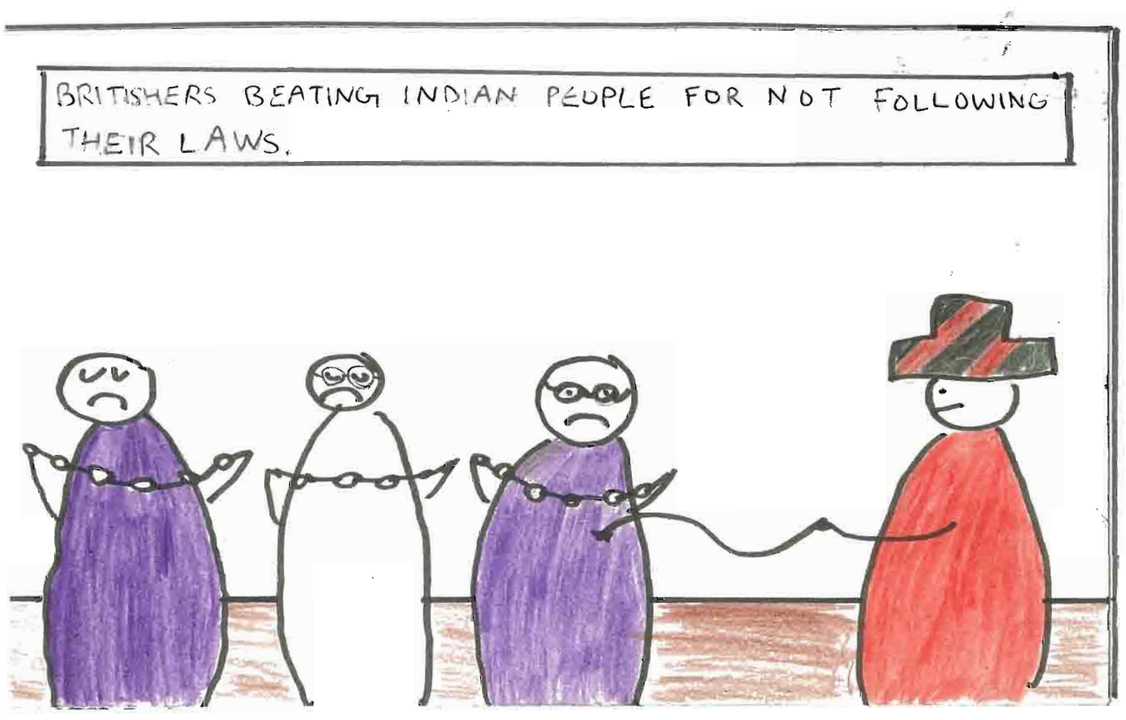

BIRTH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 1929

ASHY STUDENT AND BECOMING A LAWER!
SCHOOL

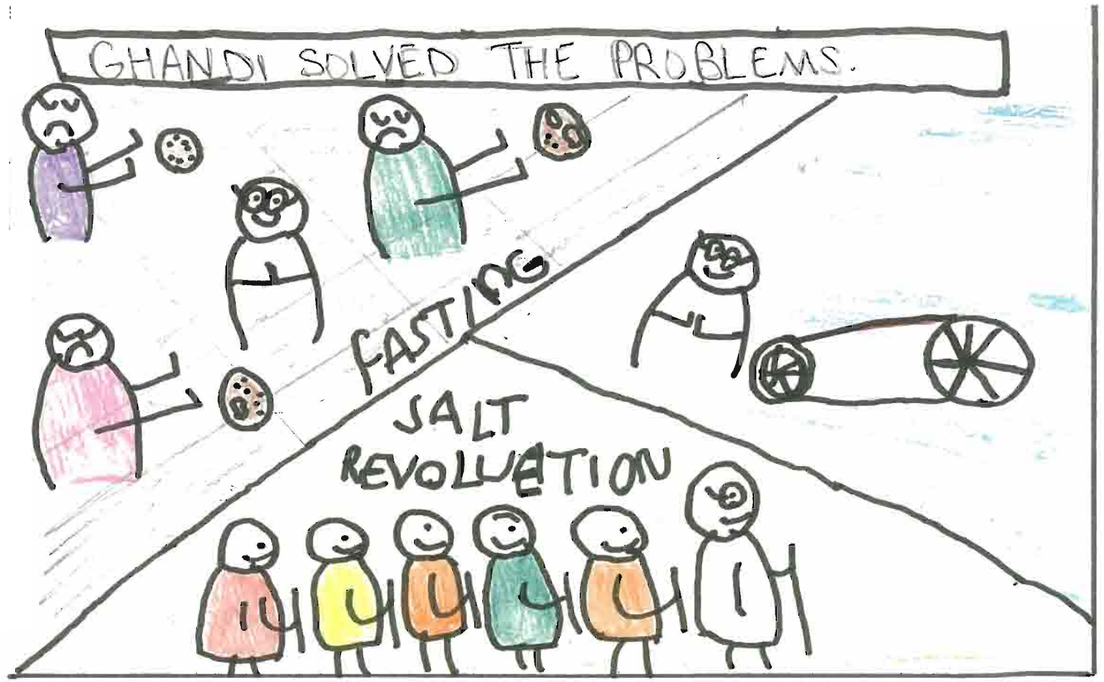

HA HA
COLORED!
HA HA
RACISM AND BULLYING CHILDHOOD


WHY ARE CLOTHES SO COSTLY?
I HAVE TO HELP THEM.
WHY IS THERE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACKS?
WHY ARE THERE HIGH TAXES ON SALT?
GHANDI FACED MANY PROBLEMS.

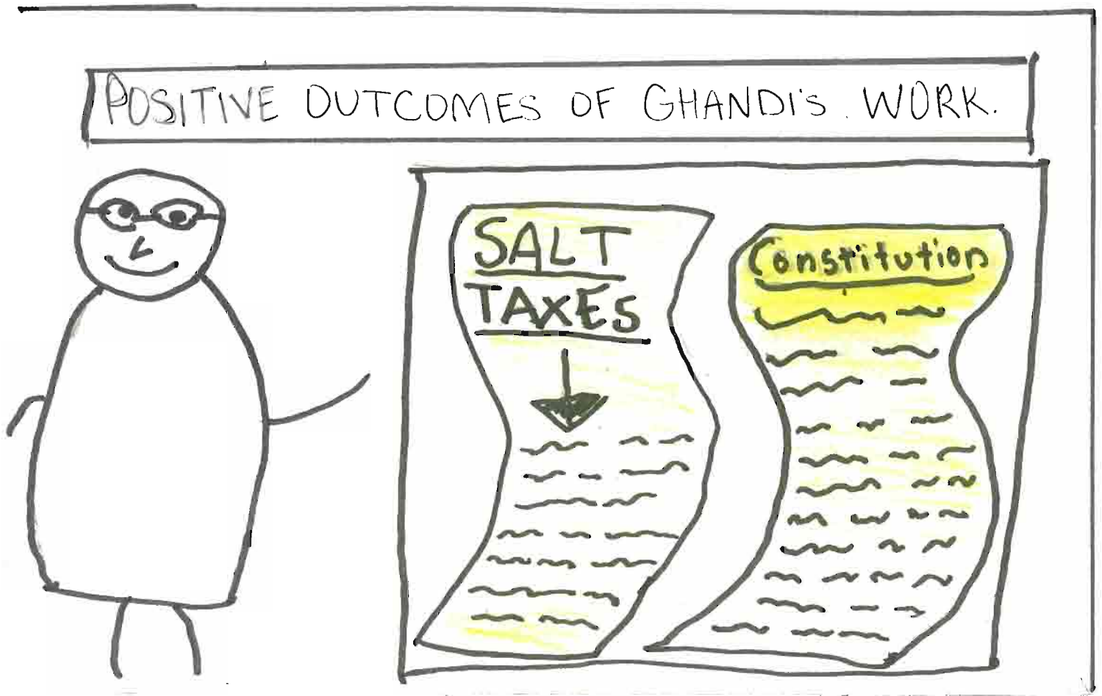
RESTROOM
WHITES
BLACKS
RACIAL SEGREGATION IN USA 1950 - 1960


BRITISHERS BEATING INDIAN PEOPLE FOR NOT FOLLOWING THEIR LAWS.

NEWSPAPER
BUS BURNING & JAIL TIME
Martin Luther King Jr. goes to jail for not giving his seat to a white man.
BUS BURNING
JAIL
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
REFUSAL TO MOVE SEAT ON BUS (1956) = JAIL.

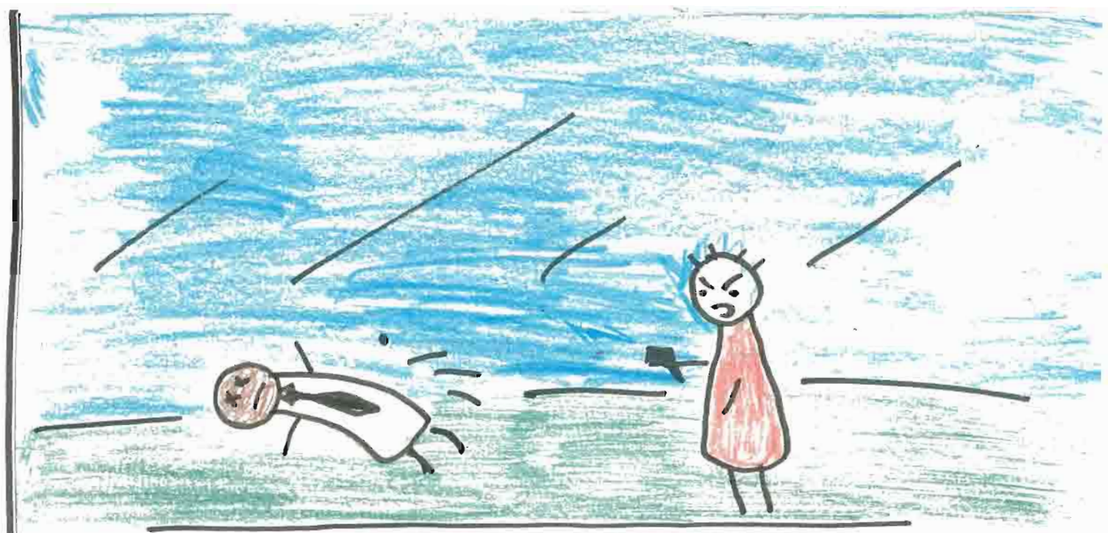

GHANDI SOLVED THE PROBLEMS.
FASTING
SALT REVOLUTION

I HAVE A DREAM... LET'S MARCH!
EQUALITY!
YEAH!
YAY!
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR GIVES "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH AND SUGGESTS TO MARCH FOR EQUALITY


POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF GHANDI'S WORK.
SALT TAXES
Constitution

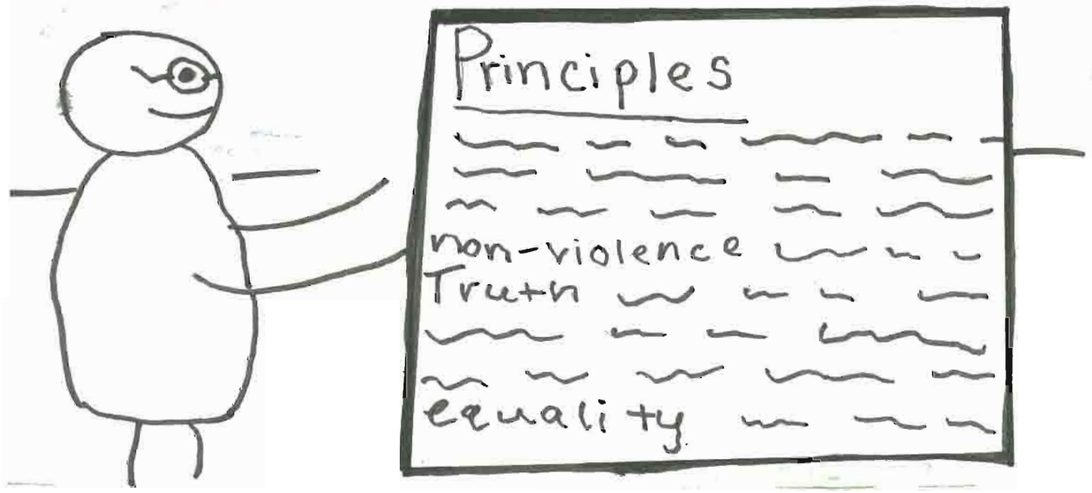
FRIENDS!
POSITIVE OUTCOMES FROM SPEECH | MARCH

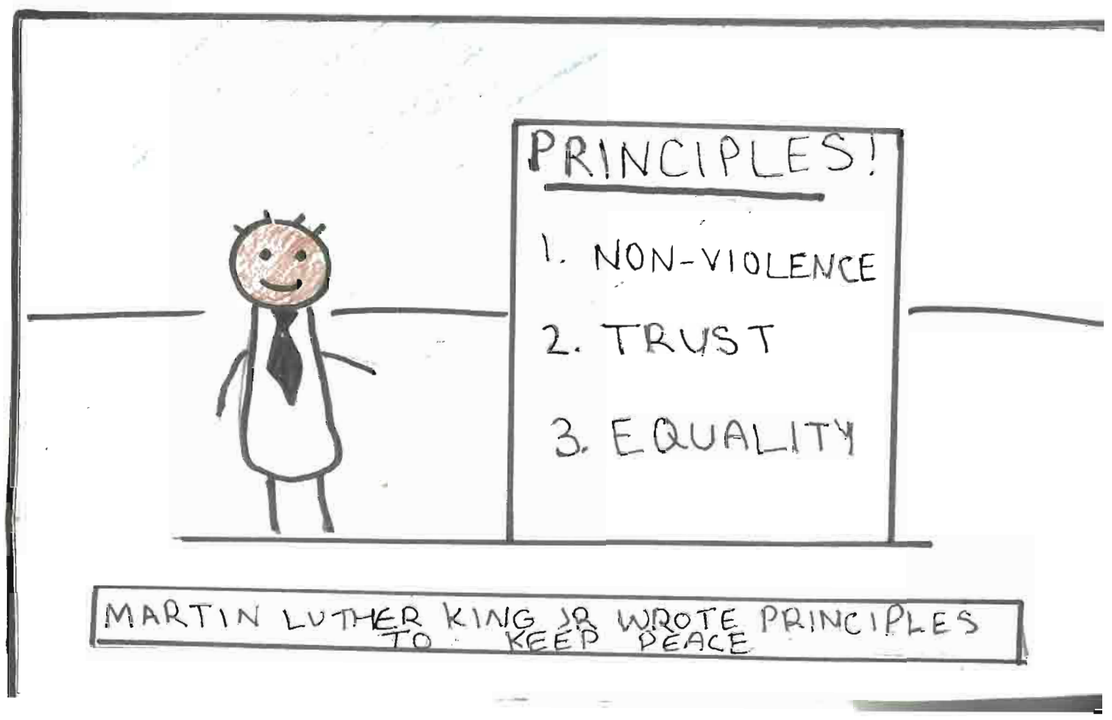
ON THIS DAY GHANDI WAS ASSASSINATED, BY NATHURAM GODSE IN 1948



DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR 1968

GHANDI MADE PRINCIPLES TO KEEP THE PEACE



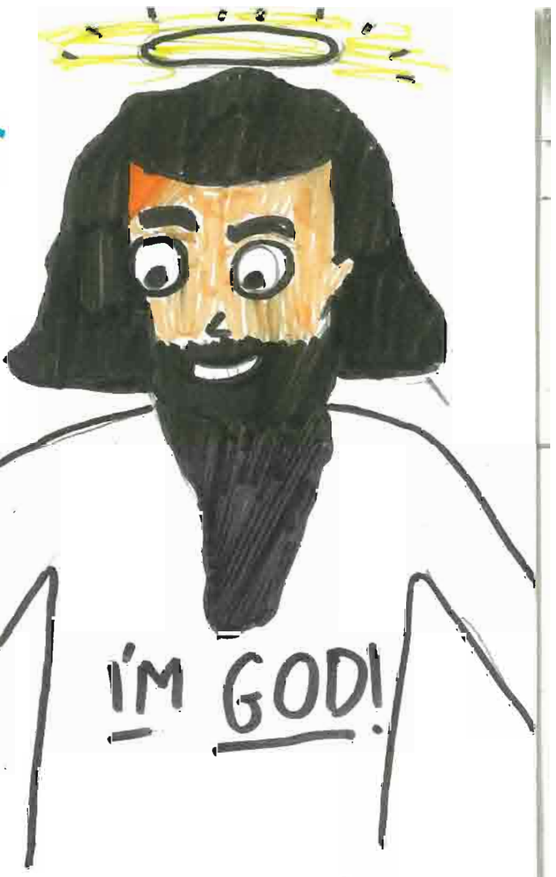


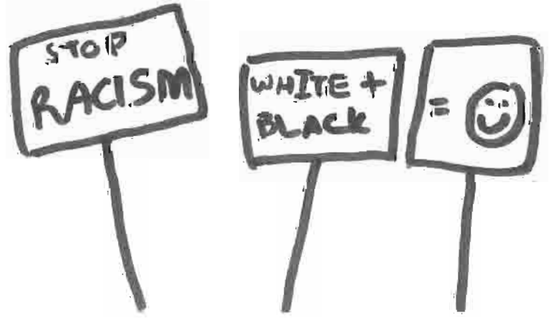
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WROTE PRINCIPLES TO KEEP PEACE

A87

'Know thyself'

ONE LAST CHANCE





BY:- AKASH, DHARMIK, KASHI, RIA, SHISHIR, YANVI.
G9

LETS GO VISIT THE EARTH FOR ONE DAY. LETS GO ASK GOD

OH YEAH

SO THEY ASKED ... HE WAS CONFUSED BUT HE FINALLY AGREED

HMMM...

CAPITAL G GOD*

*Terms and conditions apply

WHOOPEE

So off they went

Hmmm,
A BLACK AND
A BALDY ...

@!* HAHA HAHA!
GO HOME!

NO!
YIKES

THE GUY ABUSED US

WHAT???
!!!!!!

iM GOD!
ALMIGHTY

HOW CAN MY PEOPLE BE SO VIOLENT? I MUST DO SOMETHING

DESCEND UPON THE EARTH, AND CONVINCE THE PEOPLE

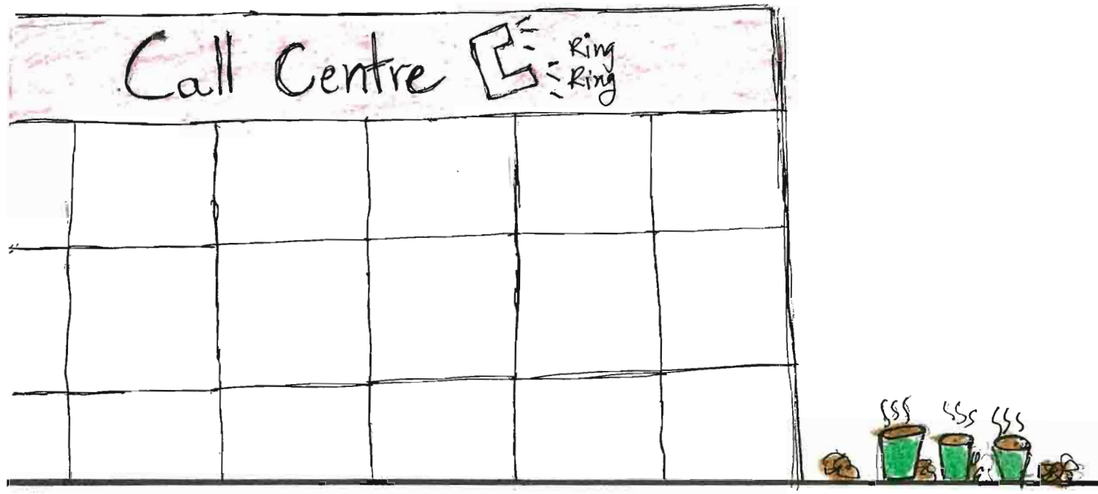
HELP US !

STOP RACISM

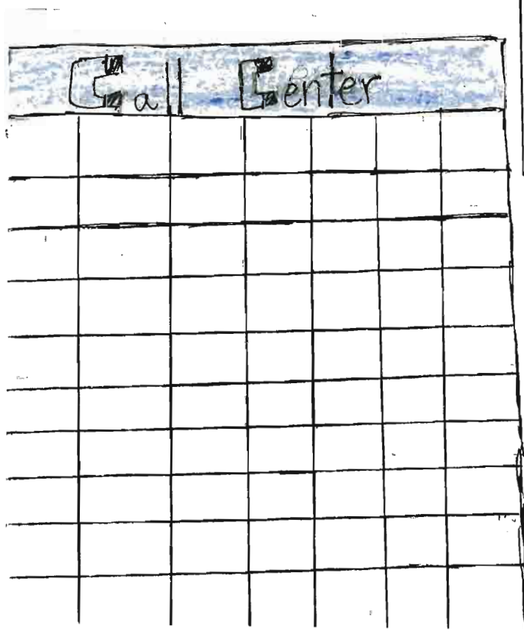
CALLER TUNE FOR INDEPENDENCE @ THE CALL CENTRE!

By :- Alexandra Hurst
Imani Belt
Kahan Ajmera
Krishanee Prajapati
Ruhaan Shah
Vishesha Nirmal

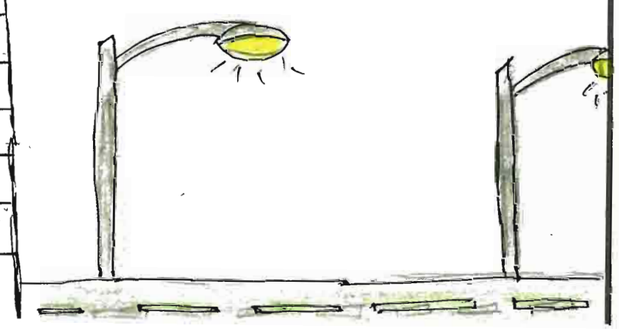
One night at a call centre



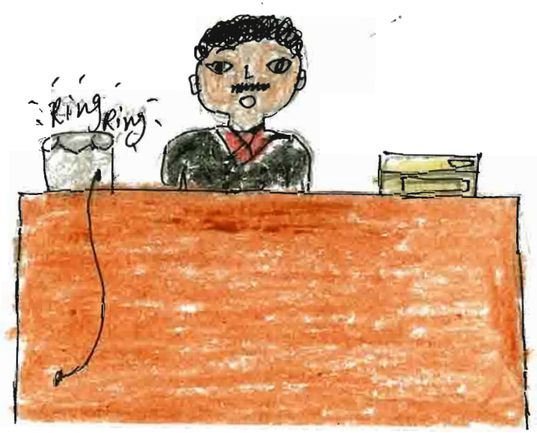
Mahatma Gandhi was sitting at a desk, when the phone started to ring.



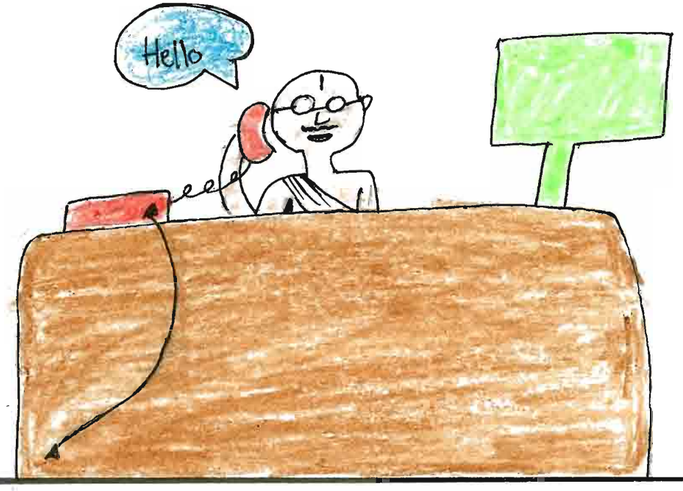
At a call center, on the other side of the world.

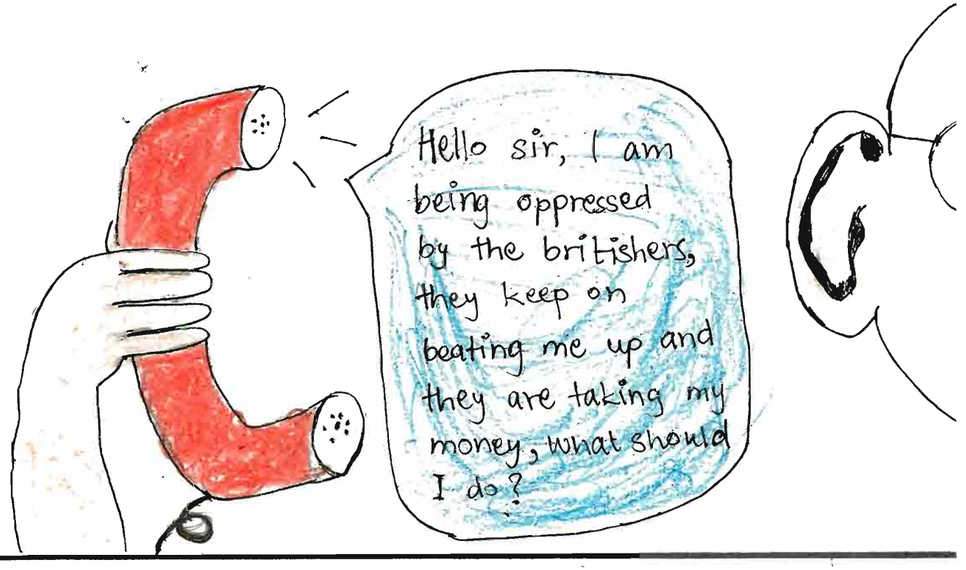


Sitting on a desk was Martin luther king Jr. and the phone rung.

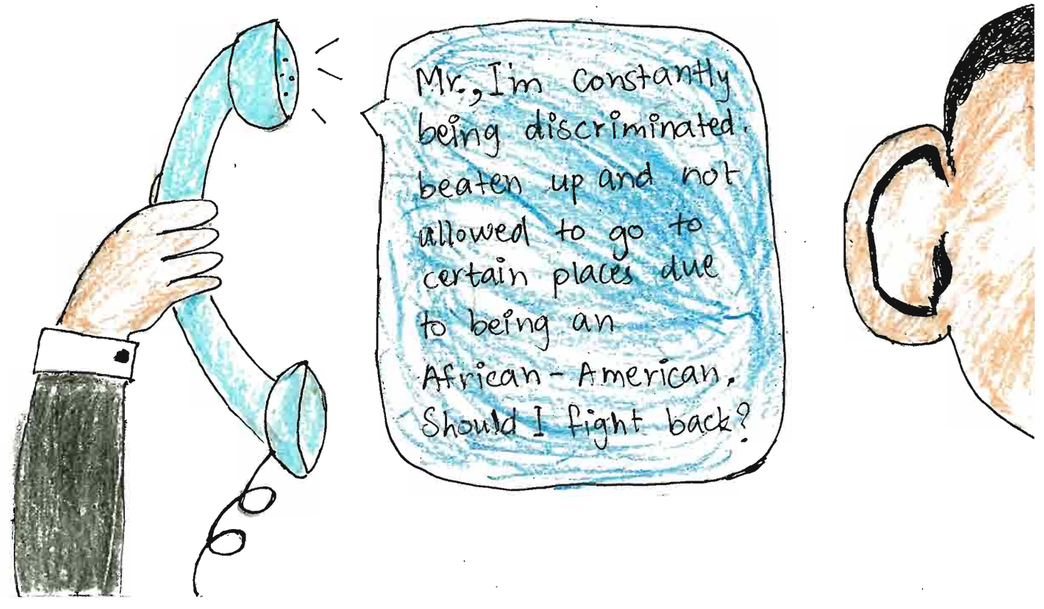


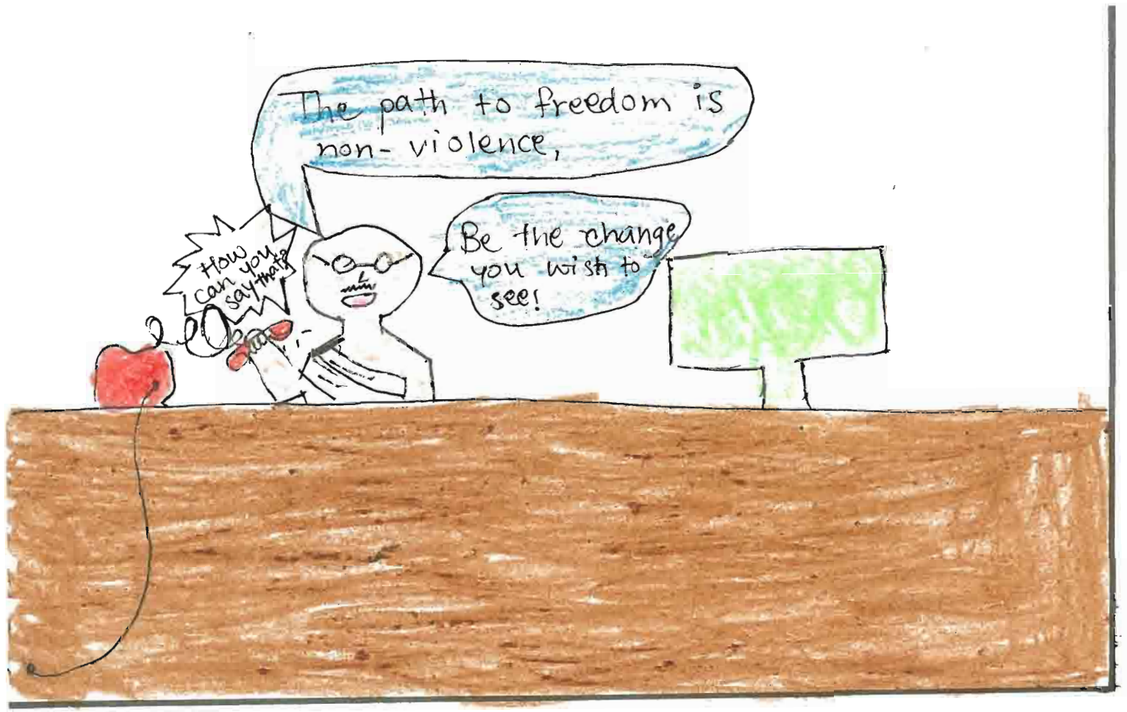
Since he was alone, Mahatma Gandhi picked up the phone.





Dr. King picked up the phone!




The path to freedom is non-violence,
How can you say that?
Be the change you wish to see!

Happyyy Independhicee DAYY!

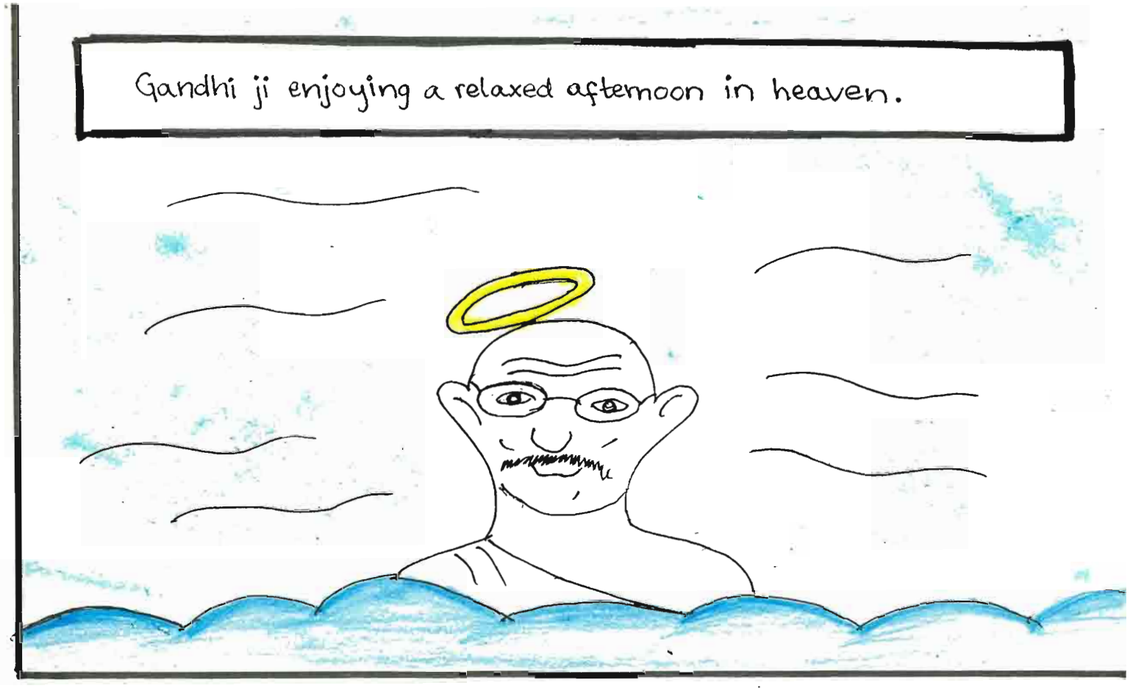
The way we can fight back is fighting without violence.

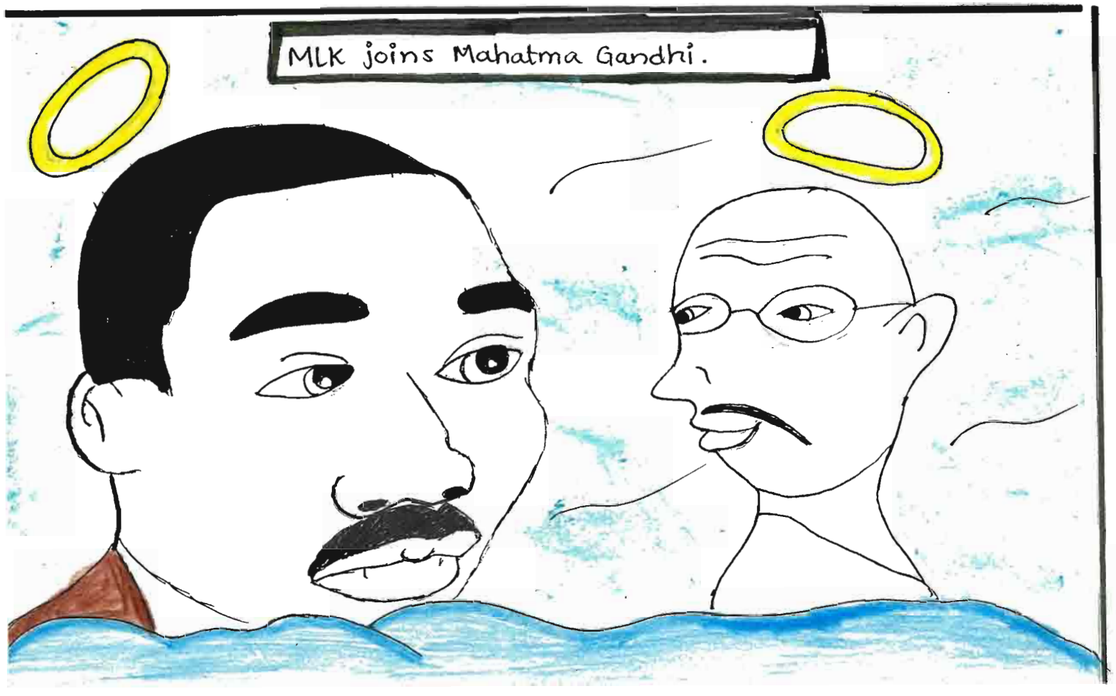
Yes we can!!!
President Obama

THE REALITY CHECK

By: Ohaji W.
Dariela Villar
Spandan Pandya
Rukmini Chariar
Aangi Morakhia
Trupti Bhavre

HEAVEN

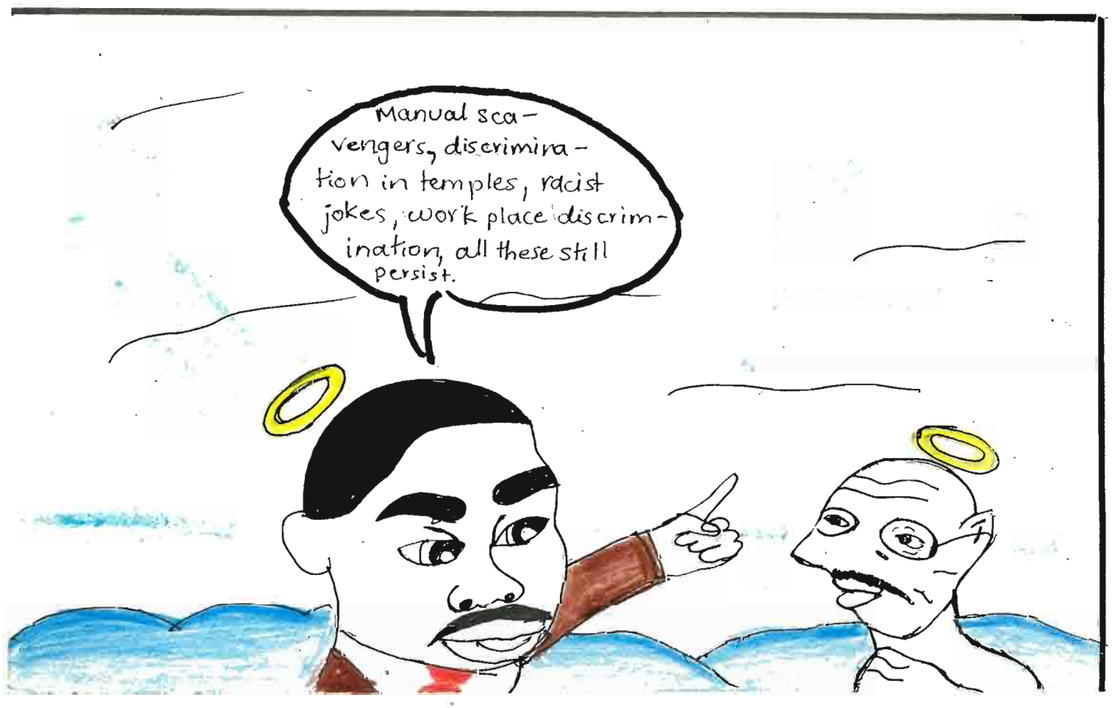

Gandhi ji enjoying a relaxed afternoon in heaven.


MLK joins Mahatma Gandhi.

Hello!
Namaste.

Hmm...
The world today is held together because India attained freedom in 1947

All Indian & Harijan women have contributed to the success of the country.


Manual scavengers, discrimination in temples, racist jokes, work place discrimination, all these still persist.

Well... the discrimination has taken new forms.

I, on the other hand, ended the segregation of the white and the black people

oh! but it has taken other form. In 2016 itself, there has been even 200 cases of blacks being arrested and shot.

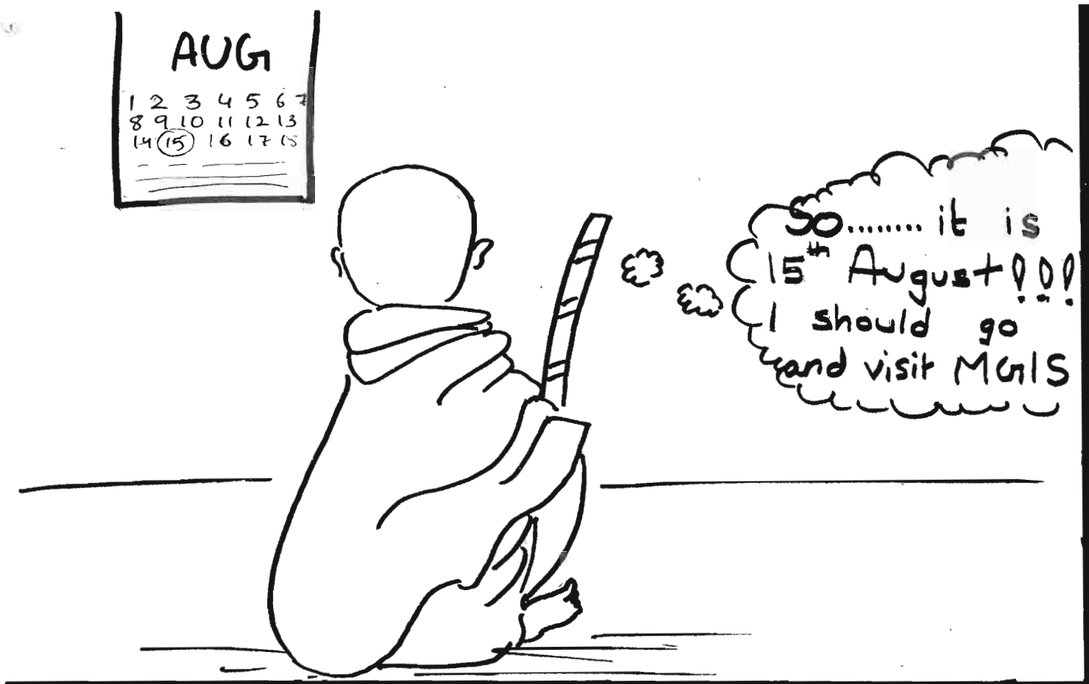
I guess the world is not a perfect place. Lets now attack the cause instead of the symptoms

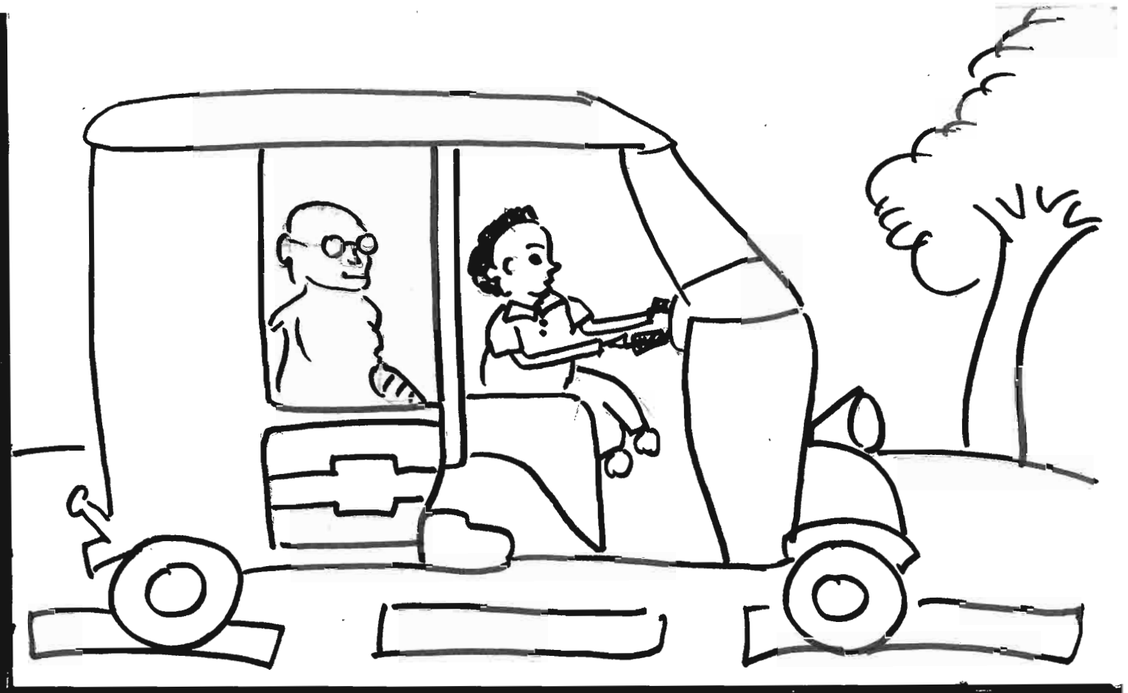
it's time we descend!

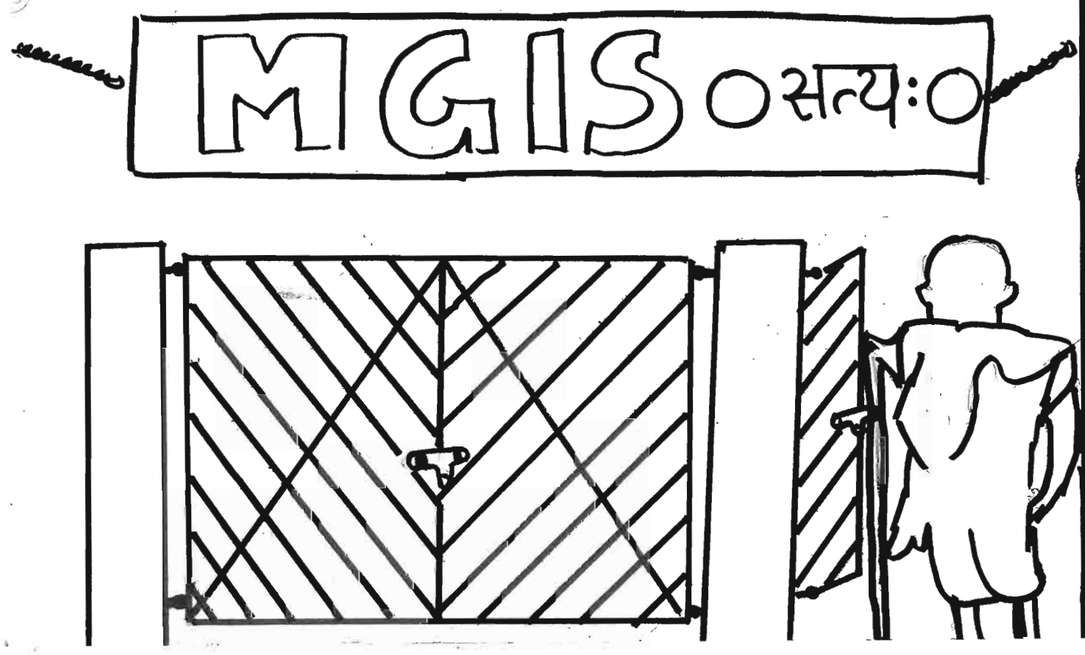
DIVIDED BY NATIONS

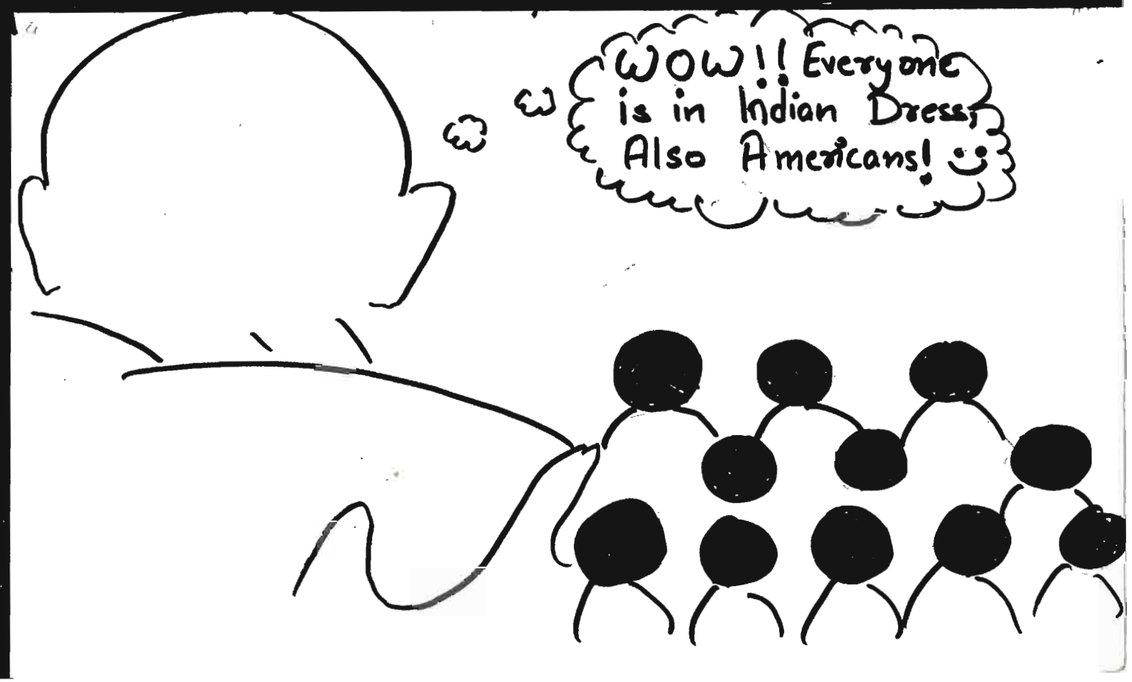
UNITED BY SCHOOLS

Dhairya
Himanshu
Dev
Khushi.G
Ameya
Aryan


AUG
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 15
So..... it is 15th August!!!
I should go and visit MGIS

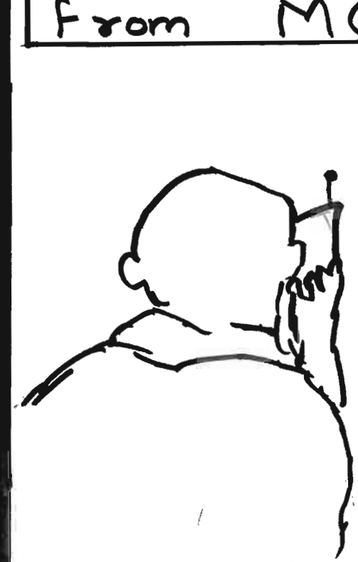


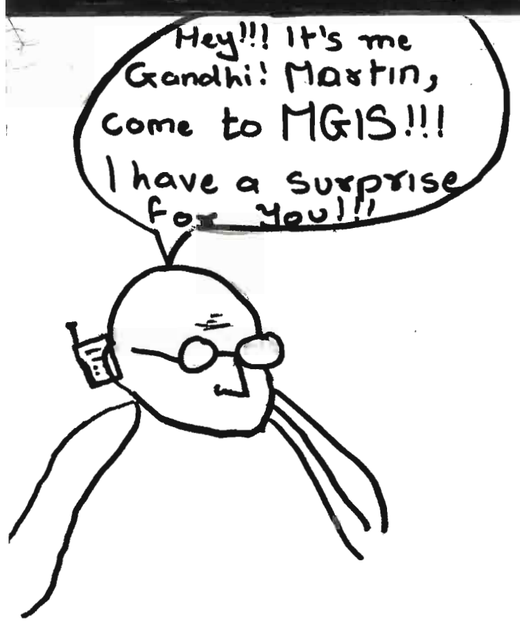

MGIS सत्य:


WOW!! Everyone is in Indian Dress, Also Americans!

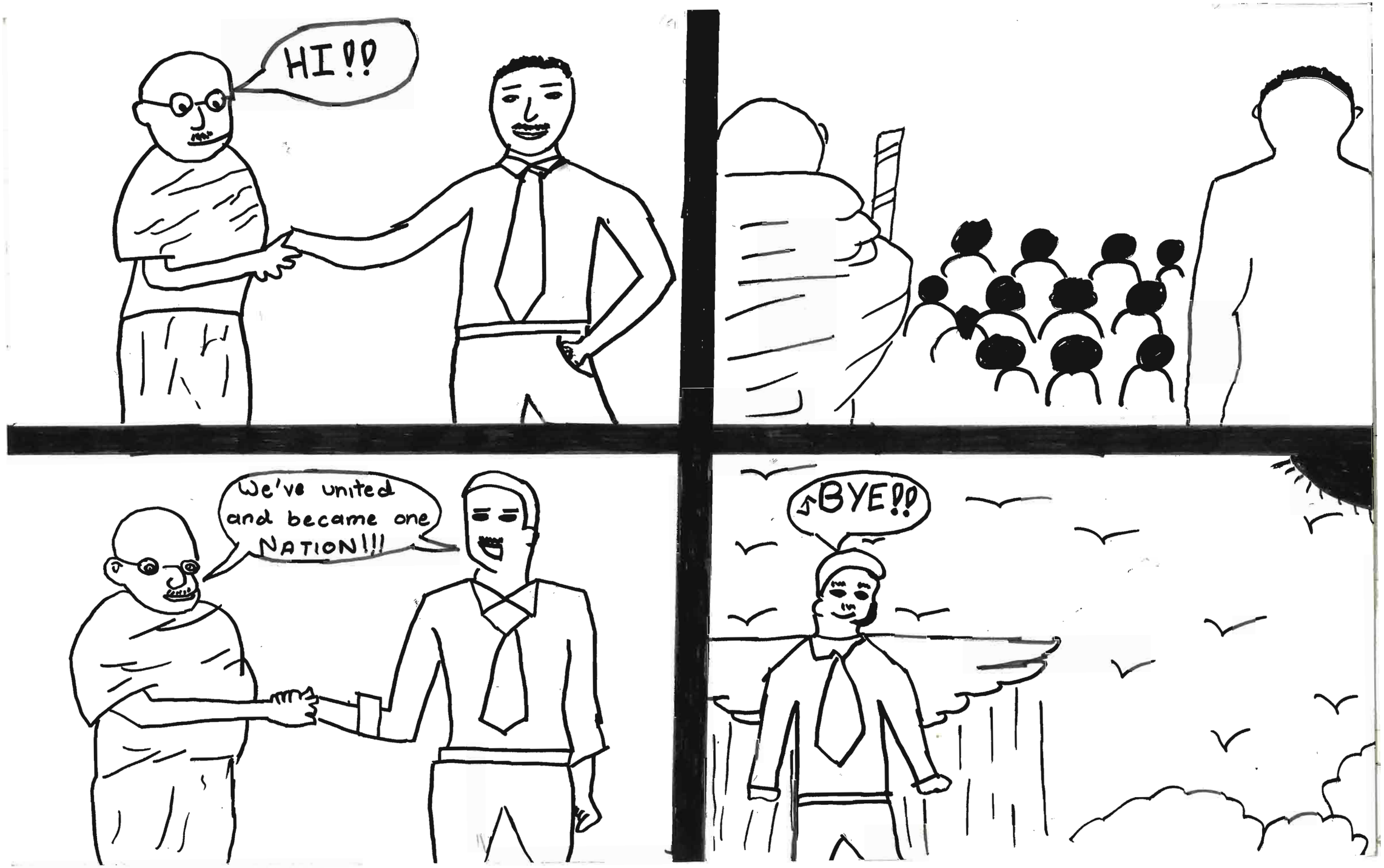
Gandhi got emotional by watching that...

Gandhi calling Martin Luther King from MGIS office.....





On the way to MGIS...


HI!?
We've united and became one NATION!!!
♪BYE!?

BY: Naila, Ashka, Ruhi, krisha Saxena

1

Greetings Gandhiji! I am Martin Luther king. I need your help to bring Peace back into the world. There is a lot of injustice.

RIP MAHATMA GANDHI

Thank you for coming!

Grrrrrrrr.....!!!!

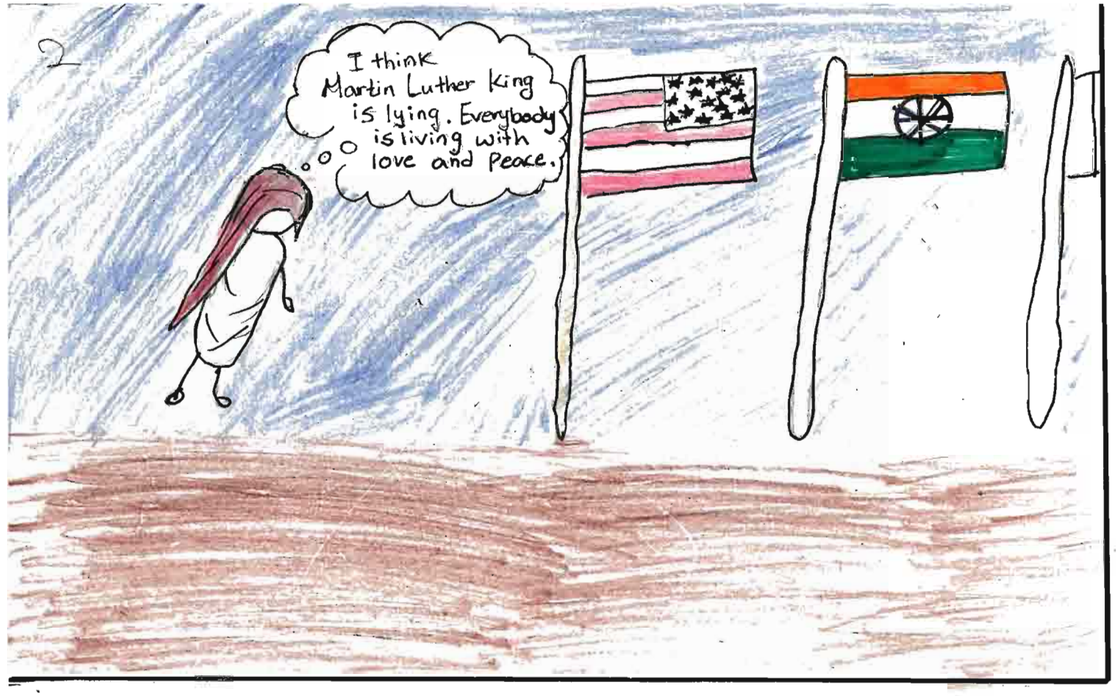
RIP MAHATMA GANDHI

We should wait till things settle and then bring peace.

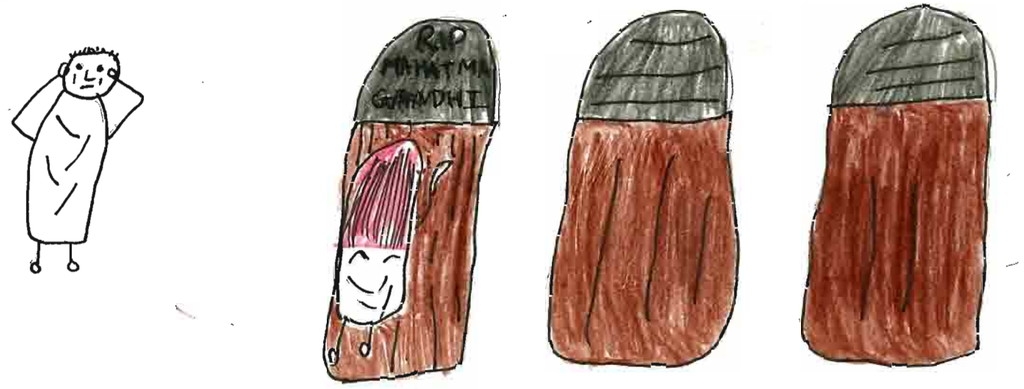
Two day later we will go and start our mission in disguise.

TWO DAYS LATER .....

2



Gandhiji was digging his grave when he found a man crying.



Gandhiji walked to the man

Gandhiji gave the man food and money, so man and his daughter would never have to starve.

Gandhiji, using non violence brought peace in the world

Mahatma Gandhi visited MGIS and met Mr. Pascal Chazot and Mrs. Anju Musafir and all the children of MGIS.

Finally after bringing peace these two pure souls had to return where they belong. Heaven!

THE HEIST

By: Eshva shah
Sam Jeong
Michelle Estrada
Saphire Johnson
Ayan Ahmed

BAN K

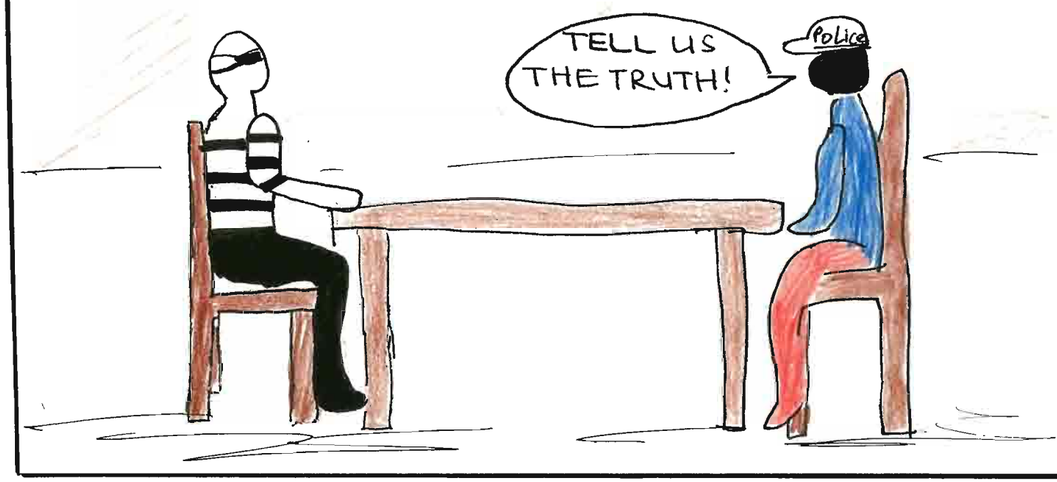
SAM AND DEV ROBBING THE BANK
BANK

SAM AND DEV RUNNING WITH THE MONEY.
BANK

SAM TRIPS WHILE DEV KEEPS RUNNING.

POLICE CATCHES SAM

POLICE QUESTIONS SAM ABOUT THE ROBBERY



SAM CHOOSES NOT TO COOPERATE.

DEV FEELS GUILTY AND BEGINS TO THINK ABOUT GANDHIJI'S THREE PHRASES...

"HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY."

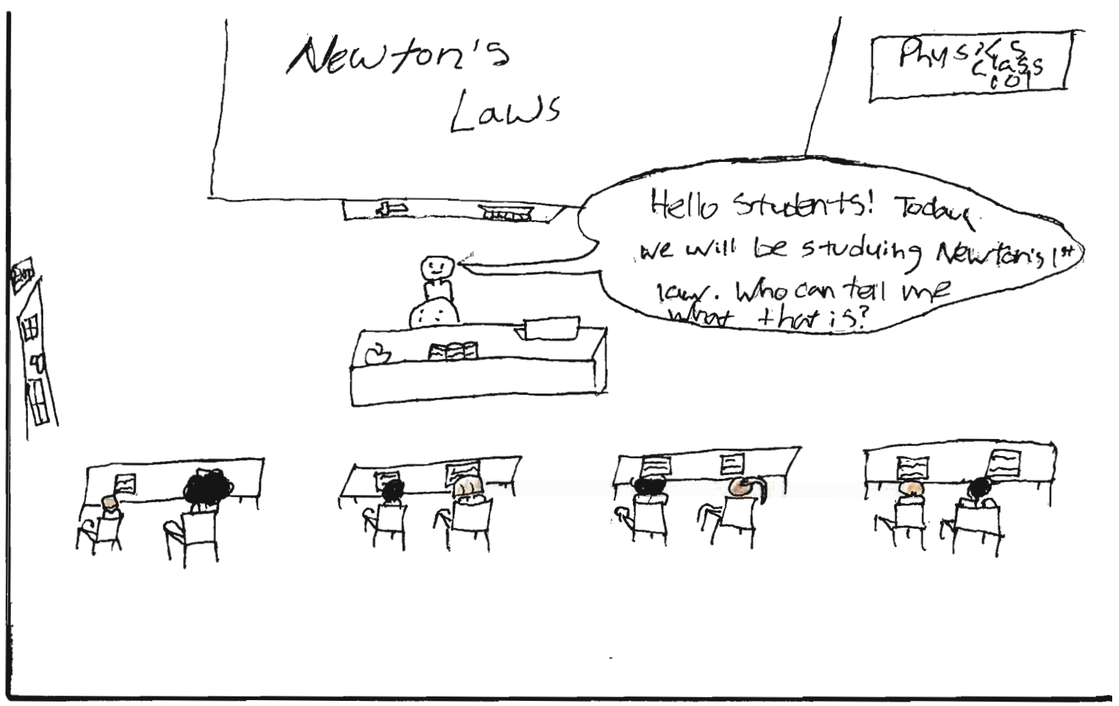
वसुधैव

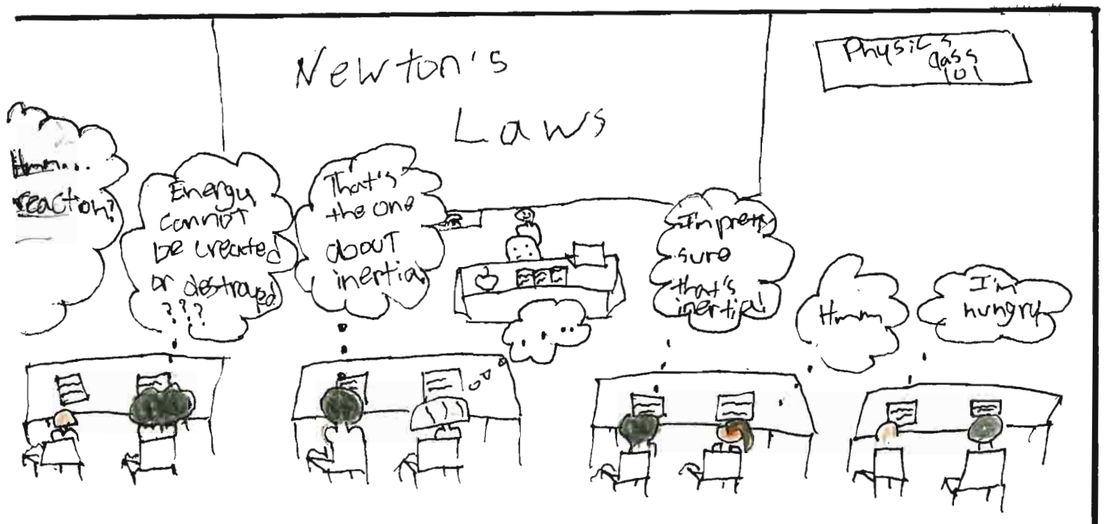
कुटुम्बकम्

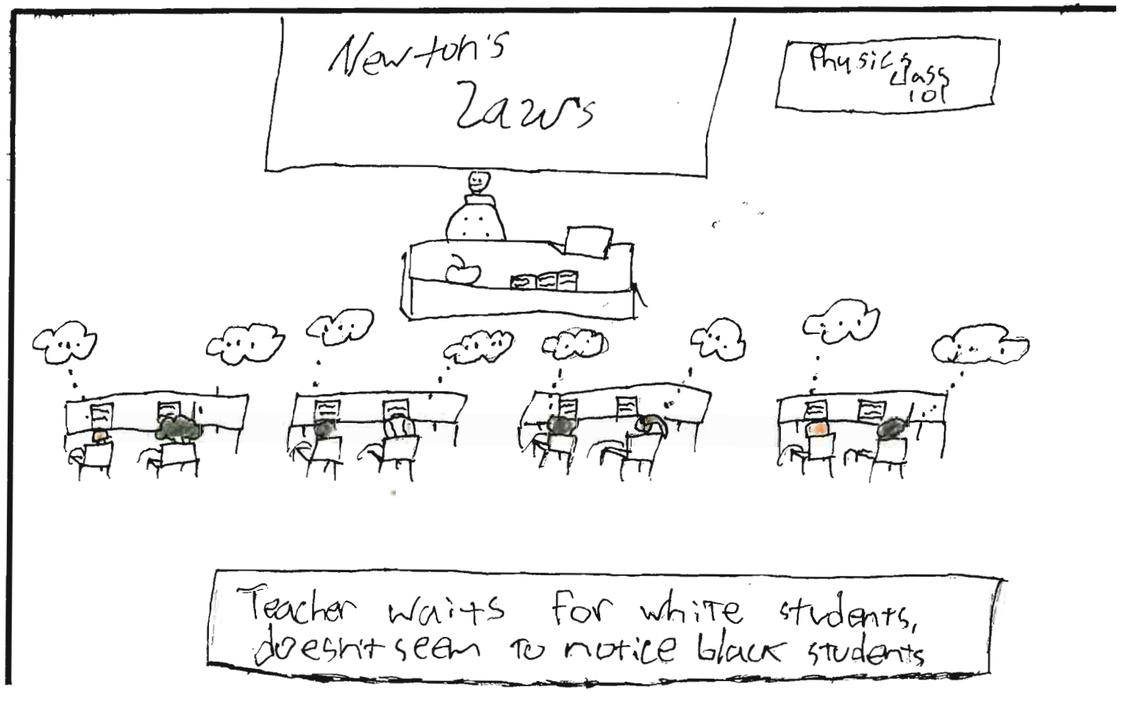
The World is one Family

Elisheba Brown
Raven Swing

Welcome Class!
Mr White
Physics Class 101
Teacher waits for students to enter class


Newton's Laws
Physics Class 101
Hello students! Today we will be studying Newton's 1st law. Who can tell me what that is?


Newton's Laws
Physics Class 101
Hmm... reaction?
Energy cannot be created or destroyed ???
That's the one about inertia
I'm pretty sure that's inertia!
Hmm
I'm hungry


Newton's Laws
Physics Class 101
Teacher waits for white students, doesn't seem to notice black students

Newtons Law

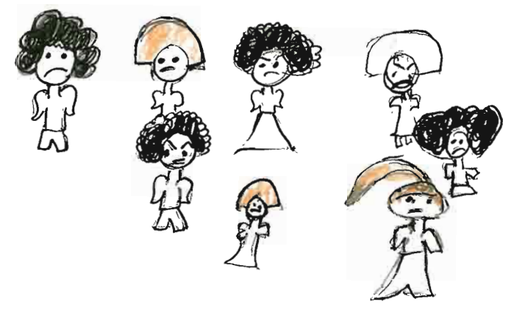
Physics class 101

I've had my hand up. Sir!

You with the blonde hair

Hush!

After Class the kids got together to discuss the past events



Students start to discuss and try to come up with a plan.

Did you guys notice that?

He totally ignored the black kids.

Ohaji had his hand up for like 30 seconds!

And when he spoke up he got shut down

Students are still discussing what they should do

We need to do something about this.

Sure but we can't be violent about it. Think of MLK or Gandhi.

Lets strike by not going to class for a few days and leave a note on the board.

Yes!!! Such a great idea!!!

lets protest!

Yee!

Yes spread the word!!!

physics class 101

where is everyone!?

Mr. white walks into the his class, and sees not a single student.

Mr. white
we have gone on strike together
Consider your actions!
Vasudeva kutumbakam!

what is this?

Mr. white sees the note that the students left on the board.

The students decided that it was time, that they spoke to the teacher, so they went to his class.

We will only come to your class if you treat us equally and fairly.

I understood, Sorry.

Have you considered your actions?

Students I am very sorry I guess I was still stuck in the past but you have opened my eyes thank you and I am very sorry for the way I acted I am going to change and become better and treat you better sorry and Thank you for opening my eyes.

The End

English: It's not just Black & White

By: Luz M. Flores, Talia Ivry, Manushi Pandya, Arzeen Khambatta, Mantasha Guliwala

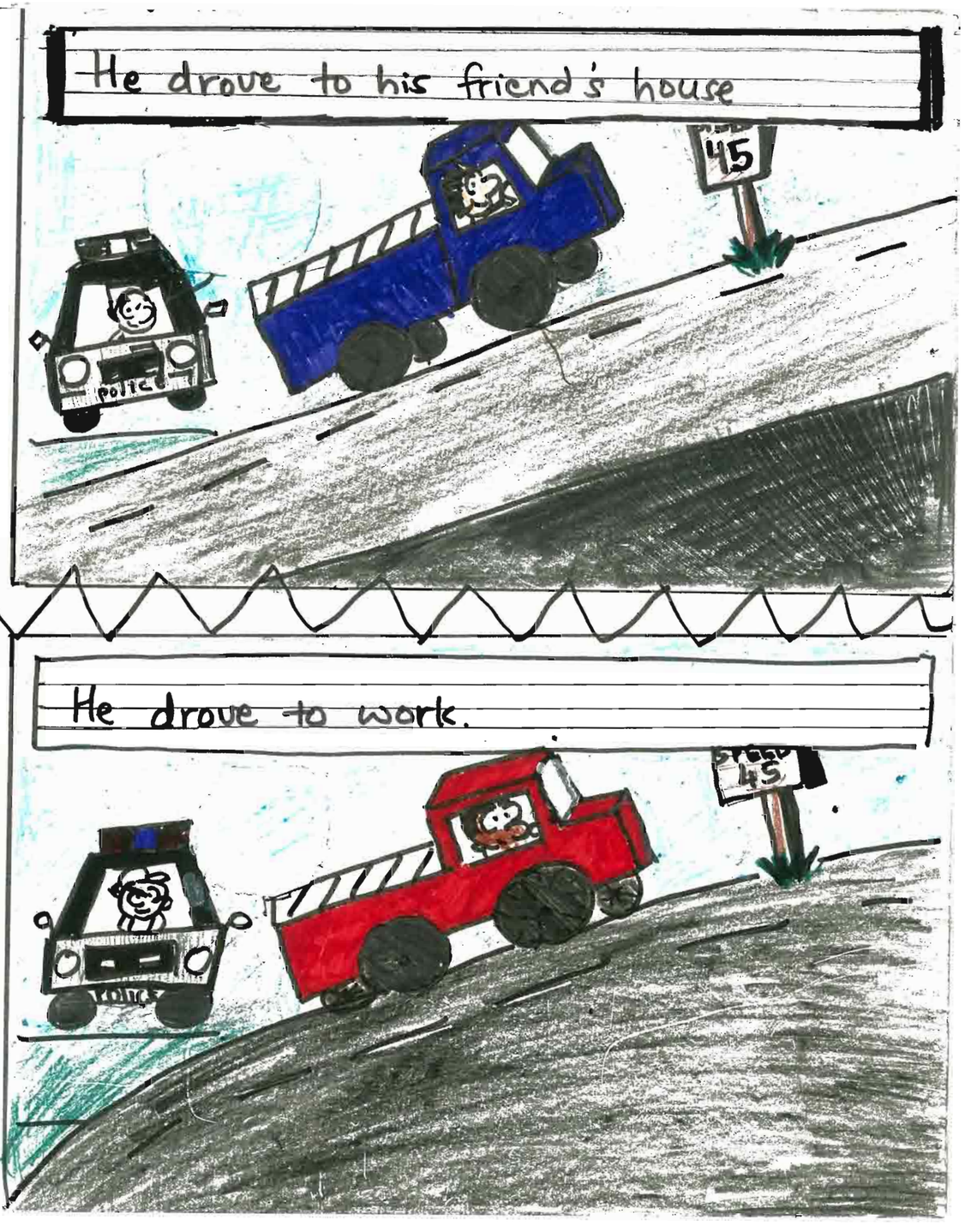
It was a beautiful sunny morning...

Bob Awoke knowing it would be a goodd day.

It was a beautiful sunny morning...

Deon woke up hoping it would be a good day

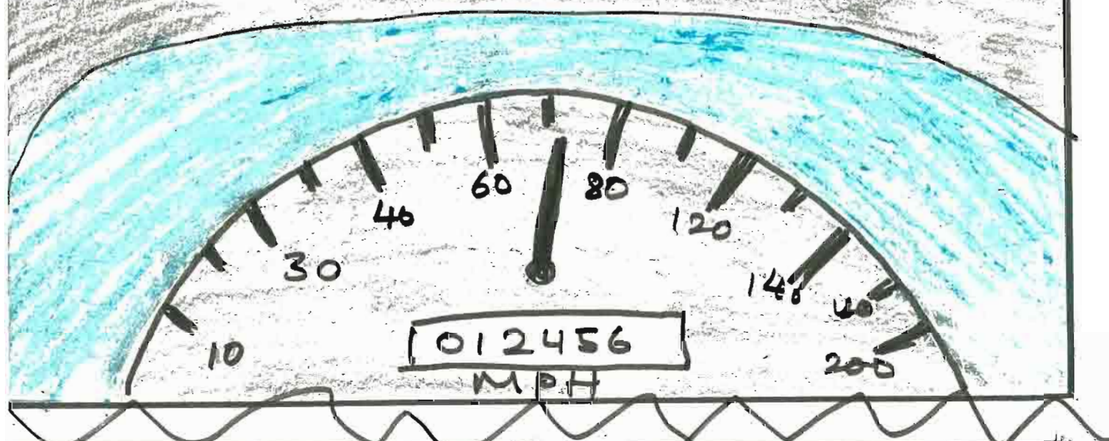
Bob ate his breakfast
CORN FLAKES


He drove to his friend's house
45
POLICE

Deon ate his breakfast.
CORN FLAKES

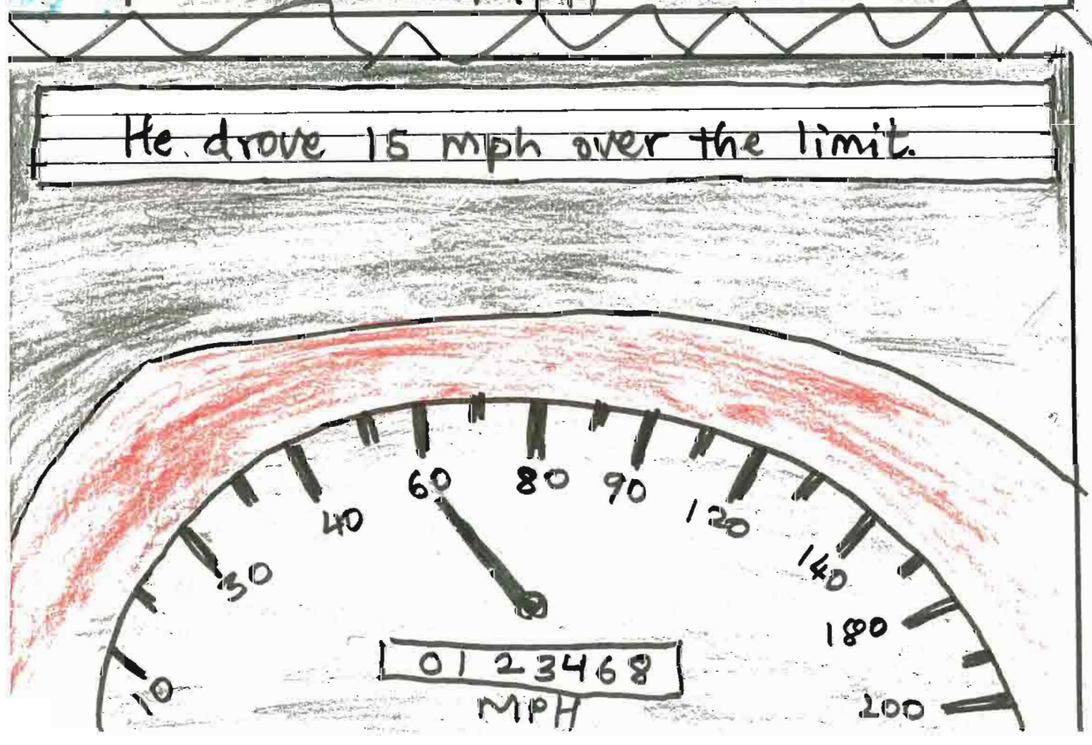
He drove to work.
45
POLICE

He drove 25 mph over the limit.



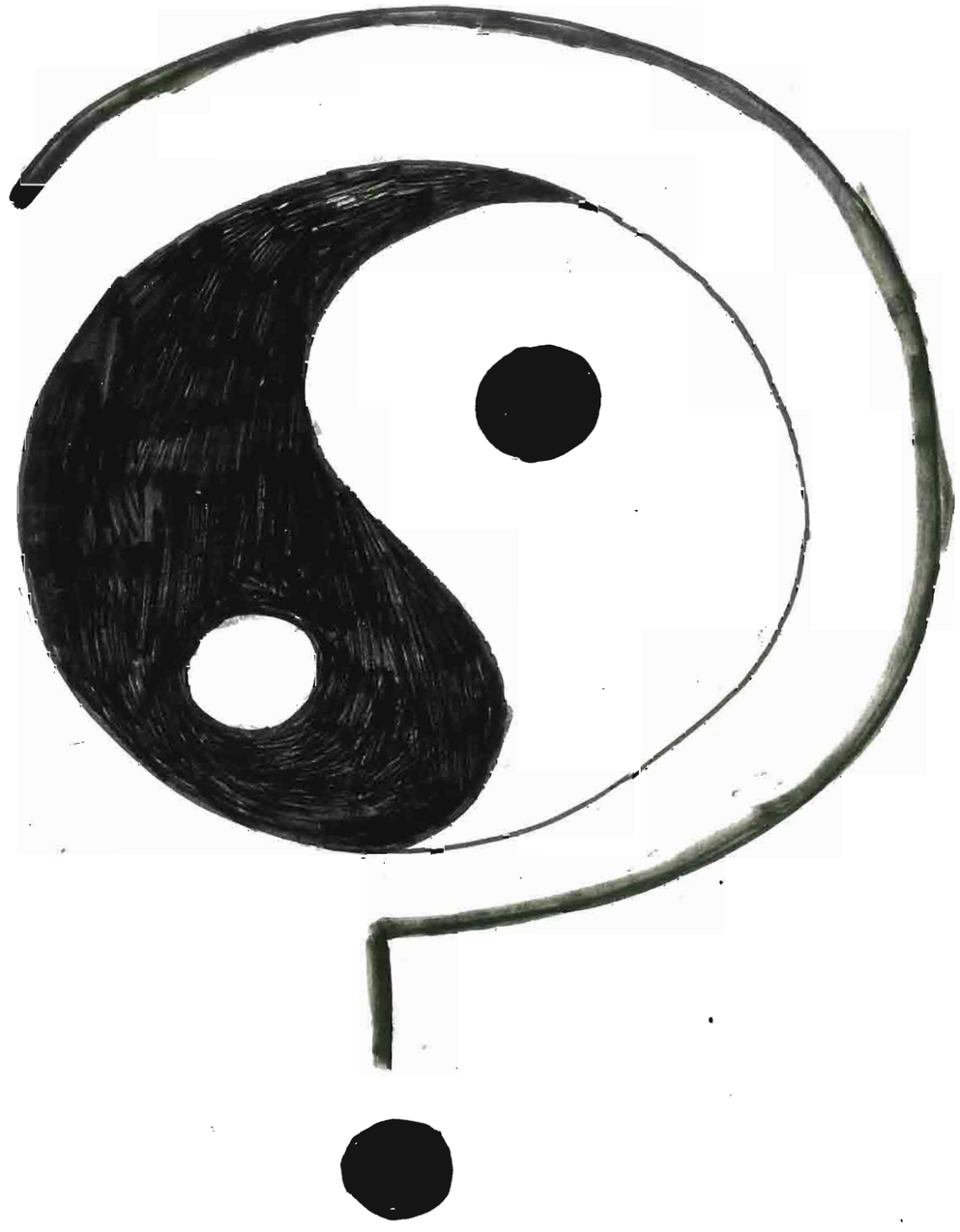
Although he passed a cop, he recieved no dicipline.

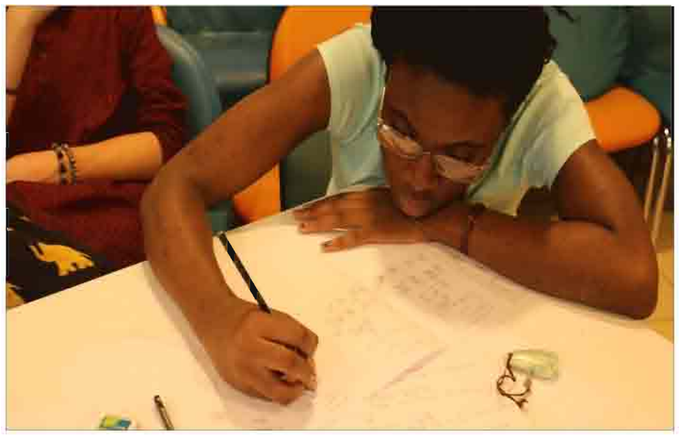
He drove 15 mph over the limit.



As he passed the cop he was immediatly stopped and given a ticket.

Have we made real progress?





THE MEET

By: Dannibel Rosario, Juan Garcia, Ameya Joshi, Hitagna Shah & Mukti Chaturani.

1

GANDHI AND MLK MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME AND THEY HAVE TEA AT STARBUCKS

STARBUCKS

GOOD EVENING MY NAME IS MARTIN LUTHER KING

NICE TO MEET YOU MY NANE IS MAHATMA GANDHI

2

KING, YOU WONT BELEIVE HOW BAD INDIA IS! THE TAX ON TEA HAS GONE UP. It's VERY Expensive BECAUSE OF THE BRIIISHERS. INDIA REALLY NEEDS TO GET INDEPENDNE'S FROM THE BRITISH

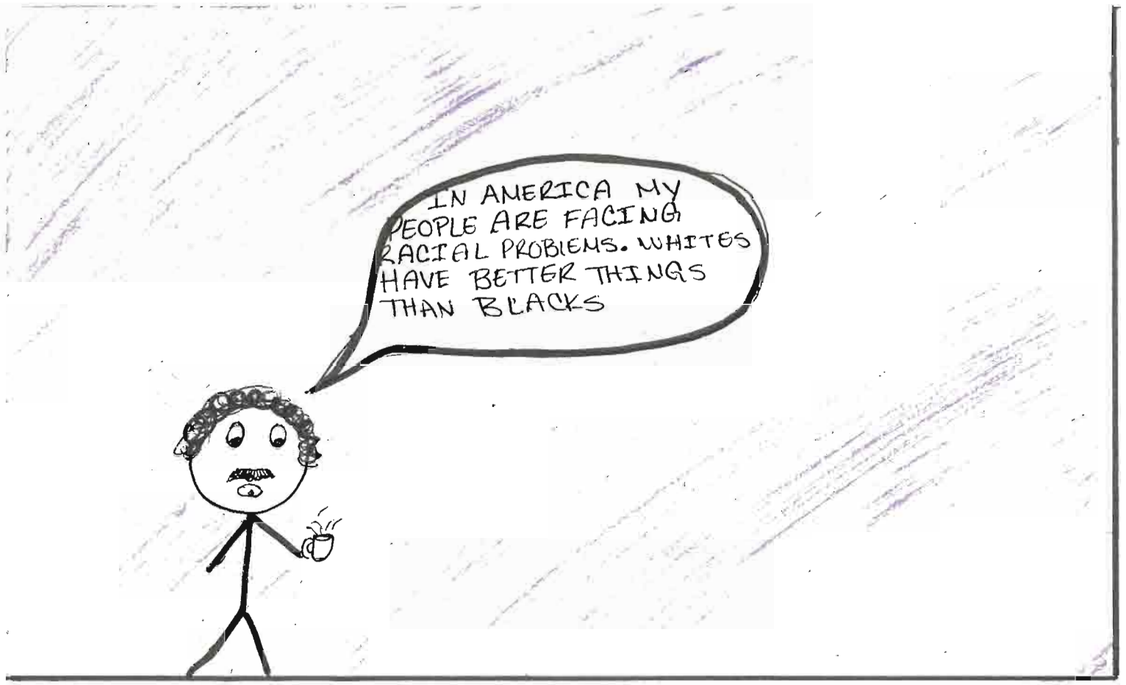
3

GANDHI MENTIONS HIS NON VIOLENT MOVEMENTS In INDIA.

I HAVE RECENTLY STARTED THE NON VIOLENCE PATH AGAIST THE BRITISHERS

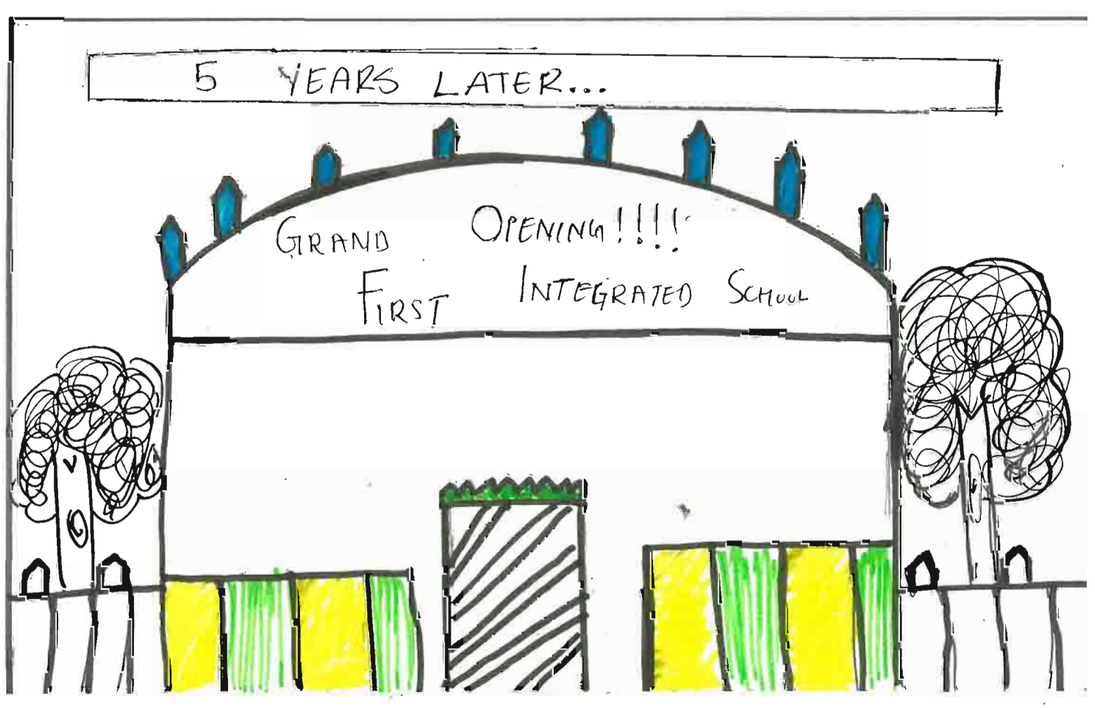
4

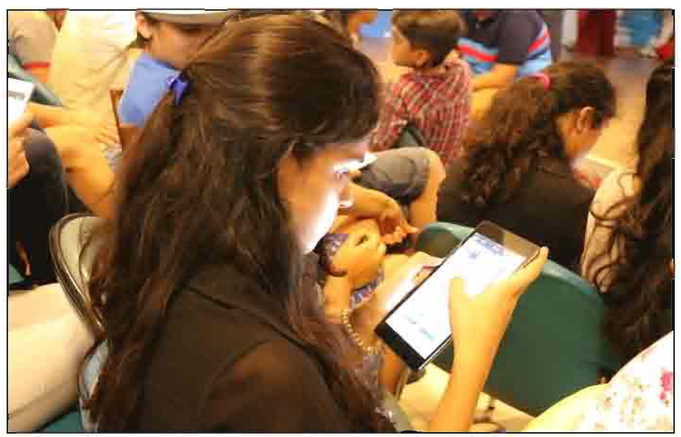
THIS IS VERY ITERESTING YOU USE NON VIOLENCE PROTESTING TO GET WHAT YOU WANT I SHOULD TRY THIS.


IN ANERICA MY PEOPLE ARE FACING RACIAL PROBLEMS. WHITES HAVE BETTER THINGS THAN BLACKS

KING YOU MUST USE NON VIOLENT PROTEST TO INTEGRATE SCHOOLS IN AMERICA.

I HAVE A DREAM
MLKJR


5 YEARS LATER...
GRAND OPENING!!!!
FIRST INTEGRATED SCHOOL



STUDENT'S VIEW

Student: Ria Zaveri

Overall, I think it's a really good idea to have an American exchange. It gives people an opportunity to step out of their comfort zone and explore a different, new and exciting place . It's also an easy way to meet new people and make friends you never thought you would have. It's a new environment where one would learn so many different valuable traits. Who wouldn't want to be a part of this exchange program! As of today, it's really good idea to mix both Indian and American students as it will create an unusual diversity.

Student: Yuvraj

MGIS has been hosting the American Exchange programme. Where students from the American Exchange programme where in students from America have visited India. We had taken them to Gandhi Ashram where they learnt about history of Mahatma Gandhi and they taught us about martin Luther King and we created a story which has a combination of Mahatma Gandhi and Marin luther King. It was a very great experience working with them. They were very hardworking. Then we created a comic strip with them which was an amazing experience. We learn a lot with them about martin Luther king.

Student: Khushi Ganeriwala

"I think it is a great experience for everyone as the US students came to know about the Indian culture. They come to know about leaders from their own country. It was awesome for MGIS kids to learn about MLK and find similarities between Mahatma Gandhi. Weaving stories through comic drawing was a fun way to learn about both the leaders and their teaching."

Student : Krish Shah, Grade 9

I feel quite honored to be able to participate in this exchange and I'm also very excited to be doing this next year. For me, this exchange is a chance to absorb all of the knowledge I can and be prepared for next year. This year's grade 10 is setting an example for us. We'll be very sure to grasp all of the details they throw at us.

Student : Akash Zaveri

I really like the idea of having exchange programmes because it gives us the chance to experience another culture. This is the first time I'm am part of an exchange programme (even though I was mainly filming). I enjoyed the trip to Gandhi Ashram, because it gave the exchange students an opportunity to experience our culture. I really like that MGIS is teaching the exchange students about Gandhiji as it is a major part of our Indian culture. As the outcome of the exchange, we are going to be making comic strips about Gandhiji and Martin Luther King. Vishaka ma'am, an art teacher, taught us how to make comic strips. In the end, all the comic strips will be put into a book, that they can take back to America. I think it's a really clever idea! I am really enjoying the exchange programme and am looking forward to the next one!

STUDENT'S VIEW

Student : Ayan Ahmed
Boston, MA

Hearing about MGIS made me excited because for a couple of days I would be able to interact with teenagers from India. I was interested to learn about their experiences living in India. Once I entered the gates of MGIS I was electrified by the sense of community within the students. They welcomed us to their school assembly, just as if we were ordinary students. Coming to visit this school made me stop feeling like a foreigner, and more like myself. We played ice breaker games and I got to learn more about each of the students. Then we were split up into groups who would create comic strips about Gandhiji. To gain more knowledge about Gandhiji we visited the Gandhiji Ashrma. We learned about his life and about his fight to help India gain Independence. We also skyped with Gandhiji great grandson Tushar Arun Gandhi. He told us that having anger is important, but the way you deal with the that anger and how you make a change is what defines people.

Student : Dannibel Rosario
New York, New York

My first impression of MGIS is that there is a lot of diversity in he school. Immediately I thought about how my school isn't as diverse and how I wish it was. When we first got into the classroom I loved how welcoming the students and teachers were. Also I was very surprised on how well everyone's english was. I was glad that being able to communicate with the students was easy. Another impression is that the students were well educated on Gandhi because my group leader was younger than me and she knew all the information about Gandhi that I just learned this year. This made me realize that we are all the same, even if we go to school in different countries.

Student : Michelle Estrada
San Jose, California

When we first walked into the MGIS, everyone was very polite and welcomed us into their community. All around I would see smiles and children waving to us and it made me feel less nervous about meeting the group of high schoolers that we would be working with. When we got to meet everyone we played a get to know you game, and we were able to learn different things about everyone. They also made us act out our first impressions of India, and everyone had a good laugh. We then got into our small groups and we got ready to go to the Gandhi Ashram. I really like that our two group leaders we very attentive and helped us understand more things about Gandhiji. They sounded like they were really excited to give us information about all the different things Gandhiji had achieved through tout his lifetime. Another activity that we began to do was a comic about Gandhiji and or Martin Luther King Jr, we choose to talk about Gandhiji's values and incorporate it into our comic. I'm really excited to go back and work with the MGIS students and have a chance to learn more from them.

Student : Raven Swing
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Visiting Mahatma Ghandi International School (MGIS) today reminded me that there are in fact educational institutions that actually care about the individuals that are studying there, on a personal level. Kids there are encouraged to be creative, think outside the box, stand out in a world full of people trying to fit in, and fight for what they believe in. I got this impression when I first walked in (there's art everywhere, and joyous kids), by speaking to the kids there and getting to know them, and from a couple lectures we got during the day, one of which was from one of the founders of the school, a woman named Anju. She told us about some of the difficulties her husband and her had when founding the school, which went from not having enough money or a decent place to put the school, to actual riots from people who didn't agree with the schools philosophy. That philosophy is entirely based on diversity and individuality, which is just about the opposite of any school I've ever been to. There are kids there from several different countries, many different economic classes, and ages from kindergarten to high school. There are opportunities there for everyone, and people waiting to help at any moment.

One thing that really stuck with me from what Anju said today was that if you have the intention, the means will come naturally. This summer has been proof of that to me. I had been having several difficulties at home, and since I was young I was always really interested in traveling to another country, but I could never afford to do it. Well, first I got an opportunity to go to Africa and study at a music center over in Ghana, and I dove in headfirst, despite doubts of some people around me. Through donations, working odd jobs, and playing music, in about 3 months I was able to make enough money to go to the music center. Then, out of nowhere, I was tipped by a friend to apply for the 360+ leadership collective program, and after being assured that it was a totally sponsored trip, I went for it (hoping, but not at all expecting to get in). Now, here I am in India, making new friends, learning enough for a lifetime, and having the time of my life. Follow your goals, and with a little help from the people around you, you'll get where you want to go.

Student : Talia Ivry
Madison, WI

At first when we walked through the doors of MGIS I was struck by the colorful walls and happy kids we saw running by. The open campus seemed to be filled with energy, and it seemed to me to be more like a summer camp than a school. Then we met some of the students and it still seemed like this wasn't a school the way I knew school, with stuffy classrooms and heavy textbooks and hardly any visible real world applications. We heard one of the founders speak, a lovely and energetic woman who talked about the power of positive thought in overcoming obstacles. I left thoroughly inspired and still feeling like this must be a utopia. Then I witnessed a little schoolyard spat between two students and I felt reassured that the students here are just like the ones I go to school with back home, they're just fortunate enough to have a school that values their creativity along with their "academic propensity." MGIS truly seems like a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Student : Luz Flores
Portland Oregon

My first impression on MGIS was how welcoming everyone was. when I first stepped foot in their school I was greeted kindly by a security guard then afterwards was welcomed by students. something that stood out to me was the clothing they wore and the diversity there was at the school . I was pleased to know that all the students were bilingual as well as trilingual and quadringual. To me that was very impressive and I hope that they continue with these customs because later on in the future these children will be more prepared than anyone I know in the US. knowing more than one language is so helpful & valuable and I hope that all the children @MGIS know that. Also accepting and being part of a diverse community is outstanding because children will never learn the difference between dark and light skin, straight hair or wavy hair, brown eyes or blue. They'll look at their fellow peers as what they are, human beings. And that gives me lots of hope and faith in humanity for generations to come.

Student : Danielle Truxhall
Elyria, Ohio

My first impression of MGIS is that they were very lively. I am very surprised on how organized the kids were. Everything was planned out and ready to go as soon as we arrived. The kids are very welcoming, none of them seemed shy at all. The activities they planned are fun as well. I really like how the school records the majority of their activities with a camera. Their philosophy of a self-governing school is very interesting. I'm very intrigued to see how that system plays out. Overall I think the school is a wonderful school, and I encourage others to visit.

Student : Saphire Johnson
Washington D.C.
Mahatma Gandhi, Man of unity and purity who paints the instructions of civil disobedience vividly yet the youth can't see it so clearly we can picture long term success because they tell us to dream less and we will never be the best that we can be. So how do we transform anger into positivity when the obstacles seem so hard to complete? I was never the type to feel defeated but when I see broken bodies beated, I get so heated. Even more that my brothers arrested for carrying heaters when they were just trying to protect us from policemen. Successfully methods from the past simply won't last today. I can't control them anymore they want dead bodies on the floor today eye for an eye is the method today. No disrespect to Gandhi and his accomplishments but non-violence isn't the way cause they using violence on us EVERY Day. 7 das straight a mother had to bury her child in July even with videos to prove their senseless acts they lie, in front of sons, and daughters who cry for their fallen soldiers I'm angry, I feel their pain We tried to stay in our lane but when they slaughtering us in plain sight, it's so much we can take And by the time the government choose to step in, it's going to be too late

Student : Alex Hurst
Denver, Colorado

Our time at MGIS was exciting for me because it brought to my attention that they are a part of the IB Programme. In the US I never expected to find other IB candidates, so to find other students here was incredibly exciting. When the founder was talking about teaching in a way that encompasses several subjects I was reminded of my experiences while I was in IB. It all also made me reflect on how grateful I am for the education model the program provided. From the presentation given I'm sure that the students at MGIS are also grateful for their experience as well. To give students the amount of freedom that MGIS has I'm sure will be incredibly beneficial for them in the long run. It allows them space to learn things that they want to learn and this will help them to learn. It wasn't until I was given that freedom to choose that I was motivated to further my knowledge beyond the information given in the classroom. I wish I had been given the chance that the students at MGIS have.

Student : Ohaji Williams
Chicago, IL
Upon arriving at MGIS there was certainly a lot of change in the atmosphere. Seeing the level of energy given off by the students when I first saw the packed auditorium and the performances that followed made me really excited about being there and seeing kids of various ages gathering to enjoy their peers. Meeting the students was also a major plus. Seeing how their lives weren't much different from mine and being able to participate in different activities with them was a great opportunity to get more of an insight on the Indian culture as a whole. Overall my first impression of MGIS was that it was awesome and full of great people.

Student : Dariela Villar
Brooklyn, New York

Usually in the schools I've been to, everything is organized with explicit schedules that must be followed. Coming to MGIS was completely different. Different in the sense that I didn't think there could be such a free educated place that could actually do its job. The students seemed extremely happy and confident in their future life desires, such as Rukmini who proudly stated that she wants to be a singer. Back home, being a singer and doing anything around that is frowned upon, so seeing that her school also wasn't pressuring her to be something like a lawyer or doctor was very fascinating. I see that I isn't impossible to learn and fun/ freedom. That is a notion instilled in many societies and MGIS is breaking barriers. I hope to see them expand this school to different parts of India so other Indian students can see and feel what it's like to go to a real school.

Student : Elisheba Brown,
Jacksonville, Florida

My first impression of the school was that it was very open. Observing the schoola little closer I noticed that it was very creative and seemed happy. The people seemed friendly when it was time to interact I was very excited. The students also seemed very excited as well. It was fun to get to know some of the students. The experience of watching the students be so involved with us as well as having fun at the same time was very relaxing. Also seeing a mixture of students was great, they all got along so easily. When they spoke in their own language it was very intriguing. I really had a great time there listening to everyone talk.

Student : Juan Garcia
Chicago, Illinois
My first impression of MGIS was that it was such a beautiful school. The first thing was an assembly. I only watched part of it but it was nice. After that, we walked into a room that looked like a dance studio. They put red paint (tikka) on our forehead and I felt so welcomed. I love how I can actually communicate with the students there. I really love how the school is run cause it somewhat reminds me of my school in a way but it's ten times better. I feel that letting the kids make their own rules helps them mature and feel what it's like to take charge of something. I guess it's cause it shows the concept of leadership and I love it. If I could I would go to school here and not any other school in the U.S.

Student : Emma Ottum
Los Gatos, California

This was my second time coming to MGIS, and the school never ceases to amaze me. The minute we walked in, we were greeted with smiling faces and bright eyes that couldn't wait to show us their life at the school. On that day, they were celebrating Independence Day and performed a dance for us. I could feel the energy in the room bouncing off everyone and quickly affecting me. As they took us through icebreaker activities, the tour through the Ghandi Ashram, and challenged me to a game of ping pong, I could feel a sense of familiarity returning. I love the way the classrooms are structured and the engaging activities. I love how the students aren't just counted as a number who are put into desks in a classroom. I wish I had a chance to go to a school where the same principles were taught. All the students were happy, free, but still learning in an educational environment that is unlike anything I've ever seen. I really enjoyed connecting with all of them and remembering the past with the others that I had already known. I can't wait to continue to get to know the students at MGIS.