

# Mathematics of Life

Winter Project, 2016-17 (class 10).

Paul Dirac once said,

*"God used beautiful mathematics in creating the world."*

And he was correct. What is human life if not a poetry of logical ideas? This thought has been established in our heads ever since we were kids. Maths is everywhere! One line Jayasree ma'am always uses. But do we bother to explore the hidden secrets of the world? Do we open our eyes, widen our view and have an analytical eye towards life? With this question put forth, came Jayasree ma'am and Riya ma'am with the topics for the winter project of class 10, 2016-17. The idea was simple. We all knew that mathematics was there in everyday life, now we just had to prove it.

The classes were divided into groups of five or six, depending on the class strength. Each group was given a leader with strengths of his/her own. While the dancer formed the group of 'math in dance', the football player led the group of 'sports and maths' etc. The members were chosen by the leaders and so, the groups were ready.

The broad categories in which the topic was divided were:

1. Mathematics in sports
2. Mathematics in dance
3. Mathematics in art
4. Mathematics in theatre
5. Mathematics in craft
6. Mathematics in music

*"Many people think mathematics is the mechanical pursuit of solving equations. In truth, mathematics is an artistic pursuit." (Burger and Starbird, viii)*

With that thought in our head, each one of us got to work. Group projects always teach you more than you aim to learn. In the end it's not only the topic you're thorough with but the working style of people, coordinating with them and boosting your own confidence.

Over the course of our 15-day winter holidays we plunged into an in-depth research of our respective topics. And it wouldn't be difficult to believe that we came up with some amazing results. My group was given the topic of 'mathematics in dance'. In the time period through which I researched for it, I realized the real importance of mathematics in life. It's not just the Pythagorean theorem that matters, it is where and how you apply it. As maths is nothing but a solution to your problems.

On the day of the presentation, the heterogeneity of the human mind was on full display. Each student put in his/her best of creativity and gave a performance worth remembering. From paper dresses made of nothing but cones to a full-fledged model of the lotus temple, and everything in between. The winter project was a unification of something as methodical as mathematics with blue-sky thinking of creative minds.

What this experience taught us is simply that,

*"Life is magic before you understand it, it is mathematics thereafter."*

- Ritika Bhatia, X-B.

