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Executive Director's Message



Dear CIDER Community,

As we step into the final month of an eventful year, I am delighted to share some incredible achievements and exciting news from our vibrant school community.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to **Master Muhammed Nusayr Bin Rahman**, a Cambridge A Level student, for his phenomenal achievement of becoming a **WORLD TOPPER in A Level Mathematics**. This outstanding accomplishment is a testament to his dedication, hard work, and passion for excellence. I also commend our **Mathematics Department** for their solid commitment and invaluable guidance in nurturing such exceptional talent.

I take immense pride in congratulating the **National Curriculum Senior Section** for their remarkable efforts in organizing the **Inter-School Futsal Football Tournament – 2024** and, more impressively, emerging as **Champions** of the tournament. Your sportsmanship and teamwork have brought glory to our school, and we are immensely proud of you all.

Kudos to the **Mathematics Department of the Cambridge Senior Section** for successfully conducting the **Intra-School Mathematics Olympiad**. Events like these foster analytical thinking and a love for problem-solving, encouraging our students to push boundaries and explore new horizons in mathematics.

A special mention to our **Duke of Edinburgh Team of Cambridge Senior Section** for the successful organization of the **Bronze Trip to Cumilla** and the **Silver and Gold Trips to Mati Ta**. These expeditions reflect the spirit of adventure, resilience, and teamwork, essential qualities for holistic development.

I am thrilled to announce that from **6 January 2025**, **CIDER** will launch a **modern Cafeteria**, where students will be served **balanced and hygienic meals prepared by qualified chefs**. This initiative aligns with our mission to promote the well-being and overall growth of our students.

As we prepare to welcome **2025**, I wish all our students, parents, staff, and well-wishers a **Happy New Year in advance**. Let us continue to work together, with the same passion and dedication, to achieve new milestones in the coming year.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in making **CIDER International School** an example of excellence.

G C Tripathi
Executive Director

7th Intra-School Math Olympiad at CIDER International School (CC)

The Department of Mathematics at CIDER International School recently organized the 7th Intra-School Math Olympiad with the aim of alleviating the pervasive fear of mathematics among students. This initiative sought to boost students' confidence and enthusiasm in the subject.

The event began with a Selection Round, where students from classes VI to XII participated. Following the rigorous screening process, the selected participants advanced to the final competition. The final round was a challenging contest that tested the wits of the budding mathematicians, showcasing their problem-solving skills and intellectual agility.

Out of a large pool of participants, a total of 23 students emerged as winners across seven classes, highlighting their exceptional mathematical abilities. Their achievements stand as a testament to their hard work and aptitude. The event was successfully coordinated by Md. Sharif Hossain, the Head of the Department of Mathematics, who served as the convener of the program. The Math Olympiad not only celebrated mathematical talent but also encouraged a healthy competitive spirit among students.



Final Result of 7th Intra School Math Olympiad 2024-2025

Grade - VI

Student List	Position
Rajbir Roy	1st
Anusha Mojumder	2nd
Syed Abid Shabaz	3rd

Grade - IX

Student List	Position
Shahir Saeed	1st
Mohammad Wajih Haider	2nd
Md. Abrar Islam	3rd

Grade - VII

Student List	Position
Prithviraz Banik	1st
Md Ridwanul Islam	2nd
Ahmed Ayaan Manir	3rd

Grade - X

Student List	Position
Maheer Bin Elias	1st
Farhan Chowdhury	2nd
Raktim Das Gupta	3rd
Tahnoon Erash	3rd

Grade - XII

Student List	Position
Ahnaf Rafid	1st
Zubin Zubaid	2nd
Md. Ifi Hassnat	3rd
Anagh Tripathi	3rd

Grade - VIII

Student List	Position
Mohammad Taskin	1st
Alman Reza	2nd
Momtaha Noman	3rd

Grade - XI

Student List	Position
Istiaqul Hoque Ifi	1st
Fabliha Khaled	2nd
Youhanna Afnain	3rd

Md. Sharif Hossain
HOD, Department of Mathematics

Inter School Futsal Football Tournament-2024 (NC)

We are very happy to let you know that CIDER International School (NC5) organized a two-day long "Inter School Futsal Football Tournament" on 16th and 17th, November, 2024. It was held in our school field. The program was inaugurated by our honorable Executive Director, Mr. G. C. Tripathi. This year, total six schools have participated in this tournament. The teams are CIDER NC Red, CIDER NC Blue, Presidency International School, Chittagong Grammar School NC, Leaders School and College and Pinnacle Chartered School and College respectively. CIDER NC Red and Leaders School and College qualified to the final. In the final match, CIDER NC Red defeated Leaders School and College by 2-0 goals. Before the final match, Executive Director and Principal of CIDER International school has welcomed the guest of honour, Ms. Sabeen Aameir, Director, BSRM Group of Companies & Frobel Academy.

At the end of the match, the guest of honor, accompanied by section coordinator and the GLCs, distributed prizes among the Champions and runners-up. The programme was conducted by Ms. Umme Neher Shahab, Ms. Syeda Nafisa Islam and Mr. Md. Nur Islam Biplob.





Tournament details:

Champion:	CIDER NC Red
Runner up:	Leaders School and College
Man of the Final:	Tahsin Araff, CIDER NC
Golden Gloves:	Ahnaf Abid Chy, CIDER NC
Top Scorer:	Ertishum Shahjan Chy, CIDER NC
Player of the tournament:	Zawad Abrar Kabir, CIDER NC

We thank both the champion and runners-up teams and all dignitaries to witness the tournament. Everyone's presence made the tournament very special.

Reported by
Shimul Barua
 Sports Teacher NCS

Lions Clubs International Art Competition at CIDER International School

On 21st October, 2024, CIDER International School proudly hosted the Lions Clubs International Art Competition, an inspiring event that brought together the artistic talents of 59 students from the NC and CC classes. Held in the school's library, the competition invited students to create artwork based on the thought-provoking theme "Peace without Limits," encouraging them to explore and express their interpretations of peace through various artistic mediums.

The event was honored by the presence of several distinguished guests, adding prestige and significance to the occasion. Among the special attendees were the Esteemed Executive Director of Lions Clubs International, Mr. Gyanesh Chandra Tripathi, the Revered Principal, Miss Neeti Tripathi, one of the Honourable Directors of Lions Clubs International, Miss Parveen Mahmud, and a distinguished panel of judges. The Deputy General Team from Lions Clubs International also graced the event, further enhancing its importance and impact.



The event began with a moving rendition of the national anthem, which set a respectful and uplifting tone for the day. Following this, Mr. Gyanesh Chandra Tripathi delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of art in promoting 'Peace and Fostering' understanding among diverse cultures. His words were a powerful reminder of the role that creativity plays in shaping a more harmonious world.

The opening session was further enriched by speeches from Miss Parveen Mahmud and Ln. Kohinoor Kamal MJF, both key members of the event's organizing committee. They spoke passionately about the role of community support in nurturing young artists and fostering cultural engagement. Miss Mahmud highlighted the way art can transcend boundaries and bring people together, while Ln. Kamal MJF stressed the importance of cultural activities in building stronger and more connected communities. Their speeches set the stage for an event that not only celebrated artistic talent but also reinforced the values of collaboration and peace central to Lions Clubs International.

The heart of the event was the art competition itself, where each participant could showcase their unique talents through artwork inspired by the theme "Peace without Limits." Students demonstrated remarkable creativity, employing a variety of techniques and styles to express their visions of peace. The diversity of the submissions reflected the rich imagination and artistic potential of the students, with each piece offering a distinct interpretation of the theme.



The artworks were judged by a panel of renowned artists, who assessed the pieces based on three key criteria: creativity, originality, and technique. The judges' careful evaluation ensured that the competition highlighted not only the technical proficiency of the students but also their ability to communicate the theme of peace through their art.

The competition culminated in a rewarding ceremony where the top three winners were announced and celebrated.

The winners are -
1st Position - Shazratul Yakeen (VII B, NC)
2nd Position - Anusha Mojumder (VI A, CC)
3rd Position - Sreyasini Das (VII A, NC)

The recognition was a proud moment for both the students and the school, demonstrating the exceptional talent nurtured within the CIDER International community. The winners were presented with certificates and prizes, celebrating their hard work, creativity, and dedication to the theme of peace. The ceremony not only acknowledged individual achievements but also reinforced the importance of artistic expression in promoting understanding and harmony.

Following the awards ceremony, the event featured a vibrant cultural program that further enriched the experience for all attendees. Students from the school presented a series of performances, including music, dance, and drama, each celebrating 'Peace and Unity'. These performances added a dynamic and festive element to the event, showcasing the diverse talents within the school community.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from the Revered Principal, Junior School, Miss Neeti Tripathi, who expressed sincere gratitude to Lions Clubs International for their unwavering support and to all the participants for their extraordinary contributions. She acknowledged the importance of such events in strengthening the sense of community and encouraging students to explore their artistic potential.

The Lions Clubs International Art Competition at CIDER International School was a resounding success, inspiring students to reflect on the significance of peace and to express their creativity in a meaningful way. The event not only showcased the artistic talents of the students but also helped to build stronger bonds within the school community, bringing together students, faculty, and distinguished guests in a shared celebration of creativity, cultural engagement, and peace.

This competition served as a reminder of the transformative power of art to inspire change, foster understanding, and build connections across cultures and communities. Through their participation, the students were able to contribute to the larger conversation on peace while showcasing their remarkable artistic abilities. The event has left a lasting impression on all who were involved and will continue to inspire the students of CIDER International School to explore their creative potential in the years to come.

Reported by
Saiha Parveen
Art Teacher (NCS)

It was a well-kept mystery at the KIV International School, that the school had a hidden room. Located right next to the Principal's Office, the room was far from ordinary. Built in 2005 by the Principal himself, it was designed for experiments on aliens and space mysteries.



Photo 1: The Principal meets the alien.

One night, while working late, the principal's computer detected a faint signal from space. The signal was mysterious and powerful, traveling from hundreds of light-years away. Filled with excitement, the Principal responded, introducing himself and expressing his desire to meet the alien lifeforms. The aliens, however, replied with a cautionary message: "We cannot meet with Earth's humans yet. Your planet lacks the technology for such an encounter."

Being undeterred, the Principal proposed a plan: he would create a secret space, hidden from the rest of the world, where only he could meet with them and conduct experiments on extraterrestrial life. Intrigued by his commitment, the aliens agreed, sending advanced instruments to KIV in secret: a device for creating artificial life, a teleportation machine, and even a small, sleek UFO. With these tools, the principal crafted an extraordinary hidden laboratory where he could meet with his otherworldly visitors.

Inside this secret room were marvels beyond imagination: a teleportation device, an experimental machine, holograms that projected vast galaxies, and a glowing "Night Pool" that simulated the mysteries of space.



Photo 2: The secret room of KIV with its advanced alien technology, mysterious glow, and the suspenseful encounter between Roham and the Principal.

The Principal was intent on creating a powerful new lifeform, one that would combine the intelligence of aliens with the resilience of Earthly life. However, not everyone was supportive. Rumors about the Principal's strange activities spread, and a few students and teachers grew suspicious.

To keep his work undiscovered, the Principal went to dark lengths: he created an underground torture room, linked to the secret lab, to silence anyone who discovered his activities. Filled with dangerous tools, poisonous gas, and fire, the torture room was a place of fear and secrecy.

But one day, his ambitions caught up with him. A student named Roham, curious and clever, had pieced together the clues and found his way into the secret room. Horrified by what he saw, Roham knew he had to act. Just as the Principal arrived, Roham activated the teleportation device, sending an emergency signal directly to the aliens.

The aliens responded swiftly, recognizing the Principal's dangerous intentions. They decided to cut off their connection to Earth and deactivated all the devices in the room. Before disappearing from the screen, the alien leader spoke firmly: "You have betrayed the trust of knowledge for control. Earth is not yet ready." As the machines powered down, the principal's ambitions crumbled before his eyes. The secret room was left empty, silent, and abandoned. Roham reported everything to the authorities, and the Principal's dark schemes were finally brought to light.


Following the scandal, the school appointed a new Principal—a kind, wise educator with a passion for science and a deep respect for the students, society, and the pursuit of knowledge. Under this new leadership, KIV returned to its mission of fostering curiosity, integrity, and wonder. Roham was celebrated as a hero, a reminder to everyone that true discovery should always be guided by ethics and a commitment to learning. And though the aliens were gone, Roham still wondered if, one day when Earth was truly ready, they might return.

Written by
Luban Shehroz Bhuian
Class – Six, Section – A, NCS

Bronze Adventures in Cumilla: A Journey to Remember (CC)



The students of Grade 9 from CIDER embarked on an exhilarating adventure in Cumilla as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award framework. This year's bronze award journey, held from November 26 to 29, was packed with thrilling activities, fostering teamwork and resilience among participants.

Cumilla's rich cultural heritage and scenic beauty offered the perfect backdrop for the adventurous journey. The participants hiked through lush green landscapes, navigated challenging terrains, and camped under the stars, embracing the spirit of exploration. Guided by their award leaders, they tackled tasks that tested their endurance and problem-solving skills. 





Aside from the physical challenges, the trip was a bonding experience, strengthening friendships and creating memories to cherish forever. This journey taught the students the importance of teamwork and perseverance.

The highlight of the trip was a team-building exercise where participants had to work together to overcome obstacles, underscoring the value of collaboration. By the end of the journey, students not only gained confidence but also developed a sense of responsibility, embodying the values of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The Cumilla adventure proved to be more than just a journey; it was a transformative experience, leaving the Grade 9 students inspired and ready for their next challenge.

Md. Ziaul Alam
Coordinator, Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Scaling Heights in Mati-ta: Silver and Gold Adventures (CC)



Mati-ta, Bhatiary, became the stage for an unforgettable adventure for Grade 10 to 12 students from CIDER as they pursued their Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. From November 26 to 29, participants braved the rugged terrain and embraced the spirit of exploration during a four-day journey filled with challenges and camaraderie.

For the Silver participants of Grade 10, the journey was an opportunity to enhance their leadership and outdoor survival skills. Gold awardees from Grades 11 and 12 took on even greater challenges, requiring advanced planning and execution. The activities ranged from trekking through dense trails to orienteering tasks, fostering resilience and strategic thinking.





The event wasn't just about overcoming physical hurdles. It also strengthened bonds between peers, creating a tight-knit community of explorers. This journey taught the students to trust the team and push their limit.



Special recognition was given to Eraf Chowdhury, the best Silver participant, and Ahnaf Rafid, a Grade 12 student, who earned the special mention award for his exemplary leadership. The award leaders and coordinators, observing from the sidelines, praised the participants for their determination and teamwork.

The Mati-ta adventure stands as a testament to the transformative power of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program. Students left not only with cherished memories but also with the skills and confidence to conquer future challenges.

Md. Ziaul Alam
Coordinator, Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We TOPPED THE WORLD AGAIN....



Heartiest Congratulations to Master Muhammad Nusayr Bin Rahman for becoming **WORLD TOPPER** in **A LEVEL MATHEMATICS**. A special mention to Mathematics Department of Cambridge Senior Section for this wonderful achievement.

SUBJECT WISE HIGHEST MARKS ACHIEVEMENT STUDENTS LIST
Half Yearly Exam 2024-25 Results

Six (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Bangladesh and Global Studies	99	Afraa Manir
2	Biology	98	Hridhhi Ghosh
3	Biology	98	Muntafina Musarrat Ethina
4	Chemistry	100	Muntafina Musarrat Ethina
5	Computer Science	100	Muntafina Musarrat Ethina
6	English Language	93	Afraa Manir
7	English Language	93	Neel Nandini Das
8	English Language	93	Suparba Sudha Biswas
9	English Literature	97	Muntafina Musarrat Ethina
10	English Literature	97	Neel Nandini Das
11	Mathematics	100	Muntafina Musarrat Ethina
12	Physics	98	Mohammad Taher Musa

Seven (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Bangladesh Studies	99	Mashkura Sultana
2	Biology	98	Mashkura Sultana
3	Biology	98	Mohammad Ridwanul Islam
4	Biology	98	Afreeda Khan
5	Biology	98	Farhin Khaled
6	Chemistry	99	Farhin Khaled
7	Computer Science	100	Farhin Khaled
8	English Language	92	Mohammad Ridwanul Islam
9	English Language	92	Farhin Khaled
10	English Literature	91	Mohammad Ridwanul Islam
11	Mathematics	97	Taosif Mohammad Eusha
12	Mathematics	97	Prithviraz Banik
13	P1 Bengali Reading & Directed Writing	94	Agnidhra Das
14	P1 Bengali Reading & Directed Writing	94	Ramisa Rawnak
15	P1 Bengali Reading & Directed Writing	94	Mohammad Ridwanul Islam
16	P2 Bengali Writing	96	Ramisa Rawnak
17	Physics	98	Mohammad Ridwanul Islam

Eight (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Accounting	83	Mohammad Taskin
2	Additional Math	94	Aiman Reza
3	Bangla	86	Rumaisa Husain
4	Bangladesh Studies	82	Tahseen Hossain
5	Bangladesh Studies	82	Tasin Bin Masud
6	Biology	93	Aiman Reza
7	Business Studies	73	Adhora Afrin Niha
8	Chemistry	90	Aiman Reza
9	Commerce	67	Adhora Afrin Niha
10	Computer Science	89	Mohammad Taskin
11	Economics	51	Muhtasim Rahman Akil
12	English Language	86	Rumaisa Husain
13	Environmental Management	85	Tawsif Ibn Anowar
14	MATHEMATICS -D	97	Aiman Reza
15	Physics	90	Aiman Reza

SUBJECT WISE HIGHEST MARKS ACHIEVEMENT STUDENTS LIST
Half Yearly Exam 2024-25 Results

Eight-IGCSE (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Additional Math	75	Muntaha Noman
2	Bangla	85	Muntaha Noman
3	Bangladesh Studies	85	Muntaha Noman
4	Biology	88	Muntaha Noman
5	Chemistry	89	Muntaha Noman
6	Computer Science	84	Muntaha Noman
7	English Second Language	71	Sunanda Dey Shyama
8	Mathematics	88	Muntaha Noman
9	Physics	84	Muntaha Noman

Nine (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Accounting	80	Mohammed Abrar Islam
2	Additional Math	62	Mohammad Wajih Haider
3	Additional Math	62	Umaiza Mahveen
4	Bangla	83	Najifa Ibnath Tanha
5	Bangla	83	Umaiza Mahveen
6	Bangladesh Studies	84	Umaiza Mahveen
7	Biology	93	Nusayer Fahmin Joy
8	Business Studies	77	Md. Nuban Imteaz Mannan
9	Chemistry	90	Rudra Biswas
10	Computer Science	96	Mohammed Abrar Islam
11	Economics	75	Mohammed Abrar Islam
12	English Language	79	Nusayer Fahmin Joy
13	MATHEMATICS -D	85	Umaiza Mahveen
14	Physics	86	Raida Rahman

Nine-IGCSE (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Additional Math	86	Shahir Saeed
2	Bangla	69	Umma Aiman
3	Bangladesh Studies	69	Shahir Saeed
4	Biology	90	Shahir Saeed
5	Chemistry	88	Shahir Saeed
6	Computer Science	95	Shahir Saeed
7	Economics	45	Mohammed Abrar Islam
8	Economics	45	Md. Nuban Imteaz Mannan
9	English Second Language	98	Shahir Saeed
10	Mathematics	96	Shahir Saeed
11	Physics	87	Shahir Saeed

Ten (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Accounting	59	Prottoy Das
2	Accounting	59	Warda Nashwa Raihan Areeba
3	Additional Math	90	Farhan Chowdhury
4	Biology	88	Maneesha Debi
5	Business Studies	69	Prottoy Das
6	Chemistry	83	Mahir Wasif Faiaz
7	Computer Science	89	Farhan Chowdhury

SUBJECT WISE HIGHEST MARKS ACHIEVEMENT STUDENTS LIST
Half Yearly Exam 2024-25 Results

Ten (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
8	Economics	76	Nabil Farhan
9	English Language	79	Aaiman Iqbal Khan
10	English Language	79	Rai Nandini Sinha
11	Mathematics	14	AKM Arhamul Islam
12	MATHEMATICS -D	93	Farhan Chowdhury
13	Physics	91	Farhan Chowdhury

Ten-IGCSE (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Biology	73	AKM Arhamul Islam
2	Chemistry	64	AKM Arhamul Islam
3	Computer Science	59	Farhan Chowdhury
4	English Second Language	81	AKM Arhamul Islam
5	Mathematics	46	AKM Arhamul Islam
6	MATHEMATICS -D	64	Farhan Chowdhury
7	Physics	77	AKM Arhamul Islam

AS (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Accounting	27	Pratik Barua
2	Biology	86	Fabiha Nabi
3	Business Studies	57	Pratik Barua
4	Chemistry	90	Fabiha Nabi
5	Computer Science	82	Youhanna Afnain Newaz
6	Economics	81	ISTIAQ UL HAQUE IFTI
7	Further Mathematics	67	Joy Barua
8	Mathematics	93	Youhanna Afnain Newaz
9	Physics	78	Fabiha Nabi

A2 (CC)

Sl.	Subject	Marks(%)	Student
1	Accounting	60	Huzefa
2	Biology	70	Zubin Zubaid
3	Business Studies	59	Huzefa
4	Chemistry	78	Muhammad Ahnaf Rafid
5	Computer Science	96	Muhammad Ahnaf Rafid
6	Economics	55	Rumaisa Yalin
7	Further Mathematics	93	Anagh Tripathi
8	Mathematics	91	Muhammad Ahnaf Rafid
9	Physics	73	Muhammad Ahnaf Rafid

Parents-Teachers Meeting (CC)



On 1 December 2024, the Senior Section of CIDER International School hosted a Parents-Teachers Meeting to discuss the Half-Yearly Exam outcomes. Parents reviewed their children's exam papers and interacted with subject teachers to understand their academic performance and areas needing improvement.

The meeting emphasized strengthening the collaboration between parents and teachers to support students' holistic development. Teachers provided detailed feedback on students' strengths and weaknesses, offering strategies to improve performance. Parents actively participated by sharing insights about their children's learning habits at home.



This interactive session fostered a sense of shared responsibility, encouraging open communication and mutual support. Both parents and teachers agreed to work closely to guide students toward achieving their academic potential while maintaining a balanced approach to their overall well-being.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with a commitment to continued cooperation for the benefit of the students.

Moharrom Hossain

HOD, English

The Kaleidoscope

Call for Justice

"Beware of where your girls are going, with whom they are communicating, and why they are coming home late." These are common questions parents of girls face. But aren't these questions irrelevant? Why must a girl think a thousand times before stepping out of her house? This unjust burden exists solely because society erects countless obstacles in front of women.

Last month, as a member of an NGO, I participated in a protest demanding justice for Moumita Debnath. To our surprise, the crowd grew from about twenty to nearly a hundred people. I felt hopeful seeing such awareness among the public. However, something happened that left me deeply upset—a stark reminder of our backward and regressive society. The protest was going well until I heard Samantha, my colleague, screaming. At first, I ignored it, thinking it was unrelated, but when I looked back, I was horrified to see her being harassed. A man shamelessly tried to pull her out of the crowd. Before I could intervene, a group of people, mostly women, rushed to her rescue. They dragged the man by his collar and taught him a lesson before handing him over to the police.

This display of courage was the spirit I longed to see among women—the pride, the anger, and the call for justice. However, it also highlights a sad reality: women often become the biggest obstacles for other women. Before attending the protest, I was bombarded with countless pieces of advice, most of which favored boys over girls. For me, such advice is meaningless and deserves to be ignored. Why are girls considered unsafe on the streets at night, but boys aren't questioned? This mindset steals a girl's future, career, and freedom. Instead of saying, "Protect your girls," we should demand, "Educate your boys."

Rai Nandini Sinha
Grade 10 (CC)

Unhinged

Growing old is intimidating. Experiences shape who you are, molding your personality and delicate web of beliefs. Years rush by, leaving you with lessons learned while bridges burned light your path with fleeting embers of regret and growth.

Throughout my childhood, I never had a "true" friend. I was introverted, shy, and, at times, unhinged. I had friends, but I always felt crestfallen, as if none of them were genuine or worthy of my trust. I lived in an illusion, believing that having friends would make me happier or complete. Yet, I never realized until recently that it was all a delusion.

In high school, I joined a group of "shiny" friends. I thought I was finally happy. We shared nothing in common, yet I clung to that fragile bond. But deep down, everybody secretly despised one another. It became so toxic that holding onto those connections felt futile. When the group fell apart, I was shattered again, like broken glass. I felt like a wandering phantom, haunted by insecurities. To cope, I created an alter ego, hoping people would like that version of me. But peace eluded me.

Friendships came and went, and I constantly wondered if a golden friend group was just not my destiny. Every connection felt incomplete, and every failed friendship became a lesson. I mourned the fun and adventures I imagined others shared while I remained on the sidelines. Eventually, I realized that having friends would never heal me—I had to heal myself. When I finally embraced being alone, I felt surprisingly happy, as though I had been reborn. Years of chasing people dissolved into a sense of freedom. For the first time, I knew I was enough.

Being alone and being lonely are worlds apart. In crowded rooms, I once felt lonely. Now, in solitude, I find peace. It's indifference, not sadness, that fills me. Whatever happened, it shaped me into someone stronger, and for that, I am grateful.

Wara Nadeem Khan
Grade 10 (CC)



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Biplob Mallick
Moitreya Barua
Nur Islam Biplob
Ananda Das

Layout & Design

Mohammad Omar Faruk

 **CIDER International School**

53 A, Nasirabad I/A, Chattogram

Tel: 2580037, 09678777500

E-mail: cideris@cisbd.org

Website: www.cisbd.org