



प्रतीची *The West 2021*



Children's section

Maa Durga



Rayansh Das. (Kindergartener)

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A Foreword

It is my pleasure and honor to write a foreword for the children section of the 2021 BAGA magazine. Children's magazines open a world where children can find a story or art of their choice. BAGA 2021 is publishing a puja magazine Protichi and, one of the sections will cover only BAGA children's artwork and writings.

COVID-19 abruptly upended our lives last year and has altered the activities and dreams we plan for and look forward to enjoying. We have lost millions of lives. Pandemic has adversely impacted education, the economy, and social and mental health. Yet, despite those, we see encouraging signs on the horizon, facts of success, stories of hope, courage, triumph, and kindness towards one another.

This year BAGA will also celebrate our most favorite grand festival Durga Puja in person. Publishing puja magazine is one of the parts of celebrating this long-awaited festival. This year the children section of Protichi will publish marvelous artwork and impressive writings of BAGA children. BAGA kids have painted the portrait of Satyajit Ray, a renowned filmmaker, writer, illustrator, and music composer, to pay homage to his 100th birth anniversary. Other wonderful paintings include the characters or scenes from his movie. Other vibrant and colorful artworks, as well as black and white creations of our children, will amaze you.

BAGA children also have done many charitable activities including, donations collection for the COVID relief fund, March of Dimes, St. Jude, etc. as a part of the BAGA youth committee (BYC). In this section, all BYC 2021 officers have described all the activities they have done. This year March of Dimes has decided to use BYC's contributions to honor the healthcare workers who worked to improve the lives of Moms and Babies during the pandemic. As a special appreciation, March of Dimes will list BAGA's as one of the Fund the Mission supporters of March of Dimes and the medical community by featuring BAGA's name on their website.

Cultural programs by BAGA children always make us proud. They organized one excellent culture program to celebrate the success of BAGA high school graduates this year.

Proud of BAGA children and their creations!!!

Subho Sarodiya r Priti o Subhechha!

Mausumi Basu

Portrait of renowned filmmaker Satyajit Ray



Color pencil sketch by
Anushka Saha (6th grade)

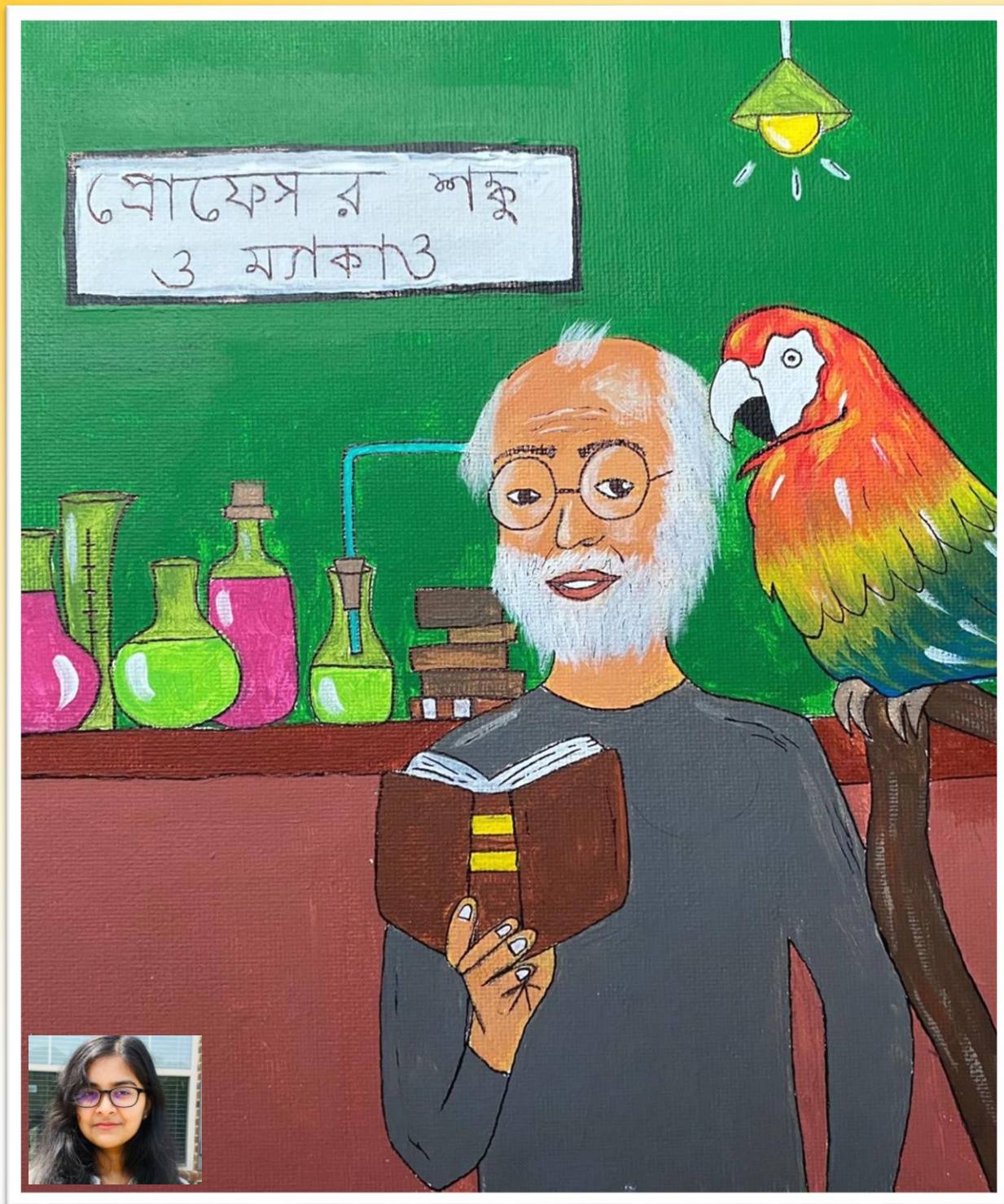
Goopy Gyne & Bagha Byne



Pencil sketch by
Divija Nath (8th grade)

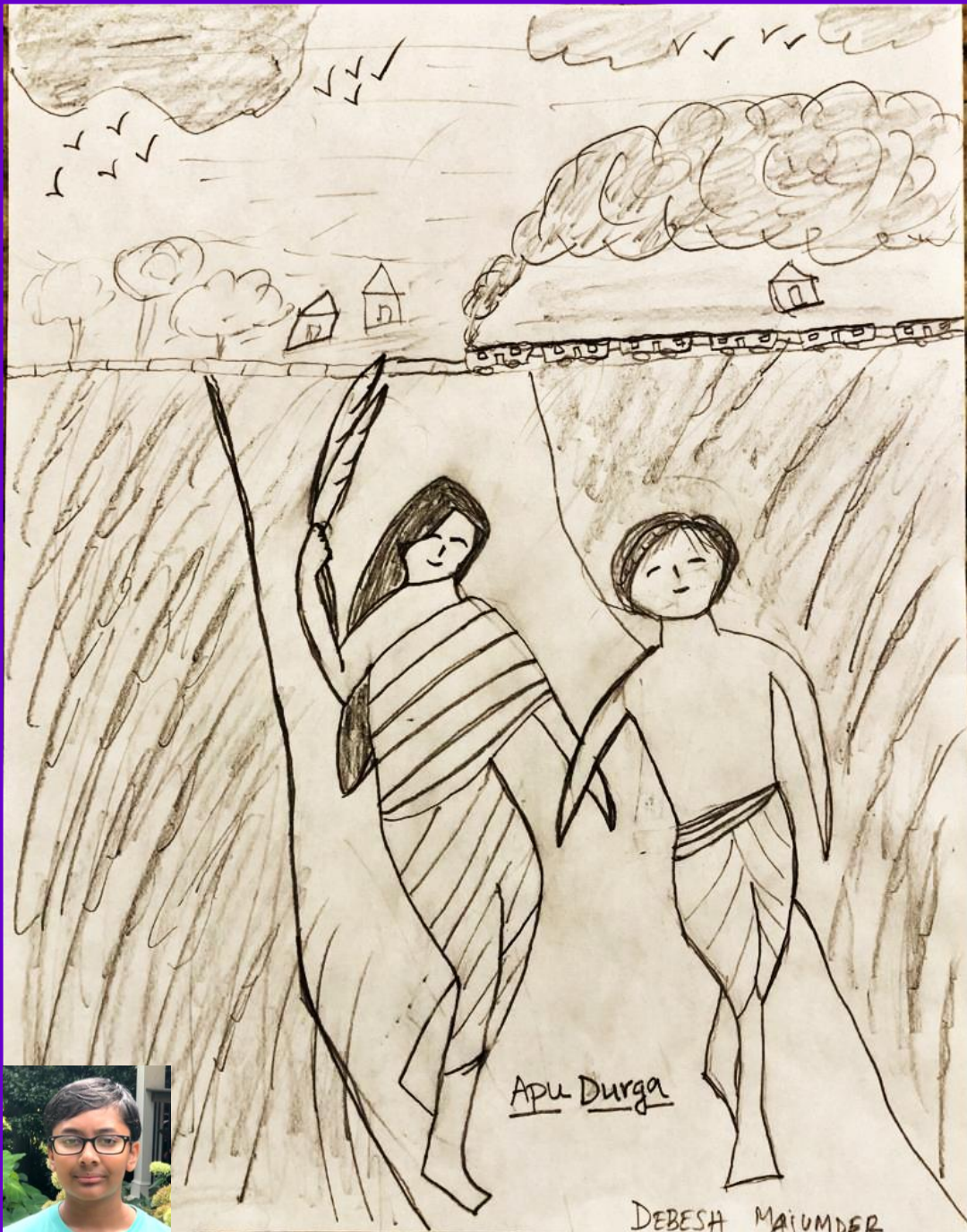


Professor Shonku, scientist in Satyajit Ray's science fiction books



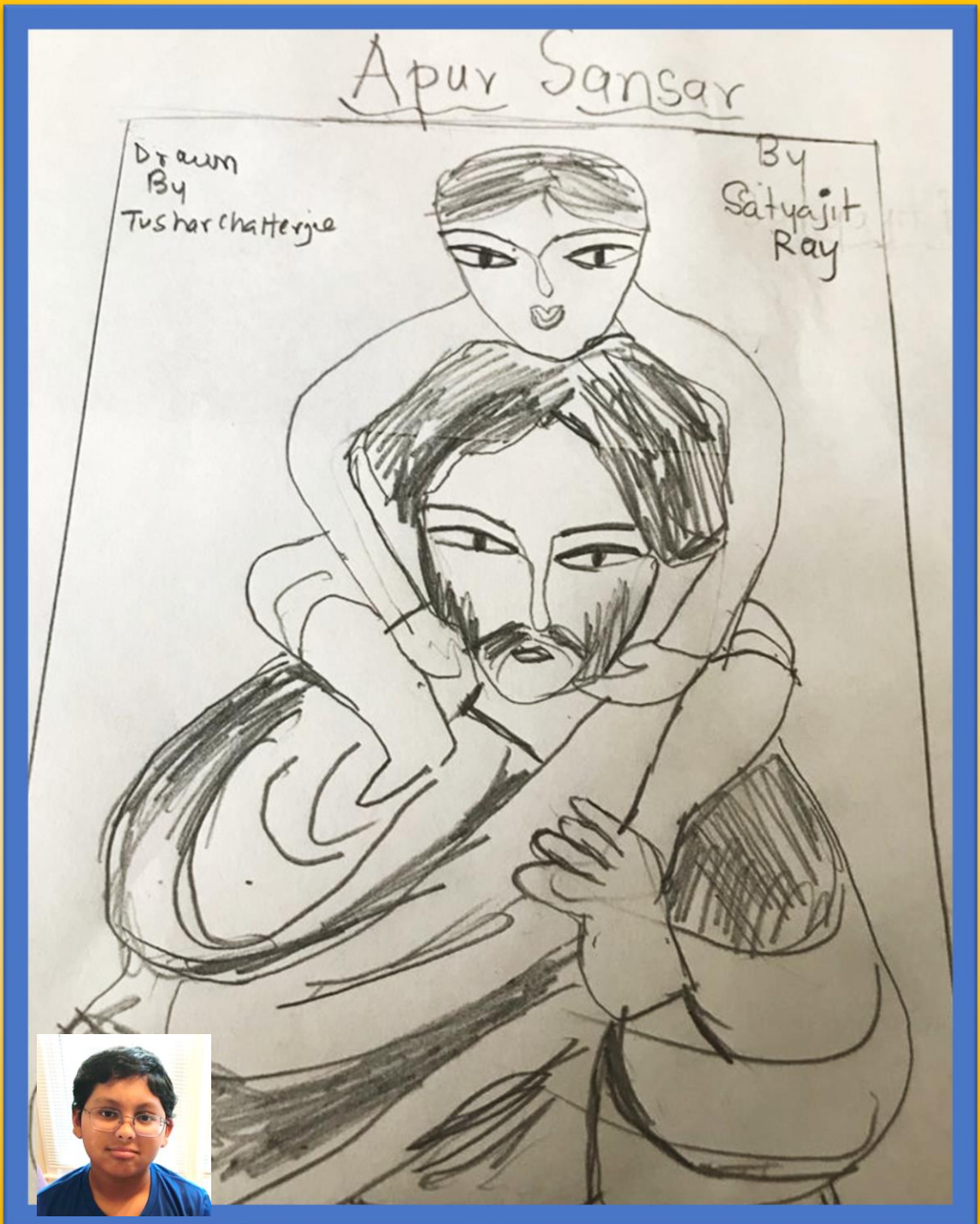
Watercolor painting by
Anushka Chowdhury (9th grade)

Apu and Durga from Satyajit Ray's movie Pather Panchali



Pencil sketch by
Debesh Majumder (8th grade)

Apu and his son from Satyajit Ray's movie Apu r Sansar



Pencil sketch by
Tushar Chatterjee (6th grader)

Portrait of Satyajit Ray



Pencil sketch by
Eshan Manna
(6th grader)



Kolkata



Pencil sketch by
Shreyaan Manna
(4th grader)



Mother and Child



Watercolor painting by
Arin Samaddar (4th grade)

Bird



Watercolor painting by
Arin Samaddar (4th grade)



Our Summer Vacation 2021

Nishant Das (5th grade)

My 20-21 school year ended on May 27th and I was excited about the long-awaited summer vacation. My parents decided to take us to some nearby places within Georgia. Our first summer outing was a trip to Helen, Georgia. It is a small town with a German theme, located in northeast Georgia. I especially love the waterpark and tubing there. We had been to Helen many times before and still love it.

Our next two trips were to the Vogel State Park and Amicalola Falls State Park. The Vogel State Park is one of the oldest parks located at Blood Mountain in the Chattahoochee National Forest. We hiked the Trahlyta Lake trail to beautiful Trahlyta Falls. We also went to the Amicalola State Park.



The Amicalola Falls is a magnificent 729 feet waterfall and is the tallest waterfall in Georgia. It is in the Amicalola creek in the North Georgia Mountains. In Cherokee language Amicalola means “tumbling waters”. We drove to the top of the falls. We took some snacks and food there and had a picnic. After that we went hiking down around 400 winding stairs to the waterfall viewing platform! We walked on a bridge there and enjoyed a beautiful view of the falls. Going up back to the top was very tiring; but I loved it.

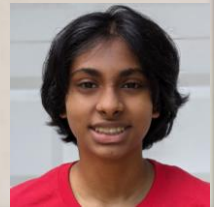
My parents also took me and my brother on a trip to Nashville, Tennessee. We went to see the Parthenon at the Centennial Park. It is a replica of the Greek temple in Athens, Greece. It has a 42-foot-tall statue of the Greek Goddess Athena inside. Athena is the goddess of war and wisdom. She is coated with 8.5 lbs. of gold leaf. She has a shield, sword and a serpent and she holds a 6-foot-tall statue of Nike, the Goddess of victory in her right hand.

The next day we went to the Country Music Hall of Fame and learned about the country music singers and musicians. We also went to the Grand Ole Opry. We took a backstage tour there and saw the dressing rooms of all the famous musicians. The Ryman Auditorium in the Grand Ole Opry House looks huge and grand. After that we went to Hattie B's famous Hot Chicken Restaurant. The food was spicy, but I still loved it. Then we went to Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams and tasted different flavors of delicious ice creams there.

Next day we went to the Johnny Cash Museum. In the evening, we walked on the John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge on the Cumberland River. We could see the Nissan stadium and all the beautiful tall buildings from the bridge. From above the bridge, my brother and I enjoyed watching a big river sand barge pass under the bridge. We had a truly wonderful summer vacation.



A Leaf



Pencil sketch by
Arushi Guin (9th grade)

Essence of fall



Color pencil sketch by
Sophie Williams (11th Grade)

Save Coral Reefs



Artwork by -Shaunak Hazra (3rd grade)

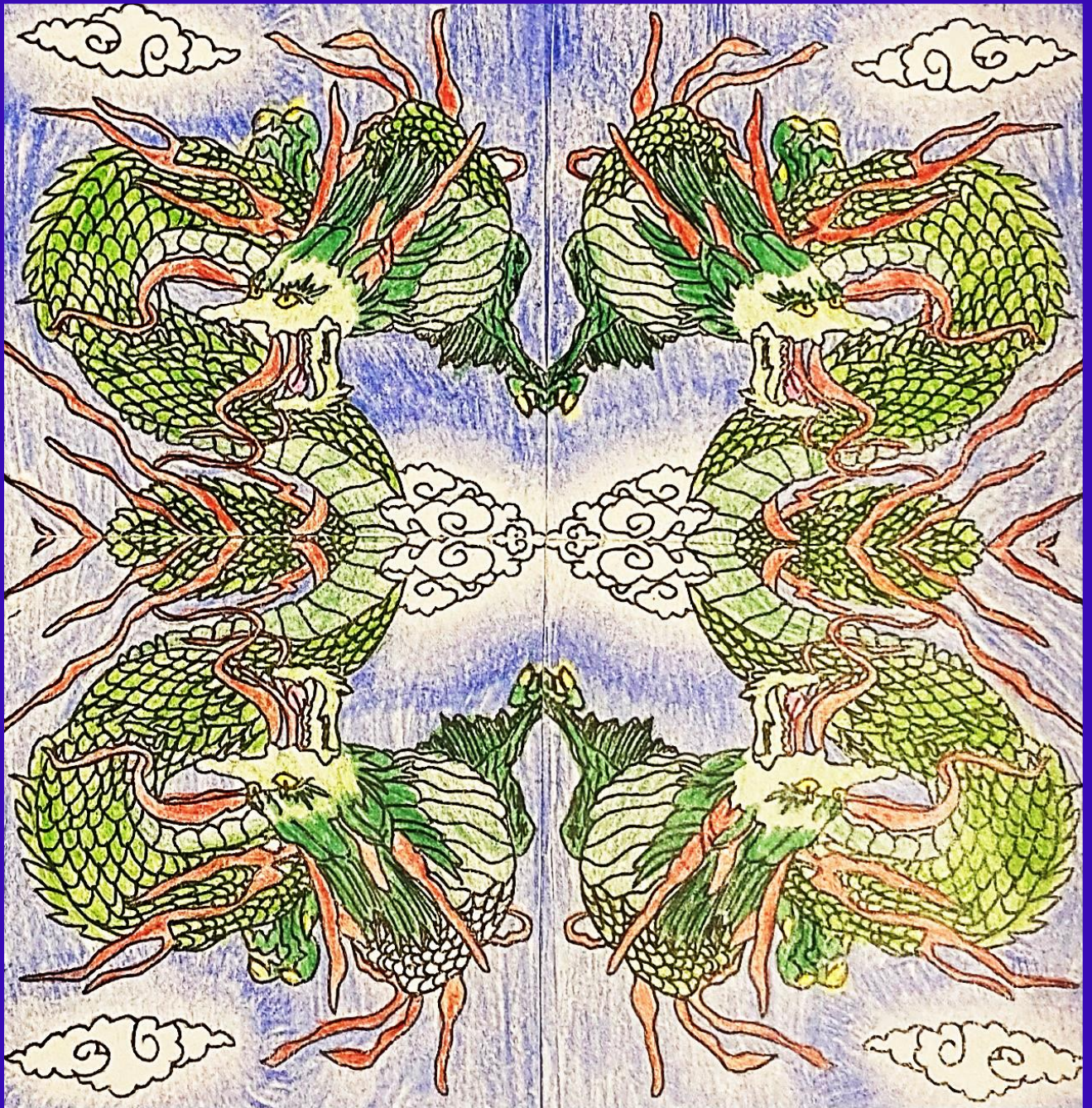
Nature



Color pencil sketch by
Om Guin (7th grade)



Japanese Dragon



Color pencil sketch by
Ritshika Mukherjee (10th grade)



My Drum Set

Aryan Bhattacharya (9th grade)

There are a variety of musical instruments, each having their own unique qualities. Some can produce melodious and soothing sounds, while others are loud and assertive. A xylophone is usually used as a background instrument and has a very soft sound whereas an electrical guitar is almost always associated with the lead singer and is at the center of attention. One instrument has always stood out to me ever since I had first discovered it, and that is the drums. I remember when I first moved to Georgia and one of the first things we unpacked was my drum set. From the moment I first saw it, to when I first started playing it, I knew that this was my calling.

The drum set is made up of multiple instruments, which are then all played together simultaneously. The most common format is a 5-piece set. This includes a bass drum, floor tom, mid and high tom, crash cymbal, and high-hat cymbal(s). However, it can be as big or small as needed, with some drum sets having more than 10 drums and cymbals combined. It does not necessarily have to be just made up of drums and cymbals though, and it is for this reason that I was inspired to play the drums - the freedom to play it however you want.

For instance, some drummers have been known to include hand drums such as the Conga in their sets. Chad Smith (drummer for the “Red-Hot Chili Peppers”) also has a signature “Ridge Rider” cowbell that he uses. Most people tend to only relate drums to heavy metal/rock and roll, but this is not the case. Drums have been used in jazz, hip-hop, disco, etc. Rap music is established to include electrical/bass-boosted drum sets as well. Certain songs have even mixed genres while using drums! A good example of this is the song “Old Town Road” by rapper Lil Nas x, which has both country and rap elements.

When I play the drums, I feel like I can take a break from the world. Sometimes if I feel stressed or pressured, I play the drums to help take my mind off things. Playing drums also creates a sense of curiosity, and I’m always wondering what new ways I can play it. Next year will be my first year participating in the Northview High School Symphonic band. I have played for the Rivertrail Middle school band, the middle school district honor band, the BAGA youth band and I am looking forward to the high school ensemble as well. I am excited to not only play the drums, but to also uncover all the other instruments that make up percussion. High school will bring many challenges, but amongst these challenges I am glad to include music in my journey.



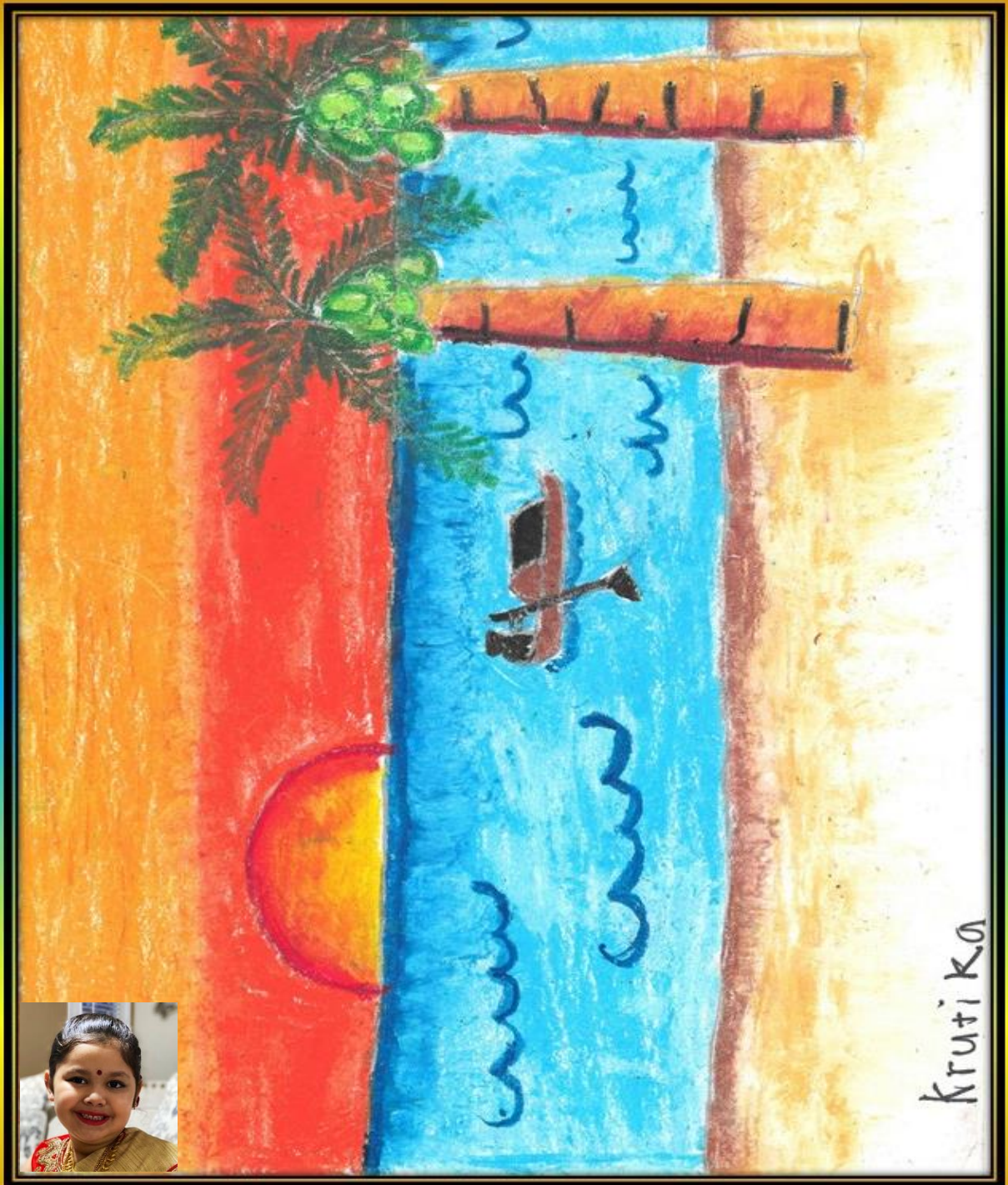
The sunset skyline of New York



Acrylic painting on canvas by
Krish Agarwal (9th grade)

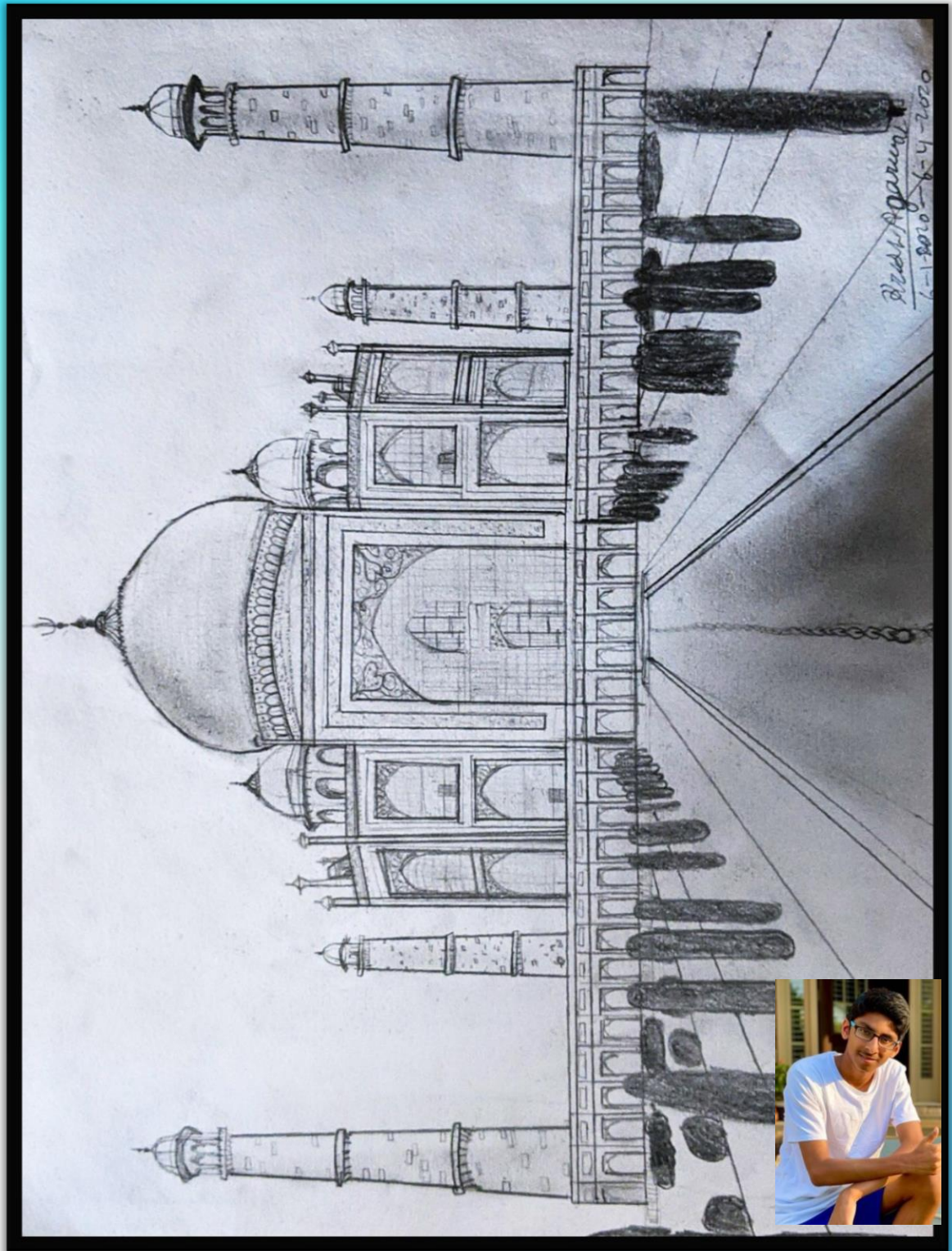


Sunset at the beach



Oil pastel painting by
Krutika Goswami (1st grade)

The Taj Mahal



Pencil sketch by
Krish Agarwal (9th grader)



BAGA Youth Committee (BYC) 2021

BYC 2021 officers and their accomplishments:

Mihir Paul, President



Despite the issues that we all faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BYC still managed to organize various events and activities that helped support people all across the world affected. This year, BYC worked with the BAGA EC and BOD to raise over \$12000 to donate to various Indian COVID Relief Organizations such as Sewa International, Bharat, Sevashram Sangha, AID India, and Mission Bengal. BYC also raised over \$1000 to support March of Dimes, an organization that used the money

to support healthcare workers who worked to improve the lives of mothers and children during the pandemic. BYC also involved the youth in fundraising through selling homemade candles and tie-dyed t-shirts they made. In the future, BAGA and BYC hopes to reopen pujas to everyone and organize the food stall that sells a plethora of Indian snacks.

Natasha Das, President



Hello, my name is Natasha Das and I am one of the BYC Presidents for 2021. This year has been very different for not only BYC but BAGA in general. COVID had taken a toll on all activities this year so it was up to the BYC members to come up with new ideas on how to raise money for charities, due to the fact of not having any pujas this year. We had all come up with two successful ideas: selling handmade candles and shirts.

We sold out almost immediately on both items, and we plan to make more for upcoming pujas. With the money raised we could donate to multiple organizations such as Indian COVID relief organizations, St. Jude, and March of Dimes. We don't plan to stop there as we want to raise more money to donate to Raksha, Asha for Education, and Atlanta Mission. Along this whole COVID journey the BYC members have grown closer together. I am thankful to be apart, of this group and not only spread my culture but also contribute to society. I am so excited to see what 2021 holds for BYC, and I hope we can make it a good year given the circumstances.

Aditya Deb, Vice President



BAGA holds a close place in my heart since I have been in the community for as long as I can remember. Through the years, I have actively participated in many BAGA cultural and religious events. I have also fundraised on multiple occasions for good causes as a part of the BAGA youth committee. Through my position, I wish to continue making an impact in our community and to those outside as well. This year as a BYC officer I have been involved in several charitable activities like donation collections for COVID relief, March of Dime, St. Jude etc.

Sunjana Das, Vice President



Over this past year, BYC has accomplished so much in our journey to better our community. One of the activities we've done that stands out to me is candle making. The entire BYC committee came together and made candles and sold them to friends and families. The profit made from this, along with the money made from 2 other projects amounted to \$660 and will be donated to St. Jude. Additionally, BYC collected \$1000 which was donated to March of Dimes. One of the most meaningful things we accomplished along with the BAGA executive committee and Board of directors was raising \$12,000 for COVID relief in India during their second wave of the pandemic. The money was used for medical supplies and oxygen concentrators. Some of BYC's future plans include organizing the food stall at Durga Puja and donating turkeys during thanksgiving. No matter what activities we end up doing in the future, the goal is to always have a positive impact on the community around us. Being in BYC has not only taught me the importance of giving back, but how simple it is to just help out in little ways.

Shreyashi Dutta, Treasurer



I am a lead in BAGA Youth Committee. In BYC, my team and I collected money from friends and family and donated \$1000 to March of Dimes. We also made candles and tie-dye shirts to sell, which raised us \$660 in total. During Covid, BYC teamed up with the executive board of BAGA, and we collected about \$10,000 through fundraising from websites. BYC is planning to organize food stalls during Durga pooja to raise money for organizations such as Raksha and Asha for Education. Being a part of BYC has taught me how to handle tasks diligently and serve in a respectful manner. Thank you to BYC for giving students like me a position to help give back to the community. As a BYC lead, I have made new friends and learned from old BYC alumni as well. BYC provides not only a platform to give back but also a chance to make connections with my culture.

Arka Bhattacharjee, Treasurer



Hello! My name is Arka Bhattacharjee. I am the treasurer for BYC. BYC has done so much for the community and I am super grateful to be part of the great cause. BYC has done great things such as organizing a BYC reunion, making candles and selling them to donate to charity, and we also organized an event where kids could design their own T-shirts and all the proceeds went to charity too. These fundraising events have taught me a lot about volunteering and providing for our community. BAGA and BYC 2021 have donated nearly 12,000 dollars towards a variety of Indian charity organizations. COVID has negatively impacted many people's lives and donating money to families in need really supports them and let us help to our community.

Ritshika Mukherjee: Secretary



Hi, my name is Ritshika Mukherjee and I am a BYC officer. I think this year is a great opportunity to raise money and donate to those who need help because of the pandemic. Not only do the events like, the t-shirt & tie-dye project and the candles for charity, raise money for those in need, but it also brings our community together. As for the future plans, I have no doubt that it'll be as big of a success as the past's events. I am looking forward to the impact we can make for others all while spreading out beautiful culture!



Aritra Saha, Secretary

My name is Aritra Saha and I am a secretary in BYC. Both last year and this year, BYC helped raise awareness for Covid and raised money for people suffering due to it. All the money we raised were donated to non-profits. We helped raise money for March of Dimes which is an organization with an aim to prevent birth defects. Some other things we did this year include putting together an online Congratulations video for the graduating class of 2021.

Sagnik Nandi, Secretary



As a BYC secretary, I have participated and contributed in many responsible roles. I have raised money for several charity and have participated in many cultural events for BAGA. BYC 2021 has more plans in coming days like organizing food stalls during pujo, food-cans collection during Thanksgiving and toys collection during Christmas.

BYC 2021 Coordinators:

Ms. Mausumi Basu and Ms. Sudipta Das

BYC Volunteers:

All high and middle school kids of
BAGA

BYC from 2008





Subho Sarodiya

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(*Children's section*)

