
Remembering the Great Sons of India: Celebrating Gandhi Jayanti

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Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated on the second of October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It is celebrated to honour and remember this great leader and his struggle for the freedom of India against the British *Raaj*.

Mahatma Gandhi was a great hero. He sacrificed his life to uplift the status of people, and battle for the freedom of his country. He was a symbol of love and compassion. This great leader was born on October 2nd, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujrat to Karamchand Gandhi and Putlibai.

In the year 1888, he travelled to England to pursue his studies, and returned to India after becoming a barrister in 1891. Mohandas Gandhi left his job as a lawyer since it was impossible for him to undertake the fake cases in court, and thus began actively taking part in India's freedom movements. Rabindranath Tagore bestowed upon him the title of "Mahatma"; ergo, Mohandas become Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhiji launched many movements such as *Satyagraha*, the Dandi March, the Salt Act, the Civil Disobedience Movement and many such more. It is due to the continuous effort of Gandhiji and his followers that India finally attained freedom on August 15th, 1947.

Unfortunately, this great leader left for his heavenly abode on January 30th, 1948. Even today, the entire nation salutes this great leader, who aided India to achieve her freedom from 200 years of domination and persecution through non-violence.

He was a true follower of truth and non-violence. Gandhiji illustrates these traits through the symbolism of the three monkeys:

The three wise monkeys are a Japanese pictorial maxim, embodying the proverbial principle "See No Evil. Hear No Evil. Speak No Evil". The three monkeys are: Mizaru, who sees no evil, hence covering his eyes; Kikazaru, who hears no evil, hence covering his ears; and Iwazaru, who speaks no evil, hence covering his mouth.



Summing up his beliefs, one of the most famous quotes spoken by the Mahatma is: *“Silence is the best answer to non-violence and anger.”*

Thus on the occasion of October 2nd, 2020, S.B. Patil Public School held a special assembly to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Father of our Nation. The day is also the birth anniversary of the second Prime Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri.



The programme commenced with the principal, Dr. Bindu Saini; and the coordinator, Ms. Padmavati Banda paying homage to these two great people. They garlanded the photographs of the Mahatma and Lal Bahadur Shastri. The school's Office Superintendent, Mr. Nilesh; pre-primary coordinator, Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni; secondary sub-coordinator, Ms. Nirupama Kale; and primary sub-coordinators, Ms. Vandana Sangle and Ms. Archana Prabhune also paid their respects.

Guided by the school's music teachers, Ms. Sulochana Pawar, Mr. Kuldeep Ghadge and Mr. Prathamesh Inamdar, the music team comprising of faculty members from the primary and secondary sections presented the well-known devotional song, *“Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram”*.

Following this, faculty members from both the primary and secondary sections presented a skit which highlighted the four golden moral rules of the Mahatma: prayer, cleanliness, *satyagraha* and the symbolic significance of the three monkeys: *“Speak No Evil, Hear No Evil, and See No Evil.”*



Another devotional song, *“Hum Laaye Hain Toofan Se Kashti Nikaal Ke”* following suit marked the value to be attributed to the freedom by the forthcoming generations.

Post this, the students from grades V to IX of S.B. Patil presented, via Google Meet, their speeches, self-composed poems, patriotic songs, mono-acts, skits, PPTs on *“The ideals set by the great sons of India and their relevance in the modern times for India and the world”*, and panel discussions on the Gandhian principles and their relation to the ongoing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

The participants had been practicing their performances for days, and had been guided by the CCA in-charge, Ms. Swaleha Mujawar; the Sanskrit Language teacher, Ms. Deepika Kannao; and the music teacher, Mr. Prathamesh Inamdar.

Following is the list of all the participating students:

The Gandhi Jayanti Programme Participants			
S. No.	Participant	Class	Presentation
1.	Eshita Patil	V-F	A speech on Mahatma Gandhi
2.	Sameera Kulkarni	VIII-A	Song: "De di Hume Azaadi "
3.	Anushka, Savari	VI-A	A skit on a life incident from the childhood life of Gandhiji
4.	Sahil Wagh	VI-E	A mono act on Champaran (An incident from the life of Gandhiji)
5.	Shreya Gugaliya	VI-A	PPT Presentation on the Gandhian Principles and the student community
6.	Anu Anil	VI-E	The influence of Gandhiji as a world leader
7.	Avani Khandelwal	VIII-B	Speech on Lal Bahadur Shastri
8.	Mahika Rege	VI-A	A self-composed poem on Mr. Shastri
9.	Gaurangi Sharma	VI-F	Ideals of Mr. Shastri applicable in today's India
10.	Keshav Bharadwaj	VI-F	Song: "Jai Jawaan Jai Kisan"
11.	Soha Shaikh	IX-C	An extract read from the biography of Lal Bahadur Shastri
12.	Atharva, Asmita, Aarohi, Shravani, Devanshu, Sunidhi, Hridaya, Rudransh.	VII-B	A discussion on Gandhiji, <i>Swachh Bharat</i> and Corona
13.	Samruddhi Borate	IX-C	A Hindi poem on the Mahatma and Lal Bahadur Shastri

The event, *in toto*, which was also live telecast on the school's Facebook page, was appreciated and lauded by all faculty present in person, and the students, parents and management, who were part of virtual audience. The paramount success of the day was owing to the mentorship of the principal, Dr. Saini; the school coordinator, Ms. Padmavati Banda; as well as all the section coordinators and sub-coordinators who has worked tirelessly to ensure the fruitful execution of the programme.

The creative initiative and determined efforts of the members of the school's Co-curricular Activities Department and the Music Department also were equally worthy of gratitude and praise.