

ASHOKA GLOBAL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2021

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EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's education system has been devastated by more than three decades of sustained conflict. For many of the country's children, completing primary school remains a distant dream - especially in rural areas and for girls - despite recent progress in raising enrolment.

In the poorest and remote areas of the country, enrolment levels vary extensively and girls still lack equal access.

*An estimated 3.7 million children are out-of-school
in Afghanistan - 60% of them are girls.*



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The underlining reasons for low girls' enrolment is insecurity and traditional norms and practices related to girls' and women's role in the society. Other reasons can be explained in part by a lack of female teachers, especially in rural schools. Only 16 per cent of Afghanistan's schools are girls-only, and many of them lack proper sanitation facilities, which further hinders attendance. Certain sociocultural factors and traditional beliefs also undermine girls' education. Girls continue to marry very young – 17 per cent before their 15th birthday.

In some parts of the country, a shortage of schools and insufficient transportation are the main obstacles to education – a long walk to school means fewer children go. Geographical barriers, especially in mountainous areas, also make it hard for children to reach the classroom.

A girl's education is not only a moral imperative but an economic necessity.

A strong education system is key to getting more children in school, keeping them there, and helping them to become healthy and responsible citizens.

Each year of schooling increases future wages on an average by 3.9%. Working at the national, provincial, community levels in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other partners, our support focuses on the most vulnerable people in disadvantaged areas, particularly girls, to combat the lack of learning caused by poverty, discrimination and conflict.



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In Rural Afghanistan, Some Taliban Gingerly Welcome Girls' Schools in 2019.



Habib-ur-Rahman has been running a small girls' school in his own home in this remote area of rural Afghanistan, which is largely dominated by the Taliban. The radical Islamist group forbade formal education for girls. But things are different this time, villagers say.

Some of the girls at Rahman's school are actually related to active Taliban members, and according to the villagers, the insurgents have assured them that they have no qualms with his girls' school. "Some of my students are daughters, sisters, or nieces of Taliban fighters. Mostly, all of these men are not living in our village," Rahman told Foreign Policy. "They are busy with fighting and hiding. But they encouraged their relatives to visit my school and get educated."



Source: A Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children

<https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/reports/global-initiative-out-school-children>



THEME OF THE MONTH:

WE ARE ONE

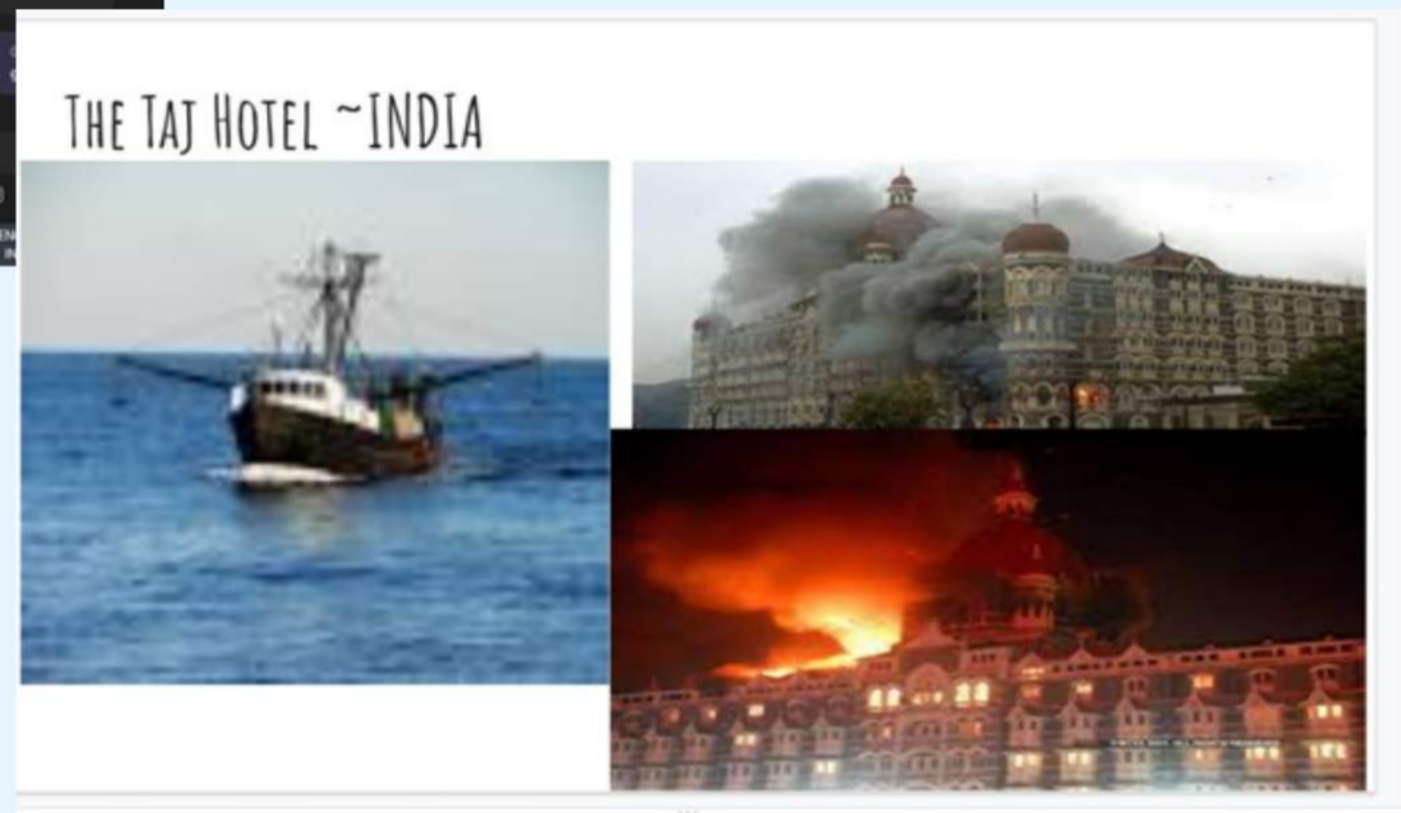
We are known for our unity in diversity. To carry forward the same legacy in our future generations with the same zeal and enthusiasm, has become the need of the hour. Keeping this in mind the theme for the month of September was planned as “We are One”, with an objective to make the learners realise that we are one whether in times of happiness or crisis.

To make learners understand the objective clearly the theme was divided into festivals for the primary section and global crisis for the secondary section. For primary section the focus was to give them an exposure on how different community and religion people come together and celebrate festivals together, whereas secondary sections were given an insight about how people belonging from the same nation or in fact different nations too come together and help each other in times of crisis.

A session was conducted initially where the learners were shown a presentation to develop a connection with the theme. Different fun activities like making of Ganesha with the help of leaves and card making activity was conducted to enhance their creativity.



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Secondary section was given a project to research and present in the coming sessions. They showed their presentation and research skills as they came up with informative and insightful presentations.

Special assemblies were conducted as parts of the thematic session were connected with current affairs. The theme of the month clearly made the learners aware anout how important and relevant it is to be united.



TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

From giving us a purpose to setting us up as successful citizens of the world, teachers inspire in us a drive to do well and succeed in life and to recognise this hard work of our mentors and gurus, Teachers' Day or Shikshak Divas was celebrated with great pomp and show.

Educators at Ashoka Global Academy ventured out to spend their day in the lap of nature.



GANESH CHATURTHI

CELEBRATION

Ganesh Chaturthi, a popular Indian festival, is celebrated every year in the month of Bhadrapada with fervour across India. It marks Lord Ganesh's arrival from Kailash Parvat along with mother, Goddess Parvati. This year, there were several guidelines restricting crowds and gatherings, but one can always celebrate with family or a close group of friends.



Students of Ashoka Global Academy celebrated this festival with full enthusiasm along with their families.



LET'S INTERVIEW OUR TEACHERS!

Our 3 new educators were given a set of questions to answer that will help us to know them better. Let's check what they have to answer for our questions.



*Mr. Anjay PA
Physics Educator*

Q1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

ANS: I became a teacher so that I can make a real difference in children's lives. I take the task of developing young people into kind, thoughtful and contributing adults very seriously.

Q2. What is one of your hidden talents?

ANS: I don't think I have any hidden talents. Maybe my students can tell me. (laughs)

Q3. What do you find most challenging about teaching?

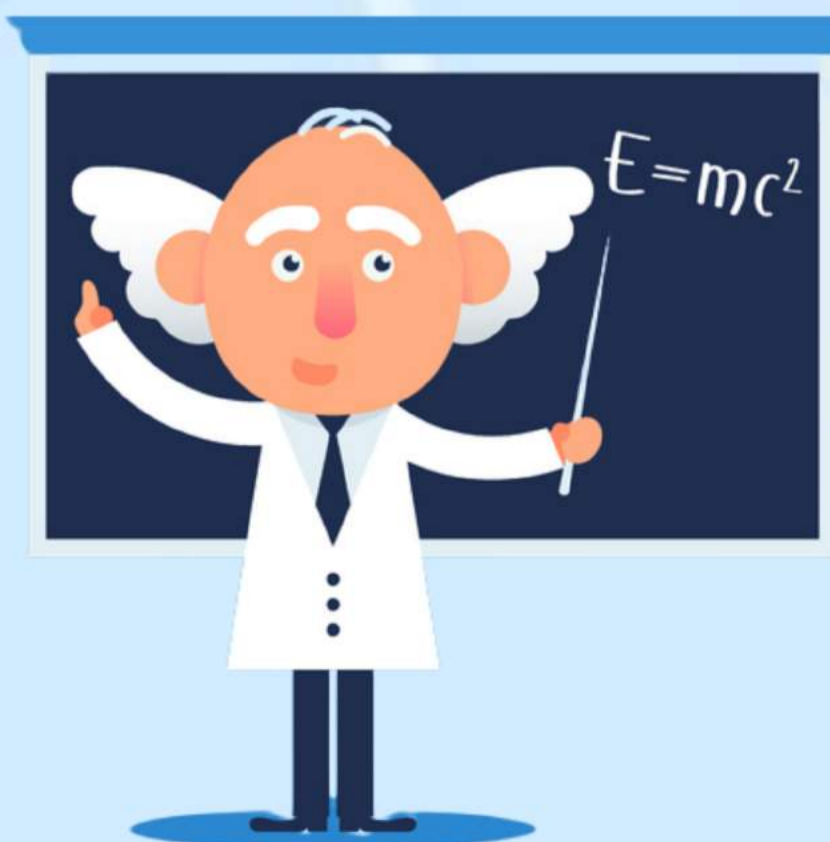
ANS: We have to be equipped with necessary tools and ideas to make teaching effective. However there is an overdose of ideas to improving teaching methodologies and better outcomes.

Q4. Describe your best day in class.

ANS: I am waiting for that day when things will get back to normal and students start coming back to School. That would surely be my best day.

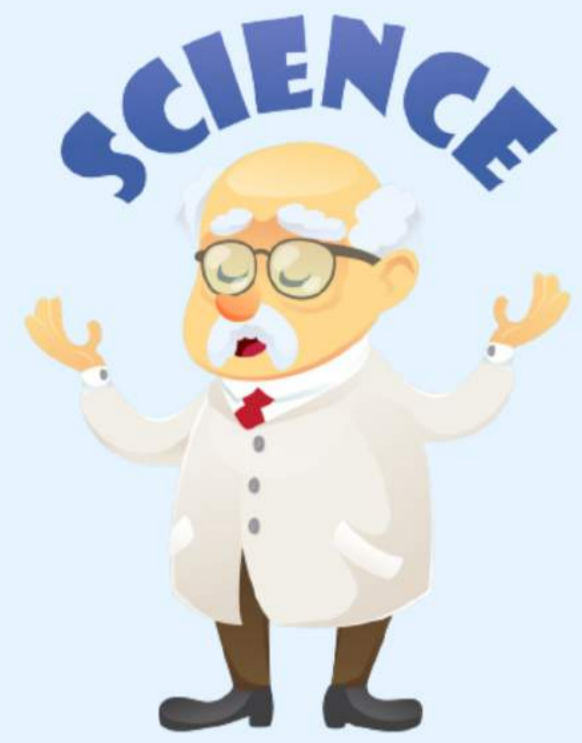
Q5. If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

ANS: Remember to focus on what is the best for you in the long run, instead of what feels easy, or right in the moment. Have fun, and most importantly, learn and grow so that you can realize those dreams. Get involved in extra-curricular activities, which will support you in meeting new friends and experiencing new things.





*Mr Udit Rai
Science Educator*



Q1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

ANS: Teaching is the way through which I can make our world a better place, and our future generation deserves that world.

Q2. What is one of your hidden talents?

ANS: Sketching and playing chess.

Q3. What do you find most challenging about teaching?

ANS: Students to be more self-directed. We look for a way to ease the pressure of students by keeping them interested and making sure that lesson practices and the homework delivered is fun, accessible anywhere, targeted to improve their weaknesses and ensuring that learning takes place in a more conducive, less-tense, less-pressured environment.

Q4. Describe your best day in class.

ANS: When my students enjoy their class.

Q5. If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

ANS: Enjoy your schooling to the fullest.





*Mr Arun Kumar
ICT Educator*



Q1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?

ANS: Passion for teaching and to make a change in students' choices by inspiring them to achieve their goals in life. I got inspired by my teachers who were very knowledgeable, caring and instilled motivation in my life.

Q2. What is one of your hidden talents?

ANS: Identifying the weaknesses of students and making changes accordingly in the lessons so that we can impart knowledge in the right way.

Q3. What do you find most challenging about teaching?

ANS: What students do at schools is just a fraction of the effort that needs to be put in for academic success. With this in mind, we have the extra added pressure of having students put in the extra effort outside of the classroom.

Q4. Describe your best day in class.

ANS: There is no particular best day in class. I try to make every class as my best class.

Q5. If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share?

ANS: Decide at an early stage what will be your Goal. Concentrate more on achieving your goals. Use the library more often. Do not keep your doubts within yourself for a long time; try to clarify as soon as possible so that you can excel in your subjects.



RETROSPECT: TEACHER'S DAY

CELEBRATIONS 2019-20

This was indeed the best celebration the educators of Ashoka Global Academy must have witnessed. It was a fun filled day and the most memorable one.



BIZARRE AND UNIQUE HOLIDAY LIST

Wear Something Gaudy Day *October 17*



Have a little fun on this day. For just one day, forego fashion and style. Look for something to wear that's really wild and wacky, and will stick out like a sore thumb wherever you go. If you don't have anything like this in your wardrobe, perhaps a friend does.

HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 31

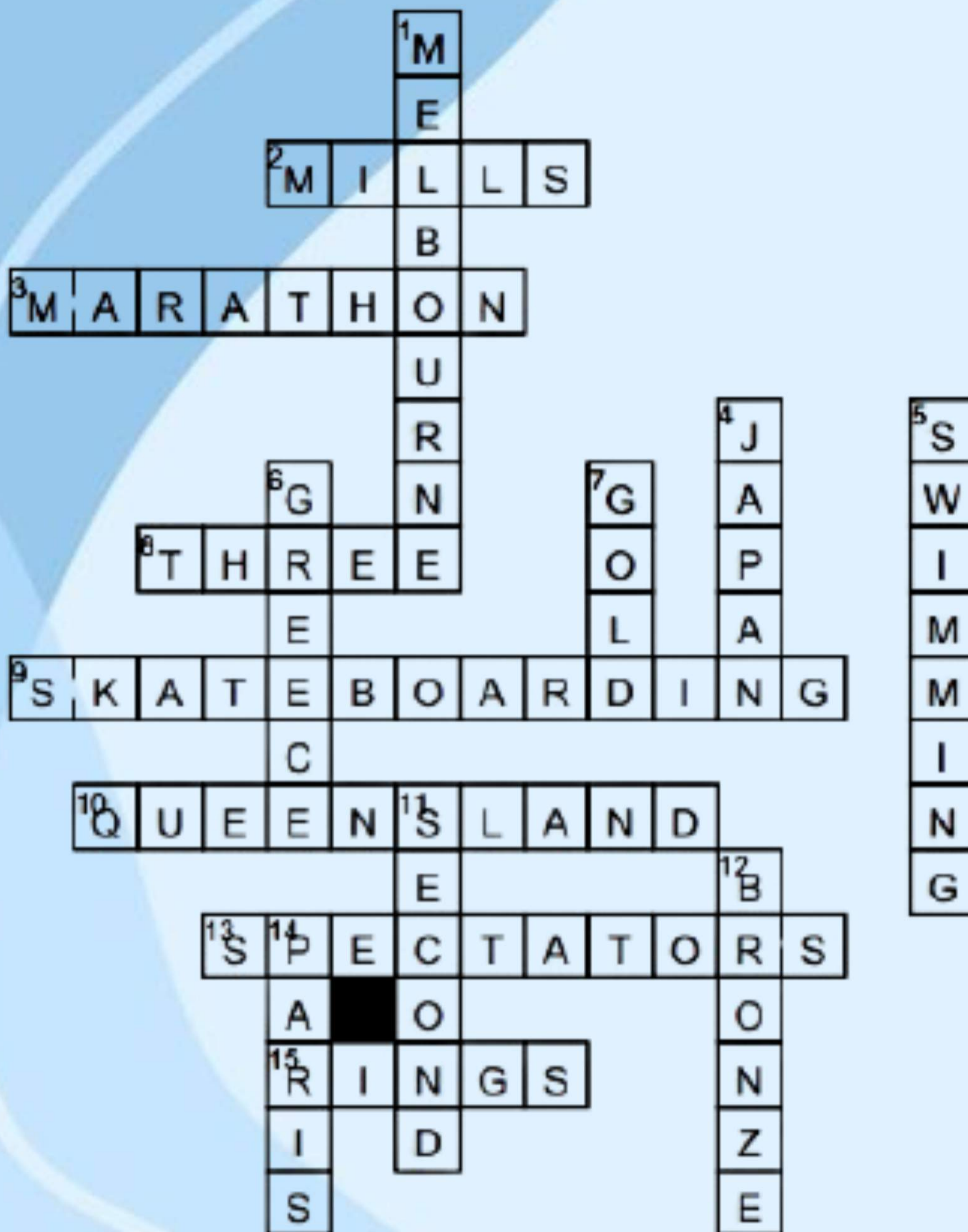
Bats, the Bizarre, Dracula, Ghosts,
Witches, Graveyards, Ghouls,
Haunted Houses, Halloween Movies,
Paranormal, Halloween Parties,
Pumpkins, Skeletons, Scarecrows,
Vampires.



Let us know how you celebrated these days by writing to us at
aga.events@ashokaglobalacademy.com



KEY FOR LAST EDITION'S TRIVIA TIME: OLYMPICS





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