CORNERSTONE Times

AUGUST 2025















IN THIS ISSUE

- FOUNDER & DIRECTOR - MESSAGE
- CS MUN 2025 – Voices of Tomorrow, Leaders in the Making
- Cornerstone Inventure – From Imagination to Innovation
- Freedom in Our Hearts, Pride in Our Nation
- Building Bridges Between Home and School
- Voices Of Valour – Expressions that Triumphed
- Orbiting Ideas – Young Innovators Dreaming Big
- Euphonious Journey – Notes that Mesmerised the Stage
- Her Vision, Her Science – Young Innovators Making an Impact
- Har Ghar Tiranga - Tricolour Celebration
- Beyond the Siren - A Day at the Fire Station
- Spotlight on Talent - Cornerstone at Inter-School Arenas
- Phonics in Practice – Teacher Development Workshop
- Beyond Gold and Silver - The True Wealth of Health
- Class Assemblies – Lessons on Values and Life Skills
- The Voice of Heritage - Celebrating Telugu Bhasha
- Veer Gatha - Celebrating Freedom, Celebrating India



A total of 7 students represented our school in the Extempore and Debate competitions.

We are proud to announce that our Grade 9 students, Abhipsa Panda, Valivarthi Shree Deetya, K. Shanmukha Sailesh, and Bollimuntha Manvitha secured the First Place in the Debate Competition.



Our talented Grade 6 students, Dara Havish, Jayadeep Madakasira, and Tejaswi Mamunoori participated in the Indian Space Education Conference held at T-Hub on 18th August.



As part of the nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, Cornerstone School hosted a special exhibit titled "Ode to the Spirit of Tiranga" on 13th August 2025. The initiative aimed to rekindle patriotic pride and deepen students' understanding of the national flag's significance.

Healing the Cracks Within: A Personal Reflection

Through this month's edition, I aim to share my personal reflections, struggles, and hopes, as we move forward together in shaping the futures of our children. Your encouragement and understanding are invaluable to me as I take this step.

The Significance of "Healing the Cracks Within"

"Healing the cracks within" is not merely a theme for our newsletter; it represents a journey that each of us undertake in our own unique way. Whether as parents, teachers, or guides, we all carry our share of cracks - moments of doubt, setbacks, or the heavy burden of expectations. True healing begins when we acknowledge these fractures. By recognising and confronting our vulnerabilities with honesty, we open ourselves to growth and resilience.

My Personal Journey of Healing

Throughout every season of my life, I have had to heal from within. Each phase brought its unique challenges, teaching me that real strength lies not in ignoring our imperfections, but in addressing them with courage and self-compassion. Over time, I have realised that embracing vulnerability enables us to emerge stronger and more empathetic, ready to support our children and students as they undertake their own healing journeys.

Supporting Each Unique Path

With my years of experience, I have had the privilege of supporting both students and, at times, their parents. I have seen that every individual's healing process is unique and progresses at its own pace. Yet, the act of healing remains both crucial and imperative - for ourselves and those we guide.

Here is a beautiful story, take time to read.

Once upon a time, in a small village nestled between rolling hills and lush forests, there lived a potter named Aadi. Aadi was known far and wide for creating the most beautiful and intricate pottery. Each piece was a work of art, carefully crafted with love and precision. However, despite his Once upon a time, in a small village nestled between rolling hills and lush forests, there lived a potter named Aadi. Aadi was known far and wide for creating the most beautiful and intricate pottery. Each piece was a work of art, carefully crafted with love and precision. However, despite his skill, Aadi often found himself feeling empty and broken inside.

One day, while working on a particularly challenging piece, Aadi's hand slipped, and the pot he was shaping cracked. Frustrated and disheartened, he was about to discard the broken pot when an old woman named Mira, who was known for her wisdom, approached him.

"Why are you throwing it away?" Mira asked gently.

"It's broken," Aadi replied. "It's no longer perfect."

Mira smiled and said, "Sometimes, the cracks are what make something truly beautiful. Let me show you something."

She took the cracked pot and filled the cracks with gold dust. When she was done, the pot shimmered in the sunlight, its imperfections highlighted by the golden lines.

"This is Kintsugi," Mira explained. "It's the art of repairing broken pottery with gold. The cracks are not something to hide but to celebrate. They tell a story of resilience and beauty."

Aadi was amazed. He realized that just like the pot, he too had cracks and imperfections. But instead of hiding them, he could embrace them and heal from within. He began to see his own struggles and pain as part of his unique story, something that made him stronger and more beautiful.

From that day on, Aadi's pottery took on a new meaning. Each piece, whether perfect or cracked, was a testament to the beauty of imperfection and the strength found in healing from within. And as he healed his own cracks, he found a new sense of peace and fulfilment.

The villagers noticed the change in Aadi's work and in him. His pottery became even more sought after, not just for its beauty, but for the story it told. People from far and wide came to see the potter who had learned to heal the cracks from within, and in doing so, had found a deeper, more meaningful way to live.

And so, Aadi's story became a beacon of hope for anyone who felt broken or imperfect. It reminded them that true beauty lies not in perfection, but in the courage to embrace and heal the cracks from within.

Healing from within is a journey that involves self-awareness, self-compassion, and intentional actions. Here are some practical steps to help you on this path:

Self-Reflection: Take time to reflect on your thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Journaling can be a helpful tool to explore your inner world and gain insights into your emotions and behaviors.

Mindfulness: Use mindfulness to stay present and connected. These ways help manage stress, lower anxiety, and promote peace. For me to seek my Lord in Word and Prayer plays a crucial part. And it washes me to see myself renewed.

Self-Compassion: Be kind and gentle with yourself. Acknowledge your imperfections and mistakes without judgment. Treat yourself with the same compassion you would offer to a friend.

Seek Support: Reach out to trusted friends, family members, or a therapist for support. Talking about your feelings and experiences can provide relief and help you gain new perspectives.

Healthy Lifestyle: Take care of your physical health by eating nutritious foods, getting regular exercise, and ensuring adequate sleep. A healthy body supports a healthy mind.

Set Boundaries: Learn to set healthy boundaries in your relationships and daily life. Protect your energy and prioritize your well-being by saying no to things that drain you.

Engage in Creative Activities: Express yourself through creative outlets such as art, music, writing, or any other activity that brings you joy. Creativity can be a powerful tool for healing and self-discovery.

Practice Gratitude: Cultivate a habit of gratitude by regularly acknowledging the positive aspects of your life. This practice can shift your focus from what is lacking to what is abundant.

Forgiveness: Work on forgiving yourself and others for past mistakes and hurts. Holding onto resentment and guilt can hinder your healing process.

Stay Connected with Nature: Spend time in nature to reconnect with the world around you. Nature has a calming and grounding effect that can help you find balance and clarity.

Remember, healing is a personal and ongoing process. Be patient with yourself and celebrate your progress, no matter how small.

Regards

Sharmila Solomon

CS MUN 2025 – Voices of Tomorrow, Leaders in the Making

The Cornerstone Model United Nations (CS MUN) was held from July 31 to August 2, 2025, bringing together bright young minds to debate, deliberate, and draft solutions to pressing global issues. Hosted by our school, the event witnessed participation from multiple institutions, creating a vibrant platform for collaboration and diplomacy.

Over three days, student delegates represented nations across six committees - Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), International Press (IP), United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and Lok Sabha. Engaging in rigorous debates on issues ranging from international security to sustainable development, they honed skills in research, negotiation, and public speaking. The sessions fostered critical thinking, collaboration, and diplomacy while nurturing empathy, cultural awareness, and leadership qualities.

CS MUN 2025 proved to be an enriching experience that not only deepened understanding of world affairs but also inspired students to value dialogue and cooperation in addressing global challenges.




SHAPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS
Cornerstone
CSMUN 3.0


Cornerstone
SHAPING TOMORROW
SHAPING TOMORROW
SHAPING TOMOR
SHAPING TOMOR
SHAPING TOMORROW'S
SHAPING TOMORROW'
Cornerstone

Cornerstone Inventure – From Imagination to Innovation

The first edition of Cornerstone Inventure marked an exciting step in fostering product design and innovation at our school. This dynamic programme empowers students to imagine, design, and prototype solutions for real-world challenges using modern technology. Through the integration of creativity, technology, and entrepreneurship, students were encouraged to think critically and design solutions with real-world relevance.

In its inaugural year, 20 contestants advanced to the second round, with 11 finalists presenting projects that spanned a range of topics, from healthcare to mechanics. Each idea was thoughtfully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting not only technical skill and innovation but also a sense of responsibility toward building a sustainable future.

Freedom in Our Hearts, Pride in Our Nation

Independence Day 2025 was commemorated with pride and patriotic fervour at Cornerstone. The official celebration for Grades 6 to 12, held on 15th August, featured a spirited performance by the band Goli Soda, whose patriotic songs created an atmosphere of unity and national pride. Adding to the solemnity of the day, Grade 11 students presented the Flag Code, followed by a graceful dance performance by Grade 10 students, which beautifully expressed the spirit of freedom. The programme stood as a reminder of the sacrifices made for our independence and the responsibility we hold as citizens.

The celebrations for Pre-Primary to Grade 5, conducted on 25th August, reflected the same patriotic zeal through youthful creativity and energy. Students participated in colourful dances, a Telugu skit, heartfelt Hindi poem recitations, and soulful independence songs. Their enthusiasm and sincerity brought out the essence of love for the nation, making the occasion both memorable and inspiring. Together, both events showcased Cornerstone's commitment to nurturing patriotic values alongside creativity and cultural expression.

Cornerstone Inventure – From Imagination to Innovation

Parent - Teacher Meetings for Grades 3 to 12 were held on 9th and 23rd August 2025, fostering constructive dialogue between parents and teachers. These interactions provided an opportunity to review students' academic performance, participation, and overall development. Parents also shared valuable feedback, making the sessions collaborative and insightful. Such meetings play a crucial role in strengthening the home - school partnership, ensuring that both parents and teachers work together to support every child's growth, well - being, and success.

Voices Of Valour – Expressions that Triumphed

On 21st August 2025, students of Cornerstone School participated in an inter-school event hosted by Kennedy High – The Global School. A total of seven students represented our school in the Extempore and Debate competitions. We are delighted to announce that our Grade 9 students – Abhipsa Panda, Valivarthi Shree Deetya, K. Shanmukha Sailesh, and Bollimuntha Manvitha – secured First Place in the Debate Competition. Congratulations to our champions for their outstanding performance and for bringing laurels to the school!

Orbiting Ideas – Young Innovators Dreaming Big

On 18th August 2025, our talented Grade 6 students – Dara Havish, Jayadeep Madakasira, and Tejaswi Mamunoori – participated in the Indian Space Education Conference held at T-Hub. They presented an innovative space settlement project titled "CS Base 1", showcasing creativity, problem-solving, and passion for space exploration. We are proud to call them our future space scientists and applaud their dedication to aiming for the stars.

Euphonious Journey – Notes that Mesmerised the Stage

A total of 30 talented students from Cornerstone participated in the Chirec Fiesta, demonstrating creativity, talent, and team spirit across multiple events. We are thrilled to share that our Category 1 Choir Team won 2nd Place in the Euphonious Singing Event, while Category 2 secured 3rd Place, enchanting the audience with their harmonious voices. Congratulations to all participants for their enthusiasm and to our choir teams for their remarkable achievement.

Her Vision, Her Science – Young Innovators Making an Impact

Cornerstone School proudly participated in Causa Scientia, the interschool Science Fair hosted by Global Edge School, Kokapet, on 26th July 2025. The event featured over 45 schools and 70+ innovative models, providing a vibrant platform for young minds. Four students represented Cornerstone with their unique projects, showcasing creativity and problem-solving. Among them, Suditi and Ujwala of Grade 10 won the "Best Futuristic Idea" award for their project HelGuard, a smart safety solution for bike riders. Their achievement highlighted the power of innovation and the growing presence of women in STEM.

Har Ghar Tiranga - Tricolour Celebration

As part of the nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, Cornerstone School hosted a special exhibit titled "Ode to the Spirit of Tiranga" on 13th August 2025. The initiative rekinvcvdled patriotic pride and deepened students' understanding of the national flag's significance, celebrating not only its colours but also the values it represents.



Beyond the Siren - A Day at the Fire Station

Students of Grade 5 had an enriching learning experience during their visit to the local Fire Station. The trip offered them first-hand exposure to the role of firefighters, the functioning of fire engines, and essential fire safety measures. Through demonstrations and interactions, students gained valuable insights into emergency response and community service. The visit not only deepened their understanding of safety awareness but also instilled respect and admiration for the dedication and bravery of firefighters.

Spotlight on Talent - Cornerstone at Inter-School Arenas

Cornerstone students actively participated in a variety of inter-school platforms during August 2025, showcasing their enthusiasm, teamwork, and creativity. At DPS Miyapur's Srijjan Short Film Fest, our students explored the world of filmmaking, expressing stories through visuals and ideas. In the field of sports, our teams took part in the CBSE Football Games and the Independence Cup – Cricket Tournament, gaining valuable exposure, experience, and sportsmanship. These opportunities enriched learning beyond classrooms, fostering confidence and camaraderie among students.

Phonics in Practice – Teacher Development Workshop

A specialised workshop on phonetics was conducted for teachers of Pre-Primary to Grade 2, focusing on effective strategies to build strong reading and language foundations. The session highlighted techniques to improve pronunciation, blending, and decoding skills, ensuring that young learners develop clarity and confidence in communication. By equipping teachers with innovative tools and methods, the workshop reinforced our commitment to nurturing literacy skills from the earliest years of schooling.

Beyond Gold and Silver - The True Wealth of Health

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver." These words set the tone for Cornerstone School's National Sports Day Assembly held on 29th August 2025. Students from Grades 6, 8, 11, and 12 came together to celebrate the occasion with spirited performances, speeches, and presentations that emphasised the value of fitness, discipline, and perseverance. The event served as a reminder to step away from screens and embrace physical activity as an essential part of everyday life.

Class Assemblies – Lessons on Values and Life Skills

With Ms. Parimala's thoughtful direction, Grade 8B presented a moving skit on inclusivity, where a new student was initially treated differently. The performance beautifully conveyed the importance of empathy and acceptance, reminding everyone that classrooms thrive when each individual feels they belong.

With Ms. Jyothi V's guidance, Grade 4B led a powerful assembly on sustainability through their campaign "No to Plastic, Yes to Sustainability." Using posters, slogans, and roleplay, the students encouraged their peers to adopt eco-friendly choices, inspiring a commitment to a greener future.

With Ms. Shikha's support, Grade 3B performed "The Latecomer's Lesson," a lively act that underscored the importance of punctuality. Through the story of a latecomer, students emphasised the value of responsibility, discipline, and respect for time.

With Ms. Debarati's encouragement, Grade 2C staged "I Can Do It!"- a heartwarming skit about resilience. The story of a child struggling to ride a bicycle but eventually succeeding served as an inspiring reminder of perseverance and determination.

With Ms. Anju John's direction, Grade 5B enacted "The Last Drop," a futuristic tale where a town runs out of water. The skit stressed the urgent need for water conservation, reminding students of their responsibility to protect precious natural resources.

With Ms. Chandni's care, Grade 1A presented "Manners Matter!" - an engaging act that showcased how small acts of politeness and courtesy make a big difference. The simple yet impactful performance encouraged kindness and respect in everyday interactions.

With Ms. Chhandasi's leadership, Grade 6A honoured National Sports Day with their assembly "The Paralympic Spirit." The performance celebrated the determination and courage of differently-abled athletes, inspiring students to embrace resilience and strength in their own lives.

With Mr. Chandramohan's guidance, Grade 12A addressed the theme of "Peer Pressure" through a thought-provoking skit. Their act highlighted the importance of making independent choices and staying true to one's values while navigating social influences.

Veer Gatha - Celebrating Freedom, Celebrating India

The Event of the Month for August, Veer Gatha, was a vibrant celebration of patriotism, courage, and national pride across all grades. Each activity was thoughtfully designed to nurture creativity, instil values of bravery, and deepen students' appreciation for India's rich heritage.

In Pre-Primary 1 and 2, our little ones folded colours of the Tiranga into origami creations, capturing the spirit of independence through the gentle art of paper-folding. Grades 1 and 2 honoured courage by crafting "Bravery Medals" dedicated to their personal heroes, celebrating admiration and gratitude in every fold.

Grades 3 to 5 celebrated Stories of the Brave through expressive poem recitations and storytelling, inspired by the extraordinary courage of National Bravery Award winners. Grades 6 and 7 turned their patriotism into powerful visuals in Creative Illustration, interpreting patriotic texts through original artwork.

History and expression took centre stage as Grade 8 students delivered moving declamations on freedom fighters, while Grades 9 to 12 impressed with Reporter's Chronicles – Live!, presenting engaging reports on overlooked chapters of India's history.

Through these activities, Veer Gatha became more than an event - it was a reminder that courage, creativity, and pride in our nation are values to be lived every day.

With this, we bring this month's edition to a close. Thank you for joining us in celebrating the milestones and moments of our school community. We look forward to sharing more stories, updates, and achievements in the next edition!