

THE SCHOOL CHAMELEONS CHRONICLES



January 2024



Our Pledge

I can create change,
I can transform my world,
I am inspired by what people do,
And my story is inspiring too.

I am a changemaker,
I want to inspire a million,
I can adapt and make a difference,
Because I am a school chameleon.

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Dear School Chameleons,

"Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today," remarked theologian Robert McAfee Brown, underscoring the profound impact of narratives in shaping our understanding. The art of storytelling is deeply ingrained in human nature, serving as a conduit for sharing knowledge, experiences, and fostering collaboration and creativity. A well-told story has the ability to initiate a paradigm shift within our emotional and psychological framework, opening minds to new possibilities, providing structure, and fueling creativity. Ultimately, stories have the power to convey messages that can transform the world for the better.

Enter the School Chameleons Project, an initiative striving to harness the potential of storytelling to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Through shared narratives on how schools are actively contributing to these goals, the project aspires to create a global platform for collaboration. The aim is to inspire and be inspired, collectively working towards achieving the 2030 UN SDGs.

The journey began with the launch of the School Chameleons Project in Mumbai in 2023, and while we've made strides, there's still much ground to cover. We are thrilled to announce that 75 schools have joined us on this transformative journey.

As we bid farewell to a remarkable year, we celebrate the success of the School Chameleons initiative in Mumbai. Congratulations to the 2023 awardees! Excitingly, our tribe expands nationally, inviting educators to champion the UN SDGs. Brace for captivating workshops, Stoffee traditions, and insightful newsletters! As we step into the new year, we extend warm wishes to all the inspiring School Chameleons, looking forward to the positive impact we can collectively create in 2024.



Feature: The School Chameleons 2023 Finale

The School Chameleons Program concluded on December 19, 2023, recognizing transformative efforts in Mumbai schools. Engaging over 350 schools, the initiative spotlighted projects aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing impactful endeavors. The immersive Finale featured narratives from 12 selected schools out of 100+, celebrating change, compassion, and innovation.

Keynote speaker Mr. D Sivanandhan, former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, emphasized schools' role as mentors and guides in shaping a child's life. Renowned actor Monica Dogra dedicated a special song, and notable personalities like Alpa Vora and Nandita Shah added to the event's charm.

Mr. Sivanandhan encouraged teachers, stating, "Schools play a crucial role; with vision and intent, they can produce scientists and Nobel laureates." The highlight was acknowledging and awarding 12 schools demonstrating exceptional commitment to positive change, chosen by a distinguished jury. Attendees, including school principals and teachers, contributed to the event's vibrancy.

The Global Chameleon Project, initiated in 2020, began with the Corporate Chameleons Program. Sudipta Dhruva, Dr. Amrita Rajpal, Ravi Rajpal, and Seema Sood collaborated to bring this initiative to life. Sudipta Dhruva, the concept's brain, emphasized the school ecosystem's role in achieving UN SDGs.

The organizers expressed gratitude to The Somaiya School for hosting and Prize Sponsor Amar Chitra Katha for generous support. Implementation partners included StoryTelling Works, The ABCD Show, and Qicom Brand Solutions.

This Finale marked the culmination of an inspiring journey, celebrating Mumbai schools' dedication and innovation in fostering positive change aligned with global sustainability goals.



The School Chameleons 2023 Winners



SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

DR. S RADHAKRISHNAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, MALAD
Story: An unprecedented switch



UMMEEMA SUTERWALA
SDG 5: Gender Equality

What happens when a young student questions why she cannot join the MCC which is considered a boys prerogative? By inspiring story of questioning existing norms and creating new spaces for gender.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

CHILDREN'S ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Story: Cutting Paani



TEJASWI SHINDE
SDG 6: Water Conservation

When students come up with a solution to water being wasted, they top into the local Mumbai specialty of Cutting Chai. Filling only half a glass of water instead of wasting what you cannot drink makes Cutting Paani a simple solution with long lasting effect for the complete community.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

SMT S.T MEHTA ENGLISH MEDIUM SECONDARY GIRLS SCHOOL.
Story: Deep impact on our hearts



SHAHIN S. MAPARI
SDG 3: Mental Health and Well-being

A simple story of a visit to a senior citizen home by students that not just builds compassion but becomes a joyous occasion for both. And the ripple effect of the transformation creates more acts of kindness of the school or well.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

JCBH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL: PAREL
Story: Burst of Bloom



JIGISHA GATHANI
SDG 12: Climate Action

From making best friends to watching them burst into bloom is an experience that allowed the whole school to participate and create a larger impact on the environment. What a beautiful idea!

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

SVPPV VIDYALAYA & SRI TP BHATIA COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, KANDIVALI WEST
Story: 'The Cloth Bag'



DR SANGEETA SRIVASTAVA
SDG 12: Climate Action

Who would have thought that the simple uses of a cloth bag made from used clothes can transform the community? A story of commitment to the issue of stopping the use of single use plastic, bags and creating an awareness about this important issue.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

VIDGYOT HIGH, AURULI
Story: From Doubt to Distinction



CHANCHAL KAUR & SUJA JOHNY VITHAYATHIL
SDG 3: Quality Education

Every child has unique learning requirements in the belief that drives this story. And when a school without labelling the child creates learning opportunities especially for him, it shows the school's commitment to the basic tenet of 'Education for all'.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

RUSTOMJEE CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Story: Breaking Taboos



SIMRAN BHALLA
SDG 3: Quality Education

A story of 4 students who take on the role of breaking the taboos on talking about sex education with other students and parents. And the teachers who supported their initiative.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

MET RISHIKUL VIDYALAYA
Story: If you think you deserve them, then preserve them



GAYLE D'SOUZA
SDG 6: Clean Water

The importance of saving our rivers which support our lives in so many ways, was clear to the students of this school. And creating awareness in the same through a performance and then following it up with specific actions is a story of commitment and dedication to the cause.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

THE B.J.P.C.INSTITUTION - JR. COLLEGE
Story: Integrated Plastic Recycling



VANDANA. S. SINGH
SDG 12: Climate Action

Taking on the responsibility of creating an integrated plastic recycling project is an ongoing initiative for any school to take on, and this story inspires us to take the climate change issue very seriously.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

C. P. GOENKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, OSHWARA
Story: Green Warriors



MS. PARINAZ BHAGAT
SDG 12: Climate Action

One person can make a difference with what they have. This was the message that clearly came through this story where a group of young students help address the traffic issue in the locality with a simple idea of using bicycles instead of cars.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

THE SOMAIYA SCHOOL
Story: Echoes of Empathy




MS. AISHWARYA SAMBASIVAN
SDG 10: Reduced Inequality

When a class of students take on a project to help poor children with hearing challenges, they too get transformed and learn the valuable lesson of the joy that giving brings.

SCHOOL CHAMELEONS
Tell your story, inspire change.

AJMERIA GLOBAL SCHOOL
Story: The Silver Lining



MS. EDITH PICARDO
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

A touching story of a boy's journey from depression on being his father to achieving the goals that he and his father had dreamt of and how a school played the role of supporting him with compassion and love.



CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

2024

January

January 20th: Kindness Mela

Timings: 9am to 1pm
Location: Somaiya School,
Basket Ball Court

*Hosted by Somaiya School and
Project Mumbai.*

January 28th: Non Violent Communication Level 1 Workshop

Timings: 9.30am to 5.30pm
Location: WIP
Facilitated by
Mukesh George & Vivek Kumar

February

Leap Year School
Chameleon
Pledge

School
Chameleon Talks
on SDGs

Online Workshop
by Eminent
Global Educator

LINK TO SUBMIT STORIES

We're eagerly anticipating your fantastic stories each month, and get ready for a monthly dose of Stoffees fun!

[Click Here](#)



In the realm of education, a bomb doesn't necessarily have negative connotations. Surprisingly, it can lead to flourishing—yes, I'm referring to a bloom. We're talking about seed bombs or Earth bombs. The entire JBCN International School community came together to witness the fruition of the seed bomb initiative.

During our unit of sharing the planet, serious concerns arose regarding rapid urbanization, greenhouse gas emissions leading to climate change.

As a class, we engaged in contemplation: What can we do? How can we make a difference? How can we showcase commitment through tangible efforts, not just words? That's when the whole idea of growing trees was suggested. Living up to the facilitator's name, the teacher empowered the learners to make earth bombs with a fistful of soil, seed, water, and a bag full of enthusiasm. Children made earth balls, dried them in the sun, and kept them ready to burst.

Children loved it. For them, it was play; a constructive play that gave them a tactile experience and a joy of creation. The real magic happened when they could throw them anywhere without the fear of destruction or damage. In fact they were encouraged to drop as many as they could. Even I dropped a few. This time the burst was going to be creative and not destructive.

Now there was no stopping; the excitement was contagious. The movement picked up wind, from one class of grade 3 to the whole school. Our eco-warriors excitedly taught their friends, family and society the art of bomb making that was sustainable and brought about a green bloom. Through the whole school common forum of 'Act to impact' we collaborated with preprimary section teaching them newfound ball-making art, to help them take sustainable actions. Our IBDP learners used them in a plantation drive.



The cherry on the cake was when we received parental feedback of learners making the seed balls for Diwali and bursting them instead of crackers; This time it was a 'Burst of bloom'. The bloom gave us reassurance that education breeds hope, and hope breeds new life.

The project was more than just seeds; they symbolized seeds of change, planted with the hope of a greener, more sustainable future. The entire process provided a holistic learning experience of interconnectedness of environmental issues to researching and selecting native plant species, students delved into the complexities of ecological balance.

As the seed bombs burst into life, so did the realization that small actions, when multiplied, can have a significant impact. The learners sparked conversations about being responsible citizens within the local and global community by actively contributing towards a sustainable solution. The making of seed bombs was a testament to the power of education in action. Today, I narrate this story with with pride and belief that the story will be retold through the platform of stoffees for a greater climate action change

As rightly said by Greta Thunberg; Alone we can do so little together we can do so much.

School Chameleon through the platform of stoffees provided us with a gateway to growth and encouragement through the catalyst of shared learning towards a powerful journey of self-improvement to nurture conscious learners for a woke tomorrow.

- Jigisha



PARTNER PROFILE



About Amar Chitra Katha:

Founded in 1967, Amar Chitra Katha is India's leading children's publisher, with iconic retellings of Indian mythology, history and literature, in the comic format. The brand has become a permanent fixture in India's cultural landscape today and is venerated for its signature art style and accessible prose, reintroducing generations of Indian children across the world to their roots. Amar Chitra Katha has also made great forays in the digital space with all their books having a vibrant global readership through the Amar Chitra Katha and Tinkle apps, as well as a presence on many other digital platforms such as Alexa, YouTube etc. Furthermore, the company continues to add new titles to its catalogue, with new themes, topics and adapting its iconic art style to endear the brand to a new generation of young readers.

How can teachers make stories engaging for children?

As India's beloved storytellers for the past 56 years, our master storytellers take pride in designing newer methods to keep children engaged and entertained throughout their sessions. Some techniques that you can put into practice easily are -

1. **Incorporate Props and Visual Aids:** Use items like puppets, pictures, or even a simple scarf to enhance the storytelling experience. Props can make abstract ideas more concrete and can also maintain children's attention.
2. **Create a Storytelling Environment:** Use a special story chair, a storytelling corner, or even a simple carpet to create an environment where children understand that it's storytelling time.
3. **Use Sound Effects:** Clap, snap, stomp, or use musical instruments to accentuate certain parts of the story. Recorded sound effects or background music can also enhance the atmosphere.
4. **Personalize Stories:** Relate the story to children's lives or incorporate their names and characteristics into the narrative.
5. **Incorporate Technology:** Using tablets or projectors to showcase animated versions of the story or related videos can make it more captivating for tech-savvy children.



PARTNER PROFILE



About Waully:

Waully, India's leading Digital Signage Solution provider is offering education-focused digital signage, catering to schools' unique needs. Digital Signage in schools addresses the critical need for efficient communication. It ensures timely dissemination of information, such as announcements, schedules, and emergency alerts, fostering a safer environment.

Visual appeal of digital signage improves information recall by to 75% among students. Real-time updates reduce the reliance on traditional, static communication methods, promoting sustainability. Digital Signage also acts as a versatile platform to showcase achievements, events, and educational content, boosting school pride.

Explore the future of campus communication with Waully today! Your gateway to a digitally transformed campus experience awaits!

GLOBAL NEWS



SDG Resources for Educators - Partnerships For The Goals

Elevating global collaboration, education proves indispensable for achieving SDG-17. From early childhood to secondary stages, it cultivates vital partnerships, fostering social awareness and sustainable development goals without monetary emphasis.

[Read Here](#)



The UN's Sustainable Development Goals and How Schools Can Participate

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), born out of the 2030 Agenda, form a comprehensive roadmap for global prosperity and environmental stewardship. Emphasizing the interconnectedness of goals, students and schools play a crucial role in realizing these ambitions by fostering sustainability education, engaging in actionable initiatives, and collaborating with diverse stakeholders to address pressing challenges at local and global levels.

[Read Here](#)



IN THE PRESS



Mid-Day

Free Press Journal

Building sustainable futures

With every passing day, there is a need to educate the future about sustainability. For the last three months, Sudipta Dhiru's The School Chameleons Program has been in conversation with over 350 schools across Mumbai, trying to understand new ideas for conservation that have found their way into practical education. "We realised that a lot of schools have done work in line with the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs). If these

lessons are shared, they could help others," Dhiru (below) revealed. Initiatives included ideas on plastic integration, water conservation, or even simple self-care such as a water bell to remind students and teachers to hydrate themselves. The programme concluded with a finale in Ghatkopar earlier this week. "We had identified about six SDGs on which schools submitted their stories. This was a teacher/principal programme but was interesting to students as well," she said.



D. Sivanandhan Celebrates Mumbai Schools' Positive Impact at the Inaugural School Chameleon Awards



The School Chameleons Program concluded its ground-breaking initiative with a spectacular Finale on December 19, 2023,

recognizing and celebrating the transformative efforts of Mumbai schools. The event served as a dynamic platform to showcase inspiring stories of positive change and innovation. The program, engaging with over 350 schools, spotlighted initiatives aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), revealing remarkable endeavors that have made a lasting impact on communities and set a positive trajectory for the future.

Hindustan Times

India Today
(Click to Read)

OPE

MUMBAI
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2023

Schools foster change with sustainability



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The Finale, an immersive experience, featured narratives from 12 selected schools out of 100+. These schools shared compelling stories of change, compassion, and innovation, celebrating initiatives that fostered inspiration within the educational landscape. Keynote speaker D Sivanandhan, former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, addressed the audience, while renowned actor and musician Monica Dogra dedicated a special song to inspiration and innovation. Notable personalities like Alpa Vora, UNICEF - Child Protection Specialist, Nandita Shah, Co-founder- Akshara Centre, Rekha Shahani Educationist & changemaker amongst others added to the event's charm.

Encouraging the teachers and School principals present Sivanandhan said, "The finest of prodigy's come from the simplest of schools. Schools play the role of a mentor and guide in every child's life and if each school decides it can produce scientists and Nobel laureates, all they need is the vision and the design complemented by pure intent. I myself am a product of five different schools and I managed to make something of myself I am sure every child has the potential to become a value creating individual. Let us every opportunity to produce Kalam and Chandrayan directors!"

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The highlight was the acknowledgment and awarding of 12 schools demonstrating exceptional commitment to positive change. Chosen by a distinguished jury, these schools became beacons of transformative education, inspiring others to follow suit. Attendees, including school principals, teachers, and the wider community, contributed significantly to the event's vibrancy, and shared commitment.

The Global Chameleon Project, initiated in 2020, started with Corporate chameleons program with more than 100 corporates participating. This team comprises passionate storytellers, educators, and experience creators. The founders—Sudipta Dhiru, Trainer & Storyteller; Dr. Amrita Rajpal, investor and mentor and Seema Sood, brand and marketing enthusiast—collaborated to bring this initiative to life. Speaking on the occasion, Sudipta Dhiru, the brain behind this concept said, "The school eco system has a huge role to play in achieving the UN SDGs and it is time to create a platform to recognise, celebrate and learn from their stories."

The organizers expressed gratitude to Sonaiya School for hosting the event and to Prize Sponsor Amar Chitra Katha for their generous support. Implementation partners included StoryTelling Works, The ABCD Show, and Qicom Brand Solutions.

INDIA TODAY

News / PR Newswire

PR Newswire

SDGs in Action: D. Sivanandhan Celebrates Mumbai Schools' Positive Impact at the Inaugural School Chameleon Awards

MUMBAI, India, Dec. 20, 2023 /PRNewswire/ — The School Chameleons Program concluded its ground-breaking initiative with a spectacular Finale on December 19, 2023, recognizing and celebrating the transformative efforts of Mumbai schools. The event served as a dynamic platform to showcase inspiring stories of positive change and innovation.



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About School Chameleons

Business Today
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Contact
Details

schoolconnect@schoolchameleons.com

Website: www.schoolchameleons.com

Contact No: 9892672603 (Sudipta)

