

# Friends of Taktse *UPDATE*

Taktse International School  
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[www.taktse.org](http://www.taktse.org)

## Thank-you Edition March 2021

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### Taktse begins reopening!

*by Ms. Tshering Palmu & Ms. Dawa Yolmo*

On March 9, Taktse resumed in-person learning for some grades as the pandemic that has claimed at least 135 lives in Sikkim subsides. We are as excited to see our students back on campus as they are to attend classes in person!

Our students will need to brush up on their test taking and time management skills, as they have been working exclusively online for many months. However, we are confident that by combining all our efforts, we will manage quite well.

Practice exams in math, history, biology and accounting have been the order of the day. We have set a taxing daily schedule for ourselves, but our PE teacher Mr. Topden is organizing breaks for physical exercise when the weather permits.

Our teachers are working closely with students over weekends and late evenings to help them catch up (with masks on, of course!). We are giving the best that we can to ensure the success of our students.

We will send parents individual reports on their child's academic progress and make ourselves available to discuss their concerns about their performance in school.

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*Thank you Mr. Namgyal, and to all who contributed to this newsletter!*



### Online teaching

*by Gyan Chandra Gurung, Math Department*

Covid struck, and a sudden shift to online teaching from the usual in-person mode posed a new challenge to us. The transition was painful. Without the buzz of the classroom setting (the teacher's kingdom), teaching from home made us feel isolated from our students and all the synergistic elements within the classroom setting.

The initial phase of online teaching was awful. Converting bedrooms into classrooms, touch screens into whiteboards, fingers into pens for on-screen

corrections. Whew! We had to rely on phone and wifi networks to prevent ourselves from virtually disappearing, or to find students who had virtually disappeared!

Online teaching required much more effort. We had to learn new teaching aids and create modules to make our lessons effective. On-screen correcting posed another challenge because we had difficulty providing immediate feedback to our learners. Digital education transformed our teaching and learning experiences, and I would say that parts of it are here to stay.

Covid -19 will remind us of the battle teachers fought to deliver effective, high-quality education in order to sustain the academic progression of our students.



## Taktse reunion

by Tenzing Choden Namgyal

On January 31, 2021 a group of 12 Taktse alumni gathered at the Chandmari House to reminisce about the past, discuss the present and look toward the future. This meeting was organised by Tshering Wangyal (Class of 2018). It was one of the first official meetings for Taktse alumni. Members reconnected over pizzas, ice breaker games, origami and conversation.



Previously, the Taktse Alumni, in collaboration with Pitstop, Voyage and Goenkans Gangtok Alumni, had organised a Clean Up Drive in order to spread awareness about littering and to preserve our pristine environment. The Clean Up Drive was the brainchild of Zangyal Dorjee (Class of 2014) who had suggested doing something good for the community on the Taktse Alumni whatsapp group.



What started out with a small group of mostly Taktse Alumni, which grew each week and even gained attention from a local media page.



However, due to the growing number of cases of COVID-19, the Clean Up Drive had to be curtailed.

During the meeting at Chandmari, the members discussed different ways to make the alumni group more active, more efficient and better connected. Ideas such as going on camping trips, counseling Taktse students for college, and having a more structured organisation were discussed. By the end of the soiree, alumni of different classes had bonded over jokes, school stories and this idea of what it really means to be a Taktse graduate.

Although a date has not yet been set for the next alumni meeting, the positive response generated by this meeting has certainly rekindled a sense of the Taktse school spirit.



## Give Yourself a Hug!

The Covid pandemic has increased the risk of hugging others, so Music Teacher Mr. Pemba Tamang came up with a song about giving yourself a hug.

Click [HERE](#) to check it out!



Mr. Pemba Tamang  
Music Teacher





## Drop everything and read!

by Ms. Bonisha Bhattacharyya

Drop everything and Read took place on Valentine's Day weekend, and boy, what a weekend it was! The sun shone brightly as we journeyed our way into the three days of reading at the Taktse stall on M.G.Marg.

People swarmed around our stall, walked in and out of our little reading zone, dropped hearts at the counter, and sometimes did a little jiggle with us, too!

Our students and colleagues stood motivated, hand in hand, meting out their solidarity towards reading, and it was a sight to behold.

At Taktse, we value collaboration, and this was the right kind of platform to work together as a community of readers.



On the third day of the book fair, we got our colleagues from the Nepali Literary Society, Sanskrit Books Society, and the Hindi Literary Society to join us for a 30 minute read aloud poetry session. No prizes for guessing. The event was an absolute showstopper. Members read out poetry in different languages, and some even sang verses. Taktse volunteers read out poems by W.H Auden and Sylvia Plath. Our event inspired the Nepali Literary Society to host their own poetry reading session, and guess what? We were invited to it, too!

Once again, Taktse paved the way for so many others to feel more inspired and connected. We value that we are part of the beginning. We value that we stand to change!





## Book recommendations

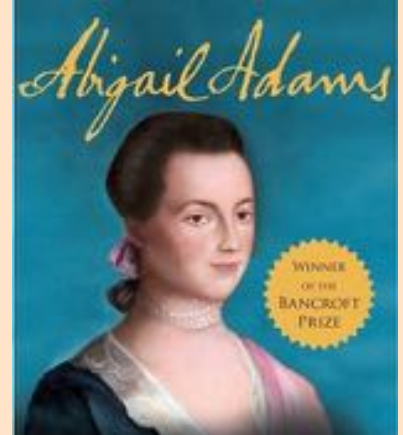
Are you looking for a birthday present for your child or grandchild?  
Following are three books recommended by Taktse students!



### Abigail Adams

"When I will grow up I will also work for the weaker section of the society just like Abigail helped the beggars and their children to be independent."

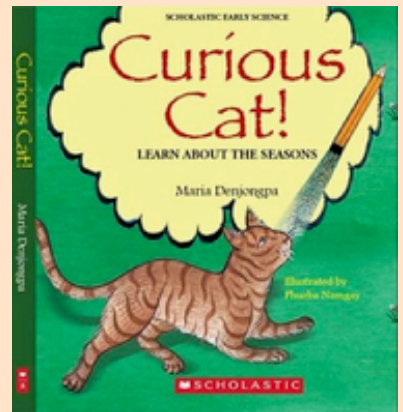
- Sherin Dolma Bhutia, Grade 3



### Curious Cat!

"My favourite part of the story is when it rains hailstones that hit the roof."

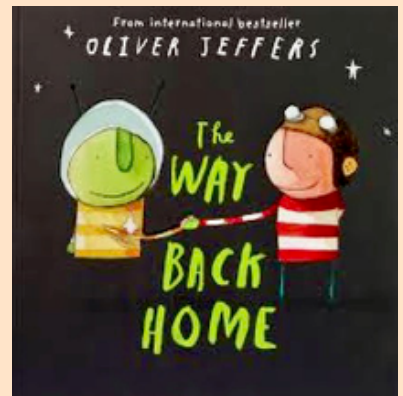
- Aanya Khatiwada, Grade 4



### The Way Back Home

Reva Riddhi Basnett, Grade 2

"I love this book. I want my friends to read it. My favourite part is when the boy went back to the moon to help his friend from Mars."



### Educators Wanted

Are you an experienced educator?

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For more information, contact:

Rinchen Pakhrin

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To see past issues of the Friends of Taktse *UPDATE*, click [HERE](#).







**Taktse's Covid Protocol**

1. Everyone coming to campus must test negative and submit their test results.
2. Body temperature is measured for everyone entering campus.
3. Face masks are mandatory for everyone on campus at all times.
4. Social distancing must be maintained in class and around campus.
5. Use hand sanitizer at regular intervals.
6. Teachers and staff members residing on campus must remain on campus unless absolutely necessary.
7. School buses are sanitized regularly.
8. Our support staff are working non-stop to ensure cleanliness and hygiene.

*Our students are glad to be back..and so are we! The support and cooperation that we have received from our students is simply amazing!*





*The Taktse Board of Directors, faculty, staff and students are deeply grateful to the following donors for their generous support over the past year. We also acknowledge the generosity of the many in-kind donors, especially His Holiness Dordrupchen Rinpoche, and past donors, whose support has contributed so much to our success.*

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<sup>☆</sup> Also gave in 2019

<sup>†</sup> Taktse graduate

*If you gave to Taktse in 2020 and don't see your name listed here, please accept our apologies and send us an email at [lonnie.friedman@comcast.net](mailto:lonnie.friedman@comcast.net)*



Donations to Taktse can be made at: <https://www.taktseeschool.org>. The Friends of Taktse UPDATE newsletter is edited by Lonnie Friedman & Paul Lauenstein. To subscribe or add a friend, email Lonnie Friedman at: [lonnie.friedman@comcast.net](mailto:lonnie.friedman@comcast.net).