

# INTER - SCHOOL PATWARDHAN DEBATE



***"For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument and debate."***

***- Margaret Heffernan***

As the days for the Patwardhan Debate competition came closer, excitement and nervousness started to rise. On 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, at the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the Inter-school Patwardhan Debate competition organized in the honour of S.S. Laxmi Raisaheb Rani of Miraj, students were invited to compete for the coveted, ever-rolling Patwardhan trophy. Mr. Rushil Dubey and Ms. Amrita Pillai represented our school at the competition. The event was held over a period of two days. The first day was the elimination round, where 12 schools participated after dividing them into two groups. After each school competed, only six teams were selected to compete in the final round, the Grand Finale, on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2022.

The program commenced with a word of prayer by the Honourary Secretary of the Bishops Schools and Principal of the Bishop's School, Camp, Mr. Joel Edwin. The prestigious panel of judges for the first round included Mrs. Radhika Bali, Col. Brij Krishen and Mrs. Shumita Mahajan. As the topic was shared with the teams the day before, all twenty-four students were well prepared with their speeches. Twelve teams were divided into two groups and each group was given a separate topic. For the elimination round, one speaker of each school spoke for the motion and the other spoke against the motion. Each student was given three minutes to present their view-point. After each student spoke, they were asked a question as a rebuttal to their stand and the speakers had one minute to respond to it. The round was an intense one as each student put forward their points in a well-organized manner and gave apt replies to their opponents. The judges were requested to share their thoughts to all who attended while the final points were tallied.





After a small informal session of an ice-breaker activity and games, the results of the elimination round were announced. Bishop's Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar, Bishop's School, Camp, Bishop's Co-Ed School, Undri, Wisdom World School, Wakad, St. Mary's School, Camp and Christ Church School, Mumbai qualified for the finals. After a scrumptious dinner for the participating schools, the students retired for the day.

The bright sun welcomed the students to the second day of the Patwardhan Debate, i.e., 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2022. The six teams who qualified for the final round of the debate were eagerly waiting for the topic for that day. The debate was moderated by Mr. Merwin Rodricks, the middle school coordinator at the Bishop's School, Camp. The panel of judges included eminent personalities who took time out of their busy schedules. Dr. A Deshpande, Mr. Abhay Chavan, Ms. Tracy Lewis, Grp. Captain Deepanjan Deb, and Mrs. Sangita Kadam comprised the panel of judges for the final round. The event progressed in the same way as the day before with each student presenting their arguments. The arguments and thought-provoking questions resonated the relevance of the issue with the participants and the audience. Wisdom World School, Wakad, represented Miss Srimukhi Krishnakumar and Miss Palakpreet Kaur Bhullar, was adjudged the winners of the 29<sup>th</sup> Patwardhan Inter-school Debate Competition. The runner-up trophy was won by the students of The Bishop's School, Camp, Mr. Dishan Oswal and Sanidhya Saraf. The 29<sup>th</sup> Patwardhan Inter-school Debate competition ended, where relevant topics were argued and discussed and friendships were interwoven and established.

