

The Royal Academy
Weekly Newsletter

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Tinsmiths at TRA

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Help Yourself

Karma Palden(Grade VIII)

Before we didn't even think of doing such work but when we were doing carvings we saw so many challenges that our friends are doing. We saw our friends struggling to carve because some tools broke and they lacked carving tools. Then we thought we could do something for the problem. Yeshe discussed with us if we could do something to solve the problem. Then six of us thought if we could do some blacksmithing work we can solve the problem. We also heard that school was paying lots of money to buy those tools. We thought we could also do something to that but in order to do that we need certain materials. Yeshe bought the necessary is necessary. We discussed with Mr. Nima and Mr. Nima also accepted. We decided to start our work after midterm this year.

After midterm as soon as we reached here we started to build a small house for the work. Then we had a problem regarding roofs. Fortunately Mr. Tshering Penjor supported us with the roof and we would like to thank Mr. Tshering Penjor for his kind heart.

Now came the task of actually getting the smithy up and running. We needed to make coal and to make coal we had to find firewood. That was our next challenge. We have not yet got the answer to this problem. We were able to tinker and create some objects which would be of use to the students who like to carve. But we hope that we could at least provide some support to the school. The group of students who worked on this project are Yeshe Phuntsho, Karma Palden, Tshendu Dorji, Pemba Tshering, Tempa Wangdi, and Kinley Wangdi. All of us think we will find a solution for some of the challenges we faced when we were trying to create tools to benefit our community.

Football



Kencho Wangdi, Karma Gyeltshen, Tandin Gyeltshen, Sonam T Dumjan.(Grade VII)

Susan blew the whistle at 4:35 PM. It was time to play a match between Mr. Ram VS Mr. Tshering Nidup. After 30 second, the Birthday boy scored a goal. The match was very tough. During half time score was 5:1. Mr. Ram's team scored 5 goals and Mr. Tshering's team scored 1 goal. Mr. Ram's team became weak and weak and Mr. Tshering's team was getting stronger and stronger. Mr. Tshering's key player was injured after the half time. The winning goal was scored by Yonten Chogyal and the match ended. The final score was 7:6 Mr Ram's team won by 1 goal.



Cow Herders

Jigme Chodra Grade 9

A day to be marked! The students went off for their first ever work of chasing cows in big groups consisting from grade seven to nine. The students then were split into three groups as per their grades. The grade nine from the starting point of fence near the view point, the grade eight from the other side of the view point, where as the grade seven took the road.

It wasn't easy, first we needed to find the cows, then capture it and bring it to the new staff quarter from there take the cows near the entrance gate and free it. So, the students took so long to find the cows it was because of the dense forest, it seemed as if the forest was hiding the cows. Somehow the students were able to find three cows. The calf was somewhere near the woods was what some students said to. Catching the calf was the most difficult. The level of difficulty increased when the calf went into the woods near the labour camp. The calf made a huge number of students search for it, the calf was agile and fast indeed. Later, the calf was surrounded from all sides and was caught.

The students went back to the campus taking the cows, the cows seemed scared as if we want beef from them or rather make it our lunch, honestly, we were very hungry indeed. Four students went with the cows near the entrance gate to free them whereas the other students directly headed towards the campus.

At the end, all the students got one lessons which would help them in their long run. Studying is a lot easier than doing farm work, and we need to appreciate our farmers for their hard labour.

Lost

Khamsum Wangchuk Grade 10

The girl sat in a corner of the railway platform, on a cracked wooden bench. She was lost and was holding back the urge to cry. She had lost her parents in the riot. The smoke from the smoke bombs were fading away. Many people were badly injured and she didn't dare to look at the words and blood.

Her parents had phones she thought. Maybe she could call them but then she was just a young girl and was afraid of being kidnapped. She sat there and let time pass by. The railway station became normal again, so she decided to erase her hunger. She went to a tea stall asked for some chips. The man who ran the tea stall asked "What happened little girl?". The girl hesitated and then answered, "I am lost,". She continued, "May I call my parents," she quickly added.

"Sorry, I don't have a phone but there is a telephone booth at the end of the station".

She hated his answer. Not him, his answer because the telephone booth was around 700m away and there were a lot of scary people along the way. But she had to call her parents. She ate her chips and summed up her courage. She carried a rock just in case.

She didn't make eye contact with anyone and walked faster and faster. She felt as if someone was following her so she turned around time and again. She had reached halfway and she suddenly felt a chill run down her spine. She turned back but didn't see anyone. When she turned to continue, from the corner of her eye, she saw a familiar face. She looked again trying not to look intentional and then she saw it.

She saw the man from the tea stall. He was talking with some people but she knew he was following her. She turned after walking some more and saw him again. This time closer and in a different place. She turned and walked. She decided not to run as it might make him chase faster.

He first went white from grabbing the stone tightly. The booth was only a few only meters away. She went as fast as she could and dialed the number. Luckily, she had changed. She kept an eye out for the man. He was slowly closing in. "Hello," came a voice from the phone. It was her father's voice and she felt very happy. "Dad, I am alone at the railway station". "Don't worry, me and Mom are coming fast just stay put". She couldn't as the man was closing in.

"I have to run, I am being followed," she quickly said and ran. When she looked behind. He was running, faster and faster. She ran and jumped off the station on to dirty tracks. The man also jumped. Suddenly, she heard the sound of a train. It was coming from behind the man.

He now sped up. She couldn't run any faster and her lungs were burning for air. Then a hand came over her shoulder and caught her. Out of her instincts, she quickly jumped on the railway station and the train passed by her and she couldn't look at the tracks.

Ms Danielle Service



Q 1 What made you leave your family come to the Royal Academy?

Because I am a strong independent woman on a journey. I love my family very much, but I know I can teach my niece and nephew more if I follow my inner voice and do things that challenge me.

Q 2 How/When/Why did you decide to be a teacher?

I decided to become a teacher in the dark ages of the last century. The Columbine shooting had just happened in Littleton, Colorado, and I was moved by the idea of helping teenagers. In the year 2000 I started teaching 7th graders in Henry County, Georgia. The profession didn't take at first, but I fell in love with the kids and I've been an educator ever since. I've taught middle school, high school, and graduate courses for 20 years now – The Royal Academy marks year 20!

Q3. Can you describe something which gives you strength during times of high tension?

My jade turtle necklace that I wear a lot is named Kirby, and he is my touchstone. I'm also a yoga instructor, and I practice regularly. I love teaching yoga to children.

Q4 As a person who is new to the Royal Academy what was the most fascinating thing for you?

The Buddhist chants and prayers, as well as the Bhutanese code of conduct that students adhere to. I also noticed how many dogs we have on campus!

Q5 Given a choice what profession would you like to choose?

I would be a writer and a yoga instructor with my own studio.

Q6 What are your hobbies and what do you do to relax?

I love working out and I miss my weights back in America. That said, the time outside here really rejuvenates me and helps me relax. I also spend a lot of time writing. I'm keeping an extensive journal about my time at The Royal Academy.

We want to publish your work!

Please deliver or email submissions to the Editing Team by Thursday evening at 5pm: Rema Vishwanath (rema.vishwanath@academy.bt), Sangay Choden D. (sangay.chodend2016@academy.bt), Jamyang Ugyen Tshomo (jamyang.utsuomo2016@academy.bt), Nendra Namgyel Wangchuk (nendra.nwangchuk2016@academy.bt), Jimmy Pelbar (jimmy.pelbar@academy.bt).