



Dear supporters of Maya Universe,

In this edition of our newsletter, we bring you only the articles our students wrote about their extracurricular activities. Alice Guiyoule, Bardaan Chand, and Prajwal Shahi helped put this together. We hope you enjoy the photos. Past volunteers may recognize some of the students.

We are grateful for your continued support. I want you to know that your feedback and suggestions, especially about sponsorship opportunities, are always welcome.

Warm regards,

Manjli Rana

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All Mayans together!!!

Football

According to the norms I grew up hearing in my village, girls are not meant to play football. Girls should stay in the house and be housewives. Maya School was the place where I started to do other activities and where I began to question the role of women in society. At Maya School, the first generation of girls to play football were the first batch of Mayans: Rejina, Parbati, Shila, Goma, Susmita, etc. I remember they were the ones who inspired and motivated us to play football. I wanted to be as strong as them. Since then, I have played football as a defender. My friends together with many other girls joined me, we created a new generation of footballers. At first, we used to say we were like jungle chickens. We used to play football without shoes. Today, my little sisters practice twice a week and have become our new jungle chickens. I'm very impressed by their skills already. I hope they become better than us in football and that one day, maybe Mayans may get the chance to play football as national players. I believe that playing sports makes women powerful, and we all will be supporting Maya's new football generation to reach their goal.

Sudiksha

9th Grader

Water Management Assistant at Maya Home and footballer





Drama Classes

There are many people in the world who admire actors and actresses. They are the most influential people with the loudest voices heard globally. People idolize them, and some even want to become actors themselves. I am also one of these people. I want to become a renowned, respected, and responsible actor someday. This is why the Drama class at Maya is my favorite activity. Twice every week, we learn the basics of acting. We learn techniques like scriptwriting, memorizing lines, and confidently delivering them. The classes I've taken have helped me understand the importance of my voice and how I can represent anyone through my acting. Every Friday, we come up with short skits and perform in front of the whole school. I hope to feature in films and act in theater performances in the future, so these classes really support my acting base.

Apil
8th Grader
School Captain and Acting Captain



Enjoy the authentic dramas by our students!!!

Art Classes

The word “Maya” means love in the Nepali language. A school that runs on love, there isn’t a single student, teacher, classroom, or activity that lacks love at Maya. We do everything with love. There are many students who like different activities at Maya, including sports, drama, computers, and art. My favorite activity at Maya is the art classes offered by Jharana Miss because I think art is a universal language of love. When I hold my pencil to the paper, I feel like I can freely express all my feelings without worrying about the right words to choose. It doesn’t matter what language I can speak if I can simply draw because art is a language all humans understand. In our art class, Jharana Miss teaches us basic techniques of drawing, sketching, and painting. Her expertise really helps me ground my talents, and I can develop my skills better.

Binod

7th Grader

Artist and dreamer





Drawn by Ranjit, a student in grade 7!

Library

“A reader today, a leader tomorrow.” This is something I read a few years ago, and it has stuck with me since. I believe that reading books and news from great writers from around the world can teach us things that we wouldn’t otherwise get to know. The library offers me a space to quietly read and write. I want to become a writer someday because I believe in the power of stories. I have found that my friends and I always learn better when we’re taught in the form of stories. The teachers who are good at telling stories are also always favored, and students pay more attention. We are told stories by our parents, and that is how culture flows from generation to generation. Everyone loves a good story. I want to be able to write the stories of the people whose voices are not heard. When I’m at the library, I have access to many books, and I feel like a responsible writer. I am able to focus better and draw from the skills of great writers. Therefore, going to the library is my favorite activity at Maya.

Krishna

8th Grader

Council Captain at Maya School and future writer



Help the kids with some knowledge!



Computer Classes

We live in a digital world whose dependence on computers is ever-growing. In this global race for digital development, Nepal is quite far behind. I am very grateful to Maya School because they understand this and give us computer classes from a very young age. I was personally drawn to this activity because I love the way we can multitask on a computer. At the same time as making a presentation, we can quickly google facts, listen to music, and socialize with friends. It makes any work more fun and interactive while also making it easier to collaborate with other classmates, even remotely. I have been learning the basics of using the computer and the internet for a better learning experience: how to research, how to type efficiently, and how to present ideas creatively. I have also begun understanding various AI models to make full use of what I have access to. This week, for example, I have been working a little every day to make and deliver a PowerPoint presentation on Friday, and I am thoroughly enjoying it. We have a computer class every day, and that lets me continuously work on my skills.

Sudip

8th Grader

Performance Captain at Maya School and continuous learner



Come and help teach children how to use laptops and the internet!

Basketball Classes

Maya School offers a wide variety of activities because different volunteers are good at teaching different things. My favorite activity at Maya is learning how to play basketball. I was first interested in basketball when I watched the anime “Slam Dunk” with a few of my friends. We immediately asked for a basketball court to be built and started training regularly. At first, we were taught the basics of basketball: passing, shooting, dribbling, and lay-ups. Before long, we were practicing matches inside the school. After a few more months of learning more techniques and skills, we even participated in a tournament and sent two teams. My team, called the Heartbreakers, secured the fair play award after winning one out of three games. Although we did not win, I felt like a real player with real dreams. When I hold the ball, move with my teammates, and depend on them during a game, I feel like I forget all my worries and time seems to slow down. The past or the future no longer matter, and I feel alive. I am grateful to Maya for letting me have this opportunity to keep practicing my skills in basketball. I wish to one day play professionally and perhaps even represent my country at the national level.

Khagendra

7th Grader

Basketball player and Maya’s Chess Champion



Join us! And enjoy the game!



Swimming Classes

Girls usually don't get to have fun in our society. Even with things like swimming and sports, the boys usually get the chance to learn sooner. The boys are allowed to go to the rivers with their friends while girls are not. The boys get to learn many things like that, and we girls are told not to dream the same dreams. At Maya, things are different, and we can dream equally. Every Sunday, Alice Miss and a few other volunteers take nine girls to swim at the nearby swimming pool. At first, I was very afraid of the water; I did not know how to swim and was scared of drowning. But the teachers taught me how to stay afloat and move my limbs to swim. They showed me how long I can stay underwater and gave me the confidence to keep swimming. It makes me feel refreshed and boosts my confidence in myself. I always look forward to Sunday because it means I can practice swimming. I love going to the pool and diving in. It means I am not afraid anymore.

Khusi
6th Grader
Not afraid anymore



Too hot? Then come and jump in the cooling water!



Enjoy the natural waterfall only at Maya!

Music Classes

I have always wanted to be a singer, but I was too shy and never knew how to match my voice to a melody or tune. I would never sing in front of other people and therefore could never improve my skills before. At Maya, we are given music classes with teachers that are skilled in their own ways. They teach us simple singing techniques, guitar classes, and how to count beats in a song. Nowadays, I have practiced singing through these classes, and I know how to sing in tune. The music classes give me so much confidence and make me believe in myself that I can learn and improve my voice every day. I want to be a famous singer someday and touch the hearts of many people like Bartika Eam Rai. That's why the music class is my favorite activity at Maya School.

Srijana

6th Grader

School Captain and Singer



MUSIC... why not? Come teach and learn together!