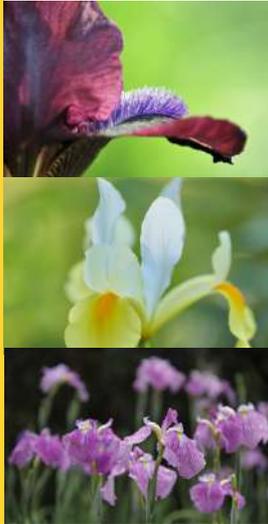


MAY 2021

Imagine

Iris flowers

The word "iris" comes from Greek word for "rainbow"—an apt term for a genus of flowers that offers such a wide range of colour combinations. Upward of 300 species and thousands cultivars of this showy flowering plant belong to the Iris genus, part of the Iridaceae family. With all the variety available, you shouldn't have trouble finding an iris type to thrive in your garden environment, even those with extreme heat and dryness.



The iris has been a valuable source of perfume ingredients and herbal medicines for centuries, but today's gardener treasures them for their reliable spring performance and vigour in the landscape. The iris is also a beautiful way to incorporate a symbol of faith and wisdom into your spring cut flower arrangements.

Bearded Iris, Dwarf Bearded Iris, Dwarf Crested Iris, Species Irises, Dutch Iris, Japanese Iris, Siberian Iris, Yellow Flag Iris, Louisiana Iris are a few popular types found in the gardens.

To know more click <https://www.thespruce.com/irises-for-flower-garden-1315808>



Some people look for a beautiful place. Others make a place beautiful. - HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN

Distressing, dangerous and despicable situations everywhere and people crying out for food, water, education, shelter, secure places to live, honest work and reasonable pay. What can one do to change all of this?

Most people who look at the overwhelming problems around the world either feel defeated even before they begin or wait for somebody else to resolve. They ask what they as a person can accomplish. If that's the question, the answer is we can do a lot, if we take that bold action with passion and commitment.

What an inspiring exploration of effective change making has looked like through history! From Gandhi to the civil rights movement to the victories of the early environmental movement, whenever and wherever people unite to make a change; a big idea, a commitment to working together, and the ability and patience to turn that idea and commitment into meaningful action magically happens. Balsam is one such idea that has helped me transform and have breakthroughs.

To push fundamental change in the way we live our life, it is important that we look at things with additional lenses, pattern our beliefs and actions to create a new story and shape a fresh life. So, our focus this year shall be to verify the need for change and acquire expertise necessary for the change.



The Story of Change

The month of May

May is the fifth month of the year in the Gregorian and its predecessor, the Julian calendar. Named after the Greek goddess, Maia who is also identified as Bona Dea (the Roman goddess of fertility), May is the time of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, May is a season of Autumn. Originally the third month of the year, May later moved to the fifth month when January and February were added to the calendar.

May Weather

With respect to the destination and altitude, summer can be either pleasing or extremely scorching. It is better to stick with the northern part of the country, **beach** destinations and **hill stations** for a better summer vacation in India. May weather has the highest recorded temperature in most of the states of the country.

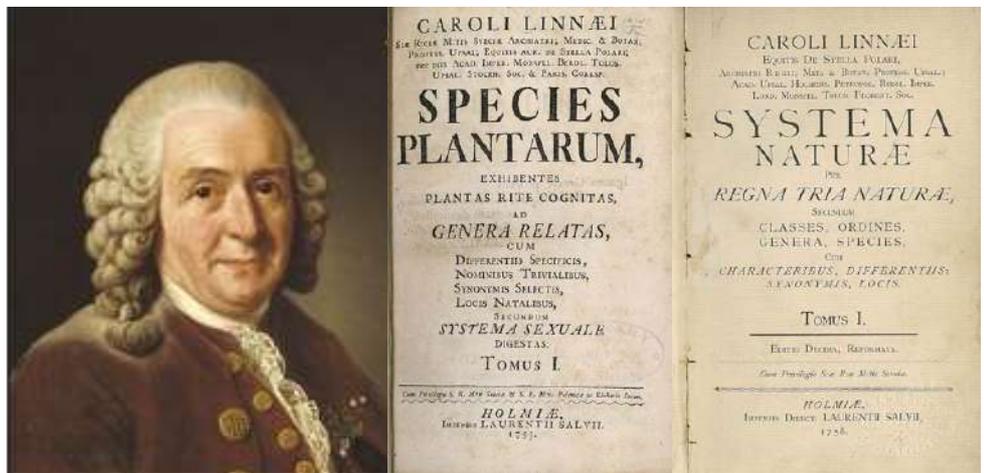
Awesome view of Beaches in May

The central and inland regions will be very hot and humid. Reaching above **40 degree C** is very common during daytime. The coastal regions will be very humid but the water activities will keep you cool. The northern high altitude destinations like Ladakh, Auli, Dalhousie and others will be at prime beauty during this month. Many routes to isolated **hill stations of Himalayan** regions will be open and less dangerous during **May**.



Interesting Fact

The Eiffel Tower gets six inches taller in the summer. That's because the 1,062-foot iron structure expands and shrinks to thermal conditions.



Carl Linnaeus and the binomial nomenclature

Whenever we try to determine the translation for a plant or animal, we first look the name up in the language that we know, second we look the Latin name or whatever other language we are interested in. This way we get information about both language and the characteristics of the species. But how did we come to have this universal naming of living things and the single one used throughout the biological sciences? Even the British use it!

It's thanks to this guy called Carl Linnaeus (or Carl von Linné or Carolus Linnaeus, a Swedish biologist and physician born May 23, 1707. He devised around 1750 what we call the binomial nomenclature, in which any living species name would be encoded by two Latin parts, the first, also known as the generic name, would be the genus and the second, also known as specific name, identifies the species in the genus. Now you also know how the words generic and specific came by. To be fair, his work is based on Gaspard Bauhin's, who lived in the 1600s. Now, the words could come from any language, you just have to spell them in Latin.

In his own lifetime, Linnaeus became something of an institution in himself, as naturalists everywhere had to address him directly or at least his work in order to determine whether specimens in their collections were indeed new species. The rules of nomenclature that he put forward in his *Philosophia Botanica* rested on a recognition of the "law of priority," the rule stating that the first properly published name of a species or genus takes precedence over all other proposed names. These rules became firmly established in the field of natural history and also formed the backbone of international codes of nomenclature—such as the Strickland Code (1842)—created for the fields of botany and zoology in the mid-19th century.

The first edition of *Species Plantarum* (1753) and the 10th edition of *Systema Naturae* (1758) are the agreed starting points for botanical and zoological nomenclature, respectively.

If you do not know the names of things, the knowledge of them is lost, too.

- Carl Linnaeus

The Super Flower Blood Moon

<https://www.space.com/super-flower-blood-moon-lunar-eclipse-2021-photos?jwsource=cl>



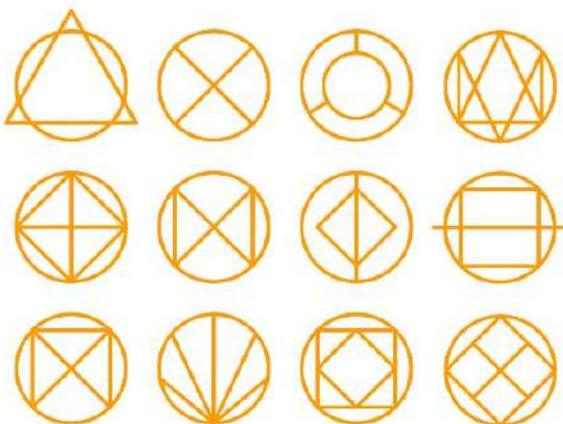
Super Flower Blood Moon thrills stargazers around the world

The full moon was particularly stunning around the globe, as Earth's natural satellite was nearly as close to our planet as it ever gets during its orbit. That phenomenon, called perigee, made the moon appear just a smidge larger than usual.

Then, lucky viewers with the right geography caught the moon sliding partially into Earth's shadow, as if something had taken a bite out of the moon.

Finally, the moon slid into the deepest shadow cast by the Earth and picked up a reddish sheen, the glow of every sunrise and sunset occurring at the time.

The only other lunar eclipse of the year, which occurs on Nov. 19, is a partial eclipse and will miss the red stage that earns blood moons their nickname.



Draw these without lifting your pencil

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

METAPHOR

a comparison that does not include the words *like* or *as*

SIMILE

a comparison that includes the words *like* or *as*

HYPERBOLE

extreme exaggeration used to make a point

PERSONIFICATION

the act of giving human qualities to animals or inanimate objects

IDIOM

an expression whose meaning is different from the meaning of its individual words

ONOMATOPOEIA

a word whose sound suggests its meaning

UNDERSTATEMENT

a statement that is weakened to convey a stronger meaning

ALLITERATION

the repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of words

IMAGERY

vivid description that includes details that appeal to the senses

CLICHÉ

an expression or phrase used so often it becomes stale and loses meaning

SYMBOL

an object that stands for an idea

Making Hummus

for basic hummus recipe:

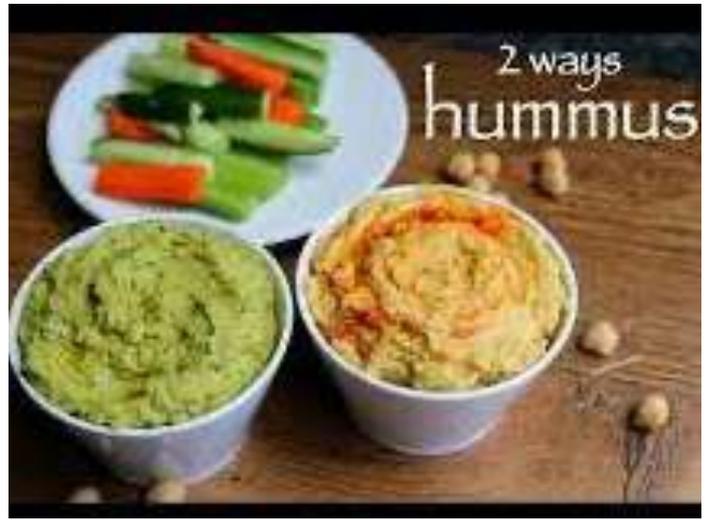
- 1 cup chickpea / chana (soaked & cooked)
- 2 tbsp sesame seeds / til
- 3 clove garlic
- ¼ tsp cumin powder / jeera powder
- ½ lemon
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ cup olive oil
- pinch of kashmiri red chilli powder / paprika

for coriander jalapeno hummus recipe:

- 1 cup chickpea / chana (soaked & cooked)
- handful coriander / cilantro
- 2 tbsp jalapeno
- 2 tbsp sesame seeds / til
- ¼ tsp cumin powder / jeera powder
- 3 clove garlic
- ½ lemon
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ cup olive oil

Basic hummus:

- Dry roast 2 tbsp sesame seeds on low flame till it turns golden brown.
- Blend to fine powder and keep sesame seeds powder ready.
- Now in a blender take 1 cup chickpea/chana.
- Add in 3 clove garlic, ¼ tsp cumin powder, ½ lemon, ½ tsp salt, 2 tbsp roasted sesame seeds powder.

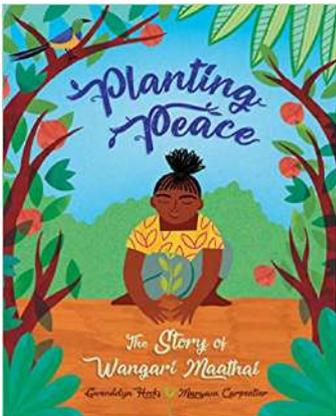


- Blend to smooth paste adding ¼ cup olive oil.
- Transfer the hummus into bowl and garnish with a ½ tsp olive oil and sprinkle chilli powder.
- Finally, serve basic hummus recipe with falafel or as a dip to vegetables.

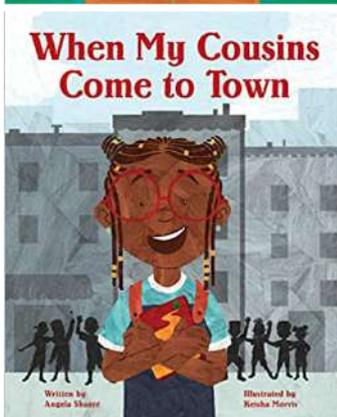
Coriander jalapeno hummus:

- In a blender take 1 cup chickpea/chana.
- Also add handful coriander, 2 tbsp jalapeno, 2 tbsp sesame seeds, ¼ tsp cumin powder, 3 clove garlic, ½ lemon and ½ tsp salt.
- Blend to smooth paste adding ¼ cup olive oil.
- Finally, serve basic hummus recipe with falafel or as a dip to vegetables.

Books to read



This picture book tells the inspiring story of Wangari Maathai, women's rights activist and one of the first environmental warriors. Wangari began the Green Belt Movement in Kenya in the 1960s, which focused on planting trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. She inspired thousands across Africa to plant 30 million trees in 30 years and was the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.



Fitting in can be hard, but standing out isn't easy either! Every summer, a young girl eagerly waits for her cousins to come visit and celebrate her birthday. All her cousins are unique in their own ways and have earned cool nicknames for themselves... except for the girl. But this year things are going to be different. This year before summer ends, she's determined to earn her own nickname! Filled with warmth, love, and laughter, *When My Cousins Come to Town* brings all the energy and love of a big family to prove that you don't need to be anyone else to be special—just the way you are is exactly right!

Balsam in Action

Home Challenge materials were prepared for children to work in their homes during holidays. The activities planned were hands-on and practical in nature. Children took great interest and completed activities with enthusiasm beyond our expectations.

Teachers worked on refining the Annual Syllabi Plans (ASP) to integrate Learning Outcomes of Attitude, Skills and Knowledge along with NEP requirements of subject and art integration. Online Teaching Materials required for 2021-22 academic year were prepared.

School Calendar, Implementation Calendar, Activity Calendar, Staff Allocation, Time Tables, Whole School Improvement Plan, Annual Pedagogical Plan, Subject Booklets, Grade Booklets and Staff Handbook were refined, updated and created. Job Descriptions were created for new position and the old ones refined for new /modified roles. Few committees were merged for seamless execution of activities. Libraries activities were assigned to the English Department. Newsletters would be published level-wise each month.

To enhance student engagement and learning, kinder teachers were moved up along with their classes to UKG and grade 1. Wherever possible, teachers moved up with their class and subject. The intention underlying this decision was to reduce the rapport and bond building time between teacher and the taught.

Regular department meetings, level meetings, co-scholastic meetings and core team meetings were organised to eliminate communication gaps and seamless understanding of the Believe 2023 goals. Team members were

encouraged to lead the meetings and leaders were encouraged to delegate with trust and accountability.

Teachers underwent external trainings to equip themselves to handle teaching-learning process in a much more effective manner. Internal training in language development was conducted for the co-scholastics team. Teachers reviewed and evaluated online apps for easy and fun learning for children. Teachers were trained in using online tools and online teaching methods.

The conduct of online class was re-considered. Rather than combining sections, each class /section would be taken up at a time. Online sessions were increased for better reach. Meeting slot was built into the weekly schedule to meet parents. Offline work would be duly assigned in Google Classrooms to engage children. Innovative Question Time is introduced this year for G6-10.

Students requiring additional support and mentoring in grade 9 and 10 were identified. Mentors were assigned to such children to steadily improve their self esteem and confidence. School counsellor works closely with such children.

The Staff Induction, Parent Orientation and Student Orientation were discussed, planned, rehearsed and well delivered. Every stake holder was extremely clear of the deliverables and the receivables. The use of Google Suite was updated to reduce the dependency on WhatsApp groups.

The emphasis was heavily laid upon the Student Achievements, in terms of actual and holistic learning. All preparations were made to deliver the same, beginning 2021-22.



The school leadership and the style of managing day-to-day activities took an overhaul. Shared leadership was the way to move forward to instil faith and integrity in the system.

Three School Heads as Administrative Leader, Instructional Leader and Vice-Principal were inducted to manage the ever-increasing responsibilities of a School Head in implementing NEP. A new position, Subject Head for EVS, was created to raise the benchmarks. Stage I was split into Kindergarten and Grade 1-2. Kindergarten team started developing Waldorf-Inspired books to be introduced from 2022-23.

Few co-scholastics projects and activities were decided to be put on hold until the normal schooling resumes.