

# Building Bridges:

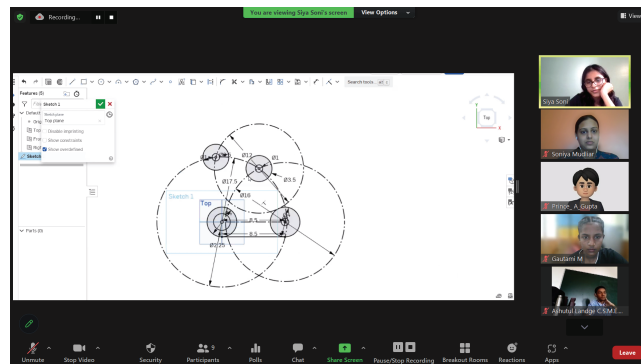
## Akanksha's Summer Workshops Create Peer-to-Peer Insights

This past summer brought together Akanksha volunteers and students for another round of our highly successful virtual Building Bridges Program. These classes are a rare opportunity for our student volunteers from the US to share their knowledge, and teach our 11-15 year-old Akanksha students from schools in Pune and Mumbai. These workshops covered an array of topics. As the workshops ended, both students and high school volunteers could enjoy the sense of accomplishment from their summer collaboration.

Students gained new skills and also new confidence in how they used these skills in their daily lives. A student used the feedback from her class and instructors to refine her speech and was elected head girl by her peers in her school class. The high school volunteers gained experience in creating interactive sessions and teaching, and the students became more proficient in asking questions and engaging in online learning. All participants learned to work as a team and cross cultural barriers on a journey where everyone gained something new.

### CAD Workshop

The Building Bridges CAD Workshop was a 15-day class that exposed our students to STEM subjects via 3D modeling. Volunteer instructor Siya Soni, a high school student from New Jersey, built an engaging environment that allowed the students to express and share their ideas openly. This workshop touched on a variety of essential building block topics that

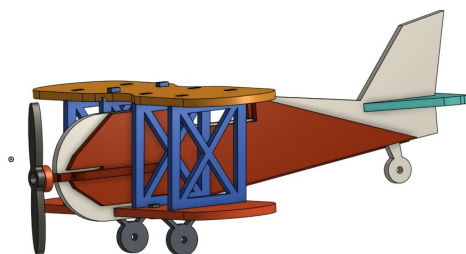


included: an introduction to circular sketches, difficult sketching with new techniques, and isometric drawings. The final project, which combined all lessons, resulted in the students designing a 3D airplane.

Student Prince Gupta, 14, from Wadibunder School in Mumbai, commented on how impressed he was with Soni's dedication and knowledge, and he enjoyed interacting with his classmates.

Looking back, Soni was extremely pleased with

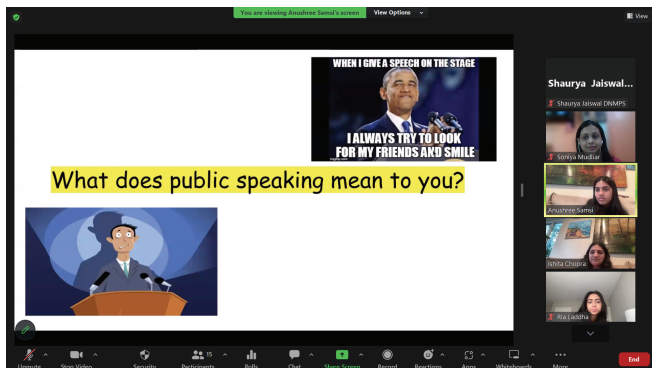
how the class went and looks forward to doing another workshop with Akanksha in the future.



*Model created by students in CAD Workshop*

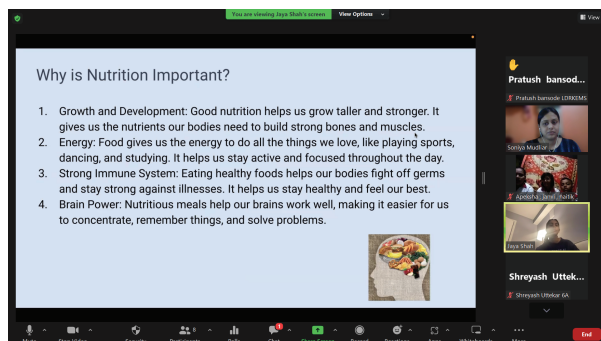
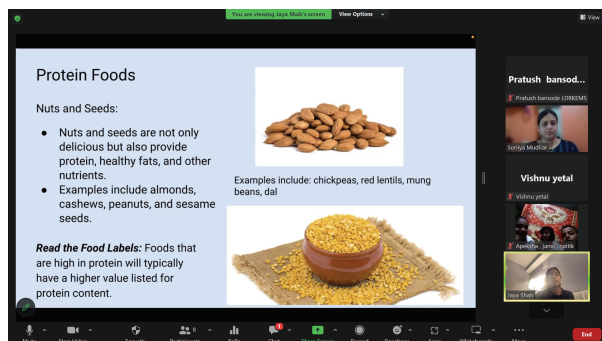
## Speech and Debate Workshop

The Building Bridges Speech and Debate Workshop was a 12-week class that focused on building foundational life skills in three areas: confidence in public speaking and debate, critical thinking, and awareness of current events and research. This workshop was taught by six volunteer instructors, high school students Anushree Samsi, Ishita Chopra, Ananya Hari, Ria Liddha, Mysha Jhaveri and Levi Phillips. The goal of the class was to give students the confidence to speak in front of a group on diverse topics. Samsi was extremely pleased with the outcome and talked about her experience as being very rewarding: “I didn’t feel like I was teaching as much as having a collaborative journey with the students,” she says. Laddha concurs, “Overall this was an amazing experience for me and extremely gratifying.”



## Nutritional Workshop

The Building Bridges Nutritional Workshop was a five-day workshop that introduced students to the basic concepts of nutrition, and the importance of healthy eating. The goal of the workshop was to give students a better understanding of macronutrients, micronutrients, carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. This workshop was taught by volunteer instructor Jaya Shah, a high school student from New Jersey. The one aspect that stood out to her was how gratifying it was to see the students grasp new concepts and then apply that knowledge to classroom activities. Student Tanuja Jadhav says the class was highly beneficial, and she especially liked the interactivity, such as the Kahoot quiz which was part of the class assessment. “I would love to attend more sessions like these,” says Jadhav.



Akanksha was happy to organize this set of workshops this summer, and we look forward to further collaborations with young educators in the future.