

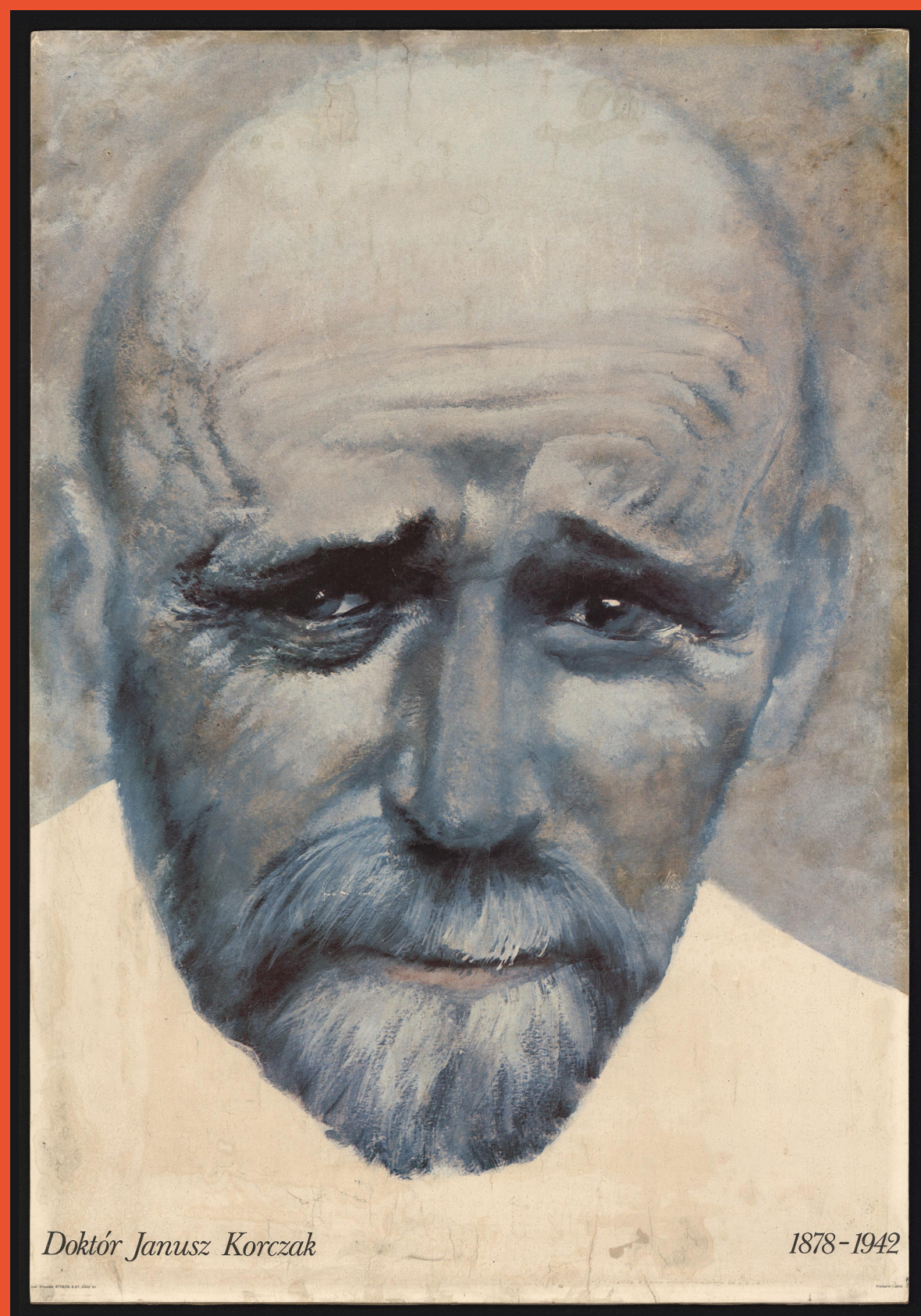


**BKD
NAR
SKA**

**Independent High School named after
Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijay Sinhji**

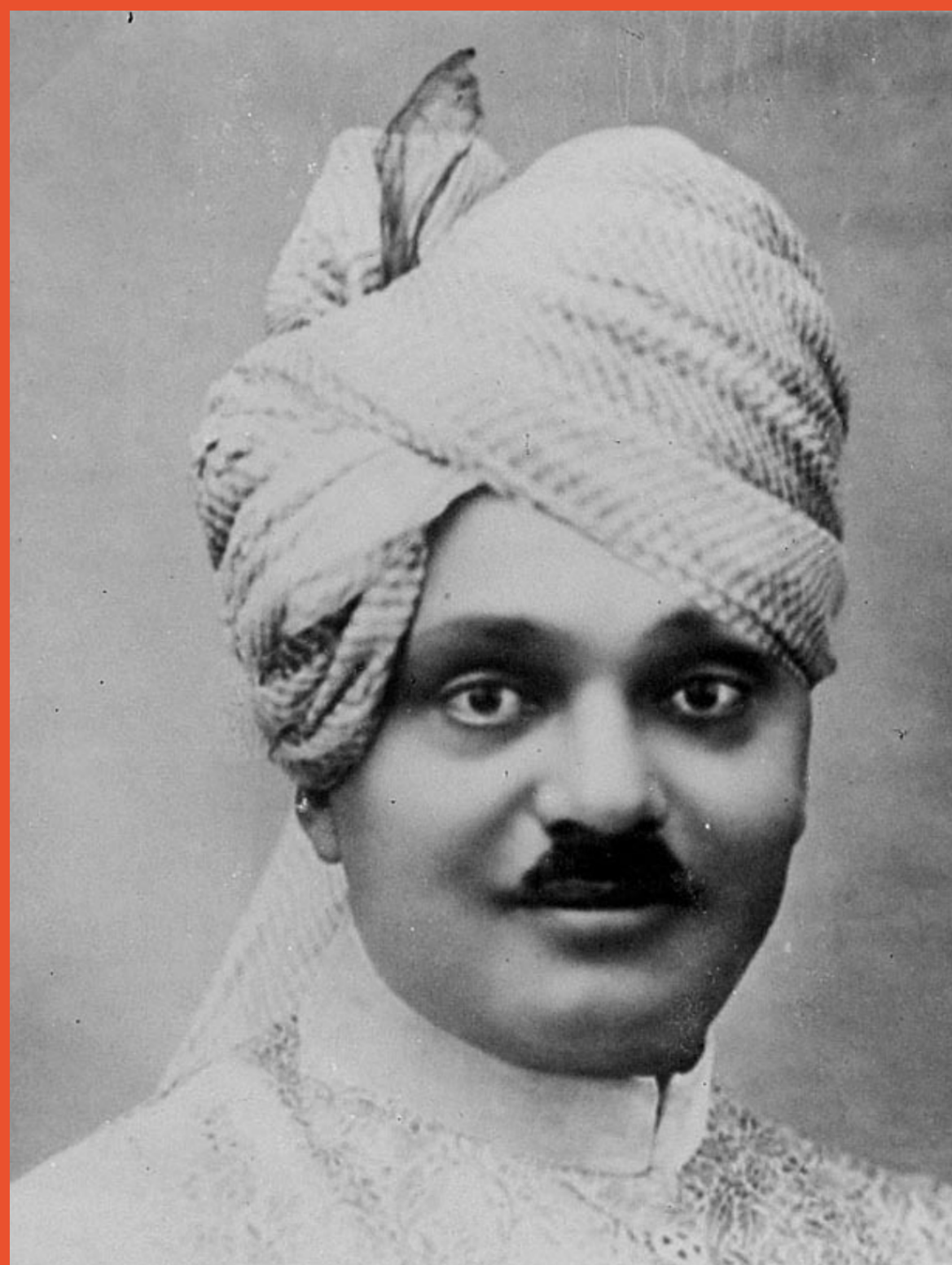
since 1989®

**FREE PEOPLE
SHAPE THE SCHOOL**



“The child is a human being. We should respect the good person, but the bad one too. If you respect a good child, it will help greatly; if you respect a bad child, it won’t hurt. You love the good child; you’ll come to love the worst one too. I don’t know how it happens. It just does. It can’t be explained.”

~Janusz Korczak



“Deeply moved, affected by the suffering of the Polish nation, and in particular the fate of those whose childhood and youth was being snatched away from them in the tragic conditions of the worst of wars that could be imagined, I wished in some way to contribute to the improvement of their fate. Thus, I offered them our hospitality, in territories far removed from the turmoil of war. Maybe there, in the beautiful hills beside the seashore, the children will be able to recover their health and to forget the ordeal they went through and gather strength to work as citizens of a free country. I am boundlessly happy that I have the opportunity, if only in part, to contribute to the alleviation of the fate of Polish children. I am moved by the suffering of the Polish nation which is fighting so doggedly against violent aggression, and which has produced such wonderful sons.”

~ Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijay Sinhji

Bednarska philosophy in a nutshell

We believe that a school should:

- support a child in discovering his/her own talents
- be a place where a child learns to socialise
- stimulate self-responsibility and self-awareness in a child

Individual Approach and Individual Plan

“There are no children, there are people.
Every child has value.”

“The purpose of a school is not to the process of teaching but of self-development of a child. The point is not to stuff his or her head with useless and heavy load of information but to form and prepare him to become an adult and aware member of the community and the society.”

~ Janusz Korczak

Visualising the future

“The first, indisputable right of a child is to articulate his own thoughts and take an active role in our discussions and verdicts about him.”

~Janusz Korczak

Form Teachers set an example

“The goal of education is a dialogue and the child has his place in it
(...) Don't demand a lot of them. Rather demand of yourself.”

~ Janusz Korczak

The School Republic

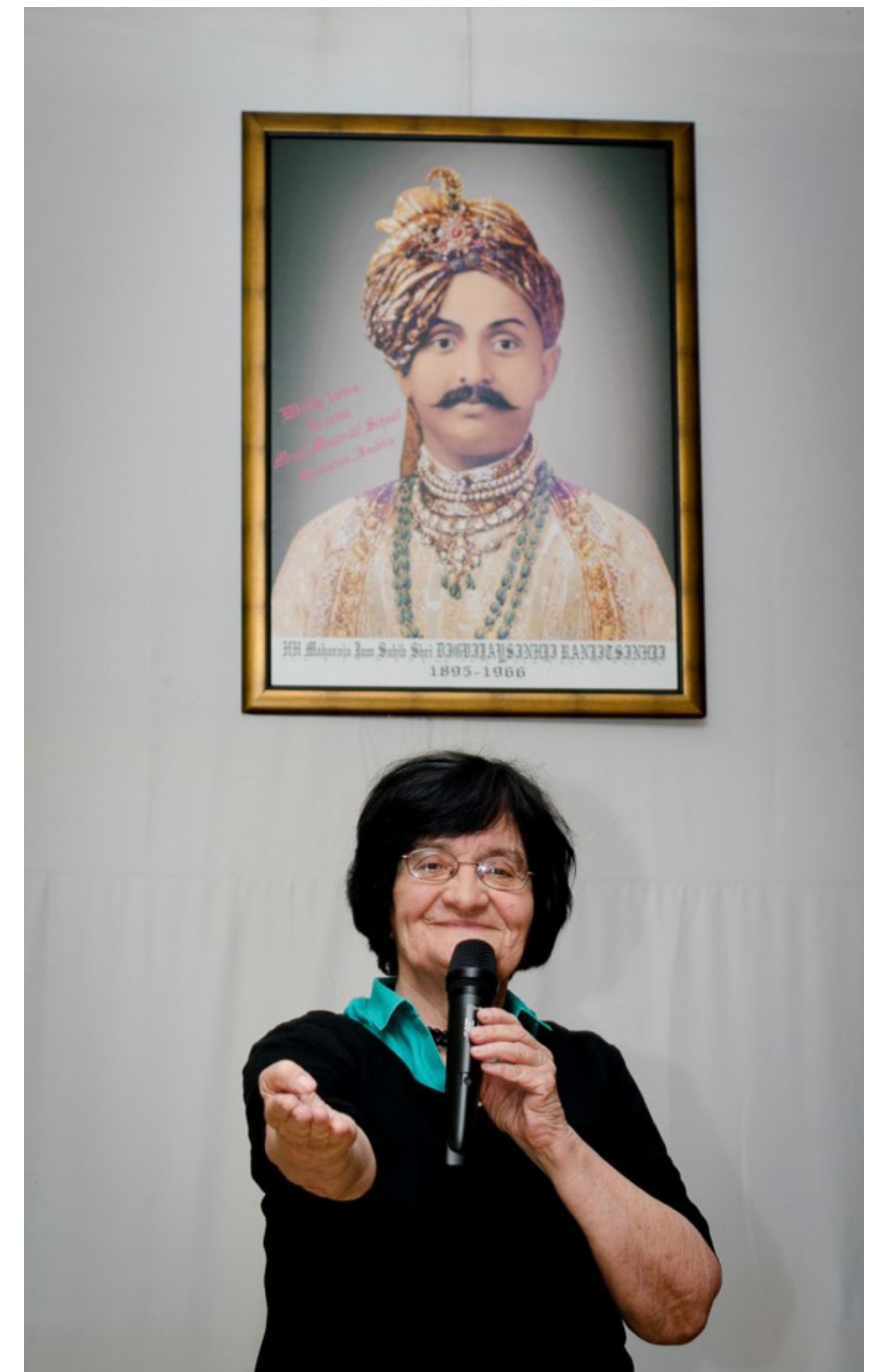
“It was a utopia (...) the orphanage became a laboratory for Korczak’s democratic educational theories, boasting a court and parliament run by the children.”

~ Shlomo Nadel
one of Korczak’s alumnus

The story of Bednarska

1989 marked the end of communism in Poland and the beginning of the political and economic transformation that continues to this day. Krystyna Starczewska PhD, a Polish teacher, philosopher and member of various anti-communist organizations, immediately decided to start an independent school that would follow the ideals of the prominent Polish educator Janusz Korczak (1878–1942).

In 1989, just a few months after the government/opposition Roundtable Talks and the first democratic elections, Starczewska, along with a group of other opposition leaders, founded Bednarska, the first non-governmental school in post-communist Poland.



Our inspiration

JANUSZ KORCZAK'S CREDO:

- Rejection of any type of violence, either physical or verbal.
- Educational interaction between students and teachers.
- Deep conviction of equality that exists between a student and an adult.
- Individual approach towards each student.
- Each student has the right to express and maintain his opinion which can never be undermined by an adult.
- Each student has the right to be respected by an adult, to make mistakes and correct them, to fail and start again.
- Each student has the right to protect his privacy and property.



Our patron

Jam Saheb Digvijay Sinhji (1895–1966), a Hindi maharajah, was a great friend of Poles. During World War II he saved around 1,000 Polish orphans, previously deported to Siberia in the Soviet Union, from starving to death. The maharajah invited them to live on his estate in Gujarat (north-west India) and provided them with housing and education, offering them the opportunity to be brought up in Polish culture, religion and tradition. When the Polish communist government asserted claims to the children, Jam Saheb adopted them and helped them continue their education and find new opportunities abroad.

This name obliges us to maintain an atmosphere of openness and support for young people in need, whose fate is similar to that of the Polish orphans adopted by the Maharaja.

We strive to help refugees as well, allowing them a free education at our schools.



Bednarska

one of a kind

- An individual approach to learning.
- A wide range of foreign language classes (English as well as French, German, Italian, Russian or Spanish).
- Eco trips for students in the first year, in two stages—one at the beginning of the school year, in September, and another at the end, in June. In a rural area of north-eastern Poland, students learn how to live an ecologically sustainable life. They travel by bike or walk, take part in daily activities such as collecting brushwood and cooking their own meals, and sleep in tents or barns. They have no internet connection!
- Volunteer activities, which are an important element of the school's curriculum.
- Electives in the arts (drawing, painting, filmmaking, acting).
- Close and respectful relationships between teachers and students.
- Support for students' individualism, in all its forms.
- International cooperation: ESN (European School Network).

The building



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