



ESTD : 1948

# YPS Times

NEWSLETTER OF YADAVINDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL, PATIALA  
MARCH, 2011



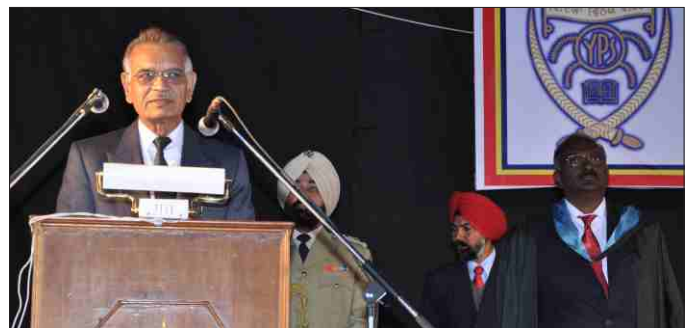
## NEWS IN BRIEF

- The school celebrated its 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Academic Day on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February. Hon'ble Governor, Punjab, Rajasthan and Administrator, Union Territory of Chandigarh, His Excellency Shivraj V Patil, was the Chief Guest
- The inter-class Soft Board competition was held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February
- The inter-house (Middle school) English debate was held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February.
- The inter-house Science Quiz (Middle Section) was held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February
- The inter-house Punjabi Debate( Middle Section) was held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February
- The Just-a –Minute competition for Senior school and the Middle school were held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, respectively.
- The inter-house Hindi Debate( Middle Section ) was held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March
- A staff picnic to the Fun World was organized on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February
- The Annual Food Carnival for classes VIII and IX was held on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March

## SERENADING SUCCESS - THE 62<sup>nd</sup> SCHOOL ANNUAL ACADEMIC DAY

The Annual Academic Day of a school is akin to marriage in a household. The mainstay, academic activity, gets partly suspended for a while, and the whole school gets down in the preparation of the function. And then, finally, the day comes when the bride, success, meets the groom, prizes, under the patron ship of the Principal and the Chief guest and with the blessings of the guests, visitors and dignitaries.

The School celebrated its 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Academic Day on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Chief Guest for the



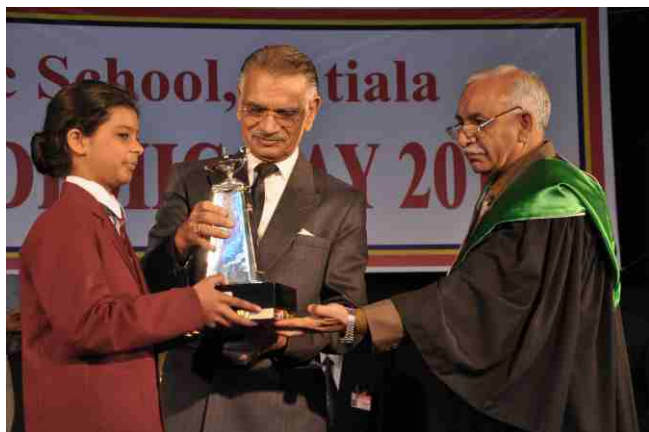
The Chief Guest , Hon'ble Governor , Punjab, Rajasthan, and Administrator, Union Territory of Chandigarh, His Excellency Shivraj V Patil, delivers his address

occasion was His Excellency Shivraj V. Patil, the Governor of Punjab, Rajasthan and Administrator UT of Chandigarh,.

The programme began at 11:30 am with the arrival of the Chief Guest which was followed by the lighting of the lamp, the Invocation Song by the School Choir and speeches by the Principal, the Head boy and the Head Girl and the Chief Guest. The Hon'ble Governor expressed his delight at visiting the school and applauded the achievements of the school. The Chief Guest highlighted the role of teachers who, in his view, actually make and give meaning to the school. He described the city of Patiala as 'a Beautiful City' and also stressed on developing a positive attitude in life. The Chief Guest concluded his speech with the sentiment that he hadn't come to the school to advise the students, but meet them and see them personally for it's in childhood that one finds innocence and purity.

Subsequently, the Prize distribution ceremony was held which can, easily, be called the most-awaited part of the programme.

The programme had some special attractions this time. Mr. Sumangal Arora, an Old Yadavindrian, and a renowned singer, rendered a Punjabi Sufi song and a ghazal 'on the occasion and regaled the audience. A colourful Variety entertainment show comprising a classical Music ensemble by the School orchestra based on 'Raag Bageshwari' were gaily put up by the school students. The Prep and the Junior school students also presented an abridged version of the popular musical play, 'The Sound of Music'.



**Aayushi Saluja receives the All Round Best Student of the Junior School trophy from the Chief Guest**

The programme rounded off with a lunch for the visitors, guests, members, Board of Governors, other dignitaries and the school staff.

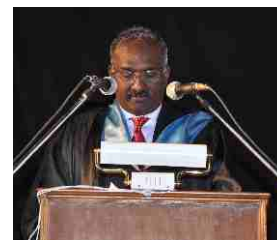
The same evening ,an Arts and Crafts' exhibition was held, starting at 5:30 p.m. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Yuvraj Raninder Singh ji. The efforts put in by the school students and staff in preparing and presenting the Hobby wares was lauded by all and sundry. The occasion was also used to inaugurate the new School English Language laboratory .

The exhibition was followed by a colourful Variety Entertainment show which comprised a Sufi dance performance and an English play put up by the school students, 'The Miser'. The play was directed by Mr. Manpal Tiwana, an old Yadavindrian and son of famous theatre personality, Late Harpal Tiwana.

The programme, on the whole, was appreciated by all in attendance.

#### THE PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH(EXCERPTS)

"We are, indeed, privileged and honored to have in our midst, His Excellency Shri Shivraj V Patil, Honorable Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Union territory of Chandigarh, as the Chief guest on our 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Academic Day Function. On behalf of the entire YPS fraternity, I extend our warm welcome and gratitude to you, Sir, for having taken time out of your busy schedule to be present for the awards ceremony. I am sure the prize winners will be delighted and cherish the memory of receiving their award from your Excellency.



Our special thanks also goes out to Dr Harish Dhillon Sir, former Principal of both the Yadavindra Public Schools, and Mr. AS Jawanda, former Principal, Yadavindra Public School, Patiala, for being here this morning. I also welcome all the parents, old Yadavindrians, especially Executive members of the AYOSA, my dear colleagues and dear children.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I address you on the occasion of our 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Academic Day. Before, I begin to recount the achievements of the year, I would like to acknowledge that, under this concrete and stone, lies a great school. It has achieved its greatness and brand equity due to the passion, dedication of its old teachers...We also, proudly, acknowledge all the old boys and girls, who have passed through its portals, over the years, and have made a name for themselves

globally...This year we had forty-one OYs children admitted to the school in Prep and class I, a quantum jump over the previous years.

Annual Academic Day is a good time to contemplate, the role of a public school of the stature of YPS. India is at a point of inflection. We have been, consistently, growing at the rate of 8.5 percent, and will continue do so in the coming years. We are poised to even surpass China from 2013 onwards. This has been possible, mainly, due to three factors- the demography, liberalization of the economy and globalization. Demography is by far the most important factor...

Most critically, we will need to ensure that our education system not only needs to scale-up, but deliver world class education to our children. We need to create a culture of learning, as well a learning environment, which is compatible and which will measure up to global standards. At the same time, we also need to adapt to the various world cultures. As such, an early exposure to Spanish and Chinese cultures ,which make up half the global population, would be a good beginning. At YPS, we have been teaching Spanish at our junior school level since 2009 and we hope to introduce Mandarin from the next session onwards. We already have two students from Germany on exchange programme.



**...Casting an Evil Eye- The English exhibition revolved around the macabre**

Technology in education is the next factor. Children are born natives to digital technology, and we, elders, are Immigrants. The digital gap needs to be bridged at the earliest. We need to unlearn redundant concepts and adapt quickly to new technologies of teaching.

We, at YPS, have already adopted digital technology

in our classrooms since 2008. This year, the English Language lab has been introduced. For popularizing mathematics at lower level, we experimented with Mind spark, an innovative internet based learning of mathematics...

... YPS is a school with deep founded traditions and love for games and sports of which we are indeed proud. Generally, we Indians are not good team players. Through sports, alone, we learn the virtues of being a team player, we learn to be selfless, we learn to pass the ball for the success of the team and not for personal glory .Sports teaches us that it is alright to lose, there is always another chance, another match. It teaches our children to deal with failures to stand up and fight again. All our academic achievers vastly improved their scores because of their involvement in sports and extra-curricular activities.

Academically, we have much cause for congratulations. We pride ourselves on the outstanding academic achievements of our students at YPS this year. I congratulate them for what they so richly deserve. They have raised the bar for the successive batches to strive and achieve further ...

...Our Community Volunteering Programme continues to grow with our students offering their skills and time to many organizations. Under the aegis of IAYP, our student volunteers visit old age homes, the cancer center, the school for the deaf and dumb, Help age and the SOS village regularly.

Our student Environmental club continues in its efforts to raise awareness of environmental issues and to decrease our school's carbon footprint. Many activities have been undertaken by this enthusiastic group - environment quizzes, tree plantation drives and exhibitions and an Environment awareness march at the local bazaar...

...I pay tribute to our teaching staff for their dedication to their craft, their high standards and expectations and their commitment to supporting each student, in their care...I also wish to acknowledge our support and administrative staff...On a personal note I would like to acknowledge the contribution made to the school by my Vice Principal Mrs. Mimi Bajpai, Col RD Dutta, the Bursar, Mrs Rawel, the Head, Junior school, and to my executive team of Dean, Head of Prep school, Heads of Departments, co-coordinators and Housemasters, who provide educational leadership in each of their areas of responsibilities...

...We are very fortunate to have a positive and

supportive Parent community which is appreciative of our efforts...

...I acknowledge the ex-students' association, the AYOSA, which continues to generously support the school and keep alive the history that is YPS...

...2011 promises to be another exciting year for YPS. We look forward to the opening of our new dormitories and Performing Art and Music block which should be completed in the near future. We hope then, to have a full boarding strength of 350 in the senior school which will mean 50 percent of boarders in classrooms, leading to greater discipline and better school teams in all spheres.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Honorable members of the Board of Governors who have always been a great support and encouragement to the School and all of us in all our efforts..."

#### **THE CHIEF GUEST'S SPEECH( EXCERPTS)**

"The Principal, Mr. Stanley Vinod Kumar, Dr. HS Dhillon, Member, School Board of Governors, Mr. Jawanda, former Principal and student of the School, distinguished guests, invitees, and my dear students. I am really happy to come here and visit this school and meet young students and teachers and some other distinguished personalities from this area. This is one of the oldest schools of this area. It seems that it has done very well in every respect and for this glorious journey it deserves our appreciation and congratulations...Let us hope that this school continues to do better every year..."



**The Sound of Music- School students belting out the regaling 'Raga Bageshwari'**

The credit for this also goes to the teachers. A school is not just a building, but it means the students and teachers who teach them. The building may provide the facilities which are required for imparting good education, but if the teachers are not the ones who give new ideas to the students, who can explain to them the limits of knowledge and can induce them to do their best, in and outside the school, the purpose of having the school is not fulfilled...



**...His Love for Lucre- The English play,' The Miser' was directed by Mr. Manpal Tiwana, an old student and a renowned theatre personality.**

...We were very happy to hear the reports given by the Principal, senior students and the junior students. For me, it was possible to understand what the Principal conveyed, it was possible for me to know what the senior students said, but I am sorry, I could not understand what the junior students were saying( smiles warmly)...But the manner in which they read out the report was really very impressive...The report by the senior students has told us that the students of this school have achieved awards and recognition in examinations. So, we would like to congratulate them from the bottom of our hearts...It is not in the field of studies they have done well, but in sports, too...and education is not complete if you are not physically and mentally fit...

...There are many new things happening in the world...One of the things which I would like to put before you is that you should develop a positive attitude towards life...for if you start with a negative attitude, probably, the journey of life will not be very pleasant...There is no doubt that there are bad things about you, but they have to be discarded and it is necessary for us to see that they don't

affect us...But ,then, there are many good people, too, because of whom this world is moving forward, who sacrificed their life and everything they have with them, not for themselves ,but for others, for the entire society...

...Everything is fast changing around us. Perhaps, even education system is going to change. We are not going to learn things sitting in the classroom, but, probably, learning will be done sitting at home .These new electronic gadgets are going to make you more intelligent, better informed and going to help you understand what is learning and education...(narrates an incident from his personal life highlighting how the new and fast means of communication and transport are changing our lives, how roads are becoming more congested and, soon, there will be a dearth of parking places)...In future, you will, perhaps, not travel by cars but will fly from the top of your building from one place to another...The day will come when we will not take energy from regular sources like dams but directly from the sun, without any wires...

I am, indeed, very happy to have come here, but I have come here to meet you, not advise you. I have come here to see what kind of school is this because many people told me that I must come here...just to see the youngsters, for youngsters have that freshness on their face ,and they are unpolluted. Even in olden days, people used to say if you want to go closer to God, you should be like a child. Younger a person, purer he is and more inspiring...

...I wish you all the best and hope that this school will reach the highest glories in this field."

### THE NEW ENGLISH LABORATORY-

The new School English Laboratory was also inaugurated on the occasion of the School Annual Academic day by the Chief Guest for the evening programme, Yuvraj Raninder Singh Ji.

The Laboratory has been a hub of immense Language activity, of late. Child-centered, module bases sessions at the Laboratory have, now, made learning the Language fun and meaningful. Skill-based learning, personalized curriculum and constructive feedback has made learning English enjoyable. So, here's to more such learning sessions!

## ... IT WAS THERE THEN, TOO -



...Formal introduction with the staff



...Academic Procession



---Signing of the Honour/Visitors' Book

## BADGE-MATE-



A student pins the new Nature Club badge onto the Chief Guest, Yuvraj Raninder Singhji's lapel; the Hon'ble Chief Guest returns the gesture with another badge

## A FESTIVAL OF FLAVOURS- THE FOOD FESTIVAL

Another year, another month, another week and yet another Monday. But this Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, was not like the others, as all students from all sections and Houses of classes VIII and IX got together to celebrate THE FOOD FESTIVAL!



**The judges going around, inspecting, the food stalls**

The aroma of delicious smelling food hung around the school and everyone had their eyes set on the field where students were hurrying to get their tables set. This year, the students kicked it up a notch and even dressed up to suit their themes and to, actually, make you feel like you're in food-heaven.

The Chief guest for the occasion was Mrs. Aradhana, Principal, State College of Education, Patiala, and the

judges were Mrs. Manjeet Sharma, Mrs. Baljinder Kaur and Mrs. Balwinder Kaur, professors of Home Science, food and nutrition at the Government College of Women, Patiala. The event was organized with active help from staff members Mrs Neena Bhardwaj, Mrs Neelam Verma and Mrs. Kanwaldeep Kaur.

The various themes were South Indian [DRH, VIII (Deccan Devils)], Punjabi [PH, VIII (Punjabi by Nature)], Rajasthani and Kashmiri [MH, VIII], Chinese [DRH, IX (Yo China)], Continental [PH, IX (Continental Savoury Basket)] and Italian [MH, IX (Mediterranean Bonanza)].

Every table had a variety of dishes to offer and each one tasted better than the last. Everyone, from the participants to the organisers, surely deserve a huge round of applause. But as all good things come to an end, so did this Food Festival.

As a way of making this year's Festival better than the last, there were more number of dustbins and a little less littering than last time. But there is still a huge room for improvement, which will be seen in times to come.

The result is-

**Class VIII-Group No.10(Kashmiri cuisine, MH)**

**Class IX-Group No.19(Continental,PH)**

**-Jashanjit Kaur,IXE**

The International Women's Day has just passed by on March 8. TEN songs celebrating women and womanhood-

- The Black Magic Woman - Santana
- Pretty Woman- Roy Orbison
- As Long as You are a Woman-Kwabena Quaku
- She's a Lady-Tom Jones
- Papa Don't Preach( Why not? Even this one alludes to women liberation)- Madonna
- Mars need Women- Rob Jombie
- Independent Women- Destiny' Child
- I'll Survive- Wesley Tai
- Candle in the Wind (Remember, for Princess Diana?)- Elton John
- Girls Just Wanna Have Fun( Yes, A frothy one!)- Cyndi Lauper

- **Harkripa Singh Sarao, VIIP, recently, subsequent to his appearing for the ASSET Examination, was selected to participate in the Talent Search and has qualified to attend the DUKE'S Tip's Summer Studies Programme in India. This programme is a unique learning environment designed to motivate and challenge academically-gifted students. This year's programme will be held on the Infosys Campus in Mysore from May15 to June 4.**

*Excerpts from a complimentary letter sent by the Director, Duke University Talent Identification programme, Mara Shurgot, to Harkripa's parents-*

*"I write to congratulate you on your child's recent success in the Duke University Talent Identification Programme's inaugural Talent Search in India. Only the top five percent of academically talented students in the seventh standard who participate in ASSET testing were invited to participate in the Talent Search, making this a very distinguished pool of students. Among the approximately 1000 academically—gifted seventh standard students who took the above level ASSET test this year, your child scored above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Your child's superior results demonstrate an impressive academic talent that you have encouraged and nurtured....*

*Congratulations again on your child's outstanding achievement..."*

## CAMPUS NEWS

- **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**

Sukhpreet Singh, VIIIO, participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> UCMAS Abacho and Mental Arithmetic International Competition on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 in Malasiya. In the Inter-mediate 'B' category, he stood fifth. For his achievement, he was honoured by the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab, His Excellency Shivraj Patil, on 20<sup>th</sup> January at the Governor's House.

- **SCIENCE QUIZ**

Result of the Inter-house Science Quiz( Middle Section ) held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February-

I-DRH with 145 points and II and III-MH and PH with 105 points. The DRH team comprised of Sanil,

Vibhuti, Harkripa, Sajal, Jivtesh and Aarushi

- **MIME COMPETITION**

The result of the Inter-house Mime competition held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February-

I-DRH

II-MH

III-PH

The DRH team comprised Manikpreet, Rishav Bindal, Gurjeet Kaur, Shivansh, Khushveen, Harmanjot, Ravneet and Rajdeep.

- **ENGLISH DEBATE**

The result of the Inter- house English debate for the Middle section-

I-Aashna Duggal, VII-E; II-Aarushi Goel, VIII; and III-Raghav Mittal, VIII-E

- **POETRY-WRITING COMPETITION**

The result of the English Poetry –Writing competition-

I-Aashna Duggal-VIIE

II- Jashanjit Kaur-XE

III-InayatWalia-VIIIE

- **PUNJABI DEBATE**

Result of the Middle School Inter-house Punjabi debate held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February-

I-Inayat Walia, VIIIE; II- Raghav Mittal and Aakansha Bajaj, VIIIE ; III-Meharnoor, VIIIO

The House positions are-I-PH; II-MH and III-DRH

- **SPELL-CHECK**

Sanil Garg, VIIIP, secured the first position in the Spell-Check competition held in February

- **ENGLISH RECITATION**

Result of the Middle School Poetry recitation-

I-Mehr Mangat-VIE, II-Ragini-VIIN, III-Aashna Duggal-VIIE

- **HINDI DEBATE**

Result of the Middle School Inter-house Hindi Debate held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March-

I-Arushy Goyal-VIII, II-Aashna Duggal-VIIE, III-Akansha Bajaj-VIII

- **JUST A MINUTE**

Result of the Just A Minute competition for the Middle School held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March- I-Mehr

Mangat,VI,II-Aashna Duggal-VIIE,III-Akansha Bajaj-VIIE

#### ● **SOFT BOARD COMPETITION**

Result of the inter-class Soft Board competition –  
I-XII Science ( Class teacher- Mrs. Deepa Thapliyal)  
II-XO (Class teacher-Mrs. Kanwaldeep Kaur)  
III-VIIE (Class teacher-Mrs. Neena Bhardawaj)

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## SPORTS NEWS

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#### ● **CRICKET MATCHES**

The school team played a cricket match against Yadavindra Public School, Mohali, on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> February. The result was-

Yadavindra Public School, Patiala, won the first match by 25 runs. Jatin, Ikjot and Gurkaran scored 22, 27 and 32 runs, respectively.

The second match was won by Yadavindra Public School, Mohali by 7 wickets. For YPS, Patiala, Aditya took 3 wickets.

#### ● **INTER-HOUSE CRICKET MATCHES**

Final House positions in the following Inter House cricket matches are-

-Under-14: I-PH, II-MH and III-DRH

-Under-12: I-MH, II-DRH and III-PH

-Under-17: I-PH, II-MH, III-DRH

#### ● **INTER-HOUSE HOCKEY MATCHES**

Final House positions-

-Sub-juniors(U-12): I-DRH, II-MH, III-PH

-Juniors(U-14)-I-PH, II-MH, III-DRH

#### ● **INTER-SCHOOL FIXTURE**

The School Cricket U-12 and U-14 teams played matches against Lawrence school, Sanawar, on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March. The School teams won both the matches by 72 runs and 6 wickets, respectively.

In the former match, Rajeshwar Brar scored 57, Arush 27 and Ikjot 25 runs and Siddharth Narang took 2

wickets, while in the latter, Ishan, Chaitanya and Akul scored 30, 23 and 20 runs, respectively and Prince and Akul took 4 wickets while Chaitanya took 2 wickets.

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## STAFF NEWS

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- Mr. BE Gordon and Ms. Naveen Sidhu attended a workshop on 'Professional Development' at the British Council Library on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> February. The workshop, mainly, focused on the following points-
  - Reflect on your career pathway so far
  - To explore the benefits of continuing your professional development
  - To consider and discuss a variety of courses and resources for developing professionally
  - To plan a course of action for your own professional development
- **Mrs. Ranjit Kaur** has joined the School as a Punjabi teacher in the Senior school. We wish her a happy stay in the school.
- The following coaches of the School participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Nationals Masters' Athletic Championships held at Chandigarh from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February. They won the following medals-
  - Captain Harbhajan Singh a silver medal in 4x400m relay in the over 50 years category.
  - Mr. Kuldeep Singh a bronze medal in Triple jump in the over-35 years category

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## A PARENT'S PLAIN -

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*Excerpts from a letter by a parent (anonymous) to the Principal expressing concern over changing lifestyles of children-*

"Sir,

My daughter is in the Senior school and is a smart, active and an intelligent girl. She is very clear about her future plans. Very logical person. Thanks to YPS, I am a proud mother of my sweet daughter.

Sir, with due respect, I want to share some issues as a daughter's mother-

- Please, counsel your boys to respect girls. Co-educational schools give confidence to kids and they grow as more normal human beings. But please, tell them to behave before they commit any mistake.....
- YPS supports a very smart uniform. But, sorry to say, kids are particular only on the Assembly days.. The senior girls wear anklet socks which you can hardly see outside their shoes. WHY? Why not wear proper socks as CHILDREN? We do check, but the simple logic of my daughter –'Mom, all other girls of my class wear, only you don't allow me !'This makes me think-'Am I conservative?' ....
- Where is the carefree 'bachpan' we long for the rest of a lives...
- The remedy I would suggest is that skirts and socks should be long enough.
- Sir, these issues are important ...Studies is not a problem. I am sure my daughter would be a successful doctor and a confident person....And I know, daughters are sweet daughters. I hope they will, always, be a part of the school....!

- Mother of a proud daughter “

**School's Take-** The school is thankful for the parent drawing attention to the particular problem but that is not to say that the school is oblivious of issues which need corrective measures, and is not taking requisite steps. Strictures are already in place and are being followed in all earnest. Regular dress-checks are carried out by all staff members and a Discipline committee, in particular, to ensure that the school dress code is no way violated. Nevertheless, as cited, we feel privileged to have such conscientious parents.

The recent uprising in Libya has brought to light a fact-the surname of the Libyan leader, Muammar Gadaffi, is being spelt with a G, Q and even a K. But then, as we know, Shakespeare said, 'What's in a name? 'But ask the people of Libya this time, and they will be quick to quip," Quite a lot, Sir!

## WORDSMITHS -

### VOICES -

#### A SHORT STORY BY JASHANJIT KAUR, XE

Over the years, she had experienced and heard a lot of voices-hushed whispers, agonized screams, her mother's loving reassurances-and, now, voices was all she was living for.

During the last few months, she had heard a lot of stuff. Doctors debating on what treatment to try on her next, nurses chattering about their daily schedule, her sister's singing and her mother's sobs. Being in coma might be easy for her, but it was unnerving for her family and friends.

She remembered all the happy times she had had before that accident. Some almost made her smile while others were tainted with despair-how had time changed so suddenly?

"Be patient, love, and life shall take its own course,"her dad used to say. Somehow, even thinking about him, hurt!

Then she would hear her mother's words,"Don't stay out late, dear, and always remember your mom loves you!"

But how could she? Would she still love the person who had caused her such distress? Would she ever forgive the daughter who got half her family killed?

Then, her sister would sing. What a beautiful voice, she thought . Did her sister hate her too?

Her brother begged her to wake up, to open her eyes, to think of everyone ,and not just herself. But did she want to wake up? No. She didn't want to face the world, she just wanted to hide in the dark. She wanted to believe that if she closed her eyes and didn't see the world, the world wouldn't be able to see her.

Weeks went by. She lost track of time. It could have been years, as if she cared.

Finally, she heard his voice. Her father-he was alive. His voice warmed her heart and her lips curved into a smile. He told her about the garden, about the sun, the children in the park and the birds in the sky. Was the world as beautiful as he described it? She couldn't remember.

Then she felt something on her hand. Was it time to wake up?

"Yes, it's time." her father replied. She didn't realize she was saying it out aloud. But was she ready?

"Don't worry, love, we'll always be by your side."

"Will you really be, daddy?"

"Always and forever."

She opened her eyes and they squinted because of the bright light. Her eyes darted around the room, looking for that familiar face, but he wasn't there.

"Where's my father?" she asked the nurse who was checking her drip.

"He died yesterday. He stopped breathing when your mom told him that you weren't waking up."

She clutched her hand to her heart. The warmth was still there...

**(The story was written as part of a school competition and won the first prize)**

## POETS' CORNER-

### BOOKS-

Books are the best,  
Like treasure, in a treasure chest.  
Books are of many kinds,  
And each one freshens our mind  
The more you read, the better you learn  
And earn a better rank, each term.  
Some people like the books that are scary  
And some, visiting the land of fairies.  
But my choice is the best,  
Leaving behind all the rest-  
I like the books that are simple and fine  
That make my mind shine  
I like the books written by Roald,  
A famous author, isn't he called?  
'Matilda' is the book of my choice -  
An outstanding girl with a sweet voice.  
'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is of my interest,  
A well-written book-the best;  
I'm eager to read about the witches and the BFG,

In a time, that is tension-free.

Books make a bright future- not a tuition teacher!

They freshen up our minds.

Our best friends-

Another like them we cannot find...

**(This poem by Aashna Duggal, VIII, bagged the first prize in the English Poetry-writing Competition held in January)**

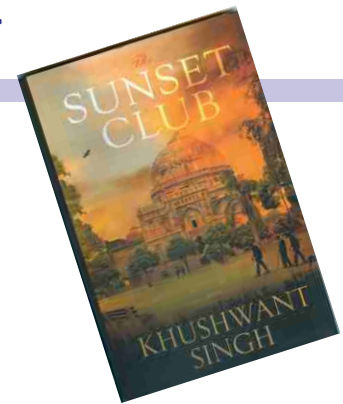
## BOOK REVIEWS-

### 'Sunset Club' - Khushwant Singh

Khushwant Singh is, unarguably, one of the most 'human' writers Indian writing in English has ever seen. His writings may not be classics in the same sense as Jane Austen's and Hardy's are, or may lack the sophistication of a Rushdie, Naipaul or even a Vikram Seth, but there is one thing they, certainly, do not lack-a Heart. Feelings, emotions and a sympathetic and understanding look at the daily travails of human life is something his books are profuse with.

'The Sunset Club' also falls in the same category. Written at the ripe age of ninety five, author's candid admission'

*I had no intention of writing this book. I had turned ninety-five and was not sure I would be able to finish it'- disarms a n d m e l l o w s d o w n t h e r e a d e r ,*



#### ... FROM THE BOOK -

*"Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 is like other 16<sup>th</sup> of Mays of years past :the sun comes up at 5:43am,determined to make it as hot a day as any in the month. Being the weekend, fewer people than usual go to work. In any event, they have more important things to think of. The nation's future is to be announced that day. Of course, their future had already been sealed in ballot boxes across the country; what is to be revealed on the 16<sup>th</sup> is the will of the people sealed within the ballot boxes. So every household that has a radio or TV set sits glued to it to know what is in store for them..."*

right in the beginning.

The author's present frame of mind is, consistently, reflected in the fibre of the story which revolves around three old men in their late eighties-Pandit Pritam Sharma, Sardar Boota Singh and Nawab Barkatullah Baig Dehalvi - who form the Sunset Club as they meet in the famous Lodhi Gardens of New Delhi every evening to sit on an aptly, called 'Boorha Binch'. The book, in one way, chronicles the events that took place in the country between January, 2009, and January, 2010, which forms the thread of conversation of the three leading characters, besides being a throwback on their past lives. The unusual narrative of the story is reminiscent of one of author's previous, and more accomplished, works, 'Delhi'.

The book may not be, perhaps, as profound as it promised to be, still makes for a good one time read. Go for it!

And if for nothing else, just for Khushwant Singh's sake, who may not write another book after this. The man's obsession with death continues -now, a reality, that stares him in the face.

(The book is available in the School library)

### **'EAT, PRAY, LOVE' -ELIZABETH GILBERT**

This book which has also been made into a movie starring Julia Roberts, describes a woman's search for everything!!!

Liz, after a failed marriage and a bitter divorce, resolves to find solace in the things she actually loves.

She, therefore, plans to fulfill her all-time desires, beginning with visiting Italy. The love for the language and the Italian food attracts her to that place. There, she indulges in Italian delicacies and toils to learn the language. She, thereby, accomplishes her pursuit of pleasure in Italy.

She next visits an Indian ashram to fulfill her pursuit of devotion. Here, she finds enlightenment, while scrubbing the ashram floors. Being spiritual, makes her come completely over her past.

She, lastly, visits Indonesia where she learns to balance spirituality and the delicacies. A toothless medicine man reveals a new path to peace, leaving her ready to love again!!!

A beautiful book....!!

**Seerat Brar,  
XII Arts**

## **TIMES ... GONE BY-** **(from School Newsletter archives)-**

### **'Editors' Mail' - October,1987 -**

#### **"School Canteen**

Sir,

We need a school canteen to buy cold drinks and snacks from, as those which we get in school are neither sufficient nor very tasty.

We can't have anything of our own choice, as there is no canteen in the school. Sometimes, we are in a mood to have cold drinks but we can't get any. The canteen can serve us good.

Vandana Kapoor,  
VIII E

#### **Snacks**

Sir,

Of the snacks we get every day, the 'samosas' and patties are good, but the biscuits and cakes are not. The biscuits are mostly unbaked and the cake stale and hard, which we don't like to eat. So, the quality should be improved.

Deepak Gupta,  
VIII O

#### **Lunch Hour**

Sir,

It is in the air that a new time table for lunch is going to be introduced. I think that it would be more convenient for us to get lunch at the old schedule, that is a 1 o'clock.

This will give us more time to have social intellectual discussions and discuss our mutual problems. Thereafter, we can have games and go home.

Rohini Panjrat and  
Jyoti Khosla,  
VIIN "

## MUSINGS ..... OF A WAY FARER

The mists of winter have lifted, the frost has given way to dew drops: there is a pleasant warmth in the soft breeze, so no one feels either shivering cold or uncomfortably hot. The month of Phalgun (Feb- March) is at hand, and it is the season of Basant (or Spring). Avians seem to have suddenly become more conspicuous, and gardens and flower beds are a riot of colours, with the darkness-shy ice flowers ('burf' in the local dialect), the snap dragons (or dog flowers), petunias and calendulas blossoming into multicoloured flowers. To see the dahlias, the californian or the Icelandic poppies, the



candytuft, phlox and ever present roses bloom all around you is a feast for the eyes and gives one immense delight. No wonder literature, Indian or Western, is replete with prose and poetry that sing lavish praises of "Basant ritu". The festive mood infects all, young and old.

X                      X                      X

But sometimes, just, may be, once in a long while, this bonhomie and feeling of joy is cut short by tragic events. February began with the unfortunate demise of Karansher Singh Sidhu ( ICSE : 2001) in a road mishap, and then followed

other automobile accidents ending in tragedy. Young lives on the threshold of adulthood are snuffed out in the fraction of a second. Avoidable? Perhaps! The stress of a fast paced lifestyle cut short a promising future, over- indulgence and reckless driving ended another life. Responsible members of society need to sit up and take note, or it might create a generation with a warped sense of urgency, putting at risk one and all.

One would feel teenagers and adolescents should not be allowed self - use of automotive gadgets until they have reached a given level of mental maturity.

And why are we always racing against time? What is to happen will happen only at the allotted time. Better to let things be and do what one is asked to do. "To wait" is a virtue to be learnt. Patience – the ability to wait for one's turn, no matter what the urgency or how compelling the circumstances – is a rare ability that even sages and rishis have labored to acquire ever since the human being became aware of existence on earth. Yet it is not something that cannot be gained. One has to attain the skill to reap the rewards. We humans need to control this mad rush, to seemingly nowhere, this rat race for material gain. Spiritual upliftment seems the need of the hour.

One wishes there is always "time to stand and



stare", time to imbibe the gifts that nature showers on us. And maybe , just maybe, it will be a better (and safer) world to live in.

.... DS

## NATURE'S DIARY-

MRS. MIMI RANI BAJPAI



Gone are the days of the maverick Julius Caesar when this 'Bird of Night' could be seen hooting in the marketplace in noon, portending evil. And also gone are the days when Lady Macbeth could hear the shriek of this 'fatal bellman' which gives the stern 'st goodnight' as she went about her evil design of killing the gullible Duncan.

These days, it is rare to see an Owl, forget during day, even at night. But, **Mannat Sidhu, XII Accounts**, was fortunate to have spotted one (two, rather) in the school campus and even more fortunate to have captured them on camera. This picture was taken in evening.

**TRIVIA-The Indian Scops Owl** (*Otus Bakkamoena*) is, commonly, found in well-wooded areas. Owls are, now, an endangered species in India as they are captured and sold for Rupees 1250-1500 and their nails and feathers, alone, fetch about Rupees 1000. They are, ruthlessly, used for sorcery rituals for purpose of healing, mainly, in the tribal areas. Owl trade has been declared illegal all over India.

*MS Times*

## WHOSE SILHOUETTE IS IT, ANYWAY?

Feature's third installment! Hint-Recently, shot to fame.



Ans: The Head Girl, Seerat Brar

### **FACT FILE**

- Ever wondered what the cemented area around the cycling track [where students can be seen playing Hand cricket during recess] actually is?
- It is a Velodrome. A Velodrome is an area where track cycling competitions are held.

## WRITE AND WRONG-HOWLERS

- My teeth broke as I fell causing bloodshed on the road
- My accident was held day before yesterday
- The mother slept on the lower and the daughter on the upper birth
- The boy served his mother till her last breadth.
- The water pollution is another great pollution

## FOUR WAYS OF LOOKING AT....

### A Building

1. A Tomb: It was a popular practice among the Mughal emperors to construct huge elaborate tombs for themselves which are still there in Fatehpur Sikri, Delhi and other places
2. Gateway to Afterlife: The Egyptians were great believers in afterlife. They constructed the pyramids and stored in them all the valuable possessions of their Pharaoh which he/she might need in his afterlife.
3. A Record: Taipei 101, the tallest building in the world, was built just to beat the previous record.
4. A Race: There is actually a race to see who can climb the Empire State Building from ground floor to the top the fastest, and the winner gets a cash prize.

## SUBJECT MATTER

The subject that makes a quiet start-Psychology

## A WHOLE NEW WORD

SOLITUDE-The state of being alone-Robinson Crusoe lived in solitude till he met Man Friday

## FAUX PAS



### Staff Editors :

Mr. Navin Verma  
Ms. Rema Vijayan

### Students Editors :

Mannat, Sukhmani,  
Seerat, Ayush,  
Jashanjit, Akshit

### Photographs :

Mr. JK Saini  
Mannat Sidhu

School e-mail: [yps\\_pat@dataone.in](mailto:yps_pat@dataone.in)

website : [ypspatiala.in](http://ypspatiala.in)



