

the Oracle

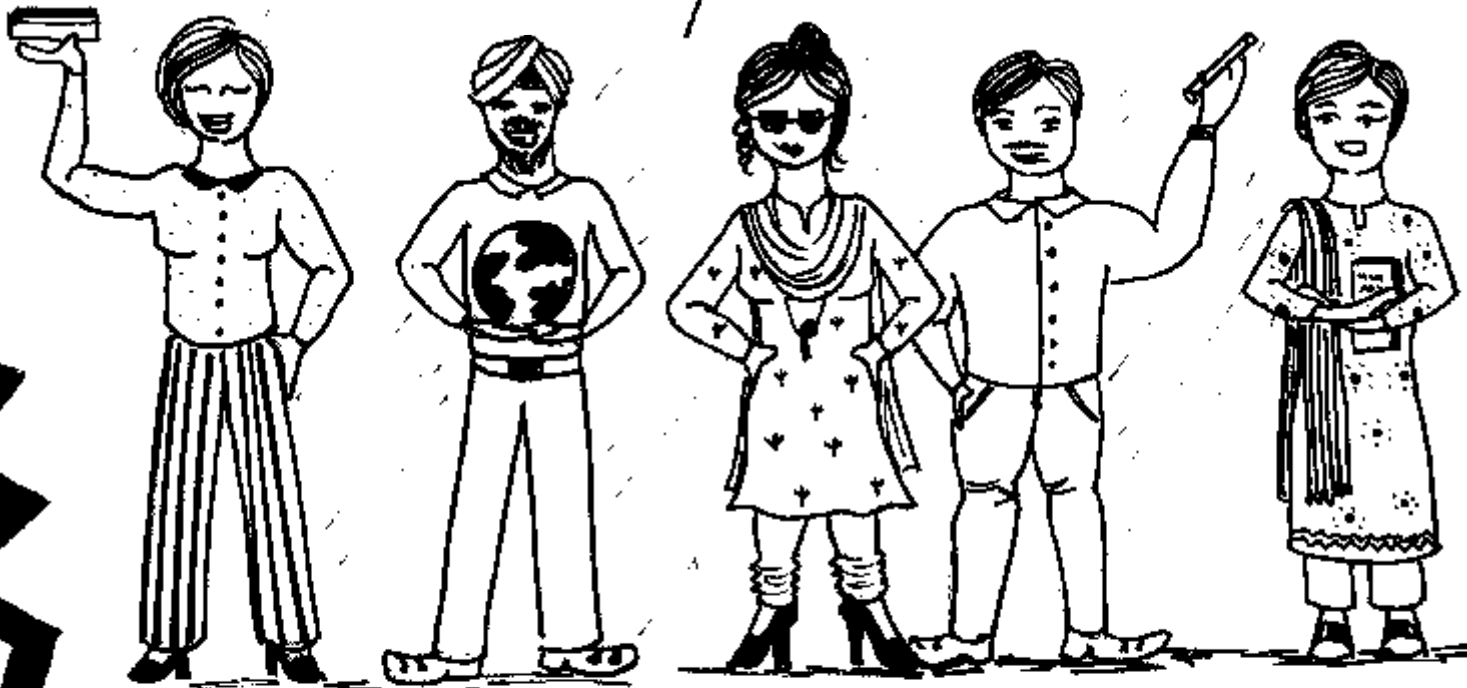
Vol. XXXIV No.2

SEPTEMBER 2015

YADAVINDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SAS NAGAR

TEACHERS

Our Superheroes...



*A good teacher can
inspire hope, ignite the
imagination and instill
a love of learning...
-Brad Henry*

A Tribute to our Teachers!

I remember when I was in Grade I-the teacher pulled my cheeks on the very first day and told my parents that my future was grim. I remember the grace and beauty of my Grade III Class Teacher, and how all her elegance made up for the occasional outbursts of anger. I remember how the class would greet her with a hug every time. I remember all my English teachers and how well they made us learn and understand. I remember my history teacher in Grade IX, who was so particular about spelling and perfection! And every time I think about these cherished moments...I can't help but smile!

I'm sure all of you can relate to this! We all remember some vivid moments with our dear teachers, their quirks, and definitely their love! On September 5, every year, we remember these wonderful moments and sink in the deep sea of nostalgia! In fact, we should cherish these moments every day

because without our teachers, we would not have reached where we are today.

Our teachers are our super heroes! Our lifelines! Our path towards success! From learning the English alphabet to the chemical formulae of elements... they're the building blocks of our lives. We dedicate this Issue to all teachers on the occasion of Teachers Day.

Dear Teachers,
Thank you for everything! From the immense love and affection to the lessons about life! Without you, we are nothing; and with you, we can be everything! Thank you for always forgiving us for all our mistakes and thank you for treating us like your own! We owe you immeasurably!

The Oracle team wishes everyone best of luck for the Half - Term examinations!

Sanya Arora
Editor-in-Chief

YPS GETS PRESTIGIOUS ISA AWARD

YPS, Mohali is the proud recipient of the International School Award for three years, from 2015 to 2018, following a year - round collaborative effort of teachers and students. The International School Award (ISA) is a benchmark that accredits schools as having an outstanding level of support for :

- nurturing global citizenship in young people
- enriching teaching and learning through technology

To achieve this prestigious award YPS, Mohali has implemented international activities throughout the year, and collaborated with overseas schools - Aitchison college Lahore, Pakistan and the Lahore rammer School, Pakistan to create a rich learning experience for students through use of ICT,

creative pedagogical practices and real context for learning.

The implementation of the ISA practices has fostered an international dimension within the school framework as it opens a window to the other countries and cultures, giving teachers and pupils a new outlook to the world. It prepares pupils with skills for life and work in a global economy, opening their eyes to new opportunities, and gives the School a new globally conscious ethos.



▲ Continuing with the theme: Seeds as Ideas, by VI E

REAL GENEROSITY TOWARD THE FUTURE LIES IN GIVING ALL TO THE PRESENT - Albert Camus

Aug 28, 2015, was a momentous day for our school. It was the day the alumni of the batch of 1989 gathered together and presented the school with a Maruti Eeco-a multi-utility vehicle that will be used for the Boarding House and to ferry children to and from various competitions.

Ms Harpreet Benipal and Mr Dilpreet Singh handed over the keys to the Headmaster Mr RP Devgan, at a gathering of the alumni, the Prefects' Council and senior teachers who had taught the batch. Mrs Anita Kashyap, the Deputy Headmistress, and Mrs Komal Anand, Head of Junior School, were also present.

Team Oracle, on behalf of the entire school, salutes this magnanimous gesture by the Batch of 1989.

The alumni handing over the keys to the Headmaster ►



Visit to K-Area

On August 12, 2015, the NCC cadets and students of Class 11 went to K-Area, Zirakpur, for the Army Equipment Display that marked the Golden Jubilee of the 1965 war.

Tri-coloured balloons were released by the Chief Guest, who inaugurated the event. The displays by different marching bands made us all hold our heads a little higher and walk with a little more spring in our steps. This was followed by a presentation of different methods and tactics for dealing with incursions, proximity with the enemy and for rendering the opponent useless. Show - jumping and dressage by the army horses

impressed one and all. The major attraction was a tank with a shell weighing 42 kg, which could cover a distance of 31km.

The display of machines like the ZSU-23MM 2B Gun and tanks used by the Indian army during war, was an eye - opener. The students were assisted by guides at every point, who provided us with accurate information. The patriotic songs played in the background increased the nationalistic flavour of the entire day.

The event captured the interest of the youth and encouraged them to be potential guardians of the country.

Tanya Ahuja 10N

INTER-SCHOOL

Yadavindrians participated in the following Inter-School events this Term.

- **D.F. Jack Memorial English Debate**, held at Daly College, Indore (April 17-20). Pranav Raj (10-S), Prabhme Sandhu (10-O), Inayat Sodhi (10-S): Cleared first round
- **PG Miller Memorial Quiz**, held at Daly College, Indore (April 17-20). Upamanyu Yaddanapudi (10-S), Aditya Jain (10-S) stood 1st.
- **Strawberry Fields High School MUN** (July 24-26). A team of 11 students from Grade 9-12 took part. Aditya Jain (10-S), Ashwin Goel (10-N) received a 'Special Mention'.
- **Cultural Event organised by the Central Govt. at the Lobana Bhavan**, Sector 30, Chandigarh (Mar 27). A team of 9 students from Grades 6 and 7 participated.
- **Selaqui MUN**, held at Selaqui International School, Dehradun (May 2-3). A team of 8 students from Grade 10. Honourable mention for Esh Gupta, Simran Anand, Abhimanyu Bhola, Harshita
- **Landmark Knowledge Conclave**, held at Genesis Global School, NOIDA, (July 31-Aug 1): Quiz team comprising Upamanyu Yaddanapudi, Aditya Jain and Avinash Singh secured the 1st position; the Debate team comprising Jansher Singh, Siddharth Kabir and Bhaskar Datta reached the semi-finals. In addition, Jansher was declared 'The Most Promising Speaker'; Komal Singh took part in the Creative Writing section.
- **Sh. JK Kate Memorial All-India Inter-Public School Knowledge Conclave-2015**, held at PPS, Nabha (Aug 10-12): The Quiz team comprising Upamanyu Yaddanapudi and Avinash Singh stood 1st and retained the trophy for the second year in a row; Sanya Arora was judged the 2nd Runner Up in Creative Writing; the Debate team of Bhaskar Datta, Sajneet Mangat and Harnoor Gill reached the semi-finals, while Lovneet Bhatt participated in the Book Review Section.

INTER HOUSE

Inter-House Hindi Poetry Recitation Competition for Classes 6 & 7 (April 1, 2015)

1st Nalagarh House, 2nd Ranjit House, 3rd Patiala and Aitchison House

Tanisha(PH) got the 1st prize followed by Shreya Singla (NH) and Ebrahim Hassan Sofi (TH) in the 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

Inter-House Literary Competition for Classes 6 & 7 (April 15, 2015)

1st Tagore House, 2nd Ranjit House, 3rd Nalagarh House

Inter-House Maths Olympiad for Classes 6 & 7 (April 29, 2015)

1st Patiala House 2nd Aitchison House, 3rd Ranjit House

Inter-House Computer Quiz for Classes 6 & 7 (May 6, 2015)

1st Ranjit House, 2nd Patiala House, 3rd Nalagarh House

Inter-House English Debate for Classes 8 & 9 (May 13, 2015)

1st Patiala House, 2nd Tagore House, 3rd Aitchison House

Tanveer Singh Mangat was adjudged the best speaker, followed by Gurnehmat Kaur and Aaliya Sachar in the 2nd position and Mankirat Kaur Narang in the 3rd position

Inter House Plays for Classes 6-12 (May 21, 2015)

1st Patiala house, 2nd Aitchison House, 3rd Ranjit House

The Best Actor Award went to Atharv Sharma (AH), Lovneet Bhatt (AH) got the second position and Ikrabdeep Ghai (PH) was awarded the third position. Siddhartha Kabir (PH) was given the consolation prize.

Inter House Science Quiz for Classes 8 & 9 (July 29, 2015)

1st Tagore House, 2nd Nalagarh House, 3rd Ranjit House.

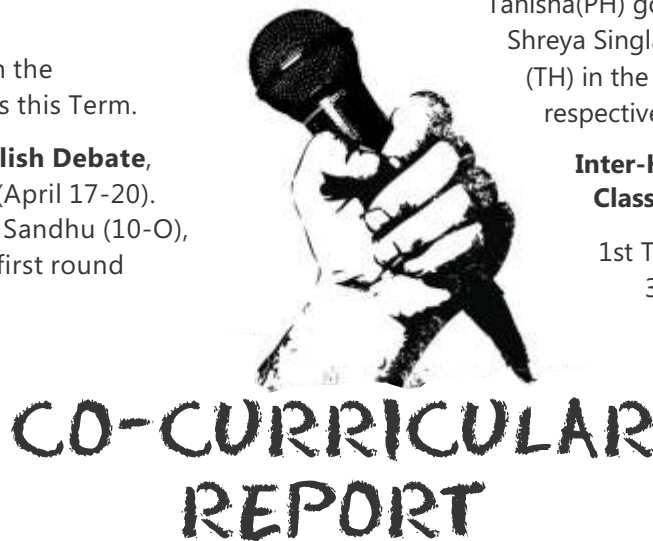
Inter House Poetry Recitation for Classes 10, 11 & 12

1st Nalagarh House, 2nd Ranjit House, 3rd Tagore house

Individual Prizes: Siddharth Kabir (PH), Jansher Singh Rehncy (NH), Shreya Arya (NH)

Inter House Science Quiz for Classes 6 & 7 (August 19, 2015)

1st Ranjit House, 2nd Patiala House, 3rd Aitchison House





SPORTS REPORT

HOCKEY:

YPS Mohali played friendly matches against the following teams:

- The U-17 Boys v/s SCL on Aug 8, 2015.
We won the match 4-1
- YPS Mohali v/s PPS Nabha (March 7, 2015)
- The U-15 Boys against YPS Patiala, (Aug 8, 2015).
The match ended in a draw.
- The YPS U-17 Boys against YPS Patiala on Aug 14, 2015. The match ended in a draw.
- YPS Mohali against YPS Patiala (March 21, 2014)
- YPS Mohali against BCS Shimla (April 4, 2015)
- YPS Mohali against Doon School (April 18, 2015)

CRICKET:

- Our school U-14 and U-17 Cricket teams played against Black Elephant Cricket Club, Patiala.

FOOTBALL:

- The YPS XI Boys' Team participated in the Selaqui School Football Tournament but lost in the league due to goal average.
- U-19 Boys played a friendly match against YPS Patiala on August 8, which ended in a draw.

BASKETBALL:

- YPS participated in the Sardar Bhagwant Memorial Basketball Tournament, held from Aug 10-18
- They were declared Runner Up in the U-12 Girls' Category, the U-12 Boys' Category and the U-14 Girls' Category
- They were declared the winners in the U-16 Girls' Category
- YPS U-16 Girls played a friendly match against The Millennium School and won.

FOOTBALL MATCH : THE STAFF V/S STUDENTS

By Tanveer Singh Mangat & Sidhant Vir Gupta, VIII N

What better way to bust stress and have fun than a football match between the staff and students! The August 28 match was a perfect opportunity to relieve some of the tension. It was also an absolutely harmless way for teachers to get back at the students for the trouble they caused and for the students to get back at the teachers for all of those gruelling hours of detention and homework. The spectators—staff and students—had a wonderful time sitting in the afternoon sunshine, applauding the teachers as they chased the ball.

In the first half, Sidhant Vir scored a goal after a brilliant pass, making the Headmaster dive athletically from one end of the post to the other. The teachers came back with a quick equalizer. In the second half, the teachers put up a strong offensive with their secret weapon, Surjit Sir, from the Bhaichung Bhutia Academy. The match, however, ended in a 1-1 draw.

The air of excitement and the hilarious situations that the teachers found themselves in made sure that not a single person left without memories and a big wide smile on their faces. A special round of applause for Mrs Sangeeta Madan and Mrs Gurkanwal Kaur for being such a good sport and playing in the match.

Fighting it out on the field (!) ▼





▲ Oblivious to the road ahead

such a fate. The leading groups, on the other hand, made good progress, but ended up losing their bearing and taking the 'long' scenic route.

We finally reached our campsite around 2 pm. Camp was set up and a plateful of Maggi restored our spirits (this was before the storm about its contents and subsequent ban). The evening was spent lounging around the camp and at night we stared at the night sky, awestruck at the number of stars filling it up and trying to discover new constellations. It was a spectacle that my poor grasp of English can't even begin to do justice to.

Come morning and we trekked even further up and reached the snow line. Horror stories and anecdotes were the hot topics of discussion that night with the whole group gathered around the campsite intently listening to stories about various encounters.

With morning came a surprising wake up call for me. I found myself outside my tent, slightly wet due to the rain that had woken me up, having been pushed out of the tent by my tent mates while they slept. On gathering my wits I noticed that our tent had also collapsed from one side. Apparently it had rained heavily the night before.

TREKKING 2015

CLASS XII TREK TO LAMADUGG 2015

By Bhaskar Datta, XII O

A sombre night in a bus hurtling through the hillsides, arrival in Manali at the break of dawn—the treks had begun. With the luggage dumped in the hotel and breakfast done, we decided to explore the local area that day. The evening came, and with it came heavy rain, which put our plans under a cloud of uncertainty. We were disappointed that our last trek was going to be nothing but a glorified one week stay at Manali. Luckily for us compensation arrived in the form of a shorter trek to Lama Dugg, 10 kilometers from Hadimba temple, instead of Deo Tibba.

Short doesn't even begin to describe it. It was so short that it took just 8 hours of climbing up an incline of 40 degrees (If you think that it sounds easy, I implore you, go try it, you'll enjoy it, I promise!). Not surprisingly there was a lack of fresh water on the way, increasing the difficulty. The trek claimed many 'victims' - those convinced that they wouldn't make it, and those plotting about what to do to the brilliant minds who had come up with this idea. The stragglers, which included me, constantly wondered what they had done to face



▲ 'Coolness' overload

The funniest part is that even though I woke up outside the tent, I was better off than the others as the situation there was worse. Water had pooled in and most of the tent was drenched. The better part of the morning was spent circling the relit campfire, trying to dry my shoes (even the best end up getting the short end of the stick once in a while). We returned to Manali that day and the trek was a piece of cake when compared to the uphill one, with no one even complaining once about anything.

We left Manali the next evening and came back to school tired, weary but happy at being back in civilization and our beloved phones and gizmos with a bundle of memories in tow

CALL OF THE MOUNTAINS

A Hatu Peak Recount

Hatu... The paradise where the skies glow a hundred shades of mellow pink, and a host of phantom listeners stand ever-ready to strip a traveller from his woes, leaving him enthralled in a spell where everything set in the mountain scape is a beauty. From the dreamy drizzle, to the bonfires that set ideas alight- everything seemed to be making me fall in love with the mountains.

All my days at Hatu Peak seemed to start off with heart-pumping open-jeep rides, and end with lively chatter at places where nights were merely bottomless oceans. Every day was an opportunity to try out something new- shooting, sequence-climbing, staying awake for five nights in a row!

Despite the confiscated sweets, long walks seemingly to the middle of nowhere and homesickness, I think I can safely say that my first trek made me realize that I was born for the mountains, where everything was just a sweet, slow dream.

Beauty, after all, is in the eye of the beholder.

Ria Khurana VII - S

CLASS IX, X AND XI GIRLS: NAGLERI

By Sajneet Mangat, X E

Extra torches, one's yuckiest sneakers, the prized cup-noodles and bucket loads of girl enthusiasm were amongst the many things the girls of Classes IX, X, XI packed along for the trek to Nagleri in May 2015. The groans at not going for an unorganized trek proved to be a false indication of things to come. The fun was entirely more than we had imagined.

All through the hot night of May and the mountainous national highways, the energetic Hindi and Punjabi karaoke never stopped, and at about six in the morning, we reached our campsite. The campsite, with cottages amidst the greenery, right on the banks of a tributary of the Beas, was a slice of paradise. As the shrieks of appreciation subsided, we headed for a trek to Jalori Pass, a few kilometers away. The exhaustion of the ten-hour journey disappeared at the sight of the breathtaking view of the valley from the hilltop. More was to follow.

Outdoor water activities included, not just the staple river crossing, but something so extreme that at first most thought that the instructor was just pulling our leg. Yes, we jumped into the torrents of the rivers with only a rope around our waists. The icy-cold flood and that beautiful rush of adrenaline was an experience that one can only have by swimming in the Himalayan Valley Rivers. With each passing hour, trekking at Nagleri was giving us incredible experiences to be remembered.

Another day, another thrilling encounter—we journeyed to a remote, untouched waterfall where the clear water from the melting snow added to the excitement. After an absolutely awesome time standing right below the falls on its mossy rocks, we called it a day after an evening walk to neighbouring villages. The following day we trekked 23 kms to visit ancient shrines on a mountain far off. The journey through the dense undergrowth with no clear pathway was a challenge in itself. However the group braved the tick bites and slippery mud to make it in time for an entertaining dance night after special strawberry custard.

Last days, dramatic and inevitable, we set off for home after a last adventure activity—rappelling. Climbing down boulders isn't something you do every weekend. There were tearful adieus to canine friends (Zelda), and the riotous river which had caused many sleepless nights was already being missed. The hilarious nights and wonderful laughter---- YPS wale Treks.

TREKKING CHRONICLES - MANALI

By Tanveer Singh Mangat, VIII N

The word 'Trekking' springs up in every Yadavindrian's mind at least a month before it actually comes by. 'Some' might think of it as a moment to take out their expensive clothes and gadgets. Others would call it a nightmare. Pragmatists see it as five days of mountain activities. Teachers call it a part of their job. But most of us describe it as fun. The boys of Class 8 were to have their slice of 'fun' at Manali from May 24 to May 28.



▲ Manali on a selfie stick

Everyone sat eagerly, hands ready to rip open their packets of chips. The wait to reach the mountains seemed to be never-ending! There was that typical air of boredom in the bus; most kids dozing lightly, some trying to pass the time by playing cards, one boy still completing his lunch, and the constant nagging of my friend to straighten my seat. Then came the tunnel: long, dark, and eerie and suddenly everyone started screaming... "WOOHOO!" To someone standing two kilometers away it would have felt as if a bomb had exploded nearby. To someone inside the bus, well, you had to be there to feel it.

We reached the campsite and had dinner. Then came the crucial moment of choosing the tent. The ideal tent was supposed to be spacious, well lit, close to the restroom, and far enough from the teachers so that you could stay up all night playing (and yelling) 'UNO!' You would call it asking for too much, but that's just the way things are during the treks. Heartbroken, we settled into our 'less-favourite' tent.

Half of the next day was spent trekking through narrow paths in the mountains, marveling at snow covered peaks, and occasionally stopping by to stare endlessly at brightly-coloured insects or birds. The evening passed with hand cricket sixes and celebration dances. On the 26th,



▲ The Solang Valley Camp visits the Mall

the guides took us near the Beas River, where we did rappelling and river-crossing. Most of the students were able to complete these activities with ease, which was definitely a good thing. After this, we went to Mall Road, where, jostling my way through the crowd, I bumped into a Yadavindrian every now and then.

The next day we visited the Hadimba Temple. Similar to Mall Road, the temple was overflowing with tourists and devotees. You had to wait in line to go inside, but it was worth the outstanding architecture and design which was showcased in the temple. Later in the afternoon we went to Mall Road again. After spending a fair amount of time (and money) at the wide range of shops we were taken back to camp.

'DOOMS DAY: 28 MAY 2015'-that moment when you don't want to leave but you have to. It was time to pack our bags and go back to the monotonous life, void of adventures and scenic views. But nothing's ever built to last! And so, make the most of every opportunity-especially when that opportunity is trekking, where you get a chance to actually understand and become a part of Nature!

MASHOBRA TREK

Ebrahim Hassan Sofi, VI N

Memories of last year's treks were still fresh in our minds when the school was abuzz with the planning for this year. There was excitement in the air, and I had already started dreaming of the great time which lay ahead. Finally it was announced that the venue was Mashobra—a beautiful place in the middle of mountains and woods. I 'googled' the place as soon as I reached home, and found it as beautiful as we could have desired. I, along with my friends, decided our group. This time there was so much planning that we decided to create a Whatsapp group to communicate with each other. We decided on the

essentials and the goodies we would be carrying to the trek. The planning part was great fun for us but a real nightmare for our parents as their phones never stopped beeping.

On the scheduled day, we started early in the morning from the school. The journey in the bus was full of fun as we sang numerous songs and melodies, and joked with each other. Our seniors in the bus were very helpful and caring. That is the best part of our school, we look after each other.

The venue was heavenly and we were pleased to find that the we were to stay in cottages with clean washrooms! The first task was to decide who would take which bed. This was quite easy, as I volunteered to sleep on the floor as we were short of a bed. We had a nice sleep through the night. And we were all ready for the adventure the next day...

The next day was fun with valley crossing, rappelling, Bermuda bridge and many more games, The activities were full of fun and learning. I must thank our trainers Dikshant Bhaiya and Abhishek bhaiya for being really friendly and kind. They facilitated all adventure activities; we had the best of time at Mashobra.

The trek was a great experience and left us with fond memories and we all look forward to our next trek.

LONDON!

Ishroop Kaur Sandhu, VII S

Going on a journey to visit far-off places always serves two purposes: sight-seeing and learning new things. With this idea, our school arranges such educational trips every year. This year I was lucky to get a chance to travel to England.

Reaching London on July 25, 2015, was really exciting for our group. The Quality Hotel 'Wembley', is where we stayed. The senior school faculty accompanying us included our Headmaster, so we felt really safe. It had already been announced that the next day we were to leave for Scotland by train. At 3:00 am our alarms shook us out of our peaceful sleep to make us get ready for the trip.

All through the journey we enjoyed ourselves and soon



▲ On the shores of Great Britain



▲ Showcasing Punjabi pride in England

reached Scotland. It was a tiring day for us as we did loads of shopping and saw the Science Centre at Glasgow, the Edinburgh Castle and the parade. On the 3rd day, we again left for London. The journey was great. We visited the 'London Eye', the Tower of London, the Buckingham Palace, Madame Tussauds and even took a cruise on river Thames. For the last 3 days we had fun exploring the city and visited the Chessington theme park in Surrey. The days ended all too soon but our time there was enjoyable and will live on in our memories.



▲ Dinner at Southall



▲ The Glasgow Science Museum

INTERVIEW WITH MR. D.S KOONAR

A man with contagious energy and a heart of gold, Mr. Darshan Singh Koonar is a personality loved by teachers and students alike. As his years at YPS are nearing the final chapter, we had a candid chat with the old-timer on his views on the changing trends of the school and the noticeable observations he has made over the years.

We heard, sir that you were to retire this year, but here you are pushing yourself for another year.

I have been a part of this institution for 32 years now. I was officially to retire on 28th February, 2015. However, on the Headmaster's request I came back for another year, extending my retirement date to March 2016.

Being here for more than three decades, have you seen any significant changes in the school?

I believe that there has been a major change in the kind of students in the school. Social media has engulfed and killed the creativity of the generation. We've become a slave to technology and it is the biggest curse of the time. I've also noticed that many parents are unable to spend quality time with their children. Conversations with humans, face-to-face are very important if we want to share ideas in the most proper way. Another thing I've noticed is that many children shy away from participating in events they have not ever tried. It is important for each one to test their capabilities and try something new if they want to achieve.

Despite this, do you believe that there is a quality of Yadavindrains which stands out admirably?

Yadavindrains have the ability to adjust to circumstances with confidence. This school teaches students to pave their paths and carve a niche for themselves no matter what they do. YPS teaches the confidence that one needs to stand out and be extraordinary. These are the qualities which every Yadavindrains should ideally have.

Are there any memories from this school which you will cherish?

I have taught very fine students in this school and it has been a privilege to do so. When ex-students come up and express their gratitude and love, nothing can match up to the value of that moment.

Is there any advice in particular that you would like to give the teachers and students before you leave?

Teachers should encourage students to question and broaden horizons. 'A good student always makes a good teacher'. So both students and teachers must have the power to listen. As for students, one must always try to go out and see what the world has to offer. There are

so many little things going on in our daily lives which are often overlooked. The power of empirical observation can take you places. Therefore, my only advice to students out there is to break out of your shells and do not confine yourselves into petty indulgences. There is always so much more to life than you might think there is.

by Sajneet Mangat X E

HOW MUCH DOES A SHADOW WEIGH?

I'm pretty sure that we all love playing with shadows, but "how much does a shadow weigh?"

I'm sure it's a silly question as you can't take a shadow and put it on a scale to measure its weight, but the material it falls on CAN be weighed. We all know that light has energy. In fact when light counters an object it pushes it just a bit. On the surface of earth for example, when sunlight is hitting it every square inch is being pushed with a force of about a billionth of a pound, which is basically nothing if looked upon. But over a larger surface area, the results can be pretty fun. On a sunny day, the city of Chicago weighs 300 pounds heavier than on an average, simply because more sunlight is falling on it, and in turn pushing it.

In outer space, where the solar wind isn't filtered by the earth's atmosphere or its magnetic field, the results are even bigger. A space craft traveling from Earth to Mars can be pushed 1000km off-course by light. This is the reason why a comet's tail always points away from the sun as sunlight is merely pushing it away from it.

So in a way that is calculable, though difficult to measure; an area covered in shadow, technically weighs less than the surrounding areas pushed by light.

We can hence conclude that a shadow on an object makes it lighter, but how much the shadow itself weigh is still a mystery!

By Siddharth Kabir, XII-O

MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

When Julie Andrews belted out this evergreen song in 'The Sound of Music' little did she know what an impact it would have on all the generations that followed, for it is a universal truth that when sad, think of happy thoughts and you will feel better. And boy, do we have much to be grateful for! Here's a list of my favourite recipes for happiness. Compile your own and save it for a 'rainy' day.

Wise Little Man: On Change

Change is a part of life – in fact the only permanent part of it. And yet every time a tiny alteration in your lives is made, you make such a fuss that one would think it was the end of the world. This just won't do. I know life isn't fair, but you have got to learn to live with it. You should be mature enough to take it all in your stride – you're a Senior School student now. Or maybe you're not. I really don't care. My point is that life has its disappointments, but you don't need to whine and gripe about them all day long.

Actually, I take that back. Each and every word of it. I should have thought before expressing such inane views. I mean, some of the changes here are rather unreasonable – No samosas? Studies during the athletic meet? And inter-house matches during the weekends, so that no-one can bunk their practical lessons? It's preposterous.

But no, this attitude is not the answer. Some changes might even be good, however appalling they may seem to be. If you see people playing in your tennis court with a sponge ball, it might not be a bad idea to join them instead of shooing them off. All right, some changes do need to be protested about, like the shift to an April-March session (which has completely ruined the months of September and March). But most of the time, we're not satisfied with anything, not even the good changes.

You might be confused by all this contradictory blathering, but I assure you that I have a clear idea of what I'm writing. To prove it to you, I have summarised the last three paragraphs in the form of some advice to you:

- Don't knock it before you've tried it.
- Protest against any change which interferes with your personal life, or otherwise seems bad to you.
- Don't waste your time listening to indecisive fools.

Yours sincerely,
The Wise Little Man

The goodly smell of Earth: It is difficult to find someone who does not love the smell of earth, enticing even for those who do not enjoy the rain (Is there even such a person?).

Cuddling a Dog: It is scientifically proven that those who have pet dogs are at a lesser risk of suffering from heart-related diseases.

The perfectly popped bag of popcorn: No greater pleasure knoweth mankind.

Breaking perforated seals on just about everything: Ummm...

Wild abandoned dancing: Especially when no one is looking.

Listening to a favourite song on repeat: Till the neighbours bang on your doors and ask you to stop.

Sunshine: Do not confuse sunshine (light) and sunrays (heat). The two are completely different. Nothing can be more joyful than the brightness of the sunshine after a few dark, gloomy and cloudy days.

Getting a free period all of a sudden: Oh joy sublime!

Popping bubble wrap: De-stressing and fun at the same time.

Smell of new books: New books have a different charm and it lies in the smell of those books.

This is one of those lists that can be unending. But the very purpose of coming up with this list is not to finish it. So, next time when you feel bored and disgusted, try thinking of these small things rather than switching on your Xbox or laptop. It won't be a disappointing experience.

ALONE I AM!

If you would ask me, where I want to go,
I would simply say "I don't know".

For, I don't know where my path is destined;
Is it being an extrovert, or being to me, just confined?

Is there a place better than this void – 'loneliness,
Where the angels sing and we are blessed.
I ask you, is there some place where I can be consoled,
Or, is there just this darkness, like a black hole?

But I 'will' find the heaven I conjure,
And overcome this sadness, that's for sure.

Tanya Ahuja X - N

WHEN WAR SILENCES

Blood oozed down Kai's head. Deafening bangs enveloped us. We were surrounded, captured. We had watched the heavenly mountainscape turn into a colossal battlefield wordlessly. I was, as if paralyzed, not moving as much as an inch. I was in shock...

It had all happened very quickly. Of course, we had no idea what could've happened. We were simply having an outing at the most serene and picturesque place left amongst the constant noise, smell and destruction of Afghanistan- the Torando Mountain range. It was dreadful, being a war reporter stuck in Afghanistan. I had to go to some of the most war-ravaged places in the country, to capture the aura of pain and helplessness. It was horrible to see terror and death unfold in front of my very eyes. To watch innocent people being seized into the fierce clutches of sick minded people and not being able to do anything completely frustrated me.

Kai, my stepbrother, who was an aid worker, had travelled with me to try and help the scared throngs of people- all stuck in the midst of the War of Sins. Of course, we had to pay the price for it. We weren't allowed to go back home to Australia, as we might have been 'brain washed' as they put it.

Kai and I had decided that we both needed a break from the riots and chaos, so we decided to pay a visit

to the Torando mountainside, the only peaceful spot left in Afghanistan. How were we to know that the 'jihadis' were going to create chaos? How were we to know that they would be ready with their tanks and bombs? How were we supposed to flee after they had cornered us?

The beige landscape had turned scarlet in seconds. Bullets and bombs had littered the green meadows in moments. I looked around towards Kai to see blood oozing out of his head. He had a dazed expression, his eyes half shut and-
BANG!
The guns had silenced him, forever.

It felt as if I had been hit on the head. My mind was confused. Befuddled. I didn't know what to do, but I could feel tears running down my cheeks. I couldn't hear the guns anymore. I couldn't see the rivers of deep maroon around me.

All I knew was that the guns had silenced me too.

I had realized what a terrible thing war was, and my mind raced back to the countless times I could've saved people; some not yet of age, from the strong grasp of Death.

But it was too late. I hadn't spoken out for anyone, and now there was nobody left to speak for me.

Ria Khurana VII - S

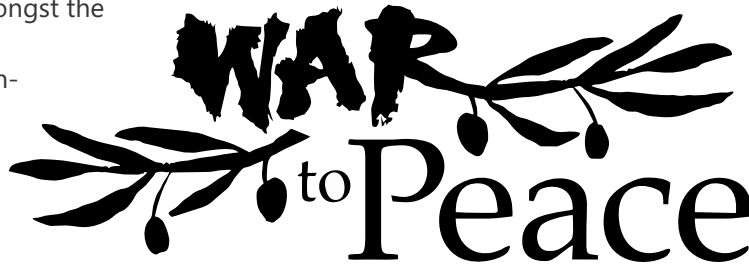
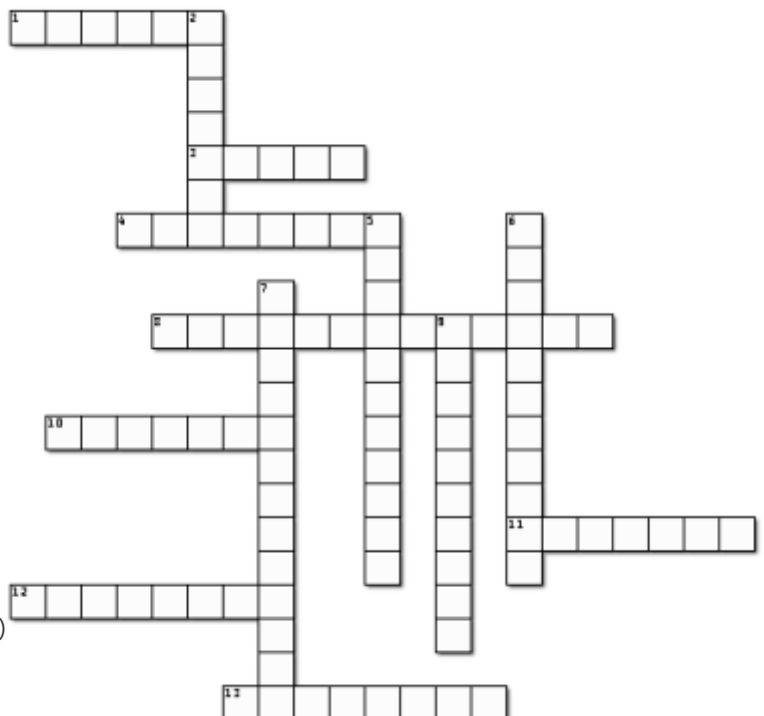
YPS CROSSWORD

Across

- The terror awaiting us in Grade 10 (6)
- YPS ki ___ hain hum (5)
- Wake up and reach school, or you'll miss the _____. (8)
- Favourite hangout of students (6, 6)
- What we avoid at all cost (7)
- We get chased out of here more often than not; the haunt during free lessons (8)
- Jogging pit stop (8)
- Will soon be back in a new avatar (3, 4)

Down

- They're back, but only once a month (7)
- Our brothers and our rivals.(3, 7)
- Food, food fights and excuses, all take place here (6, 4)
- Children's Day is no longer fun because of _____. (5, 7)
- The gym equipment that's the most fun. (10)





Let's eat grandmal



Let's eat, grandmal

PUNCTUATION SAVES LIVES!

An Amazing English Sentence

"I do not know where family doctors acquired illegibly perplexing handwriting; nevertheless, extraordinary, pharmaceutical intellectuality counterbalancing indecipherability transcendentalizes intercommunication's incomprehensibleness."

The author of this sentence must be a vocabulary genius. Why?

This is a sentence in which the first word is one letter long, the second word is two letters long, the third is three letters long, and so on. The twentieth word is twenty letters long!

Choose the ~~Write~~ Right Word!

They're: contraction of "they are"

Example: Mr. Apostrophe brings words together so **they're** easier to say!

There: in, at, or to that place

Where did Mr. Apostrophe Go? He's over **there**!

HINT: "There" contains the word "here." If you can replace "there" with "here," you're using the right word!

Their: belonging to people or things previously mentioned (or otherwise easily identified)

HINT: "Hair" contains the word "their." An heir possesses the rights to one's property upon death, and "their" is a possessive adjective.

Example: The people worried about **their** king and his lack of a proper heir to the throne.



FACE TO FACE

Candid Interviews by Ebrahim Hassan Sofi & Sehaj K Tiwana

As YPS students we are constantly learning. The mentors may vary from the academic staff, to the hobby teachers, coaches, and even the cooks and helpers, but they all have one thing in common— they guide us and help us become better versions of ourselves. To mark the contribution of our amazing teachers, Team Oracle interviewed some of them. Hope they will help you get to know them better.

MRS NEELU SANDHU (JUNIOR SCHOOL)

Q: How does it feel to be the beloved of all students?

Ans: I love it! (Muaah! Muaah!) I adore kids; that's why I've been here for so long.

Q: You've seen the school change, in look and personality over the years. Have the changes been positive or negative?

Ans: Both. The campus looks amazing. It's the best it has ever looked. I wish teachers were friendly with all kids, not just their own classes.

Q: Would you like to send a message to the staff and students?

Ans: Yes, the staff and administration, please come down to the kids' level and see how much fun it is. Kids, just have fun and respect your teachers.

Q: What's the secret of your success with the children?

Ans: Love, love, and more love. Give the kids love and they return it with interest. I've always cashed in on that.

MS. AMAN KAUR (JUNIOR SCHOOL)

Q: You have been in the school for a long time. What major changes have you seen?

Ans: I like the idea that the children get their snacks outside the junior school building so that the classrooms remain neat and clean. The kids also enjoy eating

outside.

Q: Tell us about your best moment at YPS.

Ans: The best moment for me in the school has been the Science fair. I kept scolding the children but on the final day, it was a truly wonderful show.

Q: Have you seen any changing trends in the 10 years you have been in the teaching profession?

Ans : Yes, the students have become more interactive. Studies are more activity-oriented. The students are encouraged to participate. This way learning has become more fun for children.

Q: Any suggestions for students?

Ans: Students should behave properly with everyone and work on their table manners and etiquette.

MR SUNIL KUMAR VARDHAN (SCIENCE DEPARTMENT)

Q: Since you have joined YPS recently, how do you feel about the school?

Ans: I am really enjoying my time in YPS. The students here are very good and have shown a lot of potential.

Q: Tell us about yourself.

Ans : I belong to the mountains, and am from Shimla. I'm just a simple man who loves to teach.

Q: You've been teaching for 12 years now. Is YPS different from the other schools you've been associated with?

Ans: There is a lot focus on skill development and activity-based learning here. The spoken English is better than the other schools I have taught in.

Q: You took part in the football match between the staff and students. How was the experience?

Ans: I loved it. It was a good way of connecting with students and the staff.

ANITA DIDI (HELPER IN JUNIOR SCHOOL)

Q: How long have you been with the school?

Ans : I have been working in this school for the past 9 years. I have spent 5 years in Kindergarten and 4 years in the Junior School.

Q: Tell us about your thoughts about YPS?

Ans: I think this is the best school in the world. I love the children and am so happy to see the children I worked with in the Kindergarten all grown up. Some of them still give me hugs. It feels nice.

MR RAJESH (MEDICAL ROOM)

Q: Tell us about your job?

Ans :I love my job. It is very satisfying to be able to help someone in pain.

Q: What are the common complaints for which students visit you?

Ans: The most common are headaches, stomach aches, minor injuries and infections. Of course lots of kids who just want to miss classes too.

Q: What is your message for students?

Ans: Children should be strong and eat well so that they don't fall ill. They should also be careful about taking medicines for no reasons.

MRS GURKANWAL KAUR (MUSIC DEPARTMENT)

Q: As a new teacher, would you like to make a suggestion towards improving the school?

Ans: There should be more discipline. Music should be compulsory for all the students for class 6 and 7, and optional for Class 8 and above.

Q: What is the best thing you like about YPS?

Ans There is a lot of freedom for both students and teachers here at YPS. The teachers in the school are welcoming and warm.

Q: Which are the classes you enjoy working with?

I love to teach class 6 and 7. They are very keen to learn music.

GANGA BHAIYA (COOK)

Q: Hello : what's your full name?

Ans : My name is Ganga Singh Bisht, but children have always called me Ganga Bhaiya. I like that.

Q: You have worked at YPS for 11 years. How do you feel about the school?

Ans: It is home for me. I love everything about it. I have seen so many changes, but the children remain the same. And I remain Ganga bhaiyya for them.

Question : Is there any message you want to give to children?

Ans : Yes, sure. The only message I want to give is "DO NOT WASTE THE FOOD".

MR JIGESHWAR PRASAD (COOK)

Q: How many years have you been working in YPS?

Ans : I have been working here for more than 35 years. I love the school.

Q: Please tell us something about the kitchen. On a daily basis how much food do you cook?

Ans: We make food for 2000 people every day. Per day we cook 70 kg of rice, 50 kg of pulses, one quintal of vegetables, 70 kg of curd and sweet dishes, and 40 kg wheat for chappatis.



Results of the competitions held from March to August this year :

English Poetry Recitation for Class III was held on April 21st, 2015.

Anhad Singh (III-S) I
 Jasnoor Kaur (III-O) II
 Nimar Kaur (III-O) II

Spin-A- Yarn competition held on April 22nd, 2015.

Atchison House – I
 Ranjit House – II
 Nalagarh House – III

Punjabi Poetry Recitation for Classes IV and V was held on April 23rd, 2015.

Haniya – I
 Jasraj – II
 Taijas – III

Inter House Punjabi Poetry Recitation for Classes IV and V was held on August 6th, 2015.

Tanmay (AH) I
 Karmanpreet (RH) II
 Balsher Singh (PH) and Jasleen Kaur (NH) III

Hindi Poetry Recitation for Classes III, IV and V was conducted on August 21st, 2015

Class III	III-O	III-S	III-E
Class IV	IV-E	IV-N	IV-O
Class V	V-S	V-T	V-O

The **Junior School Science Project Display** was held on May 15th, 2015. The theme for the Project Display was 'Evolution of Communication.' The children researched and worked painstakingly to make working models as well as mock ones. The fruit of their labour was well



▲ The radio jockeys

appreciated. The Project Display also had a 'Qawalli' that followed the journey of the means of communication from the basic means to the modern ones. There was a skit too that talked about various means of communication.



▲ Chess comes alive at junior school

The **Junior School Social Studies Project Display** held on July 30th, 2015 presented the theme 'YPS at Play' and the corridors of Junior School came literally alive with the students of Class IV showing live models of the various traditional games. The visiting parents mingled with the students and participated wholeheartedly in the various games. There was 'Snakes and Ladders', 'Chess' with students dressed as pawns and even a place for 'Chausar' decked with floor cushions and an actual game being played. The students enthusiastically explored the origins of some of the traditional games as Chess, Archery, Gilli Danda, Monopoly and Darts and shared their findings on the charts displayed throughout the corridor.

THEMATIC/SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

'**Compassion**' was the theme for the Thematic Assembly of Class III of 2015. On March 19th, 2015, the students of Class III drove home the theme by presenting this human value in the form of dance, a skit, poem as well as a song. The song 'The Golden Rule' as well as a Punjabi poem echoed the value of compassion in our lives. The skit was aptly titled 'Mr. Do as would be done by' and its message that animals and humans alike are in need of our compassion was very well received. The songs 'Chanda Sooraj Lakhon Taarey' and 'Heal the World' were the icing on the cake.

'**Flower Power**' was the theme of the Thematic Assembly on April 30th by Class II of 2015. The children took part in Theatre, Dance, Western Music, Indian Music and recited Punjabi Poems. They put together a great show showing the power of each flower. A group of students recited the poem 'Phul' in Punjabi, another group sang 'Rang Birange Phool Hamare' in Hindi and 'Care for Flowers' in English. A beautiful dance performance on instrumental music was also presented.



▲ Vande Mataram!

August 14th, 2015 was the day celebrated with the spirit of **'Proud to be an Indian'** at Junior School. The school sported a tricolor hue that day with all the children dressed in various shades of orange, white and green.

The celebrations started with the song 'Bharat Bhagya Vidaha' by the Indian Music Choir of Class IV. Class III E and III S presented a foot tapping dance on the song 'Desh Rangila.' The highlight of the celebrations was a dance performance choreographed and presented by Jasleen, Anwita, Sarghi, Ekam and Gulnaar from Class V on the song 'Vande Matram.'

The children were also addressed by a representative from HelpAge India to remind them to be compassionate and responsible. They were called upon to support and donate to HelpAge India.

Junior School at Founder's Day

Junior Yadavidrians put up a memorable show at Founder's Day celebrations. Indian Music Choir had everyone singing along with the melodious rendition of the song 'Zindagi Gulzar Hai.' Equally enthralling was the song 'I'll Stand by You' by the Western Music Choir. The adage "Silence can speak volumes" was well proven by the Mime put up by the Theatre group. The theme 'Water Conservation' was convincingly put across by the performers.

ARTICLES:

P.T.M.

(Sabreen Kaur Mann IV-T)

Oooff!.. P.T.M. again! It is a big headache for children. Our teachers tell all our bad habits to our parents, then our parents scold us and after the scolding our eyes are full of tears. But our teachers also share our good habits which make us feel proud. Oooff!.. P.T.M. again and I repeat, it is a big headache for children.

A Student's Perspective

(Avtansh Gargya IV-N)

Has anybody ever thought what a student wants? Often teachers and parents force students to read coursebooks and get good marks to attain knowledge. But I personally think that gaining knowledge doesn't depend on how many marks one scores, it depends on how much enthusiasm and inquisitiveness a student shows towards a particular topic. I think that reading only course books becomes boring and doesn't make sense. There's no point of revision if we have listened well and learnt in our class. Don't you think that playing games on the computer enhances our hand-eye coordination and focus? Don't you think that playing 'Clash of Clans' on a simple android phone can increase our skills in strategy making? Don't you ever realize that T.V. shows like 'Science of Stupid', 'Brain Games' and 'Do or Die' tell us more about Physics and different subjects than reading a Science textbook?

I strongly recommend reading books by authors like 'Liz Pichon', 'Enid Blyton' and 'Roald Dahl' which have increased my vocabulary and comprehension skills. Learning about Australia through videos on Tata Class Edge is much more fun than 'cramming' about Australian monuments from our Geography book. We can learn about the life of 'Ashoka the Great' from a television serial and can better retain it compared to a history textbook.

Above all, have you all ever tried to learn Math by playing number games with your dad rather than learning divisibility test from Math course books? Don't you all agree with me? I wish life could be as simple and interesting as that! Let's change history and start afresh.

10 Minutes with "Tom Alter"

(Japleen Kaur Dhaliwal IV O & Jasnoor Singh Dhaliwal IV T)

On Founder's Day we were backstage getting ready for our performance. We couldn't see, meet or listen to the chief guest - 'The' Tom Alter. We were anxiously waiting for the function to get over so we could meet him in the Headmaster's lawn. He was with the other guests there. We simply stepped ahead and greeted him. He welcomed us and appreciated our performance.

We shared some of the achievements by the students at our School Athletic Meet conducted recently. When we talked about our gold medal in the Broad Jump event, Mr. Alter was happy to hear the term 'Broad Jump'. He said that he was hearing it

after over 15 years – most people called it 'long jump'. Mr. Alter told us that we could break the national record in broad jump which motivated us. We talked to him about films. He said that he had worked in many movies but his favourite was 'Kranti' in which he portrayed a 'British Officer'.

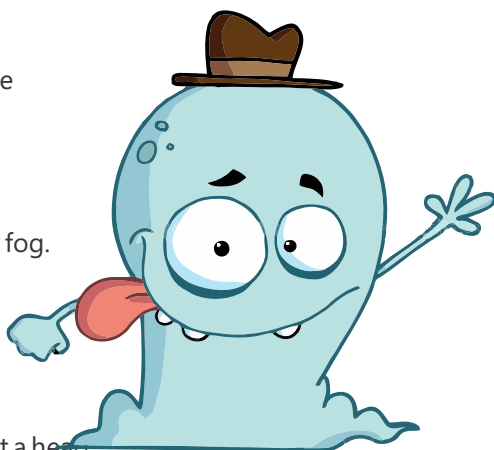
We also talked about his passion for theatre, sports and literature. Mr. Alter told us that he had worked as a Sports Journalist and was the first to interview Sachin Tendulkar.

We were happy to have met Tom Alter. We could feel the positive energy radiating from him and would like to thank our Headmaster for having given us the opportunity to meet him.

THE GHOST

Gulnar V-T

Near the park
In the dark
Seeing me, a dog
Started to bark
I ran very fast
And after sometime
I felt parched.
I looked behind
There was no dog
Only misty, cloudy fog.
I got frightened
Seeing the sight,
My whole body
Turned white
A blue man without a head
Was bathing in a pond
I got scared and I screamed
And that was the end of my dream.



Change Now

Mihira Gupta V O

When we are kids we have dreams. We want to be an actor or even Spiderman. There are no limits to what we think we can become. What happens to these dreams as we grow old? So many people say 'NO!' to us that we let that word affect the way we think. We forget our dreams and do what others expect of us. What has happened even ten seconds ago cannot be changed. But what we can do is change what we are doing right now in this second. We need to let go of the past... think of who we want to become... and not let other people tell us otherwise.

MY TRIP TO SOUTH INDIA

Aryan Gupta IV-T

Last year during my summer vacations, I went on a tour to South India with my family. Our trip was amazing. First we went to Mahabalipuram, near Chennai. It is an ancient city with stone carvings, and lots of beaches. It has a temple called Shore Temple which is made up of stones with carvings done on it. We stayed there for three days. Then we went to Pondicherry, which is a Union Territory. It is famous for its French Bakeries, colonies and beaches. French is one of the commonly spoken languages here. We drove there by car from Mahabalipuram via the East Coast Road, which is one of the best drives in the country as it runs along the sea. Then we went to Bangaluru by train. It was an overnight journey and we reached around eight in the morning. Bangaluru has a snow city in which the temperature is maintained at -4 degree C. It was fun to be there. Then we moved to Ooty, which is in Tamil Nadu, and we saw many wild animals along the road, as we drove through the National Park. It was an adventurous trip. Ooty is situated in the Nilgiri hills. We went around on a toy train in these hills. Then we went to Coorg and Virajpet. Coorg is a beautiful place which is famous for coffee plantations. The last part of our trip was in Goa which was again an adventurous journey as the train runs across the sea and through many tunnels. It was fun to see all the beaches. I enjoyed my tour which lasted for 25 days and has left everlasting memories in my mind.

Bet you didn't know.....

It is impossible for most people to lick their own elbow. (Try it!)

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

A shrimp's heart is in its head.

In a study of 200,000 ostriches over a period of 80 years, no one reported a single case where an ostrich buried its head in the sand, or attempted to do so.

It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.

The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick 'tis believed to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

If you sneeze too hard, you could fracture a rib.

Wearing headphones for just an hour could increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

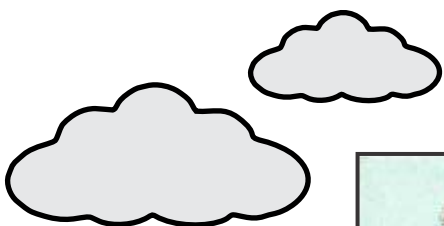
In the course of an average lifetime, while sleeping you might eat around 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders, or more.



FROM THE KINDERGARTEN WORLD



CELEBRATING MONSOON WEEK



editorial board

Editor-in-Chief : Sanya Arora
Editors : Bhaskar Datta, Sidharth Kabir ; Editor (Photography) : Lovneet Bhatt
Asst. Editors : Sajneet Mangat, Upamanyu Yaddanapuri, Komal Singh ; Photographer : Pranav Raj
Reporters : Tanay Gopal, Parwaan Virk, Tanveer Mangat, Reet Maggo, Khooshi Anand, Ria Khuraana, Ebrahim Hassan Sofi, Sehaj Kaur Tiwana