



Masthead by: *Soha Parvez*

Hey Allenites,

Since this is the first issue of the Excelsior for 2013, we would like to, on behalf of the entire Editorial team, warmly welcome everyone back to school (though the weather's welcome hasn't been a really "warm" one....). With the temperatures so low, the students can be spotted around the school in their jackets, mufflers and gloves and all the other tools to fight the cold. Everyone has settled very well into their regular routines and the return of Classes 7-9 is still awaited. This being a very special year for the school, the Excelsior will find you every fortnight, no matter where you are!

With a lot of gossip in the air about what the celebrations are going to be like for the "Quasiquintennial", there is a lot of tension in the atmosphere too with the ICSE and ISC students preparing for their Board Examinations. The campus looks a bit deserted as a large majority of its denizens are found in either the classrooms or in the warm dormitories.

Mr Champa's games programme is in full swing—the evenings are filled once again with the sounds of hockey sticks striking the ball, strokes coming off the cricket bat and the dribbling of basketballs.

This issue has a lot in store for you, as we bring to you the current status of what is happening on campus in our section 'Campus News', a glimpse of the plans for October in 'Peek-a-Boo', current trends in 'In and Out', poems and interesting articles as well as interviews and a very interesting puzzle and....of course The Poll!

In the end the message we want to convey to all you avid readers out there is —
"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is The Commencement of a New Year."

Excelsior!

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BRAIN WAVES.....

As quick as a flash and as unfettered as the soul is the human mind which switches gears, sometimes in mid-thought, within the fraction of a second. Let's say you are lying in your bed at night, planning to go for a walk the next morning and right after that you think of stepping on a dog's tail, the outcome of this sad thought being the mental image of you jumping over fences across a green stretch that makes you stumble over a rock and fall with your face in a heap of dung—sounds bizarre, doesn't it? The flight of the human mind can sometimes be as bizarre as that. That was just a glimpse of how thoughts work and in order to understand them it's important to understand the complexity of the human brain. The human brain weighs only three pounds but is estimated to have about 100 BILLION cells.

What is the Speed of Thought?

Faster than a bird and slower than sound! But that may be beside the point: Efficiency and timing seem to be more important anyway. As far as thoughts are concerned, I reckon that they travel even faster than the speed of light. If a race is organized between human thoughts and light, with the starting point being the sun, it will take light approximately eight minutes to reach the earth but your thoughts will have already reached the finish point long before light arrives huffing and puffing.

What about the dark side of the human mind?

The dark side of the human mind is yet more complex and difficult to understand – I am sure all of you have struggled hard trying to figure out how Macbeth's grey cells got him to get Duncan out of the way or made Lady Macbeth struggle with an invisible blood stain? The dark side of the brain activates when the conscious mind is dormant and the subconscious mind takes over, that is, it uses the past memories that have collected inside the head, creating a new virtual version. In order to understand the workings of the subconscious mind better we performed an experiment in our dormitory. It was around twelve o'clock at night when we decided to note the activities of a friend of ours when his subconscious was in full throttle – when he was stuck in the vortex of dreams. Our subject, who was deep in the arms of slumber was flailing his arms about and screaming. We shook him awake and told him that it was time for morning runs and the livid P.E teacher was waiting for him downstairs. Still groggy and reeling from the nightmare he was eager to believe anything but when the conscious mind took over, he realized that he had been fooled.

Well, that was the mind through my perspective, it probably could have been something else through yours...

Samarjit Khara

10A



• *Return of the natives...*

Birds migrate, rodents hibernate but life never stops even for a moment and likewise life at Allen is again abuzz with the return of students.

• *A new car in school.....*

As you all know, our school has bought a new XUV 500... which can be seen parked outside the main office, sparkling in the sun.

• *Rumours about... none other than the Quasqui Centennial celebration...*

Although everyone has just returned, the discussions have already begun. Is Mr Champa going to get all the boys together to form a pyramid? How are 5000 guests going to fit in the auditorium? Is any celebrity going to come? If yes, then who? If not, then why not? Will there really be no studies from morning till night? (Don't get your hopes up!)

Peek-a-Boo.....!!



Well, here's what everybody has been curious about... a glimpse... clues...hints of what is actually going to happen during the celebrations of the 125....

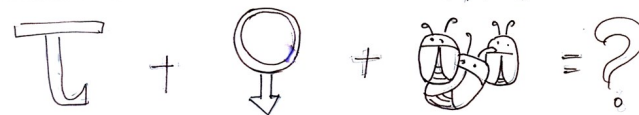
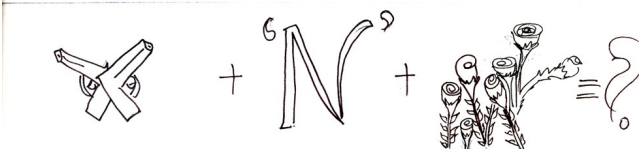
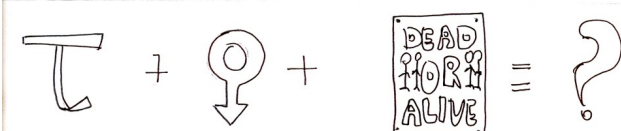
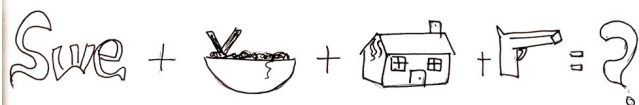
We ARE going to perform a musical that will require the whole school to participate! The play may be "the"(the name will be disclosed in the next edition)

- We are going to have drills.(Awww!)
- We will have a SIX-DAY HOLIDAY AFTER THE CELEBRATIONS ARE OVER!!!!
- A GRAND dinner for which the catering will be done from outside (the dates for which will also be published in one of the Excelsiors, so keep those eyes open!)
- Fancy Fair on a larger scale....

Sorry- can't give away everything right now but we assure you that you will regularly be updated on all that happens behind the scenes...

Try figuring this out! If you claim to be an ardent fan of music bands, you should not have any problem deciphering the names of these famous bands. A chocolate awaits the genius that cracks this!

A 'rebus' is a combination of pictures and letters which represent a word or phrase whose meaning has to be guessed.



Chocolate provider : **Aaishwarya Bhagat**
(Hurry, hurry, hurry!!! Your box of Rochers is waiting!)

Wynberg Allen— you are a school full of grace,
We lovingly swarm around your face.
You have stood tall for 125 years
and faced the challenges all in one place.
Wynberg Allen— we reach your gates
bubbly, chirpy and ready for the day.
We follow you, as you guide us
With the ring of your bell
With our hearts full of joy
We wish you well.
Wynberg Allen- we feel truly loved and blessed
With music, fun, games, teachers, friends and all the rest
You give us warmth and comfort as you draw us close to your nest
Wynberg Allen, you are the best!!!

Diya Maitra
12H

IN	OUT
Matt-finished frames	Thick lens frames
Beards-French cut	Goatee
Trendy coloured and checked mufflers	Silk scarves
Coloured loafers	Black loafers
Straight fitted trousers	Baggy jeans
Zipppers and hoodies	Round necked sweatshirts
Plain checked shirts	T-shirts
Watches-analogue	Digital watches
Fluffy jackets	Denim jackets
Sitcoms	Movies
Whatsapp	Facebook
Suit & Tie	Gangnam Style
Honey Bunny (!dea)	Little Things (Airtel)
Boots	Sneakers

New Beginnings

Lo and behold, it is the dawn of a new academic year,
We've bid a temporary 'sayonara' to our family dear,
Welcomed were we with bright sunshine,
Hoping that the days would be nine times fine,
Alas! Engulfed us the frigid, icy breeze,
Making us to our toes freeze.

The ICSE and the ISC students have to be bookworms or so,
Till they encounter their foe and some to a new dimension go.
The 12's still amazed they've reached the class right at the end,
After having manoeuvred around many a challenging bend.
The 10's mighty pleased with their 'upper corridor' flight,
Also simultaneously aware of their slightly arduous 'studying' plight.

Wynberg Allen's epic journey completes years 125,
Due to the unwavering faith and vision of our founders who took the dive,
Alwynians, who've passed through the gold and green portals,
Will bring back fond memories to the present Allenite mortals.
Indeed, Excelsior – the banner of our motivation since 1888,
Is victoriously waving at the zenith up to date.

So, let's break a leg and make this year an unforgettable one,
Keeping in mind that it's going to be a potpourri of studies and fun.

As 2013 unravels, we hope to time travel to our historic past,
And share with you a deluge of events forever to last.

Merin John
12 H

Bedazzled & Besotted by the Snow Bedecked Hills

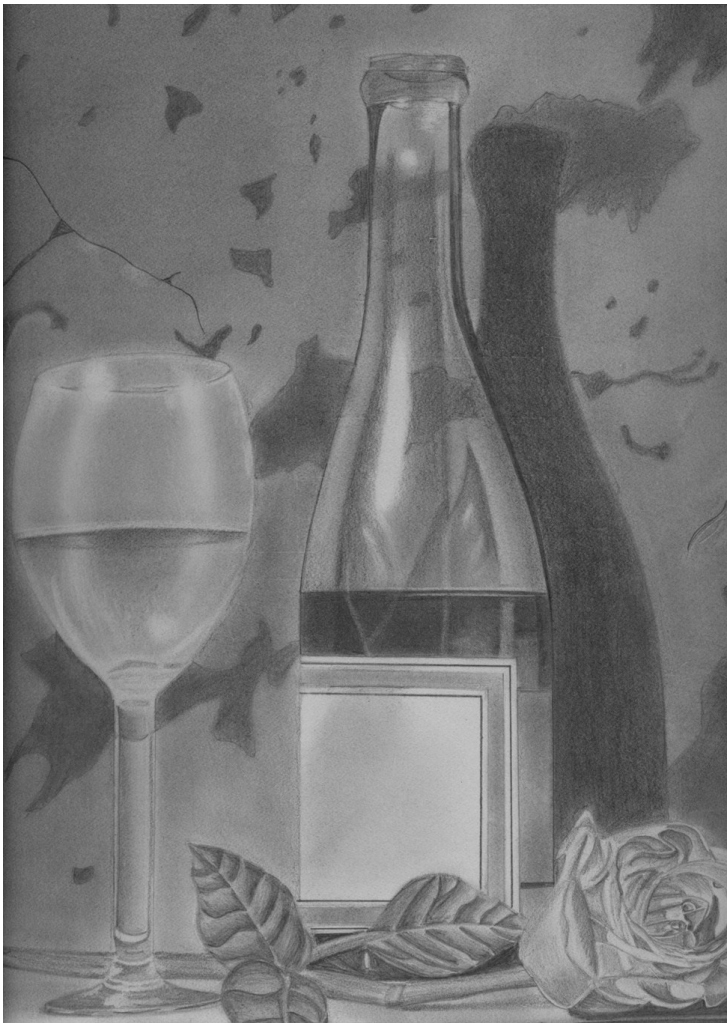
After days of pious prayers for it to snow, the girls were quite heartbroken when they didn't see a blanket of snow encircled around the school on Sunday morning. But the speck of snow we saw at Lal Tibba instilled in us the determination to witness the snow despite the extremely frigid weather. So, after winning the heart of Ms McFarland, with a lot of convincing, we finally set out on our icy expedition to Chaar Dukan in our Eskimo gear.

Trudging along the steep slopes of Mussoorie again was an experience we were unused to and pretty soon we were huffing and puffing.

But all the exhaustion seemed to fade when we beheld traces of snow.

The first bout of snow fights was followed by the delicious delicacies of Chaar Dukaan and after satisfying our hunger we proceeded towards a higher altitude where there were mounds of snow by the wayside.

Snow was too good to resist and pretty soon we found ourselves either running to avoid being hit by a snowball or ready to take aim.



Sketch by:- Tushar Arora

Amidst squeals of delight there were a few hilarious incidents of shoving, pushing, slipping snow down collars and into pockets— basically having a great time. The picturesque scenery of snow-clad trees transformed the entire place into a fairyland for us.

Altogether, there was an atmosphere of euphoria at having experienced an adventurous morning in the lap of snow.

Merin and Ashveen



Sketch by:- Suchaina Mehan

An interview with Mr. Paul Spence

Where were you born?

Kolkata

What were the different professions you thought about before pursuing teaching?

I thought about becoming a journalist, then something to do with the environment, but then there were no degrees available at the time (laughing). I used to work as a junior accountant in a jute mill and I used to tutor children at the same time. That is when I realised that I really enjoyed teaching and the rest is history.

Interests?

I read books off and on, meet people from different cultures, listen to pop and classical music and of course, I love to eat.

What is your ideal holiday location?

Anywhere in the hills.

Name one prank you played in your childhood.

When there was no teacher in the class, I would stand up and wish the door (pretending that a teacher had just entered) and the whole class would stand up. I even do it now with my students.

How would you rate your experience of teaching Grade 6?

It's the first time that I taught Class 6- it's a challenge and they are a nice lot.

What are your beliefs about teaching?

I look at teaching as a sort of friendship. You learn so much from your students and I noticed this during my interaction with children of different age groups.

Are you multilingual?

Yes. I can read and write Bengali, Hindi and English.

Favourite actress? (Bollywood)

Priyanka Chopra.

Favourite actress? (Hollywood)

Oh, there are so many! Cameron Diaz takes my fancy though.

Favourite cuisine?

Chinese.

Favourite book and author?

'Coma' and 'Cure' by Robin Cook.

Favourite T.V. serial?

The Big Bang Theory

Favourite movie?

There's something about Mary.

What is the best restaurant in Mussoorie according to you?

Domas (the food was lovely and the momos were delicious!!!)

Your views about Wynberg-Allen?

I like it because there's a good lot of students here, both junior and senior and also because being in the hills brings out the best in you.

Role Models?

Indira Gandhi.

Rajiv Gandhi (because of his charisma).

Do you like the school food?

Delicious!!!!

Your dream job?

A job in the hospitality industry because you get to meet so many people.

One crazy fact about you....

I love cheese! I like to experiment with cheese and I love anything to do with cheese. If there is a food item with cheese in it, I would definitely try it.



Quotable Quips.....

If each day is a gift I would like to know where I can return Mondays.

Everyone has a photographic memory some just don't have a film.

The poke option is okay ,but when is Facebook going to come up with a punch option.

I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places.

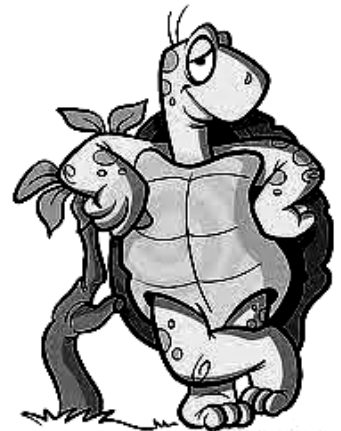
Dreaming permits each and everyone of us to be quietly and safely insane every night of our lives.

If you don't want a sarcastic answer don't ask foolish questions.

If you have enemies that is good because it means you stood up for something in life.

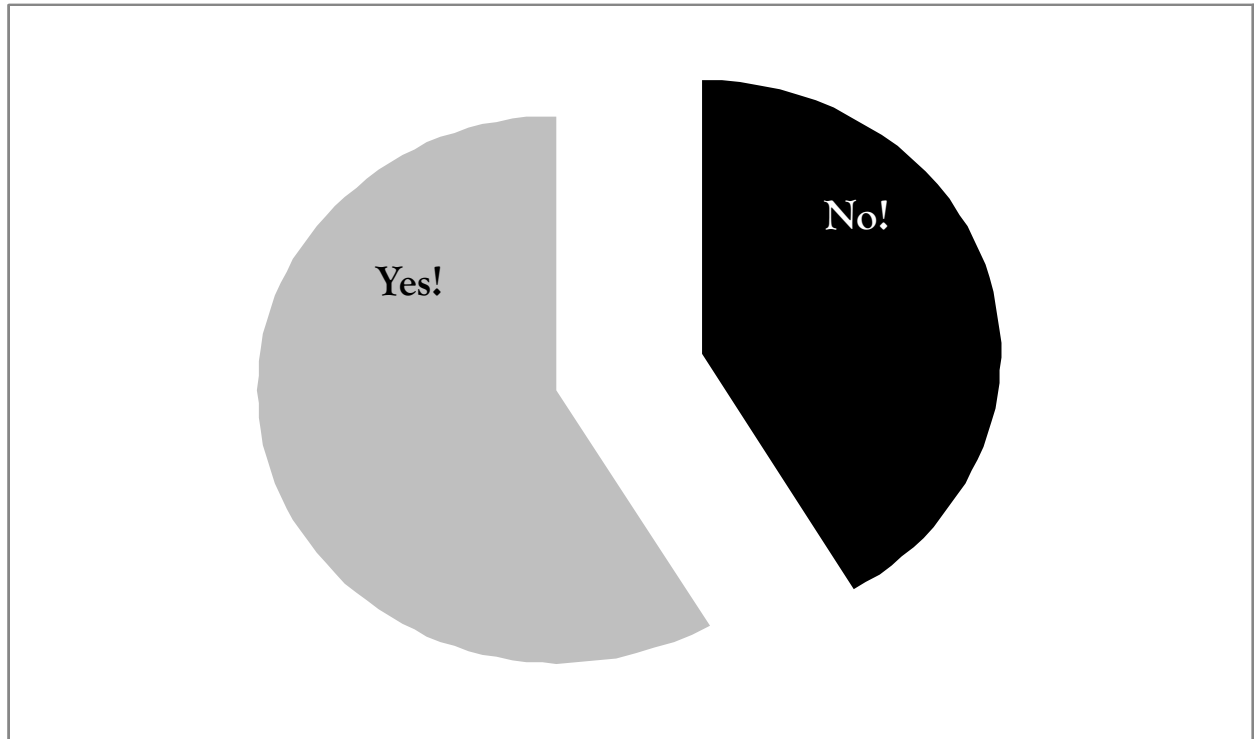
I don't suffer from insanity - I enjoy every minute of it.

Time is the best teacher , unfortunately it kills its students.



POLL QUESTION

Should we have the Fancy Fair in October?



Nothing lasts forever, so live it up, take it in, laugh it off,
Avoid mistakes, take chances & never have regrets,
Because at one point, everything you did was exactly what you wanted.

The Editorial Team

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