

# Excelsior

Volume I, Issue I

JULY 2011

Masthead drawn by—  
**David Lalringdika**



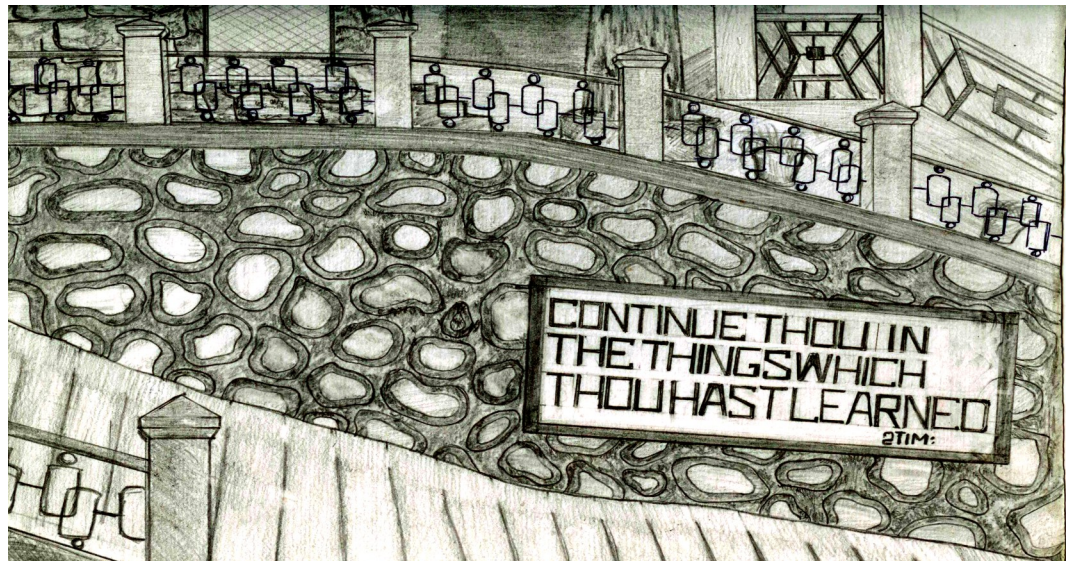
## Special points of interest:

- The first issue of the Intermediate Excelsior

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## EDITORIAL



First of all, a very warm welcome to all of you. This is the first issue of the intermediate division of the Excelsior and we being new recruits for this are somewhat apprehensive about what to say..... It seemed a Herculean task for us when we were told to publish this issue of the Excelsior but in spite of it being our first time, we did not give in and gave it our best shot!

With the "INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS" looming everybody is quite burdened with their studies and there are a few individuals who are on the verge of giving up..... But this is exactly what we want to convey: no

matter in which direction the wind may blow, we should never give up or give in. Giving up is a path that never leads to the fulfillment of one's dreams and ambitions.

The monsoon marks the beginning of a new term with lots of things in store for everyone. Soccer is in the air and the boys as usual are full of enthusiasm and eager anticipation. Moving away from the field of games one witnesses other co-curricular activities that catch students' fancy like Inter House Debates, the Hindi Elocution and the recently concluded Spelling Bee Competition. Once again the girls' 'WEAPONS' against the torrential rains, have tumbled out of their arsenal and eve-

ry morning and evening a caravan of brightly coloured umbrellas and raincoats can be caught sight of.

Sooooooooo.....All we want to say is.....learn, think, create, scrutinise and have loads of funnn.....because "SCHOOL LIFE IS LIKE AN ICE-CREAM.....ENJOY IT BEFORE IT MELTS!!!"

EXCELSIOR!





# The Poetry Section



## Unanswered Questions

In a sea of people,  
Each one stands out.  
All different from each other,  
Without any doubt.  
But over the years, they've mastered the art  
Of going with the flow  
Not objecting, or questioning;  
Not knowing where they'll go.

They take originality, make it duplicity.

No one who dares to say

Why is blue called blue, not green?

Why save the world tomorrow, not today?

Where there is love

There is jealousy, anger and pain,

Life has no meaning,

It all goes in vain.

If love is in vain,

Then what is hate?

Nothing but killing and dying,  
With others' lives at stake.

In a sea of people,

Each one stands out,

But not one brave enough

To show the world what he's about.

**-Shivani Lynn 10A**



## Two New Twins

We are new,  
Have made friends a few.  
We have come to this school,  
And have met students cool!  
We love this place,



For to dream and grow, it has a lot of space

We like our teachers,

As they are beautiful individuals.

We love our friends,

Together, we set new trends.

Now, our life is full of spice,

As the activities here are very nice.

We hope our life continues to go well,

As sweet as a ringing bell!

**-Simran Arora 9B**



## Friends

Friends are like shadows,  
Who are always beside you.  
Friends are like chocolates  
Who always add sweetness to your bitter moments.

Friends are like spectacles,

Who always make you see the brighter side of life.

Friends are like Angels,

Who always whisper good deeds

in your ears.

Friends are like the siblings,

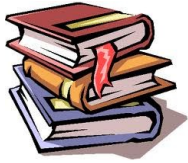
That God forgot to give us.

Friends are the precious moments in life  
Which make life worth living.

A special thank you to all my friends!

**-Priyanka Aswani 10B**





# Stories and Articles



## Learning a Foreign Language

There are many advantages of learning a foreign language, or, a language other than English. It is wonderful that our school allows children to learn other languages like Thai and Nepalese. Foreign languages help us to learn about the culture and traditions of other countries and also enable us to understand how one language differs from the other. In fact, it even improves our English because several words in the English language have been derived from oth-

er languages. For instance, the English word *restaurant* comes from French.

Just think! If you were going abroad for higher education, not knowing the language of the country you were going to, wouldn't it make it difficult for you to communicate with others, even to extend certain basic courtesies like saying *please*, *thank you* and *sorry*? Learning a language like French would be particularly beneficial because it is spoken in several countries. If you were in one of these countries and had to tell someone about yourself or your school, you would say

something to this effect:

*Je étude en Wynberg Allen scolaire.* (I study in Wynberg Allen School.)

*Mon chemm de pupitre du estrodoire est Monsieur Tinadale.* (Our principal is Mr. Tindale.)

I hope you enjoyed reading this article! Merci!

-Abhishek Gulati

10 A



## Tunnel Trap

The water was cold, I took a deep breath and jumped into the water and swam towards the shore. I swam for ten minutes. I was being followed by a strange man. I had gone snorkelling with my friend, John. We had been in the water for only five minutes when the assailant attacked John. He died instantly. I felt guilty for his death, for I was partially responsible. But, there was no time to waste. I swam frantically towards the shore.

I reached the shore safely but I could see that the pursuer had not given up. He was coming to gun me down. Fortunately, my hotel was not far off. I ran into the hotel lobby, banged into a hotel clerk, pushed him out of my way, and ran up the staircase to my room. I flung the door open, taking care to lock it after I had entered the room. I quickly packed the antique diamonds my boss had given me, into a bag. I had been entrusted

with the responsibility of handing the diamonds back to the museum that they had been stolen from. Suddenly, I heard someone banging on the door. Could it be the assailant? Whoever it was, he pounded on the door with all his might, while I stood rooted to the spot thinking of how to get away.

There weren't many options. I opened the door. To my relief, it was Angelo, one of the security officers working on the Lisa Diamond Case. He had come to help me out. I could see the assailant at the opposite end of the corridor. Angelo and I took the fire escape down and found ourselves running towards a strange tunnel.

We entered it, hoping it would be a good escape route. Much to our dismay, it turned out to be a dead end! The exit was blocked by a huge boulder. Angelo took out a revolver while telling me that there had to be some way to roll that obstacle that blocked our way to freedom. I pushed the boulder with all my might. After much puffing and panting, it did move and under it could be seen a

switch of some sort. I pressed the switch and to my amazement, the huge boulder, which had stood like Goliath before a tiny David, smashed into smithereens. I was unhurt but all our surroundings were covered in a thick cloud of dust. I could hardly see anything. I called out to Angelo a couple of times and then I heard a gun shot. I ran out of the tunnel as fast as I could. I somehow made my way to the nearest railway station. Handing the diamonds over to the police, I told them about what had transpired in the tunnel. They immediately went in search of the assailant in the cave. They found a body there that seemed to have been crushed to a pulp. I wondered what had caused the assailant's death. Then, I received a call from my boss. He asked me if I was safe. After listening to the whole story, my boss said, "I don't know any man called Angelo!"

-Navdeep Singh

10 B



## Horror in a Hotel

I went inside a hotel, where no one was to be seen. I walked up to the reception desk. Suddenly, a man appeared who allotted me a room. Seconds later, he disappeared and the entrance door shut behind me! I was locked in the hotel! Feeling terrified, I wondered what to do. I went upstairs to my room and switched on the lights. As soon as I did that, the lights went out! The door to my room and the windows all closed on their own. I was shivering with fear now. Then, I heard a banging on the door and the sound of laughter inside the room. I forced the door open and tried to get out but the door banged shut so hard that I almost broke my hand! The windows too, could not be opened. Again, I pulled on the door and

this time, I managed to get out of that cursed room.

When I stepped out into the corridor, a blanket was pulled over me and I fell to the ground, spraining my ankle. I tried to get up and then.... I felt as if someone was lifting me up. I found myself in the air and was thrown on a wooden table. I couldn't understand what was going on. My back was badly bruised. I could see people, or rather, ghosts all white in colour, hovering in the air. Their laughter echoed all through the corridor. I jumped off the table and ran from there, looking frantically for an exit. The building started to shake and tremble. I found myself banging against the walls on either side and falling at times. I broke a window and jumped to the ground from the

third floor. I had injured my head, back and hands, but I was relieved that I was safe!

**-Ashwin Gaharwar  
10A**

**BOOO!!!**



**.....And you  
thought you knew  
everything!!!**

**What is special about the ATM  
unveiled in Abu Dhabi on May  
13, 2010?**

It is the world's first ever gold vending machine!  
**Name the country whose president is Goodluck.**

Nigeria  
**How many court cases have**

**been filed against Indian artist, M.F. Hussain?**

900 cases!!

**Which of these means a 'sharp bend in the road'?**  
**dogtag/dogleg/catwalk**

A dogleg means a sharp bend in the road.

**Who is the only person to have played in cricket and soccer world cup teams?**

Vivian Richards

**How many kilometers does a player cover in a 75 minute badminton singles match?**

6 km.

**'Fragrant meat' has been eaten in China for thousands of years.**

**What is it?**

Dog meat!!!

**-Merin Ann John 10A**



## A BOOK UPDATE

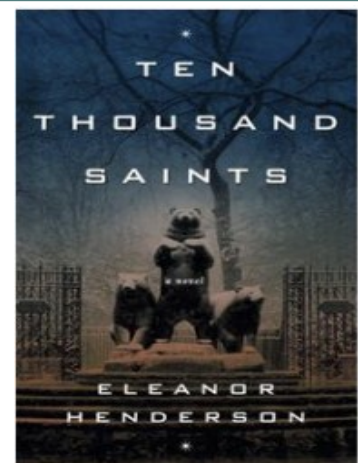
In Eleanor Henderson's proudly unsentimental debut novel, a teenager who ODs on New Year's Eve unknowingly pulls together the friends and family he left behind. *Ten Thousand Saints* threatens to get cluttered at times, but Henderson reins in her sprawling cast with a series of contrasts and a neighborhood as a supporting player.

**Date of Release: 3rd July, 2011**

**Rated** ★★★★★

**(As shown in the New York Times)**

**-Tushar Arora & Raghav Mutneja**





# A tete-a-tete with the Twins



The population of identical twins at Allen is on the rise. Abhishek Gulati, Siddhant Shivhare and Merin Ann John quizzed Karan and Kunal and Smriti and Simran on how life actually is as.....a TWIN!!!

## Karan Rupani and Kunal Rupani

**How does it feel to be a twin?**

**Karan:** It is something very normal and natural for me. I don't really get affected by how others feel about my being a twin.

**Kunal:** Well, it is not something that I regard as particularly important.

**When did you first realise that you looked alike and were twins?**

**Karan:** I don't remember the day when I realised it.

**Kunal:** I never really consciously realised it.

Is there any advantage or disadvantage of your looking alike?

**Karan:** Some times, when one of us hasn't done his homework, we show the same notebook to the teacher who comes to check if we've done our work or not.

**Kunal:** When I have done something wrong, sometimes Karan gets punished for it, which I do not like.

**How do you feel when people confuse one of you for the other and mix up your names?**

**Karan:** It is the only thing in the world that frustrates me.

**Kunal:** Awful! That's how I feel when that happens. It is frustrating when I have to correct them

**So, how do people differentiate between you?**

**Karan:** Well, when we joined the school, no one could tell the difference between us. But now, as the years have rolled by, almost everyone can tell one from the other.

**Kunal:** It is because of this that we wear a different pair of spectacles. How do you differentiate between us?

**Siddhant and Abhishek:** Well, we can differentiate between your voices. Your (Kunal's voice) is deeper.

**Is there any particularly memorable incident that occurred involving your being twins that you would like to tell us about?**

**Karan:** Yes, once when we were at the airport, we had to show our Identity cards along with our passports. I had forgotten mine but Kunal had his with him and we both entered using the same card.

**Kunal:** Fortunately, that is the only such incident that has taken place!

**Is it true that twins have some sort of a telepathic connection?**

**Karan:** Though some people dismiss this belief as a myth, many a time I have noticed that the thought that enters my mind is put into words by Kunal.

**Kunal:** I was really going to say the same thing!

Point proved!!!

## Simran Arora and Smriti Arora

**How did you feel when you first realised that you were twins?**

**Simran and Smriti:** We felt extremely happy about it.

**What are the advantages of being twins?**

**Simran and Smriti:** We enjoy it immensely when people find it hard to distinguish between us.....and when a person shouts at the one who hasn't done anything wrong!

**What are the disadvantages of being twins?**

**Simran and Smriti:** At times, we find it very awkward and boring as we have so much in common and share everything. It is like being photocopies of each other.

**Do you think alike?**

We both have the same opinion with regard to likes and dislikes in food, dresses and the like. We have different opinions with regard to our academic preferences, though. (*Simran has opted for Commerce while Smriti has opted for Science.*)

**What is the greatest benefit of being twins?**

We can do our homework for each other!

**If you ever had to, would you be able to live apart from each other?**

**Simran and Smriti:** We wouldn't mind living apart. When we grow up, we will have our own lives to lead, anyway.





**The Editorial Board:-**

**Editors-in-chief:** Raghav Mutneja

Tushar Arora

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Merin Ann John

Ashween Kaur Malhotra

Jurish Nath

Priyanka Aswani

Achintya Baghel

Abhishek Gulati

**DUCK or a RABBIT??**



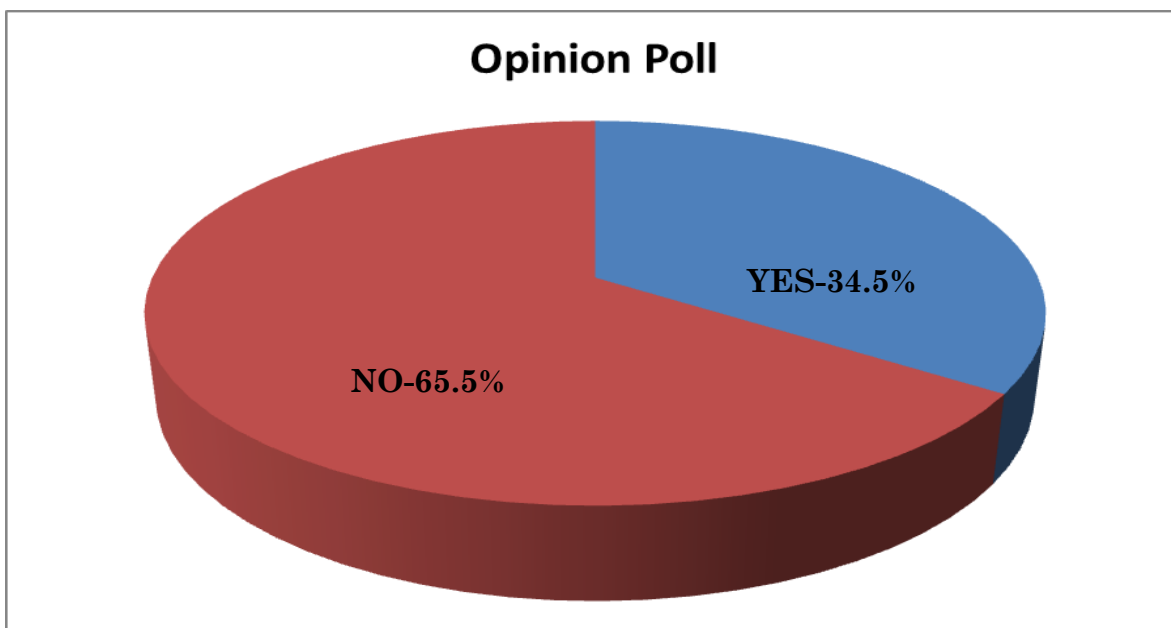
**Try this Optical Illusion:-**

Tilt this picture towards the right and you might see something else..... TRY IT !!!

**THE POLL QUESTION:-**

Do you think that we will be taken on excursions this year?

AND THE ANSWER WAS.....



*(Based on the views of the students of classes 9 and 10)*