

MAY 2009

Wynberg-Allen School



WYNBERG-ALLENSCHOOL, MUSSOORIE

EXCELSIOR

Dear Readers,

The magnitude of the task - of writing my first ever editorial for the Excelsior - was enough to keep me up throughout a number of nights. I must admit that I was in quite a quandary on what to focus with so many activities going on. Eventually, I have ended up writing on something that yet haunts us - a spectre that yet seems to hover around us and catches us by surprise when we are unprepared - a sight that we try in vain to erase from our minds.

The night of March the 28th was unlike any that the school had ever witnessed in the 120 years of its existence. Each of us watched helplessly as our very own 'audi' was engulfed in flames that seemed to burn through the sky itself. The Auditorium had not been just a mere structure on the campus; it was much more than that. The Auditorium had an aura that was special to it - an aura that could never be found elsewhere. Without any exaggeration, it seems as though a loved one has been snatched away from us. I am filled with a plethora of emotions each time my eyes seem to wander, almost of their own accord, to that horrific site. One was filled with a sense of pride as one stepped into the majestic foyer lined with the beautiful portraits of our great founders. The emotions that one experienced on walking down the aisle was something that words aren't sufficient to describe. The music from the grand piano still lingers in my mind. Mr. Misra's paintings truly were nothing short of masterpieces. The awe-inspiring words 'Do All to The Glory of God' will always be etched on every Allenite's memory. The fire may have destroyed the building but I feel that the soul will always remain here with us. Perhaps that was what made that great structure so special!

On behalf of the entire student body I would like to take this opportunity to salute all those tried to prevent the fire from causing unprecedented damage and destruction. With God by our side and the hopes and prayers of so many well-wishers, I am sure that it won't be long before the Sir Kirby Laing Auditorium is restored to its original splendour and grandeur.

On another note, now. The First Terminal Examination is certainly hurtling towards us. It is difficult to imagine that one entire term has almost come to an end. This has certainly been an eventful four months. Crammed with debates, quizzes, assemblies and tests and topped up with the matches in so many sporting events which left one hoarse for days - the inevitable after-effect of enthusiastic cheering - the pace with which life in school has flashed by in the last few months leaves one slightly breathless. Once more, the time comes to take stock of the situation - to look back and ask yourself - "Have I honestly tried to put in my best in every effort that I have made?" "Have I at least tried to confront those challenges I habitually run away from?" "Can I pat myself on the back because I took that first small step towards doing something I had always wanted to but did not have the courage to try?" Each one of us knows the answers to such questions. We hope the answers serve to direct and guide in the terms ahead.

With that hope...until the next time. EXCELSIOR!!

Vinith Kurian

Editor-in-Chief

It has been nearly three months since the Class 7 students moved into the Senior School. Hopefully, they have had the time to settle down, get used to their environment – and make friends.

DESCRIBE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN JUNIOR SCHOOL AND SENIOR SCHOOL.

In Senior School, we have fun with the Class 12 students.
- Aman S.

The girls didn't have to go up and down the slope
- Janhvi B.

The homework in Senior School is unlimited.
- Yeshi W.

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT JUNIOR SCHOOL?

The swings.
- Meera M.

Butter & bread
- Aditya N.

I miss the small and cute children of Class 1 and Class 2.
- Shobhit P.

The family atmosphere
- Astha G.

I miss everything in Junior School.
- Ananya

Being the senior most class
- Anupreet.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CLIMB UP TO THE SCIENCE BLOCK?

I feel very tired. I just wish the stairs could be changed into a lift.
- Kishan

Horrible!!
- Ashimita G.

It takes all our energy to reach the Science Block. I feel as if I have done another set of morning runs.
- Mayank M.

It is too tiring. There should be an escalator.
- Ayush S.

My climb up to the Science Block is very tiring. I am dead even before I reach it.
- Ayush P.

The climb up to the Library is very tiring. We do not need to go on a trek.
- Pranvi M.

The walk up to the Science Block is too long.
- Aditya N.

It makes me tired to go up 73 steps. It should be somewhere down here.
- Tilak R.

It is fun – but tiring.
Hargun

While climbing up to the Science Block, our legs begin to ache. The stairs are so steep and high. It is so far away.
Aamol L.

Well, it is very tiring. It takes us ten minutes to reach the top and the rest of the period to gather our breath.
- Sarthak B.

The climb up to the Science Block is very difficult – but I think it is good for health.
- Sourabh D.

“Weight-losing” walk
- Vipul J.

It makes me thin...
Abhishek S

When I climb up to the Science Block, I feel that I am going to faint..
- Mohd. Hamza

YOUNG 'UNS SPEAK OUT...

The Games programme
- Angad S.

Watching T.V. at night!
- Sarvendra B.

Freedom
Ratmesh K.

The cricket nets
- Jatin R.

There is a different kind of freedom in Senior School and we can play all kinds of games.
- Pranvi M.

The thing I like most about Senior School is that no one interferes in anyone else's matters.
- Vatsal S

It is very big with many things to eat in the cafeteria.
-Phornchareon

Here, there are exeats almost every month
- Lakshay B.

We serve ourselves.
- Aditya N

Everything except morning runs
- Charik G.

The library
- Shaista M.

I have not been in Senior School for a very long time – but still I like the library the most.
- Jahnvi B.

It was our Auditorium – but now, that is gone.
- Harshita S.

The laboratories
- Archit G.

Lawn tennis... swimming
- Vaibhav J.

It has a lot of space
- Abhishek A.

In 1386, a pig in France was executed by public hanging for the murder of a child! A cockroach can live several
A compromise is an agreement whereby both parties get what neither of them wanted.

STRAIGHT DRIVE WITH MR. NEGI

Q. How do you find the children of this school?

A. **Oh! They are very loving, co-operative and compassionate.**

Q. Don't you think they lack in any aspect?

A. **Uh... no... there are always those one or two cases of indiscipline.**

That's all.

Q. Do you have any friends among the staff?

A. **Yes, all the male staff members are my friends. ('Ladies wake up!')**

Q. Apart from sports what other hobbies do you have?

A. **Well... nothing much but I love listening to some old songs.**

Q. Do you like dancing?

A. **Oh, yes. I am very good at it.**

Q. Are you sure?

A. **Yes, I love dancing but Bhangara is definitely my favourite dance for sure.**

Q. How did you end up becoming a teacher in this school?

A. **When I logged on to the website I saw a vacancy for a swimming coach. I had known Mr. Champa before and I had earlier visited this school with Mr. Pathak and was highly impressed by the facilities so I applied for the post.**

Q. What lured you into cricket?

A. **From a very young age I was very interested in cricket. I was a fast bowler so I continued with it to a professional level.**

Q. Which other sports are you good at?

A. (laughs) **Well, I am good at many sports - table tennis, football, badminton, tennis... however I would want to learn swimming.**



Q. Any memories that clearly stand out from your life, funny or serious?

A. **Well, when I was playing in the C. V Naidu cricket tournament for U.P. I took 5 wickets in 1over and I still think that is a record.**

Q. There are rumors that you played in the Ranji trophy.

A. (Laughs) **Well, I was in the probable list but a serious knee injury put me out of action for nearly two years and it is very hard to make a comeback after such an injury. I was at the peak of my cricketing career at that point and I was a favourite to break into the Ranji trophy.**

Q. Who is your favourite cricketer?

A. **Richard Hadlee (Smiling asks) Do you know him?**

Vinith: **The all rounder from New Zealand.**

Mr.Negi: **Yes, that's right, he's an all rounder and I'm also an all rounder and that's why I like him.**

Q. Do you have any messages for the students?

A. (laughs) **well, being a sportsperson; I don't have much to say. Be happy!**

weeks even after its head is cut off! Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia. ~Charles Schulz

IN CONVERSATION WITH MR. VISHAL BHARADWAJ

On the 2nd of May, 2009 we interviewed Mr Vishal Bhardwaj when he had come to our school to play tennis.

Born on August 6th 1960 in Bijnor Mr Vishal Bhardwaj is an Indian filmmaker, screenwriter, writer and music composer. He has directed movies such as Makdee, Maqbool, The Blue Umbrella and Omkara and has composed music for various films such Satya, Chachi 420, Maachis and Kaminey. It was an honour to talk with him.

Q. What brought you here to Mussoorie?

A. I come quite often to Mussoorie. I have written nearly all my films in Mussoorie even Omkara.

Q. What is it about Mussoorie that brings you back time and time again?

A. Oh I love the atmosphere of Mussoorie, the weather, the temperature, they're just right. Also I like the various schools and the children here in Mussoorie. Seeing all of them roam around in their different uniforms and also watching them play street cricket is fun.

Q. Any locations in Mussoorie you visit often?

A. Char Dukan is a lovely place. The food there is awesome. I love the 'aloo paranthas' and the pancakes there too.

Q. Do you know many people in Mussoorie?

A. Umm, yes, I know quite a lot of people. Ruskin Bond is a good friend. I like his stories. For one my films I had taking inspiration from one of his books. Yes (smiling) I made 'Blue Umbrella' based on his story.

Q. Do you know anyone closely here (referring to the staff behind me)?

A. Yes, Mr. Negi, Mr. Tindale, I've known them for quite sometime now.

I was in the college as Mr. Tindale, even the same hostel.

Mr. Negi and I played cricket together for a long time... (reflecting) about 8 to 10 years in U.P.. We all played in the Under-19 together.

Q. Do you like playing tennis and are there any other sports that you like?

A. Yes, I love playing tennis. I come here since the court is lovely (points to the floor). The court at Jaypee Hotel is not so good. I like squash too; it's a very energetic game. Do you have a squash court in your school?

Ed. Board: No sir although...

Q. How would our school be a location for shooting a film?

A. It would be lovely. The buildings, the different levels, the surroundings. If I have a suitable storyline based in a school, I would love to shoot here.

Q. What type of a student were you?

A. Oh, I was a bad student, yes ... a very bad student.

Q. Why cricket?

A. Actually at that time cricket was a craze. We had won the world cup in 1983 when I was in class 12. No one had expected India to win the World Cup and after we won it the youth were all crazy about cricket.

Q. How did you then become a director?

A. My father was a poet and I used to write poems with him. My sister was a sitar player and also sang nicely. Nobody actually took it professionally in my family so I did. It started with Jungle Book. You must have heard of 'Chaddi pehen ke phool khila hai'. That was my first famous song.

Q. Who's your all-time favourite cricket star?

A. Oh, umm, there are quite a few – Gavaskar, Azharuddin, Javed Miandad 'fighter'.

Q. Do you have any messages for the students?

A. Have fun. When you're small you want to grow up but when you've grown up you want your playfulness and cheerfulness to come back.

I'm not saying not to work hard, but don't do anything half hearted, if you start anything do it wholeheartedly otherwise don't do it.



Most people are allergic to cow's milk than any other food. The placement of a donkey's eyes in its' heads enables it

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us. ~Bill Wattson

TIMES OF ALLEN

HAPPY EASTER

Easter was celebrated with the traditional fervor on Sunday, April 12th, 2009. The entire school gathered on the Seven Oaks flat in the early hours of morning. As the rays of the rising sun filtered through the canopy overhead, the voices of the children and the staff members rose in unison as they remembered with humility and awe the greatest of all sacrifices made over two thousand years ago. Rev. Mrs. Anita Templeton delivered her message of what Easter should mean to each one of us in this day and age. Our Headmaster, Mr. P.E. Radcliffe, led the school in the Opening Prayer. The Headmistress of the Junior School, Mrs. L. Cashmore, read out a relevant passage from the Bible. Our Principal, Mr. Tindale, brought the service to an end with the Closing Prayer. The birds were just waking up in the trees and the monkeys were shaking off the night's slumber when the students wended their way back to their respective campuses to imbibe steaming cups of tea and much needed biscuits. Dinner that night was a sumptuous spread that was thoroughly enjoyed.

INTER-SCHOOL QUIZZING

The Hugh Catchpole Debate at RIMC was followed by the RIMC Quiz Challenge on the 18th of April, 2009. Vinith Kurian, Isha Jyani and Ajay Shivhare represented Wynberg-Allen School at the competition. Ms. Mehrotra was the teacher-in-charge. There was a total of 21 schools participating in the Preliminary Round. At this phase of the competition, the participants had to answer a written test of twenty five questions. The questions were a mixed bag from an extremely wide range of subjects. Only six teams made it through to the final round. Unfortunately for us, this was as far as we could go in the competition.

All in all it was a good learning experience for all the participants and an effective way to analyze where we went wrong.

The Second Inter School Quiz for 2009 was held on the 2nd of May, 2009, at Welham Boys School. This was sponsored by the Doon Library and Research Centre. Mr. Brijnath, a very well known figure in Wynberg Allen, was the Quiz Master for the evening session. A total of five schools participated in our group. The team was represented by Vinith Kurian, Arunesh Rastogi and Yoshita Ratnam. The team gave a good account of themselves. By virtue of finishing second, Wynberg Allen School qualified for the semi-final round along with RIMC, Welham Boys, Welham Girls, Doon International School and Brightlands. The semi-final round is scheduled to be held in July.

MISSION: WSMUN 2009



This year, for the first time, our school participated in the 5th Annual Woodstock School Model United Nations (MUN) conference for the year 2009. The school was represented by Vinith Kurian in the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) and Anchali Singh in the HRC (Human Rights Commission). Both speakers represented the Kingdom of the Netherlands for this year's MUN.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the concept of MUN, it is quite simply put, a simulation of the actual working of the various organs of the United Nations, in which a team is supposed to represent a particular country's view point on any issue through position papers and solutions are formulated through resolutions. These countries are assigned by the event organizers. As this was the first time that the school was participating in any MUN, the speakers had clue about where to begin from! However the ever so dependable Ms. Mehrotra, who was the teacher-in-charge for the MUN really guided us throughout the preparation time and we eventually ended up our position papers.

The event was organized over a period of three days (27-29 March 2009). A total of five schools participated this year. The participating schools were as follows, Woodstock School, Doon School, Welham Boys School, Mercedes-Benz International School Pune and Wynberg-Allen School. The Chief Guest for this year's MUN was Dr. Srivastav, a well known social activist. The first committee meetings were held straight after the General Assembly Meeting on the 27th. The external teams in the HRC suffered a major setback on the first day itself as their first topic had been changed without them being notified of this change. However Anchali Singh adapted extremely well to this situation and prepared her first position paper again, within three hours!

The Closing Ceremony and General Assembly meeting were held on the 29th. Dr. Srivastava gave away the awards and certificates. Ms. Mehrotra was given a certificate for being the External guest observer from our school while Anchali and Vinith were given certificates for participation in the MUN. All in all it was extremely enjoyable and a very good learning experience for us. However must admit that the biggest highlight was definitely the food. Simply DEEEEEEE... LICIOUS!!!!

to see four its feet at all times!

Earth is the only planet not named after a god.

Some worms will eat themselves

Love your enemies. It makes them so very annoyed. ~P.D. East

WYNBERG ALLEN WINS HUGH CATCHPOLE MEMORIAL ENGLISH DEBATE



Dehradun, 17 Apr: The Finals of the 4th All India Hugh Catchpole Memorial English Debate were held at the Thimayya Auditorium of the RIMC this evening. The Best Speaker award for the final round was awarded to Vinith Kurian of Wynberg Allen School. The Trophy was awarded to Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie, which received 313 points and defeated YPS, Patiala (297 points). The topic of discussion for the Finals was "Leadership is all about giving incentives".

The Chief Guest was Padamvir Singh, Joint Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. The Master of Ceremonies and the time keeper were Cadet Abindu Dhar and Cadet Astitva Tyagi, respectively. The participants from Wynberg Allen School were Vinith Kurian, Anchali Singh and Pulakit Singh and the participants from YPS, Patiala were Abeer, Chinar Kad and Amrita Mann.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by RIMC Commandant Colonel H Dharmarajan. Others present

were Lt Colonel Rajesh Nathawat, KS Ahlawat, Major Rexson Robertson, SK Tyagi and CS Vishwakarma. The event was coordinated by Rachna Malhotra and Rakhi Chamola.

Earlier, in the Coalition Round (Semi Final) of 4th All India Hugh Catchpole Memorial English Debate held in the morning, four teams merged into two teams comprising Mayo College for Girls, Ajmer and Rashtriya Indian Military College in one team and Wynberg Allen School and YPS, Patiala in the other team. The topic for the discussion was "Cellular phones should be allowed in schools". The team comprising YPS, Patiala and Wynberg Allen School qualified for the Final Round.

Prefects' Investiture 2009

The 22nd of April, this year, was a special day on the School calendar. It was on this day that the Captains and Prefects – our student leaders for the year 2009 – were formally invested in their respective offices. The gymnasium echoed with the voices of the children and staff as the ceremony began with the singing of the hymn "Yield not to temptation...". Our Headmaster, Mr. P.E. Radcliffe read out from Romans 12 : 1-12 – a relevant and meaningful passage from the Bible. Then, our Principal, Mr. L. Tindale addressed the school and shared with us his thoughts and ideas about what leadership constitutes. He spoke of the magnitude of the challenges that leaders have to face and the honour and privilege of having been given the opportunity to confront such challenges. After they pledged their loyalty to the School and promised to put service above self in the year that was to follow, the Captain for the Girls – Prachi Singh – and the Captain for the Boys – Gurjeet Singh Gill received their badges from the Principal. The Vice-Captain for the Girls – Anisha Tamrakar- and the Vice Captain for the Boys – Pulakit Singh also received their badges at this point. The School Choir presented the beautiful song - "I'll overcome some day".

Excerpts from the speech delivered by our Principal, Mr. L. Tindale, at the Investiture Ceremony 2009

Today is a day of tradition and of great honour. A truly special occasion in the school year...The entire service of Investiture is indeed a culmination of what Wynberg-Allen stands for... An Allenite is not just someone who has excelled in academic work and won laurels in elocution, debates and on the games field. Indeed, we hope and expect these things to follow naturally and inevitably for each student who passes out from W.A.S. More than this, is what we are here to celebrate today – a recognition of students whom we have ...watched grow and develop into people of character and uprightness. Today, our Captains and Prefects will be formally invested in their offices and continue to serve as student leaders.

...Their task us no easy one. Leadership means being the first to serve, the first to accept responsibility, the first to face criticism and the first to face the possibility of rejection from so-called friends.

It means being the last to receive praise, the last to receive awards and the last one to rest...

It goes without saying that this is an honour that has not been bestowed lightly...what also goes without saying is that these students have our trust and complete support to help them shoulder the expectations that we have of them...

May they have the help and support of everyone in the School and with God's guidance, may they each leave an indelible mark on the School – leaving it a better place when they pass out of the institution. God bless each one of them and guide them in their path of being effective, positive leaders and outstanding examples of students of our School.

if they can't find any food!

Dolphins sleep with one eye open!

The elephant is the only mammal

Who says nothing is impossible? I've been doing nothing for years!!

ONSTAGE

Dramatics has always been an integral part of the co-curricular programme in Wynberg-Allen School. The dramatic calendar began with the staging of the Senior School Hindi Play “Mukhyamantri” on the 8th of May, 2009, in Hart Hall. The change from the usual venue was a little disconcerting in the beginning, but the audience was soon caught up with what was happening onstage. Written by the renowned playwright, Shri. Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar, the play is a scathing comment on contemporary society and the present day political scenario. The protagonist, a Gandhian idealist, is a misfit in a society that is riddled with corruption and vice. As our Principal, Mr. L. Tindale put it, the play was an aptly chosen one considering the general elections that were being conducted in our country. The entire cast and crew did a splendid job that evening. Congratulations to Dr. (Ms) Saxena and Mrs. R. Swynenberg – the talented directors for have worked so quietly and efficiently behind the scenes and producing an unforgettable performance. Congratulations are also due to all the staff members who helped out in various indispensable ways to make the play a success.

Only a few days later, there was another dramatic treat waiting for the Wynberg-Allen family. The Junior School Hindi Play “Idgah” was staged on the 12th of May, 2009. An adaptation of the story by Munshi Prem Chand, the play was ably scripted by Ms. P. Mehrotra. The story is about seven year old Hamid – an orphaned boy who is brought up by his grandmother. On the festival of Id, Hamid visits a fair and buys a special gift for his grandmother with his meagre three paise. His gift far outshines the costlier items bought by his richer friends. As the story unfolded, the audience appreciated once more the true significance of what one can receive by giving. The touches of humour throughout the play entertained the audience thoroughly. Mrs. U. Bhatt and Ms A. Tripathi had trained our tiny tots so well that even veteran actors would have been put shame had they been present. Congratulations to all the staff members who made it possible for such a marvellous and unforgettable performance to be staged.

OH! MASTER GRANT THAT I MAY NEVER SEEK,
SO MUCH TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE...

The 3rd of April, 2009, dawned a bright and sunny one. All the members of the Social Service Club were excited right from the moment they rose from their beds. That was the day we all had been waiting for. We were going to make a trip to Dehra Doon and visit an orphanage and a home for senior citizens. We reached school early in the morning, along with everything we had been collecting for quite some time to share with those whom we would meet at these places.

Our school bus left the gates at 9.30 a.m. In about an hour's time, we reached our first destination. Premdham is a home meant for senior citizens. It is a safe haven for those who have been abandoned by their own children or who have voluntarily chosen to lead a life of dignity and have left their families where they were being ill-treated. When we arrived, we saw everyone deep in prayer. The garden was warm and beautiful with sunshine and flowers. Then, we were warmly greeted by the sisters running the home. The residents too were excited to see us. They were the ones who pulled out chairs for us to sit on and vehemently refused our help. An elderly lady asked us to sing for them. Unfortunately, we knew only the current popular songs, but I do believe that most of them thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment we offered. We got to know that one gentleman had his

birthday the following day. So, we presented him with a birthday cake in advance. We spent some time with them and we listened to the stories that they had to relate about their own lives. It was sad to know how one's own family can turn against one. We shared the cakes and goodies we had brought with them.

We then went to the YWCA. Unfortunately, since they already had visitors that day, we couldn't spend much time over there. Our next stop was Mother Teresa's home for the differently abled. It was heart-rending to see the little children – some were mere babies – coping cheerfully with their disabilities. We played with the children there and were touched by their pleasure at receiving small packets of sweets and chocolates from us. Those children who could, attended school regularly. We also met some elderly ladies there who had been living there for over a decade. As we spoke to them, we learnt how harsh life can be to some.

Finally, it was time to go home. As the bus rolled up to Mussoorie, leaving our new friends behind, we sent up a silent prayer to God, thanking Him for the many gifts we have been blessed with – the gifts we take so much for granted every day of our lives. All the members of the Social Service Club would like to thank Ms V. Edgar, our teacher, for bringing home to us how lucky we are to be healthy both in mind and body and how fortunate we are to have family and friends who care for us.

INTER HOUSE DEBATING IN ENGLISH

The year 2009 began with the usual round of debating on topics that challenged participants to think for themselves and present their arguments in a coherent and persuasive manner.

In the Junior Division, the first debate in English was conducted on Wednesday, 1st April, 2009. The topic for the debate was “The pen is mightier than the sword.” Allen House was the winner at this debate. In the Individual Positions, Harmony Singh from Allen House was adjudged the Best Speaker. She was followed by Aditya Singh, also from Allen House and Rahul Satya (Foy House). The Debating Society would like to congratulate Aditya Singh (Allen House), Gandharv Garg (Condon House), Nehashree (Condon House) and Rahul Satya (Foy House) for having participated for the very first time in a debating competition

In the Senior Division, the first debate in English was held on Wednesday, 29th April, 2009. The topic for the debate was “Morality is a product of the times.” Allen House was the winner at this debate. In the Individual Positions, Shreya Rastogi (Allen House) was adjudged the Best Speaker. She was followed by Anchali Singh (Powell House) and Jawwad Ahmed (Foy House).

Once more, the English Debating Society would like to congratulate the first time participants. Mridul Srivastava (Allen House), Akarshana Verma (Condon House), Andrew Teron (Condon House) Anisha Tamrakar (Foy House) and Siddharth Marwaha (Powell House). The Debating Society would like to see many more new faces who take up this challenge in the right spirit.

that can't jump!

Slugs have 4 noses.

Owls are the only birds who can see the colour blue.

The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook. ~William James

Just Sports



Staff vs Students Cricket

Match—Mr. Champa was definitely worried about the staff team; the students were confident they would crush the staff at the game of cricket.

The staff got to bat first and Mr. Upadhyay and Mr. Sagar came on the field. The game started and the spectators were curious to see the staff play. Mr. Sagar's catch was dropped twice but finally Amrinder Singh was successful in picking up his wicket. Mr. Pankaj Sharma came as the next batsman and made the students realize that they might have to chase a big target. The computer expert played a few cracking shots but soon the staff were compelled to slow down when Mr. Upadhyay became out. Mr. Wilson came on strike but he misjudged the ball and had to return to the pavilion. The students found themselves in deep trouble when Mr. Negi hit some excellent fours and sixes. The Tendulkar of the team, Mr. Tindale added to the already great score of

the staff. The stock of balls was running out as he continuously kept hitting sixes outside the school. Each drop of sweat on his forehead was a proof that he was determined to teach the students a lesson. He remained unbeaten at 84. The staff gave a target of 192 runs to the students which could have been easily achieved by the way Himanshu and Phuntsok were playing but then Phuntsok got out and the partnership of 66 runs came to an end. Vishesh came on the crease. There were a few overthrows by the staff and a lot of appealing by Mr. Pankaj Sharma. At times, it seemed as if he was trying to threaten the umpire. Siddharth played boldly and courageously. Finally the exciting match came to an end when Ameer Hamza, the last batsman of the students became out. The students put up a score of 161 runs. Anyone who hadn't seen the match would have yet come guessed the result by seeing the proud faces of our teachers. Abhishrey Raj 9A



The basketball season began explosively. The squeak of the shoes, the swoosh of the ball entering the basket, the roar of the crowd and the echo of the cheers - all this was music to the ears of any basketball enthusiast.

In the Junior Girls' Division, our School played against Waverley Convent and Woodstock. They emerged victorious in most of the matches played. In the Intermediate Division, our girls finished as runners-up. In the Senior Division, the trophy was most tragically snatched away from us, in spite of the talent and aptitude displayed. In the Inter house matches, Foy House emerged as the decisive winners in the Senior Division. In the Junior Division, Condon House won all their matches and sipped from the victor's cup.

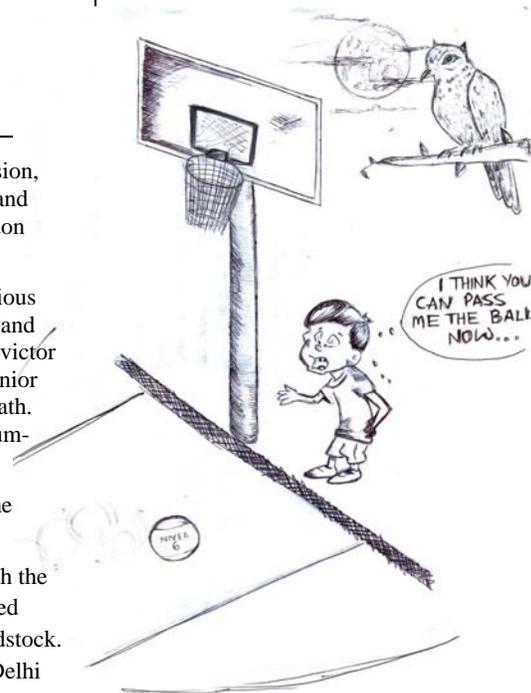
The boys played their basketball matches against Woodstock and St. George's College. In the Junior Division, our boys dominated over the other schools. In the Intermediate Division, we put up a good fight and won

some and lost some. In the Senior Division, the team returned broken-hearted time and again. In the Inter house matches, Condon House trounced the other Houses.

In a parallel universe, elsewhere on various fields, our School took on St. George's and lost by a wide margin. However, to the victor goes the spoils and so it was that our Junior Boys were crowned with the laurel wreath. Among the Houses, Foy House was triumphant in the Junior Division.

Among the girls, Allen House scored the highest number of goals.

The IPL was recreated on our fields with the onset of the cricketing season. We played against St. George's College and Woodstock. Our Junior Division could replace the Delhi Daredevils. In the Intermediate and Senior Division, our teams could have competed with the team from Kolkata. The Inter house matches were keenly and closely contested.



An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue!

Women blink

Happiness grows at our own firesides, and is not to be picked in strangers' gardens. ~ Douglas Jerrold

To Char Dukan and beyond...

“Tringg....!!” The bell rang shrilly disturbing the moments of silence and sleep. We got up from our beds, yawning and stretching and then we realized it was the day of our hike. We quickly got up and got ready in our best trekking outfit. By 8:30, everybody was down in front of the dining hall, waiting impatiently to move out of the gates. It was Ms. Saxena’s duty that day.

We literally ran down from Wynberg to Allen. We quickly took our lunch packets and started off on our journey. Mrs. Radcliffe, Mrs. Sharma, Mr.Negi and Mrs.Swynenberg were also going to go with us.

The girls were walking so fast that those in the front of the line had to slow down so that the boys at the back could catch up with us. It was an uphill walk. After walking quite some time, we arrived at a place where we could drink water and rest for a while. The girls sat down and dutifully applied sun cream on their faces. The boys hadn’t brought any and they returned to school three shades darker in the face.

We finally reached Char Dukan – a quaint assortment of shops that serves the most delectable delicacies. We rushed for our seats. We soon realized that we had bottomless pits as we gobbled down the pancakes, waffles, and Maggi noodles served with melting cheese. After we finished eating, most of the girls visited the church nearby while the boys tried to finish what they had ordered.

When we came out of church, we lined up to go up to Sisters’ Bazaar. As we trudged up under the shadowy deodars, one of the girls started telling a ghost story with very unrealistic sound effects.

We reached the cemetery. Everything was green and quiet and peaceful. We took several photographs even as the boys tried their best to frighten us by coming upon us suddenly. Then, we started our journey back to school. We respected the wishes of the boys who wanted to snack again at Char Dukan. Our downward descent was much easier. Thankfully, the return was not as tiring as it had been when we had climbed up the mountain-side. We finally reached school, tired but thoroughly happy. Our first hike of the year had been a wonderful one. We couldn’t wait for another hike. School days are truly the golden days of our lives.



Of waterfalls and lakes...

The morning of 14th April dawned, the air afire with exuberance as all of us prepared for our hike. The Class 10 students were going to Bhatta Falls. After breakfast, the girls lined up to go to Allen, faces glowing with excitement. As there was a slight delay, all of us sprinted down to Allen when we finally left the gates, chattering and laughing away.

We reached Allen, picked up our lunch packets, and soon we were on our way. The boys had already gone ahead with Mr.Kurian, Mr.Mani and Mr.Kumar to wait for us at Barlowganj. Once there, we made a beeline for the world-famous ‘bun omelette’. After buying our drinks and snacks, we were off!

We followed a steep, winding path going downhill. It chose the shortest route as we were already late. There was a lot of slipping and sliding, followed by the sniggering of those who felt they were the superior climbers. After an hour rife with such momentous decisions as where to place which foot, we reached a proper road. Our feet must have sighed with relief.

On the way, we kept stopping (and holding up everyone behind us) as we posed for pictures. We crossed many fields on rocky an gravelly paths. After a long hours of walking (not tumbling) downhill, we finally reached Bhatta Falls.

A couple of families were already there, enjoying themselves by the water. The boys plunged straight into the water. The girls after some hesitation, jumped into a nearby pool. Inevitably, there was a great deal of splashing, squealing and screaming. We kept on tripping on the slippery stones and falling into the water. We sang songs at the top our voices and splashed water on each other. There were rumours of frogs and fishes in the water, but no one took any notice them. We all were too busy, utilizing every moment we had in the water to the maximum. No sad faces were to be seen!

After some time, we got out of the water, reluctant and tired but thrilled and dripping wet. We sat next to the canteen, drying ourselves in the sun, extremely content with ourselves and with life. We thanked our teachers profusely. We posed for more pictures, this time exasperatin

We were fully charged for a walk to Mussoorie Jheel - or so we thought. After long and tiring walk, we reached the Jheel and we sat there for a while. We couldn’t stay there for a long time as we were way behind schedule. We braced ourselves for the Obstacle Course – the steep up to school.

We had to keep stopping on the way to catch our breath. We had to be egged on all the way back, but nothing could dampen our spirits.

However, all things come to an end. This lovely hike had to end, too. We thanked our our heartfelt thanks to our teachers. After the boys reached Allen, we went straight to Wynberg, planning on what to tell our friends and still wishing we could have had more time to do the things that we didn’t do.

--Mahika Banerjee 10B

nearly twice as much as men.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

One quarter of

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by our standing in our own sunshine. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

The following is an excerpt from an e-mail sent to our Principal, Mr. L. Tindale. Kunwarjit Singh visited our school a few weeks ago. He was School Captain for the Boys in the year 2002. What is special about the e-mail is the way this ex-student expresses his emotions about his Alma Mater – and these sentiment, without a doubt, will touch a chord in the heart of every true Allenite.

Dear Sir,

I had planned to send this e-mail to you as soon as I reached home, but procrastination – the bane of my existence – kept getting the better of me. Bad habits are tough to kick, you see. I wanted to thank you and all the staff members for so lovingly welcoming us and entertaining us during our recent visit to the school. It was like revisiting our home, our childhood. All the memories came rushing back. We try to relive every moment of school life everyday, but nothing beats the experience of actually being there. We were truly overwhelmed with nostalgia, emotion and pride for our school. I feel proud of all the progress my Alma Mater has made - not just since these 6 years I was away but since 1888. My revisit to the School has only strengthened my bond with the School.

A School can be just a complex of concrete buildings or it can be the best thing that ever happened to you, and I speak for every alumni when I say it has definitely been the latter for me. What transcends a school from an educational institution to a life-altering experience is its staff, students, culture and spirit. Wynberg-Allen has truly been a life-altering experience for me and its spirit runs through me. It has made me the man I am today. I hope I'll turn out to be a man Wynberg-Allen can truly be proud of.

I was truly moved seeing the staff members and I recalled all the lessons, memories and mischief associated with us. Shockingly, the instances of mischief outnumbered other instances. I'm sure you will agree that we weren't as notorious a batch as we are made out to be J

It was a working day and we dropped in without any prior notice. Yet, the staff took time from their busy schedules to spend time with us. I am truly grateful for that.

I also want to thank you for allowing us to attend the School Assembly. I must have attended a thousand assemblies, but this assembly felt different. I felt so proud while singing the School Song. It was such an honour.

Anyway, I think this mail has run quite long, considering you are the Principal now and have loads to do. Thank you, Sir, for everything. Yours truly,

Sunny.

FROM WAYSIDE VILLAGES TO WINDING STREAMS...

Yippee... We, the class 9's were very excited to go on a trip to Khatta Pani on the 14th of April. As it was Mahavir Jayanti on the 14th, thus our teachers decided to take us on a hike, so that we could have an enjoyable time. The teachers accompanying us were Mrs. Masters, Mrs. Hatwal, Ms. Edgar, Mr. Teron and Mr. Champa. Clad in summer clothes, we joyfully left school at about 9:00am. Khatta pani is a quite lonely and quiet place with only a few huts. The road to Khatta Pani cuts off from Landor Chowk. The girls and boys of our class reached Landor in no time. The boarders had their wonderfully made and packed lunch packet with them. Most of us carried our umbrella with us as it was too hot. We stopped for buying some snacks and chips from the local shop. Since we were 76 students it must have been hard for the teachers to look after us. The road to Khatta Pani was very long and tiring. Actually for most parts, the road was a footpath. It, being very hot, the journey would have been difficult but for our enthusiasm. The distance to Khatta Pani was more than 6 kilometers from our school. On reaching Khatta Pani we were extremely thirsty and kept begging for water. Most of us sat down under the shade of trees along with the packed and enjoyed every bite of our lunch as we were too hungry. We also enjoyed the cool breeze and requested one of the local Garhwali women to give us some water. Their hard work impressed me. We were surprised to see the five year old children washing their own clothes. I had never done it. We went back to Landor with reluctance but when our teachers told us that we were going to Wynberg Stream we doubled our pace. On our way to Wynberg Stream we stopped at the Clock tower Café and the Landor Guest House to refresh ourselves and eat something.

On reaching the Wynberg Stream we played in the water. Most of us, especially the boys were completely drenched in water. This act of ours refreshed us. Mr. Champa blew his whistle at 3:30 pm that alarmed us that we had to go back. Although it was a long trip, we returned to school with some energy and strength still remaining in us hoping to go somewhere again. I am very grateful to all the teachers who accompanied us and gave us their valuable time. I just hope that we keep having such hikes every week. I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr. Tindale and Mr. Radcliffe for having planned this wonderful hike. Thank You sir.

Ganga Shinghal-9A & Sanjana Parth 9B

bones in your body, are in your feet!

Right handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed

Life's a voyage that's homeward bound. ~ Herman Melville

The "Twilight" series by Stephanie Meyer has quite popular in our School, especially among the girls. The other books in this series are "New Moon", "Eclipse" and "Breaking Dawn." Quite simply, it is a romantic saga between Edward Cullen, a vampire and the heroine Isabella Swan. The books make for reasonably interesting reading. However, Mahika Banerjee (Class 10B) begs to differ.

(The School Newsletter does not necessarily subscribe to the views it publishes.)

The Edward Infatuation

"So, did you like 'Twilight'?" asks a girl in the group. (The voice is lispy, breathy and suitably girlish.) "Ooooh! I just loved the character of Edward. He is so handsome! And so rich!! I'd give anything to know someone like him!" Seriously, girls, do you think Edward actually exists? He is a fictional vampire – for crying out loud!!

This charismatic, depressed and handsome vampire has begun to haunt the dreams of the girls in our school. Girls actually imagine him to be their Prince Charming, lurking in some dark corner, waiting to whisk them away into a world of romance and mystery. Friendships are on the verge of being broken – all because stupid girls prefer to bury their noses in the description of Edward rather than spend time with their much neglected friends. Edward is pulling girls away from reality. He is almost like a drug that should be carefully administered.

Now, according to me, Edward is nowhere near being perfect. He is always depressed and brimming with angst. Does he ever smile? He constantly suffers from a hidden anguish. Why does he not commit suicide if he can endure his cursed life? As for his being a blood-sucking vampire – do we really need immortal mosquitoes?

Enter Bella. Question 1. Is she insane? Her life is divided into three parts : Edward, Edward and Edward. She spends 50% of her time with him, 25% of the same blushing and praising him and the remaining 25% thinking about him. When he leaves her, Bella cuts herself away from the rest of the world, treats her family and friends terribly, uses and then rejects a Jacob and then supposedly (or conveniently) goes catatonic.

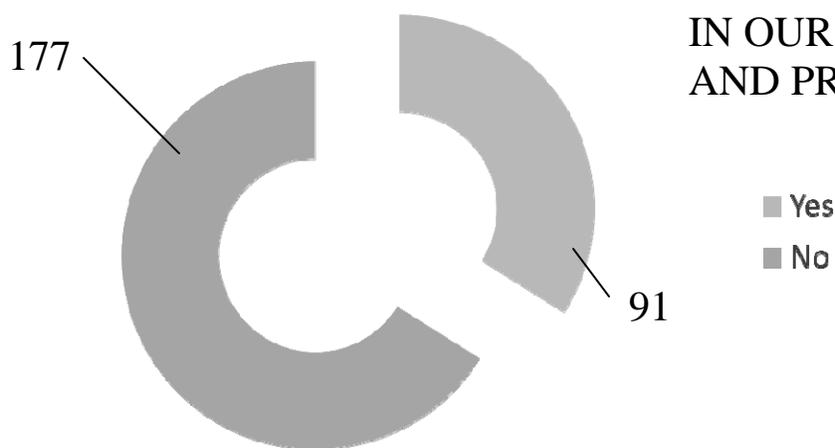
Bella cooks and cleans and clears and tidies up to perfection. She might not enjoy parties and shopping – but does she have to hyperventilate at the mere mention of these normal activities? Then, she seriously needs to take a course on improving her vocabulary. She can find only one word to describe Edward – "Beautiful!" (I think she uses the word more than 273 times in the first book.)

The only sensible and human character is Jacob who is a warm, friendly and loyal person. The thing that sets him apart from the others is his sense of humour – a much needed ingredient in the otherwise dark and depressing novel. Then, the writer's imagination takes a flying leap and Jacob turns out to be a werewolf. Can't Stephanie Meyer at least try to be a little credible?

So, girls and boys, beware!! "Twilight" is responsible for reality suffering a severe inferiority complex. Girls – Edward does **NOT** exist!! And seriously, can you love someone who has yellow eyes and habitually feeds on mountain lions? Yes – he makes a light snack of them – not the other way round.

Well, I suppose you can – if you are insane.

Opinion Poll



IN OUR SCHOOL, CAPTAINS
AND PREFECTS ARE BIASED

people.

Your ribs move about 5 million times a year, every time you breathe!

A man named Charles Osborne

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life. ~ Winston Churchill

Baking Bedlam

At a friend's invitation to tea,
The flame of jealousy crept up on me,
The food was an aromatic marvel indeed !
No one could have disagreed!

The crumbly colourful cakes were all
homemade,

The table was perfectly laid,

The chocolate muffins were a dreamy
delight!!

The food was a really splendid sight!

I went straight home in search of cookery
book,

I took a good long look,

I decided to bake a crimson crust cake,

All I had to do was mix and bake.

Lots of sugar and peaches and flour

Plus some lemon really sour,

Two or three eggs and some nuts

Lots and lots of walnuts,

That was all that I needed,

With mum I begged and pleaded.

First, I had to sieve the flour like a mon-
soon shower,

Then mix the eggs - one - two - three
And some fresh honey from a honeybee.

Now I took the mixer in my hand,

It came alive like a rock band!!

Now came the fun,

Yet soon did I know it would be time to
run!

The batter did splatter all over the wall ,

My mum came running , menacing and
tall!!

In a jiffy, the kitchen was clean,

In a jiffy, out of the kitchen was I seen!

I waited and waited until it was made,

Until it was cut and beautifully laid,

Until a piece was put on my plate,

Until my soul could no longer wait ,

Slowly I relished the savoury taste

Slowly with absolutely no haste.

Anonymous 12 S

EVERYBODY IS SPECIAL

When I wear my night suit red

And go to sleep in my bed,

I wonder at a huge star

And ask myself, "Why is it so far?"

I see the star light

And ask, "Why is it so bright?"

I think all this is a gift to me,

And everybody should also see,

In this world nobody is bad,

And He can't see anybody sad.

--Harshita Singal 7B

The Fairy

On a hot summer day,

In a garden of gold,

Stood a fairy,

Wearing green and gold.

Watching from behind the tree,

There stood I in the colour green,

I was very eager to see,

What fairies do in the garden of Eve.

I stood for long,

But was not able to see,

I got bored and got up,

And learnt that it was only a dream!

Astha Goel 7 A

Exam Fever

My hands were stiff, so was my
eye sight,
I was going in for a difficult fight,
When I looked at the paper,
I saw no light,
I wish I could be granted a wish!

For E.E, I had learnt like this,
Landfills below me, pollution
above,
To look at the city my eyes I rub,
The water has turned black,

The air is like a carbon dioxide
sack.

So the E.E paper, I think went on
fine,
But in Hindi I had to rise and
shine.
No matter what happened I had to
get 89,
But I managed only 79.

History was a great job to do,
I don't want to know who killed
whom,
Akbar and Aurangzeb - so much
to learn!!
Pulling out the dead is none of my
concern.

Geography was all about tides and

waves,
And how much energy I save,
Green, blue and brown too,
Mountains, rivers and lakes - all I
drew.

On the last day of my fight,
I was truly in paradise!
I went home and took a deep
breath,
Not of carbon dioxide but of oxy-
gen instead.

Gayatri Saili 8A
8A

had the hiccups for 69 years!

The world's oldest piece of chewing gum is 9000 years old!

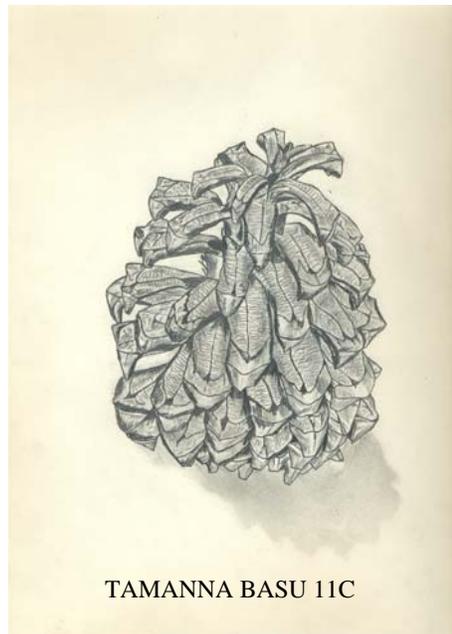
Coca-Cola

Leadership: The art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it. ~ D. Eisenhower



GUNVEER S. MATHARU

9A

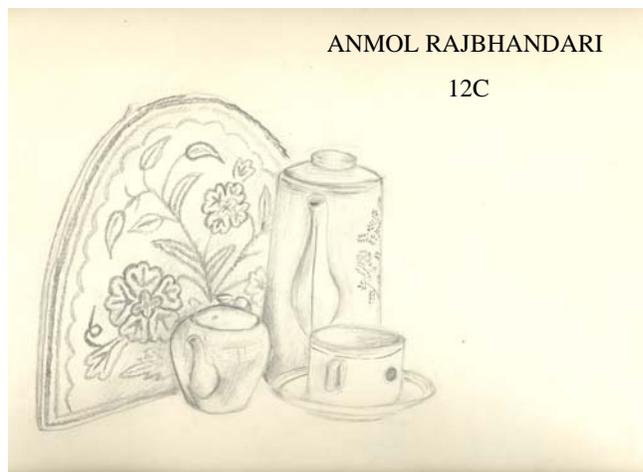


TAMANNA BASU 11C

The Artist's Palette



PETER GODFREY 12C



ANMOL RAJBHANDARI

12C

would be green if colouring weren't added to it. The average lead pencil will draw a line 35 miles long or write approxi-

In this world a man must either be an anvil or hammer. ~ Henry W. Longfellow

JUNIOR QUIZ (FOR CLASSES 7,8 & 9)

1. WHAT ARE THE SMALLEST SPECIES OF THE MONKEY FAMILY CALLED?
2. WHICH CRICKETER HAS TAKEN THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CATCHES IN TEST CRICKET?
3. WHICH IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE TEAM IN THE IPL?
4. WHEN IS THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CELEBRATED?
5. DRY ICE IS THE SOLID FORM OF WHICH GAS?
6. HOW MANY PLAYERS PLAY ON EACH TEAM IN A GAME OF VOLLEY BALL?
7. WHICH DISEASE HAS RECENTLY BEEN DECLARED AS A GLOBAL DISEASE BY THE UN?
8. WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SPORT OF CANADA?
9. WHICH IS THE LONGEST ENGLISH WORD WITHOUT VOWELS?
10. WHICH IS THE MOST PEACEFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?



SENIOR QUIZ (FOR CLASSES 10,11 & 12)

1. WHICH FAMOUS PERSONALITY WAS CALLED 'BARRY O' BOMBER' DUE TO HIS SKILLS IN BASKETBALL?
2. THE PORTRAIT OF WHICH INDIAN KING FINDS PLACE IN THE NASA HEADQUARTERS?
3. WHO WAS THE FIRST CRICKETER TO BE GIVEN OUT BY A THIRD UMPIRE?
4. WHICH INDISPENSIBLE TECHNOLOGY TODAY IS NAMED AFTER A VIKING KING IN THE 9TH CENTURY?
5. IF YOU SEARCH FOR A PARTICULAR TERM IN GOOGLE AND GET ONLY A SINGLE RESULT, WHAT IS IT CALLED?
6. "CRAYDON" WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND BUILT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LONDON. WHAT IS IT?
7. WHY DO WHALES 'SPOUT'?
8. WHAT PERCENT OF ITS LIFE DOES AN ALBATROSS SPEND GLIDING?
9. HOW MANY ALPHABETS DOES THE GREEK SCRIPT HAVE?
10. NAME THE ONLY PLANET THAT ROTATES CLOCKWISE.

THE PRIZE AWAITS TO BE CLAIMED...

-mately 50,000 English words.

Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a "Friday the 13th."

Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former. ~ Albert Einstein



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Samurai Sudoku Puzzles consist of five overlapping Sudoku grids. The standard Sudoku rules apply to each 9 x 9 grid. Place digits from 1 to 9 in each empty cell. Every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box should contain one of each digit.

The puzzles on Samurai Sudoku have one unique solution which can be found with pure logic, no guessing required.

There is a city called Rome on every continent. It's against the law to burp, or sneeze in a church in Nebraska, USA.

Don't be so humble - you are not that great. - Golda Meir (1898-1978) to a visiting diplomat

During the 'fair' hockey match in SGC , we could hear the words, "Something's burning!!" in the background. After this was repeated a number of times, some of us got quite angry and we said a few things back.

What made us say those things?

Why did we get angry?

What actually infuriated us?

Most of us pretend that we don't care about our school, but deep down inside, all of us do... we really do care.

If we didn't care, why would such comments want us to hurl more insults right back?

Although we don't go around saying it – and some of us might not even know it, but the school spirit is certainly present in each one of us.

The ashes of the auditorium were joked about by some of the boys, boys who did not look sad on the outside but were deeply shaken inside. One sometimes doesn't really know what is actually going on deep inside the minds of boys; likewise for the girls, I guess. But then, we never really know what goes on in the minds of girls; do we?

To the students be patient and learn to be more tolerant of others when they try to hurt.

To everyone else - don't count us out just yet.

To the auditorium - there's something called plastic surgery.

- Tsering Ukyab 12S

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The Editorial Board would like to express its gratitude to Rajpal Bhaiya for his invaluable help in publishing this issue of the "Excelsior".

Beetles taste like apples, wasps like pine nuts, and worms like fried bacon!!! Bon Appétit!!