Vasant Valley

April, 2012

School Watch

Poetry Recitation, Class 5

1st Devaki Divan

2nd Tanvi Bahl, Arusha Nirvan, Sehej Kaur

3rd Karamvir Chopra, Shiv Mehta,

Idekaa Dang

English Impromptu Competition-Winners

Class6: Mahin Bharadwaj and Niharika Rao

Class 7: Ashna Sethi

Class 8: Aryan De Rozario

Class 9: Avanti Diwan

Class 12: Tulsi Sharma

Marketing Strategy Competition, Class 12

Winners: Radhika Puri, Swasti Bajoria,

Pema Rana, Saniya Mittal

Shloka Lekhan Pratiyogita- Winners

Class 6: Veeraj Jindal

Class 7: Roshni Jain, Zoya Hassan,

Ashna Sethi, Ananya Dalmia

Class 8: Yashaswini Jindal

Shloka Vaachan Pratiyogita, Class 6

1st Priyam Deka

Inter-house Social Science Quiz, Class 6, 7, 8:

Winner: Blue House (Suryadip Bandopadhyay, Kanish Chandrashekhar, Aryan D'Rozario)

Alaknanda Rafting Expedition, '12

Rafting down Memory Lane

You know that you have just been part of something extremely incredible when you are staring flat at a blinking cursor and can't

think of a word to describe it. Or when you and your friend are squabbling over the phone on who has to write the *camp article*, throwing lame excuses at each other to evade the task. Believe me, we aren't procrastinating.

Sometimes, very rarely in life, moments occur, whose recitation lies outside the realm of words.

No matter how hard we try, every description feels largely incomplete. It just isn't the same. And in this guilt of our incapability, or in the sadness of knowing these moments will never come again,

keeping these memories as safe inside for as long as possible. And hence, so often when we're asked, "So tell me about camp..." we are completely lost. So, here I am, battling my mind to put together whatever traces of those moments I can

of our lives. Every small little element, those priceless smiles, the thundering laughter, the strained voices after days of screaming, the uncanny punch lines, those wise guy comments on everything said, those moments, nightmarish (for some, yet hilarious for all, when our friends were caught at the wrong places doing wrong things; the fights, big or small, the new alliances, or also heartbreaks, he tears, glistening in the moonlight, all culminated into one incredible image that we call camp. An image, that is so much bigger than all of us. An image, that

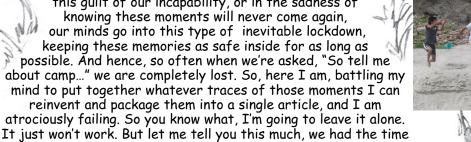
can't be evoked, yet will live on in our hearts and minds for as long as it can.

Don't go to camp expecting the most out of everything. Believe me, you'll be disappointed. Life doesn't give you everything you want in the best way possible. Go to camp knowing, that in the next few days, you are going to be a small part of something incredible. Knowing, that when someone will ask you to reinvent it, you'll be standing there in front of them with an extraordinary image in your head, yet still, utterly lost. Knowing that it'll be so much more than just words. Knowing that you'll be left with a memory that will make you happy, one you will cherish and keep for a very long time. Go with an open mind and a big heart. Trust me: you too, will have the time of your life.

-- Rishabh Prakash, 12









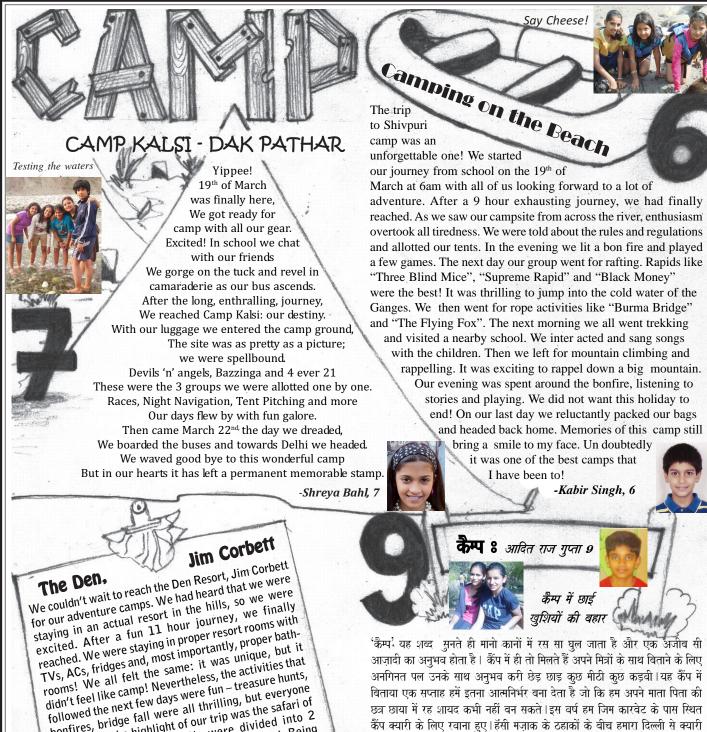
The multi-purpose rafts

Ready, get set... Go!





VASANT VALLEY TODAY PAGE - 2



bonfires, bridge fall were all thrilling, but everyone

agreed that the highlight of our trip was the safari of

Corbett National Park. We were divided into 2 groups: the morning and the afternoon safari. Being

in the morning safari, we trudged our way to the bus

in the darkness, got into jeeps and began our safari.

We spotted deer, languors, monkeys, and wait for

it... Oh, who am I kidding; No, we didn't see a tiger.

Still I speak on the behalf of my whole batch when I say that we all do miss the place- the housekeeping,

the 'other people' living in the resort, Mr. Shukla's

be missed.

Commandos!', the cultural evening, everything will

Commandos!

अनिगनत पल उनके साथ अनभव करी छेड छाड कछ मीठी कछ कडवी।यह कैंप में विताया एक सप्ताह हमें इतना आत्मनिर्भर वना देता है जो कि हम अपने माता पिता की छत्र छाया में रह शायद कभी नहीं वन सकते। इस वर्ष हम जिम कारवेट के पास स्थित कैंप क्यारी के लिए रवाना हुए। हॅसी मज़ाक के ठहाकों के बीच हमारा दिल्ली से क्यारी तक का आठ घंटों का सफर कब समाप्त हुआ पता ही नहीं चला। कैंप पहुँच हमनें अपने अपने टेन्ट बनाए और कुछ समय के लिए आराम किया।भोर होते ही हम 'नेचर वाक' के लिए चल दिए।यहाँ रास्ते भर प्रकृति का विस्तृत भंडार देखने को मिला।आसमान में पक्षियों के दल अपनी लंबी उड़ान का आनन्द ले रहे थे।छोटी बड़ी रंग बिरंगी चिड़ियाँ आपस में अठखेलियाँ करती दिखाई पड़ीं। कभी कहीं कोई भला भटका हिरण दिखाई पड़ता तो कहीं कोई नीलगाय अपनी मतवाली चाल में झमती दिख जाती। कही शांत बहती नदी तो कही छोटी बडी पहाडियाँ। प्रकृति की गोद में आ एक अजीब शांति का अनुभव हुआ जो शहरों में तो हमें छू तक नहीं जाती।वापिस कैंप पुहॅचकर हमनें पहली वार स्वयं भोजन बनाया और स्वयं के पकाए स्वादिष्ट अंडों का भरपूर सेवन किया। दिनभर इतनी सैर हुई कि विस्तर पर पड़ते ही सपनों ने आ घेरा।तीसरा दिन तो वेहद रोमांचकारी था।हमें लैडर क्लाईविंग फ्लाईंग फॉक्स जैसे वेहद कठिन परंतु जोश से भरपूर खेलों में भाग लेने का अवसर मिला। इसके वाद हम वॉडी सरिफंग के लिए भी गए। हम सभी मित्र तालियाँ बजाते एक दूसरे को पुकारते और हिम्मत देते इन खेलों का आनन्द उठा रहे थे। कल मिलाकर यह यात्रा बेहद मनोरंजक रही। हम सब मित्रों का तो कैंप से लौटने का मन ही नहीं था। बस यही आशा करते हैं कि अगले वर्ष भी हमारा कैंप इतना ही आनंदमय होगा।

VASANT VALLEY TODAY PAGE - 3

Camp Kaudiyala

On 19th March 2012, I lazed around in bed wondering what camp 2012 had in store for me. At around three thirty in the afternoon we ended up reaching the campsite after a steep descend from the main road which was pretty exhausting due to a long and winding hour and a half long hill journey which had one's head spinning. The campsite was extremely pleasing to look at and was one of those typical river side beaches with white sand and rocks in patches. The best and most beautiful part about the campsite was the magnificent and inviting river Ganga flowing by its side. We had to resist the temptation of wading into it the moment we arrived at camp!

What goes up must come down!



The first two hours were spent in the allocation of tents to the students, the making of three groups taking part in the various activities namely kayaking, rafting, rock climbing, bridge slithering and paintball. We spent our time playing catch with the tennis ball, skipping stones in the Ganga, wading in the cold water that sent a chill up our legs at first. At night, a lot of us lay down and took to stargazing, which was amazing as the sky was crystal clear due to the lack of pollution.

The next morning we heard a strange banging sort of noise which woke us up. On peeping outside we saw that it was one of the camp staff banging drums to make sure all of us were awake! Soon after, we got ready for our first major activity of camp, which in our case was bridge slithering, in which we had to descend from a bridge that was about four-storey high. After lunch our group got ready for paintballing. The previous group claimed that it was loads of fun but after seeing the scars on their arms and legs due to the impact of the paintballs, we were unnerved. Anyhow, we got into the bus and started our one hour journey to the paintballing arena in Rishikesh. The arena was well maintained and the equipment was top notch. No one got badly injured but there were some bruises which everyone was ready for.

The third day, our group was scheduled to go rock climbing early in the morning before the rocks got uncomfortably hot. Rock climbing was extremely interesting as I hadn't ever climbed a rock face at a 75 degree angle before with limited foot and hand holes. After using all the arm and leg muscles to our full potential, we reached the top of the steep rock face and rappelled down. After this, we spent 2-3 hours by the Ganga side relaxing and wetting our feet in the chilled water. Some people even attempted Kayaking.

Rafting was arguably the most memorable experience of the camp -the best was saved for the last! We rafted down the Ganga, crossing grade 2 and 3 rapids such as 'Rollercoaster' and 'Three Blind Mice'. We also jumped into the Ganga with our life jackets on and swam with the raft. One of the boats in our fleet even flipped and a couple of my friends were actually stuck under the raft for a while! However, all's well that ends well and we made it back to camp in one piece! We spent our last night in camp remembering the wonderful experiences. All of us were sad that camp had got over much too fast.

-Indraneel Roy, 10

Betrayal

It never sleeps; it's on a prowl, Its only companion: the lonely owl. Perched upon twisted branches of a tree, Resembling the crooked aura of thee. Adorn in a draping sooty gown, Sleepless nights, till he tears you down. But not just yet, you aren't acquainted, With this multifaceted game he's painted, Dissolving shades of scarlet, crimson and brunette, Strategically he's knit this voluminous net. Encompassing the innocent with laughter, kindness, Innocence falls prey to its innocent blindness. Oblivious and naive you enter open armed, Using your arms, to ensure you're harmed. It lurks in every walk of life, Inescapable is his ruthless strife. When you progress, false happiness immense, He'll gnaw you down, it was mere pretence. Walking in solitude down that lonely alley, He's the reason you turn back to tally. Is someone there, does someone follow? You hear nothing but the silence of hollow. Shouting inside, you close your eyes, look above. Crave that security from the ones you love? Then shattered by the most heart wrenching part, He resided in your loved one from the start. You stand alone. Unity, a mere portrayal. Look at the shadow of love. He is Betrayal.

-Ojal Khandpur, 12

MAYA OH MAYA

Oh yeah, she's a jaw dropper, Her countless statues say it all. But in UP, her self-obsessed nature Led to her bitter downfall.

Maya oh Maya, so beautiful, so classy! What could an angel like her possibly have done wrong now?

On her extravagant birthdays, expensive diamonds she wears.

How did she get them? Well, only she knows how!

While the people of UP battled hunger and poverty,
Her birthday was declared People's Welfare Day.
Maya oh Maya, always looking to help
By having lavish parties; "Happy Birthday Behenji" they all say!

Her assets run into millions of dollars And she has several properties for every season. Maya oh Maya, how did she become so rich? Gifts from party workers, she claims to be the reason.

> When the CBI investigates, The great Mayawati says it is illegal. She has done nothing wrong after all. All she does is look after the people.

She says her statues and gardens don't cost so much But that's understandable: 685 crores is not a big deal.

Protecting her precious statues with special police.

Looking at her symbols of power, we all must truly kneel.

-Ishan Sardesai, 12

VASANT VALLEY TODAY PAGE - 4



Hero Motocorp

We were all filled with a sense of excitement as our teachers told us about the visit to the Hero factory, largely because we would finally get to miss all our classes for an entire day! But what started out as an excuse to miss school soon became an unforgettable and enriching experience.

Their marketing strategy aimed at creating trust within their customers, whom they believed were all their 'brand ambassadors'.

We were all welcomed by the warm and friendly faces of the workers at the Hero factory, who showed us an interactive and fun presentation about the journey of Hero Motocorp and how it has been the leading company for 10 years consecutively.

It was fun to be in a factory which had such a worker friendly environment. The company had an assembly line which was perfectly timed, and used both manpower as well as machinery, producing 30 bikes per minute.

Hero had smartly reduced costs by maintaining a maximum 4 hour inventory thus, nullifying the need for warehousing. Their advertisement strategy reflected the societal marketing concept as they used social messages in order to promote their company. They also helped other private roadside mechanics by training them appropriately as to how to fix a bike, to increase their post sale services, and also strategized in order to reduce the delivery period to improve customer satisfaction.

Their marketing strategy aimed at creating trust within their customers

whom they believed were all their 'brand ambassadors'. The intriguing thing was that even though the company's production was very large, all waste material that was created was reused so, the company generated very little to no waste at all. Throughout the trip we learnt a lot about the company and continued to be surprised at the various techniques of production that it employed.



-Radhika Puri, 12

Save It While You Can

Dr. Deepak Apte, Deputy Director of the Bombay Natural History Society and an avid environmentalist visited our school with an intriguing presentation on Biodiversity and Conservation Issues in India for the students of Class 9. Dr. Apte recounted some of his most interesting experiences with us from his 2000 mile expedition from Gujarat to Kanyakumari, along with his travels to Lakshadweep Island, gaining the trust and support of the Lakshadweep Community.

Dr. Apte's 6000 hours spent diving

underwater gave the students of Class 9 an insight into India's diverse aquatic life that, he believes, is forgotten in our day to day materialistic lives on concrete. His

statistics had us all engrossed, whether it was the count of the wild species of flora and fauna seeking shelter or the meager number of forty wild buffaloes in all of India.

The passionate ecologist received the 2008 Whitley Award for his extensive work spent in the remote reefs and atolls of Lakshadweep. Dr. Apte is working towards leading the islanders to conserve and secure their livelihood in Lakshadweep, whose futures are deeply intertwined with the reefs. Dr. Apte's visit was an enriching experience as he imparted enlightening insights into India's environment!

-Serena Nanda, 9

VISIT TO TEEKLI VILLAGE

When it was first announced that the Sociology and Geography students of class 12 were going to visit a village in Haryana, there were mixed reactions. Some were excited, hoping to gain a new insight into rural India, while some were reluctant, unwilling to venture so far out of the city just to observe what they thought would be a stereotypical Indian village. However, our visit to Teekli Village, Haryana, not only proved to us the inaccuracy of this common stereotype, but also exceeded all our expectations.

'Teekli village was completely incongruent to the stereotype of Indian villages'

The village was huge, with colourful houses made of cement lining the sides of the fairly well maintained streets. There were animals everywhere, from cats and dogs to buffalos and peacocks.

The atmosphere of the Teekli village was unlike any other. There was an air of warmth and kindness

that enveloped us the second we arrived, making us feel like friends, not outsiders. Upon disembarking the bus, we were divided into groups of 4, and each group was allotted a family to talk to. Our visit to these families' homes reflected one of the most notable attributes of the villagers: their kindness and hospitality. The elder members of the village Panchayat were more than willing to take time out of their busy schedules to answer our queries about the social structure of the village. Through these interactions, we discovered that Teekli village was completely incongruent to the stereotype of Indian villages. The social structure was based on equality: men and women, upper castes and lower castes, rich and poor were given social statuses depending on their achievements and qualifications. Every child was sent to school, with some even pursuing higher education in nearby cities. The village was self sufficient, and all basic necessities were available within the village itself, including food, water and electricity.

The influence of Western culture on the village was evident: young men and boys wore jeans, there were televisions, washing machines, gas pipes, invertors, etc. in most houses and English phrases such as "thank you" and "hello" were commonly used. Our interactions and observations were interspersed with fun activities such as taking a tractor ride to the fields and having lunch in the open, green 'Jhankar Gardens'. After that, we headed to the village 'Senior Secondary School' to interact with the students of Class 11 and 12. We were pleasantly surprised to see a

sizable attendance of both the sexes, and the fact that the students were genuinely interested in learning and the teachers, in teaching. The infrastructure of the school was superior to our expectations, and the atmosphere seemed conducive to learning. Our interactions with the students revealed their satisfaction with the school, their aspirations for higher studies, and the amount they valued education. Before we knew it, and much to our unhappiness, it was time to leave. The visit to the village was a great experience, and we all learnt a lot from it. It opened our eyes to the reality of rural India, and allowed us to understand what we learn in Sociology more clearly by relating subject matter to reality. It was informative as well as enjoyable, and will remain etched in our memories forever.





-Simrat Khera, 12

VASANT VALLEY TODAY PAGE - 5

Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary

This year was my first adventure camp from school. I



was super excited to be away from home, with my friends for three days. We went to Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan. We went by bus, stayed in tents



and took part in lots of fun activities like- Monkey Vines, Mission Impossible, Zipline and Jungle Safari. I also played cricket and football with my friends. The best part was spending so much time with my friends though I missed my parents a bit.

Vijit Mann III- C

Rajaji National Park

Our countdown had ended... it was time to board the bus. All the children had gathered in school. We were going to Rajaji National Park! We had an 8 hour journey but time flew as we sang. We left school at 6 o'clock on Monday morning and reached the campsite at around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. After keeping our bags in our tents we went trekking. On our way down the

hill, we saw some cows. A cow suddenly appeared behind Avya,



who jumped out of her skin!! The day ended with a documentary "Save The Tigers". On the second day we went for a safari where we saw different kinds of birds and a



few deer. Some of us saw leopard footprints which got us all very excited because we thought that we would soon spot the leopard! On the way back, some of us almost got attacked by a wild tusker! It was so scary! After returning from the safari we played 'Mission Impossible' which was a lot of fun. Later, we did rappelling down a steep and rocky mountain. In the evenings children would tell jokes, ask riddles, sing and dance or enact plays around a bonfire. Next day we went river crossing. The river bed had many stones that poked our feet. After that we had free time. In the evening we had a dance party and we all enjoyed ourselves. On Thursday we woke up early to leave for school. We left around 9 a.m. It was a long journey but, everyone had fun. We loved camp and wished we could stay there forever!!

> Jai Kapoor and Tia Goculdas IV-C

Shivpuri Camp

This year Class Five went to the Shivpuri Coastline along the



Ganges. We stayed in a camp called 'Snow Lion Estate'. Our bus journey was quite long. We stopped at 'Moolchand' on the way for breakfast. On reaching the camp site we had a scrumptious lunch and rested in our allotted tents. The next morning we did yoga and exercised. We were then divided



into four groups each with a distinct name, flag, war chant and motto. Two groups went river rafting while the other two groups enjoyed adventure sports. We had so much fun river rafting! We splashed, paddled and even had water fights! We were soaking wet when we returned. After lunch the two groups that went river rafting stayed back for a treasure hunt and team games while the other two groups went down to the beach and tried their hand at 'Kayaking'. The next day was the same but the groups exchanged activities. The adventure sports were of great variety such as Rock Climbing, Zipline, River Crossing, Rappelling. Before we knew it, it was time to leave camp and return home. Well, I believe we all had a wonderful time there. We learnt to be self reliant and bonded with our friends and teachers. It was truly an amazing adventure.

Arusha Nirvan V- B

VASANT VALLEY TODAY PAGE - 6

TEMPTATION

Await in idleness as seconds pass by to infinity,
Picture of serenity and composure.
Till the black tendrils she exudes consumes one
Assuring solace, succor.

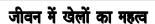
She shrouds me in sweet nothings Ensnaring me in her golden claws turned merciless Shredding apart resilience, resistance Forgo all for the cold, placid kiss.

> I dance with darkness, bask in her grace Faith restored, guided to deception Dance with the devil, yield to the ultimate Control ceases, I embrace her manipulation.

> Fracas carves me in two, raging war within
>
> Conscience against enticement in battle
>
> Wanting, needing, heart bleeding
> Guilt and regret, my sole mantle.

Desperate, desolate, demeaned, divided, To me nothing but grief does she endow, As the epiphany hits, I'm pieces and bits, To Temptation do I bow

- Pia Chatterjee, 12



आजकल चारों तरफ लोग तरह-तरह की वीमारियों से ग्रसित हैं - जिसे देखो उसे दिल की शक्कर की वदन दर्द की या फिर मोटापे की शिकायत रहती है। सभी लोग तनाव में घिरें हैं - वड़े तो वड़े छोटे-छोटे बच्चे भी इन सभी परेशानियों में फंसे हैं। कभी सोचा है कि इन सभी का मूल कारण क्या है - मेरे हिसाव से वो है ज्यादा

SUPERNATURAL

The moment Supernatural aired on Indian television, it gave rise to a new generation of fans. It is one of the few shows in Indian history that has catered to people of all kinds. This show takes on a new face, as it simply doesn't follow the lines of an everyday soap opera. Driving across the country in a small black retro car searching for a bunch of demons is the so-called "normal" lifestyle of Sam and Dean Winchester. This show follows two brothers that are on a hunt to find approximately 200 demons that have escaped from Hells gate. On their way to nowhere the Winchesters go poking their nose into every suspicious case to check if things are "supernatural" or not. No

matter how ghostly or crime involved the situation is, the handsome brave hearts will never let it down. Aside from all the suspense and thrill, there's a real human element to Supernatural, that is, the desire of the characters to keep their fledgling family intact through all the chaos. I agree that all the strange investigations, terrifying and spine tingling scenes do make you want to hide under your blanket, but you've got to admit that they never let you leave that chair.



-Ishita Satyajit, 9

VY tUBE

KONY 2012 IS A FILM AND CAMPAIGN BY

INVISIBLE CHILDREN THAT AIMS TO MAKE JOSEPH KONY FAMOUS, NOT TO CELEBRATE HIM, BUT TO RAISE SUPPORT FOR HIS ARREST AND SET A PRECEDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE. WATCH KONY 2012 ON WWW.YOUTUBE.COM AND JOIN THE CAUSE



मेहनत या व्यायाम ना करना व बहुत ही आरामदायक जीवन जीना। और इस का सबसे आसान और मनोरंजक तरीका है विभिन्न प्रकार के खेल खेलना। आइए हमारे जीवन में खेलों का िकतना महत्व है यह जानते हैं। वाहर खेलने से व्यायाम होता है जो हमारे तन व मन दोनों को चुस्त व तंदरूस्त रखता है वीमारियाँ दूर भगाता है और जीवन में कुछ कर पाने का हीसला भी देता है। यह दूसरों के साथ एक लक्ष्य की ओर कदम बढ़ाना सिखाता है। ऐसे ही खेलते खेलते लोग नए दोस्त भी बना लेतें हैं। ये हमें दूसरों के वारे में और जानने का मौका देतें हैं। और साथ में खेलते समय़ हम लक्ष्य भी बनाते हैं कि हमें कीर्नसा मैच कैसे जीतना है। यही हमें जीवन में आगे बढ़ने की ताकत देता है और हमें प्रेरित भी करता है। सभी खिलाड़ी जैसे सायिना नेहवाल और सचिन तेंदुलकर हमेशा अपने लक्ष्य की ओर आगे बढ़ते रहते हैं और कभी भी पीछे मुड़कर नहीं देखते।खेल हमें यह भी सिखाते हैं कि हमें अपने लक्ष्य को कैसे पाना है। ये हमें अपने दिमाग का उपयोग करते हुए योजना और

Ananya Trehan- He's taking his violin with him.

Q- Oh. Western or Indian?

Ananya Trehan- No, no. His violin.

He might be taking his violin alright, but are you taking your brain with you?

Aryan Bakshi- That stupid man drowned the fish.

How stupid of him, he should have tried to strangle it with the wire of a cordless phone.

Teacher- Chandini, why didn't you do your homework?

Chandini Agarwal- Sorry, I wasn't in school.

Wow, great excuse. In all my years of having done homework, I haven't thought of a better excuse to not do it.

Amira Singh- Did you fell?

That's a million dollar question. I see why you became Head Girl.

Shubham Agarwal- I'm drumming my guitar

If Jimi Hendrix heard that, he'd be rolling around in his grave in pain.

ERRATUM

The author' name, Gyan Pratap Singh, Class 12 was accidentally omitted from the article "Easy Way to Make a Magic Square" in the previous issue. The omission is regretted by the Editorial Board.

रणनीति से अपने लक्ष्य को हासिल करने का जोश भी देतें हैं। यही योजना और रणनीति हमें खेल में ही नहीं अपनी पढ़ाई व कार्य में भी मदद करते हैं। अंत में मैं यही कहना चाहूँगी कि खेल हमारे दिमाग और शरीर दोनों के लिए ही वहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और आज के भाग-दौड़ भरे जीवन में तो इनका महत्व और भी अधिक है।



३ संजरी कलंत्री 8

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