

Vasant Valley TODAY

TO THE BATCH OF '17.

What we are about to undertake is the colossal task of trying to condense and do justice to 13 years' worth of experiences in a few minutes. However, even though we were latecomers to this batch, among these zany ninety kids and a school that is unlike anything we could possibly think of, we found acceptance; for who we were, what we were good at and what we loved.

There were times when we thought we wouldn't fit in, find a place or belong; but those times quickly faded as the wonderful people of this batch took it upon themselves to make us feel at home in those early stages; be it through a dance on Tunak-Tunak in a class act, a performance on the field or just over-imposing friends. We all found our niche and today, we stand before you a batch of new and old, veterans and newcomers, but above all, a batch united.

I remember Mr Kapur telling us the reason our uniforms aren't the most fashionable is because it is our personalities that must shine through and define us. And shine we did. The school accepted our strengths and made them the pillars it stands on. Vasant Valley has never failed to put our best interests on the frontline and between all this, weaved into us values of respect, gratitude and excellence. And as we stand here at the threshold of a new beginning in our lives, we want to express our gratitude to our parents, to the school, all of our teachers, the didis and the bhaiyas and the people who work behind the scenes, for being the ones who have helped us make the choices that define us today.



Everything we've become today has been a journey; a journey we undertook 13 years ago with our friends and our teachers. We've evolved from the toddlers who cried entering school on their first day, to adults who'll cry now at the thought of leaving school. From conquering the miniature rapids of Class 4 to scaling The Wall in Class 12, hum rapids phaad ke aaye hain! From the Baadi Bhoot of the class 2 night stay to the Aghori Babas of that campfire at Alaknanda, from faking sleep to get stars on our hands in Class 1, to crying for just an extra half hour of sleep in Class 12; we've been there and we've done it all. Those ditsy and self-conscious teenagers are now the talented and beautiful individuals you see before you.

"We've all come a long way and it's a journey we're all going to reminisce over as we walk out the gates of the school."

School Watch

Modern School Vasant Vihar U-10 (boys) Inter School Cricket Tournament
8th - 15th December, 2016
Vasant Valley School - Runner's up
Dwij Dawar- Man of the Match(final)
Dwij Dawar- The Player of the Tournament
Prithvi Rajan Khanna- Best Batsman of the Tournament

The Heritage- Tenvic Inter School Cricket Tournament U-12 Boys organised by The Heritage School, Gurgaon
12th - 15th December, 2016
Vasant Valley School Runner's up
Rohan Singh Pahwa - Player of the Tournament

Map Quest Results - Senior School
November, 2016
Class 6 : Sara Chopra, Inaayat Passi, Udhay Chopra and Advaita Sehgal
Class 7 : Prithvi Mehta
Class 8 : Mokshya Wadhwa and Shivya Paul
Class 9 : Shubham Kalantri
Class 10 : Rachit Gupta and Ashutosh Trivedi
Class 11 : Aditya Kapur

But while a lot has changed over the last 13 years, a lot has also remained the same; most notably our batch's incredible luck (or lack thereof) with exchange programs, drama festivals and Founder's day performances. Be it our love for ordering room service whenever possible, our infamous food fights or even simply our attitude and questionable maturity when it comes to relationships, some old habits really do die hard.

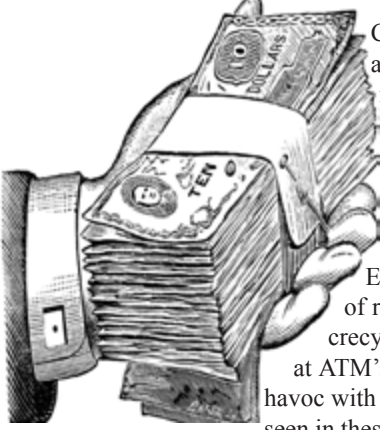
We've shared these 13 years with our closest friends but beyond our circles, our family extends to the whole batch. We're united in a million different ways, all for one and one for all. We're willing to take the fall for a single person, even when it means getting sent back home from camp. Nowhere else would you find 17 year olds crossing rapids while screaming the lyrics of Kajrare or dancing in the school courtyard to the beats of DJ Kats or even losing Go-Pros in the Ganga. We've become our own large 'VVS family', with our very own Papa and Dadaji, teachers who share our zest for gossip and are always willing to lend a compassionate ear for advice on literally anything.

We've always seen ourselves as a group of 94 *janglis*, but there has always been a method to our madness. No matter where we are, even if our best friends aren't around, we'll always find a shoulder to cry on and a partner to dance with among our batch mates. These ninety familiar faces will always be our comfort zone, people who bring out the best in us, leaving us unafraid to be who we are.

-Kamya Yadav & Yash Garde, 12

Swacch Bharat- The Black Money Cleansing Drive

The historical night of 8th November 2016, when most of world was prepared for the Hillary v/s Trump face off in the US Presidential Elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stole the lime-light. The abrupt demonetization of currency notes of denominations 500 and 1000 created a never before seen situation in the country. When 1.3 billion people think about going to the bank the first thing next morning either to deposit cash or withdraw legal tender it is bound to be a logistical nightmare, a consequence all the makers of this decision were well aware of. Or were they?



Corruption today is plaguing Indian society in every nook and cranny. When anything that aims to destroy this evil is introduced, people welcome it with open arms. It strikes a chord with them, regardless of the consequences they may have to face. In the past we have seen it with the Jan Lok Pal bill, and we see it now with this step. Previously, many leaders have spoken about eradicating black money which fuels terrorism and corruption of other kinds, but none of them have truly walked the talk. This is the first time a clear mandate away from appeasing politics has been sent out to everyone to come clean and face the consequences.

Even though India has a robust banking system, it has been put to the test with the herculean task of replacing currency notes which amount to 86 percent of the money in circulation. To keep the secrecy intact, the system was not prepared for this kind of change beforehand resulting in long queues at ATM's, shortage of new currency and technical issues with the machinery, which is creating absolute havoc with the large population. A repeated argument being observed is that the rich man is nowhere to be seen in these lines, whereas the poor stand day in and day out. This move has also wreaked havoc on the lives of daily wage workers. Left penniless, they are returning to their villages. Some are taking their children out of school as they can no longer afford to pay the fees. It is due to these very happenings that many Indians are being forced to think about whether India was ready for such a bold and stringent measure.

I don't think that this one decision will completely quash black money or corruption. People will find a way out, with due course of time once there is a free flow accumulation will begin once again. Episodes of hoarding money through gold, foreign currency and other unlawful means have already started. However the patience and relentlessness of our citizens clearly proves that they want this to end and if adequate follow up action is taken with respect to the aim and ends are met, we could succeed if not in eradicating but in curbing the magnitude of corruption.

-Ananya Jain, 11

जानवरों का भ्रष्टाचार बंद करो



बेजुबान पशुओं के प्रति भ्रष्टाचार सदियों से चला आ रहा है। पर इक्कीसवीं सदी में हम युवकों को इसके प्रति एक जुट होकर एक आवाज उठानी चाहिए। इससे सरकार कुछ सख्त नियमों को लागू कर सकेगी, ताकि अत्याचार करने वाले व्यक्तियों को कड़ी से कड़ी सजा मिले। हमने कुत्तों की वफादारी को देखा है, गाएँ-भैंसों ने किसानों को और कृषि विज्ञान में अपना योगदान दिखाया है, घोड़े और ऊँठ पर सुगम यात्राओं का आनंद लिया है, तो इन्हीं पशुओं पर इतने अत्याचार क्यों?

दक्षिण भारत में आज तक हाथियों को श्रृंगार करके मंदिरों में खड़ा करवाया जाता है और उनके महावत उन्हें जंजीरो में जकड़कर रखते हैं। हाथी जंगलों में घूमता-फिरता आजाद ही अच्छा लगता है। पी.टा, जागरूति और मेनिका गांधी द्वारा ऐसे और कई गैर सरकारी संगठन हैं जो समाज में एवं बिना कोई फायदा-नुकसान, जानवरों के प्रति भ्रष्टाचार की कठोर निंदा करते हुए समाज में अपना प्रकाश फैला रहे हैं।

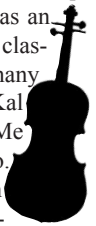


-आरुषि भुटानी, १०

NEW TRADITIONS

the Vasant Valley Founders Day Orchestra

Interestingly enough, the piece in question was also as unique as the instrument choice of the orchestra. The piece was an elaborate medley of Bollywood music mixed in with classical music and popular western tunes. There were many songs used in creating the medley, such as Canon, Kal Ho Na Ho, Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Give Me Some Sunshine, Tum Hi Ho, He's A Pirate and Jai Ho. Each instrument was used to their full potential in providing the best sound possible, from the perfect beats of the tabla to the trance-like sound of the sitar. Interestingly, even the choir was able to function as an instrument, providing vocal harmonies over the main melodies.



The Vasant Valley Founders Day Drama



Forty plus people on a not-so-large stage. Portraying thoughts without speaking. Depicting the making of a play in five minutes. These were but some of the problems faced by drama students, not to mention the problems the teachers faced, while practising for Founders Day. We drama students truly went on a marvellous journey together, full of its ups and downs. Fighting over fans, playing 'messages', making extremely dark yet somehow humorous jokes and scaring people with our frightening makeup are but some of the memories that will remain with me forever, and I am positive that such memories are possessed by each and every member of our drama family.

THE 27TH FOUNDERS DAY

the last dance

There are some things in life that you look at and wonder what you're going to do after they end. And then you stop caring for a while about what you will do after that thing ends because there is such a long time before that thing occurs for it to end. And you think 'I'll know how it feels and what to do after this thing is over.' But the strange thing is when that moment comes around and it's finally over, you're at a loss at how you feel. The Last Dance probably epitomizes this feeling. If I look back at the countless Founders Days that I have been a part of as a student of Vasant Valley, I'd say that some of the most memorable moments of my school life have been during the Founders Day Time. Be it finding Nirvana in a blood red costume, listening to "It was not bad, it was very bad, Rrrubish!" being sweepers of a dirty river, doing classical dance for a 100 Years of Bollywood Theme or even learning a Bengali Dance under the critical eye of Mrs. Majumdar who as a skilled danseuse seems quite formidable (We love you ma'am!), Founders Day is perhaps the time that school spirit and batch love seems to flourish and bloom.

It proved a challenge to choreograph our own dance, not that we're complaining. We had countless arguments about the songs we should choose to dance on, the positioning of each student, the steps that were too hard and the lack of coordination. When we had finally settled for Madhuri's Aaja Nachle that had the perfect mix of ada and energy, Malhari for the band of boys who couldn't get over Ranveers abs and attitude, Nagada because bhangra is a vital part of Indian culture (though truth be told it was because Angad would be dancing in the center and choreographing and that was an opportunity no one would miss) and Gallan Goodiyan which was our perfect batch song.

The days drew nearer between screams of anguish, gasps of disbelief and face palming (because our last dance looked atrocious). There were moments when we sat in groups, that we would look at each other and one of us would pipe up with the fact that the end was near and after a few moments of silence we would go back to discussing our overload of homework because dealing with the end seemed like too much.



Dancing on stage is an exhilarating feeling. The smiles and energy make up for hair undone and salwars almost being pulled off. When it was over we came out laughing and slightly more coordinated than before. And while some cried because they couldn't believe it was over, and others sat in silence unable to fathom the fact that from next year we wouldn't get a chance to dance on center stage it seemed that as batch we had not only put up a performance that was ours from the disco ball costumes to the energy filled steps, but we had created a memory that was worth looking back on and relishing.

I feel nothing but absolute pride and nostalgia knowing that I was a part of the Batch of 2018's last dance. It wasn't just the last of the dance that made it special, it was the people we got to share it with and the laughter and smiles that went with it. Even though it was the last dance I wouldn't believe it was the end, because the memory and the feeling of exhilaration, love and pride is simply too much to forget. So here's to us. Aaja nachle BO2018, after all, no one does it better than we do.

-Zoya Hassan, 11

Boys Western Dance



This founders day each student in the school was divided into various groups based on their strengths in arts. Categories such as drama, orchestra and western dance were going to be home to all students for more than a month. Our dance didn't seem to be western when we heard the song devoted to lord shiv, called 'om nama shivay' but the choreography proved us wrong. From steps such as the slo-mo walk, to a bit of break dancing, the 100 boys slogged to deliver one of the best coordinated dances. The energy created through the dance and audience definitely made our dance a show stopper. The only piece of advice the choreographer gave us was to smile and have fun and that's what we did. Even though our costumes weren't as impressive as our dance, we did not disappoint our audience.

Indian Fusion Dance

This year, Vasant Valley School celebrated its 27th Annual Founders day with the theme 'Talent Show'. The Indian dance was a fusion of two classical dances, Bharatanatyam and Kathak. The performers, ranging from ages of ten to fifteen created a four dance from scratch under the guidance of Mr. Kapil Sharma. The performance was vibrant and graceful and was appreciated by all, parents and teachers alike. Founders day enhanced these classical parts of our culture so we as students could not only learn but let the others who viewed our performance delve deeper into our Indian culture.



My Year in School - In the end of class two I was sad that I won't have all my friends in class three with me. But the I faced my fears hoping I would have a good time, a wonderful teacher and some of my friends. When I got to know that I was with Ms. Chopra I was happy. When my three best friends Gur Rehmat, Sahira and Shivantika told me that they were in 3B too, I was overjoyed as I love my friends. But this year I made many new friends also. When we went on our first Adventure camp we had so much fun. We went for three days and did lots of exciting activities there. My favourite was the 'zipline'. We had cabins to sleep in. I was very happy when Mrs. Chopra praised me when I got full marks in spellings. I have got many sparkies in Mindspark too. I had lots of fun in class 3-B. Mrs Chopra kept our names 'Busy Bees'. First I was sad that we were leaving class two but now I am even sadder that we are leaving class three. I loved class three. *Aiza Arora III-B*

The Colours of Life

The colours of life!
The colours of life!
Help us move on in life
And is filled with joy and happiness
and sadness too.
The field's crops are growing
With wonderful breeze floating
the bees are sucking nectar
All fishes are swimming in the ocean
while people are playing sports.
The sun has shone up
with heavy thunder and rain
There is a rainbow up in the sky
and the whole world is sitting in peace.

Ayaan Dhingra IV - B

All the exquisite colours are so pure
Whenever I am around them I feel secure.
From the lush green grass to the shimmering
blue sky
All are so beautiful ! Why?
Sometimes I wonder what we have done so
great
That God has given us these amazing colours
to celebrate
With these impressive colours as my mate
I am going to accept my fate
With all these mind blowing colours around
the Sun
I can't pick which is the best one.
Colours you make my night
Just so bright, full of light
Just looking at you gives me a lot of might.

Saara Mehta IV - A

एक दिन की बादशाहत - 'एक दिन की बादशाहत' ऐसा हो तो नहीं सकता पर सोचने में बुराई क्या है। अगर एक दिन के लिए मुझे दुनिया पर राज करने का मौका मिल जाए तो मैं सबसे पहले सारे अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमाओं को समाप्त कर दूंगा और एक देश बनाऊंगा 'पृथ्वी'। जो दूसरा काम मैं करूंगा वह है सारे नोट और सिक्के बंद करवा दूंगा और जो लोग मेहनत करेंगे उन्हें तीन वक्त का खाना नसीब होगा और आलसी लोगों को खाना नहीं मिलेगा। मैं शॉपिंग के लिए 'मेहनत कार्ड' और 'मेहनत घड़ी' बनाऊंगा जिससे हर पल की मेहनत मेहनत घड़ी में स्टोर होगी जो आप अपने मेहनत कार्ड में ट्रांसफर कर सकते हैं। हर एक लाख की मेहनत पर आपके मेहनत कार्ड का रंग खुद और गहरा हो जाएगा और जितने की खरीदारी करेंगे उतना हल्का होता जाएगा। इससे आलसी पन की विमारी विलकुल गायब हो जाएगी। अगर मेरी बादशाहत में नहीं तो किसी और की बादशाहत में ही सही पर अगर हम इस तौर - तरीके को आजमा लें तो पृथ्वी कहाँ से कहाँ पहुँच जाएगी। न काले धन की समस्या रहेगी और न चोरी की।

ऋत्तिक सप्ता पॉच - स

Class Two Night Stay

On Friday 2nd December we had a Night Stay at our school. All the class two children and teachers were there. First we had a Math Quiz. Then we went for a nature walk to Bio Di-



versity Park. We came back, had lunch and decorated the cake in the break. Then we had an obstacle race and were treated to snacks in our class. We also had a magic show and a dance party too. We also saw the Moon and Venus through telescope. We painted. Before going to sleep we heard a witch story and then we went for a treasure hunt.

We woke up in the morning and went home. We enjoyed a lot. My favourite activity was dance party. *Paridar Vohra II - B*

Class I Treasure Hunt Party

I like Treasure Hunt- Aryan, Mishika and I are looking for treasure. I had friends finding treasure with me. I liked making the trick or treat bags. We found treasure in the Class Act area. We got lots of candy. *Amaira Chopra 1B*

A Satisfying Day - I have been waiting for four hours ,no wait, five hours in the principal,Mr. Flitwick's office for my reflection sheet because I was playing soccer and the ball went and hit Mr. Flitwick,when he was walking across the field. And this isn't the first time this has happened .This is the nine hundred ninety second time... And then Mr. Flitwick came in. "Harry Mcdonald?"he said, "Yes sir...?" I said, "Reflection sheet,I have one for you," he said. I started my sheet. When I finished it Mr. Flitwick said ,"This is your third reflection sheet, it better be good."After some-time Mr. Flitwich said,"Harry Mcdonald, you have passed in the reflection sheet, congratulations!" I was relieved. "Thank you, sir, thank you so much," I said. I was very relieved and went back to class happily. *Noor Srivastava IV - B*

ART MARATHON 2016

SCULPTURE

The most striking feature about Vineet Kackar was his method of work. Completely engrossed in his work, Mr. Kackar commanded respect and silence over the atmosphere. Over the course of the workshop, he guided the participants through various mediums and textures, such as using cardboard, stamps and shoe prints on clay. According to him, playing around with different materials allows him to organically create something beautiful. Having budding artists listening intently created an environment of creativity and curiosity, interpreting his teachings in personalised ways.

THE BIG PICTURE

Contemporary Indian artist Manav Gupta came and worked with us by giving and guiding us students on the essence of the 'Five Elements'. Budding artists were divided into groups of 4-5 students where we creatively interacted with children from different schools, conceptualised the element that we were going to depict and then started to work together. An array of colours were selected, canvases were painted as well as a series of role plays of teaching and motivating us took effect as performance art. The canvases were then put together bringing to life through the medium of art the Five Elements. This marathon year after year gives us students an improvement in skill and technique and an opportunity to work and rub shoulders with people who have made a niche for themselves in the Art fraternity.

FASHION DESIGN

Urvashi Kaur, a renowned embodiment of 'glocal' fashion propagates a hybrid expression of thinking globally, and acting locally. Her designs are global in their construction, but extremely Indian in their implementation. To the students of fashion design at the art marathon, she extended her endorsement of Indian handwoven textile, promotion of the revival of indigenous Indian handloom. The participants used scrap material from Ms. Kaur's collections, creating their very own contemporary outfits. The girls created outfits that primarily, impressed Ms. Kaur to no end, and were then modelled for the school to see.



अब की बार ट्रम्प सर्कार

नवम्बर ८ को अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति का चुनाव हुआ था। लोकतान्त्रिक व रिपब्लिक पार्टी के 'हिलेरी क्लिंटन' व 'डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प' के बीच अमेरिका के सदस्य ने चुनाव किया। इनके संग सौदा करने वाले उपाध्यक्ष थे 'टॉम पायने' और 'माइक हेंस', जो लोकतान्त्रिक व रिपब्लिक दलों में से थे। क्लिंटन व ट्रम्प के बीच के दंगे फसाद, उनके आपस में अलग विचार धारा व सोच के कारण था। ट्रम्प तो खबर में अपने गलत व दाहक विचारों के कारण मुख्य रूप से बहुत ही जाने-माने हैं। ज्यादातर रूढ़िवादी विचारों के कारण ट्रम्प पर बहुत ही आश्चर्य रूप से चर्चा की जा रही है। वह खुले-खुले, बेफिक्रे रूप से, समलैंगिकों व औरतों पर ताने मरता है, और उसके विरोध ३,५०० कानूनी मामले दर्ज किये गए हैं, जबकि ट्रम्प अमेरिका में पैसों के मामलों को लेकर अपने आप को एक्सपर्ट समझते हैं। वह मुसलमानों व लैटिनो लोगों के विरोध कानून बनाने के वादे करता है और अमेरिका की रेखाओं पर वह एक दीवार बनाना चाहता है जिससे मेक्सिको के सदस्य अमेरिका में न आ पाए। इन्हीं वादों पर ट्रम्प विजेता घोषित किया गया है। परन्तु, उनके 'थैंक यू' यात्रा पर ट्रम्प उन्हीं वादों पर पीछे जा रहे हैं। उनके मंत्रिमंडल का चुनाव अत्यधिक अयोग्य उम्मीदवारों से हो रहा है। इस प्रकार अमेरिका का क्या भविष्य है? यह समय ही बताएगा।



-सानिया सिधु, १०

MUSIC & ORCHESTRA

As a part of this year's Art Marathon, the orchestra and the vocal group worked with Ms. Sonam Kalra, Mr. Chettri and Mr. Dutta. Together, they worked on a combined medley of Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen and Man Kunto Maula, a Sufi song. Through the two days, they worked immensely on improving the quality of the sound produced, the vocalists on how to project their voices and instrumentalists on how to synchronise their tunes perfectly. Ultimately, the music was excellent and we all learnt immensely from the workshop.



THEATRE

Farhad Colabavala, through the course of two days, led a workshop that introduced budding actors to improvisation techniques, group bonding exercises and the art of simply letting go on stage. From games like 'Mafia' to 'Emotional Carpool', the members of the theatre workshop found themselves slowly getting out of their own heads and relying on their instincts. When the time to perform, the participants were only prepared for one thing- to have fun. Interacting with the audience, feeding off their energy and playing improvisation games on stage was a unique experience for all the performers, and I'm sure it'll be remembered. I mean, it isn't easy to forget Modi, Kim Kardashian, Trump and Doraemon on stage together!

INDIAN DANCE



Indian dance has always been an important art form at our school. This year for Vasant Valley's art marathon, the immensely talented Kathak exponent Vidha Lal, joined us to teach and choreograph a dance piece for a performance in the Vasant Manch. We were all excited about learning from a renowned classical dancer and performing her choreography. We only had three hours to prepare and without hesitation Ms. Lal got to work. She had to work with dancers of three different styles: Kathak, Bharatnatayam and Oissi, so she took parts from all three styles and created an amazing piece. She told us how to perfect our movements, guiding us through sharp finishes and softer movements. She taught us that though Indian classical dance forms are diverse in nature, they have unity and can be combined to form something beautiful. We learnt a lot from her about classical dance, grace and combining dance styles. In three hours she managed to choreograph and teach us a whole piece and in

Sakura Science Exchange Program



The Sakura Science Exchange Program was a scientific and cultural exchange program organised by JST or Japan Space and Technology Agency that took place in the Greater Tokyo Area of Japan. Participating in this program were around 100 students from all over India.

The program was aimed at giving Indian students suitable exposure to education and research opportunities for science in Japan.

We visited many interesting facilities of scientific research and development, such as particle accelerator labs, steel refineries, matter analysis labs and even an entire museum concerned with sustainable development, known as Miraikan.

Apart from that, we also managed to interact with notable personalities in the world of science. For example, we recreated the Nobel-Prize-winning experiment on organic polymers with Dr Hideki Shirakawa and also had a Q&A session with Japan's first astronaut, Mamoru Mohri.

We also visited educational institutions too, such as the Shibaura Institute of Technology, Tokyo University, and even a high school known as Meikei High School. At the two universities, we learned about educational programs that were available for foreign students and also of the opportunities that were available in graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral research. At the high school, we participated in a cultural exchange with Japanese students and even participated in a paper airplane competition known as PPAP (PaPer AirPlane).

Exploring Japan's relationship with religion, we visited a local Shinto shrine and witnessed Shinto coming-of-age rituals, we visited famous Buddhist shrines such as the Asakusa Shrine and the Meiji Shrine and

We also visited quite a few museums, such as the Edo-Tokyo museum elucidating Japanese history, the Sony ExploraScience center, where we learned the science behind 21st century innovations, and the Miraikan museum, which exhibited different strategies to achieve sustainable development, even demonstrating the humanoid ASIMO robot.

We were also taken to the vibrant districts of Tokyo. The most notable of these are Akihabara, a haven for all things related to Manga, Anime and Otaku subculture, Harajuku, which contained all sorts of quirky fashion pieces and shops, and Diver City, which was guarded by a 18-m tall Gundam statue at its entrance.

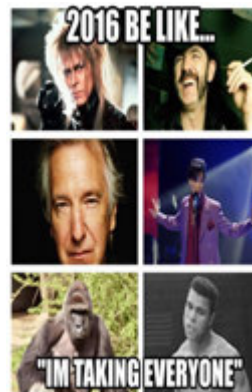
All in all, this experience has firmly solidified our decision to pursue science in the future.



Jay Jaganaath, 11

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2016

1. Harambe was and shot killed at the Cincinnati Zoo, inspiring a world wide debate on animal welfare and even some talented meme making.
2. Leonardo DiCaprio won an Oscar award for his role in The Revenant.
3. Terror groups attacked the Istanbul airport and bombed Brussels, Belgium.
4. Well-loved celebrities like Prince, Alan Rickman, David Bowie and Muhammad Ali passed away.
5. Britain left the EU.
6. Phillipines' Duterte unleashed a brutal "War on Drugs."
7. Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after Pathankot and Uri attacks.
8. Donald Trump won the US Presidential Election.
9. PM Modi announced demonetisation.
10. A massive humanitarian crisis in Syria, involving the Syrian and Russian forces and the innocent civilians caught in the crossfire.



In the words of The Daily Show's host Trevor Noah- "If Harambe was alive, he would have killed himself."

-Sarina Mittal, 12

Charpoys Under The Stars...

As I take a stroll down memory lane, I can't help but smile. It's almost as if I can smell the buttery aroma of the hot parathas that greeted us on the first day of our trip to Jhanjhrola. I can still hear the village kids and their excited chatter as they happily received us; the first batch of kids to share their lifestyle and hospitable nature.

We spent most of our time in the school, sitting through the math and English lessons. The level of energy during the math class is something the kids and I had in common. Hence, just like us, the kids were more than excited when it was time for break during which we played kabbadi and volleyball.

When the activities of the day had ended, we would retire to our charpoys that had been arranged in the courtyard of Mrs Chauhan's house. Cherishing the new experience of sleeping outdoors, under the stars, reminded me of the many stories I have heard about my grandparent's childhood.

Each day we woke up looking forward to new activities. Whether it was running around in the fields, going on tractor rides, drinking fresh water from the wells, doing yoga with the kids; this experience has been one that we have been able to learn from. In spite of the numerous bats and lizards, we did not fail to have the best time!

-Harnoor Singh, 9

EDITORIAL BOARD

Anoushka Clays, Darinee Chandhok, Tanvi Bahl,
Sanah Kapur, Aryan Sadh, Saahil Armaan Kumar,
Rabiya Gupta, Aditi Singh, Arushi Bhutani, Ishita Malhotra,
Zoya Hassan, Aditya Kapur, Asees Kaur, Jay Jaganaath,
Ananya Jain, Kamya Yadav, Nikita Dhawan, Riya Kothari
Editor- Sarina Mittal

Send all articles/suggestions to newsletter@vasantvalley.org

Online issue available at www.vasantvalley.org