

Vasant Valley

February, 2011

T O D A Y

SCHOOL WATCH

The results of the **Class VII Elocution** are: Harivansh Dalmia (1st), Ria Kothari & Chhavi Monga (2nd).

The winners of the **Class IX Hindi Just A Minute** are: Pranav Hari Singhania (1st), Akshay Sharan (2nd) and Ananya Jain (3rd).

The winners of the first round of **Speed Math** are: Vir Chopra (10), Shaurya Tomar (9+), Shantanu Puri & Yadush Yadav (9), and Rishabh Chatterjee (8).

The **Tiranga Food Festival** was celebrated in **Class V** on Tuesday, the 25th of January. Students of Classes 5, 8, 9, and 12 interacted with **Mr. Bittu Sahgal**, founder of Kids for Tigers on Tuesday, the 25th of January. Selected children interacted with the author, **Ms. Chitra Bannerjee Diwakaruni** on Friday, the 28th of January.

Shubham Aggarwal (9) is amongst five students selected to represent Delhi at the **Kids for Tigers Regional Leadership Camp** at **Ranthambore National Park**.

Blue House won the Sub Jr. Boys inter-house cricket tournament on Monday, the 31st of January.

Red House won the Senior Boys inter-house cricket tournament on Tuesday, the 1st of February.

like *Sitar Hero* and *Illegally Blonde*, to whom I credit the sparkle in the show. Nothing made us happier than seeing the BBM statuses of the award winners dedicated to their titles once the show was over. But I'm not surprised. Our descriptions- "this holy trinity is no match for Gisele, Kate, and Adriana" (*The Charmed Ones*), "they've transformed the ordinary Vasant Valley classroom into the Bellagio" (*The Hangover*), "his pout and strut could give Chuck Bass a run for his money" (*DJ Bass*), "a cross between Greek god and an Abercrombie and Fitch model" (*God's Gift to Women*)- were *very* flattering. Picking up steps from weddings and item numbers, our self-choreographed Bollywood dances were, in my opinion, the highlight of the show. I'd like to make a special mention to the art department, who could have honestly fooled me for Santa's little elves in disguise. These girls' faster than lightning work was a greatly needed wake up call for possibly the laziest performing arts team alive. But in our defence, the cast too truly made me proud, by getting their act (pun intended) together completely last minute. We took improvisation to the next level, be it the *Singh is King* dance step or the on stage slaps. For all the critics- it might shock you to know that the skits were scripted less than 24 hours before the show. Impressive that we got those incredible roars of laughter, the countless 'ooohs' and rounds of applause now, huh?

Finally, I'd like to thank the teachers, who very gracefully and tactfully guided us to the point that censoring the show almost seemed like our idea (*The Bootylicious* award was initially named something much less licious and a lot more booty); the Batch of 2011, who took all the jokes, imitations and embarrassing titles in their stylish stride (Shout out to the *Sex & the City* boys); and most of all, the Batch of 2012, who, whether by presenting an award or designing the banners embellished with photographs of the graduating batch (loveliest idea ever), made it truly, a batch effort. There are so many memories in a lifetime, that you can't possibly remember all. The farewell dinner of 2011 was not one of those. It's a night we'll all remember because it was just so beautiful in its simplicity. Looking at the pictures, all I see are candid smiles and laughs, eyes shining, and so many beautiful people. When the official batch video started, made by DJ Bass (AKA Nihal Kanwar), there was an almost melancholic silence, and everyone's eyes were glued to the projector screen, watching, absorbing, listening, feeling. This night will be etched in our minds, possibly forever.

Mallika Pal & Vedika Berry, 12

The FMIIFA

Open the show with a joke. Check. Present gorgeous awards. Check. Keep the crowd in peals of laughter. Check, check, and check. From the name itself, we knew the FMIIFA was going to be one in a million. From the party poppers (*Club Can't Handle Me*), Russian models (*Casanova*) and dance music (even for the brainy awards), we turned the stage into a party. The twist of Bollywood flavour and colour (*Bathroom-Kajal Queen*) was just the icing on an extravagant cake. For the Batch of 2011, we hoped to put a humorous spin on rivalries and romances, create personalized awards (*Eye Kandy*), and make the whole show as realistic as possible-playing *Infinity* for the Sports Day march past or the New Year's Eve photo shoot (true story). And so it began. Undoubtedly, my favourite part of the entire scenario was the awards. I am so grateful to have had such a witty group of people who came up with award names



Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

On Friday, 28th of January, renowned author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni came to school for a student interaction. She shared with us her views, while also revealing her newest book to us! We learnt that Ms Divakaruni lived in India till high school, and went to America to pursue higher studies. The culture shock of immigration, and a personal tragedy, inspired her to write. She realised the beauty of Indian culture when she was pulled away from it, and decided that her memories had to be preserved. In a message of hope for aspiring writers, Ms. Divakaruni said that her writing roots were humble and unimpressive, but practice brought her to where she is. She read out an excerpt of her newest book to us as well. From her vivid descriptions and intriguing scenarios, we could appreciate what a masterful plotter of stories she is! Her ideas were fascinating as well. Our interaction was extremely fruitful and I, for one, cannot wait to pick up her books.

Ojasvi Goel, 9

Trip to the Red Fort

“Oh my god, Red Fort! Are you serious? Not again.” Just the words on everyone’s lips, when we found out we were going to the Red Fort. We began this field trip like every other- dragging ourselves into the bus, with no idea what we were in for. Strolling in the gardens, looking around, jumping into dried canals, we were thoroughly enjoying ourselves, till the teacher screamed at us to gather around and listen to knowledge we were being given. It started fairly routinely- “This is the Red Fort. It was built in 1639 by Shah Jahan. It took 9 years of hard work to build this gorgeous, red figure. It is made of mainly red sandstone and white marble.” As we proceeded further into the fort, we discovered that the king lived in sheer



luxury. Everything was so well designed- a spaced out courtyard where the king had a beautiful balcony at a great height, and the *Diwan-I-Am* (commoners’ court) showcased his power, pride and immense wealth.

The most fascinating of all was the *hamaam* or the bathroom. This was definitely the most unique thing I have seen so far. This toilet consisted of 9 tubs each filled with different

liquids for the king to bathe in- one with cold water, another with hot water, a third with perfumed water, and the list goes on and on. He took a dip in all of these tubs every day. We all remember the Kohinoor diamond and the peacock throne. These were originally placed in the *Diwan-i-Khas*, which was a personal area for the king and his family to spend time. Designed to overlook the Yamuna, it had seven doors and looked spectacular, decorated with beautiful precious and semi-precious stones. After Shah Jahan’s assassination, his son Aurangzeb took over, and built the Moti Masjid, a mosque made of pure white marble. Taking a round of the museums and the typical Mughal gardens, we bade farewell to the Red Fort. This trip, once again, showed us the immense richness, in both culture and material wealth, of the Indian Empire. However, what really highlighted this trip was our guide, the world famous Mr. Kohli, and the fact that this trip made us flip another page of Indian history, and made us aware of how things have changed and are changing through the ages.

Ananya Jain, 9

KIDS FOR TIGER

Students of classes 5, 8, 9 and 12 interacted with Mr Bittu Sahgal, the editor of Sanctuary Asia and the founder of Kids for Tigers on the 25th of January, 2011, in different sessions. He emphasized upon the urgent need to save the tigers in the wild as they are the indicators of how “green” our planet is. If we make sure tigers live, we have to make sure that deer, antelope and all other animals that the tiger eats live. To make sure that these herbivores live, we must make sure that all the trees, grasses and other plants that these prey animals need for food are protected. In this way, the whole forest gets saved! Saving the tiger means saving the entire forest kingdom, with all the other animals in it.

Also, forests catch and help store rainwater and protect the soil. In this way we protect our rivers and recharge groundwater sources. Areas with less trees lead to floods, killing people and destroying homes. It takes away the precious soil, leaving behind a wasteland. The soil jams up our lakes and dams, reducing their ability to store water. By destroying the tiger’s home, we not only harm tigers, but also ourselves. The entire talk revolved around a simple equation: Tigers = Forests = Rivers = Us. He asked us the simple question, “*Nadi jeevan ki maa hai aur agar hum Ganga ko poojte hain to jo paani ganga nadi se pehle behta hai, use doshit kyon karte hain?*”



Much different from normal talks and lectures, this was an interactive discussion which actually made an impact and left food for thought in all our minds. It was not just about environment conservation but also about we could do to save our very own tigers. According to Mr. Sehgal, the most powerful weapon we have is our VOICE and that is what can make an impact. He felt that the “Bachcha Party” knew more about conserving resources and needed to remind the “Buddha Party” that the Earth needs to be saved from disaster.

Akarshita Dhawan & Tanya Najhawan, 12

Movie Review: 127 Hours

There is no force more powerful than the will to live. Aaron Ralston, mountain climber and canyoneer, is living proof. Danny Boyle threw at us this February another glimpse of his directorial magic, which left me awestruck. With 127 hours, he gave us an incredible true story of love, courage, hope, and all elements mixed, and cooked up a definite masterpiece. Way back in 2003, Aaron Ralston, passionate rock climber and canyoneer, packed for his usual weekend to canyon land, in Utah, USA. It was his secret trip out. He enjoyed the serenity the canyons gave him. He didn't tell anyone. An enthusiastic climber, he really loved that adrenaline rush you got from taking risks. That weekend, as Aaron crawled through the crevices of Blue John Canyon, he wasn't as careful as he should have been. As he took his rather rushed descent, he stepped on a loose limestone bolder. It trembled, it shook, it gave away. Aaron fell along the rock face. Moments later, he was stuck. His hand was jammed between the boulder and canyon wall. It didn't look like it was going to move any time soon. Aaron knew it was going to be a long weekend. The story of a man who redefined the word willpower, Aaron Ralston, readily reached the extremes of survival; he wanted to live. 127 hours, in my view, is an incredible piece of art. Though a few parts may be a little hard to take in, the undertone was tremendous. With an excellent music score by our very own A.R. Rahman, Boyle really delivered a stunning success. A story of filled with emotion, with hope, and with its glimpses of humour, it was a wonderful experience. A definite must watch for all: 127 hours.

Rishabh Prakash, 10+

2011 CRICKET WORLD CUP PREDICTIONS

AUSTRALIA- They seem to find their best form at the world cup and will arguably be the team to beat. However, they could have trouble here in the Indian subcontinent on slower, turning pitches. Against strong spin bowling, the Aussie batsmen might struggle and have struggled in the past. However, the Aussies will be riding high after demolishing England in the One-day International Series Down Under.



INDIA- The Indians will be the home team and will be supported by a large, cricket-crazy band of Indian fans. They have all the ingredients required to win the world cup-terrific batsmen, talented, young bowlers and an

inspirational, influential captain. By winning the world cup, India could make history because no team has won the world cup on home soil!

SOUTH AFRICA- It remains to be seen whether the South Africans can finally get rid of their reputation of being 'chokers' and lift a major trophy.

SRI LANKA- This world cup will be played in conditions which the Sri Lankans relish. They have everything going for them at the moment. Their batting, bowling and fielding is top class. They have one of the best, if not the best spin attacks in the world today and are sure to give their opponents a hard time.

ENGLAND- England shocked many by winning the ICC World Twenty-20 cup last year. It was a tremendous achievement. However, that was 20 overs and this is 50 overs. Recently annihilated by the Aussies in the ODI series held between the two nations, the English were truly all at sea. But it would be foolish to rule them out completely. They could just cause another big surprise and go deep in the tournament. They just need a few good wins early on to boost their confidence.

PAKISTAN- In 2007, they were knocked out after a shock loss to Ireland. Things got even worse as tragedy struck with the death of the team's coach, Bob Woolmer. It was a major setback for Pakistan Cricket. However, the Pakistanis rebounded beautifully by winning the 2009 ICC World T-20 Cup in England. They have a solid squad and if they stay united and focused, they have a good chance of doing well in the tournament.

WEST INDIES AND NEW ZEALAND- These are teams which have decent squads but as of late have been struggling and not getting the right results. The Kiwis were hammered at home by India and more surprisingly, by Bangladesh. The Windies are probably the most unpredictable team in this World Cup. When they are good, they are almost unplayable, but when they are bad, they play like real school-boys.

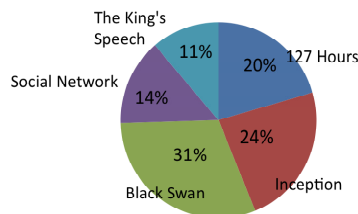
BANGLADESH- As co-hosts, the Bangladeshis will look to do well in front of their home crowd. The Bangladesh side is young, talented and dangerous. Watch out for a few upsets from the Bangladeshis!

SEMI FINAL PREDICTION- Australia vs. South Africa, Sri Lanka vs. India

FINAL PREDICTION- Australia vs. India

Ishaan Sardesai, 10+

BEST PICTURE



Movie Review: Black Swan

Director Darren Aronofsky's psychological thriller, the Black Swan, takes a terrifying journey through the mind of a young ballerina, Nina (Natalie Portman), who stars as the duplicitous swan queen, in the famed ballet, the Swan Lake. Nina, just like any other dancer, is deeply consumed by her profession, making herself almost oblivious to everything but dance. Living with her retired ballerina mother, Erica (Barbara Hershey) who ardently supports her daughter's professional ambition, Nina feels pressurized, and begins to find inexplicable cuts on her back, which seem to reappear every now and then, all over her body. Once Nina is cast in Swan Lake, she is required to play both the White Swan with innocence and grace, and the Black Swan, who represents guile and sensuality. She plays the White Swan beautifully, but struggles to play the Black Swan, a character that is perfectly portrayed by her main competitor, Lily (Mila Kunis). As Nina and Lily's rivalry turns into a complicated friendship, Nina's dark side seems to surface in more ways than one, transforming her into the Ideal Black Swan. The bizarre yet alluring film will surely capture your attention with its portrayal of Nina's hallucinations, and the beauty of the world of ballet. A movie that leaves you pondering the complexities of human nature, The Black Swan is a 'must watch', and one of the top contenders not only for the Oscars, but many other reputed awards too.

Rhea Khanna, 9

विज्ञान : वरदान या अभिशाप

आज का युग विज्ञान का युग है। आज विज्ञान ने हमारे जीवन को वाहर भीतर दोनों से प्रभावित किया है। आज की जिन्दगी में विज्ञान की ही वजह से सब कुछ होता है। आजकल हर चीज़ हर आदमी विज्ञान पर निर्भर है।



आजकल जो मोबाईल फोन हर एक के हाथ में है वह विज्ञान द्वारा ही बने। हर सुवह जिस साबुन या शैम्पू से हम नाहते हैं वह भी तो रसायनों का मिश्रण है। जो गाड़ी बस हम इधर से उधर जाने में प्रयोग करते हैं वह भी विज्ञान की ही देन है। पूरी दुनिया इसी विज्ञान से चलती है। एलवर्ट आईस्टाईन जैसे वैज्ञानिकों का पृथ्वी पर क्या काम होता? उन्होंने जो

हमारे फायदे के लिए कानून व सूत्र ईजाद किए वे भी तो विज्ञान का भाग हैं। जब हम बीमार हो जाते हैं हम दवाईयाँ लेते हैं गुज़रे ज़माने में हमारी दादी नानी कोई अजीब पत्ता या मिश्रण लगा देती थी मगर विज्ञान के बढ़ने से अब हमारे पास विभिन्न तरीके व दवाईयाँ हैं जिससे दर्द झट से दूर हो जाता है। इसी प्रकार से विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्रों में प्रगति होती आ रही है जैसे नए टी वी वीडियो गेम कमप्यूटर इत्यादि जिनके बिना हमारी जिंदगी नीरस ऊबासू और पिछड़ी होगी। आज विज्ञान ने जैसे विधाता का नाम और स्थान प्राप्त कर लिया है। उसने एक साथ थल वायु और जल पर समान रूप से अधिकार प्राप्त कर लिए हैं। अपनी सर्वव्यापकता को प्रभावशाली बनाने के लिए विज्ञान ने प्रकृति के सभी स्वरूपों को प्रभावित किया है। बैठे बैठे हम असंभव और असाधारण सा काम पलक झपकते ही कर लेते हैं। इसके साथ ही विज्ञान ने हमें अनेक मनोरंजन के साधनों को उपलब्ध कराया है। इसने विभिन्न प्रकार की शल्य चिकित्सा करके हमारे जीवन को बड़ा ही सुखमय बनाने का अवसर प्रदान किया है। आज विज्ञान सचमुच में हमारे जीवन के लिए अपूर्व और अद्भुत वरदान सिद्ध हो रहा है।

मगर विज्ञान ने जहाँ मानव जीवन को सुखी बनाने की असीम शक्ति विद्यमान है वहाँ कभी कभी विज्ञान को विनाश की लीला बनने का कारण भी देखा गया है। एक ओर घरों में बिजली के पंखें रेडियो टेलीविज़न कम्प्यूटर आदि का आदि आविष्कारों ने जीवन को सुखी बना रखा है और दूसरी ओर आकाश में वायुयान वमों की वर्षा करके इन्हीं शान्तिमय घरों को परिवर्तित कर दिया है। इन वमों से असंख्य रोग भी फैल जाते हैं जिनका इलाज करना बहुत कठिन है। इस संसार में जितने भी पदार्थ हैं उनके दो पक्ष आवश्यक हैं। एक पक्ष सुख देता है और दूसरा दुखदायक। जो पदार्थ एक समय मानव को सुख देता है वही दूसरे समय दुख देता है। यही स्थिति विज्ञान की भी है। विज्ञान ने मानव के स्तर में अंतर ला दिया है। क्या ग्राम क्या नगर सभी जगह विज्ञान ने रहन सहन खान पान निद्रा जागरण आदि में अपनी छाया डाल दी है। सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि विज्ञान ने मानव का हृदय कोमलता मानवीयता उदारता पारम्परिकता आदि को छीन कर बौद्धिक एवं हृदयहीन बना दिया है। दुख की बात यह है कि न तो मानव के आँसू और न ही धरती की चीख पुकार ही इस राक्षस रूपी खोज को कम कर रही है बल्कि दिन प्रतिदिन इनका उत्पादन बढ़ रहा है।

शरीर के रोगों को दूर करने के लिए प्रयुक्त की जाने वाली बिजली चिकित्सा से स्वास्थ्य देती है। परन्तु जब कोई बिजली से चिपककर अपनी जान खो बैठता है तब दुख होता है। भोजन पकाने वाली गैस का चूल्हा सुखकारी होता है। परन्तु गैस का सिलिंडर फट जाए तो नाश निश्चित है।

विज्ञान के आविष्कारों जैसे मशीन कारखाने वाहन आदि से काफी प्रदूषण फैलता है जिससे मानव का जीवन अत्यंत दुर्लभ हो गया है। आज के इस वातावरण में मनुष्य का दम घुटता है। विज्ञान पूरी तरह से प्रकृति को अपने घेरे में ला रहा है। एक एक कर मनुष्य उसी प्रकृति को प्रगति के नाम नष्ट कर रहा है जिसने खुद उसे जन्म दिया। यदि ऐसा ही चलता रहे तो मानव जाति के साथ साथ हमारी धरती भी नष्ट हो जाएगी। अतः विज्ञान वरदान होने के साथ साथ वरदान भी है।

अनन्या जैन आर आस्था कामरा

Beware the Ides of March

Beware the ides of March,
A day of Death and sorrow,
A day of darkness.....
A day where night owls will roam around,
Where hail, gale and storm would create havoc,
A day where blood can flow,
Where death seems inevitable-
A day where catastrophe is expected-
A mysterious stage is set-
A space where violence is expected to occur
A day which will create history
A day about which children and students will write in ages
and ages to come
The question that comes to my mind-
Could a day prompt a murder-
Can the atmosphere create history?
Or would have Caesar died on the day
Even if it was sunny and bright?
The Mediterranean sun, rising out of its sea
Flooding the space with a bright light
The Globe theatre under the open sky
Filled with the summer or springtime joy,
Caesar would have to die all the same
Was it just a way for the greatest playwright ever to draw
the audience to his place
Created a world of doom, destruction in midst of a day in May
Is it a poetic license, a master dramatic device
Omens, prophesies, superstitions and predictions of doom
Said out loud through the voice of the actor creates shad-
ows of a gloom,
In this day of science and maths and astronomy,
What makes us sink in such ancient fables of astrology??

Ahavna Paul

स्त्री शिक्षा

नारी है देश की शान,
इसके बिना है सब बेजान।
अनपढ़ यदि हुई नारी
कैसी होगी पृथ्वी प्यारी।
महिला है शोभा घर की,
पढ़ी लिखी हो तभी है
सच्ची।

व भी होगी अनपढ़ महिला
अपमानित होगी सारी
मानवता।

माँवहन की शिक्षा से,
शिक्षित हो हमारी परिवार।
यही वापू का सपना था उसे
आज करे हम साकार।
अब भी अनपढ़ नारी है,
यह दुर्बलता हमारी है।
इसे दूर करने की वारी है,
यह प्रतिज्ञा हमारी है।
उदय चावला



Class 9 visiting Kishangarh (Mehrauli) Village on Saturday, the 5th of February.



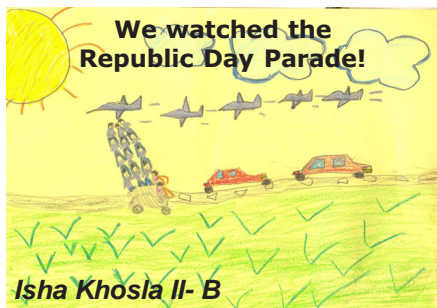
Ramya Ahuja, Madhav Vohra, Vedika Berry, Anahita Bakshi and Aditya Kaushik represented the school at the CII 7th Young Indians National Summit 2011 summit, interacted with various panelists and had an opportunity to meet the Former president of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.



If the Earth Was Flat...

If the earth were flat one side
Would be dark the other side
Would have all the Sun's spark
Everyone would be pained
As there would be no day and night to be
gained
On all sides we would have to build a wall
So into space people don't fall
The oceans would empty themselves out
All the sea life would die without a doubt
There would be no seasons
for obvious reasons
As the Earth wouldn't revolve
This would be a big problem that we
would never be able to solve
Thank God, Earth is not flat
For all these things we could never
combat!!!

Devansh Gupta V- C



Isha Khosla II- B



Devashi Sahu II- B

Haiku Poems

Trees...

Yes, I am here
But soon will not be there
So, please save me.

Rhea Chawla V- B

Do not cut the trees
You are destroying a home
Save the pretty trees

Gauri Uttam V- A

A man taking shade
A tree full of fresh green leaves
This is a beautiful sight

Reet Chhatwal V- B

Living Things

All living things can reproduce,
feel and see,
Whether human, whale, dolphin
or bee.

All living things except plants
can move,

Some can even dance, sing,
party or groove.

All living things have to be
healthy and good,

And that's why they need
nutrition and food.

Every living creature under the
sky,

Has a life but in the end they
must die.

Arnav Sethi IV- A

Living things breathe
And living things feed
A life span long they lead
And living things need a meal.

Living things can feel
And living things heal
Living things grow
Some have and some don't
have a toe.

Here is a seed
And here is a tree
And they both grow free.

Agastya Khanna IV- B

Living things are all around
In plants and animals life is
found

Biology is the study of living
things

As a cat plays with a ball of string
Sometimes its tough to choose
Cars are non-living but still move
In plants no movement is shown
But since they carry out various
activities

The fact that they are living is
known.

Karamvir Chopra IV- C

The pain in my heel.
I am a living thing
I burp, I shout, I sing.

Dhruv Singh Chauhan IV- B

मुझे भारतीय होने पर गर्व है

भारत देश महान है। मुझे भारतीय होने पर गर्व है और मेरे पास यह कहने की एक नहीं अनेक कारण हैं। मेरे देश का अतीत सुनहरा था। यह सोने की चिड़िया कहलाता था। भारत की धरती बलिदान की धरती है। हज़ारों वीर लोगों ने अपना खून बहाकर हमें आज़ादी दिलाई। भारत का वर्तमान प्रतिभाशील है और भविष्य उज्ज्वल है। मेरे भारत में अनेक प्रांत है, उतनी ही भाषाएँ (18 भाषाएँ), भांति – भांति के व्यंजन, अनेक त्योहार, अनेक जाति, विभिन्न पहनावे फिर भी मेरा देश एक है। भारत की संस्कृति बहुत पुरानी है। आपसी प्रेम, संयुक्त परिवार, रीति रिवाज यह सब हमारी संस्कृति हमें सिखाती है। यही नहीं, विज्ञान, कला, शिक्षा हर एक क्षेत्र में मेरा देश सबसे आगे है। जिस गति से मेरा देश प्रगति कर रहा है वह दिन दूर नहीं जब मेरा भारत सबसे शक्तिशाली और श्रेष्ठ देश बन जाएगा।

“गूँजे कही पर शंख है, कहीं पर अज्ञान है
वाईवल, ग्रंथ साहिव है, गीता का ज्ञान है
दुनिया में कहीं और ये मंजर नहीं नसीब
यह मेरा प्यारा हिन्दुस्तान है।”

विराज जिंदल पाँच स



Tiranga Food Festival

The year began with a bang with the two day long Tiranga Food Festival in Class V held on the 24th and the 25th of January. In preparation for the festival we chose a cuisine from each state of our country to research. We had a display of variety of dishes in the alcove. The next day we made 'Tiranga sandwiches' with pudina chutney and orange cheese spread. What a time we had!!

Sahil Armaan Kumar & Suryadip Bandyopadhyay V- C



VVIQ

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, we decided to ask the students of Vasant Valley what they thought was the historic reason behind celebrating this much awaited and popularized holiday.



Abhivveer Arjun: A day some guy made up to make all the single people out there feel bad.
 Kavya Rai: It's the day the word "valentine" was made up. That's why people call it "valentine's" day.
 Jaya Mehta: Lame, lonely, American couples who are sick of their monotonous lives came up with it.
 Sahyr Kohli: Valentine was this guy and he was the first person on earth to ever fall in love. So yeah, it's his day.
 Madhav Vohra: On this day, Adam and Eve started going out.
 Kabir Chhatwal: It's historic because Romeo met Juliet.
 Ishita Sethi: It's a way for boys to justify asking girls out, 'cause there's a day for like, everything else.
 Pranav Khanna: Valentine was this guy who had been with like, 100 of the most beautiful women on earth who all fell in love with him but he never fell in love with any of them... until one day he finally did fall in love with one of them, on the 14th of February. So we celebrate that day.
 Sarthak Grover: Valentine's Day was basically started because Mr. Valentine was a perfect third wheel who hooked people up in ancient Greece, basically like the organizers of The Bachelor.
 The real reason behind celebrating 14th February, referred to as the 'day of love' was a kindly cleric named Valentine who died more than a thousand years ago. Saint Valentine was a bishop who held secret marriage ceremonies of soldiers in opposition to Claudius II, a cruel king of the Roman era, who had prohibited marriage for young men and was executed by the latter. Valentine's Day honors this Saint's desire of binding two people who are deeply in love.

Black Ops : A Girl's Point of View

Girl: Do you love me?
 Boy: More than anything in the world.
 Girl: More than BlackOps?
 Boy: Umm..
 It's every boy's dream and every girl's nightmare. It's an avid video-gamer's own *personal type of heroin*, and it's got half the world obsessed, and the other half irritated. It's become the answer to every "What's up?"; it's almost a cliché. It's become one of the most popular games in the world with over 3.5 billion copies sold, and it's possibly the only thing considered more addictive than Facebook and BBM. Yes, it's the infamous game: Black Ops. After playing the game for the outstanding number of two times- admitted, it's not bad. The competitive feeling, the adrenaline rush and the game's entire concept keeps you enthralled. But seriously, it's a GAME **hold for shock and gasps**. What is with the obsession? Honestly, Black Ops seems like a black hole- engulfing boys within it and getting them addicted. It's the epitome of a perfect waste of time, but that's not how the boys see it. To them, Black Ops has literally become their life. It's as if the worst possible thing you could do to them is break their Black Ops disc (*How would I ever live with the guilt?*)



Taarini Sardesai, 9

WikiLeaks

WikiLeaks has taken the world by storm, *but what is it?* It is a website dedicated to greater transparency in governments and public life, opening up the secret lives and views of the high and mighty. But how does it work? Diplomatic establishments across the world correspond with their governments through classified cables. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has made it his life's ambition to find, by hook or by crook, and release these cables to the public. His motive is to "open governments", by showing their true side to the public. Many of these cables have been damaging to the American government. More recently released cables added fuel to the Tunisian fire, which led to the overthrow of a dictator. I believe Assange truly adheres to the essentials of democracy. WikiLeaks has shown us the hard hitting views of American diplomats, without any embellishment. I greatly admire Assange and WikiLeaks, for they are working to lift the veil over government secrecy. Hopefully, WikiLeaks will survive the cyber-onslaught against it from angered governments, and continues to make the world at least a more open, if not fairer, place.

Ojasvi Goel, 9

theplaylist

Dark Fantasy- Kanye West. This is the title track from Kanye West's newest album, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy. If you're into auto tune and rap, buy the album; you'll love it.



Mary- Kings of Leon. Mary is a little different than your run of the mill Kings of Leon song. The beats are slower and the lyrics more mellow. But it's still the Kings of Leon, and once you hear Caleb Followill's cathartic voice you won't be able to tear yourself away.

Beg, Steal Or Borrow- Ray LaMontagne & The Pariah Dogs. Ray LaMontagne & The Pariah Dogs earned three Grammy nominations including the penultimate Song of the Year nod for their single "Beg Steal or Borrow." With good vocals and a steady beat, this song is a must hear. *Hypnotize U (Daft Punk Remix).* Though originally by N.E.R.D, I like the remix better. It has faster beats and is more likely to pump you up.

Dilly- Band of Horses. Light hearted and fun, Dilly is the kind of song that could get stuck in your head. Listen to it, you'll enjoy yourself.

Tonight- Enrique feat. Ludacris. It's Enrique. Enough said. Feel like dancing? This is the perfect song to start with.

Stay the Night- James Blunt. It seems James Blunt is done with sorrow and heartbreak. Stay the Night is a far cry from 'You're Beautiful', 'Goodbye My Lover' and the other soulful ballads that made him famous. Maybe he finally got lucky.

The Creep- Lonely Island feat. Nicki Minaj. Lonely Island always seems to come up with the wackiest songs. I suggest you watch the video on YouTube; you'll fall off your chair laughing.

Down By The Water- The Decemberists. Reggae beats and soothing vocals. Typical of the Decemberists, yet it doesn't quite cut it. The song isn't fantastic, but if you aren't in the mood for something loud, it couldn't hurt to give it a listen.

All American Nightmare- Hinder. It's Hinder, so of course it's hardcore. Great beats, powerful vocals and interesting lyrics. The guitar will leave you craving for more. The album by the same name is worth looking through as well, even if you aren't into rock.

Namrata Narula

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