

Vasant Valley

February, 2012

T O D A Y

SCHOOL WATCH

Hindi Sulekh Lekhan- Class 6

1. Ashutosh Trivedi
2. Viraj Jindal, Aditya Venkatraman
3. Jai Arora and Mehr Kohli

Hindi Poetry Recitation- 9+

1. Indraneel Roy
2. Shaurya Abhi
3. Isha Gupta

Winners of the Elocution Competitions:

Class 6: 1st Priyam Deka,

2nd Vinayak Satsangi

Class 7: 1st Asees Kaur

2nd Aditya Kapoor, Zoya Hassan

Class 9: 1st Avanti Diwan

2nd Rishabh Periwal

CONGRATULATIONS!

Celebrating

Vasant Valley's Finest

'The Glammies': an award show that celebrated the most glamorous, scandalous, and wild batch Vasant Valley has ever seen. Even though they're still firmly residing in New Delhi, their antics resemble those of the movie stars on the other side of the world.

The Farewell Class Act is undoubtedly a *big deal*, and our batch was extremely doubtful of our ability to pull it off. The words "we don't know them at all" were echoing around our alcove as most of the students firmly refused to act, dance, or otherwise appear on stage during the show. However, a new leadership evolved to "save" the Class Act. Though they have rarely ever taken responsibility for any of the endeavors we have undertaken as a batch, the boys were the driving force behind this Class Act. Previously, in all social settings, the boys would plant themselves on couches (when they were not outside playing football) and stoutly refuse to dance. Now, however, they chose the songs, choreographed the steps, and practiced till they were perfectly coordinated, while we marveled at this sudden change within them.

As the Class Act started coming together, we learned and discovered a lot about the Batch of 2012. While acting like our seniors, we began to understand the dynamics in that class, and felt much closer to them. In the midst of the high pressure situation, with the Class Act looming and the acts still woefully incomplete, our class went through a scandalous situation worthy of the Batch of 2012.

Without making the Farewell Class Act out to be more than it is, this whole process has had a profound effect on us. Somewhere in the middle of acting like them, dancing for them, making their awards, writing their description and watching the class act, the sense of camaraderie that had been so lacking at the beginning of this process, developed. Moreover, we realized that in just *one year*, we're going to be on our way out as well. And of course, last, but not the least, the Class Act most definitely, made men out of our boys.

-Amira Singh, 12



आया वसन्त पाला उड़न

आया वसन्त पाला उड़न छाई हरियाली
खिल गई डाली डाली ।
पवन पर भी छाई मस्ती मानो कुदरत भी हँसती ।
नव कोपल फूटते पक्षी भी हैं उड़ते ।
लाल गुलाबी पीले नीले फूल खिले
नन्हे नन्हे वच्चे भी गलियों में हिले ।
कलियाँ खिल रही हैं वच्चे हँस रहे हैं ।
देखो आई ऋतुओं की रानी ।
भागी टंडी छू छू कोयल करती कूह कूह ।
वाग में है चिड़ियों का शोर
नाच रहा है जंगल में मोर ।
सर्दी को अब है जाना मौसम आया बहुत सुहाना ।
मेहमा सिंधी कक्षा 7

VV TUBE

Watch this take on
"The story of bottled water"
[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=Se12y9hSOM0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se12y9hSOM0)



छठी कक्षा में मेरा पहला सप्ताह

छठी कक्षा में मेरा पहला सप्ताह बहुत ही अच्छा रहा। छुट्टियों के बाद हम नई कक्षा में 'सीनीयर स्कूल' में आए। सभी लड़कियाँ सलवार कमीज़ पहन कर आई थीं। हमारे लिए यह एक नया अनुभव था।

पहले दिन सुबह की सभा के बाद हम अपनी कक्षा में गए और नई अध्यापिकाओं से मिले। हम ने नए विषयों के बारे में भी जाना। सभी छात्रों ने अपनी अपनी 'स्पेशलाइज़ेशन' चुनी। कक्षा 6 में हमारी अध्यापिका हमें दोपहर का खाना समाप्त करने को नहीं कहती हैं। पहले दिन ही मैंने अपना खाना केवल एक सेव से पूरा किया। परन्तु छुट्टी हाने के समय तक मेरे पेट में चूहे दौड़ने लगे। घर पहुँचते ही मैंने रसोईघर पर हमला बोल दिया। अब मैं रोज़ अपना खाना समाप्त करने की कोशिश करती हूँ। हमें 'रिज़िंग द वार' नामक एक विशेष कार्य के बारे में भी जानकारी मिली। इससे सभी छात्रों को लाभ होगा। मेरा पहला सप्ताह बहुत ही मज़ेदार रहा और आशा है मेरा पूरा साल भी ऐसा ही होगा।

राव्या गुप्ता 6अ

Letter to the Editor

Dear Vandita,

Spiderman once said, 'With great power, comes great responsibility'. In actuality, Franklin D. Roosevelt said that, but our generation is allowed its anachronisms. My point is, being Editor of the school newspaper will release your inner Spiderman, or FDR, whoever you prefer. To write my first and last editorial for Vasant Valley Today is a bittersweet feeling, because it invokes my only regret as Editor - that in the flurry of delegating, collating, editing, compiling, and archiving, I gave up writing. Define yourself as a writer, above everything else. Your talent was your pre-requisite to become a member of the Editorial Board; don't forgo it. Over the next year, the Editorial Board will gain the proportions of a family to you; creative, witty, dysfunctional, but a family that you will head with your heart. Pardon their misdemeanours and let their eccentricity flourish. Teach them. One day you too will have to pass the baton on.

You will encounter many occupational hazards along the way. Within a few months, you won't be able to read through even a grocery list without resisting the urge to grab a pencil and correct the spelling errors. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* will become your bible. You will become the stereotype of the espresso sipping, no nonsense Editor who types furiously at the keyboard. If you can't escape it, embrace it. Bring your own style to the newsletter. I focused a lot on aesthetics, because the logic that 'the newsletter can only be changed by its content, not its format' cannot come into play unless readers are inclined to pick up the newsletter in the first place. I thought that frankly, nobody would want to read something text heavy and plain unattractive. So introduce your own features, and make it your own. Create a legacy. Also, if you miss a deadline, don't panic. Never publish something till it meets your standards. Never settle for a mediocre article. Never stop hitting the search button on Google till you find the perfect image. Follow this golden rule: quality over quantity.

Don't underestimate your readership. I can promise you that there are students who are genuinely interested in reading about literature, art, science, history, and the like. Even if there aren't, it is your prerogative to make them interested. The Editorial Board is wholly capable of transforming even the most intricate and dullest of topics into works engaging, clear, and peppered with humour. 'Fillers' are so called for a reason, to fill in the blanks. Don't depend on them. Don't forget that you are catering to the interests of a very diverse school community which extends to parents and teachers as well. So keep it honest, and keep it tasteful.

Recently, I arranged all the editions of the newsletter that were published under my editorship on the floor. As I stood back and surveyed the 4x4 grid comprised of editions of Vasant Valley Today, I was overwhelmed with pride. It is a priceless feeling to graduate with something tangible, something to hold to my name. So make it worth it. And even though holding this position can be a crown of thorns at times, it's a crown all the same.

With love,

Mallika



From now onwards, the writer will be recognized by name and face!
Send an article and a photo to
newsletter@vasantvalley.org and
show the world who you are 😊

Adolf Hitler

"A fanatically hysterical romantic with a brutal will."

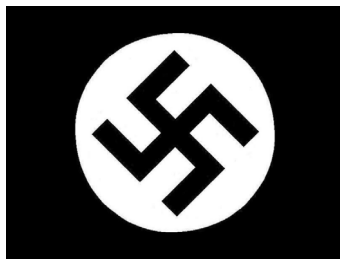
-Karl Alexander von Muller

Adolf Hitler was a mastermind, an evil genius, a megalomaniac dictator and a man who cannot be replicated in a billion years. Akin to Fredrick the Great, he was a man who could deliver great speeches and convince his nation that what he believed in was right. Though he was a maniac who killed millions of people, the way he influenced Germany and even the world is fascinating. The most damage Hitler inflicted was with the racial barriers he created around Jews. He induced Germans into thinking that the Jews were the reason for the problems they faced for the last few years. From the First World War to the lack of jobs in Germany everything was the fault of Jews.

Hitler had a profound effect on the way modern warfare developed. His doctrine of Blitzkrieg was initially very successful. Even though Hitler's forces lost the Second World War, there was a time when he controlled nearly all of Europe. He came very close to beating Great Britain. The German Air Force, the Luftwaffe, was a pioneer in many ways.

Hitler was a pioneer in using propaganda to promote his agenda. No one before him was so successful and effective at using propaganda. Hitler was an ordinary looking individual with an extraordinary amount of evil in him. The destruction and pain he caused to the world is beyond ordinary. Hopefully, there will never be another Hitler again.

- Arman Puri, 9



I AM THE TIGER!!!

Members of the golf world not named Tiger Woods have reason to be terrified.

After his infamous fall from grace and plagued with a bad knee, Tiger finished third at his last official 2011 tournament, the Emirates Australian Open, before playing the Presidents Cup, which the U.S. team won, and where he showed a glimpse of what his short game used to be. He ended the year by hoisting the Chevron World Challenge trophy, playing at home.

This was what he had to say: "It's hard to believe 2011 is almost over, and it was sure nice to get a victory! I played a lot of golf late in the year, and it was extremely satisfying to close out the season with a win at my own event, the Chevron World Challenge. I came home and played in my Foundation's tournament at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California, and I'm so excited to have won for the fifth time."

After his last putt, Woods reacted as if he had just won his 15th major. He let out a primal scream and pumped his right fist so vigorously, it was a wonder he did not wrench his arm out of its socket!

Yet, some critics may say that winning in a field of 18 players, none of whom were in the top 5 rankings, was not such a big deal, but I believe that this situation was different. This very win marked the return of Tiger in the golfing world, and also built up a huge deal of confidence for the unfortunate man.

Following the win, he took a three week break, in order to rest his body, and prepare for the recently held Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship. Being matched up with Rory McIlroy, the world number three, and supposedly the next Tiger, it was a hell of a deal when Tiger got the better of him, as well as the rest of the field, at the end of the third day. However, unable to win the tournament due to a disappointing fourth round, he was successful in claiming a tie for the third place.

This was the third consecutive tournament in which Tiger has been able to clinch a top three finish. Starting at world number 23 at the start of this year, Tiger has boosted up 6 places, claiming the 17th, and I would not be surprised if I were to see Woods at the top, yet again, at the end of this marvellous year!

-Rishabh Chatterjee 9B



A Dream Come True

Roshni Nadar, the Executive Director and CEO of HCL, is an alumnus of Vasant Valley School. In fact, she was part of the first batch of this school, "the special spoilt bunch" as she likes to call it. She studied in Northwestern University, where she majored in film and television, followed by an internship at CNN. Then, she went on to pursue social entrepreneurship and strategy at Kellogg Graduate School of Management. A few members of the Editorial Board had a great opportunity to interact with Ms. Nadar and get an insight into her childhood memories, profession and passion.

Q: How did it feel to be the senior-most batch every year in Vasant Valley School?

A: Oh, we had nothing to worry about. In fact, a few of us were appointed as prefects every single year.

Q: What about your classmates? Are you still in touch with them?

A: We had around 50-60 students in the first batch, and so today they are spread out all over the world. But, yes, I am in touch with a few of them. Also, there were two students, Mehr and Karan who started dating in school, and now the childhood sweethearts are married to each other!

Q: Tell us a bit about what you are doing at the moment in Delhi.

A: Here, I started working with the Shiv Nadar Foundation. I am currently in charge of the education initiatives, which include the introduction of the VidyaGyan Schools for rural unprivileged children. It's a wonderfully challenging task to handle 1025 students in two schools.

Q: What is the premise of the VidyaGyan program?

A: The common perception is that the urban counterpart always has an advantage because of the educational privileges provided to him/her. Most leaders come from elite schools like our own. But when 60-70% of the nation lives in rural areas, it is imperative to nurture such leaders from rural backgrounds. VidyaGyan could be a medium for this. Private entrepreneurs realize that they cannot alone solve the problem of rural backwardness or poverty, but they can solve the problem of leadership.

Q: How are the children granted admission to VidyaGyan?

A: Most of these kids come from families earning 1 lac (or less) per annum. A state-wise exam helps us to pick up the toppers, who are then provided with free uniforms and books throughout school.

Q: What method did you employ to recruit and train the teachers?

A: Firstly, we advertised nationally to attract teachers. Not only are they provided with free housing but also free education for their children. I have personally interviewed all: They may not be fancy, but they are committed to their cause. Subsequently, they are exposed to various courses as we invest in intensive training. It only shows that it might not be easy to find them, but they are out there.

Q: Any future prospects related to Vasant Valley?

A: I was in fact in the middle of talks to introduce an exchange program between the students from Vasant Valley and those from VidyaGyan. It will be a great learning experience for both of us.

-As said to Vandita Khanna, Amira Singh, Ishan Sardesai, 12

Prefect Council of 2012

Q- What do you expect from the prefects in 2012?

(According to class 9 students)

"This year's prefects should not force us to engage in activities that we do not want to participate in, for example - the Indian and the Western Music Competitions."- Aneesha Patnaik

"I would like the prefects to be more interactive and organize fun events."-Malika Oak

"Prefects? What prefects? I don't know any prefects? We have prefects already?" -Sonam Vashisth

"I want them to be totally laid back, and I want them to respect us just as we respect them"- Vrinda Puri

"They just shouldn't tell us to keep quiet during Class Act when there's nothing happening."- Ishita Satyajit

Prefect Appointments of 2012

Junior School

Head Boy- Ransher Singh Manhas

Head Girl- Sehej Kaur

Green House Captain- Ilisha Chauhan

Yellow House Captain- Karamvir Chopra

Red House Captain- Esha Thakran

Blue House Captain- Idekaa Dang

Games Captain- Kathleen Kyra Ireland

Games Vice Captain- Raghav Taneja

Senior School

Head Boy- Ishan Sardesai

Head Girl- Amira Singh

Games Captain- Naina Lal

Games Vice Captain- Vir Chopra

Editor- Vandita Khanna

Red House Captain- Aditi Banerjee

Red House Prefect- Shriya Gupta

Blue House Captain- Zara Adil

Blue House Prefect- Amer Vaid

Green House Captain- Shiv Raj Narang

Green House Prefect- Gauri Khanna

Yellow House Captain- Veer Gupta

Yellow House Prefect- Akhila Khanna

Head of Academic Council- Harkirat Badal, Rishabh Prakash

Head of Art Council- Tulsi Sharma, Ojal Khandpur

Head of Essentials Council- Aabshaar Wakhloo,

Sana Hassan

Head of Outreach and Environment Council-

Ananya Bhandare, Faaiza Noor Seyid

Head of External Council- Abhinav Rai,

Purvai Rai

Head of Library Council- Pia Chatterjee

Head of School Council- Vani Mohindra,

Simrat Khera

Head of Sports Council- Nirbhay Bakshi, Vanshika Ahuja

Web Editor- Urvi Raghbeer



Living and Non-Living

Living things can walk
 While non- living things stay still,
 Non- living things can't talk
 While living things have a will.
 Non- living things can't feel
 While living things get hurt and
 heal, they have a heart
 Non- living things are like rock and steel!
 Living things reproduce
 Non-living things just amuse
 Living things breathe
 While non- living things just stand at ease.
 Living things grow in size
 But non-living things remain unchanged
 Living things are made of cells and nerves
 While non- living things have swerves
 and curves
 All living things have a life span
 And non-living things are dependent on
 man!!

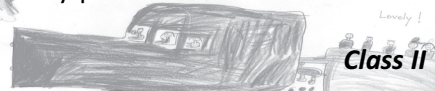
Chetan Jain IV - A

Visit to Surjivan Farm

We made a plan to go to Surjivan Farm. We saw cats, dogs and cows. We played there and ate pakoras. We saw drip farming and solar panels too.

We liked the medicinal plants.

We had fun in the tractor and saw many plants.



Winter Woes

It's cold, misty and wet, oh dear!
 That just means winter is here.
 I hope it is short and sweet this time,
 With less rain and plenty of sunshine!
 Tomorrow is school, but I'm feeling so blue,
 I wish it was shut for a week or two!
 It's torture to get out of my cozy bed
 Why can't I sleep all day instead?
 My mother tells me to rise and shine
 I guess she wants me to reach school on time.
 All I can see outside is fog....
 I'm in front of my heater and so is my dog!
 I'm sick and tired of wearing clothes so warm,
 It seems like I am dressed for a storm!
 So many woollens that just weigh a ton,
 Winter, I've decided is just no fun!

Tia Gulyani V - A

Asia

I am Asia, the largest continent, I cover one third of the world's land area. I lie in the Eastern Hemisphere. I have many reasons to be proud of. My huge mountain system known as the Pamir Knot, a group of rugged peaks and deep valleys. I house 45 countries in me. Of course, China would say 44 because it does not recognise Taiwan. I am one of the few continents that have many accolades to my name. Tibet, the rooftop of the world crowns me. I am also a happy owner of the 2 wonders of the world – Taj Mahal in India and The Great Wall of China. Mount Everest, the world's highest point at 29028 ft above sea level and the Dead Sea the lowest point at 1312 ft below sea level are both within me. The world's third longest river, Yangtze, flows through me. Lake Baikal, located in Siberia is my largest fresh water lake. I also house one of the largest deserts – the Gobi Desert. I have always been a secular continent – did you know that most of the world's religion took birth, shape and shelter in me? It has not been easy being Asia. I have suffered when devastating tsunamis hit me in 2004 and 2010. I feel pained when volcanoes erupt in Japan – so many lives are lost! I feel sad when earthquakes destroy entire cities. I feel very hurt when countries fight with each other for land. I wish that all these natural calamities would never happen and the people who depend on me and trust me, can live fearlessly and progress in peace.

Anirudh Kaushik V - A

Celebrating 'The Tiranga'



Did you know ?

The Earth moves at more than 100,000 kilometres an hour as it circles the Sun.

Each year it travels nearly 940 million kilometers to complete a full circle....

The Sun is about 150 million kilometers from the earth .

It takes just over 8 minutes for sunlight to reach the Earth.

Light travels at more than 300,000 kilometers per second...

That the largest planet is Jupiter and Venus and Earth are sister planets....

Did you also know... Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun.... and our Planet Earth is the third planet

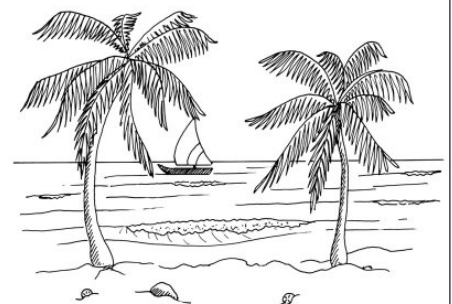
closest to the Sun and is the fifth-biggest planet

There are nine planets in the Solar System.

Nandika Saihgal Class V – A

समुद्री तट का नज़ारा

समुद्र के तट पर बैठने का मज़ा कुछ और ही होता है। शाम का नज़ारा तो देखने लायक होता है। लहरें लहराती हैं, नारियल के पेड़ हवा में झूमते और सूरज समुद्र के पीछे से डूबता, यह मेरा मनपसंद दृश्य है। समुद्र तट पर हमेशा धूप खिली रहती है और खूब चहल - पहल होती है। लोग यहाँ पर अक्सर अपना ग्रीष्मावकाश विताने आते हैं और खूब मजे करते हैं। भारत में गोआ और तमिल नाडू समुद्री तटों के लिए ही मशहूर हैं। यह दो



ऐसी जगह हैं जहाँ सड़कें कम और तट ज्यादा हैं। अक्सर हमें तट पर छोटे - छोटे बच्चे रेत का किला बनाते हुए दिखते हैं। काफी लोग एक कपड़ा बिछाकर एक छतरी के नीचे सुस्ताते हैं। कुछ लोग पानी के खेल भी करते हैं। कुछ भी कहो समुद्री तट पर छुट्टी मनाने में बहुत मज़ा आता है।

सुहासिनी टक्कर पाँच - ब

A NEW TAKE ON SENIOR SCHOOL

The Juniors of Senior School were subjected to the typical questions through their First Week in Senior School. "How's Class 6 treating you?" "What are you most looking forward to in Class 6?" "What do you feel about Senior School?" "Is Senior School very different from Junior School?" and so on. So, we decided to torment them with something not so traditional.



Q- What were your preconceived notions of Senior School?

- "While in Junior School, I was under the impression that Senior School was a deadly place with detentions." – Priyam Deka

- "I thought Senior School was full of loads of Bullying".- Jujhar Singh

- "I used to think that the Sanskrit Syllabus was terrifying." – Aryaman Chawla

- "I was looking forward to the Class6 Standard test because of the 600m challenge." – Sia Dawar

- "I knew that Senior School was going to be good and I had heard that the new teachers were all great."

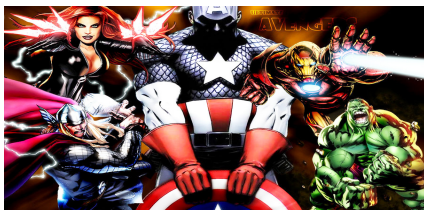
- Daivik Alva

Most of Class 6 seems extremely excited about their first steps and are no doubt determined to make their mark in Senior School through 2012.

-Serena Nanda and Ananya Gupta. Class 9

Most Awaited Hollywood Movies of 2012

1. **The Dark Knight Rises** : Eight years after the events of The Dark Knight, the terrorist leader Bane arrives in Gotham City, forcing its former hero Batman to resurface after taking the fall for Harvey Dent's crimes. After a jaw-dropping prequel, who wouldn't look forward to this?
2. **The Avengers** : Nick Fury and the international agency S.H.I.E.L.D. create a team consisting of Iron Man, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow to form The Avengers in order to save the world. 5 super heroes, what more could you want?
3. **The Amazing Spiderman** : After a whole lot of thinking, they finally replaced Tobey Maguire with Andrew Garfield for the forthcoming movie. In this superhero movie, teenager Peter Park is facing several problems and is up against villain Dr. Curt Connors (The lizard). Even our very own Bollywood star, Irrfan Khan, is starring in the movie.
4. **Skyfall** : The 23rd James Bond movie is also set for a late release this year. The events of this film are not directly related to Casino Royale or Quantum of Solace. In this movie, Bond's loyalty to M is challenged over secrets from her past. When MI6 is attacked, 007 must track and destroy the threat regardless of the cost to himself.
5. **The Bourne Legacy** : After 3 sensational movies from the Bourne series, the expectations from this movie are extremely high. The story is centered on a new CIA operative in the universe based on Robert Ludlum's novels.
6. **The Hobbit** : An Unexpected Journey: With the amazing success of the Lord of the rings, Peter Jackson(the director) was forced to make its prequel, The Hobbit. The film features Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit, who travels to the Lonely Mountain accompanied by a group of dwarves to reclaim the treasure taken from them by the dragon Smaug.



7. **The Hunger Games**: This action movie is based on Suzanna Collin's novel which was published in 2008. The Hunger Games are an annual event where one boy and one girl aged between 12-18 years from each of the 12 districts surrounding the Capitol are selected to compete in a battle in which only one can survive.

-Shantanu Puri 9A



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