

Vasant Valley

February, 2014

T O D A Y

Dear Newsletter,

I first realized that I wanted to be Editor when I was in Class 8. That day, I took home one of Bhavik's issues, neatly crossed out his name in the editorial board box, and wrote mine instead; just to see how it would feel to be Editor. Four years later, seeing my name actually printed there is an eerie feeling, one that I never quite got used to.

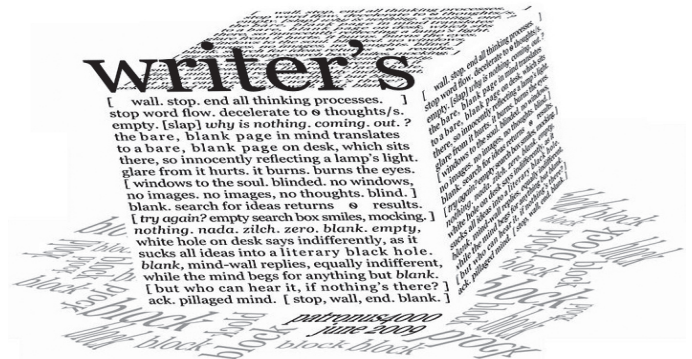
"When I go home I will have no more deadlines to meet. No more writers to plead with. No more articles to edit. Is it possible that I will miss you after all?"

As I sit and compile this issue, I won't deny that the knowledge that it is my last gives me immense comfort. Throughout this year you have bullied and badgered me, you have occupied my mind almost solely, and have taken time that I could have spent studying, or better yet, doing nothing at all. I feel as though you have been very demanding, making me run (not one of my preferred activities) around all over school from the senior school computer lab to junior school, from my classroom to the top floor where the editorial board meets every Friday. You have made me chase writers from class 6 to class 12, made me pester them until I was blue in the face, and you have kept me up many nights. In short you have turned me into the stereotypical Editor, tapping furiously at a keyboard, screening obsessively for errors, my journal dictating when I breathe, sleep or eat.



However I also won't deny that when I send Rainbow Printers this final issue and when I place one final call to Mr. Balwant informing him that it is my last, the comfort will wear off. The temporary bliss at the prospect of never having to use Pagemaker ever again will soon pass, and give way to a new feeling. When this issue prints, I will file it away in the same black folder that contains all the issues published under my Editorship. The difference is, when I go home I will have no more deadlines to meet. No more writers to plead with. No more articles to edit. Is it possible that I will miss you after all?

It has been a tough year, but we survived. You changed me, disciplined me, forced me into developing a kind of work ethic I never thought I'd have. At the same time I hope that, at least in some measure, I changed you. That I made you more accessible, that I saved you from being turned into a paper plane on more than one occasion. When I look at my black folder, each issue has its own story. The folder itself has been left in the field, the music room, and many God awful places. But somehow it has always found its way back to me, none the worse for wear.



For the past year you have been a constant in my life, so not having you around may take some getting used to. But before I can bid you goodbye, I have to thank everyone who has written anything at all for the newsletter this year, willingly or unwillingly. And to the members of my Editorial board, who have been the worst sufferers of my well meant mismanagement, thank you for everything. For following my instructions even when they were inconvenient and for taking my criticism even when it wasn't necessary. You are all excellent in your own right, and it is because of you that I have no qualms at all about the future of a journal that has come to be so close to my heart.

Goodbye Vasant Valley Today.

Love, *Namrata*



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School Watch

English Impromptu for classes 6, 7 and 9

Class 6 -1st - Jai Kapoor 2nd - Nirvair Singh and Nihal Kang 3rd - Siddhant Gandhi

Class 7 -1st - Karamvir Chopra, 2nd - Sehej Kaur, 3rd - Tanvi Bahl

Class 9- 1st- Ashna Sethi, 2nd- Ishita Malhotra, 3rd -Devika Vir

Speed Maths 1

Class 8 Winner- Veeraj Jindal

Class 7 Winners - Winners: Rohil Bahl, Yuvraj Singh Mamik and Shubham Kalantri

Curtain Call



As I near the end of my 13 years in Vasant Valley, I write to you this one last piece. With people already working their way into Columbia, Duke, NYU and many more universities, this bond we have formed over the last few years seems to be slipping out of our hands. And the sad bit is, there's nothing we can do about it.

In this one year, I seem to have formed an unusual relationship with every one of my teachers. With my first interaction of the day (always with Mrs. Shukla in the late line) to my last, a nod at Mrs. Krishnan once my name has been called out at dispersal; I seem to have found my own little world of friendliness with them. From finding ways to run out of Mrs. Vohras lessons so we can go play our round of football, to making sure Mr. Sabu never sees us during sculpture lessons, we've done it all. From the stupidest jokes cracked by Bharat and Dhruv, to the most uncoordinated dance steps choreographed by Pranav and Abhishek, we as a batch have dealt with the worst. We may not have wept when we walked down the steps for one last time, together as a batch, but somewhere we all sob in the back of our minds even today. We may not realize what we'll be missing out on yet, but then again, one never knows the value of something till he or she doesn't have it anymore.

"From the stupidest jokes cracked by Bharat and Dhruv, to the most uncoordinated dance steps choreographed by Pranav and Abhishek, we've dealt with the worst."

After years of pushing, abusing, slapping and hitting, we now laugh when we revisit those memories. The awkwardness that seemed stubborn in its position in the beginning of every single year has quietly walked away, leaving behind high fives and fist pumps amongst almost everyone. I still don't talk to some people as much as I do to Shrey, Yappa (Ran), Venky, AB or Vaas, but even so, the littlest instances with them will be cherished memories once I walk out of the gates of this school.

Peddling away like professionals, team 'Lubandi' is a raft that will stay with me in my trips across rivers all over the country. I doubt I'll ever get the opportunity, in college or anywhere else in the world, to choreograph the most hideous dance steps and perform them in front of an astounded audience. I thought that a trip to Dehradun with footballers from 9 through 12 would be an average trip, one I'd regret going for when I failed my SAT because of it. But the daily pizza orders, Jaisals abnormal body movements and Jai Verma's endless cuteness made it an experience I can never forget. Somewhere, I felt that sending 23 roses in Bombay during the course of the Cathedral MUN would be able to match it, but the two were incomparable; they were poles apart.

"This one last year has come and gone by so fast, it seems to have hardly happened."

This one last year has come and gone by so fast, it seems to have hardly happened. From Spelen (this is the last time I will ever say that word publicly), to Cow-Pig and Monkey, the last group I was to be a part of, it all seems to have happened to fast. There have been quite a few lasts, but sadly, even those have come to an end. So, for the last time, thank you for everything Vasant Valley. You will be missed.

Amnay Sheel Khosla, 12 CBSE

समय गुजर जाता है

वर्ष 2013 वसंत वैली के लिए काफी यादगारी थी। हर कक्षा के हर छात्र के पास ज़रूर इस साल की एक रोचक कहानी होगी। 8 साल का बच्चा हो या 18 साल - सब के पास एक अलग ही कहानी होगी। हाँ, कुछ लोगो का साल इतना भी मज़ेदार नहीं हो सकता था लेकिन हमारा स्कूल हर साल को यादगारी ज़रूर बनाता है - यादे जो सबके साथ हमेशा रहती हैं। कक्षा 12 के किसी भी छात्र से पूछा जाए तो सब के सब यही बोलते हैं - स्कूल का हर साल का आनंद लो, पता भी नहीं चलता और 13 साल शिकायत में निकल जाते हैं। तो परीक्षा हो या फाऊन्डरस डे स्कूल का हर साल का हमे संजोना करना चाहिए। समय वस ऐसे ही गुजर जाता है।



रीया कोठारी 9

Financial Exclusion by Dr. Nachiket Mor

On the 27th and 28th of January, some children of class 12 had the privilege of attending the SRCC Economics Summit'14, held in the prestigious Sri Ram College of Commerce. We were given three talks over the course of two days but the talk that impacted and struck me the most was a talk on financial



inclusion by Dr. Nachiket Mor. Nachiket Mor was the Chairman of the ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth. Now is working at Sughavazhvu. Dr. Mor is also on the board of the RBI. He has been in the news recently for his report on Financial Inclusion for Small Businesses and Low Income Households.

Dr. Mor began his talk by telling us about the Indian banking system and how small it is. In a credit to GDP ratio, India is only 70% of its GDP, which may not seem like a bad figure but in comparison to countries like the US and the UK which have a ratio of 600%, we see the need to expand India's banking system. However we cannot start opening up banks indiscriminately. He spoke to us about the importance of educating consumers and the responsibility that lies in the hands of the producers. Using real life examples, he cited how it is necessary for the consumer to be aware of the interest rates being charged, the profits and it is the producer's job to make sure the consumer is provided with all this information.

"Dr. Mor was able to prevent the topic from being boring or monotonous and explained it in a manner that was not just interesting but in a manner that we could understand."

To increase the banking system, Dr. Mor told us about an interesting idea, related to the initiative started by Airtel known as Airtel money, by which you can make payment transactions through a simple text message. He said that if Airtel money was converted into Airtel bank, it would be an easy way to expand the banking system. Dr. Mor also told us about the Aadhar cards that are now being given to every citizen in the country. An Aadhar card is a unique biometric identification which will give all your personal details through a thumbprint. It will save time in requiring paperwork and you can start a bank account using just your Aadhar number.

Tarini Sardesai, 12

Aam Aadmi Party: Popular Anarchy?

“Popular anarchy cannot be a substitute for governance.” - Pranab Mukharjee

Currently, we are witnessing the phenomenal rise of the ‘Aam Aadmi Party Tsunami.’ We have seen how Arvind Kejriwal has risen from a young activist to a political position of eminence in just one year. He achieved this because he made some outlandish promises in his manifesto, of reducing the economic burden of the poor and the middle class by cutting down water and electricity rates. The masses put their faith in Kejriwal, in the hope that he would represent them and would deliver on his promises; give them freedom from the sickness of corruption, crime, lawlessness, unbearable price rise and inflation.

“He seemed to be guaranteeing the people liberty from anarchy, but he ended up portraying an image of lawlessness by reverting to governance by ‘vigilante methods.’”

However, what we witness today is that Kejriwal has become a ‘prisoner of his own promises.’ He seemed to be guaranteeing the people liberty from anarchy, but he ended up portraying an image of lawlessness by reverting to governance by ‘vigilante methods.’ The AAP has been organizing ‘dharnas’ and street agitations, which came as a disappointment to the masses and made life inconvenient for the ‘aam aadmi’ as the metro services had been closed. The continuous monitoring of Kejriwal’s actions by the media added to his compulsion to perform by emphasizing his unique approach towards political, social and economic issues. The masses crowned Kejriwal with a unique identity, and inevitably, along with that came the glory and burden of fame. In my opinion, the tactics of protests, which were being applauded when he was a lesser-known social activist and opposing the government, are now being looked down upon, as a form of anarchy, now that he has been elected to the eminent position of Delhi’s Chief Minister. I think that many of Arvind Kejriwal’s antics and kneejerk reactions are prompted by the pressure and burden of the people’s expectations and do not lead to positive, concrete and immediate results.

Devika Vir, 9



Night of The Rising Stars



It is every musician’s dream to be up on the that stage, holding that golden gramophone, being on the coveted list of the best musicians of the world, performing on the platform that has hosted some of the greatest singers, instrumentalists and bands in the history of music. It is the biggest music night of the year- it is the Grammys.

The 2014 Grammy Awards, which were held in Los Angeles, were a night of major collaborations and great music. For all those who had been scarred by Robin Thicke’s performance at the VMA’s, it was a

refreshing and pleasing change to see him perform with the rock band of the 60’s, Chicago.

“The 2014 Grammy Awards, were a night of major collaborations and great music.”

The highlight of the night, however, would be the emergence of all the new artists who won awards. The night was truly ruled by young blood, artists who took up the lead and beat the Grammy nomination regulars to make it to the Hall of Fame and to be the winners of the much sought-after awards. With the likes of Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, Lorde and Daft Punk making it big, careers of hit-makes Katy Perry, Taylor Swift, Rihanna and many more seem to have hit a halt in the award-run. It’s given them a reality check of the increasing competition in the music-industry with the surge of new talent coming through.

I feel that the Grammy Jury is considering songs and artists that are famous across the globe and are not acknowledging the talent of many other not-so-famous singers who truly deserve to be recipients of these awards. Music is language of the soul and its voice is being diminished with quality of music and musicians going down each passing year.

Kamya Yadav, 9+

‘RACE TO RECOVERY’

Standing outside the Grenoble hospital or Spa-Francorchamps circuit, thousands of fans pray for the speedy recovery of the King of Formula 1, Michael Schumacher. It was sad to hear that while skiing in Meribel with his son, Mick, he hit a rock and the helmet split apart; though he was skiing at a very slow speed the helmet was not enough to save his skull from a serious injury. He was immediately taken to Grenoble University Hospital where he has been ever since his accident. Doctors placed Schumacher in a medically induced coma and lowered his body temperature to reduce the swelling in the brain and give rest to his whole body. His wife placed his lucky amulet next to his bed. He spent his 45th birthday in hospital and on that day Ferrari, his previous team with which he triumphed in 5 world championships, organized a vigil which was attended by dozens of fans on his birthday, 3rd January, 2014. At first Doctors had said that he was in a “critical but stable condition”. After two surgeries, the swelling had massively decreased but doctors had said that his life was still in danger. Just last week, doctors started reducing the sedation to remove him out of his coma.



‘The good news is that Michael has been responding to various commands and has even blinked. Mercedes AMG Petronas, the team with which Michael raced before his second retirement have too paid tribute by putting a sticker on their new F1 W05 car which has the phrase on it: ‘#keepfightingmichael’.

Aditya Kapur, 9

A CLASS APART : THE FINAL FAREWELL

Class of
2014

From the endless arguments, to the pointless ideas; from the stay-backs after school, to last minute preparations; from the quarrels over awards to who finally presents the awards; from the selfless agreements, to the selfish disagreements the farewell class act has been a hectic journey, but definitely worth all our effort and energy. We were surprised to see the seriousness that was suddenly present in everyone. Each member of the batch of 2015 became actively involved in this grand effort to celebrate the last day of the Batch of 2014. It brought our whole batch closer, but more importantly it showed everyone



that we would give everything to make sure that the work is not only done, but well done. And so we did; we left each one with tears of the memories of the past 13 years along with tears of laughter with the seemingly apt skits and passionate dances, not to mention the well-deserved awards. The assembly scene was definitely one not to miss and Nakka Mukka, with the original dancers on stage was the icing on the cake. From the (intended) puns in the awards to accompanied certificates and mustaches, the batch of 2015 has wholeheartedly displayed its affection for its seniors. The thought and effort behind every decoration, every award and every presentation is testimony to this.

"It brought our whole batch closer, but more importantly it showed everyone that we would give everything to make sure that the work is not only done, but well done."

This past year has opened our eyes to this truly exceptional and unparalleled batch. And all this time spent together has helped us identify who is "Abs"olutely perfect and who is an Egg-cellent student. But surely we couldn't help but notice how unique and refreshingly different this batch is. Enough to say that few years from now we'll probably be voting for "Spellin Samajwadi Party" or watching our Head Boy in the latest blockbuster or even listening to our Music Maestro's songs on repeat. We'd also be proud to know the person who will have made the greatest scientific breakthroughs of all time. Here's farewell to a batch that Vasant Valley is truly proud of graduating. Here's a celebration of the past 13 years and everything that came along with them and the Batch of 2014. Here's heartfelt expression for how much the Batch of 2015 is going to miss you all. From your Bollywood/ Tollywood Dancers to your Gods Gifts; from your Foreign Friends and Childhood Sweethearts to your Science Class Geniuses: Batch of 2014, you're truly A Class Apart. Best of luck Batch of 2014 and fare you well!

Ananya Jain and Anya Bharadwaj, 12

Hair, Vanity, and Possibly Insanity



The Tale of Samson and Delilah is definitely one of the most well known stories of all time; it revolves around a great man who's power and strength lie in his hair. Without his blonde locks, all of his strength leaves him, and he is as weak as any other man, as we go on to discover in the tale. Though this all sounds rather far-fetched and hard to believe, in a less literal sense, many of us also rely on our hair; not necessarily for our physical strength, rather for our confidence and self esteem.

Our hair is an integral part of our being for so many of us, so much so that we often spend large amounts of money, time and effort trying out new looks and different things with it. My own hair is rather curly and unruly, so, obviously, there isn't that much I can do with it. I can't have a fringe, new flick, cool 'do, or anything of the sort and, though I've come to accept this harsh reality, it can, at times still be very irritating.

"It was my small act of rebellion, something which I had to summon a lot of courage to try."

In an attempt to try out something new- after sixteen years of monotony, I decided to dip dye my hair like the other 60% of the teen girl population. Though it may have been something everyone was doing, it was my small act of rebellion, something which I had to summon a lot of courage to try. It was me stepping outside my comfort zone, trying out new things, growing up, so, obviously, I adored it. Even though I was a little ashamed to admit in, something as unimportant as coloured hair was one of the most reassuring and liberating things for me. It's been around five months since then, and as my hair grows at an alarmingly rapid pace, it was absolutely essential for me to get a haircut, and bid my bright golden locks adieu. It is only now, as I stand in my bathroom, facing my reflection that I realise how much I miss it; moreover, I realise how important something that seems so trivial can be. Samson, I think I've come to agree with you, much of my strength lies in my hair, or rather, its enchanting ability to boost my self-esteem.

Riddhima Wahi, 12

To Vasant Valley, With Love

"And now, for the last time on the Vasant Valley stage, please welcome.."

And I just thought, *why?*

Good ideas don't really come to me that often, and when this hit me I just had to make it happen. "To Vasant Valley, With Love" was the name that was formed and the campaign, to make it happen, had begun. The whole idea was to bring back the alumni to school to show their brilliant talent in the performing arts, and to incorporate the students as well, to celebrate the bond we all share, the Love for Vasant Valley. At first, obviously, no one in school took me seriously; Many a time, I felt I had bitten off more than I could chew. The enthusiasm of the participants spurred me on. After almost a year of planning, organising and communicating, we finally got the ball rolling; I assembled a team of my friends, Shankar and Rishabh, both musically inclined. The final day was here, 31st January 2014 and the three of us ran up and down organising the nitty-gritties of the show, and my, what a show it was. I was enraptured by the classical strums of Madhavan Somanathan and the beats of Karanvir Singh (Batch of 2009). And I can only hope that when I become an alumnus, I can come back and share what I have learnt with those who made me who I am.



Shiv Seth, 10



Founder's Day

This year has been very special year for me and one of the main reasons for that was the twenty-fourth Vasant Valley Founder's Day. The wait finally ended on the eighteenth of November, 2013. The day long rehearsals, the dancing for long periods of time ultimately came to a close. The day we were all waiting for arrived at long last. The crowd burst into applause as the first participants arrived on Center Stage to project the theme of 'Hands'. The music drummed in everybody's ears but we in Class 5 had butterflies in our stomachs as nervousness began to flow through our bodies. The music played out loud and we danced, remembering all the counts and the steps that we had been taught for 'Hands that Greet'. The dance turned out to be amazing!

After our performance, we ran up to our class. I changed at break-neck speed as I had to be on stage again to receive



the Excellence Award! Getting the award was a huge honour and I felt very proud that all my hard work had paid off. The day was done and I went out for a celebratory dinner with my family. We were all happy that our Founder's Day had turned out to be a grand success!

Jai Kapoor, 6

We celebrated our 24th Founder's Day on 18th of November. Founder's Day is a very special day in our school, and the teachers and students do their best to make it memorable for us and our families. This year's theme was 'Hands' and our preparation started 4 to 5 weeks in advance. We all did our best and hoped our grandparents and parents enjoyed the show. All the children were looking really good in their costumes, make-up and done-up hair. The Foundation babies looked especially cute and danced enthusiastically. Then the moment came when Mr Arun Kapur came on stage and announced the Excellence and Alumni Awards. I was so excited to get my Excellence Award from Mrs Puri with my parents proudly watching. It was a great Founder's Day and I'm very excited as next year will be our 25th Founder's Day!



Tia Goculdas, 6

Founder's Day was so much fun. The Founder's Day dances were the best I have ever seen. Founder's day was about hands and feet. Our



parents liked our dance and they were taking so many pictures. I felt happy when my grandparents said "You danced so well."

Aarush Kapur, Asmara Dang and Aaryaveer Khoda, 2



This year our song for the Founder's Day was "Gangnam Style". While practicing whenever we did the "Gangnam Style" step anyone passing by would also start doing it. Even when I scored a goal while playing soccer, I started jiving to "Gangnam Style". On the final day, from the moment we started to dance, each and every parent started to clap. Then I saw right in front of me, my parents, smiling, looking at me dance with so much energy. For me this was the best Founder's Day!



Sabeer Bhullar, 5

Winter Time

Winter time is so much fun

No hot - hot sun

The cold blowing breeze

Making children sneeze

People drink hot - hot tea

Happy under quilt to be

Making snowmen some children love

Covering their hands with mittens or gloves

The days are shorter

And nights comes faster

Winter time is so much fun!

Jai Mittal, 4

Alien- My Friend

One Monday night Shyla and Harsh were going to bed when, suddenly, two pairs of shoes came down to their room. Then suddenly an alien came down. He said "Echo echo...". Shyla said to Harsh, "Harsh don't be scared, I think this is a nice alien." Shyla said, "Who are you?" The alien said, "I have come from Ling. "What is Ling?" said Harsh. "It is a planet," said the alien. Then the alien said, "I have to go back to my spaceship. Shyla and Harsh said that even they wanted a ride in his spaceship. So they went to Ling. They made many friends there and then came back to the earth- their home. Shyla and Harsh always

stayed in touch with their friends on planet Ling and they lived happily ever after.

Kirti, 3



सर्दी

सर्दी में पहननी पड़ती है, सर्दी की वर्दी
वरना लगती है ठण्डी।

पर ठण्डी मुझे लगती है बहुत गंदी।

मैंने बंद कर दी है पहननी अपनी टाई
क्योंकि मैं गिर गया था इन द खाई।

मेरी टाई मेरे लिए नये साल का तोहफा लाई
और उसमें से निकला 'आई फोन फाइव'।

कियान नागपाल चार

The Beautiful Night Sky

Every day we see stars which are bright,
Stars shine and sparkle a lot,
But only come out at night

I wish I was a star

I can see them through my car

They are in the beautiful sky

Very, very high

When the sky is clear

The stars appear

They always do everyday of the year!

Gabiya Nayyar, 4

If there was no gravity

Isaac Newton once sat under an apple tree,
And after sometime he started thinking
"dear me,

I know there is something which is not right.

The apple that needs to drop has taken a flight!"

The planets are scattered all around space,
That's how it is without gravity in the human race.

The moon would take more than years to be found,

When it's there, so's the cow, jumping over and around.

The normal habits are simple but ludicrous,
Eating and drinking while flying is pernicious.

Imagine when I wake up and wait for my morning tea,

Waiting for it to stop floating takes the life out of me.

If there was no gravity, not a day would go by.

When everything except my spirits would be sky high.

So understand the gravity of the situation in hand,

Because without gravity, there is no sky, water or land.

Prithvi Oak, 6



PLAYLIST

1. Thomas Newson - Pallaroid
2. Vato Gonzalez - Triplets Riddim
3. Don Diablo & CID - Got me thinkin'
4. ZIGGY & Dave Till - Venom
5. Sander Van Doorn - Neon (Ummet Ozcan Mix)
6. Oliver Heldens - Gecko
7. The Partysquad & Billy the Kit - Sunset
8. Swanky Tunes - Jump, Shout, Make It Loud
9. Julian Calor - Adventure / No Beef (Acapella)
10. Pelari - Rave

Didar Rebello, 6



If you could pick one person from the Batch of 2014, to say one thing to...

Who would you pick, and what would you say?

"Anjani Gupta, you were the best blue house captain ever and thank you for making us win the Indian Music Competition. We'll miss you." - Rohan Chopra, 10+

"Jaahnavee Venkatraman, while you were here, Performing Arts gained a lot of importance and you've raised it to a higher pedestal. Thank you!!" - Ishita Malhotra, 9

"Amnay Sheel Khosla, you are an amazing captain and I really respect you as a player." - Jai Varma, 9+

"Tejasvini Puri, thank you for always being there for red house!! You've been an amazing mentor to us all" - Devika Vir, 9

"Dipika Titus and Priyanka Bhagat, we'll miss you a lot and the basketball team will be incomplete without you. You are the best!" - Prashasya Lochan, 9+

"Soyam Sakshi, Soya! One thing I know for sure is that I'm not going to miss your terrible singing and romantic Hindi songs. But I'll surely miss you!" - Ayesha Raheja, 9+

"Shreyas Kadaba, please always be as courteous, humble, respectful and honest as you are right now. All the best!" - Mrs. Khosla

"Namrata Narula, you're amazingly hard working and after seeing the amount of effort you put into every edition of the newsletter, my respect for you has gone up a few notches and I love your 'no-nonsense' attitude." - Sarina Mittal, 9+

"Dhruv Mishra, thank you for always being there and I'll miss your much-needed advice. I'm glad I got to know you and I'm going to miss you!" - Kamya Yadav, 9+

"Bharat Somanathan, you're my idol. I hope to be more like you everyday." - Nirvaan Bharany, 12

"Sanjna Surya, Anjani Gupta, Namrata Narula and Aditya Srinivasan, thank you for teaching me how to debate." - Shaurya Abhi, 12

"Sharanya Thakur, you are one of the most unconventional and interesting people I've ever met, who understands my fascination for random intellectual facts and emoticons. For all the time that I've known you, you've been an amazing friend and senior. I'll miss you a lot head girl." - Ananya Jain, 12

His Holiness the Dalai Lama



On the 6th of December, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Vasant Valley School to talk to the students. He spoke about learning and the importance of peace and spirituality. He described the 20th century as a century of violence, and said that the 21st century should be the century of dialogue.

Q. What was your first impression of India? How do you think it has changed since your first visit in 1956?

A. This begins when I went to China in 1954. It was in Peking where the Chinese Congress was being held. Everything was so disciplined there. It was very quiet and everything happened in a particular order. In 1956, I came to India. It was completely different. Indian Parliament was very noisy, but I told Premier Zhou Enlai that Indian Parliament was better than the Chinese Parliament. Now in India, there is a lot of freedom. Even freedom to criticize. People feel proud when they criticize others, this is good. But the criticism must be honest.

Q. The world is so competitive today, how can young students foster cooperation in this environment?

A. There is always a way out. In no society will there ever exist only good things. Good things come with the bad. So we need to have a positive outlook. We have to work together, not turn on each other and create even more violence, because ultimately humans are the cause of unrest in the world. Optimism can be maintained through education. This will also take away the corruption and create a harmonious society. When it comes to competition, we need to compete with ourselves, not others. When we hinder or push others, it becomes negative competition. That is not good. As far as education is concerned, it needs to focus on moral value, not material value. It needs to teach people not to discriminate based on any external feature and extend respect for not only humans, but all forms of life.

As told to Aakanksha Jadhav, 11

VVIQ

The question we asked was, "What is dromo-phobia?"

"I don't know, the fear of getting bro-zoned?" - Dilsher Singh

"I know what phobia means, what can dromo mean? I know the fear of drums?" - Keihan Sikri

"Phobia means fear, so it's the fear of dragons." - Trisha Bansal

"Something related to ghosts." - Rohan Chopra

"I think dromo-phobia is the fear of burping on stage or the fear of peeing" - Varun Vasisht

"Dromo means road. So it's the fear of roads which means you aren't going anywhere in life" - Ayesha Raheja

Answer: Dromo-phobia or Dromo-mania is the fear of travelling and wandering.

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