

Vasant Valley *TODAY*

Dear Zoya,

I can't tell you the number of times I've thought about writing this letter, fuelled with inspiration from Namrata's brazen letter to the Newsletter (and not the Editor), Tarini's accurate summary of "The Crown of Thorns" and Noor's preferred choice of eating punctuation for breakfast. However, from each letter emerged a keen sense of what exactly entails being Editor of Vasant Valley Today. Behind each word there existed an undercurrent of excitement, apprehension and frustration. I found solace in their words, just as I hope you will find in mine.

I absolutely loved and absolutely hated being Editor. There's no other way to describe it. To start off with the cliches, I often did stay up all night to finish compiling, I did obsess over every font type and size, and I did feel my heart break just a little after meticulously proofreading to find a spelling error in the final print. However, through each looming deadline, bad font choice and glaring typo I realised that these extreme feelings were normal. The unassuming title of Editor carries baggage, and you just have to hate it and curse it until you grow to accept it.

Learn from my mistakes. It's unfortunate that the baggage does not come with the gift of superhuman abilities! To make it easier, I've put together a small list which will hopefully serve as a helpful guideline.

As eager as you are to take on all the responsibilities of being Editor, taking help from the Editorial Board and assigning clear cut responsibilities is of utmost importance. Each member is equipped with his or her own special skill of being a fast runner, skilled supplement folder or conscientious proofreader, make use of it. (I love you all!)

Always have fillers on hand. When its one in the night and you have an empty white box staring back at you on InDesign, you'll thank me. Don't be afraid to switch it up. Push the boundaries with each issue you publish (with the consent of the teachers, of course!). Who knows, maybe you'll finally be able to compile a topsy-turvy April Issue! Please (please) do a test fold of the India Today/Aaj Tak Supplement before sending it to the photocopy room. In between editing others' articles, take out the time to publish something of your own as well. Write more, and write often. As each Editor before me has reiterated, I too must warn you that as the year comes to a close you'll be heavily weighed down by working hard and partying harder!



SCHOOL WATCH

V1th WG. CDR. Mathew Inter-School Junior Athletic Meet held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi 15th December, 2016

Junior Vasant Valley team won the overall Championship Trophy

56th Delhi State Gymnastics Competition held at I.G. Stadium

21st to 27th December, 2016

Under 7 Artistic Team won 1st. Under 10 Artistic Team won 2nd. Under 8 Team won 2nd.

Modern School Tennis Tournament 19th December, 2016

Vasant Valley under 10 girls team came 2nd.

Interhouse Cricket Match 2017

Green House - 1st

Red House was the runner up!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

"Push the boundaries with each issue you publish"

I remember feeling as though I was drowning in a sea of words. The thought of opening Microsoft Word, a dark dungeon which housed a hundred edits of each college essay I was writing along with articles that were pouring in from classes 6-12, filled my mouth with a bitter taste. During such times, I advise you to pull out your collection of all the issues you have put together. Seeing your name nestled among the other members in all its 12 pt Bold Condensed Minion Pro glory will give you the motivation to resume with newfound vigour and determination.

And finally, after pining and tirelessly pushing to attain the coveted spot, it will be hard to see what had once been seen through dreamy eyes become a thing of the past so soon. I'm confident that regardless of all the nicks, cuts and bruised and battered, you will emerge victorious from a battle well fought.

Love, 
Sarina

SENIOR SCHOOL PREFECT COUNCIL 2017



It's an honour to be the Head Boy of VVS and with immense gratitude I wish to fulfil my responsibilities.
~Aditya Kapur: Head Boy



It was the most satisfying feeling in the world to hear my name being called out. I was overjoyed to have my dream fulfilled. I hope to revolutionise the newsletter and leave this as my legacy to Vasant Valley.
~ Zoya Hassan: Editor

The best is yet to come.

~Uday Sahni : Games Vice Captain



The feeling is unreal, I can't stop smiling.

~Asith Khosla : Games Captain

Getting this post is something that I've dreamed of ever since class 5, and being able to give the Founders day speech on behalf of a batch that's been together for the last 14 years is something worth cherishing. I hope I make differences the school as a whole wants to see.
~Ishita Malhotra: Headgirl



All I can say is that I hope to be the captain that keeps red house at the top; right where it always has been.

~Varun Vasudeva : Red House Captain



I've been handed a huge responsibility and so many expectations stand upon my shoulders now. I hope I succeed in doing justice to this wonderful house. Holding that green flag will be an absolute privilege (even if it's double my size).
~ Ananya Jain: Green House Captain



I'm really honored to be made Yellow house captain. I wish to work together with my house, and utilize all the untapped talent in my house in the best manner. This year is definitely going to be Yellow's year!

~Samridhi Hooda: Yellow House Captain

Everyone is inherently different. Being a prefect is an immense responsibility, but it's also an opportunity to strive to be a better version of yourself and to help those around you to achieve the same. What's important to me is the fact that I have the chance to lead and to thus make a difference no matter how small or big. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what position you get, but rather what you do with that position of power.

~ Ashna Sethi: Blue House Captain

When I heard my name I was extremely elated and shocked at the same time. Can't wait for the upcoming events. All I have to say is Jeetega bhai Jeetega red house Jeetega!

~ Deeya Biswas: Head of Performing Arts



It was one of the best feelings to be up on stage as a prefect with my best friends beside me but here's to hoping that we're able to lead our house to victory.

~ Asees Kaur: Blue House Prefect



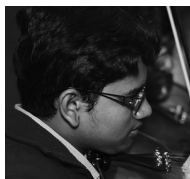
I felt happy when I got chosen.

~Pranavi Ahuja: Head of Environment Council



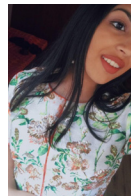
Heading external council was my belief that has become true for me. I feel I have an opportunity to put my virtues into action. Grateful and honoured

~ Imaan Bhargava : Head of External Council



I feel I have been given an amazing opportunity to elevate my council to new heights

~ Jay Jaganaath: Head of Environment Council



For me, being a prefect was one of those things you think you don't care about, but when it actually happens, you are elated... The sense of joy that overcame me when I heard my name being called out is something I have no words to describe.

~Aanchal Mahajan : Head Of Academics Council



My nervousness turned into ecstasy when I heard Ms Krishnan called out my name. After a seven year long wait, it is an amazing feeling to finally get to wear a badge.

~Divvij Chandna, Head of Essentials Council

My brushwork expresses the inner me.
~ Ananya Dalmia: Head of Visual Arts



This position was the last thing I was expecting. I had mixed emotions (I was mainly confused) as I never saw it coming.

~Asees Bindra : Head of External

Elevated, Overjoyed and Happily Surprised.

~Kanish Chandrashekhar: Head of Outreach Council

You don't know the honour which precedes responsibility till you get that badge. Truly honoured Vasant Valley School.

~Aditya Chopra, Head of Library Council



Each year when prefects would be announced, I would imagine what it would be like to go up and receive this honour. It has definitely been one of the most memorable moments of my student life.

Aliya Lakhanpal : Head of Essentials Council

CONGRATULATIONS ALL!!

Now that President Elect has turned into 45th President of the United States of America, Donald Trump is kicking many promised policy plans into action. With all the hype and populist material floating around on the internet, it's getting rather difficult to understand exactly what he has in mind for America. So to help everyone understand exactly what radical changes The Donald wants to make to 'Make America Great Again' we've divided his policy into the good, the debatable and the downright ugly.

First off we start with the positives. During Obama's presidency, millions of jobs have been created as GDP has slowly but surely increased. After peaking at 10 per cent in October 2009, unemployment has now dropped to 4.7 per cent. But Trump's economic ideas were ideal for disenfranchised people that are taking a breath of fresh air because they feel they were not fairly represent.

And there's another metric to prove why this is. The wealth of US families has fallen sharply since the financial crash, and it hasn't recovered - with the median net worth of families falling from \$137,955 in 2007 to \$82,756 in 2013. Americans all over have lost faith in the government and think that it only favors the top 1%. The upper North-Eastern section of the United States whose support drove Trump's electoral college vote win, have seen manufacturing jobs cut by more than half over the last half-century and are faced with the prospect that they aren't worth as much as they used to be. To tackle this Trump is trying to bring back manufacturing and jobs from China back into the U.S. simply by taking away the key feature of China. With high import taxation it no longer is cheap, hence taking away incentive. He is creating many more jobs through infrastructure and making American steel the backbone of the economy. Also he plans to reduce outsourcing to create more American jobs. And to top it off his 'drain the swamp' idea of cleaning up Washington received popular support.

Now onto the trickier more debatable issues. Trump plans to introduce a new system of healthcare instead of Obamacare. Now although Obamacare is widely known as a failing scheme there are still some Americans who rely and depend on it for their treatment. Worse still we have no idea what this new proposed healthcare system would be like and exactly what features it would sport. Secondly gun laws. Trump a Republican naturally supports less stringent gun laws so that law abiding homeowners can defend themselves. But the question is raised, the easier it is to acquire a gun the more violence there is that is hitting the streets. Finally Trump supports legalization of marijuana in states that want to. Now we see that this would break down illegal cartels and also ensure that users are receiving quality product. But at the same time many see the weed as a gateway drug that leads to more substance abuse and ruins American life.

And finally the gaping flaws in his policy. His anti-immigration stance and usage of racial profiling to allow people into the U.S. is sparking protest. Very obviously immoral, the Muslim-ban has raised chaos across the country and is leading to the minority community feeling unsafe and unsure of how they are being perceived in their own country. Climate is another area where Trump has just missed the point. Trump has previously taken to twitter to state "the concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive". On the campaign trail, he vowed to cancel the Paris climate agreement and stop American funding for UN global warming programs.

Trump may serve to be a great President or may get impeached. All we know is time will tell and that he will remain under scrutiny every step of the way.

Aryan Sadh, 10



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जल्लीकट्टू

जल्लीकट्टू तमिल नाडु के ग्रामीण इलाकों का एक परंपरागत खेल है जो पोंगल त्यौहार पर आयोजित कराया जाता है और जिसमें बैलों से इंसानों की कुश्ती कराई जाती है, जल्लीकट्टू को तमिलनाडु के गौरव तथा संस्कृति का प्रतीक कहा जाता है। ये 2000 साल पुराना खेल है जो उनकी संस्कृति से जुड़ा है।

सदियों से जल्लीकट्टू ताकतवर बैलों को पहचानने के लिए खेला जाता था। इन बैलों को पहचानने के बाद वह उन का प्रयोग करके गाय-भैंसों की नई और बेहतरीन पीढ़ी बनाते हैं। अतः इससे एक स्वस्थ गोजातीय संख्या पाई जाती है।



आधुनिक काल में जल्लीकट्टू एक क्रूर खेल के नाम से जाना जाता है क्योंकि बैलों को अनेक क्रूरताओं को सहन करना पड़ता है जैसे : आँख में लाल मिर्च रगड़ना, पूँछ कटवाना, दारू पिलाना आदि।

इस वजह से लोग बोलते हैं कि जल्लीकट्टू को रोक दिया जाना चाहिए। परंतु जल्लीकट्टू को रोकने से नुकसान का खतरा भी है। अगर जल्लीकट्टू के खिलाफ एक कानून बना दिया जाएगा तो जल्लीकट्टू गुप्त रूप से किया जाएगा, और इस रूप में बुरे हादसे होने का खतरा है। इसीलिए, मेरा विचार है कि जल्लीकट्टू को पूरी तरह से प्रतिबंधित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए, पर उसे और विनियमित करना चाहिए।

जय जगनाथ, 12

SCHOOL REJUVENATION?

"I really think this system will work well- instead of just mugging up things we will actually understand, that's why it is a good change."

-Tanaya Banerjee, 7

"I feel that students won't be obsessed with their grades and will learn more now."

-Mokshya Wadhwa, 9

"I like the fact that there are no grades and that I can be with my friends who aren't in my class due to the 21 day cycle, which makes things more interesting."

-Sabeer Bhullar, 8

"It's good as there's not a lot of pressure on us. But there should be some other way of assessing us, otherwise no one will feel the urge to do their work."

-Jai Varma, 9

"The new system has brought about a major change and is a step forward in the educational sphere as now we are focusing on proper understanding which will help in the future."

-Aryaman Minocha, 9

"I was a little apprehensive about the new system. It was completely different from what I was used to in class 8! However change is always good and I am excited to see what this system can offer us"

- Anonymous, 9

Tanvi Bahl and Anoushka Clays, 9+

JUNIOR SCHOOL PREFECT COUNCIL 2017



KYRA DHAR : HEAD GIRL

I could hardly believe my ears when Mrs. Krishnan announced my name as the Junior School Head Girl. I felt overjoyed and on top of this world. I felt humbled and blessed to be given such an honour I shall try my level best and hope that I am able to do justice to the trust bestowed in me.

ARSH CHAUHAN : GREEN HOUSE CAPTAIN

"I was praying but still confident that I would be Green House captain. When Mrs. Krishnan shook my hand and congratulated me, it was the proudest moment of my life."



ARYAVEER KHODA : SPORTS CAPTAIN

I am an ardent fan of sports so when I was told that I am the sports captain I am proud to say that I have carried on my nana's and dad's legacy. Thank you for choosing me.



AARUSH KAPUR : HEAD BOY

I couldn't believe my ears when my name was announced for head boy of junior school. The pats on my back while I walked to the stage made me feel like I was living a dream. I was a little overwhelmed with the sense of responsibility and gratitude and vowed to be the best Head-boy ever and make all proud!



MIHEEKA BAGLA : YELLOW HOUSE CAPTAIN

When I heard my name being called out as yellow house captain, I don't think I ever felt so many emotions together, ever before. It was indeed a moment of pride and delight and I could not wait to break the news to my parents.

KABIR BAHL : RED HOUSE CAPTAIN

I was very excited to hear my name being called out for the Red House Captain and felt so happy as I walked up to the stage. I also felt that there would be a lot of responsibility on me now.

AVEER PAHWA : BLUE HOUSECAPTAIN

I was really excited when I heard my name called out as the Blue House Captain. There are so many other people in Blue house who are amazing and are worthy of being the Captain so I think I am really fortunate.

ASMARA DANG : GAMES VICE CAPTAIN

When my name was called out in the special assembly I was overjoyed and thrilled. I felt on top of the world and saw all my friends cheering me.

Best Friends

I feel safe and bound
When my friends are around

They make me feel high and mighty
When I feel puny and untidy

Sometime they are smooth and rough
I hold on and stay tough

Fame and fortune they bring to me
Count them carefully I have
Sooner or later they will see
That they have no friend like me.

We match like salt and pepper
Although we haven't used it since forever

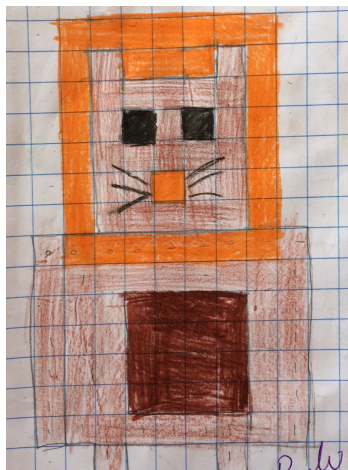
We'll sink or swim for each other
But not for any other

We stay together day or night
We play together and sometimes fight

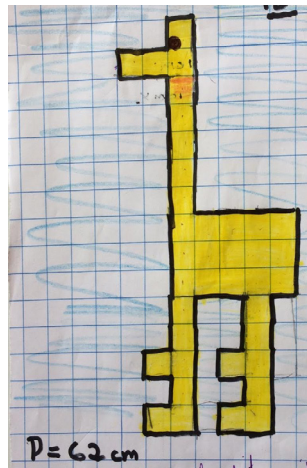
I know best friends are hard to find
Because the best ones are already MINE !!!

-Sanya Paul Lakhnapal
Noor Srivastav

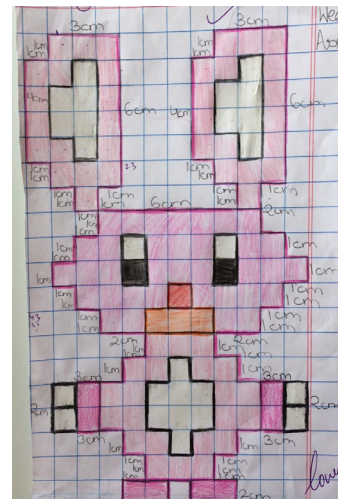
Area and Perimeter in Math!



ADITRI JAIN, 5B



ISHRAT JHINGAN, 5B



PRISHA SINGHAL - 5A

WORLD TODAY

the easiest way for you to ace GK Quiz

Elections were held in Goa and Punjab ·

Protests in Nagaland over a 33% reservation for women ·

Jammat-ud-Dawa terrorist Hafiz Saeed placed under house arrest in Punjab ·

A court in Seattle halted President Trump's travel ban of nationals from 7 Muslim-majority nation ·

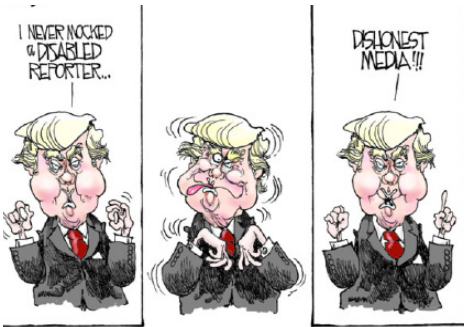
Former Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's name removed from UN sanctions list ·

India leads New Zealand in the Davis Cup 2-1 ·

The International Cricket Council passes numerous structural changes including a change in revenue distribution ·

The British Parliament passes the first bill to start the Brexit process.

A new column by Vasant Valley Today giving you the daily news in short bursts! Look out for it on page 5!



MERYL STREEP TAKES DOWN AMERICA'S 'FAVORITE' MAN

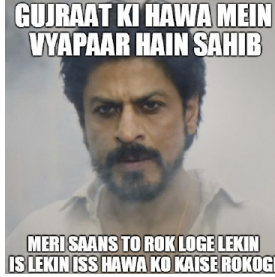
'How you first meet the public is how the industry sees you. You can't argue with them. That's their perception.'
- Meryl Streep

During the 46th Golden Globes Award ceremony, a thought provoking event took place during a 6 minutes acceptance speech for receiving the Cecil B. DeMille Award for "outstanding contribution to the world of entertainment" actress who received this honour is the extremely talented and the very well known Meryl Streep. She took this platform to address the audience as well as the viewers about the outcome of the presidential elections and in specific one candidate- Donald Trump. Through her acceptance speech she shared one situation in particular which was a tear jerking moment for most of the audience present there that night.

In her address she shed some light on how people on a public platform superior in power and privilege can ridicule and demean a disabled reporter by misusing not only their legitimate right but also the basic essence of human existence. She "criticised" the President elect Donald Trump without mentioning his name directly for this behaviour during his campaign trail and urged the press to hold him accountable. This got not only the audience but people all around the globe questioning whether a person who showed such outrageous behaviour was capable of sitting on the most respected seat of the United State of America ?

चलचित्रों का रईस भविष्य

कई बारी जनता को घिसी-पिटी कहानियों से विराम और विविधता के नाम पर कुछ नया चाहिए होता है। बॉलीवुड में २०१७ का प्रारम्भ ही इस नये और उत्साहजनक कदम से हुआ। शाह रुख खां ने रईस नामक चलचित्र से यह आरंभ किया और बॉलीवुड के परंपरागत नायक-खलनायक की लड़ाई वाली कहानी को मिटा कर एक ऐसी मूवी प्रदर्शित की जो एक इंसान के कठोर आचार विचार को दृढ़ता से दिखाता है।



मात खा जाता है।

शाह रुख खान का लाजवाब अभिनय और मीया भाई की धृष्टता दोनों है मूवी में। परंतु कई जगह मूवी खिंची हुई लगती है। एक प्रभावशाली प्रदर्शन के लिए यह मूवी एक बार देखना तो बनता ही है। पर कहानी दोषहीन नहीं है। रईस शाह रुख खां के लिए सही दिशा में एक मजबूत कदम है। परंतु "किंग ऑफ बॉलीवुड" को अभी भी कथानक चुनने में कुछ ज्यादा ध्यान देना पड़ेगा।

आदित्य चोपड़ा

प्रदूषण के प्रभाव

दुनिया भर के लोगों को ज्ञात है कि हमारे वातावरण में परिवर्तन आ रहे हैं। मैं मानती हूँ कि परिवर्तन अनिवार्य है, परन्तु वातावरण में यह बदलाव सबकी सेहत के लिए हानिकारक है।

अपने आस-पास ही देख लीजिये। चारों ओर प्रदूषण-ही-प्रदूषण है। प्रदूषित वायु के कारण फेफड़ों की बीमारियाँ फैल रही हैं। खाँसी, जुकाम, बुखार आदि अब आम बातें हैं।

आज-कल पानी भी साफ नहीं रहा है। बहुत सारे गाँव ऐसे नदियों पर पानी के लिए निर्भर हैं। उनकी सेहत पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ता होगा, विचार आते ही मन दहल जाता है।

अब तो हमारे आस-पास भी गंदगी फैली हुई है। हर जगह कूड़ा-कचरा फैला हुआ है। हमें बाकी जानवरों के बारे में भी तो सोचना चाहिए। कुत्ते-बिल्लियाँ सड़कों पर भोजन ढूँढ़ते हुए जब आपके द्वारा फेंका हुआ प्लास्टिक खाते हैं, यह उनके लिए घातक हो सकता है।

हम ऐसे वातावरण में कैसे रह सकते हैं? हम जब साँस लेते हैं, हम बीमारियों को अपने अंदर लेते हैं। हम जब पानी पीते हैं, तब गंदगी को पीते हैं और भूलिए मत, आपका भोजन भी इस पानी से ही बनता है। अपने बारे में सोचिये, अपने बच्चों की सेहत के बारे में सोचिये।

प्रकृति महाजन



Arushi Bhutani, 10

WHAT DO YOUR DOODLES SAY ABOUT

Ever wondered about your doodles? If they mean anything or if they are just random drawings that you make when you are bored? Turns out what you draw could be reflective of certain personality traits. This is not a scientific study but many behavioural specialists credit it to be true. So let's take a look into our subconscious, shall we?



Flowers - Flowers tend to be a female thing. They tend to imply something very personal and can be referring to relationships. People who doodle flowers tend to be sentimental people and may even be traditionalists at heart. They value things like marriage, children, photos and good memories.

Intricate Patterns - Highly detailed doodles are often made by people who simply cannot let go of their ambitions and loved ones. These are the types of drawings, which are often a favourite among introverts.

Faces or Eyes - These are both very personal and are essentially windows to their soul. If one draw a happy face then it simply means that they are generally happy and if one draws a sad or angry face, then it may not mean that they display anger but may feel it unconsciously. Anything to do with facial expressions reveals something about who they are. Comic faces demonstrate a desire to be the centre of attention. Child-like doodles of faces suggest neediness. Profiles indicate an introvert.

Names, Signatures or Initials - These people like to be the centre of attention. The bigger or bolder one writes their name, the more attention they demand. These people do not like to be invisible and feel a strong need to be loved or noticed.

~Aditi Singh, 10



The Womens march took place in the city of Washington DC but its reverberations were felt across the globe. This march saw a gathering of about 500,000 people in Washington while the world count of people marching exceeds 3 million including cities like London, Paris and Chicago. So what compelled these people to leave their homes and take to the streets? Though the rally was scheduled a day after the inauguration of President Trump, it symbolised more than just a disapproval to his statements, policies and governance.



The march consisted of women fighting for a right that they have been denied for years around the globe. To be equal. The issues were wide ranging and the participants were from diverse communities, each one there to support a cause they believed in. It was not just about abortion, black lives, climate change or immigrant and refugee rights, it was about respecting each other as equals. It was about the power acquired by each woman standing in the march proving her worth and supporting the worth of the other thousand women in the rally with her. It included mothers who want to stop handing their teenage girls pepper spray every time they went out, women who refused to be cat called if they wore what they wished, and girls who want to reach back home safely if they leave at night.

Without knowing one another or saying very much, all these women proved that they'll stand together and have each others' backs instead of judging other people's feminism. These men and women filled the streets with vigor and purpose. It felt momentous to everyone there. Make no mistake, something is happening. What that something is will be decided, only in the settling of a new context.

~Asees Kaur 12



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