

# Vasant Valley

February, 2012

T O D A Y

## SCHOOL WATCH

### English Loud Reading, Class 4:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nehmat Singh Mann  
2<sup>nd</sup> Manya Malhotra  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jai Kapoor

### English Transcription, Class 5:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Medha Jairath Varma  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sumona Sarin, Tanvi Bahl  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sehej Kaur, Aadya Choudhary

### Hindi Sulekhan Pratiyogita: Winners

- Class 6: Ashutosh Trivedi  
Class 7: Aanya Jain  
Class 8: Nimran Kang

### Hindi Kavita Vaachan, Class 6:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Priyam Deka  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kabir Singh  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sia Dawar

### Class 7

- 1<sup>st</sup> Asees Kaur  
2<sup>nd</sup> Aditi Saluja, Ananya Dalmia  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ishita Malhotra, Aaditya Kapur

### Class 9

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rishabh Chatterjee  
2<sup>nd</sup> Avanti Diwan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rishabh Periwal

### Elocution, Class 8:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Riya Kothari  
2<sup>nd</sup> Devesh Mittal

### Oral Interpretation, Class 9+.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Deb Banerji  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ahaan Karha  
3<sup>rd</sup> Indraneel Roy, Ananya Jain

### Speed Maths Winners:

- Class 8: Gaurang Raizada

CONGRATULATIONS!

## Yellow Yellow, Unique Fellow.

*"The first position goes to the Green House with Red coming as close second and Blue placing third."*

Hi. We are the loyal members of Yellow House; a house that has been frequently absent from the top three rankings; a house that has been missing out on the competition for first place (second and third also for that matter); a house that has commonly been associated with the adage "a loser house". I frankly feel that the word "loser" has been wrongly used. Yes I agree that we have not fared well in past competitions, but that doesn't make us "losers", does it?

Take the case of the famous cartoon characters - Tom and Jerry. Yes, Jerry does outsmart Tom with his crazy antics and manages to win against Tom every time; but does that make Tom a loser? Do we not end up laughing and enjoying the show primarily because of Tom and his efforts to catch up to Jerry?

**Just like Tom, Yellow House too has a charm of its own.**

A unique charm that makes me proud to be a part of the house, no matter how many times Jerry smacks us on the head with a copper spoon. Even though we know that we may not have a chance of winning the race, our voices will be the loudest in the crowd, cheering our runners, no matter what.

The fact of the matter is that we cannot be termed "loser" just because we don't win on Sports Day. We are just different individuals whose talents lie in other "fields" (pun intended). We do not give up and without us, Vasant Valley would not be the way it is, just like our childhood would not be the same without Tom.

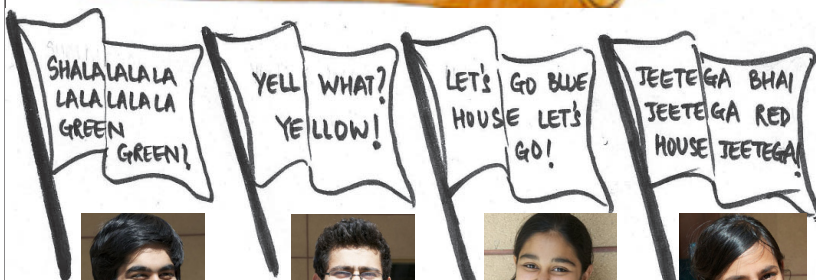
- Akhila Khanna, 12

1 <sup>ST</sup>	GREEN HOUSE	:	307 points
2 <sup>ND</sup>	RED HOUSE	:	280 points
3 <sup>RD</sup>	BLUE HOUSE	:	259 points
4 <sup>TH</sup>	YELLOW HOUSE	:	222 points

## From The Victorious

*Shiv Raj Narang, Green House Captain:* "I feel beyond amazing. This trophy is for all the athletes and supporters of Green House. Being the Captain who completed Green's hat-trick, all I want to say is *Shalalalalalalalal Green Green!!*"

*Gauri Khanna, Green House Prefect:* "I'm really happy and proud of all athletes of Green House. Let's go Green!"



Shiv Raj Narang  
Green House  
Captain



Veer Gupta  
Yellow House  
Captain



Zara Adil  
Blue House  
Captain



Aditi Banerjee  
Red House  
Captain

## 23<sup>rd</sup> INTER HOUSE TRACK AND FIELD MEET



(From Left to Right) Vir Chopra, Games Vice Captain; Naina Lal, Games Captain; Vanshika Ahuja and Nirbhay Bakshi, Head of Sports Council)

**Vir Chopra:** "I'm proud to have pulled it off despite the time constraints, making it a memorable last Meet. And as far as Red House is concerned, we were so close, yet so far."

**Vanshika Ahuja:** "I loved leading all the athletes: it was the best moment in my school life. I'm so proud that I could contribute to Green House's victory."

**Nirbhay Bakshi:** "Sports Day for me is now over, but when I passed on the baton to Abhishek, then I knew that he will do well."



2012 Record: Rhea Ravindran threw the Javelin a distance of 19m. Congratulations!

**Naina Lal:** "To see my brother take the oath two years back, and to see myself in the same place, was indeed a dream come true."

**2012 RECORD: Gurbaz Khera**  
ran the Cross-Country race in  
7 minutes 55 seconds.  
Congratulations!



Illustrated by:  
Aadya Swaroop and  
Vandita Khanna, 12

### Athletes of the Year

Ransher Singh Manhas, Class 5: "I'm so proud of myself that I got it again. I felt I really deserved it. It is one of the biggest, most important trophies I've ever got."



Ransher Singh Manhas

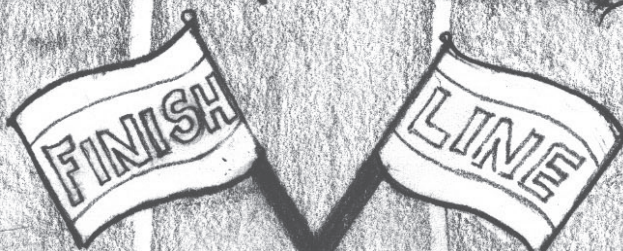


Inayat Gill

**Inayat Gill, Class 9+:** "I'm really happy because I missed it by one gold last year, and I finally got it this time. I was hurt, and it really hurt while I ran, but it was worth it."



Running Events during the Inter House Track and Field Meet





**2012 Record: Nirbhay Bakshi ran 400m in 57.92 seconds. Congratulations!**

**WHY NOW?**

**“The house spirit is stronger at the beginning of the year.”**

Ever since the commencement of the new school year there has been one question on everybody’s mind-Why is the Track and Field Meet happening in February? When asked, Vir Chopra, Games Vice Captain, was only too happy to answer: “During the October-November term there are a number of events going on besides the Track and Field Meet. In school we have the India Today Debate and Founder’s Day. On top of that, there are a fair amount of tournaments outside school. We don’t want to make our athletes choose.” In the past few weeks, all P.E. teachers have noticed greater team spirit amongst the houses. “It’s really great to see all the houses unite this way. It seems to be as though the house spirit is stronger at the beginning of the year”, says Mr. Seth. The most important reason however, is that if the event is held at the beginning of the year the points can definitely be included in the Subject Award and Excellence Award tally. Keeping all this in mind the date has finally been set for Friday, 17th February 2012.

-Pia Kochar, 10

**Kid of the Week**

This time we interviewed **Ransher Manhas**, the **Head Boy of Junior School** about his expectations and ideas in 2012.

*Q. How did you feel when you were told you are the Head Boy for Junior School?*

A. It was really exciting. I was expecting it, because in my opinion I thought it would mostly be between two other boys and me. When I wasn’t announced the Games Captain or the Red House Captain, I was a bit worried though.

*Q. Do you feel pressurized?*

A. It feels like you can’t really make a mistake. But it’s not bad because I really enjoy bossing around and being looked up to.

*Q. What do you look forward to this year?*

A. I really want to win more competitions for our school! Sports Day is in February this time and I’m hoping to win Athlete of the Year. I felt really bad when I wasn’t awarded that last year because I missed it by one point! So I’m really aiming for that.

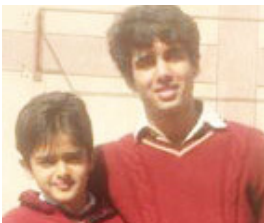
*Q. Are you looking forward to Senior School next year?*

A. Yes. Mostly because of the sports events, I’m going to try all. Also, my brother is there as well, even if it’s only for a while.

*Q. Would you say your brother has had any influence on you?*

A. Yeah! I’d say he’s made me better at everything

*As told to Vasudha Dixit and Sharanya Thakur*



**Ransher with his brother, Aryamman Singh Manhas**



**BLAST FROM THE PAST**

**VVIQ**

In light of the Athletic Meet, we decided to test people on some sports trivia. But not just any sports trivia, something that is exclusive to Vasant Valley. Something that everyone should know, but doesn’t. So, we asked:

**Who was the first person to ever have hit a six in a cricket match in our school?**

And these are the enlightening responses we got:

“My brother” – *Sahyr Kohli*

“Zoheb Khan” – *Amer Vaid*

“Shoaib Kohli?” – *Navia Dayal*

“I don’t know.. who hit Bobby Darling?” – *Dhruv Sagar*

“Mr. Seth” – *Abhiraj Arjun*

“VERY, VERY IQ... What’s an IQ?!” – *Ayush Vashishtha*

**The correct answer was Sandeep Chopra, from the Batch of 1999.**

**INK IT IN**

For all those who want to share their views and write for the youth of today- “**Ink it In**”, is an online writing website for students, by students. Not only will your work be viewed by children across the country giving you in-depth exposure, but you will also have the chance to get it critiqued by various eminent authors and professors from amongst the leading universities, like the Vice Dean of Columbia University.

So go visit:- **www.inkit.in**

and be a part of the magic.

(Starts from 24th Feb, 2012)

**-Shriya Gupta, 12**

**SCHOOL RECORDS**

Event	Boys	Girls
Shot Put	Harpreet Rana 14.36m 2003	Sonal Marwah 8.35m 2003
Javelin	Eshay Tobgyal 36m 2008	Vanshika Ahuja 15.9 2011
Long Jump	Sadaat Salim 5.69m 2011	Carolyn Augustine 4.80m 2011
High Jump	Gobind S. Tandon 1.70m 2004	Mehr Chopra 1.28m 2008
200m	Avie Kakkar 24.9 secs 2011	Carolyn Augustine 30.53s 2011
100m	Avie Kakkar 11.81 secs 2011	Carolyn Augustine 13.9 secs 2011



**Inter House Track and Field Meet, 2011**

## WE ARE THE 99%

On the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011 New York played witness to a calling for social and economical equality. Protestors took to the streets with the slogan 'We are the 99%.' To them this slogan was an embodiment of everything they had been denied and of the growing disparity between them and the 1% that seemed to have it all. They are the progenitors of the occupy movement.

**When we occupy a place, it is ours. When we raise posters that read 'We are the 99%' it unites us across the world.**



Poster on Occupy Movt.

Then again, to occupy, is not a new idea. Occupy Wall Street was inspired by the protests in Tahrir Square, Egypt. However, whereas in Tahrir Square, the question was of political subjugation of rights, protestors of Occupy Wall Street laid claim to what they had been guaranteed to begin with- equal opportunity for all. By October 9<sup>th</sup>, Occupy protests had taken place or were ongoing over 600 communities in the US. Though the occupy movement set no clear goals, it did help in launching national conversations about income inequality. It has created awareness and empowerment in the 99%. It has also questioned the ethics behind globalization today and brought to consciousness the capitalist in the room who had not been checked so far. Perhaps it is the imagery behind the occupy movement that caused it to spread so quickly.

-Namrata Narula, 10

## आजादी: जिम्मेदारी का पर्याय

सभी लोग आजादी की कामना करते हैं लेकिन आजादी का मूलार्थ व उससे जुड़ी जिम्मेदारियों को नहीं समझ पाते हैं। हमारे नेताओं ने अपना तन मन न्योछावर कर दिया ताकि देश की आने वाली पीढ़ी आजादी की हवा में सांस ले सके ताकि हमें गुलामों की तरह सर झुकाकर न जीना पड़े। परंतु आजादी व जिम्मेदारी एक ही सिक्के के दो पहलू हैं। जिम्मेदारी के बिना आजादी निरर्थक व हानिकारक हो सकती है। स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के पश्चात् राजनीति की पीढ़ियों केवल स्वार्थी एवं दायित्वहीन साबित हुई हैं। वोट खरीदना वेमिसाल भ्रष्टाचार का ही तो उदाहरण है। इसीलिए 65 वर्ष के बाद भी देश की समस्याएँ बढ़ रही हैं। सैकड़ों युवक साथियों के दबाव में नशीली दवाइयों के चक्कर में फँस जाते हैं जिनकी वजह से उन्हें सही व गलत का अंतर तक नहीं पता होता। क्या लापरवाही आजादी की निशानी है। क्या यही है आजादी का मतलब?



अवन्ती दिवान 9

## Soccer Camp

Soccer camp in the morning is very enjoyable and exciting. Mr. Gogoi is my coach. He is a very good teacher. Attending the camp has helped me to make new friends. The early morning camp excitement makes me forget all my laziness. My favourite soccer players are Rooney, Robin Van Persie, Dzeko etc. I wish to make a career in soccer by joining the state team. Although I am fond of cricket, soccer is my passion. Changing my sport has brought a great change in my life.



-Angad Singh, 10

## RAGE

I am the wolf that dwells in man,  
And of the devil, I'm a great fan.  
By many a name I've attained fame,  
By railing, ranting, storming  
And thundering man I maim.  
I'm known as rage,  
When man sees red, I occupy centre stage.  
In man I've existed since Stone Age,  
And his heart I pound, under his ribcage.  
When I take control, reason takes a backseat,  
And I generate a lot of heat.  
It's common to see me boil,  
And all the fun, I spoil.  
You often see me blow up and irate,  
And everything I berate.  
I fly off the handle;  
get under the collar,  
I'm up in arms  
And when I blow my lid,  
It causes great alarms.



Pushan Jain, 7

## Dude, what's this SOPA-shopa?

Keep reading some strange acronym you know nothing about whenever you go online? Does the word SOPA keep popping up whenever you attempt to rip off your homework from Wikipedia? Were you heartbroken when you couldn't download your weekly soap from Mega Video? For those of you who are oblivious to what exactly is going on online, and are wondering why at all you should care, here's a brief rundown of the current situation plaguing the internet.



The '**Stop Online Piracy Act**', commonly called the SOPA, slithering its way up the American Congress, is **threatening the pillar of free speech in America**, and in result most of the online world, and can potentially ruin the internet as we know it. It will give content producers, like production studios, newspapers, magazines and the like, the power to have any website taken down if they think the site is "pirating" their work. The SOPA will also consume a lot of jobs in the last bright pocket of the currently suffering world economy, the internet. Also, many prominent venture capitalists have said they will stop investing in online start-ups if this legislation passes. In essence, this bill may pose a threat to our very own online Mecca of social networking, Facebook too; and sadly, this is why most of you *should* care. Next time when you come across these 4 letters online, don't give them an indifferent pass. Read up, and stay informed. You can only make a difference when you have an opinion, so go online, hit search, and get one.

-Rishabh Prakash, 12

## There is no stopping Leander Paes!

-Indraneel Roy, 9+

Leander Adrian Paes is the first Indian to complete a career Grand Slam in Men's Doubles by recently winning the Australian Open. It has taken him 20 years to achieve this remarkable feat of winning all four Grand Slam titles. This clearly shows his persistence, dedication and perseverance against all odds. Paes' first magnificent career win was in 1990 when he won the Junior Wimbledon title and climbed to No. 1 in the Junior rankings. In 1991 he clinched the Junior US Open title. In 1996, after winning the Olympic bronze medal at the Atlanta Olympic games, he was awarded the country's highest sporting honour, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna. Here is a list of his 13 fantastic wins in the 4 prestigious Grand Slams- US Open, French Open, Wimbledon and finally, the Australian Open!

### Men's Doubles

1999 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi  
1999 Wimbledon with Mahesh Bhupathi  
2001 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi  
2006 US Open with Martin Damm  
2009 French Open with Lukas Dlouhy  
2009 US Open with Lukas Dlouhy  
2012 Australian Open with Radek Stepanek

### Mixed Doubles

1999 Wimbledon with Lisa Raymond  
2003 Australian Open with Martina Navratilova  
2003 Wimbledon with Martina Navratilova  
2008 US Open with Cara Black  
2010 Australian Open with Cara Black  
2010 Wimbledon with Cara Black

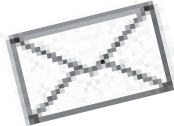


Leander Paes

## Dear Mehek,

We went for a holiday to Mumbai. We went to the beach. We found many shells and we played dodge ball. After that we went home for dinner. We had dosa and after that we played for some more time. The next day we made a gingerbread house for lunch. We had idli and then for a snack we had the gingerbread house. But I did miss you. Please write back about your holiday.

With love from



**Tanaya Banerjee II - C**

## नदी की कहानी

जब पहाड़ों के ऊपर - ऊपर  
बरफ पिघलती है  
उस पिघले हुए पानी  
से बनती हूँ मैं।  
बहुत पेड़ और नदियों  
से मिलती हूँ  
और उन सब के साथ  
दोस्ती करती हूँ।  
कोई नदी मुझसे बड़ी मिले  
मैं उसमें मिल जाती हूँ  
और कोई नदी छोटी सी मिले  
वो मुझ में मिल जाती।  
अंत में मैं पहुँचती हूँ  
सागर भैया के पास  
और मैं तो वताना  
भूल गई गंगा है मेरा नाम।

**मीराश्री गोयल चार - अ**

आई हूँ मैं पहाड़ से इधर - उधर  
डर ना लगा जब मैं गिरी

आती हूँ गाना गा के कल - कल  
पक्षियों का गाना सुनके मीठा

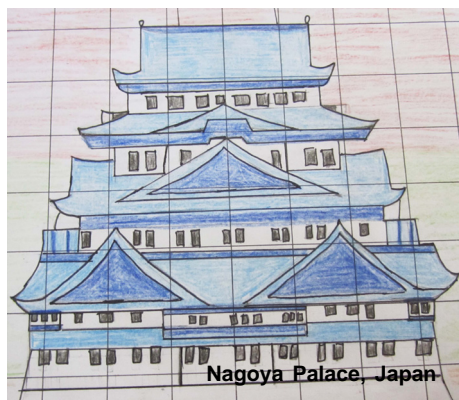
अभी तो आने वाली हैं बहुत सारी  
छोटी नदियाँ मुझसे मिलने

बड़ी नदी मिले तो  
दोस्ती कर लूँगी उससे  
चली जाऊँगी उसी के साथ गाँव - शहर  
और फिर सभ्र जाऊँगी सागर में।

**आयुषी नागपाल चार - अ**

## Mathematics and Symmetry

We studied symmetry, coordinates, and enlargement and this describes our journey. First our teacher told us about grids and how to label them and read them. "Down the corridor and up the stairway is the way" said our teacher, Mrs. Bhutia. It didn't make sense at first but it was interesting enough to pay attention! We practiced with grids for a few weeks and then, our teacher asked her husband, a professional artist, to trace out a new born leaf and enlarge it. We then got a week-end assignment to trace a new born leaf on a grid and label the grid. When we returned to class the following Monday, we read the coordinates bit by bit and started to enlarge it. It was a tough exercise! Our next task was to draw a man with no curved lines and then enlarge that on to a larger grid. For me, this exercise was easier since I only had to enlarge the boxes. To improve our skills, our teacher then gave us an exercise to enlarge a triangle, a square and a rectangle. Our next topic was symmetry. We learned about reflection symmetry first. We began with letters which we had to write back-to-front with a mirror line in the middle. After that we drew a half face and then drew its proportionate reflection. We were also taught rotational symmetry. We cut out a piece of paper and traced it. Then we held one corner of it, known as the axis, and rotated the paper. We then traced the outline at each location. We now had understood rotational symmetry. We then moved on to lines of symmetry. We were taught how to test if a line is a line of symmetry by a



Nagoya Palace, Japan

folding test. Our final assignment was to select a monument from Asia and then enlarge it. We presented our work and explained our choice of monument and what we had learned. I now feel like an expert on enlargement and Asian monuments.

**Amaaya Taneja V - C**

## If I were a bird..

I would fly over rivers and mountains and see other places. I would see the entire Delhi from top of Qutub Minar. I would meet my friends in Lodhi Garden. I would go to fields and eat different grains. I would fly over the Atlantic Ocean and go to Disneyland. There, I would meet all the cartoon characters.



**Aditya Garg III - B**

If I were a bird I would like to be free and not be kept in a cage. I could fly in the sky and my eye sight would be much sharper than it is now. If I were a peacock I would be the National Bird of India. I would keep rearranging my feathers and dancing in the rain.



**Tishya Kasliwal III - B**

## Magical Computers!

On computers you can never get bored. You can play many exciting games, see pictures and do research work. You can even paint with the help of shapes and your hands would not hurt at all. Computers are an interesting thing to work on. We can even talk to our friends on Gmail and see videos on You-tube. But you should not sit in front of the T.V or the computer for too long because your eyes can get weak. I love working on them.

**Jai Jairath Varma IV - C**



हमने सीखा अक्षर

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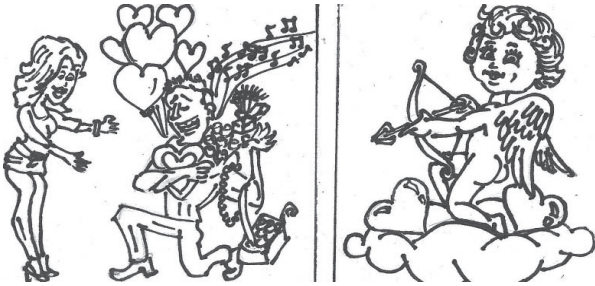
कक्षा नर्सरी

## Things To Do On Valentine's Day

As the second week of February approaches, plenty of young Romeo's and Juliet's across Vasant Valley are sure to be fantasizing about romantic ways of spending Valentine's Day with their significant others. Well, I hate to burst the bubble but whatever you were thinking of is almost definitely NOT going to happen, so here are some practical ways of spending Valentine's Day:

1. **Do some math homework** – With our busy schedules, we Valleyites rarely have time to do our math homework. If you're studying complex numbers, don't forget to 'heart' the i's.
2. **Play solitaire** – Invented in 1873, Solitaire revolutionized the genre of single player table-top card games. However, with the invention of so many first person shooters and roll playing games, solitaire has been forgotten by our generation. If you can, try making the hearts before all other suits.
3. **Do some sit-ups** – If you don't have a partner this time, maybe it's because you haven't been doing enough sit-ups. Tone your stomach and you're sure to be in luck next year!
4. **Write a will** – As Shah Rukh, Preity, and Saif taught us all in the 2003 not-so-epic-film, Kal Ho Naa Ho, you never know if you are going to die of a brain tumor or not. Therefore, you should consider writing a will. You could give all your assets to your loved one!
5. **Eat a bagel.**

-Bharat Somanathan, 10



That time will you reach the planetation? – Jaahavee Venkatraman

Right after you tell me what in God's name that exactly is.

It's so hot today, I'm freezing! – Arman Puri

Why are you on the Editorial Board, again?

My bbm pin has no numbers, its 27756523-Drishti Arya

If I were you, I would pretend to be my twin to hide myself from the embarrassment after having said this.

You know the two twin towers? – Harkirat Badal

What?! There are only TWO TWIN towers? No waaay.

She's checking my grammars, right now. – Pranav Khanna

Looks like she did a good job, then... didn't she?

Cartoons designed by: Aastha Kamra, 10

Photographs taken by: Rhea Jain, 12



V V TUBE

Go to [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) and watch the World Book Club celebrate Charles Dickens' 200th birth anniversary!

## कक्षा प्रतिनिधि

कक्षा प्रतिनिधि बनने के लिए छात्र-छात्राओं में अन्य गुण अनिवार्य हैं। एक ऐसा छात्र जिसमें प्रतिनिधित्व का गुण हो। वह पढ़ने में होशियार तथा अध्यापक की बात मानने वाला हो। अनुशासन के नियमों से न वह केवल परिचित हो बल्कि उनका अनुगमन भी करने वाला हो। गांधी जी ने भी कहा था कि "दूसरों से अच्छे व्यवहार की आशा करने से पहले स्वयं उस व्यवहार को अपनाओ।" इसीलिए कक्षा प्रतिनिधि स्वानुशासित, स्वप्रेरित एवं प्रगति का प्रतीक होना चाहिए।



अदिती सबूजा, असीस कौर, दीया विस्वास 7

## YES WE CAN!

Simon Breakspear is a leading thinker who persistently attempts to challenge the status quo and generate fresh education solutions in the 'Knowledge Age'. "The schooling system today", he says, "is based on the factory model where a 'batch' of students participate in different processes, and are taught principles of punctuality, efficiency and literacy. If any member of the 'batch' fails to provide a 'passing mark' in any criterion, he/she is sent back a year." He feels that the need of the hour is to nurture a multi-disciplined mind in the modern world. With changing times, systems need to change as well, and hence, adaptation to various environments is imperative. Mr. Breakspear realizes that a system wide movement can only be ignited when innovative transformation occurs at the grass root. Moreover, he feels that technology can play a significant role in achieving an educational system without classrooms, textbooks and a back-and-forth relation between a teacher and student. "Successful people aren't those who seek a clear run, but those who can change a failure into a new opportunity." Simon Breakspear believes in leadership with experience, success after obstacles and change through adaptation. Simon Breakspear thinks we can. Do you?

-Vandita Khanna, 12

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