

Vasant Valley TODAY

A BUNDLE OF PARADOXES ?

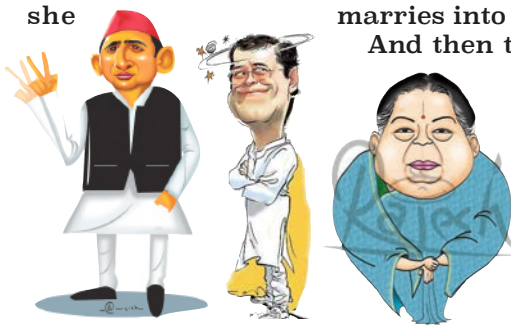
Our country has 1.3 billion people, 1652 languages and 6 major religions, so it's probably fair to say that governing such a diverse country would be a challenge. That being said, it doesn't serve as an excuse for letting the electorate down. I mean, let's face it. Our country has the most dramatic politics on the planet. It's like the most overexaggerated soap opera that could possibly exist. But worse- we have people throwing chairs at each other in what should be civil debates. Our country's esteemed politics, with its many ups and downs and twists and turns, is so drastically unimaginable that it puts the last episode of Sherlock to shame.

Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav expelled Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav and general secretary Ramgopal Yadav from the party on Friday for six years over alleged indiscipline.

The parties in India are not stable within themselves, so how are we as the public supposed to rely on them to provide stability to an entire nation? Not only that, the power is concentrated in the hands of families rather than people who are capable of attaining the same position. Our country is supposed to be one of the largest democracies in the world however, dynastic succession is the way of the parties in power. So, what is India now? A bundle of paradoxes?

“But blaming everything on the government is unfair, we are just as much at fault as they are.”

It's sad that our country still follows many unjust and primitive traditions such as dynastic succession. I mean first of all: Italy and India may start with 'I' but they are in no way similar at all. Second of all: a person with absolutely no governing experience or talent should not simply become the head of one of the most influential political parties in our country just because she marries into it.



And then there is Rahul Gandhi who needs to really learn some lessons in politics, everyone knows that anyone who says “poverty is a state of mind”, “India is 21st century Saudi Arabia”, or “Gujarat is bigger than the UK” does not deserve to be at the helm of affairs.

Jayalalithaa, an actress turned politician who still somehow managed to do justice to many of Tamil Nadu's needs, has recently passed away, and yet all the media does is point to the nearest person they can find and call them a murderer. That's another thing that really makes Indian politics so much worse, the media.

SCHOOL WATCH

Inter School Event held at Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls

8th February, 2017

Rhea Rathi - Class 9, placed 2nd in the 60 metres Flat Race

12th Vasant Valley Inter School Maths Quiz
8th February, 2017

1st - DPS Rohini

2nd - Gyan Bharti, Saket

3rd - Amity International, Saket

INTER HOUSE TRACK AND FIELD MEET

1st. Blue House

2nd Green House

3rd Yellow House

Economic liberalisation has led to enormous changes in mediascapes. The confluence of political and business interests has posed challenges to mainstream media in upholding fundamental principles associated with journalism, particularly neutrality. The increasing disenchantment with mainstream media as a credible and unbiased source has led to the emergence of alternative media as a popular source of political information.

But blaming everything on the government is unfair, we are just as much at fault as they are. First, there is the middle-class mentality. People know who will do best for the country, but they think, “How could my single measly vote make a difference?” hence thousands of people don't end up voting.

It's sad that these days, political parties have removed the choice aspect of elections. They each promise the same things, and they each fail in delivering on their promises, and it's gotten to the point that rather than choosing what will benefit you most, citizens are forced to choose between the lesser of many evils.

Sahil Kumar & Aditi Singh, 10



Send all articles/suggestions to
zoyasiddiqihassan@gmail.com
Online issue available at www.vasantvalley.org

THE 27th INTER-HOUSE

RECORDS 2017

Shotput-

Girls: Serena Bhullar - 5.65m
Boys: Pushan Jain - 8.10m

Javelin-

Girls: Ashna Sethi - 13.85m
Boys: Krishnesh Puri - 25.9m

Long Jump-

Girls: Ashna Sethi - 3.70m
Boys: Uday Sahni - 5.17m

High jump-

Girls: Arushi Bhutani - 1.2m
Boys: Rian Alva - 1.5m

100m-

Girls: Meher Kohli - 15.42
Boys: Ransher Manhas - 11.51s

200m-

Girls: Arushi Bhutani - 33.39s
Boys: Uday Sahni - 26.36



THE WORDS OF A WINNER

It's not every day that you find yourself with an explicable feeling of pride, gratitude and exuberance. And when you finally achieve what you've dreamed off, words cannot describe how you feel.

8 years ago, I found myself on that very podium as Junior School Blue house captain, cheering with all my might for my victorious house. I remember promising myself that if I was ever in that position again, I would do my level best to bring my house back to glory. Fast forward to the 27th Inter-house Track and Field meet.

Over the course of three weeks, Athletes from all houses from classes 3-12 competed with frenzied passion yet compassionate spirit to win the hearts of and the medals for their house members. As house meetings commenced early morning, the buzz was electrifying. It was impossible to miss the excitement, the determination and the happiness that lingered in the air. For all four house captains and prefects the task ahead was daunting. To inspire an entire group of students to discover their athletic abilities without getting clouded by the need to win.

It's hard to stand out when the teams are so well matched. At the end of the day, after all, a house is not just its captain or its prefects, but rather all of its members that strive to do their best. It wasn't easy for Blue house. The competition was fierce, the points tally was dangerously close but at the end of the day I believe that the self confidence of each and every athlete coupled with the unconditional support of the house contributed to a comfortable victory.

As I stood on that podium for the last time at Vasant Valley School, I did not see winners or losers, but rather I saw a legacy present itself - for Blue house to keep believing in itself and to keep trying to be better in ever aspect.

Ashna Sethi, 12



Caricatures by Ananya Jain, 12

TRACK & FIELD MEET

WHERE WOULD THE SORTING HAT PLACE YOUR HOUSE CAPTAIN?

Remember you aren't sorted by the color of your skin nor your tshirt. It is the inherent traits you have that count...



ASHNA SETHI : RAVENCLAW

This sorting hat deems the Blue House Captain beyond witty. Her intellect and cleverness stun us each and every time. She runs like a coyote and throws a mean javelin (probably the reason why it's best not to anger her). Moreover she's a science star, her brain works faster than a 100 miles a minute. With the likes of Loony Lovegood, Terry Boot and Filius Flitwick we really aren't surprised that she's a Ravenclaw.

After all "In wise old Ravenclaw if you've a ready mind. Where those of wit and learning will always find their kind."



ANANYA JAIN : GRYFFINDOR

Don't be fooled by the captain's size. She's a roaring lion at heart. While she seems gentle and rather miniscule, her fierce nature and adventurous side will throw you off guard. The sorting hat placed her in the house where courage runs amok. After all someone who can take on the challenges of a house meeting when most of the children are her height and manage to impress is someone to be seriously afraid of. She'd fit right in with Harry, Ron and Hermione.

After all "You might belong in Gryffindor where dwell the brave at heart, for daring nerve and chivalry set Gryffindor apart"



VARUN VASUDEVA : SLYTHERIN

Yes indeed this house is completely misunderstood. While he stands the only boy in a place where 'girls seem to run the world' (hi Beyonce) he stands tall and proud. His confidence and ambition and cunning wit made the sorting house place him in the house where drive and determination were born. And though we'd like to believe he was a Draco Malfoy losing the first year house cup, we'd have to say he gives the captains quite a run for their money. Well Captain Vasudeva 'He Who Must Not Be Named' did great things and great things are expected from you.

After all "In Slytherin you'll make your friends. These cunning folk use any means to achieve their ends."



SAMRIDHI HOODA : HUFFLEPUFF

The most loyal of company! And perhaps the best looking too (We don't get a Cedric Diggory every passing day and saying Diggory or Samridhi is practically the same). Most look at this house as the weakest house and they are gravely mistaken. Some of the kindest, honest, most loving and jovial people have been born within the Hufflepuff common room. This house practically breeds happiness.

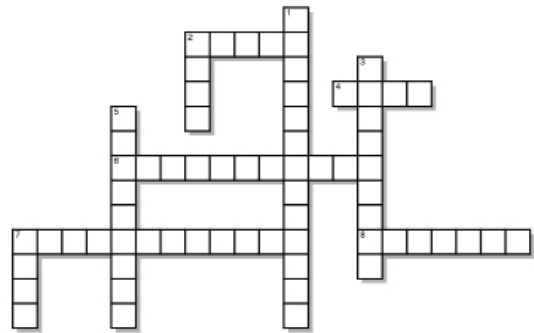
And while you think she may not have a chance as the winning captain chances are they'll find the trophy and take it home before the events even begin. Cedric Diggory, Nymphadora Tonks and the like all lived here as does she.

After all "In Hufflepuff where they are just and loyal. Those Hufflepuffs are true and unafraid of toil."

Zoya S. Hassan, 12



Athletes Crossword



Anoushka Clays, 9+

KNOW YOUR SPORTS

ACROSS

2. Surname of the Chennai Super Kings IPL Captain
4. The king may castle with this player in a game of chess
6. Someone who is an expert or who is fond of archery
7. Winner of 2017 Australian Open in Men's Singles
8. Country where Rugby originated

DOWN

1. Retired basketball players of the Chicago Bulls
2. A batsman who is dismissed without facing a ball
3. The material a soccer ball is made up of
5. A swimming stroke performed by arms moving symmetrically with legs doing the dolphin kick
7. The triangular frame used to position the balls in pool



गाने गाएँ और सेहत बनाएँ

१. भाग मिल्खा भाग - ज़िंदा
२. दंगल - धाकड़
३. इक्बाल- आशाएँ
४. चक दे इंडिया - चक दे इंडिया
५. मेरी कॉम - ज़िंदी दिल
६. रंग दे बसंती - रूबरू रोशनी
७. लगान- मितवा
८. सुलतान- सुलतान टाइटल गीत
९. राय-सूरज डूबा है
१०. मेरी कॉम - सलाम इंडिया



आरुषि भूतानि, 10

Class 3's are learning to write an information report.

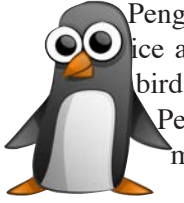
Penguins live in Antarctica and they like to eat fish.

HOW PENGUINS LOOK

They are cute and fluffy. They have flipper and wings. They have a mouth like fish's mouth.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF PENGUINS

Different types of penguins are Emperor penguins, King penguins, Adelie penguins, Chinstrap penguins, Gentoo penguins, Little Blue penguins, White flippered penguins and Magellanic penguins.

INTERESTING FACTS

Penguins are good swimmers. They lay eggs by digging into ice and warm it. They squeak and communicate. They are birds that cannot fly.

Penguins are my favourite birds. Hope you have enjoyed my report.

Pari Darmora
3A

वन के जानवर

वन होता है हरा भरा
उसके पेड़ पौधे होते रंग बिरंगे

पशु पक्षी नाचते झूमते
खेलते कूदते साथ साथ

घूमते फिरते यह जानवर
लेकिन खाते घास फूस

सुबह शाम वह करते खुल कूद
लेकिन रात को नहाते धोते

धूप छाया में पक्षी बैठते
और हवा में उड़ते झूलते

शाम को करते बहुत मजा
और शोर होता उनका राजा

स्वय मितल व हरचेत सिंह 5स

जंगल

जंगल में रहते बहुत पशु पक्षी
दाएँ बाएँ सिर्फ पेड़ पौधे

सबका होता डर वर
हर कोने में कीड़े मकौड़े

साफ सुथरा कई जंगल
जंगल में जानवर करते मौज मस्ती

जंगल है हरा भरा
जंगल में है हवा पानी

हर कोने में सुख शान्ति
और कितना सुन्दर है जंगल

कृष जैन व शिवम् शुक्ला ५अ

The Fight Of The Twin Words

One day, when Body and Soul went to see Skin and Bone they had an argument about who was a better twin word. Then Body and Soul suggested "what if we assemble all the twin words and have a competition?" Skin and Bone agreed. They gathered Tooth and Nail, Peace and Quiet, Slim and Trim among others. They hired "Grammar" to be the judge.

The first test was agility and athletics. Beck and Call won it because his mom was calling him at the end of the finish line. He was an obedient kid and he ran as fast as he could to assist her. That was the first test gone out of three. The second test was usage. Grammar calculated how many times each was used. Nook and Cranny won that because his mom called out his name about a million times. Everyone protested except Peace and Quiet. This was the second test out of three.

Now was the third and final challenge. It was most important. This last challenge was an overall test. Skin and Bone won this one.

But now there was complete chaos. Three different twin words won each of the challenges. Grammar announced the result, "Peace and Quiet wins". There was complete pandemonium, "How?" said Nook and Cranny. Grammar said, "He did not complain when others won, he just patted every winner on their back, therefore, that proves he is the most sincere, positive and dedicated twin word ever. He has won."

Peace and Quiet collected his award and said a few words - "Kindness always wins".

Amaara Dalmia, 5B

This house is made of erasers and paper.
It does the work also.

Sofiya, 2B



An alien is flying and the other alien is flying a car.

Arin Ganeshan, 2C



आज की दुनिया

ई.के. पलानीस्वामी ने तमिल नाडु के मुख्यमंत्री के पद की शपथ ली ।

किम जॉंग उन के सौतेले भाई की हत्या मलेशिया में हुई।

शशिकला बेंगलोर के जेल में कैदी हैं । उन्हें ४ साल की सज़ा मिली है ।

उत्तर प्रदेश और उत्तराखंड में विधान सभा के चुनाव हो रहे हैं । इन चुनावों के परिणाम मार्च ११ को घोषित किये जाएंगे ।

दसवें आई.पी.एल. की नीलामी २० फरवरी को आयोजित की गई ।

पाकिस्तान की वरिष्ठ सभा ने हिन्दू शादी कानून पारित किया ।

पाकिस्तान के प्रसिद्ध लाल शाहबाज़ कलन्दर तीर्थस्थान में आतंकवादियों ने किया हमला । ७५ लोग मारे गए और २०० से अधिक घायल ।



The afternoon witness two rounds of fiery debate. Participants from various schools who took part in the turncoat competitions had to think on their feet all whilst looking calm and composed. Even with their limited preparation time the speakers arguments were convincing both for and against the given motions. The event witness topics ranging from 'This house believes that extracurricular activities should be scrapped' to 'this house believes that punishment is ineffective'. After vigorous competition the days event came to a conclusion and the following were declared as the winners of the 3rd annual Vasant Valley Speakers Forum.

Aryan Sadh

Amidst yells of teachers to quieten us down and enthusiastic nudges from my fellow classmates during the race to get a chair in the conference room and then the extreme disappointment of realizing that there were none, I realised that I was being welcomed into an atmosphere of suspense, anticipation and excitement, which reflected the slight tingle in the pit of my stomach. The book discussion on 'And Then There Were None', by Agatha Christie was no ordinary one, and certainly not boring. Apart from the book discussion (of course) there were heated debates on characters and the crimes committed by them, a treasure hunt, character analysis, role playing and deep discussions, much of which made me re-think my life's decisions and made me want to go home and read this gripping murder mystery by the woman who was a mystery herself.

Reana Soni,

The topic for the Tall Tales competition this year was " I was looking at a tree, unblinking until..." The stories went from being teleported to Australia and speaking in 'kangish' to being Alice in Wonderland. Not only was it enlightening to see the impressive vocabulary of young 7th graders, it was also liberating to know that their imagination knew no bounds. While some stumbled and stuttered, there were others who were exceptionally confident and expressive while narrating their stories. Every face in the crowd was kept waiting in suspense to know what happens next, because no one could dare to predict where the next twist would come from. Overall, it was a great event and I hope it continues in the years to come as it not only provides a platform where students can compete and showcase their talent but also a place where they can be themselves.

Aditi Singh,

The ambience in Vasant Valley's usually quiet library was tinged with excitement as children from 6-8 settled to discuss Leon Leyson's riveting novel, "The Boy On The Wooden box." The participants were seated on chairs in a circular formation while the audience sat on the floor in the center, forming an ideal setting for the event. All participants had lots of interesting ideas to share and were intent on answering all the questions. The visuals, film clippings and quiz added to the enthusiasm. Having read the novel in great depth, they were all very well prepared and made insightful observations. It was a wonderful experience to have such brilliant readers who seemed to have really enjoyed the discussion. They were given bookmarks of the novel and chocolates to take home along with many wonderful memories.

Mihika Dalmia



WHAT KIND OF PIZZA ARE YOU?

the question of the century - the nation wants to know

Q1. What is your favourite pizza crust?

- A. Standard Crust
- B. Naan (Don't be surprised, this actually exists)
- C. Stuffed Crust (With Cheese, Mayo and pretty much anything else)
- D. I can't decide a favourite.

Q2. What is your pet peeve?

- A. I don't really have one.
- B. I can't pet the lions at the zoo
- C. I don't have time to eat more at that buffet.
- D. I can't choose between a white shirt and an off-white shirt.

Q3. What do you aspire in life?

- A. To get a nice corporate job and get settled.
- B. To become a standup comedian.
- C. To become as rich as Bill Gates.
- D. I don't even know what subjects I wanna choose in Class 11.

Q4. Which musical instrument would you play?

- A. A Guitar
- B. A Theremin
- C. I would conduct an orchestra
- D. A Piano

Q5. What music do you listen to?

- A. Anything off the Top 40 list
- B. Noise Music
- C. Power Metal
- D. Whatever my Parents listen to.

Q6. What was Last night's dream about?

- A. I don't dream.
- B. Living life with an upside down vision.
- C. Eating a Michael Phelps diet (12500 calories a day)
- D. Dreaming about what to dream about.



Mostly A's - You are Plain Pizza

Just like this classic, you are reliable and always dependable but sometimes drab. However, you may need to come out of your comfort zone and avoid going with the flow.



Mostly B's - You are Hawaiian Pizza

Just like this unconventional classic, you aren't afraid of standing out and showcasing your quirks and talents. However, you may sometimes cross the boundary between eccentric and flat-out weird.



Mostly C's - You are Extra Cheese Pizza

Just like the calorific cracker that is your pizza, you are highly ambitious, aspiring for everything in life and also indulgent, wanting to experience all of life's pleasures. Just make sure these vices don't get the better of you.



Mostly D's - You are a 'All-the-Toppings' Pizza

Why choose between toppings when you can have all of them on one Pizza? You might be a tad bit indecisive, but you always have something for everyone

Jay Jaganaath, 12

RED ROSE

Spring in the Valley, roses had blossomed. Regardless of the political battle, the bed of flowers sprouted against all odds; A glimmer of hope in the war torn region.

The Jawans on both sides saw them. For a moment, they reminded them of home.

But then, they were fighting for freedom.

What kind of freedom?

For some, the question arose only for a fleeting instance, gone even before it could be comprehended. For others it stayed, within their hearts like a heavy load, a weight they were forced to bear.

Red roses were the most enamoring. A red rose as a universal sign of unconditional love. Could one Jawan extend it to the other for peace? The thought had to be discarded, buried down under. Across the border stood enemies, completely different.

Freedom must be attained.

What kind of freedom?

The Jawan had been victorious in his mission. He had attacked, conquered and killed. But it was confinement really, that came with that kind of victory.

The bullet shots sounded in his sleep. War echoed, the marching, the screaming, and the clanking of the guns. The memory of the rose returned to him at that time. Amidst the war when he held an enemy at gunpoint, a flag of love.

But it had to be destroyed.

Before leaving the valley, he walked to the roses. Memories of all those who had been lost, sacrifices along the way, flashed in front of his eyes. Every emotion Kashmir Valley had made him feel reflected crystal clear.

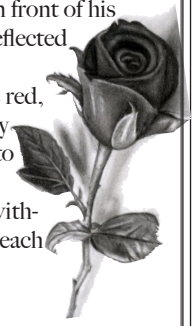
His calloused fingertips reached out towards the red, but a thorn pricked him. The cut was small, though already bleeding. A symbol of what had gone and what was yet to come.

He carried the rose with him, pressed delicately within the pages of his book, the pages that had seen and lived each moment with him during his quest for freedom.

What kind of freedom?

One that could never be attained.

- Ananya Jain, 12



अगर गैमी अवाइर्स बॉलीवुड में होते . . .

हर कोई जनता है कि ग्राम्मी अवाइर्स हॉलीवुड का सबसे बड़ा 'संगीत-अवार्ड' है। हमारे देश से शायद एक-दो ही ऐसे असाधारण, असामान्य लोग होंगे जो अपने बॉलीवुड या हिंदी गानों के लिए एक गैमी जीत लाए होंगे। क्या आपने कभी सोचा है कि अगर 'ग्राममयस' बॉलीवुड में होते, तो क्या होता? मेरा मनना है कि अगर यह कभी होता तो कुछ ऐसा जाता -

सभी बिगड़े हुए बच्चों के माता-पिता (खासकर हमारे स्कूल के बच्चे) एक फोन कॉल से टिकट का आयोजन कर लेते और बचे हुए बेचारे, इस विशेष अधिकार के बिना, इवेंट के बाहर खड़े होकर, जोर-जोर से चिल्ला कर बेयान्स, जे-जी और हमारे बॉलीवुड सितारों को पुकारते और धक्के देकर अंदर घुसने की पूरी कोशिश करते।

अगर विदेशी एंकर होते तो हमारे भारतीय कलाकारों के नामों का गलत उच्चारण करते और हमारे एंकर उनके नामों का। उन्हें हमारे मजेदार चुटकुले समझ नहीं आते और हमें उनके कई समझ नहीं आते।

पर इन सब मुसीबतों के बावजूद, मुझे लगता है कि बॉलीवुड में 'ग्राममयस' सबसे बढ़कर होते। आखिरकार हमारे अवाइर्स शो ही सबसे मजेदार होते हैं !

-सना कपूर

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