

Vasant Valley

January, 2011

T O D A Y

SCHOOL WATCH

Veeraj Jindal & Mehr Kohli won the **Class 5 English Transcription competition.**

The winners of the **Hindi Handwriting Competition for Classes 6-9** are as follows:

Ishita Dutta (6), Yashasvini Jindal (7), Aneesha Patnaik (8) and Aanya Priya Dalmia (9).

Gurbani Singh (10) has received a scholarship of Rs 5 lakhs from the Government of India.

Sidhant Nath (12) has been selected to represent India at the Special Olympic Youth Activation Seminar in Singapore. **Varun Datta (12)** has been selected as his mainstream partner.

Congratulations!

Batch of 2011

Where will they be in 10 years?

We've all seen them walking the corridors, getting into trouble, on stage. But have we ever thought about what the future might hold for this "colourful" batch? We might be wrong, but the following future careers seem pretty likely. And maybe, they'll help you get to know the batch of 2011 a little better.

Rachita Oberoi- The ultimate soccer mom.

Naushera Debu- Becoming a *sanyasi* in the mountains to gather his many thoughts.

Manika Gaur- Move over, Paris Hilton. There's a new heiress in town.

Aditya Malik- The #1 Rolls Royce dealer in Delhi.

Vaasvi Goel- Basking in the glory of inventing a new number.

Viraj Shastri- Holding a new position in the cabinet, Minister of Sound.

Ishaan Gill- With a pout like that, the new banner boy for Abercrombie & Fitch.

Shivaan Sahni- Opening a new club named after his high school girls' fan club.

Varun Srivastav- Calling his contacts to try to get into Shivaan Sahni's club.

Arjun Madan- Wine tasting at The Hyatt.

Digvijay Singh- Still sleeping in the sister's room.

Gurmehar Singh- Proud owner of the first Indian basket ball team, Singh's King's XI.

Yashvardhan Sathe- Flag bearer of the Indian Republic Day, parade proudly marching in front.

Alaap Gandhi- Manager of celebrity gym, *Gandhi's Fitness Followers*. With his shirt off.

Sumer Dhir- The next Mark Zuckerbug, with the help of Winklevoss twins Akash and Arjun Chopra.

We also asked the Batch of 2011 where they saw their batch mates ten years from now. The *Best Answer Chosen by the Editorial Board*: "Dead, because they tried to mess with the Batch of 2012."- **Jai Oberoi**

As prophesized by Juhi Bahl, Mallika Pal & Vedika Berry

Farewell

Dear Editor,

There's been a restless feeling in the pit of my stomach ever since my last issue as Editor of the Newsletter. My mind and heart are still set in the routine - one issue's out, a three-day break, and back to work on the next one. It wasn't easy getting into that routine, but something tells me that it's going to be a hundred times harder to get out of.

When I first became Editor, my predecessor told me that it would mean the end of life as I'd known it. At the time, I thought he meant that it would take over all my time, end my social life and turn me into one of those stressed corporate types one sees frantically pushing the buttons of their blackberries to avert whatever crisis was occurring, just in time for the next one. I was wrong. He meant that the Newsletter would *become* my life, a new life, and I would obsess over it not as a problematic duty, but as a doting mother over the fate of her bullied child.

I promise you that in the next one year you'll feel overwhelmed, under-qualified and panicky. I promise you that you'll want to tear your hair out because balancing the Newsletter, exams, class work, friends and all the other facets of daily life will seem a herculean task. But you just need to ride the day out (these feelings won't last more than that - you'll soon gravitate back to the sheer joy of being Editor). Remember that your Editorial Board isn't for decoration. They're highly capable and perfectly willing to help you out. You will grow to love them as your closest allies and as friends. When you're in a tight spot, never hesitate to talk to Mrs. Kumar. Even if the two of you can't figure out how to make things better, she'll help you feel calmer and put things in perspective. Rainbow Printers will come through for you in the end (they always do, those awesome people in Munirka), the issue will be out in time and you'll revel in the feel of those crisp white sheets in your hands.

I pass on the baton to you with a heavy heart, not because I doubt your capabilities but because being Editor defined me, polished me. I identify with the position because it changed me, as it will change you. I will never begrudge the Saturdays I spent in school for the Newsletter and I'll always love the members of the Editorial Board. Before I end my last ever article for a journal that has been so close to my heart, I'd like to tell you to love it. Because loving it is the only way you're going to be able to do justice to Vasant Valley Today, and to yourself.

Lots of love, Ayesha

"I was shocked. I want people to know what it [Essentials] does because no one knows what it does."- Ada Grewal, *Head of Essentials Council*

"It feels amazing to be a prefect. I hope to make essential activities and discussions more fun and looked forward to."- Rytim Vohra, *Head of Essentials Council*

"Whatever you are, be a good one."- Kartik Bhasin, *Head of External Council*

"My inspiration after becoming prefect is, 'Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.'" - Ishita Sethi, *Head of External Council*



"It's an honour, and I hope to achieve great things this year. Monumentally great. I hope to involve many more people, and well, that's the dream."

- **Vedika Berry**, *Head of Environment and Outreach Council* "Ask Vedika."

Aditya Kaushik, *HOEOC*

"I am very excited about being a prefect and hope to be able to make a change!"- **Advika Gupta**, *Head of Council*

"It feels nice to be chosen out of all the awesome athletes in our class."- **Brea Mohini Dutt**, *Head of Sports Council*

"It's going to be a lot of work, but it's so worth it when someone compliments you on a good issue, or when the kids get all excited about writing for the newsletter. The enthusiasm's contagious, and I just want people to enjoy it." - **Mallika Pal**, *Editor*

Know Your Prefects

"I feel great. Hopefully we should lift the cup this year."-

Gautam Nagpal,
Red House

"I remember looking up to all the previous prefects as role models. Now that I am prefect, I hope that I can make everyone feel the same way about me. I've always been really enthusiastic when it comes to Red House."

Megha Mehdiratta,
Red House

"I was a little surprised because I was not expecting it at all. It feels good because

of the responsibility."-

Niharika Rao,
Red House Captain

"I feel lucky to be chosen as house captain. And hope we use this opportunity J"

Mona Nooreydzan,
Yellow House Captain

"I feel good J We should come in the top 3 on Sports Day :P"

Varun Datta,
Yellow House Prefect

"I didn't believe I was house captain. I didn't believe I had to go on stage. I loved hearing 'Congratulations.'"

Priyam Deka,
Yellow House Captain

"I'm ecstatic and so happy that I became captain. We had an amazing year last year but this year is going to be even better."

Anahitaa Bakshi,
Blue House Captain

"I want Blue House to have a good year just like last year. I want us to reign because ultimately, we are the best house."

Diya Puri,
Blue House Prefect

"It felt really good, I never expected it to happen. I want to keep order."

- **Maya Goel**,
Blue House Captain

"It feels absolutely amazing. I can't wait for Sports Day :D"

Shoubhik Ghoshal,
Green House Captain

"I just want to make this year an unforgettable one for everybody!"-

Aalika Peres,
Green House Prefect

"It was completely out of the blue. At this point, my sister had become Headgirl. Both my sisters became prefects and now I feel a part of it. Last year they did a good job with Green House so I think I'm just going to follow them."

Aryan Sadh,
Green House Captain



"All the scolding from the teachers that I got because of sports was worth it when it [Games Captain] was announced."- **Jaiveer Bakshi**,
Games Captain

"My father was the best at sports. I wanted to follow him and now my dream has come true."- **Sia Dawar**, *Games Captain*

NL: What do you want to do for sports in the school?
Kuber Malhotra, *Games Vice Captain: Lead.*

"I felt really amazed! Hopefully this will help me give back to the school ☺"

Pihu Yadav, *Head of Academic Council*

"I am very happy. Pihu and I promise not only to listen to the suggestions offered by students and voice their opinions but also to take the required action to make improvements in the pursuit of academic excellence."

Shiksha Kamra, *Head of Academic Council*

"I am extremely grateful and am obliged for this position. I hope to be a responsible head of the council and set a good example for all."

Yun Hee Ji, *Head of Arts Council*

"I feel privileged. I hope to bring arts to a whole new level and would love to hear your ideas to make this year a groovy one."

Priyamvada Dalmia,
Head of Arts Council

Headboys & Headgirls

"I'm thrilled. I read somewhere once that a true leader can get people from where they are to where they haven't been. I believe that, and I want that for the school."- **Madhav Vohra**

"It's a lot of responsibility, and I hope I can meet everyone's expectations. What I want for the school is what the students want, because that's my job."

Ramya Ahuja

"Mr. Kapur said that we should make Vasant Valley a better school and we should try to do that."- **Kabir Singh**

"I think that anyone who thinks badly of the school and if what they think is right, we can change that [about the school]."

Subiya Asad

The Thirteenth Zodiac: Ophi-who?



Calling all astrology buffs: according to a news report that went viral on the web close to two weeks ago, your sun-sign might not be yours anymore—a thirteenth zodiac has been introduced into the astrological charts: ‘Ophiuchus’; or the forgotten constellation.

The news first broke when Parke Kunkle; a professor at the Minnesota Community and Technical College, discussed how a wobble in the Earth’s axis had caused a change in star constellations and therefore, zodiacs; causing the creation of a new sign, Ophiuchus, that wasn’t present 3000 years ago when the zodiacs were first determined by the Babylonians with an American broadcaster from NBC.

However, it’s not all bad news (which means you don’t need to throw out your star charts just yet.) Kunkle himself clarified that his revelation was based on 2000 year old information, and besides, it wasn’t a revelation anyway; astrologers have known about it since 130BC. Also, the news has not been formally recognized by the International Astronomical Union - so as for now, it’s just a personal suggestion offered by one astrologer. The confusion really arises because of the two schools of astrology followed by the world today. Tropical astrology, or ‘Western’ astrology; fixes the zodiac according to the tropics, or seasons - thus the twelve months, and the twelve zodiacs. Sidereal astrology, or ‘Eastern’ astrology; fixes the zodiac according to the star constellations, which means that the inclusion of Ophiuchus in the constellations has thrown the system off – we now have thirteen zodiacs - but twelve months. It is important to remember however, that the two systems have *always* differed upon the exact dates of each sign according to the Julian calendar - for example, Aries runs from March 21st to April 19th in the tropical zodiac; and April 14th to May 14th in the sidereal system (the exact dates differ based on the sidereal system actually used.)

And as for my personal opinion? I was a Taurus all my life and last week I was informed I am now an Aries (prompting all the research which you see before you now.) I also went and looked up all the characteristics for both signs and found I’m very much still a Taurus, thankyouverymuch. If the Delhi Times can ignore the new signs, so can I. I’m now a firm believer in the tropical zodiac, too. © But for all you people out there who feel that they’ve never quite belonged to the sign they were in, check out the new sun-signs. Maybe Ophi-who is really you, after all.

Vani Shriya

आत्मकथा

रात को नींद नहीं आती
घूम घूमकर एक ही खयाल आता
लिखूँ तो लिखूँ क्या?
इतनी यादें, इतनी बातें
हर महत्वपूर्ण, हर सुंदर।
क्या लिखूँ अपने वचन की पाठशाला
के बारे में
या जब राधा बनी थी मैं नाटक में
या जब मेरा पैर टूटा
और पहला फाऊंडर्स डे करते करते
छूटा।
क्या लिखूँ तीन मूवी वाला दिन
या प्रिय सहेली का जन्मदिन
पर सरप्राईस पार्टी देने वाला दिन



या अमरीका में छुट्टियाँ
नहीं तो वहाँ पर बिताए हर पल के
वारे में।
हर यह कहानी, हर यह कथा
हर यह पल, हर यह याद
है मेरे दिल के बहुत पास
लिखना चाहूँ तो भर दूँ एक-दो
किताब।।
वेदिका सिंघी

Internet Billionaires

The four quickest ways to become a Billionaire these days (in terms of ease):

- #1. Inherit billions from your parents – sounds fun, doesn’t it?
- #2. Marry a billionaire
- #3. Start a new website and generate a large Internet audience – sound familiar?
- #4. Strike oil – pretty unlikely, unless you inadvertently drill into an oil pipeline.

Forbes’ Billionaire List is filled with men and women who amassed their wealth by creating a website or search portal. The Internet has created some of the world’s youngest billionaires, possibly in the shortest possible time scale, ever.

The richest are Sergey Brin and Larry Page, the pair who set up Google and went from PhD students to billionaires in about 5 years. The youngest billionaire is 25-year-old Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook (as you would very well know, unless you’ve lived under a rock for the past few years). Almost all the Internet billionaires have common elements in their life stories. They go something like this: Born into a middle class/lower class family. Developed interest in computers at an early age. Used to dismantle and build computers in the Teenage Years

Attended a very highly regarded University Was struck with an idea for a website, and proceeded to create it OR took an assignment a little too far Website became wildly successful



Billionaire

Became billionaires almost overnight. These billionaires have always been great with computers, and while I appreciate those skills, I think it really boils down to the idea that they had. The idea should be something new, and should fill a need that no other website does.

Essentially, the website should make doing something easier – YouTube makes sharing videos easy, and Facebook makes keeping in touch with people easier. Without a great idea, their skills with computers wouldn’t have got them this far. If you come up with an idea for a website that fills a niche that hasn’t been filled by any existing website, my number is... (only joking). You should definitely pursue your idea.

All it takes is a great idea and hard work for a few years. After that, we may just see you on the Forbes Billionaire List! ©

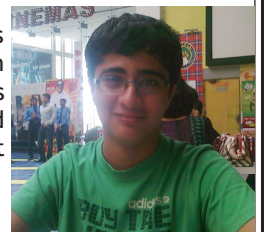
Amira Singh

Special Olympic Youth Activation Seminar

This seminar is different from the sports and games activities we usually do with Special Olympics. It aims at promoting awareness and sensitising the mainstream population to the strengths and needs of people with special needs. India’s focus is on the ‘‘R’’ word: not using the word ‘retarded’ when referring to intellectually challenged people. Sidhant and Varun are going to be part of the ‘‘R’’ word campaign.

This is the second time VVS is participating in an overseas Youth Summit: the first time was about 8 years ago when Mira Chandra, Kamna Prem and Shalini Dave went to Dublin to represent India.

Another feather in all our caps!



Movie Review: No One Killed Jessica

☆☆☆☆

In August 1999, model Jessica Lal was waitressing at a Delhi night club. Surrounded by the Delhi elite, she was shot by Manu Sharma, a powerful politician's son, for not offering him a drink. Due to the large number of witnesses, the common man thought that this was an "open and shut case". However, the naive public learnt the new meaning of power when the case dragged like a never-ending series of events.

Power - A force that can be misused in any way, to manipulate a situation. Mediums through which this can be used include bribery, using the help of political connections or other powerful people for support, targeting the weak points in a person's character so you manage to make them do exactly what you want etc.

Trial after trial, as the case was prolonged, the common man began to lose interest. Most importantly, he began to lose hope. He had become aware of the holes in the judicial system. His eyes were opened to a world where justice (no matter how obviously it is needed) can be denied. He was educated about the intensity of corruption in India. He had begun to accept the power that a politician had over the common man.

So what happened? Who awakened the common man from his slumber? From articles in newspapers, to discussions on television channels, to organizing protests and candle light marches, the media publicized this case to such an extent that it managed to once again instill that fighting spirit in the common man.

The strength of the media and the freedom of speech are tools which the public needs to be reminded of time and time again. *No One Killed Jessica* is a movie which accomplishes this task. The film manages to highlight the helplessness of the common man and the power of the media and the public through a contrast between the protagonists.

Sabrina's horrified expression as her sister gets shot, her pleading eyes as she asks the witnesses time and time again to only "speak the truth" in court, her confused expression as the police officers warn her that her sister's killer is the son of a powerful politician and that they can do "anything", and then her vacant stare as she is trying to come to terms with the fact that there may not be any justice for Jessica, are all reflections of the common man's vulnerability and defenselessness. Meera, the rebellious journalist whose exaggerated character is loud, aggressive and opinionated, is the representation of the force of the media.

The darkness in Sabrina's life balances out with the freshness of Meera's personality. The audience is not left repenting Sabrina's situation. As the movie proceeds, Meera's efforts and enthusiasm towards attaining Justice for Jessica leaves the audience feeling inspired. The dialogues are strong and crisp, the background score and the acting of the supporting cast as well, makes *No One Killed Jessica* a perfect blend of an entertaining thriller with a hidden message.

Akhila Khanna

Spicmacay Norwegian Music Workshop



Last Thursday and Friday, a group of young musicians from classes 6 to 10 got the fantastic opportunity to interact with world renowned jazz band, Associated with the Spic Macay Organization and on tour in Delhi, the artists conducted workshops in a number of schools in the city, including ours. I was fortunate enough to be a part of this brilliant affair, and had a most enriching experience.

The artists introduced us to a number of styles of music and each of their unique traits and characteristics. We experimented with the Blues, Salsa, Classical, and of course, Jazz. It was a great learning process for many of us who hadn't been acquainted with these forms of music, and we had an incredible time listening and acquiring these remarkable musical styles.

At the end of the workshop, all of us had the honour of performing with the artists and putting on a show for a few students and teachers. We performed a number of pieces we had learned and enjoyed with the musicians through the course of the workshop. The Blues on Eminor, Oye Com Ova (a salsa number by Carlos Santana), and Egseirdeg (A Norwegian folk love song) were the pieces we performed with the artists, after which the musicians performed for us, playing two lovely jazz compositions- Seven Steps to Heaven, and an improvisation by Miles Davis, a famous jazz artist. We thoroughly enjoyed the show and received a wonderful applause.

Probably the best part about the workshop was that every child there got the opportunity to play along with the amazingly talented musicians, and learn and express their love for music through multiple ways. Be it playing the guitar and piano, singing, slapping the bass, rolling the drums, shaking the tambourine or simply picking up a pair of drumsticks and banging the floor in perfect rhythm, no one was left out.

It was a most fantastic interactive session with the artists and every child left with a new song on their lips and a new beat in their hearts. It was truly an honour to be a part of the workshop.

Rishabh Prakash

Young Leaders Summer School 2010

Who knew two weeks could turn our lives around three sixty degrees? Sitting on the plane, heading towards Melbourne, we really didn't know what to expect. It was only five students this year and I'd be lying if I said we weren't petrified to say the least. But I'm so glad we took the risk. These two weeks taught us a lot. Learning to love, laugh and live with people from all over the world was the biggest accomplishment. Every day was an experience. Be it singing karaoke, ice skating, doing laundry or making the Aussies dance to Bachna Ae Haseeno and Desi Girl- we did it all. The curriculum was set up in such a way that we could have a taste of university life and at the same time become leaders of tomorrow. The classes ranged from lectures on Marketing, Psychology and Gender Roles to excursions to animation studios and even the shopping mall! I can never forget the last day of the programme, tear filled goodbyes to the friends who'd practically turned into family in the course of just fourteen days and promises to meet in some corner of the world one day. I speak on behalf of the 5 students of VVS when I thank school for creating such an opportunity and giving us the two weeks with memories that will be etched in our minds forever. A special shout out to Mr. Sukumar Koley for taking care of us and joining in the fun when required! YLSS'10 UNFORGETTABLE!

Suvira Chadha



Welcome To Class IV

As you walk to school,
 Wondering whether your new class
 would be cool,
 School will be easy,
 And not make you quesu,
 you'll have many competitions,
 To be first will be your mission,
 Your teacher will be kind,
 And help you develop a great mind.
 The visit to Agra will be great fun,
 Taj Mahal is as big as the Sun!
 At camp look forward to an adventure,
 Be careful or you might end up with
 a denture!
 School is not a chore,
 So don't be bored.
 Enjoy class four,
 And be ready to 'Rock and Roll!!!'

Kabir Singh V- B

My Journey in Class IV

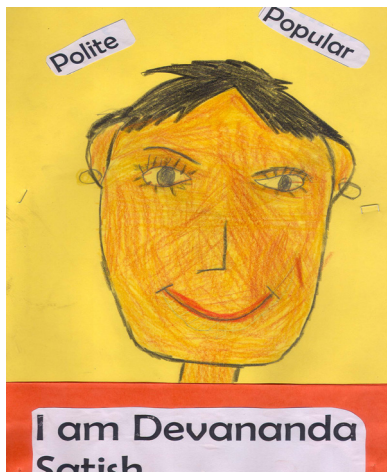
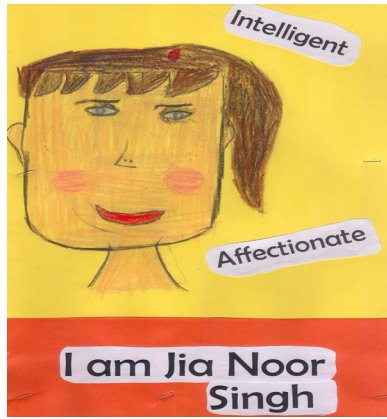
My time so far in Class IV
 Has made me think and explore
 Gosh, I have I never felt like this before!

We have been learning about
 The British Raj and even got
 to see the magnificent Taj!
 My teachers have been the best so far,

I can compare them to a Ferrari car.
 They are cool and oh, so smart
 And, of course, they are full of heart.

I have loved my time in standard IV
 I wish there could be lots more.

Raul Singh V-C



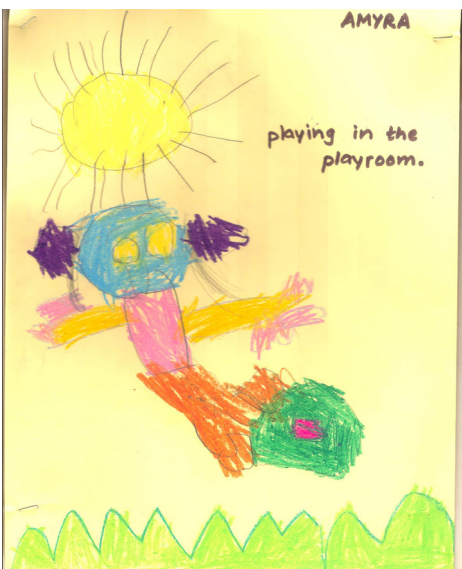
That's Me

My mother tell me that 21st September 2001 was the happiest day of my parents life. On this day they received a small bundle of joy, who they named Rabiya after a great sufi saint, Rabia of Basci and that's me. I am now nine years of age. I live in Gurgaon with my parents, Rajeev and Ranjana. I study in class 5 at the Vasant Valley School. I have many friends but my best friend is Yashoda. Like most kids I like ice-creams and candy. But I am allowed to have these only in the long vacations. My tonsils get inflamed very often and visiting the doctor upsets me. I enjoy reading, art and craft activities and gymnastics. My favourite authors are Roald Dahl, Enid Blyton and Michael Morpurgo. I was ecstatic when I won a bronze medal in the Delhi State Gymnastics Competition.

Besides this, my other activities have been a silver medal in the Gurgaon Abacus Contest. My parents have influenced me greatly and I adore them.

I have travelled to many places but I like Hyderabad and Jaipur the best in India and America and Singapore the best abroad. I tend to be short tempered and lose control when I am angry. I have a good memory and I enjoy maths. I really wants to be a sports person and a Gymnast like Nadia Commeniechi. I want the world to be a clean, safe and happy place to live in and that can be done by putting a stop to activities that cause pollution and global warming.

Rabiya Gupta V- A



theplaylist

♪ Syllables- Eminem, Dr.Dre, 50 Cent & JayZ
With a collaboration like this, it's tough to go wrong. The song is hilarious and talks about how lyrics don't matter anymore, only the beat does.

♪ Youtopia - Armin Van Buuren feat. Owl City/Adam Young
This is one of those feel good songs. Every bit of the song is bubbling with a very good vibe. Although Adam Young's vocals do tend to get on your nerves at times.

♪ Choose - David Guetta feat. Ne Yo and Kelly Rowland
Starts off slowly, however it picks up with a typical David Guetta-ness. Very catchy and upbeat.

♪ Kick Us Out - Hyper Crush

People say Hyper Crush's remixes are better than their originals. This song proves them wrong. Probably one of the most fun songs on our playlist.

♪ Light Up The Night – The Black Eyed Peas
Although not living up to the standards set by The E.N.D., this song is just above average. A very laid back yet jumpy beat, infused with decent lyrics. Slightly like Imma Be.

♪ Islands-The xx

Even though this band has received some critical opinions, we find it to be particularly enthralling. Singer Romy Madley Croft's voice takes on a pleasant soft-pop vibe, challenged by bassist Oliver Sim's momentary interruption of the 'divine verses with four short thumbings.'

♪ Rescue Me-You Me at 6 feat. Chiddy Bang

Like most punk bands, YMA6 seems to be drifting towards the hip hop and rap scene. The singing is outstanding; your usual powered up and fun beat, but the rap completely throws you off track. It's the kind of song that will grow on you. (This song will not be featured on their upcoming album)

♪ All Of The Lights-Kanye West feat. Drake and Tony Williams

Easily one of Kanye's best, but what else can you say when the song has Drake featuring in it. A welcome change from the series of 'just average' songs, this one also seems to be the perfect description of Kanye's attitude. An alternative version of this song was also done with Rihanna.

♪ For You, And Your Denial-Yellowcard

Pretty classic Yellowcard. They seem to have picked up right where they left off with fans feeling like they never left. Not changing their style, sticking to what they're comfortable with and what they know their fans love, the band is getting ready to release their seventh album.

♪ Nothin' On You, Love the Way You Lie, Empire State of Mind, Need You Now-Patrick Stump

The Fall Out Boy Frontman took it upon himself to create an accoustic mix of all the songs currently featuring on the nominees for the Grammy Awards and produced something that is.. err, a little different. His range is definitely impressive and shows off his talent but it's his dance moves in the video that grab all the attention! Be sure to have a look.

Sharanya Thakur & Pia Kochar

VVIQ

With republic day just gone by, and most of us spending the day asleep, we decided to ask the students of Vasant Valley, 'What is a Republic?'

"Republic day is the day my birthday is." - Sahyr Kohli

"Some chapter in our pol science textbook." - Kabir Chhatwal

"You mean One Republic , craziest band ever." - Raghvendra Narang

"Ask Mrs. Joshi. " - Pranav Khanna

"A country without Hitler." - Sahil Suhag

"A republic is a country that celebrates republic day." - Osho Singh

"A public which re-unites." - Udai Chawla

"A republic is something you can do in public." - Arnav Nath

"Banana republic." - Aishwarya Singh

"Oh! Oh! I know this, I know this. Lol just kidding, I'm too busy playing black ops to care." - Ishan Bahl

"Repetition of the same public in a different place. No, repetition of the same place with a different public. No... am i even making sense?" - Inayat Gill

t's okay, none of you make sense. A **republic** is a state under a form of government in which the people, or some significant portion of them, retain supreme control over the government. The term is also understood to describe a state where most decisions are made with reference to established laws, rather than the opinion of a head of state. Our country was made a republic on the 26th of January, 1950 and is celebrating its 61st republic day this year.

P.S: For the record, most of the students knew the answer. We chose these ones just for laughs. ☺

As told to Vasudha Dixit

Bargaining- An Art

Bargaining is an art. It is truly a skill!

Now we all must have been told at some point in our lives by our parents or teachers that money does not grow on trees and that every rupee counts. This is completely true. Every paisa counts! So if we consider all this, bargaining is definitely a good thing. That 100 rupee note that we carry in our wallet has been hard-earned. We have worked hard for that money. So why should we spend it without a struggle or fight? Even if we can save 1 rupee, it is a big deal. Why should we spend too much for a cheap good for which we should actually be paying much less?

Bargainers fight for every rupee as if their lives depended on it. Eventually under a barrage of words from the stubborn buyer, the tired shopkeeper is forced to concede. Sometimes however, the buyer doesn't get his way and the price is not brought down by the equally stubborn shopkeeper. In such a situation, the buyer simply moves on to the next shop, prepared and ready to harass the next unfortunate shopkeeper. Here are a few Bargaining Tips:

#1. Start off by wishing the shopkeeper and complimenting him/her. Compliment the shopkeeper's clothes, hair or model-like looks. This has a chance of softening the shopkeeper up and also of making him/her like you. A little 'buttering-up' never hurts anyway! #2. Now stop the complimenting and slowly get down to business. Sweetly ask the shopkeeper the price of the good you want. Ask him/her to reduce the price or bring it down. Make sure you ask nicely. Of course, if it is a reasonable price, there is no point bargaining unless you simply want to harass the shopkeeper and enjoy yourself while doing so!

#3. If the shopkeeper agrees, whip out your wallet and hand him/her the small sum of money. Then walk away happily with the good that you wanted. Your bargaining has been successful. However if the shopkeeper disagrees, things become a little more complicated. Now change from a sweet, nice buyer to a hard, stubborn one. Pressurize the shopkeeper. Remain strong. Do not budge or relent. Keep arguing until finally you reach a price which satisfies you to a certain extent. A price that you don't mind paying.

#4. Relatively satisfied with the price you now have to pay, you have two options. Firstly, you could simply pay the shopkeeper the required sum and leave with the good you wanted. Or secondly, you could make the shopkeeper suffer for not bringing the price down by just walking away and choosing not to buy anything. Thus all the time the shopkeeper spent arguing with you, will prove to be of no use!

So when you go to buy something next, don't forget to bargain!

Ishan Sardesai

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