

# Vasant Valley

July, 2011

T O D A Y



**Nikhil Pandhi was both the Delhi topper in Humanities and Vasant Valley School topper in the CBSE Board Examinations 2011 with an aggregate of 97.5%**

## SUBLIMINAL CHORD

Unlike most others in the Class of 2011, I could never get myself to come to terms, emotionally, with the fact that school had come to an end. The poignant realizations of the last camp, the last Founder's Day, the penultimate assembly, the eventual lunch... sure I'd been-there-done-that, but that distinct emotional rupture had forever eluded me. Surely I'd imbibed as much from the rough, beige walls as everyone else had, yet I had felt quite a stranger to the emotionally tweaked embraces and farewells that lined the end. Fine, I'd been inexpressive! Coconut-ish (if you like)! But despite it coming to its culmination, perhaps I had known that school was not over. That it would never be.

A few months later, the boards having become recent history, a mentally fatigued mind would want to sleep more, much to the contempt of a compulsive body that would awaken early-morning. Despite having the whole day at my disposal, *nashta* would be eaten in some 10 minutes post 9a.m. When the cupboard would be opened, in spite of the eclectic casuals lining the shelves, the eyes would dart at the small corner where two khaki pants would be lying folded; relatively newer occupants than the faded khaki shorts (and shirts) to whom this almirah had long been a familiar dwelling. The thought of 'choosing' what to wear on this bright day of emancipation would pass onto me an obscure burden that I'd never have felt before. Come afternoon, at a family lunch, and I'd have to coax myself to stand tall and straight (and not miss hunching under a weighty bag of school-books)... How much more emotionally complacent could I have been?

And then it'd strike me a few more days down the line when I'd pull my hair, deciding between Economics at SRCC or History at St. Stephens', that I'd think of Vasant Valley and the kind of

person it had made out of me. The Freedom it had given me, to listen to my heart, to question, to challenge, to look at conformity as just one of the alternatives (and not the imperative), to dream, to excel, to help, to learn and to be myself... indeed, this was what would guide me. Far from being one-off, the subliminal chord would strike yet again. This time when I'd find myself admitted to college. The imposing red façade, the cut-throat competition, the seniors, the interview lists and the maxim, 'Ad Dei Gloriam'. I'd find my breath, bated. My stares, timid. My gait, gingerly. "Am I ready for this?", I'd ask. And after a moment of thought I'd walk into the premises, knowing that VVS always had a hand on my shoulder.

*Nikhil Pandhi (VVS Alum '11)*

## Movie Review: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part II ☆☆☆☆1/2

In my previous movie review, for part one of the finale of this magnificent series, I said it was the "Best movie adaptation of the seven Harry Potters" – and I'll admit now, that I was wrong. Part two was simply... *more*; in every sense of the word. From the moment go, the audience was left clutching to the ends of their seats, breathless as this wonderful, thrilling, exhilarating rollercoaster ride of a movie gathered momentum and sent them spiralling into the Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

The movie begins deceptively slowly, but, unbelievably; on an even darker note. There's a sense of something building throughout the movie, all adding to this breathtaking crescendo of fear and action and despair and hope and love and hate and everything that leads to the inevitable conclusion: the death of Voldemort. The film has a somewhat slow and sombre beginning, with the trio at Shell Cottage, plotting how to break into Gringotts. Fifteen minutes later, however, your heart is going thud-thud-thud at an alarmingly fast pace as they hurtle down into nothingness from atop a Gringotts cart into a cave: victim of the Thief's Downfall. Another action-packed ten minutes ending with an escape atop a Ukrainian Ironbelly doesn't do much more for the nerves either.

This movie is more urgent, more intense; with much more happening; which doesn't leave much room for the romance and the character development; as the previous ones have. The job that Harry, Ron and Hermione are left with is immense: find and destroy three Horcruxes and kill Voldemort within 130 minutes of screen-time. Whatever little snippets of emotional scenes remain however, seem to intensify in their poignancy for it. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience when we see Snape's memories; for one, and a fair bit of hooting and hollering when Ron and Hermione finally, FINALLY kiss. An equal amount of applause greets Mrs. Weasley's iron determination to protect her daughter. There is an amount of levity too; the scene in the Room of Requirement when Harry, Ron and Hermione meet to recover Ravenclaw's diadem while being chased by Draco Malfoy and his cohorts is the right mix between hilarious and thrilling. "That's my girlfriend, you numpties!" may go down as the funniest line in the series.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## SCHOOL WATCH

Students of **Class 11** have collaborated with the Hewitt School, New York on the **20-20 Challenge Program** on the theme of Water Pollution. They have created a website and an interactive blog viewable at -

[http://www.vasantvalley.org/vasantvalley/20\\_20Challenge/Home.htm](http://www.vasantvalley.org/vasantvalley/20_20Challenge/Home.htm)

**Gurbani Singh (10)** has been selected to be a part of Indian Team in the **32nd Asia Pacific Junior Golf Championship** from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

The Vasant Valley Soccer Team (under-17) captained by **Brea Dutt (12)**, is participating for its first time in the national levelschool tournament, **Subroto Cup**, organised by the **Indian Air Force**

**Shridhar Hari Singhania (6)** participated in the **National Chess Championship** and has achieved a World Chess Federation rating of 2046 and 441 in the under-12 category worldwide and India respectively.



Cherry, an abandoned Boxer puppy saved by Friendicoes

## Community @ Vasant Valley

### FRIENDICOES' SECOND HOME

Friendicoes SECA opened up about thirty one years ago in a mere seventeen square foot premises in a shop in the Jangpura extension. Today, the shelter has grown to about triple its original size, along with a country sanctuary to house its permanent residents. It also runs a vast ABC program to control stray dog populations. Besides this, the organization also looks after and finds homes for abandoned and rescued animals, and runs a mobile equine clinic.

A lot has changed in these past thirty one years, but not the devotion of the people in the organization. In addition to all this, they have decided to open an Old Age Home and Adoption Center separate from their city clinic. Of late, the clinic has been flooded by all sorts of pets- St. Bernards, Labs, German Shepherds, Spitz, Poodles, whatever you can imagine. Not just on the basis of breed, but they even differ in age; some are up to ten years old while others are just a few months. These animals are tied up outside the shelter, left on the roads or brought in by 'owners' who are leaving the city. Though the shelter has a number of resources, these dogs are proving to be a drain on resources meant for stray animals.

Because of this newfound pressure on the city shelter in terms of space, manpower required and money, volunteers have started a fund especially for an Old Age Home and Adoption Center separate from the city shelter, and are aiming to collect Rs. 3 lakhs in the span of eight weeks. This is all for the down payment on the rent of the property, which is to be leased for the project and on to fund the infrastructure that will be required.

The organization has already managed to rally up a number of volunteers to help with the cause. Now, it's your turn. Save these animals and give them hope for their very own happily ever after. If you are interested in donating to the cause please email Tandrali (tandrali@friendicoes.org) or Cara (Vasant Valley Alum '07, caratejpal@gmail.com).

Pia Kochar, 10

### THE HAPPY SCHOOL: A SUMMER WELL SPENT

True to its name, The Happy School is a small institution full of smiling children. It looks like just another government school from the outside, but the students, teachers and the general environment reflect a whole other story. Started as a humble initiative by a few women to educate the children of workers in a colony under a tree, it was recognized by the municipality who offered an abandoned school building up for adoption by them. The success of the endeavour is reflected in the fact that the school is now a second home for more than two hundred children, five to twelve years old, for the first half of the day. It was with these wonderful children that I spent very fulfilling mornings almost every day for three weeks, this summer. Looking back, I can think of no better way to shake off my summer daze and languor early in the morning than entering class 1-B and being greeted by a room full of eager children chanting "Good Morning, *did!*", in the cutest way possible. At first, I was just an add-on teacher, helping with whatever was being taught in English, Hindi or Math. I tried to remember my own class 1 days, to figure out how to make classes fun for them and more effective. Slowly, as I began to understand the children and what could help them learn, I tried out new methods; which even involved me doing a little vegetable shopping one morning to aid that day's English class. The children there had all kinds of academic problems, ranging from pronunciation to an inability to understand colours. Every day had its own frustrations and excitements, testing the limits of my patience and the extent of my creativity and understanding, but the love and respect the children showered on me was worth every minute. My attachment to the students was so much that on the last day before their summer vacation, I felt what can only be described as the pain of parting as I watched them take food in their tiffins at the end of the day and set off on foot for their homes.

Ramya Ahuja, 12

### SANKALP: A PLEDGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Two months ago, my friends and I decided to volunteer at the Sankalp School in Sushant Lok. Sankalp is a registered NGO that aims to provide free primary education to underprivileged children, particularly children of construction laborers', rickshaw pullers and vegetable vendors.

In 1996, Gurgaon was plagued by a construction boom and the labour force increased tremendously. Commander K.K. Choudhary, a retired naval officer, saw the plight of the children of these labourers. He started a single school with a mere thirty children whom he himself, and a few others, taught under a tree, christening it 'Sankalp', meaning promise. From thirty children under a tree with one teacher and a blackboard, Sankalp now has nearly eight hundred children in three schools across Gurgaon, and twenty staff members.

Sankalp focuses on overall development of the children, and children are taught not only the subjects of the Haryana board, but also music, art and craft, and computers. In addition, the students are provided a nutritious midday meal.

The school also provides regular health, dental and eye checkups for all its children. The school itself is functional till class 5, after which students are mainstreamed into nearby government schools, and all their educational expenses are met by Sankalp. The management and administration committees, as well as the co-founders, donors and sponsors, unite under the slogan "*Shiksha aapka hak, padhaana hamara sankalp*". Students from various schools support Sankalp and volunteer on a regular basis to aid teaching and extracurricular activities. Sankalp has not only brightened, but also saved, the lives of thousands of children, and continues to work tirelessly towards a better future. If you ever happen to visit the school, you will sense hope and happiness in each child, whether it's when they urge you to play hopscotch with them, or sing with them, or when they greet you with a smile on their face and a glimmer in their eye.



Students of Sankalp

Anjini Gupta, 10



## opinions

### NEW DELHI FOLLOWING IN NEW YORK'S SHOES?

According to the Union Health Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, sexual relations between men are not only "unnatural" but also a "disease". He continued to say, "this disease has come to India from foreign shores, and Indian society needs to be prepared to face it. Unfortunately, the number of such people is increasing by the day." In my opinion, the fact that his words actually represent widespread opinion in India, is what is *unfortunate*.

The press has reported many same-sex marriages, mostly between lower middle class young women in small towns and rural areas. SMS GupShup, known as the largest mobile social network in India conducted a Voice of India poll in June asking users, "Do you think same sex marriage should be legalized in India?" Of the nearly 8,000 respondents, 31 percent said they support legalizing same sex marriage and 69 percent said they oppose it. While this shows an increase in support for Same Sex Marriages in India, it is important to keep in mind that the respondents to this poll do not, by a long shot, represent the majority of India. Homosexuals are being increasingly accepted in social situations in urban India, such as at nightclubs, and they even have online dating websites. Once again though, this trend towards acceptance and tolerance of homosexuals is only being seen in the middle class urban Indian. However, there is much more to India, than what is in the cities.

In the United States of America, a society that is undeniably less conservative than ours, same sex marriages are allowed in only five States. Legally in India, women and men are given equal rights. In practice however, even this right, for which the battle has been fought for *many* years, is not truly and completely implemented. Here, some parents go so far as to kill a son-in-law, of whom they don't approve. Imagine their reaction if they were getting a daughter-in-law? Indian society is not ready for same sex marriages to be allowed. We've come a long way in regard to acceptance of homosexuals, but there remains an even longer way to go. Changing laws is relatively easy; changing perceptions and mindsets is infinitely harder. As of now, we need to work on opening our minds and hearts towards homosexuals, and becoming increasingly comfortable around them in social situations.

As for Mr. Azad's comment, I'd like to quote a joke that highlights the absurdity of it:

*If homosexuality is a disease, let's all call in queer to work: "Hello. Can't work today, still queer." - Robin Tyler*

**Amira Singh, 11**



Participants carry a flag with rainbow colours during a gay parade in New Delhi

## GRIM(MS') FAIRYTALES

Initially narrated at gatherings, fairytales were a form of entertainment initially meant for adults; a genre of storytelling relying on stereotypical motifs, dark imagery, and sexual innuendos. Stories such as Beauty and the Beast weren't tales of happily ever afters, they were tales of lust and bestiality. Women relied on their beauty pull them out of their misery, while men were brave and strong. Over time, different people such as the Grimm brothers put pen to paper, and produced written versions of these stories, and so a new genre was born. Fairytales emerged as a new form of entertainment, meant mostly for the ears of children. These stories are characterized by their happy endings, but they aren't just about that, not anymore at least. Children have begun to confess to being traumatized by fairy tales. Often, children find themselves having nightmares about being caged and roasted alive (Hansel and Gretel), trapped by a monster (Beauty and the Beast) and for those who have them, killed by their step mothers (Snow White).

While watching the Disney movie Aladdin, it is hard not to notice the Arab stereotypes presented. Jaffar, the villain, is bearded, has a bulbous nose, sinister eyes and speaks in an Arab accent, while Aladdin, the hero, speaks in a posh British accent. Another stereotype is the Lion King, in which Scar is darker in color than the other lions, and the hyenas (portrayed as unintelligent, evil minions) speak in a Hispanic accent as opposed to the lions, who speak clear English.

In French slang, when a girl lost her virginity it was said that *elle avoit vu le loup* — she'd seen the wolf, red was the color of sin, blood, and scandal; and so the infamous story of Little Red-Riding Hood was born. A Parisian engraving accompanying the first published version of the story in 1697 depicts a girl lying in bed beneath a wolf. Another example is the original Sleeping Beauty, in which she was not awoken with a kiss, but was rather raped by the prince and left pregnant. "Rock-a-bye Baby, In the tree top; When the wind blows, The cradle will rock; When the bough breaks, The cradle will drop; And down will come baby, Cradle and all" Why would you put your baby to sleep by singing about death? Vocabulary and imagery need to be questioned. Things are not always the way they appear to be and not everything can be nullified by "and they all lived happily ever after."

**Namrata Narula, 10**



Little Red Riding Hood in Bed with the Wolf by Gustave Doré (1832-33)

## एम. एफ. हुसैन की निपुणता

मकवूल फिदा हुसैन भारत के सबसे लोकप्रिय और विवादास्पद कलाकार थे जिनके कार्यक्षेत्र, रुचियों और धुनों का फैलाव आज भी बहुआयामी है। 95 वर्षों की सफलता को अपने कंधे पर उठाकर श्री एम. एफ. हुसैन 9 जून 2011 के दिन स्वर्ण द्वार को प्राप्त हुए।

चित्रकला में हुसैन का सराहनीय योगदान कुछ वाक्यों में बयान नहीं किया जा सकता क्योंकि उनकी सफलता की महिमा असाधारण है। 60,000 से भी अधिक चित्रों के रचयिता को 1955 में प्रतिष्ठापूर्ण पद्मश्री 1973 में पद्मभूषण व 1991 में पद्मविभूषण से सम्मानित किया गया था। उनकी पहली फिल्म 'चित्रकार की दृष्टि से' को बर्लिन उत्सव में गोल्डन वियर से पुरस्कृत भी किया गया था, परंतु संसार के 500 सबसे प्रभावशाली व्यक्तियों में से एक हुसैन सादगीपूर्ण व्यक्ति होते हुए सदैव गर्व सहित नंगे पैर दुनिया की सैर करते थे। अपने अनुभवों के माध्यम से हुसैन अपनी जीवनरेखा को चित्रों में प्रदर्शित करते थे। चित्रकारी के कलात्मक धार्मिक व पौराणिक तत्व हुसैन के आदर्शवादी व समर्पित स्वभाव के बारे में बहुत कुछ दर्शाते हैं। 1940 से ही उनके प्रत्येक प्रयास ने कला की मौजूद धारणाओं को परिवर्तित करते हुए एक नवीन कलाशैली को रूप दिया है जिसके कारण वे संसार के सर्वोत्कृष्ट कलाकारों में गिने जाते हैं। दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ चित्रकारों से प्रेरणा लेकर एम. एफ. हुसैन ने भारत के सबसे प्रतिभाशाली कलाकार बनने में कोई कसर न छोड़ी। चाहे भारत में अथवा निर्वासन पर उनका हृदय अपनी जन्मभूमि में था है और सदैव रहेगा। भारतीय चित्रकला के साथ एम एफ हुसैन का नाम स्वर्ण अक्षरों में हमेशा जुड़ा रहेगा।।

वदिता खन्ना 11 अ



## सिंगापोर यात्रा एक वर्णन



ग्रीष्मवकाश में मैं जून मास में अपने परिवार के साथ सिंगापोर घूमने गया था। सिंगापोर पहुँचने पर अपना सामान लेकर हम टैक्सी में बैठे और होटल की ओर प्रस्थान किया। वाह! कितनी अच्छी और चौड़ी सड़कें थीं। गाड़ी सरटि के साथ दौड़ रही थी परन्तु एक भी हिचकोला महसूस नहीं हुआ था। सड़क के दोनों ओर रंगविरंगी फूलों से भरी डालियाँ झूम-झूम कर हमारी स्वागत कर रही थी। प्रथम दिन हम सब यूनिवर्सल स्टूडियो की ओर निकल पड़े। इस विस्तृत स्टूडियो का निरीक्षण करते हुए हम लोग एक ऐसे कक्ष में पहुँचे जहाँ चित्रपट पर होने वाले अनेक आश्चर्यजनक एवं अविश्वसनीय कलाओं के तथ्य को व्यक्त किया गया है। उसे देखने के पश्चात बुद्धि पर पड़ा भ्रम का आवरण दूर हो गया और सारा रहस्य स्पष्ट हो गया। समुद्री डाकुओं के बीच हमने वहाँ युद्ध देखा जो बड़ा ही रोमांचक था। एक दूसरे पर बारूद बरसाते हुए वे एक छोर से दूसरे छोर तक अपने जहाजों को दौड़ा रहे थे। बारूद से उस जलाशय में आग लग गई, जो दावानल के समान फैलने लगी। यह सब हमने प्रत्यक्ष देखा और इस प्रकार के कलात्मक दृश्यों का रहस्य भी जाना।

अगले दिन हम सेंटोसा आइलैंड गए। दूर दूर तक फैली मखमली घास और लहलहाते वृक्ष मन को आनंदानुभूति प्रदान कर रहे थे। इस विशाल आइलैंड में हमने जलचर जंतुओं के भिन्न भिन्न करतव देखे। सील वेहल डोलफिन मछलियों प्रशिक्षित कर उन्हें अपने अनुसार नाचते, खाते व बाल से खेलते दिखाया। डोलफिन के ऊपर चढ़कर मैंने अपना चित्र उतरवाया जिसे मैंने अपने कमरे में रख छोड़ा है। जब भी उसे देखता हूँ-बहुत गर्वित अनुभव करता हूँ। मैंने बहुत सी अन्य रोनाचक चीजों की लेकिन अभी के लिए इतना ही।

ऋषभ पेरीवाल 8 अ

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

When Siddhant and I left for Greece for the 2011 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit, we experienced an amalgam of excitement, curiosity and a bit of nervousness.

The first session of the twelve day summit didn't just match up to our already high expectations; it was much better. The ice breakers that had been organized really helped us to get to know each other, and the session on "Building Communities" afterwards gave us insights on what we could take back to India as everyone shared their thoughts. The days went on in a similar fashion, with us listening attentively to sessions and conducting some too, sharing our country's best practices with the world and learning about how to implement other countries' programs in India. Every one of these sessions taught us something new about Special Olympics and the nature of the movement. The topics of these sessions varied from "Changing attitudes for Respect" to "Starting a program in your country", and each was more useful than the next.

## One athlete who we spoke to said, "Special Olympics makes me feel like a Big King!"

There were many highlights at the ceremony of the Special Olympics World Summer Games, including a performance by Stevie Wonder, but the things that inspired us the most that night were the smiles on the faces of all of the athletes and the speech by Special Olympics' CEO Tim Shriver. If I have ever been moved by words, they were his. His speech awakened the revolutionary within all of us and motivated us to lead a "Dignity Revolution". Our goal at the Summit, from that moment on, was to bring dignity and respect to every person with intellectual disabilities in the world.

The next was when we played unified sports, that is, a person with special needs and one without, playing on the same team. It was amazing to see the teamwork, and more importantly, the joy on all the special athletes' faces. This is an experience which we believe everyone in the world deserves to have to realize the joy in the hearts of the Special Olympians.

We often visited the Games village, where the athletes were watching sports or waiting for their event. The athletes told us about what Special Olympics made them feel like, and their journey to the World Games. One athlete who we spoke to said, "Special Olympics makes me feel like a Big King!"

These are words that will drive us to make a change in the lives of all people with intellectual disabilities. What helped us to grow the most was interacting with people with and without intellectual disabilities from all over the world and hearing their amazing stories.

Varun Datta, 12

I immediately grabbed the opportunity to be selected for the Global Youth Activation Summit by the Special Olympics. The event was being held in Greece, but the selection process began much earlier. In my first interview, I was confident that I would be the selected one. From there onward there was no looking back. Varun Datta was selected as my companion and mentor and he attended a training program in Singapore for one week. This program gave me the confidence and the boost to reach for the stars.

Siddhant Nath, 12



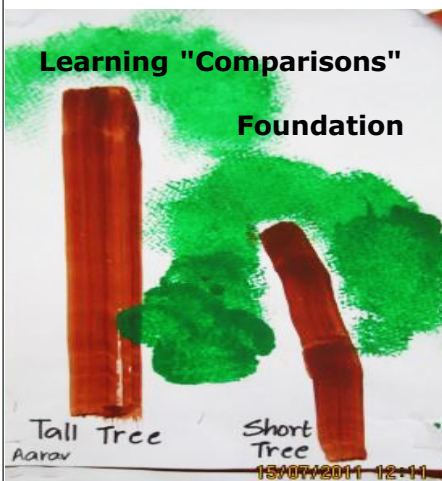
## A MONKEY IN THE CLASSROOM

One quiet morning, while the rest of my class was doing follow up in Maths with Ms. Bedi, I was getting bored so I started to look out of the window. Guess what, I saw a monkey sitting on the tree right outside my class. I gave out a shrill shriek. Everybody in the class turned around to look at me and I pointed my finger towards the monkey!

Ms. Bedi asked us not to panic but, she was too late as everybody was running all over the class. By now, the monkey had jumped down and was standing on the teacher's table. Everybody was shouting, "Stop! Stop! Don't panic!"

Suddenly, we saw the monkey run away, probably because we were shouting so loudly. Ms. Bedi kept asking us to be quiet as the monkey had gone, but she was too soft to be heard, and we kept screaming till she shut the door with a bang. That stopped us and we continued with our Maths class- What a day it was!

**Ilisha Chauhan IV- B**



## वर्षा

वर्षा है ऋतुओं की रानी  
और टपकता टप - टप पानी  
मैंने देखा बच्चों का नाच  
हमने सुनी मेंढकों की टर - टर ।  
गड़ गड़ बादल करते जाते  
मोर चारों ओर नाचते  
सबको वाहर में ले आती  
और समोसा गरम खिलाती ।  
**अनंतवीर बादल चार - अ**

## बारिश

टप टप करती बूंदें आई,  
ठंडी हवा साथ में लाई ।  
दिखती है बहुत हरियाली,  
फूलों की रंग विरंगी क्यारी ।

वाहर में खेलती हूँ जब,  
मम्मी बहुत डाँटती हैं तब ।  
भर जाते हैं तालाब लबालब,  
उसमे टरति हैं मेंढक अब ।

वन में मोर नाचता है,  
दिल को बहुत लुभाता है ।  
इंद्रधनुष जब निकलता है,  
दिखता है बहुत प्यारा ।

**अनाहिता जैन चार - ब**



## SOUNDS OF THE RAIN

All the animals love the rain,  
The frog goes croak - croak,  
The peacock sings out loud,  
Like the koel.  
The loud noise of thunder and lightning  
Tells us about the rain  
The rain has gone,  
The birds start chirping  
And all we can see is a colourful rainbow.

**Jai Kapoor III- C**

## SUMMER DELIGHTS

The morning breeze is no longer cool,  
So I know summer's here  
They are filling up the swimming pool  
So I know summer's here.

My fridge is filled up with chocolate  
ice-cream  
So I know summer's here  
My mother's making me put sunscreen  
So I know summer's here.

We'll drive down to Nainital,  
with two hairy, happy dogs,  
We'll go walking in green grassy for-  
ests  
and drink hot tea in the fog.

I'll make my grandparents laugh out  
loud  
And make my uncles spill their beers,  
I'll go for adventures with my cousins,  
It's so cool that summer's here!

**Daivik J. Alva V- A**

The long summer days,  
Are hot, but fun.  
They can be exciting,  
Despite the hot sun  
Ice-creams and milkshakes,  
My favourite summer delights.  
Making afternoons nice and cool,  
They are holiday highlights.  
Sleeveless T-shirts and shorts,  
We can wear.  
And go for vacations,  
To places far and near.  
Two long months,  
Without a ride to school.  
I make my way,  
For a splash in the pool.

**Rabiya Gupta V- A**

## MY DREAM

One day I had a dream in which I  
saw myself surfing. I was surfing  
on a mountainous wave. I dreamt  
that I fought with a hundred fish.  
I loved my dream.

**Vijit Mann II- B**



**Quiz:**

**Which Potion/Spell Suits You Best?**

From incantations that protect against the dark arts to charms that will stuff a week's worth of luggage into your purse, find out which wizardly spell defines you best.

**Q1. The first thing you do when you enter the classroom in the morning is:**

- a. Look at who's with who and decide who you're going to socialize with today
- b. Look at the time table and think about which lessons you are going to sleep in
- c. Look for whether you're favourite (virtual) punching bag has finally left school
- d. You usually don't come to school so you don't have a fixed habit of doing anything in particular

**Q2. During break time you are:**

- a. Catching up on all the latest gossip and visiting the bathroom every second lesson to check whether your hair is perfect
- b. In pursuit of a perfect desk and warm, comfortable chair (even if it is a school chair) to doze off on
- c. Looking for the perfect prey to grab lunch from
- d. Lurking here and there, trying to avoid all the teachers who you promised you'd submit homework to (since January)

**Q3. If you had to make a speech on any issue you feel strongly about, you'd choose:**

- a. How dating is so complicated, and how wedge heels being back in fashion is tragic
- b. How school timings are so inconvenient and should be negotiable to suit your sleep cycle
- c. How people are too sensitive, you were only joking when you said "that" to "him"
- d. You aren't there to make the speech because you're probably doing something very justified at sister's (the nurse's room)

**Mostly As: Amortentia-** You believe in love and are most probably a descendant of the Greek Goddess Aphrodite. Looks and relationships are the two most important things your life. There is a high chance that you are extremely superficial.

**Mostly Bs: Draught of Living Death-** You spend most of the day in a trance; lost and completely oblivious to what is happening around you. You dislike the real world and prefer the perfection of your dream one. Your sole purpose in life is to sleep.

**Mostly Cs : Cruciatius Curse -**Known to be one of the 'Unforgivable Curses', you're ready to let your influence run on others by tormenting them using various (infamous and unapproved of) methods. You're often called a bully, but you're only just joking. It's not your fault they don't find you funny.

**Mostly Ds: Disillusionment Charm-** You're like a diamond, but only in the way that it's oh-so-tough to actually get hold of you. You never give up any assignments, and you're hardly seen attending classes or school, so much so that you're considered invisible, or a myth... just like the charm.

**Aakanksha Jadhav (9) and Sharanya Thakur (10)**

# Harry Potter

(Continued from Page 1)

The Epilogue to the film, '19 years later'; brings a lump to the throat; you can't help but wish for a whole new adventure for the second generation now that the first adventure has come full circle after eight films, on platform 9¾.

No amazing script however, can translate to an undoubtedly amazing movie without some seriously astounding acting. Ralph Fiennes makes a chilling Voldemort ("Only I can live... forever!") and the final battle was magnificent to watch. The twisted kinship, almost, between him and Harry, masterly portrayed by Daniel Radcliffe, was clearer than ever; and we see how both of them truly are bound to the earth by the other; and what it takes from Harry to kill Voldemort once and for all. If I had to pick another who I thought was incredible in the film, it would be Matthew Lewis, who plays Neville Longbottom. Neville goes from being a shy bumbling boy to a fiercely determined warrior; and as he raises the Sword of Gryffindor to slice Nagini into two you feel a burst of wonder and of pride at how far he has come. As the length of this review might have let on, this is a movie I could wax poetic about for ages. As a die-hard Harry Potter fanatic, I left the movie hall feeling that this, and only this, was the best conclusion to the movie adaptations of this masterpiece of fiction. The movie opened on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July; and I strongly urge any and everybody who has not seen it to drop whatever it is that they are doing and make their way to the nearest hall – fan or not. Perhaps the only thing I felt that could detract from the experience, was, ironically enough; the almost superfluous 3D. And that's a compliment in-and-of itself isn't it? This movie is so good, it doesn't need fancy gimmicks. Is this the best movie I've ever seen? Probably, yes. Will this movie serve as the bar at which I compare all future movies I see? Yes again. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part Two – the End of an Era.

Vani Shriya, 12

## Since You Asked



**Q. I was recently told by a teacher that my haircut wasn't school appropriate. I've got an appointment with the hairdresser, what style should I get? - Seriously Frazzled**

**A.** When it comes to school, boring is always better. Don't ever get hair styles that need taming during school hours. There's also another reason for keeping it simple. Unusual hairstyles are also very hard to manage.

**GIRLS:** Keeping it long is the key. All of your hair should ideally be swept up into a ponytail with not a single hair out of place. This is classy as well as school appropriate. If you want to play around with the style a bit, try getting soft layers and long bangs that can be clipped back and then literally let down and styled when you get home. Try not to get bob cuts (long in the front, short at the back) because those suit very few faces. When wanting to keep flyaway hair from irritating you, use only black clips, but they can have very tiny embellishments on them (just to add a little sparkle to your day).

**BOYS:** Just cut your hair short. No silly partings in the middle to make you look studious, no Justin Bieber side bangs that you'll have to keep flicking away (bit weird...) And definitely no growing your hair out. Girls don't like long hair on boys. It's a fact. So cut it short and don't complain. It'll be great to have during summers anyway.

P.S: Please don't get highlights... I've seen way too many of my friends get into trouble for it.

**Any school related questions? I'll answer them all at [newsletter@vasantvalley.org](mailto:newsletter@vasantvalley.org) (and even keep you anonymous if you want). You know, since you asked.**

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