

Vasant Valley

July, 2012

T O D A Y

School Watch

CONGRATULATIONS YELLOW!

VOCAL DUET

Rishabh Prakash and Pia Chatterjee (Green)

Akhila Khanna and Pooja Sawhney (Yellow)

SOLO TABLA

Priyanka Bansal (Blue)

Arnav Nath (Green)

INSTRUMENTAL

1st -Sumana Dalmia (Blue)

Ananya Jagoorie (Green)

2nd- Veer Gupta (Yellow)

GROUP SONG

Yellow House & Red House

Blue House

SOLO VOCAL

1st - Vandita Khanna (Blue)

2nd- Tulsi Sharma (Yellow)

TOP TEN INDIAN COLLEGES

1. India Institute of Technology- Kanpur
2. Shri Ram College for Commerce
3. All India Institute of Medical Sciences
4. St. Stephens College
5. Lady Shri Ram College for Women
6. India Institute of Technology- New Delhi
7. National Law School of India University
8. National Institute for Fashion Technology
9. MS University of Baroda
10. BBA Christ University- Bangalore

If you're in class 12 and you're anxious about how the upcoming months will pass, we reckon, you're absolutely normal. To be honest, the preparation for the CBSE Board exams is not as taxing as it appears to be. Since we were in your shoes a few months back, we thought we'd share some tips which might help you out.

Identify your aspirations- To begin with, you must have some aspiration in mind. It is often the destination that helps us during the journey. Identify a goal that you get motivated and energized by. For most of us in class 12, it is our dream college that inspires and stimulates us to work hard. After having a target in mind, you must strive to achieve it.

Develop a Structured Plan- Once you identify your goal, the next step is to devise a plan to support you. Create realistic work plans for different durations that you can follow. For example, if you plan to study at Delhi University, CBSE syllabus is of utmost importance. In that case, your plan should include chapters and the amount of time you wish to dedicate to each concept. Don't get flustered if all your plans don't materialize. You should aim for an 80% success rate. In our opinion, regularity is the key to academic success. It is also imperative to make sure that you keep clearing your backlog. Take the assistance of your teachers whenever in doubt. Stay back after school and utilize your free lessons. Be attentive in class, submit assignments and prepare for class reviews. Believe it or not, these small efforts really pay off in the long run.

Work hard but study smart- We strongly believe that hard work is the one and only route to your destination. However, you must be smart about your approach. Focus more on logical subjects like Math, Physics and Accountancy. Practice them regularly. Identify your weaknesses and don't be embarrassed of reaching out for extra help. At the same time, use your strengths to your advantage. Don't take English lightly either.

Behavioural Patterns- Stay mentally and emotionally strong. Be positive and convince yourself that you are capable of meeting your target. Don't get nervous when you see the acceptance rate at top colleges. Just focus on your seat and work on earning it. It sounds nerdy, but reduce your Facebook usage and Blackberry messaging nearer exams. Your peers might unintentionally end up negatively influencing you. Also, maintain a healthy diet. Stress is no excuse for overeating or starving yourself. Exercise every day to take out your stored energy. It keeps you active and helps break the monotony. When you reach your saturation point, take intelligent breaks and do activities which relax you. Go for a jog or listen to music, as you like.

Pace Yourself- Smart players don't tire themselves out before the match; they cleverly conserve their energy for show-time. In other words, gradually increase your tempo as you get closer and closer to the Board exams. Practicing questions from sample papers and getting them evaluated by your teachers will not only help in time management, but it will also boost your confidence in the second term. The last six months of class 12 are like the third lap of 600 meters where you literally sprint. This doesn't mean that you stroll in the first two laps. Be consistent but stretch yourself towards the end.

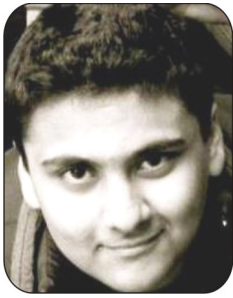
Life goes on- While you might be preparing for your board exams, the rest of the world carries on the way it always did. So, don't expect everyone to be super sensitive to your needs. Instead, collaborate with your family members to create an environment at home which is conducive to your requirements. Also recognize that there is an element of luck involved. Luck is an uncontrollable factor and hence you can't do anything about it. God forbid, things do not go as per plan, don't lose hope. It sounds like a cliché but life actually doesn't come to an end. Life gives you ample opportunities to bounce back, given you are willing to do the same!

Needless to say, enjoy class 12 because it'll never come again. We sincerely hope the above insights benefit you and we wish each one of you the very best in all your endeavours!

-Shiksha Kamra and Nidhi Jain, Class of 2012



Summer Placements 2012



Anmol Handa

I did my internship at the ANAD Foundation founded and owned by Bhai Baldeep Singh. The main thing we learnt there was the purpose of heritage conservation. Conservation and restoration of our heritage is what the foundation aspires to do. After the first 3 days, we went to work in Kapurthala, Punjab, where the main office of the ANAD FOUNDATION is located. I learnt a lot at this internship and I liked Bhai Baldeep Singh's lectures the most as they were very informative. All in all the whole experience was really enjoyable and educational.

Bharat Somanathan

I worked at the Indian Statistical Institute. My experience here was very challenging and altogether a new experience for me. I learnt what it was to work through things on my own without much outside help and how hard it is to do original work.



Aditya Srinivasan

My internship at Mail Today was very interesting and revealing. It showed me just how a media organisation is run. It was challenging but pleasing and it allowed me to use my workable skills to their full potential.

Anjani Gupta

This summer I interned at the Tehelka foundation. I interacted with juvenile offenders and drug addicts, which was eye opening. I was part of the YuvaEkta theatre workshop as well, which brings together teenagers from different socio economic backgrounds and develops street plays on social issues. Despite the sweltering heat and atrocious weather, there was no other place I'd rather be!

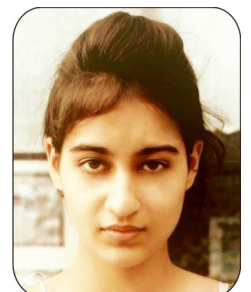


Namrata Narula

The Neemrana Music Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to garnering appreciation for western classical music in India. I acted as a program coordinator and sang in the choirs managed by this organization. Though I often found myself under qualified, it was nice to see and be around people who were so dedicated to an art that so many take so lightly.

Sanya Malhotra

I worked at Intach, which helps in restoration and conservation of Indian monuments. I also worked with Young Intach, which deals with creating awareness among children about the situation of degraded monuments. I really enjoyed my experience here as I am a history student, and anything to do with conservation intrigues me.



Udit Goyal

My internship at Popcorn Furniture (an art gallery) changed my thinking in many ways. It was the first time I was placed in an environment drastically different from my school environment. What I noticed was that even though working in a company is very different from school, there are some things like teamwork, discipline and attention, which we cannot move forward without. I understood the importance and the application of simple lessons that we learn everyday.

Let the Games Begin!

The British penchant for punctuality, planning and organization is well known. India certainly needs to take a leaf out of its book as our Commonwealth Village was not ready even on the day the Games started. However, London has declared itself ready for the July 27th Olympics as early as April 2012!

They are confident to pull off what the British Prime Minister David Cameron has predicted to be the greatest show on earth.

The International Olympic Committee made its final inspection in March 2012 and was full of praise for London's preparations. London has made it clear that it will not compete with Beijing (2008 Olympics) or with South Africa during the FIFA world cup (2010) in terms of opulence but will raise the bar on how to make the 2012 Olympics a 'lasting legacy'.

This 'legacy' begins with the magnificent Olympic Park built in Stratford, East London. The director of Olympics and Paralympics 2012 said with pride that it was easy to choose a well-known place like Hyde Park to build the Olympic Park, but instead they chose 'one of the most deprived parts of the country'. He explained that east London was where the worst part of the Industrial Revolution took place and getting rid of the 'scars of industrialization' was the main challenge. To make the Olympic park, about 95 percent of the soil was detoxified and re-laid, and 80 percent of the rubble reused as construction material.

Some of the interesting elements of the Olympic Park, along with future plans as to what these would turn after the games are over, are listed below:

Olympic Stadium: The central 80,000 seats stadium (third largest in Britain) will host the athletic events and the opening and closing ceremonies. The stadium has used only 10,000 tons of steel as compared to the famous Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing, which used 40,000 tons of steel for the roof alone. Some football clubs have placed their bids to take over this stadium after the games are over.

Aquatics Centre: This has a 'butterfly' shape with a 'wave like' roof. The three Olympic size pools with a 17,500 seating facility would consume 9 million liters of water. However, renowned architect Zaha Hadid has claimed that arrangements have been made to reuse the water from pools in toilets in the park. Eventually, this centre would become any other swimming facility in London for the community.

Olympic Village: This will house nearly 18,000 athletes and will have a dining area where 5,000 meals can be served at a time. After the games, the village will become a residential area with 2,818 new homes, parks, a school and a health centre.

Velodrome: This 6,000 seats cycling arena with a mountain bike course and a road unit has a unique design and has used 56 km of Siberian pinewood and 3.5 lakh nails.

Press Centre: It will house 20,000 media personnel and will have the latest IT facilities, a catering village, banks, travel agents, a post office and a coach pick up and drop facilities. After the games, the Press Centre would be converted into a mini 'Silicon Valley of east London'.

Arcelor Mittal Orbit: Designed by the prize winning artist Anish Kapoor, and funded by steel tycoon Mittal, the Orbit is a 115m tall observation tower, the 'tallest sculpture in the UK'. Built with 1,400 tonnes of steel, it offers spectacular views of the Olympic park and the city's skyline. After the games, this will become a major tourist attraction like the 'London Eye'. Here's looking forward to yet another fantastic display of the world's sporting talent. There are just a few more days to go, so let the games begin!

-Indraneel Roy, 10

The Tennis Menace

Wimbledon is one of the most fantastic and loved tournaments in the wonderful game of tennis. I should be honest and tell you that I know absolutely nothing about tennis. I have never held a tennis racket, and it took me the first 3 sets of the Wimbledon final to understand the score system.

Despite my cluelessness, even I rushed home to watch some world-class tennis. It did not disappoint me. The man holding the first rank in the world, Roger Federer was absolutely amazing.

The delicious agony over the outcome of this match in particular was unbearable. Andy Murray certainly put up a good fight, but not enough to even wipe off the constant, calm

expression on the master's face. After the gut-wrenching barrage of neck and neck, the better man won.

It seems this delightful game was able to bewitch even the most unenthusiastic audience of all time.



-Ananya Gupta, 9

सपनों की दुनिया

सोना तो एक वहाना है
सपनों की दुनिया में जो जाना है।
रात के अंधेरों में
एक अलग सी दुनिया में खोना है।
यह है सपनों की दुनिया
मेरे अपनों की दुनिया।
डर की तो कुछ बात नहीं
नापसंद का साथ नहीं।
सुंदर सुंदर मन मेरा
इधर उधर डाले डेरा।
उड़ता जाए बादल वन
भटके मेरा पागल मन।
राजा जब वन जाता हूँ
जी भर मौज उड़ता हूँ।
सपनों में देखूँ वड़िया
यह है मेरी सपनों की दुनिया
कबीर सिंह, 6

Wo Ai Zhonguo

The cultural immersion program at Tsinghua University was a dream and a journey. For the twenty of us that went there, being in a city as incredible and gorgeous as Beijing not only increased our international exposure but also our curiosity and desire for more.

The campus was like a city in itself: vast, diverse and with every facility you could possibly desire. To be able to individually discover what university life was like, to have to create our timetable to reach class on time, to ride around on our bicycles and figure out what was suitable to eat, all of this was just a small part of our daily routine. To be able to communicate in a language different from our own, to make new friends and form new ties, and to begin to understand the working of an entire civilization, I doubt whether we will experience anything like this- again.

All of us grew a little during our two weeks at Tsinghua and came back with a better understanding and greater appreciation of the Chinese culture, education system and way of life. Moreover, this great feeling of independence throughout the trip made each of us realize that we are in fact, young adults and "Wo Ai Zhonguo" (I love China).

-Pia Kochar, 11



वसंत वैली परिवार

अब वसंत वैली परिवार इन दीवारों के अन्दर नहीं रहा। हमारा विद्यालय उसके विद्यापी अस्थापिकाएँ प्रशासन और बटाफ तक नहीं रहा वह बड़ गया है विकसित हो गया है। बहुत सालों से विनमय कार्यक्रम के द्वारा अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी संबंधों द्वारा वसंत वैली बढ़ता जा रहा है। अमेरिका ऑस्ट्रेलिया भूटान आदि से छात्र आते हैं कुछ समय बिताकर ये यहाँ कितना कुछ छोड़ जाते हैं। उनका यहाँ होना ही हमारे लिए इतना बड़ा अवसर है उनकी संस्कृतिभयता जीवन शैली। हमारे छात्र भी वहाँ जाकर इस संबंधन को आगे ले जाते हैं। दोनों तरफ से यह एक सीखने का अनुभव बन जाता है और हमारे इस परिवार को बढ़ोती देता है। हाल ही में कुछ अध्यापक अध्यापिकाएँ अलग अलग स्थानों से हमारे विद्यालय को देखने आए थे उन्होंने भी हमें अपनी शिक्षण शैली तथा विद्यालय की प्रकृति के बारे में जागरूक किया यह हमारी अध्यापिकाओं व अध्यापकों के लिए भी जानकारीपूर्ण और दिलचस्प था।

हमारे विद्यालय और रिजिजलि एनजीओ का एकीकरण भी वसंत वैली का एक कदम आगे है समाज के अलग वर्गों की तरफ संवेदनशीलता के मामले में। स्कूल की आस पास के बस्तीयों के अच्छे भी अब हमारे विद्यालय का हिस्सा बन गए हैं। वसंत वैली का शिक्षण कार्यक्रम इस संबंध के लिए अब हद तक जिम्मेदार हैं।

यकीनन वसंत वैली की दीवारों के अंदर केवल 1350 विद्यार्थी पढ़ते हैं मगर उसके बहुत ज्यादा छात्र हमारे विद्यालय का भाग बन चुके हैं। हमारा यह छोटा सा परिवार भीते हुए सालों में इतना विशाल बन गया है।

अनन्या जैन 10 छ



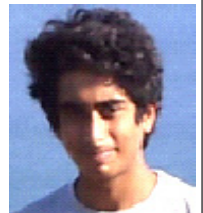
The Great Indian Presidential Race



With all due consideration, as the D-day of the Indian Presidential race approached, one couldn't help but wonder why this election had not been able to avoid morphing into the fiasco that so accurately defines Indian elections in general. Frankly enough, I wonder how the Congress Party somehow avoided becoming autocratic after independence, and I still can't seem to find an answer. The whoop-de-dah over the election is a clear indicator. Beats me why Purno Sangma, *Babu's* competitor even tried. Pranabda's status and reputation precedes him, it's difficult to imagine a Congress Party making even faintly moral or sensible decisions without him. All this while that he's been Finance Minister, proposing budget after disputed budget year after controversial year, he's held fort pretty well, and that makes him a respectable man. He's nearly eighty, but that does not take away from his decisiveness of action, calmness of mind and general good sense that can only arise out of decades of experience.

Spare a thought for Mrs. Patil, now blowing her final 'goodbye kisses' to Rashtrapati Bhavan, attending award ceremonies and the rest of the static that is part of being the country's highest authority. Presidency in India is a ceremonial position, and that is exactly what it has been portrayed as these past few years. A lonesome, bored face entered and exited the Republic Day parade year after year, displayed itself to millions on national television and 'graced several events with its presence. You've seen it, I've seen it, but now we're not going to see it any more. *The sari-clad face of India's modernity that represented India's first female President will exit soon, and a male stalwart is set to replace it.* Let us hope that Pranab Mukherjee does a better job with this post than his last one.

-Aditya Srinivasan, 11



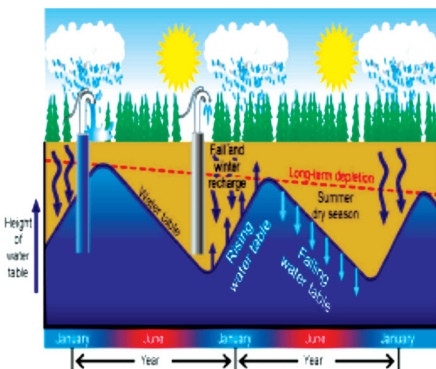
Pick Pocket on The Run

"Pick pockets are on the run so don't carry too many valuables with you," said the police department. A few days ago, on 17th April, Superstar Adele's diamond ring got stolen from her finger. This happened while she was getting into the car after her concert. Apparently the ring had been bought the day before and was very expensive. The police is working very hard to find the man who stole it but have still not managed to do so. They are looking for a young man who was photographed standing next to Adele on the day of the concert.

Reporters: Anahita Jain and Naira Kothari from California

Water Table Woes

The main reason for the depletion of the under ground water table is urbanization and deforestation. Plants have the capacity to hold plenty of water at mamimum levels in the water table. Urbanization has lead to concrete roads due to which the rainwater is not absorbed and hence the ground



water is not recharged and flows over the surface. The under ground water is being overexploited on the one hand and on the other this ground

water also keeps flowing towards the sea. If the ground water had been rejuvenated, this amount of water would be in the soil instead of being in the ocean. In India the depletion of water is very common due to a great demand resulting from over population and urbanization.

Ransher Singh, Saanvi Bhatia V- B

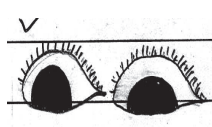
मुझे प्रकृति से प्रेम है ...

सूरज की किरणें जब छातीं पेड़ - पौधों को चमका देती, फूलों से सजती यह धरती नदियों से सजती यह धरती!



इधर बच्चे, उधर बच्चे हर जगह धूम मचाते, कलियाँ जो खिल जाती हैं तिलियाँ जो सुख फैलाती हैं!

चिड़ियाँ जो नीले आसमान में उड़तीं चीं - चीं, चूँ - चूँ शोर मचातीं, ओढ़नी - ओढ़ती धानी - सी हमारी धरती लगती रानी - सी



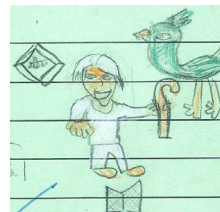
खोलो अपनी आँखें, प्रकृति को देखो, कितनी सुंदर है!

आस्मिता शाह पाँच - स

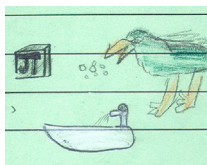
तुकबंदी अब्द और मेरी कविता

मेरी नानी

मेरी नानी आई मेरे लिए रतक तोता लाई मुझे खिलाती खूब मिठाई और एक कहानी भी सुनाई।



मेरी दुनिया

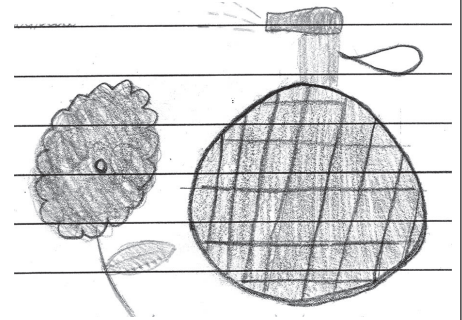


मुझे अच्छे लगते हैं गाने में खिलाता हूँ चिड़िया को दाने में बनाता हूँ खूब वहाने फिर भी जाना पड़ता है नहाने!

अरमान गाँधी चार - स

Lemonade

Tangy cooling, sweet and sour, refreshing



Gives energy for a new day Fills everyone with joy Making different flavours burst through us

Perfumes

Perfume is fragrant Perfume is fragrant and moist Is fragrant, moist and herbal Fragrant, moist, herbal and wet Liquid

Devaki Jayal IV- B

Adjective Poems Bags

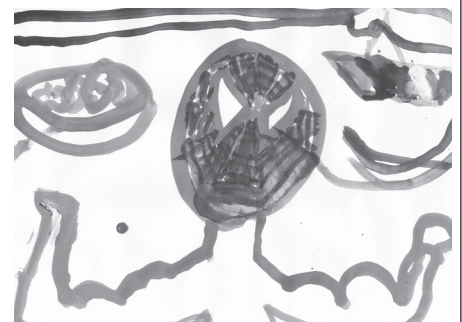
Attractive, awful, rough, terrific To help me carry things To help me carry my books to school To help me keep things To help me hit my brother.

Roads

Roads are bumpy Roads are bumpy, grey Are bumpy, grey, long Bumpy, grey, long, potholed Road runner

Siddhant Sharrma, Ananya Roach and Tia Goculdas IV- C

During My Holidays I Enjoyed Watching The Amazing Spiderman!!



The Bol Workshop: Expression Through Movement

One of the world's leading theatre practitioners, Augusto Boal created a school of theatre called "Theatre of the Oppressed." His work concentrates on using theatre in a political context, as a tool for understanding, education and growth. His techniques are also used in therapeutic settings to enhance personal and group development.

Inspired by his teachings I initiated the "Bol Workshop" for 13 children from the Dalil Ekta Camp, part of the Ritinjali Organisation. These kids were between the ages of 9 and 14 years. For four weeks in June, I taught them to strengthen their flexibility in imagination, concentration, physical freedom and ensemble collaboration through Augusto's Boal's techniques of expression.

This was achieved through warm up exercises and games, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They were taught how to imitate each other's body movements by playing a 'mirror exercise'. They channelled their creative thoughts during story writing sessions. They engaged in physical activities like dancing and running. They then gradually learnt to express themselves as actors and portray the roles of "the oppressor and the oppressed", which is the essence of Boal.

Boal's world-famous methods use theatre to confront problems such as sexual harassment, racism, poor pay, homophobia, and all forms of oppression. The "Bol Group" used these techniques to construct 5 movement pieces which focus on forms of exploitation and daily hassles that they personally face in their slum community. Problems such as sewage and waste accumulation outside their homes, child-labour, the fight for clean drinking water etc, were brought to life in short choreographed items. What added to the dramatic appeal was that the children did not use any dialogue. Through gestures and props, accompanied by soft music, the group effectively communicated the above mentioned themes.

The "Bol workshop" has helped these youngsters from the Dalil Ekta Camp to express themselves openly without any fear of being judged and without any feelings of self-consciousness. Their overall communication skills, interpersonal and intra-personal abilities have vastly improved as well.

I have been blogging about my experience teaching the children "Boal". For more information on my classes check out my blog at www.bolworkshop.wordpress.com

-Akhila Khanna, 12

Mario Balotelli. Why Always Him?

"When I score I don't celebrate, because I'm doing my job. When the postman delivers your letter, does he celebrate?"

Mario Balotelli : Clown, Hot Headed? I say Genius. Mario is the most spoken about footballer in the world today. When he was bought by Manchester City in August 2010, journalists questioned Roberto Mancini's judgment in buying someone as unpredictable as Balotelli. In his two years at City, he has brought millions of football fans to love him for his antics. His "Why always Me" t-shirt has attained great fame and is considered his greatest antic.

Balotelli's talent has never been questioned; it is his temperament and temper, which has. In his two-year tenure at City, he has scored 27 goals and has received 4(yes, 4) red cards in this time.

Balotelli has always risen to the occasion. His two goals at Manchester United's Old Trafford began Manchester City's onslaught. In the final game of the season against Queens Park Rangers, Balotelli was a substitute and came off the bench to help his teammate Sergio Agüero score the winning goal and help City win their first league trophy in 46 years. In the recent Euros Balotelli scored as many goals as the golden boot winner. He single handedly destroyed Germany in the semifinals. Such feats are not possible for footballers other than Balotelli. Mario Balotelli, at the age of 21 seems destined for greatness. Only his attitude can get in his path to becoming an all time great.

Roberto Mancini: "Every day I fight against Mario and sometimes I would like to give him a punch."

Balotelli: "He couldn't. I do Thai kick-boxing."

-Arman Puri, 9



UEFA EURO 2012

I witnessed excitement spread all over the world when the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship commenced. Sides were taken, and rivalries were formed. Every match played in Poland and Ukraine was as dramatic as the next. Fans felt the players' anxiety, joy, sorrow and adrenaline as teams diligently strived for the win through sweat and pain on the field.

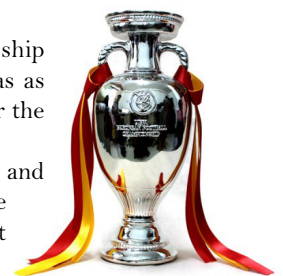
Watching the matches has been exciting but all good things must come to an end. The cheers and cries and groans and moans which filled most of our homes late at night this summer all came to a standstill after the celebration of the well awaited final match. The now 3rd time reigning champions - Spain battled it out against Italy, which is clearly an exceptionally capable team.

Spain had honed their skills, beautifully. They are a star filled squad, and are incredibly coordinated.

Italy, on the other hand, didn't manage to steal the title. The efforts of Pirlo, Cassano and Buffon really depicted how much the legends of this team wanted it to be a fantastic year. Mario Balotelli rose out of the ashes and proved that he really was a star; this young player's skills were phenomenal. But Madrid was the place to be on this marvellous night. The streets were filled with hooligans who had gone wild with the uncontrollable mirth which this epic win had provided them with.

The UEFA EURO 2012 has made this summer one to remember.

-Kaamya Sharma, 8



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