

# Vasant Valley

July, 2014

T O D A Y

## 25 YEARS OF VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL

### #VVS@25

Vasant Valley School, since the very first day the pillars held up those words at the school gate, everybody knew that this school was destined for excellence. Our first batch of students joined in July 1990, to a warm reception of a total of sixteen teachers. The senior school building was being constructed and there were small classes of nursery, 1, 2, 3 and 4. Years went by and the buildings developed, along with the students and teachers. The same class 4 continued up to class 12 and within a few years, there came to be three sections per class.

The concern for environment, an aspect very close to Mr. Kapur's heart, modified a once dusty, barren piece of land to the green oasis it is today. Teachers at Vasant Valley, encouraged every student to grow and mature, not with an aim to top their board examinations, but instead to be valuable, dynamic members of society. Several teachers, whose names cannot be separated from VVS, have left their mark on this institution and revolutionized the meaning of education. And without the continuous and unconditional care of the support staff, Vasant Valley would not have been where it is today. The reciprocity between Vasant Valley and its students has always been recognized and appreciated. And this give and take of students, teachers and the institution has allowed Vasant Valley to reach new heights.



**"These maroon and beige corridors that we accepted as home have heard all the secrets and conversations that have transgressed from the evening episode of Pokemon to Gossip Girl"**

Whether it was the grand march past, showcasing each house's talent or an intense final match, Vasant Valley saw sportsmen whose spirit and passion for their sports was insuperable. Musicians who sang, and audiences in class act who listened spell bound made an integral part of art at Vasant Valley. Mixed-stream students studying their favorite subjects to art students who consistently exhibited work of high class, every member of the student body along his/her way made Vasant Valley proud. Boys smartly donned beige trousers and shirts, while every girl in her Salwar-Kameez realized that she had never looked more beautiful.

**"From first-day-of-school anxiety to walking down the center stage steps, Vasant Valley was more than a school to us; it was home."**



From first-day-of-school anxiety to walking down the center stage steps, Vasant Valley was more than a school to us; it was home. Many glorious years have passed and from what we hear from our older siblings and friends, some things just do not change... bonds with friends, carefree laughter in the corridors, playing in the Jhoola Bari in class 11 with the same vigour and brightness as that a decade ago. Favorite spots transcended from the playroom and Jhoola Bari (more about that later) in junior school to the ramp near class 11, and most importantly sister's room. Some have their fondest memories playing football in the senior school quadrangle, some spending every morning in the late line, some with the Rajma Chawal and Dal Makhni, and some with the teachers who became their constant support and companions.



### School Watch

Class 6 to 10 Hindi Kahani Lekhan

17th July, 2014

Class 6: 1st - Anahita Mahajan and Anahit Bindra, 2nd - Rahil Dutta, 3rd - Moksh Wadhwa

Class 7: 1st - Amiya Kumar, 2nd - ILeesha Chauhan and Anandini Khanna, 3rd - Tiya Gulyani and Smiti Oberoi

Class 8: 1st - Rabiya Gupta, 2nd - Aditi Singh and Soham Kakkar, 3rd - Subiya Asad and Priyam Deka

Class 9: 1st - Asees Kaur, 2nd - Aditya Chopra and Diya Biswas, 3rd - Ishita Dutta

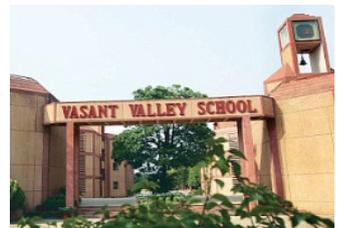
Class 10: 1st - Anchal Sharma, 2nd - Sanjari Kalantri and Janani Gurumurthy, 3rd - Tarini Sharma and Ujjwala Singh

**"The reciprocity between Vasant Valley and its students has always been recognized and appreciated. And this give and take of students, teachers and the institution has allowed Vasant Valley to reach new heights."**

Each adventure camp has become more special and memorable than the last, and of course that class 2 night stay with Pandeyji's story, leaving us all frightened for a night, is one that we will never forget! Wearing shorts in the winter, seriously enabling the boys to withstand icy cold winds on their legs! (Still something male VVS alumni continue to bond over btw). Vasant Valley is a school that refuses to stagnate, it always wants to grow. And in that growth lies its strength. The school, like all others, has undergone several changes in the past two and a half decades but its motives and fundamentals continue to be rooted to this day. A quality that very few institutions can truly boast of. Vasant Valley today, celebrates not just this wonderful journey 25 years but also the philosophy that succeeded to create holistic students who graduate with a distinct identity. So, even when 25 years down our lives, we hear the name Vasant Valley, a part of each of us will echo the beautiful memories in retrospective and be filled

with gratitude for what Vasant Valley has made us: Excellent in deed.

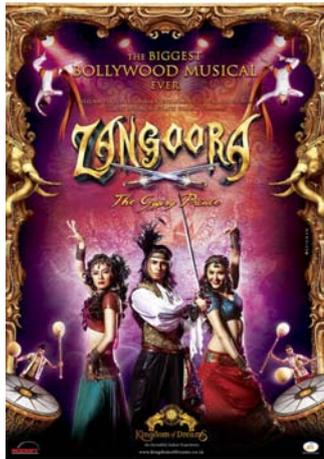
Ananya Jain and Indraneel Roy, 12.



# BACK TO SCHOOL

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014....We returned to school and its usual buzz, ready to get back to the grind having returned from our long, relaxing summer break.. Once we had all settled down in our classrooms, the booming sound of the *Dhol* could be heard in the school premises and caught everyone's attention. What were *dhol* players doing in our senior school quadrangle? Interested and apprehensive, we bustled down to the center steps for joint assembly. After saying our prayers and singing the school song, Mr. Kapur called Mrs. Purie, Mrs. Krishnan and Mrs. Bakshi onto the stage and congratulated everyone on embarking on our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a school. Mr. Kapur then broke the news to us that we were going to celebrate our Silver Jubilee in a special way. We just stood there waiting curiously, to find out what it was. Then came the moment when he broke the news - we were going to go to The Kingdom of Dreams to watch India's answer to Broadway - Zangoora!

***There was a very short, deafening silence and a few shocked gasps from the gathering, but then we all cheered and clapped as a wave of excitement rippled through the crowd.***



There was a very short, deafening silence and a few shocked gasps from the gathering, but then we all cheered and clapped as a wave of excitement rippled through the crowd.

When we settled down in our seats in the auditorium, the show began to unravel. What comes to mind when one says the word 'Bollywood'? Music, colours, costumes, drama, emotion - it is a kaleidoscope of entertainment like none other. What comes to mind when one says the word 'Nautanki'? An art form for many, it is a term associated with live theatre and pantomimes playing out in the rural and semi-urban landscapes of the country. If we bring the two together we get a blast of colour and explosion of

drama which results in the wonderful production of Zangoora at The Kingdom of Dreams, Gurgaon.

For all us groggy eyed children, not in the mood to study, missing the idea of our beds and summer vacation - it is only a school like Vasant Valley that can make us happy to be in school ( well not exact in school but).

It was an amazing feeling to be spending the first day on such a fun note and celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> year. A brilliant

way to commemorate a new beginning, and a great way to start the term, the first day of the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Vasant Valley was celebrated in a way that was unexpected and exciting. Thanks for the surprise!

**Jahnvi Nagpal, 10**



***"A kaleidoscope of entertainment like none other."***

**Top 25**

*25 things students would like to see take place in VVS 25 years from now*

1. "ACs." - **Suryavir Dawar, 11**

2. "I don't really know, school is pretty perfect. A roller coaster to take you to classes would be nice. Plus, kids would actually be on time for classes then." - **Dhruv Mishra, Alum**

3. "A CANTEEEEEENNNN. THATS WHAT EVERY SINGLE PERSON WANTS! COME ON VASANT VALLEYYY!" - **Ishita Malhotra, 9**

4. "School desperately needs a swimming pool." - **Keihan Sikri, Alum**

5. "I feel people are too busy judging others with respect to where they're from, what they wear, who they listen to, where they dine, who they hang out with, etc. While there'll be most people of a batch on one side, there are always these few kids who're sort of cast out. I want to see that change. I want to see everyone be accepted as part of the family, and not looked down upon." - **Gagan Beri, Alum**

## झुलसाती गरमी से बचाव

आज की गरमी मानो सब के लिए असहनीय हो गयी है। इस गरमी से बचाव बहुत ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण है।

बचाव के लिए निम्नलिखित सुझावों को अपनाएँ :

- 1) हलके, ढीले ढाले, सूती कपड़े पहनें क्योंकि यह कपड़े पसीने को अवशोषित कर देते हैं।
- 2) पसीने के रूप में खोए पानी को वापस पाने के लिए खूब सारे तरल पदार्थ पीएँ। प्यास लगने का इन्तजार न करें।
- 3) तरबूज, खरबूजा, आम आदि का सेवन करें क्योंकि न केवल ही इन फलों में नमी होती है अपितु यह हमारे मोटापे को कम करते हैं।
- 4) यदि संभव हो तो, जब भी बहुत गरमी हो तो घर पर ही आराम करें। जोरदार गतिविधियों में स्वयं को संलग्न न करें।



## WORLD CUP MAGIC explained:

When the 24-member FIFA executive committee unanimously awarded Brazil the rights to host the 2014 world cup, the beautiful game once again returned to its Mecca. Known as the country responsible for giving the world its best players, best supporters and above all, the best football; there was euphoria all around.

The seeds of this worldwide extravaganza were laid in 1930, and ever since then rabid football fans wait four years to get a taste of world-class football. Teams from all over the world fight tooth and nail to qualify for the FIFA world cup, where each one participates in a series of nail-biting, teeth-grinding, heart-pumping matches. Just like the Brazuca ball, the dizzying crowds in Brazil were taken on a tumultuous journey, often thrown from one side to another. Many players achieved stardom with their outstanding performances in the matches such as the Colombian James Rodriguez, Tim Howard from the USA and Tim Krul from Holland to name a few. On the downside, the budding dreams of football legends such as France, Italy, England, Portugal and Spain were dashed to the ground by their unexpected losses.



FIFA WORLD CUP  
Brasil

In world cups, great goals, great players and great moments tend to stick in public memory. They can only be described as a giant carnival, where one is overwhelmed by the magnitude of the event and where fans from the world over unite to support the teams, regardless of nationality. It is safe to say that the passion, the pressure, the highs, the lows all made for an incredible journey that was the FIFA World Cup 2014. Now that it is over, we wait for the next World Cup with bated breath, or in other words, the day we get to sleep in and reach school at ten!

Arjun Chakladhar, 10

## 10 UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS, FIFA 2014

While world cups may showcase the highest echelons of football, they are often remembered for events that occur outside the 90 minutes every match. Now that the closing curtain has come down on this year's cup, here are the moments that will be remembered for decades to come.

10. Reigning champions Spain crashing out in the group stages. While the humiliation of a team isn't something to be cheered per se, when Spain left Brazil without even making it to knockouts, it marked the end of an era, and gave us a new winner to look forward to.

9. On the other end of the spectrum, Costa Rica, (or 'los ticos' as they are known), shocked everyone. Because they were one of the weakest teams in the tournament, and even played in the group of death, Costa Rica was written off before the tournament even started. So, their finishing at the top of their table, and then actually moving on to the quarter finals seemed almost unreal.

8. Tim Krul's substitute appearance- Louis Van Gall unconventionally substituted Krul in the 120<sup>th</sup> minute of Netherlands's quarter final against Costa Rica. He saved 2 penalties in the shootout, and so propelled his team to the semi finals. When Netherlands were in another shootout, he was not called in; and they lost.

7. Netherlands's comeback against Mexico in the round of 16. Netherlands was 1-0 down till the 88<sup>th</sup> minute, until Wesley Sneijder slammed in an equalizer, and then when Robben won a questionably, but duly converted penalty.

6. Suarez's bite- While it may be for all the wrong reasons, Suarez's third bite in professional football will be remembered for a long time, and has cemented in his place in the list of world cup 'villains'.

5. Zuniga's challenge on Neymar- Another blot on the otherwise spectacular tournament, this horrific tackle dashed on Neymar dashed his hopes of playing in a world cup final, and left a huge gap in the Brazilian side.

4. Klose breaking the record- Coming into the 2014 cup, Miroslav Klose was just 1 goal behind the Brazilian legend Ronaldo to have scored the most world cup goals ever. In probably one of the most indelible world cup matches ever, he broke the record in an ideal way against Brazil.

3. The Brazilian national anthem in the semifinal- With 60,000 voices singing in perfect harmony, the atmosphere formed was hard to forget. The ardor with which the people sang also represented their hopes and dreams for the tournament, which made the outcome of the match all the crueler.

2. Mario Gotze's 112<sup>th</sup> minute equalizer in the final- After coming on as a substitute, Gotze slammed in a marvelous volley that gave his team the world cup, and made himself the most envied man in the world for a day.

1. 18 minutes in the Belo Horizonte- When Thomas Muller scored the first goal; it wasn't much of a shock. But then the Germans scored again. And again. 2 goals in 2 minutes. 3 goals in 3 minutes. 5 goals in less than half an hour. This was unprecedented on such a stage, and the year that was supposed to wipe away memories of 1950's 'Maracanazo' ended up giving new, fresh, and perhaps even worse wounds. July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014: The day an entire nation cried.

## Top 25, continued...

6. "Probably new subject choices in class 11 which are related to the performing arts and a separate specialisation for western music for the higher classes."  
-Sonam Vashisth, 10

7. "Ummm a canteen I guess and good food PLEASEEE."  
-Simran Kanwar, 9

8. "I would like them to have brought back escapades!"  
-Jahanvi Srinivasan, 12

9. "Class 12 night stay!"  
-Reedima Uppal, 12

10. "Laptops for each student would be amazing."  
-Tara Lanba, 9

11. "To have more free lessons" -  
Aananya Banaik

12. "An official inter house paintball tournament."  
-Avneet Sinha, 12

13. "I think a hostel. At least where people like me can stay."  
-Himaprabal Goud, 12



Anav Sawhney, 11

15. "Complete self-reliance in terms of energy production and consumption."  
-Leonardo Singh, 11
16. "Exchange programmes for vvs students."  
-Ankit Tanwar, 12
17. "We should have another giant football like the Jabulani. A new one every four years for each World Cup. Also, we should be allowed to play football in the courtyard."  
-Raghendra Narang, 12
18. "A gym or a mini theatre for presentations and stuff."  
-Rehan Luthra, 11
19. "To have school start at 9 am."  
-Taarika Peres
20. "A prom night will do."  
-Arman Anand, 11
21. "Yellow house winning everything."  
-Ananya Trehan, Alum
22. "Honestly speaking, I'd like to see a better education system which encourages us to think rather than just learn."  
- Revant Soni, 12
23. "We need a discotheque in school."  
-Nirvaan Bharany, 12
24. "Interschool battle of the bands."  
- Zahra Chowdhary, 12
25. "I hope that 25 years from now, the *feel* of being in Vasant Valley is still the same."  
- Nimran Kang, 10



Articles written by students over the years



**A Part of the Institution**

From declarations of love to edgy lyrics, from eternal promises to the inscriptions and paintbrush strokes embellishing the underside of the ramp are the very own legacy of the senior batches of the school.

Futile whitewashing or revolted teachers pose no roadblock to our budding artists - the masterpieces and doodles which adorn the ceiling could give Michelangelo a run for his money. The nook under the ramp has evolved into a hot spot; a lounge where food and drinks are served, people are sprawled out, music is stralthily played and chatter resonates between the pillars. It's even conveniently located next to the art room if inspiration ever strikes.

The romance in the vandalism is its message for posterity, and the hope to one day return and find that some things never change. A top contender among the most cherished school memories of all time, 'drawing under the ramp' brushes shoulders with 'playing in the joola bar' and 'water fights in the field'.

It's not vandalism. It's a scrapbook.

Mallika Pal, 2010



**The Ripple**

The repercussions of the drop,  
A single insignificant drop,  
Stop until they hit the rock,  
And even then they do not stop.

As the repetitions of an act,  
Are multiplying constantly,  
Unless we begin to use pure tact,  
But still they don't cease completely.

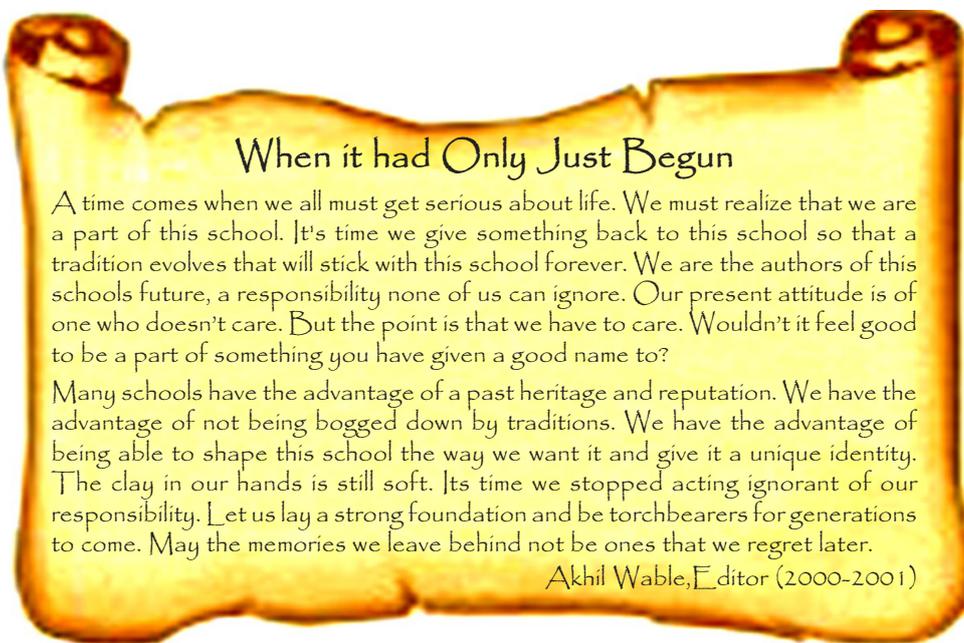
An undue act mustn't be committed,  
For how disastrous the ripples may be,  
Can never be exactly calculated.  
They are thus unstoppable, even tactfully.

Improbable as a drop may seem,  
The ripples are always a seemly find.  
Henceforth an act should be well thought,  
Before being dropped into the water.

Never drop your thoughts asunder,  
For they may just fall into the water.  
A ripple stretches far and wide,  
For a sort of ripple is a tide.

The repercussions of the drop,  
A single insignificant drop.  
Stretch far until they hit the rock.  
And even then they do not stop.

Kunal Dutta (IX)2005



**When it had Only Just Begun**

A time comes when we all must get serious about life. We must realize that we are a part of this school. It's time we give something back to this school so that a tradition evolves that will stick with this school forever. We are the authors of this school's future, a responsibility none of us can ignore. Our present attitude is of one who doesn't care. But the point is that we have to care. Wouldn't it feel good to be a part of something you have given a good name to?

Many schools have the advantage of a past heritage and reputation. We have the advantage of not being bogged down by traditions. We have the advantage of being able to shape this school the way we want it and give it a unique identity. The clay in our hands is still soft. Its time we stopped acting ignorant of our responsibility. Let us lay a strong foundation and be torchbearers for generations to come. May the memories we leave behind not be ones that we regret later.

Akhil Wable, Editor (2000-2001)



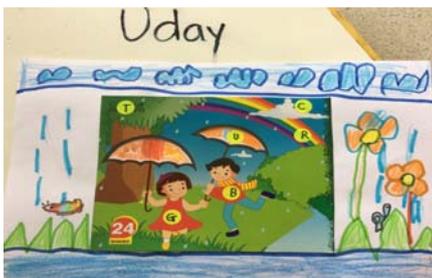
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

Dear Diary,

Today I want to share with you one of my most memorable and fun days of my school life. It is the 25<sup>th</sup> year of our school and there is so much excitement all around. The moment I entered school this morning my eyes first went to a logo saying 25 years. I knew something grand would be happening in our school on this incredible occasion. So I impatiently ran to my class. The moment I reached my class I asked all my friends if they knew anything about the day ahead but everybody was blank. Right then my teacher came in and said "Line up for joint assembly". We all went to the stage where we could see colourful dholak players with their resounding beats. It was a lovely start to this grand day. Mr. Kapur walked to the stage; everybody was quiet until he said that we would get to watch "Zangoora" at the Kingdom of Dreams. We were all sent in buses. We reached there soon and went into the auditorium. It was a magnificent show- an enthralling mixture of dancing, singing and brilliant acting. I was quite speechless after this show. I have only one thing to say that it was perfection indeed. We sat in the buses and headed towards school. By the time we reached school it was almost time to go home. It was an absolutely amazing start to the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Vasant Valley School. I am really looking forward to all the excitement of this glorious and memorable year.

Yours affectionately

Praniti Jain V- C



'Monsoon'

by Uday Singh Thakran Nursery A



## The Story Of My Life

I was born on 20th February at two minutes past midnight. I believe I was a fussy eater but loved my milk and bananas. I took my first steps in November with my dog Pablo in tow. On my first birthday my parents took me to Singapore where I am told I loved the animals in the zoo and also played on the beach for the first time. In January 2008 I joined Pallavan Play School where I loved making laddoos in the sand pit. I was always a curious child and 'but why' was my favourite phrase. My sister was born in October and I finally had a playmate.

In 2009 I joined VVS and was very excited to be in a big school. I was finally old enough to ride a horse too and hold a phuljari on my own on Diwali. I won my first race in class 1A and realise how good I felt to taste victory! In 2011 my father took me for golf lessons for the first time and I was instantly hooked on to the game. In October of the same year I went for a holiday to Goa with my friends.

Then in 2012 I saw the Wagah border and the Golden Temple. I also jammed my finger in a door. In 2013 my class got shuffled for the first time and I made new friends. I won my first medals at the Track and field. On 16 October I had a major accident and broke my skull. I was in hospital for a week. I didn't go to school for two months and didn't play sports for six.

In 2014 I got my own puppy, a Beagle and named him Robin after Jim Corbet's dog. This Sports Day, I doubled my medal tally from two to four. However, my grades are not so good and I plan to make up for it this term.

Arjun Shringi IV - C

## 'Foundation is Here!'



## वर्षा ऋतु

देखो — देखो वर्षा आई,  
सबके मुँह पर खुशियों लाई।  
चारों तरफ हरियाली छाई,  
देखो — देखो वारिश्श आई।



काले बादल नभ में छाते,  
कीड़े — मकौड़े उड़ते दिखते।  
मोर मयूर सब नाचते — गाते,  
गरम — गरम पकौड़े हम खाते।

जब इंद्रधनुष आसमान में छाता,  
तो सबके मुँह पर मुस्कराहट लाता।

देखो — देखो सर्दी आए,  
वर्षा को वह दूर भगाए।

पृथ्वी मेहता और आदित्य गर्ग पाँच — व

## A Dragon At My Doorstep



When the doorbell rang I ran to open it. I saw a dragon at my doorstep! I was sooo scared! I ran up to my bedroom, to see my bed was burnt! And next to my bed sat the scary dragon! I stood up and said, "Who are you?

And what do you want and why did you burn my bed?" The dragon replied, "I am King- Five Breath and I want to take you to the kingdom of the dragons and I burnt your bed so that you could listen to me." The next thing I knew, I was in the kingdom of the dragons. He took me there and gave me a small pouch of dust. King- Five Breath said it would help me to fly when ever I wanted to. I said, "What if I run out or don't know where I am going?" He said, "You will know and you will never run out." I asked him, "But why did you bring me here and give me this?" He said, " For doing work day and night." And so, I flew back home.

Kabir Datta III- A



Class I

'Steps in a Process'

## Change is Strange



Our school recently implemented a system in which the school technology lab has been replaced with iPads for classes 6-8 and MacBooks for classes 9-12. There is a lot of excitement around this change that has occurred. However, in my humble opinion, there are two sides to this proposal.

**Pros:** The most obvious pro is that our school is becoming more tech savvy and more in line with the facilities that are available in international schools. This is a step in the right direction and the benefits will be near instantaneous. Information can be transferred with ease and everything will be available on the cloud. Our school can now be considered as a technology friendly school. As can be reasonably expected when an

institution as a school invests money and effort for inducting new technology, the students using it may come up other creative and more effective uses for the same. It will create a healthy buzz in favor of the school and it will give a chance for children to use expensive equipment that they perhaps may not have available at home. Only good things can come of this change.

This is still however a tremendous achievement for our school and hopefully we continue to make such technological strides in the future.

## Befuddled

The pirates crawled into my head at night  
Through my ear  
While I slept on my side  
They anchored their ships in my brain and set sail  
Forgetting that the anchors remained.  
You know I can smell it, the spindrift  
From each ship on a different journey  
Crashing against the waves of my vast ocean mind  
In their own directions but bereft of movement  
They forget they're still anchored  
Though they're on voyages of their own  
For they are in the pursuit of treasures unknown  
Each treasure glistens a different hue of gold  
Which I can't seem to fathom.  
So they yank and tug with Mephistophelean grins  
And drag their anchorage  
Tightly woven into the pink ocean floor  
In a million directions with them  
But they move nowhere.  
They've got their treasure maps  
And all I've got is confusion

Kaamya Sharma, 10



**Cons:** The major con that has come with this change is that students in junior classes will not have a base in applications such as Adobe Flash, Photoshop and Dreamweaver. These programs are essential tools for all students to function properly in a digitally connected world. Before this change was implemented, there was a technology lab where there were dedicated lessons in which students were taught such fundamentals. People will argue that these programs can be taught in classrooms instead of a technology lab; however, these programs do not exist on iPads and the ones that do are simply dumbed down versions of software that are meant for computers.

As with any proposed change it is impossible to judge before hand how it will turn out.

Arman Puri, 11



Online issue: <http://www.vasantvalley.org/vasantvalley/archives/newsletterarc>

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