

17 MARCH 2020

VASANT VALLEY

TODAY

Excellence In Deed | श्रेष्ठतमाय कर्मणे

Au Revoir, Mr. Kapur,

As we all gathered in the Vasant Manch on Wednesday, we expected a speaker, or some sort of show, as per the norm- but word travels fast, and rumours of Mr. Kapur's departure began to spread through the bleachers. Although first dismissed as a harmless rumour, his entrance into the auditorium confirmed it. We had never expected this day to come. His 30-year journey with Vasant Valley had come full-circle, and it was finally time for us all to say goodbye. It is hard to bid farewell to a man who has come to symbolise the very principles our school was built on; someone who has left a mark on all our lives and shaped us into the individuals that we are today.

Mr. Kapur has been a mentor to the students of Vasant Valley for as long as we can remember. From Foundation to Class 12, he's been a constant and unforgettable presence within these beige and maroon walls. His philosophy reflects his remarkable ideology, and motivates us to work towards the motto of our school, 'Excellence In Deed,' in all five areas of development- social, physical, emotional, cerebral and spiritual. This has taught every student not to restrict themselves only to bookish knowledge but to look at the process of learning differently. He has made 'Vasant Valley School' what it is today: a haven; an institution that produces well-rounded people ready to face the challenges that await them.

Mr. Kapur's presence in school has always had magical effects on all the students- our faces always lit up when we met him, eager to listen to what he had to say. Every Founder's Day, the entire school looked forward to not just the performances, but also Mr. Kapur's address to the school. His powerful words, armed with his wit, always made every student, parent, teacher, alumnus and staff member of our school, feel like we were a part of something bigger than ourselves- a family. Each interaction that we had with him, however brief, only strengthened our sense of belongingness to this institution.

Mr. Kapur's influence has not only been restricted to our school- he remains an influential educationist even beyond the walls of Vasant Valley. He has established an organisation called 'Ritinjali' which works across the country in order to support the development of various communities and has also founded 'Pallavan Learning Systems', which seeks to provide a holistic educational curriculum to students. He is also on the prestigious Board Of Governors of 'The Doon School' and 'Scindia School' and has expanded his philosophy to other countries like Oman and Bhutan- recently receiving the 'Druk Thuksey' Award-one of the highest civilian honours given by His Majesty, the King of Bhutan. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours. Vasant Valley School is indeed lucky to be associated with such a man.

While he may not be physically present in school now, we know his influence and ideology will forever remain in every stone and brick that makes up these walls and more importantly in us, the students. His warm, reassuring hugs and calming influence will be missed by all, and we will always remember him with immense gratitude for all he has done for the school.

-Jai Kapoor, Vedika Bagla, 12

अनमोल रत्न

मेरी कलम की स्याही सूख जाएगी,
पर आपके स्नेहिल व्यक्तित्व को बयान न कर
पाएगी |

किसी मसीहे की तरह इस विद्यालय को ऊँचाई
तक पहुँचाया,
हर अध्यापक, दीदी, भैया और बच्चों को अपना
परिवार बनाया।

आज तक उस मासूम-सी मुस्कराहट को कभी
हटते देखा नहीं,
आज तक हमसे प्यार से गले मिलने की आदत
को बदलते देखा नहीं।

जिंदगी के पाँच स्थाई स्तंभों का हमें आधार दिया,
किसी भी हालत में हार न मानना आपने सिखाया।
चेहरे पर हँसी लिए यँही चलते रहे,
चलते चलते, हजारों की जिंदगियाँ बदलते रहे।

आपके जाने पर उन हजारों आँखों का क्या?
तीस साल, जो आपने हर बच्चे को अपना माना,
उन यादों का क्या?

ये विद्यालय अधूरा रह जाता आपके योगदान के
बिना,
हम खुशकिस्मत हैं कि ऐसा अनमोल रत्न वसंत
वैली को मिला |
-श्रिजीत कोले, 12



Illustrated by
Gauri Minocha, 12

"Kids will not remember the math they learned in school, but they will remember their experiences"

"Mr Kapur was like the **Rock of Gibraltar** for all stakeholders- students, teachers and parents. His footprints are all pervasive- as an educationist, mentor and in his humane persona." -Mrs.Mitra



"During your 30 year long tenure you have been our constant guiding force and your wisdom has helped *shape the childhood of thousands of people* around the world. Thank you for showing all of us the way and we hope the best of your journey still lies ahead." -Darsh Puri, Class 9

"I have always looked up to him with *stars in my eyes*, and since I cannot stop him from leaving, with a heavy heart, I wish him the best for his future endeavours in Bhutan!"

- Advaita Sehgal, Class 10



"While teachers light the lamp of knowledge for students, it is you who provided the fuel required for doing the same. Over the years, you've been with us **each step of the way**, and enabled us to become the students 'Vasant Valley School' is so proud of." -Aanchal Mahajan, Batch of 2018



"We can't thank you enough, Mr. Kapur. You have been a big **INSPIRATION** for all of us."

-Siddbant Gandhi, Class 12

"Mr. Kapur is the *father figure of school*. He has been there forever, since the day we joined, till now. He will still remain the towering, wise figure in our lives, who has not only always been there for the school, but also for us individually."

-Amyra Pasricha, Class 7

"The only uniform we should have is an open mind"



"Thank you for being such a constant in all our lives, Mr. Kapur. **You made school home** for all of us - a place we could be ourselves, learn to fly and become who we are today. Thank you for everything, from teaching us things beyond those text books to those warm bear hugs!"

- Prarthana Gupta, Batch of 2011



"He is a man with a heart 'larger than himself' (pun intended). Always had a word or sentence for you that immediately struck a chord with your heart...he is our very own 'Punjabi voice' in the myriad, diverse world of VVS." -Mrs.Bhullar

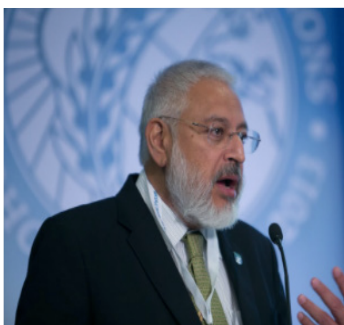
"I know that Mr. Kapur's ideology will continue to live within the walls of our school and in the depths of our hearts. Thank you, Mr. Kapur, for being part of our journey to become '**Excellent in Deed**'. -Shyla Uppadhyay, Class 9

"With Mr. Kapur in school, there has NEVER been a dull moment! He has **transformed us all** into smarter, sharper and more goal-oriented people, just by changing the way we learn. We love you sir! All the best for your future!" -Amaara Dalmia, Class 8



Mr. Kapur was essentially the first building block of what we know today as 'Vasant Valley School'. An embodiment of everything VVS stands for, he has truly shown us what "Excellence in Deed" means. **A pillar of strength & guidance** at VVS, Mr. Kapur and the coveted jar of biscuits in his office will forever be remembered by us all!

-Inayat Gill, Batch of 2015



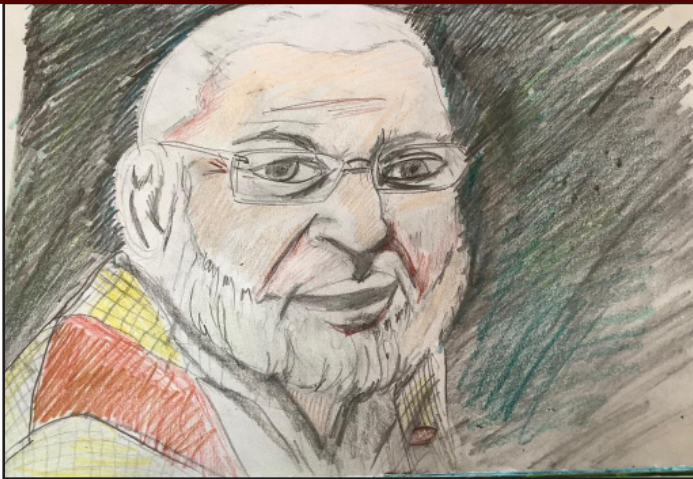
"We are all life-long learners"

"Mr. Kapur has always been my window to the world of education. He would always have new ideas and ways to do the most mundane things in school. Though, we all have very big shoes to fit into, I am confident that we will make him proud! **You have sown the seed in all of us Mr Kapur and we promise that we will nourish the tree just as you have over the last 30 years.**" -Mrs.S. Bakshi

"When I think of Mr. Kapur, the images of *Dumbledore* and *Gandalf* come to mind. All these tall, humorous, wise, white-haired men who guided young minds making them succeed. I speak for everyone in school when I say he will be truly missed. I know we will strive to continue to make him proud!" -Kaanya Saha, Class 7



Illustrated by Sara Jayakumar,9



An Ode to Mr. Kapur

Sketch by Imaan Kaur Bakshi V-B

Mr. Kapur Oh Mr. Kapur!

You were an amazing director with enthusiasm and flair,
Your presence was comforting, you'd shower us with love
and care,

We will miss you for a long time to come,
So please don't forget us and visit us or we'll be glum.

Mr. Kapur Oh Mr. Kapur!

You took this school to places far,
And made its name shine like a star,
You passing by in the alcove with a smile ,
Always made us want to go the extra mile.

Mr. Kapur Oh Mr. Kapur!

You gave us encouragement, ability and strength,
You always made our school go forward another length,
With all your wisdom you guided our school till date,
And now it is our duty to keep its legacy safe.

Mr. Kapur Oh Mr. Kapur!

You were lucky for us as everyone said,
You taught us not to let leadership go to our head,
You were better than best of the best,
And you never let this school fail through any test,

Mr. Kapur Oh Mr. Kapur!

We will miss you !!

Avanti Chopra V-C

My first memory of Mr. Kapur was when my mother told me all about him! My grandmother said that he was like '**PIED PIPER**'. He would walk down the corridors with children following him, some even hanging from his very long legs. I was fascinated. And the day I actually met him, my mother introduced him to me. I was already in awe with the stories I had heard. Seeing his personality and his height, I hid behind my mother and watched him. He said, "Oh you are my baby's baby!" I wish he was more in school when I joined. But I am glad, I could go to his room with my mother to meet him. Even till now I am shy and in complete admiration but I don't want him to leave.

Nirvan Bhatia V-B

Mr. Arun Kapur has greatly contributed to the development of Vasant Valley School. I have seen him speak on many occasions such as joint assemblies and Founder's Day. I have always been inspired by him. He is very kind and he explains things well. I am sad that Mr. Kapur is leaving. We all love him and will miss him very much.

Samarth Meattle V - B

Thank you, Mr. Kapur for everything. From the first day of school to now, you were always there for us. The Founder's Day and other events in school were always made special by your presence. You made this school the best in the country and a second home to all of us. Thank you for creating a space for us, '**where the mind is without fear**'. We will continue to uphold your vision for the school and take it forward.

Devanshi Jindal V - C

As the younger sibling, I literally grew up hearing about Mr. Kapur as a legendary figure, who was looked up to by parents and students alike. He was obviously tall, stern and very strict! But over the years, I realized just how wrong I was! Anyone who has seen a Santa Claus, would know what Mr. Arun Kapur looks like! He is always generous with hugs and compliments. He has been responsible for making the school the best in the country. The many times that Mr. Kapur introduced new concepts, we didn't really understand what it would mean. I regret not having been able to interact with him much. But I do know, that he will be the **guiding light** for generations to come and I wish him well for his future. *Anhad Kashyap V - C*

I first heard about Vasant Valley and Mr. Arun Kapur as a 5 year old living in Singapore at the time when my parents were looking at moving back to Delhi. I do remember discussions between my parents and my grandmother (who had just retired as a teacher from Vasant Valley) about how the best school I could get admission in Delhi was VVS, with Mr. Kapur as the head of school. They spoke about Mr. Kapur's **towering personality** and how he helped make VVS into what it is today. Now as a



9 year old and having spent 4 years in school, I have seen Mr. Kapur at the Founders' Day celebrations, at the Drama Festival and a few more times when he would be walking around the school. He spoke at these special events. I think he will always be there for all of us because he still calls VVS "His school".

Aliya Dewan V-B

Thank you Mr. Kapur for giving us Vasant Valley School the way it is today. I still remember my first day in school when I was a scared little girl but you played a prank on all the little kids and made us laugh. The school instantly became a home and all fears vanished. Thank you for gifting us the best school, making each one of us a better person and teaching us to raise the bar of our school to world standard. Today as you leave, I know we will miss you but am even more confident that you will always be there for us.

Saanchi Bansal V-C



“Mr. Kapur gave everyone their space to flourish and accepted us as who we are. He had an inclusive approach, accepted ideas and gave us the freedom to execute them. When I joined school in 1995, I asked him **‘What is my role in school?’** He said, **‘You are a Maali’**. Today, after 25 years, I realise-As teachers we all are Maalis. We sow the seeds, we have to practise patience and nurture children. Thank you, Mr Kapur.” -*Ms. Dutta*

“Mr. Arun Kapur’s name has come to be synonymous with our school’s. And rightfully so. He’s showered both the school mission and the school family with so much love and hard work that words fail to explain how integral he is to the VVS family” -*Aadya Chopra, Class 8*



“Mr. Kapur - A visionary, a mentor par excellence, an exacting boss and a dependable friend. Idolised by all stakeholders, his presence in ‘Vasant Valley School’ will live on in the schools soul. -*Mrs. R. Bakshi*

“As an educationist and as a human being he has touched so many lives and enriched them. For him, change is the only constant, and he has brought that philosophy to this school, insisting on **‘RAISING THE BAR’** at all times. -*Mrs. Namrata Singh*



“In these twenty six years, I have learnt a lot from Mr. Kapur- how to not take myself seriously, question set norms, seek the highest standards, put children and relationships first, nurture independence, look at everything from a fresh perspective and so much more. Thank you Mr. Kapur, your innings in Vasant Valley School has been **WONDERBAR**” -*Ms. Krishnan*

“We are as strong as our weakest link”

“Mr. Kapur is, and always will be the **vision and soul** of our school. I can’t imagine school (especially Founder’s Day) without his big smile and constant jokes. He will forever stay a big part of who we are. I say goodbye to him with a heavy heart and wish him good luck for his future endeavours.” -*Kasree Kaur, Class 8*



“Dear Mr. Kapur, 30 years ago I entrusted my bachchas to you, and since then we have laughed, cried, and shared many momentous times together. You’ve truly been an integral part of our lives. And it’s been a beautiful journey indeed! You continue to inspire the Vasant Valley community with your **love for education**. Thank you for giving me an opportunity 20 years ago to be a part of this family.” -*Mrs. Kumar*



He said, “*You should be the best you that you can be*”. A vi-

sionary who changed the face of education and led other schools to follow our path. The systems of no bells, no bags, areas of development have all been visualised and put in place by him. He is able to see the big picture while seeing the pixels that make the big picture. -*Mrs. Saini*

“Actualise the potential of children, instead of maximising it”



“Joyful and warm, he would walk around the school giving hugs and patting us on the head- spreading love and happiness. As a 10 year old, I remember, praying for Mr Kapur to walk in and relieve us from a boring class. *He would listen to our insane ideas for the world and somehow add a bit more madness to them.* We felt truly privileged for having him around us. He represented the spirit and soul of Vasant Valley and every part of the school- from the very structure of the school to the didis, bhaiyas, teachers and students, who will all always notice his absence.” -*Ms. Dillesh Kapur, Batch of 2010*

“His towering presence and sense of humour will never be forgotten.” -*Anivartin Daga, Class 9*

“Each pixel counts”

“Every part of the school has witnessed his charismatic presence and every person of the school has contributed to the school of his dreams- the **Epicentre of Excellence**. I thank him wholeheartedly to allow room for innovative ideas, creativity to blossom, adapt to changes in the society and most importantly to think differently.” -*Mrs. Ghoshal*



“Why do we have such a plain uniform, Sir?”
“Because it’s your personality that has to make you stand out”

“It’s hard to believe we won’t be hearing the iconic **‘My three Rekhas’** line ever again during ‘Founders Day’. Thank you so much Sir, for laying the foundations to an institution that has made us all who we are today.” -*Reana Soni, Class 12*

With love, Vasant Valley

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