

Vasant Valley

September, 2012

T O D A Y

School Watch

Poetry Writing Competition Winners:

Class 8: Sarina Mittal

Class 9: Serena Nanda

Class 10: Kimberley Ireland

Class 11: Divya Shastri

Class 12: Anubha Gupta

Ishan Tandon - Class 11B won a Silver Medal in the 15 m assisted swimming category, at the State

Level Swimming Competition in the Special Olympics.

Vasant Valley was the 3rd ranked team in the Inter-School Multimedia Competition.

Science Essay Writing Competition Winners:

Class 10: Shaswat Rahul

Class 11: Jaahnavee Venkatraman

CONGRATULATIONS!

"We soon came to realise that it doesn't matter so much who you are or where your interests lie; the first thing you will get asked is what country or character you represent in which committee"



'Closing Ceremony: CMUN 2012'



Specialized Committee : Nazi Cabinet of 1939

UNITED WE STAND

Vasant Valley prides itself on giving students every opportunity possible to express themselves outside of the fantastic CBSE curriculum that the school is forced to follow. Debating, elocution, music etc. are all given importance, and children are allowed to explore their talents in any field they so desire. However, in terms of Extracurriculars there is one activity that has remained uncharted territory, one activity that Vasant Valley has always been hesitant to participate in; Model United Nations, or more simply 'Mun'.

Delegate, Chair, Point, Decorum; all words that initially held little ground with the 9 children chosen to represent Vasant Valley at the Cathedral Model United Nations conference in Bombay. Learning MUN procedure which is perhaps what we considered our biggest challenge, turned out to be the easy part. It wasn't until we reached the Trident in Bombay (the site of 'CMUN') that I realised just how tough the conference was going to be.

The three days of the competition passed in a flurry of lobbying, debate, and paperwork. The conference was full to the brim with seasoned, impressive Delegates, their blazers rustling, high heels clicking and clacking in their wake. Each committee came with its own set of challenges; where Veto power had all non P5 members of the Historical Security Council worried, in the next room The Nazi Cabinet Simulation of 1939 was pulling out its hair over an impending assassination. We soon came to realise that it doesn't matter so much who you are or where your interests lie; the first thing you will get asked is what country or character you represent in which committee and all relations will be formed accordingly.

Members of the Cathedral MUN crisis committees also had to deal with the additional concern of the night crisis. Those delegates who were 'lucky' enough to be part of the emergency were woken up and asked to be dressed and at the Trident as soon as possible as for them committee would be convening at midnight. And so we pulled ourselves out of bed, and dragged ourselves to session, where we remained till six in the morning, debating, lobbying, and (when the chair wasn't looking) falling asleep.

When you see an eighth grader stand up in a 120 delegate GA committee and confidently quote the UN charter on any and every issue, it does something to you. It teaches you the true meaning of being a small fish in a big pond. The world is constantly changing, and in this dynamic world international relations is gathering more relevance by the hour. MUN opened our eyes to issues faced by different countries and gave us a platform to voice opinions and solutions to astounding problems.

-Namrata Narula, 11

PLAYERS TO WATCH OUT FOR BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE 2012/2013



Miguel Cuesta



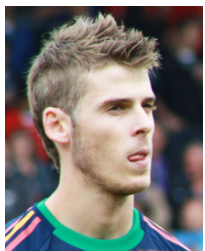
Romelu Lukaku



Samir Nasri



Papiss Cisse



David de Gea



1. **Miguel Pérez Cuesta**- Commonly known as Michu, the 26 year old signed for Swansea for a mere 2 million pounds from Rayo Vallecano as a replacement for Gylfi Sigurdsson. He had a brilliant season for Rayo and is a player who suits Swansea's Barcelonaesque tiki taka movement.
2. **Romelu Lukaku**- The big Belgian has been loaned out by Chelsea to West Bromwich Albion this season and has his chance to show that he is worth 18 million pounds. He complained at his lack of playing time last season, and looks like he has gotten what he wished for this season.
3. **Samir Nasri**- After 'betraying' Arsenal last season and joining Manchester City the Frenchman did not perform to his high standards. However, towards the end of last season he begun to show glimpses of his brilliance. He is bound to be back to his best this season.
4. **Papiss Cisse**- After Alan Pardew shocked many by signing Cisse, he scored goals in abundance. His 'Physics Defying' goal against Chelsea last year has been touted as one of the greatest ever. This season Cisse needs to show that his brilliance was not a one time thing.
5. **David De Gea**- The 21 year old shot stopper had an odd first season at Manchester United last season. He pulled off magnificent saves as well as let in some howlers. He needs to prove Alex Ferguson right and will need to be at his absolute best this season.

-Arman Puri, 9



'Vasant Valley: 3rd ranked team'

"It was tedious work, but a memorable journey which left quite a sweet taste in our mouth."

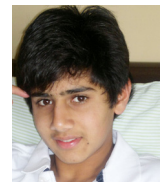


'Springdales: First place'

Inter School Multimedia Competition

The annual multimedia competition, a movie making contest hosted by Vasant Valley School was held on 17th August this year. The topic was 'Is state control of social media necessary for the well-being of society?'. Schools from across north India participated, each sending a team of 4 students. The competition requires participants to take a stand on the topic and create a presentation using various forms of media. The presentation is then judged on clarity, use of multimedia etc.

With a late start, ambiguity in the story and a multitude of complications, Vasant Valley's team for the multimedia competition was not exactly ready to take on the world. We began work after the summer holidays and for over a month, put together all the components of our 7 minute movie. We created the plot, then edited it throughout the process of making the film. 3 of our class mates starred in the movie and worked with us along the entire journey. The technical part was handled by Dhruv Mishra and Mrudang Mathur and they undoubtedly did a magnificent job with the whole movie. We interviewed Dr. Gulshan Rai, director of CERT-In in order to get the government's perspective on the topic; it was a short but necessary and impactful clipping of his opinion. Our movie was the only one in the entire competition which had a human touch to it; it was a story as compared to a documentary. The judges appreciated that angle and our efforts finally won us the third prize. Ms. Namrata Singh mentored us through the process and really helped bring things together. It was tedious work, but a memorable journey which left quite a sweet taste in our mouth.



- Shreyas Kadaba, 11

Sunderbans

Sunderbans meaning the beautiful forests formed by the confluence of rivers three,
UNESCO World Heritage site it was selected to be.
Natural Reservoir covered with mangrove trees,
Deers, monkeys and rabbits running gay and free,
Eating the leaves of the tall Keora and Genwa trees.
Royal Bengal Tiger, the endangered species,
Built its home in these estuarine forests where land meets the sea.
A paradise for bird watchers it is known to be,
National park, a part of the world's largest delta, you must see.
Sunderbans, India's pride, let us preserve it for times to be...

Shivya Paul IV - B



Through Soccer and Cricket we learnt counting up to 11. We played and drew teams of 11 ...11.

Nursery

The Magical Cat

One snowy night inside the house I was reading a story. Suddenly I heard a sound from outside my window. There was a cat freezing in the cold. I went and brought the cat inside my house. I put the cat in warm water. The cat was a magical cat. I named him Tom. Then I brought supper for him. I saw a witch outside my window. The witch wanted Tom. She cast a spell on him. I saved him and the witch ran away. Tom and I lived happily ever after.

Jai Mittal II - B

Black Out

There are quite a few,
Types of Black Outs,
When you lose consciousness,
Yes, but that's only one black out.
There could be a
Horrible enemy raid,
That's just a black out,
That makes you afraid.
You could have a power cut,
Theres no signal, no warning,
It could happen at any time,
Maybe at night or even morning.
Another one is when,
Officials shut you out,
You don't know the news or gossip
And I think that's the worst blackout.

Arusha Nirvan V - B

It was the day of the Drama Fest
And we were about to perform the play
I was shaking in my boots and nervous
But did not know if I could stay.
I stepped ahead to say my line
And fainted to the floor
The audience thought it was acting
And said they wanted more
There was hooting, shouting and clapping
The other actors didn't know what to do
My friend went ahead and faked a line
And said it was all fine.
My head was dizzy and I knew
That I couldn't perform another play
But suddenly my name was called out
As actor of the day!

Karamvir Chopra V - A

वर्षा का मौसम है आया

इस गरम सूखी गरमी के बाद
आए हैं असमान में सवार,
वड़े - वड़े मोटे काले वर्षा के मेघ
जो लाए पानी अपने तन में ।
किसान खुश हो जाते
उनकी फसल उग आती,
मोर नाचते, चिड़िया गाती
लोग गरम - गरम चीजे खाते ।
मेघ कर देते हैं छाया
धूप की चली जाती माया,
दूर हो जाती है गरमी
वर्षा का मौसम है आया ।

सना कपूर पांच - ब

Monsoon Misery

Oh, my gosh, rain again
This awful monsoon is such a pain
Flooded roads and traffic jams
What a way to start my day
Run from the bus to my class
So many slushy puddles we must pass
Soaking clothes, wet shoes and socks
What shall we do if the rain does not stop?
Sit in the class, study more?
Itching and scratching, insects galore
Get out of the rain, you'll catch a cold
And cough, fever and disease untold.
Back home but can't go out
For if I get wet again I'll get a shout
"Stay in and read," says my dad
Another day like this, and I will go mad.

Kathleen Ireland V - B

Rain- Oh! Wonderful Rain

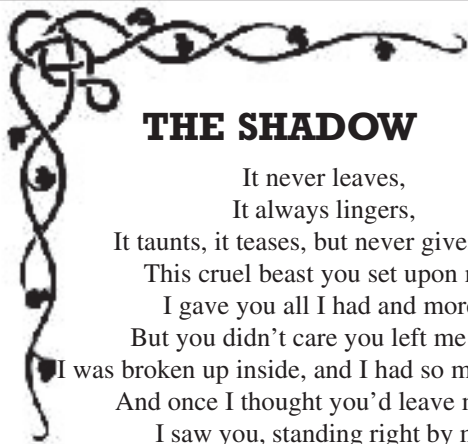
Rain- Oh! Wonderful Rain
I am always there in August
Paper boats float on me,
When I fill all the drains.
Peacocks dance merrily
When I come down very heavily
Hail sometimes accompanies me
When I pour with insanity.
I always make puddles,
For children to play,
As they love me every day!

Vijit Mann III - C

Healthy Food

We must eat healthy food every day...
For every meal we eat.
Carbohydrates, Fats and Proteins,
And vitamin A at least twice a day!
If you want to eat a balanced meal...
You will have to eat all your meat.
Your green veggies too,
Peas and broccoli too, mind you!
Fats are also energy food...
They store all the energy from the food
you eat.
But watch out for these too...
As too many fats can be bad for you!
Make sure you eat all your vitamins...
Vitamin A, B, C and D.
Because each of these are very good,
For skin and nerves and for you to see!
Now, as for junk food...
Eat these only once in a blue moon.
Since too much of this rubble,
Will put your body in deep trouble!

Devaki Jayal IV - B



THE SHADOW

It never leaves,
It always lingers,
It taunts, it teases, but never gives back
This cruel beast you set upon me.
I gave you all I had and more,
But you didn't care you left me sore
I was broken up inside, and I had so much to hide
And once I thought you'd leave me be,
I saw you, standing right by me
I was damaged, scarred but forever yours,
I didn't deserve this, I deserved a cause,
Perhaps you were perfect for me,
Perfect for you? I'd try to be
Why can't you see?
What we could be,
Or would it be so hard to say,
That for you and I there would be no day,
Not now, not ever
Please set me free
But the shadow still lurks; hovering by me,
But I may move on, and someone else I may find,
But you will forever be, a shadow,
In the back of my mind.

- Kimberley Ireland, 10

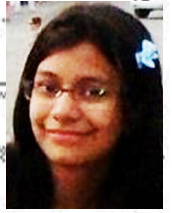


THE MASK

Her presence it barred,
Made her wonder what was behind that façade.
What unconceivable truths lay confined,
Horrors to which she was blind.
He laughed and chattered through the day,
Yet keeping inside matters at bay.
He was a transformed character by night,
She was now discovering his plight.
She longed to see what was hidden,
Beneath webs of lies, the truth was laden.
Missing events and loopholes,
She was scared to uncover more roles.
Inside he was a different person,
She sought more truths with every liaison.
Finally, she experienced clarity,
His nature's disparity
His character's variety
And saw through his split personality.

-Serena Nanda, 9

Walls



I stare at her silhouette and try to reach
The tiny speckle standing alone on the beach
I want to console her and ask her what's wrong
But then again, its not my place and not where
I belong.
I want to get closer to take a look
At this mysterious enigma n which I'm hooked
My eyes follow her movements silently
This girl, slowly walking up and down the beach
All of a sudden, I can't take it anymore
I struggle to go towards the stranger on the shore
I look down and try to break free
From the restraints that have such a powerful hold on me
These invisible walls are holding me back
What is wrong with me, what is it I lack?
I don't deserve to be tethered and shackled all the time
I deserve to be free, is that such a crime?
Suddenly, it dawns on me and my eyes widen with shock
I know exactly who she is when she disappears behind the rocks
I crane my head to catch a glimpse
Of the girl who was independence.

-Sarina Mittal, 8

Blasphemy



Who does he think he is?
And why does he think he can dictate life?
He'd believed he was the true prodigy.
But really, it's just his fantasy.
In the name of the judgement day,
He has forever gotten his way
But has he really failed to see;
What this world has come to be
Sitting up above, he's become a little brazen.
All this fame and glory, he's lost in self-obsession.
For its been long since we went down on one knee
To genuinely thank he who claims to be almighty.
So who does he think he is?
And why does he think he can dictate life?
By creating words like submission and devotion
Does he really think he can prevent this destruction?

- Anubha Gupta, 12



“तकनीक ने अध्यापक का ब्रह्मण ले लिया है”

आदरणीय अध्यापक महोदय प्यारे सहपाठियों आज के पाद विवाह का विषय है “तकनीक ने अध्यापक का ब्रह्मण ले लिया है” और मैं ऋषभ चैटजी इस विषय के विपक्ष में खोलने जा रहा हूँ। कबीर दास जी ने कहा है ‘गुरु गोविन्द दोऊ खड़े काके लॉगू पाय। अलिहारी गुरु आपने जिन गोविन्द दियों अताये। इन दोहे मे कबीर जी ने गुरु को भगवान से भी अड़ा अताया है क्योंकि भगवान को पाने का रास्ता गुरु ने ही अताया है। जिन दिनों यह दोहा लिखा गया था उन दिनों भी ज्ञान के लिये कोई न कोई तकनीक तो रही ही होगी। और नहीं तो क्या पुस्तकों की छपाई तब भी होती थी और छात्र आरा ज्ञान पुस्तकों से ले सकते थे। इसे लिखने का कारण है कि गुरु का महत्त्व अताना। गुरु या अध्यापक ही हमें किसी भी विषय में सही मार्गदर्शन करा सकते हैं जहाँ कि कम्प्यूटर यह नहीं कर सकता।

ऋषभ चैटजी

A New Rise For Sudan

Even before Sudan had gained independence, the country was already fighting with itself to break up. What was happening was, Sudan was anticipating independence from the British Empire, but while doing so, the southern part of the country was worried that the northern people would dominate as soon as the country was granted independence.

"After almost 60 years, a large portion of the country's population has got what they wanted"

Another main factor to the further segregation of the country's regions was when the British put a law into place that prohibited the country's southerner's from going to the north, and vice versa. Naturally, this led to further isolation and sowed the seeds for the conflict to come.

After that, there were 2 long civil wars in Sudan, which then stopped, due to a peace treaty. However, now, since last year, the violence started again, and now finally Southern Sudan has got its own state.

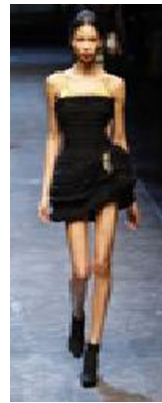
Personally, I am extremely glad that this has happened. After almost 60 years, a large portion of the country's population has got what they wanted, albeit at a huge expense, but then, if they hadn't, then all these years of misery would have been in vain. I am pleased because of this as if a certain portion of people want to be independent; I see no reason to deny them that right. The thing is, that the southerners, who mainly consist of African-Christians, while the Northern area, (which is larger population-wise) consists of Arab-Muslims. So their Muslim counterparts did not treat the Africans equally, and it is only natural, that the Africans wanted to be separated. After all, wouldn't you? If you could live somewhere where everyone was just like you, and you were treated like a normal human being, I'm sure you would choose that. (I know that you already live in such an environment, but just imagine being in a completely contrasting scenario).

So, now that they have separated, both the countries are living in peace, and are minding their own business. So it's a win-win situation. Also, to top it all off, the violence has ended! Now tell me one negative about what has happened. South Sudan is also on the verge of being a member of the U.N. Need I say anymore?

-Anav Sawhney, 9



Catwalk to Death?



Smaller, thinner. The only words which seem to make any sense to people today. The craze is no longer to being a size zero, but has gone even lower than that.

Life for models in the fashion industry has always had quite the scandalous reputation, with eating disorders being common problems. However, even after many attempts to get rid of them, eating disorders have just got worse in the industry. This doesn't come as much of a surprise, though, considering that the models are expected to be “living and breathing coat hangers.” Any aspiring model has to be almost impossibly thin. So much so that, according to a recent study carried out by the Model Health Inquiry, as many as 40% of models may currently be suffering from some or the other kind of eating disorder. As well as this, the report suggests that there are a growing number of women with hidden eating disorders, which would mean this may just be the tip of the iceberg. Even though anorexia is the most well known eating disorder, results have shown that bulimia is the most common.

"Models are expected to be living and breathing coat hangers."

On one hand, there are people in parts of Africa and other developing countries, who die of starvation and here we are endorsing starvation to look good. Every day, in different parts of the world, models are being driven off the edge by this never-ending race to be thin. A stand has to be taken, and a healthy body image must be promoted to end this 'catwalk to death'.

-Riddhima Wahi, 10



1. Green Mountain State - Corinna Rose
2. Whistle - Flo Rida
3. Hall of Fame - The Script ft Will I AM
4. One More Night - Maroon 5
5. Some Nights - Fun
6. Everybody Talks - The Neon Trees
7. Titanium - David Guetta ft Sia
8. Blow Me (One Last Kiss) - P!nk
9. Mercy - Kanye West
10. Pound The Alarm - Nicki Minaj

A STEP INTO DARKNESS

As she exhaled that breath, she let go of everything that burdened her. She had had enough. She had heard enough of what people said, what they did and the envious, worse malicious ways in which they acted. That slap on her face had been the last straw. She made up her mind and this time she wasn't like her usual self, contemplating several times, she was sure. There was no turning back now.

Walking in the dark alleys of her house, as she wasn't able to pay the last bill, she looked vacantly ahead and seemed to be lost in a world of her thoughts, alone, she felt that these thoughts only belonged to her. She remembered how years ago she used to be a child oblivious to her surroundings and content with all she had. However, her father had wanted more than what he could get and was led into a new world through the doors of temptation. And to achieve his desire he sent his only daughter to work as he sat and dreamt about the money and fortune he would encompass one day. Young and unconcerned, she didn't know what she was being made to do, thinking it was the best for her, she never resented it. For years she went with a smile on her face but as she grew older, it started making more sense. The words started coming together and one day she deciphered it as it spelt out child labour. Even then she was going to ask her father politely if she could stop working as it was a wrong against humanity, against the law and, most importantly, against her.

She was naïve to even think that her father would acknowledge what she was saying. The words went through him as if they had nothing concrete in them. He then smiled. Seeing his face light up was more than she could handle and that is when she lost everything, her values, her ideals, she lost herself. He told her that she hadn't been working properly and that her appalling work had led to no electricity in the house. Hearing that she lost all respect she had for him and screamed all that was in her heart, telling him that she was the only girl in the factory and was laughed upon and troubled by all those uncultured men. She told him every emotion she felt, every thought that crossed her mind and before she could continue he picked up his hand and swung it with immense force across her face, forgetting what harm he would do to the baby inside.

Hearing footsteps she came back to reality from those haunting memories and found the only way out of this. She had heard about this being considered the worst crime anyone could commit, but she felt her heart longing for this more than anything else. Selfishly she forgot about the innocent baby growing inside of her and was ready to sacrifice her life to god. In two seconds, there was a shrilling shriek and it was all over. That moment when she felt her blood rushing away and her life ebbing away, she didn't feel bad. But felt elated and felt a feeling of bliss, a feeling of becoming eternal, a feeling for lasting forever.



-Isha Gupta, 10

CURRENT AFFAIRS

The clock ticks on,
People go rushing past,
They come and they go,
Make no impressions that last.



They're living life in the fast lane,
And it's taking its toll,
Relationships are short,
And like a lost poker game,
On things it's easy to fold.

Work is now more important than love,
What on earth has our world become?
Social networking is the sole way to communicate,
Is there no way to avoid our inevitable fate?

Trust has no meaning and cheating isn't a crime,
Wasted extensively is our precious time.
Standing lost and alone even in a crowded room,
Our unhappy ending continues to loom.

Creativity and passion is lost in a void,
Of compassion and humility, mankind is devoid.
About the past and goodness we reminisce,
It gives us hopes that history always repeats itself.

- Aakanksha Jadhav, 10



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