From the Editors’ Desk

February-March, 2017

Annyeong!

When Exam Fever gets to you,
1. You automatically feel more sleepy.
2. You feel ravenously hungry and spend all the time thinking about the next meal.
3. Revising the syllabus? That’s unthinkable and too far-fetched.
4. Alarm Clock goes berserk and possessed, because, we hear people saying every time ‘I put on the alarm last night, but it didn’t ring.’
5. Because all the pens seem to disappear magically and you end up going around asking ‘Blue pen hai kya? Aaj exam hai.’
6. And of course, our exams won’t go well without our warden putting on teekas on our forehead every morning.

Class XI (present Class XII) got finished with their exams in February and visited the metropolitan city of Mumbai and the sunny beaches of Goa. Their new session as ‘Class XII’ didn’t really begin on a positive note, but they will keep trudging on with a happy spirit.

After going through continuous struggles of mugging up History dates and Math formulae, understanding continuous concepts of Chemistry and going through entire English syllabus in one day, the girls loosened up and all the classes travelled to the vibrant cities of Rajasthan, to the tranquil mountains of Himachal Pradesh and to the Ajanta caves of Aurangabad.

The time of Board Exams in VDJS is as dramatic as it gets. From DD waking you up in the morning with all ‘Aashirvaad’ and best wishes, announcements in the hostel, wishing the girls over and over again, ‘Dahi-cheeni’ in the mess, the Principal putting a ‘tikka’ on each girl’s forehead, the teachers showering the girls with flowers and wishing them with a big fat smile full of hope and expectations, juniors coming to wish and well, it goes on and on. All that the teachers do during the lunch time, is wait for Class XII to come back with happy faces. We hope Class XII comes out with an outstanding result and their hard work pays off!

With the end of March, we pack up with all that happened in the session 2016-17 and move on to make a new and fresh beginning, draft out new plans and policies, welcome new members to our family, be more responsive to change and see everything as it comes. Bidding goodbye to winter, we welcome summer heat and cold showers. With closed eyes to the old ends and open hearts to a new beginning, we wish you all a great session ahead!

"Life is unpredictable
It changes with the seasons
Even your coldest winter
Happens for the best of reasons
And though it feels eternal
Like all you’ll ever do in freeze
I promise spring is coming
And with it, brand new leaves."

Happy Reading!

Student Editors
Vasundhara Panghal, Samiksha Singh

As this session comes to an end, we are also bidding goodbye to the nuts and bolts of the Editorial Board. We can’t believe it’s coming to an end. We hope you have a great future ahead. We will miss you!

From the Head Editor

Have you ever thought that if one thing hadn’t happened, a whole set of things never would’ve either? Like dominoes in time, a single event kicked off an unstoppable series of changes that gained momentum and nothing was ever the same again.

We all have such profound moments in our lives. I don’t need to think twice before saying that mine would be Investiture 2015, when a golden shining badge which bore ‘Vasundhara Panghal Vice Prefect Editorial’ was pinned to my shirt. Since then it has been a rollercoaster ride.

Happy Reading once and for all!

Prefect Editorial Always
Vasundhara Panghal

From the Head Designer

Hello! First of all I would like to thank the Editorial Board for increasing the power of my spectacles from 2.25 to 2.75 to 3.00. Being the creative designer of La Vidijenesse was a learning experience, working with Vasundhara and Samiksha was no less than a herculean task.

I’ll miss all this and good luck to the future editorial board.

Goodbye!

Ourjan Aggarwal
Continuing with the tradition and belief, a Havam Puja was performed on February 12th, 2017 to commemorate the 84th Birth Anniversary of late Vidya Devi Jindal Ji. She being the epitome of compassion and love dreamt of providing education and equal opportunity to girls especially in Haryana. Late Shri O P Jindal transformed her dream into reality. Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar is the maiden venture of the Vidya Devi Jindal Rural Development Trust established in 1981 by Shri OP Jindal. Her dream is being lived and blooming in VDJS while spreading its fragrance across the globe.

The whole school gathered in the front lawn for the same. The sacred fire and chanting of mantras invoked Lord’s blessings and filled the ambience with solemnity, serenity, positivity and bliss. According to the Vedic scriptures, it is believed that fire is the central element of a Havam, as it is regarded as the Almighty in the Hindu religion. Hence, the offerings made to the sacred fire is said to purify the surroundings as well as the individuals. The sacred fire is considered to be a link between human consciousness and the cosmic consciousness. Havam is performed every year with the aim to achieve spiritual success and awakening auspicious energies. The sacred mantras chanted during Havams created a particular vibration, which warded off the evil and ushered in positive forces.

The school continues to modernise itself keeping its traditions and culture intact. We carry forward our school motto ‘Vidya Jyoti Jeevan Jyoti’ with pride and honour.

The students of Classes IX and X attended a ‘Motivation and Career Workshop’ conducted by Dr. V S Ravindran on February 12th, 2017. Dr. V S Ravindran is a renowned educational psychologist, counselor trainer and teacher educator. He has been involved in the training of people in leadership positions in educational institutions, corporate and government organizations for more than two decades. His major areas of expertise are counselor training, teacher education, leadership development and guiding parents. He is instrumental in starting counseling and guidance programs in many reputed educational institutions in India and abroad. Presently he is the Director-General of ICTR. The discussion in the workshop focused on Goal Setting, Time Management, Handling Distractions, Stress Management, Understanding Difficult Concepts and Revision Techniques.

The workshop included an hour and a half long motivational talk and half an hour interactive session wherein students’ queries were addressed. Dr. Ravindran through his short stories, anecdotes and some references from various case studies motivated the youngsters. His logical arguments convinced the students to believe that aptitude has upper edge over the interest in order to make a successful career. As interest can be inculcated and it changes also with time and age, but aptitude is something inborn and one can’t do much about it. He gave more weightage to aptitude than interest because once you have chosen the field, try to know from various resources about the working culture of the career you are aspiring for. It would be better to talk to some people from that field before setting your heart and mind on it. It is always wise to keep at least four options besides one’s main option for career; because the demand and supply is not compatible in today’s era.

Dr. Ravindran clearly stated that there is no shortcut for success. If one wants to succeed in life, one has to be a willing and consistent worker. Failures are nothing but the sign of imperfect preparation. So never lose heart at failure, rather bounce back with double energy and preparation. While discussing the problems faced by students in studies, Dr Ravindran gave some important tips to the students. He said, ‘We humans are slaves of our habits,’ hence emphasis upon inculcating good habits. Here are some tips that all of us should abide by in order to make a successful career:-

• Find a permanent place to study.
• Declutter your study area.
• Study with your back straight. (Don’t slouch!)
• Write your life goals on paper and stick them to your study table and desk.
• Revise what you have studied in the day as the human brain forgets 60% of the matter learnt throughout the day.
• Practice yoga for enhancing concentration.
• Eat healthy and nutritious food.

He also underlined the selfless love of the parents for their children, therefore to understand if they ever scold their wards, they only intend to motivate them to do better, though without knowing the real impact of that. The workshop was so engrossing that nobody from the audience even blinked an eye, as it kept getting more interesting and fun every second. The learning from this workshop will guide everyone each and every day. With humour, fun and logic, Dr. V S Ravindran gave us a learning that we will always keep safe and put into practice in our every step of life.

**Best practices are building blocks of any organisation.** It helps the organisation to foster desired objectives and achieve set targets. Indian Merchant Chamber, Mumbai organised ‘Best Practices Competition’ on March 15 & 16, 2017, under the aegis of MGH RNDBQA Awards. Two teachers, Neelam Rai and Kavita Sharma, represented VDJS and presented the presentation on the same.

The two best practices presented were:

- Mentoring with well defined SOPs for transparent communication channel and Safe and secure environment with liberal education.
- Organisations from industries, health, service, banking and education shared their best practices. It was learned that ‘Bench Mark’ is an important aspect of following any best practice. It was an enriching experience for the teachers, as they also grabbed the opportunity of interacting on various aspects of growth and contribution made by the organisations.
Girls NCC Cycling Expedition was accorded a warm welcome by the students of Vidya Devi Jindal School. The expedition aimed at bringing awareness amongst the masses of Haryana on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' 'Swachh Bharat' also to inculcate the spirit of adventure amongst cadets and to strengthen the character and instil qualities of courage, comradeship, discipline and leadership in the cadets.

The expedition comprised of 24 NCC Girls Cadets, organised by NCC Group Headquarters, Rohtak. It commenced from Rohtak under the leadership of the Group Commander Brig. B.S. Dalal. The weeklong expedition ran through the interiors of Haryana. While the Girls travelled from Rohtak to Sirsa via Meham and Hisar, the boys followed Rohtak-Jhajjar-Narnaoul-Charkhi Dadri route.

The team reached VDJS on February 20, 2017. The school children were very excited to receive the expedition team in the school premises and extended a warm welcome. The Cadets showcased a skit, a dance, a nukkad natak and interacted with the girls of VDJS while sharing their experiences. The emotionally charged performance by the NCC Cadets and motivational lectures sensitised the audience on current campaigns like 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Swachh Bharat'. This in turn spread the understanding of gender equality.

The team left the campus on February 22, 2017 with a message that is imprinted in the minds of all for life that the girls are the most beautiful creation of God. Respecting and saving them is like respecting and saving ‘Humanity’. The girls are our pride and we must respect them.

The two best practices presented were:

1. Retd. Professor Shri Gugaram Ji Godara and Mrs. Praveena. While distributing the prizes to the best performers the Chief Guest appreciated the maiden endeavour of VDJS to host this event and further urged the assemblage to put their best efforts to save our cultural heritage through each one’s mother tongue. Principal Mrs. Shalini Mehrotra in her address thanked all the participants for making the maiden event a successful one and announced that Matribhasha Diwas will be hosted by VDJS every year.
British Council conducted an exclusive training on 'Advance Course in Core Skills' from 1st to 3rd March, 2017 for the teachers under Connecting Classroom Programme at Kamla Nehru Public School, Phagwara, Punjab. Around 40 teachers of nearby schools attended the interesting and informative workshop. The teachers were trained on the core skills, ‘Communication and Collaboration’, over a continuous period of three days - one day introduction followed by two days of in-depth knowledge.

Ma'am Mamta Sharma and Ma'am Kavita Sharma from VIDYA DEVI JINDAL SCHOOL, HISAR attended the workshop. The workshop aimed at enabling teachers to confidently propose, discuss and implement ideas about how to integrate and develop intercultural communicative and collaborative skills into regular classroom teaching and school activities. No learning can happen without conscious efforts and mindful practice of newly learnt skills. So, the teachers were asked to design a lesson plan that included integration of scholastic subjects in collaboration with other schools - local or global. The same was to be delivered in the classes.

Each teacher was given a ‘Reflection Journal’. This journal is a tool for structured way of introspection on our learning journey. The Reflection, wherein teachers will get to share their work with other peers will also be organised at the same school tentatively after two months of the workshop, giving the teachers ample time to implement the learning in the classrooms. The best of works will be acknowledged and used by British Council as case study.

These workshops enable teachers to efficiently give different dimensions to their teaching, also giving young learners local grounds to share information, resources and responsibilities on global front.
A unique holiday experience came alive for Sarojinites at the MG Village Heritage on February 18, 2017. The whole green brigade spent a memorable day in true rural ethnic setting in the backdrop of lush green nature. Children and adults experienced delightful cuisines from Haryana and Punjab to include chaach, kadhai doodh, jalebi, bajra ki roti with gur and ghee besides sumptuous buffet, live entertainment – folk music and dance, traditional handicrafts by artisans, sports and adventure activities in the background of lush green fields. The rural setting was further enhanced by thatched huts, cattle barns full of goats, sheep, cows, buffaloes, camel and horses and poultry farm full of fowls, ducks and rabbits. This was an opportunity for all of us to participate in the daily life of our village folks.

Under the Generation Global (Face to Faith) programme, fourteen students of class IX participated in the video conference with the students from Asian countries, Govt. Model High Secondary School (GOR), Fatima Abbasi, Pakistan, SMA Lab School Cibubur, Indonesia and SMK Semen Padang, Indonesia, on 27 February, 2017. The topic of the discussion was ‘Women Empowerment’.

The discussion was steamed on the atrocities faced by young women, violation of the rights of young women, disrespect of young women, etc. The students researched and tried to discover maximum problems faced by girls. They realized that India being a developing country is comparatively much better than any other countries in terms of empowering girls. The participants also discussed on different projects that are being introduced by the government, but aren’t being implemented in all parts of the world. The conference concluded, leaving every participant with a thought provoking question on ‘Types of sincere efforts still needed to realize the importance of women to the world’.

Overall, it was a wonderful experience for the students of all the schools as they realised the importance of navigating the differences in a peaceful way. Such types of video conferences are helpful in raising the confidence level of students while communicating with the other group on different topics. It helps them to understand the different type of personalities and their mindset.
The facilitator, Mr Rishab Khanna, conducted a one-day training workshop from an organisation – Les Transformations, on the topic ‘Know Your Learners’. The principal objective of the training workshop was to sensitize teachers regarding the use of different teaching and learning strategies in a classroom situation. The focal points of discussion include:

- Our words create our world.
- Our brain accepts what we perceive.
- A teacher possesses a power to create, transform or destroy the life of a child.
- With great power comes a greater responsibility.
- As teachers, we generally make assumptions about a child that may not be true always. Interact with a child without any preconceived notions.
- Try to look at the things from others’ perspective also.
- There are different reactions of teachers for questions asked by the students.
- In the fourth Industrial Age human beings will get transformed into super human beings. Artificial intelligence will bring about change in the vision of teachers.
- There is a need to implement integrated education programme in school.
- However, the main problem faced by teacher is related to ‘Cognitive Dissonance’. In this case clarity of thoughts and actions is required.
- Teachers need to change themselves and become smarter.
- There is need to Re-design the curriculum.
- No child should be tagged or labeled as underachiever or non-achiever. We should not create categories amongst the students.
- All children have some expectations from a teacher – consciously or unconsciously.
- Smart boards cannot replace smart teachers.
- Learning styles should be kept in mind while teaching.
- These learning styles are: Visual, Auditory and Kinesthetic.
- Multiple Intelligence module should be incorporated.

The session focused on equipping teachers with the philosophy of KYL, which would enable the teachers to have an insight to various learning styles of a child. It has been a good learning experience for the staff and everyone enjoyed the session.

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Subject: Letter of Appreciation - From Komal Bansal (Batch -1999)

Graphite and diamond are two forms of carbon. When carbon is compressed under very high temperature and pressure, it transforms into precious diamonds. Similarly, the personality and outlook of an individual depends upon the exposure and upbringing given to an individual. Komal Aggarwal Bansal (alumna, 1999 batch, adm. no.-2182) takes the privilege to congratulate my school, on successfully completing 34 years of excellence in imparting education and much more. Not only I, my elder sister, my cousins and now my niece is studying here because of the kind of trust, the school has built in parents, over the period of time. My parents used to say that “You girls always surprise us with some unexpected piece of knowledge. You can talk of Science, Mathematics, the nature, the planet, general awareness, outlook towards life with equal ease as you rejoice on the tunes of almost all the festivals and cultural diversities. You Jindalites celebrate and cherish every moment with utmost zeal and zest”. Wonderful facilities, the amazingly planned extra-curricular activities and hobby classes that include electrical fittings, pottery, sewing, knitting along with less common sports like archery, gun-shooting, soccer and many more such activities that widen and magnify the scope of the sub-conscious learning in children. Stage exposure from the very beginning is exemplary. The excellent faculty, the brilliant infrastructure is worth mentioning. School is full of congenial staff members, some of them associated with it for three decades. This itself is in great achievement for any institution. School has proved itself time and again by bringing laurels back home in competitions held elsewhere. Premises, which is in proximity to the beautiful Mother Nature, is no less than any five star resort property maintained by professional horticulturist. Amazingly planned pool is an outstanding attraction. The excellent food of our school mess takes it many steps ahead of what you call, other residential schools. B.O.D+ students and staff dining together and promised to be served the hot, nutritious and sumptuous vegetarian cuisine. I can’t thank enough the Principal, teachers and all staff dining together and promised to be served the hot, nutritious and sumptuous vegetarian cuisine.

Thanko
Komal Aggarwal Bansal
Batch -1999
VIDYA DEVI JINDAL SCHOOL, HISAR

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Batch-1999

Komal Aggarwal Bansal

Subject: Letter of Appreciation- From Komal Bansal (Batch -1999)

VDJS family paid tribute to late Shri OP Jindal Ji, the Founder Father of the School on March 31, 2017 in a solemn assembly to commemorate the ideals for which revered Bauji stood. The whole school gathered to pay homage to the visionary whose principles guide us every moment. The members of staff enlightened the students about life and virtues of Bauji whose magnanimity was confirmed by sheer humility. Bauji’s vision for the education of a girl child has culminated into VDJS which stands apart for its supreme quality of education. Hindi Declamation was conducted on the topic ‘Jeevan Ek Sangarsh Hain’ to highlight his personality, achievements and dreams. The Principal, in her speech, urged the whole gathering to follow the footsteps of Bauji.

May his spirit guide us in the years to come!
The Green Rhino Programme is an environmental awareness campaign, which is carried on by the young students under the aegis of Association for Social and Environmental Development. It is named after Rhino, as it is one of the largest animals found on the Earth. So the association aims to create the largest group of young generation, who can save our Mother Earth.

In the Green Rhino Programme, young students are chosen and enrolled on the basis of their interest and potential to get environmental education and leadership training. For the session 2016-17, a total of 52 students were enrolled in Green Rhino Team in which they were trained to take up the projects which includes a presentation on nature in their region, the people and their relationship with nature, the environmental issues facing these ecosystems, and how the students can protect the environment. The Green Rhino team was trained by ASED on the framework of environmental ethos such as shape and size of wildlife, nature game on food chain and food web and bird watching sessions. Inspired by these framework sessions the Green Rhino team designed its own projects to create and execute nature conservation. On February 27, 2017, the Green Rhino sharing session was organised in VDJS, which was attended by the CEO of ASED, Ms. Diti Mukherjee and the Vice Principal of school, Ms. Madhu Negi. In this session, the Green Rhino team showcased their projects through a poster presentation with the vision and major challenges faced during the conduct of the same. Some posters such as ‘Pee Hai To Kal Hai’, Jan Jan Ka Nara Ho, Hara Bhara Desh Hamara Ho’ were highly appreciated. These presentations provided the Green Rhino team an opportunity to show their compassion towards the environment.

In their concluding note the team highlighted how the Green Rhino Projects has enlightened them with the possibility to protect and be the real stewards of the environment. Ms. Diti Mukherjee in her reflection mentioned that students need to be more pragmatic in their approaches while working on the projects of environment issues. She also emphasised that the students need to plan their inspiring challenges and work on a weekly basis for the fruitful results.

Welcome

The school extends a warm and hearty welcome to Dr Venika Krishna (Career Counsellor), Ms Gurpreet Kaur (School Counsellor) and Mr Raza Qasim (PGT History). May they have a fruitful tenure ahead!

The school bade adieu to Mrs Anita Dhull (PGT English), Dr Shikha Kasliwal Lodha (Life Skills and Career Counsellor), Mrs. Palash Priya Bose Jaiswal (Faculty of English), Ms Zarina Kalin, Ms Preeti Kumari and Ms Geetika Sihag (Dorm Parents). We wish them good luck for their future endeavours!

Welcome