

Vasant Valley

April, 2013

T O D A Y

School Watch

Rhea Rathi of Class 5 won a Silver Medal and Raunak Ujla of Class 6, won a Gold Medal at the **State Level Badminton Championship** organised by Special Olympics on April 17, 2013.

In the **Inter-House Science Quiz for Class 9 and 10** that took place on 16th April, Red House came first. The team consisted of : Aryaan Varma, Krishna Singh, Ricky T George and Mueed Asad.

The results of the **Individual India Quiz** organized for Class 4 on 16th April are:

1st - Agastya Rattan Nashier and Samara Jind Mohan

2nd - Aarush Shah, Agastya Gupta and Shaurya Chandna

3rd - Rohan Malhotra

The results of the class 6 and 7 **Sanskrit Shlok Lekhan Pratiyogita** held on 22nd April are: (Class 6) -

1st - Amaaya Vijay Arora

2nd - Saanvi Bhatia and Anahita Jain

3rd - Rohil Bahl and Sehej Kaur

Class 7

1st - Veeraj Jindal

2nd - Jai Arora and Rabia Gupta

3rd - Kabir Singh and Ritvik Bhalla

CONGRATULATIONS

End of A Heartache

Dastardly acts of terrorism continue to ravage and shake the world each day. As America recovers from the terror that struck Boston on the fateful day of 15th April, we ask ourselves, "When will it be the end of our heartache, our grievances? When will this world be completely free from the shackles of terrorism?"

The happiness of the citizens of Boston was marred as bombs went off at the Boston marathon, organized on the occasion of Patriots' Day. More than hundred and fifty were injured along with the death of three. However, the American spirit of resolve refuses to die. In President Barack Obama's words, "You should be pretty clear by now that you picked the wrong city. Not here in Boston. Not here." He made it clear that nothing could faze the spirit of Boston or Americans. The Boston bombing was the first in America after the ghastly 9/11 terror attacks on the World Trade Centre.

Terrorism, nowadays, has no face. The stereotypical view, "Every terrorist is a Muslim" is now being defied with the bombers being from Chechen origin.

Alas! We all have to deal with the forebodings of the world. All we can do is pray for our safety and the safety of our loved ones and live each day as if it were our last, making the most of every moment. In Obama's words and reaching out to people in Boston, "You will run again." In the end, there is always hope.

Kamya Yadav, 9

Peace, Calm & Serenity

Where every step you take kills you a little more inside and your mind and heart are both begging you to stop and sit down, it's a situation like no other. Where the weight of the clothes you are wearing becomes heavier by the second and it takes everything you've got just to look up. Where your destination seems so close yet so far away. Where weeks and months of practice and hard work do not pay off when you need them to. Where the world seems quiet and subdued with no life around, and you still know that the environment is taking you for all you've got. Where the true power of friendship is found, watching the porters sitting together, laughing around a small fire trying to shield each other from the freezing winds blowing with snowflakes swirling about. Where the power of money is learnt when a porter talks about how he started training for his job as a child and has been pursuing the same thing for 12 years just so he can get a meagre amount of money to keep his family afloat, despite his dire fear of heights.

"Where the true power of friendship is found, watching the porters sitting together, laughing around a small fire trying to shield each other from the freezing winds blowing, with snowflakes swirling about."

The teachings of mountains are not only limited to the major aspects of life, but also extend to the seemingly unimportant things, like mere thoughts. It dawns upon you; being in that environment, when you are trying to write down every tiny thought racing across your tired mind on a sheet of paper with frozen fingers because of the sub-zero temperature outside and a minuscule electric light swaying above your head attached to the interior wall of the tent, in the hope of catching something brilliant before it slips away into the dreary corners of your busy mind. It is a place where patience and endurance are tested to their limits and a place where upon entrance, we have to learn to hone the skills of our mental strength rather than our physical one.

The mountains teach us innumerable things, all in one place and in a short period of time. They have the power to change a person. Just sitting there towering above him, it is enough for someone to question the reason of his mere existence over there, at that point of time. But the most powerful virtue the mountains possess, is their ability to command respect out of even the most narcissistic and overconfident of people. Yet for those who show their humility and love for them, the mountains nurture and care, changing each person they lay their soft touch on.

I ended my expedition with the words "I'm never going back there again." But, it took me less than 24 hours, to come home and before crashing on my beloved bed think, as John Muir impeccably says, "The mountains are calling me, and I must go."

Aakanksha Jadhav, 11

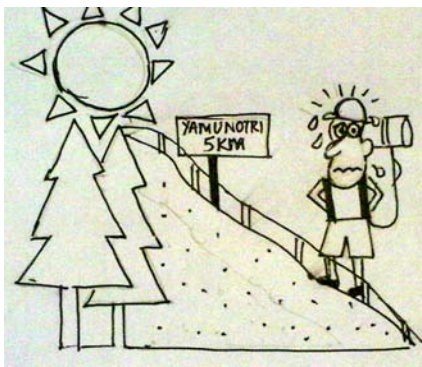


Yamuna Yatra'13

They say the destination is always more important than the journey, well whoever they are, they clearly haven't been lucky enough to go for Yamuna Yatra. This isn't one of your clichéd camp articles, which is just a detailed account of a measly 4 day trip with limited adjectives, because honestly, Yatra isn't any ordinary, clichéd camp. Going for Yatra was a once in a lifetime trip-with a once in a lifetime batch.

TREKKING

While everyone has different opinions on the really *fun* and *enjoyable* treks, it's something that none of us can forget. There were those who loved showing how fast they could reach, some who it seemed like they would never reach, and some who were eating and posing for pictures on their way and then there was the rest of us, panting and feeling like our legs were going to fall off, dragging ourselves to the top. There were times where some of us felt like giving up halfway but helping each other out and singing out of tune to make time go by faster (it didn't) we did it, together, as a batch, as friends.



From Lakhmandal all the way down to Vrindavan, we survived on this, and of course don't forget our daily helpings of dal, rice and aloo. The thought of eating any of this now makes me a little nostalgic..and sick.

Chaat

One of the things that we looked forward to from the beginning and it didn't let us down. The chaat in Vrindavan was probably the best chaat I've ever had. Well, not exactly, I've had better, but scarfing it down with 58 friends, it didn't really matter. As we shoved panipuri after panipuri down our throats and chugged lassi, we were satisfied. We could see that it wasn't extremely sanitary which we paid for later, but we didn't care. Vrindavan chaat is what you hear about most from your seniors and it was more than worth it. Also, we broke the Batch of 2014's record which was the goal for most of us. Batch of 2016, you have some big footsteps to follow.



Car rides will never be the same after the ones we had during Yatra. Being in an Innova, with 5 of your best friends for hours, screaming and listening to music, is one of the defining moments of Yamuna Yatra. Whether you're arguing with your driver to let you play a little more English music or having to solve a Maths problem in the car just to play your music (we actually had to do this), waving at the other car with way too much enthusiasm or trying to sing louder than them, it's all what Yatra's about. Though it's never really supposed to be much of an experience, coming home from school after Yatra, is when I realized, that I didn't want to go in any car or anywhere for that matter, if it wasn't in that Innova with my friends.



'Our amazing instructors Mr. Jha and Sunny Sir: Bavra Man'

Kabaddi

The most serious game, ever. We played twice, once in Lakhmandal and once in Gangnani. Both times were ruthless and cutthroat. They were also insane amounts of fun. Tackling each other, resorting to cheap tactics and strategizing with extreme seriousness, was all a part of our Kabaddi. This was one of the things that bonded our batch the most. Everyone on our team became allies and the other team, enemies, we had to destroy. There was a lot of laughter and a lot of screaming and the feeling when you won was euphoric. But as fun as it was, you don't want to get into a Kabaddi match with the Batch of 2015. Trust me.





TOILETS

Every time we got into our cars on our way to the next destination, the thought of this plagued our minds. Seniors had warned us, painting gruesome pictures in our minds, making us frightened to go anywhere near the dreadful things. Trying to make each other feel better we told ourselves multiple times- Its Yatra, not the Ritz. Now while the toilets aren't actually that bad, just don't be a fool and follow the person coming out of there with a half used toilet paper roll.



"I don't know if it was the freezing cold or the utter boredom, but I do know that our batch has changed forever."



Mr. Trivedi



Making us laugh till our stomachs hurt, mocking the Yatra rules with us, giving us Tang, chilling with us, helping us through those never ending treks and killing us at Kadbaddi, I pity any batch that goes for

Yatra without Mr.Trivedi. He was our constant source of guidance through the whole Yatra. When we had miniscule health issues which we all blew out of proportion or when we felt homesick (some of us a little too much) he was always there for us. Yatra would have been incomplete without you, Mr. Trivedi, you're the best. Too bad we didn't get to "choke".



For the Batch of 2015

Yamuna Yatra. A Vasant Valley tradition, a rite of passage of sorts. Seniors always told us how much it changes, how much closer you all become. I didn't believe it at first, I mean, it's just 12 days. It wasn't that our batch wasn't close before, we were all friendly but we were never all friends. Yet, I don't know if it was the freezing cold, the utter boredom or just the fact that we were on Yatra, but I do know that our batch has changed forever. Between our off tune rendition of Hookah Bar breaking the silence of the hills in Janki Chatti, bathing in the river, sneaking chips like they were live grenades ,I found myself suddenly feeling close to each and every one of the members of my entire batch. Our behaviour to one another completely changed – it didn't matter who you were laughing with, whose room you were chilling in, whose car you went in or whose group you were in, because now somehow, we were all bound together in an inexplicable way. So now I realize how Yatra changed our lives, the batches above ours and will change those of the batches that will follow, because no matter where we go, or whatever happens, one thing is for sure, together- we'll always have Yatra.

"Yamuna Yatra tssh tssh"

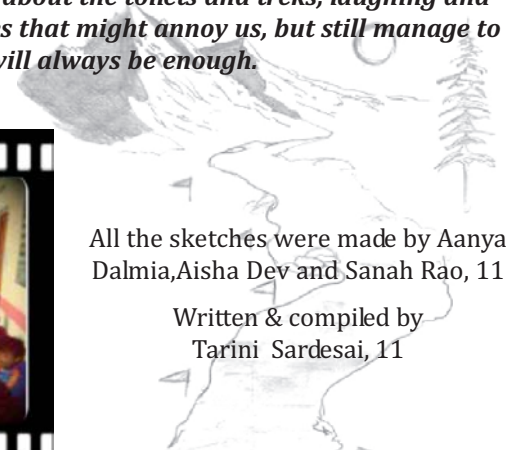


Yatra will always be about the Batch of 2015. Their smiling faces etched perfectly into my memory, reliving moments we wished lasted forever, complaining and grumbling together about the toilets and treks, laughing and screaming for no apparent reason, reminding each other of inside jokes that might annoy us, but still manage to bring a stupid grin on our faces. And for me, that will always be enough.



All the sketches were made by Aanya Dalmia, Aisha Dev and Sanah Rao, 11

Written & compiled by Tarini Sardesai, 11



Dil Jumping Japang Jampak!

You have got to be living under a rock if you haven't heard the new, viral IPL song along with the classic trumpet marking the 6th IPL T-20 cricket. As annoying as it is, the excitement is tangible in the air and hence it is infectious. It is these people on the screen that inspire more than half of this 1.3 billion population to grab a bat and ball, run around sweating and screaming 'Chauka!' and Chakkha!.

If the stadium, lights and patriotism towards one's state was not enough, the advertisements sure manage to attract attention and retract excitement levels. An observation in favor of IPL is the new faces with great potential are found out. New talent that is discovered which could then support us at the international level.

However it is a well-known fact that it is ads such as Hala Bol, breakfast cereal, pens (it's quite a diverse list) that cause diversion of focus, greed for extra money through match fixing, commercials, etc., thus causing drop in performance on the pitch.

Yet, despite having full knowledge of the corruption, dropped catches, match fixing and drama, all of India sits down to watch IPL. It is not the love for a state, a player, or a team. It is the game of cricket itself that ties these 28 states and 7 union territories together, from the slums to the mansions; the jhuggi's to the high rises. The manic jumping and thumping that makes cricket, is what unites us all. Remember, bas dekhne ka nahi!

Ananya Gupta, 10



RAHUL GANDHI'S GREAT SPEECH TO CII



Rahul Gandhi's speech to the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) was a mixture of overly simplistic ideas and clichés on looking after the interest of the common man. It would have been sad, had it not been so hilariously tragic. Rahul Gandhi's hackneyed cliché on looking after the common man's interest was unwanted. For what the politicians including the young Gandhi do not understand (or perhaps pretend not to understand) is

that the common man prospers only when the business he's a part of prospers.

What he should have spoken about was a concrete plan regarding the identification and elimination of the various problems that limit business and industry from growing. It is also his job as a future leader to outline his vision for creating a flourishing and thriving future for all Indians. Sadly as we saw, he did not demonstrate any such qualities of leadership. His speech at best can be called the thoughts of an unimaginative individual. Unfortunately, India, in spite of being home to many bright and intelligent people seems to have a dearth of talented political leaders with minds that can form thoughts that will help the future. This can be stated for the entire political spectrum. This comes across quite forcefully if we review the comments of the opposition.

The criticism that the BJP has leveled at Rajiv Gandhi is justified in part, but we should keep in mind that the BJP did nothing to improve the system when it itself was in power. The rather critical comments of BJP leader Yashwant Singh of Indian businessmen '*applauding you even if you were to abuse them*' reflects poorly on the entire political class including Singh himself, for he too is to blame for the situation.

In the end I will not spare the businessmen themselves who glorified the rather poor show that had been put up. One is reminded of the fable of '*The Emperor's New Clothes*' and his besotted subjects. It would have enhanced their reputation had they maintained a dignified silence.

Zoya Hassan, 8

Barclays Premier League Team of the Season

GK: Asmir Begovic: The Stoke City goalkeeper has been in inspired form this season and if it hadn't been for him, Stoke would be in a worse off position this season

RB: Pablo Zabaleta: After Manchester City's title winning season, a lot of their players have played worse this season than the previous season. Zabaleta has been in great form and has been a great all round player

CB: Matija Nastasic: The young Serbian has shown qualities that are way beyond his years. He has drawn comparisons to the great Franz Beckenbauer and has been a rock in defence

CB: Jan Vertonghen: The Spurs defender, brought in from Ajax last season has been a revelation this season and has shone for Spurs, being brilliant on both ends of the pitch

LB: Leighton Baines: The Everton defender has often gone unappreciated being from the same nationality as Ashley Cole, but has shone this season helping Everton challenge for a top four place

CDM: Micheal Carrick: Many people questioned the price tag being paid for Carrick when he moved to Manchester United from Spurs. He has gone unnoticed even though he has played extremely well and doesn't receive the praise he deserves.

RAM: Juan Mata: Mata has shown why many consider him a top class. He tops the league charts in assists this season.

CAM: Santi Cazola: Cazola has exceeded ones expectations this season and has almost carried Arsenal to a top four finish single handedly this season.

LAM: Gareth Bale: Bale has justified why he is considered one of the world best this season and has been a menace for opposition defenders. He is in my opinion the player of the season in the BPL.

ST: Luis Suarez: Suarez has been Brendan Rodgers saving grace this season and league's top scorer. He is a world class player and for me just lost out to Bale in my BPL player of the season

ST: Robin Van Persie: RVP has continued where he left of at Arsenal with Manchester United and even though he is currently suffering a goal drought, makes this team.

Arman Puri, 10

Delhi

There is no place like Delhi for its history and its mystery. Old monuments, new buildings all under one sky. So many malls, so much to buy It's so much fun in the Metro trains So much construction and too many cranes First city with C.N.G transport Gives Delhi a good pollution report Delhi is India's capital as well as a state I love the parade that passes through India Gate Qutub Minar, Red Fort and Yamuna is not only things I like in Delhi, It's also my friends and teachers at Vasant Valley.

Jai Relan III - A

Visiting The Qutub Minar

Once Scratchy the tiger, walked upon the roads of Delhi. While he was walking he saw a huge building, and asked someone, "Can you tell me about this building?" "Yes," said the guide. "This building is Qutab Minar." It is located in Mehrauli, it is 73 meters tall." Then he went to the ticket counter to get a ticket to enter it. When he was in, he started counting the stairs and got lost in it. The total came to 379. By then it was night time and Scratchy was stuck in the monument. At midnight, one policeman came and found him. Scratchy thought, "Thank god, I am rescued." The policeman said, "My name is Rahul and I am here to save you." They left the Qutab Minar and reached home safely.

Sarthak Khosla III - B



My Best Scene in Nature

My best scene in nature is in a plant nursery. I can see bright yellow and pink flowers, butterflies fluttering around them and several other types of trees and plants. I like feeling the soft rose petals. I like to hear the bees buzzing around. The Lotus is pink and so incredible looking. My favourite insect, the ladybird can be spotted easily here. I like seeing the pansies, with the insects sitting on them and sipping nectar. It is a most beautiful scene.

Myra's 'Tiara'

My parrot, Tiara is very colourful and naughty. She has a sharp red beak and yellow claws. I love to hear her chirp sitting on a brown branch. She is trained and furry and loves swinging on the green swing in her cage. She plays with me and sits on my shoulder. What is amazing, is the fact that she can speak if I tell her too. Tiara is all mine!

Myra Kapur IV - A

Coconut Tree

Coconut tree, so big and high, Almost seeming to touch the sky You are very useful, isn't that true? There are so many useful things in you Your fruit is so juicy and sweet, For us to relish as we eat; Your broad leaves are thin and strong, And help to 'whack' us when we do wrong, Your big strong branches I will hire, To cook my food and make my fire, Furniture for me and doors for lock and key, And articles of craft, so beautiful to see.

Aanandini Tayal III - A

A Blessing

My grandmother said, That trees give us oxygen Paper and many more things. They give us rubber, medicines And many more things. Trees are surely a blessing!

Reehan Tomer II - A



Class Two's Have Been Learning About Homes.

House is also a home
Our cozy home it is
Unending love we get here
Shelter it does give us
Everyone loves their house

By Class II - A

Super Pencil House

House No. 71,
Second Floor
Ghitorni, New Delhi
India



My house is made of pencils. I can draw whenever I want to in my house.

Vir Dang II - B

Chocolate House

Vishwadeep Singh
18- A South Drive,
DLF, Chattarpur Farms,
India

My house is made of chocolate. My house is special because it has so many chocolates and we can also eat them.

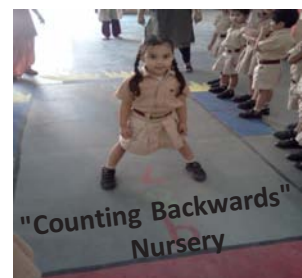


Vishwadeep Singh II - B

बचपन

वो दिन इतने अच्छे
जब हम सब थे बच्चे
खेलते थे हम छुपन - छुपाई
नहीं आती किसी को पढ़ाई।
दीदियों के साथ खेलते
घर पे खिलौनों के साथ
दिनभर बोलते
चलो खेलें आज।
रोते - रोते घर जाते
बोलने लगी है मुझे चोट
मम्मी बोलती आओ बच्चे
लगाते हैं मरहम पट्टी

नाज़ गिल पाँच - अ



Disaster in the Kitchen

Masterchef Australia” was the inspiration behind my plan;
 To cook up a feast for my folks, I enthusiastically began.
 A grand breakfast would be such a surprise;
 Home baked bread, pancakes, quiche, bacon and fries!
 I got to work right away
 And took out all the ingredients I had to weigh.
 The pots and pans were clanking loud
 “Keep it down”! I heard my mother shout.
 Things didn’t work out the way I had thought
 I put the bread in the oven, and completely forgot.
 I flipped the pancakes and they landed on the floor,
 While the milk spilt on my father, standing by the door.
 To clean up I quickly fetched a mop;
 Tripped over, fell flat on the quiche, which was now a flop!
 Such a mess in the kitchen, I could no longer stand,
 A complete disaster which was so unplanned.
 From what I put on the table, if you took one look,
 It was simple – you’d know, I just can’t cook!!
 My mom gave me a hug and said,
 “It’s the thought that counts!
 We’ll give it another shot.
 It’s the effort and love you put in that’s paramount!



Tanvi Bahl, 8

TEACHER OF THE WEEK

MRS. BAHRI

(Senior School Computrs Teacher)



Q: What do think of your Computer Science students?
 They’re very bright and inquisitive. They’re playful. I’m enjoying teaching them.
 Q: We know you have a PhD in chemistry. What compelled you to pursue a job as a Computer Science teacher?
 I actually accidently got into computers. I like it more because I’m learning all the time. I’ve evolved as a learner and I love to use it for education.
 Q: Besides teaching, what are your other passions?
 I like to paint and enjoy playing the sitar. I began learning how to play when I was in Welhams and I’m still learning. I take classes once a week. I also love reading. My favorite book is “Gone With The Wind”.



Q: What is the craziest thing you’ve seen a student do in the computer lab?
 No one has done anything crazy as such. They play games on the computer a lot. But once, I remember Bharat Somanathan and Dhruv Sagar were playing with a ball in the lab. They really drove me crazy!

As told to Sarina Mittal, 9



PLAYLIST



When I was your Man – Bruno Mars
 Stay – Rihanna ft. Mikky Ekko
 Mirrors – Justin Timberlake
 Radioactive – Imagine Dragons
 If I Lose Myself- Alesso ft. One Republic
 Viper- Danicc
 Never Say Goodbye- Hardwell ft. Dyro
 Get Loose- Noise Controllers and Showtek (Tiesto Mix)
 Jordy Dazz – Bitsize
 Turn It Up- Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike
 Peso – ASAP Rocky
 Touch The Sky (Carlos Serrano Mix)- Kanye West vs. The XX
 Alvaro & Quintino - World In Our Hand
 Friends, Lovers or Nothing- John Mayer
 Billy- James Blunt



THE GENESIS OF A TWEET

VVIQ



What is ‘aceratophorous’?

“Ayyehayye. The property that makes ketones luminous .” - Mrudang Mathur
 “Sounds like some sort of damn bad disease but I have no clue what it means.” - Arnav Jain
 “A spell... A tree... No! A Spanish word! “ - Aananya Banaik
 “I’m pretty sure that’s not a word.” - Saieesha Sethi
 “Sounds like a dinosaur or a chemical.” - Namrata Narula
 “ It means ‘bad’.” - Shaum Arora
 “Some weird ancient study of dinosaurs.” - Devashree Arora
Aceratophorous actually has a surprisingly simple meaning. An object is aceratophorous when it does not have horns. Trust everyone to over think it.

Editorial Board

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