

Vasant Valley

December 2009

T O D A Y

SCHOOL WATCH

Inter House Cricket for Senior Boys : Green house won and Blue House came second

Best Bowler: Sidhanth Rao, Best Player: Raghav Wadhava, Best Batsman: Gobind Sethi

Inter School Mini Soccer Tournament: The Vasant Valley School junior team won the tournament

Peer Moderator Programme: VVS students went to Max Hospital, Saket, to attend a Peer Moderator Programme, run by Dr. Samir Parekh and his team.

Spic Macay: Olav Johannsen and his quartet of Jazz musicians from Norway performed at VVS on December 1st 2009

Heritage Week , 17th to 26th November (Class 7-10) : The students visited Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, Khane - Khana's Tomb and went on a heritage walk in Mehrauli

Visit to Art Musuem : Students of class 4 visited the Art Museum.

S.K.I (26th November) : VVS in collaboration with UNAIDS and Centre for Human Progress organized a Student Knowledge Initiative (SKI) dealing with adolescents and young people's rights and understanding about HIV and sexual and reproductive health.

AES Inter School Tennis Tournament: VVS came in second place

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE (ON FOUNDER'S DAY)?

With the close of October arrived the disappointments of the continued absence of assembly, the lack of any tangible nip in the air and the gaping hole in the number of Class 11s selected to go for the Trinity College programme. So tightening belts on our expectations, we thought, Ah well, at least there's always Founder's Day. That one inviolable constant in the turbulence of adolescent lives. That ray of sunshine in between the September 'Special Exams' and the December 'Not-Special-But-Still-Grueling' Exams. The one month where the teachers fret, the choreographers scream and the students... well, take pleasure in the frustration of others.

But wait! Enter the government's new Swine Flu regulations and the 1200 students of Vasant Valley School watched as their dreams were crushed and stamped upon. Sure, we 'hate' the dances we're forced to perform. Sure, we're 'allergic' to the costumes. BUT NO FOUNDER'S DAY? This was a situation nobody had ever anticipated in the twenty years of Vasant Valley's existence!

And of course, the teachers said 'There's always next year' to the little kids who naively believed that no Founder's Day wasn't a big deal. But tread near the Ground Floor in Senior School and indignant cries and sobs of despair filled the air: 'It's our LAST Founder's Day!' "How can they do this to us?" "WE'RE NOT WALKING DOWN THE STEPS?!" "If it was any other batch but ours..." "They hate us! It's a conspiracy!" But the teachers were firm. Founder's Day was canceled...

Or so they thought.

One fine afternoon, Mrs Puri walked into school bringing with her salvation for Class 11 and Class 12. "You want to perform?" she asked, "well, then you shall perform." And that, young ones, is how the batch of 2011 got to dance on Bollywood songs for Founder's Day. Who could have thought that it simply took an epidemic, government interference, the cancelation and almost-against-government-regulations rebirthing of Founder's Day?

Of course, there were the usual hassles coupled with a severe lack of practice time, doubtful views on Bollywood by the teachers and overly emotional students of the batch that was graduating as well as the batches who knew them well. However the sheer relief that accompanied the knowledge that we had one more chance to perform on our last Founder's Day and exit with panache convinced even the most notorious batch of Vasant Valley School to work together and put up a show that, if I may say so myself, exceeded everyone's expectations.

But as the last of the Jai Ho! dancers walked out of stage and the familiar strains of the School Song began, we realized that the lack of theme, the lack of practice time, the lack of teachers pulling out their hair – none of that mattered. Because Founder's Day is, to put it plainly, a bittersweet farewell. It is that moment when those who have spent thirteen years in this institution realize that Vasant Valley is no longer their home. Yet somehow, it always will be. And for those of us who still have a few months, a few years, a few generations to go before we pass out, Founder's Day is the one day when the students, the faculty and the parents of Vasant Valley School join together without the interference of inevitable conflict between these relationships and acknowledge the profound effect that this school, for lack of a better word, has on our lives and on the lives of those who will meet us in the courses of our lives. GO VASANT VALLEY!

Ayesha Malik



A fainal farewell for the class 12 - S



Fun on the ferris wheel

THE WOES OF THE INDIAN FARMER

The Indian farmers, the true architects who have created the awe- inspiring economy are the ones who face pain, sorrow, insecurity and betrayal. This poem is an ode to them, sensitizing everyone of their woes.

What happens when the flawless green revolution is flawed?
What happens when one is seasonally employed in India's jangling discord?

What happens when one doesn't have enough money to even buy the seeds?

What happens when poverty alleviation programs fail to perform good deeds?

Infinite, rather beyond infinity are the woes of the Indian farmer.

High Yielding varieties of seeds need more capital, you see
And well, unfortunately we have failed to find money grow on any tree

So those rigorous farmers take loans as a matter of fact
And the money lenders, as cunning as a fox charge soaring interests with tact.

The poor farmers with no choice left, enter this vicious chain
Completely oblivious of the debt trap ahead in the lane.

Infinite, rather beyond infinity are the woes of the Indian farmer.

With a low physical capital, the production is low too

In this state, successful in paying back the loan are only a few

To top it all the money lenders want free labour in return
The Indian farmer is ground and churned to the extent, turn by turn.

Small and landless farmers can merely roam around
Looking for jobs indiscriminately, but none to be found
The Indian farmer is at his euphoric streak during the harvest season

But disguised unemployment leads to betrayal and treason

Infinite, rather beyond infinity are the woes of the Indian farmer.

With a major industrial project, they are displaced with no notice at all

The Indian farmers stand, walk, run and then yet again fall.

With a drought, the crop cant be harvested and the farmer loses hope

Availability of food grains declines, how does the Indian farmer cope?

If not a drought then its extreme, a flood to be precise
Destroys the crop, the food for the farmer, his cherished treasure and prize

The economy's building blocks in an agricultural country
Are the farmers who produce the crops efficiently.

And we, nag about not getting chips to eat one day...

Alas! Infinite, rather beyond infinity are the woes of the Indian farmer.

Written by Vandita Khanna IX- A

TAKE FIVE

It was a musical morning for Vasant Valley on 1st December at the school as famous Norwegian jazz artist Nils Olaf 'NilsO' Johansen visited school with his quartet including percussionist Thomas Stroner, saxophone player Knut Rinaaer and bassist Ole von Modgen. As part of Spic Macay's Virasat 2009, the band is performing in schools and institutions all over the country. Over tea, the newsletter team caught up with the band to discuss jazz in India, the band's history and much more...

Newsletter: How long has the quartet been together?

Quartet: Not very long actually. We began playing together this autumn. But we have played together before occasionally. Nils and I (Thomas) played together some years back and so did Knut and I.

NL: So how important is chemistry among members of a band?

Q: Oh very important. Either you should have great chemistry or you should have the same background, musically. Then you can understand each other. Especially since Jazz is so unpredictable, it can go anywhere.

NL: Tell us a little about your current tour.

Q: Well, we are touring major cities in India and Sri Lanka. We just came back from Sri Lanka in fact.

NL: Have you had time to listen to some Indian music during your visit?

Q: Not much but we have listened to that folk music on the streets. And then Ravi Shankar, who was very popular in the '60s.

NL: How easy would you say it is to fuse jazz with other music forms, considering it is so improvisational in nature?

Q: Oh very simple. Jazz, as you say, is so fluid that you can mix it with anything. We once had a fusion performance of jazz and Bulgarian wedding music. (Thomas) And then we performed with tabla players in Sri Lanka.

NL: What about jazz in Norway? Is it popular in the mainstream?

Q: No jazz is quite specialized in Norway even now. It is becoming popular with the youth slowly. They have begun to use it to express themselves.

NL: Which is the reality in many nations, including India. For example, many of my friends don't like jazz although I really enjoy it. What do you think can be done to promote jazz further among the youth?

Q: (Nils) Let me give you an example. In Norway, there is a famous electronic artist who has been frequently using jazz samples when he deejays. Now, it has become very popular in many joints. That is one way of reaching out to the youth, through music they identify with.

NL: Is there any correlation between jazz music and jazz dance?

Q: Actually not much. Jazz dance is loosely used to name many forms of dance. Some of them are now performed on jazz music. But they aren't complements of each other.



Soumya Gupta

विश्व बन्धुत्व के लिए ईश्वर में प्रार्थना

हे प्रभु! महान आत्मा,

तुम ही हो इस दुनिया के निर्माता।

इन्सान को एक समान बनाकर,

तुमने उसे इस धरती पर भेजा।

एक समान शरीर में हाथ, एक समान दिल में प्यार,

एक समान आँसू में आसू एक समान मुग पर मुस्कुराहट के साथ।

मगर लोगों के मन में अलग विचार, काया के अलग रंग,

धर्म के अनुसार अलग भगवानों की पूजा, गाने के अलग प्रकार

पहनने का अलग कपड़ों ने सबके बीच भेद भाव बनाए।

सबका एक समान होने के वावजूद उनमें अंतर आए।

हे प्रभु! वो हमें में पर्याप्त भक्ति साहस और श्रमता,

ताकि न तो वे इस असमानता के अहं में समानता।

असंक्रता में भी एक रह पाए हम,

गैरमा धारण की तरह कर्मी न टूट पाए हम।

ताकि बना पाए हम अनुचित को उचित और नामुर्कान को मुर्कान,

असंभव को संभव और चाहने को वास्तविक।

आस्था कामग कक्षा 8 ग

VISIT TO AAJ TAK STUDIO

Want to know how the 6 o' clock news is telecast on your screens or do you want to know how do anchors read so speedily? No other place could teach you such facts and tidbits except for Aaj Tak Studio at Videocon Towers....

A rush through the famous monument India Gate and a quick glance at Rashtrapati Bhavan brings you to Jhandewala Marg in Karol Bagh, where the Videocon Towers are located.

First, press the button to the 7th floor and behold the virtual room, totally green so that a suitable background can be created of your own choice with the help of computer graphics. So, you get the environment of your choice by just sitting in a room, surrounded by green walls. Next up, comes the PCR or the Production Control Room where anchors are given minute details about what to do when, when to say what, which incident has happened where etc. Incredibly, anchors listen to such details while actually delivering a news item. So they have developed the ability to listen to someone and speak simultaneously, undistracted and errorless!

After that, we see a dozen eyes glued to computer screens, editing the videos taken and correcting the audios, incorporating additional details. Yes, what we are seeing right now, are editors, editing and adding details to daily audios and videos taken / spoken by anchors, just like a teacher would check your review (or to make it less frightening) your home work.

Then comes the feed room (not feud room) where every bit of information, audio and video sent by the reporters is checked and telecast if suitable or up to the mark.

Next comes the tape library, where every video which has been taken till date is indexed date wise on computers, so that one can find the tape without spending a long time on it. After this, we go back to our stuffy box and press the button with the label 4. On this floor, we are going to see Teleprompters, which are the screens in front of the anchors, and have the content of the news item that is read by them. Since there is camera behind the screen it appears as if the anchor is actually looking at you. It is controlled by a foot pedal and can be moved forward or backward.

This also reminds me of the OBV or Outside Broadcasting Van which is a mini version of the PCR. They are placed at strategic location all over the city and

rush to the area where an incident has taken place in no time. Thus all the 'breaking news' we see and hear about is due to these vans which have camerapersons and reporters ready to bring the news to us.

So now you know how the TV channels bring the news to you. This was indeed a learning experience for me and the next time I sit in front of my TV and see the news I know exactly how it has been put together and the hard work that has gone in to provide it.

Nishikant Nayak, 7A



SAVE THE EARTH !!!

Rivers are drying,

Earth is crying,

Living beings dying,

To save mother Earth are we trying ?



Hurricanes, Tsunami, floods and whirlpools,

Glaciers melting, Himalayas – no more cool !

Water shortage, electricity failure, its hot at home and school,

To fight global warming lets build up some tool.

What a dreadful scene it would be,

Everything ruined, you and I would see,

To solve the problem there is a key,

Use things which are environment friendly !

The three R's would go a long way,

to help save the Earth so to say,

Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle you see,

is the *mantra* for fun and longevity !!!

प्रचलित मुहावरे

1। आपे- से आहूब होना

2। ईट का जवाब पत्थर से देना

3। ऊँट के मुँह में जीरा

4। एक ही धैले के चड़े-खड़े

5। कठपुतली बनना

6। घुटने टेकना

7। चुल्लू भर पानी में डूब मरना

8। छाती पर मूँग ढलना

9। डींग मारना

अन्नया जैन कक्षा 7

मेरे मुहावरे

रिमोट पटकना

लाल का जवाब काले से देना

हाथी के मुँह में मटर

एक ही पेड़ के फूल

पतंग की तरह उड़ना

घड़ी खंद कर देना

पेज 3 से हटना

क्षिप्र पर पत्थर मारना

शिना बीखे हवाई जहाज उड़ाना

चीनी खिलाना



TRIP TO THE RED FORT : COMMEMORATING THE HERITAGE WEEK

Bright and Early on Thursday morning, the students of Class 8 and 9 were seen shuffling around school, blowing vigorously on their hands in order to warm them. Why so? To attend the inauguration ceremony of Heritage Week organized the Archaeological Survey of India. Our buses entered through The Dilli Gate, which was quite an honour because it is meant for VIP's, and therefore, swelling with a sense of self importance, we disembarked from our buses near the Naubat Khanna.

A representative from the ASI gathered us together and gave us a brief talk on the history of The Red Fort and the Seven Cities of Delhi. Infinitely knowledgeable, he recalled all the dates and the most obscure facts to do with these, which was very impressive. We were then seated for the actual Inauguration ceremony in which the invited dignitaries lit the ceremonial lamp. A few of the guests then proceeded to make speeches on our National Heritage - the variety it contains, its importance, and its preservation. This did leave us in awe of the immense heritage wealth that has been left to us by our ancestors.

Subsequently, we were broken up into groups, each with a representative of the ASI, were taken to areas within the Red Fort and were put through the experience of cleaning that particular area. From bio-hazardous Waste (there were a lot of diapers around), to paan wrappers and leaves, we encountered every kind of waste. We realized that any piece of waste that is thrown has to be picked up by someone, and we were sure that none of us wanted to be that 'someone'. If we weren't willing to do a job, then no one should be forced to do it either. And thus, through this hands-on experience, we came to realize what a problem littering creates. This led to most of us silently pledging our wholehearted support towards the conservation and preservation of our heritage.

Ultimately, though we have all been to the Red Fort multiple times, this time was special. We not only learnt about the monument and it's significance, we came to believe the importance of preserving it in all its glory.

Amira Singh, 9 A

THE ATTRACTIVE KILLER

Standing out in the poor, black soil.
Waiting;
Patiently.
Steadily.
Silently.
Bright Pink in colour.
Attractive.
Carnivorous.
Deadly.
The Venus Flytrap, alone in a damp bog.
Its beauty, its disguise.
Its trap.
Its trick.
Attracted by the colors, an insect comes by.
Slowly.
Clumsily.
Hungrily.
Sweet nectar and fruits, the insect's wish.
Juicy.
Delicious.
Irresistible.
Then, the tarp closes, no way out.
Struggling.
Helpless.
Dead.
The Venus Flytrap, successful again.
Killing.
Eating.
Digesting.
A few days later, the trap re-opens.
Ready.
Merciless.
Dangerous.



-Ishan Sardesai 9B Soumya Gupta

LOVE

It happens once in a lifetime
When you see the meaning of life
In human manifestation
When the ultimate truth walks before you
(Perhaps just to say Hi)
And you are flooded
With a sudden realization,
Understanding
A disregard for all that has happened
before
And all that is about to happen
The tie to the world
Friends
Family
Colleagues
Enemies
Will all die in that moment
But a single strand will hold you in place
Tied to that meaning of life
Justifying your existence
Although your paths run parallel
Never to cross again
Only in cursory emails, meetings
This link, like a million cables, like the
pull of destiny
Will always remain
And your heart will ache
And rejoice
In this love.



SWINE FLU

Swine flu, Everyone really hates you,
You are everywhere, from Timbuktu to
Peru.

Oh no! what are we going to do,
We don't even have any tamiflu!

People killed pigs for pork chops,
And pork ribs to make barbecue.
But now the tables have turned,
And the pigs are killing you.

Kids cant go out to play,
When they want to.
All they do is sit at home,
And listen to the blues!

Boost your immunity, don't touch your
face,
Wash your hands many times a day.
Cover your mouth when you cough and
sneeze,
And when in public, wear a mask and
be at ease!

Lets be safe, secure and do not panic,
This is how we can stop the Swine flu
pandemic!

Mahan K. Najhawan 6A

20TH FOUNDER'S DAY

This year the Founder's Day was very different compared to ones we had before. There were a few rides, stalls with games and delicious treats for all students to share. The festivities lasted for about two and a half hours. There was fun and excitement everywhere. There was loud music playing and that added to our joy. After all this celebration, we



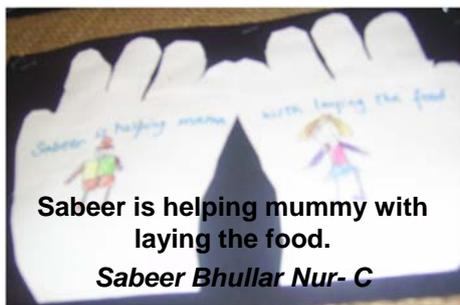
assembled together in the centre stage. The class XI danced to a medley of Bollywood numbers. Then the class XII walked down the centre stage steps for the last



time. Excellence Awards were announced and that moment was very close to our hearts as both of us were awarded along with six other students from our class. We truly hope every year it is as good as this one!!.

Priyanshi Kumar and Riya Kothari V- C

HELPING HANDS



SUNDERBANS

Situated in the south of West Bengal
UNESCO World Heritage Site
Named after Sundari tree found there
Delta home to world's largest mangrove forest.
Endangered species are found here such as Royal Bengal Tiger
Rivers Meghna, Brahmaputra and Ganga form an estuary here
Birds migrate here in winters
A huge variety of flora and fauna are found over here
National park status given on 4th May 1984
Seems like a place worth visiting.
Aryaman Nirvan IV A



Foundation- giving a 'hair cut' to their friend



MY BRAND NEW SHOES

My brand new shoes
 I love them so much
 My brand new shoes



I will wear them for lunch
 My brand new shoes
 Have red and golden stripes
 My brand new shoes
 Are alien types.
 My brand new shoes
 Are fit for Cinderella
 My brand new shoes
 Belong to a brand called
 MIMARELLA

Suyash Bhatia III- B

PICNIC AT LODHI GARDEN

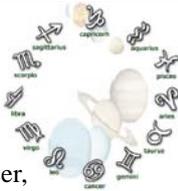


Harnoor Singh II- B

नानी मेरी प्यारी सी
 प्रतिभा है मेरी नानी का नाम
 उनको प्यार करना है मेरा काम
 वह बोलती है ओम साई राम
 सुबह और शाम, सिर्फ राम का नाम
 मेरी नानी करती हैं बहुत शैतानी
 और उनको पसंद है नीम्बू पानी
 वो है बिल्कुल हिन्दुस्तानी
 वह है मेरी प्यारी सयानी सी नानी।

रीत छतवाल तीन - स

HOROSCOPES



LIBRA

You will make poor choices in the midst of delicate or complex tasks. Your health will suffer but, with a New Moon in nasty Cancer, you will have an increase in responsibilities or a clash with fellow professionals. Constraints and delays with your schemes or projects will worsen and you will find sour or elderly people have been plotting against you in secret for many moons.

SCORPIO

You'll learn mathematics by taking a job as a nut counter in Crete or you'll hang around with sporty types, looking for the opportunity to steal their credit card numbers when they're out doing sporty things. Come a Full Moon in lugubrious Capricorn and you'll become the president or leader of some society or other, whose members are, needless to say, dangerous, homicidal and have criminal records.

SAGITTARIUS

A New Moon in Cancer, urging you into the study of occultism, tax fraud or the use of dairy products in sorcery. You wander the streets waving at people who know you well enough to drive past and leave you on the pavement. You go out for a foreign meal, wearing exotic clothing and talking like a pretentious nitwit. However, as you always talk in this manner, no one will notice the difference.

CAPRICORN

The New Moon slides into Cancer, bringing sweet romance or something approximating it to your house of partnership. As your solar eighth house raises up its traditional stygian darkness, there will be displays of occult power and of course a quick trip amongst the dead in your local necropolis, to keep in touch with departed relatives and business associates.

AQUARIUS

As a New Moon comes in neurotic Cancer, you will start a new job (eek) or develop an allergy to dairy products. Sol Invicti rolls into Leo and you propose marriage to the next person you meet. They turn out to be talkative and entirely irritating so the match is perfect.

PISCES

As the New Moon comes in Cancer, you will bark like an Athenian street dog while unconscious, as greedy friends and family members go through your wallet and your change jar to steal your money. An elderly relative will then move into your home and take over, despite every bitter word of protest you utter.

BUSTED

Ratan : ‘Hi! I’m Aditya, complain me to the teachers”
After that error, we’ll have to complain you to the grammar police.

Navina: “B-Y-E, if you know how to spell it?!”
Uh, no we didn’t. Thanks for helping us O-U-T

Tanya: “I’m not dyslexic, i eat”
Are you sure you aren’t, because we have evidence to support that.

Shubh :” I want half a slice of piece of cake”
Some people are just terrible at fractions.

WHICH NOBEL PRIZE WOULD YOU WIN?

How would you spend your last day on earth?

- a) Inhaling helium/laughing gas
- b) Drinking coke and chewing a mentos; just to see if it works
- c) Cloning yourself
- d) Re-reading the Harry Potter series
- e) Donating all your money to charity; hoping they’ll build a hospital in your name
- f) Maxing out your credit cards; so you won’t have to repay the debt

Favourite TV Show?

- a) LOST; time travel, ultraviolet rays, and gravity (because the plane fell down)
- b) Heroes; DNA for life! No, seriously.
- c) Grey’s Anatomy; McSteamy vs. Mc Dreamy. Who could resist?
- d) The Office; brilliant scriptwriting and punch lines. *That’s what she said...*
- e) Oprah; because everyone loves a good sop story
- f) The Apprentice; Donald Trump is the man

If your house was burning to the ground, what would you save?

- a)Your Vintage Lightsaber; Darth Vader would be proud
- b) Everything flammable; cosmetics, perfume, et al
- c) Food, Water, Blankets
- d) Your personal diary; no trespassing
- e) Everybody but yourself
- f) Money, Money, Money

You and your best friend are most likely to resemble:

- a) Leonard & Sheldon; smart is the new sexy
- b) Dexter & Didi; boy genius and ballerina
- c) Calvin & Hobbes; laughter is the best medicine
- d) Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson
- e) Lennon & McCartney; give peace a chance
- f) Kane & Abel; the business tycoons, not the biblical brothers

- Mostly a)s- Physics
- Mostly b)s- Chemistry
- Mostly c)s- Medicine
- Mostly d)s- Literature
- Mostly e)s- Peace
- Mostly f)s- Economics



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