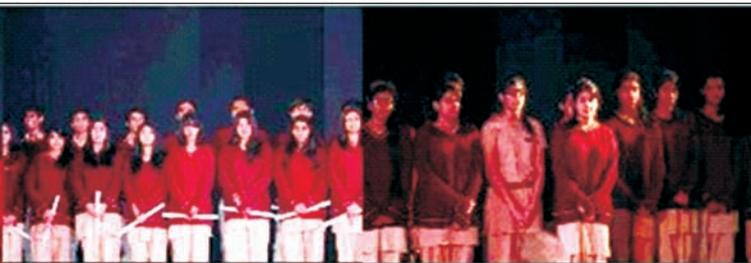
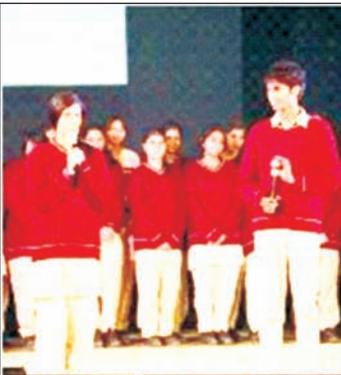


Vasant Valley

December, 2012

T O D A Y



VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL'S 23RD FOUNDER'S DAY

"When we toddled into this building 13 years ago all of 2 feet high, we had little idea of who we were and why we were here. They said we were going to school. But coming to Vasant Valley felt like going home. They said childhood was what happened after school hours, but childhood was here, in these corridors and in these playgrounds. This is where we grew up.

Between the sorely missed naptime that marked our first few years in the school, and the stolen moments of blissful slumber in Sister's room in the last year, we transformed from disoriented toddlers to confident, well-rounded albeit mischievous young adults. Some of us are footballers, film stars, artists, dancers; we truly are wonder-kids (sometimes) From the first time we waddled on to the Founder's day stage, 13 years ago, dressed in deep blue and waving stars above our heads, we felt a special sense of togetherness, a deep visceral connection to the people we would grow up with. A feeling only trumped by the boys' undying, uncompromising love for football.

As night fell on the first day of our very first adventure camp, we looked to each other for support, to drive away our fear of the dark. And this year, together we beheld the notorious rapid, "the Wall", and chanted, cheered, and encouraged our friends through the heart-stopping moment, when each raft took the plunge.

We've also shared many a laugh over the years. Be it over a classmate's phone ringing during an exam, a classmate sliding into a pile of gobar in a softball game, or while changing the time of the classroom clock, wearing goggles to look like real scientists, trying to be on refreshment duty for every school event, or playing rugby and sliding on the cricket pitch in the rain... just to name a few. We heard about the world outside, about the disasters and the scams and the scandals and tragedies... What did we see here in Vasant Valley? We saw a world that worked. We saw our teachers, their passion, and undying commitment, their belief in the priceless power of a good education. We saw the bhaiyas and didis uphold their daily routines, and do the same job day after day, year after year. Did somebody say the world does not work? In our little Vasant Valley world, the world worked perfectly.

To all our teachers : you've not just given us an education. You've given us a world to believe in, a world of positivity, of decency and courage that we will always hold in our hearts. The news may tell us of a breakdown, of a collapse but not in our world, not in our Vasant Valley world, where effort caring and equality always wins, where goodness always triumphs.

In conclusion, on behalf of our batch we'd just like to say
THANK YOU... to all who helped us along the way
Teachers, parents and friends, with us through these years
The good times, the tough times, the laughter, the tears.
We are no longer toddlers asking who, where and why?
We will go forth into the future with our heads held high.
Today, our gratitude and nostalgia we are unable to hide
As we look all around us with enormous pride
At an institution recognized by all and sundry
As indisputably ... THE BEST SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY!"

-Amira Singh and Ishan Sardesai, 12



CII

Winning the CII Green I Contest gave us immense pride and satisfaction. After reaching the finals repeatedly for five years, but never managing to win, we felt a heightened sense of accomplishment this time. The theme of the contest this year was 'looking beyond the school campus into the community.' We wanted to choose a community, in which we could practically reach the grass-root level to educate, empower and inspire change. We realized that integrating C8 Vasant Kunj and the Dalit Ekta Camp, a squatter settlement, with Vasant Valley as part of our large community was a great idea, a model that could be emulated by any part of the world facing acute disparity.

Working on the report proved to be an uphill task, because it was more than just writing about our school and eco-friendly practices. It involved actually making visits to the squatter settlement, collecting information through surveys, talking to the maulvi and pradhan, arranging meetings with the local MLA, getting in touch with NGOs like Sulabh International, FORCE and much more. This project exposed us to the contrasting needs and requirements of the two localities we had chosen, and sensitized us to the issue of inequitable distribution of resources.

Our main focus was developing an efficient model of waste segregation and spreading education and awareness. We wanted to create a vermin-compost pit in the squatter settlement, as it would not only serve as an efficient means of disposing wet waste, but would generate manure that could be sold. We also wanted to teach the garbage collectors employed in C8 to segregate waste. Both these involved livelihood generation: an incentive for active participation. Further, it was decided to establish a community center, which would function as a library or computer lab, in order to impart education.

Leaving no stone unturned, our endeavors were rewarded with prize money of 7.5 lakhs for the purpose of implementing our report. This isn't the end; in fact, it's just the beginning. Our real challenge of implementing our report has just begun. This was more than an 'environment competition', rather, it was an opportunity to showcase our existing work, to reach out to the community for a more sustainable today and hence, a brighter tomorrow.

-Anjani Gupta, 11

THE END?

With every first becoming a last, it would be most apt to call our last founder's day a bittersweet ending to an unexplainably magical journey. Each tear shed at the thought of 'The Walk' is a tear containing emotions of the past 13 years. Each distant smile at a distant memory is a smile to be embedded in our minds forever. Each step down the centre stage steps is a step closer towards the end.

Something unique that the Batch of 2013 persistently brought forth was the batch clap. Initially a 'boy' thing, this clap on the final day culminated into a united, resolute stand of all the students, celebrating their journey, their school life. This very clap which woke up infuriated passengers at the railway platform on our way back from Adventure Camp, stood as an ultimate symbol of the entire class standing together as one on Founder's Day.

We walk down these steps, not merely as part of a Founder's Day tradition; this very walk has become a symbolic milestone marking the joyful bonds of friendship that have bound the 100 and something students in a span of 13 years.

The walk stands for all that the Vasant Valley family provides to its students: irreplaceable inimitable learning, a sound, peaceful environment, opportunities galore and unparalleled exposure. The walk signifies pride in accomplishments, humility in defeat, but most pertinently, the recreation of the most memorable experience for all of us.

-Vandita Khanna, 12

100 Years of Indian Cinema

2012 saw Vasant Valley celebrating 100 glorious years of Indian Cinema on its 23rd Founder's Day. From the enthralling installations at the entry, to a seamless symphony by our very own talented musicians, followed by a resonating 'Vande Mataram' by the choir instilling a gush of patriotism, 18th November had so much in store. With a thrilling *jugalbandi*, an impeccable amalgamation of India's classical dances, the day ended on a high note with Class 11's rendition of a tribute to the world of dreams: Bollywood. From the awe-inspiring artwork to traditional theatrics and magical melodies, the 23rd Founder's day was truly all about 'Entertainment, Entertainment, Entertainment!'

Founder's Day

"A showcase of courage as the eternal weapon"



2001

"A boisterous mela for the Vasant Valley family"



2002

"North-South-East-West: a true reflection of the Indian Union"



2003

RETAINING AND ENTERTAINING

When my parents and grandparents start conversing on their 'When I was in school..' stories I begin to wonder whether they used to live in the Stone Age, the only forms of entertainment being outdoor games, studying or reading. Living without a television, computer or telephone seems like an unrealistic and hugely boring world.

Black and white films! That too on giant screens or curtains out in the open! Research only done through reading books and more books rather than a quick search on google, bing or other search engines. This was the past time, before the invention of magnificent machines. But it seems I missed out on an important aspect of entertainment that is not as appreciated now that our eyes are slightly narrowed.

Creativity and imagination that is now hindered by these devices used to seep out of the pores of each and every human. Writing letters in well woven words, or incredible calligraphy, poetry, articles, stories long and short. New games invented by children or old improvised, art in forms of sketching, painting, sculpting etc. Handicrafts, pottery oh entertainment was found in new and exciting ways back then! Weaving of rugs, knitting, carpet making and more articles made with the unerring skill of human hands. These beautiful things that no machine could recreate, these activities became more and more scarce as our view on entertainment began to change.

But the world still hasn't lost all of its creative importance. It has only evolved, and evolved for the better. High tech cameras shooting movies have such resolution that captures the beauty of nature in a different light altogether. This is yet another form of art. Photographs and collages made through computer software in various forms speak without words. Newer and more creative ways of expression have come to life in the new generation. Maybe this is what we ought to do. Keep and appreciate the old, as well as grow in the present and dream for the future. *For creativity is endless and must roam wild, for generations will come, and generations will go but our imagination for entertainment must eternally grow.*

-Ananya Gupta, 9

Jim Corbett Park Open Athletic Meet

I'll tell you a tale of Success and Defeat,
 At the 'Jim Corbett Park Open Athletic Meet'.
 Where the Big Cats and Deer,
 Paws and hooves on their pedals,
 Took part in contests for various medals.
 Some trained for speed, others for valor,
 [The Reptiles competed for camouflaged pallor]
 The animals that were the biggest and strongest,
 Competed in events
 For the fastest and longest,
 This fine monsoon morning had drawn a big crowd
 In no way deterred by both thunder and cloud.
 The Tiger and Sambar were paired at the start
 After signing a truce,
 'Till death do us part'.
 'Twas 'Event of the Day' – Individual Pursuit,
 Cycles a'glistening from bonnet to boot.
 The Starting Bird let out a deafening whistle,
 And off they all went,
 Through the bramble and thistle.
 No one knows what happened that day,
 As the elephants kept the warden at bay.
 All that is known is that only one finished,
 The Tiger,
 His appetite greatly diminished.
 When asked by the Press for a brief explanation,
 The Tiger, he burped and then smiled with elation.
 "Much as I try, I just can't be humble,
 No one takes 'panga'
 With the KING OF THE JUNGLE!

-Indraneel Roy, 10

Through the Years

"A guided tour of the splendor and grandeur that every country has to offer"



2004

"A culturally diverse display of our rich heritage through splendid dances"



2005

"An adventure in Delhi, absorbing all that our city has to offer"



2006

Mother Nature

Fancy gadgets , Fancy cars
 Fancy objects near and far
 Fancy items with every creature
 Acknowledging all , but mother nature
 Clouds , rain , fog and mist
 Without mother nature we wouldn't exist !
 Cutting trees' , shortening her life span ,
 Destroying every element in nature we can !
 All the mountains and oceans we find ,
 Were made by nature , not mankind !
 Through man's creations , money we gain
 We try to remember nature but in vain
 Nature over man's creations , lets agree
 Not prisoned by man ,
 Mother nature is free.
 If we eliminate her from Earth ,
 Our planet is eliminated too.
 She is the inventor of every creature
 Let us all do our best to save mother nature!

Tia Gulyani V-A

Taj Mahal

I went on a trip to the Taj
 With my friends I enjoyed
 Participated in many activities
 Seeing the Taj I was overjoyed
 Mughal style architecture, the marble arches
 The dome and the minarets
 What a magnificent monument
 It is a wonder to behold
 In memory of his beautiful wife
 Did Shah Jahan build a tomb
 A visit to the museum taught me many facts
 But the sound and light show at Agra Fort
 Scared me just like that!

Naira Kool Rajamani IV - C



One of the many faces of Ravan

We Have Enough For Our Needs But Not For our greed.

The reason earth is the only planet which has life is because it is the only planet with natural resources such as water, air, solar power, oil, forests and trees. These resources are precious and we should use them sparingly. But humans do not care about the future of Planet Earth and are always consuming more than they need. But I think this is not right and we should put a stop to this.

Like water for example, 70 per cent of the earth is water but only 1 per cent is fresh water. Now the whole world is living on that 1 per cent of water. Water plays a huge role in our lives as it gives us food, hydro- electric power, helps us wash our clothes, water our plants and so on. Our very survival depends on water. Yet we waste water and use more than we need. We only need half a bucket of water to have a bath but we use a lot more. Trees are also a natural resource which are fast disappearing. Trees are essential for oxygen. Without oxygen we would not be living. The second most important thing about trees is that they give us wood. Wood is used for fire, paper, construction and furniture. Without wood the world famous monument Taj Mahal would not have been standing right now because the foundation of the Taj Mahal is made of Sal, a special strong wood. The third important point is that trees give us shade. Yet every day we pull down trees to build factories, buildings and highways. At this rate one day there will be no trees left and we will all die. Solar energy is again very useful and this energy comes from the sun. It helps us grow crops which gives us food and without the sun there would be no trees and no oxygen. The sun also gives us warmth and many gadgets are made to use solar energy like solar chargers, solar watches, solar cookers and so on. But we should not use too many gadgets at one time only use one light in each room and remember to off all switches when we leave and not over charge gadgets because there is not enough electricity in the world. Oil ,petrol, minerals, metals like gold, silver, coal, iron ore are some precious natural resources we should

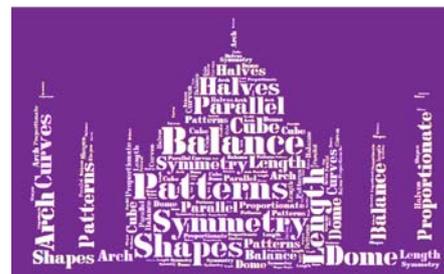
save , use only a little and conserve for the future. But if we keep on wasting water and polluting the earth and use electrical energy instead of solar energy, clog our rivers with plastic and garbage there will be no natural resources left and that will be the end of mankind. The earth will be dark like all the other planets. So we should use only as much as we need and not be selfish and greedy

Armaan Dube IV- A

E-Book [Kindle]

Though they look really different, both, a book and an e-book are used to read. An e-book has a screen while a book has multiple pages. When you need a meaning from a book you need to refer to a dictionary, on the other hand in an e-book you just press a word and the meaning pops up. A book can carry a limited amount of stories, in contrast an e-book can store more than 1000 books! It makes the e-book more compact and handy for travel, unlike bulky books. Likewise both books and e-books are educational. A book remains the same. However in an e-book one can change the content, delete and download new books. Another special feature of an e-book is that you can read books, newspapers and magazines, unlike a book. A book does not need charging as it is not a gadget. On the contrary e-books need to be charged. Books and e-books are similar as they both form a good reading hobby. I enjoy reading my paper books, as there's nothing like flipping pages and getting back to our favourite part. But while travelling an e-book is handy. I enjoy looking at my library filled with books unlike an e book in which books cannot be displayed.

Aryaman Kapur IV - A



Shaped With Words

Raag Setia and Arhaan Nanda IV- C

Vasant Valley's rendition of a historical epic : the Ramayana



2007

Saluting Mother Earth in face of the grave ecological crisis of Gloval Warming



2008

Celebrating the fair colours on Vasant Valley's 20th Founder's Day



2009

Excellence Indeed

The Excellence Award was like a sword hanging on my head, I had won the athlete of the year and needed to prove to all that a sportsman could excel in academics too.



As soon as Mr Kapur called and gave us the good news, all of us, including my brother were jumping up and down with joy, like little children. It was one of the happiest moment in my life and that night I slept with the biggest smile on my face.

Ransher Singh Manhas V-B

I was 3 when sitting in my father’s lap I witnessed my first Founders



Day and wondered why there was a big fuss. At the same time I was in awe of the attention being given to those on stage which continued even after the awards were over. Not just the congratulations and greetings but the overall importance they received gave them a kind of celebrity status and I wished I could have been in their place. And then I was. I felt happy and relieved but I was still \ unprepared for the mix of emotions when I was called on stage. The applause from the hundreds of parents brought out a flood of emotions that I had never experienced before. I think I experienced what “on top of the world meant.”

Sehej Kaur V- B

What a glorious moment it was when we got the call. Mr. Kapur had called up my dad on his mobile. Then, of course there was great rejoicing in the family (news travels fast!) My heart was beating as loud as a drum. We were jumping with excitement and nervousness while hearing the Head Girl’s speech, waiting for it to finish. In no time at all or so it seemed I was on stage, holding the award proudly! That was certainly the best moment of my life!!



Asmita Shah V- C

Festival of Lights

Welcome Diwali the festival of light, We all dress up well, look neat and bright. Year and again we celebrate it with joy, Time to get together and enjoy. Lets light the rockets and burst some crackers, Cautiously play and be safe from sparklers. Time to meet up with relatives and friends, Do pujas and follow traditional trends. On this day Ayodhya came to life, The people were filled with delight. The roads were lit with merry lights, Ram and Sita were back to claim there right. The lights are bright, the colours explode, Feel the magic of Diwali unfold. Diwali is a time for bliss, This is the day you just can’t miss!!!!

Devansh Khanna V - A

SPREADING THE JOY OF DIWALI

Diwali spreads lots of joy, To every girl and every boy. Crackers we should not burn, This is a lesson for all to learn. It harms the environment And spoils animal’s enjoyment Happy Diwali!!!



Vijit Mann III - C

Meet Me

My name is Jia. I am five years old. I have brown hair. I am a clever girl. I am beautiful. My skin colour is peach. My best friend is Meher. My name is Ishan. I am five years old. I like to eat ‘rajmachawal’. I like to watch Doremon. I like green colour. My hair is black.



Ishan Singh Puri I-A

Night Stay

On the 12th of October 2012 it was class two’s night stay. I had been waiting for days for the night stay. We had a lot of fun. My buddies and I had fun playing soccer. We lit a bonfire. My friends and I peeled potatoes. Mr. Pandey told us a story. Then we went to bed. In the morning we woke up early. We had our breakfast then went home. I wish the night stay would never end.



Shiv Bhandari II- B

Winter is Here

Winter is here, winter is here, The most enjoyable time is here, Christmas and New Year is near, Winter is cold but full of cheer. People are wearing coats and gloves, Boots and furry scarfs, Children are wearing big - big hats Drinking hot chocolate and all of that On snowy hills, Snow men are built, Snow balls are thrown, And skiing is fun. We wrap ourselves with quilts, And wear lots of silks, The fireplace is our favourite place Winter is here, winter is there, Winter is everywhere!

Reana Soni, Aleena Alex, Esha Verma, Siddhant Sharrma and Dhruv Rawla IV- C

An amalgamation of the nine emotions : Navaras

A Tribute to India’s Literary Legend, Rabindranath Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary

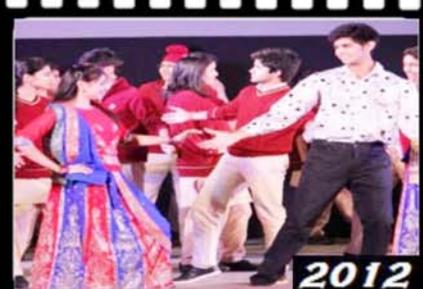
Commemorating 100 years of Indian Cinema



2010



2011



2012

जब मैंने बहाना मारा

जब मैंने बहाना मारा
था तो वह बहुत ही प्यारा
मैंने बोला पेट में दर्द है
मैंने ने पूछा पुदीन हरा लाऊँ मैं
जब मैंने बोला हॉ
बाहर से आए मेरे पापा
पापा बोले कहाँ है मेरा बेटा

मैं बोली विस्तर पर लेटा
मैं तो मार रहा था खराटे
तभी लगे दो चार चाँटे
मैंने बोला 'सौरी पापा'
और स्कूल के लिए हुआ नौ दो ग्यारा।
भाई ये तो था केवल एक बहाना
पर स्कूल तो था मुझको ही जाना।।

१ नकुल तुलि 7

U.S. Presidential Elections

Possibly the only reason that Barack Obama managed to retain his Presidential seat is the fact that he has managed to reduce the effect of an irritating itch that several Americans have been feeling for a while now: war. He removed troops from Afghanistan, killed Osama Bin Laden and is generally a more diplomatic personage than the erstwhile Republican government. He doesn't radiate pig-headedness or a stubborn attitude. A lot of this impression that he has garnered comes from a well-managed public policy and a formidable oratory skill. Mr Obama has under his control something much more important than Afghanistan or Iranian nuclear policy: he controls his own people. Essentially, it's probably his optimism that's infectious. It has failed on multiple occasions

but remains a crowd-puller. Mitt Romney's aggressive campaign against him was probably much more effective than his own Presidential campaign, but his air of acceptance and foresight was more acceptable.

In conclusion, it's likely we're going to see a few important things from this election: one, a quicker and well-thought out economic policy. Two, a more systematic attitude towards the problems of his own people (now that he doesn't have to worry too much about saving international face, unlike Mr Bush). Three, a predominantly stagnant stand towards India, given the fact that his dilemma with the job problem cannot possibly be resolved by cutting off economic ties. After all, we can only Hope.

-Aditya Srinivasan, 11

Problematic Problems and a Quizzical Quiz

According to me the most fun things to read are the fun facts and quizzes. So I came up with a few:

- 1) How long did the 100 years war last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do the Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made out of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are names after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Answers - 116 Years, Ecuador, Sheep and Horse,
November, Squirrel, Fur, Dogs, Albert, Crimson, New
Zealand, Orange

-Malika Oak, 9

Democracy?

Recently, the death of the famous Shiv Sena Leader, Bal Thackeray made headlines. What also subsequently made the headlines was the opinion of two young adults questioning the mass shutting down of Mumbai on that day on social networking sites.

They expressed their views and were arrested. Is this what the ideal of Democracy holds in India? We talk excessively of Freedom of Opinion, Speech, expression and Protest. But in reality are we really a democratic nation if we don't respect the fundamental human rights embedded in our Constitution? They were arrested by the Police, a neutral force responsible for punishing the wrongdoers, the rule breakers. Was this morally, ethically and most importantly **democratically** incorrect? DOES POWER TRUMP JUSTICE IN DEMOCRATIC INDIA?

-Serena Nanda

A Magical Experience with Kirsty Murray

Mrs. Kirsty Murray is an Australian author for children and teenagers, though her readership includes many adventurous adult readers. Mrs. Murray writes for young people because she believes that they are the universal audience. Originally from Melbourne, she has lived in France, Wales and North America at different points of her life. Her current home is Melbourne, Australia. Before she started writing professionally, Mrs. Murray worked in the graphic arts field. She received acclaim for writing children's fiction, which incorporates history, mostly Australian history. She has been publishing her books since 1998, but has been writing long stories for even longer. Mrs. Murray is best known for her series of children's novels, 'The Children of the Wind', an Irish-Australian saga of four novels telling the stories of four children; Birdie, Patrick, Colm, and Maeve. The novels cover a sweeping time span of 150 years, ranging from the 1850s to present day.

Mrs. Murray talked to us about her exceptional writing, but especially focusing on her new novel, 'The Lilliputians'. Talking to her was wonderful, she had an amazing way of speaking and her style of speaking completely reflected on how good a writer she was. She read an excerpt of her new story, 'The Lilliputians' and listening to her was like listening to music; she wrote so well and so descriptively! Since she liked incorporating history, Mrs. Murray did in-depth research, which was a great skill, but she had a very wide imagination, as her books were not completely non-fiction. Mrs. Murray was a pleasure to talk to; she was very fun-loving and very humorous. She had another very impressive skill; she could be able to tell a person's character, just by looking at them! How cool, right?

All-in-all our experience was a very marvellous one! And I am sure that all of the Class 8 students would agree with me. It was an honour having her here, at our school.

-Jahnvi Arvika Nagpal, 8

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