

# Vasant Valley

March, 2013

T O D A Y



## Budget for the 'Aam Aadmi'

Being an economics student, it was obviously in my interest to understand and interpret the Budget (I promise it had nothing to do with the fact that it was also my economics homework). However, when Mr Chidambaram finally released the budget, much to my embarrassment, there were a bunch

of things that were beyond my scope of understanding. I was disappointed; after all it is an important part of our country's functioning, and we are an important part of our country's future. It is evident that understanding the budget and its impact is critical for us.

So, first things first, what is the Union Budget? It is a plan which the government of a country tries to follow in order to decide where its money will come from (this is called revenue) and where its money will be spent (this is called expenditure). Now, It is important to understand that most of the government's income is acquired through taxes.

Firstly, Mr Chidambaram decided that this year, tax rates wouldn't be changed. Instead, people with an income of below Rs. 5 lakh will be allowed to deduct Rs.2000 from the amount which they are paying as tax (this is called tax credit). It was also decided that people with an income of above Rs. 1 crore will not only have to pay the obscene amount of money that they do in taxes, but also an additional 10% of this tax (this is called surcharge). This entire policy is called 'soaking the rich' and is seen as catering to the lower-income groups because they are the majority in our country.

**"Will these changes solidify into measures that will benefit India? Or will they remain what they are in principle ...merely plans?"**

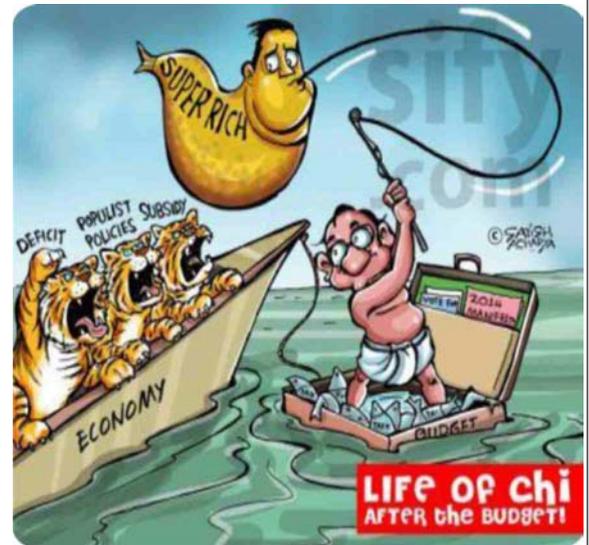
Obviously since we don't earn, we aren't really concerned with boring things that adults have to do, such as pay taxes. However it's important to know that eating out at restaurants with AC will be costlier because of an increased service tax which should (ideally) make you think twice before you decide to go out for lunch. Secondly, it doesn't matter whether you belong to the iPhone, Blackberry or Android category, if your phone costs more than Rs. 2000 (ahem), it will cost you 6% more of what it originally did. So unless you have incredibly generous parents, make sure you do well in your grade sheet or say goodbye to those dreams you had of possessing a new smartphone this year.

Another aspect of the budget that has been quite controversial is the Nirbhaya Fund, which is a fund of Rs.1000 crores set up by the government to empower women. Apart from this, an all-women public sector bank will be set up to encourage women to be financially independent. Although it was set up in good faith (we like to believe), several women's rights activists say that it will deepen the gender divide and is a 'token measure' in order to pacify citizens who were outraged by the recent Gang Rape Incident.

The Budget 2013-2014 has been accused of being 'political' in nature, which means that people think that its purpose was to build a vote bank for the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections. It has been called a balanced budget...but an effective budget? I have my doubts on that. Even if Mr Chidambaram has laid the foundation for a lavish set of radical changes, it is still a question whether these changes will solidify into measures that will benefit India, or whether they'll remain what they are in principle...merely plans.



Sharanya Thakur, 12



## School Watch

**Shambles class 12:** 1st - Yashita Jeet, Shreya Bahl, Ishan Bahl, Namrata Narula, Dhruv Rajamani, Mrudang Mathur, Ashrant Kohli, Gunhad Singh, Bharat Somnathan, Rudr Tandon

**Catapult making competition 12:** 1st Akanksha Dean, Noor Sengupta, Tenzin Norbu, Tulika Kumari. 2nd Jahnavee Venkataraman, Namrata Narula, Vedant Sharma, Arushi Sawhney. 3rd Abhiveer Arjun, Amnaya Khosla, Pranav Khanna, Shreyas Kadaba

**Poster making 9+:** 1st Serena Nanda and Nayantara Alva, 2nd Malika Oak and Noor Dhingra, 3rd Ananya Gupta and Niara Sareen

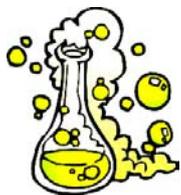
**Team Tennis Interschool Tournament, Modern School VV - Under 10 boys and girls team** comprising of Shaurya Sood, Dhruv Singh Chauhan and Shyla Khatter won the tournament.

**Impromptu Speaking Class 6:** 1st - Kathleen Ireland and Harnoor Singh, 2nd - Anya Malhotra, 3rd - Arusha Nirvan

Class 7: 1st - Mahin Bharadwaj, 2nd - Kabir Singh, 3rd - Saahil Armaan and Suryadip Bandhopadhyay Class 8: 1st - Ashna Sethi and Devika Vir, 2nd - Varun Bisht, 3rd - Ishita Malhotra

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

# Subject Streams: The Good, THE ~~BAD~~, The Ugly



## SCIENCE

If you have a logical mind, like answers with explanations, and enjoy problem solving, take science. Science is loads of fun; yes, that's a geeky thing to say, but **honestly, if science in class 9 and 10 has stirred any interest in you at all, pursue it, because class 11 and 12 will actually blow your mind.** Yes, science is hard work. But its manageable- and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Be prepared to set aside some time EVERYDAY to revise your concepts- you cannot revise everything the day before the exam, it's too much and too deep. **Pay attention in class- if you can understand and clarify your concepts in the classroom, it will lighten your burden immensely.** And taking science isn't the end of the world! You can still have friends, phone conversations, a social life, see the occasional movie, etc. So don't listen to the word around the block, because it simply isn't true.

Sanjna Surya, 12



## ARTS

It has been a year since I chose my subjects, and I couldn't be happier with my decision. Not everyone, however, will like or even be suited to this stream. **Only people who are fascinated by institutions and social structures, who are intrigued by contemporary issues or the effects of past occurrences, and who want to learn about the functioning of society and the economy, would enjoy humanities subjects.**

**Contrary to popular notion, the ability to memorize is not the only skill a humanities student requires.** More than anything else, to really excel in this area, you need to be socially aware. There is a lot of application involved in these subjects; and someone who lives under a rock, who doesn't read or appreciate the changes happening around us, will neither excel nor enjoy them.

Anjani Gupta, 12



## ₹ Top 10 Reasons Why Commerce Will Rock Your World ₹



1. It's not science.
2. You get to visit McDonald's as part of class projects.
3. It's logical, rational, practical and innovative.
4. You don't need to be awesome at maths, just average.
5. Tallying you're balance sheet is the most satisfying feeling in the world.
6. All you're subjects are interrelated and co-dependent..
7. The economy needs you.
8. You'll need it no matter what career you choose.
9. Career opportunities are immense.
10. You make the big bucks.

Tejasvini Puri, 12



## A Day with Dr. Samir Parikh



The Psychology students of Class 12 recently attended a presentation on the causes, symptoms and treatment of various psychological disorders at Fortis Hospital by Dr. Samir Parikh. The doctors discussed disorders such as OCD; sleep disorders such as insomnia and eating disorders such as

anorexia and bulimia.

The doctors made the talk interactive by enacting various disorders and making students guess which disorder they were depicting. They debunked the misconception that medicating patients with psychological disorders is a bad thing. The current thinking is that medication can greatly help patients as the new generation of medicines have fewer side effects than older medicines. The doctors did, however, point out that a psychiatrist should both highlight the positives and weigh the negatives of such treatment with the patient while prescribing medication. **In addition to discussing various disorders, the doctors also discussed alcohol and drug abuse by teenagers.** This enlightening talk ended with a Q&A session. It was an eye-opening field trip for us all and one that we will never forget.

Divya Shastri, 12



## A Bit of Everything



I believe that it's good to have a mixed stream because of various reasons. Firstly, it keep options open for further studies. It also **caters to all my interest rather than sticking just to one stream.** A mixed combination enables me to get exposed to all the different kinds of subjects - one being from science, another from commerce, and another from humanities. The choice isn't completely rigid. In my opinion, it is **much more flexible as I get to do the subjects I**

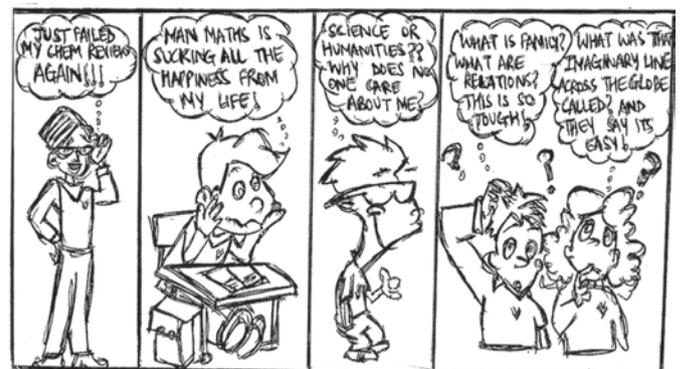
**enjoy, as well as those which will greatly help me later in life,** and since I don't enjoy all subjects of one particular stream, choosing a mixed stream has proved to be extremely advantageous for me.

Yashitha Jeet, 12



## VASANT VALLEY VELA

AASTHA KAMRA



**Getting Ready For Science Day**

For Science Day Ms. Roy divided the class into groups and I was the group leader of my group. That day I reached home and tried out some experiments and loved the one where we collect gas in a balloon. But when I discussed it with my



group they all found it 'lame'. Only Shrijeet supported my idea. But when I asked them if they had an idea better than mine, they quickly agreed with me. The next day Shrijeet came over to my house to try out the experiment. We used baking soda in vinegar and collected carbon dioxide in a balloon. Shrijeet in his over excitement put so much baking soda that the balloon filled up quickly and flew up then blew up and the vinegar over flowed and made a mess. We both laughed so much that day.

**Uday Dabas V- A**

**Living With 'Shadow'**

My pet is a kitten and her name is Shadow. She is a trouble-maker and a friend to me. She loves to eat biscuits, cucumber and chicken. When I dance on holidays, with the music loud, she enters my room and looking disturbed by the volume, gives a loud "meow!" and starts dancing with me. If my pencil is under the table, she picks it up for me. If my pencil is under the table, she picks it up for me. And if a sharper is lost, shadow will open my drawer and find a sharper for me. She once dropped her milk on me just because my friend had come over and I was not paying much attention to her. She plays catch with me in the park. I also take Shadow along with me to the market. Shadow loves morning walks and fresh air. She is very scared of lizards and crows. We always fight and become friends again! I love Shadow and I think she loves me too!

**Ayza Dang IV - B**

**Devaki Jayal and Tia Goculdas interviewed some pet owners at the 'Peilu Oberoi Pet Corner'**

**Pranati Jain's "Mars"**

*How much exercise does your dog need?* My dog needs a fair amount of exercise. He needs exercise in the morning and in the evening. I take him to the park twice a day too. *What is the best trait of your dog?* My dog is very obedient. He listens to my commands.

**Shiv Bhandari's "Biscuit"**

*How much exercise does your horse need?* My horse needs a lot of exercise. I ride him twice a week. *Is there something special you like about your horse?* Yes, the white mark on his nose. It's my lucky charm. It helps me win medals in the races. I have won nearly 25 gold medals on him.



**Jaisal Sood's "Paneer, Gobi and Blacky"**

*How many times a day do you feed them?* I feed them twice a day. I feed them something called Tetra Bits. *What kind of fish are they?* They are goldfish.

**Ishita Gupta's "Cherry-Owner"**

*What is your turtles favourite food?* Its favourite food is cucumber. *What do you like most about your turtle?* I like his shell and the way he walks. *Who does he love most in the family?* He loves me and my sister the most in the family



**Samara Jind Mohan's " May"**

*What do you like most about your fish?* I like his scales and the designs on them. *Who does your fish like the most in the family?* My fish likes me the most.



**Visit to Qutub Minar**

Excited and eager I reached school on the 26<sup>th</sup> February morning, looking forward to our excursion. After eating our breakfast, we headed towards the buses and left for the Qutub Complex. I sat with my friend Mokshya, but we were very well behaved and only talked quietly during the journey. On reaching the complex, we went to see this colossal monument that was built in 1199 A.D by Qutub-ud- din Aibak, the first Muslim ruler of Delhi. He commanded the construction of Qutub Minar in 1193, but could not complete it. It was Aibak's successor, Iltumush, who added three more stories and in 1368 Firoz Shah Tuglak constructed the fifth and last storey. We were astonished to know that the monument has 379 steps and is 72.5m high. Sadly, we did not eat or drink anything at the Qutub Minar. This seemed like a good idea as it helps avoid littering at this UNESCO World Heritage Site. We returned to school just in time for lunch. After lunch, we discussed our



educational trip to Qutub Minar until the end of the school day. I got back home excited to tell my family about my day and share the knowledge I had gained about this monument.

**Rahil Vohra 5-B**

**Visit to Lotus Temple**

The Lotus Temple is surrounded by water pools. It is made of white marble. The Lotus Temple is one of the most beautiful temples in the world. It has nine gates. The Lotus Temple is also very huge.



**Darsh Puri II - B**

**फूल**

फूल होते है रंग - विरंगे  
ऊँची - नीची डालियों में लटके।  
वाग - वगिचों में हैं दिखते  
जगह - जगह बाज़ार में विकते।  
अच्छी - अच्छी खुशबू वाले  
मन - पसन्द भरे हैं सारे।  
तितली फूलों पर मंडराती  
जगह - जगह से रस ले जाती।  
हँसती - खिलती किरण है आई  
वाग - वागीचों में खुशियों लाई।  
फूलों का कण - कण मुसकाया  
वन - उपवन में खिल पाया।



**गरिमा राणा पाँच - अ**

## 'These Streets'

**"Who would have thought that an old and sturdy suitcase could replace a bass drum? Or a harmonic progression could be played on an arrangement of old beer bottles?"**



A 'Makeshift' Guitar

I know you'd be lying if you said you've never wondered about being a **street musician**. Living life in the fast lane, not bound by any conventions. The world is your stage, in every sense of the word. All that matters is getting through the day, and though it gets hard sometimes, you get to do what you love.

I continue to be amazed when I see people performing on the street. They say that necessity is the mother of invention, and my, my, have street musicians proved them right. **It goes without saying that these people are good at what they do, but it's the way they do it that blows my mind.** Who would have thought that an old and sturdy suitcase could replace a bass drum? Or a harmonic progression could be played on an arrangement of old beer bottles? Our lives are becoming increasingly contemporary, and the number of these nomadic entertainers is decreasing likewise. But, street musicians are a tradition all over the WORLD. Even India with its Rajasthani folk singers, with its South Indian percussionists and their ability to transform even a mundane house hold object like a pot, into a beautiful instrument. **Even India, is part of this age old tradition.**

Street music can be funky or profound, beautiful or crass. One thing is for sure though; across the board it is symbolic of innovation and survival. It shows us how creative man can be when his life depends on it, and it shows us how miraculous art is, that beauty can be drawn from a pot or a pan just as easily as it can be drawn from a \$5000 David Gilmour Strat. So play on, and someday **maybe street music will be the stuff of legends.**

Kaamya Sharma, 9

## The Falling Apple



Looking at the latest software, the latest iphone and the latest line up of ipads it seems to me that **apple has lost its genius.** The striking inaccuracy and incompleteness of the mapping app that Apple handed to users with its latest software for iPhones and iPads throws into question the company's

philosophy of maintaining tight control over its technology, and suggests it has lost some of its discipline.

It's clear enough that **Apple was in a hurry to end its products' reliance on Google Maps**, which tended to feed the coffers of the archival makers of the dominant Android Smartphone operating system. The stakes are high: roughly a quarter of mobile ad revenue comes from ads associated with maps. Apple's map software comes preinstalled on the iphone 5, and also comes with the new iOS6 upgrades for other iPhones, iPod Touches, and iPads.

**"The striking inaccuracy and incompleteness of Apple maps throws into question the company's philosophy."**

Consider all the products that have been launched lately and you would notice that **there isn't much difference between the products predecessors. The iphones were the same with just an added inch, a metal body and...camera issues.** The ipad 4 that was launched just 9 months after its predecessor had the same body as the ipad 2 and ipad 3. The ios 7 software was slow and clunky. The ios native apps would crash frequently and Passbook, the main marketing point of the ios 7, didn't work in more than half the countries where the iphone was sold. The ipad mini was taken out at a price almost double that of the nexus 7 and launched with retina display. The ipad mini's launch contradicts the statement of Steve Jobs-"We will never release a 7 inch tablet."

**The big A's, I feel are not able to keep up with the developments being made in any segment.** They aren't getting their phones and tablets right and are struggling to keep up with the touch and type laptops in the market. Let's hope that apple has some great product lined up for us this year.

Dhruv Duggal, 10



## काश मेरे भी पंख होते



अगर मेरे पंख होते तो मैं ऊपर नीले व्योम में उड़ते हुए दिखाई देता। लोग मेरे रंगीन वदन और पंखों को देख कर विस्मय से चौक जाते। हर सुबह मैं पेड़ की फुनगी पर बैठ कर पूरे शहर का अनुभव लेता। और तो और मैं झड़ने के नीले शुद्ध पानी के साथ साथ समुद्र की ओर उड़ता।

**लेकिन दूसरे हाथ पर अगर मेरे पंख होते तो मेरी जान हर दम खतरे में होती क्योकि मनुष्य हरियाली अर्थात हमारा घर काट रहे है।**

पहाड़ी में जहा मनुष्य का जाना असंभव है मैं उस ऊर्वाई का अनुभव ले पाता। मैं टिकेट के बिना उन्मुक्त आसमान में हवाई जहाज के बगल में उड़ता। लेकिन दूसरे हाथ पर अगर मेरे पंख होते तो मेरी जान हर दम खतरे में होती क्योकि मनुष्य हरियाली अर्थात हमारा घर काट रहे है। इसके साथ साथ वे आनंद लेने के लिए हमारा शिकार भी कर रहे हैं।

शिवमंगल सिंह सुमन ने भी अपनी कविता "हम पंखी उन्मुक्त गगन के" में कहा है

नीड़ न दो चाहे टहनी का।  
आश्रय छिन्न भिन्न कर डालो ।।  
लेकिन पंख दिए हैं तो।  
आकुल उड़ान में विघ्न न डालो ।।

जय अरोरा 7



## Do The 'Harlem Shake'



Recently, a new video sensation swept the internet, popularly known as the 'Harlem shake'. For those of you who live under a rock, the **Harlem shake was originally a dance move that began on the streets of Harlem, New York, in**

**1981.** Then, a song was made by the artist Bauuer (never heard that name before) under the same name. That same song was used by a few kids who were obviously extremely bored and decided to wear latex clothes, dance and (for lack of a better word) act ridiculous when the bass dropped. And now? **Almost every version of the Harlem Shake you can imagine already exists.**

**"One thing you can't miss is the randomness of it all. From an army edition to an edition taken under water, it's obvious that the Harlem Shake has become popular all over the world."**

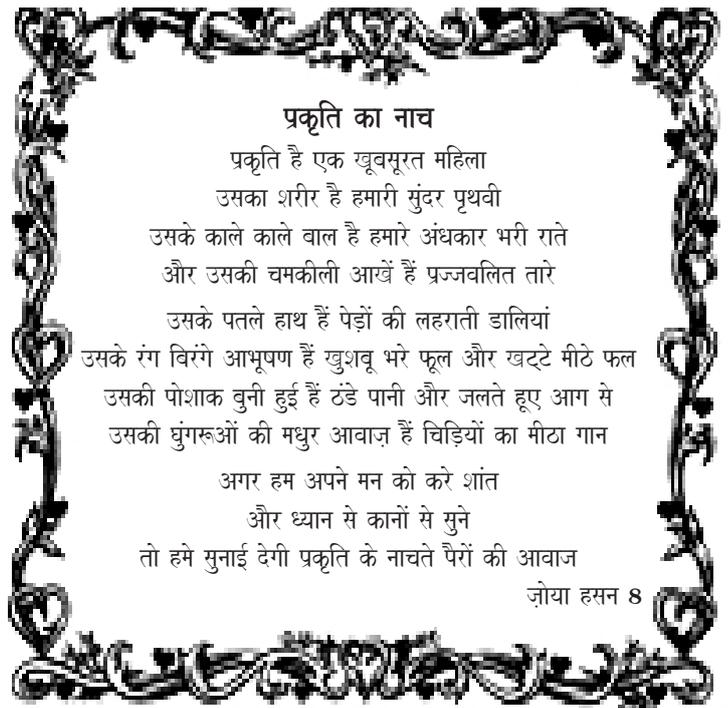
Scouting through these millions of videos, you may see some that are actually pretty funny (in an absurd way) and others that are just downright inane. But the one thing you can't miss is the randomness of it all. From an army edition to an edition taken under water, it's obvious that the **Harlem Shake has become popular all over the world.**

Many people have different takes on the Harlem shake. There are those whose faces light up at the very name (followed by some very enthusiastic.....let's call it dancing?) and others who will argue incessantly that it's lame, stupid, and nothing close to funny. What's my take? It's a mixed one. I do think it's pretty pointless, and the fact that such things become internet hits really baffles me. But I can't deny that when I first saw these array of videos, I, too did jump up on my bed, scream and dance my lungs out and make a pact to someday make a Harlem Shake with everyone I knew!

So for those of you who like to sit back and criticise the Harlem Shake; ain't nobody got time for that. If senseless videos like these give people joy, instead of sitting back and criticizing, why not join in?

**PS: The Vasant Valley Batch of 2015 made a Harlem Shake as well, it's on Facebook, and it's hilarious. Check it out.**

*Riya Kothari, 9*



### प्रकृति का नाच

प्रकृति है एक खूबसूरत महिला  
उसका शरीर है हमारी सुंदर पृथ्वी  
उसके काले काले बाल हैं हमारे अंधकार भरी राते  
और उसकी चमकीली आंखें हैं प्रज्वलित तारे

उसके पतले हाथ हैं पेड़ों की लहराती डालियां  
उसके रंग विरंगे आभूषण हैं खुशबू भरे फूल और खट्टे मीठे फल  
उसकी पोशाक बुनी हुई हैं ठंडे पानी और जलते हुए आग से  
उसकी घुंगरुओं की मधुर आवाज़ हैं चिड़ियों का मीठा गान

अगर हम अपने मन को करे शांत

और ध्यान से कानों से सुने

तो हमें सुनाई देगी प्रकृति के नाचते पैरों की आवाज़

जोया हसन 8

## One Last Dance

She moved swift, so delicate,  
Elegance and charm, so perfectly fit.  
You could feel the emotion once more,  
She showed us what she had kept in store.  
For her once more the crowds raved,  
Soon it was over, and she waved.  
Her pretty eyes, her girly glance,  
She made the most of one last dance.  
She danced the night away,  
She couldn't help. She couldn't stay.  
That was the end of petite, pink tutus,  
And her sparkling sequined dancing shoes.

*Ananya Jain, 11*



## MONEYBALL



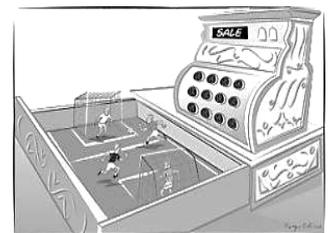
Many will agree that in today's world, football has lost its identity. The beautiful game originally associated with love, loyalty and passion now seems to be only about money. **Football fans feel an increasing sense of disappointment and disillusionment because it is now evident that success is inevitably decided by financial clout.**

Until the 1970's, wage differences between footballers and other professionals were minimal, but with the onslaught of commercialization, advertisements and sponsorships, catapulted football wages to astronomical levels. The above set off a trend, wherein wealthier football clubs started buying established superstars instead of scouring talent. Such tendencies produced class distinctions between the wealthy and the moderate clubs.

Traditionally, club football was about playing for the local club and thus most clubs take after the locality name. Now geographical boundaries no longer determine club teams, as **wealthier clubs pick up superstars from across the world.**

Everton can be taken as a prime example of how money ultimately dictates progress. Manager David Moyes consistently inspires his side to punch above their weight despite a tight budget. However, they now appear to have hit a wall as it is seemingly impossible to break into the top four clubs that compete in the Champions League when pitted against wealthy clubs with deep pockets.

**Finding new players and developing them is what football is about. Simply buying established talent will not improve the quality of the game.** The best managers are those who can identify and develop raw talent and a supreme example of this attribute can be seen in the arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger. World-class players, Jack Wilshire, Nicolas Anelka, Robin Van Persie, Cesc Fabregas, Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry have all been his finds. Now all you football fanatics, ask yourself what the game of football would have been like without these legends? I hope that football will be restored to its former glory.

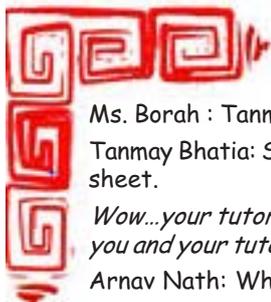


**"Now all you football fanatics, ask yourself what the game would have been like without these legends? I hope to God that football will be restored to its former glory."**



*Jayanti Jha, 11*

# BUSTED



Ms. Borah : Tanmay, why are you late for class?

Tanmay Bhatia: Sorry ma'am I was with my tutee sheet.

*Wow...your tutor must be jealous of all the time you and your tutee sheet are spending together.*

Arnav Nath: Who's their coach's name?

*I'm sitting here thinking of how to comment, and I can't. You have amazed me.*

Namrata Narula: The government needs to be more inemotional.

*I'm pretty sure that 'inemotional' isn't a word, but hey, you're Editor, you obviously know more.*

Ayush Vashishtha: Wowwww, you look like a new wed bride!

*I hope she wasn't your bride because that comment would have really made her regret her choices.*



# Vasant Valley CONFESSIONS

The Confessions page mania has gripped Facebook, and now even Vasant Valley has fallen prey to this particular internet fad. So, we went around asking people for their opinions. Here are some of the responses we got:

"Ghatia hai" - Reyhaan Seth

"Not everyone has something nice to say"- Krishna Singh

"It was good at first, but then it just became people writing about themselves. Get over it people."- Shaum Arora

"It's lame but it's really addictive and that's annoying" - Priyanshi Kumar

"It's so inaccurate, my name wasn't there on the the hottest girls list!" - Anonymous

"Innocent, failed gossip girl type experiment" - Mrudang Mathur

"It would be relevant if people didn't post stupid things" - Abhishek Dhawan

"It was entertaining when everyone hated it. Now it's just narcissistic girls complementing each other." - Dhruv Sagar

"Highly entertaining, hope I dont fail my exams as a result." - Mallika Kishore

"Hilarious" - Uday Talwar

"Kind of stupid because those posts weren't actually confessions, they were just idkk" - Aavantika Wassan

"The reason I'm failing my summative assessments. I love you confessions page, come back & fake compliment me" - Kimberley Sarah Ireland

# TEACHER OF THE WEEK



**Mrs. Sayam**



Q: Why did you choose Sociology?

*Under Sociology I feel like I can discuss anything under the sun. The subject gives me a lot of flexibility. Also, it teaches us what life is about.*

Q: Whose was the best paper you have ever corrected?

*It would be Zoya Brar's from the batch of '07-'08. And Nikhil Pandhi's of course!*

Q: Why do you think Sociology is important to our lives in this day and age?

*By discussing various social issues, personal experiences are shared which strengthen the values that are in decline in society.*

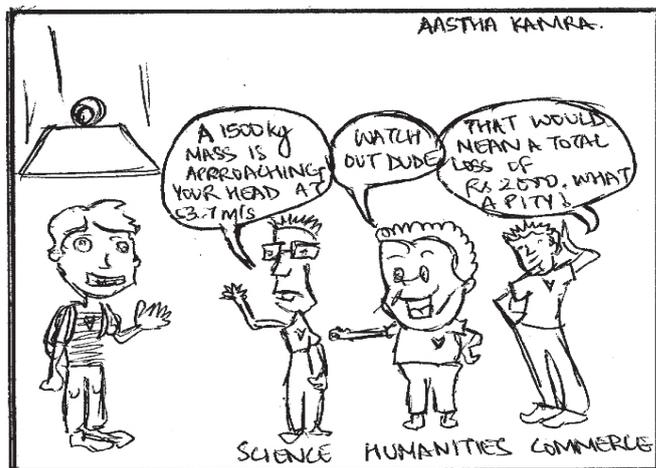
Q: If not Sociology what subject would you teach?

*Probably Child Development. That's something I'm very interested in. If it's a subject taught in school I would choose English.*

Q: Why did you choose to become a teacher?

*I chose teaching because I'm fond of children, and I feel that this comes across when I teach and a good bond develops between me and the students*

**As told to Pia Kochar & Aditya Srinivasan, 12**



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