

Vasant Valley

September, 2010

T O D A Y

SCHOOL WATCH

Artistic Gymnastics (Under 12 year category)

Team Championship - **1st position**

All Round Best Gymnast

Mehr Kohli - **1st position**

Ishita Malhotra - **2nd position**

Aerobic Gymnastics (Under 17 year category)

Rhea Bhalla - **1st position** in individual group

Class 11 Inter House Math Quiz

1st - RED House - Ramya Ahuja, Rishabh Datta, Pihu Yadav & Shaurya Kumar

Class 10

1st-RED House-Riyah Singh, Vir Chopra, Shriya Gupta & Aditi Banerji

INTER HOUSE INDIAN MUSIC COMPETITION

3rd September 2010

1st - Blue House

2nd - Red House

SOLO

1st - Priyamvada Dalmia

2nd - Akhila Khanna

INSTRUMENTAL

1st - Rhea Dabas & Aman Adil

2nd - Arkin Khosla & Sumer Kandhari and Akshay Sharan & Priyanka Bansal

DUET (VOCAL)

1st - Nikhil Pandhi & Priyamvada Dalmia

2nd Purva Chauhan & Trisha Shukla

GROUP SONG Won by Blue House

SAINA NEHWAL - A TRUE HEROINE

Saina Nehwal was born in 1990, into a Jat family from Haryana, though she has spent all her life in Hyderabad. Both her parents were badminton champions and Saina fell in love with the sport at an early age. From then on, there was no looking back and today Saina Nehwal is ranked the world number 2 female badminton player, an incredible achievement.

Saina Nehwal made history on June 21, 2009, becoming the first Indian to win a Super Series tournament, by clinching the Indonesia Open with a stunning victory over higher-ranked Chinese, Wang Lin, in Jakarta. Saina won her second career Super Series title by winning the Singapore Open title on June 20, 2010. She completed a hat-trick in the same year by winning the Indonesian Open on June 27, 2010. This win resulted in her rise to 3rd ranking and subsequently to Number 2.

Saina's mentor is former All England Champion and national coach, Pullela Gopichand. Saina was named Most Promising Player in 2008. This was also the year when she remarkably reached the quarter-finals of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, making her country proud. She was rewarded with the Arjuna Award in 2009, and in 2010 she received the Padma Shri from the President of India. She has achieved a lot already in her young career.

Saina said, coming in to the 2010 badminton season, that she wanted to focus more on the premier tournaments rather than ranking points. This has definitely been working in her favour in 2010. So far, as she has won 3 titles and reached the semis of two big tournaments.

What makes Saina special is that she is not as big and well-built as the strong Chinese badminton players and yet she manages to over-power them! Also, she is mentally very strong. She never seems to lose her cool on the court and remains calm and composed. At such a young age she has accomplished so much and yet she is so humble. She doesn't strive for accolades and awards, she strives for excellence. That's why she is at the top of the game at the moment. She is without a doubt the most successful female Indian badminton player. Saina is a great role model for all Indians.

Saina Nehwal is the picture of hardwork, effort, determination, dedication and triumph. She started out small and is now a global superstar. She is known the world over and is still only 20 years old. She is a great player and can only grow from strength to strength. She has made India proud!

Ishan Sardesai



THE LANGUAGE OF THE GODS

In ancient India, the intention to discover truth was so consuming that in the process, they discovered perhaps the most perfect tool for fulfilling such a search that the world has ever known - the Sanskrit language. I was always told that if one was good at Sanskrit, one has an intelligent and logical brain. This prodded me to explore further.

The very name 'Sanskrit' means language brought to formal perfection. This language has the power to uplift the heart along with the brain. It offers direct accessibility by anyone to that elevated plane, where the two, mathematics and music, brain and heart, analytical and intuitive, scientific and spiritual, become one. The language of the mantras - words of power that are subtly attuned to the unseen harmonies of the matrix of creation, the world as yet unformed. The possibility of such a finely attuned language is only conceivable by drawing upon sounds so inherently pure in combinations so harmoniously blended that the result is as refreshingly pure as the energy of creation. The script known as Devnagri, or the language of Gods, is a perfect system of phonetic representation. The clear, pure sounds make it the easiest language in the world to learn and recall. The grammar is structured by precise patterns.

Sanskrit is not only a melodious and old, historically significant language, it is also systematic, and clear, and mathematically perfect. The return of this language also lies in computers. Sanskrit and computers are a perfect fit. The precision play of Sanskrit with computer tools will awaken the capacity in humans to utilize their innate higher mental faculty with a momentum that would inevitably transform the world. Also, its non-ambiguity is one of its biggest strengths. In English, one word "love" defines ones love towards a woman and love towards a child. On the other hand Sanskrit clears all scope for ambiguity as it has two separate words to define the exact meaning with clarity (prema and sneha). This sort of clarity is what a computer language demands. It is mind boggling to consider that we have available to us a language which has been spoken for 7000 years, that appears to be in every respect a perfect language designed for enlightened communication. Rick Briggs, a NASA researcher, in his Artificial Intelligence magazine says "In the past 20 years much time, effort and money has been expended on designing an unambiguous representation of natural language to make them accessible to computer processing." Modern scientists hail the ancient language of the Gods as the only unambiguous natural language on the planet.

In fact, this language is more deeply inter woven into the fabric of the world consciousness than perhaps anyone knows. There was a widespread belief that natural languages are unsuitable for the transmission of many ideas and only the artificial languages can render with great precision and mathematical rigor. This belief stands to be proven wrong by Sanskrit.

Tansher Singh

DSADFGG

I may not be around when this newsletter comes out so I feel free to express myself and write about what I really enjoy doing here at Vasant Valley. Some of my friends think my passion lies in maths, others say that it lies in playing the piano, but the truth is that my favourite hobby here at school, is simply goofing around. And by goofing around, I don't just mean irritating teachers; the art of goofing around is much more delicate than that. Goofing around requires the judgement of a professional blah blah blah. Your crimes must not be conscientious enough for them not to be fun, but on the other hand you must not go overboard and you must know where the line is (well I have two views about that but I'm obliged to be diplomatic here.) and not cross it. Anyway, I think that the reason I've had so much fun here at Vasant Valley is because I've been given the opportunity to act the clown without having any worries i.e. 3 hours of homework every day or getting suspended every time I do something wrong. I love this school and I'm feeling really emotional right now (kidding) but I really do love this place.

Bharat Somanathan

ALL IS NOT WELL

Flash floods triggered by torrential rain in the wee hours of Friday, 6th August 2010, changed the course of life for thousands of inhabitants of Leh, a town in Jammu & Kashmir. The cloudbursts left a trail of death and destruction - wiping out buildings and mud houses, killing around 200 people, and leaving many others stranded and homeless.

While the Army and Air force were immediately deployed to aid rescue operations in the area, NGOs across the country and world over appealed to people to donate towards the cause of the Leh flood victims. Foreign tourists in the area also lent a helping hand.

After pop sensation Lady Gaga alerted her fans to the situation in Leh via Twitter, several Bollywood celebrities also took to the cause, asking their fans to do their bit. Actor Aamir Khan was among those who visited Leh. He took stock of the damage caused, visited the now famous Druk White Lotus School which was featured in the movie *3 Idiots* as the school set up by Phungsuk Wangdoo; he interacted with children and also appealed to people to donate freely to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Back here in Delhi, the students of Vasant Valley also did their bit. Clothes, woolens, shoes and blankets were collected, sorted and packed into boxes so that they could be sent to those in need.

Relief efforts are ongoing but it will be a while before the lives of those in Leh will be fully restored. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited the area and announced a relief package of Rs.125 crore to rehabilitate the thousands of people who have been displaced. Although there is no dearth of funds, rebuilding all the homes that were destroyed by the flood before winter arrives will pose a major challenge.

Through this tragedy nature has once again reminded us that it can't be tamed. Even when all the homes are rebuilt and lives are back on track, the misery and devastation left by this flood and its cataclysmic impact on the relationship between man and nature will not be forgotten.

Sanjana Malhotra

वर्षा ऋतू

वर्षा ऋतू का मैसम है आया,
काले मेघों ने बरसाया।
नाँवों तो मोर के संग,
फूल खिलते हैं रंगविरंग।

मेढक करते हैं टरटर,
बच्चे खेलते हैं झूमकर,
बून्दे बरसती हैं,
विजली कड़कती है।

गरजते हैं बादल,
लोग ओढ़ते हैं चादर।
वारिश चारों ओर है,
वर्षा ऋतू का मजा
कुछ और है !!
आंचल शर्मा 6-c

THE PLAYLIST

1. Do My Thing - Kid Cudi ft. Snoop Dogg
2. Opposite of Adults - Chiddy Bang
3. Hey - 3OH!3
4. Enter the Ninja - Die Antwoord
5. Please Don't Go - Mike Posner

- Sanya Malhotra



I Have To Write For The Newsletter.

I have to write for the newsletter,

I have a lack of inspiration.

My vocabulary's dead, the editor's eating my head,

I like the name Justin.

THE GOOD

Is India ready for the Commonwealth Games? That's the question that is splashed over the front page of every newspaper in the country. Corruption, scams, scandals, delayed construction: the list goes on and on...

There are two whole months left until the tourists come in. Indians just panic for no reason; we are good at finding flaws, sitting back with our *chai* and mocking the government. It's what we do.

China was ready two days before the Beijing Olympics, while South Africa was entirely prepared for the World Cup only on the afternoon of the opening ceremony itself! This from two countries who are known to have held what were termed as the two "most successful" sporting events of all time! The key seems to be in delaying the process as far as you can.

The Commonwealth Games are, in fact, a boon for our economy and country as a whole. The income we have already generated from multinational tourism corporations has reached a total of \$2.2 billion. This number is sure to rise as people will have to pay for lodging, transport, duty and this list, too, will go on and on.

The Commonwealth Games' village is a broker's gold mine. After the athletes and tourists leave, the value of the property is expected to rise to Rs. 12,500 per square foot!

The transportation system (metro, buses) will live on forever. They'll reduce the traffic load and will help to serve the purpose of reducing our country's carbon emissions, thereby making the governments of the world happy.

The employment levels in our country have risen greatly with the need for labour as well as management. The opponents of the Games say that the people currently employed will be stranded without jobs after the construction, but they are wrong. Those same workers can be employed for maintenance of the stadiums.

The most important, but least recognized, benefit of the Games is that the sports facilities will give India the opportunity to become a sporting superpower. The facilities being installed are world class, and the *jhaad* that the government is receiving for paying so much money is absolutely unnecessary, as these facilities will be used by our youngsters to become the best at any sport they choose.

The Commonwealth Games were first established for all the nations under the British to come together and celebrate, irrespective of the stadiums and facilities. It was a chance for them to lose themselves in their love for sports and form a united front. We, too, should do the same and forget these petty fights.

So let the Games begin...

Varun Datta and Tara Sen

THE BAD

October 3rd 2010: India's date with the international sporting world. In fact, India is taking this event on a very expensive date, spending a shocking 1500% more than her budget. However, it seems that India's not going to be very good company on her big night - she's going to keep her date waiting.

The Corruption Wealth Games have become a clear indication of the future humiliation our country is going to face, greatly contrasting to the pride it gave us when we won the bid to host them. The CWG have been fraught and plagued with controversies and corruption. Personally, I feel that we will be able to kick the event off on time, get the infrastructural work completed, but it will be of such poor quality that our country will not know where to hide her shamed face. And this isn't just a baseless accusation. Suresh Kalmadi, the chairman of the Organizing Committee, has been nailed for financial irregularities in the infrastructural development for the games. He has repeatedly denied these accusations. Yet the Organisation Committee seems to have a Midas touch. Everything it touches becomes more expensive, doesn't it? The Games will now cost Rs. 87,000 crore. Last month, the roof of the Yamuna Sports Complex was blown off during a thunderstorm. The paint and plasters in the S.P Mukherjee Swimming Complex are peeling off, despite being billed for Rs.377 crore. Along with these deficits in infrastructure, the OC's Midas touch has gone overboard, spending inane amounts like Rs. 9.75 lakhs on hire charges for treadmills, while the price of one of the world's best treadmills retailing in London's luxury store Harrods, is Rs.7 lakhs. Cross trainers cost Rs.8.8 lakhs. A/C hire charges amount to Rs.4 lakhs. Finally, the mother of all bills - Toilet paper: Rs.4,138 *per roll* (as they say, the paper must be inlaid with gold)!

But alright. So they spent a lot of money on it. Fine. Maybe they are putting the money to good use (for all we know). Our buildings should be world class, and the development should be going at top speed, but it isn't. So where is all this money going? Ask Suresh Kalmadi who is "very hurt by these false allegations".

The Indian population isn't stupid. So why is the government turning a blind eye towards the outcry of the media and the citizens? The Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, has stepped in to rescue the beleaguered New Delhi CWG by holding meetings with ministers to discuss the delays and corruption issues. While I appreciate their efforts, I don't think their meetings can rebuild our stadiums and bring back all the lost money.

Being a strongly patriotic citizen of India, I hope with all my heart that we can save our country from the impending disaster we are about to inaugurate. Let's hope the entire CWG fiasco isn't represented by the phrase "*Khud ke pao par Kalmadi maarna*".

-Tanvi Tandon

The Ugly

The revealing of scandals and slander which have plagued the Commonwealth Games 2010 is a classic example of the soap opera aura innate to Indian sport. So in a frenzied attempt to quell criticism, the Organization Committee of the CWG has manipulated the country's formidable weapon, moral policing, to dignify itself. From etiquette lessons to social admonitions to a plethora of travel tips, here is the precise text of a sophisticated list of do's and don'ts issued by the OC.

"The Western practice of a peck on the cheek as a form of greeting a lady or a grown up girl is JUST NOT DONE when you are in India unless you happen to be in 'Westernized Indian' circles. If you find the lady is not extending a hand shake, go for the *Namastey*", *the official website for the CWG advises, under its travel section.* "Be aware that public displays of affection (hugging, kissing) are generally not appreciated. However, it is common to see men showing affection and camaraderie on the roads and in villages throughout the country." Adherence to the dress code is inevitably highlighted in what is certainly the most sensible of all the eccentric advisories, "Modesty in dress is an important aspect of Indian life and, away from beaches, one should respect the local customs. This is especially important when visiting temples and religious sites, where trousers or full-length skirts should be worn and shoulders should be covered, and in Sikh temples, your head must also be covered."

The Committee even takes a stab at itself in scathing honesty, "In India, public toilet facilities are few and far between, and, outside of the hotels and restaurants, can be of dubious cleanliness. We recommend taking every opportunity you can to use a clean toilet in hotels and restaurants and that you carry tissues/wet wipes with you." Further accepting the glaring reality of the state of the Capital's infrastructure, "Also if you thought of driving in the Indian roads, think twice because it is India and traffic congestion here can give you a torrid time."

However the oddest excuse the list accredits to 'society' is that, "Even in the most cosmopolitan of cities in India the chances are that your different appearance might mean that you will be stared at, though this especially happens in the smaller towns and more remote areas. Please do not be offended. No harm is meant, it is just curiosity", transparent subterfuge for plain uncouthness.

- Mallika Pal

GLADIATORS IN BLUE

Over a thousand years ago, was the age of the Gladiators. These were men who fought one another or foreign creatures in an arena with a multitude of people watching. Their life in the ring was short; 5 to 10 years maximum. They would fight till defeat or death with one side being the victors and the others the vanquished. When a gladiator lost, he was publicly humiliated, hissed and jeered at, and often put to death. If he was allowed to live, he would be the subject of insult and ridicule. If he was a hero and was victorious and continued to be, he was showered with gold and praise. It was a cold, barbaric time and the crowd had no loyalties except for victory and defeat. Human beings showed no moderation, no calm, no kindness; it was a mob thing, and when we reflect on it we perceive what a diabolical era it was. Mercilessness resided in the hearts of one and all.

Today once again there are Gladiators. In place of a spear they have a bat; in place of armor they have pads. But they continue to have helmets like the primordial days. Their life in the ring or the pitch as it is known today, too is short; after 35 they are considered to be old and superannuated. These Gladiators battle it out in the scorching sun in strange lands against fierce foreign creatures. Sometimes they are injured and break their bones. And what's more? When they lose, they are booed and mocked derisively, their families are subject to insult, and bricks are thrown at their homes. People jeer on the street when they pass and call them all sorts of names and curses. Other times, people take their images and burn them to ashes in public view. And when they win? They are showered with utmost admiration and eulogized about. Their names are chanted with the highest esteem, and they are lifted on to shoulders. Incense sticks are burnt against their massive, maximized images and they are prayed to. Pompous political figures fall head over heels at their feet to give them favors. Until the next defeat.

So what have we gained in these thousand years? We pat them on their backs when they win, and are ready to kill post their losses. Today they are our idols, while they were merely topics of hatred just yesterday. Our loyalty is not to them, but to defeat and victory. We will raise them to the sky or pummel them to the earth.

It's a mob thing. -Vasudha Dixit

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NIGHT OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

It was the time of dusk
When the sun began to fade
And an unusual darkness came over.
Gradually,
A unique ray of light
Burst across the vast swathe
Of gleaming snow caps
The sky altered itself into
A spectrum of colors
AURORA BOREALIS!
Awestruck! I watched this
Astounding phenomenon
Completely baffled
To be one with nature
Was a feeling unimaginable
I had achieved ecstasy.

By KARTIK BHASIN

रक्षाबंधन

श्रावण की मास की पूर्णिमा को
निश्चल नीरव जग जब स्थिर हो
उठती है ध्वनि सूत्र की उस क्षण
गूँजती रहती संघर्ष करो।
स्नेह का त्यौहार, प्यार का प्रतीक
इस समर्पण के रिश्ते से मिलती है सीख।
इस पर्व में प्रतिज्ञा की प्रस्तुति है होती
इस उत्सव की प्रतीक्षा हमने है की।
यह बेचा गया धागा केवल नहीं
रक्षा सूत्र कहलाता है यही
सर्वत्र विद्यमान है मूलभाव रक्षा का
सलुने सिर्फ नहीं भाई को बहन द्वारा।
श्रावणी राजा को पुरोहित के माध्यम से
तथा यजमान को ब्राह्मण से
कहा गया वर्ष भर सुख प्राप्त है होती
जिसकी कलाई में राखी है बंधी।
श्री मेवाड़ की कर्मवती नामक रानी,
गुजराती सेना से घिरी थी महारानी
तब स्नेह सहित राखी का सूत्र भेजा गया
हुमायुं को जो वैर भाव भूल लौट आया।
यह संपूज्य धागे की पवित्र प्रथा
भाइयों की कलाईयों में अर्थपूर्व है होता
अब यह पर्व बन गया मात्र औपचारिकता का
वास्तविक महत्त्व तो प्रायः लुप्त सा है हो गया।
ः वंदिता खन्ना

VVIQ

We asked the students of Vasant Valley School the question, "What is the 123 Agreement?" Here are some of the 'bright' answers we received -

Manika Gaur: "It's when you're tired and they say 123 to make you start dancing."

Devashree Arora: "It's where they promise to teach you to count till 3."

Mrs. Vohra: "Is this in the Accounts syllabus?"

Harsh Jain: "I know what it really is, but if I tell you, I'd have to kill you."

Prakruti Nanda: "It's how we started to say 123 before all my dance routines."

Sumer Kandhari: "It's part of the 6th Theory because 1+2+3 is equal to 6."

Close, but not quite!

The 123 agreement between India and USA refers to Sec. 123 of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act. There is a ban on transfer of nuclear technology to other countries under this Act. The Hyde Act was passed by U.S.A to make an exception for India, to enable transfer of technology for civil nuclear energy. The 123 Agreement is the terms of engagement which makes operational the treaty agreement between India and USA for transfer of civil nuclear technology. Since a major part of India's nuclear policy is used for strictly peaceful purposes, once India completes the agreements with IAEA and NSG, then the U.S. Congress will vote on the 123 Agreement. Once it is approved by the U.S. Congress, then the deal is complete and India and USA can enter into nuclear commerce which includes supply of nuclear reactors, transfer of technology, supply of nuclear fuel etc.

GREY

Reality,
Illusion-
A victim of my own
confusion.
Love,
Hate -
What will decide my fate?
To come,
Or to go?
Are you a friend,
Or a foe?
Nor black
Nor white,
A mélange of wrong and
right.
I cannot leave,
I cannot stay -
Help me get through these
shades of grey.

- Sanjana Malhotra

ODE TO MUSIC

(I) Oh sedate cordial music,
your stream incites my soul
Your mournful tone by who
the impassioned spirit
Is awakened to reality,
captured in droll
Flow of tenor unmaintained,
substitutes the aura
So quick, unnoticed. The
treasure repeatedly dug out
But once received from
music, hidden pleasure.
Tears cascading for memories,
you evoke in each human
The trembling treble faced
with fears of the past
Mind transforming;
maverick and sanguine

(II) When pacing, hit the sharp
edges thee
In the drive; the blend of
accidentals and naturals
In the ears of the mice, creates
a beauty
The beating heart proliferates
an octave
Achieving ecstasy in its
endeavour
Thou arouse the smiles from
their unconscious grave
Thou a string of notes written
passionately so
Thou a combination of keys
to euphoria
And bliss, which upon us thou
do bestow.

Urvi Raghbeer

TOP 10 REASONS WHY WE'LL MISS BHARAT SOMANATHAN

10. There'll be no more 'Top 10' articles for the newsletter (this being an exception). We'll surely miss those.
9. There'll be no one left to speak in that incredibly impactful nasal voice.
8. There'll be no more outrageously stupid yet catchy songs like *Sarah-Amerah* or *Kangana* or the class anthem, *Astha Garg and a Simran Yadav*.
7. There'll be no one to correct grammatical errors (especially those of Alisha Chopra).
6. There'll be no one to recall square roots of forlorn numbers and solve other complex mathematical problems.
5. There'll be no more awesome and fast paced yet random piano lessons.
4. There'll be no more 'HOW LAME AM I' ways to attract attention.
3. There'll be no one to argue with the teachers on behalf of the class on practically anything and everything possible.
2. There'll be no more ingenious 'Why are you late to class' excuses either.

And the No. 1 reason why we'll miss him is-

1. Because HE'S BHARAT SOMANATHAN!

Batch of 2014

(Facilitated by Aastha Kamra)

Editor's Note: Without Bharat Somanathan, there'll be no more annoying, cheeky little boys who are actually very sweet, deep down within their devious souls. We'll miss you, Bharat. 😊

WHY SUPERMAN WEARS HIS UNDIES OVER HIS PANTS

1. He's cool.
2. He drinks sugarfree espresso for brunch.
3. He had wedgie issues as a child.
4. He has a red cape, which makes me doubt his preferences.
5. He needs friends.
6. He gets free stuff from *Frenchie X*, which must be really comfortable.
7. He wants to impress the ladies (fails miserably, Lois Lane has issues).
8. He suffers from Everyone-Loves-Me-Disorder, where you believe everyone loves you and will continue to do so, no matter what.
9. For the same reason he uses some amazing hair gel (How does he maintain his amazing hairdo?).
10. I honestly don't know. Ask the person outside the window! (Haha, got you .)

- The Guy Behind You (haha, got you again).

DANGEROUS MINDS

An ex-marine. A new teacher. A driving, inspirational force: Louanne Johnson. She is new to the world of teaching, so when she is assigned a group of smart, but tough inner-city students, she finds it rather overwhelming. However, she manages to get their attention by coming to school the next day in a leather jacket and teaching them karate. But when she tries reverting to the given curriculum, she is thwarted as the class goes back to its noisy and unconventional state. Determined, Louanne doesn't give up. When the conventional methods fail to teach them anything, she crosses the line. Using candy bars and Bob Dylan, she tries to reach out to her students and inspire them, understand them and make them realize their full potential. But she is dealing with dangerous minds... Will they let her get across to them or will they just treat her like they treated the others?

Dangerous Minds is a riveting and inspirational movie that I would encourage everybody to watch. Based on the bestselling autobiography *My Posse Does Not Do Homework* by Louanne Johnson and directed by filmmaker John Smith, it is lead by Golden Globe winner, Michelle Pfeiffer as Louanne Johnson and has a star cast of her class of obnoxious, but intelligent students. There are many lessons to be learnt from this movie: it shows you how one can reach out to even the toughest looking people because everyone has a mutual enemy: fear.

But, if there is one specific thing that this movie teaches you about, it's choices. Louanne teaches her students that everyone has a choice. The most powerful line of the entire film is "Everyone has a choice. You have a choice. When you are getting on that school bus, you are making a choice. You are *choosing* to get educated here rather than do what the other people your age are doing: selling drugs, booze. Everyone in this classroom has made that choice. There are no victims present here." This line changed the thinking of her students and subsequently the audience as well.

Dangerous Minds has an emotional as well as inspirational feel to it and the characters are overflowing with charisma and spunk. Rules are made to help us, but sometimes they just have to be defied.

-Aakanksha Jadhav



EPL

It's that time of the year again. 20 Teams. 380 matches. Fans from all around the world unite to support their favorite club. Supporters gather in pubs, restaurants and other public areas to watch ninety minutes of breathtaking football showcased by top athletes from around the globe. An entire year of the world's highest level of football awaits us with the start of the Barclay's English Premier League.

As the defending champion, Chelsea F.C faces significant pressure to retain the Premiership title. But an ageing squad and a disheartening loss to strong rival Manchester United seems to have shaken Chelsea's confidence in what was seen to be a relatively simple defense of the Premiership title. However, Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti has sought to rectify this by injecting some young blood into his squad in the form of Midfielder Ramires Santos and Brazilian wunderkind Neymar da Silva.

Manchester United, as always, is a strong contender for the title. A Community Shield win over Chelsea only strengthens its challenge for top honors this season. A high profile signing of Mexican striker Javier Hernandez seems to have paid off, as the 22-year old striker scored on his debut against Chelsea, sealing a 3-1 win.

An unexpected challenger for the title is Manchester City, which after an exorbitant summer spending binge, has acquired a large number of talented footballers from top international clubs. Also expected to make waves is Tottenham Hotspur, which on the back of a breakthrough season, looks like a strong competitor to better its fourth place finish last season. But the team faces strong competition from Aston Villa, which looks to shrug off the shock resignation of its manager Martin O'Neill. Perennial underachievers Arsenal seem to be on their last leg this year as manager Arsene Wenger has announced that he might retire at the end of the season, perhaps without seeing his famed youth project come to fruition. Former greats Liverpool will look to better their standings with the promising new signing of Joe Cole, after an injury plagued season saw them finish in 7th place.

With top clubs Chelsea and Manchester United relying heavily on ageing stars, the table looks more open than it has since the inception of the Premier League in 1992. Now that new, genuine contenders are vying for the title, this looks to be the most closely fought Premiership in recent history.

Raghav Raizada and Vikram Kaleka

HORRORSCOPES

Writer's Note: We have the Batch of 2010 to thank for this very popular column, which was -sadly- discontinued. But now, you can welcome this column back.

ARIES

Why are you so paranoid? There are no midgets following you. But if you do cross the blue cab at midnight, you will have to face an old lady with a mean backhand. On the positive side, you'll have a pink umbrella to protect you. On the love front, I'm afraid nothing is happening.

TAURUS

They say that if you try hard enough, you can achieve anything. I'm afraid that's not possible for you this month. You're feeling especially lazy, and no one is appreciating you. But don't worry, someone will gift you a porcupine to keep as a pet. Watch out, they're very loving.

GEMINI

Don't try inventing something; you'll probably get sued for it. However, if you visit a beach, you WON'T get stung by a jellyfish. The mantra for this month is - keep your enemies close, but your mother even closer. She's the one meeting with your teachers.

CANCER

Don't wear black on Mondays, it could prove very unlucky in your love life which, I'm assuming, is going terribly. Find a friend who can see the future, and you'll be saved from a lot of unfortunate accidents. Not to worry, teachers are going to grade you very leniently and you will feel smart.

LEO

You belong, like all other lions- in the zoo. This forthcoming month will see you going crazier than Miley Cyrus. People will avoid you, and some might even take you on a 'field trip' to the Mental Asylum. But not to worry, after a few electric shocks, the doctors will realize that you are, indeed, sane.

VIRGO

You're looking very good this month, so I'd suggest you don't go in for plastic surgery just yet, though it has been festering in your mind for a while. But when you visit the dentist, be prepared for a painful root canal! And no, that is not Dolly Parton in your room, you must be hallucinating.

LIBRA

Nymphs and fairies do not exist, so do not go on field explorations looking for them. You may stumble upon an angry cow, and that won't end prettily. Take a short holiday to calm your frazzled nerves, you have been working unnecessarily hard.

SCORPIO

Do not vandalize the walls of various buildings in New Delhi expressing your disdain over the handling of the Commonwealth Games. You will be caught, and you will be punished. But not to worry, a loved one will bail you out and ask for a very interesting favour in return.

SAGITTARIUS

Maybe you should try horse riding, it may prove more fruitful than your other endeavors. If the horse throws you off, don't worry, just don't try again. It seems that people have been ignoring you more than usual, and your assumption was correct.

CAPRICORN

Find a distraction, because it seems your problems are out of your hands. And no, the erstwhile soothsayer sitting in Vasant Vihar market cannot help you anymore, as he has his own issues. But if you find a boy in pink pyjamas, he might help you find the answers you are looking for. Just don't buy him candy.

AQUARIUS

You are in no position to handle the many people who hate you. Being too nice does have its drawbacks. Keep to yourself all this month, and don't buy any pulses. They will be adulterated. You will find a very nice boy/girl who your parents will want you betrothed to. Congratulations!

PISCES

Your greatest vice is, indeed, your advice. Just don't give anyone any advice, even if they are desperate for it. And if you do, be prepared to receive an angry mob at your doorsteps brandishing all sorts of agricultural tools as weapons. If you are frustrated, buy some bubblewrap and pop it.

Vedika Berry

JERSEYLICIOUS

Jersey Shore's leading guidette, 'Snooki' was recently charged for being annoying by New Jersey prosecutors. With her ginormous beehive, painful to watch interviews and antics that recently got her arrested, some are left to wonder why she's reality television's new 'It' girl and why people watch the new definition of American entertainment's nadir, "Jersey Shore". Jersey Shore follows the obviously scripted lives of eight Italian-American housemates spending their summer in New Jersey. Contrary to what most of us would expect, there are some rules for them to follow. In exchange for partying at the shore house, each member is required to work at a local T-shirt store. With characters like Snooki, J-Woww, the Situation and the "Kim Kardashian of Staten Island" having free access to cheap alcohol, a hot tub, and nothing productive to do, Jersey Shore gives its viewers more drama than in all their favourite soaps put together. Maybe all the havoc they created would be acceptable if they kept it within their lives on the show, but the Jersey Shore stars' 'fabulous' lives have spilled over excessively into the public domain! John McCain tweeted Snooki recently telling her that he would have never taxed her tanning bed, so she could have been the perfect shade of orange for the summer. What's more, the media loves Jersey Shore, with several news channels having special segments where Pauly D (who is a man, by the way) teaches the camera how he blows out his hair every day before filming begins. When will every move that these deranged personalities make stop becoming breaking news, their inflated egos pop and start contributing to the US economy in a more civil, and less socially degrading way? Never.

- Noor Singh

WHATS YOUR DREAM CAREER?

1) You are the new star of a reality show. Which show would you most likely choose?

- a) A show where your interpersonal skills can help you win, such as The Apprentice or Survivor.
- b) None. Reality shows are a publicity gimmick.
- c) A show which gives you something to improve, such as Monster House
- d) A show that showcases your talents, such as American Idol or Top Chef

2) What type of movie would you choose to watch?

- a) A lighthearted comedy, such as Grown Ups or Dhamaal.
- b) A thought provoking film, such as Black or A Beautiful Mind
- c) An action packed film, such as Krrish or Star Wars.
- d) An indie film that nobody's ever heard of.

3) Which book would you rather buy from a bookstore?

- a) Chicken Soup for the Soul
- b) An Argumentative Indian
- c) Freakonomics
- d) Famous Artists of the World

4) Which of the following traits best describe you?

- a) Outgoing and Entertaining
- b) Intelligent
- c) Mr. Fix-a-lot
- d) Creative

Mostly A's : Your ideal career is on the basis of you being such a "people's person"; careers such as life coach, flight attendant, human rights lawyer, police officer etc. are best suited for you.

Mostly B's : Your ideal career involves working with information; possible career choices are chartered accountant, private investigator, web designer etc.

Mostly C's : Your ideal career involves you working with things and doing tasks; careers such as architect, engineer, professional organizer etc. are best suited for you.

Mostly D's : Your ideal career is probably creative. Possible career choices include writer, photographer, singer, interior decorator.

Suvira Raj Chadha

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