

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**  
**FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013 – 2014**  
**(Released on Prize Day, Saturday, 24 April, 2014 in the presence of the Chief Guest,**  
**The Honourable Mr Justice Dhananjay Yeshwant Chandrachud,**  
**Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court of Judicature**

It is my privilege to present the 167<sup>th</sup> annual report of La Martiniere College, for the session 2013 – 2014.

The Academic Session began on Wednesday, 3 April, 2013 and concluded on 31 March, 2014.

### **TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS**

Mr Javed Usmani, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, continues as the senior Trustee. Mr Shashikant Pandey, Legal Remembrancer continues as the other Trustee of the Lucknow Martin Charities.

Among the members of the Local Committee of Governors, the following changes took place:

Mr Sanjeev Dubey, as Commissioner, Lucknow Division was replaced by Mr Sanjeev Saran who continues to serve on the Committee.

Mr Anurag Yadav, District Magistrate was replaced by Mr Raj Shekhar, who continues to serve on the Committee.

The other members of the Committee include the Chairman, Mr Justice Uma Nath Singh, Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, Mr Peter Fanthome, Member of Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh, Maj. Gen. Suresh Gupta, Sub-Area Commander, Lucknow and Justice (Retd) Alok Kumar Singh.

Thanks are extended to the other members of the Local Committee of Governors.

### **BEREAVEMENT**

The College Flag was lowered to half mast on receiving the news of the death of Mr Nelson Mandela, *Bharat Ratna* (1990) on 5 December, 2013 and later as a mark of respect on the day of his funeral on 15 December, 2013.

Within the College community, the demise of parents of pupils and close relatives of members of Staff was announced and prayers were offered in Chapel.

### **STAFF**

#### **RETIREMENTS**

**Mrs Veena Jyotima Clarke** retired on 31 March, 2014. She joined La Martiniere College in March, 1987. She was educated in Lucknow and received her Bachelor of Education degree from Isabella Thoburn College. Her entire teaching career at La Martiniere was with the pupils of the Junior School campus. She retired as the senior-most lady teacher in the College. In 2012, Mrs Clarke completed 25 years of dedicated service in the College, in recognition of which, she was honoured with a presentation on Prize Day. As a member of the resident Staff of the College, La Martiniere was her home. She had the pleasure of teaching in the College, alongside her husband, while supervising her son's education here. She will continue to reside on the campus.

**Mrs Shakila Bano Hasan** retired on 31 March, 2014. She joined La Martiniere College in November, 1995. She was educated at Loreto Convent and Loreto Degree College before receiving her Masters degree in

Geography from Aligarh Muslim University. Besides academics, she has contributed much to the life of the College, especially when she supervised the Social Service efforts made by the pupils. In 1998, Mrs Hasan instituted an award in memory of her father, which is presented to the student who secures the highest marks in Geography in the ICSE examination each year. This is known as *The Syed Hidayat Husain Memorial Award*.

Both Members of Staff are wished health and happiness as they embark on a new phase of their lives.

## APPOINTMENTS

### VICE PRINCIPAL

The Local Committee of Governors was pleased to confirm in service as Vice Principal, Mr Peter Victor Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant. Mr Collins has a thorough knowledge of every part of the College and its activities. He has already brought a great difference to the academic administration of the College.

### COLLEGE BURSAR

Mr Adrian J. V. Michael, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee appointed by the Local Committee of Governors was appointed by the Trustees as Bursar, La Martiniere College, Lucknow. He replaces Mr B. D'Mello who served the College with distinction for many years. Within a short time, he has made a major difference and improvement in all aspects of administration in the College.

### HEADS OF SECTIONS & HOUSEMASTERS

**Mr Derrick Clarke**, the senior-most teacher in the College and Housemaster, Martin House was appointed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant and shall take care of the College in the absence of the Principal and the Vice-Principal.

**Mrs Genevieve Lobo** was appointed as Head of the Middle School. With these appointments the entire team for Academic supervision is now complete, led by the Vice Principal, Mr Peter Collins and assisted by the Headmistress of the Junior School, Mrs S. Santram and the Head, Preparatory Department, Mrs P. Cowasji.

**Mr Joseph Masih** was appointed as Housemaster, Cornwallis House and **Mr Neeraj Srivastava** was appointed as Housemaster, Hodson House.

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The following Members of Staff were welcomed to the College in different capacities:

#### Substantive Appointments

Mrs Debra Henritta Johannes	from	01 April, 2013	As Physical Training Instructor
Mr Collin Charles Aitkins	from	15 April, 2013	As College Housekeeper
Mr Samir David	from	01 July, 2013	As Assistant Teacher
Mr Raju Ranjan Kumar	from	01 August, 2013	As Art Teacher
Mr Satish Kumar	from	01 August, 2013	As Member of Principal's Secretariat

Each member of Staff is wished a long and happy tenure in the College.

#### Ad Hoc Appointments

For minimum disruption to studies in the College, there has been need throughout the year to invite teachers in a temporary capacity to tide over absence due to ill health and other contingencies. The College gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the following persons who assisted during the year in *ad hoc* capacities:

### **Guest Lectures**

Mr Anurag Sinha	from	25 April, 2013	to	11 May, 2013.
	from	01 July, 2013	to	14 December, 2013
	from	17 January, 2014	to	31 March, 2014

### **Assistant Teachers**

Mrs Shail Agnihotri	from	24 April, 2013	to	11 May, 2013
	from	16 July, 2013	to	11 October, 2013
	from	22 October, 2013	to	01 November, 2013
Mr Dushyant Kumar Shukla	from	24 April, 2013		
Ms Shivani Singh	from	16 September, 2013	to	11 October, 2013
Mrs Faye McFarland	from	01 November, 2013	to	30 November, 2013
Mr Deep Kumar Nigam	from	22 January, 2014	to	31 March, 2014
Ms Kirtika Santram	from	10 February, 2014	to	11 February, 2014
	from	19 February, 2014	to	22 February, 2014
Mrs N. Mandyan	from	17 February, 2014	to	03 March, 2014

### **Band Instructor**

Mr Raghubir Singh Chauhan	from	01 April, 2013	to	31 March, 2014
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### **Groundsman**

Mr Ajay Kumar Singh	from	15 June, 2013	to	31 March, 2014
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### **Archivist**

Mr Amar Nath Singh	from	01 July, 2013	to	31 March, 2014
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### **EDP Assistant**

Mr Desmond Michael	from	16 February, 2014	to	31 March, 2014
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### **Extension of Service**

**Mrs Neelum Singh**, Assistant Teacher, Political Science and **Mr Austin Morris**, Secretary to the Principal, reached the age of superannuation on 31 March, 2014 and were granted an extension of service. The College shall be advantaged by receiving their services.

### **Awards for Long and Meritorious Service**

This year marks the completion of 20 years of dedicated service to the College by four respected Members of Staff. They are Mrs Ranjana Chakravarti, Mr Gulrez E. Deen, Mr V. Misra and Mr D. B. Tripathi.

They are well-loved and respected by the boys who have been in their care.

### **New Arrivals**

The Martiniere family was happy to welcome babies born to members of Staff during the year. Mr Waseem and his wife were blessed with their first child, a son named Rahat, on 8 August, 2013. Mr Waseem is a part of the Maintenance Staff of the College.

The good wishes of the College are extended to Mr and Mrs Vivek Lal on the birth of their second son on 22 February, 2014. Mr Vivek Lal is an Assistant Teacher in the *Constantia* Campus.

These little babies are wished good health as La Martiniere welcomes them into the family.

## ACADEMIC

### SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATIONS

#### Indian School Certificate (ISC) Year 12

In March 2013, 172 candidates were registered for the ISC (Year 12) Examination conducted by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations. 170 candidates were awarded Pass Certificates.

Harsh Misra of the Science stream stood First in overall order of merit, securing an aggregate of 98.75% in the four best subjects. He was also declared the highest achiever in the State of Uttar Pradesh and received the third rank for overall academic merit in the country. He has also been awarded the Mr Justice Jagdish Sahai Memorial Medal for the pupil with the highest marks in both La Martiniere institutions in Lucknow.

Shobhit Jain was placed First in the Commerce stream with an aggregate of 97.25%  
Aditya Chaturvedi achieved the First position in the Humanities stream with an aggregate of 94.25%

Perfect scores of 100 marks each were achieved in Mathematics by Aishwarya Chhabra, Pulak Gupta, Shobhit Jain and Harsh Misra.

#### Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Year 10

For the ICSE examination conducted by the Council for the India School Certificate Examinations in March 2013. 241 candidates were registered of which 238 candidates were awarded Pass Certificates. 01 candidate did not appear. There were 02 candidates who were not awarded Pass Certificates.

Sauhard Srivastava stood First in overall order of merit, securing an aggregate of 98.20% in the five best subjects. He has the honour of carrying the College Flag to lead the Academic Procession on Prize Day. He has also been awarded the Mr Justice Jagdish Sahai Memorial Medal for the pupil with the highest marks in both La Martiniere institutions in Lucknow.

Amrit Singhal stood Second with an aggregate of 98%, while Raza Abbas Mahdi placed Third with 97.8%.

## ACADEMIC CREDIT

As a matter of pride for all members of Staff from Nursery to the School leaving examinations, La Martiniere College was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Lucknow and 1<sup>st</sup> in Uttar Pradesh in the All India School Rankings, 2013 among Day Schools for Boys. The College was placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the All India Rankings conducted by the well-recognised survey agency *Education World*. This was widely reported in the Press, much to the delight of the boys and the pride of their teachers.

### E-learning

In addition to the classes equipped for teaching vide electronic technology, the College laboratories were also fitted with modern electronic equipment. More classrooms in the Middle School have been equipped in this manner and the process, though expensive will eventually be extended to every classroom in the College. The progress in this field has been greatly assisted by the efficient EDP Department that looks after all aspects of hardware.

The decision by the College to encourage teachers to use e-learning effectively and avoid introducing commercial educational packages has borne fruit. There is control on the syllabus and teaching

methodology. Mrs Anna Gomes in the Junior School Campus and Mrs Sangeeta Dhall for the Middle School, co-ordinate and supervise the content of e-lessons and the roster for use of the rooms.

## ENROLMENT

As on 31 March, 2014 there were 4145 pupils on the roll of the College. This includes, 491 boys in the Preparatory Department. The day-scholar strength was marked at 3790. There were 221 resident scholars of whom there were 20 Foundationers and 02 Demi-Foundationers. Children of Staff of both Lucknow La Martiniere Colleges totalled 111.

## HEALTH & CATERING

Apart from seasonal illnesses, coughs, colds, cuts and bruises, the health of the students, particularly that of the resident-scholars was good. Despite a wave of the often fatal epidemic Dengue, not a single resident-scholar was affected by this disease carried by mosquitoes. The generous gift of a hand held 'fogging' machine to repel mosquitoes by fumes infused with mosquito destroying chemicals, was gratefully received by the College from an alumnus of the College, Sanjay Sinha (Batch of 1982).

We are grateful to the visiting physician, Dr Mukesh Handa, and to the Hospital Matron, Mrs Shiny Oommen and Mr K. C. Dwivedi, the nursing orderly for supervising the health of the boys. Mrs Oommen takes particular care of the resident scholars and also advises on community health issues related to the ancillary Staff quartered on the estate.

The College is deeply grateful for the excellent service provided by the kitchen and dining hall staff, ably supervised by Mr Trevor Medley, Steward and Mr Collin Aitkins, Housekeeper. Senior boys now serve on the Food Committee that provides an appraisal of meals and dining facilities and participates in the planning of menus along with members of Staff. The recent upgrading of kitchen and dining facilities have greatly facilitated an improvement in the meals provided for the boys.

## ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS

### Prize Day

The Annual Prize Day was held on Saturday, 28 April, 2012. The College was privileged to have, as Chief Guest, Prof. Balraj Chauhan, former Vice Chancellor of the Ram Manohar Lohia Law University. Mrs Chauhan distributed the prizes to the boys of the Junior School.

The East Terrace was tastefully decorated and live coverage of the event was provided on giant screens placed on the embankment and the lawns of East Terrace. NCC cadets paraded before the Chief Guest who took the salute. The Choir sang *I Have a Dream* and *Love in Any Language* accompanied by Samarth Harrison on the keyboard. The Chief Guest addressed the boys on the need for love and discipline. The Chief Guest was introduced to the Staff over dinner on the Principal's lawn.

### Evening Bazaar

The first Evening Bazaar was organised on popular demand on 8 May, 2013. It was held in the front of *Constantia* where unexpectedly and regrettably, space was insufficient. The venue for future programmes of this nature which shall attract such large crowds will be *Fairydale*. A mini raffle of items presented by La Martiniere Alumni brought in a contribution of more than 4 lakh rupees towards the conservation of *Constantia*. A further 7 lakh rupees was the net contribution from the proceeds of the Evening Bazaar.

### Sports Camps

Camps for swimming, football, cricket, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, personality development, dancing and taekwondo, were held in the months of May and June. Besides qualified professionals, special thanks are extended to the teaching Staff, each of whom spent a few days supervising the conduct of these programmes.

### **Inter- Martiniere Debate**

The Lucknow Inter-Martiniere Debate for the Martin Memorial Trophy was held at La Martiniere Girls' College on 1 August, 2013. The Girls' College won the debate and Shreya Kohli was adjudged the Best Speaker.

### **Investiture of Pupil Authorities**

Pupil-authorities both in the Junior School and *Constantia* Campus were selected for the year and ceremonies to mark this were held. The Junior School Prefects and other authorities were appointed and took their oath in the first week of May. Arth Mohan was appointed as School Captain, while Saksham Tiwari assisted him as School Vice-Captain.

The Investiture ceremony for pupil-authorities in *Constantia* Campus was held on 4 August, 2013. This was preceded by a special Chapel Service where the new authorities, in the presence of the Resident Scholars, reflected on the responsibility of leadership based on an extract from the first letter of St Peter, Chapter 5: 1-7. Qazi Zaid Masood was appointed the College Captain and Shantanu Misra was appointed as College Vice Captain. The Prefects and Monitors were led in their Oath of Office by their respective Housemasters. Anurag Shah, Ashwin Chowdhary, Ujjwal Krishna and Priyesh Gupta were appointed as House Captains of the Cornwallis, Hodson, Lyons and Martin House, respectively.

### **Independence Day Celebrations**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, a special Assembly was held in the Junior School campus, during which a Hindi skit, songs and a dance were performed.

The entire Staff of the College and the pupils of *Constantia* campus were present at the Independence Day parade at East Terrace. Mrs Sunita Aron, Senior Resident Editor of *The Hindustan Times* was the Chief Guest. For the first time in the College, a lady took the salute. Mrs Aron spoke to the boys on the significance of this fact, to encourage gender sensitivity. The advice was well-received.

In the evening, the Annual Entertainment Programme in Hindi was held. *Ananya* a topical play based on victims of acid attacks was staged under the direction of Mrs Ranjana Chakravarthi. The maturity of theme and quality of acting was praiseworthy. Ananya Misra and Amogh Gautam were jointly awarded the Prize for Histrionics in Hindi. The Junior School items included *Vanar Raj Kapi*, a variety of dances and songs from different sections of the school. The grand choreographed production of *Jai Ganesh Deva* brought a resounding conclusion to the programme.

### **Inter-Martiniere Meet**

The Inter-Martiniere Meet was held in Kolkata from 26 August to 30 August, 2013. The Lucknow contingent was welcomed with affection in Kolkata and new friendships were established. The Kolkata teams won the fixtures.

### **Teachers' Day**

Teachers' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm. A special Assembly in both campuses was held. The much awaited section on mimicry was well-received when the boys reproduced on stage, the idiosyncrasies of

their teachers. This light-hearted effort was taken in good spirit by the teachers so represented. The EDP Department was able to establish a direct video link with the Principal, who was quarantined following surgery. He spoke to the boys and their teachers on the significance of the day.

## **Founder's Day Celebrations**

Preceding the celebrations on Founder's Day, the Past vs Present Football match was played on Polo Ground on 12 September, 2013. As always, a large turnout of former pupils, dressed in special football kit, added to the excitement of the event. The Past won the match by a tie breaker.

On 13 September, 2013, the Founder's Commemoration Service was conducted by the Vice Principal, Mr P. V. Collins, in the College Chapel. Reverend Sunder Singh Moses preached the sermon. He was able to reach out to each of the boys through anecdotes and examples, coupled with gentle humour. He was able to link the contribution of the Founder to the requirement for the best efforts from among the students who are beneficiaries of the Founder's generosity.

Wreaths were laid on the Founder's tomb by representatives of all sections of the College and La Martiniere Girls' College. The joint choir of La Martiniere girls and boys sang in the Chapel. Select bagpipers from the College band played *Abide With Me* and buglers from the Gorkha Regiment sounded the *Last Post*. Due to the large number of guests who attend this programme, the entire Library and adjoining areas are now used to accommodate Staff and students. Live video feed relayed the proceedings from the crypt and in the chapel make it possible for every guest to follow the Service with reverence.

After decades, a replica of the College standard, loosely referred to as the 'Battle Honour' was ceremonially paraded in the Chapel. This replica was presented by Mr Vishal Mehra. The original flag has now been framed behind glass, on permanent display in the College Board Room.

Immediately after the Commemoration Service, a brief ceremony was held on the West side of *Constantia* where the Classic Ambassador car, used by four Principals of the College over a period of forty years, was unveiled after overhauling and refurbishing. This vehicle was bought in auction by a group of Old Boys of the College, expertly reconditioned and presented to the College for use on ceremonial occasions. Mr Elton deSouza, erstwhile Principal of the College who used the vehicle for the maximum number of years was requested to unveil this.

As is traditional, the Inter-House and Individual Swimming Championships concluded with Harsh Srivastava, Karan Agarwal and Adnan Ahmad being declared the Senior, Junior and Colt Champions respectively.

In the evening, the Annual Entertainment programme in English was held. Mrs Genevieve Lobo and Mrs Ms Monica Koorichh directed *Any Number Can Die* – a murder-comedy by Fred Carmichael. Bryan David Rafi was awarded the Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Award for Histrionics for assaying the role of Christine Franklin.

The Junior School presented *Babes in Toyland* and an assortment of dances and songs ensured the participation of the different sections of the College.

In keeping with the Will of the Founder for a feast to be provided to the boys on the day commemorating his death, the Founder's Feast was laid out in Sykes Hall and the Activity Hall. As is traditional, a silent toast was raised to the memory of the Founder.

## **Constantia Day**

October 1 is designated as *Constantia Day*, to commemorate the establishment of the school on this day in 1845. Pupils and teachers spoke on the history of the College and the building. An extract from the College records in which this fact of history is recorded was photographed and displayed.

The annual College magazine *Constantia* was released on this day. The attractive covers were designed by Satyam Rastogi (9 A) and Binoy Biju Thomas (12 A). Mrs S. Godin put in considerable effort for the English Section assisted by Student Editors Ayush Mehrotra, Abhinav Agarwal and Sparsh Gupta. Dr Amit Awasthi edited the Hindi Section with special assistance by Student Editor Sauhard Srivastava

Mr Alexander Clarke and Dr Amit Awasthi also supervise the on-line publication of *The Martiniere Post*, in English and Hindi, respectively.

### **La Martiniere Social**

The annual socials attended by the boys and girls of La Martiniere are a part of process of education and are eagerly awaited. Due to high numbers, attendance has to be restricted. Significantly, representatives from among the pupils in both schools meet to set the programme and code of conduct. It is gratifying to note that the boys are most polite and well-behaved on these occasions. There is always need for encouragement from chaperones for the young people to mix, as this is the purpose of this social interaction. The boys and girls enjoyed themselves under the watchful eyes of chaperones from both schools.

### **Gandhi Jayanti**

The resident Staff and boys and some day-scholar pupils joined together in Spence Hall to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the anniversary of his birth. The portrait of the Mahatma was garlanded by different sections of the school. Prayers for peace from the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Sikh and Jain traditions were recited by the boys who represent these faiths in the College. A PowerPoint presentation on the life of the Mahatma and the significance of his teachings in the modern times was prepared and presented by the boys.

### **Constantia - 2013**

The College hosted *Constantia - 2013* on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013. The number of events was increased and the participation of schools was considerably enhanced. A total of 21 teams participated, each team made up of a maximum of 25 pupils. Significantly, preparations for this are directly made by the boys. La Martiniere College was awarded the overall trophy.

The College is grateful to sponsors who carried out commitments towards catering, publicity and awards. The chief sponsor was *Ambalika Institute of Technology and Management*. Sponsorship to take care of catering was provided by *M/s Chappan Bhog* and *Mr Brown*. Kit for the organisers was presented by *M/s Dua & Co.*, while some of the material for publicity was handled by Aymen Shamoon. *Value Plus* provided packaged water. *ABS Pathology* also a sponsor.

The College was pleased to welcome as Chief Guests Mr and Mrs Jacques Garden, President of La Martiniere Colleges in Lyons, France who also spent three days in the College Guest House.

Mrs Rachna Tandon, Coordinator of the Co-curricular Activities programme supervised the entire effort. Mrs Sheba Siddiqui and co-ordinators of different clubs assisted the boys and provided meaningful advice where required.

### **Hodson Memorial Day**

On 20 November, 2013, representatives of the regiment *Hodson's Horse* came to the tomb of Maj. W. Hodson, on the College campus. Maj. Hodson raised the regiment in 1856. This has now become an annual feature, attended by the boys of Hodson House. The regiment maintains relations with the College by annually presenting individual cups for winners of the Junior and Senior marathon run, now called *Hodson's Run*.

### **Children's Day**

Children's Day in both campuses was marked by the Staff preparing special entertainment for the boys. In the Junior School campus, the lady teachers presented the popular *Lungi Dance* and a childish *Dadi Ma*, much to the delight of the children. The teachers were requested to perform all their items for the pupils of *Constantia* Campus later that morning.

The highpoint of the programme in *Constantia* campus was a mimicry section, where teachers presented typical classroom situations and mimicked particular pupils, to the enjoyment of all. All the boys of the College received a special treat of a soft drink and a pizza, prepared by the College kitchens.

### **Cock House Party**

Hodson House was declared Cock House the previous year. On 22 November, 2013 the Cock House Party was held in Spence Hall. The Hall was tastefully decorated by the boys using red as the theme colour.

House Captain Aashwin Chowdhary welcomed the girls of La Martiniere while the prefects and monitors led the dancing as the music began. Former Prefects who had contributed to the winning of Cock House were also present. The boys and girls enjoyed their dinner, for which they had made contributions, on the Principal's lawn.

The pupils of Hodson House in the Junior School campus had a special treat at the Tree House adjoining *Fairydale*. A group photograph, games and a treat that included cutting a cake in the shape of the Hodson House crest was exciting for the boys.

### **Sports Day**

The 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Inter-House Athletics Meet and P.T. Display were held on 30 November, 2013. Mrs Anna Holmes, a highly respected former teacher in the Junior School Campus consented to be the Chief Guest. The boys presented well-coordinated drill, appreciated by all the parents present. To be able to get boys who are so tiny to carry out coordinated, discipline movements is a challenge which their teachers were able to execute so well. As always, the display by the gymnastics team was outstanding. This year, they were accompanied by the Taekwondo enthusiasts. Both performances were of a high degree of excellence. These boys were requested to provide a similar display for the parents of the Middle and Senior School, later that afternoon. The teachers of the Junior School are to be appreciated for their efforts. Mrs Sangeeta Sahai trained the gymnastics team to near perfection.

The Middle and Senior School programme was held in the afternoon, where Brigadier V. N. Chaturvedi, Director Education, Headquarters Central Command was the Chief Guest. Brigadier Chaturvedi is an alumnus of the College of the 1976 batch and was delighted to be back on Polo Ground where he had participated in Sports events as a pupil. Due to the excellence in performance, Brigadier Chaturvedi was pleased to announce a holiday for the boys. The news was received with delight.

The College bagpiper band presented an exceptional display on Sports Day. Not only was the March Past of athletes accompanied by martial music, but the Band displayed traditional marching formations, which were announced as these formations were executed.

A special honour was conferred on Allan Raj Singh, who was awarded full College Colours in Athletics for his exceptional and consistent achievement for winning the Marathon event, or Hodson's Run for the fifth consecutive time. He broke his own record to set the new Marathon record of 28' 24.25". Saksham Singh set a new record of 25.21" in the Junior 200 metres flat race.

Cornwallis House was judged the best squad in turnout and marching and was presented a large chocolate cake. Adrian Aitkins, Saksham Singh and Durgesh Dubey were declared the Senior, Junior and Colt Champions respectively. Yasir Abidi was judged the Best Gymnast (Apparatus) while Yunus Khan received the same honour for mat-work. Albert Phillip was judged the best all-round gymnast. Hodson House won the Central Command Trophy for Athletics.

Special thanks are extended to the Vice Principal, Mr Peter Collins for the overall co-ordination of the entire event. The Physical Education Teachers, Mr Deepak Sahae, Mr K. N. Singh and Mr Nafees Ahmad trained the boys for the well-coordinated P. T. Display. None of this would be possible without the efficient and meticulous attention to detail of the Athletics Secretary, Mr Allan Morrison and the Games' Secretary, Mr Alfred Gomes.

In the Junior School, Sports competitions were held in February, 2014 on Polo Ground. These competitions are the high point of the sports competitions in the Junior School.

### **La Martiniere Football Cup**

The second invitational, inter-school *La Martiniere Football Cup* tournament was held from 2 to 14 December, 2013. The League-cum-Knockout pattern is followed for this tournament. The opening ceremony was attended by Arjuna Award winner Mrs Rachna Govil while the Challenge Cup was presented by well-known footballer Mr Jatin Singh Bisht, a former member of the Indian team.

The Chief Sponsor for the event was Mr Anurag Dixit of ABSCET. Many other sponsors came forward, the collective benefit leading to a successful programme

The Tournament was won by La Martiniere College that received a cash award of Rs 25,000/- The runners up were Sacred Heart School and Montford Intermediate College who received cash prizes of Rs 15,000/- and Rs 5,000/- respectively.

Special thanks are due to Mr K. N. Singh for initiating this tournament. The Games' Secretary's contribution was significant as was the participation of the many members of Staff, especially Mr Edwin Mulcahy, who assisted in the organization of the event.

### **Career Fair**

The first Career Counselling Fair was organised by the College for pupils of Classes 8 and above on 9 December, 2013. The maximum participation was from the pupils and parents of Classes 8 and 9. A total of 12 institutes, covering different aspects of professional activity, presented information about the strengths and challenges of different professional courses. This included: *Team Satyam* and *Career Launcher* for studies in Law, *The Princeton Review* for study abroad, *IMS* for management studies the *International Institute for Hotel Management* for careers in the hospitality industry, *Pearl Academy* for fashion designing, graphics, interiors and textiles, besides other institutes for Journalism, Bio-technology, Bio-genetics, Pharmacology, Robotics, Company Secretary courses, computer generated animation and the means to join the Merchant Navy.

A Career Counselling Cell is now proposed in addition to the personal counselling facility, especially for pupils of the Junior School, where anger and subdued wrath is becoming more visible. This facility is ably directed by Mrs Jaya Verma.

## College Fete

The Annual College Fete was held on Saturday 7 December, 2013. *Fairydale*, now recovered as a well-maintained play field provided an excellent venue for this. The pressure of parking of vehicles was eased as parents could park along the Dilkusha Road, within the College premises. The competition between stall holders was immense. The overall prize was awarded to *Ring the King*, for both the highest collection and the best decorated stall. This was supervised by Mrs Uzma Khan and Mrs Namrata Singh. A special 'White Elephant' stall was established to receive woollen clothing and domestic items, to be distributed in charity. The members of LEO set up a BENEVOLENCE stall where items received were presented in charity to the Mercy Foundation for distribution to the needy.

The bumper raffle, where prizes included a flat screen television set, an automatic washing machine and a digital camera, helped raise more than 20 lakh rupees for the Conservation of *Constantia*. The prizes were generously donated by La Martiniere Alumni. With this income and other proceeds from the fete, the conservation work for the Wings of *Constantia* and parts of the interiors of the upper floors has been undertaken. The proceeds from the College fete provided a net contribution of 6 lakh rupees, which has also been donated towards the conservation of *Constantia*. The effort for this raffle was co-ordinated by Mr Amarjeet Seymour and Mrs Daphne Egbert.

## Blanket Bank

The senior pupils of the College proposed a unique scheme to help the needy survive the bitter winter in the city. They put out an appeal for old blankets and wraps to parents of all boys by means of personal contact. The response was overwhelming. Within days, more than 1000 blankets were collected. The senior boys then made groups to distribute the blankets to people sleeping on the streets. This they did late at night, using the College transport. The boys, with their teachers, returned with a variety of experiences. Besides gratitude, which they had foreseen, they were unprepared for suspicion, being seen as spies, mobbed in many places and scornfully rejected. They learnt the less savoury side of charity, to be balanced with the pleasure in the good work they did. Mr Malcolm Bearder is to be complimented for leading this effort in distribution.

## Annual Christmas/End of Term Programmes

Christmas Programmes were organized in the Junior School on 9 and 10 December, 2013, for the pupils of the Preparatory Section and Junior School, respectively. This included the traditional retelling of the Christmas story accompanied by popular Christmas carols.

The Resident Scholars participated in a production by the Lucknow Christian Chorus called *Man of Destiny* by Mosie Lister. This was directed by Col. J.E.S. Singh. The boys acted in the tableau scenes depicting different episodes from the life of Jesus. They also helped choreograph the visual backdrops projected on the rear screen. Mrs L. Clarke and Mrs S. Mulcahy trained the boys for this.

The joint Christmas Programme including the choirs of both La Martiniere institutions was held in Spence Hall on 10 December and in the Girls' College auditorium on 12 December, 2013. The joint choirs sang *Jesus – There's Something About That Name* a cantata by Mosie Lister. This was a highpoint of the evening's programme. The boys and girls had been separately trained by the music teachers of both Colleges and were brought into harmony under the able direction of Mr Sammy Mathai, an alumnus of the College. The College is grateful for his voluntary and exceptional contribution.

The Chapel Choir and the Resident Scholars presented a combination of scripture readings, commentary, songs and tableau titled – *Into the Light*. The Music teachers and Ms Monica Koorichh trained the boys for this. The beautiful Christmas decorations and tasteful illumination in Spence Hall directed by Mrs

Chakravarthi and boys of her class created a warm atmosphere for receiving the Christmas message. The programme was followed by cake and coffee on the Principal's lawn.

The end of term dinner with the Staff and resident scholars was held on 13 December, 2013. The resident scholars helped decorate Sykes Hall and the platform was used as a stage where exceptional talent was displayed by the boys, which included dances, songs, and much group singing. The celebrations continued around the bonfire on Sykes Hall lawn after dinner.

The traditional end of term Chapel Service was held on 14 December, 2013. The chapel was decorated with poinsettia leaves. *Auld Lang Syne*, sung at the conclusion of the service brought many of the school-leaving boys to tears as their juniors mingled with them to wish them goodbye.

At the concluding Staff lunch on 14 December, calendars for 2014 were distributed to each family. Each month of the calendar highlights one of the statues atop Constantia, with a brief write-up on the significance of the depiction. This was the creditable work of the boys of the Photography Club under the direction of their Staff Advisors, Mr Neeraj Srivastava and Mr D. K. Srivastava.

### **Annual NCC Competitions**

The Annual N.C.C. Competitions were held on 14 December, 2013. The Naval Wing won the Hashman Memorial Shield for the Best N.C.C. Troop in the Junior Division. Platoon No. 2, Army Wing, made up of cadets of Class 11 was awarded The Boardman Trophy for the Best N.C.C. Wing in the College. The Platoon was also awarded the Intermediate Trophy for the Best N.C.C. Troop in the Senior Division. Syed Jafar Husain Rizvi of the Air Wing and Anurag Shah, SUO were adjudged the Best N.C.C. Cadets in the Junior and Senior Division respectively. Sarthak Kumar was adjudged the Best Scout.

### **Republic Day**

Flag hoisting and the NCC parade were held on Republic Day, 26 January, 2013. Mr Rajnish Chopra, President of La Martiniere Alumni of the 1979 Batch was the Chief Guest and took the salute. He recalled his days in the NCC and similar parades. It was an honour to announce that the Republic Day Honours' List for 2014 included the name of Dr Balram Bhargava, also of the 1979 Batch who was conferred the *Padma Shri* for his contribution to the field of Medicine.

### **Scouts Activities**

The College is now registered with the *Bharat Scouts and Guides*. The College has established camping facilities close to Fairydale where two Scouts' camps were conducted this year. The first camp was organised by *Karavan*. The enthusiasm displayed by the boys and the willingness of their parents was encouraging. Mr Jatin Kapoor and Mr Nagesh Shukla thereafter took the initiative of planning and executing a Scouts' camp with the expert assistance of the Scouts' authorities. The College has purchased ten camping tents and other equipment related to camping. A generous gift of a parachute, presented by Col Sharad Seth, an alumnus of the College forms the centre-point for the camp.

### **Past vs Present Cricket Match**

The Old Martinians played a cricket match against the College XI at the *Microlit Cricket Stadium*, Kursi Road on 2 February, 2014. The Present won the match by two wickets. The total score was 135 runs. Yunus Khan of the Present Team was declared the Man of the match, while Hamza Razi, also of the Present Team was declared the Best Batsman. Mr Girish Agarwal of the Past Team was judged the Best Bowler. The Jain family, with a long association with the College made excellent arrangements for the teams and all the boys present.

## **Farewell to Class 12 & Investiture of Pupil Authorities (2014)**

To ensure that pupil authorities are always present on the campus, it was decided that the investiture for pupil authorities for 2014 would include the senior authorities relinquishing their posts in favour of their juniors when the official farewell to the ISC Class was held. Consequently, the investiture ceremony for the new pupil authorities was held on the morning of 1 February, 2014. It was touching to observe two sets of authorities join in the Chapel and lead prayers for the well-being of either group. Later at Assembly, the oaths of office were administered. The pupil authorities of 2013 led the procession with college and House flags and the new incumbents ceremonially received the flags and carried them out at the end of the programme. The former authorities had the opportunity to be wished by the boys assembled as they moved among the ranks and received their good wishes.

Anurag Shah was elected to the post of College Captain, while Aashwin Chowdhry and Harsh Srivastava were appointed Vice College Captains. Raghav Gupta, Shekhar Gaur, Aditya Agarwal and Somya Didwania were appointed House Captains of Cornwallis, Hodson, Lyons and Martin House, respectively.

Later that evening, the pupils of Class 11 organised a Farewell Function. This included a group photograph on the steps leading to East Terrace, followed by a Farewell Chapel Service in which symbolic observances were carried out and special prayers were recited. Every teacher who had taught the ISC Batch of 2014 was invited.

At the celebration that followed, titles were distributed. Hamza Ghufuran was adjudged Mr La Martiniere and Ayush Mehrotra was declared Gentleman of the Year. At dinner on the Principal's lawn, hot air lanterns were released into the night sky as a touching end to the evening.

## **Art & Craft Exhibition**

The Junior School Art and Craft Exhibition was organised on 1 February, 2014. Each class prepared items according to the level of ability and skill appropriate to the age. No items were duplicated. The skills included crushing, pasting, mashing, stitching, binding, painting, among others. Decoration, suitable to the item crafted was presented. It was heartening to note that every item, without exception had been constructed in the classroom itself. The class teachers put in much effort during the entire year to build this collection under the advice of Mrs Saba Baig, specially gifted with talent for Art and Craft.

## **Classroom Competitions**

Class 4 F was adjudged the Best Classroom in the Junior School campus. The Class Teacher, Mrs Uzma Khan shall, with representatives of pupils of her class shall receive the Mrs Molly Daniell trophy for this.

In *Constantia* campus, monthly judging of classrooms are held, where children and their Class Teacher work on defined themes. Monthly results are announced and the cumulative score for consistent excellence in maintenance of the classroom was won by Class 11 D. Mrs Ranjana Chakravarti, the Class teacher and representatives of pupils of her class shall receive the newly instituted award for this.

## **Sale of College Produce**

Self-sufficiency is also being encouraged by growing vegetables for the College kitchens. Excess has been sold to Staff and parents, for which the boys of Class 5 have taken this up as a project for exposure to commercial activity, including packaging, pricing, advertising and delivery.

## **Excursions and Educational Trips**

The boys of Class 7 and above participated in an adventure camp at Shivpuri, Utrakhand in March, 2013.

Another contingent visited Agra and Fatepur Sikri in April 2013. 41 boys went on this history trip.

In October, 2013, 50 boys from class 8 and above visited Goa.

A group of 36 boys visited Chandigarh, en route to Manali at the end of the last academic session.

Class picnics to different locations in and around Lucknow were conducted in February, 2014. Special outdoor leisure facilities, games and rides were organised on *Fairydale* for pupils up to Class 4, organised by *Karavan*. In a safe environment, the boys had a good time outdoors.

All other students of Middle and Senior Sections went for class picnics on different days to Scorpio Club, spread over the first fortnight of February, 2014.

The entire College Staff spent a day out at *Nature's View* 40 kilometres away from Lucknow, on 1 March, 2014. The venue had been visited before and was again found most suitable for a pleasant day out.

*Among the other annual events conducted in the College were:*

*The Dr. B. K. Das Environmental Awareness Awards Essay Competition* for the Senior and Middle School and the *Kamla Kapoor Memorial Essay competition*. The English and Hindi Annual Elocution, Declamation Contests and Spell Bee were held during the year in the different sections of the school. The *All India Albert Barrow Creative Writing competition* in which 31 schools from North India participated was also held in the College.

Houseroom competitions and Soft Board competitions were among the other continuous competitive events that included the entire College.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Co curricular Activity continues to be an integral part of the curriculum. Thursday mornings are devoted to co-curricular activities through the facility of Clubs that operates in different parts of the College. In addition to the co-curricular activity that has been traditionally carried out in the College, boxing and taekwondo, especially for the Middle School students have been introduced. The vast co-curricular programme would not be conducted with such efficiency without the constant contribution of the Co-curricular Coordinator in charge, Mrs Rachna Tandon, ably assisted by Mrs Sheba Siddiqui.

The overall record of special achievement in co-curricular activities in which pupils of the College participated in events in the city and around the country is summarized in **Appendix I**

## SPORTS

The College was represented at a number of fixtures outside the College where the boys proved their ability. This is summarized in **Appendix II**

Within the College, inter-House competitions and activities were keenly contested. The Scoreboard at the conclusion of the session reads as follows.

Overall Champions in Cricket	Martin House
Overall Champions in Hockey	Hodson House
Overall Champions in Swimming	Cornwallis House
Overall Champions in Football	Hodson House
Overall Champions in Basketball	Martin House
Overall Champions in Athletics	Hodson House

Overall Champions in English Debating	Hodson House
Overall Champions in Quizzing	Hodson House
Overall Achievement in Academics	Hodson House

The most coveted awards of the College, i.e. Cock House for the year 2013 – 2014 was awarded to Hodson House. The Lord Chelmsford Cup is awarded for this.

## DEVELOPMENT

It is difficult to maintain a record of development activities at La Martiniere. Often, standard maintenance practices convert into major renovation projects owing to the constant use of building that is 214 years old. Nevertheless, a brief record of some of the major developments in the College is to be recorded for posterity.

### **La Martiniere Heritage**

The maintenance of *Constantia* is a perennial process. The rear of both the north and south arcs and extensions were repaired and painted in cream and highlighted in pasture green. These have become the colours for all buildings on the estate. The facades of the North and South Wings have undergone major repairs and have been completely resurfaced. While stripping the old decayed plaster, structural defects due to age were also repaired. The facade now awaits painting.

Expert and delicate work on the interiors has also begun to reach a level of completion. The conservation work in the central room of the third floor in *Constantia* tower is now complete. The painstaking removal of centuries of lime and paint has revealed original Wedgwood designs, moulded in plaster of Paris. These depict Apollo and the nine Muses as in the original Wedgwood jasperware urns. Each plaque has striking details, cleverly enhanced by local craftsmen under master painter, Mr Ansar. The side panels depict scenes largely taken from Greek mythology. A picture book with these images and their description has been commissioned. The room has been named *The Muses' Bower* and will serve as an exclusive study room for the senior-most Resident Scholars. The adjoining rooms in the turrets have similarly been restored. Wedgwood blue and white has been used to maintain verisimilitude. The approach stairwell and the illumination required in the area has also been completed.

**The tomb of Bouloune or Gori Bibi**, the favourite companion of the Founder, built in about 1840 has been completely renovated. It was necessary to fell the huge trees around the tomb. The roots of these trees had weakened the foundations while a collection of years of shedding leaves had provided mulch for foliage to grow in the roof and walls of the structure. Termites had eaten away the wooden rafters that support the first floor. Mr Naved Alvi, an alumnus of the College personally undertook to oversee the work. The delicate lattice work and earthenware finials were hand-crafted and replaced. Subdued modern illumination has added elegance to the structure in the evening. It is proposed to set up a 'pink garden' to surround the mausoleum.

**The Band Pavilion**, built in 1889 was close to collapse with locals vandalising the structure and stealing its bricks. The entire arm extending towards the College had collapsed and its demolition on grounds of safety was being seriously considered. Once again, alumnus Naved Alvi brought in a team of master craftsmen who have strengthened the structure, added a concrete roof, while maintaining an unchanged facade. The bricks to restructure the Band Pavilion were drawn from collapsed walls of outhouses and stores from the same era. Once again, soft illumination will add to the dignity of the structure.

With the plan to introduce equestrian sports in the College, **the Mews**, built in the 1870s have been reutilised for their original purpose. Sunshades, large windows for ventilation and modern means of sanitation are being installed to receive the horses that will face a special park built to provide open space for viewing. One stall has been renovated as a showroom for the parking and display of the Classic Ambassador car used for almost forty years by Principals of the College.

The Army Ordnance services were pressed into restoring some **ancient muskets**, parts of which have been found from time to time in different stores of the College. They will soon be put on display on the College Museum.

### **Staff Bungalows and Cottages**

Park House Nos 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, & 7 have been completely renovated and painted. This is likely to add to the life of the buildings, which look very elegant. The cottages attached to these bungalows, which are also occupied by resident Staff, have been repaired and painted. The extension to the Mews and *Mahal Serai* annexe has been similarly completed. *Mahal Serai*, the oldest building standing on the estate is the only residential area that is yet to be renovated.

### **Quarters for Ancillary Staff**

Quarters in the area known as *Valda*, quarters adjacent to the Dilkusha boundary and Mission Compound have also been expanded for use of ancillary staff. In most cases, where space permits, attached lavatories have been added while an average living area of 18 ft X 15 ft has been added in front of every habitation. A small scullery for each quarter will help to maintain hygiene in the area.

Where it has not been possible to provide individual lavatories, community bathing rooms have been built for the womenfolk. The College has undertaken to maintain sanitation in these areas with certain conditions for the residents.

A new lavatory and washroom complex has been built close to *Fairydale* which may also be used by the boys during their camps or while using the fields for games.

### **Estate Grounds**

Large scale reclamation of areas covered with scrub and undergrowth has been replaced by arable land on which horticulture and agriculture has begun. This is an expensive, labour intensive and time-taking process ably supervised by our grounds men M/s V. K. Singh and Ajay Singh.

**Polo Ground** has become the cynosure of all eyes; the development of its four football fields overseen by Mr K. N. Singh. The Sports viewing pavilion has been extended by two steps, providing space beneath for accommodation of stores, offices, changing rooms and lavatories.

**Bakers' Field** has now been completed and fenced off. The Band Pavilion forms its central feature. The earth bank around the field has been reconstructed and grassed. One football field and a row of three hockey fields have been established there. It has taken nearly six months for various processes to be completed in this area.

The land adjoining Jiamau Village has been recovered up to the periphery of the village. Levelling will take many more months. For self-sufficiency in the College, agriculture in the area is proposed. With the demarcation and fencing of the area, the physical encroachment has been eliminated while pedestrian use of private land has been reduced. Unfortunately, sewage water from the village has collected at *Land's End*. The College has been assured that this will soon be diverted into public sewage lines.

The area along the Lohia Path embankment is now being reclaimed and shall be utilised for a **horse-riding facility**, using the standing trees, suitably pruned, for practice in riding through a forest. Closer to the College, a **paddock** is being built to train children to ride horses in a restricted space. The **skating rink** nearby, in the shape of the figure 8 will soon be a great attraction.

*Fairydale* has been restored to one of the finest grounds on the estate. The lower field is used exclusively for cricket. This is also frequented by Old Martinians who play there every Sunday. The adjoining camping ground, paddock and tree house (frequented by the junior-most boys), ensures that the area is inhabited constantly.

As soon as fields are being recovered, they are being sown for vegetables for use in the College kitchens. Large crops of peas, radish onions, cabbage, carrots, pumpkin, marrow, spinach, chilli, tomatoes and lettuce have already been cropped. The excess has been sold by the boys of Class 5 as part of their SUPW project.

The Poultry run in a secluded area of *Fairydale* is being built to accommodate 1000 birds, which shall include broilers and layers. This shall soon establish a cycle for supply of eggs and table meat for the the College kitchens. The risk involved in rearing poultry has not gone unrecognised.

### **Facilities for Pupils**

During the year, the **College Infirmary**, built in the 1870s was renovated, resurfaced and equipped with furniture and hospital equipment suited to the needs of the boys. A recreation room with television presented by Mrs S. Macauliffe, whose family have had decades of association with the College, and indoor games were also added. The casualty ward and clinic were completely refurbished to suit modern requirements.

The **College kitchens** were given a complete makeover during the summer vacation. This was a race against time as the College kitchens had to be functional when the boys returned after the summer break. An industrial kitchen with facilities for preparation of meals for up to 600 persons has been set in place, with a view to increasing the boarding strength in the coming years.

The **College Dining Hall, pantry and stores** have also been renovated. Additional lighting has been added. The mosaic floor has been polished with modern machines, bringing a sparkle to the area. The service area surrounding the kitchen complex has been paved and tiled, providing more working space for larger functions and a reduction in dust in the area.

The **College bakery** has been restored and modern industrial machines for mixing of cream and dough for various bakery items have been procured. A bread slicing machine and other implements have contributed to variety, hygiene and efficiency.

A separate area for barbeque items and **kilns** for different breads have also been built. The variety of food, its presentation, hygiene in preparation and nutritional content can now be efficiently monitored.

After renovating the Junior Houseroms the previous year, the **Senior Houseroms and Prefects' Room** in the ground floor of the South arc, were completely renovated. Steel cupboards, built in the College smithy, new electrical fittings and House colour co-ordinated interiors have made the Houseroms more serviceable.

A modern bathroom has been added to **Dormitory 3** for use of the residents, especially at night. The smallest boys also have their own individual cupboards, lockers for their books and other facilities in three locker-rooms attached to the Dormitory. A welcome addition is a fleet of **bicycles** for the exclusive use of the residents of Dormitory 3. Boys are permitted to use the internal roads on the academic campus, especially as no vehicular traffic is permitted within the gates.

The junior students shall have the pleasure of using the renovated **splash pool**, now fully tiled and fitted with a separate filtration plant. With a resident swimming coach and a number of teachers to assist, the facilities in both the pools will be fully utilised.

The Middle School pupils now have a **Science Laboratory** for their exclusive use. This has been set up in the room below the North parapet. It is equipped with electronic equipment for presentations and video. A

new **Bio-technology Laboratory** has been built on the second floor of Sykes Hall to accommodate a larger number of students and equipment. The laboratory vacated has been converted into a lecture hall.

**NCC Offices** have been established under the North parapet. Each of the Wings has a separate office. A part of the Activity Hall has been converted into an **air rifle shooting gallery**. Electronic targets and technologically advanced weapons have been acquired. The sport is becoming popular in the country.

Offices have been designated for the Publications and photography clubs while separate offices were found necessary for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant and for the conduct of Co-curricular activities. With the increase in computer facilities it has been found necessary to establish a separate workshop for repair and maintenance. Workshops are also being built to accommodate the round the clock work for the blacksmiths, the carpenters and polishers.

Facilities for water and electricity have to be attended to continuously. New tube wells, judicious distribution of electric load, maintenance and repair of existing facilities are only possible due the excellence and hard work of the maintenance team supervised overall by Mr Moin Ali, the Junior *Daroga* and assisted by a team of supervisors who are ready to take accountability for their work. The office of the Quartermaster is indispensable in all this.

The gift of a second heavy-duty tractor by members of the Batch of 1988 and ancillary equipment presented by the old boys has been pressed into service for much of the development work in the College. Most of these implements have been donated by the old boys. The developmental work being done on the estate would not be possible without this. As always, it is pleasing to acknowledge that the present generation of Martinians are conscious of these contributions.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are extended to the Trustees of the Lucknow Martin Charities and the members of the Local Committee of Governors, La Martiniere College for always maintaining the interests of La Martiniere.

I am fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with the Mrs Farida Abraham, Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College for her co-operation in all matters that concern us jointly.

Special thanks are extended to the alumni of the College. Their material gifts, advice and assistance in the many areas of College life in which they now have expert knowledge is a store of goodwill which the College uses from time to time. Significantly, many prefer to function in complete anonymity, giving back to the College to the extent that they feel they have received. Their discretion in this matter is respected.

Dr Karan Punn organised a dental clinic for the resident scholars in April, 2013. Dr Syed Altaf Husain provided a gift of essential medicines to the College hospital.

Celebrations of *Diwali* and *Holi* were made more entertaining by Mr Akshay Jethanandani with the gift of delicacies, crackers and colours for the festivals of *Diwali* and *Holi*, respectively.

Cash gifts were provided by Mr Trevor Lee on behalf of Old Martinians in the United Kingdom, towards the Conservation of Constantia. La Martiniere Alumni have from time to time made contributions. Along with individual contributions to the Fund, donations for conservation have equalled Rs 13.6 lakh. Mr Sudeep Malik and Mr Ahmad Ajaz Farooqui, donated generously towards the Poor Scholars' Fund. Mr Sharaf Zaidi contributed towards cricket facilities in the College.

*The Times of India* Group gifted five bicycles following the use of the College parking area for *Cyclothon* held on the occasion of World Health Day. Mr Mohammad Haider presented a composite computer to the

College for use in the Information Centre in memory of his late father; while Mr Gaurav Joshi presented a collection of books from the library of his late father for the use of the boys. Mr Vikram Kaul had specially sent a set of enlargements of rare photographs of the College which have been placed in Spence Hall. Ms Bernadette Morris donated a processional cross for the College Chapel, which was first used on Founder's Day. Col Sharad Seth presented a parachute for use of the Scouts

Mr Prateek Hira and a group of Old Boys presented back to the College the fully re-commissioned first official car of the College emblazoned with the College crest and House emblems. Mr Vishal Mehra presented a hand-embroidered replica of the College standard, referred to as the Battle Honours which is now paraded on ceremonial occasions. Mr Feroze Waziri presented a hand-knotted carpet with the College crest which has been framed, to be placed as the central decoration in the College Museum.

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh generously arranged for the College Media Team to use his helicopter to capture unique aerial shots of the College.

The L. A. BUGZ, a group of old boys who use this collective acronym, presented cricket mats for use on *Fairydale*. La Martiniere Alumni also presented attractive gifts to be raffled at the Evening Bazaar in May, 2013 and for the Bumper Raffle held in November-December, 2013 towards raising funds for the conservation of *Constantia*.

Mr Naved Alvi organised the use of earthmovers for the levelling of Bakers' Field, while Mr Tejpal Singh Sial provided the expertise required for fencing off and protecting Bakers' field. Mr Iqbal Kidwai placed at the disposal of the College his tractor and power tiller which have been used in preparation of the fields for planting vegetables. Mr Rahul Agarwal provided three earthmovers, working in tandem, to clear the extensive area adjoining Jiamau Village.

Mr Manish Agarwal presented a brush-cutter and two chain saws for the College and thereafter provided metal lights which are used for public functions. Mr Vishal Goel presented a tractor-towed Water-tanker, now found indispensable in the College.

The Batch of 1988 presented a New Holland tractor along with brush cutters, a chain saw and a leaf blower on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebrations of the Batch. They later also presented a land leveller and various other electrical implements used for maintenance.

Contributions towards the production of the College calendar for 2013 were received from *M/s Ram Prakash and Brothers*, *M/s Shyamsons*, *M/s Zaheer and N. A. Timbers* and *M/s Glamour Enterprise*. This, along with sale proceeds has been set aside for the restoration and maintenance of *Constantia*.

Some of the major events of the College were possible due to the generous sponsorship provided benefactors for particular needs. *Team Satyam*, a leading firm of Career Advisors provided sponsorship for the entire College Team to visit Kolkata and participate in the Mock United Nations (MUN) Programme organised in May, 2013.

The manner in which the Old Boys return both individually and in groups is always sentimental. Socially, opportunities for reunions of the old boys, especially for pupils who passed out of College 20 and 25 years ago have been held during the year. The reunions of Batches of boys, with their families, is always a deeply nostalgic event for them. They are happy to wander around the school, reliving memories, while sharing anecdotes with the families.

Joint programmes with the La Martiniere Girls' Alumni Association (LMGAA) were held during the year. The highlight of these events was the joint reunion held at La Martiniere Girls' College on 15 December, 2013. Once again, proceeds from this were donated for the conservation of *Constantia*.

I am especially grateful to Mr Peter Collins the Vice-Principal who now handles almost every aspect of the day to day academic co-ordination of the College. Mr Derrick Clarke, the 2nd Assistant, has always risen to the occasion in the absence of the principal and Vice Principal. He is also the trusted housemaster of Martin House. Mrs S. Santram manages the Junior School campus with efficiency, keeping me constantly up to date with the individual concerns of the boys that need redress. Mrs Genevieve Lobo has brought much academic improvement by supervising the work of the Staff and the boys in the Middle School, an area that needs constant attention with the boys entering adolescence. Mrs Pamela Cowasji has reduced the pressure of work on the smallest boys in the Nursery and Preparatory Class while introducing a great deal of fun-filled activities in that Section of the College. The Housemasters deal with the boys with fairness and affection and are more and more taking on responsibilities for the personal development of the boys in their care.

Much of the administrative burden has been shouldered by the College office Staff, led by the Mr Adrian Michael, the College Bursar. The tedium of day to day inspection and supervision has been taken over by the Bursar, leaving the Principal with more time focus on the boys and provision for their all-round development.

In the last year, I have learnt the significance of working with a team, using the best of a person's abilities, concentrating on strengths rather than on limitations. The Academic, administrative and domestic Staff have been constantly in touch, providing suggestions that have been beneficial for the progress of our College. The College workers carry out their tasks with pride. The sense of belonging that the simplest worker displays is inspiring.

But the greatest appreciation is for the unconditional affection and co-operation of the boys, who fit into the scheme of things without complaint. The enthusiasm and idealism of Youth is always infectious. From reverence and awe in the earliest years of education to independence of thought and experimenting with ideas as they grow older, until the pseudo-cynicism, bordering on the cocky that the typical senior Martiniere boy displays is an unfailing process that gives the boys their unique character when they go out into the world. To watch the boys struggle with themselves to do their best motivates a teacher to further involvement. That we have helped them achieve this level of confidence and freedom of thought is gratifying.

**Vive La Martiniere!**