

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1987-88
(Read on Prize Day - 19 March 1988)

General and Mrs Khan, Trustees and Governors of Trustees and Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour to have General Khan preside at our Prize Day and Mrs Khan who has so graciously consented to give away the prizes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my privilege to present to you this afternoon the Annual Report for 1987-88 of the College.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:

Mr J.A. Kalyanakrishnan and Sri S.N. Sahay continued as our Trustees. There was only one change in the Local Committee of Governors. Mr Justice D.N. Jha, on his retirement was replaced by Mr Justice U.C. Srivastava.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the Trustees and the members of the Local Committee of Governors for their leadership and valuable help throughout the year. My special thanks go to Justice D.N. Jha, who retired as President of the Local Committee of Governors in July, 1987, and to Mr A.C. Grice, who has completed 30 years as a member of the Local Committee of Governors, for their invaluable counsel and untiring efforts to protect the interests of the College.

STAFF:

The following members of the staff joined the College during the course of the year: Mrs L. Parel to teach Geography in the Middle School and at the I.C.S.E. level; Mrs T Raza and Ms A. Chooramani to teach in the Junior School; Mr D. Singh as P.T.I. cum Warden; Mrs T. Fernandez as Matron of No 3 Dormitory and Mr and Mrs D.H. Serrao as Steward and House Keeper respectively.

Mrs A. Dhillon, Ms M. Jackson and Mrs S. Kapoor resigned for various reasons.

Mr and Mrs N.G. Perkins retired after 15 years and 27 years of meritorious service, respectively, at the College.

FINANCES

I am glad to report that the finances of the College continue to be in a sound condition. An increase in Dearness Allowance payable to the staff and servants was made with effect from April, 1987. A Gratuity scheme was introduced for the Staff and the existing Pension Scheme was further liberalised and improved upon. The pension scheme was also extended to the servants.

The Local Committee of Governors has always taken keen interest in the welfare of staff and servants of the College and the benefits extended to them are under regular review.

ENROLMENT

The figures of enrolment have been steadily increasing. An additional section to Class X was introduced. We started the academic year with 1,515 students of whom 211 were boarders, including 30 Foundationers and 9 Demi-Foundationers. At the close of the year the enrolment had risen to 1,570 of whom 200 were boarders, including 33 Foundationers and 9 Demi-Foundationers.

HEALTH

Except for some cases of the seasonal infections of measles, mumps and chicken-pox, the general health of the resident scholars has been good. We are indebted to Dr J.B. Charles, the college doctor; the Hospital Matron, Mrs I. Pal, and Shri Shyam Lal, for the attention and care given to the boys. Credit for this is also due to the Steward and House Keeper for their careful supervision of the boys' diet and to the Dormitory Matrons for their care, particularly of the Junior boys.

ACADEMICS

Economics was introduced in the Commerce Stream of Class XI as an additional subject for the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination. Students offered Computer Studies for the first time at the I.C.S.E. (Year 10) Examination, March, 1988.

A new pattern for the Progress Reports of Scholars was introduced and a College Diary incorporating general information, important College rules and the class-wise syllabus was also introduced to benefit both parents and students.

Two days were set apart in the Calendar as "Open House Days for Parents" when parents could come and meet the teachers to discuss the progress of their sons.

EXAMINATIONS

The I.C.S.E. Examination of March, 1987: The number of candidates presented was 98 of whom 82 were awarded Pass Certificates with Manish Agarwal securing the highest aggregate percentage of 90.6%. Seven candidates secured a percentage of 80 and above.

The I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination of March, 1987: The number of candidates presented was 72 out of which 70 were successful. Alok Prem Nagar of the Science Stream secured the highest percentage of 87% and Ajai Kumar also of the Science Stream secured the best grade aggregate at the examination. In the Commerce/Arts Stream, Shirish Kumar Jain secured the highest percentage of 84%. Eight candidates secured an aggregate of 80% and above.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The College continues to emphasise on the all-round development of the student and has a wide range of co-curricular activities to offer which include cricket, hockey, football, athletics, swimming, basketball, gymnastics, elocution, debating, dramatics and quizzing. The last of which has now been introduced as an Inter-House activity.

With military traditions, the College being, possibly, the only educational institution in the world to have been awarded Battle Honours, the National Cadet Corps holds a significant place in the curriculum of the College, with a Senior Division Army Wing and Junior Division Air and Naval Wings. At the Junior level, Scouting and Cubbing continue to flourish.

In the Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet held at Lucknow, we lost the Swimming and Debating to La Martiniere, Calcutta, but won the Football.

At "Crossroads 87" an Inter-School Competition held at St Francis' College, Lucknow, in October, our team of participants fared very well with the College winning the award for the Best Play with Roshan Abbas as Best Actor. The College Debating team lifted the trophy for the best overall team and Roshan Abbas was awarded the Best Speaker prize. In addition, many other prizes were awarded to our participants in English and Hindi elocution, extempore speech, mono-acting and both, Indian and Western music.

Shobit Misra participated in the National Carnatic Classical Music Competition held at Jaipur on 5 February, 1988, and was awarded the second prize for Sugam Sangeet.

The Annual Inter-House Athletic Meet and P.T. Display was held on Saturday, 31 October, 1987. Mr S.P. Singh, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Lucknow Range, presided and Mrs Singh gave away the prizes. The Individual Championships were won by Craig Ireland and Rajinder Singh Dogra, jointly, in the Senior Division, Purnanand Tripathi in the Junior Division and Mohit Kumar in the Colts Division.

The Annual Junior School Sports and P.T. Display was held on 15 December, 1987. Mrs M. Sealy presided and gave away the prizes. This continues to be the most colourful and interesting function for the Junior School and it was thoroughly appreciated by all present.

At the Annual Inter-House Swimming Competition, Anup Negi won the Senior Championship, Neville Beecham the Junior Championship and Anshul Rastogi the Colts Championship.

ANNUAL CONCERTS

The Annual English Play "What happened to Jones" by George H. Broadhurst, was staged on Founder's Day, 13 September, 1987. The play was produced and directed by Mr Elton deSouza. It was a very successful production

and was greatly appreciated by all.

The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer prize for Histrionics is to be awarded to Roshan Abbas.

The Annual Hindi Play, "Bap re Bap" was staged on 28 November, 1987. The award for Histrionics is being presented to Aditya Bhargava.

The Annual Elocution and Declamation Contests were held both in English and Hindi. The winners of these contests will be awarded their prizes today.

PRIZE DAY

The annual Prize Distribution was held on 21 March, 1987. The Hon'ble Mr Justice D.N. Jha presided and Mrs Jha gave away the prizes.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Founder's Day was celebrated on September 13, 1987. The Reverend Kuruvilla Chandy, Pastor, Lalbagh Methodist Church, Lucknow, preached the sermon at the Chapel Service.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BUILDINGS

The wooden floor of Spence Hall was replaced with a mosaic floor as the wooden floor had become quite unserviceable.

Two new pathways linking the Junior School building with Kalidas Marg and Schilling Road were laid in order to facilitate movement, particularly during the monsoons.

Sykes Hall was re-painted after many years and has a new look once again.

VISITORS

It was a pleasure to receive the following visitors at the College over the year:

Professor and Mrs Claude Martin from the University of Lyon, France, visited the College in May 1987.

He is the sixth generation descendant of Louis Martin, the brother of the Founder of our College. This is the first time that a relative of our Founder has visited the College. Prof. Claude Martin who is Professor of Contemporary French Literature at the University of Lyon is currently writing a biography of our Founder.

Rosie Llewellyn Jones, author of the book, "A Fatal Friendship", visited the College in September, 1987.

Madam Chabrolin, Principal La Martiniere, Lyon, along with a contingent of approximately sixty staff and students of La Martiniere, Lyon, were our guests at the College on 4 November, 1987. A special assembly was held to welcome our guests and the college hosted a lunch at Sykes Hall in their honour.

Sir David Goodall, British High Commissioner to India, visited the College on 9 November, 1987, and Mr John Gunther Dean, the American Ambassador to India, visited the College on 17 January, 1988.

OBITUARY

It is with much sorrow that I record the sad demise on 31 March, 1987, at New Delhi, of Mr Colin Lawrence, an Old Martinian who had served the College in a most loyal and dedicated manner for many years prior to his retirement, initially in the capacity of Office Superintendent, and later as College Warden.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to place on record my thanks to my colleagues on the Staff and to the College servants for the dedicated work that they have put in over the year under review.

I also wish to thank Mr George Frank who has trained the College Choir and who continues to unfailingly support the College with his musical talents.

My special thanks go to Mr Elton deSouza, Vice Principal, who shares a large part of the responsibilities at the college, to Mr J. Safir, Second Assistant and House Master; Mr B.S. Bisht and Mr B Fernandez, House Masters; Mrs Sheila Simlai, Headmistress of the Junior School; Mr M.N. Azeem, Senior Darogah; and Mr Kenneth Jordan, Bursar, who continues to render yeoman service at the College Office. I would also like to thank Mrs F. Keelor, Principal of the Girls' College, for her co-operation in all matters.

CONCLUSION

I am pleased to record that the general progress of the College continues to grow from strength to strength in spite of certain adversities. This is solely due to the sense of belonging and loyalty that exists among all members of the La Martiniere family. The unique traditions of the College form the corner-stone of life at the College and with faith in God, we can confidently look forward to a brighter future.

Thank you !