

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1990-91 **(Read on Prize Day - 16 March 1991)**

Your Excellency, Trustees and Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly pleased to extend a warm welcome to all of you on the occasion of our Annual Prize Day. It is my privilege to present this afternoon the Annual Report of the College for 1990 – 91.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:

During the year, Mr Raj Kumar Bhargava, Chief Secretary to Government, Uttar Pradesh and Senior Trustee, Lucknow Martin Charities, left on his appointment as Home Secretary, Government of India and was succeeded by Dr V.K. Saxena.

Mr Justice U.C. Srivastava, Senior Judge, High Court, Lucknow Bench, and President of the Local Committee of Governors of the College, retired and was succeeded by Mr Justice S.C. Mathur. We were happy to welcome Mr A.C. Grice back onto the Committee as a co-opted member. Mr Ajit Seth, District Magistrate, was succeeded by Mr Ashok Priyadarshi. Brigadier M.S. Brar, S.M., V.S.M., retired from service and was succeeded by Brigadier L. Tahiliani, V.S.M. Mr T.W. Phillips, Principal, Secretary and Member, resigned to take up the post of Principal, Wynberg-Allen School, Mussoorie and Mr Elton deSouza, Vice-Principal was appointed Officiating Principal in his place.

I would like to record my appreciation to the Trustees and Members of the Local Committee of Governors for their support and guidance in all matters concerning the affairs of the College.

STAFF:

The following members of the staff joined the College during the year: Mrs K. Raza, Mrs R. Mullick and Mrs M.R. Patel were appointed to teach in the Junior School. Mr A. Kamal and Mr S.I. Kidwai were appointed to teach in the Senior School and Mr B.P. Pant took over in March this year as Physical Training Instructor cum Assistant Warden.

Mrs A. Kanwar (nee Chooramani), Mr J. Samuel and Mr F. Gomes resigned for personal reasons. Mrs E. Mark retired after 22 years of dedicated service to the College. She was an excellent teacher and was loved by her students and colleagues alike. Her genial presence in the Junior School is greatly missed. Mr B. Dutta took premature retirement owing to ill health. I regret to report that shortly after he left the College he passed away.

FINANCES

I am glad to report that the finances of the College continue to be in a sound condition. With effect from 01 April, 1990, the Local Committee of Governors of the College had to increase the fees payable by both boarders and day scholars in view of the rising costs and also in order to meet the expenditure owing to additional financial benefits that were extended to the Staff and Class IV employees of the College from that date. Another benefit extended to employees

was an amendment in the Gratuity Rules of the College which now entitles them to the receipt of gratuity on completion of 5 years of service instead of 15 years as stipulated earlier.

ENROLMENT

The academic year commenced with 1543 students on roll of whom 200 were boarders, including 31 Foundationers and 6 Demi-foundationers. At the close of the year the enrolment had risen to 1626 of which 200 were boarders including 31 Foundationers and 6 Demi-foundationers.

HEALTH

The general health of the resident scholars continued to be good owing to the care of the medical staff comprising Dr J.B. Charles, Mrs I.A. Pal and Mr M. Mahto, and the careful supervision of the boys' diet by the Steward and House Keeper, Mr and Mrs D.H. Serrao.

ACADEMICS

This year Computer Science was included in the curriculum of Class XI for students who will be offering this subject for the first time at the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination in March, 1992. Mr R.K. Bhasin who conducts these classes, is at present attending the Advanced Post Graduate Diploma in Computers and Information management Course at Upton India Limited, Lucknow.

EXAMINATIONS

The number of candidates presented for the I.C.S.E. Examination of March, 1990, was 110, of whom 103 were awarded Pass Certificates. 5 of them scored 80% and above with Deepak Iyer scoring the highest percentage of 90.2% closely followed by Amit Nigam and Mohd. Ali Akmal Shamsi with 90% each on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

The number of candidates presented for the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination of March, 1990 was 109, of whom 107 were awarded Pass Certificates. 12 of the candidates scored 80% and above with Abhinav Singh Rawat scoring an aggregate of 4 points in his four best subjects.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

La Martiniere has always stressed on the all-round development of its students and although there is a very full co-curricular programme, it is a little disheartening to note that very few of our day scholar pupils take advantage of it. It would be most encouraging if parents urged their children to derive the maximum benefit from the facilities which are provided.

Mr Justice U.C. Srivastava, former Chairman of the Local Committee of Governors, donated a sum of money for the institution of an award to be presented for outstanding work in Social Service to a deserving student up to Class X. It is to be called "The Justice U.C. Srivastava Prize for Social Service" and is being presented for the first time today. Navdeep Singh Saini will be the first recipient of this award.

The Annual Inter-Martinire Meet was held at Lucknow during the last complete week of August, 1990. Although this generated great interest and enthusiasm, the Calcutta teams won all three events of Debating, Swimming and Football.

The cadets of the Junior Division N.C.C. Naval Wing in the College attended a Camp at the Race Course Grounds, Lucknow, from 02 October to 11 October, 1990. Three cadets of this Wing also attended Ship Modelling classes for a duration of 2 months at the Naval unit here.

Mr P.V. Collins underwent a Pre-Commission Training Course for Part-Time N.C.C. Officers, Naval Wing at Cochin. He is now Third Officer and is in-charge of the Junior Division N.C.C. Naval Wing. He took over from Mr B. Fernandez, who was the Part-Time Officer for many years.

The Senior Division N.C.C. Army Wing cadets attended a camp for 20 September to 01 October, 1990. Mr P. Bhatt also underwent a Pre-Commission Training Course for Part-Time Officers at Kemptee and now holds the rank of IInd Lieutenant. He has taken over as Company Commander of the Senior Division N.C.C. Army Wing in the College from Mr R.W. Carville who was its Caretaker Officer for many years.

Even though many of the annual co-curricular events like the Annual Athletics Meet, Junior School Sports and the Annual Plays in Hindi and English could not take place owing to the disturbed conditions prevalent in the State, the boys were able to participate in an Inter-School Nutramul Essay Contest organised by the manufacturers of Amul Products. They also took part in an I.C.S. All-India On the Spot Painting Competition. A Maggi Quiz Competition for the Junior School was sponsored by Nestle India Ltd., and a Science Quiz was conducted at the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow. Recently some of our students were invited by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants to meet the scientists. This was most enlightening for them.

At the Annual Inter-House Swimming Competition, the Senior, Junior and Colts Championships were won by Mark Malvea, Vaibhav Wahal and Ali Mohammed Amir, respectively.

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

Although deprived of its Sports, the Junior School held a small internal Fete which was very well patronised and enjoyed by all. The credit for this must go to the Headmistress, Mrs S. Simlai, and the entire staff of the Junior School.

PRIZE DAY

The Annual Prize Distribution function was held on 24 March, 1990. Lt General F.N. Billimoria, General Officer Commanding in chief of the Central Command, was Chief Guest and mrs Billimoria graciously gave away the prizes. The General offered to present a trophy to the College. When it is received it shall be called the "Central Command Trophy for the Inter-House Quiz Competitions". Owing to unavoidable circumstances these Competitions could not be held and so the presentation of the trophy shall be deferred.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Founder's Day was celebrated on 13 September, 1990. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Z Rolston (Retd.) delivered the address at the Commemoration Service held in the College Chapel in the morning.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nothing can be achieved without co-operation and support. It would not be exaggerating to say that La Martiniere can boast of having a Staff which is solely committed to the welfare of its students and to the institution. I wish to place on record my gratitude to every member of the Staff and the Class IV Staff, for the unstinted support and co-operation I have received.

I am especially indebted to Mr John Safir, Second Assistant, Mr B.S. Bisht and Mr B. Fernandez, House Masters, Mrs S. Simlai, Headmistress of the Junior School, Mr Frank Rozario, Bursar and Mrs H.L. Abraham, Secretary to the Principal, for their invaluable assistance and advice. I am also thankful to Mr M.N. Azeem, Senior Daroga and Mr Zia-ul Azeem, Caretaker for the many useful duties they have performed.

Although Mr K.A. Jordan retired over a year ago from the service of the College, his advice and help have been not only indispensable but cannot be too greatly praised. For this I am truly thankful.

Mrs F. Keelor, Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College, has been a source of inspiration and I am grateful for her assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am most grateful for the trust and confidence that the Local Committee of Governors has shown in me. They have all given of their valuable time and contributed to the development of La Martiniere with the wealth of their experience. I would like particularly to thank Mr Justice S.C. Mathur, President of the Local Committee of Governors and Mr Ashok Priyadarshi for their special assistance and advice in times of crisis.

. However, it is to our boys to whom I give my special thanks. It is they who add a special meaning to our lives. The vast majority of them do not win laurels but it is they who are, nonetheless, the salt of La Martiniere.

CONCLUSION

Education is the nation's most essential need. That La Martiniere makes a contribution towards fulfilling this need cannot be denied. However, much still remains to be done, and it will always be the endeavour of all who serve this institution to produce citizens who will be an asset to our country.

Vive La Martiniere !