

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1991-92**  
**(Read on Prize Day - 14 March 1992)**

Major General Kapoor, Mrs Kapoor, Trustees & Governors of La Martiniere College Lucknow, Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you this afternoon on the occasion of the Annual Prize Day of La Martiniere College. On this occasion I present to you a report on the events and activities over the past year.

**TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:**

During the academic year, Mr K L Sharma, H.J.S., Legal Remembrancer to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Trustee of the Lucknow Martin Charities, was elevated to the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court. He was succeeded by Mr P K Sarin, H.J.S. whom we welcome warmly.

I wish to record my appreciation to the Trustees and Governors of the College for their constant guidance and support in all matters related to the well-being of La Martiniere.

**STAFF:**

During the year we were happy to welcome four new members onto the Staff. Mrs Seema Khanna was appointed to teach in the Junior School. Mr John Augustine and Mr Leslie Godin joined the staff to teach in the Senior Section. Mr Godin has been appointed for Computer Science with a view to expanding Computer Literacy in the College. Mrs Patricia Jwala was appointed as an Office Assistant.

We were sorry that Mrs M R Patel from the Junior School resigned for personal reasons. We wish her all success.

**BEREAVEMENT:**

The College faced a tragedy on 11 October, 1991 in the death of Puneet Mehdiratta, a Class XII student. He met with a fatal accident on his way to school. The entire College shared the grief of his family and mourned his loss. A special Memorial Service for the repose of his soul was held. This was attended by members of his family, the Staff and Students of the College.

During the year La Martiniere also saw the passing of two well-known former members of Staff in Lucknow. Mr Charles Gardner, former Housemaster of Cornwallis House, passed away after a protracted illness. The College shared the grief of his widow, Mrs Barbara Gardner, one of our College Matrons. Mr Albert Hanson, former Physical Training Instructor of the College, passed away after a painful illness. The College shared the grief of his widow, Mrs Noreen Hanson and that of his family which has had a long association with La Martiniere.

**FINANCES:**

The finances of the College continue to remain sound. With effect from April 1, 1991 the Local Committee of Governors of the College sanctioned an increase of 5% in Dearness Allowance applicable to all Members of the Staff and Servants of the College. This was done without an increase in the school fees.

I am happy to report that a reinvestment of the College funds was undertaken this year. They have been invested at a higher rate of interest which will generate more revenue for the College.

**DEVELOPMENT:**

During the year certain improvements and additions have been made to College facilities. Swings and slides were set up on the playground in the Junior School. This has delighted the children. Drinking water facilities were improved upon and an area built up for convenience in parking. A video cassette recorder was purchased from proceeds of the fete organised by the Junior School in the last academic year and a Colour Television set is also to be purchased. We are very grateful to Mr Ashok Priyadarshi, District Magistrate and member of our Board of Governors, who was most helpful in obtaining the equipment for us. We also look forward to providing a tubewell in the Junior School grounds shortly.

I am happy to report that a new tubewell has recently been made operational in the Senior School complex. This was most essential as earlier there was only one tubewell serving the entire campus. The new tubewell will ensure a constant supply of water especially to the residential quarters of the College servants, the College Kitchen, Dining-Hall, Swimming Pool and the extensive gardens surrounding 'Constantia'. A standby electric motor and pumpset have been purchased to ensure continuity of water supply.

The College has recently purchased another bus. It was purchased from La Martiniere Girls' College and will be plying on the trans-Gomti route to enable students especially from Gomtinagar and Indiranagar colonies to make use of this facility. Recently a new Public Address system has been installed in Spence Hall. This has done much to improve the quality of acoustics in this hall which is used for every cultural event and College programme.

**ENROLMENT:**

When the College session began in March 1991, 1632 students were on roll. Of this 228 were boarders which included 38 Foundationers and 11 Demi-Foundationers in keeping with the provisions of the Founder's Will. At the close of the session on 29 February, 1992, enrolment stood at 1713 of which 202 were boarders including 32 Foundationers and 9 Demi-Foundationers.

**HEALTH:**

The general health of the resident scholars was good. Apart from seasonal ailments, there were no epidemics of any sort. Routine immunization against cholera and typhoid was carried out. I am specially grateful in this regard to the Medical Staff of the College as well as to the Steward and House Keeper for providing wholesome nutritious diet.

**ACADEMICS:**

This year the College reverted to the terminal examination system. The general response to this change has been positive. Earlier students were under pressure with two or more weekly tests which directly affected promotional chances. For the excellent students, competitive pressures were proving too great while for the average and below average students, testing on selective portions of the syllabus was failing to ensure an overall awareness and knowledge of their course work. While continuous academic assessment still continues, promotion is favoured by marks achieved in the Final and Half-Yearly Examinations. Teachers have welcomed the change as it gives them more time to teach at the pace of the Class rather than to meet the Weekly Examination deadline. It also provides an opportunity to students to take a greater active interest in co-curricular activities.

**EXAMINATIONS:**

The College presented 120 candidates for the ICSE Examination of March 1991. Of these 105 were awarded pass certificates and 19 students scored 80% marks and above. Manish Mathur scored the highest percentage of 88.8%.

For the ISC (Year 12) Examination of March 1991, 109 candidates were presented, of whom 101 were awarded pass certificates. 12 candidates scored 80% and above, with Saurabh Saxena scoring an aggregate of 6 points in his four best subjects.

**DISCIPLINE:**

I am constrained this afternoon to dilate upon the aspect of discipline in La Martiniere. It is not unprecedented to have breaches of conduct but this year severe action had to be instituted in some extraordinary cases of indiscipline involving some students. I regret to record that in a few cases suspension was invoked and certain parents were asked to withdraw their children.

Discipline at La Martiniere does not follow a policing pattern. Sufficient latitude is allowed, warning letters issued and ultimatums served before any extreme step is taken, which might affect a boy's career. This disciplinary action appears to have had a salutary effect which I am confident will improve standards of conduct. In this regard I wish

to make a special appeal to all parents: You, who are present today, will agree that you have chosen to send your children to this Institution as you have reposed trust in the tradition and ideals for which it stands. Society around us is undergoing a process of rapid change, accompanied by expressions of this change through violence, a negation of values and an inability to recognise a stable identity. In the midst of this, La Martiniere is conscious of the responsibility which it bears to mould character. We stand to promote time- tested values without crippling the exuberance of spirit and display of individual identity. Yet I am sorry to note that basic rules of the school are not followed by some parents and it is noticed that the law of the land is sometimes ignored. For example cases have been found of students using motorcycles with a licence to ride on the basis of false information regarding their age. The use of motorised vehicles by students is disallowed at La Martiniere, for no other reason, than the security of the children themselves. I appeal to all parents to co-operate with me in this respect as it is only for the welfare of your children.

### **ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS**

The Annual Prize Day was held on 16 March, 1991. His Excellency, Shri B Satyanarayan Reddy, Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Visitor of the College, presided and distributed the prizes.

The Founder's Day Chapel Service was held on 13 September, 1991. The Rev. J.W. Adams, Pastor, Epiphany Church, Lucknow preached on this occasion.

The Annual Inter-House Swimming Competition was held later the same morning. The Senior, Junior and Colts Championships were won by Mark Malvea, Ali Mohd. Aamir and Chanakya Agnihotri respectively.

The Annual English Play "The Happiest Days of Your Life" by John Dighton was staged in the evening. It was directed by Mr T Savaille and Mrs M MacFarland and was acclaimed. The Metro-Goldwyn Mayor Award for Histrionics is to be presented to Nigel Hopley this afternoon.

This year two Hindi Plays were staged on 10 December, 1991. "Khilji ka Daant" and "Jukhaam Jaari Hai", written by K.P. Saxena were directed by Dr R S Shukla assisted by Mrs L . Parel. They were most entertaining. The prize for histrionics in Hindi is being awarded to Amit Kirpalani today.

I appreciate the efforts of the Staff and Students involved in the English and Hindi Plays.

The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet was held at Calcutta in the last week of August 1991. The Lucknow team won the Football Match by a goal. Though the Debate and Swimming Competitions were keenly contested, the Calcutta teams won both. I am pleased to report a significant improvement in the level of performance of the Lucknow teams. The efforts of Mr T Savaille, Mr P Collins and Mr B P Pant in training the teams, were most commendable.

The Annual Inter-House Athletic Meet and P.T. Display were held on 23 November 1991. Mr Prakash Singh, Director-General of Police, Uttar Pradesh was the Chief Guest and Mrs Singh distributed the prizes. The Senior Championship was won by Mark Malvea while the Junior and Colts Championships were won by Gaurav Kumar Gupta and Ajay Misra respectively.

I commend the efforts of Mr R Robinson, Incharge of Athletics for overall organisation of the Meet, Mr B P Pant for innovations in the P.T. Display and Mr D D Singh for Gymnastics.

The Annual Junior School Sports and P.T. Display were held on 30 November, 1991. Mrs M Daniell was the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes. The contribution of Mrs S Simlai and the Junior School Staff is much appreciated.

The Annual Hindi Declamation Contest was held on 27 July, 1991.

The Annual English Elocution Contest was held on 8 February 1992.

The prize winners of both contests will receive their awards today.

The Inter-House Quiz Competition was won by Martin House.

The Annual N.C.C. Inter-Platoon Junior Division Competition was held on 13 December, 1991. The Air Wing, under the command of Cadet -Sergeant Darryl D'Cruz was awarded the Hashman Memorial Shield. The Intermediate Trophy for the Best NCC Troop was won by Platoon No. 1. of Class XII on the same day. Anshuman Pandey was adjudged the Best Cadet in the Senior Division and Darryl D'Cruz in the Junior Division. The Boardman Trophy for the Best NCC Wing in the College was won by the Junior Division Air Wing. Craig Martinz was adjudged the Best Scout of the year.

## **CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS**

The cadets of the Junior Division, NCC Naval Wing of the College attended a camp at the Race Course grounds, Lucknow from 28 August to 6 September 1991.

This year nine cadets of the Junior Division, NCC Air Wing were recipients of the Director General's Scholarship for academic excellence among NCC cadets. They were presented awards by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh on 31 January 1992.

The students who received the awards were Manish Mathur, Sumeet Malik, Mahim Ranjan, Gagan Mehrotra, Rajat Nigam, Nishant Rawat, Amir Hasan Rizvi, Santosh Tiwari and Venkat Sumit Sinha.

The Senior Division, NCC Army Wing cadets attended a camp from 6 October to 19 October 1991 at the Army Parade Ground, Lucknow.

## **EXCURSIONS**

During the Dussehra holidays a sight-seeing tour was organised by UPTOURS to Kathmandu (Nepal) for six days. Boys of 12 years and above were permitted to go on this excursion.

In February, 1992 students of Classes 4 & 5 went on an excursion to Agra and Fatehpur Sikri. This was organised by UPTOURS and we hope to keep this up as a regular feature.

Both excursions were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and many parents appreciated the organisation of the tours and the opportunity afforded to their children for exposure beyond their immediate environment.

## **SOCIAL SERVICE**

Responding to an appeal from the National Association of the Blind for assistance towards their programme for the rehabilitation of the blind in rural areas, the students participated in a fund-raising drive. They were addressed by Prof. K.C. Garg, President of the Lucknow District Branch of the Association and Dr B L Jain, Hony. General Secretary. They were made aware of methods to prevent blindness. The response was tremendous and a sum of Rupees 92,381.10 collected by the students, was donated to the Association.

The social awareness of the boys was evident in their response to appeals for the relief of victims of the major earthquake in Uttar Kashi last year. Clothes, blankets and medicines were routed through the Y.W.C.A. Lucknow towards the rehabilitation efforts.

Awareness regarding Environmental Pollution was created by an Environmental Literacy Programme conducted by Dr M C Saxena of the Environmental Research Laboratory, Lucknow. Leaflets containing literature on environmental preservation were distributed to all the students for wider circulation. They also collected a sum of Rs. 6,922.00 towards this cause, which was forwarded to the Organiser of the Programme.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The Junior School organised a Fancy Dress Competition to coincide with Children's Day on 14 November, 1991. Prizes in different categories were awarded and Maggie Food Specialities sponsored small gifts to the children.

The Senior School organised a fete in May 1991, the proceeds of which will be used for the improvement of recreational facilities.

In the All U.P. Inter-School Nutramul Essay Contest held on 27 November 1991 the College won three prizes. Ayush Vaish and Amogh Pant of Class 5 and Siddharth Banerjee of Class 9 comprised the team that won the second prize out of the 49 schools which participated.

The Rotary Club of Lucknow organised a debate in Hindi on 13 September 1991. Anshuman Pandey of Class 12 was awarded the second prize.

In the month of November, 1991, Cherry Blossom sponsored Contests in the School which included Painting, Elocution, Debating and Extempore Speech. This gave an opportunity to the students to express themselves. Handsome prizes were awarded to the winners as well as to the Staff who helped with the organisation of the competitions.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I should like to place on record my appreciation and gratitude to Mrs F Keelor, Lady Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College for her co-operation and advice in matters which concern us jointly.

Mr Walter Johnson, an Old Boy of the College, presented us with a gift of 268 white shirts for our Foundationers. We are touched and most grateful for his thoughtful gesture.

Education is a co-operative effort. I feel privileged to speak about the co-operation I have received from every Member of the Staff over the last year. For this, I am grateful. I am indebted to the House Masters and to the Headmistress of the Junior School and am most appreciative of the useful duties performed by the Office, Medical, Domestic and Estate Staff.

La Martiniere exists only for its students and our boys deserve a special word of praise and encouragement. Their presence, individuality and youth give much meaning to our efforts. We respect their ideas, the diversity of their backgrounds and their creativity. We hope to impress upon them more fully the values of service for which this Institution was founded by Major General Claude Martin. These values are as meaningful now as they were when the Institution was established in 1845.

*Vive La Martiniere !*