

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1992-93**

(Read on Prize Day - 20 March 1993)

Major General S.S. Sharma, Mrs Sharma, Trustees & Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you this afternoon on the occasion of our Annual Prize Distribution. It is my privilege to present a report on the events and activities over the past academic year.

### **TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS**

During the year, Dr V. K. Saxena, Chief Secretary to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Senior Trustee, Lucknow Martin Charities was transferred. He was succeeded by Mr T. S. R. Subramanian. Mr P.K. Sarin, H.J.S., Legal Remembrancer to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Trustee, Lucknow Martin Charities, was succeeded by Mr A. K. Srivastava. We extend a warm welcome to the new incumbents.

Mr Justice S C Mathur, Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court was appointed Acting Chief Justice of the High Court at Allahabad. We congratulate him on his promotion. He continues as President of the Local Committee of Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow. Brig. L Tahiliani, V.S.M. left Lucknow on promotion and we warmly welcome Brig. N Deka in his place. Mr Ramesh Chandra, Commissioner, Lucknow Division was transferred. Mr S D Bagla who took over from him was succeeded by Mr G P Shukla. We extend him a hearty welcome.

It is with sorrow that I record the passing of Mrs Doris Grice, the wife of Mr Arthur Grice, who has served on the Local Committee of Governors of the College for over thirty years. On behalf of the family La Martiniere I extend to him our sympathy and our prayers to help him face his bereavement with courage and endurance.

### **STAFF**

We were happy to welcome four new members onto the Staff. Mrs A. Kanwar and Mrs R. Goel were appointed as Assistant Teachers in the Junior School. Mr G. Deen was also appointed in the Junior School to teach music and singing in that Section. Mrs D Hopley took charge as the College Hospital Matron in January, 1993.

Ms Michelle McGrath, Assistant Teacher, resigned during the term and Mrs I A Pal, former Hospital Matron, retired. We wish them all success.

### **FINANCES**

The finances of the College continue to remain sound. With effect from April 1, 1992, the Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College sanctioned an increase of 20% 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 for the second consecutive year.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

A long felt need was fulfilled when a submersible pump was installed in the Junior School. This provides potable water for the children and is also being used to water the lawn and garden in the Junior School campus. We are extremely thankful to the Old Martinians' Association, Lucknow, for providing us with this facility. Two water coolers were installed in the Junior School. It was possible to purchase these coolers owing to the generosity of a few parents, to whom we are most indebted.

Most recently a Modi Xerox photocopier was installed in the College Office. It has proved to be a most convenient and time-saving facility.

## **ENROLMENT**

In March 1992 the College session commenced with 1713 students on roll. Of this 205 were boarders which included 33 Foundationers and 14 Demi-Foundationers in keeping with the provisions of Maj. Gen. Claude Martin's Will. At the close of the session the enrolment stood at 1693 of which 185 were boarders including 33 Foundationers and 14 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 & EXAMINATIONS**

I am happy to report that the terminal examination system reintroduced last year has functioned effectively. Students are under less pressure throughout the year and are able to participate more freely in co-curricular activities. This means that students with ability are given the opportunity to expand their talents in the co-curricular field without fear of endangering their academic performance.

In March 1992, the College presented 118 candidates for the ICSE Examination. Of these 100 were awarded pass certificates. Thirteen students scored 80% marks and above. Harsh Khandpal topped the list of successful candidates with 89% .

105 candidates were presented for the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination, of whom 100 were awarded pass certificates. Eight students scored 80% marks and above. Nadeem Hasan scored 88.75% topping the list of successful candidates.

To increase Computer literacy, the College entered into a contract with Messrs Methodex Systems Ltd. Classes I to VIII now receive the benefit of instruction in computer studies. It is an entirely optional subject and parents who wish their sons to avail of this facility have to pay an additional fee. An added advantage is that members of the staff have the opportunity of being trained in the use of computers.

## DISCIPLINE

The reputation of an academic institution, particularly for boys, depends very much upon a high standard of discipline. Last year from this platform I made a special appeal to parents to assist in maintaining discipline. I am greatly appreciative of the support I have received from parents in this respect during the course of the year. Breaches of discipline still occur but parents have co-operated to make our attempts to instil values and a respect for the law more effective. I wish to repeat my request to parents to make this endeavour a co-operative one.

On occasion I have had to summon parents to report the misconduct of their sons. This should not be mistaken as a penalty for the misdeeds of children. It is, in actual fact, an invitation to assist in developing the most urgent and vital areas of their lives - the building of character, the disciplining of the mind and the creation of socially well-adjusted beings.

The system of appointing Day-Scholar Prefects was re-introduced this year as a measure which, will assist with maintaining discipline in the College.

## ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS

The Annual Prize Day was held on 14 March, 1992. Maj. Gen. S.B.L. Kapoor, Maj. Gen. Artillery, HQ. Central Command presided over the function before which he inspected the Guard of Honour presented by the N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing. Mrs Kapoor most kindly distributed the prizes.

The Founder's Day Chapel Service was held on 13 September, 1992. The Rev.Fr.Ignatius D'Souza, of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Lucknow, delivered the address at the Commemoration Service. The College was privileged to have as a special guest, Ms Rosie Llewellyn Jones, a historian of repute, a great lover of the city of Lucknow and above all, the latest biographer of Maj. Gen. Claude Martin. Ms Llewellyn Jones' research culminated in an interesting biography entitled "A Very Ingenious Man: Claude Martin in Early Colonial India." On the eve of Founder's Day the book was released by Mr Ashok Priyadarshi, District Magistrate and Member of the Local Committee of Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow. The function took place in the celebrated Blue Room of the College.

The Annual Inter-House Swimming Competition was also held on Founder's Day. The Senior, Junior and Colts Championships were won by Amit Kirpalani, Ali Mohd. Aamir and Chanakya Agnihotri respectively.

The Annual English Play "Charley's Aunt" by Brandon Thomas was staged in the evening. It was directed by Mr T. Savaille and Mrs M. MacFarland to whom we are grateful. The Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Award for Histrionics is to be presented this afternoon to Sudeep Malik who played the title role of Charley's Aunt.

The Annual Hindi Play scheduled to be performed on 10 December, 1992. could not be staged owing to the premature closure of schools by the District Administration on account of the disturbances in the country. I am, however, grateful to Dr. R S Shukla and Mrs Lily Parel for having given of their time in preparing the boys for the play. It was a great disappointment for all concerned as they had been practising earnestly for weeks.

The efforts of the Staff and Students involved in the production of both plays is greatly appreciated.

The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet was held at Lucknow in the last week of August, 1992. The Football Match was drawn but the Debate and Swimming competitions were won by the Calcutta teams. Special mention must be made of Ali Mohd. Aamir, whose performance in the Junior Division was outstanding. He succeeded in breaking a number of long-standing Swimming records. The efforts of Mr T. Savaille, Mr P. Collins and Mr B.P. Pant in training the various teams are much appreciated.

The Annual Inter-House Athletic Meet and P.T. Display were held on 21 November, 1992. Mr V S Mathur, I.P.S., Additional Director-General of Police, P.A.C., Uttar Pradesh, was the Chief Guest and Mrs Mathur distributed the prizes. The Senior Championship was won jointly by Ashish Sanwal and Obrie McDonald while the Junior and Colts Championships were won by Gaurav Gupta and Mohammad Aawan Hussain respectively.

The efforts of all the members of the staff, who helped during the Meet, are greatly commended. In particular, we are grateful to Mr R Robinson, Master in-charge of Athletics for the overall organisation of the Meet, Mr B P Pant for the innovative Drill comprising Yoga exercises, and Mr D D Singh for organising the Middle School P.T. and the Gymnastics Displays.

The Annual Junior School Sports and P.T. Display were held on 5 December, 1992. Mrs M Priyadarshi was the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes. We are most grateful for the contribution of the Headmistress, Mrs S. Simlai, and the Junior School Staff.

The Annual Hindi Declamation Contest was held on 14 August, 1992, and the Annual English Elocution Contest was held on 8 February, 1993. An innovation this year was to make the English Contest a House Competition event. I am glad to report that the standard improved as a result of this decision. The prize winners of both contests will receive their awards this afternoon.

As in previous years special N.C.C. and Scouts Parades were held on Independence Day and Republic Day. Col. Israni, Group Commander, N.C.C., U.P., was Chief Guest on Independence Day, and Mr Mathew Parel, Principal of the Army Public School, presided over the function on Republic Day.

Mr Carol Joseph was appointed as Caretaker Officer of the Junior Division, N.C.C. (Air Wing). He took over from Mr D. A. Ireland, who had been the Caretaker Officer for many years previously. The cadets trained by him were always highly motivated and were the proud winners of the Hashman Memorial Shield for the best N.C.C. Troop for many years in succession. The College is grateful to Mr D.Ireland for his valuable contribution. I am happy to report that Mr Joseph follows ably in his footsteps.

The Annual N.C.C. Inter-Platoon Junior Division Competition was held on 22 February, 1993. The Air Wing was awarded the Hashman Memorial Shield. The Intermediate Trophy for the Best NCC Troop was won by Platoon No.1 comprising of Class XI. In the Inter-Wing competition the Air Wing was adjudged the best and will be awarded the Boardman Trophy this afternoon. Obrie McDonald and Vimlendra Chaudhary were declared the Best Cadets in the Senior and Junior Divisions respectively. Lionel D'Cruz was adjudged Best Scout.

## SPORTS

The College Swimming team performed very well. Our boys participated in a number of competitions which were held outside the College. An Inter-School Swimming Competition was organised by the City Montessori School at their Gomtinagar pool. The College team won the Overall Championship Trophy for being the best team. At the Inter-College Swimming Competition organised by the Bharat Swimming Club at the K D Singh Babu Stadium Pool, the College team was once again awarded the Overall Championship Trophy for the best team.

For the first time in many years the College participated in the All-India Y.M.C.A. Swimming Championship held at the Talkatora Swimming Pool, New Delhi. The College team which consisted of Amit Kirpalani, Dax Carville, Ratindra Singh and Richard McNamara was awarded a silver medal in the 4 x 100 metres Medley Relay event. I am most grateful to Mr B.P. Pant for his tireless efforts in training the boys. The awards which were won are a testimony to the hard work of both Mr B.P. Pant and the boys themselves. It is hoped that the standard will be maintained in the years to come.

I am deeply grateful to Mr B.P. Pant and Mr L. Godin who were largely responsible for the College participating in the Mangla Prasad Memorial Hockey Tournaments both at the Junior and College levels. It was indeed creditable that the College teams reached the Semi-Final stage in both tournaments, even though this was the first time they were competing in many years. The performance of Shane Robinson, G.K. Gupta and Sachin Gupta in the Junior Division and Ranjit Dhillon, Abhijit Masih and Alfred Gomes is worthy of special mention. The College team came third in the Inter College Hockey Tournament organised by the District Inspector of Schools. Richard Dawson, Himanshu Dhyani and Ranjit Dhillon were selected to attend a national camp but unfortunately, could not participate owing to unrest in the State.

## CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS

The cadets of the Senior Division, Army Wing of the College attended a National Integration Camp at Agra from 27 September to 8 October, 1992.

An Inter-Group Competition Camp was held from 12 October to 21 October, 1992. Gaurav Bhatia of the Air Wing was awarded the prestigious Governor's medal for being the second Best Cadet in Uttar Pradesh.

Sumeet Malik and Amit Singh who represented the College won the Best Team prize at a debate organised by the Loreto Alumni Association.

A new feature in the co-curricular activities programme is the re-introduction of Clubs for students from Classes VI - XII. From April 1992 students have been enrolled in Clubs of their interest. Special mention must be made of the Nature Club, whose members and teacher advisors are interacting with the World Wide Fund for Nature - India.

This year the College invited professionals from the fields of journalism, computers, social service and Space technology to lecture to senior students regarding career opportunities in these fields. Representatives of the faculty of N.I.I.T. visited the College and spoke to students on careers in computers. Mr Saeed Naqvi, a reputed journalist and Old Boy of the College, gave a realistic talk on a career in journalism. Dr Nishi Pandey of the University of Lucknow spoke to the students regarding social awareness with special reference to literacy in the city of Lucknow. Col. Tewari, a retired military officer gave an enlightening talk on India's Missile programme, to encourage students to examine possibilities of careers in space technology.

## EXCURSIONS

This year students of the Junior school were taken on excursions to places of interest to them. They visited the Limca bottling plant at Safedabad and an Ice-cream factory. These outings were thoroughly enjoyed by the children who also had an opportunity of being exposed to the functioning of industries which are relevant to their age and interest.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Junior School organised a Fancy Dress Competition on Children's Day, 14 November, 1992. Prizes in different categories were awarded.

After the final examinations in February two fetes on a small scale were organised in the Junior School. The proceeds will be used for the development of the Junior School.

In the Nutramul Essay Contest conducted in the College Amit Mohan was awarded the First Prize and Kanishk Priyadarshi received a Special Prize. Consolation prizes were awarded to Anant Nautiyal, Abhishek Kumar and Priyank Tayal. A team of students also took part in the Championship held on 27 February, 1993, at Loreto Convent. The results are awaited.

The U.P. Library Association, Lucknow Branch organised an Art competition. Siresh Jindal and Mohd. Nasir were awarded prizes in Group 1 and Group 2 respectively. Srijan Pal, Mohd. Fuad and Abhishek Rawat received consolation prizes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the support and guidance of the Trustees and Governors of the College in all matters concerning the well-being of La Martiniere.

I am most thankful to Mrs F Keelor, Lady Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College for her cooperation and advice in matters which concern us jointly.

To manage this vast estate and a large number of pupils is not possible without the special contribution of each member of the staff. I am grateful for the valuable suggestions and voluntary assistance from my colleagues. I am especially 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. I am most grateful to the Class IV Staff for the various services they perform and who contribute largely to the smooth-functioning of the College.

It is heartening to note that the many traditions and values which La Martiniere cherishes are adapted into the lives of our students with enthusiasm and meaning year after year. Recognition of this factor is what gives meaning to the educative process conducted in this Institution. Our boys are among the finest in the country as they hold sacred a tradition that has developed by accretion as each generation goes through La Martiniere. Without the preservation of this tradition, La Martiniere would lose its character. It is our endeavour to give our children a unique experience of the very best that the College has to offer, inspite of the transition and change that is engulfing every part of our national life.

*Vive La Martiniere !*