

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1993-94
(Read on Prize Day - 19 March 1994)

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

It is a singular honour and a great pleasure to welcome you this afternoon on the occasion of our Annual Prize Distribution. As it is customary for the Principal to present a report on the events and activities of the College over the past academic year, I consider it my privilege to do so today.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS

There were no changes among the Trustees of the College but there were several changes on the Local Committee of Governors. Mr Justice S. C. Mathur, on taking up his duties as Acting Chief Justice of the High Court at Allahabad, was succeeded for a short time by Mr Justice Saghir Ahmad, Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court. On Mr Justice Ahmad's transfer to Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Justice Brijesh Kumar became the President of the Local Committee of Governors, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, in his capacity as Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the High Court at Allahabad. We welcome him warmly. We also congratulate his predecessors on their promotions and thank them for their contribution.

Mr G P Shukla, Commissioner, Lucknow Division, was succeeded by Mr Arvind Verma. Mr Lakshmi Chand took over from him and he, in turn, was succeeded by Mr R.S. Mathur whom we were happy to welcome. We thank them all for their work in the interests of the College.

We were pleased to welcome Mr J.S. Misra who succeeded Mr Ashok Priyadarshi as District Magistrate, and as ex-officio Member of the Local Committee of Governors. We are indebted to Mr Priyadarshi for his unfailing interest in the affairs of the College and for his invaluable help. We wish him success on his promotion.

Mr Neil O'Brien, Managing Director of Oxford University Press succeeded Mr Justice S.N. Sahay as one of the Co-opted Members. We thank Mr Justice S.N. Sahay for his contribution to

the management of the College and extend a warm welcome to Mr N. O'Brien.

It is with sorrow that I record the passing of Mr Arthur Grice, who served on the Local Committee of Governors of the College for over thirty years. His contribution to the field of education was immeasurable. His efforts towards protecting the interests of Anglo-Indian Schools and in particular the Martiniere institutions cannot be too greatly appreciated. The College owes him a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid. His genial presence at the College will be missed greatly. The family La Martiniere mourns his death and prays for the repose of his soul.

STAFF

Mr J. E. Safir, Second Assistant and House Master, Martin House, who served the College from 1977, retired. Dr R.S. Shukla, Head of the Department of Hindi, retired after nearly 31 years. Mr M. Mohan, Senior Mathematics and Physics Teacher joined the Staff in 1968 and retired after 25 years of service. Mr D. Ireland, Craft Instructor, retired. after having served the College for nearly 22 years.

Their long years of service are a testimony of their devotion to the College and generations of students will have cause to be grateful to them.

Dr A. Banerjee, Senior Biology Master, Mrs K. Nathaniel, Junior School Teacher and Mrs H. Abraham, the Principal's Secretary, resigned for personal reasons. We thank them all for their respective contributions to the College and wish them well.

We were happy to welcome Mrs O. Adams, Mrs P.Joshi, Mr V. Misra, Mr S.J. Mitchell and Mr D.B. Tripathi onto the Staff of the Senior School and Mrs R. Chakravarti and Mrs J. Chopra onto the Staff of the Junior School. We wish them all a pleasant tenure at the College.

FINANCES

The finances of the College continue to remain sound. On account of rising costs the Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College reluctantly sanctioned an increase in fees with effect from 1 April, 1993. They were also pleased to sanction an increase of 20% in Dearness Allowance applicable to all Members of the Staff and Servants of the College with effect from 1 April, 1993.

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

In general the health of the resident scholars continued to be good. We are most thankful in this respect to the Medical Staff of the College as well as to the Steward and House Keeper for providing a diet which is nutritious and wholesome.

ACADEMICS & EXAMINATIONS

In March 1993, the College presented 110 candidates for the ICSE Examination. Of these 107 were awarded pass certificates. Siddharth Banerjee came first in order of merit scoring 5 points in the five compulsory subjects. He scored an aggregate of 93.6%.

97 candidates were presented for the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination, of whom 95 were awarded pass certificates. Babar Ali Khan stood First with an aggregate of 93.75%.

I am happy to report that the quality of the results for both examinations has shown a marked improvement, for which the credit must go to the Staff who presented the students for these

examinations.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS

The Annual Prize Day was held on 20 March, 1993. Major General S. S. Sharma of the Army Ordnance Corps. was Chief Guest. The traditional Guard of Honour was presented by the N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing. Mrs Sharma kindly distributed the prizes.

The Founder's Day Chapel Service was held on 13 September, 1993. The Rev. Fr. Lawrence Pinto, Rector of St.Paul's Seminary, Lucknow, delivered the address at the Commemoration Service.

The Annual Inter-House Swimming Competition was also held on Founder's Day. Dax Carville, Indranil Banerjee and Sanket V. Shetty were the Champions in the Senior, Junior and Colts Divisions respectively. New records were set by Dax Carville in the Senior 800 metres Free Style, Imran Husain in the Colts 25 metres Breast Stroke and Sanket V. Shetty in the Colts 100 metres Free Style.

The Annual English Play "Dear Children" by Jack Poppewell was staged in the evening. The play was produced and directed by Mr T. Savaille, Mrs M. MacFarland and Mrs B. Bobb. We are grateful for their combined efforts. The cast, though very young, entered into the spirit of the comedy and performed most creditably. The Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Award for Histrionics is to be presented jointly to Rahul Koorichh and Subhayu Bagchi who played the role of a harassed father and mother plagued by the antics of three sprightly daughters.

The Annual Play in Hindi " Neelam Ghar " was performed on 10 December, 1993. It was directed and produced jointly by Mr K.B. Lyall and Mrs Lily Parel. to whom we are most thankful. It is greatly to the credit of all concerned that such a serious and difficult theme was so sensitively portrayed by a group of schoolboys who displayed a maturity well beyond their years. The

performance of the cast was uniformly good but Shailendra Singh in the role of Paisa was outstanding. He will be receiving the award for Histrionics in Hindi this evening.

The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet was held at Calcutta in the last week of August, 1993. I am pleased to report that La Martiniere, Lucknow, won the Debate. Sudeep Malik was adjudged Best Speaker. We also won the Football Match. The score was 1 - 0. Our Swimming team continued to strive but could not win the competition. However, we do have to our credit a new record which was set at the Meet by Al - Ameen Abdul Qadir in the 25 metres Breast Stroke of the C. Division. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all concerned and in particular Mr T. Savaille, Mr P. Collins and Mr B. P. Pant , who helped train the Debating, Football and Swimming teams respectively.

The Annual Inter-House Athletic Meet and P.T. Display were held on 4 December, 1993. Mr Hari Pillai, I.P.S., Director-General of Police, Home Guards and Civil Defence, was the Chief Guest and Mrs Pillai distributed the prizes. The Senior Championship was won by Ashish Sanwal while the Junior and Colts Championships were won by Amit Sharma and Amit Tripathi respectively. A new record in the 100 metres race for Colts was set by Ujjwal Choudhary.

We are thankful for the efforts of all the members of the staff who helped during the Meet. 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 Wave Drill and Pyramids 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 15 December, 1993. Miss M Batra, Principal, City Montessori School, Station Road Branch, was the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes. The contribution of the Headmistress, Mrs S Simlai, and the Junior School Staff is to be commended greatly.

The Annual Hindi Declamation Contest was held on 13 August, 1993. The Annual English Elocution Contest was held on 5 February, 1994. 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. Lt. General Sami Khan (Retd.) was Chief Guest on Independence Day. and Lt Col. V.S. Rana, of the Army Medical Corps, presided over the function on Republic Day.

The Annual N.C.C. Inter-Platoon Junior Division Competition was held on 17 December, 1993. The Naval Wing was awarded the Hashman Memorial Shield. The Intermediate Trophy for the Best NCC Troop was won by Platoon No.1 comprising of Class XII. In the Inter-Wing competition the Naval Wing was adjudged the best and will be awarded the Boardman Trophy this afternoon. Obrie McDonald and Anant Nautiyal were declared the Best Cadets in the Senior and Junior Divisions respectively. Asad Ahmad Khan was adjudged Best Scout of the year.

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. Individual Championships were won by Sanket Shetty and Karmnishth Sarin in Group III and Group IV, respectively.

At the Inter-College Swimming Competition organised by the Bharat Swimming Club at the pool of the K. D. Singh Babu Stadium, the College team was awarded the Overall Championship Trophy for the best team.

The Overall Championship in swimming was also won by the College team at the District Swimming Meet organised by the Rotary Club.

At the Poonam Mishra Inter - School Swimming Championship, organised by the District Swimming Association, the College Team was once again awarded the Overall Championship. We are proud that Individual Championships in all four groups were won by our boys. Vaibhav Wahal, Raj Kamal Lal, Chanakya Agnihotre and Karmnishth Sarin won the Championships in their respective divisions.

These laurels could only have been obtained through tireless practice and hard work. We congratulate the boys and Mr B. P. Pant on the fruit of their labours.

CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS

The College also performed very well at debate competitions organised in the city. Anubhav Tripathi and Ashish Srivastava represented the College at a debate in Hindi organised by the Regional Science Centre on 9 September, 1993. Anubhav Tripathi was awarded First Prize. Kunal Pradhan and Sudeep Malik were adjudged the Best Team at an Inter -Collegiate debate held at St. Dominic Savio College on 23 September, 1993. They each won Second Prize For and Against the Motion. Rohan Bhargava won Second Prize at a debate organised by the Rotary Club on 30 October, 1993. Rohan Bhargava and Siddharth Banerjee won First Prizes in the Debate and Extempore Speech Competitions, at a Computer Fair and Seminar, organised by the City Montessori School, Station Road Branch. In the School Section on the same occasion Sudeep Malik was awarded Third Prize for Extempore Speech. At a Speech Competition organised for schools in the city by the Central Drug Research Institute on 28 February, 1994, Siddharth Banerjee was awarded First Prize. In a Quiz organised by the State Museum, Lucknow, Kunal Pradhan, Sudeep Malik and Vaibhav Vaish won First Prize in the School Section. Aditya Agarwal, Nikhil Garg and Siddharth Banerjee won Third Prize in the College Section. The Institute of Career Studies organised a Quiz on 4 November, 1994, as part of the workshop in Career Counselling conducted at the College.

Anubhav Tripathi and Rahul Koorichh were awarded First Prize. Siddharth Banerjee won Third Prize at an Inter-School Quiz organised by the Lions Club of Lucknow.

The Inner Wheel Club in association with the Chetna Institute organised an Essay Writing Contest on Drug Awareness in which Siddharth Banerjee was awarded Second Prize.

The Rotary Club of Lucknow presented awards to meritorious students in the city on 17 September, 1993. Siddharth Banerjee and Nikhil Garg of Class X were among those awarded for excellent academic performance.

The College Athletics team participated in Inter-School Relays at St Francis' College and The Army Public School, Lucknow. I am proud to record that they broke the existing College Record in the 4 x 200 metres Relay at St Francis' College.

Some cadets of the Junior Division Naval Wing, inspite of approaching Half- Yearly Examinations at the College, attended the Pre Nau -Sainik Camp at Mirzapur held from 23 September to 2 October, 1993. The Senior Division Army Wing Cadets under the command of Senior Under Officer Rupinder Singh Chandhok attended the Chief Minister's Rally Camp at the Army Parade Ground, Lucknow. The Camp was held from 20 to 29 November, 1993.

Creativiity respects no barriers of age and our Junior School is not without its stars. Abhishek Bose of the Preparatory Class won First Prize at a National level Art Competition under the auspices of the Ministry for Railways. He was also awarded a separate prize at the U.P. State level.

Ankit Chopra of Class IV was awarded First Prize in a Flower Arrangement Competition held at the Raj Bhawan grounds for children of his age group.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In an attempt to provide guidance in the choice of careers to our students a Workshop in Career Counselling was held at the College in early November. For organising and conducting the

workshop we are extremely grateful to Dr Amrita Dass, Director of the Institute for Career Studies, and to her faculty comprising Dr N. Gupta and Ms Sunita Dass. It not only provided an insight to the students on how to proceed but was most useful in helping the College realise the practical needs of the day and to consider modifying the Courses it has to offer at the Plus 2 stage.

To generate an awareness of and to create concern for less fortunate people, the Headmistress of the Junior School organised visits for the students of Classes III, IV and V to Prem Niwas. Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying and the Destitute. The young children regularly collected clothes and utility items for distribution to the inmates.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for the support and guidance of the Trustees and Governors of the College in all matters concerning the welfare of La Martiniere.

I am appreciative of and thankful for the help and advice of Mrs F Keelor, Lady Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College. and for her co-operation in matters which concern us jointly.

The proper functioning of the College depends upon the active support and dedication of the entire Staff. It is a source of encouragement to be conscious always of the fact that one has colleagues who are reliable and who will never fail one in moments of crisis. One tends to take for granted the ready co-operation, advice and goodwill of colleagues, seldom acknowledging it. The prestige that La Martiniere enjoys derives mainly from the people who work towards maintaining its traditions. Prize Day is a fitting occasion for me to record my appreciation of the contribution made by every member of the Staff. It is only right that credit be given to those who truly deserve it.

I am especially grateful to the House Masters and to the Headmistress of the Junior School for their considerable contribution to the management of the institution. The essential and

varied duties performed by the Office, Medical, Domestic and Estate Staff are in no way less appreciated. The support of the Class IV Staff is invaluable and I am thankful for their services and co-operation.

La Martiniere pays tribute to all its parents, friends and well-wishers. In particular we wish to thank Mr and Mrs Dignum , who though long retired from this College continue to serve it by helping our Foundationers in preparing for the I.C.S.E. Examination. Mr Ajay Tulsi has livened up the Junior School by installing a beautiful fish tank. for the enjoyment of our students and Mrs Singhal has saved us from considerable expenditure by her gifts of paint. We appreciate and are thankful for these kind and generous gestures.

No record of appreciation would be complete without a reference to the boys of La Martiniere, without whom our academic endeavours would be meaningless. Their youth and idealism inspire and foster dedication in those who have the unique opportunity to share in the moulding of their personalities. It is not only a tremendous responsibility but an extraordinary privilege to help in the development of minds at an age when they are most impressionable. The fact that parents choose to send their sons to this College is a tribute to the esteem in which they hold La Martiniere and to the faith which they repose in our system. It will always be our humble endeavour at this College to continue serving the purpose of education and to ensure that the trust which parents place in us and the aspirations which they have for their sons will never be betrayed.

VIVE LA MARTINIERE !