

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1999 – 2000
(Read on Prize Day, 25 March, 2000)

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:

Mr Yogendra Narain, Chief Secretary, Govt. U.P. and Mr N.K. Mehrotra, Legal Remembrancer, Govt. U.P. continued as Trustees of the Lucknow Martin Charities. We are grateful for their concern and interest in all matters pertaining to the College.

With the exception of Brigadier Vir Pal Singh, Sub-Area Commander, Lucknow and Mr Justice S.N. Sahay all the members of the Local Committee of Governors changed. Mr Justice S.H.A. Raza took over as Chairman of the Committee from Mr Justice D.K. Trivedi. Mr Saurabh Chandra, took charge as Commissioner, Lucknow Division from Mr Arun Kumar Mishra on the latter's transfer, and Mr Sanjay Agarwal assumed office as District Magistrate in place of Mr Sadakant, who was transferred. We are grateful to the members of the Committee for the experience and wisdom each provides when dealing with the challenges of administering the College and value their advice and support, which is so reassuring. We also take the opportunity of thanking Mr Justice D.K. Trivedi, Mr Arun Kumar Mishra and Mr Sadakant for their guidance and assistance and wish them well in their future endeavours.

STAFF:

Mrs N. Singh joined the Staff as a Teacher of Political Science and History in the Senior and Middle School, in April, 1999, in place of Mr Brijendra Pandey. Mr Amitabh Agnihotri and Mrs R. Agrawal were appointed as Assistant Teachers in the Middle School in place of Mr A. Simlai and Mr B.B. Agnihotri who retired.

Mrs Daphne Egbert was appointed as a Teacher in the Junior School in place of Mr C. Rodricks, who had resigned. Mrs R. Chopra joined as an Assistant Teacher of Hindi in the Junior School and Mrs Anupma Chatterjee filled a long felt need as Music Teacher in the Middle School.

We were happy to welcome them all and hope that they will enjoy being with us for a long time.

Mrs Bhavana Trivedi, who had been appointed in March as an Assistant Teacher for the newly-opened section of Class III, resigned owing to personal reasons. We were sorry to see her go.

Mrs Joy David worked temporarily in place of Mr D. Savaille who was away on medical leave, and Dr (Mrs) Neeru Naiyer worked for a short while in place of Mrs P. Joshi, who was away on

leave completing her M.Sc. examination.

We at La Martiniere are fortunate in having teachers who have worked for a considerable period of time. Apart from quite a few who have worked for over twenty-five years, and whose contribution to the College has been acknowledged, five members of the staff completed twenty years of service at the College during the academic year. Mr Russell Carville, Mrs Bernadette Carville, Mrs Naheed Siddiqui, Mr Noel Yooshing and Mr Felix D'Souza will each receive an award this evening as a token of appreciation and gratitude for the work that they have done and continue to do.

FINANCES:

The Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College were pleased to sanction an increase of five percent in the D.A. permissible to all categories of the Staff. Even though the increase in the emoluments of the staff was not excessive, it is to be greatly appreciated that it was done without a corresponding increase in the fees of the students. However, this may not be possible any longer.

DEVELOPMENT:

The roads leading to La Martiniere have been in a poor state for more years than one likes to remember, but now owing to the munificence of two people and at no cost to the College one may justifiably be proud of them. It is with gratitude and humility that we thank Mr Peter Fanthome, nominated member to the Vidhan Sabha. At personal inconvenience he took much time and trouble to arrange for the laying of new roads to the East of Constantia. We are no less grateful to Mr Vidyasagar Gupta, M.L.A., who was instrumental in having the approach roads to the College re-surfaced. For generations to come they will be blessed for the convenience they have provided.

In order to accommodate the students admitted into an additional section of Class II the previous year, a new section in Class III had to be opened at the commencement of the academic session 1999 – 2000.

With the rapidly increasing demand for Computer Science as a subject, we needed to have additional space, the existing Computer Laboratory constructed in 1990, having become too small. As such, the old "Intermediate Classroom" just beyond the Gymnasium has been pressed into use. Fortunately, even though hampered with extremely limited resources, it has not turned out too badly using

a little imagination, some ingenuity and much technical advice. Creating a mezzanine floor with stairs leading to the upper room from the verandah, has given us two Computer Rooms, each capable of catering to forty students with ease. Twenty-five new computers, five printers and the peripherals that go with them were also installed. This number will be augmented in the not so distant future. For the present, we now have a fully functional Senior Laboratory below and a Middle School Laboratory immediately above it.

ENROLMENT:

There were 2190 students on the roll of the College in the academic session commencing 08 March, 1999. This was inclusive of 167 boarders 17 Foundationers and 2 Demi-Foundationers.

HEALTH:

Apart from a few seasonal ailments, the health of the resident scholars was good. For this we are thankful to the Medical Staff of the College and to the Steward and the Housekeeper for providing a nutritious and balanced diet for the boarders.

EXAMINATIONS:

In March 1999, 131 candidates appeared for the ISC (Year 12) Examination. Of these 129 were awarded Pass Certificates. Shashwat Khandelwal, came first in order of merit securing 94.5% in the four best subjects. Anoop Goplani was second with an aggregate of 93.25% and Rahul Agarwal with an aggregate of 92.25 % was third. In all, six boys scored over ninety percent and nineteen students scored over 80 percent on the aggregate of the four best subjects.

The College presented 134 candidates for the I.C.S.E. (Year 10) Examination in March, 1999. 119 students were awarded Pass Certificates. Fahad Khowaja and Nilanjan Roy Choudhury, jointly came first, each with an aggregate of 93.4 % in the five best subjects. Poojan Rana and Srijan Pal Singh, came third jointly, each securing an aggregate of 91 percent in the five best subjects. In all, 35 boys scored over 80 percent on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS:

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on 20 March, 1999. Mr Yogendra Narain, Chief Secretary, Govt., U.P. and Trustee, Lucknow Martin Charities was Chief Guest. The N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing presented him with the traditional Guard of Honour. He most graciously

distributed the prizes. The College was sensible of the honour and he was most appreciative of the efforts of all concerned.

The Commemoration Service was held on Founder's Day, 13 September, 1998. The Reverend Father Andrew D'Cunha, Procurator of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lucknow, delivered the Founder's Day address, which was most interesting and very well received. The singing of the joint Choirs of both Colleges and particularly their rendition of the anthem "Dona nobis pacem" added much to the beauty and solemnity of the service.

The concluding events of the Inter-House and Individual Swimming Championships were held after the Founder's Day Commemoration Service. Rohan Dhillon won the Senior Swimming Championship. He was exceptional in his division and broke ten records, two of which had been set thirty-seven years ago. For this feat he has been awarded Distinction Colours in Swimming and will receive them this evening. Rahul Sahu and Srideep Chatterjee won the Junior and Colts Championships respectively. Apart from the new records established by Rohan Dhillon, three other records were set by Rahul Sahu and Karmnisht Sareen in the Junior Division and Rahil Shahryar in the Senior Division respectively.

The same evening the Founder's Day Entertainment was held. It consisted of two One-Act plays, "The Rowland Ruby" by A.E. Bayliss and "Diamond cut Diamond" by J.H. Parker. The performances of the boys were commendable and the audience enjoyed the evening. Credit for this must be given to the Vice-Principal and all concerned with the production of the plays. The Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Award for Histrionics is to be presented this evening to Rana Pawha and Mayank Batheja.

The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet was held at the end of September in Calcutta. The College was represented by Fahad Khowaja, Rana Pawha, Siddharth Kumar and Mayank Bagchi in the Debating Contest. and they proposed the motion, "To yield to force is an act of necessity not of will." The motion was lost, but Fahad Khowaja was adjudged Best Speaker. The Football Match was very well contested and ended in a draw, each team having scored three goals. The Lucknow Swimming team is fast becoming a power to reckon with and there were many exciting moments but the ultimate victory went to Calcutta. The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet continues to generate great enthusiasm and the exposure it gives to the students is well worth the effort. Credit and praise for the performance of all the teams goes to Mr

T.Savaille, Mr P.V. Collins and Mr G.F. Gomes, the members of the staff who are in-charge of the debating, football and swimming teams respectively.

The Middle School Project Exhibition was held on 15 October, 2000. It was delightful and instructive to observe the result of the efforts of the students. The models were particularly note-worthy. The visual impact was much greater than in the previous year and it is to be hoped that the efforts will continue to improve, while adding to the learning experiences of the students. The teachers in the Middle School are greatly to be commended for infusing interest in their students.

The Variety Entertainment Programme for students of the Middle School was held on 5 November. Although the enthusiasm among the students was as great as before, fewer parents attended the performance compared to the previous year. Despite this, such programmes go a long way towards developing the talents of children and in moulding their personalities. The items were varied and colourful and the standard of the performances was commendable. An added bonus this year was the number of choral items, largely owing to the efforts of Mrs Anupma Chatterjee, whose influence has greatly nurtured the aesthetic talents of our students. All concerned with the programme are richly deserving of praise.

The Annual Inter-House Athletics Meet and P.T. Display were held on 20 November, 1999. Brigadier Vir Pal Singh was Chief Guest, and Mrs Singh graciously distributed the prizes. Rahil Shahryar and Akash Bharadwaj won the Senior and the Colts Championships respectively. Special mention must be made of the Junior Champion, Rahul Sahu, who broke four old standing records in the 100 m, 200 m, 400 m and 110 m low hurdles races respectively. For this exceptional feat he has been awarded Distinction Colours in Athletics and will receive them this evening. It is worthy of note that he also won the Junior Swimming Championship as has been mentioned earlier. The College Relay team also won the 4 x 100m Inter-School Relay, beating the Army Public School, to which it had lost on their Sports Day which was held earlier in the month. The team also won the 4 x 100 m Past versus Present Relay. Nearly everyone is involved in the activities that go to make up Sports Day and each one deserves great credit. However, it is the Sports Secretary who has to bear the greatest burden. It is a pity that he no longer will be at La Martiniere since he is leaving shortly to take up an assignment as Vice-Principal of another school. While appreciating his talent and experience and thanking Mr Roy Robinson for his hard work, we also wish him

well in his new post and hope that he will be very successful. We are also most grateful to Mr D. D Singh and Mr K.N. Singh for organising the P.T. and Gymnastics Displays.

The Annual Entertainment in Hindi was held on 27 November, 1999. The plays enacted were “Dr Madari Lal – All Rounder” by Rajendra Kumar Sharma and “Sona, Sona, Sona”, by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant. In the interval between the two plays Khalid Arshad and Emmanuel Lal entertained the audience with songs. The plays were well received by the audience and the boys performed most creditably. The efforts of all the members of the staff who were involved in the production are greatly appreciated, but the work of Mrs Ranjana Chakravarti is especially to be commended. The entire cast threw themselves enthusiastically into the spirit things their work deserves great praise. Amit Singh and Amit Agarwal are the recipients of prizes for Histrionics in Hindi and will receive their awards this evening.

For the first time in many years, the choirs of both La Martiniere Colleges in Lucknow combined to produce “The Star of Promise”, a Christmas programme of readings, recitations and carols. The programme was held on 9 and 10 December, in La Martiniere Girls’ College, Auditorium and in the College Chapel respectively. At the Girls’ College, the girls performed all the readings and recitations while the boys rendered the same at the programme in the College. The singing, the readings and the recitations were particularly beautiful and did much to infuse the spirit of peace, harmony and universal goodwill. During the services, a voluntary offering was taken for the relief of the victims affected by the devastating cyclone in Orissa. Praise and gratitude for their contribution to the programme are barely adequate to express what we owe to Mrs Whittaker and to Mrs Aunpma Chatterjee, but we are thankful to them nevertheless, as also to all those who sang special pieces and the volunteers who undertook to do the readings and recitations. “The Magnificat” sung by Roselyn Morris, Siddharth Kumar’s rendition of “The Holy City” and Rana Pawha’s singing of the “Ave Maria” were particularly noteworthy.

The Annual N.C.C. Competitions were held on 11 December, 1999. The Naval Wing won the Hashman Memorial Shield for the Best N.C.C. Troop in the Junior Division. Platoon No. 1 comprising of Class XII students, won the Intermediate Trophy for the Best N.C.C. Troop in the Senior Division. It also won the Boardman Trophy for the Best N.C.C. Wing in the College. Pankaj Gupta and Ritesh Tandon were adjudged the Best N.C.C. Cadets in the Junior and Senior Divisions respectively. Toofail Ahmed

Khan won the medal for the Best Scout. All of them will receive their prizes this evening.

The Annual Declamation Contest in Hindi was held on 1 October, 1999, and the Annual Elocution Contest in English was held on 1 December, 1999. Those who won prizes will receive their awards this evening.

On Independence Day and Republic Day special parades were held in which the N.C.C. Cadets of all three wings, the Scouts and Cubs took part.

Mr Prabhat Sinha, Additional Director for Information, was Chief Guest on Independence Day. He took the salute, inspected the Parade, addressed the students and presided over the variety programme, consisting of patriotic songs and recitations, which followed.

On Republic Day, Mr Arun Arya, I.A.S., Managing Director of Uptron was Chief Guest. He inspected the Parade, took the salute at the March Past and addressed the students.

A workshop for Career Counselling was held from 2 to 4 December. It was chiefly conducted for students of Class X to assist them with their choice of subjects for the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination. Attendance at the programme is entirely optional, but I am pleased to report that the number of students who attended was far greater than in previous years. Dr Amrita Das and her Faculty from the Institute of Career Studies, conducted the workshop and we are most grateful to them.

OTHER EVENTS:

Throughout the year the students participated in various activities for which invitations were received from other schools and organisations. This gave them a wide range of experience and they generally fared quite well.

The College represented by Ankit Kumar and Udit Yadav, both of Class 7, emerged the winners of the DISCOVERY CHANNEL QUIZ for the Junior Division. 35 schools from Lucknow and Kanpur participated in the event. The winners each received a prize of Rs 1,500 and a Hero Devil Bicycle. Karan Singh and Kartikeya Srivastava of Class 8 came third in the Senior Division and received an award of Rs 1,000 each.

At EXPRESSIONS '99, a competition organised at Loreto College, the School Section of La Martiniere received the Championship Trophy. The College was represented by Udayan Chakravarty,

Udai Bhatia, Karan Chanda, Anuj Jalote, Imran Khan, Vipul Kumar, Anshul Sharma, and Siddharth Tripathi. In addition Siddharth Tripathi also won first prize in the Calligraphy and Cartoon-making Competitions, Udayan Chakravarty placed first in the Poetry section and Udai Bhatia came second in the Prose Section of the Creative Writing Competition.

In the College Section, Pulkit Agarwal, Siddharth Kumar, Rana Pawha and Ankur Prakash came first in the Jingles Competition.

A Literary Festival was organised by St Agnes' Loreto Day School. The College team, comprising of Udayan Chakravarty, Saurabh Jain, Anuj Jalote, Archit Johri, Imran Khan, Vipul Kumar, Siddharth Rastogi and Arjun Singh, came first in the Elomime Competition, or dramatised poem. The College teams represented by Arjun Buxi and Dhruv Agarwal in the Quiz Competition and Udayan Chakravarty and Uday Bhatia in "What's the Good Word?" placed third.

At the FANTASIES EXTRAVAGANZA '99 Competition held in September, Udayan Chakravarty won first prize in the Just a Minute event for the School Section.

In the MACFAIR INTERATIONAL '99 COMPETITION the College, represented by Shane D'Mello and Yash Chhabra in the Junior Division, was awarded first prize in the Science Model Display. Udayan Chakravarty won third prize in the Just a Minute Competition..

At EXTRAVAGANZA '99, a competition organised by St Dominic's College, Nilanjan Roy Choudhury and Vivek Kumar, who represented La Martiniere, stood first in the Quiz Competition for the College Section. The same team came second in the quiz at CROSSROADS '99, organised by St Francis' College and also at the FANTASIES EXTRAVAGANZA '99. Nilanjan Roy Choudhury and Mayank Bagchi also won second prize in the General Quiz organised at MACFAIR INTERNATIONAL '99.

The College was represented by Rana Pawha and Mayank Bagchi in the Frank Anthony Memorial All-India Debate for the Lucknow Region which was organised by the Seth M.R. Jaipuria School, Lucknow. As they placed first they qualified for the Zonal Round which was held at Delhi, in which they placed third.. The team comprising of Fahad Khowaja and Mayank Bagchi also placed third in the debate competition at QUANTA, an International Competition organised by the City Montessori School.

Arjun Buxi and Udayan Chakravarty participated in the English Debate for the School Section at EXTRAVAGANZA '99. Arjun Buxi was awarded First Prize but the team came Second in the Competition.

In the Yesu Krist Jayanti 2000 Painting Competition Santosh Yadav won second prize in the Senior Division and Ajitesh Joseph placed third in the Junior Division.

SWIMFEST was organised by the City Montessori School, Gominagar Branch. Rohan Dhillon, Faisal Khan, Rahul Sahu, Karamnisht Sareen and Rahil Shahryar represented the College. They acquitted themselves well and won the Overall Championship in the Boys Section.

What began as a practice session has now become an annual feature. The Lucknow Inter-Martinere Debate was held early in August. The College was represented by Rana Pawha, Mayank Bagchi, Sarvjeet Singh and Gautam Dembla. The Girls' College won the Debate. The Martin Memorial Trophy for this event will be presented for the first time today.

The College team won the Past versus Present Football Match held on 11 September, by two goals to nil. The Past had its revenge by winning the Past versus Present Cricket Match which was played on 26 January, 2000.

Apart from those mentioned earlier, the boys took part, enthusiastically, in several other competitions but did not win any major awards. However, even though the list of achievements is fairly impressive, winning competitions is not the main aim of encouraging our students to participate in these events. La Martinere has always exposed its students to a wide range of co-curricular activities so as to provide an all - round development of their personalities. I am pleased to report that this is still the main focus of our attention.

We are grateful to all those who helped train the teams and congratulate the boys who won laurels.

One of the highlights of the year was the unexpected visit of the celebrated tennis star, Leander Paes. His quiet demeanour and charming personality won him many friends and fans. Although he called on a holiday, when most of the students were away, there was a large enough crowd to welcome him, including a party of girls and their teachers from La Martinere Girls' College. Later in the year many

pupils were selected as ball –boys at the A.T.P. Challenger Tournament, held in Lucknow. Quite apart from the complimentarys they received in the form of uniforms and some pocket money, it gave them an opportunity of participating in an event of international standing.

On 21 and 22 February, M. Jean Louis Coppere, Principal of La Martiniere, Monplaisir, Lyon, accompanied by his wife, some teachers and their relations and friends paid the College a visit. They brought fraternal greetings from La Martiniere institutions in France and were happy to visit the place where the founder had lived the latter part of his life. On their arrival they were given a small reception in the celebrated Blue Room of the College and taken around the school. The following morning the group attended Chapel and then were welcomed at Assembly. They were most impressed by the warm welcome that they received and were overawed at the magnificence of the building. They said that they were taking back very pleasant memories of their short visit to Lucknow.

Concern for others less fortunate or privileged than ourselves is something we try to promote at the College. This year we called upon the generosity of our students and their parents on two occasions. The first was on behalf of the families of the victims of the Kargil conflict and the second was for the relief of the victims of the cyclone in Bihar. I am pleased to report that our appeals on both occasions were handsomely answered. We were able to send an amount of Rupees two lakhs, twelve thousand, two hundred and two to the Army Central Welfare Fund. On the second occasion, Rupees fifty thousand was collected. Apart from stationery items which were donated blankets were purchased with the money that was collected. We are indebted to Mr G.B. Patnaik, President of the Oriya Samaj, who was able to have these contributions forwarded to the victims of the stricken region. Some of the money raised was through the work of the Social Service League, under the guidance of Mrs S.B. Hasan. The Staff on both occasions contributed one day's salary.

The members of the Photography Club, under the supervision of Mr Roy Robinson are to be thanked for their work. Photography is not only an excellent hobby but we are able to provide our students with photographs at most reasonable prices.

JUNIOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Quite apart from the routine lessons the students of the Junior School have a rather full programme. This year some useful excursions were organised. The students of Class IV and V visited the Dhampur Sugar Mills. Class III visited a Soap Factory and Classes I and II were taken to see the Gyan Dairy. The Preparatory Class saw how bread was manufactured at the Gomti Bread Factory. These visits helped widen the experience of the students and they were not only entertained but educated as well.

The students of the Junior School pay regular monthly visits to Prem Niwas, run by the Missionaries of Charity. They take medicine, clothes and toilet articles for the inmates. This helps to develop in them an awareness of the difficulties faced by others and a concern for their fellow beings.

The Annual Elocution Contests in English and in Hindi were held in October, 1999. The winners will receive their prizes this evening.

The Annual Project Display drew a large crowd of parents and was greatly appreciated.

The Junior School Sports is a keenly awaited event. The variety and the novelty of the items speaks volumes for the ingenuity and imagination of the Headmistress and the teachers of the Junior School. It is a huge carnival where entertainment reigns supreme. The music is provided by Mr Gulrez Deen who plays practically non-stop and the antics of the children, particularly the smaller ones, is a treat to watch.

“Bal melas ” at regular intervals add to the enjoyment in the Junior School and it is only fitting that they realize that all work and no play is certainly not in everyone’s best interests.

INSTITUTION OF AWARDS

The Local Committee of Governors was pleased to accept with thanks the proposal the proposal of Dr B.K. Das, Professor and Head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute, Lucknow, for the institution of Environment Awareness Awards. These were to be presented to students who wrote the Best essays on environmental themes. Dr and Mrs Das are the parents of two students who did well while they were studying at La Martiniere and their parents were desirous of encouraging young minds to think responsibly.

The Committee was also pleased to accept and was thankful for the proposal of Mr and Mrs A. Chatterji to introduce the Arun Chatterji Award for Public Speaking, in memory of their son, who had studied here and who had done well in debating and public speaking. They hoped that the award would encourage others to do well also.

The Committee accepted with thanks the proposal of Mr and Mrs Dogra to perpetuate awards in memory of their son Gaurav Dogra, who had studied in the College and who had tragically died in an accident. The awards were for elocution in the Junior and Senior School.

The Pawha family submitted a proposal to institute two awards for sports in memory of the late Dr Inderjit Pawha. One was to be presented to the winner of the 100m race in the Senior Division and the other for gymnastics in the Junior School. The Governors accepted the proposal with thanks.

The winners of these awards will be presented with their prizes for the first time this evening.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very thankful for the support and guidance of the Trustees and Governors of the College in all matters concerning the welfare of La Martiniere and I am particularly grateful to those who are present with us today, our Chairman the Hon'ble Mr Justice S.H.A. Raza, Senior Judge, High Court, Lucknow Bench, the Commissioner, Mr Saurabh Chandra and Mr Justice S.N. Sahay, Co-opted member.

I am most grateful to the Lady Principal of the Girls' College, whose help in all matters concerning both the Colleges is invaluable. I am most indebted for her advice and co-operation, which is at all times available to me.

To the Vice-Principal, the Second Assistant and Headmistress of the Junior School, the House Masters and the Bursar, I can only express inadequate but heartfelt thanks for their never failing support. A school, particularly one the size of La Martiniere, needs the support of all its members in order to function effectively. To all my colleagues and fellow workers and Class IV Staff, I express my gratitude. It is a privilege for me to work among children and it is to each student in the College that I say "Thank you". Without them, whatever we do would lack meaning.

Long live La Martiniere !

