

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 2001 – 2002
(Read on 23 March, 2002)

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:

On the retirement of Mr Bhola Nath Tiwari, Mr Ajay Prakash Varma took charge as Chief Secretary, Govt. U.P. and Trustee of the Lucknow Martin Charities. We wish him a happy tenure with us. Mr N.K. Mehrotra, Legal Remembrancer, Govt. U.P. continued as Trustee. We thank them for their help and interest in all matters pertaining to the College. We also wish Mr Tiwari, a peaceful retirement.

There were a few changes in the Local Committee of Governors. Mr Justice Virendra Saran assumed office as Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court, on the retirement of Mr Justice S.H.A. Raza. Mr Jeewesh Nandan took over from Mr Sanjay Agarwal as District Magistrate and Brigadier Sanjiv Madan took charge as Sub-Area Commander, Lucknow, from Brigadier Vir Pal Singh. We congratulate them all and wish them well. We are also grateful for the contribution of Mr Justice S.H.A. Raza, Mr Sanjay Agarwal and Brigadier Vir Pal Singh, to the administration of the College and wish them well for the future. The Commissioner, Lucknow Division, Mr Saurabh Chandra, and the two co-opted members, Mr Peter Fanthome and Mr Justice S.N. Sahay continued to serve on the Committee. We are grateful to all the members of the present Committee for their support, encouragement, co-operation and advice in running the College.

BEREAVEMENT:

In August, 2001, one of the College employees, Bashir, a cleaner, died suddenly as the result of a heart attack. La Martiniere extends to his bereaved wife and family its sympathy and condolences.

STAFF:

Mrs Brij Bala Kumar joined the Staff in place of Mrs Vatsala Bajpai, who resigned. Ms Sonali Ahuja was appointed to teach the newly-opened additional section of the Nursery Class. Mr Deepak Sahae took charge as Warden-cum-P.T.I. in place of Mr D.D. Singh, who retired. Mrs Helen Jacob took over as Housekeeper on the resignation of Mrs Beatrice Searchfield. Dr Mukesh Handa took charge as the visiting doctor in place of Dr Mrs E. Charles who resigned on medical grounds. Mr V. K. Srivastava was appointed as Computer Laboratory Assistant. We wish them all a long and happy tenure in the College, and we also wish their predecessors happiness and prosperity in whatever they do.

Three members of the Class IV Staff retired during the course of the year, Shyama Devi, Allah Rakhoo and Shyam Chand. The latter two requested premature retirement on medical grounds. This evening they shall receive small tokens of gratitude for their respective contributions to the College.

We are fortunate to have a fairly stable staff at La Martiniere. Many of them have served for over fifteen years and quite a few for over twenty-five years. Mr R.K. Bhasin, Senior Physics Teacher, completed twenty-five years of service at the College in July, 2001. Service of such long duration is appreciated and is greatly valued. In recognition of his service, he shall receive a token presentation this evening. La Martiniere looks forward to his continued loyal service and dedication. May I ask you to please acknowledge his contribution by giving him a hearty round of applause.

Mr Benedict Fernandez, after nearly thirty-two years of service to the College, having reached the age of superannuation, has retired. Such length of service, characterised by a sense of duty, commitment and generosity of spirit shall not be permitted to go un-noticed or unappreciated. There are some that shy away from the limelight, but they contribute quietly and effectively. We seldom appreciate the work they do until they are no longer there to perform it. Nothing has ever been too small or humble for Mr Fernandez to perform. One might fret and fume at his fastidious neatness and methodical way of noting down things, but whenever details are needed about forgotten matters he has always been able to provide them. He has guarded College property better than his own. His loyalty and dedication have never been called in question. He has been House Master of Hodson House since 1984, and Head of the Middle School since 1993. The boys of his House will certainly miss him, if for no other reason than his generosity in granting exeats not only to them but those of other Houses as well, much to the delight of the boys themselves and the annoyance of those, whose authority they circumvented. We are happy that he will be continuing to stay on the campus, as his wife still works here. He has elected to continue to provide his services to the College in case of need. Ladies and gentlemen I shall request you to kindly acknowledge the worth of this shy, gentle, genial and benevolent human being by giving him a warm round of applause.

We are told that no one is indispensable. I agree, but I should like to modify that statement a little. There are a few people who are less dispensable than others. In this elect category belongs Mrs Sheila Simlai. By her contribution to the College, she has carved for herself a place in its history. She may not have been the first Head of the Junior School but she has set a record which will be difficult to equal, let alone surpass. She has occupied the post for nearly thirty-two years. In that span of time she has guarded the Junior School jealously, guided it wisely, and contributed in no small measure to its enviable reputation. Anything which is deserving of praise is attributable to her efforts. Her loyalty and dedication to duty is as praiseworthy as it is rare, and is valued in high esteem. In her tenure at the school, in addition to her duties as Head of the Junior School, she has also acted as Head of the Middle School for a short period of time. She ended her career as Second Assistant. She shall be leaving the service of the College in June. To say that we shall miss her is an understatement – her worth is more than her weight in gold. We wish her well. May God grant her a peaceful and contented retirement. Ladies and gentlemen, it is only fitting that we acknowledge the contribution of this lady, today, by giving her a rousing round of applause.

FINANCES:

The Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College were pleased to sanction an increase of seven percent in the Dearness Allowance permissible to all categories of the Staff. However, they also reluctantly agreed to increasing the fees of the students by fifty rupees per month so as to meet the additional expenditure not only because of the increased Dearness Allowance but also because of the considerable increase in charges for electricity.

After being faced with the prospect of paying for water charges with arrears, through no fault of the College, at a grossly inflated figure of Rupees 15, 48, 035.85 lakhs I am pleased to say that after appeals the amount was reduced and the College had to pay the Jal Santhan a sum of Rs 3, 57, 703. Nevertheless, it put a severe strain on the finances of the College.

Till this year, the electricity supply that the College was receiving, though not perfect, was reasonably good. However, the situation deteriorated to such an extent that we had to install three generators.

This has meant an additional expenditure and we have really been sore-pressed for money. That a number of parents did not pay the fees of their wards in time, did not help matters. A school like La Martiniere does not live on its reputation and goodwill alone. It needs finances to run. Parents are, therefore, reminded that they must pay their fees in time.

DEVELOPMENT:

In order to accommodate the students admitted into an additional section of Class IV the previous year, a new section of Class V had to be opened at the commencement of the academic session 2001 – 2002. Also, owing to the increasing pressure for admission it was decided to open a new section of the Nursery Class in July, 2001.

Between April and June all members of the Staff underwent an intensive thirteen-day programme organised by Intel in three batches. During the programme, which was totally free of cost, they were instructed in the development of lessons using the MICROSOFT POWER POINT package. Later they were also instructed in the use of MICROSOFT WORD and EXEL . It is to be hoped that they will be able to use technology and their new skills to enhance the quality of instruction imparted to the students.

The purchase of an LCD projector and equipping the three computer laboratories in the College, with twenty – five computers each, are also educational inputs, so essential in today's world of technology.

The Internet facility has also been made available although details in respect of making it accessible to a greater number of students are being worked out.

An enterprising group of students led by Udayan Chakravarty, Imran Khan and Anurag Mehrotra, Dhruv Agarwal and Uday Bhatia have been working on establishing the official web site of the College. Much yet needs to be done, but great credit is due to them and their colleagues for a splendid beginning..

ENROLMENT:

There were 2298 students on the roll of the College in the new academic session. This included 123 boarders 10 Foundationers and 6 Demi-Foundationers.

HEALTH:

Apart from minor ailments and unforeseen accidents, the health of the resident scholars was good. Credit for this must be given to the College Doctor, the Hospital Matron and to the Steward and Housekeeper for providing a nutritious diet for the boarders.

EXAMINATIONS:

In March 2001, 128 candidates were registered for the ISC (Year 12) Examination. Of these, 2 were absent from the examination and 116 were awarded Pass Certificates. Poojan Rana stood first in order of merit securing 93.75% in the four best subjects. Rohan Khattri was second with an aggregate of 92.25%, and Nilanjan Roy Choudhury came third, securing an aggregate of 91.75%. In all, five boys scored over ninety percent and 24 students scored over 80 percent on the aggregate of the four best subjects.

137 candidates were registered for the I.C.S.E. (Year 10) Examination of March, 2001. 129 were awarded Pass Certificates and 2 boys did not appear for the examination. Anurag Bajpai stood first in order of merit securing 94.4% in the five best subjects. Dhruv Agarwal was second with an aggregate of 93.5%, and Rachit Srivastava came third, securing an aggregate of 93.%. In all, fourteen boys scored over ninety percent and 37 students scored over 80 percent on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS:

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on 17 March, 2001. Mr M.C. Dwivedi, Director General of Police, U.P. was invited as Chief Guest but owing to urgent matters which required his attention, he was unable to come. Mr Peter Fanthome, nominated Member to the Vidhan Sabha, Principal of St Teresa's Day School and Member of the Local Committee of Governors, very kindly agreed to preside over the function in his place. The N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing presented him with the traditional Guard of Honour. He later distributed the prizes and was most generous in his praise of the efforts of all concerned. We are most grateful for his courtesy and for his presence on the occasion.

The Middle School Project Exhibition was held on 5 May, 2001. It must be said to their credit that the work of the students encouraged by their teachers, was of a high standard. The research that went into the projects and the preparation of the models was noteworthy. Learning by doing was the motivating force, for when questioned on their projects, the students came up with a wealth of detail.

The Lucknow Inter-Martiniere Debate was held on 08 August, in the auditorium of La Martiniere Girls' College. The College was represented by Imran Khan, Ankit Kapoor, Arjun Buxi and Siddhartha Agarwal. Although the boys performed admirably the Girls' College won the Debate for the third successive year and their representatives shall receive the Martin Memorial Trophy this evening.

The Inter-Martiniere Meet between Calcutta and Lucknow was held at the end of August in Calcutta. The College Debating team was represented by Imran Khan, Arjun Buxi, Shane D'Mello and Ankit Kapoor. Once again although their performance left nothing to be desired, the debate was won by the Calcutta team.. The Football Match was fiercely contested but ended in a draw, each team scoring two goals. The Swimming team did its best, but Calcutta still continues to walk away with the laurels. All members of the Staff who assisted with training the teams deserve our gratitude and commendation, but those actually in- charge of the activities, Mr T.Savaille, Mr P.V. Collins and Mr G.F. Gomes, need our special thanks.

Rev. Fr Vincent Nazareth, Principal, St Francis' College, Lucknow, delivered the address on 13 September, 2001, at the Commemoration Service held in the College Chapel. Founder's Day is a very special event for both La Martiniere Colleges and the serenity and beauty of the service was greatly enhanced by the singing of the combined Choirs of the Colleges.

The concluding events of the Inter-House and Individual Swimming Championships were held after the Founder's Day Commemoration Service. Rahul Sahu, Ricky Sareen and Rahul Awasthi won the Senior, Junior and Colts Championships respectively. It is a matter of pride that records continue to be broken. In the Senior Division Hodson House set a new record of 1 min. 9.03 seconds in the 4 x 25 metres Free Style event and Lyons House is the new holder of the 4 x 25 metres Medley Relay event with a timing of 1 min 21.66 seconds.

The Founder's Day entertainment programme in English was held in the evening. It consisted of two One-Act plays. "The Stranger from Heaven" by A. Ball was performed by the students of the Middle School, and "The Editor Regrets" by Michael Brett, was enacted by the students of the Senior School. Between the two plays there was a musical interlude provided by the Choir which sang "The Spirit of Living". This was followed by a solo item by Abhishek Awasthi who rendered "I have a dream". The performance of the boys was laudable and the programme was most enjoyable. The M.G.M. award for Histrionics in English shall be presented to Khalid Arshad and Amit Agarwal, who gave creditable performances. Once again, all concerned with training the boys and organising the programme are to be commended and thanked, particularly the Vice-Principal.

The Annual Inter-House Athletics Meet and P.T. Display were held on 24 November, 2001. Lt. General R.M. Chadha, A.V.S.M., Chief of Staff, Headquarters Central Command, Lucknow, and Colonel Commandant of the Bengal Sappers presided over the function as Chief Guest. Mrs Chadha graciously gave away the prizes.

The Senior and Junior Championships were won by Rahul Sahu and Saurav Rana respectively. The Colts championship was won jointly by Kuwar Martand Pratap Singh and Kumar Shaurya. The College Relay team also won the 4 x 100m Inter-School Relay, and the 4 x 100m Past versus Present Relay.

It is a matter of pride to report that two long standing records were improved. In the Senior Division the record of 11.4 seconds set by Adrian Kennedy for the 100 metres Flat Race in 1965, was broken by Clint Bailey who now holds the new record of 11.36 seconds. The record of 8.4 seconds for the Colts 60 metres Flat Race set by D.V. Shahi in 1967 and equalled by U. Choudhary in 1993 was broken by Kunwar Martand Pratap Singh, who now holds the new record of 8.34 seconds.

For an event of the magnitude of the College Sports Day the co-operation of the entire school is essential. The result of their efforts can only be measured by the fulsome praise which the Chief Guest gave to the College, the organisers and the participants. No one person or group of persons can wholly take the credit and both Staff and boys deserve the highest praise. However, the major responsibility is taken by the Sports Secretary. For

this Mr Alfred Gomes is to be commended. Special thanks for the organisation are due also to the Vice-Principal and the House Masters. The new P.T.I., Mr Deepak Sahae, has taken to his duties like a duck to water. To him and to Mr K.N. Singh goes the credit of organising the P.T. and Gymnastics Displays, and we are most grateful.

We were unable to have the P.A.C. Band at the Sports owing to a prior commitment, but we were more than lucky that the A.M.C. Band was in attendance. For this we are indebted. Our thanks for musical interludes at the Sports must also be extended to Mrs Anupama Chatterjee and Mr Gulrez Deen, who played the synthesizer.

The Middle School Entertainment Programme was held on 10 November, 2001. The programme consisted of short plays in Hindi and in English, dramatised poems, and musical interludes. There is such a wealth of talent which only needs an outlet and some direction. This event, therefore, provides an occasion for it. The function was well attended and enjoyed greatly, most of all by the students themselves. It not only gives them a chance to escape from routine studies but also provides an excellent opportunity for personality development.

The Annual Elocution and Declamation Contests both in English and in Hindi were held as usual, and those who won prizes shall receive their awards this evening.

The Annual Entertainment in Hindi was held on 11 December, 2001. "Ninyanve ka pher" by Jitendra Sahai was enacted by the students of the Middle School. "Common Sense" by Ram Gopal Verma was performed by the boys of the Senior School. All the children not only gave creditable performances but appeared to enjoy what they were doing, which added all the more to the enjoyment of the audience. Prizes for Histrionics in Hindi shall be awarded to Amit Agarwal, Eshan Joshi, Imran Khan and Anush Varma. In the interval between the two plays Khalid Arshad, Aasim Kidwai and Enosh Chattree entertained the audience with songs rendered in an almost professional manner. The young instrumentalists, too, who entertained the audience later also deserve great credit. The efforts of all the members of the staff who were involved in the production are greatly appreciated, and to be commended, but the work of Mr K.B. Lyall and Mrs R. Chakravarti, who bore the major responsibility for the production must be acknowledged especially. Mr Gulrez Deen who accompanied the solosits is a talented gentleman, who can be relied on to get things done in the musical line even at the last minute.

The Annual Carol Service was held in La Martiniere Girls' College Auditorium on 12 December, and in the College Chapel on 14 December, 2001. The Service consisted of readings, recitations and carols, produced by the combined choirs of both La Martiniere Colleges in Lucknow. The programme was entitled "The Spirit of Christmas". In the Girls' College, the girls undertook all the readings and recitations while the boys rendered them in the College. It was much appreciated and the programme contributed towards spreading the message of Christmas in the town. Khalid Arshad, Aasim Kidwai, Enosh Chattree, Robin Arora, Joy Sam Murray, Osama Noor and Abhishek Awasthi, who sang solo pieces, as well as all the Prefects who volunteered to do the readings and recitations are to be thanked and commended most highly. We are grateful to all concerned in the production of the programme, but at the College we are especially appreciative of the efforts of Mrs Marguerite Whittaker and Mrs Anupama Chatterjee.

The Annual N.C.C. Competitions were held on 15 December, 2001. 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 and also The Boardman Trophy for the Best N.C.C. Wing in the College. Anshul Singh and Dhananjai Gupta were adjudged Best Cadets in the Senior Division and Junior Division respectively. Vivek Kumar Tiwari was adjudged Best Scout. They are all to be commended.

Special parades were held on Independence Day and Republic Day. The N.C.C. Cadets of all three Wings, the Scouts and the Cubs participated. Commander T. Chandra, N.C.C. Naval Unit was Chief Guest on Independence Day.

Mr Jaideep Mathur, an old student of the College and who provides much of the legal expertise needed by the College, took the salute, inspected the Parade, and addressed the students on Republic Day. We are grateful to both of them for taking the time to visit the College and to encourage the students.

OTHER EVENTS:

The College co-curricular programme is quite varied but apart from the activities organised in the College, students are also encouraged to participate in competitions organised by other institutions. This not only gives the students an opportunity to show-case their talent but provides an excellent occasion for inter-acting with their peers from other schools, hence helping with their social development and the growth of their own personalities. Some of their more important achievements are summarised in this report.

In the qualifying round of the All India Frank Anthony Memorial Debate organised at Springdale College, Lucknow, on 20 April, 2001, the College team, represented by Imran Khan and Shane D'Mello, stood first. Imran Khan was adjudged Best Speaker and Shane D'Mello came second.

On 15 September, Ankit Kapoor and Anuj Jalote represented the College in an Extempore Speech Competition organised by the Rotary Club at the National Botanical Research Institute. Ankit Kapoor came first and Anuj Jalote placed third.

Mayank Batheja and Aakash Prasad participated in the Debate Competition for the School Section at "Crossroads" an Inter-School and Collegiate Festival organised by St Francis' College, Lucknow. The team won first prize and Mayank Batheja was adjudged Best Speaker. Rohan Thadani and Abhik Chatterjee placed second in the Instrumental Music and Quinturdles events respectively. Karan Singh and Kartikeya Srivastava stood third in the Quiz Competition.

In the College Section of the same Competition, Arjun Buxi and Anuj Jalote, who represented the College, won first prize for the team. Arjun Buxi was declared Best Speaker. Sumeet Agarwal placed first in the Quiz. Danish Abdullah, O. Khan, S. Khan, F. Mahmood, A.M. Mirza, A Mukherjee, G. Pant, A. Shanker and A Srivastava stood second in the Choreography event. Vibhav Chaturvedi and S. Tripathi came third in the Instrumental Music and Portraiture competitions.

Imran Khan and Ankit Kapoor, as a team, stood first in the School Debate Competition organised by the PACE Forum on 03 October. They entered the Mega Final at Delhi, but did not win any prizes.

The Tanuj Puri Memorial Debate was held on 9 February, 2002, at the Avadh Girls' Degree College. Imran Khan and Udayan Chakravarty represented the College, which won the prize for the Best Team. Imran Khan was adjudged Best Speaker and received a cash prize of Rs 500.

The College band comprising Anant Egbert, Devanshu Mehrotra, Vaibhav Chaturvedi and Vivek Kumar, accompanied by Shiv Pawha on the drums entered the "Juke Box", the Music Competition organised by St Teresa's Day School. They won first prize.

A Literary Festival was organised by St Agnes' Loreto Day School on 9 November, 2001. The College stood first in the Elomime Competition. Anamaya Bajpai, Mayank Batheja, Aditya Chandra, Varun Egbert, Manish Gupta, Aakash Prasad, Karan Singh and Kartikeya Srivastava represented the College in the event. Ashwin Kumar came second in Cartoon Making and Pranav Chaturvedi received a special mention.

In the E.S.P.N. Sports Quiz held at La Martiniere in September, the College came first in the Lucknow District and qualified for the Zonal Final at Delhi, but could not proceed further. Ankit Kumar and Kartikeya Srivastava represented the College.

In "Fantasies" a programme organised at the City Montessori School Gomitnagar, Karan Singh and Kartikeya Srivastava placed third in the Quiz Competition and Udayan Chakravarty placed third in the Creative Writing Competition.

Many students participated in the Commonwealth Essay Competition "Write Around the World" organised by The Royal Commonwealth Society, based in London. Udayan Chakravarty, in Class A won third prize and received an award of 100 pounds. Deepak Jotwani's effort in the same Class was highly commended and Uday Bhatia received a commendation certificate. Aakash Prasad's essay in Class B was highly commended and Rishabh Maniktala of the same category received a commendation certificate. Rachit Agarwal, Nishant Rohatgi and Nishank Gupta in Class C also received commendation certificates.

At the Inter School Swimfest organised by the City Montessori School on 24, 25 and 26 August, 2001, the College came second in the Over-all Championship.

The College has a fine military tradition which is being kept alive and boys are given ample opportunity and exposure to new experiences.

N.C.C. Cadets of the Naval Wing attended the Annual Training Camp held at Colvin Taluqdars' College, from 16 to 26 May. They also attended the Pre-Nau-Sainik Camp held at Bhimtal from 19 to 29 October.

N.C.C. Cadets of the Air Wing participated in the Combined Annual Training Camp at Colvin Taluqdars' College from 18 to 27 May.

On 8 February, 25 Air Wing Cadets went to Bakshi ka Talab Air Force Station for range firing. They also experienced the pleasure of flying micro-light propeller air-craft for the first time.

It is also a pleasure to report that 22 Class X cadets were awarded "A" certificates.

To encourage students to develop a love for the outdoors and nature three days of adventurous camping at the Nature Village on the periphery of the Corbett National Park were organised by Mr and Mrs Nirman Singh. The boys were organised in two trips and they went under the supervision of teachers from the College. From all reports they enjoyed themselves thoroughly and are now richer for the experience.

CAREER COUNSELLING PROGRAMME

It is necessary to provide information to students as they and their parents are becoming increasingly worried about the future. In response to this need a Career Counselling Workshop conducted by Dr Amrita Dass and her team from the institute of Career Studies was held for three days in December. This has been found rather effective in the past and students who attend the workshop have reported that they have been greatly assisted in their choice of subjects for Class XI and XII. In addition, Mrs Neelum Singh was chosen as Staff Co-ordinator and attended a workshop for teachers at the end of November. We hope that these measures will assist students in making wise choices for careers based on their aptitude and inclination.

“SAMOOH GA EXAMINATION”

In September the College received an unpleasant surprise when it was informed that it had been chosen as a Centre for holding the “SamooH Ga” Examination scheduled for 30 September, 2001 (subsequently postponed to 07 October, 2001). Fortunately, the District Administration released the College from the responsibility.

JUNIOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

The Annual Elocution Contests in English and in Hindi were held as usual on 9 November. The winners will receive their prizes this evening.

The Project Exhibition in the Junior School is always a learning experience. The children’s exhibits and the models they make are most interesting, though it does take quite a toll on the expertise and patience of parents as well. However, it turned out well, as usual.

The Junior School Sports is a gala event. The same was true this year and as usual the ingenuity and imagination of all concerned could hardly be faulted. We were extremely pleased to welcome Mrs Geeta Kumar, Manager of Study Hall as Chief Guest. Her unfeigned pleasure was a source of encouragement to the teachers and the children. Everyone was hugely entertained. The music provided by Mr Gulrez Deen and Mrs Anupama Chatterjee was a pleasure to hear and we are most grateful to them. Great credit for the success of the Sports must be given to all the teachers. To Mrs Simlai, special praise must be given for she has made the event into a work of art.

As usual medicine, clothes and toilet articles for the inmates of Prem Niwas, run by the Missionaries of Charity are regularly collected by the children of the Junior School who pay regular monthly visits to the home. This develops in the students an awareness of the difficulties faced by others, thereby encouraging them to care for their fellow beings.

“Bal melas” at regular intervals add spice to life in the Junior School. They are not only a tremendous source of entertainment but also help raise money for worthy causes. The restoration of

“Constantia “ranks high on this agenda..

SOCIALLY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE WORK

This year the students collected Rs 2 11, 437/ - towards aiding children afflicted by Thalasiaemia.

This was made over to the Search Foundation which assists such children.

The Social Service League under the guidance of the Co-ordinator, Mrs S. B. Hasan visited the Leprosy Centre at Jyotinagar in Mohanlalgunj and took the inmates cloth for shirts, tea leaves and soap.

The Adult Literacy Programme was undertaken by the students to help educate the children of the Class IV employees working in the College. In addition to giving lessons in Hindi and Elementary Mathematics. exercise books, erasers and slates were distributed to them by members of the League.

The College made a special appeal and in December clothes, soap, tea leaves etc were collected and distributed to the inmates of Prem Niwas and Jyotinagar.

When people learn to give, and give generously, it is the mark of true humanity. It is with this in mind that the boys are encouraged to think of others less fortunate than themselves.

INSTITUTION OF AWARDS

The College was pleased to accept with thanks the proposal of Mrs Tehrim Dass and her family for the institution of awards in memory of her late husband, Mr A.K. Dass, an eminent former Director General of Police and also a former member of the Local Committee of Governors. She placed at the disposal of the College Rs 15,000, to be invested and the interest thereon to be used for the presentation each year of a Medal for the Best All-Round Student in the College, and for helping to defray the fees of a needy student. The award was to be named **The A.K. Dass Memorial Medal**. It shall be presented for the first time this evening to the College Captain, Virender Singh Brar. The remainder of the interest shall be used to help a deserving student with payment of fees.

The College was also pleased to accept with thanks the proposal of Mr and Mrs Sidhu for the institution of an award in memory of their late son, Udai Singh Sidhu, a former student of this College. They presented a sum of Rs 11,000 to the College, which was to be invested and the interest thereon to

be used for the presentation each year of a Medal for the Best N.C.C. Cadet, Senior Division. The award was to be called the **Udai Singh Sidhu Memorial Medal**. For the first time this evening the medal, presented each year, will be called by its new name and awarded to Anshul Singh

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most indebted for the co-operation and advice of the Trustees and Governors of the College in all matters which pertain to the running of the institution and I am particularly grateful to those who are present with us today. I can only say a very humble “Thank you” for their help.

To the Lady Principal of the Girls’ College, I owe a special debt of gratitude for helping to share many of the problems which we commonly face and for helping to bring both schools on a closer footing. She is a never failing source of encouragement. One could not wish for a more assuring counterpart especially in matters which concern us jointly.

La Martiniere has many friends. To them and to the many who help the College in numerous ways I am most grateful.

I am thankful for the trust and support of the parents and relatives of the boys entrusted to our care and who interact with us,

I am grateful to all members of the staff, academic and domestic for all that they do to keep the machinery of the school functioning smoothly.

I must also express my gratitude to all members of the Class IV staff for whatever they do, and in whatever way they do it, to help keep the organisation going with few hitches.

To the Bursar and Office Staff I owe a debt of gratitude as well. I come in contact with them most and they usually have to bear the brunt of my tantrums and irritability.

I am grateful to all the House Masters for their support and help in ways too numerous to mention.

I am especially grateful to the Vice-Principal and to Mrs Simlai upon whom I largely depend. My reliance on them and faith in their commitment has never been betrayed. Their loyalty and dependability is a gift for which I am immensely indebted.

However it is the students to whom I owe the greatest debt of gratitude. I bully them, shout at them, take advantage of them, but they seldom, if ever, complain. I have no words to express my thanks for their patience and co-operation. Life is seldom perfect and school boys are possibly among the most imperfect of creatures. However, their presence is a wonderful source of comfort and inspiration. Somebody once remarked that the woods would be very quiet if no birds sang except those that sang the best. What a world of meaning that makes. We may strive for perfection but we must never lose sight of the fact that the vast majority of us are not. I am therefore blessed in that I have students who bear with my imperfections and I thank them heartily for it.

Thank you.

Vive La Martiniere !

WELCOME TO THE CHIEF GUEST

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are indeed privileged and consider it a great honour that Mr Mahesh Chandra Dewedy, Director General of Police, U.P. has consented to grace this occasion as Chief Guest. We are no less honoured and pleased that his gracious wife has kindly consented to give away the prizes. That Mr Dewedy has been able to spare some of his time in spite of a tremendously busy schedule is a special mark of his favour towards us. Prize Day at La Martiniere is the most significant event in the College calendar and in approaching him to preside over this function we were most sensible of the fact he is an excellent example to set before our students here. In fact it might not have been possible for us to have found a more suitable person. You are that rare person who though a representative of the strong arm of the law, the Police, are a man of sensibility, sensitivity and of letters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our Chief Guest has a most distinguished academic and professional career. He is a Gold Medalist in Physics, has a Diploma in Public Administration and a Masters Degree in Social Planning from the London School of Economics.

He belongs to the 1963 Batch of the Indian Police Service. He has had an excellent career and has been awarded not only the Indian Police Medal but the President of India's Police Medal for Distinguished Service as well. Throughout his career he has made a name for himself in the most difficult situations. He has frequently been posted in extremely lawless areas such as G.I.G. Bareilly Range in 1985-86. This area was gravely affected by Sikh terrorism owing to their abundant settlements in the jungles of the districts of Bareilly, Pilibhit and Shahajahanpur. Later in 1990 -91 he was posted as I.G. Gorakhpur Zone which was infested with smugglers, narcotics and dacoit gangs operating on the Indo-Nepal Border, and Naxal gangs on the U.P. - Bihar border. He became Director General of Police, U.P on 1 August, 2000. His unearthing of the networks and arrest of I.S.I. agents, SIMI extremists and members of the Dawood Gang have been widely acclaimed.

In contrast to his turbulent professional career he is a man of literary pursuits and has written a novel, stories and poems. He is a regular contributor of articles to newspapers and magazines on various subjects both in English and in Hindi.

Sir, (and madam) we are grateful for the special honour which you have done us this evening and are more than delighted that you have accepted our invitation. It is our earnest hope that you will remember your visit to La Martiniere this evening with as much pleasure as we have in welcoming you both here.

As a token of our esteem and affection we should like you to accept some small floral tributes. The rose buds are from our garden.

It is now my privilege to present, the report of the College for the year 2000 - 2001.

