

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 2002 – 2003
(Read on Prize Day, Saturday, 22 March, 2003)

Members of the Local Committee of Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to introduce our Chief Guest, Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai, Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court. Figuratively speaking it is not unusual for a son to follow in his father's footsteps, but as Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, it is indeed a rare co-incidence that Justice Sahai, now, occupies the same position that his father, the late Mr Justice Jagdish Sahai, did before him.

He received his early schooling at St Joseph's Collegiate, Allahabad. Later he joined La Martiniere College, Lucknow, from where he passed the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. He completed his academic education in Allahabad, appearing for the Intermediate Examination from the Ewing Christian College, and obtaining his Bachelor's, Master's and Law Degrees from the University of Allahabad.

He enrolled as an advocate in August, 1968. He practised exclusively on the Criminal side, nearly all his work consisting of murder appeals. He worked for ten years on the Criminal panel of the Government of Uttar Pradesh at the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court. For five years prior to his elevation as a judge of the Allahabad High Court, in February, 1994, he taught at the University of Lucknow in an honorary capacity. Shortly after his appointment as a judge, he took oath as a Judge of the Bombay High Court. He was transferred back to the Allahabad High Court in the capacity of Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench in July, 2002.

In his capacity as Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, His Lordship is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Local Committee of Governors, of both La Martiniere Colleges in Lucknow.

The Hon'ble Mr Justice Sahai has very decided ideas, but he does not impose them arbitrarily. He uses persuasion and a sense of humour to convey his wishes and is always ready to listen to a fresh point of view. For us at La Martiniere, his most endearing feature is his profound admiration for his alma mater and for his teachers.

It is indeed a privilege to have him with us today. Although he is here in an official capacity, he also has a personal reason for being present. His Lordship has endowed two prizes for the two La Martiniere Colleges in Lucknow. They are in the form of gold medals, in memory of this late parents. The Mr Justice Jagdish Sahai Memorial Medal is to be awarded to the student who stands first in both the Colleges in the I.S.C.(Year 12) Examination. The first presentation of this medal shall take place today and the first recipient of this award is Gaurav Tripathi, who stood first in the I.S.C.(Year 12) Examination, March, 2002. He secured an aggregate of 95.50% in the best four subjects. It is only fitting that our Chairman present the medal himself. The Mrs Shanti Devi Memorial Medal is to be presented to the student who stands first in both the Colleges in the I.C.S.E.(Year 10) Examination. The first award of this medal shall take place on 24 March, 2003, the Annual Prize Day of La Martiniere Girls' College, Lucknow, when it shall be awarded to the girl who stood first in the I.C.S.E.(Year 10) Examination, March, 2002.

On behalf of all present and my own behalf, I thank him for being gracious enough to accept our invitation to preside at this Prize Distribution ceremony. I should also like to extend a very special welcome to Mrs Indu Sahai, who has so graciously consented to be with us today and to present the awards. We thank her for her kindness.

To show our appreciation we, at La Martiniere, would like to present them with some floral tributes.

With your permission Your Lordship, it is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the College for the year 2002 – 2003.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:

Mr J.S. Bagga, Chief Secretary, Govt. of U.P. took charge for Mr Ajay Prakash Varma, who was transferred during the year. Mr A.B. Shukla, Legal Remembrancer, Govt, U.P. assumed office on the elevation of the Hon'ble Mr Justice N.K. Mehrotra to the Allahabad High Court. It is a privilege to have these very important personages as ex-officio Trustees of the College. We wish them well and hope that they will enjoy a pleasant tenure in office. Our good wishes are also extended to their predecessors in their present positions.

We have also had several changes on the Local Committee of Governors. The Hon'ble Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai took over as Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court after the retirement of the Hon'ble Mr Justice Virendra Saran. Although he was with us for only a few months, we thank Justice Saran for the interest that he took in the College and wish him well in his current assignment. For us, Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai is bound not only by virtue of his office but by strong emotional ties. He is the first Old Martinian to be Chairman of the Local Committee of Governors. To thank him for his interest in all matters pertaining to the College would probably embarrass him and be an understatement as well, but we are immensely grateful and consider ourselves fortunate for the concern he shows about everything in the College, no matter how insignificant. We congratulate him and wish him well in his high office.

Mr Ravindra Singh took over from Mr Saurabh Chandra as Commissioner, Lucknow Division, and on his appointment as Chief Electoral Officer, he relinquished charge to Mr D.C. Lakha. We thank them and wish them well in their current assignments. Mr Saurabh Chandra, having studied at La Martiniere, was emotionally attached to the College and was of tremendous assistance to the school, both in his official and personal capacity. Though only with us for a short while, Mr Ravindra Singh has bound himself inextricably with the College. His advice and assistance were invaluable and it is hoped that it shall continue to be accorded to us even in the future.

Mr Jeewesh Nandan handed over charge to Mr Navneet Sehgal as District Magistrate. In his turn he was succeeded by Mr Rama Raman and then took charge once again. We thank them and wish all of them well in their new posts. Mr Navneet Sehgal's association with the College goes back a long while as he and his wife have two sons studying with us. They have a personal relationship with the College, quite apart from his professional association with it. He has always been of tremendous assistance to the College. In spite of a hectic schedule he always has time for us. We look forward to his continued support, and are grateful for his immense patience and kindness.

Mr Peter Fanthome, nominated member of the Anglo-Indian community in the Vidhan Sabha, has been a special friend and benefactor. He has improved the roads of the College, which had hitherto been disgraceful. He has given us a new building for a Teacher Resource Centre and he is even thinking of providing us with a new swimming pool. We are grateful for his presence here and it would be only fitting if we showed

him our appreciation by giving him a rousing round of applause.

Mr Justice S.N. Sahay and Brigadier Sanjiv Madan continued to serve on the Local Committee of Governors and to give the College the benefit of their advice and guidance. Their continuing support and kindness is a source of encouragement and helps sustain the administration. We are immensely grateful to all of them.

BEREAVEMENT:

I am sad to report that Yousuf, Ward boy in the College infirmary for many years, died in June, following a massive cardiac seizure. His son has been employed in his place and his widow resides with him and continues to live on the College campus.

It is with regret that I inform all present of the passing of Mr Shyam Lal Dubey, former Sanitary Inspector and Nursing Orderly, who had retired some time ago from the service of the College.

All at La Martiniere regret their loss and extend to their bereaved widows and families their heartfelt condolences.

STAFF:

Mrs Sheila Simlai, Second Assistant and Head of the Junior School, retired in June. No praise can be too great for a person who devoted all her energy to the welfare and development of the College, particularly the Junior School. The College accorded her a farewell to remember. Her contribution has been woven into the fabric of the institution and generations of school children who passed through her hands have cause to think of her with gratitude and affection. I am pleased that she is with us this evening and welcome her warmly.

Speculation as to who would succeed Mrs Simlai had been a topic of much debate for many years, but one kept putting off the inevitable. However, nature abhors a vacuum. Mrs Shunila Santram took over the reins of the Junior School in July. Much to the relief of all and the disappointment of some prophets of doom, the transition has been a smooth one and is complete. I am pleased and proud to report that Mrs Santram, through dint of hard work, sincerity, the strength of her own personality and above all, the co-operation of the staff, students and parents of children in the Junior school, has laid to rest the fears of all concerned that the Junior School at La Martiniere would immediately collapse. Mrs Simlai's contribution has

been invaluable but it would be most ungracious and unfair not to acknowledge the worth of her successor. I feel certain that all supporters of the College join me in wishing her well and supporting her to run the Junior School. To walk in the wake of a great predecessor is exceptionally difficult, but to a lady with enormous potential, this is not an impossible task. We thank her for her support and for living up to the trust placed in her.

To make Mrs Santram's task a little easier, some of the load that Mrs Simlai bore has been transferred to Mrs B.M Carville, the first Head of the Preparatory Department. This quiet and unassuming lady has gone about the unglamorous but invaluable task of grooming the Nursery children throughout her career at La Martiniere. What she does not know about little minds is, perhaps, not worth knowing. Much to her dismay, she has been propelled into the limelight, but like the truly capable person that she is, she has taken to her new duties like a duck takes to water. We wish her all success in her new appointment and thank her for her loyalty and support.

On the retirement of Mr B. Fernandez, Mr R.W. Carville was appointed Head of the Middle School. His nonchalant manner cleverly disguises an incisive and intuitive mind and a caring attitude, particularly for less fortunate boys. No false sympathy can be expected from him and he is no respecter of persons yet there can be no doubt about his loyalty, sincerity and administrative acumen. An old boy of the College, we are privileged that he has chosen to devote his talents to his alma mater. We congratulate him and depend upon his loyalty, advice and support.

We congratulate Mr P.V. Collins on his appointment as House Master of Hodson House in the wake of the retirement of Mr B. Fernandez. He is a young man with enormous potential and we are grateful that he has chosen to give La Martiniere the benefit of his energy and talents. A man of few words he believes in getting things done. We look forward to his continued loyalty and support.

In view of the new sections of Classes, which have been opened, there has been need to appoint additional Staff.

Mr Alistair Freese, Assistant Teacher and Mr Dilip Kumar Sharma, Assistant Hindi Teacher, joined the Staff of the Middle School in newly-sanctioned posts, from April and July respectively.

Mrs Michelle Freese was appointed as Assistant Teacher in the Preparatory Department in April in a newly-sanctioned post.

Mr Arvind Samuel joined the Staff as Music Teacher in the Middle School, from July.

Mr Austin Morris was appointed Secretary to the Principal in April, 2002.

Mr Benedict Fernandez, although retired from teaching, took over as Security Supervisor of the College.

We wish them well and hope that they will enjoy a long and happy tenure in the School.

Mrs Anupama Chatterjee, Music Teacher in the Middle School, resigned in May, as her husband was posted to Wellington. This was a severe blow to the School because her contribution of bringing music to the children was invaluable. Her loyalty and commitment were indeed assets to the College.

Mrs J. Lobo, Assistant Teacher, in the Junior School resigned at the end of the academic year owing to personal reasons. Her contribution to the care of the little boys in her charge is greatly appreciated and her absence in the Junior School will be greatly missed.

We wish them well wherever they go and in whatever they do.

Mrs Helen Jacob, Housekeeper, resigned at short notice on medical grounds. We thank her for her contribution and hope that she will keep better health in the future.

Mrs Sonya Francis joined as Assistant Teacher in the Preparatory Department but had to leave shortly thereafter owing to personal reasons.

We are grateful to the following who helped fill vacancies owing to various reasons:

Mrs Bindu Das took up the post of Assistant Teacher in the Preparatory Department, in a purely temporary capacity from 03 August, 2002, till 28 February, 2003, in view of the resignation of Mrs Sonya Francis.

Dr Sadhna Rastogi helped as Hindi Teacher in the Middle School on a purely temporary appointment from 03 April till 11 May, 2002.

Mrs Sangeeta Acharya helped out as Assistant Teacher in the Senior and Middle School, w.e.f 30 July till 07 August, 2002, in place of Mr F. D'Souza, who was on medical leave.

Mrs Shail Agnihotri very kindly substituted as Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, w.e.f

08 July till 08 October in a place of Mrs Valerie Savaille who was on extraordinary leave.

Mrs Ela Rana was in every sense a friend in need. She substituted as Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, w.e.f. 13 August, 2002, till 30 September, 2002, in a temporary capacity, in place of Mrs S. Yadav, who was on medical leave and also in February in place of Mrs K. Singh, who fell ill.

We, at La Martiniere, are fortunate to have loyal staff who have served the institution for a considerable time. One such person is Mrs Anjali Singh, Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, who has completed 20 years of service. In acknowledgement of her loyalty and in appreciation for her contribution to the College, she shall receive a token of our esteem later this evening. We look forward to her continuing service and loyalty. May I request you to applaud her valuable service to La Martiniere.

Mr Bhupendra Singh Bisht, after over thirty-one years of service to the College, having reached the age of superannuation, shall be retiring at the end of March. It would be ungrateful and unforgivable if we did not acknowledge such length of service. Mr Bisht has contributed to the life and development of the College in an unassuming but effective way and it is his loyalty and service that we should like to acknowledge today. He has been Senior Chemistry Master for over twenty-five years and House Master of Lyons House for over twenty years. His attachment to the College is profound and he has devoted almost all his professional life to its service. We would like him to know that he will always be welcome at La Martiniere and that his contribution to its well-being and that of its students shall not go unnoticed or unremembered. The boys, particularly of Lyons House and the Senior Science students, will find a void in their lives. However, we wish him a peaceful and contented retirement. Later this evening we shall request him to receive a token of our esteem and appreciation. For now, may I request you to show your appreciation of his service by giving him a warm round of applause.

FINANCES:

The Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College were pleased to sanction an increase of five percent in the Dearness Allowance permissible to all categories of the Staff. However, this had to be accompanied by an increase in the fees of the students by twenty-five rupees per month in order to meet the additional expenditure of the increased Dearness Allowance.

The fees at La Martiniere are not unreasonably high, yet it is an unpleasant fact that many parents do not pay the fees of their wards in time. This has led to considerable inconvenience and, in some cases, acute embarrassment for the College. I appeal to all parents to regard it as their moral responsibility to pay the fees in time and not wait for unpleasant communications from the College.

The College was fortunate to receive a sum of Rs 5 lakhs from the Chief Minister. This money was received with gratitude and has been earmarked for the restoration of “Constantia”, the most laudable project in the College.

DEVELOPMENT:

In order to accommodate the students admitted into an additional section of Class V the previous year, a new section of Class VI had to be opened at the commencement of the academic session 2002 – 2003. Also, because of the new section of the Nursery Class which was opened in 2001 – 2002, another section in the Preparatory Class had to be added in the academic session 2002 – 2003.

I am pleased to report that we are now ready to establish the official web-site of the College and it will indeed be a privilege and pleasure to have our Chairman, Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai, inaugurate it later this evening. The boys who have worked hard on planning and organising the web-site deserve our hearty congratulations. In acknowledgement of their endeavours they shall receive Certificates of Merit from our Chief Guest this evening.

As announced earlier, we are indeed indebted to a benefactor who has very kindly constructed a Teacher Centre at La Martiniere, which is to be used for seminars, workshops and other enrichment programmes for teachers and which, it is hoped, will be inaugurated shortly. Ladies and gentlemen please show your appreciation for Mr Peter Fanthome by giving him another hearty round of applause. It may be too early to tell, but he is also thinking in terms of building a new Swimming Pool for the College. We hope this will be in the not too distant future, and if it turns out to be a dream, what a pleasant dream to have!

ENROLMENT:

There were 2386 students on the roll of the College. Of these, there were 131 boarders, inclusive of 4 Foundationers and 7 Demi-Foundationers.

HEALTH:

I am pleased to report that the general health of the resident scholars was good. For this the College Doctor and Hospital Matron deserve to be congratulated. The Steward and the Housekeeper are to be thanked also for providing a balanced and healthy diet.

EXAMINATIONS:

In March 2002, 138 candidates were registered for the ISC (Year 12) Examination. Of these, 131 were awarded Pass Certificates. Gaurav Tripathi stood first in order of merit securing 95.50% in the four best subjects. Sumeet Agarwal and Prashast Khandelwal were jointly second, scoring aggregates of 95.00% each, and Apurva Garg came fourth with an aggregate of 93.75%. In all, eleven boys scored ninety percent and over and thirty other students scored 80 percent and above on the aggregate of the four best subjects.

148 candidates were registered for the I.C.S.E. (Year 10) Examination of March, 2002. 143 were awarded Pass Certificates and 1 boy did not appear for the examination. Manish Gupta stood first in order of merit securing 91.80% in the five best subjects. Manik Dua was second with an aggregate of 91.00%, and Anamaya Bajpai came third, securing an aggregate of 90.60%. In all, four boys scored over ninety percent and 35 other students scored 80 percent and above on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

The Local Committee of Governors, though not exactly displeased, would like to see an improvement in the Examination results and urges both the students and the staff to greater efforts in this respect.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS:

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on Saturday, 23 March, 2002. It was a privilege and an honour to have Mr Justice Virendra Saran, Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court and Chairman, Local Committee of Governors, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, preside as Chief Guest at the function. The N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing presented him with the traditional Guard of Honour. He distributed the prizes and showered generous praise on the efforts of all concerned.

The Middle School Project Exhibition was held on 4 May, 2002. The work of the students with the help and encouragement of their teachers was greatly to be complimented as many of the models and charts were produced with much skill. Above all, the knowledge of the students was enhanced because of the research it involved.

The Lucknow Inter-Martiniere Debate was held on 07 August, in Spence Hall. The College team consisted of Arjun Buxi, Ankit Kapoor, Anuj Jalote and Vipul Kumar. For the first time since the institution of the Martin Memorial Trophy the Boys' team shall be the recipient of the award this evening.

The Annual Entertainment in Hindi was held on 14 August, 2002. The Middle School performed "Aatm Hatya Ki Dukan" a play by Aasha Varma and the Senior School enacted "Kavya Kalp" by Rajendra Kumar Sharma. Between the two plays was a musical interlude during which Khalid Arshad, Enosh Chattree and Rahul Bhattacharya rendered songs accompanied by Khalid Zakaria on the drums. The talent of the singers was undeniable. Without undue exaggeration they could easily compete with professionals and emerge superior. The young actors, too, performed splendidly. To watch and hear them was delightful. The efforts of the Hindi Department must be commended highly and in particular those of Mr K.B. Lyall and Mrs Ranjana Chakravarti, who were chiefly responsible for the programme.

The Inter-Martiniere Meet between Calcutta and Lucknow was held in Lucknow at the end of August. The College Debating team was represented by Arjun Buxi, Ankit Kapoor, Anuj Jalote and Vipul Kumar. The judges decided in favour of the Lucknow team and in the words of the Chief Guest it was a "judgement well deserved." The Football Match which generates the most enthusiasm was well contested. It is a matter of pride that the Lucknow team won the trophy with a score of three goals to one. The Swimming team always does its best, but the dominance of Calcutta still continues. However, the tremendous efforts of Karmnishth Sareen, Rahul Sahu and Gaurav Jaiswal are greatly to be appreciated. Our thanks are due to all members of the Staff who assisted with coaching the teams, especially the Masters in-charge, Mr T.Savaille, Mr P.V. Collins and Mr G.F. Gomes. We are also most grateful to Mr Nafees Ahmed, who was employed as Coach for the swimming season. His presence greatly encouraged the boys and boosted the morale of the swimmers.

On 13 September the Founder's Commemoration Service was held in the College Chapel. Rev. J.W. Adams, Pastor of the Epiphany Church, delivered the address. This is the most significant of all College events and the singing of the combined Choirs of both La Martiniere Colleges at Lucknow added greatly to the atmosphere of reverence and worship. Particular thanks must be given to Mr G.V. A. Frank, an Old boy and former member of the Staff, who very kindly helped with the rendition of the Anthem, "Let us

now Praise Famous Men.”

The Inter-House and Individual Swimming Championships concluded during the programme held after the Founder’s Day Commemoration Service. Karmnisht Sareen and Srideep Chatterjee won the Senior and the Junior Swimming Championships respectively. Siddharth Dev and M. Shahi were jointly declared Colts Champions. We may not have beaten the Calcutta team but it is no mean achievement that nine new records were set, five in House events and four in Individual events. Karmnisht Sareen is the new holder of the 50 m and 100 m Back Stroke and the 50 m Butterfly Stroke records in the Senior Division. Shivam Wahal set a new record in the 50 m Breast Stroke event. Lyons House is the new holder of the 4 x 25m Free Style Relay in the Colts Division with a time of 1min. 28.94 seconds. Hodson House set a new timing of 1min. 11.56 seconds in the 4 x 25 m Free Style Relay and 1min. 17.65 seconds in the Medley Relay of the Junior Division. In the Senior Division Lyons House now holds the record of 1min 11.75 seconds in the 4 x 25 m Medley Relay and Hodson House is the new holder of the 4 x 25m Free Style Relay with a time of 1min 03.63 seconds.

Founder’s Day concluded with the Entertainment programme in English, which was held in the evening. Two plays were presented. The Middle School performed “The Sheriff’s Kitchen” by Ronald Gow and the Senior School enacted “Money Makes a Difference” by Morton Howard. Between the two plays the Senior boys performed a hilarious dramatisation of Roald Dahl’s “Cinderella”, and Robin Arora, Osama Noor and Anshul Sharma entertained the audience with songs. Every item was performed with enthusiasm and the evening was most entertaining.

The M.G.M. award for Histrionics in English shall be presented to Eshaan Joshi and Utkarsh Prabhat, who gave very good performances. The teachers in charge and the children deserve great credit. The acting of the boys was most commendable and the sets and props particularly in the Middle School play were most remarkable and life-like. Special mention must be made of the realistic delicacies set on the table in the “Sheriff’s Kitchen”.

The Annual Inter-House Athletics Meet and P.T. Display were held on 23 November, 2002. Mr Ravindra Singh, Commissioner, Lucknow Division and Member, Local Committee of Governors was Chief Guest. He took the salute at the March Past and graciously gave away the prizes.

The Senior, Junior and Colts Championships were won by Shiv Vansh Bharti, Arfas Rizvi and Kumar Shourya respectively. The College Relay team also won the 4 x 100m Inter-School Relay, and the 4 x 100m Past versus Present Relay.

It is significant to mention that three new records were set. Rahul Sahu established a new record of 1.74 m in the Senior High Jump event. He broke the old record of 1.64 m established in 1960 by Mohib-ul Hasan. In the 60 m Flat Race event in the Colts Division, Kumar Shourya set a new record of 8.31 seconds, improving on the existing record set the previous year. The Lyons House Colts team set a new record of 58.77 seconds in the 4 x 100 m Relay event, once more breaking a very old record set in 1968 by Cornwallis House.

Sports Day is always a colourful affair and an event in which the unity of the College is tested. Once more the Staff and the boys gave of their best and richly deserved the praise of the Chief Guest. Each one has a role to play in such a gargantuan programme and the measure of its success is the appreciation of the spectators. But even though each one shoulders some responsibility, the major burden is borne by the Sports Secretary. The efforts of Mr Alfred Gomes are greatly appreciated and highly commended. The credit for organising the P.T. Displays and the Gymnastics Display is to be shared between the P.T.Is, Mr Deepak Sahae and Mr K.N. Singh.

It would be highly remiss if I were not to acknowledge the contribution of the Vice-Principal, the Head of the Middle School, the House Masters and each member of the Staff who had a role to play in the Sports Day programme.

Music improves most events and is absolutely essential to a programme like Sports Day. We greatly appreciate the fact that we were fortunate to secure the services of the A.M.C. Band for the March Past. We are also thankful to Mr Gulrez Deen who played the synthesizer during intervals between the races.

The Middle School Variety Entertainment Programme was held on 2 November, 2002. Practically every child in the Middle School took part in the programme and threw himself wholly into the spirit of the event. The acting, singing and dancing were greatly enjoyed by the spectators who were most generous in their praise. This event helps to provide an outlet for talent, for which there is little scope in the classroom. Not only is it hugely enjoyed by the participants but they learn important lessons of team work, organisation and inter-dependence. The opportunity and scope it provides for personality development cannot be emphasised too

greatly.

Elocution and Declamation Contests both in English and in Hindi are held annually at which talent in these spheres is rewarded. Those who won prizes in the competitions shall receive their awards this evening.

“The Babe of Bethlehem”, the Annual Carol Service was held in La Martiniere Girls’ College Auditorium on 11 December, and in the College Chapel on 13 December, 2002. As in the past few years the girls undertook all the readings and recitations in the Girls’ College, while the boys rendered them in the College Chapel. The speed at which children can learn things they like is a never failing source of wonder. In the course of only ten working days the joint choirs under the inspired guidance of Mrs Ira Madan put together a programme, the music of practically half of which, was absolutely new to them. The solo pieces, duets and quartettes were superbly rendered and all the children deserve great credit. The volunteers from among the Prefects who delivered the readings from Scripture and the recitations, did so with a sincerity and devotion, which added much to the meaning of the Service. We are grateful to all the members of the Staff and the children but our special gratitude is reserved for Mrs Ira Madan, without whom the quality of the programme would have suffered greatly.

The Annual N.C.C. Competitions were held on 14 December, 2002. Once again 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. Rushil Tandon was adjudged Best N.C.C. Cadet in the Senior Division and Avinash Kumar Pathak was awarded the medal for being the Best N.C.C. Cadet in the Junior Division. Piyush Singh was adjudged Best Scout. They shall receive their awards this evening and are all to be heartily congratulated.

Special parades, in which the N.C.C. Cadets of all three Wings, Senior and Junior Division, the Scouts and the Cubs participated, were held on Independence Day and Republic Day. Lt. Col. P.K. Singh, an Old Boy and the parent of a student now in school, was Chief Guest on Independence Day.

Lt. Col. R.K. Ojha, also the parent of a student, 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:

Apart from the regular co-curricular activities organised in the College, students are also encouraged to participate in various competitions organised by other institutions in the city. It not only gives the students a wider platform for interaction but also helps in the development of their own particular talents and personality. Some of the activities in which they participated and performed well are summarised below:

Represented by Karmnishth Sareen, Rahul Sahu, Dineshwar Khanal and Shivam Wahal, the College participated in a Swimfest Contest organised by the City Montessori School. They emerged as Overall Champions.

The College participated in the All-India Frank Anthony Memorial Inter-School Debate Competition. It was represented by Arjun Buxi and Ankit Kapoor who won the preliminary round. At the Zonal level too, the College represented by Ankit Kapoor and Anuj Jalote came first, thereby entering the National Final which was held at Bishop Cotton's School, Shimla. Although the team did not win, Anuj Jalote was awarded third prize for which he received a bronze medal and a cash award of Rs 2,000.

The SBS Media and Entertainment Private Limited organised a series of competitions. Mayank Batheja and Aakash Prasad were awarded First Prize in the Add Spoof event. Arjun Buxi won second prize in the Extmepore Speech competition and Rohan Thadani came third in the Instrumental Music Competition

In the "Remote Sensing In the Service of Mankind" programme organised on the birthday of the late Vikram Sarabhai, La Martiniere College was awarded the prize for the Best Team. The College team also placed first in the Quiz Competition. Kartik Mishra won second prize and Amit Agarwal received a consolation prize for Elocution.

On 7 Septemeber, Ankit Kapoor and Anuj Jalote represented the College in a debate organised by the Rotary Club. The College was awarded the prize for the Best Team.

At the COFAS International Competition organised by the City Montessori School between 7 and 11 September, Mayank Batheja and Kartikeya Srivastava participated in the Debate Competition. The College won the trophy for the Best Team and each of the participants was adjudged Best Speaker, for and against the motion, respectively. At the same programme Kartik Mishra won first prize in the Speech

Competition.

Parikshit Luthra and Akash Prasad participated in the Hindustan Times National Debate. They came first in the city and qualified for the National Final which was held at Springdale School, New Delhi on 13 November. They won a consolation prize, but what was most important was that they had an opportunity to meet the President of India and to deliver a speech at the First Child Educational Summit organised by the Delhi Public School.

The military tradition of the College is still maintained. Boys have ample scope to develop their personality and face new experiences.

30 cadets of the N.C.C. Air Wing, Junior Division, participated in the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC – 161), which was organised on the premises of the U.P. Sainik School, Kanpur Road, from 15 May to 24 May, 2002. The College cadets won the Runners Up Trophy and were judged the Best Squad in the Drill Competition.

19 cadets were awarded “A” Certificates.

24 cadets of the NCC Naval Wing, Junior Division, attended a Pre-Nau Sainik Camp held at Bhimtal, from 14 October to 24 October. They won the over-all Drill Competition in which cadets from seven schools from Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh participated.

13 cadets appeared for the “A” Certificate examination, the results of which are still awaited.

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy was the motivating principle in organising the Middle School outing to the Amrapalli Water Park on 15 November, 2002. 14 Teachers and 419 pupils enjoyed themselves immensely much to the chagrin and jealousy of the Senior School.

CAREER COUNSELLING PROGRAMME

It has become absolutely essential for any educational institution to provide necessary insight into the opportunities for careers which lie beyond the portals of the institution. As such, the Annual Career Counselling Workshop conducted by Dr Amrita Dass and her team from the Institute of Career Studies was held for three days. Many students have found this beneficial and those who attended this year, too, felt more confident about their options after the workshop concluded.

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 Junior School Sports is a never failing source of wonder and delight. The baby born of Mrs Simlai's imagination continued to delight all the parents and guardians. This year, too, there were many novel events. Credit for this must solely go to the teachers, who deserve great credit for their courage, patience and forbearance in dealing with vast numbers of children in festive mood. Mrs Vandana Sehgal was Chief Guest at the Sports which took place on 5 December. She was extremely pleased and her pleasure communicated itself to the teachers and the students. We are indebted to her for giving time from a very busy schedule to be with us. The music provided by Mr Gulrez Deen is always entertaining and adds greatly to the atmosphere of enjoyment. We are most grateful to him for sharing of his talent. All the teachers must be congratulated for the outcome but particular compliments must be paid to the Heads of the Junior School and Preparatory Departments for organising such a delightful programme.

Computer Competitions were introduced for the first time in the Junior School. Classes 1 to 3 were expected to use the MS Paint programme to express their ideas, while Classes 4 and 5 used the MS Power Point programme for their work. The competitions generated tremendous enthusiasm. Small prizes were also awarded to encourage the participants further.

The students of the Junior School participated in "Eureka 2002" a series of competitions organised by the City Montessori School, Anandnagar Branch on 22 and 23 November. Rishab Dheer, Aishwarya Dubey, Nikhil Sharma and Shikhar Nath Rastogi won third prize in "Free Your Mind" a Project Display on War and Peace. Assem Kumar and Palash Bansal also won third prize in "Kalaedaesopic Dawn" a Computer Project Competition on Environment. Shobhit Kumar Deepankar, Taha Ahmad, Krishna Prasad and Archit Krishna won a consolation prize in "Slight of Hand" a Collage competition on Environment. Apart from those who won trophies, all the children who took part were awarded certificates.

Collecting medicine, clothes, toilet articles and other items for the general use of the inmates of Prem Niwas, run by the Missionaries of Charity is a regular feature for the children of the Junior School who pay regular visits to the home. Through exercises like these students are made to think about and develop an

awareness of the difficulties faced by others less fortunate than themselves.

“Bal melas” too, enliven the atmosphere in the Junior School. They not only generate pleasure but also help raise money for causes. The restoration of “Constantia” is one such cause.

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Now that the Preparatory Department has become an entity in its own right, the little fledglings are learning how to fly.

A Painting Competition for the children of the Preparatory Class was organized on 10 August. The children were permitted to express themselves freely. They did so with enthusiasm and the result was delightful. The judges had a difficult time choosing the winners.

Including the Nursery and Preparatory children in the programme for Teachers’ Day was another innovation. The little ones added an emotional touch to an occasion which sometimes tends to become mechanical.

They also took part in an Inter-School competition called “Kids Carnival” organized by St Teresa’s Day School on 10 October, 2002, and enjoyed themselves immensely.

A Clay Modelling Contest was held on 20 November. Once more the enthusiasm that was generated and the output were most gratifying for the organisers.

Perhaps the most joyous and rewarding experience of all was the introduction of the Elocution Contest for the Preparatory and Nursery Classes. The event was held on 21 November. It was most apt and fitting to have Mrs Molly Daniell as Chief Guest for the occasion. She is the widow of Lt.Col. H.R.H. Daniell, the Principal who introduced the Nursery Class to La Martiniere. Little children are completely without inhibitions and it was a joy to watch their antics as they kept looking for their parents, the task of reciting being purely incidental to the proceedings.

Congratulations to this Cinderella of La Martiniere. One can only look forward with anticipation for what is in store in the years to come.

SOCIALLY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE WORK

On 6 April 14 boys of the Social Service League attended the inauguration of “Nav Jyoti” a school for the Blind at Mohanlalgunj. The School was inaugurated by Mr Hermo Rickter, the German Ambassador to India. The members of the League organized a mini fete to collect funds for the Blind school. The boys also collected money for the prevention of Aids under the “AIDS Awareness Programme” This was handed to Mrs Tehrim Dass who was trying to generate funds for the purpose. Members of the League also visited Mohanlal gunj to hand over rolls of material, old clothes and cakes of soap for the use of the inmates of the Jyotinagar Leprosy Ashram. The boys of the League go about doing unrewarding tasks like cleaning etc. in and around the school, not looking for any reward or recognition. However, it is always a source of encouragement when someone acknowledges a contribution which is made. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the League and the teacher in charge, Mrs S.B. Hasan for the exemplary work they do.

INSTITUTION OF AWARDS

Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai was pleased to propose the institution of two awards in the form of gold medals, in memory of his late parents. The Mr Justice Jagdish Sahai Memorial Medal is to be awarded to the student who stands first in both the Colleges in the I.S.C.(Year 12) Examination. The Mrs Shanti Devi Memorial Medal is to be presented to the student who stands first in both the Colleges in the I.C.S.E.(Year 10) Examination. He wished to place a sum of Rupees 20, 000 at the disposal of the College for the endowment of the medals. The money was to be invested and the interest thereon each year would defray the expenses for the purchase of the medals. The Local Committee of Governors accepted his proposal and thanked the Chairman for his generosity. It was felt that the awards would also encourage the students of both Colleges to better in the Board Examinations.

The Local Committee of Governors was also pleased to accept the offer of Mr Sharat Pradhan and his wife, Kamini, to present a medal each year to the student who stands first in the I.S.C.(Year 12) Examination each year. They wished to place a sum of Rs 15,000 at the disposal of the College, which could be invested and the interest thereon pay the expenses of the medal each year. The medal was to be called the Pradhan Medal. The Local Committee of Governors accepted the proposal with thanks. The College already

awards a medal for the purpose, but hitherto it has been unnamed. Henceforth, it shall be called the Pradhan Medal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As Principal of the College one is dependent on many people and I would be failing in my duty if I did not express, in some small measure, my gratitude to those with whom I deal most frequently. The success of the administration of the College depends on the co-operation, advice, guidance and assistance of the Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors. I am absolutely indebted to them, especially the Governors and in particular, those who are here today. In the present Chairman, the College is fortunate to have a man who, though he judges with his mind is guided by considerations of the heart. His justice is tempered with mercy always and it is a pleasure to work with one who has only the good of La Martiniere at heart. I wish to place on record my gratitude to him and all the others.

I am heartily grateful to have to deal with a colleague like the Lady Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College. She is a lady of taste and vision and I am grateful for the many things which I have learnt from her. A very small but sincere "Thank you" would be in order.

I cannot thank too greatly the many friends of the College on whom I am dependent in ways too numerous to mention.

I am thankful for the trust and support of the parents and guardians of the boys who study in the College, particularly those who take the time and trouble to interact with us,

I am dependent on all members of the staff, whether academic or domestic for all that they do to help in keeping the College functioning well. Again "Thank you" though inadequate is all I can say.

I must also express my gratitude to all members of the Class IV staff for their contribution to the day to day activities of the College and in most things which we take for granted.

To the Bursar and Office Staff I owe a debt of gratitude as well. I deal mostly with them on a day to day basis. As such, they are more exposed to my shortcomings, and, therefore, I express my thanks to them not only for their contribution to the work of the College, but for their forbearance as well.

I am particularly thankful 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 the Heads of the Middle and Junior School and Prep. Department, upon whom I greatly depend. They have never betrayed my trust. For this I am immensely indebted.

My greatest debt of gratitude, however, is to the students. They rarely see the pleasant side of my character. (I doubt I have any). I often take mean advantage of them, but their tolerance is phenomenal and they have seldom complained. Words cannot express adequately my thanks for their forbearance and co-operation. It is around them that the life of the school revolves. They are the most significant part of the College. It is a teacher's privilege and pleasure to serve his students. When he ceases to do that, he ceases to be a teacher. I thank them for giving me the opportunity to serve them. Thank you boys !.

Vive La Martiniere !

2003 – 2004

Bereavement

It is also with great sadness that I recently learned of the passing of Mr Henry Rodrigues, an Old Boy, Teacher for many years and House Master of Hodson House. His declining years were spent in a Home for the Aged in Bangalore. He had kept indifferent health for many years. (next year)

Resignation

In March, shortly after the Academic Year commenced Mrs Nancy Francis, Computer Teacher in the Junior School, resigned at short notice, owing to personal reasons. We wish her well.

Appointments:

Mrs Shail Agnihotri joined the Staff as Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, w.e.f 09 March, 2003, on a year's probation in a newly sanctioned post.

Mrs Ela Rana was appointed as Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, w.e.f 01 March, 2003, on a year's probation, in place of Mrs J. Lobo, who resigned.

Mrs Bindu Das was appointed as Assistant Teacher in the Preparatory Department, w.e.f. 01 March, 2003, on a year's probation.

Mr Joseph Masih joined the Staff as Assistant Teacher in the Middle School, w.e.f. 09 March, 2003, on a year's probation in a newly sanctioned post.

Mr Sumeet Datta was appointed Assistant Teacher for Chemistry in the Senior School w.e.f. 01 April, 2003, on a year's probation, in place of Mr B.S. Bisht, who retired

Short appointments :

Mrs Sangeeta Acharya served as Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, w.e.f. 11 March, 2003, in place of Mrs K. Singh, who was on medical leave.

Mr A. Santram helped out as Housekeeper, w.e.f. 01 March, 2003, in a temporary capacity, till a regular Housekeeper was appointed in place of Mrs H. Jacob, who resigned on medical grounds.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS:

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on Saturday, 22 March, 2003. The Hon'ble Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai, Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court and Chairman, Local Committee of Governors, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, presided as Chief Guest at the function. Owing to the fact that the number of students now studying in the Middle and Senior School has increased greatly there were several innovations. Spence Hall has conventionally been the venue for the function, but owing to the lack of space, it was moved to the East Terrace of Constantia. All the boys of the Senior and Middle School were seated on the stairs while the guests were accommodated of the Terrace on either side of the cannons. They faced a dais for the Chief Guest on the embankment below the East Terrace. The academic procession began from the library. It was led by the College Captain bearing the College flag, flanked by the House Captains bearing the House flags. They were followed by a squad of twenty boys carrying House flags. The N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing have always presented the Chief Guest with a Guard of Honour. For the first time and because the venue lent itself to it, Mr Justice Sahai was presented with a full Parade which had formed up on the road at the foot of the stairs. This consisted of the Scouts and Cubs squads and the N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing and of the Junior Division Naval and Air Wings. He took the general salute during which he unfurled the College flag while the College sang the School Song. Thereafter, he inspected the Parade and took the Salute as the Parade marched past the dais followed by the Colour Party. It was an impressive sight and drew enthusiastic applause from the spectators. The boys and guests also were able to watch the parade for the first time which was an added advantage in changing the venue. Apart from the usual

programme the Chief Guest inaugurated the official website of the College, w.w.w.lamartiniere.org.

After the Prize Distribution the entire Middle and Senior School consisting of nearly 1100 students, partook of the Founder's Feast in the quadrangle outside Sykes Hall, another innovation, owing to lack of accommodation. At the Feast the Chief Guest raised the toast in memory of the Founder.