

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 2003 – 2004**  
(Read on Prize Day, Saturday, 20 March, 2004)

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

I welcome you to the greatest event in the College calendar, the Annual Prize Distribution, the importance of which cannot be emphasised enough. It is an occasion on which we recognise and award excellence in every sphere of human development by which La Martiniere endeavours to educate the boys whom we are fortunate to serve.

I am extremely grateful to Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai, Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court for having consented to be Chief Guest at our Prize Distribution today, even though at very short notice. He is a familiar figure at La Martiniere and really needs no introduction, but for the sake of our smaller boys and many of our parents present here, today, who are probably seeing him for the first time, it would be well for them to realise that he is the Chairman of the Local Committee of Governors and as such plays a very important part in shaping the education that they receive here. As such, even though I have had occasion to say it before, it bears repeating, Mr Justice Sahai, has almost literally followed in his father's footsteps. As Senior Judge of the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, it is indeed a rare co-incidence that he 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.

On a personal level, it has been a rich and rewarding experience to work with the Hon'ble Mr Justice Sahai. Although he is gracious and open-minded in all matters, he has very decided views, but he does not impose them arbitrarily. He uses persuasion and a sense of humour to convey his wishes.

What is special for us at La Martiniere, is that he is extremely proud of having studied here, himself, and his deep love and respect for his alma mater and for his teachers, in all that he says about them.

On behalf of all present and my own behalf, I thank him for accepting 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 2003 – 2004.

#### **TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS:**

Mr D.S. Bagga, Chief Secretary, Govt. of U.P. handed over charge to Mr A. P. Singh in September, who in turn handed over charge to Mr V.K. Dewan in December, 2003. Mr A.B. Shukla, Legal Remembrancer, Govt, U.P. continues in office. We are fortunate that these very important personages are ex-officio Trustees of the College. We wish them well, thank them for their assistance and hope that they will enjoy a pleasant tenure. Our good wishes are also extended to their predecessors in their present positions.

We have been fortunate to have had few changes on the Local Committee of Governors. Brigadier Sanjiv Madan handed over charge to Brigadier R.S. Nehra as Commander, Lucknow Sub-Area, in December, 2003. He, in turn, relinquished charge to Brigadier K. Surendra Nath at the end of February, 2004.

The only other change was that Mrs Aradhana Shukla took charge as District Magistrate, Lucknow, from Mr Navneet Sehgal.

We take pleasure in welcoming the new Members of the Local Committee of Governors, thank them for their assistance and co-operation and look forward to their continued support and encouragement. We also wish their predecessors well in their new assignments and thank them for their contribution to the well-being of La Martiniere.

Mr Justice Vishnu Sahai, Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court, ex-officio Chairman, Mr D.C. Lakha, Commissioner, ex-officio member, Mr Peter Fanthome, M.L.A. Co-opted Member and Mr Justice S.N. Sahay, Co-opted Member, continue to serve on the Local Committee of Governors, La Martiniere College, Lucknow. We thank them all for their interest in all matters pertaining to the College. We are immensely grateful and consider ourselves fortunate for the concern that they show and the interest that they take in the College, in all things, no matter how insignificant. Their advice and assistance at all times are invaluable.

**BEREAVEMENT:**

It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Mr Henry Rodrigues, an Old Boy of the College and teacher here for nearly twenty years. He was also a former House Master of Hodson House. He had kept indifferent health for a long time and his declining years were spent in a Home for the Aged in Bangalore. His lasting memorial in the College is the Rodrigues Trophy for Colts Swimming.

With no less sadness do I record the passing of Mrs Marguerite Whittaker, who served as organist in the College Chapel for many years till ill health made it difficult for her to continue. Her association with the College Choir and the Chapel goes back approximately 50 years. Although much of the Carol Service, has now become a matter of routine, one cannot and should not lose sight of the fact that it was she who first prepared the foundation on which we have built. We, at the College, are inestimably grateful to her. Her contribution to La Martiniere has been invaluable.

Also with sorrow do I record that Ram Swaroop, a member of the Class IV Staff, who had served the College for nearly forty years and had been retired a considerable time also passed away on 07 February, 2004.

Each in their own way contributed much to La Martiniere. We extend to their bereaved families our warmest sympathy. May their souls rest in peace.

**STAFF:****Promotions:**

Mr Russell Carville was promoted to the post of Second Assistant at the College. On the retirement of Mr B.S. Bisht, Mr R.K. Bhasin was appointed House Master of Lyons House. We wish them both well in their new appointments.

**Appointments:**

Mrs Shail Agnihotri, Mrs Cynthia Egbert, Mrs Ela Rana and Mrs Bindu Das joined the Staff as Assistant Teachers in the Junior School, and Preparatory Department during the year. Mr Joseph Masih was appointed as Assistant Teacher in the Middle School and Mr Sumeet Datta was appointed Assistant Teacher for Chemistry in the Senior School.

Mr G.V.A. Frank joined the Staff as Music Teacher in the Senior and Middle School, in January, 2004. Mrs Namrata Singh was appointed to teach Computer Studies in the Junior School and Mrs Sangeeta Sahae joined the Staff of the Junior School in the post of P.T.I.

Mr A. Santram joined the permanent Staff as Housekeeper in place of Mrs H. Jacob, who resigned, and Mrs P. Bhadola was appointed Computer Laboratory Assistant in the Junior School.

We welcome them all, wish them well and hope they will be contented at La Martiniere.

**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 and helped out in the Middle and Senior School in a temporary capacity from 19 September till 08 December, in place of Mrs R. Tandon, who was on maternity 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.

Mrs Namrata Singh worked as Computer Teacher in the Junior School, in a temporary capacity from 20 March, 2003, till 14 May, 2003, in place of Mrs N. Julian (nee Francis), who resigned at short notice.

Mr Anshuman Agnihotri served as Assistant Teacher in the Middle School in a temporary capacity w.e.f 18 August, 2003, till 30 September, 2003, in place of Mr Amitabh Agnihotri, who was attending

an N.C.C. Training Course.

Mrs R. Chaturvedi served as Assistant Hindi Teacher in the Junior School in a temporary capacity w.e.f 19 September, 2003, till 01 October, 2003, in place of Mrs M.R. Mathur, who was on leave.

Mrs Vatsala Bajpai worked in a leave vacancy in place of Mrs R. Goel, who took leave from 18 November, 2003 till 29 November, 2003.

### **Resignations:**

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. Mrs Vinita Narula (nee Khosla), Assistant Teacher in the Junior School, and Mr A. Samuel, Music Teacher in the Middle and Senior School, resigned giving due notice. We wish them well.

### **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, this had to be accompanied by an increase in the fees of all students by thirty-five rupees per month in order to meet the additional expenditure of the increased Dearness Allowance. The fees of boarders also was increased by Rs 45/- per month. The fees of students offering Biology also had to be increased by Rs 35/- per month, because of the expense involved in procuring the necessary equipment and materials.

### **DEVELOPMENT:**

In order to accommodate the students admitted into an additional section of Class VI the previous year, a new section of Class VII had to be opened at the commencement of the academic session 2003 – 2004. Also, an additional section of Class I had to be opened in 2003 – 2004 to accommodate the students who had been in the additional section of the Preparatory Class which had been opened the previous year.

The College web-site officially inaugurated last year on Prize Day is operational. Records of boys admitted up to 1989 and the Principal's Annual Reports from 1991 to 2003 are available for access on the site. Gradually more details are being entered.

**ENROLMENT:**

There were 2569 students on the roll of the College. Of these, there were 131 boarders, inclusive of 6 Foundationers and 4 Demi-Foundationers.

**HEALTH:**

In a boarding establishment one cannot afford to neglect arrangements for the health of all concerned. We are fortunate to be able to avail of the services of Dr Mukesh Handa as Visiting Doctor and that of a fully qualified nurse who acts as Hospital Matron. Because of their care, for which we are grateful, the resident scholars have thankfully been spared from any major problems of ill health. We are also indebted to the Steward and the Housekeeper who see to the preparation of the food, which though simple, is healthy and nutritious.

**EXAMINATIONS:**

In March 2003, 130 candidates were registered for the ISC (Year 12) Examination.

Of these, 127 were awarded Pass Certificates. Abhishek Kumar Singh stood first in order of merit securing 96.75% in the four best subjects. Rachit Srivastava was second with an aggregate of 94.75% and Vineet Kumar and Prashant Kumar Mehrotra were jointly third, scoring aggregates of 94.00% each. Akshat Gupta with an aggregate of 93% and Shivam Vij with an aggregate of 92.75% stood first in the Commerce and the Humanities Streams respectively. In all, twelve boys scored ninety percent and over and forty-one other students scored 80 percent and above on the aggregate of the four best subjects.

117 candidates were registered for the I.C.S.E. (Year 10) Examination of March, 2003. 114 were awarded Pass Certificates and 1 boy did not appear for the examination. Rajat Bansal and Udit Yadav stood first in order of merit, each securing 94.6% in the five best subjects. Ankit Kumar and Harshil Singhal were jointly third with an aggregate of 94.4%. In all, nine boys scored over ninety percent and 28 other students scored 80 percent and above on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

The Local Committee of Governors, was of the opinion that though the result was not unsatisfactory, there was still scope for improvement and have urged both the students and the staff to greater efforts in this respect.

## 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 and Mrs Indu Sahai gave away the prizes. Owing to the fact that the number of students now studying in the Middle and Senior School has increased considerably over the years 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 on the Terrace on either side of the cannons. They faced a dais arranged for the Chief Guest on the embankment. 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, there being five representatives from each House. 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 the proceedings, 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. An added advantage in changing the venue was that the boys and guests were able to watch the parade for the first time. Apart from the usual programme the Chief Guest inaugurated the official website of the College, [w.w.w.lamartiniereLucknow.org](http://w.w.w.lamartiniereLucknow.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 in the Dining Hall. At the Feast the Chief Guest raised the toast in memory of the Founder.

The Middle School Project Exhibition was held on 10 May, 2003. The students took an active interest in their Class Projects. They displayed much skill in the preparation of the models and charts and

gained a considerable amount of knowledge in the process.

The Lucknow Inter-Martiniere Debate was held on 11 August, in Spence Hall, as the Girls' College auditorium was undergoing reconstruction. The College team consisting of Aakash Prasad, Kartikeya Srivastava, Parikshit Luthra and Mayank Batheja, won the debate. They shall receive the Martin Memorial this evening.

The Annual Entertainment in Hindi was held on 15 August, 2003. The programme began with Vandana sung by Arpit Panda accompanied by the Choir and Shivam Tandon, who played the tabla. The Middle School performed "Rehearsal" a play by Om Prakash Aditya and the Senior School staged "Kal Dilli Ki Bari Hai" by Shravan Kumar Goswami. Between the two plays the choir rendered Desh Bhakti Sangeet and the Senior boys performed the Bhangra. The entertainment concluded with the choir singing "Hindustan Hindustan" with a commentary provided by Anuroop Chakravarti and accompanied by Shivam Tandon on the tabla and Mudit Ramchandani on the drums. The talent of the children was evident and given the opportunity many of them might emerge as professional performers. The efforts of the Hindi Department is deserving of high praise 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 Kolkata and Lucknow was held in Kolkata at the end of August. Although they did their best, none of the Lucknow teams were able to secure any trophies. 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 would also like to thank Mr Nafees Ahmed, who was employed as Coach for the swimming season. His was a source of great encouragement.

On 13 September the Founder's Commemoration Service was held in the College Chapel. Sister Gemma, Principal, Stella Maris School, delivered the address. She is probably the first lady to have done so in the college Chapel. Of all College events, this is the most significant. The singing of the combined Choirs of both La Martiniere Colleges at Lucknow was extremely beautiful. We are especially grateful to Mr G.V. A. Frank, an Old boy who has subsequently joined the College Staff, for very kindly playing for the Service and preparing the special Anthem, "Great and Marvellous".

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 for the second successive year. Vibhushit Rana was declared Colts Champion. We never seem to beat Kolkata but that does not necessarily mean that the standard of swimming is falling. It is no small achievement that seven new records were set, four in House events and three in Individual events. Karmnisht Sareen now holds the 50 m Back Stroke record in the Senior Division, S. Chatterjee, the 25 metres Butterfly Stroke in the Junior Division and T.K. Khan, the 25 metres Free Style in the Colts Division. Lyons House set new records in the 4 x 25m Free Style Relay and the 4 x 25 metres Medley Relay in the Senior Division. In the Junior Division, Cornwallis House in the 4 x 25 metres Medley Relay and Hodson House in the 4 x 25 m Free Style Relay set new records.

Founder's Day concluded with the Entertainment programme in English in the evening. Two plays were presented. The Middle School enacted "Arthur" by David Cregan. The Senior School presented "Something to Talk About" by Eden Phillpots. Between the two plays Angad Chawla danced to the tune of "It's Magic, Robin Arora rendered two songs and a group of Senior boys performed a Group Dance entitled, "Smoke on Water". It was an entertaining evening altogether and the boys, responding to an appreciative audience performed to the top of their potential. The M.G.M. award for Histrionics in English shall be presented later this evening to Mayank Batheja and Utkarsh Prabhat. All involved deserve great credit especially the Staff.

The Annual Inter-House Athletics Meet and P.T. Display were held on 29 November, 2003. Brigadier Sanjiv Madan, Commander, Lucknow, Sub-Area 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 Rahul Kumar Sahu, Kunwar Martand Pratap Singh and Denzil David Yeoward respectively.

Three very long standing records were broken in the Senior Division by Rahul Kumar Sahu. He improved the Long Jump record of 6.34 metres set by George delaHoyde in 1957. It now stands at 6.65 metres. In the Triple Jump event he set a record of 13.59 metres, breaking the record of 13.11 metres set in 1956 by George delaHoyde. The record of 52.9 seconds in the 400 metres Flat Race set by Adrian Kennedy in 1965 was

also improved by him and now stands as 47.93 seconds.

The organisation of Sports Day taxes not only the endurance of the students but that of the Staff as well. Happily everything turned out well. For this I am deeply grateful for the efforts of all concerned and all richly deserve the praise given by the Chief Guest. Even so, I should specially like to commend the work of the Sports Secretary, Mr Alfred Gomes, the Vice-Principal, the Second Assistant, the House Masters and the two Physical Training Instructors, Mr Deepak Sahae and Mr K.N. Singh.

We were fortunate to secure the services of the A.M.C. Band for the March Past and providing musical interludes between the P.T. Displays. We are also thankful to Mr Gulrez Deen and Mr Sumeet Datta who enlivened the proceedings by playing the synthesizer during intervals between the races.

The Annual Elocution and Declamation Contests both in English and in Hindi were held on 22 November and 05 December, respectively. The prize winners in these competitions shall receive their awards this evening.

The Annual Carol Service, "The Royal Diadem", was held in La Martiniere Girls' College Auditorium on 10 December, and in the College Chapel on 12 December, 2003. As is the convention, the girls undertook all the readings and recitations in the Girls' College, while the boys rendered them in the College Chapel. The Carol Service has become a much awaited event. The singing of the children was delightful and was greatly received. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Ira Madan for helping us out with the music. In fact, it would not have been possible to manage without her. We are also deeply indebted to the Staff who gave so readily of their talent and to Enosh Chattree, who has recently left school and volunteered to sing. The greatest praise, however, must go to the girls and boys themselves, who not only volunteered to sing but performed the readings and recitations extremely well.

The Annual N.C.C. Competitions were held on 13 December, 2003. 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 students from Class XII, 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. Dhananjai Gupta was adjudged Best N.C.C. Cadet in the Senior Division and Vivek Kumar Tewari was awarded the medal for being the Best N.C.C. Cadet in the Junior Division. This evening he shall receive the Udai Singh Sidhu Medal,

which is being presented for the first time. Best Ayush Rana was adjudged Best Scout. All deserve congratulations.

N.C.C. Cadets of all three Wings, Senior and Junior Division, the Scouts and the Cubs participated in special parades on Independence Day and Republic Day.

Mr Arun Kumar Sinha, Secretary Irrigation and Chairman, World Bank Project of Water Resources was Chief Guest on Independence Day.

Col. J.E.S. Singh, 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:**

In addition to the regular co-curricular programme in the College, the boys also participate in various competitions organised by other institutions in the city. Some of the activities in which they participated and performed well are summarised below:

Represented by Akash Prasad and Parikshit Luthra, the College participated in the Preliminary Round of the All-India Frank Anthony Memorial Inter-School Debate Competition. The College team placed First and Aakash Prasad placed second. The same team represented the College at the Zonal level. The team did not make it to the National Final, but Aakash Prasad placed third.

Karan Singh and Kartik Misra participated in COFAS International, a Computer festival organised by the City Montessori School. La Martiniere stood first in the Debate Competition for the College Section. Karan Singh was adjudged Best Speaker for the motion, and Kartik Misra won the prize for Best Speaker against the motion. Siddharth Agarwal and Rajat Gupta won first prize for the Quiz in the School Section and Ajay Kohli won third prize. The College came second in the Overall School Championship for the School Section.

St George's College, Mussoorie, invited the College to participate in two All-India Debates organised as part of their sesqui-centenary celebrations. In the School Section, Eshaan Joshi and Rajat Gupta, represented the College. The team placed second and Rajat Gupta received the second prize. In the College Section, Aakash Prasad and Kartikeya Srivastava represented La Martiniere. The team placed Third.

Anuroop Chakravarti and Pranav Gupta won the Prize for the Best team in the Hindi Debate Youth Festival Horizon, 2003, organised by the Rotary Club Khas. Anuroop Chakravarti also won the Best Speaker's prize. In the English debate Eshaan Joshi and Paritosh Nath won third prize as a team. Eshaan Joshi, himself placed second. In the Quiz Narendra Mukherjee and Syed Hasan Aijaz secured the second prize as a team.

Narendra Mukherjee and Siddharth Agarwal won third prize in the Quiz Competition which formed part of the Literary Festival programme organised by St Agnes' Loreto Day School.

As part of the Coral Jubilee celebrations of St Teresa's Day School and College, several competitions were organised in which the students participated. Manish Gupta and Kartik Misra placed second in the Inter-School Maths Olympiad and the Inter-School Debate respectively. La Martiniere College also won the prize for the Best Team Spirit.

At "Crossroads", a competition organised by the Old Franciscan's Association, Kartik Misra and Sameer Khan represented the College in the Senior Section. Kartik Misra won Second prize. He was also adjudged Best Speaker for the debate in Hindi. At the same competition Amit Agarwal and Eshaan Joshi won the prize for the Best Team in the School Section. Eshaan also won the prize for Best Speaker. Siddharth Ranjan placed second in the Indian Instrumental Music Competition.

Mayank Batheja and Varun Egbert won first prize in the Just a Minute Competition organised by the Rotary Youth Internation at N.B.R.I. on 20 September. Together with Varun Arora, Anamaya Bajpai, Karan Singh and Manish Gupta they also placed second in the Skit Competition.

Arpit Panda and Utkarsh Prabhat participated in "Eureka, 2003", a competition organised by the City Montessori School, Anandnagar and won the Best Team Prize for Elocution. Utkarsh Prabhat also won First Prize for Elocution and Creative Writing at "Literati", which was organised by Hoerner College.

The College encourages boys to join the N.C.C. We are fortunate to have all three wings in the College.

32 cadets of the Air Wing (Junior Division) attended the Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC – 164) at Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Lucknow from 15 September till 24 September, and 41 cadets attended a one-day Range Firing Camp at BKT Air Force Station on 18 November. 29 cadets successfully

completed the two-year training and were awarded “A” Certificates.

24 cadets of the Naval Wing (Junior Division) attended the Pre Nau Sainik camp held at Bhimtal from 05 October, till 14 October. 12 boys appeared for the “A” Certificate Examination held on 07 February, 2004.

I am pleased to report that Mr Amitabh Agnihotri proceeded for a Pre-Commission Course held at the Seamanship School, Kochi from 18 August to 26 September, 2003. It is a matter a pride that he was awarded the trophy for the best cadet at the end of the training in which 37 cadets from all over the country participated. We congratulate him on this feat.

I would like to place on record my gratitude and appreciation for the Masters in charge of N.C.C. in the College.

### **CAREER COUNSELLING PROGRAMME**

It is imperative that an educational institution provides necessary information in respect of opportunities for careers. For this purpose 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 useful. Parents too, have been provided with an insight and have been grateful for the help provided.

### **JUNIOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:**

As the number of sections in the Classes have increased considerably the Annual Elocution Contests in English and in Hindi were held in two phases this year. This helped to shorten the programme in each case and also to provide more space for the parents.

The Junior School Sports always generates great enthusiasm and expectations of enjoyment run high. The former Head of the Junior School, Mrs Sheila Simlai was Chief Guest. The Staff and children rose to the occasion and the Chief Guest was pleased and nostalgic that her brain-child was alive and well. The new P.T.I., Mrs Sangeeta Sahae, was put severely to the test, but helped with the experience and co-operation of the teachers she passed with flying colours. The Junior Gymnastics were a particular treat to watch. The innovative spirit is still evident in the arrangements for the various races and the teachers deserve great credit. The music provided by Mr Deen added greatly to the enjoyment of the programme. We are indeed grateful to the Heads of the Junior School and Preparatory Department and to everyone concerned for providing the parents

and well wishers of the College with a afternoon of undiluted enjoyment. Fortunately, at this stage all concerned have not yet begun the all important race for marks and only concentrating on academic knowledge.

The boys of the Junior School worked with a will on their Project Exhibition and put up interesting and colourful posters, models and exhibits. It was also heartening to note that, quite apart from the enjoyment they derived, they also gained useful knowledge.

Karavan Tours organised outings for the children according to their age and class. The children enjoyed their excursions to places of environmental, and historical interest, learning much from these trips.

Two “Bal melas” were held on 6 April and 6 December, respectively. These provided a welcome relief from the serious atmosphere of studies. The children enjoyed themselves greatly and a proportion of the money they spent has gone towards the Constantia Restoration Fund. The rest is being used for various items of use in the Junior School and Preparatory Departments.

The choir of the Junior School kept the spirit of Christmas alive with their enthusiastic voices and the gifts that all the children shared at the Christmas Party.

Nirmal and Sandhya Kumar organised a visit to a Nature Village near the Corbett National Park for the children of Classes 4 and 5 during the winter vacation. The boys and the teachers who accompanied them had a wonderful time.

Besides the activities organised in the school children enthusiastically participate in competitions organised in their home localities. Swapnil Srivastava of Class 5 A participated in an Art Competition organised by the Railway Department, in which many contestants took part. To his credit he stood first. A team of five boys participated with much enthusiasm in an event entitled “Save Trees, Save the Earth. Although they did not win any prizes they produced interesting models using papier mache and pipe cleaners. They were awarded certificates of participation.

#### **PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES**

See sheet.

## **SOCIALLY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE WORK**

The boys of the Social Service League are actively involved throughout the year in activities which are meant to bring relief to the weaker sections of our society and doing other deeds which promote a sense of the dignity of labour. This year the main focus was on helping to serve the children of the Nav Jyoti School for the Visually Impaired in Mohanlalganj. By means of a Bal Mela money was collected. At Diwali time apart from gifts of seasonal fruits, biscuits and sweets the boys handed over the money collected to the Sister in Charge of the school.

At the same time the boys also visited the Leprosy Ashram and handed over similar gifts to the Sister in charge for the inmates.

As the winter approached blankets and bedcovers purchased from the Gandhi Ashram were also handed over for the use of the children at the Nav Jyoti School.

The boys also helped collect funds for the Roshni Society in Punjab by the sale of greeting cards made by handicapped people.

The boys also are engaged in campus cleaning programs. This is in spite of teasing they undergo at the hands of their less sensitive comrades. I would urge them to carry on regardless, even though there are no tangible rewards to be gained and a heightened self respect is all the satisfaction that one may receive in a gross materialistic world. Mrs Hasan, who encourages the boys, is greatly acknowledged and thanked for her selfless devotion to the cause of the less fortunate.

The Foundation Club fosters and encourages talent in others. Members of the Club are actively engaged in training their younger comrades to participate in co-curricular activities. This is a laudable endeavour and it is they who are to be largely thanked for training the younger boys to take part in various contests. I would like to place on record my gratitude to those who run the club in the hope of perpetuating the skills of which the College is so proud. Mrs Neelum Singh who is in charge must be thanked unreservedly for her selfless work.

The Photography Club has contributed its own brand of socially useful productive work. Under the guidance of Mr Alistair Freese all the photography work in the College is undertaken by them and the students are able not only to hone their own skills but provide photographs to their colleagues at very reasonable

prices. The purchase of a digital camera and a photographic printer by the College have been an added incentive to the students. Every year the money is raised for the restoration of “Constantia” by the sale of calendars which bear views of the College. This year, instead of purchasing photographs from professional photographers a photographic competition was held. The winners will receive their prizes this evening. In addition their work has been appreciated by due credit of their photographic skill being printed on the calendar itself. It is to be hoped that many others will follow in their footsteps.

### **INSTITUTION OF AWARDS**

The Local Committee of Governors was pleased to accept with thanks the proposals of the following for the institution of awards:

Mrs Sheila Simlai, former Second Assistant and Head, La Martiniere College Junior School, is presenting a medal each year to the boy in Classes 4 and 5, who writes the Best Essay in English.

Mrs June Mishra – Manager, Children’s Academy, Lucknow, has had a long association with the College, through her grand-uncle, the late, Sir George Thomas, a former Chairman of the Local Committee of Governors, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, and her uncle, her brother and her son, who have all studied at the College. She is presenting two medals each year – one to the boy who scores the highest marks in English in Class X and one to the boy who obtains the highest marks in Commerce in Class 12.

Mr and Mrs Sidhu are the parents of Udai Singh Sidhu, a former student, who met with an untimely death. In his memory they are presenting a medal each year for the Best N.C.C. Cadet in the Junior Division.

Mrs Rita Mathur’s husband Mr Pratap Narain Mathur and son, Pradeep Narain Mathur, have both studied at the College. In memory of her late husband, she is presenting a medal each year for the boy who scores the highest marks in English in Class 11.

These four medals will be presented for the first time today.

### **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 !