

ANNUAL REPORT – JUNIOR SCHOOL, 2009-2010

Sister Stephanie, the Principal, Guests, Teachers, Parents and Prize Winners,

We are honoured this evening to welcome Sister Stephanie, Principal, St. Agnes' Loreto Day School, as our Chief Guest.

A Prize Day marks achievements in formal education and training. I present to you the Annual Report of the Junior School of La Martiniere College, Lucknow, for the year 2009-2010. It is the responsibility of the school, teachers and also the parents to ensure that our children grow up to be responsible citizens, who love all people irrespective of caste, colour or creed. Children are our tomorrow - our future. The eager faces that I see here, today, receiving prizes will be the citizens of tomorrow. Children are like clay that can be moulded into any form. Their minds are *tabula rasa* that can imbibe any hue. In achieving these goals, the Principal is the inspiration behind all we do and achieve. I take this opportunity to thank him for his confidence in me for making the Junior School a successful, open, outward looking educational institution of the 21st century. Words are not enough to express my gratitude. I hope to live up to his expectations in the future. Thank you, Sir, for your guidance, which I hope we shall continue to enjoy for many more years to come.

A RECAPITULATION OF THE EVENTS OF THE YEAR 2009/2010

We have spent the past year doing things, which are helpful in enhancing the talents of our boys. One of the joys of teaching is to draw out the best in them – that is their academic and creative potential.

To meet the expanding need of the people for providing progressive education, division of the Junior School was imminent. Accordingly, Classes 1 and 2 were separated as Primary School under Mrs N. Siddiqui, a senior teacher. She was given the task of setting up a new department in a new building. She has done a commendable job of establishing this unit. We congratulate her and wish her all the best.

We are very proud of the success of our boys in the field of academics, sports, art and culture throughout the year. We are happy to nurture their talents and bring out the best in them. We vigorously follow our academic curriculum in spite of the many co-curricular and other activities that we pursue throughout the busy year.

We face and solve many problems, be they related to academics or discipline. During the course of the year, the swine flu caused fear and apprehension all over India. Many of our events including Teachers' Day celebrations and assemblies had to be cancelled according to orders from the District Administration. We are happy to report that no there were no fatalities, although a few cases of the disease were detected in the school.

The Inter-House Elocution Contest on 25th April, 2009, was not held last year owing to a never-to-be-forgotten event that shook the whole school. On the morning of that fateful day, while coming to school in a privately owned bus, several boys met with a terrible accident. Many boys were hurt. Of them, some were critically injured and traumatized. One of the boys – Vedansh Shahi, was reached just in time to the trauma centre by the former District Magistrate of Lucknow, Mr Tripathi. Another gentleman Mr Manmohan Singh, who is a HAL employee, was at hand to help the boys. He not only informed the police but also the parents as well. Here the school diaries of the children were of great help. Then he had the children shifted to the hospital, where their parents, the Principal and Staff, later reached. However, we were extremely sorry to have lost Divyansh Bharadwaj, who was so excited to be a star representing his House. Our hearts go out to his parents whose lives were turned upside down by the loss of their dear little boy. It was a heart-rending sight to see him lying lifeless. Words are not enough to console the parents of Divyansh, as the joy of receiving the gift of a new baby boy from God was replaced by a sense of a terrible loss of their elder son. A special memorial service was held in the College Chapel for him. It was attended by his parents, Sub-area Commander Brigadier, S. Ahmad Ali, the Principal and all the Staff and senior boys. On 15 May, "Shanti Havan" was organised for him in Spence Hall. Fortunately, Vedansh Shahi survived a harrowing ordeal. After prolonged medication and rest he was able to rejoin his classes. For bravely facing his long and painful recuperation, he will be receiving an award this evening.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Our boys did us proud with their academic achievements. We continue to follow the examination system, with a break up of 10 marks for class tests, 10 marks for project work, and 80 marks for the examinations. To make the lessons student-friendly we are always planning new strategies. I am proud to say that many teachers come up with innovative methods which are encouraged. Workshops were planned to inject new strategies into the teaching system and to equip teachers constantly with new and interesting ways of handling the subjects. Mrs T. Raza organized a workshop for the boys of Class 3E in which they made the presentations. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the boys. The workshops for classes 4 and 5 in Geography could not be organised owing to the menace of swine flu. Classroom teaching must be supplemented with new and interesting ways of teaching using the latest technology and methods. In the coming years we hope to do more workshops in which the children participate actively.

We are happy to report that some of the boys have become expert in making projects for each subject. Most of them can now use the internet judiciously and with expertise. They are not only encouraged to stick pictures but to draw and colour diagrams as well. We appeal to the parents to guide them and not do the work themselves. In doing so, the boys will learn how to do the projects when they reach the senior classes. The Geography book 'Geoid' for classes 3, 4 and 5 has been released. We hope the long years of experience, which have gone into producing them will benefit the boys.

To encourage the children to enhance their language power in English and Hindi, we continually encourage boys to write compositions and poetry and award prizes. Mrs R. Goel keeps a strict vigil over our expanding library. She laboriously keeps a track of all the books loaned to the boys and staff. At the same time she is approachable and helpful to all those who wish to make use of our valuable collection of story, fiction and reference books.

Regular book fairs are organised by the Scholastic and Book Tractor teams to encourage the boys to buy and read books.

HELPING HANDS

Mrs Jacqueline Abraham joined the Staff, but resigned at the end of the year for personal reasons. During the year many people came forward to help us when teachers went on leave. We are grateful to Miss Sarah Khan, Mrs Deborah Singh, Mrs A.M. Cook and Mrs June Medley for helping us when needed. Mrs Anjali Singh who retired at the end of the year. She is an enterprising lady, with expertise in many fields. She is known to be a very helpful person. She has compiled some science lessons for Class 3 on topics that are missing from the textbook we use. Many parents also came forward willingly to help us. We are most grateful to all them.

PRIZE DAY

Prize Day is the most important function in the calendar of the school. Prize Day was held on Saturday, 21 March, 2009. We were delighted to welcome Sister Gemma, Principal, Stella Maris Inter College, Lucknow, as Chief Guest. Although, the proceedings are long and tedious, we have learnt to bear them for the sake of the children. Every child wants a moment of glory on the stage in front of his parents and the whole school. The programme is interspersed with items of song from the Preparatory Department and the Junior School. Sister Gemma graciously endured the laborious process of presenting each boy with the prize he deserved for the year 2008 – 2009. Many people have added to our list of trophies and medals for outstanding work, talent and ability. In her address, the Chief Guest praised the boys for their discipline and fine turnout. After the function was over, tea was served to all the guests, parents and staff.

INTER HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Inter House activities form an integral part of the Junior School. They provide a platform where the maximum number of pupils can showcase their talents. These activities include the Talent Hour, in which the boys continue to surprise us with what they can do. On Mrs. N. Siddiqui being appointed Head of the Primary School, the vacancy was filled by Mrs S. Siddiqui. Because of personal reasons adjustments were made. Mr A. Gomes is now Housemaster of Cornwallis House and Mrs S. Siddiqui is Housemistress of Hodson House.

The Investiture ceremony of the new prefects and captains was held on 13 August, 2009. Yasa Ali Rizvi was appointed Captain of the Junior School. He did us proud; talented and well-behaved boy that he is. Jibreel Zubair, as Vice- Captain carried out all his responsibilities cheerfully and enthusiastically. Arjun Dutta, Ahmed Gibran Khan, Ambuj Gupta and Raunak Makhija were appointed captains of Cornwallis, Hodson, Lyons and Martin Houses respectively. Mrs Ela Rana and Mrs Daphne Egbert competently organise the whole ceremony every year. Their efforts need to be commended. The Captains and Prefects worked hard throughout the year and inspired the others to give of their best. Inter House competitions in Art, Rangoli, Soft boards, Assemblies, Athletics and Sports were keenly contested. Marks for Inter-House Academics are also added along with other house events. The winning Houses will receive trophies this evening.

INTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Principal has instituted Inter School Competitions for the children of classes 3, 4 and 5 with the idea of instilling and encouraging a healthy competitive spirit amongst these smaller children. In all the Inter School Competitions several teams participated. However, the Elocution Competition had to be cancelled owing to the terrible bus accident. The Inter School Fixture in Art was keenly contested. The students of Study Hall carried the day followed by St Agnes Loreto Day School.

The Inter School Quiz Competition was won by La Martiniere Girls' College. The College team was represented by Ishan Kalhans, Siddhant Dwivedi, Rohan Gupta and Raunak Makhija. It is good to have the children of different schools interacting with each other and their talents getting recognition. Mrs Namrata Singh, the Quiz Mistress, works quietly and efficiently. We are grateful to her.

NATIONAL DAYS

National holidays instil a sense of patriotism. We take every opportunity to promote among the boys a need for national integration. As such we celebrate the national days with great fervour.

A day before Independence Day, we always hold the Inter-House Art Competition. Different topics are given to each class and the best entries are chosen as super artists by a panel of judges. The winning house was selected on the basis of the positions acquired.

After flag hoisting by the Headmistress on 15 August, a short programme was held, in spite of the slight drizzle that continued throughout. Each House rendered a song or a dance to show their love for our motherland.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-curricular Activities are an integral part of our school curriculum as they help to develop the personalities of the children. They help to inculcate a healthy competitive spirit in children, and bring out their talents and communication skills, They also help to infuse the spirit of team-work and leadership.

Art, Craft and Project Exhibition

On 29 August, 2009, the Art, Craft and Project Exhibition was held. Each class displayed in groups their items of craft and their projects. They were ably guided by their class teachers, who along with students worked hard to give off their best. A colourful and well-organised display was exhibited. For the first time the students of the art classes demonstrated the work they do in class. As is the normal procedure, the Principal is always the Chief Guest. His presence at the display is always encouraging, as he appreciates and commends the efforts of both students and teachers. Every year we look forward to his visit with pleasure.

The Inter House Rangoli competition is always organised in the morning. The topics given were fish, butterflies and musical instruments for Classes 3, 4 and 5, respectively. Beautiful designs were created in attractive hues by using a variety of interesting mediums. The judging was conducted by teachers of the Preparatory Department. Lyons House won the competition. The rangolis were left on display for the parents to see and admire.

Variety Entertainment

The Variety Entertainment was held on Friday, 06 November, 2009. Every child in the Junior School was involved and it was entertaining to watch each class perform a dance, a song or participate in a skit. The songs were well chosen, the

plays were well acted and a variety of dances were superbly executed. The play 'Time Machine', 'Data ka Darbar', and 'Zaban Sambhal ke' were enjoyed by the audience. Raunak Makhija as Sarpanch in 'Zaban Sambhal ke' had every one laughing uproariously. He will be receiving the award for histrionics this evening. The play 'Prodigal Son', with its colourful period costumes managed to convey its lesson of erring and forgiving. The 'Scottish Dance' was well performed and 'Yeh Kaun Chitrakar' was artistically and excellently performed.

This year the theme chosen for the fillers was the street entertainments of India. It was amusing to see the bandar wala, the katputliwala, the bhaluwala, the sapera, the nats and stiltwalkers or kartab wale strut across on the stage in front of the curtain. The dance on the song 'genda phool' had the audience singing and clapping with it. But, the star of the show was the last item, the dance on A.R Rehman's Oscar winning song 'Jai Ho!'. The dance performed superbly under the guidance of Mrs Afshan Khan received thunderous applause. All the teachers worked as a team, co-ordinating well with each other. The evening would have been dull if it were not for Mr Gulrez Deen, providing music for each item. Mr. Alfred Gomes was the chief organiser, who though not seen, was responsible entirely for the but the smooth running of the show which required frequent changes of scene. We are grateful to all the Members of the Staff for an enjoyable and successful evening. It would be remiss if we did not thank the Class IV Staff. They carry, clean, pull the curtains and change the scenes all in record time. The show ended with the singing of the national anthem.

Sports and P. T. Display

Healthy bodies are necessary for the development of healthy minds. As such, physical education is most essential for the proper growth of children. Physical training is an important part of our school curriculum. This year an internal sports meet was held. Individual flat race winners were decided on the day of the Preparatory and Primary School Sports Day. Different races were organised by the staff on 15 December on the sports field. It was like a picnic for the boys to go out in the sun on a cold day. To add to the fun prizes were distributed to the winners.

Christmas Party and Nativity Play

The boys always look forward to the Christmas Party and Nativity Play every year. Last year the party was held on 16 December. The boys first watched the nativity play enacted on the stage. Then, they listened to the ever-popular Christmas Carols sung by the Junior School Choir under the guidance of Mr Gulrez Deen. The programme was well co-ordinated by Mrs D. Egbert, Mrs E. Rana, Mr M. Bearder, and Mrs J. Abraham. They always manage to entice Santa Claus to visit the school. This is the most exciting event of the whole show. Thereafter, the children played, had class parties and generally had a lovely time.

The Annual School Fete

The children eagerly look forward to the annual school fete. Last year it was organised on 21 November in the Senior School campus. All the teachers organised different stalls of mouth-watering eats and exciting games. The boys had a lovely time. A large amount of money, which will be used for the restoration of the main building “Constantia” was collected.

Excursions

School trips and excursions are a part of the yearly routine. The Karavan team always plan well-organized educational trips at the end of each year. This year they took Class 3 to the Science Centre in Aliganj on 28 January: Class 4 were taken to Bakshi ka Talab on 29 January : Kukrail Forest was the destination of Class 5 on 30 January. We are grateful to Mr Vikrant Nath and Mrs Dipti for meticulously planning each outing, where everyone has a good time.

At the end of the year the students went to the Nature Village near Landsdowne. It is a popular resort, where the boys come in close contact with nature, with Corbett National Park just adjacent to it. We are grateful to Mrs. Sandhya Kumar for giving an opportunity to the boys to visit the place. This year Mrs Namrata Singh, Mr Gulrez Deen and Mr Jatin Kapoor accompanied the boys.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Besides the school activities, we always encourage the boys to participate in other events and competitions. The prizes they win are presented again on the stage so that others also get confidence to display their talents.

They have won certificates, medals and cups for various activities. The National Geographic T.V Channel organised a quiz contest. Brain Booster Newsletter organised a Crossword Competition in which Revant Batra and Vatsal Gupta were awarded prizes. The boys took part in the Bourn Vita Inter-School Quiz held at La Martiniere Girls' College on 9 November. Ronish Chattaraj answered the maximum number of questions! An On the Spot Art and Painting competition was organised by Dainik Jagaran on Children's Day. We have in our midst a young budding numismatist – Devansh Tandon , who has collected many rare coins.

FINALLY AND MOST IMPORTANTLY

I am grateful for this opportunity to congratulate the winners and all those who have taken part in this year's achievements. To grow up as good citizens one needs values. It is in our hands... in the hands of our schools, teachers and parents to instil in the boys under our care, those values which will help them grow up as good human beings who will contribute to society. I would like to place on record my thanks to all categories of the Staff, and to all those parents and well-wishers, who work behind scenes to make each programme an event to remember,

To the boys - I would like to say, we hope you will continue to learn and uphold the values and traditions of the College.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not appreciate all the help and guidance given to me by the Heads of the Preparatory Department and the Primary School. Thank you Mrs Carville and Mrs Siddiqui !

I thank each one present for giving your active commitment to ensuring the ongoing development and well-being of the Junior School through your contribution over the past year.

Thank you, Sir, once again for being available when I need you.

Wishing all of you a pleasant evening!

Vive La Martiniere!