



Nirmala

2013 - 14



GIRL CHILD ISSUE

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A DAUGHTER IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIFTS THIS WORLD HAS TO GIVE.

NIRMALA CONVENT SR.SEC. SCHOOL
KATHGODAM





ACHIEVERS

2013-14



Rejoice, We have Won!

'The first infirmity of a weak mind is the last infirmity of a noble mind.'

from The Principal's Desk

To build able citizens, school education is regarded as playing a significant role, since during this period of education the individual is in such a process of development that she/he may learn a great deal, if she/he is given the necessary opportunity. However, in the recent trend, schools are not able to clearly understand the pattern that needs to be provided to students. In this dynamic world, what was considered quality education yesterday, might not meet the needs of today and tomorrow. So, every new generation must learn how to lead a balanced existence, preserving the traditions and by adopting the new changes in the society. Today, learning is no longer a de-contextualised information collection, arranged in hierarchical layers; it is now a process of active construction of knowledge and skills through collaboration and social interaction. The present generation, the 'digital natives' who grow up virtually in front of the violent video games is the generation on which the teachers will have to deal with. Our role as teachers is to give them faith that all is well only if they make it well.

The Kothari commission has pointed out that the vital need for inculcation of values through education- imparting proper social, moral and spiritual values in the pupils is essential to meet the challenges of the modern age of Science and Technology. Values are central to one's life since they are normative in all of one's actions and understanding. We, by our way of life try to inculcate these values among students.

The most important and the sacred concern of every school should be to provide quality education that remains as "education" among students for their life-long learning. This is possible only when, all the stake-holders-parents, teachers and all those who are in the field of education understand their responsibility and take all possible steps to work together for the betterment of the students.

God bless all our efforts

• Sr. Josy



The Editor Speaks

Dear readers

In bringing out this issue of the school News Letter we naturally feel very jubilant since ours has been an uphill journey in a difficult terrain. A journalistic sortie in the uplands where adequate printing and publishing gadgets are not easily available entails a good deal of puffing and panting; but where there is a will, there is the way.

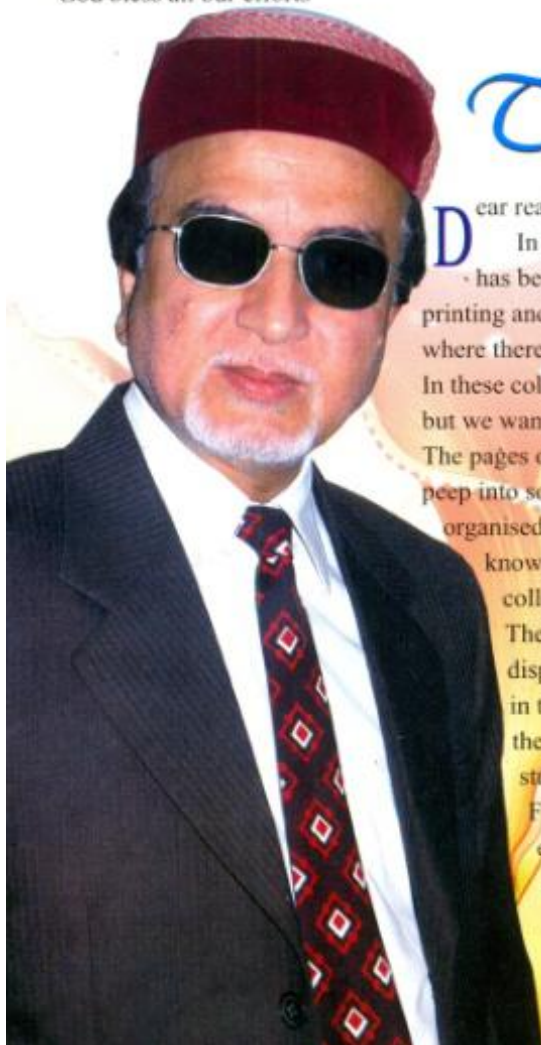
In these columns we don't want to burden the minds of our readers with sermons and serious thoughts but we want to create a jubilant atmosphere, full of hope, gay abandonment and rejoicing.

The pages of this News Letter will give you a glimpse of the activities going on in the school and a peep into some aspects of the school programme. We hope that the richly varied pattern of activities organised throughout the year will cater to the development of children's entire personality. Today knowledge comes from everywhere. It is no longer stored up or marketed by schools and colleges.

The routine workers in our educational institutions today have a tremendous resource at their disposal in the hundreds and thousands of eager, lively and constructively disposed youngsters in their schools. If their enthusiasm and practical aptitudes are properly and tactfully mobilised, the school becomes a living organic community, humming with activities in which each student will be able to discover herself or himself.

From this sketchy reflection on the dominant need of the present situation, I only want to emphasise that as our political, social economic needs have changed now our educational methods should also contribute to the development of habits, attitudes and qualities of character and of mind of the future generation of India. With regards-

• K.K.Tiwari



FROM THE REPORTERS DIARY

The academic year 2013-14

The new academic session began with the reopening of the school on 2 April 2014 and proceeded as follows:



- **1. Lighting the Lamp:** by Rev. Sr. Eucheristia - the manager of the school and prayer read aloud by the Principal in the morning assembly marked the beginning of the new academic session.
- **2. The Installation Ceremony, 4 May:** Rev. Sr. Josy the Principal administered the oath of duty and loyalty to the members of the new School Cabinet.
- **3. Fare-thee-well and Bon-voyage, 10 May:** Three senior members of the Nirmala family Rev. Sr. Shanta, Mrs. Suman Singh and Mrs. Veronica Joseph were bidden farewell by the management, Principal, staff and the students with thanks and gratitude for their selfless services in this institution.
- **4. Welcoming the new Vice-Principal, 1 July:** The new Vice-Principal of the school Rev. Sr. Anu George was introduced to the students and teachers by Rev. Sr. Josy- the Principal and was warmly welcomed by all.
- **5. Many Happy Returns of the Day, 17 July:** Members of the Nirmala family- students and the staff greeted Rev. Sr. Josy- their Principal on her birthday and prayed for her long life and good health.



- **6. Celebration of the Independence Day:** The 64th Independence Day of India was celebrated with zeal and enthusiasm. Rev. Sr. Nazerene - a veteran member of the Nirmala family unfurled the national tricolour and took the salute of the March Past. A short cultural programme followed. Two bright students of the school were awarded trophies and cash prizes on the occasion.
- **7. Feast of the Foundress, 4 September:** A Special morning assembly was conducted by the students to celebrate the feast of Ven. Mother Bridget of Jesus the foundress of the Congregation of the Ursulines of Mary Immaculate. Rev. Sr. Josy, the Principal, Rev. Sr. Pushpa and Rev. Sr. Anu George lighted the lamp. Thoughtful speeches were delivered and songs were sung on the occasion.
- **8. Celebration of the Teacher's Day:** The celebration began with a Prayer Meeting for the teachers. Three senior members of the staff lighted the lamp. Students staged a colourful variety entertainment programme for their teachers which was followed by the Principal's speech.
- **9. Celebration of the Children's Day:** Members of the teaching staff entertained the students by holding the morning assembly in a special way on the eve of the Children's day. On 14 Nov. a fancy fete was put up by the teachers which included a variety of stalls ranging between eatables to fun and sport.
- **10. 'Moms Against Bikes', 22 November:** Women's Conference of India in collaboration with the local police organised the above programme rather a campaign to create awareness among students about road safety and traffic rules. An elocution contest was held in the school hall on this occasion and attractive posters were designed by the students.





- ◆ **11. Jubilarian Honoured, 23 November:** The Golden Jubilee celebration of Rev. Sr. Vianney, a veteran of the Nirmala family who has served this institution for 18 long years both as a teacher and a librarian was held in the school. About 600 people attended the ceremony and the lunch that followed. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Bishop Dr. Antony Fernandes graced the occasion.
- ◆ **12. Inauguration of the Digital Notice Board, 12 December:** LFD digital notice board of the school was inaugurated by the Principal Rev. Sr. Josy. The E-Care team and some teachers were present on the occasion.
- ◆ **13. The Annual Athletic Meet, 20-21 December:** The 27th Athletic Meet was declared open by the Principal and ended the next day at 2pm. A write-up follows.
- ◆ **14. On the Eve of Christmas:** A colourful Christmas programme was staged on 23 December by the students which included a dance-drama and the singing of carols. Rev. Fr. Gregory Frank graced the occasion and delivered the Christmas message.
- ◆ **15. Celebration of the Republic Day:** A senior member of the staff unfurled the national flag and took the salute of the march past. Patriotic songs were sung and speeches were delivered by the students. Group dances rich with patriotic fervor added to the charm of the function.



- ◆ **16. The Art and Crafts Exhibition:** This exhibition was set up in the school on 8 February to give the parents a peep into the creative talents of our students. It was indeed, a feast for the eyes.
- ◆ **17. Farewell and Bon-voyage, 8 February:** A prayer meeting was held on the farewell of the outgoing students of class XII which was followed by a short cultural programme and a party.
- ◆ **18. The School Literary Association 2013-14:** The Association was inaugurated on 4 May (Primary Section) and 9 May (Senior Section) by the Principal Rev. Sr. Josy and organised the following activities round the year:
 - I Handwriting Competition in English and Hindi for VI-VIII on 3 August.
 - II Mehendi Competition for senior girls on the same day.
 - III Poster Drawing Competition for classes IX-XII the same day.
 - IV Singing Competition for classes I-II on 17 August.
 - V Rakhi Making Competition for classes IV-V, 17 August.
 - VI Collage Making Competition for classes VI-VIII, 17 August.
 - VII Western Dance Competition for classes IV-V, 31 August.





VIII Dance Drama Competition for classes IX-XII, 3 September.

IX English Recitation Competition for classes VI-VIII, 7 September.

X Candle, Diya and Pot decoration Competition for classes VI-VIII on 19 October and Singing competition for classes IV&V.

XI Solo Dance Competition for classes VI-VIII on 30 October.

XII Ghazal Singing Competition for classes IX-XII, 9 November.

XIII Solo Dance Competition for class III, 19 November.

XIV Dancing in Pair for the girls of classes IX-XII, 30 November.

XV Speech Competition for class VIII, 1 December.

XVI Speech Competition for classes VI-VII, 7 December.

19. Games & Sports round up:

I Inter-House football matches were played on 5 October for senior boys.

II Medals and certificates were given to the winners of East Zone Swimming Contest held at Durgapur, West Bengal on 9 October.



III Navya Pande of class IX-D won Gold Medal in National Karate Championship held at Haldwani on 26&27 October.

IV Inter-House football matches were played between junior boys football teams on 9 November.

V Inter-House Basketball matches were played on 15 November.

VI Junior boys football final was played between Theresa and Raman House on 30 November.

VII Students from class L.K.G to V had their annual sports on 19 December.

VIII Junior Girls basketball final match was played between Priyadarshini and Pataudi-House on 28 December.

20. **Morning Assemblies:** The School has a tradition of conducting special morning assemblies to highlight the importance of memorable days, festivals and days of historical significance. These assemblies include speeches, songs, skits and dances that highlight the significance of the occasion. Creating awareness among the students about a particular issue or occasion is the main aim of holding such assemblies. Special morning assemblies were held in the school on the following occasions during the year:

I Baisakhi the festival of harvesting 12 April





- II Ram Naumi the Birth of Lord Ram 13 April
- III Earth Day Save the planet earth 22 April
- IV Anti Child Labour Day 30 April
- V The Day of Working Class Solidarity 1 May
- VI- Tagore Jayantee 7 May
- VII World Red Cross Day 8 May
- VIII Id-Ui-Fitra 8 August
- IX Raksha Bandhan 19 August
- X Gandhi Jayanti 2 October
- XI Vigilance Awareness 6&7 November
- XII Uttarakhand Sthapana Diwas 9 November
- XIII National Education Day: 11 November

- XIV Silver Jubilee of two of the staff members namely Mrs. Asha Bhatt, Mrs. Sharda Pande
- XV Guru Nanak Jayanti 16 November
- XVI The Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur 22 November
- XVII Communal Harmony Day 25 November
- XVIII World Aids Day 2 December
- XIX Netaji Subhas Bose Jayanti 23 January 2014



21. Seminars & Orientation Programmes:

- I A group of students accompanied by two of the teachers, Mrs. Meena Bora and Mrs. Rashmi Joshi attended a Leadership Training Programme at Indore (M.P) which was organised by Universal Solidarity Movement.
- II A Seminar on 'An Approach To Effective Teaching' was organised by Ratna Sagar Publications in the school hall for teachers on 24 Aug. Mr. Tejinder Garewal has been the resource person on the occasion.
- III An Orientation Programme was in the school for the parents of our students on 21 September. Rev. Fr. Alan Godden Varghese an eminent journalist, writer and social worker addressed a large audience in the school on 'Challenges and problems faced by parents in raising children in the present environment'. He left the audience spell-bound.
- IV Rev. Fr. Anand and his team 'Purvagriha' presented certain dramatic acts in the school auditorium on 7 October which were focused on value education.
- V Mrs. Vineeta Tiwari with two bright students of class X attended a three day workshop at Lakes International, Bhimtal organised by the Ministry of Human Resources from 7 to 9 October.



Talents, Creativity and Fun



Art & Craft





22. Picnics and Excursions:

I The Students of classes VI-VII enjoyed a one day picnic at Wonderland Amusement Park, Moradabad and Aryabhata Planetarium Rampur (U.P) on 28 September.

II The Students of classes XI&XII accompanied by their teachers enjoyed a one day picnic at Fun City Bareilly (U.P) on 28 September.

III Members of the teaching staff enjoyed a one day picnic at Garzia, Ramnagar.

IV Students from classes VIII to XII went for an educational tour to Goa with their teachers led by the Principal Rev. Sr. Josy.

23. Non-Curricular Examinations:

I 'Bharat Ko Jano', a General Knowledge Examination was conducted in the school on 24 August in which 375 students participated.

II English Olympiad was conducted in the school for the students on 10 December.

III I.G.S.C. Scholarship Examination for the students from class I to VII was conducted on 6 December.



IV Mathematics Olympiad was conducted on 19 November.

V A Talent Hunt Examination was conducted by the Lovely Professional University Punjab on 8 Jan. 2014.

24. 'Nirmala Shines':

Our school provides ample opportunities to the students to participate and develop their talents and skills in various local, inter-school, state and national level competitions. The following is an account of that:

I Two of our students won Gold and Silver medals in East Zone Swimming contest held at Durgapur, W.B. organised by the C.B.S.E and were selected for the National Swimming Contest.

II Four students of our school got 1st and 2nd prizes at Inter-school G.K. Competition 'Bharat Ko Jano'.

III Our Girls Basketball team won the Runner's Trophy at Inter-school Basketball Tournament held at a local school from 12-14 December.

IV 33 students of our school won trophies and cash prizes at a Talent Hunt Programme by the Shivalik School.

25. Some School Luminaries:

I Yathartha Joshi, class XII A 'Student of the Year' (the best all-rounder)

II Dheeraj Adhikari, XII B Best in academic performance

III Navya Pande Winner of 2 championships in Karate

IV Drishti Rajpal, XI B Honoured by Canara Bank for scoring the highest marks in Hindi, class X, A.I.S.S.E 2013

V Kiran Dhapola, X winner of 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze medals at East Zone Swimming Contest

VI Kanika Belwal, X Winner of Silver medal in the same contest.

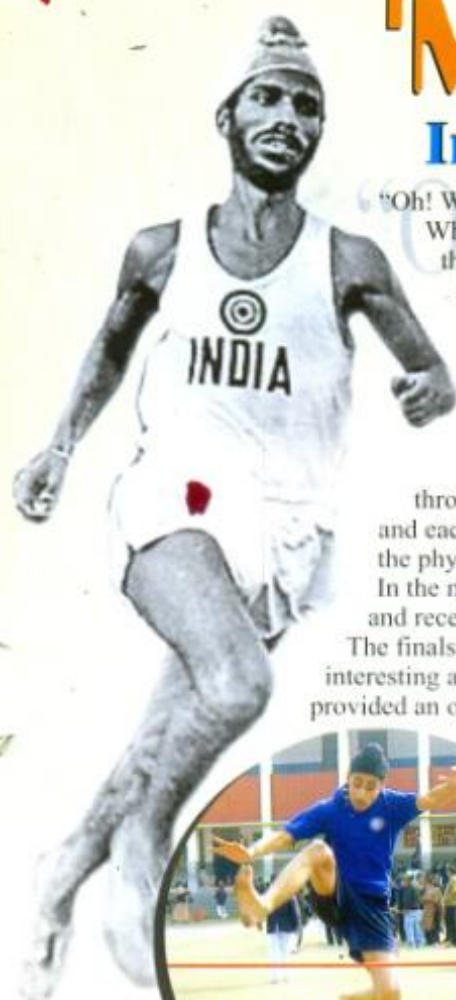
• Reporter



'Some people are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust on them.'

'Milkhas'

In Making - The Annual Athletic Meet 2013



"Oh! What a throw...", "Faster, faster! Cover up, don't look behind, carry on, carry on woo.....!!!" "Oh! What a jump! It's amazing", "Theresa...Theresa... Raman...Raman" Nirmala's premises echoed with these sounds as our budding sportsman displayed their skills on the playground in the Annual Athletic Meet.

December 20 was the day which broke dull and grey; there was a chill in the wind and a nip in the morning breeze. But who cared for all that? Our enthusiasm did not die down. We reached the school and sharp at 9am our Principal declared the 27th Athletic Meet open. The sports captain of our school administered the oath of duty and loyalty to the participating athletes and then completed a running round of the school playground with the sports flame.

Within ten minutes after the Opening Ceremony the playground became lively with racing, throwing and jumping events. The excitement was mounting with the speed and stepping of the runners and each winner was being greeted with an explosion of sounds by the crowd sitting around and watching the physical display. Our athletes were showing their best, full of zeal and enthusiasm.

In the middle of the ground was the Victory Stand. After every final event, the three winners stood on it and received their medals and certificates from the Principal amidst cheering and applause.

The finals of most of the sporting events took place next day. Of these the relay races were the most interesting and they made us excited and thrilled. The athletic meet ended with the closing ceremony. It provided an opportunity to those who look for a career in sports.

•A Viewer



Girls: Still Fighting for "The Right to Live"

'The Lords reside where women are worshipped' is what our shastras say about women. It follows that women must have the right not only to be treated as equal to men but also the right to respect. But what a tragic irony of fate it is that women are not even given the right to live. Although we have progressed a lot over the past years, and are living in a world where much is said about women empowerment, things have not really changed. We still live in a male dominant society where the birth of a male child is rejoiced and that of a female is considered to be a curse in many parts of the world. The number of girls is decreasing, not because they aren't born but because they are denied the right to live. There are millions who become victims of inhuman practices like female foeticide and female infanticide every year. Some who manage to survive are tortured and given a treatment that even criminals do not deserve. Many a times it is heard that illiteracy is the root cause of all these problems. But are we not ignoring the various cases of atrocities on female child by well educated and reputed people. Why don't we realize that it is not about being educated or uneducated but more importantly, it is about our mentality? It seems that our society is suffering from a thinking syndrome, we think that women are inferior to men-but why do we forget that it is women who bring into this world new lives and nurture them. Everyone wants a mother, wife and a sister, then why not a daughter? Man cannot do anything alone as man and women are two pillars on which our society rests and by killing girls, we are damaging one of our society's pillars, so let us pledge today to-

**SAVE THE
GIRL
CHILD,
PROTECT
GIRLS AND
RESPECT WOMEN.**



Amishi Tewari, XI-A

Hand of God rests heavily upon the chosen instruments of His glory.

Excursion to **Mumbai & Goa**



I can never forget the evening of 17th October 2013 when I reached the Kathgodam railway station. I saw the Nirmalites and their parents waiting for the train with great excitement. I was delighted too. After an hour, we boarded the train and left for a wonderful excursion to Mumbai and Goa.

The next day we reached the Delhi station around 4:30 in the morning when the whole city was still asleep. After that we boarded another train for 'Mumbai'. The journey with friends and teachers was very enjoyable. After reaching there we went to a hotel and took some rest there and then saw the whole Mumbai city. We went to the amazing "Gateway of India", saw the famous "Taj Hotel" and took photographs of those marvelous structures. In the evening we went shopping in the "Fashion Street". At the end of the day, we boarded a train for Goa and as we all were very tired we quickly slept on our berths. After reaching Goa, I realised that Goa was really very beautiful. We went to the resort 'Sun Village' where I had a great time with my friends. Our first destination in Goa was the "Anjuna Beach". Then we went to the "Vengator Beach". And in the evening we went to "Baslica of Bom Jesus", a famous church of Goa which filled us with peace. At night we visited the beautiful "Mangesh Temple". It was truly a beautiful sight. The next day was reserved for the "Fort of Augada" and the "Calangute Beach" and its beautiful market. We, even the teachers were greatly excited for shopping. It was an awesome experience. In the evening we went to "Dor Paula Bay" and had a cruise party later. We saw some traditional dances and spent our last evening in Goa wonderfully. It was the last day of all due fun we had in Goa. And then the next morning we went to the station and boarded a train for Delhi. We bade goodbye to Goa. After reaching Kathgodam we were upset as the tour was over but the joy of meeting our families and the memorable experience made us happy. It was truly a beautiful experience that I can never forget...



● Sakshi Srivastava, IX-I



OF MY DREAMS

May I sit and dream for the best? Who can stop me to do that? If not in reality at least in dreams, let me get the best picture of my country. Sometimes, they say, dreams can also come true, so do I also wish.

Politically, India of my dreams would be a successful democracy where all have equal rights of life. Corruption would be unheard in the India of my dreams. Money of the people would be money for the people - pay the taxes as they need to be paid for the benefit and welfare of the people. No poverty, no starvation - all to have. There would be no pollution created by the industries. Handicrafts would grow and their marketing would also be properly managed. India of my dreams would militarily be powerful - none dare touch its boundaries. A social concord and cooperation and a sense of brotherhood among all shall be the hall mark of my India's social set up. Healthy at birth, hopeful in youth and happy in old age - that would be the way of life of people in the country of my dreams. Health, wealth and wisdom would be the key words of life. How pleasant would be the day when dreams as above would be fulfilled and realised!!!

● Akshita Pathak, IX-I

Problems are opportunities with thorns on them.



AWAKE! BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE

A skinny, small figure with tanned skin and gleaming eyes works tirelessly day and night in the houses of people. She does it, not because she wants to but because she has to. Roaming in the streets with her childhood getting buried day by day. She works as it has become her priority after all she has with her. She searches high up in the sky for God as people tell her that He resides there. She wants Him to answer her question why only her?

I have heard most of the grown-ups say that their childhood days were their golden days and then it makes me think whether this girl will be able to say this ever? This is not just

the story of one girl but of many children in India. Child labour is a topic on which discussions and debates are held at schools, communities and in some homes also but they remain discussions only. In many schools children are taught about child labour, to stand against it but many reports tell us that it is not practiced.

The Indian government has passed laws that ban labour by children below the age of fourteen years but they are not aware of this. All the steps taken to eradicate child labour, a growing evil, will fail if every single individual does not contribute to it. The work of an individual is not tough, it is just to bring smiles on their faces in entire ways one can. We should whole-heartedly support all the campaigns and major steps that lead to the eradication of child labour.

The reason those children or their families give regarding their working at such an early age is justified. They say "what will they do if they don't work?" Yes, they do not have any other option but to starve to death. There will not be a single person in India who has not come across a child who works so hard in places that are not meant for him or is not aware about this curse. Is it still so hard for us to understand that the lives of innocent children are in danger, that they need our help.

When we sleep every night dreaming on our bed,
There is a child awake who does not dream of tomorrow.

When we are with all the delicacies fed

There are many who swallow their sorrow.

After everything we have, that we say is less

There are many who do not know what is happiness.

We should think of them once every time we rejoice

Of those child labourers by fate, not by choice.

Do not ignore those helpless children. Try to get a smile on their faces. Support them. We should make sure that once when God will show us the flashback of our lives it is worth watching. STOP CHILD LABOUR!!

● Paridhi Joshi, X-C



Tortured Nature



Nature must be loved,
It is made by God above.
Nature is in place,
Nature is always with grace.
Nature is green,
It is colourful when seen.
Nature is serene,
It is peaceful ever seen.
But people are bad,
They made mother nature mad.
When nature gets mad,
It makes everyone sad.
Disaster of nature,
Is enough of your torture?
Nature is a flower,
It gives love like a bower.

● Priya Patni, III-B

GRANDPARENTS

They are Grandparents!!!

Today may be definition of grandparents has changed or instead I should say that today we may not be able to define them (grandparents) because we really don't spend that quality time with them, don't share our

feelings and problems with them. At times when we are in some problem, we get frustrated and overlook their suggestions and advice as we feel that they are not of our era.

But then why do we forget that they are the ones who have something so special, so precious which is not bound to anything and that is their 'experience'. Today the life, the problems which we are going through they have already experienced. Definitely the time has changed, the circumstances have changed but what remains unchanged is their knowledge, their ability to understand and deal with situations, their feeling of care and love for us.

And we don't even have few moments to spend with them. They never demand much, just a word of love with a caring smile is enough to please them.

And because today's generation is too "practical", so let's take it this way. The way they cared for us, the way they pampered us and all that they did for us unselfishly. Now it's the time, now it's our turn to owe them the same. Moreover, we would never lose anything, instead gain because being with them is not a burden, but a privilege.

Yes, it is possible that because of generation gap at times our and their thoughts may not match or they may even contradict, but something which is for sure is that they will always make us choose which bridge to walk and which one to burn.

They are experienced,
They have been through
They know it all
They will never leave
you....

● Preeti Jaswal, XI-C

'A life without an ambition is like the sky without the sun.'

OUR GROWING ASSET THE YOUTH

Youth is said to be the most active phase of our life. They have their personality as enthusiastic, excited and a motto to achieve anything they desire. This is the age when a person goes through certain stages which teach him to withstand the tough situations in future. Well, is it true for today's youth?? Today's youth has developed an image of slackers who are unwilling to employ themselves in constructive works.

Youth has become most vulnerable to all kinds of crimes and has developed all kinds of bad habits.

Driving with caution has become out of fashion for them. To gain popularity they routinely danger their lives by rash and unsafe driving on roads.

Alcohol, oh!! That has become a status signature for them. The one who does not take it is considered as a tot by them. Without knowing its harmful effects, they intake it occasionally and even routinely. Moreover to be up to date they engage themselves in relationships which may even indulge them into many bad consequences. This portrait of the youth has been crafted by the present media. Media, which has deeply influenced the minds of teenagers have adopted all the negativities rather than positive aspects.

All the films, T.V. shows and websites for the sake of publicity have adopted all the vulgar and insignificant aspects which are influencing teens' minds and their actions.

Friends, where have we lost our innocence, Our enthusiasm, and aspirations for our future dreams?

So, let's bring it back. Let's boost up and get up to our family's pride, our guide's expectations and our ambitions.

We must sense what is good and bad for us, and be aware of our environment and adopt the constructive habit of it.

• Drishti Rajpal, XI-B



The Brightest Star

I can see you in the brightest star
Watching over me
Smiling just as always
And letting yourself free.

Leaving us in this harsh world
With silent sniffs and incessant tears
With infinite insecurities in your absence
You left us with huge burdens to bear.

My life is empty without you
My soul is lifeless without your laughter
But I know you are up there
Watching over me and looking after.

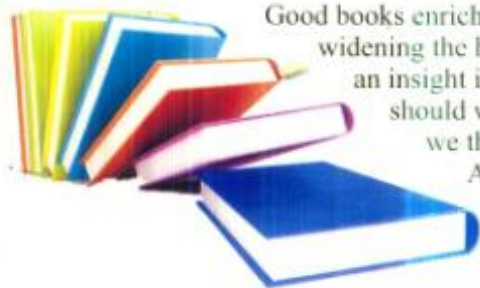
Without you around
My world has turned upside down
I now face the world
With nothing else but a frown.

Tears roll down my cheeks
And flow in vain
Because no matter how much I try
I'm never going to see you again.

And how that thought makes me cry
Just then I try to hold my tears and smile
Cause I can see you in the brightest star
Near to me yet very far.

• Priyashi Negi, XII-B

THE PLEASURES OF READING



Good books enrich the mind by providing knowledge, by widening the horizons of our imagination, and giving us

an insight into different minds. It is truly said that 'A man is known by the company he keeps'. Why should we not, then, keep the best company, that of good books? And what better company can we think of than that of the great thinkers, philosophers and writers who have written them?

A good book brings you into the company of mighty minds. Good literature entertains, instructs and elevates. It takes us on a flight of fancy, away from our humdrum lives, to a place or country we want to visit without having to pay for the passage. Bacon once said, "My mind to me a kingdom is." And he was quite right. Pleasures derived from external things like eating or sports are short-lived and elusive, but the

pleasure that we derive from reading books is everlasting and satisfying. Even after we have finished reading a book, we continue to think about it and derive pleasure from it after having attended to the dull chores of daily life.

To derive maximum pleasure from reading we have to gradually pass on from comics, cheap detective novels and simple story books to good literature. It is better to read the original, unabridged book rather than an abridged one, because we miss so many good things of the book in an abridged version, though it makes us conversant with the plot or theme. As Bacon has rightly said, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."

Few from the younger generation today enjoy the pleasures of reading, partly because they are distracted by the passive pleasures of the cinema and television, but mostly because they have never been systematically initiated into the charm of books. The curriculum in schools and colleges is so heavy that young boys and girls develop a natural dislike for books. This is the reason why it is necessary to introduce library periods in all schools and colleges when students can choose good books and read them under the guidance of well-read teachers. That will kindle in them an urge and abiding love for reading.

Let us indulge wholeheartedly in this wonderful pastime of reading. We have no better friends than books.

• Deepakshi Bora, VII-C

"The truth of imagination is greater than the truth of reality."

Student's life is that a game,
Full of pleasure and that of pain.
It is time we should be able to decide,
What is good for us what is to be kept aside.
First day of the session,
We try to be disciplined and follow the rule
But from the next day we think-
It's not so cool!
Come to the school clean and neat.
In the exams don't try to cheat.
Wish the teachers whom you meet.
Walk properly! Don't drag your feet!
These are the rules we are taught to feed.
History, Geography, Civics are all boring.
During these lessons, class seems to be snoring.
Praying to god-
"God! Please pass me this time"
Our deplorable result horrifies us badly.
Wishing each other luck, we leave the school sadly.
It hurts a lot when the school life ends.
We miss our teachers and our friends.
We pray to the Almighty to get back that time.
But it's just like searching for cherries in the juice of lime."

● Purva Pathak, X-C

Student's Life

Friendship "The best Ship"

बचपन

याद आया मुझे एक दिन
बीता हुआ कल मेरा
जो अब गया है मुझसे छिन
वो प्यारा बचपन मेरा।
माँ-पापा की गोद में जब
आती थी नौद मुझे
पाकर खुश हो जाती थी तब
खिलौने माँ के हाथ से।
मेरी हठ को तोड़
जब माँ अपने हाथ
से दूध पिलाती
मन ही मन मैं फूलती
कि मैं ही यहाँ की रानी।
क्या कभी लौट पाऊँगे
वो लाड़ प्यार के दिन
जब छोटी सी हँसी मेरी
बना देती थी उनका दिन।

● प्रार्थना लाल, 11-ब

Friendship is priceless,
And can never be forgotten,
Friendship is timeless,
And never rotten.
The road to a happy life
May sometimes make us stumble.
But to have a friend to give us a hand,
Teache us to be humble.
Good friends are hard to find,
Hard to lose,
And impossible to forget,
But when they fly away,
Your anger turns to regret
Sometimes in life, we need
a special person
To listen while we talk.
A special person who will not
discourage or judge,
But encourage us as we walk.
Friends are there
To help you along,
The journey through friendship,
Is always long. ● Harshita Sahney XII-D

भारत माँ

इस बदलते देश में
वह भूल गया अपनी भारत माँ को,
जिसकी गोद में वह खेलता है,
जिसमें वह जन्मा है।

आज उसी पर वह लोगो को मारता है
आज उसी पर वह खून की नदी बहाता है,
उसने अपनी भारत माँ को आँसुओं का हार दिया है,
वह अपनी भारत माँ को ही भूल गया है।

अब वह माँ से प्यार नहीं करता है
क्या यही वह भारत माँ है
जो सालों पहले स्वतन्त्र हो गई थी?
वह सोचती है "कब मेरे बच्चे,
मेरी गोद में वापस लौटेंगे।"
क्या यही वह देश है
जो भारत माँ कहलाता है?
मैं सोचती हूँ एक दिन आएगा।
जब कोई इस माँ का
नाम रोशन कर जायेगा।

● अर्पिता नेमी, 6-द



माँ

इस जग में देवी बनकर, कृपा अनोखी बरसाती माँ
खुद कांटो में चलकर, राहों में फूल सजाती माँ
जाने क्या-क्या दुःख सहती, बच्चों को खूब हसाती माँ
बच्चों का पेट भर देती, चाहें खुद भूखी रह जाती माँ
उंगली पकड़-पकड़ कर हमको चलना-फिरना सिखाती माँ
गिर जाएँ तो दौड़-दौड़ कर, हमको फिर उठाती माँ
माँ ने क्या-क्या दिया हमको, इसका मोल न मांगती माँ
हर भूल क्षमा कर हर पल हमको गले लगाती माँ
माँ को क्या परिभाषित करें, माँ तो बस माँ होती है
पुत्र-कुपुत्र हो जाएँ चाहे माँ कभी कुमाला नहीं होती है
माँ तो बस माँ होती है, जीवन के हर सुख देती है।

● इशिका गर्ग, 6-द



जो है जग में सबसे प्यारा,
जो है जग में सबसे न्यारा।
जो मेरे जीने की एक वजह है,
जिसके बिना इस दुनिया में
रहना एक सज़ा है।

हाथ पकड़कर चलना सिखाया मुझे,
सही गलत में भेद करना बताया मुझे,
क्या आप जानना नहीं चाहेंगे, कौन है वो?
वह है मेरे पापा।



मेरे पापा

अगर दिल हूँ मैं
तो धड़कन है वो,
अगर देह हूँ मैं
तो आत्मा है वो।

तुम जैसा और कोई नहीं
तुम्हारे कहने से सब होता है सही,
मेरे पापा, प्यारे पापा।

● पार्थ अग्रवाल, 6-द





Nirmala

2013 - 14



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