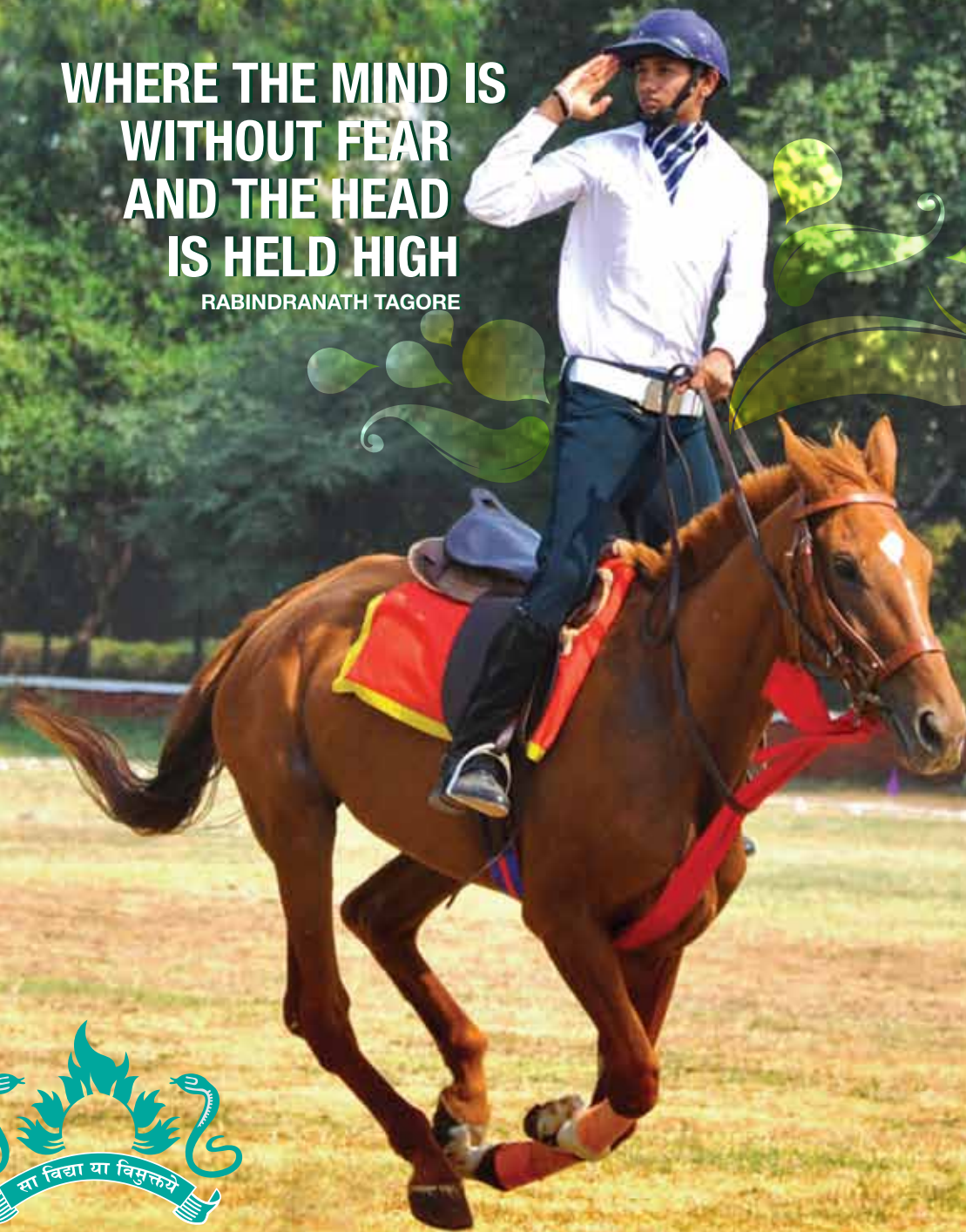


WHERE THE MIND IS  
WITHOUT FEAR  
AND THE HEAD  
IS HELD HIGH

RABINDRANATH TAGORE



# QILA QUOTES

THE SCINDIA SCHOOL QUARTERLY | VOLUME 14

JANUARY 2011

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The venture of publishing Qila Quotes was taken up in 2008. This is the 14th edition. We gratefully acknowledge the cooperation, appreciation and suggestions we received over the years from our readers. The 'Qila Quotes' reaches five thousand readers from various professional and business backgrounds and is sent to over a hundred and twenty schools. The magazine reaches our readers at no cost to them. We have decided to publish advertisements in 'Qila Quotes' of products/ companies that can be related to school. Your kind cooperation in this matter will be appreciated. Please contact [principal@scindia.edu](mailto:principal@scindia.edu) or [pujap@scindia.edu](mailto:pujap@scindia.edu) for details.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this edition of Qila Quotes. If an error has occurred, please accept our apologies and contact the editor at [pujap@scindia.edu](mailto:pujap@scindia.edu).

## PRINCIPAL'S DESK

“ In this issue we celebrate the achievements of our present and past students.”

**MR. SAMIK GHOSH**

Principal, The Scindia School

2011 set off a variety of processes which will bring about positive changes in the School. Systems governing academics were reviewed and redesigned. Classroom renovation project is now underway in full swing. Introduction of the Special Education Needs Department was an important step towards inclusive education. Bringing in fresh ideas, cultural diversity and talents through appointing faculty from different countries will now be a regular feature.

In this issue we celebrate the achievements of our present and past students. The reader will get Old Boys' candid personal view of the Annual HH Maharaja Jeevajirao Memorial Lecture and about the library of their time. The students have spoken of their world without inhibition.

A special word of appreciation for the wonderful effort that my colleague Ms. Puja Pant makes to churn out issue after issue of our Qila Quotes. Kudos to her.



Principal Mr. Samik Ghosh, Vice Principal Mrs. Shalini Mehrotra and Mr. Gopal Chaturvedi (Faculty of German)

with the participants of the International German Youth Camp

## EACH NEW YEAR BRINGS WITH IT THE ANTICIPATION OF GOOD TIMES AND A HOPE THAT OUR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS COME TRUE.

It also brings remembrances of the year gone by. 2011 was significant for the School as we hosted two successful Round Square Conferences, started with the important work of setting up the Special Educational Needs Department and widened the ambit of our commitment to social causes.



Band display at the finals of the

Athletics Meet

We also saw new members joining the faculty in various positions, guest faculty from different parts of the globe and as matrons in the senior Houses. Enhanced thrust on academics and constant upgradations of infrastructure kept the mood upbeat. This year we have to build on everything that was started last year. Let's welcome the New Year with open arms and full vigour.

We have the leadership, we have the ideas and we have the talent. It's time to unleash it all.

### Cheers to 2012

#### CELEBRATIONS

The School celebrated the 114th Founder's Day with traditional splendour. The Chief Guest for the function was Mr. Anand Mahindra, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra. The exhibitions, orchestra and the English play were appreciated by all. The Old Boys particularly those from the batch of 1986, which celebrated its silver jubilee reunion, flocked the school in large numbers and could be seen sharing moments of nostalgia. They arranged to bring their teachers to the functions, which added a special touch to the occasion. After the festivities got over all the classes left for educational camps to different places and returned recharged for serious academics.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Two smart classrooms with refined aesthetic design coupled with latest technology have been completed. This is a pilot project. After a month of trial we shall finalise the design on the basis of teachers' and students' feedback. Renovation of Teacher Resource Centre and other projects for all round improvement will commence shortly.

With a view to promoting badminton two new badminton courts have come up in school. Work is going on towards repair and upgradation of two common rooms in the Middle School. They will be ready by 31st March and work on the remaining two houses will begin soon after.

#### ROUND SQUARE CONFERENCE

The School hosted the Senior Regional South Asian and Gulf Region Round Square Conference from 19th December to 23rd December. The theme was 'Rights and Responsibilities'. A total of nineteen schools were a part of the conference. The three days were packed with stirring talks by keynote speakers, stimulating baraza sessions and a socially meaningful service project. It was heartening to see young children speak passionately about infringement of rights, need for reforms and a consensus that rights and responsibilities complement each other. The service project took place in the villages Katmai and Vinega, which are near Shivpuri. The delegates made educational artwork on the school wall and educated the villagers about health and hygiene. Each school went back with a great sense of fulfilment.

## EDITORIAL



Yoga display on the morning of Founder's Day

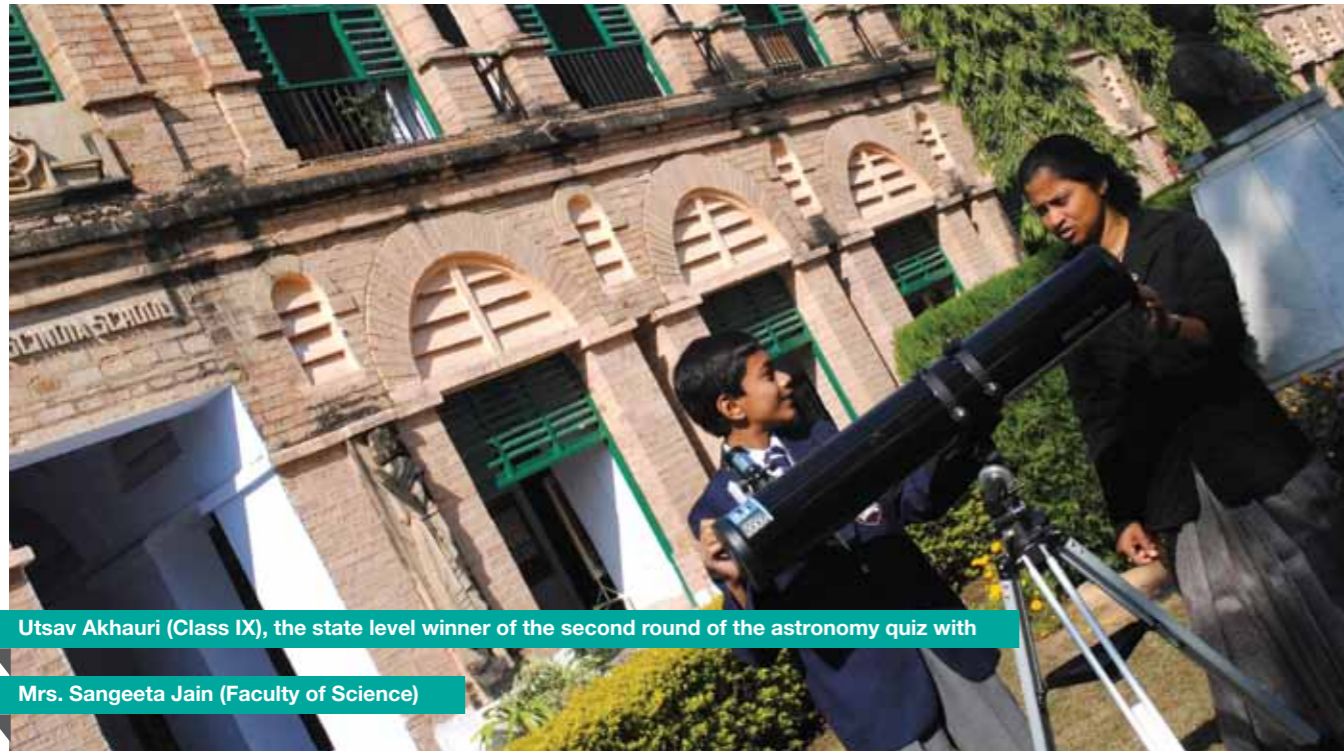


Orchestra performance on the opening ceremony of the Round Square Conference

## EDITORIAL



Dr. I.P. Dubey and Mr. Mukesh Tiwari with the students at Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas



Utsav Akhauri (Class IX), the state level winner of the second round of the astronomy quiz with

Mrs. Sangeeta Jain (Faculty of Science)

## INTERNATIONAL GERMAN YOUTH CAMP

The Scindia School hosted the International German Youth Camp from 26th December to 30th December. Students of nine schools participated in the camp which was organised in collaboration with Goethe Institut, New Delhi. Its purpose was to give an opportunity to the young learners of German, from different parts of the country and from Pakistan, to engage more fruitfully in the language through activity based learning. All teaching and interaction took place only in German, enabling the students to acquire greater fluency. Certificates of participation and gifts were given to all the participants.

## INITIATIVE

Four students (Kanav Barman, Aditya Sharma, Abhishek Garg and Karan Lall) along with Mrs Puja Pant attended the BBC News Report Project workshop in Delhi. This project is run by the British Council in partnership with the BBC. It gives 11-16 year-old students the chance to make their own news reports at school and to broadcast these to a real audience via the internet and other media. The first news about the desecration of national monuments has been uploaded on the school website and has been much appreciated. We invite all to take a look at it.

## FACULTY NEWS

Heartiest congratulations to Mrs Sangeeta Jain on her appointment as a Board Member on the Advisory Council of the NGO Amit Smriti. The organization dedicates itself to the all round development of the young generation. It has launched Project Aryabhata to promote and popularise Astronomy amongst the school children. Mrs. Jain's suggestions regarding activities which will be conducted in future and also the ways of securing more participation from schools have been well considered.

## NASA TRIP

21 students along with Dr IP Dubey and Mr Mukesh Tiwari went on an educational trip to NASA, USA. The trip was organised in collaboration with the group Atlantis Research, New Delhi. The purpose was to get scientific knowledge and to come up with innovative ideas to make rovers (robotics) and space shuttle by using different technologies.

## ACADEMICS

Continuing with the increased involvement of the parents in the academic journey of their ward the second parent - teacher meeting was held in October and the third in the month of December. These increased interactions are helping us to collectively make plans, set goals and solve problems with a view to enhancing academic performance.

Syllabi in class XII was completed as per the set deadline of 5th November, 2011. At all other levels the syllabus is progressing as per the Measurement of Syllabus. Classes IX-XII appeared for their first Summative Assessment. Meticulous corrections were followed by moderation meetings and then finally the Review meetings where the strengths and weaknesses of the children were identified. It was ensured that specific strategies are formulated to maximise their potential.

Evening classes with a special focus on reading and speaking in English have started for students of class VIII and IX. Each reading session is followed by animated discussions on the matter read. This helps the children to acquire greater fluency and confidence. The students are also being initiated into theatre exercises.

In order to facilitate high-quality university placements the Career Cell at School invited Career Counsellors from various organizations to guide our students in the choice of their career. The team from Admizzionz Campuz, New Delhi has been guiding the students of Class XII about college admissions post class XII.

All the students in the school were screened for spelling and free writing. The students who had been recommended by their subject teachers as being in need of special help were assessed further. Special Need Classes have started for the students, who need them, with a plan to help them in their areas of weakness. School has now started providing a reader for some of our dyslexic children during the Formative Assessment tests. Some teachers are also producing modified question papers.

IEPs (Individual Education Programmes) have been put together to enable the faculty to understand the problems of students with Special Needs.

## STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS



Vivek Saharia



(From L to R) Rajat Agarwal and Harshotsava Jalan

**Harshotsava Jalan** and **Rajat Agarwal** have been awarded an IPSC scholarship of 30,000 Rupees each for their all round performance.

**Manik Datta** won the Bhopal Open Squash Tournament in the under 19 age category. He was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000. He also reached the semi-finals in the Men's category.

Like every year this time too the Cross Country race was a test of fitness, endurance and will power. This year **Vivek Saharia** (Mj Class IX) of B Group broke the record of **Dinesh Thakur**(Ex Rn) after a period of twenty two years. He covered the stretch in 6min 22.71 sec and set an unassailable record which future athletes will find difficult to break.

After having cleared the first round of the astronomy quiz in school **Utsav Akhauri** represented the school for the second round which was held at Bhopal. This round is conducted at the state level. Utsav made a presentation on 'Pulsars' in front of scientists where he was cross fired by questions. He also had to align the telescope on the stars asked by the scientists. It is a matter of great pride that Utsav stood first in Madhya Pradesh with a brilliant score of 94%. He will now be visiting the Kodaikanal Observatory in Summer. The organisation Amit Smriti will bear all the expenses of this trip. The Scindia School has been gifted a telescope for its regular and large participation in quiz.

**Neelav Agarwala, Aditya Sharma, Anubhav Kapur, Pratik Bhalotia, Ritwik Kumar** and **Anirudh Gangwal** participated in the IPSC IT Fest 2010-11 held at Baroda.

**Pratik Bhalotia** secured the first position in Digital Cartoon Making. **Neelav Agarwala** and **Anirudh Gangwal** stood third in C++ Programming

The Nationwide Wizard Search contest was conducted by NIIT in January 2011. Students from various schools across the country participated in it. **Suvrat Narain** was adjudged the winner in the Class XI category. **Prasenjeet Boudh** was declared the runner up in the Class VII category.

## OLD BOYS' NEWS



Mr. Anand Pawar receiving the Madhav Award



Aayush Tandon(centre) receiving the certificate

On the occasion of the 114th Founder's Day of the School the Madhav Award was conferred on **Mr. Anand Pawar** (Ex Sh 1964- Retd. Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh) for his outstanding contribution to the police department and to the Nation.

The SOBA award was won by **Rahul Kulshreshtha** (Ex Rn 1981) and the SOBA cup by the Delhi Chapter. The running trophy donated by Mr Mahesh Gandhi for the Old boys vs present boys Cricket match was won by the Old Boys. Rahul Kulshreshtha donated a running trophy for hockey to pay regards to Mr MH Khan (former Housemaster Ranoji and Hockey incharge)

We are proud of **Abhilash Anand** (Ex Jp, 2008) who has joined Bank of America Merrill Lynch as an Associate Vice President. He will be heading a team of over 40 in UK and about 200 globally. He also received the Best Student Award from International Students House.

**Aayush Tandon** (Ex Rn 2011) participated in the Amity International Moot Court Competition 2011, hosted by Amity Law School Noida. He won the best mooter male award, the best mooter overall and also the best advocacy award. He will be going for an MUN to Harvard in February and has been elected as the head delegate. Aayush feels that the debating experience gathered in school is helping him immensely now.

The **Annual Jeevaji Rao Memorial Lecture** was held in New Delhi. President Board of Governors HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia was the speaker. Ten boys from school (Yashraj Nain, Viraj Kohli, Kanav Barman, Gaurav Puri, Raag Borgohain, Yashwardhan Kushwaha, Rohit Rathi, Rishav Raj, Sidhivinayak Singh and Vasu Gaur) attended the lecture. The topic for discussion was 'Youth, Truth and Politics'. This was followed by a question answer session where the students of our school, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya and The British School asked questions on a variety of topics. The evening ended with a dinner. (Article on page 9)

## YOUTH, TRUTH AND POLITICS

(This is a candid view of an alumnus of the interaction between the audience and the speaker, President Board of Governors HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia)

**A rare connection was in evidence – Jyotiraditya’s familiar fluent talking style and the audiences’ soft nerve for the subject found each on that magical evening of 18th November. “Youth, Truth and Politics”, in today’s Indian context can attract a reaction of surrender and resignation or that of taking ownership and call for action. To my pleasant surprise, what we saw that evening was very much the latter. The evening was not Jyotiraditya’s alone, in fact it was hardly his – it totally belonged to the audience. The questions just did not seem to end and the audience did not hesitate one bit in putting Jyotiraditya in a spot with their tough questions. That is young blood for you – the youngsters did their generation proud.**

For the audience, Jyotiraditya was clearly the representative of “youth” in “politics”. When asked about this, not wanting to be labelled, he cleverly redefined youth as a state of mind and not a matter of age. Jyotiraditya that we heard that evening, though aware of the political sensitivities, was a friend and not the politician. On one occasion he even got the media blanked out, so that he could speak from his heart. This is what made that evening what it eventually turned out to be. Audience could relate to him as a friend.

Jyotiraditya had some real insights to offer on the subject. He began by tweaking the subject to replace the word “politics” with “public life”, which was more appropriate. He went on to draw references to the vast cultural heritage of

the country and examples set in our national scriptures – notably that of lord Rama who put the wishes of his father before his own ambitions or comfort. Moving to the current times, invariably the discussion came to the problems that ail out polity today. Calling upon today’s youth, he said that the politics is a system which is not just the government or the political components, but the entire country and its people. The onus of fixing the system is on today’s youth – by age and by the state of mind.

A young participant of the audience happened to be aspiring for politics. Jyotiraditya conveyed a clear advise to him – that of encouragement and good luck. Many youngsters and educated youth think that politics is a dirty game of crooks and not for ‘gentlemen’. This is exactly the mind-set we need to break, the system would never get fixed if we keep expecting someone else to take off their shoes and get in the dirt – we need to do it.

One youngster could not understand what makes the ‘corrupt’ politicians behave in such a greedy manner as some of the recent scams have brought to light. His conscience being absolutely clear he found it hard to even imagine that someone could act so greedy. Jyotiraditya’s response was very realistic that greed is not specific to politics and that it is human nature to always crave for more. Amidst all the negative sentiment that prevailed, Jyotiraditya made a conscious effort to keep the perspective balanced. India today is not just about corruption of public life, but also that of progress, advancement and social equity. He highlighted several advancements that the country has made with specific references to the initiatives he has personally undertaken in his capacity as a part of the government. A great part of the discussion was on how our perceptions affect reality and how the perceptions are affected by the country’s media today. He pointed out that any newspaper today will highlight the negative news and only makes marginal mention of the positives.

To sum it up it was a remarkable evening, which I sure am glad I was a part of.

**Manoj Kumar Agarwal** | Ex Ranoji 1981



President Board of Governors HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia delivering the lecture



President Board of Governors HH Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia interacting with the Scindians

## ALUMNI

## THE LIBRARY

The library was said to have one of the finest collection of books any school possessed. The polished mahogany bookshelves, well stocked with rows of black and brown leather bound hard covers, stood testimony to this fact. With titles and names of authors embossed in gold, these books had no doubt been written by the great classical masters.

The books had, over the years, lost some of their sheen. Rarely disturbed, save for the occasional dusting, the books, when read, would undoubtedly develop young minds to higher literary or philosophical levels.

The magazine section of the library had several editions of The Illustrated Weekly of India, Shankar's Weekly, National Geographic, Popular Mechanics and Popular Science. Filmfare, the only film magazine at the time, was banned. The long reading table, lined with chairs on both sides, could accommodate a whole class. Close to the entrance of the library, sat the librarian, his chair atop a platform to give him a better view of the activities at the reading table at the other end.

Besides the 'library period', the library was the place where a class was sent if a master was absent.

In our last year at school, the library became closely linked to the Physics laboratory. This unofficial arrangement was the outcome of the Physics master, being so preoccupied with administrative duties, that he never found time to make a round of the Physics laboratory. The boys were thus left on their own to carry out experiments in the three hour afternoon period. Working out the specific gravity of floating bodies may have excited Archimedes, but for un-supervised school boys, the effort of standing around weighing and measuring things was far less attractive than sitting comfortably in the library.

And so, Physics practicals meant setting all the pendulums in motion before moving on to the library.

The librarian was never very happy with this invasion from the Physics lab. Having catalogued all the books several years earlier and with nothing much to do, the serene atmosphere of the library had enhanced his soporific senses in the afternoons. These 'seniors' had forgotten their library etiquette. Discussions and arguments at the long table would raise the decibel levels well beyond those permitted, disturbing his sleep. 'Silence please!' he would have to shout every few minutes. Though a mild mannered man, at times he would completely lose his cool and walk down to the long table, glaring threateningly at some boisterous group.

The class I belonged to singularly lacked any literary inclinations. The interest in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales vanished when the relevant pages disappeared from the book. A Shakespearean play was studied to pass the Eng. Lit. Exam. I never saw anyone ever glance at those wonderful rows of books. Some of us would read the magazines, some would chat and some would sleep. The library was an ideal place to relax.

And then one day, all hell broke loose!

The Physics master visited the Physics laboratory! There were two boys in the lab, busy trying to achieve a head-on collision between swinging pendulum bobs. When their ears were tweaked painfully, they revealed the whereabouts of the rest of the class.

No one noticed him enter the library. All of a sudden he was standing behind a boy sitting at the end of the long table. His face distorted by rage, he literally picked the unfortunate boy out of his chair and landed a sharp slap. The rest were by now out of their chairs and assembled on the opposite side of the long table. The Physics master was shouting uncontrollably. He made a move clockwise. The boys did the same. He then called a boy by his name. The boy refused to go near him saying 'No sir. You will beat me.'

We had never seen the Physics master in such a violent mood. He took several minutes to calm down. He told us that as senior boys he had trusted us to be responsible enough to do the experiments on our own. We all felt really bad about upsetting him and repeatedly apologized to him.



Boys just love to be here

Then some bright spark said 'Sir, we have actually finished all the experiments'.

'Show me your Physics journals' demanded the Physics master.

'We didn't bring the journals as we have finished the experiments' continued bright spark.

'I want to see your journals tomorrow' said the Physics master.

The whole night was spent copying readings and diagrams into the Physics journal. The source of data was journals

kindly left behind by the previous batch. Indeed, the original readings may well have been recorded several batches earlier.

Thereafter the Physics master began visiting the Physics lab at least twice during 'practicals'. It was also the end of the happy times that we spent in the library. With nothing better to do, we actually used the pendulums to find the gravitational 'g' value.

The librarian's afternoon siesta was no longer disturbed.

**Nandlal Rane** | Ex Vivekanand 1967

## ABOUT INDIA AND SCINDIA

**We spent a beautiful four months in India. It was the first time for my family to go to a different country to live for an extended time. Mark and I both had been exchange students in high school, and went to live to a new country for a year as teenagers. But this time, we were here as adults with two young children. We lived in a new country, a foreign place for each one of us, but we were here as a family.**

I am from Chile and growing up I traveled a little with my family albeit always as a tourist. I went to the United States when I was in 11th grade in high school by myself. As an exchange student I lived with a family in the state of Michigan, went to an American High School, and learned English in my year-long stay. I played sports, had my first Halloween, and celebrated my 16th birthday in a new place. It was an experience that shaped my life in many ways.

Mark is from a small town in United States and he went to Chile as an exchange student in high school. He came to live with a family in my class, so that's where we met. He hadn't traveled a lot and this was his first time out of the country. He also attended classes, participated in all the activities in my school, and learned to speak Spanish. He was like one of us.

Fast forward few years from that time, few travels and we find ourselves living in the United States after getting married in Chile. We traveled a little as a young couple and really enjoyed learning, seeing new places, and meeting new people.

Mark and I thought we'd like to live in a different country when we had children so that they could share that

experience of learning, growing, and understanding another culture in ways that you cannot when you are a tourist. So we came to live in India for a semester, at The Scindia School. We learned and saw a lot in the past few months. We have enjoyed and appreciated those open arms of people for inviting us to play, or to teach us how to live our days in this new country. How to cook with a two-burner gas stove, new recipes, how and where to get clothes and food down the Fort. All these important things for our daily lives, but also as important were to know where to go for a good look at the monkeys, the peacocks or the sunrise.

We have seen so many things that have lead to great family discussions over the dinner table while here. Learning a new way of living, and many times trying to understand this new place we called home for four months. We have seen so many new things, new ways of doing things, new problems to solve, and new joys to celebrate.

No matter where you are, kids keep growing and learning. And this was true for us. Lucas and Siena have grown up a lot in the past months. Mark and I have also learned so many things that I feel I've also grown up as a person, together with my children and my husband, as well as together as a family.

As we had heard and read before coming, India is a country of contrasts, and I have seen that. I enjoyed a lot of it, but it also made me stretch the way I think and helped me see things in a different way. We get used to the way we do things in our lives. We get comfortable and it seems it is, of course, 'the right way' of doing things. Until you see a different way, or you see that there are no options. This was the case for me living here in India, where most things were done differently. So many times I learned to take a deep breath and try to learn something new.

In the US, I am used to doing everything ourselves. If we need to cut the tree, or mow the yard, or cook, or clean the



Mrs. Marcella Villagran at Chamba during the educational camps



Mr. Mark Geren with the students

house, or fix the tire in the bike, or water the garden, wash dishes and clothes, or iron, or fix the car, buy food for the house, or clean the windows. It's all up to us. You can ask friends and neighbours for help but we all try to learn new things all the time. We are all doing this so there is a sense of community around our daily life that we all enjoy. This is different here in India. We are not used to having others do things for us so it was difficult at times to accept that this is the way it is done here.

The food of course, as many of you commented to us, is not as spicy in the US. And as a family we talked and decided that we don't think there is just one dish that describes United States' food. There are many, and I'm not sure they are as typical as the food is here in India, that describes this country so beautifully. A hamburger, or pizza, or mashed potatoes with gravy, might be some of the food items I'd say are from the US. But there is more of a mix of cultures in the mix of flavours.

In Chile the food has a little more spicy-ness than in the US. But it's not really hot-spicy. But I can easily mention few dishes that are typical of Chilean food, like a soup called cazuela, or a corn pie type of dish called pastel de choclo.

We visited a few places during our stay. It was fun to see the different landscapes, and people, food, music and traditions. By no means we got to see a fair part of your country. On the contrary, I think we just visited a small area and we are missing a lot.

Maybe this is another reason to come back some day. We actually have many reasons to come back. Having gone to

Chamba with the sixth class this year, we thought it would be fun to go on their camp when they are in 12th class and see them graduate from school, in six years. Seeing all the teachers and staff again, the other students, the families, the Fort, and the temples. Hearing the peacocks outside our doors and seeing them fly or land on top of a tree. Or seeing the monkeys walking and jumping on the fort walls by the Astachal. Or seeing the cows walking by in front of our house. I can go on and on with our list of reasons.

I hope you have been able to get to know us a little and hope we can meet each other again somewhere in this beautiful place called 'world.'

But most importantly, I don't think we'll ever forget the people we met here. Those we will always remember, those we have called friends. We have so many memories, so many stories that we'll treasure forever. Thank you for giving us the chance to see your days, your lives, your school, and your country. Our stay here in India has shaped each one in my family in a new way we will never forget.

Hoping our paths cross again. Thank you. Nice to meet you all and see you soon.

#### **Marcela Villagrán**

Mark Geren's wife. Fulbright Exchange Teacher, 2011. You can find us online to see what we did here in India, and soon I'll start sharing our days back at home, in Portland, Oregon, USA. And from my blog you can also find our email. We are at: [NaturallyFunDays.wordpress.com](http://NaturallyFunDays.wordpress.com)



Author(extreme left) enjoying rafting with the students of Class VI



Lucas and Sienna at the clay modeling department

## INTERVIEW

## INTERVIEW OF MS ROSLYN MCCARTHY

WITH KANAV BARMAN SENIOR STUDENT EDITOR REVIEW AND QILA QUOTES.

**What is the biggest problem that the children suffering from learning disorders face?**

The biggest problem that students with learning difficulties face is a lack of understanding from their teachers and peers. Teachers who only teach by 'chalk and talk' make it harder for all students to learn. People who think that these difficulties are some sort of disease only show their own lack of understanding. Someone who is not good at sports is not 'diseased', and neither is someone who takes longer to learn or memorise items. Some people are faster at running than others, but those who are slower do not have a disease. They will reach the finishing line just the same but might well have had a more interesting journey on the way as well as may have learned much more from the experience!

**How do you sensitise teachers, parents and other students to these children?**

We can sensitise teachers, parents and students by educating them. Parents and teachers need to understand their children and use their strengths as well as avoid harping on their areas of weakness. Specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia are just that-specific. They are not general and are independent of intellectual ability. They span the whole IQ range from highest to lowest. They are genetic in origin and will always be there, but there are all sorts of strategies that will help. Sometimes parents have found effective strategies themselves, even if they were unaware that their child might be dyslexic or dyspraxic. It should be remembered that most of these difficulties are only difficulties within the narrow confines of academia. No one ever tests your spelling or asks you to memorise lists of things that have little relevance once you leave school, and the computer is a great leveller that can correct spellings!

**What works best for them-a separate exclusive classroom or inclusion in a mainstream classroom?**

Ideally students should have some specific help available to them, individually or in a small group, but they should be part of an inclusive classroom where teachers understand their needs and seek to bring out the best in them. Both

of these systems need to be in place-as they will be at the Scindia School- for students to get the very best out of the education system. It should be noted that the type of class teaching that suits dyslexic students benefits most students- it is simply good practice for students to be involved in their own learning rather than to be lectured. Revision skills and memory techniques are useful for the majority of students.

**Is there anything in particular that one needs to keep in mind when handling children with learning difficulty?**

Yes- don't expect any child to remember a list of things given to them orally and at the rushed end of a class. Don't ask students to copy great tracts from the board or the book- it's a time waster and if notes are miscopied they are useless or worse than that. Seek to use your students' strengths rather than exploiting their weaknesses. Don't, of course, seek to humiliate any student. Many extremely successful people such as Einstein, Churchill, Richard Branson, many architects (for whom dyslexia is a strength) such as Richard Rogers, suffered at school because of the insensitivity of their teachers as well as their peers. We should now be in a much more enlightened age!

**Are there any myths about such children that you'd like to bust?**

Yes- dyslexia and dyspraxia span the whole IQ range. Some such students are extremely bright but others can be average or below. Very often dyslexic people are lateral thinkers and approach problems in an innovative way that isn't always the academically 'accepted' way. Some dyslexic people have a tremendous ability to see the whole situation at once rather than concentrating on only one aspect of it. I saw this in action when I played a game called 'Querkle' with a young friend of mine, who has an amazing ability to take in the whole game play at once. Architecture and engineering are also careers that use dyslexic strengths such as visuo-spatial awareness. I suppose that is one of the reasons why my husband- a helicopter pilot and dyslexic - is so good at what he does.



Ms Roslyn Mc Carthy



Ms Roslyn Mc Carthy and Mrs. Lubna Warsi with the students

LITERARY



Roslyn with Mark, the teacher on Fulbright Exchange, and his daughter Sienna

**How challenging was it to set up this department in Scindia? How have the children taken to it?**

It is always a challenge to start a new initiative. I suppose that's what I like! The children have been just great and I have loved working with them. They make everything worthwhile. It is a challenge to educate people so that they understand that being dyslexic is not something that you can overcome just by concentrating harder. No-one would expect a blind man to be able to see just by telling him to "concentrate a bit harder...think think think!" This interview is giving me the chance to spread understanding a little further. I believe that there is in fact a growing understanding of dyslexia in India, but less knowledge of dyspraxia. Dyspraxia can affect physical co-ordination so that those who have it are often the people who tend to fall upstairs or miss the glass when they are pouring their milk. It can also affect what is called 'executive function' so that dyspraxic people can have lots of great ideas but difficulty in organising them, or be able to read perfectly but have difficulty in picking out key ideas. They are the children who always lose their shoes or games kit!

**What kind of support have you gotten in Scindia in setting up this department? What did you find lacking?**

Setting up the department here at Scindia was made easier because of the support of Mr Ghosh and Lubna Ma'am who already knew a great deal about such learning needs.

I suppose that what has been lacking in the main has been time to work with parents in any way; given that so many live so far away. It has been invaluable to work with the matrons, who often stand in for parents, and who showed a real interest in what we do and how we do it.

**What are you taking back from India, and Scindia, to England?**

I am taking away memories of the delightful students I've worked with and the laughs that I've had with them and my colleagues. I am also taking away memories of a land of eternal summer; blue skies; monsoon rain that was like having buckets of lukewarm water thrown over me, and after which I sat, steaming gently, as a judge in the elocution competition; I will also remember the dust and poverty, however, and the children I have met who don't go to school. It is an unfulfilled ambition to work with such children as those, but it has been a great pleasure to work with the children here at The Scindia School, of whom I have grown very fond.

Thank you for asking such thoughtful and interesting questions!

Ms Roslyn McCarthy was our guest teacher from UK who helped in setting the Special Education Needs department.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEW YEAR?

With 2012 having taken its first few baby steps what do you have in your mind? Or rather, what do most people have in their minds?

Well, for me each New Year is just the same as the previous one. I often wonder why people make such a song and dance about it. What difference do they find as another year rings in? After all isn't it true that each day brings with it the same old sun burning towards its end, and one more day crossed out in the calendar. But yes if we see it optimistically there is a bright, sunny day and a whole lot of opportunities to look up to. Most importantly, another chance to untangle the utterly complex life we have and begin everything anew. The other whole range of excitements include the New Year resolutions which have been made or are yet to be made, gifts given and received, and an infinite number of calls and SMS' exchanged between relatives and friends wishing them all 'Happy New Year'.

But amidst all this rejoicing we also have the naysayers who remind us of the dark side to this year 'the apocalypse'. As we all know, the much dreaded December the 21st draws nearer and spells doom for all of us. But not to worry, live life to the fullest and let such prophecies go down the drain. Reach out for all your desires as if this were the last day of your life. Everyone has to die one day so might as well enjoy each moment as it comes.

Some people claim that the New Year holds a large number of surprises for us. Well then, so does every day. So, what's the big difference? My dear readers the difference is..... nothing!! The only novelty in the New Year lies in our approach. There is something indefinable which makes us look at things with rose tinted glasses. There is a surge of optimism and self belief. A desire to reinvent oneself, infuse new life into old ventures and embark on new ones possesses us. Hence quite expectedly the most common statement heard is "With this New Year I promise to .....".

On the national front we know that the country is advancing. It is striving hard to morph from a developing country into a



A class in progress at the smart classroom

developed one. It is well known that India aims to become a superpower by 2020. So this year brings the entire country closer to the self appointed deadline and lessens the gap between the present and our destiny.

Closer home as talk i about the school, there is a lot of progress happening. A number of classrooms have been refurbished and have an all new modern look. We look forward to more fruitful lectures in these smart classrooms. And as most of us dreaded our not so new VP ma'am has devised many more plans to keep the academic pressure on us. There is no way we can avoid slogging as we go through the monstrous cycle of FA's and SA's.

So while my friends, school and country look forward to completely new and more fulfilling experiences in this New Year I would like to reiterate that I am totally content with the way things are and I desire no change, either in myself or in any of my surroundings. I prefer taking each day as it comes and explore it with a sense of marvel and excitement. So here's wishing everyone a 'Happy New Year.'

Anustup Garai | IX A

## LITERARY

## NIGHT LIFE

The overcast sky with clouds as vicious and terrifying as creatures from the darkest depths of hell. The almost terrifying stillness of the surroundings as if everything were lifeless and dead. The absolute silence broken only by that occasional howling of dogs-long, sad, and calling its lost love-the moon. The scattered thunder and lightning illuminating the scene as if it were a painting for the Gods.

## And the roads...

As you walk down the seemingly endless road accompanied only by a friend at a time when the clock reads 12 midnight you know that this is, where you are truly at peace.

Your stroll back to your houses is slow and deliberate. The two of you oblivious to everything nearby, lost in your own world, quietly enjoying the end of the day and with it the feeling of calmness and freedom that accompany at night. Eventually you reach your houses, say your good nights and part ways-each headed towards that world which stays hidden in the 18th century barracks and seems to show itself only after sun down.

The day is a time of exuberant activity. The sun shining down upon the earth seems to drive all living beings to try and fit an extra hour to the existing twenty four. Birds chirping, animals running wild, mothers sending children to school, husbands getting ready for work. Actors and actresses preparing for yet another day in the life of a make believe character. Industrialists and tycoons in the crisp suits and ties preparing for cut-throat competition in business and the ruthless world. Men, women and children all alike, trying to find a place for themselves. This is the day.

People say that youngsters are shielded from the worldly problems. But those people are youngsters no more and

they have forgotten how hard it is for teenagers caught in this world between child and adult to live through the day. After all the day is one of the teenagers' nightmares.

Wait.....did I just say nightmare? Funny because it is during the night the teenagers actually live life.

The night has always been considered a symbol of evil, darkness, mystery and death.

But in their hearts everyone knows the truth.

The night is a time when dreams come alive.

So, as you walk up the steps to your dorms in the darkness, you find a scene that no-one will ever find during the day. Every night is different. One time you might find the whole house awake engaged in a hyper active game of hide and seek. At another you might find them sitting quietly and enjoying a midnight snack conscious that a teacher might come up any moment. As exams draw close they will all be in their preps, studying intently and after a long and tiring day you might just find them all fast asleep.

This is a world that only students know of. Teacher and parents can only imagine about it but they can never really understand the importance it holds in the life of a teenage student.

It is as if time does not exist at night. Everything seems different. No matter where we are or what we are up to during those late and alien hours, we are happy because all our worries of the day have passed.

No nagging teacher, no embarrassing parents.

No pushy house masters, no irritating seniors and no headaches of the day gone by or yet to come.

It does not matter what we have to face in the morning-exams, mark sheets, friends and enemies- they are all immaterial because in that moment you can just plug in your earphones and live your wildest dreams- be it the teenage



The ghostly shadows at night

fantasies of blood, sex and booze, and the feeling of winning the world's biggest event or maybe even a real life event from the one you lead like that of a movie star, going up on screen and saying.

"The name is bond, James Bond"

Even when we finally tire and fall to our beds, there are few

things which can be compared with the beauty and divinity of that sleep.

Eventually the sun rises bringing with it the commotion of the day and the almost several worlds of night step back into the darkness.

**Kartikeya K Bhargava** | XII A

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