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The Scindia School

REVIEW '10

From the Principal's Desk

As Mr V.S. Saxena retires from The Scindia School, after 27 years of distinguished service, not just the school but the public fraternity loses another 'Public School master', likes of which are rare to come by today. From my first interaction with him in July 2009, I grew to appreciate and respect Mr V.S. Saxena as one of my senior colleagues who offered his advice only when he thought it was absolutely essential or if the advice was sought. I have no hesitation in saying that every suggestion that I received from him was extremely valuable. Mr V.S. Saxena was an example of how a public school master can successfully combine creativity, quality, punctuality and discipline. He ignored issues related to his health and worked tirelessly for long hours with the students to produce the Founder's Day Hindi play and guided the students and the staff for several school events. As the Dean of Activity, Mr Saxena followed clearly defined methods and insisted on methodical work from people who worked with him. As he is about to finish his long innings with The Scindia School, he presented to me a meticulously worked out activity calendar for the coming year. Under his stern persona, he had a fine sense of humour and genuine sensitivity for the arts in general. I shall always cherish several occasions of informal conversation I had with him as much as I shall cherish the professional advice I received.

I wish Mr Saxena a contented and happy life ahead and will always look forward to welcoming him to the school from time to time.

Samik Ghosh
Principal

निर्देशक : श्री वी.एस. सक्सेना

सन् 1988 में जब मैं सिंधिया स्कूल में हिन्दी अध्यापक के रूप में नियुक्त होकर आया तब मेरा संपर्क हिन्दी विभाग के विभागाध्यक्ष श्री आत्माराम शर्मा जी, श्री ओ.एन. दीक्षित जी तथा श्री वी.एस. सक्सेना जी से हुआ । इन तीनों के मार्गदर्शन में मुझे बहुत कुछ सीखने का मौका मिला। मैंने श्री वी.एस. सक्सेना जी को हमेशा एक आदर्श शिक्षक, महान कलाकार, सफल निर्देशक एवं अपने अग्रज के रूप में देखा। मैं उनसे हमेशा व्यक्तिगत रूप से जुड़ा रहा । समय-समय पर जब भी मुझे किसी भी प्रकार के सहयोग की आवश्यकता पड़ती, वे हमेशा तत्पर रहे । कई मौकों पर उन्होंने मेरी समस्याओं का समाधान किया ।

श्री सक्सेना जी के संपर्क में रहकर मैंने जो कुछ भी सीखा, उसे आत्मसात किया। हिन्दी अध्यापक होने के नाते अधिकांशतः मेरी रुचि कहानी, कविता एवं लेख लिखने में रही लेकिन नाटक एवं रंगमंचीय दृष्टिकोण से मैं बिल्कुल अनभिज्ञ था । आगे चलकर अभिनय की शैली एवं रंगमंचीय अनुभव मैंने उन्हीं के सान्निध्य में रहकर ही प्राप्त किया । विभाग में पाठ्यक्रम एवं अध्यापन के संबंध में समय-समय पर जो भी सुझाव मैंने दिये उन्होंने उन्हें स्वीकार किया और हमेशा सम्मान दिया । उनके मार्गदर्शन में हमारे विभाग का संचालन सुचारु रूप से चलता रहा और यदि कोई समस्या आई भी तो उसका निराकरण आपसी समझ के आधार पर हल कर दिया गया।

अपने कार्य-काल के दौरान उन्होंने विद्यालय में रहकर कई नाटकों का सफल निर्देशन एवं मंचन किया । उनमें कुछ नाटक इस प्रकार हैं -कौमुदी महोत्सव, संस्कार ध्वज, अंधा युग तथा अण्डे के छिलके । नाटकों से हमेशा उनका प्रेम रहा या अगर हम ये कहें कि नाटक उनका प्राण हैं तो इसमें कोई अतिश्योक्ति नहीं होगी । नाटकों का सफल मंचन करना उनकी आदत सी हो गई थी । नाटक के क्षेत्र में उनका मुख्य उद्देश्य रहा अधिक से अधिक छात्रों को अभिनय करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना तथा इस क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ने के लिए निरन्तर प्रेरित करना ।

श्री वी.एस. सक्सेना भले ही बाहर से बहुत कठोर लगते हैं लेकिन अन्दर से उतने ही कोमल हैं । जहाँ एक ओर उनकी आवाज़ में शेर की तरह दहाड़ है वहीं दूसरी ओर उनका मन मक्खन की तरह निर्मल तथा कोमल है । उनका सामाजिक दायरा बहुत ही समृद्ध और हृदय बहुत ही भावुक है । व्यवहार की कसौटी पर वे हमेशा खरे उतरते रहे ।

समय परिवर्तनशील है और समय के अनुरूप किसी भी संस्था से जुड़ना एवं बिछुड़ना जीवन का सच है । एक लंबे अन्तराल के अध्यापन के बाद श्री सक्सेना जी सिंधिया स्कूल से सेवा मुक्त हो रहे हैं । सेवा काल के दौरान उनकी कार्य-शैली भविष्य में हिन्दी विभाग तथा हम सबका मार्ग प्रशस्त करती रहेगी । मैं उनके सुखमय एवं स्वस्थ जीवन की कामना करता हूँ और भगवान से यही प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि उनका भविष्य उज्ज्वल एवं समृद्ध हो ।

डॉ. बी.एस. भाकुनी

An Old Boy Remembers

Mr V.S. Saxena is a man of substance, quality, character and absolute devotion. He was one of those people in school for whom I had utmost respect. He loved his House and was always there to support us. It was because of his unflinching faith in me that I was appointed the School Prefect. He was very just and it was very difficult to handle his anger. Luckily I was never too involved in useless things. He was exceptionally patient with all and equally forgiving. At times he was tough as a nut and then he would soften as easily too. Mrs Saxena was equally sweet. I met her too at the Fort. He has gone to extreme measures to see us win and celebrate. An extremely kind soul and wonderful human being. In fact every other teacher attached to Daulat House shared a great relationship. Those were magnificent times. I would specially like to mention the work he did for the theatrical society. He had vision. He was an inborn actor, a talented art man and I happened to share a similar passion. If you saw him enact a scene you would know the mark of a true actor. Out of everything in Scindian Life I miss theatre the most. He gave you the space to explore and improve. I've won many accolades in the field of music, literature, theatre and all the credit goes to him. Just standing on the OAT stage was enough to flare my true being. He is not just a teacher but a part of my existence and I will remember him no matter what. I would take this opportunity to thank him for whatever he's done.

Daulatians will always remember him. Scindia definitely needs some more Mr V.S. Saxenas. What a man!

Nikhil Sharan, Ex Dl '06

FORT NEWS

The Fort is experiencing the fury of the sun as summer has started tightening its grip. The arrival of the cuckoos on the Fort and the call of the Coppersmith Barbet which can be likened to a coppersmith striking metal with a hammer herald the summer season. The golden orioles are back again too.

The decidous trees wear a new green cover and several species of trees can be seen in blossom- the margosa (*neem*), frangipani, *gul mohar*, jasmine, *kaner* being some of them.

The School timings have been advanced and breakfast now begins at 7:45 am.

102 students of Class VIII went to attend the National Adventure Camp Organised by Bharat Scouts and Guide Pachmarhi from Tuesday 23rd March to Wednesday, 31st March. They were

escorted by five teachers. During the camps the students trekked around 8 to 10 kms a day and covered more than 50 kms in all. They also participated in various obstacle crossing events, Rifle Shooting, Archery, Moonlight Walking etc. Overall it was a good experience for them. They enjoyed living in tents, the daily visits of monkeys, camp fires, distributing food tent wise, cleaning their own utensils and the campus cleaning drive. Everyone successfully completed all the camp activities.

As a gesture of environmental awareness Earth Hour was observed on Saturday, 27th March. The School observed an hour of glorious darkness from 8:30pm to 9:30 pm. Lights, fans and all electrical appliances were switched off for an hour. The whole school gathered at the SMOAT where students presented skits and gave short speeches on the significance of the day. The bright moon added beauty to the occasion. Dr Bhakuni also spoke on the harm caused to the environment by man. Principal Mr Samik Ghosh congratulated the students for having prepared enjoyable skits and informative speeches which focused on environmental issues. He expressed hope that the observance of this day will help to create awareness about controlling and eventually cutting down on overconsumption of power.

The Fort remained in the grip of cricket fever from Sunday, 4th April to Thursday, 8th April as the School hosted the 8th H.H. Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia Memorial Cricket Tournament. Eight schools participated in the cricket extravaganza. These were Modern School, Delhi, M.N.S.S., Rai, YPS Mohali, YPS Patiala, Doon School Dehradun, Mayo College, Ajmer, Raj Kumar College, Rajkot and The Scindia School Gwalior. All the teams arrived on the 3rd of April. Comfortable arrangements were made for the visiting teams and their escorts. On Monday, 5th April a grand dinner was hosted at the Principal's residence for them. Interesting games added fun and excitement to the party.

Each day the audience got to see great display of cricketing excellence. The tournament was won by Modern School, Delhi.
Best Batsman : Vinay of YPS Patiala
Best Bowler : Karan Kahila of YPS Patiala
Best All Rounder : Unmukt Chand of Modern School. He scored 491 runs with 2 centuries and took 3 wickets.

Prize distribution ceremony took place on Thursday, 8th April when Mr Samik Ghosh gave away the prizes to the winners. The band display by our boys was the perfect way to wind up the spectacular event.

From time to time workshops are organized to enable teachers to learn new skills and develop new insights into pedagogy. Learning took a new curve with Ms Gloria Burrett. Through her workshop she helped the Housemasters, Resident Tutors and Matrons to acquire skills to encounter the challenges which they face in dealing with the young adults. After the two day long workshop the teachers left re-energised with enthusiasm, confidence, information and skills that can be used immediately. (Interview of Ms Burrett and report on the workshop on page 4.)

On Saturday, 10th April the Duke of Edinburgh award ceremony took place. It began with the distribution of certificates to the boys. This was followed by a slide show as some boys

Science Week

28th February is celebrated as National Science Day to commemorate the birthday of Dr. C.V Raman. To mark this occasion the Science Department celebrated the Science Week from Monday, 15th to Saturday, 20th March. There were several interesting activities and sessions on each day for Classes VI and VII.

Monday: Monday was the First Aid Day. From 3:00pm to 4:00 pm we had a session with Dr. Sunil Agarwal, an old boy who is now a surgeon. The session was full of interesting things. He told us what to do in case of an emergency so that the situation doesn't worsen.
He taught us the A, B, C of First Aid, which is Airway, Breathing and Circulation respectively. He also told us how to treat burns, wounds, sprains, fractures and nose bleeding. Thanks to him now we are confident that we will not panic in case of any such exigency. Later in the evening we also had an online Quiz on First Aid in the Junior School mailing center.

Tuesday: Tuesday was the Environment Day. In the evening, we had an interesting online Quiz on our environment in the mailing center.
Nimaji House was told to prepare a skit on Water Conservation and stage it the next day.

Wednesday: Wednesday was the Wildlife Day. In the evening, we had an online Quiz on Wild Life in the Junior School mailing center.
Later at the Astachal Nimaji House performed a skit on Water Conservation. The skit showed two families, one living in the year, 2010 and the other in 2059. The 2010 family was shown wasting water while the 2059 family was shown suffering because of shortage of water. In the end all the houses took a pledge to minimise wastage of water and also to educate others about water conservation.

Thursday: Thursday was the Health, Nutrition and Diseases Day. We had an online Quiz on Nutrition and Diseases in the school hours.

Friday: Friday was the Astronomy Day. We took part in the Astronomy Quiz during school hours.
From 3:00pm to 4:00 pm we had a talk with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, a banker associated with the NGO- Amitsmriti, on Eclipse and Astronomy. He told us many amazing facts which left us astonished.
We got to know that the density of Saturn is lesser than water. We also got to know the name of the largest star that is VY Canis Majoris and also that we are not even a dot in the Universe as compared to it. We learnt many interesting things like taking out the Sun's diameter with the help of our geometry box, paper and a postcard and viewing and photographing a Solar Eclipse. The session had various interesting things to learn. Students also cleared their doubts and queries. The number of questions was unlimited but time was a constraint so very reluctantly we had to bid him goodbye.

Saturday: On Saturday, Science Department organized a Science Exhibition for Classes VI and VII. Some students from each house were chosen the day before and given some experiments to prepare. The students performed experiments in pairs or individually. The experiments were simple yet very interesting and educative. Kudos to the students for having put up such a wonderful show with just a day's preparation.
The Science Week ended with a Science-fiction movie for us in the evening. The movie was 'The Day After Tomorrow'. This showed the ill effects of pollution that is being caused by human beings. We not only enjoyed the movie but also became aware of the consequences we'll have to face if we continue wasting the natural resources and polluting the environment.

The entire Science Week was a wonderful idea and a great learning experience for everybody. We got to know new things and enjoyed a lot.

Sugandha Shukla, VII B

To Sir with Love

Excerpts from a letter written by Azhan Ahsan, Ex Daulat, Batch of 2006 to Mr V.S. Saxena.

Dear Sir!

This is Azhan your student. I am quite confident that you remember me. Your love for me has always been unconditional. When I got to know that this is your last term in school my heart sank. I don't know if there will be any reason left for me to visit school once you leave. Though I wish to meet you and share many things with you I can't as I am miles away in America. I wasn't even able to call you or message you as I left India. I want to share some news with you.

I am making films for a Hollywood production here in New York. I wanted you to be the first one to know this. I will make you very proud of me one day. I hope you have heard about my book which got published recently. I have asked my mother to send you a copy. On its last page, in the acknowledgements, I have thanked you and Ma'am Shinde for making me what I am.

Sir, I don't know when we will meet, but I just want to say, that you are the most special person in my life. May be I did something amazing that I was given Daulat house and you as my house master. I miss you and everything about school. You are an inspiration. You are different from others and always stand out in the crowd.

My father expired when I was four. But you were my father in disguise. Sir, I am blessed to have a teacher like you.
Do take care of your self and your health. I am always there for you. The next time I visit India, I will make sure I visit you.

Love and wishes

Azhan

THE BOOK FAIR

(Adjudged the best poem on the Book Fair)

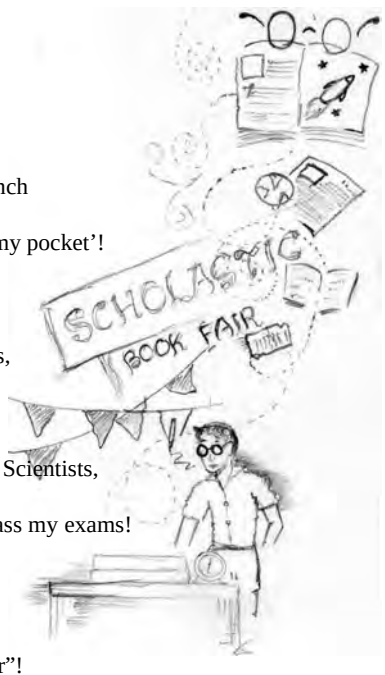
When I heard that on February twelfth
A book fair is going to be held,
Of a popular publisher named 'Scholastic'
I thought, "It would be fantastic!"

I reached the library after lunch,
And saw a large number of books in a bunch
I thought of buying a book on Rockets
Goosebumps, Transformers or 'Space in my pocket'!

I got confused, my brain became a dot
What to buy and what not,
Novels, comics, quizzes or books on myths,
Or story books for classes 8th to 6th ?

At last, I found my favourites,
A quiz book on India and a book on Crazy Scientists,
'Big Friendly Giant' by Roald Dahl
And a book which can even help me to pass my exams!

I wished to buy the whole library,
But Ma'am said, "Up to Rs 700 only!"
Thus, anyways, I sat on a chair,
And wrote a poem named "The Book Fair"!



Rohan Mehrotra, VII B

The holiest of all holidays are those Kept by ourselves in silence and apart;
The secret anniversaries of the heart,
When the full river of feeling overflows;
The happy days unclouded to their close;
The sudden joys that our of darkness start
As flames from ashes; swift desires that dart
Like swallows singing down each wind that blows!"

FORT NEWS

shared their experiences. Some interesting video clippings were also shown which showed the lighter

moments enjoyed by the boys during the arduous trek. Principal Mr Samik Ghosh appreciated the work done by the boys. He also applauded the teachers who year after year take the boys for these adventurous expeditions. The last and the best part of the evening was the hilarious play 'Mad Dasu'. All the students played their part very well. The video clipping and the sound effects added to the charm of the play.

The promotion examination for classes VI and VII began on Friday, 9th March and concluded on Friday 16th March.

With the batch of 2010 having passed out the baton has now been passed on to the new batch of Class XII. The new members of the Prefectorial Board were announced on Saturday, 10th April. This year two new posts have been created. These are deputy senior school prefect and academic school prefect. It is hoped that the new members of the prefectorial board will demonstrate high standards of excellence and will develop the school ethos by taking active leadership roles. The young pupils will also find effective mentors in them.

The students of Class VII went to the Maan Singh Palace on Saturday, 3rd

April to see the light and sound show. After that they enjoyed a moonlight dinner there.

Mementos were given to the outgoing Band Major and Band Leaders:
Band Major: Priyank Gupta
Band Leader : Dev Khanna, Jalaj Prakash and Pratik Somani
A special award was given to Satyam Jain for being the best Saxophone Player in the School.

The Duke of Edinburgh Silver awards were awarded to Arjun Saraswat, Animesh Mehra, Vivek Mukherjee, Yuvraj Neelak, Aditya Kasana, Rishi Nehra and Devrat Pawar

Results of the Narayan Prasad Bhargava English Essay Writing Competition:
Senior Category :
I Palash Bhargava
II Piyush Daruka
Junior Category :
I Aditya Chaparwal
II Sugandha Shukla

Results of the Senior Poetry Writing Competition :
I Tarang Tripathi
II Ishan Pachauri.

Results of the German Wall Magazine 'Scindia Diese Woche'.
I Akshit Agarwal
Kanav Viren Barman
II Jatin Pippal
III Ronit Borpujari
IV Neelav Agarwala

Results of Collage Making Competition
Class VI :
I Saksham Kapoor
II Aishwarya Raj
III Shantanu Kulshreshtha
Class VII :
I Atman Bajaria
II Manas Pant
Rhythm Gupta
III Hardik Gupta
Srajan Gupta
Aditya Padhirya
Appreciation Certificates were awarded to Ritwik Kumar, Satyam Pawar, Kunal Singh and Shubham Saraogi.

Mr Parampreet Singh Grewal joined the Faculty of Multi media and Web Technology in the Department of Computer. We wish him a long and fruitful stay in the School.

The next issue of the Review will come out on the 1st of August.

Answers to quiz of 1st April :
1. Alexander the Great
2. Benjamin Franklin
3. Karl Marx
4. Lord George Gordon Byron
5. Charles Darwin
6. You too Brutus
7. George Washington
8. Spoken to his assassins, three men who stabbed him 16 times

Face to Face

Ms Gloria Burrett in conversation with Aayush Tandon and Aishik Ghosh

Why is adolescence a time of turmoil and angst?

Well there are many reasons. The biological reasons are the hormonal changes: the pituitary gland sends messages which bring about the changes. Psychological reasons are the Jungian beliefs- that something new is about to happen. It is a threshold moment, you are not just growing and becoming a bigger child but also crossing over a huge threshold. Psychologists interpret this to be the time when the dynamic masculine comes into play. Till now you are being nurtured by the static feminine. Adolescence is the time when the threshold moment gives rise to many questions: What do I think? What do I feel? What is it that I want to know? It is the time when one applies what one has learnt. Well, it's easy to tread the given path saying that I'll swallow whatever is given but turmoil comes when you lay out your own map for your own territory. But it's not easy. It's my personal belief that children who do not experience turmoil in adolescence undergo one at the age of thirty one or thirty two.

Turmoil is a beautiful part of life which marks the beginning of a new journey.

Apart from defiance and unruly behavior what can be the other manifestations of a troubled adolescence?

Well I ask you a question: why do you say troubled adolescence? I may digress a little but would rather like to answer this in an indirect manner. Delve into history and look at the Masai Mara tribes or any of the native African tribes. At the time of puberty, they would send one into the wilderness and ask him to go kill his first lion, get scars of battle, shed blood and come back with the lion's tooth around the neck. Then he was draped in finery and the whole community would come and celebrate his journey into a new life.

This had pain and loss of innocence. You pushed yourself into something new, took risk and survived it. One was given a new name. So a lot of people have looked at gang street wars, smoking , drinking or taking a car and bashing it up to be the modern day equivalents of a ritual that doesn't exist anymore. What happens when you take your dad's car and bash it up after few drinks? You have an accident - loss of blood, then there is your group with you …so there is a feeling of a community, you run a risk, there is loss of innocence. People have looked at this scenario as one which lacks a proper ritual to honour the passing over. So the question is do we bring back such a ritual?

How can we help school children develop a positive attitude and motivation towards working hard?

What stops a child from working hard? No one's born lazy. Very often we have one parameter to judge a child's performance.

But if you base yourself only on performance, you'll never find your essence. So firstly we need to look at each child's essence. I use a very traditional Sufi model of looking at it- it says that there are primarily four kinds of kids. Though one may develop a lot of things on the way but there are only four kinds of essences. So there are 'Earth Kids' who are dependable, persevering, grounded, stable. 'Fire Kids' who are sparky, initiative taking, have new ideas, humorous. Then there are the 'Water Kids' who are harmonious, sympathetic, and affectionate, very linked to how others feel and make beautiful friends. Lastly the 'Air Kids' who are thinkers, get insights, are interested in overviews. So if a parent says that my child doesn't answer in the class, is very quiet then we know that he's a water kid.

Motivation comes with respect to how others feel about you Therefore we need to see people in the correct way. Harvard conducted a study and found that the people with highest IQ's were not happy. They had neither job satisfaction nor stable relationships and weren't very successful. On the other hand the one's with lower IQ's were doing way better. So there is something called emotional intelligence that comes into play here.

What is a more effective approach of curbing unacceptable behaviour?

Behaviour has a reason. If we try to stop a particular behaviour without understanding the cause of it, then we are just rectifying the situation temporarily. Say if a child steals he is trying to say look I am powerless, or maybe angry, maybe feeling unsafe, or lack love. The only way one can communicate one's pain or angst is, by acting it out. It requires an insight into the reason of the child's behaviour. Talking about a general kid, it's time when one is going into a peer system from a family system. When a child succumbs to peer pressure it shows that he feels the lack of an identity, he feels the need to belong. So we need to delve into the cause of an action and simply say that you did such a thing ….come sit down and figure out why.

This is what I learnt from Ms Burrett's workshop

While teaching at Scindia I have become an avid student of the facial countenances of young children. The rebus on the top left depicts Ebenezer Ali rushing to the mess after the last period where as the one on the right shows him trooping into class for the first period after assembly. The only difference in the two pictures is the orientation of a crescent shaped feature which tends to wax and wane with an input called teaching. Could the smile on young Ali's face be made permanent?

The times, they are changing. Education too is changing and radically. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is now considered hackneyed and contrite. The playing fields of Eton and Harrow are now becoming the class rooms of the world. 'All play and no work' is our new mantra.

Young minds are inquisitive, pliable and all-absorbing. Like clay on the potter's wheel they need to be molded with deftness, buffed with steadfastness and polished with care. A good teacher can becomes Ali's best friend and a bad one his worst nightmare.

I wish to become Ali's best friend. I wish that the divide between the podium and the desk become so blurred as to be indistinguishable. If I get stuck with my laptop I go to Ali for help and whenever he faces a problem he knows that he has a shoulder to lean on.

I am reminded of a golden leaf written in my autograph book by one of my teachers almost half a century ago.

"Some folks smile in the evening,
Some folks smile at dawn.
But the smile worth while
Is of the child that can smile
When the two front teeth are gone."

Mrs Vinita Pande

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Staff Editors : Ms Puja Pant, Dr B.S. Bhakuni, Ms Raksha Siriah
Chief Art Editor : Jivitesh Mazumdar
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Sugandha Shukla, Saksham Kapoor
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