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THE SCINDIA SCHOOL, FORT GWALIOR

REVIEW-16



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EDITORIAL

Mr Vishesh Sahai



CORRIDORS OF NOSTALGIA

*February gave a party.
The leaves by hundreds came,
The Peepal, the Neem, the Amaltas,
And leaves of every name.
The sunshine spread a carpet,
And the ambience was majestic,
Miss weather led the dancing
And the Old Boys jiggled around chanting.*

The occasion was the Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Batch of 1966 at The Scindia School, Fort from 20th – 21st February 2016. 32 Old Boys, 18 of whom had come with their wives graced the occasion. They arrived from across the country, the Middle-East, Europe and the US with the sole desire to take a walk down the corridors of nostalgia. We truly appreciate their zeal to assemble here despite all the odds.

They reminisced about the good old days loaded with emotions, smiles, shocks and fun. Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love; the things you never want to lose. A great bonhomie was observed everywhere with Old Boys reliving old memories with their batch-mates, current students, teachers and other staff of the school. They witnessed the potpourri of events organized for them by the school and together rejoiced after five decades of leaving school.

Ah! how good it feels

– the warmth of the hand of an old friend...It was a moment of realization that you can possibly never have the kind of friendships which one experiences during one's teens. The most beautiful discovery during this celebration was that you can evolve separately without growing apart. Like the branches of a tree, our lives may grow in different directions, yet our roots remain the same.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations ended with promises and hopes of meeting again in the journey called life. They came to live those nostalgic moments and left with a host of memories to cherish forever. It was an emotional farewell to old friends and their beloved alma mater.

It made us wonder, and it reaffirmed our belief that alumni are indeed unequivocally, the most significant vertical of a boarding school such as ours. We are grateful to these 32 Old Boys for their constructive cooperation, valuable suggestions and befitting contributions. **Long live the Batch of 1966. Long Live Scindia!**



Golden Jubilee Reunion of the Batch of 1966 - A Report

Prabhav Pachauri | XI A

February 20 and 21 were very memorable dates, indeed. What a wonderful reunion! Thirty two Old Boys, eighteen of whom arrived with their wives returned to Scindia for two days of renewed acquaintanceship, shared



Principal welcoming the Batch of 1966.

memories, intellectual stimulation and traditional pageantry. It was a beautiful warm spring morning. There was an exciting buzz in the air. The whole school was eagerly waiting for the arrival of the coveted guests who had come to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations from all corners of the country and abroad. As soon as the Old Boys entered through the main gate of the school, they were greeted by the Principal - Dr M.D. Saraswat, Bursar - Col Sanjiv Kaushal, Director Alumni Relations - Mr G.S. Bakshi and the Deans of various verticals of the school. Rose petals were showered on the visitors as it was an auspicious and festive affair. They were escorted to the lawns just outside the TRC (Teacher Resource Centre) extension for a high tea with the school staff. The Old Boys, their wives and the faculty exchanged pleasantries for about half an hour. After tea, everybody gathered in the Assembly Hall for a special assembly. Principal, Dr M.D. Saraswat welcomed the Batch of 1966 formally and expressed profuse gratitude for the Old Boys who could make it, all the way, despite the long journeys and uncomfortable weather. Due to certain unavoidable reasons Vice President, Board of Governors, Mr Rajendra Pawar was not able to make it to the event. However, Mr Pawar sent a video message to welcome the Batch of 1966.

Mr Ranjit Salve, (Ex-SH, 1966) who was the Head Boy of school then, and is the proud recipient of the President's medal, broadly introduced his batchmates, and gave an insightful speech sprinkled with some lessons for life for the young Scindians.



Passing - of - the - baton ceremony at the Astachal.



Old Boys with their wives.

Next on the itinerary was an interaction session with the current students. Some of them asked very interesting questions. They were fielded with equal eloquence by Mr Ranjit Salve and a couple of his batchmates. A few specimen questions are presented hereunder:

Q. What do you cherish the most as your school memoir?

Ans. There are a host of sweet memories that we, as a batch, cherish. What we remember the most are the pranks that we used to play on each other and of course sometimes, also on our teachers. We also remember frequently the stage of the Assembly Hall where we participated in various debates and elocutions. The football and hockey matches that we played against Mayo College, Ajmer are also unforgettable. And of course the many friends that we had in those days - is now unbelievable.



Mr Suresh Sharma at the interactive session.



Orchestra performance during the cultural evening.



Creating memories.



Old Boys visiting their respective Houses.

Q. In today's world of cut throat competition, conflicts and clash of ideas, etc., what do you think is the most important role / challenge for a student and more specifically for a Scindian?

Ans- That is a serious question and every student must ponder upon. We strongly feel that doing and supporting what is right, is the most important duty of every Scindian. A student must respect his/ her family and the country. No one should ever do anything that will bring shame to the family and the country. Youngsters need to envisage where the world is moving today. All of us must introspect. All of us should find peaceful ways to handle the problems / obstacles.

Q. Since our school is known for its unique culture and salutary traditions, could you please enumerate and elaborate on these traditions and culture?

Ans. I believe that the values which are inculcated in us by our school, which in fact make us a true Scindian are the traditions and culture of the school. A true Scindian is basically an achiever, diligent, smart, dynamic, bold and yet a humble, true-at-heart, gentleman from within; who can perform and succeed when the opportunities are available to him.



Mr Ramesh Sharma enthralling the audience.

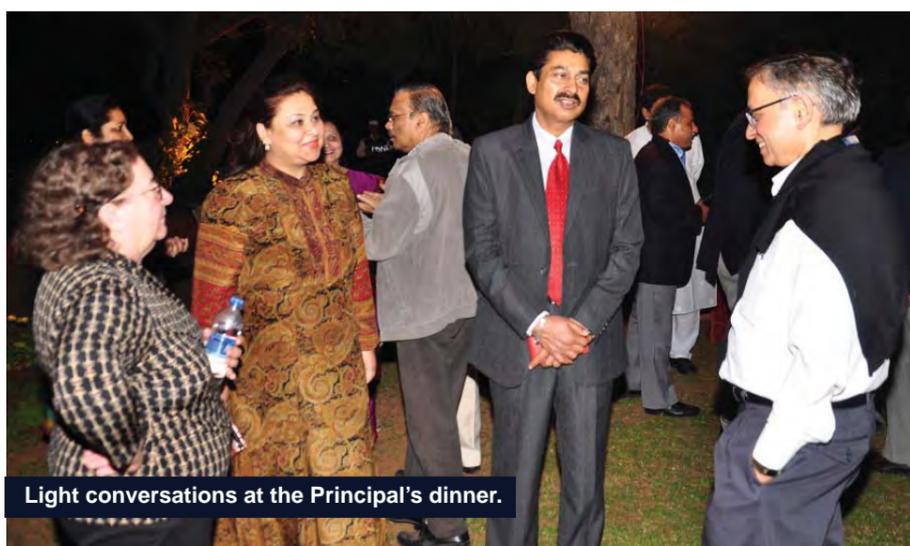
The interaction session was followed by a presentation by the two Old Boys, namely, Mr Ravi Saund and Mr Neeraj Bhagat who have been working on the restoration and renovation work of the infrastructure of the school. They gave a talk along with a pictorial presentation on the work done till date. This

was appreciated by the Old Boys who got an update on what's happening and what is on the anvil in times to come. They all admired the efforts and the imaginative use of space.

After this

presentation, the stalwarts gathered together for a photo session at the Madhav Pavilion, followed by a sumptuous lunch. The Old Boys left for a relaxed afternoon and returned at sharp 5.30 for a special Astachal dedicated to them. Several Old Boys came in sparkling white Kurta Pyjamas exactly the way they had attended some fifty years ago. The Senior School Prefect, Arindam Bhardwaj welcomed the Old Boys. Suddenly, out of nowhere it started drizzling for a few minutes as if Gods too were welcoming and showering their blessings

on all of us. Then was the time for a musical display by the boys. The evening Astachal concluded with a ceremony where a baton was passed on by the batch of 1966 to the representatives of the Batch of 1967. Mr Ranjit Salve of 1966 did the honors and passed on the baton to the three representatives of 1967 batch, namely Mr Sudhir Garde, Mr Kamal Singh and Mr Raj Kumar. It was an emotional moment. The ceremony symbolized the handing over of cherished values and traditions of the school from one batch to another.



Light conversations at the Principal's dinner.



HH Rajmata Madhaviraje Scindia inaugurating the Herigate Housing Block.



The entire school then moved to the Assembly hall where a cultural evening was organized. It began with the electrifying orchestra performance by our talented musicians. Several mellifluous performances ensued after this. Just before the last performance, Mr Ranjit Salve recited a self-composed Hindi poem, Mr Dharendra Chauhan sang a beautiful song titled – 'Never seen a wonder like you' and Mrs Nayna Rajendra Gandhi sang a heartwarming *Bhajan*.

Finally the pride of our school, The School Brass Band presented a 20 minute Band Concert which was followed by an incredible performance by Mr Ramesh Sharma on the saxophone. The cultural evening ended on a nostalgic note and all the guests proceeded for dinner at the Principal's residence.

Next morning, i.e. on the 21st of February, the Old boys went on a tour of the campus to find out what had changed and what had stayed the same. They visited their respective houses and addressed the present students, met the housemasters and resident tutors and generally went down the memory lane watching the photos hanging on the walls, in the common rooms of their houses.

At 12 noon the entire staff, Old boys and their wives moved to the erstwhile junior academic block to welcome Her Highness Rajmata Madhaviraje Scindia who was on the Fort to inaugurate the recently restored and renovated, erstwhile Junior School Academic Block, now converted into a 'Heritage Housing Block'.

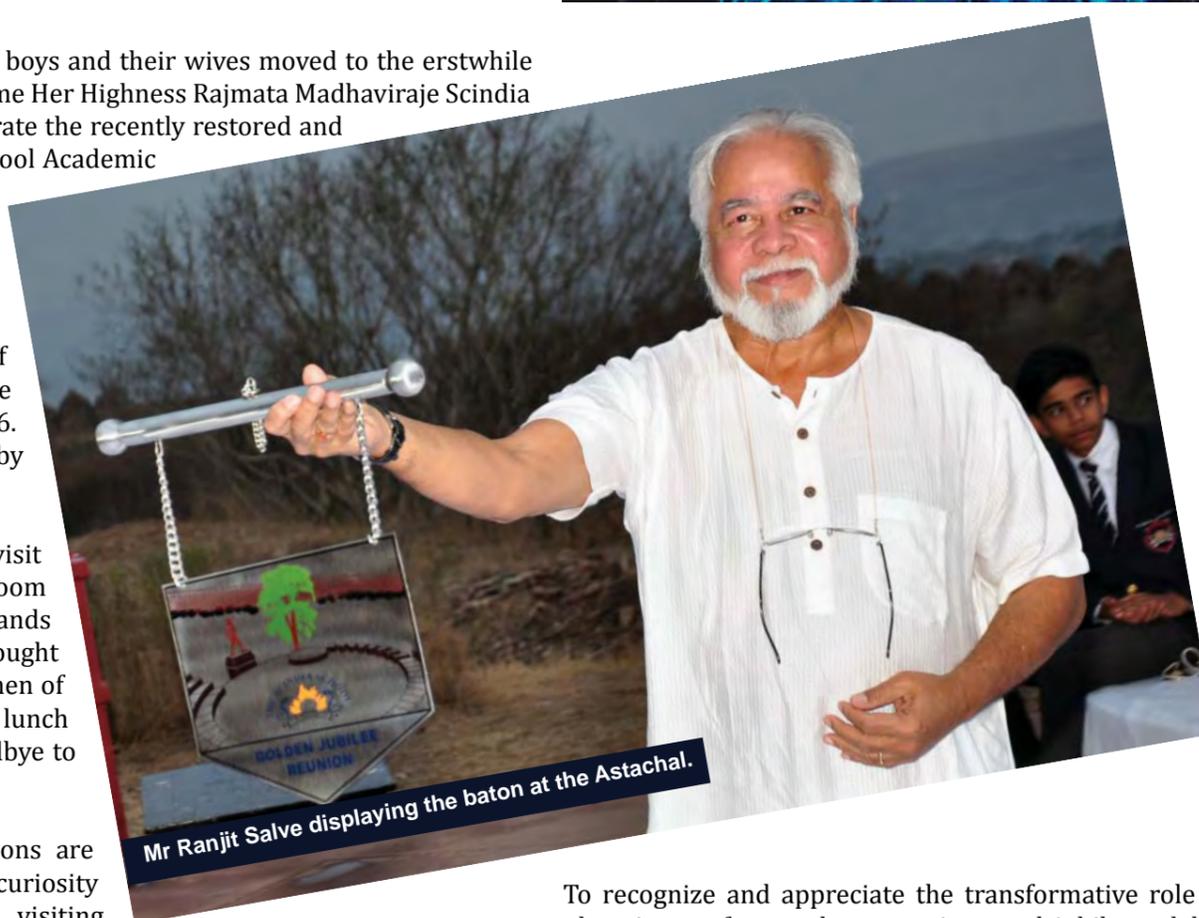
Principal, Dr Madhav Deo Saraswat introduced Her Highness to the entire staff and then to the members of the Golden Jubilee Batch of 1966. Inauguration was followed by high tea in the same compound.

After this, the Old Boys paid a visit to the recently renovated art room where few Old boys tried their hands at sketching and a few ladies bought some articles made by the women of Nathon Ka Pura village. After lunch in the dining hall they bid goodbye to their alma mater.

It was evident that the reunions are not only about satisfying your curiosity concerning old friends and visiting favourite haunts. They also give a chance to get up-to-date on how the old and the new faculty is doing. We hope it was gratifying for the Old Boys to learn; that despite the many changes in and outside the school, it is still at the leading edge of school education as it always was.



Mrs Nayna Rajendra Gandhi singing a bhajan during the cultural evening.

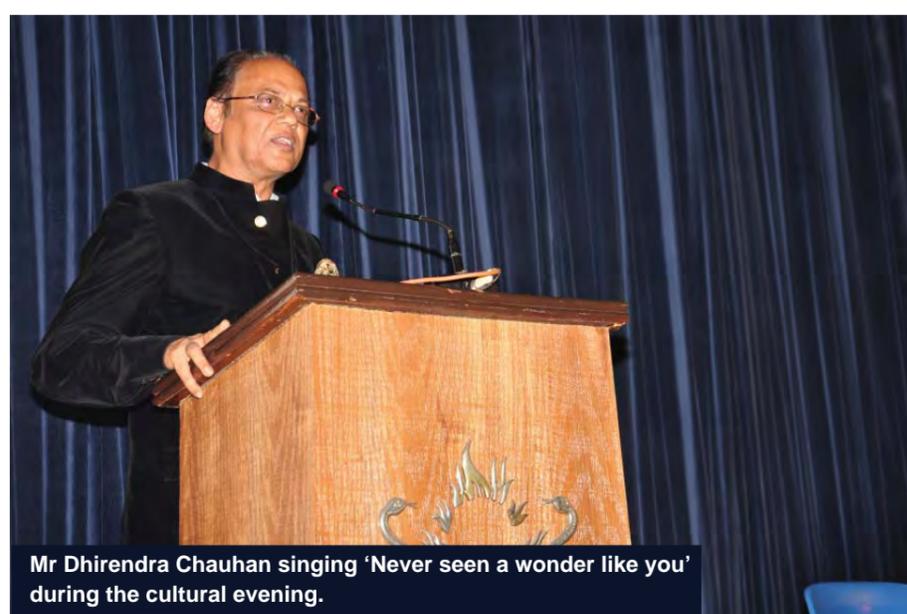


Mr Ranjit Salve displaying the baton at the Astachal.

To recognize and appreciate the transformative role that school education plays in our future, these reunions and jubilee celebrations are invariably wonderful ideas. Long Live the Batch of 1966!



Mrs and Dr Saraswat bidding goodbye to the guests.



Mr Dharendra Chauhan singing 'Never seen a wonder like you' during the cultural evening.

Educated Man must realise that he has more obligations than privileges, more duties than rights

S Baluja (Ex Mahadji, 1977)

I can talk about something that I've done after leaving school but that would be boring. So instead, I'll just say a few words on a topic close to my heart; how as individuals, while getting on with our daily routine of life, we can also take a little time out to do our bit for society. This is not a new topic but I just want to add my two cents worth.

The concern mainly arises because though the majority of humans are inclined towards goodness, it is the few who aren't who cause unwanted harm not just to the rest of us but also to the other life forms and the environment. Such are the people who somehow make their way into positions of power from where they dictate policy. Most of us are aware of this but that is where it ends for we do nothing about it.

Though most of us get consumed in our daily routine of studies or earning a livelihood, it is important for each one of us to pause once in a while and try and consolidate our thoughts and learnings. You just need to have that desire within and do your bit. Here's a little story to elaborate on that:

One evening a man took a small candle from a box and began to climb a long winding stairway. "Where are we going?" asked the candle. "We're going up higher than a house to show the ships the way to the harbour." "But no ship in the harbour could ever see my light", the candle said. "It is so very small." "If your light is small", the man said "just keep on burning brightly and leave the rest to me." After the long climb when they reached the top of the long stairs, they came to a large lamp. Then he took the little candle and lit the lamp. Soon the large polished mirrors behind the lamp sent beams of light out across the expanse of the sea.

We are all God's little candles. Our job is to keep on shining. The success of our work is in His hands. A tiny candle or match can start a forest fire. The little flame of your good example can actually change the lives of others without you knowing it. Be a light to them like the beacon light in this story which guided the ships to safe harbour.

Most of you were too young to decide, that you wanted to go to a boarding school. Some of you may even have cried for the first few days (I didn't), but everything in life happens for a reason. Enjoy your stay in school. There are a lot of good takeaways and one amongst them is that you can always count on a Scindian in a city where you are otherwise a stranger.

A few closing thoughts I'd like to share. In your journey through life, try and have righteousness as your companion (as a by-product you also accumulate the good 'karma' points). When in doubt, ask around but if you can't resolve, look within, you will always find the answer.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

Gaurav Jain, (Ex- Mahadji, 1989) Founder and Managing Director of ColdEX, one of India's largest cold chain fleet operators has received funding from major private equity funds for investments of Rs 250 crores. Many congratulations to him.

Sonsa Day Celebrations - A Report

Mr Rohit Sood

On 14th February 2016, 'Sonsa Day' was celebrated amidst much fanfare and jubilation under the aegis of the Social Service League. 'Sonsa Day' is celebrated to encourage and motivate the children, women and senior citizens of the villages of Sonsa, Nathon Ka Pura, Bandhuli and Jarga. When some of us from the school reached there, to our surprise we found that a group of boys from the school with the kitchen staff accompanied by Dr BS Bhakuni were already there in a huge playground built by our school over the years. Children from different schools had gathered there for the festivities to begin. The old, the young, men, women and children all had gathered around the field for the much-awaited day of the year.

The events began after lunch. The first event was shot-put and many young boys and men from the village participated in the event. This was followed by other sports activities. The main participants were the boys and girls from the schools of different villages whilst our boys went ahead with organizing the major activities of the day. Although the sun was blaring, it did not deter the excitement and joy of the participants and the community who had gathered there under the *pandals* and the trees along the tracks to witness the participants. They clapped, cheered, and encouraged the participants.



High aspirations.

This was followed by activities for the senior citizens and brawny guys who displayed their strength and vigour in the wrestling ring. The event concluded with the prize distribution ceremony. The village headman and some other dignitaries from the village were present during the ceremony and they praised the efforts of The Scindia School for organizing the event and being the benefactor to many children and people over the last few decades. The chief guest for the prize distribution ceremony was Mr Bhujbal Singh, the President of the Zila Panchayat Parishad.

In the evening, we had tea and snacks. The boys were tired but their faces glowed with satisfaction as we left the village. I too felt elated to witness an event of such magnitude and my compliments to the boys and Dr. Bhakuni for keeping up the legacy of community service. May we keep this spirit wherever we are in our lives and lend a helping hand to our community and the less fortunate. A true life is one which is a life of service!



Tough girls of Sonsa.

My journey in the Brass Band

Lakshay Garg | XI C

I joined the school in Class VII in the year 2011. That was the year when, for the first time, I saw the School Brass Band marching in front of the whole school on 15th August. I was mesmerised. That was the beginning of my yearning to join the School band. I finally got the opportunity to join it after almost 4 years, in July 2015. Mr Ramesh Sharma helped me to decide my instrument and I became a Sousaphone player. It reminds me of an incident from the life of Steve Jobs. It goes like this - Once, he attended an orchestra. He asked the Master of that orchestra, "How did he become so famous without playing any instrument himself?" He replied that everybody plays an instrument but I play the orchestra. Likewise, everybody in the School Band plays an instrument but Mr Ramesh Sharma plays the band.

After 6 months of rigorous training, both mental and physical, we were ready to face the challenge. We left early for our homes for the Winter Break on 12th and reported back to the school on 25th December 2015. For the first time we were all keen to be back on the Fort and resume the practice. We were excited and ready for RDC 2016. After 5 days of practice in school, we left on the morning of 30th December'15 for Delhi. We arrived in Delhi Army Cantonment in the afternoon. We could see everyone practising, marching and playing different kinds of tunes. Apart from us, there were three more bands, namely, Sainik School - Kapurthala, Birla Balika Vidyapeeth - Pilani and a Pipe Band from North-Eastern Region.

We gave a Guard of Honour to three dignitaries: Hon'ble Mohammad Hamid Ansari - The Vice President of India, Manohar Parrikar - Minister of Defence and Rao Inderjit Singh - State Defence Minister. In order to practice in the foggy weather of Delhi, we used to get up at 1.30 am and reach Rajpath at 4 am, from 17th January onwards. Finally 26th January arrived, the D-day for which we were waiting for the past 6 months. Marching on the Rajpath was the best thing I ever did and is one of my biggest achievements till today. One feels a surge of patriotism while marching proudly in front of an august gathering, and of course the delightful thought that the entire nation and our schoolmates would be glued to the television watching us added an extra bounce to our marching. On 28th January we again marched with full pride in PM Rally. On 30th January we returned with wonderful memories of practicing in the chilly mornings, interacting with different people, disciplined team work; all have become unforgettable moments of my life.

I would like to urge my fellow Scindians to join the band, if they have a flair for music and the mental determination to work hard. You don't always get such an opportunity, but when you do, take on the challenge and see your personality change in a matter of months. According to me, the students who join the Band and are selected to go for the RDC camp are the "SUPERHUMANS" of Scindia School.



Group photo of The Scindia School contingent 2016.

Workshop on prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace - A Report

Mr Manoj Mishra

Mr Manoj Mishra and Mrs Sudha Sharma attended a workshop on "Prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace" organized by the Labour Law Institute, New Delhi on 12th February 2016.

With the increase of women's participation in every sphere of life, the need for providing them protection has become a need of the hour, and jurisprudence is now being used to bring about a change in the culture and the mindset of the people at large.

To ensure protection of working women from sexual harassment and to strengthen the guarantee provided by the Constitution of India, an act has been passed.

The purpose of this act is also to achieve better co-operation from women to meet the demand of modern times, where gender equality and gender sensitivity is the norm of the day.

As per the law, every employer, employing 10 or more employees, has to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee as stipulated by Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013. It is the duty of the employer to display at the premises, the penal consequences of sexual harassment, and the order constituting, the Internal Complaints Committee.

Some examples of what constitutes sexual harassment are: Controlling a person's reputation by rumour-mongering about her private life, offensive jokes or comments and making sexually suggestive remarks or innuendos.

Workshop was full of discussions regarding the details of this act, the intricacies and the pitfalls of this act. However, it was agreed that a change in culture is needed to be in tune with the times. The discussions were led by experts in this field.

O' Mother Dear

Shrestha Agrawal | IX B

When I am lost in woods, she finds a route,
 I tend to give up, she says - No, till I enjoy its fruit.
 She dreams -I should be the best,
 Higher than the Everest.

Tells me never to lie or be shy,
 Fly like a lark to touch the sky.
 Wishes me to be big and high, but advises me to remain always cool,
 Life is a gift from God, love and respect it, never be a fool.

Tells me to resolve my aim and way,
 Toil to improve day by day.
 Oh! I am stuck up or am lonely,
 She is there with me like a shadow only.

This and all that you do for me,
 I am grateful, bubbling with glee,
 Can I ever dream of repaying the debt?
 I promise one day you will call my name loudly, proudly instead.

We do not look through the window; instead we look at the window with a mirror and see our own image in it

Abhijeet Nagpal | XI B

Get ready to have your mind blown! I am back with another idea. Our subconscious brain makes certain mistakes every day. According to me, whenever we meet a person, we actually meet our own version of that person. Can we ever truly understand what a person is thinking, feeling, planning or going to do? Do we really know what is there inside a person's heart and mind? Or do we usually just assume what a person is like?

I did an interesting experiment. On a drive with my friends, while sitting in the car, we started playing a game. Each one of us expressed his own first impression on each stranger who went by. We were surprised to notice that everyone had a different view of the same person. Many of us had a completely contrary description of one single personality. It brings out the fact that the person we see is actually different from what we perceive. When we see somebody, we project our own self on him/her and interpret him/her according to our own concepts.

In order to check if that was not just a crazy coincidence, I tried the test with different people from different age groups, and the results were, unsurprisingly constant. I got to know that whenever we see anyone, we superimpose our version on the analysis of that individual. We surround ourselves with information that matches our beliefs. This obviously means that the same person can be very different from somebody else's point of view.

We tend to like people who think like us. If we agree with someone's beliefs, we're more likely to be friends with them. While this makes sense, it means that we subconsciously begin to ignore or dismiss anything that threatens our view of the world, since we surround ourselves with people and information that confirm what we already think. In psychology, it is called confirmation bias. Confirmation bias happens when we proactively seek out information that confirms our existing beliefs.

This automatically affects our expectation from that person. When he/she fails to deliver what we expect from him/her, it results into disappointment, for which he cannot be blamed. We keep expecting people to be what actually they are not.

Another corollary of this statement is that we can never truly know someone unless we make a very special effort to dig deep into him/her in order to find out what the person truly is; what is he/she actually like.

This also implies that we can never truly understand others from their perspective. Misunderstanding often leads to insensitivity as well, and to lack of empathy. Because of this, sometimes we fail to understand that others are also human beings in the same way as we are. We either idealize them as Gods or dismiss them as animals. Isn't it our grave flaw?

We try to identify people in our own way. We can hear them from a great distance. We can reach them, without moving an inch. We feel closely connected with others by a crazy root system- like innumerable needles of grass - but I wonder if we can really know others and know ourselves. The human mind is so wedded to stereotypes and so distracted by vivid descriptions that it will seize upon them, even when they defy logic, rather than upon truly relevant facts. To a psychologist, it is self-evident that people are neither fully rational nor completely selfish. Is it not shocking to know that we make these mistakes subconsciously all the time? Avoiding them could help us make more rational, sensible decisions and perhaps we will be less biased, less prejudiced and hence more spiritual.

FORT NEWS

Weather has become much warmer and woollens are gradually fading into oblivion.

On 7th February, 52 students and 6 staff members of Madhav *Andhashram* visited the fort and our school. They had come to the Fort for an outing and went to see the Mansingh Palace first. They hired a guide to narrate the history of the Fort. After their visit to the palace, our students organized and played some interesting games with them. The most interesting part of this visit was the cricket match. It was amazing to see them play perfectly. They had lunch with us and left for their destination afterwards.

On 12th February, Suman Wahal Inter-House Music Competition was held in the evening in the Assembly hall. The competition was in two categories – Solo and Group. Mrs A. Shinde, Mrs S. Banerjee and Mr V. Sahai were the judges for the same. The results are as under:



A participant singing in the competition.

Vocal Solo :

I Sonam Bhutia II Aniket Agarwal III Nitesh Thakuri

Group Song :

I Mahadji II Madhav and Jayaji

Overall :

I Mahadji
II Madhav
III Jayappa

On 14th February, Sona Day was celebrated with much fanfare. A detailed report of the same has been printed on page 5 of this issue.

Results of the Junior Group Inter-House Debate are as follows :

House positions :

I Nimaji, Dattaji
III Jankoji
IV Kanerkhed

Individual positions :

I Arya Adhikari
II Chaitanya Agrawal, Aditya Rathor, Gaurang Paliwal

Results of Junior Group Inter-House Cricket Tournament are as follows :

House positions :

I Jankoji
II Dattaji
III Kanerkhed
IV Nimaji

Highest Scorer - Pratham Srivastav

Highest wicket taker - Kenchey Lepcha

Best wicket keeper - Abhay Khanna

Result of Junior Group Inter House Chess Tournament are as follows :

House positions :

I Nimaji (Sparsh Agarwalla, Aarush Rajesh, Arya Adhikari, Gaurav Agarwal, Pulkit Chawla)
II Kanerkhed (Utsav Jain, Shubhamanyu Lahiri, Mridul Singhi, Shakti Mahendran, Shikhar Agarwal)

Results of Inter House Basketball tournament are as follows :

	A Group	B Group	Overall
I	Jayappa	Mahadji	Jayappa
II	Ranoji	Jayappa	Mahadji
III	Mahadji	Ranoji	Ranoji
IV	Daulat	Jeevaji	Daulat
V	Madhav	Daulat	--
VI	Jayaji	Jayaji	--
VII	Shivaji	Madhav	Madhav, Jayaji, Jeevaji
VIII	Jeevaji	Shivaji	Shivaji

Obituary

Shrimati Shakuntala Gangwal, mother of Mr Prashant Gangwal (Ex- JE, 1986) passed away on 22nd Feb 2016. We pray that God comforts the bereaved family and friends and that her soul may rest in peace.

EDITORIAL BOARD



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