

News & Views 2015

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February Issue

Welham Girls’ School

Issue No. 36

“Do we love our Creator, Let us love fellow– beings first.
For God has compassion & loves the compassionate ; And he gives to the mild
What he does not give to the harsh.—Prophet Mohammed

Editorial

At the stroke of the midnight hour when the world slept...well, so did we! However, after hours of hard labour and a gruelling exchange of emails and Skype sessions, we proudly present to you a New and Reformed *News and Views*. This 14 page issue is a revival of the NVs of yesteryears, with the re-addition of columns like Quite Contrary and In- Review. We have also made changes in the layout which will hopefully enthuse our readers enough to make them read beyond the Birdbrains and the Ins and Outs. With so much happening outside the four walls of the school, we found it extremely hard to maintain a balance between the world inside and the one outside. Incidents like Charlie Hebdo and the Peshawar attack shocked the world, while the Great Indian Political Scenario had everyone on tenterhooks. At the same time, we had many congratulations and condolences to give to the friends and faculty of Welham, with the achievements of Mr. Vachani and the passing away of Mrs. Pandit and Mrs. Mrinalini Mukherjee.

Meanwhile, as the SCs and AIs indulged in erudition and the rest of the school waited for some sensation, the Pre SCs awaited certain *permission*. However, all we have left to say is that “Beware the ides of March”, for exams are just round the corner and this issue is the only reprieve you shall receive before you are 10 feet deep in your M.L Aggarwals and Psychology notes.

Behold the first issue of the *News & Views* 2015!

- The Editorial Board

School Captain’s Address

Dear Welhamites,

Before I actually begin my address, I would like to express my immense gratitude for your unconditional support and belief in me. I hope to be able to live up to your expectations, keeping in mind what the ever enlightened Uncle Ben told his oblivious nephew Peter Parker, “With great power comes great responsibility!”

SCs and AIs, as I know all too well, you are racing to finish your course, not to mention, wolfing down all the food you can get your hands on. However, remember to stop every once in a while to just relax and unwind. Good luck for your upcoming examinations. We know that you will do us proud. As for the rest of you, gear up as Finals are on their way and we need to face them head on, but do remember that good things happen to those who wait, because Midterms are not too far down the road. With Music & Dance just around the corner, let us all strive to walk that extra mile and get ready to serenade to the night. Let us hope that this year will be full of experience, endeavours and euphoria.

Enough said, I would like to leave you with a thought which should keep you going for the year ahead. There are people out there who feel you can’t. What you’ve got to do is turn around and say, “Watch me.”

- Gauri Gupta

My Way or the Highway

By Anshika Jain

“Will finish Christianity and Islam in India by 2021”, said Hindu activist Rajeshwar Singh, recently shocking the masses with his anti-secular hatred. However, is this not the sort of sentiment that is also supported by millions in India? This way of thinking is not only prevalent within the lower masses but also in the “educated elite” of the country. In fact, just the other day, I was shocked upon hearing some very offensive anti-Muslim remarks from a cousin. We claim to be accepting and friendly as a people, yet there have been more communal riots reported in India than almost anywhere else in the world. It is true that India in itself has almost always been politically neutral, but that is probably because it has always been so plagued with internal violence that it could never unite to defend itself from invaders over the years! Religion is supposed to give people something to believe in—something that gives one hope in need, then why has it become the cause of some of the most violent crimes in a country known for its unsurpassable spirituality? How is it that we have become so intolerant and hateful? How is it that in a pluralist, secular country, 561 incidents of communal violence were reported between January and October last year? According to the Home Ministry data released in the National Integration Council meeting, 107 people were killed in communal riots across the country, which included 66 Muslims and 41 Hindus in 479 incidents of communal violence this year. Apart from those killed, 1,697 people including 794 Hindus, 703 Muslims and 200 policemen were injured!

Moving on, did you know that homosexual rape is not against the law in India, in fact, comes under Article 377, as it penalizes both consensual and forced sodomy, making an abused victim a criminal by law? Twelve years ago, Ajay Chander was gang raped and the men who were involved went as far as videotaping their brutality in order to force the victim into silence. This incident took place because Chander was considered “feminine” and “unmanly”. Despite its progress in fields like the Indian Cinema, social homophobia or “homosexual intolerance” is yet another cause of the wide spread hate crime in India. A student from a city college in Chennai was beaten up, stripped, and made to walk in his underwear by his seniors at a fresher party, only because he openly admitted he was gay. This raises an unsettling question, why is homosexuality still considered unnatural and offensive, despite having no solid anti-religious or anti scientific basis? Furthermore, there are ‘corrective rapes’ of lesbians and transgender individuals, while ‘electric shock therapy’ is practiced on gay men who have no legal support to turn to for justice. The infamous Baba Ramdev even claim to *cure* homosexuality which he says is “a bad addiction” and can be “cured with yoga”!

We say that we are a developing, progressive country and yet the national mind set is hopelessly archaic and orthodox. We are a country that claims to be tolerant and open and yet ban books and movies, for mythical deities with questionable existences. We consider manual jobs to be menial, women inferior, homosexuals unnatural, Hindi-speakers uneducated, and North-Easterners-“immigrants”. We still call ourselves a dynamic and an advancing country. Any economic progress we make is completely useless until we strive to change the patriarchal, stereotypical, intolerant society that is India!

GLOBETROTTER

- 🌐 Hippomonstrosquipedalophobia is, of all things- the fear of long words!!
- 🌐 In Nova Scotia, it is illegal for birds to fly over a church.
- 🌐 From the bottom of a deep well it is possible to see the stars during the daytime.
- 🌐 As recently as the eighteenth century, a grand vicar of Pont-du-Château, France excommunicated caterpillars.
- 🌐 If you sneeze with your mouth and nose clamped shut, your eyes are at the risk of popping out of their sockets.
- 🌐 On one occasion, a cow was sentenced to two days in prison after being convicted of eating the lawn outside the courthouse of the New Zealand capital- Wellington.
- 🌐 Mexico once had 3 presidents in one day.
- 🌐 97% of all money printed in the US contains some cocaine.
- 🌐 Humans glow in the dark, but our eyes are too weak to see it.

I am Charlie

By Nandini Sharma

We saw 2015 kick start with a vicious attack on the French satirical magazine ‘Charlie Hebdo’ by the terrorist outfit Al-Qaeda, for scandalously caricaturising Prophet Mohammed on its cover. All over the world, journalism felt the blow of this dire attempt to suppress the freedom of expression. The crucial weapon of global democracy saw itself threatened to its roots.

However, this extremist attack also saw the unification of media across the world. The attack has created a desire for journalistic views and voices to be louder than ever. The fact that the efforts of the outfit have had no censorable effect is being lauded by newspapers, magazines and newsrooms across the globe.

Even after the carefully strategized firing damaged the magazine’s workplace, the Editor-in-Chief, who is currently operating from the left wing daily, “*Libération*” announced the timely release of the next issue of Charlie Hebdo, which derides the assault.

This backlash has garnered immense support from the media globally. The firing has also ignited worldwide shows of solidarity through candle marches touting the slogan “Je Suis Charlie” translated to “I Am Charlie” and was also a trending topic (#IAmCharlie) on social networking websites.

The world is embracing the media kaleidoscope and daringly challenging the terrorists to deaden every voice with their threats. The educated have to make noise and the voices of the people need to be loud enough to bring about a change.





QUITE CONTRARY

MODI-THE MODERN-AGE STALIN



I AGREE

The Proposer- Natasha Todi

We are the world's largest democracy and yet today the very foundation of our system is crumbling. One of the most essential elements of a democracy is an organized Opposition - a body which must be strong enough to keep a check on the policies of the government. This is where it starts. The fact that there is no leader of the Opposition (with the embarrassing position of the Congress this year), only cements my point.

The NDA's complete sweep of this year's election has enabled it to form a government without a coalition, which is very unusual for a large and diverse country like ours. This is also a matter of concern, as it will only place absolute power in its hands as the legislation becomes a cakewalk compared to the earlier struggle, due to the differences in opinion.

While most of us were out celebrating the onset of "Acche Din", a thought struck me. The NaMo fever that gripped the nation since earlier this year is very similar to Stalinism in Russia. The bewildering manner in which Russia held Stalin with absolute adoration in the 50s seemed a bit far-fetched to me until I actually studied it in detail. This man's propaganda was one which incessantly fed people glorious tales of their leader while he was very busy at work. Yes, incredibly busy signing the deaths of millions in a single day. Not to mention his so-called brilliant "Five Year Plans", the repercussions of which, can be felt even today. I am not implying that Modi is Stalin reincarnated, but at the same time I wish to say that if we continue to be careless and put our blind faith in just one person we, as a nation might be inching towards a dictatorship. Today the nation is in an absolute frenzy to proclaim its everlasting support for Modi and his government. This, however, only gives him an unchecked power over the masses.

Modi, with his stability and fiery personality has got a fairly easy path paved to tread on. This alone should inspire us to be more cautious. As responsible citizens, it is our duty to run a fine toothed comb through all the policies of the government and criticize any shortcomings that we notice. Even if this criticism is portrayed lightly at the grass root level, it is a good start. Instead of putting Mr. Modi on a pedestal; we must raise a question to ourselves. Can one man suddenly delve in all by himself and uproot the deeply set seeds of corruption and incompetence? We ought to give Modi a chance to amend the statement "History repeats itself" but in the meantime, please go ahead and joke about the next political propaganda, point out any flaws that you see in any policies, because trust me "purgues" and "gulags" are words which this country is not yet ready for.

I DISAGREE

The Opposer- Girisha Arora

The 16th Prime Minister of India, Narendra Damodardas Modi, is considered no less than a shaman, hypnotising all who he comes across. (Except the Proposer!)

The Opposition states that this overwhelming popularity is the very reason why Modi is touted as the Indian version of the infamous Joseph Stalin, ruler of Communist Russia in the 50s and one of the most ruthless dictators of the time. Well, what I would like to say to all those hopelessly pessimistic and morbid people, is that just because Modi is the 16th PM of the country, doesn't mean that he is a 16 year old with an attention seeking disorder. So, I doubt there will be a re-enactment of the purges soon.

What the opposition claims is a sweep unlike any other, though it is actually nothing unique at all. Rajiv Gandhi came to power with a whopping 404 seats out of 533. Now it is but obvious that everyone would have heard of the phrase "History repeats itself"? Well, what the opposition is presently doing is just completely ignoring the history presented in cold hard facts. Furthermore for anyone who says that legislation has become a cakewalk, turn on Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha TV (It isn't even that torturous) and you will be proved wrong. It must also be held in mind though not prominent an Opposition to his "reign" does indeed exist.

Another factor that my opposition seems to ignore is that the media is no longer what it used to be in the 50s or in Russia for that matter. The PM cannot dictate what should and shouldn't be broadcast or printed. The privilege which Stalin enjoyed in his time completely lifted his propaganda to new levels. Modi may find extensive media coverage but that is simply because people want to know what exactly is going on. They have finally voted for change and they want to make sure that changes are implemented. The fact that there are report cards being generated of his work by various magazines consistently shows that the media is helping the PM get the exercise that he needs by keeping him on his toes. It is another matter entirely that if all else fails, Arnab Goswami may go storming into the Parliament, demanding that his questions be answered!

So what we, as dutiful citizens of our country, must do is let our Prime Minister carry our dreams forward and take our country to greater heights. We should also ensure that all those who wish to be a part of Stalinist Russia so desperately should be sent there via a time warp that can be arranged (if Mangalyaan can succeed in one go, anything related to technology can-give or take 50 years!). So *adios* to all those of you departing and *bienvenue* to those looking ahead to the (hopefully) bright future. (I constantly follow the PMs instructions, even in the case of learning foreign languages!).

HAR HAR NAMO!

BUT WAIT

The Mediator-Ashita Sirohi

True - Modi enjoys widespread popularity and almost unopposed adulation, much like Stalin did. But so did Mandela.

True - the Congress had, under Rajiv Gandhi, secured a parliamentary majority even greater than that recently acquired by the BJP. Look what that did. It led to the entrance of an Italian fashionista, a mime artist (more of a puppet, really) and a 'Shahzaada' into Indian politics. (Just to keep things in perspective, this Shahzaada is more like Prince Charles than Prince Charming). This motley crew quite literally "purged" better sense out of politics, so much so that even Stalin cringed in his grave after Rahul Gandhi's interview with Arnab Goswami.

Modi is not Stalin, and present situations will never allow him to be. However, it is undeniable that Modi's political journey, his demeanour and his popularity strike anybody who has studied Stalin as a chilling *de ja vu*. This may sound ridiculous, and do excuse me, but perhaps if Modi did adopt SOME (and I highlight some) of Stalin's agendas, it might not be so bad after all.

A recent survey concluded that when asked who the greatest leader in Russian history was, 70% of the Russian respondents backed Stalin. Under Stalin, Russia was transformed from a poor, chiefly agricultural economy into an industrial superpower. He entered when the Russians used the plough and left only once they possessed atomic piles. Though the Five Year Plans were not strictly successful, they did manage to bring forth a whole lot of development.

Of course, all of this was at the cost of a million lives. However, Stalin's Russia did not have the essential deterrents which prevent political leaders from achieving divine distinction. For starters, there was no Kejriwal. Irrespective of whether it's a good thing or a bad one, Kejriwal's presence prohibits any kind of unopposed, undisrupted rule. To complement the man in the grey muffler is our Good Old Democracy. The recently held Delhi polls consolidated the potency of the democratic system in the country. The masses made it sufficiently clear that they were going to keep Modi on his toes.

Well, you dare ask for elections in Stalinist Russia.

In the long run, it is perhaps futile to juxtapose two personalities living in different eras, different countries and almost conflicting political situations simply by virtue of their apparently similar background, agenda and magnetic aura. After all, thinking on those lines does encourage the spotting of considerable similarities between (brace yourself: this is truly hair-raising) Akon and Himesh Reshamiya!

That '90s Show

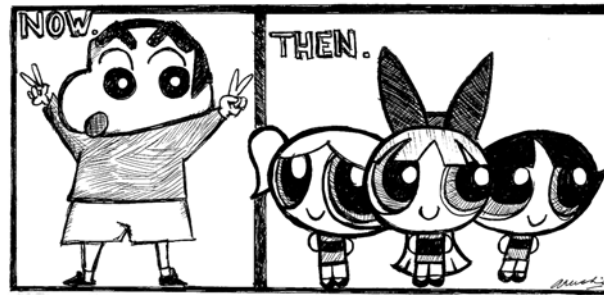
By Arushi Kuchhal

Do you know Masau, Kazahma and Nene? No, they aren't Japanese POWs or scientists; they are friends of Shin Chan Nohara. Did you just furrow your brow and brood over the vaguely familiar name which you heard at home (thanks to a younger sibling or just walking past the TV and catching a few scenes) or did your eyes light up with recognition? (Do you watch the show yourself!?!). Better still, did you not require introduction at all and knew who the Japanese kids were straight off? (*Stands up and claps proudly*). Whichever is the case, you should probably know that Shin Chan is a five year old by-product of the nonsensical anime that Japan has been feeding the younger TV audience in India. Before you attack me with defences such as, "He's so adorable though!" and "Come on, you have to admit he's entertaining!", I'd refute by saying that the cartoon was banned in the country on 4th December 2008 (a rather sad day for my younger brother) for a reason. Another token of constant love from Japan has been the ugly, all-blue futuristic robotic cat Doraemon. (I know you've heard of him.) With his counterpart Nobita, -a boy who could undoubtedly be Shin Chan's pre-teen self, Doraemon is an equally ridiculous cartoon and an active part of the ever-growing league of unintelligent cartoons.

However, if you remember Dexter scurrying around his laboratory with his older sister, Dee Dee asking wide-eyed "Ooooooo, what does this button do?", Courage the Cowardly Dog fending for himself (mostly for Muriel) against paranormal villains along with his heightened sense of paranoia ("I just know something bad is going to happen") or Scooby-Doo and the Gang's adventures in The Mystery Machine; feel blessed because you witnessed perhaps the best generation of TV

cartoons ever made. From the iconic Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to the biceps-bulging free spirit- Johnny Bravo, the 90s cartoons displayed the persisting excellence of the Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, Pogo and Disney Channels. The new generation's Hungama TV productions lack characterization and focus more on the background and the scenery. They can never equal the old cartoons, which are marked for their wit, humour and emotional impact on younger viewers.

Cartoons from the 90s were easily relatable to us as they propagated the need to be oneself and did not make use of archetypes. A fine example would be the popular Recess, which involved a range of closely-knit friends each with an individual personality- a fun loving jock, a tomboy, a group leader and a girly- girl. The Powerpuff Girls endorsed girl power, a respite from the classic caped vigilantes (Justice League



anyone?) and made many of us believe that we can fight off bullies like Mojo-Jojo and other gross things on a daily basis. The perfect combination of 'sugar', 'spice' and 'everything nice' with Chemical X had everyone wanting a scientist father like Professor Utonium. While Popeye's penchant for spinach made children all over the world yearn for it, Shin Chan continues to preach the gospel of sneakily throwing green vegetables off dinner plates. The variety of cartoons was overwhelming-Teen Titans, Dora the Explorer, Winx Club, Pokémon, The Flintstones, Looney Tunes, The Dragon Tales- there was something for everyone. Whether you were the secret DC Comic-Marvel obsessed tomboy, a bubble gum lollipop unicorn lover or well, only a wide-eyed kid playing around with the TV remote, it did NOT matter in the 90s.

Look What You've Done

Dear Stacey,

Last Christmas I gave you my heart and now I walk a lonely road. I'm tired of being what you want me to be and in this tug of war you'll always win. We're meant to be together but we're still fighting and I don't know why. You slip out of my fingertips, every time you run, and I don't know what to do 'cause I'll never be with you...but I will be right here waiting for you. It's only words and words are all I have to take your heart away but somehow we've become so numb to what we're saying, and now you're five hundred miles away from home. You're gone and I got to stay high all the time because I need a whole lot of medication to realize what we used to have we don't have it anymore. Desperate I will crawl, waiting for some love but you keep saying that we are never getting back together.

I wanna stand with you on the mountain but I'm here without you baby. Let the rain fall I don't care because I'm only going to walk between the raindrops with you. Your beauty is beyond compare with flaming locks of auburn hair and I'm thirsty for your love dancing underneath the skies of lust. You're my Lucy in the sky with diamonds and I wonder whether I am bright enough to shine in your spaces. We clawed, we chained our hearts in vain but I guess I'd rather hope than feel nothing at all. Stacey can't you see you're my end and my beginning and when a heart breaks no it don't breakeven. And so I have to say before I go, keep me in your memory and leave out all the rest because I'll be there for you like I've been there before.

Anyway I just called to say I love you,
-Truly yours, your biggest fan, this is Stan

PS: I won't go home without you because I'm a man who can't be moved. And you may say I'm a dreamer because I know that if you take my hand we'll make it, I swear, because baby can't you see you belong to me and I will always love you.

In case you haven't noticed, the letter above is a music quiz. The person who manages to guess the most songs and their artists shall be rewarded by the NV Board. The entries should be submitted within a week to any of the editors.

Psychotic is the New Sane

By Anshika Jain and Ashita Sirohi

(Disclaimer: The authors of this article in no way support trashy literature. The excerpts provided below are purely for research purposes and are a figment of our avid imagination)

“His razor-sharp, ivory fangs languidly neared her alabaster nape which gently arched in a welcoming gesture. Her throbbing artery sent him into frenzy and his predatory fangs pierced through her unblemished skin, making her howl in pain. Taking little notice of this, he continued to devour her blood as she slowly but steadily slipped into unconsciousness.”

Wait a minute! This is not how it was supposed to go, but we guess that lately audiences have been displaying a desire for the replacement of Lancelotian knights with “sparkling” “bat”-men, literally. However if you are not a “twi-hard” (or Vampire Academy-Vampire Diaries-House of Night-Blue Blood-Night-“hard”) then this might appeal to your more morbid sensibilities:

“He stood, a solitary shark engulfed within the deep darkness of the morose room. The manic gleam in his piercing eyes matched the glint of his polished silver dagger. She was blithely unaware, lost in the comfort of the brush running down her cascading tresses, looking unseeingly into the mirror. She didn’t notice his presence until he had crept behind her. Starting, she slowly turned and smiled adoringly at her son. He smiled reassuringly back at her and came closer to her. Then with a sudden, swift, blinding motion, he stabbed her! Not once, not twice, but a dozen times!”

Hopefully by now we have not only got you thoroughly

baffled but also thoroughly engrossed. Let’s get to the point.

Our generation has developed a strange fascination for the morbid, so much so, that even the romantic heroes of our fantasies are what were once considered repulsive and unnatural. These include but are not limited to- vampires, lycanthropes, witches and even zombies (yes, Warm Bodies)! The authors of this article, for lack of any other explanation, can only conclude that this obsession is an intensified (for lack of a better word) version of the desire of a woman to “tame” her beloved. Besides it conforms to the age old saying that “Reformed rakes make the best husbands”.



Through the second excerpt that we have humbly provided to you, we have tried to demonstrate how anything macabre and grotesque instantly appeals to our generation. For instance, most of us would prefer reading an Emily Dickinson, or Browning’s ‘Porphyria’s Lover’, to Wordsworth’s ‘Daffodils’. Similarly we are more interested in assassinations than coronations and would rather study Hitler than Mother Teresa. Perhaps this is because we have never been *privileged* enough to actually experience a war, a dictatorship, a murder or for that matter a vampire’s bite! Ask a concentration camp survivor whether her first pick of a movie

would be ‘A Boy in Striped Pajamas’. Our curiosity, or rather strange fascination, probably arises from the fact that that we happen to lead relatively mundane lives, forcing us to speculate about the seemingly interesting yet rather psychotic proclivities in life. Or maybe we are just a generation of perverse psychopaths!

The 87th Academy Awards were held at the Dolby Theatre, Hollywood, Los Angeles on the 22nd of February this year and were hosted by Neil Patrick Harris of the How I Met Your Mother fame. After much speculation and excitement, the final awardees of the night were:

-  **Best Picture**
Birdman — Alejandro G. Iñárritu, John Lesher and James W. Skotchdopole
-  **Best Director**
Alejandro González Iñárritu — *Birdman*
-  **Best Actor**
Eddie Redmayne — *The Theory of Everything*
-  **Best Actress**
Julianne Moore — *Still Alice*
-  **Best Supporting Actor**
J.K. Simmons — *Whiplash*
-  **Best Supporting Actress**
Patricia Arquette — *Boyhood*

Download

- 🎧 Sound of Silence— *Simon & Garfunkel*
- 🎧 Old Yellow Bricks— *Arctic Monkeys*
- 🎧 The Ballad of John and Yoko— *The Beatles*
- 🎧 Clocks— *Coldplay*
- 🎧 Anyone Else But You— *Moldy Peaches*
- 🎧 Pieces— *Sum 41*
- 🎧 Iris— *Goo Goo Dolls*
- 🎧 Us— *Regina Spektor*

What’s In

Swine Flu
Den TV
Pakistani TV Serials
White NV
Kanan and Biswa
Stroganoff
Love me like you do
World Cup

What’s Out

Ebola
Tata Sky
Balika Vadhu
Sepia NV
Superwoman
Thai Curry
Blank Space
Suit Yourself.

An Incoherent Triumph

By Almas Mittal

The voice of reason had gone
And the victorious noise shone
As it violently hummed its victory song
After a war that was way too prolonged.

It hissed like a snake as it slowly crept
Into the path from which it was once
banished
And with a single breath, it suddenly swept
All logic and made it vanish.

It roared and entered the heart of the war
And burst into orange-yellow flames
So all the humanity that was left
Was burnt down to ashes of shame.

The shame was brought because the wise
soul
Was not brave enough to fight the greatest
enemy of all.

For every man has one great fear
Which can either make him shine or
disappear
And the poor soul of reason faced defeat
From the arrogant one of wrath.

So when it fell on oblivious feet
It had already lost its pride and warmth
And it was belittled to such a degree
That the world was satisfied with wrath's
victory.

Skiing in Kashmir

By Divisha Suman

During the vacations, Anshika, Urvi and I enrolled for a Basic Skiing and Leadership Course at the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM) at Gulmarg, Kashmir. The fourteen day stay at IISM had us not only falling on the ski slopes but also hiking to picturesque places nearby. Contrary to what we had expected, the trip had much more to offer than just skiing- we also indulged in recreational activities like Zumba and making snowmen during the evenings. The trip ended on a sentimental note and we were convinced two weeks could not have seemed shorter.



What you'd witness if you were in the same room as the NV Board members:

- ☺ Ashita sprawled on the floor throwing a tantrum.
- ☺ Narcissist comments floating about the room from Anshika's direction
- ☺ Vedika threatening to put Shreya and Ashita in *Special Thanks*.
- ☺ Arushi vandalizing Vedika's work.
- ☺ "You are OUTVOTED!"
- ☺ INTRA-MAIL <3
- ☺ "Let's put in cool bullets!" (⇐ Notice these ones)
- ☺ Vedika expanding her sorry vocabulary.
- ☺ Arushi giggling while zooming in and out of random pictures.

The Modern Happily Ever After

By Anmol Kejriwal

From a very young age, all of us have been reading fairytales- stories which mainly consist of a beautiful "Damsel in Distress" and a handsome prince. They meet. They fall in love. Rough circumstances get the better of them and that is when the magic begins. Then comes everyone's favourite part- the happily ever after.

Ever wondered what would happen if Cinderella hadn't gone to the ball and the prince would have come to her house, where she was a maid? Would he still love her if she was plain but had an extraordinary personality? This is this is where the point of view is flawed. After external beauty is not everything. What matters more than someone's inner beauty and qualities?

Almost every fairytale consists of a heroic prince and a gorgeous girl waiting for her prince to come and rescue her. There are hardly any stories in which the female saves the day with the exception of movies like *Brave* and *Frozen*. We grow up believing blindly in these tales and waiting for our prince. Why can't we take action? Are we not intelligent enough to decipher the wafer-thin line between right and wrong? I think it is now time, for us girls, to stop believing in these fairytales and to start fighting against this gender bias.

Any fairytale is incomplete without an evil stepmother or a basic antagonist. If you reflect upon it, there have hardly ever been any fairytales in which the villains are given a chance to explain their actions. Are they ever given a second chance? The answer is no, which leads us to believe that no one should be given a second chance, something which I strongly disagree with. I believe that everyone deserves a second chance, to choose a new path for himself. Unfortunately, in reality they brutally kill him, which from a point of view is murder too, and all it does is create space for more hatred in the world.

I don't know whether fairytales are based on stereotypes or vice versa. The only thing I am sure of is that it is time that a larger number of the newer editions bring a twist to these evergreen tales. Maybe for a change, the female saves the day and in spite of not being too pretty, she finds her one true love. Maybe the villain is given a second chance too. That will be a complete happily ever after.



Mehr-ul-Nisa

By Chitvan Randhawa

Cast away at first,
"Sun among women" she was sired
Her deep blue eyes
By Prince Salim himself were desired.

To Persia she belonged,
Grew up in the fringes of Akbar's court
To his *Padshah Begum*,
Mehr-ul-Nisa's presence meant a lot.

Her beauty pre possessing,
Was caught by the Prince.
When she like a dandelion,
Floated in summer swing.

He studied her intently,
Her lashes- the way they curled,
On her cheek like crescents.
Oh the same light her eyes served!

It was like first love-
Same passion, same aching.
He desperately wished for their love to grow
Oh the way she got his heart pacing!

They would be one now-
He was sure.
With a royal seal,
His proposal was sent to lure.

She was the *light of his world*,
His empress, his *Nur Jaban*,
Together they lived as one,
And so on their story spun.

Grammar

By Shruti Kakkar

Every name is called a noun,
As table and chair, street and town.

In place of a noun a pronoun stands,
He and she can raise their hands.

An adjective describes a thing,
As a magic wand and a twisted string.

The verb means action, something
done,
To read, to write, to jump and run.

How things are done the Adverbs tell,
As quickly as slowly, as badly as well.

"God's" Demons

By Sulagna Tripathi

The world turned sorrowful the day one hundred and thirty children were killed in a brutal attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, Pakistan. The Taliban claimed responsibility for this heinous crime and said that their main reason for launching the attack was to hurt the army for attacking them.

As a student, I feel that the Taliban should not have executed their revenge on innocent children. If they had honestly wanted to avenge their injured, they would have attacked the Pakistani army which is more capable of protecting itself than the vulnerable students are. It is surprising that these terrorists feel satisfied and triumphant after brutally slaughtering children who had their entire lives ahead of them. My guess is that they were brainwashed to such a level that they did not realize the gravity of their crimes.

It seems to me that they are against the idea of education too. They usually attack people who either receive or promote education. The Taliban is filled with zealots obsessed with the idea of using violence to do everything in God's name. Apparently every time they kill someone, it is done in the name of God.

It is high time that the people of Pakistan realize that they cannot continue to live in fear of these terrorists. They have to learn to take a stand for themselves and the thousands murdered by the Taliban.

A Drop in the Ocean - Shimona Patel

"Each One, Teach One" emerged as a result of a TGELF (The Global Education and Leadership Foundation) programme but went on to be a lot more than that. We often hear about the terrible state of rural education in the country. However, we often miss out on the fact that a majority of the people don't really wish to study! Why would they want to when they can simply get their degrees forged? It was to change this very mindset that my team set out to work in the tea estates of Dibrugarh and a village in Bihar. After organizing many sessions and talking to various people, we managed to persuade some, while some remained unconvinced. A local school in Varanasi too joined the project and together we hope to continue making progress.

Be the Change - Anshita Madnani

Having waited fruitlessly for the Municipal Corporation to clean the litter on the streets for a long time, I decided to take on the initiative myself. Since there was a shortage of dustbins in my lane, I bought two of them and placed them there for a start. I wasn't too shocked to notice that the garbage was simply being thrown outside the dustbin. For the next few days, I picked up the litter myself. Instead of helping me, those who saw me pick the litter up, chose to mock and ridicule me. I was laughed at for doing something that was apparently not my job. Furthermore, the next morning, the bins were overturned by people looking for material to light fire with. Despite all this, my determination remains firm. After all, one has to be the change one wants to see in the world.

9 Things we were sick of in 2014

- 1 **The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge**
Isn't it funny how only celebrities ended up donating money?!
- 2 **Let It Go from 'Frozen'**
It was definitely time to *let go* of Idina Menzel's soulful Disney croon.
- 3 **The Fault In Our Stars**
First it was the bright blue book and then the movie where you got all the cheesy lines from. *Okay? Okay.*
- 4 **Narendra Modi**
The Modi Wave hit *every* Indian last year and it nearly blew out of proportion when the country fawned over Obama and Modi's PDA this Republic Day.
- 5 **Candy Crush and Who Viewed Your Profile requests**
Right when you felt like a celebrity with *328 new notifications* on Facebook, reality hit you in the face- it was really that *one* person spamming you with candy crush requests.
- 6 **Cray and Bae**
We desperately hope that this "crazy" trend finishes "Before Anyone Else"!
- 7 **Selfies**
Selfies. And now Selfie Sticks- enough said.
- 8 **Happy, Fancy, #Selfie**
Narcissism is a disease not something to sing about!
- 9 **Dystopian Stories**
Divergent, Hunger Games, Maze Runner- all we can say is *Long live Harry Potter.*

Birdbrain

Divisha- (*upon hearing Arnab Goswami's name*) "Uh... isn't he that Dosco!?"

The world wishes you were Barely Speaking. We are sure Arnab agrees.

Arooja- "We have so many population in our country."

Are you always that dumb or just when the NV Members are around?!

Wangmo- "Pooja, my candle just shut. Can you light it?"

Almas- "Your candle just SHUT?!"

Wangmo- "Same thing, it BURST."

We bet the English Department just burst a vein or two.

Nandini- (while playing chess, frantically) "Guys, where's the dice?!"

The Ed Board refuses to brainstorm. -_-

Shreya(SKM)- Isn't Kanan and Biswa both IITian?!

So much for the South Indian knowledge.

Garima- "These people are going to SAARC man."

Anshika- "What?!"

Garima- "Arrey! SAAAAAARC!.....in Switzerland!"

Anshika- "You mean CERN."

Garima- "That only ya!"

Our condolences are with your educators!

The very next day...

Meher Bano- "Guys is Hong Kong a part of China?"

Garima- "No, dude! It's the SAARC of China."

Here we go again.

Roses & Raspberries

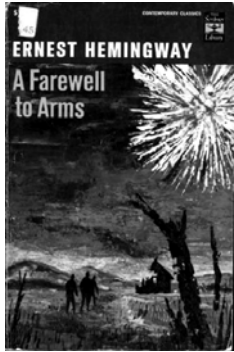
- ♥ *Baskets overflowing with freshly-scented, hand-picked rouge roses to Mrs. Datta for screening movies every day before the vacations!*
- ♥ *A bouquet of blushing, fuchsia pink roses adorned with dew drops and brimming with self-congratulations to all the Pre-SCs for organizing a fabulous farewell!*
- ♥ *A single, blooming yellow rose to all the newly-appointed Captains for a wonderful year ahead!*
- ♥ *A congratulatory bouquet of roses of every imaginable colour to Dhruva Shukla for performing a flawless Arangetram. We wish you a great dancing career ahead!*
- ♥ *Fields full of fresh, fragrant, deny roses to the AIs and the SCs for their Board Examinations. We wish you the very best!*
- ♥ *Bunches and bunches of pearly white roses to each SC passing out soon. You will be missed dearly!*
- ♥ *Gardens filled with roses in full bloom to Ms. Mala Tandan and Ms. Aarti Chandra along with their team for conducting the Life Skills Workshop for the Pre-SCs.*
- ♥ *Barrels stuffed with decaying, rancid, raspberries to the Administration for separating the Music and Dance Competitions.*
- ♥ *Bedboxes filled with rotten, cholerial, maggot-infested raspberries to the teachers for making us look like idiots on Children's Day.*
- ♥ *Cartons jammed with stinky, pestilence-stricken raspberries to whoever decided to have a full day routine on the first day of the term ALONG with games!*
- ♥ *A truckload of the gooiest, most putrid raspberries fresh from the sewer to all those who read nothing but the Birdbrains and the Roses & Raspberries in the NV.*
- ♥ *Drains filled with pungent smelling raspberries to Mrs. Datta for not allowing Pre-SCs to have Socials on Valentines' Day!!*
- ♥ *Swimming Pools replete with poisonous raspberries blessed with the power of diarrhea to whoever was responsible for not announcing the Pre-SC Officials and therefore extending their "scoping" season!*



IN REVIEW



YOU'VE GOT TO READ: A FAREWELL TO ARMS



Nobel Prize winning American author, Ernest Hemingway's *'A Farewell to Arms'* is a semi-autobiographical novel. Published in 1929, the book features a protagonist (Mr Henry or "Tenente"), who is very similar to Hemingway himself. It is apparent that he was influenced by his own experiences of war and consequently penned down this exemplary example of warfare and love. In the middle of the war, Henry falls in love with an English nurse, Catherine Barkley. Henry adamantly believes that love is the last thing he needs in the middle of a world-threatening, gruesome war, however his love for Catherine deepens when she is transferred to the hospital where he is admitted. What follows is a hard-to-admit display of the fact that however intense love might be, it simply cannot conquer all.

YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH (MOVIE): INGLORIOUS BASTERDS - Lavanya Sharma

What happens when Tarantino's violence meets Brad Pitt's fame in a film based in the Holocaust? Yes, a Box Office hit, much greater than Pitt's last film, 'Fury'. Lieutenant Aldo "The Apache" Raine (Brad Pitt) who is a Jewish-American soldier infamous among the Nazis for his and his men's brutality towards Nazi servicemen, is determined to bring an end to the Nazis. On the other hand, a Jewish girl (Melanie Laurent) who had earlier managed to escape from the inhumane Colonel Hans Landa, "The Jew Hunter" (Christopher Waltz), runs a cinema in Paris under a new "acceptable identity" three years later. She too, has her own plans to get rid of the German tormentors. What happens when two different plans to assassinate Hitler cross paths? Watch the movie starring actors like Michael Fassbender and Diane Kruger to find out!



YOU'VE GOT TO WATCH (TV SHOW): DOWNTON ABBEY - Aishwarya Kumar



Set in 20th century Britain, in the fictional Yorkshire country estate of Downton Abbey, the show is a drama television series. Created by Julian Fellowes, the story primarily revolves around the Crawley family and the servants of the household. The show aptly portrays the differences that arise among the family members and the hardships faced by different classes during the First World War. Starring the legendary actress Dame Maggie Smith, the show is one which intersperses history with familial drama. With its exceptional cinematography, this highly lauded show is a treat for history buffs as well as soap enthusiasts.

YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO: 101 SONGS THAT WON WORLD WAR II

This is a beautifully compiled album of music during the Second World War with the evergreen, 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' by Judy Garland, the well-known 'You Are My Sunshine' by Bing Crosby and the love song that has beguiled generations-'I Only Have Eyes For You' by Frank Sinatra and many more. For some the haunting lyrics of Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' are the attraction and for others there is the happy melody of The Mills Brothers' 'The Paper Dolls'. This album has something to give to everyone with an ear for music and a soul for melody. Overall, it leaves you with a feel of what soothed the soldiers in the trenches and gave hope to their loved ones back home. You are left with a love for that era, owing to the heartfelt, melodic and soulful music.



He Said It



Though it is not relatively well known, recently deceased cartoonist R.K.Laxman (RKL), had once visited the Welham campus as the Chief Guest for Founders' Day in 1990. Here he was interviewed by our very own Mrs. Chhavi Jain, who in those days went as Ms. Chhavi Kumar (CK). These are some interesting snippets from their conversation :

CK: Sir, what is the secret of your success as a cartoonist?

RKL: Well, there is no secret. One must sketch a lot, sit at places with a lot of people around, sketch and sketch, feel unsatisfied, sketch again. Never feel you have produced the best. Always strive for better.

CK: What are the qualities needed for a good cartoonist?

RKL: You see, a cartoonist is the most unusual kind of creature around. He should have three very important traits. First, a hawk-eyed vision, second, a good sense of humour and third, artistic ability. Without these a cartoonist cannot survive.

CK: Sir, can you give some tips for budding cartoonists?

RKL: Read a lot and sketch a lot!

R.K. Laxman passed away on the 26th of January this year, leaving behind a legacy of wit and humour with his intelligent and highly entertaining cartoons. With his death, India lost her most talented cartoonist. May his soul rest in peace.



Mrs. Swati Singh escorting him at the DEAS Exhibition



Receiving the Shiraz & Sanjoli Trophy from R.K.Laxman

In Fond Remembrance

One of Welham's legendary alumna passed away, leaving in her wake her non-conformism and internationally acclaimed sculptures. Mrinalini Mukherjee, an unconventional visionary and an extremely talented artist and sculptor passed away at the age of 65 on 2nd February, 2015 after a brief illness. Our condolences are with her family and friends.



Macreme Sculpture by Mrinalini Mukherjee

On 7th January 2015 our beloved Badminton coach Ms. Ambika Bhandari lost her mother, Mrs. Maheshwari Bhandari. We extend our support to Ms. Bhandari and her family in her time of grief.

A Grimm Enigma

T	B	E	Y	H	U	I	V	M	A	Y	O	R	C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G	D
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U	E	S	V	E	I	O	G	R	I	M	M	A	G	I	C	B	B	S	Y	Q	D
B	X	Y	O	E	V	G	M	R	C	A	N	I	S	I	Z	O	P	P	M	D	X
Y	S	W	R	G	R	A	N	N	Y	R	E	L	D	A	H	Y	H	N	S	Q	Z
S	M	L	P	M	J	A	C	K	J	Q	G	L	I	N	D	A	Z	E	S	N	I
L	I	S	H	E	R	I	F	F	H	A	M	S	T	E	A	D	V	W	M	L	K
I	R	D	A	E	K	S	S	T	N	X	B	P	P	U	I	E	Y	I	C	I	
P	R	Y	N	B	N	G	E	R	E	I	E	P	U	M	T	W	V	O	R	M	J
P	O	C	A	C	R	R	I	V	S	R	K	H	K	C	S	C	N	R	T	Z	U
E	R	A	G	H	B	I	Y	A	E	E	S	T	E	B	K	N	W	K	B	C	Y
R	B	X	E	I	L	Y	N	Z	N	N	J	T	J	G	A	G	J	G	Y	N	N
S	Y	V	Z	Q	M	O	W	A	R	T	E	L	V	I	S	D	N	X	L	A	M
I	V	E	R	O	N	I	C	A	L	D	A	P	H	N	E	W	L	M	L	R	R

Daphne

Everafters

Glinda

Henry

Mayor Charming

Mr Seven

Orphanage

Sabrina

Detectives

Ferrypot Landing

Granny Relda

Jack

Mirror

Ms Smirt

Puck

Sheriff Hamstead

Elvis

Giant

Grimm

Magic

Mr Canis

New York

Ruby Slippers

Veronica

The Inimitable Student

Mrs. Anandlata Pandit was appointed on the same day as Ms. Srivastava in 1959. She had initially applied for a teacher's post at Welham Boys' School but Miss Oliphant decided that she was better suited for Welham Girls' and she drove her over to No.19. This marked the beginning of Mrs. Pandit's association with the School. There were sixty children then and the school was just like a small family where she was made the House Mistress for the entire Upper School. Mrs. Pandit taught Hindi, English and Elective English to the senior classes at Welham till 1992. The School is indebted to her for starting two new features and making them a success-- the 'Welham News' and a 'Staff Club'. Here is an excerpt from an interview that was conducted many years ago wherein she talked about the transition of Welham through the years:

Q. Is the Welham of today very different from what it was when you first joined it?

Mrs. Pandit: I find it different. When I first came, the school was smaller, and there was not much noise, or so much untidiness. The girls had more individuality, and the staff common room used to be nicely alive—more homogenous and friendly. A good grade was not the primary aim of life. Since so many things had been started for the first time, interest in them was more spontaneous and natural. Now life centers round competitions and getting the most out of school. Our results are undoubtedly better and so are our achievements as a School.

Q. What is your opinion of Welhamites in general?

Mrs. Pandit: Welhamites are excellent human material, and one couldn't ask for better. If only they did not become so pre-occupied with their post-school careers; or did not begin to think of themselves as 'finished products' instead of possible material, their lives could be so much richer. A little more faith (I do not mean religion, but what in Hindi we call "Nishtha", a little more idealism) would not do them any harm, for there is a wide world outside the walls of Welham.

When asked about her other plans she just said:

The questions I ask myself are not "What?" or "Why?," but "Where?" and "How?" I have no ready-made answers, neither to your questions, nor to mine. But it is my belief that the answers exist. And that if I make myself a fit student, I shall be closer to finding them.

On the 29th of January this year, a very beloved member of the Welham family, Mrs. Pandit passed away. Our love and sympathies are with Mrs. Brar and her family.



This sketch has been taken from the October'1980 issue of the 'Voice of Welham' which was initiated by Mrs. Pandit. It was drawn by Mrs. Meera Dhingra, an old art teacher of the school.

Reverberations- Mrs. Arundhati Shukla

My earliest memory of Mrs. Pandit goes back to the eighties when I used to go to her for English classes. Very soon, I realized that she was not only excellent at English but had a great command over Hindi and Sanskrit as well.

In those days we used to have an Inter House Hindi Society and I wanted to try a different style of poetry for the Competition. I was scared to go to Mrs. Pandit and ask her for help with the Hindi poem since I was only supposed to study English with her. To my utter surprise, not only did she select a very tough poem written by her brother, but also helped me with my practices. I stood First in the competition and was then sent for the Inter School Poetry recitation competition as well.

In later years when I came back to Welham as a teacher, I met Mrs. Pandit again. She looked the same to me. Each time we met she would ask me about my family and myself.

Conversations with my other teachers at Welham, Mrs. Jamila Singh and Mrs. Sunderajan, would always involve a discussion on Mrs. Pandit.

She was not very tall, but somehow Mrs. Pandit towered over all of us. No one could lie in her presence, and I was no exception. Once, when Mrs. Brar was hospitalized, I had gone to pick up Hiyaa. I was quite hesitant to disclose Mrs. Brar's condition to Mrs. Pandit. As expected, the observant Mrs. Pandit realized my discomfort and duly reprimanded me for the same.

To me, Mrs. Pandit was not just another English teacher who helped me with Hindi and Sanskrit competitions. She was like a 'light house' who guided me with the right values.

Her life is an example of simple living and high thinking. I visualize Mrs. Pandit as an ideal role model, a brilliant teacher and a compassionate mother.

Making Life Easy for you (and inevitably for those around you)

The Titanic sank, the world warred (twice that too), Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed, and 9/11 and 26/11 happened. Warriors bled, widows wept and yet, 'the show must go on' After *much ado about nothing*, we feel that we have finally understood the ways of the world and how people master the 'Game of Life'- delirious but not yet dead (mildly exaggerated).

We are neither Aristotle nor are we Platos, so telling you about people surpassing soul-crushing traumas would be overestimating our capabilities but we, the self-proclaimed Welham Philanthropists can surely tell you how to overcome the 'devastating dilemmas' of everyday, thereby making life easier for you (and inevitably for those around). You can cash in your tickets for the thanksgiving later!

Life Lesson #1: Marks (How to get them or rather how to get over them)

Now that we are being completely honest, we should tell you that we are really clueless about the former half of our promise, but then again we had to catch your attention somehow. However, about the second half we have concluded that they are just numbers-erasable from paper and memory. They take up around 1/100th of a page and yet their impact is so massive. WHY?

Now before we have the entire Welham faculty at our throats, let us hastily add that we are NOT telling you to neglect your grades (Peace, teachers?), just don't let them become the crux of your entire existence. Do not let them define you. Life offers no guarantees, so for all you know, you could end up "passing" better in life than the highly intellectual genius sitting right next to you. No, it's not self-consolation.

Life Lesson #2: Combatting the Dissociative Identity Disorder (To be who you are, not what others want you to be)

A is a genius. A gets exceptional grades. A is an all-rounder. However does that necessarily mean that A is happy? So while you try to imitate A in all aspects of her school life, have you ever tried facing her inner demons? Well, let's make it crystal clear- you are not an A, you are a U (pun intended). And that's where the buck stops. So quit shying away from yourself. Stop seeking approval from someone not worth asking. Be your own final judge and don't let anybody else take that title.

Life Lesson #3: "The Final Solution" (Self-Explanatory)

Disclaimer: This in no way alludes to that of Hitler's Final Solution (or maybe it does, only Mrs.Datta knows!)

First things first- It's your life, not your parents' or your friend's or your teacher's. Since the choices and decisions you make will affect you, might as well have a say in it. Two great Welhamites once said, "Live not for others, but for thine own self."

You don't like something? Quit whining. Change it.

You don't like someone? Quit obsessing over it. Distance yourself.

You don't like yourself? Well, too bad. Deal with it.



"Controversially Yours",
Rajlakshmi Das and Mrinaal Sehgal

Comic Relief

Simran Agarwal



Vice-Principal's Mailbag

Dear Mrs. Datta,
Sorry for the delay. It is always wonderful to hear from you! I hope you are doing well and that Founder's Day mania hasn't taken its toll just yet.
My classes are going well. I'm currently working on my senior thesis. It was an absolute joy to actually work in an archive over the summer. I am also taking a class on South Asian historiography so I am reading a good number of authors from the subaltern studies collective. I am writing a review of Shahid Amin's *Event, Metaphor, Memory* at the moment and I often think of the number of times I noted the book's presence in your office. I am glad I have finally read it. I am carrying on with Arabic but I have also begun Persian. Studying both these languages has become a serendipitous, albeit circuitous, way for me to continue my engagement with Hindi and Urdu.
I must tell you that I fast forwarded my way through KBC just to catch a glimpse of you here and there. I was surprised at how excited I was to see you. I guess my excitement was a result of being away from India and not being able to visit you as often as I would like to.
All the very best Ma'am.

Sincerely,
Tiraana
(Tiraana Bains- now in her final year of study at Yale University, USA)



Editors' comments : This letter has been taken from the April '08 issue of the News & Views.

Dear Mrs Datta,
Here is another (strictly confidential) request from an ageing staff member.
You may remember, ma'am, that last year I had requested you to include the 'K' serials in our curriculum.
That move, alas, backfired. The students, inspired by my letter, rejected the idea of having any socials with The Doon School, and instead proposed to put up a play, much along the lines of the 'Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' serial. They even got Dadi Padamji to direct the play.
What hurt my sentiment was that they wanted to cast me in the role of 'Baa' that old grandmother. The reason they gave was that cosmetics are getting expensive and so they wanted a person who could go on stage without any make-up. They felt (wrongly) that I would fit the bill.
Now I am anxious to re-vamp my image. You are the only person who can help me in this noble mission.
Therefore, ma'am, let us have a staff-social with the Doon School masters! It will be a very Indian dance scene, I assure you - strictly Indian, ethnic dresses, strictly Indian vegetarian food made in pure ghee; and if you want a staff member to keep check on any excited case, well, my good friend Chavi Gupta has volunteered to do the 'danda' duty, dressed in the style of Mahim Anga in the movie 'Jodha Akbar'.
Imagine, those dhoti-clad dignified gentlemen swinging their hands and wriggling their toes. What an inspiring sight that would be!
The floors are covered with terraflex, you might say. But then, we can ask them to take off their Khadaus and appoint a student- one of my campus officials- to take charge of their wooden foot-wear.
Mr. Vachani can move around with that powerful whistle and blow it like sweet music into the ears of the guest who violates this rule. This, we will explain to them, is our way of whispering 'sweet nothings' to them.
As for our teachers, they will don typically Indian attires and gracefully swing to the very Indian music that we will be playing -the Hindi songs of the sixties, **no** Helen or Bindu items. You can assign the dancing-partners, so that there is no partiality.
We can also have games like 'musical chairs', where we would be required to dance our way to the chairs. The winner can get a free pass to the Welham Boy Social. In the case the winner is from The Doon School, then he gets a pass to the Convent Socials-er--, that is not really a very tempting offer. Never mind, we will think of some other prize. How will this help me change my image, you ask? Simple! I will dance and dance till I collapse on Mr Sahni's red chair. I will be known as the 'dancing diva'. Madhuri Dixit will turn green with envy when she sees me in my element.
No longer will the students think I am 'an old fashioned grandmother'. They will call me a 'cool dude'- whatever that means (I think I will check the teenager's dictionary). Who knows, maybe I will be given the part of a teenager when they next direct a play!
So, ma'am, let us not wait any longer. Let us draft a letter of invitation.
Mr. Parmar has, I think, already informed Tayal the mike-man. Chavi will contact Mr Sahni to put chairs. Yes, seating will be very important, especially for those who may lose their balance due too much dancing.
I know you will not disappoint me in my request.
Thanking you,
With warm regards,
Roma H. Saklani ('HP' stands for Hip)
(Freshly expelled from the Welham-Tradition-Loving Society, newly recruited member of the 'Cool Gang')



Welham Bulletin

6th Feb- GAP Quiz conducted for Junior School.

7th Feb- Investiture Ceremony for incoming captains and presentation of School Colours to the outgoing SC class by Chief Guest, Mrs. Reena Mittal.

The Principal's Award was presented to four girls:-Artika Singh, Anushna Gugalia, Kirpen Dhaliwal & Priyal Choudhury.

8th Feb- Dhruva Shukla performed her Arangetram. The Chief Guest was Ms.Vineeta Bali, CEO of Britannia Industries and President of the Board of Governors.

13th Feb- Inter-House Hindi Debate held for Junior School. Orioles stood first overall.

16th-19th Feb- Ms. Mala Tandan & Mrs. Aarti Chandra conducted a Life Skills Workshop for the PreSCs.

20th-21st Feb- Inter-House Chemistry Competition for Junior School and AIIs. Bulbuls stood first in the Actinium.

21st Feb- Mr. Vachani, Mr. Nagalia and Mr. Darshan Singh were felicitated by the Government of Uttarakhand for their contribution to sports in the state.

22nd Feb- SPIC MACAY Kathak Performance by Shri Rajendra Ganganiji, one of the most reputed dancers of the Jaipur Gharana.

Sports' Stars

27th Dec– 3rd Jan– Mrinalini Singh Verma, Rhea Satija, Ojasvi Peshawaria and Mehr Bhatti represented Uttarakhand at the 65th National Basketball Tournament at Bhilwara, Rajasthan and reached the semi-finals.

6th-20th Jan– Urvi Mittal, Divisha Suman and Anshika Jain went for a Skiing and Leadership Course at the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering at Gulmarg, Kashmir.

18th - 23rd Jan– Dhruva Shukla participated in the SGFI National Athletic Meet at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

11th Feb– Nine Girls participated in the State Karate Championship at Rishikesh. They won nine gold medals overall.

17th-20th Feb- Bhairvi Tandon and Karishma Dhingra represented Uttarakhand for the Team Kata in the National Karate Championship at New Delhi.

Aunt Agatha

Write to Us!

NEWS & VIEWS

Tell us your problems and we will try our best to sort them out. Comments & Feedback are welcome too.

Put them in the box outside the Home Science Lab.

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