

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Your Excellency, Capt. Amarinder Singh, Honourable Chief Minister of Punjab, the President & Members of the Board of Governors, guests, Parents, Old Dalians, colleagues and students. On this the occasion of the 121<sup>st</sup> Prize Giving of the Daly College, I take immense pleasure in welcoming our Chief Guest His Highness Capt. Amarinder Singh of Patiala who by his presence here with us today has honoured the College and the members of its family.

Capt. Amarinder Singh, was educated at the Lawrence School, Sanawar and then for 6 years at the Doon School. He joined the National Defence Academy at Kharagvasla and then went on to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun.

He was commissioned in the Indian Army and served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Sikh Regiment, where his father and before that his grandfather had served. He served for two years at the Indo Tibet border and then as Aide-De-Camp to the GOC-in-C Western Command.

When his father, Maharaja Yadavendra Singh was appointed Indian Ambassador to Italy, Capt. Amarinder Singh resigned to assume his responsibilities in Patiala. But when war broke out with Pakistan in 1965, he rejoined the army for the duration of the war and was involved in actual operations at the border. This is an exemplary act of courage and duty before self.

In 1980 His Highness entered politics and joined the Congress and was elected Member of Parliament. In 1984 he resigned his seat in Parliament in protest against the Army entry in the Darbar Sahib complex of the Golden Temple. This is a rare example of principles taking precedence over power. His Highness became the Convenor of the Sikh Forum and was later elected on an Akali Dal ticket to the Vidhan Sabha. He served in the Punjab Government as Cabinet Minister for Agriculture, Forests & Panchayats. In 1986 His Highness resigned from the Cabinet in protest against the entry of the Para Military forces and police into the Darbar Sahib complex. Within a few days the Shiromani Akali Dal elected him as its leader in the Vidhan Sabha.

In 1991 His Highness formed a new party, the Shiromani Akali Dal Panthik. In the next year his party and the Shiromani Akali Dal Longowal merged and he became the Chairman of its Parliamentary Board. He was elected to the Vidhan Sabha again in 1992. In 1997 the Shiromani Akali Dal Panthik again became an independent party and later merged with the Indian National Congress. From July 1998 he served as President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee.

In 2000 Capt. Amarinder Singh was elected to the Vidhan Sabha and emerged as the Chief Minister of Punjab. I would like to mention that during his committed and turbulent political career, the former Indian Army Officer found time to serve as Chairman of the World Wide Fund for Nature for Punjab, Himachal and Chandigarh and later as Chairman INTACH for 3 years.

The Patiala family has also founded the Yadavendra Public Schools at Patiala & Mohali and patronises and steers the two schools to greater heights.

It has been my family's and my privilege to be a friend of His Highness and his family for some years now. I have many fond memories including his cooking Patiala Shahi meat for dinner in Chail. He has always been modest and has a reputation for honesty and public service. His son, Raninder was in my House when I was a Housemaster at Doon. On one exciting adventure into the forests, when Raninder was 11, one of our vehicles broke down and I was separated for a few hours from my wife and half the children who were in an area where a man-eating tiger was present. He first scared my wife and the other children by showing them the shining eyes of numerous animals in the jungle and then proceeded to console them all with meat pickle. On the way back we ran out of diesel. Raninder was selected to stop trucks and beg for a few litres of diesel. Every trucker stopped, listened to Raninder, smiled and drove off. I then crept closer to hear what he was saying. He was telling them that he was being forced to ask for diesel but did not want to return to school and was pleading with the drivers not to give us any diesel.

For me it is a personal pleasure to have you with us Sir, and I would like to once again thank you on behalf of the College.

I appreciate that as Principal it is not for me to make a speech but to merely read a report on the working of the College. However, please bear with me for a few moments as there are certain observations I wish to share with you.

We are fortunate to be located in a city where the citizens are by and large cultured, courteous and civic minded. This atmosphere is not just replicated but is enhanced within the 120 acres that this College occupies. I have found the students to be disciplined and well behaved, the staff and support staff to be dedicated and loyal to the students and to the institution, and the parents and old Dadians to be cooperative and involved. Given this background, I have been able to devote my time to positive aspects rather than fire fighting problems and irritants which is the lot of many less fortunate Principals. I wanted to mention this and place on record my sincere gratitude to all of you. And now for my report on the College.

I will start with **Academics**

Anurag Singh Rana secured a CBSE Merit Certificate in Mathematics for his Class XII results but on the whole I have not been satisfied with the results and have tried to analyse the strengths and weaknesses within our system. I am happy to find that the teachers are good and that the system of monitoring each student's progress is also very good. The students are by and large intelligent but I also find that a number of them lack stimulation and the motivation to excel academically, and also that some of them are pressurised by their well meaning families into opting for subjects for which they clearly lack aptitude.

I am in fact disturbed by the very limited career options that parents visualise for their children. It is for this reason that the College has, at no expense to the parents, entered into a career guidance contract with Dr. Amrita Das and her highly experienced team at the Institute of Career Studies, Lucknow. They are already working with over 100 schools in India and abroad. They have been with us for the last few days and I am sure we have benefited as a consequence.

To broaden career options further we have decided to introduce from next year new subjects for the +2. These are Biotechnology, Physical Education, Art, Music, Psychology and Political

Science. There will now be four streams to choose from, Medical, Engineering, Commerce and Humanities.

For those who wish to appear for the pre-medical or pre-engineering exams the College will be offering unique coaching courses stretched over two years. Inter-active lectures will be delivered from Delhi and transmitted to our classroom via satellite. Students can interrupt the teacher and seek clarifications. Short duration courses via satellite will also be offered for those wishing to try for Law, BBA,BCA, NIFT, NID, Hotel Management etc. This will be a cost effective way of availing of the best specialist teachers. These lectures will be integrated with the requirements for the CBSE examinations so that there is an all round benefit.

In addition to this, question and answer banks, as well as information on all topics and sub-topics will be available on computers to students and teachers. Computer and internet accessibility for teachers and students is in fact a priority area listed by our Board of Governors. In the last six months computers available for education have been increased by 32 and you will find a much greater thrust in this area within the next year. Computer aided education has been incorporated in 17 classrooms in the Jr. & Sr. Schools and coverage will increase in the future. However, the most significant changes made in the academic sphere are not technological. We have changed our academic year and the benefits are as follows: Firstly this has enabled us to rejoin the Common Entrance Test with Mayo & Scindia and become an option for students from far flung parts of the country. Secondly, our class XI students can start their studies in April instead of in July. And thirdly and most significantly, our Board Classes of X & XII will have a 14½ month academic year instead of the present 8 month year. The extra 6½ months will be vital for revision and exam practice.

At Daly College we have always provided badges or scarves to distinguish sports stars. We have earlier this month introduced special badges in order to distinguish our academic achievers.

When I had joined five and a half months ago, I had promised parents that we would work towards communication and language skills. The Board and the teachers have supported this policy fully and in this context we have taken some significant steps.

We have introduced language laboratories for English & French in the Senior and Junior schools. Again in both we have started Scholastics Book Clubs to encourage reading and also the availability of good books at subsidised rates. For the 100 odd boarders of Malwa House we have introduced the Australia headquartered Helen O'Grady drama curriculum for developing language and communication skills. At our different age specific morning assemblies we have introduced with great success public speaking by rotation. And finally we have in the past four months participated in a number of all India debates as well as local debates. In the process many different children have represented the school. Whether or not there has been a difference is for the parents to evaluate. Remedial classes have been extended to most boarders including those who are scoring high marks and desire to score even higher marks. Another significant development is the introduction of pre-primary classes from April 2004 and detailed curriculum development is being planned for both the primary and pre-primary schools from the next academic session. Our primary school teachers are going to be trained in the new system through a series of workshops.

Before I move to the co-curricular sphere I should also mention that we are building new laboratories and other educational infrastructure in both the senior and junior schools and that Libraries in both schools will be significantly upgraded very soon.

On the **co-curricular front** we have been traditionally strong. We finally tested ourselves against the best in the country at the IPSC Cultural Festival to which we sent a team of 60 students. We stood overall 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 16 top schools in the country which I think is very creditable for a first outing. I would like to make special mention of the following:

In Music we were placed overall second and Surbhi Biyani came 3<sup>rd</sup> in classical instrumental solo

- Vidushi Goel stood 3<sup>rd</sup> in the solo section of classical Dance.
- In Dramatics our Hindi skit was adjudged 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- We came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hindi extempore debate
- Awanish Kumar was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Hindi Essay writing.

- In the Computers and IT skills test we were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in online Quiz and were represented by Vineeth Rajan and Nakul Neema
- We also came 3<sup>rd</sup> in web page designing represented by Aviral Shah and Rishabh Mansingka
- In English Creative Writing we were placed 1<sup>st</sup>. Pooja Tiwari & Adeeba Ansari both came first in the individual sections for Senior & Junior Creative Writing.
- We stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in What's the Good Word represented by Sanathan Suryavanshi & Aditya Ahuja.

To encourage this sphere further, the Board has decided to build an Art, Design & Technology Centre and also an amphitheatre for the performing arts. On a smaller scale we have made two innovations, an inter-House Dramatics Competition where students produce and direct the plays, and an audio-visual magazine produced by the students. On the request of the students we will very soon be introducing an internal newsletter in addition to our official newsletter.

- Our Hindi debators stood third in the Doon School debate and third in the Welham Girls' Debate.
- Pooja Tiwari stood second in the Welham's Debate and Manjul Jain first in the rebuttal.
- In the Inter Schools English Extempore Speech Competition Kamal Deep Singh stood second.
- From the Art Department, Nishtha Arora, Pooja Tiwari and Ankita Kohli won silver medals at the Shankar's International painting competition. They will receive their awards from the President of India.
- Tanvi Jain has also won a silver medal in the All India Colour Contest.
- The Art Department has produced a desk calendar for 2004. All paintings included in the calendar are made by the children.

Our Quiz experts have had a busy year.

- Navneet Menon & Kaustabh Ojha were the runners up in the HT Inquisitive finals in New Delhi. They were singled out for special praise by Sidharth Basu and Veer Sanghvi. Abhishek Chhajlani and Asam Hasan were runners up in the Discovery Quiz and were

also runners up in the Bournvita Quiz. Navneet Menon, Mohit Runwal & Kaustubh Ojha represented West Zone in the CBSE Cultural Heritage Quiz at Jaipur and we are now through to the Inter Zonal round. Abhishek Baghel and Navneet Menon represented us in the IPSC Quiz and Daly was placed second. Sumanto Lahiri, Abhishek Chhajlani and Kaustabh Ojha will represent the Indore schools in the CBSE Heritage India Quiz. Sumanto Lahiri and Kaustabh Ojha have reached the Inter Zonal and national level of the ESPN Quiz in New Delhi.

#### And now a report on **Games**

- In Chess Adarsh Bindal, Harshvardhan Khuttal, Rishabh Parekh, Yashraj Parekh, Saloni Bindal and Krishneesh Bapat led the Daly College to victory at the Inter School Tournament in Indore. Adarsh and Harshvardhan have been selected for the Nationals at Chennai.
- In swimming Suraj Pamecha represented Indore Division. Heta Dave represented Madhya Pradesh at the Nationals in Bangalore. She won 3 gold medals at the State championships. Yashvardhan Chordia won two gold medals in the State Championships. Syed Azharuddin won 2 bronze medals at the IPSC games in Patiala. Chandana Bhargava won 3 golds and a silver at the IPSC meet in Patiala and 10 golds at the State Championships going on to represent Madhya Pradesh at Chennai. Chandana was declared the best woman swimmer in Madhya Pradesh.
- In Roller Skating Rahul Bengani represented the school in National Roller Skating championships held at Chandigarh.
- In Tennis Chiragveer Chhabra won the Madhya Pradesh U-19 State Championships at Gwalior. Our team was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the CBSE West Zone tournament in Jaipur.
- In Basketball we came 4<sup>th</sup> in the IPSC held in Gwalior. Mohsin Patel was selected for the camp to select the Indian Juniors team.

- Parul Agrawal was declared the best player in the Girls triangular meet held in Ajmer. Nainy Seth, Juhee Sodani and Sunaina Shahra have been selected to represent Indore in the U-14 age group.
- In Hockey the girls' team stood third in the IPSC meet held at Hissar in Haryana.
- In Cricket Abhijeet Baghel was declared the best bowler in the quarterfinal match in Ajmer. Parth Kasliwal has been selected for the U-14 Indore Cricket team.
- In Gymnastics Ajay Gang and Arihant Chhalani have been selected to represent Indore.

And now for some Squash news-

- In Madhya Pradesh Vjitraj Rishi is ranked No.1 in the under-15 category. Aditya Kashyap is ranked No. 1 in the U-17 category. Fateh Singh is ranked No.1 in the Under-19 category. Fateh Singh won the Jodhpur Open in his category and was runners up in the Eastern India at Kolkata in the U-17 section and was a quarter finalist in the Indian Junior Open at Pune. He captained the MP team to the All India Inter State in Chennai. All 16 members of the MP team were from Daly College. Fateh is now ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the country in the Juniors and has been selected for the camp where the Indian team will be selected to play in the 13<sup>th</sup> World Championships to be held next year in Pakistan. In the squash nationals Madhya Pradesh came third in the Girls' section. All the team members were from DC.

The sports programme is being given a further boost in terms of infrastructure. Three glass backed squash courts are being added. 4 deco turf tennis courts are being built and an Olympic size swimming pool will soon be constructed.

Being a civic minded and environmentally aware community, we have augmented our efforts at rainwater harvesting and have introduced a water recycling STP plant. This means that we will have sufficient recycled water to keep our fields green during the dry months. Two more ecofriendly projects being undertaken are wormiculture and paper recycling.

Our students have been involved in **community service** programmes. Here I would like to mention that the children have made commendable efforts at tree planting, have been interacting

with students of the Blind School, have been involved in the Helpage India medical relief programme and are now running their own DC weather station.

The students have also starting running their own café and here again a keen sense of responsibility has been displayed.

Adventure and travel must form part of an educational curriculum. This year groups of students have been to Goa, Manali and Rishikesh. The Rishikesh group got to trek and also try their hand at white water rafting. Students from the NSB School UK visited us in October and a group of our students visited the UK in June. Our boys' cricket team has also visited Australia and will be going on another cricket tour of Australia in December.

Aditya Daniel Kashyap attended an exchange programme at Waldorf School, Heidenheim, Germany and Anjani Trivedi attended a month long academic scholarship at MIT, USA.

We can look forward to more all India as well as international exposure for our students in the coming years. You will be pleased to learn that DC has, at the Conference in South Africa in September this year, been accorded membership of the Round Square. The Round Square is an international group of schools that believes in all round education, service and responsible citizenship. Member schools are spread over India, Oman, South Africa, the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, the USA and Canada. Our students have already attended the Regional Conference at Ranikhet and in the future can look forward to participating in International Conferences as well as exchange programmes.

At this point I would like to mention that I am greatly indebted to the students of Class XII for the very positive response shown by them to our attempts at involving them to a greater extent in the **management of their own affairs**. The College Council, the Games Committee and the Mess Committee have been reconstituted so as to include more students than staff. The level of discussion and the decisions taken at these forums has been very satisfying. The proposals to have a Dalian Café, to introduce career counselling, to make available a student counsellor, to start coaching for post school examinations, to hold a workshop on creative writing, to expand

the scope of remedial classes are some of the proposals made by students in the College Council and accepted by the authorities. Unfortunately, their proposal to reduce the number of classes held in a day was vetoed by the Principal.

We have been fortunate to have had five workshops at the school. The first was on Quizzing, the second for the Commerce faculty, the third was an art & sculpture workshop conducted by Mr. Atul Sinha, the fourth on glass painting and the fifth was on Creative Writing conducted by Monisha Mukundan. 7 teachers and the Headmaster Jr. School have attended a workshop on Primary School education. Under the aegis of Spic Macay we have had lec-dems given to our students by Shri Rupak Kulkarni, Shri Chandrakant Sardeshmukh & Padmashri Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt.

And now I move to a report on the staff. Within the space of a few months our three senior most members retired: Dr. MV Prasad as Director, Mr. PS Dikshit as officiating Principal and Mr. JS Bajwa as Vice Principal. Mr. Bajwa had been with us for 31 years and was a great help to me for the few months we worked together. Mr. Dikshit had been with us for 42 years and has now moved to Agarwal Public School in Indore as its Director. Dr. Prasad had been wanting to retire for some time and this is why he was so keen to identify a successor. His contribution in steering the College through some choppy waters and enhancing its culture and dignity will always be remembered gratefully by generations of students and their parents. His most significant contribution, however, was the establishment of DC Business School in collaboration with De Montfort University, UK. The Honours Degree in Business Administration it offers is recognised in India and the world over. The Daly College Business School has grown in stature and has become a viable option for our own school leavers. We have girls and boys seeking admission from all over the country but I personally believe that we can expect genuine expansion only if we are able to provide them with hostel facilities on campus.

Another senior staff member to have retired has been a very valued matron, Mrs. Dasgupta.

And now for some Old Dalian news:

From the batch of 2003, 28% students are pursuing a bachelor's degree in business and 14% are doing their B.Com, making it 42% who will be looking at business and the corporate sector for

careers options. 11% are doing their Chartered Accountancy, 20% are on their way to becoming Engineers and 5% are studying medicine. Other professional courses like law, hotel management, banking, mass communication, industrial economics, fashion designing and foreign trade account for 14% of the batch. Of the remaining, 3% will graduate in the humanities and 5% in science.

The emphasis is clearly on professional courses and this is a good sign. However, the overall emphasis is on business and there have been no takers for the defence services, civil services, teaching etc. my advise to those of the batch who are present with us today is that what you must aim at eventually is to create more jobs within the Indian economy and must not aspire to merely occupy a slot.

From the batch of 1975 Vikram Singh Rathod is being honoured with the Uduog Senani award. This is a national award for entrepreneurs.

From the batch of 1998 we have news of Akshay Jain who has been awarded the Shankar Dayal Sharma Prize for all round proficiency at IIT Madras. He received the award from the Minister for HRD, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

From last year's batch Abhishek Mohan Gupta is playing for Yorkshire in the under-21 league.

I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude to the new team of senior Academic Staff who have taken a lot of responsibility on to their young and able shoulders. Mr. Rajan Potty as Vice Principal has shown great energy and maturity in overseeing the interests of the students and teachers. Mr. Chansoria assisted by Dr. Rajopadhyay are giving new direction to the curriculum of the Junior School and have started a programme to assist dyslexic students. Mr. Jacob John as Academic Coordinator has expanded the scope and options of academic opportunities at all levels. Miss Sarita Badhwar has led the team in the implementation of computer based learning and is our Round Square Representative, and has organised a number of very successful quizzes. Mr. Ansari is our coordinator for all cultural and literary activities and is also the British & Australia exchange programmes coordinator. Mr. Dharam Verma oversees our

Career Counselling programme. Mr. Bhanupratap Singh has been spearheading our efforts both on the sports front and in social service. Iftikhar Hasan has been quietly working at strengthening the systems within the student residences.

Dr. Maitra, our residential doctor, has a habit of efficiently dealing with all medical cases, providing solace to home sick children and their parents and reporting to me when children lose weight.

Col. Giriraj Singh, our Bursar, has streamlined systems and procedures to the great benefit of the school and the children. Mr. Narasimhan's food in the dining hall gets better and better. Mr. Siddiqui, our Estate Engineer, has been kept very busy this term and is likely to get even busier in the next. Only I know the extent to which I overload my Executive Assistant, Mr. Suresh Kumar. Mr. Indrajeet Singh, our Office Superintendent, has managed well our changed admission procedure and the Finance Department headed by Dr. Asawa has given good support to the Bursar. Mr. Kapasiya, our Public Relations Officer, has repeatedly shown his enthusiasm, resourcefulness and wide access. And finally, I must not forget our most colourful character on campus, Mr. Natwar Singh, who has even trained the trees to grow straight and not to shed leaves during school functions such as this one. I will not hesitate to say that ours is the best maintained campus of any school in India and that the credit goes to Mr. Natwar Singh and his team and to the students who enthusiastically support their efforts.

My gratitude also goes out to all those on the teaching staff whom I have not mentioned by name, to our Head Prefects Varun Mimani & Anjani Trivedi, to our school Prefects & Captains, to the administrative and support staff, to the Collector, SP, Narmada Control Authority, MPEB and so many others who are always there to support the College.

My sincere thanks also to those who have made commitments or donations to the College in the current year. I would especially like to mention the following:

1. Dr. Gaur Hari Ji Singhania has committed to Rs. 5.00 lacs to create the Virtual Classroom I had mentioned earlier. This donation has been facilitated by Mr. RG Bagla, Executive Vice President of JK White Cement.

2. Shri Sanjay Agarwal has presented a coffee & tea machine to the Staff Room and has committed to Rs. 7.00 lacs for the Biotechnology Laboratory.
3. Mr. Jatin Rajpal has committed Rs. 5.00 lacs for a Science Laboratory in the Junior School.
4. Sardar GS Bhatia has committed Rs. 7.00 lacs for the new squash court.
5. Mr. Ajit Jhavar has donated a generator for the Squash courts.
6. The Old Dalians Association has committed Rs. 3.6 lacs for Dalian Café which will be handed over to the present students and will be run by and for our children.
7. We have also received a donation of Rs. 10000/- from Mr. Shyam Himatsingka.
8. His Highness Jyotiraditya Scindia has released a first installment of Rs. 50,000/- towards the renovation of Scindia Pavilion.
9. Sardar Bolia has earlier donated funds for the renovation of one pavilion on Bolia ground and has now committed to renovate the second pavilion.

I also take this opportunity to thank our Chief Patron, Raja Digvijay Singhji, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and our Patron Mr. Mukesh Ambani for their support and guidance and to the President and Members of the Board for their time, commitment and support to this institution.

I now take the greatest of pleasure in inviting our Chief Guest to give away the prizes and after that to address the College.

