

Principal's Report

127th Annual Prize Giving – November 7, 2009

Our honourable Chief Guest, Mr. Kamal Nath, Cabinet Minister for Road Transport & Highways in the Government of India, President of the Board of Governors, Maharaja Narendra Singh Jhabua, Vice President, Mr. Dilip Kasliwal, Members of the Board, Mr. Manish Kalani, Old Dalians especially the Class of 84 ladies, gentlemen and students.

Welcome to the 127th Annual Prize Giving of the Daly College. Before commencing my Annual Report it is my pleasure to introduce our Chief Guest, my good friend and fellow student from the Doon School, Mr. Kamal Nath.

Mr. Kamal Nath is the man always selected by successive Prime Ministers to head a Ministry where quick and decisive action is most required.

Elected 8 times to Parliament, Mr. Kamal Nath was appointed Minister of Environment and Forests in 1991 and is responsible for the National Policy on Ecological Conservation and Abatement of Pollution.

If our students conducted an Environmental Audit of the campus in 2009, Mr. Nath did this on a national scale 18 years ago.

At the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 the Minister emerged as one of the Chief spokesmen for developing countries and contributed significantly to the contours of the Climate Change Convention, the Biodiversity Conservation Convention and the Forestry Agreement.

Within India he enthused the youth and NGOs into taking up environmental causes and very significantly showed the way forward for economic development and environmental concerns to flourish mutually and without conflict.

In 1995 Mr. Kamal Nath was appointed Textile Minister and formulated the New Textile Policy. During his tenure, production and export both were at an all time high.

His next assignment was as Commerce and Industries Minister when in 2004 when he enunciated India's first comprehensive Foreign Trade Policy, laying emphasis on employment and on export. As a result foreign trade increased by 300% and Foreign Direct Investment by 700%.

He did India proud as a diplomatic but hard nosed economic negotiator in WTO talks and the G-20, G-33 and other summits.

The Hon'ble Minister has now, in spite of the global economic slow down, set his Ministry very ambitious targets for expansion of highways, obviously a priority concern for India.

Educated at the Doon School and at St. Xavier's Calcutta, he is the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate and has promoted the Institutes of Management Technology at Ghaziabad and at Nagpur.

It is indeed Sir an honour to have a dynamic and charismatic leader like you gracing with your presence our Annual function today.

I will start my report on what our students have achieved in the past twelve months by way of reducing our carbon footprint and moderating temperature within our 118 acre campus.

Aiming towards a zero run off campus, rain as well as used water is being channelled into a circuit of drains and pipelines connecting two under construction low cost lakes and an enhanced water treatment plan.

17 water recharging pits were prepared prior to the monsoon and 1250 mature saplings were planted. One section of this plantation is being supported through drip irrigation. Among the trees are a number of neems to reduce the mosquito menace.

Air pollution has been reduced through a student initiative and parental support by restricting cars on campus in the mornings.

Kitchen waste will soon be converted to methane for cooking by an under-construction bio-digester.

In the pipeline are solar water heaters for two of the student Houses.

Overhead power cables have gone underground reducing transmission losses and making the campus safer for children.

It is therefore not surprising that Daly was among 5 schools in India to be invited to Hyderabad by CII to share with others the work it is involved in.

It is also appropriate that Daly, along with 4 other schools in the country, has been selected by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India, as a special campus to demonstrate renewable energy based cooking and solar water heating.

In other areas of community service, our student volunteers have been helping the children of our support staff with languages and mathematics through daily classes.

Senior students came in contact with a student poet from another school who is fighting to recover from a serious long term medical problem. Through the sale of his book our community raised Rs. 96,000/- towards his medical bills.

Efforts are now on through a student dance, Class XII entertainment, staff entertainment and last week's Fete to raise Rs. 5 lacs to build a dormitory for the mentally challenged who are presently living in an open shed in Jyoti Niwas.

Our students, in partnership with students of La Ermitage, a Round Square school in Paris, held the second DC Eye Camp, this time in a rural area. 3600 patients were screened and 2360 free pairs of spectacles were distributed.

4 of our students attended Round Square International Service Camps, two went to S. Africa and 2 to Ladakh.

Round Square conferences attended by our students include:

A Young Round Square Conference on global warming at VDJS in Hissar

A Young Round Square Conference at Appleby & Fernhill in Canada

A Peace Conference at Ambani International Mumbai

A Conference on Democracy at PPS in Nabha

The International Conference at Mayo College & Mayo College Girls' School in Ajmer where HRH the Duke of York was the Chief Guest.

Daly hosted a Junior RS Conference on the Environment.

Under the Round Square exchange programme students spend from 4 to 12 weeks in another school.

16 students and 1 teacher went to schools in Australia, Canada, Germany, USA South Africa, France and the UAE.

In return we hosted 9 students from schools in Columbia, France, Thailand, USA, Australia, South Africa & Canada.

Caroline from S. Africa and Yasmine from Canada are presently with us.

One of our students of the 2009 batch has gone as a GAP teacher to France where he is teaching French and English.

And with us are two GAP teachers from Columbia, Junita and Laura.

In May, 5 students and a teacher went on an educational tour of the USA, visiting New York, Disneyland and NASA, where they experienced space shuttle simulation exercises and interacted with astronauts.

On the adventure front weekend excursions have become popular and 60 students are presently enrolled in the International Award for Young People.

The Scouts have also been active and scouting has been extended to senior school.

In the **Sports** section I would like to name the students who have either participated in or been selected to participate in the Indian national games in various disciplines.

In **Shooting** 8 students: Nagendra Pratap Singh, Raj Rastogi, Aditya Ahuja, Shakti Singh, Chakradhar Singh, Abbas Husain, Neha Vaidya and Abhivveer Singh.

In **Squash** 26 boys & 14 girls: Abhijit Patwa, Dhruv Sadana, Dhananjay Singh, Anshul Jain, Prabhdeep Chhabra, Siddharth Nahar, Shrey Huria, Mradul Agrawal, Kunj Bansal, Sarthak Bhatia, Ali Akbar, Manik Dutta, Yaduveer Singh, Bharat Verma, Aradhya Kasliwal, Shwetank Khandelwal, Harshil Sharma, Vedant Baheti, Jasmer Singh, Udit Rathore, Taksh Bhojwani, Manit Nahar, Raahil Saboo, Yuvraj Bhalla, Mayank Sojatia, Palash Garg, Dheeya Somaiya, Purnima Verma, Anandita Gupta, Kopal Patni, Ridhima Kalani, Shreya Suresh, Aaisha Ansari, Aishwarya Benbi, Jhanvi Pahuja, Vruddhi Doshi, Adwiteya Kasliwal, Sanaya Modi, Ishita Mohta & Ahana Singh Rathore.

In **Swimming** 8 students: Akanksha Wadhvani, Gehna Modi, Suraj Pamecha, Utsav Sharma, Shubhika Chordia, Sakshi Kabra, Vedant Jain & Roshan Bhojwani.

In **Basketball** one boy, Yash Karan Singh, and 12 girls have been selected for the Nationals. The girls are Tanvi Jain, Shifali Agrawal, Shivani Deshmukh, Supal Jain, Mahima Devda, Kavya Rawat, Pooja Laddha, Prachi Kotia, Puja Rawat, Megha Yadav, Aashna Patel & Kopal Seth.

In **Football** 4 girls and 7 boys: Sachi Shukla, Shreyasi Dang, Palak Agrawal, Nikita Budhrani, Amrit Pal, Siddhant Vyas, Vishal Medka, Shubham Suri, Deepak Bodade, Aman Jolly and Abhimanyu Vema.

Dhananjay Garha went to Milan in Italy for soccer training.

In **Athletics** 1 girl & 6 boys: Nikita Mann, Soham Jethmalani, Nagendra Pratap Singh, Yohaana Shah, Minhas Naqvi, Raminder Hora & Hitendra Singh.

In **Tennis** 2 girls & 2 boys with some places yet to be finalised. Isha Budwal, Ojaswini Singh, Yashesh Mulchandani & Bankim Silawat.

Rishabh & Rohit Mehta in **Horse Riding**.

In **Chess** 5 students: Samyak Gangwal, Harshwardhan Khutal, Purusharth Singh, Mudit Agrawal & Krishnesh Bapat.

2 students Raj Rai & Aditya Gahlot have been selected in **Hockey**.

Manan Jain in **Taekwondo**.

The **girls' hockey**, girls cricket and boys cricket selections are yet to take place for the nationals.

This brings the tally of students selected for the nationals so far to an all time high and an impressive and auspicious 101. My congratulations to the students and their coaches.

Specifically I would like to single out a few students for special mention:

Ojaswini & Isha who have both won IATA championships and are ranked nationally in the first 5 and first 25 respectively.

In the 3rd MP Ranking Tennis Tournament, Bankim Silawat won the U-18, and Suraj Haryani the U-14 categories.

Mudit Agrawal of Class V who competed in the Open Round Square online **world chess** emerged runners up in a field of 674 participants.

Pooja Ladha was declared the best player in girls school Basketball in MP & Chattisgarh. She is in Class IX

Rishabh Mehta has won gold medals at Horse shows in Delhi, Wellington & Mhow. He and his brother Rohit have established a new Limca World Record for non-stop riding for 24 hours and 30 minutes.

After the **squash nationals** hosted by DC Dheeya Somaiya & Manik Dutta are both ranked 3rd in the country in their respective age groups, Anandita Gupta is ranked 4th, Dhananjay 6th and Manik was declared the most promising male player in India. Tanvi Jain of the Class of 2009 is ranked 4th. 8 girls have been called for a selection camp. One of these is Dheeya. 5 of them will represent India at the Commonwealth Games.

Deepak Bodade was declared the Best Player in the U-14 in IPSC **Soccer** Tournament.

Hansraj Chauhan & Hiresh Suvarna created new records in the **IPSC shooting**. Nagendra Pratap Singh led his team from the front lifting the IPSC shooting trophy for the second consecutive year once again defeating the formidable RIMC. The girls were runners up in the IPSC.

At the Indian and State levels the shooters, boys & girls collected a total of 53 golds, 33 silvers and 30 bronze medals.

The swimmers and athletes also collected an equally large haul of medals.

Swine Flu, which we escaped thanks to the timely preventive measures taken by Dr. Maitra, has hit the national cultural calendar badly, almost all IPSC competitions being cancelled. This was a big disappointment for children who had spent long hours in preparation in a sphere dominated for the past 5 years by Dalians.

However, our quizzing duo of Aman Jain & Harshveer Jain did win the British Council Quiz, the 37th Inter School Leo Club Quiz and were placed 2nd in the Limca Quiz.

Our folk dancers were adjudged winners in the Aarohan Festival as were the quizzers and the orchestra.

Rhea Sanghi & Pranav Jain were placed 3rd in the All India English debate at Scindia.

And now to academic results. Once again our results have been outstanding both for Class XII and for Class X. I would like to congratulate the students, teachers and the Academic Council for its on going initiatives in this area.

80 students of Class XII secured a first with distinction. The toppers were Pranay Parwal in Commerce, Sauhard Bindal in Engineering, Geet Chaddha in Medical and Anand Vardhan in Humanities.

A total of 15 students averaged in the 90's in 5 subjects. These are Pranay Parwal, Jay Vardhan Agrawal, Sauhard Bindal, Nancy Patwari, Alka Agrawal, Neha Menghani, Diksha Ramani, Utkarsh Saxena, Sakshi Jain, Geet Chaddha, Alifya Sethjiwala, Tanvi Jain, Anjal Patni, Jaydeep Jadeja & Rahul Gandhi.

Another 18 students averaged between 85 & 90%.

And the subject toppers are: Mahak Agrawal in Math, Rahul Gandhi, Jay Vardhan Agrawal, Alka Agrawal, Shivika Jain, Pnanay Parwal, Nancy Patwari, Nitesh Rajnama & Saloni Chhabra in Economics, Rahul Gandhi in IP, Jay Vardhan in Accountancy, Luvleen Benbi & Alafia Sethjiwala in English, Aashna Jain in Chemistry, Tanvi Jain in Physics & Sauhard Bindal in Physics & Comp. Science, Geet Chaddha in Biology, Aishwarya Kanchan in Web Tech., Smruti Oza in Biotech, Disha Gulati in Entrepreneurship, Saloni Chhabra in Physical Education and Anand Vardhan Dikshit in Political Science, Geography & Psychology.

Anand Vardhan Dikshit received a Merit Certificate in Political Science.

Sauhard Bindal was awarded a full scholarship to Cornell University.

In Class X Kushagra Agrawal was the topper and received a Merit Certificate for scoring 100% in Maths.

12 students averaged in the 90's and these are: Kushagra Agrawal, Garvit Pahwa, Pranav Jain, Puneet Modi, Siddharth Waghmare, Adarsh Singh, Shivani Bagani, Supriya Shahra, Harsh Goyal, Tanvi Pahwa, Riddhi Lunkad & Amal Pal.

And as many as 27 averaged between 85% and 90%.

The subject toppers were:

Kushagra Agrawal in Math, Science & French; Puneet Modi in Social Science; Vaidehi Dafria in English; and Adarsh Singh; Jyotsna Harne & Pranav Jain in Hindi.

And this is what the Class of 2009 is doing after school:

Tanvi Jain, I should mention, topped the National Aptitude Test for Architecture and is now studying Architecture in Ahmedabad.

As per the Right to Education Act we will be reserving 25% places for new admissions in Class I. However, I have no idea about who is eligible for these places and who will make the selection. This Act is ambiguous on both points. What is clear is that the school has to bear the cost which will have to be passed on to other students. The amount is small to begin with but will grow each year.

Also as per the new CBSE policy, Prize Giving next year onwards will be a shorter affair as no individual placements in academics would be made or awarded.

It is the endeavour of the Board of Governors to provide as many and as varied opportunities as feasible for the individual development of each child. With this aim in mind new subjects and better infrastructural facilities are being provided each year.

Two more squash courts have been added making ours the biggest complex of 8 courts in the country. One of these has been sponsored by Old Dalian Manish Shahra.

As a result we were given the opportunity to host the Junior, Sub Junior & Inter State Junior Squash Nationals.

Another Old Dalian Parakram Singh Chandawat has sponsored a new outdoor shooting pavilion.

The Old Dalians Association has sponsored a much needed Skating Rink.

Dewan Krishna Rao Palsikar has made a donation towards the Auditorium.

Nitin Agrawal, an Old Dalian, has excavated one of our new lakes and provided other assistance at no cost to the school.

The Raja of Jamnia has donated 11 antique guns to the College.

3 new study rooms have been provided for students in Holkar House.

Another storey has been added to the Computer Science Block which houses discussion & conference rooms and a Physics Lab.

An NIIT Math Lab has been set up.

12 new staff flats have been constructed. In order to maintain green areas building will in future, whenever possible, be of 3 storeys.

Electronic electricity billing, security surveillance cameras and razor wire fencing have become operational. Our cameras were successful in recording a daring sandalwood robbery by a gang from Maharashtra and this is being used as evidence against them in court.

Gymnastics has been re-introduced after a gap of many years and Fine Arts is now a +2 subject.

Through DC online parents will now be able to check on details of the children with regard to attendance, academic results, fee demands, library book issues, holiday details and general notices. The problem is now only of getting students to give their parent's correct e-mail IDs or mobile numbers. They routinely give us the wrong ones and parents have not responded to our repeated requests. Parents are once again requested to give us these details.

Old Dalians in the news include Arun Yadav who has been appointed a Central Govt. Minister, Mr. Brijendra Singh who has become the 3rd Old Dalian Minister in the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. Ira Trivedi whose publishers Penguin have released her third book, Priyavrat Khilchipur is General Secretary of the All India Youth Congress, Shagun Mehrotra is a doctoral candidate at Columbia University and is engaged in ongoing NASA research programmes on climate risk models and response for cities at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Dr. Dushyant Jaiswal is now an acclaimed plastic and reconstructive surgeon at the Tata Cancer Hospital and Aneil Mahajan, Head of Corporate Affairs & Business with the Bhaskar Group. Raja Digvijay Singh, General Secretary AICC has enjoyed a series of successes in strategising elections in States under his charge and as our Patron he remains a great source of strength to the College.

And I must make a special mention of the Old Dalian chefs who participated in the Royal Cooking Festival which I hope is repeated this year.

The Global Film Festival was inaugurated in the Daly College Auditorium and among the Bollywood stars present was Priyanka Chopra who was delighted to meet with the President of our Board.

In staff news I have just too much. Too many seminars and conferences attended and so I must beg to be excused reporting on all of them.

I will restrict myself to a few highlights – Ms. Sarita Badhwar is on a Fulbright Exchange for 6 months to Coral Reef High in Miami USA. In her place we have with us Ms. Isabelle Camille from that school. Ms. Badhwar was also invited to attend an RSIS camp in Thailand & Mr. Rajesh Santhanam will be attending an RSIS camp in Nasik. Both of them along with Mr. Kamal Kumar Soni attended a Service Leadership Camp at Doon.

Mr. Rajan Potty, Mr. Ansari & Sumer Singh spoke at the Times of India Seminar on Changing Curriculum.

Mr. Potty & Mr. Ansari also attended an Administrators Conference in Jaipur organised by the Association of International schools.

Your school received an honour when your Principal was invited by the United Nations to represent India at a 3-day meeting of world financial, religious and educational leaders in London. Unfortunately dates clashed with prior commitments.

Mr. Dharam Verma has written a book on Accountancy.

Daly hosted a Math Development and Technical Orientation programme conducted by professors from IIT Mumbai and a tribal Gond art workshop. Mrs. Richa Chitale & Mr. Sharad Mishra attended the 2nd Environmental Education Conference organised in Delhi by TERI. Mr. Siddharth Tewari has become our official snake catcher. Here he is seen enticing a snake down from a tree.

Mr. Gary Everett, formerly Director of Activities at the Sagar School in Rajasthan, has joined as Deputy Head of the Junior School. At the end of the year we will have Mrs. Rashmi Ahuja returning to us. She is presently Headmistress at Sanskaar Valley in Bhopal and will be joining as Headmistress of the Junior School.

On the whole this has been another positive year for which I must thank the Board of Governors for its guidance, my colleagues for their dedication, the students for responding to the opportunities provided, the prefects and other student leaders for their good work, the administration for organising a very crowded calendar so smoothly, the parents for their encouragement and the support staff for their hard work. Also I would like to thank the District Administration, the Municipal Corporation and the Press for their unqualified support.