

Principal's Report

128th Annual Prize Giving – December 4, 2010

Honourable Chief Guest, Mr. Anand Sharma, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Government of India, President of the Board of Governors, Maharaja Tukoji Rao Puar of Dewas Senior, Vice President, Thakur Narendra Singh Bidwal, Members of the Board, Mr. Dilip Kasliwal, Mr. Kamlesh Kasliwal, Mr. Devraj Badgara, Mrs. Jyoti Agarwal, Mr. Ashwini Varma, Mr. Abhimanyu Garha and Mr. Anand Kedia, Parents, Old Dalians especially the Class of 1985, guests, members of the media and students.

A warm welcome to you all on the occasion of our 128th Annual Prize Giving

Our Chief Guest, Mr. Anand Sharma, who entered the Rajya Sabha 26 years ago and who has served as Minister of State for External Affairs is now the Cabinet Minister of Commerce & Industry. Under his dynamic leadership his Ministry is taking the country forward so that we are now in the top 10 and heading towards the top 3 in the not too distant future.

If I make a complete introduction of the Hon'ble Minister, I will have no time left to deliver the School Report.

I am therefore only going to mention a few points. The first is that he has visited 55 countries in the line of duty. Secondly Mr. Sharma has served as a visiting faculty member of the School of International Studies, Harvard University and of the School of Asian Studies Columbia University. And the third is that the Minister still finds time to follow his hobbies of listening to music, reading philosophy and history, travelling, hiking and playing cricket. Sir, you have been very kind to spare time for us especially as you have an important guests in French President Sarkozy, Madame Carla Bruni visiting Delhi tomorrow.

I would now like to make a few general observations before embarking on the Report for 2010.

The Old Dalians and Donor Categories have earned our gratitude by presenting us last summer with a united and unanimously appointed Board, without a divisive election. Also we have the Chief Minister to thank for nominating to the Board only the second lady to serve in this capacity in the long history of our College.

At this moment in India's history, when our Education policy has us educators guessing and confused, and when India languishes at 119th place in the world's Human Development Index, I can say with confidence, that we at DC have been successful in creating greater opportunities for our students to challenge themselves and to thus narrow the gap between potential and achievement. We have done this by narrowing the gap between what we as a school can do and do do.

Our Academic results have been the best ever, our stock in the international community is high, recognition on a national scale is growing. We have been ranked at number one for sports education and in the top 5 boarding schools in India in a nationwide perception poll conducted by C fore for Education World. Of the top 15 we are the only ones that have day boarders which makes it difficult to compete in this category. We were at 22 in 2008, 14th place in 2009 and at 5 in 2010.

My Report begins with Internationalism and the Round Square. For those of you unfamiliar with the Round Square, it is a British registered Charity with membership of 83 schools internationally who prescribe to the philosophy of Kurt Hahn and believe in Internationalism, Democracy, Environment, Adventure, Leadership and Service. Our Patrons have included President Nelson Mandela, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the Duke of York and King Constantine.

In March, your Principal, after attending a Meeting of the Directors of Round Square, whose Board he serves on, attended a Meeting of the G-20 in Australia. The G-20 is an association of 20 leading Heads where membership is by invitation only and we are the only school from India.

In July next year your Principal will attend a Meeting of Global Connections which is headquartered in Hotchkiss in the USA and will be meeting in Botswana. This is an association of 40 Heads.

A newly formed association, student centric this time, is the Global Alliance of Leading Edge Schools, headquartered at Raffles in Singapore. 20 schools from 20 nations are represented and once again we are the only one from India. Our students will be attending the first Conference of Resource Scarcity, Climate Change, Technologies and Consequences, Urbanisation & Geopolitics. The Conference is being patronised by the World Bank, Boston Consulting & McKinsey.

Earlier this year our students had participated in the International Science Camp 2010 at Raffles in Singapore.

Through the American Field Service, we are looking at a long term exchange partnership with a school in Italy exclusively for Class 9 students. This organisation has already sponsored one of our students, Deepak Solanki who left a few days ago for Japan.

DC students have recently received invitations to participate in the Young Global Leaders Conferences in the USA, in Europe and in China. I do hope students avail of these opportunities. Mr. Rajan Potty, the Vice Principal, attended an International Conference hosted by the Education Ministry of Nova Scotia in Canada. He visited 16 universities.

Mrs. Archana Mankotia has been selected by the USIEF and Fulbright to work for 5 months at James Madison University in Virginia. Mr. Rajesh Santhanam was invited to and did spend a month at a Round Square school in Paris.

What our students are finding to be extremely stimulating are mock sessions of the United Nations organised and run by students. 3 delegations of 6 students each attended a session at Dhirubhai Ambani International, Mumbai. Another delegation attended a session in Aitchison College Lahore in Pakistan and yet another delegation will be attending a session at the Cheong Shim International Academy in Korea.

Old Dalian and staff member, Sachin Patwardhan performed on the sarod at the Albert Hall in London and in Hong Kong.

Under the banner of the Round Square, delegations have attended the Regents School International Conference in Thailand. The Australasian Conference at the United World College of S.E. Asia in Singapore, the Conference of the Americas at Rothesay Netherwood School in Canada, the Adults Conference at the Doon School, the student conferences at Pathways World School, Sohna, the Lawrence School Sanawar in Himachal, the Dhirubhai Ambani International School in Mumbai and the Vidya Devi Jindal School in Haryana. Students will now be attending conferences at the British School in Delhi & the King's Academy in Jordan. They also attended a Conference at Modern School, New Delhi.

On 4 to 6 week one to one student exchanges we have hosted 18 students from schools in USA, Germany, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Peru & France. Exchange teachers have come to us from France, Germany and Columbia.

We have also hosted two large delegations – one from a school in Canada and another from the Sultanate of Oman.

17 of our students went on exchanges to England, USA, Canada, Germany, Peru, South Africa & France.

Educational tours have gone to Hong Kong, Macau, Sikkim, N. Bengal, Simla and Kullu and to Gir and Diu.

Moving to the next pillar, Environment, the Green Club has done commendable work. We are closer to achieving our target of becoming a zero run off campus. Two interconnected lakes are part of this effort and the capacity of the sewage treatment plant has been enhanced. Drip and sprinkler irrigation has been expanded to cover more areas and the campus is definitely looking greener.

Students attended two Green Olympiad Workshops run by TERI and also an Eco Tourism Workshop in Mukteshwar. Mrs. Garima Dongre & Mrs. Mukti Rathore attended the 3rd Environmental Educators Conference organised by TERI.

Recently in Chennai our students were placed 1st in the Green-I-2010 in a competition organised by the Indian Green Building Council and the International Green Building Congress and we have been awarded Rs. 7.5 lacs to prepare a student designed integrated centre on campus. Experiments with composting vermiculture and organic farming are already underway. The students have built a biodigester.

In the spheres of Adventure & Leadership, students attended the 4th International Community Development & Leadership Summit in Delhi, a Team Building and Leadership Skills Programme and also Leadership Training Camps at Punjabura and two leadership and communication camps at DC. Groups went on excursions to Leh and on a trek to Dodital. Class VIII students attended a two day camp on communication skills.

Service is the sixth pillar. Last year I told you the students planned to build a dormitory for the mentally challenged at Jyoti Niwas. I am proud to show you the finished product. This year I am announcing their intention to build a community hall for the tribals of the hamlet of Sanawadia, nine KM from here. Our children have adopted this hamlet of 30 families and interact with them over weekends. This hamlet has now been selected as the site for the Round Square International Service Camp to be hosted by DC from the 8th of this month.

In February the 3rd Eye Camp was successfully organised and run in partnership between our students and those of La Ermitage near Paris. We were fortunate to be joined by a new partner, Choithram Netralaya who provided technical assistance. 3650 patients were screened resulting in the free distribution of 2220 spectacles and 289 free cataract operations. 35 villages were covered.

Preat Sethi, Riddhi Lunkad & Pranav Jain attended RSIS camps in Nasik, Ladakh & Peru respectively.

Hiresh Suvarna & Sohil Agrawal attended a Regional RS Project in Katapathar near Dehra Dun. Two groups of students have had the opportunity of preparing turtle hatcheries at the Juara project in Malaysia.

I would now like to thank benefactors for their support in developing the infrastructure of the College.

Mr. Anoop Bishnoi, President of the Friends of Round Square has sponsored a 25 lane indoor shooting range cum cricket pavilion inaugurated a few days ago by Raja Digvijay Singhji Raghogarh.

The outdoor shooting range donated by Parakram Singh Chandawat was recently inaugurated by Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia of Gwalior.

The Maharaja of Dewas has had the Dewas Pavilion restored to its original glory.

The Old Dalians Association has sponsored a Skating Rink inaugurated today by the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. Karan Mittal is sponsoring a much required spacious and air-conditioned Library.

The Class of 84 has sponsored a Conference room.

The Class of 85 has sponsored the new Physics Lab

Preeti & Ambrish Kela have made a substantial donation of equipment for the Physics Lab.

Mr. Sanjay Budhrani has sponsored a Squash court.

The College has additionally undertaken specific projects which include Re-laying of Hanumant Singh Oval.

A brand new state of the art Language Lab

A CIE Resource Centre

New toilet blocks for Vikram & Ashok Houses

And a shade for the spectator area of our Olympic size swimming pool

Restoration of the Assembly Hall. Infrastructural improvements in the Boarding Houses and a complete overhaul of equipment and furniture in the kitchen and Dining Hall.

We are now looking for donors for our Junior School Indian dance, Indian music and western music halls. Those interested may please meet me.

I now take pleasure in presenting the Academic section of this report.

I will start with a bar chart of first class with distinctions in the last 8 years in Class XII.

A similar chart for overall first class.

At an individual level these are the four stream wise toppers.

26 students scored 85% and above. The 28 subject toppers

4 students have received Merit Certificates from CBSE for being in the top 0.1% in a particular subject. These are Nishtha Juneja for English, Dolly Singh Tongia for P.E., Siddhant Sachdeva for Math and Dhruv Premani for Chemistry.

In Class X, marks have been replaced by Cumulative Grade Point Averages. As in Class XII, Class X also had no failures and 41% of the students secured a CGPA of 9 or above which is excellent.

From the Class of 2010, the majority of students have gone into finance and administrative oriented courses, with 19 joining Daly College Business School. Others have gone in for CA, Company Secretary, Mass Communication, Fashion Technology, Law, History, Engineering, Computers, Psychology & Economics. Only one student has opted for medicine. Some have joined Universities overseas and 4 students qualified for IITs. One joined IIT Delhi, One IIT Mumbai, whereas the other two preferred BITS Pilani and Tripple IT Hyderabad.

Vikas Gupta of the 2005 batch has secured a 99.9 percentile in the CAT exam. Rais Sheikh and Vikas have both joined IIM Kolkata. Shrey Kumar Singh is at IIM Ranchi. Thakanlal Guite of the 1977 batch is now IG Intelligence, Rajasthan.

One of the most significant developments at DC in Academics has been the decision to offer an international exam, the IGCSE of the Cambridge University Board. After familiarising ourselves with the system, the first batch entered Class IX last month. The Head of CIE at DC, Mrs. Asma Ansari, has attended a workshop at Cambridge University in England and other concerned staff are attending workshops within India. Mrs. Jaya Chakravarty, Mrs. Clover Everett, Mrs. A. Ansari, Mr. Dominic John, Dr. Tahilramney & Mr. Waseem Ahmed attended a workshop in DAI Mumbai, Mr. Saurabh Kakkar in Hyderabad, Dr. Yogeshwar Shukla & Mr. Gunraj Singh in Mumbai, and Mr. Avinash Moyde at the Homi Babha Centre in Mumbai.

Why I call this a significant development is not only because we are able to offer an alternative option to the CBSE but also because we are proud to do this at the same school fees as paid by students doing the CBSE. This has ensured that the option is exercised on grounds other than financial.

At the MaRRs International Spell Bee competition 24 students of Junior School reached the final international level of the written round. Eventually the following 8 have reached the International Oral Round:

Category I: Mahika Jain, Gauri Shahra, Shaurya Jain & Mehul Kukreja

Category II: Ayush Choudhary, Divya Sureka, Naquiya Barwaniwala and in

Category III: Sarah Sethjiwala

In UCMAS 3 Junior School students represented India in Malaysia. Competing with champions from 43 countries Ananya Sethi was declared world champion in her category. Amogh Kawathekar was 3rd and Anant Kasliwal 5th in their respective categories.

And from Class III Tanish Keswani won the I-Genius scholarship of Rs. 1.00 lac in the GK Quiz organised by Max New York.

Now on to sports:

The most significant contribution has been that of an Old Dalian Sardar Wirendra Singh Bolia, who not long ago had renovated the Bolia Ground pavilions. He responded to my personal

appeal to contribute to a fund to finance sports coaches from overseas. The College has matched this contribution. We have had a soccer coach from Germany and will soon have 3 more coaches for soccer and basketball who will come from the USA & Canada. It is amazing how much a visiting coach can, in one month, lift the level which can then be sustained by our own excellent coaches.

We have never been known for soccer but this year reached the finals of the IPSC national tournament, losing to Tashi Namgyal Academy Gangtok which boasted 3 Mohan Bagan players. Shubham Suri, Dhananjay Singh, Siddhant Vyas, Yohaam Shah are selected for the nationals.

In the State selections for Soccer, Bijit Bharali in the U-17, Abhimanyu Verma & Vipul Choudhary in the U-14 age group have been selected to represent MP.

Similarly Sachi Shukla, Shilpika Ganediwal & Mrinalini Singh have been selected in the Girls team for MP.

Our overall sports standard is certainly high and has been rising in all disciplines.

15 boys and 6 girls went to Australia and played cricket against Brauer College and participated in Adventure activities.

Overall from a sports point of view there have been lots of cancellations of participation in events because of Ayodhya verdict related apprehensions of social unrest. In all 8 of our teams had to face disappointment and they also lost out on medals and selections. We really had little choice as safety of students is our priority.

In the 14th MP State & 9th Inter School Shooting for boys and girls, DC picked up 68 medals of which 25 were gold, ensuring a bigger haul than Shooting Academy in Bhopal.

In the IPSC national shooting for boys our team emerged overall champions for the 3rd year in row each time pushing to second place the Rashtriya Indian Military College.

In the IPSC national shooting for girls, DC won the overall championships for the first time.

At the all India Shooting Competition held in Faridabad our students picked up 7 gold and 4 silver medals.

Chirantana Jamnia, Chakradhar Singh, Nandika Parmar, Harshraj Singh & Shivang Sullere qualified for the Nationals.

10 students have been selected for the SGFI Nationals to be held in Pune. These are Chirantana, Sakshi Agrawal, Shourya Goyal, Ragini Pawar, Chakradhar Singh, Rudraditya Singh, Shakti Singh, Kartik Chitle & Hires Suvarna

Old Dalian Major Praveen Dahiya represented India at the Commonwealth Games.

In Athletics the following have been selected for the Nationals in Pune next month – Yohaam Shah, Kartik Bhargava, Akshay Chhaurey, Praachi Kotia, Avni Goyal and Nupur Parkhey.

In tennis in the SGFI tournament our team won 2 golds and 3 silvers.

Suraj Haryani is ranked No.1 in the U-14 and U-17 in MP. He also won an IATA series tournament. Bankim Silawat & Harshyal Sethi won the State U-18 & U-16 respectively. Isha Budwal is our emerging star. She is playing at the national level in the U-12, U-14 & U-16 categories and last month in the All India Talent series won the singles U-12, singles U-14 and doubles U-16, a rare feat indeed. She has been reaching the last 4 and last 8 in Mumbai & Pune and was the youngest player to qualify for the U-18 National main draw in Tennis.

7 of our students have qualified for the nationals and these are Jaskirat Singh, Harshyal Sethi, Rushang Lunkad, Isha Budwal, SurajHaryani, Yahesh Mulchandani & Bankim Silawat.

In Swimming 5 students – Gehna Modi, Aakansha Wadhvani, Tanvi Satish, Pushendra Pal & Suraj Pamecha have been selected for the Nationals. Gehna Modi was awarded Individual Champions Trophy for 7 golds and 1 bronze at the State Opens in Rewa.

In Pathways in Haryana DC was second out of 24 schools, winning 14 gold, 17 silver and 21 bronze medals.

Individual age-wise championships were won by Gehna Modi, Tanvi Satish & Pushendra Pal.

In Basketball the boys and girls teams won the Interschool tournament held at the Basketball complex.

In the IPSC the boys team came 3rd. In the Sanawar tournament the girls stood 2nd. Pooja Laddha was adjudged the most promising player of both the Sanawar & the Indore tournaments.

Vinayak Goyal & Akshay Chawri are selected for the National and Konpal Seth, Achyut Agrawal & Simran Karda participated at the SGFI at Kolhapur.

In squash we once again have 6 nationally ranked players. Manik Dutta at 3 in the U-15, Anandita Gupta at 4 in the U-15, Adwitiya Kasliwal 4 in the U-11, Dhananjay Singh 6 in the U-17, Samaya Modi 6 in the U-11 & Konpal Patni 8 in the U-17.

Manik Dutta & Anandita Gupta represented India in the U-15 at the Asian Junior Championships in Sri Lanka.

Manik Dutta won the U-15 Hamdard Delton Open Squash in Delhi and also the Rajasthan Open in Jodhpur. He also came 5th in the Penang Open and 8th in the Malaysian Open.

Konpal Patni won the U-15 of the Otters Tournament in Mumbai, Dhananjay Singh reached the semi-finals and Vrudhi Doshi the quarter finals.

In cricket DC was the runners up of the 20-20 at Prinegrove. Sehaj Arora was declared the best wicket keeper.

Tarun Pradhan is selected for the Nationals and Prakhar Jain is a standby.

In Hockey Vatsraj Singh & Prateek Kotia are selected for the Nationals. So are Sakshi Sanghvi and Raveen Bhabhore. In the sub Jr. IPSC Daly came second. Piyush Singh Bundela was adjudged the player of the Tournament.

In Chess Mudit Agarwal of Class VI has a world ranking of 1495 which is very promising for his future.

In Badminton Rishabh Modi, Harsh Durgiya, Shrishti Patni & Ishita Mohta are selected for the Nationals. DC came 3rd in the IPSC Boys U-17 and Girls U-14.

Rishabh & Rohit Mehta continue to win medals in Equestrian sports. In the Jr. Nationals in Delhi Rishabh won silver medals for show jumping and dressage. Rohit won a Bronze.

Rishabh Mehta has been awarded the Ekalavya Award, the highest sport honour given by the State Govt.

I would also like to make a special mention of a student who is one of the most outstanding all round sportsmen I have seen in my long career – Dhananjay Singh Garha.

On the Cultural front we continue to dominate at the national level, scoring more points than any other school in the cumulative total of the IPSC Cultural festivals.

In the IPSC Cultural Festival for Performing Arts 2010, DC was the winner in 4 categories of Indian Music, Western Music, Dance & Dramatics. Amazingly all 56 members of our team won prizes. In Indian Music Shourya Jain came 1st in Bhajan causing even the judges to give her a standing ovation. She is also singing in an AR Rehman project being recorded at HMV studios. We also stood first in Instrumental Classical solo thanks to Paritosh Gupta, 1st in Patriotic cum folk song, 1st in Indian Orchestra and Tanya Sojatia was placed second in Classical Vocal Solo.

In the Western Music we were placed 1st in Western Group song, Western Orchestra and Western Vocal Solo thanks to Tanya Sojatia.

In Dance Shivani Karmarkar was 1st in Classical Solo dance. We came 1st in Western Dance & in Choreography.

We were placed second in Folk Dance.

In Dramatics we were placed 1st in the Hindi Skit, second in Fancy Dress cum Elocution thanks to Aman Godha and 3rd in English Skit.

In the IPSC Cultural Festival of Fine Arts, Yashwardhan Singh came 1st in Clay Modelling and second in Pottery. We were placed 2nd in Artificial Flower Making.

In the Information Technology section we came 1st in Computer Wizkid, 1st in Composite Video making and second in Jingle Competition.

In the Aarohan Youth Festival we came 1st in Poster Making

1st in Collage

1st in Panel Discussion in English

2nd in Folk Dance and

2nd in Orchestra

At the IT Festival held at Scindia School we came 1st in Web Designing, 2nd in Gaming and 3rd in Multi-Media thanks to Prakhar Raj Tongia and Harsh Baheti who represented us in all events.

In national level English Debates we participated in Assam, Jaipur, Gwalior, Dehra Dun and Indore. In Gwalior Pranav Jain was placed second and this was also his rank in Indore. Rhea Sanghi was 3rd in Indore and the most promising speaker at Welham Girls in Dehra Dun. Garvit Pahwa was placed third at MGD Jaipur. Our experience at the IPSC Literary Fest at Hansraj Morarji School, Mumbai, was interesting as we never received the full details of the events. As a result we had to co-opt students in Mumbai itself to represent us in items for which they were unprepared. This turned out to be fun and also rewarding.

Adarsh Bindal came first in English Creative Writing, Sachi Simlot first in English Debate and Paritosh Gupta and Adarsh Bindal came 3rd in Quizzing. Konpal Patni came 3rd in Dramatisation of a Hindi poem. She dramatised a poem written by our student Deepak Solanki and had half the audience moist eyed.

All in all it has been a good year for DC and I would like to congratulate the students and also thank the two teams I play for. The team above me, the Board, has shown what team work can achieve. The team below them, I & my colleagues on the staff have been even more brilliant.

And I thank the audience for their patience

. Thank you!