

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - 2004**

Your Excellency, Vasundhara Rajeji, Honourable Chief Minister of Rajasthan, the President & Members of the Board of Governors, Samar Singhji, guests, parents, Old Dalians, colleagues and students - I extend a very warm welcome to you all and especially to our Chief Guest, Vasundhara Raje, who has honoured us with her presence on this 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Prize Giving of the Daly College.

Vasundhara Raje is the daughter of the late His Highness Jivaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior. The Scindias of Gwalior have a tradition of service to the people as has been exemplified by the late Rajmata Vijaya Raje, the late Maharaja Madhav Rao, Usha Raje, Vasundhara Raje and in the younger generation Vasundhara Raje's son Dushyant and her nephew Maharaja Jyotiraditya Scindia. Five of them have served or are serving as Members of Parliament. The Scindias are also original donors to start this College, have donated the Scindia Cricket pavilion and the marble bust of Sir Henry Daly. On our old campus they had also donated a student House.

Vasundhara Raje has been elected to the Lok Sabha five times in succession, is now serving as Rajasthan's first female Chief Minister, and God willing has many many years of national service ahead of her.

Vasundhara Raje studied at Presentation Convent, Kodaikanal and then graduated in Honours in Economics and Political Science from Sophia College. She married Maharaja Hemant Singhji of Dholpur in 1972.

In 1984 she was inducted into the National Working Committee of the BJP and was immediately appointed Vice President of the BJP Yuva Morcha in Rajasthan. The next year she was elected to the State Assembly. She represented Dholpur from 1985 to 1989 and for the last two years of this term was also Vice President of the BJP in Rajasthan. In 1989 Vasundhara Raje was elected to the Lok Sabha from Jhalawar and then went on to win successive elections to the Lok Sabha in 1991, 1996, 1998 & 1999. In 1997 she was elected Joint Secretary of the BJP Parliamentary Committee.

She has served India as Minister of State for External Affairs, as Minister with Independent charge for Small Industries, for Personnel & Training, for Pension & Pensioners Welfare, for Nuclear Energy and for Space. In 2002 Vasundhara Raje decided to shift focus from the Centre to Rajasthan and she was appointed President of the BJP in Rajasthan. She led the BJP in the last elections, was elected to the assembly, and was sworn in as Chief Minister on Dec. 8, 2003. In the last 11 months she has earned recognition for her excellent governance of the state.

If she was not sitting here with us, by now hearing her long list of achievements including the winning of 7 successive elections, you would have come to the conclusion that she must be a very old and tired lady. In fact, she is young, loves music, reading, gardening and horse riding. She is gracious, down to earth, modest and is also a true friend.

She has proved that she plans and executes her policies efficiently and for the betterment of the masses. Vasundharaji, I am grateful to you for having accepted our invitation and I hope your visit here inspires our children and also helps you improve the condition of our rival school in your state.

The last one year has been an exceedingly busy one. In April we opened a pre-primary school and admitted 125 children.

In the primary school, also in April, we introduced a new curriculum designed in consultation with Shriram Educare, New Delhi. The curriculum emphasises the grasping of concepts and learning through practical work and has very clearly stated

learning objectives at each stage. Coordinators have been appointed to monitor implementation. The Primary School has also benefited from a new computer lab, science lab, language lab, art and craft rooms, a western music section and Library. Feed back from parents has been positive and my congratulations to all the teachers in the pre-primary and primary sections.

The Senior School has also seen some changes. An optional Humanities stream was introduced for the +2 in April. New subjects offered include Psychology, Political Science, Art, Music, Dance, Physical Education, Biotechnology and Informatics. Our Biotechnology and Informatics Laboratories compare with the best.

2004 has also seen an opportunity provided through a Virtual Classroom via satellite and web based studies for our senior students. For this we are partnering Career Launchers, one of the leading educational corporates in South Asia. Presently 14 boarders of Class XI are utilising this technological facility to take coaching for IIT JEE, AIEEE & PMT. Coaching facilities are also available via satellite for entrance to BBA, Hotel Management, NIFT, Law, SAT etc. Computer based teaching at all levels is now very much part of our system. Our partner in this area is JIL.

Our academic results in the Board exams were not satisfactory. Whereas the high achievers have shown a better standard there have been those who fared poorly, leaving the overall class average the same as in previous years. We have analysed the problem and it is very clear that some children who have done consistently badly in Science & Maths were allowed to pursue these subjects because of parental pressure. This should never have happened and will not be permitted in future. Career opportunities are very wide for all streams and children must be allowed to find their own abilities and interests.

In Class X, 75% of the batch secured a first class with 42% securing distinction. Romit Pandey, Prince Dhawan and Anant Gupta secured 100% each in Mathematics. Anant Gupta secured 98% in Science, Manish Makin secured 95% in Social Studies, Poorva Jain got 94% in English, Kapil Kasliwal secured 94% in French and Prateek Deshmukh 93% in Hindi.

The over all top 8 in Class X are:

Anant Gupta

94.4%

Prateek Deshmukh	93.4%
Prince Dhawan	91.6%
Kunal Agrawal & Meenal Mundra	91% each
Mohit Gidwani & Juhie Sharma with 90.8% each & Vibhuti Bhandari with 90.6%	

Anant Gupta, Prince Dhawan & Romit Pandey have received Merit Certificates from the CBSE for being in the top 0.1% in the country.

We have now started a separate and small section for students weak in Maths and have also started extra classes for the high achievers.

In Class XII 61% students got a first with 21% securing distinctions. Varun Mimani secured 97% in Maths and also 97% in Economics. Suruchi Biyani also secured 97% in Economics. Shradha Chhajlani got 97% in Physics. Taha Pervaiz got 97% in Biology, Pooja Tiwari scored 95% in Chemistry and Anjani Trivedi got 95% in Computer Science. Our top 5 in overall results were: Varun Mimani with 90.8%, Pooja Tiwari with 90.4%, Suruchi Biyani and Aditi Baveja with 90%.

CBSE Merit Certificates have been awarded to Varun Mimani & Suruchi Biyani in Economics and to Shradha Chhajlani for Physics.

Here I would like to make a point. It is a common misconception that in order to score high marks, a child cannot be involved in other activities. Well let's look at the facts with regard to our toppers. Varun was Head Boy, College Cricket Captain and best debater and was involved in Dramatics & Soccer. Suruchi was an outstanding classical musician and was an accomplished debater. Taha was a vital member of the Soccer team. Pooja was an outstanding debater, quizzier and artist. Anjani was Head Girl, Journalist, College Basketball Captain, was very good in debating and dramatics and represented MP in shooting. Aditi represented MP in Squash and was the DC girls champion. And all this did not stop these 5 from topping the College.

From the outgoing batch our children have spread to Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Dubai, Canada and the USA. 5 continue with us at the Daly College Business School. 54% have gone for finance and business related higher studies, 18% into Engineering, 8% into Medicine, 3% into Law and 17% into a variety of fields like Design, Animation, Aviation, Journalism & Mass Communication.

Anjani Trivedi was offered full scholarships by Yale and MIT. She is now at MIT.

Prachi Kasliwal represented India at the Global Young Leaders Conference in New York.

This year we have given specific areas of responsibility to our Senior Mistress and Masters and I think this is paying us dividends. While working closely with each other and the Vice Principal, Mr. Rajan Potty, Mr. Jacob John has concentrated on

Academics, Ms. Badhwar on Round Square, IPSC, JIL and Quiz, Mr. Ansari on Culture, Language Labs & Libraries, Mr. Dharam Verma on Sports and Career Guidance. Mr. Hasan has looked after Student Residences & Adventure, Mrs. Khar V-Sat, Mr. JK Jain Text Books & Stationery & Mr. Santhanam Social Service. This helps us focus more clearly and the results are incorporated in my report.

The efforts on the academic front are already showing positive results and it will help that we will soon have a broadband Internet connection to all points on campus.

On the Cultural side, the performance of our students has been commendable.

From the Art School, Jai Arora won a second prize in the International Shankar's fine arts competition and Aditya Vardhan's work secured a second prize in the Agniban Contest. The Art School organised its first open competition.

Also held for the first time were the Indian Music & Western Music & Dance Inter House Competitions. The school participated in the IPSC Cultural Festival in Ajmer along with about 700 participants from 19 other leading schools. We were placed overall 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is a great achievement.

At the Cultural Festival, Apoorva Jain stood 3<sup>rd</sup> in cartooning, Hriday Nagu and Sheena Dua 3<sup>rd</sup> in puppet making, Anita Agrawal 2<sup>nd</sup> in Classical vocal solo, Manjul Jain & Avinash Todi 2<sup>nd</sup> in software development, Avani Bansal and Dhruv Deshmukh 2<sup>nd</sup> in English debating, Preet Jhaver, Sukhdeep Chhabra, Rahul Bhayani & Vineeth Rajan 3<sup>rd</sup> in western instrumental music. The choir was adjudged second and its members were Anika, Agrima Gaur, Raashi Singhal, Aditi Agrawal, Akshita Bhati, Pulak Muchhal, Tanvi Trivedi and Sonam Agrawal. The icing on the cake was the solo performances in classical Indian instrumental and classical Indian dance. Two youngsters, Vineeth Rajan and Sonia Daga were placed first in each of these categories doing DC proud.

The school also participated in other cultural events during the year.

In English debating, Sumanto Lahiri was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 24 speakers at the IPSC debate in Gwalior. In the IPSC debate in Jaipur, DC was overall second out of 23 schools with Adeeba Ansari securing the 2<sup>nd</sup> individual position.

In the Gibson debate at Mayo, Sumanto Lahiri and Avani Bansal finished as best speakers in one debate each.

In Hindi debating, DC was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 11 schools in Welham Girls with Avani being declared the best speaker and Kaustabh Ojha the best interjector. DC was placed third out of 46 schools at MGD Jaipur and Avani was placed third individually.

At the Doon School, DC was placed first out of 12 schools with Avani declared best speaker and Mahima Gupta second best speaker.

In the Creative Writing IPSC competition, Adeeba Ansari was awarded the first prize. In quizzing, Pooja Tiwari and Navneet Menon reached the 5<sup>th</sup> round in the Awakening India Quiz. This was very creditable considering 2 lac students participated and there were teams from BITS, IIT etc.

Krishna Gupta and Aman Jain have qualified to represent Indore in the Eicher National Quiz. Kaustabh Ojha & Navneet Menon won the Rotary Quiz while Kaustabh, Sumanto & Aditya Baser won the Leo Club Quiz.

In the prestigious IPSC Quiz hosted by Scindia School, the trophy was lifted by DC. Our team consisted of Sumanto and Kaustabh.

DC won 27 first prizes, 18 second prizes and 8 third prizes in the Rose Exhibition.

I now move on to games.

In the Central India Squash, Hardik Matharu won the U-11 and Dhananjay was runners up. Fateh Singh was runners up in the U-19 for boys. Priyanka Bhargava, Malvika Singh & Vindheshwari Singh were runners up in their respective age groups. Fateh Singh was selected for the Junior national camp for selection to the world championships.

In the MP State ranking tournament, 10 titles were claimed by Dalians. The titleholders in their respective categories are Dhananjay, Hardik, Vijit Raj Rishi, Fateh Singh who claimed two titles, Preet Sethi, Dheeya Somaiya, Malvika Singh and Vindheshwari who also claimed two titles. Jasmer Singh was awarded a prize for being the most promising young player. Mr. Hemant Patwa, a Member of our Board, was the over 45 champion.

In the junior inter State and nationals held a few days ago in Ajmer Fateh Singh has been placed national No.5 in the U-19 section, Dheeya Somaiya 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U-13 girls and Dhananjay Singh national No.5 in U-11 boys. Pradyuman Singh, Tanvi Jain, Shehnaz Akhtar & Nikita Maan reached the quarterfinals in their respective age groups. The State teams consisted entirely of Dalians and in the inter-State, MP under-19 boys were placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams and the U-15 boys 6<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams.

In Basketball, our boys and girls teams reached the finals of the CBSE tournament. Shefali Agrawal and Shivani Deshmukh have been selected to represent Indore. Naina Seth, Juhi Sodani and Sunaina Shakra represented MP in the Basketball Nationals at Chennai.

In cricket, Shiv Dutt Jhala played for the IPSC team in the CK Naidu Tournament held in J&K.

In the IPSC tournament at Rajkot, Arham Husain took 5 wickets in an innings and so did Jasdeep Walia. Gaurav Jethmalani scored a century, 124 runs to be exact.

In Hockey, DC were the runners up in the IPSC tournament losing by a goal to Motilal Nehru School of Sports. My congratulations to them. The girls' team was placed third.

In swimming, at the state level, Mukul Singh won a gold and 3 silvers and Suraj Pamecha a gold and a silver. They both represented MP at the nationals in Nasik. At the MP state schools competition in Bhopal, our children won a total of 9 golds, 7 silvers and 5 bronze medals. Those who won gold medals are Lakshjeet Singh (2), Suraj Pamecha, Deepak Ghai, Vindheshwari Chauhan and Heta Davey who won 4 medals. Heta & Vindheshwari qualified for the Nationals. In the West Zone, Heta bagged 3 golds and qualified for the CBSE nationals. Suraj bagged a silver and 2 bronze medals.

In the IPSC at Rai, Mukul Singh won a silver and two bronzes and Prakrit Singh a bronze.

In rifle shooting at the All India Open Championships at Coimbatore, Vanshvardhan Hada was placed 18<sup>th</sup> and Raunaq Panwar 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In the MP State championships, Vanshvardhan won the gold medal, Fateh Singh the silver and Raunaq the bronze.

In Badminton, Rishabh Modi has been selected to represent MP.

In Skating, Anuj Jain, Rahul Sanghvi and Rahul Bhayani have been selected to represent the State.

In Tennis, Abhijay Patwa and Jai Bapna have qualified to represent Indore Division in the U-14 boys.

In the CBSE Athletics meet in which 60 schools participated, many of our students qualified for the West Zone meet. Medals were won by Avantika Singh, Sarah Lal, Akansha Rathore, Radhika Singh, Sana Siddiqui, Swati Bajaj, Giriraj Singh, Abhijeet Baghel, Karan Singh and Digvijay Singh. The total haul consisted of 9 golds, 5 silvers and 6 bronze medals. Mohsin Patel, Neha and Naini Seth set new records in the Inter House Athletics. At the CBSE West Zone, the DC girls relay team got the silver in the U-19 4x400. The team consisted of Sara Lal, Sana Siddiqui, Anantika Kumar & Swati Bajaj. In the individual events, Sara Lal won a Bronze medal in 200 m and Abhijeet Baghel a silver in 400 m. They will now go for the Nationals.

In Judo, in the MP Championships Aishwarya Dhurve won a silver medal and has been selected to represent MP. Harshpreet Saluja won a bronze.

In soccer, DC 'A' & DC 'B' teams reached the finals of the Kasliwal tournament. Giriraj Singh was adjudged the best player and Robin Singh the highest scorer.

In the CBSE Soccer DC lifted the trophy. Abhijeet was declared the best player. Karan Singh and Gitesh Wadhwa have been selected to represent Indore. In our traditional fixtures with Mayo College, DC won the Juniors and Seniors of the Kishengarh Shield. In the Seniors we won the Cricket & Hockey matches and lost in Soccer. In the Juniors we won in Squash, Hockey & Soccer and lost in cricket.

Cycle Polo, Aerobics, Yoga and Karate have been started.

Under adventure sports, various treks have been organised and children have tried their hand at para sailing, rappelling and river crossing.

The girls of Bharati House went on a wildlife expedition to Ranthambore. The photographers went on an expedition to Bhopal. Students went bird watching to Dhar and another group went on a very successful fossil hunt.

A Kids for tiger club has been formed, the British Council held a workshop at DC for higher studies in the UK. We have also had promotional visits from faculty of the University of Massachusetts and Edinburgh University. Students attended a talk by Shiv Khera and also a workshop on the Art of Living. A workshop on Stress and Time Management was held by Mrs. Asha Naiyar, a workshop on stress management by Mrs. Anita Desai, a wildlife talk was given by Dr. RS Chundawat, there was a Yoga workshop and another for parents on understanding learning difficulties. Workshops were also held in Creative Writing, Classical Dance and Photography. Prominent visitors included Dr. Anil Wilson, Bobby Simpson, Hanumant Singh, Terry Guest, Malvinder Mohan Singh, Laxman Singh, MP, Jyotiradiaya Scindia, MP, Digvijay Singhji and Raj Singhji Dungarpur.

HRD is an ongoing process. From the Junior School we sent Dr. Rajopadhyay, Mrs. Ahuja and Mrs. Ghodgaonkar for an orientation programme to the Sriram School in Delhi. In follow up to this, 15 workshops for the Junior School staff were held by Sriram Educare in the following – Orientation to change, English Language, Writers Workshop, Reading Programme, Environmental Studies, Science Teaching through project work, Art and its role, Performing Arts, Creativity, Assessing Children, the Project approach, the Phonetic approach, Early Identification and remedy, Soccer skills, Puppets and Theatre.

Also from Junior School, Mrs. Mankotia and Mrs. Dixit attended a Dyslexia Workshop at Mayo College, Mrs. Ahuja, Mrs. Ghodgaonkar and Miss Kapoor a workshop on teaching English conducted by MacMillan India, Mrs. Deepika Singh attended a Maths Workshop, Mrs. Ghodgaonkar, Mrs. Lahiri and Mrs. Ahuja attended an English teaching workshop conducted by Paddy Weels from England, Ms. Bhandari, Mrs. Moorjani and Mrs. Badgara a workshop on the play way method.

From the Senior School, Dr. Sharma attended a 6 week Summer Research Programme on Biotechnology at SLS, JNU, New Delhi and completed a project on gene cloning and characterisation. Dr. Sharma attended two other workshops on Biotechnology and one in Mumbai organised by the Award Authority of India. Mr. Solanki attended a Workshop on Biotechnology. Mr. Hasan and Mrs. Dominic attended a week-long workshop on numismatics. The Principal, Ms. Badhwar and Mr. Dalmiya attended a CII workshop on Total Quality Management in Education.

Mr. Ansari and Mr. Verma attended a 5-day workshop in Dehra Dun on New Dimensions of Learning conducted by G. Blackburn from the USA.

Career Launchers held a two-day workshop for our senior class Science and Maths teachers. The theme was Personality of an Effective Teacher.

Mrs. Patel attended a workshop on helping students under stress. Mr. Upade attended an orientation programme on disaster management in schools conducted by UNDP. Disaster Management has been introduced as part of the Class IX & X syllabus. Lightning conductors have been installed at DC and this was very timely as they minimised damage by lightning in Ashok and Bharati Houses.

Mr. Kirtane and Mrs. Tatte attended separate Maths Workshop. Mr. Verma, Mr. Singh, Mr. Jain and Mr. Dalmiya attended a workshop on Accountancy. Ms. Badhwar and Mr. Solanki have become examiners for the PMT exams which will help them guide our students on techniques.

This year Mrs. P. Prabhakaran and Mrs. P. Jacob John have retired from the Junior School. I wish them the very best for the future.

I welcome all those who have joined us this year and hope they help raise DC to new heights.

And now a report on Community Service. Our students and staff participated in a drive organised by the Collector and planted 3000 saplings. We have been interacting

with the Helen Keller School for the blind and also the school for the Deaf. Last week the students, staff and staff wives held a fund raising event and collected over 2 lac rupees to sponsor two deaf students to the Deaflympics to be held in January in Australia. Our students have visited Jyotivivas a home for the abandoned and sick.

Children have now organised waste paper collection and are recycling paper which we are using in school. The Junior School Concert Invitation Cards were printed on this paper. This and the water recycling plant helps make us environmentally aware citizens.

Given all these achievements, there is little doubt that DC provides a sound education. However, I am keen that we find our rightful place at an international level. One of the platforms we will use is the Round Square, an association of like minded schools from South Africa, Kenya, Oman, India, Thailand, Japan, Peru, USA, Canada, Switzerland, France, Germany and the UK.

DC hosted the Asia Region Students Round Square Conference and the Principal attended the International Conference at Deerfield Academy in Boston, USA.

It will not be long before we are made international members and we can then look forward to student exchanges with schools in these countries. Immediately, we will be sending a few students over the next year.

This year 10 of our students participated in an international adventure camp in Switzerland. Our cricketers toured Australia and the Brauer College team from Australia will be with us next month. A group of our students visited the UK in the summer and the NSB children from England visited us last month. Within the country, groups of students visited Ooty, Kerala, Manali and Goa.

The Old Dalians have been more active this year. I congratulate the ODA on producing an ODA Directory. A well-attended get-together was organised in Mumbai. The Class of '79 celebrates its silver jubilee year as old Dalians and they have very kindly raised funds towards an indoor shooting range inaugurated 2 days ago. A group of old Dalians from different batches have very generously raised money and dedicated to our students a very nice café which has been inaugurated today. This will take care of our children's two passions - eating and socialising.

On the administrative front, Col. Giriraj Singh and his team have achieved a harmonious combination of stricter monitoring systems and decentralisation.

My grateful thanks are due to the President and Members of the Board of Governors for their wise counsel and time, to my colleagues for their support and tireless efforts, to the Head Boy, Head Girl, Prefects & Captains, to the support staff, to the Collector, the SP, Narmada Control Authority, MPEB, the DFO, members of the Press and so many other well-wishers of the College. A very special thanks to Shri Narendra Singhji Bidwal and Shri Harish Chandhokji, former President and Vice President of the Board of Governors. Narendra Singhji's support and advice helped me settle in at DC and I will always be grateful to you Sir.

I was in Mayo College last week with approximately 36 boys and girls who were playing the squash nationals. At a dinner hosted by the Principal of Mayo, people were discussing how the Daly College children stood out as smart, polite and self assured. My congratulations to the students and teachers and thank you for the complements I receive on your behalf.

I now take great pleasure in inviting our Chief Guest to give away the prizes and to then address the College.

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