



PULSE

The Oberai School of Integrated Studies



Pulse October Editorial

This month has been a busy month for us all; teachers and students alike. Midterm excursion pre-jitters and the experience sharing afterwards has been a lot of fun! This was followed by the Autumn Rustle practice; dancing, singing, preparations for exhibitions, overall decorations and trying out of costumes kept us busy the whole month. October has also been quite festive- Dussehra, Halloween, Navratras and so much more!

Happy reading to all you readers and hope to see you at the Autumn Rustle as we display amazing performances.

Aarini Mehta Class VIII
Student Editor

Post a Letter

It was a beautiful sunny day and we got very excited when Anshika ma'am, our class teacher, told us that we would be going to the post office that day. Anshika ma'am gave us postcards to write on, so that when we would reach the post office we could post them to our parents. We got onto the school bus and went to the Raipur post office. There we met the postmaster who told us that we could buy stamps, post cards and LED lights at the post office. We posted our post cards in the letter box and then came back to school. We enjoyed this field trip and hope to have more such field trips which will help us learn something new.



Pratham Gupta Class II

PARENTS SPEAK

Love thy Nature As It Is Closer To Thee Than Thy Neighbour

One crisp early March morning, three years ago, I was taking a walk through our orchards at Dhakrani. This was the season to welcome birds back into the Doon valley, after they had wintered in the plains. Binoculars around my neck, I carefully sifted through the canopy expecting a visual treat at every stop of the gaze.

Scan, scan scan...Where is it? Scan, scan, scan again...Nothing! After substantial lapse of time no visual contact, what greeted me instead was an auditory silence. Scratching my head I spotted a crow pecking at something. Zoomed in to find it was a bird, and not just one, the entire floor of the orchard was littered with dead birds. For me it was like the sky had fallen to the ground. Purple sunbirds, tailor birds, warblers, babblers, an occasional crow, an absolute carnage!

That was the day, standing under the bright winter sun and the chilling breeze, that we at Dhakrani decided that we will not use pesticides in our orchards. The collateral damage was just too great, and weighed too heavily on one's fragile conscience.

Vows and promises aside birds fill a specific ecological niche. They are the most efficient predators of insects, specifically, when they have hatchlings in the nest. So using pesticides early in the season affects their numbers which means we start depending on pesticides more and more. We were in the grip of a vicious cycle that had to be broken.

So started our tryst with nature. The most obvious pit stop was the organic approach. We experimented with different approaches, but none could be considered a fool proof control for our target pests. Then came a breakthrough in the form of soap. Our humble dish wash soap was an efficient and economical control mechanism for most of our target pests, and it was safe for birds.

Voila **step one**. Try it -1.5 ml of dish-wash soap per litre of water, soak the insect well with it, using a spray bottle.

Step two was obvious, build nest boxes for birds that breed in hollows. Our specific focus was on owls. The smallest of owls in our area are the Spotted Owlet, the Jungle Owlet and the Scops Owl. They are voracious feeders of nocturnal insects specifically moths. The progeny of the moth is the caterpillar, a known pest. As we were at it, we built a huge platform nest for the Dusky Eagle Owl, it's a two-foot-long owl with horns, and a hoot right out of a horror movie. This owl is a deterrent to fruit bats, the mammal that gives fruit growers sleepless nights.

Step three revolved around making the soil bio-diverse, years of pesticides and chemical fertilizer use had greatly reduced the biodiversity of the soil. A bio-diverse soil is one where there is abundance of microbial and worm life, this type of soil has a symbiotic relationship with plants. The way of application of chemical fertilizers in itself is an issue to trees. They are applied in three batches for the entire year's nutrient requirement. It's like saying we are fed our entire year's salt requirement not daily but only on three occasions. One of those salt doses and we would be as dead as the birds!

So we set up a dairy, and grazed the cows in the orchard. Urine of any animal has complete nutrient profile required by plants. It is absorbed by the plants immediately; the faecal matter is food for the soil biota, feeding hungry microbes and earthworms, which in turn release the nutrients back over the years.

So what did the cows do? They grazed the grasses, ate rotting fruit, and fed the plants with their urine and soil biota with their faeces, albeit daily not just thrice a year. And fed us with free milk!

Step four we stopped ploughing the orchards. When the cows were cleaning it, what was the point? Ploughing cuts tree roots, without roots how will the tree eat?

Net result at the end of three years our fertilizer expense is zero. Birds are thriving and breeding, so even the dish wash sprays have gone down. The trees saluted our efforts by dramatically doubling fruit retention. A tree retains only 1% or 2% of the flowers it bears as fruits, but as it becomes stronger and healthier it is able to retain more and more flowers as fruits. After all fruits are the tree's babies, and she would want to keep them all, we just lent the helping hand.

We were recipients of the **2018 Gaura Devi Award for Conservation**. The award is given to only one person in a year, in the state.

A journey well begun, the road is long but every step is pure bliss.

Love thy Nature it is closer to thee than thy neighbour. All the best!

Abhay Dhar Jayal
(Father of Eeshan Dhar Jayal of class III A)

Day Out

While the senior students had gone out for their excursions, classes I, II and III went for a picnic to Maldevta. On the way we saw a beautiful river flowing. We also sang a few songs while in the bus. We soon reached Maldevta. We rested on the banks of the river for a while and then did a few activities like monkey climbing after which we waded into the Song River. We saw a lot of fish and we also tried to catch a few, but learnt that we shouldn't catch fish if we do not know how to do so correctly or else we could end up hurting them so we stopped. It was a wonderful and fun picnic.

Manvi Rawat Class III



Tryst with Nature

It was 2nd October and I woke up with a start! It was time to get set for the excursion. The moment we all had eagerly been waiting for! We got to school and there were buses waiting for us at school. Our first destination was Jayalgarh. We reached Jayalgarh in the afternoon and had lunch. Later in the evening we had activities followed by dinner. The next day we had some fun activities like zip line and stream walk. On the second day we went to the Alaknanda River and did some activities like swimming, diving, ducky ride and floating. We also did rappling there. The next day we moved on to Rishikesh. We went to Rajaji National Park for a safari. We returned to the camp at night and had a heavy dinner as it was our last night. The next day we headed back to Dehradun. I loved this trip and I know that I'll cherish this trip for years ahead.

Adway Vij Puneet Class V



Nature Trip

On the 2nd of October Classes VII and VIII went to the Jim Corbett National Park and Rishikesh for the midterm excursion. It helped us to go out of our comfort zone. It taught us responsibility, team work and environmental awareness.

In Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve we stayed at an amazing hotel. We had some fun activities, swimming in the pool and a jungle safari! We stayed at Corbett Tiger Reserve for two nights and then moved onto Rishikesh on the third day. At Rishikesh we got a surprise when Sanjiv Sir and Natascha Ma'am met us. We also met the group which had gone to Jayalgarh and Rajaji National Park.

In Rishikesh we did some adventure games like zipline, tree jumaring, commando net and had some other fun team building games. We enjoyed our excursion a lot and hope to go on such fun excursions again.

Aarini Mehta Class VIII



Good over Evil

Dussehra is an important Hindu festival celebrated every year all over the world. It is celebrated after Navratri festival. Dussehra signifies the victory of good over evil, and is celebrated in different ways by different people. In Northern India, Dussehra is significant as the day when lord Rama killed the Demon-King Ravana and saved his wife Goddess Sita from Ravana's evil clutches. In the Bengal it is mostly called Vijaya Dashami and marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the buffalo demon Mahishasura. People nowadays celebrate Dussehra by burning the three huge effigies of Ravana, Meghnath, and Kumbhkaran to show the victory of good over evil. People celebrate this festival with full enthusiasm, joy and faith.

A special assembly was conducted to celebrate the festival where the students were explained the significance of the day through an act.

Deepsimar Kaur Class IV



Waste Responsibly

Art is a platform through which we can show our feelings and create our own little world. A world made from our thoughts. To showcase this talent, we had an Art Gala. The topic was “Each Person Can Make a Difference”, based on waste management. This meant that we as individuals were capable of making a difference to the world's garbage disposal problem through what we practiced.

The question that arises is, “What is waste management?” Waste management means the management of waste which travels from our houses to the dumping ground. I was awestruck on seeing the drawings of other students. They were beautiful and carried the message of how each person can make a difference.

Sarvani Kaur Class VI



Save the Tiger

Tigers are beautiful and fierce creatures. Some of the places where we can spot these creatures in India are the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, Kanha National Park and Sundarbans in Bengal. Even though the tiger is the National Animal of our country, there are only 3890 tigers in India. A reason for the tiger dying out is disease. Various diseases take their lives silently. Many animals die and there is no way to ascertain the cause of their death. There are certain diseases that spread like epidemic and play havoc. Health management of wildlife, a relatively new area, is totally neglected. There is an urgent need to incorporate this field in the area of wildlife conservation, habitat loss and prey depletion.

Tigers are declining in numbers because of habitat loss and prey depletion rather than being killed directly. A tiger needs to eat about 50 deer-sized animals or 6,600 pounds of living prey every year. Wherever prey-base is adequate and good protection measures are in place tiger population reaches high numbers simply because the species breeds quickly. Loss of habitat is yet another problem. We are cutting down forest and trees. There are quite a lot of reasons but I'm sharing a few with you. This is a very important factor, especially considering India. So let us all take a pledge to work towards preventing the depletion of tigers from our country.

Arav Chaturvedi Panchhi Class VIII



Realisation



Nature, you give us such a beautiful environment
But ignorant man and his development
All your beautiful trees
Just get blown away by “man” breeze.

You have such wonderful forests
But to be honest,
The patter of your rain,
Gives us such pain.

Oh nature! We’re sorry for what we have done,
We were all just enjoying life and having fun.
We’re sorry for hunting your animals,
It’s like we’re all just mad cannibals.

We apologize for all the pollution,
We’re working on a solution.
We realize every time that we are hit with a natural disaster,
It is only you telling us to act faster.

We’ve been such awful people,
We apologize for that!
We’ve understood that we did was illegal.
And I personally promise that I won’t be such a brat.

Aditya Soni, Class-8

Wildlife Quiz

In honour of the Wildlife Week, an Inter-House Wildlife Quiz was conducted at The OASIS. The houses were represented by one student each from classes VI, VII and VIII. The Chairman, The Headmaster, Head Junior School, teachers, students, and the guest-of-honour, Mr. Jai Raj, who is one of the senior-most Indian Forest Service Officers, witnessed the event.

The preparations for the competition began a week prior to the day. It was up to the house to practice, strategise divide and get ready for the quiz. When the quiz began and I was nervous but also very excited as we had worked hard for the quiz. The quiz was an amazing forum for us to learn and share knowledge about incredible facts on wildlife. Daivik house secured the first position with Vinaya and Prasatti tied at the second.

Tarana Kapur Class VII



Tete-a-tete with Mr. Jai Raj

To celebrate World Wildlife Week, The OASIS organized an Inter House Wildlife Quiz on the 11th of October 2018. To grace the occasion we had with us **Mr. Jai Raj, Principal Chief Conservator of the Forest Department of India**. The OASIS editorial team interviewed him. Below is the extract from the interview.

Integrators: Sir, Jim Corbett once said that the tiger will die out as the tiger has no votes and the Indian politician is no sportsman. How far has this been true?

Mr. Jai Raj: This was a very true statement made in those times which is very relevant even today. All these animals cannot vote so we need to take some measures like we should vote from their side! We should tell the politicians that if they do something for the animals we will vote for them.

Integrators: Sir, we have seen quite a few elephants in the Rajaji Tiger Reserve but is there a record of tigers in the Rajaji Tiger Reserve?



Mr. Jai Raj: It is better to talk about the state level. Most of the tigers which are there in Uttarakhand are in the Corbett Tiger Reserve. In Rajaji Tiger Reserve there are about 30 to 40 tigers. In Uttarakhand there are about 304 tigers making us the second largest state tiger wise.

Integrators: When we cut the tree for some development purpose, are the same number of trees planted somewhere else in the forest?

Mr. Jai Raj: Yes, when we cut trees they have to be planted somewhere else in the forest. But in the ecosystem what a 100 year old tree is supporting, even a 100 saplings cannot fulfil.

Integrators: Are pet shops allowed to keep exotic and otherwise animals and birds in cruel conditions such as cramped cages or out in the sun?

Mr. Jai Raj: Thank you very much for asking this question. This is in fact my pain. It is unfortunate that animals are kept in these conditions. Earlier there were no pet shops but now there are many. Rules are there but implementation is very poor. Under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act you can report such incidents. We can also say no to consumption of animal products.

Integrators: Is there a helpline to report such cases and ask for help for an animal in need?

Mr. Jai Raj: There are two categories of animals; stray and wild. Wild animal cases must be report to the forest department. We will also take care of stray animals if the need arises. The Animal Husbandry Department may also be contacted.

Vanshika Rawat (Class VI), Siddhant Gupta (Class VII)

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