

THE OBERAI SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES



PULSE - February 2019

PARENT SPEAK

Watching the chilly Winter turn to Spring is my favourite part about the advent of February. As someone who absolutely abhors Winter, the warmth of the sunlight falling on leisurely blossoming flowers is a welcome sight for sore eyes. It seems as though the birds are partaking in the merriment as they burst into song! One winter, however, I was dreading the steady approach of February. No matter how much I tried, I could not find an iota of joy in the banishment of the cold; as February drew closer, it meant that my board exams were approaching. Of course, all these years later, I have realised that those exams were not the huge life changing hurdle everyone made them out to be (at least you get to prepare for this test!), but at that time they were the be all and end all of my existence.

No matter how many question papers I solved or how prolific my revision was, that nagging feeling of being inadequately prepared would just not go away. I had never been pressurised to study, with my parents choosing instead to inform me of the pros and cons of not doing well academically, and leaving me to make my own decisions. But with less than a month left for these exams, I inadvertently began to feel the pressure. Constant thoughts of everything that could possibly go wrong plunged about in my head at the speed of Michael Phelps swimming the butterfly at the Olympics.

I finally gave into my despair and poured my heart out to my father one morning. He was quite surprised at finding his morning regimen of solving the crossword with a cup of tea steaming beside him interrupted by his daughter wailing about how she was destined to be a failure at life. He calmly heard me out, as fathers often do, and then proceeded to do the most astonishing thing (my expression was probably very similar to Harry Potter's at being offered a biscuit by Professor McGonagall) - he got up and started walking towards his music system! I was about to launch into another tirade about being neglected and unloved, but my curiosity (thankfully!) made me pause. My father chose the track he was looking for, and to my continued surprise, Paul McCartney's beautiful voice was pouring out of the speakers telling a blackbird to "take these broken wings and learn to fly". It started to seem like he was singing to me after a while, by telling me I have been "waiting for this moment to arise".



My whole world changed in those 2 minutes and 12 seconds.

I have thought about that morning countless times. But I have still not been able to fathom what exactly it was about that song that made me feel confident in myself again. I read up about the song too, hoping that would shed some light, and learned about its anti-racism connotations, and the symbolism of African-Americans standing up for their rights. But I eventually realised that personally, for me, there was something about that moment - the culmination of the tepid morning breeze heralding the Spring, the cup of tea steaming away in its corner, and Mr. McCartney singing to me that he believes in me - that has made this song exceptionally special.

My father, of course, told me to go away after the song was over, and that he had imparted enough wisdom for one year. Little did he know that what he had given me was the strength to believe in myself for a lifetime, the realisation that I am the only one responsible for picking myself back up when I get knocked down, and the awareness that I can prevail over anything, like the little blackbird with the broken wing who flew “into the light of the dark black night”.

Sanjana Aggarwal

(Sanjana is a former City Head (Dehradun), Reliance Foundation Youth Sports and the sister of Sarthak Aggarwal of class VIII)

Colours at Play

As we all know, The OASIS conducts a lot of competitions but, as of now, my favourite was the Rangoli Competition. It was held on the 9th of February, 2019, and the theme was ‘Vasant Panchami’. Every House chose 3 members. We were given materials from school like pulses, kidney beans, different colours and marigold flowers. We were allowed to get waste material from home to decorate our rangoli.

Each House made beautiful rangolis. They were made in the crucible, which is the centre of the School, and it made the school look more colourful and vibrant. The results were: Vinaya House bagged the first position, Daivik House got the first runners-up position, while Prasatti house and Mahit house were tied for the third place. The lovely bright colours, creative designs spread the festive vibe in School.

Vidushi Bhatt
Class VI



Flower Show

On the 11th of February, 2019, we had a paper craft flower show. All of us made paper flowers for the flower show with the help of newspapers, waste materials, and colourful sheets. All of the Ankuram classes displayed their flowers outside their classes. We also made paper pots to go with it. We invited the Headmaster to see the show. We all put in a lot of hard work to have a very successful flower show. We had lots of fun as we prepared for it.

Divit Agarwal and Kamaira Rawat
Class I

Spin a Yarn

On 21st of February 2019 the children of the Ankuram had their first Inter House Spin a Yarn competition between Pelican, Starling, Oriole and Cardinal Houses. It was held in the Crucible of our school, where all the students and teachers from Ankuram came and encouraged the participants. The children started their stories in a high tone and ended their stories in a beautiful way. The participation was from Class I to Class V one from each house.

Participants told the stories using voice modulations and props. Stories told with props often stays on the minds of the listeners for years. This kind of event brings confidence and develops public speaking skills in the students. Students practiced with the Subject teachers and Anshika Ma'am every day.

Pelican House bagged the 1st position followed by Oriole House in the 2nd position. It was great fun listening to all the stories and also understanding the moral of every story at the end.

Amartya Gupta
Class II

We Welcome Spring

This year, Vasant Panchami was celebrated on the 10th of February. It is celebrated to mark the arrival of spring. On the 11th of February we had celebrations in School. Yellow flower badges were made and distributed to all members of the school and worn through day.

A special Assembly was conducted by the students of Class I. The assembly began with a prayer song 'E Sharde Maa' followed by a talk on why we celebrate Vasant Panchami. In the end, we performed a dance on Maha Saraswati Vandana. Everybody loved the assembly. A special lunch was served with sweet yellow rice as desert.

W.S. Dhawal
Class I



How Democratic Are We?

On the 13th of February, 2018, the children of The OASIS had their first Inter-House Debate Competition. The motion on fire for the competition was “Democracy is the Best Form of Government”. The Debate was between the four Satva Houses. Each House had to select two students. One participant for the motion and one against the motion. While researching on the topic we learned very interesting facts. Did you know that Democracy has its origin in ancient Greece and Rome? It is derived from the Latin words “demos” meaning people.

The result of the competition was as follows: In the individual category the second runner up was Pradyot Patwal, the first runner up was Aarini Mehta and the first position was bagged by Tarana Kapur. Daivik House stood first, with Prasatti House as the first runner up. This was a thrilling experience indeed!

Siddhant Gupta
Class VII

Our Glory

The students of The OASIS had participated at the first Inter School Middle School Festival ‘Page To Stage’ held at Hopetown Girls’. We participated in the English Elocution ‘Laugh It Off’ in the individual as well as group category. Only students of classes V and VI were participants in the above category. Aanya Soni from class 5 represented the School in the individual category. The theme for the individual performance was a didactic prose and the theme for the group performance was a humorous poem.

Our teacher in-charge, Mrs. Stuti Paul, chose Roald Dahl’s ‘Television’ for the group. The following students participated and were declared winners.

1. Singey Wangchuk Namgyal - Class V
2. Adway Vij Puneet - Class V
3. Mahir Batra - Class VI
4. Sarvani Kaur - Class VI
5. Anubhuti Dhasmana - Class V
6. Teerth Jain - Class V
7. Manya Khera – Class VI
8. Yashasvi Kandwal - Class VI
9. Vanshika Rawat – Class VI
10. Vedaanta Oberai – Class VI

Aanya Soni bagged the second position in the individual category. It was an exhilarating experience as this was the first Inter School participation of the School. The Hopetown School Band performed for all the participants. There were some fun exercises conducted for the participants. It was an amazing experience!

Vanshika Rawat
Class VI



Drama Show

A drama show was performed by class II on 15th of February, 2019 in the Crucible. It was scripted and directed under Shweta Ma'am's guidance. Anshika ma'am made sure we practiced regularly. The sound system was managed by Jonathan sir.

This Drama was on the story titled "Save Jamuni". A story based on how some children from a village living near a forest named Panchvati protested against the chopping down of trees. This exhibited the courage to stand for the right. The drama ended with a song "Pair lagayen aisa".

All the students of class II took part and performed with great zeal. They were all dressed in costumes and makeup for the show. They practiced for the same every day without fail which brought confidence in them and also helped learn voice modulation. The performance was appreciated by all and the students were congratulated for their hard work.

Aanya Soni
Class V

Creative Hands

On the 7th of February, 2019, we had an Inter House Creative Hands Competition. The challenge was to make a bird feeder and a pencil stand. The participants had to use waste products like bottles, old CDs, shoeboxes, waste jars and old cutlery. The time allotted was one hour.

Each house sent four members to participate. The judges of the competition were: Two members of the Waste Warriors and the Head Junior School. Every house had put in a lot of hard work, and it paid off.

The winners were Daivik House followed by Vinaya House and Prasatti House as the first and second runners up respectively.

Arnav Tomar
Class VII

JEDI

On the 21st of February our School participated in our very first inter school debate hosted by The Doon School. A team of four debaters attended the Junior English Debating Society Invitational Cup (JEDI) 2019 held at The Doon School. Many schools participated. It was a thrilling and intense experience.

Every team enjoyed the hospitality of The Doon School. As William Penn once said, "In all debates, let truth be thy aim, not victory or an unjust interest". It was a great debate and it was amazing to be a part of JEDI.

Pradyot Patwal
Class VIII



Sustaining the Traditions

The OASIS family was privileged to have the Gotipua Dance troupe perform in the afternoon of 5th February, 2019 organised by SPIC MACAY. Students and invited parents and guests witnessed this breathtaking performance by the young Gotipua dancers. The OASIS Editorial took the opportunity to interview them and here is the conversation that took place.

Integrators: Do the boys get formal education?

Guru: Yes, they do. They go to a Gurukul. So they study, and also have sports and activities.

Integrators: What is the schedule that the students follow?

Guru: They wake up at five in the morning, do surya namaskar. This is followed by a Sundan from 6 am to 7 am. Till 9 am they have the dance practice. Then they go to a government school till 4 pm. They play games, they learn music, and then they practice their dance and have dinner.

Integrators: At what age can the boys begin their training?

Guru: They begin at the age of five.

Integrators: Till what age can they continue to dance?

Guru: They perform till the age of 15. After 15, the more advanced form of the Gotipua dance training begins.

Integrators: Are there any changes faced by the boys due to modernisation?

Guru: Yes there is a lot of change. For example, when tourists come to watch, they add in their own dance steps and in such a manner, the dance keeps changing. Earlier girls too would dance, but then the Mughals and British came and it changed.

Integrators: How many such training centres are there in Odisha?

Guru: There are 10 such training centres in Odisha.

Integrators: Is there a decrease in training centres and popularity in the dance?

Guru: No, in fact there is an increase.

Eye Care

An eye vision assessment was conducted in School by M.M. Naithani Eye Centre by Dr. Prashant Naithani and Dr. Preeti Naithani. On 23rd February it was done for Ankuram students and on 24th February for Satva students. We were asked to read the letters hung on the board. After the assessment some students were extremely happy while some were not very happy with the results. They promised themselves that they would shorten the use of mobile phones.

Post the tests we had a session with Dr. Naithani. We got to know that our eyes are very sensitive. We should not use mobile phones or laptops for long hours and should try and explore the outside world also. We should not only avoid gadgets like mobile phones but also should include sources of Vitamin A in our everyday diet. If we will not start taking precautions right now we would have to pay the consequences later.

Yashasvi Kandwal
Class VI



Chefs at work

The OASIS organised its first Junior Master Chef Competition on 23rd February, 2019. The Houses were given pseudo names like Infusion, Flavour, Sizzles and Zest. Each team had four participants. Mrs. Sahra Akbar was the guest of honour and the competition was judged by Mrs. Sahra Akbar, Mrs. Ashima Borkakoty and our Headmaster.

Each House had to make a salad and a sweet dish without cooking or using fire. The teams were judged on the creativity, innovation, nutritional value, presentation, taste and cooking hygiene. The teams had one hour for preparation and plating of the dishes. Teams were able to portray team spirit, hard work, creative thinking and critical thinking. After presentation of the dishes to the judges the participants shared their preparations with friends and teachers.

Arnav Tomar
Class VII

Our Celebrated Soldiers

It's normal for people to live and die,
But not for the nation to grieve and cry.
They're upset because they've lost a man,
For whom protecting the nation was the only plan.

He had the choice to live an easy life,
And only care for his children and wife.
But instead, he left all his selfish needs behind,
And the thought of dying didn't cross his mind.

Because he only wanted to serve his nation,
And of giving up, he had no intention.
And a soldier is what he became,
With no interest in money or fame.

At peace, we sleep at night,
Knowing our soldiers are on their feet and if need be ready to fight.
But a few days ago they went to war,
And now nothing is like it was before.
Many of them didn't wake up after the fight,
So much has changed just overnight.
The ones who caused it are training for
another war,
But ours, wrapped in tricolour, were sent to their mother's door.

They will always be honoured,
Their passing has definitely left the country bothered.
Their memory in our hearts will live on,
As for our safety they sacrificed their rise this early morn.

Tarana Kapur
Class VII



Ankuram Recitation

On Wednesday, February 27th 2019, an English Recitation Competition was held in our School at The Crucible. The Recitation competition was for the Ankuram. The judges were Natascha Ma'am and Stuti Ma'am.

Poems are meant for enjoyment. The classes chose a theme each for all their Group and Solo performances. I was a part of the group recitation. All the participants recited the poems very well. Everyone performed to the best of their ability and enjoyed themselves. Everyone appreciated and applauded the performance of each participant. We enjoyed the event thoroughly.

Saihaj Kaur
Class III



Cleanliness Drive and Plastic Waste Collection Drive

On the 2nd of February 2019 the staff and students of The OASIS, along with the Waste Warriors, conducted a cleanliness drive on the road to the School. Classes 6, 7 and 8 were divided into groups and sent to different parts of the street outside along with a few teachers and team members from Waste Warriors. We were provided with trash- grabbers and two trash bags. A white and yellow one for non-recyclable and recyclable waste respectively. We spent an hour cleaning and segregating waste to ensure proper disposal of it. The students did a great job of cleaning the area.

To follow this up an e- waste and plastic bottle drive took place at school on the 7th of February. The students were asked to bring old plastic bottles or damaged electronics which were of no use anymore. They explained to us the importance of disposing these elements correctly and even what the right way to do it was. They told us the criteria based on which we decided to either dispose, recycle or reuse something.

Overall, it was a great learning experience and I'm glad we could do our part in cleaning our planet.

Tarana Kapur
Class VII



Celebrating Science

On National Science Day, 28th February, 2019, a field trip was organized for the students of classes VI, VII and VIII to the Survey of India. The theme for this year's Science Day was 'Science for the people and people for science'. The organization showcased the developments that have taken place in the field of surveying, mapping and science that forms the basis on which every inch of the country is coordinated and mapped.

There were different instruments which we saw and we learned about their working. It was a great learning experience for us.

Anshulika Gupta
Class VII



Divinity in Music

An Inter House Music Competition, for the students of classes VI to VIII, was held on 22nd February, 2019 in the Crucible. The category of the competition was semi classical forms of Indian Music (Hori, Kajri, Thumri, Jhula).

The Houses performed songs based on different styles of semi classical forms of Indian Music. Mahit House performed Kajri, Prasatti House performed Thumri, Daivik House performed Hori and Vinaya House performed Jhula song, These styles were chosen through a draw of lots by the House Coordinators. A percussion artist, Mr. Anuj Bhardwaj, accompanied the singers on the tabla thus enhancing our performance. The first position was won by Vinaya House and the second position was secured by Mahit House and in the third position was Daivik House. At the end of the event the Headmaster congratulated all participants and our parent guest, Mr. Aggarwal, also gave an honest feedback to the performers thus encouraging all to participate whole heartedly.

Aarini Mehta
Class VIII



A Match with a Purpose

A friendly cricket match was organised at The OASIS on 26th February, 2019. The OASIS team played against the students of Bajaj Institute of Learning. The captain of the host team won the toss and decided to bowl first. The opening batsmen of BIL went on to score a partnership of 27 runs in 4 over. They establish a target of 51 runs in 8 overs. Team OASIS showcased their strength at batting after showing their bowling abilities in the last innings and also played extremely well. Their run rate was very low. They were in a condition where they required 25 runs of the last two balls. They ended up with a score of 42 runs and lost by 9 runs. Both the teams played their best. Bajaj Institute of Learning won the match.

Congratulations BIL! We look forward to your next visit.

Staff Reporter



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