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Thanks to our Issue #2 contributors:

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MOTHER'S DAY

Motherhood is a tough, 24 hr job. There is no pay, no day off and is sometimes underappreciated. There came an invitation from DPS International School to join the celebrations for Mother's day at the school, to appreciate all mothers. It was on a Friday, 8th May 2015. I walked into the school premises with a lot of excitement. At the entrance of the school, two lovely children were standing to welcome all the mothers. They wished me “HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY”. In that moment, my heart filled with joy and my eyes filled with tears. With a warm heart, I thanked them.

I started walking towards the class room. There were three more pretty girls standing and holding kumkum and chocolates which they offered to me. By experiencing all this, I felt DPS is teaching our children the importance of Indian culture. The teachers were there to guide me to the class room. I entered my son’s class room and saw the delighted children who were elated to see their mothers.

The program started with short welcome speech by a little girl. All the children in the class had their own acts in expressing regards and love towards their Mothers. Children narrated Tamil and Hindi poems, they danced and also sang a song on Mothers. All this was followed by sharing greeting cards to all the mothers by their child. There were fun filled indoor and outdoor games and also a surprise activity for all mothers-- singing or dancing for their children! I sang a song that I used to sing for my son to make him sleep. All the Mothers danced and cheered for the children. The program ended with a photo session. It was great opportunity for me to meet my son’s classmates' mothers. I am very grateful and thank DPS and their staff for arranging such a wonderful function!

—Prabha, Mother of Sam Sajan (III D)
On 04/06/15 the kindergarteners of our school celebrated Fathers Day. Two programmes were organised; one by the children of the morning session and one by the evening session. There was a lot of dancing, singing and heart-warming poetry recitation!

The afternoon started off with all the students sitting down in rows in the canteen where microphones were set up on one side and a clearing was made for the children to sit. The programme was initiated by one of the teachers asking the kindergarteners why Fathers day was celebrated. The response put a smile on everyone’s faces—because we love our Father and should cherish them.

The teacher went on to tell the children how God made fathers—using the strength from the mountains, adding the majesty of a great tree, a lot of generosity of the earth, the warmth of the sun and the soul of a baby. The children sat and listened with their mouths wide open, awe spread all across their innocent faces. They cheered when they were told that their fathers are all Superheroes.

The event progressed with the a poem recited by the K1 and Nursery pupils. The little ones lined up before the microphones and started the recitation using hand gestures and adorable dance moves. This was followed by a solo song performance by Manha of K2A. Her love was powered through the song and everyone listening felt their hearts melt to the melody.

The programme concluded with a dance performance by the girls of K2A. The children were bursting with energy and were all smiles throughout the entire performance! The audience clapped along to the beats and the girls jumped, twirled and spun around in their formations.

It was amazing watching such a programme by the little ones. It is even more special and heat-warming because younger kids, though small in size, have the largest, purest hearts and love more than anyone else. Their love and affection for their fathers was portrayed beautifully through all the performances and the afternoon sun shone brighter, making the day happier and filled with more joy.

~Nikita Vattas, XI AL
VESAK DAY

The Literary and the Performing Arts Society put in their thoughts, research and creativity to present an assembly on 2nd June 2015 to commemorate Vesak Day.

Two weeks prior to this, a poetry competition was organized by the Literary Society for the senior school in which the participants were required to weave their knowledge and ideas of Buddha in a poetic creation of their own. It was overwhelming to witness numerous budding poets enthusiastically submit their literary pieces. To acclaim the students’ efforts, the Vesak Day Assembly commenced with the recital of the top three short-listed poems and an introduction on the significance of the day. These were followed by a skit and short dance thoroughly rehearsed and presented by the Performing Arts Society. Students of classes 7, 8, 10 and 11 portrayed the story of Prince Siddhartha’s awakening to the pain and suffering that prevailed among the common man beyond the palace walls and his journey towards attaining salvation. The character of Buddha was brilliantly enacted by Rishith of 8 ICSE.

The actors played their respective characters with genuineness and credibility, and the background music was played by some of the talented student musicians themselves. The act drew to an end with a series of graceful, classical dance gestures to represent the denotations of the eight spokes of Buddha’s ‘Dharma Chakra’. These are the eight morals a human must inculcate to attain salvation.

The event was an enriching experience for both the audience and the participants. It not only enabled us to groom the artists hidden in us, but also taught us more about a culture and religion that is a minority in India. The aim of the event was to instill the values of tolerance and acceptance of various cultural and religious sects in us all, and we strongly believe the purpose was served.

~Vinuthna Kovvuri, XI AL
VESAK DAY POEMS

Born in a royal family,
Siddhartha had all worldly pleasures,
Though prisoned inside his palace,
Like all the precious treasures.

A saint he will become,
Said his future’s paint.
He will be begging on the streets,
Instead of enjoying a royal treat.

When he got a chance,
He stepped out to take a worldly glance.
When he saw all the human suffering
He couldn’t rest until he bought this to an end
He gave up all he had,
And dressed in robes and rags,
Devoted his life into meditation,
To obtain salvation,
And on one night at Bodh Gaya,
As he sat in deep meditation under a pipal tree,
He attained Nirvana,
And came to be known as Buddha,
“The Enlightened One”.

-Sneha Krishna Kumar , XI-IGCSE

They Marched down the road
In files of three.
Carrying guns and weapons,
With an air of destruction.
Demolishing everything in their path;
They head to the Buddhas of Bamiyan.
Reaching the clouds,
The statues represent our faith.
Evil tries hard to destroy our belief.
But guns and dynamite cannot break down our spirit.
It is stronger than the statues and our hopes are higher than them.

-Vaishali, XII ISC
One feather on a wire,
Prophesied to be,
A great king thee,
Or a military leader.
One thing which was hidden,
A great spiritual leader born,
The holy man stated,
Oh how true it was.
Stuck in castle,
Surrounded by misery and loneliness,
Never knew hardships,
But only opulence.
How sweet freedom tastes,
Beyond the palace walls,
But shocked and horrified,
By the sight though.

All people age,
A diseased and a dead man,
The sufferings of the world.
Meditating nearby,
An ascetic in penance,
Renounced the world,
To release from human fear.
Filled with grief,
Upon seeing these sights,
The next day indeed,
Was a moment to believe.
The feather floated from the palace,
To find a way,
For human peace and universal joy.

Bearing the hardships,
Staying dedicated,
However did not find,
The path for the quest.
Satisfaction never acquired,
Fasting added to pain,
A bowl of rice offered,
By a young girl.
Realisation occurred,
Physical constraints,
Would never help,
To achieve spiritual release.
The tree gained,
An eternal wonder,
As the truths revealed,
And minds purified.

The moment of enlightenment,
Answers to sufferings sought,
A radiant light,
He is awake.
The first sermon included,
Four noble truths,
All pillars of the religion,
Barriers overcome.
Everyone followed,
Souls washed away,
Rage and jealousy vanished,
Justice was given.
An influence in the world,
A jewel among history,
Teachings very rare and special,
Only Buddha could.

"Manasi, XII IG"
ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environmental Day was celebrated with tremendous enthusiasm on the 5th of June at our school. A series of enjoyable and engaging events was organized by our beloved environmental management teacher Mrs. Konkana Bhattacharyya and students of 9 IG.

The day started with a beautiful motto of 'Think, Eat and Save'. Pupils were encouraged to wear earthly colored shirts - blue, green, yellow and brown. The children of class 4 and 5 had a card making competition with an exploratory topic 'Save the world'. Delightful and artistic skills were portrayed by them in their wonderful and colorful cards with different perspectives on saving our disappearing resources.

A thrilling quiz was organized by the students of 9 IC for the little masterminds of class 6.

An treasure hunt had been organized by the students of 9 IG and 9IC for classes 7 and above. The action packed treasure hunt involved hunting around the school in search of the treasure. A debate was organized for class 8 IC and 8 IG by their seniors. The engrossing event had a series of topics which gave rise to a friendly yet competitive debate.

Environment day was a call to save our mother earth. A plea. I am sure that one day our combined efforts will definitely restore the balance and peace once in abundance on mother earth.

~ Tanisha Sehgal, X IG
One of the most anticipated events, the Senior Soccer match, took place after weeks of training and hard work. Before the series of matches began, the four teams were all briefed on the basic rules by our coach and the referee for the match, Julius sir.

Similar to the junior soccer match this too was a league tournament; where every team would face each other. The tension in the air could be strongly felt, that excitement amongst the students and the players. Everyone was cheering for their house at the top of their lungs with so much enthusiasm. It was enough to start a fire in the hearts of the players to play with their heart and soul, and bag the trophy for their house.

The competition started with Lake playing against Glacier, followed by Oasis against Spring. players of all the houses were pumped up. Glacier and Oasis breezed through and made it to the finals. Spring and Lake, however, didn’t lose hope. they still had to fight for the 3rd position. And after an intense battle Spring secured the 3rd position.

Now was the match everyone was waiting for. The final. Oasis against Glacier.

With an outstanding performance by the star player Dhruv and his team mates, Oasis house won. With great defenders and an exceptional goalie, scoring against Oasis was tough. The messiah’s of the desert, won again.

~Shrish Roy, XI AL
INTERHOUSE BASKETBALL SR.

29th May 2015. The Interhouse Basketball Match. There was thrill, excitement and nervousness in the air. Classes 7 to 12 had the opportunity to witness the most awaited, captivating event of the month. Each player was full of fire and fury.

The event had started with the Student Council members explaining the dos and don’ts of the match. The first match was to be between Lake and Spring house, followed by Glacier and Oasis. Spring house had won the match against Lake while Glacier won against oasis.

The anxiety level of the teams was climbing as high as the Prudential Tower and serious discussions were being done amongst the teams.

Few minutes later, the teams from Lake and Glacier were called. Lake had. On the other hand, in the match against Spring and Oasis, Spring had won.

This was followed by a match between Lake and Oasis and between Spring and Glacier.

Overall, Spring had won all the 3 matches, Lake had won 2 and Glacier won 1 match.

So in conclusion, Spring and Lake were playing for the first and second position while Glacier and Oasis were playing for the third and fourth position.

The matches were to be continued after lunch break. The mechanical ticking of the second hand of the stop watch which echoed in the players minds made their nerves shoot up.

With the break over, the match continued with Oasis and Glacier playing first followed by Lake and Spring.

At the end of the matches, Oasis took the fourth position followed by Glacier in the third position. Lake came in second and Spring secured the first position.

It was a euphoric moment of victory for Spring house.

The event was exhilarating and enjoyable, for the players and the audience. The house captains look forward to such exciting events in the future.

—Pallavi Sharma, XI AL
"Spring House lifts the trophy!"

That feeling where your stomach has a million butterflies fluttering within it, your mind racing with thoughts – overthinking, your palms sweaty and your heart thumping; and yet somewhere inside there’s a burst of optimism, of hope and promise, like your heart is beating, beating for your team, your mind racing in anxiety and excitement – yes, that mixture of intense emotions is what every team-player at DPS goes through, the morning of Sports Day.

Over a months worth of planning and practice, Captains, Co-Captains, Vice-Captains and wardens scouting for their best players of sport and cheerleaders – on the tracks and off it, be it cheering your heart out from the stands or dancing and waving the flag high for your team on the field; to event planning form venues, to music, catering, emcees and other logistics, promotions and posters; or the preparations for the School march Past display – a lot of work was to be done.

Having been Captain of the previous champions, Glacier House I can say that the time around sports day, is an experience, which changes every year, but never fails to make you nostalgic on looking back at how things played out. Be it running around to catch hold of your star athletes, the long and difficult selection process, strategizing, or the scouting for cheerleaders and poster making, to the painfully extended March Past practices. Perhaps it’s feeling like
you belong to a part of a larger family, where each individual’s contributions matter, or maybe the ability to openly support and be supported not by one, but hundreds of supporters, or the passion that brims in sporting events. It’s the time of the year where an entire school comes together – from Kindergarten to Secondary school – to work hand in hand, for each other and the glory of their teams in a healthy competition. Where the seniors rise up to the occasion, and juniors eagerly waiting to be trained and inspired. Where the teachers and students work together mentor and guide their teams to victory.

On the hot, Saturday morning of 25th July, 2015, a quiet, and empty Bishan stadium, quickly filled up with eager parents and excited participants. The day began with a well conducted March Past by the Student Council and Senior Contingents of the four houses – Glacier, Lake, Oasis and Spring. Marching in neat rows and columns to the beats of the School Band, in a display of discipline and order. The four Contingents had to display their best, for the March Past was a competitive event, that Team Glacier won took home the best March Past trophy yet again – for the third consecutive year!

All participants took an oath of sportsmanship and fair play, and the Sports Meet 2015, was declared open by the chief guest, Mr Soma Prasad, Country head for SBI Bank. With the raising of the balloons by our beloved Principal, the teams were ready to compete and win those points for their house.

Starting with the little kindergarteners who stole the hearts of many by making their cute finish and smiling all the way along – to the primary students who worked hard and in teams in their shuttle and hurdle races to win those medals and make their teams proud – the parents who took part in the novelty events, made all of us students proud to be part of a larger family of PT Ushas and Milkha Singhs!

Our enthusiastic cheerleaders kept the spirits up, by cheering to catchy tunes and cheered out slogans that soon became the jingles for every house!

Before any of us knew it, the time had passed us by, and it was time for the most awaited results – who would be the ultimate champions? Who would take home the coveted champions trophy? The stadium fell silent, the audience and teams anxiously awaiting the final verdict. And the winner is.....Spring House!

Spring House turn tables around from the bottom to the top of the charts, it was truly a glorious year, a moment of pride for all Spring team-mates who worked hard together to bring their team ahead. Following Spring, with a close margin, team Glacier, team Oasis, and finally, team Lake.

With that, the prize distribution ceremony had begun, and we saw all our athletes take home medals that glinted off broad smiles and pride in having contributed to their house. Sports day has always taught us to take winning and losing in the same spirit, and that working as a team is most important for success. It was heartening to see all participants keep true to their oath of sportsmanship and fair play. The event would not have been a success without an entire schools co-operation – the admin, staff, faculty, sports and event co-ordinators, student council, and all teams. It was a thrilling day for everyone, and it was sad that it was over so quick, but it has left us all with new energy and excitement for the next sports meet!

~Krithika Lakshmi, XI AL