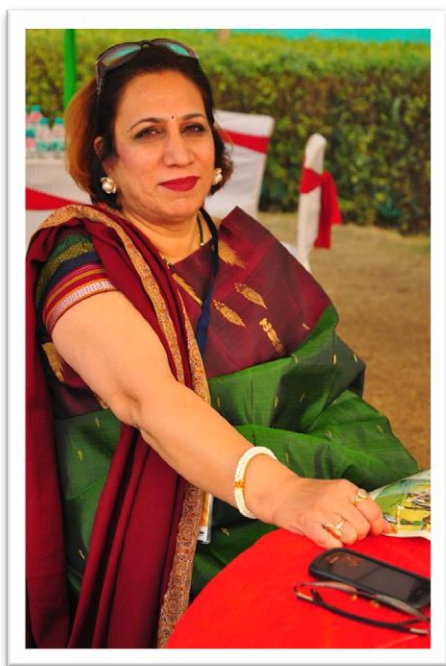


March 2015

DR NEETA BALI TAKES OVER AS HEAD OF KĀSIGA SCHOOL



Dr Neeta Bali took over as the Head of Kāsiga School on January 15, 2015. With over 30 years of achievement and experience in developing a student centric environment geared towards maximizing learning experiences, Dr Bali is a dedicated, resourceful educational professional with proven ability to create and maintain practices and policies that create a conducive environment for learning and open-minded communication with colleagues, students and community. Her

forte' has been building student centered institutions, programme development for CBSE, ICSE, ISC, IGCSE, IB-PYP and IB-DP as well as CIE AS and A levels, individualized instructional plans, excellence in co-scholastic activities, training and development of staff, budgeting and forecasting, educational administration and fostering the spirit of international mindedness.

Her career trajectory include a stint as Head of Department, English for 18 years with the Mater Dei School in Delhi, 6 years with the Apeejay School, NOIDA as Vice-Principal and heading the G D Goenka World School for over six and a half years -a boarding school with residential boarders from 39 countries. On board and as a Principal, the wellbeing of boarders and supervision of Pastoral team was under her purview. She believes in building and integrating a culture of International Mindedness, which she accomplished in collaboration with agencies like The British Council. She initiated and facilitated the securing of the International School Award for the years 2013-16 during her previous assignment, a prestigious award that is given to schools for fostering international mindedness. She also initiated international exchange with the Oban High School in Scotland and immersion programmes with French schools. She is of the conviction that any good educationist should be able to set high benchmarks for an institution and raise the bar.

She holds a postgraduate degree in English Literature and is an alumnus of Miranda House, University of Delhi in addition to two other postgraduate degrees in Education Management, Counselling and Psychotherapy and Doctorate in Counselling Psychology as well as a Bachelors in Education from the prestigious Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi. She has attended and conducted numerous training sessions in International educational pedagogy apart from being trained as an expert for "Sakshat programme" by CBSE. Various awards conferred on her include – A certificate from the British Council Certificate commending nurturing the spirit of International mindedness in school in the year 2013, 'Inspiring Educator's Award' received from Dr. Kiran Bedi in 2013, 'Outstanding Teacher Award - Rotary Club in 2005, "Mahila Rattan Award" by Solidarity Council in 2012, Best Educationist Award by Indian Productivity Council in 2012, Star of Asia Award in 2012 and an award for "Promoting Excellence in Education" from Dr G V G Krishnamurthy, former Election Commissioner in 2014.

Her other achievements include developing Teacher Training Modules for Apeejay Education Society, development for teachers' resource books, co-authoring series of books for Value Education for Apeejay Education Society, Head Examinership – Grade X, CBSE Examination for two years as well as Head Examinership for class 12, English, CBSE. She has authored a book of Essays for Madhuban books and in 2014; she authored a series of Grammar books for renowned Publishers, Frank Educational Aids. She believes that each child holds a latent spark which only needs to be kindled into a fire through a conducive environment. According to her, Kāsiga #boardingSchool, with a fabulous infrastructure and excellent faculty holds great promise as one of the leading Educational Institutions in the country and with concerted efforts of all

stakeholders, she envisages a great future for the institution

WELCOME TO THE KĀSIGA FAMILY!

- Kāsiga warmly welcomes the following staff members:
- Bursar- Mr. Shariq Sayeed
- Ms. Alka Patta, Head of Admissions and Marketing
- Ms. Mansi Singh, HR Manager
- Mr. Sunil Kumar Jain, Head of Pastoral and Physics Teacher
- Ms. Rachna Bhatt, Secretary to Head of School
- Mr. Aji Kumar, Economics Teacher
- Mr. Desmond Davies, English Teacher
- Mr. G. Salil Kumar, Social Science Teacher and RT of Red House
- Mr. Dominic Heldt, English Teacher
- Mr. Akashdeep Tiwari and Mr. Umesh Prasad, Lab Assistants
- Mr. Anand Tiwari, Assistant Catering Manager

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ENJOY A PICNIC AT BUDDHA PARK, DEHRADUN.....

The students of middle school were treated to a picnic at the Buddha Park in Clement Town on February 13, 2015. The sanctity of the well maintained park and its serene



surroundings was appreciated by all. The

prayer wheels in the gardens and the grandeur of the temple complex was simply overwhelming. The students were given light snacks before commencing with the interactive games. They were accompanied by 8 staff members, 2 security personnel and a nurse. Lunch was served at 2:00 pm. After a group photograph, the students boarded the buses and reached school by 4:00 pm. The following day a few prizes were given to some deserving students. The entire experience was exhilarating for the students.



Spring Bird Festival - A Student's Perspective:

On 6th Feb a group of 22 students and 3 teachers went to the Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve for the 2nd Spring Bird Festival. It was spread across different locations in the reserve and some outside it. We stayed in the village of Chhoti Haldwani.

The next day we went to the Corbett Museum, which was built by Jim Corbett for his use in the winter months when his main home in Nainital was snow bound. There, we met our guide, Mrs. Anchal Sondhi who briefed us on the art of birdwatching.

We went on 2 different trails and a heritage walk along the canal of Kaladhungi where we saw the old iron foundries.

We also had an opportunity to visit the exhibitions and stalls at Chunakhan. The kiosks there showcased local agricultural

produce, handicrafts and provided information on ecological conservation efforts in India. A lot of mementoes were also on sale, the proceeds from which were to be used to fund conservation projects.

We spotted and catalogued birds of many species- Rose Ringed Parakeets, Black Drongos, Crested Serpent Eagle, Velvet Fronted Nuthatches, Jungle Babblers and many other species. Through this trip we got to know about birds and nature more than we had ever thought of. This was an enriching experience and we would like to go on more trips like this.
-Kumaraditya Gupta, Grade VIII



WORKSHOP-‘NOBODY UNDERSTANDS ME’ AND DRUG ABUSE

Conducted by School Life Skill Counselor and Child Protection Officer

On the 6th of February, a workshop was conducted for the pupils of Classes 9-12 of the CIE program

entitled 'Nobody Understands Me.' The Life Skill Counselor and Child Protection Officer both screened Power Point presentations for



the pupils which visually highlighted the various issues under discussion. The workshop dealt with major concerns of adolescence, self-awareness and handling relationships. There were group activities on



self-awareness. The pupils were provided with hand outs and they were given hypothetical situations for role play on drug abuse.

The pupils gained some insight into their persona and how others perceive them as well as the stress on a drug-free environment.

“Space Suits and Human Exploration of Space”

A presentation was held in the Cambridge Hall on 5th February, 2015 by Ms. Heather Paul, Space Suit Designer from NASA, USA on the subject “Space Suits and Human Exploration of Space”. Ms. Paul is the lead engineer for the future space suit life support system design that will circulate oxygen for breathing and space suit pressurization, and will also control carbon dioxide and humidity levels. During the presentation Ms. Paul explained the evolution of space suit design over the ages. She took the students through three of the space missions (Mercury, Gemini and Apollo) and explained how the various problems caused in one mission led to the modifications in the space suit design which was tested in the next mission. She involved

the students in various exercises which helped them understand the constraints faced by astronauts, such as limited movement, visor fogging, extreme temperatures and how certain modifications to the space suit design helped them overcome those constraints.

She displayed packaged space-food to the audience which garnered great curiosity. She also emphasized the importance of the ‘scientific method’, which she uses in her work, and showed the students that we use the scientific method in our daily lives without even realizing it. The students of class VI to XI attended the presentation and gained immense knowledge about space missions and the design of space suits. She encouraged the students to think about space sciences and technology as a career option and stressed the importance of women embracing technical careers.

The presentation was also attended by a group of students from The Doon School.

At the conclusion of the presentation Ms. Paul interacted with the students and answered many of their questions.





KĀSIGA BIDS ADIEU TO GRADUATING CLASS OF

2013 -15

Graduation Day was celebrated in Kāsiga School, in Dehradun with great fanfare on the evening of 20th of February 2015. The atmosphere of the school reverberated with an air of celebration and nostalgia, with the students of class XI, leaving no stone unturned, to honour their seniors. The bestselling author, leadership mentor and international speaker, Mr Jagmohan Bhanwer was the Chief Guest on this momentous occasion. Other eminent guests who graced the occasion were The Chairman of Kāsiga School, Mr. Ramesh



Batta, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Poonam Batta, Director Finance and administration, Mr. Siddharth Batta, Director Welfare, Mrs. Chandni Batta. The evening commenced with the lighting of the inaugural lamp, by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries escorted by the Head of School Dr Neeta Bali. The mellifluous

chanting of the Gayatri Mantra, infused everyone with a positive energy. The august gathering was addressed by the versatile School Captain, Stephen Irom Gatphoh. Two budding guitarists



Neerav Sharma and Sarthak Bista, delighted the audience, with a medley of songs played effortlessly. The Head Boy addressed the gathering, sharing his nostalgic experience at Kāsiga. It was virtually an absolute honour and privilege to hear the renowned author, share his thoughts and experiences with the faculty and students. It was an awe inspiring moment for students who listened in rapt attention. The Graduating students were presented with souvenirs by the Chief Guest. The Head of School, Dr Neeta Bali initiated the solemn ceremony, by giving the symbolic light, to the School Captain, Head Boy and Head Girl. In accordance with the school tradition, the light was passed into the hands of, the other students. A vote of thanks was expressed, to all the distinguished guests, parents, staff and students who ensured that the ceremony was a grand success. The much anticipated evening concluded with a grand dinner, organized by the management, for the guests, parents and students. As a mark of honour for the renowned author, Rupa Publications organized a display of his literary achievements, which showcased all his works. It was an absolute delight for the students, to receive an autographed book of such a profound writer.

Student Achievers at Kāsiga!

Two students of Kāsiga School have proved their mettle at the interstate soccer tournament for boys hosted by Sports and Youth Department of Haryana. They have received merit certificates for their exemplary performance. At another state level rural competition for the year 2014~2015 Mohit Chauhan and Nishant Chauhan both received a certificate of merit each at the tournament held from 21st Dec~23rd Dec under the ‘AGEIS of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan’.

Nishant Chauhan also represented the Haryana state at National Rural state competitions held at Karnataka from Jan 1st~Jan 4th 2015.

Kāsiga School is proud of the boys!



Reader of the Month

As part of the reading programme the reader of the month has been introduced to encourage the students to develop the habit of reading and lead them into the magical world of words.

The winners are:

Vansh Garg- Junior School
Siddhant Bhatt- Middle School
Muskan Shrestha- Senior School

UPGRADATION OF THE LIBRARY

Ms. Chingakham L. Devi and Ms. Anita Roy attended the World Book Fair in New Delhi and bought a number of books covering a variety of topics.

Examination Fever.....

Days of fun and frolic are over and the students are now busy preparing for the final exams. Kāsiga wishes all its students the very best of luck.

A special prayer for the students of class 10 and 12 CBSE who are appearing for their boards. We know they will bring laurels to the School and their families.

GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS!

Teacher In-charge : *Anita Roy & Natasha Verma*