



ECHOES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

“Afoot and light hearted I take to the open road, healthy, free, the world before me”

- Walt Whitman

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings from Kasiga School! It gives me immense pleasure to share the April 2016 Newsletter with you. For us, April marks the beginning of a new session for most of our students, barring CIE. It also exemplifies beginning of a new innings with fervour and gusto.

April has been a really eventful month with activities and programmes encompassing both the curricular as well as co-curricular fields. We arranged treks and excursions for the students just before the start of the new academic session and it provided them some essential lessons in life skills. We warmly welcomed a large number of new students to the Kasiga family. We also had the opportunity to interact and share ideas with the students and teachers from Wasatch Academy, a renowned school in Utah, U.S.A with whom we have signed a ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ (MOU) last year. Our students had a wonderful and enriching experience, working in collaboration with their counterparts from U.S.A. This month also witnessed the 1st All India P.C Batta Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament, hosted by us. It was an overwhelmingly success and Kasiga School finished as the Runners Up.

We continue to count on the encouragement and support from all parents to bolster our efforts to scale greater heights.

- Dr Neeta Bali

Head of School

TREKS 2016

Trekking expeditions were organised by Kasiga School in association with INME, who are renowned all over India for their efficiency in this field. The students were categorised class-wise and sent to five different venues across Uttarakhand -namely, Dhanulti, Dugadda, Tons, Nagtibba, and Kedarkanta/Talukatal. The trekking programme was aimed at not only developing the physical prowess of the students but also inculcating values of harmonious co-existence in them. It was a much needed break for them and also an opportunity to bond with their peers as well as teachers who accompanied them. This experience proved rejuvenating for them and they returned to school fresh and ready to face a new academic session with renewed vigour.



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME 2016-2017



Kasiga School organized the orientation programme for new students and their parents on Thursday, the 7th of April, 2016. All new members joining the Kasiga family were warmly welcomed at the ceremony held in the foyer. The pleasant winds and balmy weather added a touch of magic to the salubrious surroundings in which the new students and parents found themselves ensconced. They seemed happy and eager to familiarize themselves better with the institution they were going to be a part of.



In keeping with tradition, the ceremony started with the lighting of the lamp by the Head of School Dr. Neeta Bali, the Deputy Head Mrs. Nalilni Pathak, Head of Boarding Mr. Suneel Jain and the Bursar Mr. Shariq Sayeed. The recital of the shloka, '*Vakratunda Mahakaya*' in the background enhanced the solemnity of the occasion. This was followed by the Head of School, Dr. Bali, addressing the audience about why '*Learning is a Celebration*' at Kasiga School. After highlighting the USP of the school which is intensive, personalized attention to every student, she went on to speak about the school's Scholarship Programme and the Teacher Training Programmes that are vital to the teaching learning process that happens in as well as outside of class rooms. She concluded by reiterating the importance of holistic education that goes a long way in shaping the future of our students and moulding them into responsible citizens of tomorrow.

The Deputy Head then apprise the gathering about the school's co-curricular programmes, sports, clubs and a plethora of other activities. The Head of Boarding, while explaining the pastoral structure, spoke about the bonhomie and close bonding that students share in their dorms.

It is believed that knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire. Kasiga endeavours to help students in their quest for knowledge for which it engages some of the most qualified and experienced staff members who were introduced to the new students and their parents. Once the introduction was done, the forum was opened to answer any queries that the parents still

had about life at Kasiga. The senior management team fielded parental concerns regarding how to communicate with their children, handling medical emergencies, extra help in academics and subject choices in both CIE and CBSE curriculum.

The orientation was concluded by taking parents on a guided tour of the school followed by a sumptuous lunch. Later in the evening, an ice-breaking session was held at the Palm Court, wherein the new students were engaged in various interesting games and activities that helped them in breaking their inhibitions and developing camaraderie with each other. By dinner time, the new students had become completely familiar with their new surroundings and moved around the campus with comfort and confidence, with inquisitiveness leading them on.

THE ALL INDIA P.C BATTA MEMORIAL CRICKET TOURNAMENT

When the whole nation was already revelling in the IPL fever, Kasiga School Dehradun also launched its maiden initiative to host a 'Twenty Twenty Inter School Cricket Tournament—the 'All India P.C.Batta Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament 2016 on Sunday,17th April.



It was the brainchild of Kasiga School Chairman Mr. Ramesh Batta who dedicated the tournament in fond memory of his late father Shri Prakash Chand Batta. Mr. Batta very rightly pointed out “What we are today is because of our parents. It is they who moulded and transformed us into who and what we are today.” This was the inspiration to conduct the tournament and encourage the sport to provide an enviable platform for young budding cricketers to showcase their talent.

This grand competition featured 12 teams from the states of Uttarakhand, Delhi, Punjab, UP and Haryana who vied for the coveted title of being the champions of the prestigious All India P.C. Batta Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament. . The first match in the morning

session was between two very competitive teams, Col. Brown, Dehradun and Woodstock, Mussorie. Woodstock won the toss and elected to field. Col. Brown was bundled out for a paltry aggregate of 96 runs and Woodstock chased down the total without much fuss at the loss of 4 wickets. The second fixture in the afternoon session was an equally rollicking prospect, to say the least where Indian Public School took on the Selaqui International. Indian Public School won the toss and batted. They managed to score a decent 127 but they were completely outplayed by Selaqui International who chased down the total in 10.5 overs at the loss of 2 wickets. The third day of the 1st All India P.C. Batta Memorial Inter School Tournament was a treat for cricket lovers of Kasiga School. Both the matches lived upto the expectations of the audience. The first match was a faceoff between Kasiga and Woodstock. Kasiga, having won the toss, elected to bat. They ended up with a fighting total of 155 from 20 overs at the loss of 5 wickets. Woodstock were bundled out for a paltry 94, thanks to a very disciplined bowling performance by Kasiga students. This victory ensured that Kasiga reached the semifinals. The next match between RIMC and IPS was also equally entertaining. RIMC won the toss and managed to score a decent 135. IPS only managed to score 112 in 20 overs. 20th April 2016, the fourth day of the All India P.C. Batta Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament was a mixed bag of experiences as far as the quality of the matches was concerned. MPS Meerut won the toss and elected to bat hoping to put up a fighting total but they were bowled out for just 96 in just 17.4 overs. Although PPS Nabha had just 96 runs to score from 20 overs, they chased down the total in 9.2 overs with a brilliant display of aggressive batting. PPS Nabha won by 7 wickets. The next match between St. Sophia Delhi and WPS Mohali almost turned out to be a one sided match as St. Sophia won the match hands down. Having won the toss, St. Sophia elected to bat and scored 173. WPS Mohali succumbed to the brilliant bowling performance of the opponents and was bundled out within 12 overs for just 50 runs. St. Sophia won the match by a staggering margin of 123 runs. As the mercury kept soaring, things heated up in Kasiga on the 5th day of the All India P.C. Batta Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament.



The first match was between SD School Delhi and St. Sophia Delhi. St. Sophia Delhi won the toss and chose to bat and managed to post a respectable 149 SD School Delhi felt short of the target by 24 runs. The second match was between Meerut Public School and M.A.M.S. Meerut Public School won the toss and chose to bat. M.A.M.S notched up a score of 122. MPS chased down the total in 10.3 overs. The 6th day of the All India P.C. Batta Memorial Inter school Cricket Tournament turned out to be a mind boggling experience. The first match was between Y.P.S Mohali and S.D School Delhi. Y.P.S Mohali won the toss and chose to bat. They were bowled out within 17 overs for a paltry 76. The target was reached with 5 overs to spare. This victory ensured that S.D Delhi got themselves a berth in the semi-finals. The second match was between PPS Nabha and M.A.M.S. Having won the toss, PPS Nabha scored a staggering 211; PPS Nabha was bundled out within 15 overs. PPS Nabha won the match by a whopping 148 runs. The 7th day of the All India P.C. Batta Memorial Tournament witnessed two champion teams stamp their authority on the opposition teams. The outcome of both the games played today ensured that the match played in the final would be worthy of the occasion.

The 7th day of the All India P.C. Batta Memorial Tournament witnessed two champion teams stamp their authority on the opposition teams. The outcome of both the games played ensured that the match played in the final would be worthy of the occasion. The first match was between S.D Delhi and PPS Nabha. S.D Delhi won the toss and elected to bat first, but they were bowled out for a paltry 70 runs. PPS Nabha chased down the target in a mere 8.5 overs. Their overwhelming victory over S.D Delhi ensured that they stormed into the finals with aplomb. The second match turned out to be an absolute thriller, as both the teams refused to yield till the last ball of the match. The match was between Kasiga and R.I.M.C . Kasiga won the toss and elected to bat but managed to score only 140. R.I.M.C fell short of the target by mere 2 runs.

The closing day of the All India P.C. Batta Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament ended with the enthralling finals which kept everybody on tenterhooks till the very last ball, the equally grand arrangements ensured the success of this novel initiative by the Kasiga Management. The final match was a faceoff between Kasiga School and PPS Nabha. After having won the toss, Kasiga chose to bat and were bowled out for 129. PPS Nabha chased down the target in 19 overs.



The two teams were lined up after the match and were congratulated for competing hard as well as upholding the spirit of the game in the best possible manner. PPS Nabha lifted the trophy and one can say without a shade of doubt that they richly deserved it.

In his address to the gathering, the Chief Guest , Mr.Ashok Kumar said it was a privilege for him to be present at such a momentous occasion . He added that he was confident this legacy would continue in many more years to come. The Head of School, Dr. Neeta Bali said the tournament had progressed in the right spirit. It had been possible only because of the facilities, infrastructure and moral support provided by the Chairman and the co-operation of the teaching and non-teaching staff. She emphasised it was the culmination of the Chairman Mr.Ramesh Batta's vision and desire, adding that it would only get better in the years to come.



Anyone who witnessed the tournament from its very inception will certainly feel that Kasiga has opened up a new horizon, an enticing avenue for the society, an attempt that will continue to endure for many more years to come.

KASIGA STUDENTS SHINE AT UNDER- 15 NATIONAL TALENT HUNT FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2016

The soccer team of Kasiga School played for Dehradun District, against Haridwar District and won by 5 to 1. Six players from the Soccer Team from Kasiga School have been selected for the National Camp. The matches were organized and played on the Kasiga School Football Field. The following students were selected for the National Camp :

1. NEERAV SHARMA NEPALI
2. STANZIN CHOSLDAN
3. MANISH KUMAR SINGH
4. PRASHANT TULADHAR

5. QAISAR MUSTAFA

6. NISHANT CHAUHAN



KASIGA STUDENT DECLARED PROMISING SPEAKER AT ENGLISH DEBATE

On the 16th of April, Kasiga School participated in the 3rd T.W.Phillips Debate Competition at Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie. Fifteen schools took part in the event comprising some of the most famous schools like Woodstock, Sherwood College, MIS etc. Kasiga was represented by Kumaraditya Gupta, Sarvesa R Thapa and Palash Tyagi who put their best foot forward. Kumaraditya was adjudged one of the most promising speakers. It was a wonderful learning experience for the students.



CAMBRIDGE EDUCATION GROUP VISIT KĀSIGA SCHOOL

On the 7th of April 2016, a team from Cambridge Education Group visited Kāsiga School in order to apprise students about higher education opportunities in the U.S.A and Amsterdam. The team comprising of Mr. William McGiver and Mr. Karan Kumar addressed the students of A and AS level along with the students of CBSE class XII. The session was organized by the Career Counselling Department of Kasiga School comprising Dr. Neeta Bali, the Head of School along with Mr. Aji Kumar and Ms. Parul Singh. CEG runs On Campus programmes in the University of North Texas, State University of New York, University of Boston, California State University, University of London and the University of Amsterdam. The key points of the programme are -

- Assistance in intake to these universities for undergraduate programmes
- Availability of scholarships (up to 30%)
- Preparation for a foundation course in order to merge into the main undergraduate programme
- Facility of transfer after the completion of 1 year/ 2 years of the said undergraduate programme.



CEG devotes itself to providing every imaginable support to the students in order to help them achieve their full potential.

KASIGA - WASATCH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



They say there is no better way of learning than through interaction, socialising and collaboration. This guiding principle had prompted Kasiga School to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Wasatch Academy, Utah, the United States on 18th May, 2015 about initiating a learning exchange programme.



Since then students and faculty members of both the institutions have been co-ordinating and collaborating with each other to define the strategies to translate this idea into a reality. 4 students, two faculty members and the Head of School represented the Wasatch Academy while 16 students under the guidance of Ms. Anita Roy and few other faculty members represented Kasiga. The programme kick-started on 27th April, 2016 with a heart warming welcome of the members of the Wasatch Academy. The guests were given a floral welcome by the students of Kasiga followed by application of tika on their foreheads. They were treated with laddoos and a hymn followed shortly. A beautiful Kathak performance and an equally mellifluous Korean composition left the guests speechless and breathless. The assembly was brought to a close with students and teachers from both Wasatch Academy and Kasiga School speaking on various projects and the importance of this programme. The Head of School of Wasatch Academy, Mr. Joseph Loftin shared his insights about this novel attempt stressing on the need for creating a universal platform for showcasing talent and exchanging of ideas, irrespective of geographical boundaries. The Head of School of Kasiga, Dr. Neeta Bali also emphasized the need to cultivate a culture of togetherness, international mindedness and unity to ensure the success of such exchange programmes. After the assembly the students attended a guest lecture by Dr. Nirupama Dhiman, Assistant Professor of MET Noida who spoke about Spectroscopy and its application in daily life. Later in the day a trip to Parmarth Ashram in Hrishikesh was planned, an experience that left everybody asking for more.



Day two of the Wasatch Learning Exchange Programme started with a lip-smacking breakfast followed by a visit to the Purkul Youth Development Society (PYDS). They were shown around the society and were intimated with the history of the society----how it was built to help the underprivileged children and empower women. The students of Grade 1 then enacted three scenes of the legendary Indian epic, the Ramayana which fascinated and enthralled the American students. There they also saw their technology lab and took an immediate liking to it; they couldn't help buying a few artefacts. After the visit to PYDS, they were taken to the Forest Research Institute (FRI), where they were shown 5 different museums. The number of exhibits

along with their variety left the Wasatch Academy students awestruck. In a wonderful attempt to forge a sense of bonding and bring out the playful side of one and all, the Wasatch Academy students were given a chance to get involved in the evening games. Later in the evening, a theatre session was arranged by Miss Nidhi Pathak in collaboration with Mrs. Sharmila Bhartari to enlighten the students about the flavours of theatre and drama.

The third day started with the students and teachers of both the institutions speaking about all their respective projects. This was followed by a visit to Shakya Temple and Sai Temple and the very well known Paltan Bazar. The members could not resist buying some ethnic clothes from Fab India and Khadi Haat. The best part of the day was the Fusion Music Jam Session in the evening which witnessed students and teachers both wooing the audience with their mind boggling performances. Mr. Joseph Loftin said he had witnessed something phenomenal and incredible. He applauded Dr. Neeta Bali and his team for making it possible. The Head of School, Dr. Neeta Bali asserted that she took pride in training and mentoring students with such a wide spectrum of skills with the aid of her excellent team of faculty members.



The final day of the Wasatch Learning Exchange Programme witnessed a completely different flavour---the Cross Country Run where students of all ages including the Wasatch programme participated enthusiastically. Nile House was adjudged the winner of the event. In his parting speech, Mr. Loftin asserted that any kind of sport is just more than a game---something which tests one's grit and stamina. The Head of School added to Mr. Loftin's words saying that the energy level of the students was infectious and she hoped that it was just the beginning of a glorious journey ahead.

The Wasatch programme forged a sense of bonding, togetherness and created a haven of fulfillment. It turned out to be a splendid idea as it brought the teacher and the taught close enough to obliterate the boundaries of age, experience and skill.

CROSS COUNTRY RUN BY KASIGA SCHOOL STUDENTS

It is truly believed that the foundations for successful and fulfilling lives are laid in the school. This brings into perspective the paramount importance of sports and games in student life. Any kind of sport blends exercise with thrill, excitement and sensation. One such exciting sport is running. It is considered to be one of the most ancient and traditional disciplines this world has seen, and undeniably the best sport. The Cross Country Race organised by Kasiga School had students of all ages participating.



The programme started with the flagging off by the Guest of Honour , Mr. Joseph Loftin, Head of School, Wasatch Academy, USA , invited to the event by Dr Neeta Bali, Head of Kasiga School. The first event was the 3 km run by the boys of grade 6, 7 and 8 followed by the 3 km run by the 9,10,11,12 girls. The best part of the event followed shortly—the 6 km run by the boys of classes 11 and 12. The next event was the 2 km run by the girls of 6, 7 and 8. The 4 km run by the boys of 9 and 10 kept everybody on the edge of their seats. The last event was the 1.5 km run by the boys and girls of classes 4 and 5. Their energy was infectious and brought a smile on the faces of all present.



In the Sub-Junior category (4 and 5) Adi Nautiyal bagged the first prize while Krittat and Arjun Banka bagged the second and third prize respectively. In the Junior category, Aman Singh, Om Rawat and Shreesh Bakshi bagged the first, second and the third prize respectively. Among the girls, Koshima, Juhi and Riddhima claimed the first, second and the third positions respectively. In the senior category (9 and 10) Manish, Gunet and Abhin Malik claimed the first, second and the third position. Among the senior girls, Vagmita, Mash and Yusra Farooq bagged the first, second and the third prize. In the boys Senior category (11, 12) Atin Bharti came first while Paldin and Saiyyam came second and third respectively. It was a fun-filled day on which everybody was brimming with enthusiasm and excitement.



MUSIC MANIA HITS KASIGA

Kasiga School, Dehradun resonated with the recital of soulful music on Thursday, the 21st of April, 2016. The entire school assembled in the foyer to witness the rendition of music on the *sitaar* by Shri Gaurav Mazumdar accompanied by Shri Sovon Hazra playing the *tabla*. The musical extravaganza was organized by the highly acclaimed organization SPICMACAY, “the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth”, which is a non-profit, voluntary organization dedicated to promoting an awareness of Indian culture in educational institutions throughout India.



The programme started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Head of School, Dr. Neeta Bali, Shri Gaurav Mazumdar and Shri Sovon Hazra. Before starting the musical recital, Shri Hazra praised the ambience of the school and said that it was a rare opportunity to play music in the open and so close to nature. As befitting the time of day which was afternoon, Shri Mazumdar played the *raag patti* which left the audience mesmerized. This was followed by a *jugalbandi* between the two maestros on the *sitaar* and the *tabla* in which they played the *roopak taal* and *teen taal*. The *jugalbandi* left the audience totally spell-bound and reached such a crescendo that it was graced by a well deserved standing ovation. The thrilled audience was then invited to a question answer session. While satisfying the queries of various students, Shri Mazumdar said that, “exposure to music at an early age is essential if one aspires to become a great artist”. He also said that there is no specific or fixed time period in which an individual can learn the nuances of playing a musical instrument. It varies from one to the other and also depends upon one’s sincerity and dedication. Shri Gaurav Mazumdar hails from a family of renowned musicians from Allahabad, India. He learnt the *sitaar* under the legendary maestro, Pt. Ravi Shankar in the traditional Gurukul tradition. A versatile musician and composer, Shri

Gaurav's performances and body of work have been widely acclaimed and appreciated globally for over two decades. Today, Shri Gaurav as a performer, composer, conductor and educator, has earned a unique place as the foremost musician of his generation contributing towards making Indian music accessible and truly global both in appreciation and understanding. He devotes a substantial amount of his time to teaching disciples from all over the world.

The programme concluded with the Head of School presenting the renowned artists with a token of appreciation on behalf of the School. The artists expressed their appreciation for having played amidst such an engaging and interested audience. The afternoon proved to be truly motivating for all the young students aspiring to become great musicians in their own right.

KASIGA SCHOOL: WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE US



A workshop on education opportunities in the US was held at Kasiga School on Thursday, the 14th of April, 2016. Conducted by *Education USA @ USIEF*, the workshop was enthusiastically attended by all students of grade XI, XII, AS and A Level. The Head of School, Dr Neeta Bali introduced Ms Astha Virk Singh, the resource person who provided very relevant and useful information on various aspects of higher education in the US. Some of the points touched upon by Ms Singh were- Researching Your Options, Finance Your Studies, Completion of Application, Student Visa Application and Preparation for Departure. While speaking about *Education USA*, she emphasized upon the fact that it is the official source on US higher education and is supported by the US Department of State. The advice and information rendered by this organization is current, comprehensive and unbiased. As far as the eligibility required to get admission into some of these colleges is concerned, while academic scores are important, students must not ignore the importance of work done by them beyond the academic curriculum in terms of social service, initiatives taken and leadership roles played in or out of school. She stated a very important yet less known fact that there are no official rankings for the US Universities and there are many hidden 'Ivy League' colleges to which students could

apply. She urged the students to 'be more proactive and start the application process well on time as it is a rather lengthy procedure and each step requires ample time.'



The workshop concluded with a question answer session in which Ms Singh satisfied the queries of individual students. The convener of the workshop, Ms Roy, thanked Ms Singh for her valuable time. She felt sure that the students would be able to use the information given by her to their advantage. She also thanked the School Management and the Head of School for providing such facilities for the students.

KASIGA SCHOOL PROVES ITS METTLE IN UTTARAKHAND TENNIS TOURNAMENT



Kasiga School won one Gold and 2 Silver medals in the 20th Uttarakhand Open State Tennis Championship 2016. Kasiga's overall performance was brilliant in the entire tournament, which saw participation from all the top schools of Uttarakhand including both Boarding and Day Schools as well as players from different academies. Kunal Goyal won the Finals of Boys U-18 Doubles category and he was the Runner up in the Singles category. .



In the Finals of the Girls U-18 Doubles category, Aditi Aryal secured the Runners up position and played an outstanding match in the Singles Semi-finals. The players of the new Team B of Kasiga school, Divyansh Rautella and Dhruv Rajani had an impressive run in the tournament. Rishabh Rajgarhia and Divyansh Rautella played a very strong Doubles quarter finals.

QMUN 2016

A six member delegation participated in QMUN '16. The MUN conference was on 23rd & 24th April 2016. There were four committees namely:

- i. SECURITY COUNCIL
- ii. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
- iii. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
- iv. ALL INDIA POLITICAL MEET



The countries allotted to our school were China & New Zealand. In Security Council & UNHRC we had twin delegation.

The delegation comprised of:

- a. Kumaraditya Gupta
- b. Sarvesa R Thapa
- c. Pratah
- d. Archit Sachdeva
- e. Nabeel Ahmad
- f. Avlokiteshwar Mishra

The participants were trained by Mrs. Sonia Ahuja and Mrs. Indrani Lahiri.



Kumaraditya Gupta, who represented UNHRC won the Most Outstanding Delegate Award where as Archit Sachdeva got the Honourable Mention for his performance in UNEP.