

Think About It...

When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it - this is knowledge.
- Confucius

Editorial

Phew! The month of April is finally over and the entire school seems to be heaving a sigh of relief. Welham, this month had become a hub for activities right from hosting a Baisakhi Festival to the just concluded Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament. The success of and praise for all these events just goes on to show that whatever Welhamites do, they do it with panache.

The Baisakhi Festival was certainly the highlight of the month. The hard work of each individual paid off and if you don't believe me, just flip through these pages. Right from the Artists' Workshop to the Food Festival, it gave us every reason to be proud.

The Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament and the Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament, too, kept all the sports enthusiasts in School occupied. Now that all this is finally over, Welhamites can finally be seen immersed in their books and preparing for the End of Term examination.

What makes a boarding school different from other institutions is the relationship between students and teachers. And, we at Welham are fortunate to enjoy a relationship which many consider sacred. Where else would you find teachers playing cricket with students in scorching heat or students dropping in at the residence of many a teacher, unannounced? Where else do children

put up a humorous programme on Teachers' Day and the teachers counter that on Children's Day, by an equally amusing programme? Where else does the Principal play April fool pranks on the students, who in turn are able to get their back on him?

However, as the world is changing, this relationship too, is evolving. There are debates on whether computers will one day substitute teachers and when this would eventually take place. But can a computer really substitute a teacher? Can a computer understand our feelings or rather understand us? Can a computer inculcate in us the values of life? Has a teacher's job now been reduced to such a measure that people are comparing it to computers?

In Welham too, we have our share of differences with the teachers. The good part however, is that even after all these differences we are able to sustain this bond. The student – teacher relationship is one of the main reasons why life in Welham is unique and enjoyable and, why we are able to grow 'From Strength to Strength'.

Ashish Chowdhary
(ASHISH CHOWDHARY)

Welham Now

- On 23rd March, **Lokesh Singhal**, **Veer Vikram**, **Faizal Ansari**, **Gursimran Singh** and **Manoviraj** represented the school at the Delhi Horse show and were placed 3rd, winning one gold and two bronze medals.
- **Mr. Karna Puri** has taken over as Teacher-in-Charge, Round Square.
- The school hosted the Special Olympics for the mentally and physically challenged, on 25th and 26th March, where we saw a large turnout of participants.
- **Mrs. Nonie Bagga** sought greener pastures when she left us, after serving the school for more than a decade. We wish her happiness in her future endeavours. She will, however, continue as a part-time teacher.
- A delegation of class 12 students participated in the Model United Nations held at Woodstock School, Mussoorie, on 30th and 31st March. **Sudipt Juneja** was awarded the Best Delegate in his 'committee' and **Vanshaj Agarwal** received an honorary mention.
- A group of boys from class 8 and 9 attended the Aerobics Competition held at the Laxmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education in Gwalior from 27th to 31st March. **Divyajeet Singh** stood third in the solo category while the team was placed third in the group category.
- An *Apurva Vigyan Mela* was held in the school on 3rd April. **Mr. Samar K. Bagchi** and **Mr. S. K. Mitra**, eminent scientists, were the resource personnel and the guiding force behind the *Mela*.
- **Ms. Asha Lata Badami** conducted a Mathematics workshop on 5th April.
- Easter was celebrated on 7th April with great pomp, when the Junior School put up a highly informative and enjoyable programme at the Activity Centre.
- **Mr. Ajay Kailkhura** has been blessed with a daughter on 11th April. Our heart-felt congratulations to the proud parents.
- A Baisakhi Festival was held in school from 12th through 14th April. (*Detailed report follows...*)
- A group of students represented the school at Suryodaya Fest '07 held at The Scindia School, Gwalior, from 15th to 19th April. The team secured third position.
- **Vanshaj Agarwal**, **Adhiraj Sen** and **Awijit Paliwal** participated in the Saroj Srivastava English Debate held at Welham Girls' School on 16th April.
- Also on the same day, **Ashish Chowdhary**, **Prateek Modi** and **Imtiaz Hussain Kacho** represented the

Obituary

We regret to inform our readers of the sad passing away of Mr. Varun Puri, ex-School Captain from the batch of 1997-98 on 20th April. Our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family in their hour of crisis. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

school in the Mrs. Russell Nature and General Knowledge Quiz held at Welham Girls' School.

- On 18th April, **Param Shah**, **Keshav Mohan** and **Awijit Paliwal** participated in the Ms. Linell Hindi Debate held at Welham Girls' School. **Awijit Paliwal** was awarded a certificate for the Best Rebuttal.

- **Praharsh Agarwal**, **Jatan Soni** and **Ashutosh Todi** participated in the Hugh Catchpole Debate held at RIMC on 19th and 20th April.

- **Mr. Aseem Tripathi** has returned to Welham and will teach Economics to the senior classes, while **Ms. Ambika Mehta**, who has also joined us, will teach class 3.

We wish them a long and pleasant stay at Welham.

- An Inter House Hindi Debate was held on 26th April. **Vanshaj Agarwal** was adjudged the Best Speaker while Jangna House secured the first position.

- **Sudipt Juneja** and **Awijit Paliwal** represented the school at The Frank Anthony English Debate held at Hoptown Girls' School on 27th April.

The Spirit of Baisakhi

The three days Baisakhi festivities, a celebration of music, colour and dance, enriched further by mesmerizing performance by Shubha Mudgal, Abhik Mukherjee and the fabulous puppets of Dadi Padamji, got underway with the inauguration of an Artists' Workshop.

The festivities saw a very large number of visitors coming to school, including H.E. Mr. Sudarshan Ararwal, the Governor of Uttarakhand, and the well-known Director of the equally well-known Hindi movie Umaaro Jaan – the original!

The celebrations began on 12th April, when Mrs. Joytsna Brar, Principal, Welham Girls' School, inaugurated an Artists' Workshop at the LRC Gallery, where many a distinguished artist, including 'our' Mr. Karna Puri, exhibited their talent. We were fortunate

that Mr. Saurabh Narang, who is pursuing art as a career after passing out from Welham, was one of the artists who had graced the occasion. It was really a wonderful sight to see all the artists working silently, putting their imagination on canvas. Mrs. Brar was one of the lucky ones to have her portrait painted. A large number of parents and guests were fortunate enough to see the maestros at work.

While the morning was a riot of colour, the evening saw the beauty and splendour of our culture, when Dadi Pudumji's 'immortal puppets' put up a scintillating display that made the august gathering gasp in amazement. The School choir also presented several songs, based on the theme of peace and harmony, reflecting the spirit of the occasion – Baisakhi, which



Welhamites performing to a regional song

included a few, sung together with the girls of The Doon Girls' School. All we can say about the music is that it truly "lifted our hearts in one breath to Heaven". All appreciated the *Santhali* folkdance, performed by Welhamites. However, the highlight of the evening was surely the spectacular performance by Dadi Pudumji and his troop, appropriately titled 'Simple Dreams'.

Dadi Pudumji, who had been in school, teaching boys from the Junior School on how to make and use puppets, could not have wished for a better presentation himself. The presentation *Namaskar – A Journey through the Land of Dreams*, using simple objects of daily use such as sticks, umbrellas and bed sheets, left the audience truly amazed at the beauty of the pageant. One moment there was a zoo of animals, and the next,

an umbrella, as it seemed to sail through huge 'waves' in the 'sea'. The presentation ended amidst a rapturous applause, when the spell was broken and the audience could not believe the simplicity of the whole presentation.

If the first day was full of fun and joy, the second proved to be even better. The Artists' workshop continued in the morning; exhibiting the tremendous talent on display. The visitors to the LRC Gallery were full of appreciation for the various ideas that the artists were translating, with swift brush-strokes, into colour. A few unsung artists came into the limelight when Subhash, a *Bearerji* who works in the LRC, astonished everyone with his painting, reminding all that there are always some *Chupa Rustams* around!

The evening, which saw dignitaries including Admiral Arun Prakash (Retd.) grace the occasion, began with an exhilarating performance by Mr. Abhik Mukherjee (whom we still claim as one of our own!) on Sitar, accompanied by Mr. Pradipta De, our HOD – Music, on Tabla. It was a *Jugal bandi* that kept the audience spellbound. With the arrival of H.E. Mr. Sudarshan Agarwal, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Shubha Mudgal came on stage and gave a mesmerizing performance that kept many a Welhamite, whose knowledge of classical music is abysmally poor, to say the least, captivated. The phrase "music which lifts our hearts in one breath to heaven" would not be sufficient to describe the performance.

Finally, the sun arose on the third and final day of the celebrations that had already seen a lot of guests and parents coming to school. This day was to be the 'best' as it would culminate with 'Indian Food Stalls' and ...the much-awaited night out!

The day commenced with the valedictory ceremony of the Artists' Workshop, when Mr. Muzaffar Ali was the Chief Guest. The Principal, giving away the mementoes, thanked the Chief Guest and spoke about how the fine arts can make all the difference in the humdrum life that we lead. He thanked all the artists for sparing their valuable time to be part of the Baisakhi celebrations at Welham.

The programme in the evening was simply breathtaking. A magnificent display of our culture was on display with a cross section of performances by dancers from Maharashtra, Manipur and Rajasthan apart from the presentation of Martial Arts from Manipur,



where a performer 'sliced' a cucumber on a man's stomach. This was interspaced with a medley of songs



Shubha Mudgal performing a classical number

by the 'celebrated' band – *Yaadon ki Baraat*. The evening was full of colour, lights and sounds that left everyone enchanted and marvelling at the diversity of life of our country.

The food stalls were also a very big attraction, with the people making a beeline for the *Chat* stalls, apart from the stalls that were selling North Indian food – read Butter Chicken! Almost all stalls had huge crowds of people, waiting patiently to be attended. However, the most sought after item, after the Butter Chicken, were the 'Exeats', the slips that would enable Welhamites to go for the night out!

Just as 'all good things come to an end', so did the Baisakhi Festival 2007. Now everybody is eagerly waiting for the next Baisakhi Festival, and.....the food stalls. BURP!!

Oli takes this opportunity to thank all our sponsors for the Baisakhi Festival 2007.

- Ministry of Culture – Govt. of Uttarakhand
- Silverglades Holdings Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Chander Prakash Agarwal
- Mr. Arihant Jain
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- Mr. Vivek Chaudhary
- Mr. Saurabh Mehta
- Mr. Sanjay Puri
- Mr. Ranjan Agarwal
- Mr. Rajul Agarwal
- Mr. Anil Agarwal
- Mr. Ajay Agarwal

Feedback...

Letters to the Principal

Dear Sir,

I am very thankful to you for inviting me to the art camp in your school and allowing me to be a part of such a prestigious event. I had a very good time there, along with my family. I am all praise for your school and the management for their generosity and hospitality; they were very cooperative. This was one of the better events that I have participated in my long career where there was a complete conglomeration of art, culture and frolic. It was quite amazing that you conducted such a big event so smoothly which would not have been possible without your dynamism which originates from the fact that you kept up your passion and vigor for an art event in this age.

Your wife was also very helpful and friendly to us. The facilities at the venue were superb and the transportation that your school provided to us was also very efficient. In the end it was a wonderful experience of

which I would like to be a part again in future.

Thanking You,

- Deepankar Majumdar

Dear Sir,

I must congratulate you and your staff for the excellent way in which the Baisakhi Celebrations 2007 were conducted.

The clockwork precision all through the three days of celebrations showed selfless devotion, dedication and meticulous organization at all levels. Every detail was taken into account and nothing was lacking. The ambience was beautiful and the entertainment programme portrayed nationalism and cultural pursuit in ample abundance. These celebrations were indeed unique and reflected your dynamic personality at the helm. It will remain in our minds as the most memorable event of the year for all times to come.

On behalf of my wife and myself, I take this opportunity, to thank you, Mrs. Lahiri and your entire staff for including us in your celebrations. We are indeed proud of our association with Welham Boys School.

I wish you and your school all the very best and great success all the way.

Yours sincerely,
Maj. Gen. Shamsheer Singh

Dear Sir,

After dedicating more than twenty years to 'Fine Art' I decided to start a career as a painter/artist and had my first Solo-Art exhibition at The Government Museum and Art Gallery Chandigarh-[within the same premises as that of the prestigious Government Art College of Chandigarh].

In all leading newspapers the press has given some very interesting reviews of my exhibition. I would like to share the following thought with the Welham community and especially with my fellow youngsters presently studying here, to inspire them.

"Whatever I am today I definitely owe to Welham Boys School, Dehra Dun which imparted to me a solid education in my school days."

My success as an artist will always be attributed to skills developed back in Welham under teaching, guidance and training of Mr. Amit Basu.

(Sir has always been my teacher - from where I began! And still is)

It was absolutely inspirational and moving that Mr. Jagjit Singh and Mrs. Bajpai did visit the exhibition...I am so grateful.

"Thank you so much Welham...for everything."

- Saurabh Narang
Batch of 1996

Excerpts from an Interview: Shubha Mudgal

Q. What inspired you to take up classical music?

A. The inspiration was always from my family. My parents backed me up and they always did their best to provide exposure to the fine arts for me. We grew up in a home which had a lot of respect for the arts, never knowing that we would have to perform one day.

Q. In today's world when everyone is interested in 'western' music, what incentive of classical music keeps you attached to classical music?

A. Not everything can be painted with one brush and I would disagree that more people in India are inclined to western music than to Indian music. Personally, I prefer classical music because of the ease that I have with my mother tongue. For me Hindustani music is a mother tongue and therefore, I have the fluency and ease to work with it.

Q. Give us an insight in your life, as a student of classical music?

A. I am still a student. I was fortunate to have such wonderful teachers. Although I was born in a family which loved music, I did not start learning until I was about 15-16 years old. I was fortunate to have some of the most amazing teachers who made me what I am today, even though I started so late.

Q. Your first album was a collection of Sufi songs. Can you tell us something about it?

A. My first album was released in 1987 and was a collection of *khayal* compositions along with other ragas. Unfortunately the Indian media highlighted only some popular hits and therefore you will probably hear about "*ali more angna*" as my first major release.

Q. What motto have you set for yourself regarding all the controversies and negative responses from people?



A. It is simple if there is criticism then there is need for improvement and as I am not perfect, I welcome criticism for there is always room for improvement.

Q. Is there any person to whom you owe your success?

A. First of all, my parents for their support. My family has always been my greatest help.

Q. What is your message to the young Welhamites?

A. First of all, I would thank them all for having me here. I was delighted when I was asked to perform classical music but from the reaction of the students and teachers, I would believe that there is a great a love of music, here at Welham. I would like all the children here to really take care of the great diversities of the Indian music and culture and also to take a keen interest in whatever they do.

Confusion

Hey... I know I sound confused, but uh... what the heck... so what if I am confused!!? If confusion is the cause of my being confused then I seriously doubt whether confusion is actually the cause of me being confused - as completely confused in confusion I am and so - I warn you not to be confused as confusion can lead to terrible confusion and confused in confusion I need somebody who isn't confused to pull me out of this confused itself confusion...?

AAAAARGH! I am so zapped!

Hey-wasn't that easier!?

My words are for all of you out there-
Solely to make you aware
Of no lie and no optical illusion
But of the deadly disease 'confusion'.

Confusion can lead to victory or loss,
It can result in a nasty, deadly loss.
It can lead you to the wrong place at the wrong time,
And to visualise it for you, I have designed this rhyme.

Confusion can be really helpful when
You wish to antagonise your friend in seconds ten.
When you wish your boss's idea to fail
When you wish to make him so very pale...

Confusion is an invisible illusion

It can lead to the failure of your studious son!
It can give people a face which no one wants
A Face which till the end of your life, haunts.

Imagine a particular scene like this,
And it is absolutely no bliss
It shows a very simple incident
Of a boss and a servant where no wrong is meant.

"Ramu, come here and listen to me,
At three there is the 'three to six' show to see;
I want you to guard the office while I am gone
To see the very interesting show of Don."

The servant looks at his boss and said,
"No problem, boss, all request will be well fed"
The servant got confused and in the same
Replaced 'guard' with 'bar' and began the game.

There he stood and glanced at the just constructed hall
And found his servant there with a face so well.
"How's it boss?" He questioned and stood there
The boss pounced on the servant- a sight not so rare.

So as you read and understood the tale,
You saw the servant from the office being bailed;
And I'm sure you wish not to be in same shoes
So choose the sensible path - the one I didn't choose.

"The path miles from the one I tread"
Is a quotation by me so well said -
It is the path of Illuminati
The path that will take you so damn high!

...hey guess what? In all this confusion, I'm actually losing a part of my confusion because confusion had confused me and my confusion had confused others so the confusion of mine has now become an ever widening confused disease called 'Confuser' and I in all the confusion around somehow got my hands on an 'Anti-Confuser.' So my confused friends let not the confusion spread any further and take the advantage of the confusion around you and get 'anti- confuser' whose location is...

Well, Bethany.

- Jaskunwar Kohli
IX- B



Who says Gambling is all that bad?

'Success is like a game.

The more you play, the more you win.

The more you win,

The more successfully you play'

- Unknown

As I am warming up for the first ever article contributed by me for the school newsletter, I fear whether my article will be selected or rejected. Will my efforts be recognized? Yet I continue writing because this is life all about... Gambling, not in terms of money, but in terms of decision making and luck.

To make it simpler, ponder over this. Whenever we have to make a choice regarding our life, it is always the negative aspect that clouds our minds initially. 'What if', these two words are the ones which make our 'body loath' and our minds unwilling to support us. Then comes the slow, but steady, positive aspect, like a rainbow after a shower. It is then we gamble. We either further our endeavours or succumb to our inner fear. Fear, being an inevitable part of life, clouds our mind and reduces our reasoning powers. But it is up to us, each individual to decide how to gamble out of this abyss.

Someone once said, 'If you love something, set it free. If it is yours, it will come back to you.' Just imagine a world without television, telephone or electricity, the necessities of contemporary society. This could have been the present scenario if people like Alexander Graham Bell, J. Beard etc. would not have gambled their way out of criticism, out of the fear of failure. Gambling is as good as making a decision, taking all aspects of it into consideration. We gamble daily, be it in the classroom or the field. On the field, while giving a pass, we gamble with our 'pass', we gamble with our thoughts... would it be better to 'pass' the ball to the right or left? In the heat of the moment, with the adrenaline pumping, the brain does not respond properly and leaves for us options to gamble on, which could either liberate us or land us in thick soup.

A famous song, 'not' meant for Elvis fans, describes life as "10% luck, 20% skills, 15% concentrated power and will, 5% pleasure, 50% gain, 100% reason to remember the name."

In a nutshell, if we have the correct proportion of the above aspects of life, we achieve something, providing the world an incentive to remember us by.

Life is like a game of poker. With firm decisions and luck by your side, the world will be at your feet.

- Pratik Agarwal

XII - C

To and Fro

I woke up in the middle of the night and was scared out of my wits. My surroundings seemed alien to me. Only one thought crossed my mind, "Why am I in this hostel?" But then my senses came back to me, I realised, that this was my new hostel. Memories of my previous hostel came to my mind. One by one I tried to recall all of them.

Though it may seem strange, we never realise the importance of the privileges that are given to us until they have been taken away from us. Now that I'm no more a part of my previous hostel, I do realise how truly wonderful it was. Lying in bed I once again pictured my past.

Life in Indus was a mixed bag of emotions, which were 'swelled' up by all sorts of incidents, big and small. Though our daily routine was the same every day, some things were same or the other happened every day that would add spice to the dishes. One moment we were laughing ourselves to pieces and the very next moment we were scurrying about trying to make our illegal stuff invisible to the naked eye, for someone had spread a rumour about a fake 'tuck check'. We loved to re-enact scenes from "lovely" action movies such as the Matrix, and Enter the Dragon, in our free time. We had a great time bunking PT and games. We had entangled emotions - fear of getting caught and fun at not getting caught. We were the nasty little toerags of school who pardoned none from the terrors of our mischief. We did commit a lot of wanton 'crimes', but we never had the intention of hurting or causing harm to anybody. If in the course of our actions we did so, I apologized for our bad deeds. We were also made to repent for our un-holy deeds by the Prefects. They taxed our body physically and strained our muscles and limbs. Fortunately, we came through without any casualties. We were labelled by the whole school as the most notorious batch of the decade, but then again we meant no harm. We did what we did because we were foolish at heart, and will always be.

"Kashmir, Hamara Hai." The birthday was assumed to be the 'Kashmir' and we the Barbarians would pounce on him and tear him apart in an attempt to

tug him onto our respective side. In Layman's terms perfect demonstration of 'tug-of-war' in the "Desi Style". Then we would have our even more brutal, birthday-party. Such was our life in Indus, full of and frolic.

Now a different thought flashed in my mind, it was no use to cry over spilled milk, but this would be something good to hear about. My new hostel is cool, but not as cool as Indus. So deciding that I would write an article on this little thought, I went back to my haven, the slumber haven.

- Prakarsh Ravi

IX - B

Reverence for Antiquity

Antiquity possesses a charm for thinking and unthinking people alike, and the instinct to respect what is old, is inherent in human nature. In the words of a poet:

"The past will always win
A glory from it being far"

Or, as some other thinkers suppose, the Golden Age is left behind in the past, when everything was good and perfect and men were happier than they can ever be in this present day. Whatever the reason may be, the fact is undeniable that antiquity evokes feelings of reverence in all people, except the narrow minded. The question is – what is the best way of showing this reverence? And how far should it go?

The best way to pay homage to ancient times is not by blindly adopting old manners and customs simply because they are old, but by retaining those that are expedient and rejecting those that are harmful. Manners and customs originate with the needs of the time, and they are happily adapted by people of their age. As a new age dawns upon a country, the habits of people change. Old manners and customs must be modified to suit the new conditions and in some cases must be abolished altogether, otherwise no progress is possible. To try to perpetuate an old institution for no other reason than that it has come down from the past, is to push our regard for olden times to a very undesirable extreme.

No country in the world can boast of such a hoary antiquity as India. There are hundreds of old customs and institutions which are impossible to trace; or give the date of their origin. The dust of ages is lying

thick upon them, and historical research has vainly tried to sweep it off. No one, for instance, knows for certain when exactly the caste system began in India; and yet the caste system is comparatively modern. Are we to respect such systems or reject it? The answer to this question cannot be given in one word. The caste system as it was originally devised, was made more and more complex in each succeeding age to suit the upper castes. Today, there is a division of people into numerous sub castes, each claiming sanctity of its own and consequently giving birth to others. Modern India seems to be puzzled with these ancient hand me downs. People should not lose their awe for these ancient things that have come down to us from the antiquity. Time has blessed them, although in some cases, it has masked their origin and even their significance.

While we worship the past, should we allow ourselves to neglect the present? The present is a creature of the past; it derives its glory from the past, but that glory is apt to be tarnished unless the people of the present maintain it. India is believed to have had a brilliant civilization in the past. It would be appropriate, not merely to boast of having a great past, but to find out what exactly we had then which we now have lost. Mere boasting does no good; on the contrary, it tends to make us rely more strongly on the past than on the present.

There is no reason why we should rest content with our past, and cease to strive to make the present more brilliant. Respect for the past which is blind to the present makes us think that India has attained the zenith of her glory. That admiration, which induces us to praise that which has come down from ancient times regardless whether it is suitable or unsuitable to our days, is again not relevant. The feeling of superiority which prompts us to look down upon nations merely because they are a later 'civilisation' is not reverence but spiteful intolerance.

The true reverence of our antiquity is that it teaches us to respect the past and use the present to the utmost of its capacities. It also teaches us to adapt old traditions to new conditions, to recognise, respect and adopt all the good that we notice in other races of the world. Also, to feel a sense of love for them as branches of a common human family, scattered all over the globe and to cooperate with them in the common cause of the progress of the world.

- Kandarp Swarup

XII - C



Oliphant Focus

Our relationships put forward a telescopic view of the kind of people we will turn out to be. Relations are shared with every person we know, albeit good or bad. They mould a person in the same manner as a potter moulds his clay pots and are as significant to us as the singular threads that combine to form beautiful carpets.

The equations that we share on a daily basis are either professional or personal and what makes a student-teacher relationship the most worthwhile one in the world is the careful blend of both disciplines!

Whether they like it or not, teachers automatically take on the added responsibility of being 'role models' when they sign on their respective contracts. Being a boarding school teacher is thus a very taxing job. Students constantly look at teachers for support and guidance they would otherwise have sought from their parents.

And that is where the problem arises, for a child to be able to share his problems, he needs to know whether the person he is sharing them with is trustworthy and truthful. Unfortunately, children are the first ones to recognize hypocrisy and lies!

A friend once came up to me and said, "Talking to my Housemaster makes me feel sick. I am the one who goes to put forward a point; instead I am the one who ends up hearing from him! Why should I talk to him when he is not ready to listen to my point of view?" These words stung like a bee, for they made me realize that listening and respecting another person's point of view is a very important factor in forging relationships. Be it young or old, only a careful analysis can decide whose point of view is correct - who knows the right one can also be a blended version!

A flower cannot bloom unless it gets adequate exposure to the sunlight. Similarly, a child cannot grow up to be an intelligent, human being if he is not given enough room to decide for himself and if necessary, to bear the brunt of his decisions. Thus a teacher who keeps preaching in class and wants every student of his to be like himself, is like a hailstorm which imposes itself destructively on the wheat crop, rather than the sun which showers energy and encouragement on them.

It was heartening to hear these words from a teacher when he was asked about relationships- "A teacher has to act as a parent, he should place the child in the position of his own child and be able to see the world from his eyes - dreams, ambitions, et al!"

What he did not add to his otherwise wonderful ideas was the fact that both the student and the teacher need to place themselves in each other's shoes to be able to share a perfect relationship. After all, one can only clap with both hands!

After all the deep analysis and taxing thinking, a junior comes up to me and stands cribbing, "Why should I talk to these teachers, who are they for me!"... It is best left for every one of us to answer this question for ourselves!

- Sudipt Juneja
XII-C

Word War

Students and Teachers should be treated as equals

For

Man, as we all know, is a social being. His very existence is based on interaction with others. Thus, in a world where no two people have the same ideas, it is next to impossible to have two persons who live in complete harmony. People have relationships with one another, with parents, with siblings, with friends, with lovers. The most universal and the most sacred one, though, is that of a teacher and a student. A teacher, in the true sense, is a person whose passion in life is imparting education to make the children sensible and responsible citizens of tomorrow. On the other hand, a child is like wet clay, which can be moulded into anything the potter wants to make out of him.

In today's day and age teaching has become more of a business. Imparting education is one of the biggest money making industry in the world. No more do teachers teach with values that existed during the times of the *gurukuls*. Teachers no longer command the respect that was shown by *Ekalvya* towards *Guru Dronacharya*. Gone are the days when everything that the teachers said was supposed to be blindly followed by students, like sheep in a herd.

Welcome to today's world where students are more active. They are alive. They are not ready to follow anything and everything as told by the teachers. They reason things out, they debate, they discuss, they analyze



and then they conclude for themselves. And the teachers who allow the students this space are the ones who are respected and are respected truly.

Studies indicate that when teachers and students share a comfortable bond, teaching as well as learning, both become much more fun and much easier. If a child lives in constant fear of his teacher, his inquisitive mind can never blossom, especially in a boarding school like ours, where teachers are our sole guides, advisors and 'parents', it is all the more important why teachers and students should be like friends.

I personally feel that today, when the teacher student relationship is undergoing a metamorphosis all over the world, and the barriers of formality are being broken down; our orthodox mindsets should also change.

No one is perfect, and this also applies to our teachers. I am not saying this only about our teachers in Welham. Every now and then, we hear of teachers and people such as Professor Matuknath, who have pushed forward the boundaries of the societies. The existence of such teachers in our society makes one wonder whether teachers should be respected merely for their post or for the person they are.

Seeing teachers and students with a common eye will be one giant leap forward in making a positive change in this relationship. It will enable those teachers still living in pre historic times to realize that the times are changing and nothing can be taken for granted. They will be forced to 're-amp' their teaching techniques and reach conclusions without overlooking the student's true potential.

- Vanshaj Agarwal
XII-Hum

Against

In a school set-up pupils are learning and transforming their energy to enhance their different skills. Students are understanding a transition process from understanding a concept in a subject to correlating it to a real life situation. At this level the content of study may be directly or indirectly linked. The Teacher helps the student as a facilitator to attain knowledge and understanding and undergo the learning cycle of life. There are numerous factors like learning and learned, studying and studied, experiencing and experienced which

explicitly demonstrates why treatment between student and teacher cannot be equal.

The faculty and student have a common denominator of a sacred relationship which both have to mutually respect. Apart from age and ego, imparting knowledge, empowering students with learning skills, moral sermons occurs from upstream (teacher) to downstream (student). The advancement of technology has no doubt confined the role of teacher to a mentor and facilitator in a class but still his domain of influence on students cannot be undermined. For a teacher the class room, books and students are like the roots, branches and flowers of a tree.

The student and teacher are governed by a unique relationship based on parameters like trust, honesty, cooperation and sincerity which leads to an equality (\leq or \geq). As inequalities too have solutions attached to them so does this defined inequality equation involving two variables viz. student and teacher. Whether the solution is in the form of greater than or less than form it is a matter of perception. One thing is for sure that the solution is an acceptable one. That is why our education system is moving on.

- R.M. Bhandari

Students and Teachers should be treated as equals.



□ Agree
■ Disagree

WELHAM PIE

Staff:	Agree: 10	Disagree: 15
Class XII:	Agree: 7	Disagree: 12
Class XI:	Agree: 12	Disagree: 9
Class X:	Agree: 21	Disagree: 15



Two Pieces of a Chess Board

Through my cab, I see him walk the drains,
I earn in dollars and he in grains,
I sleep like a child while his body pains.
We are both pawns of our domains.

Both our worlds exhibit man's greed
My usury shadows his lowly creed,
When our clans meet, only blood diamonds they reap,
The only answer to this are the body's bullets heap.

My brothers are none, his siblings too many,
One's life is for freedom the other is for pennies.
My land of opportunities of suits and spas
The world smells misery, welcome to Africa.

I live off in places, in brothels and in pubs,
The roadside sewer is his only legitimate hub,
I speak of shelter, peace and of security
He reflects disgust and I, purity.

His lips are sealed, stoic in his sufferings in his prime
He has lost hope in the heaven's divine.
I know no fear and he smells fright.
Like two pieces of chess board,
He is black and I am white.

- Shivesh Tyagi
XII-Sc

Jaidwar...a Paradise on Earth

During this Mid Term, the 'Ninethies' went to a little village, hardly bigger than the campus in which we live at Welham, and had the most enjoyable five days in recent memory.

Jaidwar, a little village comprising two sub-villages – Malla and Talla (or Upper and Lower), is nestled in the mountains, a two hour drive away from Nain Bagh, a small hill town on the banks of the Yamuna, and is situated at a height of approximately 4500 feet above sea level. It has a unique setting in terms of location, community and culture. Jaidwar could be termed as representative of the whole Jaunpur and Rawain cultural habitat.

Upon arrival at this small village, we were greeted by the *Mukhiaji* of the village, along with a group of small children, who shouted with happiness at the arrival of our three Toyota Qualis vehicles and ran forward to help us unload our belongings. We felt humbled by the welcome and realized that we had to live up to the expectations that they had of us.

Our mission at Jaidwar was to complete the foundation for the Community Centre which was started in 2005 by the Round Square Regional Project, phase I. Along with this we decided to set up a small clinic, where we could initially help register 'patients', provide them with basic medicines that we had brought with us and subsequently encourage them to continue the work even after our departure. Mr. Karna Puri led the Service Camp accompanied by Dr. Gurumurthy and Mr. Brahma Raina



Hard at work!

and Mr. Raman, the Medical Assistant. On the very first day we 'registered' eighty nine 'patients', all simple people of the village who had various ailments, and who probably looked upon the kind doctor as their saviour!

Tented accommodation was ready and after refreshing *Pakodas* and chilled juice, we settled in to our tents. Evening saw us in Malla, where, in the fading light we could not help but marvel at the simple yet fabulous buildings mostly of *Deodar* and *Chir* Pine, said to be over eighty years old. These slate-roofed houses have seen three generations go by. Massive 'granaries' below the floors ensure that food is never scarce, especially during the difficult winter months.

The next day, after a sumptuous breakfast, we began our work, often under the watchful eyes of Munni

Devi, who was an immense help to all of us during our stay there. Over the next few days, she would guide us in everything we did, from as complicated as deciding the depth to which we had to dig - for the foundation, to the mundane - helping us find a place where we could bathe, often under the mischievous eyes of the little children of Malla, much to our embarrassment.

The work of completing the foundation of the Community Centre was often back breaking. There were three service sessions daily, punctuated by refreshments served at site. We worked shoulder to shoulder with the local youth to complete our target. Perspiring and grimy we would head for the much needed wash. Evenings saw us interacting with the villagers, singing and dancing together around a camp fire.

Over the next few days, we went out for 'Nature walks' in the morning and were treated to some spectacular views over the Himalayas. Some even trekked up to the *Bhadraj* temple, on the mountain top, with the doctor leading the way. What made our endeavour so rewarding was not only the presence of our escorts at every step of the way, but the surprise arrival of the silver Scorpio bearing our Principal, who could spare his valuable time to be with us.

As all good things end so did the trip of ours. We departed from the village that we had begun to consider our home. As we sat in our vehicles, waiting to begin the journey back to school, we could not help but remember the days we had spent with the friendly people of Jaidwar.

- Jaskumar Kohli
IX-B

The Welhamites

From the *buntikkiwala* to Hotel President, Dehra Dun has many wonders. We Welhamites spend our extremely 'adventurous and activity' filled outings exploring these landmarks. Let us see how.

After stuffing himself with half a dozen *paranthas* in school itself, The Welhamite proceeds to dressing himself. His 'branded' uniform and 'latest' hairdo takes over an hour of his precious outing time. He is then on the lookout for hitching a ride and walks as far as his legs carry him. On reaching Astley Hall he looks around if the weather is fine for 'bird-watching'.

He then enters McDonalds and wonders if he has returned to 'Bethany' as he sees Welhamites

everywhere. After packing enough 'necessities' he proceeds to the New Empire Cinema (so called PVR) which is known for its 'Londonized' washrooms. After watching the latest 'family movie' he realizes that his outing is almost over.

Being economical, he hunts for restaurants where his friends are 'lunching' and pretends to meet them by coincidence. The table has now become a battle ground where even friends are now enemies. The menu generally consists of Butter Chicken, Butter Chicken and Butter Chicken But he gives a thought of pampering himself with 'shredded lamb' but realizes that he has only a few hundred to his name and sticks to "old is gold". As the bill arrives he comes up with a number of excuses ranging from 'day blindness' to 'chicken pox' but his friends make sure he pays as they too are Welhamites.

He then recollects that he has nothing to do and proceeds to his favourite pastime, window shopping. He goes to the best places, tries the best clothes, even asks for a discount, but in the end he comes up with his trademark excuse "I do not like the shade". This has become so frequent that most changing rooms are now out of bounds and most managers seem to recognize him. The new ones are Nike and Adidas but the most popular is Beekays.

The most significant place for him is outside Niklas. This is where generations of Welhamites have sat and gone only to be replaced by new ones, taking the school 'From Strength to Strength'.

And last but not the least the most happening place for him which is rumoured to have been 'founded' with the school, the secret behind the 'healthy' Welhamites is the *Buntikkiwala*.

Finally, the adventure is over, so the next time you go out, remember, "The Welhamite" is in all of us.

- Aniket Nag & Shivesh Tyagi
XII Sc.

Mental Toughness

1. Perseverance

If you want to be a good player, be prepared to work when others are unwilling to. Many find excuses not to work, but you need to find ways to work on your game even when you are by yourself.

The good thing about Basketball is that all you need is a ball, a hoop, and the desire to improve.



2. Nervousness

The main reason that players don't perform well in the games is nervousness, and the main cause of nervousness is lack of self-confidence.

You have to believe that you can play with the people on the court and not get intimidated. You must believe that no one on the court is better than you.

Have a good attitude. Believe in yourself. If you worked hard enough in the off-season, the preseason, and now in practice. Then tell yourself you deserve to shine on the court. It's your time to shine, don't be nervous. You know that you have worked more and harder than the other guys you are facing. So don't even think about being nervous, and let the game to you!

- Ajay Kailkhura

W.O.B.S - Chandigarh Meet

The sweet smell of spring reminds me of my days in school, and definitely Saturday night at the Taj Hotel, Chandigarh, where we had a lavish ex-Welhamites get-together, brought back fond memories. With over sixty people attending, the party was a grand success. Every 'Exie' who attended, walked in with style, with arms wide open and a big smile on the face. The party was a success not because of the number of ex-Welhamites who turned up, but because there was genuine warmth in the atmosphere. 'Juniors' and 'seniors' were all one. With so many faces around, it was difficult to remember everybody apart from a few. However, we soon got to know each other well. Some old boys were from the batch of 1973 while others were as recent as 2005.

It was a night which nobody wanted to end. A night when the guys let down their hair while their wives, sitting in their own group, watched their husbands, amazed. The conversation varied from Woodseats to PH, and nobody wanted it to end. We were often reminded that dinner was ready, but dinner was just an excuse to be there and hardly anyone present wanted to get up for dinner. This was the first party where I saw 'Exies' straggling in till two o' clock at night. So the party continued till the wee- hours of the morning. It was finally evident that nobody wished to leave, but leave they had to with sad hearts. It is only at such evenings that we can meet and reminisce about the midnight coffees,

birthday bashes, die-hard friendships, accentuated English and tears of joy.

So till the next get-together, where I hope all Old Boys make an effort to come, I bid farewell to all.
Chak de Phatte.

- Mehtab Sandhu

(72/ K)

Batch of 2003-04

Euthanasia

The Rochefoucauld Infirmary had revealed its identities,

When I had walked through the glass door in here,
Though from the outside it looked like Italian ground glass,
On entering I realised - chloroform does smell like beer!

When I had walked up to the reception,
I thought of an alias,
But all truth buried well - dreamt lies,
When I sighted a beautiful dame.

Seeing me in torn flesh and pouring blood,
She hurriedly called a stretcher there,
The more I reacted out of agony,
The more she showed me care.

The infirmary seemed to be so lively to me,
For the condition I was in was worse,
Suddenly four homo - sapiens took charge of me:
Three doctors and a nurse.

I was breathing hard as they laid me down,
Carefully on the operation table,
They ran all pins and needles into my body,
At last, a three - metre cable.

They operated on me without anaesthesia,
Yet enough did engulf the air,
The way blood sprouted out of me,
I felt that Hell was fair!

I was inebriated with a sour liquid,
That burnt while trickling down my wind pipe,
Beethoven's "Melancholy" was played on tape,
For the doctors to harness their hype.

The brightness of the light above me,
Seemed as though it was refracted through an
amethyst,
Though its rays made me feel drowsy,
Due to pain, I could resist.

Galvanised lead bullets were being plucked out of me,
I saw - the polished brass pieces stained in blood,
The catastrophe that I was a part of,
Must have brought in a 'red tide' or flood.

The doctors let go of their forceps now,
As if relieved of much tension and strain,
But what they never realised was that
I went through the same strife of pain.

They looked at me with a piteous glance,
As though I was history now,
I stared back at them with an equal fervour,
The only difference I had raised a brow.

My limbs I lacked now, my body sore,
I started recollecting my past,
For I had known my suspended end,
Would be what I would see last.

They asked me if I wanted to live,
Alternately, they would grant me my last wish.
This was far better than being shot dead,
In Sicily; "sleeping with the fish!"

They put me back on the stretcher then,
And wheeled me to the morgue,
They strapped me up to a dynamo,
Now, I felt like a cyborg.

This wasn't the end to end my life,
Pressing the red lever would turn me to dust,
Soon a man attired in black did so,
And me a fraction of the earthly crust.

In Tartarus(Hell) Hades waited for me,
Death served; With gold and silver cutlery to dine,
Then both of us raised a toast - "To deathlessness,"
And drank up the crystal clear wine.....

A Phoenix from the ashes,
- Ayan Mukherjee
XI - Hum

Monthly Quiz

1. Name the director of the controversial film 'Parzania' which is based on a true incident?
2. Name the renowned international swimmer who bagged seven golds in the world swimming championship?
3. Who is the general secretary of the CPI-M (Communist party of India- Marxist)?
4. Which state was the arch-rival of the Greek city-state of Athens?
5. Which BJP member of the parliament has been arrested on an account of allegedly trying to smuggle people abroad?
6. Who were the two followers of Jesus who denied and betrayed him which eventually led to his crucifixion?
7. Name the mass killer responsible for the Virginia-tech massacre.
8. Which controversial author of Indian origin is currently fighting a case concerning a house in Delhi worth crores?
9. What is the difference between a crocodile and an alligator?
10. Why is the Riverside building named so?

The answers to the last issue's quiz are...

- Ans 1. The Chief Justice was sacked by the President
Ans 2. Osama Bin Laden
Ans 3. Salma Hayek
Ans 4. Kimi Raikkonen
Ans 5. Albert Einstein
Ans 6. Cream
Ans 7. When the Berlin Wall was broken
Ans 8. Abraham Lincoln
Ans 9. Ireland
Ans 10. Forest Whitaker

The Pizza is sponsored by CHOCOLATE CORNER, Dehra Dun. The Domino's pizza for the last issue's quiz was won by no one.



Through the Keyhole

Hursh Pratap, at Jaidwar, referring to Dhruv Paliwal to the doctor: Doctor, he needs medication. His *stomach is unwell*.

Jassimran to his classmates (commenting on Faizan's speech): Guys, this surely has to come in *Through the Oliphant*.

Mrs. Tiwari to Class IX B: In modern times people don't think before murdering – they just go (with action) *Kadak-Budum!!!*

Ankit Saraf addressing the Welham News team: Guys, don't speak in Hindi, *use proper communication*.

Mr. Khanna to class 9 C (angry with the class's attitude): Most of the class is not *interested in sleeping*.

Mrs. Khaira to Sarthak Jaiswal: 418, *what's your number?*

Raja during the hockey match: Marif what's the score?
Marif: One all.

Raja: *Arre... atleast tell me who is winning.*

Ever Wonder Why

- The girls in school are suddenly lonely?
- Mr. Kandpal is "second to none, only to one"?
- Mr. Lahiri is more enthusiastic about socials than the students?
- Teachers in Welham give their pens to the students without the caps?
- The name of Riverside Lawn has been changed to Riverside Lounge?

Ringside View

"The warrior charged with his sword slashing the ground and his weary eyes fixed on the enemy. Both the sides showed no mercy and expected none. No quarter was given and the battle was long and hard but always with a victor and the defeated. However the warring factions were 'humble in victory and generous in defeat'. The war has now ended with many a battle fought, but there was no bloodshed." That was how the Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament was played with a sense of pride and determination to win the coveted trophy. The tournament has now ended with St. George's College, Mussoorie, the victors, beating YPS (Patiala) 1-0 in a tough final. Though it was yet another disappointing moment for Welhamites who came third beating Oak Groves, Mussoorie, in penalties (3-1) after the game was a 1-1 draw. Welham faced YPS in the semi-finals and fell to the arch-rivals once again. While these four teams fought in the semi-finals, RIMC and The Doon School were knocked out at the group stage. It was expected however as the team had been suffering from the injury jinx once again, as many of its players were on the bench or playing with stitched up legs or face. The Hockey team now turns its attention on other matters at hand, the Councils. And they are really eager to end their trophy drought by winning it. Welham crossed the group stages easily by defeating Colonel Brown School 3-1 and Indian Public School (IPS) 5-1. We are now in the semi-finals and play the Moravian School.

Kandhari Hockey Tournament

Welham vs. The Doon School (3-2)

Welham vs. SGC (1-2)

Welham vs. YPS (0-4)

Welham v. Oak Grove (1-1) penalties (3-1)

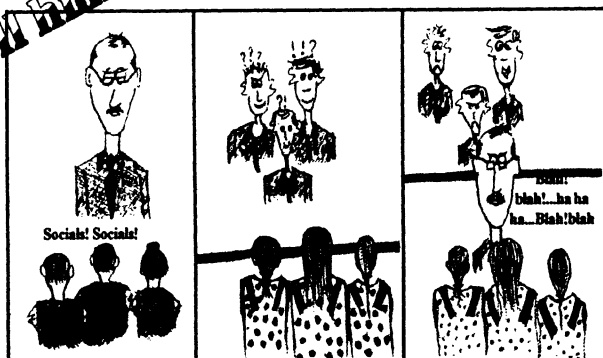
Finals- S.G.C vs. YPS (1-0)

Along with Hockey, the school had eyes on its Basketball team which was away in Woodstock for their Win Mumby Basketball Tournament. The team went with the aim of retaining their title as the defending champions. The performance was not to be questioned but still the team lost in the semi-finals to Woodstock School, Mussoorie.

As the Kandhari Hockey Tournament comes to an end, Welham went ahead with another 'home' tournament, the 21st Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament. Our school was represented by two teams, Welham (Blues) and Welham (Whites). Both the team

Welham...

By Aftab Singh Sandhu



looked well balanced with both young talents and old veterans. The extra impetus being that the hosts were the defending champions. But still the team only managed till the semi-finals after a close match with Woodstock. The beginning, however, was a smooth ride and the Welhamites were in the Seventh heaven, but it all came crashing down on the 24th. Despite the loss it was proved that our team had the talent as Ravi Ranjan from class 8 was adjudged the Most Promising Player. With two major losses in a row, it was quite a shock for our young team however it is now ready for any future challenge.

Results of the Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament
 Welham vs. Sri Ram (55-35)
 Welham vs. Pine Grove
 Semi-finals
 Welham vs. Woodstock (27-32)
 Finals
 BKSP beat Woodstock (72-45)

The Hockey Inter-House is now ready to take off along with the new week. The House teams are seen occasionally in the fields with their respective captains driving them hard and for a moment, all minds and faiths are diverted for the Houses. The race for the Kandhari Trophy for the Best House in Sports has already begun and will be fought for, with blind faith and determination by the teams. The Hockey Cup will give the winner an early start and is a prized target for the teams.

Also the Squash Inter-House is about to begin. All the racket sports now seem to be a growing favourite among the Welhamites. The Table-Tennis Cup was won

by Jamuna House in the seniors category with Cauvery as runners-up, while Cauvery House won it in the juniors category.

The Cricket World Cup lost all its viewer ship in India after the Group stages. The finals too turned out to be a farce. But, whatever may be the reason, Australia did emerge victorious and proved once again that they are inevitable, winning it for the third time in a row.

The Champions League still rages on in Europe as the semi-finals starts. Manchester United took an early lead by beating AC Milan 3-2. Rooney still has not lost his touch while others fumble with the ball. Chelsea faces its old nemesis, Liverpool, but got back on them for the old grudge by defeating them 1-0. Welhamites are seen glued to the television sets, newspapers and the internet wherever and whenever possible, to look for the latest news of their favourite team.

Rafael Nadal has once again proven himself by defeating the 'King of Tennis', Roger Federer. In F1, the young newcomer Lewis Hamilton has silenced all the doubters by currently being in the first position with the World Champion Alonso and Kimi Raikkonen. He is the first debutant with podium positions in all the races. Welhamites continue to follow up the latest news on sports as they come and, well, we are happy to provide them with it.

See you on the field,

- Anesh Gurung
 XII - H

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