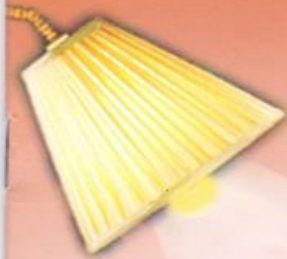


LUKITE *News & Views*

Vol. 2, 2010



In Remembrance...

It is said that the real character of a person is exhibited in adversity. Sr Alvina personified courage both in life and death. She braved her illness with equal tenacity and will power. She blazed a trail with her path breaking ideas that came as a whiff of fresh air for us. In a social scenario where pretense rules the roost, she dared to teach the students a lesson in humility. Children learnt a lesson in social responsibility as she encouraged them to spare a thought for the under-privileged. It was her endeavour to make every child realize that he/she is a special person who can do wonders in life.

Sr Alvina had this rare and amazing knack of empathizing with people across all age groups. Extremely approachable to both the students and the staff, she understood the confusion of teenage minds as easily as she understood the complexities of the psyche of adults. She touched the lives of all who came her way – students, staff members, parents. Her untimely demise has created a huge void in our lives, yet she'll always remain alive in our memories. May her soul rest in peace !

Sr Alvina BS

*Least did we know that one day
We would greet an angel on our way
Who would ignite our minds.
A treasure trove of compassion.
Her essence lingered in the air.
We weren't aware, this blissful time
Would soon turn into remembrance.
In our heart she left a bottomless hole,
Nobody can take away her immortal soul.
Sr Alvina will shine in our memory,
like a nocturnal star.*

Class X C



*You never were, you never are,
You never will be far away from us,
Indeed you are always in our hearts.
So, how could thee be away from We?
Your words and acts of kindness,
Shall always nourish our lives.
In solitude your memory clings to our minds.
We believe in the Son of God,
That we shall in heaven meet you
Because our faith in both,
You and Jesus is true.*

Aditya Kaushal
X C

11.12.1953 – 16.05.2011

Sr Alvina joined St Luke's as Principal in June 2008. Her towering personality intimidated us in the beginning but soon we realized that she was intelligent, compassionate and a quick decision maker. The students of St Luke's were her primary concern. She introduced the activity dress for our children in classes KG, 1 Std and 2 Std so that they may be comfortable during their activity periods. The introduction of Smart Class was yet another wonderful decision of hers. My daughter continues to be benefitted and fascinated by it. Construction of a stage in the school yard, so that the children may not walk up and down the 100-odd steps for practices for functions in the playground speaks volumes about her compassionate heart. In order to give exposure to our children, she arranged book fairs, picnics and excursions. As a parent, I felt free to discuss any problem that my ward was facing in the school. She always listened patiently and took prompt action. She is no more with us now but we shall always remember her with gratitude.

Mrs Mridula Kapila
(A grateful parent)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



St Luke's vibrates with bright, lively and enthusiastic students amidst the serene surroundings of majestic and mystic mountains. Their eagerness to learn has encouraged our team of Luke's to provide for them a literary platform through this news letter and enhance their reading writing and presentation skills which would enable them to explore their potential and at the same time find a path in the ocean of knowledge.

I was not to be writing this message in Lukite News and Views. The illness and sad demise of Sr Alvina, the Principal brought me to this place where I was once the Principal. I experience at this moment Sr Alvina's loving presence and remember her vibrant smile, deep faith in God, keen interest in St Luke's and tender love for the children. We miss her charismatic presence and dedicate this issue to her and celebrate the selfless service she has done at various schools in Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh. She battled with Crone's disease for three years and without deviating from her duty succumbed to it at last. God plucked a beautiful flower from the earthly garden. The beauty of life is to give and she gave herself to the end. I congratulate the Editorial Team for bringing out this issue of Lukite News and Views and dedicating this issue to Sr Alvina.

May her soul rest in peace. May she shower blessings from above.

Sister Grace Maria
Officiating Principal

MANAGER'S MESSAGE



"Everyday marks a fresh start, a time for fresh program and fresh efforts"

(Dr Daisaku Ikeda, a peace promoter)

The second issue of the Newsletter features the activities and achievements of year 2010 of St Luke's School. I congratulate the staff and students for their excellent performance.

Our aim is to bring out the hidden potential in children that would help them to move out of the confines of academics and assess the values of commitment and sincerity which will help them to achieve their goals and be a sensitive human being who contribute to create a humanistic culture.

While IQ (Intelligent Quotient) is important EQ (Emotional Quotient) is most essential and SQ (Spiritual Quotient) is indispensable for success especially in the context of education today and the times in which we live. These three quotients take into account the development at the level of Head, Heart and Spirit. It is the spiritual that permeates the entire being. I wish all of you this spiritual strength that will help you go through the journey of life with hope.

Fr Amrit Lal
Manager

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



As we get ready with the second edition of Lukite News and Views, memories come flooding, memories of a tender soul who transformed lives with her healing touch. It is indeed difficult to come to terms with untimely demise of our dear Sr Alvina.

A multi-faceted personality, how does one even begin to describe her? A rare blend of sensibility and sensitivity, she exhibited professional acumen laced with empathy for one and all. One could easily discern that her every action was guided by a warm and generous heart.

Long before Mr Sibal came out with his child centered education policy, Sr Alvina had already embarked on the road that led us away from the dogmatic, structured approach to education. She believed that every child who comes to school is a special person with a strong individualistic streak. He can do wonders if provided with a conducive atmosphere and fed with the right impetus. The need of the hour is to bring out the best in him. As teachers and parents we have to recognize the child's hidden potential and then try to hone it over the years. We will get our reward in the form of a happy, hardworking, confident individual who is passionate about his work,

is ready to take on the world and blaze a trail in his chosen field rather than a tired, confused, unhappy, assembly-line product for whom something is amiss in life. She stressed on the fact that in these changing times we have to begin to understand the mental and emotional make-up of every child, guide him gently by the hand to the place where he will excel. Our job gets over only when he utters that 'Life is Beautiful'.

Lukite News and Views was Sr Alvina's brain child, her dream project which she nurtured with great care and love. It is painful to continue without her presence to lead and guide us, yet life has its own way of moving relentlessly ahead. We have to accept the will of God. I am sure we cannot but succeed when our guardian angel is watching over us from somewhere in heaven.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Principal Sr Grace Maria and the Manager Fr Amrit Lal who have been a source of constant guidance and inspiration in this endeavor.

Flip over... for a glimpse of the year 2010 at St Luke's.

Ritu Dutta

JOIE DE VIVRE

CELEBRATIONS 2010

8 MARCH – WOMEN'S DAY

Lukites celebrated Women's Day with great fervour and enthusiasm. It was very eloquently portrayed that no society can progress until its women are given respect and freedom that is their due. Class XII girls accompanied by their teachers marched to Hotel Paragon where a cultural programme was organized on the occasion by members of the Bethany Social Service Society under the guidance of Sr Diana Coordinator Vocational Training Centre, Solan.



1 MAY – LABOUR DAY

The moral character of a country takes shape according to the values its children imbibe.



Labour Day was celebrated to pay respect to our large workforce that remains unnamed and unrecognized, yet toils day-in and day-out to lead the nation to prosperity and progress. The phrase 'dignity of labour' took on a new hue as the children grasped its true essence through a thought provoking skit.

15 AUGUST – INDEPENDENCE DAY

Patriotic fervour took hold of Lukites as they sang and danced with joy to celebrate India's 64th Independence Day. Mr Devinder Thakur, President, Municipal Committee Solan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



A thoughtful skit put up by senior students invoking the youth to fight corruption and social evils rampant in today's society stole the show. The school choir had everyone tapping their feet to the tunes of their favourite patriotic songs.

5 SEPTEMBER – TEACHERS' DAY

Lukites had been preparing for days to present a cultural treat to their mentors on Teachers' Day but lo and behold, it was raining cats and dogs that day!! We had our hands full with a motley crew of disappointed singers, dancers and actors. Not the ones to give up easily they went from class to class to wish their teachers. In the afternoon as the rain stopped, the teachers headed towards the quaint hill station of Chail to be on their own, for once!



18 OCTOBER – EXHIBITION – PINNACLE 2010

Pinnacle -2010 was the fulfillment of the dream that Sr Alvina had harboured ever since she joined the school. The exhibition was inaugurated on 18 October 2010 by Dr K R Dhiman, Vice Chancellor, Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni. It showcased the collective genius of the latent potential that lurks deep inside every child. It was truly the pinnacle, the zenith, the apex of human endeavour. Pinnacle – 2010 proved that the mind can do wonders, once it is fed with the right impetus.

Students were divided into different groups viz Science, Maths, Social Science, Art and Craft, Language and Literature, Sports etc. The Geography department jolted us out of our reverie with their model on imprints of 'carbon-footsteps'



that virtually led us by the hand to the doom that awaits mother earth, while Lukites with a literary bent of mind made us enter a state where reality was suspended for the moment as Keats and Wordsworth gently led us through the solitude of nature as the language department paid homage to the planet through 'An Ode to Mother Earth'.

It was indeed an exhibition of the tangible and the intangible – the charts, craft items, static and life models et al actually exhibited the reservoir of rich thought, talent and creativity of our young Lukites.

14 NOVEMBER – CHILDREN'S DAY

Children were the guest(s) of honour on this special occasion while teachers tried their level best to entertain them. So we had teachers from 'Blooming Buds' regale one and all with their lively Gidda. Then there was an exuberant foot tapping Gujarati dance from our very own Principal, teachers and last but not the least, Mr Chandreshwar and his colleagues had everyone in splits with their hilarious, yet thought provoking pahari skit.



9 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Cakes and candles! Mistletoe and marmalade! Santa and his Sledge! All were there to herald the spirit of Christmas. A breathtaking skit was enacted by the students that started with the birth of Christ and ended with his message of love and brotherhood to mankind.

Father Joyson, Parish Priest, Sabathu was the guest of honour. He regaled the audience with stories and anecdotes



from Christ's life. Mr Chandel, District Session Judge Solan addressed the students.



CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY

On a day dedicated to creativity, the children of Blooming Buds (KG-V) came to School with boxes, bags, ice-cream spoons, masks, vases all made from waste materials. The handbags woven with strips of paper bits stood among the top quality products created by the students.

It is hard to believe that such beautiful and useful products could be made out of waste. Each child's creativity was at its peak. The children vied with each other to create beautiful paper flowers, pen holders, wall hangings, book marks, face masks, magazine holders etc.

This activity improved the mind and hand co-ordination thereby enhancing the psychomotor skills of students. The mind of a child is a reservoir of innovative ideas, a slight nudge in the right direction can open the lock to a fathomless ocean of creativity.



FAR FROM THE CLASSROOM ...

ACTIVITIES

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Some may call it a paradox, but teaching is indeed a learning process, where the teacher and the taught learn at every step of their journey. An orientation programme for the faculty members of St Luke's school was organized on 16-17 February, 2010. Father Anil Sequera Professor and counsellor at St Joseph college, Kauli (Punjab) was the resource person who conducted this two-day programme to re-juvenate and re-energize teachers before the commencement of the new academic session. The emphasis of the programme was to analyse the psycho-emotional needs of children. It was re-iterated through various audio-video aids that the emotional well being of a child is as important, if not more, than his academic development. The role of a teacher in today's world, where the youngsters have become both analytical and sensitive, was discussed and debated.



The second aspect was to help the teachers undertake a journey of self-realisation. It was conveyed that our thoughts have the power to bring about a change in ourselves and others around us. We have the alchemist factor within us i.e. the ability to change base-metal into gold. The programme made one and all gain an insight into the complex teaching process and helped them understand, introspect, reflect and analyze their role in this gamut of the teaching-learning phenomena in today's changing times.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR XI, XII

On 5 April the students of class XII and XI got an opportunity to attend an orientation programme conducted by Father Anil, a child psychologist and counselor held at our school campus. His views and ideas on various topics truly enlightened and energized the students. They were also given some analogy tests which seemed a bit tough but the students loved doing them. He motivated them through inspirational quotes and clippings. It was once in a life time opportunity which the students enjoyed to their hearts content.



INTER-SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The first Inter-School Basketball Tournament was held in the school ground in June. A total of 21 teams from various schools participated. The students played with great zeal and enthusiasm. The Final (Girls) was played between Akaal Academy, Baru Sahib and St Luke's, while St Luke's boys made to the Final against B L Central Public School, Shamti. The Chief Guest Lt Gen Pradeep Khanna, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Army Commander, Western Command an alumni of St Luke's graced the occasion with his presence. St Luke's emerged as the winner in both the categories, Dhanajay Dharela and Parul Sharma were declared the Best Player(s) of the Tournament. The team members were put through an intensive training schedule by the physical education teachers, Mr R L Bisht, Mr A K Raina, Mr Ashok Kumar and Ms Reena Devi.



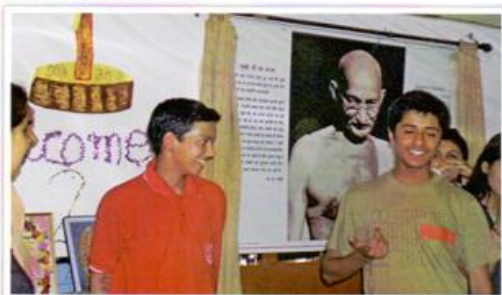
KARGIL DIVAS

Solanites paid homage to our martyrs on 26 July to commemorate Kargil Divas. The statue of Late Captain Sanjay Chauhan, who made the supreme sacrifice in Kashmir while fighting militants and was awarded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously, was unveiled at Chambaghat Chowk. A contingent of forty students from the school was present to pay respect to this brave Ex-Lukite.



MEDIA WORKSHOP

Nineteen Lukites attended a three-day Media Workshop at MS Institute of Communication and Management, Solan on 13 August. They were briefed on how to design a newspaper, school magazine, radio programme etc. They got an opportunity to be on air when their radio-show was broadcasted on 90.4 FM.



AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE FOR TEACHERS

A two day orientation programme was organized on 6 and 7 September for the teachers by Mr Jose Paul, Ex-Director, Educational Planning Group, St Xavier's School, Delhi. Mr Paul had served as a teacher at St Luke's from 1960-1972.



Through the story 'A Golden Goose' he stressed that it is through personal touch and contact that a teacher can bring about a positive change in a child's life. Children should be given maximum chance to express themselves through group discussions and various other activities. It was indeed a thought-provoking experience for the participants.

ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

It is said that hard work is a reward in itself, yet it feels good to be appreciated for those long hours of toil and labour one puts in to stand out from the rest.

The Annual Award Ceremony held on 29 October witnessed Mr A S Rathore, Deputy Commissioner Solan giving away prizes to our very deserving Lukites who excelled in Academics, Sports and Co-curricular activities. School Prefect, Abhas Sharma bagged the Late Capt Sanjay Chauhan Award for the best All Rounder. Gandhi House was



declared the Cock-House. Its proud Captains and House Teachers received the coveted Trophy amidst a cacophony of screams and cheers.

SCHOOL WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The school's website was launched on the 29 of October. In today's age of 'instant information', how could we lag behind! St Luke's is there before you - at www.stlukeschoolhp.com with answer to any query you may have - at the click of a button. A truly momentous event, indeed!



ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS

Bhavika Sharma (X-C) and Muskan Dhiman (VIII B) attended a two-day training programme on 8 and 9 November at SCERT, Solan on Environment Audit organized by State Council of Technology and Environment HP in collaboration with Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. They were accompanied by the Science Teacher Mrs Sunita Sharma.





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