



The Blue Print

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL, OOTACAMUND.

Volume X — 12



December, 1976

SCHOOL NEWS

AUGUST

The School reopened on the 15th of this month for the Second Term 1976. We welcome the following :

Mr. S. Somasundaram M. Sc., successor to Mr. K. V. Joseph, took over the Physics Department in late September :

Miss Kamala Dayal, who taught Hindi to the children of the Junior School during November.

Mr. P. K. Augustine, who took charge of School accounts in July and Mrs. Nancy Gunasingh, who became the Office Assistant / Typist. We wish them all welcome and we are sure that they will help in the building up of the school.

VISIT BY A TRUSTEE

Mr. Jai Pearce, accompanied by his wife, Smt. Usha Pearce, and their two children, visited the school just before the term began. Mr. Pearce took a great deal of interest in the various activities and developments of the School and met the Resident Trustee, the Headmaster and staff for detailed discussions. He promised that he would request the Rotary Club of Pittsburg to render some help, if that could be possible. He went round the school, and was given a list of priority items and things urgently needed by the School. True to his promise, he has contacted the Rotary Club of Pittsburg when he returned to USA, and we may be hearing from the Rotary Club soon. His report to his club chairman appears to be very well written. We thank Mr. Jai Pearce and Mrs. Usha Pearce for their kind interest in the School and we hope they will visit us frequently.

Mrs. Anusuya Pearce, Treasurer of the Trust, was away in August and September at Bombay, and we welcomed her back in October.

Mr. J. P. Gunawardhana, Resident Trustee was away in Sri Lanka for two months during the term and returned towards the end of the term.

The Practical examinations for the ICSE started on 4th Novemebr 1976. Annual Examinations for the other classes began on the 27th and they continued till 2nd December. The school closed for the Winter Vacation on the 4th of December. The ICSE boys stayed on till the 14th for their, Public Exams. We wish them Goodluck.

SPORTS AND GAMES

The sports activities of the school were crippled by the monsoons and so there were hardly any regular games.

ENTERTAINMENT

A Government of India Documentary on the Prime Minister and the 20-point Programme was put up by the Collector's Audiovisual Department. The one on the Prime Minister was very good and the children could get an idea of the various activities and efficient work of their Prime Minister. The intimate family scenes and the Prime Minister's meetings with many sections of the people brought home to the children the multifarious facets of Smt. Indira Gandhi. Most of the children, when, queried, wanted more films of such a nature put up regarding their past leaders, and also be shown the life history of Pandit Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, the Freedom Movement, etc.

OUR TRIP TO KODANAD

We started from Ooty on the 22nd of October at 9-30 a. m. by a van to Ebanad, a nearby village about 6 miles from Ooty. The party was led by Mr. B. N. Deb and consisted of 10 boys of the IX and Mrs. Deb as well as Samson (chef)

We started our trek from Ebanad and at first we found it difficult to walk up steep gradients with our Knap-sacks, but we got used to them soon and even went to the extent of liking the feel of them on our backs. We trekked for about 4 miles before we stopped for our lunch at an old rest house. It was a good one though a bit too badly damaged by trespassers. The caretaker guided us to a great extent and then left us to our destiny. We continued our trek past some lovely sholas" and waterfalls through a small village.

Our next stop was at the Maruwalla Estate, where we were supposed to halt for the night. But it was already getting a bit late and we decided to have our tea in the village teashop. There, while we were having our tea the whole village (probably) came and stared at us and we felt in the,

beginning very embarrassed. We started off briskly and arrived at the Estate by nightfall. The manager gave us a fantastic dinner and provided us with accommodation.

The next part of our trek started immediately after breakfast, again given by the Manager. This was the most tiresome part of the trek. We trudged up and up slowly under the hot sun to our next stop a waterfall, which we reached only at 3 p. m. The waterfall was a godsend and we felt very refreshed after a dip and a drink in it. We also cooked our lunch and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Now Kodanad was very near. The Kodanad Tea Estate rest house was a comfortable one, the scenery beautiful, but the food we had to make do we couldn't define it as food. It was a hotch potch mixture because we had not anticipated that we would have to cook, and we couldn't get hold of any fuel or provisions for a dinner. However the view from Kodanad point was Spectacular.

Next morning we cooked our breakfast and started back for Ooty by bus via Kotagiri where we had a terrible Lunch reaching Ooty around 4 p. m. dead tired.

We would like to thank our leaders Mr. Deb and Mrs. Deb. who organised the trek, as well as our Headmaster who came along with us and shared all our joys and problems. We also thank Major Khurana, the local NCC Commandant for lending us rucksacks and detailed scale maps to plan out the route of the 22-mile trek.

— Nanjunda Redy (IX)

TAILPIECE :

The regular rucksacks — expected to reach us before the trek from Delhi arrived after the trek and boys could be seen going round the school with these wonderful but empty rucksacks on their backs!! Some treks are being planned for 1977 ! Look out !

THE ISC AND ICSE FARWELL

The traditional event of the ISC and ICSE Farewell Day was hosted by the school on the 20th of November.

There was a formal gathering put up by the students after which a buffet dinner followed. The Assembly Hall, where the celebrations were held, and the Senior Dining Hall were decorated.

The programme began with a tribal dance put up by the Juniors. They all seemed realistic in their costumes, and masks, and they seemed to be having nice fun dancing. Of course, we enjoyed it too.

This was followed by a Quawali by the sub-juniors. Mr. Bhattacharya, our Music master, had exhibited his skill in arranging things and it was a success.

Then came a Solo dance by Sangeeta, a well-known dancer of our school. Her movements were graceful and was much applauded.

The next item was a dance by the Juniors. They danced to the accompaniment of one of the songs written for children by the late Subramania Bharati, a well-known poet and freedom fighter of Tamil Nadu.

Next came a Tamil play by the seniors. It was a part of Ramayana when Sita is taken to Lanka and Rama comes to rescue her, dramatized. But dramatized it was, that everything was vice versa, that is, we heard Sita saying that she was getting fed up with Rama and his self-centred obsession with duties. She wore a smart maxi, while Rama and Ravana wore bell-bottoms and mod jackets! This play did not pass without disapproval and strong criticism from religious and orthodox elements as being irreverent, but it was enjoyed and applauded all the same for Ravana was shown not as a demon and Rama was shown not as an angel. Our apologies to sage Valmiki, Kamber and Tulsi. Forgive us our trespasses.

Then came the English play by the Eight Standard. It was a humorous one and all the actors acted out their roles well, earning many compliments.

Then came the senior English play titled 'The Signature' written by Mulk Raj Anand and dramatized by the students of Ninth Standard. During the rehearsal it was feared that it may be rubbed off or in the words of its actors "given the royal boot". But some quick thinking by the actors and self-manufactured lines, made it one of the best plays ever staged for a farewell party. Ravi as Nawab and Srikanth as clerk seemed absolutely real life types.

The last item was a folk dance by Staff & Headmaster! It was executed beautifully to the music of Spanish accordians.

Finally, the Headmaster made a brief & measured farewell speech which seemed to come right from the bottom of his heart and not just off his mouth. He reminded the boys of the ideals set for the school by the Founder and advised them wishing them all a good future. He hoped that they would

always attempt to be different human beings from the usual aggressive self-centred competitive materialistic and ambitious sector of humanity. Grisan then thanked the school for the farewell function. The vote of thanks to all was given by Bharat Vijayan of Class VIII.

— Mukundan S. C. (Std. IX)

TREK TO LADAKH

N. J. Ravi, alias Ravi Chandramouli Std IX gave a brief & absorbing talk to senior staff of his trip to Ladakh in the month of June — July 1976 as a guest member from B. M. S. of the trekkers' party from Lawrence School, Sanavar.

Narrating details of his trek, he talked about the long route taken by the party. He gave vivid description of Banihal Pass, Srinagar, and the Zojila Pass, as well as the long, dangerous road route from Srinagar to Leh. He graphically described his visit to a number of ruins and Temples and of the time he spent learning about the customs and manners of the common people of Ladakh, whom he had met. He appeared to have enjoyed immensely the very good time he had with the Indian Army, the Office as well as, soldiers stationed in Srinagar, Leh and Ladakh, since it was the Army who hosted the entire party. He was all praise for the Indian Army & Mr. S. R. Das, M. A. (Cantab), Headmaster of Lawrence School, who was a most efficient team leader. Ravi told us how frightened he was when he found himself fast asleep at a height of 15,000 feet possibly due to lack of oxygen when the party was climbing part of the slopes over looking Shyok Glacier. His description of the Indus River and other Ladakhi landscape was gripping.

At the end of the talk a number of questions were asked by the students. It was an altogether interesting evening and our Reporter noted that it was enjoyed by staff and students alike. It is hoped that BMS will send a small group of students and staff to another Himalayam trek with Mr. S. R. Das in July 1977.

A PUPPET SHOW

On 13th November 1976 the boys of the Green Dorm put up a Puppet Show. Dekyi Acca helped them to do it very well. Acca made nice cloth dolls. She had made a small stage for the puppets to act. V. V. S. Murthy, Farid and others hid behind the screen and talked for the puppets. The puppets had only to pretend to speak. But it seemed as if they really talked. A puppet recited 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' all wrong. We laughed. The story about the Crocodile and the eggs was very funny. The banana story was also good. We had a happy time watching the show.

Andrew Richard (Class V)

MORNING ASSEMBLIES

During this term, Monday morning assemblies were different from the past. The senior assemblies were held in the library and the juniors in the assembly hall. Teachers by turns, spoke to the juniors. The headmaster (and when he was absent, Mr. Deb used to read poetry) addressed the seniors. The headmaster took one single theme for the whole term. He spoke on "Career Guidance" Actually, it was more on how one can assess one's own potential and abilities, develop one's native skills and talents and then choose properly the subjects & hobbies one wants to take up in school and college so that we could smoothly get in to the right career. The headmaster stressed on qualitative excellence as being the net result of job satisfaction, congenial work atmosphere existing in any career. Ability to relate people of different temperaments as well as productive honest and creative labour by using ones own gifts through out life was much more important than merely earning a lot of money or obtaining a position of authority in some organisation or set up. He showed us how in the school life one could become aware of ones abilities. Since the difficult theme was split up into many sections and the development was methodical and gradual over the term, most of us could follow his talks. We realised that each of us alone could and should decide as to what we want to do with our life and not allow ourselves to be pushed around by others into making vital decisions & choices. The whole series of talks were interspersed with anecdotes, examples and even some jokes so that we never got tired or bored of it.

K Murali

OUR TRIP TO MUDUMALAI

On the 21st of October, we, the classes VIII, VII, VI and V left for Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary at 7 a. m.

We travelled all the way by bus and reached Mudumalai at about half past eleven. We quickly explored our surroundings with delight. After some time we went to the elephant camp after a quick lunch.

In the elephant camp we waited for some time and then witnessed the feeding of the elephants. Their meal consists of three 1-kilo cubes of jaggery and rice mixture solidified,

That night we had a restless sleep as the result of the many stories of elephants coming near different resthouses and the gruesome results of a marauding tiger as far back as the nineteen forties and fifties.

The next morning after a quick breakfast we drove slowly through the jungle to the viewpoint of the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary.

During the ride in the forest department van we saw quite a bit of a wildlife such as deer, monkey, one or two elephants as well as a few peacocks and a whole herd of wild bear. Then we came to the viewpoint which is just a small summer house on top of the highest hill in the Mudumalai Range.

After this we returned to the resthouse and spent our time playing games.

The next day we left Mudumalai for school at 2-30 p. m. and after an uneventful journey we reached school at 4 o'clock.

We would like to thank Mr. Ramesh Chandra. Mr. A. Joseph and Mr. S. Malik for arranging this trip.

L. R. Ravi, VIII.

SERVANTS' DAY.

On the 27th of November the servants were given a half-holiday and the dinner was cooked, served, and the dishes washed by the staff and students. In the evening there was a small informal programme put up by servants.

It began with Sam, who helps in the kitchen, giving a small speech asking the audience to overlook their (the servants') lack of English knowledge and to enjoy the plays and other items put up by them.

First, there was a Christian devotional song by Vimala (She too helps in the kitchen) with Mrs Jesudian, the Mess Manager, accompanying her on the piano.

Then there was an English play or rather a skit, with Sam and John our chef, playing the lead roles. The theme was an old one; the one in which there is a foolish servant and a good master. Though all of us knew the story, we enjoyed it all the same.

This was followed by two songs from Shanta, one of the Ayahs of the school. The songs were much appreciated by all those who understood Tamil.

Then came the highlights of the evening. Two Ayahs Pankajam and Shantha sang a song while Murthy, the school peon, accompanied them in a very able, though surprising manner, on the Tabla as John and Sam (Sam wearing sari) danced! The cheering brought the roof down as John and Sam finished their dance. The dance defied all classification — Mrs. Bhattacharya an expert at dance, when contacted said she had never seen it anywhere in the world.

Then on Sam's request, the Headmaster gave a small speech, thanking the servants for all they had done.

Mukundan S. C., IX.

SCHOOL PICNIC TO PARASURAM SAGAR

It was decided that all of us at school, except the X go after break-fast to Parasuram Sagar, 6 miles from the school, near Wood House. The lunch party with John our chef and Mrs. Rao went in advance to prepare our lunch. They got lost and ended up in a different place. When we went to Parasuram Sagar (actually a small pond), we saw no sign of any lunch; Search parties frantically went here and there. At last as we were sadly returning back to school for lunch, some of us sighted one member of the lunch party — so, soon we all went to lunch spot and had our lunch. After that it began to drizzle. We played some games and 'a treasure hunt.' By evening we had come to the school for a well earned tea.

Probodh, VII.

SATURDAY COUNCILS

Most Saturday mornings were devoted to school council. Since committees dealt with regular day-to-day activities, we could devote much time to serious discussion. Many more children are beginning to take part in these discussions. 'Private money,' 'home supply of tuck' 'Being on time' 'Manners' '4 letter language', 'uniform', 'rules', were some of the topics. The last two councils were devoted to 'Pannel discussion' — The first saw all the school leavers facing the audience with the headmaster as the moderator and questionmaster. The school leavers expressed divergent, candid and refreshingly welcome views on every matter affecting school life. Their criticism expressed in courteous but strong language was appreciated by all. The Second saw 6 teachers and the headmaster facing the audience with K. Murali (school leaver) being the moderator. Questions about the school was fired by the school leavers and it was most interesting to notice expression of healthy divergency of opinion amongst the staff on school matters. In fact even in regular Saturday councils, this keen desire to speak out freely and the healthy divergent thinking among pupils and teachers showed how well-knit the whole school is about its aims. It is happy to note that divergent ways can be proposed by pupils in order to achieve the same aims.

Arun Ka'ro, IX.

HOBBIES

Photography (which cornered most of the donated equipment) cooking, nature club, sewing, chess and batik worked well but the rest of the hobby groups mentioned on the notice board never came into existence. Let us hope we will have many more groups next time. Incidentally hobbies

flourish according to the interest shown by the teacher in charge and the selection of proper students in each group. There are always a sizable number who like to roam about freely.

They should go to top field and play.

Thomas V, VII.

We would like to thank the Headmaster, Staff, Servants and our fellow pupils for every help given to us during this term. It has made our different task of preparing for our exams much easier. We will keep the school flag flying in our future life and we will always help our School as best as we can. Once again thank you all.

Farewell message from boys of class X.

LETTER FROM AN OLD STUDENT

(Who presented a camera to the school)

My dear Mr Chandramouli

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I do hope the camera serves all purposes; though I can appreciate good photography, I know precious little about cameras.

It is gratitude and love which draws me back to the school. It gave me immense joy and happiness, it is just right that I should do a little for the school which has given me such a lot. A happy childhood is essential for any child. I had a happy childhood, thanks to the Blue Mountain School. I wonder whether I could have experienced more warmth and joy had I been elsewhere. I am not alone in this feeling, many others think this way too. And now especially I long for that old warmth in this sordid surroundings. Fond memories of beautiful days spent in school will always anchor me to it.

I do hope the ICSE class has done the exams well and I hope to see some of them in college here next year. My regards to you and Mrs. Chandramouli

Yours

LEVIN

(School Leaver 1971)

MOST GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

1. Volume 9 of Salim Ali's, The Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan' from Mrs. Vijay Pearce;
2. Complete set of the Children's Brittanica from Messrs. Abdul Hameed and P. V. G. K. Murthy.
3. The Gift-parcel of books from Canada from Messrs. Champshi Govindji, Laxmichand Devraj. Pravin Shah, S. P. Ramaswamy;
4. One year' Subscription of the Time magazine from Mrs. Tipaiah ;
5. The Enlarger from Mr. Champshi Govindji ;
6. The spool tape-recorder from Mrs. Malati Naoroji, our Chairman ;
7. The Roller from Mr. Balotia ;
8. TheCompound Microscope from Messrs. Champshi Govindji and L. R. Ranganathan ;
9. Equipment for the dispensary from Mr. Ramachandra Rao ;
10. Books for the library from Mr. Y. P. Levin, an old student.
11. Three LP Classical records from Mr. Mohan Mirpuri ;
12. Grinding machine for the kitchen and a Sewing machine from Messrs. M. J. Shah, Champshi Govindji, M. K. Kuppuraj, P. K. shah V. M.C. Srinivassan, Balasubramaniam, Gokul, V. M. Kailasam, Malani L. Devaraj, F. S. Dhanapal, P. N. Kalro, Sabapathy, Abdul Kader, S. P. Ramaswamy.
13. Printings and Art books as well as books for the Teacher Library P. T. A.
14. Binoculars — P. Varma of Borneo
15. Thanks to Mr. Vajipdar for the Canadian Books
16. LP's of Shakespeare plays from Mr M. K Kuppuraj
17. A Bicycle for the office.

The School wishes to thank parents and wellwishers who have generously gifted these equipment.

B. N. Deb Senior Master.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL

Dear Patent/Well-wisher,

Are you in a generous mood—a gift—giving mood? Would you like to help the school procure the following, or at least one of them?

We need:-

1. Books for the library: particularly TIME-LIFE editions on Nature, The Earth, History, Mathematics, The Sciences.
2. Five years' subscription to TIME and/or NEWSWEEK and/or Science Digest.
3. A good, large GLOBE, a sextant & a planetarium project & 3 Dmaps
4. We intend intensifying our hiking/trekking activities. For this we need equipment-Rucksacks, sleeping bags, ground-sheet, tents, etc.
5. For the bird-watching club we need one pair of powerful binoculars well wishers from abroad gifted us Vol. 7, 8 & 9 of the Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan. Could you help us get the other volumes?
6. For our morning assemblies we need many more L P. records of India and Western Classical Music.
7. An Epidiascope,
8. For dramatics, dances, etc., Stage—Lighting Equipment (Spot—lights, dimmer, etc.)
9. Children's Park Equipment (Slides, Swings, Junglejim)
10. We need two Physical Balances and Dissection Microscopes,
11. We also need two more 12 volt Power packs. We need at least one Spectrometer and one Avometer.
12. The basketball court needs cementing (about 50 bags)
13. Help us lay our first Tennis Court.
14. Could you give sets of L. P. s on Shakespearean Plays? (List & prices available with the Headmaster).
15. Cooking Range (Electric) with built-in oven etc for the Kitchen
(The School has a Power line supply lined out at its own Expense)

WHOM TO CONTACT? The HEADMASTER

For Prices & Sources.

B. N. Deb
Senior Master

பரசுராம சாகர்

அன்று காலை கதிரவன் உதித்தபின், முந்தியநாள் தீர்மானித்தபடி நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் பரசுராமசாகரை நோக்கி நடந்தோம். பள்ளியில் இருந்த அனைவரும் (மாணவர், மாணவியர், ஆசிரியரும்) அதில் பங்கு கெண்டோம். எங்களுடன் சில விளையாட்டுச் சாமான்களும் எடுத்துச் சென்றோம். நானே அன்று காலை பள்ளியை விட்டு வெளியேறும் வரையில் இங்குமங்குமாக ஓடிக்கொண்டிருந்தேன். நான் என்னுடன் ஒரு கூடைப் பந்தையும் எடுத்துக் கொண்டேன். என்னை எங்கள் தலைமை ஆசிரியர் சிறுவர்களை கவனித்துக் கொள்ளுமாறு ஆணையிட்டிருந்தார்.

பரசுராமசாகர் என்பது ஒரு சிறிய அணைக்கட்டு. அது உதகை பூங்காவின் (Botanical Garden) மேலிருக்கிறது அங்கு நாங்கள் 11-30 மணி சுமாருக்கு போய்ச் சேர்ந்தோம். நாங்கள் அங்கு போய்ச் சேர்ந்தவுடன் சிறுவர்களை ஒரு ஆசிரியரிடம் விட்டுவிட்டு காலார உலாவச் சென்றேன். நான் காடுகளையும், மேடுகளையும், சுற்றிப் பார்த்தேன். அங்கு மரங்கள் அடர்ந்திருந்தன. அப்போது சிறுவர்கள் ஓர் இடத்தில் சால்பந்து விளையாடிக் கொண்டும், நீரில் உள்ள மீன்களை பார்த்துக் கொண்டும் இருந்தனர். இப்படியாக நேரம் போனது தெரியாமல் இருந்தது பின் சிறுவர்களுக்கு பசிக்க ஆரம்பித்துவிட்டது. ஆனால் இன்னும் இருதியன் (சமையல்காரர்) அங்கு வந்து சேரவில்லை அதனால் எங்கள் தலைமை ஆசிரியர் சில மாணவர்களை இருதியனை தேடிக்கண்டு பிடிக்கும்படி உத்தரவிட்டார். நான் சில மாணவர்களுடன் ஓர் ஆசிரியருடனும் (ரவி, முக்குந்தன், ஏ. ஜோசப் (ஆசிரியர்) தேடச்சென்றோம். நாங்கள் வெகு நேரம் தேடிய பிறகு இருதியனை தோடர்கள் (Todas) குடியிருப்பின் மேற்குப் பகுதியில் கண்டோம். அவரை அழைத்துக் கொண்டு பரசுராமசாகருக்கு வந்து சேருவதற்குள் 2-00 மணியாகி விட்டது.

எல்லோரும் நன்றாக உண்டபிறகு டிரசர் ஹன்ட் (TREASURE HUNT) விளையாட்டை விளையாட ஆரம்பித்தோம். டிரசர் ஒரு கேட் பரிஸ் சாக்லட்; அதை சஞ்சிவிராவ் (எங்கள் கணித ஆசிரியை) அவர்கள் பெற்றார்; (அன்று தான் அவர்களுடைய பிறந்தநாள்!) அங்கு இன்னும் பல விளையாட்டுகளை விளையாடினோம். அவற்றில் பலவற்றில் எங்களது பாட்டாசிரியர் பாட்டாசாரியா அவர்கள் வெற்றி பெற்றார்.

இப்படியாக 3-30 மணி வரைக்கும் நாங்கள் விளையாடிக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். திடீரென்று மழை மேகங்கள் எங்களை சூழ ஆரம்பித்துவிட்டன. நாங்கள் எங்கள் சாமான்களை மூட்டைக் கட்டிக் கொண்டு பள்ளியை நோக்கி நடந்தோம். அந்த காட்சி மழைமேகங்கள் எங்களை தூரத்துவது போலத் தோன்றியது. நாங்கள் பூங்காவை அடைவதற்குள் மழைக் பெய்ய ஆரம்பித்துவிட்டது. ஆனாலும் நாங்கள் அனைவரும் பள்ளியை சுகமாக வந்து அடைந்தோம்.

அன்று மழையைத்தவிர வேறு ஒரு குறையும் இல்லை. ஏனெனில் நாங்கள் அந்த இருதியன் வழி தவறி சென்றதைக் கூட ஒரு பொழுது போக்காக எடுத்துக் கொண்டோம்.

G. சுப்புராயலு,
X-ஆம் வகுப்பு.

