



# The Eagle

(A NEWSLETTER OF ONA)

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What's in a name? A rose will smell the same by a different name. That's what comes to the mind when one thinks of Old Nabhaites. Having come from the same school, lived in the same dorms, studied in the same classrooms, had the same teachers, played together and followed the same disciplined routine, one would expect them all to have the same attitude, interest and approach towards things, especially ONA. However, in my nearly twenty-five years of association with ONA, I have found that they all have a different approach towards ONA, each feeling very strongly about the approach adopted. For example, there has been no year when we have not spent hours on just debating whether ONA should be along with or separate from Founders Day.

First come the ONs who have a vision about ONA. They feel the ONA should be an association placed at a high altar, helping to keep all ONs in touch with each other, wherever they are. The ONA should be a family looking after its members at large, not focused on individuals or groups, where every one is equal irrespective of social or economic status. The ONs should come to each other's help when needed and possible. The ONA should stay in close contact with the alma mater, looking after the interests of PPS closely and consciously.

Then come the ONs who appreciate this vision and want to help realize this vision. They help in running the ONA knowing fully well that it is a thankless job. They spend their money and time to drive down to different places to attend the Executive meetings, knowing fully well that despite their best efforts there will be criticism from other ONs. There are also many younger ONs who help physically in organizing the ONA Day.

Another category is of ONs who are interested in seeing ONA do well but do not actually have the time to actively participate. They lend financial help to not only ONA but also PPS. Then there are those committed ones who annually put up sponsorship in some form or the other for the ONA Day and help reduce expenses.

Some Old Nabhaites are the party types. They are not active in the organization but are always there for a get-together. They firmly believe that ONA should be a platform to meet and enjoy. Period!

Some ONs make it a point to attend get-togethers when informed; while some other ONs who even after promising to attend, give the ONA get-togethers a miss for any small reason.

One also finds ONs, who are free advisers. They have a lot of suggestions to offer- “We should do this”, “we should do that”, and “this should have been done like this”, but give them a responsibility and they will be hard pressed for time. They are a very common lot.

Then there are those ONs who, though generally apathetic towards ONA, remember it suddenly for some personal need or to expand their business interests, asking for address lists of ONs.

Then there are the cynics (though, thankfully, only a few). They feel anyone who is running the ONA has probably some personal interest. Another group is that of the critics, that looks for areas to criticize the people at the helm because the ONA is not being run the way they would like it.

The younger lot comes in two categories - the just passed out and the College students. The just passed out have just found freedom and they want to stamp their individuality. They give vent to their abundant energy, and seek attention by creating some scene or the other at ONA Day. The college going students having got over this phase, being shy and unsure of their future, are envious of their seniors. They usually avoid ONA meetings till they have attained some status.

The best lot that I have observed is the ONs in the Defence and those living farthest from their alma mater. They appreciate each ON activity and look forward to news in The Eagle or to the ONA Day or Founders’ Day. These people are also the ones who send in their life membership very eagerly. They also contribute the maximum to The Eagle and any ONA needs.

I am sure there are many more types of ONs every one has observed. There is no malice in writing all this. It is just to spell out the diversity in the ONA group. All are important for ONA and we have to carry them all together. Everyone contributes- the adviser ON may come out with a wonderful suggestion at a meeting and the cynical critic keeps those at the helm on their toes lest they make a mistake or go wrong. The net worker spreads information around and so on. They all contribute.

Would it not be so boring if we were all alike? Variety is indeed the spice of life. It takes all kinds to make the world (ONA). In true democracy every opinion has to be respected. However there has to be a balance in the composition of ONA for it to be successful. As long as the majority favours the positive approach, the ONA will continue to tick.

## YOURS NABHAITELY

It is always a pleasure to read The Eagle. Thanks!

**Col Harinder Gill (J-58), AMC**

I passed out in 1966. My class mates were **Hardev Bajwa (S-25)**, **Jaspal Chatha (R-89)**, **Narinder Kolhi (B-79)**, **Aulakh brothers (Chiranjeev and Inderjit)**, **Mulakhjit Singh (S-54)**, **Jaswinder Singh**, **Ashok Balwani (R-90)**, **VP Nandrajog (B-27)**, **Anil Mahindra (S-75)**, **Jaspal Shoker (R-88)**, **Manjit Saraon (J-94)** are some that I remember. I left for NDA in June 1966 while the batch completed SC in Dec 1966.

Were you in Jumna House?

**Wg CDR Pradeep Kapur**

I am ex-**R207 (68-73)** now settled in USA. I chanced to come across an old copy of the Eagle sent me by my Dad (2000) and happened to open the School site, yesterday!!!!!!!. Brought back a flood of emotions and nostalgia, of course. I was wondering if any Overseas Chapter existed here in the USA. I also wondered if one could be revived if feasible. The years I spent at School have certainly stood me in good stead and I wanted to share that with one and all. In particular, I wanted to bring my kids to visit the School next time I come to India. In the meanwhile though, I wonder if I could ask for a favor!! I always cherished the idea of having a copy of the school prayer book that began with the School song and had hymns in Gurmukhi, Hindi and English. If any thing, I would like to have it as the memento from my alma mater. Could I buy a copy?

My last contact with the school was in 1984 when, while working at the Holy Family Hospital, I was asked by **Gp Captain AJS Garewal (Ex-Headmaster)** to accompany the Jt Indo-British Schoolboys expedition to *kalanag* (22,000ft), & he would not have any Doctor but an old Nabhaite MD to accompany. Though not properly acclimatized, I accompanied them all till the Base Camp (17,000 ft) and thoroughly cherished the honor thus bestowed. My classmate **TilakRaj (J-152, Tilkoo-Jumna)** was the then teacher as well as the de-facto leader and I cannot forget the experience. I visited the School soon after at the following Founders' Day in 1985 and left India to have lost most of the contacts, including some photographs and all my original certificates in transit when I migrated from UK to USA in 1994. Can I get in touch with **Tilak Raj** and **Rajneesh Airey (a Teacher)** of 1985 era if they have a known address with the School? And do you have a known address of **Mr MN Tankha (Ex-Goegrphy)** who seemed to have migrated to the USA? I shall be grateful for any leads.

I graduated from AFMC in 1981 along with **AS Randhawa** (Jumna- now with Army Med Corps- Lt Col), one year behind **HS Hooda** (Lt Col AMC-Beas) and few years behind **HS Sandhu** (my **School Prefect-Ravi**), and perhaps now in USA. & **RS Chhachhi (S-77)**.

Well, I could go on reminiscing forever so I better stop. Any service? Please feel free to contact. Though I am tied down to usual chores of a career and family, at least Internet is a blessing .

**Rajesh Wadhwa (R-107), MD, MRCP(UK)**

I am an old student of PPS, and my House No was **J-055**. I want to join ONA. So kindly, sir, tell me the procedure and details for joining the ONA.

**Ashish Bansal J-055**  
[ashish\\_bansal4@rediffmail.com](mailto:ashish_bansal4@rediffmail.com)

You are doing a fantastic job in bringing out the Eagle. I truly appreciate your efforts. I was really sad to know about the demise of **Mr Mathu**. He was a great character & I do remember how he would take pains to teach us civics. God bless his soul & convey my deepest condolences to the Mathu family. Whenever I read the Eagle I am nostalgic about the wonderful years spent in the school. All the pranks we used to play- Riding bicycles to Patiala to see *Leader*(Movie) with **Mr Vodden**, our English teacher. It was fun time. It also gives me immense sense of pride that one from amongst us is a Lt General in the Army. I am referring to **Omi Nandrajog (B-1)**. It makes me even more proud that we lived in same *Gali* & had strong family relations. Way to go Omi! I would also like to remember **Mrs & Mr Tandon**. I still remember **Ms Pannu** teaching us craft in 1960-61 when I was in Junior school, and, **Mr Tandon** teaching us music. Those were the good old days. Now, something about myself. I did my graduation & then joined the Liquor industry in India. I was the VP Sales & Marketing of Associated Alcohol & Breweries Ltd, Indore when I migrated to Canada in 1993. Here in Canada I work for Telus - communication company & my wife Aruna is running a business-Gas Station. We have 2 kids- my daughter, Divya is married to Puneet & is happily settled in USA. My son, Raghav is a Chemical Engineer & is employed in Petroleum industry. I am at present in Calgary, Alberta, Canada & my phone number is 403-730-6295. Any one who happens to be in this part of the world is welcome to visit us. We will try to be good hosts. I will be coming to India next year sometime & will make it a point to visit PPS. I would highly appreciate my batch mates can email me so that we can relive our school days. With warm regards to all & God bless

**Suresh Khanna (B-26, 1967)**  
[sckh93@hotmail.com](mailto:sckh93@hotmail.com)

Many many thanks for the Eagle. Who wrote the beginning article? It was very good. Our English teachers should be proud of our English! **Ashok Balwani (R-90)** also wrote a nice article. I will also send you some thing for the Eagle. Sorry to bother you but how do I send mail to HM, PPS? All the best for Founders' and have a nice time. We had a wonderful time last year.

**Jyoti Kate (R-52)**

Sad to learn of Mr. **PN Mathu's** demise. He was a Great man and a dedicated teacher who shaped our lives. Below is a letter I just wrote to **Basanti (R-73)**, in the memory of **Mr Mathu**.

Dear **Basanti**,

I was reading the Oct issue of the Eagle and learnt of the Sad Demise of **Mr. PN Mathu** who was my House master and a father figure at school. He was a great man who really loved his students and went out of his way to help them understand whatever he taught. I was posted in Jammu in the Air Force helicopter unit from 79-82 when I met him just by chance. It was late in the afternoon when a newly posted in Officer **Flt Lt RS Saini, an ON (ex Ravi 67 or 68 batch)**, walked up to my room and asked if I could help his wife get a seat in the B Ed College. As a helicopter pilot I used to be flying the state ministers pretty often so he thought I could do him this favour. With Saini on my pillon, I drove my motorcycle to the college. Though the college was closed, the watchman guided us to the residence of the Principal. We drove to the said house and low and behold, **Mr. & Mrs. Mattu** received us at the door. It was really a great surprise and we hugged each other. **Mrs Mattu** gave us a lovely cup of tea. We spent an hour plus talking of good old days at PPS and I enquired about you and learnt that you were married to an army officer from the Signals. **Flt Lt Saini** was promptly given a seat for his wife although the entrance exams had already been held. The PPS bonds are so strong that **Mr Mattu** whispered into our ears " Don't tell anyone. I will put her name on the list of students admitted to B Ed." Soon after this meeting I moved out of Jammu to NDA as an instructor and never had the chance to see the great teacher again.

In his passing away, the world has lost a Great Teacher. However, he has left behind footprints in the sands of time for the PPS fraternity to follow. May God bless his Soul.

**Bikram Dev Singh (S-84, 1969 batch)**

Thank you for the ONA Eagle. You are doing a great job.  
**Jaspal Chatha (R-89)**

Nice to hear from you after a long time. Hope all is well. I become a Grand Father last month as my daughter gave birth to a baby boy on 17th September. How time flies and we age-what a life it was in school and college days. Anyway it is nice to see a changing and growing world.

**Dilip Bedekar (S -67,1967)**

I have just read "THE EAGLE", October 2004, circulated and redirected to me through various addresses. As usual I got rejuvenated on reading. It is very good to see the Nabhaites in great spirits always and doing well. Due to my recurrent postings I have missed the PPS action for long and thus am interested in reviving the same. Kindly do let me know how I can become a member of ONA and what I have to do. Please amend my address in your records. After completion of my graduation, I joined the army and have now taken premature retirement in year 2001 and retired as Lt Col. Since my retirement I have joined a CITIGROUP COMPANY, "e Serve International Ltd" as Head,

Administration (west) and Country Head, Safety and Security. My spouse is Meenakshi Sharma and she is working as a hostess with Air India. I have two children, daughter Arundhati, 20 yrs and son Suryaveer Sharma, 14 yrs, studying in Mumbai. I have settled in Mumbai due to my job requirements.

**Ashwani Sharma (S-148, 1966-71)**

Thanks for your prompt reply. I have already downloaded the latest issue of the eagle and keep myself informed from these issues off and on. I think I visited the school once after passing out. Long ago I paid 300 or 400 rupees for lifetime ONA membership. I will send you a cheque for Rs.1400/- to revive the same. In 1965, we were the third batch to pass out. In 1965 we had two groups, one for ISC and the other for Higher Secondary. In my ISC group, I can remember **Deepak Sharma, Shiv Pal Singh Virk (R-40), Daljeet Shaheed (B-54), Madanjeet Singh (Ex-Satluj),** possibly **Rajinder Sharma, Chittranjan Prabhakar (B-16), Pritpal Singh (R-1)**. In the Higher Secondary group I can remember **Ranjeet Pal Singh Mann (R-14), Chand Singh, Dalai Singh Moil (J-33)**. Among the seniors I can think of **JS Bedi (J-3) (now a Vice Adml), Deepak Kapoor (Jumna), Sureshwar Tiwari (J-34), OP Nandrajog (B-1)** (now a General) and many others, if I put my memory cells back in rewind. I was in Jumna house and later a school prefect. Among the teachers I have good memories of all respected **Misters JK Kate, S C Cowell, YP Bhardawaj, MN Tankha, Bhatnagar/s, Sharma, Tandon, Punia, YP Johri, Majitha, Bhawe, Pawar, Mathu & all Misses Lamba, Punia, Kak, Row**. I attended two DONA get-togethers in the eighties. After that I don't know what happened to DONA. Is it still alive? You are right, I was two years ahead of you. **IS Aulakh (R-109)** is also a Marine Engineer, now a Director with Dole Shipping, living in Puerto Rico or USA. I talked to **Gurinder Chhachhi (S-76)** when I was coasting USA once. I usually drive down to Dalhousie and back to Delhi at least once a year. On the way I saw two diversions from GT Road to Nabha direct. Earlier it was via Patiala or Ludhiana. Which & where exactly is the shortest route to Nabha from Delhi and when coming to Delhi via Pathankot/Jullundur/Ludhiana?

Anyhow nice hearing from you and you all are doing a great job keeping ONA kicking and alive. In another ten days I will be taking over a ship running between Russia and Japan. I was promoted to Chief Engineer in 1979. Since then I have worked for 22 years with German Owners and now I am working for a Danish Shipping Company.

**Vijay Plaha (J-51, 1966)**

Thanks very much for your email and invitation. Well I am too faaaaaaaaar----Would have whole heartedly made sure to attend the ONA Day if I was in India.

Furthermore, I would like to become a life member of the ONA. How much do I have to pay in US \$. Also I would be obliged if you could let me know the whereabouts of **Rupinder Dhillon (B-68)**. Last I knew he was in the army-- a Captain (1980), or, his

younger brother, **Kulwinder Dhillon (B-69)**, a Doctor (1968). Last I knew he was stationed at some dispensary near Chandigarh.

**Surinder Gill (Moga) (B-53, 1967)**

Thanks for responding to my mail. You are absolutely right in recognizing me. I am from Patiala and **Vimal Mahendru (J-344)** is in touch with me. I joined UT Civil Service in 1987 and am presently posted in Delhi, after having served in A and N islands during my initial years. Looking forward to hearing more about you and the ONA family.

**Manpreet Ph 011-23944284 (R)**

## **Reach for the Sky**

Respected Sir,

We, a group of Old Nabhaites would be undertaking a Mountaineering Expedition to a 6000mtrs+ Peak in the Himalayas this September. We would be climbing for a cause, that is to highlight the importance and benefits of Good Health. We wish to Climb under the banner of our esteemed O.N.A. [hence the Expedition title]. We would be taking assistance from a professional team of Guide/H.A.P.s in our this endeavor. We have already been able to secure some major support from a Govt. Undertaking in our endeavor. We also expect some support from another big name in the corporate sector. However our we sincerely believe that our Expedition would not be complete without the active participation of our fellow Old Nabhaites. Through our this letter, we hereby request You for the O.N.A.'s Blessings and Support in being able to realise our objective. We have already been able to generate enough funds to support our Expedition. However we still need to associate with some Big names in the corporate world in order to make it more glamorous so as to maximise its reach across the society. The details about the Mountaineering Expedition have been published at our Website [<http://www.BraveHearts.info/TheExpedition>].

Yours nabhaitely,

**Lakhwant S. Khangura.**

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## **WHILE WE WERE BOYS (GIRLS) IN SCHOOL**

**Excerpts from my school life at PPS (1967-1974)**

**Junior school:**

- **Miss Malkani** was in charge for the Ravi house and also head of the junior wing (as I recall). She was a very strict disciplinarian and as always, a couple of us would end up spending the weekend outside her doorway as a punishment for one reason or the other.
- **Miss Pannu** the ever-lively person and heart throb of the sixth graders. I don't recall who but one of us had the REAL crush and ended up proposing "*Madam mein aap pe mohit hoon*". She took it in her stride and handled it very gracefully.
- Trying all tricks to use the **Marble staircase** to reach the classes, if one was caught, we all knew the consequences.
- **Saturday movies** in the lawns, the flicks were JUST great to name a few *Bridge on the river Kawai, Zebra in the kitchen...*
- **Mr. Kate's** phenomenal memory to recall our names, details about our families...He was a walking encyclopedia.
- Goofy (forgetting his name most likely **Mr AK Gupta**) the next principal who replaced **Mr Kate**, was also our Physics teacher and very innovative in putting across the subject.
- **Anita Williams** and **Alan Collier** (not sure of the spellings), the English and Math teachers who were with PPS under an international Teacher Exchange program. And **Collier's** favourite line "Think before you Think"

### Senior School:

- The **Amrudh Raids** in the rainy season, we used to all act as if we were playing football near the Guava trees and aim the shoots at the Guavas.
- The haircuts under the trees, we all tried our level best to skip the haircuts from Ravan (nickname for the barber) or tried to *patao Ravan* to only trim our hair against the routine severe haircut.
- Marching from Senior school to the Junior school playgrounds during the afternoons for the sports. Guess what! Every class wanted to walk behind the class with the chic in shorts. Girls were a rarity in those days, not sure of today.
- Secret visits to the city in the late afternoons or evenings for ice cream or hot samosas / pakoras
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### Some of the teachers

I remember very vividly are:

- a) **Mr RS Mehta** (don't recall the subject he taught) but was in charge of Photography and some of us really enjoyed working in the Photography lab
  - b) **Mr Joshi** who taught us Biology/Science. He really encouraged me and I turned a new leaf in academics, with my percentage jumping by over 20% from 6th to 7th. But unfortunately he left soon after. I am not sure why he left PPS.
  - c) **Mr Katyal** taught us Biology and can still feel his ear pinches every time we slipped up on some simple questions
  - d) **Mr Ram Singh**, our Maths teacher, who was really patient in making us understand basic logic.
  - e) **Mr Bhatnagar**, our Housemaster, who was very polished and polite. Most of us used to try and take undue advantage of his politeness.
  - f) **Mr Mathu**, our Geography teacher and his unique style of registering the facts to all of us.
  - g) **Mr Subhash Sharma**, chemistry teacher, who was popularly nicknamed "mor" (the peacock), for his gait.
  - h) **Mr Punia** the Bursar, a fine gentleman.
- The list is endless.....

**Anil Chadda, R-224 (1967-1974)**  
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### “The *Pinnie* eaters of Satluj House”

I can't forget the incidence when **Mr Mattu (Ex-Satluj and Ex -Goography)** chased **Mohanjit (S-110)** (now a Brigadier) and me, when he found us skipping the games period and eating *Pinnies*. We had a classmate **Gurdev Singh (S-83)** who had brought *Pinnies* from home. **Mohanjit** and I decided to eat a few while everybody went for games in the evening. **Mr Mattu** was passing through the dormitory on his way home and we hid under the beds. He had seen us so he kicked under the bed, and there we were with *Pinnies* in our mouth running around the dorm till he caught us, pinched our ears and said " you rascals, you can't hide from me ", and sent us packing to the games field. We loved him for all this and he loved us more. It was he and his colleagues who were father figures for us and shaped our lives, and made us what we are today. That dedication with which he worked is rarely found in today's teachers.

**Bikram Dev Singh (S-84, 1969)**

### **GET TOGETHER** (Down the memory lane)

I once read a quote written by a seventeenth century history writer who wrote that whenever you see one Sikh, you meet one Sikh, when you meet two Sikhs it is a company

of saints and when you meet five Sikhs you are in the presence of God. While this statement was made in an entirely different context, I recently went to India with my children and met many of my old school and class mates and a new version of this theme popped into my head- that is; when you meet one ON it is only one ON, when you meet two ONs, it becomes the ONA and when you meet more than five ONs at a time, it becomes the PPS all over again.

**Mr Onial**, our old English teacher also understood this metamorphosis although he had a less flattering assessment of the Nabhaites as a group. He once observed dryly to our class, “Individually you all are gentlemen but together you all become a gang of ruffians”.

Anyway, back to the present. On my recent trip I called my classmate, **Yashbir Dewan (J 297)** who is currently the Head of Neuro-surgery at CMC, Ludhiana. Apparently he was done with cracking the skulls for that day and invited me over to his home. We started talking about the old times and we decided to invite any ONs whom he could contact for a get-together in Chandigarh later on that week. He said most people would be busy because of the holiday season but we could try anyway. He called up **Kamal Sud (S345)** and we also rang up **Dr Jashanjot (S-52)** and **Jimmy Saini** (who had gone to India from Fremont, CA).

We met in a hotel and the following ONs showed up with families. They include (in no particular order) **Maj GS Benipal (S 420)**, **Harinder Sidhu (B 439)**, **Dr Jashanjot Singh Bhangu (S 52)**, **Col Sharanjit Bhullar**, **Jimmy Saini (J 452)**, **Jatinder Aulakh (S 400)**, **Manoranjan Sidhu (B117)**, **Dr Arjinder Bains**, and **Dr Barinder Paul Singh (B461)**. Among them were also the following of my classmates from 1971 batch, **Dr Yashbir Dewan (J 297)**, **Dr Kamal Sud (S 345)**, **Jaiwant Sangha (R 297)**, and **Romi Kataria (S 298)**.

Many others called on the phone to catch up. **Dr Jashanjot** came in spite of the fact that he had undergone angioplasty the preceding week. While there were many other people at the party, the PPS crowd clearly enjoyed themselves. It was a special treat to meet my classmates like **Jaiwant** and **Romi** whom I met after almost 28 years. After the usual catching up, the talk revolved around among other things, the exploits on the play field, the detention at **Miss Malkani's** door, and the anticipation of the famous English food. Inevitably smell of Rajmah of Nabha also came up. I felt that I only had to close my eyes and it would seem as if I had traveled all the way back in time to PPS of the 1970s. It was amazing that a bunch of middle-aged men could meet after decades and start talking like nothing had changed.

The next day my brother-in-law was supposed to go as the guest of honor for the 29th Liberals Hockey semi final at Nabha. **Mr PS Gill**, who was an organizer for this tournament, invited me as well. I enjoyed the match in his company and later on went to see **Mr Nigam**, who was sick, and met **Deep Shikha (B-293)**, **Mr Nigam's** daughter) and another classmate of mine, **Pushpa Jotsinghani** who, like her father, is now a teacher. I also met **Mr Ram Singh**, **Mr Kooner (R-18)** and **Col Sukhminder Aujla (S264)**. Later on Mr Gill kindly took me on a tour of the school grounds. After more than 25 years I

again set my eyes on the Kairon Block, the Junior School with its reading room and the magnificent Assembly Hall, the swimming pool, the Science Block and the Auditorium. Much had changed yet much remained the same.

Memories came flooding back. In the Junior School, I could almost see myself again as a scrawny nine-year-old standing outside **Miss Malkani's** door with my parents for the first time. I could also hear the 'Bless O Lord...' in the dining hall. I went to my old dormitory where I often felt homesick while trying to go to sleep at night and strangely I felt a pang of longing for that homesickness once again.

In Senior School Science Block, I could almost smell the pungent smell of H<sub>2</sub>S gas we made during one of the experiments. In the same place I also recalled the fire extinguisher that **Rupinder Boparai (B-325)** and the others had once set off accidentally during a prank gone too far! I remembered the evening tea and snack before the games and the excitement of the Saturday movies and the occasional house evening plays in the Auditorium.

My friend and another classmate, late **Dr Baljit Uppal** had mentioned in his last editorial in the school chronicle that among other things he would remember even the inanimate objects like the palm tree outside the auditorium when he left the school. I looked at the palm tree and in spite of all that had changed; it looked just as it had when we were students. For no particular reason the memories of the fierce debates and extempore speeches that I had participated in long ago along with **Baljit** came flooding back in a rush of nostalgia.

While my heart ached for my departed friend I looked upon the impassive palm tree and thanked it for being what it was; a reminder of a long gone but glorious childhood I was fortunate enough to have shared with dear friends long ago.

**Dr Rupinder Brar**

### **“THE ONA DAY 2K4”**

The Battle of Waterloo was won the playgrounds of Eton and Harrow. In true tradition of Public schools, the ONA Day started with a kick off on the playgrounds of PPS with a football match - *Past Vs Present*. The ONs huffed and puffed on the playground but showed patches of brilliance that were better than those of the *present*, both in dribbling and passing. As is the tradition, there was no limit on the team members of '*Past*'. Keeping their hearts in mind, a free rolling substitution was allowed to them. The friendly game of football also witnessed some patches of handball talent. The referring was of the highest quality as it was made sure the *Past* won in true tradition of the event. All this while, Old Nabhaites were arriving for the ONA Day from different directions. A desk had been set up under the astute management of **Ms Gagandeep(B-678)** for registering them. ONs, school staff and children, amidst lot of cheering, witnessed the match.

The match over, all the ONs and staff strolled down to the lush green lawns of Junior School to enjoy the Grand Tea hosted by the School. There were a lot of handshakes and body hugs amongst ONs meeting after many years. The ONs also were seen paying respects to and touching the feet of their ex-teachers.

After the tea, most ONs took a walk around the school noting each change and remembering little incidents from their past relating to each place. After a wash and change, most ONs made it to the Pavate Hall for the ONA meeting.

Like so many years in the past, the ONA meeting started with assembly conducted once again by the Ex-Bursar, Ex-Headmaster, **Mr GS Punia** in his immaculate style. The School Song sung by all present followed this. The meeting was compeered by **Ms Gagndeeep (B-678)** .The first to address was **Harvinder Dhaliwal** who welcomed the ONs on the occasion. This was followed by the Secretary's report, The Eagle report and the presentation of the accounts by the treasurer. The Vote of Thanks was presented by **Col Sidhu**, President, Patiala Chapter, on behalf of the **ONA President Harpartap Singh Ajnala (B-45)**, who could not be present owing to his mother's hospitalization. The ONA meeting witnessed some hectic discussions on the affairs of ONA. The meeting was well handled and presided over by the Secretary, **Col BS Grewal (S-50)**.

Then it was time for what everyone was waiting for-- "**The ONA Dinner**". It was held on the playgrounds at the ONA Complex. The drinks relaxed most ONs and everyone loosened up to make the most of a joyful evening. The School Staff and their family members were also present in strength. It was a well-managed affair. ONs cutting across many decades were now one and intermingled with each other.

Ultimately the most difficult time came-- parting from friends and new acquaintances, which had to be done as life goes on and time never stops.

It will be rude to end without a note on the hard work and effort put in by the new team of organizers **HS Dhaliwal (B-627)**, **Gurpreet (R-009)**, **Khatra (J-597)**, **Sohal (R-566)**, **Yadwinder (R-674)**, **Bhupinder Sidhu**, **Grewal**, and **Rashpinder** etc.

**Dr Jashanjot Singh(S-52)**  
**Life Member, ONA Executive Committee.**

**News**

**Change of addresses, email and phones...**

**Col Harinder Singh Gill (J-58)**

ADMS, HQ 3, INF DIV

C/o 56 APO

**Bhupinder Singh Gill (J-92)**

62 Roxeth Hill, Harrow-on-the-Hill

Middlesex, HA2 0JN

UK

Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 8423 5076

Email: [bsgillco@hotmail.com](mailto:bsgillco@hotmail.com)

**Col BS Laungia, CO (J-122)**

22 Punjab NCC Bn, Govt.Polytechnic Complex

Batala (Pb)-143505

**Col TPS Waraich (J-155)**

MA to C-in-C

Andaman & Nicobar Command

Port Blair-744102

**Vinay Mahajan, (B 218, 1973)**

B 958 Palam Vihar,

Gurgaon

Haryana 122017

[vinaym90@hotmail.com](mailto:vinaym90@hotmail.com)

**Rajesh Wadhwa (R-207) MD, MRCP (UK)**

Medical Director

Whole Health / Continental Airlines **Clinic**

Ste. 136, Terminal C

Newark International Airport, Newark

NJ 07114, USA

Tel no 973-6810210, 609-2080504(R)

**Dr Jashanjot S Bhangu (S-52)**

4538 Darshan Vihar

Sector 68, Mohali

Distt Ropar

**Gurjinder Benipal (S-420)**

4487, Darshan Vihar

Sector-68

Mohali

Phone:01723957885; 9316005991

**Col.Anil Kayastha SM, AMC (S-63)**

H.No.22, Sector A, Chandimandir

Sr. Adv.Urology, Commd Hospital

9815071861

[anilkaystha@sify.com](mailto:anilkaystha@sify.com)

**Sandeep Sandhu (R-512) & Puneeta Sandhu (J-540)**

2120, Ph X Mohali

94172-00031

**Ajitpal Singh (S-178)**

JD's Restaurant, Ph VII

Mohali

**Dr Anil Joshi (S-226)**

161,Phase VII

Mohali

Ph: 9316135888

**Kulwaran Athwal (S-178)**

253 Lajpat Nagar,

Jalandhar

Ph: 98140-60055

**Mandip S Grewal (R-73)**

159-Sector17,

Panchkula

Ph: 9815475661

**RD Singh (S-59)**

1091/Sector 7  
Panchkula  
Haryana

**Bhupinder S Brar (J-970)**

2115 Ph VII  
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**Dr NS Sandhu (J-280)**

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9814014574  
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**Ravinder Garg (B-501, 2004)**

[smartyravinder@yahoo.co.in](mailto:smartyravinder@yahoo.co.in)

**Gopal Krishan Gupta (S-299, 1976)**

[gopalkgupta@gmail.com](mailto:gopalkgupta@gmail.com)

**Ashwani Sharma (S-148, 1966-71)**

Classique, Plot #21, Flat # 601,  
Amritavan Complex, Goregaon (E)  
Mumbai- 400 063  
Tel- 91-22-2888272, 91-22-28446249  
Mobile- 09820414101

**KC Tandon (Ex-Teacher)**

#14826, St. No. 7A, Adarsh Nagar, Bathinda-151002

Ph. No. 0164-2760233(R), 0164-2274730(O), Mobile: 9814243543

**Amritpal Singh Sidhu**

[amritpalsinghs@gmail.com](mailto:amritpalsinghs@gmail.com)

**Condolences**

**Mr OP Sharma**, Ex-Hindi Teacher who served the School for over thirty years passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004,

**Mr SL Nigam** (Ex-Teacher) passed away after suffering from a terminal illness.

**Dr Preetam Singh(J-242)** lost his mother in July.

**Mrs Katyal** w/o Ex-Biology Teacher MR KK Katyal and mother of ONs **Puneet, Vandana and Archana Katyal** passed away last year (This issue of The Eagle has taken a long time coming). Below is an email sent by **Amy Tandon Kumar** when this tragedy occurred

Dear friends,

**Mrs. Katyal** passed away last night in India. She had not been keeping in very good health for a few days. Most of us, especially **Ex-Ravi** house **ONs** remember **Mrs. Katyal** very fondly. She was the mother away from home who always had food, a sympathetic ear, and a lot of love to give to everyone away from home and was very protective of all her extended family.

Please feel free to call/email **Archana** and **Vandana Katyal (R-344)** who are here in the US. (**Archana** Ph.no. 714 505 4349, **Vandana** Ph. no. 661 722 4987) If you need phone numbers, please call me. Do share memories of the little incidents that touched you while you were part of the **Ravi** house family and of **PPS**.

All I can say right now is May God be with the family and give them strength in this very tough time. I don't even have the courage to directly call them right now as none of my education prepared me for this. I really do not know what to say to these very dear friends of mine. So help me out. I hope I'll be in a state to talk soon but meanwhile, do what you can.

**Amy (Amita Tandon Kumar)**

**The Unkindest cut of all....**

**First The Good news! (31-10-04)**

Hello everyone!

Just writing to inform you all that I got married on the 25th of October to ROHIT KHANNA at Nabha. He is from Delhi but based in Mumbai. Presently he is directing the serial "Jassi jaisi koi nahin" being aired on Sony.

**Luv,  
Geeta**

**And the Real Sad news...(14-12-04)**

Dear Friends,

This is to inform you that Papa is not in our midst any more. He passed away at 3.30pm on the 10th. Like I may have written to some of you, he was diagnosed for cancer early last month. His doctor was quite hopeful that Papa would respond to chemotherapy, but it seems the cancer was far too aggressive. After a few days of reasonable health after the first round of chemotherapy, he suddenly deteriorated from about the 7th.

Like all else that he did in his life, he fought till the end.

Love,  
**Geeta.**

## **Welcome! New Life Members of ONA**

The ONA is proud to welcome to its fold the following Old Nabhaites who showed the motivation and inclination to become Life members of ONA at the last ONA Day. Any error in name or house number maybe brought to our notice.

- 1. Anupinder Singh (S-806)**
- 2. Preet Mohinder Singh (R-762)**
- 3. Jaswinder Singh (J-513)**
- 4. Rajinder Singh (J-502)**
- 5. Ramdeep Kaur (S-803)**
- 6. Baljinder Singh (B-790)**
- 7. Dr Rashi Pandher (B-660)**
- 8. Dr Manvir Gupta (J-370)**
- 9. Amrinder Singh (B-0132)**
- 10. Dr Dalbir Benipal (R-588)**
- 11. Paramvir Singh (S-848)**
- 12. Jagwinder Singh (B-699)**
- 13. Narinder Dhindsa (R-686)**
- 14. Baljit Singh (R-435)**

Others who have sent their Life Membership to become active members of ONA are-

- 1. Kulbhushan Singh (R-82)**
- 2. Ashwani Sharma (S-148)**
- 3. RS Grewal**

We also welcome the PPS students who passed X or XII in March 2005 and have become members of ONA.

We are grateful to the Headmaster **Cmdr IL Sayal** for restarting the old tradition of enrolling passing out PPS students as ONA Life members when they are leaving school after a lapse of many years.

You too should become a Life Member if you are not one already. Send your name and house number and a membership fee of Rs 1500/ payable to ONA at Nabha by draft. There is a special concession of Rs100 on Life Membership fee for those attending the “ONA Day 2K5”

**Kanwar Gurpreet Singh Gill (R-095)**  
*Treasurer, ONA*

## **CONGRATS!**

**RS Sujlana (B-134, 1967)** and **Bikram Singh (B-71)** and **Gurjit Singh Dhillon (B-69)** (All Beas) have picked up the rank of Major General.

**Bikram Singh** and **RS Sujlana** they are posted in the valley and Bikaner respectively.

**Major General JS Lidder (B-23)** also Ex Beas, has picked up the rank of Lt.Gen. and will be GOC 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps.

**Lt Col BS Laungia (J-122)** informs, “I am happy to inform you that I have picked up the next rank and have been posted to Batala as CO of an NCC Battalion”

## **Breaking news!**

**Admiral JS Bedi (J-3)** appointed Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

**DR Parampal Coonar (S-22)** takes over as Deputy Director Medical Research and Education, Punjab

## **The New Order takes over PPS**

The School Board has appointed a new Headmaster and Bursar at our alma mater. The new order has taken over since the dawn of New Year. We hope PPS will also see a new dawn with this change.

Below is a brief introduction of **Commodore Ishwar Lal Sayal** the new Headmaster, read out by our Secretary **Col BS Grewal (S-50)** at the occasion of the ONA Dinner held to welcome **Commodore IL Sayal** at Ludhiana on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

1. Dear Old Nabhaites, first of all I take this opportunity to welcome our new Headmaster **Commodore IL Syal** on behalf of the entire ONA on his joining PPS.

2. I would like to share with all of you the personal achievements of our new Headmaster Commodore Syal. Commodore Syal is a product of a premier Public School of the country. He did his Schooling from Bishop Cotton, Simla and his College education from Government College, Ludhiana and Doaba College, Jalandhar. He is a Post Graduate in English and in Atmospheric Sciences.

3. Commodore Syal possesses 37 years of rich administrative experience in the field of Education as Director, Naval Education; Jt Director, Naval Education; Principal, Aditya Birla Public School; Principal, Sainik School, Korukonda; Principal, Naval Academy, INS, Chilka. Owing to his achievements in the field of education, he was awarded the Jewel of India Award in the field of Education in the year 2003 by International Institute of Education and Management, New Delhi.

4. Before joining PPS, Commodore Syal was working as Principal, Manav Sthali School, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, which is one of the best Public Schools of Delhi with a strength of 2500 students.

5. Commodore Syal has a very keen interest in Sports and Extra-curricular activities. During his career he headed four All India Trekking Expeditions to Pindari, Kafni, Sundar Donga and Milan Glaciers in Kumaon Hills.

6. We are extremely pleased to have you in our midst today. I am sure your rich experience will help the School to bring laurels in all fields.

7. Once again, on behalf of the entire Old Nabhaites Association and on my personal behalf I welcome you Sir. Thank you.

### **The International calling card**

Dear Nabhaites in USA\Canada,

It has been a while since I wrote a letter on the behalf of the CONA and during this time we had been thinking about the ideas for the next USA\Canada meet. Many ideas were discussed informally but the consensus (informal though it is) opinion has crystallized around the following points.

1. The last two national meetings were enjoyed immensely by most of the attendees and we should continue to meet annually.

2. Effort should be made to reach out to other ONs around the country since the strength of all the meetings is eventually the participants themselves.

3. Logistically it makes sense to have statewide meet 3-4 times a year but a national meeting can only occur once a year at the most to remain

truly unique but the meeting can be anywhere in the world.

4. Meeting venues should be spread all over the country so as to involve maximum number of ONs.

5. While we do not want to dilute the experience, we should keep the cost of the meeting within reasonable limits so that most families can participate as a whole without bearing an undue burden.

6. Finally the venue of each meeting should be such that people travelling there should have other attractions besides the meeting itself so as to motivate people to travel. Keeping all the above points in mind I suggest that since many of the CONA organizers who have helped organize the last two meets are planning to go to Nabha, India on the ONA day, (for the golden jubilee of the several respective batches that is coming up at that time), we observe the national USA\Canada 2005 meet in the hallowed grounds of PPS itself. I have a hunch that in terms of a unique venue, the almost semi-sacred grounds of PPS Nabha (Junior School is my personal favorite) will beat by far any other venue we can choose in America or Canada. Moreover it will give us an opportunity to motivate a larger number of Nabhaites for the coming years. If this is acceptable to most of us then we will plan to meet in Nabha this year. So start planning!

Any alternate suggestions are welcome and can be emailed to me or any other CONA organizer.  
Sincerely,

**Rupinder S. Brar (S 291)**

**Good Bye....Sirs...**

**Time like an ever roaring stream bears all its sons away...(from school assembly prayer)**

*(Two former pillars of PPS passed away in the past one year. The ONA remembers them and their contribution to the development of so many Old Nabhaites. We have two articles in their memory by **Mr KC Tandon** Ex-Teacher, who can now be aptly called the **Grand Old Man of PPS and ONA** and by an ON **Dr Rupinder Brar** We are also printing some of the emails received at the passing away of **Mr SL Nigam**. I must also disclose here that both the stalwarts suffered from the dreaded terminal illness called Cancer. They were both looked after and cared for and their families, advised by **Dr Jagdev Singh Sekhon, (R-414)**, who is not only head of Oncology at Dayanand Medical College, Ludhiana but also an Old Nabhaite. Mr Nigam was also looked after by another ON **Dr Yashbir Dewan**,*

*Head NeuroSurgery at CMC,Ludhiana This is the strength of ONA- Dr Jashanjot Singh (S-52))*

## **OP SHARMA – MY COLLEAGUE**

One fine morning Mr JK Kate came along with a tall, healthy gentleman and said, " Mr Tandon, meet Mr OP Sharma. He has just joined the school faculty and I am attaching him to you so that he can know and understand the working of our system.' It was the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 1962- a little more than a year of my joining the school which was still popularly known as the "Sainik School, Nabha". During the course of our chit –chat I asked Mr Sharma as to why he had opted to leave his Government job and join PPS. His prompt reply was, " I am very much impressed by the glamorous life of the school. Secondly, the pay- scale and other perks are quite attractive." I can still recollect his broad smile and the beaming face. Mr. Sharma had been teaching in the Government " State High School, Nabha" which was a prestigious school of the erstwhile state of Nabha.

Before I start off with my relationship with Mr Sharma I would like to narrate how Mr. Kate picked up Mr Sharma.

It was 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 1962 when at the only bus stand of Nabha at Patiala Gate, a gentleman boarded off a PRTC bus holding an impressive shield in his hand along with his team of students who had won it in the inter school Debate. It so happened that Mr. Kate was also somewhere around and Mr Sharma could not be missed by his sharp eye for spotting and picking up talent when and wherever he saw. He invited Mr OP Sharma to visit the school at his convenience. In spite of being a Hindi teacher, M. Sharma's fluency at English impressed Mr. Kate and he was asked to join at the earliest. At first, like all of us, he was given a single-room, a bachelor's accommodation on the first floor of the Guest House Building (now a part of the Girls' Hostel). Mr Sharma got married to the lady with a wonderful smile- Ms Shanta Tallan- while still in the same accommodation on 16th January 1963.

My personal association with Mr OP Sharma has been rather peculiar as we have lived and worked together in almost every respect. We were neighbours all along i.e. in the Junior School, Staff Colony, Middle House (Beas- Jumna; Ravi- Sutlej) as well as the Senior Houses where I was the House Master of Beas house. So much so, that we came to the main Senior School Campus almost at the same time with Mr. Sharma occupying the Auditorium side and me the Dining Hall side near the Headmaster's Green. Even our children were of the same age and good friends. **Pooja Sharma and Anita, Geeta Sharma and Puneeta** though **Anubhav** was older than our son **Gursharan-J-660**.

**Mr OP Sharma** was very sincere and had been very hard working throughout. He was a man of principles and never compromised with his convictions, irrespective of the fact that others might have found them justified or otherwise. **Mr OP Sharma** never tried to step on anyone else's toes or snatch other people's legitimate privileges. He always fought for the cause he felt was right. As a House Master he was very dedicated and was ever

ready to fight for the just cause of whichever House he was with. Children of his House were very fond of him and respected him immensely.

I have had the chance to observe **Mr OP Sharma** very closely and I would like to share some of these observations and my feelings with all. In his private life **Mr OP Sharma** has not only served the school, but his family as well as the society to the best of his ability. He was President of the " Shiv Mandir Committee" for four years and took up the responsibility of renovation of ancient Shiv Mandir located in the Hira Mahal Colony. He was also President of the Hindu Sabha of Nabha even though he had the background of an Arya Samajist father.

**Mr OP Sharma** was a very loving and caring father who protected and defended his children whenever the need arose. He treated his two daughters as if they were sons and encouraged them to participate in each and every activity. He was an affectionate brother who looked after his sisters' and brothers' families without anyone ever getting to know about it. However, **Mr OP Sharma** never discussed his personal family problems with anyone outside the family. He also tried to bring up and guide his nephews and nieces to the best of his ability.

During my stay at PPS I was addressed by different names by colleagues such as "KCT"; "Tandon" or " Bhaiya" But **Mr OP Sharma** always addressed me as " Mr Tandon". He often visited me at my hometown, Jalandhar, whenever he happened to visit his sister there. I remember him saying quite often " Mr. Tandon, you are very lucky to be called by your first name so affectionately by your mother- Kamlesh, Sharmaji *aaye hain. Mere to kaan taras gaye hain sunne ko.*" Unfortunately he had lost his mother in early childhood while his father had been in the army so he became both mother and father to his siblings while he yearned for parental love. I am told that even his last words were- 'Maa'.

**Mr Sharma** was very fond of music and he sang very well while playing the harmonium quite professionally. His favourite song was " *Aaye Bahar ban ke lubha kar chale gaye. Kya raj tha jo dil mein chhupa kar chale gaye.*"

**Mr OP Sharma** retired after a long fruitful stay of 29 years on 22 October 1991 and set up the " Navrang" School near the Stadium. Mrs Shanta Sharma has been a very brave, strong and pleasing personality who has stood by **Mr OP Sharma** through thick and thin. She has been a real support to him in each and every endeavor of his.

My heart goes out to the manner in which **Geeta**, the younger daughter has stood by her parents in their suffering and has been a real pillar of strength and support to her mother and brother during her father's ill health. Who says, daughters are less than sons in any manner?

May God Almighty give peace and shelter to the departed soul and bless each member of the family- **Anubhav**, his charming wife **Yogita, Geeta** & Mr Rohit Khanna, **Pooja** and Mr JK Parashar and last not the least Shanta Ji- with strength to bear his great loss.

Good Bye, dear friend!

**KC Tandon(Ex-Teacher)**

**"MR SML NIGAM, a great teacher, an excellent father and a real human being" (9.6.1931 – 17.6.2005)**

*"Jaane wale phir nahin aate, jaane walon ki yaad aati hai"*

On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2005, I got a telephone message from **Mr Ram Singh** saying- "Mr Nigam *nahin rahe*", just two days before I was planning to visit Nabha and have a bridge session with him. Although death is the only certain reality of life – one never seems to be ready to accept it. It is my misfortune that I have to write obituary for most of my dear colleagues. I hope & pray that I don't have to write any more.

My association with 'SMLN' – **Mr Shiv Mohan Lal Nigam** began in the year 1967. It was the afternoon of 9<sup>th</sup> August 1967 when my wife informed me that a new teacher had joined the PPS family and moved to the Staff Colony. I told her that I would check immediately and find out if any help was needed and invite the family over a cup of tea. When I went to the 'B' type quarters of the colony I found the lady of the house dusting and setting up the house. I was told that **Mr Nigam** – her husband- had gone to the town. On asking if anything or help was required she very graciously thanked but accepted to let her husband know regarding my request for joining for tea. So, Mr & Mrs **Nigam** came and joined us along with their lovable daughters- **Neena –Deepshikha and Gudia-Seepja**. A new bond of friendship was established as we both had come to PPS from Birla Public School, Pilani, although **Nigam** Saheb had joined it after I had joined Nabha.

During our association I got to know many facets of his personality. He would usually address me as Poojya Pita Ji, in spite of his being senior to me in age, while I would call him 'Beta or Netaji' because of his staunch support for his principles as well as dedication for the Sangh Parivar.

As a person, he was full of humour. Despite feeling a deep void in his personal life he presented a very brave and cheerful front. He was very helpful to all. His wife, Ms. Krishna was a voracious reader and a very talented dancer. Though she got married to him at a tender age, Mr Nigam helped her in pursuing her studies – upto PhD level- as well as in carrying on with her dancing performance. He was a good poet who composed poems in excellent Hindi and some in English as well. He got his collection printed and presented me and my wife a copy each duly signed on our visit to see him just two weeks before his bidding adieu to this world. In each & every one of his poems one can feel the pathos of his solitude and love for his wife. He was very good at the card game of 'Bridge' but although we were good friends he never chose me as a partner and we really enjoyed the postmortem of each of the hands played. I told him I would inform and get our foursome to play the game on Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. However, he gave me a distant look and smile saying nothing and I could not do as planned.

**An Excellent Teacher:** As a teacher Mr. Nigam was loved and respected by his pupils, who held him in great esteem. He was a master of his favourite subject-Physics and helped children in developing scientific out-look as well as skills. Students really enjoyed assembling the science kits for various science projects. Unlike most science teachers, he never boasted about his knowledge and helped students in solving their problems during class time or outside at anytime, even at night. He was deadly against accepting any tuition fees for the help rendered to the students. He was always honest, sincere and upright in the conduct of the House or Board Examinations and never gave any inkling to the students regarding the practicals or written papers.

He was an excellent teacher and a greatly respected educationist who looked after a very large number of schools and institutions run by the society for Geeta Bhavan, as well as the Sarvhitkari Society. I am sure all these organizations as well as his pupils are going to miss his guiding spirit. During his visit to the U.S.A under the Teacher's Exchange Program Scheme, his excellence and contribution as a teacher was highly appreciated by the schools he was attached to.

**A loving and devoted father:** Mr. Nigam must be given full credit for looking after and bringing up both his daughters with great love and dedication. He would go and cook food for them during his free periods but never ever be late for any of his school duties. I don't remember him ever being on leave. He would get the girls best possible dresses and looked after them in a manner that they may not feel the absence of their mother. "Hats off to his dedication".

**A committed and dedicated party worker of the 'Sangh Parivar'.** He had carved out a respectable place in the party and had sacrificed a lot for the cause of the 'Party Principles'. However, he felt a little sad and disillusioned with all that was happening in the political arena in the present phase of turbulent political atmosphere.

Before I end, I must admit that teachers and people of the like of SMLN are difficult to come by these days. May his soul rest in peace and the family and friends he blessed with the strength to bear the loss.

**KC Tandon**

**Some reactions.....**

I am indeed shocked and saddened by this news. It was only earlier this month that Richa and I met with **Seepja (R-388)** and family in California at a get-together hosted by Jimmy. I gathered from **Seepja** that **Dr Nigam** was unwell, but stable.

Please pass on our sincere condolences to the family of **Dr Nigam**. He was a great teacher and Housemaster. I believe I am a better man, thanks to his timely inputs.

We pray to God Almighty to take Sir in his arms and give strength to the family to pass through these trying moments.

**Vimal Mahendru (J-344)**

Thanks for keeping us informed. Please convey our condolences to the family. I am also sending this e-mail to Nabhaites in our family, just in case they were not on your list.

**Dr PD Singh (J-108)** [pdsingh2001@yahoo.com](mailto:pdsingh2001@yahoo.com)

**Mr TRS Arora (J-152)** [kukuarora@yahoo.com](mailto:kukuarora@yahoo.com)

**Anjalika Singh(J-0476)**[syncgladiator@hotmail.com](mailto:syncgladiator@hotmail.com)

I am indeed saddened to hear this news and will definitely keep the departed soul in my prayers and pray for peace.

**IJ Arora (J-40)**

It is, indeed, very sad to learn of the sad demise of Mr. Nigam. We earnestly pray to God to rest his soul in eternal peace and to give his daughters the strength and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

**Gurvinderpal Singh Julka (Ex J-101)** [julks@rediffmail.com](mailto:julks@rediffmail.com)

It is indeed unfortunate to hear of this tragedy he was a very upright man and a good teacher who was very well respected by the students. I was well aware of his disease and really respected him for his bold decision of not going in for further treatment and face the decision of the Almighty with his head held high.

**Dr J S Sekhon (R-414)** [jagdevsekhon@hotmail.com](mailto:jagdevsekhon@hotmail.com)

This is really very sad news and a personal loss. All my life I have looked forward towards him as a guide and father figure. I knew him as a person who devoted selflessly to education of children with a vision for tomorrow. He was one of the persons who never left Nabha, and even after retiring, worked with Vidya Bharti in the field of education. I last met him in October last year and he was still the same, same light color clothes and the same peace of mind on his face as always, which I still remember and will remember all my life. I wish I could be there with **Deepshikha** and **Seepja**, to share our loss. May his soul rest in peace.

**Deepak**

[AMDDEK@sonofon.dk](mailto:AMDDEK@sonofon.dk)

It was indeed a rude shock to learn about the sad demise of **Mr Nigam** who was such a wonderful human being besides being an excellent teacher. May God rest his soul in peace and may He give the strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Please convey our sympathy to the family.

**Lt Col & Mrs Vineet Sehgal (R-508)**  
**Mr & Mrs Rohit Sehgal (R-661)**

I was shocked to hear about the sad demise of Mr Nigam. Please convey our heartfelt condolences to the family.

**Capt A S Sidhu**

Very sad to hear of the demise of **Mr.Nigam**. I remember him teaching physics in the labs. He was not only a great teacher but a great human too. My heartiest warmth for his family and loved ones. Good people are needed in heaven too.

**Sumit Garg (B-956)**

It is sad to know about **Mr Nigam's** demise. Please convey my condolences to **Mr. Nigam's** family.

**Gurkirat. (R-396)**

**Mr Nigam** was a great teacher and a wonderful Housemaster. I am so very saddened at his demise. We are what we are today because of all the untiring efforts of teachers like **Mr. Nigam**.

I stand today with the family in grief.

**PS Grewal (B-394)**  
Principal, Dalhousie Public School, BADHANI  
[info@dpsbadhani.com](mailto:info@dpsbadhani.com)

I am sure there are a whole lot of us who feel the same way as I do ... but I know I am what I am in a large measure due to Mr. Nigam. My life after PPS was filled with Physics and Engineering and I have remembered my very dear teacher, Mr. Nigam, on many a hard night – while slogging through things that were based on a foundation he laid. I loved Mr. Nigam and wish he remains in all our hearts. He was a great teacher and someone I have always wanted to reach out to but never could. *And its now all too late!*

My most cherished remembrances for **Mr. Nigam**.

**Asheesh Saxena (R-416)**, *one of his many grateful students.*  
[asheesh.saxena@accenture.com](mailto:asheesh.saxena@accenture.com)

It was indeed shocking news for me as **Mr Nigam** was a very sincere and dedicated teacher who taught me Physics for three years. He was an honest and upright man who worked for the good of society at large rather than for him. I am sure we all, and the education world at large, are all going to miss the guidance of such a devoted teacher. May God Bless his Soul and give strength to his family members to bear this irreparable loss.

**Regards,**  
**Bikramdev Singh (S-84)**

I just wanted to inform everyone on the passing of **Mr Nigam** in the early hours of June 18, 2005 Indian time. **Mr. Nigam** taught Physics, and I can't say if I know of anyone who had a better understanding of the subject and his students. Please join me in prayer to provide strength to his family in their hour of need.

With a heavy heart,  
**Randeep (Sunil)**

### **TO SIR WITH LOVE**

(a student's tribute to his teacher, **Mr Nigam**)

On a very ordinary Friday afternoon I received a call from **Seepja**, my schoolmate and a close family friend that her father, **Mr. Nigam** had passed away a few hours before. Like I said, it was an ordinary Friday afternoon but the man who had just passed away was anything but that.

**Mr. SM Nigam** was a teacher, mentor, role model and a pillar of the PPS community who in spite of his advanced age remained a larger than life figure to many of us who were fortunate enough to grow and mature under his tutelage.

While his passing away was not unexpected (he had been courageously battling metastatic lung cancer for the last few months) it did not diminish the sense of loss that I personally felt at that moment.

My thoughts went back to my last few years of high school especially the years 1976-79. Ours was the 1976 batch, which was the first batch to sit for the ICSE exam. Consequently our batch would be the first batch to stay in school for the 12th class as a part of the newly introduced 10+2 system.

At that time **Mr. Nigam** taught physics to the senior classes. He had a special unhurried way of teaching that somehow made even the most complex theorem seem like a fun thing to learn. He would start out with a topic, expand it during the course of a lecture and encouraged people join in with their views till it appeared that we had discovered something new all by ourselves during the course of that lecture!

He always encouraged ideas and participation and listened attentively even when some of us came up with absurd and outlandish theories. I don't recall him ever putting any one down.

While on one hand he was a strict disciplinarian yet he was never intimidating. **Mr. Nigam** was a teachers' teacher, approachable in class and out of class, on the playing field and in the dining room. With this kind of dedication and a genuine interest in his students, not surprisingly, he became a personal mentor to many of my classmates. We flocked around him to discuss, not only physics, mathematics and chemistry; but also our personal lives, careers, hopes and dreams for the future.

Years later many of us **old Nabhaites** got together in California and formed an ONA chapter. **Mr. Nigam's** daughter **Seepja** and son-in-law **Dinesh Khurana** who live in Fremont became the pillars of this California chapter. **Mr. Nigam** came to visit **Seepja** and **Dinesh** from time to time and through them we were able to see him again.

Surprisingly while many of us boys had now become and looked middle-aged, **Mr. Nigam** still looked almost the same as he had looked a quarter century ago. Not only did he look the same, he easily again became a mentor and a father figure for many of us in California as he had been for us many years ago in Nabha. People who could not come to see him often called him from places as far as Canada.

By an almost unanimous decision he was requested to preside over the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual US-ONA meeting as a chief guest.

While by his own kindness, humility, and simplicity he taught us how to live and enrich our lives, the greatest lesson was yet to come. About a year ago, he was diagnosed with a metastatic and incurable lung cancer that was met with sadness by the extended PPS community. **Mr. Nigam** however remained calm and stoic as ever and hardly complained.

I went to see him in Nabha and enquire about his health last December, while on a visit to India. He had lost weight and looked weak and tired yet he smiled his usual smile and asked about my welfare instead!

At that moment I knew that my mentor and teacher, whom I had idolized from childhood onwards, was also a man of character and iron discipline. Nothing, not even the thought of impending death could shake his unassailable charm and good manners.

While I know that he is gone in the sense that we can no longer see him, he lives in the lives of many of the students he helped shape into what we are today. Years ago, in our final year at school after we had our house pictures taken for the last and final time, someone suggested that we have some unofficial pictures with our favorite teachers as well. Several of us wanted our pictures with **Mr. Nigam** since we felt it was he above all others who had motivated us to become something when we grew up.

I still have a faded black and white picture showing four scrawny teenagers staring into the camera with **Mr. Nigam** standing in the middle. I was one of the four and the other three were **Rupinder Boparai (B-325)**, **Arvinder Sandhu** and **Yashbir Dewan (J-297)**.

I came to USA and now direct the Non-invasive Cardiology department in Marysville, California. **Arvinder** went to Canada and joined the Canadian police. **Rupinder Boparai (B-325)** is a general surgeon in England and **Yashbir (J-297)** is the head of neuro-surgery at CMC, Ludhiana.

Not bad when you consider that we were all small-town kids once and the only thing going for us was the motivation and self confidence given to us by people like **Mr. Nigam**. It is only fitting that **Yashbir (J-297)**, in spite of a very busy schedule went out of his way to take care of **Mr. Nigam** in his final months. It was his way of saying thank you to our Guru for the rest of us.

While I know **Mr. Nigam** is gone and makes another place a better place, as long as any of us lives, we will always carry a little part of this gentle inspiring man within us.

Sir, you will continue to live in us, your students.

**Rupinder Brar (S 291)**

## **A Measure of immortality**

*(An article by Harishpal Singh Dhillon, Headmaster YPS ,Mohali on the immortal sense of Humour of Late SC Cowell ,Ex Senior Master .PPS)*

What is the measure of immortality? I do not mean the Teresas. The Tendulkars, the Bahugunas, the Hussains. The Subhalakshmis, the Oshos, the Bachhans and the Vikram Seths of this world- their immortality is immeasurable. I mea the ordinary people, like me, the school teachers, the railway clerks and writers of the middles, who lead ordinary humdrum lives, with no special talents, no special calling, no special passion. People whose sole achievment is making both ends meet, giving their families a comfortable life, bringing up their children as decent human beings and saving enough for their retirement to be spared the indignity of seeking financial help. Is there a measure of immortality to our lives or do we fade quickly away as soon as our funeral ceremonies are over? This question had haunted and troubled me with increasing frequency in recent years. Then I found my answer four days ago.

There were three of us at Lunch. Norman, who had studied at Sanawar in the thirties., I, who had been at Sanawar in the fifties and Jashanjot, who had studied at PPS, Nabha.in the late sixties. The conversation veered around to the recent change of Principal at PPS. Jashanjot bemoaned the decline of discipline.

“How I wish Mr.Cowell was back, it would all be sorted out in no time”. Both Norman and I remembered Sammy Cowell too. He had been a teacher and then Senior Master in

Sanawar before moving on to PPS. From his awesome reputation as a disciplinarian, we moved to his sense of humour.

Norman remembered a 1936 report which read “Norman works in fits and starts. Unfortunately at the time of the exams he failed to have either a fit or a start”

I remembered an August mark—reading in 1954. I was never good at anything in school but did, sometimes when Mr. Cowell pushed too hard, achieve a good academic result. He opened the register for Upper IV A. “First Harishpal Singh Dhillon “. He paused and looked out of the window for a long moment at the steady downpour outside, then turned back to look at the children and added in a soft ,but clear voice that carried to the back of the hall ”Hence the rain”.

Jashanjot remembered an incident from 1966. The Kendalls , with their Shakespearean troupe, would visit all the major schools of India and stage plays ,mostly Shakespeare. By the sixties they limited themselves to playing an assortment of scenes ,rather than full length plays. After one such performance at PPS, which had featured , amongst others, the witches scene from “Macbeth”, Mr Cowell came onstage congratulated the actors on a fine performance and turning to the student audience asked “which witch was which?”

Almost 25 years after his death, three individuals had come together purely by accident, and shared memories of him which spanned 40 years. It was a fair measure of immortality. I had found my answer and was content.

### **THE FOUNDERS’ DAY PROGRAMME (30th October ,2005)**

10:00 A.M.		Arrival of Chief Guest by Air	MAIN GAMES FIELD OPP. JUNIOR SECTION
10:05 A.M.	10:20 A.M.	Tea	Headmaster's Office
10:20 A.M.	10:30 A.M.	Introduction with the Staff & students	Sr. School Campus
10:30 A.M.	10:55 A.M.	Visit to the Exhibitions - Computer Centre, Library, Deas Club, Craft, Art	Sr. School Campus
11:00 A.M.	11:15 A.M.	Guard of Honour by Three Wings of NCC, Band Team and Riders	MAIN GAMES FIELD OPP. JUNIOR SECTION
11:15 A.M.		Chief Guest escorted to the stage by the Headmaster.	-- do --
11:20 A.M.	1:10 P.M.	School Song Precept	-- do --

		Orchestra Headmaster's Report Prize Distribution Award of Roll of Honour Chief Guest's Address PT/BAND/Gymnastics/Aerobics/Group Dance/ Riding Display.	-- do -- -- do -- -- do -- -- do --
1:15 p.m.		Lunch	Headmaster's Residence
2:00 p.m.		Departure after lunch as per the convenience of His Excellency.	



## “ONA DAY 2K5”

Dear Old Nabhaite

This is to inform you about and invite you to the **“ONA DAY 2K5”**. This year it is being celebrated on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October. On the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> October, you can enjoy the Founders’ Day celebrations of the School. This will be followed by Headmasters’ Lunch. The ONA Day programme, which starts after the Lunch, will tentatively be as follows: -

2.00 pm	Lunch over
3.30 pm	Past Vs Present Football Match (PPS Grounds) Registration will start for arriving Old Nabhaites
5.00 pm	Tea in Junior School Lawns with School Staff
6.00 pm	ONA Meeting, self introduction
7.00 pm	Formal meeting
8.00 pm	Entry to Dinner venue starts
8.15 pm	ONA Dinner

It should be reiterated here that Old Nabhaites enjoy PPS hospitality for Lunch and Tea. The dinner is hosted by Old Nabhaites. The ONs do not pay only for themselves and their families but also for the guests i.e. School Staff and others. As the ONA does not want to financially depend on individual sponsorship because of its own self-respect, the Old Nabhaites are expected to bear the cost of the dinner. There have to be some charges to be paid for the ONA Day by all Old Nabhaites and the drinks are at cost. Please see that you register yourself as soon as you arrive in PPS to make it convenient for the organizers.

The cooperation of all Old Nabhaites is essential to maintain a healthy tradition for all times to come. **The entry to ONA Dinner will be by invitation cards and no personal guests are allowed.** The cards will be issued at the time of registration.

After a prolonged discussion by the ONA Executive, (This year we have brought down the cost of attending the ONA Dinner. Any over-run will be taxed to some Old Nabhaites' pockets.) the following registration charges have been fixed: -

<b>Students</b>	<b>Rs 200 (against ID Card)</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>Rs 400</b>

**There will be a Rs 50 extra charge for every accompanying child.**  
**(Life Members will get a concession of Rs 50 on the above charges. Life membership fee at the moment is Rs1400 you can become a Life member on the spot by paying Rs 1300 -a concession of Rs 100, plus avail the discount on registration charges)**

***Lt Col NS Sidhu(B-263)***  
President, Patiala Chapter,  
Phone:0175-2228182/2201033

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**In future, The Eagle will be posted only on the website or sent by email. The Eagle will be produced in printed form only if there are sufficient funds for it and the hard copies will be mailed to Life Members only. So if you are keen to receive The Eagle, please either become a Life Member by sending a draft for Rs 1400 payable to ONA at Nabha (US \$100 if you are an NRI). Or you should visit the website [www.ppsona.com](http://www.ppsona.com) regularly, register yourself on the site and read it there.**

### **Full version of this issue of The Eagle**

This issue comes to you in condensed form. If you want to read the full version of **The Eagle** please visit the website [www.ppsona.com](http://www.ppsona.com) make sure to register yourself and leave your full biodata there. Some PPS friend of yours may be searching for you. Please update your address and email ID both with **ONA** and with the website whenever you shift or change your address or email. It is very frustrating when so many emails come bouncing back and you don't get the requisite information. In fact many do not receive the Eagle or information because they have not informed about their changed contact information.

### **Batch reunion**

This year at **ONA Day** we are calling for The Batch reunion of **1974-5 & 6** batches. So all **ONs** who passed out in these years please make it a point to attend. We are also calling

**1980** pass-outs to have a reunion at **PPS** this **ONA Day**. They will be the first Batch that will have the Reunion exactly after **25years**. This is the aim of **ONA**. So far we have been trying to clear the backlog. The **1980 ONs** have got to set a trend and make it very successful. Some of you have to take the responsibility of inviting everyone. It is a **batch** effort.

**Harpatap Singh Ajnala(B-45)**  
*President, ONA9814314545*

### **Coming to PPS on 30<sup>th</sup> October,2005?**

If you are coming to PPS on 30<sup>th</sup> October to attend the Founders' Day or ONA Day or Batch reunion(1974-75-76 and 1980 pass outs) please send us the following information

**“Yes I will be coming alone/with family to attend the Founders' Day/ ONA Day/ Batch reunion and I will/will not need accommodation for single/ family(number) on 29<sup>th</sup> October and OR /30thOctober.” Give your name, House Number and contact number.**

Send this information by email to [webmaster@ppsona.com](mailto:webmaster@ppsona.com) with a copy to [hmpps@yahoo.com](mailto:hmpps@yahoo.com) or call Treasurer **Kanwar Gurpreet** at 9814034447 / **Harvinder Dhaliwal** ,Jt.Secy ONA at 9872400139

Address for corospondence:

Email: [webmaster@ppsona.com](mailto:webmaster@ppsona.com)

Website: [www.ppsona.com](http://www.ppsona.com)