

1959

25th July decision made and sub-committee appointed

Quarterly meeting of the Punjab Post War Services Reconstruction Fund held on the **25th July**, One of the main decisions taken in that meeting was to set up a **Doon type school** for which a sum of **Rs. 39 lakhs** were to be endowed by the Fund.

A Sub Committee with Lt. General Kalwant Singh as Chairman had been appointed to decide where the school should be **located** and to select a **suitable Headmaster**.

5th September

First meeting of the Sainik School Sub Committee of the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund held at Chandigarh on the 5th September 1959,

Present :-

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Lt Gen Kalwant | -Chairman |
| 2. | Lt Col Naunihal Singh Mann | - Member |
| 3. | Major J.B. Bhagat Officiating SOI (Edn),
HQs Western Command Simla | -Member |
| 4. | Shri H.S. Achreja, IAS | - Member Secretary |

(Secretary to Government, Punjab, Education Department, who had been nominated as his representative by the Chief Minister, Punjab was unable to attend).

20th November, 1959 Mr. J.K. Kate Appointment

From :-

Shri H.S. Achreja, IAS,
Secretary to Governor and
Honorary Secretary, Committee of Administration,
Punjab Post War Services Reconstruction Fund.

To

Major R.Som Dutt, ABC, M.A. (Cantab),
Headmaster, Lawrence School,
Sanawar (Simla Hills).

Dated Chandigarh, the 20th November, 1959.

Subject : Headmaster Sainik School.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 22nd October 1959, forwarding application of Shir J.K. Kate, for the post of Headmaster, Sainik School, I am desired to inform you that the Committee

of Administration of the Punjab Post War Services Reconstruction Fund, on recommendation of the Sainik School Sub Committee, have decided to appoint the applicant as the first Headmaster at a salary of Rs. 1300/- in the grade of Rs. 800-40-1000/50- with free furnished residential accommodation. It was further decided that Shri Kate should be asked to take charge of his office from the 1st of January 1960, and to arrange to draw up the prospectus and the connected literature of the School by the 31st January, 1960, as also to take further steps for the renovation and equipment of buildings, recruitment of staff, etc., so as to start the School from April, 1960. I am, therefore, desired to request you kindly to obtain his release / deputation and make his services available to the Sainik School Sub Committee on the 1st January, 1960, so that the programme laid down by the Committee is carried out without any delay. Shri Kate may be asked to report for duty to the undersigned at Chandigarh, where his Headquarters will be located for a few days before shifting to Nabha which has been selected as the site for the School.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to Governor and
Honorary Secretary, Punjab Post
War Services Reconstruction
Fund.

No. : PWF/954 dated 20.11.1959

Finally, Mr. Kate accepted the challenge and signed a one-year probation contract offered to him by the Sub-Committee.

Mr JK Kate joins and history begins.

He formally joined as Headmaster on 30th December, 1959, and reported to the Governor's Secretary. He then returned to Sanawar and drafted the rules, regulations, prospectus and advertisements for various posts.

29th January 1960 Meeting of the Committee Appointed to take Preparatory Steps to Start the Sainik School :-

The following were present at the meeting held at 11 a.m. on 29th January 1960 at the Chairman's House.

1. Lt. General Kalwant Singh.
2. Shri H.S. Achreja
3. Shri J.K. Kate.

Follow up 1960

Though Mr Cowell had promised to join PPS, the credit for officially reporting first on duty goes to Mr Mukut Narain Tankha who had started his career as a Geography teacher at Modern School, New Delhi. Though the exact dates are unknown, both Mr Cowell and Mr Tankha joined

PPS in the month of March, 1960. It was the trio of Mr Kate, Mr Cowell and Mr Tankha that prepared the blueprint for functioning of the school.

When Mr Kate returned to Nabha to take charge, all he found were two large, vacant and untidy buildings. He borrowed a chair from the Sub Divisional Officer and started his office in the porch of the Guest House. Though Mr Cowell had promised to join PPS, the credit for officially reporting first on duty goes to Mr Mukut Narain Tankha who had started his career as a Geography teacher at Modern School, New Delhi. Though the exact dates are unknown, both Mr Cowell and Mr Tankha joined PPS in the month of March, 1960. It was the trio of Mr Kate, Mr Cowell and Mr Tankha that prepared the blueprint for functioning of the school. Since furniture was not available at the time they joined, the legend has it that they would sit on the marble staircase in the Guest House and chalk out the details. Brown and yellow were the prominent colours in the New Secretariat building, so the school dress was envisaged on the same pattern. It was decided that Sikh boys should be encouraged to wear turbans so they could master the art of tying a turban at a young age. Sainik School, Nabha, being a residential public school in character, an important decision had to be taken regarding 'Houses'. Both Mr Kate and Mr Cowell had come from Lawrence School Sanawar, and it was quite natural that Sanawar was the source of inspiration for this crucial decision. Sanawar has four houses – Himalaya, Vindhya, Nilagiri and Siwalik representing prominent north Indian mountain ranges. For Sainik School Nabha, Mr Kate hit upon the idea of four main rivers of Punjab i.e., Beas, Jumna, Ravi and Sutlej.

<i>HOUSE</i>	<i>COLOUR</i>
BEAS	Blue
JUMNA	Yellow
RAVI	Red
SUTLEJ	Green

To identify boys from different houses, it was proposed that the boys shall use under-turban of their respective house colour. However, since this method did not work for non-sikh boys, an additional house colour stripe was added to the school tie to address the problem later. Though it is noteworthy here that presently students wear a uniform school tie irrespective of their house.

Mr Cowell, being an academician, planned the curriculum and time table. Mr Tankha, on the other hand was a versatile genius. A passionate and lively geography teacher, a trained mountaineer, a good artist, photographer, and an excellent all-round sportsman, who could play the harmonium and sing, he played a vital role in the early years. He would mark the fields meticulously and later on organize the athletic meets almost single-handedly. His six feet four-inch frame and good looks endeared him to the students and everybody in the school looked up to him, quite literally.

Mr Kate decided to use the New Secretariat building as the academic block and boys' hostel, and the Guest House as staff quarters. Gradually, the equipment and furniture arrived and the school machinery was set in motion. The Refractory, clothing store, and Infirmary were set up,

electrical fittings were installed by an able electrician, Suraj Bhan, who worked round the clock to have the work finished on time for the start of the first academic year.

Meanwhile, the response for admission was overwhelming and applications came pouring in large numbers since the Sainik School, Nabha, was the first school of its kind in the state of undivided Punjab (including present Haryana and a part of Himachal Pradesh). To accommodate the majority of applicants, 130 seats were offered in classes 5 to 8 in the first year, though the original plan was to allot only 80 seats in three classes, i.e., 5 to 7. Special interviews were conducted for the children of Ex-servicemen and defence personnel to identify the deserving candidates eligible for scholarship. In the very first year, 29 full scholarships of Rs.1, 500 per annum and six half scholarships of Rs. 750 each were awarded

On 7th April, 1960, The students gradually began to trickle in. B-4, Rajinder Singh Dhillon was the first student to report in school. However, Manjit Grewal R-4 says he was the first to pay the School fee.

Houses were allotted at random basis at the time of admission and the following students without realizing that they had booked their place in PPS history by officially being the first students in their respective houses.

B 1 Om Prakash Nandrajog

J 1 Surinder Gupta

R 1 Pritpal Singh

S 1 Parminder Singh Nagra

To start a new school with no staff, no infrastructure, and no students demanded vision, intelligence and the co-operation of a dedicated team. He began to build one with Mr Samuel Charles Cowell, an English teacher, who had recently retired from Sanawar. On Mr Kate's request to join him at Nabha and help him in kickstarting the new venture, Mr Cowell came out of his retirement to lend a helping hand to his former colleague. Mr Cowell had the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian at Sanawar and he brought every bit of it to Nabha. Interviews were also conducted for the post of Senior Master, teachers, administrative staff, matrons, nursing sister and other ancillary staff.

Meanwhile, the government of Punjab formally constituted a Board to preside over the functioning of the School. The Board retained most of the members of the Sub-Committee involved in selecting the buildings at Nabha and appointing Mr Kate as Headmaster. His excellency, the Governor of Punjab was to be the chairman thus giving some autonomy to PPS from the Govt.

FOUNDER MEMBERS OF PPS NABHA

CHAIRMAN

H.E. V N Gadgil, Honourable Governor of Punjab

MEMBERS

Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, Chief Minister, Punjab

Shri E.N. Mangat Rai, ICS, Chief Secretary, Punjab
Lt Gen Kalwant Singh, GOC-in-C, Western Command
Chaudhary Raghuvinder Singh, Member, PWSR Fund
Brig Gurkirpal Singh, Sub Area Commander, Punjab
Col Naunihal Singh Mann, Member, PWSR Fund

MEMBER SECRETARY

Shri J K Kate, Headmaster

First Official Day of The Punjab Public School

On Baisakhi Day 14th April the school began with an address by the Lt Gen Kalwant Singh on behalf of the governor who could not make it that day.

“I am here today, at the request of and on behalf of the Chairman, Board of Governors of the School – The Governor of the Punjab to preside at the beginning of this term – which is really the start of this School.”

Letter from the Chairman to Gen Kalwant Singh

(April 3, 1960)

Dear Gen Kalwant Singh

I have your letter of 1st April, 1960. I am glad that you have agreed to preside over the function in connection with the commencement of the School on 14th April, 1960.

Yours sincerely,

N.V. Gadgil

Lt. Gen Kalwant Singh,
4-D, Sector 5,
Chandigarh.)

Lt Gen Kalwant Singh and Mrs Kalwant Singh, Col Naunihal Singh Mann, Major Raghuvinder Singh Chaudhary, Brig Gurkirpal Singh and Mr Y P Gautam, Secretary to the Governor of Punjab, were present to grace the occasion.

Mr Kate, after extending a warm welcome to the distinguished guests lauded Sardap Partap Singh Kairon for his zeal and untiring efforts to establish the school. He also thanked the Punjab

Government and the managing committee of the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund for the palatial buildings and financial assistance. He then outlined the aims of the School

- 1) *To prepare boys for either the School Certificate (Senior Cambridge) or the Higher Secondary Examination*
- 2) *To render all possible assistance and training to boys, whose parents wished them to appear in the entrance examination for the National Defence Academy, Kharakvasla.*
- 3) *To incorporate all the good features of a public School such as inculcation of leadership and character and the all-round development of personality by means of a well organised house system, as well as through various co-curricular activities and hobbies which would serve to bring out the latent talents and creative ability of the individual.*

The boys put up a variety entertainment programme for the guests in the evening. Considering the fact that students had arrived just four days before, they managed to stage a praiseworthy performance. Mr Kate had asked Miss Pannu to help the boys in preparing a Bhangra performance. The convent educated Miss Pannu found herself wanting on account of never even having seen a live Bhangra performance before, but Parminder Nagra (S-1) inspired other boys to come up with a scintillating display and Mahesh Kumar spiced up the performance with his creative vocal interludes (*bolis*) such as:

*Bari barsi khatan gaya si khat ke layande tare
Ajj sade ghar aye, gernel kernel sare*

The other memorable item of the evening was an English play “A Fable of Baghdad”. Under the able direction of Mr S C Cowell, the participants comprising Deepak Kapoor, Provin Jaidka, Pradip Dhir, Pritpal Singh(R-1), Jagjit Bedi(J-2) and Surinder Gupta (J-1) came out with flying colours and a self-assured performance. It would be appropriate to mention here that Surinder Gupta (J-1) was the eldest of four Gupta brothers who had taken admission in PPS in classes 5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively !!. The others were Narinder, Rajinder and Virender. Identical in appearance and the closely bonded Guptas were the envy of many a lonely and homesick boy in those early days.

Teachers appointed: Mr Kate’s unique ability to spot and nurture talent ensured recruitment of promising and passionate teachers. Under the leadership of Mr Kate, these very teachers were to make PPS, Nabha, the envy of all leading public schools in the country. The English Department was spearheaded by Mr Cowell and he was ably assisted by Mr Joginder Singh. For Commerce it was Mr Mathu while Miss Jasbir Lamba (later Mrs. Butalia) and Mr OP Bhatnagar handled Punjabi and Hindi respectively. Mr Tankha as mentioned earlier taught Geography and Mr YP Bhardwaj was the first history teacher of the school. Mr S C Vishnoi took charge of the Physics department. It ought to be mentioned here that in those early days, teachers taught not only their own subjects but a few more as well.

On 22nd May ,The Royal visit. Their Highnesses the Maharaja and Maharani of Nabha were present to witness the evening entertainment programme staged by Ravi House and they magnanimously gifted a **Grand Piano** to the school.

The following day, **Sardar Gurdial Singh Dhillon**, Speaker, Vidhan Sabha, Punjab addressed the school in the main Assembly Hall.

The Punjab Public School Nabha, being the only such school in those days was the pride of Punjab and everybody in the State looked at it with a sense of accomplishment and hope for the future.

THE SCHOOL LOGO

Within a couple of months, there was a general sentiment in the campus that the school must have a logo, and a motto of its own. Mr.O.P.Bhatnagar, though a Hindi teacher, was an artist of very high caliber in his own right. He was entrusted with the historic opportunity of designing the school logo. Putting his imagination and skills to good use, Mr.Bhatnagar came up with three different designs for the school logo. Mr.Kate presented them to the General Kalwant Singh and he immediately approved the “soaring eagle” design. It encircled an eagle in flight representing high ideals and lofty aims, with a delightfully designed ribbon at the bottom bearing the school motto “*Onward and Upward*”. Whether it was Lt.Gen.Kalwant Singh or Mr.Kate who came up with this inspiring logo is not known for certain. Over a period of time, some changes were made to the original logo, especially the shape of the eagle. Fortunately, it is back to its original design and flamboyance.

THE CHRONICLE

In June, the School came out with the first issue of its official newsletter –The Chronicle. It was printed by Krishan Chander at the National Printing Press at Nabha and covered the full details of School activities since the inauguration by Gen.Kalwant Singh. To compensate for the late start, it was decided to extend the first term by a month till the end of June. By the time the first term was drawing to a close, the School had already made a tremendous start and begun to blossom.

19th July 12noon, the great day, School changes its name

No sooner had the school started than the Board of Governors approached the Ministry of Defence for a school doctor and an N.C.O. for providing preliminary military training to the students. Late Shri Krishna Menon, the then Defence minister set the condition that if the School intended to continue as a Sainik School, it should be handed over to the Central Government and civilian headmaster be replaced by officers from the defence services to act as Principal, Headmaster and Registrar, with the Principal being the rank of a Lieutenant Colonel and the other two being Majors. Sardar Partap Singh Kairon rejected the offer of handing it over to the Central Government and renamed it as *THE PUNJAB PUBLIC SCHOOL NABHA*. As a token of regard for the Defence Minister, he magnanimously provided land for two new Sainik schools in the state, at Kapurthala and Kunjpura (undivided Punjab) respectively.

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors, The Sainik School, Nabha held at 12:00 noon on 19th July 1960 at Raj Bhawan, Chandigarh.

The following were present

1.	Shri N.V. Gadgil	Chairman
2.	S. Gurdian Singh Dhillon	
3.	Lt. General Kalwant Singh	
4.	Lt. General P.N. Thapar	
5.	Shri E.N. Mangat Rai, ICS	
6.	Dr. A.C. Joshi	
7.	Brig. Gurkirpal Singh	
8.	Lt. Col. Naunihal Singh Mann	
9.	Lt. Col. F.A. Von Goldstein	
10.	Rao Bahadur Choudhary Lal Chand	
11.	Shri V.P. Gautama, IAS	
12.	Shri J.K. Kate	Secretary

The following main decision was taken in the meeting :-

Vide Item 8 : The Board decided to charge non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 5/- per boy.

Vide Item 9 : The Board considered the scholarship scheme submitted by the Headmaster and appointed a Sub Committee consisting of the following members to finalise the scheme :-

1. Lt. General Kalwant Singh
2. Shr. E.N. Mangat Rai
3. Dr. A.C. Joshi
4. Shri J.K. Kate

Vide Item 11 : The Board decided to appoint M/s A. Ferguson & Co. as School Auditors provided, they did not charge more than Rs. 1000/- as Audit fees.

Vide Item 12: The Board Decided to **Change the name of the School from “The Sainik School” to “The Punjab Public School”**.

Sd/- J.K. Kate
Secretary

Sd/ N.V. Gadgil
Chairman

August 21 the downpour and the great Flood!

The students were expected to report back to school on August 21, 1960, after the summer vacation, but the persistent rain throughout the night of August 20 and the following day resulted in a disastrous waterlog. The water level gradually rose precariously and reached the plinth of the New Secretariat. After a few days wait for the water level to subside, Mr Kate decided to evacuate the building and shift base to the Guest House. Tongas, bullock carts and rickshaws were hired and laden with crockery, bedding, clothes, furniture, ration, utensils etc to be taken to

the Guest House. Meanwhile breaches in roads and railway tracks compounded the problems for parents who were coming to drop their children from far off places. The crammed Guest House looked more like a refugee camp than a School building and the evening roll call showed only 60 students present. When the water level showed no signs of dropping for the next five days, Mr. Kate decided to start classes in the Guest House itself. After bringing in the necessary equipment from the New Secretariat, classes begun and this routine continued for nearly a month before Mr. Kate's patience ran out and he decided to mobilize the boys for operation *clean up*. Pumps were installed and alternate canals were dug out. On September 27th, the underground drainage was once again functional and things were back to square one. During this one month, the teachers and students lived in close proximity with each other and this led to closer understanding between the two. Despite the hardships, *the great flood* is still remembered fondly by the Old Nabhaites.

On September 27, the underground drainage was once again functional and things were back to normal. During this period, the teachers and students lived in close proximity with each other and this led to closer understanding between the two.

October PPS inducted into IPSC

In October, the school welcomed Mr K I Thomas, Headmaster Lawrence School, Lovedale, and Chairman of the Indian Public Schools' Conference. He was accompanied by another towering headmaster, Mr J A K Martyn, Headmaster Doon School Dehradun. They had come to inspect PPS Nabha for its induction into the prestigious Indian Public Schools' Conference. The two stayed in the school for two days and a variety entertainment programme was organized in their honour. A Hindi play "*Udhar ka Pati*" (a borrowed husband) written and produced by Mr S C Vishnoi was enacted and enjoyed thoroughly by all present. Indra, Harbir Singh, Om Prakash, Suredra Gupta, Ravinder Mann and Rajpal Mann gave an excellent performance but Ravindra Sra and Bhupendra Singh stole the show with their portrayal of two attractive ladies, much to the amusement of the audience. The Hindi play was followed by Bhangra and an English skit. The two visiting headmasters found the school fit to be offered the IPSC membership

On October 16, Mr Y P Bhardwaj organized and conducted the first ever GK Quiz in the School and Mr M N Tankha came up with the idea of initiating a "Brains Trust" to widen the knowledge base of the students. In the first ever meeting of Brains Trust held on

October 23rd, the panel consisted of Mr Tankha, Dr Ishwar Swarup (the school doctor), Dr Surjit Singh, Mr Joginder Singh, Mr G S Punia and Mr S C Vishnoi. Mr J K Kate chaired the meeting. Mr MN Tankha also took the lead to start a Geographical Society and Mr YP Bhardwaj, never one to be left behind, launched the History Society.

On November 10th, Mr. R. R. D. McIntosh, U.K. Trade Commissioner in India and Shri Manubhai Shah, Union Minister for Industries, graced the school with their presence. Dignitaries and eminent personalities visited PPS at regular intervals. Another event of significance that deserves mention here was the visit of Mr Ure from the British Council. Mr Ure's visit followed by the visit of Mr W H Covington paved the way for arrival of many teachers and volunteers from England in the years to come.

On December 15, 1960, The Chairman visits: a meeting of the Board of Governors was held in the Secretariat. It was chaired by the Governor Sh V N Gadgil, and attended by Lt Gen Kalwant Singh, Brig Gurkirpal Singh, Lt Col Naunihal Singh Mann, Lt Col F A Goldstein and Shri V P Gautama

December 1960 Sports news: Bharatinder Singh (Ravi) was adjudged the winner of Moth Weight (Junior) category at the fifth Punjab Boxing Championships held at Sangrur in November. Jeevan Kate (satluj) was the runner up in the same category. The school also conducted the first inter house athletic meet in the same month. Gurvir Bajwa(R) was adjudged as the Under 11 category champion and Jagdev Singh(R) was the champion in Over 11 category. Ravi House won the overall Athletics championship with 46 points.

1961 auspicious beginning

On 1st January, 1961, Punjab Government also handed over the Old Secretariat building to the School.

New staff recruited: Mrs Iris Lyall headed the Junior School till the month of **January** when Mr P J Cherian took over the reins. The school staff was further enriched when three new teachers joined in the month of January 1961. They were Mr M S Bhatnagar, another former Ranji cricketer (the first being Mr Y P Bhardwaj) joined as a biology teacher. Mr K C Tandon, an alumnus of Rabindra Nath Tagore's *Shantiniketan*, replaced Mr Chatterjee for music while Mr R L Gupta joined as a mathematics teacher.

On February 7, the Scholarship Exam (the first entrance test of PPS) was held and the students were personally interviewed by the Board consisting of Lt Gen Kalwant Singh, Col Naunihal Singh Mann, Maj Chaudhary Raghuvinder Singh, Shri C D Kapoor and the Headmaster.

On March 2nd Her Highness the Maharani of Faridkot and the 'Yuvraj' visited the School.

March 23rd, it was Mr John Horlicks, Overseas Director of Horlicks, who had the children dancing to his tune with his ready wit and anecdotes from his Eton days. He donated a trophy for Inter House Cricket that continues to be coveted to this day.

THE FIRST GIRL STUDENTS (1960s)

PPS started off as an all-boys School since its primary aim was to prepare children for defence forces. However, some girls were enrolled in the school during the early years on account of them being staff children. They were

Indra Surjit (Dr. Surjit Singh's daughter) (S-32, 1960)

Minna Punia (Mr. Punia's daughter) (J-, 1960)

Jyoti Kate (Mr. Kate's daughter) (R-52, 1961)

Basanti Mathu (Mr. Mathu's daughter) (R-73, 1962)

Alka Kakkar (Mr. Kakkar's daughter)

Archana and Vandan Katyal (Mr KK Katyal's daughters)

April 11, 1961, The Punjab Public School inaugurated by none other than Head of state President of India Dr Rajender Prasad

On April 11 1961, Dr. Rajendra Prasad officially inaugurated the School. Arrangements were made on a war footing and a huge shamiana borrowed from His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, was put up in the circular lawn in front of the New Secretariat Building. After all human efforts failed to move the shamiana, Mr. Kate had to request for caterpillar cranes from the local Army Headquarters. The heavy cranes however created deep tracks in the ground on the eve of President's visit and it took a Herculean effort on part of the school staff and the students to get the ground back in shape for the mega event. Brigadier Gurkirpal Singh, Sub-Area Commander generously sent a military pipe and drum band to welcome the President.

The President arrived with a huge entourage including the Governor Shri VN Gadgil, high ranking officials from the Defence Forces, State Administration, Principals of Sanawar, YPS Patiala and Lovedale and Members of the Board of Governors. The President was conducted in a grand procession to the dais with great fanfare and the proceedings were opened with a prayer to Saraswati – the Goddess of Learning. It was followed by the Headmaster's report wherein Mr. Kate expressed his gratitude to the President

"If I mistake not, this is the first public school in independent India to be inaugurated by the First Citizen of the country".

After the Headmaster's speech, the President officially inaugurated the school by unveiling a tablet bearing the inscription:

**THE PUNJAB PUBLIC SCHOOL
WAS INAUGURATED
BY
DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD
PRESIDENT OF INDIA
ON
11TH APRIL 1961**

The President addressed the gathering and expressed his pleasure at visiting an institution that he described as *"young in age but full of enthusiasm and hope about the future"*. He lauded the role of Public Schools in providing holistic education to the children and at the same time emphasized that such schools should avoid being elitist and should open their doors to all classes of society like PPS had done. He concluded his speech with the following words

"I have every hope that this institution will soon catch up with similar schools in Punjab and elsewhere and will continue to grow from strength to strength in the service of the youth and the country at large"

April 1961 Soon after **Mr. Cherian, the Head Junior Wing** had to resign owing to medical reasons and he was temporarily replaced by **Mrs. Nirmala Kate** before a suitable candidate could be found.

On 7th May the Headmaster and some members of the Staff attended the opening ceremony of the National Institute of Sports at Patiala. Lieut. General Sant Singh, Director of NIS and

Mr. Howard, the deputy director visited PPS soon after and this heralded the beginning of a great bonding between PPS and NIS that continues to this day. Towards the end of May, the first ever Inter House Hockey Tournament was held and Ravi House emerged winners followed by Beas and Jumna sharing the second position.

First summer trek from PPS Mr. Tankha, Mr. OP Bhatnagar and Mr. Sarabjit set out to visit Rohtang Pass with a group of sixteen students during the summer vacation of 1961. The party also included two more students from the Lawrence School Sanawar. The school's first trip to Rohtang Pass turned out to be a truly memorable one since the group had the privilege to meet **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, the first Prime Minister of India at Manali. Always a favourite with children, *Chacha* Nehru had the students eating out of his hands in no time. He evinced a keen interest in PPS Nabha and Mr. Tankha presented him a prospectus of the School. A memorable photograph was taken that was later signed by the great man himself during his Nabha visit in the following year.

Same Summer enrichment of The PPS During the same time Mr GS Punia had gone to Lawrence School Lovedale to attend the Indian Public Schools Masters' Conference while Mr. Kate set out on a motor tour of various public schools and get some ideas that could be implemented at PPS. He visited The Maharani Gayatri Devi Public School for Girls Jaipur, Mayo College Ajmer, Sainik School Chittor, Shri Shivaji Preparatory Military School Poona, The Scindia School Gwalior and the Daly College Indore. To continue the good start, thirty boys from classes VIII and IX were called back on 23rd July to undergo intensive coaching in English, Hindi and Mathematics from Mr. Cowell, Mr. OP Bhatnagar and Mr. RL Gupta respectively. The classes were held till noon, and the students were taken for a movie and picnic lunch at Patiala every Sunday.

In October Mr YP Bhardwaj represented Southern Punjab in a Ranji Trophy match against Delhi at Patiala. **Mr. MS Bhatnagar** went to see the match with a group of students from the School and their joy knew no bounds when they saw their beloved teacher steal the show with both the bat and the ball.

When **Mr. Gupta** left PPS to take a teaching post at RIMC Dehradun in October, he was replaced by a person that was to be a pillar of the School for many years to come. **Mr. YP Johri** from Lucknow joined PPS as a mathematics teacher.

November, 1961 A Legend joins The PPS

PPS bagged yet another jewel in **Miss Gopi Bala Malkani** who took over the Junior School from Mrs. Kate, who had been temporarily looking after it after Mr. Cherian's departure. Miss Malkani played such a pivotal role in moulding the young minds of children at Junior School that they vouch for her dedication and zeal even to this day. **Miss Leela Kak (now Mrs. Leela Bhan)**, a young English teacher at Junior School during her time paints an artistic personality sketch of Miss Malkani in her memoir.

"The next person we met was a very unusual and special person who was to be my professional mentor for life. In her spotless, white sari, Miss Malkani, the Head of the Junior School blended in with the marble floors and white walls of the building. She had large eyes, an aquiline nose

and a smile that lit up her somewhat grave face. That was how she was - shy a first, always keeping her self in the background, yet she produced and commanded a high standard of excellence by her sheer example. Her greatest compliment, she once told me, was when a parent reported to her that his son had said to him , “ Miss Malkani hame wahi sikhati hain, jo khud karti hain. “ (Miss Malkani does exactly what she teaches us to do.) In short she always practiced what she preached and no one could ever argue with her or fault her for having separate standards for herself!”.

February, 1962, Vol 11

1st December

Mark Reading held. House wise standing was B, S, R , J in that order.

‘The Three Musketeers’ was screened in the evening. Thoroughly enjoyed by all especially, passage at arms.

2nd December

Athletics began. First time qualifying system introduced. Every child who reached certain standard (time, distance or height) scored one point. Everyone was able to contribute to House score. It resulted in general standards improving in track and field.

11th December

‘Black Monday’ was screened , dull and drear.

16th Dec

Exams were over. Spirit of lightheartedness reappeared.

22nd Dec

Last Mark reading was held in the Assembly hall. Houses were placed as S, B, R , J in that order.

Athletics qualifying and heats rounds’ results led to final day of competition. Lt Gen Sant Singh presided over the presiding as chief guest ,Director NIS, Patiala . After a keen struggle Jumna finished on top with 192 points. They became first winner to get the handsome Silver cup presented to the school by 2nd independent Amd. Bde.

In the evening at 7 O’clock ‘end of term’ supper was held in senior School; The front verandah was closed by *kanats* and the hall had been decorated by Mrs. McMullen and Miss Rowe assisted by enthusiasts.

29th-31st Dec

Headmaster attended the IPSC at Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

19th Jan

Admission test was held.

Mr. Ure of British Council made a short visit to the School.

21st Jan Sunday

New term began. Despite bitter cold the returning wanderers were nit in the least downcast. Laggards were there as usual but on the decline.

22nd Jan

HM welcomed students in the Assembly. And introduced new teacher Mr. Arora of Junior School.

Children made it to their classrooms to receive books and stationery from respective teachers.

23rd Jan

New time table came into effect. 40mins teaching periods, before lunch on six days. A seventh period after Lunch on Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday followed by hobbies and games. Only Cricket starting at 2.00pm on Wednesday and Saturdays.

25th Jan

New admissions arrived.

26th Jan

Republic Day with worse weather than before. Very depleted attendance at the function outside Headmaster's residence. Cricket match between staff and students was called off. Weather cleared off in the afternoon. The school was able to see Kabuliwallah in the local theater at the invitation of the proprietor, S, Gurdial Singh. Later Hight Ta was served and kitchen staff got evening off.

28th Jan

Cancelled match of Republic Day was played today. The match ended in a tie. With equal scores by both teams but in reverse innings.

Evening saw Brain Trust meeting the Assembly Hall.

30th Jan

Observed as martyr's day. At 11.00am the School assembled un the Assembly Hall to observe two minutes silence for memory of all those who laid their lives for the country.

Feb 1962 Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru came to Nabha for a short visit. His Highness The Maharaja of Nabha acceded to Mr.Kate's request and allowed the students to line up around the lawns of Hira Mahal enabling them to catch a glimpse of the great man. Later during the tea party hosted by the Maharaja, **Raj Kumar Hukku** (R-) mustered courage and approached Pt.Nehru with a photograph taken the previous year when he had met the school team at Manali. Pt. Nehru obliged with his autograph on the picture and the memorable picture is still treasured by the School.

Same month Mr. OP Sharma joined as the new Hindi teacher. He had resigned from a Government job to fulfil his passion of teaching in a public school and later admitted in an interview that he was attracted by the „glamorous“ life at The PPS.

April 1962, vol 13

Saturday 3rd March

First week of March four Americans who had come to Nabha with the local Gram Sewak visited the School to have an interactive session with the students. They were members of The US Peace Corps an organization founded by President Kennedy to help under-developed countries The first speaker Mr.T.J.Kissinger was a Harvard graduate The second speaker Mr.S.H.Doherty, had worked as an engineer in Canada. He was an expert on cottage industries and planned to educate the youth in peripheral villages on their merits. The third speaker Mr.Kenneth Sherper, was a leader of Peace Corps and specialized in agricultural science and improved farm mechanics. The last speaker was Mr.William Donovan who was a poultry specialist. These four Americans toured the villages of Punjab on bicycles and educated them on the latest trends in agriculture and self employment. When a student asked Mr.Doherty on what should be done to increase India"s industrial output, his response was typically American

“Pull up your sleeves, and get to work”

4th March

Heavy overnight rain washed out first cricket match against YPS in Patiala on Sunday. GK test for the evening was preponed to 11.00am as roads and lawns had inches of rain.

It rained for two days. No outdoor activity took place. School went out for walks in the evening.

7th March

Till Sunday 18th March , was Inter-House cricket. Three teams as usual representing each House. Team A & B matches were 6hours, C team were 4 hours duration. Ravi and Jumna dominated. Sutlej displayed fighting spirit all the way. On 18th final Jumna eventually were victors. Followed by Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. For the first time Sir John Horlicks Trophy was presented by Mrs. Copas, wife of MD of Hindustan Milkfood.

10th March

‘Doctors at Large’ was shown in Junior school lawns after early supper.

11th March

Mr. YP Johri took Sutlej House boys for trip to Sugar factory in Dhuri.

Monday 12th March

A festive cricket match took place between Staff and Boys against HMF team led by Sir John Horlicks in the afternoon. It was lighthearted and enjoyable.

Tuesday 13th March

Mr. and Mrs. Vodden, William and the twins , Sarah and Emma arrived mid-morning. We welcome them. Mr. Ure of the British Council came with them but returned immediately. Next day the staff was introduced to Mr. Vodden at HM’s residence.

16th March

Mr. Hakim Singh Aast. Director of Agriculture ,Punjab gave talk on his recent visit to USA, it was well illustrated by beautiful coloured slides.

20th March

Exhibition match between staff Vs students ended with staff victory by 51-11 points.

21st March

Was Holi and whole School took off to Rohti for picnic. It was cold but rain held off. No swimming, and the fishing was poor. Everyone enjoyed and came back happy.

23rd March

Hockey season took off. Staff Vs students opener was won by staff 5-2.

24th March

Film 'Merry Andrew' was screened.

25th March

School Colts team lost to YPS in a friendly at Patiala.

26th March

Mark Reading held and Summer time table was released. Standings, J, B, S and R.

Another Legend joins The PPS

March 13 1962 saw the arrival of a man who was to play so important a role that Mr.J.K.Kate would later remark

*“If I am ever asked to write the early history of the School, I shall mention three dates of being outstanding importance. The first, 14th April 1960 when the school actually started functioning; the second 11th April 1961, when Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the late President of India, formally inaugurated the School; and the third 13th March 1962, when **Mr.M.H.D. Vodden** arrived in Nabha to work as a teacher of English for two and a half years.”*

Mr. Vodden had come from England after Mr.Kate had personally requested the British Council to depute an English teacher to cater to the need of improving spoken and written English in the school. So, when the Voddens arrived, the entire school welcomed them with open arms, particularly Emma and Sarah, his adorable twin daughters.

On April 14,1962, PPS celebrated its second Founders' Day

Shri Yash, the chief guest a social and political reformer, and a renowned journalist associated with the Ministry of Education expressed hope that PPS Nabha would churn out ideal citizens and he urged the students to strive for “emotional integration” for the betterment of the nation.

Mr. and Mrs. Ure from the British Council also graced the occasion with their presence.

In his speech Mr. Kate made it clear that

“Though we have changed our name from „The Sainik School “ to „The Punjab Public School “, our principal aim, that of preparing boys for the National Defence Academy, remains unchanged.”

In Summer vacations, 1962

The School organized a training course in educational activities at the insistence of chief minister S.Partap Singh Kairon.It was meant for Govt School teachers to acquaint them with the quality of work at PPS so that they could emulate it. Mr Kairon himself visited the school during this time.

28th August 1962 When school reopened The Headmaster welcomed the new Teacher for Physics **Mr IB Kakkar**.

Mr MN Tankha who used audiovisual techniques in those days put up an interesting presentation and slideshow on his trip to the Kolahai Glacier that he had undertaken during the summer vacations with Mr.YP Bhardwaj, Mr. OP Bhatnagar and seventeen boys from the school. Ever a passionate adventurer, he would organize these trips at regular intervals and more often than not, Mr.OP Bhatnagar would be his companion of choice. Mr.Bhatnagar would carry along his canvas and painting kit and would invariably return with some breathtaking landscapes and portraits.

In September Mr.MN Tankha also became the first teacher from PPS to go to England on a bursary awarded by British Council to study special methods of teaching Geography. In the same month,

Same Month Mr.Roger Miall, a young volunteer enrolled with the Voluntary Services Overseas Scheme joined PPS for two terms. The aim of VSO was to help developing nations in their effort to improve education and overall standard of living. Enterprising youngsters registered themselves as volunteers and they rendered their services for a meagre allowance.

In October, Mr.K.I. Thomas , headmaster Lawrence School Lovedale visited the School and congratulated Mr. Kate on its induction into the Indian Public Schools Conference. The report submitted by Mr.Thomas and Mr.Martyn, headmaster Doon School Dehradun was instrumental in PPS joining the elite circle of public schools in India. He urged the students to work hard for their first Council exams that were due to be held in 1963.

7th November, the first ever inter-house music competition was conducted. In addition to the group song, each House presented items of instrumental and light vocal music. Ravi House bagged the first position followed by Jumna, Beas and Sutlej.

In January 1963

The construction of a staff colony started at full throttle between the Main Grounds and the small canal adjoining the main road near Junior School. On its completion it solved to a large extent the problem of standard accommodation for the teaching staff.

Mr. Dighe and Miss Leela Kak were the new staff members that joined the School during this period. Mr.Dighe established himself as a beloved mathematics teacher and the young Miss Kak was a favourite with the children at Junior School

January 28th

THE SCHOOL SONG

In a special function organized on January 28th 1963, Mr. Terry, Principal of Thapar Polytechnic Institute unveiled the School Song written by Mr. Michael Vodden and the tune was set by none other than Mr. Terry himself. Mr. Vodden mentioned that when he set for writing the School song, he started with the idea of co-operative service, beginning with the individual and then widening it to School, country and ultimately the entire Mankind. Here is the entire Song that all true Nabhaites remember from the core of their hearts

*While we are boys in School,
We learn our lives to mould
By learning how ourselves to rule
Alert and self-controlled.
Moving ever onwards inspired by glories past
We "ll build a worthy future striving upwards to the last.*

*In Class and House and School
Alone we are sure to fail,
We must our many talents pool
United we "ll prevail.
Moving ever onwards inspired by glories past
We "ll build a worthy future striving upwards to the last.*

*In work as well as play
Our friends are close at hand,
With all of them to help we may
Uplift our Motherland.
Moving ever onwards inspired by glories past
We "ll build a worthy future striving upwards to the last.*

*In India is our pride;
Courageous, just and true
We "ll serve our fellows far and wide
Here and the whole world through.
Moving ever onwards inspired by glories past
We "ll build a worthy future striving upwards to the last.*

Mr. Tankha wrote from England and made a special mention of his Eton visit organized by the British Council. He was deeply impressed with its unique House system where the Houses were named after housemasters and the names of the houses changed whenever a new housemaster took over.

First week March 1963

Mr. Paul Gore Booth, the British High Commissioner to India visited the School and was deeply impressed with what he saw. Such visits continued to strengthen the school ties with the British Council and facilitated the arrival of many British volunteers that would make a significant contribution towards the ascent of the school. The third Founders' Day meanwhile was dampened by incessant rain on the D-day. In what turned out to be an indoor low-key affair, the function was presided over by Mr. Yogesh Chandra, the speaker of Vidhan Sabha.

Summer vacations

Another memorable trip to Pindari Glacier the third in two years. It was led by Mr. OP Bhatnagar and VSO Roger Miall.

Post summer vacations

Maj UM Sharma first Bursar of The PPS retired. He was replaced by Mr GS Punia who had actually joined school as English Teacher.

Mr Roger Miall who had started the flourishing "Poultry Farm" was replaced by Mr Roger Burridge a gregarious and an all-out swimming enthusiast. Mr. Dick Pine, an American Peace Corps Volunteer attached with the local Gram Sewak also volunteered with teaching and guiding students in outdoor activities during the same time. Kholia from administrative staff and Miss Leela Kak left the school for greener pastures. Mr. Kholia, a cheerful and carefree soul was missed by all and sundry due to active participation in sporting fixtures. Mr. Rajinder Sibal joined as the new English teacher and Mr. Pushap Raj Arora was another newcomer in the administrative staff who would be a part of PPS family for a long time to come joined as PA to Mr. JK Kate.

By the time Mr. MN Tankha came back from England, Mr. YP Johri had already set sail after being awarded with a Commonwealth Bursary for further studies in England. He joined the prestigious Hull University for studying newer methods in the teaching of Mathematics.

When the term began, PPS had its first team of Head Boy and Prefects. **Jagdev Singh was the first head boy of the School and Jagjit Bedi, Sureshwar Tiwari, Prithipal Singh, Om Prakash and Narendra Nath Dogra** were the prefect appointees

November 1963

THE CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATION

In the month of November, the first batch of students appeared for their first Cambridge exams. It was a significant event since at the time School started in 1960, there were only four classes i.e., 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th. The crop, after careful nurturing had ripened and the time had come for the senior most class to appear in their Council exams. The following seven students also appeared for Higher Secondary Examinations in addition to the Council exams— Sureshwar Tiwari, Harbir Singh, Jagjit Bedi, Narinder Dogra, Bhalinder Singh, Manjit Singh and Balvinder

Singh. A new class XII was introduced to prepare the boys for Higher Secondary and I.I.T. examination.

Jan 1964

THE *FIRST FIVE* IN NDA

From the first batch that appeared for NDA written exam and interview, five students cleared both the hurdles and successfully gained entry to the prestigious National Defence Academy. They were **Jagdev Singh- the school head boy, Om Prakash Nandrajog, Deepak Kapoor, Manjit Singh Grewal and Teninder Singh**. It heralded the beginning of an era where an unprecedented number of students would successfully gain admission to NDA year after year and establish the reputation of PPS Nabha as the top churmer of made to order NDA candidates.

25th February 1964

INAUGURATION OF THE SWIMMING POOL

Ever since the School had started, the need for a state of art swimming pool was felt by all and sundry. In the absence of a swimming pool in the School, the students would go to the Rohti canal for a quick dip under the supervision of teachers. Needless to say, it was a risky proposition and Gen. Kalwant Singh was keener than anybody else that the School must have a pool of its own. So, it was befitting that on 25th February 1964, the foundation stone of the Swimming Pool was laid by none other than Gen.Kalwant Singh himself. Since Nabha at the time had a serious waterlogging problem, the floor of the Pool was constructed on raised ground and its dimensions were 25m long and 10m wide. In his auguration speech Gen.Kalwant Singh said

“I maintain that in our climate a swimming pool in a school in the plains is a must. I am of the view that everyone should consider it a duty to learn to swim. Swimming is an art superior to all others in the formation and preservation of health”

Last week March 1964

In the last week of March Pt.Mohan Lal, Home and Education Minister Punjab visited the School and his visit was immediately followed by that of General Virendra Singh, Director General, N.C.C.

Founders’s Day April 1964

It was a gala affair and it was the first time the Chief Guest had arrived in a helicopter. It was a thrilling event not just for the School but the entire local populace that turned up in droves to see the chopper land. Mr.Y.B.Chavan, the Union Defence Minister graced the occasion and after inspecting the Guard of Honour and various Exhibitions, gave away the prizes to meritorious students.

It was attended by dignitaries like Lt.Gen Sant Singh, Director NIS, Major and Mrs.Som Dutt, Headmaster Sanawar and Commandant Sharma from Sainik School Kapurthala for turning up at the function.

Mr JK Kate welcomed Lt.Gen Manekshaw and Major Gen S.N.Bhatia on the Board of Governors.

On 14th May 1964

A grand supper was laid out in the Junior School lawns to bid farewell to Dr.Surjit Singh, the first Senior Master of the School. Dr.Surjit Singh popularly known as “Doctor Sahib” was an epitome of gentlemanliness and politeness. Before he had joined PPS as Senior Master, he taught at the National Defence Academy. Well liked by the students for his accessibility and affectionate nature, Dr.Surjit Singh’s departure was a sad day for the school community. The first PPS girl Indira Surjit Singh was his daughter and his son Madanjit (both Satluj) won Nao Sena Medal in 1971 War.

Mr.Vodden succeeded him to the post of Senior Master.

Same time there was a significant shuffling among the staff with Mr.MS.Bhatnagar , the biology teacher leaving for a teaching post at I.A.F. School New Delhi. Mr. Roger Burrige, the V.S.O. also completed his term and left for England in the last week of August.

Mr.K.K.Katyul joined the Senior Section as Biology teacher while Mr.Y.P.Johri returned from his UK trip after having taught Mathematics at University of Hull and carrying out a special study of Public Schools in Britain. He had also visited the prestigious Harrow School. Founded in 1571 by John Lyon it boasted among its alumni, of eminent personalities such as Lord Byron, J.A. Ramsay (Governor General of India), F. Ponsonby (Prime Minister of England) and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Soon after Mr.Johri’s return, Mr. Rajinder Sibal joined the University of London to learn the latest techniques on teaching of English as foreign language.

Wedding bells sounded loud and clear with Miss Pannu tying the nuptial knot with Mr.K.C.Tandon, and getting her more familiar name, Mrs. KP Tandon.

Early August 1964

THE NEW DINING HALL AND HOSPITAL

Owing to the ever-increasing strength of students in PPS, a dire need was felt for a proper Dining Hall and Hospital. In the month of August, the vacant land to the right of New Secretariat Building was earmarked for these and construction started at full swing. On completion, the new Dining Hall and Hospital proved their utility in no time. The spacious Dining Hall could accommodate the entire school with ease while the need for Hospital cannot be overemphasized in a residential school. At the same time, it was also felt that the new Secretariat Building would not be able to accommodate classes and hostel for too long and ideas were being floated for shifting the hostel to some other place. These efforts would later culminate in the form of a new residential complex at Sham Bagh.

Mid August

Meanwhile the bonding with Lawrence School Sanawar continued to grow. Mr.G.B.Wad from the same school gifting an impressive painting of Mahatma Gandhi to the School. It was put up in the then Assembly Hall, where it still adorns the wall in the present-day Library.

On August 30 1964,

Mr.OP Bhatnagar organized a “Kavi Darbar” with the help of students of Hindi Literary Society. Students dressed up as eminent Hindi poets and even the dead ones were brought back from Heaven by Gurinder Singh Dhanoya, who played the part of „Narad Ji” to perfection. It turned out to be an entertaining evening for the entire School and Mr.Bhatnagar was well applauded for his creative presentation.

September,1964

The School was thrilled when the mountaineering team of M/s Don Williams and his companions Dennis Gray, Ian Clough, Terrince Burnell, Dery Hadlum and Tan Howell visited the School. Originally their team was destined for Pakistan but due to diplomatic hassles, they came to India to scale „Gauri Shankar”, a virgin peak in the Himalayas.

At the same time Mr.Bernard Clarke joined the School as V.S.O. He described India as a “hot, fascinating and friendly country”.

October,1964

Three eminent principals visited the School. Dr.Thomas, Headmaster Lawrence School Lovedale, Mr.Sircar, Principal of St.Stephen’s College Delhi and Major Somdutt, Headmaster, Lawrence School Sanawar visited PPS in quick succession.

The Peac Corps arrives!

The School also welcomed Mr.David Goldberg and Mr.Lowell Edwards of the American Peace Corps on the staff. Mr.Edwards taught mathematics and was instrumental in setting the text-book store in order to ensure smooth lending of books to the students.

Dusshera was celebrated with great fanfare and students went for a picnic to Rohti and enjoyed a swim in the Canal under the watchful eye of Mr.Richard Pine. In the evening an effigy of Ravana was set on fire by fire-arrows shot by the students. Mr.OP Bhatnagar would take great pains to build the effigy and decorate it artistically. Not just the students, but a huge local crowd would build up to watch the PPS Ravana go up in flames every year.

December, 1964

MR.VODDEN’S DEPARTURE AND SEMINAR ON TEACHING OF ENGLISH

A farewell party was organized for Mr.Vodden in the month of December. Mr. Vodden also conducted a seminar for the teachers in English in the second week of December 1964. The seminar was attended by English teachers from prestigious schools all over the country. Mr.Vodden had made teaching of English in India his special field of research. He summarized his findings and suggestions in the following seven points

- 1) Teach beginners a nucleus of structure and vocabulary
- 2) Teach structures which are troublesome because they are liable to incorrect and unacceptable usage
- 3) Observe faults and take steps to remedy them

- 4) Give the pupils opportunity for free oral expression in English even at a stage when they will make mistakes.
- 5) Teach the pupils to comprehend precisely what they hear and read
- 6) Teach the pupils to think and express themselves accurately and logically.
- 7) Help the pupils positively to enjoy reading and writing.

Interestingly Mr.Vodden felt that the role of mother-tongue was extremely important for the students to learn English. He felt
“Mother tongue is a device available for the use of the teacher of English. It is not a plague to be avoided at all costs.”

Mr.JK Kate, in his article on Mr.Vodden showered praise on him for his contribution to the school. He lauded him for his approach to the teaching of English and thanked him for his greatest gift to the School – the School Song. Mr.Kate expressed his deep admiration for Mr.Vodden in the following words

“There are great men in whose presence we feel an overwhelming sense of smallness. There are greater men who have the gift of making us feel that we are not without potentialities of greatness. One such was Mr.Vodden”.

Immediately on his return to England Mr.Michael Vodden was conferred upon the prestigious Award of M.B.E. by the British Government.

March 13, 1965

the School celebrated the fifth Founders’ Day and the function was presided over by Shri Ram Kishan, the Chief Minister of Punjab.

In his Speech, Headmaster Kate mentioned the 100% result the School had obtained in Indian School Certificate Examination held in 1964. It was a huge improvement over the 72% pass percentage of 1963. Seven boys from the School had joined the National Defence Academy during the course of the year and participation of the School in sports had improved drastically.

He made a special mention of Mr.Vodden, Mr.MS Bhatnagar and Mr.D.K.Dighe who had left the School during the previous year. Mr. Bhatnagar and Mr.Dighe were passionate about sports and had taken many initiatives to improve the sporting standards of the school.

Mr.Kate also announced the completion of Swimming Pool, the new Dining Hall and new Hospital, which incidentally happened to be fully occupied at the time with more than 40 students down with flu.

The School was proud to have among the guests, one of the founder members of the staff Mr.Joginder Singh, who was heading the Dagshai Public School.

March 14th, 1965

FORMATION OF THE OLD NABHAITES ASSOCIATION

Ever since the first batch had passed out of the School, the need was felt to have a recognized body that would act as a platform for all the ex-students to meet and stay in touch with each other and continue to have strong bonding with their alma mater. The idea was in line with

similar bodies in place for all the leading public schools of the country. To give it a practical shape a meeting was held on March 14th, 1965 where the following proposals were made and accepted.

- a) The old boys of the School will be known as NABHAITES. This was proposed by Pritpal Singh and seconded by Harbir Singh.
- b) The Headmaster will be the ex-officio President of the ONA i.e., OLD NABHAITES ASSOCIATION.
- c) Mr.YP Johri proposed the name of Mr.OP Bhatnagar for the post of General Secretary (Staff) and Mr.YP Bhardwaj seconded it. Mr.Bhatnagar was selected unanimously.
- d) Vinod Mehta was appointed as the Old Boys“ Secretary.
- e) The following were the branch Secretaries

Patiala Branch Parminder Singh Nagra
Jullundur Branch Harbir Singh
Chandigarh Branch Anil Kumar Luthra
Kharakvasla Branch Madanjit Singh

With the first meeting, the ONA was off to a flying start and over a period of time it has evolved into a large body with many chapters and huge membership. The passion and zeal of Nabhaites has always ensured that ONA activities are a regular feature in the School calendar year after year.

May 14th 1965

Home-day-eve-supper took place on the evening of May 14th and the School bid farewell to Mr.Richard Pine who had completed his term. Richard Pine, popularly referred to as “Dick Pine” played the lead role in laying a strong foundation of swimming in the School. He was so enthusiastic about Swimming that Mr.Kate had given him complete charge of the swimming pool. He also inculcated the habit of bird watching among the students of junior school that ultimately led to setting up an Aviary, which continues to adorn the Junior School.

Close on the heels of Mr.Pine“s departure, seven boys left to attend the Advanced Leadership Course held at Pahalgam. The programme was aimed at identifying leaders for the future and helping them realize their true potential.

September, 1965

MR.JOHN MALLON

When the School reopened after the vacations in September 1965, Mr.Mallon joined as the new Head of English Department. He hailed from Lancashire in Scotland and was appointed through the British Council as the replacement for Mr.Vodden.

Soon after the return of Mr.Sibal from England, Mr.VN Bhave left for USA on a Fullbright and National Science Foundation Scholarship for a year“s study at the United States.

Mr.Bernard Clarke also left after completing his term as the third School leaver and summed up his feelings in the following words,

“The Junior Wing of the School, where I worked, is one of the best schools of any type that I have ever seen, and the main reason for this is, in my opinion, is the happy atmosphere which is to be found within it. So often schools build up reputations for themselves on the basis of discipline, examination results or achievements on the sports field, and it is refreshing to come across one where a reputation is being based not only on these things but also on the fact that the boys are happy. It seems to me that once a School has built a good foundation for itself (which I think is being done here by the encouragement of this atmosphere) a rigid disciplinary system will not be necessary, and high academic and sporting standards are bound to follow”.

Mr. Neil Hutchinson, the new VSO and Miss Janet Anderman joined during the same term and after the departure of Mr. Richard Pine, swimming activities were taken over by Mr. David Goldberg.

The month of September 1965

IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

September turned out to be a memorable and eventful one. Air raid sirens roared regularly on account of war with Pakistan. Never the one who left anything to chance, Mr. Kate gave instructions for digging of trenches all around the Senior and Junior School to ensure safety of the staff and students. The students were trained to occupy their respective places as soon as the siren sounded and be on their guard. The Headmaster had the dormitories blacked out from inside so they could carry on with their studies without any problem, though the idea was resisted by the students for obvious reasons. Two staff members would patrol the School building till dawn to ensure well being of the students and to raise a timely alarm in case of an emergency (though some boys were of the opinion that their very presence deterred the enemy from choosing PPS as a potential target !!).

Every morning the students would update themselves on the war scenario and it was followed by animated discussions in the classrooms. The topic of the English Debate for that year summed up the prevailing sentiment.

“War is not the best way of settling international disputes today”

On September 24th, 1965,

The Governor of Punjab and the ex-officio Chairman of the Board of Governors Sardar Ujjal Singh visited the School. He was delighted at the imposing buildings and the amenities being provided to the children.

An informal Badminton Club was started by the Staff Club where the staff members would wind up and enjoy leisurely badminton matches. Though these matches were informal to begin with, it did not take too long for a bit of competitiveness to creep in. Mr. Verma emerged as the men's singles champion in the inaugural year while Miss Leela Kak trounced all competition to become the Ladies Singles Champion.

Mr.Johri and Mr.Kakkar joined hands to lift the doubles trophy. Mr.Johri used his tennis skills to good effect and would win most of the badminton competitions in later years. On one occasion, his frustrated opponents deliberately gave him a weak partner to prevent him from winning the doubles trophy, since his victory in singles matches was always a foregone conclusion.

The School was delighted to receive a gift of hundred books for the School Library from the students of Hobart College at Geneva, New York USA. Mr.David Goldberg one of their old students was teaching English at PPS and this was a symbolic gesture on their part to express their delight. Goldberg was a giant of a man and was known for his aversion to formal behaviour. He insisted that students do not call him Sir and would at times leave the class with his hands on his ears when they would stand up and sing "Good Morning Sir". He was very fond of pooris" and would religiously turn up early for the Sunday breakfast to feast on them to his content, and would then invariably rush to the M.I. with an upset stomach.

Early 1966 (Jan- Feb)

Two Fonder members of the School, former Governor Punjab and Chairman of the Board Shri VN Gadgil and Lt Gen Kalwant Singh, the driving force behind the scenes. Both of them had played a monumental role in starting the School and nurturing it with their vision and zeal. In his article on Lt.Gen Kalwant Singh, Mr.Kate recalled the early days when Gen.Kalwant Singh would regularly visit Nabha to inspect the progress being made to get the School ready for inauguration before 14th April 1960. Every time Mr. Kate would go to Chandigarh, Gen.Kalwant Singh would invariably ask him, *"When are you going to have a Swimming Pool in the School?"*

There were significant changes in the Board of Governors for the year with the following new members joining the panel.

Major General Jang Shamsher Singh, G.O.C. Punjab and Himachal Pradesh

Mr.C.D.Kapoor, Education Commissioner (Punjab)

Mr.B.S.Manchanda, Commissioner Patiala

And Maj. R.K. Von Goldstein, Headmaster, B.C.S. Shimla.

Mrs.Kalwant Singh, wife of Late Lt.Gen Kalwant Singh was also appointed as a Board Member.

In March 1966

Mr.Steve Powers (Peace Corps) joined the School as a specialist to look after the Poultry and Swimming in School. With more than twelve hundred birds to boast of, the School Poultry was flourishing like never before. From a modest beginning

it had come a long way and the school had attained self-sufficiency for their poultry needs.

The sixth Founders Day was a historic event since General Chaudhary, Chief of the Army Staff was the honoured Chief Guest on the occasion. The memories of India's war with Pakistan were still fresh and the General was accorded a true hero's welcome. He was flanked by General Cariappa, Lt.Gen. Harbaksh Singh, and General Abdul Karim Azad from Afghanistan. The Headmaster of Yadwindra Public School Patiala, Principals of both the Sainik Schools of Punjab and Principal of Dagshai Public School were also present on the occasion.

Ranjitpal Mann represented Punjab in Inter State Athletics Meet in Bangalore and secured Bronze in 800m. He had earlier chipped 2.5secs off the Inter Public Schools record for a new record.

End of First term 1966

The Home Day Dinner of 1966 doubled up as the farewell party for Mr.Yash Pal Bhardwaj and two departing American Peace Corps Volunteers, Lowell Edwards and David Goldberg. Mr.Bhardwaj was one of the first teachers to join the School and his passion for sports, especially cricket endeared him to the boys. His easy-going manners and friendly nature made him popular with both staff and students. He went on to head many elite schools and is currently an acclaimed educationist. His former students fondly recall his favourite word „*waster* “ that he would use for anybody that was lazy and showed a lack of initiative. The headmaster praised the contribution of Edwards in teaching Mathematics and thanked Mr.Goldberg for organizing the School Library and handling the swimming activities with a high degree of success.

From Second term 1966

Cross-Country run and Wednesday Forum were introduced. An eminent speaker from outside, staff and sometimes from among students was called for Wednesday to speak on burning topics of the Day. It fine tuned and polished speaking skills of the students and enhanced general awareness. Two sections were formed for this
Seniors- Classes IX,X and XI
Juniors Classes VII and VIII
The School Council, Brains Trust and various Societies vied for lime light.

September 1966

Shri Dharam Vira joined as Punjab Governor. Shri PH Vaishnav replaced Shri PL Sondhi as the new Treasurer of the School.

Miss Janet Anderman, the VSP returned to London to study medicine. M

Mr AJ Rigby joined as the new VSO, He was the first to be attached to Senior School rather than Junior School unlike other VSOs before him.

The Old Nabhaites had now reached a strength of 37 in NDA and Om Parkash Nadrajog had attained the appointment of Academy Cadet Adjutant

8th December, 1966

a farewell party was organized to bid farewell to Mr.S.C.Cowell and Mr.Neale Hutchinson. Mr. Kate delivered the farewell speech and presented them with silver crests of the School. The same was also sent to Miss Leela Kak who had left earlier in the term.

After the departure of Dr.Surjit Singh, Mr.Cowell also shouldered the responsibility of Senior Master for the interim period before Mr.Vodden took over the office.

After Mr.Vodden left for England, Mr.Cowell once again occupied the office of Senior Master and continued to hold the post till his retirement.

In the month of January 1967,

Mr.M.R.Oberoi took over as the new Senior Master of the School. He was an alumnus of F.C.Forman Christian College Lahore and had taught in many government colleges before he went to USA. On his return he was selected to teach at the Indian Military Academy, the post that he had resigned from to join as the new Senior Master of PPS. In the following month Mr.Steve Powers, the Peace Corps Volunteer also completed his term and left the School. The staff Colony near the Junior School saw a lot of activity as new construction continued and the work on fishery pond project was also going on in full swing adjacent to the colony.

Founders' Day March 1967

Shri Dharam Vira, the honourable Governor of Punjab was the Chief Guest of the Founders Day in 1967. It was one of those rare occasions that both the Governor and the Chief Minister (Mr.Gurnam Singh) were present at the function. In his speech, Mr.Kate thanked the Punjab Government for increasing the Scholarship

amount from Rs.1,500 to Rs.1,900, and for allotment of 30 acres of land to the School near the Junior School, thus paving the way for bigger and better playgrounds for the children. He made a special mention of the role played by Mr.Cowell and other eminent teachers who had left during the past year and welcomed the following new members on the Board of Governors

- 1) Mr. Gurnam Singh, the Chief Minister
- 2) Major General J.C.Katoch
- 3) Mr.R.S.Kang, The Commissioner of Patiala Division
- 4) Mr.S.L.Kapur, Secretary to the Governor
- 5) Mr.Pritmohinder Singh, the Education Secretary to the Govt. of Punjab

“I would like to assure the Principals of other Schools that Iqbal Singh Koonar, whose deadly bowling has brought us the Cricket Championship, will be leaving the School at the end of this term”

(Headmaster’s Speech – Annual Founder’s Day 1967)

In his speech, the Chief Guest promised to continue full support to the Government and gave the following message to the students, (***This message after more than 40years is even more relevent today***)

“You will have to complete the unfinished war against religious strife and bigotry, provincialism and linguism, racialism, casteism and poverty. Above all, you will have to work hard, without fear, favour or hatred. I do hope your education here will equip you adequately for such an exciting and if I might say so onerous role”.

He also underlined the importance of role of teachers in Schools and urged them to lead and teach by example.

Second term beginning August 1967

The Board approved the decision to accept day scholar students from the term beginning August 1967. The decision was welcomed by the local populace and hence forward boys and girls from Nabha started joining the school. The boys were delighted not only to have more girls in the School but also due to the fact that they would not have to play the part of female characters in house shows !!

During Second Term 1967

Mr.B.S.Bhatnagar and Mr.S.L.Nigam joined PPS to teach English and Science respectively. Mr.B.S.Bhatnagar, who hailed from Allahabad was the first cousin of Mr.OP Bhatnagar. He had two master degrees to his name, one in English and the other in History. Mr.K.S.Nijjar joined for Mathematics while Anita Williams joined PPS as the new V.S.O. Anita Williams was educated in London and Birmingham and had many interests that varied from reading, sight-seeing, hitch-hiking and folk-singing etc.

September 1967

Dr.Narang, a learned scholar of History and Vice-Chancellor of Punjabi University Patiala gave a talk on “Educational Problems in India” at the Wednesday Forum. Mr.A.J.Rigby completed his term as V.S.O. and proceeded for an extensive tour of India before departing to England.

In the month of December 1967,

Mr.Y.P.Johri took over as the Housemaster of Sutlej House and simultaneously Mr.R.C.Bhalla joined as the new Mathematics teacher. Mr.Johri and Mr.Bhalla , and later on Mr.Ram Singh formed the triumvirate that raised the standard of teaching Mathematics to such an unprecedented level that it became the source of envy for all public schools in the country.

January 1968

On Republic Day in 1968, a special Assembly was organized in the Junior School to commemorate the occasion. Mr.Lal Singh, Director, Punjabi Department, Punjab Government Patiala was the Chief Guest and a Kavi Sammelan was organized in the evening where a number of eminent Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu poets attended the function.

March 9,1968

Mr.D.C. Pavate, Governor of Punjab and Chief Guest at the Annual Founders “ Day laid the foundation stone of the new hostel in Sham Bagh, adjacent to the Senior Mess. A loan had already been sanctioned by the Punjab Government for the same and it was decided to name the new hostel block as “*DHARMA VIRA PARK*” as a tribute to the former Governor of Punjab who had used his influence to get the loan sanctioned from the Government of Punjab. Initially the headmaster was hesitant to accept the loan, but Shri Dharma Vira had assured him,

“Incase you are unable to pay all the installments, the Government would not take away the buildings and would be compelled to write off the amount”

M/s.Warekar and Associates were the architects for all the new buildings in the School that had come up during Mr.Kate’s tenure, except the Auditorium that called for technical acumen on account of acoustics related issues.

8th Founders’ Day

The governor was the Chief Guest. The Headmaster thanked the Government of Punjab for providing funds for the hostel and welcomed Major General Shiv Charan Singh, Mr.Swarn Singh Boparai and Mr.H.B.Lall as new Board members. Mr.Lall’s association to PPS was not new since he was the Commissioner of Patiala Division when the School had started in 1960. The Headmaster expressed his gratitude to Shri.G.S.Kahlon, Major General Jang Shamsheer Singh and Shri.S.L.Kapur, the outgoing Board members.

May 1968

Mr.John Mallon bid farewell to the School. Originally, he had come for just one year but ultimately, he had extended his stay for another two years. Mr.Mallon had functioned as the Head of English Department and earned the respect of staff and students alike.

August ,1968

In August Mr.M.N.Tankha proceeded on a year’s leave to study at the East-West Centre, University of Hawaii, U.S.A. He was awarded a scholarship by the U.S.Education Foundation and it was his second trip abroad, the previous one being in 1962. No sooner had he left, Mr.OP Sharma took over as the Housemaster of Senior Ravi House. In the month of December, Mr. I.B.Kakkar was also awarded a scholarship by the British Council to study for four months in England to learn new techniques for teaching of Physics.

December 8-22, 1968

PPS hosted the 15th annual session of Public Schools Masters’ Conference from December 8 to 22, 1968. It was attended by 31 delegates from 14 elite schools of the country.

Simultaneously a workshop on Programmed learning was held in collaboration with NCERT to train the teachers in planning lessons with latest methods. The instructors and resource men worked very hard with the delegates and in fifteen days' duration, the delegates were successful in learning the various elements of programmed learning. The delegates were also addressed by Mr. David Bradley, Education Officer of the British Council. Dr. Shib K. Mitra, Joint Director NCERT presided over the Valedictory Function on December 22.

Jan 1969

January 1969 brought much needed cheer to the PPS family with the participation of the School Band team in the Republic Day parade at New Delhi.

There was more cause for celebration when four teachers from PPS, Messrs Y.P. Johri, B.S. Bhatnagar, S.M.L. Nigam and K.S. Nijjar were simultaneously selected for the United States Teachers Exchange Programme to teach in different American Schools for two years. During the same month Mr. R.S. Mehta joined the Senior School to teach Science and Mathematics. He was a fresh graduate from Jabalpur and took to the PPS way of life with ease.

March 1969 Founders' Day

Air Chief Marshall Arjan Singh was the Chief Guest at the Annual Founders Day in 1969. S. Gurnam Singh, the Governor of Punjab was also present.

Headmaster welcomed the new members on the Board of Governors - Mr. A.N. Kashyap, the new Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab, Mr. Surjit Singh Sodhi, Commissioner Patiala Division, Mr. Daljit Singh, Education Secretary and Mr. K.K. Mookerjee, Secretary to the Governor.

The Headmaster also thanked Mr. H.B. Lall, Mr. R.S. Kang, Mr. Pritmohinder Singh, Mr. Swarn Singh Boparai, Mr. S.P. Bagla and Major R.K. Goldstein, the outgoing members of the Board.

The Headmaster announced that the construction of new hostels in Sham Bagh was nearing completion and Beas House had already shifted to their new abode.

April 1969

Lt. George Albert Duke visit PPS. He was the hero of a 2,400-mile rowing expedition from Calcutta to Andaman Islands. With a makeshift boat that he had named "Admiral Kanhoji Angre" in the honour of an illustrious Maratha Admiral and a sole companion, he set sail with only 60 days ration on board. It took them six days just to row down the Hooghly river to the Bay of Bengal. They encountered fierce storms and endured high temperature to successfully complete the expedition in 34 days. Lt. Duke encouraged the students to inculcate a sense of adventure and develop the penchant to do something *out of the way* in life.

In April, Allan Collier, a graduate from Manitoba, Canada joined as a volunteer at PPS. He was keen sportsman and played basketball, Ice Hockey, Soccer and Rugby. Miss Anita Williams finished her contract of two years and returned home. She raised the dramatic standards of the students to a considerable extent and had directed the first full length English play in PPS - "Arms and the Man".

In July 1969

Mr. V.N. Bhave took over the housemastership of Senior Jumna House from Mr. O.P. Bhatnagar. On his return from England Mr. I.B. Kakkar took over the reins of Senior Beas House from Mr. Sibal who shifted base to Sutlej House in the absence of Mr. Y.P. Johri.

Two stalwarts joined PPS in the same month. Mr. P.N. Onial gave up his job as Professor and Head of English department in a college at Bombay to join PPS and Mr. Ram Singh, M.Sc Mathematics from Allahabad University added steel to the mathematics department.

Three new names were added to the long list of volunteers and VSOs with the arrival of Mr. Michael Brandon in Senior School and Miss Diane Bance in the Junior School .

The seeds of adventure planted by the lecture of Lt. Duke bore fruit and students went for two cycling expeditions in August. Class X organized two one day cycling tours, one to Bahadargarh covering about 45 miles and the other to Fatehgarh Sahib covering 50 miles.

August 1969

As soon as Mr. Tankha returned from U.S.A after completing his M-ed degree from the East West Centre, he resumed his duties as the Housemaster of Ravi House.

September, 1969

Mr. Robert Dart in the month of September. The interesting fact about Mr. Dart was he arrived on his own and not as a VSO.

By end of 1969

The other three houses had already shifted to Sham Bagh and now with Senior Ravi House also moving in, the transition was smoothly completed. The students were equally delighted with their new hostels and better amenities at their disposal.

January 1970

The PPS was formally inducted into the Prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Adventure activities had always been a regular part of the school calendar ever since the School began. Mr. Tankha had set the ball rolling with his back-to-back trips to the mountains during the first two years. The annual tours and excursions generally constituted treks and not luxury tours.

Mr. S.K. Beri was appointed the master-in-charge and fifteen boys from Class X were selected to make a formal beginning.

March 1970

Shri Dharma Vira who presided over the Founders' Day Function in 1967 was once again the Chief Guest at the tenth Founders Day though this time as the Governor of Mysore.

The incumbent Governor of Punjab Dr. Pavate was also present. The headmaster paid special tributes to Sardar Kairon and other Founder members for laying the strong foundations of the school with their vision and far-sightedness. Within a short time, the school had added ample playgrounds, a spacious dining hall, swimming pool and hospital. The headmaster hoped that the School shall also soon have an auditorium so that the entire community could get together under one roof. In his address, Shri Dharma Vira expressed his joy at being in the School once again after three years. He gave the following message to the students,
"To my mind no education is complete unless it is an education of three kinds. One, book learning, that is the education of the mind; two, physical fitness, which

is the education of the body and third, character, which is the education of human thinking process.

I do hope that when you go out of the portals of this institution and thereafter go into the world on the expected tasks that you will select for yourself you will bring to bear on your work this quality of discipline and dedication.”

Dr.Pavate, the Governor of Punjab proposed the vote of thanks in his capacity as the Chairman of Board of Governors and later on Shri Dharma Vira officially inaugurated the Dharma Vira Park in the Sham Bagh.

End of First Term 1970

On the Home day Supper, a farewell party was organized for the outgoing volunteers Mr.Brandon, Mr.Allan Callier and Mr.Robert Dart.

Mr. Rajinder Sibal also left for Mayo College Ajmer as their new Head of English Department. He was instrumental in organizing top quality debates and declamations. Very often he would come up with interesting talks at Wednesday Forums and vast improvement in the presentation of Chronicle bore testimony to his editorial and literary abilities.

Second Term 1970

Mr.M.N.Tankha also decided to accept the post of Vice-Principal at the Birla Public School Pilani. It was a sad day for everyone since Mr. Tankha was one of the first teachers to join PPS.

Close on the heels of Mr.Tankha, Mr.O.P.Bhatnagar also left for Mayo College Ajmer. Mr.Bhatnagar, the former housemaster of Jumna House popularly referred to as OPB had been a versatile teacher. Not only he spearheaded the Hindi Department with aplomb but was also a very creative artist. He also holds the unique distinction of being the first Secretary of the Staff Club, first secretary of the Old Nabhaites Association and above all, the historic privilege of having given the school its inspiring logo with the flying eagle. He shared the passion for hiking and outdoors with Tankha and both of them had gone for many adventures together, and it was rather ironical that both of them would leave around same time.

Mrs.K.P.Tandon and Mr.K.K.Katyal were awarded with Commonwealth Bursaries to study in England for a year

Mr. Richard Smith, Mr. Warrick, GVSO and Mr. Waugh, C.U.S.O. from England joined the PPS family as new volunteers. Also, with the arrival of George Brendon and Philip Potterman in quick succession, the number of overseas staff reached six, five from England and one from Canada. It was the highest number in terms of foreign staff since the inception of the school.

1971

Jan 1971

Mr JK Kate becomes Secretary of Indian Public Schools Conference.

His untiring efforts and organizational skills had earned him the reputation of being one of the best Headmasters of the country at that time. The remarkable way in which he had catapulted the school to dizzying heights within a decade drew awe and admiration from all over the nation.

10 Feb, 1971

Commander L.E. Peyton James, Overseas Secretary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme visited the School and addressed the staff and students.

March, 1971

S. Parkash Singh Badal, the Chief Minister of Punjab was the Chief Guest at the Annual Founders' day in 1971. The Headmaster welcomed the new members on the Board and thanked parents, Raja Narinder Singh and the Punjab Government for providing funds for the auditorium that was aptly christened "*Pavate Hall*" in the honour of Punjab Governor Dr. Pavate. Sardar Parkash Singh Badal laid the foundation stone of the Auditorium.

Around Same time

At the same time Mr. Pushap Raj, secretary to the Headmaster set out for a unique adventure of his own. A letter from him reads

"As far as my hitch-hiking is concerned, it is going on very well. I have hitch-hiked right from Kabul to Belgrade except that I had to take a bus twice on my way to Europe. I will now hitch-hike to Austria and then to Germany. Istanbul and Athens

have been the most interesting places so far. Yugoslavia is a tourist's paradise for things are very cheap here. People seem to be quite happy here. They regard Indians as their friends and Indira Gandhi is very popular in this country".

August 1971

Mr Roger Miall the first VSO to join PPS in 1962-63 revisited PPS with his wife. Speaking in the morning Assembly, he fondly recalled the time he spent at PPS.

Mr.M.R.Oberoi, the Senior Master left PPS to take over the headship of Vikas Vidalya Ranchi. Mr.Oberoi was a reservoir of knowledge on all topics and a voracious reader. He was passionate about the School library and encouraged students to make maximum use of it.

January 1972,

Mr.Y.P.Johri took over as the new Senior Master of the School and Mr.K.S.Nijjar replaced him as the Housemaster of Senior Sutlej house.

March 1972

It was a matter of immense pride for the School when the Headmaster Mr.J.K.Kate was conferred upon with the prestigious Padma Shri Award by the Government of India on 25th March 1972 for his services in the field of education. The students, keen to make the most of this golden opportunity, clamoured for a holiday during the assembly. Much to their delight, the nod came from Mr.Y.P.Johri, Mr. Kate being too overwhelmed by the occasion.

Founders' 1972

Dr.G.S.Dhillon, Speaker Lok Sabha was the guest of honour at the Annual Founders Day in March 1972. In his speech, the Headmaster expressed great satisfaction at the growth of the School during the last twelve years. In the year 1971 PPS had won the quadrangular championships in hockey, football and cricket.

The Chief Guest shared his long association with the School ever since it began and expressed happiness at its phenomenal growth.

"I remember that every time I came here, he showed me new plans and new schemes – he had his eye on His Highness's buildings and neighbouring property and land. I see today that my conviction has not gone wrong. When I came here

today, I was amused to see that all those are now property of the School. It is a big achievement. I really wonder how the Maharaja's palace and the site around it was ignored or overlooked or how the Maharaja escaped."

The Chief Guest also laid the foundation stone of the new **Science Block** that would later house fully equipped, state of the art Physics and Chemistry Laboratories.

June 1972

RETIREMENT OF SHRI J.K.KATE

In his speech on the Founders' Day in 1972, the chief guest Dr.G.S.Dhillon had already shared the sad news of Mr.Kate's decision to retire as the Principal of PPS Nabha. He had decided to take over the post of Headmaster at the Daly College Indore – a premier institute in M.P. where he had started his teaching career as a young graduate.

Mr.Kate was presented a School crest and the class IV employees gifted a silver salver to the Kate family. In a grand fashion his car was pulled by the Staff and students till the main gate, with the School Band in attendance. On June 1 1972, he left for Indore. To honour his unselfish and dedicated service to the school, he was nominated to the Board of Governors.

Later in June 1972

Mr. Atma Ram Gupta joined as the second Headmaster of PPS Nabha in June 1972. He had obtained his Master's degree in physics from St.Stephen's College Delhi and then started his teaching career at The Delhi Polytechnic Institute. Four years later, he joined Mayo College Ajmer where he served for 23 years and functioned as the Head of Physics Department. He was the incumbent Vice-Principal at Mayo at the time he joined PPS Nabha. During his tenure at Mayo, he had also gone to U.K. and taught at Uppingham School for a year. Mr. Gupta was a scholarly man and was known for his gentlemanliness, easy manners, conversational abilities and down-to-earth attitude.

September, 1972

In September Mr.Ram Singh left for the University of Hull in England on a Commonwealth bursary. Perhaps no other public school in the country at that time was providing this type of international exposure to its staff members. Despite the

fact that long absence of staff did affect the academic routine, Mr.Kate was firm in his conviction that in the longer run, the pros far outweighed the cons.

Mr.K.I.Thomas, ex-headmaster of Lovedale had once remarked during one of his many Nabha visits that *PPS had the best staff of all public schools* in India. After the teachers, it was Mr.G.S.Punia, the school Bursar who was awarded a British Council visitorship. While he was away, Mr.I.B.Kakkar officiated as the School Bursar.

In January 1973, the new auditorium was ready. In terms of designing and architecture, it was a masterpiece. Acoustically designed with a graceful balcony, it could accommodate the entire school with ease.

10th March 1973 ,13th Founders' Day

It was formally inaugurated by Giani Zail Singh, the Chief Minister of Punjab on 10th March, 1973 on the 13th Founders' Day.

The capacity of Dining Hall was increased by 50 guests and it could accommodate the entire school now.

The old Assembly Hall was converted into a spacious and majestic library that is now arguably the best among the public schools in the country. It has Burma teak wood panelled walls a Great balcony overlooking and the majestic dome in the centre. Ideal surroundings for scholarly pursuits.

May8,1973

In the Assembly held on May 8th, 1973, the headmaster praised the contribution of Mr.Pavate, the outgoing Governor of Punjab and Chairman of the Board of Governors, Ever since assuming office in 1967, Mr.Pavate had taken a keen personal interest in the growth of PPS. He was instrumental in getting a grant of Rs.2,50,000 sanctioned from the Punjab Government for the construction of the Auditorium, a grant of Rs.2,50,000 from the Post War Services Reconstruction Fund for the construction of Science Block and a grant of Rs.78,000 for new staff quarters.

More importantly, it was during his tenure that PPS was registered as a Society, thus making it an independent organization.

August,1973

The School had a very special guest, Mr.J.T.M.Gibson, the former principal of Mayo College Ajmer. He stayed at PPS for six days and on August 11 presented the Duke of Edinburgh Award badges and certificates.

September,1973

the School bid farewell to Mr.Beri, the mathematics teacher who had decided to take up an appointment in Ethiopia. He had also worked as NCC Officer and as an advisor to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

“I knew I must go, and leave this real home of mine. “My home, sweet home,” The trees, the leaking tap, the upturned dustbin and the glorious fields and buildings of my school beckoned me to go out into the world and win laurels for my alma mater. I forgot all the bad times I had. I could remember only the sweet memories, the memories that taught me the value of life. This was the moment of departure, the moment of decision, my real and final exam at school. I picked up my bag and took a small step outside the school gate. Yes, it was one small step for humanity, one enormous step for me”

(Ex J 199 Sushil Bajaj – Chronicle, November 1973)

In March 1974,

Mr.R.K.Sharma, the geography teacher started a small yet exciting project. With a team of about 15 students from the Geography department, he set out to make a model relief map of India near the Main Gate of the School.

With minor repairs needed every year, it still stands in full glory and continues to impress the visitors.

In the same month, Mr.B.S.Bhatnagar, fondly called Vijay Bhatnagar, English teacher and Managing Editor of Chronicle left for St.Paul’s Darjeeling. He had introduced the much popular *Potpourri* section in the Chronicle in his capacity as the Managing Editor and also served as the Housemaster of Senior Ravi House for four years. He later became the Headmaster of Lawrence School Lovedale, The Daly College Indore and founded the Indian School at Oman.

14 Founders' Day

the Governor of Punjab and ex-officio Chairman of the Board of Governors was the chief guest at the 14th Founders Day in 1974.

“A record number of members of staff got married in the year – quite undeterred by the economic crisis. Probably they felt that two can face the difficult times ahead better than one. I must confess, as a bachelor headmaster, I have completely failed to inspire them but I am glad marriages have given them stability. I welcome their ladies to our small community”

(Headmaster's speech – Founders' Day 1974)

Jan 1975

two eminent teachers had already left the school for better avenues.

Mr.V.N.Bhave, chemistry teacher, who had also functioned as the Games Master and Housemaster Senior Jumna House joined The Yadwindra Public School Patiala as Vice-Principal. Mr.Bhave was one of the very best teachers that PPS ever had and inspired the students not only to take up chemistry as a subject but delivered brilliant results year after year. The other teacher to bid adieu to the school was Mr.A.Z.Khan who had joined PPS in 1966 as the Arts and Crafts instructor. He was an exceptionally talented artist and excelled in all forms of art, water colours, sketches, landscapes, portraits and sculpture etc.

Iqbal Singh Koonar (ex R- 18) joined the staff during the term. Mr.Kooner easily holds the record for spending *more time at PPS than anybody else* in the fifty years of the history of School. He joined the School in 1960, passed out in 1967, and after completing his graduation from St.Stephen's college Delhi, obtained his master's degree in physical education from Punjab University Chandigarh. Thereafter he did his cricket coaching course from N.I.S. Patiala, and rejoined as a staff member in 1974.

15th Founders March ,1975

Sardar Swaran Singh, the defence minister of India was the guest of honour at the 15th Founders's day in 1975. He inaugurated the new Science Block, housing two physics labs, two chemistry labs, two store rooms, two faculty rooms and a gas room. In his address, the chief guest discussed at length the origin of Sainik schools, the defence position of India vis-à-vis Pakistan. To conclude he offered the following advice to the students,

First term, 1975

The first term of 1975 saw Miss G.B.Malkani leave the School and join The Daly College Indore. For those who have had the fortune of staying in the Junior School under the parental care and guidance of Miss Malkani, there would never be a better example of selfless service and compassionate care. She was a perfect role model for the entire school community and her nun like lifestyle evoked a strong sense of aura and respect for her on part of the staff and students alike.

A special assembly was organized to bid farewell to Miss Malkani and the students bid an emotional farewell to her

“All the generations of boys and girls who have passed through the impressive gate-way of the junior school, right from the oldest old boy to the youngest present boy, will remember you not just as a teacher and an administrator, more than that you have been an affectionate guardian, and a sincere well-wisher. It is hard to reconcile ourselves to the thought that such a dynamic and beloved personality will not be amongst us when we return here next term”

Mrs.Joginder Channi was appointed as the new head of Junior School after the retirement of Miss Malkani.

Jan 1976

The School set a record by sending 23 studnets to NDA. The strength of Nabhaites in NDA rose to 140. A full 92 had already taken commission.

March 13,

16th Founders’ Day celebrated with Gurdarshan Singh Nabha MLA as chief guest.

March 1977 17th Founders’ Day

General TN Raina COAS was guest of honour. He remarked

“Little that I have seen today, of the youth here, I feel confident that we can look forward to a bright tomorrow. My second reason for accepting this invitation is that your school has the pride of supplying a large number of officers to the Armed Forces of our country and these officers have led and guided our fighting men. What more reason could there be for me to visit this school?”

Mr SK Muttoo a member of the School staff cleared the IAS and did the school proud.

April,1977

Mr.R.D.Chandola taking over as the new housemaster of Beas house.

Mr.I.B.Kakkar, the wizard of physics and the former housemaster of Beas House bid adieu to the School after a dedicated service of 15 years and a special assembly was organized to bid farewell to him. He took up the appointment of Principal at The Navyug Public School New Delhi.

Around the same time Mr.R.S.Mehta took over as the new housemaster of Senior Jumna house.

In October,

Mr.Uday Niyogi, another popular Science teacher switched career and joined the Gwalior Rayons Ltd. as a management trainee.

SHYAM BAGH

*Where the trees are without fear,
And the fruits are held high:
Where jamun is free;
Where the world of the hawker has not
been broken up by low boundary walls;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms
towards the highest guava;
And tireless cycling on Sunday morn
rejuvenates the campus,
Where the ice-cream of Krishan has not lost
its way into the hairy elbows of Tom,Dick and Harry;
Where the essence of the towns flows freely
beyond the basketball border;
Where the cattle herd is led forward by Thee
into ever widening thought and action;
Into that heaven of Nabha, my commander,*

Let my Shyam Bagh awake !
(An anonymous poem by a PPS student)

Early 1978

In 1978 Mr. Atma Ram Gupta left PPS Nabha to rejoin as the Principal of the Mayo College Ajmer. Mr. Gupta, a thorough gentleman, functioned in a liberal and democratic style throughout his tenure of six years. He believed in a gentle approach towards handling the students and gave due respect to their genuine demands and ideas. At times he was considered lenient and lax in terms of maintenance of high standards of discipline set by the likes of Mr. Kate and the senior master Mr. Y.P. Johri, but Mr. Gupta had his qualities and he would always be remembered for them in the history of the School. He had changed the designation of Headmaster to Principal keeping with the Mayo Ajmer tradition.

Mr. G.S. Punia, one of the most senior members of the staff and the School Bursar took over as the new Principal after the retirement of Mr. A.R. Gupta for the period 1978-79.

Later Dr. S.S. Kishanpuri, Circle Education Officer, Patiala served as the second interim Principal for a period of four months before Group Captain Grewal took over the reins in the month of September 1979. A special assembly was organized in his respect and the Senior Master Mr. Y.P. Johri thanked him for lending his services to the School.

“Eight memorable springs have come and gone unnoticed. I see quite vividly the kaleidoscope of my stay ...in the junior school...How I danced, played, ran, jumped, shouted and quarreled the whole afternoon. The entire panorama of my stay in the school comes in a flash-back. It was there in the shining corridors of the majestic Junior School building and its lush green lawns that I made so many friends whose number went on swelling every year. In a moment I find myself almost everywhere in the School – on the play ground, in the swimming pool, in the common room, under a guava tree and also in front of Miss Malkani’s room to spend the rest of the afternoon there...Saturday coms and there is a great excitement among us until the projector exercises its power to veto. More rain, faster winds and more leaves. I come to the Senior School. There are so many things associated with us. The zealous and fiery debates, dramatics, societies, sports, cross-country, games, treks, Physics and Chemistry. The best part of the day is always spent in The Dharma Vira Park. I will miss the jolly crowd, their unbounded love, sympathy and boisterous laughter as well as their not so

serious jeers, frowns and quarrels. Even the mute and inanimate objects seem to have a feeling of belongingness today. The tall palm guarding the auditorium, the five domes of the Kairon Block, the generous fruit trees of Sham Bagh, the oft-beaten vertical iron-bar that punctuates our routine and the housemaster's rouser visit...all come before my eyes like a pageantry of yester years.

(The last potpourri by Baljeet Uppal, the school head boy in 1979. Baljeet, a brilliant nabhaite and an excellent all-rounder, passed away in 2007. This piece was included in The Eagle, News Bulletin of ONA in an issue dedicated to Baljit Uppal)

When Gr. Capt. Grewal joined PPS in 1979 on the auspicious day of *Vijay Dashami*, the School was going through a lean patch. The School had already reached its peak during the times of Mr. Kate and reached a plateau after he left for Daly College Indore. The need of the hour demanded new experiments, new ideas, and a dynamic approach that would infuse a fresh spirit in the minds of students numbed by the repetitive routine and lack of outlets for their creative cravings that characterize a teenage school student.

Gr. Capt. Grewal's profile was rather impressive. He did his early schooling privately under two Englishmen Major Jarvis and Mr. Walkem, and then completed his school education and graduation at Lahore. After partition, he did his Masters in English from Government College Ludhiana, and after a course in journalism, worked as a freelancer with the *Statesman*. In 1952, he was directly recruited in the Indian Air Force and was commissioned in the following year. In 1957, he completed the basic course in Mountaineering and followed it up with the Advance Course at Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Darjeeling. He was part of India's first ever expedition team to Mount Everest under Brigadier Gian Singh but due to unfavourable weather, had to abort his summit attempt when barely 750 feet away. Later, however he successfully climbed Mount Neelkanth. From 1973-77, he was the Principal at HMI Darjeeling and he was the incumbent Principal of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering Uttarkashi when he decided to join The Punjab Public School Nabha as Headmaster. His hobbies included photography, trekking, journalism, flying and shooting.

His other accomplishments were:

Member, Board of Governors, St. Paul's School Darjeeling

Director, Indian Supply Mission, London (1967-1972)

Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London

Member, Alpine Club, London

Within no time, the new Headmaster started many new activities in the School. World Wildlife Club, fund raising for World International Year of the Child(1979), Nature Club and Hiking Club sprang up in no time and

the School was abuzz with activity. Mr.R.K.Parashar was the advisor of Hiking Club. Judo and Karate coaching was also introduced for the first time in School and the Headmaster remarked

“Boys will be better equipped when they have to help girls and girls will be in a better position to deal with their husbands...if they learn this martial art.....”

Founders’ Day on October 18,

He shifted the Founders’ Day to Diwali break usually in October .In his first address to the parents at the new Headmaster said

“I will make all efforts to see that under the public-school education system here we produce a future generation which is not only obsessed about “doing well” in the materialistic sense but aim to excel spiritually, morally and intellectually. A generation which will set an example in simple living and high thinking – a generation of efficient administrators, honest businessmen, gallant soldiers and if they join politics, then dedicated and clean politicians”.

The chief guest Air-Marshall Dilbagh Singh PVSM, AVSM, VM, AOC-in-C Western Air Command predicted bright future for the School and urged the parents

“To the parents I would say that it is not enough to produce children and pay for their education. The child learns a great deal from his home background and from what he sees happening around him. So, the habits and attitudes the child develops at home go a long way to help him in life”.

In the month of January 1980,

Mr.Deep Wilson joined the School and the following month,

Mr.Swarn Singh Shanni joined the Punjabi Department. Mr.Shanni continues to lighten up the staff room with his lively presence to this day. His panache for smart dressing is known to all and still inspires the younger lot to turn out in their best.

“ARE YOU SMARTLY DRESSED?”

(The caption written atop mirrors in the corridors of PPS)

Ever since the School had started in 1960, there was no boundary wall around the main New Secretariat building (Kairon Block). It resulted in regular unwanted encroachment upon the school territory by outsiders. Besides it had the potential to result in serious disputes about the exact area of land that the School owned.

Keeping these sensitive issues in mind, the Headmaster decided to begin the construction of a boundary wall around the entire School and keep gates at convenient points for ensuring that the entrance was restricted.

During the same month, the concept of SUPW (Socially Useful Productive Work) was introduced in the School to raise awareness levels about social work among the students

March 7, 1980

The Headmaster launched an ambitious project to plant **5,000 trees** in the School campus in the year 1980.

Earlier he had attended the international seminar on “*World Conservation Strategy*” organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in New Delhi, with some students from Class XII.

He spoke to the students on the need and importance of tree plantation at such massive level and urged the students to look after five trees each. About one hundred Gul Mohur and Bottle brush trees were planted on day one and the Headmaster himself inaugurated the programme by planting the first sapling. To back it up, the school Horticulture Club launched “*Chipko Movement*” to prevent indiscriminate felling of trees.

In April, Mr.K.S.Nijjar decided to join Guru Harkrishan Public School, New Delhi as its new Headmaster. The School Headboy, Navjeet Sandhu thanked Mr.Nijjar for 13 years of dedicated service to the School in the special assembly held in his honour.

May 12-May 28

Five students from the School attended the National Himalayan Trekking Programme held at Kishtavar from May 12 to May 28. They were also accompanied by the Headmaster, who was appointed as the Honorary Director of this national programme attended by 1200 men and women including children from all over India.

In June,

The Gr.Capt.Grewal went to London to participate in 150th Anniversary celebrations of the Royal Geographical Society. Captain M.S.Kohli ,I.N. leader of

the successful Indian expedition to Mount Everest in 1965 was the other delegate who represented India.

Founders' Day in October 1980

Sardar Harcharan Singh Ajnala, the Education Minister of Punjab (father of Old Nabhaite Harpartap Ajnala B-45,1967 and Dr Harjodh Ajnala) was the chief guest. He urged the parents and teachers to work in tandem for the good of the school and bright future of the children.

On October 31st 1980,

Mrs. Grewal officially inaugurated the Rose Garden. The rose plants were purchased from Horticultural Club at Chandigarh and more than 30 varieties of roses were seen in full bloom in a short period of time. To this day, Rose Garden continues to enchant the visitors who come to School.

26 Jan ,1981

Mr. M.N. Tankha, (Ex Staff member) Principal, Assam Rifles School, Shillong was the special guest on the Republic Day in 1981.

In his address, he recalled his memorable days in the School during 1960s

Feb 1981

Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, the Governor of Punjab visited the School along with other members of the Board of Governors.

First Term

A special assembly was organized as the school community bade farewell to Mr. K.K. Katyal, Head of the Biology Department. Mr. Katyal had taught at PPS for almost two decades. He further enriched the list of Ex-PPS staff members who were heading various schools when he took over as Principal of Mussorie Public School, Mussorie. Mr. R.S. Mehta, another stalwart and Head of the Physics Department soon followed suit and joined as the Principal of Guru Teg Bahadur Public School, Meerut in the month of July. Mr. Ram Singh became the new housemaster of Senior Jumna House after the departure of Mr. Mehta. Some new faces were seen in the staff room, noteworthy among them being Mr. R.S. Sodhi

(Punjabi), Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu (English) and Mr.M.K.Dua (chemistry) and Mr.J.N.Johri.

June 1981

When Lt.Gen K.V.Krishna Rao,G.O.C. in CWC visited the School in December 1980 in the capacity of a Board member, the Headmaster had requested him for the allotment of some cast horses from the Army to start a riding club in School. On 31st May 1981, Gen.K.V.Krishna Rao was appointed as the Chief of the Army Staff. Nevertheless, true to his word, he arranged for two horses for the School in the month of June. *Kiran* and *Shakti* of the President's Body Guard joined the PPS family and a start was made to arguably one of the most glorious chapters in the history of PPS. *Kiran*, dark brown in shade and with a flowing mane had been the P.B.G. Commandant's charger for over a decade. *Shakti*, a mare with a whiwhite star on its forehead had been the charger of the Adjutant of the P.B.G. Risaldar Jaswant Singh with more than two decades of experience in training horses was appointed to take charge of the Riding Club and train the aspiring riders.

26th July, 1981

The School Horse Riding Club was formally inaugurated by the Headmaster and twenty-five enthusiastic students immediately registered themselves as the new members. During the Annual Athletics Meet in November, PPS conducted its first ever Equestrian Display. It was enjoyed by all the guests and visitors and continues to be the show-stopper even to this day.

On September 6th 1981,

For the first time a mock World Forum session was held under the Chairmanship of Mr.S.P.Chopra.

Same month

A few days later, Shri Aminuddin Khan, the Governor of Punjab and the new Chairman of the Board of Governors visited the School.

A Punjabi play “*Ukkar Dukkar Bhamba Bho*”, written and directed by Punjabi teacher Mr.R.S.Sodhi, was enacted by PPS students at the Inter School Drama Competition at Patiala, sponsored by State Bank of Patiala. It was adjudged the best play of the competition and the following awards were won.

- a) *Best Director – Mr.R.S.Sodhi*
- b) *Best Actress – Miss Gurmeet Kaur*
- c) *Best Fancy Dress – Miss Simmi Singh*

26 Sept,1981

The play was re-enacted on September 26th, 1981. G.O.C. Head Quarter PH and HP Area, Major General Rajindra Nath was so impressed with the performance that he announced special prizes for all artists at the Annual Founders’ Day.

Founders’ Day October, 1981

Dr.Karan Singh, Member Parliament and a leading political thinker and orator was the Chief Guest at the Annual Founders’ Day in 1981.

Headmaster lauded the special role of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, the former Governor of Punjab in guiding the school in the right direction and announced that the Senior School Library had been renamed after him as

“*Jaisukhlal Hathi Library*”. He also thanked Mr.Kate for his long association with the School, first as the Founders Headmaster and then as a member of the Board of Governors. Mr.Kate had settled at Pune after retiring as the Principal of Motilal Nehru School of Sports at Rai and member of the Board of Governors.

In his speech, Dr.Karan Singh, a product of the prestigious Doon School Dehradun dwelled upon the role of public schools in the modern society and praised the newly started activities related to ecology and environment. He spoke

“You are the young men and women who will be here when the 21st century is in its prime. You are the young people who have got to have the vision of NewIndia in your blood, in your spirit, and I will therefore only say that you have the motto “Onwards and Upwards”. Please remember that two types of birds fly upwards. There are vultures, they also fly high, of course, but they only fly high so that they can see the dirt and the death and disease below. They do not fly high with any great purpose. They only fly high so that they can come down again into the degradation that is below. On the other hand, there is an eagle who flies not because he wants to see the dirt, he flies because he has the vision of the sun. He flies upwards towards the sun because there is an ideal that impels him. There is

some force within him that takes him on his onward and upward flight. I would urge that you should be the eagle, you should have this capacity to fly towards the sun. Dare great things and think great”.

January 1982

In 1982, PPS Band team was adjudged as the best band on Republic Day Parade at New Delhi. It was not for the first time that the School band team had participated in the Republic day parade. It had been a regular feature barring a few gaps, but to be adjudged as the best band performance on a national platform was a glorious achievement. The school band leader J-473 Sarbjit Singh had breakfast with Mrs.Indira Gandhi after the Parade alongwith other guests, and on January 27th, the entire band team was invited at the Rashtrapati Bhavan to meet the President, Mr.N.Sanjeeva Reddy.

After the Riding Club, another elite sport was introduced in the School as two new **tennis courts** were constructed near the School Hospital. Mr.I.C.Puri IAS, Chief Secretary, Punjab inaugurated the new tennis lawns in the presence of Headmaster Grewal and the school students.

Feb 1982

Colonel Balwant Singh Sandhu, an eminent mountaineer and the Principal of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering visited PPS for five days. During his stay, First Duke of Edinburgh's Award Night was held on February 17th. The scheme was reactivated after a long gap and new record books were summoned from England. Col. Sandhu's younger brother, Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu had joined PPS in 1981 as an English teacher.

During the same month Mr.Tilak Raj Arora, an old nabhaite joined the PPS staff and immediately took over the DEAS Club activities.

Meanwhile ,Mr.Pardeep Mall, the history teacher took up an appointment at St.Paul's Darjeeling. He was instrumental in initiating the DEAS Club at School and also launching the rifle shooting club, under the aegis of DEAS Club.

March 1982

Class IV was added to Junior School. It already had V and VI

19 March,1982

Horticulture club was formally launched with Mr OP Sharma taking initiative and organising the activities.

Mr YP Johri started *Pi Square* Club as HOD Mathematics.

Life Saving Society was formed in order to train good school swimmers in the art of life saving.

Imember of the PPS Life Saving Society do solemnly pledge that I will help Any soul in distress and will not be deterred by difficulties in the performance of my duties as a Life Saver. May God help me in this noble cause. (Oath of the School Life Guard)

10th May 1982

In May, the School was saddened by the news of demise of Mr.A.R.Gupta, the former Headmaster of PPS Nabha. He died on 10thMay 1982 at Udaipur. A condolence meeting was held to mourn his death and Mr.Y.P.Johri and Mr.G.S.Punia spoke about the former headmaster and his contribution to the school. A condolence message was read by Headmaster Grewal.

July 1982

Another massive tree plantation campaign was launched in the Sham Bagh. Students who planted those saplings would be delighted to know that today those saplings are shady trees and provide comfort to the dwellers of Sham Bagh in the scorching heat of summers.

Sardar Kamal Nain Singh, Commissioner Patiala Division, paid a visit to the School on August 1982.

October 1982

Dr.Chenna Reddy, the new Governor of Punjab and the Chairman of Board of Governors visited the School. He praised the efforts of Horticulture Club and

admired the new Tennis courts and Rose Garden. Later, he inaugurated the **Cacti Garden** – a creative venture conceived and materialized by the school Horticulture Club. A large number of cactus varieties were on display. The Cacti Garden, along with the Rose Garden, retains all its vintage glory and is still an integral part of the school campus. In a special assembly organized to welcome the Governor, he spoke to the students

*“I am very happy to be with you in your midst this morning. It is my first visit to this great institute. Before long ago, it was the vision and dream of the then Chief Minister Sardar Partap Singh Kairon who thought that the government should undertake to provide well-developed facilities, training and educating the boys and girls of this school. **We have other Public Schools in Punjab but this has a distinction that it was started in a special background.**”*

Founders’ Day

Sardar Birpaul Singh, Minister Co-operative Societies Punjab, was the chief guest at the Annual Founders’ Day in 1982.

1983

1983 was a regular year with adventure activities being the most popular. It took some time for the reluctant parents to realize the immense benefits of such excursions but gradually they realized that the risks were worth taking.

Mr. William Lucas from Australia and Mr. Simon Lowe from London joined the staff for a short period, rekindling memories of the first two decades when VSOs and volunteers joined PPS in droves.

In August

The Headmaster, accompanied by teachers, Mr. Tilak Raj Arora, Mr. Sukhram Singh Sandhu, and Mr. Simon Lowe attended the Indian Mountaineering Foundation Silver Jubilee celebrations and the Himalayan Tourism Meet held at New Delhi. The function was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and 20 foreign delegates and 50 Indian delegates had attended the three-day function.

October 1983

In October 1983, PPS won its maiden Inter Public School Athletic Meet Trophy held at MNSS Rai. Schools from all over the country had participated in the Meet,

including the likes of Daly College Indore and Military School Bangalore, which were sports powerhouses. Mr.Jaipal Singh, Mr.P.S.Gill and Athletics Captain Sher Jung Singh Chahal won kudos and appreciation.

The historical achievement was specially lauded by the chief guest during the Founders Day later in the year. Sh.B.D.Pande, the new governor of Punjab was the guest of honour at the Founders Day in 1983

November 1983

PPS created history in November 1983 when 10 students from the School won Gold Awards under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. A grand ceremony was held at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi, and Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh personally presented the awards to 43 gold awardees from all over the country. The fact that out of the total 43 awardees, 10 were from PPS amply highlights the magnitude of this rare achievement. The Headmaster Gr.Capt.Grewal, Mr.T.R.S.Arora (Award Leader), Mr.Simon Lowe and Mr.S.S.Sandhu had accompanied the contingent for the function. The gold awardees from PPS were

Amanjeet Singh

Charat Hora

Gurtej Singh

Navin Bahl

Niripjeet Singh Grewal

Parminder Singh

Manmohan Singh

Ranjit Natt

Sherjung Singh Chahal

Youdhbir Singh

After the presentation ceremony Prince Charles had an interactive session with the guests and was rather amused to learn that PPS had only 40 girls on its rolls, though he was happy to know that they were showing an active interest in the Scheme.

Jan 1984

The students received a new year's gift in the first week of January 1984 – a 35mm video projector for the school auditorium, popularly referred to as *Mr.P* by the students. The first trial film "*chirag kahan, roshni kahan*" was screened on

January 3. When the new projector was installed in the *Pavate Hall*, students were overjoyed since they could enjoy their movies without interruption and thus have a jolly weekend.

March 1984

Kamal Nain Singh Commissioner of Patiala presented Silver and Bronze Medals to the winners under DEAS in presence of couple of members Board of Govenrnors. Only Gold Prizes had been awarded at the Delhi function.

September 1984

Mountaineering and hiking activities reached their zenith during this era. Personal involvement of Mr.T.R.Arora and Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu gave a further boost to the spirit of adventure.

PPS organized an expedition on its own, to Banderpoonchh I, also known as Kala Nag or Black Peak. With this expedition, PPS became the first school in Punjab to organize an expedition to a *six-thousander peak*, (the altitude of Kala Nag is 6,387 metres). A few boys and teachers from Bridge Water Hall School of England were also roped in, making it the first-ever Indo-British School Boys Expedition. The leader of the expedition was B-542, Gurvinder Uppal. The Headmaster, Group Captain Grewal himself accompanied the expedition team as an advisor and he was flanked by and Mr.T.R.Arora and Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu. However, the expedition had to be called off due to adverse weather and snow conditions when the summit was barely 1,000 feet away. Given the fact, that a team of school boys managed to climb 20,000 feet was a special achievement in its own right.

Founders' Day 1984

Shri.K.T.Satarawala, the governor of Punjab was the chief guest at the annual founders' day in 1984.

In anticipation of Silver Jubilee of The PPS, The school campus saw a major facelift during 1984. A six feet high boundary wall was constructed around the Sham Bagh campus and middle houses were renovated with the construction of a front porch and laying of new lawns. The area around swimming pool was also cleared up and beautified.

October 1985

PPS won the All-India Public Schools Athletic Meet for the second time at Hyderabad Public School. Earlier the school had won its maiden Athletic Meet at MNSS Rai in 1983, and had then bagged the runners up trophy in 1984 at Rajkumar College Raipur. A record number of 22 schools had participated in the Meet at Hyderabad and the School 4 X 400 M relay team set a new record. Mr.P.S.Gill and Mr.Jaipal once again won accolades for training the athletic team and achieving the glorious feat.

1985 was the year of Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Festive atmosphere prevailed throughout the year culminating in grand celebrations and a gala affair. It is the right time perhaps to reflect and look back at the first 25 years of the school. The vision of Sardar Partap Singh Kairon and founder members like General Kalwant Singh and Colonel Naunihal Singh Mann had metamorphosed into a vibrant and dynamic institution that regularly churned out world class leaders and men of character. Beginning with only 15 teachers and 130 students in 1960-61, the number of teachers and students had risen to 45 and 765 respectively.

An extensive survey was conducted and the following interesting statistics emerged

OCCUPATION OF PARENTS PERCENTAGE

FARMERS 27

BUSINESSMEN 25

SHOPKEEPERS 6

SMALL FACTORY OWNERS 7

TEACHERS/LECTURERS 7

OFFICERS (DEFENCE) 4

OTHER RANKS 15

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES 3

ENGINEERS/DOCTORS/ADVOCATES 6

It was found that out of a total of about 800 students that had passed out after their ISC, 96% had taken up leadership roles in the society

CAREER NUMBER

ARMED FORCES (NDA, CDS) 300

ENGINEERS 150

DOCTORS 180

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES 45

OWN BUSINESS 19

EDUCATION 10

POLITICS 11

PARENTS' BUSINESS 60

OTHERS 25

These figures clearly demonstrated that PPS had been successful as an institution. The commitment of each and every Headmaster that served the school and unrelenting toil of dedicated and passionate teachers were matched only by the enthusiasm and eagerness of the students to excel and discover their true potential. Undoubtedly the school had seen some low points during the first twenty-five years of its life, but the strong foundation laid by the founder members and Mr. Kate had ensured that ultimately the institution would thrive on such challenges and set new milestones in the field of nurturing young minds and preparing leaders for the society.

November 1985

THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The silver jubilee celebrations were kicked off with an ONA get together 29th November. *Past Vs. Present* matches were played during the day and the Old Boys showed their mettle on the not so unfamiliar turf. In the evening, the Old Nabhaites turned up with their families for the Dinner Party and Dr. Jashanjot Bhangu, the brain behind the ONA was his usual energetic and dynamic self.

On the D-day, Mrs. Vainika Grewal formally inaugurated the various exhibitions in the School Library and adjacent areas. Photography, stamp collections, Nature Club, Sciences and DEAS exhibitions, to name a few, attracted a lot of visitors. Computer Center, Arts and Crafts Section also put up a great show and impressed one and all. The Chief Guest Shri P.H. Vaishnav, Chief Secretary Punjab visited the exhibitions and inspected the Guard of Honour presented by the combined units of N.C.C, School Band and mounted cadets (who preferred to be addressed as *School Cavalry Corps*). After the orchestra and school song, Headmaster delivered his annual report and welcomed Shri S.D. Sharma, the new Governor of Punjab as the Chairman of the Board of Governors. He shared the success of PPS in Inter Public Schools Athletic Meet at Hyderabad, and the expeditions to *Banderpoonchh* and *Friendship*, the latter being a huge success. The Headmaster also expressed his condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Tandon who had lost their son – Gursharan Tandon, earlier in the year. He announced a Silver Cup for “*The best-behaved boy in the middle houses*” in his memory.

The Chief Guest Shri P.H. Vaishnav gave away the prized to meritorious students and awarded various cups and trophies to different houses. Ravi House stole the limelight by bagging the most prestigious *President's Cock House Trophy* on the historic occasion. The chief guest then addressed the gathering and spoke “*What I have seen today and what I have always been hearing about this school convinces me beyond doubt that you have been fulfilling a great need of this state*”

and country. The majority of your students who come from rural background pass out to take responsible positions in society. There is no sign of exclusiveness and your boys and girls continue to achieve what the best public schools of the country can do. You have in a way got everything that is good in public schools and you are, fortunately free from the ills, if any, of these schools”

Sardar Col. Naunihal Singh Mann, the founder and longest serving member of the Board of Governors presented the vote of honour. He was specially delighted since the golden jubilee of the school also marked the golden jubilee of his own association with the school. He expressed satisfaction at the progress of the School under the leadership of Gr.Capt.Grewal, who had added many new dimensions to the school.

In the evening, an impressive variety entertainment programme was staged in the Pavate Hall that began with an enchanting orchestra performance. The *Qawalli* presented by the junior school students won the audience over, and next in line was *Rajasthani Dance* and *Garba*. The grand finale however was provided by *Bhangra*, performed by the boys of senior school.

December 1985

The Silver Jubilee Athletic Meet was the last event to mark the occasion. Air Marshall M.M.Singh AVSM. AOC Western Air Command presided over the function and gave away the following prizes

Headmaster's Silver Jubilee Medal for the best All round excellence in Athletics

R.499 Sukhwinderpal Singh

Senior Trophy Sutlej House

Junior Trophy Ravi House

A commemorative volume was also released to mark the historic event. Impressive articles by Sardar Colonel Naunihal Singh Mann, the longest serving member of the Board of Governors, Shri J.K.Kate, the founder Headmaster and Gr.Capt.Grewal were included. Mr.R.D.Chandola compiled the impressive volume and personally contributed an article titled "*Ourselves*". Unfortunately, Shri J.K.Kate could not attend the Silver Jubilee celebrations and expressed his feelings in the following letter to the Headmaster.

“My dear A.J.S.

I am disappointed for not being able to be with you on this historic day of the Silver Jubilee of the School.

I got dilation done under anesthesia last evening. I am feeling so weak and exhausted that I do not think I can stand the strain of the journey. Therefore, I have

to give up the idea of visiting the school with a great reluctance. I hope you will excuse me.

I was eagerly looking forward to meeting the Board members, particularly Col.Sardar Naunihal Singh, Mrs.Kalwant Singh and Mr.P.H.Vaishnav who is the Chief Secretary besides others.

The staff members and Old Boys who worked hard to lay the strong foundation of the School and earn the reputation of being one of the “Best Seven Schools” in the country, are constantly in my thought. I was longing to meet at least some of them. Please tell them that I miss them more than they miss me on this occasion.

I am also very proud of the fact that so many of our boys have joined the Armed Forces in the Commissioned Ranks and quite a few of the staff members have become Heads of reputed schools scattered all over the country.

My wife joins me in wishing the Jubilee Celebrations a grand success and praying to God for the glorious future of the School.

With kindest regards

Yours,

J.K.Kate

Chaudhary Raghuvinder Singh, a founder member of the School could not attend the function due to postal delay in receiving the invitation. He conveyed his best wishes to the school in a letter to the Headmaster.

Shri Shanker Dayal Sharma, the Governor of Punjab also gave a message to the School on the auspicious day. Here is an excerpt

“A quarter century of existence is a good occasion on which to look back and feel proud of the difficulties overcome and heights attained by The Punjab Public School. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister was aware of the need to have leaders of the right type for the future and Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, the founder of modern Punjab and as well of the school, worked energetically to establish an institution for this purpose. The school’s contribution to the officer cadre of our Armed Forces is laudable by any standards. Your Old Boys’ Association also shows ample evidence of the worthy men in other walks of life such as medicine, engineering, industry, commerce and accountancy.

The Punjab Public School has an additional claim to being unique. Many boys are from rural backgrounds and are indeed first-generation leaders. They leave as polished products of a great institution. They go out to build an improved social order. Here one can see education fulfilling its function of being as instrument of social change on a telescoping time scale. This may be a tough challenge for the staff but many valuable lessons learnt here may be valid for the whole of India. On the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, I would like to convey my greetings and good wishes to the students and the staff of The Punjab Public School.

In January 1986,

Mr. Tilak Raj Arora left for Berkshire, England under the Teacher Exchange Program, and the school welcomed Mrs. Maxine Lesley Manners who would teach geography in the senior school. Mrs. Manners was the Headmistress of James Elliman Middle School in England.

Dr. Bhagwan Singh, who had been associated with the school as a medical officer for more than two decades bid adieu to Nabha and PPS and shifted to Chandigarh. He gave an emotional speech at the farewell party organized for him.

In March 1986,

Shri S.S. Ray was sworn in as the new Governor of Punjab. The convent educated Shri Ray was a keen intellectual and a seasoned politician. The next few months were routine, with the only noteworthy event being the shifting of Staff Room to the circular room adjacent to the Library. The room previously housed the boys' shop that had then to be shifted to the Band Room.

Mr. Y.P. Johri rejoined the PPS family as the new "Deputy Headmaster" after a short stint as the Principal of Colvin Taluqdar's Lucknow.

Mr. P.N. Onial continued to hold the post of Senior Master. After the retirement of Mr. Onial, PPS did away with the office of "Senior Master", with the Deputy Headmaster being the sole link between the Headmaster and the staff.

In July, 1986

PPS won the 13th Junior Girls Patiala Swimming Championship. When the four girls left for participation, not too many people were pinning hopes on the trophy. However, Amarbir Sidhu, Meenaxe Bansal, Ravneet kaur and the prodigiously

talented Varinder Kaur performed exceptionally well and clinched the Championship. Gr.Capt.Grewal happened to be the chief guest and presented the trophy to the ecstatic girls.

September ,1986

PPS tasted another success when it lifted the North Zone Inter Public School Football Tournament for a second year in the row.

THE SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

In August, 1986

an interesting experiment was carried out in the form of a School Parliament. Every class elected two „Member Parliaments“ to represent their respective class, and later a Speaker and Prime Minister were elected through the single non-transferable vote system. The loser was appointed as the leader of opposition. On the morning of 17th August 1986, all the “MPs” assembled in the school auditorium for the inaugural session of the “Parliament” and the cabinet members were sworn in. J-597 Harinder Singh Khatra was elected as the “Prime Minister” of the government. The ruling party called itself the “Intellectual Party” while the opposing party decided to call itself the “Constitutional Party”. The Food and Health Minister promised to do his best for improving the state of cleanliness in the school mess and improve the quality of food.

Politics was very much on the forefront with an opposition MP criticizing the newly formed government through an anonymous article in the chronicle.

“In his cabinet, the Prime Minister has included ministers of Defence, PWD and Transport. One fails to understand what the government is going to do with the Defence Ministry. Do we have hostile borders or any territorial ambitions?”

The School Parliament was a unique event in the history of the school, and it provided a platform for the students to make their grievances known to authorities on the lines of a true democracy and carry out the remedial action.

Mr.S.C.Sharma, chemistry teacher was appointed as Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya Kangra while Mr.S.P.Chopra joined as the Principal of D.A.V.Centenary Public-School Jaipur.

Vinita Jayson, the youngest and most active member of the Editorial Board of the Chronicle won the coveted Shankar’s International Children’s Competition for the year 1986. Her regular contributions to the Chronicle in the form of poetry and creative writing had impressed the judges.

September 1986

After Kalanag and Friendship, PPS organized yet another expedition to Mount Shitidhar at an altitude of 17,325 feet in the Peer Panjal Range. Five boys from PPS and two from YPS Patiala set off for the expedition under the supervision of Mr.S.S.Sandhu. The expedition team was flagged off by the Governor from Raj Bhavan, and Headmaster personally accompanied the team till Manali. On 29th September, the team reached the summit of Mount Shitidhar and hoisted the PPS and YPS flags in the snow.

Another group of students from the DEAS Club simultaneously attended the Himalayan Mountaineering and Tourism Meet at Manali. The chief minister of Himachal Shri Virbhadra Singh had inaugurated the meet and many eminent mountaineers from all over the world gave interesting talks on their experiences.

In 1986, PPS Nabha was adopted by the Sports Authority of India. It later ensured the availability of better infrastructure in sports and top-quality coaching for the players.

Founders' Day December 1986

Mr.A.S.Pooni, IAS, Commissioner Patiala presided over the Founders' Day function in December. In his speech he heaped lavish praise for Sardar Col.Naunihal Singh Mann, the founder member of the school

"It is a matter of privilege that we have amongst us, as President of today's function, one of the great men who set up this school; who dreamt a dream and gave it a form. I can well imagine the pride Col.Naunihal Singh must be feeling in being in this institution of which he conceived the idea, and which was given a real shape by him and his friends. What was the idea that inspired these people? I call them visionaries. They imagined with what they had acquired in life by way of experience, what the life in days to come would be. They thought of the ways through which our future generations could be prepared to face life".

In March, 1987

Shri S.S.Ray and Mrs.Ray visited the school and presided over the meeting of Board of Governors.

Mr.Govind Raturi joined as a history teacher,

It coincided with departure of Mr.R.D.Chandola, who after teaching English for nearly two decades and playing a long innings as the Managing Editor of Chronicle took up the post of Principal at the DAV Public School, Haldwani.

In May, 1987

The school hockey team won the North-Zone Inter Public School trophy in a decisive fashion. The elated Headmaster sent the victorious hockey team to Shimla for a holiday.

June 1987

EXPEDITION TO *BABY SHIVLING PEAK*

The DEAS club set out to scale Baby Shivling located at an altitude of 17,700 feet in the Garhwal Himalayas. Vedpal Singh, Jaideep, Puneetpal, Rajesh Chopra, Bikramdev Singh and the leader Jasjeet Shergill left for Chandigarh with Mr.S.S.Sandhu where they were flagged off by the Governor Shri S.S.Ray, who incidentally on the same day had announced a grant of Rs.25,000 for Punjab Mountaineering Foundation, the headquarters of which at the time were based at PPS. Starting the trek to Gangotri on 27th June 1987, the team successfully reached the summit on June 30. After camping for a day at Tapoban, the successful team reached Gangotri safely.

In August, 1987

Mr.I.S.Dhaliwal, history and political science teacher rejoined PPS after successfully completing his Fullbright Fellowship research on North American history.

PPS completed the hat-trick by lifting the North Zone Inter Public School Football Tournament for a third year in a row.

December, 1987

THE VISIT OF SIR EDMUND HILLARY

Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand, Knight of the British Empire, the legendary mountaineer to first summit the Mount Everest in 1953, was the Chief Guest at the 27th Founders' Day in December 1987. The arrival of Sir Edmund Hillary created a big buzz in the School.

Sir Hillary shared his memories of the Everest expedition along Tenzing Norgay and stressed the importance of team-spirit in every sphere of life.

"As a youngster, I read widely, especially books on adventure, and I resolved that I too would find and meet my challenges. I was under no disillusion that I had under-exceptional abilities, but I was physically strong and I had, I believe, plenty of motivation. Mountaineering gave me some of the happiest days in my life. I was frequently afraid but I discovered that fear was a stimulating factor. It stirred the

blood in the veins and enabled me to stretch my abilities beyond their normal capacities.

I was learning not only to defeat the mountains, but to overcome my fears as well. I discovered that if you tackled a great problem, whatever it may be, overcome the technical difficulties, control your fears, persist, when everything seems against you, and then, finally reach your objective – Then, you will have a sense of satisfaction that will have made all your effort and discomfort worthwhile. I believe that for life to be interesting, it must involve challenge. As you get older, your vitality begins to fade a little, but it is too possible to find means of stretching your physical and mental abilities to their utmost.”

In December, 1987

The Punjab Chess Championship was hosted in the school campus under the sponsorship of the State Bank of Patiala.

In January 1988

The Headmaster Gr.Capt.Grewal had an added responsibility on his shoulders when he was given the charge of Shri Dashmesh Academy, Anandpur Sahib. In March, there was a mass change of guard at Sham Bagh with Mr.Onial, Mr.Ram Singh and Mr.Menon being replaced by Mr.Dhaliwal, Mr.Wilson and Mr.Rudi Abraham at Suttlej, Jumna and Beas house respectively.

Summer Vacation 1988

The summer vacation of 1988 was rather unfortunate for the PPS community. Sardar Col.Naunihal Singh Mann, one of the founders and longest serving members on the Board of Governors passed away after a long association of more than 27 years with the school. The school announced a “Col.Naunihal Singh Mann Memorial Medal” for the student with best all-round merit, to be awarded at the Annual Founders’ Day every year. His son, S.Shivinderpal Singh Mann was inducted in the panel of Board of Governors.

Around the same time, Mr.Iqbaljeet Singh Dhillon’s untimely demise left everybody shocked. He taught physics and was the Advisor of Cine Club and had served the school for more than 8 years.

Another member of the Board of Governors, Sardar Gurdarshan Singh, senior congress leader, ex-minister in the Punjab Cabinet, also reached his heavenly abode. Mr.Y.P.Johri paid homage to all the departed souls in the inaugural assembly of the new term.

Mrs. Channi, after a long innings as the Head Junior Wing bid adieu to the PPS family, and she was replaced by the upright and elegant Miss Ranjit Walia. Around the same time,

July 1988

BRITISH SCHOOLS EXPLORING SOCIETY

Expedition to *Mashiroo Kangri* (West Himalayas)

Four students from the school namely Mohinder Paul, Jaideep Singh Deol, Vijay Sharma and Jasjit Shergill were selected to be a part of an expedition organized by British Schools Exploring Society. Led by Major Derek Jackson and Col.S.S.Sandhu, the expedition started on July 17th, 1988. After three days of trekking from Ladakh, it reached Camp I at an altitude of 17,500 feet. The summit of Mount *Mashiroo Kangri* at an altitude on 20,000 feet was successfully scaled and the students returned back to school with fond memories of the exotic adventure. They enjoyed the company of school boys from England, whom they described as “soft spoken and kind hearted”.

Meanwhile, Mr.P.S.Gill Senior Instructor of the school athletics and swimming teams participated in the All-India Veterans Athletic Meet at Srinagar, and bagged the gold medal in pole-vault. Mr.Gill was a hard taskmaster and ensured strict discipline at P.T. and other sports activities. His menacing glare and reprimands in chaste Punjabi had many a notorious brat scampering for cover.

28th Founders’ Day 1988

Shri S.S.Ray, the governor of Punjab presided over the 28th founders’ day. He gave a thought provoking and impassioned speech and expressed his pride at the achievements of the schools. He spoke

“In the meetings of National Development Council, I cited the fact that I am the Chairman of the Board of a school which has no less than thirty-three of its old boys serving as officers in the Peace-keeping forces of Sri Lanka. None of the chief ministers attending the conference could match me on this point”.

Mr.Ahmed, the energetic arts teacher accompanied a group of students to New Delhi to attend an arts exhibition of original works by legends like Gauguin, Degas and Van Gogh. The subject of exhibition was “The Birth of Modernity”, and he explained the intricacies and minute details of the paintings by the world-famous masters.

The students also attended the “Industrial Exhibition” at the Pragati Maidan highlighting the various aspects of industrial scenario in the country.

In July 1989

The school bade an emotional farewell to Mrs.S.K.Sidhu and Mr.Jagdish Singh who had both served the school for more than 25 years in the capacity of matron and librarian respectively. Mr.I.S.Dhaliwal also left the school to take up a senior position in a computer firm, while SherJung Singh Chahal, the eminent sportsman and former Head boy rejoined the PPS family as a geography teacher.

In September 1989

Gr.Capt.Grewal delivered a talk at an International Seminar on “*Education through Adventure*” held at New Delhi organized by the Youth Exploring Society, and delegates from eight different countries took part.

Vijay Singh, an old nabhaite hit international headlines when his book *Jaya Ganga* was released by Penguin Publishers. A student of PPS during the late sixties, Vijay had later moved to Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and then to Paris, where he earned a name for himself as a broadcaster and a journalist. *Jaya Ganga* was a travelogue written in French flavour and appreciated for its mystical insight.

DONA (Delhi Old Nabhaite’s Association) hosted a lavish dinner hosted at the lawns of Mr.Rajiv Gokhale. Lt.Gen.Gurbachan Singh Buch PVSM, the executive chairman of the school Board of Governors addressed the gathering, followed by a short speech by the Headmaster. Mr.M.R.Oberoi, the former Senior Master was also present at the function with Mrs. Oberoi.

Mr. Sukhram Singh Sandhu and a couple of students from PPS were part of “Jawahar Lal Nehru Centenary School Boys Mountaineering Expedition “, an expedition team to an unnamed peak near Manali at an altitude of 18,500 feet. The expedition was successful, and added yet another chapter to the glorious

In November, 1989

The Literary Society was started by the Headmaster with Mr.Sarkar as the organizer and Ardaman Grewal as the President. The aim was to inculcate a

passion for literature among the students and encourage the dormant literary talents of the students.

29th Founders' Day 1989

General S.RoyChowdhury, member Board of Governors presided over the founders' day in 1989 and gave away the prizes.

In January 1990,

Mrs. Jasbir Butalia retired after a long service to the school nearing three decades. She had joined the school as Miss Jasbir Lamba. A special assembly was held in the Senior School, and later in the Junior Section where Miss Walia, Mr.Y.P.Johri and Mr.M.S.Chadha paid her glowing tributes. She gave an emotional speech and gifted a lovely wall clock for the Junior School staff room.

May 1990

Mr.N.C.S.Bhatti soon followed suit after 21 years of service to the institution. His students always loved him for his gentlemanly approach and passion for teaching English. He also served as the housemaster of Senior Ravi house and handled the responsible work of managing Council exams in the School. He joined as the Principal of an elite school in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

August 5th 1990

Shri J.K.Kate, the founder headmaster of The Punjab Public School Nabha passed away after a prolonged heart illness. The entire school community was saddened and grieved by the death of the man who had built the school brick by brick and laid its strong foundation. A memorial service was held and the staff passed a condolence resolution. Following are some of the excerpts from the Memorial service

"We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away."

"O Almighty Father, Who are the comforter of the sorrowful, and the support of those who are burdened; look down in mercy on those who are in trouble or suffering, that finding Thy mercy present with them in their necessities, they may be strengthened to bear with patience their present trial and in Thine own good time their sorrow may be turned into joy".

Mr.G.S.Punia, the school Registrar (the title of Bursar was changed to Registrar for a short while) wrote an article remembering the era of Mr.Kate and lauded his organizing abilities and contribution to the school. He wrote

“Most modest and unassuming, he was a strict disciplinarian who also had the knack of saying “No” when the situation so warranted. He was very proud and fond of Punjab and its manly and hospitable traditions and beyond doubt The Punjab Public School Nabha was his first love. The faith that he reposed in this institution was amply proved when the whole school community especially the Old Boys contributed voluntarily so munificently towards his by-pass surgery performed in the U.S.A. at a time when he was no longer their Headmaster. His great contribution to the School can only be written in Golden Letters. It is difficult to sum up his multifaceted personality but there is little doubt that he was a Colossus but with a difference – in his profound presence instead of being overwhelmed one felt his own potentialities of greatness. I salute his fond memory and the great values and ideas he cherished and nurtured so effectively in his students and staff. May his noble soul rest in peace in Heaven.”

PPS won the “Best Implementation Award in Computer Literacy Program School Project Division” for the academic year 1989-90. It is noteworthy here that PPS Nabha was one of the pioneer schools in terms of computer education. It was the seventh school in the country and the first in Punjab to implement computer literacy under the ICS program (Informatics Computer Systems) in August 1985. Four BBC micro computers were installed and computer was introduced as a subject from classes VI to VIII.

The 30th Annual Founders’ Day

Was celebrated with the usual pomp and fervour and Shri Veerendra Verma, the governor of Punjab presided over the function.

May 15th, 1991

THE YEAR OF EXODUS

The beginning of the last decade of the 20th century was marked by upheaval and significant changes in The Punjab Public School Nabha. Headmaster Group Captain Grewal, Bursar and the Senior Master, after serving the school for more than a decade announced his retirement on.

“I have laid off the charge of the Headmaster Punjab Public School. I take this opportunity to thank all parents, old students, members of the staff and the most

important, the students of the school for all support and affection given by them during my stay in the school. By grace of God, the school shall move "Onwards and Upwards" for many years to come. May God bless you all.

During his tenure, the adventure activities reached their zenith and PPS was put firmly on the map and scaled new peaks of glory. Also, to his credit, he started the riding club, constructed the boundary walls around the main building and Sham Bagh, tennis courts and more staff quarters. He played a significant role in making the campus more attractive by laying the Rose Garden, the Cacti Garden and the Headmaster's Green.

Mr.G.S.Punia once again took over as the Officiating Headmaster and Col. Dya Singh Khera took over as the new Registrar of the School. Soon to retire were Mr.P.N.Onial, the Senior Master and the head of English Department, and Mr.S.M.L.Nigam, the head of Physics Department. As mentioned earlier. Mr. Onial was officially the last Senior Master of the School.

Mr.K.K.Bansal, head of the chemistry department reached his heavenly abode during the summer vacations and his untimely death left the PPS community shell-shocked. He had joined the school in 1975 and had served as the housemaster of Senior Ravi House.

Second Term 1991

Mr.G.S.Punia retired after an illustrious and distinguished service to the school for more than three decades. It was thoroughly befitting that he retired in the capacity of the Headmaster. A grand farewell party was organized in the Senior Section, Junior Section and by Administration Staff and Class IV employees. Col.Khera and Mr.Y.P.Johri praised the contribution of Mr.Punia and Mr.M.S.Chadha (the present head of the English department) and an old nabhaite fondly recalled his student days when Mr.Punia taught him English.

The school head boy Bhupinder Khatra and headgirl Shivina Joneja paid glowing tributes to Mr.Punia. The students lined up on both sides of the main gate and Mr.Punia was accorded a true hero's farewell. The ageless Mr.Punia, who is a local resident of Nabha continues to bless the PPS community with his regular and benign presence at the school functions to this day and his long association with the school since the time of Mr.Kate, makes Mr.Punia somewhat of a "*Bhisham Pitamah*" of PPS.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudi Abraham. Dr. and Mrs.J.N.Johri, Mr. and Mrs.Sarkar and Mr.R.S.Musafir all left the school in quick succession.

Mr.K.M.P.Menon, the versatile English teacher and the managing editor of the school chronicle also left leaving only a handful of senior teachers in the school.

October 1991

Mr.O.P.Sharma also retired after an active service of more than 31 years. A disciplinarian to the core and a passionate Hindi teacher, Mr.Sharma belonged to a generation of teachers who had actually built the school with their commitment and hard work.

Around the same time, Mr.S.L.Bansal, the school works superintendent also passed away after a long association of more than 25 years with the school. He had personally supervised the construction of Houses in Sham Bagh, Auditorium, Isolation Ward, Science Block and many staff quarters.

The sudden departure of top administration and senior staff left the school depleted and called for another phase of rebuilding. The environment outside the school was its lowest ebb with Punjab being firmly entangled in the vice like grip of extremism. The need of the hour was that of a Headmaster who could stand tall and steer the school out of a looming crisis.

Col. Dya Singh Khera, a post graduate in Geography and Education and Ph.D in Education also held a diploma in Physical Education. Prior to joining the Army, he had served as a lecturer in Govt. College Ajmer and Lohia College Rajasthan. He continued to be associated with the field of education after getting commissioned in the Army and served as Principal of Sainik School Nagrota from 1970 to 1974 as Major and then again as the Principal of Sainik School Rewa from 1983 to 1988 as Lt.Col.

He immediately reintroduced the system of supervised evening preps and the long dormant scheme of weekly tests of two subjects every Monday.

31st Founders' Day, 1991

Shri Sada Nand, IAS, Advisor to the Governor of Punjab presided over the Founders's Day function. In his fist address as the Headmaster at the Founders' Day, Col.Khera stressed on the need of maintaining proper discipline in the school and highlighted the strengths and challenges for the school in same vein.

December 1991

Lt.Gen.Gurbachan Singh PVSM officiated as the chief guest at the Variety Entertainment Programme and Athletic Meet in December 1991.

March 1992,

Vikrambir shattered the previous school record by scoring 91.8% marks in ICSE exams. Later he did his alma mater proud by securing admission in one of IITs.

In October, 1992

PPS shared the Inter Public School Riding Trophy with YPS Patiala while

Chamkaur Singh of Sutlej House clinched the gold medal in pole vault at the Inter Public Athletic Meet at MNSS Rai. Mr.S.S.Kheepal, an old nabhaite and biology teacher attended the “Japan South Asia Friendship Programme” at Japan. His visit was sponsored by the Government of India.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

A mathematics Olympiad was initiated to identify potential high achievers in the subject and reward them for their interest in mathematics. The written test was planned at two stages.

- a) Senior – Classes X, XI and XII
- b) Junior – Classes VII, VIII and IX

Each house fielded 8 students for each level of competition and the *Mathematics Olympiad Trophy* was donated by Mrs. and Mr. Kedar Nath Bansal (Ex J-4)

In August, 1992 (second Term)

Col.Khera launched the “Quit Congress Grass Movement” in the school. The obnoxious weed had taken firm roots at number of places in the campus, and the students were given the license to *uproot at sight* by the Headmaster. The enthusiastic students weeded out the congress grass within a few days, though some not so dangerous plants also bore the brunt.

Close on the heels of Quit Congress Grass Movement, a tree plantation drive was also launched and a large number of saplings were planted at different places in the campus.

Around the same time, Jaspal Singh Dhaliwal, s/o S.Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, an old nabhaite and a successful entrepreneur in U.S.A. joined the PPS family to get a feel of the Indian education system. He was accompanied by his friend Jason Michael Balliet. The American duo made many friends and thoroughly enjoyed their stay at PPS Nabha.

The school building was repaired and renovated at certain places and more dormitories, bathrooms and toilets were added. The ordinary blackboards in the classrooms were replaced with glass boards.

In 1993, First Term

Col.Khera initiated a system of public speaking where two students were required to speak in the morning Assembly on the topic of their choice. The idea was to

make them shed their inhibitions and overcome stage fear. A point system was devised to reward the house with best speakers. Mr. Manjit Bedi later increased the number of speakers to six per day.

A computer literacy programme was also organized during the year for the faculty members to familiarize them with the use of computers.

November 1993,

Lt. Gen R.K. Gulati, GOC-in-C Western Command presided over the annual founders' day in November 1993. In his report, the Headmaster expressed satisfaction at the continuous improvement of Riding Club and lauded the performance of Jaswinder Singh and Pir Taranpreet Singh at the Inter Public School Equestrian Championship. From a humble start with two cast horses, the Riding Club had 10 horses in 1993.

"This is my first visit to the school. I would like to express my pleasure on what I have seen during my one day stay here. The standards both on the sports field and off it, as displayed are such that any public school could and should be proud of. I am looking forward to my continued association with this fine institute"

(Remarks by Lt. Gen. R.K. Gulati in the Visitor's Book)

Col. Khera announced at the Founders' Day in 1993, that boarder girls shall be admitted in the school with effect from the new session starting in April 1994.

On April 4, 1994

Shri Surendra Nath, the Governor of Punjab and Chairman, Board of Governors visited the school. He was all praise for the multifarious activities being organized in the school and the high degree of academic excellence proved through the cent percent results, a feat that had been achieved after a long gap of 16 years. He announced a grant of Rs. 25,000 for the purchase of new books for the school library. The entire school community was saddened when the affable Governor passed away in a tragic air crash near Kullu, barely months after his first visit to PPS. The school flag was lowered at half mast to mourn the demise of the Chairman of Board of Governors.

April 1994

When the new academic session started in 1994, PPS started a new hostel for girls in the Junior School. The demand for starting girls' boarding had been getting stronger over the years.

In April 1994,

Miss Ranjit Walia, Head Junior Wing, retired from the service after a long association of more than 18 years with the school. A special assembly was organized and Mr.Y.P.Johri shared his feelings on the contribution of Miss Walia. A forthright and graceful person, Miss Walia headed the Junior School with a high degree of success, and under her guidance, the school progressed by leaps and bounds. Mrs. Anandjit Kaur, English teacher in the Junior School described Miss Walia,

“She looked upon teaching as a mission and a dedication and set an example for us. She had nobility of heart, purity of character and honesty of purpose”.

Mrs.K.P.Tandon took over as the new Head Junior Wing after the retirement of Miss Walia

Mr.Yogeshwar Parshad Johri, the very epitome of discipline and undoubtedly one of the greatest teachers to ever serve at PPS finally retired after a marathon association of 33 years with the school. Having joined PPS in 1961 as a mathematics teacher, Mr. Johri had been the senior master, author of many books on mathematics, officiating headmaster, and the incumbent deputy headmaster. A pall of gloom descended upon the school community since it was almost impossible to imagine PPS without Mr.Johri. A special assembly was organized and the Headmaster, Head Junior Wing and Mr.M.S.Chadha paid rich tributes to the man who had dedicated his entire life to the school. Mr.Chadha aptly referred to Mr.Johri as someone whom everybody looked upon with awe and admiration.

Col.Khera shared that even in the middle of an important meeting, Mr.Johri would abruptly get up on hearing a bell and declare *“I have a period”*.

Academics were always his first love and teaching mathematics his true calling.

Mrs.Tandon shared the memories of her association of more than three decades with Mr.Johri and busted the myth of him being an out and out strict person by highlighting the gentle side of his personality.

Mr.Johri had earlier shared his feelings on his retirement in an article for chronicle. Here is an excerpt.

“The other day I sat brooding, retrospectively as to what has been my greatest achievement in the school. Was it the interest I could create in the minds of my students for mathematics? No. Was it the excellent results I could get in my subjects? No. Was it my foreign assignments to U.K. in 1964 and to U.S.A. in 1969? No. Was it the letter of commendation, I was awarded by the Governor

Punjab His Excellency Shri J.S.L.Hathi for my services to the school? Yes, to some extent. What I would rate the highest is the impact I as a person, might have made on the minds of the young ones, with whom I worked.”

He kept his farewell speech very short and the following phrase
“If I have to talk to you about my stay and experience in the school here, I can go on and on. I know the time is short and you have to prepare for tomorrow’s examination”

said it all about his dedication for academics. He wished the school the very best for the future and thanked everyone for the love and affection.

Mr.Pardeep Singh Ghuman took over as the new Deputy Headmaster of the School.

Mr.Pritam Singh Gill, the sports stalwart of PPS and the athletics and swimming coach also retired after a long association of more than 26 years with the school. He had transformed many a lazy shirker into top quality athletes and swimmers and commanded huge respect from his trainees.

November 1994, 34th Founders’ Day.

Lt.Gen.B.K.N.Chhibber, PVSM,AVSM,VSM, Governor of Punjab presided over the Athletics Meet and He officially inaugurated the girls’ hostel in Junior School and bestowed his blessings upon the school

“I can confidently say that the management, the Headmaster and the Staff are fully committed to provide such training as is vital for the all-round development of a child. I am hopeful that the school will prosper all the more in days to come and the students will rise in various fields of human endeavour and distinguish themselves bringing glory to the school.”

In January 1995,

The PPS campus was lit by the cheerful presence of Shri Om Prakash, the eminent actor and comedian of Bollywood movies. He had arrived with the Zee TV troupe for the shooting of a TV serial “Nandu Ka Chirag”, the shooting for which was in progress at the Junior School.

During the same time, the school experimented with golf and a Golf Club was launched in the school. The school team participated in the Patiala Amateur Golf Tournament and bagged the second position.

In February, 1995

Brigadier Charanjiv Singh Harika, Commander Armoured Brigade visited the school and gave away prizes to meritorious students. He urged the students to excel in their chosen field and strive for excellence.

Meanwhile, the entire PPS community was delighted to hear the news of appointment of Sardar Partap Singh Bajwa as the Minister of State for Information and Public Relations and Agriculture, Punjab. He had been a school prefect, the hockey captain and a shot-put champion when he was enrolled at PPS as R-203.

May 1995

Col.Khera, the school headmaster attended a conference on Education at Ukraine from May 30 to June 8. During the conference, the delegates were taken to various institutions and had discussions with other Principals and directors on academics and other matters of mutual interest.

In June, 1995

His Highness Maharaja Partap Singh Ji, the last ruler of Nabha passed away. He had played an important role in setting up of Ripudaman College at Nabha.

September, 1995

Tikka Hanuwant Singh, son of Maharaja Partap Singh visited the school.

45th Founders Day

Sardar Mohinder Singh KayPee, Education Minister, Punjab presided over the annual founders' day in 1995. He was deeply impressed with the palatial buildings and announced a grant of Rs.2,00,000 for the school.

January 1996

Mr.Sher Jung Chahal took over as the new housemaster of Senior Ravi House from Mr.Raturi.

Around the same time, Mr.V.S.Moudgill, one of the finest English teachers the school ever had was in charge of Beas House. Mr.Moudgill was a good football player in his prime and taught Shakespeare's plays with such passion that the characters virtually came alive. He had taken over the mantle of housemastership from Col.H.S.Mann, an English teacher with an impeccable style and regal tastes. Sutlej House was in charge of Mr.S.S.Kheepal, an old Nabhaite and Head of the

Biology Department while Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu, the advisor of DEAS Club was holding the fort at Senior Jumna.

One of the most active Clubs during the 1990s was the Youth Club under the aegis of energetic Mr.S.S.Shanni. His passion and free spirit were infectious and students gladly plunged head on in any activity that he planned for the Club. Regular cycling tours to nearby villages, tree plantation drives, campus cleaning campaigns etc. were a regular feature of Youth club activities. He also looked after the N.C.C. Air Wing and was the housemaster for Day-scholars meticulously ensuring neatly trimmed nails, a clean hanky in the pocket, polished shoes, and of course *size zero* hair-cut.

May 23, 1996

The PPS hosted the IPSC Cricket Tournament from May 23 to May 25 1996. It was probably for the first time that PPS hosted an IPSC tournament on its grounds. YPS Patiala, MNSS Rai, YPS Mohali, Modern School Delhi and Shri Dashmesh Academy Anandpur Sahib competed with the hosts to win the coveted trophy. PPS lost the semi final match to MNSS Rai and ultimately Modern School Delhi won the finals and lifted the IPSC cricket trophy.

Gurinder Singh of Beas House, an excellent athlete of his times and an all-round sportsman was adjudged the best bowler of the tournament.

15th August

The Independence Day of 1996 was a special and memorable occasion for the PPS family, especially the Old Nabhaites. Col. Khara laid the foundation stone of an “*ONA COMPLEX*” near the main grounds of the School. Sardar Partap Singh Bajwa and Mr.Kanwar Sandhu, Resident Editor of Indian Express (presently a Board Member) were also present on this occasion.

September 1996

Mr.Jan Leschly, Chief Executive M/s Smithkline Beecham Ltd. visited the school in the month of September. He was flanked by his better half Mrs.Lotte Leschly, Mr.Chris Lambert, Head Operations and other high-ranking officials from the prestigious company. Mr.Leschly thoroughly enjoyed the regal welcome accorded to him by the school band and mounted horsemen. In his address to the students, he shared the details of his eventful life and career that started as a Sales Representative with Ferrosan, a Danish pharmaceutical company. He had also been a good tennis player with a career best ranking of 10 and played in the elite Wimbledon tournament during his younger days.

He urged the students to follow the following four points to be successful in life

- a) *A clear goal in life.*
- b) *Energy and a sense of humour.*
- c) *A disciplined approach.*
- d) *Sound Judgement.*

The same evening B-0074 Jaswinder Singh set the school swimming pool ablaze and went on a record-breaking spree at the Annual Aquatic Meet. He set new records in 200m free style, 400m free style, 100m back stroke and 200m back stroke. Jaswinder won many laurels for the school in many inter-school swimming competitions. **He later represented Punjab in the National Games.**

On October 3

The entire school was mourning the demise of Mr.O.P.Verma, the music maestro who had served the school for two decades. Mr.Verma could play most of the musical instruments to perfection and organized high quality orchestra performances at the Founders' Day and house shows. His easy manners and passion for music endeared him to the students and the entire school found it very hard to come to terms with his untimely loss. Dr.Ranjit Singh Dhaliwal (ex S-153) instituted a yearly award to be given at the Founders' Day, titled *Mr.O.P.Verma Memorial Music Award* for the best all round student in Music to commemorate the memory of Late Mr.Verma.

November 1966

Mr.R.C.Bhalla took over as the new Deputy Headmaster after the abrupt departure of Mr.Kuldeep Singh Dossanjh. With the appointment of Mr.Bhalla, the office finally saw some stability since Mr.Pardeep Ghuman and Mr.Dossanjh's tenures were rather brief. A government of India merit scholarship holder from class X to the completion of his Master's degree in mathematics, Mr.R.C.Bhalla had been a part of PPS family for more than 28 years. A top-quality mathematics teacher and a thorough gentleman, Mr.Bhalla's beautiful handwriting on the blackboard was always a treat for sore eyes.

Arshdeep Singh (J-167), a student of class VIII brought glory to the school by bagging the first prize in the essay contest "PROJECT – NATURE 2000/LIVING PLANET" organized by the World-Wide Fund For Nature in November.

December 1996

Old Nabhaite Sardar Partap Singh Bajwa was the guest of honour at the Annual Athletic Meet.

Lt.Gen.B.K.N.Chhibber, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, Governor of Punjab presided over the 36th Founders' Day. Col. Khera highlighted the achievements of the year and congratulated Gaurav Bansal on having bettered the ICSE record by scoring 93% marks. The other major achievements of the year were

- a) Construction of 350 feet boundary wall behind the Junior School to secure the campus.
- b) Installation of more solar heating panels in the school
- c) Construction of a high-rise tank in the junior school
- d) Eradication of Congress grass from the school campus

The chief guest later laid the foundation stone of an additional Dining Hall in the Junior School Campus.

January 1997

Mr.Mool Raj Sharma visited the school. He had taught at PPS for a short while during the 1960s and had then moved to the United States of America where he earned acclaim as a pioneer teacher. He drew comparison between himself and Col.Khera as they had both risen from humble backgrounds and made a mark in their respective fields.

“That place which makes us stand ...”

*There is a place, where parents send
With joy and grace, our minds to mend
Knowledge is what distributed here
Without which we stand nowhere.
Discipline, Punctuality and co-operation
Are the elements brought into operation
Brotherhood and Unity
Are taught here
The things from which
Our society is bare
The place where a person
Turns to a gentleman from a fool
Is none else but one
“Our Great School”*

P.P.S.

(Chandandeep Kaur S-0258 – Chronicle March 1997)

March, 1997

Mr. SherJung Singh Chahal, the head of the Geography department and an Old Nabhaite published two text books on Geography on the I.C.S.E. pattern. His unrelenting labour churned out high quality text books that were immediately accepted by a large number of schools affiliated to the Council.

April 1997,

Col.Khera was one of two delegates selected to represent India at the Annual Secondary Heads Conference (Secondary Heads Association Annual Conference At *Torquay , United Kingdom*) to be held in U.K. by the Indian Public School's Conference, the other one being Shri P.R.Prasad, Principal Daly College Indore. After the hectic three-day conference, Col.Khera visited the prestigious Rugby School and Featherstone High School –where 40% of the students were of Indian origin.

June 1997,

The entire school celebrated the success of Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal (Ex J-728 of 1990 batch) who cleared the civil services exam in the first attempt and was selected for the Indian Police Services. Hargobinder wrote a letter to the school and expressed his gratitude for all the teachers that moulded him for success.

With profound grief we record the sad and sudden demise of Captain M.S.Bhinder (Ex R-505) on 13th June 1997. Capt. Bhinder died a heroic death in the fire that broke out at the Uphaar Cinema in Delhi. Tragically his wife and four-year-old son were also among those killed. Captain Bhinder was a keen horse rider in his school days and was adjudged the best rider in 1983. He had taken part in many national events and was a member of the gold-winning equestrian team of Delhi at the National Games

(An obituary – Chronicle July 1997)

August 1997

Sanchit Ahluwalia and Rajwinder Sharma visited Japan to participate in the *Young People's International Youth Forum* at Oze. It was organized by the Himalayan Adventure Trust of Japan in collaboration with Indian Mountaineering Federation to raise awareness on the sensitive issue of cleanliness in mountains. The delegates got an opportunity to meet and listen to the legendary Sir Edmund Hillary and Junko Tubaei, the first woman to climb Mount Everest.

September, 1997

The PPS riders participated in the Delhi Horse show for the first time and rubbed shoulders with riders of International repute. The participant teams comprised of teams from the Defence Forces, Police, and three international teams. The PPS Nabha was the only school team participant. The school riders impressed the elite gathering and B 0207 Bimaljeet Singh clinched the silver medal in Show Jumping.

It was after a long gap of ten years that PPS organized an expedition to the Himalayas. On target was *Ladakhi Peak*, sandwiched between the Lahaul and Kullu valley at an altitude of 18,500 feet. The expedition team was led by the DEAS Club Advisor Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu, who was later nominated to represent the Punjab Mountaineering Foundation for two years at the annual general meeting of Indian Mountaineering Foundation. The expedition team consisted of ten climbers, with four boys from PPS and six from other schools. The team first scaled *Mount Shetidhar* that was en route the final destination. The climbers were ecstatic on reaching the summit of Ladakhi Peak that presented a panoramic view of *Mount Friendship*, *Manali Peak*, *Hanuman Tibba*, and a vast expanse of snow-covered landscape.

Nov-December,1997

Raja Narinder Singh, the state Cabinet Minister for Public Health and Civil Aviation presided over the 37th Founders' Day. Col.Khera lauded the performance of school athletics team and hockey team that had both secured a respectable third position in their respective IPSC tournaments. Raja Narinder Singh spoke on the importance of teachers and the crucial role they play in the growth of their students.

January, 1998

The entire school community was elated on the appointment of Col.Khera as Secretary of the Indian Public Schools Conference for a period of two years. The historic decision was taken at the IPSC meeting held at Rajkumar College Rajkot. The appointment of Col.Khera as the Secretary of Indian Public Schools' Conference not only highlighted his high personal stature among the public-school community but also the fact that The PPS Nabha was universally acknowledged as one of the *core* schools of the Conference.

To add to the festive atmosphere, *a large troupe of Bhangra boys from PPS participated in the Republic Day parade at New Delhi. It was a matter of pride for*

the PPS community and Old Nabhaites to witness the PPS boys perform live on T.V. It was not just the Bhangra performance that impressed the audience, but the impeccable behaviour of the students that had the organizers showering praise on them. Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of India gifted a "Presentation Prize" to the Headmaster. The event was organized by North Zone Cultural Centre Patiala and Mr.Shanni, Mr.Chadda, and Mr.Shaju Antony won accolades for preparing the students meticulously. Later in March 1998, Governor Lt.General B.K.N.Chibber presided over a special assembly in the school and gave away prizes to the bhangra participants. R.P.S. Powar I.A.S. Commissioner Patiala and Raja Narinder Singh were also present on the occasion.

The Governor also inaugurated a high-rise water tank near the Auditorium. It was the second such tank that had come up in recent times after the one in Junior School.

February 2008

Dean Marshall Goodman from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee visited the school. He was accompanied by S.Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, an Old Nabhaite and a very successful entrepreneur based in the United States of America. Mr.Dhaliwal had based his business operations in the Wisconsin state and he had worked out an arrangement with the University of Milwaukee to provide 58 scholarships to meritorious students from India for higher education. Being an old nabhaite, he reserved five scholarships exclusively for the students of PPS. This magnanimous gesture on his part showed his devotion to his alma mater and to the cause of learning. In a special assembly organized to honour the guests, Dean Goodman addressed the students and appreciated the entrepreneurial spirit of the Punjabis and their ability to work hard. Paramveer Singh, Kulwinder Aulakh, Chandandeep Jatana, Amarbir Dhillon and a couple of other students comprised the first batch of six students that had availed the scholarship and enrolled at the University of Milwaukee.

Close on the heels of Dean Goodman's visit, Mr.Joel Rodney, Dean of Washington County, USA also visited the school and shared his plans of starting a college in Punjab in collaboration with the University of Milwaukee.

Around the same time, Geeta Sharma Ex R-529, English lecturer at the Ripudaman College Nabha was selected to visit Brazil as a part of Group Study Exchange Team representing Rotary International District. Geeta's father Mr.O.P.Sharma had served the school for more than three decades as a Hindi teacher and she had

captained the University Lawn Tennis team in 1989. Mr.Sharma's elder daughter Pooja had earlier made a good name for herself as a successful doctor in Norway.

March,1998

Two students from PPS, Ramandeep Sekhon and Arshdeep visited Dubai in March-April as a part of a dance troupe that represented India at the third Dubai Shopping Festival. The event was organized under the auspices of North Zone Cultural Centre Patiala.

April, 1998

Sham Bagh saw a change of guard when the new session began in April 1998. Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu retired as the housemaster of Jumna house after a long innings of eight years at the helm. He was replaced by Mr.M.S.Chadha. In Beas House Mr.D.S.Hundal replaced Mr.V.S.Moudgill, who had set very high standards of discipline throughout his tenure.

The school organized an IPSC workshop on mathematics. Mr.Y.P.Johri, the former deputy headmaster acted as the facilitator (resource person). More than 20 teachers, including many from PPS attended the conference and sharpened their mathematics teaching skills. With stalwarts like Mr.Johri, Mr.Ram Singh and Mr.Bhalla sharing their experience, the delegates made most of the three-day conference and learnt many a valuable technique on teaching of mathematics.

Mrs. Gwyn Constance Marrs, a British teacher joined the junior school for a short while Mrs. Lalitha Krishnaswamy later went to England under the Shropshire-Punjab Exchange Programme. It brought back memories of an era when such exchange programmes were a regular feature in the school.

May, 1998

An IPSC Dramatics competition was held in the school. The theme was "*India' Patriotic Fervour in the 50th year of Independence*". All the participating schools staged their respective plays and festive atmosphere prevailed during the memorable event. Welhams Girls School was adjudged the best while The PPS bagged the second position. Poonamdeep Sandhu of PPS Nabha won the best artist prize of the competition.

July, 2008

Another interesting episode that deserves mention here were the feats of Sukheja siblings, the chess prodigies that won first positions in state level competitions held at Patiala and Jalandhar. The astonishingly talented Gulshan and Bindra Sukheja would go about the school campus challenging senior students for a game of chess and within no time would checkmate them into an impossible position. In July 2008, they won the Punjab State sub-junior Chess Championship in both the boys' and girls' category.

Summer vacation of 1998

A unique experiment was carried out during the vacations. More than 50 students were made to stay back at the school for an extended session of one month for honing their communication skills, improve spoken English and polish them on the lines of public-school culture. Mr. Ramana Kumar officiated as the overall incharge and Mrs. Anandjeet Kaur, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Rajwinder Singh and some other teachers stayed back full time to run the camp. Members of the English faculty from the Senior section enlightened the proceedings with their sporadic visits.

On July 27th 1998

Raja Narinder Singh inaugurated the new Dining Hall in the Junior Section with a capacity of 450 students. He unveiled Late General Gurbachan Singh Buch Memorial Plaque and Col. D.S. Grewal, son of Late Gen. Buch cut the ribbon to perform the opening ceremony. In recognition of the immense contribution of Gen. Buch for upliftment of the school, the new Dining Hall was dedicated to his fond memory (Lt. Gen Gurbachan Singh, fondly called "Butch" had reached his heavenly abode on July 18th, the same year).

The old Dining Hall in the Junior Wing was later converted to a more spacious library.

On 12th September, 1998

A group of seven boys and four girls, escorted by Mrs. Hargurmeet Kaur Mankoo left for England as a part of a students exchange programme. During the 20-day visit, the students stayed at the Ramsay Abbey School and visited the St. Peter's Church, Alton Towers, Cambridge University and the Buckingham Palace. They also played a cricket match against the boys of Ramsey Abbey School. The ecstatic group returned back after a memorable tour on October 5.

The school soon played host to the group of 10 students from the Ramsay Abbey School who thoroughly enjoyed their short stay at PPS and impressed everybody

with their cultural presentation in the school auditorium. They were accompanied by their teachers Mrs.Helen and Mr.David.

October,1998

Raja Fateh Singh, the youngest son of late His Highness Maharaja Malvendra Bahadur Ripudaman Singh ji of Nabha paid a visit to the school. A graduate from the University of Stuttgart in Germany, he worked as a business consultant for leading multinational companies. He addressed the students and shared his theory "*Time and Space do not exist. Only Distance exists*". Later he instituted an award in the name of his mother Her Highness Maharani Gurcharan Kaur.

Miss Roohi Dua, an old nabhaite and daughter of Mr.M.S.Dua left for her heavenly abode at a rather young age, and her untimely demise shocked the school community. She had also taught at the Junior School for a short while. Mr. and Mrs.Dua instituted a prize to be annually awarded to the girl student getting maximum marks in I.C.S.E. to commemorate their loving daughter's memory.

Around the same time Mrs.Sudeep Bhangu, wife of Dr.Jashanjot Bhangu organized a career counseling session and enlightened the students on various career options available to them after their schooling.

Second Term, 1998

Lt.Gen.Gurpreet Singh Brar was appointed the President, Executive Committee of the School Board of Governors. An M-Sc in defence studies from Allahabad University, he was awarded the Vashisht Seva Medal in 1988, Ati Vashisht Seva Medal in 1995, and Param Vashisht Seva Medal in 1998.

November, 1998

Lt Gen GS Brar President, Executive Committee of the Board of Governors presided over the Annual Athletic Meet in the main grounds.

30th November 1998

A farewell party was organized to bid adieu to Mrs.K.P.K.Tandon, the longest serving member of the school staff. She had joined the school in the very first year i.e., 1960 as Miss Kamlesh Pannu and after heading the Geography Department for a long time was appointed the head Junior Wing after the retirement of Miss Walia. The gentle nature and maternal disposition of Mrs.Tandon had made her a favourite with the entire school community and it was but natural that when she

retired, the atmosphere was emotionally charged. Mr.I.S.Koonar, her former student delivered a touching speech and spoke of her love for the children. The school head boy and head girl also expressed their emotions on the occasion and thanked Mrs.Tandon for her caring approach. With the retirement of Mrs.Tandon, an era was well and truly over since she was the only person who had seen it all since the school began and stood tall through thick and thin, and maintained a poise and dignity that would always be an example for others to emulate. Mrs. Meena Thapar, Head of the Economics Department took over as the new Head Junior Wing after the retirement of Mrs.Tandon.

November,1998

Lt.Gen. H.B.Kala, *PVSM, AVSM, Shaurya Chakra* and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Command presided over as the Chief Guest at the 38th Founders' Day. A "*Dronacharya Award*" was instituted to recognize and appreciate of those teachers that produced a result of 100% first divisions in ICSE or ISC. Mrs. Meena Thapar was the first recipient of this award for achieving this glorious feat in ICSE Economics . The chief guest also gave away other prizes and trophies, and expressed his delight at visiting PPS, a school that he had heard a lot about

"In the end, I wish the school the very best of luck and I wish my prayers and good wishes are always with the young children who are the future of this country and I must repeat once again that I have no doubt that they will distinguish themselves in various fields".

January 1999,

PPS hosted the Indian Public School's Conference from January 3 to January 5 1999. The theme of the Conference was "*Special Education*". Headmasters from 72 premier public schools attended the three-day Conference and joined the deliberations. The Governor of Punjab and Chairman, Board of Governors Shri B.K.N.Chibber *PVSM, AVSM, VSM* presided over the inaugural function and expressed his happiness at playing host to such eminent gathering and spoke at length on the need for a continuous and life long education.

"We are living in a complex world which is changing constantly. In this changing world, today's knowledge becomes obsolete tomorrow and in such a scenario, education can no longer be regarded as something that one acquires during youth to serve an entire life time. Education must be a continuous process of learning throughout one's life"

Dr. (Mrs.) G.D.Bakshi, Chairperson of the IPSC delivered the welcome address and thanked the Governor and Headmaster for hosting the Conference. She shared

her views on the role of public schools and underlined the importance of women education

“Another point I would like to stress on is educating girls – If a woman is educated, the whole family is educated. The lady of the house is like the nucleus in an atom. The economic, social, cultural and religious development of the family, depend largely on the housewife. Modern economists believe that for the balanced development of a nation’s economy all citizens must be properly educated.”

Col.Khera proposed the vote of thanks after the inauguration ceremony and the delegates assembled for deliberations in the school library after enjoying the horsemanship of PPS boys in Headmaster’s Green. Delegates included Mr.Francis Fanthome, chief executive and Secretary of the Council of Indian School Certificate, Mr M.V.Prasad, Principal Daly College Indore and Member, Governing Council CBSE, Dr.Gurdeep Singh, Prof. Department of Management Studies, Punjabi University Patiala, and Mr.Chris Lowe, Headmaster Prince William School, Peterborough, U.K. among others.

The three-day conference was a very successful affair and the entire organizing committee won special praise from the visiting dignitaries.

Mr.Sher Jung Chahal, Head, Department of Geography brought out three more books for classes 6th, 7th and 8th. The Headmaster immediately recommended them for the school.

Around the same time, Mr.I.S.Koonar shifted to the Senior School and took over as the new Games Master from Mr.R.S.Sodhi.

The campus bore a festive look when the unit of *Shaheed Udham Singh* landed up in the school campus for two days of shooting. The students were delighted to meet veteran actor Raj Babbar and Tom Alters, who fell instantly fell in love with the school campus and the sprawling playgrounds.

February 1999,

Mr.Sukhram Singh Sandhu, Head of the English Department bid farewell to PPS and joined as the Vice Principal of Shri Dashmesh Academy Anandpur Sahib. He was instrumental in taking the DEAS Club to new heights and led many successful expeditions for PPS. In his farewell speech, he fondly recalled his days as the housemaster of Jumna House and his passion for boxing and hockey.

June 1999

Col.J.S.Mann, the school Bursar and a person of cheerful disposition bid adieu to the school after six years of dedicated service. His pleasing personality and military manners endeared him to the students. He took a special interest in nurturing the school Horse Riding Club and gifted a horse to the school as a parting gesture.

Second Term 1999

As soon as the school reopened after the summer vacation of 1999, Col. Dr.D.S.Khera announced his retirement from the post of Headmaster. He had taken over the school at a difficult time and had steered the school remarkably well with his vision and foresight. Col. Khera set high standards of discipline but at the same time each and every student could clearly feel the affection he had for them in his heart. Every action and decision of his were in the best interests of the school and the students, and by the time he retired, Col.Khera commanded huge respect not only in The PPS but among the entire public-school community in India. He left his mark as a strong administrator and had put the school on a sound financial footing at the time of his departure. Also to his credit was the diplomatic handling of agitation started by Class IV employees, that threatened to turn nasty on many occasions.

A grand dinner was organized to bid farewell to Col.Khera and the new Headmaster Mr.M.S.Bedi saluted his dedication and untiring zeal, and called him a “Living Legend”. Lt.Gen. G.S.Brar presented a memento to Col.Khera to express his gratitude on behalf of the Board of Governors.

Second Term

Mr.Manjit Singh Bedi took over as the new Headmaster after the retirement of Col. Dr.D.S.Khera. An old nabhaite, Mr.Bedi did his graduation from the famous St.Stephen’s College at New Delhi. He began his teaching career with a short stint of three months at PPS in 1976 before moving to the Scindia School Gwalior, where he taught for 18 years. At Gwalior, Mr.Bedi had worked as a senior housemaster and an exchange co-ordinator. Before joining PPS, he had served as the headmaster of G.R.D.Academy Dehradun and Nishan Public School Karnal.

Simultaneously Lt.Col. Tejinder Singh Dhinda assumed office as the new Bursar of the school. It was for the first time in the history of the school that both the Headmaster and the Bursar were Old Nabhaites.

First week October 1999

Led by Sarabjeet Singh Khatra, the school hockey team won the prestigious IPSC Hockey Inter School Championship held at Shri Dashmesh Academy Anandpur Sahib. It was for the first time that PPS had won the IPSC hockey championship. A total of nine teams had taken part in the tournament and PPS beat Mayo College Ajmer to clinch the title. Sukhrajbir Singh of PPS, who conceded only one goal in six matches was adjudged the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

November 1999,

The first Lt.Gen.Gurbachan Singh Butch Memorial lecture was organized in the school auditorium. Lt.Gen. S.S.Mehta AVSM, VSM Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (Planning and Systems) delivered the lecture and dwelt on the various facets of Lt.Gen.Butch's personality. He urged the younger generation to strive for a career in the defence services and mentioned the need to develop the defence structure on the lines of latest technology. Brigadier G.S.Sekhon and Mr.G.S.Punia and Col D.S.Grewal (son of Late Lt.Gen.Butch) were also present.

The 39th Founders' Day was celebrated with the traditional grandeur and gaiety. Mr.M.M.Mittal, Minister Food and Civil Supplies was the chief guest on the occasion.

February 2,2000

The Governor of Punjab and Chairman, Board of Governors Lt.Gen. J.F.R.Jacob visited the school. Wearing an elegant hat, the Governor resembled some aristocratic british diplomat. He was welcomed with the usual fanfare and marveled at the feats of talented PPS riders. After the band display, the Governor visited Miss Malkani Hall in the Junior School and appreciated the exhibitions on display. Later he went to the Senior school library and enjoyed an informal chat with the students.

Around the same time a large contingent from the school comprising the school cricket, basketball and tennis teams left for Scindia School Gwalior for a string of friendly fixtures. Headmaster Mr.Bedi, games incharge Mr.I.S.Koonar, Mr.Rajwinder Singh Panag and Mr.Shanni accompanied the group. Since Mr.Bedi was an ex-staff member of Scindia School, the PPS contingent was treated with warm hospitality and thoroughly enjoyed their brief stay at the elite school. Earlier a contingent from Scindia School had visited PPS on a special invitation by the Headmaster.

In February 2000, Manmohinder Kaur Grewal (B-973, ISC 1996 batch and ex head-girl) made history when she became the first ever girl from the school to be selected for the Short Service Commission in the Indian Army.

The new sports complex for the girls was inaugurated by Lt.Col. B.S.Ahluwalia, Executive Director, NIS, Patiala. Provisions were made for setting up a basketball court, a tennis court and a volleyball court adjacent to the new dining hall. The first basketball court was off to an auspicious start when the chief guest netted the first basket.

April 13,2000

Close on the heels of the inauguration of the sports complex, the school organized an inter-school cross country run on to commemorate the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the foundation of the school.

May 2000

Lt.Gen.G.S.Brar, *PVSM*, *VSM* President, Executive Committee laid the foundation stone of a new residential block for the teaching and administrative staff. It was proposed to construct eight residential flats during the first phase of construction. The students yet again got an opportunity to go abroad when a group left for Malaysia and Singapore during the annual tours and treks. It was second year in a row when students had gone abroad as a part of school tours. Earlier in 1999, a group had gone to Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr.Charles Leahy and Ms.Nancy Norris conducted special classes for improving the communication skills of the students going to the University of Wisconsin, USA for higher studies. The pilot project was formally launched by the Headmaster Mr.M.S.Bedi and both the teachers from the University of Milwaukee thoroughly enjoyed their stay at PPS. Dr.Joel Rodney, Dean of Wisconsin University personally visited the school to monitor the progress of pilot project and mentioned that PPS students studying in the University of Wisconsin were making rapid strides and doing their alma mater proud.

Summer Vacation 2000

Mr.T.Ramamurthy, an excellent mathematics teacher and housemaster of Senior Sutlej House bid farewell to PPS for better prospects. He is still fondly

remembered by his students for his methodical approach to teaching of mathematics and his passion for the subject.

August 26, 2000

The first Padma Shri J.K.Kate memorial IPSC debate was organized in the school auditorium. Mr.A.S.Jawandha, Principal YPS Patiala was the chief guest and Mr.B.S.Dhir, Principal Alwar Public School, Alwar was the Chairman. Mr.G.S.Punia, Mr. and Mrs. K.C.Tandon and Mr.O.P.Sharma were also present on the historic occasion. Komal Dhindsa of PPS was adjudged the best debator and the trophy was lifted by Welhams' Girls School Dehradun. Though PPS had won the trophy but as per the tradition the host school did not claim it.

Mr.Ahmed, the former head of the Arts department retired after an active service of more than 25 years. He was a cheerful person and shared a strong passion for the game of cricket with Mr.I.S.Koonar.

October 2000

The Deputy Headmaster Mr.R.C.Bhalla retired from his post after serving the school with dedication for three decades. His gentle approach and humility were a source of inspiration for the entire PPS community and everybody in the school fraternity looked up to him for guidance and direction. His students would always remember him for presenting mathematics as one of the most interesting subjects and his insistence on five sums daily "*paanch sawaal har roz*" as a sure shot recipe for success in mathematics is known to all.

October 22, 2000

Mr.Govind Raturi, the head of the history department and former housemaster of Ravi house took over as the new Deputy Headmaster. A methodical teacher and a brilliant man manager, Mr.Raturi would enthrall the entire school when he hosted the Senior G.K.Quiz every year, an eagerly awaited event in the school calendar. Fully equipped with audio and visual aids, Mr.Raturi would go about conducting the quiz with his characteristic flair and vivacity and thrill the audience with his captivating style.

23rd -25th October 2000

As a part of 40th year anniversary celebrations, PPS hosted the IPSC Basketball tournament. A record number of 16 teams participated in the prestigious tournament and Mr. Yashpal Bhardwaj, a renowned educationist and a former teacher of PPS formally declared the tournament open amidst thunderous clapping. MNSS Rai beat the Modern School Delhi in final to clinch the trophy, while PPS had earlier lost the semi-final to Modern School Delhi. Mr. G.S. Anand, Regional Director NIS Patiala presented the trophy to the winner school and congratulated Mr. I.S. Koonar for excellent organization of the tournament.

40th Founders' Day October 2000

Lt. Gen. J.F.R. Jacob, *PVSM*, Governor of Punjab presided over as the chief guest. The Headmaster highlighted the special achievements of the year and mentioned that PPS provides all the facilities essential for total development of a child's personality.

The Governor expressed his happiness at the educational standards being maintained at PPS

"I am happy to see that The Punjab Public School Nabha is providing progressive balanced education concentrating not only on academic pursuits but also on games and other physical activities. The enthusiastic involvement of students in various hobbies, clubs, and societies gives them sufficient opportunity to broaden their intellectual base".

The school girls' cricket team also participated in the IPSC cricket tournament for girls held at Mayo College Ajmer during the year.

The entire school community was delighted when Mr. Pawan Kant Munjal, an old nabhaite of 1970 batch and a member of School Board of Governors donated Rs. 5 lakhs for buying a brand-new bus for the school. Mr. Munjal, the Managing Director of Hero Honda Motors Ltd. regularly sponsors the first prize (Hero Honda motorcycle) at the Annual Fete every year.

December 2000,

After organizing the IPSC basketball tournament, PPS organized the 37th All India IPSC Athletic Meet on its grounds in the month of December. Mr. Ranjit Bhatia, an alumnus of St. Stephen's College and a former Olympian formally declared the meet open. A total of 17 teams of leading public schools of the country sweated it out for the coveted trophy. Ultimately it was MNSS Rai that emerged champions while PPS clinched the runners-up trophy. Gurjit Singh, Vaibhav Tanvar, Harpinder Singh and Gagandeep Singh bagged gold medals in their respective

events. PPS missed the championship narrowly due to a faltered attempt at grabbing the baton during a crucial relay race. Captain Kanwaljit Singh, Finance Minister Punjab declared the Meet closed and gave away the trophy and prizes to the participants.

January 2001

Mr.N.S.Deol took over as the new housemaster of Senior Beas House from Mr.D.S.Hundal. As a part of the proposed students exchange programme between Punjab Public School Nabha and Malvern College, two guests from UK, Mr.Glenn Hutton and Mr.Robbie Gardener joined the PPS family. The british duo thoroughly enjoyed their term long stay at PPS and thoroughly relished the Punjabi food.

An aerobics workshop was conducted in the school during the last week of January by Mrs. (Dr.) Monika Debnath, an internationally famous Yoga Aerobic naturopathy expert and a Reader at National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior. During the workshop, the trainees were sent to the National Institute of Sport at Patiala twice for honing their aerobic techniques. Mrs.Debnath conducted the same workshop for the students of Junior Wing later in the month of March. The school aerobics team also took part in the 3rd National Aerobic Championship conducted in liaison with the American Aerobic Association at NIS Patiala and Parneet Sandhu of Class XI won a gold medal in her group. She later represented India at the World Aerobics Championship held at Texas in USA and bagged the fourth position.

3rd February 2001,

Raja Narinder Singh, Minister of Public Health and Civil Aviation laid the foundation stone of two overhead bridges that would later directly connect the Kairon Block to the Middle Houses and Dharma Vira Park (Sham Bagh). The proposal for constructing the overbridges was mooted keeping the students' safety in mind and strengthening the overall security arrangements of the school.

“From an environment of careful nurturing and nourishing, you step into a world of total „freedom “. This freedom feels like a bliss in the beginning because there are no „barriers “ to your actions but very soon one gets to realize that the restrictions at school were far more enjoyable and much better than the freedom

outside. There is no one to give you „Extra PT“ when you bunk or try to bunk a class and those quick „get aways“ to the markets also lose their charm. (Potpourri by Vijayanta, Chief Student Editor - Chronicle March 2001)

14th of April 2001

The second Lt.Gen.Buch *PVSM* Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr.Sudhir Bloeria, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir on the topic, “*The Kashmir Problem*”. He dwelt on the roots of the problem and analysed the historical events leading to the present scenario. After the lecture, he had an inter-active session with the students and impressed one and all with his deep knowledge of the complex issue.

Summer vacation

The pilot project for honing the communication skills of the students continued during the summer vacation of 2001 and Dr. D.Keenan, Associate Professor at Carrol College, Wisconsin conducted the classes. Ms. Greet Provoost, Director of International Admission, Carroll College, Wisconsin visited the campus and addressed a gathering of students and their parents to share valuable information on food, social issues and visa hassles related to overseas study.

27th July 2001

The Governor of Punjab, Lt. Gen. J.F.R.Jacob *PVSM* visited the school on inaugurated the new computer centre that had been named after him. The *Jacob Computer Centre* was fully equipped with 31 multi media computers networked through virtual LAN drive with remote boot technology, and provided for an entire class of 30 with a computer to student ratio of 1:1. The Governor marveled at the new computer centre and had an informal chat with the various games’ captains in the school library.

15th May, 2001

The students were treated to a delightful evening put up by the staff members on—the World Family Day. When the headmaster announced that a staff show was on the cards, the bemused students rubbed their hands in anticipation and speculated on what their teachers would come up with. And they were not disappointed. The

show began with an orchestra item amidst thunderous applause, followed by a play presented by the Ladies Club – “*bijli da bill*”.

Mr.Beant sang *Heer* and mesmerized the audience with his resonant voice. His song was followed by a vibrant guitar performance from Mr.Dinesh Thapliyal and a melodious *Shiv Kumar Batalvi* song from the Deputy Headmaster Mr.G.Raturi. A play and a mime were well appreciated by the audience but it was Giddha and Bhangra that stole the evening.

Mr.Glenn Hutton matched the school teachers step by step in Bhangra and his enthusiasm aptly summed up the mood for the memorable evening. The show was delightfully peppered with the humourous compering of Mr.Shanni and Mr.Sodhi. Mr.Shanni’s self written folk number “*Tu bole na bole nakhra bol paya*” was the last item of the evening and proved to be an icing on the cake.

September 2001

The second J.K.Kate Memorial IPSC Debate was held in the month of September. Debators from nine public schools tested their oratorical skills on the topic „*As all peaceful means to solve the Kashmir problem have failed, war is the only solution* “. Brig. D.S.Grewal, Station Commander Nabha was the guest of the evening and the event was chaired by Prof. Inder Mohan of Government Ripudaman College Nabha. Scindia School Gwalior won the coveted trophy and Divya Sharda from PPS bagged the second individual position.

2nd October 2001

PPS won the IPSC Hockey Championship on October 2nd for the second time in three years when they beat S.S.Sujanpur Tira in a keenly contested final at Shri Dashmesh Academy Anandpur Sahib. A total of nine teams had taken part in the tournament and the school team was in its peak form throughout the week. The school hockey captain Amanpreet Singh led from the front and impressed all with his cunning tricks with the hockey stick.

12th October – 15th October 2001

The School hosted the IPSC Basketball Tournament for second year in a row. Given the total number of teams (19), it was a mega event organized to perfection under the watchful eyes of Mr.I.S.Koonar. Co.B.S.Ahluwalia declared the Meet open amidst much fanfare and applause. The final match was ultimately played

between Modern School Delhi and Mayo College Ajmer, which the former won in a gritty display of athleticism. Maj.Gen.O.P.Nandrajog (Ex B-1), and officially the first student of the school was the chief guest at the closing ceremony and presented the trophy to the winning team.

November 11

Lt.Gen G.S.Brar *PVSM, AVSM, VSM*, President Executive Committee School Board of Governors presided over as the Chief Guest of the 41st Founders' Day and expressed his satisfaction at the brilliant result of Board classes.

17th to 19th December 2001

The school hosted the 38th All India IPSC Athletics Meet. It was yet again after the Basketball IPSC that PPS hosted the Athletics IPSC Meet on its grounds for two years in succession. This time around, the school athletes were in no mood to settle for the runners up trophy on their home ground and came out with all guns blazing. The boys bagged a total of 13 medals, six gold, two silver and five bronze. Harpreet Singh struck gold in broad and triple jump while Vishal Vig, Simranjeet Singh, Harpinder Singh and Jai Kooner also clinched the gold medal in their respective events.

Among the girls Divya Sharda won the gold in broad jump. Ultimately PPS boys lifted the championship trophy presented by Lt.Gen. J.F.R.Jacob, the Governor of Punjab.

Last week December

The PPS riders impressed the elite gathering at Chandigarh horse show sponsored by ONA Chapter, Chandigarh and Hero Honda Motors Ltd. Though PPS students were always passionate about their riding and regularly won the IPSC Equestrian event literally every year, it was during this time that the feats of PPS riders were beginning to get noticed at the national and international level. The commitment of the school riders and the hardwork put in by the school riding instructor Risaldar Major Subedar Singh at unearthly hours made people sit up and take notice of the precocious talent of PPS equestrian team.

January 2002

Senior Jumna House welcomed Mr.Shaju Antony as their new housemaster at the Cock House Party. The boys bade a touching farewell to Mr.M.S.Chadha during

whose tenure the house attained new heights of glory and won the prestigious cock house trophy for three consecutive years within a span of four years. Later in March, there was a change of guard at Ravi house with Mr.S.S.Atwal being replaced by Mr.M.K.Panda.

The students immediately took to roller skating after the construction of a skating rink at the new sports complex at the Junior Wing. A skating coach from Patiala regularly visited the school and instructed boys and girls on finer techniques of the captivating sport.

February 2002

A great buzz was evident in the school corridors when Mr.Bishen Singh Bedi, the former captain of the Indian Cricket team visited the school campus in the month of February. His visit was facilitated by Prof.Surinderbir Singh Sethi of Ripudaman College of Nabha, a close friend of Mr.Bishen Bedi. The former dashing off spinner, famous for calling a spade a spade was thoroughly impressed with the school infrastructure and shared the memories of his playing days with the students and the headmaster. Later he obliged for an interview with the editorial board of the Chronicle.

Around the same time SPIC MACAY staged a Punjabi play courtsey The ONA in the auditorium „*Jis Lahore nahi dekhaya, Oh jamaya hi nahin*“ written and directed by eminent theatre personality Padma Shri Habib Tanvir. The guests and students thoroughly enjoyed the captivating performance of the professional artists and got a clue or two on finer aspects of acting for their own house shows.

26th March 2002

Mr.Partap Singh Bajwa, PWD Cabinet Minister Punjab and an old nabhaite visited the school alongwith Mr.Randeep Singh the MLA of Nabha. He attributed his success to the formative years of his life spent at PPS Nabha and promised the school all possible help on his part.

With propound grief we record the sad demise of Mr.M.N.Tankha. He was one of the founding teachers of the PPS Nabha and a pioneer in his own right. His contribution in strengthening the healthy tradition of the school has been immense. On behalf of Mr.M.S.Bedi, the headmaster and entire PPS family we express our condolences

(An obituary – Chronicle April 2002)

Summer Vacation 2002

A group of students attended a function organized by SPIC MACAY at Indian Military Academy Dehradun. Mr.Shanni and Mrs.Lalitha were the teacher escorts and it was once in a lifetime opportunity for the PPS contingent to meet music legends like Ustad Dagar Ali, Ustad Asad Ali, Ustad Bismillah Khan – the famous *Shehnai Vada*, and Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, the flute maestro.

After skating, Parasailing captured the imagination of adventure seeking students of the school. A Parasailing Club was launched and PPS became the first school in the country to introduce parasailing as a regular activity. The Headmaster Mr.Bedi opined that three activities i.e., swimming, horse riding, and parasailing were instrumental in building the self confidence of students and removing their fears and he expressed satisfaction that all three were made available to the students in school.

21st September 2002,

The third Padma Shri J.K.Kate Memorial Debate was held on the topic „*The old generation always finds faults with the young generation* “. Divya Sharda, who had obtained the second individual position in 2001 bagged the first position while Welham Girls’ School Dehradun carried home the trophy.

Divya was also adjudged as the best debator at the Goldstein Memorial English Debate at YPS Patiala held later in the year.

Close on the heels of IPSC Debate, Lt.Gen.Vijay Oberoi *PVSM, AVSM, VSM* delivered the 3rd Lt.Gen. Gurbachan Singh memorial lecture on the topic „*Important facets of National Security* “.

Second Term 2002

Teams from seven schools sweated it out for the 2nd IPSC Girls Cricket Championship hosted by PPS Nabha. PPS team was led by Tania Singh and came to the grounds firing on all cylinders and inspired by the slogan they had adopted *Smash it like Sachin*. The final, however was played between MGD School and Mayo Girls with the former winning and lifting the trophy. Mr.Reetinder Singh Sodhi did the honours by presenting the trophy to the winning team and presided over the closing ceremony.

Founders' Day

Captain Amrinder Singh, the Chief Minister of Punjab was the guest of honour at the Annual Founders' Day. Being a product of Lawrence School Sanawar, he dwelt on the bonding that students of residential schools develop for each other *"You will face challenges everywhere. Things are moving fast and there is a virtual revolution everyday and the world has become the so-called global village. You must keep in mind that the old school ties network always helps. There is a bond of affection among the old boys that last a lifetime irrespective of the year you passed out from the school"*.

Maj.Gen.O.P.Nandrajog VSM (Ex B-1) became the first recipient of the prestigious *ROLL OF HONOUR* Award that was awarded for the first time in 2002. He was among the first five students to join the IMA from PPS. Commissioned into the Brigade of Guards, he saw action in the 1971 war and later served as Military Attache to Sweden. During the Kargil war, he was given command of 121 (Independent) Infantry Brigade that played a decisive role in the ultimate outcome of the conflict.

March 2003

The end of the academic session in saw the retirement of another stalwart in Mr.Ram Singh, the Head of the Mathematics Department and the former housemaster of Senior Jumna House, after three decades of dedicated service to the school. With a razor-sharp memory that could recall the name of each and every student that he taught, Mr.Ram Singh's distinctive style of teaching mathematics and eloquent conversational abilities endeared him to a whole generation of students. Mr.Ram Singh was the last serving teacher from Mr.Kate's cherished era and his retirement evoked sadness in the entire school community.

Ram Singh is R L Stevenson "s successful man – "The man is a success who has lived well, laughed often and loved life; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task and who leave the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who never lacked appreciation of earth "s beauty or failed to express it; who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had". Ram Singh gave the best he had to the Punjab Public School Nabha. How should Nabhaites honour him? As Hazlitt put it, they alone deserve a monument who do not need one – that is, who have built themselves a monument in

the minds and memories of men. Ram Singh is one of these men. His place in the history of Punjab Public School is assured.

(Mr.B.S.Bhatnagar Former Head of English Department and Housemaster of Senior Ravi House, and former Headmaster St.Paul's Darjeeling, Lawrence School Lovedale, Daly College Indore and Indian School Muscat)

April 2003,

Mr.Shanni was replaced by Mr.Rajwinder Singh Panag as the new housemaster of Senior Sutlej house. An old nabhaite of 1985 batch and an avid reader, Mr.Panag had earlier taken charge of the hiking and mountaineering activities after Mr.S.S.Atwal had left the school for greener pastures.

PPS riders finally got a national platform to prove their true mettle and display their skills when the school equestrian team was invited to participate at the *Delhi Horse Show* organized by the Army Riding and Polo Club under the aegis of Equestrian Federation of India. More than 400 riders of national and international repute assembled at the Army Equestrian Centre New Delhi for the prestigious event. The seven riders from PPS led by Jaspreet Singh, Sandeep Dhillon, Prithvijit Bedi and Simardeep Singh impressed everybody with a thrilling display of horsemanship. The school equestrian team bagged a total of 19 medals not only in their own age group but other higher age groups as well. Col.Pinka Virk, an international Polo player and an old nabhaite was instrumental in motivating the school team and making them believe in their true potential. The school team came in for special praise by the Press, VIPs and the chief guest Shri Jaswant Singh, the then Union Finance Minister.

In April, the school hosted the All-India Girls' Basketball Championship. A total of ten teams participated from all parts of the country and PPS team was led by the composed and confident Nimrat Kaur. The girls put their heart and soul in all the matches they played but narrowly lost to Mayo Girls and missed out on the semi-final slot. Eventually the Welham Girls proved too good for their opponents and carried home the trophy.

During the summer vacations of 2003,

Courtesy the ONA, A group of five students accompanied by Mrs.Meena Thapar went to Derby, United Kingdom under the Derby Youth Services and Punjab Youth Exchange Programme. The fortnightly tour to U.K. was a memorable one for the school group and they visited prime tourist destinations such as Madam

Tussaud's Museum, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace. The visit was facilitated through the good offices of Old Nabhaite Capt.I.S.Dhammi, Asst.Director, Youth Services Punjab.

He later accompanied the group of students from Derby when they visited PPS. The UK students were taken to Amritsar, felicitated by Jalandhar ONA Chapter in Jalandhar, Munjals in Ludhiana and then reached Nabha.

The visiting students and officials were overwhelmed with the colourful presentation of Giddha and Bhangra and tried out rapelling and river-crossing with the members of school Hiking Club.

Around the same time Mr.R.S.Panag accompanied 13 awardees from the school to the National Award Presentation of IAYP (International Award for Young People) – the new *avatar* of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Shri Vijai Kapoor, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi presented the gold, silver and bronze medals to 101 winners from all over the country. 6 students from PPS had won the gold medal and 7 brought home the silver medals.

17th to 21st September 2003

PPS continued to maintain a record of hosting IPSC events on its grounds when it hosted the 17th IPSC Hockey Tournament. The home team had to settle for the bronze medal while MNSS Rai continued to assert their supremacy in the national game by lifting the trophy yet again. Nirbhai Singh was declared the best defender of the Tournament.

The 43rd Founders Day

was presided over by Justice O.P.Verma (Retd.), who had taken over as the new Governor of Punjab and the ex-officio Chairman of the School Board of Governors earlier during the year. A new cash award of Rs.10,000 for the best IV class employee was instituted by the ONA in the memory of Late Mr.K.K.Katyal, an ex-biology teacher sponsored by his daughters and Old Nabhaites Vandana and Archana.

The second *ROLL OF HONOUR* Award was conferred upon Rear Admiral J.S.Bedi *AVSM, VSM* (Ex J-3). A former captain of the school cricket team, Admiral Bedi was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 1st July 1969. A communication and electronic warfare specialist, he has commanded five warships during his distinguished career. Soon after, he was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral and became the first old nabhaite to become a three-star general. He was also awarded the *UYSM* (Uttar Yudh Sewa Medal).

Justice Verma inaugurated the new squash courts in the Senior Wing after the function. Shri Hanuwant Singh, scion of the erstwhile royal family of Nabha had earlier laid the foundation stone of the courts and donated a sum of Rs.20 lakhs for the construction.

January 2004

Mr.M.S.Bedi was nominated to the Governing Council of IPSC. He was also appointed as the Convenor of the IPSC Sports Committee to frame the games and sports policy for IPSC schools.

Mr.K.N.Singh , IAS (Retd.) took over the charge as New President of Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. His association with the school had been very long, and he had always taken a keen personal interest in the growth and development of PPS over the years. He later visited the school on April 4 along with Mr.Kanwar Sandhu, another Board Member and resident editor of Hindustan Times. Mr.Sandhu also happens to be an old nabhaite.

14th February,

Lt.Gen. Buch Memorial Lecture was held in the School Auditorium on and the keynote speaker was Dr.P.M.Das, IPS, IGP (India's Reserve Battalion Punjab) on the topic „*Appreciation of Adventure in Career* “. The students were exhilarated by the motivating lecture and Dr.Das gladly answered the queries during the interactive session.

The school equestrian team once again excelled at the Delhi horse show and bagged 31 medals, bettering the previous record of 19 medals by a considerable margin. S.Kamal Nain Singh, Vice Admiral Jagjit Bedi, Col.Pinka Virk and Headmaster Mr.Bedi were personally present to witness the glorious achievement of the school riders. In the first week of May, the school hosted the 13th IPSC Equestrian Meet. Needless to mention, the school won the trophy yet again. Kanupriya Raturi shattered all previous records when she obtained 95.75% marks in the ISC (Science Stream). Mandeep Kaur and Guneetpal had already crossed the 90% barrier in 1995 and 2003 respectively but Kanupriya set the bar at an even higher level.

Summer vacations 2004

Mr.Kulvir Singh Chandel, a gentlemanly English teacher and the Chief Editor of Chronicle passed away. A bachelor and a person of affable disposition, Mr.Chandel put his heart and soul in writing the *Potpourri* and was always one of the favourite with students on account of his informal nature and easy manners.

When the school reopened, Lt.Col.Ravindra Singh assumed office as the new Bursar of the school.

29th September 2004

A grand farewell party was organized for Mr.M.S.Bedi on. The school saw all round growth during the tenure of Mr.Bedi, especially in the field of games and sports. A dynamic person with excellent organizing abilities, Mr.Bedi always stood for the traditional concept of balanced and holistic education in a public school. Mr.Raturi lauded his role during the last five years and appreciated his vision and dedication for the school.

Among his major achievements were the successful hosting of a large number of IPSC tournaments in the school, initiation of Shri J.K.Kate Memorial IPSC Debate and considerable addition and renovation to the school infrastructure. He also initiated the tradition of awarding a *Roll of Honour* to one eminent Old Nabhaite during the annual Founders' Day.

He bid adieu to the school with the following message

"My parting words to all of you would be – please remember whatever you do, think first about the school. You must have a sense of belonging to this place. It is your Alma mater. You should not do anything which may in any way damage the good reputation of the school.

Never look back. Be optimistic and positive. And I am sure you will be successful."

Mr. and Mrs. Bedi donated a trophy for the Best House Show every year.

26th September 2004

Mr.R.S.Sodhi of Punjabi Department released yet another book, this time on the prime minister Dr.Manmohan Singh titled "*Ik Villakhan Shaksiat Pardhan Mantri Manmohan Singh*". Mr.H.K.Dua, Editor in Chief of The Tribune released the book at the Press Club Chandigarh.

He was also honoured for his literary activities by Shaheed Memorial International Sewa Society, Ludhiana.

In November 2004

General Sunith Francis Rodriguez took over as the Governor of Punjab. Best known for his tenure as the Chief of Army staff, General Rodriguez is widely acclaimed as a visionary and a strategist.

44th Founders' Day

Lt.Gen.Vijay Oberoi AVSM, PVSM, VSM presided over the and Mr.G.Raturi officiated as the Headmaster of the school. Major General Jasbir Singh Lidder UYSM, AVSM was conferred upon the third *ROLL OF HONOUR* Award by the Chief Guest.

Yet again a student of first batch of the 1960s, Jasbir Lidder was commissioned into the illustrious Infantry Battalion of the *Grenadiers* in June 1969. A decorated army officer, Jasbir Lidder has held many prestigious staff appointments and foreign assignments during his distinguished career.

Lt.Gen Oberoi stressed on the need of good leaders for guiding the society and ridding the world of its present ills

*„The most important quality of a leader is to set a good example. You have to excel in everything you do. This requires hard work, selflessness and a desire for perfection. With the kind of grounding that you are getting in your school, it is not at all difficult to achieve. I am very happy that your school motto is **Onward and Upward**. If you don't lose sight of it, there is no reason why you will not be good leaders.“*

December 10th,2004

The school community mourned the demise of Mr.O.P.Sharma, the former Head of the Hindi Department and one of the pioneer staff members of the school.

Mr.Sharma had settled for a peaceful life at Nabha after his retirement and regularly blessed the school community with his presence at various school functions. Later in the month of June, Mr.SML Nigam, another beloved teacher also reached his heavenly abode.

THE SIXTH PHASE ...

14Dec ,2004

A special assembly was held in the school auditorium in December to welcome the new Headmaster, Commodore I.L.Syal. Mr.Kanwar Sandhu, Honourable Member, the Board of Governors formally presided over the introduction and shed light on the distinguished background of the new Headmaster.

An alumnus of the prestigious Bishop Cotton School Shimla, Comm. Syal is one of the leading educationists of the country and an academic visionary. Besides a post graduate degree in English and Meteorology/Atmospheric Sciences, Pune, he holds a postgraduate diploma in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations. Comm. Syal is a trained psychologist and has served on the panel for selection of Defence Officers.

He has held the positions of

Principal, Aditya Birla Public School, Renukot,

Principal, Naval Academy, INS Chilka,

Principal, Sainik School Korukonda (AP)

Prior to joining PPS, Commodore Syal had served as the Principal of a leading public school in Delhi – *Manav Sthali School*.

Jan 2005

Commodore Syal gave a message to the entire school community and shared his vision and priorities

“The year 2005 has begun and we need to ensure that we strive hard to live up to the present day demands of the educational field and prepare our children to be better human beings and good citizens of this nation. Our aim should be to educate the mind of the child so that he is more creative and an independent thinker with his own originality. The students must be groomed in a manner so that they are able to withstand the requirements of this fast-changing world, especially in this era of information and technology. We need to emphasize more on the core strength of human values which are eroding rapidly in our materialistic approach to life”.

Mr.Shaju Antony, the lively English teacher and housemaster of Senior Jumna House left for U.S.A in search of greener pastures and was replaced by Mr.Dinesh Thapliyal, an excellent mathematics teacher who enjoyed huge popularity among the students on account of his versatile sporting abilities and cordial nature.

Mr.M.K.Dua, Head of the Chemistry Department retired from the school after many years of dedicated service. Mr.Dua’s charming presence at the Science labs

was so firmly etched in the minds of school fraternity that it took a long time for everybody to come to terms with his retirement. His ready humour and affectionate nature would always occupy a special place in the heart of those students who were lucky enough to be his students.

6-7th February 2005,

The entire school was thoroughly entertained by professional theatre artists from Patiala. Two plays were staged in the school auditorium in quick succession. On 6th February “Court Martial” highlighted the social evil of caste discrimination in the Indian Society and on 26th February, Mr.R.S.Sodhi’s joy knew no bounds as he saw his play “Hind di Chaddar” being enacted on stage after a long gap of 29 years.

The school equestrian team once again bettered its own record by bagging a whopping 51 medals and prizes at the Delhi Horse Show. The feats of Simardeep Singh, Vattandeep Singh (who emerged champions in their respective categories) and other riders came in for special praise from Gen.J.J.Singh, the Chief of the Army Staff.

The list of PPS staff members heading eminent schools grew longer when Mr.SherJung Singh Chahal, Head of the Geography Department took over as the Principal of Baba Gandha Singh Public School at Barnala. Mr.Chahal is still heading the school with aplomb and guiding it in the right direction with his innovative ideas.

Summer vacations 2005

Three students from PPS went to U.K. under the Derby Exchange Programme courtesy ONA and Old Nabhaite Captain I.S.Dhami, Assitant Director, Youth Services , Jalandhar accompanied the students.

July 2005

Girls from VDJS Hissar won the prestigious 5th J.K.Kate Memorial IPSC Debate (2005), held on the topic “*Pakistan is seriously reciprocating the Indian gestures for building up bridges of peace for solving the Kashmir issue* “. Dr.Harish Dhillon, Principal YPS, Mohali was the chief guest of the evening and Mrs. Nishi Mishra chaired the debate.

A magnificent *flood-lit* horse-riding display was held later in the evening, which was well appreciated by the guests from 11 schools.

Founders' Day

General S.F.Rodriguez (Retd.) *PVSM, VSM*, the Governor of Punjab was the Guest of Honour at the 45th Founders' Day. The *ROLL OF HONOUR* Award 2005 was conferred upon Mr.Gurinder Singh (Ex S-9) IPS. A top academic achiever, Gurinder cleared the prestigious Civil Services Exam in his first attempt and became the first Nabhaite to be selected for the elite Indian Police Services. Gurinder was promoted to the rank of Joint Secretary in the Government of India in March 1991 and Additional Secretary in February 2004.

Later during the day Mr.Kamal Nain Singh, President Executive Committee, inaugurated the newly renovated Administrative Office in Kairon Block.

March 2006,

Mr.V.S.Moudgill took over as the Principal of Modern Secular College of Education at Malerkotla. Mr.Moudgill, the former housemaster of Beas House had served the school for almost two decades with dedication and zeal. He taught his subject with passion and inspired the students to have a genuine interest in English language. The students would always eagerly await his periods - the hallmark of a truly great teacher.

24th May to 27th May 2006

PPS hosted the Boys IPSC Basketball Championship Twelve teams including the school team locked horns for the trophy. Maj.Gen.(Retd.) Sureshwar Tewari, an Old Nabhaite was the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony and the school team was led by Gurmukh Singh. PPS lost in the semi-final to the more agile Delhi Public School that ultimately went on to win the Championship for the third time in a row. Gurmukh's awesome ability for consistently scoring three-pointers was the highlight of the tournament and he ultimately emerged as the highest scorer of the Event.

The school equestrian team bagged a total of 45 medals and prizes (including 13 gold) at the Delhi Horse Show, continuing the trend of its glorious performance at the mega Event. Earlier the PPS riders had excelled at the newly started Haryana Horse Show and bagged 14 medals.

September 2006

The school hockey (U-17) team lifted the IPSC Championship trophy held at The Scindia School Gwalior. Led by the inspiring Manvir Singh Rai, the team displayed a brilliant passing game and executed their plans to perfection. The hero of the tournament was Amrao Singh, the school goalkeeper who ensured a 3-1 victory for school team in the tie-break after the final match had ended in a 2-2 draw against MNSS Rai. The final match had been shifted to MNSS Rai due to incessant rainfall at Gwalior.

The school team later participated in the prestigious Nehru Cup since the winner of IPSC tournament gets a direct entry to the National level tournament.

Mayo Girls' Ajmer won the 6th PadmaShree J.K.Kate Memorial IPSC Debate in the month of September while VDJS Hissar walked away the Runners up trophy. Mr.Vilas Kate, son of Late Shri J.K.Kate was the Guest of Honour and awarded the trophy to debators of the winning school.

Second Term 2006

PPS became a regional member of Round Square – a network of around 70 elite public schools from all parts of the world sharing a common philosophy based on IDEALS – the pillars of Round Square

Internationalism

Democracy

Environment

Adventure

Leadership

Service

Kurt Hahn – a German educationist and visionary had founded the Round Square and laid down the IDEALS as a comprehensive approach to education. Mrs.Daman Duggal, Principal Vivek High School Chandigarh and Mrs.Nishi Mishra, Principal VDJS Hissar inspected the school for its induction into Round Square and forwarded a report to Mr.Sumer Singh, Principal Daly College Indore and Regional Director of Indian and Gulf Region of Round Square. PPS was immediately accepted, as the school philosophy dovetailed perfectly with the IDEALS. Students from the School regularly attend regional conferences spread evenly throughout the year at various member schools

Senior Regional Conference Classes IX to XII

Junior Regional Conference Classes VII to IX

Sub Junior Regional Conference Classes IV to VI

Around the same time, Mr.B.R.Gordon replaced Mr.M.K.Panda as the new housemaster of Senior Ravi House. Mr.Panda had finished his tenure with a high degree of success and Ravi house witnessed an overall improvement under his able guidance.

46th Founders' Day

Mr.K.R.Lakhanpal I.A.S. Chief Secretary Punjab presided over the celebrations. An eminent bureaucrat of high standing, Mr.Lakhanpal had joined the IAS cadre in 1972.

ONA AWARDS

Comm.Syal announced a large number of awards instituted by various Old Nabhaites. To begin with "ONA scholarships for fully residential meritorious students" of PPS had gone up to Rs.50,000 per year (Rs.10,000 per year are awarded to a meritorious student from each class). This scholarship is being sponsored by Dr.Rupinder Brar (Ex S-291). The ONA also introduced two new awards in 2006.

- a) "ONA Late Sardarni Bishan Kaur Award for Best Student from Rural Background", sponsored by Mr.G.S.Benipal (S-420) of 1981 batch. The school basketball captain Gurmukh Singh became the first recipient of this Award
- b) "ONA Award for the Best Teacher decided purely by the students", sponsored by Mr.Gurkiran Dhillon (J-735). Mr.Dinesh Thapliyal from Senior Wing and Ms.Ginni Bedi from Junior Wing were the first recipients of this Award
- c) Besides Vandana Katyal (Ex R-344) and Archana Katyal (Ex R-307), daughters of Late Mr.K.K.Katyal, ex-biology teacher had also announced an "ONA Late KK Katyal Memorial Award for Best Karamchari". Five best Class IV employees are selected for this cash prize amounting to Rs.2,000 each.

Mr. Darshan Singh Dhaliwal (Ex S-5), a successful USA based entrepreneur with a business empire worth more than 2 billion dollars, was conferred upon the *ROLL OF HONOUR* Award by the chief guest, Mr.Lakhanpal. A renowned philanthropist, Mr.Dhaliwal had earlier established a Chair for Punjab-Indian Studies in the name of his Late father Subedar Kartar Singh Dhaliwal in the University of Wisconsin and provided a large number of scholarships to meritorious students from PPS for higher education in the USA.

January 2007

Justice B.C.Rajput, member of the Punjab Human Rights Commission visited the school and addressed the students in the auditorium. Speaking on human rights,

Justice Rajput emphasized on the need of the educating common people on various laws in place for safeguarding the human rights. He mentioned the fact that Punjab Human Rights Commission is an active body and had dealt with 83,000 complaints during 2006.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. AND MRS. HUNDAL

Mr.D.S.Hundal, Head of the English Department, former housemaster of Beas House and a versatile sportsman retired after an active service of more than 23 years. With a passion for hockey, volleyball and outdoor sports, Mr.D.S.Hundal's fitness and agility at the time of his retirement could put many a youngster to shame. He was also the Managing Editor of the Chronicle. Mr.M.S.Chadha took over as the new Head of English Department after the retirement of Mr.Hundal. His better half Mrs. Hundal, a beloved Punjabi teacher in the Junior Wing also retired after a short gap. She would always be fondly remembered for showering her maternal affection on the tiny tots of Junior Wing.

Close on the heels of Mr.Hundal's retirement, Mr.Dinesh Thapliyal (Mathematics), and Mr.Jaswinder Singh (English) also left the school for better prospects.

Mr.Russelljeet Singh Khatra, an old Nabhaite took over as the new housemaster of Senior Jumna House from Mr.Thapliyal. He had earlier also been appointed as the first Round Square representative of the School.

April 16th to May 26th 2007

Ms. Anita Mearns from Canada conducted a workshop on English language in the Junior Wing . She conducted the workshop separately for teachers and students.

March-April 2007

PPS continued their good show at the Delhi Horse Show organized by the Army Polo and Riding Club. The school equestrian team led by Vikramjit Singh bagged 35 medals (including 8 gold) and many cash prizes. More than 500 thorough bred mounts from various parts of the country had participated in the Show. Harjinder Khosa and Vattandeep Bhullar were the other riders from PPS who created a stir with their stupendous performance.

The Riding team continued to impress by winning the IPSC Equestrian Meet hosted by the school a record 15th time in a row. Mr.Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Cabinet Minister Punjab (PWD) presented the trophy at the closing ceremony. As a matter of fact, PPS had won the IPSC Riding trophy with such monotonous

regularity year after year that the school team's success has now become a foregone conclusion in this event. It must be said to the credit of Risaldar Saudagar Singh and the school riders that they have never rested on their laurels, and it is their regular and unrelenting hard work that has resulted in the monopoly of PPS on the IPSC trophy. PPS riders also found themselves on the front cover of *Simply Punjabi*, a supplement of the prestigious National magazine *India Today*. The detailed article highlighted the glorious feats of the young riders and the rigorous training behind their continued success.

The school introduced the **Dreams and Teams** project aimed at developing young leaders and global citizens through sports and cross-cultural awareness. Raghav Verma and Sangram Singh were selected to represent PPS Nabha at the Dreams and Teams Festival at The Heritage School Kolkata, in collaboration with Youth Sports Trust. Mr. Mohit Joshi accompanied the two boys to the event. Earlier the school had conducted Dreams and Teams Mini-Festival in the school campus. 25 young leaders planned the Mini-festival christened *FUNRISE – 2007* and more than 80 students from the Junior Wing participated in Statue Dance, Relay Race and Art Competition. The school Bursar Col. Ravindra Singh presided over the function.

Some time during First term

The School Athletics Team led by Amolak Singh had also narrowly missed the Athletics Championship and won the runners up trophy at Pilani.

On 1st June, 2007

PPS once again made a mark in high altitude mountaineering when Raghav Verma scaled the peak of Mount *Deo Tibba* under an IPSC Expedition. It was for the first time that IPSC had organized and sponsored an expedition. 26 students from PPS Nabha, RIMD Dehradun, Sainik School Kunjpura and MNSS Rai were shortlisted for the pre-expedition training at the Directorate of Mountaineering and Allied Sports Manali and PPS was represented by Raghav Verman, Anuj Sood and Sangram Singh.

Col. Prem Chand, a renowned mountaineer flagged off the expedition from Manali. Col. Prem Prakash, the Commandant of RIMC Dehradun, Mr. G. Raturi and other dignitaries were personally present at the flagging off ceremony. 13 boys trekked for four days to reach the base camp and finally reached the summit of Mount *Deo Tibba* (Abode of the *Devtas*) on June 10 2007. Raghav Verma from PPS was

among the successful climbers to reach the plateau shaped summit of Mount *Deo Tibba*.

Dr.S.Sampath, Head of the Commerce Department and housemaster of Sr.Beas House joined Sri Krishnaswamy College of Education for women as Principal at Pondicherry. Dr.Sampath had taught at PPS for ten years and commanded huge respect from students for the zeal and energy that he put into teaching of commerce and accountancy. Mr.R.S.Khatra took over as the new Head of the Department of Commerce and Mr.Rajesh Rai succeeded Dr.Sampath as the new Housemaster of Beas house.

September 2007

PPS won the seventh Shri JK Kate Memorial IPSC Debate on the topic “*Judiciary must overrule Legislature and Executive*”. A record total of 16 schools participated in the annual event and Mr.Justice M.M.Kumar, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court was the Guest of Honour. Namrata Majhail and Sumit Khuddian spoke with poise and confidence and came in for special praise from the judges and guests alike. Mr.Amandeep Sandhu, Principal Sherwood School Nainital presented the trophy.

PPS became the first school in Punjab to win the prestigious *International School Award* accredited by the British Council. The Award came in the wake of school actively inculcating international curriculum to ensure that students become learned global citizens. The school had entered into partnership for exchange of views with two schools in the United Kingdom – Lodge Park Technology College, Corby and Derwent Community School, Derwent, Derby. The students also organized projects and celebrated International Days such as Labour Day, International Human Rights Day, Earth Day, Red Cross Day, Commonwealth Day and International Friendship Day. Mrs.Meena Thapar, Head Junior Wing had organized the entire project with success under her watchful eye.

47th Founders Day of the school on 7th November 2007

Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, the Chief Minister of Punjab presided over the Founders’ Day Function. Comm. Syal paid rich tributes to the Old Nabhaites who had earned a big name for themselves and brought glory to their alma mater.

“An active old boys/alumni association of any public school is a pillar of strength to that school. The Punjab Public School Nabha has the single largest contribution

of any school to the country "s armed forces. PPS today can claim to be the nation "s sword arm – out of the country "s seven Army commanders, two belong to this prestigious institution – Lt.Gen T.K.Sapru, GOC- In- C, Western Command and Lt.Gen O.P.Nandrajog, GOC-in-C, Central Army Command. The largest command of the Navy is again headed by an Old-Nabhiate, Vice-Admiral J.S.Bedi. He is the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command in Mumbai. We also have two serving Generals in the U.N.Forces – Lt.Gen. Jasbir Singh Lidder in Sudan, and Major General Bikram Singh in Congo. The school also boasts of having 13 serving „General “ rank (Major Generals and Lt.Generals) officers and almost over 150 officers of the rank of Colonels and above in the armed forces.

This great institution has produced eminent industrialists/businessmen of repute. There are over 100 school alumni who are eminent doctors in the field of medical profession”.

Lt.Gen. Tej Kumar Sapru (S-42) was conferred upon the prestigious *ROLL OF HONOUR* Award by the Chief Guest. He had the distinction of being the first student to sign the “*Honours Book* “ of the school which was introduced during 1963 for those who excelled in academics. In 1965, he was commissioned in the Indian Army in the Infantry (The 4th Gorkha Rifles) and saw action during the 1971 war with Pakistan. He was awarded the Chief of Army Staff Commendation in 1985 and the *Yudh Sewa Medal* for distinguished service in operations in 1999.

Mr.M.S.Chadha and Mrs.Jasbir Kaur from the Senior and Junior Wing respectively were conferred upon the Best Teacher Award. The chief guest spoke about the need to improve the literacy rates in Punjab with special emphasis on female literacy. He congratulated the producing such a large number of officers for the armed forces and expressed special delight on witnessing the riding display by girls.

Close on the heels of Founders’ Day celebrations, PPS hosted the IPSC Boys’ (U-19) Hockey Championship. Six teams from various IPSC schools participated in the Tournament and Mr.L.S.Ranawat, Executive Director, SAI, NSNIS, Patiala presided over the opening ceremony. MNSS Rai continued to maintain a slight edge over PPS and beat them in the final to lift the trophy. Ajay Kumar Rathi from the same school was the highest goal scorer of the tournament while Karanbir Singh of PPS won the best defender Award.

January 28, 2008

was a proud day for the entire school community as distinguished Old Nabhaites led by the three *Roll of Honour* Awardees Lt.Gen.O.P.Nandrajog, Vice Admiral J.S.Bedi and Lt.Gen.T.K.Sapru gathered at PPS for a memorable get together of distinguished Old Nabhaites. The idea of the get together was conceived by Commodore Syal and the Old Nabhaites promptly gave their consent to the Headmaster's call. Also present were Maj.Gen.Vinay Sharma, Maj.Gen.G.S.Dhillon, Maj.Gen.Sureshwar Tiwari, Brig.A.S.Jassar, Brig.Deepak Vashisht, Brig.Anil Kayastha, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Mr.Suresh Mittal, Chief Engineer PWD, S.Harinder Singh and many others who had carved out a niche for themselves in their chosen fields.

The guests were given a rousing welcome and they joined the staff members for a cup of tea before witnessing a spectacular show in the evening by the students of Junior Wing. Mr.K.N.Singh, President, Executive Committee of the school Board of Governors felicitated the guests. Mr.Kanwar Sandhu, Dr.Jashanjot Bhangu and Mr.Kedal Bansal were also present on the auspicious occasion.

On 29th January,

The distinguished guests addressed the students in a special assembly organized in the school auditorium and shared their fond memories of days spent at PPS. They spoke with nostalgia of their teachers, Mr.Cowell, Mr.Bhave and Mr.Bhatnagar and called upon the teaching faculty to become perfect role models for their students and lead with example. Lt.Gen Nandrajog gifted a horse to the School Riding Club and Admiral Bedi presented a beautiful model of latest war cruise INS Talwar.

February 2008

Inderpreet Kaur, a student of Class XII visited Japan under an exchange programme sponsored by Youth for Understanding India. She was one of ten students selected from elite public schools after a rigorous written exam and personal interview. She spent almost one month with her host, Mrs.Hiroko Fujiwara, a retired school principal, and attended classes at Matsuyama Higashi High School at Matsuyama.

November 2008,

Gurmanpreet Singh Sidhu visited Bangkok, Thailand to attend the AFS Cultural Programme. His visit was facilitated by the school's tie up with Delhi based The Global Educational and Leadership Foundation.

Mrs. Anita Scammel (nee Williams) visited the school with her husband and taught the students at Junior Wing for a few days. She had started her teaching career at PPS during 1967-69, and had casually mentioned to the Headmaster during an earlier meeting that she was on the verge of retiring in England. Commodore Syal requested her to visit PPS and retire from the very place where her teaching journey began almost four decades ago. Mrs. Williams obliged and lit up the campus with her cheerful presence. She shared her feelings in an article for the chronicle

"It has been a very heart-warming experience to come back to PPS. We have been so welcome here that I still feel part of the family, after all these years. The network of friendships going back to the classroom, the house and the dorm are very strong indeed".

8th May 2008

A farewell party was organized on to bid farewell to the School Bursar Lt.Col.Ravindra Singh and welcome the new Bursar Col.Alamjeet Singh. Lt.Col. Ravindra Singh had played an important role in streamlining the administrative work and improved the overall efficiency. His personal interest in the Riding Club had seen it attain glorious heights during his tenure. Commodore Syal had a special word of praise for his organizing abilities.

Col.Alamjeet Singh, an alumnus of the prestigious King George School Ajmer had been an outstanding sportsman during his school and college days and took an active part in dramatics. He had joined the elite Dogra Regiment of the Army in 1973, and taken premature retirement in 1998 to take over as the Chief Security Officer of the Punjabi University Patiala. Col.Alamjit is loved by the students and staff alike for his affectionate nature and prompt redressal of the grievances.

23rd September to 26th September 2008

PPS simultaneously hosted the IPSC (U-17 and U-15) Hockey Championship on the school grounds from. A total of sixteen teams (eight in each category) arrived at PPS to compete for the coveted trophy. Mr.Kailey, Dean Academics, NIS Patiala declared the Meet Open and set the ball rolling. PPS Nabha and MNSS Rai reached the finals in both the categories and it was the faster brand of hockey

displayed by the *Raists* that ensured their victory in both the categories. Former Olympian and Captain of the Indian Hockey Team Sardar Pargat Singh, Director Sports, Punjab presented the trophy to the victorious teams. Prabhjot Singh of The PPS was declared the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

The Eighth Padma Shri JK Kate Memorial Debate was held in the month of September on the topic "*The row over the Olympic torch was an opportunity for India to put 1962 on an even keel*". Srijan Shukla from PPS shared the first position with two other students and Pinegrove School Sabathu lifted the trophy. The debate was chaired by Mrs.Gunmeet Bindra, Principal VDJS Hissar and the chief guest Maj.Gen.R.S.Chand gave away the trophy and prizes.

In October 2008

MNSS Rai beat The PPS yet again in a keenly contested final at YPS Patiala to lift the U-19 Hockey Championship Trophy and complete the hat-trick. However, the school team came up with an inspiring display and might have won the trophy but for a missed penalty. Rupinder Singh of PPS was declared the best defender of the tournament.

Continuing their winning spree, the school Riding Team won the *Northern India Inter Public Schools Equestrian Meet* and bagged 86 medals out of a total of 120.

26th October 2008

Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Honourable Chief Minister of Haryana presided over the 48th Founders' Day. The Headmaster read out the annual report and highlighted the achievements of the school during the year, noteworthy being the "UKIERI" project – a cluster of 10 schools from India and U.K. sharing a mutual partnership under the aegis of United Kingdom India Educational Research Institute.

The *ROLL OF HONOUR* Award was conferred upon Professor Rajinder M.Gupta (J-7), one of the four Gupta brothers who had simultaneously joined the school when it opened in 1960. A science graduate and Ph.D in electrical engineering and Applied Mathematics, Dr.Gupta changed track later in his career and joined the Management and Marketing Field. An adjunct Professor at The Kellogg School of Management at Illinois, Dr.Gupta is a leading Management Consultant for top multinational companies. He had earlier visited the school to give an enlightening lecture on "*Global Economic Crisis and American Presidential Elections*".

The chief guest gave away the trophies and prizes to meritorious students and The ONA *Best Teacher Award* was presented to Mr.N.S.Deol and Miss Amandeep Kaur Kalra from Senior and Junior Wing respectively.

Ocotober 31st to November 2nd 2008

The school hosted the 45th IPSC Athletic Meet for Boys and Girls from. The school athletic team (boys) under the expert guidance of Mr.Jaipal Singh came out with all guns blazing and gave MNSS Rai, their closest sporting rival in modern times, a run for their money. Records tumbled one after the other as the school athletes stamped their authority and class. The following new records were created at the Meet.

Karan Singh (Hammer Throw)
Previous Record: 23.73 metres
New Record: 26.04 metres

Karanbir Singh (5 Km. Walk)
Previous Record: 30 minutes, 28.40 seconds
New Record : 28 minutes, 39.40 seconds

Kiranjit Kaur Bhullar (5 Km. Walk)
Previous Record: 37 minutes, 40 seconds
New Record: 35 minutes, 46.80 seconds

Other than the record holders Jaskamal, Harjinder, Guntaj, Jagsir, Gurinder, Rupinder and Amandeep came up with praiseworthy performances. However, the highlight of the event was Ameet's Singh breathtaking victory in the blockbuster 100 m Race. He scorched the track from the word go and won the event in emphatic fashion, igniting a frenzied celebration in the PPS camp. The Chief Guest Mrs.Kamaljit Kaur Sandhu, a former Olympian presented the trophy to PPS team and Mr.Jaipal Singh once again proved his mettle as a top-quality coach.

18th December to 23rd December 2008

Five students from the School – Gurteg Singh, Ravraj Dhaliwal, Gurinder Singh, Abhishek Garg and Taranjot Singh, accompanied by the School RS rep Mr.Russelljeet Singh Khatra attended the four-day Junior Regional Round Square Conference held at The Millenium School, Dubai. The students thoroughly

enjoyed the picturesque malls and unforgettable desert safari at Dubai and widened their perspectives after interactive sessions with Ms.Aida al Busaidy, a TV show host in Dubai and Mr.Brian Wilkey, an England based Industrialist and noted philanthropist.