



THE OLD SANAWARIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Dear Old Sanawarians,

Spring arrived, bringing with it renewed zeal and spirit, and the OSS took advantage of this. It is our constant endeavour to bring together our glorious community, whether it be through Polo or Cricket or any other event. And like the spring, our events also embodied the new - both in terms of essence and faces.

Little, did we realise how soon we would be reaching for those totems of global relevance....live sustainably, support families, look to the future with optimism, be inclusive, to be guiding lights. We, like the rest of the world, find ourselves paralyzed by the Corona virus, a pandemic that is forcing us all to think, work & live differently.

With establishments closed and offices operating out of homes, life has taken a dramatic turn. This has given us that rare "time" to reflect on what's important in life. Can we find solutions in stories that bring us together in times of isolation? Is this a reminder to slow down? Can social distancing actually bring us closer?

If you're looking for stories to see you through these challenging times, let the amazing articles from our OS and team be your light. They make the newsletter a much awaited fixture. Do keep enriching us with your words and thoughts. You can mail your articles and ideas to us at **feedback.sanawar@gmail.com**

Stay home Stay safe & Keep reading!

- **Praneet Bubber**

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HEADMASTER'S LETTER TO OS



Himmat Dhillon

Headmaster
The Lawrence School Sanawar

Mr. Himmat S. Dhillon has led educational institutions in three countries. He had served as the Principal of **The Gandhi School, Jakarta, Indonesia** from 2008 to 2013 and the Principal & CEO of **GEMS Our Own English High School, Fujairah** since 2014. He was until recently Executive Principal of **Gems Modern Academy, Gurugram**.

An alumnus of **The Lawrence School, Sanawar** (OS '89) he was formerly Head of Department of English at **The Doon School, Dehradun**.

Mr. Dhillon has also worked as an Editor with **Harper Collins** and provided Technical Assistance as a Media & Communication Consultant through W. S Atkins to the European Union Funded Doon Valley Integrated Watershed Management Project.

He was appointed as Chairman, Debating in the **Association of National Plus Schools, Indonesia** in 2012 and the Co-Chair, Accreditation on the Committee of Management of the **Association of National Plus Schools, Indonesia** in 2013. He also served on the Board of The Jakarta Schools Football Association (JSFA), Indonesia in addition to organizing the Coco Cola Cup as well as serving on the Steering Committee of the Green Fields League, Jakarta, Indonesia.

His international-mindedness, all-round excellence and holistic development is exactly what we wish our students to showcase as the leaders of tomorrow!

Dear Old Sanawarians,

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."
-Will Durant.

Warm greetings from Sanawar!

I am pleased to share that I am writing to you from our sylvan hilltop and thankful for your solid support and good wishes, the guidance of a most supportive and enlightened Board, dedicated staff and the blessings of the Almighty! Indeed, it is not only most humbling but also a singular privilege to be entrusted this high honor. I am blessed and truly feel that I have arrived home, once again!

- The motto of Sanawar is **Never Give In** . This motto encapsulates the resilient power of our community and how much we can achieve when we work together.

It is a powerful catalyst that will continue to power our vision of a braver, kinder and better world for our coming generations that we are preparing our students to create. This is the ideal towards which we all strive.

It is most pertinent for me to draw your attention towards our schools Vision:

VISION

To produce a well-rounded, self-confident, positive young person with the following attributes:

- An inquiring and fearless mind.
- Respectful of others viewpoints.
- Believes in the values of social justice and equality.
- Leadership skills across the spectrum-social, political, commercial and cultural
- Ability to stand for others and self.

My personal leadership Vision is aligned with our school's Vision. Indeed, I am inspired by our school's Vision and will strive to extend this principle of community further; to realize that by learning and working together with respect, each one of us can achieve our individual potential. As you all are only too aware, our students, staff and families are facing an unprecedented and challenging period. In fact, the educational offerings that we all took for granted are not a practical proposition given the circumstances.

I am happy to share that we have come up with a Facilitated Virtual Learning Programme for our students by which our students will continue to receive the highest quality of education possible with the resources available to us.

To conclude, please remember that my door is always open to you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or if there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and school life.

The entire team and I at Sanawar shall continue to strive to take our school and our students to even greater heights! I can't wait to celebrate our collective successes during the 2020-2021 school year.

Never Give In!

With best regards,

Himmat S. Dhillon.

Headmaster

The Lawrence School, Sanawar.

PUNE CHAPTER MEET 2020

19th January, 2020 Euriska Restaurant

"Menaka Gandhi was my worst student. I threw her out of my class, you know. I do not remember you. That is probably because you were a good student," said Mrs. Mundkur, our 94-year-old needlework teacher and the Chief Guest at the Pune OS Chapter launch. 59 OS, ex-Staff, and spouses attended, bringing along with them the School spirit and nostalgia which hung in the air long after the 'Last Bugle Call.' The older OS found each other quickly and began reminiscing right away. The youngest ones did the same albeit with more selfies than nostalgia and the middle bunch wandered around, slightly lost till they found a classmate or a housemate. The weather was nice, the food great and the drinks aplenty, all to a backdrop of carefully selected school photographs on an eight by eight frame. The scene was just perfect for the House photographs. Siwalik House, as usual outnumbering everyone else. The words of the School Song, strongly sung by both the boys and the girls, reverberated through the rafters to the bright blue sky!!

It was a special moment for the Pune OS, many of whom had been looking forward to a Chapter formulation for a long time. A special thanks to Maj. Gen (Retd.) Kulpreet Singh who welcomed us into the fold with OS IDs hung on bright red lanyards. A round of applause for Manpreet Uppal (OS V 1996) and his team at Euriska. They closed the restaurant to public for this event and made sure nothing ran out. Many thanks to the OSS for the publicity on the Website and the individual emailers – several people reached out to me on learning about the event.



Mr. V.N Bhave, Mrs. Lata Bhave, Dr. Uday Mundloi, Mrs. Mundloi, Mrs. Kumud Mundkar and Mrs Sequiera attended the gathering.

Amongst the senior OS were KD Vartak OS58, Vivek Mundkar OS 61, Harjit Chima OS64, Sunita Kapoor OS66, Wg Cdr Pradeep Singh OS 67, Col Vijay Taode OS68, Col Vikram Advani OS71 and OS President Maj Gen Kulpreet Singh(Retd) OS79.



SANAWAR STAND UP WITH RAOUF GANGJEE

1st February 2020, Mr. Vivek Mehra's Farm House

Raouf's characteristic quiet, yet quirky humour with his unique "take" on all things Sanawarian had the audience enthralled as they laughed ...a laughter that carried far into the quiet of the balmy winter night.

The ambience was spectacular with landscaped lawns and foliage aesthetically illuminated. The setting could not have been more perfect for an evening of pure unadulterated fun!

THEMED MENU

The menu sent down a ripple of laughter as the OS fraternity moved to the different yet very familiar "Sanawar themed corners like "Charlie" with Bunsams, "Giani Da Dhaba" & "Tuck Shop" with signage that read "House Master/ Mistress signature not required on THIS tuck shop slip"! As the laughter died down, the robust singing of the school song reverberated in the quiet of the night, with each among the audience singing with pride in their hearts, emotion in the eyes and a gentle smile on their lips. The tranquil orange glow of the bonfire reflecting happiness and hope and fond memories of times spent together!!

LAUGHTER MEETS MEANING

While rib tickling, mimicking and leg pulling have always been intrinsic to every Sanawarian gathering, but from this point onwards comedy will take on a whole new form, this time with a distinct purpose



"Funny Farms" Sanawar new fundraiser, stand up comedy event was launched amidst much excitement with comedian OS, Raouf Gangjee, NBD' 84



Behind all the merry making was a pause for a cause. All ticket proceeds will be utilized to raise money for a teaching position in Sanawar.

A mentor and teacher of teachers. A professional imparting the latest teaching methodology to **"The Best School of All!"**

For details and to participate in this exciting endeavor please contact:

Ranjit K Rawlley, VBD 1983

rawlley@aol.com

+1704618636

RIANJAL SANAWAR POLO CUP 2020

2nd February 2020, Jaipur Polo Grounds, New Delhi



Sanawar Polo was revived after a gap of four years, with the help and effort of Mrs. Shaleen Virk, an Old Sanawarian, from the Batch of 1993. The event was very well organized by The Old Sanawarian Society (OSS) under the able leadership of it's President, Maj Gen Kulpreet Singh (Retd) and sponsored by Rianjal Moonshine Pvt Ltd. THE RIANJAL SANAWAR POLO CUP was held with high-octane energy and enthusiasm on a bright sunny afternoon at the Jaipur Polo Grounds, New Delhi.

It was an incredible show of strength with a turnout of more than 400 that included Old Sanawarians and many prominent personalities. Team Barnes consisted of Col. Harsh Preenja (NBD'90), Mr. Buchi Prakash, Mr. Adhiraj Singh and Col. Navjit Singh Sandhu (NBD'91), while Team Peace Stead comprised of Col. Vikramjit Singh Kahlon (HBD'93), Mr. Sunjay J Kapur, Mr. Jai Inder Singh Shergill (SBD'85) and Mr. Uday Kalaan (VBD'91). The two umpires, Lt Col Arjun Patil and Capt. Rohan Saharan did a super job.

The packed stands waited with bated breath to watch the two teams take each other on. The final score-line read 4-3 in favour of Barnes.

This was followed by a sumptuous layout of High Tea, Drinks n Dessert.

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon!!



OS LEGAL FRATERNITY LUNCH 2020

8 February 2020, Ramgarh Heritage, Panchkula.



Yes, lawyers can party too!!!

A school that was predominantly defence services oriented has produced eminent Judges and Lawyers as well from all over the country. A few years ago, the OS legal fraternity of Chandigarh met over an informal dinner to bond and relive memories.

This year a lunch was held on February 8, 2020 which was attended by around 40 lawyers and their spouses and a few judges. Justice Amol Rattan OS 1977 (Vindhya) addressed the gathering. The OSP followed, appreciating the efforts of the legal community. It was a great afternoon and it was decided to make the fraternity lunch a more expansive event!!

DUBAI CHAPTER MEET 2020, GOLF TOURNAMENT

6th March 2020, Meydan Golf Club, Dubai



The Middle East Chapter annual meet started, as usual, with an early morning round of golf at The Meydan Golf Club, Dubai. Leading the charge was Maj Gen (Retd) Kulpreet Singh. Ravi Sidhu, spouse of Aman Sidhu (Head Girl S01) took home the laser range finder win. Winning a Putting alignment device was Nikhil Ahluwalia, spouse of Sonali Bhandari Ahluwalia (N85). Payal Singh Vir (Head Girl 1979) came in 3rd and was presented a golf shoe bag and cleaning set. Kunal Chowdry, (H80) shot the longest drive while the closest to the pin was Varun Rajpal (V85). Both won a free round of golf. Shaila Singh's (N85) sumptuous lunch boxes were a big hit and Nikhil generously gave an eco-friendly water bottle to each player. A grateful thank you Kunal, Nikhil and Vipin (Shaila's husband) for organizing the event.

DUBAI CHAPTER MEET 2020, REUNION DINNER

Villa 102, Green Community West, Dubai Investment Park

The Middle East Chapter Reunion dinner was held at the beautiful residence of Meena and Anil Sobti. The Holi themed setting saw each guest welcomed with a tilak of their house color. The bar served signature house coloured welcome drinks, the food was sumptuous and the layout absolutely stupendous. It was encouraging to see the participation of both, the young and the old with Shruti Bhardwaj, batch of 09 being the youngest and addressing the gathering. The two senior most alumni, Pradeep Soneja S56 and Ashok Shahni V59 were unable to attend but we hope to see them next year. It was truly a Lawrencian gathering with two Old Lawrencians from Lovedale and a Galian present. The ME Chapter committee felicitated the outgoing Chapter Head Sanjeev Suri for his tireless effort over the years in leading and strengthening the Chapter.

Gracious words lauding the effort of the guests who came in from overseas were expressed. "It has been the best reunion I have attended. Congratulations to you all. Keep up the excellent work", sentiments expressed by the OSP warmed the hearts of the organizers!!!



BANGALORE CHAPTER MEET 2020

The Sly Granny, Indiranagar, Bangalore

The first to arrive at the event was Col GP Singh (HBD'58) who travelled from Delhi to be there in true Sanawarian spirit! The event was focused on batches that would be moving on for their college education and those venturing into horizons yet unexplored.... they were present in great strength. We had Nilanjan Roy (VBD'84) who cleared his busy schedule to make sure he was there to cheer the younger guys on. Vikram Chopra (NBD'80) a gymnast in his time in Sna, was equally responsible for making the evening a great success by getting involved with the younger ones to refine their handstands and push-ups in true Sanawarian spirit."

"We had an interesting speech from Col Singh on the Sanawar of his days, fun and banter between OS of various batches, two Head Boys from the recent batches vying for favours while doing push-ups and the added satisfaction of knowing the interesting progressive that now Sanawar boasted of boxing for women!! with one of them being present!! A casual early evening of drinks and snacks turned out to be a night of pure fun and togetherness which ended well beyond Midnight! The bond continues and we hope to welcome the old and the young in spirit soon at our next event. Well done Sanawar!



OS ACHIEVER - VIPIN SONDHI OS'76



The Old Sanawarian Society would like to Congratulate Vipin Sondhi on being appointed as MD & CEO of Ashok Leyland starting 12 December 2019. Ashok Leyland, is one of the largest Commercial Vehicles, Trucks and Bus manufacturers in the World. Founded in 1948, it is the second largest commercial vehicle manufacturer in India, the fourth largest manufacturer of buses in the world and 10th largest manufacturer of trucks globally.

SOME THOUGHTS....LEARNING NEVER STOPS!

One learns as one goes along. That said, it certainly does not disregard the formal education that all of us go through.

Experiences form a significant part of who we ultimately become, or what work and play ethic we develop. I have been fortunate to have had extremely enriching experiences all through.

I received formal education at The Lawrence School, Sanawar. Later at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and then at The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

...And as I stepped into the corporate world, every phase gave me at least one big takeaway.

Whether it was the importance of processes for excellence in quality - Japanese style - at Honda; or coming to terms with the sheer scale of operations at Tata Steel; or using one manufacturing line as an island of excellence at Tecumseh to eventually have the company export and stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's best brands; or developing and retaining an entrepreneurial spirit at JCB despite the company growing 12 times and with JCB ultimately becoming a generic brand for all construction equipment; or now, leading a large and diverse team at Ashok Leyland, a 71 year old company with a rich heritage.

As a common quotient, beneath each of these unique experiences lie the five building blocks of Purpose, Communication, Perseverance, Teamwork, Entrepreneurship. But there is one more aspect which in my opinion, cuts across each one. And that is Learning. Learning never stops.

Purpose

If we want to build our organisation into an institution, we would need to inspire our team to a higher purpose. While revenues and profits are necessary for sustenance, greatness for the long term comes from having a higher purpose.

For instance, if we want to compete with the best in the world, we must ensure every process and product is of 'Global Quality' - every time...every day. Or if our company is a new entrant in a market and aspires to grow rapidly, perhaps a collective goal could be to become one of the Top 5 in 5 years domestically, and globally in the Top 10 in 10 years.

Communication

Make communicate simple so that even the last person in the value chain understands the meaning clearly. Ultimately it is he or she who has to deliver. It is important to keep pace with what matters, especially to the young. Do sustainability, innovation and diversity matter? If so, these aspects must be communicated strongly and effectively, extensively and repeatedly. Revenues and market shares will follow.

Perseverance

The speed of the engine will determine the speed of the train. The leader needs to keep moving, setting the pace. Failure needs to be treated as a delay not the defeat of the purpose. Passion is usually intertwined with perseverance.

Teamwork

Sometimes it is not practised as much as it gets spoken about. Every contribution of a team needs to be acknowledged. We must ensure that everyone in the chain comprehends that his or her role is invaluable to the larger success of the organisation.

For example, if the smallest welded joint gives way in a machine or vehicle, the implication could be catastrophic. The customer who could be thousands of miles away in another country, will lose trust in the brand. And the customer's word spreads fast. Re-building trust can take a long, long time.

Entrepreneurial Spirit

The team which is empowered and has a CEO like approach is bound to give results. Empowerment comes with responsibility and accountability. The challenge is that as an organization grows rapidly, how does one keep the entrepreneurial spirit alive, while putting systems into position. Something like providing an ill-fitting coat which is the framework. Within the coat however, encourage teams to try, fail, try again until the coat becomes tight. Time to provide another ill-fitting coat.