



From the Principal's Desk - Excerpts from the Principal's Annual Report 2013-14

With four successful years of providing holistic development; making our presence felt right up to the corridors of the CBSE and The Human Resource Development Ministry; having about 1300 students under our care; 44 learning and activity zones; a strong team of 65 academic and admin staff, 72 help and bus staff and now moving on to the next session with the addition of class 8 and the second wing of the school building, the least we can say is that each Orbion has earned the right to celebrate but not without renewing the pledge to work tirelessly to enable each student of ours be a Vanguard, an Explorer, an Innovator and eventually a Guardian.

The year 2013-2014 has been a fulfilling year for us. Here are a few highlights:

Pre primary wing: Tens of weekly themes, celebration of all festivals and all faiths, developing language and fine motor skills, integrated and experiential learning, a lot of drills and skills on the field, field trips and picnics have made each one a champion.

Remedial teaching: Knowledge is power and to empower all, special Hindi and Mathematics classes on Saturdays were run for those who needed that extra support. A student counsellor was also taken on board to help remedial teaching.

Teacher empowerment: Round the year workshops, in and outside the premises, including a special CCE workshop by CBSE empanelled trainers, membership of Indian Women's Scientist Association (IWSA) and a three day workshop at Pune University, are a few to mention.

Scholastic and co-scholastic activities: A multitude of experiences, explorations and experiments filled the young minds. The yearlong International Year of Water Cooperation activities, display of scientific skills during Orbifair, visit to Science Adda, NDA, Museums, heritage sites, botanical gardens all helped construct more knowledge. Robotics classes extended to all students of classes 4 to 7, visit of students and faculty from universities from Spain and the US to gain from each other's learning, BBC movies, training both in Bharat Natyam and contemporary dance forms and Indian classical and light music, the Doodle factory classes on illustration, lettering and calligraphy, our tie up with Pune Football Club with a special coach round the year, opportunity to escort National and International teams and present lazium and Martial art routine during half time at Balewadi stadium, night camp for our student of classes 6 and 7 to learn survival skills...all added a new dimension to preparing our students for life.

Inter School Performance: Our students have done us proud with medals in Global Spell Bee Championship, Olympiads, Drawing competitions, Abacus Zonal Finals, International Karate Championship, Inter School District Athletic Meet, Maharashtra State Skating Championship, District level open Skating Competition, District Krida Mahotsava and more.

Personality Development and Life skills: There is no end to education, it is not a book to be read, nor is an exam to be passed, it is training to live. Self grooming, Times of India newspaper in education, Gaptopedia, focus on value education through morning assemblies, monthly themes, guest lectures by eminent speakers and personalities and the joy of giving week, to instill the spirit of service and sensitise towards their social responsibility.

Literary activities: Spelling, Reading, Handwriting and Elocution clubs,

NiE workshops on public speaking and creative writing, opportunity to attend workshop at The Times of India office to get tips on good journalism, release of 'Books of Poems' by Kavana and Karunya Anklekar, students of classes 4 and Jr. Kindergarten, "Drop Everything And Read", our tie up with the British Library, Orbuzz, our monthly newsletter that mirrors literary creativeness of our students.. all these speak volumes about literary appreciation and motivation our young writers receive and develop.

Training in leadership: Responsibility educates. Our Monitor system, democratic elections for School Captain and School Vice Captain, responsibilities for House Captains – all has helped provide leadership training to our young students.

Green initiative: With reuse, recycle and reduce as the guiding principle, focus on correct garbage disposal, conservation of water and energy, sanitation drive, Nature Club's role in understanding ecology around and then sharing that knowledge with a close-by Government school have been the highlights.

Additions lined up: My School, an Enterprise Responsive Portal System, will reside on our website giving access to all parents to information related with school activities and personal login for each child. Assignments, Circulars, Attendance, Syllabi, Fee receipt, Appointments can all be viewed and downloaded. Come April and we are beginning with class 8 and with it will begin more concerted efforts for secondary school readiness. Second wing of the school, more work stations for teachers and a multipurpose terrace are all in the pipeline. Taking learning to higher levels, reaching out further to each student and community at large, adopting an underprivileged school and sharing resources with them, is a challenge we have set for ourselves in the coming year.

It's an antithesis that we feel fulfilled and hungry for greater horizons both at the same time. We find ourselves amidst a seamless pool of possibilities and sky is the limit.

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Big News!

The Annual Speech and Prize Distribution Day, "ORBITRIA - 2014" was held at The Orbis School on 8th Feb. 2014. This event sees the annual report reading by our Principal and acknowledges the students who have excelled in various scholastic and co-scholastic activities both at the intra-school and inter-school levels during the academic year.

We were privileged to have Dr. Bhushan Shukla as our chief guest who is a well known child and family psychiatrist from Pune. The Principal's report spoke about the achievements of the year in the fields of Scholastic, Co-Scholastic, Personality Development, Value Education and Life Skills. It also highlighted the special 'beyond the class' programmes and both facilities and infrastructure additions for the current year and coming session.

For the very first time we had student speakers from Pre-primary to class 7 who gave their perspective of how the year progressed with brief reports on Literary Events, Learning beyond textbooks, Performing Arts, various Inter school participations, health and physical activities etc. This was followed by Prize distribution in various categories. The prizes were awarded to meritorious students in the field of academics, sports and co-curricular activities.

THE ORB OF FAME the most coveted trophy of the year is claimed by the house which tops the scoreboard and who truly are the champion of champions. This year this prestigious trophy was bagged by the Explorers.

The children also presented 'Vibrant Maharashtra' through the popular dance form 'The Koli Dance' and 'Ganpati Utsav'.

The Chief Guest in his speech emphasised on the need to learn to learn, because learning is a continuous and never ending process. He also said that it is essential to value teachers who mould and groom young minds.



Flavours from our orchard



Sensitising senses (1st - 4th Feb)

In the 'Five Senses Week', little learners were taught about the existence of the prominent organs, how they function and above all how to take care of them. They felt the difference of rough and smooth, hard and soft, sweet and sour, dark and light. They were elated with new experiences and the new sensory training.

Colours, colours everywhere (10th – 14th Feb)

All things are bright and beautiful in a tiny tot's little world - it is bright colour palate with all shades of beauty, joy and happiness. To expand the knowledge of the colours, different colours were chosen as a daily theme. Children travelled the way from primary to secondary colours through their attire throughout the week and also through aesthetic impressions in forms of various craft works.



I Grow More, I Know More

The NiE Fundamental Quiz (11th Feb.):

Mihir Dangwal, Krishna Desikan and Zubin Sheikh of class 7 Vega participated in the NiE Fundamental Quiz organised by Times NiE at the Balgandharva auditorium. Ours was one of the youngest teams to participate as the quiz was open for the students of classes 7 to 9. It was a mega platform for quizzing which saw participation from majority of the schools in the city. This was an excellent learning opportunity for the participants and also for those students of class 7 who had the opportunity to witness the programme as audience.

Visit to a Neighbourhood School by Eco Club Members (12th Feb.):

The student members of the Eco Club from classes 3 – 7 led by eco-enthusiast Ms. Shahnaaz Faquih, visited a government run neighbourhood school. Our Eco Club members presented a snapshot of the activities done by them to the students of the school they visited. The presentation aimed at spreading awareness about the flora and fauna present in our surroundings and their importance in our lives.



The NiE Workshop (14th Feb.):

A NiE workshop was conducted for classes 1 and 2 by NiE representative Ms. Fahmida. She taught the children some quick and easy ways to add 3 or 4 numbers. Such little tips and tricks go a long way in enhancing mental calculation abilities and logical thinking abilities. The children were enthusiastic and excited to learn this new and quick way. The whole bunch of classes 1 and 2 had fun in the world of mathemagic and thanked Ms Fahmida for the same.



'All for Kids' Inter-school Elocution Competition (26th Feb.):

Kavana Anklekar of class 5 Vega stood 3rd in the city final of Inter-School Elocution Competition organised by 'All for Kids' at the Billabong School, Kalyani Nagar. The championship saw entries from 30 schools of Pune.

'Stress-buster' Time (26th Feb.):

Examinations often bring with them stress and anxiety for the students. We, at the Orbis School have been continuously focusing to keep the process of learning and evaluation a stress free experience. A short film titled 'Smile your way through exams' was shown to the students of classes 3 – 7 which demonstrated simple techniques and exercises to remain stress-free and relaxed during the examination time. A special assembly dealing with examinations was conducted for the students. Also handouts on how to handle examinations successfully were given to the students of 5 to 7.



Special Assemblies



Assembly on Goal Setting (18th Feb.):

A special assembly based on the value of the month was conducted by class 5 Vega where the students spoke about various aspects of goal setting. Hardit Nirula narrated a story from Mahabharata where when asked by Guru Dronacharya, his disciple Arjuna, said that he can see only the target that was given to him and not anything around it. The class teacher, Ms. Amita Singh enlightened the students about how to set SMART goals (S – Specific, M – Measurable, A – Achievable, R – Realistic and T – Time bound).

Did you know?

After having her manuscript rejected by 12 publishers, JK Rowling eventually became the first female billionaire novelist after her Harry Potter books became a worldwide sensation.

Felix Baumgartner set the world record for longest skydive/free fall when he jumped down some 24 miles from outer space in October, 2012.

Whatsapp, a phone based social communication application that employs only 55 employees, has been bought by Facebook for 19 billion US Dollars.

The world's first programmer was Lady Augusta Ada Lovelace of England in 1852. She is credited with telling a machine what to do by using punch cards to programme algebraic patterns.

Impressions and Expressions



Goals

Everybody has some goals in his/her life. The first goal in life should be to get quality education as it is the first step towards achieving any goal – it may be becoming a doctor or an engineer. We should first decide short-term goals as small steps lead to big achievements. If one has a goal then he/she should work very hard to achieve it. Our goals have to be realistic and within our reach. If someone has a dream then he/she should work hard to fulfill it. The person, who sets goals and achieves it, becomes a bright and successful person in life.

Arpita Vashishtha, 4 Vega

Writing Poems

Writing poems is one thing my didi does,
This is one thing that she just loves.
She writes poems all the time,
But never recites one of her rhyme.
She shouts at herself when her poem goes wrong,
She even wrote a poem on HONGKONG.
Writing poems is one thing my didi does,
This is one thing that she just loves.

Shreya Jain, 4 Sirius

Eco Club

We, the students of Eco club, went to a nearby school with Shahnaaz Ma'am to share our learning with the students there. We showed the students our projects and other works and told them about the importance of the plants and animals around us. They were very interested to know what all we do at school and especially in the Eco Club and listened to us carefully. In return, the teachers there showed us and told us about the big trees that were in their school compound. It was a unique learning experience for all of us.

Nandini Jadhav, 7 Vega

Virtue Alone Ennobles

Goal Setting

Goals are a form of motivation that set the standard for self-satisfaction with performance. Knowing what you value and desire, along with an assessment of your strengths and weaknesses, makes it possible to establish personal goals.

All goals, whether short-term or long-term, should incorporate these common attributes:

- Be realistic. Goals should be based on your abilities and circumstances.
- Be possible. Don't establish constraints that make the realistic, unrealistic.
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- Be flexible. Anticipate bumps in the road and expect to work around them.
- Be measurable. Have a target in mind so you know when you have reached your goal.
- Be under your control. Set your own goals based on your values, interests, and desires. Target things where you can control the outcome.



Write down your goals and post them somewhere you can review them regularly. This will serve as a reminder of what you're working toward and help to keep you motivated and on track.

Sourced by Seeta Venkateswaran, CT 1 Vega



Prateeti Mandboi, 2 Vega



Mihir Dangwal, 7 Vega



Esha Agarwal, 7 Vega

Personality of the month

Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom was born to a poor tribal family in Manipur's Kangathai village. Her grandmother named her Chungneijang, which means "prosperous" in the Kom tribe's dialect. Between attending school, caring for her younger siblings and playing all kinds of sports including hockey, football and athletics (but not boxing), Mary Kom worked in the fields and helped her parents, both farm hands. Inspired by Manipuri boxer Dingko Singh's gold at the 1998 Asian Games, Mary Kom moved to Imphal, the Manipur capital, to train in athletics. Dressed in torn, shabby clothes, the teenager approached Coach K. Kosana Meitei at the Sports Authority of India there and asked to be given a chance. The coach remembers her practicing punches late into the night, long after the others had gone to bed. Mary's goal was simple: to lift her family out of poverty and live up to her name.

Mary Kom's career started in 2000 after her victory in the Manipur state women's boxing championship and the regional championship in West Bengal. In 2001, she started competing at international level. Mary Kom is famed as a five time World Boxing Champion and the only boxer to win a medal in every one of the six world championships. In the 2010 Commonwealth Games held in Delhi, India. She had the honor of holding the Queen's Baton along with Vijender Singh for the opening ceremony run in the stadium. In the 2012 Olympics, she became the first Indian women boxer to qualify and win a bronze medal in the 51 kg flyweight category of Boxing.

Having managed that and more, and not content with her own success, Mary—who is married and has twin sons—has, since 2007, been teaching boxing to underprivileged youth for free in her boxing academy.



Teachers' Corner

PTM (1st Feb.):

The third Parent – Teacher Meeting for classes 5 – 7 was scheduled to discuss and understand the scholastic and co-scholastic progress of the student and also to extend maximum possible support for the upcoming annual assessments.

Dr. Bhooshan Shukla's Workshop on "Good touch - bad touch" (8th Feb):

A facilitator training workshop by Dr. Bhooshan Shukla, an eminent child and family psychiatrist was conducted for prevention of child abuse. The aim of the workshop was to train the teaching staff members of the Orbis School to help sensitise children to the concept of good touch - bad touch and teach them a mechanism to protect themselves from bad touch, in other words learn self protection. Simple steps to 'Be smart and stay safe' were given in socially acceptable ways. The parents of class 6-7 were also invited to be a part of this session.

"Discipline- New Challenges" – Regional Summit for Principals (12th Feb.)

School Principals Regional Summit on 'Discipline- New Challenges' was organized by the Institute of Counsellor Training Research and Consultancy (ICTRC) in Mumbai. Mrs. Mala Jetly and the Primary Coordinator, Mrs. Gunjan Srivastava attended this summit. The valuable learning was later shared with the entire staff.

Staff Picnic (19th Feb.):

There are few joys as great as getting away from the daily routine and have a day full of fun and games. The staff picnic of the Orbis School was one such opportunity for everyone when they went out for a picnic. The day was packed with individual and team games along with music and dance which was a great occasion for bonding and camaraderie amongst the staff.



PTA Meeting (22nd Feb.):

The last PTA Meeting for the academic session 2013-14 was held on 22nd Feb. in the school premises. The curricular and co-curricular activities planned for the month of March was discussed with all present along with other relevant discussions. The Chairperson of the PTA, Ms. Mala Jetly formally announced the conclusion of the PTA at the end of the meeting.

I can do it!

Asking questions is fun, but so is answering them. Quickly answer the following questions based on your reading of the personality of the month.

- What does Mary's name mean in the Kom dialect?
- Which sports did Mary play as a child?
- Who inspired Mary to take up boxing?
- She is the only boxer to do what?
- What does she do other than being a professional boxer?



I did it



The Orb of Fame: 2013 - 14



House Name	Public speaking*	Creative Design & Writing	Quizzes	Information Boards	Dramatic	Dance	Music	Cricket	Football	Basketball	Athletics	Martial Arts	Skating	Indoor Games	Academics	Leadership	Total	Rank
Explorers	12	8	6	4	6	8	6	12	12	8	12	12	4	4	32	4	150	1st
Guardians	4	3	8	2	2	4	2	8	4	4	4	16	16	16	24	6	123	3rd
Innovators	16	3	2	6	4	2	4	4	8	16	16	8	12	8	8	2	119	4th
Vanguards	8	6	4	8	8	6	8	16	16	12	8	4	8	12	16	8	148	2nd

* Elocution, Recitation, Extempore, Spin a yarn, Storytelling, prose reading (English & Hindi)



Ishaa Jain, 2 Vega



Oshi Raghav, 5 Vega



Upcoming Events



14th Mar.	:	Year end break begins
15th Mar.	:	Teacher Empowerment Workshop
19th Mar.	:	Promotion Day – Nursery
20th Mar.	:	Promotion Day – Jr. Kindergarten
21st Mar.	:	Promotion Day – Sr. Kindergarten / World Citizen Day
22nd Mar.	:	Promotion Day – class 1
24th Mar.	:	Promotion Day – class 2
25th Mar.	:	Promotion Day – class 3 – 4
26th Mar.	:	Promotion Day – classes 5 – 7
28th/ 29th Mar.	:	Parents Orientation (New Parents)
1st Apr.	:	New session begins – Play-group, Nursery and classes 1-8
2nd Apr.	:	New session begins – Jr. Kindergarten and Sr. Kindergarten
30th Apr.	:	Last working day for students
17th Jun.	:	School resumes – Play-group, Nursery and classes 1-8
18th Jun.	:	School resumes – Jr. Kindergarten and Sr. Kindergarten



Mohnish Kumar Sr. KG Orange



From the Editorial Team

The happiest moments of our lives are those little 'dream come true' moments. There is no bigger happiness and satisfaction than when one realises one's dream. We must encourage our children to aspire high and to dream big; let them set lofty goals and then be a facilitator for them in their quest of attaining their dreams and aspirations. Let us give them the mantra of 'the sky is the limit' and one can accomplish anything with determination and dedication. The following lines from a poem by Helen Steiner Rice convey just the message for everyone.

Often your tasks will be many,
And more than you think you can do.
Often the road will be rugged
And the hills insurmountable, too.
But always remember,
The hills ahead
Are never as steep as they seem,
And with faith in your heart
Start upward
And climb 'til you reach your dream.

Happy reading!

Anita Bhattacharjee (Chief Editor)
Nupur Gupta, Amrita Kar (Co-editors)
Student Editors: **The Editorial Club Members**



Handmade paper created by
Ayub Ali, 4 Vega

Thought for the month

"With ordinary talent and extraordinary perseverance, all things are attainable"

