

The Eagle

(A NEWSLETTER OF ONA)

ISSUE NO. 24

(For Private Circulation)

Dec, 2007

ROUSER

The PPS has come of age. It was started as a **Sainik School** in 1960 at Nabha, with vision and efforts of its Founders, **Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, Col Naunihal Singh Mann and General Kalwant Singh**. The objective was to provide quality education to deserving children of ex-Defence personnel and others and to prepare them for a career in the Defence Services. The Punjab Government and Post War Reconstruction Fund provided scholarships to deserving children who were not from elitist or well off backgrounds

The decades after India's freedom in 1947 saw great efforts in nation building. The PPS (then, **Sainik School, Nabha**) model was so good that Defence Minister, Krishna Menon adopted it at National level to start the Sainik Schools. The condition attached was that a Sainik School would be headed by a defence officer. Not wanting to lose the School his government had started, and being enamoured with the efficiency and work of the Founder Headmaster, **Mr JK Kate**, the great **Sardar Kairon** changed the name of the School to **Punjab Public School**, keeping it with the State. He offered two sites for Sainik Schools- Kapurthala in North and Kunjpura in South Punjab. Thus Punjab became the only State in the country to have three such schools.

Have the objectives of the Founders of PPS been fulfilled? The results speak for themselves. PPS has often sent the maximum number of students from any one school to NDA. Many joined IMA directly and others went through OTS. Today two of the five Army commanders, one of the two fleet Commanders of the Navy, one General commanding UN troops in Sudan and one in Congo, are from PPS. There are over 14 officers of the rank of General, over 20 Brigadiers and over 150 Colonels and above, apart from numerous other officers in the defence forces. With changing times the school has also produced professionals like doctors, engineers, accountants, lawyers, businessmen, and executives occupying the highest posts in corporates. It has produced Civil Servants in IAS, IPS, PCS, Punjab Police and allied services. Many Professors, modern Farmers, and even prominent NRIs are the proud alumni of PPS. Several have made it to top-notch positions in their fields. Many have shown their mettle in sports representing India in polo, athletics etc. Even the teachers of the School have gone on to become Headmasters of famous schools.

The School will be completing fifty years of its existence in 2009-10. In this span of fifty years, it has taken deep roots and is a Premier Institute of North India.

The ONA would like to celebrate 2009-10 as the Golden Jubilee Year of PPS in style. It plans to hold various functions throughout the year, culminating on Founders day as the *grand finale* in 2010 in PPS. **Maj Gen SK Tiwari (J-34, 1964)** has been appointed as coordinator for this humungous endeavour.

We invite from you all, ideas about highlighting the School and its achievements and publicizing the same among the general public. The task is massive. It will involve advance planning, logistics, execution, and funding. We look forward to **ONs** who can give not only ideas as to how best to celebrate the occasion in a cost effective manner but also volunteer to work for it. Those who are too busy and are too preoccupied by their business or profession can chip in by providing the necessary funds.

Dr Jashanjot (S-52)

(In view of the fast approaching Golden Jubilee Year 2009-10, we have decided to carry a historical article in every issue henceforth)

THE INAUGURATION OF THE SCHOOL, 1961

*“The woods are lovely dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep”*

(Robert Frost)

The School together with a large concourse of parents and visitors, assembled in an enormous ‘Pandal’ erected on the circular lawn directly in front of the New Secretariat building. Immediately on the President’s arrival at 10.00 am, the Chairman and the members of the Board of Governors, and members of the staff were introduced to him by the Headmaster. The President was then conducted in procession to the dais and proceedings opened with the singing of a prayer addressed to *Saraswati*, the Goddess of Learning. After the Headmaster had read his report, the President performed the official act of inauguration, which took the form of 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 then delivered his address and Shri N V Gadgil, Governor of Punjab, in his capacity as Chairman of the Governors, returned a vote of thanks. The function ended with the singing of the National Anthem, after which every one repaired to a mammoth tent pitched on the adjoining lawn where tea and light refreshments were served.

Before leaving for Hiramahal Palace, where he was to lunch with Their Highnesses of Nabha, the President went round the exhibition arranged in the Assembly Hall. This included Arts, Leatherwork, Handwork, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Geography sections. During the course of the day a large number of parents and visitors visited the Hall and many of them spoke in high terms of praise of the exhibits, and in particular of the paintings and other articles turned out by the boys.

The President and his entourage were among the large audience at the variety entertainment which was presented by the school at 6.00 p.m. that same evening. The programme opened with a rendering of ‘*Rag Malkaush*’ by the School Orchestra. Next came an abridged version of ‘The Invisible Duke’, a one-act play in English. The animated yet graceful Kumaon folk dance by **Indra Surjit Singh (first PPS girl)**, **Surinder Punnia(2nd)** and **Jyoti Kate(3rd) (R-52,1967)** proved deservedly popular. The highlight of the evening, however was ‘*Kutte ki Maut*’, a one-act play in Hindi in which all the players were drawn from the Junior School. Among a large cast, all of whom spoke clearly and distinctly and acted with the charm born of a complete lack of self consciousness, special mention must be made of **Bhupinder Singh (B-20, 1966)** as Miss Bela Batliwala, whose whole existence centred round her beloved dog ‘Tommy’, her boy-friend, **Inderjit Singh**, who believed in the efficacy of the aphorism ‘Love me, love my dog’, **Jyoti Kate** as her maid –servant, naïve and pert by turns, and **Narinder Mohan Gupta** as *Jyotishi* who, despite his apparent artlessness, adroitly exploited the situation to his own advantage.

The day of days in the school’s history was rounded off by a display of mass P.T., Horse work, gymnastics and tableaux. The boys looked the epitome of smartness and carried through the whole show with commendable alacrity and precision.

(from the Chronicle Archives)



President with Headmaster JK Kate, CM Sardar Kairon, Governor Gadgil



The Three of four first girls Surinder Punia (Minna)(Jamuna),Jyoti kate(R-52) &Basanti Mathu(R-73) with Shreesh Kathavate(Satluj) and Pebble Punia(jumna).The first PPS girl Indira Surjit Singh is not in the picture.



Bhupider (B-20) is incidentally walking in front of dignitaries (Bela Batliwala in the play). Now a Urologist in Minnesota

NEWS

Baisakhi Bash

The Old Nabhaites Association, held a *Baisakhi* Bash in DSOI, Sector-36, Chandigarh on 22nd April. *Baisakhi* has a special meaning for PPS as its **First Working Day** in 1960 took place on this auspicious Punjabi day. **Gen. Kalwant Singh**, a Founder Member of School, had addressed the Assembly of the first students of PPS. The occasion also commemorates the *Baisakhi* day, when a year later, the President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad, came in a special Presidential train (no helicopters then) flying the National flag to formally inaugurate the School.

The *Baisakhi* party scene was given an ethnic touch by the Grewal family, especially **Ms Gagandeep (B-678)** of Garry Arts in Mohali, who provided life size statues of characters from rural area made of fibreglass, highlighted by focused lights. The Grewal family has more than 10 members who have studied in PPS. **Mrs. Neelinder Sandhu (B-807)**, Principal, Sacred Souls, *Gharuan*, helped in the

decoration with thoughtful use of coloured turbans and strategically placed colourful earthen pitchers or *gharas* and a thatched roof for the popular bar or *theka*. The evening had a real *Baisakhi* touch thanks to these two Old Nabhaite girls.

With many distinguished Old Nabhaites attending it along with their beautiful and well dressed wives, the evening became more colourful. Present were retired defence officers, professionals and businessmen.

Everything was picture perfect, including the weather. The atmosphere was casual and relaxed, yet very dignified. There was a lot of interaction among Old Nabhaites, their wives and families. The games were a big hit; everyone took part sportingly. The prizes sponsored by **Rajinder Jain (R-266, 1976, Chandigarh)**, included beautiful showpieces of Punjabi ethnic figures in ceramic- *Nihang*, lady in Punjabi suit, a *bhangra* dancer, a *punjaban* churning buttermilk etc.

Slides from old events and previous functions of ONA, down the years were projected on a screen to add a touch of History. Five memorable slides instilled nostalgia. The first was that of the Assembly addressed by **Gen. Kalwant Singh** on the opening day of the School; the second was of President Rajendra Prasad inaugurating the School; third of the school surrounded by flood waters in its year of inception, giving it the look of Lake Palace. Then there was a slide of **Mr. JK Kate**, the Founder Headmaster and **Sardar Partap Singh Kairon** whose brainchild was PPS.

For entertainment, apart from the various games played, live video recordings of famous bands and other videos were projected on a large Screen. The sound output through the DJ system gave it a life-like effect. A few of the bands played were Fleetwood Mac, Genesis and UB40, Yellow Submarine by Beatles, Heroics of Beckham on Football Field and Dances from Broadway conducted by legendary Bob Fosse.

At the Registration Counter, ONA memorabilia like ONA Directory on a CD, CDs of photographs of different ONA functions, Nabhaite Coffee Mugs, stickers, Necktie etc were on sale. Copies of **The Eagle** were also available for distribution.

An interesting auction was held in order to raise small funds for meeting some of the expenses. Three ONA blazer badges fetched Rs1000 each, The bidders were **Yudhveer Singh (R-793, 1988, Jalandhar)**, **Harvinder Dhaliwal (B-627, 1988, Ludhiana)** and **Lalit Mohan Gulati (J-604)** from Panchkula. **Dr Jashanjot Singh (S-52)** got projections sponsored by UTI Bank, Phase VII, Mohali. **Dr AS Bains (B-428, 1976)** and **Dr Navdeep Sandhu (J-280)** chipped in for the DJ.

If there was any scope of a complaint, it was that you could not order the drink of your choice at the Bar. **Col JS Randhawa (J-60, 1968)**, in charge of drinks, had fixed only two brands for uniformity among its members.

The happy ONs thanked **Col HS Chahal (J-49, 1967)** and his team for organising such a wonderful evening.

In the end, in keeping with the objectives of ONA to help needy students in PPS, the President of ONA, **Harpartap Singh Ajnala (B-45, 1967)** Ex MLA, presented two anonymous donors' cheques to **General S Tiwari (J-34, 1964)** to be passed on to the Headmaster of PPS. This was in response to the request of a single parent of a very bright all round student who was having difficulty in paying the fees. There could not have been a better ending to the *Baisakhi* Bash.



Bar keeper and the bar manager monkey



Punjabi mutiar



dadaji te munde



village lass on charkha



Reception counter



Old Nabhaites



The dance



The young ladies



Harpartap Ajnala,President(B-45,1967) ONA hands a cheque for noble cause to **Maj Gen S Tiwari (J-34,1964)** to be handed to HM, PPS for a noble cause.

Happy Birthday (December)

- 0 Mr. Depesh Gupta(B-002,1994)(17/12/1977)
- 0 Mr Sukhjiwan Singh(B-0199,2002)(13/12/1983)
- 0 Mr Harpreet Singh Aulakh(B-0240,2002)(19/12/1984)
- 0 Mr Iqbaljit Singh Aujla(B-0303,2002)(11/12/1984)
- 0 Mr. Manish Goyal(B-0707,1988)(25/12/1972)
- 0 Col. H.P.S. Bawa(B-121,1971)(21/12/1955)
- 0 Mr. Sunil Gupta(B-127,1972)(14/12/1955)
- 0 Mr. Jasmel Singh Bulagan(B-250,1977)(12/12/1959)
- 0 Lt Col Dinesh Gupta(B-274,1976)(14/12/1960)
- 0 Mr. Ravinder Singh Bhullar(B-357,1978)(26/12/1961)
- 10 Mr. Deepinder Singh(B-386,1979)(26/12/1963)
- 11 Mr. Mohinder Singh(B-40,1966)(21/12/1948)
- 11 Dr. Kulwinder Singh Dhillon(B-67,1969)(15/12/1952)
- 11 Mr. Preetinder Singh Dhillon(B-804,1993)(10/12/1975)
- 11 Ms Ankita Nagar(J-0151,2002)(24/12/1984)
- 11 Mr Subeg Singh(J-0182,2002)(20/12/1984)
- 11 Mr Harmandeep Singh(J-0421,2002)(25/12/1984)
- 11 Mrs. Amarbir Kaur Sidhu(J-0606,1989)(2/12/1972)
- 11 Mr. Sarabjeet Singh(J-257,1976)(28/12/1958)
- 11 Mr. Sanjay Rana(J-542,1987)(5/12/1969)
- 11 Lt Col Jatinder Singh Randhawa(J-60,1968)(20/12/1953)
- 22 Mr. Vikas Batra(J-681,1988)(3/12/1972)

11 Mr. Gurinderjit Singh Grewal(J-767,1988)(18th Dec)

Happy Marriage Anniversary (December)

- 1 Mr. Gurvir Singh Manasahia(B-0054,1995)(01/12/2002)
- 2 Mr. Harpreet Singh Kullar(B-0205,0)(8th Dec)
- 3 Mr. Manoranjan Singh Sidhu(B-117,1971)(26/12/1982)
- 4 Mr. Neel Rattan Kakkar(B-128,1971)(4/12/1984)
- 5 Brig. R.S. Sujlana(B-134,1967)(25/12/1970)
- 6 Lt Col T.S. Dhindsa(B-167,1973)(18/12/1983)
- 7 Mr. Vidur Gupta(B-217,1970)(6/12/1982)
- 8 Mr. Parbeer Singh Grewal(B-394,1980)(15/12/1990)
- 9 Mr. Dilpreet Singh Dhillon(B-404,0)(10/12/1989)
- 10 Dr. Kuldeep Sharma(B-626,1989)(10/12/1998)
- 11 Dr. Rashpinder S. Pandher(B-660,1988)(18/12/1999)
- 12 Mr. Gurinder Singh Sandhu(B-707,1991)(30/12/1998)
- 13 Mr. Hardarshan Singh Virk(B-87,1969)(8/12/1982)
- 14 Mr. Trilochan Singh Bhamrah(B-90,1968)(28/12/1987)
- 15 Lt Col Baljit Singh Mann(B-94,1970)(25/12/1979)
- 16 Mr. Sanjeev Gupta(J-166,1972)(09/12/1978)
- 17 Col. Manjit Mehta(J-194,1974)(4/12/1987)
- 18 Mr. Rajesh Saini(J-211,1975)(2/12/1984)
- 19 Mr. Apjeet Singh Randhawa(J-212,1972)(22/12/1985)
- 20 Col. Shanjit Singh Bhullar(J-223,1970)(13/12/1987)
- 21 Mr. Arvind Mahajan(J-250,1975)(11/12/1982)
- 22 Lt Col Sushil K. Garg(J-342,1978)(14/12/1988)
- 23 Maj. Amardeep Singh Dhillon, Sm(J-381,1982)(13/12/1990)
- 24 Mr. Arvinder Sidhu(J-447,1981)(10/12/1989)
- 25 Lt Col Jatinder Singh Randhawa(J-60,1968)(9/12/1979)
- 26 Mr. Gurinderjit Singh Grewal(J-767,1988)(4/12/1994)
- 27 Mr. Jagtar Grewal(R-104,1970)(1/12/1982)
- 28 Mr. RPS Dhaliwal(R-276,1975)(28/12/1984)
- 29 Ms Vandana Katyal(R-344,1978)(4/12/1985)
- 30 Mr. Sukhwinder Pal Singh Grewal(R-499,1986)(23/12/1994)
- 31 Mr. Sandeep Singh Sandhu(R-512,1986)(15/12/1995)
- 32 Mrs. Jyoti Mahajan(R-52,1967)(17/12/1973)
- 33 Mr. Karnail Singh(R-545,1983)(12/12/1993)
- 34 Capt. Harjinder S. Sohal(R-566,1988)(31/12/1995)
- 35 Mr. Charanjit S. Minhas(R-586,1985)(6/12/1998)
- 36 Mr. Suresh Garg(R-64,1968)(6/12/1982)
- 37 Mr. Pawan Kant Munjal(S-163,1970)(11/12/1979)
- 38 Mr. Suman Kant Munjal(S-165,1969)(10/12/1977)
- 39 Mr. Harinder Pal Singh Mann(S-181,1973)(25/12/1977)
- 40 Dr. Anil Joshi(S-226,1973)(12/12/1985)
- 41 Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singla(S-292,1976)(14/12/1987)
- 42 Mr. Deepak Kant Gupta(S-353,1980)(10/12/1990)
- 43 Dr. Harshbir Singh Pannu(S-366,1977)(6/12/1987)
- 44 Brig. Yashpal Singh Samyal(S-43,1966)(3/12/1979)
- 45 Mr. Manmohan Singh(S-441,1984)(13/12/1987)
- 46 Dr. Jashanjot Singh Bhangu, MD(S-52,1967)(26/12/1976)
- 47 Mr. Vishwadeep Singh(S-521,1984)(6/12/1992)
- 48 Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain(S-528,0)(2/12/1991)
- 49 Mr. Jogesh Jain(S-679,1987)(12/12/1998)

Congratulations!

Mr PPS Gill (B-39), formerly a Special Correspondent, The Tribune, and Joint Director, Communications of PAU, has been appointed member of the Information Commission, Punjab.

Arvinder Bains (B-298), PCS, who is Director, Land Records and has been looking after computerization of land records has been given additional charge of Director, Public Relations. This is apart from his love for potato farming.

Arunjit Miglani (B-274, 1974) has been posted as Director, Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Punjab.

Gen Tej Kumar Sapru (S-42, 1964) took over as Army Commander of the prestigious Western Command at Chandi Mandir on 1st November.

Gen JS Lidder (B-23, 1964) continues to command UN forces in Sudan.

Maj.Gen. Vinay Sharma (S-129, 1964) and **RS Sujlana(B-134,1967)** have been approved for Lt Gen in the Army. **Gen Sujlana** takes over the Corps at Bhatinda.

Col IP Singh (J-77, 1965) has been appointed Secretary DSOI, Sector 36, Chandigarh

Col RPS Mann has been appointed Secretary, Kasauli Club.

Srishti Shukla (R-0450, 2007) has successfully made it to the merit list for admission to Army Institute of Law at Mohali.

Kanwar Gurpreet Singh Gill (R-0095, 1998), Treasurer of ONA married Harmeet Kaur on 27th November at Patiala.

Anil Chowdhary's (J-20, 1967 March) son **Dr Anuj (J-0093)** married Kanika on 21st Nov at Patiala.

Navin Talwar's (S-71, 1969) son Pranav got engaged on 11th Nov at Ludhiana, to be married on 26th Jan 2008.

RS Chopra's (R-33, 1967 March) son, Dr. Goldie wed Dr. Rashmi on 2nd December in Ludhiana.

Dr Harpreet Sidhu's (R-2, 1964) daughter Puneet wed Karan on 7th July 2007.

Harinder Singh (S-62, 1967) was promoted as Chief Engineer, Public Health, at Patiala. **Bharat Bhushan (R-76, 1967)** who graduated from IIT Kharagpur, after a 20yr stint in USA, with different degrees and a Phd in his pocket, has joined as Technical Head of Taurus Precision Instruments, Chandigarh (IT Park). The company is the only one of its kind in Asia, manufacturing high precision parts for strategic equipments in USA. He will be refurbishing the ONA website.

Ajay Gupta(J-375, 1982) has moved from Hyatt International to Kuoni Destination Management as Vice President.

Son of Lt Col **Jatinder Randhawa (J-60,1968)**, was commissioned into the IAF in December at the Flying college, Hyderabad. Fourth generation joining the defence services

Rajeev Bakshi(B-151) has moved from Pepsico, Asia Chief Marketing to ICICI Venture Funds as MD.(from *Economic Times*)

Retired

Gp Capt AJS Grewal, former Head Master PPS is now settled in Mani Majra Modern Housing Complex with his elder son **Niripjit Grewal (J-602)**, who teaches Computers in YPS, Mohali

Dr Harpreet Singh Sandhu (S-7, 1964) retired from Punjab Civil Medical Service as Zonal Malaria Officer and is settled in Patiala. He is a graduate of AFMC.

Change of Address, phone, email.

Col Baljit Singh Laungia (J-122, 1977)

HQ 340 (I) MECH Bde

Pin 506340

c/o 56 APO

LT Col Dr SK Garg (J-342, 1962), MBBS,MD,PGDMS, DHM, WHO Fellowship

OC 135 STATION HEALTH ORG(L)

PIN 903135

C/O 56APO

Col Kulbushan Singh (R-82,1969), Est Offr

HQ31, Sub Area, Pin 908631

C/O56 APO

Avtar Singh Grewal (R-77, 1968)

C-27, Kendriya Vihar, Sector-48B,

Chandigarh-160047

M:9417007758; 0172-2634758

Jagtar Grewal (R-104)

SCO19/Second Floor Sector 17E

Chandigarh-160017

Tel: 0172-2705932, 2709280

Niripjeet Singh Grewal (J-602, 1970)

5782, Duplex ,Modern Housing Complex

ManiMajra

Chandigarh-160101

Tel:0172- 4631656

M: 9815002373; Email: nirip_rediffmail.com

Gp. Capt. AJS Grewal (Ex Headmaster)

5782, Duplex Modern Housing Complex

ManiMajra

Chandigarh-160101

Tel:0172- 4631656, M: 9815793578

Neeraj Bansal (S-191)

nbansal02@yahoo.co.in

Ranjit Singh Grewal(B-280, 1974)

Financial Advisor, Clarica

Bus 604 607 3970 Ext 228

Fax 604 607 3988

ranjit.grewal@clarica.com

www.clarica.com/ranjit.grewal

Aman Sharma (S-767, 1990)

M: 09880098046

aman@collabrant.in

Founders' Day

The Punjab Public School held its Founders Day on 4th November, 2008. The Chief guest was CM of Punjab Sardar Parkash Singh Badal



Roll of Honour 2007!!

Lt Gen Tej Kumar Sapru (S-42) has been awarded 2007 “Roll of Honour” by PPS Executive. Following is his acceptance letter to the Headmaster.

My Dear Commodore Ishwar,

Thank you very much for the mail and for the honour to select me for the award of the Sixth “Roll of Honour 2007”. It will, indeed, be a great honour for me to attend the functions as mentioned by you. Incidentally, 06 Nov happens to be my Birthday; wonder if the date is by design!!! I shall send the draft citation, shortly.

Regards

Tej Sapru (S-42, 1964)



A gentleman passes away

Capt AS Sidhu (S-11, 1964), Chief Pilot to Chief Minister of Chhatisgarh, was declared dead with his copilot after the helicopter they were flying went missing and the wreck was found after a week of search. He is survived by his wife and son.

A Tribute

Amritpal Singh Sidhu (S-11, 1964) belonged to the pioneer group of students who joined PPS in 1960, the inaugural year. He was in my House and I observed him from close quarters--- A thoroughly upright person, well turned out with impeccable manners and appearance, simple, unassuming, no nonsense attitude and extremely well behaved. We respected him because he was courteous and respectful even to his very juniors-- A gentleman to the core!

In his emails to ONA, he would repeatedly write, please visit Chhatisgarh, it is a very beautiful country and be my guest.

An insight into his personality, thinking and his love for PPS and its great teachers can be gauged from the letter that he wrote to ONA and was published in The Eagle. We carry it again in this issue.

Great Teachers

I went through the Eagle. Brought happy memories of school life. The most distinct memory is of the great teachers we had. No student ever felt neglected by the teachers. Each teacher gave individual attention to each student. **Mr JK Kate, Mr Joginder Singh, Mr SC Cowell, Mrs Lyall, Dr Surjeet Singh Bedi, Mr GS Punia, Mr MN Tankha, Mr PN Mathu, Mr OP Sharma, Mr OP Bhatnagar, Mr KC Tandon, Mrs K Tandon, Mr M Vodden, Mr Mial, Mr Chatterjee, Mr Johri.** They were more like lifelong friends, philosophers and guides. I really don't remember what we were taught in classes but I distinctly remember what we were taught outside the class. **Mr Cowell:** walk in twos, in step and no talking. VOLTAS Diary: Volume of Liars, Thieves and Scoundrels (luckily I never got a mention in it!). **Mr OP Bhatnagar,** by example taught us how to shine shoes; also making sketch portraits of students, particularly of *machhar* comes to memory. **Mr OP Sharma,** after an aeromodel engine was stolen from NCC office, said that if he locked the cupboard it would show his lack of trust in the students, which he said he did not want to lose; so he said he would pay for the aeromodel engine himself, but would keep the cupboard unlocked. He taught us to have trust in people. **Mr KC Tandon** was just a very, very, very good friend, nothing more, and nothing less. What to say about **Mrs Tandon?** On one of the Founders Days, I felt, somehow the spirit of the school was missing. Later I found out she had left the school some days back. **Mr Kate:** one day he was taking our Maths class (by this time **Mr Vodden,** who stopped physical punishment in the school, had left). My classmate **Shivpal Singh Virk (R-40)** was unable to understand the problem being tackled. Out of frustration **Mr Kate** came close to him and gave him a big whack, and suddenly **Shivpal** smiled and said he had got the solution. Those were the days!

(Now Late) **Capt A S Sidhu (S-11, 1960-1965)** *amritpalsinghs@gmail.com* (his email till July 2007)

Old Nabhaites as Philanthropists

Varinderpal Singh (B-51, 1967) and **Tejinderpal Singh Bindra's (Ex Beas)** family, doing extremely well in business in New York, has set up a Trust for an International Award-- A matter of pride for ONA and PPS.

Rewarding Acts Of Faith

(From India Today, "Simply Punjabi" p 6 June 2007)

A New York Family Institutes a \$ 50,000-Prize for Harmony

Giving back to the community in which it has enjoyed tremendous success has always been the New York Bindras' credo. It was first apparent in September 2000 when the family endowed a chair in Sikh studies at New York's Hofstra University, named after the family matriarch, 'Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra'. This time round, the family, led by **Tejinder (T.J) Pal Singh Bindra(Ex-Beas)** and his father Sardar Ishar Singh Bindra, have established a Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize at Hofstra through the Kuljit Kaur Bindra Charitable Foundation. The \$50,000 (Rs 20 Lakh) prize will be awarded bi-annually starting 2008 to any individual or organization that promises harmony and peaceful coexistence among various religions.

The goal is to bring greater visibility to the critical role that religious dialogue plays in the pursuit of peace, and promote direct support to further such activities. The inspiration comes from Guru Nanak, who believed in the oneness of humanity despite religious divisions. "Two years ago, my father and I began a discussion about recognizing people who promote interfaith harmony," says **T.J.S. Bindra(Ex Beas)**

An honorary panel of judges made up of religious leaders, academicians and individuals from Europe, Canada and India have been picked to review the nominees. "The panel will then come back to us with its recommendation," explains **T.J.S.Bindra**. Among the honorary committee members are former Prime Minister I.K Gujral, Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, U.S Senators Charles Schumer and Norm Coleman, writer Khushwant Singh, rabbi David Rosen of the American Jewish Committee and Indian MP Tarlochan Singh. So, what does the Bindra family look to achieve from the prize? "Perhaps this will bring an awakening in people that regardless of our religions, we are all one," says **T.J.S.Bindra**

The Bindras' dedication to interfaith harmony has been appreciated by the dean of Hofstra, Bernard J Firestone, who is excited about the 35-plus nominations that have already trickled in. "The University strongly believes in the importance of interfaith dialogue and teaches tolerance. We thank the Bindra family for their inspiring act," he says.

The Prize

Criteria: Anyone who has organized members of different faiths to work toward a common goal; produced a work of art or literature that contributes to or publicizes the importance of interfaith dialogue; or uses a position of authority to bring communities of different faith together.

Procedures: Nominators should provide a brief description of themselves (no more than 100 words) and a two-page letter describing the individual or organization being nominated, activities the nominator believes qualify the nominee for consideration.

Contact: In writing to Dean Bernard J Firestone, Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 200A Heger Hall, 115 Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y. 11549-1115, or email: gurunanakprize@hofstra.edu.

Deadline: For the 2008 prize, all nominations are due by July 1, 2007.

Visit: <http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/Colleges/HCLAS/rel/nanak/> for more details.



President Shuart with Mr Ishar Singh Bindra, wife and son Mr Tejinder Bindra at the convocation of the Sardarni Kuljit Kaur Bindra Endowed Chair In Sikh Studies

Rakesh Aggarwal Trust, N.Carolina, USA

Meanwhile another Old Nabhaite, **Rakesh Aggarwal** has gone on to serve his community in his adopted home, Hendersonville, N. Carolina. Below is a news item carried by the local newspaper.

HENDERSONVILLE, NC -- The Agarwal family and The Rug & Home Foundation have pledged \$100,000 to establish the “Agarwal Family Endowment Fund for Palliative Care” for the Four Seasons Hospice here. The donation was the first act made on behalf of the newly-established Rug & Home Foundation. Dolly, **Rakesh** and Aanchal Agarwal, owners of Rug & Home, are principal members of the Foundation. The donation was made at a dinner hosted by the Agarwal family on Thursday, April 5th at the Orchard at Broadmoor in Fletcher, N.C. to celebrate the endowment.

The \$100,000 donation will support Palliative Care Service at the Four Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care in Hendersonville. Colin E. Thomas, M.D., chairman of Four Seasons said, “We are so grateful to Dolly, **Rakesh** and Aanchal of Rug & Home for their commitment to help the public understand how palliative care can help those suffering with serious or life-threatening illnesses. Their donation will go a long way to help cover the costs of providing palliative care in our community.”

Rug & Home has two locations in North and South Carolina. The store draws customers from a 150 mile radius and merchandise has been shipped to consumers in all 50 States. Rug & Home was the winner of American Mart's 2005 Retailer of the Year (ROY) Award. Their core business area is rugs, however both stores showcase a sizeable furniture, lamps, mirrors and accessories product line. The Agarwals moved from India to Hendersonville N.C. over 20 years ago. Dolly Agarwal, President of Rug & Home said, “We are so blessed to have the opportunity to give to Four Seasons Hospice. It is truly a very caring organization that has touched the lives of many families that are dear to us.” The Agarwal family and Rug & Home have a long history of charitable works, donating both cash and hundreds of rugs for various charities including Tsunami Relief, Katrina Relief, Hospice, American Cancer Society and Meals on Wheels. They also work with children and the elderly. Employees of Rug & Home personally arrange and deliver 750 to 1,000 floral arrangements to senior citizens in area nursing homes every year. They work with area schools to provide gifts for needy children during the holidays. Rug & Home has also been associated with Mala Handicrafts and Project Mala, a UK based charity with fully funded schools in the carpet-weaving area of India. They support and donate to the Robin Raina Foundation, an Atlanta-based charity helping underprivileged children in India. “Our mission is to bring cheer to the life of elderly and help as many underprivileged children worldwide as we can,” said Aanchal Agarwal, Vice President of Rug & Home. Friends and associates at the dinner hosted by the Agarwals included George and Barbara Corell, owners of Millie Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Brantly, owners of Creative Edge, Paul Vesely, a principal of Ves-Levi, and Judy Rodwell, one of the evening's speakers.



Rakesh Aggarwal (B-138) at left and wife and daughter are in the center.

ONA help to PPS

1. The Headmaster brought to the notice of ONA the inability of a single parent of an outstanding child to pay fees fully. **Two good Samaritan ONs** came forward to give cheques worth Rs 11,000 each for the student. Names are being withheld on request.
2. A slide projector was gifted to School by **Dr Jashanjot (S-52, 1967)**.
3. Excellent coaching DVDs on *Cricket* by Bob Woolmer and two on *Soccer* by Manchester United Football Academy and one of BBC with Michael Owen were gifted to School
4. A talk was arranged for students of PPS on “**Profession and Passion!**” conducted by Dr Rupak Dass, a Urologist at Fortis and a professional guitar player. Despite hiccoughs due to sound problems, he regaled the students by playing some well known tunes on his guitar. He encouraged the students to have multiple interests and passions and pursue them for personal satisfaction apart from one’s profession which is necessary for economic gains.
5. The ONA through an expert Dr Ms Iqbal Judge conducted an Interactive Workshop on ***Creative Writing*** for senior exam going classes. This was followed by a creative writing competition as an annual exercise. The winners were given awards by ONA at Founders’ Day. The Creative Writing Award is sponsored by **Dr Preetam Singh (J-242, 1973)**.
6. Annual “*ONA Merit Scholarships*” worth Rs 60,000 were given to deserving students from IV to X classes, for year 2007, courtesy **Dr Rupinder Brar (S-291, 1976), USA**.
7. “*ONA Best Teacher Awards (Senior and Junior Schools)*” worth Rs 10,000 for year 2007 was sponsored by **Gurkiran Singh Dhillon (J-735, 1990)**
8. “*The ONA, KK Katyal Memorial Award for Best Class IV Employee*” was handed over to four employees on 2nd October. It is sponsored by **Archana (R-307, 1978) and Vandana Katyal (R-344, 1978)**
9. “*The ONA Most Improved Child from Rural Background Award*” for Rs 10,000 for 2007 was sponsored by *Jt. Secretary, ONA, Harvinder Singh Dhaliwal (B-627, 1988)*
10. ONA has instituted two new Annual Awards this year -- “*The ONA, Mrs Sujit Kaur Memorial Award for Best Performance in Extracurricular Activities*” of Rs10000 each for a girl and a

boy, courtesy **Dr GS Dhami (R-78, 1968)**, in memory of his mother, late *Smt Surjit Kaur*.
These were awarded at the Annual Athletic Day on 15th December.

CONA MEETING ,

(a copy of the email sent to Seepja Nigam , Secy Cona ,USA for distribution to every one)

Dear Friends,

As some of you may know, the 1976 batch of old Nabhaites living in California organised an ONA meet on the weekend of July 7th at a golf course near Hercules, CA.

Although the meeting was supposed to have been organised by the 1976 batch, the entire CONA team helped with the organisation (thus rescuing the 1976 batch honor). The prominent formal organisers were **Sarabjit Chimni(J-456)**, **Shavinder** and **Dr. Birender Sandhu** (but as usual assisted by **Seepja Khurana (nee Nigam, J-388)**, Kin Kin Sandhu, **Navdeep Gill(R-722)**, **Sunny Sekhon**, **Jimmy Singh(J-452,1982)** and many other members of the dedicated CONA team).

The Chief guest was **Mr. PPS Gill (Ex-Sports)** who drove all the way from Vancouver, Canada, to officiate at the meeting. A special invitee and a guest of honor were Mr. and Mrs. **Inderjit Dhami (R-257, 1976)** who flew from India specifically to be a part of the meet.

Also special guests deserving a special mention were **Ravinder Bhullar (B-357, 1978)** and **Harjinder Gill (S-195, 1975)** and **Satbir Cheema (ex Sutlej)**, who also drove down from Canada. (**Satbir** in part represented his younger brother, **Rajdeep Cheema (S-303 1976)** batchmate who could not make it from Chandigarh this year).

The 1976 batch was represented by **Sarabjit Chimni**, **Inderjit Dhami**, **Shavinder Sandhu**, **Birender Sandhu** and **Rupinder Brar**. **Prabjit Uppal** represented **Baljit Uppal**. Messages of support were received from **Rajiv Aggarwal (J-290, 1977)**, **Birender Sinha**, **Navtej Nijjar (J-289)**, **Manjit Bedi (B-319, 1977)**, **Surinder Kheepal**, **Sarbinder Buttar(S-282)**, **Tejinder Pal Singh Arora (R-290, 1978)**, **Rajbir Singh Bath**, **Beant Sandhu**, **Gopal Krishan Gupta**, **Rajesh Singla (S-292, 1976)**, **Rajdeep Cheema (S-303, 1976)**, **Rupinder Boparai (B-325, 1976)**, **Sarabjit Pannu (S-311, 1976)**, **Daljit Gill (B-226, 1977)**, **Dr. Kulvinder Sangha (B-371, 1976)**, **Dr. Yashbir Dewan (J-297, 1976)** and **Gobinder Singh**, among others.

The festivities lasted three days, starting with a reception dinner hosted by **Shavinder** and **Neena Sandhu** on the evening of the 6th of July. It was a huge success and the free flow of spirits kept most of the spirits very high. For a brief period it even appeared that some members were having way too much fun bringing back a yearning for a small dose of extra PT and front rolls but others, notably, **Hirday Pal Thandi** helped keep every one out of trouble and happy.

The next day, breakfast was at **Rupinder (S-291, 1976)** and **Archana Brar's (R-307, 1978)** place and turned into a brunch. Simultaneously some people went away for a round of golf.

The formal party started later in the evening at the golf course. There was the customary good natured tongue lashing from **Seepja Khurana (J-388)** about not helping with the organisation and showing up late. (The Sandhu duo, **Birender** and **Shavinder** have become rather used to this and had warned the other 1976 batch members about it so we weathered it without much trouble).

Dr. Bhupinder Waraich (R-182) officiated and presented honor plaques to the chief guest and the special invitees. A surprise hypnotist enthralled the guests followed by dinner and live music along with dancing. **Mr. Gill** made a rather emotional speech remembering the good old days of PPS glory

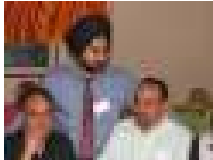
on the sports field. The CONA made a contribution of \$1000.00 for the Nabha Liberals Hockey Tournament at the request of **Mr. Gill**.

It was decided that the next ONA meet would be organised by the next several batches at Las Vegas, USA, in 2008.

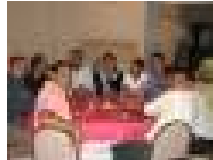
The next day opened with a brunch at a seaside restaurant followed by a tour of the marine world for families and children.

Overall it was a delightful weekend.

Rupinder S. Brar (S-291, 1976 batch)



Dhamsi giving his idea



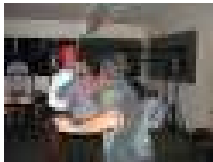
ONs planning for next



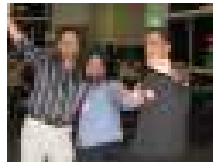
Rupinder and Dhamsi



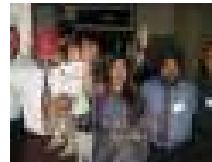
Lalli and Dhamsi



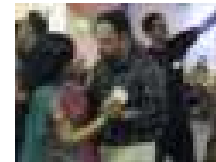
On Dance Floor



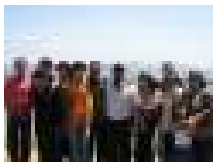
on Dance Floor



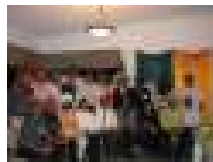
Mr. P.S. Gill dancing



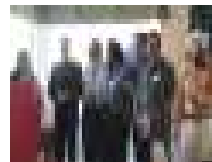
Dance Floor



For Breakfast on Lak



All ONs who attended



Organisers

Jalandhar Chapter

ONA Jalandhar chapter met for a fellowship get together on 6 July in Sub Area Mess. Almost twenty Old Nabhaites with families attended. The meeting was organized by **Brig Deepak Vashisht (S-130, 1971)** and **Col Kandola. Yudhveer Shergill (R-793, 1988)** and **Paramveer Cheema,(S-848, 1991)**, permanent residents of Jalandhar, have been nominated as executive members.

PPS News

0. **Raghav Verma** of PPS, part of 13 member IPSC starting team was among the ultimate 6 to make it to the top of Deo Tibba(6001mts) in May 2007.
0. The Seventh JK Kate Memorial Inter Public School Debate was held in PPS on 1st September, 2007. The subject was "Judiciary should overrule Executive and Legislature". **Sumeet Singh Sandhu and Namrata Majhail** of PPS bagged the over all trophy.
0. PPS won friendly football matches with Bishop Cotton School, Simla on 31st August.
0. S. Pritam Singh, the school photographer of long, passed away at the age of 87 in Nabha.
0. British Council has accredited PPS with the International School Award for the year 2007-10. This is the first school to be accredited in Punjab. The Accreditation is based on introducing the knowledge of internationalism in the school curriculum in order to make students true global citizens. The students prepare project presentations on different subjects of International interest. These are judged by British Council team.

An Old Nabhaite and Old Nabhaites Association

With its formal beginnings in 1980 (actually begun informally in 1964), and with all its ups and downs, the ONA is almost thirty years old now. About 5000 students have passed out from PPS. Strangely only about 882 have shown active interest and motivation to become its **Life Members till today**. Of these, 500 are those who have become members on passing out from PPS in the last few years. The older generation is woefully short in this list. They are also the most vocal in meetings. All this time we have been sending information through emails, The Eagle, phones or letters, without making a distinction between an active member and a simple Old Nabhaite. Time has come to make a distinction between an Old Nabhaite and an Active Member of ONA.

Old Nabhaite is anyone who has passed out of or studied in PPS. **An active member** is one who, being eligible, has shown keenness and motivation to pay the membership fee and become a **Life Member** of the Old Nabhaites Association. This fee is kept as FD in Banks. Only the interest accrued is allowed to be used for ONA activities, if at all. The accounts are presented every year by the treasurer and Income Tax returns is duly filed. **All Active Members of ONA are Old Nabhaites but all Old Nabhaites are not Active Members of ONA.** The ONA has continued to treat them equally so far. However, from now on there will be a distinction between the two. The following will hold good.

- 0) Only Active Members will be allowed to take part in ONA deliberations, discussions and decision making.
- 0) Only Active Members will have voting power in a meeting.
- 0) Only Active Members can become Office Bearers or Executive Members.
- 0) The Active Members will form Chapters at district levels etc as per the Constitution and elect two members from each unit to form the ONA Executive. The Executive in turn will elect the office bearers of ONA.

All Old Nabhaites who are keen to be involved in ONA are requested to become Life Members by sending in their fees in the form of a demand draft of Rs 1500 (US \$100, if abroad) payable to ONA at Nabha, to the undersigned.

Kanwar Gurpreet Singh Gill (R-095)

Treasurer, ONA

279, Harinder Nagar, Patiala

M: 09814034447

WELCOME New Life Members

The ONA welcomes new Life Members of passing out PPS batch of 2007 who became members of ONA on their leaving the school. We are grateful to the Head Master Commdr IL Sayal for this efforts.

We also welcome the following who became Life Members

1. Shobby Vinayak (B-863, 1991)
2. Col Upender Singh (R-181-1970)
3. Sumanpreet Singh (J-566, 1982)
4. Harpreet Singh Sidhu (R-2, 1964)

5.Lovejit Singh Saraon (J-156,1971)

Col BS Grewal(S50-1967)

Secy,ONA

Contacts (Addresses, Phone numbers and Email Ids)

Puneeta Sandhu, (J-540, 1979-1987), Address: # 2120, Phase X, Mohali. M: 9417150200.

Abjinder Singh Grewal, (J-583) Address: Vill. Nanokey, Distt. Patiala. Ph: 01765260359, M: 9814602562.

Avaninder Singh Minhas, (R-120, 1965-71) Address: # 324, Sector 21 A, Chandigarh. Ph: 2707324, M: 92165-12324, 9815912324. Email: *mannatminhas@yahoo.com*

Ms Gagandeep Kaur, (B-678, 1981-87) Address; # D 120, Phase 7 Industrial area, Mohali. Ph: 5090770, M: 9417152902. Email: *minz-3472@yahoo.com* .

Jaspal Singh Sandhu, (J-690) Address: # 241, Sector 9C, Chandigarh. Ph: 2743087, M: 9872296156. Email: *jaspalsinghsandhu@hotmail.com*

Rajinder Jain, (R-266, 1970-76) Address: # 1155, Sector 15 B, Chandigarh. M: 9815547194. Email: *rishabjain007@hotmail.com*

Arun Mahajan, (B-260,1970-76) Address: # 187 A, Sector 1 A-I, Chandigarh. M: 9814016868. Email: *Mahajan Atul@hotmail.com*

Mr. Allan T. Collier,(EX-Teacher) Management Services, 8570 Cathedral Place, Sidney,B.C. V8L 5E1. Email : *silcol@telus.net* Phone : (250) 656-6053

Avtar Singh Grewal, R-77, Present Address: C-27, Kendriya Vihar, Sector 48-B, Chandigarh – 160047. Mob: 9417007758 Ph: 0172 2634758.

Jagtar Grewal, R-104, Present Address: SCO 19/ Second Floor, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh 160017. Ph: 2705932, 2709280.

Kuldeep Grewal, B-380, Present Address: 962/3B2, SAS Nagar. M: 9815550962.

Tejbir Singh Dhillon, B 963, (1988-1994), Dental Surgeon. Present Address: # 93, Phase-2, Mohali. Permanent: Pardaman House, Bhai Kahan Singh St, Nabha. M: 9815322674. Email: *tejbirdhillon@yahoo.com*.

Harpal Singh, B886, (1986-1993). MBA, Manager Operations. Present Address: # 2166, Sec 15C, Chandigarh. Permanent: Vill. Noorpura, PO Channo Teh & Distt. Sangrur. M: 9915172726. Email: *harrywarwah@gmail.com*.

Gurbir Singh, B-302, (1994-2000). MBA. Present Address: Vill Tohra, Teh Nabha, Distt Patiala. Ph: 01765-271160, M: 9876000557.

Tarsem Singh Uppal, S0304, (1996-2002), MBA student. Present Address: # 3538, Sec 38D, Chandigarh. Permanent: Same. M: 9872834297

Email: *tarsem_uppal@hotmail.com*

Supreet Singh, S 836, Address: # 1049, Sector 44 B, Chandigarh. M: 988283900.

Email: *supreet@rarefusion.com*

Staying in Touch

Students have been passing out from PPS since 1963. Except for the first few batches, the number of students passing out every year is more than hundred. Then, there have been many who did not wait till they passed out and left after some years in PPS. The number of Old Nabhaites today, thus, is in the vicinity of 5000. It is not possible for ONA to keep track of each one of you. **The onus of staying in**

touch with ONA lies on you as ONs. In spite of the best efforts of ONA and great results, the gap in our databank is still glaring. We just do not know where many ONs have got lost. It is not sufficient that you have informed some one by phone or verbally at some gathering about yourself. It does not seem practical for future.

Whenever there is any change in your address, phone or email, please inform the ONA. The website is presently facing difficulties and is being rectified but we are able to receive feedback and messages submitted there. At any ONA gathering do not forget to fill the bio-data form.

You should also constantly inform ONA of the progress in your life and that of the ONs around you for a good flow of information. The Directory can thus be constantly updated.

The ONA cannot answer all letters by post as each letter costs a minimum of Rs 4 by book post. The phone also costs. So the best form of communication remains the internet. Please take up an email ID with a good service provider (and for ONA's sake don't change it) and communicate with ONA by email. The ONA can send messages to every Nabhaite with email instantly. All letters received as attachment can be saved in the computer itself without filing. Moreover all your communications (for example in The Eagle) can be copy pasted if need be, without effort and wastage of time. Internet communication is quick, inexpensive, easy, reliable and time saving. The future of ONA as a body lies in embracing this technology.

If the above instructions are followed, we will fulfill basics of the prime objective of ONA, that is to remain a close knit family. Rest depends on our spirit as Old Nabhaites.

Dr Jashanjot(S-52,1967), Incharge 'The Eagle'

YOURS NABHAITELY

Letters and Emails

Love me love my number

My cell phone no is old. It is 516 851 9951. **B-51** being my no at school I picked this no about two years ago

VP Bindra (B-51, 1967)

Tracing friends across the seas

I came to know from **Dr. Trilochan Singh Bhamrah (B-90, 1968)** that an ex teacher **Mr. Pushpraj (Staff)** is in the USA. Any way to contact him?

Sarbjeeet Sohi (B-115, 1969)

Mastering the Greens

This is to inform you that I was the Runners up in the Ranchi Golf Cup held at Ranchi on 30 September 2007. The beauty is that I just started holding the club about 2 1/2 months back. Proud to be a PPS NABHA product. I am sending you the local newspaper cutting. (*Dainik Jagran, dt 01 Oct 07*).

With warm regards,

Lt Col Jaswant Dhaliwal (S-414, ISC 83)

Website Advice

Thank you very much for responding to my email. I will submit my details at the ONA website after it has been upgraded. I would like to suggest one more thing about our website. We should provide an option for ISC year also as by this our database will be carrying an additional information.

Sincerely,

Karan Singh Dhindsa

(B-0482, ISC 2007)

That's me

I would like to have my name listed in the ONA list. My House number was **B-280**. Currently, I live in Abbotsford, BC, Canada. I left school in 1974. Was there from **1970 to 1974**.

Thank you,

Ranjit Singh Grewal (B-280, 1974)

ranjit.grewal@clarica.com

www.clarica.com/ranjit.grewal

Contacting the Gurus through ONA

Could you kindly send me **Mr. VN Bhave's (Ex-Teacher)** address and telephone number?

Regards,

Dr.Preetam Singh (J-242,1973)

Is it possible to have the address of **Mr. Onial** please?

Cheers!

Vikram Chauhan (R769)

20a Kingsbury Road, London, NW9 0RR

chauhan666@yahoo.com

UK Chapter

Thank you ever so much for the reply. As soon as I read your email, I called up **Mr. Onial (Ex-Teacher)**, only to find he was in Delhi. Better luck next time. I appreciate your considerate nature. I would love to write in the Magazine. I would like to know to whom should I send the written article so that it gets published. Please advice me on that.

Thank you again for the offer to write something in this much awaited and full of life magazine.

Also, myself and **Harneek Sahota (S-838)** are struggling to start a chapter in London with few other Old Nabhaites. Would love to write an article about London and life in UK, as that's something different and people from the school can experience the real London from our perspective too.

Kind Regards

Vikram Chauhan (*Vardu from 6th Class Hindi book lesson after the Pundit Varadraj*)

(R-769) *chauhan666@yahoo.com*

Doing a Fun Job

When I came to London in '98, I was also thinking of taking admission in London School of Economics. But could not as it was very expensive for a foreign student to work his / her way with the colossal tuition fees.

I am working as Accounts Assistant for a travel company which does UK / USA Music Bands. It is a fun Job and is not a usual accounts job but has lot of Interaction with Events, Concerts and Happening things in UK and mainland Europe.

I am very lucky to have this kind of job. I started a bit late in this country but did push my way in a very short span of time. I used to hate London and I have started liking it now.

My Mobile phone is +447909 517 133 and my wife Jaswinder's Mobile is +447878 075 044, and our residence Tel is +44 208 200 1059.

Kind Regards

Vikram Chauhan, (R-769)

Strong United ONA

I am an ex-student and would like to know more about the ONA Life Membership & secondly, is there any forum at Bangalore where I can touch base with other ONA members in town ...

I would like to be an active member of the Association for any services that I can provide. I am presently working as a Strategic Consultant for setting up organisations on a BOT model...It has been such a long time that there has been no association with the school but I have started feeling that you can't strengthen your growth without a strong base...- "UNITED WE PREVAIL" is the policy I believe in, hence this is an effort to make contact with my base...

My contact details are: 9880098046. Looking forward to your reply,

Regards,

Aman Sharma (S-767, 1990) *aman@collabrant.in*

Link to Brotherhood

Thanks a lot for sending this great link to the brotherhood of a very fine set of citizens of India of whom so many have moved globally to keep The Eagle soaring. The bond is strong. I congratulate you all who are behind this yeomen service to the ONA.

Warmest regards

Anonymous

Monotonous

Thanks for sending me the Eagle!!! The info contained is voluminous indeed but the monotony in presentation spoils the whole fun. I am sure that with little more effort, we can make it a more interesting reading.

Keep up the good work. Cheers.

Dr Satish Jain (R-107, 1970)

Head of Neurology - PARAS Hospitals &

Secretary General - Indian Epilepsy Society

A good thought

Thank you for the good wishes for our wedding anniversary. I was taken by surprise. A good thought. I appreciate it.

With regards

Basanti Sathu (Mathu) (R-73, 1967)

Prompt

You are real prompt in replying.

We have a break for a week from the school, so I am relaxed. Just today I was going through the ONA newsletter, it brings back nostalgic memories. You are doing a lot for ONA. I visited India in Dec 2005/Jan 2006. I went to Chandigarh to attend reception of **Mina (nee Punia)**'s son. **Jyoti** attended the wedding of Mina's son in Delhi, she didn't come for the reception. I also met **Ravinder Virk, Surinder (S-80) and Harry** (Mina's cousins who were studying in Nabha, couple of years junior to us).

You all are lucky to have ONA get-togethers and talk about the past. Do convey my best wishes to ONs who remember me. I shall definitely inform you when we are in India next so that we could have a small ONA get together.

All the Best for ONA *Baisakhi* Bash!!

Basanti (R-73, 1967)

Best wishes

Thanks for your message inviting me to join and participate in *Baisakhi* Bash. We are presently in San Jose, California with our son and family and will return to India in mid May.

Best wishes for the get together and we wish all my students, all the best.

V.N. Bhave (Ex-Chemistry)

Advance notice

Dear All, Have a great time and CONGRATULATIONS! - on the beginning of a Great Institution.....Please guys request you to give some kind of an advance notice as everyone doesn't live in Chandigarh and Punjab !!!!! Bids I hope you are in town and attend on my behalf.

Regards

JP Singh (Jojo) J - 81

The right spirit

Have a ball, guys! Happy *Baisakhi*. Cheers!

Brigadier Gurmeet Kanwal (J-68, 1968) (Retd.)

Email: gurmeetkanwal@hotmail.com, gurmeetkanwal@gmail.com www.aerospaceindia.org

UN bound

I am at present working with Punjab Police as SI. I have been selected for UN mission police and I am going to Sudan in just 4-5 days. I even went to our school and I met the Headmaster who offered me help from an Old Nabhaite in Sudan... I am talking about **Lt. Gen. Lidder (B-23, 1964)**. I will certainly meet him. If you have any contact e-mail Id of him, kindly send me. Thanks!

Parminder Singh

Ex-PPS (S - 512)

Missing The Eagle

Any idea if another ONA Newsletter is going to be published any time soon. The last one came out in **May 2006**. So does it mean that there is no one minding the store any more? I thought that we had enough funds to publish another one, if not we should take a donation.

Thanks.

Sunil Suhag (J-261), USA

Locating a friend through ONA

Hi, I am Brig Nalin Witharanage from Sri Lanka and I am trying to locate my friend and sponsor during LGSC in Nowshera (91 - 92) **Lt Col Rakesh Goyal (B 369)**. Appreciate if you could fwd his home T/P Number please.

Thanks,

Nalin

Nwitharanage@hotmail.com (**Col Bhudeo Kumar** did the needful)

Try this

Could you post the attached picture to our classmates (*class photo attached*)? The game is to find **Vinod Kashyap (J-65), Inderjit (J-44)** and me (**J-72**) or yourself (**S-52**) or a friend

Dr. Vineet Mehta (J-72, 1967) *vmehtha@cfl.rr.com*

The French Connection

Of course I remember you, even though it's forty years! I can't for the life of me recollect where it was, but we did run into each other at some point in between. In Delhi? I'm rushing out to Paris for a few days and shall be back in touch on my return. I am very touched to receive your letter. How are the others and where? More on my return. I hope you are doing well and let's speak on my return. All details on me are on www.vijaysingh.net, if you'd really want them.

Much love,

Vijay Singh Kanwar (ex-Beas, 1967) Tel: 00 331 43 27 68 34

Me again!

The best profile is on my website www.vijaysingh.net. Click on biography.... otherwise, I don't have anything else, they are all on the net, different newspapers and magazines...

We'll sort this out when we meet. Trust all's well.

Indeed, in school they used to call me **Vijay Kanwar**, as I showed some strange, inexplicable reticence in using "Singh", though my official name there was **Kanwar Vijay Singh!!** Anyway, sense dawned on me soon thereafter and I was back to my name...

Once again! me

Thanks for your email which I picked up on my return from my holiday.

There must be some connection between you and **Bhupi (S-50-1967)** that both of you have written around the same time. Indeed, it will be a great delight to meet up again. I do back and forth a lot between India and Paris and shall positively let you know about the next trip. We must catch up then.

I haven't visited Punjab in a long time - not since 1987 when I had gone in connection with a book I did around the events there. That was my third book - alas! It's only in French!

If you've been to the website, you'd have picked up most of the news about me. After school I failed to get into it (unlike you bright guys!), so I did a year of engineering first in Trichy and then in Kurukshetra. Being fed up with the scene there, I went to St Stephen's and did Honours in History, then, JNU (for Masters and Research), then Paris, where I started writing for *Le Monde* and *Libération* etc, then books and films... I am married to an Indian girl who I met in Paris - her name is Mandakini. We have no children, just us...

Love and send me your numbers. Mine are 00 331 43 27 68 34 (got your message!) and the cell is 00 336 80 61 65 32 .

I am working on my next film now, based on *whirlpool of shadows*, a novel I had written in 1992.

Much love and thanks for writing,

Vijay Singh (ex-Beas, 1967)

1967 Batch Reunion (40 yrs post PPS), New Delhi March 1 & 2, 2008

I would love to attend our batch 1967 reunion. It is 40 yrs since we passed out!!! We surely are getting old. This year I won't be able to make it to India. I have just been browsing through the ONA website and it really made me nostalgic to go through the photo album of PPS, the historical pictures (we are part of that history now). It was good to see the 1967 Founders Day photos, I recognised all the teachers and students. Our PPS school building looks very royal & grand. The school buildings here in New Zealand are no match to our PPS.

You have done an excellent job of ONA website. When you decide the date for reunion, do let me know. In any case when I next come to Delhi/ Chandigarh, I shall try to meet some of you.

With all the best

Basanti (R-73, 1967)

Looking for ONA Day

How are you ? All going well here.....I am practicing in Bathinda but also work in a Dental college in Sriganganagar as a Reader and Head of Dept. What's up on your side sir? Hope all well by the grace of God... Rest all fine....looking for the date of ONA get together.....keep in touch, thanks for the concern.

Dr Jatinder (B-876, 1993)

PPS Gossip

Good to hear from you and what a surprise.

Many *mubaaraks* to **Ravinder S Chopra (R-33, 1967)** on his son's wedding. Time flies doesn't it! ? My contact details are as below. I work and live in Brisbane on the east coast of Australia and like it here - but keep returning to India every year. Now that we have made contact lets have all the PPS gossip. Look forward to hearing from you. Cheers for now.

Dr.Yogesh C Chadha (R-69, 1969)

FRCOG, MSc, FRANZCOG
Senior Staff Specialist, Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Maternity & Gynaecology Services, Level 5 NHB
Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital
Herston Qld 4006, Australia, Mobile +61 408723205

Correct email ID

Thanks for the check mail. I am well and fine and hope the same for you. Presently I am posted here at Chandigarh as ARM(Recovery), OBC Bank. Hoping to meet you soon.

With Regards,

Gurdeep Singh (J-356)

Astt Regional Manager (Rec)
Oriental Bank of Commerce,
Regional Office, First Floor,
Hotel Shivalik View,
Sec-17E, Chandigarh.
M: 98146-94455

Animal instinct

I am Harjinder Sohal, residing in Canada since 2005. Presently I am working as full time Real Estate Sales Person with The Remax Group. We are quite a lot of PPS buddies over here. We were all having a party at Centre Island, Toronto, and one of the ladies said “why do all Old Nabhaites use the names of animals whenever you get together (*haathi, ghoda, daddu, tatttu etc*)” and her husband replied, “that's a secret of PPS”.

I have a daughter (Ekamjot Kaur)-9 years old and a son (Alamjot Singh)-5 years old. My better half is working in Brampton Civic Hospital as a Dietician. I would like to get in touch with as many old Nabhaites as possible, especially people in and around 86 ICSE batch

Harjinder Sohal (R-566, 1988)

1 Squirreltail Way, Brampton, ON
L6R1X4,
905-792-9308 (Resi)
647-302-4363 (Mobile)

Again and again

1. It was so nice to go through every issue of ‘The Eagle’. Fortunately, I have three issues of “The Eagle” with me and it is so interesting to go through them again and again. I am not sure about the frequency of publication of issues whether it is quarterly, bi-monthly etc. I would like to have copy of all the issues of the Eagle.
2. I had earlier sent my details long time back and if I remember correctly became life member as well by paying the requisite fees. But I am sorry, I could not follow up or be in regular touch because of extremely hectic tenure of being Health Officer in New Delhi Municipal Council for 4 years from 01 Jun 2003 to May 2007 on deputation from the Army. This tenure gave me an excellent exposure to work with the Central and State Govt. In fact, *I was lucky to get 5*

certificates of appreciation during this tenure from Union Health Minister, Delhi Health Minister and from Delhi Govt.

3. I joined PPS in 1973 and passed my ICSE in 1978 and left the school to do my Pre-Medical from DAV College, Chandigarh. After that, I got selected to AFMC, Pune from where I did MBBS in 1987 and joined the Army Medical Corps in the same year. I am once again enclosing my latest biodata for updating the records.
4. Presently I have got posted to Leh/Ladakh Sector last week only and am undergoing acclimatization process. I was happy to note from "The Eagle of September 2006" that there are 4-5 old Nabhaites posted in this sector. I will definitely get in touch with them. It was interesting to note that **Col HS Gill (J-58, 1969)** (AMC) who was posted here, has been posted out 03 months back, otherwise he would have been my boss. Otherwise also, what I have heard about **Col HS Gill** is that he had done very well and was liked by everyone here because of his hard work and dedication. I wish I could have got a chance to serve under him by getting posted earlier.

Regards,

Lt Col SK Garg, (J-342, 1978)

Mobile No: 09906989296

Error

I am **Navreet Singh Virk, Ex- S-669**. I am presently serving with Punjab Police as an Inspector. I am S.H.O Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana. I got married in 1997 with Harpreet Kaur. We have two sons, Alamjit Singh, aged 9 years, and Aaftab Singh, aged 6 years, studying in class four and one respectively. I am regularly enjoying "The EAGLE" sent to me through my father who redirects it to me every time after reading it himself.

There is some error in my name and address. I am writing the correct one. Please make necessary charges.

Yours sincerely

Navreet Singh Virk (S-669, 1987)

s/o Shamsheer Singh Virk

V& PO Lakhmari, via Babian

Kurukshetra, Haryana

Great Institution

(a letter forwarded by Headmaster PPS to ONA)

I hope you must be keeping good health. I visited the school, but could not meet you because you were out of station. Congratulations for the result of ICSE & ISC. PPS is going onward and upward under your leadership. That is what I have heard.

I was groomed in this great school in the hands of **Group Capt. A.J.S. Grewal, Mr. Y.P. Johri, Mr. N.S. Bhatti, Mrs. K.C. Tandon etc.** I learned more when I joined teaching staff in 1989, rubbed my shoulders with other staff members under the guidance of **Col. D.S. Khera** and worked under you for some time.

Due to the rich experience of PPS and by the grace of God, I am working as Principal in B.G.S. Public School, Barnala. Having strength of the experience of PPS Nabha helps me to work smoothly. **Mr. Livleen Singh (J-0900-ISC 1994)** is also working in my school.

Sir, I always remember this great institution. I have reached this position due to my school and am thankful to you, my teachers who have taught me and guided me from time to time. Please pay my

regards to every one. I request you to forward my message to in charge chronicle and ONA Eagle. You are requested to drop in whenever you go to Bathinda side and same for other staff members. Please call if I can help my school anytime in any field.

SherJang Singh Chahal(R422-ISC 1983,)

Ex. Geography H.O.D., 98148-06727, 94172-71203

01679-230903, 243403(O), 01679-232403 (Resi.)

WHILE WE ARE BOYS (GIRLS) IN SCHOOL

Publicly Challenged

Gobinder Singh Dhami (R-78, 1969) came from what was those days a rural *kasba* called Amloh. Like others from rural background, he did not really care for the sophisticated world of education and the finer nuances of scoring well in exams. He, however, excelled in extracurricular activities. He was Best School Prefect, Captain of two sports teams, Best NCC cadet and member of the Band. He also took part in dramatics and so on.

Somehow, he managed to clear the Senior Cambridge exams. After PPS he decided to join Govt. College for Boys, Chandigarh rather than Mahindra College, Patiala (which was closer home). He wanted to have a bit of fun in this new free spirited city. Premedical was his chosen course, of course only to impress his parents of the seriousness of his intentions.

Came the first day of college. The Professor in charge of the class, a veteran of many years, entered the class. He scanned the class with his astute experienced eyes through metal-rimmed glasses and sat at his desk. Suddenly, but casually looking up through those glasses from his desk, he asked “If there are any students from Public Schools, please stand up.”

Gobinder Dhami (R-78, 1969), Rajvir Singh Chopra (Ex-Jumna) and Shivinder Deol (J-108) from PPS stood up. The whole class looked at them. Suddenly there was a gleam in the eyes of the Professor. He stood up abruptly and warned the class to be wary of these public school types. Pointing at the three, he said, “these guys come here to enjoy, create mischief, waste their parents’ money and spoil the atmosphere of the college. All they know is to wear jeans, see movies, speak English and behave like snobs.” And as a final warning, “Do not mix with them and ruin your future, stay away from them.”

The three Old Nabhaites felt publicly humiliated. The three met in the evening in **Gobinder’s (R-78, 1969)** room and decided to take up the Professor’s unprovoked public admonishing as a challenge and vowed to study hard. In PPS, all round development was considered more important, hence they may not have done that well in academics. But they had definitely been given the potential to do well by their alma mater.

Soon enough, the three were topping all exams. The final exam showed it was no fluke. All three of them made it to medical colleges. The same Professor got up to shake their hands when they went to say good-bye to him at the end of the year. They thanked him for having publicly challenged them and spurring them to prove him wrong.

Gobinder Dhami (R-78, 1969), is the leading eye surgeon of Ludhiana. **Rajvir Chopra** is a Urologist in New York and **Shivinder Deol (J-108, 1969)** went to AFMC and is now practicing in San Francisco, USA

(As told by **Dr GS Dhami (R-78, 1969)** to **Dr Jashanjot (S-52, 1967)**)

Bonding with the Bonds

Bond 007

*(For those not acquainted with Bond, **Mr YP Johri** was an excellent Maths teacher (later Senior Master). By his logic of deduction, he was also a master in solving many a mystery of mischief in PPS and bringing to book the culprits. He was the first Bond of PPS. Others came later)*

During the final exams, the Senior Master's accommodation over the foyer in main Kairon Block was lying vacant as our dear silly one had left and nobody had taken over. Yours truly, was busy studying in the morning after taking over the entire vacant accommodation when there was a knock on the door. I opened the door and to my surprise our dear **Sir Mr. Bond** was there. "Do you want to fail?" asked Mr. Bond. The fact was that I was so engrossed in my studies that I forgot all about time. The exam had already started. How Mr. Bond got there is still a mystery to me!

Bond Out Matched or One up on the Bond

During one of the term exams, I got 49/50 marks in Mathematics. This set our dear Sir Bond suspicious and I was hauled up and asked to confess. When I refused to do so, I was sent to **Mr. Tandon** for a retest. When **Mr. Tandon** informed him of the result, he was at a loss. The days of Nadia Comaneci, the record breaking perfect scoring Romanian gymnast, came much later. I got a perfect 50/50.

The New Bond

The school re-opened after the winter vacation. The House-Masters heaved a sigh of relief as the boys checked in and called it an early day or "lights off". Our **Mr. Onial** was feeling restless at this unusual event. So after the routine round at 9.30 pm, he decided to have another round at 11.30 pm.

To his good luck and to our heroes' bad luck, it was found that twelve beds had pillow dummies in them. Alarm bells were sounded, battle plans drawn and the Head Boy was summoned. The troops were marshalled and the army proceeded on bicycles to the only night retreat in Nabha, the local theatre.

As the soldiers reached the theatre, a group of people covered with blankets were observed walking on the road towards them, but on the opposite side. They would have escaped notice under normal circumstances, but for the loud voices and guffaws emanating from beneath the blankets, which gave them away. The Tiger pounced and the prey was caught. The reception that followed can be left to your imagination!

Avaninder Singh Minhas
(R-120, 1971) "*FATTY*"

The Immortal Teachers

Mr Samuel Collins Cowell formed one of the three pillars on which lie the strong foundations of PPS, **Mr JK Kate** and **Ms GB Malkani** being the others. **Mr Mellon** followed close behind. All the teachers of the founding years worked with these great personalities. It was Team Fantastic. **Old Nabhaites** who studied in PPS in sixties and seventies will continue to write and talk about them as long as they are around.

This piece is meant to remember **Mr SC Cowell**. He served as a teacher in Sanawar for decades and became Senior Master there, before he shifted to PPS with **Mr JK Kate**.

He is best remembered in Sanawar and PPS for his awesome reputation as a strict disciplinarian. He never spared the tongue or rod for a mischief-monger as he did not want to spoil the children. There are numerous incidents recited by his students about his tough side. I would like to dwell upon the other side of **Mr Cowell**.

Mr Cowell was an excellent English teacher. He taught us literature. He was meticulous in his explanation and was very well-read. At times he would go to such lengths to explain the Latin or Roman or Greek or mythological background of a sentence that he would barely finish a paragraph during one period. But we never forgot it after that. He was able to drill the fineness of the great Shakespeare into even rustics like me. He never complained about the kind of students he had (unlike the teachers of today), though there were at least 60 percent rural children and most of them were not exposed to Television or other media. He used to take our homework home for his home work. Next day we would get our notebooks back. Each boy's notebook had been carefully checked and corrected in red ink. I dreaded opening my notebook as it would be more red than blue. He may have been fearfully strict but it was his fairness and unbiased and consistent approach which made children respect him.

At Assembly time, he tried to drill some music sense into the Punjabi (who understand only *dhol* beats) students. He would bring his tape recorder to the Assembly Hall (the first time I saw one), and play western classical music, telling us the finer points of Beethoven's 5th symphony. He would have made sopranos out of us if any of us had an inkling of the musical notes. He would make us sing the Assembly Prayers with his characteristic 'laa la laaaa.....s' trying to drill the correct note into dumb heads.

What impressed me the most at that age was his sense of humour and the great wit that he possessed. I never knew what subtleness was till I experienced his brand of humour. Everyone knows he named his diary of mischief mongers after the Company VOLTAS (Volume of Liars, Thieves and Scoundrels), which he maintained for the naughtiest of the children. An incident that highlights his double edged compliments was when he encountered **Hardev Bajwa (S-25, 1966)**, a mischievous but brilliant boy with "**Hardev**, with your genius you could be the Prime Minister of India one day but I am sure you will end up in jail". Another time when he was teaching Julius Caesar he came to the famous speech by Marcus Antony which he read as "Friends, Romans, and countrymen, lend me your ears.....", and then, quietly, without any expression and in softer but audible tone, "for I have lost mine." The class roared with laughter and he continued unruffled.

Once I had the opportunity to dine with Harish Dhillon, Headmaster, YPS (an ex Sanawarian) and a former student of **Mr Cowell**. Also present at the table was late Mr Norman, an Englishman settled in Mohali. He had also studied under **Cowell** much before Harish in Sanawar. While discussing the discipline in schools today, the talk inevitably veered to **Mr Cowell** and his brand of discipline. Each one of us had a story to tell.

First came Norman, who remembered a 1936 report written by **Mr Cowell**. "Norman works in fits and starts. Unfortunately at the time of the exams he failed to have either a fit or a start."

Then was the turn of Harish, who felt he was never good at anything in School but did achieve something when **Mr Cowell** pushed him too hard. Came the Annual results of IV A in which Harish was a student. **Mr Cowell** opened the register and started to announce, "First, Harishpal Singh Dhillon". He paused, looked out of the window at the steady downpour outside, then turned to look at the children and added in a soft but clear voice which could be heard at the back of the class, "and hence the rain".

Then it was my turn to tell them of the incident in the 60s. The Kendall family (daughter Jennifer, became wife of actor Shashi Kapoor and Felicity Kendall a TV actress in London), with its Shakespearean troupe, would visit all the major schools of India and stage classic plays. By this time they had limited themselves to Shakespeare plays and assortment of scenes rather than full-length plays. After one such performance which featured the three witches from Macbeth, **Mr Cowell** came on stage, and facing the student audience, asked them with his tongue in cheek mode, “ Which witch was which?”

It is more than 25 years since this Englishman who made India his home, after having served over 40 years as a teacher, passed away. He is still remembered by his students fondly. He has left a legacy. You cannot be more immortal than this as a teacher. I am reminded of a line from ‘*Julius Caesar*’ by Marcus Antony, spoken over the dead body of Caesar to the people of Rome, which **Mr Cowell** taught us so well, “Here was a man, when comes such another.....”

Dr Jashanjot (S-52, 1967)

Eagle’s Support

Chief Patron: Cmdr IL Sayal, Head Master, PPS, Nabha. M: 9357720675

hmpps nabha@yahoo.com

Patron: Harpartap Singh Ajnala (B-45), President, ONA. Beant Niwas, Raja Sansi Road, Ajnala. 98143-14545(M), *President, ONA*

Support: Avaninder Singh Minhas,(R-120, 1971)

In Charge: Dr Jashanjot Singh Bhangu (S-52), jashanjot9@yahoo.com, 09216950004(M)

Printer:

Payments: A/C payee, favouring “ONA A/C The Eagle”, payable at Nabha.

Replies & Responses: “The Eagle”, 4538, Darshan Vihar, Sector-68, SAS Nagar-160062

Email: onapps@yahoo.com, onapps nabha@gmail.com, jashanjot9@yahoo.com &

webmaster@ppsona.com, **Website: www.ppsona.com**