

The Eagle



(A NEWSLETTER OF ONA)

ISSUE NO. 29

(For Private Circulation)

March 2013

The Golden Jubilee and After... (Part 2)

ONA Day 2K12 (April 8th, 2012)

It was that time of the year again...when near-chaos precedes extreme order...the Annual ONA Day.

How many Old Nabhaites are expected on the day?...queries **Gen Tej Sapru(S-42,1964)**, President of ONA, no one has a clue! What is the number we have to make arrangements for ?.. quips a concerned **Brig GS Julka(J-101,1970)**, Bursar of the School. He needs to know because PPS makes all the arrangements and ONA pays for them. “Difficult to say” is the answer from ONA office bearers. The information about ONA Day is sent out through multiple modes of communication: sending out emails, announcing it on the website and on the Facebook page of OnaPps, and forwarding text messages to all those on the ONA database who do not access the internet ... and then just sit back and wait.

One can imagine the stress ONA office- bearers go through in the days preceding such important events. The reason is simple—it has become customary for Old Nabhaites to delay confirmation about their attendance or otherwise to the last day, creating avoidable problems for the organisers in planning for the event. One could laconically compare their procrastinations with Hamlet’s infamous lament ‘to be or not to be...’ if it were not so irritating for the poor office-bearers who are left making wild guesses about the likely turnout of these worthies!

A week before the actual event, we plan to make conservative arrangements so that ONA does not end up losing money as in the past many years. The lunch(keeping in mind last year's impressive gathering and the huge turnout at the March 3 'Welcome Dinner' in Chandigarh for the new Headmaster) was planned for 35 Old Nabhaites and more than 100 turned up for dinner .

ONA Jt Secretary **HS Dhaliwal(B-627,1988)**, **Yadwinder Sidhu(R-674,1988)** of Ludhaina Chapter, **Mrs. Gagandeep(B-678,1987)** of Mohali Chapter and **Jashanjot(S-52,1967)** from the main body are at the School to invite the Head Master, Deputy Headmaster, Bursar, and School staff for the ONA Day and request their help in organising it. These ONA office-bearers then literally walked through the ONA Day at actual sites and consider all possible requirements and arrangements. **Brig Julka** is most helpful and accompanies them to all the sites while making note of all our requirements. The School authorities are going out of the way to do their best for the **"ONA Day 2K12"**.

Come D-Day, the organisers are driving anxiously from Ludhiana, Patiala and Chandigarh towards Nabha with some local boys like **Vijay Verma(B-881,1991)** and **Gulzar(B-401,1984)** standing by for any help required at the School end. Mercifully, our anxiety is short-lived. Information reaches us that the 1987 batch is already in the Malkani Hall Junior School attending a meeting organised by the redoubtable **Suba Singh Khaira(B-675,1987)**. That means almost 30 Old Nabhaites are already there !As always, the amazing spirit of the ONs continues to surprise us.

By lunch time , there are already more than 60 Oldies relishing the classic PPS *"Rajmah Chawal"* (no gourmets or delicacies for Old Nabhaites please!) in the Junior School Dining Hall. As planned earlier with the School authorities, the present Nabhaites were seated at the tables while the Old Nabhaites enjoyed the buffet served on the sides . Many more landed up by the time the lunch was over.

As usual, the football match between the incumbent School team and past students at the Games field was well organised and attended. The Old Nabhaites in their over- enthusiasm and the prevalent spirit of fun want to play and enjoy the visit to their alma mater.... winning or losing is not important to them. Traditionally, Old Nabhaites have always been officially declared winners out of respect for their age and state of fitness! However, the **Generals (Sapru and Tiwari)** tried to make it fair and even and not the traditional Present 11 Vs Past 18. They intervened to make the match more disciplined and not a free- for -all. Both view points are different but the spirit behind them undoubtedly remains the same. Perhaps the post-School Army and Civil backgrounds have something to do with it !

High Tea followed, where staff and students passing out of Classes X and XII were invited by Old Nabhaites for interaction. Gen Sapru and other ONs mingled freely with members of the staff and the Senior students who would themselves soon be part of the ONA. We were impressed by the clarity with which most of the boys saw their growth beyond School, though some felt they needed more guidance. An interesting aspect about the The interaction was that some of the students' Dads and Uncles had been contemporaries of many of us present... PPS has finally reached Veteran status!

The ONA meeting in Pavate Hall in Senior School was well attended. The proceedings commenced with observation of two minutes' silence for the departed souls of **Vinay Chippalkatti(S-81,1966)** , **Radhe Nagpal (B-152,1971)**and **Sarvpreet Singh**. The School Song , Assembly and prayer followed. Then came the Headmaster's address. He outlined his aspirations and plans for the School .It was most heartening to know that he wanted the ONA community to be the pillars of The PPS.

The actual ONA meeting was next on the agenda. As usual **Gen Tej Sapru** made it very interactive, encouraging Old Nabhaites to ask questions. They were answered by office bearers and he himself intervened at times to moderate the meeting along constructive lines and elaborate on complex issues. He also requested Old Nabhaites to be more actively involved in ONA contributing to its growth by shouldering responsibilities and not just attending planned meetings and dinners. Finally, compeer **Gagandeep(B-678,1987)** ,proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The much- awaited grand event of the day, the dinner, was inevitably delayed because of the extended discussions at the ONA meeting. Nevertheless, it was worth the wait. It was for the first time that the dinner had been organised in the neighbouring Headmaster's Green ,thus avoiding the mad rush for cars and frantic drive down to Junior School for dinner as in the past. The dinner itself was laid out over almost half the Green and the arrangements were, indeed, exquisite. The Bar service was most efficient. The Reception was organised very well by the school staff and ONA is ever so grateful to them for staying up late to help us. The sumptuous dinner was prepared and served with personal touch of the Mess Steward and waiters of PPS under the most able guidance of Brig Julka. The evening was lively ,with Old Nabhaites exchanging views and thoughts with the staff.

Thus came to end another wonderful and fulfilling Old Nabhaites Day. Everyone enjoyed the company of the new Headmaster Jagpreet Singh and his charming better half Sonia , Bursar Brig GSJulka , Senior Master and Junior Head Mrs Thapar. It was gratifying to meet Old Nabhaites dating back to 1960, the inaugural year of the School and through every decade to the present.

Alas,all good things have to come to an end..so it was with the ONA Day ! There was record attendance of Old Nabhaies this ONA Day ,excluding ,of course, special events like “ Rendezvous 2000” (Millennium Meet). Everyone peeled off to their homes in different directions from Nabha with sweet and lasting memories of the evening. Old Nabhaites not confirming their attendance in advance can be forgiven as the PPS overwhelms all else !

For those who could not make it and for those who could, the photographs below bring out the full picture...



Headmaster Jagpreet Singh and Bursar **Bri GS Julka** in deep consultations...



The Reception team under watchful eye of Jt Secy **HS Dhaliwal**



Early arrivals in the Junior School Porch.



Lunching with students in Junior School Dining Hall.



Interacting with Junior School Head **Mrs Thapar.**



1987 batch...



.....made it by Lunchtime.



Gen Tej Sapru with Prefects.



Non-playing Old Nabhaites watching the match



Gen Sapru meeting the players



Headmaster with Old Nabhaites...courtesy to the Headmaster.



A section of the audience



The fabulous Band during break time...



The Past



.....and the Present.....chase the ball...



Old Nabhaites cheering both teams.



Both teams together at the end. Three cheers for both ... Hip Hip... Hurrah



Rajdeep and Sunil with Prefects, HM ,SM and the Bursar (partially seen).



Tete- a- tete at tea time.



The cup that cheers !



ONA President promotes the green drive.



Meeting an exchange student.



Outside the Auditorium before the meeting



Gagandeep compeering the evening



The School Song to commence the meeting.



Headmaster's address before the meeting



The President addresses the Old Nabhaites



Jt. Secretary HS Dhaliwal presenting the Annual Report



Treasurer **Kanwar Gill(R-095,1995)** presents the accounts



Dr Jashanjot emphasises a point



Rapt audience



Bursar Brig GS Julka and Brig C Sood(R-268,1976) recording the minutes of the proceedings..



Participants



The 'General' idea of the evening !



Fellowship in full swing



Rajdeep Cheema(S-303,1976) making a point.



One for memories



Round Table Conference.. No 1



...No 2..



..and No 3..



Mood swings



1987



One more..



...and another !



Another batch



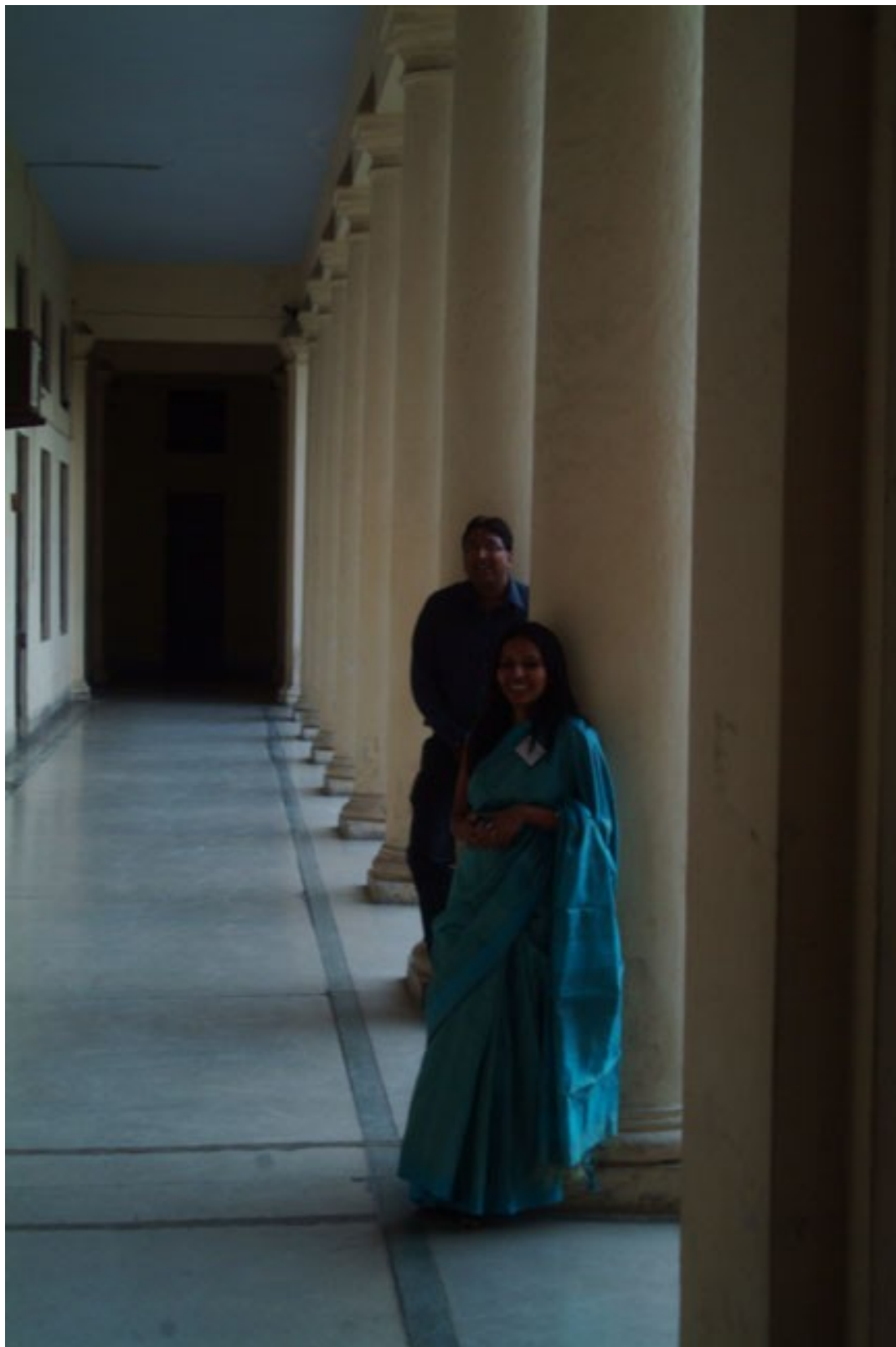
Glass half empty or half full?



Are you being served?



Nothing serious, Gagan discussing a point with Mr Jagpreet.



“The-Pillars-of-strength-of-the-alma-mater”

Welcome Dinner in honour of the new Headmaster and Bursar

Mr Jagpreet Singh formerly Vice - Principal of Mayo College, Ajmer joined The PPS as Headmaster in early 2011 and **Brig (Retd) Gurvinder (Guri)S Julka (J-101,1970)** followed him shortly thereafter as the new Bursar. The ONA had planned to host a welcome dinner for them in Chandigarh the responsibility for which was given to the Tricity Chapter . Secretary **Supreet Puri (S-836,1994)**, took on the challenge since the President **Col DPS Waraich (J-281,1976)** had moved on transfer to Jalandhar.

Our plans got derailed by the vagaries of the weather : most of the month of April 2011 (which had appeared to be the ideal month for hosting the dinner) was lost to the rain gods . The hot weather and the extended monsoon followed. Meanwhile , it was time for the PPS Founders' Day and the two important personalities got busy. This was followed by the annual wedding season, making it virtually impossible to book any suitable venue. Finally **Col HS Chahal(J-49,1967)** the man behind organising the event sat down with the DSOI Managers and literally forced them to make a commitment for any Sunday evening which had so far not been taken...it happened to be the 3rd of March and he grabbed it !

This was followed by a series of meetings of the Organising Committee to plan the event in order to ensure its smooth passage and ,importantly, stay within budget ! One of the most fruitful meetings which was hosted by the magnanimous **Jaspal Sandhu (J-690, 1986)** at his residence where he hosted a lavish dinner for all. This helped in laying the foundations for a team which can organise any event in Chandigarh now.

Apart from the office bearers the Old Nabhaites, others who took out time to lend a helping hand with organisation of this event were :

Col Inderpal Singh (J-77,1965),Col HS Chahal (J-49,1966) ,Lt.Col Manjit Sihota(R-306,1974), Chanchal Singla(J-970,1996), Lovejit Saraon(J-156,1971) Gurkiran Bains(S-881,1991), Supreet Puri (S-836,1994), Rajinder Jain(R-266,1976) , Jaspal Sandhu(J-690,1986) , Sudarshan Goyal (B-103,1970) , Ms Gagandeep (B-678,1987), Harinderpal Bhullar (R-786,1990), Vikas Jindal (J-846,1992), Amrik Saini (R-544,1985), Col DPS Waraich (J-281, 1976), Jatinder Randhawa (J-60,1968), Brig Harbax Gill (S-99,1965),and Anil Aggarwal (R-621,1988).

The ONA is indebted to them all. Each one of them had been assigned specific duties which were carried out with great élan. **That the arrangements were appreciated by all is a tribute to great teamwork and the thoroughness of their planning and execution.**

The information about the event had been sent out by email, posted on website, Facebook and lastly by SMS. Since Old Nabhaites are not in a habit of confirming their attendance (like for the ONA Day in the School), there was a big question mark about how many would actually attend. The evening started with a few ONs trickling in, but within a half hour, it had become a flow! As

many as 150 persons registered for the event including ladies and Old Girls. This was the biggest-ever ON gathering in Chandigarh .

The reception was supervised by **Inderjit Sidhu and Kanwar Gill (R-095, 1995)**. The mike was handled most ably by **Gagandeep (R-678,1987)** who compeered the evening and also looked after the decorations. **Ashwani** , in his trademark swashbuckling style ,introduced the two Chief Guests to the Old Nabhaites.

The TriCity President **Col DPS Waraich** and his wife received the Headmaster and his charming spouse Sonia. **Supreet Puri** and **Gagandeep** welcomed the Bursar **Brig GS Julka**. They were all presented bouquets on behalf of ONA.

The evening was also graced by Ex Headmasters **Col Dr DS Khaira** and **Gp Capt AJS Grewal**. The Old Nabhaite who has been associated most with PPS since 1960 first as a student then as teacher in charge of Sports **Iqbal Kooner(R-18,1967)** ,who had been specially invited ,also attended.

Some of the prominent Old Nabhaites who made it despite other engagements were : **Gen TK Sapru (S-42,1964)**, **Gen RS Sujlana(B-,1967)**, **Gen BPS Mander**, **Gen S Tiwari**, **Arunjit Miglani,IAS**, **Gen GS Dhillon(B-68,1967)**, **Dr Navdeep Sandhu(J-, 1973)** most in demand local surgeon, **Senior Advocate Rajdeep Cheema(S-,1976)** , **Dr Loomba from UK**, **Pawan Munjal CEO Hero Motocorp(S-,1970)**, **Gen DS Sood** and **PPS Gill(B-39,1963)** Former **Information Commisioner Punjab**,

The icing on the cake was that, on same day, **Lt Gen Bikram Singh(B-71,1968)** received official intimation that he was to be appointed as the next COAS. He called **Lt Gen Sapru** on the mobile and the conversation was heard by everyone present through the sound system. **Bikram** addressed the gathering and spoke of the sterling role played by his alma mater in his success. He also reiterated his resolve to continue abiding by the ethics, discipline and principles imbibed by him in PPS.

It was ,indeed, heart-warming to see so many Old Nabhaites from so many different years and batches interacting with each other and rejoicing with pride **Bikram's** elevation .

In his address,Mr Jagpreet Singh elaborated in his enthusiastic style the changes he is trying to bring about and assured the ONs that his team will leave no stone unturned in its continuing efforts to bring further glory to The PPS. Gp Captain Grewal also addressed the gathering ,as there were many Old Nabhaites in the gathering who had studied in the School during his tenure. They made sure that he had company all the time and that his glass of joy was constantly refilled!

The party was in full swing till late but the DSOI rules did not allow it beyond laid norms. The dinner went off well as there was enough to eat even for late diners although attendance had gone beyond planned expectation.

Gagandeep thanked the guests and also the volunteers who had organised the event.

One group from Ludhiana was so engrossed in their old School-time memories that they hung around the gate beyond midnight quite oblivious to the lateness of the hour.....

Below are visual glimpses of the event :



Headmaster and Mrs Jagpreet Singh (center) welcomed by the Tricity team.



Bursar Brig GS Julka touching base with Wg Cmdr BD Singh(S-84,1969) about school days.



Gp Capt AJS Grewal with some of his admirers. Former teacher **Jang Sher Chahal (R-422,1984)** is on the right.



Gp Capt AJS Grewal with Old Nabhaite and former teacher **Iqbal Kooner (R-18,1966)** with their ex-students. Grewal Sahib encouraged formation of an independent ONA in his time at the helm of PPS.



Gen TK Sapru President of ONA receives Headmaster Mr Jagpreet Singh



Col Dr DS Khara (center) with Old Nabhaites



Group photo after Ashwani (in wheelchair) had introduced the guests to the Old Nabhaites



The call that everyone was waiting for. Gen Bikram Singh on Mobile through the mike for everyone to hear. Col HS Chahal and Supreet Puri look on.



The industrious and committed Reception Committee supervised by **Inderjit Sidhu , Kanwar Gill and Lovejit Saraon**. They worked so that others could enjoy.

Below are brief note on the Headmaster and the Bursar who have taken over the reins of the PPS

Mr. Jagpreet Singh,

Headmaster, The Punjab Public School, Nabha

1. Mr. Jagpreet Singh, Headmaster of The Punjab Public School, Nabha did his schooling and college from Ajmer. He is a post - graduate in History.
2. Mr. Jagpreet Singh possesses 25 years of rich administrative experience in the field of Education. He has been conferred with the Best Teacher award in the year 2001 by the Chief Justice of Rajasthan. He also received the Best Teacher award in September 2003 from the Lions Club, Ajmer and Eminent Educationist Award by the International Institute of Education & Management, Delhi in 2011. Before joining this institution, he was Vice Principal, Mayo College, Ajmer with which he had been associated for 22 years 1989 before joining PPS in March 2011.
3. Activities of Interest : Cricket, Dramatics, Debating and Quizzing, NCC.
4. **Overseas Experience :-**

- * Exchange Teacher to Eton College, (UK)
- * Participated in the Sydney Cricket Festival (Australia)
- * Participated at the Milo Squash Jr. Championship at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).

5. **Member** :-

a) He has been appointed as the Representative of the Indian Public Schools Conference (IPSC) in the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) in 2011.

b) He has been designated as the British Council School Ambassador or Principal in 2011.

6. Mr. Jagpreet Singh takes very keen interest in Sports and extra - curricular activities.

7. Family : Wife : Mrs. Sonia Singh,
 Son : Gunraj Singh, did his schooling in Mayo College and pursued History Hons. at St. Stephen's College, Delhi. Presently working as PGT History and Squash Coach at PPS.

**Brigadier Gurvinderpal Singh Julka (Retd),
 Bursar, The Punjab Public School, Nabha**

Brigadier **Gurvinderpal Singh Julka** (Retd) was born on 25 September, 1954. He joined PPS as **J-101, in 1964**. After seven fruitful and memorable years here, he proceeded to the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.

He was commissioned in the Corps of Electrical & Mechanical Engineers in 1974. Thereafter, he acquired a Masters degree in Electrical Communication Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and is an M Sc (Defence Studies) from the Madras University.

During his Army service spanning 34 years, Brig Julka has held a variety of prestigious command, staff and instructional appointments. He has served as an Instructor at the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and as a Military Observer in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. During his last assignment in the Army as Commandant & Managing Director of an Army Base Workshop, he headed the manufacture of Weapon and Driving Simulators for the Indian Army and other organizations.

Brig Julka is a keen Sailor. He has participated in various National Sailing Championships as well as in coastal expeditions. **He is presently on the panel of National Judges of the Yachting Association of India.** He is blessed with a son, Jagbir Singh Julka, who is presently working as a Software Engineer in an MNC.

The PPS nostalgia-

What makes the ONA so unique? Is there a hidden strength?

By **Captain Inderjit Arora ,IN (J-40,1967)**

I was in India this the summer of 2011. My mother who is nearly 95 needed urgent medical care. Where to take her for the best care was a dilemma. How did I resolve this? By the answer to this question that I asked myself, “where do I have true friends who will stand by me and assist me?” I thought to myself I am near 60 years old, have been in college, the Indian Navy, commanded submarines, served on India’s first nuclear sub, sailed in the mercantile marine as a Captain and now am a President and CEO of 25 year old company in USA and yet at a crucial moment cannot decide where to take my mother? The answer to my question was Chandigarh. Why? Because JJ (**Jashanjot** to other Old Nabhaites) my 1967 batch friend and desk mate from the class is there. When I needed to determine “our friends are close at hand...” it was back to The PPS. My school! Years and years pass, we classmates have grown, some have become fat some have grey hair, some God has taken away, but the strong bond just continues. Is it the school or us? There is that bond in our 1967 batch. Then I only interact with the 67 batch mates. My classmates notwithstanding the distances and the years that pass before we meet again, remain steadfast, reliable, and happy to meet, and assist until we meet again. I guess it is the same with others batch mates. “While we are boys in school we learn our lives to mould...” phase never seems to end.

Whilst in Chandigarh JJ asked me to write an article for Eagle about my memories and nostalgia. I wanted to go down the memory lane, but then this thought took charge of my thinking, what it is that binds us like the electrons to the nucleus. Going down that historic track would have been easy. In Chandigarh at a short notice, JJ called some friends and they were there, **Harjit(J-49), Jolly(S-62), Sofat, Ashok(J-36), JJ(S-52)** et al to meet me at the cricket stadium. We had a great evening. I was seeing some of them after 20 years! Yet the conversation was as if we had only met the last week! What drove them to meet an old classmate? It is this thought that intrigued me. So rather than come out with some stories and anecdotes of my 67 batch mates I decided to scratch my brain deeper in introspection to fathom into the reasons for this nostalgia. In addition, the tremendous success we boys have made over the years.

After all The PPS in the 60s was no Doon School or for that matter Sanawar or any of the other schools with a name, a refuge of the well off. These schools were the choice of the rich and

affluent upper strata of the post independence elite. The parents of these schoolchildren sent their children to the comfort and a touch of elitism to come back as friends of the future elite and develop their networks. The PPS was conceived and established by the founders to provide a platform to create potential successful citizens of India. It was the first real example of socialism. It brought together the children of mainly middle class and a few (like my dear friend **Vinod(J-65)**) from the rich elite strata. The later of course came encouraged by the promised standard of the school. The results of this gamble could only be ascertained after many years. Now with the Golden anniversary of the PPS behind us, it is perhaps time to see how it all turned out. Did the investment produce the desired results? This was the answer to my question. Did The PPS live up to producing the citizens who would say, “In India is our pride, courageous just and true, we will serve our fellows far and wide here and the whole world through...”



I was pleasantly surprised with hidden pride that indeed The PPS has over the years nurtured the foundations of our society with dedicated citizens, who overall are quite scared to cheat, mistreat others, who appreciate and respect hard work as the only tool to success. These alumni ONs have gone into various/ diverse occupations and excelled as doctors, businesspersons, engineers, politicians, lead the police, been the first Submariners, nuclear Submariners, army commanders and educationists and so on. In such a short span of the school’s existence (to modify Churchill’s speech) never have so many talented responsible citizens been provided by a school in such a short time. Is it any wonder that the President of India inaugurated the school? And another President graced the occasion on the 50th anniversary. Any wonder that the next Chief of the Army Staff may be an ON. So I took this challenge from JJ to run my mind to dive into what did our great school do create such a formidable band of young men consistently. Inspire them to

rise from humble backgrounds to pinnacle of our society. From our villages to leaders capable of leading India and some cases, make success all over the world, in various spheres. I am hoping that this article is the beginning of the journey, for more contribution and thoughts to come in from my other wiser ONs.

The PPS is not just a celebration of the past. Yes the past is the history which inspires. The inspiration should continue to lead the present “onward and upward” to create the success in their lives, build a strong nation, forge the camaraderie and seek happiness in the future. The greatness thus is not the individuals alone but the institution. We as individuals are products of the institution. It is a human fallacy to blame the environment and circumstances for the failures and take pride and credit for the success! The PPS created those conditions and selected the modern day Gurus, our teachers, who relentlessly and consistently worked to further enhance and contribute to the building of the foundation of us boys. I think more than the existing conditions it is the decisions we make in life which are more important. “*Aham Brahma*”, God is in me. The strength to shape the future lies within each boy who comes to the portals of Nabha. Every boy who came to the school was raw and like hot metal could have been shaped in any way or ruined by neglect. The institution recognized the potential in each of us, and created the environment to enable us find that hidden talent within us. The teachers stood, watched, and carried out the course correction as and when necessary. Each of those stalwarts under respected Mr. JK Kate was unique. Totally dedicated to the student’s development. Always conscious of the tremendous responsibility placed on them to shape our future. Perhaps the greatest contribution PPS made in the boy’s life was in making us believe we could achieve our goals. The son of a JCO with his dedication, perseverance and hard work under the guidance of the teachers to become an Admiral, a General, a great doctor, engineer, architect, educationist, businessperson or whatever he chose to be. Is this then what binds us in the chain of nostalgia to respect and regard our teachers, have reverence for the school as the most sacred temple? Is this love for our friends the biding force?

The PPS has some of the finest buildings, which are the pride of all of us, on seeing the senior school dome after all these years a lump comes to the throat.

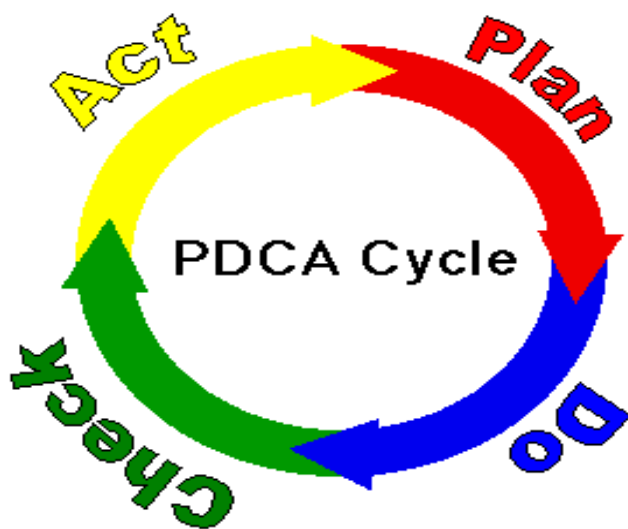


Then there are the vast playgrounds, four 400-meter arenas for athletics. Grounds large enough for the entire school to play the game of the season simultaneously. I doubt there is another

school in India that can boast of each student playing at the same time the same game. Yet never have buildings and grounds alone created a great institution. If it were so, the rich and affluent would purchase history, style, and ethos. To all this dedication, leadership, and commitment of the most august gathering of teachers played a vital role. The Founders of the school left no stone unturned to bring together exceptionally talented teachers from all over the country. To the talent the national and global appeal was added. There were teachers from all over the country, UK, USA et al wherever there was, talent it came to The PPS like a bee comes to honey. The best part was that the honey and benefits were provided to the students!

Sometimes I hear of teachers who organized strikes in The PPS! Living in USA I am not much in touch, but the filtered news talks of embezzlement of funds and so on. Though this unconfirmed sad news is far and few in between. Teaching is the most challenging form of leadership requiring the greatest sacrifice from the Gurus to set that example for the next generation. Our housemasters checked us, ensured we said our prayers, saw us go to bed, inspected our washing (even by smelling to see if we had not used soap), stripped to the waste to wash up in severe winter lest lack of hygiene made the boys sick. Parents send '*pinees*' and the goodies. Where did they all go? Into the common treasure for all to share. You could have come to PPS on different ships but you sure were in the same boat once you joined your House!

It is all this and more which keeps us coming back. It did not just happen:



It all happened because our teachers spend hours, days, their vacations, and a good part of their life planning for our return. They planned everything. Before implementing, they had a plan with meticulous details worked out. Nothing was left to chance. The debates, the house plays, the games, the athletic sets, the '*seva*' on Gandhi Jayanti and so on. Each implementation stage was followed by a check stage. A review to see how things worked out, the lessons learnt. These then were analyzed at the act stage to make the next terms plan well. On and on until we had the environment to grow, learn, and become the students and then citizens we became.

I am sure it was not easy, day after day, our teachers and staff right down to **Jora Singh** who served us in the dining room with his team were kind, listened and paid attention to the students. Our faults were corrected, where praise was due it was given, where we were required to be Ms. **Malkani's** guests, well, we were her guests learning patience and lessons! There was recognition

as becoming prefects and appointments in the NCC. Then there was no dearth of good example to emulate. A standard was set, be it speaking English, eating correctly after the grace, all a part of disciplining us students. We have to remember that our teachers missed meals with their families to eat with us and be the example we needed. Yet we were held accountable for what we did. It was like a mission on which our teachers and then their chosen prefects willingly embarked on. After all, at that tender impressionable age we were searching, often desperately for purpose and meaning to our lives. We were growing up from children into puberty. How well we were handled and taught the self-control. If leaders make mistakes at this stage, if they lift the guard we would / we could get misled into temptations and onto the wrong tracks of life. After all “*lal pari*” liquor shop was just outside the school boundary. Not that some of us did not make mistakes, or go to the cinema for a night show in our house counterpanes, to be promptly spotted by our House Masters! They were awake and checking at all times. I wonder did they ever sleep. Our teachers understood the awesome responsibility entrusted to their care. It is this responsibility and the exemplary implementation of their sacred duty, which remains paramount, endears us even today to our teachers, and strengthens the bond between each of us.

When we are young, often all the dedication can be lost if there is no faith. This too was not left out in the plans of our ‘leader teachers’ – I think the multi faith assembly procedure made each of us secular, tolerant and respectful of other faiths, and yet kept us believers in God. A little mind can wonder in those growing years if the mind is not aligned with God- the ‘*ek onkar*’, this too was ensured and performed daily with sanctity and ritual which I think kept us all on track in our lives. We learnt the middle path of Buddha to do unto others, as we would have others do to us. Is it then one of the strong pillars of us Nabhites? I leave it as a question.

Happiness comes from circumstances. We get rich we are happy, we do not do well we are unhappy and so on. The assembly, prayers, educations, a well-stocked library and the encouragement to read classics and broaden our thoughts did not deter us boys from happiness, but the teachers created the circumstances so we would also have the inner joy. There is that subtle difference between joy and happiness. I think this is strength in the ONs, the internal joy. Joy, which is a much deeper thing. It bonds us, makes us appreciate the simple things. Those picnics in Rohti, the beautiful countryside around the school, the vastness of the great plains of Punjab, the openness of life itself were all not only invigorating to the mind but brought in an inner joy. Inner joy I think is a great strength in the boys of PPS. Inner joy creates the circumstances for happiness. Sure, that the road to prosperity is important and each individual must seek the happiness. Life brings difficulties though, and it is in the downs that the true grit of a man comes out. I think The PPS created it in us.

All the theory in the world would fail us, if we did not convert our intentions into actions to fulfill our dreams and meet our goals we would not be ex boys of The PPS. That we did is a salute to our institution. I think this and several of these foundation strengths are what make us nostalgic about our great school and propel us to continue to achieve.

Good Samaritans



DR RS Dhaliwal (S-153,1972), Eye Surgeon, Nabha

Regularly holds eye camps for charitable causes in Nabha at his clinic, Eye Infirmary, Nabhalocated opposite the Staff colony of PPS.

Below is a post by him on Face Book on Eye donation. It is a lesson for all Old Nabhaites.

“Eye Donation Fortnight was started by the then Prime Minister, in 1985 to spread awareness about the acute shortage of donor corneal material which can be transplanted to give vision to the blind. What could be a greater satisfaction, than that which comes from giving sight to a blind person. Imagine the world of a person who cannot see - a world of darkness, and no hope at all. God has blessed all of us with eyes. But some of the less fortunate people cannot see and are unable to”

Quote from Gurubani -

"Meri khallon maujrre, Gursikh handavan"!

Translated into Queen's English -

Wish, after my death, the Blessed Ones (Guru's) utilize even my skin, for their shoes!

Eye donation is a natural corollary.....

Dr Davinderjit Singh (S-245,1973)

Old Nabhaite is Secretary of the Famous Kalgidhar Trust at Baru Sahib in Himachal Pradesh

The Executive Team of this Trust includes famous persons.

Baba Iqbal Singh ,President

M.Sc., Former Director Agriculture, Himachal Pradesh

Vice-President

Dr. Khem Singh Gill, (Padma Bhushan)

PhD (California), Former Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

Dr. Davinder Singh

Secretary

M.B.B.S. (M.D.)

Mr. P.S. Kohli IAS (Retd)

Former Advisor to the Governor of Punjab

Dr. Manmohan S. Atwal , Advisor

M.Sc., Ph.D. (Illinois)
MBA (Columbia); MPH (John Hopkins)

Dr. B.S. Sekhon, Advisor
Retired Professor, Jackson State University

Dr. Gurbaksh Singh,
Advisor
M.Sc., PhD (Ohio State Univ.) Former Agriculture Scientist

Mr. Gian Singh, B.Sc. (Agriculture)

Mr. Jaivinder Singh, Member, M.Sc., B.Ed.

Baru Sahib Trust runs many selfless programs with different objectives in different sections of Society -- programs that help:

- Rural Education Revolution
- Eternal University
- School of Spiritual Sciences for girls
- Elementary Teacher Training Academy
- Financial Literacy Programs for Women
- Home for widows & destitute
- Charitable Hospital
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centers
- Medical Camps
- Senior Citizen Home
- Orphanage
- Rural Economic Uplift
- Disaster Relief
- Youth Camps

Just to cite some examples , the Trust has opened almost 130 modern schools with traditional Sikh values in rural areas. It has a University which runs all professional courses and a Charitable Hospital in Himachal.

The Bindra Foundation belongs to families of Old Nabhaites VPS Bindra (B-51,1967) TPS Bindra(Beas,1973)

Sikh Heritage Awards for Gurinder Chadha, Navtej Sarna and Sukhbir

(Presentation ceremony in New York on October 15)

Chandigarh, October 12, The Tribune (2011)

Diplomat-turned writer Navtej Sarna, producer of ‘Bend it like Beckham’ Gurinder Chadha and bhangra exponent Sukhbir are among four prominent personalities to be felicitated at the Sikh Heritage Awards Gala to be held at New York on October 15.

The Sikh Heritage Awards will mark the end of the week-long International Film Festival besides the Sikh Leadership Summit.

The Sikh Heritage Awards will be the second global event of its type to be held within a week of the Sikh Awards held in London on October 9 in which Indian Test cricketer Harbhajan Singh and Ludhiana-based classical Gurbani teacher and singer Giani Kartar Singh are among the recipients.

The Sikhs in the United States, especially those in the field of business, trade and industry, academics, medicine and engineering besides information technology, have won laurels during the past few decades.

Some of the eminent and successful Sikhs have sponsored special chairs, fellowships and foundations in various universities in the United States.

The New York event, a part of which will be hosted by the New York-based Bindra family at Hofstra University, has on its programme some literary events, including release of books.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs Perneet Kaur will be in New York to attend the awards function where among others former chairman of the Minorities Commission Tarlochan Singh, India’s Consul-General in New York Prabhu Dayal and India’s Deputy Permanent Representative in the United Nations Manjeev Puri will be among the guests of honour.

While Chadha, the producer of ‘Bend it Like Beckham’, has been chosen for the Sikh Heritage Award in the art category, Navtej Sarna, gets the award in the vision category. Sukhbir, folk singer and bhangra idol, will be felicitated for excellence in the field of entertainment. In the category of leadership, Jaspal Bhindra will get the award.

The objective of the Sikh Leadership Summit, the first of its kind, is to inspire and develop the new generation of leaders. To be held on October 13, it proposes to bring together leaders from various walks of life to discuss their journeys to leadership.

Panelists at the summit will include Gurinder Chadha, Mohanbir Singh Sawhney of Kellogg School of Management, Gurvendra Singh Suri, Founder and CEO of Optimal Solutions while Mathew Bretfielder, Managing Director and Chief Talent Officer at Black Buck will be the moderator.

“Zafarnam Guru Gobind Singh”, a book by Navtej Sarna, and “Guru Nanak - the First Sikh Guru” by Rina Singh, will be released on October 14 as a part of the Sikh heritage celebrations. On October 15, short films and documentaries will be screened where winners in various categories of films will be felicitated.



Apart from these Awards the Foundation has also sponsored “Guru Nanak Chair” for Inter faith studies in Hollstra University NY with an endowment of Million dollars.

Old Nabhaite and IITian now Businessman in USA holds Health camps in Remote areas of UP.

(He has written an interesting long article on the actual camps and roles of different volunteers and doctors, Indian and foreign, but it would be beyond the scope of this issue to put all those details in here). Below is a letter he has written to his near and dear ones.

Dearest Friends and Family:

Some of you may have heard that I recently returned from a quick product development and buying trip to India, as I do every winter. **The difference this time was that one of my main missions was to organize three one-day healthcare camps in the rural part of the state of Utter Pradesh (UP).** To assist with this mission, I had three other individuals accompany me from Asheville, including an area doctor, and **four Yale University healthcare students.** We were also helped by **15 local Indian doctors from BHU** and from the surrounding Mirzapur area, and were fortunate to have over **30 volunteers.** Since so many of you had expressed your interest in hearing more about these pilot healthcare camps and our experience, I am sending this overview letter, along with the attached documents and pictures, to provide a greater in-depth view of our goals, results, and future prospects from this trip.

The cities of Mirzapur, Khamaria, Varanasi are three districts in UP with a total population of nearly 8 million people in a very small area – it is like putting all of North Carolina population and the entire population lives in the western part of the state! All of us were deeply touched by the local people who had very little in terms of worldly possessions and, in many cases, may have been walking barefoot in 45 degree weather, but still greeted us with a smile!

Additionally, schools, colleges, healthcare in general, sanitation, roads and transportation, electricity, and drinking water are hopelessly inadequate not only by western standards, but also by Indian standards. However, what was not lacking, were the innocent smiles and the dreams and hopes present in every child! There was a lot of enthusiasm and optimism in the younger generation and that was very heart warming.



Three lines of patients waiting to be seen by doctors.

While our recent health camps were just a small beginning, I know we have all returned with a very different view of the world! We cannot solve all the problems of that area, but we will certainly try and make a difference. As you will see in the following attached documents, we have a lot of work to do, however, I am fully committed to seeing this through.

People ask me why embark on such a mission at this point in my life and that too in such a tough economy. As two of our team members from Asheville, Carol Talbot and Dr. Saisree, have both told me, they have found a new meaning to life and a unique passion, and I feel the same! I am also very encouraged by the fact that hundreds of our business associates, vendors, TV and radio station partners, bankers, friends, and customers from all walks of society are already coming forward to help - all without any solicitation, but simply based on the inspiration they feel from our willingness to embark on such a mission. Together with them and each of you, I know we can succeed in this endeavor to bring healthcare to such an underserved area of India. Please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas or input that you can offer – I greatly appreciate any assistance, support, or help that you can provide.



Old Nabhaite Rakesh Aggarwal with his team in UP heartland providing healthcare camps.

2011 has been a very special year for me and I hope that 2012 will bring an even stronger friendship with each and every one of you. Wishing each of you a blessed and safe New Year! God bless.

With Sincere Regards,

**Rakesh Aggarwal,
PPS Nabha
(B-138) – 1971,**

IIT KGP (RP/Mining) – 1979

Food for Thought

(It is hoped Old Nabhaitees will come forward to dedicate some time and money to healthcare and education in rural Punjab which is deprived of basic human developmental amenities.

More so since most of us live here, it can be a social objective of ONA. We must remember that the buildings and funds to establish the PPS, and which have helped us be what we are, were drawn by the government from public resources- Dr Jashanjot).

The PPS Roll Of Honour 2011 and 2012

At the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the school in April 2010, **Lt Gen Bikram Singh** received the PPS Roll of Honour .

This honour was bestowed on Founders Day Nov , 2010 (Founders" Day of 2009 was missed because of coming Golden Jubilee Celebrations) and Nov, 2011 on **Vijay Singh and Lt Gen Rajinder Singh Sujlana** respectively.

We have already covered Bikrm and Vijay Singh in previous issues. This issue covers the last recipient **Gen RS Sujlana**.

See Below citation and write up of an Old Nabhaite who has brought honour and respect for PPS and ONA.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR Founders" Day NOV 2011



ROLL OF HONOUR

Awarded by
The Board of Governors of The Punjab Public School, Nabha
to

Lieutenant General Rajinder Singh Sujlana, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)



B-134, Raj Sujlana joined the school in 1965. Academically a bright student, he was one of the first two of his batch to join the National Defence Academy in July 1967. On commissioning from the Indian Military Academy in June 1971, he joined the illustrious Sikh Regiment as a third generation Army officer. His 40 years career in the Army has been outstanding.

As a young officer, he was baptized in battle during the 1971 Indo-Pak War in Jammu & Kashmir. In the years that followed, he gained further operational experience and commanded with distinction the 3rd Battalion of the SIKH Regiment and 77 Mountain Brigade, both in active counter insurgency / terrorist operations. In the higher echelons, he commanded the strategic 24 RAPID Division and 10 Corps, guarding the nation's desert frontier.

Adept at media handling and psychological warfare, he was specially selected to hold the sensitive assignment of the official spokesperson of the Army over a prolonged period. He was the pioneer to introduce and streamline the Right to Information Act in the Army. He was decorated with 'Vishisht Seva Medal' in 2003 for his commendable role during Operation PARAKRAM and later with the 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' in 2007. He has been an Instructor at the Indian Military Academy and later served most commendably, as the Commandant, this prestigious and world class Institution. For his exceptional service of a very high order, he was awarded the 'Param Vishisht Seva Medal' in 2010.

A graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and National Defence College, New Delhi, he holds a Masters Degree in Defence Studies and MPhil in National Security and Strategic Studies. He is a keen sportsman and as part of his extra-curricular activities, his interests are in philately, angling and environment related issues.

For attaining exceptional distinction in life as well as doing his alma mater proud, the Roll of Honour is conferred upon him for the year 2011.

H.E. Shivraj V Patil,
Governor of Punjab,
Chairman, Board of Governors,
The Punjab Public School, Nabha.
23 October 2011



Briefing The Prez In Siachin (1).jpg



Counter Terrorist Operations In Assam.jpg



Honoured With Param Vishst Seva Medal.jpg



INTERACTION WITH MEDIA (1).JPG



Media (2)



Shabash! From Sam Manekshaw

A Coveted Post

Presently, **Lt Gen RS Sujlana** is Chairman ,Punjab Public Service Commission. It is a constitutional appointment. Within one year he has accomplished what no other Chairman has been able to do with complete transparency and honesty.

For the first time, at last including the virulent Press, no one has pointed a finger at the Commission for any wrong doing.

His appointment was made as per directions of & criteria set by the Punjab & Haryana High Court to Govt of Punjab after rejection of other appointments made by Punjab Govt as follows

The orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court on the matter of selection of Chairman, PPSC :-

" The State Govt will depute a Search Committee of 3 members, comprising the Chief Secretary, one Principal Secretary not below the rank of the Financial Commissioner; the third member will not be below the rank of Financial Commissioner, or, a member of the armed forces not below the rank of Brigadier.

The panel will select names three times the vacancies. Whilst selecting it will be ensured that there is no Court litigation, civil or criminal, conviction or otherwise in a criminal court or civil court decree or any other proceeding that may have a bearing on the integrity and character of the candidate.

The names suggested by the Search committee will be considered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Speaker of the House and Leader of the Opposition. Subsequently all relevant material and relative merit will be put up for approval of the Governor "



In full gear
A flashback in time to PPS days





The honour of “Cutting the Cake” with Jyoti kate at “42year post PPS” reunion of 1967 batch at the Naval Mess ,New Delhi in 2009. Looking on from left Jaivir(R-51), Col Harjit Chahal (blue trurban(J-49), Dr Jashanjot (red turban0, Col AS Malik(S-46), Col Hardeep Dutta (J-64) and Inderjit Singh (J-40)

Another picture from the past below

This picture is of Young officers from a slideshow prepared when Sujlana was a Brigadier and the two flanking him were Col Parvinder Mahi &Tejinder Singh (S-70,1968) .





At the Golden Jubilee celebrations, Gen RS Sujlana flanked by Gurinderbir Chhachhi (S-76) IITian and topper of 1967 batch and Sunil Bedekar(S-67) India head of an aromatics MNC.