

Old Columbans Association



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Columban,

The Executive Committee of the Old Columbans Association is pleased to present its 2nd Newsletter of 2018. In this issue of the OCA Newsletter we bring to you a message from the Principal Bro. Miranda. We also cover highlights of the all-new Middle School Canteen, a major initiative of the OCA and OCT. While the OCA team, under the leadership of OCA President Mr. Arun Khanna, carried out the much needed complete refurbishment of the canteen, the OCT led by Mr. Harish Seth provided the requisite funds in its entirety. Also in this issue you will find details of Career Counselling held mid-year; in April for students of classes 9 & 10 and in May for those of 11 & 12. Significantly, these sessions were conducted by ex-Columbans. On 1st September, the OCA held its Annual General Meeting in the newly refurbished Middle School Canteen. You will find some snapshots of the event within.

As before, this newsletter has also been uploaded on the OCA website - www.oldcolumban.net. New OCA members will be pleased to know that the website contains valuable information and is an ideal platform to connect with other Columbans. Some useful features include:

- Online payment gateway for membership as well as for donations
- Search functionality to find a fellow OCA member
- Details on events along with an image gallery

Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/oldcolumbans), is active with several OCA members regularly posting interesting and thought-provoking snippets. We urge you to join the growing family comprising over 3300 members including teachers, staff and of course ex-Columbans, if not already a part of the Facebook community. We once again appeal to all OCA members to update their personal contact details by logging on to the OCA website. In case you have forgotten your Login ID, we request you to write to us at info@oldcolumban.net and we would issue you a new User ID after proper verification. It would be of immense help in our effort to update our ex-Columban database. You could also extend your invaluable assistance by encouraging other Columbans who are not yet members of the OCA to join at the earliest. The OCA plans to hold several interesting events in the months ahead and we look forward to your participation.

Navnit Talwar

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Matter of Pride

*Congratulations **Ajay Bahl** -
for being nominated on the
MCA's Review Committee of Offences

*Proud of you **Sanjeev Bikhchandani**
for recognition in **The Economic Times**
Start-up Awards 2018

We need your update

Calling all OCA members to update
contact email id and phone nos.
(please email to info@columban.net)

Join us on FaceBook

www.facebook.com/groups/oldcolumbans



Old Columbans Association



Message from the Principal



St. Columba's School
1, Ashok Place, New Delhi-110001
website: www.stcolumbas.edu.in
email : principal@stcolumbas.edu.in
office email : stcolumbas@stcolumbas.edu.in
Phone : 011-23363134/23363462

Dear Alumni,

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the recent AGM of the OCA on the 1st September '18.

However, I understand that this communicate will help keep many more of you who for distance or time could not be personally present – so I'm very pleased to pen these few words to you.

THANK YOU COLUMBANS! Over the last two years and a bit, I have been pleasantly surprised at the keenness of the Alumni to keep in touch with each other and with the school.

• Thank you to so many of you for taking the time to personally come to school – I name Raj Kumar Bahadur and Raghavan Goplaswami of the 1952 batch who visited the school in mid-July and with whom I was able to spend some precious time – including singing some old Irish songs – which they (like me) had learnt at school !!!!

• Thank you to those who come for various school programmes – it's always a pleasure to have you with us.

• Thank you to the President of the OCA Executive committee – Arun Khanna, who takes personal time to come to school and communicate with me – and to the OCA Executive who keep the communication going – Karan Khanna, Pavee Kohli, Bennet – just to name a few. Through your contributions through the OCA (and now the 1991 batch), we have been able to offer a breakfast to a number of our students who would come to school without having eaten – giving them a breakfast enables them to focus on their school and gives them the much needed nutrition.

• Thanks too, to those who contributed through the OCA to renovate the school canteen and bring it up to a wonderful standard ! We're proud of the school canteen and show it off to visitors !

• Thank you to the 1968 batch, who through the funds they have collected from their batch reunion, are supporting the teacher training of the Columba's staff 'through the British Council – the aim is to have the staff so resourced that they can better educate the students of the school with the skills they need in the society they will enter – this partnership will extend over a few years.

• Thank you to the OCT – the Chairman : Mr Harish Seth, and the other permanent members for being a steady support to the school over the last two years. The partnership of the OCT has been crucial to school development.

Through the OCT, Alumni have enabled the school to embark on an in-depth educational Audit by Hearth (Canta Educational Consultants) – the relationship with the Hearth Team has been found so positive that we are in the second year of the post Audit partnership with the Hearth Team – the through this partnership we have embarked on the Last Mile Programme (enhancing the abilities of our class 10 and XII students in the months before the Board Exam), but also enabling our teachers to have a differentiated approach to students learning. We have been helped to put in place a Self-Appraisal system for staff development; Leadership in school are mentored; we have a monthly newsletter – through which you can keep in touch with school development; we are working to improve the academic environment in the school by improving on school discipline; we are working towards having a St Columba's curriculum for classes KG to 8 and many more initiatives.

Through the OCT, we make it possible for students who do not have a conducive environment at home to have supervised study in school each school evening. Tutors mentor the students.

The OCT channels funds contributed by Alumni for school development – thanks to them we have more respectable entrances to school (2017) and increase in the number of computers in the senior computer lab (2016)

• Thanks to the 1976 batch who have set up the Columban Endowment Trust, we have a wider partnership in school development. The 1976 batch made a substantial contribution to the renovation of the Middle School Auditorium and they continue to help the school through sharing the cost of the Post Audit work with the OCT. They have also supported the school – thanks to Snehanshu Mukherjee – and through contributing to the school-hiring experts to help with infrastructural maintenance and development.

• Both the OCT and 1976 batch are assisting the school boost our brightest students through the Aspire Programme and both Trusts are supporting the school in putting into place for a fixed period of time a Project Coordinator to push forward and keep a track of school development – Thank you Sanjeev Bikchandani and Barun Mohanty.

contd. next page...





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Principal's Message (contd.)

Thanks to Lyle Lopez who is helping the school with his expertise to have appropriate CCTV coverage and to upgrade the electrical infrastructure in the school.

Thanks to many Alumni who have set up Awards to encourage our students to excel. Thank you once again Harish Seth for the award in the name of Bro Steinmeyer put in place this year and thank you to 1979 batch who have helped us acknowledge leadership in our senior students and topping up old awards.

Thank you to many other batches who have expressed their keenness in assisting the school in continuing to give the best education possible to Columbans. The following are the projects which have been put forward for funding:

- Accessibility to differently abled persons – lifts in the three buildings
- Development of sports infrastructure at the cricket nets space and the previous badminton court area.
- Renovation of the laboratories
- Upgradation of the sick bays and the possibility of the school having an ambulance
- Gradual replacement of the present student furniture with learning friendly furniture

Your support and encouragement is essential as the school embarks on a particularly challenging phase – but we understand, the hard way, that that all circumstances are opportunities for increase in wisdom – we as leaders and teachers witness to students that we are constant learners and that challenges are blessings in a lot of disguise ! We assure you that we will work diligently for the safety of our students and to respond to emergencies – which will occur. Do pray for the child who was injured and do pray for all in school.

Ajay Behl and his team are also encouraging all of us to participate in a Columban Marathon on the 30th September! We need your participation, the participation of your families and friends to make this a success – see you at 5.45am on the 30th September at the school gate! I also wish Ajay Behl and his team every success in the organization of this event.

Sapare Aude !

Your's sincerely,
Bro EV Miranda cfc

The School needs...

“Accessibility to differently abled persons – lifts in the three buildings”

“Development of sports infrastructure at the cricket nets space and the previous badminton court area”

“Renovation of the laboratories”

“Upgradation of the sick bays and the possibility of the school having an ambulance”

“Gradual replacement of the present student furniture with learning friendly furniture”

Know an Ex-Columban who is not a member of the OCA ?

Becoming a member is as easy as it gets

Simply guide him to www.oldcolumban.net/user/membership.php



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Ahoy! Ex-Columbans working together...

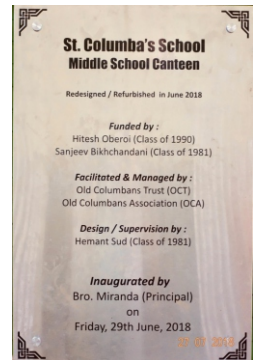
NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CANTEEN

AN OCA + OCT PROJECT

The refurbished Middle School Canteen was inaugurated by the Principal Bro. Miranda on 29 June 2018; the culmination of months of hard work and efforts of OCA and OCT.

The extensive renovation, having a capital outflow exceeding Rs. 30 lacs, was carried out during the summer vacation so as to minimize the inevitable inconvenience to students and teachers alike. It involved dismantling and re-doing walls and almost all the woodwork, plumbing, electricals and tiling. Care has been taken to comply with rigid safety standards and health requirements. Further, the premises have been termite-proofed and pest control treatments carried out.

Our special thanks go out to Mr. Sanjeev Bikhchandani (1981) and Mr. Hitesh Oberoi (1990) for their generous assistance in financing the entire project and to the OCA President Mr. Arun Khanna and OCT Chairman Mr. Harish Seth for the relentless pursuit of the Canteen Project.



BEFORE



AFTER



Do you have any ideas how to make the OCA more meaningful?

Getting your thoughts across is easy
Simply write to info@oldcolumban.net



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OCA News...

Annual General Meeting...

The Annual General Meeting of the OCA was held on 1 September 2018 in the newly refurbished Middle School Canteen. A rainy morning delayed proceedings by half an hour owing initially to a lack of quorum. Notwithstanding the inclement weather, the venue soon filled up with enthusiastic ex-Columbans to pass the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2018. Secretary Mr. Karan Khanna, while welcoming members, read out a detailed report on the activities of the OCA during the past year. Mr. Arun Khanna, President OCA, urged all Columbans to come forward and join the OCA in contributing towards enhancing and improving facilities in the alma-mater. Upon his request, the School Principal Bro. Miranda as Special Invitee addressed the eager audience, speaking of his dream wish-list for the betterment of the school, students and staff. Next, the OCT President Mr. Harish Seth outlined the financial assistance provided by the OCT towards various activities and projects, including the venue itself. Lastly, after the Motion of Thanks, it was time for chatter and fun; yummy chole-bhature, sandwiches, veggie patties and piping hot tea and coffee.



Teacher Training Programme...

THANK YOU BATCH OF 1968!

The Batch of 1968, who celebrate its Golden Jubilee this year, made an impressive donation of Rs. 26 lacs to the OCA for a specific objective; a teacher training programme in collaboration with the British Council. The idea of Batch 68 is to acquaint the teachers at St. Columba's state-of-the-art teaching methodology. The OCA thanks all those who made this innovative idea possible. Thank you Batch of '68!

Career Counselling...

An innovative scheme to help students determine their careers was launched during the year with the help of the Alumni. Co-ordinated with the school by Executive Committee Member Mr. Bennet Pinto, the counselling sessions have benefited students of classes 9,10, 11 and 12 who have been enriched with the vast and varied experience of their seniors. Bravo ex-Columbans for coming forward and sparing your valuable time for this very noble cause. And, thank you Bennet Pinto for your devotion to the cause of both the School and students...**details on pages 6 & 7**

Breakfast Programme...

The OCA has been funding the Breakfast Programme of the School for students who come to school without a morning repast for whatever reason. The Principal Bro. Miranda has expressed his desire that this noble work continue, on an enhanced scale as the number of potential beneficiaries has grown considerably. The OCA looks forward to receive financial help from all ex-Columbans. Please come forward with however small contribution that you can make towards our endeavour.

Join 3300+ ex-Columbans on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/groups/oldcolumbans



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Ex-Columbans lend a helping hand...Career Counselling

OCA News...

Session 1 - 7 April 2018

OCA's proposal to conduct Career Counselling sessions at St. Columbas's, coincidentally also mooted by Ms. Aarti Bardhan - Middle School Counsellor, immediately gained approval and encouragement from the School Principal Bro. Miranda. The idea soon became a reality. Drawing talent from our Alumni itself, intended to make it easy and meaningful for students to relate to, the sessions for classes 9 & 10 were a grand success.

The OCA thanks the following faculty for their time and support:

1. Vijay Wanchoo (1969) - Hotel Management
2. Ravindra Dadoo (1979) - Chartered Accountancy
3. Shannon Victor Peter (2004) –
Brand Marketing/PR/Communications/Artificial Intelligence
4. Craig Pinto (2009) - Music, Writing and Following Your Passion
5. Kashish Aneja, Advocate (2012) - Legal Profession

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT?

We are a family of several thousand ex-Columbans...and growing! Sadly, we know very little of each other. Many of us have scaled great heights in administration, arts & culture, business, government, IT, professions, sports etc. etc. Perhaps you are one of our unknown "Achievers". It's time we got to know of you! Or maybe, you know one of our ilk who is "Special". Do let us know. Please send details to info@oldcolumban.net



YOU TOO CAN HELP...

The OCA plans to organize many more Career Counselling sessions in the near future. If you would like to share your experience and expertise with the students of the school then please contact Executive Committee member Mr. Bennet Pinto. We would need your up to date CV mentioning your achievements in your chosen profession.



Do you wish to help the students choose a career?

Simply send your CV to info@oldcolumban.net



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More Career Counselling...

OCA News...

Session 2 - 15 May 2018

A separate career counselling session was held for students of classes 11 & 12. As before, the faculty comprised of the alumni, all successful professionals of repute. The delighted students absorbed every word and nuance, utilizing every opportunity to put forward queries, each of which were admirably and thoroughly addressed.

The OCA places on record its thanks to the following:

1. Nikhil Chaturvedi (2013) - Computer Science/Software Development
2. Malvinder Singh (1981) - Start-ups/Problem Solving Solutions
3. Ravindra Dadoo (1979) - Chartered Accountancy
4. Dr. Indar Dhawan (1946) - Medicine
5. Sunil Mathew (1995) - Law
6. Kashish Aneja (2012) - Law
7. Rajan Malhotra (1972) - Engineering



Are you an "Achiever" that we don't know about?

Do let the Columban fraternity know...and make us all proud!
Simply write to us at info@oldcolumban.net



FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

Newsletter

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JOIN OUR EFFORTS...CONTRIBUTE

All donations to Old Columbans Association now qualify for deductions under Section 80G & Section 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961

via BANK TRANSFER

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Bank : Punjab & Sind Bank
Branch : BVSS Sadan, Gole Market, New Delhi - 110001
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IFSC Code : PSIB0000762

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Remit Amount to **Mobile Number 9868174252**
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via WEBSITE

Log on to : www.oldcolumban.net/user.donation.php

OLD COLUMBANS ASSOCIATION

St. Columba's School
Ashoka Place, New Delhi - 110001, INDIA
T. : +91.11.23748666 E.: info@oldcolumban.net

For Any Assistance Call Ms. Naina at +91.8860145152

Send us your news and help make our newsletter better

Write to the Editor at - info@oldcolumban.net