

Old Columbans Association



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings to all past and present Columbans!

It gives us immense joy to bring to you this latest edition of our Newsletter on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Old Columbans Association. As you may know, recently the OCA and OCT jointly celebrated St. Columba's Platinum Jubilee, along with the Diamond Jubilee of the 1957 Batch, Golden Jubilee of the 1967 Batch & Silver Jubilee of the 1992 Batch. Also, a Sports Carnival featuring contests between ex-Columbans and present students was held in the school grounds last month. This newsletter brings to you some highlights of both these fun-filled events. We also feature an interesting "Blast from the Past" snippet that is bound to stir nostalgia.

This newsletter has also been uploaded on the OCA website - www.oldcolumban.net. You will be pleased to know that the website contains information of particular interest to all Columbans. In fact, it is an ideal platform to connect with your erstwhile schoolmates and other Columbans with whom you may wish to renew old associations. The website has recently been upgraded and several new features may be of interest to you. These include:

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

Apart from the website, you may also find us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/oldcolumbans
We have over 3100 members as of now and growing!

We take this opportunity to appeal to all OCA members to update their personal contact details by logging on to the 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 any other Columbans you may know who are not yet members of the OCA to join at the earliest. The OCA does plan to hold several interesting events in the year ahead and we look forward to your participation.

Navnit Talwar

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Matter of Pride

4 out of the 16 Finalists for the
EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017
are Columbans !

We are utterly proud of you
**Ajay Singh, Sumant Sinha,
Samay Kohli & Zorawar Kalra**

Join the Conversation

At last count, we have over
3100 Ex-Columbans on our
Facebook Group
Come, join the conversation on FB
www.facebook.com/groups/oldcolumbans

Old Columbans Association



Yes, Columbans do have fun

EVENTS & More..

The Old Columbans Association and Old Columbans Trust jointly celebrated our *alma mater's Platinum Jubilee*, along with the *Diamond Jubilee of the 1957 Batch*, *Golden Jubilee of the 1967 Batch* & *Silver Jubilee of the 1992 Batch*, on Sunday 17th December 2017. Around 400 ex-Columbans, teachers and staff gathered that day in the front lawn of Vivanta by Taj Ambassador located at New Delhi's Sujan Singh Park.

The picture-perfect venue, bathed in warm sunshine under a clear blue sky, was adorned with Columban green and yellow screens, bunting and table linen. It sprang to life at the anointed hour even as eager guests began streaming in. Expectedly, the extensive bars on both sides of the main stage soon became the centres of attraction. Excited ex-Columbans renewed old associations even as their spouses occupied the many round tables that dotted the grounds.

It was not long before the venue was teeming with ex-Columbans and the business end of the celebration got under way. Mr. Harish Seth, the anointed Master of Ceremonies for the day, took charge of the proceedings. The OCA President, Mr. Arun Khanna, while welcoming the school principal Bro. Miranda, teachers and ex-Columbans and their spouses and donors gave a short yet pertinent address urging all present to whole-heartedly support the OCA, OCT and the school itself in whichever manner one possibly could. Bro. Miranda spoke of the legacy of St. Columba's and noted the achievements of Columbans in various spheres, outlining also the various reasons why ex-Columbans ought to be proud of the *alma mater*. He also outlined the areas and projects where the OCA and OCT could be of assistance. He then presented mementoes to the senior-most ex-Columbans present, the retired teachers and former OCA Presidents. Next, the OCA Treasurer Mr. Sumant Chaddha read out the names of the donors who contributed so generously on the occasion. Ex-Columbans had another reason to celebrate that day, the 80th birthday of Mrs. Monica Singh. OCA Secretary, Mr. Karan Khanna, then proposed a vote of thanks, in particular to Bro. Miranda, donors, former teachers and OCA Presidents



and all those who so painstakingly organized the superb event. He then invited all the guests to partake and enjoy the extensive buffet lunch featuring Indian and international delicacies even as the dazzling lady saxophonist mesmerized the gathering with soul-stirring melodies.

It was late afternoon by the time the last guests departed, rather reluctantly though. The Platinum Jubilee Lunch was a fun-filled nostalgic affair in every sense of the word. Its measure of success was evident when almost all agreed that the Lunch ought to be an annual affair, the next one slated for the second half of December 2018!

Old Columbans Association



Yes, Columbans do have fun EVENTS & More..

OCA SPORTS CARNIVAL

The Annual OCA v/s SCS Sports Carnival was held on Sunday, 21st January 2018 at the School Grounds. The old boys duelled with the current School team over games of Cricket, Football and Basketball. To the surprise of most, the OCA teams lifted all 3 trophies beating the School Team convincingly. The final scores were :

Cricket

OCA 346 in 30 Overs beat SCS 276 by a margin of 70 runs

Football

OCA beat SCS 5-1

Basketball

OCA beat SCS 70-39

The matches were followed by sumptuous treats from the School Canteen.



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



Aah... the sweet smell of nostalgia

BLAST FROM THE PAST Thoughts of an Ex-Columban (1975 Batch)

On the **75th (platinum) anniversary of my alma mater, St. Columba's**, I remember a few of my favourite things and people as follows :

Br. EX Leonard, Principal

Mrs. Aimond in KG-B

Mrs. Alvarez in 1-B

Mrs. Sourj Raj in 2-B

Mrs. Silver in 3-B

Mrs. Anjali Shastri in 4-B

Mrs. Majumdar in 6-B and 7-B

The ubiquitous **Mr. Joseph Chiriyath** in 8-B, 9-A, 10-A & 11-A

Br. Morrisey (grass grows by the inch but dies by the feet man and whose cane was lovingly picked on the sensitivity of the student's rump and amount of padding thereunder)

Br. Murray (with the toughest palms my cheeks ever encountered)

Mr. Yadav, our Rajbhasha man, who would come to take class after he milked his goats in the barracks where the NDGPO now stands and had the most colourful vocabulary outside of Paharganj and Chandni Chowk

Mrs. Sudan, our music teacher

Mr. Sita Ram Sahoo, our swimming coach who would invariably meet us behind the class when he was empty

Mr. Gurung, the kindly PT teacher but tough taskmaster

Mr. Lockwood, again like Br. Murray, with tough and ready-to-go palms

The **old ayah** with a wooden scale in hand as she shepherded us on board Z-7 at the Market Road end, her Parkinson's notwithstanding

Mr. Samuel who served his signature samosa and gulab jamun to all of us that missed the school bus after school and waited for our folks to pick us up in their Heralds, Ambys and Fiats

The **bespectacled sardarji** that sold churan next to the Z-7 bay
The Caryhom and National **orange bar man**, small ones for 10 p, big ones for 25 p.

The **chholey wala** in the middle school canteen, 25 p. for bhatura, 30 p. for kulcha and 25 p. for an aloo patty

Devichand's for our uniforms and the senior school tuck shop (under the stairs).

Our socials with the ladies of **CJM** in distant 1973-74

Rides in **5-X**, the DTU trailer double decker and civvies, for Saturday morning school with a 10 p. ticket

The **softy cone** at Standard's, CP

The marvellous view from the 11-A windows straight into CJM and the glances of approval from behind the intervening gulmohar tree

Last, but the most, **the gang of 1975** – Ravi Shankar, DY Chandrachud, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Rohit Sabharwal, Indivar Kamtekar, Rajesh Sanghi, Rajiv Aneja, Vagish Chadha, Varun Khanna, Kanwarpal Singh Kochhar, Patrick Barretto, Sumonto Choudhury, Deepak Chander, Bhai Upinder Singh, Jugnu Singh (sad he is no more), Nachiketa Raut, Sunil Khanna, Bhupinder Kaushal, Kishore Ramchandani, Vikram Kapoor, Vijay Wanchoo, Girish Agnihotri (?). Diageo's current CEO, Ivan Menezes and Ranjan Pant (Mr. KC Pant's elder son) joined me briefly from perhaps 4-B to 7-B.

We are ancient now but part of the **glorious heritage of St. Columba's**. My son too started with his father's school for a few months before I was transferred to Kolkata. **The years in SCS were the most enjoyable and happiest, the fundamental building block of the structure that has stood us in good stead for over three decades and a half.** We have all had our share of woes and joys, but not let ourselves be fazed by any adversity. We hope present and future generations of Columbans uphold the highest traditions of their alma mater, never mind the Stephens, IITs and IIMs we attended latterly or that many of us rose to the highest levels of the judiciary, civil service, business, management, many other fields and excelled therein.

Looking for that lost classmate ?

Simply log in to the members area at www.oldcolumban.net with your registered email ID and search.

Use the Forgotten Password option, if age has caught up.

Forgotten your registered email id too ? Write to us with your details at info@oldcolumban.net and we shall be happy to help



In the mood for a bit of Philanthropy?

CONTRIBUTE TO THE OCA

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

via **BANK TRANSFER**

Payee : Old Columbans Association
Bank : Punjab & Sind Bank
Branch : BVSS Sadan, Gole Market, New Delhi - 110001
Account # : SB 07621000005404
IFSC Code : PSIB0000762

via **PAYTM**

Remit Amount to **Mobile Number 9868174252**
OR Scan the QR Code

Scan Paytm Code



via **WEBSITE**

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

OLD COLUMBANS ASSOCIATION

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Help make our newsletter better

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