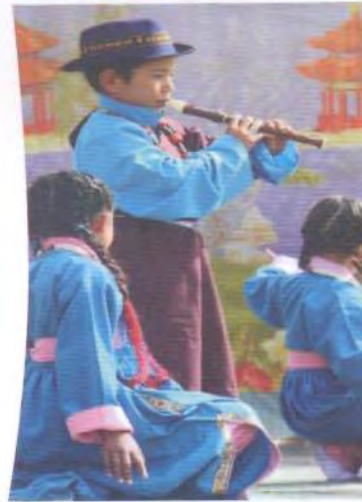




DRUK  SKAT  
VOICE OF THE DRAGON

འབྲུག་སྐད་

ANNUAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE  
YEAR 2010-11





Message from H.E. Thuksey Rinpoche

Foremost, let me extend my congratulations to all for bringing out the second edition of “Drukskat Voice of the Dragon”. With the blessings and prayers of His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa and the general support of all involved in providing that ultimate foundation to Druk White Lotus School (DWLS) for more than ten years, the school has been moving forward towards realizing the vision of His Holiness. With the new members of SMC in place, the goal toward achieving the vision set by His Holiness should be the desire and aspiration of all of us into making DWLS as the best Centre of learning par excellence now and in the near future. I extend my sincere gratitude to all the students of DWLS, teachers, parents, staff and friends for playing their parts as invaluable contributors towards what DWLS is today. DWLS will be a very proud school one day to have been associated with all of you and for your contributions in its development.

On the spiritual front, what we need to achieve vis-à-vis academic excellence are happiness and “co-existing in harmony” amongst all within and outside DWLS. Because of our past karma (good/bad deeds, anger, hatred, jealousy, etc.) we are in this world either as humans, animals, insects, plants, etc. Being born as humans is an opportunity to perform good deeds in terms of being good human beings, being helpful, being harmless, just to name a few through not a tinge of negative emotions as hurdles to ones’ commitments. All of us have to inculcate in our students, who are the future citizens of this world, to be good human beings. Our target/aim should be to create and develop students or rather world citizens as good human beings. Once they graduate from DWLS, they should be the proud ambassadors of the school to the world equipped with outstanding and exceptional etiquette, knowledge, great sense of discipline/appreciation, happiness, selflessness, respectful to elders/families/peers, and above all they should be able to benefit all sentient beings as good human beings. Neil Armstrong once said, “One small step for man; giant leap for mankind” is what our first batch of students graduating from DWLS should always carry with them to show good example and ways to their junior brothers and sisters once they follow suit in future. Blessings and prayers of His Holiness and My prayers and blessings are always with the first graduates of DWLS and all the students, teachers, parents, staff and friends.

Lastly I wish His Holiness a very long life so that all sentient beings can benefit from His Holiness’ compassionate activities for a long time to come. I wish and pray that **Druk-skat** continues to get showered with every success and be able to serve as the platform to showcase DWLS, through invaluable contributions from the students and faculties, as a model others can follow for a long time to come. With prayers,

(Kyabje Thuksey Rinpoche)  
CHAIRMAN



*Dear All,*

*Jullay!*

*I take this opportunity to first congratulate all those who have been involved in making this second edition of Drukskat a reality and a piece of work that will enrich the thinking of all reading the magazine and give them information on what is happening in the school. I hope the good work will continue year after year and the magazine will grow qualitatively. I also apologise to all our readers and supporters for the delay in releasing the second edition of Drukskat. All the same, I hope*

*everyone enjoys reading this edition of Drukskat.*

*I take this opportunity on the school reaching its tenth year of being, to express my thanks and gratitude to all the students, staff members, parents, members of the larger community and to all our supporters locally, nationally and internationally, who have worked with us hand-in-hand in making the school what it is today. Also, we have reached this juncture safely only due to the grace and blessings of His Holiness, the Gyalwang Drukpa, and His Eminence, Kyabje Thuksey Rinpoche, and I pray that the school and each one of us associated with the school will continue to be graced and blessed by such eminent and enlightened beings.*

*At this critical juncture, it is also important that we take the time to set aside our successes and the belief that 'we made it happen', to make an honest reflection of ourselves and our actions, and of the quality of the legacy we are leaving behind. Let us drop our guards and within ourselves, be clear and pure of thought, and not give way to those energies within us, which deny us the possibility of being our own continued good example to establish the foundations of a wholesome school, a school based on honesty, compassion, genuine collaboration and excellence in all it does.*

*DWLS is a young school, yet to reach its full maturity and its traditions are yet being formed. So let us all take time to reflect and ensure that what we are giving the school is worth giving, thus establishing it in a legacy that we can all genuinely be proud of.*

*I once again thank all the school's stakeholders and supporters for giving the time and effort in making the school what it is today and pray that this love and concern for the school will always be there.*

*Tashi Delek and Thank you,*

Mr. Prasad Eledath,  
Principal  
DPKS, Shey

Dear All,

I congratulate the DPKS team in the release of the second edition of the school magazine- Drukskat. I am sure that the magazine will provide a very good platform for the staff and students to express and develop their artistic and literary skills and will be of interest to all its readers.

I also take this opportunity to thank HH Gyalwang Drukpa and HE Kyabje Thuksey Rinpoche on behalf of the entire SMC to repose faith and confidence in us to take the school forward.

I pray the magazine grows in leaps and bounds in the years to come.

Tashi Deleck and Jullay!

Dr Ishey Namgyal,  
Deputy Chairperson, SMC



Dear all,

Another year has passed and I am looking forward to the second edition of Drukskat Magazine. Reading the stories, seeing the photos and the children's artwork means all the more for having spent several months with Druk Pema Karpo students and staff during 2011.

This year the School had its 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This was celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> September, not only at the school but all around the world, with international supporters holding parties and get-togethers to help raise funds in places as far away as Canada, USA, UK, Europe, and closer at hand in India and Singapore

2011 has been a successful year for the school with many visitors and volunteers bringing expertise and assistance.

The staff attended teacher training camps and brought newly acquired skills, along with their enthusiasm and love for the school and the children, back into the classroom.

The students, as ever, are full of vitality and the desire to work hard, do well and make us proud of them. The Parents Committee too have been an immense support throughout the year, their encouragement and guidance has been invaluable to the school.

All this is set in a background of growing support from Live to Love around the world and Live to Love, UK, has made a special pledge to do all it can to help support educational development at the school. Drukpa Trust (UK), along with Live to Love (Hong Kong), have continued to make a big effort to raise significant funds and bring completion of the construction programme ever closer.

A big thank you to everyone who plays a part, no matter how big or small, with your ongoing support 2012 looks set to be a very good year for Druk Padma Karpo School.

*Annie Smith*  
Strategic Development Officer, DPKS



Dear Friends,

*Jullay! On behalf of Live to Love International, we are so proud to be a part of the Druk White Lotus School community. Beyond the countless international awards and recognition for the school's design, philosophy, methodology and work, I am personally most proud of the students, parents, teachers and staff.*

*It is their daily contribution that makes the Druk White Lotus School a beacon of hope and model of sustainable education for everyone else in the world.*

*I have personally witnessed the resilience and spirit of the school throughout its ten year history. This year, in particular, I was impressed with how the school quickly, safely and caringly recovered from the cloudbursts.*

*In a matter of months, the Druk White Lotus School community students, teachers, staff, parents, neighbors and friends - all worked together to recover from the devastation.*

*The progress was so dramatic that the Druk White Lotus School was able to help host the Annual Drukpa Council and a Live to Love medical camp. This demonstrated to the world the strength of the Ladakhi people.*

*In this upcoming year, Live to Love International pledges to continue supporting the Druk White Lotus School. And we thank all the students, parents, teachers and staff for inspiring us. Please continue to believe in the purpose and potential of the school and we will continue pledging our love and support.*

Best Regards,

*Carrie Lee*  
President, Live to Love International



Dear All,

*Congratulations from Live to Love UK on the second edition of Drukskat !*

*Here in the United Kingdom we feel a close affinity with the school and enjoy learning about the progress of the students, hearing about their activities and watching them develop their potential.*

*Together with other chapters of Live to Love, we are looking forward to supporting the development of the education programme and helping to ensure the children have a rewarding and exciting future.*

*Wishing all the students and staff a happy and successful year.*

**Diana Blanchard**  
**Chairperson, Live to Love, UK**

*On behalf of all at Drukpa Trust UK, we would like to congratulate the DWLS team for another fantastic edition of Drukskat. In its tenth anniversary year, it is very encouraging to see the school going from strength to strength.*

*Drukskat is a great way to capture the energy and enthusiasm of the whole school community and communicate that to all your friends and sponsors around the world.*

*Our kindest regards*

**Jonathan Rose**  
**Chairperson, Drukpa Trust**

*I want to congratulate DWLS and I want to say that this dragon year is especially meaningful to everyone in the dragon school...*

*I hope that all students and teachers will be inspired by the unique qualities of dragons and be as courageous, vigilant, strong as they are and live with sharp vision and wisdom in the physical and intellectual realms.*

*I also hope that they will appreciate what they have around them and what's given to them ; the beauty of nature, of people, of their rich culture and heritage.*

*Value these and make the best use of them to enrich their own lives and the lives of others.*

*I end this message by sending my appreciation to DWLS on the release of this second edition of the Drukskat and wish all involved with the school the very best in all its endeavors.*

**Vanessa Pong**  
**Chairperson, Live To Love, HongKong**



Greetings from the much battered Editor's desk!

A literary platform like a school magazine is always aimed at giving a child one of the most important things of all, freedom. A child's imagination is at its unbridled best and what better than pen, paper and pencil to give voice to that? However, it is easier said than done. While ensuring creative freedom, it is also equally vital to give the budding artist some form of direction. Something akin to a gentle nudge from the sidelines. It is simply not enough to hand a child a piece of paper and instruct, "write".

So this year saw yet another approach towards the making of Drukskat. Certain themes and ideas were selected keeping in mind concepts that the students could relate to. Based on those themes, intraschool creative writing competitions were organized in all the classes. The students were given a wide range of themes and they could structure a writeup based on one of their choice.

The result has been a fascinating mosaic of ideas and perspectives from the children. The most mundane of themes was transformed through a rich blend of creativity and imagination.

If the first edition had aimed to create a voice for the dragon, this successive edition will surely hear the dragon speak in a newly formed language.

Hope this gives you many happy hours of reading!

Warm regards.  
Rudrani Dasgupta  
Chief Editor  
Drukskat

Chief Editor: Rudrani Dasgupta  
Design and Layout: Ringzin Tsering, IT Section Head  
Special acknowledgements goes to Sonam Tenzin (Asst. I.T Teacher) and Nawang Deachen (10th grade) for their help in typing and also to volunteer Sinja Hammer for taking the group/activity photographs.

## Annual Report 2010-2011

Every ten years is a significant milestone to stand back and reflect, as well as a time to celebrate. Since its establishment on September 24 2001, Druk White Lotus School has notched up a number of achievements to its credit. The school set up with the grace and blessings of the founder, His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa, and the Chairperson of the School, His Eminence Kyabje Thuksey Rimpoche, has since then gone from strength to strength, facing challenges with fortitude and quietude and constantly maintaining its focus on the vision, that is to provide quality and modern education rooted in the Ladakhi culture, to the children of Ladakh.

As we come to the end of the tenth year, I feel fortunate to present the 2010-11 annual report. A year which can best be characterized as a “year of change” founded on the principles of effort, discipline and innovation. The focus of 2010-11 has been the continuation of the implementation of the School Improvement Programme initiated in 2009-10, namely to lay emphasis on transforming the school culture and enabling its evolution into an effective learning organization.

Our system of education aimed at child centered and project based learning is a blend of theory and practice to provide a comprehensive curriculum. The overall passing percentage (standards II - VII) has jumped in the past two years to reach 98% in the academic year 2010-11.



The standards of assessing students have become rigorous over the past two years, though the modes of assessment have become varied and comprehensive, thus catering to the learning styles of more number of students unlike in previous years when there were only written examinations as the method of assessment. The average class percentage has reached around 70% and the endeavor will be to increase this percentage by at least 5% - 7% in the next two years.

In the grade VIII public exams, the overall passing percentage of students was 100% and the average percentage was around 60%. Majority of the students, i.e. 16 out of the 28 students obtained between 60% - 74% and 11 students obtained between 50% - 59%. The highest percentage obtained was 73.5%.

Strategies such as the regular preparation of lesson plans by teachers which is then whetted and enriched by the Academics Coordinator; regular class tests; implementation of a homework timetable allowing students and teachers to give equal emphasis on all subjects and at the same time not burdening the students; giving credit to on-going class performance, including conduct and behavior; introduction of project based assessment, including students making presentations; introduction of reading time in the time-table; implementing on-going and formative assessment through the scholars' performance chart, etc. are some methods being currently used in the school to enhance academic levels.

Emphasis is also being laid on students who are academically challenged, particularly those coming from remote areas and this has considerably enhanced the overall academic performance.

## Annual Report 2010-2011



Stress on co-curricular activities such as poem recitation, debating, quizzing, art and craft, project planning and implementation, theme based exhibitions prepared by the students, house competitions, talent shows, etc. have ensured that equal emphasis is placed on the holistic development of the child, rather than merely on academics.

Introduction of pastoral care in the school as a special intervention which works with children facing difficulties in the school, be it academic, social, behavioral or emotional and with gifted and talented students; conducts student counseling; integrates the school / hostel student council functioning into the overall functioning of the school; conducts sessions / workshops in life skills, leadership and managerial skills such as team work, decision making and problem solving and value education, have constructively added to the child-centric nature of the school and helps to provide more opportunities to students to discover themselves and realize their potential.

The combination of short and long assemblies has further provided more opportunities to students to showcase their talents and the value education sessions conducted during the assemblies by the Bhoti teachers, along with talks on philosophy, morals and ethics, how to lead life in a manner that is beneficial to oneself and society, has added value and enriched the quality of the assemblies being conducted.

This year also saw the school proactively recovering from the effects of the flood, besides taking responsibility for the education of 68 flood affected children. As part of its plans to protect the school from further floods, a protection barrier for the school and hostel is currently being built, and has been funded by Drukpa Trust, UK. Evacuation plans and drills have been developed in collaboration with ARUP Associates, the designers of DWLS, and SEEDS, a Delhi based NGO working in the area of disaster management.

Construction work in the school is also currently in full swing to equip the school with std. X classrooms and an additional residence in the hostel. Kudos is due to Drukpa Trust and the construction manager Mr. Sonam Angdus for the quality work being done in the area of construction.

Immediately after the winter vacation, DWLS set up its computer laboratory which was destroyed during the floods. Thanks to Live to Love, and our generous supporters all over the world, we now have 35 computers and audio-visual facilities for IT enabled learning. It was also during this period that the first edition of DRUKSKAT, the school magazine was released, which showcased the budding literary and artistic talents of our students and teachers.



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As the year progressed, schools such as St. Christopher's' and Perse School from the UK, Warren Wilson School and Princeton University from the US spent valuable time with the students and working on the school campus. Princeton University conducted two education camps with the children of standard 7, focusing on areas such as environment, dramatics, poetry, story writing, debating skills, etc.

The students also had the opportunity to spend time with volunteers from around the world, getting the opportunities to learn from their rich and varied experiences, ranging from the arts, to language development, from science to sports, drama and music. The students also benefitted from the ongoing collaboration with Snow Leopard Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund.

The students also had the opportunity to undergo medical and dental examinations under the expert supervision of doctors from the United Kingdom, France and India. A medical centre is being planned on the school campus and funds are currently being raised for the same. Motivational talks were also conducted for the senior students by Ms. Krushnaa Patil, the youngest Indian woman to summit Mt. Everest at the age of 19 and Mr. Varun Saini, an Indian Institute of Management alumni, who spoke about careers in management and in the armed forces.



Local artist trained at National Institute of Design, Mr. Chamspa Dorje conducted workshops in calligraphy, puppetry and float making for the senior students. Besides these programs, the students also had a number of opportunities to tap into and exhibit their talents in house competitions and talent shows, and attend workshops on 'How to study' and 'How to prepare for examinations'. The La Ngongpo project was introduced in standard VI which is a project that explores various areas in social studies and value education, and is a collaboration between DWLS and schools in the Czech Republic. The Project is funded by the European Commission.

Exposure visits were arranged for standards VIII and IX to the DWLS branch school in Khachhay, to the Hindustan Construction Company (HCC) Hydro-Electric Project and Nubra valley.

For the first time, DWLS participated in inter-school tournaments. In the inter-school tournament conducted by the Youth and Sports Department held at Chuchot, the DWLS girls won the Champion's trophy in football, the runners-up position in handball, the first and second positions in the girls' long jump and the third position in the 100 meters race, boys and girls. The DWLS girls also won the top position in the tournament conducted by the Ladakh Football Association. Two of our students were also selected to play for Leh district in a district level tournament held at Srinagar. Regular after-school coaching has commenced in various sports and track/field events.

For the first time the DWLS hosted and organized the Gesar Athletics Meet, which had around 20 schools competing in various track and field events over three days. The meet is planned as an annual event and hopefully will emerge to be a platform for Government and Private schools to come together and showcase the sporting talents of their students in various track and field events, helping them to imbibe the true spirit of competing, winning, losing and striving for excellence. The event is also being conducted with the sincere hope that the meet will throw up talents in the sporting arena that then can be honed and hopefully in time to come, will bring accolades and awards to Ladakh on larger state, national and international platforms.

## Annual Report 2010-2011

In the first edition of the meet, Lamdon School won the best school trophy in the senior section and the Druk White Lotus School won the best school trophy in the middle section.

Section wise Parent-Teacher meetings and Parent Committee meetings were conducted and various issue/concerns that parents had were discussed and resolved. Also, suggestions given by parents were taken on board and used to plan for the new academic year.

In the senior classes, examination targets were set by students along with parents and discussions were held on how they would achieve these targets. Discussions were also held with the parents on how to create an environment conducive for studying at home and how parents could help their students to aim and achieve higher. Parent Committee meetings are to be conducted quarterly and all-parent meetings are to be held six monthly.

The focus on teacher empowerment through capacity building and professional development gained further impetus this year. 18 of the teachers attended a 35-day programme at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Delhi, focusing on child centred learning.

A four day workshop was held at Pangong Lake during the recent summer vacations. Conducted by Pravah, a Delhi based NGO working on "change management in schools". This programme focused on self development, team building and developing a strategic vision for the school.



Teachers have also been involved in decision making at the highest level. Steps have been initiated to groom and develop internal change agents and leaders by identifying performers and those with potential and giving them additional responsibilities, such as appointing Section Heads, giving specific projects to be handled independently, giving leadership roles to organize events and of various committees, etc.

Teachers were also sent for training in Child Development and Education, subject related teaching methodology and language teaching conducted by the CREATE foundation in Likir for schools in Ladakh.

Principals of the various schools also got an opportunity to meet and discuss various aspects of teacher professional development, the requirements in the context of Ladakh and how teacher capacity building must be contextualized with regards to Ladakh.

DWLS currently has a strong team of 32 teaching staff, 7 administrative staff and 25 support staff members in various capacities, who are dedicated and inspired by the vision of His Holiness. Each one toils to make the school and hostel a safe and congenial environment for its 617 children from nursery to class 9, which also includes students from remote areas and a significant number of first generation learners.

## Annual Report 2010-2011

Around 86% of the students have a rural background and the rest 14%, a semi-urban background. The challenges faced in running an English medium school effectively in such a context and aiming for standards that are well above the norm is no mean achievement. The efforts put in by all the staff members appear to be bearing fruits, as evidence of stability and sustainability, both in curricular and administrative processes, seem to be emerging. On the administrative side, the staff handbook / school by-laws was prepared, finalized and implemented in a participatory fashion with all the teaching staff reading and discussing the bye-laws as a team, suggesting changes and then finalizing the same.

A School Development Plan / Strategic Plan for the years till 2016 is now in place. The DWLS salary matrix has been developed and implemented in accordance with the Government scale. This it is hoped, will give the school stability and continuity, and retain the performing teachers. Policies are being developed in various areas in order to systematize functioning and provide clarity for implementation in the context of the larger vision.

A Financial Consultant has been employed by the school on a contractual basis in order to set-up all the financial and accounting systems, clean up and systematize all the data and develop projections for the future. This is being done to bring about financial transparency, establish sound accounting/financial reporting and monitoring systems and place the school on a firm financial base.

It needs to be emphasized here that DWLS is not only about special events, strategies and expansion plans. A normal working day is also very significant. Staff while emphasizing on the needs and progress of the children are also growing by contributing actively to the growth of the school.

We, with all our blemishes, still put the effort to listen to each other at all levels, to value the thoughts and ideas that are generated in discussions, to collectively deliberate before an idea is launched into action.



Empowerment through participation, expression, and action is what makes DWLS special. With this also comes good friends, organizations such as Live to Love, Drukpa Trust, Peaks Foundation, volunteers and supporters from all over the world who keep us going from strength to strength, forever striving for excellence and hoping for great futures for the children of Ladakh.

And with this hope, DWLS on this tenth anniversary sincerely and firmly commits itself to the mission and direction it committed itself to 10 years back, that is to enrich the education and lives of the children of Ladakh and strive to achieve the vision of His Holiness, the Gyalwang Drukpa and His Eminence, Kyabje Thuksey Rimpoche.



## Heritage News

The Dragon Trail Heritage Project offers a rich cultural experience to people visiting Ladakh. DWLS is part of the trail along with Shey Palace, Naropa Photang and Hemis Monastery. The school buildings are nationally recognized for eco-friendly construction practices. This is a treasure trove for eco-tourists. In order to protect and preserve the Dragon Trail and Ladakhi culture, the Heritage Dragon Trail is searching for donations and sponsors for the disadvantaged children of the school.

The Bollywood blockbuster *3 Idiots* has put the school on the domestic tourist map. This project is successful under the guidance of Mr. Philip Cornwell (fund raiser of Drukpa Trust London), Madam Sarla Cchewang (Heritage Coordinator) and Rinchen Angmo (Asst. Coordinator/guide DWLS).

Special thanks goes to Deachen Dolkar and Parul Bhatti (Architecture student) who were volunteers this year. More than 10,000 visitors visited the school this year and helped the children through sponsors.

His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa, His Eminence Thuksey Rinpochey along with other Rinpocheys visited our office and blessed the office for success in the future.

At last, we hope to get help from visitors in the future and collect more donations and sponsors so that the children can complete their education happily.

Rinzen Chondon (Co-ordinator)  
Rinchen Angmo Heritage Office

## Playing with dragons

Working with children is like being on a rollercoaster. There are the highs and the lows. On days, you can come home feeling like you are on top of the world. Of course, if you work in a school in Ladakh, that is quite literally the case. Jokes apart, there are also days when the lump in your throat just refuses to melt. You keep telling yourself to breathe and not break down into tears. A miracle can all be in a day's work when you are in the Druk School.

Pastoral Care is still a nascent concept in Indian education. It requires the coordinator to interact with the students outside the formalised academic curriculum and help them develop as talented and confident individuals. One of the challenging aspects of Pastoral Care involves working with the children through an individual perspective and not by regarding them as mere "students".

There is one question that is constantly on my mind when I am with the children. How can they be challenged? The point is to help them find themselves, in a manner of speaking. For self seeking, they have to be pushed out of their cosy comfort zones. I realised this during the frantic days leading up to the Student Council elections. We were pushing this particular senior to take up a leadership position in the school. He on the other hand didn't want anything to do with it. This conflict went on for days on end where we would endlessly argue with him and try to convince him.

After sometime, we realised that he genuinely wasn't interested in what we had in mind for him. He wanted to work on another project that we had thought up. In these cases, it is best to let go sometimes. Wanting to challenge a child is all right but what if he/she wants the challenge to come in another form altogether? The question is, do we keep pushing for what we believe is right or do we let the child take that all important call?

The formation of the Student Council was a process that led me from extreme highs to absolute rock bottom. I remember how I almost walked out of a Council meeting after most of the older members admitted that they didn't want to stand for a second time. I remember fighting back angry tears. Also, I remember the pleasant shock of walking into school and hearing chants and seeing processions. After all the reluctance of standing for election, some of the same children had actually gotten caught up in the process of campaigning!

I remember Mr. Prasad telling me, "When certain things are supposed to happen, they will fall into place one day. It might not happen when we want it to, or at the pace we desire but it certainly will." We have to wait for natural progression to take its course. Sometimes, a breakthrough would come after ages of waiting. Take student counselling sessions for example. During one such session, I had to swim through over an hour of dead silence from a student before he finally came up with some of the issues bothering him.

I remember many moments of pride. Watching our students get felicitated at the Army Fair for their skit on global warming was one of them. Another was watching the head boy and head girl candidates stand up and give election speeches. Yet another one was to have a senior student come up to me and take ownership for his mistakes, all on his own.

I remember this one time when I was taking these emergency History lessons with a few nervous 8<sup>th</sup> graders just before their exams. While telling them about the Indian Freedom struggle, I got a little emotional, I think. Suddenly I noticed my previously bored students looking equally disturbed. As I carried on about the way our countrymen had struggled, they got affected too.

I think they use the term "a proud mother hen" to describe my state at those times. It is easy to let one's maternal instincts take over then and tell yourself, "I am going to do whatever it takes to protect these children, no matter what the cost." However, at times it is vital that you keep that distance, take that one step back and tell yourself, "No, for once they need to make this mistake and learn the hard way."

"All we need is just a little patience".

Rudrani Dasgupta  
Co-Ordinator, Pastoral Care

## Hostel Warden's Report

Our school reopened after the winter vacation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2011. This session saw a lot of new changes being introduced. This year, the strength of the hostellers has increased from 285 students to 311 students. Presently, the strength of the students in the seven houses is as follows:

HOUSE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Warila	44	----	44
Pinzala	----	44	44
Singayla	20	22	42
Taklangla	30	12	42
Zogila	26	16	42
Khardungla	37	----	37
Boto	----	60	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>311</b>

In the month of November, the Student Council was formed through the process of democratic elections. Every student from the Junior, Middle and Senior Sections as well as the entire staff of the school cast their vote to elect the Head Boy, Head Girl, Co-Head Boy and Co-Head Girl. Out of the four heads, two were elected from the Hostel. Within the Student Council, a Hostel Committee was formed as well.

We have also been successful in setting up a girls' hostel on the rented premises opposite the school campus. This accommodates 60 girls. There is one teacher and one housemother in charge of this residence. A new mess managing committee has also been formed by the Student Council so that they can take care of the hostel as far as the quality and hygiene of food is concerned.

All the hostellers were given a grand party the day before they left for their winter vacations. The infant section students were given small gifts as a token of love and affection from the Principal.

Jai Hind!

Abhishek Paul,  
Hostel Warden

## Head Boy Reports

Our school was established on 24 September 2001 with the grace and vision of His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa. The vision of His Holiness was to see the smiling faces of the children who will get quality education with a modern approach.

The year 2010 started with much fanfare and we noticed many new faces in the school as well as in the hostel. Previously the hostel strength was 282 and by October the numbers had gone up to 211. In the month of November last year, we organised an inter-school fest. Different schools participated in the events. Our principal, Mr. Prasad Eledath has brought some positive and beneficial changes in the school curriculum and administration. The teachers are teaching using creative techniques and activity based learning has become a part of the school curriculum.

In May, we participated in a sports tournament in Chuchot valley for the first time. There were many participating schools. Our girls' football team won the Winner's trophy. We also won the Runners-Up trophy in Handball. The school is indeed growing in leaps and bounds. In the month of November this year, we organised the Interschool Gesar Athletic meet for the very first time. The participating schools included Lamdon School, Leh, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Moravian Mission, Mahabodhi Residential School, St. Peters', New Millenium School and others. Our school won the Best School trophy from the Middle Section while the Senior Section award was taken by Lamdon School.

Our school is known as Rancho's School because Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan shot a few scenes of his blockbuster movie **3 Idiots** here. He has also visited our school along with His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa.

At last, I wish His Holiness a very long life so that all the sentient beings can benefit from his compassionate activities for a long time to come. I would also like to thank the Almighty for keeping the members of the DWLS family hale and hearty. May each one of us fulfil our dreams in life.

Earnest regards,

Rigzen Dorjey  
Head Boy 10

## Head Girl Reports

Our school was established in 2001 with the grace and blessings of His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa. Last year saw many events taking place in our school.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2010 the oath taking ceremony was organised by the school. This followed the Student Council elections held earlier in the academic session. I, as the head girl took the pledge to come up to the expectations of my peers and teachers. I also promised to take care of my younger brothers and sisters. My aim as the head girl was to solve the problems of the students in the school with the valuable help and support of the student council members who have all been very cooperative.

We were planning for the betterment of the school when disaster struck. The black night came in August and the flood waters damaged our school very badly. We thought that the learning process would not be restored for many months. However, with the generous help of HCC (Hindustan Construction Company), volunteers and staff members, the school was brought back to normal within no time at all. Our school also started a community service programme to help the flood victims. The programme also prepared a list of the students who had no support to continue their further studies. Presently, 68 such students are getting free education and are also staying in the hostel.

This academic year saw many volunteers from all over the world. They came to our school and taught us many different things including music, games and art. The children of the school got to learn a lot about the world.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, 2011 we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the Druk White Lotus School. Many honourable guests graced the occasion. There was a cultural programme put up by the students.

To conclude, I hope that all of us achieve success in our lives with the blessings of His Holiness. We, the DWLS family would like to wish him a very long life. May the voice of the dragons spread the message of peace and purity all over the world.

Kunzang Dolma  
Head Girl 10



# Mixed Bag

## Winter

During the winter season, nights are longer than the days. As the sun sets early it becomes dark and people start returning to their houses by 8pm. The shops also start closing by 10 pm and all the streets and the markets look lonely. At home, people like taking hot meals and sitting near the fire place. Well-to-do people use electric heaters for keeping their rooms warm. All members go to bed early and cover themselves with blankets and quilts. For the rich people, winter nights are very enjoyable. They visit clubs and enjoy till midnight. Since the mornings are chilly on those days, people leave their beds late.

Ringzin Angmo 8 B

## Leh

Leh town is the Leh district head quarters and the largest town in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir state. It is situated about 6kms from the bank of river Indus.

Leh palace looks like the Potala palace in Tibet and is the highest building in the world.

The materials used in the construction of the palace were stones, mud, bricks, poplar wood, mud and mortar. The mud plaster used is locally known as Mar Kalak. Only the chapel inside the palace is still in religious use and it contains a stucco figure of Su-kar.

Jigmet Norboo 8 B

## A happy home

Home, the mere mention of it makes me nostalgic. Being away from home is the saddest part of a boarder's life but to gain something, you ought to lose something. That is what Newton proved, that "every action has an equal and opposite reaction". This is the basic funda of life.

Tundup Dolma 6 A

## Life in a boarding school

The hostel is a place which provides board and lodging to school students who need it. The students leave their parents behind and make new friends. In hostel life, a student learns to live independently though they have to observe discipline by following the same boring routine every day. He or she makes new friends from different places and also learns new things.

Only in a hostel can a student learn to adjust with different people because they have to share a room with someone whose choices may not match. In a hostel a student has every scope to develop his/ her body and mind. Thus it is only in a hostel that we learn to share everything. I love this life very much.

Kunzang Dolma 10 B

## Something important you have learned

From my grandparents I have learned to help other people. Ladakh is a holy place which is far from other places. In winter it is too cold and the summer is very hot. But now a days there is climate change all over India and especially in Ladakh. In the area of Kardong-la new pests are increasing and there is very little snow fall. We are facing problems like lack of water. We have to use our natural resources and stop using things which destroy our earth. My parents teach me to help others and to speak the truth. My parents also tell me to work hard till my dreams come true.

We have to put our hands together to save the earth.

Sonam Chorol 10 B

## My parents' contribution to my education

Mother's lap is the first school in which we learn the first lesson of life. Parents are the best teachers in the world. Before we grow up enough to be able to go to any school, it is our parents, who teach us how to talk, how to walk, how to laugh and how to respond to their expressions of love and affection. This is why the language we learn in our infancy from our parents is called the mother tongue. I learn many things from my parents.

Chusnit Yangdol 7 B

## The role of teachers in the life of a student

In ancient India, teachers were called "Gurus". Teachers were highly respected and were placed next to God. It is the teachers who are responsible for the development of a student. When he can successfully take his stand in the world, it is his teacher who is behind the success.

A teacher is a person who gives a student the greatest treasures of life. A student's life is enriched by the knowledge given to him by his teacher.

Ringzin Chuskit 6 A

## My school

I like to go to school and I also like play with my friends and I like to read story books in the school and at home. My school is Druk Padma Karpo School.

My school is made of wood and cement. My school bus is yellow in colour. I like to play foot ball and basket ball.

Tsering Namgail 3 B

# Dragon

**Dragon** is a large animal. It blows fire which reduces all things to dust. It is found in early caves and palace towers. There are many dragon stories like Rapunzel in the tower where the dragon is guarding his prisoner. It is a reptile which can fly. Dragons are mostly found in the old stories but one cannot believe in the dragons for sure. I don't know whether the dragons are real or unreal. I think they are real and have become extinct because of falling meteors on the earth which are very large stones. The dragon is a brave animal and is not afraid of any other animal. We have heard about many dragon tales. I really like dragons and wish that I could ride one.

Stanzin Motup 8 B

**Dragon** are beasts breathing out fire from their mouths. They are very big in size with two wings and a long tail. Mostly we hear of them in stories and movies like "How To Train Your Dragon", "Harry Potter," "Spark" etc, have dragons. Some stories say that thunderstorms are caused by dragons.

Jigmat Norboo 9 A

**Dragons** are so big and they look scary. They were alive many years ago. They have wings, claws, strong teeth. Long teeth and flaming breath so that they can burn their prey and eat. Their lungs are full of hydrogen and carbon-dioxide so that they can be light and fly easily. Inside their mouths there is a material which they use to make fire. They hunt domestic animals like sheep, goats and some times they even hunt humans. They lay eggs and the egg shells are so thick that the dragons burn their eggs to keep them warm. The last dragon was killed by men. Like bears in winter, even dragons sleep for a long time.

Jigmet Angchok 6 B



# God

Owner is God, God is one.  
God is never bad.  
God is very good.  
God never changes.  
We pray to our god.  
We have many gods  
I like God.  
God is very important.

Tsewang Chorol 4 B



**Why** do we all pray to God? Because we all have some wishes and want to achieve success in all our work. God cannot come to every place that's why he has given a mother to each house. God is great everywhere. I think that God has different types. Many people believe in Christ. They are known as Christians. Some are Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists. The founder of Buddhism is Buddha.

Sometimes when we get into trouble, we say "Oh my God"! That means we want a person to help us to get out of trouble. That person's name is God! That's why we build a monastery, mosque, church etc. We go to these places to pay respects to God.

We all try to give him happiness by doing good work. For example: To do good work is not to pray but to give donations to poor people, monasteries and other places. To give clothes and food to poor people is another example. Some think that to do good work is take care of other people. For Eg: you have one piece of chocolate and when you see a poor and hungry person you give the chocolate to that person. If you will not give the chocolate to that hungry person and eat that chocolate on your own then it is not an example of good work.

I want to say that always try to give happiness to God by doing good work and saying good words. If you want to be a good person you have to do great work. If you save a life then you will be a good person.

Sonam Wangyal 6 A



# Monasteries

## Stakna

Stakna monastery is located in Stakna in Thiksay. It is situated on top of a small hill. The people say that Stakna hill looks like a Tiger so it called a Stakna. The Stakna monastery is two kms away from my house. To go to Stakna monastery you have to cross the river.

There are many monasteries in Ladakh. In Stakna monastery there are almost 500 monks. There is one school for the monks and for ordinary people as well. There are almost 15-20 monks and 10 other students studying there.

Stanzin Angmo 6 A

## Monasteries in Ladakh

They do prayers. Monasteries are very beautiful places. They are located on high mountains. In monasteries there are many statues and other art works of the Buddha. Many monks and nuns live there.

In monasteries there are many old things. Monasteries are very old and so they have historical objects. Some monasteries are palaces for the kings. Monasteries are built by kings and by many great monks too.

Stanzin Tsomo 5 B

## Alchi

Ladakh, the land of monasteries situated on top of the world. In Ladakh, monasteries are the oldest and the greatest. The oldest monastery in Ladakh is situated in Alchi. Everyone goes to the monastery to pray.

In monasteries there are statues of gods. There are many (Dukhang) rooms in which the statues of God are kept. Monks and nuns live in the monasteries.

On special occasions monks and nuns dance in the monasteries to show what will happen after death.

Chhosnith Dolkar 9 A



# Monasteries

**There are many** monasteries in the world. The word monastery means a place when monks and nuns stay and pray to God every day. They eat and sleep there. Our country is also full of monasteries. Buddhists go for pilgrimage to these monasteries. In Ladakh, the most famous monastery is Hemis monastery which was founded by Lama Stagtsang Raspa. Likewise Hindus go to temples, Christians go to churches, Muslims go to masjids etc.

In a monastery you will find idols of many Buddhist gods. You will also find many pictures on the walls of these monasteries which symbolizes many things. There are many butter lamps.

Most of the monasteries are found on the mountains. There will be one or more monks or nuns, who will explain the pictures and guide you. There are many holy festivals which are celebrated in the monasteries. The monks wear masks and do the mask dances. During this time many people come here and enjoy the festivals.

Diskit Dolkar 7 B

**In my village** there are three monasteries. These are Zangdogpari, Kharnanakling and Tsetro Rinpoche. In the Tsetro Rinpoche Monastery there are many people who come and worship the statues. Zangdokpalri monastery is on a hill. There are many people who come to the Zangdokpalri monastery and worship the Guru Rinpoche statue.

The monks of Tsetro Rinpoche Monastery perform the mask dance on very important days during summer and many people including tourists come to see the mask dance performance. In Kharnakling monastery there are many statues of the Buddha, Guru Rinpoche, Tara and other idols. Kharnakling monastery is very small. That is why few people come to the monastery.

Tsering Disket 8 B

**Shey monastery** is very big. The monastery is very old. It is also very high up. Shey monastery is very beautiful.

Stanrung Dorjey 3 A



# Monasteries



**Mountains** are huge hills that man cannot reach. In Ladakh there are many mountains. Here, the drinking water comes from the mountains because there is snow. When the sun's heat reaches the snow, it melts and changes into water. The water falls down the mountains and comes to the village streams. That is how the people get their drinking water. They also use mountain water for bathing and washing clothes. The mountains are beautiful. Animals like the deer, ibex, snow leopard, wolf, fox and jackal are found in mountains. In summer the tourists from foreign lands come to visit the mountains and trek there. In Kashmir they grow evergreen trees. In north-east India the people have terrace farming and step farming on the mountains. In spring season, almost all mountain peaks of Ladakh are covered with snow. In the past, the kings made their palaces on the mountains.

The highest mountain in the world is Mount Everest. Edmund Hilary and Tenzin Norgay were the first men to climb Mount Everest. Sometimes volcanoes erupt in the mountains. In Ladakh, people think that an eagle had stolen a gold cup and thrown it on the big mountains. Here, most places are covered with mountains and hills. In mountain regions there is less rainfall but in plains there is a lot more rainfall.

The mountain deer come to eat grass at the bottom of the mountains. Sometimes people think that the sun rises from between two mountains. In Ladakh snakes are mostly found on mountains. I think that mountains are fabulous and marvellous places. Mountains look like zig-zag lines in drawings. Sometimes deer pull rocks down the mountains which is dangerous for the villagers.

Sonam Wangail 6A

**Mountains** are mostly found in the Himalayan region of North India. Mountains are natural, not artificial. Mountains are the art of god. Mountains have different designs and styles. Some grow grass and plants which are needed for our medicines. Mountains are formed over many years and are made of several rocks, sand and other structures. Mountains have flint rocks and in ancient times people used to make fire from them. In winter Ladakhi people take yaks and cows to the mountains. In the mountains, there are many animals like fox, yak, leopard, ibex, etc.

Sonam Angchok 7 B

**I like** mountains because they are very big and tall. There is snow fall on the mountains. There are monasteries and palaces on the mountains. Some animals also stay on the mountains. Some types of mountains are green and some are white while others are brown in colour.

Sonam Chospel 3B

## MY AIM



### IAS Officer

My aim is to become an IAS officer. I chose this aim when I heard about the IAS and read in an IAS magazine about the first Muslim girl who became an IAS officer. I became very interested in it. My teachers also spoke to me about my aim and I got inspiration from them.

I will reach my aim by doing my best and collecting information and knowledge from others. I am also reading a magazine about the people who try for IAS and how they develop and prepare for their dreams. My great and helpful teachers are also helping me to improve my aim by giving me information to become an IAS officer. I will achieve my aim and help my mother land.

Tsering Dolma 8 B

### C.I.D

My aim is to become a C.I.D officer. I will reach my aim through education and hard work. I would like to become a C.I.D officer because I want to help other people. I would also like to go to different places and countries.

I like weapons like guns, rifles and bombs. I will catch a thief and send him into prison. I want to fight. The full form of CID is Criminal Investigation Department. I pray to God to become a CID officer.

Spalzes Angmo 8 A

### Army

My aim is to join the army. First I will read and write. Then I will get a job. I will work very hard. When I go to the army, I will give money to my father and mother. Then I will work harder.

I will come back home and make a new home for my family. Then I will live together with my family and friends.

After that I will go back to the army. I will go for training and I like the army.

Skalzang Dorjay

### What is your aim? How will you reach your aim?

My aim is to become a teacher, because I like to give education to students. When I was small my dream was to become a teacher. In my dream I saw that I became a teacher. I also want to become a teacher in real life. I am doing hard work to become a teacher. I will try to become the best teacher in the school. I will do my best to be a good teacher. To become a good teacher I will give good education to the children. There are many things to do but I would like to teach because that is my aim. I would like to teach Science, S.S.T, and English. I will try to be the best teacher in the world.

Tundup Lhamo

My aim is to become a sports teacher and for that it is very important to have good health and various techniques to teach students. I want to participate in every game and activity which is held in the schools or colleges, so that I can fulfil my dream.

I want to organize more and more sports facilities and tournaments in Ladakh and grasp the opportunity which comes my way. I am not playing sports for the sake of myself only, but for those who have interest in sports and don't get the opportunity to play because they have no resources and platform to perform their talent.

To fulfil my dream I have to work very hard. I should have the confidence so that I can get a job. I hope that I will fulfil my dream with the help of my family members.

Disket Dolkar 10

My aim is to become a doctor. I want to become a doctor to check up people and cure their pain.

My chosen type of doctor is the eye doctor because most people are blind.

I would like to see his or her eyes and help Ladakhi people get rid of their blindness. My aunt's sister is also a nurse. An aim is very important in our life.

We have to have an aim since childhood. We have to study well and achieve our goals. The point is to not only earn money but also get respect from the people.

I will reach my aim by studying well. I will study well to my limit because without education our life is not happy.

I will achieve my aim with the help of my parents and my teachers because my parents have helped me to reach this point.

My teachers teach me lots of topics and lessons to help me reach my aim.

Deachen Lamo 7 A



Stanzin Lamo 9 B

# MY DREAM

When I opened my eyes for the first time I was on my mother's lap with a blank mind. When I was 12 years I started thinking about my future. I always saw a dream about 'how to serve the poor and help those who are in pain'. That time I was only thinking of having a luxurious life.

When I was around 15 years I saw people who were poor and suffering from unknown diseases. Few of them had no food to eat and no money. I learned that many of them were uneducated. My dream is to change those people's minds who think that there is no need of education for women. My dream is to become like Mother Teresa who gave her whole life to the poor and needy. My dream is to follow that path and adopt the truth. I will teach lessons to those who take bribes from the poor. My dream is that there should be equal treatment for the poor and the rich. I pray to God so that my dreams may come true one day.

Start with hope. End with satisfaction.

Tashi Lamo 10 A

**My dreams** are very big, some are good and some are bad. My dreams are like kites, flying free in the sky. Everyone has a dream,, to become something. I have a dream to become a pilot. In my dream I see many beautiful things like birds flying in the sky, flowers falling down on me and music playing along with a beautiful voice. My dreams are big, my dreams are great, my dreams are super. I want my dreams to come true. I want everyone to have a dream. I love my dreams. In my dream I see a great palace. In the palace I am the princess. There is someone in the shadow who is a prince. I love my dream.

Jigmet Lazes 5 A

I sleep in the night and suddenly I see that I am playing football for a team. I am the goal keeper. My team makes a goal against Barcelona.

Tsewang Dorjay 4 B

I always **dream** that I will enter the Great Wall of China. I will climb 'Mount Everest'. I wish to become the Prime Minister of India and take care of my Indian people. From September 2011, we have been doing the La Ngonpo project. Our partner class is the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade in Czech Republic in Europe. I wish to go to Czech Republic and meet the my partners.

If I meet them I will be filled with joy. Have you heard the story of Barbie Maripsa? She is a butterfly fairy. She lives in Flutter field. I wish to be a butterfly fairy so that I could fly and live in fairy land. It is a very beautiful and comfortable land.

If I would become the Prime Minister I would make the people live in peace. I wish to be like Sonam Norboo. He is very famous in Ladakh. He has a memorial hospital and a park in his name. I hope my dreams can come true some day.

Stanzin Chuskit 7 A

## My favourite holiday

**M**y favourite holiday is Losar because from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to 1<sup>st</sup> January, we all get some gifts like new clothes, footballs, play stations, cycles etc. We are happy on this day because there are varieties of special food, snacks, juice, meats and mok mok. Our village has a monastery called Guru Gonpa. There is a festival of the lamas and children of different ages perform dances. They go to different houses and collect money and dance for them. They also go on to the roads and ask the people to stop the cars and give money for bakpa (a group of children). They wear dresses and hats of black colour. The houses give them money and food. When Losar finishes the group of children share the money and give a party for five days. There are many festivals in my village.

Stanzin Kunsal 6 B

My favorite holiday is the winter holidays because I can play in the snow with my friends. Sports like cricket and football are the most played games during the winter holidays. I make a snowman and throw snowballs on the snow man. I climb the mountains and throw big stones down and my friends say, "Oh my god, this is dangerous". Then my friends and I come back home and play games.

Sonam Namgail 4 B

My favourite holiday is the summer holidays because then we get to eat fruits like apples, apricots, nuts, etc. In summer holidays the days are very hot so we go to the water and swim. We also go to the garden and play, dance, sing and also do our summer holiday homework. In the summer holidays there are many animals to see in the jungle. My family goes on picnics in the summer holidays. Many visitors come to see the animals.

Padma Tsering 5 A



Skalzang Dorjay 5 A



Stanzin Angmo 3 C



Stanzin Motup 8 B



Stanzin Tsono 6 A

# My favourite subject

**My favourite** subjects are Hindi and English. When I was in the second grade, I went to Dehradun to study for two years. I learned both Hindi and English. I know both very well.

When I was in Dehradun, I forgot the Ladakhi language because it was not spoken there. After two years, I came back to Ladakh and to DWLS to study. I want to develop my English because it is spoken all over the world.

Stanzin Daysal 7 B

**My favourite** subject is Social Studies because I think it is easier than other subjects. I mostly like history because it is an ancient story and I am interested in listening to stories about ancient life. I often think about how my teachers know about all the stories and sometimes I feel that they are not true.

Sometimes these stories are interesting and sometimes they are boring. In the ancient times we were very poor. Nowadays we have developed very much. How is it? I think that is because of great people. I am proud of the historians for giving us such knowledge about ancient times.

Ringzin Lamo 8 A



## My favourite

subject is Bhoti because it is the most famous language in Ladakh. In Ladakh all the holy books are written in the Bhoti language. It is very interesting. In Bhoti there is ancient history, grammar and also some interesting stories. In my life I want to become a great leader in the Bhoti language. I want to share my Bhoti experience with the people of Ladakh.

Padma Angmo 9 B



## Why I Love Science

Science is one of the most interesting subjects. Many of our students hate it as they do not try to develop an interest in learning it.

On top of that, they don't listen while the teacher is teaching the subject.

I think that I am not too bad at listening and on top of that I always try to feel the subject. I try to question myself, How? Why? Who? It helps me in developing my love for learning science as a subject.

Don't take science as a subject but as a storybook. Read it and visualize the content.

It is fun and your interest in learning science will grow and you will not even know how!

Tsering Chosdan 8 B

# MY SELF

**My name is Tara Sato.** I am 10 years old. I am from Tokyo which is in Japan. I like trees because trees are very high and I like the green colour. I read in class 4 B. I live in Shey. My mother's name is Mari Sato. My mother is from Japan. My father's name is Skarma Gurmet. My father is from Ladakh which is in India. Ladakh is very beautiful because there are so many mountains and also the blue sky. My favourite subject is math because math is all about numbers.

Tara Sato 4 B

**My name is Stanzin Mingur.** I have one dog. My dog has four puppies. I will touch the moon but I will not touch it. My best friend's name is Jigmet Dadul. I have two sisters, Dolma and Tsering. My school's name is Druk Padma Karpo and I study in class 4 B. in my class, Tsewang Dorjay and Sonam Chospel are very naughty boys. Sonam always fights with the girls and boys.

Stanzin Mingur 4 B



Tsering Angmo 8 A

**My name is Dawa Singay Namgyal.** I am from Zanskar (Zangla). My father's name is Stanzin Namgyal and my mother's name is Stanzin Dolma. I have one pet dog whose name is Singay. I love my dog very much. I play with him.

He is very big and handsome, but sometimes I get rid of him. I read in Druk Padma Karpo and I stay in the hostel and my home is far from here. It is about 500 kms. I have two friends, Stanzin and Otzar. My favourite games are football and volleyball.

Dawa Singay Namgyal 7 B



**My name is Jigmet Tseskit.(Jimmy).** I am from Shey. I am a very good girl. Sometimes I am naughty. My favourite one liner is 'Denmak kharab macho hai'. I like eat chocolates and snacks. I have one sister, who is so good but sometimes she is also naughty, but I love my sister.

I have four members in my family. They are mom, dad, sister and me. I like my family very much and they also love me very much.

Jigmet Tseskit 4 A



## One day I will never forget

**One day** my friend and I went to Sankar on my friend's motor bike. Suddenly a cat crossed the road. My friend was so shocked that he could not brake and we fell down on the road. Many people came to see us and we felt very shy. That day I will never forget.

Skarma Zangpo 9 A

**The dog** is said to be Man's best friend. Dogs are indeed faithful animals. I got a dog one fine summer, I took it him home and gave him food and also washed him properly. I kept his name as Sheepa. I took him to walk in the morning and evening. One day he found a big key on the ground. I love my dog and I will never forget him.

Neema Tsering 8 A

**On the midnight** of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010, around 11:30 pm thunder and lightning occurred. At midnight a cloud burst and the deadly flood occurred in Basgo, Shey, Nimmo, Leh, Choglamsar, lgoo, Bema etc. Many people lost their lives and property. In Choglamsar many people died and many lost their homes. Still hundreds of people are living in relief camps.

Almost the whole of Ladakh was devastated by this unexpected flood. In the morning nothing was left in its original shape. Many of the houses were completely wasted due to the flood water. H.H the Gyalwang Drukpa and famous actor Aamir Khan came to see the students and to meet the people of Ladakh. One of my friends died in the flood and we didn't get her corpse. We didn't get my aunt and uncle's corpses as well. I was taken by water but my mother caught me. Then I ran to the back of my house to a safer house which has two floors.

Padma Chondol 9 A

**One day** during the winter holidays my father went to the mountains to take the yaks with other people. My family started to go to the Gonpa for prayers. Suddenly a car came and I saw that my father had broken his leg.

There were other people with him and they took my father inside the house. I ran to my grandfather's house to tell them to come. We came back home and the other men looked sad.

My father was trying to catch the yak and the yak had pushed my father who fell down the side of the wall and broke his leg. My aunt and grandmother were crying.

And after that our neighbours had come with the car to take my father to Leh hospital. They took my father and my mother went with him. We all relaxed after that.

Tsering Angmo 8 A

**The day** I will never forget is that day when my peaceful and happy Ladakh was washed away by the cruel flood. All around the country, the cries of the people and the misery began to start. Ladakh the land of paradise became dull and destroyed. The country was washed away by the flood and all around there was blood. How difficult it was for some who lost their parents.

Some lost their children, what will they do when their family was washed away?

What will the children do when they lost their parents?

Oh flood, go away!

How cruel you were when you separated the children from their mothers.!

The baby is calling her mother but how can the mother hear the call? How the baby can reach the mother's lap? Oh flood, go away. Feel sympathy for us and leave the country forever and never come back.

Yangzin Chuskit 9 B

**In May** 2011 our school took part in the inter school tournament held in Chuchot. Our school had participated in the tournament for the first time in our school history. We won the football match and also the handball event. I was chosen as the captain of the girls' football team. Under my captaincy, we had won the football trophy.

I want to specially thank our P.E teacher (Sonam Gyalpo), our school principal, staff members and all the students. During the final match at Chuchot I was selected for distinct level football. It was just like a dream. I had never thought in my life. I had to go for many trials and had to work very hard to grasp that opportunity. Last but not the least, I was selected for the state level in Srinagar.

There were many girls who were also selected for the tournament. I was placed in the forward position so I had the responsibility to win the match. We won the runners-up position in football. I was a little sad but it was nothing to worry about because we had been able to participate in the finals. On our way back to Leh we enjoyed very much.

My father and mother came to receive me and they were very proud that I had participated in the state level tournament. I came back to school and all the teachers and students welcomed me with love.

Stanzin Lamo 10 B

# RHYME TIME



## A house

This is a house

A house is big

A house is very big

A house has four walls

A house has food.

A house has big trees

Sonam Chospel 2 C

## Where do you- come from? What is it like?

My beautiful village, Zanskar  
It's made by God himself  
And it's very cold in winter  
But people here are very united

When snow falls it becomes white  
And it just looks like a fairy land.  
The mountains there are big.  
Some come for mountaineering.

The sky is as it deserves to be  
There is no such noise.  
Like other cities and villages.  
And I am proud to be born there.

Stanzin Chosdon 9B

## Trees

Oh trees we are so sad without you,  
Like a flower without leaves.  
Then how will I do photosynthesis,  
if all the trees vanish from the earth.

Oh! Trees we are so sad without you  
Like birds without wings  
Then how can they fly?  
If all the trees vanish from the earth?

Jigmet Dorjay 8 B

## The one we cannot forget

India is the country.  
Who saved us from terror and humiliation.  
Made us stand after total knock down.

When we lost our happiness,  
When we lost our religion and culture,  
India was there to rely on and  
Willing to offer help.

And, also when we lost our freedom,  
And in the times of need and in trouble,  
India was there to listen to our load.  
Thank you India for letting us breathe,  
When in need of pure air to inhale,  
Thank you India for letting us live.

Padma Chondol 8 A



## My aim

My aim is to be a Doctor.  
I like Doctors.  
I can see the people.  
To become a doctor,  
I will read science and math  
I think I will make a good and intelligent doctor.

Stanzin Angmo 4A

# RHYME TIME

## My school

My school's name is Druk Padma Karpo.  
My school is in Shey.  
My school is big.  
My school has 35 teachers.

My school has a big playground.  
My school has many trees.  
My school has many students.  
I live in my school.

My school has one Sir Prasad  
My school has two playgrounds.  
My school has one library.

Stanzin Tsognes 2 A

## My school is big

My name is Sonam Wangyal  
My village is called Zanskar  
My class is strong.

I have two houses.  
My roll no is 1  
I am studying in class 3  
I am a super man

Sonam Wangyal 3 B

## God

God is very good.  
God is in many many many places.  
God lives in the sky.  
God has a Norbu.

The norbu is very beautiful and good.  
God's hand is magic.  
God has monkeys and peacocks and many other things.

God helps many people.  
God does not wear a cap and hat.  
God is a great leader.  
God is very beautiful.

Stanzin Dolma 3 B

## Ladakh Rainbow Heaven

Om mani padme hung  
My wishes are all the time with you  
Come out of the dark and  
See God inside your heart.

Red is like the colour of zanggos and  
shantap in Ladakh for monks and nuns.

Orange is like the colour of Zacha of stupa.  
Yellow is like the colour of sand dunes.  
Green is like the colour of willow trees.  
Blue is like the colour of sky.  
Deep blue is like the colour of  
Pangong lake.  
Purple is like the colour of mountains.  
The easiest and shortest way to reach  
God is to serve others and give  
happiness to others.

Nilza Angmo 7 B

## School is the best

Near Shey palace,  
in front of the road, shining  
bright as the stars and the moon.

Mandala is to perform,  
Photang is to pray

May God bless the school  
Day by day.

Teachers and the principal together  
developed a school full of knowledge  
and they

Improve school day and night.

Jigmet Kitpa 9 B

## It is our school

Surrounded by high mountains  
Trees and flowers  
Naughty and noisy  
It's our big school DWLS  
Full of kind teachers.

Full of cool students and dogs  
It is our happy school DWLS.

Beautiful buildings like the Mandala  
Beautiful Naropa Photang

Surrounded by beautiful white stupas  
It's our wonderful school DWLS

A big library and computer lab  
A nice science lab

A big play ground  
A nice basketball ground  
It is our famous school DWLS

One of the most famous schools  
In Ladakh we win most of the awards  
Held by H.H. the 12<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Drukpa.

It's our successful school  
The Druk White Lotus School.

Stanzin Namgyal 7 B

## What does it mean to be an Indian

I am very proud to have been born in India. There were many great people who were born to fight for India. There are many holy places here. I respect my national flag, national anthem and those who died during the war.

I also respect those army men and leaders who protect us from our enemies. As we all know, our India is very popular for spices, silks and there are many historical places where many tourists come to visit. The world's highest peak is also in our country, namely Mount Everest at 8848m.

I feel very proud when some foreigners ask me where I come from. When I say that I was born in India I feel like I was born in heaven. Kashmir is also a part of India and it is called "paradise on earth". In India there are many people who are kind and non-violent. This makes the country peaceful and marvelous. "Take pride to be an Indian"

Padma Chuskit 10

India is a country. A long time ago, India was under the British. At that time all the Indian people were very upset to be under British rule. When Mahatma Gandhi was born, he heard all about the bad things happening in the country. When he was older his father sent him to study in England.

After studying he came back to India. India was still under the British rule. Mahatma Gandhi became the father of the nation because he was a freedom fighter. Many Indian people struggled for freedom. Gandhi was a non-violent freedom fighter.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, India became free from the British. So the British divided India into two parts, India and Pakistan. India has three colours on her flag. They are saffron, white and green. Between them is the wheel of India. India has very great people; they go to other countries to do jobs for money. But Indians should not do jobs in other countries just for money.

They should work at developing their own land. India has many people who are doing a great job. Their names have been entered in the Guinness Book of World Records. I think India is a precious country all over the world. India also has a good education system and that is why Indian people perform well in other countries.

Tashi Lhamo 8 A

## Where do you come from?

I come from a dangerous place. In that dangerous place there are many vampires. In that place I am the king of vampires. I have big and long teeth. I come out in the night whenever I see a man.

I jump out and suck his blood. I like baby's blood because that blood is fresh blood. I mostly stay in the forests because there is no fire and light. Whenever there is any fire, I feel afraid.

The vampires are famous in books and on TV. I am happy because I am a famous vampire.

Chamba Thinles 8 A

I came from a place in the heart of Himalayas called Kharnak. Khar means 'palace' and nak means 'black'. It's a 'black palace' where kind people live without any problems. They are neither poor nor rich, but have normal lives. They take their cattle to graze so they wake up early in the morning and eat their breakfast. Then they go to graze their animals.

The people have small bags in which they pack their simple lunch made of a chapati and curd. The place is like heaven. Where I came from is surrounded by Nature's beauty.

Surrounded with colorful mountains there is snow where snow leopards live and from the mountains there runs a fresh mountain stream. Fairy fishes live there and other animals too.

At the bank of the stream there are meadows and grass where animals like pika and marmot live in small burrows and stand by big stones like soldiers. At the edge of the water there lives the black-necked crane which migrates like a secret agent.

Beautiful flowers and useful plants grow and near the flowers there are beautiful butterflies. There is a lot of wildlife but pollution makes the place and water dirty. So there is danger for the animals which live there.

I miss my place with the heavenly hills too. During winter holidays I want to go there if the road is good.

Tsering Namgyal 8 A



Tundup Dorjey 9 A

### Where do you come from? What is it like?

I am from Zanskar Lungnak sking. In summer my village is like a small Goa. The mountains are green in Zanskar and the people are good. I like my village because there are no vehicles and no roads. When we go home for holidays we keep walking. I remember my village in summer.

The Zanskar people mostly wear the Zanskar cultural dress. There is only one shop and the things are expensive. If I want to buy something it costs a lot. There is no gas. The people cook by fire in Zanskar. Some people are nomads and they have so many cows, goats and sheep. Zanskar is famous for chura and butter. In summer the tourists come to Zanskar and the Zanskar children come home for holidays.

There is one Monastery. There are so many flowers. The Zanskar dishes are very tasty. The people carry their stuff on their backs or use horses. I like my village very much because it is so clean.

Stanzin Chuskit 7 B

### My village

My village is called Koyul. My village is in the Changthang side. My village has many tents. My village has many pet animals like yak, cow, dog, cat, sheep and goat.

The pet animals give us milk, egg, meat, etc. My village has many plants like trees, fields and flowers and gardens.

Stanzin Dolma 4 A

# TEACHER TALK

## World of thanks

Dear noble donors and supporters  
You've all done so much  
For the welfare of DPKS  
So, thank you so much!

Your thoughtful contributions  
Have remained very helpful,  
And indeed the successful years  
Have happened only because of you.

You've all helped to keep  
The visions of His Holiness alive  
And keep the family growing  
So fast and steady.

This humble vow of thanks  
Goes to everyone  
Who've made an immense difference  
To lead us to the victory of success.

Karma Dhargyal (Infant Section)

## My Motherland

High up the mountains,  
Covered with heavy snow,  
With meadows on the land sides.  
This is none other than my motherland.

People are very natural and kind hearted,  
They wear different traditional dresses,  
They look so pretty and innocent.  
This is none other than my motherland.

Down to the village,  
Different animals wander around,  
They look so beautiful and are loving creatures.  
This is none other than my motherland.

People from different worlds,  
Looking at the beauty of the land,  
Feel so happy and warm.  
This is none other than my motherland.

A land of beautiful nature,  
Holy monasteries and stupas all around,  
Produce melodious sounds of religious songs.  
This is none other than my motherland.

Yangchen Dolma (Infant Section)

## Childhood

Childhood is the best part of life. People look back at their childhood and remember all the happy days; the jolly games, the fun they had at school, the chocolates and cakes they used to eat, the parties, the school picnics and the presents they got.

When they were children, they did not have to work hard to get something to eat; their elders gave them all that they wanted. They had no great sorrows, no heavy burdens to carry and no dangers to face.

The world to them was a very beautiful place and they did not know that men could be cruel and hard. They believed all that was told to them, and they did not know how false and dishonest people could be. They were simple and innocent and as happy as the day was long.

So while we are children, we should make the most of it. It is a very important time in a man's life.

By saying this, we cannot leave everything in the hands of the children. Elders and parents too are responsible to help them feel the importance of childhood before it is too late.

-Tsetan Yangdol (Junior Section)

## Abort the Mindset, not the girls,

Shameful are the findings in the latest study of female foeticide. According to this, over one crore fetuses have been aborted in India over the last twenty years. The study which covered ten lakh homes attributed this serial killing to the middle-class families' determination to ensure that they have male heirs.

Sex determination in pregnancy and selective abortion accounts for five lakh less girls every year. If one analyses the census figures then it is clear that the number of girls in relation to boys has been falling steadily. There is no doubt that technology has played into the hands of the devil. The widespread availability of ultrasound tests that let the doctors and also the parents to discover the gender of the child before birth has been one of the primary factors in the increase of female foeticide.

Religious leaders of all faiths have condemned the killing of the unborn female child. Yet, the study shows that there has been no difference in the way the female child has been treated. Contrary to what common sense would suggest, it has also been that female foeticide is more common among educated families where the first born was a girl.

Thus the blame rests with the societal mindset in which the girl child is seen as a burden. Every individual must make the right choice. All those who are guilty of this crime should be punished.

They include the doctors who perform pre-natal sex tests, the parents who ask for these tests and all those who abet the heinous crime of killing the unborn girl child.

-Phunchok Dolma (Junior Section)

## Inside Out

Our school, located in the village of Shey is known as the "capital of Ancient Ladakh". Founded and directed by His Holiness the 12<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Drukpa, the Druk White Lotus School, has received many awards for architecture, such as the World Architecture Award for "Best Green Building" in 2002. But the awards only reflect what is seen by the outside. But, what is on the inside?

The inside supports both scientific as well as traditional knowledge. His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama sees this factor as important, "The idea of having a modern school which lays equal emphasis on the importance of preserving the valuable aspects of a traditional culture is very encouraging..."

I have always believed in giving equal importance to both modern scientific knowledge and traditional Buddhist culture."

By combining the understandings from both inside the local area, village, as well as the knowledge from outside and around the world, new attitudes, skills are able to flourish.

The mission of the Druk White Lotus School is to enable the students to have the confidence and competence needed to succeed in the modern world, together with a sound grounding in the Ladakhi language, culture and traditions.

Our school has been cited by architect Jonathan Rose as an "example of how design can both symbolically and physically support a cause and maintain local tradition and culture." The school serves as a "model of appropriate modernization and sustainable development for other communities and cultures in the world that are under pressure to change."

It also serves as a candle of knowledge. And as the Lord Buddha said, "Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

Lakshmi Eassey  
(Junior Section)



## Food for thought

Before anyone lends you a hand, you must touch their hearts. Be like the sun which gives all that it can give. Be in return, all the flowers, the trees and the plants that grow towards it.

Deepak Sharma  
Senior Section

# My World, My Universe



Tsewang Chosdon 8 B



Stanzin Norboo 8 B



Jigmet Lanzes 6 A



Sonam Spaldon 6 A



Deachen Chuskit 3 C



Jigmet Norboo 9