

# Lotus Leaves



Rancho's School

The new leadership team appointed in 2014 has enabled the school to go from strength to strength. Demand for places has grown and more than 720 children now attend.

The second batch of students who matriculated in March 2014 achieved a pass rate of 96%, exceeding the previous year's results.

Construction continued with the expansion of the dining hall and kitchen, and improvements to the Dragon Garden landscape programme.

Students have taken part in many events - educational, cultural and competitive - with repeated success, demonstrating great skill and ability.

## SCHOOL EVENTS IN 2014

**MARCH:** The school re-opened after the winter break. Mr Shomie Das joined as educational consultant.

**APRIL:** The landscape team planted hundreds of fruit trees. Students took part in the inter-school long-distance running competition. The third Kurman Gyalmo inter-school literary meeting was held.

**MAY:** Teacher trainers from Delhi held several workshops for school staff. A gardening competition was launched.

**JUNE:** Khachey branch school computer lab opened. World Environment Day presentations were held. Classes 9 & 10 went on a trip to Hanle Observatory.

**JULY:** A new maths lab was opened. The school had its summer holiday break. The school principal, Mr Prasad Eledath, left at the end of his five-year contract.

**AUGUST:** The new Ladakhi Vice Principal, Mrs Stanzin Kunzang, started work. A scientist from the nuclear research organisation CERN visited and an open-air "Spark Park" science exhibition was held.

## Nurturing Young Lives

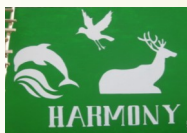


His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche, Chair of the School Managing Committee, and Mrs Stanzin Kunzang, Vice Principal, (pictured left) are having a positive influence on all aspects of the school.

Alongside a broad range of academic pursuits, the students are encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities such as sports and archery, and there is a plan to make Wednesdays "culture days" when students learn about and practise Ladakhi cooking, art, textiles, history and dance, helping to keep culture and traditions meaningful and alive.

Special events, quizzes, exhibitions and sporting events have been held at the school throughout the year and Druk White Lotus students won prizes in local and national competitions.

His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche has created new names for each of the school houses: Courage, Harmony, Wisdom and Unity.



## CONSTRUCTION:

In 2014, two secondary school classrooms and support staff accommodation were completed. Gravel paths were laid and security fencing was erected around the campus. The timber structure, granite walls and most of the roof of the dining hall and kitchen extension were built. The building should be completed in 2015.

Much still remains to be done. The school will need facilities for its Health, Hygiene and Wellbeing Programme, including a shower block, health centre and additional dry latrines. Residences are at full capacity and extensions need to be built to residences 1 and 2 to provide 6 more dormitories. Paving and seating in the central courtyard and a network of slate pathways between school buildings are needed to improve the school environment.

## Building an Environment





**SCHOOL EVENTS IN 2014 CONT.**

**AUGUST cont:** A new school telescope was unveiled. India Independence Day celebrations were held.

**SEPTEMBER:** Stok Kangri Mountain Expedition – three students climbed this 6,000-metre peak. A three-day outdoor academic tour was made to Pangong Lake. Founders/Parents day was held on September 24. Intercultural Exchange students from Bangalore visited the school. The annual inter-school athletics meeting was held.

**OCTOBER:** The third batch of students prepared to sit the Matriculation exams.

**NOVEMBER:** The new academic year started on November 1. On Children’s Day the teachers put on their dancing shoes to entertain the children. A new music teacher joined the school.

**DECEMBER:** On World AIDS Day, students of class 10 gave a presentation on AIDS to the whole school. School Student Council election was held and 6 new members were elected. On December 13 the school closed for the long winter holiday.



**LANDSCAPE PROGRAMME:**

Hundreds of small fruit trees were planted in the Plant Nursery in the Spring of 2014, to be nurtured until they are large enough to be planted out in the orchard area in spring 2015. The drip-irrigation system was installed and is providing much needed irrigation for plant growth without wasting precious water.

Vegetables were grown in the beds and greenhouses for use in the school kitchen and a courtyard garden was created for residence 3. Additional planting around the campus is beginning to transform a dry and barren expanse into a lush green 'Dragon Garden'.

This year we plan to start planting the eastern Shelterbelt using the Ladakh Rose and Buckthorn (*Rosa macrophylla* and *Hippophae rhamnoides*). We hope to plant some living “willow walls” and continue creating interesting leisure gardens in the residential courtyards.

Because the site is so dusty we are designing a network of slate pathways throughout the campus. We plan to start building these along the residential spine in 2015.

**LONDON MARATHON 26th APRIL 2015**



Drukpa Trust is pleased to announce that a young architect from the Arup team, Georgina Price, is running in this year’s London Marathon to raise funds for DWLS. Please sponsor her by visiting: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GeorginaPrice>



**THANK YOU**

on behalf of

**DRUK WHITE LOTUS SCHOOL**



If you would like more information, or would like to donate or offer your expertise and time, then please contact:

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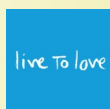
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