



# Lotus Leaves

## Annual newsletter



### White Lotus Expo

On 21st June, the first White Lotus Expo and Fete took place in the school grounds at Shey, designed to showcase the school to the community.

Events included camel riding, archery and competitions.



### HEADLINES

Stanzin Kunzang appointed principal after an inspiring nine months as vice principal.



Dining hall and kitchen extension completed, ending two-year construction project.



Final year students achieve outstanding results: 30 out of 31 pass, eight with distinctions.



## School celebrates 14th anniversary

On 24th September, the DPKS team celebrated the 14th anniversary of the school's opening. Celebrations included the debut of the school's band "The White Lotus Band". The evening was attended by Tsering Dorjey Lakrook, the Jammu and Kashmir minister for cooperatives, and guests from the Sanskriti School and Bluebells International School in Delhi. Formal ties were established with these two eminent schools, which proclaimed the DPKS as their sister school.



## Nepal earthquake fundraising

The children gave their wholehearted support to efforts to raise funds for the Nepal earthquake relief campaign, sacrificing treats and titbits and contributing what they could to this worthwhile cause.

## New music room unveiled

The new music room was unveiled by His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche. Equipped with a wide variety of instruments, it was handed over to the school to be used for regular music lessons from 1st May.

## India's 2015 Earth Day

On 22nd April, the school hosted India's 2015 Earth Day, an environmental event organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Key Foundation, an educational trust. This year's slogan was "Green Earth-Clean Earth". The first Earth Day was held in 1970. Today it is celebrated in 192 countries around the world.



## Summer visitor

A summer visitor this year was the Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh, remembered for her roles in the award-winning martial arts film 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' and the James Bond spy thriller 'Tomorrow Never Dies'. Michelle is also global ambassador for the Live to Love charitable foundation.



## Mudslide Appeal Additional protection measures, what can we all do?

Unusual heavy rainfall caused mudslides and flash floods in many parts of Ladakh.

Thanks to the flood protection walls built after the August 2010 mudslide, no one at school was injured, but the campus suffered.



## 2015 Construction

The large dining hall and kitchen extension building was completed in 2015, marking the end of a two-year construction project. A new laundry was built and carpenters made the dining hall furniture.

Repairs were made to the defence wall after the August mudslide and planning is under way to build further defences to provide all-round protection.

Shower blocks will be built for the residential students, funding permitting, and this will create extra space for dormitories when the current washrooms are converted into sleeping accommodation.

A volunteer electrical engineer, Alexandra Lindsay-Bethune from Arup, spent three months at the school and concluded that the ageing solar-powered photovoltaic electrical system needed new inverters and batteries. We need carbon offset funding to help pay for this upgrade.



We shall be building additional protection and the school governors will look into collaborating with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council to create a village-scale plan for mudslide disaster management, using the Shey area as a model that could be applied elsewhere.

## Dragon Garden Landscape Programme

Volunteer horticulturalist Seniz Ocal worked with the local team in early spring to create the first section of fruit orchard. Alfalfa was planted as ground cover under the trees. The drip-irrigation system was extended into the orchard area. The next section of orchard is due to be planted in the next few weeks. Seniz started the eastern shelterbelt planting, and investigated indigenous plants for the campus that will thrive with minimal watering.

Later in the summer a volunteer landscape architect, Konrad Boncza-Piuro, led a team of stonemasons who are laying slate paving pathways along the central residential spine of the school. Work on this continued for two months and in the future the campus will have a network of pathways, as funding allows.



# 2015 School Events



**March** The school reopened after the winter break on 9th March 2015. Matriculation results, 97% pass-rate. Students and teachers set about submitting and assessing the projects assigned for the long winter holiday. On 21st March, the newly appointed student council was sworn in at a solemn ceremony.



**April** New music room opened.

School hosted India's 2015 Earth Day.

Students of Class 8 came up with the idea of a topic based on how to make friends with books. The idea was to stimulate youngsters to acquire the reading habit.

**May** New Principal appointed.

Our teachers benefited from a five-day training course given by Delhi-based educationist Mondira Bharadwaj.

Nepal earthquake fundraising.



**June** First White Lotus Expo and Fete held at the school.

Students presented a Bhutanese song and dance at the festival of the Indus River.

**July** The school hosted a visit by the Jammu and Kashmir minister of state for information, education and culture, Priya Sethi. Accompanied by the principal and members of her staff, she toured school facilities including the maths lab, the IT lab, discovery room, art room and music room.

Two-week summer holiday started.



**August** After a brief delay, caused by the mudslide, the school reopened. His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa visited to give His blessing after the havoc wrought by nature.

The new school uniform was introduced.

37 Class 10 students prepared a presentation on the visit they made during the summer break to Bhutan, the first educational tour by the school.



**September** The Druk Padma Karpo School hosted a delegation of six school principals from Bhutan, who took part in a "Learn Today" education project organised by the India Today group.

The students of Class 6 took part in an excursion organized by India's Nature Conservation Foundation to the village of Khatpu, 75 kilometres away.

**October** Druk Padma made its final academic evaluations and declared its final results on annual Proclamation Day, marking the end of the academic year. Awards, certificates, trophies and medals were presented to teachers as well as students.

Class 9 student Yundup Phurboo, a promising young athlete from the distant village of Rupsho, won the 3,000 metres gold medal at a district athletics meeting and has thus qualified to compete at national level.



**November** The DPKS was highlighted by British architecture journalist Jonathan Glancey in an article on the world's most beautiful schools on the BBC Worldwide website. He said the school "is proving to be a seat of wisdom, happiness and beauty".

**December** The school was awarded the Innovation in Public Washroom Design category 2015, by the Indian magazine Washrooms and beyond (Wb) for the sustainable design of its washrooms.



On 9th December the school closed for the long winter holiday. Students of all levels were assigned their winter holiday homework projects.

Our thanks to Studio 45 Design, Maidenhead, Berkshire 01628 621475

Druk Padma Karpo Educational Society

in partnership with:

Drukpa Trust, University of Greenwich and Live to Love



THANK YOU  
on behalf of



*Druk Padma Karpo School*



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

**International**

Rachel Glynn, Drukpa Trust T +44 20 8468 1339  
E info@dws.org

**Ladakh, India**

Ms Stanzin Kunzang, Principal  
Druk Padma Karpo School  
T +91 1982 267 255 E principal.dws@gmail.com

[www.dws.org](http://www.dws.org)