



# Lotus Leaves

## Annual newsletter

### HEADLINES

Final year exams:  
100 percent pass  
rate, 80 percent  
distinctions or  
firsts.



School team  
wins Naropa  
inter-country quiz  
competition.



“Strive, succeed  
and serve”

-- new school  
motto and  
emblem unveiled.



### Children's Blooming Day

On 14 June, Nursery and Infant children put on an energetic show for parents, teachers and guests on a day dedicated to the school's youngest contingent. The school launched an indoor learning centre in a classroom, designed to inject some fun into learning.

The children were delighted to get their first glimpse of their new uniform, consisting of a red tracksuit and a cosy grey gilet. The older children received their smart new outfits in August 2015.



# The Bhoti Language

Ambedkar Jayanti Day, which is observed on 14 April, is a public holiday marking the birthday of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the principal architect of independent India's first constitution. Dr. Ambedkar was a champion of social equality. The students took part in a procession through the town of Leh to support demands for Bhoti to be included among the official languages in the Indian constitution. The event involved lots of schools and included slogans and placards.



## Bhutan visit

The school was honoured to welcome a delegation of seven members of the Bhutanese parliament who spent a day at the school on a fact-finding visit. The group, led by Phuntsho Rapten, chairman of the Bhutanese National Council's special committee for education, was visiting India to gather information to help the Bhutanese government reform its education policy.



## Play and drama

To the delight of the nursery and infant children, His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche opened the play area comprising slides and swings in their classroom courtyard.

Chemet Angmo of the 8th grade won first prize for inter-school Bhoti Dramatics, a joint initiative by Lamdon school and the Leh Art and Culture Department.



## Sports achievements

The school's hearty congratulations went to Stanzin Namdol of Class 9, who came second in the inter schools district long-distance race organized by the Youth Service and Sports Department.

For the seventh year in succession, the junior girls' team won the under-17 category at the district football tournament. Congratulations to Jigmet Chuskit and Sonam Angmo on their selection to play for the state team.



## Naropa festival

The historic Naropa Festival, held every 12 years, took place in September. The carnival of spirituality, festivities, dance and music commemorates the Buddhist saint Naropa and was particularly significant on this occasion since it marked the 1,000th anniversary of his birth. In the afternoons there were cultural performances by students of DPKS. The place was packed each night for performances by top Bollywood singers, dancers and musicians. Nearly 400 students took part in an essay-writing competition.

## 2016 Construction

Since 2013 we have completed the following facilities:

- Two IT-enabled secondary school classrooms
- Two additional secondary school classrooms
- A block of secondary school latrines
- Residence 4 south block for 40 students
- Support staff accommodation
- Dining Hall & Kitchen extension
- New laundry building
- On-site office and meeting room for the governing body.
- Installation of four large solar cookers



Solar cookers



Dining Hall extension

## 2017-2020 mudslide repair and seismic upgrade programme appeal

A four-year programme of mudslide repair and seismic upgrade was started in September 2016, with safety and resilience for the next 50 years as key factors. It will make the school a resistant post-disaster community aid hub.

All school buildings need remedial work as a result of a change in the underlying ground condition since the 2010 mudslide. The school is in an earthquake zone and the seismic strength of the buildings has been affected. Current international thinking puts the risk of a seismic event at 3-4 times greater than previously estimated, and additional strengthening will be installed when timbers damaged in the mudslide are repaired.

Construction plans came to a halt in 2016. Our construction manager noticed problems with several timber columns and a series of structural surveys was conducted. The findings disclosed that the mud inundation from the 2010 mudslide had caused structural problems throughout the campus.

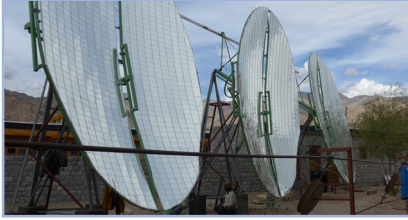
Timber specialist Andrew Lawrence and seismic expert Sebastian Kaminski visited their Arup colleague, structural engineer Lottie McCarthy, at the school and spent several months working on new design details.



## Dragon Garden Landscape Programme

This year the second section of the fruit orchard was planted in early spring and drip irrigation was installed. The central courtyard was paved in local slate and more pathways were laid. However, overall progress with the Dragon Garden was slow since a lack of funds meant we had no resident landscape architect. We hope that the network of pathways can be extended in 2017.

# 2016 School Events



**January** Six teachers attended an intensive training course and workshops at the prestigious Blue Bells International School in New Delhi.

**February** The school took part in celebrations marking the joint birthdays of His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa and His Eminence Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche, hosted by the Young Drukpa Association in Leh.

**March** The school reopened on 1 March after a winter break of nearly 85 days. Matriculation results: 100 percent pass rate in Class 10 exams, 80 percent with distinctions or firsts.

Student council elections were held and the new council was invested.

The second phase of the fruit orchard was planted and drip irrigation was installed

**April** A group of 12 teachers from the government primary school in Spituk visited DPKS and explored the school's academic and non-academic activities.

The school held its first parent-teacher meeting after the winter break, attended by teaching staff and parents. The school has been campaigning to involve as many parents as possible in the education of their children and two more parents were appointed to the School Managing Committee.

On 14 April, the school observed Ambedkar Jayanti Day, a public holiday commemorating the birth of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the architect of India's constitution.

**May** Teachers had three days of training followed by two weeks of activities in the school, including mime, sculpture, origami, time management in a student's life and a self-help drama group.

With the assistance of the Sonam Norboo Memorial Hospital, Leh, medical counsellor Stanzin Dolma conducted an interactive session on the health issues facing students at this time in their lives.

**June** 5 June: the second White Lotus Expo and Fete was held to help boost links between the school and students to the community and to raise funds for the school.

The District sports tournament took place.

**July** Chemet Angmo of the 8th grade won first prize at the inter-school Bhoti dramatics held at Lamdon Model School in Leh, a joint initiative with the Art and Culture Department of Leh.

**August** The school installed four large solar cookers in the kitchen compound, using solar power to cook meals for residential students

**September** The historic Naropa Festival, held every 12 years, took place. An essay-writing competition was held for the Naropa Scholarship.

A team from DPKS representing India won a Naropa general knowledge quiz against teams from Bhutan and Nepal.

A delegation of 10 students plus staff flew to Mumbai to attend the four-day Indian International Model United Nations (IIMUN) Championship conference.

**October** New play area for nursery and infant children opened.

**November** A delegation of seven Bhutanese members of parliament visited the school.

Sixty students sat the standard 8th board exams, of whom 21 received distinctions. Student Jigmet Tseskit achieved the highest mark with 91 percent.

**December** 15 December: the school closed for the winter holiday.



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