

# SMS Express

A Special Edition of Student's - Media Society of St. Mark's Sr. Sec. Public School, Meera Bagh

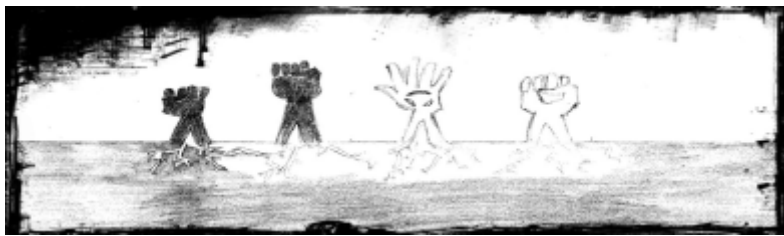
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## THE BIRTH OF RTE

The need of education in India was recognised way before the beginning of the freedom struggle by reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar, and Jugul Kishore Sukul etc. Education played an important role in creating awareness among people. Also, it ignited young minds to do something for the nation. Indians with vast diversity in society and social structure were good in indigenous education, but the social structure was brimming with draw backs. There was inequality among the society and a huge gap between the education level of rich and poor. To eradicate this inequality, the Indian Constitution provided reservations. But, It wasn't enough, we still had a long way to go in this direction. Moreover, the educational reforms all over the world convinced the Indian political and social sectors that education should be made a basic right of humans. As a result, the Indian Government introduced a bill, 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act' or 'Right to Education Act', which was passed by the Parliament on 4 August 2009. However, the act came into force only on 1 April 2010.

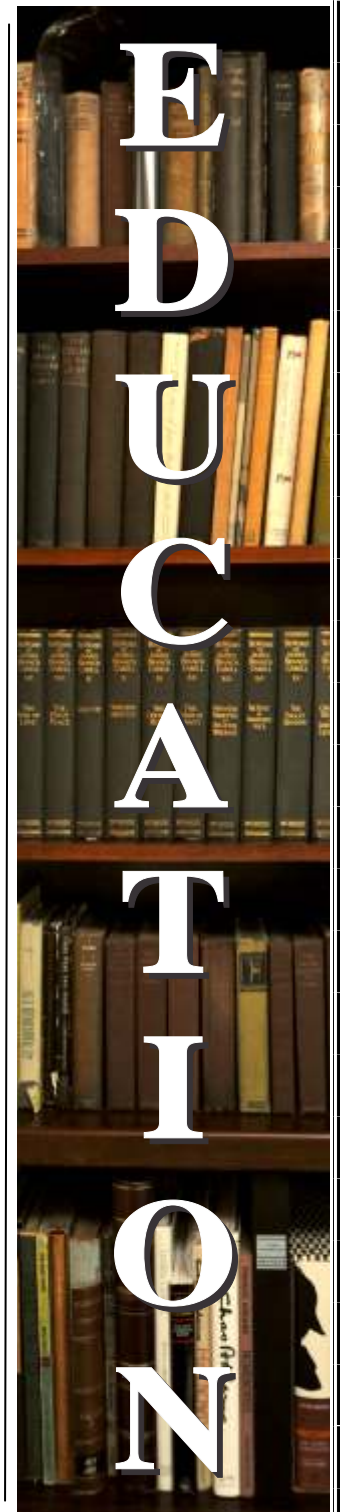


EDUCATION NOT FOR SALE !

## GUARANTEES OF RTE

As per the Constitution of India, the Right to Education Act guarantees free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years. Besides this, the Act also guarantees the following things:

- The schools will get a subsidy from the government for giving free education (65% of the subsidy will come from the Centre and 35% from states). The government subsidy will be based on the expenditure per student in government schools or Kendriya Vidyalayas, while many private schools spend much more.
- Not enrolled/dropout children be admitted to age appropriate class . Special training will be given to such children so that they are at par with others .A child so admitted is entitled to completion of education even after the age of 14 . The act also softens barriers like birth certificate, transfer certificate, etc.
- The Act also provides that no child shall be held back, expelled or required to pass a board examination until the completion of elementary education.
- The Act bars corporal punishment and mental harassment .
- The Act provides for a special organization, The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, an autonomous body set up in 2007, to monitor the implementation of the act, together with Commissions to be set up by the states.



## AND SOME OF US ARE STILL NOT IN SCHOOL!

- In India, as on 30-Sep-2000, approximately 35 million children still need to be enrolled.
- Those outside the school system are mostly SC/ST girls, working children, children of poor families, disabled children and children in difficult circumstances.
- Many children are not attending school because of poverty, sibling care responsibility, household chores, work in the fields and factories, wage labour, work in family occupations, etc.
- A large number of children drop out of school because of school-related reasons like attitude of teachers, irrelevant curriculum, sub-standard teaching, teacher absenteeism, uninteresting teaching, corporal punishment, poor school infrastructure, inability to cope with the pace of learning, lack of parental support in the case of first generation learners, maladjustment in school, etc.

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## PEOPLE'S OPINION ON RTE

- "One of its main drawbacks is that the RTE Act in its present form will neither promote its prime objective of ensuring completion of elementary education of every child of the age six to 14 years nor meet the commitment of ensuring quality primary education."  
- Vikas Dhamija (Teacher)
- "RTE makes education till the age of 14 a constitutional right and any kid can approach the Courts citing a violation of the fundamental right."  
- Suasha Girdhar (Student)
- "Right to Education Act is merely an article in the constitution about which most of the population is unaware. Giving 25% reservation to children in private schools just because they belong to the weaker sections of the society will not improve the literacy rate of our country. This would be unfair to the children of the general category."  
- Asha Girdhar (House Wife)
- "It is very important for the government to invest more in education and improve the quality of the government schools."  
- Aditi Arora (Medical Student)



## FESTIVITIES AT SMS

India is a land of festivals and we at St. Mark's believe in celebrating every festival to make each child proud of the country's rich culture and heritage. From Lohri to Christmas, we celebrate each and every festival with great pomp and show. These celebrations impart a sense of brotherhood and fraternity amongst the students. By celebrating various festivals, we also inculcate respect for all religions. The national festivals help us in instilling a feeling of patriotism in every student. The students get a hint of history in an interesting and captivating way. From class 1 to class 12, every student gets an opportunity to be part of the celebrations and showcase their talent. Various dances and stage shows are held to relive the legends and tales of each festival. The sight of students reciting shlokas and hymns, and enacting various mythological characters is mesmerizing to one and all. These activities bind some people to their past and connect some to their future. It has been rightly said by someone, 'Festivals are the most wonderful way to dignify human existence.'

## ACCOLADES GALORE

SMS participates in various national and international level competitions and we have made our presence felt wherever we have ventured. We have been regularly participating in competitions like **LITFEST**, **CELESTA**, **CONFLUENCE**, **QUANTA** and **EUREKA**. This year too our students brought accolades to the school by winning prizes in all the events. At 'Litfest' the students excelled in 'Clincher Campaign' – Protect, Preserve, Propagate – a social issue, while Shubhanakar Jain walked away with the I Prize in the Creative Writing Contest. Our students won the II Runners Up trophy in Dramatics for their play 'CHIKITSA- HEAL THE WORLD' and a special prize for overall performance in **Celesta**. We won the first prize in 'The Opera House' in **Confluence** and also got the first prize in the competition in which our students enacted a proverb. We continued with our winning streak in 'Eureka' as well where our students won the title of the "Best Attired Team" during the event. We are proud of our students who have worked hard to bring such laurels to the school. Three cheers to St. Markians.

## TRIPS & EXCURSIONS

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Keeping this maxim in mind our school plans various trips and excursions, not just within the country but also beyond boundaries. The highlights this year have been our trips to Bangkok and the U.S.A. The trip to U.S.A. was marked by visits to some of the famous landmarks like **Empire State Building** and **Times Square** in **New York**, the **Kennedy Space Centre** which is the **NASA launch site** and the **Universal Studios** to see the **Harry Potter Island of Adventure**. The visit to the **land of White elephants** was no less adventurous as various famous places were on their itinerary. They visited the Coral Islands in Pattaya where they took an underwater tour and also visited the Nongnooch Village. Besides the international destinations, the students also went for excursions to places like Agra, Jaipur, Nainital and Rajgarh. The students also enjoyed the Day in Delhi trips that were organised to educate them to preserve and protect our heritage.

# THE

# YEAR

# THAT

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## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPORTS

We believe that sports play a major role in building up a person's character. Our school has always encouraged students to play sports and as a result our students have shone in zonal, state and national level competitions. Dhairy Taneja participated in CBSE National Roller Skating Tournament-2011, under-14 years category and achieved First position in Rink Race-11 (500 meters). Manan Shingari (VD) and Sanya Shingari (VIIB) represented Delhi State in the 25<sup>th</sup> Sub. Jr. National Badminton Championship. Also, Yash Kumar (XID) participated in Rajiv Gandhi Gold Cup Badminton under 19 yrs and reached the pre quarter finals. At the zonal level, Junior Boys Volleyball team and the Sub-Junior Girls Basketball Team won the championship. Our school scored a hatrick at Zonal Football Tournament when the sub-junior, junior and senior football teams won the championship. Srishti Ghai (XII -E) bagged the first place in Youth Girls and II place in Girls Singles at the Table Tennis Open Tournament.

## ALL THE WORLD IS A STAGE

Shakespeare Week, Bachpan, Inter Class Drama Festival, Inter School Drama Competition. Theatre is our forte and we regularly hold theatre workshops for our students and teachers for we believe that theatre is the most powerful form of teaching. We proudly proclaim to have staged 22 English plays by primary students and 19 plays by senior students. We made a sincere and successful attempt to stage "The Rehearsal" by the London based English Playwright Maurice Baring which is a hotchpotch rehearsal for Shakespeare's famous tragedy 'Macbeth' at the Zonal level in **BACHPAN -2012**, organized by Atelier Theatre group on 27 April 2012 along with eminent schools and made it to the **TOP FIVE** at the Children's Theatre Festival. Our young Theatre Brigade made us proud by winning the Semi-Finals of the ANNUAL INTER-SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL 2012, presented by the British Council and Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority, in association with Manchester Metropolitan University. It is no mean achievement for us as we were one of the 42 schools selected from over 180 schools from all over India to enact a self-scripted play on the theme - "India - UK : A Modern Fairytale".

## ENTREPRENEURS IN THE MAKING

Our school strongly believes in the all-round development of our students and while doing so we create responsible and aware citizens. It is a matter of pride that our students have been involved in projects that develop entrepreneurial skills in them. In a project initiated by the British Council, the school started an enterprise named 'Nirmaan- Creating Opportunities' in August 2012. The project provided employment to the economically weak housewives interested to earn some money by making sling bags. The school provided them with all the material and they stitched the bags at home. The entire program was organised by students, starting from the making of the business plan to the selling of the bags. Another step in the line was an opportunity of being a part of the Editorial team of The Times Of India, student edition. Our students edited the entire newspaper and the highlight was the interview with Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, who was interviewed by our students, Ria Nagpal (XIA) and Sheryl Kuttickal (XIIH). Not to forget the paper in your hands that is purely the hard work of the Students' Media Society.



## WE DO OUR BIT FOR MOTHER EARTH

Our school is known for being eco-friendly. In fact, it is proud to be a pioneer in this cause. We have partnered with Earth Sense for giving Electronic Waste for recycling. The Green ambassadors of our school pledge to work in an environment friendly manner which includes usage of paper bags, steel lunch boxes, water management, saving electricity and other activities. The anti-cracker campaign in various localities has been a part of their agenda. They even collected **15 Kg. tetra packs** and sent it to **DLF Links** for proper recycling. It has been ingrained in their minds that proper disposal of tetra packs is necessary for a clean environment. The students went for a tree plantation drive on 27.7.12 and planted saplings of semul, arjun, jamun and neem. We also have an in-built paper recycling plant in our school and from time to time we engage in activities that make the students as well as the society in general aware of their duties towards the mother earth

WAS

## OUR HOSPITABLE SIDE

In the year gone by our school played host to student and teacher delegations from various countries like **Iceland, Italy, Sweden and Singapore**. Each visit was a rich exchange program where our offshore friends got a true taste of Indian Hospitality as the students stayed with their Indian counterparts. The delegation was part and parcel of every activity the school organized including classroom teaching. In this way, they got a glimpse of the Indian Education system. Besides this, they also went on a Dilli Darshan and undertook a visit to The Taj Mahal. These student exchange programs are a part of SMS Global programs that aim at developing and nurturing friendly relationships with one and all. These have been truly magnificent student exchange programs as the students have become friends for ever.

IN

## OUR PHILANTHROPIC SIDE

Availability of clean, drinking water is a major issue in most of the Govt. run schools. We felt that water is a dire necessity of survival. Translating this thought into action, the students of class VI, VII and VIII of our school initiated a project wherein they collected money from their classmates and teachers and **installed Aquaguard Water Purifiers in three government schools**. The students not only funded the project but were also involved and present at the time of installation of these machines. Continuing with their efforts, more than sixty student volunteers of our school participated in **'SHRAM DAAN'**. Keeping up the Gandhian spirit, student volunteers put in a commendable effort and initiated a cleanliness drive in the nearby areas. True homage was paid to the father of the nation by these young people who performed this selfless service not just with their hands but also with their hearts.

SMS



## REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

From 2005 to 2012, we have participated in several online projects, collaborated with several countries. In the process, the school has been recognized for its international collaboration. It has won the **Best Global Collaboration Award at the World Education Summit**, the International School Award -an initiative by the British Council and, very recently, the **AEC (Asia Europe Classroom) Gold Award** (Prize money 2000 Euros) for its collaborative Project-Windows to the Past-A Glimpse into our Heritage. Another feat in the international arena was The **Global Virtual Classroom Contest** project of the Give Something Back International Foundation (GSBI) where we won **The Bronze Award** and a cash prize Of 250 \$ at Primary Level and a **Merit Certificate for Exceptional Collaboration** at Secondary level in the Web designing contest organized by the Give Something Back Foundation, Dallas, USA. Also, our students became a part of an Anthology when their stories got printed in a book released by National Book Trust (India). The book **WAVES** is a compilation of stories contributed by school students and we are proud to see our students, Kirti Suri (XC) and Aishwarya Bajaj (XIIA), become a part of it.

## OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES

The SMS Global Program provides students meaningful international educational experiences that will spark interest in life-long learning about other cultures, nations and global society. By working on internationally themed projects, opportunities are provided for every student to gain authentic exposure to the culture of different countries. Through on-going online activities and exchange programs, the students also get the opportunity to develop a global perspective. As part of the Global Program, the academic session 2012-2013 saw our students visiting **Sweden and Denmark**. The delegation that visited **Denmark** participated in the International Friendship Week attended by schools from Germany, Singapore, Japan and Italy. The students visited the museum of Hans Christian Anderson and the Little Mermaid in Copenhagen. The visit to **Sweden** was a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about the Swedish life style, education system, cuisine and the country on the whole. The highlights of the exchange programme were the visit to the island of Marstrand, Ale's Staner, the Apple Garden with the beautiful motif of Save Mother Earth, the visit to Malmo and last but not the least, the visit to Copenhagen to

## CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS

The school believes in the overall development of the child through various activities which enhances in them the skill of multitasking and time management. To mark the occasion of World Heritage Day and Earth Day, our school organized the Sanskriti and Prakriti Utsav. Several competitions were held to make the students aware of the rich heritage of our country as well as to sensitize them of their obligations towards their Mother Earth. We also celebrated The Bard of Avon through showcasing the famous Shakespearean plays and monologues. To commemorate the UN Day, we celebrated the UN Week by organizing quizzes and many competitions and then the Book Week which marked the importance of literature by holding competitions like Mastering Idioms and Phrases, Building Story etc. So like this 2012 was a very eventful year for our schools with many students participating in various activities and competitions.



## WE PAY TRIBUTE

2012 witnessed the demise of many great personalities . Their loss will always be felt in our hearts.

**Pt. Ravi Shankar-** The great Sitar Maestro died at the age of 92. He was one of the greatest sitarist ever known.

**Yash Chopra-** The most successful romantic film director died at the age of 80. He directed eternal films like Deewar, Veer Zaara, Jab Tak Hai Jaan, Chandni , Silsila etc.

**Leslie Claudius –** One of the greatest hockey midfielder , Leslie Claudius helped Indian hockey team win gold medal in 1948 , 1952 , 1956 and a silver medal in 1960 .

**Neil Armstrong –** The man who took the giant leap for mankind when he first stepped on moon in 1969 passed away on August 25 , 2012 .

**Rajesh Khanna –** The “original” star of India died on 18 July 2012 at his bungalow , Ashirwad . His last words were “ Time is up , pack up “ .

**Dara Singh –** The wrestler-turned-actor from Punjab became very famous for his role of Hanuman in the television adaptation of Ramayana . He died on 12 July 2012 at his home in Mumbai .

**Whitney Houston –** The actor and singer became most famous for her hit I Will Always Love You . She died on 11 February 2012 at the age of 48 .

## WE SALUTE OUR OLYMPIANS

“Great men are not born great, they grow great!”

**We salute their greatness!**

The following Olympians brought accolades to the country and made us proud:

**Saina Nehwal –** The “Golden Girl of India” beat Wang Xin to win the bronze medal in Badminton Singles.

**Sushil Kumar-** The Indian World Champion Wrestler won a silver medal in Men’s 66kg Freestyle Wrestling Event.

**Gagan Narang-** He was the first Indian to qualify for the Indian Olympics and won the bronze medal in the Men’s 10 m Air Rifle Event.

**Mary Kom –** The Manipur girl won a bronze medal in the 51kg category. She has been a great source of inspiration for many aspiring boxers.

**Vijay Kumar-** The Subedar Major won a silver medal in the individual 25 Metre Rapid Fire Pistol event.

**Yogeshwar Dutt–** The wrestler won the bronze medal in the men’s 60 kg Freestyle Wrestling.

We also salute **Yuvraj Singh** for his fighting spirit. He returned to the game after a successful battle with cancer in September 2012.

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Jyotsna Arora, XI

### CO-EDITOR:

Shivangi Arora, X

### LAYOUT AND DESIGN:

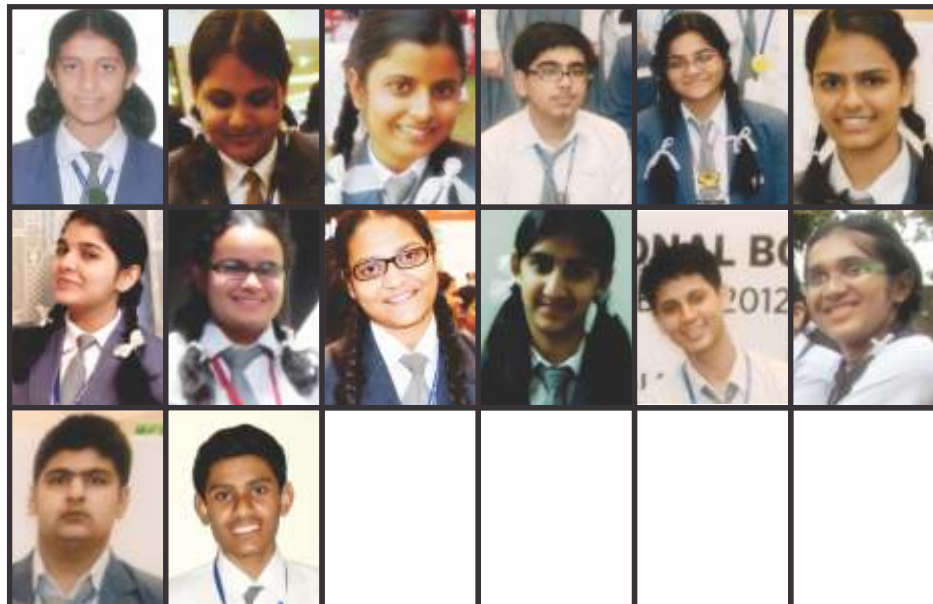
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Kirti Suri, X

Shantav Jatav, X

## EDITORIAL

20 July 2012, a red letter day for the students’ media society, the day it was born. A group of 15 students, the media club is a joint venture by the N.C.E.R.T. and school. The very first meeting of the club involved coining a name and designing a logo for it. After pondering upon many names, it was thought to derive the name from the school’s name itself and that is how SMS became ‘Students’ Media Society’. The members were also asked to write their thoughts about being a part of the club. The next thing was quite big for everyone. A visit to Mr. Laxman Rao, who is a tea stall owner turned author, was arranged. He gave a wonderful interview to the students and became an inspiration for many. The Independence Day followed. All of us are aware of the different views about freedom that exist between the present and the older generations. Emphasizing this, a survey was conducted by the students who targeted these two age groups for knowing what freedom means to them. Another survey was conducted to track media habits of school students. The biggest challenge for the Students’ Media Society was the making of this newspaper which is an amalgamation of hard work, creativity, skills, coordination and cooperation. Producing SMS Xpress took a lot from all of us. It has been quite a bumpy ride in getting everything in place. But we all enjoy bumpy rides, don’t we? We had to do everything from scratch and all by ourselves. The most challenging and fun part was raising money to meet the printing expenses by learning how to advertise. This is just a beginning and we firmly believe that the Students’ Media Society has a long way to go.

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