

Alumni Column



SHIVATS RATHI
Class of 2000

My years at Modern School, Vasant Vihar were deeply formative in ways I fully understand only today. This school does not reward timidity, nor does it overly cushion weakness—and I learned that early. Coming from a privileged background and being one of the shyest students in my class, I slowly realized that life here demanded resilience, discipline, and patience. Those lessons shaped me profoundly and helped me build a business today that is over ten times larger than my family enterprise.

MSVV's greatest gift was its diversity. My classmates came from vastly different cultural and social backgrounds, and observing their journeys taught me empathy, grounding, and how to navigate complex situations with sensitivity. I still carry vivid memories of the challenges many of them faced—and the strength they showed.

The school's rich legacy, dedicated teachers, strong sports culture, and the guidance of principals like Mr. Vari instilled independence at a young age. Discipline and patience, above all, remain my biggest takeaways—and the foundation of sustained success in life.

Once a Modernite, always a Modernite.

SCHOOL NEWS



Beginning April 1, 2026, the new Golden Jubilee Building became operational for students of Grades VI–VIII, ushering in a refreshed learning environment, marking a key milestone in the institution's journey, and offering improved facilities for both students and staff.

- April 1, 2026 marked the beginning of the new academic session for Grades PP–XII, ushering in a fresh journey for students. Everyone returned with renewed energy, clear goals, and enthusiasm for the year ahead.
- The Pre-School session commenced on April 6, 2026, along with a MUN orientation that introduced students to debating, diplomacy, and global issues.
- A session on crowdfunding was held on April 7, 2026 that helped students understand how collective contributions can support social causes and innovative ideas.
- An orientation session was organised on April 16, 2026, for Grades VI–VIII and IX–XII. Parents were informed about academic plans, subject choices, and goals for the year.
- On April 17, 2026, Grade XII conducted a special assembly focusing on the challenges and responsible use of social media.
- April 18, 2026 saw the organisation of a Capacity Building Programme along with a Teacher Empowerment Programme, both aimed at enhancing teaching skills and methods.
- Students attended a MOD Quiz orientation on April 20, 2026, which encouraged participation and explained the competition format. A disaster management workshop was also conducted on the same day to build awareness about safety, preparedness, and effective responses during emergencies.
- A CUET orientation session took place on April 23, 2026, for Grades XI and XII, guiding students about the exam pattern, preparation strategies, and future opportunities.
- On April 24, 2026, Grade X presented a special assembly on anti-bullying, promoting kindness, respect, and an inclusive school environment.
- A Leadership Camp was organised on April 24 and 25, 2026, for selected classes, focusing on teamwork, confidence building, and leadership development.
- Buddha Purnima was observed as a school holiday on May 1, 2026, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and teachings of Lord Buddha.
- The Periodic Tests for students of Grades III to X commenced on May 4, 2026, and concluded on May 11, 2026, assessing their understanding and academic progress across various subjects.
- Summer vacation commenced on May 16, 2026, for students from Nursery to Grade VIII, while for students of Grades IX to XII, the summer break began a week later, from May 23, 2026.
- An orientation for the Sardar Bhagwant Singh Research Project was held on May 6, 2026, for students of Grade XI, introducing them to the objectives, significance, and activities of the project while encouraging active participation and research-based learning.
- On May 16, 2026, a Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) was conducted to discuss students' academic performance and overall development with their parents.

STUDENTS' COLUMN

Should voting be mandatory in democratic societies?

A family reunion is being planned in a group chat, and the organizer sends out a poll to decide where everyone will have lunch. There are seven options; most people pick the first one, a few choose the others, and ten people refuse to vote because their favourite restaurant is missing. Then someone else sends another poll, this time adding the missing restaurant but removing one of the others. People end up split between the two polls, and the whole thing becomes messy.

Neither poll includes a “none of the above” option. Some family members think the restaurant is too far away, some elderly relatives do not know how to get there, and others do not even know what the restaurants are or what kind of food they serve. Since no one has the time to explain everything, many simply do not vote at all.

This is very similar to how voting works in many democratic societies. Some citizens are politically inactive, some abstain as a form of protest, some feel none of the candidates truly represent them, and others face practical barriers such as age, illness, or distance. As a result, important decisions are often made by only a small part of the population.

The solution is to make voting mandatory.

Of course, some people may argue that compulsory voting limits personal freedom. But that concern can be addressed if mandatory voting is paired with NOTA, reasonable exemptions, and civic education. Together, these measures make the system more legitimate and more inclusive. When governments are elected by only a small fragment of society, their authority becomes weak and unrepresentative. Broader participation makes the result more credible.

NOTA, or “None of the Above,” should be a central feature of democratic systems. It gives protest voters a proper way to express dissatisfaction without simply staying silent. It also allows citizens who dislike all the candidates to still take part in the process. In the family example, it is like giving everyone a way to say, “None of these restaurants work for me.” if mostly all chose this, a new poll would be sent.

At the same time, elderly or disabled citizens should not be punished for facing real barriers. Governments should provide postal ballots, home voting, or reasonable exemptions so that no one is excluded just because getting to the polling station is difficult.

Mandatory civic education should also be part of the system, to make voters aware of it. Citizens should understand the parties, the issues, and what is at stake, so voting becomes informed rather than careless. In the end, mandatory voting is not about taking freedom away. It is about making democracy more complete, more fair, and more representative of everyone's voice.

AAHANA MULGHANDANI IX-B

EDITOR'S COLUMN

An Essay on April Fools

April Fools Day is often mistaken for a celebration of foolishness. In reality, it reveals something far more complex about the nature of honesty. Laughter has always been a refuge for difficult realities. When words are wrapped in humor, they lose their harshness. They become lighter, more bearable, easier to accept. In laughter, truth finds shelter; it becomes less of a weapon and more of a mirror. What makes humor powerful is not the sound of laughter itself, but the recognition that follows it. Beneath amusement lies awareness—a sudden understanding of something familiar, something quietly known but rarely acknowledged. Laughter, then, is not the absence of seriousness; it is seriousness made gentle. It allows reflection without accusation, acceptance without shame. Perhaps this is why the figure of the fool has endured throughout history and literature. The fool stands at the edge of society, speaking freely where others remain cautious. Protected by humor, the fool is able to voice what might otherwise remain hidden. In this way, foolishness becomes a disguise not for ignorance, but for insight. What appears light often carries unexpected depth. April Fools Day, therefore, is not simply a moment of playful deception. It is a brief suspension of formality, a day when honesty is permitted to arrive indirectly. Truth, when spoken plainly, can divide. When carried through humor, it invites understanding. Laughter becomes a language of quiet honesty, one that reaches where direct words sometimes fail. In the end, the day does not celebrate deception—it celebrates recognition. It reminds us that truth does not always need to announce itself with certainty. Sometimes, it only needs a moment of laughter to be seen clearly. On this day, truth does not disappear. It simply chooses a gentler voice.

ESHANYA NAHAR XI-A

baisakhi

Every year, when April arrives, the air itself seems to whisper of celebration—of courage, of sacrifice, and of unstoppable energy. This is Baisakhi, a festival that is not just celebrated... it is felt. But behind the music, the colours, and the irresistible food lies a story so dramatic, it could easily compete with a blockbuster movie. In 1699, the great Guru Gobind Singh stood before a massive crowd. His voice rang out with a question that froze everyone in place: "Who is willing to give their life for faith?" Silence. Absolute silence. You can almost imagine people looking at each other like, "Did he just say LIFE?" Then—one man stepped forward. Then another. And another. Five brave souls rose above fear and doubt. These heroes became the Panj Pyare. In a moment that changed history forever, Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa—a community built on bravery, equality, and unshakable faith. And just like that, Baisakhi became more than a harvest festival. It became a symbol of courage. Today, we may not be asked to make such intense sacrifices (thankfully), but the drama continues in its own way—on the dance floor! Bhangra beats shake the ground, colourful outfits dazzle the eyes, and food disappears faster than homework excuses. So, as you celebrate Baisakhi—laughing, dancing, and eating—remember: this is not just a festival. It is a story of fearless hearts... and also, a perfectly valid reason to have that extra dessert.

AANYA JAN XII-D

THINGS AROUND US

1. India faces a severe heat wave this April.

India is facing a severe heat wave this April. Across the country, an intense and unexpected heat wave swept through multiple regions in early April, pushing temperatures above seasonal averages and straining public health systems. Hospitals in cities like Mumbai and Delhi reported a surge in cases of heatstroke, dehydration, and fatigue, especially among outdoor workers and the elderly. Meteorological officials linked these conditions to delayed wind patterns and broader climate shifts. Authorities issued advisories, set up hydration kiosks, and adjusted school timings, but many residents continued to struggle due to inadequate cooling infrastructure and rising electricity demand.

2. Assam Battles Severe Flooding After Heavy Rainfall

In Assam, relentless rainfall throughout April triggered widespread flooding, displacing thousands and submerging villages across multiple districts. Rivers including the Brahmaputra surged beyond danger levels, damaging homes, crops, and transport networks. Emergency teams carried out rescue operations while relief camps were set up for affected families. Officials attributed the flooding to unusually heavy pre-monsoon rains combined with poor drainage systems. While aid distribution began, many residents expressed concerns over delayed response and recurring flood vulnerabilities that continue to impact the region each year.

THE FUN PAGE

QUOTES

“The future depends on what you do today.” —

Mahatma Gandhi

“A person who never made a mistake never
tried anything new.” — Albert Einstein

WORD SEARCH

D V Q G R F Z L T Y A L P H V E U P C A V G L S
U T U S M C O L O R S E J J X L X V T T N E H V
S E E O D G L U E U B S Y D T E Z O S S O B E B
S R W O B N I A R P R S Y D H I G Z K Y H M D K
T M K Q Q C M Y A D M X S U X D O J U H Y V N B
L O N G F P K I J N I M U H S C H O O L K F S V
L Q E E F W J A P L N N E K C I H C Y X L B F Q
Y L E R P D G W K B T H F J Z Q M A Y H C Z K H
E E U O Q V A R T V U Z W E I N V T H U N D E R
L M Q M Y E K N O M X P W K V M I G R P U Y A A
G Z R H J P J X C K W U Z K A U S T I N E U P C
O A I E O Z P P K B A Q E W S U Z C M B F U V Z
O S K G D O Y Z X R J C L E L D O O N S P I N A
G P B Y B O X E S Q C C F B L I G H T N I N G X
H E R P O D A H G Y J E A X I W V J O P O M Z K
E N A K W E K S M S R J O D O J Z O L F P K Z Z
M V I H N X N U B E K C Q Z F Y J W V F P J W S
A T N R C L I P G E E A W O N S D J I L I B T L
K S Z T E C A E N R R S O M H V C U M K H B D V
A H J X N Q R R W T E P X C C I S U M B U U T U
Y P O I H P E M W C X E F G K L T X B O D C I H
L O U R L F V A U Y P R A E T U J H N B M A K X
A U S O L Q H N E A F X H T E S T U Z A D R L S
M Z I C V R R Y W I F V O R E P U S B B T L V Q

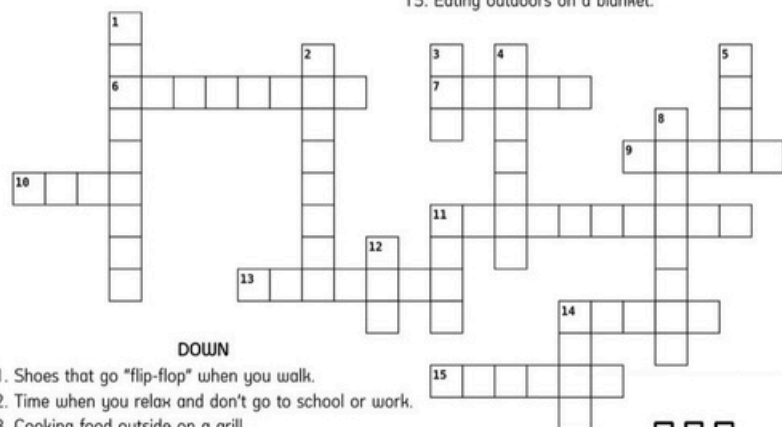
QUEEN	MUSIC	ART	SUPERMAN	TERM
LESS	MORE	ASPEN	AUSTIN	BOB
BOXES	BRAIN	CASPER	CHICKEN	COLORS
GOOGLE	HIPPO	LIGHTNING	MAKAYLA	MINT
MONKEY	NOODLE	RAIN	RAINBOW	SCHOOL
SNOW	SUPER	TEST	THUNDER	TREES

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6. A sweet frozen treat you eat in summer.
7. A place with sand and waves.
9. Used to dry your body after swimming.
10. A place to swim with clear water.
11. You wear these to protect your eyes from sunlight.
13. Your skin turns red from too much sun.
14. A hard cover you find on the beach.
15. Eating outdoors on a blanket.



DOWN

1. Shoes that go "flip-flop" when you walk.
2. Time when you relax and don't go to school or work.
3. Cooking food outside on a grill.
4. Sleeping in a tent in nature.
5. A toy you fly in the wind.
8. Frozen juice on a stick.
11. Tiny grains you find at the beach.
12. It shines brightly in the sky.
14. To move through water using your arms and legs.



Sun - Beach - Pool - Ice Cream - Swim - Sand - Shel - Hot - Vacation - Picnic - BBQ
Sunglasses - Flip Flops - Kite - Camping - Towel - Sunburn -Popsicle

RIDDLES

I'm not alive, but I grow. I don't have lungs, but I need air.

What am I?

2. I have keys but open no locks. I have space but no room.

You can enter but you cannot go inside. What am I?

ANSWER: FIRE, ANSWER: A KEYBOARD

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