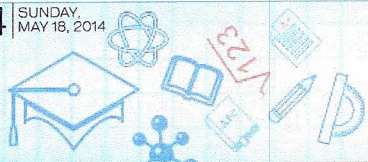


04 SUNDAY
MAY 18, 2014

NEW AGE EDUCATIONISTS OF GURGAON



The Sagar School is a blend of technology with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities at par with international standards. In a conversation with Director Sharmistha Julka, the opportunities within the classroom and outside are discussed

THE SAGAR SCHOOL

PROVIDING OVERALL DEVELOPMENT



SHARMISTHA JULKA
DIRECTOR, THE SAGAR SCHOOL

One thing people don't know about you: Everyone may not know that the school has adopted the neighbouring village Malliyer Gurjar as its social out-reach endeavour and the students are involved intensively in developmental activities.

Your Success Mantra: Nature and Nurture!

Your Role Model: Our Founder Late Dr. Vidya Sagar.

Vision: We embody the vision of the founder, late Dr. Vidya Sagar—“Throughout my life, I have been deeply influenced by the values and cultural heritage of India, Europe and the far east. This school is a culmination of my vision to merge the finest educational practices of these worlds. Here, each Sagarian is encouraged to become confident, inquisitive and independent minded, while acquiring the virtues of excellence, discipline and respect.

USP: The unique selling proposition of The Sagar School is the unparalleled infrastructure with world-class facilities, a green philosophy and having arguably the only in-built high school observatory in the country.

Visual and Performing Arts:

- Vocal and instrumental music -both Indian and western
- Dance-both contemporary and classical forms
- Theatre
- Art , clay modelling, sculpture, tie & dye, paper mache' and painting
- hosting Spicmacay programmes

Clubs & Societies:

- Astronomy, Aero-modelling, Carpentry, Cookery, Debating, Equestrian, Gardening, Jewellery Designing, Photography, Vedic Math

Tell us about your journey so far

The Sagar School is a thriving co-educational boarding CBSE School, a two hours drive from New Delhi airport, 4.5 hours' drive from Jaipur, located on a picturesque 160 acre campus.

Today we have more than 300 students on the rolls in classes IV to XII with an optimum built-in capacity of 450 students. Which was once an unyielding barren land is now an oasis, replete with more than 2500 beautiful flowering trees, over 10,000 shrubs and fruit orchards-each planted with immense planning and care. With an excellent teacher-student ratio of 1:8, and students from 20 states across India and many other countries, studying in classes IV to XII, The Sagar School is now acknowledged as one of India's leading boarding schools (top 30) and has been declared as number 1 co-educational boarding school in Rajasthan by Education World rankings.

How did your school/institution come into existence?

The Sagar School was founded in the year 2000 by the late Dr. Vidya Sagar, an icon in the field of corporate and intellectual property law. The school was a dream project of this visionary who in his own childhood was sponsored for his education and later as he grew up and became successful in life, aspired to set up a boarding school away from the city life for girls and boys to grow up as independent individuals with life skills and values to sustain them for the 21st century living.

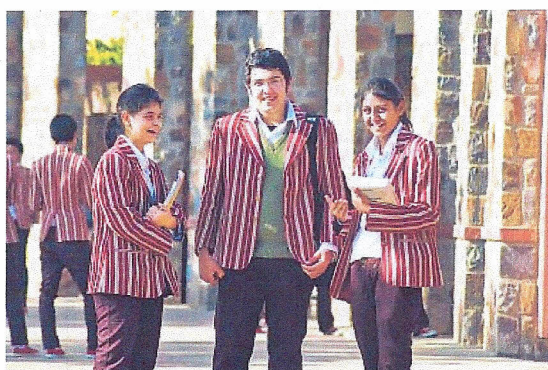
His dream came true when his efforts bore fruit with the combined perseverance and zest of the Director and founding member Sharmistha Julka. Consequently, the Foundation Stone of The Sagar School was laid on November 30, 1997 by his accomplished daughter Rosemary Sagar who is now the Chairperson of the School. The institution was dedicated to the nation on February 17, 2001 by Helga Sagar (wife of Dr. Vidya Sagar), in the presence of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot.

What is the philosophy of your institution/school?

The philosophy of the school is to provide a home away from home and to function as a 'crucible of democracy' in a 'green campus' where a child can grow up as a self-aware, well rounded and well adjusted individual who can productively engage with other people and thereby attain self-actualisation.

How did you adapt technology to impart quality education?

Technology is well blended at the campus and maintains a balance between the traditional aesthetics of teaching and the latest hi-tech computer aided education:



- The infrastructure incorporates computer-aided teaching classrooms with projectors that are connected to the school LAN and internet broadband connectivity. The school has two fully equipped computer laboratories with 24 computers each. Students are allowed to use Internet under supervision with proper cyber security in place.
- E-teaching-learning material supports classroom teaching with online education, e-tutoring, e-learning, assessment and guidance. Computer software to facilitate geospatial studies and language development is in place.
- The library is automated with the Dewey decimal classification system and bar code.
- There are fully developed separate and adequately equipped labs for each of the pure sciences and also for applied sciences.
- A state-of-the-art observatory with a research level celestion telescope allows for study and research in astronomy.

What initiatives are being taken by you to provide students international exposure?

The school is chaired by Rosemary Sagar who has carried on the vision of her illustrious father Dr. Vidya Sagar, who from his vast lifetime experiences in India and abroad, envisioned this school with an international ethos.

It was built by the internationally acclaimed architects - Stein, Mani, Chowita (also the architects of the

Indian International Centre in New Delhi). Adit Pal, now based in California, is the person behind the beautiful landscaping and gardening concepts.

The school believes in a true multi ethnic, international culture blended into the national curriculum with students coming from different countries. The school is the recipient of the prestigious International School Awards (2010-13), affiliated to the British Council and as such celebration of international days and festivals is woven in the annual calendar of events. Foreign student-exchange programmes with Germany, Japan and the NASA programme at USA is an annual event. Foreign tourist destinations include Egypt and Mauritius. The young students also enrol for the International Awards for Young People (IAYP awards- formerly Duke of Edinburgh) and under this international programme students undertake community service, physical recreation, skill and adventure journeys.

Tell us about the role of your institution for holistic growth of students.

The school will always prove itself to be the place where everyone is precious and appreciated for his or her intrinsic qualities. In other words, the atmosphere over here will constantly endeavour to focus on the complete potential of each and every student and will strive to foster in each one an undying enthusiasm for lifelong learning. The school strives to forever be the place where staff members, parents and other stake holders synergise their resources and creativity to enrich the learning environment in which the children can holistically and fully develop their physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual capacities.

How is your institution committed towards making future leaders?

We are committed in creating leaders who firmly believe that dreams can be transformed into reality. Therefore, we encourage students to believe in vision, trust, teamwork and the power of relationships. The future leaders and global citizens are shaped through the various literary, cultural and sporting activities planned in school, through conscious decision making and governance by the students guided by the Student Council and the menu committee members, healthy competitions at inter-school levels and exploring beyond the campus through at the ISA and IAYP activities.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and a member of the Gurgaon Progressive School Council and also the Alwar Sahodaya.
- First and only Youth Engaging Society (YES) centre for IAYP in Rajasthan.
- Recipient of the International School Award, British Council- 2010-13.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Sagar School has been ranked No-1 co-ed boarding school in Rajasthan by Education World in September 2013 and is amongst the top 30 residential educational institutions in India.

PERSONAL GOAL

Build up The Sagar School to:

- Be the leader among educational institutions
- Not providing instruction but producing learning
- Ensuring that school curriculum is always synchronised with the evolving demands of the work place
- Propagate the norms, atmosphere and temperament of inclusive education
- Fulfill the aspirations of the National Curriculum Framework
- To fulfill aspirations of parents / stake-holders in providing the highest quality educational experience is available to their child in a stress free and safe environment with manifold educational choices

ACADEMICS AND BEYOND

- Two academic blocks with spacious classrooms and lecture rooms equipped with computers and projectors
- Science block with laboratories for each branch of science and also applied sciences
- Ensuring that school curriculum is always synchronised with the evolving demands of the workplace
- Multimedia centre with a well-stocked library
- Two well-equipped computer laboratories with broadband connectivity
- Performing and Creative Arts Centre with studios, acoustically designed music rooms and a dance room with wooden floor and mirror walls
- Observatory with 14.5 inch research level celestion telescope
- Well-equipped auditorium and amphitheatre

