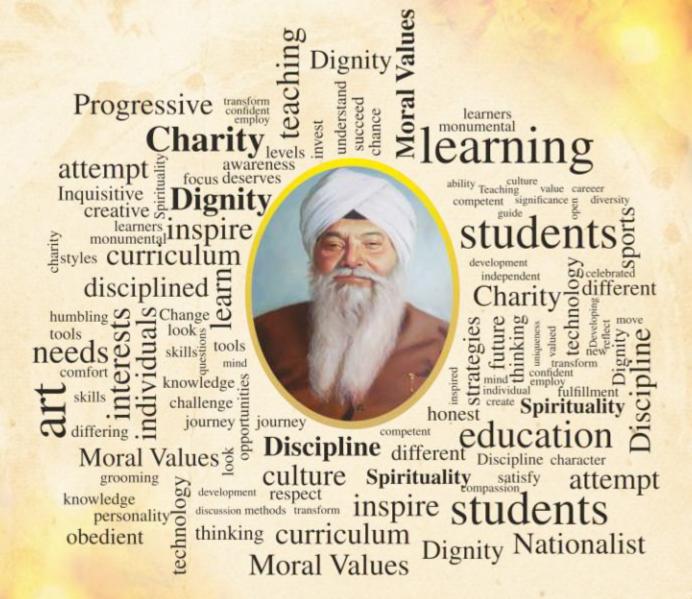


### Diamond Jubilee SOUVENIR







## Dagshai Public School



LATE S. RAGBIR SINGH BIR
Founder Chairman
Dagshai Public School Dagshai Cantt. (H.P)

Born at Lahore on October 7, 1896, Ragbir Singh Bir, from his undergraduate days, plunged into the freedom movement in 1919, close on the heels of the Jallianwala Bagh Tragedy. He worked closely with the legendary freedom fighter, Baba Kharak Singh. For his rousing speeches of the Nabha and Jaito morcha in early 1920s, the British provincial police punished him, with warrants of arrest. He thereupon went underground, surfacing in Calcutta in 1924-25.

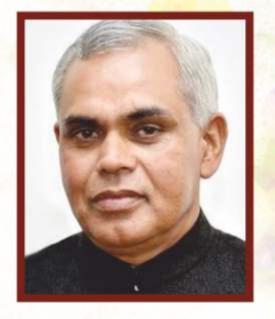
Here, in Calcutta, S. Ragbir Singh Bir met many a kindred soul, including the illustrious Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. He edited the Punjabi newspaper, The Daily Desh Darpan, teaming up with his bosom companion S. Niranjan Singh Talib. S. Ragbir Singh Bir, also founded and edited a monthly magazine, The Atam Science, for the seekers of truth to disseminate the Gurbani's spiritual message in a simple, homely language, that influenced thousands of earnest readers in India and abroad for some four decades. In 1957, Ragbir Singh Bir donated his life-time's savings, modest as they were, to establish the charitable Atam Science Trust, and a residential school at Dagshai Cantt, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh, for the children of Indian and Non Resident Indian Parents; now going strong with over 300 students. S. Ragbir Singh Bir breathed his last, at Dagshai on April 14, 1974, at the age of 77 yrs. He has written over a dozen books in Punjabi, on Sikh scriptures, mysticism, morality and philosophy, invariably stressing ethical values. His best known book, Bandgi Nama, has sold over 1,50,000 copies, running into a dozen editions. His rousing Punjabi lyrics are still sung during Gurupurab congregations.

# With Best Compliments

Chairman Dagshai Public School



#### ACHARYA DEVVRAT Governor of Himachal Pradesh



मुझे यह जानकर हार्दिक प्रसन्न्ता हो रही है कि डगशाई पब्लिक स्कूल, जिला सोलन इस साल अपनी स्थापना के 60 वर्ष पूरे करने पर हीरक जयन्ती समारोह का आयोजन कर रहा है। इस मौके को अविस्मरणीय बनाने के लिए एक स्मारिका का प्रकाशन भी किया जा रहा है।

डगशाई पब्लिक स्कूल, सोलन को शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में इस सफल यात्र की बहुत – बहुत बधाई। 60 वर्ष पूर्व विद्यालय के रूप में जो पौधा लगाया गया था आज वह वृक्ष बनकर विद्यार्थियों को गुणात्मक शिक्षा व हुनर की छांव दे रहा है। यह विद्यालय आज देश के प्रमुख शिक्षा व हुनर की छांव दे रहा है। यह विद्यालय आज देश के प्रमुख शिक्षा व हुनर की छांव दे रहा है। यह विद्यालय आज देश के प्रमुख शिक्षा संस्थानों में से एक बनकर उभरा है, जहां से शिक्षा प्राप्त विद्यार्थी देश – विदेश में नाम रौशन कर रहे हैं।

मैं आशा करता हूं कि यह विद्यालय अपने उद्देश्य में इसी प्रकार आगे बढ़ता रहेगा और शिक्षा के साथ – साथ भारतीय मूल्यों व समृद्ध संस्कृति के ज्ञान का प्रकाश भी बच्चों को देता रहेगा।

स्मारिका के सफल प्रकाशन की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

(देवव्रत)



#### VIRBHADRA SINGH Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh ▶



I am glad to know that Dagshai Public School, Dagshai Cantt. District Solan is celebrating Diamond Jubilee function of its existence on 7th October, 2017 and a Souvenir is being brought out to commemorate this special occasion.

I congratulate the school management, faculty and students for celebrating this grand occasion. Education is one of the most pious profession which deals with the enlightenment of human beings.

It is a matter of pride that Dagshai Public School has given many distinguished personalities who are serving the country in different fields.

I hope the souvenir will highlight the academic and other achievements of the School.

My best wishes for the success of this event.

(Virbhadra Singh)



#### CAPT. AMARINDER SINGH Chief Minister, Punjab



I am pleased to learn that Dagshai Public School, Solan is commemorating its Diamond Jubilee on October 7, 2017, which was founded by Ragbir Singh ji Bir, who was a great spiritual leader, patriot and a visionary personality.

It is worth appreciable that this prestigious School established in 1957, has been imparting quality education besides imbibing moral values amongst the students. I am confident that this educational institution will certainly attain new height of glory in its pursuit of excellence in academic as well as extracurricular activities.

I am apprised that the school management is also bringing out a souvenir on this historic occasion to highlight its spectacular achievements to make the founder's day a memorable event.

I send my best wishes to the management, staff and students on this momentous occasion.

(Amarinder Singh)



## RANA GURJEET SINGH Punjab Minister of Irrigation & Power



I am delighted that Dagshai Public School commemorates this year the Diamond Jubilee of the inception of the school on the October 7, 2017. It is a matter of great pride that for the past 60 years, Dagshai Public School has done commendable work in providing an excellent education to thousands of children.

A school is a place where the God gifted talents in the students are recognised, nurtured, and led to flourish and fructify. I am immensely impressed to learn that this school established by S. Ragbir Singh Bir in 1957 with a vision to impart moral education, besides academic excellence to its students, continues to uphold the magnanimous mission of its founder's prescience.

I would also like to compliment the Principal, the staff and the students of Dagshai Public School for keeping the memories of its founder alive by celebrating his birthday as Founder's day of the school. In doing so, Dagshai Public School is reaffirming its commitment to maintaining the high standards of education it is well known for.

I wish that Dagshai Public School will continue to flourish and prosper in the years to come, and the students who emerge from this esteemed institution, will hold their heads high and serve the society and nation to ensure a better tomorrow.

(Rana Gurjeet Singh)



## PROF. KIRPAL SINGH BADUNGAR President SGPC, Amritsar



I am glad to know that, Dagshai Public School, Dagshai Cantt, Solan is celebrating its diamond jubilee of the inception of the school on 7th October 2017. I congratulate and felicitate the institution on this auspicious occasion.

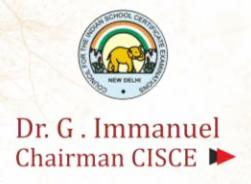
It is a matter of great satisfaction and delight that this institution is servingthe nation with full commitment and dedication. Keeping in mind the mission and vision of its founder, the management has always strived to work hard to fulfill these ambitious goals. I applaud the efforts of the stakeholders in taking the instituion towards academic excellence in this time span.

As education sector becomes a money minting machine, it is generally seen that most of the educational institutes have surrendered to the changing business environment, even if the vision of the founder is sabotaged. It is disheartening that our education system has failed to promote and meet spiritual needs. It has further failed to mould the character of the younger generation on moral and spiritual values and develop balanced, all round personalities which can easily foray into the quicky changing holistic global environment.

It is my privilege to send this message for the students, management and all the stakeholders of this prestigious institution and pray to the almighty for holistic growth of this institution and best wishes for its future endeavors.

Land a poly

(Kirpal Singh Badungar)





It is heartening to learn that Dagshai Public School is celebrating Diamond Jubilee to commemorate the success of its existence since 1957. The educational journey of six decades is a long period for any institution to survive and be successful despite facing many challenges. My hearty congratulations to Dagshai Public School family for reaching such a great milestone. I take this opportunity to commend the Management, Principal, teachers, parents and students who have played their best role in leading the esteemed institution to greater heights.

We are living in a fast changing world. Everything is changing. In the past the purpose of education was thought to be acquisition of knowledge and acquiring skills by students, so that they can earn their livelihood. More recently, one hears that function of education is to create a quest for knowledge in the students and help them realise their full potential. However, the ultimate purpose of education is to produce good citizens who are responsible, committed and who can contribute to the progress, peace and harmony of a nation. I feel proud to learn that Dagshai Public School is just doing what is required in the world and producing responsible students by imparting quality education.

I wish Dagshanians all the best as you celebrate the grand event with gaiety and fervour. You have all the reason to be proud of, on this auspicious day because you deserve it.

May God bless the school always and May His guiding spirit prevail in every member of the Dagshai family.

(Dr. G. Immanuel)





I am happy to learn that Dagshai Public School, Dagshai Cantt will be completing 60 years in the field of education and to mark the occasion, will be publishing a souvenir magazine.

During the course of these past 60 years, your school has earned a good reputation and attained great heights. In the midst of this celebration we must pause and look back to remember and acknowledge the contributions of all those who helped in the growth and success of your school.

This esteemed institution, I am sure, will continue to uphold its glorious tradition in the years to come and be a lighthouse of knowledge, service, dedication, communal harmony and peace to its neighbourhood.

My best wishes to the principal, Staff and Students.

Gerry Arathoon

Watturer



#### BRIG DEEPAK SHARMA Sena Medal

Station Commander Kasauli/Dagshai



It gives me immense pleasure to compliment Dagshai Public School on the auspicious occasion of their Diamond Jubilee.

The school has had a glorious past since October 1957 with Reverend Sardar Ragbir Singh ji Bir, a visionary writer, spiritual leader and freedom fighter being the founding father. The school has since grown from strength to strength and has contributed immensely in the field of education and service to the nation. The alumini of the school have made their Alma Mater proud by excelling in various spheres and carving a niche for themselves in every endeavour.

On this occasion, I extend my best wishes and warm greetings to all members of the school staff, students and the alumini. May Dagshai Public School reach the pinnacle of glory. God Bless You.

Thomas

(Brig Deepak Sharma, SM)



## RAKESH KANWAR, IAS Deputy Commissioner, Solan



I am Haapy that Dagshai Public School is celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of its inception on October 7, 2017. School has done great service to the nation for six decades. Vision of S. Ragbir Singh Bir is being realized to the satisfaction of parents and students. I would also like to compliment the Principal, the staff and the students of Dagshai Public School for keeping the memories of its founder alive by celebrating his birthday as Founder's day of the school. In doing so, Dagshai Public School is reaffirming its commitment to maintaining the high standards of education it is well known for. I wish that Dagshai Public School will continue to flourish and prosper in the years to come. My best wishes for the school and the students, who emerging from this esteemed institution, will hold their heads high and serve the society and nation to ensure a better tomorrow.

(Rakesh Kanwar, I.A.S)



S. Saran Singh, IAS (Retd.)
Former Secretary to Govt. of India
& Chief Secretary, Bihar
Ex-Adviser to Governor of Assam
Editor - 'The Sikh Review'



#### ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫ਼ਤਹਿ !!

I am delighted to know from your letter dated 22nd Aug, 2017 (bearing serial No. 10218) that DAGSHAI PUPBLIC SCHOOL, founded by the Late Sardar Ragbir Singh ji Bir, would be celebrating its DIAMOND JUBILEE on October 7, 2017.

Having been associated with the school, via ATAM SCIENCE TRUST, I hasten to pay my TRIBUTE to the MEMORY of THE FOUNDER, S. RAGBIR SINGH JI BIR, the visionary, author of many books on 'GURMAT' PHILOSOPHY for it was his tremendous INSPIRATION and sustained hard work, that has gone into the magnificent, sprawling campus that he simply named DAGSHAI PUBLIC SCHOOL!

ਗੁਰ ਪਰਸਾਦੀ ਵਿਦਿਆ ਵੀਚਾਰੈ ਪੜਿ ਪੜਿ ਪਾਵੈ ਮਾਨੂ ਆਪਾ ਮਧੇ ਆਪੂ ਪਰਗਾਸਿਆ ਪੜਿਆ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੂ ਨਾਮੂ॥ (SGGS:1329)

We can never repay his debt of gratitude, except by living up to the Gurmat principles so dear to the dear departed "PAPA ji" as everybody loved to call him!



(Saran Singh)
Chairman Emeritus



#### S. JASBIR SINGH BIR Chairman Dagshai Public School



As the son of the founding father, Bhai Ragbir Singh Bir, it is indeed a very proud and gratifying moment for me, to live through all the momentous celebrations of Dagshai Public School - Silver, Golden and now Diamond Jubilee! The school of his dreams was personally conceived and nurtured by the founder for nearly two decades since its very inception.

It is heartening to see the progress the school has made across an array of spheres and I am positive that nothing but the best is in store for the future. Our students have done us proud, excelling in both academic and extracurricular activities. This is testimony to their effort as well as talent, both steadily honed and guided by our extremely hardworking and dedicated teaching staff. The Founder's vision has percolated in whole measure through the years with our students well entrenched in moral and spiritual values, the bedrock of Gurmat Principles. The members of the School Board are the dependable support system of this institution, ever ready to meticulously observe, assess, guide and monitor the intricacies of the school's working, while giving a free, trusting hand to those at the helm of affairs. I would also like to take this opportunity to appreciate all the commendable work undertaken by our school management and staff to bring the school to a position we are proud and worthy of.

My heartiest felicitations to everyone who has been or still is, remotely or closely connected to the school. With the grace of the Almighty, may the school grow from strength to strength and reach its pinnacle of growth and success.

(Jasbir Singh Bir)

Jaki Sigh Bi



#### S. AMARJIT SINGH Chief Engineer (Retd.) Executive Director Dagshai Public School



"Sanjog Vijog Doey Kaar Chalavai Lekhey Aavai Bhaag" (Meetings & Partings run the show of this Worldly Drama, and we shape our destiny by dint of our deeds)

#### .....Guru Nanak Ang 6, SGGS



It was, probably, because of some good deed of my previous birth that I happened to read the famous book, titled "Bandgi Naama", authored by PAPA JI (Bhai Sahib Bhai Ragbir Singh Bir, the Founder Chairman of this school), which lead me from Punjab to knock at his door in Kolkata, way back in the year 1970. He, himself opened the door & said, "Come in; it is not by chance that you have come here."......and later, after a few meetings in Dagshai when I took 8 months leave from my government job to serve the school, he said, "You are not my son, but your relation with me, as a Gursikh, is far above that." I wonder if I ever deserved that praise.

Mr.Immanual Gunadala, Chairman CISCE, paid a visit to the school, on 9th September, 2016, and expressed his views, as under:-

" Amazed to see your institution progressing steadily and doing extremely well in imparting quality education to the students. You have a wonderful team of administration, teachers & supporting staff who work in unison for the smooth function of the school. He added, "My visit to your school is one of the best experiences that I ever had in all my other visits to other places across the country."

The above compliments from the highest authority to which our school stands affiliated, leaves no room for me to say much else about the school. I may,however add that apart from the formal education & other multifarious activities, we try to connect the students to their SOURCE...the One Lord God, and our spiritual Moto is-

"Ek Pita Ekas Kay Hum Baarik" (The One God is our Father & we are all His Children). -Guru Nanak, - Ang 6, 11 SGGS

On this momentous occasion, I congratulate & express my gratitude to all connected with the School, in the past or present, especially Sardar J.S. Bir, illustrious son of Papa ji & the present Chairman of the School Board of Management, and also all other members of the Board, who reposed full trust in me to manage & lead the school staff with the able assistance of the devoted couple, Col.H.S.Ahuja, Director, Administration & Mrs.B.K.Ahuja, Principal.

I cannot but remember the love showered by Mrs. Kuldeep H.Singh who succeeded Papa ji as Chairperson of the school. She was succeeded by S. Saran Singh I.A.S (retd), who, presently is our Chairman (Emeritus). He has ever been my Role Model.

Alumni of this school have made their mark, in one or the other field. They have always been of great help & have stood by us through thick & thin. We are proud of them.

It is God's grace that at my present age of 80 years, I feel strong enough to carry out my duties without any fatigue. I pray that Satguru keeps me fit & fine, so as to keep my promise with Papa ji, to serve this laudable institution, till my last breath.

(Amarjit Singh)





Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the school is most auspicious occasion. I extend my sincere greetings to all – the Governing body, Executive Director, Director Admin & Secretary, Principal and the school staff for their whole-hearted devotion and dedication to enable the school to achieve distinctions in all the activities of the school-academics, co-curricular and character building. Especially during the last five years, the school has made distinctive strides in academics, by getting up gradation of the school from ICSE to ISC level, achieving laurels in many co-curricular activities and good maintenance of the Campus with salubrious lush green environment.

The founder of the school, S. Ragbir Singh ji Bir had twin objectives in mind while opening this first Sikh Convent-imparting best education and building high moral character through teaching Divinity, the values of truthful living-honesty, nobility, compassion, humility, contentment and generosity. To implement his vision, he established a Gurudwara Sahib in the Campus, where all the students assemble for prayer till respective of past or religion. Here they pray, medicate and learn divinity. Their daily prayer includes wishes for the entire world:-

"The Name, says Nanak helps one soar, In your Grace, let the whole lot score".

[ "ਨਾਨਕ ਨਾਮ ਚੜਦੀ ਕਲਾ ਤੇਰੇ ਭਾਣੇ ਸਰਬਤ ਦਾ ਭਲਾ" ]

Let the Dagshanians have a universal out look and seek the goodwill of all. When settled in life, may share their knowledge, both mundate and spiritual and share their earnings for welfare causes. May God bless you, one and all.

(Dr Jagjit Singh)

Jagfir Jugs



COL HARJIT SINGH AHUJA (Retd.)
Secretary &
Director Admin



It is a privilege to be serving reverend Bhai Sahib's institution for more than 5yrs now. I have strived to apply the qualities in my working here, which my Army career of 31years taught me. Discipline, punctuality, ever ready for any eventuality, perseverance, commitment and respect to all are the key to a successful life. Having stream lined every aspect of the School's running, reviewing old and creating new systems, looking into day to day administrative problems and needs holds uppermost priority with me.

It gives me both professional and personal gratification to keep alive the mission of the Founder's spiritual awareness, inculcation of family and moral values. Equal impetus is laid on the sports facilities and academic performance of the children entrusted in our care. The all-round development of each individual is an on-going task, which allows no laxity. Field trips, sports and cultural activities are well organized by the team. A clean residential atmosphere ensuring hygienically prepared and wholesome meals for these children is also of importance to me.

Together, the Principal and me, with the help of our trustworthy staff, take personal care of the children and focus towards the great responsibility of grooming them with sound values and character building. Overall educational performances, continuous 100% Board results, well-groomed students - full of confidence, are our landmark achievements and have given the school a special status and recognition not only in Solan District but in Himachal.

On this momentous occasion, I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the parents, alumni, my dedicated teaching & admin staff and support staff and above all my dear students. I seek the blessing of God almighty to guide us in our efforts to serve this institution determinedly and raising the standards in all spheres.

(Harjit Singh Ahuja)



### MRS. BALVINDER K AHUJA Principal



#### Greetings from the Principal's Desk!!!

Dagshai Public School is the school of dreams as envisioned by the Rev Founder S Ragbir Singh ji Bir and today, it has reached yet another milestone in the sojourn of six decades of its fulfilment, achievements and presence in the world of education.

I truly believe that teaching is the most important profession in the modern society. Other than the doctors, the teachers hold human lives in their hands each and every day.

A huge influence that may make you want to become a teacher is the fulfillment and the sense of achievement it provides to the educator. There's no denying the immense satisfaction teachers experience despite the modern age challenges but it's all worth it to see the difference you're making in the lives of your students. We touch innumerable hearts through our time in the classroom. Even if you succeed in turning around the lives of a minuscule number of students, I think the job is well accomplished.

"Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in life" is the Mantra that I like to give to our faculty members ever so happy to work for the school. We have marched untiringly for sixty long years. It wouldn't have been possible, but for the sustained efforts of all those who have directly or indirectly contributed towards the growth of the school. Our sincere thanks to the Administrative as well as Support staff. And finally, an acknowledgment of the real support coming from the respected Chairman & the School Management who have always lauded and appreciated every small or big achievement of the school.

Dagshai Public School today is known for its family-like-warmth, hard work and perseverance to excel in Academic, Sports as well as other Inter School Activities. It has carved a niche for itself in the Educational Fraternity. We take pride in the Alumni who are extremely successful and responsible members of the society by virtue of their virtues.

Long Live Dagshai Public School ..... JAI HIND.

(Balvinder K Ahuja)

Maj Gen HARISHJIT SINGH (RETD.) Shaurya Chakra, Vishisht Seva Medal (Alumni)



Please accept my congratulations on this momentous occasion, while celebrating Diamond Jubilee of the School. It is a long journey, when I look back on those days when I was the Head Boy of DPS and the journey it has gone through till now. I have the fondest memories of my boarding life in Dagshai Public School. The spiritual and family values inculcated here, have been the pivot of my success and achievement. What I am today is because of my grooming in the school by my teachers and an excellent environment & opportunity. I wish and pray that the school does better in the years to come.

Wishing the Management, Staff and Students of Dagshai Public School all the best on this special occasion.

Warm regards

(HARISHJIT SINGH)

## BALVINDER SINGH BAINS Ex. Mayor Slough (UK) (Alumni)



I am delighted to have this opportunity of sending my warmest congratulations to Dagshai Public School on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee.

I have many fond memories of my time as a student from 1967 to 1974. My time at the school shaped my future and I am forever grateful for such an outstanding education both academically and spiritually.

I am very proud to have been Head Boy during 1972/73 and 1973/74. To hold this prestigious position for two years was a great honour and together with other achievements including the Senior Cambridge Examination (ISC), All Round Best Athlete and Principal's Best Boy Award presented to me by the then Chief Minister of Punjab, Giani Zail Singh who attended as Chief Guest on Founder's Day, are the highlights of my school life.

Since 1977, I have been living in England. I entered local politics in 2003 when I was successfully elected to serve as a local Councillor and was reelected on two further occasions in 2006 and 2010. During this time I held various key posts on the local council and in 2012, I was elected to serve as Slough's Deputy Mayor and became Mayor and the town's First Citizen in May 2013.

I have been married to Rani Kulbinder Kaur Bains for 33 years and she accompanied me to civic engagements as Deputy Mayoress and then Mayoress of Slough. We have three grown up children - 2 sons Jackreet and Ekreet and 1 daughter, Jasmin of whom we are immensely proud.

I am eternally grateful to DPS for giving me the absuccessful life.

Thank you.

(Balvinder Singh Bains)

BBan"



### EDITORIAL



#### Ms. SIMRAN THAPAR

B.A. (Eng. Hons.), M.A. (Eng.), M.A. (Hist), B.Ed VICE PRINCIPAL >>

EK AASHIANA BANAYA THAH EK GULISTHAN MEHKAAYA THAH BAGHBAN THEH, PAIGAMBAR AZIZ WAQT KEH HASEEN PEHLUH KABHI "

am overwhelmed with both humility and pride to have personally crossed over a sliver in the vast expanse of time that includes nearly half of our school's very existence. The history I share with my home and school--for both are integral and interchangeable-is a mindful experience of life's myriad mysteries and bewildering enigmas. I have lived through its pulsating growth and staggering laurels; its occasional upheavals and mirthful achievements. My whole life has been directed and intricately linked to its contagious



effervescence as also its indefatigable strides towards betterment. If I have served in a small way, the school has taught me in a big way, how to play the game of life, how to emulate the art of living. Having stood the test of time, we remain well entrenched in our commitment and zeal, ever ready to give, share, imbibe, transform and grow. We live as a well-knit family, work as a well-woven team, in the midst of liberties taken and indulgences ignored, in a milieu of spontaneous ease that familiarity often breeds. Our one-pointed focus and concern are the tender souls entrusted in our care by parents who voluntarily repose their faith in our sincerity and capabilities. We give the new inductees first a home, a sense of belongingness. Other things are only a corollary to a good and generous management. In a callous, cut-throat world, we kindle a sustaining hope in our young for a better existence; in a technologically insane and digitally savvy society, we allow our children to travel inwards, discovering the priceless entities they truly are!

In our scheme of gentle evolution and value-based upbringing, there is no place for conspiracies, cynicism, negativity or dishonesty. We hone positive impulses, nurture ebullience and most conscientiously keep alive the mission of our great Founder, Bhai Sahib Bhai Ragbir Singh ji Bir, who sixty winters ago left his home and hearth to deliver a school that would grow from strength to strength. A learning platform was resurrected that would herald the advent of a new era in spiritually viable pedagogy and be exemplary to imitate in every conceivable way. It is impossible to assess and encapsulate the life and works of a man whose stature is hard to define. It is equally intractable, to place on record the history of a school that closely spans a human lifetime. I have attempted, nevertheless, to do justice to both, through my own limited knowledge and capacity. I beg exoneration for any omissions or fallibility in factual projections. Survey Thapar

> Ms. Simran Thapar (Editor)

#### Living Life to the Hilt

His souls permeates through the bracing, cool breezes.

His presence filters through our tall pines

His mirthful approvals can be heard through the fluting birds

Quick to encourage, unflinching in his support.

These with him are exclusive moments of rapport

ife cannot be measured in terms of what one has materially achieved or accomplished but in terms of those rare, precious moments when the heart felt purity, love and compassion, experienced integrity and forgiveness, empathized with others in their pain, lent a helping hand without any ulterior motives, offered charity and kindness, doing one's best to make a difference in the lives of others and finally leaving this world a better place than what it was. One such affable person who gently tread on our human soil to leave indelible foot prints on the sands of time, was the late Bhai Sahib Bhai Ragbir Singh Ji Bir, the Founder Chairman of the Dagshai Public School, To evaluate the life and works of such a man is indeed not only an uphill but an impossible task.

Bhai Sahib was not made from the common clay. His ancestry can be traced as far back as Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Empire. He is the descendent of one Chaudari Jawahar Mal, who was a jewel of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's court. He was the owner of Gun and Ammunition Factory and also possessed hundreds of acres of land near Lahore, granted by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, for his meritorious and

dedicated work.

Chaudari Jawahar Mal had no issue but a younger brother, who had adopted Sikhism. After his death the entire property of Chaudari Jawahar Mal naturally went to his brother. A big Gurudwara in Lahore was also included in his property.

His brother had two sons, Gopal Singh and S. Kahan Singh. After his death the entire estate was divided between these two brothers. After the demise of Gopal Singh, who was also a bachelor, his property was inherited by S. Kahan Singh, the grandfather of Bir Sahib. His father S. Lehna Singh, a railway officer, was a man of unique character.

Born on Oct. 7th, 1896, in a well-to-do and renowned family of Lahore, his early childhood, in the absence of his own mother, was wrought in the spiritual lap of his paternal grandmother, Sardarni Bishan Kaur, who bore a very abiding, positive influence on the impressionable and inquisitive mind of this young boy, proving true the wisdom behind the adage of the great Roman philosopher, Cicero, "All progress begins at home".

In such a home, very caringly and painstakingly created by his 'dadiji'-- his moral mentor -- this tot took his first



unsure steps towards life's vast ocean, firmly grasping her finger, losing himself in the comfort of her magnanimous personality.

He was actually initiated into meditation at the tender age of three, purely through imitation of his grandmother. In her company he would wake up at the ambrosial hour, often interrupting her meditation, tugging at her 'telling beads' in a sportive manner, till the precious old lady bought a similar 'Simrani' for her grandchild, in the belief that he would leave her alone to pursue her spiritual moments of ethereal bliss. Thereafter the 'young Ragbir' with a child-like eagerness, imitated his dadiji, the two uttering the Lord's name in

unison, the two guarding their little secret from the rest of the world. Little did the 'bubbly infant' then realize the gravity of such nocturnal merriment. What started as a juvenile gambol was to miraculously transform the life of this toddler. This delightful frolic was indeed to pave the way for the foundation and evolution of a profoundly reflective, pensive and contemplative man.

As he grew up, he imbibed great virtues of the head and heart to become the very embodiment of love, kindness, compassion and justice. A social reformer of great repute, a prolific author of more than a dozen books on spiritualism and Gurmat, an avid spiritualist who perpetually remained entrenched in the

Lord, he perceived with a discerning eye the good and the positive in all religions. He was never rigid or orthodox about any issue.

An amicable and easily accessible persona, he exuded an aura of remarkable serenity, stability and reliance. His winsome personality and pleasing vibrations naturally drew people to him. Reminiscing on my own childhood days a sense of acute nostalgia and a mounting pride captivates me at the sheer thought of his occasional visits to my parental home in Chandigarh. A unique sense of completion and well-being was experienced each time I was in his benevolent presence. For him, his entire world revolved around the sole, all pervading entity, whom the mortals call 'God'. From his inexhaustible repertoire of games and tricks, which were so exclusively his own and in which he so eagerly engaged the little ones at home, God indeed was invariably the main theme or pivot of each jollity, simply to create a connection of God consciousness amongst us. He lived in wondrous contemplation, not away from his family, friends and the rest of the world, but right in their midst, savouring each relationship, experiencing each joy and sorrow, experimenting with each comfort or misfortune of life as the glorious manifestation of God Himself.

There was nothing complicated, unintelligible or far-fetched about his preachings which had their roots in his moral convictions and the Gurmat. Often during the course of his spiritual outpourings he rode high on appropriate projections from the Bible, Geeta as also

the Koran. Religion for him was not an end in itself but a definite and consequential path to our 'Real and Everlasting Abode'. For him, God was not some unattainable entity beyond our grasp but a constant, rational reality closer than our breath, deep within us. And to attain Him, one did not have to renounce a worldly life, wandering in the woods or mountains, seeking enlightenment. Bhai Sahib believed that one could lead a life of a house – holder and seek Him within oneself, by meditating on His name and living in his perpetual presence.

By sheer dint of his intellectual caliber, fine sensibilities and spiritual vision, he is ranked amongst the great poets, writers and moral preachers of his time. Some of his books, to win him great accolades are, "Bandgi Nama", "Ardas Shakti", "Simran Mahima", "Sarab Rog Ka Aukhad Naam", "Sadi Vartmaan Dasha", "Safal Jiwan", "Ramzi Kahanian", "Vismadi Dasha", "Anubhav Prakash", "Sade Vichar", and "Khalsai Shan".

But of all his books, 'Bandgi Nama' stands out as a rare, sparkling literary gem, a comprehensive treatise on meditation and righteous living. The learned and renowned Khushwant Singh Ji wrote, "I am deeply impressed with your book and hope to read it again and again".

All his soul – searching books highlight a vast gamut of subjects ranging from anthropology to history, from dictatorship to socialism and from morality to religion. Interestingly enough, his insightful introspections are an outcome of life transforming, somber, spiritual explorations. These have been

soulfully depicted in all his writings, through spontaneous outpourings from within. He was firmly convinced about the following, "no attachments, no desires, no impulses, no preferences; perfect equanimity, unchanging peace and absolute faith in the Divine protection, with that you are safe, without it you are in peril. And as long as you are not safe, it is better to do like little chicks that take shelter under their mother's wings". These thought provoking lines have been reproduced from his personal journal to give you a glimpse of the extent to which his faith and absolute surrender was before his Master.

There had been no greater positive influence in his life than the universal, Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, which had not only endowed him with a practical way of life but also moulded his spiritual attitude and made him perceptible to all human endeavors in a proper perspective. He was a passionate crusader and champion of the freedom and dignity of man. Though he firmly believed in the old traditions yet he felt that there was much to be gained from being quite progressive and scientific in one's approach to life. This may not be misconstrued to mean that he followed modernity blindly.

To understand more about his life lets stroll down memory lane to those pages of history when in 1910, he was tied in wedlock to Sardarni Labh Kaur. However, two years later he lost her. Bibi Ravail Kaur, his second wife, gave him a family of nine children, two of whom succumbed to an early death. After graduating from the Khalsa College, Amritsar in 1918, he

joined the Akali Movement.

From his father, S. Lehna Singh ji, he inculcated a simple, unpretentious, truthful and honest life for the attainment of lofty aims and self-realization. Being a totally self-made man, he was a source of constant inspiration for the morally, socially and economically backward section of society. As a writer, he made a great impact on his readers. His style was simple yet appealing with a common place, mainstream charm about it. His language and expressions were down-toearth, realistic and well within the ken of an average person. But it was his fiery oratory that moved the masses, more so at a time when after a deep slumber, India was beginning to wake up to her need for liberty, independence, and enfranchisement. His book, 'Bir De Teer' had such an invincible mass appeal that it created a patriotic frenzy, so much so, that it was confiscated by the British government and warrants were issued for his arrest. He had to go underground in 1921. Destiny steered his path to Calcutta. He became a successful entrepreneur in Calcutta. In 1937, he left his flourishing business to embrace a fullfledged mystical life, in order to fulfill the promise he had made to his grandmother.

A true humanitarian, social reformer and philanthropist, he believed in universal brotherhood. He strongly felt that all sufferings and adversities in life are due to man's distance from and denial of his Creator. Bir Sahib's life had great purpose, chiefly, to do good to others and to meditate on the Lord's name. He always gave the right advice to the right person at

the right time. "I wish, love and understanding could be our weapons", he would often state. Once, while addressing the staff and students of the Dagshai Public School, he reminded them that man was under the vice- like grip of illusion or 'Maya'. The only way to free ourselves of its shackles and walk on the path of spiritual enlightenment, which has no place for doubt, suspicion, anxiety or insecurity, was to surrender the self in totality before the Almighty. Both the 'Atam Science Trust' and 'Gurmat Prachar Trust' are the living evidences of his spirit and ideology.

Sincerity and a singular devotion, according to Bhai Sahib, were the key ingredients to the attainment of God. Once, a seeker asked him to give him the name of a good translator of the Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, so that his understanding and knowledge of the holy book could be appropriately enhanced. His simple rejoinder to that was, "Are you aspiring to be a Giani" [an erudite and intellectual person] or a true Sikh of the Guru? If you choose to become the latter then you only need to have 'Bhakti Bhav' with a sense of unconditional surrender before the Lord. In his opinion one must strive to become desireless. In practice, this leads the seeker to an incomparable state of equanimity, acceptance and celestial bliss.

Though Bir Sahib was an idealist and a visionary, he was a practical and farsighted person. He often succeeded in converting his dreams into realities. He was convinced that means and ends are interrelated. Sometimes good ends are

ruined by bad means. Similarly, true religion and morality are two images of the same coin. The prayers which we recite everyday are in the nature of a reminder to oneself, it is a call to humanity, a call to self-absolution. For him the formal education of a child was incomplete without a thorough exposure to morality, ethics and spiritual quest. His experience, mental disposition and spiritual enlightenment convinced him that a sound value system, even more than our academic knowledge helps us to face life's challenges in a true stoic spirit.

Bhai Sahib returned to the school campus form Calcutta for the last time, on April 12th 1974 and two days later, on April 14th after a long, soul stirring discussion on 'Death' with a satsangi, he left for the school Gurudwara, uttering his last words "Hun Mein Gurudwara la Rehah Hah". But 'ere he could reach the gates of his private bungalow no 11, he left his mortal form, while still on his feet. Ironically, his utterance became a practical reality as he did indeed leave for the Guru's Dwar for an eternal life at His lotus feet. Interestingly enough, while on the subject of death, he emphasized that death is the final awakening after a long slumber, a mere change of physical garments from the old and worn out into the fresh and new.

His last rites were performed at the Samadhi Ground in Bungalow no – 1, now known as 'Satsang Niwas'. This is where, he used to sit in deep meditation cradled and enwrapped in nature's wonders.

#### An Odyssey Through our Founder's Fantasy

he School of the Founder's dream, becomes an established reality as it crosses the threshhold of six long decades. One cannot help mulling over its stupendous chronological existence that is a repertoire of variegated experiences. It makes a history of accelerating academics, cultural, emotional and spiritual growth on a variety of fronts for the impressionable young who are ours to mould and shape. The demography of its voluminous alumni, out in the world-- globe-trotting, contributing, flourishing and excelling--is a matter of deep-rooted pride and achievement. There is no dearth of renowned schools and colleges in our country that not only boast of an impressive history but are equally eager to propagate their accomplishments in the field of education. There is a phenomenal rise in the educational mart where schools have sprouted like mushrooms and where the focus in on monetary turn over rather than on quality pedagogy. Now this is certainly a cause for grave concern.

Our contemporary age is one of rapid transformation. With a shift in parameters, the strength of a school, today, is measured in terms of the number of students on its rolls rather than student teacher ratio. The fact that the success of an institution is assessed on the basis of its viability as a financial venture is ample proof that the nobler ideals and principles behind education are fast receding into the shores of the past.

There is certainly much more to learning than merely schools with laudable reputation, material achievements and snob values. Education is both a process and a product which leads to the transmission of traditional esteem, heritage, and personality development and last but not the least, its purpose should be to exact liberation or self actualization. Spiritualism is an integral part of man's entity. Therefore it is also an integral part of education which makes the seeker grow, blossom and ascend.

Innumerable missionary and public schools that mostly cater to the upper strata of society are inadvertently alienating the people from their rich heritage and traditional roots. Often the less pragmatic and prudent and more gullible, willful adolescents tend to unconsciously ape the not-so-favourable influences of the West, without rationalizing their applicability and relevance in terms of our native ethnicity. social milieu and cultural ethos. Even half a century back, parents had few options to choose from. Currently too, the affluent and sophisticated parents, out of dire necessity continue to fall back upon these elitist institutions for formal tutelage of their wards.

To address these problems and assuage the apprehension and misgivings of these parents, Bhai Sahib Bhai Ragbir Singh ji Bir, of blessed memory, an amicable and endearing persona, so resonant with a child-like anticipation and fiery missionary zeal, took up this challenge way back in Oct. 1957. Relinquishing the worldly grab of a thriving entrepreneur in Kolkata, he set out of his home and hearth, traversing on an unknown odyssey, crusading against all odds to launch the compelling but

illustrious project of his life, viz a school where its inmates would be entrenched in morality and spirituality. With a song in his heart, he was altogether undeterred by the modest means at his disposal. Thus was born a school with a difference in the picturesque and salubrious heights of the Shivaliks, an hour and a half's drive from Chandigarh, the City Beautiful!

The Dagshai Public School is, therefore, not any 'run of the mill' residential school, nor yet another addition to the 'market place' of educational institutions in India, rather its establishment is a poignant saga of a lone theologian - philosopher's determination, to present to the world a unique learning platform, where an exposure to spiritual awareness and profound human values would go hand in hand with the modern, scientific concepts of education, and a holistic approach would enable the pupil to evolve and develop his (or her) faculties to optimum levels.

As the school completes 60th year of its inception in October, its ambience acquires a special, carefully planned curriculum sheen through a close interaction between the teacher and the pupils, enabling a richer all-round development of children. Creativity and aesthetics have long been encouraged simultaneously with scientific technology and computer education. Art, painting, craft, music, choreography, elocution, dramatics receive as much attention as athletics, yoga, games and sports.

The school, being residential, adheres strictly to the stipulated norms related to the provision of basic amenities, congenial and hygienic living conditions of the children. Conservation of energy has been an agenda on our priority list. In a pioneering initiative, more than two decades back, the school installed solar panels, individually for all the five hostels for hot water supply. Since then, solar illumination points have also been provided at all strategic places.

The school provides a conducive and appropriate environment through the latest techniques of teaching. All class rooms are thrashing teaching modules on the smart boards on a daily basis. This digital, appropriately illustrated teaching, draws the students to the very core of the lessons under consideration. leaving nothing to ambiguity. Students are encouraged to augment class room instruction through project work, experimentation, excursions and field trips. Our NCC contingent is the pride of Himachal, several cadets having won laurels in their multi-performances. Environmental issues and community services are an integral part of the school's education, helping boys and girls to cultivate wholesome and responsible attitudes as future adult members of our society. While here at school, the tender, impressionable mind of the evolving individual is at liberty to exhibit its 'curiosity' as also to acquire an 'interrogating disposition', necessarily the two key ingredients that lend a deep insight into life's myriad puzzles with an inbuilt dexterity to manage their corresponding solutions. This is what makes our residential life in Dagshai Public School so unique, our academic set up so original, our children's spontaneous inclination towards a less trodden path of morality and divinity, so rare.

#### "RUSHK KARTA HAI FALAK AISI ZAMEEN PAR, ASAD, JIS PAR DO CHAR GHARI ZIKRE KHUDA HOTA HAI."

Oh yes friends, day in and day out, we strive hard for the realization of the Founder's dream, for he was a man who lived much before our times, yet whose vision, wisdom and faith in the holy Guru Granth Sahib shine like the North Star across the campus.

As you take a leisurely stroll into the school's sprawling, immaculate and aesthetically laid out (all of thirty acres) campus you breathe ozone in uncontaminated freshness, impregnated with the heady essence of the tall pines, where nature is so readily accessible in all its variable moods, right from the insane rush of the early morning sounds, heralding the advent of a brand new day (which brings in its wake new hope to resurrect our dreams on), in a riot of vivid hues and soothing fragrances, reaching out from its luscious widespread flora, beaconing us to lose ourselves in the celebration of life and charging us with an immensible spirit to seek and explore, making us so avidly receptive and vivacious to learn and share --- one can't help soaking in the tranquil yet so ostensibly vibrant and resplendent an ambience.

As one stops to ponder and attempts to peer deep into the mindset of the man who is responsible for establishing this well-acclaimed public school, so intensely embedded in spiritual grace and ethical values, and so overwhelmingly embraced by the sylvan surroundings, it is hard to

imagine how tough must have been the efforts invested in the institution by the Founder.

Rooted in the universal teachings of Gurus, Prophets and Sri Guru Granth Sahib, a secular outlook prevails in the school atmosphere which is the crux of 'Gurbani'. Moral values are inculcated in the Value Education classes. Spiritual Camps are an annual feature where the children are free to pose queries and clear their doubts. The school motto, "Shub Karman Te Kabhu Na Tarun" (May I never refrain from righteous deeds) form the very bedrock of our children's ethical development. To evoke and strengthen the positive impulses in society and inspire individuals to lead a life of purpose and dignity is the primary aim of the school. From the start, in 1957, the Founder wisely placed the management under the aegis of Atam Science Trust, a registered charitable body. The school has since been governed by a team of distinguished scholars, administrators, educationists, technocrats, entrepreneurs and influential civil servants. The Founder. S. Ragbir Singh ji Bir, guided the Trust right up to the day he breathed his last on April



(Giani Zail Singh, the then Chief Minister of Punjab, 1974)

14, 1974. He was succeeded by his brilliant daughter, Kuldip Harbans Singh, who after sixteen years, passed the baton of headship for twenty years to Sr. Saran Singh, IAS (Retd.), presently our Chairman Emeritus. The school confidently looks upto Sr. Jasbir Singh Bir, son of the Founder and our current Chairman.

It would be relevant to mention the Founding Father, Bir ji's other and earlier achievements. Apart from being a theologian and a remarkable visionary, he is the author of a basket of books on Gurbani, ethics and spirituality, notably 'Bandgi Nama', 'Ardas Shakti' and 'Simran Mahima' to name a few. Over decades, these gems of spiritual enlightenment have been connoisseurs' delight. As a youth in 1920s, he played a significant role in the freedom movement and the campaign for liberation of historic shrines. His spirit permeates the campus,

guiding and blessing little children, teenage students and paving the way for the 'Dagshanians', who launch their careers, spiritually enriched, in meaningful and fruitful vocations from Amritsar to Los Angeles. Alumni of D. P. S. have not only been assimilated in the intricate social fabric, weaving distinct patterns on the tapestry of life, but have also excelled in every sphere of human endeavour. While some have made their mark as engineers, industrialists and doctors, there are others whose services in the armed forces have enabled them to bag coveted ranks. There are some who hold responsible jobs in the Indian judiciary, while a precious few have made politics their main objective.

Both at home and abroad, D.P.S. alumni continue to bring laurels to their alma mater by sheer dint of public service and professionalism. They also continue to be the cynosure of every gathering, the

torch bearers of all the vital conceptions and convictions which the school so proudly upholds, carrying forward with much élan, our school's soulful traditions on their steady, poised shoulders. May they continue to thrive in all their enterprises and radiate with spiritual abundance.

The school has been fortunate, from time to time, to welcome several dignitaries and distinguished personalities. It is our proud privilege to share with you their random reflection and appreciation.

Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, the pioneering Chief Minister of United Punjab, visited this school on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1961 and recorded: "A real good attempt to bring up boys and girls with a view that they may compete in life. The appealing surroundings and the efficiency of the managing committee are praise - worthy. I wish this school to assume prominence and may it have a bright future."

The former President of India, Giani Zail Singh, who visited the school on May 20th 1969 (then as Chief Minister of Punjab), also recorded his appreciation. The legendry Babu Jagjiwan Ram, the then Defence Minister of India, in a rare gesture, was the Chief Guest at DPS's Founder's Day on October 10th 1971. Recording his remarks, he observed, "This school is fulfilling the gap which exists in the country. If this type of education could be made universal that would be good for the country and all citizens."

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1999, the school was graced by the visit of Chandra Swami who was, "Very impressed to see this public school." in his words, "The school is doing a

great service to humanity in the field of education and imbibing the higher values of life in the children. I pray and wish that the school grows and progresses more and more." Our former Chairman who headed the institution for two decades, Mr. Saran Singh ji, IAS (Retd.) Ex-Advisor to Governor of Assam and Former Secretary to Govt. of India penned down his emotions during the Founders of 1999, "It is a pleasure invariably to visit Dagshai Public School-not only for its sylvan location and bracing atmosphere, but because of the morally and spiritually uplifting spectacle of youthful children who come to study here from far and near. Despite many vicissitudes, DPS seems to grow stronger as it evolves a special ethos of all-round excellence".

Down the years, other VIPs include Dr. Suraj Bhan, former Governor of Himachal Pradesh, who recorded the following, "An ideal lofty school engaged in revival of the Indian culture along with education of high standard." According to the saintly S. Ranjit Singh Narula, Chief Justice (Retd.) Punjab and Haryana High Court (13th June 2001), "This institution is destined, subject to God's grace, to become soon, the top most public school of the state, if the pace of dedication of the Managing Member, the Principal and his staff continues to grow." Justice Kuldeep Singh, a retired judge of Supreme Court of India, visited the school on October 10th 2002. In his view, "During the last few years this institution has come up as one of the premier institutions of Northern India."

Air Vice Marshal N. Thusu AVSM, VM was happy to visit the school and he wrote



(Bhai Sahib with Babu Jagjivan Ram, Then Defence Minister, during visit to the School, 1971)

the following, "The impression which I get and carry with me is that the school functions as a happy family. A complete understanding exists between the teachers and the students. I congratulate the school for its excellent academic results and the laurels won in all the extracurricular activities."

His Excellency, Shri V.S. Kokje, the former Governor of Himachal Pradesh, who was welcomed as the Chief Guest at the Founder's Day of 2004 and also on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the school in 2007, expressed his feelings through the following lines, "An institution born in and out of the spiritual inspiration was bound to be excellent in every respect. I am glad the dream of the Founding Father, Late his Holiness Ragbir Singh ji Bir has been realized in such a short time and in such a splendid manner. I have no words to praise the teachers and pupils who have achieved this and see a brighter future in the service of the nation for this institution."

The Founder's Day, of Oct 15, 2005 will be remembered for the visit of Mr. Montek Singh Ahulwalia, (who was then the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission), as the Chief Guest, along with his charming wife, a noted economist in her own right, Mrs. Isher Judge Ahulwalia, (the former Vice Chairman, Planning Board Punjab). The distinguished couple was delighted to see the school activities and performances of the children. Before leaving they recorded the following inspirational message, "The school provides the students with an environment that is not only physically beautiful but also combines intellectual challenge with cultural development, all contained in a universalistic spiritual context. I have no doubt that the students of this school will make the country proud." Dr. (Mrs.) Ahulwalia, added her own comment, "I have always wanted to visit Dagshai Public School, a legacy left behind by my uncle. Bir Sahib. It has been a beautiful

experience. I specially applaud the emphasis on universal human values. I was very impressed by the performances in three different languages. I wish the school all success."

While encouraging us S. Bhagwant Singh Dalawari a spiritualist, linguist and a former IFS diplomat wrote, "I have been visiting this school since 1995. Improvements in the infrastructure as also the academic records have bewitched me. The dream of Bir Ji is being realised through the herculean efforts of the Principal, staff and management."

For our Golden Jubilee celebrations on October 7th 2007, The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri V.S. Kokje, once again eagerly accepted our request to visit the school as the Chief Guest of the function. He graciously penned down the following in our Visitor Book, "Bhai Ragbir Singh Ji, founded this school with a dream of providing quality moral education to the new generations. To-day his dream stands fulfilled when we see the young minds studying here receiving the best of worldly education perfectly blended with spirituality and morality."

The Guest of Honour Major Vijay Singh Mankotia was so overwhelmed that he could not help writing, "I have been greatly impressed with the mark that Dagshai Public School, has made in the sphere of education and outdoor activities. The Chairman and Members of the Board of Governors, the Principal and his team of dedicated staff deserve to be complimented for the outstanding performance of the students of this School."

In the words of our Ex-Dagshanian, Dr.

Rajiv Saizal, a prominent MLA and recipient of the 'Yuva Adarsh Vidhayak' award for his exemplary political career and public services, "DPS stands at the top when it comes to instilling the ethical and spiritual values with students. I am proud to be a Dagshanian."

Dr DJ Singh, Joint Director and Dean Punjab Police Academy, Phillaur, went overboard after visiting the school "A strange blissful feeling in DPS. The Institution has a unique aura of its own, emitting intellectually charged soul - awakening vibes, fully supported by the spiritual ambience all around."

Shri Ashwani Kumar, Principal Director Defence Estates, visiting the school on the Founders of 2011, nostalgically expressed, "A moving experience to be in the school. I re-lived my days in the school. The function was excellent, well organised and professionally executed."

Not to be left out of the loop, was Ex-Dagshanian Maj. Gen. (Retd.) HJ Singh, SC,VSM, who in the capacity of the Chief Guest penned down, "Wonderful and nostalgic to be back in DPS."

Encouraging us, Mr PK Khosla, Vice Chancellor, Shoolini University, Solan emphasised, "The school is one of the few institutes which has grown on principles, ethics and high morals. The very fact that a large number of old students attend the function substantiates my contention. The presentation of the students was a feast to watch." After his visit Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Susheel Gupta scripted, "It is heartening to see the beautiful academic climate created by the Principal and staff for the overall development of the Children of certainly

one of the finest residential schools in the country."

One of the most thought-provoking speakers, ADGP(CID), Mr. Sitaram Mardi wrote, "Impressed by the discipline and activities of the school."

Fr. Roby Kolencherry, (Chief Coordinator, ASISC Northern Region) who was the Chief Guest of the 2014 Founders was beside himself with sheer appreciation. "So much self-confidence and hundred percent perfection in all items. This school shows commitment of the Principal, the staff and the management."

Director General of Police (IPS) Uttrakhand, Birindar S Sidhu (Ex-Dagshanian) recorded his deep gratitude to the school that made him write "My admission register of a half century ago brought tears to my eyes. An indescribable feeling of nostalgia and home coming."While Brig Deepak Sharma, Sena Medal, Cdr 95 Inf Bde, Kasauli,couldn't help expressing, "Really impressed by the Josh of the children" on the 59th Sports Day. Mr Ravi Manuja, Registrar and Dean, Bhara University, Shimla Hills, thus lauded the school, "Very nice environment conducive to the perfect grooming of the children."

Dr G. Immanuel, Chairman CISCE, who visited DPS during the 8th AGM, Northern Region ASISC, hosted by the school, wrote in a letter of appreciation, "It was a wonderful experience for me to visit your esteemed Dagshai Public School on 9th Sept 2016. I was amazed to see your

institution, progressing steadily and doing extremely well, in imparting quality education to the students. You have a wonderful team of administrators, teachers and supporting staff who work in unison for the smooth function of the school. My visit to the school is one of the best experiences that I ever had in all my visits to the other places across the country."

The Deputy Commissioner of Solan (HP), Mr. Rakesh Kanwar further encouraged us when he visited the school on the 60<sup>th</sup> Sports Meet. In his words, "I found the school grooming children in the best possible way. Students are spirited, disciplined and full of positive energy. The Principal, teachers and the school staff are doing a great service to the nation. The motto, 'Subh Karman Te Kabhu Na Taroon' is being made a reality here."

As we prepare to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of DPS, we draw inspiration from the above observations as well as the wisdom of the Founder. We equally hope that the like minded, Global community will take note of the great fulfillment of the Founder, Bir ji's expectations of catering to the moral and spiritual needs of the New Generation of Indians, not to mention students of other nationalities, who chose DPS as their alma mater

#### A testimony of Commitment

Gur Indefatigable Torch Bearers

ot long ago, a solitary traveler, ventured out to the cooler climes from India's luscious Eastern shores. Believing it to be his calling, he embarked upon the sturdy raft of faith and surrender, navigating with integrity and determination as his reliable oars. Sixty years is a saga of our Founder's vision, aptly reflected in the school of his creation; sixty years is also a tangible grasp of time's unstoppable roll that fills us with hope, positivity and an unwavering will to be ever the brave and silent torch bearers!

2017 is a momentous year in the history of Dagshai Public School as it marks its Diamond Jubilee. The school has grown form strength to strength through a journey of six fruitful decades which were neither traversed overnight nor without its share of ups and downs. This ongoing voyage, sometimes through turbulent waters, slowly but surely nurtured the school that was destined to be different in every way; a school which was the brain child of a great visionary, philosopher and philanthropist, all enrolled into one, in the admirably elegant and dignified persona of Bhai Sahib Bhai Ragbir Singh ji Bir, affectionately and popularly alluded to as "Papa ji". Though he passed into the everlasting stretch of eternity on April 14th 1974, right within the precincts of his own precious creation, his beloved Dagshai Public School - his spirit nevertheless looms large throughout the placid, earthy ambience of its far flung campus.

After him, the school of his dreams was carried forward on the sturdy, ever ready shoulders of his closely-knit family members who, collectively and zealously, resolved to keep alive the cherished dream of the Founder. Even in his life time he received unstinting support from his family. The gentle woman behind this great man was none other than Sardarni Ravail Kaur, his amicable and compatible life-partner, also his gracious alter-ego who, never dwelling, with self-pity, on the thought of her own individual loss of the husband she had grown to cherish and love, never allowing her personal loneliness and pangs of separation to stand between her man and his lofty goals. On the contrary, so phenomenal was her



(Bhai Sahib with his wife, Sardarni Rawail Kaur)

sacrifice, in her mute acceptance of the lord's scheme of things, that the school owes its very existence to this virtuous, grand lady.

The eldest of seven siblings, Mrs. Kuldeep H. Singh, a seasoned administrator and educationist of great repute, was the Principal and founder proprietor of three schools in Kolkata. Having attained her Master's degree in Education from the renowned Kinnaird College, Lahore, she was the real driving force behind the execution of Bhai Sahib's dreams. She lent all her professional acumen and experience in establishing this institution. In fact, after Bhai Sahib's death, she stepped in to fill the void, serving for sixteen transforming years, as the school's second Chair person.

The reins of the school later on passed into the very capable hands of Sardar Saran Singh Ji, currently the school's Chairman Emeritus. A luminous gem and pride of the global Sikh community, he is held in great esteem as well as spiritual veneration. Having retired from the I.A.S. as Advisor to Governor of Assam, he had held several coveted positions prior to that --- Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar and at all India level, as Secretary to the Government of India, in the Ministry of Defence and later on in the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. As Editor of the reputed and widely circulated monthly journal, "The Sikh Review", it will be difficult, if not impossible, to find another, with his profundity, caliber and linguistic finesse, to ever replace him. We pray for his health and well-being so that, from a distance, he can continue to steer the school to greater heights under his ongoing mentorship. He is, presently, Chairman (Emeritus) of the school.

Though, the youngest scion of the Founder, Mr. Jasbir Singh Bir's association with the school has perhaps been the oldest. He is the current Chairman of this laudable institution. His very name has, today, become synonymous with "meticulous performance" and "enthusiastic, result oriented participation" in every sphere of the school's working. He continues to be the soul of the school, transmitting valuable advice on the day to day running of the school. Having served in a multinational oil company, Burmah Shell, for over 25 years and then heading the Methodex System as its Joint Managing Director, his vocational expertise and social contacts have indeed been most conducive to the school's over-all development. The bold and beautiful Vice-Chairman of the school, Mrs Surjit Bir, , his charming, generous, 'better-half' has not only been a perfect foil to her husband but is amazingly complementary to the entire "Bir Clan" alternating between the multiple roles of a mother-to-all, an impeccable hostess and a role model for the younger generation. She is quick and spontaneous to take charge of all the family members, as they embark from far and near, for the bi-annual board meetings, each year, to access and further accelerate the school's growth.

Another legendary pillar of the school was its first Secretary and legal advisor, (late) Sardar Jagjit Singh ji, who had the good fortune of pioneering this institution

along with Bhai Sahib. An advocate by profession, he was a leading jurist at the Chandigarh High Court, A God-fearing and scrupulous man, he will always be remembered for his dedicated services to the school, for his far-sightedness, his ability to minutely analyse and correctly conclude every issue at hand, which earned him great respect and awe both at work and within the family circle. One cannot dare to overlook his zest of life, his indefatigable efforts to enhance every facet of the school's image, his singleminded, unremitting commitment to work and his great love for outdoor sports. A warm, affectionate man, he led a remarkably disciplined life. Exemplary in every way, the key to his success lay in his strength of conviction, a strong will power and firm determination. Truly, he was an institution unto himself. The school will always remain indebted to him for the forty-five years of uninterrupted services that he rendered, enabling him to carve a permanent niche in the hearts of every one. The main strength behind his success was his wife (Late) Mrs. Kuljit Kaur, daughter of the Founder and a gentle, winsome personality, enwrapped in great virtues of the head and heart. As an active Board Member, with a first- hand knowledge of the school's working she was quick to minutely ascertain the nittygritty of the school's working.

After his demise on October 31st 2002, Sr. Jagjit Singh's younger daughter, Mrs. Sukhmani Ganguly, stepped into his shoes as Secretary of The Atam Science Trust that runs this school. She has carried forward with exceptional poise and panache, the age-old family tradition of

honorary, voluntary services for great socio-educational cause. A Master in Business Administration, with more than thirty- seven years of experience to her credit, in a male-dominated, stiffly competitive, corporate world, she is currently a top notch executive and educational consultant with the Modi Group of Companies. Her pragmatic and professional approach in dealing with the various challenges has won her innumerable accolades.

The God-given, 'spiritual children', of the Founder, Mr and Mrs Amarjit Singh, have been an integral part of both his immediate family and the school life since 1970. Within a short span, they became an inseparable pair of two very dependable and trustworthy members of the school's fraternity. In 1992, their full time services as the school's Managing Member and Secretary, respectively, was to pave the way for a deeper and more fruitful commitment from them in terms of carrying the entire onus of a cumbersome task, left behind by the Founder. Work of any nature for them was worship, so long as it was uttered as a command by their 'Papaji'. From driving up the weekly rations to the modest jobs in the hostel and kitchen, the couple was ever ready for service. The humble, devoted "sewadars" left no stone unturned not only to raise the structural edifice of the Founder's dream school but in also tending and nurturing it with the sweat of their brows, enabling it to blossom and flourish with spiritual and moral values, never losing sight of the Founder's mission behind the school's material existence. The school owes them much more than it can ever repay, much more than it can ever express. Currently, Mr. Amarjit Singh is the Executive Director of the school, running his 28<sup>th</sup> year of devoted service to the school.

It is difficult to pen down the achievements of (Late) Dr. Harman Singh Shan, who has been a senior member of the Managing Board. Formerly he was a Professor and Chairman of Guru Nanak Chair. He was a globally recognized and admired personality. Honourable (late) Mr. and Mrs. Khushal Singh have been the back bone of the school management always rendering their magnanimous support through timely suggestions and advice. The latter was Bhai Sahib's youngest daughter. The former held an outstanding position of Director and President in a number of multinational companies. His occasional visits to the school were always looked upon as both beneficial and action-provoking.

The summer of 1974 saw the induction of a well co-oriented team, comprising of three family members. Air Comdr. Mohinder Singh ji as the school's Principal, Mr. Ravinder Singh, his son and the school's Administrative Officer and Ms. Suksham Singh, the latter's wife. Together they served with utmost perseverance, sincerity and fervour, bringing about a large number of reforms, introducing novel and innovative ideas and policies, to enhance the school's overall interior and exterior countenance. Their real passion lay in the realm of spirituality and mysticism. They have been the embodiment of goodness, love and generosity. Though the great man and his son are no longer in our midst, their contribution to the school will always remain a vivid landmark in the school's history. Mrs. Suksham Singh, however, continues to extend great support to the school, whenever she can make it possible to return to her roots.

No less is the contribution of our dearly loved and praise worthy Mrs. Manju Ahulwalia who, besides being an active Board Member, is a superbly accredited educationist in her own right. For more than ten years she had served as the Head Mistress of the prestigious La Martinier for boys, Kolkata. The school continues to adopt her practical suggestions and gains immensely from her vast knowledge and professional experience. Yet another valuable Board Member is Mrs. Jasjit Kaur who, for years, had been an avid consultant on various problems pertaining to the children's psychological, emotional and mental growth.

Long ago, Bir Sahib was very sincerely assisted by Mrs. Surjit Kaur, who too served the institution with great zeal and gusto. Though she was not his biological daughter she, nevertheless, became one through a common sharing of goals and ideals. Currently, she resides in Bangkok as the wife of an affluent businessman. She continues to be a well wisher and patron of the school.

The moral and spiritual curiosity and impulses of the school children have been adequately gratified by the occasional visits of Mr. Amarjit Singh ji, Nanda ji and Dean of Divinity, Mr. Jagjit Singh. Right from the simple techniques of meditation, devotional Gurbani renditions and immaculate services of worship with special attention to "maryada", to a practical guidance for an enriched and

subtler way of life, the school has given great priority and impetus to the spiritual development of the children. Verily, the credit for carrying on the 'real mission' through the 'real education of life' goes to these three godly persons.

Mr. Sanjeev Gupta, our valuable Trustee is a B.Com. (Hon.) from Shriram College of Commerce, Delhi University, and is the fourth generation entrepreneur of his family. He is a business executive and financial expert of 36 years standing. He has traveled extensively in connection with the advisory business and has had diverse exposure in the field of marketing and financial services. He has developed many profitable business opportunities for the group, as head of more than a dozen companies. Well-versed in the arena of business, the school invariably stands to gain by his astute observations and judicious strategies, thrashed out in his regular visits to the school.

An experienced and seasoned entrepreneur, with an MBA degree, Mr. Chandra Prakash Ganguly is from an Army background. He is the Proprietor and Managing Director of Bell Cooling Towers, a front-runner in the Cooling Tower Industry of India. With nearly four decades in the business set up, his company has earned a reliable reputation and is expanding in leaps and bounds. The school continues to look up to him for his very sagacious expertise on many fronts. His quick assimilation of facts and data, gives him the advantage to envision the possible consequences, directing him to take appropriate decisions.

An Ex-Dagshanian (1970) and a prominent board member (Trustee for

over a decade) Mr. Jatinder Singh, a highly accomplished professional, is a PhD from IIT, Kanpur, Post Doc from Germany who has had several stints abroad as a consultant. In a Government job, he is currently the Principal Scientist in the National Aerospace Laboratory in Bangalore. His valuable suggestions are often incorporated into our administrative and academic systems. His occasional visits are most fruitful for the school's growth.

Mrs. Ritu Gupta, specialising in Pattesseri and Confectionery Products, is a name to reckon with in the culinary world. Mrs. Sonia Mukerjee is well versed in the child industry, whose commitment to her work has won her great name and fame. Both of them, make it a point to visit the school at least once a year, participating with a true sense of purpose and belonging, in the Board Meetings, with a view to further transform or enhance the existing school policies.

Last but not the least, the dedicated services of Bawa Preetranjan Singh and his wife Mala towards this Institution have been paramount. As interior decorators of Delhi, their prowess for refurbishment and renovation is par excellence. They have been putting in years of dedicated self-less services in beautifying the campus, bringing in their aesthetic abilities wherever required. We extend our humble, heart-felt gratitude to both of them for exhibiting such genuine concern and giving such an attractive face lift to the school. Besides the architectural interest, Bawa Preetranjan Singh makes regular visits to the school refectory and hostels, interacting freely with the staff and children, ascertaining the existing schedules and their rightful applicability. The school will ever remain indebted to them.

The School owes a lot to the services of Mr. Thomas, our Registrar some four decades back. Our former Principals Mr. Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Wing Cdr Jaimal Singh, Lt. Col. C L Vasudeva, Bawa Sohan Singh, Col S S Bhinder, Col. B S Bhalla, Mr. Tejinderjit Singh, Dr. H S Majhail and Mr. Beant Singh to o have conscientiously and substantially contributed, in taking the school to greater heights.

The present Heads of the Institution, Col. (Retd.) H S Ahuja, Director Admin & Secretary, and his worthy wife, Mrs. B K Ahuja Principal, who have entered the 6th year of their tenure, have really turned the school around. Having served the Indian Army for thirty two years, Col. H S Ahuja has a wide experience of Military Training in the Regimental Center as well as in the capacity of Director of Military Training at Army Head Quarters. He also has to his Credit a long experience of counterinsurgency in J & K and Nagaland, commanding his unit in the North-East insurgency with distinction. Having served in the Line of Control in J & K and Siachen, he is also the proud recipient of COAS's Commendation Card, while in Siachen. His unit which he was commanding, was awarded 'Unit Citation' for excellent results during the North -East insurgency.

An educationist for 33 years, Mrs. B K Ahuja, our current Principal started her career in close association with the High Court Registrar and Judges. She worked in

the Direct Assistance Chamber for five years. A passionate teacher, counsellor, theatre person, she commands great public speaking skills. She has more than twenty five years of teaching experience to her credit. She enjoys the distinction of heading a Special School for two years. She took the initiative, of establishing Asha Kiran in our school premises, in a joint venture with the Defence Estate. She was also involved with the welfare activities of the Jawans and their families, while her husband was serving in the Army. In rapport with the Council, DPS hosted the 8th ASISC, Northern Region meet in Sep 2016, wherein, more than 120 Principals from Northern states participated. Amongst other feathers in her cap, she is also the Zonal Co-ordinator of Himachal Pradesh, President of ASISC Northern Region and convener of CISCE for ICSE. Her indefatigable efforts have led to the upgradation of the school to ISC, with our first batch ready to appear in 2018. Being at the helm of affairs, Col Ahuja and she have revolutionized many earlier systems, rejuvenating many others that were not actively in use and giving a great stimulus to academics, sports, extracurricular activities and spiritual awareness. They have been instrumental in establishing a very immaculate and methodical work culture. No sphere of the school's running escapes their vigilant scrutiny, no aspect of the child's development is overlooked by them.

Ms. Prem Rathore, the school's Academic Coordinator, is a woman of great substance, and piety. An amiable, down to earth, unassuming and extremely helpful person, she is a great motherly figure to all. She is unrelenting in terms of discipline and quality work. Her dedicated service forms the very back bone of the school.

Some of the other contributors to the school's welfare, during its first decade, were Ex- Chief Justice Teja Singh and Harbans Singh, respectively, of PEPSU and Punjab and Haryana High Court, loyal friends of the Founder. The school will also remain grateful to the selfless service rendered by Mr. Sujan Singh, School's first Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gurdial Singh Dhillon, Dr. G S Mansukhani and Mr. Kulraj Singh, active Board Members, whose contribution cannot be forgotten. Mr. Iqbal Singh Ahulwalia, a former Bursar and dedicated worker, Mrs. Sarna who exuded positive vibrations though her love and humility, Ms. Kitty Manley, Ms. Gomes, Ms. Macleod, Ms. James who was our school's version of "the lady with the lamp" and Bibi Nanaki, a devout, spiritually attuned entity, responsible for making our children god-conscious, are all rare gems of our school, who will always inspire us.

While concluding my narrative, I wonder if justice can ever be done in words to those silent "torch bearers" whose utmost dedication, commitment, self-less service, sacrifice and behind-the-scenes moral support is, unarguably, the very foundation on which the school's material, intellectual, emotional and spiritual structure rests. Each one, in his own way, has carried the Founder's dream forward on his steady, sturdy shoulders.

Commencing my career as a school teacher, I ascended to College lectureship

for more than a decade. Currently, (for nearly three decades), Vice Principal, HOD Languages and President of the Mess Committee of Dagshai Public School, I have traversed thirty six meaningful years of an educationist's journey. Dagshai Public School has been the very bedrock of my purposeful existence. An avid reader, writer, eager linguist and teacher, my passion lies in the field of theatre and public speaking. I will eternally remain grateful to the management for bestowing their faith in me to serve this inimitable institution. I consider it a great honour to work for my maternal grandfather, Bhai Sahib's mission and be an integral part of this school.

### Ms. Simran Thapar



(Unforgettable memories of the Founder and his grand daughter, Simran Thapar)

(Mein Apne Jadd ki khidmat mein, dil ki ameeq gahr<mark>ayii seh</mark> 'Kherje Aqeedat', pesh karti hun)

# Jab Falak<sup>1</sup> Se Tuta Ek Zaheen<sup>2</sup> Tara Jaan Nissar<sup>3</sup> Hua Jis Peh Zamana Sara

Aai, phir seh, mutasir hoh rahi huh uss saksh seh, lisneh leeneh ka saleeka, zaatih zindgi seh sikhayah l Ek khamosh ruh, sabseh muktalif thah, woh mukadas saaya, Joh insaano ki bemurabbat basti meh, bekhauf challah aayahl Kuch nayah aagaaz karneh keh liyeh machaltah hua khoji, Kuch puraneh, paigaam khod laaneh keh liyeh ek hasjil Khuda Baksh thah woh paak-saaf, naek bandah, Talakh safar jiska sabr, didah daleri seh katah ! Itemaam",taufeek" aur aala" tarbiyat",paayi thih tisneh, Honsia aur tamool bemisaal Lashkar theh unke ! Baazaukat , rawalti kisoh seh rehte theh na-ashiza , Jubilet thin unkih rashk -e-farmarbardaari 1 Aaftaab ban kar joh hazoor ne bahkhoobi nibhayi I Sab keh saath theh, sab keh paas theh, phir bhi theh akeleh, Kosoh door theh, sangdil22 zamaaneh ki makkaariyoh28 seh, Nafarmaaniyoh aur betaabiyoh seh, Aitraazoh seh kabhi, aur kabhi bandishoh seh bhi I Shafkat aur khush khalagee ahad-e-waffah afzal fitrat thih unki I Guroor aur badhgumaani ki diwaaroh koh haleemi seh giraayah ! Aalahzarfi<sup>32</sup> seh, mazloomoh koh, be(hijak, seeneh seh lagaayah ! Khud ki hasti koh, khuda keh bandeh neh, mitaayah! Tassuvar thah, bandgi thih, saddiyoh ka thah tazurba, Sajidoh ka tawaazun34 thah, jeeneh ki taaqat jismeh I Hasratoh koh behekneh seh baar baar usne rokah. Besabbari, behudgi, magroori38 koh kab na tokah ! Mustakbil<sup>17</sup> ki koi tilismati<sup>18</sup> umeed, Yah maazi"ki koi poshida" taaseer"? Iss sar zameen keh theh. Yah parwaneh ufake keh? Rawaiyatis pehrukaara, ek ruhani mujasmehal Amal faaraiz \*\* peh, gurbat \*\* Guru seh ! Ek baar unka istagbaal kareh phir seh, Jumh keh! teh dil seh!

Ms. Simran Thapar

Glossary:- 1.Falak - Sky, 2. Zaheen-Bright, 3. Jaan Nissar - Cherished, 4. Mutasir-To be impressed, 5. Muktalif - Different 6. Mukadas - Sacred, 7. Bemurabbat- Callous, 8. Aagaaz- To start, 9. Talkh - Stressful, 10. Didah Daleri - Courage, 11. Itemaam - Zest, 12. Taufeek - Refinement, 13. Aala - High order, 14. Tarbiyat - Grooming, 15. Tamool - Patience, 16. Baazaukat- Occassionally, 17.Na-ashiza - Indifferent, 18. Jubilet-Nature, 19.Rashk - Praiseworthy, 20. Farmarbardaari - Obedient, 21. Aaftaab - Divine light, 22. Sangdil - Selfish, 23. Makkaariyoh- Deceptions, 24. Nafarmaaniyoh- Disrespectful to duties, 25. Betaabiyoh - Restlessness, 26. Shafkat-Love, 27. Khush Khalaqee- Cheerful demeanour, 28. Ahad-e-waffah- Commitment of love and trust, 29. Afzal - Outstanding, 30.Badhgumaani- Negativity, 31. Haleemi- Humility, 32. Aalahzarfi - Generosity, 33. Tassuvar - Imagination, 34. Tawaazun- Poise, 35. Hasratoh- Desires, 36.Magroori- Arrogance, 37. Mustakbil - Future, 38. Tilismati- Magical, 39. Maazi- Past, 40. Poshida- Secretive, 41. Taaseer - Blessings, 42. Ufak - Sky, 43. Pehrukaar- Protector, 44. Faaraiz - Duties, 45. Qurbat- Nearness, 46. Istaqbaal- Welcome.

Chaleh humtum, unkeh nakshe kadam peh I

# "जब फ्लक<sup>1</sup> से टूटा एक ज़हीन<sup>2</sup> तारा जान निसार<sup>3</sup> हुआ जिस पे ज़माना सारा

आज, फिर से मुतासिर' हो रही हूँ उस प्रक्स से, जिसने जीने का सलीका, जाती ज़िंदगी से सिखाया ! एक खामोश रूड, सबसे मुकतलिफ था, वो मुकददस साया, जी इनसानों की बेमुख्बत' बस्ती में, बेखीफ चला आया ! कुछ नया आगाज़" करने के लिए मचलताहुआ खोजी, कुछ पुराने, पैगाम खोद लाने के लिए एक हाजी ! खुदा बरुश था वो पाक-साफ, नेक बंदा, तलखं सफर जिसका सब, दीदा दलेरी के से कटा 1 इतमाम", तौफीक" और जाला" तरबीयत" पाई थी जिसने, हौसला और तामुल<sup>15</sup>, बेमिसाल लशकर थे उनके ! बाजीकत", खायती किस्सी से रहते थे ना-आशीजा", जुबीलत" थी उनकी रशक"-ए-फरमरबरदारी" ! आफताव<sup>31</sup> बनकर जो हजूर ने बखुबी निभायी ! सब के साथ थे, सब के पास थे, फिर भी थे अकेले. कोसों दर थे, संगदिल" जमाने की मक्कारियों" से, नाफरमानियों भे और बेताबियों से. ऐतराज़ों से कभी और कभी बंदीशों से भी ! शफकत<sup>36</sup> और खुश खालाकी<sup>37</sup>, एहद-ए-बफा<sup>39</sup>, अफज़ल<sup>39</sup> फितरत थी उनकी ! गुरूर और बदगुमानी की दीवारों को हलीमी से गिराया ! आल्हजरफी से, मजलमों को, बेझिजक, सीने से लगाया ! खुद की हस्ती को, खुदा के बंदे ने, मिटाया ! तसुवर" था, बंदगी थी, सदियी का था तजुरबा, सिजदों का तवाजन" था, जीने की ताकत जिसमें ! हसरतीं को बहकने से बार-बार उसने रोका. बेसब्री, बेहुदगी, मगुरूरी को कब ना टोका ! मुस्तकविल<sup>37</sup> की कोई तिलिसमाती<sup>38</sup> उम्मीद, या माज़ी" की कोई पौशीदा" तासीर" ? इस सरज़मीन के थे, या परवाने उफक के ? रवायती पहरूकार", एक रूडानी मुजसमें ! अमल फारायज्" पे, कुरबत" गुरू से ! एक बार उनका इसतकबाल" करें फिर से.

> श्रीमती सिमरन थापर उपप्रधानाचार्या

णुब्दार्थ:- 1. आसमान, 2. चमकता, 3. न्योछावर, 4. रूबरू, 5. सबसे अलग, 6. पवित्र 7. निर्दय, 8. णुरुआत, 9. तनावपूर्ण, 10. साहस, 11. उत्साह, 12. तम्मीज़, 13. बेहतरीन, 14. सभ्य पालक-पोषण, 15. धीरज, 16. कभी-कभी, 17. बेखबर, 18. फितरत, 19. सराहनीय, 20. आज्ञाकारी, 21. रोशनी, 22. स्वार्थी, 23. फरेब, 24. अनाज्ञाकारी, 25. उतावला, 26. प्यार, 27.खुशमिज़ाज, 28. प्यार और भरोसे का वायदा, 29. बेहतरीन, 30. नकारात्मक, 31. नमता, 32. दिरयादिल, 33. कल्पना, 34. संतुलन, 35. इच्छाएं, 36. अहंकार, 37. भविष्य, 38. जादुई, 39. भूतकाल, 40. राज़दार, 41. आशोष, 42. आकाश, 43. पहरेदार, 44. कत्तेव्य, 45. नज़दिकियाँ, 46. स्वागत

जम के, तह दिल से !

चलें हम तुम, उनके नक्शे कदम पे।

# Our Galaxy of Luminous Stars --A Constellation of DPS Achievers

he whetstone of any organisation is its finished product that poses as the assessment meter of both the quantitative and qualitative quantum of its eventual turn-out on the stage of life. Our variegated school 'Products', an energetic bunch of thriving, resourceful, successful, affluent and well-placed alumni are the constant pride of our school, that spark off resplendent flames of recognition and acclaim in the highly competitive outside world.

In our shimmering galaxy of stars, Rana Gurjit Singh, currently the Minister for Irrigation and Power, in Captain Amarinder Singh's cabinet has more than done us proud. He has maintained a consistent political career for over two decades. Towing a similar political line, Dr. Rajiv Saizal, who needs no excuse to return to his roots, his beloved D.P.S., has held an MLA's seat in the Kasauli Constituency for several years now. His recent conferring of the 'Yuva Adarsh Vidhayak' award for his exemplary political career and public services, has been a huge feather in our cap. In all humility, he attributes his success as a politician, to the sound ethical values taught by his alma mater. Ex-Mayor of Slough (U.K.), Mr. Balvinder Singh Bains, was proudly received by our school on his momentous visit along with a dozen of his classmates, mostly from U.K., in the recent past. It is a matter of great pride for us that he will be coming again to our school, on

the Sixtieth Founder's, along with four others from U.K.. Mr. M S Randhawa too will be visiting us from U.K. Mr. Parambir Singh Sehmbi will be coming from Canada and a few more from far off corners of the country.

The crown of Cinema Creativity rests on Mr. Harry Baweja, Producer cum Director, Bollywood and his Hollywood counterpart Mr. Tarsem Singh. While the former created amongst many films, his block-buster 'Char Sahibzade' Part-I and II, the latter produced and directed off beat films like 'The Cell' (Jennifer Lopez), 'Mirror' (Julia Roberts) and the theatrical 'Immortals'. After a decade of DPS schooling, Ms. Mehr Thapar, a fine lens woman, runs her private, well-acknowledged, 'Emotive Lens' as an art and commercial, Still Photographer cum Cinematographer.

A huge chunk of our Dagshanians, decorate various echelons in our nation's Armed Forces. Lt. Gen H J Singh, Maj Gen Karan A.S. Bhullar, Brig. Vikram Goswami, Col Zorawar Singh, Col. S K Sharma, Maj. Smita M Kadam, Cdr.(IN) Alamjit Singh Hansari etc. will ever remain gems, in the annals of our history. The First Woman Pilot of the Indian Air Force, Late Shaifali Choudhary, who sacrificed her life in the act of saving her colleagues and their families from a dangerous marsh, was posthumously awarded the 'Sarvotam Jeevan Rakshak Padak' by the Former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. She was our student from class KG to X. Last



but not the least, Lt. Gen Jagbeer Singh PVSM,AVSM,SM,VSM(Retd.) andCol. Mandhir Singh, his younger brother, too were on our rolls, though briefly and both are related to the Founder.

We also fondly remember Com. Pilot Kanwar Tanvir Singh Gill, Chief Engineer, John Thomas and Consultant Engineer Kulwant Bhari (U.K.). D.G.P. Birindar Singh Sidhu (IPS) Uttrakhand, graced our school for the 2015 Founders as its Chief Guest. An unassuming individual, he comes across as an impactful orator.

Dr. Jatinder Singh (PhD.), Principal Scientist (Aerospace Bangalore), who started his academic career with us, is also a valuable member of the Dagshai Public School, Board. Amongst our successful doctors, we can't help mentioning Dr. Ashwani Chatly, Dr. A S Brar (Vascular Surgeon), Dr. Aditya Kapil (Eye Surgeon), Dr. Sukhman Cheema (Dentist) and Dr. Kulwant Trehan (Dentist U.K.).

Ms. Sukhmani Ganguly (MBA), a seasoned consultant with the Modi Group (Delhi), has been since 2002, the Secretary of The Atam Science Trust that runs the school. Ms. Simran Thapar (Double Post Graduate) is the Vice Principal of Dagshai Public School since 1992 and is also the

Resident Founder Member of the Atam Science Trust. She spans an educational career of 36 years. Another educationist worthy of recall is Mr. Paramjit Singh.

Some of our notable Advocates are Mr. Suman Deep Singh Walia, and Mr. Gurinder Singh Sandhu. Our young and dynamic Mr. Saurabh Suman Sinha, who is a name to reckon with in the Supreme Court of India, too has more than done us proud.

Our leading entrepreneurs are industrialists like Rana Ranjit Singh, Mr. Harveer Singh Sahni, Mr. Jaspal Bajwa, Mr. Harbans Singh Bajwa and Mr. Sukhdev Singh. As Chairman of companies Mr. Iqbal Singh, Mr. Sunil Budhiraja and Mr. Jagmohan Singh, Managing Director, top the list.Mr. Harvir Singh Sahni, Mr. Davinder Singh Johal, Mr. Harbans Singh Bajwa, Mr. Deepak Malhotra, Mr. Girish Sharma, are great well-wishers and regularly in touch with the school. They are all flourishing in their business and Industry. Amongst our flourishing CEOs/MDs, Mr. Jasvinder Singh, Chander Shakhar, continue to hold high our school's banner. Mr. Gurpreet Sahota too is in the management arena and so is Mr. Hurmeet Singh Saluja, who apart from controlling several business concerns is closely involved with the Hospitality Industry.



While Mr. Raj K S Deol works for the Immigration Deptt. U.K., Ms. Manmeet Cheema is a Manager in the National Badminton Institute. Others who are true to our soil are Mr. Tejbir Singh, Ms. Nidhi Jolly and Mr. Udham Singh.

A sizeable number of our Ex-Dagshanians, who have risen from the lower socio-economic rungs, too have carved noticeable niches for themselves. Mr Pritpal Janjua is an architect, Ms. Meera, Ms. Krishna Janjua, Ms. Jasmine Janjua, Ms. Daman Janjua, Mr. Suresh Janjua are all in Government service. Apart from them there are army personals, doctors, engineers, lawyers and shop-owners who owe the sea change in their status, primarily to our school.

The list is long and endless but even more far-flung and impactful is the unbreakable chain of all those who chose DPS as a brief or long-duration platform for their initial growth. The ones who have been high-lighted in this comprehensive write-up, are those who constantly touch base with us, while for those who are making use of their innumerable talents, somewhere out in this global society, the very best is wished for them. Our heartiest felicitations and jubilations, to one and all on our Sixtieth Founders.

# DPS Tutelage Is Far From The Ordinary

he annals of our school's colourful history, not only project a journey of growth on the soil of pious souls and prudent sages, that continues to draw sons and daughters from the four corners of the world to be groomed and nurtured but also verily reflects their blossoming into ebullient echelons of sparkling talent and achievement. They have more than done us proud, not by acquiring material comforts and wordly recognition alone but extending their semblance of empowerment to an inward odyssey of self-actualisation.

To the sagacious reader, I candidly state, D.P.S. tutelage is far from an ordinary, commonplace experience. We don't simply create successful, prospective professionals, nationalists or worthy future citizens. We go further into their inquiring, curious minds,

exploring their rationale and honing their psychological fortitude. We reach still deeper, into their emotive being, evoking positive responses, embellishing their sensibilities. But the poignant and most tactile thrust is right into their spiritual core, awakening their latent, slumbering ambers of godliness, making them aware with every nerve and fibre, the glorious entities they truly are. This, then is the school of our founder's dream, this then is also an honest, collective effort of the like-

minded amalgam of its seasoned, in-house faculty. To keep alive the vision of our laudable founder is not a mere business, it's a fiery passion, with all of us here.

We teach our children to deal sensibly with freedom and respond favourably to rules. They are taught to take in their stride both success and failure as part of a transient phase in life's myriad experiences. Problems should be instantly addressed and their solutions rationally arrived at. We don't underestimate their intelligence or capabilities. Rather it is our responsibility to repose faith and

confidence in them. Consequently, they surpass themselves, setting new benchmarks of performance and personal growth.

There is not a single dull moment, not a single cheerless face on our campus. All and sundry abound in positive energies. Without much

ado, we teach them to go with the flow. We lead them from the comfort and shelter of the periphery to step right over the vicissitudes, making them acutely conscious of what life is teaching them. It is our endeavour that in their first and last waking thought they are connected to the source within. We teach them with a view to transform, educate to empower and learn to live.

The school caters to all aspects of a growing child's needs. While the best in





modern education is facilitated for their all-round holistic development, an engaging impetus on the inculcation of moral and traditional values is equally becoming of our robut curriculum. It keeps us, ever, on our toes, always prepared to seek, explore, strike! It invariably keeps our young ready to imbibe, assimilate and share. And in the process of learning, the teacher and the taught, break all established barriers of formal facades and stringent norms. It is this mutual comfort and ease created by us that ignites a special bonding, a sponteniety of interaction, thus making

parenting of those in our care, not merely a challenge but also a personal gratification. Succintly we are quick to crack the glass-ceiling, patient in dealing with their misdemeanor's, sincere in counselling, rectifying, encouraging and harmonizing any ruffles or creases in their occasional awkward moments of self-projection. Our children are our world, our direction and our goal and we as educators and educationists are thus because of them.

Ms. Simran Thapar

## Religion-Its Relevance to our times



Religion, etymologically means "that which unites". Any Religion, therefore ,that breeds discord, violence for its own sake, discrimination against others on the basis of caste, sex, station, colour, creed, language or place of residence or denies the validity of another faith is not a religion.

True Religion is Divinity, Pure and Perfect. True Religion deals with nature of Reality, the nature of man and his relationship with that Reality. It shows the way to realize that Reality without which man remains confused and bewildered, his equilibrium disturbed and his sufferings ever on the increase. Budha enunciated eight-fold path to mitigate the all pervading sufferings of man. Guru Nanak Dev observed:

### The Whole World is in agony (Nanak dukhya Sab Sansar) ਨਾਨਕ ਦੁਖੀਆ ਸਭੂ ਸੰਸਾਰੁ ॥

Only they are in bliss who are adhered to Name Divine.

And what is Divine Name? It is simply qualitative expression of God's personality. God is Truth, Beauty and Ecstasy, so is His creation.

Baba Farid had proclaimed . "I thought, I alone was in pain, but so is the world entire. When I saw from the house top, I saw the whole world on fire.

The question arises, how one could in actual life, reconcile with one's material failure, loss of health, sin and violence, exploitation, dishonour, disease and finally death? Are we so helpless before fate? It is here that we need to attune our inner-selves with Unseen, Unknown Power, which is not retributive but Compassionate, Helpful, Loving, who would sort out things for you in your best interest, in due course, for no one who goes to Him with faith and devotion comes back disappointed "'for He is', 'as Guru Nanak has said', 'a tree always in flower and fruit, "forgiving and merciful who is out not to punish but to redeem and who offers you hope, when all seems to have been lost for you."

Guru Nanak firmly believes that there is a God, the only one for all creatures, our Creator but more so our helper and sustainer, our redeemer who has no name, no place, yet all that he has created, is His Name, His place (Jeta Kita Teta Naon). ਜੇਤਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਤੇਤਾਨਾਉ ॥

Though yonder of the yond, he is yet nearest of the near, for this body is the temple of God and lives within us as much as. He lives and breathes without.

"His Isness", not "His oughtness. This is therefore the best lesson of Guru Nanak.

IKONKAR – creator of the world is One, Before the Maker, there is none,

Truth His Name, pervading Force, Fearless, guide less, timeless source

Never born, The Absolute, self-illumed His Attribute.

By Guru's Grace The Lord is known, The self-existent One is shown.

This in the prologue of Guru Granth Sahib and the first sermon proclaimsFirst beginning was the Truth; Always has it been The Truth;

The present time reveals The Truth; Eternity shall bear The Truth.

(Aadsach, jugaadsach, haibhisach, Nanak hosibhisach).

The Guru's doctrine, which is ever living, meaningful and illuminating pleads for upliftment of the whole world.

The universe smoulders , save it with Your Grace oh God! Redeem it the way you please, protect it you must, my Lord! (GGS-P853) ਜਗਤੂ ਜਨੰਦਾ ਰੱਖਿ ਹੈ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਧਾਰੀ ॥ਜਿਤੂ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਤਿਤੈ ਨੈਨੂ ਉਬਾਰਿ ।

It is the ultimate goal and the eternal wish of Guru Nanak Dev that the entire world be rid of suffering and achiever its destined redemption. The message conveyed in the hymns by Sikh Gurus and Saints, as enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib is not limited to a particular group, but for all human beings, because the teachings are universal, seeking redemption of humanity. As per teachings of SGGS, Bhagti (devotion) is to be offered, not to any incarnation of God (as God is never incarnated He being beyond the exigencies of birth and death), but only to one God, who is Self –Effulgent, Eternal, All pervading and Ever the Same. He is True and His creation is True, however transient it may be for an individual ego:

He who is ever-True, How could he create anything that is false?

The Lord is True, True is His Creation.

True are thy worlds, True The forms Thou create.

(Aap sat kia sab sat. Tis jan te sagli utpat)

ਆਪਿ ਸਤਿ ਕੀਆ ਸਤੁ ਸਤਿ ॥ ਤਿਸ ਮਨ ਕੀ ਸਗਤੀ ਉਤਪਤੁ।

Therefore it is only as human being that one can realise God by loving and serving His creation. The gift of the human body is therefore to be nurtured and taken good care of. The edict is –

Serve The humanity in The World of Lord Reserve a seat in the mansion of God. (vich duniya sev kamaiye , ta dargeh baisan paayea) ਵਿਦਿ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਸੇਵ ਕਰਾਈਐ॥ ਥਾ ਦਰਗੁ ਬੈਸਣੁ ਪਾਈਐ ॥

It is only by being attuned to the Supreme Spirit (*Paramatama*) with a clean heart and mind that one's soul is illumined. It is through *Sahja*, the way of spontaneous equipoise, That God is attained. *Sahja* is attained by inculcating compassion and contentment in one's life and dedicating to meditation- Naam, Japu, Simran with love and devotion dedication.

## Six Decades - In Retrospect

In retrospect, it is significant to note that all the activities of the Dagshai Public School have exhibited a unique performance. It has shown a consistent growth and a tremendous impact on children and consequently on the parents and society at large. The reason for this is not far to see. The school activities are not activities as such but are a part of the Divine Mission itself.

The Founder Chairman, Bhai Sahib Bhai Ragbir Singh ji Bir, had often said, that his Mission of establishing righteousness in this Institution, also envisages the rearing up of an entire generation of children, perfect in character, with love for God and a mission of service to mankind. Needless to say, that this Institution is therefore one of the chosen means of the Divine.

Bhai Sahib had deep devotion and feelings in the inner-core of his heart for his motherland and the downtrodden. He wanted to serve the society through these tender saplings and the motherland with devotion. Devotion to one's motherland is as important as devotion to God. He believed in Honesty. Honesty and integrity are essential for the bright future of the individual. Likewise, natural character and patriotism are necessary for the welfare of the motherland. When integrity and patriotism are developed in an individual, his vision becomes broad and outlook balanced.

We are fortunate souls to serve in this institute, because to reach the source of bliss, that is, Waheguru, we must tread the footsteps of the great saints and seekers like the Founder did.

He could say food has to be cooked, it has to be consumed and it has to be digested and assimilated. The body can develop strength only when these three steps are accomplished, one after the other. Similarly, what is heard has to be pondered over, what is pondered over has to be put into practice. It is only when all three are accomplished that the bliss of the realization of Reality, can be attained. So let us serve this institution whole heartedly and with pure sentiments. Let us develop love. When love grows you can have direct grace of Waheguru / Lord. Without love verbal prayers are of no avail. Realise that the love that is present in everyone is common to all. It is the cord of love that has brought us all together. Therefore develop love and make his dream flourish.

Today, it is necessary that the teachers who have been endowed with the task of rearing up the new generation are ideal in character. We must make a resolve to whole heartedly realise that as teachers we are the divine instruments who have to sincerely set on the task of imparting education. This will be a true offering to our reverend Founder Chairman to make his dreams and his visions become a living and practical reality.

### A PERSONA LARGER THAN LIFE

he advantage of being a part of the School's history for nearly half of its existence, enables me to gain an over-view of Dagshai Public School, the brain child of Bhai Ragbir Singh Bir. The school was his calling, his dream, the ultimate passion and purpose of his wordly journey. In establishing this multi-community school in positive and sylvan surroundings, he perhaps didn't realise the extent to which he was going to be responsible in raising the socioeconomic bars of its workers.

By rendering job opportunities, in various categories, innumerable people have generously benefitted and for generations in a row. Consequently, one gets to inter-act with second or third

generation workers on our rather homely campus. Its fairly gratifying to be invited to the well-maintained abodes of our class Four Employees. Reasonably wellfurnished dwellings with above basic amenities, fills the employers with a sense of pride at what has been provided for their comfort. We are only upholding in letter and spirit the dictates and wishes of our gracious Founder whose greatest contribution to society was to provide safe shelters, clothing and livelihood, particularly for the needy and downtrodden of our society. He translated the essence of Gurmat into a practical way of life.

"Kirat Karo, wandh chako, Naam Japo" became the guide lines and blue print of his carefully mapped out journey. A



pathfinder and pioneer in a unique pedagogic-spiritual blend, he delved deeper into the requisites of human learning. While keeping abreast with the modern techniques and scientific approach to education, he was quick to discern its integral and integrated dependence on spirituality. And what was good for the rich was equally good and readily available for the less opportune wards of our workers. We hope they will remain humbly indebted to this grand soul for turning around their lives, gently lifting them from the lower rungs of class distinction and placing them at power with their well-placed and affluent classmates.

Equal opportunities and exposure, in facilitating free education, personality grooming, over-all enhancement and empowerment, are thrown open for the bright and eager children of our support staff. Their spontaneous and smooth absorption into the DPS fold would leave the best of reputed schools, bereft of words and judgmental opinions. Undoubtedly this flagship educational venture of our reverend Bhai Sahib, has set new parameters and bench marks of societal contributions. To-day when we cross the milestone of three score years of establishment, we proudly sport several feathers in our cap.

It is a sheer delight to observe the unfurling of these children, over-coming a sense of inferiority, losing their initial hesitations and inhibitions, rubbing shoulders, participating on the sports fields, class-rooms, assembly ground, on stage, behind podiums, potentially projecting, competing, winning, evolving

and excelling, till they are a consolidated whole, a single unit of our coveted DPS family. Conclusively, we cannot help but credit the school for its unfathomable role in not only shaping and moulding these children but also leading them towards successful futures. Endowed with an effervescent cheerfulness, inimitable confidence, adequately acquired selfworth and self-esteem, these young, first generation breed of erudites make their debut on the stage of life with a passion to persue their dreams. The seeds of diligence and determination, that do not possibly have any substitutes for success, are two prime virtues, nurtured and ingrained in the course of their growth with us. At DPS looking after these children is not an occasional bout of kindness or charity. For us, it is a way of life, a habit and an indispensable disposition.

Many of these unforgettable, lads and lasses have commanded coveted careers, held strategic positions, favourably contributed to their community, state and nation, yes they too are our gems! our chest-thumping pride! And we sweat it out, day in and day out transforming lives to gently glow in the fruits of our efforts. They are filled with a sense of gratitude as much as we, to Bhai Sahib, the magnanimous old soul, who has left behind a legacy and rich heritage of a graceful culture and ethos, embracing and equalizing all, hitherto unprecedented.

# Random Reflections By The Staff

"Give me this boon, O Lord that I may never refrain from righteous deeds", with this motto our reverend Founder started this prestigious institution in 1957. He nurtured this sapling till his last breath with devotion and dedication. His aim was to impart value based education. We must follow his footsteps to fulfill his dream and to take this institution to soaring heights.

(Ms. Navneet Kaur, PRT)

Located in the lap of nature with lush green environment, lies the dream venture of late Bhai Sahib. The ambience of the school mesmerizes us and we feel that a great soul still blesses each endeavour undertaken by us. The blend of spiritual and practical education imparted in this prestigious institute has no match. Blessed are we to have the blessings of this legend and the aura he has spread here.

(Mrs. Ruchi Barsanta, TGT)

मैं अपने आप को भाग्यशाली समझती हूँ कि मुझे डगशाई पब्लिक स्कूल में काम करने का अवसर मिला । क्योंकि यह एक ऐसा स्कूल है जिसमें पढ़ाने के अलावा जिन्दगी को सच्चाई के साथ रुवर होने का मौका मिला । मुझे यहाँ आकर सुखमनी साहिव के पाठ करने की प्रेरणा मिली और मैंने जब सच्चे मन से पाठ करना शुरु किए तो मुझे महसूस हुआ कि मेरी सारी बाधाएं अपने-आप दूर होती जा रही हैं । जब मैंने भाई साहिब भाई रघबीर सिंह जी बीर की रचनाओं को पढ़ा तो मुझे समझ आया कि यह स्कूल उनका एक तपस्या स्थल है और उनकी भक्ति का असर अब तक यहां देखने को मिलता है ॥

(श्रीमती अंजू वाला, टी.जी.टी)

ਡਗਸ਼ਾਈ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਸਕੂਲ ਮੇਰੇ ਲਈ ਇੱਕ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਸਕੂਲ ਹੈ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਜ਼ਿੰਦਗੀ ਦੇ ਉਸ ਪਹਿਲੂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮਿਲੀ ਕਿ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਹਰ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਅੰਗ ਸੰਗ ਸਹਾਈ ਰਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜਦੋਂ ਵੀ ਮੈਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਫਸੀ, ਬਾਬਾ ਜੀ ਨੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਹੱਥ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਉਸ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਕੱਢਿਆ। ਮੈਨੂੰ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਜੂਦਗੀ ਸਦਾ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਖਸੀਅਤ ਨੇ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਦੀ ਭਗਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾ ਵੱਲ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰੇ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ, ਪੜ੍ਹਾਉਂਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ, ਹਰ ਸਮੇਂ, ਮੈਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜ਼ਰੂਰ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੇ ਸੰਸਥਾਪਕ ਭਾਈ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਭਾਈ ਰਘੂਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਬੀਰ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੇ ਹਰ ਕੰਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਨਾਲ ਸਹਾਈ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਸਾਰਾ ਕੰਮ ਸਿਰੇ ਚੜ੍ਹਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰੇ ਦੀ ਡਿਊਟੀ ਕਰਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਕੂਨ ਅਤੇ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਮਿਲੀ ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਮੈਂ ਲਫ਼ਜਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਿਆਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਸੇਵਾ ਦਾ ਫ਼ਲ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਪਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਿਸ ਕੂਪ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਨੇ ਮੌੜਿਆ ਹੈ। ਮੈਂ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਦਾ ਬਹੁਤ-ਬਹੁਤ ਧੰਨਵਾਦ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਮੌਕਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ।

(ਪਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ, ਪੀ.ਜੀ.ਟੀ. ਪੰਜਾਬੀ)

Today many schools are there with good infrastructure and modern amenities to impart education. Our reverend Founder, a holy soul, had a different dream to give education along with spiritual awareness and ethical values which is lacking in today's world. With his blessings, the school is blossoming. His presence is still felt by all of us.

(Mrs. Saloni Khanna, PRT)

### **Students Emote**

The ultimate objective of this school is to teach moral, spiritual and family values to the students. It is a scientifically proven fact that, prayer is a way to transmit energy. It brings inspiration, healing, peace and even bliss. There is ample facility for sports and games, which brings coordination, cooperation amongst students.

(Dhruv Chopra, Class-XI)

After studying for four years in a famous, well known, school, I came back to my roots where I had started the journey of knowledge. The methods of writing and teaching are so good in Dagshai Public School, that students take keen interest in their studies. All the teachers are experienced and well-qualified. Alongwith studies and sports students are taught moral lessons of life.

(Vishoka Singh Thakur, Class-IX)

Dagshai Public School gives a chance to children of lower socio-economic background to acquire knowledge in various fields of education. I am the daughter of our school's driver. I am studying in this school since 2004 and it has helped me in my overall development. I would like to thank my teachers for helping me bloom. I will always remain indebted to this school, for lifting my standards and giving me an opportunity to compete in this world along with others.

(Amanpreet Gangad, Class-XII)

Character education is also taught to students in my school. In today's world it acts as a shield against the sword of social evils and the negativities of society. Creating a positive climate in school is really a challenging task. But the holy and divine presence of Gurudwara Sahib in the school makes the climate of school spiritual, positive and divine.

(Baljinder Singh, Class-X)

Our Dagshai Public School is like a tree in which the teachers are like roots and the students are like leaves. The teachers supply knowledge to the students. The school is a building block for the students in moulding their lives. I have been in this school for the last four years. I am the daughter of the Head cook of the school. The school has given me a lot of facilities which my parents could not have provided me with due to our social-economic background. The school helps in the overall development of all of us. So I am indebted to the school for giving me opportunities.

(Shilpa Rana, Class-IX)

The Founder was such a pious soul that he evoked beauty and poise from every soul that he touched. His vision to establish this school was to impart quality education to the students. The love and care extended to us by our teachers helps us to be groomed in a more effective way.

(Chahat Chadha, Class-X)

The school provides modern education, ethical values, proper physical and mental development. This is my second year in this school, I have learnt many good values-- how to live in society, management of time, thriving in togetherness, tolerance, how to win over anger and never give up hope. When I entered the school gate on, my first day, I felt a different kind of energy inside me. I glanced and felt an environment full of harmony and spirituality. Not everyone has the opportunity to study in such a fancy and comfortable milieu. The peaceful and refreshing environment of this school motivates me to do my best in every field. Undoubtedly, I can state that Dagshai Public School is everyone's dream school and the Dagshanians, everyone's envy!

(Amrita Kaur, Class-XII)

# A Concise, Chronological History of Dagshai

ndowed by the British, this oldest cantonment town in the district of Solan is a high hillock (6,078ft) that stands sphinx-like astride the Kalka-Shimla Highway 60 kilometers from Chandigarh. This miniature town was founded in 1847 by the East Indian Company, having secured this area from Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala. Dagshai was born of British fears of the warlike 'nations' of the Sikhs, the Gorkhas and the Afghans. The salubrious climate and homely topography could have been an added attraction. Their sole motive of creating a Cantonment was the tactical necessity of keeping a watch on possible 'trouble makers' amongst the chieftains and rulers of the hilly and neighboring areas.

At the peak of Dagshai's importance, the British had increased the strength of the Dagshai Garrison to two regiments. This factor attracted a large number of traders from far and wide who were given every kind of patronage by the white masters. Old timers claimed that there were over 400 shops, including a large number of wholesale ones that catered to the entire needs of not only the Cantonment but of the neighboring district of Sirmour and parts of present district of Solan during the days of the British. They say that at a time, in 1881, when the population of Solan was a mere 63 souls, Dagshai boasted of 3,642.

According to a popular local legend, the name Dagshai was derived from the Urdu phrase, 'Daag-e-Shahi', which connotes a dark forehead mark, branded on a person by Imperial Orders, in the Moghul times, when hardened criminals

were branded and sent packing to the erstwhile Dagshai Valley. Built by the Britishers as a sanatorium for Tuberculosis patients, it has two of the oldest graveyards, one overlooking the valley and another close to the former Military Dairy Farm, Dagshai.

Those looking for serenity far from the madding crowds of popular tourist destinations can be seen in Dagshai that has no cyber cafes, popular fast food joints or any resort. The calmness of this place is moreish. Adjacent to the cantonment road is a cemetery that has become popular with the visitors as a very unlikely tourist spot. There is a story about an eight month pregnant wife of a British officer buried here whose grave has become a spot of reverence. 'Mem ki Kabr' as it is called is frequented by pregnant women who believe that a marble piece from the grave will bless them with a baby boy. The quiet and still air, tall trees with thick branches almost blocking the sunlight, the squealing sound of towering pine trees gives the backdrop to many a spooky story.

There are two residential schools, Dagshai Public School, established in Oct 1957, run by the Atam Science Trust, a private organization and Army Public School that came into existence in June 1986, run by the Indian Army. Though there is a small civilian town, the two boarding schools comprise a major part of this hill station. This cantonment holds one of the country's highest literacy rates, that is 82% (as per India Census 2001). Dagshai is not a commercially viable station, being under the direct control of the army, however, it abounds in captivating scenic

beauty and is often frequented by the holiday-makers for its inviting picnic spots. On a clear, starry night, the sparkling lights of Chandigarh and Panchkula are a heavenly spectacle to behold. The famous, one of the two, surviving heritage status toy trains-- representing an era of the British Raj, white collared 'babus', sloganfretting, and sword-brandishing 'Bharatis'- chugging along on meter gauge tracks, run right through its neighbourhoods, Dharampur and Kumarhatti.

In fact, this 'Old world' city boasts of a couple of places of great historical interest. One is the Central Jail now being used as office for Junior Engineer and Godown by the Military Engineering Service (MES). Even though each building in Dagshai Cantonment had been built by the British on solid, durable, functional military lines, with the houses on the 'Officers hillside' reminiscent of English countryside, it was left to the Central jail -- a unique T-shaped, partially stone masonry edifice--to find a special place in history books. Constructed in 1849 at a cost of Rs 72,873, a sum considered fabulous in those days, it was provided with 54 cells. Each of these measured six feet by 12 feet with the ceilings placed at a height of nearly 20 feet. The ventilation was provided by a single 1X2 feet, heavily barricaded window and underground vents that drew air from a pipeline with an opening into the outer wall.

The Central jail today stands as testimony to the desire of the British rulers to impose their writ. It came in handy when in 1857, the Gorkhas of the famous Nasiri regiment, then garrisoned at Kasauli, Subathu and Jutogh mutinied. After the rebellion had been put down,

some Gurkhas were brought to Dagshai Jail, where they were incarcerated and executed. The jail acquired notoriety and an indelible place in history because of the various significant prisoners sent to this jail over a period of time.

In 1914, twenty "ring leaders" of the Komagatamaru incident were also sent to the Dagshai Jail where four of them were hanged for their uprising. In May 1915, some Sikh soldiers of 23 Risala (Cavalry) were arrested for having links to the Ghadar Party. Their courtmarshal was held in Dagshai. Twelve were sentenced to death and executed by a firing squad. In 1920, the Irish Catholic soldiers of the first Battalion of the Connaught Rangers mutinied against their officers. The mutineers were brought to the Dagshai Jail, including the leader, James Daly, a 22 year old Private who was executed in the Dagshai Jail by a firing squad. He was buried in the Dagshai Cemetery. His sympathies with Irish soldiers prompted Mahatma Gandhi to rush to Dagshai and make an assessment. The Indian Independence movement took inspiration from the Irish struggle against British rule. The visit of the Mahatma to Dagshai was not liked by Winston Churchill, who was the Defence Secretary. To provide moral support and show his solidarity to the Irish cause, Gandhiji voluntarily spent a night in the jail. There are unconfirmed reports that Nathuram Godse, too, spent some time in the Dagshai Jail before he was executed in Ambala. The museum, has been established with the help of the Brigade Commander of the area and Himachal Tourism Department.

The lanes and shops of this little town caught in time warp, as it were, are almost as they would have been in 1847,

untouched and unaffected by the ravages of change. The three fold wooden doors of shops, the small and cobbled narrow pathway remain unpolluted as no cars can be driven on them. All from a past belied by the placid, and quiet atmosphere. Laments a parochial shopkeeper "When our Muslim brothers had to evacuate during partition, there was no train departing for three days from Kalka station. The people of Dagshai were the first ones to make rotis and potato sabzi to take it to them. We made 20 rotis per household and cycled 40 km on the hilly road with the tins of food hanging on both sides. As the word spread that Dagshaiwalas had come with food, they gathered around us. We cried while handing out food to them and they wept while eating it. My only wish was that like Dagshai, no other place be touched by

hatred.

They say thick woods dark and deep, are eternally clandestine for they are so introvert and guarded. And this will always hold true for Dagshai, a bewitched place with its drape secrets within its eerie folds. Though located to the National Highway 22 leading to Shimla, Dagshai seems to have lost itself in time and transports the visitor to a life where time has stopped. Dagshai's superior cold breeze not only infuses one's lungs with opulent oxygen but also the natter of its rich historic presence. This bijou is 170 years old now. A strictly one-horse-town of ghosts and memories it is virtually obliterated in uncanny, incredible anecdotes and fables.

(Complied and Supplemented)

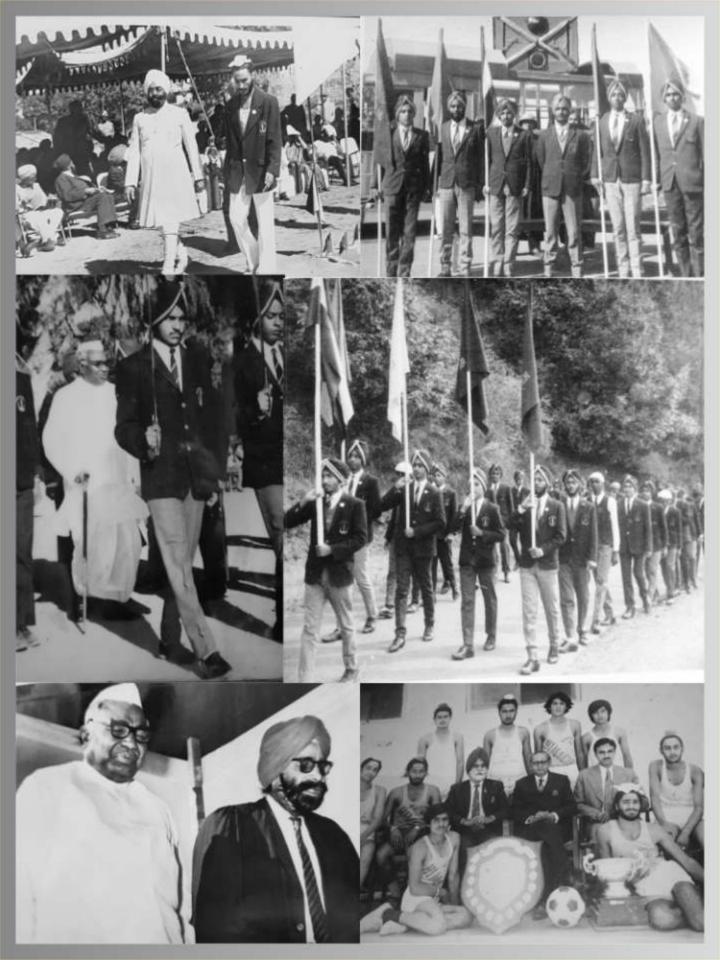
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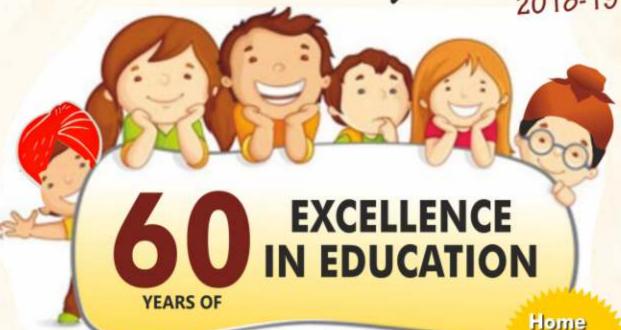
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