



# Lotus Leaves

## annual newsletter

## Headlines

**School wins  
national exam  
board affiliation**

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**Residences set for  
completion by the  
end of 2024**

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**Students raise  
environment issues  
at Delhi conference**

### School welcomes two alumnae back as teachers

Ladakh's future strength and success lies in the hope that some of the bright young minds who go on to study at India's universities will return to pass on their culture and values, and to impart their knowledge to the next generation of young Ladakhis. Last year, DPKS welcomed back two former students, Kunzang Dolma and Rigzen Dolker who returned as teachers after higher education studies. Both young women spoke warmly of their time as students at DPKS and how it inspired them to pursue their education.

Kunzang Dolma was awarded a Bachelor of Education degree from the Government College of Education, Jammu, and completed a master's in history in 2023. She has joined the school as an IT teacher. "Each day, I am reminded of the impact our school has had on shaping countless lives, including my own," she said. "Being able to impart knowledge, inspire curiosity, and mentor the next generations is what I cherish deeply."

Rigzen Dolker gained a master's in physical education from Panjab University in Chandigarh in 2022 and has returned to the school as a PE teacher. She said: "The educational atmosphere, competitive environment, compassionate community and opportunities here inspire and push me to serve my best. Today witnessing the dedication and growth in students every day motivates me to hold stronger in order to achieve excellence."

Rigzen Dolker



Kunzang Dolma

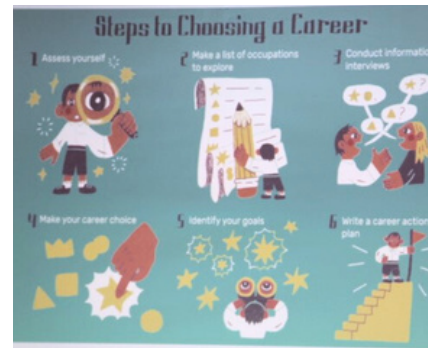


## Seminar gives students a glimpse of career opportunities

In June 2023, senior students were given the chance to attend a careers guidance seminar organised by the Aseem Foundation. The foundation's founder and president, Sarang Gosavi, led the session which provided advice about opportunities in engineering, medicine, the military, photography, government service, management and sports. Some DPKS alumni also attended and shared their experiences since leaving school.

Later in the year, the foundation also provided online career guidance sessions for students from DPKS and other local schools.

The Inspire to Aspire series of talks continued in June, with a visit from two Indian Army officers, Captain Megh Raj and Major Palmo who gave a presentation describing her route to becoming an officer. Having joined the Cadet Corps at school in Ladakh, she was inspired to follow a career in the Army. She described her role and the criteria for recruitment.



## Volunteer dentists promote oral health

For more than 15 years dental surgeon Michel Guinet and his wife Corinne Barbier have been volunteering their services to provide students with dental care and education to maintain healthy smiles. In September, they were joined by two dental professionals from France and together were able to treat every student. By engaging with the school community and giving talks on oral health, they create a sense of well-being among students and staff.



Dental surgeon Michel Guinet and his wife Corinne Barbier



## Students enjoy spirited inter-house sports competition

In late August, the annual athletics inter-house competition brought together the four houses of the school, Harmony, Courage, Unity, and Wisdom, in a spirited contest of field and track events. The three-day event promotes physical fitness and encourages unity and healthy competition among students and staff. Adding an extra layer of excitement, staff members representing their houses took part in the concluding races.

The next month, three students, Singay Namgyal, Jigmat Tampil, and Stanzin Norboo, travelled to Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, to represent Ladakh at the 2023 All India Football Federation's Hero Junior National Championship.

A long jumper takes part in the annual three-day inter-house athletics competition

## Czech school's visit launches exchange programme

The arrival in Ladakh of students and staff from HALO school from the Czech Republic marked the start of a new exchange programme. Designed to be an educational and cultural experience, activities were held on the campus and elsewhere, including a walk in the historic town of Leh and a visit to an animal sanctuary.

Teachers from both schools were able to share their teaching methods, a process that will continue when our students and staff pay a reciprocal visit to the Czech Republic. For many of our students, this will be the first time they will have travelled outside India.

## Final year students explore Nubra Valley on 160-km adventure

In July, final year students set off on a journey of learning and adventure to the remote Nubra Valley. The 160-km route included one of the world's highest driveable roads, the Khardung La Pass. While exploring the Thang Valley, one of the most northerly parts of India, an elderly resident shared the history of the region, enriching the students' knowledge.



Students explore the Nubra Valley on camel back

## First Empathy Award presented among 2023 prizes

End of year results were announced on Proclamation Day held in the first week of November, with certificates and trophies presented by the chair of governors, His Eminence Thuksey Rinpoche. A new prize, the Empathy Award, was given to students who demonstrated exceptional empathy towards their classmates. Prizes for the Best Book Reader and Progressive Student were presented and the overall Best House trophy was awarded to Wisdom House.



## Student delegates raise environment concerns at Delhi conference

In July, 72 student delegates from India's 28 states and 8 Union Territories attended the Model Conference of Parties in Delhi. The conference serves as a platform where young participants can raise their concerns about the environment and the theme for 2023 was Creating Green Networks. Building on the school's connection with the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF India), two students from DPKS, Sonam Lanzas and Deachen Angmo with their teacher Stanzin Dolma were chosen to represent the Union Territory of Ladakh. They participated in interactive sessions and workshops, and presentations were given by representatives of WWF India. The conference aims to develop the idea of global citizenship among student delegates and help them devise action plans to solve local environmental challenges.



Students attended the Model Conference of Parties in Delhi.



Annie Smith – Drukpa Trust,  
Mingur Angmo – DPKS Principal,  
Swaraj Rajput – Live to Love Int.

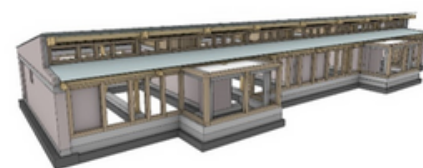
## School officials visit London to launch design of new buildings

In October, the school principal, Mingur Angmo, travelled to London to attend a series of workshops to plan the long-awaited expansion designed to provide facilities for students up to the age of 18. As a starting point for the design process, Mingur -- on her first visit to the UK -- outlined the school's educational needs to the Arup design team. Also taking part was Drukpa Trust's sister charity, Live to Love International, to plan funding for the five-year programme. Four months later, the construction director, Sonam Angdus, attended follow-up meetings with Arup and Drukpa Trust in London to review the detailed design of the new buildings ahead of this year's construction season.

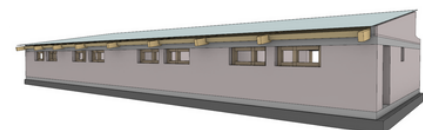
## Residential buildings on target to complete in 2024

Last year two resident engineers from Arup joined the team to work on the penultimate year of the refurbishment and seismic upgrade of the residences. Work continued at a fast pace, paving the way for completion of all residential buildings by the end of this year.

After two years of planning, design and initial fundraising we were delighted that the foundations for the first new building were laid in April. The intensive five-year construction programme 2024-28 required the recruitment of an experienced site engineer and Pranav Tyagi has been engaged to join the senior management team, headed by Sonam Angdus.



Concept design for new classrooms



## CBSE affiliation gives students globally recognised qualification

Following the establishment of Ladakh as a Union Territory of India, the school was able to apply for affiliation to the nationally recognised Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). In October, Principal Mingur Angmo announced that the application had been successful. Affiliation provides students with a globally recognised qualification.

# School events spring 2023 to spring 2024

## MAY

The school welcomed members of the Bhutanese royal family on a visit to Ladakh. The Asian Football Confederation held grassroots football day to promote football in schools.

## JUNE

A moment of silence was observed for the victims of the June 2nd train crash in Odisha state in which nearly 300 people were killed and more than 1,200 injured. On 16th June, the musical group Bluegrass Journeymen musicians held a jam session with students. Matriculation results were announced on June 20th. Students participated in the 9th International Yoga Day on June 21st. The annual Inspire to Aspire talk was held. Bhoti language teachers attended two days of training.

## JULY

Students and staff attended the annual school picnic. The Model Conference of Parties on the theme of Creating Green Networks took place in Delhi. The under-17s inter-school sports tournament was held. Gratitude was the theme at the Infant Carnival Celebration. The annual summer holiday started on July 23rd. Class 10 went on an educational tour to the Nubra Valley, a journey of learning and adventure. Former students held their second Alumni Meeting, designed to strengthen bonds between them.

## AUGUST

August 7th school reopens after summer break. Students and staff from a school in the Czech Republic visited as part of an exchange programme. School staff explored the Kargil area of Ladakh. Our students achieved outstanding results at the Bhoti Language heritage quiz on August 24th. DPKS Annual athletics meet.

## SEPTEMBER

Online career guidance, entitled "Empowering Dreams", was provided by the Aseem Foundation.

## SEPTEMBER continued:

Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 5th. First aid training for staff. The 23rd Founder's Day was celebrated on September 24th. Volunteer dentists promoted oral health.

## OCTOBER

The Hero Junior National Championship, sponsored by the All India Football Federation, was held on October 4th. Druk Padma Karpo School secured affiliation to the Central Board of Secondary Education. The construction season drew to a close.

## NOVEMBER

The new Empathy Award was presented for the first time on Proclamation Day. Children's Day was celebrated on November 14th. Students received medical check-ups in accordance with Ministry of Health and family welfare guidelines. A friendly staff sports competition took place between staff from DPKS and neighbouring Lamdon School to promote a sense of friendship and mutual respect.

## DECEMBER

A farewell ceremony for the final year students was held on December 1st.

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

A group of senior students and staff enjoyed a 10-day educational tour to Pune, Maharashtra. Skarma Rinchen, a National Cadet Corps Junior Division cadet, was selected to represent the school and Ladakh at the January 26th Republic Day parade in Delhi.

## MARCH 2024

March 11th the school reopened after the winter break. On March 30th, a one-day awareness program on mental health was held. The seven-month construction season began at the end of March.

## APRIL 2024

On April 3rd Arup resident engineers arrived to take up their role on site. The newly appointed lead site engineer took up his post on April 7th.

World Heritage Day was celebrated on April 18th with the theme 'Discover and Experience Diversity'. Students participated in World Health Day, sponsored by the WHO, on the theme of 'My Health, My Right'.



**Druk Padma Karpo Educational Society,**  
thanks its partners:  
Drukpa Trust, ARUP, University of Greenwich and Live To Love

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**THANK YOU**  
On behalf of



**ARUP**



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