



# Lotus Leaves

annual newsletter

## HEADLINES

Students' art on display in Sydney, Australia



Branch school in Khachey expands to 42 students



School features in Discovery Channel film

## Staff and students ride the rapids after training workshop

A breathtaking white-water rafting excursion on the rapids of the Indus River rounded off a 15-day leadership training workshop for the school's core academic staff in August 2017.

The workshop was given by visiting trainer Kris Krause from the United States, who stressed the need for a "professional learning community" who shared the school's mission, vision and values.

Topics covered included developing a school improvement plan, improving skills for school leaders to strengthen student achievement, and planning lessons that produce high levels of student motivation and engagement.

Teachers, staff, support staff and the Student Council all took part in the white water rafting excursion.

In a message to the workshop participants afterwards, Kris praised their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. "You are ready to support other teachers in their own development as master teachers," he wrote. "So many children will benefit from your work!"



## Inspire to aspire

The first guest speaker in the “Inspire to Aspire” series of motivational talks was Ladakhi filmmaker Stanzin Dorjai, whose award-winning film “The Shepherdess of the Glacier” was shown on 22nd April, 2017. “I had a wonderful screening at Druk Padma Karpo School, with lovely students, teachers, staff and principal, Mam Stanzin Kunzang,” he said. “It’s a great honour to be part of this Institution. I wish all the students will have bright futures and make Ladakh and the nation proud.”



Stanzin Dorjai with students and staff



Haunted house experience



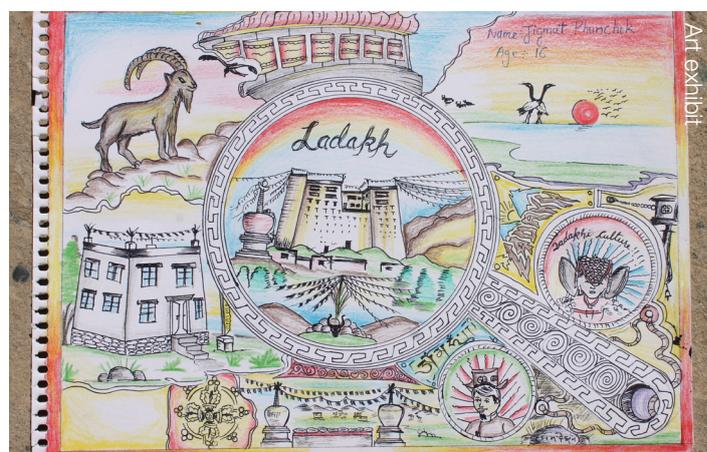
Colourful food stall at fete

## White Lotus expo

The third White Lotus Expo and Fete took place on 27th August, 2017. The event, designed to boost links between the school and the community, included refreshment stalls, games, music, a haunted house experience, quad bike rides and traditional dance performances. The event marked another success in the campaign to raise funds to build an auditorium for the school.

## The Indian Himalayas through my eyes

Twenty-three students from the school took part in an art competition as part of an exhibition entitled “The Indian Himalayas – Through My Eyes” in Sydney, Australia. Organised in association with the Sydney branch of the Union Bank of India Sydney, the exhibition showcased the students’ work in the form of drawings and paintings showing their own version of Ladakh. The exhibition was part of an initiative by the Australian company Aei4eia, which focuses on sustainability issues.



Art exhibit

## Professional learning community initiative

The professional development of the teaching staff remains an important focus and various organisations have shared their expertise. Training has included:

**Feb 2017.** Teachers visited Sanskriti School in New Delhi, now affiliated as a sister school.

**March 2017.** James Biddulph, head teacher of the University of Cambridge Primary School in the UK, visited the school to foster ties between the two schools and discuss strategy and professional development.

**Sept 2017.** Mind Mingle - an initiative hosted at the school and supported by the Indian government to provide opportunities for school leaders across the country and abroad to share best practices.

**Dec 2017.** The principal, teachers and parents attended a workshop and training sessions at Parvarish in Gurgaon, India, a research centre for special needs children.

**Jan-Feb 2018.** Professional development training for teachers at the Podar World School, Gujarat, India, and at the Nirmal Bhartia School, New Delhi, as well as maths refresher sessions at Jodo Gyan, New Delhi.

**March 2018.** The school invited government and private schools to take part in training in Jolly Phonics, a child-centred approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics.

## Construction news 2017-2023

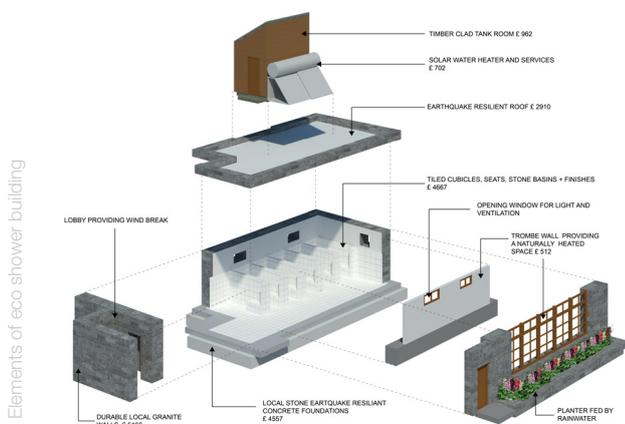
In October 2017, we completed the refurbishment of the first residential building in the mudslide repair and seismic upgrade programme. The design will be rolled out to the other seven residences at a rate of two per year.

Design work with our Arup team of architects and engineers has been a major focus in the past 18 months. The local construction manager, Sonam Angdus, made his first visit to Europe early in 2017 to participate in a series of design workshops. Arup engineer Kevin Kilcoyne spent six months at the school working with Sonam Angdus and his team on the refurbishment of the oldest residence, named Khardongla.

In London, the Arup team were working on the designs for the refurbishment of six junior school classrooms, the only two-storey building on the site, which, as such, presents a challenge. Thanks to the hard work of those involved, the work has started and is due to finish by the end of the season. To have facilities out of action inevitably causes problems for a functioning school of 840 students, and everyone has shown great dedication and resilience in difficult circumstances. It is envisaged that the refurbishment will take until 2023, so we need to keep providing funds to ensure the buildings remain useable and safe.



Angdus at Arup in London



## Health and wellbeing - eco shower buildings

Improving the health and wellbeing of the children is important.

The eco shower building completed in 2017 is a prototype design for Ladakh. It is sustainably designed: the inside temperature is maintained and the water is heated by the sun, and the grey water is used to irrigate the gardens nearby. The building is seismically resilient to comply with the Indian code.

There will be four eco shower buildings, one in each residential courtyard. The eight old washrooms will be converted into additional dormitory space for 64 children.

## Dragon garden landscape programme

The apple and apricot fruit orchard was extended again last year, with the third arc around the classroom mandala planted in early spring, and the drip irrigation system was extended. Two volunteer landscape architects, from the United States and the UK, will be spending several weeks at the school developing a plant strategy for the campus.



Residence signage

## Residences

The school has given names to the eight residential buildings and the choice was to name them after the highest mountain passes in Ladakh:

Khardongla, Zojila, Taklangla, Singeyla, Warila, Penzila, Changla and Namkila.



Springtime at school



# 2017 school events

## January

The outgoing students went to Bhutan, Darjeeling and New Delhi for their annual educational tour. A Discovery Channel documentary about the school was aired.

## February

Winter teacher training held.  
Construction manager visited the UK.

## March

School re-opened on 2nd March and construction work resumed after the winter break. Nominations, canvassing and campaigns started for the student council ballot. Third phase of the circular fruit orchard planted.

## April

"Inspire to Aspire" motivational talk.

## May

Senior students delivered class presentations and made a documentary film. Students won many event categories in the District Sports Tournament. New Student Council invested.

## June

School picnic.  
Eid celebrated on 25th for Muslim staff.  
Lend-A-Hand, India, road show at DPKS promoting the National Skills Qualifications Framework, a multi-skill foundation course.  
New senior students' football strip unveiled.

## July

The school hosted the Indian International Model United Nations (IIMUN) conference in the town of Leh, with representatives from the parent IIMUN organisation in Mumbai and local schools. Two-week summer holiday.

## August

Third White Lotus Expo and Fete.  
Runners up in the Sunfeast sports cup under-13 category, with a prize of 16,000 rupees.

## September

Blooming Day. Pupils from nursery to the first form showed great teamwork and confidence shone through as they entertained staff, students and parents in a colourful spectacle. The school hosted the Army Goodwill School from the Kargil district of Ladakh. On 24th September, Druk Padma Karpo School celebrated its Founder's Day.

## October

Sonam Tsering of class seven, from Chumathang, received the Rajya Puruskar Award, the highest state award for Scouts and Guides. New school bus arrived. Construction came to an end for the year.

## November

Admissions for students at the start of the new academic year. Farewell party for year 10 students leaving school. The Harmony House was announced as the best house of the year.

## December

School closed on the 9th for the winter break.

## March 2018

School re-opened on the first day of the month. Arup resident engineer arrived to work with the construction manager. Matriculation results announced, five students with distinction.

## April 2018

The education minister of the western province of Maharashtra, Vinod Tawde, paid a visit to the school.

If you would like more information, or would like to donate or offer your expertise and time, then please contact:

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Druk Padma Karpo School, Ladakh

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

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on behalf of

