



# Lotus Leaves

## annual newsletter

### HEADLINES

Final year exams:  
100% pass rate  
33% distinctions



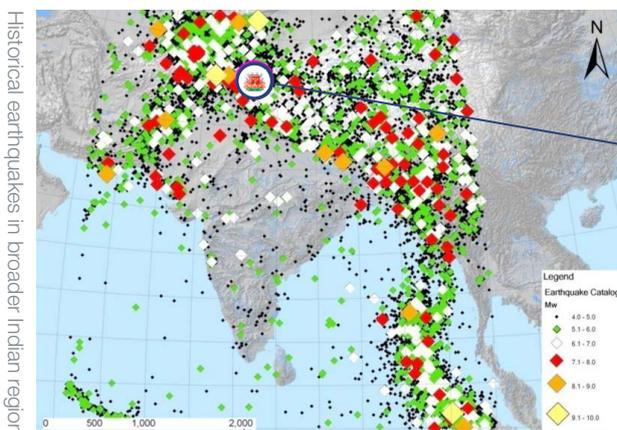
Inter-school  
sports feature  
kung-fu, archery  
and athletics



Student wins  
international film  
award

### Latest quake shows urgency of school's seismic upgrade work

A 4.6 magnitude earthquake shook Ladakh in January this year, just 13 months after the region was jolted by a previous, stronger tremor. Neither caused damage or casualties but they highlighted the urgency of seismic upgrade work at the school. The epicentre of the latest quake was just 48 miles (78km) away.



Location of the Druk Padma Karpo School

The Geological Survey of India classifies Ladakh, in the Himalayan mountain range, as a high seismic risk zone. The Himalayas formed as a result of the collision between the Indian oceanic plate and Eurasian continental plate, which began 50 million years ago and still triggers earthquakes today. According to international seismic data reviewed by Arup engineers, the seismic risk in the region has increased 10-fold from 2001 when the school opened. The preservation of life is paramount and our programme to upgrade school buildings is intended to ensure the buildings are resilient enough to prevent danger to life.

A quarter of the residential buildings have been upgraded and two more will be completed this year. Refurbishment of the two-storey junior school will be completed this year. Alongside this seismic upgrade work the second new eco-shower building is being constructed.

## Students take part in conference in Mumbai

Student delegates and the principal flew to Mumbai in August to take part in the four-day national student conference, the Indian International Model United Nations. The 13 students, aged 14 to 16, gave a display of traditional Ladakhi singing and dancing as part of the opening ceremony. The students took part in various committees, which engaged in analytical debate and discussion, and proposed solutions to global disputes, including peace-keeping, disarmament and settling international issues. The experience boosts the confidence and self-assurance of all those who take part.



Conference certificate



Shey village rubbish clearance



Clearing litter

## Drive against plastic pollution: World Environment day June 5th 2018

It was the aim of the school's founder, and of the Arup architects and engineers, that DPKS should be an eco-friendly model school for the world. With this in mind, in 2015, students and staff joined the campaign against environmental pollution by declaring its campus a plastic- and junk-free zone. Three years on, senior students in conjunction with the Waterkeeper Alliance project in the Himalayas, joined a drive to rid the village of Shey of rubbish. They spent the day clearing litter from paths, waterways and roadsides. They agreed one day was not enough.

## Founder's Day

Celebrating the 17th anniversary of the school's opening, the houses Courage, Unity, Harmony and Wisdom staged performances on the theme of "Transition in the culture, attire, habits, lifestyle and attitude of Leh-Ladakh in the last 15 years", including communication, from ancient methods to the mobile phone, and the effects of tourism on Ladakh. Tutored by the Terence Lewis Contemporary Dance Company, 120 students gave a highly ambitious dance performance. Among the guests was the Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Dorjey Motup, who applauded the students' performance and praised the union of native culture and modernity through education.



Founder's Day performer

# My time at DPKS gave me values for life



I spent 13 years at this amazing school. It gave me not just bookish knowledge but also taught me moral values and discipline, how to be a kind and good person.

A school is a place where young souls learn not to be afraid of problems, not to be afraid of falling, and to trust their teachers to lift them up and push them on to success.

You may wonder what my teachers did to help build my confidence. The school has many extra-curricular activities such as a debating contest, essay writing, painting, dancing and sports activities including an inter-house competition every Saturday. There are winners and losers, some are disappointed, some find new motivation, but confidence grows and everyone believes they can do better next time.

The school gave me a great foundation and I went on to win a scholarship from a non-government organisation, the Aseem Foundation, and enrolled for an electronic engineering course in Pune. It felt strange at first, but I soon made some good friends and am now in my third year.

Sometimes I wish I could go back and be that innocent schoolgirl again. I now understand why schools have strict rules. Those rules made me more disciplined and punctual and brought me here to Pune.

I would like to thank all my Druk Padma Karpo School family. My message to the students is: love and appreciate your teachers and classmates, because one day you will miss them.

Image: Ex-student Yangzin Chuskit

## Class presentations

Class presentations develop important skills among students. They work in small teams, research a topic then present it to an audience of their peers. In May and June last year, topics included women's empowerment, living with a disability, economics – specifically the Indian Goods and Services Tax – and the importance of saving water. Students prepare visual displays to support their talks.



Informative presentations



Jennifer and Lundup, Irises, Cuttings.



## Dragon garden landscape programme

Jennifer Chandler, a volunteer landscape architect from the United States, spent seven weeks at the school working on a planting strategy in keeping with the ecological principles of minimising water use. She worked with the gardeners Tsetan and Rigzin on pruning trees, including preparing pruning diagrams, and showed them how to gather seeds and propagate plants from cuttings. She stressed the importance of labelling, checking and watering cuttings so they will be ready for planting out after the winter. Jennifer also worked on irrigation, grey water management and design issues, including trees for the mandala. Indigenous species of roses, geraniums, irises and grasses were among drought-tolerant plants gathered from surrounding areas. Jennifer is returning this year.

# School events spring 2018 to spring 2019

## May

The second "Inspire to Aspire" motivational talk by guest speaker Jigmat Angchuk of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development on life skills.

Gift of 25 laptops from Mr Kibong Lee, of Jeollanamdo Education Society, South Korea.

Volunteer landscape architect Jennifer Chandler arrived.

## June

World Environment day 5th June.

White Lotus Expo and Fete held for the fourth year on 17th June.

Painting workshop with South Korean guest, Mr. Shin.

Infants' and whole school picnics held by the river.

School debating competition.

## July

The U.S. ambassador to India, Kenneth I. Juster, visited the school.

Congratulations to Jigmet Dewa Lamo of std. 7th for winning Best Young Actress award at the International Film festival in Chile, for the film "Chusket".

## August

Third "Inspire to Aspire" motivational talk by guest speaker, the former ambassador to Poland, Armenia and Lithuania, Deepak Vohra on 'Aspiring to be a Bureaucrat'.

Ladakh summer games; female students performed a kung-fu demonstration.

Indian International Model United Nations conference in Mumbai.

## September

Arup resident engineer Connor McGrath completed his 6-month stay and handed over to Katerina Zographou.

Founder's Day 17th anniversary.

National tobacco awareness day presentation at the school.

Visit by delegates from the South Korean Culture Centre, New Delhi.

Vaccination Day for measles and rubella in collaboration with the District Health Department as part of a nationwide programme.

## October

One-week intensive training sessions on semi-classical, contemporary and hip-hop dance by instructors from the Terrance Lewis Dance Company from Mumbai.

Life skills workshop conducted by Mrs Rekhaa Shah, Principal of Podar World School.

## November

Construction work finished for the winter break.

Final year students sat their matriculation examinations.

Six government and a number of private schools were invited to join a week-long Jolly Phonics workshop.

## December

School closed on 15th for the winter break.

## January/February 2019

Matriculation results: 100 percent pass rate, with 33 percent earning distinctions.

Education and Exposure tour for 12 students and two teachers for 15 days to the province of Maharashtra, in conjunction with the Aseem Foundation.

Congratulations to Tsewang Nurboo of Std. 6 who participated in a week-long thangka painting programme at the Bihar museum, Patna.

## March 2019

New school term, school re-opened on 5th March with a celebratory lunch, including the Shey village headman.

Winter homework display, student council elections and investiture day.

Congratulations to Stanzin Tsognes of Std. 8 for winning the trophy for best painter at the inter-schools painting competition.

## April 2019

Classes in the Indian classical Kathak dance form and the launch of a school chess club, thanks to the Bhosle family.

Talk on the potential harm to teeth from packaged and sugary foods by Dr. Shalini Pradhan from Mumbai.



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  
Educational Society thanks  
its partners:  
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