

# The Tadpole

W G A A N E W S L E T T E R A G M 2 0 1 8 I S S U E

M A R C H 2 0 1 8

## OFFICE BEARERS 2018

PRESIDENT – Anjali Sapra

VICE PRSIDENT – Shivani Narain

TREASURER – Manvi Dhillon /  
Devyani Vasudev

SECRETARY – Natasha Verma 2016

MEMORABILIA – Parbeen Kaur

EVENTS – Sabina Sharma

WECARE – Shruti Tandon

COMMUNICATIONS – Hema  
Badhwar Mehra

MEMBER REGULATORY &  
COMPLIANCES – Renee Chandola

**Dear Exies,**

The WGAA is pleased to bring you the 2018 AGM ISSUE of *The Tadpole*. What a year this has been! We set out to celebrate the School's Diamond Jubilee with great ambition, much optimism, unbounded enthusiasm and slight trepidation, but pulled off far more than we had envisaged, *with pure passion, warm compassion saint testing patience and oodles of humour* (to quote Maya Angelou) and the inimitable Welhamite style@

I would like to extend deep gratitude to members of the Executive Committee, (with a special mention for our secretary Natasha Verma) for their singular effort in pulling through with great aplomb, what has been a roller coaster ride. In addition I'd like to acknowledge those exies who helped hugely from behind the scenes and made the entire show come together. Thanks also goes to Kalindi Harnal for helping us transport and house the coffee table book, ensuring they reach the event on time and our gratitude to all those who contributed both in cash and kind, unfailingly stepping in with a willingness to ensure that we could function stress free!

We now keenly look forward to having more of the younger Alumni come forward and get actively involved with the WGAA. Both Shivani and I are now nearing the end of our tenure and definitely need more girl power to take the Association forward. While serving on the committee requires a degree of commitment, it is also immensely rewarding to interact with Welhamites across decades. We have all our systems in place, now all we need is to take WGAA to the next level. I urge you all to come forward and pick up the baton and ensure the Welham Flag keeps flying!

Cheers! And looking forward to another interactive and successful year!

**Anjali Sapra, President WGAA**



**WELHAM GIRLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

(Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860)

B 317 NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI 110025

# Networking



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**NETWORKING:** We have had a major breakthrough in networking this year with exies offering to set up city wise chapters. Thus far we have reached out to girls in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, London, Singapore and New York. We would like to reach out to many more and have them to bring together Welhamites in their cities. Kolkata and London have had very good gatherings of exies hosted by **Husna Tara Prakash (1991)** and **Mandira Khaitan (1985)** respectively. **Monica Saxena (1983)** has taken over the reigns of the New York Chapter. We trust many more cities will see exies reconnect and relive happy memories. Our aim is also to foster younger Welhamites who may require mentorship, internships and employment opportunities from seniors. Further, its far more comfortable to deal with fellow alumni when it comes to professional help, as in medical consultation, legal advice, designing, visual and performing arts, sports, travel etc. etc. So it **IS** imperative to have a Welhamite Web encompassing the globe, providing the connect and support when its needed.

To ensure that networking efforts receive further impetus, we are finally getting the **WGAA Website** online again in the next few months. Two of our younger Welhamites has come forward to take this on and we hope this renewed effort will soon be the medium through which all Welhamites will reconnect with more meaningful interaction.

Networking received a major impetus over the **60th Founders Day celebrations** where the WGAA party was a rollicking success. For those who attended you know how good it was and for those who missed it: well, you **MISSED** it! The Events team led by Sabina, ably assisted by Shivani, put together a fantastic evening. Thanks you, **Namrata Mamik** for creating a magical ambience! Food and drink was flowing, the DJ carried on till 4 in the morning ... need I say more and no one got off the Tadpole dance floor for even a minute! Need I say more?

We, as Welhamites, always acknowledge the contribution of those who teach and serve us. To this end, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, we gave gifts to nearly fifty retired staff and over a hundred current Class IV employees at a felicitation ceremony organized by School.

**COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS:** We have had increased collaboration with the DSOBS in the past year. The DSOBS President, Mr. Jaswinder Singh Bull has been extremely helpful and supportive of the WGAA.

They have made their Secretariat available to us when required and have unfailingly assisted us in our initiatives. The first ever-Public School Heads of Alumni Conclave was organised by the DSOBS last year and we were the only girls' school to attend. This collaboration has led to joint dinners in some cities with many more to follow.

*Anjali Sapra, President WGAA*

# Alumni Registrations



## ALUMNI REGISTRATION PROCESS:

Part of the Networking Process involves the new system of ID cards.

With School having put restrictions on unregistered alumni visiting the School campus for security reasons, which continue to be a challenge in today's increasingly security-conscious atmosphere, Renee and Hema came up with the idea of issuing ID cards, which turned out to be a logistics nightmare, simply because of lack of time and incomplete data. Renee sat through 60 years of School lists night after night, trying to collate names (which you can see in **The Flock**, the special insert inside SOARING HIGH) and put the names in some semblance of order. The exercise has been successful in that it has given a very definite Identity to our ever - growing Alumni body. *However, despite all our efforts some names did get missed out, specially of girls who left School before Class 12. Registered exies whose names are missing will receive their cards in due course.*

When it came to the actual process we were flooded with registrations in the six weeks before Founders. It was then that Manvi proposed that we hold camps over NCR for 8 days in order to facilitate the process for Welhamites to register and obtain their ID cards. It was pretty crazy with Exies (and in some cases their secretaries) calling at all hours, sending drivers with no information other than "Meghna Madam ne bheja hai... wohi... Dalugarh wali aap to unko jaante hoge!" and such like.

However, we survived the mayhem and now have a centralized system, which is being efficiently headed by **Diya Walia**. All queries regarding registrations can be directed to [welhamalumniregistry@gmail.com](mailto:welhamalumniregistry@gmail.com) and a quick response from Diya will follow.

We have since streamlined the process further, with City Chapters being made responsible for registering Welhamites in different cities and the data then being transferred to the centralized system mentioned above.

School Leavers are now being registered in their final year at School itself, ID cards are made in Delhi and handed over to the girls at School after the Investiture Ceremony, welcoming them to the Alumni body!

So yes, all in all we are getting very organized!

# News in Brief

**ALUM REPS ON THE BOARD:** Our Alum reps on the Board of Governors are now **Hema Mehra, batch of 1971 and Renu Basu batch of 1975**, having taken over from Sujata Kulshreshtha and Reena Mittal. They are closely engaged with the WGAA's activities and we hope they will continue to represent our concerns for the next six years.

**FCRA CERTIFICATION:** A pivotal feat for us has been the granting of the FCRA certificate to the WGAA by the Government of India. This certification was necessary in order for us to receive foreign funds or even enable girls living abroad to pay registration fees online. We had been pursuing this unsuccessfully for approximately 6-7 years. In April last year, we finally decided to single-mindedly chase the issue and with much time, effort and coordination, were finally granted the certificate in September. This really has been a tremendous achievement for us!

**INTERACTION WITH SCHOOL:** The WGAA has been in constant touch with the School. We have had meaningful dialogues with the Principal consistently conveying Alumni concerns. On their part, School has been very receptive and taken into account our feedback. We will continue to work towards maintaining this positive synergy between the two and serve the interests of both, the Alumni and our Alma Mater.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHANGES:** We'd like to offer a huge vote of thanks and our sincere appreciation of the hard work our Treasurer, Manvi Sinha, has put in. Vigilant and meticulous, she has been thorough with accounts as she coped with hundreds of registration and donation transactions over the last three years. Not only that, she reorganized the entire system of registrations by tallying each form with the fee received and consolidated it so that we now have a comprehensive list of all registered members since the WGAA's inception on file. You will fully grasp her dedication to her task as she diligently spent four days holding registration camps in Gurgaon and Delhi prior to Founders, even though her son was down with Dengue.

Having taken on a new job Manvi has asked to be relieved as Treasurer. We are very grateful to **Devyani Vasudev** for taking over as our new Treasurer and welcome her onto the Committee.



# Memorabilia



**COLLECTIBLES:** The Memorabilia sub-committee, headed by Parbeen Kaur, put together an astonishingly gorgeous, affordable and top quality array of collectable keepsakes, networking with manufacturers and Welhamite talent across the world to create a varied range of “senti” memorabilia for all generations. From the quirky to the sophisticated, there was something for each one. Needless to say it has been a sellout with orders extending well beyond Founders. More than the actual products, the team coordinated with a plethora of Welhamites: textile designers, artists, jewellery designers and Exie vendors, thus providing encouragement and support to our young entrepreneurs.

**SOARING HIGH:** The Committee decided to put together another Coffee Table Book “Soaring High” to commemorate the occasion. Our editorial board faced extreme challenges and acquired a whole new crop of grey hair and a baby during the making of this unique publication. Neha Kirpal (2002) volunteered to help out with the book.

Under the guidance of Hema and Renee, she reached out to, cajoled and badgered dozens of Exies to get material and photographs and was subsequently responsible for the first edit and the baby! Renee, Hema and Shruti collaborated to get the rest of the material together and were responsible for the second, third and fourth edits (yes, four in all!). Not only did they sit for long hours, but trekked up and down to Gurgaon to actually design the book, as we were dissatisfied with the graphic designers' layouts. We also reached out to about 15 Welhamite artists, across decades, globally to send us their artwork for the book and were in constant communication with them over several months to ensure our brief was fulfilled.

**Memorabilia and Book are still available on order:** Please get in touch with Parbeen Kaur at [parbeen.kaur@gmail.com](mailto:parbeen.kaur@gmail.com) for memorabilia & Diya Walia at [diya.walia@gmail.com](mailto:diya.walia@gmail.com) for SOARING HIGH.

# Remembering



## **WE REMEMBER:**

With deep grief, we bid adieu to a much-loved Ex-Principal, Mrs. Shanti Varma in August 2017. The WGAA held a heartwarming Memorial Service for her at the India International Centre, which was a complete tribute to her popularity and the love Welhamites felt for her. It brought the Alumni together once more as everyone shared their memories and anecdotes and sat around late into the afternoon – just catching up and sharing the warmth. It was an afternoon Mrs Varma would have enjoyed, and we were happy to be able to do that for her.

We also lost another stalwart member of the Staff from the times of Miss Linnell and Miss Srivastava. Mrs. Sunderajan, popular teacher of Math passed on peacefully. She had joined Mayo Girls School after leaving Welham and the Mayo-ites held a memorial service for her which was well attended by a number of old Welhamites who knew her well.

# Snapshots 2018



Ex-O/213 HAPPY 60th WELHAM!!  
#Loud&Proud ❤️❤️



## End Note

We look forward to another fulfilling year.  
Forging new bonds, bringing together alumni  
and continuing with happy times



It has been a busy, busy year and the Executive Committee has worked very hard to take the WGAA to another level. In addition to systemizing accounts, networking and events, we have had a wonderful response to our innovative new memorabilia. The collection was a complete sellout at Founders. Much joy for us as the proceeds from sale of memorabilia form a significant component of the total funds raised for the activities of the WGAA.

**As far as projected activities are concerned, we would like to form an internship pool whereby we can connect young alumni seeking internships to senior members who can assist them in providing mentorship, work opportunities and help in furthering their careers. We would definitely like to see this initiative take flight in the coming year.**

We look forward to another fulfilling year. Forging new bonds, bringing together alumni and continuing with happy times.

Cheers Welhamites ...may our tribe increase!

## Care for the Caregivers

**WeCare**, our social welfare initiatives arm has also extended itself under the inspired leadership of Shruti Tandon.

WeCare was started by the WGAA with the purpose of providing financial assistance to our retired teachers and support staff. WeCare now provides supplementary monthly pensions to five staff members. In December 2017, we provided financial assistance to one of them that enabled her to get a much required cataract surgery with a lens implant.

Keeping Ms Linnell's ideals of '*Arth Shanti Phala Vidya*' (the purpose of education is to bring peace to the suffering) in mind, in November 2017, WeCare decided to play an active role in helping in the education of the underprivileged girl child. The initiative '**One for One**' was started towards this end, and the WGAA reached out to the large Ex-Welhamite community to help sponsor the education of underprivileged girls through the Aasraa trust in Dehra Dun. We have, in a short course of 3 months, sponsored 10 girls, and have commitments from the generous Ex - Welhamite community for at least 13 more. We hope, over the next few months to reach our goal of 'One Ex-Welhamite for One girl child'.

**For donations to the WeCare initiatives please connect with Shruti Tandon at [drshrutitandon@hotmail.com](mailto:drshrutitandon@hotmail.com) and she will guide you through the process.**

At the end we would like to say a special thanks to Sujata Kulshreshtha who had been handling WeCare very ably since it was set up and handed over the reins to Shruti last year.