

A rendezvous with Principal JKPS Kunjwani

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JK Public School (JKPS), Kunjwani is a CBSE affiliated, child-centric, value-driven, co-educational, Senior Secondary school, which enjoys the privilege of being the FIRST CBSE school (direct affiliation) of Jammu.

Stretched over a period of three decades, JKPS Kunjwani has emerged itself into a trendsetter, a model of excellence imparting 21st century holistic education to children on its rolls.

Shortly JKPS Kunjwani introduced 17 Clubs to groom students in variety Co-scholastic domains. Members of one of the Clubs, namely, Rajat Sharma Club of Jr. Journalists, interviewed the Principal Rajesh Rathore. Here are the excerpts of the meaningful transaction between the Jr. Journalists (JJ) and the Principal Rajesh Rathore (RR):

JJ: What is your concept of an ideal JKian?

RR: An ideal JKian is the one, who can always be spotted in a group, who has a distinctive flavour to his/her personality; has lively interest in topical events and the world around; speaks and writes fluently in English and in atleast one Indian language; has sufficient mastery over Mathematics and Science to understand and appreciate the scientific basis of modern civilization; is well informed and forms his/her own judgement; knows that being educated means abiding by certain standards of social behaviour; consistently makes efforts to master the use of his/her hands in some form of creative activity; has developed a love of reading for its own sake; plays games and has learnt that sportsmanship is a quality that must be cherished in day-to-day life; is not afraid to speak the truth without being offensive and has greatest regard for the rule of law and justice; is well mannered, sensitive and smart in his/her dress and deportment; cherishes the freedom of the mind, the humanity of the heart and the integrity of the individual; loves truth, beauty and goodness. In short, he/she is the epitome of what a cultured person aspires to be!

JJ: Which features of the Institution do you admire the most?

RR: JK Public School, Kunjwani is one of the finest Institutions in the UT of J&K. Its infrastructure is an architectural marvel. Classrooms are quite spacious, well lit, & it's equipped with well-designed smart boards & soft boards. Since JKPS emphasizes on the holistic grooming of every child, so we have hand-picked, talented teachers in

our Art, craft, Music, Dance & Sports faculties.

Here merely being a scholar is not eye-catching but when a scholar plays guitar/drum/keyboard or shakes legs on a dance style, like, contemporary/hiphop/ break/ Bhangra or sings a western song or presents a soulful rendition of a classical number or refutes the ideas of an opponent on a debating platform or makes the audience burst into peals of laughter during a comic skit or makes the audience sob during a poignant scene of a tragic play, that catches the fancy of the gallery of spectators. We keep raising the bar:

Though it's a day school, yet it is spread over an expanse of 100 canals giving ample space for all the sports activities, like, Football, Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Mini Olympic-size Swimming pool, Skating rink, Cricket practice nets, Badminton court, Squash courts, Tennis court, and indoor games, like, Judo, Karate, Taekwondo, Gymnastics, Table Tennis (6 Nos.), Yoga, Carom, Chess etc.

JKPS is a wonderful school, wherein students are very decent, respectful and adorable. Teachers are quite knowledgeable, dedicated and committed. Their communication skills are very strong; whether it be written or verbal expression. They not only teach their subjects to students but consider it to be their moral duty to groom students for the lifetime, as the motto of our school is 'Grooming Future Leaders'. Parents' community is our greatest asset. Parents always extend their best support, whenever our Institution shares anything with them.

JJ: How do you define a leader? How do you empower the second line of Command?

RR: A leader is a person, who leads by his/her personal example, who knows the way, goes the way and shows the ways. A leader should not utter a word on how to become knowledgeable, committed, dedicated and passionate. Since people look up to the leader and study the persona as well as the functioning of the leader very closely, so the leader's knowledge, passion, commitment and dedication should be compelling and inspiring.

Our second line of Command is very strong. We have an extremely committed and dedicated team of Vice Principal, AVP, School Coordinator & Coordinator Toddlers' World, who are given ample professional freedom and support. Together we design strategies for the segment and ensure its meticulous



Rajat Sharma of Jr. Journalists Club taking online interview of Principal JKPS Kunjwani, Rajesh Rathore.

lous execution. Their good efforts are appreciated, problems heard and hurdles are removed. Through delegating duties, appreciating their intellect and extending the best possible support, we ensure their best possible grooming. I am proud to share that each of our Coordinators stands out as a very responsible and competent segment leader.

JT: How do you define an ideal teacher?

RR: An ideal teacher has to be very knowledgeable, as it establishes the credentials of a teacher in the classroom. Without a profound knowledge, no teacher can stand firmly on his/her feet. Strong communication skills are always a crucial hallmark for a teacher. Explanation of a theoretical concept stays with a child forever, if it is articulated well by a teacher irrespective of the subject or the class.

A teacher, being a classroom leader, has to be a practitioner, not merely a preacher. It's truly stated that values are to be caught, not to be taught. A teacher has to be competent, responsible, punctual, regular, well-organized, value-driven, well-attired, compassionate, forgiving and generous, if he/she wishes to see these qualities in his/her students. We can never expect students to exhibit those qualities or skills, which are found missing in their teachers.

ET: How do you encourage and motivate the staff?

RR: I encourage my staff members by citing examples from my 27-year long gratifying teaching career. Words of appreciation and motivation fill the members of my staff with renewed vigour, passion and determination. When Titans clash on a common platform, then clinching one of the coveted top three positions brings laurels to the

institution. Addition of every accomplishment makes our hearts heave high with pride and admiration. We felicitate the members of the staff on special occasions for their meritorious services and outstanding contributions. We organize capacity building programmes to empower our teachers on a regular basis.

JJ: How do you recruit and maintain quality teachers?

RR: The selection procedure for the recruitment of teachers has been quite stringent at JKPS Kunjwani. First of all, we shortlist candidates with brilliant academic background, schooling, strong communication skills in English alongwith suitable experience from renowned CBSE schools. Then we conduct a written test to evaluate the subject knowledge, written expression, relevance, reflection, hand writing and the presentation of the candidates. It is followed by a live demo, wherein a subject expert thoroughly discusses the subject-related, class-specific concepts with the candidates. Then, we conduct an interview, wherein we discuss about the areas of interest of a candidate in Co-curricular and sports activities, teaching experience, professional training programmes, capacity building workshops and overall personality. Finally the short-listed candidates get the privilege of having an interaction with the Chairman & the Director.

JJ: What would be your ideal school environment and how would you encourage that kind of culture?

RR: An ideal school environment ensures a holistic growth profile to every student. School should not merely focus on a sound knowledge base, language acquisition, personality development and fitness & stamina, whereas it should also focus on developing finer

sensibilities in every child. Today the hallmarks of our Institution are the development of environmental awareness, community outreach programmes, creative thinking, critical thinking, decision making and problem solving skills among students. JKPS Kunjwani has designed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will act as a lighthouse to set the direction of grooming from the entry stage to the passing out stage.

JJ: What is the most rewarding part of being the Principal of JKPS Kunjwani?

RR: The most gratifying experience, being the Principal of JKPS Kunjwani, is making students aware and informed about their future role in strengthening the society and the nation. Matured reflections from students on how to make social contributions at an early stage fills me with pride and admiration. An enlightened citizenry passing out from the hallowed portals of an institution is the best contribution an institution can make to the society today.

JJ: If you need to characterize an ideal school Principal with three words. Which three words would you like to assign?

RR: My chosen three words are: being honest, passionate & being a role model.

JJ: Outline the role that parents should play in the school?

RR: Parents' community is a great asset and one of the most important stakeholders for any institution. Parents must feel connected to the institution and teachers. Parents and teachers together can ensure holistic grooming of students. They must be constantly in touch with the subject teachers, Class Teacher, Coordinator and the Principal. A regular feedback rather a 360 degree feedback is the need of the hour. Decency, dignity and mutual respect can always nourish the bonding between parents and teachers. Good parent-teacher bonding always fetches desired results and forms lifelong relationship.

Parents need to be very rational in today's world. They should not be credulous to whatever their wards narrate at home. They must clarify on certain inputs from their wards. Even school staff feels very happy and satisfied, when they receive a call from parents.

Believe me, whenever I speak to parents over phone, it cements the bonding between us. They appreciate teachers for their meaningful contributions and share their observations/suggestions on

how to take the institution to greater heights.

JJ: Can you throw some light on the role of Management in day today affairs?

RR: The role of the School management has been very positive and supportive since the inception of the school. The Chairman Shri Raj Daluja and Director Mrs. Shashi Choudhary leave no stone unturned in nourishing its roots and giving our children wings.

Their untiring efforts, visionary approach and passionate endeavours find manifestation in every day-to-day work and have been instrumental in transforming the institution into a Centre of excellence imparting quality education to 21st century learners on the rolls of our institution.

The Chairman draws his inspiration from the tiny tots of the Toddlers' World & brought the best designs and choicest practices from various parts of the country to make our institution extremely progressive and futuristic.

The Patron Shri Davinder Daluja ensures the best possible infra-structural support to the school. His superb architectural acumen and rich aesthetic sensibility transformed the school into the finest institution in the UT of J&K. The school campus is indeed an architectural marvel with landscaped lawns, auditorium, academic blocks, sports complex, courts and exquisite gardening, making it a place worth visiting.

JJ: How do you visualize the future of your school?

RR: With the strong backing of an enlightened Management team, educational think-tanks, extremely talented Staff, superbly supportive parents & immeasurably talented & promising students, JK Public School Kunjwani enjoys the reputation of being one of the finest institutions in the entire North India. It's committed to ensure that a competent, compassionate, creative, responsible global citizenry passes out from its magnificent portals every year. AMEN!

JJ: Thanks a lot sir for sparing your valuable time and for reflecting your vision and strategies to help students design their roadmaps to reach their dream destination. Your unique vision and passionate endeavours will certainly put the JKPS Kunjwani on a new trajectory. Wishing you the best of luck!

RR: Thanks a ton, my beloved students. This institution is reaching its pinnacle of glory due to your sincerity, dedication, commitment & focussed approach. I wish you a very bright future. Good luck!

Charvi of Karnataka, Vivaan of Gujarat lift titles in U-10 Chess

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Charvi A of Karnataka and Vivaan Vishal Shah of Gujarat emerged champion in Girls' and Open categories respectively in the 34th MPL National U-10 Chess Championship which was organised by Crown Trust under the aegis of All J&K Chess Association (AJKCA) at Kangra Fort, Barnai in the outskirts of the city, here on Sunday.

Both the winners got a cash prize of Rs 70,000 each and thus automatically qualify for sponsorship from Government of India for the World Asian and Commonwealth Chess events. A total cash prize worth Rs. 5 lakh distribu-



Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta posing with winners and officials.

tuted among top 15 position holders of the twin categories.

Aadya Ranganath of Karnataka, Hanya Shah of Gujarat got second position in girls' category while Madhvendra Pratap Sharma of Madhya Pradesh and Ansh Nandan Nerukar of Maharashtra

secured second and third place in Open group respectively thereby received cash prizes worth Rs. 50,000 and Rs.35,000 respectively.

To encourage young children, such events are supported by MPL Sports Foundation and Hob Space through AICEF.

Mayor Jammu, Chander

Mohan Gupta was the Chief Guest in the valedictory function, who distributed the prizes. He appreciated the world class arrangements made by AJKCA and wished good luck to J&K players for their future endeavours.

About 500 persons including 247, players, Coaches, Managers, Arbiters, Live game operators and other officials from 26 states participated in this event. In total, 11 rounds played under Swiss system.

Among those prominent present in the closing function included Dr. AS Bhatia (HOD Bio Sciences GMC Jammu), Raj Kumar (Chief Prosecution Officer), Baldev Raj and

Kuljeet Jamwal (Vice Presidents AJKCA), Ajit Singh, Ranjeet Singh, Arvindu (members districts association) and Advocate Himani Kohli.

Earlier, the event was declared open by Secretary J&K Sports Council (JKSC), Nuzhat Gul, who

encouraged the participants and the organisers for bringing big events of National repute to J&K. Digvijay Singh Samkaria, owner of Kangra Fort, the venue of the event, personally monitored the arrangements thus boosted the organising team.

Players highly appreciated the beautiful venue and warm hospitality of GMC Jammu. Top 10 Games Jammu. Be telecasted live

worldwide with the support of DGT Boards which are used first time in J&K. Top expert K Moorthy from Tamil Nadu Live covered the games. The Chess Base India team covered the event for online platforms for six days.

Atul Kumar Gupta President All J and K chess association was chairman of organizing committee. It is the 18th big event organized by Atul Kumar Gupta in J&K.

Dr Vipresh Bhardwaj, International Arbiter from Chandigarh was Chief Arbiter of this event, who was assisted by a team of 10 other Arbiters and 25 support staff including Deputy Chief Arbiter, Salim Beig from Karnataka.

GGHSS Canal Road accords farewell to Avtar Singh



GGHSS Canal Road faculty accordinng farewell to Avtar Singh.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal and staff of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Canal Road, here accorded farewell to Avtar Singh, Lecturer in Mathematics on attaining the age of superannuation. Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the School, Parveen Raina wished healthy post retirement life to Avtar Singh. Earlier, expressing his gratitude to the staff for the support and affection during his 37 years of service in the Department of School Education, Avtar Singh spoke in length about his experiences during all these years of his working as a teacher.

Abhinav excels on opening day of Udhampur, Reasi Climbing meet

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Abhinav Sharma of National Academy High School, Udhampur bagged the first Gold in the Sub Junior Boys category of the Udhampur and Reasi District Sport Climbing competitions which started today at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantulab, here under the banner of Mountaineering Association of J&K (MAJK).

The Silver and Bronze medals went to Shivam Mahajan and Saksham Singh respectively of the same school. Similarly, in Sub Junior Boys group of Reasi District there was a good competition among Surjeet Singh, Vansh Sharma and Atul Verma of Amba Kids Home, Panthal, Katra wherein Surjeet Singh emerged victorious. Atul and Vansh Sharma clinched the Silver and Bronze medal respectively.

Meanwhile, final rounds in the Junior categories of both Udhampur and Reasi districts were in progress when last reports filed. However, competitions in the Men and Women categories of both the districts could not be held for lack of adequate participation.

However, the senior climbers are fully involved in the conduct of the competition in various capacities to make it a grand success.

Earlier, the championship in which about 130 climbers are participating was declared open by Ashwani Sharma, ex-Legislator and patron of Tawi Trekkers J& K in the presence of



Climbers posing for a photograph with MAJK officials and other dignitaries.

Shawetica Khajuria (general secretary); Ram Khajuria (senior vice president) and Sumit Khajuria (vice president) of MAJK; Rahul Sharma, Chairman and Seema Sharma, Director of Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantulab, Jammu; Principal of Apple Kids International Pre-School, Arti Sharma; Principal of Amba Kids Home, Panthal, Ashwani Katoch, Administrator of National Academy High School, Udhampur, Anukampa Sharma and Joginder Sharma, ex-financial advisor were among prominent present in the competition.

Chief Guest lauded the role of MAJK in promoting sport climbing in J&K despite infrastructure constraints. Both

the championships are being organized by MAJK and sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Other Results:

REASI: Mini Boys: Hari Vansh, 1st; Ankul Sharma, 2nd and Harvansh, 3rd. Mini Girls: Sukanya, 1st; Simran, 2nd and Janvi, 3rd. Sub Junior Girls: Vanshika, 1st; Avantika Thakur, 2nd and Ariti Parikh, 3rd.

Udhampur: Mini Girls: Peehu Sharma, 1st; Sunaina Sharma, 2nd and Anurag Sharma, 3rd.

Mini Boys: Aarav Khajuria, 1st; Karmanya Sharma, 2nd and Anurag Sharma, 3rd.

Sub Junior Girls: Dhriti, 1st; Samriti, 2nd and Aditi, 3rd.

Hockey team leaves for Junior Nationals

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Hockey team on Sunday left for participation in the 12th Hockey India Sub Junior (Men) National Hockey Championship at Goa from May 4 to 15, 2022.

The fencers namely Vishal Thapar, Javed Ahmed Choudhary, Mayank Sharma and Shreya Gupta are going to participate in upcoming Senior Fencing Sabre World Cup. The Men World Cup shall be held at Spain from May 6 to 8, 2022.

Shreya Gupta, the lone women qualifier, shall be participating in the Women World Cup being held at Tunisia, North Africa from



Later, J&K Sports Council conducted screening of the team in the experts under Divisional Sports Officer Jammu, Ashok Singh Jamwal, President Hockey J& K, Rajeev Sharma and General Secretary, Dr. Taran Singh and the parents of players were present during the send off at Jammu Railway Station.