Reflections on vision, mission & social commitment at 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 as a trendsetter, a model of excellence imparting 21st century holistic education to children on its rolls.

With the start of the session 2022-23, JKPS Kunjwani introduced 18 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 JKiian?

RR: An ideal JKiian is the one, who can always be spotted in a group, who has a distinctive flavour to his/her personality; has a 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-today 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!

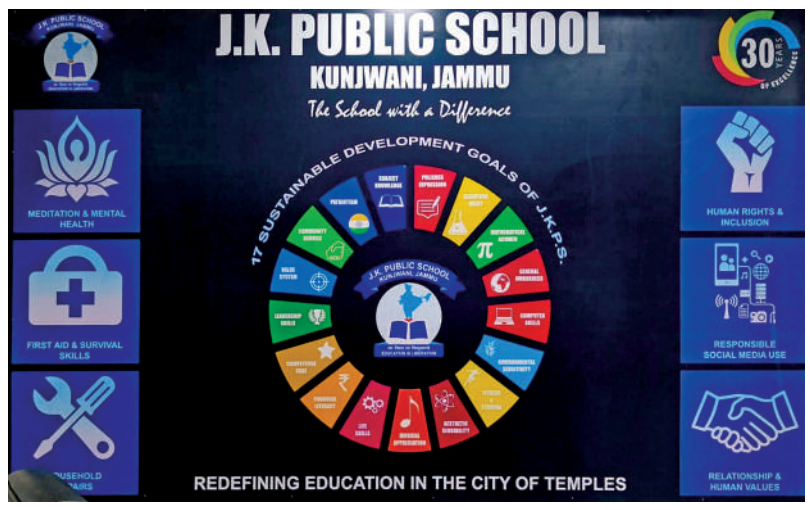
JJ: Which features of the Institution do you admire the most?

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 a vast expanse giving ample space for all the sports activities, like, Football, Cricket, Volley-ball, Basketball, Mini Olympic-size Swimming pool, Skating rink, Cricket practice nets, Badminton court, Squash courts, Tennis court, and indoor games, like, Judo, Karate, Taekwando, 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



JJ: 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 practioner, 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.

JJ: 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: 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 life-long 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: 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 approch. I wish you a very bright future. Good luck!

Indian Hawks Club Skaters sparkle at Jodhpur Ranking Tourney by bagging 24 medals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Skaters who train with Indian Hawks Roller Skating Club (IHRSC) gave astounding performance in third ranking roller skating championship 2022 organised by Roller Skating Federation of India (RSFI) at Jodhpur in Rajasthan by winning whopping 24 medals including 10 gold, 12 silver and two bronze medals for J&K and JKRSA adding sparkle to Club's name.

Members of Indian Hawks club after winning medals.

The IHRSC skaters including Viraaj Gandotra (Quad under 11 years) bagged two silver medals, Tamanna Saini (Quad under 14 years) bagged two gold medals and one silver, Prageet Kour (Quad under 14 years) bagged 1 gold and 2 silver medals, Puneesh Puri (Quad under 14 years) bagged 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze medal, Samarjot Singh (Quad under 17 years) clinched three gold medals, Udhay Narayan (Quad under 17 years) won 1 gold 2 silver medals, Kartikeya Puri (Quad above 17 years) fetched two golds and one silver medal, Surya Bhaskar (Quad above 17 years) won 1 silver 1 bronze medal and Vanshaj Sharma (Inline above 17 years) bagged 2 silver medals. The impressive performance by the Indian Hawks Club skaters won the hearts of skating lovers as the contingent of J&K has become one of the top favourites among the spectators which came from across the country in the Blue City-Jodhpur.

On their return, Chief Patron IHRSC Ashok Gandotra Chief Engineer (retd) gave the medalist skaters a rousing reception as none of the contingent member 0f the club came back without a medal. While applauding the stunning performance of the IHRSC skaters, Ashok Gandotra said that there is no shortcut to success and therefore the club members should continue to invest their time and concentration in the game to reach the pinnacle and bring laurels for the UT of J&K, IHRSC and their proud parents because there is no alternative to hard work. He also congratulated Jammu and Kashmir Roller Skating Association and President JKRSA GS Khurmi for all the motivation and support to all the skaters of J&K. He also appreciated the mentor of the Club's team- Arjun Gandotra, who despite his busy schedule is providing state of the art training to the skaters in whatever time he is sparing.

Interacting with the medalists, management of IHRSC said that albeit the performance was good but there is a lot more scope to improve and enhance the capability of skaters as they will face cut throat competition in the ensuing national championship scheduled to be held in Bengaluru in December this year. He asked the skaters to toil hard and give their 100 percent in the upcoming events to prove their mettle in a more effective manner.

KNIT celebrates Hindi Diwas

Students and faculty of KNIT during Hindi Diwas celebrations.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A colourful programme was organized in the Kotwal National Institute of Teaching (KNIT) to commemorate the Hindi Diwas.

Students from Classes 9th & 10th delivered speeches highlighting the importance of speaking in Hindi language.

Poems in Hindi were recited and Dohas of Kabir ji were sung enthusiastically.

Prof. J.L Kotwal, Director KNIT, made the students aware of their culture and heritage throwing light on the significance of using Hindi language more in their daily conversation. Principal Bimla Blawria also reiterated the value of our mother tongue.

DPS Udhampur holds Inter-house Kabaddi competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Boys Inter-House Kabaddi Competition was organized at Delhi Public School (DPS) Udhampur for the students of classes IX to XII. Boys of all the four houses played efficiently.

Winner team receiving trophy from a dignitary.

Pro Vice Chairman of the School, Dr. J.C Gupta spoke about the importance of sports in overall development of mind and body. He congratulated the kids for a wonderful match.

Managing Director of the School, Vivek Gupta and Director Academics of the School Sucheta Gupta appreciated the teams and coaches.

Principal, Dr. Kunal Anand encouraged the students to participate in all the upcoming events as much as possible as winning and losing is not important, participation is important.

The winner trophy was bestowed on Yajurveda House by school principal to the house caption Rohinish Sharma along with all team mates. Sahil Sharma the coach was appreciated. Pankaj Sharma was the score keeper and Rohit was the overall incharge of the game.

ASN School conducts Guru Bandana Chhatra Abhinandan programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Management of ASN Higher Secondary School, Channi Himmat, Jammu in collaboration with Bharat Vikas Parishad, Shivalik Branch, Channi Himmat on Thursday conducted Guru Bandana Chhatra Abhinandan Programme to enhance the student-teacher relation in order to improve the education system and to inculcate moral values amongst the students.

A student seeking blessings of a teacher during Guru Bandana Chhatra Abhinandan programme.

The function started with lighting of traditional lamp, garlanding of mother India followed by "Vande-Matram".

Ritesh Kapoor, Administrator of the School highlighted the importance of such programmes inside the school.

"Everybody is moving away from his social responsibilities and not only adopting the western culture but also forgetting our own cultural heritage," he said.

H.C Vaid, President Shivalik Branch, Bharat Vikas Parishad present the importance of Guru Vandana as per Gurukuls in the history and gave the symbolic representations of the same.

He said celebrating Teachers day in the schools is basically to show the real contribution of teachers in making the life and future of the students. Various resource persons who spoke on the occasion include Ashok Gupta, Vice President State, Trishula Gupta, Anju Bansal, Abhnandan Jain-Secretary Shivalik Branch and Ashok Khajuria-Treasurer Shivalik Branch.

Various students were also awarded for their outstanding performance in the school during the programme by members of Bhrat Vikas Parishad. Mohd Umar & Sakshi Sharma of 12th Class, Mohd Sameer Khan & Muksita MAnzoor of 11th Class, Zeeshan Talib & Sakshi of 10th Class, Tanish & Akashdeep Singh of 9th Class, Neha & Pranjay Singh of of 8th Class, Sumeera Sakeena & Anshuman Singh of 7th Class, Sharooz Bano & Aditya Malhotra of 6th Class. The programme closed with National anthem followed by the vote of thanks presented by the Bhupinder Kour-Senior Teacher of the School while the programme proceedings were conducted by Ravneet Kour.

GCoE Jammu organises cultural programme to commemorate Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government College of Education (GCoE), Canal Road, Jammu organised a cultural programme for awareness to commemorate Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan J&K in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

Participants and faculty members after the event.

The programme was organised under the efforts and initiatives of Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL. Bharat Singh has been taking appreciative initiatives to organise such programs under the Nasha Mukti Abhiyan J&K.

The programme was honoured with the presence of dignitaries including Prof. Aekta Gupta, principal GCoE, Dr. Sanjeev Rana, Additional Secretary JKAACL, Dr. Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, Cultural Officer and Prof. Shalini Rana, Convenor, Cultural Club.

Roshan Lal, Principal (DIET) and staff from DIET Jammu also graced the event.

Students from B.Ed Sem 2 and 4 presented a remarkable skit to display how drugs affect the youth.

Students from Education Department gave remarkable performances to raise awareness against drug abuse. Performances by professional singers and theatre artists were given.

On the occasion, Sanjeev Rana emphasised the importance of creating awareness about this sensitive topic through such programmes.

In her welcome address, Prof. Aekta Gupta lauded the efforts of Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL and appreciated the commendable work he is doing for the JKAACL.

She also threw light on how such programs impact the new generation to keep track and stay away from drugs and addiction.

Prof. Shalini Rana, Convenor, Cultural Club reiterated the importance of awareness among youth about such issues.

Prof Anju Bala, Dr Jyoti Parihar, Dr Rajinder Kour, Prof Radhika Mahajan, members of advisory board graced the event with their presence.

Prof Rubina Yasmin, Prof. Mansi Sharma, Prof Sunita Devi, Dr Tahira Shah, Prof Shapia Shameen were also present.

Participants including Aakriti, Tamana Diksha, Chitvi, Mukeet, Ashia, Priya, Shriya Monali, Riya and others coordinated the event.

Jodhamal excels in National Roller Skating Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pearl Suri of class 5th and Ranveer Singh Shan of class 9th of Jodhamal Public School bought laurels to the school by winning three gold medals and one bronze medal in All India 3rd Ranking National Level Roller Skating Championship held at Jodhpur, Rajasthan recently.

Winner students along with faculty members of Jodhamal Public School.

Ranveer Singh clinched two golds in 1 lap and 1000 mtr races along a cash prize of Rs 6000 and Pearl Suri clinched one gold and one bronze in 1 lap and 100 mtr.

School Principal, Dr. Deep Khare appreciated the students for their efforts and motivated the students to continue excelling in the same spirit.

He also applauded the skating coach Kamal Anand and Ritesh Jamwal for their support and training to the students.