



OPEN MINDS
A BIRLA SCHOOL
KANKARBAGH



NEWSLETTER

April 2025



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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter for the session 2025-26. As we embark on this new journey, the OMK fraternity solemnly pays tribute to the innocent lives lost to cross-border terrorism. We stand united in solidarity with our nation, reaffirming our commitment to peace and humanity.

This month marks a poignant moment for us, as we remember our revered patron, Sri Ram Layak Singh Ji, who has ascended to his heavenly abode. His legacy continues to inspire us, and we honour his invaluable contributions to the growth and vision of our organisation.

Drawing wisdom from the timeless teachings of the **Bhagavad Gita**, we have chosen the annual theme for this session: **न दैव्यं न पलायनम् – Embracing Challenges with Absolute Confidence**.

Each of us is an Arjuna, standing at the crossroads of our own battles. Life's battlefield demands courage, not retreat, for to shy away is to let purpose slip through our fingers. Whether we face ignorance, laziness, anxiety, or anger—our inner Duryodhanas—these adversaries will overpower us unless we rise to confront them. Together, let us pledge to combat these inner evils with unwavering resolve and strength.

In today's world, the erosion of values poses one of the gravest challenges to society. The unfiltered content on social media threatens to derail the thoughts and aspirations of our youth. To counter this, we have initiated the **Sanskar Varg**, a transformative programme aimed at instilling respect for life, gratitude for God's blessings, and a sense of responsibility towards our surroundings. Through this initiative, we aspire to nurture individuals who embody compassion, integrity, and purpose.

Our teaching methodology, **Teach → Interact → Learn → Write**, emphasises experiential learning over rote memorisation. By eliminating diary notes and embracing technology, we aim to maximise classroom engagement and foster a dynamic learning environment.

Let us march forward with confidence, embracing challenges and striving for excellence in all that we do.

Warm regards,

A. Awasthi

Dear Reader,

Someone has said, "Every morning's dew is a fresh breath of a new beginning", and we cannot just go back in time to start afresh, but we can start from now and make a brand new ending.

We have made a fresh beginning in this month of April, and are moving towards painting a great future on the canvas of time. I know it's a humbling experience to start fresh, it also takes a lot of courage, but it is nothing less than invigorating.

We commenced the new session on 1st of April, and almost one month has passed since then. The journey is now set on a charted route. We are almost at the end of Pre-Mid Term. Time flies so fast, doesn't it? With a bit of relief emanated from overcoming the initial hiccups we have astutely overcome, we can sing with Robert Browning,

"The year's at the spring,

The lark's on the wing;

God's in His heaven,

All's right with the world!"

Now it's time to look ahead and be ready for the tasks on the anvil of time. And the foremost one is the Pre-Mid Term exams that are beginning in the first week of May. All the effort we have put in, both as the teachers and the students, is to be tested on this touchstone, but an aircraft rises against the wind, and the strongest trees grow where the storms rage the hardest. Therefore, before we go on a long summer break, it's imperative for us to work diligently and cross all those milestones on the way to the great goal of character making. The future is beaconing to us.

This month's letter is a witness to all you and we have done and achieved collectively. Wish you a great reading!

Yours truly,
Rajeev Nayan



Rajeev Nayan
Editor

SCHOOL REOPENS



After the refreshing pause of the session break, the school corridors have once again come alive with the sounds of laughter, footsteps, and endless stories waiting to be shared. From the buzzing classrooms to the vibrant notice boards, every corner of the campus reflects the joy of reunion and the promise of progress. Students, with their renewed energy and fresh resolutions, stepped in with hopeful smiles, ready to embrace the upcoming academic journey. Teachers, with their ever inspiring presence, welcomed them with warmth and wisdom, setting the tone for another enriching year of growth and learning. The reopening wasn't just a return — it was a celebration. From the orientation for students to the reconnecting of old friends, every moment was a reminder of how school is not just a place, but a feeling — a second home where dreams are nurtured and characters are shaped. As we turn the page to a brand-new chapter, let's walk ahead with enthusiasm, responsibility, and the excitement to make this year truly unforgettable.

The only way to start is to stop discussing and start doing it.

QR CODES ON THE CARDS OF THE STUDENTS

Every newcomer to our OMK family is precious. Their induction in our group adds to its variety and capability. The student members when they come lend a special charm to our being. They deserve minute care and welcome from our end.

This month, the newcomers were duly distributed worksheets for the Pre-midterm in all the subjects till grade 8. Worksheets are important as they provide much needed practice to the students in all the topics to be covered in every term.

Tracking the movement and presence of students while in the school campus is of paramount importance for their safety and well-being. To make the process objective the students receive QR Scanning cards which help the school keep a record of their whereabouts in the premises. Their commute to school and home can also be tracked as they are scanned while boarding the buses. It's a kind of registering their attendance in the bus itself the moment they get on. The entire process makes it easy for both parents and the school side to keep an eye on their attendance as well as presence. A few visuals...



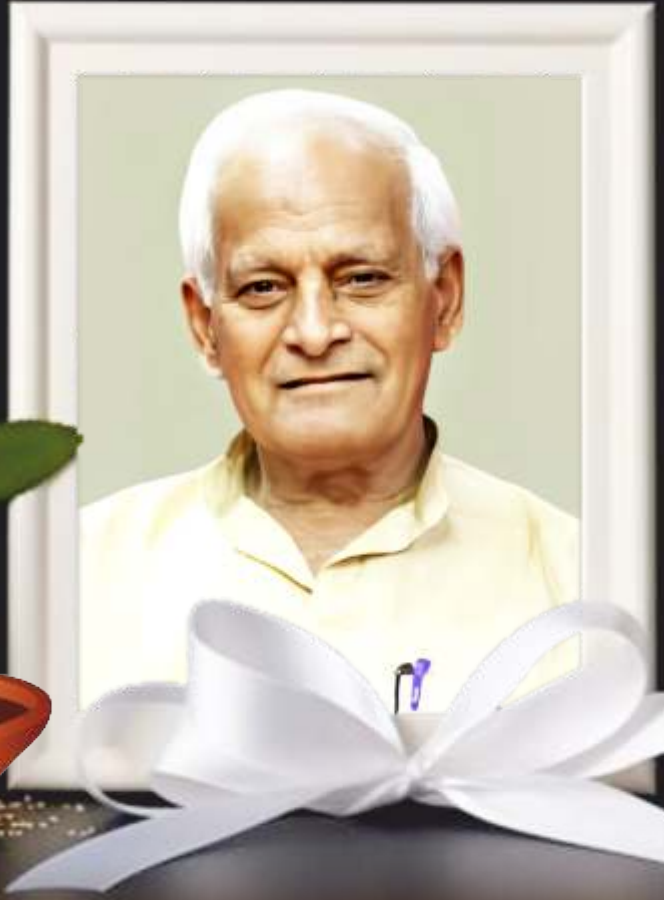
Honouring the Life of a Bright Soul...

An Epitome of Eternal Grace

A TRIBUTE TO OUR PATRON

Shri Ram Layak Singh

06.12.1939 - 10.04.2024



नैनं छिदन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः।
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः॥

Remembering Our Patron

In the presence of twilight's tender glow, the students of Class 10 Omicron conducted a special assembly to pay homage to our beloved patron, Shri Ram Layak Singh Ji. It was more than just an event—it was a heartfelt expression of gratitude towards the person who laid the foundation of our institution with unwavering dedication and vision. The program commenced with a soulful prayer followed by a serene lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the eternal light of wisdom that Shri Ram Layak Singh ignited in countless lives. Through melodious songs and thoughtful speech, students showcased the life, values, and vision of our patron—a man whose ideals continue to inspire generations. Teachers and students paid a floral tribute creating an atmosphere of respect and love.

This special assembly served as a gentle reminder to all—of the path paved by our beloved patron and the responsibility we carry to walk it with purpose. His light continues to guide, and his spirit lives on in every corner of our school.



Paying Homage to Our Patron

10 April marks as an important day in the annals of OMK. We assemble on this day to pay a rich and heart-felt tribute to our Patron – Late Shri Ram Layak Singh Ji – whose silent inspiration works in the hearts of all those who have dedicated themselves to the good cause of this institution. Some people love to be in the background and motivate generations to do something significant in the interest of the society. They are the foundation stones on which rests the grand edifice of excellence.

The students of Grade X, across all sections got together with their mentors to pay homage to the heavenly soul. Hymns, recitations and shlokas filled the atmosphere with a sacred solemnness. Grade X Omicron led the programme in an excellent way.



To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.



Those we love don't go away, they sit beside us every day.

Assemblies



Assembling for a Good Cause

In schools, mornings open up with assemblies. It's like starting the day with a prayer. The students and their teachers gather together with a pure intention to share knowledge with each other, at the same time the students get a good platform to hone their presentation skills.

Assemblies at OMK, include a plethora of activities. From selecting a theme and preparing the slides to be displayed in the background to presenting carefully prepared and rehearsed roles in front of the camera and audience helps them not only overcome their coyness but it also fills them with a rare confidence to face people on their own. They become so comfortable being on the dais that it seems to have become their second home. They are an everyday affair here. Let's have a glance at a few assembly visuals...



"The only way to do great work is to love what you do." – Steve Jobs



“Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.”
– Christian D. Larson



"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." – Confucius



"A goal without a plan is just a wish." – Antoine de Saint-Exupery



"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." – Nelson Mandela



"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going." – Sam Levenson

Fire Drill for Safety



Fire forms an important part of our existence. It is one of those elements that supports life on earth. It is good till it is under our control. An uncontrolled fire can wreak havoc around with its engulfing flames and tremendous heat.

Breaking out of fire always finds a place in newspapers and other media outlets. It may happen either because of human error or reasons beyond our control. Therefore, it is important to learn ways to keep oneself and people around one safe by observing certain techniques. As this month we are observing 'Fire Safety Week', the officials from the Fire Safety department visit schools and colleges to acquaint the students with proper measures of safety in case of any fire incident. This week, a few officials came visiting our campus and mock Fire Drills were organized to familiarize the students with the measures. The focus was how to douse the fire keeping oneself safe. The officials organised the demo in which the students participated with enthusiasm. Have a look...



"Safety isn't expensive, its priceless." - Jerry Smith



"Safety First" is "Safety Always." - Charles Melville Hays



"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." - Benjamin Franklin



Earth is the most important part of our existence in this solar system. It's our mother. It nourishes us with all its nutrients and sweet water. In its lap, we have developed as the most advanced civilization. Its air we breathe, its resources we use to forge ahead in every direction.



On 22nd April, 2025, we assembled in Maa Sharda auditorium to pay our tributes to this beloved mother of ours. We also reflected upon how irresponsibly we have treated and exploited it. The water we drink, the air we inhale and the soil we walk on has been polluted because of our reckless acts.

We also contemplated on the ways to come out of this rut and restore the earth to its glorious position. The students touched upon many important aspects of this issue with seriousness beyond their years.



“Earth breathes in us.” — Matthew Edward Hall



“Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky.” — Khalil Gibran



“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” —Albert Einstein

GOOD TOUCH BAD TOUCH SESSION

It's important to educate little children about kinds of touch they receive from different individuals. Children are naive about it. It's our responsibility to train... on how to differentiate between good and bad touches.

Keeping the seriousness of the issue, every year our SENCO organises a formal session to give them some idea about the nature of touches. The children were sensitised regarding the matter and given clues to differentiate between the good and the bad touches. They were also told about the measures they should take to remain safe in such instances. A glimpse through some images...





“The most important thing that parents can teach their children is how to get along without them.” - Frank A. Clark

Various Clubs Activities



It's Club Time at OMK

Education is not only limited to academics, its boundaries touch extra-curricular activities too to ensure all round development of the child. Clubs play a good role in identifying and honing the special talents every child possesses. They teach them sing, dance, paint, speak and know himself or herself better.

At OMK, we offer four clubs titled 'Samvid (for Spell Bee and Quiz Contests), 'Samvad' (for Anchoring, Elocution and Debate), Srijan (for Dance and Music), and Samarthya (for Aerobics, PT and Yoga).

Twice a week the members of the respective clubs sit for two consecutive periods to practice their chosen skills and attain mastery over it. Skilled mentors help them out in identifying their strengths and weaknesses and expose them to various nuances of the art they are practising.



"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." – Franklin D. Roosevelt



"Difficulties in your activities are not roadblocks, but opportunities for growth."



“Embrace the challenges and use them as stepping stones towards success.”



"Believe in yourself and your abilities to overcome any obstacle that comes your way."



"Every challenge you overcome in your activities makes you stronger and more resilient."



"Don't be afraid to ask for help when facing challenges. It is a sign of strength, not weakness."

Tradition of Quizzing has been very old. As a term referring test of knowledge, it first appeared in print in 1867. It stood for a set of questions meant to test somebody's academic knowledge. Since then, it has covered a lot of ground, and today it has acquired a cult status throughout the world.

The person presenting the questions to the participants in the contest is called a quiz master, and the participants responding correctly are given points against them. At the end after the decided rounds, the one who scores the biggest, stands the winner.

Open Minds has a long history of organizing quiz contests. Mostly it has been done in the form of club activities. This year too, as a part of the Pre-midterm club sessions, quiz sessions were organized which culminated in the form of a presentation on the stage. Four teams of students participated enthusiastically taking each question with confidence and elan. It was a fantastic show of knowledge, preparation and curiosity.



"Every quiz is a chance to learn, but more so, a chance to grow."



"Challenge your limits with each quiz, not your fear."



"In the world of quizzes, knowledge is the real trophy."



Debating for Truth

Debates are good means to explore the truth in any regard. It is a wonderful way of looking at various aspects of a topic or proposition. We investigate its pros and cons and try to get into its every angle. It is a must to analyse all angles to understand the truth in totality. Therefore, debates become necessary and they are also extremely popular in academic institutions.

In Open Minds - A Birla School, Kankarbagh, Debate clubs have always been the chief attraction among all activities. It is pleasant to see the students speaking for the motion or in opposition. Expert faculties do guide them in the rubrics of the debate.

After 3 weeks of intense practice, the students presented on the given topics in the auditorium in front of a jury member. They were marked against the set criteria. It was good to behold them speak. Have a few glimpses...





**"It is not he who gains the exact point in dispute who scores most in controversy -
but he who has shown the better temper." - Samuel Butler**

Spell it Right



Spell Bee contests are popular among school students, for they help them expand their vocabulary, enrich their expressions and equip them with the ability to communicate more effectively with people.

Children are provided with a set of words apt to their grades or age-groups, and they have to learn the words with their spelling. In the contests following, they are expected to write the words with their correct spelling.

This month under club activities, Spell Bee contests were held for various grades, the children participated with a lot of enthusiasm and showed they are gradually turning into a pro. I hope a few glimpses will be enough to delight you.



Science Lab Activities



"Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life." - Immanuel Kant

Painting Competition

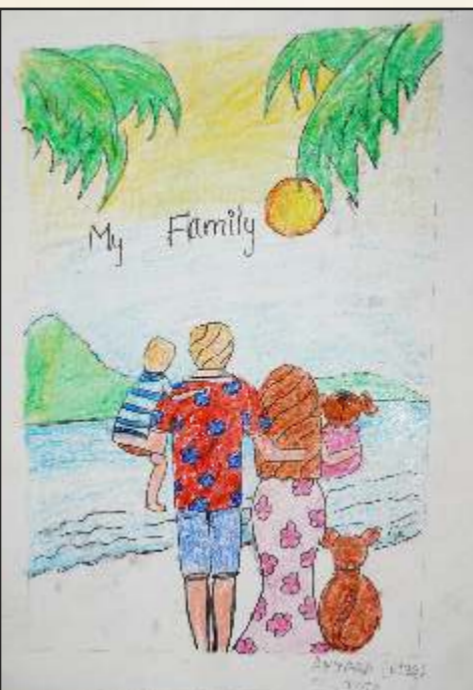


"Painting is the exquisite art of capturing the world's vibrant essence and translating it onto a canvas with graceful expression."

Painting is not merely a blend of colours; rather, it is essentially a plethora of emotions bound together and poured onto paper in the form of colours. This is a majestic skill that requires immense effort to strengthen imagination, understand emotions, and pour them onto paper in the form of colours.

Open Minds - A Birla School, Kankarbagh is trying its best to inculcate this elegant skill into its students through Painting Competitions enriched with a multitude of inquisitive topics. This competition ensures their skills are being recognised and their efforts have the power to develop themselves into successful human beings.

This competition not only serves as a testament to the students' potential but also assists them in expanding their thinking capacity and reaching the pinnacle of success.



"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." – Pablo Picasso



"Creativity takes courage" – Henri Matisse



"I dream my painting and then I paint my dream." – Vincent Willem van Gogh



"Every artist was once an amateur." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Career Counselling Session

"Within every soul lies a unique spark — waiting to be discovered, nurtured!"

Students instil a colossal amount of information in their brain during their learning years but the major problem occurs when they step ahead in their lives and decide their career. It is at this crossroad that the need for career counselling gracefully emerges and begins to aglow. It is indeed an indispensable assistance provided to students which is at times looked with a negative perspective highlighting the inability of students to decide their career.

Open Minds has paid a significant attention to this urgent need and hence it facilitates its students with specialised career

counselling sessions.

Essentially, choosing a right career becomes the ultimate goal of life and a wrong decision can annihilate the entire dedication of a student. Fundamentally, career is just a part of life, it has no authority to decide the way of living of a human being and one should not jeopardise their passion and devotion to a particular skill in choosing a career.

Beyond the slightest whisper of doubt, a person equipped with sustainable skills and a positive outlook is more likely to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life than someone who simply follows a stable career path without passion.

After all, it cannot truly be called a "career" if it fails to bring happiness and inner peace. A career should not only provide stability but also ignite joy and purpose.

With this belief at its core, Open Minds has dedicated its sincerest efforts to guiding its shining stars toward discovering the right path in life — one that empowers their strengths, passions, and aspirations — through thoughtful and evoking career counselling.



"Struggle if you want your tomorrow to be better."

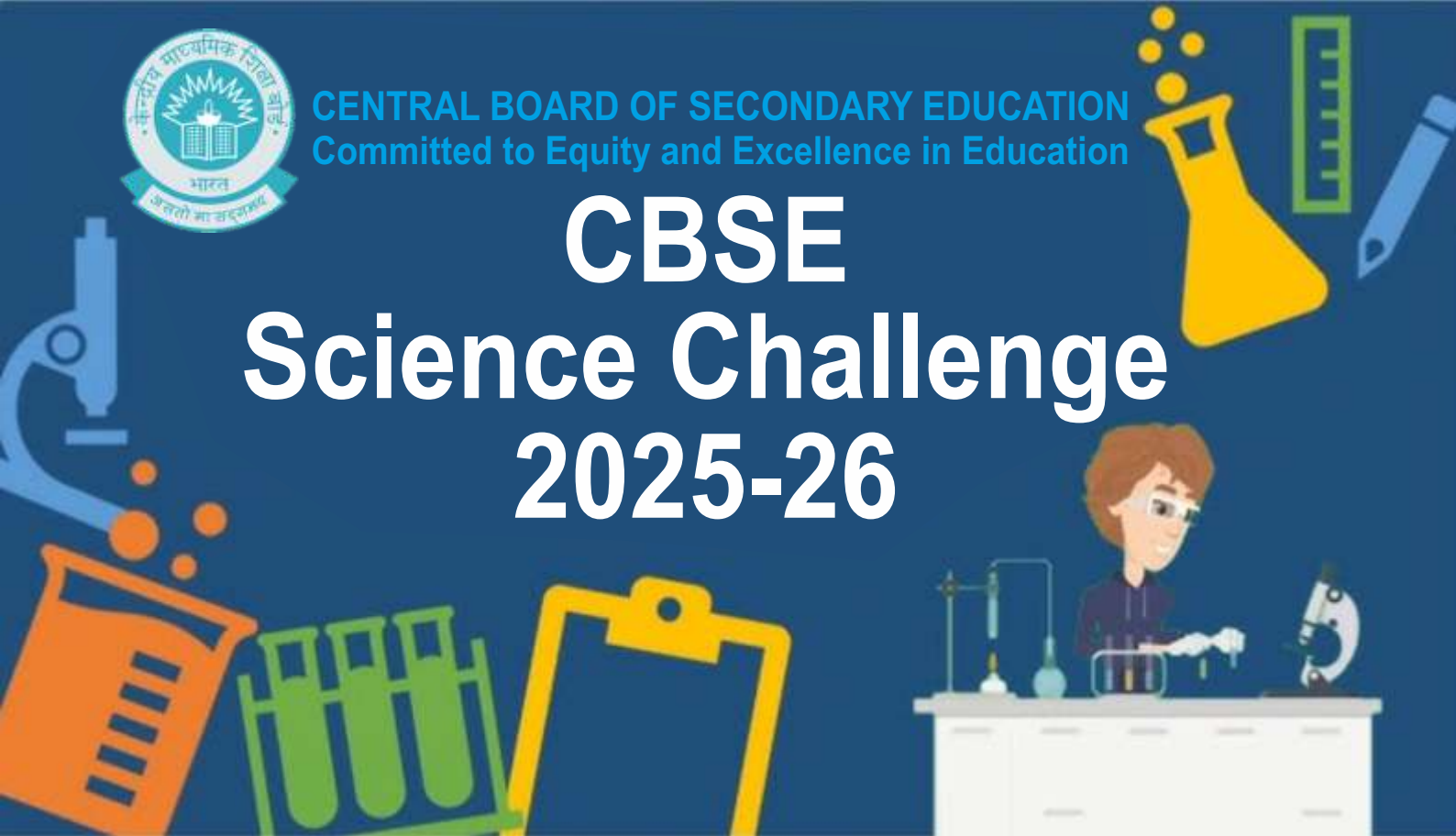


"You need to overcome many things to get a secure future."



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"An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field." — Niels Bohr



Exceptional Performers of the Month

April 2025

We are delighted to announce our "Exceptional Performers of the Month" for their outstanding contributions to student learning and development!



Ms. Smita Bharti

Recognized for her outstanding contribution to the holistic development of students



Ms. Shree Nandini

Appreciated for her efficient implementation of the school's teaching methodology



Mr. Sudhir Tiwari

Appreciated for being the strong pillar of strength during the challenging times



Mr. Amit Priyadarshi

Appreciated for his efficient implementation of the school's teaching methodology



Ms. Tulsi Kumari

Commended for achieving 100% target in the assigned task, showcasing her dedication and commitment

Congratulations to all our awardees! Your dedication and hard work have made a significant impact on our students and school community.

