

On a Trail.....

Connecting with Former Gyanodayans

Gyanodaya has, in its long history spanning over three decades, produced many school graduates. As we were working on the format, scope and dimension of this Annual, our thoughts rushed back to the former Gyanodayans. "Where they are? What would they have to say?" and so on. While the bond between them and the School has always remained strong, time seemed to have nevertheless weakened the link connecting them. The publication of this Annual, it was felt, would be a good occasion to reenergize that fading link. So we started **on a trail**..... 'rewiring' our connection to 'hook' them on the line. Much as we wanted

to connect with all of them, we could but only with a few; the weak link obviously posing a big challenge to our undertaking. We would, however, like all those whom we could not get in touch now to know that the School has not forgotten about them. We would certainly in time come back to you all. And with those whom we could link, we asked if they could share their memories at Gyanodaya for the School Annual. It was heartening to note that they were, as true Gyanodayans, enthusiastic in spirit, gracious in manner and generous with their time. We thank them all. And **here they are** and this is **what they had to say**:



Usha Ghiraiya
Class of 1989

The lifetime learning begins from our early childhood. Education learnt at School is the foundation of our successful life. And Gyanodaya Bal Batika School gave that foundation to me personally where I spent ten years, from Grade I to X, comprising the most sensitive period in the life of any child. Teachers' personal attention and encouragement there helped me grow not only in academics but as a complete human being. And the Principal, a dynamic and strict personality with a warm smile, was always there with her support, advice and guidance. I take this opportunity to thank all at Gyanodaya for everything.

(Dr. Ghiraiya is a Dental Surgeon & Consultant Endodontist, Reader & Head of Department, People's Dental College & Hospital.)



Kabita Pokhrel
Class of 1996
Class of 1998
(10+2)

Everyone needs a strong base of education and discipline. I now feel proud to be a Gyanodayan. It was, of course, boring and irritating to grow up in a strict and disciplined environment. But today when I look back to those days I am very grateful to all my teachers as well as to Gyanodaya family members. The discipline there, be it in academic work or dressing and speaking, or health and hygiene, sports or any behavioural aspect, has been a good foundation in my life for my overall development. I have many good memories of Gyanodaya which I cannot describe in a few words. My friends and juniors called me 'Chuchhi' as I was strict. One bad memory that stands out is standing out in the assembly ground holding ears throughout the lunch time for not speaking in English.

I recall all those scolding and punishment of our teachers as blessings now. If I were not blessed with those valuable insights then I could not have been a confident person as I consider myself now. I am an advocate today. I have to thank my parents and Gyanodaya family for their efforts that made me what I am capable of in serving my society and nation.

(Ms. Pokhrel was a Prefect at School & Captain at 10+2. She is an Advocate by profession and is currently working for an INGO, The Daywalka Foundation.)

The past is the cause of the present and the present will be the cause of the future. All these are links in the endless chain stretching from the finite to the infinite.

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Jasmine Shakya
Class of 1996

The focus for the future deems description of the past but there are recollections of the past which throws light on the struggle of the present. So even for the noun 'Dentist' that I carry today millions of yesterdays are responsible. Some of the most important yesterdays belong to my School, Gyanodaya Bal Batika. The quantity of time spent is always outweighed by the quality of time spent. So even for the few years in my School, the lessons I learnt and the moral I acquired are milestones for what I am today.

I wasn't an outstanding student; yet, my deed was noticed and I was encouraged to stand out in the crowd. I was just crawling then and under the shepherdess of my School I learnt to walk and today I walk with my head held high owing heartfelt gratitude to my School.

I am only a bud and millions more buds like me planted from this School are blooming into flowers and thus into a garden. We might wilt but my School, you cannot rest. You have to grow many more buds into beautiful flowers. I wish you all the best and thank you for your guidance all through.

(Dr. Shakya is Dental Surgeon at Kathmandu Dental Home.)



Prity Manandhar
Class of 1996

Opening the bottle of vintage years, memories bubble up and spill all around me. 'School Days', these words indeed bring back a landslide of memories all mixed with happiness, sadness, excitement, memories of achievement, a number of promises made – some kept and some broken.

The day since I joined Gyanodaya – the Morning Assemblies, Morning Lessons from the Principal over the stunning heat of the Sun, friendly nature of all the teachers, 'Donkey Stick' of Pyush Sir, the funny ways of punishing us by Roy Sir, the love and lesson that we got from Ram Lal Sir, the days when we participated in the 'Parents' Day Programme in 1994', every piece of bread and butter that I have shared with my friends – Jasmine and Kabita, punishments we used to get for not following the strict instructions of the School, the annual Class Picnic, the Inter-House Basketball Competition, the 'Gyan Carnivals', the musical programme given by 1974 A.D even before the band was formed and many other sweetest memories keep rolling in my mind which I would like to recall every now and then.

To all there in School I say, if you cannot be the best then at least be good.

(Currently an Executive in the, Choudhary Group, Sanepa.)



Binayak Dhungel
Class of 1997

Well! Let me start with the basics. To introduce myself, I am Dr. Binayak Dhungel. I completed my MBBS two years back. I started in Gyanodaya Bal Batika School about 22 years back. The road shown by my School then from LKG still remains with me – through my SLC in 2053 BS, two years at St. Xaviers for +2 , about five years of MBBS studies at Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Pokhara, and internship and residency of a year each at the Patan Hospital in Kathmandu.

My dear junior friends, I am not boasting here but it took 22 years of hard work for me to get a single title of two letters 'Dr.' in front of my name. The base started, of course, at Gyanodaya, where you all are now may be sitting in the same benches with the helping hands of the same teachers to guide you. The thumb's rule for success in any field is discipline, worship and hard work. Your School is there to show you the way just as it did to me. Follow it up with hard work and you will be my colleague one day. So take full advantage of the opportunity. Finally, 'however small we are, if we follow the right path we would be too big for success.' If you all need any suggestion and help, I am at your service. I can be contacted at binayakd@hotmail.com.

(Dr. Dhungel completed his internship & one year residency at Patan Hospital. He is currently engaged in studies leading to MD.)

To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe.
Anatole France



Malvika Subba
Class of 1997

It really touched me when I was asked to write something for the School Magazine. There is so much to write about but I shall be brief.

I joined Gyanodaya in Class 9 in 1995. Compared to where I was studying, GBBS was a huge leap for me. I came from a small school; when I joined GBBS it was pretty difficult for me to adjust for quite sometime. I had to keep up with a new environment, new place, new friends and new rules. GBBS is known for its discipline and it took sometime to adjust to the rules and regulations from plaiting my hair to wearing knee length skirts to everything.

As I look back now, I realize that there are many things I learnt when I was there. It toughened me up, made me a much more disciplined person and gave me really good teachers to learn under. There is Achala Ma'm; strict, an honest and frank teacher and the best in what she does. She was one of the few people who told me I should be in Miss Nepal back then. I never took it seriously, as I was then this bespectacled, lanky teenager without any self confidence. I was also a very shy and timid kid. But I always knew deep down that someday I would be a well known personality. As a school kid, every time I had to speak out in front of a large gathering my hands and legs used to shake. I find it funny now when I recall those moments, but its true.

How can I forget our Nepali teacher, Purushottam Sir? I used to love learning Nepali with him, and he taught me how to get my Nepali handwriting good. I have never had a good writing, not even now. But my Nepali handwriting then used to be really bad; under his supervision it was much more tolerable. I shall also never forget Raju Sir and Shyam Sunder Sir. These people have been very essential for me to get really good marks in Maths.

The best part about Gyanodaya was the extra activities. I took part in the Queen Aishwarya Spelling Contest, held in GAA under the supervision of Navin Sir. (Ah! Navin Sir, the handsome and most famous teacher that we had around). Even though we didn't win the spelling contest, it was a good experience. I was also the Vice Captain of Blue House when we were in Class 10. I also took part in the elocution contest and won first place. Being a good dancer, I also participated in various functions and in the school's annual celebration. I was also a part of the biggest play staged by GBBS, on Lord Buddha. I was one of the orators. The funniest part about this play was that we had a big script to read from, in one go. As I have weak eye, I couldn't read without my glasses and wearing them was a problem on the big day. So I bi-hearted the whole 2-3 pages and narrated them without looking at the script! How I wish I had joined Gyanodaya earlier as a small child so that I could have learnt more.

My best moments have been when I was preparing for my SLC; some 6-7 day scholar girls decided to stay in the hostel for 4 months to study and prepare. We had so much fun and so many fights with the hostel guys. It was a riot! I also remember being a part of the then 1974 AD concert in the school wing in 1996.

After I passed out from GBBS in the first division, I was quite sad. In fact we cried like anything. Sad but true, I am not in touch with any of my friends from GBBS even though I do bump into some of them now. I wish that we all had kept in touch from time to time. Most of them are married with kids and I am really happy for them.

To reach where I am now, my schooling experience helped me a lot. From being disciplined to respecting elders, to the competitive activities, and reading, I absorbed it all and implemented in being what I am today.

I am thankful to my teachers, my classmates and of course our Principal Ma'm, Indira Mua. She is a pillar of strength and an inspiration to all of us. May all Gyanodayans be the best and true citizens of Nepal.

(Ms. Subba was Miss Nepal in 2002. She is now a Media Personality, Producer & Presenter at Kantipur Television.)

Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of travelling.

Margaret Lee Runbeck



Tapas B. Thapa
Class of 1997

I still remember my first day there. I met the Principal – Indira Yakhumba with my parents in her office in the main building. She asked me what science book I had studied in seven and I did not know the name. It was rather embarrassing. The picture of that dark brown cover page with a yellowish box in the centre which showed an eclipse kept coming to my mind and hard as I tried to remember what name was above that old tattered book of mine, I just could not. I don't recall what preceded this but I had probably blurted out science as my favorite subject. I wanted to be a space traveler, see. A few more questions later and perhaps when all my answers failed to impress her, she turned to my parents and told them that I would have a hard time adjusting at Gyanodaya, so be prepared. Indeed, how true it turned out to be true for me.

There goes a saying, "Those who can't do, teach." I certainly do not subscribe to this view though I like saying "those who can't do or teach become reporters and that's what I am," In fact, the thought of being a teacher fascinates me. I would love to be a teacher. But I suppose I just don't have the nerve for the job and the responsibility that goes with it. A teacher's life is hard and pretty thankless as well.

We students are a bad lot. Just think of the numerous nicknames we give to our teachers, how we mimic their styles and make jokes about them. And how we feel victimized and robbed off of our prime time by the homework they give us. It all feels funny now; back then we resented school work. Oh, boy! do I feel bad or regret them now? No, not at all! Well! I suppose you never like the 'medicine' when you take it. But as our wise old folks say, "Things that are bitter are good for us." They may be medicine, scolding and criticism. What this probably means is that living an easy life and trying the easy way out won't get you too far ahead in life. I think the simple thing that a teacher can put into a person's mind is the ability to ask the right questions, be inquisitive and then show the person how to go about finding the answers and to work as hard as one can to get it. Although I don't have this ability, I must say that with regard to me, my teachers did a great job. Thank You!

Funny thing memory is. When you speak of those days at Gyanoadya, my memories would perhaps run into volumes. The pranks I played with my friends, sometimes deliberately wicked but all the time mischievous, like maneuvering unsuspecting Suman once, while returning home from classes, to ram in directly with an electric pole when he and others were too deeply engrossed in admiring the architectural beauty of a house on the road side or getting chewing gum stuck in Bibek's pant. There are many more, but let me call it enough. I can also recall so vividly some incidents in the Science Laboratory. One in particular was when crystallizing copper sulphate (CuSO_4) Achala Ma'm had briefly left us alone. When she returned, we had turned the whole lab into a gas house. What a lecture we received from her.

As for my teachers, I can still see Achala Ma'm scurrying from one class to another and her showing us how an amoeba feeds. That crooked smile she gives when she draws her hands in pretending to be a shapeless unicellular thing and then reaching her hand into the air to grab an imaginary food particle. I guess she still does that. Hey! I think I can actually remember a couple of proofs that the Earth is round and the reasons why Prithvi Narayan Shah chose Kathmandu as the capital in the same order that Ram Lal Sir taught us. Many other teachers like Rowe Sir, Shyam Sir, Raju Sir, Chintamani Sir are etched in my memory. I can still remember the difference between $(a+b)^2$ and a^2+b^2 , the different classes of lever, Newtons laws and all those stuff that I forgot during my exams.

I am beginning to think that those years between eight and ten was when everything gets stuck to you and that's the time when you become yourself as a person. What you learn during these days are all the basic things in work, in education and in life. Everything else that comes will need to fall back on what you have gained in these times. Cherish these times because going by my experience you will remember them the rest of your life; more than all the time that will follow. This is the time when you are made.

Let me take a leaf from Mister Micawber of the David Copperfield fame and leave you with one "word of wisdom". Trust me when I say that you can have all the qualities of the greatest genius and the capacity of hardest worker but the habit of procrastinating can pull you down. Remember, to take care of it on time and get rid of this thief. I have been meaning to do it for some time now. I think I'll get to doing it tomorrow... or one of these days.

(Mr. Barsimha Thapa is a journalist with the Kantipur Publications.)

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.

Scott Adams



Pratikshya Panday
Class of 2002

I am happy that Gyanodaya is bringing out a School magazine. It will surely give opportunity to students to come out with their ingenious creation. I would like to say that Gyanodaya has proved itself best not only in studies but also in extra-curricular matters. Publishing this type of magazine proves that Gyanodaya does not feed students only with stereo-type syllabus and information but also strives to discover inherent potentialities lying latent in every child.

I spent my ten productive years at Gyanodaya. Turning back to those beautiful memories, every moment spent at Gyanodaya is memorable to me. I really appreciate the love and kindness and support and advice that I received from all my teachers. I still remember the first day of my School in Class I when I was nervous and did not know what to do. There were friendly teachers, helpful staff and caring 'didis' who not only made me feel easy but I did not even realize when time flew by and ten years were gone. The knowledge gained and experiences at Gyanodaya cannot be described in words. I can never forget the morals I learnt and the help and cooperation I got from my teachers which helped me a lot in developing my personality. Thank you teachers; Thank you Gyanodaya!

(Ms. Panday is presently studying Medicine at KUMS, Dhulikhel.)



Prasun Pradhan
Class of 2003
Class of 2005
(10+2)

We go to school to enrich our knowledge. It is said that if a child has right guidance in the school, s/he could be a source of energy for proper social development of the country. A proper schooling with suitable family environment plays a vital role in enhancing our knowledge. Gyanodaya is one such School where you get not only education but also a good grounding in discipline and human values.

I studied in Gyanodaya for nine years. In fact, I did both my SLC and 10+2 from Gyanodaya. I have fond memories about Gyanodaya and my teachers. It is like a second home to me. Young minds in school are like clays which can easily be moulded in the same way a sculpture creates statues. That is what my respected teachers did with me at Gyanodaya and helped me to be what I am today. Their teachings have helped me to widen my knowledge, develop my leadership qualities and influence others at work place. Above all, I learnt there to respect other people and their opinions. Even today I am highly motivated by their words. Gyanodaya gave us the platform to develop our qualities and never failed to provide the support and resources needed for our growth. This is what makes Gyanodaya different from others. Out there in Gyanodaya, we have a strong bond with not only the teacher but with other staff and workers too. Every individual there have played their role so perfectly to make us grow into perfect person.

There has not been a single moment when I had to regret joining Gyanodaya. Every moment that I spent with my friends and teachers in class or during educational trips, holiday tours or picnics are precious memories for me. I enjoy recalling them even today. Through this writing I would like to thank all my teachers for the help, support and guidance they provided to me at Gyanodaya.

(Mr. Pradhan is an Engineer by profession. He is presently the President, Rotaract Club of Rajdhani for 2006-2007.)

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

Unknown



Bhavana Sijapati
2031-2032 B.S.

Miss rolled the ball, Bhavana cut her nose. Well! that is how my association began with Gyanodaya. My late grandfather, Ratna Mani Upadhaya, brought me to this institution in Falgun 2031 B.S. as a tiny tot where I have now spent twenty one years of my life; 2 years as a tiny tot in the play group and 19 years as a teacher of this proud institution. So I am one among those very privileged few who has seen Gyanodaya grow from a small pre-primary school to an institution of higher learning imparting education now up to the degree level.

I fondly remember the time that I spent as a tiny tot in Gyanodaya. We were then very few. I recall one instance in particular, which remains imprinted in me so vividly, both in the treasure trove of my mind and in its external impact as well. One day, we were all playing in the terrace with Principal Ma'm. She rolled the ball, and I ran after it. Unfortunately, I slipped and hit against a corrugated aluminum sheet. I got a deep cut in my nose, and I screamed in pain. Ever since then the idea **Miss rolled the ball, Bhavana cut her nose** became a common expression among my friends in the school. The wound healed in time but the scar it left remains even today. And that scar helps me keep my memory of Gyanodaya always fond and dear.

Over the years, this institution has undergone a vast transformation. It has grown rapidly, and attained its present stature as one of the premier institution of higher learning in the country. The effort put in, and the dedication and commitment shown by the Founder Principal Ma'm to bring this institution to its present level is truly praiseworthy. Her courage to overcome many hurdles, and move ahead with quiet confidence and determination in the face of many odds is a source of inspiration to all Nepalese women.

Later, in Falgun 2044 B.S, I joined Gyanodaya as a teacher. This gave me a different perspective and the opportunity to grow and mature, both as a person and more so as a teacher. Here, I have taken many trainings, attended a lot of seminars and participated in workshops. All these have broadened my outlook, and enhanced my potential and professional competence as a teacher. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to this institution. These years have seen me experience a huge change in my personal as well as professional life. From a shy and nervous teenager, I have grown up to be a mature and confident person acknowledging the values of tolerance and accommodation. I have also evolved as a professional and grown in my job as a teacher realizing the values of competence, dignity and discipline.

I am, indeed, thankful to my late grandfather, who was also the first parent of this School, for introducing me to this institution. I also thank from the core of my heart our Founder Principal Ma'm for all her guidance, support, goodwill and advice through these years. Best of Luck! Gyanodaya Bal Batika.

(Ms. Sijapati is a Teacher at Gyanodaya.)

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Unknown