



December 2017 Issue
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SJOB A Newsletter

www.sjoba.in

Krafty

Newsletter of St. John's Old Boys Association



This is the third year, when I am actively involved with SJOB A. When I joined it initially in the year 2013, I felt that I might be a misfit. The bond with the school had grown old enough, to re-connect with others who were either elder or younger to me. In the first meeting of the Executive, I got to meet old boys who have been actively involved with our coveted old boys association and its activities. I wondered for a while, whether some day I'll be lucky enough to be a part of them?

Anyhow, as days passed by, and more and more meetings happened; SJOB A found its way into my heart naturally and now it is an inseparable part of me. I must share that there is something about SJOB A or should I say the values that our school gave us that teach us how to work as a team with joy and as more importantly as 'One Unit' to achieve the desired results. In the Association, there is no hierarchy and the team is always working as a team to make the year, as eventful as possible for the johnians/old boys.

From finding it difficult to take out time for SJOB A and its activities initially; it has now blended into my daily routine. I think to myself that none of us can get lucky enough to be in School again, but we can always remain closely connected with our *alma mater* by devoting something really precious-'our time' to our very own old boys Association-SJOB A. The focus of this year's team has been to reach out to as many old boys possible and especially those who could not become members of the Association. In fact, the official website was re-done too to make it more interactive and also to make it more convenient for Old Boys to become a part of SJOB A even online.

Many a times, either innocuously/intentionally, my colleagues would say why do you go out of your way for SJOB A, why do you spend time for SJOB A, what does SJOB A pay you with? Well, I don't find those questions, important enough to be answered, and just smile back and move on with a small but a powerful thought, shared by our dearest Founder Mac Sir:-

"...Ask not what SJOB A can do for you; ask what you can do for SJOB A"

KSHITIJ SHARMA

Class of 1999

One School. One Alumni. One Dream. Together.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

I have always been aware that SJOBA, as an association keeps setting higher standards for itself, with each passing year. I am thankful to all Old Boys and especially the Collegium of Past Presidents for keeping faith in my team and giving us the privilege of leading SJOBA this year. While trying to maintain our alumni's rich legacy, the team has endeavored to strengthen and uphold the values of our *alma mater* and the spirit of SJOBA.



This year, St John's High School completes 58 glorious years and even the Association too has completed 37 years. Today, St. John's is not just an educational institution but also an important part of the city's proud heritage. Our Alma Mater has evolved as a world class educational institution where ideas and dreams take birth and are nurtured to produce some of the finest students who have become leaders in various fields ranging from Public service, Law, Artists, Sportspeople, Corporate, Medicine, Engineering, Applied Sciences, Entrepreneurs etc. St John's has been & continues to be a magical canopy where academic and all round excellence is combined with lifelong relationships. It is this bonding and relationships that have made SJOBA boast of over 3700 alumni spread across the globe, one of the largest and most active alumni group amongst all schools.

Long before I took over as the President, I knew that times have changed, and today we are living in a virtual world and therefore personally felt the need to make SJOBA more inclusive by enrolling more members, right when they pass out of School and also to make it more convenient for Old Johnians to become members. Rather, even the present members are only 40% of our actual potential member base. In whatever little time we had till now, we have tried to institutionalize the processes. Out of the number of events conceived by our team at inception of our tenure, we have been working towards the development of school infrastructure, scholarship, mentorship & training programs for students. The "SJOBA Leadership Awards" is already scheduled for 20.12.2017.

Most importantly, I want to add that none of this was possible without your dedicated support and your commitment to ensure that the SJOBA flag keeps flying high.

Also, I personally extend an invitation to each one of you to the upcoming Winter Fest, 2017 and hope and expect all of you to be present for the Sunday Spin-a fun filled TSD Rally and the SJOBA Winter Ball-the star event of the SJOBA Calendar.

SANDEEP SAHNI

Class of 1980

President, St. John's Old Boys Association

One School. One Alumni. One Dream. Together.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It is a matter of great honor and pride for me to be entrusted with the task of being the Secretary of our cherished old boys association. St. Johns Old Boys Association has come a long way from being comprised of handful of old boys, to an association which gets bigger and better with each passing year. Under the able guidance of Mr. Sandeep Sahni, the emphasis of the Association has been to reconnect with as many old boys as possible and daily updation of the official website of the Association. Any big change requires small changes to be made daily and therefore, a new beginning has been made in how the Old Boys interact and communicate with the Association. Also, I would like to especially thank Team 2017-18. Though, the executive comprises of just about a dozen members, I must appreciate the efforts put in by each member in their own special ways and taking out time for the Association and its activities. I am certain that most of you Old Boys are regularly receiving the monthly newsletters, which are snippets of every month and the activities of the Association or the School. Oh yes, and before I forget guys, on behalf of the Association I welcome each one of you to the most awaited event of the year-The SJOBA Winter ball, 2017. Cheers to another lovely, memorable and enjoyable year of SJOBA!



Long live St. Johns and The Association...Cheers!!

GAGANPAL SINGH SEKHON

Batch of 1998

Secretary, St. Johns Old Boys Association



Make your batchmates and friends from St. Johns a member of SJOBA.

It is easier done than said. Just visit www.sjoba.in and become a member by filling in details and making the payment online.

Let us all stay connected together as we don't want to achieve our dreams without our friends.

Make your batchmates a SJOBA member and make the Eagle soar even higher.

One School. One Alumni. One Dream. Together.

Teacher's Day (05.09.2017)

Like every year, the SJOBA annual calendar of events began with the most important people-our Teachers. This year, the Teachers Day Celebrations were held at the Elante Mall and Hyatt Regency, Chandigarh. By 8:45 A.M. sharp, a huge assembly of people gathered in the foyer of the Mall-the only difference was it was teachers and not students this time. All teachers present were chirpy and excitedly looking forward to the day of fun and frolic. Their eyes were gleaming with joy and voice was full of zeal. Without losing much time, the teachers were greeted and ushered to the PVR Cinemas, where the entire hall was reserved specially for the teachers to make them feel special and important. Thereafter, the teachers were treated to a lovely lunch at the Hyatt where all the teachers could rekindle old memories with their ex-students.



Sh. Ram Parkash Raquet Tournament-2017 (15.09.2017 to 17.09.2017)

The tournament was held at the St. Johns High School, Sector 26, Chandigarh. The Raquet Tournament is the first sporting event, which is held by SJOBA during the annual calendar of events. The tournament is sponsored each year by Old Boy Mr. Ranjan Chawla, in the fond memory of his father, Sh. Ram Parkash. The event is host to a considerable number of promising players, who have over number of years mastered their strokes, while regularly playing this tournament itself.



Diwali Sweets Distribution (14.10.2017)

The Diwali Sweet Distribution amongst the support staff of St. Johns, which is no less than an annual ritual, was held in the School. The event was lovingly sponsored by the Batch of 1992.

Incidentally, the Batch of 1992 also celebrates its silver jubilee as well this year. Amongst present were the Old Boys of the 1992 batch, the Principal, senior faculty members, and the entire SJOBA team 2017-18.



Six a side Football (03.11.2017 to 05.11.2017) and SJOBA VS. School Football (17.11.2017)

Both these events have the same format and about the same game-Football, yet something makes both these events memorable with every passing year. There is a transitional nature of the events, because boys playing for the school would be seen playing for SJOBA! It is an interesting thing to see that regardless of whichever side one is playing for, he always emerges Winner-be it while playing for the School or be it for SJOBA. In fact, the match between St. Johns and SJOBA remained a nail biter, till the end when the penalty shoot out decided the fate of the game and St. Johns emerged as the winner.



Annual Athletic Meet 2017 (11.11.2017)

The sprawling fields of the school looked at their best, and one could see the young johnnians at their best in whatever they do. The runners were warming themselves up for their races; the horsemen could be seen congregating at one end of the fields to put one up one of the best Sports Day so far. The event started off with the welcome of Old Boy, Maninder Singh Bains (I.A.S.) and then followed the glorious display of sportsmanship, teamwork and camaraderie as the young johnnians participated in pegging, various races, and an equestrian show. The Golden Boys (Batch of 1967) and Silver Boys (Batch of 1992) were kind to grace the occasion, with their benign presence. And yes, before we move on to the next event, the SJOBA finally won the tug-of-war after 5 years!!



Vocational Seminar (27.11.2017)

The Vocational Seminar is an orientation session held by the Association's for the young Johnnians and address their queries about new career options in the challenging world outside. The aim of this year's vocational seminar was to bring in Old Boys, who have excelled in unconventional careers and hence the five speakers, who were called on to speak were Old Boys-journalist, Maurya Gautam (1994) who spoke about his experiences working with the Al-Jazeera and was gracious to share a video slide of his typical day at work with the inquisitive johnnians; Ranjit Bajaj (1995) who spoke about scuba diving as a career option; entrepreneur, Karan Checker (1999) who spoke about setting up his own venture in the Software Industry and the crests and troughs he went through in the process, Saahil Sood (1998) (Executive Coach) who spoke about mentoring CEOs to meet the challenges of the corporate world. Aashish Manchanda, spoke about the food industry and how to excel in the same. The johnnians who attended the seminar were thrilled to learn about the career options in these exciting new fields.

Rajeev Sandhu Statue Inauguration (29.11.2017)

One of the most proud moment for all Johnians and Old Boys was the Rajeev Sandhu Statute Inauguration at St. John's High School.

The event was attended by number of dignitaries of the region but the most important guests of the event were the parents of Old Boys Rajeev Sandhu. For those of you who do not know, Rajeev Sandhu is the youngest army officer to receive a Mahavir Chakra and is of the Batch of 1982. The brave Old Boy was serving as a Second Lieutenant in the Assam Regiment when he laid down his life in the line of duty-while fighting LTTE in Sri Lanka in the year 1988. That is just 6 years after he passed out from school! It was a matter of great pride for the School to unveil the full size statue of War-Hero.



Mentorship & Training Program for Students (11.10.2017)

During one of the SJOBA meetings with the Senior School Coordinators a need was highlighted, which was that while the Senior Boys are doing well in academics and are very active in extracurricular activities, they struggle when it comes to applying to colleges for further studies, where they are required to submit resumes, statements of purpose, personal essays etc.

On the 11th of October 2017, at 9:00 AM a session was conducted for the boys in which we tried to cover the need and reasons why institutions or recruiting companies need resumes, and what they look for in

an essay or a statement of purpose. SJOBA President Sandeep Sahni shared his experiences, and highlighted to the Boys the importance of long term planning. Old Boy Gurnoor Sangha from the 1993 Batch, shared his experiences of doing corporate hiring and what companies looked for in Resumes and personal profiles.

A lot of fun activities were done, for example, the boys were given 5 minutes to write down 10 points on "Who they are" and post this the importance of always being aware of what ones strengths are being ready with a small profile in your mind makes giving your introductions in Interviews and meetings very simple.

The Boys asked very relevant questions and seemed hungry for more at the end of session.





SJOB A Sunday Spin, 2017 (17.12.2017)

The 2nd edition of the SJOB A Sunday Spin is scheduled for **17th December, 2017**. The Sunday Spin, as we all know a replacement of the earlier Treasure Hunt. In fact, the participants received the Sunday Spin very well last year and we are expecting it be a roaring success this year too. Needless to add, the Sunday Spin aside from being a perfect leisure activity for the family over the weekend, also is a learning platform for budding rallyists to prepare themselves for participating in the SJOB A Rally in the forthcoming year. The Sunday Spin is in the form of a Time Speed Distance Rally, wherein the skills of the driver and the navigator are equally important. There is no strict requirement for a particular make of the vehicle, and all cars/jeeps can be used. The categories for the Event, this year are:-

- a) Open Winners (Open to all individuals & all categories)
- b) Ladies Winner (Team with lady driver)
- c) SJOB A Winner (Team with SJOB A member as driver)
- d) Alumni Winner (Team with members from the participating alumni association)



Aside from the prizes, all participants get 10% discount on entry fee of SJOB A rally 2018. The participant ranking first, second and third shall get a waiver of registration fee for the SJOB A Rally to the extent of 100%, 50% and 25% respectively.

The entry fee for the event is 2,000/- with GST (Per vehicle for a team of two) and an additional Rs. 500 is chargeable for an additional person in the vehicle (subject to a maximum of 4 persons per car including the driver and navigator).

In order to get all participants familiarized with the format and practicalities of the event, all the participants would be mandatorily required to come to St. Johns High School for registration, stickering of the vehicle, a training session on the format of the rally, and most importantly a mock drive so they face no confusion during the event. The details are available on the official website of the SJOB A | www.sjoba.in

The SJOBA Leadership Awards (20.12.2017)

For the first time in the history of the Association, we present to you the SJOBA Leadership Awards. The award ceremony is to be held at Hyatt Regency, Industrial Area, Chandigarh. Though each Old Boy is equally special and precious to the School and the Association, yet there are some old boys in our family who have contributed to society, in their respective fields of profession or otherwise and as a result made our country, this city or their school proud of their being. The Association is a family of Old Boys, and when one of us does well, the entire family gets a reason to celebrate and make the Old Boy feel special. We are certain that each one of us, will love and cherish the fact that these Boys, who are a part of us have done well, despite odds being against them and left an indelible mark of excellence, virtuousness in the field that they have worked in.

The SJOBA Winter ball (23.12.2017)

The star event of the Annual SJOBA Calendar - The SJOBA Winter Ball, 2017 is scheduled for **23.12.2017, 8:00 PM onwards** at **Makkar Farm, Chandigarh Road, Zirakpur**. The event is barely one week from today and we are looking forward to the presence of each one of you to an evening, which is expected to be one of its kind! Amongst our Johnian brothers, who love music, we have Coke Studio getting Gurnazar for all of us. We are sure you don't wanna miss the opportunity & so do we want you too. Hence, join us for the most awaited party. The Winter Ball is the perfect event for all the Old Boys to catch up with school friends, and rekindle old memories. This year, the Batch of 1967 is celebrating its Golden Jubilee and the Batch of 1992 is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. So please ensure that all of you take your contributory passes well in time to avoid last minute rush! The details are available on the official website of the SJOBA | www.sjoba.in

Dress Code - Formals (**NO JEANS & SNEAKERS ALLOWED**)

Contributory Couple Pass - Rs. 3000

Contributory Member Pass - Rs. 1800

Contributory Lady Guest Passes - Rs. 1800 each

All passes will be available online on www.sjoba.in (**Flat 10% discount only on online booking**)

&

at **BR Advertising Services**, S.C.O. 14-15 (First Floor), Sector 28, Chandigarh (available from 18th December onwards - 11:00 to 14:00 & 15:30 to 19:00 hours, Sunday closed).

Please bring along your SJOBA ID Cards for issuance of passes.

Outstation members can buy online or write an email to secretary at secretary@sjoba.in to reserve their passes.

***No guests allowed**

***No children allowed**

***No Jeans & Sneakers allowed**

***Rights of admission reserved**

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