

A prelude and a farewell

Dance and drama livened up the curtain-raiser to the 10th-year celebrations of South City International School

South City International School celebrated its foundation day recently, with a curtain-raiser, as it entered its 10th year.

Students of Classes VI to VIII kick-started the event with the school song — *Courage, diligence and tenacity — this is the spirit of South City*. This was followed by the principal's address. Ma Zhanwu, Consul General of People's Republic of China, initiated the lamp-lighting ceremony as the kids sang *Parash Moni Chhonyao Prane*.

The interesting line-up of events included a play called *Fairy Farewell*, *We Grew Up Well*, a Chinese song *Gang Hao Yu Jian Ni*, and a Bengali play called *Chander Khela*. The day ended with *Winds of Change*, a skit put up by the secondary section, accompanied by the school band Bohemian and a live choir. *Fairy Farewell* was a street play written by Sumera Khan, based on the journey of students in the primary section. *Chander Khela* included elements and trivia from the Bengali syllabus of Class V.

In between, the class teachers of each section introduced their students on stage who graduated from Class V to Class VI this year. The penultimate act, *Winds of Change* conveyed the transition of a kid who will soon be graduating to middle school. The play was a comic take on the struggles of a teenager who finds herself in a new world. School band Bohemian added to the fun quotient of the skit with their background score. The last act of the day stunned the audience as students from the senior secondary section performed one energetic number after the other and ended with a valedictory dance on the song *Jai Ho*, performed live by the school band.



Ma Zhanwu (centre) presented 20 footballs to the school. "I enjoyed being part of the 10th year celebrations and I feel that the team headed by the principal and the chairman have been very successful and efficient. The faculty members have worked hard to produce the performances today and the students are very talented and well organised. They sang a Chinese song and I am grateful for the gesture," he said.



Students of Class VI performed a street play called the *Fairy Farewell*, which acted as a platform for reliving their journey from nursery to the primary section. The play incorporated elements of *nukkad natak*, such as colloquial use of language, songs and also greeted the chief guest and the other dignitaries with a rose. The play ended with the line — "Change is the only constant factor. Life is a stage and we are its actors."



Students from classes VI to IX dressed in Qibao performed the Chinese song *Gang Hao Yu Jian Ni*, in honour of the Consul General. The song literally means 'just met you'.



Students of secondary section put up a skit called *Winds of Change*. The play conveyed how the body politic of the middle school and the classroom operates and ended with the message, "Middle school has its charms". Trisha Mukherjee from Class VII played the child and her mother was played by Suhana Gupta, who is also from Class VII, while her father was played by Yuvraj Mehrotra from Class X.

We wanted to host this curtain-raiser for two reasons, for those who are moving from Class V to Class VI and those who are just entering or leaving school. Today children are much more sensitive and are not very good with adaptation, so we thought being the 10th year, why not start every year with a welcome for Class VI.

— John Andrew Bagul
Principal



While students from classes VI to VIII performed to *Badal pe paon hair*, students from classes IX to XII performed on Korean hip-hop and *Jai Ho*.



The school band Bohemian provided the background music for the skit. It had Abhigyan Jain from Class VIII on the keyboard, Kedar Chakraborty from Class IX on tabla, Debango Roy from Class IX on drums, and Soumodeep Das and Abhimanyu Sharma from Class XII on guitar. There was a live choir too, which sang songs from *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* for the skit. There were some solo numbers too, like *We Will, We Will Rock You* and *Summer of '69*. The choir and the band performed *Jai Ho*, the final number.



I loved everything about the programme — it was awesome. The *Fairy Farewell* was my favourite because it was quite funny. I like the part where they threw the caps in the air in the play. The dance routines performed by the seniors were good.



— Mihika Agarwalla
Class VI

It was nice, we had lots of fun throughout the day. We practised everyday for two to three periods. I took part in the street play and the dance. In the play we were speaking about our school and we also thanked our primary section teachers.



— Shaurya Kanwatia
Class VI

I liked the event very much, especially the dance by the senior secondary students. I have entered the secondary section this year and was introduced on the stage today. It was a proud moment for me. I like to dance and play basketball.



— Riddhima Kapoor
Class VI

I participated in the street play. It was a wonderful experience. The rehearsals were humorous and the teacher who was training us was nice, because she did not scold us when we made mistakes. I also liked the part when we threw our caps at the end of the play.



— Soundarya Acharya
Class VI

I participated in the Bengali play *Chander Khela*. At first, I found the script a little confusing but after some time, we got the hang of it. At the end of the day, we were happy with what we put up on stage. I liked the play *Winds of Change* by the senior secondary school.



— Sohan Banerjee
Class VI