



**ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT SCHOOL, BATHINDA**  
**RETURNS WITH**

# *The Dandelions*

**Celebrating Our Alumni**

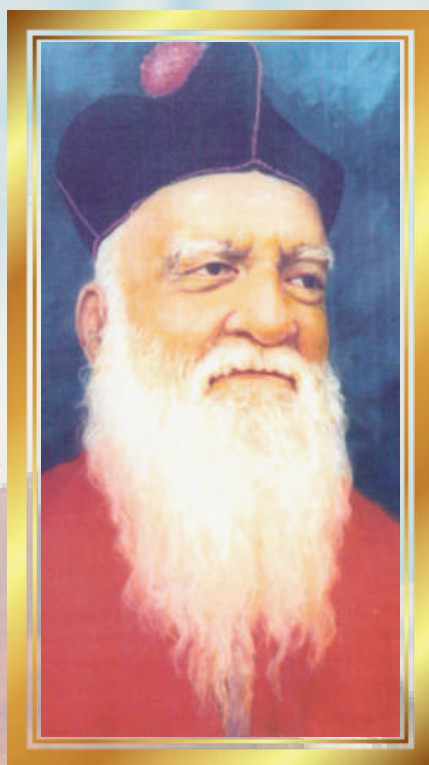


***Josephites, much like dandelions,  
drift away from home,  
seeking new horizons,  
ready to explore fresh possibilities.***



# FATHER FOUNDER AND THE PIONEER SISTERS

*With vision and courage, they paved the way for others to follow*



Servant of God,  
Father RFC Mascarenhas



Sr Martha BS



Sr Clare BS



Sr Lourdes BS



Sr Gertrude BS



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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Students, Parents, and Esteemed Alumni

It is with great pride and warmth that I present this special edition of our e-magazine, dedicated to the cherished memories and reflections of our beloved ex-students. St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda, has always been more than just a place of learning—it is a family, a foundation, and a guiding light that continues to inspire generations.

As you read through the heartfelt expressions of our alumni, you will witness how the values, discipline, and education imparted at St Joseph's have shaped their lives. Their stories serve as an inspiration for our current students, reminding them that every lesson learned and every experience gained here plays a crucial role in their future.

To our dear students, I encourage you to embrace your journey at St Joseph's with enthusiasm and gratitude. One day, you too will look back and realise how these moments have prepared you for the world ahead. To our parents, thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility of nurturing your children, just as we have done for generations before them.

May this magazine strengthen the bond between the past and present, inspiring all to uphold the values of sincerity, service, and excellence. Let us continue to grow together as a Josephite family, committed to learning, character, and making a difference in the world.

I commend Mrs Meesha Gupta for her exceptional work in curating this edition of 'The Dandelions'. Her unwavering commitment and perseverance in gathering and designing the newsletter are truly admirable.

Sr Ophilia Lobo  
Principal

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers

Welcome to the second edition of 'The Dandelions', a one of its kind newsletter that brings forth stories of alumni of St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda.

After completing their school education, our students may walk on different paths and achieve infinite milestones, but their heart always rises in appreciation for the foundation that was laid in them during their early years of life.

There is an intriguing analogy between dandelion flowers and students. Dandelions grow into vibrant yellow flowers, and soon transform into white flower with fluffy seed head when it is matured. When the wind blows, its seeds travel and settle in new places. Soon, they grow roots and begin to thrive. Josephites are similar to the dandelions who are groomed holistically during their time in school. After completing their schooling, they settle at new places, overcome challenges and become victorious.

We bring to you stories of twenty dandelions who blossomed under all conditions. We hope that they inspire you and remind you of the strength within, no matter the challenges. Just like these resilient dandelions, may you find the courage to grow, adapt, and flourish wherever life takes you.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed Principal, Sr Ophilia Lobo, for the opportunity to curate this newsletter. My sincere thanks go to everyone who offered their support in bringing these stories to life on this platform.

Meesha Gupta  
Editor and Designer



# REMINISCING SCHOOL DAYS

I'm of the generation that huddled around a crackling radio with Sister Lelia and Sister Marie Therese in 1969, listening to history unfold as man first walked on the moon.

My memories of school days are a kaleidoscope of emotions, each snapshot a floodgate of poignant recollections. The initial fear of the stern-faced nuns in their black outfits, the comforting presence of my mother "Teacher Gupta" and the gradual transformation of that fear into a sense of belonging.

Mother Gemma, the firm but loving Principal, whose foot ruler was a constant reminder of the importance of learning tables and discipline. Sr Florence, with her gentle guidance, nurtured a love for literature within me, while Brother Simon ignited my passion for art, teaching me the magic of blending colours.

The school itself was a journey and a transient backdrop to my formative years. It shifted premises four times during my schooling. Each new location marked a distinct chapter, from the initially cramped premises to the increasingly grand structures that followed, mirrored my own growth.

The echoes of Father Gomes' laughter playing football and cricket with us and the selfless generosity of PT Master Avtar Singh, who often bought snacks from his pocket remain etched in my memory. Teacher Soni ignited my curiosity for the wonders of science, laying the foundation for my intellectual pursuits.

The long summer and winter holidays were a time spent on exploration and discovery in the library. The hushed reverence during school retreats, the joyous celebrations of Easter and



**Rajan Gupta, IPS**  
**Director General of Police (Retired)**

Christmas Eve, and the thrill of participating in school plays, where we spent countless evenings crafting elaborate decorations, all contributed to the rich tapestry of my school life.

As the School Pupil Leader for ten years, I learned the importance of responsibility and leadership. Conducting the daily assembly and managing younger students in the absence of teachers, instilled in me a sense of confidence and the ability to navigate challenges.

However, the demands of my career as an IPS officer, battling terrorism, often kept me away from my teachers and friends. The insatiable longing to reconnect with my friends and teachers and to relive those innocent moments, sometimes leaves a twinge in my heart.

In the excitement of embarking on my college journey, I failed to realise that I was bidding farewell to a chapter of my life filled with innocence and wonder.

# FULL SPECTRUM GROWTH

Each one of us, perhaps, longs to reverse the clock and travel back to our good old school days. Those carefree moments, the innocent laughter, and the friendships we forged remain etched in our memories forever. I am sure everyone will agree that the most precious period of our lives is the time when we were little kids, gradually growing into adolescents at school. For me, my golden and most cherished memories are from my alma mater— St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda where I spent the formative years of my life.

I vividly remember the faces of my teachers from whose dedication, patience, and love for teaching made learning a joyous experience for us.

Each of these teachers has left an indelible imprint on my personality and helped shape my future. It has been more than 43 years since I walked out of the school as a proud Josephite in the year 1977, yet the ten years I spent at St Joseph's were the bedrock upon which my life was built. Those were the years when I learned discipline, perseverance, humility, and kindness—lessons that carried me through all of life's challenges. Over the course of my journey, I have faced many ups and downs, but the confidence and values instilled in me during my school days have always been my anchor. Each time I embarked on a new trajectory, the lessons from my school days served as a guiding light, helping me face obstacles with courage and determination. The friendships I made and the moral foundation I received at St Joseph's are priceless gifts that have stood the test of time.



**Shaker Garg**

**Chief Executive Officer  
Arssh Enterprises, Bathinda**

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन ।

The above shloka from the Bhagavad Gita has been the guiding principle throughout my life. In this verse, Shri Krishna tells Arjuna: "You have a right to perform your duty, but you should not worry about the fruits of your actions." These profound words have been my mantra, constantly reminding me to focus on my efforts and leave the outcomes in the hands of the divine. Looking back, I feel immensely grateful for the values, education, and memories my alma mater has given me. St Joseph's Convent School was not just a place of learning; it was where my character, spirit, and resilience were molded. It will forever hold a special place in my heart, as it shaped not only my mind but also the essence of who I am today.



# DOCTOR IN UNIFORM



**Surgeon Commander (Dr) Arun Gupta**  
MD, DNB, MBA, MME (Switzerland)  
Commander (Medical Services)  
Naval Headquarters, New Delhi



**Presenting memento to  
Head of Health of Iranian Navy at  
Imam Khomneini Naval University, Iran**

As I pen down these thoughts, memories of my school days come rushing back—days filled with academic sojourn by dedicated teachers, friendships, discipline, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. My journey from the corridors of St Joseph's Convent School to the Armed Forces has been one of challenges, growth, and immense pride. School is where dreams take shape, and for me, it was where the foundation of duty, integrity and perseverance was laid. The values are instilled in me—discipline from morning assemblies, resilience from sports fields, and leadership from various school activities—became the guiding principles of my life. This foundation kept me in good stead, even in the company of Medical Cadets from the best schools of India's metros and ones from abroad at one of the top medical colleges of the country viz. Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. Joining the Armed Forces was not just a career choice; it was a calling. Journey from being posted as a Principal Medical Officer of the frontline Warships of Indian Navy, to

being a faculty at my Alma Mater Medical College and now as a Health Administrator at Naval Headquarters, every mission, every challenge, and every success has been a testament to the skills and values that I first learned at St Joseph's.

To the young minds reading this piece, I would like to convey that, have a firm focus on your academics, do play an outdoor sport, stay away from any form of addictions and never shy away from challenges. Dream big, let excellence be your goal and integrity your guiding force. There is never a dearth of opportunities for professionals who are skilled, rooted in morals and determined to excel.

In the end, I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to the Management of St Joseph's and the editor for publishing this newsletter 'The Dandelions', featuring success stories of alumni. As an alumnus of 1997 batch, I take immense pride in my school, the place that shaped me into the person that I am today.

Jai Hind!

# FOSTERING SOCIAL PROGRESS

Schooling is a crucial part of life that shapes our thoughts, character, and ambitions. Throughout life, failures and successes come and go, but the moral values and ethics imparted during school days remain constant. They form the foundation of one's character and guide us through the many ups and downs of life.

I take immense pride in being an alumnus of the prestigious St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to this institution for laying the foundation of my life, by providing me with quality education, and nurturing my confidence to the utmost level. The strong educational base built here has been instrumental in helping me achieve many milestones and accolades throughout my personal and professional journey.

The confidence instilled in me by my teachers and mentors has helped me overcome challenges and dream big. The lessons I learned—both inside and outside the classroom—have been invaluable and continue to influence my thoughts and actions to this day.

I firmly believe the core values taught at St Joseph's have been foundational in my bid to work for social upliftment. These values continue to serve as my guiding light in all endeavors. The Karnail Singh Charitable Trust, founded in the name of my late father, supporting free vocational courses for over 20000 underprivileged girls is an attempt on my behalf to give back to the society.



**Inderjit Singh Brar**

**Chairman**

**Silver Oaks Group of Schools**

**Gyanmanthan Educational Services Pvt. Ltd.**

I have ventured in the field of education by establishing five educational institutions by the name of Silver Oaks in the Malwa region, with the objective of disseminating quality value education and harnessing young talent.

The young members of the St Joseph's family, remember that every new beginning is filled with endless possibilities. You are part of a tradition that values curiosity, kindness, and hard work. Every challenge you face is an opportunity to grow, and every success is a chance to inspire others.

Embrace each moment with courage, never shy away from learning, and always strive to make a positive difference. Your unique talents and ideas will light up the world, and together, we will continue to build a future of hope, joy, and success. Believe in yourselves, for you are the future, and the world awaits the greatness you will bring.



# CONFIDENCE THAT SOARS

What a marvellous journey it has been; transforming me from a three-year-old tiny tot to a naughty inquisitive child, a mature adolescent and finally to 65 years old, well established Gynaecologist. Every detail of those 13 years is still vividly sketched in my memory.

Today, after five decades of having passed out from school, I clearly still find myself walking through those corridors attending the morning assembly, participating in the school debates, dramas and plays. It's a real nostalgic moment. St Joseph's Convent School provided me with a platform that not only opened a horizon of bookish knowledge, but also taught incalculable life lessons and shaped my personality.

I participated in most of the co-curricular activities and was blessed with the opportunity to serve the school in capacity of a School Pupil Leader. This became instrumental in exploring my talents and skills. The fine strokes of paint brush taught by Simon Sir and Sethi Sir have translated into finesse of surgical skills in my operating room. I was fortunate to be taught by amazing teachers who worked effortlessly yet meticulously. I owe my love for Mathematics to my respected teacher, Mrs Gupta. Shashtri Ji, my Hindi teacher was kind enough to perform my wedding rituals. My married life started with his blessings. What more can anyone want in life!



**Dr Sarita Aggarwal**  
**MBBS, MD (Obs & Gynae),**  
**MBA (Hospital Administration)**  
**Senior Consultant Gynaecologist**  
**Aggarwal Clinic, Patiala**

Being the best debater in school for more than five years has given me the confidence to articulate my thoughts clearly and logically in the medical educational forums.

I can humbly say, I am what I am because of my schooling at St Joseph's Convent School. The values of teamwork, leadership and resilience I imbibed have stayed with me throughout my journey of life.

My message to the youngsters is, cherish every moment within these walls, where you not only learn Maths or Science, but build foundation of your future. Embrace your curiosity, explore different perspectives and never lose sight of your dreams. Lessons learned here will shape who you become. This is what will stand you in good stead in life to come.

# SCHOOL FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS

I call it the play of destiny that I had the wonderful fortune of studying at St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda. The decision of Bethany sisters to set up this school in a remote small place of North India called Bathinda and my good fortune to have been part of this.

Subsequent to St Joseph's, I graduated from Shri Ram College of Commerce - India's No 1 Commerce college and completed my Post Graduation from IIM Bangalore. I have no doubt in my mind that it was the founding years in St Joseph's that instilled in me, the love of learning, valuing discipline and putting in hard work and dedicating my time in extracurricular activities that helped create who I am today.

I have witnessed our school teachers working dedicatedly with the students, making personal sacrifices for the success of their students. Standing silently and strong behind their students. This dedication, tenacity and perseverance in the teachers is something that I haven't seen in too many places. The animated debates, state science seminars, the competition between different colour houses giving rise to camaraderie, the sports day, the canteen *samosas*, there is an endless stream of happy and beautiful memories that I associate with the school.

Most importantly, the school gave me the confidence to hold my own at any forum, be it in a known environment or completely unknown. I am a strong believer in the fact that your early years of education and the values so inculcated



**Neelesh Garg**

**Entrepreneur**

**Ex Managing Director and  
CEO of Tata AIG General Insurance**

during them, are the foundation on which your entire life is built and the foundation which St Joseph's gave me was robust and resilient.

Sr Lillis, Sr Florence, Sr Chantal, Sr Alodia, Sr Peter- they are the protagonists of the most cherished memories of my childhood. There are thousands of stories weaved around them - some fun and some character building. Simon Sir, Shastri ji, Grover Ma'am, Sahi Ma'am, Sandhu Sir - I can go on and on - developing in me love of the subject and the passion and will to excel.

To become a better person and create an impact in the world, thank you St Joseph's and each and every member of this beautiful institution. You have played an indelible role in my life journey. I thank you and salute all my teachers from the bottom of my heart.



# APPLE OF ST JOSEPH'S EYE

A few failures, successes, dark bottoms and open skies ago I had walked the sacred corridors of St Joseph's for the final time. Perhaps it was one of the last times I stepped into the building that built my life, but I find myself reliving my learning and memories more often than not. What this school has given me is beyond a childhood; it is empathy, knowledge, wisdom and most importantly a moral compass.

The man I am today is the sum of tremendous efforts of numerous well-wishers and happenings. The prestigious Dayanand Medical College in Ludhiana from where I got my MBBS degree and the Government Medical College in Surat from where I did MS in Ophthalmology have made me the doctor that I am proud to be. But I cannot deny the fact that my primary education was the beginning of it all. Presently, I am one of the best cataract and refractive surgeons in Punjab. I might have gotten my expertise in robotics surgery from Singapore National Eye Centre nonetheless I got what matters most from St Joseph's Convent School.

My school taught me the value of honesty, cooperation and compassion. It gave me a calm mind raging with ambition and a heart that ached for people other than me. It instilled the fear of God within me because of which I try not to lose sight



**Dr Kashish Gupta**  
HOD Max Eye Department, Bathinda  
Director of 13 Eye Hospitals in  
North India including one at Dubai.

between what's right and wrong, no matter the price. I got some of my best buddies, and favourite memories from within those walls.

The evocation of exchanging food, dancing on stage, laughing on the smallest things till my eyes welled up is clear as day. What I have gained here is priceless and constant in this materialistic and ever changing world.

Today I have a respected place in society and people who look up to me as an inspiration but despite this, I shall forever bow with ineffable gratitude and modesty in front of my alma mater, for I owe all to it.

So dear St Joseph's, thank you for all your love, kindness and sagacity, I shall forever be indebted to you.

# FROM RELUCTANCE TO REALISATION OF DREAMS

Schools are no longer just places where children learn Math or Science; they play a vital role in shaping the overall personality of a child. From academics to social skills and from moral values to character building, St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda is the place which has nurtured me intellectually, socially and emotionally. My experience at St Joseph's was a journey that began with reluctance and ended with a bitter-sweet longing to stay. As a young student at St Joseph's, I could not have foreseen the impact the school could have on my life. Even after years of graduation, I am highly indebted to the school for shaping my perspective and providing me with a strong foundation for success. It has been instrumental in preparing me to become a successful judicial officer. The curriculum not only focused on academic knowledge but also emphasised the importance of strong moral values like integrity and empathy. This comprehensive education has been the foundation of my success, giving me the professional skills and ethical framework I need to navigate my career.



**Harjoban Gill**  
**PCS (Judiciary)**  
**Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate**

I pay highest regard to Bethany Sisters and the faculty members of St Joseph's who did not leave a stone unturned to teach me lifelong lessons. Being a Josephite is to carry a legacy of excellence, integrity and compassion instilled by the school.

To conclude in simple words, I would say, "It's a feeling of pride that swells in your chest, a connection to something bigger than yourself."



# ST JOSEPH'S: MY SECOND HOME

As an alumnus of St Joseph's Convent School, I reflect on the profound impact this institution has laid on my life. The values instilled in me at St Joseph's have shaped who I am today, and I carry them with me in every aspect of my life. From the moment I entered the school, I was surrounded by an atmosphere of learning, discipline, and kindness that has remained with me throughout my journey.

I fondly remember the teachers who went beyond the textbook. They took the time to understand each student, guiding us with care, patience, and belief in our potential. Their mentorship instilled in me qualities like hard work, integrity, and empathy—values that have been instrumental in my success as a businessman. The lessons I learned at St Joseph's were not confined to academics; they provided me with a strong moral foundation, and life skills I still rely on today.

The friendships I made in this school are the most treasured. Built on mutual respect and shared values, these bonds have endured over time. Whether it was collaborating on group projects, cheering each other on during sports events, or supporting one another during tough times, the sense of camaraderie and teamwork has profoundly influenced my approach to business. The experiences and lessons from those days continue to shape my leadership style and work ethic. St Joseph's was not just a place of education; it was a foundation for my confidence, resilience, and belief in



**Varun Gupta**  
Entrepreneur

myself. The school equipped me with the tools to face challenges, pursue my dreams, and contribute meaningfully to society. Today, as a businessman, I rely on the principles of diligence, responsibility, and service that were instilled in me during my time there. They continue to guide me in both my professional and personal life.

As a parent, it fills my heart with pride to see my daughter, the third generation of our family, flourish in the same nurturing environment. My wife, now a teacher at the school, is also shaping future generations. This full-circle moment brings me immense joy and gratitude.

I am deeply thankful to the Bethany Sisters and the faculty for their unwavering dedication in shaping future leaders. The impact of St Joseph's Convent School on my life has been immeasurable, and I will always carry its legacy with pride.

# MEET THE EXPERT

I stepped into the premises of St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda as a student of nursery in 1965. I carry faint memories of early years in school except that I started winning prizes on Annual Days for securing top position in academics. This continued till I passed out from the school. I represented my school in Table Tennis and Cricket championships and brought laurels home.

My success in studies came from my innate nature of being extremely regular in doing my homework and in revising my lessons. Even if I was absent from school because of sickness, I used to enquire from my classmates about the chapters taught during my absence and study them myself. I never wanted to lag behind in anything. This character came from taking active part in sports where one plays for winning and one develops sense of competitiveness. I would advice the young children to be regular in what you do. Luck does play a role in one's life but hardwork never lets you down.

In college I chose medical subjects and was fortunate to secure admission in one of the top medical schools. Selection was through an entrance exam where I secured rank 20 in Punjab. I was fortunate again to get direct admission into M.D. and finally became a Paediatrician in 1989.



**Dr Rajeev Malhotra**  
Senior Consultant Neonatologist  
Kailash Healthcare, Noida

After working for 15 years, I went in for superspecialisation in Neonatology (branch dealing with extremely sick newborns and babies weighing as low as 500 grams at birth). During this training, I stayed alone in South India for more than two years which was tough since I was married and had children. Another advice to the youngsters that there is no age limit to learn new things.

Today I am successful in my profession as a Neonatologist working in one of the leading hospitals of Delhi-NCR. Success is measured not only in monetary terms but in terms of satisfaction quotient too.

I owe my success to my parents and teachers who instilled the right moral values and the importance of discipline right from early childhood.



# ARRAY OF ACCOLADES



**Kuldeep Singh Bhullar**

**Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mansa**

As a proud alumnus of St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda (1984 Batch) I am thrilled to share my journey and achievements with the school community. The foundation laid during my time at the school played a pivotal role in shaping my personality, skills, and values. The school's emphasis on discipline, hard work, and perseverance instilled in me the confidence and determination to pursue my dreams. After completing my education, I joined the police force and had the privilege of serving the society as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to achieve several milestones, such as successfully leading high-profile investigations, implementing community policing initiatives, and receiving awards such as two DGP DISCS and more than 45 Commendation Certificates.



**Awardee of The President's Police Medal**

In the words of Robert Collier, "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." With consistent and selfless efforts in work, I was chosen to receive the prestigious President's Police Medal for exceptional service, awarded by the Honourable President of India. The award was approved on Republic Day 2024 for my meritorious and dedicated to the pursuit of justice, duty, and commitment to the nation. It was a moment of immense pride and gratitude.

I am grateful to St Joseph's Convent School for providing me with a strong foundation and for inspiring me to make a positive impact in society. I can proudly say that my school offered endless opportunities for leadership roles, extracurricular activities, and community involvement, helping me to develop confidence, decision-making skills, and the ability to take initiative.

# PROMOTING SOCIETAL GROWTH

Dr (Prof.) Puneet Girdhar, an alumnus of St Joseph's Convent School Bathinda, a prominent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon is one of those rare talents who is a perfect icon of visionary leadership.

Serving Government of Punjab at various prestigious academic and administrative positions for more than last three decades, presently he is working as -

- Joint Director (Dental) Medical Education and Research, Punjab.
- Joint Director (Ayurveda) Medical Education and Research, Punjab.
- Registrar, Punjab Dental Council.
- Registrar, Punjab Nurses Registration Council.
- Professor and Head of Department at Govt. Dental College Patiala.

Being National President, Indian Dental Association (IDA) Head Office for year 2022-23, he has also worked as Senate Member at Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot, Adesh University, Bathinda and Panjab University, Chandigarh. He has been Member, Dental Council of India besides holding various key positions in many arenas.

His academic journey began with St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda which laid emphasis on serving the humankind. He remembers the unparalleled mentorship in public speaking by revered Sister Peter, who instilled in him the power of expression and eloquence which are prerequisites for leadership traits.

Founded on strong academic record,



**Dr (Prof.) Puneet Girdhar**  
National President (2022-23)  
Indian Dental Association

punctuated by laurels throughout his career, he has laboured under all trials and tribulations to redeem his cherished commitment to social welfare. Converting challenges into opportunities he is veritably those harbingers of change who can enthuse any state or nation and make it proud.

An accomplished social worker, a professional par brilliance and person par excellence, he is one of the most conspicuous personalities not only in healthcare but in vast field of social work.

His success story is sure to motivate many to live a life creating a positive impact on world around them. His achievements reflect his visionary approach to life with values symbolising purpose, passion and perseverance. Truly a testament of indomitable spirit and commitment to serve the nation.



# SHAPING MINDS, BUILDING FUTURES

My journey began at St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda, where I spent twelve formative years immersed in academics, extracurricular activities, and moral teachings that shaped who I am today. From morning assemblies to inter-house competitions, every experience built my confidence and resilience, preparing me for the challenges that lay ahead.

After leaving school, I pursued Science in high school, which nurtured my analytical and problem-solving skills. This passion led me to study engineering at IIT Delhi, where I had the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge projects, collaborate with brilliant minds, and push my intellectual boundaries.

Post that, my professional journey began at American Express India, where I gained invaluable experience in the corporate world. The fast-paced work environment helped me to develop strategic thinking and adaptability. To expand my expertise in business and management, I pursued masters in management at HEC Paris, one of the world's leading business schools. This experience exposed me to a global network of professionals and provided insights into leadership and decision-making on an international scale.

Currently, I am working in France as a project manager at CMA CGM, one of the world's largest shipping and logistics companies. The foundation of critical thinking, teamwork, and discipline cultivated at St Joseph's has played a crucial role in my journey, enabling me to navigate different industries and roles with confidence.

I fondly remember participating in carol



**Harshit Gupta**  
Project Manager  
CMA CGM, France

singing competitions, sports day, and annual day celebrations. The thrill of competition, the camaraderie of teamwork, and the lessons of perseverance and sportsmanship have stayed with me. Being elected the ASPL in primary school was a defining moment, teaching me responsibility, leadership, and resilience—qualities that continue to shape my career today. Beyond academics, St Joseph's instilled in me values of integrity, humility, and kindness.

To students today, I say this: Explore every opportunity, embrace challenges, and never stop learning. Say yes to experiences, take risks, and let curiosity guide you. The path may not always be clear, but persistence and passion will always lead you in the right direction.

I am honoured to be part of The Dandelions initiative and to share my journey alongside so many accomplished alumni. No matter where life takes us, St Joseph's will always be the foundation upon which we build our dreams.

# FROM CLASSROOMS TO CLINICS

I am Dr Vineet Bansal, an alumnus of St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda, from the 1996 batch. Today, I proudly serve as a successful dentist, running my own multispecialty hospital in Bathinda since 2007. However, the foundation of my journey was laid in the nurturing environment of my alma mater.

The values instilled by St Joseph's Convent School have played an instrumental role in shaping my personal and professional life. The school taught us the importance of discipline, sincerity, and focus, which are qualities I carry to this day. Moreover, it fostered teamwork and leadership skills, giving me the confidence to lead from the front. Starting as the school's Sports Secretary, I developed my leadership capabilities, which eventually led me to serve as the General Secretary and President of the Indian Dental Association (IDA) Bathinda branch, and currently as the Vice President of IDA Punjab State.

It was during my school days that I developed a deep passion for sports—especially cricket, thanks to the emphasis placed on sports and extracurricular activities. This love for cricket has stayed with me to this day, as I continue to play regularly. Additionally, I take pride in organising cricket tournaments for doctors at the city and state levels, fostering camaraderie and teamwork within the medical community.

One unforgettable memory that continues to inspire me is from my art and craft class. Struggling to complete a task, I felt defeated.



**Dr Vineet Bansal**

**Vice President**

**Indian Dental Association, Punjab State**

But my teacher's encouragement to persevere and complete it on my own instilled a lifelong belief in myself. That day, I learned the power of determination and self-faith—lessons I still carry in both life and work.

The school's emphasis on academic and non-academic activities also prepared us to excel in any field. When I studied in larger cities like Pune and Patiala or worked alongside peers from metro cities like Mumbai and Delhi, I never felt inferior. The knowledge, confidence, and moral values ingrained in us at St Joseph's made me believe that I was as competent as anyone else, if not more.

St Joseph's Convent School didn't just prepare me for exams but also for life. I owe my achievements, confidence, and sense of purpose to this exceptional institution.



# GLOBALISED LEARNING

It feels surreal to look back at my journey since graduating from St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda in 2014. The memories of lively school trips, thrilling sports activities, and after-school hangouts with friends remain close to my heart. The unwavering support from the sisters and teachers, who encouraged us to dream big while keeping the school spirit alive, laid the foundation for who I am today.



**Rachna Brar**

**People and Culture Operations  
Warner Bros Discovery**

Over the years, I've contributed to the People and Culture Operations team, earning a promotion to Specialist - People and Culture Partner very recently.

Every milestone in my life is a reflection of the strong values and discipline instilled in me by St Joseph's. I am forever grateful for the encouragement and foundation that helped me turn dreams into reality. A big thank you to the school and the devoted Bethany sisters for being the cornerstone of my growth and inspiring me to dream bigger. I am forever indebted to my alma mater.

After completing my undergraduate studies with distinction, I was honoured to receive the prestigious Dean's Scholarship. This incredible opportunity allowed me to pursue my MSc in Organizational Psychology at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom – a turning point in my academic and personal journey. Moving to a new country, embracing its culture, and balancing rigorous academics with part-time work at the university shaped my resilience, adaptability, and independence. These experiences were transformative, marking my first professional endeavour and giving me the confidence to navigate life outside my comfort zone. Undeniably the lessons learnt at St Joseph's paved the success path as now I work for one of my dream companies - Warner Bros. Discovery.

# SOARING TO NEW HORIZONS

Reflecting on my journey, I am filled with immense happiness and gratitude. It all began with the wonderful foundation laid at St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda—a place that profoundly shaped me into the person I am today. It wasn't just the academics that moulded me, but the endless opportunities to explore, learn, and grow outside the classroom that built my confidence and resilience.



**Kareena Oberoi**  
Certified Public Accountant  
Deloitte US-India

From a very young age, the school encouraged me to embrace everything—whether it was dancing, singing, participating in debates or hosting major events. These activities were not just about winning or performing but about building my voice and confidence. The joy of being part of a team, the thrill of competition, and the lessons learned from every experience made me realise how much more I could achieve every step of the way.

These lessons, combined with my role as a part of the School Cabinet, taught me leadership, responsibility, and empathy. Holding positions of responsibility in school was an experience that shaped my character and instilled in me the confidence and courage needed to undertake significant roles during my further education at Delhi University.

The encouragement from my parents and teachers was the pillar that supported me every step of the way. Their belief in my potential, their wisdom, and their dedication helped me build the inner strength to keep pushing forward. It was at St Joseph's where I learned that success was built on hard work, integrity, and a positive attitude - lessons that still guide me today.

Fast forward to now, I am a Certified Public Accountant, proud to be working as an Audit Senior at Deloitte, one of the most reputed firms globally. I look back at my journey with immense gratitude—every skill, every lesson, and every moment of growth I experienced at my alma mater has contributed to where I am today. It's the courage, confidence, and resilience I gained here that has taken me places I never imagined.



# SOWING SEEDS OF WISDOM

“Roots deep in faith, wings ready to soar,  
Lessons of love, opening every door,  
With courage we journey, with grace we stand,  
Guided by wisdom, heart in hand.”

Wandering through the cherished corridors of St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda I could never have foreseen how profoundly its teachings would shape my destiny. As a Josephite—first as a wide-eyed student and later as a devoted teacher—the lessons of faith, perseverance, and compassion became the guiding stars that led me beyond familiar shores. The Bethany Sisters and my dedicated teachers instilled in me a truth far greater than mere academic knowledge: that success is not measured by personal milestones but by the lives we touch along the way.

When I arrived in Canada, stepping into a land filled with new opportunities and challenges, I was both humbled and inspired to meet many fellow Josephites thriving in their respective fields—leaders, educators, professionals, and changemakers, each carrying the same values of excellence and service nurtured within the walls of St Joseph's. Seeing them succeed reinforced my belief that the foundation laid by our alma mater is not just strong but unshakable, guiding us no matter where we go.

Today, as an educator in the public school system in Canada, immersed in a tapestry of cultures,



**Simrandeep Sandhu**  
Educator, Canada

I witness daily the power of those early teachings. The values of inclusivity, kindness, and service—woven into my very being by St Joseph's—help me connect with and uplift those around me, no matter their background. “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others,” said Mahatma Gandhi, and I carry this wisdom into my classroom, where every interaction is an opportunity to inspire. The words of Mother Teresa— “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love”—remind me that true impact lies in the simplest of gestures, the quietest of kindnesses.

With a heart full of gratitude, I extend my deepest thanks to the Bethany Sisters and my beloved mentors at St Joseph's, whose unwavering guidance continues to illuminate my path. No matter where life takes me, one truth remains steadfast—always and forever, a proud Josephite!

# THE BANK OF BRIGHT MINDS

It is said that reminiscence of the past should be done as long as it gives pleasure and happiness. And this is what exactly happens with me when I remember my Alma Mater...my nurturer, my haven, a place I called my own for 14 years. I humbly acknowledge that my schooling has been instrumental in shaping my personality. I am deeply grateful to my parents for having chosen this prestigious institution, which even after 64 years of its existence still stands rock-solid to its motto, 'God is my fortress'. My heart is filled with immense pride, fondness, gratitude-coupled with nostalgia and longing as to how those wonderful years flew by.

The role of school in achieving my goal of becoming a Bank Manager is multifaceted, encompassing both academic and non-academic experiences that have shaped my skills, values and memories. The structured environment of school fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are vital in the banking sector. Participation in clubs and sports enhanced teamwork, leadership and time management skills-qualities that are essential for a bank manager. My involvement in these activities have not only enriched my school experience but also prepared me for the collaborative nature of the banking industry.

I was fortunate to be taught by exceptional mentors, who effortlessly yet



**Kanwarjeet Singh Sidhu**  
Bank Manager  
Punjab & Sind Bank, Bathinda

meticulously taught life lessons through languages and simple mathematics, complex trigonometry, biology, economics, politics, social sciences, value education, art and craft. Through various programs and interactions with peers, I learned the importance of integrity, responsibility, and empathy- values that are crucial in building trust with clients and colleagues in banking. These lessons have been instrumental in shaping my character and approach to leadership. Though I may have moved on to new adventures, my heart will always belong to this school. I will always be proud to call myself an alumnus, and I look forward to always be connected with the wonderful community that shaped me. Thank you for the unforgettable journey!



# ROOTS OF SUCCESS

Working as a Technology Consultant at Deloitte, I often reflect how St Joseph's carved my path for success. It became a space where my personal growth and values were nurtured, guiding me not only towards my academic goals but also towards becoming a well-rounded individual.

One of the first things St Joseph's emphasised was the importance of integrity. Integrity became a guiding principle in my life. It helped me make ethical decisions, even when faced with difficult choices. In academic settings, it ensured that I focused on learning rather than seeking shortcuts. The moral foundation of honesty that my school instilled helped me achieve success without compromising my values.

Responsibility was another key moral value I learned at school. I was taught that success doesn't just happen by chance; it's the result of taking ownership of my actions and being accountable for my decisions. This sense of responsibility extended to my academic work, personal goals, and even how I treated others. When I took on leadership roles, such as being part of a student council or organising events, I learned how to take charge, make decisions, and hold myself accountable for my actions. The ability to manage responsibilities not only helped me achieve my goals but also prepared me to handle future challenges with courage.

Reflecting on my journey, I can confidently say that the moral values



**Davileen Garg**  
Software Engineer  
Deloitte, Gurugram

my alma mater instilled in me played a pivotal role in helping me accomplish my goals. The foundation of integrity, hard work, empathy, responsibility, and perseverance created a blueprint for my success. It wasn't just about excelling academically but about becoming a person who strives to do the right thing, works diligently, treats others with respect, takes responsibility, and never gives up.

As I continue to pursue my dreams, I carry these values with me. They not only guide my actions but also shape the way I interact with the world around me. St Joseph's didn't just prepare me for exams; it prepared me for life. The moral values I learned there will continue to influence the choices I make and the goals I set for myself in the future. And for that, I will always be grateful.

# GUARDIAN OF EXCELLENCE

As I look back, joining St Joseph's Convent School in the year 1984, I feel nostalgic.

The familiar bell rings, the classrooms come alive,  
Memories of teachers, mentors, and friends thrive.

The smell of chalk, the creaks of wooden floors,

Transports me back to a time when life was simpler, and love was pure.

Not just that - I take pride and immense joy to be an alumni of St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda.

As a child, my parents wanted the best for me and enrolled me in this esteemed institution which became an integral and vital part of my life's journey.

As a successful entrepreneur today, I would like to give full credit to my school as it offered a rigorous curriculum that helped me develop strong problem-solving and communication skills. All these have been essential in navigating the complexities of the business world.

Beyond academics, the school provided opportunities to develop my leadership, teamwork and management skills that are indispensable for the business. This institution has helped me grow as a person and taught me the values of honesty, integrity, empathy and furthermore my responsibility towards the society.



**Varun Gupta**

**Managing Director  
Sunciti Hotels, Bathinda**

Overall development as an individual has always got me accolades that I owe to my school. The school holds a special place in my heart as it has witnessed my growth, my laughter, and my tears. The school has been more than just an institution - it's been a sanctuary where I discovered myself.

I congratulate the management of the school for preserving its core values and principles which is truly admirable. At the same time, your willingness to adapt to new teaching styles, technologies and societal developments is a testament to your forward-thinking approach.

As a proud alumnus and now, a proud parent, I'm thrilled to see my daughters thrive within these walls and get the same exceptional education that I received.

May St Joseph's continue to inspire future generations!





# LIGHTHOUSE TO GLORY



Sr Grace Maria  
Manager



Sr Ophilia Lobo  
Principal



Sr Navina Pinto  
Vice Principal



Sr Helima  
KG Headmistress



Sr Elsie Vas  
Primary Headmistress



Sr Preetiwanti Bodra  
Office Incharge

*Like a lighthouse shining through the storm,  
Bethany Educational Society keeps the path well-formed.  
With steady guidance, clear and bright,  
They lead the way, setting goals in sight.*



# THE IGNITERS



Members of the faculty at...  
*St Joseph's Convent School, Bathinda*

“  
*Like dandelions in the breeze,  
students float with hearts at ease.  
Scattering dreams both bright and wide,  
carried where their hopes collide.*

*Teachers, like the steady ground,  
anchor them when they're unbound.  
With tender care, they help them grow,  
as dandelions through life flow.*

—”