



Links Gazette

Aug-Dec 2011

This newsletter has been written, designed and compiled by our Student Editorial Committee

LINKS

- Links was established in 1997.
- Links is the only affiliate of the Council of British International Schools in Pakistan.
- In 2010, Links won an award of excellence from the education department.
- In 2011, Links hosted its first award ceremony.
- 2011 also saw the success of our first 'O' Level batch.

APPRECIATING HARD WORK

By Kainat Jah and Sarah Fawad Ali 7-P/8

This year, Links introduced a new tradition of honouring its outstanding students. This ceremony was designed to commemorate the hard work of those students who had been consistent in their efforts and had proven to be academically exceptional. The very first official Links Awards Ceremony took place on the 15th of September. The guest of honour for the event was the Minister for Education, Mir Pir Mazhar Ul Haq. The first ever Links Awards Ceremony provided not only an opportunity to acknowledge outstanding students, but also a moment to reflect back to when Links came into being and how much it has grown and evolved since then. During the ceremony, inspirational speeches were given by Ms Nausheen Leghari, Mr Afzal Leghari, Ms Swaleha Alam Shahzada, Ms Fatima Saadat, Ms Nargese Dastur, and Ms Shireen Mana. Shields were awarded to Links honour roll students for the year 2010-2011 by the guest of honour. We believe that this new



The Education Minister giving a speech at the Links Award Ceremony

tradition is truly a special one and it gives every student a reason to work twice as hard. After all, who doesn't like being appreciated?

A DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN

By Alia Mohyeddin 7-L



The Links Prefectorial Body 2011-2012

Every year at Links, prefect nominees are chosen by the teachers from classes 3-11. Two children are selected from each section. Prefect nominees are allowed to campaign for about a week to ten days. Campaigning begins in full swing within school hours. Nominees go around the campus distributing badges, stickers, wristbands etc. Moreover, the nominees also deliver speeches justifying why they should be chosen for the job. They also put up posters in different parts of the school to get more votes. The voting process is extremely fair and done in a very professional manner. Once the campaign comes to an end, students from all classes get a chance to vote for their favourite candidates. The results are then tallied by teachers and announced and the elected candidates take an oath of allegiance in the assembly. Prefect campaigning is always fun and the result is full of suspense till the very last minute.

Links Prefectorial Body 2011-2012

- Class 3-L: Zehra Jam
- Class 3-P: Kiyaa Sayeed
- Class 4-L: Fahal Dossa
- Class 4-P: Daniyal Valika
- Class 5-L: Kayan Sayeed
- Class 5-P: Adham Masood
- Class 6-L: Jibran Jah
- Class 6-P: Meher Paracha
- Class 7-L: Anoosh Aziz
- Class 7-P: Subin Park
- Class 8: Kainat Jah
- Class 9: Anushe Khuawar
- Class 10: Kurush Kakalia
- Class 11: Neha Makhdoom

LONG LIVE PAKISTAN

By Minhaj Kashif 7-L

Pakistan is our homeland. It is our sanctuary and it is and will be what we make of it. We must protect it, respect it and above all stand by it in all times to come. This year, once again, we were fortunate to have a country to call our own and were given the opportunity to express our gratitude to the leaders of our nation who fought for Pakistan's independence and provided us with a home. Links celebrated Pakistan's 64th birthday on 14th of August 2011. The two hour long



A demonstration of patriotism



program had a number of presentations. Everyone came to school dressed in different shades of green and white. Flags were distributed among students. The day started with the whole school singing the National Anthem. National songs were sung and a few students expressed their patriotism through speeches and poems. The highlight of the day was the Independence Day Quiz, which Sir Asad hosted. Students got to learn so many interesting facts about Pakistan.

AFTER SCHOOL FUN AND LEARNING

By Sahar Imran 7-P

Links takes great pride in taking care of all its students' needs. Be it academic growth, extra-curricular activities, aesthetic development or simply fun and knowledge based activities, Links offers it all! These activities allow children to



express themselves and to become complete individuals. They also inculcate responsibility and self confidence in students. Links has various after school activities like throw ball for girls, kick boxing, soccer for boys, drama class, debates etc. Other classes like



French, swimming, dance, embroidery etc. are also offered. After school activities are fun to join because of our teachers who inspire us and encourage us to achieve more in life, and they also add impressive credits to our applications.

OUR MENTORS FOR LIFE

By Fahaama Siddiqui 7-P

On the 5th of October, World Teachers' Day is universally celebrated with great fervour. It is a day when students all over the world get the chance to show appreciation for their teachers. Students of Links realize the importance of a teacher in their lives, and so honour their



The Faculty members of Links

dedicated teachers on this day to show their gratitude for them. This year, the students commemorated the hard work of their teachers in the morning assembly. On behalf of the student body, the

Prefectorial Committee thanked all the teachers for their kindness, compassion and relentless endeavours. Miss Nausheen Leghari, the Principal of Links, personally gave tokens of appreciation to the teachers. The Editorial Committee would also like to take this opportunity to thank our very inspiring instructors.

OUR LITTLE FURRY FRIENDS

By Sahar Imran 7-P

Pet Day at Links Pre-School was held on 7th October. It was an exciting event for the young Links students as they had a chance to bring in and share their furry friends with their friends at school. The children had an opportunity to observe the animals closely as well as play with them. Teachers and parents encouraged the little students to pet the creatures. There were a



LINKS pre-schoolers enjoying a day with their pets.

variety of animals such as cats, dogs, turtles, parrots, rabbits, fish, dogs, hamsters, doves, chicks, exotic birds and even a horse! Along with being extremely entertaining, Pet Day was also a very informative and educational experience for the children as the

teachers told the students about the origin and habitats of all the animals. Children enjoyed seeing and playing with all the animals. All pets were really adorable and huggable, although, the star of the show was a horse called 'Princess'. The students could not contain their excitement at seeing the majestic creature and they took turns to feed it some carrots and also got to sit on its back. All in all, it was one furry-tastic experience for the tiny tots!

SPELLING BEE FEVER

By Kainaat Jah 8

The Inter School Spelling Bee Competition was held on the 3rd of October, 2011. Classes Preps till 7 took part in the competition. The contest lasted for 5 weeks. Every week students had to learn the list of twenty words that they had been provided with for that particular week. By the end of week four, the teachers had successfully picked out one student from each section for the final spell-off.

Parents of the students who had made it to the finals were cordially invited for the final

competition. The final spell-off was a tough competition for all contestants. Each participant had prepared extensively and performed well. At the end of the contest, a winner was selected from each section. The winners were awarded the Super Speller sashes, crowns and certificates. Certificates for participation were also awarded to the runner ups. On the whole, the Spelling Bee Competition was a very stimulating and experience for all students.



Preps: Zaara Ahmad

Class 1: Rayaan Aly Khan

Class 2: Tia Aftab

Class 3: Naail Khan

Class 4: Manaal Asim

Class 5: Kayan Sayeed

Class 6: Hamza Bin Amir

Class 7: Hamza Saif

WINNERS OF LINKS
SPELLING BEE
COMPETITION 2011

EID FESTIVITIES

By Amna Ashfaque 7-L

This year, the Eid Milan Party was as always a memorable event. It was a day when students celebrated Eid together. The event was looked forward to by teachers and students alike. Students came to school dressed in their Eid clothes. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and laughter as everyone talked about their Eid and how they had celebrated it at home. The party was in full swing during break time when students shared goodies they had brought from home. Everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously.



Students enjoying home made goodies

LINKS UPPER PRIMARY & SECONDARY ELOCUTION CONTEST

By Subin Park 7-P

This year at Links the elocution contest was very fascinating! The contest was held on 22nd November 2011. The respected judges for the event were Kathy Mirza, Judith Bradshaw and Amara Mehkdomi. Participants' parents were invited as well, which made the contest even more special. Classes competing were 5 to 7. Teachers of respective classes had chosen 4 contestants from each level. The participants gave each other a tough competition

and after careful deliberation, the judges gave their decisions. Winners and runner ups were awarded with ribbons and certificates and the other contestants were awarded with certificates for participation. The winners of Links Elocution Contest 2011 are as follows:

Class 5: Kayan Sayeed

Class 6: Sieun Park

Class 7: Ahmad Panjwani



LINKS LOWER PRIMARY ELOCUTION CONTEST

By Minhal Kashif 7-L

The Elocution Contest held at Links Lower Primary School was just as exciting as always. The event was held on 22nd November 2011 and parents of the participants were invited. The judges for the event were Marie Niazi, Sabrena Siddiqui and Humaira Junaid. The contestants had been prepared really well by

their teachers and exhibited great confidence and eloquence. The winners of Links Elocution Contest 2011 held at LPS are mentioned as follows:

Preps: Falah Zehra Syeda

Class 1: Aurangzeb Shah

Class 2: Selina Shelwani

Class 3: Mezyuna Kalat

Class 4: Shahmir Panjwani



READ FOR A CAUSE

By Sarah Fawad Ali 7-P

Reading habit benefits our lives in many ways. It strengthens us mentally, spiritually and socially. LINKS strongly believes in inculcating the habit of reading among its students. The task of cultivating reading, not just as a good habit, but also as a noble act, is accomplished by means of the 'Read for a Cause' program that takes place every year at LINKS. Students are given the task of finding sponsors for every book they read and collect money. The program lasted for a month during which time all classes read as many books as they could to help collect money for the Flood victims. Students' effort and interest in the reading program were duly hailed in the assembly as the name of the house that read most weeks was announced. At the end of the month, a generous amount of Rs. 209, 650 was collected and donated to the Flood victims.

Students who read the most books:

Prep B: Aisha Trunkwala

Class 4L: Laiba Bilwani

Class 4L: Manaal Asim

Class 5P: Brishk Manzoor

Class 6L: Nazal Manzoor

Class 6L: Emaan Malik

The winning house for 'Read for a Cause' Drive was Blue House.



SAFETY FIRST

By Yousef Zeeshan 8

Prevention is better than cure – the age old saying is certainly true. The Safety Awareness Drive lasted a whole week at Links. During the Safety week, we had our morning presentations daily, highlighting different aspects of safety. Students enacted various procedures of safety. Each class had one topic

and they discussed the importance of being safe. The topics ranged from Safety at home to Internet Safety Protocol. Children were told the importance of Road Safety. Safety Awareness week was very successful as it targeted all possible hazards a child may be exposed to on a daily basis and proposed methods to avoid them.



ART COMPETITION

By Maryam Atif 8



Art activities can help children in all areas of development. Children's active imaginations can take form through art. Art helps them to emote and convey their feelings and also provides them a release. It also provides them with a sense of self. An Art Competition was held on the 20th of December 2011 at Links. Students of classes 1 to 6 eagerly participated in the competition and were exposed to a world of creativity and imagination. A fun-filled and colourful atmosphere was created allowing students to experiment with different mediums and at the same time enhancing their artistic skills.



SPORTS DAY

By Kainaat Jah 8

This year, our Links sports days took place on the 17th and 23rd of December, 2011 respectively. The students showed immense sportsmanship and skills. Everyone was excited for their races, and was eager to win. Great team spirit was displayed and at the same time, students were determined to win! The PE displays had everyone tapping their feet and added to the atmosphere even more. However, the highlight of the events was the ever famous parents' race and teachers' race, which had the students cheering enthusiastically. Over all, the event was a great success and everyone had a fantastic



PROFESSIONS PARADE

By Minhah Kashif 7-L

“It's NOT the job you DO; it's HOW you DO the job.”

This is an important lesson to learn and one that the teachers at Links preschool taught the little ones throughout the topic of Professions. The topic was concluded with the Annual Professions Parade on the 4th of November. The tiny professionals

had the chance to try out social situations and explore ideas under the guise of different professionals. Postmen and police women, farmers and tailors all were present to show us the tricks of their trade. It was a colourful day with lots of fun and learning thrown in.



FOR OUR GRANDPARENTS

By Siminah Ghani 8

The special kind of love you get from a grandparent is a love you can't get anywhere else. Parents have to worry about who children will become in the future; their role is to be providers and disciplinarians. Grandparents can just enjoy children for who they are in the moment. The love of a



Tiny Tots Performing for their Grandparents

grandparent is often freer and more unconditional. As a token of appreciation and as a mark of respect for our lovely grandparents, the children

at Links Pre-School honoured them by organizing a musical recital for their viewing. The children also made some pretty gifts as a token of their love. The grandparents were touched by the caring gesture. It was an enjoyable morning for grandparents, children and teachers alike.

A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN

By Yousef Zeeshan 8

Witches, Zombies, Skeletons, Mummies, Dracula, Bats and even Fairies visited us this Halloween. The event was organised by the Links Parent Association. A Bake sale with food stalls and games were set up in the assembly area turning it into a spooky world of fun and excitement. Students enjoyed a ghoulishly good Halloween as they helped themselves to scrumptious snacks. The little tots

at pre-school let out squeals and shrieks of delight as they paraded around the school and enjoyed having their pictures taken in front of the haunted house. Moreover, a morning assembly was presented by Class 2 at LPS. An ambience of a grand Halloween party was created at UPS using appropriate props. All in all, this October, the students had a blast while they celebrated All Hallows Eve this year.



UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

By Rahemah Khatri 7-P

The Universal Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide. This year, Links Lower Primary School invited students from a charitable school and set up a fair for their special guests. Students were paired up with the visiting guests and were

responsible for showing them around. Moreover, teachers stimulated their pupils to think about the differences between themselves and others and explained the idea of "rights". Attention was drawn to situations in countries where children's rights do not exist. Students were also asked to donate toys and clothes for those less privileged, which they



CLEAN HANDS - SAVES LIVES!

By Hamza Siddiqui 7-P

Links celebrated Global Hand Washing Day to promote awareness and responsibility towards cleanliness amongst its students. The children and teachers of the Prep section put in their best effort to prepare a presentation which was educational and loads of fun to watch. Using the Ginger Bread Story as a base, they cleverly put

together the importance and advantages of hand washing in our daily lives. Students were repeatedly reminded that washing hands with soap is amongst the most effective and inexpensive way to prevent diseases. A quiz was also held to promote knowledge about personal hygiene.



LINKS PARENT ASSOCIATION

By Alia Mohyeddin 7-L

The Links Parent Association is an integral part of the school. The Association aims to support and promote school progress and the well being of the students during their school years. Moreover, the Parent Association helps to develop a working relationship between teachers, parents and all others associated with the school. Last year, the Association was headed by Mrs. Yasmeen Sayeed and this year the torch has been passed on to Mrs. Juwita Dossa. The Links Parent Association has worked meticulously in order to organize various school events this term which were extremely successful. We are very pleased to have them as part of our school and eagerly anticipate the events that they have planned for the following term.



Links Parent Association
2011- 2012

THE PHANTOM COMES TO LINKS!

By Hamza Siddiqui 7-P

Links is famous for its breath taking and elaborate annual concerts. Students from all classes audition for the concert in hopes of bagging a role in the play. This year, the Links Upper Primary & Secondary School will be presenting 'THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA'.

Lead roles for this sensational musical have been announced and

practices have been underway since September. Students have been staying back after school twice a week and rehearsing with all their hearts. The school choir has also been practising regularly. With all the students' hard work, it looks like Links will once again come up with an exhilarating performance and an evening that will be remembered by all and sundry.



EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL SEAS

By Amna Ashfaque 7-L

This year classes 10 and 11 will be going on an exciting trip to Sri Lanka during the winter holidays. This will be a once in a life-time experience for the students since they



Enchanting Sri Lanka

will be exploring the wonderful and breath-taking sights of Sri Lanka accompanied by two teachers. This will especially be a very memorable trip for grade eleven as this will

be their last year at Links.

Though the trip will only be for a period of five days, but every day the students will be visiting new places and discovering Sri Lanka's true splendour.

The students are very excited about this trip and hope to have five days full of fun and frolic.

INTERVIEW WITH Ms SWALAHA ALAM SHAHZADA - ACADEMIC HEAD, LINKS UPPER PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL

Why did you choose the education field as your line of profession?

I didn't— it chose me. After my 'O' Levels I went on to pursue Finance at Greenwich University. Half way through the first semester, my neighbor asked me to help him out with Accounts since I had achieved an 'A' at the 'O' Level – I tutored him privately and he got an 'A'! And then his friends came... and somewhere along the line I got paid and I realized that 'teaching was a viable option.' Thus, through out college I taught privately but after graduating with a BSc. in Finance and Economics I left teaching and went on to pursue Banking and mainly Foreign Currency Trading. My first job was at Bank Alfalah in Financial Control and then the big break came when I was offered a position at UBL Treasury as the Junior Fx Dealer. Still not sure whether I had chosen the right career – I went to work at Jehangir Siddiqui & Co., a brokerage firm because I wanted to learn trading as a broker as well. It took me a while but I realized that I couldn't stress over other people's money all day! So I quit and figured that since I really didn't know how to do anything else (i.e., food and clothing - the most viable business in Karachi!) I came back to teaching and then I taught at L'ecole, Bay View High and KGS before I moved to Links.

What do you find the most rewarding factor in this profession?

How I am remembered. As a teacher you become a part of a student's life for a year or so but you can leave a lasting impression – hopefully a positive one! I enjoy being remembered and cherished by

my ex-students and so how they remember me is probably the most important and the biggest reward for me.

What fresh academic policies do you wish to implement in Links?

None at the time - sometimes there is no need to create new policies. It is more important that we efficiently manage our existing policies. Our prime focus is to make sure that current policies are implemented in a professional, honest and integral manner.

How would your methods change the academic system?

I don't plan to change the academic system. At Links we follow the British National Curriculum for core subjects and the CIE curriculum for the O' Levels and both are working well. There is a big difference between the 'Academic System' and the 'Curriculum' – meaning that the curricula is implemented within the system thus we continue to update, be innovative and be creative with our curriculum.

What methods would you suggest to combat student passivity?

This can only be done in the classroom and it depends on the interest and willingness of the teachers. How well the teacher manages her classroom, how far she is willing to go, how much she is involved and how much she cares for her students helps in dealing with student passivity.

How do you handle the non academic issues or problems that the students face?

Non-academic issues are personal

behaviour issues and resolve of these depends on the extent or the depth of the issue for that particular student. Luckily, Links has a very strong policy & programme called 'Students



at Risk' and through this programme we identify students regularly that are at risk academically or in terms of behaviour. I work with the school counselor in figuring out how we can deal with students who are at risk in terms of behaviour and then we take an appropriate step.

What is the most challenging thing about your work?

Unprofessional attitudes.

Where do you see yourself in the next ten years?

Right here at Links heading our A Level programme! Unless, of course, I haven't retired to Cuba and opened my 'tikka' shop on the beach!

What message would you like to convey to the students?

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

LAHORE IT IS!

By Sarah Fawad Ali 7-P

This year Links has organized a very different fieldtrip for the grade 9 students. The grade 9 students will be going to the majestic city of Lahore.

The students will be accompanied by their teacher as well as parents and will be going during the winter holidays of 2011. The

students are very eager to go to Lahore as they will be learning new things about the city firsthand.

Lahore is a very historical place and tells a lot about our country. Sites such as Shalimar Garden,



The Famous Lahore Fort

Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, Minar-e-Pakistan and many more will add immensely to the students' knowledge of Pakistan's rich history.

The carpenter visited Links Preschool and alongside the children, he made miniature sized furniture. The little ones learned the art of creating furniture from scratch and enjoyed the activity immensely. Moreover, they were delighted with their doll sized tables, chairs and beds.



The tiny tots at Preschool were introduced to the vocabulary of different vehicles. Therefore, the school arranged for the children to have a ride in a rickshaw. The children were thrilled to sit in the rickshaw, with their friends and ride up and down in our school lane. They also learned a lot about different modes of public transport used in their country.



"May your meditation bring you peace, happiness, and bliss."

Twice a week, the little ones at Preschool can be seen bending and stretching and engaging in all the various yoga poses.

From chaos, absolute calmness has emerged.



Cobbler, cobbler mend my shoe – get it done at Links Pre-School!

A cobbler visited us at school to share the secrets of his trade. The children were fascinated watching him mend and polish some shoes. The little ones also got a chance to polish their own shoes – an activity that they partook in, with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Creative writing enables us to transfer eloquent thoughts into words and express ourselves on paper. At Links, students are made to do a number of creative writing assignments over the academic year to achieve just that. To promote students' interest in creative writing, Links held an English as well as an Urdu Creative Writing Competition. Students were given thought inspiring yet exciting topics to write on. Everyone participated with great fervour and all classes engaged in a creative battle. The result was some extremely well written essays. The names of students who excelled at the competition were announced and applauded in the morning assembly.



Winners of the Creative Writing Competition

English

Preps: Zara Hasan

Class 1: Danyal Aly Khan

Class 2: Raef Ahmed

Class 3: Ahmed Ashfaque

Class 4: Shahmir Ashfaque

Class 5: Kayan Sayeed

Class 6: Nazal Manzoor

Class 7: Hamza Saif

Class 8: Yousef Zeeshan

Class 9: Mishaal Khan

Class 10: Kurush Kakalia

Class 11: Neha Makhdoom

Urdu

Ahmed Ashfaque

Zara Khatri

Eisha Nadeem

Amna Merchant

Haya Khatri

Kainat Jah

Muhammad Jan

Abdullah Khurshid

Omar Abbas Malik

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS!

By Yousef Zeeshan 8

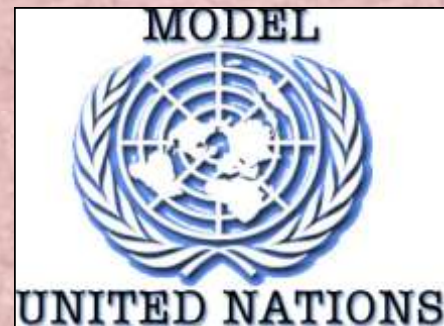


Different cultures and religions teach us to respect and be more tolerant of one another and at the same time provide us with an opportunity to celebrate and share each others' happiness. Like always, this year we celebrated Christmas at Links. The school adorned beautiful Christmas decorations giving a feel of pure merriment and joy to all students. On behalf of all the students of Links, the Editorial Team wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year too!

MODEL UNITED NATIONS PRACTICES

By Fahaama Siddiqui 7-P

After their participation in the hugely successful Harvard Model United Nations Conference 2011 held in China, the students of Links are once again prepping up and geared to attend the Model United Nations Conference in 2012. The students are very excited and have already started work on issues they would like to discuss at the conference. The MUN Conferences are held annually and bring together 5,000+ participants from around the world. Delegates discuss issues at the forefront of international relations with UN Headquarters as a backdrop. We wish our students all the very best and hope they will make us and our school proud yet again.



FRI DAY SPECIALS

by Subin Park 7-P

LIST OF FRIDAY MORNING
ASSEMBLIES IN THE FIRST TERM

At Links, Friday Morning assemblies are a unique treat for students and parents. Students from every level perform in front of the whole school in order to convey a special message. The performances are meaningful and showcase students' hard work and are also a reflection of their teamwork. The Friday assembly presentations are performed class wise from prep to class nine. Although the scripts and the ideas are planned by the concerned teachers, it is the students who actualize the concepts with their show and put life into the presentations. Students play their parts with great zest and are always excited at the prospect of performing in front of their parents as well as the whole school. Friday Morning assemblies carried out at Links in the first term are listed on the right:



Preps: The Gingerbread Man
Class 1: Children of the World
Class 2: Happy Halloween
Class 3: Back to the Summer
Class 2 & 3: Iqbal
Class 4: Be Thankful to God
Class 4: Being a Responsible Citizen
Class 5: Bully the Bully
Class 6: Elbows off the Table
Class 7: Weapons of Mass Destruction
Class 8: Empathy

LINKS FIRST O LEVEL RESULTS

By Maryam Atif 8

During the month of May 2011 senior Links students of class 10 appeared for their first O Level papers. Subjects included Pakistan Studies and Islamiat. The students, who are now in Class 11, scored remarkable grades and brought immense honour to the school. The first C.I.E results were a huge achievement for students and teachers alike. In 2012 Class 11 will be sitting for their remaining papers of the O Level Exams and hopefully they will once again bring laurels to the school.



AN EVENING WITH ALICE

By Kainat Jah 8

Excitement is in the air as Links Lower Primary School prepares for the annual concert. This year, LPS will be presenting its very own production of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. The LPS concert is sure to be a hit as the students have been rehearsing with all their hearts for the play.



Many Thanks to the Links Editorial Team

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Sahar Imran
Amna Ashfaque
Hamza Siddiqui
Fahaama Siddiqui
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Siminah Ghani
Yousuf Zeeshan
Maryam Atif