

## HISTORY OF AHLCON INTERNATIONAL

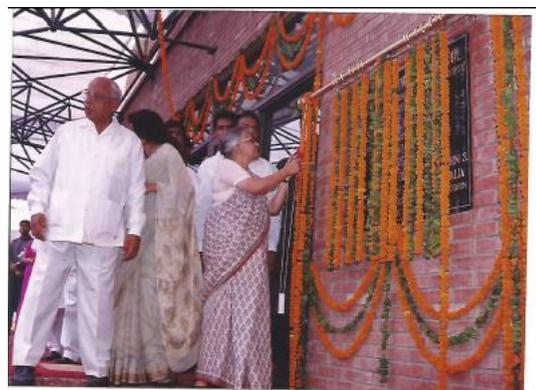
### Introduction:

**Ahlcon International School** is a school that endeavours to fulfil a wide range of educational needs of the school-age children. We define educational needs as those encompassing the holistic development of the child; physical social, intellectual and emotional development. With a strong foundation that begins in the early years, the school helps children grow in a caring, stimulating and challenging environment.

**Ahlcon International School** is the dream destination for every parent seeking the best school for their child.

### Establishment:

Established in 2001, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, the then Chief Minister of Delhi, inaugurated the school. The patrons of the school, Shri Bikramjit Ahluwalia and Chairperson, Dr Rohini Ahluwalia had envisaged an institution which will take school education to an unexplored height. The aim was to provide the best learning experience in a safe, conducive and loving environment by skilled, compassionate and competent teachers. The motto of the school says it all- **Global Perspective Indian values.**



The Vision, Mission and Core Values were carefully scripted as they would lay down the path for future years.

An establishment which began with a staff of 16 teachers of Classes Nursery to 5<sup>th</sup> with 500 students was already set to the task of growing and blossoming into a school with a difference. The construction of only one block was complete and the next two years witnessed feverish construction activity to bring the dream into reality. In 2003, we added the middle school up to 8, and our first batch of 10<sup>th</sup> appeared for Board Exams in the year 2006-07. The first batch of class 12<sup>th</sup> appeared in the year 2007-08. By this time the student's strength has reached to 1752 and a teaching and non-teaching staff strength to 181.



### **FIRST PHASE-2001-2005**

#### **AIS: PIONEER IN MANY DOMAINS**

The school placed a high stake on training and orienting parents. In the initial years only, a day-long workshop was conducted for all the parents by renowned psychologist Dr Aruna Broota in 2001 while eminent trainers like Blossom Kochar trained and groomed the staff of Ahlcon on soft skills and personality development. To understand the concept of international education, all the teachers visited the American school in Delhi to gain an insight into modern practices and pedagogy.

Apart from **innovative methodology**, Ahlcon attracted attention due to two-teacher- concept in Preprimary and ideal teacher-student ratio, the promise of facilities like purified drinking water, monthly educational trips and regular workshops for the teaching faculty. **Activity Centre** was entirely a new concept. Teaching methodology was new and innovative. Even with limited resources, the

dedicated faculty worked tirelessly to make teaching-learning enjoyable. Even though the initial classes were only from Nursery to class 5<sup>th</sup>, every effort was made to upgrade the skills of the staff. Eventually, the culture of learning and continuous professional development was becoming the foundation of the strong institution. A harmonised blend of co-curricular and scholastic made Ahlcon the sought-after school in East Delhi.

In 2001 when the schools were speculating about the **inclusion of technology** in the curriculum, Ahlcon had already enriched its classrooms with a PC which provided audiovisual support to the teaching-learning process. The need for training the staff in ICT was recognised from the beginning.



**MGRM-** Ahlcon was also the pioneer in using e-governance under the aegis of M-star. Mstar is a programme which manages, schedules, tracks, analyses and reports various activities in the school. This information is available through special card-OMV card and a personalised pin number. This programme was first introduced in Ahlcon International school and is functional since May 2003.

In June 2003, the online admissions began through Mstar. The various modules provided since its introduction were Finance, Purchase and Inventory, Pay Roll, Fee, Time office Management, Library, Transport, HRM, Examination, Attendance, Time Table, SCHOOL IN (for the details of co-curricular activities). Teachers were trained for entering data in modules like examination, evaluation and student's attendance. Mstar implementation resulted in 2003-04 for the generation of the computerised report card. Feedback given by the teachers was incorporated and necessary changes since then are being made to make it more user-friendly. The

first OMV card to be issued was to the Principal, Mr Ashok Kumar Pandey on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

**Parent Day at School:** Parent day at school was a novel concept which was adopted by Ahlcon right from the year of inception. Inviting parents, enabling them to observe the teaching-learning process by sitting in the classroom as observers so that they could understand the teaching methodologies better. They were also supposed to give feedback which was used constructively to improve the services of the school.

**Inclusive Learning:** The vision of Ahlcon is aligned with the tenets of National Curriculum Framework. Inclusion was at the core of education at Ahlcon. The school believed in empowering teachers, turning them into counsellors who could handle children with special needs too. The school now has section-wise counsellors at four different levels.

**Social Work – Caring Souls:** Lending a helping hand to the weaker section of the society has been a priority with Ahlcon always. Teaching sharing & caring, extending monetary and material support to the needy, working beyond classroom hours to teach the special needs children and offering help of every kind has been the culture of the school. The legacy continues till date and has paved the way for various social programmes undertaken by teachers and students in every section.



## 2005-09

This year witnessed the launch of the first magazine – UDGAM, covering the period 2005 – 2006. It was a testimony to all the accomplishments of Alchonites in various fields. It was a not-to-be-forgotten year for the Ahlconites as they had got once in a lifetime chance of meeting the living legend, the then honourable President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, along with the sculpture teacher, Mr Rakesh Ranjan Dubey who received accolades for his work in the Art Exhibition at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The Ahlcon swimming pool was inaugurated on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005 by Mrs Nafisa Ali Sodhi who was the Chairperson of Children Film Society of India then. This facility has been instrumental in the building of physical stamina of students and teachers and has been most sought-after activity till now. As part of Cultural Exchange programme, a delegation of 17 people from Norway including Secretary General of Norway Embassy visited Ahlcon. The seeds of international linkages were sown with dexterity. The first batch of Class 12<sup>th</sup> appeared for their Board exams in 2007-08 and the school etched its name on the educational scene with its successful result.

## EXPANSION: 2009 -2013

Having strengthened its foundation and having carved a name for itself in the education scenario, Ahlcon set out to blossom into an institution of high repute, unmatched potential and empowered value system. This period also proved to be the most fruitful, productive, rewarding and gratifying period for the institution which glorified the name of Ahlcon in all spheres of the educational domain.

**Health Programmes:** The school not only started investing in organising talks/ workshops/ seminars on the importance of health (mental health too) but also made health checkups of every child an annual feature. Dental checkup camps and Eye checkup camps are organised each year to ensure that the health issues of children are addressed.

## 2009-11

The school registered itself for the prestigious accreditation scheme initiated by the British Council called International School Award and proved itself worthy of the award by involving the entire school in international activities in all strands of the curriculum.

This period also witnessed a steady rise in participation in International Summits, programs and Competitions where the students won laurels and brought fame to the school.

#### PROUD MOMENTS:

- It was a moment of great honour for Ahlcon International School when its Principal Mr Ashok Kumar Pandey was conferred the CBSE award on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010 for his valuable and commendable services in the field of education by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Department of Education.
- The Principal Mr Ashok K Pandey received 'National Award To Teachers' for the year 2012 from the hands of the Hon'ble President Mr Pranab Mukherjee.
- Ms Sunita Rajiv received the BEST ENGLISH TEACHER AWARD (2013 -2014) from the ELTAI - English Language Teachers' Association of India at their 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL and 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference at CHENNAI from His Excellency Dr Rosaiah, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2013.
- The Indian Environment Society that coordinates GLOBE programme and the American Embassy facilitated a visit by the Director of the Earth sciences division NASA, Dr Michael Freilich along with colleagues Dr Marc Allen & Dr Davis Mc Sweeney to the school where they interacted with the students and also presented a book, 'Our Changing Planet'.
- NCERT organised 'National Meet of Young Environmentalists' with Bharatiya Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011 in Pune. Shreya Kapoor of 8<sup>th</sup> C worked on a project 'Save paper' which was shortlisted by NCERT.
- From NBA Hall of the famed, George Gervin and WNBA champion Katie Smith conducted basketball clinic at Ahlcon on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 courtesy of US Embassy Sports Envoy program.

#### INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES:

- German Exchange program became a favourite with students of foreign language in the school. Max Mueller Bhavan sponsored the establishment of Goethe Room in the school to facilitate learning of the language.
- The International dimension of the school encouraged active participation in some international projects. One of these was an initiative of face to faith foundation of Tony Blair, the then Prime Minister of England. R.Sangeetha, a student of class 8th, shot a film on her grandmother and captured the power of 'faith'. The short film drew the attention of the lives of Mr Tony Blair, and she found herself in the elite group of 6 best such films shortlisted worldwide.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2009, Mr R K Jain – President, Youth for Human Rights International (India) & Dr Bruce Ferguson – President, YHRI ( South Asia) visited the school and interacted with students to increase awareness on Human Rights. Human rights Club - Ahlcon International was formed with Yash Goyal of class 11<sup>th</sup> as the founder president. He was also nominated by YHRI (India) to represent our nation at the International Conference from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August' 2009 at UN Head Quarters, Geneva, Switzerland.
- In response to the National Geographic Channel's campaign to create awareness about student's responsibility towards environment – a project made by two students of class 6<sup>th</sup> were chosen as one of the two best entries from the country. Anshul Aggarwal & G S Kasturi's project won them a trip to the famous National Geographic Museum. Middle School Incharge Mrs Anju Gupta and their social science teacher Mrs Sumedha Sodhi accompanied them. This visit was the first International visit of students and teachers followed by several such visits and exchanges that take place every year.
- The German Government launched Schools: Partners for the Future – PASCH' initiative and two students Sahana Sreedhar & Shubhi Aggarwal along with their teacher got the excellent opportunity to visit Kibo in Frankfurt, Germany for three weeks.

- **CONNECTING CLASSROOM PROGRAMME:** Under the aegis of British Council, Ms Ekta Kandhari visited Renfrewshire in Scotland, the UK to attend the Connecting Classroom seminar, a landmark achievement in the history of Ahlcon.
- We have been active participants in Project Citizen which was an incentive by the Learning Links Foundation which highlighted International Civic Dedication Programme. 16 students along with their mentor teacher visited a nursing home in Noida, presented their dossier based on their experience and bagged the Best documentation Award.
- The students got a golden opportunity to meet Astronaut Michael Foale who visited the school on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and interacted with the students.
- The famous author Ruskin Bond visited our school and interacted with students.

### **EXCELLENCE: 2013-till date**

Travelling to the top is an arduous journey, but staying on the top is a greater challenge than anything. Reaching and striving for excellence has been the ethos of the school, but sustaining that excellence in the myriad domains of learning is an indomitable task. With the high motivation level of the staff, inspirational role models and unflinching support of the parents, Ahlcon has been able to sustain its new self-set standards.

For the first time in the history of Ahlcon, Teacher of the Year award was instituted to celebrate the excellence in teaching fraternity. Ms Sunita Rajiv was the first recipient to be given this coveted award for the session 2012-13.

Later more categories were added to these awards which were:

‘You Are Noticed’

‘Special Recommendation’

‘Rising Star’

‘Best Class Teacher’

‘Best Activity Teacher’

‘Best Section’

**Stay back facility for teacher’s wards:** In 2013 the stay back facility for teacher’s wards was made formal, and a team was made responsible for the smooth functioning and caretaking the job. The Preprimary Toy room and the Primary Music room are allotted as venues for all the staff children. Teachers assisted by Didis take care of the kids. The parent-teachers are relieved of all worries.

**E-Lesson Plans:** In allegiance to the millennium goals and our commitment to see the environment and resources, the school switched over from teacher’s diaries to designing e-lesson plans. These e-lesson plans were submitted to the heads and shared with the staff. E-lessons also reduce the paper usage in the institution.

**In-House Resource Material:** As the school was growing fast and bringing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills into its gamut, the need of designing textbooks for every subject was necessary. The Principal and Headmistress inspired all the teams of teachers to write textbooks in alignment with the school ethos and vision. The result was gratifying and rewarding. Presently most of the classes in the junior section are using teacher made textbooks and spirals.

**Interactive Boards:** Interactive boards were introduced in all the classes over a span of 2-3 years starting from 2015. The introduction of IWBs proved to be a turning point in the history of Ahlcon. Presently we have interactive boards in all the classes.

### **Bringing Sustainable Development Goals into the curriculum:**

When the heads met to discuss the theme of the Annual Exhibition for 2016-17, they decided to adopt the theme of Good Citizenship as the core content of the exhibition. The exhibition was based on Sustainable development goals laid out by the United Nations in its agenda 2030. The school adopted a new anthem for good citizenship and each note and each word reverberated in the promises and actions of Ahlconites.

2013-14

- The school registered itself for the prestigious accreditation scheme initiated by the British Council for the second time and received the International School Award for the years 2014 to 2017.

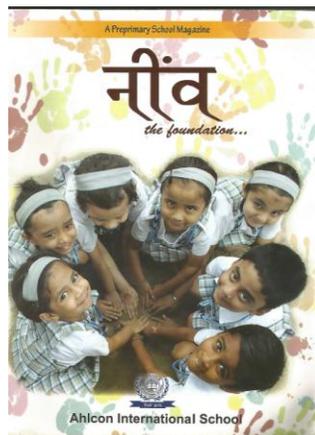
- The school was ranked at first place in East Delhi in a 2013 survey by the Hindustan Times once again.

## 2014-15

- BEYOND TEACHING, a workshop conducted by Swami Chidrupanandji was organised by Chinmaya Mission, in collaboration with the School.
- Ahlcon International School was ranked No.1 school in East Delhi in Times School Survey 2014.
- In 2014, Ms Sunita Rajiv got the opportunity to visit UK under the UK grant scheme of the British Council.
- Our Senior Girls Table Tennis Team representing Zone 2, secured 2<sup>nd</sup> Position in Delhi State Inter-Zonal Competition.
- The senior Basketball team brought the Runners – Up Trophy in the International Inter– School Basketball Championship at DPS Sharjah, U.A.E.
- The Junior NBA Zonal and City Championship held at Khaitan Public School U-16 achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Position.
- Aashi Rastogi of class 12<sup>th</sup> bagged the Gold Medal in Delhi State Shooting Championship and 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Rifle Shooting Championship in Kuwait.
- Five students of Ahlcon were selected among the top 50 in The Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship and awarded the certificate on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015.
- Our school was the recipient of the International School Award for the second time awarded by the British Council for the years 2014 to 2017.
- In Interschool Roller Skating competition four golds, four silvers and four bronze medals were bagged by our students.

## 2015-16

- Teachers of Ahlcon International School had participated in CENTA Teaching Professionals Olympiad. Ms Anita Sreejit was the topper in the Primary Section and her All India ranking was 8<sup>th</sup>. She was also rewarded with an invitation to attend a conference in Dubai by Global Education & Skills Forum organised by the Varkey Foundation.
- Preprimary launched its first Magazine NEEV in 2015-16.



- 13 Teachers from the Preprimary department enrolled and completed the ICEPP online course from Asian International, University.

## 2016-17

The school held its Annual Exhibition on the topic-‘SAJAG NAGRIK: SAMRIDH SAMAJ’ which explored all the possible dimensions of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in the curriculum. In first of its kind mega exhibition, the school displayed its solidarity towards cultivating conscientious citizens for a better world.

- **Investing in the Wellness and Amelioration of Teachers:** A Boot Camp was organised for the enthusiastic teachers of Ahlcon International to brainstorm and mull over the practices, innovations and need for betterment in future years. The intense and well-planned camp was a roaring success for all, and the team came back with a chiselled roadmap for the future.



- **Teachers become Researchers:** 14 teachers undertook Action Research under the mentorship of Mr Ashok K Pandey & Mr Arijit Ghosh. Doing Action Research gave them an edge over their own experience and sharpened their insight into understanding – how students learn.



ISA, Book Week, Vasantotsav, Literary weeks, programs by SPIC MACAY, Annual Cultural function and Annual Sports Day, Preprimary Grand Parents Day are events that take place every year.

***Last updated 19/04/18***