

## RIVER CLEANING PROJECT FOR CLASS 8

The students of the Bishop's School , Camp set off to Bund Garden for a morning of Social Service activity on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February ,2012. For the umpteenth time they re-checked their bags, hoping that they hadn't forgotten any items which were included in the list given to them. Their gear consisted of a sun cap, a bottle of water, surgeon's gloves and a face mask to keep away the stench. They were all ready to take on the adventure.

Using the school buses for transport, they set off to clean the riverside area. Arrival was swift, and the jovial mood that had come as a result of the bus trip quickly crept away as the specified target was extremely huge, dirty and smelly. The boys quickly donned their face masks on as the stench was totally disgusting. The teachers rallied all the unwilling participants of the trip and soon had the entire congregation addressed by a representative who explained the task at hand. The trip was an initiative taken to save the oceans and water bodies of the planet. The President of the Ocean Savers Foundation gave a brief speech on how the planet needs to be saved and being true Bishopites, a helping hand lent would definitely help save it.

The students were then divided into groups of ten. Two students in each group were charged with the responsibility of supplying and renewing garbage bags as well as keeping track of all the waste collected. A flag was waved which acted as a signal to start.

At first only a few students took the job seriously. Most of the other students were simply standing and playing spectator. Soon they too followed the sincere children's example and set to work. Slowly but steadily, the zeal spread, and all the boys worked furiously, attacking the garbage and dumping it into the garbage bags.

A wide variety of objects such as plastic bags, plastic bottles and other stuff made of plastic, tattered business cards and posters, torn clothes, paper and glass fragments to name a few were found at the site. Then came the disturbing things – skeletons. It began with finding a bull's rooting leg. Soon it's whole body was located while the boys tried to reassemble it but without success. The Class 8 pupils totally stormed the place, cleaning like whirlwinds.

Soon they had more than twenty large garbage bags filled to the brim. They were happily exhausted . The area looked like a totally new place. While it was not sparkling clean, it was way cleaner than the previous hour. All the masks and gloves were disposed just before the boys re-assembled before the podium for the parting speech.

The Chief Guest and the President congratulated the students of Class 8 of the Bishop's School , Camp on their pain-staking efforts. This was quite a feather in our school's cap!The boys were promised certificates from the Ocean Savers and many more such opportunities to clean the water bodies of the city.

With that, they boarded the school buses and travelled back to school .It definitely was one of the most adventurous days in the lives of the students.