

DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL
BRS NAGAR, LUDHIANA

Dear Parents
Namaskar!

I am thrilled to share that one of our talented students, and an established writer, **Aditya Shrivastav of XII Non-Medical** has got three of his articles published in **KLOUD9**, a reputed magazine for school students, demonstrating his love for language and the art of storytelling. This magazine is edited by **Mr. Ruskin Bond**, a prolific writer, who has several books to his credit.

We celebrate Aditya's remarkable achievement, showcasing his exceptional writing skills and creative thoughts. **KLOUD9** provides students with opportunities to express themselves on various topics close to their hearts and Aditya has made best use of this opportunity.

It gives me immense pleasure to share that in May 2025 issue of the magazine, under the title '**Principal Speaks**' appears the interview that Aditya Shrivastav conducted of his school Principal. He during the interview posed important and thought-provoking questions that stand a ground in the present era and can help the students to make well informed choices. I am sharing the interview with you to go through and share with your wards, so that that they can realign themselves with their career choices to make a mark and cultivate lifelong habits that keep them updated and prepare them for the ever-evolving world around them.

Warm regards

(J. K. Sidhu)
Principal

PRINCIPAL

Speaks



MRS. J.K. SIDHU

PRINCIPAL DAV PUBLIC SCHOOL, BRS NAGAR, LUDHIANA

1. How do you encourage students to select a career that aligns with their interests or passion?

At our school, we guide students to explore their inner callings through career counselling and interaction with professionals from varied fields. We regularly hold DAV Talks, where alumni share their journeys and insights about their professions. These sessions genuinely enlighten young minds. I encourage students to ask themselves, “What excites me even when no one is watching?”—this helps them connect with their passions. Participation in diverse clubs, internships, and hobby-based exploration helps identify what truly drives them. Regular self-reflection and mentoring are essential.

2. What are the criteria to keep in mind for students to select the right career path?

Students must consider three core factors: passion, aptitude, and long-term viability. A thoughtful blend of what they love, what they're talented at, and what the world needs is ideal. Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam once said, “One should excel in one's chosen field.” Even if the initial choice isn't perfect, with dedication and interest, it can evolve into a fulfilling journey. It's important to consider whether the profession aligns with ethical values. A balanced career decision is one where artha (livelihood) aligns with dharma (purpose). Albert Einstein also said, “Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

3. According to you, what is the best aspect of NEP 2020, and how will it benefit the student community?

The most impactful aspect of NEP 2020 is its strong push for multidisciplinary education and skill-based learning. By allowing students to choose subjects across traditional streams—like mixing physics with psychology or music with mathematics—they nurture creativity, critical thinking, and personal growth. Skill development is woven into the curriculum to prepare students not just for exams but for real-life challenges and careers of the future. This approach mirrors the holistic learning once practiced in India's ancient Gurukuls, where knowledge was never compartmentalised and every learner could thrive according to their unique potential.

4. Given the rising shift to digital learning, do you think technology is a bane or a boon?

Technology is a powerful tool—it becomes a boon or a bane depending on how it's used. At our school, we promote a balanced, blended learning model where digital resources support but don't replace human connection, valued education, and hands-on learning. Moderation in all activities leads to balance and well-being. We must teach students digital discipline to prevent addiction and information overload. As Karl Marx once noted, “The production of too many useful things results in too many useless people.” The key is mindful, purposeful use of technology.

5. What, according to you, are the steps to be taken for cultivating critical thinking in children?

Critical thinking starts with encouraging students to ask questions—not just answer them. In the classrooms, teachers must prioritise inquiry-based learning, problem-solving activities, and interdisciplinary exploration. Reading, debates, and entrepreneurship tasks help children move from passive receivers of information or knowledge to active learners. We must follow the dictum that education is not the learning of facts but the training of the mind to think.”

6. Here are some suggestions to help students enhance their reading skills and find enjoyment in the process.

Reading is not just a skill – it’s a lifelong joy. Students should begin with books that truly interest them, be it comics, biographies, mysteries, or science fiction, and slowly move towards deeper genres. Setting aside 15-20 minutes daily, joining or running book clubs, and discussing what they read with peers makes reading a lifelong habit, one that will never go out of fashion. I would like to quote the words of Dr Seuss, an American author and cartoonist: “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

7. Provide advice to students who intend to pursue unconventional careers in the future.

I deeply admire students who choose less conventional paths. To them, I say: Be bold, be prepared, and be patient. Equip yourself with the right knowledge, and seek guidance from mentors in that field. The Bhagavad Gita reminds us: “Karmanye vadhikaraste ma phaleshu kadachana” (कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन)—do your duty without attachment to results. Every pioneering journey faces resistance, but your courage can set new trends. Remember – “The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

8. What, according to you, are the must-learn life skills for every student, and why?

I follow one thing very passionately, and that is, “When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts.” It is our duty to help create a good blend of head, hand, and heart qualities in our students. Every student must be equipped with life skills like effective communication, emotional intelligence, decision-making, time management, and financial literacy. These empower them to lead balanced, independent lives. Equally important are empathy, adaptability, and self-discipline. Our ancient education system valued samskaras (moral values) along with vidya (knowledge), aiming to create not just scholars but good human beings.

9. How can students strike a balance between sports, hobbies and studies?

Time management is the foundation for a well-balanced life. Students must learn to plan their day with intention, giving space to academics, physical activity, and creative pursuits. Schools and parents should encourage a holistic lifestyle instead of focusing solely on grades. A happy, rested mind performs better. As I always tell my students—“Time is like money: respect it and spend it wisely, and it will serve you for life.”

10. Please share some suggestions/insights for the students/readers of Kloud9 magazine as a mentor.

Dear students, strive not just to succeed, but to grow as thoughtful, kind, and courageous individuals. Be curious, take risks, and never let failures define you. Stay away from self-harming habits like smoking, vaping, or digital addiction. Instead, invest in skills and books and nurturing relationships. Be a lifelong learner – open in mind and grounded in values. As a mentor, I urge you to always ask, “What good can I bring to the world today?” That is the true measure of a meaningful life.