

# WOODSTOCK SCHOOL

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010  
Subject: Woodstock School to dedicates brand new Hostel on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The legendary **Hostel** at **Woodstock School** in Mussoorie was formally re-opened and dedicated for use at a ceremony for the school's students, staff, and guests at a ceremony on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The hostel once again became a residence for boys in Grades 10-12. Nested inside a difficult Himalayan terrain, the building is one of the finest residential structures in the town, constructed by an expert team to accommodate 137 students. The new Hostel also features a brand new ½-Olympic sized Swimming Pool to enhance the culture of swimming and fitness amongst Woodstock students.

The complete renovation of hostel, using the same plinth area and overall layout, was completed in a record time of just ten months. All aspects of this facility were completely upgraded and the accommodation capacity increased by over 50%.

The ceremony itself began with a fanfare from the Woodstock Staff Band at 4:30 pm on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Woodstock Principal Dr. David Laurenson opened the ceremony with his remarks, before the audience heard from President of the Woodstock Board Thomas Chandy. Former Hostel supervisor Ken Saum spoke about his experiences of India, Woodstock, and Hostel from his time here in the 70s. Chandy and the members of the Hostel Dorm Council then honoured the chief engineers behind the Hostel renovation, before Chandy and Laurenson thanked Sanjay Narang '81 for his major effort in helping to realize the dream of a new Hostel for Woodstock. Narang, who left Woodstock in Grade 11, was presented an honorary Woodstock diploma.

The new Hostel facility was then be open for guests and others students to tour. A special dinner and dance was held on Saturday night as part of the New Hostel celebrations.

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*For further information please contact:*

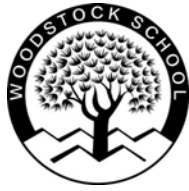
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Woodstock School has had a long history of significant contributions from its alumni, who even after decades of leaving their alma mater haven't lost their zest and love for their school. Alumni that graduated as far back as the year 1949 have made significant contributions to help re-develop the hostel building. Around 1.5 million dollars were donated to the school by several former students for this project.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BELOW**

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Being forced to use the existing building structure, each set of rooms has been uniquely designed to reflect the character of our Himalayan setting and the warmth of a home, instead of a standardized institutional look. To achieve this wood was used in different ways for panelling on the walls, and the rafters in the ceilings. 80% of this wood has been salvaged from the old beds, windows and the roof trusses in the earlier Hostel building.

The entire structure was painstakingly tested using ultrasound technology. The building was then strengthened by installing a new steel roof structure (replacing the wooden beams) and by concrete jacketing to strengthen the old columns and beams. Due to the various structural improvements, the Hostel building now meets the design code and can withstand earthquakes up to 6.0 on the Richter scale.

All the furniture in the student rooms is made using sheesham or sal wood which is native to Uttarakhand, and is extremely strong and robust. The wood is expected to last as long as the building itself. All the stone work in the new Hostel is part of the original stone walls that were built in the 1920's. The plaster over these walls was removed to reveal the beauty of the stonework.

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The facilities in Hostel include:

- 45 rooms accommodating 137 boys.
- 5 lounges (each attached with a kitchenette) for the students with 42" plasma screens and digital TV.
- A 140 seat dining room with fully equipped kitchen.
- A large common room (adjoining the pool) which can also be used by all staff/students at functions. It also has a dance floor/lights/music system.
- 5 apartments for staff/dorm parents.
  
- An office for the 'on-duty' dorm parent.
- There was an acute shortage of restroom facilities in the earlier Hostel building. There are now 6 convenient locations for the restroom facilities, which are designed to the international specification of 1:7 occupants.
- A regulation size outdoor basketball/volleyball court.
- Table tennis, carom boards, chess tables in the lounges.
- 1/2 Olympic sized pool with changing rooms.
- The entire Hostel building has wi-fi connectivity.

The new Hostel is the most environmentally friendly building on the Woodstock School campus, featuring low energy compact fluorescent lighting lamps, an efficient water heating system that uses the heated water for the bathrooms as well as in the swimming pool, an insulated 'warm blanket' to keep the pool warm, and thermally efficient insulation on the new roof. Furthermore, wood burning stoves (bukharis) in the staff apartments & student lounges have been replaced with modern thermostatically controlled electric heaters.

**ENDS**

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