Founder’s Day celebrations at Lawrence School conclude

AMRITA SHARMA
SANAWAR, OCTOBER 4
The 165th Founder’s Day celebrations of Lawrence School concluded here today
with an NCC parade by the students with the school flag. Sukhbir Singh Badal,
Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab and alumni of the school (Nilgiri House, 1980
batch), who was the chief guest, gave a cheque for Rs 1 crore to the school.
Addressing the gathering, he said a sound foundation was laid by good education
and the school’s motto, “never give in”, helped attain success.
He added that good values and education instilled in school helped through thick
and thin as no one could steal anyone else’s knowledge.
Headmaster Praveen Vasiith
highlighting achievements of students in academics, sports and co-curricular activities.
He said eight students scored cumulative grade point average of above 96 in the class X
examinations. He said students won laurels in shooting, sports events and debate.

Later, while speaking to mediapersons, he denied allegations levelled by Congress
leader Sukhpal Khaira that the grant came from the Punjab Nirman Programme.
Stating that it is well within stipulated guidelines of the state government to give
development grants, he said an “issueless” Congress was raising PCP to get political
milkshake.
Khaira reacted by saying that he presented documented proof in his press conference
in Chandigarh on Wednesday that the finance department had sanctioned the money
prove my allegations or he should tender a public apology for misleading the electorate
of Punjab for squandering taxpayers’ money,” Khaira said in a statement.

Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal takes the salute during the school parade at Lawrence School in Sanawar on Thursday.
Chandu, Vishal Choudhary gold medal for standing first in class XII to Priyank Mevra,
Shard Ram and Bhagwati Devi gold medal for boy and girl scoring 1st in class X
to Aneel Islam and Swati Saha.
Thirumay cup for organizational ability to Samrath Singh, Carlfy cup for progress to Chahilum Verma, Chief of Army Staff cup for best cadet
to Manvijay Singh Negi and Disha Dobhi.
Catherine Longman cup for public speaking to Himalaya House, Khetarpal Bravery award for exemplary bravery to Jagdeep Singh Babbar Rana,
old Sanawari achiever of the year award to Guri Gurnam Shamsi Rana of the 1971 batch,
Chief of Nepalese army teacher’s excellence award for outstanding efforts to improve class XII results to
Dr Praveen Kumar Gautam and Nipman teacher of the year award to Neelam Talbani.

Sukhbir gifts alma mater Rs 1-cr ‘development grant’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 4
ON THE annual day celebrations of Lawrence School at Sanawar on Thursday, Punjab
Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Badal gifted Rs 1 crore to the school.
Sukhbir, who was the chief guest on the occasion, while handing over the cheque to the school said it was “his government’s contribution
in the school”.

The letter issued by the finance department on October 1 had stated: “The money
will be sanctioned under the head ‘PM-10’ state-level initiative (Punjab Nirman Program
providing the council of ministers approves it.

The Punjab cabinet gave the grant on October 2 in its meeting
held on October 2. The memorandum presented before the cabinet
said many students from Punjab study at the school.

According to the 12th Five Year Plan document of the Punjab Planning Department, an outlay of Rs 1 crore
had been earmarked for the annual plan of 2012-13. On
Wednesday, the department had admitted to releasing the
money after cabinet sanction
on October 2, saying it is not
the first precedent of its kind in
Punjab or other states.

Claiming that his opposition to the said grant was based on merit, Khaira said 18,397
government schools in Punjab are in a parlous condition.

“The children sit on the floor to study, there are no toilets, no
safe drinking water and no

teachers. Had Sukhbir Badal given this grant to primary schools of the state, we could
have improved the conditions of at least more than two
dozen schools,” he said.

“His deep concern for the school should have seen donation
from his profit-making hotel ventures such as OBEROI
and Trident in Gurgaon or his
many other profitable business
ventures. The Rs 1 crore grant
given to elitist Sanawar Public School should be withdrawn
immediately or we will be
left with no option but to move to
the high court,” Khaira said.

With headmaster Praveen Vasiith at Lawrence School, Sanawar.
SUMIT SAWHNEY

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