



## What are our previous advanced senior students up to?

Last we heard... **Ms. Veena Sundher** (1<sup>st</sup> generation senior) is working busy on her career in the provincial government, and was the first to spend her volunteer time getting our website up and running. She worked side by side with **Ms. Sonia Grewal** (founder of Shan-e-Punjab) in developing dance formations. **Mrs. Sunny Randhawa** (nee Thiara) (1<sup>st</sup> generation senior) graduated from the University of Victoria, is working in her career, married and moved to the US. Her mother Mrs. Balbir Thiara was the one whom worked with me to come up with a name for our organization. **Ms. Raji Basi** (1<sup>st</sup> generation senior) is working in government on her career, and a major lead in the Puentes Theatre in Victoria. **Ms. Suman Atlas** (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior) is working on her career and plans to get married in 2010. **Ms. Jaswinder Bamra**, (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior) our fearless Team Lead, is now a Pharmacist, and planning to get married in 2010. **Ms. Amy Khangura** (nee Grewal) (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior) completed two degrees from the University of Victoria, married, has a baby boy named Gian, and is enjoying her career in government. On the side she enjoys photography. **Ms. Aman Nirwan** (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior) completed her post education in Journalism. **Ms. Sherry Dhillon** (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior) completed her Masters degree in Engineering. Her sister **Ms. Kamaljit Dhillon** (Kam was a 1<sup>st</sup> generation senior and was also the

Teacher for the seniors while **Ms. Grewal** was in Edmonton finishing her post secondary education), now married, finished her Masters degree in Victoria and is married living on the mainland. **Ms. Harpam Sra** (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior), completed her post-secondary education in health, and is working in Victoria in the health sector. **Ms. Isha Bedi** (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior) has completed her post-secondary education and is working successfully in her career. **Ms. Mona Gandu** (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior) has completed her post-secondary education and is working on her career. **Ms. Sonya Nirwan** (2<sup>nd</sup> generation senior/teacher) is in Europe working on her medical studies. **Ms. Harshdip Biring** (3<sup>rd</sup> generation senior) is working on her post-secondary education on the mainland, and **Ms. Aneeta Takhar** (2/3<sup>rd</sup> generation senior, drama/skit organizer, substitute teacher and senior music coordinator for 2008/09) is working on completing her post-secondary education in health. **Ms. Keira Dheensaw** (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> generation senior-joined in 1996) has been accepted on scholarship to complete her medical studies outside Victoria. **Ms. Lauren Labh** (3<sup>rd</sup> generation senior joined in 1996) and is taking a semester off for post-secondary education studies. We wish both of you the best of luck!!

*We congratulate everyone, and we are proud that each one of you took time in some part of your young lives to learn about your heritage and cultural roots through dance, arts and drama and will cherish it to share with future generations. (Sorry if we have missed anyone)*

Below is a photograph of the advanced seniors whom took part in the 2009 **Vancouver International Bhangra Competition *Downtown Bhangra***, a main event prior to the competition. The day involved shopping downtown and more shopping at Metrotown, lunch then shopping again at the Guildford Mall. It was a great day and lots of fun.



Above (L to R back row) is Ms. Punam Randhawa, Ms. Jasleen Dhatt, Ms. Preeti Kang, (front L to R) Ms. Nicole Randhawa, Ms. Lauren Labh, and Ms. Keira Dheensaw.

The Vasaikhi or Basikhi Show in April was held at the Spectrum Community School Theatre, and again an amazing array of talent was demonstrated. This is a key opportunity for new students to learn about performing on stage, in front of an audience of familiar and unfamiliar faces. You would be surprised even the shyest students are quite confident when those big lights come on. It is an opportunity for students to try different leadership aspects, such as Emcee, or greet audience members via collecting/selling tickets, or working as stage hands/managers. Shan-e-Punjab has been hosting an annual show since 1996, and in some years we used to hold two. We are proud that this is the first ever of its kind where the students run, operate, and lead their own show. This year we added a special guest, another young talented man, from the mainland, Mr. Pavenjot Bhatia, known as the Young Yamla Jatt.





*Photographs by Stephanie Power*

Yamla Jatt was a classic Punjabi male folk singer, who's music has inspired artists today, and many of his lyrics were sung by playing a musical instrument called a Tumbi, which you will see Mr. Bhatia play. Above are some photographs from the show.

In June of 2009, the senior's were invited to Stanley Park Vancouver to be the first Punjabi dance group to ever perform at the **Sawan da Mela**. Here is a photograph.



*Above (L to R) are Ms. Preeti Kang and Ms. Nicole Randhawa.*

Yes the Punjabi comedian of all comedians was here in Victoria for the very first time, Mr. Gurpreet Guggi. The show was called **Guggi Beta Chall Caneda** held at the Lady Windspear Theatre on October 24 2009. Our

Intermediate Seniors (formerly known as our Junior Team) performed as part of the Opening Ceremony, and two of our students Ms. Angela Bamra and Ms. Raveena Moor were emcees.



*Above (L to R) is Ms. Raveena Moor, Ms. Angela Bamra, Ms. Halina Johl, Ms. Krishna Kashyap, Mr. Gurpreet Guggi, Ms. Meera Kashyap, Ms. Joyti Birk, and Ms. Harjit Birk (regrets from Ms. Preeti Parhar and Ms. Amrit Sandhu)*

During Diwali this year we were invited to only one performance, if we could do more we would definitely involve more of our student groups. Our senior advanced team did a great performance, as they are our leaders in dance at Shan-e-Punjab we applaud their motivation to continue to teach.

**Ms. Keira Dheensaw** one of our most talented students and whom has been with Shan-e-Punjab since 1996 is now moving forward with her medical education in Europe, and we wish her all the best. This has been an amazing year for her, along with being accepted to **Bhangra Nation**, the leading organization in Bhangra competition from Ontario, she held a Bhangra Workshop at the Ministry of Health Services and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport. There was an excellent turnout and it was executed very professionally!

By far the highlight of this year, was participating in the **Bhangra Nation Dance Competition**, not only was it an inspiration for those whom have been dedicated to Punjabi culture through dance, arts and song, but also an inspiration for all young people working

hard to bring their level of skill in dance to enter such a competition. **Bhangra Nation** is a non-profit organization committed to bringing an amazing opportunity for youth to showcase their talent, amongst a high-calibre of performing teams/organizations from around the world. It has existed for over 15 years, and has been hosting the largest Bhangra dance competition, from which many organizations have modeled after in North America. So it was an incredible honour to be accepted to participate and meet the founder of

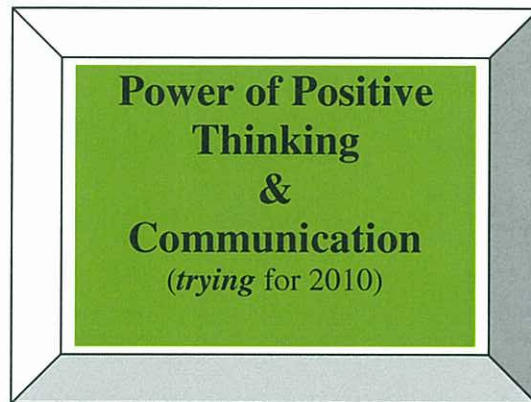


Above photograph is at the **Bhangra Nation** studio's one of the first of its kind in the world. We practiced here prior to the event; staff were very professional and very friendly and we met some of the best Bhangra teachers from Punjab.

*Below (L to R) Mr. Amandeep Vaid (Dholee), Mr. Harman Dhillon, Ms. Punam Randhawa, Ms. Nicole Randhawa, Mayor of Victoria Dean Fortin, Ms. Lauren Labh, Ms. Janessa Sundher, Mr. Amritpal Sekhon, Ms. Jasleen Dhatt, Ms. Keira Dheensaw, Ms. Amy Sundher, and Ms. Serena Rai. On the right includes our fearless leader/founder Ms. Sonia Grewal w/our dholee, and Omni News hosts.*



**Bhangra Nation**, Mr. Ranvir Rai, and staff as well as such amazing teams, whom demonstrated respect, teamwork, sportsmanship and true genuine talent from around the world. We would like to thank all our sponsors/parents/families; we could not have traveled a great distance without their help and from our community and businesses for which we are very grateful! We would like to also thank the **Mayor of Victoria Dean Fortin** for his support and meeting to chat and congratulate the team and recognize them as **Ambassadors** representing Victoria and Vancouver Island.



# Shan~e~Punjab Dance School

(SINCE 1993)



www.shan-e-punjab.ca

photograph by  
www.amykhangura.com

Names from back row standing left to right: Amandeep Vaid, Harman Dhillon, Punam Randhawa, Nicole Randhawa, Mayor Dean Fortin, Lauren Labh, Janessa Sundher and Amritpal Sekhwa. Front row sitting from left to right: Jasleen Dhatt, Keira Dheensaw, Amy Sundher and Serena Rai.

The Advanced Team are proud to be the first to represent Victoria and the Island in Mississauga, Ontario for the 13th Annual BHANGRA NATION competition and celebration. Thank you to all our sponsors (including private) and a huge thank you to all our parents, family and friends!!

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Wishing the SEP Advanced Team the best of luck at BHANGRA NATION International Celebration in Ontario. Leave THE GREWALS Manjot, Mohinder, Suk, Amy Khangura (nee Grewal), Preet Khangura and Gian Khangura (your first fan and who dances to nothing but your team's new song!!!)

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Mr. Amrik Singh and Mrs. Ranjit Kaur Sanghera, grandparents of Harman, wish the team the best of luck in Ontario!!!

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**Congratulations!**

Serena and the Shan-e-Punjab dance group - you are all just an amazing group of young ladies! All the best to everyone in your dance competition.

Love,  
Uncle T and Auntie J  
Grandma D and Grandma T  
The Jags

**Good Luck Girls!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Nim and Gurdeep Sundher  
\*\*\*\*\*

City of Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin recognizes the group as "outstanding ambassadors" and is very proud that they will be representing our wonderful community.

**SUBWAY**

We are very proud to see youth such as Shan-e-Punjab excel in Punjabi culture through dance and performing arts - you have definitely worked hard to set a legacy of standards for others!!!  
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