

## ***The Girls' Report...***

Sixteen girls and four members of staff had a memorable trip to Sairopa in the Himalayan National Park in the first weeks of June. To get there we had to travel two days by train and coach to the hills by the Eastern gate of the National Park.

On the first day after our arrival we did a river crossing, abseiled down a rock face and went for a nature trail in the forest behind the Sairopa Lodge. The next day we headed out on an eight kilometre hike to the Eastern Gate (we were faster than the boys over this stretch!). In the evening we camped in tents and sat around the camp fire where we saw all sorts of wild life.

The next morning the weather broke and in the pouring rain we headed back to the Lodge, but not before stopping in a tea house to dry out and have a steaming hot cup of chai. In the afternoon we saw a film about some men who had done an expedition in the same area and in the evening there was a concert with songs and dancing. The guides who had been with us on the trek did a local dance and we all joined in.



*The girls take a well deserved break after an 8 kilometre walk!*

The sun began creeping through the next day as we made their way back through Himachal Pradesh and the vast plains of U.P. We had to cross the river in the bus twice as the bridges were being mended. By the time we reached Howrah we were exhausted but now can't wait to go back again to see Pankhy and the rest of the team!

Reporting: Marjolein Aunty (Volunteer)

## ***The Ballygunge Boys' Report...***

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May, Ballygunge boys travelled to Himachal Pradesh. We got on the Future Hope bus at 5.30 pm and headed to Howrah station. It took one and a half days by the Kalka Mail to reach Delhi, followed by a twenty hour bus journey to reach the National Park and a two hour walk to reach Base Camp. It was a long journey but definitely worthwhile.

On arrival it was a cold evening, so some of the boys went off to collect wood for a fire that we all sat around and enjoyed. The food was not very good on the trip, as we ate only rice, daal and chapattis, but the trek was a lot of fun. We climbed through snow and over cliffs which was really exciting. We were



*The boys celebrate their climb.*

really lucky to go on this trip, though when we got back to Kolkata, we were all a lot skinnier!

Reporting: Subhash