



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015/2016

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Sanjana Selvarajah

Senora Ekanayake

Shanela Peries

Shayanika Fernando

Shirangika Abeyratne

Sonali de Silva

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" – Ecclesiastes 3

Our "season" as the Executive Committee 2015/16 commenced in April and has already come to its halfway mark. It has certainly been six exhilarating and memorable months of camaraderie and development and we are excited to recapture some of the highlights in this issue of the Shamrock and give a sneak peak of what's to come!

Giving back to an Alma Mater that has molded us to what we are today can never be finite. We continue to support the advancement of the school, her students and staff through various endeavors. We are immensely grateful for the assistance provided by the Patroness and Principals in our efforts.

Whilst we thoroughly enjoy planning out the calendar of events for an eclectic past Bridgetine membership, nothing beats the high of selling out tickets and receiving positive feedback from those who patronize. From the steady growth of the membership database to the raucous carriages chugging down the Bentota tracks, we have witnessed great enthusiasm and support. Heartened by your response we are determined to rest at nothing but the best, with the hope this momentum continues throughout the year.

Be it to indulge in some girl time, awaken the "Bollywood divas", reminisce on school days past, or "Bowl" yourself over, we are drawing out from a mixed bag of goodies and hope to see you at every turn!

Editorial Committee

*Imani Perera, Sanjana Selvarajah,
Sabrinah Mowzoon, Hannelore Baldsing*



For more information contact:
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From the Desk of the Executive Committee

✿ Our Strength

The period April to September 2015 saw sixty six (66) new membership applications being approved by the Executive Committee, taking the total membership to three thousand eight hundred and forty two (3,842) as at end September 2015.

✿ Membership Cards

Members who have not obtained their new personalized membership card are encouraged to apply for one at a nominal cost of Rs.500/-. Please forward a request letter clearly mentioning the name and address to be printed on the new card together with a recently taken stamp size photograph, and a self-addressed registered envelope together with the old card to the Joint Secretary, Past Pupils' Association of St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7.

✿ Membership Database Cleansing

Continuous efforts are being made to update membership data, whilst converting more members onto the e-circulation list. The PPA email database now stands at one thousand four hundred & fifty (1,450) members as of 30th September 2015.

Members are encouraged to notify the Joint Secretaries with any changes to their personal details on a timely basis.

✿ PPA Web Site

The PPA website <http://www.sbccppa.org> captures all news about PPA events. The membership form can also be downloaded from the website.

✿ PPA Facebook Page

The PPA Facebook page with 'likes' in excess of 2820 is regularly updated with photographs and albums of PPA events and can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Bridgets-Convent-PPA>



MEMBER EVENTS

✿ Bridgetine Indulgence Sunday

Indulge they did!! It sure felt good being a woman on the 17th of March and doubly good being a Bridgetine!!

Indulgence Sunday with Amante, was nothing short of a spectacular treat for any Bridgetine who believes in retail therapy and "girl time"!

From 10am to 8pm Bridgetines of all ages came in numbers to the Amante flagship boutique at Racecourse Mall to avail of some fabulous discounts. There was something for everyone, from the girly florals to the racy laces, the decadent satins to the sporty lycra.

There was more than one reason to linger, be it to pamper in a mani-pedi, strike a wacky pose at the photo booth, indulge in a make-up make-over, munch some delectable goodies compliments of Tea Breeze, or simply have a great jaw with pals after some serious splurging.



"Thanks PPA for yesterday's wonderful event" - Dinu Samarawickrama

"Thanks for the wonderful time PPA" - Maneshka Silva

"Thank you for the fantastic afternoon. So well organised" - Shari Jayewardene



Bombay Meri Hai!

There was much anticipation as 13th June dawned bright and sunny despite the rains the night before and past Bridgetines of all ages decked in colourful attire arrived at the Fort station to board the Bollywood Express bound to Bentota.

There were a couple of anxious hours when the train was delayed but the Bridgetine spirit sustained with some welcome snacks and

relentless chatter remained strong! The roaring cheer that greeted the much awaited Expo Rail was ample testimony to the enthusiasm that lasted the entire day!

Everyone needed a good cool-off after the long wait and lounging in the air-conditioned carriages was just the thing, further complemented by the cool towels, snack packs and tea service provided by the courteous staff of Expo. Accessorized in bangles of various colours for visual identification the teams were briefed on the day's agenda by the respective carriage leaders. There was no need for excessive coaxing for participation because everyone wanted to be a part of the fun!

The Bollywood Express lived up to its name and puffed to Bentota in no time. The atmosphere of the Bentota Beach Hotel (BBH) reflected the Bollywood theme scented with incense, lamp-lit paths and colourful decor, and each lady got a welcome fit for any Maharani by the BBH staff!

After a refreshing welcome drink and some freshening up in the rooms the teams gathered for fun and games. Mouthwatering satheys, vade, achcharu and other snacks were available throughout the activities. There was also a Mehndhi artist available for anyone wanting a more lasting impression of a memorable day! The scorching sun could not keep off the competitive spirit of the ladies as they plank walked, bangle passed and shoe scrummaged to the continuous cheer of their team mates. Hot and famished the ladies then made their way to the cool confines of the restaurant to tuck into a lavish Hindustan style buffet. From the chapathi to the gulabs, the biriyani to the tikkas, it was all there!



For the latter part of the afternoon the ladies retreated to the relaxing environment of the bar lounge where couches and colourful cushions were waiting for them! The evening entertainment commenced with the Committee Dance! Showing their true colours the Bombay Belles shook their hips and twirled their skirts to two catchy dance tunes... and 1.2.3.4...all were on the Dance Floor!!

This set the stage for the dance competition that followed. From well-rehearsed solo performances to spontaneous group items, the Bridgetines proved yet again that they knew how to rock the floor and have fun!! The latter was apparent even in the level of participation in the post-Picnic FB competitions with members posting pics and memoirs, and voted by "likes" - the winners were announced during the evening session.

The fancy dress items too proved greatly entertaining with acts by some very talented Bridgetines who had the audience in peals of laughter as they acted out the realities of the Bollywood rich and (in) famous!! At a Bridgetine event there is never an age limitation on the dance floor and this was apparent by the number of "seasoned" Bridgetines who steamed the floor during the baila segment and competition that followed. The dancing never stopped while the spicy masala tea was served, and photos of the day were made available for purchase.

At the end of the day, each lady was presented with a box of Bombay sweet meats to take with them and relish with their loved ones. Fuelled once again by the tea service on board and a most welcome chocolate muffin, the Bridgetine spirit soared along the Southern coastal belt with singing that rang through the carriages which could not be drowned out even by the noise of the chugging train.

If there was any exhaustion in those who alighted the Bollywood Express in Colombo it was caused by a day of excessive dancing, chatter, laughter, and good food! True Bridgetine MERI HAI!



👏 “The PPA trip was awesome. Thank you so much Aunty Yasmin & team. Was done in true Bridgetine style; Very classy!” - Manaal Irshad

👏 “Congratulations to the wonderful committee. You did a great job! I was very impressed about the extent you had gone about seeing to all the typical Bollywood details to ensure we ‘felt’ we were in India. The departure gift of a box of Bombay sweets to all participants was a superb idea since we were able to take a touch of Bollywood back home to our families.” - Chamani Herath Pathirage

“My dear Yasmin & members of the executive committee, A heartfelt thank you for the wonderful time I had with you all. I enjoyed every minute of the day. The comfortable and unique train ride, colorful dances & their ‘welcome’, the variety of games, the beautiful dances, the ‘baila’ session and all that you had planned so well, gave us a day of glorious relaxation and entertainment, together with a delicious buffet & spicy refreshing tea. Yasmin, you & your committee had spared nothing working round the clock to make sure that the day was going to be an unforgettable one for all of us. Thank you too for the parting gift for all of us. Congratulations on your splendid organization. My sincere thanks for the opportunity you gave me to be part of this lovely day. May God bless each of you & all your dear ones. With love & gratitude.” - Rev. Sr. Thomas.



Completely Bowled Over!

It was indeed a happening day on the 26th of September when the Bridgetines took to the alleys of Excel World to show they could “Rock ‘n Bowl” in style!

Over 20 teams competed with great enthusiasm with many eager spectators cheering the Bowled and the Beautiful Bridgetines, creating an atmosphere of lively fun-competition. From Ball Busters to Strike Queens, Ninja Sistas to Thanakolapethas, the creative team names and attire added colour to the event, with teams enjoying themselves - Hit or Miss!



Most Sporty Team - Thanakolapeththas

The pumping music and the delicious snacks complemented the gaiety of the event contributing to the mood that saw some spirited dancing in between the bowling rounds. Irrespective of age the ladies swung with all their worth showing their prowess with... ahem... the balls! From clean strikes to gutter balls, the merriment never decreased as the skittles were smashed and the competition soared!

The final 7 teams walked away with some great prizes and surprises, whilst everyone left with a super high of school girl camaraderie and competition, eagerly anticipating the next event.



Bowling Champions - Team Ball Crushers

Bowling Queen - Saumya Algama

👏 “Thank you for organizing it. It was so fun & we all had a great time” – Saumi Algama Wijayanayake.

👏 “Thank you and it was great. We did have a blast for sure” – Manique Jaya.

👏 “Super fun! Great innovative ideas committee. Keep up the good work” – Ruwani Amarasinghe Karunaratne.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Corpus Christi



Corpus Christi is one of the most significant and solemn events in the catholic calendar. Throughout the years our school works hard to make this a memorable service and occasion. It was indeed a lovely sight to once again see the whole school coming together to prepare the school premises for this much looked forward to feast.

Students young and old, teachers, parents and past pupils came together to decorate the Montessori, primary and collegiate schools on the 12th of June in preparation for Corpus Christi.

The PPA and the SDS were allocated the 3rd repository to be decorated for the final service. They did a wonderful job with red and white flowers tastefully arranged to celebrate the occasion. The PPA conducted the last half-hour of the Adoration of the Eucharistic whilst Shirangika Abeyratne read one of the intentions. The members of the PPA joined the Eucharistic procession.



OTHER NEWS

70th Birthday Celebrations H.E. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga

The President and a few committee members were invited to a prayer service conducted by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith to celebrate the 70th birthday of H.E. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on 30th June 2015 at the school chapel.



Fond Memories from the past

Mrs. Sumedha Angunawala is in her 98th year and she holds fondest memories of her school days at St. Bridget's Convent which she cherishes. The wonderful times with her friends and the care and dedication of the Irish Sisters are often repeated to her children.

Her daughter states, "I know that my mother, if she could, would have loved to come back to her Alma Mater for one last time. But sadly as this is not possible let me on behalf of my mother wish St. Bridget's Convent, the past pupils and the present generation of Bridgetines, the very best". We the PPA wish Mrs. Sumedha Angunawala God's choicest blessings and good health.

Branding Project

Colourful and innovative products has been designed based on the theme 'shamrock' which includes T-shirts in varying sizes with the tag line 'Proud to be a Bridgetine', sling bags and cases, key tags, slippers and umbrellas. These are being sold to Past and Present Bridgetines who have displayed great enthusiasm in purchasing the products.





SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Collegiate School

Rs.1.8M was donated to the Collegiate School for the upkeep of the left wing building and replacement of window frames. An additional Rs.300,000/- was also incurred to purchase a projector for the assembly hall so that the children could be supported with better up-to-date technological benefits.



BRIDGETINES RALLY ROUND

We would like to place our gratitude to the numerous Bridgetines in various fields that were ever willing to support the activities of the school by way of their time, sponsorships and other contributions.

Special mention must be made of

- Ms. Kisani de Saram, Principal Designer at Akzo Nobel Paints Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. who stepped forward to help the Collegiate School and Primary School by coordinating with the company to provide a generous donation of 150 liters of paint and discounts over the balance purchases in order to support the building upkeep project of the Collegiate School and the Little Explorers Lab project of the Primary School.
- Ms Sonali Rasool, who gave of her time and expertise to architect the layout and design of the 'Little Explorers Lab' for the primary school.
- Ms Renuka Jayasundera, Managing Director of Analytical Instruments (Pvt) Ltd who contributed towards the cost of equipment for the science lab of the Collegiate School by way of a generous discount.

There is no greater tribute than supporting ones Alma Mater by contributing towards the School Development activities. We call upon all Past Pupils interested in contributing towards the development of the school to contact the Jt. Secretaries and indicate your willingness.

Primary School

Rs. 1.2Mn was incurred to transform a classroom to a 'Little Explorers Lab' for students of the primary school to indulge in creativity and exploration. A complete face lift was provided with a premium quality tiled floor, colourful walls and mahogany furniture to ensure our little explorers had a state of the art classroom to experiment.



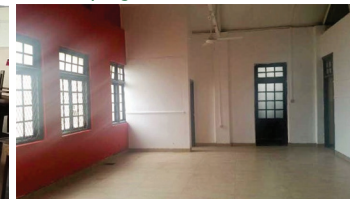
Montessori

A complete set of percussion instruments were gifted to the Montessori to replace the old and well used ones that the school had used for the last decade. Rs.130,000/- was spent on the purchase of these instruments from Yamaha. The Principal and teachers were very grateful and thrilled with this contribution, as it is now possible to give more children a chance to be a part of the percussion band than was possible earlier.

Before



Work in progress



TEACHER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



The PPA of St. Bridget's convent takes great pride in contributing to the development of the school as a whole. We acknowledge and appreciate the role that our teachers play in the high standard of education that our school offers. Following are some of the activities that the PPA organized for school staff.

Medical check up

The entire staff of St. Bridget's Convent Collegiate, Primary and Montessori schools were offered medical check-ups at the Nawaloka Hospital during the August holidays. Keeping fit and healthy should be a priority for every one of us and we felt that our teachers would benefit a lot from this endeavor.





Honorary Membership

Ms. Amitha Kumarasinghe, Ms. Chamila Athuraliya, Ms. Lalitha Manoharan, Ms. Jeyanthi George and Ms. Yvonne Hettige, were offered honorary membership into the PPA to felicitate 25 years of yeoman service at our Alma Mater. They have dedicated their lives to the hundreds of children who have passed through the school halls and have been unwavering in their support and loyalty to St. Bridget's Convent.



UPCOMING EVENTS



"Bridgetine Razzmatazz" an exhilarating evening of musical entertainment with friends, food and memorable fun awaits you on Sunday, 15th November 2015 at The Balmoral, The Kingsbury Hotel, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Trip the light fantastic to the swinging rhythms of Sohan & the X'periments. The evening will feature past Bridgetines showcasing their talents in guest performances. Gifts and prizes galore! This scintillating event is open to Members, their families and friends. Dress Code is Smart Casual - Red & Black.

Tickets priced at Rs. 4,000/- will be on sale from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Friday 30th and from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 31st October at the PPA Secretariat. Rush for your tickets to avoid disappointment.

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Mass for the souls of the dear departed	3rd November 2015	5.30 pm	At the School Chapel
Bridgetine Razzmatazz	15th November 2015	6.30 pm	The Kingsbury Hotel
St. Bridget's Day Celebrations	February 2016*	6.00 pm	*
Sports Meet	February 2016*	8.00 am	*
Annual General Meeting	March 2016*	5.30 pm	At the School Auditorium

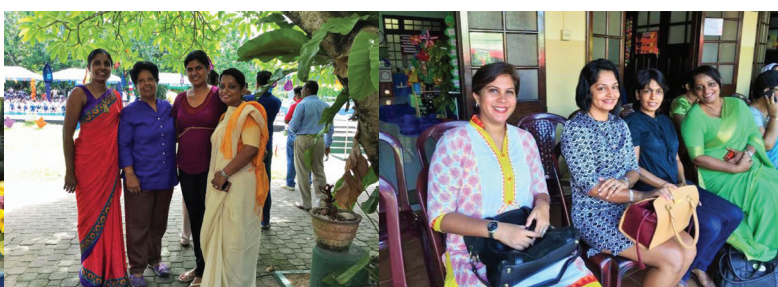
*To be notified later



SCHOOL EVENTS AND PPA PARTICIPATION

The President and committee members participated at school events by invitation to show the PPA's support to the school's endeavors in sports and academic activities. The events attended by the PPA during the six month tenure;

Date	Event
27th May	SDS Annual General Meeting
25th June	Mass for Ms Surangani Jayatileke (Montessori) on her retirement
2nd July	Primary swimming meet which was held at the Sinhalese Sports Club
9th July	Primary annual prize distribution recognizing the academic achievements for 2014
28th July	Kidzpiration an educational exhibition which showcased the talents of the primary kids
30th July	Holy mass for the 25th Anniversary celebration of five teachers of the Collegiate School
23rd September	50th Annual Inter House Aquatic Meet of the Collegiate School at the Sinhalese Sports Club



SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Collegiate School



Photography – at the Inter School Photography Competition organized by Nalanda College St. Bridget's Convent was awarded first prize recognizing the photographer's skill and ability.

Essay & Speech – At the Future Minds 2015 Talent, Essay & Speech Competition organized by the National Science Foundation Ishini Fonseka was placed 1st in the English Medium Essay Competition and she was also placed 8th in the speech competition.

Science Quiz – At the Science Challenge 2015 conducted by the International Medical University of Malaysia the team comprising Upuli Edirisinghe, Varunjana Jayaselan, Danica Lopez and Druwini Fernando emerged 1st runner up bringing credit to the school.

ICT Quiz – At the quiz held at the ICT Convention organized by the ICT Society of Ananda College the team from St. Bridget's Convent won 2nd place.

Drama – At the Sri Lanka Festival for the Performing Art "Speech Festival 2015" Randhika Withanarachchi was awarded the "Best Dramatic Performance".

Netball – The Under 13 Netball team emerged Super 8 Champions at the recently concluded All Island Milo Netball Tournament after a lapse of 28 years.

Athletics – The athletes of the school performed extremely well during the past six months to bring Glory to their Alma Mater.

At the Zonal Meet the school was placed 4th.

At the Western Province Meet Under 15 80m hurdles event Natasha Caldera and Hiruki Vitharana was placed 1st and 2nd respectively.

At the John Tarbet Senior Meet Natasha Caldera bagged a Silver Medal in the Under 16 100m hurdles event.

At the John Tarbet Junior Meet our athletes dominated the track events and out of 126 schools was placed 4th overall. Some of the notable achievements at the meet are;

- Under 13 - 100m a merit was awarded to Chamodya Mahaliyana for clocking the best timing
- Under 13 – 80m hurdles a merit was awarded to Yenuli Fernando for clocking the best timing and she was placed first in the event.
- Under 13 – 4 X 100m relay excelled with the best timing and was awarded a merit
- Under 15 – 80 m hurdles Natasha Caldera won 1st place and bagged a gold medal
- Under 15 emerged overall "Runners Up" of the age group at the meet



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

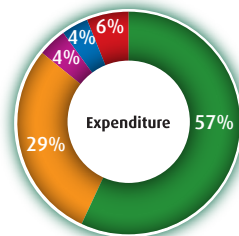
Membership Income of Rs. 310,000/- was generated during the six months ended 30th September 2015.

The picnic generated a net income of Rs. 337,030/- which includes Rs. 275,000/- obtained from Expo Rail as a refund for delayed arrival of the train and the inconvenience caused to the members. Of this Rs. 50,000/- was utilised for Rock 'n Bowl and the balance will be utilised for other activities organised in the ensuing months.

Rs. 985,600/- was incurred on the Branding Project on account of merchandise purchased for resale. During the 6 months under review Rs. 664,000/- has been generated as income from the sale of merchandise.

Rs. 3,831,295/- was spent during the six months ended 30th September 2015, for school, student and teacher development which was described earlier in this newsletter. The breakdown of this spend is depicted in the chart above.

Donations, sponsorships and support received from loyal Bridgetines and well-wishers have resulted in the success of the activities organized, as well as for the Development of the school, its students and dedicated teachers. We are indeed thankful to the continuous support received and pray that God's abundant blessings be with the generous donors and their families.



- Collegiate School
- Primary
- Montessori
- Students
- Teachers



Teamwork makes the dream work.