

Shamrock

Issue: April to September 2012



The Half- Yearly Newsletter of
the Past Pupils Association of
St. Bridget's Convent

From the Editors

The PPA committee 2012/2013 is happy to bring you the first edition of the PPA Newsletter, the Shamrock. The Shamrock has a history of over 17 years, and since school is all about tradition, we hope to maintain the same structure and presentation of the first Shamrock. However, to keep on board our younger members and even some of our older ones, we are going electronic as well and 'Shamrock'

could be viewed via our Website at www.sbcppa.org which was launched on 31st August 2012.

'Shamrock' will keep you informed of all the PPA events, past and future. We would also like to include the many achievements of our alumni. So if you have done something news worthy, or if you know of someone who did, please inform us to ppasbc@gmail.com as we are always proud of the great strides made by our colleagues. When you review the programs we have planned for present

Bridgetines, you will note that all the resource persons have been drawn from our very own alumni who have reached great heights in their respective professions. So don't hide your light under a bushel, let it shine.

**Dilmani Warnasuriya &
Nirmala M. Pieris**

Editorial Committee - Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya,
Dr. Nirmala M. Pieris
Ms. Hiranthi Fernando &
Ms. Nareshka Perera

For more information contact
Tel: 077 3097798/077 3541939

Executive Committee 2012/2013



Patroness

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Joint Secretaries

Joint Treasurers

: Rev Sr. Solange Fernando
: Dr. Nirmala M. Pieris
: Prof. Rohini Fernandopulle,
: Dr. Swinitha Ranasinghe
: Ms. Jayani Wickremanayake,
Ms. Anusha Hettigoda
: Ms. Rochelle Tayabally,
Ms. Ishara Gunawardena

Committee

: Ms. Dilmani Warnasuriya, Ms. Falina Mohamed, Ms. Habira Lafir, Ms. Hiranthi Fernando, Ms. Indika Jayawardena, Ms. Joanne Amarasinghe, Ms. Namalie Herath, Ms. Nareshka Perera, Ms. Rishdha Zarook Ishaq, Ms. Roshy Tillekaratne, Dr. Sarojini Perera, Ms. Sonali Rassool, Ms. Swarna Ratnayake, Ms. Tamara Sivagurunathan, Ms. Yu Mei Kumarasinghe

Membership of the Past Pupils' Association stands at approximately 3400 as at end September 2012



EVENT/PROJECT AREAS

At the first meeting of the Executive committee (2012/2013) it was decided to focus attention on the following six areas, when planning events

- ✿ Social integration and fellowship (Member Events)
- ✿ Events with School (Conducting Supplementary Programs)
- ✿ School upgrading (Projects for School)
- ✿ Religious activities
- ✿ Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Projects
- ✿ School support (Participation in School Events)

PPA OFFICE

The PPA Office will be open every Wednesday from 9.30 am to 11.00 am for receiving membership applications, monies and also for any other matters.

MEMBER EVENTS

BRIDGETINE DRIVE AND MINI FAIR - 29TH MAY 2012



This was the first fund raiser event organized by the Committee of 2012/2013. It was also another first, as a motor rally was never part of the Bridgetine calendar in the past. The rally commenced from Malalasekera Mawatha, with the first car being flagged off at 8.30 am by our Patroness, Rev. Sr. Solange Fernando. The intrepid Bridgetines, were undeterred by the thunderous clouds and torrential rains, and came in their numbers with over 100 cars participating. The Organizing committee worked tirelessly to get the logistics in place to

enable the movement of cars within the Colombo metropolitan area. The winners of the rally were announced late in the afternoon. Several other prizes were also awarded, one being to teachers and another to the Convent Sisters participating in the rally. It was heart-warming to see two of our most senior Presidents, Ms Lilamani Rodrigo and Ms Marina Wijesekera, and a most revered retired teacher, Ms Chandrani Kulasiri participating in the rally with evident enjoyment, in spite of the inclement weather.

At the end of the rally the participants romped along to the Mini Fair which was held at the Primary school grounds. The fair was officially opened by a former President of the PPA, Ms Deepa Edirisinghe. A carnival atmosphere prevailed throughout the day, with a bouncer, rides, game stalls managed by the Prefects of the school, and around 50 other stalls.



The event was a resounding success as per the feedback received, and the consensus of opinion was that it should be an annual event. We thank the volunteers Ms. Dilani Yatawaka and Ms. Upekha Weerawardena who played a major role in this event.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

07th November 2012 (Wednesday)

01st December (Saturday)

15th January 2013 (Tuesday)

01st February 2013 (Friday)

March 2013

- Mass for the Departed Souls
- Sports Day
- Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Oration by Hon. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
- School Day & Fellowship
- Guest Lecture & Annual General Meeting

JOLLY JAUNT - 14TH JULY 2012

It was a trip down memory lane as a bunch of 250 past Bridgetines arrived at SBC bright and early for the annual PPA day out. The location this year was the beautiful Jetwing Blue in Negombo. It was lovely to see all the familiar faces and it reminded us of the good old school days. This year the theme was 'Hawaii'. We were given beautiful garlands and bracelets with flowers when we got into the buses. We had so much fun on the way to



Jetwing Blue that in no time we were at the hotel. We were greeted with cold

towels and a refreshing fruit drink.

We were then divided into groups and took part in many fun games. We were school girls once again! Some relaxed, some cheered their team, while others preferred to chat with their friends reminiscing the school days and catching up on

all the time missed. We snacked on acharu and many other goodies which were heavenly. It was soon lunch time and each one made their way to the scrumptious buffet.

The highlight of the day was when each group had to have a person dressed as a Hawaiian dancer. The Hawaiian dancer in our group was brilliant as she acted and danced beautifully. It was no surprise when our group won

First place. The day wouldn't have been complete without some Baila dancing with nearly all of us joining in. As all good things have to come to an end, we returned to

Colombo after an enjoyable and memorable day. Hats off to the PPA committee for organizing such a fun filled day!



Ermina Muthupulle

More at http://www.sbcppa.org/Events_Jolly_Jaunt.html

LAUNCH OF PPA WEB SITE - 31ST AUGUST 2012



The Past Pupils' Association launched their very first web site at a simple ceremony held in the school auditorium on 31st August 2012. To witness this memorable event were Rev. Sr. Solange Fernando, Patroness of the Association, Rev. Sr. Shermila Jayawardena, Rev. Sr. Alexandra Mendis and Rev. Sr. Remona Nugara, Superior and Principals of the Collegiate, Primary and Montessori schools respectively. It was heart-warming to see several Past Presidents of the Association who also graced the occasion. The proceedings commenced with an introductory address by the President, Dr Nirmala Pieris. This was followed by

the official launch by Rev. Sr. Solange Fernando. Dilmani Warnasuriya, Chairperson of the Web site Committee then introduced the web site in detail. Tamara Sivagurunathan concluded the formal proceedings by delivering the vote of thanks.

Web site address : www.sbcppa.org

More at http://www.sbcppa.org/Events_Launch_of_PPA_Web_site.html

BRIDGETINE FIRE – 28TH SEPTEMBER 2012



Ramada Colombo was ablaze with excitement on the 28th of September, with the Bridgetines, their families and friends singing with gusto and dancing with gay abandon at the Bridgetine Fire organized by the Past Pupils Association of the school. The theme

'fire' was well in evidence, the hall being festooned with orange, red and yellow lanterns, complemented by black tablecloths and gold bows. Sohan & the X'periments provided the music, with Sohan hosting the show, along with Narzeema, a past Bridgetine.

While singing dominated the programme, short competitions provided some variety and amusement. The 'if' couple and 'of' couple, the table having the most number of men, the lady with shortest dress, and the loudest table being among them. It was gratifying to see the numbers who volunteered to participate in these, making the selections a little difficult. This was no doubt partly due to the wines served by the house, making even the most diffident, daring and bold. The dinner was served in buffet style mid way, during the programme, and was proclaimed by the guests to be delicious. Rev Sister Superior, Sr Solange Fernando graced the occasion, along with several other sisters, and their enjoyment was only too apparent, when they were seen engulfed with laughter at the pithy comments of Sohan and racy jokes by the guest artiste, Ronnie Lietch. A ticket draw was held with valuable prizes being given.



The committee would also like to acknowledge the valuable role played by their many sponsors, without whom this second fund raiser event would not have been possible, and also the Bridgetine sisters Raina and Raisa, who took great pains to ensure the success of the event. To end with the words of a senior Bridgetine 'I have been to so many sing alongs, but this was the best of them all.' That says it all.

More at http://www.sbcppa.org/Events_Bridgetine_Fire.html

Our Fund Raisers

Bridgetine Drive & Mini Fair

This fund raiser generated a profit of Rs. Rs. 1,893,900/-which was allocated as follows:

- Student & Teacher Development Programs - Rs. 150,000/-
- Memorial Oration - Rs. 150,000/-
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Projects - Rs. 300,000/-
(of which Rs. 200,000/- for Community based projects, Rs. 50,000/- for Environment projects with school and Rs. 50,000/- for Employees)
- Library – Montessori, Primary & Collegiate Schools Upgrading - Rs.1,293,900/- (Balance)

Bridgetine Fire

This fund raiser generated a profit of approximately Rs. 640,000/- which will be allocated for Phase 2 of the Library upgrading, CSR projects and the PPA programs

In keeping with the commitment of the Executive Committee, several programs were conducted for present Bridgetines. We are proud to record that almost all resource persons drawn for the programs were past Bridgetines, who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields. All programs comprised a Welcome address by the respective Principal, an Introductory address by Dr. Nirmala M. Pieris and the presentation by the Resource Person. Ms. Dilani Yatawaka a member of the Sub-Committee on Student and Teacher Development programs introduced the Resource person and also acted as the Moderator.

Programs Completed:

- ✿ Grades 3, 4, & 5 (615 students)
 - 'Your Teeth are like Stars' by Dr. Gayathri Iraivan on 24th September 2012. Tooth brushes, Toothpaste and Posters were provided by Unilever Sri Lanka Ltd



- ✿ Grades 6, 7 & 8 (450 students) - 'Your Changing Body' by Dr. Shamila Amerasekera on 30th July 2012

- ✿ Grades 11, 12 & 13 (450 students)
 - 'Beating Exam Stress' by Dr. Sunera Fernando on 11th May 2012. A Panel discussion followed with the Resource person joined by Dr Nirmala M. Pieris, Dr Swinitha Ranasinghe and Dr Dilushi Wijayarathne



- ✿ Teachers of Primary & Collegiate School (125 Teachers)
 - 'Teachers make a difference: from good to great' by Mr. Namal Heenatigala as the Resource person, assisted by Mr. Ajith Kumara and Mr. Gamini Bandara on 03rd September 2012

More at http://www.sbcppa.org/PPA_Events_With%20School.html

Programs Scheduled:

- ✿ Montessori (300 children)
 - 'Zippy the Zebra' Puppet show by Ms Sulochana Dissanyake on 03rd October 2012. Biscuits to be provided by Maliban Biscuits
- ✿ Teachers of the Collegiate School (100) and Grades 11, 12 & 13 (450 students)
 - 'Personal Grooming' by Ms. Ramani Fernando in Association with Ramani Fernando Training Academy on 04th October 2012 when the school celebrates Teachers and Students day
- ✿ Grades 1 & 2 (400 students)
 - 05th November 2012, Program details to be determined
- ✿ Grades 9 & 10 (300 students)
 - Program to be decided

The PPA took an active role when the school celebrated Corpus Christi on 15th June by decorating the 3rd Repository that was set up at the Convent Balcony and participating in half hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and procession. The cost of the decoration was shared with the School Development Society.



SCHOOL UPGRADING – PROJECTS FOR SCHOOL

In discussion with the Principals of the Collegiate, Primary and Montessori schools we identified a Library upgrading program considering the importance of creating and increasing the reading habit amongst school children. Work on Phase 1 of this program has already been completed in the Montessori and Primary school, comprising of the following:

Montessori School – A Library was set up in the space allocated. This was an important contribution as a Library was mandatory as per the Department of Education regulations. This work is almost complete



Primary School – This Library required much upgrading with respect to the building as well as the selection of books appropriate for a primary school library from the vast numbers presently in stock. A new racking system for the books was also installed. This work is almost complete.



Collegiate School – The upgrading of the Library will commence shortly.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PROJECTS

We captured our CSR projects into the 3 main areas of 1) Community 2) Environment and 3) Employees. The work undertaken within these areas are as follows:

a) Community :



St. Joseph's School for the Deaf, Ragama - An area which had been used as a kitchen will be upgraded to a Lunch room. Rs. 100,000/- has been allocated.



Perakuwatana Sinhala Vidyalaya, Puttalam – Rs. 18,000/- and Rs. 12,000/- were provided for scholarships for 2 OL students and 1 AL student respectively. Plans have been made to provide water purifiers and assistance for their Agriculture program.

b) Environment – A workshop on 'E-Waste' aimed at encouraging E-Waste recycling was conducted by the Cinnamon Grand Hotel on the 31st July 2012 for Grades 9, 10 and 11 with over 450 students participating.

c) Employees – Financial assistance is provided on request to Teachers and Employees of the school who have served for over 10 years. One request has already been fulfilled



Photograph Repository - We are trying to build up a repository of PPA photographs for record purposes and also to keep memories alive. Please send us any photographs you have so that we can index them and make them available to members when necessary.

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL EVENTS

- Cancer Walk organized by the Interact Club – 12th May
- School Development Society (SDS) AGM – 23rd May
- Prize Giving (Primary School) – 25th May
- Daphne Attygalle Scholarship Awards – 05th June
- Corpus Christi – 15th June
- Swimming Meet (Primary School) – 22nd June



- 'Estrellas 2012' – an evening of song, dance and drama (Collegiate School) – 29th June
- Prefects day (Collegiate School) – 4th July

- 'Sing & Swing' (Primary School) – 8th July
- Prize Giving (Collegiate School) – 12th July
- Drama Society – Twisted (Collegiate School) – 8th September
- Inter House Aquatic Meet (Collegiate School) – 28th September



More at http://www.sbcppa.org/School_Programmes.html

THOSE PRIMARY DAYS

The Primary is a four storied white building. This building is almost literally the stepping stone for many a lives and the gateway to a whole new Bridgetine world. The memories of my first few days at the primary are vivid. I remember being interviewed and asked to sing a song. I remember sitting with my parents through the welcome ceremony and then being escorted by my class teacher to my year 1S3 class. My year 1 class teacher was the kindest, nicest teacher I have ever learned under. Thus began my journey at the primary where new experiences would be discovered and lifelong friendships would be made. For the first time we venture out alone, letting go the hands of our parents. For a child this can be quite intimidating. It was a world to explore, an adventure to conquer and hurdle to cross over at six years old. Eventually we learn that life alone can sometimes be fun, sometimes difficult and sometimes even deadly. It is only in the primary that happiness can be found in the smallest of things, and the silliest of circumstances. Finding out that a pool is visible through our classroom window, that we will be getting free ice chocks in lieu of sister's feast and that the pillars are free for a game of 'gas maru' can bring such exaggerated happiness. It is after all where everything is larger

than life and a little goes a long way. So it is the place of unbound happiness, of childish nonsense and of sometimes absurd despair.

As socialisation with peers start to become important the process of social learning catapults. It becomes all about the songs, the games, the TV shows that should be watched and the latest gadgets and figures that need to be bought. In short we start learning about the world through technicolour lenses. As the stage of adolescence creeps closer, social norms start to develop. Everyone wants to do what everyone else is doing. It was in year 5 when we were asked to write an essay on "My favourite TV show", the entire class wrote about the so-popular-at-the-time 'Spell Binder'. That hallowed hall held up with old iron beams and wooden partitions, the cream-washed library, the grounds, the tuck shop, and the rustic corridors complete with our stately sister principal, and some nice and some not-so-nice teachers were an idyllic setting for probably the most important years of my life.

Zayna Ghani

MIX OF YEARS

*Standing near the lower school stairs
I let my hand slide
over the banisters
I looked up to see rows of school girls
in uniforms descending, higgledy, piggledy
the bells and tick tock alerting the time
There were, Ranji, Preeni, Angie, Carmen, Jovi and Carmel
Jenny, Pushpi, Jean, Thaya, Kumi and Maya
All tumbling forward
with big grins across their faces
I looked across the garden
There was Li chasing me
twirling a tennis racquet in hand
along the corridors, we ran
spotted Gunny in the distance
Veered left!
Out of bounds, nun's quarters
surprised a convalescing nun
Fled to the chapel
Hid the racquets behind the door
went back to school
'Coming in from the garden during study time?'
'We visited the chapel.'
'At this time, what on earth for?' 'To pray,'
'To pray, indeed!'
'I'll be watching, both of you.'
'Now hurry, hurry to class.'
The yellow blossom cassia tree
where boarders assembled*

*every evening to run, play
or walk serenely. Ha!
Bells again and tick tocks
Run, God is calling
A stampede to the dining room
A scramble for the allotted seats 'How's the
food?'
'Bad, bad! Ugh!'
At a critical age were we
Science classes in the lab
Bent on making H₂S
Oh! The glorious stink!
Then, Corpus Christi Day
Already, the pathways decorated
in designs with saw dust coloured
All assembled at evening mass
in starched white uniforms
Looking spick and span with ties
flying the colours,
green and white, forever, hurray!
A bell again
Young children tumbling
down, the same stairs
with eager upturned faces
I've been decades away
Time, old friend
You're playing your tricks
on me.*

Shireen Senadhira

FOREIGN PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATIONS OF ST BRIDGET'S CONVENT

Do you know your schoolmates who are residing overseas? Here is an opportunity to identify those you know. You can view details at http://www.sbcppa.org/Foreign_PPAs.html

ST BRIDGET'S CONVENT EXCELS IN SPORTS AND THE ACADEMIA



SBC clinched the Under-19 title at the All-island Inter-school Tennis Tournament held on 01st June, defeating Ladies' College in the final.

SBC emerged champions at the 3rd Tour of the first ever 3x3 Under-18 Street Basketball Championships outplaying the favourites St. Joseph's Girls School, Nugegoda in the final. The team consisted of Keshinie Mariyampillai, Swaranga Fernando, Swairie Fernando (Captain) and Shanelle Perera (Vice Captain).

Swaranga and Swairie represented Sri Lanka at the 2nd World under 18 Girls Basketball Championship held in Madrid, Spain from 27th to 30th September.

Congratulations girls. We are proud of you. Keep the Bridgetine flag flying

In the academic sphere Bridgetines performed very creditably with 29 students obtaining 9 A's and 13 students obtaining 8 A's at the GCE Ordinary Level Examination held in December 2011. At the GCE Advanced Level Examination conducted in August 2011, 5 students obtained 3 A's. At the London AL examination, 2 students obtained 3 A's while 1 student obtained A passes in all 4 subjects.

We wish them all success in their future studies and hope that they reach the top in their chosen professions.

