



## Editorial

It gives me pleasure to present the 2004 edition of the School Tie.

One incident stands out in this past year which reinforces my belief in the Marian spirit. One of our beloved teachers who had retired from St. Mary's several years ago was in need of help. The reaction from her ex-students was immediate and overwhelming. Most of us on the Committee were watching events unfold and we could see the momentum building to the point where she was adequately looked after. No meetings were necessary, no hierarchy was established, no monkeys were thrown from one back to the other, St. Mary's Boys just came together and got the job done. Way to go, guys. What is needed now is the establishment of a system whereby we can give help to any teacher in need. Read our appeal later in this issue and respond in full earnest. Efforts of Limji Nanabhoy, Dr. Rushad Udwadia, Dr. Shileen Petigara just to name a few, are laudable.

Life is full of surprises. I guess that is what makes it interesting. The elections caught everyone on the wrong foot. The 'India Shining' theory was debunked, and with good reason. While the services sector and the cities had flourished in the past few years, the heartland had been forgotten. Mr. Naidu, for all his effort and good intention, must now be realizing the folly of wanting to spend crores of rupees on Formula 1 racing when his constituent farmers were committing suicide due to drought and crop failure. Let's look at the bright side of the elections: the Indian voter proved once again that he cannot be taken for granted and the true winner was Democracy in the melting pot that is India. Whether the new Government, with its motley crew, actually survives to full term is another question altogether.

Another thought in my mind is about the interesting careers some Marians have got into. Of course the usual doctor, engineer, lawyer, and chartered accountants, and those who have taken over their fathers' business dominate in terms of sheer numbers, but let's take a look at some unconventional occupations. I have come across a few: Farid Saboonchi, deep sea diver for ONGC; Neil D'souza, turbine specialist for Rolls Royce; Rajiv Virani, film director; Rahul Mulani, radio jockey. I would encourage anyone in unique occupations to contribute articles about their work and career path to the School Tie, and possibly show up for Career talks organized by the Alumni Association. Anyone knowing of Alumnus in such jobs can also write in.

As always, feedback solicited and appreciated at [bgoculdas@hotmail.com](mailto:bgoculdas@hotmail.com).

Bimal Goculdas (Class of '85)

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## Excerpts from Principal's Address & Report for the year 2003 - 2004

Good evening parents, guests, members of the staff and my dear students. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Annual Day function, in the 141st year of our school's existence.

While celebrating our Awards Day, we have taken the opportunity to focus our attention on the theme of "Rice" which has been internationally acclaimed as an important and urgent consideration for the year 2004.



The United Nations has declared 2004 as the International year of Rice to increase the production of rice, which is the staple food of more than half the world's population especially in the continents of Asia and Africa. On rice, depends the employment and livelihood of millions of people. Further, the rationale behind this decision of the U.N. is the fact that while the pollution is growing, the resources for the production of rice, viz. land and water are diminishing.

As the United Nations declares 2004 as the Year of Rice, we are reminded that land is a source of livelihood, survival, identity, food, security and culture. Unfortunately, throughout Asia, peasants are losing access to land and globalization is intensifying this problem. Hence, governments all over the world and more so, in our country, need to develop a people-centred, pro-poor developmental plan to ensure that the people's needs are satisfied.

Against this backdrop, we have attempted to focus some of our activities, plans and assemblies, this year, to instill in our students the need for increasing the production of rice. We also need to stress the importance of the resources, viz. land and water and the necessity of using these with the utmost care, avoiding any wastage. We trust our humble efforts will create an awareness amongst us having a multiplying effect and making us people-oriented and conscious of the needs of the marginalized members of our society.

#### School Report for 2003 - 2004

The year began with two enlightening and practical workshops conducted for the staff by Fr Joe Dias, S.J., Principal of St. Xavier's College and Fr Gordon Deniells, S.J. from the faculty of St. Xavier's Institute of Communications. Both seminars set the tone for the beginning of school and served as catalysts to the staff for their personal and professional growth. The workshops were certainly appreciated by the staff.

We welcomed Ms. F. Arsiwalla, Ms M. Fernandes, Mr. H. D'Sa and Ms. L.Delhiwala on the staff. During the course of the year the following staff members: Ms Z.Waghle, Ms S.Lele, Mr. C.Thomas, Mr. P.Machado, Ms K. Hora, Mr. K. D'Souza and Ms P. Mascarenhas left the institution. We thank them for their service and contribution to the institution and welcome the new comers.

#### ICSE Results

Out of 116 students who appeared for the ICSE Exam in March 2004, 115 were declared successful, with 84 students securing more than 70%. Master Kartik Ramkrishnan topped the class securing 95.83%, Master Abhyudaya Agarwal stood second with 94.33% and Master Sinan Kadavath secured the third place with 93%.

I congratulate all our students for their magnificent performance. Our thanks go out to all those who have contributed to their success. This year, the special prize for outstanding achievement at the ICSE Examinations, without recourse to private tuitions or coaching classes, is being awarded to Abhyudaya Agarwal.

#### Sports

Our students participated enthusiastically in the inter-school football events. We have retained our position in the First Division in all the age groups and fared commendably in the prestigious tournaments organized by the Mumbai School Sports Association. We were the champions of the U-8 football tournament ! We secured the third place in the U-10



tournament. Our U-17 football team bagged the Bro Paulus trophy for the second time in succession in the inter school football tournament organized at Vasai. I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the coaches and the players who put in their best efforts throughout the season.

The highlight of the football season was the one day "Soccer Fiesta" organized for more than 300 students of the U-8, U-10, U-12 and U-14 categories on July 26, 2004 on our school grounds. It was a day of fun and excitement for both parents and students as the teams displayed their skills, in the instant 15-minute rounds.

We now have two basketball courts and the interest in this sport has no doubt escalated. We still have a long way to go to record any noticeable achievement.

Regular coaching in cricket, too, has been held and our school participated in the inter school Giles and harris Shield tournaments. Students were encouraged to participate in table-tennis, badminton, lawn-tennis, handball, swimming, athletics and roller-skating inter-school competitions. The achievement of our students in these sports is recorded in the sports report.

#### Other Activities

Dramatics, quizzing, debating, oral communication, singing and dancing are events that students look forward to and participate in with real gusto. The school qualified to participate in the ESPN Quiz Contest at Delhi and lost in the quarter final stage. The school was represented by Adil Qureshi and Shikhar Mehta. At the popular annual "Jamnabai Cascade" organized by the Jamnabai Alumni Association, many of our students did well and received awards. At the inter-school debates competition, organized by the YMCA, Siddhant Singh was awarded the best speaker prize and the team qualified for the second round.

Bal Din was a day filled with fun and much excitement. The teachers went out of their way to make it a happy one for the students, with their spontaneous, creative and entertaining items. The children of PRATHAM (an organization working in the field of education for "children at risk") were invited to mingle with our children and participate in the celebrations. These children and our students too, were provided with a sumptuous snack and free coupons to try their luck at the games of skill.

Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 05, 2003. The organizing committee worked hard to make this a happy event to express their appreciation for and gratitude to the teachers. On behalf of the staff, I express my gratitude to all the parents who helped out at this function and on many other occasions during the course of the year. The assistance rendered at school functions, substituting for teachers, accompanying our students on trips, etc, is deeply appreciated.

#### Outreach Programmes

The "Canteen Days", drive to garner funds for our outreach programmes, for students in our rural and tribal Jesuit schools, were a roaring success. Parents and students from the Preparatory to Class 10, worked enthusiastically and happily to contribute a substantial amount for our boarding school and also to provide tokens of appreciation for our support staff at Diwali. The Class 10 students of our tribal school in Uplat Patilpada were happy to be invited to St. Mary's for a three day excursion in Mumbai. Our students (Social Service Group) of class 9 went for a two day camp to Uplat to experience the life of a rural/tribal student and came back enlightened.



Our interact students of Class 8, participated in the “Terry Fox Run” to collect funds for Cancer Research, targeted specially for the benefit of children suffering from cancer and collected more than rupees twelve thousand. Other activities of the Social Service Group included visits to Old Age Homes and orphanages in the neighbourhood.

The St. Mary’s Alumni Association made their annual contribution towards the Uplat Patilpada boarding school and this year an alumnus made it possible to be with our students for a day, on their camp. The Alumni continue to interact with our students on the games field and have been supportive in our endeavours.

#### Other Matters

Apart from the in-service training programme held at the beginning of the academic year, staff members were also sent for refresher courses to update themselves and learn new skills in teaching. An excursion to Pinewood Farms at Karjat, away from log books and live wires, towards the end of the academic year, was a welcome and refreshing break.

The Boy’s Library has been renovated. The new ceiling has made the library more cool, comfortable and conducive to reading. The Biology Laboratory, too, was refurbished towards the end of the academic year. The classrooms of the new building and the Preparatory Section have been painted. We trust all these facilities will make teaching and learning a rewarding experience.

In conclusion, I express my sincere thanks to the teaching, non-teaching, supplementary and support staff and the Jesuit community for the support and help rendered in educating our students at St. Mary’s. I am grateful to Mr. Paul Machado, the Vice Principal and Ms. Marie Martin, the Preparatory and Junior School Supervisor for their valuable assistance in the curricular and extra curricular activities and to Fr. Leslie Rebello, S.J. for looking after the school bus system, the maintenance and finances of the school.

May God continue to be with us in all our endeavours to make education a happy experience for our students. May Mary our Patroness lead us on.

Fr. Evarist Newnes, S.J.  
Principal

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#### **An appeal for a worthy cause**

Dear Marians,

You must be well aware by now of the illness and hospitalization of our ex-teacher, Ms. Edith D’Mello. I am happy to state that she is being well looked after, thanks to the time, effort and money generously donated by our ex-students.

At a recent get-together some of our ex-students discussed the possibility of setting up a fund to aid ex-teachers and staff of any school; who in the unforeseen event of falling ill and needing medical aid and/or hospitalization, do not have the financial means to look after themselves.

One suggestion put forward was that the existing vehicle in the form of St. Mary’s Alumni Association, a registered public trust, could receive and manage donations/funds for such a purpose.



This possibility is being actively reviewed, although I am given to understand that there are some restrictions for the said Trust receiving foreign contributions. I am further given to understand that the same will be resolved in due course and our overseas Marians would be able to extend a generous hand towards this cause.

St. Mary's Alumni Association has been in existence since 1987 and has been actively involved in charity for education and medical causes. Ex-students of St. Mary's School manage this said Trust.

We look forward to your early response and suggestions, so that we can move in the matter.

Regards

Pranav Mulani

*Editor's note: Cheques in Indian Rupees made out to St.Mary's Alumni Association may be mailed to Fr. Evarist Newnes, Principal, St. Mary's High School (ISC), Nesbit Road, Mumbai 4000 \_\_. Please include a cover letter stating the purpose of donation. Receipts will be mailed to the senders and all donations are eligible for 80G benefit.*

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#### **Tribute to Janette Pereira**

From: <[ANIRANI@cs.com](mailto:ANIRANI@cs.com)> To: <[pranav4u@earthlink.net](mailto:pranav4u@earthlink.net)> Cc: <[jaime@vsnl.net](mailto:jaime@vsnl.net)>  
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2003 3:57 AM  
Subject: Janette Pereira

Dear Pranav, I am from the same batch as Jaime Pereira. Janette Pereira was our English teacher in 9th and 10th standards and we will all surely miss her. I would appreciate if you could either circulate/ put on the website this small tribute composed for her.

" Hence home you idle creatures get you home! Is this a holiday? What know you not being mechanical you ought not walk upon a labouring day without a sign of your own profession?? Speak!! What trade art thou??"

Most of us will remember Janette Pereira by these opening lines from Julius Caesar, much of which has been indelibly etched into our memories. We all remember her as a kind and gentle soul who patiently put up with the vagaries of a bunch of prepubertal boys in their penultimate years in school with nothing more than but a gentle chiding at the most.

We first thought that she was putting up with all our nonsense because of Jaime her son who was in our class but as time went by we knew that was not the case. We sometimes would wonder if she knew of Jaime's varied nicknames, some of which came with statutory warnings!!

Who can forget the famous or should I say infamous incident involving the smuggling of a cigarette into a free period. It gets lit in a very ceremonious fashion and gets passed around and after a half a dozen guys have inhaled and exhaled, what should happen but Janette Pereira pops her head into class to leave Jaime a message!!! MY GOD!! We all thought. This IS THE END!! We WILL ALL BE RUSTICATED!!" A curse shall alight upon the limbs of men...." I can still feel the tension as the entire class(primary and secondary inhalers)watched with bated breath, waiting for the bombshell. But all she had to say was " Oh there is a most wonderful aroma in the air " and walked off before we could say a word!! No reprimand, no meeting with the Principal, nothing!! That shows what a wonderful person she was!!



**JOURNAL OF ST. MARY'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

In closing I would like to quote Shakespeare ( with modifications) in giving Janette the highest honour... "Her life was gentle and the elements so mixed in her that nature might stand up and say to all the world....THIS WAS A WOMAN!!"

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**Farewell to an enigmatic World Citizen St. Marian**

Dom Moraes (famous author) from 1954 batch passed away the other day in Bombay. A write-up which appeared is appended below and this is self-explanatory.  
Akbar Currim  
1959 Batch

Dom Moraes: Poet traveller, global citizen Thursday, 03 June , 2004, 07:56  
Prose, Poesy and Poise came naturally to the 66-year old Dom Moraes, the gifted writer who passed away in Mumbai on Wednesday. In his death, the world of literature, especially poetry, has lost a towering figure, leaving a void which will be difficult to fill.

The late Moraes started writing poetry when he was barely 12 years old. At fifteen, well known poet W H Auden had read and liked his poems. Stephen Spender published them in 'Encounter' and Karl Shapiro did so in 'Poetry Chicago'. Dom's first collection, 'A Beginning' was published by the time he was nineteen. This book won him the famed Hawthornden Prize. Much of the late writer's inspiration came from his world-wide travel along with father Frank Moraes, who was a legend by himself. The senior Moraes was Editor of The Times of India, and later, the Indian Express. With him, the young Dom travelled through Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand and the whole of South-East Asia, territories he was to often re-visit in the course of his career. Born in Mumbai in 1938, Dom has to date, published nine other collections of poems, and twenty three prose books, including a biography of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the memoirs 'Never At Home', 'Gone Away' and 'My Son's Father'. The late Moraes had also edited magazines in London, Hong Kong and New York. As a correspondent, he had also reported on wars from the trench lines in Algeria, Israel and Vietnam. In 1971 he was appointed Editor of 'The Asia Magazine', and in 1976 he joined the UN. He returned to India in 1979 and lived here since. In 1960, his second book of verse 'Poems', became the 'Autumn Choice' of the Poetry Book Society. In 1965, his third book of verse 'John Nobody', appeared to much critical acclaim. Apart from these three volumes, he published a pamphlet of verse, Beldam & Others, in 1967. In 1983 he published a privately printed book of poems 'Absences', and in 1987 his 'Collected Poems' appeared. He has also scripted and partially directed over twenty television documentaries from England, India, Cuba, and Israel for the BBC and ITV. He wrote his autobiography, 'My Son's Father', when he was 30. 'Typed With One Finger', a collection of poems was formally launched last year at the British High Commission here. At that time the renowned author had explained the title saying, "When I first started to type at the age of eight, I wasn't taught to type so I typed with one finger. Even today, I type with my one finger on my computer." 'Typed With One Finger' was a reaction to his travels in India. The book contains a collection of old and new works that all serve, Moraes said, "as an interpretation of how I see me." One of his recent works on Afghanistan was co-authored with Sarayu Srivatsa.

Despite his travels around the globe, Moraes said he had no qualms about settling down in India. He was once fascinated by the Congo, but later said he would not like to live there. The late Moraes never learned Hindi or any other Indian language but went on record to state that this did not hamper his writings or observations on life. He once told 'The Hindu', "I don't think I belong anywhere. I have travelled to every corner of India and beyond for material and inspiration. I have lived in a great number of countries."



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### We never forget our Teachers

From: <[j.nargundkar@att.net](mailto:j.nargundkar@att.net)> To: <[pranav4u@earthlink.net](mailto:pranav4u@earthlink.net)> Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2004 7:44 AM  
Subject: Mr. Rebello mentioned in the Washington Post  
Dear Pranav,

I am an ex-St. Mary's ISC student (Class of 1971), whose letter got published in today's Washington Post. This letter has a reference to our dearly beloved Mr. Giles Rebello. Do you know if he is still around? Can you send him - or someone who has contact with him - this link to my letter:  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A59018-2004May26.html>

I am sure that he would be pleased to see his name in a major US newspaper, even though I did refer to him as "delightfully cranky"!

Regards

Jagdish

Nargundkar,

Germantown,

MD

Thursday, May 27, 2004; Page A30  
"A Dash of Comma Sense," George F. Will's May 21 op-ed column about a new book about punctuation, did not mention a famous story about what can happen when a comma is moved. The story is that a czar of Russia had written a telegram concerning a notorious subversive. It said: "Pardon impossible, to be sent to Siberia." The merciful czarina noticed the telegram and changed the location of the comma to read, "Pardon, impossible to be sent to Siberia."

JUDITH

JUDSON

Washington

George F. Will's column brought back memories from 1970 of my 10th-grade English teacher in Bombay. Mr. Rebello asked the class to punctuate the following sentence: "That that is is that that is not is not is not that it is." Punctuating such a sentence might make any punctilious individual "commatose." In any case, after all these years, I try here to do justice to my delightfully cranky English teacher: "That, that is, is. That, that is not, is not. Is not that it? It is!"

JACK NARGUNDKAR

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### Chip off the old block

From: tony pereira

Dear All

Ayush's team - St. Mary's - won the Under-8 football tournament, battled by 64 schools of Mumbai. Apparently, it's the first time that our school has won the gold in this age category.

Check the article - <http://web.mid-day.com/sports/local/2003/december/71630.htm>

The other bit of high for Ayush and us, was that he captained his side and had the privilege of receiving the trophy on behalf of the school. He hasn't stopped beaming since then.

Love Ayush.Amev.Priya.Tony

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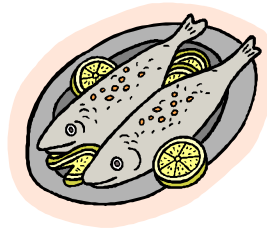
### School Dinner 2004



The annual dinner will be held on \_\_\_\_\_. All NRIs please note and adjust your travel plans accordingly. This time back by popular demand is \_\_\_\_\_ with its exotic menu for both Veg & Non Veg Indian food. The Time, Venue and other details are as follows:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day: Friday  
Time: 7.00 p.m

Last day for passes due to limited capacity is \_\_\_\_\_. For any further information, email to [sushil@sukhwani.com](mailto:sushil@sukhwani.com). For Invitation Passes contact any of the committee members listed below.



MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
*FUZZ – PLS UPDATE THIS*



Sr	Name	Residence Tel	Locality	Office Tel	Locality
1.	Adil Irani (PRESIDENT)	23628565	Napean Sea Rd.		-
2.	Sushil Sukhwani (VICE PRESIDENT)	23670486	Breach Candy	22060916 / 22003055/56	Marine Lines
3.	Kavi Desai (HON. SECRETARY)	23693145 / 23673076	French Bridge		-
4.	Dinesh Advani (ASST. SECRETARY)	23617980	Kemps Corner	56641000	Shalimar Hotel
5.	Rahul Divan (HON. TREASURER)	23679564	Napean Sea Rd.	56324991	Nariman Point
6.	Bimal Goculdass	3630709 / 3685051	French Bridge	0251-2687737	Ambernath
7.	F. P. Mehta	23871298/23853060	Altamount Rd.	22671566 / 22671432	Kala Ghoda
8.	Mehdi Jalali	23670597	Breach Candy	22621403	Kemps Corner
9.	Deepak Mehta	23862705	Pedder Rd.	24376281	Prabhadevi
10	Khoorshed Doctor	23616783	Babulnath	25170446/25170396	Ghatkopar
11	Robert Lawrence	26442731/ 26516371	Bandra		-
12	Shyam Balsekar	24923084	Gamadia Lane	23802381	Tardeo
13	Ajay Parekh	24981811 / 24944657	Carmichael Rd.	28756482/3/6/9	Kala Ghoda
14	Keki Master	24150759/ 24154176	Parel	22043707	Fountain

For any suggestions please contact any of the committee members or email [sushil@sukhwani.com](mailto:sushil@sukhwani.com).