



SCHOOL TIE 2009

Editorial

The big news this year is that St. Mary's has a lady Principal for the first time ever. As we bid adieu to Fr. Evarist Newnes, let us welcome Ms. Alice Carvalho, who assumed the office of Principal from Sept 01, 2009. The event was widely covered in the Press, and students as well as ex-students are looking forward to extensive cooperation and interaction. Fr Evarist served as Vice-Principal for 5 years and then as Principal for 14 years, a long innings. Let us wish him well in his future endeavours.

Globally, the world lauded Barrack Hussein Obama as the first non-caucasian President of the USA. I wish him well, acknowledging the gargantuan task he faces ahead. The whole world is watching, to see whether this "messiah" can take the USA out of the many messes it finds itself in. The gentlemen making up the Nobel committee went one step further. By giving him the Nobel peace prize, with one fell swoop they undermined the importance of their own institution. The nominations for this year's prize closed just twelve days after Obama took over. By no stretch of imagination did Obama do anything earth-shaking in that time. The audacious selection left most people speechless! Granted, Obama has wonderful oratory skills and holds a lot of potential, but the Nobel prize is for achievement, not promise. By this one reckless action, the Nobel committee has trivialized the achievements of other genuinely deserving recipients such as Mother Theresa.

This year the School Tie is being sent out in different electronic and paper versions. I encourage you all to ensure that your email address is updated so that you get the e-version which will have photos and will save a few trees.

As always, we are looking for news, articles, memories, and anything else that you want to share with other Alumni.

Bimal Goculdas (Class of 1985)

Hon Vice President

bgoculdas@hotmail.com

Excerpts from "The School Report 2008-09"

The School Report

1

The academic year 2008-2009 commenced with two half day orientation programmes in educational technology, organized for the staff by Educomp Solutions Ltd, New Delhi. The staff were made aware about how Educomp would empower the teachers with technology in the classrooms. The programme would enable teachers to use digital resources such as graphics, animations, 3D images and video clips in addition to the chalk and talk methods of teaching and assist them in making learning more effective. The staff were initiated into and trained through hands-on operations to make them feel comfortable with handling the electronic gadgets installed in seven rooms that we call 'Smart Classrooms'. Several staff members have used this tool successfully and students eagerly look forward to presentations in these classrooms. The follow up evaluative sessions held during the course of the year helped to consolidate operational skills learnt and solve difficulties encountered with the content of the syllabi. One hopes that one day all the classrooms will have such facilities.

As in previous years, there were a few departures from the school and a few new arrivals on the staff. Ms Lucinda D'Souza and Ms Mithilesh Sholapurkar retired after putting in 35 and 24 years of loyal service, respectively. Ms Sarah Murthy of the non-teaching staff also retired after fourteen years of committed service. We wish them God's blessings in their time of retirement.

The other staff members who left us during the year were Ms Rituparna Mukherjee and Ms Sathi Menon. We are grateful to them for their contribution to the institution.

We welcomed on the staff Ms Swati Rai, Mr Sudhir Singh, Ms Asifa Mulla and Ms Mangala Bana.

ICSE Results

All 111 students were successful. 15 students secured 90% and above; 36 secured 80% and above; 43 students secured 70% and above; 16 students secured 60% and above and one student secured a little less than 60%. Sahil Mehta topped the class securing 94.43 %. In second place was Yash Agarwal with 94.14 % and Pranav Kedia stood third with 92.43 %. I particularly congratulate Vaibhav Kumar, who passed the ICSE Exam with flying colours, securing 89.71% without having recourse to any private tuitions or coaching classes. He will be awarded a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 4000/- for his hard work and brilliant success. Congratulations to all our students and to those who helped them along the way and contributed to their glorious achievements. We hope they will be able to achieve astronomical heights in reputed institutions in the midst of the present confusion in the admission processes for Junior colleges.

Reaching Out

Fr Oscar Pereira, S.J. addressed the students of Classes 3 to 8 in October 2008 on the new Jesuit venture at Pandharkawada in Yavatmal district. He spoke of his

work/organization, Manav Shakti Sanstha (MASS), a voluntary organization committed to mass literacy, gender equality, economic development, empowerment and social change of the weaker sections of society. The thrust is to help the poor and the marginalized Adivasis of the Pandharkawada district. In response to his appeal for funds, our students collected a sum of rupees three lakhs eighty six thousand two hundred and eighty two. With this monetary assistance, many self help groups will be relieved from the vicious circle of indebtedness to money lenders who charge exorbitant rates (over 100%) of interest. Further, as these donations will be revolving, they will bring hope to many more in future by providing them with loans for generating income for survival.

This year, too, our students participated in the Terry Fox run, to make Mumbaikars aware of the dreaded disease of cancer and collected a sum of rupees ninety four thousand and eighty six, for research.

The commitment to assist the tribal school in Uplat, through the popular Canteen Days' sponsorships, is alive and vibrant. Further, a new English medium school is being set up for the tribals in this sector. St Mary's has also been contributing academically towards the growth of this new venture. The tribal school is looking for volunteers to assist in the teaching programmes.

Collections in the form of sweets, toiletries, clothes, linen and stationery were made in the midst of subdued Christmas celebrations, after the 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai. These gift hampers were sent to the pavement school children of REAP, the poor of the neighbourhood, St Joseph's Foundling Home in Agripada, St Anthony's Orphanage in Mumbai Central and Mother Theresa's Asha Daan in Byculla.

Curricular and Extra-curricular Activities

The Inter House quiz had the Houses sending in the 'best brains' to compete in the interesting creative rounds prepared by the teachers.

As always, the Inter House Dramatics is a mega event: high energy levels and power packed performances. The Green House stole the show yet again, with the Blue in hot pursuit, the White and then the Red.

St Ignatius' Feast, our Founder's Day, continues to be a unique celebration at St Mary's, where the students felicitate the Jesuits on the campus and are made aware of their school's antecedents.

Teachers' Day was celebrated with a lively interactive entertaining programme put up by the students. In the latter part of the day, our teachers were felicitated amidst a crowd of three hundred plus parents with karaoke, dance and a sumptuous spread.

Children's Day was a fun-filled exciting event, with our teachers performing on stage and later with the help of parents, conducting games of skill. Our students today would describe it as 'awesome!'

The annual Sports Day was a day with a difference. Mr Mir Ranjan Negi, India's hockey goalkeeper and coach, who inspired the movie Chak De India was our Chief Guest. The students of Class Four put up a hockey drill which was perfect for the event.

The Annual Exhibition was inaugurated by Fr Adrian D'Cruz, S.J. Director of our new English medium school in Uplat. He was happy to interact with the students as he went

around to look at the exhibits on display. A novel feature in the exhibition has been the growing number of exhibits displayed skilfully with the use of modern educational hi-tech equipment.

Inter School Events

In the Inter School Frank Anthony Debate competition organized by the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi, we won the preliminary round and qualified for the zonal round. Manan Shah was adjudged the Best Speaker in this round.

St Mary's secured the 5th place out of 26 schools in the prestigious Cascade 2008 event organized by the Jamnabai Alumni Association. The event showcased the talents of our students. We participated enthusiastically in the 'We Are The World', a multi cultural programme organized by the Rotaract Club of Mumbai and secured several awards.

In the 'Rochak Hindi Divas' organized by Christ Church School, Mumbai, our school secured the first place in the ad making event.

In the Inter School Dramatics entitled 'Masquerade' organized by the Rotary Club, we secured the second place. We also participated in 'Vogue 2008' organized by H.R. College and in 'Odyssey' a competition comprising a mixed bag of literary events, testing of skills and intelligence, organized by the St Gregorious Alumni Association.

I appreciate and applaud the initiative, leadership skills and team spirit of our captains and students.

Sports

The coaching programmes for football, cricket, basketball and roller skating were well attended. Our sports teams participated in several inter school tournaments in the city.

The U-16 football team, Division II were runners-up in the football tournament, organized by the Mumbai Schools Sports Association and qualified for a berth in the First Division. Our cricket team was the winner of the Giles Shield Plate tournament, in the south zone.

The Football Festival on a rainy Saturday in July was an exciting day for all our budding footballers.

An exhaustive and detailed write-up of all our sports events and achievements will be found in the Sports report.

Pre-Primary and Primary Sections

The events of the Pre-Primary and Primary are best described in pictures. Meaningful learning experiences in and outside the classroom like the use of Educomp smart classes, worksheets, morning assemblies, excursions, picnics, etc. have enhanced the learning process effectively. The Junior School Reading Room has augmented the interest and love for books. The Preparatory Sports and Music Festivals and the Junior Sports and Dramatics are events looked forward to by both parents and students.

Alumni

The Annual Dinner was attended by more than 500 alumni on March 08, 2009. Further, this event turned out to be a unique gathering as there were several alumni from

different parts of the world - Australia, U.K., U.S.A., Canada and New Zealand. They were excited to be in their Alma Mater and relive nostalgic memories of their school days and boarding life. The St Mary's Alumni Association continues to lend a helping hand and sponsor Jesuit run projects and initiatives. I am grateful to the Association for their constant support.

My association with St Mary's has been a long one – 1976 to 1981, five years as Vice Principal and May 1995 to August 2009, fourteen years as Principal. I now move on to new frontiers with varied, rich and fruitful experiences. I am deeply grateful to all of you dear teachers, parents and alumni for your support, care, professional assistance and understanding during my tenure at St Mary's.

I welcome Ms Alice Carvalho, the Principal-designate who will assume the office of Principal on September 01, 2009. May her association with St Mary's be filled with much joy as she strives to meet the educational challenges of today.

Before I conclude, I express my sincere thanks to all who have helped me to shoulder my responsibilities as head of the institution, in the last academic year and throughout my tenure at St Mary's. I am grateful to the teaching staff, the non-teaching staff and the Class IV employees for their unstinting loyalty and co-operation. I owe my gratitude to Ms Marie Martin, the Pre-Primary and Primary Supervisor for the smooth and effective running of the Preparatory and Junior Sections of the School and her dedicated leadership in the Cub Movement, to Mr Wilfred Noronha, the Supervisor of the Secondary Section, for his continued assistance in the maintenance of discipline and in the coordination of curricular and extracurricular activities and to Ms Minaz Marker, the Academic Co-ordinator for English, for her guidance and supervision of the teaching of English. I would also like to thank Fr Leslie Rebello, S.J. for his help in the maintenance, the finances and the school bus system and to all the Jesuit priests, brothers and scholastics for their encouragement and assistance when required.

Finally I give thanks to the Almighty for his protection and blessings. May Mary our Patroness and St Ignatius of Loyola our Founder continue to be our guiding lights. I conclude with the quote that has been displayed at the entrance of the auditorium.

We aim high

We think high thoughts

We radiate happiness

And excel in all we do.

May God be with us always. Thank you.

Fr Evarist Newnes, S.J.

ST. MARY'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – A BRIEF REPORT

This has been a landmark year in the history of our school. For the first time since St.Mary's began in 1864 we have a lady in the position of Principal of our school. We the committee members of the Alumni Association have had a chance to get to know

her and already share the same vision with her to foster a strong relationship between the Association and our Alma Mater.

Annual Dinner was held on 13th March 2009, we had several Alumni from overseas attending. They were from the 1950's to 60's from Canada, Brazil, Australia, USA, New Zealand, UK etc.

Thanks to the Web 2.0 generation word about the dinner spread through Orkut and Facebook and we had an amazing attendance. Over 600 alumni attended making it one of the best attended dinners of all time.

Membership: - We had 22 new members for the year ended 31st May 2009. The total is currently at 1457. The Managing Committee of the Association has been meeting every alternate month & regularly contributing to activities of the Association.

Charity: - Rs.151, 000 was donated to the various charities during the financial year ended 31/3/2008. The list of organization is Sanjivani, Social Welfare Centre Society, Manav Shakti Sanstha, Reach Education Action Programme, The Family Welfare Agency, Ladhahbai Ebrahim Charitable Institute & Bai Ratanbai F. Pavri High School. This is the highest amount we have donated till date.

I ask all of you'll to register on www.stmarysalumni.net so that you will get future updates and information such as this 'School Tie' publication. We are stopping mailing activities and moving towards email. Hope to see you at the annual dinner on Friday 4th December, 2009

Sushil Sukhwani (Class of 1985)
President

Interesting emails and photos from Desmond Fernandes

I attach a pic that might be of interest to old boys. The photograph is of the Sodality, 1966. Most of the members of the Sodality would have been boarders from the regions, from Africa or other parts of the world and would have been the last of the boarders ever as the boarding section was closed down in about 1970, if memory serves me right. Facing the group, seated to the left of Fr Lepour is Christopher Doyle. Doyle got 6points (the highest possible grade) and long with Bandoowalla came out 1st in the Commonwealth in that year at the Cambridge Syndicate Exams. Doyle's mother was Mr Kenneth Dyer's (much loved teacher by generations of students and himself an old boy) sister. Most of the littler chaps in the photograph would have been my contemporaries. In the back row, 4th from left, is Clifford (can't remember his surname) who dominated Bombay School Sports for 3years; he was the Usain Bolt of his day leaving his

competitors yards behind. I believe he lives in Australia now. Incidentally, he was school captain in 1970, I think.

I graduated from St Mary's in 1971 and have fond memories of the place although I was only there from 1968. I wasn't renowned for my intellectual prowess but one of my minor claims to fame is that I captained the school hockey team briefly in my final year. The school captain in my final year was Sorab Bhabha, nephew of the father of India's nuclear programme and designer of the cannon on Sherman Tanks.

The other minor claim to fame is that my brother, David (seen here standing behind Fr Lepour - the little Belgian priest seated at centre) was school captain in 1967 beating Homi Bhabha (Sorab's brother) to the post. Homi Bhabha is now a world renowned, if controversial, authority in the fields of Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Studies.

Sorry to inundate you with this trivia but I stumbled across this photograph this morning and thought you might be interested.

Desmond Fernandes (Class of '71)



Attached is another that will trigger lots of memories of fumbling, self-conscious youth! It's at the ISC Social, 1967. Seema Jangi(?), head girl of The Convent of Jesus and Mary, Coloba is dancing with David Fernandes, head boy of St Mary's, ISC. I have David's permission to send you this pic.



(Editors note to all readers: This is the type of trivia we are looking for. Keep it up Desmond! Hope this inspires other Alumni to send in their memories)

Annual Soccer Match vs St. Stanislaus

Hi Guys,

Well the Alumni Football matches for this year have been played and enjoyed.

The first one was against our School Team which was played as usual on the day of the Inter-House Dramatic competition in school.

This year we had an unusually good turnout for the match with almost 27-30 ex-students wanting to play. As a result we were required to keep changing players to give everyone a chance to play. This of course translated into a huge advantage for the Alumni as we had fresh players on the field at all times and as a result we were able to defeat the School Team quite easily. Thanks all you guys for turning up.

The second match was played at the St Stanislaus Grounds which as per tradition was held on Independence Day.

The St. Stanislaus Ex-students Association hosted us and the Holy Family (Andheri) Team for the Independence Day Football this year.. This year's event had a different format and one more team.

The first match was between St. Mary's and St. Stanislaus. Being traditional rivals the match was fiercely contested. After fairly even exchanges our team scored and held on to the lead till the end. The next match was between Holy Family and St. Stanislaus. St.

Stanislaus scored early in the match and never let Holy Family catch up. The last match of the round-robin saw Holy Family play St. Mary's. The match was evenly contested and our team scored the first goal. However the youthful Holy Family hit back and equalized late in the match.

St. Mary's and St. Stanislaus qualified for the finals. As with all previous matches between these teams over the years it was well contested. The more experienced St. Mary's pinned the St. Stanislaus boys in their own half for most of the first half. However in the second half St. Stanislaus attacked in waves and missed a couple of chances. The match ended in a draw and like last year a penalty shoot-out was required to break the deadlock. However at the end of five penalty kicks the score stood tied at 4-4. Referee Afra then called for sudden death penalties of which after the first two rounds the scores were even. The third penalty was saved by our goalkeeper and we duly converted our third sudden death penalty and won the match narrowly.

These inter- alumni matches were played with great camaraderie and we hope to expand this tournament to include many more Jesuit schools next year.

After the match everyone had a great time in the Stanislaus swimming pool. The swim was followed by a sumptuous meal of biryani and cool beverages.

Many thanks to the St Stanislaus Alumni Association for hosting us and arranging such an enjoyable tournament.

The St Marians who were present for the Tournament were :

1. Rayomand Choksi (1975)
2. Sarosh Irani (1975)
3. Shyam Balsekar (1984)
4. Rajesh Dsouza (1986)
5. Shantanu Sathe (1992)
6. Avinash Shetty (1995)
7. Rishi Divecha (1995)
8. Saahil Kapoor (1999)
9. Ashish Medhora (1999)
10. Mihir Mehta (2000)
11. Tushar Raut (2001)
12. Karan Durante (2001)
13. Mikhail Keswani (2002)
14. Seliq Baptista (2002)
15. Alain Noronha (2002)
16. Numair Qazi (2004)
17. Aarish Machiswalla (2004)
18. Saahil Hawa (2004)
19. Zaayen (2004)
20. Dhiren Durante (2004)

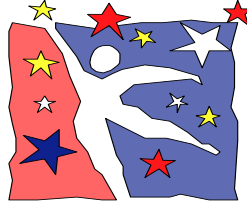
Thanks all you guys for being there when we needed you. See you next year.

Cheers,

Shyam Balsekar (1984)







St. Mary's Alumni Association

Presents

Annual Dinner 2009

Date : 4th December 2009. (Friday)

Time : 7.30 p.m.

Venue : St Mary's School (ICSE),
Mazgaon, Mumbai.

Time To Have A Blast with Old School Mates.



Invitations for the function are available with below mentioned Committee Members.

Note

Limited Invitations on a First Come Basis. So collect your invitations by 4.00 pm on 1st December 2009.

<u>Sr</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel. no.</u>	<u>Locality</u>
1.	St.Mary's School (ICSE)	23778264	Mazgaon
2.	Sushil Sukhwani (President)	40813456	Metro Cinema
3.	Bimal Goculdas (Vice President)	22048881	Fort
4.	Kavi Desai (Hon. Secretary)	22832502	Princess Street
5.	Shyam Balsekar (Asst. Secretary)	24300096	Tardeo
6.	Rahul Divan (Hon. Treasurer)	66324991	Nariman Point
7.	Fali P. Mehta	22671566	Fountain
8	Adil Irani	9224225329	Grant Road
9	Reza Najam-es-Sani	9821044116	Nana Chowk
10	Dinesh Advani	66641000	Kemps Corner
11	Ajay Parekh	28756482	Kala Ghoda
12	Prashant Daga	9322995598	Peddar Road
13	Mahesh Chainani	66558811	Nariman Point
14	Mazhar Furniturewala	23438044	Mohamadali Rd
15	Rajesh Sanghi	23805790	Kemps Corner
16	Mehdi Jalali	22621403	Fort
17	Jaideep Pathak	9819067968	Kemps Corner
18	Arun Muranjan	9820564726	Breach Candy