



## SCHOOL TIE 2010

### Editorial

Another year gone by... not just any year, but 25 years complete since my batch passed out of St. Mary's. Hard to believe that we are at our Silver Anniversary of graduation. But time waits for no one, and we have to make the best of the present, for as a great person once said: "The past is a history, the future is a mystery, the present is the only reality"! We have planned two get-togethers for the Class of 1985, both on successive days after the Annual Dinner on Dec 10. One is an all-day trip to Alibag, and another a dinner with Spouses at the Bombay Gymkhana. Any surplus from these events will be utilized for the benefit of our Alma Mater, so I encourage all my classmates to donate generously, to think of it as a charity event, an opportunity to contribute to the teachers and school to whom we owe so much. And of course to have a great time at the events!

This edition contains the first address by our new Principal Ms. Alice Carvalho. The first thing I noticed while reading it was the emphasis on overall development, not just classroom grades. The second notable approach apparent from the tone of the speech was that of team building. Ms. Carvalho has rightly and repeatedly mentioned the joint effort of staff, students, and teachers towards the overall success of the institution. These are extremely important components of an attitude which will help our children build character, not just academic grades. Please join me in wishing Ms. Carvalho all the very best for her stint at our beloved Mary's.

On the national front, we all were aware of corruption being a problem in India. But to what extent became clear only with the Commonwealth Games spending fiasco. Granted, the games went off well, but that does not excuse the graft that took place before. Sure, Kalmadi was sacked, but lets see whether any criminal charges stick. It is clear that corruption is the single biggest impediment to progress in India, far ahead of issues such as poverty, education, population, and infrastructure. I would go so far as to say that we are not much better off than the African dictators on the avarice scale, and unless there is grassroots education done on ethics, India could well turn out to be an agglomeration of banana republics not too far into the future.

Bimal Goculdas  
Vice President, St. Mary's Alumni Association  
Class of 1985

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### Excerpts from Principal's Address and Report for the year 2009-2010

St. Mary's School (ICSE) is an institution run by the Fathers who belong to the Society of Jesus, called Jesuits. They believe in empowerment through education. The Jesuits are inspired by their Founder, Ignatius of Loyola, for whom actions and operations should be carried out for the Greater Glory of God.

In the words of our Ex President Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam, "The Jesuits are doing something holy, something sacrosanct by working in the field of education. Education gives one the ultimate human value. They have made an excellent contribution not only in India but the world over."

We, at St. Mary's (ICSE) are contributing our mite in this vast ocean of education. We believe in the individuality of every single child. We work to harness their potential to make them men of fine moral character, intellectually accomplished; for whom no challenge is too great, fine all round individuals with a sense of compassion for the less privileged; and proud and responsible citizens of our nation. Looking around you will find that the world is changing fast. But in order to change the world in the right direction, it is necessary to change education. While the child is the centre and focus of the educational process, you will agree with me that the most important person in this process is the teacher. Hence in order to change the world, we have to change education and this can only be done by bringing about a psycho-spiritual growth among our teachers and by helping them to grow in self-awareness and self-esteem. True democracy can only be achieved through proper education in which we cultivate a communitarian feeling, which helps people to be free and autonomous, leading to healthy interpersonal relationships.

I am proud to place on record that St. Mary's (ICSE) is blessed with dedicated and committed teachers who are willing to shoulder any responsibility. It is only if we raise good citizens today, that India will be a vibrant democracy tomorrow. In view of this objective the staff has had the following seminars during the year:

- Two half-day seminars on "Time and Resource Management" by Ms ChhayaSehgal
- A one day seminar on "Self-awareness and Meditation Techniques" at Atma Darshan, Andheri, conducted by Fr. Jos Vazhail, SVD
- Dr. Alka Subramanyam and Dr. Surbhi Rathi from the Nair Hospital gave their precious time to address the Staff on "Learning Disabilities".

The teachers put into practice what they had learnt at these seminars.

The Catholic boys attended a *recollection* and took part in the celebration of Holy Mass every first Friday of the month.

### **Preparatory and Primary Sections**

The Preparatory Section is a perfect introduction to school... a little world by itself tucked away in the oldest part of the school building, where life is full of exciting possibilities. Our 'Preppies' confidently walked onto the stage for the first time for their 'Plain Speaking' event to recite the numerous poems they had learnt during the year. The Preparatory 'Olympics' is a noteworthy annual feature. Our five-year-olds dived through a hoop, turned somersaults, carefully carried five marbles in a spoon, navigated through an obstacle course, ran relays and exhibited various other skills besides dancing to music. At the 'Music Festival' they sang and enacted the songs they had learnt through the year. Most of them have learnt to pitch correctly, a very important skill that includes listening and concentrating. With all the enthusiasm and gusto a first or a fourth grader can muster, the academic year in the Primary Section kick-started with the usual spring in its step and excitement up its sleeve. Meaningful assemblies portraying values and environmental themes, interesting learning experiences, enjoyable field trips to the Maharashtra Nature Park, Nehru Science Centre, DNA Press etc, project work and 'Quiz Time' encouraged participation and involvement and helped build the confidence of every student. Children's Day had a plethora of activities in the Junior Assembly Hall as always. The Annual Exhibition showcased the talents of every little Marian. There was an obvious integration between the art skills and the variety of concepts understood in class, drawing out their innate creative capacity. The 'basket weaving' activity demonstrated and conducted by our very own Mumbai basket weavers stole the show.

At the Festival of Plays, Classes 1 to 4 had plays ranging from a Christmas story to ones with definite moral values taking us back in history to the days of the Wild West. Every student of the Primary was on stage. The focus is on values, oral communication, team work, combining music, dance and actions with speech and most importantly learning to collaborate. Our pupils learn that playing the role assigned to them is what is important, not how big a role it is. The Junior Sports Festival is an exercise in coordination and a display of skill and colour, whether it be throwing and catching a ball or a traditional Koli dance. It was a day of fun and the message the students carry home is that everyone is a winner.

3:45 p.m. on a Friday evening - A shrill whistle blown thrice in long bursts and one sees neat rows of boys seated in Four 'Packs' of 'Sixes' named after different colours with their 'Scouters' standing by, a sense of excitement and impatience radiating from the group. Equipped with a different plan each Friday with traditional Indian games, team events, silent games and other activities, the scouts aim to refine each cub's skills, co-ordination, team work and an all round strengthening of not just the

body, but his character and the Marian spirit, too! The cubs attended a one day 'camporee' held on the grounds of St Mary's SSC and St Mary's I.C.S.E., Mazagaon.

Sprinkled across the year, fun trips to Khandala and Murud-Janjira were also slotted in. We consider these overnight trips essential to their development as they learn the Baden-Powell exercises, self-help skills, responsibility and discipline. They are challenged into breaking away from their comfort zones, so important today! Each Cub strives towards excellence, understands and practices leadership through service and plays his part towards righteousness thus contributing towards a healthier society and a future of concerned citizens.

A meaningful thanksgiving service brought the academic year to a close.

## **Sports**

It gives me pleasure to present before you the sports report for the year 2009-2010. This year's sporting results were a typically mixed bag of performance: some thrilling, others disappointing.

### **Football**

Football is the centre of all sporting activity in St. Mary's. Football coaching is held for the different age groups every morning throughout the year. This year's results were as under:-

- Our under-16 boys were runners up in the 2nd Derek D'Souza Memorial Football Tournament.
- The Steven Anderson Memorial Tournament saw our boys walk away as winners.
- In the Indian Cultural League, our under-16 boys were once again declared winners.
- The under-14 were runners up in the Utpal Sanghvi Knock-out Tournament.
- The under-12 were winners in the Kenkre Academy Football Tournament.
- Our under-10 won the 3rd place in the Inter School Football Tournament organized by MSSA.
- The under-8 were runners up in the Inter School Football Tournament organized by MSSA.

Congratulations to Neel Shah, Ayush Pereira, Hussain Vahanvaty for winning the bronze medal in the AIFF for boys in the under-14 age group at the Maharashtra Festival of Football Tournament 2010.

### **Squash**

Yohann Surti secured the runners up position in the Inter School Squash Tournament for boys under-13 organized by MSSA.

### **Judo**

Parazond Elavia secured the 2nd position in the 74 Kg Category organized by MSSA

Rayamond Anklesaria stood 2nd in the 75 Kg Class in the Mumbai Mayor's Judo Championship.

### **Badminton**

Ajay Sailopal did us proud when he finished as runner up in the Bombay Presidency Radio Club Championship in the under-12 category.

### **Chess**

In the Dr Prakash Vaze Tournament, Hriday Mehta secured 5 out of 5 points and Aryan Mehta secured 4 out of 5 points.

### **Karate**

Urvaksh Raimawala won the 'Gold Medal in the under-12 Mayor Cup Karate Championship

### **Athletics**

Master Murtaza Lokhandwala secured the 3rd position in the under-16 category organized by the Mumbai District Athletic Championship:

Our Annual Athletic meet was a roaring success. Mr. Kawas Billimoria, our chief guest, inspired our boys with his credentials and his words of wisdom. Students of all classes competed enthusiastically to earn points for their House. Green House was the best house at the sports. Mohammed Aun Siddiqui and Murtaza Lokhandwala were adjudged the Best Athletes in the Senior Division. Inter House tournaments were conducted in Football, Cricket, Basketball, Badminton, Chess, Carroms and Table Tennis.

We wish our boys the very best in sports for the coming academic year. May they win many more laurels for themselves and for our School in the true spirit of sportsmanship keeping in mind that competing is more important than winning.

## **Academics - Secondary Section**

One of the aims of our educational thrust is to develop students intellectually, capable of taking on any challenge, each within the realms of their own potential. While academics is a very important part in St. Mary's (ICSE), equal thrust is placed on the fulfillment of an individual's capacity to realize his potential.

The students of class 10 attended a lecture by Dr. Elaine Charles, former Principal of St. Xavier's Institute of Education in October on study techniques. This seminar was very well received by the students as well as their parents who attended it.

It gives me great pleasure to announce to you, dear parents, that this year, we have not had a single student repeating any class. I congratulate the students of the school as well as the staff for their fine effort. My staff at St. Mary's is truly geared to meet the challenges as well as to fulfill the provisions of the Right to Education Act 2010.

Our ICSE results give us even more reason to cheer. We had sent up 104 students to the council examinations. As usual, all our students were declared successful. As per the ISC norm of calculating percentages on the basis of English and the best 4 subjects, our board results were:

90% and above	39 students
80% to 90%	45 students
70% to 80%	16 students
60% to 70%	4 students

#### **Our top 5 students:-**

Arkadeep Bhandopadhyay	96.8 %
Aditya Jain	95.8 %
Ayaan Banerji	95.6 %
Rahgav Sawhney	95.4 %
Rishi Sonthalia	95.4 %

9 students secured 100 marks in Environment Education. 5 students secured 100 marks in Computer Applications. 1 student secured full marks in Mathematics. Congratulations to all our students, their parents and our staff.

#### **Events at St. Mary's (ICSE)**

.The academic year started with the celebration of the Feast of Ignatius of Loyola, the Founder of the Jesuit Fathers. The Fathers of the Community were facilitated by the staff and the students of the school during a program held in the School's Auditorium. Independence Day was a low key celebration on account of Swine Flu. Teachers' Day was celebrated in school with the active participation of parents and students.

The teachers reciprocated on Children's Day. The boys had a great day, filled with events which they enjoyed thoroughly. The staff of St. Mary's (SSC) and our school got together on December 8th to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is the school feast.

The last major event of the academic year was the celebration of Republic Day. The students' speeches brought out the underlining pride of being Indian and they topped this with a grand display of gymnastics.

#### **Inter House Events:**

The much awaited Inter House Dramatic Competition took off on a high note. The boys put up some terrific performances with excellent dialogues. The stage management was equally noteworthy too. It was such a pity that only one house could be declared the winner.

The Inter House Quizzes for the different age groups too had seen some fierce competition at every level. Our students have truly matured and grown beyond their textbooks.

The Singing Competitions and the Plain Speaking Competitions were of a very high standard.

#### **PARTICIPATION- INTER SCHOOL-ACTIVITIES**

Cascades - Organised by the Jamnabai Narsee Alumni Association

- Farzan Fouzdar - 3rd Place in Just A Minute

Odyssey - Organised by the Gregorian Alumni

- Neville Dadina & Team – 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Impact
- Indrayudh Roy & Rishi Sonthalia – 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Logistics
- Hardik Doshi won the 3rd Place in the Event - Speak Out

E = MC2 - Organised by the Rotaract Club of H. R. College

- Hardik Doshi, Zaid Merchant and Nikhil Mamdapure qualified and entered the semi final round in a competition where school students were competing with college students on the same platform.

Camlin Art Competition :-

- Vishwa Soni – 4<sup>th</sup> place at the All India Drawing & Painting Competition and 2nd Place at the Competition held by the RTO at Worli.

Rochak - Hindi Divas organised by Christ Church School

- Manarth Chowalla – 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Essay Writing Competition
- Hitansh Shah - 2nd Place in Essay Writing Competition

Get-Set-Go - Rotaract Club of H. R. College :

- Siddhanth Jayakumar and Neville Dadina entered the final round.

Homi Bhabha Science Talent Competition :

- Manarth Chowalla won the silver medal

I. P. M. - Maths Talent Search Competition

- Manarth Chowalla was ranked 46<sup>th</sup> at the All India Level and was awarded a Scholarship

Aqua Regia the Science Quiz - Organised by T.I.M.E

- Raghav Agarwal / Adhish Tiwari and Mayank Chhabria / Neville Dadina qualified for the second round from amongst 108 schools that participated.

Masquerades - Rotaract Club of H. R. College :

- 4<sup>th</sup> Place amongst 32 participating schools

Daimun - Dhirubhai Ambani International School :-

- Siddhanth Jayakumar and Raghav Sawhney - Awarded Best Delegates in the Security Council representing Russia

Vogue - Rotaract Club of H.R. College :

- Siddhanth Jayakumar - 151 Place: Mr. Vogue, Mr. Talented, Mr. Confident

Speech and Drama Competition - Organised by Pearl Padamsee :

- Aryan Bhatia was adjudged the Second Runner Up.

We Are the World - Rotaract Club of H. R. College :

- Siddhanth Jayakumar and Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Treasure Hunt
- Neville Dadina – 1<sup>st</sup> Place As Mascot

Cadbury Bournvita Confidence Academy - Derek O'Brien & Associates :

- Zaid Merchant, Atharva Rotkar qualified into the Inter City Round

Congratulations to all who participated in these events.

Six students were selected for the DUKE TIP (The Duke University Talent Identification Programme) India Summer Studies Programme.

We sent up 25 candidates for the Government Grade Art Examination. All 25 candidates were successful.

Congratulations Boys. Well Done!

The School also participated in the:

- LIMCA Book of Records - Organised by Derek O'Brien and Associates.
- Bombay YMCA Elocution Competition.
- Inter School Dance Competition, organized by Holy Family School.

#### Outreach Programs:

We strive to make our students "Men for others with a social responsibility". In this effort :

- We helped the REAP Organization with a contribution of Rs. 5,76,454/-. REAP is involved with the education of street children.
- Our students collected clothes and distributed these to those who had little or nothing.
- We continue in our endeavour to help financially our *twin school* at Talasari, Uplat, through the Canteen Days. This year we contributed Rs. 74,397/- to our counterpart at Talasari. What warmed the cockles of everybody's hearts was the interaction between our students and those of our twin school in Talasari. The students from Uplat were invited and hosted in our school. St. Mary's staff and students organized games and city trips to give the rural children a taste of city life.
- The RSP continued as usual in the silent service of the school, controlling traffic each morning,
- The INTERACT and SUPW units too continued to train the students with new skills in order to help them become more efficient in their duty to society.
- Our Scouts and Cubs continued their outdoor activities in full swing, meeting every Friday and learning new skills to make the outdoors a comfortable place.
- The Nature Club too enjoyed getting back to nature and exploring the biodiversity of our earth.

It is with a deep sense of sadness, that we announce the death of our ex-teacher, Ms. Edith D'Mello, who taught English in this school for many years. Edith was loved by all her students and was regular at all the Teachers' Day functions even after her retirement. We will miss her.

Fr. Joe Saldanha, S.J., who was Principal of this institution from June 1988 to December 1994, passed away on 12/03/2010. He was also Principal of Campion School Bhopal, and St. Xavier's Boys' Academy. He founded EUMIND, an organization for a student exchange programme. Fr. Joe Saldanha will always be remembered as a superb administrator, great academician, fun loving Scout Master and a hands-on Principal. We are indebted to Fr. Joe for moulding many a young mind and inspiring several others.

May God grant them eternal rest.

As has been evident from the reports, it has been a hectic year at St. Mary's. During the course of the year, we have had a few changes in the staff. While some retired, others joined us.

#### **Retired:**

1. Fr. Evarist Newnes, S.J. retired in August 2009 after having served as Principal of our school for 14 long years. During his tenure, St. Mary's ICSE progressed in leaps and bounds. His great love for sports and games made him a regular at every Inter School match which involved our boys. The Cubs, Scouts and Sportsmen of our school will definitely miss him. Thank you Father for your magnanimous contribution to our school.

2. Ms Elizabeth Ninan retired after 30 years of service to this institution... Thank you Ms. Ninan.

3. Ms Lucy Anthony retired after 29 years of service. Thank you Ms Anthony for your service to St. Mary's.

We welcomed the following into the St. Mary's family:

Ms Alice Carvalho (Principal)

Ms Chhaya Modi

Ms Vrishali Prabhu

Ms Priti Saxena

Ms Kavita Arnle

Ms Natasha Colaco

Ms Anita Deshmukh

Ms Sharon Fernandes

Mr. Rajesh Kamble

Ms Niloufer Rakhangi

Ms Charu Tandon

We hope you have a comfortable stay at St. Mary's, a stay which will be productive both for you and for the institution. We work as one big happy family here at St. Mary's, each contributing silently to the smooth running and progress of this institution, however, I would be failing in my duty if I didn't mention certain members in particular for special thanks :

1. I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to my predecessor Fr. Evarist Newnes, S.J. for his 19 years of service to our institution. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

2. To Fr. Joachim Tellis, S.J. our Ex-Manager for all the help given. We welcome our new Manager Fr. Francis Swamy, S.J. who has taken over from this academic year.
3. My thanks goes out to Fr. Leslie Rebello, S.J. our administrator who works silently behind the scenes for his help with the accounts, the maintenance of the building and the bus services.
4. A special word of thanks to my Preparatory and Primary Supervisor, Ms Marie Martin for her help in the smooth running of these sections of our school. May she continue to mould our young Marians as she has been doing over the past 33 years. Thank you.
5. I extend my heartfelt thanks our Secondary Supervisor, Mr. Wilfred Noronha for all his assistance throughout the past year, in conducting all the Inter-House and Inter-School activities, in maintaining discipline and especially in conducting the ICSE exams smoothly. Thank you Mr. Noronha for your invaluable service to St. Mary's (ICSE).
6. No school can flourish for 146 years if not for the a dedicated and committed teaching staff that it possesses. Thank you my dear teachers for training tomorrow's citizens.
7. My sincere thanks to our office staff for the smooth running of the school office.
8. The most important, yet most unsung heroes of St.. Mary's (ICSE) script of success are our class IV employees and Support Staff. They help in the smooth functioning of the institution. I wish to say a big thank you to them. Bahut Shukriya.
9. I wish to thank the Alumni for their continued support to the school, I hope they continue their good work.
10. Thank you, dear parents, for all your help, support and participation right through the year. We hope and pray that you will continue to be partners with us in the cause of your child's education.
11. I wish to thank the Jesuit Management and the Jesuit Fraternity for the trust they have reposed in me in selecting me as the first woman principal of St. Mary's (ISC). In a special way I thank the Jesuit Provincial, Fr. Anthony. J. D'Souza, S.J. for all his help, guidance and support.
12. Last but not the least, I wish to thank Almighty God for the graces that He has showered on all of us throughout the past year. May our Patroness Mother Mary continue to keep us in Her protection.

As a final thought for today dear parents, I would like to end with the famous quote by Marian Wright Edelman: "It is the responsibility of every adult to make sure that children hear what we have learnt from the lessons of life, and to hear over and over that we love them, and that they are not alone."

With these words I conclude this Annual Report 2009-2010. Thank you everyone. May God bless all of us and may Mother Mary, our Patroness, keep us safe from all harm.

**Mrs. Alice Carvalho**  
Principal

## **ST, MARY'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – A BRIEF REPORT**

**Membership:-** We had 65 new members The total is currently at 1522. The membership numbers were higher than usual thanks to special efforts by our Committee member Mazhar Furniturewala and the excellent support of our principal Mrs. Alice Carvalho. The Managing Committee of the Association has been meeting every alternate month & regularly contributing to activities of the Association.

**Charity:** - Rs 80,000 was donated to various educational charity organizations during the last financial year. The charity amount was lower than last year and we hope to increase the amount in the current year.

**Annual Dinner Dec 2009:** - The Annual Dinner was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2009. All together there were over 300 in attendance. Thanks to the Web 2.0 generation word about the dinner spread through Orkut and Facebook and we had an amazing attendance. It was all together quite an eventful evening mixed with good food, Music and nostalgia.

**Sports:** - A Soccer match was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 2010. We again played at St. Stanislaus a 'mini' tournament between the alumni of our school, St Stanislaus and Holy Name school.

Elsewhere in this School Tie you will find a report on the students Vs Alumni soccer match too. These soccer activities have been organized by our committee member Shyam Balsekar and were a big hit,

thanks to some liberal sponsorship from Dev Kumar Vaidya towards jerseys, equipment and trophies etc.

Dev Kumar Vaidya also supported the alumni Vs School cricket match which was organized by Mazhar Furniturewala and Prashant Daga. A report is there in this School Tie too. It was a super hit and was organized in the T-20 style with music, commentary, snacks etc.

### **Future Events: -**

This year the annual dinner is on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 and we expect a large number of students to attend. We are having a cricket match that morning too. This will be amongst the alumni in India Vs those coming in from overseas. The batch of 1985, which is the batch which 3 of the active alumni committee members belong to, celebrates our 25<sup>th</sup> year since leaving school. We have several batchmates travelling from all over and will be present in larger numbers on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. Hope to see as many of you'll there.

Further ask all your friends from school to register at [www.stmarysalumni.net](http://www.stmarysalumni.net) and you can even download our school anthem ringtone from this site.

Sushil Sukhwani (Class of 1985)  
President, St. Mary's Alumni Association

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### **That young hearts thrills.....Memories of St Mary's ICSE**

I still dream about school and I know I'm smiling in my sleep because I'm dreaming about the school I love so much as I child I remember looking at the church steeples they seemed so high and tall, later I realised it was due to the fact that I was lot tinier and smaller then and as I grew to be the man I became it didn't seem they were very tall like they felt at the time when I was younger .... but when I dream I still see them as tall as they seemed when I was much younger - a preparatory class student . There is only one thing higher than the school steeples the kites which soar above them - if we ruled the classes then they undoubtely were the masters of the skies. I remember on many occasions finding the vada pav in my hand being snatched away by their stealth attacks. I remember having lost the battle many times as they silently swooped down snatching the morsel out of my grasp and flying off the with the "prize" in their fangs. I also remember their mid air acrobats as they played with each other in the skies displaying skilful moves and counter movies as they danced and glided, proving without a doubt that there were undoubtedly the uncrowned kings of the skies. The other day I was back in school for an St Marys Annual Ex Student Dinner and I saw my old friend perched high on the parish building and I saw it and pointed towards it, and it saw me, and swooped down, as it always did ,by now I had learnt well over the years as to conceal the bread so as to win this contest and then it realised its game was up and flew back a few feet above my head owning the skies like it always did , leaving me with a smile on my lips and so many thoughts and memories of the wondrous times I've had in this great institution as I sank my teeth into the prize I had saved this time round.

Another beautiful memory which I shall always savour is the afternoon sessions we had in a small enclosure next to the garages where the buses were parked. In fact there was a sparkle in my eyes every time the teachers would take us via the school garden into the enclosure as I knew what was to follow. Here for the next two hours or so under the shade of the gulmohar and rusty shield bearer tree we would be told the most enchanting tales and stories of princes, princess and demons transporting all of us, as we listened silently into another world where we would become the most dashing prince of them all riding the beautiful horse and brandishing our bejewelled swords to save the princess and get rid of the monster. I have never heard more beautiful stories as the red and yellow flowers fell on us , this is one memory which would always be closest to my heart. Not to forget this was a time without i-pods, playstations, mobile phones, dvd and colour tvs this was a time of amar chitra and indrajal comics with a dash of old fashioned running games like cricket, soccer and the likes in the evenings where imagination reigned supreme as the carpet turned into the sea and sofa the ship, as I became Sinbad the sailor ,one more time. :)

I have never ever seen the sky a more bluer blue than it did from my preparatory class window on the ground floor as I gazed outside day dreaming as the teacher taught what she was supposed to , occasionally a lazy cloud would drift past changing shapes as it caught my eye ,from being an dragon

one moment to turning into a rabbit the other , as my heart raced like the child I was, so full of enthusiasm so full of life.

I have never attended mass and yet it has had a profound impact on my life or should I say soul. I remember clearly waiting for the second trip bus which meant another extra 90 minutes at school. Every time the special mass would begin I would automatically be drawn to the stone steps of the church , we would drop our hand cricket game and it sit silently savouring the spectacle to follow. The sun would be setting and we could see the rays streaming inside the coloured cut glass panes filling the church with beautiful lights and mesmerising colours followed by the magical humming and gentle singing of the hymns which I have profoundly soothing effect on my soul calming me. I know now the reason why I dont see communities or religions as a threat but as a means for making this world into the glorious paradise that it can be.

Every part for the school has a special memory buried for me a reminder of how I grew up to be the man I am..whether its the fish tank where I could gaze endlessly, as what seemed at the time, like a thousand ideas would pass through my naughty head, or it was drinking water in large gulps as the school bell would ring in the background reminding me that I had to hurry up as I didn't want to be pulled up, yet again ,for reaching the class late. Whether it was the giant pillar outside the junior assembly where I have sharpened so many ice cream sticks turning them into knives or whether its walking with a friend in the parish, checking out the pictures of the batches before us, hoping one day we would also be up here on the wall becoming a part in the history of this esteemed institution all of us have learnt to love so dearly.

Every time I hear the school anthem I still get the goose bumps like many of my friends standing next to me and my mind is flooded with memories , as I pay tribute and say a silent prayer for all the teachers and friends who have contributed in making me the man I am and will be. As I turn into a school boy just for that moment , and feel the most wonderful feeling there is to feel for that time.

I have made many friends from different schools, but what makes a Marian different is the pride in the way he says he is from St Mary's ICSE , Mazgaon and the thrill in his voice when he sings the School Anthem . Mary's has not only made us what we are but also silently imbibed in us the love and a special place in our heart for alma mater which twinkles silently in our eyes , and God knows that this institution will always have that special place in our heart and our lives , no matter what. Like they say " U can take a person out of Mary's but u can never take Mary's out of a person" and with this thought..... I still dream about school and I know I'm smiling because its the school I love so much.....

Prashant Daga (Class of 1986)

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### **Alumni v/s School T20 Match – Republic Day 2010**

What a magical day... am still floating in the air ... Well Done Mazhar !! ... fantastic organizing ... the incredible uniforms, the food, the net practice sessions, the trophies... everything... it was all fantastic.

Many thanks of course, to the sponsors, namely Devkumar Vaidya (1983) and another donor who with the intention of wanting to remain anonymous, handed over his cheque dressed in a Darth Vader mask. Rumour has it, that this unnerved Prashant Daga (who had gone to collect the cheque) to such an extent that he apparently let out a few choice expletives, which in turn had Darth scurrying for his light saber.

Anyway, getting back to the rather serious business of writing the Match Report... we arrived at school to the very joyful experience of getting to pick out our personalized cricket uniforms.

Thereafter, we were introduced to the Principal, Mrs Alice Carvalho, who has been extremely cooperative and encouraging in getting the Alumni to interact with the school.

With all introductions done, Mazhar, the captain of the School Team and the Umpire, Sandeep Bhammer, went out for the Toss. Mazhar won and decided to field.

Mushty (all 6 feet 2 inches of him) was to open the bowling for us. The openers (two incredibly diminutive guys) for school were so scared that they actually fainted while walking out to face him. We were able to revive them only after making them smell Venky's socks.

Anyway after they finally got to the crease... Mushty thundered in snorting flames from his nostrils and delivered the first ball of the match .... a three tuppée ball which was down the leg side and barely got to the wicket keeper (Yusuf) who dived down the leg side to collect it. It took the combined efforts of all three slips to get Yusuf out of his crouch and back on his feet. We could see the openers visibly relaxing after realizing that the alumni were not as dangerous as they looked.

And so the match continued ... Mushty managed to bowl a lively spell accompanied by Niru who also managed to work up some decent pace. Though it must be pointed out that after so many years, the line was not too accurate and our bowlers bowled more than their share of wides. Poor Sandeep had to signal so many wides that we were worried that he might actually take flight with all the flapping of his arms.

The School Team got to 125 in 20 overs. The outstanding bowler for the Alumni was Abhishek Joshi who in the words of the famous Sports Round Up commentator John Crasto.. ".. was like a hot knife cutting through warm butter..."

During the break we had some fantastic food... some lovely Kheema Pavs and Vada Pavs which brought back memories of Franky and Chaunt from our school days. The Biryani was excellent too. Jeetu Shetty had organized some excellent sandwiches and unlimited cold drinks.

With lunch over, the Alumni started their innings. We got off to a fast start but floundered briefly when we were 60 odd runs for 4 wickets. And then..... Niru walked in to bat. Niru batted like a man possessed, hitting several balls out of the ground and over the school roof. Prashant Daga who was giving the commentary, and also apparently a user of Rupa Brand underwears, was driven to great creative heights and came up with the term the "Rupa Underwear boundary" for the boundaries hit by Niru..."Yeh Araam ka mamla hai" he proclaimed loudly. Niru infact finished off the match with yet another Sixer in just 12 .4 overs. A mention must be made of Harsh Keswani, from the School Team, who was christened "The Rajdhani Express" by Daga and who was by far the fastest bowler of the day.

And then it was time for the distribution of those wonderful Trophies purchased for the occasion. The winners were as follows:

Winners Trophy – The Alumni Team  
Best School Player – Harsh Keswani  
Best Alumni Player - Abhishek Joshi  
Man Of The Match – Nrupal Samant aka Niru.

The other Alumni who were present :

Mazhar Furni, Ameer Uncle, Salil Shah, Adil Irani, Shyam Balsekar, Sushil Sukhwani, Abhishek Joshi, Sandeep Jairam, Mushty Vahanvaty, Prashant Daga, Ali Mistry, Yusuf Allana, Devkumar Vaidya, Rahul Muzumdar, Jeetu Shetty, Faiz Kanchwalla, Rahul Mallani, Sandeep Bhammer, Maz Ghadially, Venky Santhanam, Muder Basrai, Nrupal Samant, Kavi Desai, Vivek Desai, Anil Raheja and some others.

And so a wonderful experience came to an end.. but not before we sang the School Anthem.

I wondered later what exactly made this whole day so special.. I realised it's so many different things .... but primarily it was being back at School where we spent some of the best years of our lives. Being back in that great institution where we learned to read, write, how to play hard, how to get along with others, to never give up, to always fight for what we believe in, to work hard to get what we want

and of course, to always stand by our friends. This is the school we love, where we grew up from being tiny shy boys into confident young men, soaking in through our years in school that unique “St. Marian Spirit” that makes each one of us love our Alma Mater so much.

Long Live St Marys (ISC)

Cheers,

Shyam Balsekar (1984)



The Alumni Team

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## **INTER - ALUMNI SOCCER AT ST. STANISLAUS**

Independence day celebrations this year started, in what has now become a tradition, with the Inter-Alumni Soccer Tournament at St Stanislaus Grounds in Bandra. We were playing the St. Stan and Holy Family teams. As expected St Marys was the best represented School with almost 30 Marians turning up for the match. St. Mary's had a blend of youth and experience while St. Stanislaus and Holy Family had very youthful teams full of exuberance and probably barely out of school.

The first match played between St. Mary's and Holy Family was very keenly contested and St. Mary's won narrowly by one goal. The Holy Family lads displayed great fighting spirit and were very well organized in mid-field. Matches were played in great spirit of hard-play and fair-play, nine players per side and with rolling substitutions. There were no off-sides thus making matches very attacking and enjoyable.

The second match pitted hosts St. Stanislaus and Holy Family, two very young teams that played fast paced football. The match was close and Holy Family squeezed past by a single goal. The final match of the round-robin involved St. Stanislaus and St. Mary's. At this stage experience took over and St. Mary's gradually dominated the mid-field and scored two goals thus knocking out the hosts from the tournament.

The finals once again pitted Mary's and Holy Family. Just like the tournament opener the match was a close affair with both teams not giving in. It took a moment of magic from the player of the tournament Karan from St. Mary's to break the deadlock and help St. Mary's win the tournament for the second year in a row.

This was an incredible moment and all Marians joined in to proudly sing our School Anthem. This is always an emotional moment for any Marian and on this occasion it seemed to be even more special, as it took us all back to those days in School, when much like on this occasion, we competed against other Schools and more often than not returned victorious.

The matches were followed by a swim in the St Stanislaus swimming pool followed by biryani and beverages in the lunch room.

Many great players this year, Rajesh Dsouza as usual was the Backbone of the team, controlling the players on the field and playing inspite of a barely healed knee surgery. Karan, Dhiren, Rayo, Avi, Abhi, Alain ... you guys rocked !!

The other Marians who were present for the matches were :

- |                    |                      |                          |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Shyam Balsekar  | 11. Prashant Daga    | 21. Alain Noronha        |
| 2. Sudhir Lobo     | 12. Arun Muranjan    | 22. Rajesh D'Souza       |
| 3. Suratna Das     | 13. Nitish Bania     | 23. Ameya Kulkarni       |
| 4. Sarosh Irani    | 14. Mohammed Mozayan | 24. Yusuf Allana         |
| 5. Rayo Choksi     | 15. Adil Polad       | 25. Mazhar Furniturewala |
| 6. Ashish Medhora  | 16. Kunal Khandelwal | 26. Zarif Furniturewala  |
| 7. Avinash Shetty  | 17. Karan Durante    | 27. Mikhail Keswani      |
| 8. Dhiren Durante  | 18. Phiroze Marolia  | 28. Salil Goel           |
| 9. Sushil Sukhwani | 19. Nabil Mahimwala  | 29. Abhishek Joshi       |
| 10. Oscar Gomes    | 20. Kavi Desai       | 30. Tony Pareira         |

Thanks to the St Stanislaus Alumni, especially Gerry who took great pains in organising the whole event, to Dev Kumar Vaidya who sponsored the fantastic Football Uniforms for our team, Mushtaq Vahanvaty who designed and supplied the colours, Prashant Daga for his incredible support in getting everything together, Mohammed Mozayan for the Beer, Phiroz Marolia for helping to spread the word about the match by putting it up on Facebook and to Principal Alice Carvalho, who made the time and effort to attend the event.

And finally and most importantly, thanks to all you guys who turned up. It's always great to be around other Marians and to feel the bond that exists between all of us, no matter how old or young we are .. we had guys from the 1969 batch and also guys from the 2008 batch .. the only thing that mattered.. was that we were Marians .. Thank you guys for being there and making the day so magical .. you are the ones who make all the effort worth while... God Bless.

Cheers,

Shyam Balsekar (1984)



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### **Upcoming event: Cricket!**

Friday, December 10 · 2:00pm - 6:00pm

St. Mary's School- ISC. Nesbit Road, Mazagon,

It's that time of the year when a captain comes calling. Yes guys, permission has been given by the school authorities and it's cricket match time once again in our school on Friday, 10th Dec. 2010 (the same day as our annual school dinner). This way, we get to spend a good amount of time in school, all the way from 2 pm, till the dinner. There may have been a lot of ex-students who missed the first edition of the cricket match earlier this year on 26th Jan. 2010, so this is a good opportunity to get to play a game of cricket at our Alma- Mater to re-live those golden memories from our playing days.

The only difference this time will be that we will be playing amongst ourselves, as the kids in school have exams going on during that time. Hence, there will be 2 teams of 15 players each. One will be the "AWAY" team, comprising of ex-students living overseas. It will be captained & coordinated by Pranav Mulani. And the other will be the "HOME" team, captained & co-coordinated by Mazhar Furniturewala.

A weeks net practice will be arranged at the Islam Gym., Marine Drive like last time, where players for both the teams will be selected. We would like your confirmation of participation latest by 10th Nov. 2010 as we need to make the necessary arrangements & preparations accordingly. Each of the 30 (15+15) players will be getting a personalized jersey & cap with his preferred name & number printed at the back of it.

Hot on the heels of the first seasons SUPER SUCCESS, we hope to repeat a similar kind of magical & carnival atmosphere which is usually seen at premier leagues. Suggestions & inputs are most welcome. Surely, this time round , we need a lot more spectators to come, cheer & watch the game. So get your wives, girlfriends, family....as we need to create & spread the right kind of noise in a positive manner so that we get a good response this time too, as we did the last time.

The game will commence at 2pm, with a "kebab-tikka" & tea break in between the two innings.

Mazhar Furniturewala

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