



Newsletter

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 05. www.visakhav.org

June 2014



A Great Lady Is Remembered With Gratitude

Almost a hundred years ago, at a time when it was unheard of to offer an education to girls, a lady who was allowed to study only up to the fifth standard, founded our school Visakha Vidyalaya, with a vision that has far-reaching implications. She understood that only a sound education would enable the female to cease to be a second class citizen which they had been for generations.

The "Buddhist Girls College" as it was primarily named, was started in 1917 with 20 girls in a little house called "The Firs" down Turret Road with Dr. B.T. Banning as the first Principal. Later named by Lady Stanley as "Visakha Vidyalaya", the school relocated to its present location a few years later.

On July 11th 1858, Mrs. Jeremias Dias nee Selesthina Rodrigo was born to the Rodrigo family of Panadura - a family which enjoyed immense wealth accumulated through trade. She was given in marriage to Mr. Jeremias Dias, a well-known philanthropist of Panadura. When her husband died she was left solely in charge of a massive business empire and eight children. Though she had always fulfilled the roles of wife and mother, she was left with no choice but to take the reins of the business and run it with the help of her sons. Understanding the importance of education for every child,

especially to the girls, she contributed lavishly to Buddhist education for girls and for her efforts, she was recognized by the Government when in 1929, she was honoured by the Order of Membership of the British Empire.

In an era when education was anathema for girls, this remarkable lady had the vision to arm at the women of Sri Lanka with the necessary tools to be able to step into the 21st century - Education. She not only founded the school, but made sure of its sustainability by making arrangements for the income of the estate "Good Hope" to be given towards the school's expenses.

Today, from its humble beginnings, VV. has come a long way to being the premier Buddhist girls' school in the country. Its girls lead the way in many spheres from academic to sports to singing, dancing and drama. Visakhians who are spread world over, are aptly paying tribute to their Founder Mrs. Jeremias Dias by excelling in their academic work as well as preserving their identity as Sinhala Buddhist women.

In commemoration of this great lady, the annual Pirith and alms-giving was held at the school premises on the 25th and 26th of March, to the priests of Vajiraramaya.





Hello everyone!! Welcome to another edition of the WOGA newsletter. We are now in the latter half of the year, the time of the year when great fun-filled activities abound our calendar. Fun started with the Avurudu Pola held in April and soon will be followed by "Kishani Sings For Visakha". And then,, it is time to get your dancing shoes out and make sure all your dancing moves are in full gear ! Come October, we will all get to meet and dance the cares away when the "Visakha Dinner Dance" happens at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel.

Most of our activities stem from a great need to provide our alma-mater with the necessities which help to make sure that our girls in the school want for nothing. School is the one place where a child is given opportunities to learn about herself, her strengths and weaknesses. This knowledge will enable her to make the correct choices in her life. Today more than any other time in history, we need our children to be well-rounded personalities when going out to the society. For this, our daughters and sons need to learn from the books as well as from sports and other activities. Books will open

the world to them while engaging in other extracurricular activities offered at school would give them that specialized knowledge as to how best to handle the world and its many pressures and pleasures. The competitiveness inculcated in children by the existing exam-focused learning force them to be selfish and self-centered. Yet , these are the very qualities that the society abhors in its citizens.

Let us think afresh. Children must enjoy their childhood and their school days learning not only from books, but also to become well-balanced, caring human beings. Let our children learn to feel for the country, for the others and be humbly proud of themselves. Then, we would have truly paid tribute to the great lady, our founder member Mrs. Jeremias Dias.

The WOGA AGM is also just around the corner. Come in numbers and pledge your support to the school that made you!!

-Anagi & Chami

24TH. SUSAN GEORGE PULIMOOD MEMORIAL ORATION

The Annual Susan George Memorial Oration organized by the Susan George Pulimood Educational Trust is held every year on the 23rd. of July in the Jeremias Dias Hall. This event commemorates the Birthday of Mrs. Pulimood, who served as our Principal, for 22 years, and has done a great service to Visakha Vidyalaya.

This year, the Oration will be delivered by Prof. Malkanthi Balasuriya - **presently Senior Professor of Anatomy, University of Peradeniya**

Scholarships are awarded annually, based on academic excellence, the main criteria being the student's performance at the GCE (A.L.) examination. We are thankful to our old girls who contribute generously, towards this, which enables us to conduct this prestigious event uninterrupted every year.

We will keep you posted with further details shortly.

IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR DANCING SHOES OUT!!



DANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

- HOW???** *By being there at the event of the year!!*
- WHEN???** *October 18th 2014*
- WHERE???** *Cinnamon Grand*
- WHY???** *To contribute towards uplifting the English study medium of our Alma mater*

WHAT IS THE VISAKHA VIDYALAYA ENGLISH EDUCATION FUND?

The English Education Fund at Visakha Vidyalaya was established in 2008 for the maintenance of the English Study medium. The Fund is maintained with proceeds from the main fund raiser of the OGA, the Visakha Dinner Dance, which is held once in 2 years. Proceeds from the 2010 and 2012 events further enhanced this fund in supporting this study stream which is now offered through the entire senior school.

A sum of Rs.2million is required each year for the major support of funding of teachers selectively chosen for the English stream and for obtaining relevant study material.

Below are some of the activities that the fund has undertaken over the years, and continues to do so.

English Medium Teacher Salaries - This is the largest expense, whereby teachers specially recruited are funded to ensure best resources are made available to students to follow their education in the English medium.

Toastmasters Program for the Prefects' Guild in 2012 and 2013 – improving soft skills of school Prefects, thereby strengthening personalities and instilling leadership among them.

Sponsorship of the Shakespeare Drama Competition -encouraging English drama and showcasing talent among Visakhians. Visakha emerged winners in 2013.

Sponsorship of the Primary School English Reading Program -encouraging English competency from Grade I by the donation of English reading material for the class rooms.

Donation of Reference Books needed for the English Medium Curriculum.

SO PLEASE GET INVOLVED!!!

As past students, we consider it our duty to offer the future generations of Visakhians the best opportunities to realize their full potential. We thus appeal to you to make a generous donation towards the English Education Fund at Visakha Vidyalaya, to ensure the continuity of this worthwhile cause so that the standard of our school is further uplifted.

We would greatly appreciate your support by way of a donation by cheque drawn in favor of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association, Account Number 8029467 at the Bank of Ceylon, Visakha Branch, Swift Code: BCEYLKLX, Bank Code – 7010, Branch Code – 775.

Dehara Gomes/ Chandima Karunatilaka
Chairpersons,
Organizing Committee,
Visakha Dinner Dance 2014

Please inform Anushi Senaratne (Mob: +94 777698233) anushis@masholdings.com or Ayomi Kaviratne (Mob: +94 773402743) ayomi.kaviratne@ndbbank.com of the donation made

EVENTS FROM THE PAST



Let's walk through the memory lane

Bodhi- Pujawa

The annual Bodhi-pujawa organized by the Religious Subcommittee of WVOGA to evoke blessings to our mother Visakha for her 97th Birthday, was held on 16th January 2014 at the school Bodhiya. The programme was conducted by Ven. Meegoda Sukitha Thero.



Visakha Avurudu Pola in grand scale

The Visakha Avurudu Pola, organized by the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association (VVOGA), was held at the school premises recently. The chief guest was Prof Anoja Fernando, former Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. Consultant Anaesthetist Dr. Manori Seneviratne was the Guest of Honour. Visakha Vidyalaya Principal Sandamali Aviruppola



and Avurudu Pola Chairperson Renuka Dharmadasa also participated. The Visakha Avurudu Pola, which is a much looked forward event in the school calendar, offered a range of products and services such as garments, sarees, kitchen appliances, pottery, books, food etc. for shopping enthusiasts at the start of the avurudu season. It was a one stop shop for avurudu shoppers and a place of fun and frolic for children.

The fair had been gaining popularity over the years and has always been well patronized.

- Kathya de Silva

Phase 4 of the Scholarship Program

The phase 4 of the scholarship program started with 20 recipients, and the 1st payment has already been made for the first term. There are 16

Sports medicine workshop 2014

The medical subcommittee of VisakhaVidyalaya Old Girls' Association organized a workshop on sports medicine on Thursday 09th January 2014 at school premises from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

The workshop was carried out for students and teachers involved in sports, in order to give them a practical knowledge on proper exercises to prevent injuries, first aid methods of common injuries and nutrition related to sports medicine.

day scholars and 4 hostellers.

The Sexual Education Seminar

The above named seminar was conducted by a past Visakhian, Dr.(Mrs) Manjula Rajapaksha, a consultant venerologist on 21st January 2014. Grade 12 students were selected for this seminar and a note book and a pencil were sponsored by 2 past Visakhians for this event. The seminar was a success.

VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLDS GIRS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association will be held on Saturday, 28th day of June 2014 at 9.00 am at the Jeremias Dias Hall, Visakha Vidyalaya, 133, Vajira Road, Colombo 5 for the purpose of inter alia electing new members for the Executive Committee 2014/2015 and Auditors for the Association and to adopt resolutions as necessary.

Nominations in the relevant format need to be completed & sent by Registered Post to the VVOGA Secretariat (at the above address) latest by Saturday the 14th day of June 2014 by 3.30 pm.

The nomination list would be on display at the OGA Secretariat until Friday 20th June 2014.

The final date for objections to the nominations (if any) would be Monday 23rd June 2014.

Voting will be open until 11.30 am on the day of the AGM.

Agenda for the AGM

- Religious observances
- Welcome address by the President
- Reading of the Notice convening the Meeting by the Secretary
- Condolences
- Excuses
- Reading & adoption of minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting & matters arising from the minutes
- Election of Office Bearers & Members of the Executive Committee
- Tabling & adoption of the Secretaries' Report
- Tabling & adoption of the Statement of Accounts by the Treasurer
- Appointment of Auditors
- Tabling & adoption of the Statement of Accounts of any Trusts or Affiliations of the Association by invitation
- Guest Speaker
- Consideration of any resolutions which are in order - discussion, voting & passing of resolutions
- Any other business (with prior notice)
- Vote of thanks
- School song

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The OGA needs volunteers to undertake Secretariat, photocopying duties.
Contact: Deepika Hathurusinghe - deepika.hathurusinghe@gmail.com
- The OGA is looking for volunteers to work in the school cafeteria.
Contact: Kaushalya Jayasekara - jkaushi@yahoo.com
- Sponsors are also needed for the new Aesthetic Building to be erected in the school premises
Contact: Treasurers at the VVOGA Treasurers Office.
- Education Sub Committee very much needs sponsors
Contact Imojani Marasinghe - imojani58@yahoo.com

Library books project

Books for the Arts and Commerce library were handed over to the Principle Sandamali Aviruppola on 3rd March 2014.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014/2015



Nominations are invited from the general membership to serve on the Executive Committee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association. Nominations should be sent on the prescribed form (appended herewith)

The Executive Committee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association comprises of the following

President - Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya (Ex officio)

Vice Presidents - Two posts

Joint Secretaries - Two posts

Treasurer - One post

Assistant Treasurer - One post

Committee Members - Total 30

60 yrs & above - 02 positions

Above 40 yrs & below 60 yrs - 10 positions

Above 30 yrs & below 40 yrs - 14 positions

30 yrs & below - 03 positions

Staff member - 01 position

The Criteria for eligibility & non eligibility as per the WVOGA constitution are as follows.

Eligibility

Any past pupil, who has been a member of the Association for a minimum period of five (05) consecutive years ending on the 31st March 2014, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee. Members who have served on the Executive Committee for a period of 2 years or more & are of high integrity & efficient are eligible for nomination as Office Bearers. However the maximum number of occasions as Office Bearer is 06.

Non-eligibility

No member whose daughter's application is to be submitted for admission to any grade of Visakha

Vidyalaya for any particular year, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee for the one (01) year immediately preceding the year of submission of such application for admission and until the admission process is complete

Eg: No member whose daughter's application is to be submitted in 2015 shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee 2014/ 2015 and until the admission process is complete

No member of the Association shall be elected a member of the Executive Committee for more than three (03) consecutive years. (this does not apply to Office Bearers)

No member who has been elected as an Executive Committee Member or an Office Bearer in a Past Pupils' Association of another school; shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association for that particular year

No member may be elected an Office Bearer of the Association on more than six (06) occasions

An Office Bearer on being elected to such office each year could hold a particular office for a maximum period of two years. However in the absence of nominations for a particular office in any given year, such a member who has held such office for more than two years may be appointed to continue in such office for one more year.

Those who qualify to serve on the Executive Committee should send in their nominations in the attached format.

By order of the Executive Committee, Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

Anoma Perera/ Kanchana Suduarachchi
Honorary Joint Secretaries, 2013/2014
Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

VVOGA NOMINATION FORM

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014/2015

PROPOSER:

I propose the name of _____

(Name as used in Full. Please print) _____

For the Office of _____/as Executive Committee Member for Category

Over 60 yrs	
Over 40 & below 60 yrs	
Over 30 & below 40 yrs	
30 yrs & below	
Staff	

Membership No of Nominee _____

Name of Proposer

Membership No

Date of Joining VVOGA

Signature & Date

SECONDER:

I second the name of _____

(Name as used in Full. Please print) _____

bearing membership No _____ for the above post.

Name of Secunder

Membership No

Date of Joining VVOGA

Signature & Date

CONSENT OF NOMINEE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Nos. _____

Membership No _____ Date of Joining VVOGA _____

Fill if applicable

1) Year of submission of application for admission of daughter to Grade 1 _____

2) Details of current membership in Executive committee or Office Bearer of any other PPA/ OGA _____

3) Been an Ex-Co Member consecutively for 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 Yes/No

4) Nominee, Proposer & Secunder are Members of VVOGA since 31/3/2009 - 31/3/2014 Yes/ No

I consent to be nominated for the above post & hereby declare that the above information furnished by me is true & correct.

Signature _____

Date _____

PLEASE FORWARD THE COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM BY HAND / REGISTERED POST TO REACH THE JT. SECRETARIES ON OR BEFORE 3.30 PM ON JUNE 14, 2014

UP COMING EVENTS



- Vesak project May
- AGM 28th June
- Esala Sil July
- Pulimood Oration 23rd July
- Childrens' day 1st October
- Dinner Dance 18th October

Registered in the Department of Posts of Sri Lanka

Under No: QD/154/NEWS/2014

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 05.