



Newsletter

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

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

January 2015

Hello Friends,

The end of a great year has come! A year that was full of glamour, sweet melody and excitement. This year, the VVOGA calendar was full with quite a few bright spots which were taking place to collect the much needed funds for the School Treasury to complete the renovations of the School Hall.

At every momentous event, both the old and the young Visakhians rallied around to help make each of the projects organised, a resounding success. We've had world class singing at the School Hall with "Kishani" and toe-tapping fun at the "VV Dinner Dance". Of course, there was the annual "Pola" during the month of March with many other medium scale projects taking place to collect funds for various projects happening around the school.

Introducing the new Executive Committee



Seated from Left to Right

Ms. Dhanapali Kottachchi, Ms. Renuka Dharmadasa, Ms. Chandima Karunathilake, Ms. Deepthi Ranasinghe (Treasurer), Ms. Anoma Perera (Jt. Secretary), Ms. Indira Malwatte (Vice President), Ms. Sandamali Aviruppola (President), Ms. Sita Siriwardena (Vice President), Ms. Kanchana Suduarachchi (Jt. Secretary), Ms. Manori Sooriyabandara (Asst. Treasurer), Ms. Thilini Gunasekara, Ms. Jayani Pinnawala, Ms. Sharmini de Almeida

Absent

Ms. Anagi Wijemanne, Ms. Kaushila Thilakasiri

Standing from Left to Right

Ms. Erandi Nanayakkara, Ms. Disna Sanjeevani, Ms. Shamini Abeysirigunawardana, Ms. Kaushalya Mendis, Ms. Upekha Liyanage, Ms. Priyanga Ratnayake, Ms. Lilani de Silva, Ms. Sumudu Abeygunawardane, Ms. Achala Kamaladasa, Ms. Imojani Marasinghe, Ms. Prasangi Dayaratne, Ms. Harshini Yapa, Ms. Kanchanamala Geekiyanage, Ms. Dushyanthi Botejue, Ms. Irosha Chandrasekera, Ms. Banukie Jayasuriya, Ms. Deepika Hathurusinghe, Ms. Iresha Senerath, Ms. Saumya Weerasekera, Ms. Saroja Gunatilleke, Ms. Shamali Thalagala, Ms. Sabitha Gunathilaka

Life is a precious commodity. Losing a loved one is one of the hardest events that one encounters in life - especially when that loved one has really lived a life. In today's busy challenging lifestyle, there seems to be little time for one to engage in anything worthwhile other than work. Yet, at the evening of our lives, if there are at least memories of a few fruitful events that we have engaged in, then one can feel happy and content that the given life has been put to good use.

It is with great sorrow that we remember our dear old girl "Priya" as she is fondly known among the Visakhians. Dr. Priya de Silva who was a stalwart of the VVOGA, engaged in many activities at school as well as in her private capacity, helping others in their

quest to make the tomorrow better for every one that, without a doubt her life can be termed as a "happy life". There is much we can do in terms of helping others so that one day, when we are no longer be able to do all these, can sit back and be happy about the life we lived. "Priya" lived her life and we may take a page from her life's book as well, and make our lives meaningful too. We would like to leave a thought with you for the dawn of the New Year that is just around the corner.....

"As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well used brings happy death"

- Leonardo da Vinci -

- Anagi & Saroja

V.V.O.G.A EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 2014 / 2015

President	Mrs. Sandamali Aviruppola	Above 30 & below 40 Years	Ms. Achala Kamaladasa
Vice Presidents	Ms. Sita Siriwardena Ms. Indira Malwatte		Ms. Banukie Jayasuriya Ms. Disna Sajeewani
Joint Secretaries	Ms. Anoma Perera Ms. Kanchana Suduarachchi		Ms. Erandi Nanayakkara Ms. Harshini Yapa
Treasurer	Ms. Deepthi Ranasinghe		Ms. Imojani Marasinghe Ms. Iresha Senarath
Assistant Treasurer	Ms. Manori Sooriyabandara		Ms. Kanchanamala Geekiyanage Ms. Lilani de Silva
Staff Member	Ms. Thilini Gunasekara		Ms. Prasangi Dayaratne Ms. Priyanga Ratnayake
60 years & above	Ms. Dhanapali Kottachchi Ms. Jayani Pinnawala		Ms. Saroja Gunatilleke Ms. Sumudu Abeygunawardane Ms. Upekha Liyanage
Above 40 & below 60 Years	Ms. Anagi Wijemanne Ms. Chandima Karunathilake Ms. Deepika Hathurusinghe Ms. Dushyanthi Botejue Ms. Irosha Chandrasekera Ms. Renuka Dharmadasa Ms. Sabitha Gunathilaka Ms. Saumya Weerasekera Ms. Shamali Thalagala Ms. Sharmini de Almeida	30 Years & below	Ms. Kaushila Thilakasiri Ms. Kaushalya Mendis Ms. Shamini Abeysirigunawardana

SUB COMMITTEES & CORRESPONDING LIST OF CONVENERS

A list of all conveners' names and contact details are given below for your convenience. Please refer to it when you need to make contact with the relevant OGA member in charge of the sub committee.

Sub Committee	Convener	Email Address
Secretariat / Hall Maintenance	Deepika Hathurusinghe	deepika.hathurusinghe@gmail.com
Correspondence	Dushyanthi Botejue	dushyanthib@gmail.com
Social Activities	Disna Sajeewani	disnagurusinghe@yahoo.com
Religious Activities	Sumudu Abeygunawardane	sumudu@citypak.lk
Fund Raising / Foreign Bursary	Upekha Liyanage	upekhalianage@hsbc.com.lk
Education	Imojani Marasinghe	imojani58@yahoo.com
Membership	Banukie Jayasuriya	banukienirosha@gmail.com
Website / Foreign Branches	Prasangi Dayaratne	prasnil@gmail.com
Archives	Iresha Senarath	ireshasenarath80@gmail.com
Medical	Kaushalya Mendis	kaushi.m1984@gmail.com
Cafeteria	Saumya Weerasekera	deepalsenaka1@gmail.com
Equipment	Erandi Nanayakkara	erandi387@gmail.com
Newsletter	Anagi Wijemanne	lakminiw31@hotmail.com

PROPOSED AESTHETIC BUILDING AT VISAKHA VIDYALAYA

Re-allocation of Funds to meet the Master Plan Requirements

The classrooms and allied facilities of the Primary Section of the school comprising of over twenty-five Classrooms, Staff-rooms including toilet and other facilities are spread over a large area causing administrative difficulties, inconvenience to the staff and the students resulting in a waste of valuable time dedicated for studies.

Due to the inadequate accommodation at the school premises several issues have arisen which needed the immediate attention of all those concerned. After much deliberations and discussions with the School Management on this matter the requirement of relocating the Primary Section has become a priority. The VVOGA has prevailed upon the School Management that instead of ad-hoc decisions there is a need to draw a Master Plan based on the needs and the available facilities, including the proposed buildings.

Based on the Master Plan the School Authorities have decided that the most viable proposal is to construct a building to house part of the Primary Section (Grades 3 & 4 and a pavillion on the ground floor) in the space allocated for the proposed Aesthetic Studies Building. The Aesthetic Studies will be relocated in the existing building which is being used currently by the Primary Section.

To meet the school requirements the VVOGA has decided to allocate the funds collected for the proposed Aesthetic Studies Building to the proposed Primary Section Building, to facilitate the Master Plan of our Alma Mater.

The foundation stone laying ceremony for the proposed building will be held on 4th December 2014 as planned, and it is a great honor for our loyal past Visakhians to be a part of this important development project in our school and are kindly requested to contribute for the Building Project by laying a token foundation stone by contributing Rs. 100,000/-.

The intended sponsors and those who have already made contributions for the foundation stones are kindly requested to contact the VVOGA Secretariat (Telephone 011 2588229) at your earliest for further details.

Anoma Perera/ Kanchana Suduarachchi - Jt. Secretaries 2014/2015

VISAKHA VIDYALAYA SIGNATURE TABLE CLOTH

This table cloth holds a priceless position in the annals of our school. It has on the signatures of past students of an era gone by together with those of the recent past, embroidered in gold thread forming a border on a blue background with the school logo and the motto at the center.

It was the brain child of Mrs. Lucille Amarasuriya in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of our school and has adorned the main table at all major school and OGA functions since then, its uniqueness perhaps never recognized by many.

New signatures were added in commemoration of the 70th and the 75th anniversaries of Visakha. With the centenary celebrations round the corner, Old Girls are offered the last opportunity to get their signatures on the narrow space now available, hopefully to be recognized by their daughters and granddaughters some day!

If interested please send the following information to the OGA Secretariat:

1. Full name –
2. Mailing address –
3. OGA membership number –
4. Specimen of signature – legible in black on thick paper, of a max length of 5 inches and a maximum height of the capital letters of first letter of name & surname of 3/4 inches
5. Payment of Rs. 10,000 should be made to the Treasurer's office and copy of payment receipt should be attached.

For more information please contact the Fund Raising Sub Committee on the numbers given below:

Upekha – 0773684553 Harshini – 0777415499 Erandi – 0773450517 Shamini – 0773904215

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

Keep the Dates Free!

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ 10 th January | - | Children's Day Celebrations |
| ▪ 16 th January | - | Annual Bodhi Pooja |
| ▪ 25 th & 26 th March | - | Founder's Day Pirith and Alms Giving |
| ▪ March | - | Avurudhu Pola |
| ▪ May | - | Musical Event |

GIRL POWER – INVITATIONAL INTERSCHOOL OLD GIRLS SPORTS MEET



International Women's day will fall on 08th March 2015 and to commemorate this important day, we are privileged to have been invited to participate in the Girl Power Inter School Sports Meet 2015. This event is organized with the aim of promoting togetherness and friendship amongst old girls of 9 girls schools.

It is going to be a fun filled event for all age groups & the organizers have planned to conduct events for under 30, under 40, under 50, under 60 & over 60 age groups. Some of the event conducted apart from the track events would be Bicycle Race, Tunnel Relays , Wheel Relays, Hockey Relays , Rescue Relays & Hoop Relays to name a few along with a March Past.

Date & Time: 08th March 2015, 10.30 am onwards
Entrance Fee: 250/- (Per person)

Venue: Independence grounds, Colombo 07.
Event T-shirt: 350/- (Each)

Let's make this an opportunity to bring back our old memories and once again compete for our school as one team. We would like to request from all our old girls to rally around this event in order to make this event a success.

For further information on this event you may contact the following members:

Harshini - 0777415499 , harshiniy@hotmail.com Erandi - 0773450517 , erandi387@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The OGA needs volunteers to undertake Secretariat, photocopying duties.
Contact: Deepika - deepika.hathurusinghe@gmail.com
- The OGA is looking for volunteers to work in the School Cafeteria.
Contact: Saumya - deepalsenaka1@gmail.com
- A volunteer is required to help with the School Archives.
Contact: Iresha - ireshasenarath80@gmail.com
- Education Sub Committee needs sponsors for the scholarship programmes.
Contact: Imojani - imojani58@yahoo.com
- If you wish to contribute to the 2015 Vesak Project,
Contact: Sumudu – sumudu@citypak.lk

Are you a medical doctor? Wish to support a fellow Visakhian in medical school?

Visakha Vidyalaya has become the girls' school which has produced the highest number of female doctors to the nation and these medical professionals have brought great pride to our alma mater.

Despite the fact that the Visakhians who achieve high in A/L examination and enter medical school are equally intellectual, they are diverse in their socio-economic background & communication skills. It has become an unfortunate fact that the level of academic performance in medical school of some of the Visakhians is hindered due to low socio-economic state and lack of communication skills. The doctors association of the VVOGA has identified past Visakhians who are in need of external financial support to complete their medical education. Therefore this programme is initiated to improve the academic performance and psycho-social wellbeing of past Visakhians who will enter all local government medical faculties.

All those who have gone through medical education will understand and remember that life in the medical school was never easy. Any support given during this trying period would be most appreciated by the students.

Please note that the VVOGA is unable to acknowledge any of these donations or scholarships through letters or receipts as the scholarships are given to undergraduates who are not currently students of the school. Also note that no money will be collected by the OGA but the OGA will support by identifying needy students and scholarship providers for them. For further details on sponsoring scholarships and donating goods, please contact – Dr. Kaushila Thilakasiri 0777067927 kaushila@gmail.com

EVENTS FROM 2014

VISAKHA DINNER DANCE 2014



The biggest event in the VV events' calendar, the Visakha Dinner Dance 2014 has just concluded on a high note of success!! Held at the Oak Room, Cinnamon Grand Hotel on the 18th October, it more than lived up to its fame of being an exciting event. The reason behind the event was to collect much needed funds to sustain the English Teaching Programme at the school.

A dedicated team of organisers - young and the very young! - worked hard for many months to bring about the glittering and exciting night to all the participants. Everything from the colour theme to food to dance music to the bands, were meticulously planned to make doubly sure that the evening lived up to its fame. No doubt the

excellent array of food did wonders to keep the feet dancing till the wee hours of the morning when breakfast was served to the revelers.

As always, when Visakhians organised an event, the guests came in numbers and it was a great time of bonhomie and reminiscences, as well as swaying energetically on the dance floor to songs well remembered and always enjoyed. The organisers inform us that the Dinner Dance more than fulfilled its requirement of making a healthy profit to keep the English Teaching programme going... So, till we meet again in another two years time, happy times to all of you, and hats off to the Organising Committee!!!

KISHANI SINGS FOR VISAKHA



This concert organized by the OGA to commemorate its 80th Anniversary was held on 11th May 2014 at the Jeremias Dias Hall. It was a very special performance, by an internationally famed singer Kishani Jayasinghe, a past pupil and Head Prefect of Visakha Vidyalaya.

HOSTELLERS ON STAGE



This evening of entertainment was held on 01st October 2014 at the Jeremias Dias Hall. It was an effort by the Speech & Drama Programme for the Hostellers which was conducted under the Education Sub Committee of VVOGA by Anoma, Anagi, Dilini, Nimali and Kulangani.

24TH PULIMOOD MEMORIAL ORATION



VESAK PROJECT



The 24th Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration was held this year on 23rd July 2014 (Mrs. Pulimood's birthday) at 5.15 p.m. in the newly renovated and refurbished Jeremias Dias Hall. This year the Oration was delivered by Prof. Malkanthi Chandrasekera (nee Balasuriya), Snr. Professor of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya & Vice Chancellor – South Asian Institute of Information Technology and Medicine. The subject of the oration was "The Veddahs – Social and Health Aspects". It was very well delivered and was also well attended. Five scholarships were awarded to A/L students based on excellent achievement. The oration has been conducted uninterrupted for the past 24 years, with the generous support we receive from our old girls. The Trust is grateful to all donors and look forward to their continued support.

The OGA made a donation to the Children's Heart Centre of Lady Ridgeway Hospital, as their Annual Vesak Project of 2014. This donation included three cardiac bed units worth Rs. 375,000. They also donated two water purifiers worth Rs. 288,000 to two schools in Horowpothana & Vauniya District.

IN MEMORY OF DR. PRIYA DE SILVA

A MEMORY OF THE HAPPINESS OF US JUST BEING FRIENDS



We were all very fortunate to spend some very happy times with Priya with the numerous interesting projects related to the VVOGA. We were all from different age groups and most of us did not know Priya the school girl.

As we look back to the times we served the OGA, we see Priya as an iconic figure in the OGA. Priya shunned limelight and loved to keep a low profile. She was gifted, very skilful, talented, versatile and always a perfectionist in what she did with a heart of gold.

With Priya's failing health she knew how to keep her spirits high and took life one day at a time. She told us that none of us are here forever and that we all have to bid farewell to this world when time comes. But we did not expect her to go so soon! We had planned so much with School celebrating 100 years in 2017. We will miss her love and guidance.

Priya may be gone but her memory will live on in our hearts forever.
- Indira Malwatte

MRS. M. N. EDUSSURIYA CELEBRATES HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. M. N. Edussuriya who was a past principal of Visakha for 12 years celebrated her 75th Birthday on 05th October 2014 and the office bearers of VVOGA EXCO 2014/15 visited her home to wish her on this occasion. During her time at Visakha Vidyalyaya, she encouraged Visakhians to take part in as many extra-curricular activities that they could without compromising their academic work, which taught them multi-tasking and time management. As a result, Visakhians reached new heights in many spheres. We wish her many joyous years ahead with good health.



VVOGA ANNUAL FUND



VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka.
Tel: 011 2588229 Fax: 011 2598322

29th October 2014

Dear Members,

Launching of the VVOGA Annual Fund

The Centenary Year of Visakha, 2017, is fast approaching and as we look backwards with pride at the accomplishments of our alma mater, it is also a time to look forward and take steps to ensure that the "light" of Visakha shines as brightly for next 100 years. The Principal, along with the VVOGA and SDS, has therefore planned a number of projects to be completed by the Centenary Year of Visakha.

Modernizing the Githanjali Amarasuriya Memorial Library, moving the Primary Section to a single administrative block, having a dedicated building for Aesthetic Studies are some of the areas of our focus.

The VVOGA wishes to launch a "VVOGA Annual Fund" to meet some of the above expenditures and to provide flexible funds to meet the challenges of the ever-changing academic environment. Thus as we move into the next chapter of Visakha history we ask that, like the alumni before us whose efforts we benefitted from, we each do what we can to afford the students of today and tomorrow the advantage of an education at Visakha, which we know to be extraordinary.

We realize our resources are somewhat limited. However we wish to stress the significance of your gift, no matter how great or small. Not only is the aggregation of Annual Fund gifts truly transformative, but the act of giving itself is a form of support for our School and speaks volumes of us as "alumni in the best sense".

By making a commitment to the VVOGA Annual Fund today, you will play a critical role in shaping the Visakha student experience for many years to come. We encourage you to take a moment to reflect on what the past 100 years of Visakha have meant to you personally and to our community in general, and hope that that this thought will inspire you to join in the contribution.

Thank You.

Yours faithfully,

Anoma Perera / Kanchana Suduarachchi
Jt. Secretaries 2014/2015,
Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

Indira Malwatta / Sita Siriwardana
Vice Presidents 2014 / 2015,
Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

PS. To make a gift, please use the enclosed reply form and OGA Treasurer's Office is opened during school hours. Cheques should be in favor of "Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association".

Thank you for supporting the VVOGA Annual Fund, to help meet our goals for the fiscal year (2014 / 2015),

I/We enclose gift of :

Cash / Cheque : Cheque No

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rs. 500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rs. 1,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rs. 1,500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rs. 2,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | | |

OGA Membership No. :

Name :

Address :

(Please correct above information if necessary)

For any queries please contact: Achala Kamaladasa -0718162973/achalakamaladasa@gmail.com

Irosha Chandrasekera -0772513322/iroshac@yahoo.com

GOING GREEN – NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

You have a chance to make a difference!

The OGA has decided to offer you the option of receiving the Newsletter by email rather than by post. This will help save paper (and thus trees) as well as reduce the high printing & postage cost involved in sending the Newsletter by post.

If you wish to receive the Newsletter by email please send the following information by email to

oga@visakhav.org

Name:

OGA No:

Email Address: (to which you prefer the newsletter to be sent)

- ★ Please note that if you choose to receive the Newsletter by email, you will not receive the same by post

We would appreciate your support on making this possible!

Registered at the Department of Posts of Sri Lanka

Under No: QD/154/NEWS/2014

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 05.