

*“ Where there is risk  
or difficulty.....  
.....He is Hope  
Where there is hurt  
and pain.....  
.....He is Healing  
Where there is love...  
....He is”*

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2001

Dear parents

I begin by hoping that you will have a prayerful Holy Week and that God will bless you and your family very specially in the season of Easter ahead. May we continue to seek out His presence and purpose in our busy lives - for only in doing so will we find meaning .

The school year has got off to a quiet start. I give below some of the main happenings since the start of the year.

### ICSE FAREWELL

The ICSE 2001 boys had their farewell dinner on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. This dinner has been an annual tradition for quite a while now. This year for a change, in addition to the staff members, the boys of the next batch – ICSE 2002 – were also present at the dinner. At the end of the meal they sang a farewell song for those who were leaving and said appropriate words of appreciation and farewell.

The dinner ended with the distribution of the souvenirs – a plaque bearing a picture of the school. Most of the boarders left the next evening after completing their last paper in Computer Science. A few who had chosen Physical Education or Indian Music as their 6<sup>th</sup> subject remained on till the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The boys were happy with the exams this year. Barring maths all the other papers were classified as being “easy”. The results, which will be declared in early June, will testify to the accuracy of the classification !!

### NEW SCHOOL LEADERS

The new Captains and V Captains for the year ahead are as follows;

CAPTAINS : Ronald Thakor, Kamendar Gurjar, Kenneth D’souza and Dhaval Patel

V. CAPTS : Sunil Sequeira, Rishipal Deora, Ankit Patel and Gaurav Lavania.

The official oath taking ceremony was held on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. During the course of this ceremony in addition to the Captains and Vice Captains, the Monitors and Dayscholar Prefects for the year also took the oath and were given their badges.

### PHONE CALL TIMES:

For the benefit of parents of new boarders I give below the times at which you may try and phone your sons.

THURSDAYS : 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM

SUNDAYS : 10:05 AM to 12:00 Noon. 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM

If you do manage to get through to him please limit the call to 5 minutes maximum. Parents living in the Gulf countries will have to understand that the busy boarding schedule does not allow for any other time slot for phone calls.

### JUNGLE WARFARE

This is the name given to an ancient game traditionally played by the boarders of the senior dormitory on St Patrick’s day. The boys are divided into two “armies” and the purpose of the game is to capture as many “soldiers” of the opposing army as possible. The game had been deleted from last year’s schedule of events because over the years the enthusiasm shown for it by the boys had waned.

However this year a determined effort was made to revive interest in the game. The effort was mainly made by Mr Egbert and Mr Ivo – both ex-pupils incidentally – and the end result was good. The event was rescheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of April as it was a holiday. The boarders of classes 8, 9 and 10 - after getting one final pep talk from Sir Egbert - descended into school valley with bloodcurdling cries and had a very enjoyable two hours chasing each other around the jungle. Dhaval Patel [Green House Captain] was declared best warrior for the year and the winning army got chocolates to feast on. Both armies then had lunch which was brought down to Toddy’s Field in the school van and they then returned to school. You will be glad to note that all the soldiers returned safely and will live to fight another day.

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:** Please note that the school has a new email address. It is “[stmarysh@sancharnet.in](mailto:stmarysh@sancharnet.in)” The email address is to be used for official communications only.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES :

The following brothers are due for transfer around the middle of the year. Br Cedric will be leaving us to take up appointment as Community Leader of the community at St Augustine’s – Vasai. Br Staney will be leaving for higher studies at the scholasticate in Shillong. Br Sunil will be leaving to take up his posting at our village school in Mandal – Gujarat. They will all be missed.

The new brothers coming into school in their place are Br Miles, Br Jerome and Br David.

### NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK:

Two projects of construction work were taken up at the start of the new academic year. One was the repair of an old block of toilets facing the dam for the boys to use during school hours. The second was to complete a boundary wall around the school starting from the area behind the dormitory blocks. The main purpose of the wall would be to keep cows out of the school campus. They are a very great nuisance, especially during the monsoon season, because they enter the campus freely and leave their ‘visiting cards’ all over the place. The wall would also serve the purpose of keeping unauthorised persons from loitering around the campus.

These construction projects however have been stopped temporarily because of a problem regarding permission from the local Municipal Board.

**SCHOOL COUNSELLOR :**

A suitable candidate for this post has not yet been found so far. A few applicants have still to be interviewed. In the meantime an ex-pupil of the batch of 1992 – Melroy Pereira – has volunteered to give us his services as counsellor for a month. He will be here from mid April to mid May. He works as a counsellor and social worker in Melbourne and will return there after spending some time with us.

**WATER SITUATION:** The water situation is much better this year. Both the dam next to the school and Nakki lake have more water this year than last year. However water is still being rationed. Please pray that we get a good monsoon this year. It is long overdue. The swimming pool will be operational soon. It is hot enough. Classes 7 and 8 will have ‘swims’ during their official PT period. Others will get their turn during games time on a regular basis.

**VALUE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CLASS NINE :** In late April Br Steve Rocha and two other people representing an organisation called ‘Pravah ‘ will be giving a 2 day program to the class nine boys. The program is aimed at developing leadership skills for social responsibility among adolescents.

**SPORTS AND GAMES :** The first cricket match of the year between staff and students was played around two weeks ago. The staff team won for a change. They had to chase a total of 122 runs and reached the target comfortably. They were helped by the fact that the boys, rusty after the long holiday, gave away about 40 extras. The next match will probably have a different ending.

**MOVIES :**

As I mentioned in the last newsletter – it is difficult to get movies of good quality to show to the boys. Hence if you have any movies suitable for children – on video or VCD – please send them up to school. They will be returned at the end of the year.

That more or less sums up where we are at the moment. Here’s wishing all of you a Happy Easter season again.

Sincerely

Br Anish

*“As I looked at that man upon the cross...  
I knew I must make up my mind once and for all,  
and either take my stand beside him  
and share in his undefeated faith in God...  
or else fall finally into a bottomless pit  
of bitterness, hatred,  
and unutterable despair.*

*[By an old Polish Jew who survived the  
massacre of a Warsaw Ghetto ]*