



"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centred men have torn down other-centred can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow down before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land. And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid. I still believe that we shall overcome."

Martin Luther King
JULY/AUGUST 2001

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

The quotation above gives us a very beautiful vision or dream for our own country as we approach our 54th year of Independence. Let us pray that it will come true one day. I begin by giving you the good news that after a gap of many years we have had enough of rain. Abundant rainfall over the last few weeks has caused the dam filled to fill up to the brim and overflow. The filled up lake is a beautiful sight to see and water shortages are over for a while. On to the happenings in school over the last month now.

MULTIMEDIA PROJECT:

This is a brand and bold new venture being undertaken at St Mary's. It involves the setting up of an infrastructure that has two aims in view. One is to enable the teachers to use multimedia presentations during the course of their teaching. This involves the setting up of a computer CPU in every classroom and also a large television to display programmes being run on the computer. The second aim is to set up a computer lab containing around 40 terminals where a teacher can take an entire class to. Each boy will have his own monitor and keyboard and teaching and learning can be done using the abundance of educational software that is available these days. The project is being partly funded by money donated by one of our ex-pupils. It is being implemented by a Bombay based company called IT Riders. They hope to have the project up and running by the time parent's week comes around. If things work out the way they are planned it will help boys passing out of St Mary's to have valuable exposure to multimedia education and expertise in the field of Information Technology. So great things are underway...

PHONE CALLS:

In an attempt to solve the problem of phone calls to your sons the following system has been put in place for the last two to three weeks.

SUNDAYS: Classes 4 to 6 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon

Classes 7 to 9 from 12:30 to 3:00 pm

THURSDAYS: For class 10 and for those gulf parents who cannot call on Sunday. [12:00 – 3:00 pm]

I hope this brings some relief to the situation. If you have feedback or suggestions please either write to me or ring/email me.

COMPETITIONS:

Classes 7 to 10 had their annual open dance competition on the 31st of July. Daenan Rodrigues and Suraj Bhan Rathore took the first place in their respective age categories. The first prize for the group dances went to two groups - "Michael Jaikishans" and "Hotshorts" in the senior and middle categories. Other competitions that were held around this time were the inter-house quiz competitions at the junior, middle and senior levels. At the annual Rotaract Inter School quiz, St Mary's - represented by Kamendar Gurjar and Nishant Kaul - got second place.

Elocution competitions are scheduled for the 2nd week of September. Apart from that there are the usual inter-house competitions in calligraphy, fretwork, art, photography etc. This year for the art competition the subject to be painted is the main school building. So when you come here for Parent's Week there will probably be quite a few masterpieces on display!!!

PROJECTS AND PLANTATIONS

The repair work on the block of toilets facing the dam was completed and they were put into use from the beginning of July. This eases the strain on what are now affectionately referred to as the "Old Boffs"!!! Some boys, who have joined a local environment friendly organisation called PFA [People For Animals], carried out a tree plantation drive in the school campus a few Sundays ago. Cows that wander around the campus usually welcome these tree plantation schemes as newly planted trees apparently make a very tasty snack!. This time however the trees have been provided with tree guards and it is hoped that they will thus survive till they reach an age when they are able to look after themselves!!

FOOTBALL FRENZY:

The annual interclass football tournament is underway. The tournament is at the semifinal stage now. 9A will play 9B and 10A will play 10B to decide who gets into the finals. 10B has been winning this tournament for the last 3 years and Br Judge [it's been his class for the last 3 years too] is hoping that the tradition will continue!!! In the middle section 7A emerged the winners with a score of 2-1 with Leon Reilly, Yashwardan Rathore and Abhimanyu Naruka scoring the goals.

BR VIEYRA:

We remember Br Vieyra who passed away in Goa on the 12th of August. One of the stalwarts of St Mary's, he taught here for a total period of about 25 years. He finally left his beloved Abu for Goa in August 1999 due to failing health. He will be well remembered by all who knew him - teachers, pupils and servants. Ex-pupils will specially remember his dedication, sincerity and brilliance as a science teacher. A mass for the repose of his soul was said in the school chapel on the 12th evening.

CHANGE IN MEAL TIMINGS: The small dorm boarders are eating their dinner half an hour before the big dorm boys these days. There are a few reasons. One is that teachers on duty can ensure that the smallies are eating properly because of the smaller numbers of boys present. They can be taught table manners and most importantly they can be trained to eat without shouting.

That more or less sums up the way things are at the moment. I end by wishing all of you a Happy Independence Day.

Every good wish,

Br Anish