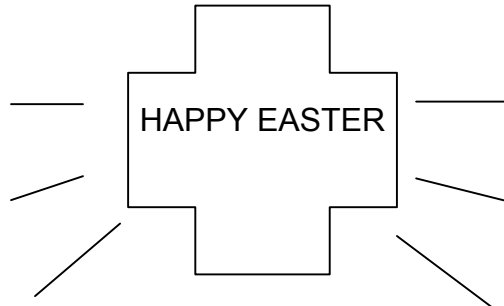




"Yet what really matters is not what happens in this unpredictable world, but how we respond, what we make of what we are given, whether we have learned something about how even the starkest tragedy can be a means of grace that we might have never have come to in any other way. One of the deepest of Christian insights is that even in the worst of events God is present and there are possibilities of redemption. That is part of the meaning of the Cross: that good can be brought out of evil, that new life can emerge from an event that seems utterly final and devastating."
Michael Wayne



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2002

Dear Parents,

Here at last is a very overdue newsletter trying to bring you up to date on some of the happenings in school since we started in March.

ICSE 2002: The boys of the batch of 2002 finished their exams and their time in St Mary's and left school for the great unknown in the third week of March. The general opinion was that all the papers they had done were reasonably good except for the maths paper which all found difficult. We wait anxiously now for the results which are expected in the last week of May.

EASTER 2002: Easter was very early this year – within three weeks of the start of school. Br David and the other teachers/brothers in charge of the preparations nevertheless did a very good job on the various masses. The parents who were able to come up for the Easter weekend will remember the beautiful and prayerful liturgies that we had. In a break from tradition Br David got the choir to dance while singing – deepening the message that Easter is a season of joy.

COMPUTER SETUP.

The computer lab is now fully functional with 44 machines in it. Day scholars use the room during their two computer periods every week. Boarders of the senior dormitory have been broken up into groups and they can get up to the lab two hours every week to either study, do research for projects or browse through educational software installed in the machines. A typing tutor has also been installed and those who persevere through the exercises could become fairly proficient in typing. Senior boarders who get pink/blue cards or show good improvement in their monthly tests are allowed to play computer games on Sundays. Hopefully this new master strategy to motivate them to study harder will work. !!!

The progress on the other part of the plan of putting a TV into the class 8's has been painfully slow. The installation has finally been completed and class 8B should have their computer and TV in their class by the week starting on Monday[6/5/2002]

BICENTENARY

Christian Brother schools all over the world celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the congregation in 1802 by Blessed Edmund Rice. Schools all over India will be conducting ceremonies and programmes through the year to commemorate the occasion. Here in St Mary's we have started this year an evening class for the children of our servants. What used to be a godown near the bakery has been converted into a classroom for the purpose. It has been named the "EDMUND RICE BAL VIDYA MANDIR." Servants' children will have classes here from 6:00 to 8:00 pm six days of the week. Two teachers have been taken in to do the teaching and the senior boys will also help out in these evening classes on a voluntary basis.

BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN OCTOBER.

The main celebrations for the bicentenary will be in October. Groups of children from all our west coast schools – from Bajpe, Goa, Dadar, Vasai, Mandal and Umarpada will come here for a 3 day program. It will be immediately after our own parent's week celebrations. **Parents please note that all boarders will have to leave the boarding from the evening of Monday 30th September to at least the evening of Sunday 6th October.** School will reopen on the 10th of October so those who want to keep their children out for a longer period need only bring them back on the evening of the 9th of October. Only a group of around 10 to 15 boys who will be representing St Mary's for the celebrations will be required to stay back in the boarding after parent's week. These boys will be chosen in July/August and the parents concerned will be informed.

MICROWAVE OVENS: The District Collector of Sirohi – Mr Giri Raj Singh – has very kindly donated 5 microwave ovens to the school. These have been installed in the kitchen. Once they are fully operational they will be a great help to the kitchen staff for the warming of food etc.

TELEPHONE CALLS: The introduction of the 'paging system' has helped the phone call system to work a little better. I give below the schedule of phone calls for the sake of new parents (and old parents who have forgotten)

SUNDAYS:	10:05 am – 12:00 noon:	CLASSES 4, 5 and 6
	12:30 pm – 3:00 pm:	CLASSES 7, 8 and 9
THURSDAYS:	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	CLASS 10 and Gulf Parents.

Please remember to limit your calls to a maximum of 3 to 5 minutes . Please also remember not to insist on speaking to your son if you cannot get through to him in the times specified above. Calls from irate parents/relatives demanding that they should be allowed to speak to their children cannot be entertained as the phone call system is a privilege offered to you by the school and it can only work within the specified schedule. In spite of all this organization you cannot get through your children at least once in 3 weeks please call me and I will try and get you to speak to your son at some other time suitable to the boarding schedule. Parents are also welcome to speak to their children on special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries etc.

PARENT TEACHER MEETING IN JULY: This is an OPTIONAL meeting and is only for those parents who happen to be coming to leave their children back to school after the June break. There is no need to make a trip all the way up to Abu only for the sake of the meeting.

JUNGLE WARFARE: Jungle warfare was played with its traditional enthusiasm on the 20th of April. All the warriors returned safe and sound after running around in the jungle in school valley for around 3 hours of the morning. The best warriors for the year were Shayan Falati and Siddraj Chouhan.

SCHOOL WEB SITE: The school is in the process of setting up its official web site. Please check out www.sms.ac.in. Suggestions/opinions are welcome.

MUSICAL NIGHT AND PICNICS: The class picnics and musical night lie ahead in May. Preparations for both items are on in a big way.

That more or less sums up where we are at the moment.

I end by making a special request to keep all of us here in school in your prayers.
Belated Easter Greetings to all.

Br Anish.