

*"Take down your lantern from its niche
You shall not rest in fireside securities,
secure from drifting fog of doubt and fear
And say thus far shall I walk and no further.
Go out, for need calls loudly from the winding lanes
and love shall be your lantern flame. "*

Dear Parents,

This last newsletter of the year brings you a summary of the happenings in school after parent's week

PRIZE WINNERS

The final prize distribution ceremony took place on 17th November. The ceremony which is usually held in the New Hall was held in the Basketball Court this year for a change. Boys of each class who excelled in academics were given prizes. These prizes are given annually and are part of the Victor Menezes Endowment. The following were awarded the main prizes for the year

GOYAL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR HINDI: Ravi Vaishnav
HARDEST WORKING STUDENT OF THE YEAR : Denzil Falcao
STUDENT OF THE YEAR: [Highest overall % in class 10]Deepak Cheenath
PRINCIPAL CUP: [For excellence in character] Merick Pinto
Principal Cup Runner up: Ian Brako
LADY JACKSON TROPHY: [For all round excellence] John Mathan
Lady Jackson Trophy Runner up: Pradhuman Kheechi
DAYSCHOLAR OF THE YEAR : Elisha Patel
VIVEK DSOUZA TROPHY: [Best Footballer] Jibin Joseph

One special feature of the Prize Distribution this year was a set of specially magnificent trophies. These were awarded to all the main prize winners mentioned above and to others. The trophies were contributed by the parents of Aaron Pereira of class 10 A – thanks very much to them.

The overall championship was taken by St Joseph's – the Blue House.

The other best men were as follows : Basketball – Santosh Mohan Singh, Volleyball- Alistair Fernandes, Swimming – Rituraj Shaktawat , Table Tennis –Dhiren Dhoot , Badminton- Pradhuman Kheechi , Chess- John Mathan, Music – Calvin Hanso.

TRAVEL: Please note that the travel arrangements this year **ARE DIFFERENT** from previous years. Both Bombay and Delhi Parties will be leaving Abu Road on the 4th of December. The Delhi Party will be leaving on the **DELHI AHMEDABAD MAIL** and the Bombay Party will be leaving on the **ARAVALLI EXPRESS**.

PHONE SYSTEM: You must be greatly relieved I am sure with the distribution of the phone call days over the week as explained in the last letter. A special word of thanks to Mr Savio Pereira, father of Ray and Ian Pereira , who donated two special "tellular" phones to the school. These enable mobile phones to be converted to land lines. This eliminates the risk of children being exposed to the radiation that accompanies normal mobile phone use.

JUBILEE SOUVENIER: The Jubilee Souvenir magazine should be released by the end of November. They will be posted to all those individuals/companies who sent ads for publication in the magazine. Boarders whose parents contributed to the magazine will be given your copies to bring home to you. Thanks once again to all parents for your generosity.

WEBSITE: The school website [www. sms. ac. in](http://www.sms.ac.in) will remain closed for awhile until further notice. An expupil sent me this address -[http://uly334. brinkster. net/sms/](http://uly334.brinkster.net/sms/) . There are some really good snaps of the jubilee celebrations on display here.

STUDENT FAREWELLS

The boys of class nine gave their seniors their annual farewell party on the 6th of November. The venue of this party is traditionally the New Hall. The party was a grand success. Highlights of the event included a hilarious spoof of Julius Caesar called " Julius Teaser" created by Cherian Mathan and group. Some other class nine boys did a special dance for the occasion. The rest of the evening went in dancing , eating, taking photographs, feeling nostalgic and generally having a good time.

STAFF FAREWELLS

Apart from myself, two other staff members who will be bidding farewell to St Mary's at the end of term this year are Mrs Das – our senior hindi teacher and Mr Asarsa – the clerk. Farewells to all are scheduled for the last weekend of November.

CHANGE OF GUARD

Mr Christanand Vase will be *acting principal* from 4th December onwards . Promotions to the next class will be done by him in consultation with the teachers concerned. Admissions to the new session will also be completely under him. **He will officially take over as principal with effect from 1st March 2005.**

Br Miles will assist him in matters relating to the boarding as Boarding –in-Charge.

Mr Christanand will be responsible for the overall functioning of the institution [**both the school and the boarding**]. His phone number from Dec 4th onwards is 09414201900. He is wished every success and blessing as he takes over . May God grant him all the graces he needs to carry out his responsibilities.

MEETING WITH PARENTS: Mr Christanand and Br Miles will meet parents according to the schedule given below.

GOA [Regina Mundi High School]

Thu 13th January ALL CLASSES 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

MUMBAI [Our Lady of Salvation High School]

Sat 15th January CLASSES 5 AND 6 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Sun 16th January CLASS 7 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
CLASSES 8 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Wed 19th January CLASS 9 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
CLASSES 10 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
ICSE 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

VASAI [St Augustine's High School]

Thu 20th January ALL CLASSES 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

DELHI [St Columba's School]

Thu 27th January All classes 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

This last newsletter comes to a close with a sincere word of thanks to all of you for all your prayers, good wishes and support over the years. Above all I thank God for His guidance and for His Providential care and protection of all in school for the last seven years. He has led us through droughts and earthquakes, broken bones and sickness, good times and bad, and has been with us every step of the way as we went about the difficult task of commemorating this Platinum Jubilee Year.

My email address for those who would want to keep in touch is luke2232@rediffmail.com

With gratitude and best wishes

Br Anish

"Above all trust in the slow work of God. We are naturally impatient to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate steps. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability, and that it may take a very long time.

And so it is with us. Our ideas mature gradually. Let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though we could be today what time will make us tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit forming in us will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that His Hand is leading us, and accept the anxiety of feeling ourselves in suspense, and incomplete"

-Teilhard de Chardin.