



November 2019

Editorial

Years after the Brexit vote, we still have no resolution. Weeks after the Maharashtra vote, we still have no government. Politicians across the globe seem to think that people's lives and businesses will just go on as usual in spite of the chaos they cause. Just look anywhere in the world, conflicts and strife rage from Hong Kong to Chile.

Climate change is upon us. For the first time in my memory, we had twin cyclones in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal simultaneously. The monsoon extended up to November. Polar ice is melting. Fires threaten the suburbs of major Californian and Australian cities. Yet we continue to live as if we have a spare planet tucked away somewhere. Environmental education is commonplace in schools, but somehow we do not seem to practice the learning.

This edition of the School Tie carries a great article by an Alumnus reminiscing about school days and beyond. I hope this encourages more of you, especially those with milestone passing out anniversaries, to pen down their thoughts for all of us to share.

Going through Fr. Swamy's report and the sports report, it was amazing to see so many new events: Fencing, Malkhamb, Kickboxing.... The solar power initiative is also very much in line with global directions towards a sustainable future.

Hurrah we are.... St. Mary's Boys!

Bimal Goculdas (Class of 1985)
Hon. Editor bgoculdas@hotmail.com

DO VISIT THE FACEBOOK SITE OF SMAA! It is updated regularly with news about Mary's and Alumni. We would love to get your comments, feedback, articles.

SMAA Facebook Page link : <https://www.facebook.com/SMICSE.Alumni/>

SMAA Membership/Update

Enrol as a member of SMAA or update your contact details online:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YWU5aJDuwXMgb4rr_zPpkboYgirQmDcTgsJfGUkdMPM/viewform

Excerpts from the The Principal's Address and Report for the Year 2018-2019.

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages in order to raise global attention on the critical risks confronting indigenous languages and its significance for sustainable development, reconciliation, good governance and peacebuilding.

It is through languages that we communicate to the world, define our identity, express our history and culture, learn define our human rights and participate in all aspects of society.

As Nelson Mandela quotes, "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."

STAFF STATUS DURING 2018-2019

During the course of the academic year St. Mary's welcomed the arrival of three new staff on board Ms. Nicola Pereira, Ms. Sneha Fernandes and Ms Cheryl D'souza. We wish them many dedicated and growth filled years in St. Mary's ICSE.

During the academic year Ms.Vandana Gupta and Mr. Mario Vaz left school for better prospects. We thank them for their services and wish them the very best for their future.

Mrs. Belinda D'souza, our office staff retired after a glorious 24 years of service to St. Mary's.

ICSE RESULTS

We are proud to announce our students' excellent performance at the ICSE Board Exams. This year the results have reached a higher scale as compared to the past years. This indeed has given us voluminous reasons to celebrate.

All 120 students who appeared for the ICSE Exam, were declared successful. 80 students scored 90% and above, 38 students scored between 80% and 89%, and 2 students scored between 70% and 75%.

Ribhav Mishra and Divya Patel stood first with 98.33% . They were followed by Rishabh Murali in the second place with 98.00%. Urav Dalal secured the third place with 97.33% and Rishab Bairi with 97.17% in the fourth place.

My heartiest congratulations to all these students who have made St. Mary's proud. I would also like to congratulate the parents and the staff who were the pillars behind their success.

CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At St. Mary's along with academics, co-curricular activities are equally important for the holistic development of the students. Our students strive to excel in various activities both at the school and interschool level. Our teachers encourage the students and ensure that they live up to the Jesuit motto 'Perfect Commitment'

- An Orientation programme was conducted by Dr. Harish Shetty on 4th June on the topic Emotional Wellbeing for teachers. Dr. Shetty helped the teachers to re-focus on the emotional aspects of their lives which in turn would help them to deal with their students positively.
- The academic year began on a spiritual note on 15th June with the Mass of the Holy Spirit for the Catholic students and teachers from St. Mary's ICSE and SSC and a Prayer Service in the auditorium for the rest of the students.
- An orientation and a guidance programme was organized for parents and students of class 10 by Dr. Mrs. Elaine Charles in June. Dr. Charles shares her SECRET TO SUCCESS AT THE BOARD EXAMS and advised them on time and task management skills
- CAMPION SCI - TECH 2018 an interschool event was organized by Campion School on the theme environmental issues and concern. The competition was a good platform for the students to showcase their skills , understanding of environmental issues and how science and technology can resolve the environmental problems.
- St Mary's I.C.S.E. hosted the inaugural inter-school Mathematics event –[MATRIX] on Saturday, 8th September, 2018. The objective was to create in students an interest and love for the subject by promoting an approach which was lively and full of fun! We plan to continue this activity annually. Our chief guest for the occasion was Professor Aditya Garg, a popular professor of Mathematics from St Xavier's College – Mumbai and a graduate from the IIT – Delhi. Seven ICSE schools from Mumbai actively participated in the event. At the end of the programme our young MATHEMATICIANS left with a sense of wonder, satisfied and fully enriched.

- Interhouse Dramatics at St. Mary's inculcates healthy competition, a spirit of friendship and brings out the best among the students of the four houses. The judges were impressed by the commendable performance and spoke highly of their acting skills.
- Interhouse Western Music Talent Contest - The contestants enthralled the audience with their melodious songs and instrumental pieces of the 60's, 70's and 80's. The competition came alive with the mesmerizing old melody's which was soulfully soothing and pieces which reverberated in the hearts of the audience.
- Diwali Celebration - On Tuesday, 30th October 2018, our school celebrated Diwali – the festival of lights. The pre-primary enacted a skit highlighting the significance of Diwali .The primary and the secondary school organised a party in each of their classes. Students brought a variety of snacks, which were shared, thus inculcating a spirit of love ,joy and harmony. The festive spirit of bonding and togetherness was manifested in the students participating in different games with plenty of singing, dancing and merry-making.
- As part the SUPW activity, the tribal students of Loyola School Ashagadh were invited to spend a weekend at St. Mary's School in November. The students were taken for Mumbai Darshan. Later during the day they had a career guidance and counselling talk by three ex-students from a Jesuit-run school in Talasari. The next day the students visited the Veer Mata Jijabai Udhyan and the Bhau Daji Lad Museum. It was an enriching and interactive experience for the SUPW students.
- Children's Day – This year the Children's Day celebration programmed was graced by celebrities from the International Children's Film Festival. Four short value-based movies were shown. A funfair with different rides and a number of mouthwatering food stalls were set up for the children.
- The students of class 10 were given a sendoff in the month of January by the class 9 students. The programme started with a prayer service on the theme 'Spread Your Wings'. Abraham Lincoln's letter to his son's teacher was read out to emphasize values of honesty, humility and hard work. This was followed by a fun-filled video down memory lane. As tradition goes the Marian of the Year was selected after a number of challenging rounds. The students were presented with souvenirs from the school. It was a farewell filled with a lot of emotions and nostalgia among students as they took photographs around the majestic school building where they spent their childhood.
- Republic Day – the 70th Day Republic Day programme started with the unfurling of the national flag by Ms C Monteiro to the sound of our National Anthem. This was followed by the March Past and a short cultural programme which brought about a feeling of patriotism.
- Bandra Parade- Some of our students participated in the grand March Past Parade organized by the Brihan-Mumbai Interschool Republic Day Group in Bandra. Students from twenty-three schools from all over Mumbai reported for the parade. The ambience at Bandra Bandstand was charge with a patriotic feeling as the rhythmic tunes of different school bands played patriotic songs. Malkhamb , cycle stunts and cultural floats were also showcased as part of the parade. It was indeed a day of celebration, pomp and grandeur
- Exhibition Day – The Annual Exhibition was held on Thursday 14th February. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Advocate Ashish Shelar M.L.A. and president of the BJP in Mumbai. The other Guest of Honour was Mrs. Suruchi Hirawat. Popularly known as Mrs. India, Earth, a title which she achieved last year. The judges for the exhibition were Mrs. Sybil Thomas, who has been the ex-principal of St. Xavier's College of Education, Mrs. Deepti Mankad a PhD_in Multiple Intelligence, Mrs. Belinda Fernandes who is presently working as a Deputy Vice-Principal at St. Peter's School and Mrs. Annette Henriques who is the Senior Head of the English Department at St Mary's S.S.C. The theme for this year's Exhibition was Go Green, which focused on the environmental issues and conserving the environment for the future generation.
- Adopting a child – We at St. Mary's ICSE follow a policy of adopting a child in need of special attention in every class. One-to-one attention is given to these students. Children with learning disabilities and attention issues are looked after by the special educator and the counsellors.

- The school also offers the robotics programme conducted by Irobokid for our tech- savvy Marians in the primary and secondary sections
- “WE ARE THE WORLD” – An Inter-school Extravaganza
“PERFECT COMMITMENT”! This is absolutely what our students gave in, to bring home the winner’s trophy consecutively for the third time in a row this year. The event was held on the 1st and 2nd of December, 2018 at the Alexandra Girl’s Institution, Karnataka Sports Ground and Birla Matoshree Auditorium. The events organized by The Rotract Club of HR College were creative and spread over various sections like Fine Arts, Literary Arts, Performing Arts and Informals.
- Vogue is a popular personality competition organised by the Rotract Club of H. R. College. This year Kavish Soningra from class 9 was selected First Runner-Up for Mr Vogue Personality Contest out of 30 schools that participated. Joshua Mendes from class 8 was selected First Runner-Up for Mr. Vogue Talent Contest
- At Mélange organised by G. D. Somani, our students participated in various events such as fine arts, performing arts and literary arts and won individual accolades in various events.
- The school organised a talk on ‘Bullying’ for the students of class 7. Dr. Zirak Marker a renowned psychiatrist and psychotherapist with an experience of over fifteen years in educational psychology conducted the workshop. He is currently the medical director of the Aditya Birla Integrated school. It is appropriate that we teach children about adolescence and the early years of childhood when many changes -physical, mental, emotional occur in this transitional period between childhood and adulthood. Dr. Marker organised an interactive role play which highlighted the feeling of the victim, the bully and the bystander. The session concluded with a strong emphasis on understanding the growing recognition of the importance of building mental resilience in order to cope with the challenges of today’s world.
- Extraordinary Achievement by a Student
Miron Shroff Wins HT’s ‘Mumbai’s Brightest Young Mind’
11-year-old, Miron Shroff studying in class 6, participated in the ‘Hindustan Times Scholarship Programme 2018’ held on 11th December, at Rangsharda Auditorium, Bandra, and was declared as one of ‘Mumbai’s Brightest Young Minds’. Miron competed with 77,800 students across 207 schools in Mumbai, to shine as one of the top sixty students to receive this award. He was awarded a trophy, a certificate and a scholarship of Rs. 50,000/- from the Hindustan Times.

Students’ Exchange Programme

NEPAL

Twenty five students and two teachers of our school went on a ten days long visit to St. Xavier’s School, Godavari, Nepal, from October 30, 2018 to November 5, 2018. The visit was organized under the Students Exchange Programme initiated by Educate Magis, the worldwide network of Jesuit schools.

Our visit to Nepal was reciprocated with the visit of twenty five students and two teachers from St. Xavier’s School, Godavari to our school, St. Mary’s ICSE, Mumbai from November 30, 2018 to December 7, 2018.

FRANCE

Twelve students and one teacher from our school went on another Students Exchange Programme to France from April 28, 2019 to May 10, 2019. The school that they visited this time was Lycee Jean Paul II, school in Rennes in Brittany, France. This visit will be reciprocated by a similar group of students and teachers of Lycee Jean Paul II school in the month of October, 2019.

- Educational tours – Our school organized Education Tours for the students from classes 5 to 10. The students of class 5 visited Bangalore and Mysore, class 6 Jaipur, class 7 Ahmedabad, class 8 – Udaipur, class 9 Pune and class 10 Mount Abu. The students had a memorable time and a wonderful learning experience.

Dr. Fr. Francis Swamy, S.J.
PRINCIPAL

SPORTS REPORT 2018-19

“Wherever the call of duty lies, They proved themselves St. Mary’s boys”

Below is the brief report of some of the successes of our students in events organized by various associations- “Hardwork and Dedication are key factors to Success”

1. ATHLETICS

Bombay City District Amateur Athletic Meet (B.C.D.A.)

The Athletic Season started with the B.C.D.A.

1. Boys Under-14

ESHAN JOHN MENDES- Won Gold Medal in High Jump

2. Maharashtra State Sub. Jr. Athletic Championship at Derwan (Ratnagiri – District)

Boys Under-10

TAHA ZOOMKAWALA- Bagged the Bronze Medal in 80 mts run, Bagged the Bronze Medal in 4 x 100 mts relay

3. Bombay City District Amateur Athletic Championship

Boys Under-10

TAHA ZOOMKAWALA- Won Gold Medal in 200 mts run, Won Silver Medal in 80 mts run

4. Mumbai Games- In South Mumbai Seahawks for securing the Championship

Boys Under-10

TAHA ZOOMKAWALA- Won Silver Medal in 60 mts run

2. BADMINTON

(D.S.O.) - District Sports Association

Boys Under-14 Team Championship

1. BEZAAN SHROFF 2. ACHINTYA SHARMA 3. UTKARSH SHARMA 4. KUSHAAN ZAVERI

Bagged the Bronze Medal

(D.S.O.) - District Sports Association

Boys Under-17 Team Championship

1. ESHAAN AJMANI 2. ROHIT SUNDERUM 3. DHRUV SHAH 4. HARDIK SINGH

Bagged the Bronze Medal

3. BILLIARDS / SNOOKER

Organized by Elphinstone Cricket Club

Boys Under-12

VEER PARIKH- He is the youngest participant in this prestigious tournament.

4. CHESS

Boys Under-12- HRREHAN BAMBOAT

- He played Open Federation Classical Chess Tournament in Pune- Stood 8th Place
- He played Open Rapid Chess Tournament in Navi Mumbai- Won Gold Medal
- Mumbai School Sports Association (M.S.S.A.)- Stood 5th Place
- Champion School Platinum Jubilee Chess Tournament- Won Bronze Medal
- 2nd Dombivali- Kalyan All India Open International Federation Classical/BKTZ Chess Tournament 2019- He scored 6 points out of 10 rounds and secured Silver Medal in U/13 age group.

- 1st Late Sakubhai Memorial Chashak 2019- Maharashtra State Open & Girls Age Group Rapid Chess Tournament (Panvel)- He scored 5.5 points out of 7 rounds and secured Bronze Medal
- 1st Gujarat International Open Grandmaster Tournament 2018- He scored 4 points out of 10 rounds and secured 24^{2nd} place on the merit list and won Silver medal
- Mumbai City District Chess Association- Scored 4/5 points and got Silver Medal.

Campion School Platinum Jubilee Chess Tournament
Boys Under- 10- DHAIRYA N MEHTA- Secured 6th place.

AARAV BHATTACHARYA

Maharashtra State School Chess Championship 2018
Boys Under- 12 - Aarav secured 9th Place.

Maharashtra State Selection Fide Rating Chess Championship 2018
Boys Under – 13 – Aarav secured 8th Place.

5. CRICKET

J.B.C.L. Cricket Tournament- won by 19 runs
RAADIYA APTE was 87 Runs not out and made a total of 179 runs & received
The Man of the Match trophy
MIR TAWDE- Took 4 wickets, HARSH SONAWALA- Took 14 wickets

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (A.S.I.M.) Cricket Tournament
MIR TAWDE- selected for Maharashtra Nationals T-20 Cricket Team in U/17 age group
He also received the Man of the Match
DIVENTRI RAYAN- He also received the Man of the Match

6. FENCING

Boys Under- 12- VIVAN SHETTY

- 9th Mini National Fencing Championship - Won Gold medal in SABRE
- Maharashtra State Fencing Championship – He secured second place (Team Event) in SABRE
- Mumbai District Fencing Championship- Won Gold medal in SABRE

Boys Under – 14 – RIHAAN SHETTY

- District Sports Association Boy's Under-14 Zonal- Won Silver medal in EPEE
- District Sports Association Boy's Under-14 City- Won Gold medal in EPEE

7. FOOTBALL

The Maharashtra Anglo-Indian School Football Tournament (Mumbai Zonal) organized by Christ Church School- Byculla

Boys Under-12- Won the Gold Medal

IDANT ENGINEER received the Best Goalkeeper Award

Boys Under - 14

(D.S.O.) - District Sports Association

Boys Under-14 - Won the Silver Medal

(Subroto Cup) - Won the Silver Medal

Mumbai School Sports Association (M.S.S.A.)

Boys Under-14 "A" Team- Won the Gold Medal

"B" Team- Won the Silver Medal

Utpal Sanghvi K/O Football Tournament- Won the Bronze Medal

HRIDYA HARIA, RAMIT MITRA were selected to represent the Mumbai District U/14 Team in Jalgaon

Boys Under - 12

Mumbai School Sports Association (M.S.S.A.) 9-a-side Tournament- We won the Bronze Medal

Mumbai School Sports Association (M.S.S.A.)

Boys Under-12 "A" Team- Won the Bronze Medal

“B” Team- Won the Gold Medal

8. GYMNASTICS

Boy's Under-8- SOHAM PANCHAL

Mumbai City District Gymnastics Championship

He won Silver Medal in FX- (Floor Exercise)and a Silver Medal in AR- (All Round)

9. JUDO

Mumbai School Sports Association (M.S.S.A.)

Boys Under-10

YADAV SAARTHAK- Won the Bronze Medal in the 30kgs category

Boys Under-12

YUVRAJ AGARWAL- Won the Silver Medal in the 42kgs category

Boys Under-14

TANAY SHAH- Won the Bronze Medal in the 66kgs category

Sensei T Bangera Memorial Invitation Inter School Judo Championship

Boys Under-10

YADAV SAARTHAK- Won the Bronze Medal in the 30kgs category

Boys Under-12

YUVRAJ AGARWAL- Won the Bronze Medal in the 42kgs category

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (A.S.I.M.)

Boys Under-10

YADAV SAARTHAK- Won the Gold Medal in the 30kgs category

Boys Under-12

YUVRAJ AGARWAL- Won the Bronze Medal in the 38kgs category

Prof. Jigoro Kano Invitational Mumbai Judo Championship

Boys Under-10

SAKSHAM YADAV- Won the Silver Medal in the 24kgs category

District Sports Association (D.S.O.)

Boys Under-14

TANAY SHAH - Won the Silver Medal in the +50kgs category

10. KARATE

Yudansha Kobujitsu Karate Federation(Y.K.K.F.)

Boys Under-12- VIVAN LAHRI

Won the Gold Medal in Kumite

Won the Gold Medal in Kata

Boys Under-12- NISH PARIKH

All Maharashtra Open Karate Championship 2018

Won the Silver Medal in Kumite

International Karate Championship 2018

Won the Silver Medal in Kumite

11. KICKBOXING

Mumbai District Kickboxing Championship

Boys Under-12- HAMZA A. BHAGAT

Won the Gold Medal in the 37kgs Point Fight category

12. ROLLER SKATING

District Sports Association (D.S.O.)

Boys Under-11- AZEEM ADENWAL

Won the Silver Medal in the Ring-Race in South Zone

Rollerskating- World Records India

1. ARYAN J. FERNANDES 2. QUSAI H. BHOPALWALA 3. ALIFURKHAN

World record holder- largest Zig-Zag skating marathon in a group

To create awareness and promoting skating sports across the country Skateathon and Waveboard Sports Maharashtra Association- Pune, organized a world record event. Under the membership of Vishal Desai and Sanjay Kamble, where in 540 students performed total 12,96,000 meters, Zig-Zag in group of 75 students for 5 hours set a new world record on 7th Oct. 2018 at Skating Ring Maharashtra Medal Sports & Education Complex, Swargate, Pune, Maharashtra, India. Each student performed skating for 1 hour in 120 meters skating ring in a group.

13. SWIMMING

45th Junior National Aquatic Championship 2018-19 organized by Swimming Federation of India

Boys Under-16- KANISHQ PANCHAL

Won the Silver Medal in "Water Polo"

Greater Mumbai Amateur Aquatic Association (G.M.A.A.)

Won the Gold Medal in "Water Polo"

13. TAEKWONDO

Sports for all (A.F.A.)

Boys Under – 12 – SIDDHARTH SINGH

Won the Gold Medal in the 32 kgs category

11TH Open National Kyorugi & Poomsae Taekwondo Championship in State

Won the Silver Medal in the 32 kgs category

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (A.S.I.M.)

Won the Bronze Medal in the 34 kgs category

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (A.S.I.M.)

Boys Under-8- VARUN GUPTA

Won the Bronze Medal in the 24kgs category

1st Elite Taekwondo Open Championship 2018

Boys Under-10- ALI BIRYA

Won the Gold Medal in Kyorugi

Won the Silver Medal in Poomsae

We wish all our boys the very best for the coming year 2019-2020 and hope they excel further in all the different games they participate in.

A special word of gratitude to my team, our dedicated coaches and to the whole hearted support of all the endeavours of our P.E. Department.

Balmukund Tiwari

Sports Director

President's Report

1. Membership

We had 111 new members. The total membership stands at 2153 as on March 31, 2019.

Every year we get number of students who enroll for our association's membership when they get their final ICSE marksheets. I wish to thank Fr. Dr. Francis Swamy S.J our School Principal and our committee member, Mazar Furniturewala for assisting with the membership enrolling.

Any Ex Marian who is not a member of our St. Mary's Alumni Association is requested to download the attached form, complete it and send it to Sushil Sukhwani at Edwise International Mumbai - Marine Lines, 2, Sethna Bldg, 1st Fr., 216 Princess Street, Near Parsi Dairy Farm, Marine Lines, Mumbai – 400 002 along with Rs. 500/- membership fees (by cheque in favour of St Mary's Alumni Association).

2. Charity

During the year we donated Rs.268241/- for various charitable causes as against Rs 299378/- the last year. Of the total donation Rs 203241/- was donated towards medical treatment of retired teachers & Rs 65000/- was donated to educational institutions & NGOs. The donations were made on recommendations received from the committee members on lines of the Objects of the Association.

3. Alumni Dinner 2018

The Alumni dinner was held in School We had 325 Alumni /Guest attending the event on November 30, 2018.

4. Mediclaim

We have been able to continue with the Mediclaim Scheme for our retired teachers (initiated as part of our 150 year celebration) with support of a few alumni who have donated generously towards this worthy cause.

5. Miscellaneous

The Alumni Association held its usual events, namely the Annual Soccer Match in School and the Annual Inter Alumni Soccer Match (at St. Stanislaus). We also had an Alumni v/s School Cricket Match.

Look forward to seeing as many Marian friends at our annual Alumni Association Dinner at school on Friday November 29, 2019.

Warm Regards

Sharookh Contractor

President, SMAA

Class of 1978

Cricket Carnival @ St. Mary's School ICSE- Mazagaon, Mumbai 10, Sat, JANUARY 26, 2019.

Every year our St. Mary's Alumni Association with the active support of our sponsor Mr. Devkumar H. Vaidya-batch of '83 , and one of our managing committee members, Mazhar Furniturewala along with our School Sports Department organises "The SMS Cricket Carnival" where we have traditionally had two matches-

Alumni v/s Students

&

Teachers v/s Parents

SOME REVOLUTIONARY ADDITIONS THAT WERE INTRODUCED THIS EDITION OF 2019.

This year we added two new exciting features:-

1-Introduction of YELLOW SEASON CRICKET BALL.

2-Live streaming & score updates via webcast, all thanks & courtesy to our very own alumni batch of '98 & a parent too- Kapil Bhatia of PITCHVISION.

The Guest of honour was our Principal Fr. Dr. Francis Swamy S.J. & our chief guest was the ONLY St. Marian to have represented India (under 19)- Caesar Periera, batch of '83.

For the very first time since the reintroduction of this age-old cricket match tradition 10 years back, it was the students team that won against the ex-students team.

Seen here in the first picture is our principal with the two team captains.

Second picture is the chief guest with the winning team captain.

Mazhar A. Furniturewala
SMAA Managing Committee member.
Class of 1987.



My 50-year journey since graduating from St. Mary's School

Adnan Buxamusa

abuxamusa@gmail.com **Class of 1969**

Background:

My parents moved to Mumbai from my familial home-town of Surat so that my siblings and I could attend schools that provided some of the best education that was available in the country. They believed that education is a “must-have” life-long asset.

Unlike some of my fellow alumni from the 1969 batch who were enrolled from the beginning, I entered St. Mary's in the 4th Standard and stayed in school until graduating (or matriculating) in the 11th Standard with an Indian School Certificate (ISC). [I suppose that nowadays the 11th Standard is called 12th Standard or 12th Class (?)]

A Few Memories as a Student at St. Mary's:

First off, I wish to humbly acknowledge the role that the school administration and all the teachers played in selflessly molding us to be both open-minded, educated scholars and better, ethical citizens. My eternal thanks go to all of them from the school's principal, Frs. Ribot and Molinet, the teachers, the canteen staff, and right down to the maintenance and janitorial staff.

Now I'll list a few (random) memories that come to mind (but not in any order of importance). But before I do that, I'd like to say that during my time at St. Mary's, my classmates knew me as “Asif,” or if they were in a teasing mood, a “Box of samosas.” I now go by “Adnan,” but to me, these are special monikers that tie me to my cohort of the Class of '69.

- I remember the weekly, short documentaries we saw projected in our school theater. Those helped open our eyes to the world beyond what we could experience in Mumbai, or even in India. And then, of course, the debates and the drama we were privileged to either take part in or to observe our other fellow St. Maryites partake in. One such event stands out: The day when they had Ms. Shakuntala Devi come to our school, and students spent a full class period creating the longest multiplications they could do as part of the preparation for her visit in our school theater. And we were all so astonished (at least, I was!) to see her rattle off the correct answer after pausing only a few seconds to figure that out in her head—something that took some students a whole class period to calculate! For those of you today, who may not be familiar about this extraordinary lady, here's a link to a webpage that describes her as a “human computer;” one who made the Guinness Book of World Records by beating a computer in 1980, in the time it took to multiply two large numbers. Of course, computers are much faster today, but her feat, then, is still astonishing. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakuntala_Devi]
- Most people nowadays have very poor posture. They sit slouched, and constantly look down on their smartphones. So it's a tribute to Mr. Pardiwala, our PhysEd teacher who was cognizant of maintaining a good posture and sat upright in his chair while he directed us in doing our physical exercises, such as climbing the rope and touch the hook on the ceiling, that I'm reminded of periodically to break away from my slouched position while working on the laptop, etc. Also, he was instrumental in instructing our relay team on the correct method of handing over the baton so as to shave off precious fractions of a second and help our boys win the relay race in the annual inter-school sports.

- I owe a lot to our classroom teachers who taught us English grammar and literature; especially Miss Edith DeMello. She led by example of what fine writing should be. She could write in perfect cursive in large letters on the chalkboard any sentence as if it was written over an invisible, horizontal straight line. Of course, her handwriting on graded homework was just as neat and perfect. Apparently, she must have practiced until perfection to pull off this feat so effortlessly, that seems to be a lost art by today's digital citizens who are adept at thumb-texting and "writing" LOL, OMG, gr8, and IMHO, rather than full words and complete sentences. [Incidentally, I am sometimes left to wonder if some people who add IMHO to their writing are truly humble in sharing their writing.]
- I remember fondly, Mr. Pepe, our one-time science teacher who was ahead of his time in applying modern pedagogical methods to interest students in science, by trying to make it interesting and to make it come alive. For instance, he'd call two students to the front of the class and have one student (representing the sun) stand still, while he'd gently hold the other student (the earth or another planet) and lead him in a circular path around the first student as a fun way to memorize planetary motion of the heavenly bodies.
- I remember, telling Mr. Ignatius Misquita, our other science teacher, of an experiment where two powerful, focused light beams were made to shine on a lightweight stick with two counter-facing mirrors that was hung by a thin silk thread in a vacuum bell jar. And, how, ever so slightly, the stick and mirror twisted with the force of the light beam. He just didn't believe me when I told him that light can exert a force, as he was trained in classical physics. But we now know well that photons can behave both as waves or as (massless) particles having momenta; thus the twisting of the silk thread, ...and applications such as laser surgery where light acts as if it's a "solid" knife.
- I have reflected back on our times when during the school lunch break (after finishing our lunch), we'd go and play in the school compound adjacent to the railroad lines during the monsoon season and play soccer. My mom never complained of laundering the brown, muddy *jeeragoli*-peppered white uniforms I'd come home with after such a fun time playing soccer at lunch-time.
- I was selected to be leader, and as leaders we were given a silky blue-white string to put around our necks. And darn it, it would run the blue color and ruin the shirt, especially during the monsoons with high humidity. Something, again, my mom never complained when she did the laundry.
- As a teenager in school, I was always interested in electronics. I would go to Princess Street and buy transistors and other electronic components with which I built a metronome, and other goodies. I got those inspirations from reading Practical Electronics magazine which I would buy at my favorite bookstore on Colaba Causeway.
- As was my routine in class, I would sit toward the last couple of rows with my good friend Gulamabbas Harianawala. One day we had a new teacher: Fr. Alban D'Mello. Not knowing all his new students in class, he thought that Gulamabbas and I must be the stereotypical, naughty "backbenchers." Fr. Alban, had a reputation for being strict—he would not hesitate to mete out corporal punishment, with hard raps on one's knuckles with a stiff wooden ruler. So, one day during his class on a science (?) subject (I don't quite recall), but which I seemed to know ahead of his classroom lecture, he spied me reading furtively a copy of Practical Electronics. He ambled over sternly to me, ready to tear up any comic book, he thought I was reading. He asks for my magazine, and looks puzzled, knowing that I was actually reading and learning about something that he probably knew nothing about, and hands me back my precious magazine without tearing it up, but with a warning not to do that again in

class. Anyway, he never bothered me again, but I think other students who didn't measure up to his standards weren't as fortunate as I in this regard.

A 50-year Journey after St. Mary's

Coming to America

I took the TOEFL and SAT and got myself admitted to Central Missouri State College, in Warrensburg, MO, USA, where one of my uncles was living at the time. I was prepared to travel to the USA directly after high school, but fate intervened. I applied for my student visa, but was rejected, as my uncle who provided all my financial support documents to the US consulate in Breach Candy for me to attend college, had underestimated the living costs there. The US consular officer, sympathetically offered that I should apply for an immigrant visa; which at the time had open immigration policy.

At the late stage of having to make alternate plans for college, and having missed the deadline for taking the IIT entrance exams, I decided to enroll in Interscience at St. Xavier's College. I attended St. Xavier's for a year, took my IIT entrance exams, and then studied at IIT-Powai for 2 years before re-applying for my US student visa to attend Rutgers University for my Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering.

In America: Then to Now

At Rutgers, I took on part-time work to help defray the tuition and living expenses while studying. I don't know today's laws and regulations, but at the time, my student visa allowed me to work a maximum of 20 hours per week—which I did while studying with a full-time load. Upon receiving my BSEE degree, I decided to continue with a Master's in Ceramics & Materials Science with a focus on electronic materials. After Rutgers, I got a job offer to work for a company in Fairfield, New Jersey. I worked there for a year as a Programmer Analyst. But coding wasn't my heart's desire. I wanted to be at the cutting edge of R&D in electronics materials technology. I then switched to doing R&D with hybrid microelectronics at GTE – Automatic Electric Laboratories. GTE, at the time, was the 2nd largest telecom after ATT. I had a great boss and I enjoyed working there as it was a good, stable place to learn best practices and be in the field which interested me. Also, I had the opportunity to apply for 3 patents on my work at GTE.

For career advancement, I decided like most young engineers at the time, to move to another company in a related area. I then went to work at Texas Instruments' Semiconductor Division in Dallas, TX. There I developed semiconductor packaging; one of which is now a JEDEC worldwide standard. I transferred to TI's Consumer Products Division in Lubbock, TX. There, I applied my development work to assemble what at the time was a precursor to today's laptop computers.

Between the time working in semiconductor packaging and setting up the assembly line for the CC40 Basic language portable computer at TI, I got married. My Mumbaikar wife did not much enjoy being in the small, remote town of Lubbock, Texas. So I changed jobs again, and went to work for Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC) in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts. DEC at the time was one of the largest computer companies, with great technology. In fact, DEC, under a US government DARPA grant, developed the TCP/IP protocol upon which all internet traffic moves. DEC became the 2nd-largest computer company after IBM with a Fortune 27 ranking, having focused on the mid-range departmental computing business with their iconic PDP and later, Vax computers. However, it didn't adapt fast enough to the PC revolution. It was then broken up and it now exists as part of Intel and HP. In fact, Bill Gates offered Dave Cutler, a DECie, who developed the VAX/VMS operating system to design the new Windows operating system. At the time, Windows 3.x was a graphical user interface (GUI) app that was overlaid on the DOS operating system. Hence, it was slow and not a native GUI. Dave Cutler then developed a ground-up native GUI operating system called Windows

NT (for New Technology) for Microsoft. So anyone using Windows today is essentially using “updates” to the same basic GUI engine that Dave wrote years ago.

I stayed at DEC for 13 years. There, I worked briefly in developing semiconductor packaging and then in developing high-end, networked laser print server systems. These systems handled various types of print jobs sent remotely across the intranet that could print both simplex and duplex (i.e. double-sided) with features such as auto-collating, stapling, etc.

During my years at DEC, I focused both on working hard and providing the best for my family. We built a nice home, for which I planned the open-concept, great room layout and the interior design, that is now much in vogue today. I visited Mumbai every few years with my wife and young daughters to ensure that they grew up knowing our heritage and culture. I encouraged my wife to make new friends in the community and provide a vibrant social life for the kids and us.

In retrospect, I think, the focus on socializing is what led to our divorce. I was devastated. I remembered: “If it is to be, it’s up to me.” So I kept the faith, met my current wife, and remarried. Cheryl and I have now been married for 20 years. Next month, we’ll be married 21 years.

It’s been a very different journey since DEC and my remarriage. I left DEC and moved out from Boston. I found work in Des Moines, Iowa, for a much smaller computer company that was doing specialty work with embedded microcontrollers for several larger, well-known high-tech customers.

It was our common (inexplicable) love for Egypt that had brought us together. I was at the time in Massachusetts at DEC, and she taught at a school in Newton, Iowa, so it wasn’t as if we could have really bumped into each other or known each other through any common connexions. In fact, we believe, it was an Upper Hand that guided us to connect through our mutual love of Egypt. So, after being married for a few years, we decided, that while we could, we should seek an opportunity to find work and be in Egypt.

We then moved to Cairo, Egypt, where my wife worked at an international school, while I did marketing for a company over there. We lived in Egypt for a year, when due to family reasons we had to return to the States and take care of Cheryl’s mom in her very small, rural hometown in Northwest Iowa. Clearly, with no similar work opportunities for us, we decided to take some of her inheritance money and start a new business.

The business did well until Sept. 11, 2001, which on that infamous day, two airplanes plowed into the 110-storey Twin World Trade Towers in New York. Also, a similar attempt was made by the terrorists to crash a plane into the Pentagon that was foiled when the plane crashed and all on the plane died. This put the whole country into a shock mode. The uncertainty caused people to stop traveling, only spending on necessities and curtailing buying luxuries, etc. Since our retail business targeted the rich farming community, our business suffered and we had to liquidate it at a great loss. We weren’t the only business adversely affected. Several other businesses in town that dealt in non-essential commodities (like an established bookstore) also closed.

With the economy in recession and layoffs being common, especially for higher paid, mid-career people, we decided that it would be wise to retrain ourselves and get a post-graduate education in future growth areas. I then studied renewable energy at Youngstown State University (YSU). I did a thesis on wind flow analysis and modeling power generation for multiple wind turbines. A professor on my thesis committee said that my thesis was amongst the best he had advised over his 30 years of teaching at YSU.

After graduating from YSU, I taught renewable energy for a couple of years at a community college in Southern California, not far from Mojave Desert and home to abundant solar energy and also near

Tehachapi Pass which hosts several hundreds of modern wind turbines. I then taught the same at the State University of New York (SUNY) for another couple of years.

During the last year at SUNY, I was diagnosed with blockages to my heart. I underwent quadruple by-pass surgery and attendant, long recovery time. It was hard for Cheryl during that recovery period as we had no family nearby for support. Praise God, I am fully recovered now and we are both healthy. But after that incident, we thought it best that we move back to Youngstown, where Cheryl's daughter, Amy and her family live, in case, God forbid, any of us are put into a similar situation again.

I enjoy teaching and feel it's my calling to pass on my knowledge and experience to the next generation. Besides having taught several courses such as math, physics, renewable energy, and robotics, I currently teach electrical engineering and engineering computation at Geneva College. This is my fifth year, teaching at Geneva.

In closing, by pursuing this new teaching career, I now feel I am returning the favor bestowed upon my classmates and me by our dedicated and selfless St. Mary's teachers, by sharing my knowledge and experience to a future generation of students just as it was shared with us some 50+ years ago.

SMS Goes Solar!

St. Mary's ICSE School achieved a historic milestone today by inaugurating its Solar Energy Plant which will cater to the needs of the school's electricity requirements. This is part of the Marian GO-GREEN initiative.

The Rooftop Solar Plant was formally inaugurated by Mr. Aaditya Thackeray by the symbolic unveiling of the plaque and cutting of the ribbon.

St. Mary's school ISC has installed a 54.6 kilowatts Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant to cater to its daily electricity consumption. Solar Photovoltaic or "PV" as it is popularly called is a semi-conductor based technology wherein the photons from the visible portion of the light spectrum are converted to electrical energy.

The Solar Modules (Panel) used for the school project is based on mono crystalline silicon cell technology. The Solar Module used is 350Wp (Watt –peak) in capacity.

There are 156 of these Solar Modules installed on the south facing roof slope of the secondary school building.

The Solar Modules are connected to the two Solar Grid Inverters. These inverters convert the DC power to AC power. The Inverter feeds the energy to Main MCCB Panel of the school building and the energy is distributed to the various electrical loads of the school like the computers, tube lights, fans, air conditioners, water pumps etc.

The unique feature of this solar plant is that on days when the school is closed, the Solar Power produced from the Solar Plant feeds the energy back to the Grid, i.e. it supplies energy to BEST Undertaking. A special meter called as "NET METER" records the energy supplied back to BEST. BEST Undertaking then deducts the energy supplied by the school from the

energy the school drawn by the school, and bills the school only for the actual energy consumed from BEST. Thus the school saves money

- By producing Solar energy from the Solar Plant during the day and consuming it all by itself reducing the energy off take from BEST.
- By supplying excess solar energy from the Solar PV Plant to the BEST and accumulating credits that would be set off at the end of the month.

The school before installing the Solar PV Plant consumed around 1, 10, 00 units (kWh) annually. On installation of the Solar PV Plant the school intends to save 75,000 units (kWh) thereby saving 68% of its energy consumption. The quantum of electricity generated is equivalent to the planting of approximately 100 trees a year, thereby reducing tones of carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere. It is a giant step towards harnessing solar energy, reducing the carbon footprint and going green. It also offers an opportunity to the students to get a first-hand feel of the generation of renewable energy which hitherto was taught only in theory in the classrooms.

The school has applied for the subsidy under the Subsidy Policy for schools and Educational Institutions of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), New Delhi. The subsidy has been approved by the Maharashtra Energy Department Agency (MEDA) and the school is entitled to receive a subsidy of Rs 6, 50,000.00.

Last but not the least. A Big Thank You to the Managing and Technical Director, Mr. Arif Petiwala and Kaustubh Apte of Maxwell , Solar And Wind Energy Pvt. Ltd.

[Aaditya Thackeray](#) Verified account @AUThackeray

It was truly amazing to be at St Mary's school this morning, along with students bustling with energy! I had the honour to inaugurate the rooftop solar power plant. Renewable & clean energy is what will make the planet better for the next generation!

Thanking You,

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Dr. Francis Swamy, S.J.

Principal





ST. MARY'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Presents

ANNUAL DINNER 2019



*Enjoy a delicious spread by Jaffer Bhai's Delhi Darbar
All this and more with friendship and bonding galore!*

Invitations for the event are available with...

St. Mary's School (ICSE)	2377 8264	Mazgaon
The Shalimar Hotel (The Bakerie)	6664 1057	Kemps Corner
Adil Irani	95949 92345	Malabar Hill
Fali Mehta	4031 7333	Kala Ghoda
Kavi Desai	98202 86092	Opera House
Mazhar Furniturewala	98211 13817	Carmichael Road
Mazhar Ghadially	98204 17651	Cuffe Parade
Meherzad Patel	98198 86090	Tardeo
Robert Lawrence	98212 14141	Bandra & Nariman Point
Saumitra Patwardhan	98205 01868	Worli
Sharookh Contractor	98210 15343	Breach Candy
Shyam Balsekar	99309 81277	Peddar Road
Sushil Sukhwani	4081 3436	Marine Lines

Please Note : Entry Permitted Only To Individuals Above 15 Years

Date : 29th November, 2019 | Time : 7.30 pm

Venue : St. Mary's School (ICSE), Sardar Balwant Singh Dhody Marg,
Mazagaon, Mumbai - 400010.

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