

Joint Secretaries Report 2020/2021

I consider it my privilege along with **Hasnah Mohideen** to present the Jt. Secretary's Report for the year 2020/2021, during which 16 well attended monthly meetings were held along with 3 Special Meetings. Most of the Meetings were held via Zoom hosted by President **Mrs. Minal Ranatunga** due to the COVID -19 Pandemic.

The Committee had many events planned out for the year under review, but unfortunately due to the Pandemic situation most of it had to be postponed or cancelled. However, the Committee adopted to the new normal and engaged with its members.

As the Annual Christmas fellowship which ushers in the spirit of the Season could not be held - a Christmas wish was uploaded on the website in December 2021. The video clip compiled by **Thameesha** and **Rukshani** of the Batch of 2015 was also e-mailed to the members by **Hasnah Mohideen**.

The Reach Out Committee headed by **Sonali Dias** kept in touch with its members by way of phone calls. These phone calls would continue every quarter to enable the ROC committee to inquire the wellbeing of its senior members. Approximately 230 Christmas cards were posted to its members which were also greatly appreciated by the seniors. Thank you **Sonali** and team for all your hard work.

The PPA Membership now stands at 4766! Membership Coordinator **Delani Mitchell** has been meticulously attending to matters pertaining to membership, assisted by Jt. Secretary **Hasnah Mohideen** and PPA Office Secretary **Mrs. Leonie Weerasinghe**.

As the membership drives for A/L students could not be held, a welcome email together with application forms were sent by email to London A/L students at the conclusion of their Exam.

It is with pride that we record the 125th Anniversary of the PPA in 2021. The prevailing pandemic situation didn't permit us to fulfil our ambitions of any celebrations. However, we are hopeful that we would be able to have the Anniversary Service in June 2022 to coincide with our next Annual General Meeting.

A Panel Board with names of Presidents of the PPA was installed in the PPA Office in May, as a tribute to our Past Presidents. Sincere thanks to **Dila Weerasinghe** for all the assistance.

A 125th Anniversary special edition of the Omnibus newsletter was compiled and emailed to Members by **Hasnah Mohideen**. Five hundred copies of the newsletter were printed and made available to members at the PPA office, as well as personally delivered to Past Presidents and Vice Patrons by **Minal Ranatunga**. The cost of printing these copies was covered by the past pupil owned businesses in the 'Purple Pages' business directory of the Newsletter. The 32 advertisements will be continued on the PPA website business directory for the upcoming year free of charge. Any past pupil owned businesses wishing to advertise may do so at a cost of Rs. 2000/- per annum. Our thanks to **Anushka Tennekoon** for her support with this task.

Two appeals were uploaded on the PPA website for past pupil **Angela Seneviratne** and former teacher at BC **Ms. Iranga Abeykoon**. We appreciate the generosity of all those who donated.

We are also very grateful to Night Sky Group for developing the Purple Pages and handling our websites www.bcppa.lk and www.giveback2bc.com which have helped us with Membership tasks and donations. A membership update form was added to our Website Contact us page, which made it easy

for Members to send us their updates. We request all Members to make sure to send us their current email addresses, to receive our emailed circulars.

The Support a student towards school fees project was initiated, upon a request made from school to assist students who were unable to meet the payment of school fees due to the prevailing Pandemic situation. An appeal was sent out to the Members of the PPA and its overseas branches by email which received an overwhelming show of support from our Membership by way of generous donations.

Former Principal **Mrs. Lindley Jayasuriya** and former Games Captain **Mrs. Valerie Roland** were appointed as Vice Patrons. We are also grateful to **Sharika Cooray** and **Minal Ranatunga** for getting badges for Ex-Co Members, Patron and Vice Patrons during the year.

The Representative to the Board of Governors **Mrs. Shyama Perera** completed her term in 2020 and Advisor **Savithri Wijesekera** took over, as the new Board Rep of the PPA. **Shyama** continues as an Advisor on the Committee.

We welcomed **Anushka Tennekoon** onto the Committee to fill in the vacancy of Ex-co member **Sheramy Alles**.

We bid farewell to **Bishop Dhilloraj Canagasabey** and welcomed the new **Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo**. The President and few senior members of the Committee paid a courtesy call to the new Bishop.

The farewell Service to former Principal **Ms. Sharmila Gunatilleke** was held at St. Michael & All Angels' Church. President **Minal Ranatunga** and a few senior members attended the Service.

We place on record the services of former Principal **Ms. Sharmila Gunatilleke** in steering Bishop's College to what it is today and wish her the very best in all her future endeavors.

A warm welcome to the new Principal **Ms. Chemali Herath** and Vice Principal **Ms. Chrishnika Galbadage**. We assure you of our fullest support and wish you both success in guiding our beloved school to greater heights. The President and some members of the Committee attended the induction service held at St. Michael & All Angel's Church.

PPA Participation in school events and projects for 2020-2021

*President **Minal Rantunga** read a lesson at the School Carol Service held online in December 2020 and delivered a message on Founder's Day in January 2021 during school Assembly which was also conducted online.

*A donation of Rs. 3,099,700/- (Three Million Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred) was handed over to the **Principal Sharmila Gunatilleke** on 15th January 2021 by **President Minal Rantunga**, **Vice President Niro Waidyaratne** and **Treasurer Lakmali Wickremesooriya**.

This facilitated the full year's school fees for 23 students for the year 2021.

*A Request for Smart Devices for online learning was made by the Principal **Ms. Chemali Herath**, the Ex-co agreed to reach out to the members who had offered to assist in future projects and class reps.

A total number of 18 devices, which included 9 brand new tabs, 1 second hand tab and 8 brand new laptops have been handed over to Principal **Ms. Chemali Herath**.

Principal has acknowledged the sum of Rs. 6.5 million by the PPA towards the shortfall of fee payment of which 45 students' fees have been settled. Along with 25 students being given 25 devices - a total

of 70 students have benefited so far since the onset of the Pandemic. We are happy to note that this initiative is a first of its kind, where the members of the PPA have come forward to assist the school and students.

*The PPA continues to award two Scholarships annually, to deserving students identified by the school.

*The recipient of the Bishop's College Gold Medal presented by the PPA for the year 2020 was Head Girl **Devthilini Fernando**. Our thanks to **Prashanthi Mallawarachchi** for her continued assistance with getting it made.

The overseas branches of the PPA have extended their unstinted support to their parental association and school to support the students of Bishop's College during these challenging times. We truly appreciate their efforts.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Executive Committee of 2019-2021 we convey our sincere appreciation to the Principal **Ms. Chemali Herath**, Vice Principal **Ms. Chrishnika Galbadage**, Sectional Heads and Staff of Bishop's College for their unwavering support.

Mrs. Renuka Fernando and **Mrs. Enakshi Wetthasinghe** of the Auditorium Management for readily meeting all our demands, and the support staff for being so helpful. **Mrs. Leonie Weerasinghe** for her valuable assistance in managing the PPA Office.

A heartfelt 'thank you' to the members of the PPA - for exhibiting the spirit of our Alma Mater 'Non Sibi Sed Omnibus', particularly during these difficult times.

Our sincere thanks to President **Minal Ranatunga** for her leadership and the members of the Ex-co for their steadfast support during these changing and challenging times.

To improve is to change; to perfect is to change often.

- Winston Churchill

Sunella Dissanayeke - Mohotti & Hasnah Mohideen

Jt. Secretaries

Ex-co (2021/2022)

