

BC PPA update for 2022/2023

Our activities for the year 2022-2023

125th Anniversary Service of the PPA - was held on **3rd September** 2022 at St. Michael's Church, Polwatte. It was a morning filled with blessings and nostalgia, with the PPA choir singing in church for the service. The Principal Ms. Chemali Herath along with our Vice Principal Ms. Chrishnika Galbadage took time off their busy schedules to grace the service. Attendees then proceeded to school for the flag hoisting ceremony, refreshments and fellowship in the school hall. It was indeed a special and memorable day for all members of the PPA, with past pupils young and old attending the event. The map of school that was handed out by the school prefects for the walk around school, brought back fond memories of our days spent at this wonderful institution.

Coffee Connect - a coffee morning was held on 24th of October 2022, filled with hope, growth, many discussions and suggestions brought in an exciting and hopeful future for the PPA. This time of fellowship was revived to bring all class reps together, in the hope for better involvement of batches and younger PPA members in PPA activities. The event secured the attendance of 25 class reps. An ice breaker and an array of scrumptious food later, the gathering was ready for discussion - ways and means to strengthen the association's ties with its membership, their batches and school were fondly pondered on. The gathering aimed to build better relationships between the PPA and Class Reps, our long road to where we are today, achievements by the PPA and the association's future endeavors. We stressed on the importance of the support of class reps to build, strengthen, and enhance the growth to further our achievements and support our Alma mater and the Membership. The secretaries also further elaborated and reiterated on the procedures that are followed by the association, for the benefit of those present. The day concluded with mouthwatering snacks and fond memories shared about our Alma mater and the wonderful childhood she gave us all.

'All is bright' - held on 3rd of December 2022, at The Water's Edge Grand Ballroom was a colourful and magical evening. The Annual PPA Christmas Dinner, pleasantly immersed us in the spirit of the season. It was an event awaited by all members as it was the first big event post - Covid for the membership to gather, organized by the PPA. With a full house score and a huge demand for tickets, it was a night full of tinsel, lights and reindeer, bringing in the spirit of Christmas, brightness and carols for the season. With 500 tickets sold and more in demand, the night ended with music and dancing that continued through to midnight.

Christmas Charity Initiative - this year the PPA emphasized on the importance of Charity, and any surplus earned from the Christmas Dinner was to be given to a charity initiative. The committee acknowledged the need to give aid during these trying times, to those less fortunate in the country. An email was sent, reaching out to our membership about the charity initiative, to help 150 undernourished pregnant mothers in Vaharai, and school provisions for under privileged children in Batticaloa. The membership did not hold back with their generosity and good will. The Exco members along with some of the membership travelled to Batticaloa to donate the items collected and purchased through the generosity of our donors.

'Bring, Buy and Sell' Sale - previously referred to as 'Lata Pata Pola', was held on the 29th of April 2023 to pay tribute to the Sisters of St. Margret and their involvement with school and the PPA. The sale was held at Mathew hall, at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Polwatte. The membership was very generous with all the donations of nearly new clothing, books, household items, shoes etc. The sale was well patronized by the Polwatte community. The event was held as a fundraiser for the PPA and proceeds were given towards the Sisters of St. Margaret Convent.

'Festival of Colours' - successfully held on the 24th of June 2023, at the school grounds. The event was sparked by the class reps' Coffee Connect, which brought the younger Members of the PPA to the forefront. Working

together with the Ex-co and the Oriental Dance Society of the school. The event was a celebration of food, music and colours. Proceeds of which went towards the purchase drums for the Hewisi Band and the Sickroom Project.

‘Festival of Choirs’ - an evening which brought together beautiful voices in perfect harmony, attended by over 2000 participants. It was an event organized by the Choir of the Cathedral of Christ The Living Savior. The performance of the PPA Choir had us swelling with pride and joy.

The Omnibus - the ‘Omnibus’ was emailed to our members via Flip Books in full colour, in July 2023.

BCPPA Social Media - to reach our Membership far and wide the PPA Social Media team has been working throughout the year posting communiques of the PPA on Instagram and Facebook together with regular news updates on the PPA website. Watch out for Ad space on our SM handles, along with the Purple Pages on the PPA website, exclusively for PPA businesses at a nominal rate.

PPA Sports Team - the PPA participate in ‘Ace the Race’ - a triathlon organized by the Ladies’ College OGA in 2022. A few past pupils also participated in the Carlsberg Tag Rugby 7’s , Methodist College PPA Sports Day and the Wesley Hockey 7’s in 2023.

Membership - our membership now stands at 4913 Life Members and 133 Associate Members. Membership forms are available for downloading on the PPA website - contact page.

BC Gold Medal - the Bishop’s College Gold Medal awarded by the PPA since the year 1912, was awarded to Head Prefect **Tisari Vidanagama** for the year 2022, at the prize giving held on 7th July 2023.

PPA participation in school events for 2022-2023

The President and a few members of the Exco had the privilege of attending the Annual LC vs BC hockey encounter and the school Carol Service. The Annual New Year Breakfast at the School Auditorium, the Membership drive for school leavers, the school Prize Giving, an Evening of Entertainment (performed by the Trinity College Examination Students), the 150th Anniversary website launch, the middle school production of ‘Hair Spray’ and the soft opening of the Math-lab. The PPA President attended the PTA Sing Along - ‘Break Free’. The president was also the chief guest at the Primary Activity Day 2023. The President of the PPA **Sunella Dissanayeke -Mohotti** and a few members of the Exco were also invited for ‘Adithaalama’.

PPA Contributions to school events and projects in 2022-2023

The PPA contributed financially towards the School Fees Project 2022/23, the Teacher’s Guild Christmas Party and towards the furniture and fixtures of the Math-lab Project.

PPA representation on committees for 2022-2023

The President of the BCPPA was invited to sit on the BC 150th Anniversary Committee and the Bishop’s College Auditorium Committee.

PPA Members’/ Past Pupils’ support towards school in 2022-2023

The PPA also supported the following projects in school. The revamp of the kindergarten play area was done through the association, a clinic for teachers was conducted by a past pupil through the PPA, a donation of sports equipment was coordinated, a donation of dry rations to the hostel, a donation was made to school through the PPA for the repair and maintenance of water tanks/ wells , sewerage lines and toilet taps.

We continue to stay in touch with our overseas branches in California USA, Victoria and New South Wales in Australia. We greatly appreciate their support towards various projects initiated by the PPA and the School.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Executive Committee we would like to convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Principal **Ms. Chemali Herath**, Vice Principal **Ms. Chrishnika Galabadage** and the staff of Bishop's College for continuing to extend their fullest support to us always. **Ms. Renuka Fernando** and **Ms. Enakshi Wetthasinghe** of the Auditorium Management, for readily assisting us always, and not forgetting the Auditorium support Staff for their willing assistance. A very special thank you to our PPA Representative on the Board of Governors of Bishop's College, **Mrs. Savithri Wijesekera** who completes her term this year.

To our Membership family - we convey our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for their participation, support and generosity at all times.

Non Sibi Sed Omnibus!

Kavindi Wijesekera together with Hasnah Mohideen

Jt. Secretaries BC PPA

2022-2024