

BISHOP'S COLLEGE PARENT - TEACHER ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- The 71st Annual General Meeting of The Bishop's College Parent-Teacher Association was held on **Tuesday 15th November 2022** at 4.00pm at the School Auditorium. On this day, we bade farewell to five members and welcomed two teachers and three parents as new members to the Executive Committee.
- The appointments of Joint Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to the Executive Committee for the year 2023 were confirmed. The Executive Committee for the year 2023 is as follows;

Mrs. Chemali Goonetilleke Herath	- President
Ms. Chrishnika Galbadage	- Vice President (teachers)
Mrs. Shanika Nanayakkara	- Vice President (parents)
Mrs. Shianthi Jayasinghe	- Rep. to the Board of Governors
Mrs. Srinika Gunawardena Linden	- Secretary
Mrs. Anjana Fernando	- Treasurer
Mr. Rajiv Wanniarachchi	- Assistant Treasurer

Teachers

Mrs. Virginia Thalpavila
Mrs. Shehani Raddalgoda
Mrs. Rajitha Kulasekera
Mrs. Michelle Jayatilleke

Parents

Mr. Sujith Silva
Mr. Nuwan Jayawickrama
Mrs. Sameeha Thabreez
Dr. Sanjaani Chandrasekera
Mr. Dasun Karunathilake

- The Audited Accounts for 2021/2022 were duly adopted as in order.
- Hulugalle Wickremanayake & Company was reconfirmed as Auditors for the Association.
- Certain Points in the Constitution of the Parent – Teacher Association were deemed necessary to be amended and such amendments were unanimously passed by the members present at the Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday 2nd June 2022.
- These amendments were presented to the Parent Teacher Association Membership 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Since no objections were raised, they were unanimously passed by the membership.

FELLOWSHIP EVENING

- An evening of fellowship was organized after the Annual General Meeting in the Main Hall of the school. The main purpose was to provide parents with an opportunity to get better acquainted with the members of the Executive Committee, encourage volunteering for activities, and allow time for mingling with fellow parents.
- The response was overwhelming, with over 200 parents attending the event. It turned out to be an extremely enjoyable evening filled with good music, fun games, and delicious food.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- This year we had one Ordinary General Meeting on **Friday 14th July 2023** at 4.00pm at the School Auditorium. The Guest Speakers for the meeting were Mrs. Chiranthi Ranasinghe and Ms. Sumudu Weerawanni, two professional psychologists who addressed the teachers and parents on the subject “Awareness of depression in children, how to identify and manage such situations”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- During the period under review, the Executive Committee held three meetings and twenty-five project committee meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE

- The Committee has continued to do inspections in and around the school premises every five (5) days and any water stagnated areas and leaks were brought to the attention of the Maintenance Department of the school.
- Every term prior to the re-opening of the school all classrooms, washrooms and common areas were sprayed with Citronella spray.
- Fogging of the school premises is also done regularly by the Colombo Municipal Council.
- During the National A/L examinations in January and February and the O/L Examination in May and June, Citronella was sprayed every morning in all classrooms and washrooms used by students and invigilators. Additionally, fogging was conducted before the commencement of the examinations. The committee also continued to inspect the areas.
- Natular DT Larvicide tablets were introduced within the school and the auditorium premises as a preventive method for the breeding of Dengue Mosquitoes.
- Mosquito Dunks, along with mosquito-repelling plants, have been introduced in addition to the aforementioned tablets throughout the school premises to prevent the breeding of Dengue mosquitoes.
- At this juncture, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Mrs. Sameeha Thabreez and her committee for their dedicated and committed service towards keeping the school premises clean and dengue free to the best of their abilities.

FUND RAISERS / PROJECTS

- Our first fundraiser named "**Break Free**", was a Sing-Along chosen to inspire teachers and parents to take a break from their busy lives and enjoy a night out. It took place on Saturday, March 25th, at Hotel Ramada Colombo, featuring the band 'Black'.
- The ticket was priced at Rs. 8,000/= and we had a full house. I want to place on record our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Darshan Weragala of Tharanjee Printers, a parent who came forward to print the tickets free of charge. Additionally, a Souvenir/song book consisting of 50 songs were printed and distributed.
- Apart from ticket sales, funding was collected through sponsorships, e-adverts, souvenir advertisements, and donations from well-wishers. Additionally, we received a substantial number of gift items and vouchers from various organizations, which were distributed as entrance gifts and competition prizes. Overall, the event was a grand success, with active participation from both parents and teachers. All participants had a great time, and the feedback was astounding.
- We made a profit of Rs. 2,156,657/= (Two Million one hundred and fifty-six thousand six hundred and fifty-seven). Out of which Rs. 2,000,000/= (Two Million) was given towards the proposed construction of the Advance Level Building.
- The second fundraiser was the "**Amazing Purple Race**", organized to coincide with Children's Day in October. The event spanned two days, with the first day, October 3rd, dedicated to students from Play Group to Grade 5, and the second day, October 4th, for students in Grade 6 and above. Notably, for the first time, we had two teams of staff members participating in the race.
- "Cherish", the event coordinators who organized the first Race for the PTA in 2019 came on board to organize the event once again. This time the theme was "**Racing towards 150**" and the challenge locations and games were based on the history of the school, country and the world.
- The race entry card was sold at Rs.5,000/= and we had 1525 students taking part in it. Each student was given a race themed T-shirt as part of the entry process.
- While it was a fun event for the play group through grade four, for grade 5 and above, it was a competitive event, and winning teams from each grade were given a prize. The best attired team from each grade was also given a special prize. All students were given a certificate of participation.
- The race was based on the American TV series "Amazing Race." Each team was given a game pack at the start of the race, containing instructions, clues, tasks to perform, and a time limit in which to complete them. It was a fun event where children's mental and physical abilities were put to the test. Thinking on their feet, strategizing, prioritizing, working as a team, demonstrating leadership qualities, completing tasks within a given time limit, learning historical facts, and having unlimited fun are some of the things that students acquired by participating in this race.

- Once the race was completed, the school provided each student with a Milo drink to quench their thirst and bouncers for additional fun. The PTA also organized a Discotheque at the main hall with a DJ playing nonstop from 8 am to 6 pm as an after-party event. Overall, the race was a grand success; even the rain couldn't put a damper on it, and the feedback was astounding.
- Out of the income generated from this fundraiser, we are pleased to inform that that we contributed Rs. 2,500,000/= (Two Million Five Hundred Thousand) towards the much-needed renovations of the Swimming Pool washrooms.
- We were overwhelmed by the response we received from parents regarding our request for volunteers to organize and coordinate the challenge locations. In total, 145 parents volunteered. Teachers also joined in with volunteer duties. The parents went out of their way to organize, decorate, dress up, and conduct their stations according to the given themes.
- They covered the expenses of the challenge locations themselves and were always willing to do anything, going above and beyond what was required of them. Nothing could dampen their spirits. When the rains brought down their decorations and some even had to move locations, they just got on with setting it all up again without any complaints.
- We, the Executive Committee, feel fortunate to have parents like you in our association because it makes our work much easier. The Principal recognized your contribution towards the success of the Amazing Purple Race and she requested us to organize an evening of fellowship and appreciation for all the volunteer parents, an event that was also successful.
- The Executive Committee comprises of 8 teachers and 8 parents. Usually, when organizing fundraisers in the past, parents have shouldered the majority of the work under the guidance of the Principal and Vice Principal. However, this year, the involvement and contribution of the 6 teachers were exceptional. They were with us from the beginning to the end, and it is due to this collaborative effort that the parents and teachers in the Executive Committee were able to work together seamlessly, ensuring the success of these events.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- The Executive Committee contributed Rs.200,000/= (Two Hundred Thousand) towards the Staff Guild Christmas party 2022.
- As part of our ongoing scholarship program, we sponsor the Advanced Level education of a deserving student until she sits for the final examination, which typically spans about two and a half years. This year, the Advanced Level tutorial staff selected a student, and the Executive Committee paid the first year's fees of Rs. 184,500 (One Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand and Five Hundred). We will continue to cover her school fees until she completes her Advanced Level examination.

PTA MEMBERSHIP CARDS

- We continue to provide PTA membership cards to new entrants' parents free of charge. Additionally, we offer to remake cards for parents who have lost or misplaced theirs at a cost of Rs. 1,000/=. This card serves as a gate pass for parents to enter the school for any purpose.

APPRECIATION

- I take this opportunity to sincerely thank our tutorial staff, office staff particularly Euareca, Annie, Sheanka, Amindanee, Kamalini, Sandra, Saminda, Rajiv, Arun and Consultant for Projects and Maintenance Mrs. Fadhiya Saleem, all of whom are always ever willing to oblige us with our many requests.
- A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Himantha, Mr. Janaka, Dissa, Sampath, Krishantha, and the rest of the Maintenance staff for their willingness to assist us with anything and for their consistent cooperation at all times.
- I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge with gratitude the unwavering support, continuous guidance and advice provided to us at all times by our Principal Mrs. Chemali Goonetilleke Herath and Vice Principal Ms. Chrishnika Galbadage. A very big thank you to you both.
- Many thanks to our members for your presence and contributions to all Executive Committee activities. I earnestly appeal to you to continue supporting us in our projects and fundraisers.
- Finally, my heartfelt gratitude to all my fellow members of the Executive Committee for the valuable time and effort you dedicate to each project, fund raiser and other activities of our Association. None of this would have been possible without you.

Mrs. Srinika Gunawardena Linden
Secretary