

BISHOP'S COLLEGE PARENT - TEACHER ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- The 73rd Annual General Meeting of The Bishop's College Parent-Teacher Association was held on Monday 4th November 2024 at 4.00pm at the School Auditorium.
- The appointments of **Office Bearers to the Executive Committee for the year 2025** were confirmed as follows;

Ms. Chrishnika Galbadage	- Vice President (representing the teachers)
Mrs. Shanika Wimalabandu	- Vice President (representing the parents)
Mrs. Srinika Gunawardena Linden	- Secretary
Mr. Rajiv Wanniarachchi	- Treasurer
Mrs. Suhasini Sendooran	- Assistant Treasurer
- Audited Accounts for 2023/2024 were duly adopted as in order.
- Hulugalle Wickremanayake & Company was reconfirmed as Auditors for the Association.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- This year the Ordinary General Meeting was held on Wednesday 30th April 2025. Two hundred and two parents and one hundred and ninety teachers attended it.
- The Guest Speaker was Mrs. Shanthi Dias – Former Principal of Methodist College, who spoke on the subject ***“The Resilience of Our Children and the Responsibilities of Parents in Today's World”*** it was both insightful and heartfelt and was very well received by the parents and teachers present.
- “Mrs. Yoga Ganeshalingam, a former Executive Committee member who served as Treasurer for six years, was felicitated on her retirement after 31 years of service as a teacher at the school.”
- We bid farewell to one teacher, Mrs. Shehani Raddalgoda, and three parents, Mrs. Shianthi Jayasinghe, Mrs. Sameeha Thabreez, and Dr. Sanjaani Chandrasekera from the Executive Committee, and welcomed Mrs. Jeyanthi Kumaran from the staff, as well as parents Mrs. Kumudu Totamune Jayaweera, Mrs. Ruksha Perera, and Mrs. Shamra Badurdeen to the Committee.”
- “A representative from the National Development Bank introduced their new Pixel Card, which will be first offered to students of Bishop's College for their day-to-day expenses within the school. The first Pixel Card was presented to the Head Prefect, Nusheli Jayamanna.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- During the year 2024/2025, we had three executive committee meetings and eight project committee meetings.

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

- The Executive Committee Members played a pivotal role in organizing the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of our beloved school this year.
- Three of our members namely Mrs. Shianthi Jayasinghe (PTA representative to the Board of Governors), Mrs. Shanika Wimalabandu (Joint Vice President) and Mrs. Srinika Gunawardena Linden (Secretary) were part of the 150th Anniversary Commemorative Committee that was responsible for organizing the week-long celebrations held from Tuesday January 21st to Sunday January 26th.
- One of the key highlights was the 5th day's celebrations, the Sesquicentennial Gala Dinner. This was jointly organized by the Parent – Teacher Association and the 150th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, and it was held on Saturday, 25th January 2025, at the Lumina Ballroom, Cinnamon Life – City of Dreams Hotel.
- The Organizing Committee for the Gala Dinner comprised the following Executive Committee members:
 - Mrs. Shanika Wimalabandu (Joint Chairperson)
 - Mrs. Srinika Gunawardena Linden (Secretary)
 - Mrs. Shianthi Jayasinghe (Head of Finance Committee)
 - Mr. Rajiv Wanniarachchi (Finance Committee)
 - Mrs. Sameeha Thabreez (Media & Publicity Committee)
 - Mr. Sujith Silva (Media & Publicity Committee)
 - Dr. Sanjaani Chandrasekera (Reservations Committee)
 - Mr. Dasun Karunathilake (Event Day Committee)
- This elegant and memorable evening brought together past pupils, parents, and well-wishers in a spirit of fellowship, pride, and gratitude. The event was a true reflection of the school's enduring legacy and vibrant community, celebrating not only its rich history but also its continued growth and excellence.

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

- This year, the Parent–Teacher Association held its own celebrations to mark the 75th Anniversary, which was commemorated on Sunday, 6th July 2025. A brief history of the formation of the Parent–Teacher Association was extracted from the School Log Book.

- The proposal to form a Parent - Teacher Association was brought forward by both teachers and parents in 1933 but it did not come to fruition until 1950 when a preliminary meeting of parents and teachers was held on 23rd Feb 1950 where a committee was appointed to draft a constitution for the Parent – Teacher Association.
- This draft constitution was presented, amended and adopted at the **first meeting of the Parent - Teacher Association of Bishop’s College held on 6th July 1950**. It was agreed that the primary objective of this association was **“to assist the development and progress of the children, both at home and at school by promoting understanding and co-operation between parents and teachers”**.
- At this meeting the following Executive Committee was elected.
 - President - Sis. Gabriel (Principal)
 - Vice Presidents – Mrs. Cooke and Miss. Christoffelsz
 - Secretary – Mrs. Singham
 - Treasurer – Mrs. C B P Perera
 - Parent Members – Mrs. Seneviratne, Mrs. De Seram, Mrs. Gratiaen and Dr. Wickramasinghe
 - Staff Members – Miss. Cockburn, Miss. Peglot and Mrs. Keuneman

APPOINTMENT

- The Parent – Teachers Association representative to the Board of Governors, Mrs. Shianthi Jayasinghe stepped down from her position in March after completing her mandatory period of three years.

Thereafter at the request of the Board of Governors the Executive Committee nominated a parent to fill this position. This nomination was accepted by the Board of Governors and Mrs. Saruchi Dissanayake was appointed as the Parent – Teachers Association representative from July 2025 for a period of three years.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE

- The Environmental Sub – Committee continued its regular inspections every 5-6 days to monitor the mosquito population and the effectiveness of the control measures used.
- Citronella was sprayed daily in the main hall during the National Ordinary and Advance level examination period.
- The fogging of the school premises was carried out on separate occasions by the Colombo Municipal Council and the National Dengue Control Unit, in response to the request made by school as a preventive measure against the potential spread of dengue fever to safeguard the health of students and staff members.

- Mrs. Sameeha Thabreez, head of the Environmental Sub-committee together with her committee stepped down after completing four years of valued service to school in march 2025 and they were felicitated by the Principal and Vice Principal.
- The new Environmental Sub – Committee comprising of 12 members headed by Mrs. Inshira Fowzie, took over duties on Wednesday 2nd April 2025. They were introduced to the Parent – Teacher Association at the Ordinary General Meeting held on Wednesday 30th April 2025.
- A Mosquito Trap marketed by Suren Cooke Agencies was suggested by the committee as an alternative measure instead of fogging in the day Care and the Hostel area. On the approval of the Principal, three traps donated by the committee were installed in the Hostel and Day care. The maintenance of which will be undertaken by Suren Cooke Agency on a regular basis.
- My heartfelt thanks go out to each and every member of the Environmental Sub-Committee for their dedicated and committed service towards keeping the school premises clean and dengue free to the best of their abilities.

PROJECTS

- As mentioned in the Secretary’s Report at the Annual General Meeting held in November 2024, once the 150th Anniversary Celebrations were concluded and the Break Free Volume 2 accounts were finalized, a sum of Rs. 2,000,000/= (Two Million) from the profits was donated towards the development of the new Sports Centre, the construction of which is scheduled to commence this month.

FUNDRAISERS

- The fundraiser for the year was the Sing-Along, held for the third consecutive time. This year, it was titled “Break Free @150 Volume 3” and it took place on Friday 25th July, at the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel featuring the group Black.
- This year we had 307 in attendance out of which 56 were our staff members.
- Going by the feedback we received after the sing- Along, all present have had an amazing time grooving to wonderful, timeless music, singing along with the provided songbooks, participating in competitions, winning prizes, and while enjoying a delectable buffet, an array of platters, and refreshing beverages. It was truly a night of merriment.
- My heartfelt gratitude to all parents who came forward to help us with sponsorships, monetary donations, e-adverts, donations of gift items and prizes.
- I would like to extend a very special thank you to Dr. Vibash Wijeratne, Director and CEO of Ninewells Hospital, for generously coming forward to sponsor the songbooks for the second consecutive year and also for the printing of the entrance tickets.
- My thanks also go out to two parents who never fail to help the Parent – Teacher Association, Mrs. Madhu Ratnayake and Mrs. Rajanthi Jayasinghe. Thank you for your very generous sponsorship.

- Finally, I would like to thank two past Executive Committee members, Mrs. Sameeha Thabreez and Dr. Sanjaani Chandrasekera, for graciously stepping forward to handle all matters related to organizing the charcuterie platters for each table.

ACTIVITY

- Children's Day was celebrated with various activities throughout the day at school on Wednesday, 1st October.
- The Parent – Teacher Association got involved in it by organizing the Disco in the Main Hall at a nominal entrance fee of Rs. 100/=.
- A DJ was hired to provide music, playing a variety of tracks that kept the students engaged and entertained.
- About 700 students divided into groups according to their grades were assigned specific time slots to ensure effective crowd management, providing each group with ample space and time to enjoy the disco. This proved to be the highlight of the day for students from Grade 6 and above.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- The Executive Committee contributed Rs.250,000/= (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand) towards the staff Guild Christmas party held in December 2024.
- A contribution of Rs. 1,000,000/= (One Million) was made towards the 150th Anniversary Celebrations held in January 2025.
- A contribution of Rs. 37,760/= (Thirty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Rupees) was made towards the International Advanced Level Best Results Prizes at the Annual Prize Giving.
- The Executive Committee also contributed Rs. 250,000/= (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand) toward the Sinhala and Tamil Aluth Avurudhu Hamper that was given to 51 Support Staff members including those in maintenance, technical services and security across the school and Auditorium.
- Through our ongoing scholarship program, we continue to sponsor the Advanced Level education of a deserving student until she sits for her final examination, which typically lasts about two and a half years. This year, we gave the scholarship to a new student and we covered her first year's fees of Rs. 247,500/= (Two Hundred and Forty-Seven thousand five hundred). We will continue to pay her school fees until she sits for her Advance Level examination.

PTA MEMBERSHIP CARDS

- We continue to provide PTA membership cards to new parents. This card serves as a gate pass for parents to enter school for any purpose.
- The School Registrar is responsible for issuing of these cards. Parents are encouraged to contact her at the office during school hours for any queries regarding the same.

APPRECIATION

- I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of the tutorial and office staff, with special mention of Euareca and Annie, who always go out of their way to assist us, as well as the HR and IT Department staff for their continued support and cooperation at all times.
- An extra special thank you to Shanaka Sir for preparing the 70 odd slides you'll be seeing today, and for his ever-positive, "never say no or can't do it" attitude. Although Sunday is usually a holiday for everyone, for Shanaka Sir, yesterday turned into a full day of PTA AGM work, patiently taking numerous calls from Shanika and me to make several changes to the slides, and, as always, obliging every request.
- Our heartfelt thanks also go out to all members of the Maintenance staff, who are always willing to assist us with our many requests, even on short notice.
- I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the continuous guidance and support provided by our Principal, Mrs. Chemali Goonetilleke Herath, and our Vice Principal, Ms. Chrishnika Galbadage.
- Many thanks to you our membership for your presence and contributions to all activities of the Association.
- Finally, many thanks to my fellow Executive Committee Members for the valuable time and effort you all put in to every activity of our committee.

Thank You,

Mrs. Srinika Gunawardena Linden