

Trip to Vavuniya

Our trip to Vavuniya started on the 29th of July 2011. All girls who were going to Vavuniya were asked to be in school at 6 P.M sharp, so there we were all ready with our luggage, a huge quantity of 5 litre water bottles and a HUGE box of junk food. 18 girls all huddled up in the school hostel telling ghost stories and freaking each other out, that is when our trip to Vavuniya started. We left school at 1 A.M SHARP, as planned. And thus our road trip to Vavuniya officially started. We were accompanied by Mrs.Thambirajah and Mrs.Shanthini Sridhara. Everybody was enjoying the ride, the wind rushing in and we were peacefully catching up with our sleep. The roads were empty, silent and the world outside the bus was very dark. We were in Ithalapuliyakulam when Premarathna uncle decided to have his 1st rest stop and Hafsa decided to make it our 1st toilet stop, so at 4 o'clock in the morning, we made our journey to the haunted toilets. Many toilet stops followed though, I assure you. We reached Vavuniya town by 6.45 A.M and decided to have breakfast. After breakfast we went to the church to freshen up, and then we left for our 2 hour journey to Olumaduwa to start our project.

The 2 hour journey was very interesting. An innocent bystander would have found a Metho bus filled with 18 girls, on a deserted dusty road singing " weli weli inna apita, kollo laba denna dewiyane, apa rakaganna " at the top of their lungs. Mrs.Thambirajah declared that song to be our official song for the trip. We reached the Olumaduwa- Katkulam camp at 11 A.M. The camp unit named " 1SIAC" was a camp handled by the LTTE before the war and now handled by the Sri Lanka army. They help the people build hospitals, houses and schools and also make people aware of the elephants around the path who can be dangerous. We were given refreshments by them and were very surprised to see that it was Milo. After taking a lot of pictures and hearing the officer's stories, we continued on to the people we were supposed to meet. We reached there at 11.30 A.M. We visited 30 houses and handed

over the dry rations pack we had brought all the way from Colombo.

It was a very good and joyful experience to listen to them share their stories, we were even lucky enough to help them with their daily routine of plantation. We were rewarded by them with a yummy chilled beetroot drink and a huge bowl of payasam. Their kind gestures were very touching. We left the plantation at 2 P.M to go have lunch. The rice and vegetable curries and also the smiling and happy faces they gave us were more than enough to fill our stomachs and hearts, and when we thanked them for the lunch they replied saying "Welcome!". We then bid them farewell and left to go to the an Orphanage but were disappointed because we were not allowed to go there, instead we were taken to the Netkulam pond.

It was a huge beautiful pond where we dipped our feet in the cool water and even saw a couple of peacocks! After a tiring and long day we came back to the church at 6 P.M and then dinner was served at 8 P.M. Rushitha's father had arranged the dinner for us and we are very grateful to her for doing so. After the dinner we all came back to the room to lie down till the church was open. The church priest visited us and spoke to us and thanked us for the initiative of this project. We were even more grateful for the opportunity. We were then directed to the church where we were going to spend the night. We laid our sleeping bags down, but instead of making use of them.. we talked to each other till the wee hours of the morning. After a small nap we set our bags and bid our final farewell to Vavuniya and left the church at 3 in the morning. With greatest difficulties we stayed up till 4 A.M to get a glimpse of the sthupas in Anuradhapura.

We were taken to the Puttalam Lagoon and after that the whole bus was wide awake and we started singing our trips theme song again (to our poor teacher's horror). At 8.30 we stopped for breakfast. We reached Colombo at 10.30 in the morning and thus our trip to Vavuniya came to an end. By this trip one thing we realized was just a few of us can make a change, make someone less privileged feel special.

We would all like to thank Mrs.Thambirajah for giving us this opportunity, Mrs.Shanthini for being very patient and for putting up with us and Premarathna uncle and Suresh uncle. All the Methoites for the dry rations And last but not the least we would like to thank our principal Mrs.Dias for making this project a dream come true. Thank you very much, without your support this couldn't have been possible.

Hafsa Mazahim

-Magazine Committee-



VAVUNIYA!



An acrostic of quotations

Make life a ministry of love: It will always be worth living – Browning.

Every noble life leaves the fibre of it interwoven forever in the work of the world - Ruskin.

To have a friend, you must be a friend – Emerson.

Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires and a touch that never hurts – Dickens.

O wad some power the giftie give us, to see ourselves as others see us – Burns.

Do noble things not dream about them all day – Kingsley.

In all true work, were it but true – hands labour, there is some kind of divineness – Carlyle.

Strong reasons make strong actions – Shakespeare.

They ply their daily toil with busier feet whose secret souls some holy strain repeat – Vaughan.

Character is what you are. Reputation is what people think you are – Whittier.

O world as God made it all beauty, And knowing this is love, and love is duty – Browning.

Live pure, speak true, right wrong. Follow the King else wherefore born? – Tennyson.

Let us go blithely on one business all this day – Stevenson.

Evil is wrought by the want of thought as well as want of heart – Hood.

Grace was in all her steps: Heaven in her eyes, in every gesture dignity and love – Milton

Excelior! – Longfellow.

Magazine committee



Standing Left to Right: Delruckshi Ramanthan (Co - Editor),
Reemah Fareed, Nathasha Upendri, Ashani Dickowita

Seated Left to Right: Talisha Jamaldeen, Marissa van Eyck,
Sandani Halkavidane (Co -Editor), Hafsa Mazahim.

School calendar

JANUARY

- **6th** -School re-opened for Term 1.
- **18th** -Governing board meeting.
-Grade one students welcome service.
- **31st** -Group project for Grade 13 students due.

FEBRUARY

- **5th** -Heats at Shalika grounds.
- **7th** -Independance programme at general meeting.
- **14th**-Re-appointment of House Captain and Vice Captain for Scott and Rigby after revote on the 11th, Roshenka Philip is appointed as the games vice captain.
- **18th**-“ESCAPE” conduct a programme on child abuse for middle school children.
- **23rd**-Induction of Mrs. Dilanthi Manuel, an old girl was appointed as the principal of the Mowbray College Kandy.
- **25th**-Inter-house sports meet at 1.00pm at NCC grounds chief guest Dr.(Mrs) Sepali Wijesinghe.
- **28th**-Grade 6 Parents’ Day.

MARCH

- **1st**-Grade 6 students went to the zoo for science.
-Grade 1 and 2 parents day.
- **3rd**-PTA meeting at 5.30pm.
- -Interim report given.

- **11th** -Prize giving at 4.30pm chief guest Prof.Amy David.
- **12th** -Choir performs informally for Vietnam to compete in 1st Vietnam Choir Festival and well wishes at 4.30pm.
- **14th** -Prize giving holiday.
 - Choristers leave for Vietnam to compete in 1st Vietnam International Choir Festival competition which was from 15th to 21st the Principal, Mrs. Dias, Miss.Tissaratchy and Mrs.Menique Fernando accompany them along with the choir director Sanjeev Jayaratnam.
 - Athletes emerged as overall champions at the Divisional meet.
- **16th** -G.C.E. O/L results released.
- **19th** -OGA picnic
 - Choir won gold level 2 category winner in youth equal voices and silver level 10 in sacred open category.
- **22nd** -Choristers return early morning.
- **28th & 29th** -Interviews of grade 1(8.30-12noon).
- **30th** -Grade 12 new admissions.

May

- **2nd** – School re-opens for term 2.
- **20th** - Walk joint committee meeting.
- **26th** -Grade 11 students go to the museum afterschool.
- **27th** - Special school holiday for Colombo schools by the MOE on account of victory day celebrations.
 - Relay carnival.
- **31st** - Under 12 relay team comes 2nd all island in 4x50m,4x100m and 4x200m relays.

JUNE

- **7th**- Bishops advisory meeting at 3.30pm.
- -OGA meeting at 5.30pm.
- **8th**- Pre MCES meeting at 5.3pm.
- -Special maths paper.
- **11th**- Staff picnic to waga.
- **14th**- PTA meeting at 7.20am.
- **17th**- MCES/PTA & AGM at 5.00pm.
 - Grade 7 ATD vaccines.
 - Interim reports for children.
- **20th**- Walk final meeting.
- **24th**- General assembly prior to walk to presentation by SLU.
- **25th**-MC Walk at 7.00am held very successfully.

JULY

- **7th**- Grade 12 students went for the exhibition held by the centre of special education.
- **10th**-SLU members went for a combined programme at Sangamiththa.
- **12th**- Exams for grade 10,11,12,&13.
- **15th**-Special mid-term holiday.
- **19th**-MCES first committee meeting after AGM at 5.30pm.
- **28th**-Interhouse singing competition.

-Meeting with parents at 5.30pm to discuss the development of sports, all coaches, students, parents and teachers-in-charge attended.

AUGUST

- **1st**- Parents day grade 6,7&10 at 11.30-1.30pm.
- **2nd**-Parents day grades 8,9&11 at 11.30pm-1.30pm
- -Senior guides programme for underprivileged schools and other invited schools at 5.30pm and camp fire.
- **3rd**-Parents day for grades 12&13.
- **5th**-School closes for term 2.
- **8th**-SLU camp in Kandy(FLC).
- **30th** –SCM camp at Madampe.

SEPTEMBER

- **3rd**-School choir sings as fund raiser for the department of social responsibility organized by the Nugegoda Methodist church.
- **5th**- School re-opens for term3.
- **6th**- Bishop for Colombo's advisory committee on education meeting at 3.30pm.
- **9th**-OGA committee meeting at 5.30pm.
- **17th**- Special talk on sports & nutrition by Talivou Alailama from 9.00-11.30-am for all athletes and parents.
- **19th**- MCB meeting at 9.00am to discuss security arrangements.
- **20th**- PTA meeting at 7.20am

- **22nd**- Full dress rehearsal of the primary school concert 5.00pm-9.00pm.
- -Meeting at Zahira College, Colombo about English medium.
- **23rd & 24th**- Primary school concert 'Tales to enthrall', Grade 1 & 2 trained by Mrs.Viranthi Alles, Grades 3-5 Claire de-Silva.
- **27th**- Final dress rehearsal for Prathibhaprabha.
- **29th & 30th**- 'PRATHIBHAPRABHA' oriental dancing programme.

OCTOBER

- **6th**- Teachers' Day programme
-Inter-House Sinhala Drama Competition
- **15th**- Heats of the Inter-House Swimming Meet held at D.S.Senanayake Swimming Pool
- **22nd**- Inter-House Swimming Meet held at D.S.Senanayake Swimming Pool
- **28th**-Inter-House Tamil Drama Competition
- **29th**- SLU Reconciliation programme

NOVEMBER

- **5th**- College Service
- **9th**- 145th School Birthday celebrations
- **14th**- Year-End Examinations held for Grades 10 and 11
- **16th**- Year-End Examinations held for Grades 12 and 13
- **21st**- Year End Examinations held for Grades 6-9

- 22nd- Grade 1 new admissions
- 23rd-25th- Special Holiday for Grades 12 and 13

DECEMBER

- 6th- Carol Service
- 8th- SCM Christmas programme
- 9th-School closes for Term III

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Mrs.Dias for being open to change and bearing up with our mischief.... how many principals would allow girls to climb trees just to make an interesting photograph?! For that and other reasons we are very grateful.
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- Mrs.Nanthuiyini Murugesu for not withholding the camera when we needed it.
- All the girls who contributed articles....
- The House Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains and association presidents, secretaries for giving in their reports.
- God, without whom none of this would have been possible
- Finally.....we would like to pat ourselves on the back for doing a decent job of it and for having so much fun on the way and for being **PLAIN AWESOME!!**