

Media Club Publications

St.John's Media Club – English 2008

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185th Anniversary and Prefect Centenary Celebration

Many events were organized on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2008 to commemorate the 185th Anniversary of our College and the completion of 100 years of the Prefect System. Among the many items in the itinerary, the exhibition which was organised with meticulous care served not only to commemorate but also to motivate the students to use their creativity in putting theory into practice. This exhibition provided an opportunity for the students to put into practice the theories they had learnt within the four walls of the classrooms and to see for themselves the outcome.

Most of the students participated in this exhibition. They worked hard for over a month. They worked from dawn till dusk the day before the exhibition. The teachers too extended their support. Hence the decision to close school on Monday the 5th of May was greatly welcomed by the students and staff who were yearning for a rest.

All the staff of St.John's College together with the students assembled near the Primary School gate on 2nd May 2008 at 8:40 a.m. for the opening ceremony. As the clock struck 9, the Chief Guest Mrs. A.Vethanayagam The Zonal Director of Education - Jaffna, along with her husband arrived and were warmly received by the Principal and Vice Principals. The Scouts honoured them at the gate after which the students of the Primary School welcomed them with a cultural dance. The Chief Guest after her address, declared the exhibition open by severing the ribbon amidst a huge applause. This ovation reflected the zeal and enthusiasm of the students who were eagerly waiting for the moment they could demonstrate convincingly their creativity.

As soon as the exhibition was declared open, the students hastened to their positions and the Chief Guests along with our Principal 'went on a tour' of the school premises to witness the exhibition. The other visitors, students from neighbouring schools and teachers followed them. There were all kinds of exhibits – big and small, handmade and machine-made, expensive and cost effective, made of clay and made of wood, regarding prehistoric times and regarding modern inventions, made by students of Grade 3 and by students of Grade 13. There were exhibits related to each and every subject that are taught in school. Separate rooms were allocated for exhibits related to different subjects. There was variety, adding spice to an already delicious dish.

There were several exhibits which attracted the attention of and won the admiration of the visitors. There was also a quiz contest about the exhibits and winners were offered prizes. The students of the Primary School presented exhibits they made using their little hands and a room converted by the students of Drama and Theatre into a horrifying site scared the wits out of the visitors. There was also a section, full of ruins and historical evidences revealing the history of the school which was particularly informative and interesting.

Special mention needs to be made of the exhibits that were made by the Advanced Level students. They proved their talents by making excellent projects. The botanical garden which they made attracted many people and instigated in them the desire to grow plants. This project also reminded the crowd of onlookers the greatest threat faced by mankind - global warming.

Some students made their presentations using the computers in the computer labs. They showed the programs they had painstakingly designed. They also demonstrated how communication can be effected between two computers.

Williams Hall was allocated for Clubs and Societies. The students and members made their presentations about the history and present activities of their respective Clubs and Societies.

The Students' Unit of certain banks did some commercial advertising, giving information about loans and insurance and issuing free leaflets.

The exhibition came to a close at 4 p.m on the first day.

Next day, at 7:40 a.m. the principal, teachers, old boys and past and present prefects gathered at the main entrance of our college. They went to the graves of past principals to pay their respect. They laid floral tributes on the tombs of those who had been instrumental in making what St. John's is today. This was followed by a Holy Communion Service at 8:15 where the preacher, the Rev. Dr. J. Jebaratnam and celebrant Rev. A. Stephen led the service.

Following the service was the Tree Planting Ceremony at 9:30. Half an hour later, the Present and Past Prefects of our College took group photographs.

At 9:30 the gates of the primary school were opened for the second day to let in the visitors to the exhibition. The exhibition came to a close at 12 p.m. on 3.05.2008. It was a grand success – a mile-post. After a short recess of three hours, the rest of the programmes in the agenda commenced as scheduled.

The Anniversary Function and Cultural Show were held in Peto Hall at 3 p.m. One hundred oil lamps were lit in the hall to reflect and honour the completion of 100 years of the Prefect System. After the College Hymn, our principal said a short prayer.

The House Captains brought their House Flags and the College Head Prefect fetched the College Flag to the hall. This was followed by the Welcome Address by a Senior Prefect, Mas. K.Sujanthan. A stick dance by the students of the Primary School and a Musical Dance Programme by the name 'Blooming New Era' followed. The performance produced much mirth among the audience.

Next the past and present senior prefects and past prefects over fifty years of age were honoured by the principal. This was followed by a drama by the Collegiate Prefects. Their performance electrified the audience and was immensely appreciated and well talked of.

Our Past Senior Prefect, Mr. S.Kokulathasan who had been watching the drama with much amusement and glee rose to address the gathering. The College Hymn which followed brought the function to an end.

Next the drama shifted to the playground where at 4:15 a Drill Display by the Middle School Students took place. Refreshments were served by the Prefects. The items which followed were the Walking Race for Prefects (Boys) of Neighbouring Schools, Walking Race for Prefects (Girls) of Neighbouring Schools, the Walking Race for Past Prefects of our College and a Soccer Match between the Prefects of St. John's College and Central College in which the former won. There was much applause; thus ended our two-day programme.

A cricket match too was organised between the Prefects of our College and Central College. It was played on our grounds on the 10th of May 2008. Central won scoring 150 runs and St. John's in reply made 98. Special mention needs to be made of the captain of Central College who secured 54 runs and of T. Evonshan of our College who scored 33 runs.

The Exhibition which spanned two days grabbed the spotlight. A student of Central College said that he gained much and appreciated the hard work put in by our students and an Old Boy who was greatly impressed, suggested having an exhibition annually, if not once in two years.

The best exhibits were judged class by class and subject by subject. Students whose exhibits were adjudged as one of the best five were awarded prizes during the College Assembly on the 12th of May with the view to motivating them and to reward their tireless efforts.

We owe our gratitude to the principal, vice principals, teachers, staff, members of the Prefects' Guild, Scouts Troop and St. John Ambulance and last but not least to my fellow students for the applause we received.

The eagle continues to fly high in the sky...

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