

PRINCIPAL'S PRIZE DAY REPORT

01st Jan – 22nd June 2007

Venerable Chairman,
Professor P Balasundarampillai, Mrs Rajalakshmi Balasundarampillai,
Distinguished Guests, Old Boys, Parents and Friends,

St. John's extends to you all a warm and cordial welcome. The presence of parents, Old Boys and well-wishers in large numbers gladdens and encourages us this morning. We are confident that your interest in our school will remain deep and unflinching.

Venerable chairman we are grateful to you for taking the chair at this function. As the Archdeacon of Jaffna and the Manager of the college you have closely followed our progress and we greatly appreciate your abiding interest in the school and its spiritual sphere. We are indeed pleased to see you adorn the chair.

We deem it a great honour and privilege to have with us Prof. P. Balasundarampillai and Mrs Rajalakshmi Balasundarampillai as our Chief Guests this morning. Sir, having completed your secondary education at Jaffna Hindu College, you entered the University of Peradeniya in 1961 and obtained the Bachelor's Degree with a 2nd class Upper Division in 1965. You were awarded Ph.D by the University of Durham in 1972. You were Senior Lecturer in Geography at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya till 1980, and were appointed Professor of Geography and later Senior Professor of Geography at the University of Jaffna. In 2006 you were awarded the Emeritus Professorship (“வாழ்நாள் பேராசிரியர்”) by the University of Jaffna.

During the period 1985/86 you were Visiting Professor of Geography at the University of Durham, and in 2005 Visiting Professor at the University of Oslo, Norway.

You were awarded the Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship for the academic year 1985/86.

You attended many international conferences and workshops in various countries and visited a number of Universities for academic and administrative purposes, and presented many research papers.

You served as Head, Department of Geography from 1981 to 1991. (with one year break in 1985/1986) You were elected Dean, Faculty of Arts twice in 1991 and 1994, and served two full terms. You were also elected to the University Council as a senate representative twice in 1982 and 1985. It is remarkable that you served two full terms as Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna from 1997 to 2003.

You served as Chairman of the Committee of the Vice Chancellors and Directors of Sri Lanka in 2000; one of the Directors of the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Authority of the North (RRAN) from 1999 to 2001; Council Member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities; President of the Jaffna Science Association in 2001, and now in this present crucial situation as the President of the People's Council for Peace and Goodwill in Jaffna. We know how much you and your team are working hard to bring back normal life in Jaffna.

You are actively involved in community and social work in Jaffna and also advocate of liberalization of higher education in the country. You have contributed much for the development of the University of Jaffna in many ways by establishing faculties and departments, and by the development of infrastructure. You also co-authored the Jaffna Plan 2000 and 2003. We hear and read your words of wisdom from the mass media. We pray for you and your family that God will strengthen you to speak courageously for the challenges in the educational and social issues.

Mrs Rajalakshmi Balasundarampillai, being a retired teacher you should be able to sense the anxiety of our children awaiting to receive their prizes from your hands.

We, St Johns, welcome you both most warmly in our midst.

Last year our annual Prize Giving had to be postponed twice and we decided to hold that as an internal function with all the parents class wise, so as not to deprive the students of an occasion that they look forward to eagerly. The college magazine will carry my first report from September 2005 to December 2006.

Hence, the second report which I am presenting to you today is quite brief covering the period from 01st January 2007 to 22nd June 2007.

PRIZE GIVING

We decided to hold the Annual Prize Giving separately for each section to ensure maximum presence of parents and students. The number of prize winners for this year is 455. Grade 1-4 159 students; Grade 5-8 127 students, and today on this first function 169 students from Grade 9-A/L are receiving prizes.

OUR VISION, MISSION, AIM AND OBJECTIVE

St. John's College has enjoyed the excellent leadership of many outstanding Principals who set a high standard for discipline and academic excellence. While building these strengths, I will consider additional steps to enhance the contribution of administrators, teachers, Old Boys, well-wishers and students to achieve the vision, mission, aims and objectives of the College, which are based on "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Vision:

To create an ethos for students to attain excellence spiritually, academically, morally and socially

Mission:

To lead, motivate and provide training to achieve the vision

Aim:

Holistically nurture body, mind and spirit to enrich and empower individuals to discover their talents, skills and abilities, and enable them to attain their full potential and develop value based personality.

Objective:

To create better environment for students and teachers to perform well.

ENROLMENT

The number on roll as at present is 1916, the break up being 240 in the Lower Primary (Grades 1 - 3), 240 in the Upper Primary (Grades 4 & 5), 350 in the Middle (Grades 6 & 7), 350 in the Junior Secondary (Grades 8&9), 350 in the Senior Secondary (Grades 10&11), and 386 in the Collegiate Levels (Grades 12&13).

STAFF - TUTORIAL

There are 100 members of staff - 70 in the government cadre, and 30 in Associate capacity; Among these 05 Master's degree, 32 Graduates with 23 of them holding post graduate diplomas. Among the rest, 04 diplomas, 26 Trained Teachers, and 21 GCE (A/L) and other qualifications. The rest 04 are undergoing Internship from the College of Education. 08 Teachers are on study leave. 7 of them are at the Training College, and the other following Post Graduate Diploma.

- Mr A H Gnanarajan has been awarded the Prof P Chandrasegaran Memorial Gold Medal by the University of Jaffna for the best performance in the Post Graduate Diploma in Education Examination 2005.
- Mr V S B Thuseetharan and Mr B Kasinathan have successfully completed the M.Ed degree at the University of Jaffna.

We welcome Mr Anton Lurgino, Miss S R Kumarasamy and Mr M Bhavananthan who have been absorbed into the permanent cadre.

Miss A K Benedict who had been teaching at the primary school for 5 1/2 years left us. We thank her for her services, and wish her happiness in her life.

STAFF – NON TUTORIAL

There are 30 Non Tutorial Staff, among them 10 are in Associate capacity.

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRINCIPAL

The Rev N J Gnanaponrajah was installed as the 25th Principal of St John's College, Jaffna by the Bishop of Colombo the Rt Rev Duleep de Chickera on the 10th of April 2007.

APPOINTMENT

Mr S Antnypillai and Mr P Sriharan were appointed Vice Principals on the 1st of June 2007.

Mr S Antnypillai, an Old Boy of the College, has been serving St John's for 29 years. He was Middle School Supervisor from 1990 and is in charge of drawing timetable. During his school days he was Senior Prefect (in 1972) and was awarded the "Johnian Eagle," the most prestigious award in sports at St John's.

Mr P Sriharan, with 27 years of service and holding Special Post I, was Sectional Head for Collegiate Level and has been Head of the Science Department since 2001.

We wish them both all success in their new role.

BEYOND THE VEIL

We record with deep regret the following Old Boys who departed from our midst.

Mr S Kanagaratnam, one of the senior distinguished Old Boys, passed away on the 16th of March 2007. His contribution to the college was remarkable. He was President of the Jaffna Old Boys' Association, and was an active member of the Joint Committee of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the College, besides holding other important responsibilities. He was also a member of the Advisory Committee of the College. During 1960s when the Government's takeover bill was implemented, the OBA spontaneously rose to the occasion led by a committee, where the late Mr Kanagaratnam was an ardent member. It made it possible for St Johns' to remain a non fee-levying private school in spite of difficulties which were ahead. Not only the students who had gone through the college since that time of grave crisis, but also those who are studying now, and those yet to go, should remember Mr Kanagaratnam for his loyalty to the college, which is a challenging example to the younger generation.

Mr S T Kananathan, who was an active member of the Old Boys' Association, Jaffna, passed away on the 1st of February 2007.

We convey our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

G.C.E. (O/L) December 2006.

At the above Examination, 147 students appeared and 121 qualified for A/L studies. The percentage being 82.31%.

The following six students obtained nine Distinctions.

1. G Gajanan
2. T Kajan
3. B Paul Bright
4. T Sirojan
5. V Sithirangan and
6. T Thivagar

Four students obtained eight Distinctions.

1. R Jeyamaran
2. V Sinthujan
3. V Suganthan and
4. K Thanushan

Seven students obtained seven Distinctions.

1. A Arujuna
2. K Balamurali
3. A Gajanthan
4. N Kamalarooban
5. S Sathurraman
6. T Seermaran and
7. R Thejaswar

University Admissions – 2006

Medicine	02
Agriculture	05
Agriculture Technology & Management	01
Food & Nutrition	01
Bio Science	01
Applied Science	01
Engineering	07
Computer Science	01
Town & Country Planning:	01
Computation and Management:	01
Information and Communication	
Technology:	02
Management & Information Technology	04
Science & Technology:	11
Management	05
Communication Studies:	03
Journalism:	01
Arts	01

Total entering University	:	48
Percentage entering University	:	19.43%

Congratulations to the above students, and all the teachers who worked hard.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Aesthetics Competition

S Gawsalyan of GCE (O/L) won the 1st place in the Art competition at the Zonal level competition organised by the Department of Education.

Music Group-GCE (O/L) won the 1st place at the Zonal level competition organised by the Department of Education.

All-Island Science Fiction Contest

S Gajendran won a Merit Award in the Junior Division at the All-Island Science Fiction Contest for School Children organized by the Physics Students' Society of the University of Kelaniya to commemorate the "World Year of Physics-2005".

GAMES & ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS - 2007

The Annual Inter-House Athletic Meet was held on the 19th of February 2007 as an internal function. Primary School Sports Meet too was held internally on the 06th March 2007.

In the Athletic Meet organized by the Department of Education we obtained the following places.

Athletic Meet	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Divisional Level	15	13	14
Zonal Level	13	14	08
District Level	01	05	02

CRICKET

The U-17 and U-15 tournaments organized by the Jaffna Schools' Cricket Association is in progress.

Team	Played	Won	Drew	Lost
First XI	07	-	05	02
U-17	02/07	-	01	01
U-15	03/07	01	01	01

The Central – St John's Cricket Match ("Battle of the North" / Big Match) was held from 15th to 17th March 2007. We lost by 10 wickets. K Janushan of St John's was awarded the Best Bowler.

VOLLEYBALL

Our U-15,17&19 teams became Runners up at Divisional level in the tournaments organized by the Department of Education.

TABLE TENNIS

U-19 became Champions at District level tournament organized by the Department of Education.

BASKETBALL

U-19 team became 4th at the District level tournament.

BADMINTON

The U-19 team became Runners-up at the District level tournament organized by the Department.

CHESS

At the Chess tournament organized by the Department of Education for Grade 5 our team became champions at Divisional Level and Runners up at Zonal Level.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Agricultural Science Club, Student Christian Movement, Cub Scouts, Commerce Union, Astronomical Club, Catholic Union, Chess Club, A/L Union, Computer Club, English Union, Inthu Manram, Leo Club, Photographic Club, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Science Union, Thamil Manram, Scout Troop and Sea Scout Troop organized various programmes for the benefit of the students. The College Magazine will carry detailed reports of the respective clubs and societies and their activities and programmes for the year. The Hatton National Bank Students' Savings Unit "Singithi," the People's Bank Students' Savings Unit "Sisu

Uthana” and the Bank of Ceylon Students’ Savings Unit “Ran Kekulu” are functioning well at the College.

PREFECTS’ GUILD

The Prefects’ Guild continues to help the school in the day-to-day affairs and in all school activities.

Section	Head Prefect	Deputy	Total
Primary	C.Gowripalan	G.Dhuhinthan	19
Middle School	C.Sivamynthan	G.A.Abraham	17
Junior Secondary	R.Kajeeban	V.Pranavan	18
Senior Secondary	H.Solomon Rajaram	G.Sharon	19
Colligate Level	K.Sujanthan	V.Gowthaman	28
Total students in leadership			101

THE COLLEGE HOSTEL

Though the number is less, the college hostel continues to function smoothly. I wish to thank the hostel masters, the kitchen staff and Mr A Augustine for a job well done.

THE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN’S FUND OF CANADA

The students are benefited much and we sincerely thank the CCFC Canada for their continued support.

THE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

The College Magazine for 2006 “Thanapalan Number” will be released soon.

THE COLLEGE WEBSITE

The college official website was launched on the 5th of May at the College Day celebrations. Website address: www.jaffnastjohnscollege.com

COLLEGE DAY

The College Day was celebrated on the 05th of May 2007. The day commenced with the laying floral wreaths on the tombs of the late Principals followed by Holy Communion service. The Sermon was preached by the Rev N J Gnanakarunyan and the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Ven Archdeacon S P Nesakumar. The Service was followed by the naming of Blocks. The Auditorium was named after the first Principal and the founder missionary from the Church Missionary Society, London, the Rev Joseph Knight by Ven S P Nesakumar. A Block in the Academy was named after the longest served Vice Principal & Performing Principal Mr J T Chelliah by Mr M P Brodie. The Staff Room was named after our beloved late Principal Mr S Thanapalan by Dr T W Jeyakularajah.

The events Fancy Dress, Kite Flying, Volleyball Match Staff (Under 40s) vs Prefects, Walking Race for Ladies & Gents (Over 40s), Cricket Match – Tutorial / Non Tutorial were held. The assembly commenced with the garlanding of the portrait of the Principal Emeritus late Mr S Thanapalan by Mrs P P Thanapalan, followed by Website Release and an address by Dr T W Jeyakularajah. The awards were distributed by Mrs P P Thanapalan. The day ended with an ice cream serve to the school.

SCHOOL FUNCTIONS AT A GLANCE

- 06.01.2007 Grade 1 & 4 Parents' Meeting
Grade 6 & 9 Parents' Meeting & Prize Giving. (Internal Function)
- 13.01.2007 Grade 2 & 5 Parents' Meeting
Grade 7 & 10 Parents' Meeting & Prize Giving. (Internal Function)
- 20.01.2007 Prize Giving and Parents' Meeting for Grades 8, 11, 12 & 13. (Internal Function)
Parents' Meeting for Grade 3.
- 13.02.2007 Inter-House Cricket Match
- 19.02.2007 Annual Inter House Athletic Meet (Internal Function)
- 21.02.2007 Tamil Drama Inter-Class Competitions - Junior Secondary
- 22.02.2007 Tamil Drama Inter-Class Competitions - Senior Secondary
Blood Donation Campaign organised by the Interact Club. Sixty-one people donated blood (students and staff)
Installation Ceremony of the Interact Club – Chief Guest Mr N Saravanabavan - President Rotary Club of Jaffna, Regional Manager-North, Sri Lanka Telecom.
- 23.02.2007 Tamil Drama Inter-Class Competitions - Grade 12
- 26.02.2007 Inauguration of Eastern Instrumental Music
- 26.02.2007 Tamil Drama Inter-Class Competitions - Grade 13
- 27.02.2007 Installation Ceremony of St. John Ambulance – Chief Guest Dr R Thanushan
- 27.02.2007 Tamil Drama Inter-Class Competitions - Middle School
- 04.03.2007 Health Check-up for Staff organized by the OBA
- 06.03.2007 Primary School Sports meet. (Internal Function)
- 10.03.2007 Advanced Level Union Lunch – Chief Guest Dr A Thirunavukarasu, Reg. Medical Officer, Velanai; Guest of Honour Mr D J Jeyakularajah, District Sales Manager, Janashakthi Insurance Company Ltd
- 12.03.2007 Tamil Day – Chief Guest Mrs Meera Arulnesan, Asst. Director of Education-Tamil, Jaffna
- 13.03.2007 Scouts' Baden Powell Day – Chief Guest Dr A Thirunavukarasu, Reg. Medical Officer, Velanai; Guest of Honour Mr S Ahembaranathan, District Commissioner
- 15-17.03.2007 Central – St John's Cricket Match ("Battle of the North" / Big Match) 101st Encounter lost by 10 wickets
- 24.03.2007 Central – St John's Limited Over Cricket Match lost by 6 wickets
- 26.03.2007 Award of Certificates – English Language Development Programme for School Leavers
- 08.04.2007 Chundikuli – St John's Combined Easter Bajanai – 4 Choirs from SJC (Primary, Middle, Junior Secondary & Senior) (80 students participated)
- 10.04.2007 Principal's Installation Service – The Rev N J Gnanaponrajah was installed as 25th Principal of St John's College, Jaffna by the Bishop of Colombo the Rt Rev Duleep de Chickera.
- 05.05.2007 College Day:
- 28.05.2007 English Drama Inter-Class Competitions – Primary School
- 29.05.2007 English Drama Inter-Class Competitions – Middle School
- 30.05.2007 English Drama Inter-Class Competitions – Junior Secondary
- 04.06.2007 English Drama Inter-Class Competitions – Senior Secondary
- 02.06.2007 Annual General Meeting of the OBA

NEW PROGRAMMES / ACTIVITIES

Catch up Classes

Special classes are conducted after school for weak students to achieve the goal of the year “No More Failures.”

“English Environment”

A spoken English activity is conducted from 09th of January 2007 in the mornings from 7.50 - 8.10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, where students get the opportunity to practise language expressions useful to their day-to-day life.

Inter-Class Drama Competitions

Inter-Class Drama Competitions are conducted in English and Tamil to enhance maximum student participation, and certificates are awarded on the English Day and Tamil Day celebrations.

Eastern Instrumental Music

The inaugural function of the Eastern Instrumental Music was held on the 26th of February 2007. Students are trained for examinations conducted by the North Ceylon Oriental Music Society.

Inter-House Matches

Inter-House Matches were organized for U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17 and U-19 age groups in all the games.

Learning Skills in Games

Students are trained in the basic skills in games. Coaching camps are conducted class wise on Saturdays and special activities during the 9th Period.

The Junior Red Cross Society

The Junior Red Cross Society was reorganized at the College on the 24th January 2007.

The Philatelic Club

The Philatelic Club was formed on the 30th of April 2007.

Staff Development - Computer classes

Computer classes are conducted for Staff by the IT Unit of the College after school hours. The curriculum includes the basic skills in computer.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

English Language Development Programme for School Leavers & Teachers

Certificates were awarded at a Ceremony held on 26th March 2007 for the first batch of students who had successfully completed their three month-course in December 2006.

The second batch of students completed their course in May. We expect to commence the classes for the third Batch in September.

PROJECTS

The Fleming Hostel was repaired and declared open on the 15th of January 2007 by the Archdeacon of Jaffna the Ven S P Nesakumar. This is now occupied by the minor staff.

The Rose Walton Memorial Sick Room was also declared open on the same day by the Archdeacon after renovation, and this is now named as “Rose Walton Cottage” and is used as staff quarters.

Opening Ceremony of the following tiers took place on the 19th February 2007.

Johnian Stand	by Mr S Kugathasan, President, OBA, Jaffna.
K Subramaniam Sivathan Stand	by Mr S K Mahalingam – Retired Teacher.
S J Gunasegaram Stand	by Mr J Amalaseelan – Retired Vice Principal
Rev A J C Selvaratnam Stand	by Mr S P Jeevanantham – Retired Head Master

The work of the Tennis Court and the Junior Basketball Court has been completed and they were declared open on the 21st of June 2007 by Mr M Nadarajah (retired office staff), and Mr K Panchadcharam (an active member of the OBA) respectively.

OLD BOYS’ ASSOCIATIONS

We appreciate and thank the Old Boys’ Associations here and abroad for their continued support and assistance for their Alma Mater.

PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS

அன்பின் பெற்றோரே எனதருமைப் பிள்ளைகளே!

இன்றைய காலகட்டமானது பெற்றோருக்கும், மாணவர்களுக்கும் ஏன் ஆசிரியர்களுக்கும் கூட விரக்தியினை ஏற்படுத்துகின்ற ஒரு காலகட்டம். நீதிக்காக, நியாயத்திற்காக, அமைதிக்காக ஏங்கித் தவிக்கும் மாணவர், பெற்றோர் சமூகத்தின் மத்தியில் இன்று நாம் இந்தப் பரிசளிப்பு விழாவை நடத்திக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். இந்த விழாவானது எங்கள் இதயங்களின் ஓர் மூலையில் எமக்குத் துணியையும் நம்பிக்கையையும் ஏற்படுத்துகின்ற ஒளிக்கீற்றாக அமையுமென்பதில் எமக்கு அசைக்கமுடியாத நம்பிக்கையுண்டு. இலத்தீன் மொழியில் அமைந்துள்ள “Lux in Tenebris Lucet” இருளில் ஒளி பிரகாசிக்கின்றது என்ற எமது மகுட வாக்கியத்திற்கேற்ப இவ்வொளிக் கீற்றானது எம்முன்னே இருக்கின்ற இருண்ட காலத்தைப் பிரகாசிக்கச் செய்ய வேண்டும். அதற்காக ஞானத்தோடு செயற்பட உங்கள் யாவரையும் அன்புடன் அழைக்கின்றேன்.

“இறைவனிடம் கொள்ளும் அச்சமே ஞானத்தின் தொடக்கம்... பிள்ளைகளே உங்கள் தந்தை தரும் நற்பயிற்சிகளைக் கடைப்பிடியுங்கள். உங்கள் தாய் கற்பிப்பதைத் தள்ளிவிடாதீர்கள். அவையே உங்கள் தலைக்கு அணிமுடியாகவும் உங்கள் கழுத்திற்கு மணிமாலையாகவும் அமையும்” (நீதிமொழி 1:7-8) என்ற நீதிமொழிக்கேற்ப இறைபக்தியோடு, இறை அச்சத்தோடு ஞானத்தை வளர்த்துக்கொள்வதில் ஆர்வம் காட்டுங்கள். இது சரியான ஆன்மீகத்திற்கு வழிகாட்டும்.

ஆன்மீகம் என்பது வயதில் முதிர்ந்த பெரியோருக்குத் தான் என்று எண்ணிவிடாதீர்கள். ஒவ்வொரு மனிதனின் வாழ்விலும் கருவறையிலிருந்தே ஆன்மீகம் ஆரம்பிக்கின்றது. கருவறையில் குழந்தை இருக்கும் போதே ஞானத்தை ஊட்டவேண்டியது தந்தையினதும் தாயினதும் கடமையாகும். அக்கடமை தொடர்ந்தும் ஆற்றப்படவேண்டியதொன்றென்பதை மதிப்பிற்குரிய பெற்றோரே மறந்துவிடாதீர்கள்.

பிள்ளைகளே! இவ் மானிடவாழ்வின் சிறு சிறு காரியங்களிலும் நல்லது எது? தீயது எது? என்று பகுத்து உணருகின்ற மெய் ஞானத்தை வளர்த்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். தீயனவற்றைக் கைவிடவும் நல்லனவற்றைத் தொடர்ந்து செய்யவும் அனுதினமும் முயற்சி செய்யுங்கள். ஆன்மீகத்திற்கூடாக ஒழுக்கத்தைப் பேணுதல், அறிவை வளர்த்தல், ஆற்றல், திறன்களை விருத்திசெய்தல் என்ற எங்கள் கல்லூரியின் இலக்கை நோக்கி வீறுநடை போடுங்கள். நீங்கள் எதிர்காலத்தில் எவ்வாறு இருக்கப் போகின்றீர்கள் என்ற இலட்சியக் கனவை அனுதினமும் காண்பதோடு அது நடக்கும் என முழுமையாக நம்புங்கள்.

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Rev N J Gnanaponrajah
Principal