

## **Secretary's Report for the year 2005-2006.**

Having served as Honorary Secretary for the Association of two great high schools in Sri Lanka, it is with a deep sense of pride and a feeling of great satisfaction that I present the report on behalf of the executive committee. Like many of you, I was also able to draw on the merits of having studied at these colleges and the influence they had had on us in shaping our future. Though serving on this committee was voluntary which called for devoting our personal time, it has nonetheless been fulfilling and gratifying personally for me. This year, our calendar was filled with a lot of events. It was indeed a collective effort of the executive committee members, past pupils and well-wishers, and we are thankful to have pulled each of through. The following are the highlights of the year under review.

**Executive committee meetings:** The Meetings were held once in two months either in the activity room at 83, Parkwoods Village Drive or Multi Purpose room at 350 Alton towers circle. The committee met six times during the past year. Out thanks are to Mrs.G.E.S.Chelliah for arranging the venue for our meetings in the activity room at 83, Parkwoods Village Drive when we had them there.

**Membership:** We have Eighty Seven Life-Members (St John's - 67 & Chudikuli - 20) to-date and for the year in review, Seventy four Regular Paid Members. We welcome six Life-Members newly enrolled this year. Our special thanks go to Mr.Deva Nalliah and other members of the membership drive committee who compiled and updated the membership list in corporation with some Alumni.

**Annual Cricket Match:** The annual 18<sup>th</sup> Central – St John's match, "Battle of the North" was played on July 1, 2005 at Sunny Brooke Cricket grounds in glorious weather with a huge crowd in attendance, and culminating in a thrilling encounter. Our team captained by Mr.C.Sooriyakumar won by one wicket and scored 119 for nine wickets against the Jaffna central college score of 115 all out. Well, not all was won. This match was preceded by the "Ninth Annual Masters over Forty" with many parents participating and their families cheering on for them. Unfortunately, St John's lost the match scored only 119 for nine wickets against JCC's 172 for nine wickets. Nevertheless, we extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who played, contributed and participated in both battles.

**TSSA Sports day:** We took part only in Netball encounter on August 6, 2006 at Sir John A McDonalds Sports Ground. We won the third place in Netball and did not participate in our regular participation in March Past and Relay. Our special thanks go to all participants and sub committee in making this event a reality. We continue to call for more participation and encouragement for this event from past pupils.

**Annual Picnic:** An annual picnic organized on August 20, 2005 at Adam's park saw more than two hundred people participate, including some from other parts of Canada and even from the United States. The picnic quickly became memorable and very special for Johnians with the participation of our beloved and humor conferred teacher (unduly at times) Mr. P.Jeevanatham. Mr.P.Jeevantham was invited and hosted to stay in Canada by his students for three weeks. He cherished the opportunity and delighted to meet old students at the Picnic as well as Special Dinner hosted in his honour in the prior week. Our special thanks for the committee and Johnians contributed for making these events very successful.

**Vani Vizha:** It was held on October 22, 2005 at Canada Kandasawamy Kovil Auditorium, 733-Birchmount Road with more than one hundred people attending. The guest, Mr. S. Navaratnam (Karikaalan) delivered an excellent speech which was later followed with various dance, vocal and instrumental programs. Prasatham prepared by committee members was served at the function. We thank the sub committee for organizing it despite a clash in timing with other cultural programmes staged on the same day.

**Carol Service:** It was held on November 26, 2005 AT Milliken Methodist Church. The singing by the Chundikuli and St John's Alumni Choir was excellent. I thank Mr. & Mrs. Joel Joseph for their untiring efforts in making the Service a great success. Our special thanks are also due to the Choristers, the musicians, the Milliken Methodist Church for their use of the facility during rehearsals, and the sub-committee to help co-ordinate.

**Dinner Dance:** The Dinner Dance took place at Armenian Hall on April 29, 2006. It was a well organized evening and we realized a profit of over two thousand dollars. I wish to thank the sub committee, all sponsors, advertisers and donors of the event for organizing the event—very successfully.

**The association Web site:** A long anticipated web site "[www.sjccgcanada.com](http://www.sjccgcanada.com)" was launched this year for effective communication and co-ordinating supporting activities for the developments of our Alma Mater. Our Association expects good usage of the website by the Alumni.

**Modernizing the Hostel Project:** On a request from the Principal of St John's College, the Association is in the process of collecting Funds for the above mentioned project. The Association wishes to inform any interested parties to contact its president or visit the newly formed website.

**Non Profit Organization Registration:** We submitted our application to Ministry of Consumer and Business Services, Canada for registering our Association as a Non-Profit organization. This will enhance our effort to collecting Funds and communicating with Non-Governmental Organization to aid our school developments. We await acceptance from the Agency.

## **Thanks**

Before I conclude, it is my duty to thank old boys who have been always in the forefront of extending their financial support to us, in the form of advertisements or other means. Also, people always talk highly of our fellowship tea at the end of a Carol Service, Vani Vizha, Cricket Match or the TSSA sports festival. All short eats and drinks served at these functions are voluntary contribution from members of the Executive committee and few other well wishers. I take this opportunity to thank all the above for their sincere support, year and after year.

My sincere thanks to some of the dedicated past pupils: Mrs. G.E.S Chelliah, Mr.T.Gunaseelan and the Vice patron Mrs. Lydia Senthivel for their advisory support given in many ways.

I wish to thank the Social Secretaries Mr.S.D.Kulanathan and Ms.Kamalini Muraleetharan for their contribution towards this year's activities.

Thanks to Mr.T.Thavaraslingam for editing two News Letters (one in July and the other with the Dinner Dance Souvenir), his dedicated service and valuable encouragement at all times.

I also would like to express my sincere thanks to our dedicated and energetic co-chairpersons, Mr.P.Rajkumar and Ms.Kumithini Thavarasalingam for their advice and support.

Last but not least, thanks to all others in the Executive committee and their spouses for their enthusiasm, support and their most valuable time for coordinating all activities.

Hoping this coming year will remain another successful one, with greater participation from past pupils. I wish the new committee and its members all the best. Before concluding my report, I appeal to all alumni that in order to forge ahead with continued success for the Association our behaviour should resemble the quotation:

**“Do not criticize the Darkness, but light the candle instead”**

**Lux in Tenebris Lucet! (Light Shines in Darkness)!**

Thank you.

**Yoga Arulnamby**

**Hon Secretary**

**May 13, 2006**