

LA PETITE FLEUR SCHOOLS



25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

1993-2018
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LPF ACADEMY

DEHIWALA
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2018

H. O. P. E. - Help On Preserving the Environment

The Shramadana that was conducted with the clear vision of incorporating hope in whatever we attempt, blends well with the philosophy of the LPF Schools. It only takes one school to start the ripple effect towards change, so first, we had to BE the change.

Hope is not wishful thinking, contrary to popular belief. Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness." In this case it would be: "Hope is being able to see that there is shade to cover us despite the torrid heat."

In February we were visited by Mr. Sanith de S. Wijeyeratne, CEO of the Carbon Consulting Company, the country's leading provider of Corporate Sustainability Advisory Services. He opened our eyes and provided us with the zest to make our Shramadana a success. We were shown clips of deserts flooding, ice caps turning into waterfalls and this made us think that transforming the Earth to be green again shouldn't even be a choice.

The sheer grit of all parents involved who literally dug their way through to ensure that flowers blossom and trees burst forth with succulent fruits, but more importantly, to see us grow with them. *Sabeehah Thanzil Ramieze - Eleanor Roosevelt Community*

FOUNDER'S DAY

Aunty Bernie's 60th birthday was another significant and memorable occasion for the year. The students and staff had their gifts and surprises for her, of course, on 7th February and we raised all our voices as one to wish our dear Aunty Bernie the most wonderful of years and every blessing. May the roses fall in their dozens upon our Founder & Directress!
Happy 60th, Aunty B!



HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

A gift of labour, for the promise of a better future

Albert Einstein once stated that Humans would need a substantially new way of thinking if we were to survive. A new attitude towards the environment is a moral revolution we are in immediate need of. After 25 years of unwavering dedication to our students, we needed to consolidate the fact that, as much as we take away from our planet, we need to give back doubly so. Our most recent event, the *Shramadana*, meaning 'the gift of labour' was a step in the right direction.

The presence of parents, students and teachers on this day was testament to the fact that we are in pursuit of a better future for the generations to come. This common conviction synthesized as a symbiotic effort to improve the surrounding environment commenced. With soil unearthed and gardening tools galore, we left no stone unturned, no seed unplanted, as we moved not only towards a greener future, but a more aware present.

We find great contentment in the fact that that our venture into supporting sustainability is not a stab in the dark. We were guided by the expertise of well-established professionals in the field such as Mr. Sarathchandra Fernando, a leading consultant in agriculture who has been offering technical expertise to Dilmah Conservation's Sustainable Agricultural Research centre for half a decade. We have also had the pleasure working with Prof. Yapa, the professor of Geography for Penn State University and a national award winner for his research in the aforementioned field. Prof. Yapa has been instrumental in pioneering the creation of the 'urban garden' in our very own school premises, which supports the sustainable growth of healthy fruits and vegetables, which will make their way into our school diet at some point. This venture has been made possible with the assistance of Ms. Gayani.

As much as we support the personal development of the child here at LPF schools, we also firmly believe that we must take care of the environment that graciously provides the needed resources for that development to take place.

Perhaps the next step is to make environmental conservation synonymous with the colour purple.

Thoughts?

Daniel Jerome Vittachi — Eleanor Roosevelt Community

Teacher Development

Teachers constantly "upgrade" themselves in various ways:

The Cambridge subject training workshops and Webinars are a vital part of professional development. Recently we had teachers following seminars on Mathematics, English, Business Studies, Science and more.

The British Council Global Partner Network offers various sessions from which we benefit.

Oxford Publications offer chances to explore teacher/student materials, especially for English.

Teachers also seized opportunities to attend awareness programmes on various topics - from the anti-apartheid movement to creative writing - at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS), the *Alliance française de Kotte*, the Lakshman Kadirgama Centre, and the Fairway Galle Literary Festival Programme.

HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

LPF EARLY YEARS

Education of the Head without education of the Heart is no education at all. Aristotle

Think Equal works towards a world in which all children, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, religion and social background have optimal opportunities to develop their full potential, have their views respected, respect one another, live free of discrimination and violence, become youth leaders and active participants of a free and equal world. Our purpose is to add social and emotional learning as a compulsory component of education curricular over the world, starting from the first day of every child's formal education. We aim for a system change in education, to try bringing a new subject into schools from the early years when the child's personality and moral framework are still developing.

Ms Ayanthi de Zoysa of Think Equal Sri Lanka is currently conducting the second series of workshops for a group of 7 teachers from La Petite Fleur Dehiwala and Ratmalana, adding to the number of teachers trained in the first round. Sri Lanka was the first country to pilot this worldwide project, and the La Petite Fleur philosophy was an ideal setting to launch such a programme which we now KNOW has changed the lives of our students as well as their families, and we are proud to take on this revolutionary subject.

Focussing on our youngest children is one of the smartest investments we can make in the future.
Bill Gates

Bridge2Peace

The involvement in the **Bridge2Peace teacher training** has also enhanced our skills/knowledge/techniques, and spread the LPF philosophy and experience all over the Island.

In collaboration with the Sunbeam Foundation, which runs two schools in Pokkaruppu, Vadamaarachy and Pukkuduthivu in the Jaffna district, Ms Vasuki & Ms Sathana trained 6 teachers from both schools. Ms Mary from Killinocchi, as coordinator, works with the teachers in Jaffna on 3 days a week.

In Habarana, 2 teachers from the Early Learning Centre were also trained by Aunty Bernie, Ms Vasuki Premachandra and Ms Sathana Selvaratnam

Ms Asoka Gunatillaka helps with B2P Lunugamvehera coordination. Ms Niroshini Radella and Ms Dayanthi de Silva liaise with the Diyatalawa B2P school.

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HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Bridge2Peace—Peace through Education—Jaffna Dis-



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SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS AT LPFA

- ⇒ **Sanith de S. Wijeyeratne—CEO, Carbon Consulting Company**— an insightful, brutal yet hope-inspiring focus on environmental issue. Based on Al Gore's global leaders' training he received, he spoke to parents and students on two separate occasions,
- ⇒ **Ms. Thilanka Chethiyawardana and Ms. Roshanthi John, senior representatives of Edlocate** accompanied
- ⇒ **Mr Nuqman Jauhari, representative of Monash University, Malaysia** campus. The ladies spoke to us about the options and opportunities of studying in Australian universities, with whom they have while Mr Jauhari gave us an engaging presentation on the schools of study available at Monash, Malaysia.
- ⇒ **Dr. Nimal Kariyawasam, working for the Special Olympics Committee of Sri Lanka**—a special information session on the possibilities and opportunities for the Exceptional Learners in sports.
- ⇒ **Mr Dhanushka, Counsellor from the .National Dangerous Drugs Control Board** spoke to older students about the dangers of substances like cigarettes.

CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY REVISITS LPFA, OFFERS SPONSORED STUDENT VISITS & LAB DEVELOPMENT

We were very happy to welcome Mr Karanjeet Singh from Chandigarh University in India. This was his second visit to LPFA, the first having been prompted by the university noticing an LPFA alumnus, Avishke Raddella, and wanting to know more about the school which produced such a student. After their orientation visit, and having spoken to our Directress and our students, they were inspired enough to want to come back and offer us some assistance. Aunty Bernie felt development of the science laboratories was a suitable project. They also invited students for a sponsored visit to the university.

It was truly wonderful to see how just one student can bear witness to what LPFA can do!



LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: “GOING-OUT”:

- ⇒ Gandhi & Teresa — **Turtle Conservation Centre, Mount Lavinia**— our role in conservation and environmental awareness. The highlight was the releasing of the baby turtles into the sea by the students.
- ⇒ Roosevelt Economics & Business students — **Lakshman Kadirgama Centre**— **lecture on “Path to Prosperity—Protectionism or Free Trade?”** by Prof. Robert Lawrence of Harvard University’ s Kennedy School
- ⇒ Roosevelt, Kalams & Chief Seattle — **Scanwell Warehouse, Peliyagoda** — the value of the reusing and recycling of even the smallest of resources, and the resultant environmental impact
- ⇒ Buthmee Fernando, Thapar House Captain, with Mr Kevin Perera—**Excellence in Action—Career Development & Leadership** – organizers: alumni of Royal College
- ⇒ Teresa, Mandela & Johnson—**Theatre Orientation: Lionel Wendt, Vihara Maha Devi open-air amphitheatre**—how to work on different styles of stages
- ⇒ Elementary I & II — **Independence Museum & Square** for our 70th anniversary of Independence
- ⇒ Elementary I & II, and Johnson — **National Zoological Gardens**—study of Mammals & Birds
- ⇒ Geography students of Seattle upwards — **Madhu Ganga, Balapitiya**. Train trip and boat rides and learning about rivers.
- ⇒ Kalams — **Trincomalee** — first overnight trip. Accommodation on the beach front in China Bay, students learn trip planning and execution, and explore the major attractions of the area with the assistance & escort of the SL Navy

