



# Vidya Dhwani

A Newspeak from Vidya Mandir, Mylapore

## Editorial

*Feb 3rd 2005 has marked the beginning of the Golden Jubilee Year. VM has completed 50 Golden Years, the seed of which was sown on Feb 3rd 1956, by a group of visionaries who have shaped the philosophy of our school.*

*We are wearing a festive look with flags flying high and our spirits keeping pace! All the staff are on their toes working towards making the Golden Jubilee celebration a memorable one for the VM family.*

*The Golden Jubilee logo sets the tone for the festivities. It is an open book with its pages morphing into a bird flying free which symbolises the knowledge acquired by a student enabling him / her to soar high on his / her own wings.*

*Another set of students have left the nest all set to soar on their own. Yet another set is waiting in the wings to begin their journey of discovery. May 15th marks the beginning of another year of academic challenge.*

**All the best !**



### **GOLDEN JUBILEE PREPARATIONS**

*To commemorate the beginning of the Golden Jubilee year, the new school logo was released on our Founder's Day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. The Founder's Day celebrations were presided over by the former Central Vigilance Commissioner, Mr. N. Vittal.*

*Hi ! we're back with more sizzling VM news in this issue. Students this term, now see a traffic - free path to reach VM, with the RSP cadets working hard each morning to keep the roads free from congestion. Great going !!!*

*Turn the pages further to read an exclusive talk between two of our most favourite teachers, who have taught us for many years.*

*Meanwhile we observe the students as well as the teachers moving about with hectic activities for the Golden Jubilee Year and also taking up yoga classes to re-energise themselves - a boost for the 'gala' events!*

*Happy reading.... and not to forget ...'Happy Holidays!' from the team.*

## KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL DAY



The toddlers of the K.G. Block came up with yet another lovely School Day performance on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. The cute and adorable actors, only a year or two into schooling, put up an impressive performance. Bravo! to all the teachers for the extraordinary effort they must have put in to train the kids.

*HATS OFF TO THE TINY TOTS OF THE K.G. BLOCK !*

## REPUBLIC DAY

On the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2005, the students of VM assembled in the open air auditorium, pinning the National flags to their chests. A solemn prayer was said after which they settled down for the festivities. A scene from the novel, 'Swami & Friends' was enacted by the members of the Literary and Dramatics Club. Then came a splendid piece of fusion music performed by Prithvi Kumar, G.D. Prasad, V.Giridhari, V. Kesav, R.Rithvik and B. Aditya, combining the various popular patriotic numbers.

Soon after, the investiture ceremony took place where the former prefects handed over their respective badges to the new group of prefects, headed by Sruthi Srinivasan. Our Principal then gave a thought-provoking speech. The event concluded with the prefects taking their oath followed by an inspiring speech by our former S.P.L. - G. Natesh.

## FAREWELL DAY

Colourful campus, dazzlingly dressed students, exuberant teachers.... VM was home to all this on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2005. It was the 'Farewell Day' for the XII standard, which started with a round of games. After that and delicious food, the nostalgic twelfth trooped into the Sripad Hall. Following this, a fond address was delivered by our Principal, Mrs. Bhavani (who was much cheered!). Then the entertainment began. The rollicking music and dance by the eleventh was much appreciated by the seniors who enthusiastically participated too.

The final event was the much awaited Mr. and Ms. Vidya Mandir. The nominees were Bhargav of XII A, Arvind of XII C, Raghunandan of XII D, Atulya Prasad of XII A and among the 'ladies' were Tara of XII D, Priyanka of XII B, Kameswarie of XII C, and Aishwarya of XII A. The winners were Tara and Arvind. It was a whole lot of fun during the various rounds.

A 'Well Done' to all the XI students who worked for the event .....The excellent compering and decorations added to the spice of the day.

*"Bye-bye! XJJ ers.... We will miss u thro' the seasons!"*

## **Primary School Day**

So, another Primary School Day was celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, with all the bold performers of the primary on stage doing their best to please the audience. There were hushed tones amongst the audience, with the parents of the children performing on stage with their hearts in their mouths. The young kings, queens, warriors and dancers performed bravely, none of them aware of any sort of stage fright! The scouts could be seen scurrying around, doing all the assigned jobs sincerely. One could not miss the innocence of the younger lot and the maturity of the older ones. The chief guest, Ms. Devila Patel, enjoyed the show and praised the children.

As usual the primary school day was a day to remember.

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*T*his term was one filled with fun, frolic and..... EXCURSIONS !!! All students from the tiniest tot to the tallest packed their satchels with LOADS of eatables and drinks! All classes enjoyed their visits and here's about the 'x-otic' and 'x-iting' places they visited....

Standard I enjoyed a trip to Guindy Park where they were visited by friskier creatures than themselves - monkeys !! A little monkey (!) informed us that he'd met his match the other day who tried to snatch his snack box. The boy chased the monkey till it threw it back... after eating the bread in it of course...!

Guindy Park had a few more visitors - from standard II

A joint excursion was arranged for the kids of standards III and IV to Tonakela, an NCC camp. They enjoyed fooling around on the large open grounds The kids were reluctant to leave the place later on !!

Standard V students visited the amazing Chembarampakkam dam and the beautiful Kundrathur Murugan Temple. They all enjoyed the trip thoroughly and wished they could stay longer.

The children of standard VI enjoyed fresh, warm biscuits and coffee at the Britannia Factory. Oh!! and by the way, they also watched the whole process of manufacturing of biscuits and not surprising, quite a few slurping noises were heard during the course of the tour! The students later on, relaxed and played together in Green Fields.

On different days, the VII and VIII standards visited the same places. The kids enjoyed the quiet atmosphere that hung around Sriperambudur and the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial. They also had the pleasure of visiting the Coromandal Resort where they had a lot of fun.

The students of standard IX visited Vedanthangal, the colourful bird sanctuary and also spent some leisure time at 'Hot Kitchen', a hotel on the way back to school. Though it struck them odd at first to be in such a quiet place, they soon learnt to amuse themselves there.

Pondicherry was visited by the standard X students who rejoiced the quiet of the trip for some time, after which the quiet became unbearable, which is quite understandable... ofcourse!

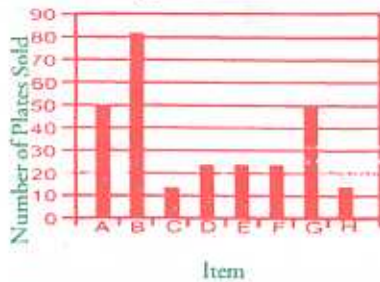
Standard XI went on a trip to Yelagiri hills. They went to the lake-park and after 'long' walk, were taken to a guest house for some relaxing and ofcourse, for a sumptuous lunch that followed. They were then taken to the ground where after several games of cricket and football they started back home.

**This year's visit to a variety of places have lifted the spirits of the kids (and the teachers....) and everyone is already looking forward to the next year's excursions!!!**



# C L A S S E X C U R S I O N S

Interesting Statistics from the Canteen Corner - Avg. Cons. Per Day



A	-	Gobi Manchurian	50
B	-	Cool Drinks	80
C	-	Samosa	15
D	-	Puff	25
E	-	Spring Rolls	25
F	-	Donuts	25
G	-	Mountain Dew	50
H	-	Dairy Milk	15

- ✦ The first event of the Golden Jubilee year, our annual Funfest took place on the 12th and 13th of February. The Funfest profits were a record break this time!!!
- A major rise has been noticed in the number of applications this year... CBSE education for class eleven is catching on!!!
- Don't forget, we're opening early on the 16th of May for Classes X to XII, on the 6th of June for UKG to Class IX and 8th of June for LKG. We will be working till 3.15 p.m.

- ✦ During the Christmas holidays, 35 members of the Heritage, Nature and Exnora Club with 11 teachers went on a 10 day trip to Gujarat.
- On the 12th of January, the RSP cadets attended a seminar held at P.S. Senior Secondary School. The Programme was inaugurated by Mr. Manohar, Assistant Commissioner of Police. Following this they attended a seminar on First - Aid, conducted by Mr. Suryanarayan of St. John's Ambulance Brigade and a First - Aid Kit Demo session by Liv Media Products.
- The XI standard members of 'Effervescence', our Chemistry Club, went on a field trip on the 5th of March, to Fischer Chemicals factory and the Poondi reservoir. They had a lot of fun while learning it all the 'not-so hard' way.
- Its play season....!! The members of the Literary and Dramatics Club went to EVAM's 'Barefoot in the Park', and 'Joseph's Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', a play enacted by the students of Stella Maris. There was also a poem - writing and reading session held for the members.
- The annual PTA competitions took place this term. The English, Hindi, Tamil and Sanskrit Recitation competitions took place with vigour. The PTA-SPAM music competitions and Drawing competitions were also held. The students participated with a lot of zeal.

**Prize Galore**

Rachna Ravi of IX B bagged the best slogan award in the Indian Express INTACH Heritage Essay Competition at the national level. Not so surprisingly (!!), Ashwath Rabindranath of VIII C won the 'Best Quizzer of the Year' award in the Eicher Quiz contest and got himself a TVS Scooty.

Varun Anand, Anirudh Kasturi and G. Sainath represented Tamil Nadu in the under-13 state level tournament. A. Siddarth of IX D was selected to play for the sub junior cricket team and will be touring the whole of Mysore with the team. Great going, fellow VMites !!!

# BHOOMIKA TRUST



- ★ 15 of the Interact Club members had visited the Bhoomika Trust to assist them in packing the various items for the Tsunami victims. These items were bought by the trust from the contributions they received and mainly consisted of basic necessities like vessels; food items like rice, dhal, oil and water, two sets of clothes and bedsheets. They packed it in huge jute sacks to be transported to Ramanathapuram, a small fishing village, in the outskirts of Chennai. A sum of Rs. 1,50,000 was collected by this Club and handed over to Mr. Jayendra of 'Bhoomika Trust' for Tsunami relief.



Atulya Prasad, Aaditya Ramdas and Vaishnavi Prathap attended the Sunburst Youth Camp held at Singapore. They were accompanied by Mrs. Sumitra Ravichandran.

Karagattam performed by the members of the Heritage Club, during the Mylapore Festival



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# ELECTIONS

- ★ The campaigning and elections for the School Pupil Leader and Assistant School Pupil Leaders took place on the 10th and 11th of January 2005. The candidates were S. Malavika of XI A, G.D. Prasad of XI D, Chidanand of XI A and Sruthi Srinivasan of XI A... After a lot of buzz and excitement, Sruthi Srinivasan emerged as the second girl SPL in the history of VM and Prasad and Malavika as the ASPLs. Congratzzz... to you on behalf of all the VMites!



## TEACHING ..... OUR PASSION

K.T : Good morning, miss! Long time since we chatted.

S.C : Yes Sir, (Gearing up for a chat, Shantha miss starts off) We have been in this field together for 35 years now.

K.T : Correction miss ! I am one year senior to you !  
I joined VM on the 27th of August 1969. The day still is clearly imprinted in my memory.

S.C : Oh yes!... It was nearly a year later that I joined the school in October, 1970. I enjoyed teaching English and History, my favourite subjects.

K.T : Well, in my case, I studied Tamil and took up teaching Tamil because it was thought that was a prestige issue in those days. So, I got my Vidwan title in both the subjects. I later found my passion in Tamil and have enjoyed teaching it all these years. Ofcourse, life in VM is a pleasure.

K.T : Even today, the word 'excursion' reminds me of many exciting experience. Once during a trip to Pathala in Bhuvaneshwar, Kumaon region Himalayas we hauled the students who were perched on a precarious edge, 30 ft below us, by using some of the teachers' sarees

S.C : I had my own share of surprises. On my first day, instead of a formal interview, I was called to the primary sandpit where Tara miss chatted with me for a while amidst the kids. Soon afterwards, I was appointed !!

K.T: Well, when I joined VM, I had only my educational qualifications. VM has helped me gain knowledge of writing dramas, speeches, and poems.

S.C: Yes, it's absolutely true that VM has also shaped me in my way. I have learnt that the job of a teacher is not merely imparting knowledge. Teaching is also partly a learning process. Many times teachers have taken the place of parents.

K.T: That's true... Mr. R. Srinivasan was the Principal when I joined the school. He was a knowledgeable and simple man who was easily approachable. Mr. Srinivasan and my Tamil teacher, Thotadri Iyengar, were my role models, so were Tara miss, Rangamani miss, Alamelu miss and Gomathi miss.

S.C: Coincidentally, Tara miss, Rangamani miss and Alamelu miss were also the same people who provided support and were with me during times of joy and sorrow.

K.T: Hmm... I think that students too should take the guidance of parents, teachers and elders. They should have satisfaction with their work and should not get easily disappointed. Don't you agree?

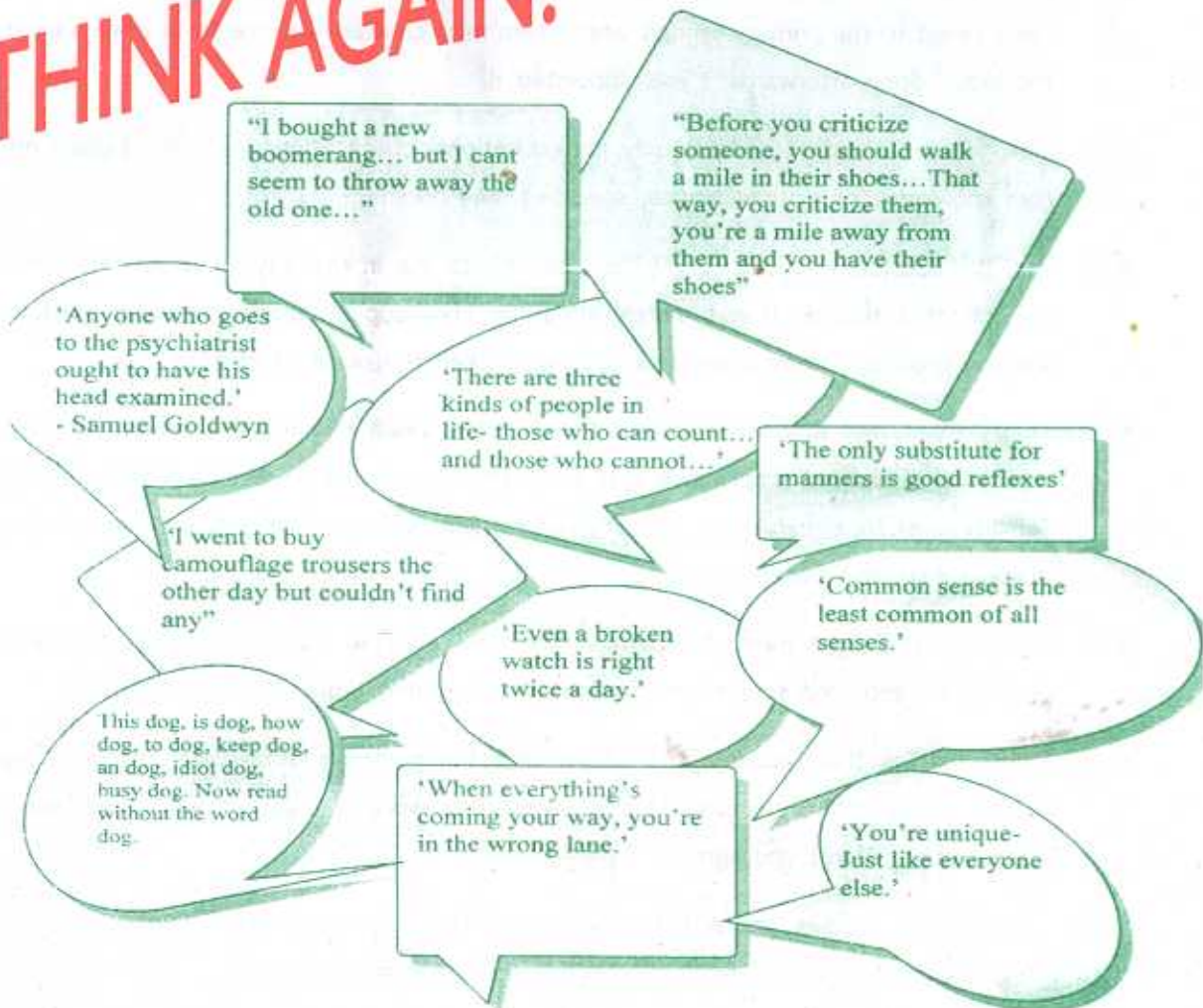
S.C : Absolutely, studies are not the only important things of life. Success comes from honesty, sincerity, respect, concern and other such values.

K.T : Yes, exactly. After these 36 years of work, I have gained satisfaction and a peace of mind. Teachers may come and teachers may go, but VM will continue forever with its own tradition and philosophy.

S.C : You are absolutely correct, Sir. Any way it was lovely having this long chat and recollecting the past.



# THINK AGAIN!



Dear Readers,

It was incorrectly mentioned in the 'Darpan' that the winners of the overall trophy was Kailash. The trophy was received by **Kanchenjunga**. The English play put up this year was not 'Robin Hood'. It was **'The Count of Monte Cristo'**.  
- Editor, Darpan.

In the previous issue of 'Vidya Dhwani' we had said that Niveditha Sunil was the sports champion. There is a correction - the Champion was none other than **Ramya Krishna**. Errors are regretted.

- Editor, Dhwani.

## **THE TEAM**

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