



Newsletter

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 05. www.visakhav.org

May/June 2015

Hello Ladies,

Welcome to another edition of the VVOGA newsletter, bringing you news of what, where and when!! We are coming early to you this time, to bring you news of a wonderful event that is in the calendar.

It is "Back To School" time!

In any one of our lives, the time we have spent at the great institution that is called "school" is a time filled with wonderful memories. Although we would have been chomping at the bit at that time, to be grown-up and allowed out in the real world, now that we are in the "real world", we hark back to those days with real nostalgia. Would we miss any chance of reminiscing about those "good old days" spent in the warmth, and excitement of our dear Alma mater? Days and years have gone by, and no doubt all of you are busy doing what you are currently involved with, but, just so you can re-live the excitement of those yesterdays at school, a day has been set aside to go "back to school", dressed as the young school girl you were then and renew memories of those golden days.

This newsletter also brings you news of a mixed nature. It is with great sadness we note the demise of a principal who did yeoman service to the school. Mrs. Hema Jayasinghe, during her tenure as the

principal of the school, was a force to be reckoned with. Those of you who were in school during her time would remember how hard she worked to take the school to greater heights. It was with great sadness that we bid farewell in her journey of sansara. Life is precious and sacred and every minute spent should be a minute well spent.

It is also the time of the year, when the VVOGA is gearing up to elect a new set of office bearers to keep on the good work they have been doing. The AGM has been fixed for the 27th of June and as always, we would expect to see you in numbers at school to vote to elect/re-elect members. The centenary year of our school is just around the corner, and the work has already started (though in a small way) to make it into a successful and a wonderful celebration. So the office bearers would have a chance to be a part of those wonderful events that are planned.

As always, your presence and assistance is what VVOGA depends on always, to keep the name of Visakha Vidyalaya on the top of the list. The school is constantly being updated and modernized within the confines of our traditions so that all your daughters would have a great school to be proudly belong to. With this missive, we will take your leave

Anagi & Saroja

LET'S REACH 10,000!

Our beloved school is going to be 100 years old soon. The OGA wishes to invite more past pupils to join us as we get ready for the grand celebrations. Our aim is to have 10,000 OGA members by year 2017. So please do ask your friends and family who are not members to join the OGA. For more details, please contact Banukie – 0718263791, banukienirosha@gmail.com or the OGA Secretariat. The membership form & information is available online <http://www.visakhav.org/oga/how-join-vvoga>

GOING GREEN – NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive the Newsletter by email rather than by post (reducing use of paper and cost of printing & posting the Newsletter) please send your **Name, OGA No. and Email Address to oga@visakhav.org**

PAST VISAKHIANS "BACK TO SCHOOL" EVENT



Past Visakhians nostalgic for their school days can now relive it for a day at an event organized by the VVOGA. The get-together themed 'Back to School,' is held on May 16, 2015 from 8.30 am to 1.30 pm at the school premises. All members of the VVOGA are invited to relive their fond memories of school days at this very unique occasion.

Reliving your school day memories comes with all its perks. You get to wear your much-loved school uniform once again (ladies over 75 or pregnant may come in suitable white attire), complete with the tie, house badge and prefect's badge. What's more, to make you feel like you're really going back to school, you can even bring your school bag, sure to have been kept in a corner of your wardrobe as a keepsake, and also your lunch box, tiffin carrier and anything that reminds you of your school days.

The day will enliven a typical school day, starting off with an assembly conducted by one of our beloved past principals, followed by a short fun

classroom session conducted by our past teachers. Then there will be an interval during which time the school canteen will be open for you to buy food and drinks like in the good old days whilst catching up with your friends (if you prefer you can bring your own snack). To finish off the day, although you probably wouldn't want it to end, we will have games and fun activities for everyone.

School admission tickets (Rs.200) will be available at the school main gate and during school hours at the OGA secretariat from 30th March. School tie, pahana and house badges are available at the OGA secretariat which is open from 8.00am to 1.30 pm during school days. Please note that the Secretariat is closed during the school vacation. Ready-made school uniforms can be purchased at Sausiri Nugegoda, CIB shopping Complex Nugegoda and Maharagama whereas Imaya Text (206, Galle Road, Dehiwala) will tailor make uniforms as per your requirements (advance notice required).

There will be two school buses one from Kottawa down High Level road and another bus from Ratmalana travelling on Galle road.

For more details of the event, please contact:

Disna - 0772969004, disnagurusinghe@yahoo.com

Irosha - 0772513322, iroshac@yahoo.com

Iresha - 0776998203, ireshasenarath80@gmail.com

Achala - 0773827747, achalakamaladasa@gmail.com

For Tickets, please contact:

Sumudu - sumudu@citypak.lk, 0714949662

Lilani - lilani_6@yahoo.co.uk, 0777872332

Maya - kaundika.w@brownsngroup.com, 0774772167

Saroja - sarojag@hotmail.com, 0713146349

For details about the School Bus, please contact:

Nayana - 0773165279

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

- **Primary Section Building** – VVOGA is seeking donations for this building project while thanking those that have already contributed. Requesting all generous donors to contact the fund raising subcommittee.
Upekha – 0773684553, Harshini – 0777415499, Erandi – 0773450517, Shamini – 0773904215
- **Vesak Project** – A donation will be made to the Lady Ridgeway Hospital – Pre Mature Baby Unit, Rheumatology & Rehabilitation Unit & Eye Unit. Inviting generous donors to join with us for this treasured event. Contact Sumudu 0714949662, sumudu@citypak.lk
- **Scholarship Programme** – If you wish to sponsor a student, please contact Imojani – 0777889103, imojani58@yahoo.com, Prasangi – 0777684763, prasnil@gmail.com

PAST EVENTS



The annual Bodhi Pooja was held on 16th January at the School Bodiya to commemorate the School's 98th Birthday.



Children's Day event for hostellers was successfully held on 24th January which was attended by both past & present hostellers. The key note address was delivered by Prof. Saman Ranasinghe of the University of Sri Jayawardenapura.



Enthusiastic and energetic members of the VVOGA came together with past pupils of Holy Family Convent, Ladies, Methodist, Museues and St. Pauls in an unique competition – the Girls Power Invitational Inter School Old Girls Sports Meet held on Sunday the 8th at the Sports Ministry grounds.

To promote friendship and fellowship the Visakhians rallied round in numbers to witness history in the making and to cheer our Team on. Among the top performances, our dear Yasmin (nee Boteju) came out as "Hussein Bolt of the Meet" to overtake the famous international sprinter K. G. Badra!!! What an excellent performance. Rohini was no second sprinting with her old "steam". Our squad in the march past was so smart with their heads held high! Well done girls-that's Girls Power.

Under 60: VV won the overall championship
Under 30 - 100 Meters: Winner - Hiyanthi Piyadigama

Over 60 - 50 Meters: Winner - Yasmin Rajapaksha
Under 60 - Lime & Spoon: Winner - Nedra Gunasekara

The proceeds of the Meet will be donated to purchase water purification filters for girl's schools in the Northern Central Province who are desperately in need of clean drinking water to offset the high regional incidence of chronic kidney disease (CKD).

MRS. HEMA JAYASINGHE



Mrs. Hema Jayasinghe came to the helm of Visakha Vidyalaya in July 1967, 6 months after the school's Golden Jubilee celebrations. She took office as principal on July 23rd, Mrs. Pulimood's sixtieth birthday. She was the first Sinhala Buddhist principal of Visakha. She came to Visakha from Kandy her home town. When she was appointed principal of Visakha, she was the principal of Girl's High School, her old school. Her first appointment as principal was to Maliyadewa High School, Kurunegala. She was then only thirty years old – very young to be the head of a school. From Maliyadewa she was transferred to Pushpadana Balika Vidyalaya in Kandy and from there to Girls' High School. Her father Mr. Abeyratne was the founder principal of Vidyaratne College Kandy.

When she was transferred to Visakha she came to Colombo and met the secretary to the Ministry of Education Mr. M. J. Perera and told him she couldn't come to Colombo, she had an infant Daughter, her husband was a teacher at the Peradeniya University and gave many more reasons why she couldn't leave Kandy. Mr. Perera listened to all that she had to say and told her very calmly, "Mrs. Jayasinghe you are a government servant". That clinched the matter and she had to come to Colombo and to Visakha. She came to Visakha few days prior to Mrs. Pulimood's retirement and sat at a side table in the Principal's Office. The Education Ministry may have wanted her to get to know the school before becoming its head. I remember the day the school bade good bye to Mrs. Pulimood, each class presenting Mrs. Pulimood a bouquet of flowers. Mrs. Jayasinghe was also present there, on the ground next to the Tennis Court. After all the farewell Mrs. Pulimood came to the office and I came with her. Mrs. Jayasinghe was as usual sitting at the side table. Pointing to the Principal's chair, Mrs. Pulimood said "that is your chair now" but Mrs. Jayasinghe could not occupy that seat so long as Mrs. Pulimood was in the premises. It was on July 24th that Mrs. Hema Jayasinghe took the seat that was hers now, and continued to occupy it for 17 years. She would have equaled Mrs. Pulimood's tenure as Principal had an ambitious principal of a smaller school not eyed this post. Though she had no post graduate qualifications she had much political influence which she used to come to Visakha. The Ministry of Education had no option. Mrs. Jayasinghe was transferred not to another school but to the Ministry as Deputy Director of Education which post she held with dignity until a year after the age of retirement. After retirement she had done some honorary work at Shanthi Sevana a hospice for cancer patients in Maharagama. Mrs. Jayasinghe kept in touch with school's activities and with the OGA. She was present at prize-givings and at OGA functions. The OGA organized a Bodhi Pooja on her birthday 7th September last year to bless her with good health and long life. That was not to be. The tea party that followed the Bodhi Pooja was the last occasion the old girls of Visakha Vidyalaya met Mrs. Jayasinghe, a highly respected and much loved principal.

- Sumana Saparamadu

PROF. MALKANTHI CHANDRASEKERA



It was only six months ago, that I read the citation of Prof. Malkanthi Sriyani Chandrasekera, at the 23rd Susan George Pulimood Oration, with much pride. But

unfortunately today, I have a very difficult task, to write about my friend Malkanthi, who passed away on 30th January 2015 under tragic circumstances. At the time of her death, she was the senior Prof. of anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, the Vice chancellor of the South Asian Institute of Medicine, Malabe, and a member of the University Grants Commission.

Malkanthi was the recipient of many academic awards & was a pioneer in establishing the Faculty of Medical and allied Health Sciences of the University of Sri Lanka. Malkanthi contributed tremendously to medical education and research including authoring six books.

She also actively involved herself in uplifting the Buddhasasana and was involved in many other worthy projects.

As a member of the Medarata OGA she involved herself in all activities with her usual enthusiasm.

May Malkanthi attain the supreme bliss of nirvana.

- Visakha Wirasinghe Madanayake

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

- The OGA needs volunteers to undertake Secretariat, photocopying duties.
Contact: Deepika - deepika.hathurusinghe@gmail.com
- The OGA is looking for volunteers to work in the School Cafeteria.
Contact: Saumya - deepalsenaka1@gmail.com
- Volunteers are required to help with the School Archives.
Contact: Iresha - ireshasenarath80@gmail.com
- The Education Sub Committee is looking for an instructor to conduct the English Reading Programme for Grade 5 students. Contact: Imojani - imojani58@yahoo.com, Prasangi - prasnail@gmail.com

AGM NOTICE

VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association will be held **on Saturday, 27th day of June 2015 at 9.00 am** at the Jeremias Dias Hall, Visakha Vidyalaya, 133, Vajira Road, Colombo 5 for the purpose of inter alia electing new members for the Executive Committee 2015/2016 and Auditors for the Association and to adopt resolutions as necessary.

Nominations in the relevant format need to be completed & sent by Registered Post to the VVOGA Secretariat (at the above address) latest by **Saturday the 13th day of June 2015 by 3.30 pm.**

The nomination list would be on display at the OGA Secretariat **until Friday 19th June 2015.**
The final date for objections to the nominations (if any) would be **Monday 22nd June 2015.**

Voting will be open **until 11.30 am** on the day of the AGM.

Agenda for the AGM

1. Religious observances
2. Welcome address by the President
3. Reading of the Notice convening the Meeting by the Secretary
4. Condolences
5. Excuses
6. Reading & adoption of minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting & matters arising from the minutes
7. Election of Office Bearers & Members of the Executive Committee
8. Tabling & adoption of the Secretaries' Report
9. Tabling & adoption of the Statement of Accounts by the Treasurer
10. Appointment of Auditors
11. Tabling & adoption of the Statement of Accounts of any Trusts or Affiliations of the Association by invitation
12. Consideration of any resolutions which are in order - discussion, voting & passing of resolutions
13. Any other business (with prior notice)
14. Vote of thanks
15. School song

NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015/2016

Nominations are invited from the general membership to serve on the Executive Committee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association. Nominations should be sent on the prescribed form (appended herewith)

The Executive Committee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association comprises of the following

President - Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya (Ex officio)

Vice Presidents - Two posts

Joint Secretaries - Two posts

Treasurer - One post

Assistant Treasurer - One post

Committee Members - Total 30

60 yrs & above - 02 positions

Above 40 yrs & below 60 yrs - 10 positions

Above 30 yrs & below 40 yrs - 14 positions

30 yrs & below - 03 positions

Staff member - 01 position

The Criteria for eligibility & non eligibility as per the VVOGA constitution are as follows:

Eligibility

- Any past pupil, who has been a member of the Association for a minimum period of five (05) consecutive years ending on the 31st March 2015, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.
- Members who have served on the Executive Committee for a period of 2 years or more & are of high integrity & efficient are eligible for nomination as Office Bearers. However the maximum number of occasions as Office Bearer is 06.

Non-eligibility

- No member whose daughter's application is to be submitted for admission to any grade of Visakha Vidyalaya for any particular year, shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee for the one (01) year immediately preceding the year of submission of such application for admission and until the admission process is complete
Eg: No member whose daughter's application is to be submitted in 2016 shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee 2015/ 2016 and until the admission process is complete
- No member of the Association shall be elected a member of the Executive Committee for more than three (03) consecutive years. (this does not apply to Office Bearers)
- No member who has been elected as an Executive Committee Member or an Office Bearer in a Past Pupils' Association of another school; shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association for that particular year
- No member may be elected an Office Bearer of the Association on more than six (06) occasions
- An Office Bearer on being elected to such office each year could hold a particular office for a maximum period of two years. However in the absence of nominations for a particular office in any given year, such a member who has held such office for more than two years may be appointed to continue in such office for one more year.
- Those who qualify to serve on the Executive Committee should send in their nominations in the attached format.

By order of the Executive Committee, Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

Anoma Perera/ Kanchana Suduarachchi
Joint Secretaries, 2014/2015 - Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

A NOTE ON YEAR ONE ADMISSIONS

Hi girls,

I thought of sharing some valuable information with our past pupils who will be facing interviews for year one admissions in the near future. Some of you know me as Chandima Akki and some as Auntie Chandima.

The present marking scheme for year one admissions is displayed on the notice board at the VVOGA Secretariat. This is self explanatory and is categorized into marks obtained while in school for educational, sports, special achievements and other extra activities. Proof such as certificates, letters etc should be produced when applying.

I now wish to explain how marks for VVOGA activities such as services and donations will be given. For services it will be purely based on the production of the 'OGA Service Letter' signed by that year's Joint Secretaries. Please note that donations will be counted only when a receipt from the VVOGA Treasurer is produced. Letters issued by ANYONE, whoever it may be, for giving money for school projects will not be recognized as a donation at the admission interview. Donations for any school project by the old girls who are not yet parents will have to be given ONLY to the VVOGA Treasurer, who will issue an official receipt. It is advisable to

collect the Jt. Secretaries letters yearly, and the VVOGA receipts as the donations are made.

I once again stress on the point that production of a letter for donations (other than the Jt. Secretaries letter) will NOT be counted and ONLY the VVOGA receipt will be taken into account. Please bear in mind that if you have an official receipt from the VVOGA there is no point in asking for a letter for each and every donation. All donations given for a particular year will be mentioned in the Jt. Secretaries letter for that year.

I also wish to end this note by saying that supporting the school should be voluntary, and the motive should not be only to get marks at the admission process. We are 'what we are today', is mainly due to what we learned in school. Visakha gave us not only an education, but many enjoyable and memorable times. Let us continue to support our 'alma mater' in any way we can, big or small will not matter. When your child gets in to Visakha it becomes not only your school but your child's as well. Continuous support will ensure the VVOGA to help the school to maintain and improve the standards. Being in touch with the VVOGA and helping out when needed is appreciated.

Thank You.
Chandima Karunatilaka

VVOGA NOMINATION FORM

VVOGA NOMINATION FORM ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015/2016

PROPOSER:

I propose the name of (Name as used in Full. Please print) _____

For the Office of _____/as Executive Committee Member for
Category _____

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Over 60 yrs | |
| Over 40 & below 60 yrs | |
| Over 30 & below 40 yrs | |
| 30 yrs & below | |
| Staff | |

Membership No of Nominee _____

Name of Proposer Membership No Date of Joining VVOGA Signature & Date

SECONDER:

I second the name of (Name as used in Full. Please print) _____

bearing membership No _____ for the above post.

Name of Secunder Membership No Date of Joining VVOGA Signature & Date

CONSENT OF NOMINEE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Nos. _____

Membership No _____ Date of Joining VVOGA _____

Fill if applicable

1) Year of submission of application for admission of daughter to Grade 1 _____

2) Details of current membership in Executive committee or Office Bearer of any other PPA/ OGA _____

3) Been an Ex-Co Member consecutively for 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 Yes/No

4) Nominee, Proposer & Secunder are Members of VVOGA since 31/3/2010 - 31/3/2015 Yes/ No

I consent to be nominated for the above post & hereby declare that the above information furnished by me is true & correct.

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE FORWARD THE COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM BY HAND / REGISTERED POST TO REACH THE JT. SECRETARIES ON OR BEFORE 3.30 PM ON JUNE 13, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

Keep the Dates Free!

- 16th May - Past Visakhians "Back to School"
 - May - Vesak Project
 - June - Bathiya & Santhush Musical Show
- For more information please contact the Fund Raising Sub Committee:
Upekha – 0773684553, Harshini – 0777415499, Erandi – 0773450517, Shamini – 0773904215
- 27th June - AGM
 - July - Esala Sil
 - 23rd July - Pulimood Oration

PAST PUPIL'S ACHIEVEMENTS



Governor General David Johnston presented Ms. Damindra Dias with a Caring Canadian Award during a special ceremony in Toronto.

She was the first female Finance Director and first ever-female Chief Executive Officer of a Division of the Kellogg Company. In 1995, she received the International Business Woman of the Year Award presented by the Government of India & the Association of Non-Resident Businesses. In 1996, she joined Coca Cola as Director Finance in the Global Finance Group.

Following early retirement from the "Corporate world", she has chosen to devote her time to career counseling young professionals and internationally educated professionals and has done so for over a decade.

She was the founder president of the OGA in Canada and is a Visakha Platinum Award winner.

Photo courtesy of McpI Vincent Carboneau, Rideau Hall
Siwnitha Coswatte

Registered at the Department of Posts of Sri Lanka

Under No: QD/177/NEWS/2015

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 05.