



**LIGHT UP  
THE WORLD  
WITH YOUR  
LAMP**

**FAREWELL**  
**MRS SANDAMALI AVIRUPPOLA**  
PRINCIPAL OF VISAKHA VIDYALAYA  
2009-2021

Mrs. Sandamali Aviruppola, Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya retired on the 15th of November 2021, marking the end of yet another era of excellence for Visakha Vidyalaya. Visakha's journey through the 105 years of its history has always been blessed by the leadership of some remarkable women, who, as its Principal, veered the school through the challenges of their times to achieve excellence. Following the steps of her predecessors, Mrs. Aviruppola kept the Visakha flag flying high through her tenure of nearly 13 years.

Mrs. Aviruppola ensured discipline at all levels which in turn assured academic and extra-curricular successes for the school.

Academically Visakha secured the largest number of successes and island ranks in GCE Advanced Level and GCE Ordinary Level examinations. Under her guidance,  
*Cont. Page 2*

**WELCOME**  
**MRS.MANOMI SENEVIRATHNE**  
NEW PRINCIPAL OF VISAKHA VIDYALAYA

In the year 2022, Visakha Vidyalaya acknowledged the appointment of a lady with an impeccable career as the Principal of the school. She is none other than Mrs.Manomi Senevirathne who assumed duties on the 26th January as the 18th Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya.

Hailing from the city of Kandy, Mrs Manomi Senevirathne completed her early education at Girls' High School Kandy. After completing her school career she joined the University to pursue her dream career in the field of education. This

*Cont. Page 2*





## Cont..... Farewell Mrs Sandamali Aviruppola

Visakha continued to wear her laurels of being the most sought-after school for girls' education in the country with the highest number of students entering Universities every year.

Going beyond traditional learning and teaching methods keeping abreast with the advancement of technology Mrs. Aviruppola collaborated with the Visakha Vidyalaya

Old Girls' Association to enable state-of-the-art learning environments for the students through the smart class project and the learning space project. When the COVID-19 pandemic crippled the conventional school education in the country, Mrs. Aviruppola valiantly took up the challenge and ensured that the Visakhians received a good quality and continuous education online. Her visionary leadership led the school to excel in many other fields too. The school achieved many victories at National and International arenas in sports and extra-curricular activities during her tenure. Over these years Mrs Aviruppola worked very closely with the VVOGA with the intention to give the best to the young Visakhians from all parts of the island. VVOGA enthusiastically supported the numerous activities in the school thus ensuring the success of these projects.

Improvement of the infrastructure in school to best support the Visakhians with their educational, sports, and extra-curricular activities was a prime focus of Mrs. Aviruppola. The newly opened Geetanjali Amarasuriya Library and the Centenary Primary Building, which is nearing its completion soon, bear testimony to her commitment to uplift the physical infrastructure in the school. Under her patronage, the VVOGA facilitated the renovation of the school hostel and renovated the swimming pool changing room complex. She collaborated with the OGA not only in uplifting the infrastructure, but also in capacity building of the teachers by organizing numerous training programs, workshops, and lectures. It was admirable how Mrs. Aviruppola stood firm against the forces which tried to interfere with the quality she maintained at Visakha. Her perseverance, ability to handle difficult and stressful situations and her sound judgment, gained during her long years of illustrious public service enabled her to prevail over many challenges.

It is with sadness that the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association bids adieu to Mrs Sandamali Aviruppola. We warmly wish her long years of good health, happiness, contentment, and peace in her retirement. May the blessings of the Noble Triple Gem be with her!

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## Cont..... Welcome Mrs. Manomi Senevirathne

decision was influenced by the admiration she had for her role model, the Principal of Girls' High School Kandy, who provided the motivation to change the lives of others through a great service.

Every long journey starts with humble beginnings and strong determination. Mrs. Manomi Senevirathne commenced her career as a teacher in rural areas empowering students through hardships. She used this experience as a Principal at a later stage in a national level school. She also served as an Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Examinations. Experience in numerous capacities and overseas exposure to methodologies in higher education, enabled Mrs. Senevirathne to positively contribute to the field of Education in Sri Lanka.

Voicing her sentiments the new Principal remarked that it is a great honour and privilege to be appointed as the Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya the leading National Girls' school in Sri Lanka. She described the challenges facing the system of Education due to the prevailing conditions and explained the need to improve the quality of online education, applying new technology to the maximum and implementing new concepts like STEM education. Reiterating the urgency to improve the quality of education rather than examination focused learning, Mrs. Senevirathne expressed her desire to produce a generation of young adults who will successfully meet the challenges of fast expanding global developments.

Mrs. Manomi Senevirathne emphasized the importance of sports and extra-curricular activities in developing balanced leadership traits and teamwork that will enhance the quality of life in our society. She reminisced about her enjoyable participation in extracurricular activities during her school days.

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association warmly welcomes Mrs. Manomi Senevirathne as the new Principal and wish her all the best in her endeavour to lead Visakha Vidyalaya to greater heights.

Nilakshi Tennakoon  
Janani Sapukotana





# VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 2021/2022



## SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Ms. Shanta Gunaratna  
Ms. Akila Senarathna (Treasurer)  
Ms. Sujeenie Gunasekera (Joint-Secretary)  
Ms. Anoma Perera (Vice President)  
Ms. Manomi Senevirathne (President)  
Ms. Jeevanie Pandithage (Vice President)  
Ms. Chamindi Ekanayake (Joint-Secretary)  
Ms. Shashikala Herath (Assistant Treasurer)  
Ms. Manoja Wickramasooriya

## 1st ROW STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Ms. Virajinee Rathnayake  
Ms. Helani Peiris  
Ms. Sewwandi Wijeratne  
Ms. Poornima Jayawickrama  
Ms. Ravibindu Ranawaka  
Ms. Pabalu Perera  
Ms. Samadhi Tennakoon  
Ms. Priyanga Dela  
Ms. Chamari Obeysekara  
Ms. Mihiri Prasadi Amarasinghe  
Ms. Melani Chandrasekara  
Ms. Manori Galabada  
Ms. Janani Sapukotana  
Ms. Udari Gallage  
Ms. Dhanurda Suriyaarachchi  
Ms. Nilakshi Tennakoon  
Ms. Visakha Samaraweera  
Ms. Shalika Sewwandi Ranaweera

## 2ND ROW STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Ms. Ayendra Bulathsinghala  
Ms. Kanchana Liyanage  
Ms. Chathurika Sagara  
Ms. Navodya Waidyarathna  
Ms. Prasadini De Soysa

## ABSENT

Ms. Anushi Senaratne  
Ms. Chathuravi Suriyaarachchi  
Ms. Maheshika Bandara  
Ms. Buddhini Medawatta  
Ms. Chandanie Wanigathunga

## CONVENERS AND CO-CONVENERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES

**Archives** - Chamari Obeysekara (Convener)/ Manori Galabada (Co-convener)  
**Building and Utility Maintenance** - Pabalu Perera (Convener)/ Samadhi Tennakoon (Co-convener)  
**Communications and Newsletter** - Nilakshi Tennakoon (Convener)/ Janani Sapukotana (Co-convener)  
**Education** - Anushi Senaratne (Convener)/ Melani Chandrasekara (Co-convener)  
**Fund Raising** - Poornima Jayawickrama (Convener)/ Sewwandi Wijeratne (Co-convener)  
**Hostel** - Ravibindu Ranawaka (Convener)/ Ayendra Bulathsinghala (Co-convener)  
**Medical** - Udari Gallage (Convener)/ Chathurika Sagara (Co-convener)  
**Religious** - Chathuravi Suriyaarachchi (Convener)/ Prasadini De Soysa (Co-convener)  
**Secretariat** - Shalika Sewwandi Ranaweera (Convener)/ Maheshika Bandara (Co-convener)  
**Social Activities** - Navodya Waidyarathna (Convener)/ Dhanurda Suriyaarachchi (Co-convener)  
**Sports** - Virajinee Rathnayake (Convener)/ Priyanga Dela (Co-convener)  
**New Members** - Mihiri Prasadi Amarasinghe (Convener)/ Kanchana Gayanthi Liyanage (Co-convener)



## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association was held on 11th December 2021. Owing to the pandemic restrictions, it was organized as a hybrid event where a limited number of participants were present at the Jeremias Dias Hall while the rest joined over the Zoom platform.

The Election of the Executive Committee for the year 2021/2022 was held on the same day. A resolution was passed at the AGM to extend the period of the Executive Committee thus elected, until September 2022 to allow adequate time to have the constitutionally stipulated nine meetings and complete some tangible work.

The election was held from 11.00am to 4.00pm on the same day. Much enthusiasm was observed among all age groups to come and vote. More than 800 participants voted without a hassle via using either the 'drive-through' or 'walk-through' routes. The newly added 'drive-through' option received much positive feedback. Many requested it to be continued next year as well.

The AGM and the election was highly commended by the participants for its well organized nature. However, it was unfortunate that the customary fellowship event following the AGM was not held this year due to the prevailing restrictions.

## SCHOOL BUS RESTORATION PROJECT

Gifted by the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association to the school in 1999, this beloved big blue Colombo Rider bus with its golden lettering was no doubt a cherished memory to many Visakhians.

After many years of service, the bus was nearing the end of its era. Thus, the VVOGA took it upon themselves to give it a new life...

Inspired by "Tomoe" in Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's famous novel about the rather unique school in an abandoned train, VVOGA converted the bus in to an additional learning space which will be used especially for the primary English education program

## ANNUAL BODHI POOJA

A Bodhi Pooja to commemorate the 105th Anniversary of Visakha Vidyalaya was held on 16th January 2022 at the school Bo Maluwa with strict adherence to Covid-19 health regulations. This annual event is organized by the Religious Subcommittee of the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association (VVOGA) to invoke blessings of the noble triple gem on the school, its students and the staff, was conducted this year by the Ven. Kumbukkadawala Sudheera Thero.

The Acting Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya and the President of the VVOGA, Ms Kalani Sooriyapperuma, Past Principals, Past Teachers, Executive Committee Members of the VVOGA were among the limited participants of this event.

As the participants had to be limited due to the pandemic regulations, the event was live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook to facilitate the participation of Visakhians from around the globe.



coordinated by the VVOGA.

The refurbishment of the old bus which was the phase 1 of the project cost Rs 2.5 million, was completed and handed over to the school. The phase 2 will be aimed to further refurbish the bus with a deck and to provide the means to generate solar power.

The VVOGA wishes to thank our own past Visakhian architect, Minushi Polhena, for her creative design and all the donors whose generosity made it possible for this beautiful learning space to be established for the benefit of the students of Visakha Vidyalaya.





## REACHING OUT VIRTUALLY

VVOGA managed to reach out to our members, students, teachers and parents through multiple webinar programmes despite the restrictions. The recorded versions of the webinars are available on FB and the YouTube channel of the VVOGA.

**"UNLEASH YOUR INNER SPARKLE" ; THE MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES** - A series of webinars were conducted by the Social Activities Sub-Committee which touched upon multiple disciplines of interest from the membership. The webinar series included:

- Creating sensitivity through aesthetics
- Safe and responsible use of the internet
- Justice during pandemic
- Positive parenting
- Joyful housekeeping and culinary art
- Building the world through craftsmanship

**GCE O/L EXAMINATION SUPPORT** Teaching sessions for hostellers (according to their requirement) and a motivational session were organized by the Education Sub-Committee together with the Hostel Sub-Committee, boosting the mental preparedness of students facing O/L exam.

**GCE A/L EXAMINATION SUPPORT** - The annual seminar series sponsored by the VVOGA for the Advanced Level students was organized to support students preparing for the upcoming A/L examination. This year the VVOGA extended their support to sponsor & organize a series of lectures & past paper discussions to support students preparing to sit for the ordinary level examination currently.

**"PUNCHI DUWATA AADAREN"** - a webinar on reproduction and menstrual health for the students and parents of Grade 6, organized by the Medical Sub-Committee.

**EXERCISE DURING COVID PANDEMIC** was organized by the Sports Sub-Committee for Grades 6 & 7 students and parents.

**"ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND YOU"** - The career guidance webinar organized by the Education Sub-Committee for Grade 8 to 13 students and school leavers was successfully completed with more than 600 participants.

**CAREER GUIDANCE WEBINAR** Two career guidance webinars organized by the Medical Sub-Committee, were held for the students who are studying in the A/L Biology Stream with the participation of more than 500 students.

**"YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT"** - on diet and nutrition organized by the Medical Sub-Committee (12 June)

**"BE FIT & STAY SAFE"** - Pranayam, Yoga Asana & Basic Workout Techniques" for OGA members organized by the Sports Sub-Committee (20 June)

**"GIVE YOUR STRESS WINGS AND LET IT FLY AWAY"** - This webinar was organized by the Religious Sub-Committee in order to create awareness of identifying stress and provided mechanisms to manage stress.

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## THE NEW BOOKSHOP

The VVOGA extends its services by expanding to a new location. The new bookshop was declared open by the Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya, Ms. Manomi Senevirathne.

The new bookshop, which is situated next to the reading room in the Bougainvillea block, will be open during school hours providing the opportunity for the students and teachers to purchase necessary Stationary items at reasonable prices.



## RENOVATION OF THE SICK ROOM

The renovated school sick room was ceremoniously opened by Ms. Kalani Sooriyapperuma, the Deputy Principal in accordance with the COVID-19 health guidelines. The kind sponsorship of Ms. Punsirini Malavi and her batch mates from the 95 O/L Batch group is deeply appreciated.



## ANNUAL MEDICAL CAMP 2021

Rising to the challenge, the Annual Medical Camp for past and present teachers of the school is being held in three phases with the introduction of virtual components. The Medical Sub-Committee registered the teachers for the Medical camp and conducted the virtual OPD for them. The physical component of the Medical Camp was held successfully on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## 2FORTY2 MAATHRA FEATURING VISAKHIAN TALENT

The “2FORTY2 MAATHRA featuring Visakhian Talent”, The virtual musical show was held on 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, to a virtual audience.

“2FORTY2 MAATHRA” featured the well-known 2FORTY2 band led by renowned artist Billy Fernando. It was heartening to see a few talented Visakhians lighting up the stage. Funds raised through the event will be utilized to fund the upcoming development projects of the school.

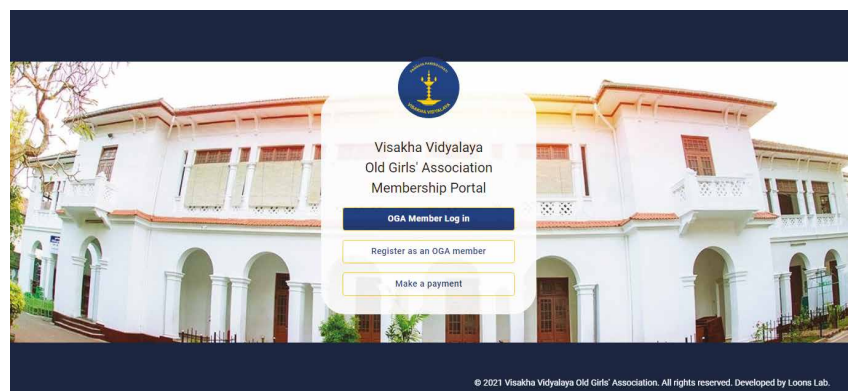


“TV Derana” as the electronic media partner, “Sunday Morning” and “The Morning” as the print media partners with SLT Mobitel as the connectivity partner extended their support and goodwill.

## MEMBERSHIP AUTOMATION PROJECT

The New Members Sub-Committee launched an online portal for VVOGA membership. The portal allows to register, make payments, stay updated on events and activities digitally.

Members are kindly requested to share your information by sending an email to the [membership@vvoga.lk](mailto:membership@vvoga.lk) if you are yet to receive your login credentials.







## VIVA LA VIDA A NIGHT OF VISAKHIAN VIRTUOSITY

Challenging the pandemic which prevented all social gatherings, the Social Activities Sub-Committee 2020/21 organized the “VIVA LA VIDA – A NIGHT OF VISAKHIAN VIRTUOSITY” – a global online talent show, to provide a platform for the past Visakhians to showcase their talents to the world and to make invaluable memories with enhanced alumnae engagement. Entries were accepted in several artistic categories including dancing, singing, instrumental music, acting, miming, stand-up comedy, crafts, arts, digital arts and cake decorating both as individuals and as groups. Participants had submitted applications, bringing in representation from Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, the UAE, Japan, Canada, Cambodia, UK and the USA. It was heartening to see the participation of both elderly and very young members of the alumnae, the oldest participant being 83 years of age.

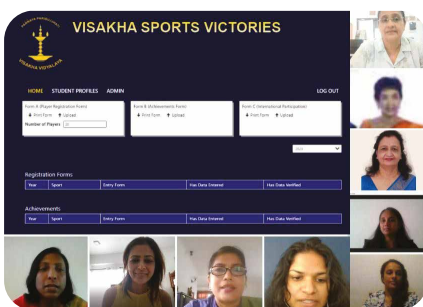
The VVOGA wishes to thank all who contributed to make this event a reality. It was a massive collective effort which ultimately resulted in a heart-melting, melodious theme song that will be remembered by all alumnae for years to come.



## GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

"Give the Gift of Life", the blood donation programme organized by the Religious Sub-Committee of VVOGA concluded with great success by donating 127 pints of blood to the National Blood Transfusion Service at this crucial moment. The event was organized on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 adhering to the COVID-19 Regulations.

## VISAKHA VIDYALAYA SPORTS DATABASE IMPLEMENTATION



For the first time in the history of Visakha Vidyalaya, VVOGA has taken steps to create a comprehensive database to include information of all sports personnel, upon a request from the school administration.

The database available via visakhasports.lk will provide a reliable reference source which can be used, to trace all athlete data, whenever needed by the school. The database will contain the athlete's personal details, events participated in and their results. All steps are being taken to ensure the accuracy of input data, whilst the Sports Sub-Committee appreciates the contribution of Ms. Buddhi Madarasinghe, for the software development and the hosting of same.



## UPLIFTING SPORTS AT VISAKHA VIDYALAYA PHASE 1 - HANDING OVER SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Sports equipment needed for athletics, air-rifle shooting, badminton, table tennis and volleyball were handed over to the school authorities by the VVOGA via the Principal, Vice Principal-in-charge of sports and Teacher-in-charge of each sport. The Principal Ms. Sandamali Aviruppola expressed her appreciation to the VVOGA for conducting this project towards uplifting sports at school. Sports were selected after a careful analysis of the requirements of each sport.



## VV SWIMMING COMPLEX CHANGING ROOMS RENOVATION PROJECT

The project was conducted by the VVOGA in collaboration with Aquatics Sports Advisory Committee taking into consideration the requests of the parents, school and the VVOGA. It was completed and handed over to the school on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. VVOGA acknowledge the services of Archt. Lihini Senewirathne and Eng. Awanthi Wickramasinghe. The project cost is approximately Rs. 5.5Mn and the funds were allocated through the Fund Raising Sub-Committee (proceeds of the BnS Concert), Sports Sub-Committee, Medical Sub-Committee, Religious Sub-Committee and School Aquatics Sports Fund.



## SUSAN GEORGE PULIMOOD MEMORIAL ORATION

The 30th Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration was held on 01st December 2021 at the Jeremias Dias Hall of Visakha Vidyalaya with a limited audience after a hiatus of 2 years, due to the global pandemic situation.

The distinguished orator this year was, Dr Champa Banagala whose name is almost synonymous with ophthalmology in Sri Lanka. Her informative oration on the topic: 'Novel Era of eye care: Marvels and Concerns' touched upon many common eye conditions and their modern treatment modalities. The oration also provided some useful insights about the dangers of modern technology to the eye and how to avoid them. Ms. Kalani Suriyapperuma, the Acting Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya chaired the oration. Many renowned academics, past principals and past Visakhians were present in the audience. The event was live streamed on Facebook and YouTube.



The recorded event can be accessed through:  
<https://www.facebook.com/vvogaexcoofficial/videos/263381825678385>





## HOME AWAY FROM HOME...

The 'Hostel Renovation Project' was successfully completed at an overall cost of Rs. 2.4 Mn. We are extremely thankful to the generous Visakhians, who contributed from across the globe, ensuring the project was completed successfully.

The past hostellers together with Ms. Jayani Pinnawala undertook the task of donating 162 new mattresses to the hostel. The UK branch of the VVOGA undertook the task of sponsoring 75 new chairs for the Senior Study Hall. This donation together with the study hall roof repair, has made the Senior Study Hall a pleasant place for studies.



## BACK TO SCHOOL SHRAMADHANA AND COVID PREPAREDNESS PLAN

A Shramadhana Campaign was organized to prepare the hostel and to welcome students returning after a long school break. The smiles and positive comments from the students were a testament to the success achieved by this project.

A guideline was also formulated by experts in the field, and educated the staff and students on them. The hostel sick room was upgraded to function as an isolation facility until proper care is arranged ensuring the safety and well-being of hostellers.



## FACILITATING ACCESS TO ONLINE LEARNING

The pandemic paved way for online learning to become an essential component in student life. Thus, a fully furnished Mini Computer Lab dedicated for the hostellers with five laptops and an internet connection within the hostel was established with the generous donation made by Ms. Saroja Gunatilleke from the 2002 A/L Batch.



## IMPROVING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE HOSTELLERS

The VVOGA is in the process of establishing a library, a sports equipment corner, home gardening programme and a television with satellite connection for the hostellers which is to be expected to function in full capacity once the school reopens and we are extremely thankful to Mrs. Kirithimala Gunasekera from the 1966 Batch for donating the brand new television for the hostellers.



## SRI LANKA - GWANGJU FRIENDSHIP SMART LANGUAGE LABORATORY

A smart classroom was donated by the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka and the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education, Republic of Korea. The classroom is equipped with 25 tab computers, an electronic podium and other equipment worth over Rs. 1,800,000. The smart classroom was ceremoniously opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2021 by Hon. G L Peiris, Minister of Education, with the participation of Secretary General and the Director of IT Branch.

The classroom will be used as a language laboratory to teach English, French and Japanese.

## SMART CLASS PROJECT PHASE 2

In 2017, envisioning a state-of-the-art modern teaching-learning experience for students, VVOGA initiated the 'Smart Class' Project. Phase 2 of the Project was concluded in December 2020, which saw the installation of smartboards for the Junior school; the laboratories used for O/L lessons and the Grade 6/7 labs. This included the installation of high-speed internet & teacher training.

VVOGA has spent over Rs. 8 million to date, which includes the infrastructure development, the operational expenditure of high-speed internet, project coordination and the teacher training. Infrastructure of this project is funded through the profits earned by the Dinner Dance. VVOGA is glad to have contributed to the enhanced online learning experience during this pandemic period.

## THE VESAK PROJECT

The Religious Sub-Committee of VVOGA, launched the Vesak Project with the intention of donating three Multipara Patient Monitors and twenty Finger Pulse Oxymeters to the District General Hospital Gampaha on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2021. Mr. H S Ranaweera who was the sole donor of the Vesak Project made this generous donation in memory of his late wife Ms. Saroja Ranaweera.



We wish to acknowledge Madhavi N Gunawaradena & Gayanthi Kaluarachchi Communications & Newsletter Convener / Co-Convener 2021 for providing the articles related to the time period from January 2021 to November 2021.





## PAHANA CEREMONY - INVESTITURE OF THE SENIOR PREFECTS GUILD 2020/2021

The investiture of the Senior Prefects' Guild for the years 2020/2021 was done ceremoniously on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 whilst adhering to COVID-19 Guidelines. Ms. Piyumali Premaratne, the Head Prefect (2008) graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Fifty-Six Senior Prefects were appointed.



In parallel, 'The Mentorship Programme' was launched by the past Head Prefects of Visakha Vidyalaya. The intention being to engage prefects on the long-term value of their role and to encourage future aspirants who can benefit from the life skills derived through the prospective prefectship journey.

If you would like to contribute to this programme, please contact Eranthi Premaratne via, [vepremaratne@gmail.com](mailto:vepremaratne@gmail.com)

## ANNUAL PIRITH CEREMONY

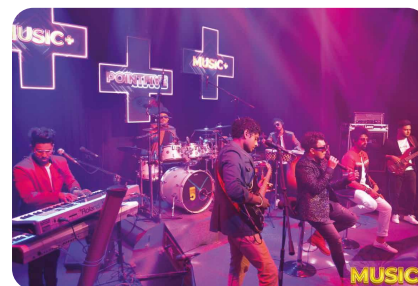
The annual Pirith Ceremony commemorating our founder, Ms. Selestina Rodrigo (Jeremias Dias) was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 followed by Alms Giving on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2021

The Bodhi Pooja, Pirith Ceremony and the Alms Giving were organized by the SDS, paying tribute to the visionary who founded a school specially dedicated to Buddhist girls in an era when a girl's education was not given priority.



## MUSIC+ AN ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT SHOW

The VVOGA successfully completed **"Music+ Entertainment Show"** featuring Nadeemal & Dilmin with the Band PointFive together with Chooti Malli & Podi Malli, on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. This virtual event was a success thanks to weeks of relentless, untiring efforts of VVOGA battling many challenges during this COVID-19 pandemic situation.



Funds raised through the event will be mainly utilized to fund the upcoming development projects of the school. Part of the funds will be allocated to COVID-relief fund which will be utilized to provide medical equipment to a hospital as a timely need.

Sirasa TV, Sirasa FM & Y FM extended their goodwill as the electronic media partner to make this event a success.



## VISAKHIANS IN THE LIMELIGHT

Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, a past pupil of Visakha Vidyalaya, was appointed as the Sri Lankan Ambassador to France and the Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO.



Before this appointment she served as the 2nd female Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo and as the first female Chairperson of the University Grants Commission.

## FIVE VISAKHIANS WIN 'TOP 50 PROFESSIONAL & CAREER WOMEN AWARDS - SRI LANKA & MALDIVES 2020'

At the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Top 50 Professional & Career Women Awards – Sri Lanka & Maldives held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the following past Visakhians were recognized for their outstanding achievements in their respective professions.

Through these awards, Women in Management (WIM) in partnership with the IFC - a member of the World Bank Group and the Government of Australia, highlight and honour women in the national and regional economy and celebrate their achievements, experience and creativity in leading the institutions, professions and businesses.

- **Gold Winner: Outstanding Women Entrepreneur (Small)**  
Indeevari Yapa Abeywardena – Creative Director/ Owner at House of Indi (Pvt.) Ltd
- **Gold Winner: Career Role Model of the Year**  
Chamila Bandara – Director/ CEO Mountain Hawk Express Pvt. Ltd. Licensee Federal Express Corporation Sri Lanka & Maldives
- **Gold Winner: Corporate Communications**  
Kumudu Munasinghe – Head of Corporate Communications & Group Lead Diversity and Inclusion, John Keells Holdings PLC
- **Gold Winner: Upcoming Women Entrepreneur**  
Lonali Rodrigo – Founder/ Lead Designer at House of Lonali
- **Gold Winner: Inspirational Woman of the Year in Career Leadership**  
Dr. Siddhika Senaratne – Director General Sri Lanka Standards Institution



Indeevari Yapa  
Abeywardena



Chamila Bandara



Kumudu Munasinghe



Lonali Rodrigo



Dr. Siddhika Senaratne





## GOOD BYE LEGEND

Handi Senerath Dahanayake, most lovingly known as “Wilson Uncle” was a humble person who saw right through our mischief. He was first recruited to Visakha Nursery in 1965, and then, after his numerous world travels returned again to Visakha and stayed with the school for over five decades. Known for his hot temper, he was a loyal trustee who kept all of us safe. Even though he is no more, he would remain in our hearts forever.



## IN MEMORY

**Manouri de Silva Muttetuwegama**, (class of 1953) a Senior Attorney-at-Law and a decorated Human Rights activist passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. She was the former Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, and also the Chairperson of the All Island Commission on Disappearances and Chairperson of the Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms. Ms. Muttetuwegama was an illustrious Visakhian who delivered the 4<sup>th</sup> Pulimood Oration in 1994 titled “A Latter Day Visakhian; Violence Against the Vulnerable”



**Lalitha (Leeniyagolla) Herat Gunaratne** who played the role ‘Visakha’ in the Visakha Geetha Natakaya production in 1967 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Visakha Vidyalaya passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.



**Somikelum Karunananda nee Kuruppu** (class of 1980), and her family passed away due to a tragic multi-vehicle accident in Milton, Canada on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.



**Kokila Himalee Arandara**, (class of 1990) passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021 after a long battle with cancer. She was the first Senior Guide from 11<sup>th</sup> Colombo Viakha Vidyalaya to receive the Prime Minister’s Award in 1992.



**Amara Weerasooria** passed away on 06.01.2021. She was the Head Prefect of the school in 1949. She was an allrounder during her school days and excelled in tennis, netball, and drama.





## VV WINS "SHAKESPEARE" AGAIN

Visakha Vidyalaya emerged champions in the girls' category of the 47<sup>th</sup> All Island Inter School Shakespeare Drama Competition. A cast of three (Celina Randeniya as Rosalind, Manekha Gomez as Celia and Anuki Basnayake as Orlando) performed an excerpt from 'As You Like It'. Celina Randeniya also won the joint award for the Best Actress. The winning production was directed by Mr. Chalana Wijesuriya.



## THROUGH THE LENS!

Starting her passion for photography through the Photography Club of Visakha Vidyalaya, Sudara Sansali de Silva has become the youngest Sri Lankan to win the prestigious AFIAP award in December 2020. Her latest international recognition adds colour to her other achievements; the FIAP ribbon at Luxembourg in 2018, FIAP ribbon from England in 2019, FPF Best Young Photographer from France (2020), an excellence award at the Silk Road Youth photography contest in China; the Best Youth Medal and also two Best Youth Honourable mentions for 2019 and 2020 from Cross Continental Circuit held in Germany in 2020.



Sudara was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Island in the Commerce stream at the GCE Advanced Level Examination in 2019.

## THE MANIKE

Yohani Diloka de Silva (class of 2012) popularly known as Yohani, is a Sri Lankan singer, songwriter, rapper, music producer and a YouTuber.

At school she was a swimmer and water polo player and earned colours during school days. She pursued her higher education in Logistics Management and Professional Accounting from the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and also obtained her Master's Degree in Accounting from Central Queensland University, Australia. Today the song which made her famous around the world "Manike Mage Hithe" has 166 million views on YouTube.

Our congratulations to Yohani!







# Notice

THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO OGA PROJECTS AS **DIRECT DEPOSITS TO THE BANK ACCOUNTS WILL BE DISCONTINUED** HEREWITH.

**All donations should be made in person to the Treasurer's office or paid via the internet payment gateway** in the new membership portal which can be accessed via: <https://vvoga.lk/session/signin>

The Secretariat and the Treasurer's Office will be open during weekdays from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm except school holidays.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**5th March**

Blood Donation Camp

**6th March**

Felicitation of Ms.Sandamali Aviruppola

**March 25th and 26th**

Founder's Day Pirith and Almsgiving

**27th March**

Beach Cleanup

**2nd April**

Avurudu Pola

*With Best Compliments From*

**Tharul Gems**

46/46, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Green Lanka Tower, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02, Sri Lanka



## Visakha Vidyalaya Membership Portal is LAUNCHED!!!

If you haven't received your login credentials,  
please send your OGA number to  
**[membership@vvoga.lk](mailto:membership@vvoga.lk)**

Once you have set your password,  
you can access the Portal through  
**[vvoga.lk](http://vvoga.lk)**

**<http://www.visakhav.org/oga>**

Visit the OGA page of Visakha Vidyalaya  
official website for user guide video

**Invite all past Visakhians who haven't joined VVOGA  
to get their membership through the portal**

A project by VVOGA

New Members Subcommittee 20/21



**Mihiri**  
0716499519  
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VVHDS was founded in 2003 under the guidance of Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Assosication enabling hostellers to obtain the benefits of attending a Dhamma School. Currently it conducts classes for the students of grade 6 to11.

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- Successful in final examination of Dhamma Schools conducted by the Ministry of Buddhist Affairs.
- A warm hearted person
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- Ability to work as a team
- Availability on Sunday mornings

**For further details:**

**Contact 0777250999**

(Ms.Sabitha Gunatilake

Head of VV Hostellers' Dhamma School)



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Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 5.