



Josephian News Corner Grandpass

Grade -1 First Day in School

In order to emphasize the importance of the word “school” to the students, the first function of the new academic year was the welcoming of the Grade - 1 students. It was held on the 15th January 2018 at St. Joseph’s College, Grandpass. The students were accompanied by the Junior Band and were

welcomed with souvenirs by the Grade-2 students.

The Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Maximus, Director, St. Aloysius Seminary, Borella, and the Guest of Honour, Mrs. G. A. S. K. Perera, Assistant Director of Education (Primary), addressed the gathering with meaningful quotes for the parents and the students.

We are sure that these little boys will one day fly the school flag high. The freshness of the New Year was felt when the kids entered the school to start their educational career. It was like a soothing breeze blowing into the atmosphere of our campus.



Thai Pongal Day - 2018

Thai Pongal Day was celebrated in St. Joseph's College Premises on the 16th January 2018. In order to enhance the awareness of different religious traditions, customs and values, as well as the unity and reconciliation among different cultures and ethnicities, this festival was organized for the third successive year.

Pongal, the Harvest Festival, is a traditional thanksgiving to nature. Parents, teachers and students prepared the delicious Pongal in an earthen pot inside the court yard. Mrs. S. M. Mary Bridget, a teacher at the primary school, delivered her address, enlightening the students with the meaning of the festival. Everyone present enjoyed the Pongal along with the students.



Principal's Day & Opening of the SMART Classroom -2018

The Principal's Day Celebrations of St. Joseph's College was ceremonially held on 18th January 2018 in the school premises. The day's activities commenced with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration and the wishing of choicest blessings to the Principal, Rev. Br. Jeyakanthan, on the occasion of his birthday.

It was striking that Rev. Bro. Christy Croos, (Provincial

Visitor), Rev. Bro. Bertram Perera (Principal of La Salle English Medium School, Kotahena), Rev. Bro. Mervin Lambert (Managing Director at LCES), Rev. Fr. Maximus (Director of St. Aloysius Seminary), Mr. G. N. Silva (Zonal Director of Education, Colombo Zone), Mrs. S. Prabha (Additional Director of Education, Colombo Zone) and Mrs. Kumuthini (Divisional Director of Education Colombo Central) took time off from their busy work schedules to

wish the Principal on his Birthday and to attend the day's proceedings. During the function Br. Jeyakanthan was awarded the prestigious "Guru Prathibha Prabha" Award for Best Principal.

The significant event of the day was the opening of the SMART classroom by the Zonal Director of Education, Mr. G. N. Silva. The children from Grade 2 were given the first lesson in the classroom, using "e Board" and TAB.



Inter-House Sports Meet - 2018

The Inter-House Sports Meet was held on a grand scale on 26th January 2018 at the College Ground. Rev. Fr. Clement Rozairo, Parish Priest, St. Mary's Church, Grand Street, Negombo, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his speech he mentioned the importance of extra-curricular activities in schools and he congratulated the Principal and the staff for their hard work in bringing up the standard of the children of the area. Edwin House was the overall Champion this year.



Scouts Prize Giving & Campfire – 2018



The Prize Giving & Campfire of the Cub Scouts were held on 27th January 2018 at the College Ground with the participation of Parents and Teachers. Rev. Bro. Christy Croos, Provincial Visitor, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Rev. Bro. Bertram Perera was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Jeganathan, Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts, organized the day's proceedings. After the distribution of the Certificates and Trophies to those who had performed well during 2017, the Cubs started the campfire with a lot of fun activities. The support of the parents was commendable.

*Mrs. Ruwanmali Samarasinghe
SJC – Grandpass Correspondent*

News from Diyagala Boys' Town Ragama.



November 2017:

Three teachers and sixteen students of De La Salle College, Malvern, Australia, came to Diyagala Boys' Town (DBT) for an exposure program. The program was named as "YALUWO" which means "FRIENDS". The Principal of the College also paid a short visit. Their stay was a blessing to DBT in a number of ways. Due to their magnanimous generosity a number of renovations and improvements have begun. We are very grateful to the Lasallian Foundation Australia for all the arrangements and to the YALUWO team for their love, care and concern for us. We wish them all the best and God's blessings.



“YALUWO” FRIENDS



December 2017:

- The Annual Convocation Ceremony was held on 3rd December 2017 for the 24 Final Year DBT students. On this day a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the training standards was signed between National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) & Diyagala Boys’ Town (DBT).
- The Annual Christmas Get-Together was held on 22nd December 2017.

January 2018:

DBT warmly welcomed the New Year 2018 with
New Beginnings! New Mindset!
New Focus! New Intentions! New Results!

- The New Year's dawn was celebrated with the traditional custom of boiling milk, prayers, reflections and refreshments, with the participation of the Rev. Brothers, staff and Trainees of DBT.
- In early January the Board of Directors of NAITA had a meeting and workshop with the Brothers and staff at DBT.
- In preparation for the 18th District Chapter some of our Lay Staff members joined the Ragama Cluster meeting which was held at De Mazenod College and the Brothers had a discussion at Diyagala Boys' Town on 27th January 2018. The meetings were well attended and were very fruitful.

~ By Rev. Bro. Denzil Perera.

De La Salle Brothers Community - Mannar

The Vision Statement of the Community:

"As an inspired educational force, touching hearts and transforming the society." (Community Annual Plan 2018).

Thus, with the same spirit and hope in God, we started the year 2018. Our Community is restructured with the transfer of some Brothers. We take this opportunity to thank Brothers Thomas Michael and Anton Piumal who gave their best for the improvement of the educational mission in Mannar. We wish them all the best. We also warmly welcome Br. Kanistopher Croos who is taking charge of Hostel and we wish him a fruitful mission in Mannar.



The Mission Statement of the Community:

"The promotion of peace, justice and social development through providing a holistic education to the young, especially the poor and war victims, by a Lasallian commitment along with the Lay Associates." (CAP 2018 – Mannar Community). Accordingly, the Brothers of the Community are involved in various ministries in different places. They work in St. Xavier's Boys' - Mannar, St. Fatima – Pesalai, St. Anne's – Vankalai, Mn/ Karunkandal R.C.T.M.S. and in the La Salle Educational Campus. In all, we take care of the formation of young people.



As the New Academic Year commenced on 2nd of January in most of our schools, we had some important events to celebrate.

On 14th Tamil Thai Pongal Day was celebrated in all our schools and institutions and our Brother Director's birthday was celebrated in the Community. The 15th was a colorful day for all the little ones in our schools as the new Grade 1 students came to school for the first time. This event is known as "Kaal Kol Vizha," which means "Welcoming the New Students". A meaningful message to remember

from the occasion is: "There is a brilliant child inside every student and let them be unfolded. Today we have students who are children and the most valuable gift we can give them is freedom and wings to fly so that they may find themselves."



"We glorify God through sports" was the theme of our schools when we held the lively "Annual Inter - House Sports Meet - 2018." The Chief Guest, who graced the Sports Meet at St. Xavier's Boys' College on 23rd of January, made the following remarks: "The De La Salle Brothers are the best animators I have seen in our District of Mannar to bring out the talents of students in education and in sports simultaneously. Sport is one of the main paths that brought pride and prestige to our Alma Mater and we should not limit our children only to study all the time but we also should allow them to master any sports, something which will bring out the best in them and make them virtuous people in the future."

St. Joseph's Juniorate welcomed three more new aspirants at the beginning of the year. Altogether there are five aspirants who are studying in different Grades at St. Xavier's. We wish them a blessed experience as they discern their vocation as a De La Salle Brother.

God bless you all!!!

Mannar News Cor.

Benedictine Prefects' Investiture 2018

St. Benedict's College, Colombo 13, held its Annual Prefects' Investiture 2018 on 18th January at the College open air stage, providing her young Benedictines with the opportunity to enhance their leadership qualities by playing a prominent role in the structure of discipline of the School.



Major General Suraj Bangsajaya, a distinguished Old Boy of the College, graced the occasion with his presence as Chief Guest and was accorded a warm welcome by the Cadets and the School Western Band. In his speech he did not forget to congratulate the newly appointed prefects and mentioned the significance and true value of leadership, as well as the importance of bearing responsibilities.

The newly appointed 153rd Head Prefect, Mas. Shimal Benedict, thanked the Chief Guest for his encouraging words in his speech, while the outgoing Head Prefect, Mas. Ravintha Perera, thanked all the teachers and his fellow prefects for their support.

The presence of all the dignitaries, the batch mates of Major General Suraj Bangsajaya, the staff, parents and students, added a touch of decorum to this prestigious moment.



The Primary Board of Prefects 2018 was installed on 19th January 2018 at the open air stage in the presence of students, staff and parents. The investiture ceremony was graced by Rev. Br. Bertram Perera. In his speech he explained to the little Benedictines their role in school leadership. Rev. Fr. Herald blessed the badges and the prefects on both occasions, showering God's blessings and guidance on the young Benedictine Prefects.

~ By Br. Dilshan Vimukthi.



Media Unit of St. Benedict's College ©

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Signum Fidei Association

"I heard the cry of my people, and I am sending you." (Gen. 3:7-10)

The Signum Fidei Association of Colombo has been in existence for nearly 19 years. On 27th November 2017 our members renewed their commitment for one more year. In the absence of Rev. Bro. Christy Croos (Visitor), Rev. Bro. Denzil Perera conducted the Day of Recollection, followed by Holy Mass and Renewal of Vows.

The members always partake in this day with much love, dedication and devotion. They hear the cry of the poor and the marginalized. They give their lives to redeem the poor from the bondage of poverty so that they are able to stand with others in this competitive world.

We serve about 200 children in four places:

1. Pubudugama in Kandana.
2. Polgahahena in Ragama.
3. De Mazenod College in Kandana.
4. St. Andrew's Church in Mutwal, Colombo-15.

It is a joy to see these kids getting much needed care, love and attention. Pray for us that we may be able to continue to carry on the work of God and as true Lasallians, in the same spirit as St. John Baptist De La Salle. Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever



~ By Br. Damian Nanayakkara.

Udawela Rewatha Central College - Kuliypitiya

Bro. Roshan Dias' first Government Appointment was at Udawela Rewatha Central College - Kuliypitiya, where he has been teaching for the past one and a half years. The school caters the downtrodden children who are mostly Buddhist devotees. Very few are Christians. However, the presence of a De La Salle Christian Brother in the school has been well accepted and the children love to hang on to Bro. Roshan's religious habit. They say that they get a lot of comfort by doing this.





Despite the lack of resources, such as adequate classrooms and sanitary facilities, the students have shown excellent educational results in the national exams.

Brief Introduction of the School:

- The school was established by Rev. Embawa Rewatha Thero in 1903 and it became a Government School in 1910 with 8 students.
- The first Principal of the school was Mr. Diyonis Jayasingha.
- Udawela Rewatha Government School was titled **Maha Vidyalaya** on the 1st May 1971 and **Madya Maha Vidyalaya** on the 4th June 2003.

This school has a long way to go and we are sure that with the good influence by Bro. Roshan it will grow from strength to strength.

Rewatha Cor.

Activities from De Mazenod College, Kandana.

Special Events

The New School Year commenced on 3rd January 2018 when Rev. Fr. Gihan, Deputy General Manager, conducted a motivation program for the teachers. On the following day (4th) the School commenced its Educative Year with a General Assembly.

On 10th January new students were welcomed into Grade 1. It was a beautiful ceremony. All the parents and children were accompanied by the Brothers, staff and the college Band.

Following an unbroken custom of DMC, a felicitation ceremony was held on 12th January for the High Achievers and the Teachers of the 2017 A/L Examinations. An awareness program was held for A/L students under the patronage of various Universities.

On 5th February the school celebrated the 70th Independence Day and Mrs. Shani Kalyanaratne, Deputy Ambassador for Sri Lanka in China, presided over the ceremony.

Our 18 and under-14 soccer teams won the All Island Runners-Up in a soccer tournament organized by the All Island Soccer Federation.

The Annual Pilgrimage to Tewatta

Tewatta Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lanka was the First Event of our School Calendar. The Chief Celebrant of the event was Fr. Dinesh Anton. All the students and parents of Grade 1, along with the staff, participated in this yearly Pilgrimage. The highlight of the program was the angelic voices of the DMC Choir at the Eucharistic Celebration. Their singing brought a lot of devotion and piety to the event.



We are proud to announce that Rev. Bro. Pubudu Rajapaksha FSC was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy Degree on 13th December 2017 at UN Geneva.

Rev. Bro. Pubudu Rajapaksha FSC, Deputy Principal of De Mazenod College, Kandana, was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy Degree by the International University of Fundamental Studies in Russia. This event was held on 13th December 2017 at United Nations Head Quarters in Geneva. During the 8th Scientific and Technological Convention Rev. Bro. Pubudu presented his Dissertation on the Effectiveness of Vocational Training Institutions in Sri Lanka on Developing Entrepreneurial Intentions among school dropouts with reference to Sri Lanka Technical Institute and Diyagala Boys' Town.



Derana Dreams Star

Master Suneera Sumanage, a past pupil of our school, participated in the "Derana Dream Star - Season 7 Competition in 2017 and was awarded "The Super Star". This award brought glory to the school. He was felicitated in the school premises in January 2018, during the "Welcoming Ceremony" for the new of 6th Grade pupils.



Prefects' Investiture Ceremony



The Investiture Ceremony of the New Board of Prefects of the Primary Department was held on 30th January 2018. One of our distinguished Old Boys, Dr. Vipula Saparamadu, was the Chief Guest.

Annual Athletic Meet 2018



The Annual Inter House Athletics Meet was held on 2nd February 2018 at the College Ground. The Chief Guest, Commodore C.A.P. Anthony USP, Psc, MSc, Electrical & Electronics Engineering Department of Eastern Naval Command, Trincomalee and his wife, Mrs. Michelle Dewasurendra, were present. Alban House won 1st Place at the Athletic Meet.

