

"The year that was" – Happenings of 2013-2014

Distinguished Guests of this evening

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening to you all.

Before I take you down the year that was, I would like to start with thanking God for having blessed us to reach and successfully cross, several landmark milestones in 2013-2014. We take immense pride in announcing the results of our First Batch of Class 10 students who have come out with flying colours in the Board Examination. Three of our students - Diksha, Nithyashree and Aishwarya have indeed done us proud by scoring centums in all subjects. Moreover, there were many students, out of the 23 who appeared for the exams, who scored centums in specific subjects – 7 centums in English, 6 in Tamil, 1 in Sanskrit, 3 in Hindi, 5 in Mathematics, 4 in Social Studies and 4 in Science. Congratulations to all of them.

The academic year began with the Prefectorial Investiture Ceremony where the prefects for various classes were elected and the student pupil leaders elected therefrom. Mr.Arvind Shankar of INTACH graced the occasion.

Medical, Dental and Eye check-ups were done for all students by Meenakshi Mission Hospital, Tooth Zone and AG Eye care Hospitals, Madurai early in the year. We do thank all of them.

Sports Days for the Kindergarten, Primary and Senior Sections were celebrated with great pomp and splendour. "Montessori" was the theme of the Kindergarten Sports Day. Dr.Sudhir, a leading diabetologist and Father Anil of Deepaham in Madurai were the Chief Guests.

"Gala Fete" was organized early in the year. About forty stalls conducting "Fun games" were put up and fabulous prizes given away. The fete also had three food stalls for satiating all palettes. Needless to say, all visitors had a gala time.

During the course of the year, various competitions were organized for children of all classes in school – Handwriting (English and II Language), Story writing, Debate, Poetry Recitation, Poetry writing and Drama (English and Tamil) to mention a few. Children participated enthusiastically in all these and walked away with wonderful prizes. "Sing -Along" programmes were organized for all classes of the Primary Section. Children learnt and sang English songs of yesteryears enthralling the audiences. As part of "Talent Fest", Children of all classes participated in a host of competitions like Western Dance, Light Music, Classical Dance, Classical Music and Instrumental Music. They showcased their innate talents and won wonderful prizes.

In addition to all this, our students have also participated in competitions conducted by other schools and brought laurels to us. Students won prizes in the Craft and Elocution competitions conducted by Jayland Nursery and Primary School, Madurai. In the All-Madurai competitions conducted by Pothys and Radio Mirchi, our students bagged prizes in Elocution, Group Dance, Solo Dance and Painting. In the Cultural Fiesta organized by Konga Sahodaya group of 62 schools, our school won prizes in English Skit, Folk Dance and Classical Dance. KSR Akshara School, Namakkal organized a Quiz Competition and our students, as usual, did us proud emerging as the Quiz Champions. Notwithstanding all these, our students have proved their mettle in the fields of Sports and Yoga also. In the Inter-Schools Relay Race festival organized by Keswick Public School, we won the 2nd prize in the all Madurai Junior Category. Sai Vidhyalaya School in Lalgudi organized Yoga competitions and our students bagged 8 out of the 9 prizes and walked away with the championship. On December 14th, our students and teachers participated in X'Mas Melos, a Christmas celebration organized by "Deepaham" and won the third place. In the Mathematics, Science and English Olympiads, many of our students participated and some have been selected for the State Level. At the School level, they were awarded Gold Medals. Five students of Class 8 had an enriching experience when they were selected at the city level and participated in the "Apprentice Scientist" Competitions organized by Lycee Francis School, Pondicherry. Our budding scientists were selected for the semi-finals. Hotel Sangam, Madurai organized an array of cultural programmes and our students of Classes 9 and 10 displayed their talents and were much applauded. Yes, Talents are indeed a galore in Adhyapana!

The celebrations of the different subject weeks got off to a phenomenal start with the English week wherein students presented songs, skits, exhibition and Power Point presentations. During the Social Studies week, a 'Mock Parliament' was enacted along with Power Point Presentations on Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks. 'Kaun Banega Adhyapana Star', a Social Studies Quiz was conducted as the Grand Finale. In a first of its kind, a General Knowledge Book, 'A Hunt' was released by the Social Studies Dept-kndos to the department. The Sanskrit, Hindi and Tamil Departments presented an array of programmes - "Thiru Vilaiyadal" a drama in Tamil was enacted on stage. The peak of excitement of the week was the 'Cinema Quiz -100 years of Indian Cinema' followed by the exhibition, "North meets South". The highlights of the Math week were the most enjoyable Math Treasure Hunt' and 'Math Quiz', which were part of the grand finale. The highlights of the "Science Week" were the presentations of a Mega dance on the 'Periodic Table' and the "Germination of Seeds" apart from the mind-boggling exhibition, Alchemy 2014.

As part of the Global School Partnership programme, we are indeed proud to mention the names of our teachers - Mrs.Meena (HOD- Science Dept.) and Mrs.Yamini (Headmistress-Unit -I) who visited the UK this year. We had a reciprocal visit by Ms. Emily and Ms. Alice from the partner school. We are proud to announce that Adhyapana School has been granted the International Travel Grant for the ensuing academic year as well. Mrs.Subashree (HOD-English Dept) and Mrs.Anusha (Science Dept.) are the teachers selected to represent our school in the partnership programme and will leave for London during the month of June 2014. Going from here, we are now part of Connecting Classrooms Project through the International School Awards (ISA), which is once again an

international programme. Needless to say, our school has been and is working very hard to make a foray into the global scenario. Our primary students have had Skype sessions with their London counterparts from our partner school Sarum St.Paul's Primary School, Wiltshire, UK and this has helped widen their horizon as well. The Primary School had put up an extraordinary exhibition on different projects based on specific themes as part of the International School Awards Programme (ISA). The Senior School also has presented various thematic projects to this effect and we are sure to reach glorious heights. Our students of Class 11 made a visit to HPCL, Petroleum Depot and Fuel Station. They interviewed Mr. Bhaskaran, Chief Engineer of ABAN LLOYDS Singapore and Mr. Shankar, Regional Manager of HPCL.

On 23rd September, the Interact Club was inaugurated under the banner of Rotary Club of Madurai West. Rotarians of Madurai (West) Club have opened new doors for our students and we are sure they will make the best use of this golden opportunity. Under the able guidance of Mrs. Sinu the Std XI students have learnt much and enjoyed much more.

We celebrated "World Reading Day" on 29th November and all students got together for an enriching reading experience.

The Staff Club of our School organized a staff get-together and our teachers went on a tour to Kerala. The members of our staff also had a fun-filled evening on the last day of Semester I.

This year too, our students participated in the National Inter School Drama Festival organized by the British Council and came up to the finals. Though we did not emerge the winners, we did leave an indelible impression on the National Theatre Stage.

Seminars, Workshops and Orientation Programme for parents, students and teachers were organized throughout the year. Teachers from various departments attended workshops in their respective subjects to hone their skills with regard to the CBSE set up. CBSE has introduced ASL (Assessment of Speaking and Listening Skills) for Classes 9 and 11 this year. In this regard, our teachers of the English Department attended a workshop in Coimbatore. Our students of Classes 8 and 11 went to "The American College", Madurai to watch the famous Shakespearean Drama, "Twelfth Night". The whole school had a gala time at the Great Indian Circus one five afternoon. Seminars and Workshops are not only for students and teachers – they are for Principals too! During the month of August, Dean Sir and I attended a "Principal's Meet" in Erode and another one at Yercaud organized by the KSSC Board. We also attended the National Level All India Sahodaya Conference at Amritsar, organized by the CBSE.