

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 by thanking God for having blessed us to reach and successfully cross several landmark milestones in 2014-15. We take immense pride in announcing the results of the second batch of Class 10 students who have performed exceedingly well in the Board Examination. Six of our students – **R. Keerthi, M.S. Bhuvaneshwari, K.J. Nitin Reddy, R. Balagokula Kannan, H. S. Arjun Balaji and S. R. Jayakrishna** have done us proud by scoring centums in all subjects. Out of the **42** students who appeared for the exams, **13** scored centums in English, **28** in II Language, **13** in Math, **14** in Social Science and **10** in Science. Congratulations to all of them. To this effect, we have also received a congratulatory note from the Honourable Minister for Human Resource Development, **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani** lauding the stellar performance of our students. It is my pride and privilege to add here that our first batch of Class 12 students is appearing for the Board examinations right now. We fervently hope and pray that they will come out with flying colours.

The academic year began with the **Prefectorial Investiture Ceremony** where the prefects for various classes and the student pupil leaders therefrom were elected. Dr. Murari Ratnam, Director – Conservation of Water, Ministry of Human Resources, New Delhi, graced the occasion.

Medical, Dental and Eye check-ups were conducted for all classes early in the academic year by Meenakshi Mission Hospital, Tooth Zone and A. G. Eye care Hospital respectively. We do thank them all.

Sports Days for the Kindergarten, Primary and Senior Sections were celebrated with great pomp and splendor. Gala Fete was organized by our students of Class 11 early in the year. About 40 stalls having “Fun Games” were put up and fabulous prizes given away. The fete also had 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 all classes in school – Handwriting, Story writing, Debate, Poetry Recitation, Poetry Writing to mention a few. Children of the Kindergarten and Primary Sections participated enthusiastically in all these and walked away with wonderful prizes. Sing along and Group Recitation competitions were organized for the Kindergarten and Primary sections. They learnt songs of yesteryears enthraling 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 were duly rewarded.

In addition to all this, our students have also participated in competitions conducted by other schools and brought laurels to themselves and us. These young stars were on a winning spree this year bringing accolades to our school. Various inter-school and intra-school competitions took place and our students walked away with almost all the prizes everywhere. Early in the year, students of Classes 8, 9 and 11 participated in Derek O’ Brien ‘s Faster, Smarter and Better challenge Quiz programme and came up to the finals. ‘**Mirchi Kiddi Fest – 2014**’ organized by Radio Mirchi turned out to be an enriching experience for our students where in we got the **overall runner up trophy in the state and also won a cash prize of ₹ 25,000**. We participated in all the competitions and won prizes in storytelling, English & Tamil Elocution, Quiz, Group Dance and Skit. Jayland Nursery and Primary School organized Elocution and Art and Craft competition for the Primary School and our students won the first place overall. **CENEXA – 2014 organised by the CEOA**

Group of schools, Madurai had 56 of our students participating in around 27 competitions winning prizes in most of them. We are indeed proud to announce that our school won the overall championship. Classmates ‘ Spell Bee organized a Spell Bee Competition and our students of Classes 6, 7 & 8 went up to the state level. At ‘**VIBHAVE**’ – 2014 organised by PushpaLatha schools, Tirunelveli, we won the overall championship and the rolling shield winning prizes in competitions like – Step Out -Entrepreneurs, Google it to Power Point, Graffiti Creator, Master Chef, Topsy Turvy and Tamil Elocution. We also won a cash prize of ₹ 10,000. **TIME** institute had organized “Aqua Regia” Science Quiz competition and our students of Class 9, Vijay Paramarakshan and Janahan went up to the state level winning a cash prize of Rs. 1,500/- each. In the National Science Olympiad, our students won gold medals and our team was the only one from Madurai to go.

Our students have shown their mettle in the field of sports too! In the month of August, our students participated in the Kho-Kho match in Maharshi Vidya Mandir School CBSE and came runners up. Again, in the Basket ball match organized under the MSSC banner, we emerged the winners. In the Madurai Sahodaya Schools Complex Athletics Meet held at Reserve Line Stadium, our students have won prizes in 100, 200, 800, 1500 m races, Shot put, Discus Throw, High Jump and Long Jump.

For the third year in succession, thirteen of our students participated in the National Inter- School Drama Festival organised by the British Council in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University. We had come out with a musical this time by the name, “**Tanning of the shoe – with a social message**”. Ours was the only school to go up to the stand-by level at the National level. Though we were not successful in reaching the peak, discussing and writing the script was a learning process and the whole affair had been a delightful experience.

Aarohanam 2014, a mega cultural event under the banner of “Madurai Sahodaya Schools Complex “, was hosted by Adhyapana School, CBSE Madurai. The event for (6th & 7th of December) was a grand success. Nineteen schools participated in a variety of interesting competitions and walked away with attractive prizes. On the first day the function was inaugurated by the chief guest Mr. C. Muthiah, Principal, Kendriya Vidhyalaya, Narimedu, Madurai . The Valedictory function that took place in the evening was inaugurated by Mr. J. Jeyaram, Program Manager, HELLO FM. Mr. J. Jeyaram distributed the prizes to the winning teams. The Valedictory function in the evening was inaugurated by the Chief Educational Officer of Madurai Educational District, Mr. J. Angelo Irudayasamy who also addressed the gathering. Fabulous prizes were given away to winning participants. As regards the events, there were twenty-nine competitions on the whole – Kids skit , Turncoat, Murals on the wall, Fireless and Wireless Cooking , Dress Designing and Hair Styling to name a few, The jury comprised a group of young students from Lady Doak College , an esteemed institution that did a marvelous job. To put in a nutshell, Aarohanam 2014 was a successful team effort by Adhyapana School CBSE and provided a perfect platform for innovation and learning.

The celebrations of the different subject weeks got off to a phenomenal start with the English week going strong with “**School Cinema**” the highlight of the week. Students of Classes 6, 7, 8, 9 & 11 wrote, directed and produced short films all by themselves. The Science Week had students performing their assembly activities – Importance of plants and animals portrayed through a skit. A dance on “Cell Structure”, an activity on “Myths, beliefs and Science”, an inspiring dance on the theme “Swachh Bharat”, a dance on the “Periodic Table”, a Science Quiz for the senior students and “Alchemy”, an exhibition par excellence by students of the primary section. “Kalinga War”, “Tribes of India”, “Sepoy Mutiny”, “Endangered species and Extinction of animals” were some of the interesting topics dealt with during the assembly activities of the Social Studies Week. The mime show by Class 10 students stole everybody’s hearts. “**Kaun Banega Adhyapana Star** “ – Quiz was conducted as part of the grand finale and S. Pooja of Class 10 emerged as the star. “A River Hunt” book was also released by the Social Studies Dept., adding another feather to the cap of the school. “SAHITA” – celebrations of the different language weeks went off very well too. The highlights of the “Math Week” were the inter - schools Math Quiz , Treasure Hunt and the Math Jingles Competition. Students of Pushpalatha Vidya Mandir, Tirunelveli emerged as winners in the Math Quiz. Adhyapana School participated in the non-competitive category.

As part of the Global School Partnership Programme, we are indeed proud to mention the names of our teachers – Mrs. Subashree Srinivasan (HOD – English Dept) and Mrs. Anusha (Science Dept) who visited the

UK this year. We had a reciprocal visit by Ms. Deborah Gregory and Ms. Karen Negis from our partner school in the U.K. We are proud to announce that we have been granted the International Travel Grant for the ensuing academic year as well. Mrs. Anupama Haridas (Dept. of Science) and Mrs. Padmavathy (Dept. of English) are the teachers selected to represent our school in the partnership programme and will leave for London during the month of June – 2015. Going from here, we are already part of the Connecting Classrooms Project through the International School Awards (ISA), an international programme. Needless to say, we have been and are working very hard to make an impact in the global scenario. We are indeed proud to announce that we have been successful in making an impact by winning the ISA award for the years covering 2014 - 2017. In December, a function was organized by the British Council in New Delhi and I , your Senior Principal was there to get the award.

The whole school had a gala time at the “Great Indian Circus” one fine afternoon.

As per CBSE’s instructions, we celebrated the birthday of **Shri Sardar VallaBhai Patel** by organizing a “**Run for unity**” in our school in the month of October . Students from classes 6 to 12 enthusiastically participated in the rally carrying slogans based on Peace, Conservation of Water , Energy and Environment, Child Safety, Child Labour and other social issues.

On 3rd September, as per the guidelines of the CBSE, we appreciated the work of our support staff – office staff, drivers and conductors of our school transport, canteen helpers, maids etc., by providing lunch and toiletry items.

The Interact Club was installed and Keerthi Warriar of Class 11 was elected the president along with 4 board members, Jayaramanan as the Vice president, Deepak Gupta as the Secretary, Ajay Kumar as the accountant and Arjun and Priyanka as the board members on 17th September 2014. The club’s first activity for the year was providing grocery items to the inmates of Inba Illam, a home for the aged. A Career Guidance Program was conducted by Mr.U.N Shankar Ram on 13th October 2014, for all Commerce students under the Madurai Sahodaya banner. It gave us an insight into the various fields open to the Commerce students after 12th. The next activity was one of the most interesting activities. It was an International project. Our guests from Sarum St.Paul’s School, Salisbury, Ms. Deborah Gregory and Ms. Karen Negis were taken to the Thirumalai Nayak Mahal for the light and sound show, and later to British Bakery for dinner. It was nice to understand about the differences in the thought processes of people from elsewhere.

16th November 2014 was an exciting and important day for the Interactors. A ‘**Walkathon**’ for the ‘**Safety and Security of Children**’ was organized starting from Tamukkam grounds, ending at Rasi Hospital. This was a completely different and new experience. I only pray that this would have helped people realize the importance of Child Safety in today’s world. The latest activity of the Interact Club was attending a RYLA, conducted by the Rotary club, for all Interactors of various schools in Madurai. This was a one-day program held on 26th January 2015 at Mahatma School. It focused on the overall development of a human being with 4 wonderful sessions. This RYLA threw light on certain aspects of life that teenagers generally tend to take lightly.

Seminars, Workshops and Orientation programmes for parents, teachers and students 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. **ASL (Assessment of Speaking and Listening skills)** was introduced last year for classes 9,10 & 11. Two of our English teachers, Mrs. Subhasree Srinivasan(HOD – English dept) and Mrs. Rajani Balasubramaniam (Principal) were resource persons for an ASL workshop organized for the benefit of English Teachers of Madurai Sahodaya Schools Complex. Early in the year, Mrs. Rincy Jose (Vice Principal) and Mrs. Srividhya (Headmistress) attended a workshop on “**Enriching Education**” at Chinmaya International Residential School, Coimbatore for three days. Mrs. Rajeshwari and Mrs. Padmavathy (English Dept) participated in a workshop on ELT (English Language Teaching). Our Vice

– Principal Mrs. Rincy Jose and Mr. Raja (HOD – Mathematics) participated in a CCE workshop by CBSE at Mahatma School, CBSE in the month of September.

Seminars and Workshops are not only for students or teachers – they are for principals too! During the month of August, Dean Sir and I participated in the Sahodaya conference at Chennai. We also had the privilege to attend the 21st National Annual Sahodaya Conference in October at Cochin.. Regular meetings are held almost every month in which the principals of Madurai Sahodaya Schools Complex participate.

In addition to all these, seminars and field trips are organized throughout the year for the benefit of our students. In the month of August, a seminar on “ Save Women from Cancer” was conducted by Mrs. S. Sridevi – Project Head of an international organization working towards this which was attended by all girl students from Classes 6 to 12. Mr. Arulrajhan, Empanelled Advisor and Trainee, (National Stock Exchange, Chennai) conducted a seminar for our Class 12 Commerce students. Students of Mahatma School CBSE and Pushpalatha Vidya Mandir, Tirunelveli also attended this. There was a “Career Guidance Programme” for Commerce students of Classes 11 & 12 by Mr. U. N Shankar Ram, Director, Grey Matter Academics, Chennai. Mr. Praveen Visesh,, Country Head, India – FX Trading, Deutchse Bank conducted a seminar on Stock Exchange for the Commerce students of Classes 11 & 12.

As regards field trips/study tours, students have, as usual , been taken to places of educational interest and importance. To name a few, Commerce students of Class 12 visited the Taj Hotel, Pasumalai, Madurai for their project in Business Studies. We do thank the Management and Staff of Taj. Madurai. Students of the Science stream visited the Bio-technology laboratory of Kamaraj College of Engineering and Technology, Virudhunagar. Students of Class 11(Science Stream) visited S. S. Vermi – Compost Industry at Vadipatti during the month of July. Again, Class 11 students of the same stream visited Thiagarajar College of Engineering and Technology, Madurai to meet Dr. Vasudevan who has done remarkable work in the field of Plastic Waste Management. Commerce students of Class 11 were taken to Arya Vaidya Nilayam, Vilacheri, Madurai for their Business Studies Project. R L Institute and College of Technology, Aruppukkottai, hosted a workshop on Animation in which our Classes 11 & 12 students participated. Students of Classes 6 & 7 made a trip to the “Samanar Cave Temple” and “Thirumoghur Temple”. Students of Class 8 visited the Bhagat Singh Furniture Factory at Thanakkankulam.

Our school also boasts of a highly active staff club which is in charge of organizing “Get-togethers”, “Break – up parties”, “Farewells”, “Tours for Teachers “ and the like. It is going on in full swing and has done commendable work.

Our **Kindergarten Annual Day** was held on the 28th of last month, the theme of which was “**Carnival of Letters**”. All students right from Pre-kg to Class 2 participated in this. It was a grand musical with our children performing par excellence, their costumes stunning, their voices soulful, their enthusiasm enviable and their confidence exhilarating!

In a nutshell, the “Year That Was” has been eventful, successful, reflective and of course, a happening year too. Everything that has happened has given us a feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction.

Let me end with Robert Frost’s famous lines :

The woods are lovely, dark and deep

But I have promises to keep

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

Dear Parents, We thank you for your support, good wishes and blessings. Do continue with all these and more in the days ahead! And we will surely live up to our promises!