



Zahira College Colombo

Group of 60

NEWSLETTER

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www.zahirag60.com

Dr. A.M.A. Azeez Scholarship

The ceremonial award of scholarships took place on 22nd August 2007 at the College assembly presided by the Principal, Mr. T.K. Azoor, in the presence of distinguished invitees, parents and students. The Principal thanked the Group of 60 for their efforts to develop educational and sports standards at the College. The President of the Group of 60, Justice Saleem Marsoof P.C., said that this year has been declared as the Year of Education and these scholarships were being awarded with a view to enhancing the standard of education at Zahira College Colombo. He said that it was the objective of the Group to bring back Zahira to its Golden Era which was spearheaded by educationists such as Marhoom Al Haj Dr. T.B. Jayah and Marhoom Dr. A.M.A. Azeez. He thanked the donors for their generous contributions and the Immediate Past President, Samsudeen Macan Markar and members of the Education and Welfare Committee for their active participation.

Twenty four scholarships to G.C.E.A/L students due to sit the examination in August 2009 were awarded scholarships. The students were selected by a committee headed by Professor Tuley de Silva, another distinguished old boy of Zahira. Sixteen of the scholarship recipients were selected on the basis of academic merit and the rest were selected on the basis of their performance in the field of sports or in consideration of need. In addition to the above awards, the Group of 60 also gave a special award to recognize the performance of Mohamed Shihan Haniff a student of the Faculty of Management of the University of Sri Jayawardanapura who was the most deserving University entrant from Zahira college on the results of the Advanced Level Examination held in August 2006.



A Bus for Zahira



Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. Fuad Jain, Chairman of the Fund Raising CXommittee and his team, members of the

Executive Committee and the donors, it was possible to raise a sum of around Rss. 2.6 million to purchase a brand new Ashok Leyland 40 seater bus. This would greatly facilitate the transporting of at least 2 teams of players, materials and refreshments to various match venues. The bus will be handed over to the Principal before the AGM of the G60 on 20th October 2007.



Editorial

It is heartening to note that several groups of past Zahirians have come forward to contribute in whatever ways possible to bring improvements at Zahira. Several projects have been completed and many more have been planned for the future. Most of these projects are either related to infrastructure, education or sports. It is remarkable indeed that so much has been done in such a short period of time.

The time is opportune for some sort of rationalization in all these endeavours with a view to prioritizing and for the optimal use of scare resources. Especially in the field of education we should all get together to work to a plan now that we have the full complement of educationists and administrators, namely, a principal, a Deputy Principal, a Director of Studies, two Vice Principals and a consultant. Perhaps the Master Plan which was prepared some time ago after much thought and high cost should be reviewed and see how best the various groups could synergise and implement it to produce meaningful results in the short, medium and long term.



Rugby award to Judy

At the Gala Rugby Dinner held in February 2007, past ruggierites of Zahira who represented the national team were honoured. Three national players, namely, 'Judy' Preena, 'Omar' Sheriff and T.B. Sourjah were not able to attend this event to receive the award. Judy who was a double international representing the national team in Rugger and Soccer in the seventies is now domiciled in Canada and was in Sri Lanka on a short holiday recently. Picture shows the Editor, Nizam Lantra, handing over the plaque to Judy

Rugger Carnival

A rugger carnival is being planned by the Sports Committee to encourage more students to get interested in the game. The event which is planned for December 2007 will be in the form of a inter house tournament. Three challenge trophies will be given – for under 17 in memory of Mr. Muhlar, sponsored by Riza Abdeen, under 15 in memory of Mr. Samad, sponsored by Ashraff Ghany and Under 13 in memory of Mr. K.S. Mohamed. The trophy by the Group of 60' will be donated by Samsudeen Macan Markar

Cricket

On a request by the Principal, the Group of 60' has agreed to assist the College in the development of Cricket. A preliminary meeting was held recently to assess the current situation and plan for the next season in 2008. Some of the topics discussed were – maintenance of turf wicket, motivation of students to get interested in the game, increasing the number of coaches, allocating space for indoor cricket and organizing tournaments. Meetings have been organized to bring greater awareness among the parents on the importance of their sons' involvement in sports activities.

Ifthar 2007

The Group held the Ifthar this year on 22nd October at the Miami Hotel. It was well attended by members and well wishers. Dr. A.M.. Shukri delivered a speech on “Education Today for the Muslim Community”. The President of the Group of 60’, Justice Saleem Marsoof, stressed the importance of a balanced education for the future of our community. He thanked the Chairman of the Ifthar Committee, Mr. M.S. Mazeer, and his team for organizing this event on a grand scale for the second consecutive year. The Principal of Zahira, Mr. T.K Azoor, thanked the Group for the excellent support rendered to the college in recent times in the field of sports and education. He said that he has a big task ahead to bring improvements at Zahira and he is prepared to take this challenge with the assistance of the various groups of the past students of the College.

Raffle for Fund Raising

The latest fund raising project to raise Rs. 1 million is a raffle to be drawn on Saturday, 27th October 2007 at the College before the first meeting of the new Executive Committee. According to the project chairman, Riza Abdeen, attractive prizes await the lucky winners. The first prize will be a return ticket to Bangkok, the second prize a return ticket to Chennai and 8 consolation prizes.

A new Gymnasium for the students

While getting enlightened with knowledge, a complete man must be full of good health. In keeping with this adage, the G60 headed by the founder President through a project led by M.S. Mazeer donated a fully equipped gymnasium valued at Rs. 2 million to the college in March 2005. This has become very popular with the students, especially most players of all fields of sports.



New washrooms for the staff

The G60 undertook the task to build a new washroom for the staff of Zahira College Senior Section. The washroom is equipped with all the latest amenities



Felicitation of Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof P.C

The Zahira College Group of 60' felicitated the appointment of the current President, Hon Justice Saleem Marsoof , as a judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, at a simple ceremony at the Holiday Inn.



Tsunami Relief and the birth of ‘Education for Progress Foundation (EAP).

It all began on the evening of 25th March 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Colombo. The Zahira College Group of 60’ was felicitating the appointment of a member of the group. Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof, P.C, as judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. It was Justice Marsoof’s speech on this occasion that inspired the formation of the Tsunami Relief Committee of the Group of ’60 that was later transformed into the Education for Progress Foundation. For more information please visit:

www.E4Pfoundation.org.

(The picture shows Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof handing over a VCD Player to the Principal of Hambantota Zahira)



Visit to Hambantota

G60 played a significant role to help the affected students of Zahira Hambantota and other schools in Hambantota, Kirinda and Lunugamwehera in the aftermath of the Tsunami. The picture below shows the leader of the delegation Hon. Justice Saleem Marsoof P.C., handing over a VCD player to the principal Kirinda Muslim School



Educational Programme for Rugby Players

From May 2007 special classes in Mathematics, English and Sinhala were organized by the Group of Sixty with assistance of the College staff. This was for rugger players to motivate them to perform better at the GCE exams so that they could have a longer school career. At a recent meeting the parents and players were briefed on the programme and 73 students from various grades have been selected for this programme.



Renovation of the Computer Lab

Mr. Branudeen Amit, who is domiciled in Australia, donated funds for the renovation of the Computer Lab. His company M/s Archibuilt helped in planning the project. Many G60 members also contributed towards the success of the project.



Seminar series for GCE OL and AL



The seminar series by the Education & Welfare Committee of the Group of '60 was inaugurated by the President Hon. Saleem Marsoof, 6th March 2007 at Gaffoor



Hall, Zahira College, Colombo, in the presence of Professor Tuley de Silva, Mr Abdul Ahad, Acting Principal and his staff, Executive Committee members of the Group of '60 and students. This one day programme is one in a series of seminars for students sitting the GCE (ordinary Level) examination in December 2007. The series will consist of special lectures on subjects such as Science and Mathematics in which present day Zahirians are particularly weak. Special attention will be paid to sportsmen who have to spend

Recognition of National Rugger Players

Seventeen past Zahirians who represented the country at rugger were recognized at a Gala Dinner in February 2007. The funds raised from this event will be used to develop Rugby at Zahira. The President of the Sports Committee, Mr. M.S. Mazeer believes that training should start at grassroots level so that the players have a long sports career at school.



Members Day

This year too the Members Day was held at the Langs Land Estate, Neboda, Mathugama at the property of the Hamdoon Brothers. It was an outing for all members, their spouses and friend. Pictures below some of the activities of the day.

