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## Trivandrum International School

**The**

# Trinsian

*A STUDENT-LED NEWSLETTER*

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### From the Editor

TRINS premises have become lively again with the commencement of the 2012-13 academic year. Our school has many feathers of achievement on its cap this year. It has become the first IB World School in Kerala, students have passed out with flying colours in various exams and a team of new staff and students have joined the school and its journey is on!

'Why do we go to school?' An essential question we perhaps have never asked. Our Principal reorients the readers as to the real purpose of education through his message. Reflections of Ms Sreeja Rajan include her fond memories of the school.

The Trinsian expects cooperation and support from all the students, teachers and parents as in the previous year. Do send us your stories, poems and art works.

**Dominic Savio**

# From the Principal's Desk



*The start of a new academic year. A time for resolutions, reflections, retrospection.*

*A time of hope, a time of joy, a time of promise.*

*A time for asking questions. Or rather, a single question: Why do we go to school?*

*To study, pat comes the answer. Do we really need to go to school to study, in this day and age of information explosion? To enjoy life with our friends... to have fun... Can't we do all this outside school too?*

*And then, from among the assembled youngsters, one little voice pipes up. 'To learn good conduct'.*

*Indeed. In these changing times, if there is one factor that will forever justify the existence of schools, it is that one little phrase uttered by my young friend. 'To learn good conduct'. In these days of nuclear families and fracturing communities, our young people grow up in happy but unhealthy cocoons, in glorious isolation, at times. Certainly moral education begins and continues at home, but it is only in schools that youngsters get sufficient opportunities to interact with others of their kind, to smoothen the sharp edges of their personalities, to learn that there are other pebbles on the beach and that happiness in life comes only by learning to live with others in harmony. That is what schools primarily aim to do.*

*And this academic year, as in previous years, and in the years to come, let's put the emphasis right where it belongs... on character building. And to begin with, let's just ask ourselves one simple question at the end of each day. Have I made this day worthwhile... worthwhile for me and worthwhile for others?*

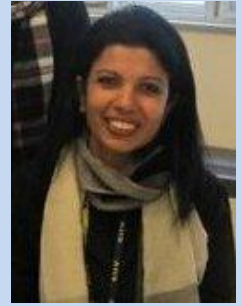
*When we work towards getting a positive answer to this question, we would have truly taken the first step towards character building.*

**Srinivas K Naidu**

**Principal**

# Reflections

## NEW BEGINNINGS



New Year's day every year, gets us talking of resolutions, good intentions...everyone is dusting away cobwebs and planning to start over on a squeaky clean slate.

For some, however, new beginnings have always been associated with birthdays. Birthdays are always very special to young children... a year is a long, long time when you are under 10 and you want to dream new dreams, right all the wrongs and soar away on those gilded wings that bring beauty, fame and success. The urgency of ticking 'things to do' off the personal bucket list gains tempo for adults as well.

For school children, another very definite new beginning, would, of course, be the start of the new academic year and in the senior secondary section its just begun. Bright faces have come in for the ISC, A level and IBDP courses, look excited and apprehensive, taking that fork on the road in the last leg of their journey through school life.

What we pride ourselves in, as school teachers, is that we are the architects in the place where the foundation of the child's personality is laid. It is a place where mistakes can be made and rectified, where one can experiment with ideas and if one fails, begin again, wiser in the knowledge of what one is better at and more happy doing.

Every school is special that way, and every teacher responsible, for the way the students act and think, long after he is no longer in their lives.

Back in my school days most little girls were put in the best convent girls' school in town. It was 'the done thing' and so, of course, my two sisters and I did the same. The intention, probably, was to put us in a very protected environment that was suitably strict and that demanded high standards.

I have often been asked how I 'survived' those years in school and 'didn't they rap you on the knuckles and not let you dress prettily?'

Quite the contrary. I have the fondest memories of my school days, which to me ended all too soon, with us shedding copious tears on our last day at school, grief stricken, not just at losing our friends, (letter writing always fizzled out despite the grandest intentions of 'keeping in touch'..... this being much before email and facebook) but at no longer being with the wonderful people who hovered watchfully over us all those years.

The nuns at school were a constant enduring presence our entire school life. Teachers came and went but they were there.... a staunch support we could rely on being there to help us, when we returned every year, shedding the mistakes and untidiness of the previous year and learning from them.

As a young girl, it used to puzzle me, reading about women's rights and equality, because we had never felt like second class citizens. At our school we were all made to feel brave, confident and adventurous enough to take over the world with one hand tied behind our backs. Not true....of course, but growing up in an environment with only girls, helped us forge ahead with confidence and survive the gawkiness of the pre and early teens with very little self consciousness.

We threw ourselves into all school activities including very 'girly' activities like fashion parades experimenting with heaps of make- up and fulfilling the craving of becoming the world's next super model with one lavish stint on the school stage. We performed plays with all women casts set in Victorian times which gave us the oh- so- glorious opportunity to rummage through the costume trunks the sisters had, to find beautiful bonnets, capes, cloaks and gowns.

We celebrated every festival, and whatever religious inclination, ran to the school chapel for quiet time when things got rough, were comfortable enough to go to a teacher or one of the sisters with a problem, were encouraged to read anything we could lay our hands on and most of all, conditioned to listening to that inner voice or conscience.

Following our dreams and working at fulfilling our desires is what drives a person, but our conscience - as I was taught to call it, had to be given a free rein, to ensure that duty was important too. One did not ride rough shod over the feelings and desires of others, and one also stood up for the timid and spoke up against injustice even if it meant ruining one's own grand plan.

It did not make much sense when we were young, but we did it, although a little grudgingly sometimes feeling a bit martyred and noble about some perceived 'sacrifice'.

But in the long run...it has helped and continues to, because that is the essence of the most crucial life skill of all....the ability to adapt and ensure that others do too, ensuring smooth functioning in the home, institution, society.

We try to bring up children here at TRINS with the same constant care and protection, hand in hand with encouraging them to go out in the world and dare to take up challenges. Our students have the added advantage of being in a modern co-educational school which has further honed essential social and life skills. We continue to strive to make the place so much more than just a place to learn lessons and do exams. It is that safe place away from home where they are guided, sometimes chided, but always cared for with a lot of love and affection.

In this tenth year of our school, it is wonderful to see where our young students are. They have gone on to some of the best universities, many confident enough to make unconventional career choices, graduating meritoriously, moving on to higher studies and employment.

Let's face it....despite all the inspirational quotes about teachers, school teaching has always been taken for granted. However it's a lot like parenting. The job grows on you....and it is done with no expectations of reward and once hooked you can't really think of doing something else. We enjoy the highs and lows of daily school life which is filled with its collective mood swings.

In this new academic year, let's work together to alleviate the deep, heart-rending sorrow of a five year old who has misplaced a water bottle and try to get a teenager to understand that it is indeed 'cool' to be courteous and well - groomed.

**Ms Sreeja Rajan**

**Senior School Head**

# Art Gallery





# News, Views, Previews

## New Principal Joins TRINS

Srinivas K Naidu, an eminent educationist takes over as the new Principal at TRINS. He is the founder-principal and director of Vizag International School, Andhra Pradesh. Bringing innovations into the field of education, he has served in India and abroad over two decades. He is a strong believer of the maxim 'Education is a life long process'. Devoting his time for in-service training for teachers and quality management in schools, he has conducted many training programmes. Presently he is the honorary director of Educational Consultancy and a member of the Quality Council of India. We proudly welcome him to TRINS.



## All India Inter - school Debate Competition

The Frank Anthony Memorial All India Inter - school Debate Competition (Category 1; Preliminary Stage), organised by the Council for ICSE and ISC schools, was held in Trivandrum International School on the 29th of June, 2012. 4 schools - Don Bosco, Kochi; St.Patrick's, Mananthwadi; Pallikoodam, Kottayam; and Vikaasa School, Madurai participated in the prestigious and closely contested competition. The best speaker of the day was Stacy Eleine Samuel and the runner - up was Lakshmi Hiranandani, both from Pallikoodam, Kottayam. Pallikoodam was adjudged the Best Team, with Vikaasa School, Madurai following as the first runner - up.

Mr. Mahadevan, City Editor, The Hindu; Ms. Premla Moreira, soft skills trainer and retired Head Mistress, Pinnochio School, Kenya; and Ms. Shanthi Radhakrishnan, corporate trainer and freelance writer were the distinguished judges for the event. The feedback given by the judges at the end of the debate was constructive, practical, and valuable to the aspiring debaters. Mr. Sreenivas Naidu, Principal, Trivandrum International School, in his address to the audience underlined the importance of being knowledgeable and articulate in the twenty first century.

The competition showcased the oratorical skill of the contestants and proved once again that debating is not a dying art.

**Ms Nirmala Mangalat**

# New teachers Join TRINS Family



Ms Radhika



Ms Shalini



Ms Rohini Pillai



Ms Renju



Ms Bipasha Sen



Ms Uma Sharma



Mr Sharath



Mr Kiran



Mr Vijaya Krishnan



Ms Sithara



Ms Mettilda

# New students to TRINS Family





## TRINS Carries off Rolling Shield

Trivandrum International has emerged winner at Colosseum – 2012, an inter-school fest held annually at St Thomas Central School, Trivandrum. Twelve schools participated in the fest from various parts of the capital city.

Our students grabbed the first place in four of the six event categories, including mime, dance, band performance and Mr Colosseum.

George Vinod of class IX won the personality title Mr Colosseum 2012.



Chief guest Dr Shaju (Cine artist) gave away the award at the closing ceremony. Thanks to Ms Jayashree Vinod, Mr Denzil Prince, Ms Brinda and Ms Latha who have given their time and prepared the children for this enviable success.

## Matchless Achievement

Gitanjali Anu Krishna of IX ICSE has secured a rare score of six in all subjects: English, Mathematics, and Science in the Cambridge Checkpoint 2011-2012. Checkpoint is an International Exam conducted world-wide for candidates who have completed their class eight. Students from not less than 65 countries world wide appear for the exam yearly. Hearty congratulations to Gitanjali and the teachers who trained her.



# BOARDING HOUSE REPORT

The Trins Boarding house opened its doors to a new year on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June and welcomed old and new students alike. The new students quickly grew accustomed to the Trins ways and fitted in well with the Trins family. The very next day icebreakers were held so that the students and teachers could get to know each other better. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, students had a bit of fun with some songs and games organized for them by our boarding house teachers which were then followed by some light refreshments. The next week on the 16<sup>th</sup> the boarders were in for another fun filled weekend as they went for a movie. A few boarders however went to represent our school in “Colosseum” the annual event organized by St Thomas School. These boarders fared brilliantly and won many prizes with George Vinod of 11 ISC winning the coveted “Mr. Colosseum” title. Nimmy of class 10 IG stood second in the “Junk 2 use” contest and Sherin of class 10 IC winning the miming contest.

**Vineet John** (Class 11 A)

## Puzzle

1. The name of which Shakespeare character can be inserted into the bottom column in order to complete nine three-letter words reading downwards?

M	A	W	H	H	H	W	B	S
I	C	A	A	U	I	H	A	E

2. Complete the word:

		A	N	S	A	T	L	A	N	T		
--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--

If you know the answers, mail to [trinsyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:trinsyearbook@gmail.com)

The first all – correct entry will be the winner. So hurry up! What are you waiting for? *Answers in next month's Newsletter. Don't miss it!*