



# ANDROMEDIA

THE 'WOW' MAGIC... SPREAD IT!

**ST. ANDREW HIGH SCHOOL**

Pioneer School - Estd. 1870. Relocated 1927.

*Best place to Bee!*



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Vol - 12



Mission Sunshine (2010 - Still going strong)

## A PHOTO - JOURNAL OF THE YEAR 2019 - 20



# A NEW BASKETBALL COURT FOR THE SCHOOL

Our newly designed basketball court was unveiled on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, the eve of Women's Day, and was blessed by His Lordship, Bishop Barthol Barretto.

St+art India Foundation, in collaboration with Adidas and Asian Paints, worked towards creating a unique urban arts intervention on the basketball court of our School. The typographic artwork by Khatra, a New Delhi-based artist, was meant to celebrate the spirit of inclusivity and equality in sports. With the bold and insightful claim that 'sports doesn't care', the artwork highlights the fact that sports is and should be non-discriminatory.



Our School boys can look forward to enjoying an exciting game or two on this new Court once School reopens.



# MISSION SUNSHINE: BORN 2010 – STILL GOING STRONG!

**A**lthough I was privileged to conceive the idea of Mission Sunshine, the concept proved to be life-changing thanks to the encouragement and invaluable feedback given by my college guide, Dr. Geeta Shetty, every step of the way. It was she who convinced me that my brainchild had the power to transform school consciousness. She nurtured my bundle of joy with her profound thinking as well as her inspiring embodiment. Mission Sunshine was finally born on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to her. TanQ M'am for inculcating in me the importance of appreciation... the WOW magic!

I am grateful to Mr. Verus Ferreira for spotlighting the launch and growth of Mission Sunshine in national magazines and newsletters. The logo was beautifully designed by Mr. Francis H D'Sa. To both these godfathers, my heartfelt thanks.

I must also acknowledge Fr. Reuben Tellis who introduced me to the world of teachers' workshops in Punjab and Haryana. His constant encouragement gave me the courage to share Mission Sunshine with more than 300 schools across India. My first invitation was extended by Sr. Gail Alphonso from Meerut. I was anxious but the teachers joyously adopted my pet project as it took nervous baby steps towards them. They convinced me that Mission Sunshine was not a test-tube baby or a designer baby but a 'miracle baby' as I witnessed the first miracle there. A teacher had lost her only son while he was an army officer-in-training. She was shattered and went into a shell. On the first day of the workshop, she was just a passive observer. The next day, there was a slight smile. On the final day, she was back to her earlier joyful self. Wow-lleluia! Her colleagues could not believe their eyes. That evening, her army officer husband came to thank me. The "Nice, Nice Baby" later got me an international award and a hard-earned Distinction in my M.Ed course.

The most recent miracle was in Kashmir when I was invited by the teachers for the second time to their school. Their warm welcome made me forget the freezing temperatures and lurking terror. At the

end of the day, a very senior teacher came up to me and gave me a big hug. On a paper heart that I had earlier distributed to the teachers, he wrote words of appreciation and blessing for me in Urdu.



Fr. Magi Murzello

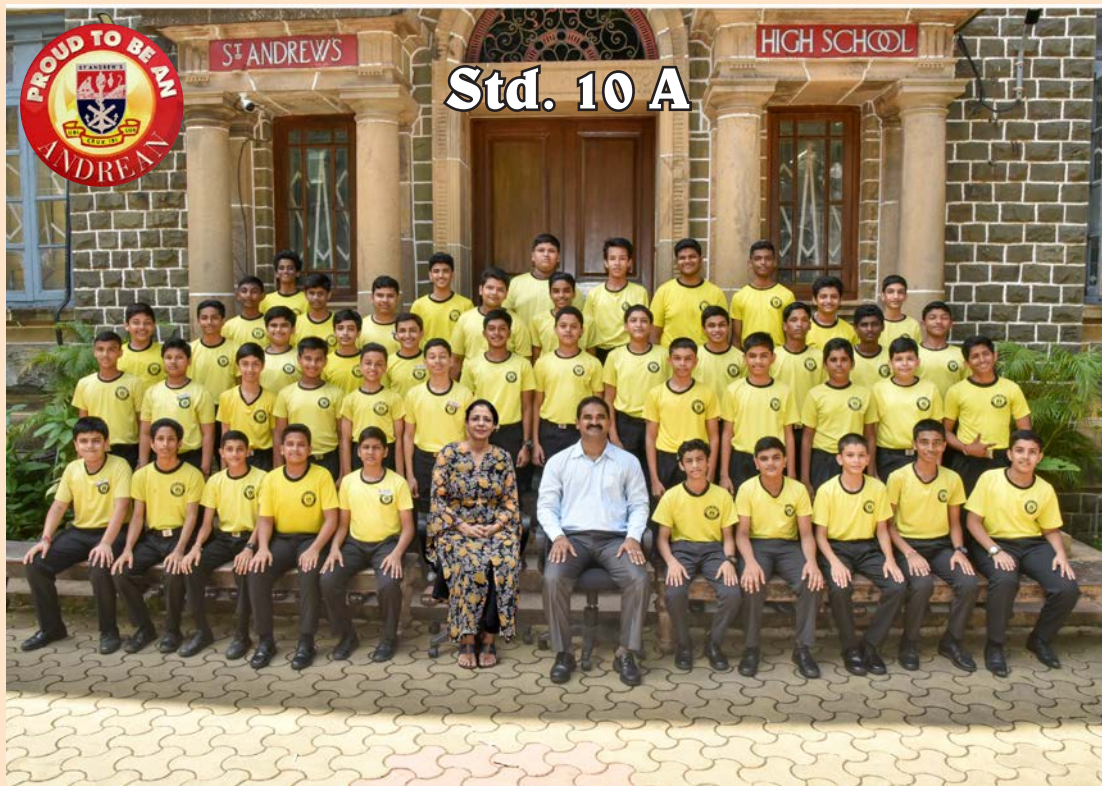
Mission Sunshine was never orphaned, neither at teachers' workshops nor school leaders' seminars nor at a lawyer's conference in Shimla. At that conference, I had the honour of rubbing shoulders with chief justices from Sri Lanka and Himachal Pradesh, judges of the Supreme Court and high courts, vice-chancellors from various universities and human rights activists. Mission Sunshine qualified me as a child rights activist because I was passionately promoting it across various schools nationwide. When I addressed the august audience, I appreciated their efforts in making the Right to Education (RTE) a fundamental right for children. However, I pleaded with the legal fraternity to evolve further and ensure that every child also had the **Right to Encouragement** (appreciation), the **Right to Evaluate** (give feedback) and the **Right to Employment** (after completing education). Like the iconic Lion King scene in the song 'Circle of Life', I too held up Mission Sunshine and introduced them to the Circle of Appreciation. Mission Sunshine made me an instant celebrity at that conference.

Mission Sunshine is unequivocally a miracle of Life! Neither King Herod nor King Kansa can slaughter it as it has a noble mission to make schools like Oscar Wilde dreamt it to be... Schools should be the most beautiful place in every town and village; so beautiful that the punishment for undutiful children should be barred from going to school the following day.

TanQ to every stakeholder of the school for making Mission Sunshine a nation-building success.

With deep gratitude to God, I pray that Mission Sunshine continues to make a vital contribution to the arising of a new consciousness. It is in appreciation that we are lovingly connected to God.

















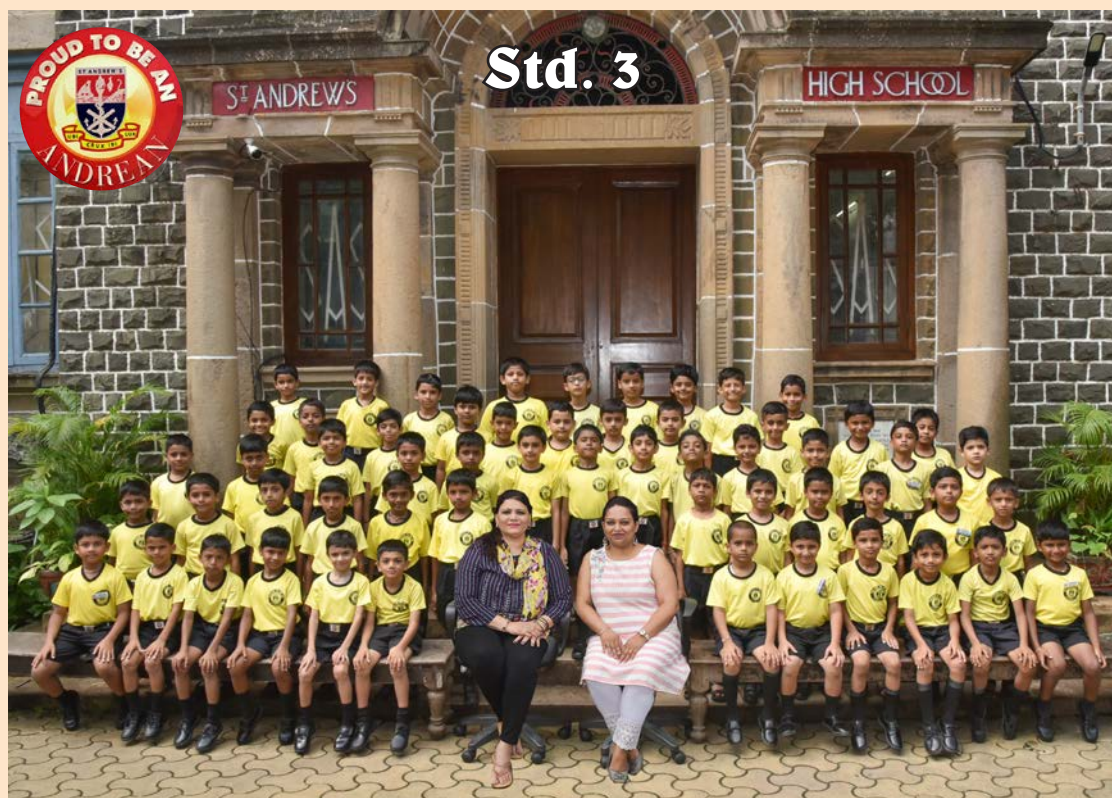




















## Staff - Primary



## Staff - Computer Lab



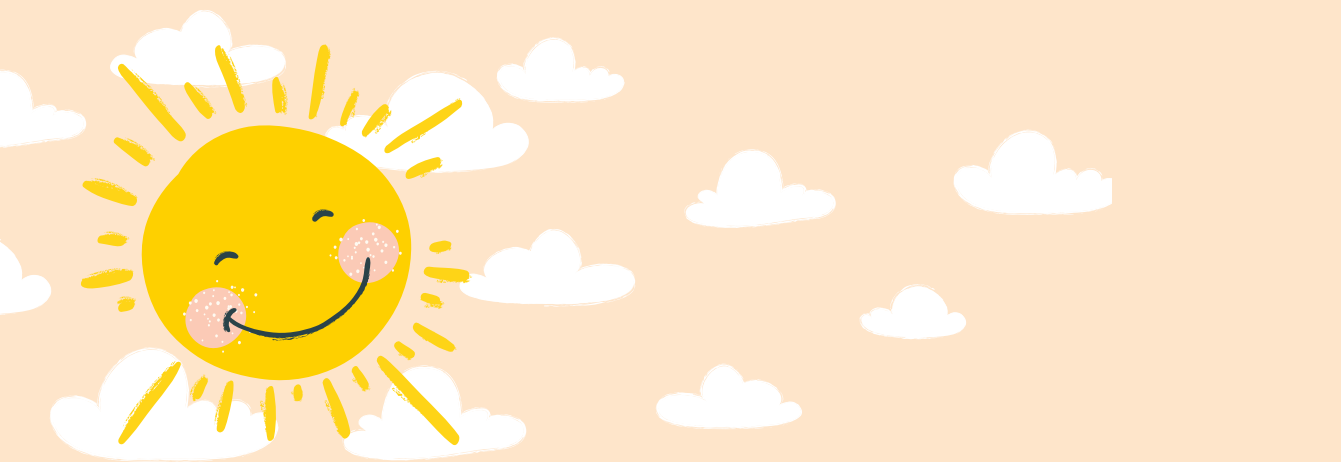














# STUDENT COUNCIL 2019 - 20



**Kapish Shetty**  
Head Boy



**Sagar Sharma**  
Sports Captain



**Judah Furtado**  
Catholic Leader



**Swayam Tandel**  
Asst. Head Boy



**Harsh Kapadia**  
Asst. Sports Captain



**Ashley Fernandes**  
Asst. Catholic Leader



**Kamran Rangari**  
Red House Captain



**Devesh Singh**  
Blue House Captain



**Shehbaaz Patel**  
Yellow House Captain



**Abdul Mubeen  
Shaikh**  
Green House Captain



**Lal Mohd. Patel**  
Asst. Red House  
Captain



**Kushagra Awachat**  
Asst. Blue House  
Captain



**Indrayudh Pramanik**  
Asst. Yellow House  
Captain



**Hem Satra**  
Asst. Green House  
Captain



# 10 YEARS OF APPRECIATION

Verus Ferreira

**F**r. Magi Murzello is a priest who wears many hats: Principal of St. Andrew's High School, Bandra, Rector of St. Andrew's College, Bandra, and, most recently, a seat on the Senate of the University of Mumbai. This last appointment, bearing a five-year term, commenced in September 2017.

As Principal of the School, Fr. Magi changed the way youngsters attend school. In July, 2010, he brought in a new concept, 'Mission Sunshine', which aimed at transforming criticism into appreciation and encouragement. As Mission Sunshine completes 10 years of transforming lives, we take a look at how it has encouraged sunshine into the students' lives.

## The Concept

Fr. Magi is a man on a mission; a mission to drape his school in sunshine. From the school lobby to its corridors and, more importantly, his office (his yellow desk, yellow walls, most books with yellow-coloured covers), all are bathed in sunshine; transforming darkness into light. Every Friday, students are encouraged to wear their Mission Sunshine T-shirts instead of the school uniform. Thus, a very friendly and family-like atmosphere exists at St. Andrew High School; something never attempted or done before. According to him, "Appreciation has to be inculcated as a life skill. Mission Sunshine strives to remind constantly that everyone is hungry for praise and starving for honest appreciation. Mission Sunshine seeks to instil the attitude of appreciation in the stakeholders of the School."

Mission Sunshine was the outcome of a personal experience Fr. Magi had in the year 2009. "It was my nephew's first day at school. He thoroughly enjoyed himself; but the next day, he sulked and just refused to go. I found out the reason and tried to do something about it. Around the same time, the movie '3 Idiots' was released. The song "Give me some sunshine..." became a rage

with film-goers. But, actually, it is a tragic song sung by an unappreciated student who commits suicide in the movie. The reality was that the student had, in fact, fared well in his examinations, but circumstances drove him to take this extreme step. It was with this thought in mind that I developed the idea of Mission Sunshine."



With a lot of planning and hard work, Mission Sunshine saw the light of day on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2010. It found favour with Honourable Member of Parliament, Ms. Priya Dutt, who inaugurated the concept at the School. Fr. Magi handed over, to each student, a Mission Sunshine goodie bag containing a diary, badge, sunshine ball, T-shirt and other merchandise developed around the theme.

The concept of Mission Sunshine applies to all students; from Nursery to Std. 10. Prior to implementation, Fr. Magi explained the concept to all parents





and received positive feedback from them. “Many welcomed such a novel concept and gave me their support,” says an elated Fr. Magi, who also began a makeover of the School by installing CCTV cameras all over the campus, high-end projectors in each classroom and painting the Mission Sunshine theme in public areas of the School.



Fr. Magi started out with a solarium – a ‘coun-solar’ to appreciate and encourage the students. “Many youngsters are wary of meeting a counsellor. Their first thought is that they are being reprimanded and advised in a very stern manner. The coun-solar has two priests from the Parish, who attend to students’ needs on a one-to-one basis without parental interference. They instil positive thoughts and appreciation for the student before solving their problems that may range from personal issues to family pressure.” The School also boasts of a Mission Sunshine multiplex, a film-based learning module, which aims to influence young minds through value-based films.



For those who wish to spend a few quiet moments in meditation, Fr. Magi has given them space in the ‘Gratitude Chapel’ that spells out the word ‘thank you’ in multiple languages. There is also an Appreciation Bank in every classroom; reserved for classmates’ interaction and appreciation within the same class. Fr. Magi hasn’t forgotten his teachers and has created a Pat Book for them. But what about the lower rung, the peons and ayahs who help mop the school floor? “Taking a cue from the movie ‘Munnabhai MBBS’, we also have a page for them in our ‘Book of Revolution’; that tracks the deeds of these people through a simple formula, ‘Appreciation equals Acknowledgement and Personal Action’. This page is for the support staff to appreciate one another.” informs Fr. Magi.

### Implementation

Fr. Magi then revamped the goodie bag into an easy-to-carry attractive school wallet which had a lot of the Mission Sunshine goodies in it. The black-zippered carry case had a stylish handle and doubled up as an iPad cover. And talking of iPad, one of the items in the case was a Thank Pad – a gratitude journal. The Pad also doubled as a diary for 2018 and had space to list all the good deeds done each day as well as the ones planned for the next day. Beautiful and thought-provoking quotes by famous personalities, at the top of each page, made you ponder life’s realities. One such touching quote went, “Gratitude is a duty which ought to be paid, but none have a right to expect.” (Jean-Jacques Rousseau). The Pad also helped





Mission Sunshine's objectives. The red smile in the word 'Sunshine' is the smile that appreciation generates. The 'Wow' aspect extols wonderment; the willingness to be surprised by life. It is from wonderment that appreciation springs. Mission Sunshine exhorts: the 'WOW' MAGIC...spread it!"

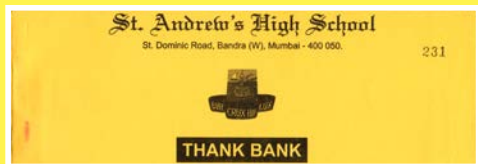
But doing good work doesn't come easy. Initially, Fr. Magi found it difficult to start; but everything fell into place when he received help from every door he knocked on. Surely, the 'WOW Magic' that has 'Magi' in it worked for him. Fr. Murzello is confident that the concept will work not only in the School but also in the students' homes. "If you instil something good in a child in school, the same will be replicated at home. We cannot have appreciation on one track; it has to be two-fold. Appreciation has to be 'dil se'... from the heart... otherwise it's just not appreciation."

### Feedback

Fr. Magi is wary of too much sunshine reflected on his students. As an Arab proverb rightly states, "Sunshine all the time makes a desert". Keeping this in mind, Fr. Magi has prepared Sun Signs and Sun Spots; wherein, the former acknowledges good behaviour and the latter, negative behaviour. Fr. Murzello, with the help of the teachers, personally checks students' Mission Sunshine books regularly to stay abreast of how the concept is working with his students.

While he is doing his bit to spread the sunshine around, he strongly feels that the current educational system does not focus on "emotional literacy". "Every classroom must become a heart-centered classroom. Social media needs to be harnessed by schools. We are moving from analog classrooms to digital ones. Hence prudent use of social media is the need of the times."

develop the practice of recalling the people who crossed your path everyday and to whom you must be thankful for each and every day. Says Fr. Magi, "Any work done out of goodwill for the other is a good act and should be appreciated; but very often it goes unnoticed. This book reminds us to appreciate others." At the end of the book were 8 TanQ notes to be filled in with a personal message and given to someone who has meant a lot to you.



Ever thought you'd handle a cheque book at school? The 'Wow Bank' issued a cheque book from which you could tear out and gift your friends and teachers a Cheque of Appreciation. And to keep a track of the cheques you also had a PAT Book; a Passbook which held entries of all the Positive Attitude Transactions you have carried out. To brighten up each Monday morning of the year, you had the blue-coloured message board tags to pin up near your study table, to show how special you are in the eyes of God. 'Exquisite, Phenomenal, Stunning, Beautiful, Super duper' were just some of the many inspiring words that best describe who you are even if you think you are not. Be positive and feel the Wow Magic engulf you throughout the day with these little one-word thoughts!

Lastly, the kit contained a smart pen which has an eye-catching message that reveals itself as the pen is used.

Fr. Magi's publicity material is catchy and speaks volumes about the concept. He explains, "The Mission Sunshine logo has a black background resembling a black board with the inscription in chalk, because appreciation has to be learnt and imbibed by everyone. The '@' sign is adopted as the symbol of appreciation. It is artistically designed to shine like the sun. Every time, a participant comes across @, he/she is reminded of





### The Accolades

Fr. Magi has taken the Mission Sunshine concept to more than 300 schools in Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Goa. It is no wonder that his efforts won him the ‘Educator Innovator – 2011’ award and generous cash prize at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Roundtable Conference, whose theme was ‘Metamorphosis in Education’.

In March 2008, he was awarded the prestigious Rev. A. Sologran Prize by the Management of St. Xavier’s Institute of Education for Innovations in Education. Later, in May 2010, he was the main resource person for a three-day national seminar held in Goa, speaking on the topic of ‘Innovations in the Education Spectrum’.

In September 2013, Fr. Magi was felicitated by His Lordship, Bishop Oswald Lewis, at St. Xavier’s College, Jaipur, for making a difference in the field of education. Later, he also conducted a full-day workshop for 44 school principals from Mangalore.

In May 2017, on his visit to France, he visited L’Arche International, an international federation dedicated to the creation and growth of homes, programmes, and support networks with people who have intellectual disabilities, and returned with many valuable insights that he felt could be implemented in India. He therefore started a certificate course for adults with intellectual disabilities in St. Andrew’s College – Hospitality department where the participants were trained in basic culinary skills without paying any monthly fees. Mr. Sanjeev Kapoor, celebrity chef and TV person-

ality, was an inspiration for this noble venture. In fact, Mumbai’s iconic five-star hotel Taj LandsEnd at Bandra, expressed interest in offering employment to these adults. Fr. Magi was also in charge of a school for special students at Ghatkopar.

Fr. Magi’s work has taken him to the poorest of the poor. He has been actively involved over the years with orphanages especially Shraddha Vihar Ashram at Andheri, Mumbai. He organises many events round the year for different orphanages and senior citizens homes. In 2017, he initiated the ‘Yeh-lo Santa’. Red Santa gives gifts whereas you give gifts to Yellow Santa for the poor. Donors could sponsor a ‘sunbox’ or volunteer to pack the sunboxes. Besides goodies, each sunbox worth Rs.250/- had basic items like soaps, pencils, books, etc for underprivileged children. College students packed more than 2000 sunboxes and travelled personally to rural areas in Maharashtra to bring sunshine.

The successes of the previous years have turned Fr. Magi into a more resilient person, building upon what he has done, with the results showing in numerous ways. He has his hands full with work and is all set to take on whatever the Lord sends his way.

We cannot forget the golden words of St. Teresa of Calcutta who once said, “There is more hunger for love and appreciation in the world, than for bread.” Mission Sunshine seeks to remind that everyone wants a day in the sun – to get attention and be appreciated. It seeks to make a difference... make appreciation ‘dil se’.



# A TRIBUTE TO MSGR. NEREUS RODRIGUES (1923 – 2020)

Nirmala Carvalho

**Msgr. Nereus Rodrigues, a passionate educator, passed on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 after serving the Archdiocese of Bombay for 62 years in the field of education. We take a look at his contribution to education; his most notable achievement being the establishment of St. Andrew's College, Bandra, the only Archdiocesan College in Mumbai. He was also one of the longest-running principals of St. Andrew High School; a tenure of 10 years from 1959 to 1969.**

Msgr. Nereus was convinced that education was an area where the Catholic Church was making a key contribution. He passionately and consistently championed the 'felt need' for a Catholic college in the suburbs and set the stage for the successful actualisation of the prestigious St. Andrew's College in the year 1983.

Msgr. Nereus strongly articulated the core purpose of the Catholic college:

- Academic excellence
- Catholic identity and faith formation
- Artistic and creative pursuits
- Sports

The College is dedicated to the highest academic standards fostered through a rigorous and innovative environment for academics. With his outstanding commitment and leadership, St. Andrew's College was able to offer 8 Degrees, besides a Certificate in Hospitality. The accreditation with an 'A' Grade by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) and the Maharashtra Board, reflects the commitment to academic excellence.

St Andrew's Auditorium, a state-of-the-art auditorium, was built in the College by Msgr. Nereus for the promotion of creativity in art, music and literature.

Encouraging sports and athletics is also core to the College vision of "holistic and high-quality education that empowers students to achieve their potential".

Being a minority educational institution, at least 50% of the student population is Catholic. For effectively maintaining the religious integrity of the College, Msgr. Nereus had a chapel built at the entrance of the College, where Mass is now cele-





brated daily during the academic year. The Chapel is also open to students and teachers of all faiths who need a place of solitude and silence.

Recognising the role Catholic education could play in India's pluralistic yet deeply religious society, Msgr. Nereus initiated the Vatican's Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation's chair for 'Inter-religious and Inter-Cultural Dialogue' at St Andrew's College; thus, seeking ways to promote peace, understanding and dialogue between religions and cultures. He also instituted the highly appreciated Value Education classes at the College.

Msgr. Nereus had a Post-graduate degree in Education from London University, and later earned a Fulbright scholarship to the University of Southern California where he did studies on the American School Administration. With a Doctorate in Canon Law from Urbana University, Rome, Msgr. Nereus taught Canon Law at St. Pius X College (Archdiocesan Seminary).



In the mid-1960s, Rodrigues was appointed President of the All-India Association of Catholic Schools (AINACS), where he was one of the pioneers of audio-visual education and multimedia-based education. With his knowledge of rules and uncompromising insistence on quality, he helped many an institution raise their benchmark and go beyond what was expected.

Awarded the State's Best Teacher Award in 1974-75, he also had the rare distinction, for a Catholic priest, of serving as the leader of the prestigious and secular Headmasters' Association.

Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, appointed Msgr. Nereus in-charge of Education in the Archdiocese of Bombay (currently known as Archdiocesan Board of Education or ABE). The Archdiocese then included Vasai and Thane districts as well. Later, he was appointed Inspector of Catholic Schools, a position he held for twenty years. Of this stint, he said, "Inspection was a means to evaluate the academic teaching, administration, curriculum and time-tables as well as fidelity to the teaching of religion and morals. The inspection report became a very useful document in the hands of the respective school, the Inspector, as well as the Archbishop. There came about a growing sense of accountability in the implementation of the recommendations following the inspection. Regulations were strictly enforced, and the schools functioned at optimum levels."

"Christianity has changed the moral culture of the people in India. Christian values have played an important part in influencing culture and society, through the charitable works of education and healthcare apostolates across the country, in urban townships, in cities and the remotest rural areas. The Catholic presence has played a vital role in spreading the value system of Jesus and has brought about a transformation in the lives of people and society," Msgr. Nereus said.

"In Bombay, as it was known in those days, there were many neighbourhoods where poorer sections of Catholics lived, and we welcomed their children, who were first-generation learners, into the schools," Rodrigues said. "They were treated on par with the students from 'well-to-do' families – there was no distinction, and all our students were given the same opportunities. These children flourished with both, intellectual and religious knowledge, and could later take up jobs and become self-sufficient and empowered."





Not only did that commitment to equality set an example for the broader society still struggling to get past the burdens of the ancient caste system, but it also had a positive effect on the life of the Church. “It is also a matter of great pride that many vocations flourished,” he said. “Today, many of our priests and sisters are serving the Church, both in India and abroad. They are global missionaries, all thanks to Catholic education.”

Given the make-up of Indian society, Rodrigues forged deep relationships with followers of other faiths. “My work has had a deep impact on people I’ve met – people of diverse backgrounds, who recognised and acknowledged our education apostolate.”

In the late-1970s, a building was being vacated in Vashi and was offered to any Trust that could run a school in it. The Deputy Director of Education, Govt. of Maharashtra, offered Msgr. Nereus and the Archdiocese the chance to bid for it. But the





Archdiocese could not match the bids. Later, there was an empty plot being offered by CIDCO for building a school. The same officer contacted the Monsignor again, and this time the bid was successful. That is how the Sacred Heart High School, Vashi came to be.

In the year 1979, Catholic educators from the Archdiocese were invited to deliberate on the need for a college in the suburbs to cater to its growing Catholic community, and to serve the poor and the weaker sections of society. The idea, which had germinated as early as 1940 when Valerian Cardinal Gracias envisioned a diocesan college, crystallised only during the tenure of Archbishop Simon Pimenta when Msgr. Nereus was Chairperson of the Education Board and Inspector of Catholic schools.

In the year 1981, entrusted with the responsibility of establishing St. Andrew's College at Bandra, and ably assisted by Fr. Rodney Esperance, Msgr. Nereus began his mission. After 2 years of relentless efforts and assistance from the likes of Mr. Ahmed Zakaria, MLA, the required permissions were granted by the Government of Maharashtra and the University of Bombay. And on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1983, St Andrew's College was inaugurated – a great day in the Archdiocese of Bombay.

“Education, we need to realise, makes a great contribution in sowing hope to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true,” explained Msgr. Nereus. “Through our schools and colleges, Catholic education is responsible for positively changing and transforming the face of society.”

Whenever asked about his remarkable life, however, Msgr. Nereus merely smiled shyly. “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty,” he said and added that his life's work was about “service carried out with love”.





# 3-D EXTRAVAGANZA



**A**nother feather in the cap for us Andreans is our 3-D Laboratory. What an awesome experience! Most of the classes have observed science lessons here since the lab was set up and every child's face has lit up in wonder.

Each lesson comes alive thanks to this amazing technique. The Digestive System for Std. VII and Respiration for Std. X was akin to taking a boat ride through the body. The recap in class showed that retention capacity of the students had improved considerably. Students who hardly participated otherwise were enthusiastic to answer.

Fr. Magi invited parents to experience the lab and educated them about the impact of this method of learning. Our Supervisor, Mr. Michael Lopes, was also present. Both, Fr. Magi and Sir Michael, answered their queries. Many parents complimented Fr. Magi for always bringing in innovative ideas.

Thanks to Fr. Magi, this technology will undoubtedly make learning fun.



# BIDDING ADIEU



“The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again.” With this thought, we, at St. Andrew High School (Primary) bid Adieu to our teacher, M’am Lorraine Fernandez. M’am Lorraine has dedicated 27 years of service to this institution. In appreciation, the primary students and teachers planned a short and memorable programme for her. The programme began by welcoming M’am Lorraine, M’am Vivette (Primary Headmistress) and Fr. Magi (Principal). This was followed by a prayer.

Our little singers did a fabulous job by singing melodiously. A dance performed by the students of Stds. II, III and IV entertained the audience. Fr. Principal wished M’am Lorraine good luck and good health. M’am Lorraine was delighted and taken aback by the hard work put in by all teachers and students and she thanked everyone.

We wish her good health and happiness in the coming years.





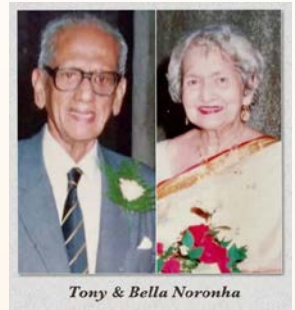
## BRENDAN GOMES SCHOLARSHIP

In August 2019, the School received a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 (Two lakh rupees) towards **The Brendan Gomes Scholarship**. The scholarship was instituted by Mr. Bento J. Gomes in the name of his late son towards the purpose of education.



## TONY AND BELLA NORONHA SCHOLARSHIP

In September 2019, Mr. V.S. Noronha contributed a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 towards a scholarship in the name of his late parents. **The Tony and Bella Noronha Scholarship** will go towards the education of Catholic students of Std. 9.



*God bless you for your generosity!*

## GOODBYE! GOOD LUCK! GODSPEED!



Retirement brings so many changes... It is a time to leave the familiar and explore new horizons, to look back on favourite memories and look forward to making new ones, to say goodbye to old friends and hello to new ones. It marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of a wonderful future.

**M'am Esther Loo** has served in the Pre-primary since 2001. Punctuality has been her hallmark. Her simple charm, twinkling eyes, gentle smile, care and concern for the little ones has proved that the company of children does keep one young at heart. Her jovial, happy-go-lucky nature and winning ways of dealing with children helped them be confident in taking their first steps. She could identify each child by his name which brought to fore a strong bonding with him.

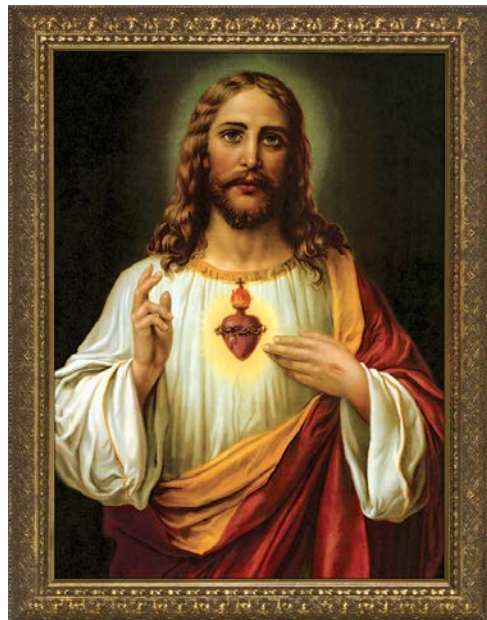


Retire from work but not from life is an attitude we exhort you to imbibe, dear M'am Esther. Our prayers are for you and your happiness. We ask our Heavenly Father to bless you with a long, healthy and contented retired life.



# SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

**28<sup>th</sup>** June, 2019 was a day of celebration at St. Andrew High School, as it is the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our School was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on this day in 1931. This year, the special prayer service was conducted by Fr. Clarence Fonseca, Parish Priest of St. Andrew Church and Manager of our School. Principal Fr. Magi Murzello and Asst. Parish Priest Fr. Anthony Alphonso joined Fr. Clarence in blessing the entire school premises. This was followed by a Mass invoking God's blessing on St. Andrew High School for the new academic year 2019-2020.





# PARENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



**T**he Andean Child Centre provides a perfect, holistic education to Pre-primary children. With a desire to help parents understand the long-term benefits to their children, an orientation session was held on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 in Annexe Andrea. Our Principal, Fr. Magi Murzello, addressed the parents and this was followed by M'am Giselle explaining the innovative teaching methods used. She emphasised that through exploration and experimentation, skills like language, concentration, observation, listening, comprehension, motor and social will help

children develop into life-long learners. It was an action-packed morning for the parents as they were given a hands-on experience of different activities like opening and closing bottles, pegging, sorting, clay modelling, paper tearing and sticking, finger printing, lacing cards and many more. Parents were rejuvenated and enlightened by this valuable methodology.

They left with a token of love made by their children wishing them 'Happy Parents Day'.







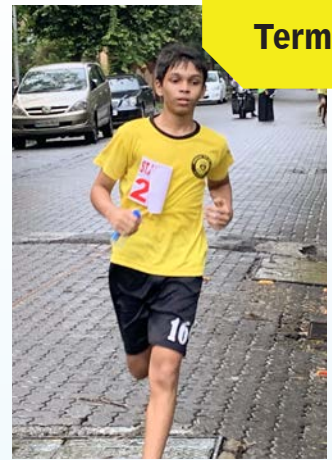


# MONSOON ROAD RACE – 2019

The IV Monsoon Road Race was held on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2019. Children from different age groups participated in the road race and displayed their grit and determination.

The winners were as follows:

	U-8 years (1 kms)	U-10 years (2 kms)	U-12 years (3 kms)	U-14 years (4 kms)	U-16 years (5 kms)
1 <sup>st</sup> place	Aryan Dinesh Sawant	Mohammed Amin Pathan	Aryan Sawant	Mit Shirgudi	Yashwant Naik
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Rachit Vinde	Isaac Misquitta	Aradya Khedkar	Krish Chitapurkar	Sagar Sharma
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Kevin Velan	Saksham Pawar	Daksh Bhika	Maaz Mistry	Vivek Tirkey





# PROUD TO BE INDIAN



Never forget the sacrifice for freedom – this was the theme of the Independence Day programme held by the Secondary section. The day started with the hoisting of the flag by the Chief Guest, Manager Fr. Clarence Fonseca, Principal Fr. Magi Murzello and Secondary Supervisor Mr. Michael Lopes. The national anthem was sung with great fervour and the students prayed together for our Motherland.

St. Andrew's always believes in fostering leadership and this was seen in the investiture ceremony where the outgoing council members handed over the School house flags to the newly appointed council members. It was a solemn ceremony.

The School has also always considered it important to invest in young talent and this was beautifully exhibited by our students through their speeches and dance. The Fr. Roque Fernandes Scholarship was handed out to the deserving boys who had passed Std. X during the years 2017-18 and 2018-19. Our Principal, Fr. Magi Murzello, had initiated



the Mission Sunshine project wherein boys have been taught to show their gratitude and appreciate everything and everyone around them. A special trophy of appreciation was given to Cleophus Pinto, an ex-student, who has been living the mantra of appreciation.

The previous day, the Andrean Child Centre celebrated Independence Day dressed in traditional wear. M'am Vivette D'Mello (Primary Headmistress) and Sir Michael Lopes (Secondary







Supervisor) graced the short programme which began by saluting the tricolour, singing the national anthem and taking the pledge of dedication to the service of India. The feeling of patriotism was further felt when a child of the Sr. KG delivered a speech. The children of the Nursery stole the hearts of the audience as they came dressed as our national leaders. This was followed by the presentation of the national symbols by the children of the Jr. KG and Sr. KG. A patriotic song 'Aao Bachon' was sung by 3 Sr. KG children. The depiction of a few States of India was done by the children of the Jr. KG. A dance performance 'Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani' by the Sr. KG boys set everyone's feet a-tapping. Lastly, together in unison, all the children with virtuousness and childish patriotism sang 4 patriotic songs.

Sir Michael addressed the gathering and the beautiful morning ended with every child being given 2 chocolates to sweeten their mouths.

As Raksha Bandhan was also celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August this year, as part of the craft activity, children made colourful rakhis under the guidance of their teachers.



# FUN IN THE RAIN



Children of the Pre-primary section were excited as they looked out of their classroom windows and noticed the sky filled with dark clouds. Suddenly, there was a heavy downpour and all were happy as they were told to put on their raincoats for some masti in the rain. The joy on their faces was priceless. They ran on the School grounds and turf experiencing the raindrops fall on them. They splashed in the puddles collected and sailed colourful boats. Back again in class, they observed some monsoon creatures with the help of a magnifying glass. These will be memories for them to cherish.



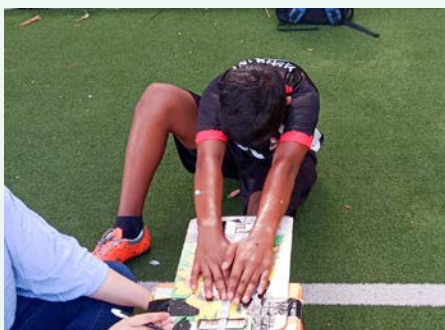


# NUTRITION AND FITNESS PROGRAMME



A nutrition and fitness programme was conducted for all students who were part of the School sports team. Held at St. Andrew's Turf Park, the programme was conducted by Ms. Naaznin Husein of Freedom Wellness. Ms. Husein, a medical nutritional therapist, conducted a session on the role of nutrition in fitness for these students and their parents. 15 assistant nutritionists then conducted fitness tests for the boys. The tests included:

- Broad Jump Test: To estimate the explosive leg power of the athlete
- 20m Shuttle Run Test: To estimate the athlete's aerobic capacity
- Agility Cone Drill Test: To measures the agility of the athlete especially in body control and change of direction
- Back Saver Sit and Reach Test: To measures the flexibility of each leg separately
- Curl Up Test: To measures the abdominal strength and core stability



All students then had individual consultations where diet plans were prescribed keeping in mind current eating habits and the fitness test results.



# JANMASHTAMI

‘Go Go Go Govinda’ was the song sung by the Andean Child Centre while cheering Lord Krishna to break the dahi handi. Janmashtami is the birthday of Lord Krishna and is celebrated with enormous zeal and enthusiasm all over India. This festival brings much joy and a feeling of unity. Our Secondary Supervisor, Sir Michael and Primary Headmistress, M’am Vivette also joined in the celebration. Our young Govinda Pathaks enjoyed themselves immensely, singing and dancing.





# NATIONAL SPORTS DAY



29<sup>th</sup> August is celebrated

as National Sports Day as it is the birth anniversary of hockey legend, Dhyan Chand. In memory of this great sportsman who won 3 Olympic gold medals, our School organised fun hockey drills for students of Stds. VI and VII. This gave the students the opportunity to understand our national game and motivated some of them to consider playing the sport. We do hope that the 'Hockey ka Jaadugar' inspires our students to create magic too.





# CATCH THEM YOUNG... TEACH THEM TO GROW

Education involves not only book knowledge but practical experience too. The children of the Andean Child Centre were introduced to the green world of plants as they were taught the different parts of a plant and were given to observe the roots with a magnifying glass. The excitement carried forward as children were then given different seeds to sow and water daily as they watched them grow into plants.

The children of the Sr. KG, as part of project work, were encouraged to sow seeds in a container at home and bring the well-grown plant to class. The topic was extended with the introduction to common flowers they see around. A florist was invited to display the making of a garland, gajra and bouquet.









# ENGAGING THE FIVE SENSES TO LEARN

**E**yes to see, ears to hear, nose to smell, skin to feel and tongue to taste... these 5 senses are used every day. They work together to let our brain know what is going on around us and help keep us safe by warning us of any danger. The children of the Andean Child Centre were given a hands-on experience to explore their 5 senses and it was definitely an enjoyable way to learn.





# TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION



This year, Teachers' Day was celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> September as the School had Ganpati holidays. The council members organised a short programme which was heart-warming and brought a smile to the faces of the teaching staff.

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, was a fun-filled day for the teachers. The day began with a movie at Le Reve Cinema, 'Chhichore', which was entertaining and lightened the mood of all present. The next stop was Barbecue Nation where the teachers received a warm welcome from our Manager Fr. Clarence Fonseca and our Principal Fr. Magi Murzello. Everyone tucked in the barbecued starters amidst laughter and light-hearted banter. This was followed by a sumptuous meal. The teachers received a token of appreciation and were extremely grateful to the munificence of the School Management. They left in high spirits having had a thoroughly enjoyable day.





# A PILGRIMAGE TO THE MOUNT WITH A DIFFERENCE

On the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, the students of Stds. 9 and 10 attended the Marian Pilgrimage organised by ABE to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount where they joined 800 students and teachers from different schools. After embarking on a spiritual journey through the Mass that was celebrated by His Lordship, Bishop John Rodrigues, the students then proceeded to Apostolic Carmel High School for a career guidance programme.

‘Career Gyaan 2019.... launch yourself’. This novel idea was conceptualised by none other than our Principal Fr. Magi Murzello and organised by Diocesan Youth Centre. Eminent speakers like Mr. Viren Rasquinha, former Olympic Hockey player, and Mr. Vishaal Rasquinha, the super cool emcee, shared their life experiences. Fr. Godfrey D’Sa helped broaden the students’ perspective with regards to various career options. Mr. Luis Miranda encouraged the students to look beyond. Students were given a book titled ‘Build the hero within you’ written by Fr. Alfonso Elengikal. The take home message for our students was – Do whatever makes you happy but do it well. There is no shortcut to success.

The students expressed their gratitude to Fr. Magi for a truly enriching experience. His Lordship, Bishop Barthol Barretto, appreciated the work done by our Helping Hands parents in maintaining order and discipline.









# OUR SCHOOL - OUR SECOND HOME



To make the topic 'My School' even more interesting, the children of the Andean Child Centre were taken around the School campus for a short field trip. They visited the Principal's office and were surprised to receive a 5 Star chocolate as they exited. They looked around the School lobby and were most fascinated by the fish tanks with colourful fish in them. They were then taken to a classroom and were happy to see a vibrant class. Next, they moved to the cabin of the Primary Headmistress and the Secondary Supervisor and were also shown the School office as they happily interacted with the friendly staff. Further, they were taken to the staffroom. They then passed through Annexe Andrea and moved onto the School quadrangle and the turf. They were also shown the cabin of the watchmen. Lastly, they visited the School canteen before they settled down to their snack break.





# A WALK AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



The children of the Sr. KG went for an educational field trip in order to be better acquainted with their surroundings. They visited St. Andrew's College, Arya Vidya Mandir School, Café Andora, Holy Family Hospital and a roadside florist. They came back happy and excited after this experience.





# DUSHEHRA









# COLOURS IN MY WORLD



**R**ed, blue, green and yellow are the main colours. Each month, one of these 4 colours was introduced to the Nursery children by their teacher through a conversation with the help of flashcards, cut-outs and real objects followed by a craft activity. This classroom interaction initiates a holistic development as this further helps the tiny tots register and recall these colours easily.

The first colour introduced was red. Children wore red and brought along a red toy to class. The next colour was blue. Children came in blue outfits. An activity was jointly done by parent and child at home by making a cut-out of their choice.



This helped in parent-child bonding too. Next was the introduction to green. Children dressed in green clothes and brought a green-coloured snack in their tiffin box. Many interesting items like hara bhara kababs, grapes, kiwis, cucumber, broccoli were seen that day. Yellow was introduced last. Children came dressed in yellow with broad sunshine smiles wearing a sun cut-out on a headband.

The 1<sup>st</sup> term ended on a colourful note as children were now able to identify the essential colours in their world.







# A SPARKLING DIWALI



**D**iwali, the festival of joy and light, celebrates the victory of good over evil. We too at the Andean Child Centre were in the mood for celebration. The children wore party clothes and they sang, danced and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They brought snacks and cold drinks which they shared with each other, thus experiencing the spirit of sharing and respecting each other's faith.









# FRUITS AND VEGGIES... FUN TO EAT



“Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit, wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.” To highlight the importance of consuming fruit and how it keeps us in good health, children of the Andean Child Centre had a Fruit Chaat Day with a variety of fresh, juicy and tasty fruit that pampered their taste buds reaping a ton of benefits. A ray of hope for the reluctant fruit eaters was a watermelon juice.



Soon followed a Veggie Day. We all know that most children do not like vegetables. So, our teachers encouraged eating them in innovative ways. The children enjoyed them as pizza toppings as well as in noodles. They also delved into a healthy corn chaat. Some of them were encouraged to prepare their own veggie sandwich as their teacher demonstrated how to prepare it. In this way, the children of the Andean Child Centre learnt to eat healthy for a healthy living.





# CHILDREN – OUR TREASURE



Children's Day is celebrated as we pay tribute to our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on his birth anniversary. The children of the Andean Child Centre began their beautiful day flocking around our Principal, Fr. Magi, as he happily greeted them and were thrilled to have him in their midst. A surprise was in store for them as they were taken to view a short 3-D movie 'Little Chicken'. This experience was unique and will be a treasured one.

The Secondary section had a short prayer service followed by a light entertainment programme. It was a joyful time for the children to see their teachers on stage performing for them.

Climb ev'ry mountain, Ford ev'ry stream,  
Follow ev'ry rainbow, Till you find your dream... This is our sincere wish for every student.

There was a surprise waiting for the children as the Class of 2010, in appreciation for all that they received from their Alma Mater, presented each student with a geometry box and a 5 Star chocolate.

Mission Sunshine being fulfilled!

**"There are some things we can't buy and one such thing is our childhood."**

– Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru





## THE 'I CAN' GLOBAL SUMMIT, ROME



Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 was a time of great joy for the Andrean family, especially the 'I CAN' teams, as Fr. Magi announced that St. Andrew High School would be participating in the 'I CAN' Global Summit in Rome in November 2019.

When the 'I CAN' Challenge was first explained by Fr. Magi, the students were greatly enthusiastic and came out with different ideas which would help save the environment. Many of the ideas failed to take off for various reasons. The students were dejected as the day of submission drew near. It was Fr. Magi, who kept encouraging the boys to carry on and assured them of his support. Kevin D'Costa with 'The Saviour of Water Bodies', a 'water purifier gizmo', set the wheels rolling, and soon Vivek Jadhav came up with the 'Fish-o-Ponics' project. 2 teams were formed under the guidance of M'am Jacinta Furtado. The students put in a lot of time and effort to complete their projects and submit them.

In November 2019, 11 students of Std. 10 left for Rome to participate in the Design For Change (DFC) Global Summit. They were Abhishekh Gupta, Aryan Khan, Devesh Singh, Ganeev Singh, Heramb Pednekar, Kaif Shaikh, Kapish Shetty, Kevin D'Costa, Sagar Sharma, Shehbaaz Patel and Vivek Jadhav. They were escorted by teachers, Mrs. Jacinta Furtado and Sir Vinod Nalawade

'Weaving a world without borders' were words spoken by the Founder/ Director, Ms. Kiran Bir Sethi, for the Inaugural ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> 'I Can Global Summit' on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at the Palazzo Dei Congressi in Rome. It was the largest international gathering of children from over 40 countries.



St. Andrew High School was the only school from Mumbai and it was a proud moment to see our Super Heroes on stage sharing their views on the projects they had submitted. The students had the opportunity to meet, interact and play games with children of different nationalities. Afternoons were spent touring the beautiful historic city of Rome.





The highlight of the event was the concluding meeting at the Aula Paulo VI where the gathering was graced with the presence of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. His Holiness gave a message of encouragement to the children as well as to teachers and parents.

The students received their participation certificates from Principal Fr. Magi Murzello when School reopened on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020. It was he who motivated and encouraged them throughout their year-long journey to be the change in the world and create a positive impact on society. The Superheroes will forever be grateful to him for this opportunity.





# ANDROTSAV 2019

To celebrate the feast of our patron saint, St. Andrew, the School organised Androtsav, a fun fair held over 2 days i.e. 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. The word, Androtsav, is a blend of Andrew and Utsav (festival). Announced a few weeks earlier, the fair generated much excitement among our boys as they were invited to participate in a dance competition with grand prizes to be won in the solo as well as group categories.

29<sup>th</sup> November couldn't arrive soon enough as the eager boys filled the School's basketball court. The event was inaugurated by Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ (Parish Priest, St. Peter Church and Manager, St. Stanislaus High School). Also present were Fr. Clarence Fonseca, Fr. Magi Murzello, M'am Vivette D'Mello and M'am Giselle DeMello to light the samai. There were fun rides for the little ones, a variety of entertainment, and stalls with a range of cuisines and knick-knacks for everyone. Spot prizes announced every few minutes kept everyone alert. Not only did InfraRed provide lots of entertainment with their performance, but they also brought along their fantastic sound system that only heightened the experience.







The dance competition on 30<sup>th</sup> November had the boys cheering on their friends and classmates who competed against students from the neighbouring schools. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their dancing skills. Our comperes did a stellar job of holding the event together. We were blessed to have ex-student Ivo D'Cruz and M'am Sarita Manchanda comperes the event. The organisation and management of the event would not have been possible without the parents of the Helping Hands team who made sure everything went off smoothly.







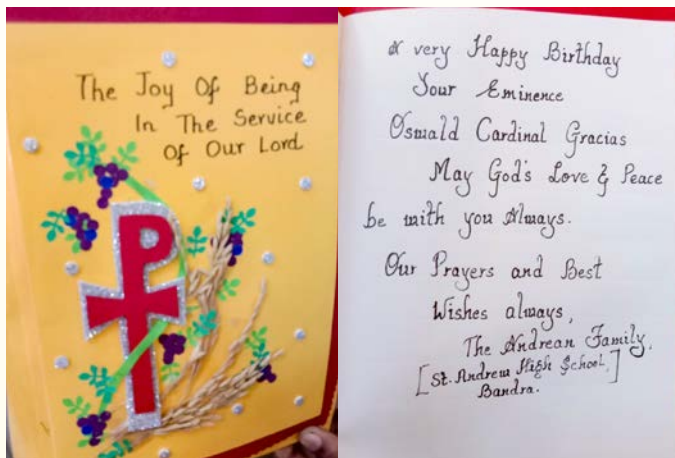


## A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

A 75<sup>th</sup> birthday is a milestone in one's life. It is a blessing from above. His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias is the blessed one to have a pre-birthday celebration on 19<sup>th</sup> December with the managers, principals, staff and students of the ABE (Archdiocesan Board of Education) schools. There was a meaningful con-celebrated mass at 10 am at the Cathedral of the Holy Name, Colaba. This was followed by His Eminence cutting the birthday cake and every school present there pouring out their wishes to him.

We wish His Eminence good health and happiness and many more wonderful birthdays as he continues to work in the vineyard of the Lord.

**“Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.” – Jack Benny**





# IT'S CHRISTMAS

**C**hristmas – The most wonderful time of the year! A season for gifts, candy canes, glistening lights, bows, mistletoes and carol singing. But, beyond all this, in a tiny manger lies the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Lord Jesus. This was depicted by a tableau put up by the students of the Secondary section.

The little ones of the Andrean Child Centre had a short programme and had the pleasure of M'am Vivette, the Primary Headmistress, in their midst. They showcased various Christmas symbols, displayed a tableau, sang and danced to 'Santa Claus is coming to town', 'I'm the happiest Christmas tree', 'Jingle bell rock' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. It was a feast to the eyes and everyone went home with the spirit of love, hope, joy and peace in their hearts.









# YEH-LO SANTA



Students returned to school with much joy on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020. That day, all students received a gift from Principal Fr. Magi – a jar filled with goodies. They were invited to return the jar filled with rice which would be given to poor families towards ‘helping Yeh-lo Santa in his mission to feed all’. Our boys and their parents gave generously to the project. The rice collected was distributed among several poor children and orphanages.



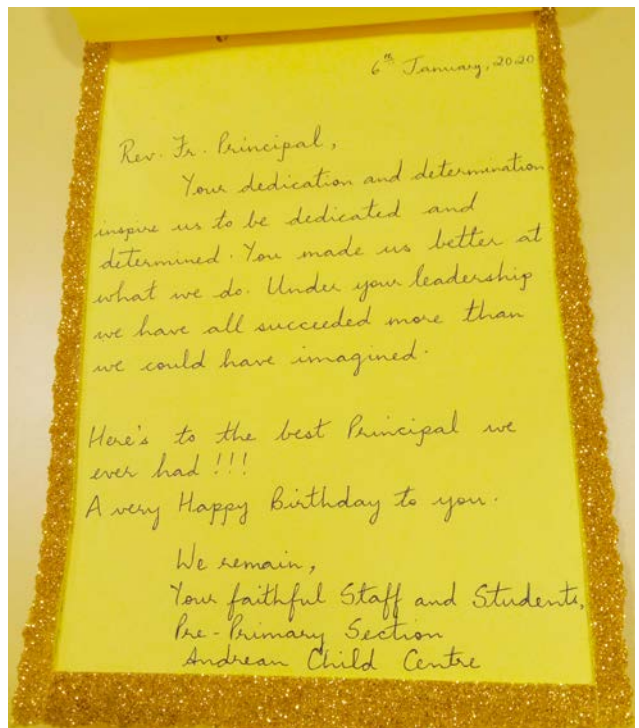
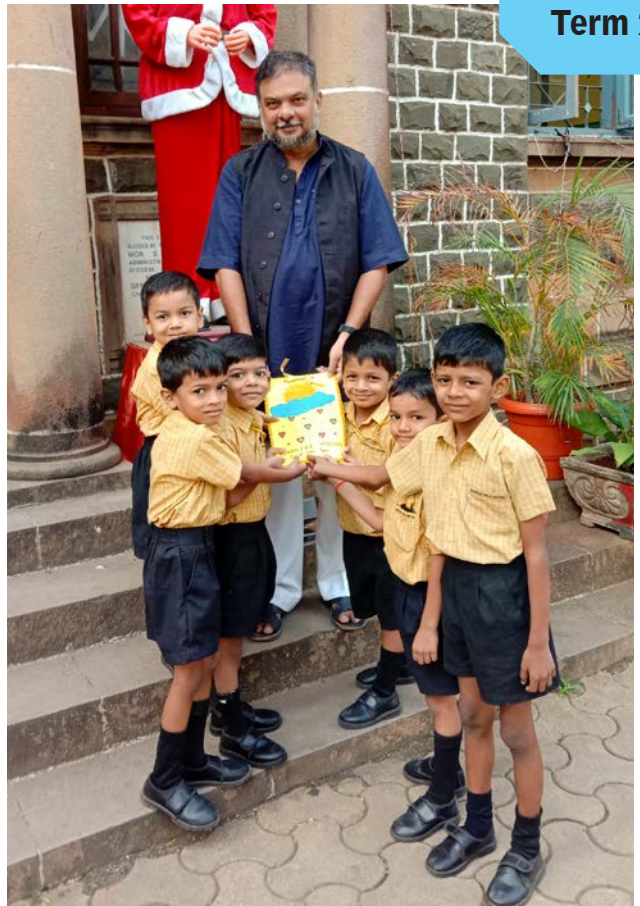


# BIRTHDAY BUZZZZZ

**“Today you lead our school  
Tomorrow our students will lead the world”**

**W**e, at St. Andrew High School, are fortunate to have Fr. Magi Murzello as our Principal who is wonderful, loving and caring.

We wish our Bee Boss the very best as he celebrates another year with the blessings of the Almighty and our good wishes always.





## SOARING HIGH

The aura is one of happiness and the air filled with colourful kites. It is Makar Sankranti once again. The morning was well-enjoyed by every father and son of the Andean Child Centre on the turf grounds as kites soared high into the sky.



Makar Sankranti seeks us to be polite, and have a voice and thoughts as sweet as jaggery; thus, creating a sense of a joyous beginning to the year 2020. Children brought til ladoos and shared them with their friends saying, “Til gud ghya ani godh godh bola.”

The children went home ecstatic holding a kite which was a craft activity done by them.





# REPUBLIC DAY



The 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day was celebrated by our patriotic little ones of the Andrean Child Centre on the terrace turf of our school. They wore tricoloured headbands taking pride in glorifying the spirit of unity. We had in our midst M'am Marceline Rodrigues and M'am Isabelle Gomes.

The morning began with M'am Giselle highlighting the significance of the day. She made children aware that they need to imbibe good values in life which will help them to be WOW citizens of our country. This was followed by singing of our National Anthem, taking the Pledge and singing patriotic songs. It was then time for some fun games and masti. The children enjoyed themselves thus making it an eventful morning.





## A DAY AT THE WATER PARK

The High School students, accompanied by the staff, went for their school picnic to Aquamagica Water Park on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020. They were treated to snack packets in the bus itself. Once at Aquamagica, the boys let their hair down and had great fun, enjoying all water rides. They enjoyed the sumptuous lunch too.

The discipline of the boys was commendable and they were praised by the teachers of another school present there.



The students were truly grateful to Fr. Magi Murzello for such an awesome experience. All of them returned home with cherished memories.





## PICNIC – PRIMARY

The happiest moments for the Primary students came on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 when they went for their annual picnic to Yazoo Park, Virar. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves.





## A FUN-FILLED OUTING

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 was a most exciting day for the parents and children of the Andrean Child Centre as they set off for a picnic to Baccha Party, Thane. Everyone assembled at 8 am and left for an enjoyable day ahead. En route, a sumptuous breakfast was served which got all into action as they sang and danced along energetically. The laughter and joy that was witnessed was beyond words.



On reaching the venue, everyone scattered in the indoor playscape. It was not only children who had a great time but parents and teachers as well who couldn't resist letting loose the child in them. After a fun-packed morning, it was time to relish the yum-milicious food that was served. This was followed by some thumping DJ music which got everyone dancing.



All good things must come to an end. We reached back safely at 4.30 pm. The picnic was a much-needed break from the regular schedule. It was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen bonds among children, parents and teachers.









# LEAD 2020



Another adventure awaited the Andrean students as the year 2020 began. The Edelweiss group of companies hosted the second edition of LEAD 2020 on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at Fountainhead, Edelweiss group's ambient learning centre at Alibaug. This opportunity to LEAD i.e. Learn, Explore, Adapt and Develop was offered to 30 schools in Mumbai. It comprised leadership skills and sharing ideas and knowledge about the 'Start Up' mode of doing business.

Fr. Principal, not wanting to miss the opportunity, chose 3 of our SuperHeroes to participate in this event. Although the journey took a good 2 hours, it was a thrilling experience as one leg of it was by boat. After a group photograph, a healthy breakfast awaited all. There were 3 well-known personalities who shared their perspective on different topics.

Mr. Ketan Gawand, well known for his strategies on mastering and living life fully, spoke on introspection. In the words of Socrates, 'An unexamined life is not worth living'. Ketan's introspection before bedtime comprised the following:

1. What was the one thing which gave me maximum satisfaction and learning?
2. What was the one thing that happened which I would not want it happening again?

Likewise, Ms. Megha Bhargava, a dentist by profession who later appeared for UPSC exam and is now Deputy Commissioner – Income Tax, spoke about her life and study and work experiences. Her mantra is 'Work hard' for problems will always be there. One needs to work hard to overcome them and to face the challenges with the right attitude. She was truly inspirational.

The last speaker was Mr. Anirudh Kumar, an early-stage investor and partner at Rainforest Venture Network. He spoke on start-ups and got everyone thoroughly interested in the discussion. The fact that age is not a barrier for a start-up and 'entrepreneurship can change the life of people', filled the students with exuberance and left them wanting more.



The afternoon was even more exciting as the Question and Answer session got underway and spot prizes were given for the correct answers. Most of the winners were from Bandra schools. Ganeev Singh made St. Andrew's proud by winning a prize.

This was followed by a craft activity. 2 teams from different schools had to collaborate and make pen/ pencil holders within a specific time using the given equipment. There was a flurry of activity as the competitors tried their best to outdo each other. Unfortunately, due to the



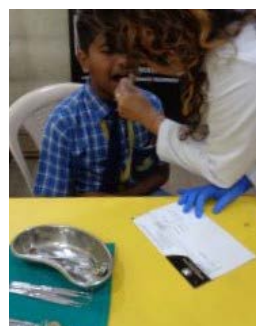
choppy seas and the likelihood of the boat service shutting down, the organisers had to close shop and rush to exit out of Alibaug ahead of time. It was truly an enriching, inspirational and motivational day for one and all.

Our students received a Certificate of Appreciation towards their Star Contribution at the event.

Our sincere gratitude to the LEAD team: Sir Rajesh, M'am Sheila, Sir Gérard, Sir Clint, Sir Oscar and Sir Bijoy. Edelweiss, through this event, has ignited the spark in each of the young minds who participated in this event.

## BRINGING LIFE TO YOUR SMILE

Waterfield Dental Studio held a free dental check-up for our students on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Most students took advantage of this opportunity.





## SO LONG... FAREWELL

It is a tradition in all schools to bid farewell to the students of Std. 10 as they leave the safe environment of their school where they have spent close to 12 years of their lives. The young gentlemen were filled with mixed emotions as they gathered along with their parents in the Conference Hall for the occasion.

The emcee for the day was ex-student Franklin Lewis (Class of 2010), full of confidence and calm, currently working with a waterproofing and structural repairs firm. The programme began with a prayer service followed by the felicitation of the 2 judges, both ex-Andreans, Puneet Raj Bhatia (Head Boy, Class of 2001) and Rudolph Pujari (Class of 2002). Also present for the occasion was Deacon Joseph David.

Two of the parents, Mrs. Karnik and Mrs. Pednekar, expressed their gratitude to Fr. Magi Murzello, who has been Principal for nearly all of their children's school life, for all that he has done for the betterment of the school and its students. They also appreciated the teaching and the non-teaching staff for their guidance and support.







Head Boy Kapish Shetty then gave the vote of thanks. He spoke of his experience in the KG, his fear of school and the sadness felt on leaving. "Today I am here, not ready to leave this school, this lovely group of friends, awesome teachers and, of course, the bestest principal I could have ever had... Fr. Magi Murzello."



Franklin got some of the council members to groove to a Hollywood number along with him and got everyone in the mood to dance. Despite his busy schedule, Fr. Magi took time to bid farewell to his sons and spoke to them for the last time as their principal giving them advice and guidance especially for their forthcoming exams. The khichdi to biryani example brought smiles to everyone's faces. He also thanked Bro. Joseph for his assistance in the school and wished him well for his priestly ordination.

The Andrean King contest which followed had almost all the young lads on the stage vying for the coveted title. It took a good 4 rounds before Judah Furtado was crowned the Andrean King for the year 2020 with Kapish Shetty as 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up and Ganeev Singh as 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up. Both judges shared their days at school. The treasures received from their Alma Mater will remain with them always. It was truly a Gratitude day.

As we bid farewell to our SSC students, we wish them the very best for their future. May God bless and guide them on the path of life in the days to come.



# ZOOOOOOM WE GO...

To move beyond books and teach our little ones in a more practical way helping them to understand better is a trademark of the Andrean Child Centre. Zoom came in vehicles one after another from a bicycle to a scooter to a motorbike to an autorickshaw to a car and a van.



Children correctly recognised these modes of land transport. They received first-hand knowledge of the use of a helmet and seatbelt. They were told what the 3 colours of the signal stood for and were also informed what happens if we violate traffic rules. The fruitful morning ended on an excited note as all children were taken on a pleasure ride around the school grounds in the vehicles by our ever-ready and enthusiastic parents.



The Sr. KG students were taken 'On the Road' just outside the school campus to learn the different traffic signs.





# CELEBRATING COLOUR



**H**oli, the festival of colours, is celebrated with great pomp and enthusiasm in India. The night before, a bonfire is lit to remove negativity and allow positivity into our lives. Children love vibrant colours and it was fun as a burst of colours were smeared on the faces of our tiny tots of the Andrean Child Centre. They were given the message of water conservation, to use only dry colours and to not be cruel to animals. Children enjoyed some art work with poster paints and proudly took home their work to show it to their parents.





# SPORTING ENCOUNTER



The idiom “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” holds true for our young learners. Sports, whether team-based or individual, are great for children as it provides not just physical activity but helps children build self-confidence and motivates them to excel in life.

In recognition of the importance of sports, we, at the Andean Child Centre, had our IX Annual Sports Meet on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at 8 am on the School quadrangle. The event commenced with a welcome address and the introduction of our Chief Guest, M’am Lorraine Fernandez. Our tiny tots, led by a flag bearer, walked in with pride alongside their respective class teachers. This was followed by the felicitation of our Chief Guest, the athlete’s torch run, the athlete’s oath, inauguration of the sports meet, singing the School anthem and a speech by our Chief Guest.

The highlight of the morning was the display of drills which were well-coordinated and synchronised by the children of the Sr. KG and Jr. KG. The flat race and the different novelty races showcased teamwork with healthy competition. Winners were awarded medals and certificates. Our Principal, Fr. Magi, appreciated the staff and students in his address to the parents. We were privileged to have a surprise visitor in our midst, our Manager Fr. Clarence Fonseca. The event ended with a vote of thanks and singing of the National Anthem. Our little ones went home exhausted but with a message that participation is more important than winning or losing.









## STAY FIT, STAY HEALTHY

St. Andrew High School held its Annual Sports Day on 19th and 20th December 2019. It was presided by eminent personalities like Mr. Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (Arjuna awardee, Hockey), Mr. Nilakanta Sharma (Jr. World Cup Winning Team, Hockey), Mr. Tyron Pereira (Member, Dabang Mumbai team) and Mr. Amrish Rameshchandra Daftary (Founder, Infinite Sports) along with our Manager Fr. Clarence Fonseca and Principal Fr. Magi Murzello. Various track and field events were held over these 2 days in different age groups. Medal and certificates were handed over for the team events held earlier. The talent of our boys was showcased in the form of drill displays. One could see each and every participant brimming with the 'Never say die, never give up' attitude. St. Andrew High School is surely a breeding ground for turning 'boys into men'.

The winners of the individual championships were:

- Midgets: Mikhail Sayyed with 15 points (Savio House)
- Sub-juniors: Aaditya Kadam with 20 points (Savio House)
- Juniors: Faiyaz Mistry with 15 points (Xavier House)
- Intermediate: Mit Shirgudi with 20 points (Savio House)
- Seniors: Sagar Sharma with 10 points (Xavier House)

The Xavier House won the March Past with 1285 points and were also the winning house for the year 2019 – 20 with 3210 points.













## HINDI ELOCUTION COMPETITION - PRIMARY SECTION

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, the Primary section celebrated Hindi Divas with a Hindi Elocution Competition. The judges for this competition were Sir Michael Lopes and Sir Uddhav Gaikwad.

The winners of the Competition were:

**1<sup>st</sup> place:** Arindham Choudhary

**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** Abaan Ghavte

**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** Siddhant Bhowate



## HINDI ELOCUTION COMPETITION - SECONDARY SECTION

The Hindi Elocution Competition was held in our school on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The boys were highly enthusiastic and excited about it. All the participants' poems were very good and each poem had a relevant message. Mstr. Arhan Mansuri's poem was highly appreciated and liked by everyone. Our Chief Guest was Mr. Ali Asgar, a celebrity and well-known actor from 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. The students were amazed to see him and impressed by his motivational speech. It was a wonderful experience for all.



## STAN OLYMPICS

Stan Olympics 2.0 was held at St. Stanislaus High School on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. Our Under-16 volleyball team secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Ritikesh Mestry won best player.



## THE CLASSMATE HANDWRITING EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

The winners of Classmate Handwriting Excellence Programme were:

**Std. 6 A:** Aman Singh and Neil Choudhury

**Std. 6 B:** Pravya Nijap and Sayyed Zaid Ali





## MARATHI ELOCUTION COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the Marathi Elocution Competition. Special thanks to our judges, Ms. Irene Gonsalves and Sir Giri Ramchandra Subhanbuva.

The prize winners were:

	Std. 2	Std. 3	Std. 4
1 <sup>st</sup> place	Kabir Tambe	Avanish Shelke	Prajwal Patil
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Aiden Poojari	Vedant Singh	Aaditya Kadam
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Kartikeya Kumawat	Jatasta Gupta	Agastya Kale



## NAVNEET DRAWING COMPETITION

The winners of the Navneet Drawing Competition 2019-20 were:

- Nihaal Mohd. Naeem – Std. 5
- Mohd Yusuf Shaikh – Std. 5
- Sahadeo Ramchandra Walke – Std. 6 A
- Jignesh Raju Pamak – Std. 7 A
- Rehan Rehman Makrani – Std. 8 A
- Mit Shirgudi – Std. 8 B
- Vedant Nakhwa – Std. 8 B
- Vedansh Pandey – Std. 8 B





## *Rest in Peace*

### **CHEF FLOYD CARDOZ (1960-2020)**

**I**nternational Celebrity Chef Floyd Cardoz was an ex-student of our School. Before starting the famous 'Bombay Canteen' in Mumbai, he used the kitchen and restaurant facilities at St. Andrew's College – Hospitality Section for his trial menus. He also trained and employed graduating students. Our College has lost a good friend. May he Rest in Peace!



### **CHEF VERNON COELHO (1956 – 2020)**

**W**arm, generous and friendly, Chef Vernon Coelho enjoyed his school days at St. Andrew High School as it was filled with extra-curricular activities like plays and operas which fascinated him. Later, he joined Institute of Hotel Management (Mumbai). After a short stint abroad, he returned to IHM to spend the next 34 years there teaching students, ending his career there as Head of Culinary. His students will always remember him for his dedication and passion towards his craft and his amazing mentorship skills. May he Rest in Peace!





# INCLUSIVITY IN EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

## - SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

### - A REPORT

Vanessa D'Cruz

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.” With this view in mind, the Government of India drafted its National Education Policy 2019 and the committee submitted its report on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019. The draft proposes an education policy which seeks to address the challenges of access, equity, quality, affordability, and accountability faced by the current education system.



Responding to the call of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to conduct a series of discussions on the draft National Education Policy 2019, Andean Network of Dynamic and Inspired Educators (ANDIE), in association with Grand Academic Portal (GAP), organised a national symposium on Inclusivity in Educational Reforms on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.



Our emcee for the day, Ms. Sarita Manchanda, welcomed the Chief Guest, our panellists and the audience. We invoked God's presence by the traditional 'lighting of the lamp' by our guests – Advocate Joaquim Reis, M'am Grace Pinto, Dr. (Prof.) Rajpal Hande, Dr. Gurudutta Japee and Dr. (Fr.) Frazer Mascarenhas. Advocate Reis and Fr. Magi Murzello – the Rector of St. Andrew's College and the Principal of St. Andrew High School, unveiled and launched the ANDIE logo. Dr. Omkar Bhatkar artistically created the mementos which represented Gond art and depicted our theme for the day – Inclusivity in Education.

**Advocate Joaquim Reis** then gave his introductory speech wherein he discussed his suggestions and ideas regarding the National Education Policy. He spoke mainly about how the focus should be on quality







of education since a large percentage of students reside in rural areas where the caste system still has a firm hold on the minds of all and would disable the possibility of achieving a good education for the students due to rampant discrimination on the basis of caste. He suggested that the National Education Policy should cater to the needs of all students irrespective of caste, creed or place.

The moderator for the event, **Dr. Kanchana Mahadevan** was then escorted to her table by Dr. Preeti Oza. The expert panellists then took to the podium in turn and expressed their views on the draft National Education Policy 2019.

The Symposium constituted of an expert team of panellists from across the country. Our first panel-list was **M'am Grace Pinto** - Managing Director of Ryan International Group of Institutions; the largest singly-owned private network of K-12 institutions with CBSE, ICSE/ISC, SSC/HSC, IB and IGCSE affiliation spread across over 18 states and 40 cities of India educating over a quarter of a million students with values and skills required to become lifelong learners.

M'am Grace talked about the co-existence of the 4 pillars of education: Learning to know, to be, to live together and to do something. She focused on the contribution of Christians towards the education of the country and how they were not given their due credit nor support for their work in this field. "To teach, to serve and to care" are the goals of a Christian and her institutions carry out



this motto, inspired by their role model Mother Teresa, through their work in education. She too endorsed the importance of empowering the rural areas. She felt that the NEP needed to be backed up by concrete plans that need to coincide with the current laws. Education needs to have inclusivity and imputability. The Government needs to double its spend on education by the year 2030. It is the educational need of India to prepare students for life, not just tests. Every student learns differently. Our aim is to suggest that it is the responsibility of the Government, Christians as well as the people to make a difference. Expect a change in society and be the change.

Our next panellist was **Dr. (Fr.) Frazer Mascarenhas** who believed that "the most complicated motto in life is to be simple". Dr. (Fr.) Frazer Mascarenhas SJ has a doctorate in Sociology and has been a teacher and administrator in higher education for about 27 years. After he retired from St. Xavier's College, he has been involved in non-formal education of slum children and in school education at St. Stanislaus High School.

Fr. Frazer was delighted and commended the Government's efforts to meet the millennials' need for a better educational experience. He was present for the consultation of the Draft and was happy to see the Government's openness to change and suggestion. He felt that the NEP was going to have a long-term effect on Indian society as it would reconstruct Indian education. He cited that any





hands. “Strengthen what we already have” is the intention of the NEP but it was not mentioned.

The centralisation of the educational boards by the Prime Minister will be difficult for him to control as he is already so busy. Political control over the bodies may create problems. Centralisation may also create the problem of standardisation; it would kill diversity and the needs of every group of students. The state of Primary schools is terrible and dysfunctional as they have a high drop-out rate. Therefore, the Government taking over the Primary and Pre-Primary schooling is unrealistic. Very little learning takes place in Municipal and Zilla Parishad schools. The Government is not spending enough funds on education. It needs to spend at least 6% of GDP if it wants to properly implement the NEP. The draft NEP does not talk about this issue. If we want inclusion, we need to rewrite the NEP with the principles of the Constitution embedded in it if we want to be the educators of the new generation.

**Dr. Renji George Amballoor** was the next speaker. He is currently Deputy Director, Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa; the Officiating Principal, Start-up Government College of Commerce, Borda, Margao, Goa; and Vice-Principal, Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Goa. Dr. Renji talked about how inclusivity in the Education Policy is aiming to create job-ready students. The wonderful aspect of the draft policy is the Government’s openness to inputs. The unpleasant aspect is that the inputs may not be added or implemented because we are not ready to put in our efforts. Learning needs to be work-based and needs to be pursued with the goal of getting students to be able to hold and function efficiently in their future jobs. There is a lack of skill-building in education. There needs to be good vocational studies in every institute like B. Voc. and M. Voc. programmes. There needs to be a collaboration with the skill sector councils to seek suggestions from this council. The employment and employability gap needs to be bridged. But, at the same time, the

education policy needs to be based on the Indian Constitution. However, the draft NEP was not fully on track with the Constitution. It had no mention of secularism or secular form of education. The content of the draft was good but in a country like India, secularism is needed. If not, it would create a division in this diverse society. We have not secularized our society like western countries. The principle of secularism needs to be represented in the NEP.

There was also no mention made of minority rights which should be mentioned as Article 30 states the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. If minority rights are not given importance, it is disrespectful and damaging to the high standard of educational excellence achieved by minority institutions run by Christians, Parsis and also linguistic minorities of our country.

He also mentioned the School Management Committee and School Cluster Management that consists of parents, teachers and locals. But there was no mention of including the trustees in this committee. The trustees who created and provided the institute’s infrastructure should have a say in their own institution. It was not right to exclude them and bring outsiders to take matters into their





amount of jobs generated by the Government is not sufficient and so, start-ups and entrepreneurship need to be encouraged and given incentive. The mindset of parents and students regarding start-ups should change. People should be comfortable with failure and learn from it, unlike the current education system that conditions students to be labelled and discouraged if they fail. In the current education system, “creative destruction” is unfortunately present. There needs to be a skill shift and incorporation of new skills into the outdated syllabus. Education should be flexible between streams and distance learning should be more accepted and accessible especially in remote rural areas where connectivity is scarce. Student wellbeing should also be given importance by giving quality care to the emotional wellbeing of students. This can be measured by Happiness Quotient.

Our next panellist was **Dr. Rajpal Shripat Hande**, Principal, Mithibai College of Arts, Chauhan Institute of Science and Amrutben Jivanlal College of Commerce and Economics, Vile Parle, Mumbai who explained how the concept of NEP was good but required the contribution of more educators. The deadline for suggestions was extended and one should take advantage of that. As far as education and academics are concerned, there is a gap between corporate/industry and academia. There is going

to be an upside-down change (as seen in Chapter 9 and 10 of dNEP) in the structure of education and we should be prepared for it. The objective is to revamp our higher education system to create world-class multi-disciplinary higher education.

Our current challenges in education are fragmentation, lack of transparency between institutes, inadequate mechanisms, lack of research in institutes, sub-optimal governance and a system that overlooks fake colleges. The main aims of NEP are to end fragmentation, give students vibrant communities of scholars and peers to learn with, break down harmful lack of transparency between disciplines, make students well-rounded, create flexibility, develop active





research committees especially for cross-disciplinaries, and improve the efficiency of use of resources. The institutional restructuring and consolidation of multi-disciplinary universities has prohibited affiliating colleges and will stop them completely by 2032. They will either become autonomous, get merged or become universities themselves. No new affiliated colleges will be allowed after 2020. A college that becomes autonomous is good if they want to perform well in the future. All universities will be fully residential units. The Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog (RSA) will be the apex body for education in the country. There are many changes to be made in Indian education and so, one must give their input to the Government for finer policies in the future.

We were happy to have in our midst the honourable Minister for School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare for the State of Maharashtra, **Shri. Ashish Shelar**. He mentioned that in the education department, there is learning every day, every time. Transparency and inclusivity are key to any successful Government policy. The educators of the country were asked to contribute to shaping the policy in the final stage. The Central Government, due to the appeal of Shri. Ashish Shelar, has given additional time for the input/suggestions for the draft of the policy. In 1986, the current Education Policy was framed and, in 1992, an amendment was passed. This new NEP is a much-needed update and has evolved to suit the needs of the country. He stated that the NEP was not a simple document but a road map for the development of the country. The education policy will impact generations and generations of the new era. As a minister, activist and citizen, he asked: there is a correlation between demand in industries and supply of educational institutions abroad; why not in our country? Now, we too can achieve this by the implementation of the National Education Policy.

The new education formula is “5+3+3+4”. The first 5 years of education are very important as children, from the age of 3, need to have a strong foundation to achieve success in higher education and



their career. There is a need to formalise this initial stage of the education system. There needs to be a change in the teaching approach by including a medical, motherly and psychological approach to it. In other words, have a holistic approach towards education. It will give a boost to the child for the rest of their life.

Education needs to be inclusive and of superior quality. It also should be sustainable and affordable. There should be an expansion of the RTE (Right to Education Act). There can be a gap in speech and understanding. There can be a distance between theory and practice. A document may be fantastic but practicality needs to be understood and foreseen. He assured the attendees that whenever they needed someone to pursue their suggestions with higher authorities, they could approach him.

The floor was open for discussion while the Minister was present. The following were the questions asked by the house and answered by the honourable Minister.

Q) While inclusivity is a value, what about autonomy and diversity? Standardisation should not kill diversity.



A) Standardisation's main aim is diversity. The policy keeps in mind the diversity of the country which is why standardisation is important. Many things have changed in the last 20 years. Innovation, science and technology are important and so is culture. The NEP can and will make sure of it.

Q) Why isn't there a compulsory skill development programme or an alternative to fall back on if not academics?

A) People are given many chances to level up in their academics like the SSC exam retest. If they fail that exam too, they are directly sent for vocational studies. Employability has already been noted and the Government has started to solve this issue. Many students who do not get hired once they reach the job market, end up employing themselves by creating their own industries and setting up businesses. And this is also being encouraged in several institutes already. Due to the Entrepreneurship Development Cell in around 40 colleges, 30-40 start-ups have been created. In incubation centres, ideas are invited. And today, certificate courses for innovation and entrepreneurship skills are available. The work has commenced and consolidation will be done by the NEP.

Q) Why is it that in foreign universities, students with disabilities are readily welcomed while in India, education for such students is not accessible and the reservation percentage is very low even if it exists?

A) This is a very valid question and this should be looked into.

Our next panellist was **Dr. (Prof.) Tushar Hathi** – a lifelong teacher. He started his career as a Primary school teacher in 1972 and capped it with the post of Vice-Chancellor, Kutch University in the year 2012-13. He began with a rhetoric, "In what sense are we going to have inclusive education?" It means the promotion of our classical cultural heritage through education. In what sense do we find a precise education document that will

stick to the classical cultural heritage of India? Lord Krishna said to Arjuna, "To raise a question, are we in a position to promote a sense of consciousness among students to generate questions?" Instead of sticking to a transitive approach, we need to go towards a transformational approach. In what manner are we moving towards inclusivity even though caste discrimination remains in our country? We need to solve these issues properly in the NEP, which is so far not seen in the draft.

It is difficult to make a change in this country since we are not a small population. We are the largest and youngest democracy in the world. We need to prioritize the content and quality of our education over the number of years. Our education syllabus needs to be well-prepared. Ideas may be good but it must give visible results in the reports later. In the state of Gujarat, 23% of girls are out of school. This is a large number. Whatever we want to achieve, the manner in which we achieve these needs to be done well. We are late to make this policy but we also should make sure we are in the position to address the educational issues. It is difficult because of a lack of funding but it is not impossible.

Lack of responsibility cannot be fixed by privatisation. According to classical economic principles, the Government should never withdraw its influence. Withdrawal is not a good indication. Any reforms or changes have a transitory period. Policy needs to be given more to achieve more in the future. The Government cannot be a master player but it needs to initiate good things via policies. Ultimately, we should not have these 4 players in education: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and, finally, Nobody does it. Harness the strength and communicate clearly what you want this NEP to be.

Our last panellist was **Dr. Gurudutta Japee**, Head of Department of Advanced Business Studies, Gujarat University and CEO of co-host, GAP (Grand Academic Portal). He began by stating that the Government is successful in framing policy





1. It is the aspiration and desire of the nation.
2. The desire is the acquisition, promotion and creation of knowledge.
3. Each policy is governed by the historical needs of the nation.
4. Every education policy is an exhibition of the historical needs of the nation.
5. Education policy cannot be ahistorical or non-contextual.
6. Education policy has to understand the historical needs of the nation. It ought to be non-singular. In short, education policy cannot exist without the negotiations with history.
7. Education policy has context and intentionality for present growth and the needs of the future i.e. education policy need not have only the contextual need index, but it has a futuristic compulsion-mapping of the future of the nation. Hence, education policy can never be an a priori construct; otherwise, it would be a pseudo construct.
8. Education policy is the torchbearer of future India. The discourse of education policy is a serious business and is to be taken seriously. It would be a utopian construct, only academic rhetoric or like a rah-rah skirt.

We live in a plural society; each state has its own unique identity. Instead of a monolithic structure of governance in the form of Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog, we require the non-singular structure of governance which should stress upon 4 basic academic values of freedom, quality, equity and integrity. Academic freedom is the core of any academic practice and quality learning would be possible by self-reflexive thinking potential. Otherwise, academic institutions, in its stereotype mooring, will suffer from myopia and would maim the nation. The academic institution will also suffer from motivational crisis, rationality crisis and the crisis of legitimacy.

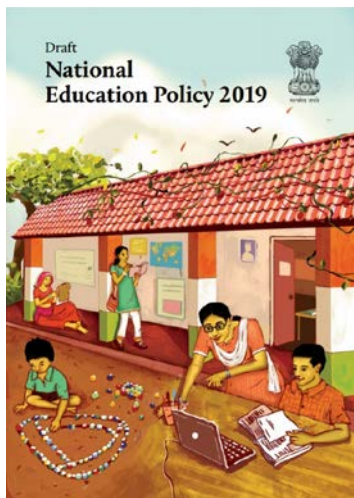
The thrust area of the National Education Policy is on multidisciplinary. It has been cast as an essential motor nerve of higher education. But, this myth of multidisciplinary needs critical examination. We should understand the concept of multidisciplinary.

in Backward and Forward Integration. What is the Education Policy and why do we need it? It is a framework to educate students and enhance potential for higher education. This is the main objective. The most important part is knowledge and developing an inquiring spirit and mind. The policy doesn't talk about this at all.

Before discussing any education policy, we must understand 2 things: (1) What is an education policy? and (2) Why do we need the education policy? Education policy is a framework to educate students and enhance the potential of higher learning. In any policy, knowledge generation is the primary thrust. The education policy should either establish or create knowledge potential i.e. the "Act of Knowledge" is the core of education policy. The Act of Knowledge is possible when learning is possible. Qualitative learning is possible when there is a questioning spirit. An inquiring mind would become the vogue of the entire academic enterprise. To create an inquiring spirit is the core of any educational policy.

This policy-making act is based on certain assumptions:





plinary. Multidisciplinarity involves more than a single discipline in which each discipline makes a separate contribution. The essence of multidisciplinary can be analysed in the following three points.

1. Multidisciplinarity studies a given subject from the perspective of several disciplines at one time.
2. This implies that multidisciplinary need not comply with various disciplines to integrate their insight for the study of the given subject.
3. Each method and theory used by the discipline and would dominate its own home discipline.

We do appreciate the recognition of the negative effects of rote learning and emphasis has been laid on independent thinking, logical thinking, scientific thinking, creative thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making for students and teachers. The policy has failed to spell out its praxis in order to execute the act of learning. Nurturing of new culture has become mandatory.

The big question is why do we need skills in higher education; because the idealistic concept of higher education has nothing to do with imparting skills and information but to make the learner think deeply, seriously and comprehensibly. But this approach is more effective when we have context-free education. However, our education is based on system and policy; it is context-dependent. When it is context-dependent, the role of higher education changes and focuses on skills and employment.

Skills can be broadly divided into 2 parts: (1) Skills

for self-awareness, and (2) Functional skills. The first category represents individuals; sometimes they are gifted or sometimes an individual cultivates a skill. Creative skills, critical skills, self-reflexive skills are part of this. Fundamentally, these ideas are the motor force for new ideas and innovation. The second category represents society skills which provide some capacity to function. Hard skills and soft skills are part of this. The Central Government has an opulent vision but it is controversial and debatable. Putting stress on functional skills and expecting more start-ups is like creating academic obesity.

Policymakers have divided universities and colleges in 3 categories: Teaching Universities, Research Universities and Colleges. All of them are expected to perform broad-based education, research and community services. Logically speaking, where there is a distinction therein ought to lie the difference. Here, the difference is a smiling taboo. As the policy has mentioned, a committee will be established and will take decisions about the modality and function of the academic institutions. This recommendation is like presenting a budget without any data.

The purpose of this Symposium was to raise awareness about the draft National Education Policy 2019; not just the highly positive aspects but also the negative aspects which could bring about the downfall of the country's education system should certain elements be implemented. As requested by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the outcome of the Symposium was disseminated through different media platforms. It was also forwarded to the Ministry of Human Resource Development as ANDIE's contribution to the National Education Policy 2019.

Like our late President Dr. APJ Kalam said, "When learning is purposeful, creativity blossoms. When creativity blossoms, thinking emanates. When thinking emanates, knowledge is fully lit, and when knowledge is lit, the economy flourishes." Let this policy be the hope of our future.



# TO 'CHER WITH LOVE

Maria D'Souza



*Teachers teachers everywhere  
Mum's a teacher; Dad's a master  
School is home and home is school  
Seems to me like a big disaster*

I wonder if this is what children think of us as teachers — always correcting, lamenting, admonishing, punishing? And it could be a nagging thought. But, thanks to ANDIE (Andean Network of Dynamic and Inspired Educators) for felicitating teachers on the occasion of World Teachers' Day on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. They brought us "true to life" experiences of a teacher's journey in educating young minds and made us feel so good and special.

*It seemed like a blast from the past  
Seated on the other side of the fence  
Like humour when I'm not a part  
But then – to me it made no sense*



It was the imagination and direction of Dr. Omkar Bhatkar that brought back to us those bitter-sweet memories through a collection of poems written by students and teachers from world literature. It reinforced teaching and learning as two sides of a coin. 'No pain no gain' that promised greater value rewards but had its downside in encouraging stiff competitiveness. The poems set my mind racing to find where I placed myself. Was I strict,





was I overkind? Did I make learning fun? Did I inspire my students to think for themselves or did I feel outwitted by their 'Googlical' research?

*Dr. Omkar Bhatkar and his theatrical team gave us a super performance  
Showed us shades of unpredictable classroom action  
A teacher touches eternity – no way to stop her influence,  
A teacher is a teacher – not by profession but by vocation*

At fellowship after the performance, we got to meet the cast over tea and snacks. We got to know the passion that brought them to the stage and the fondness with which they remember their teachers. Thank you Fr. Magi Murzello for being the inspiration behind ANDIE.



To 'Cher with Love

That was a WOW feast for us 'chers  
The new and the old you got together

I was taken back down memory lane  
To see where I had failed or gained

I thought I saw myself in the stern one  
And could still make learning fun

Was I the one with no class control?  
Paper balls across the floor?

Did it matter whether 2+2 made four?  
Or they could find it out on their own?

It takes all types to make a teacher's day  
That's what Dr Omkar projected in his play

A teacher is always a teacher  
She touches eternity – and I wonder  
How she is fresh at the end of day  
To continue the other roles she plays

Thank you Dr. Omkar and Fr. Magi for your appreciation of us  
And the chai and take aways, we say God bless



# CHILDREN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL 2020: CHERISHING THE BEAMS OF SUNLIGHT FROM THE INFINITE AND ETERNAL



Ashmita Sunil



Children are the living messages we send to a time we will never see. In the early years, children's theatre was all about enacting fairy tales and dressing children up. But now, the subjects have matured to issues like gender stereotypes, importance of arts and savouring solitude without suffering loneliness. Childhood is the golden period of life, the first stage of living which we enjoy however we like. It always brings a smile on our face when we think of it. To relive those memories, to cherish all the moments, St. Andrew's Centre for Philosophy and Performing Arts (SAPP) in association with Andean Network of Dynamic and Inspired Educators (ANDIE) brought together local artists and artistes working in the field of children's literature through illustrative books, storytelling, theatre, and object theatre. It focused on diversity ranging from language to art forms and socio-economic spheres. "I wanted to bring together theatre performances based on children's literature, so that we bring meaningful content for children which is not only entertainment-based,

rather a form of edutainment", says Dr. Omkar Bhatkar, the director and curator of the Festival.

The Festival included 6 theatre performances and 3 workshops. While all the workshops were conducted in St. Andrew's Studio, the plays were performed at St. Andrew's Conference Hall; except the two productions of Metamorphosis Theatre Inc. which were staged at SAPP. Colourful paper crafts, fairy lights, event posters, festival banners, helium balloons, paper lanterns and even a dummy car and scooter ornamented with images of cartoon characters and vibrant balloons welcomed attendees to the venue. Volunteers wore hats accessorised with paper leaves, flowers and small twigs. Bright yellow benches comprised the seating for children. A combination of many rich and vivid objects pleased the aesthetic sense of the audience.

Children's Theatre Festival marked its position with its beautifully fabricated logo. The logo portrayed a juvenile swan, white in colour, sym-



bolising purity and innocence as that of a child. It made the audience as well as the performers relate to spiritual evolution. A swan's ability to fly makes it reminiscent of angels. The pencil held in its beak depicted the flight of literature, history, culture and narratives.



The Festival opened on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 with the staging of 'She No Princess, He No Hero', a play directed by Dr. Omkar Bhatkar and presented by Metamorphosis Theatre Inc. The translated work of Magali Mougel was an intimate story told through the voices of 2 children who rebel against gender stereotypes and societal expectations. After the performance, the audience was asked to paint the 'Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog', a painting depicting a lone person looking out at an inhospitable expanse demonstrating the sublimity of nature. The children as well as a few adults took the initiative to express themselves as a wanderer, exploring and creating their own perspective of life. The tickets for the show were creatively designed with quotes and illustrations related to gender and its stereotypes. One of the tickets read, "If you don't have a seat at the table, you're probably on the

menu". The audience clicked pictures with their tickets and was deeply mesmerised with the setting of the play.



That evening, Secret Passages, a Mumbai-based theatre and storytelling group which believes imagination to be more powerful than knowledge, presented a play performance in Hindi. Directed by Geetanjali Kaul, 'Binya Ki Chatri', an adaptation from Ruskin Bond's 'The Blue Umbrella', was staged. The brilliantly-performed act revolved around one umbrella with human attributes. It conveyed the message of "letting go" through the performance. Children experienced an amalgamation of emotions – joy, surprise, wonder, empathy – which kept them rapt for an hour. The parents were all praise for the play as they watched their little ones engrossed in the creative process during and after the play. "There was laughter gurgling as the magic of the mysterious umbrella unfolded. Though simple in its text, it was profound in the levels of learning," said a parent from the audience.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February, Day 2 of the Festival, Frederic Simon conducted a workshop on paper theatre – 'Théâtre De Papier', a form of miniature theatre







that dates back to the early-19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. The workshop was open to all those enthusiastic about paper, theatre, toys and stories.

Day 3, 29<sup>th</sup> February, started with an interactive storytelling workshop – ‘I Need To Pee’, carried out by Neha Singh, a Mumbai-based theatre practitioner, author and activist. She has authored 3 children’s books, one of them being ‘I Need To Pee’. The workshop spoke about taboos. “It was conducted in a lively and engaging manner. My daughter got to learn a lot and I would definitely recommend this workshop to other parents and children,” said one of the parents attending with her daughter.

The next event scheduled for the day was a puppet and shadow theatre – ‘Vikram and Betal’, a Magical Whispers presentation directed by Madhuri Kale. It narrated the spooky tale using handcrafted and shadow puppets. This energetic presentation showcased a life-sized puppet, dance and drama created especially for the young audience. The team of Magical Whispers believes in



taking children into a magical world of stories and awakening their creative skills through creative puppets and recycled art.

The play, ‘Captain Coconut and the Case of the Missing Bananas’, was presented by Gillo Repertory, marking an end to the third day of the Festival. Pulling the strings in the most beautiful manner, Shaili Sathya, the director and scriptwriter of the play, brought alive Anushka Ravishankar’s ‘Captain Coconut’, a book published in 2015. The play hit the sweet spot for its intended audience. Quirky, nonsensical and fun, the play gave way to absurdist humour. The math used throughout the story added another dimension. Children enjoyed helping Captain Coconut through the slippery trail of peels and numbers. “We look forward to create and contribute towards a body of work that enriches and enlivens children and young people all over the world,” said Shaili, the artist director of Gillo Repertory.



Shaili Sathya also conducted a workshop for parents on Day 4 (1<sup>st</sup> March) on how to plan an arts calendar for their child. “Process art is more important than product. The focus should be on open-ended, process-driven projects rather than projects that have a specific outcome in mind. Materials should be presented as an invitation to create with no particular end in mind. Let the child explore the materials in whichever way he or she wants,” she said. At the workshop, the participants were

asked to share their childhood cultural experiences through theatre, which included scribbling on the walls, making paper boats, dancing in rain and dressing up dolls. Shaili also introduced parents to the Charter of Children’s Rights to Art and Culture adopted by the UN General Assembly which states 18 principles in 27 languages explaining the right to experience and enjoy the physical and mental spaces that art and culture can offer children.





The next event, Goshtrang, a Quest presentation directed by Geetanjali Kulkarni and Chinmay Kelkar, presented a set of stories adapted from diverse literature in multilingual formats. Quest is a team of inspired professionals committed to enhancing the quality of education. They aim to enrich the learning experience of underserved children through the professional development of teachers and educators. “We design learning experiences that inspire and empower educators and learners alike,” said director Preeti Shenoy. Stories like ‘Ka Ka Kumari’, ‘Kapilene Ghetla Zhoka’, ‘Vinu Lagali Ajjii’, ‘Mul Saarya Gaavacha’ and others written by authors including Jane Kowen Fletcher and Mahasweta Devi were staged as part of Goshtrang which largely revolved around the themes of curiosity, acceptance and overcoming fears. The intention of Quest is to take books to children through theatrical performances of children’s stories by trained artists with the aim of creating a ‘culture of reading’. “We have done shows before in Mumbai, Pune and some other cities. Of course, having a show at CTF was a good opportunity to come and perform for a different audience all together,” said Geetanjali, Project Head of Goshtrang.

The closing of Children’s Theatre Festival 2020 was marked by the staging of ‘Bertolt’, a play performance presented by SAPP and Metamorphosis Theatre Inc. Adapted from the book by the same name by Jacques Goldstyn, the story revolves around love, loss, sorrow and acceptance. Directed and adapted to stage by Dr. Omkar Bhatkar, the play uses a brief poetic narration and movements. The stage was designed in a T-shape with the audience on either side to create an intimate space between the actors and the audience. Dry leaves and wood logs scattered in a specific manner across the stage boundaries along with the audio-visual effects gave life to





the illusionary world created by the artistes. Breaking the fourth wall existing between the actors on stage and the audience on their seats, the immersive theatre production blurred the lines of reality and fiction. The artists recreated the experience of childhood days by enacting the role of children, trees, bees and even animals. "Usually, when we go for a theatre performance, we see the actors perform on stage, enjoy the show and come back home having learnt something new. But, Bertolt consumed the audience through every aspect of it. We could feel the actors, their emotions, and the environment. It wasn't a show, it was an experience. An experience worth living and loving," said a mother who came with her child to see the performance. With no dialogues, the act was for all ages as it is believed that grown-ups still struggle to let some things go. When life does not turn out the way we hope for, plan or expect it to be, we feel extremely disappointed. Brilliantly put up, Bertolt was a story that taught us to accept the changes in life and believe in ourselves. To give an in-depth insight to the beautiful childhood memories, colourful mittens were given along with the tickets to every individual in the audience. "Do we have to pay a price for being different or labelled as different?" Is the question that drove the director to direct this play with such intense insight.

The 4-day festival created a new definition of the world of art, craft and literature. It brought




diverse theatre groups together and, if not anything else, the audience indeed took home ideas to ponder upon. "I curated plays which were either based on classic, contemporary, regional or world literature, for children," says the Festival director, Dr. Omkar Bhatkar. The Children's Theatre Festival in its first year stood out with its uniqueness and idiosyncrasy. SAPP and ANDIE hope to make this an annual event that all can look forward to.



# SHE-LINKS – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Vanessa D'Cruz

SHE-LINKS - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE		
 <p><b>SHE-lympics</b></p> <p><b>Friday, 6th March, 2020</b> Venue: St. Andrew High School quadrangle and Turf Park, Bandra (W) 4.30 pm onwards   Open to all</p>	 <p><b>SHE-roes Conclave</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, 7th March, 2020</b> Venue: St. Andrew's Conference Hall, St. Dominic Road, Bandra (W) 8 am onwards   Open to women only   Prior registration necessary</p>	 <p><b>SHE-nanigans</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, 8th March, 2020</b> Venue: St. Andrew High School quadrangle, Bandra (W) 6 pm onwards   Open to all</p>
<p><b>Presented by</b> Andrean Network of Dynamic and Inspired Educators (ANDIE), Grand Academic Portal (GAP) and Indian Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals (IASAP)</p>		



*“Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It is about changing the way the world perceives that strength.” – G. D. Anderson*

To make an attempt to change this perception of a woman's strength, the Andrean Network of Dynamic and Inspired Educators (ANDIE), Grand Academic Portal (GAP) and Indian Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals (IASAP) partnered by St. Andrew's Centre for Philosophy and Performing Arts (SAPP) and the Women's Cell of St. Andrew Parish, Bandra proudly presented **SHE-Links – Past, Present and Future** on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. The 3-day programme was beautifully planned and very well executed.

Just as the Bandra-Worli Sea Link connects Bandra to Worli, **SHE-links** aims to link the women of the present and future to 'she-roes' of the past who have overcome obstacles and have triumphed. It is important to raise awareness about the issues they have faced (environmental issues, gender







discrimination, domestic violence, human trafficking, honour killings, etc.) as well as embrace the spirit of these women who carry on despite the odds. The Project, with the tagline 'Built to Inspire', was inaugurated by Bishop Barthol Barretto on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at St. Andrew Church, Bandra (West).

On Day 1 (Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March), we had the **SHE-lympics** organised. 13-member all-girls' teams (the future of women) from schools affiliated to the Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE) participated in a fun evening of tele-games spread across St. Andrew High School quadrangle and St. Andrew's Turf Park from 5 pm onwards. The new basketball court (on the School quadrangle), conceptualised and designed by Adidas and curated



by a Delhi-based artist, was transformed with an innovative typographic design that embedded the message of equality '*Girls = Boys*' and '*Sport doesn't care*' and was inaugurated by Bishop Barthol Barretto. The brain behind the games, Ms. Suzie D'Silva, was also the compere for the evening and brought the whole crowd alive as she took the teams and their mascots dancing through the quadrangle. The mascots, who were teachers or the students' parents, presented their perception of a woman. The entire place looked colourful and the crowd danced to the foot-tapping music of DJ Delon D'Souza. The girls enjoyed themselves and gave it their best. Apostolic Carmel High School, Bandra (West) was the winner for the







day. St Anne's High School, Bandra (West) was the first runner-up while Auxilium Convent High School, Bandra (West) won second runner-up. The Auxilium team was also the winner of the 'Best Mascot'. The teams were awarded trophies, cash prizes as well as certificates and tons of give-aways that were sponsored by **ColorBar**, our gifting partner for all 3 days. The highlight of the day was the smile on the faces of every participant who left with her hands filled with a goodie bag and a snack box.

The **SHE-roes Conclave** on Day 2 (Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March) brought together women from different walks of life and different strata of society who have fought or continue to fight for change in the status quo of women. We had a room filled with women across different age groups who were

present to witness the she-roes of the present, past and the future. It was amazing to watch the young and budding future - Ms. Licypriya Kangujam, an 8-year old social activist who spoke with such confidence on being instruments of climate change, Ms. Zen Sadavarte – a 12-year old who was presented a National Bravery Award by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for saving the lives of 17 people, including her parents, when her building caught fire in August 2018. She is well-read and very vocal with her opinions concerning various social causes. She wants to be a lawyer representing India at the International Court of Justice. We also had Captain Keithair Misquitta, one of the first women pilots to circumnavigate the globe in an ultra-light motor glider. She wants the number of Indian women pilots to be equal to that of men,







she also advised aspiring female pilots about the hard work that needs to go into getting those three stripes. We wish our '*hope of the future*' all the very best in their endeavours to make a change.

In the next segment, we had our present she-roes: Dr. Snehal Pinto – Director, Ryan International Group of Institutions, Dr. Uma Rele – Principal, Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya, Ms. Anna Bredemeyer – India's 'original' supermodel,





Dr. Jasmine Gujarathi – Ayurveda doctor and advocate for women’s health issues and Ms. Shibani Sachdeva – Director of Empower India, Art of Living teacher and a sailing champion. These powerful women shared their experiences about making their stance in this challenging world. There was not a dry eye in the room as Dr. Pinto spoke about her passion as an educator. Ms. Bredemeyer had the audience in splits of laughter as she took them through her journey as a supermodel while



Ms. Sachdeva gave the audience a 3-minute taste of a meditation technique. One could feel the difference instantaneously.

Our last segment showcased *‘the glory of the past’*; our she-ros who with their vast experience have laid a foundation for our present and future superwomen. We had Dr. (Maj.) Anuradha – India’s first lady army officer to drive and fire from Arjun tank and the Managing Trustee of Aasthagram Trust, an NGO for inclusive education among tribal children in Madhya Pradesh who was present along with a few children from the school, Dr. Kanak Rele – a Padmashri recipient, Founder-Director of Nalanda Dance Research Centre and Founder-Principal of Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya in Mumbai, Ms. Zelma Lazarus, the Founder-Director and Chief Executive Officer of Impact India which started the Lifeline Express project, a special rake of 5 railway coaches specially adapted to serve as a mobile hospital, and thus reach anywhere on the railway map of India







and Dr. Ketna Mehta – a paraplegic because of a paragliding accident and Founder-Trustee of Nina Foundation, an NGO involved in rehabilitating friends with spinal cord injuries. These stalwarts shared their experiences and their struggles to get to where they are today.

The Conclave took place at St. Andrew's Conference Hall. It was a great experience for all those who attended as they got to hear these wonderful women speak and also interact with them at the end of each session. The participants were treated to a sumptuous meal and exciting takeaways from Phoenix MarketCity, Kurla as well as a participation certificate.

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March was International Women's Day and the final day of SHE-links. **SHE-nanigans** was an evening of masti and entertainment focused on the celebration of womanhood. The venue –



St. Andrew High School quadrangle was lit up with bright lights and colourful stalls wherein the women showcased their talents by selling their creations – food, jewellery, clothing, etc. The evening opened up with a few women representatives releasing the balloons and Sr. Suchitra Furtado AC, Principal, Apostolic Carmel High School declaring it open. There was much entertainment lined up for the evening thanks to our entertainment partner – Infrared who got the crowd rolling with its talented performers. Ms. Daniella Gomes got the crowd tapping to a fitness mode with a power packed Zumba session. We were also entertained by some

professional dancers who mesmerised us with their performances. Attractive prizes were won by the crowd. For those who witnessed the dhol and dance, the music and the masti, it was an evening well-spent.

Kudos to Fr. Magi Murzello and his team for putting up this wonderful 3-day event, Glenn Dodd for capturing the beautiful moments of the events, DJ Delon D’Souza and all the women who worked behind the scenes to make the event a grand success.

Even though a woman is a paradox, she is a gradual paradox. Just like the waxing and waning of the moon – a constant process of change – she plays multiple roles in life; keeps shedding one skin for another.

In the season of fall, she stands leafless. In the spring, the birds lay their nest in her arms of shade and care. From tender love care to standing upright with all her might, she endures it all. She grows like the tree of life; upwards as well as downwards, watching the seasons change and becoming wiser. Going through the norms in life, burning and bruised, she rises like a phoenix from the ashes.

Then who is this woman really? Is she the one who nurtures a child for 9 months in her belly, or the one who drives down the road with a carton of books for children not her own, or the one who has given her life in the service of God, or the one who waits patiently for her husband to return home? Is she the one who works 24x7 in front of a screen making presentations, or is she the one who awaits Prince Charming, or who no longer believes in Cinderella’s fairy tale and rides her own horse? Only she knows who she really is.

She is Satyavati, she is Shabari, she is Sita as well as Draupadi, she is Mariam and Menaka, she is Holika as well as Hidamba, she is the mother of Moses and wife of Buddha, she is Athena and Ayesha – the prophet’s daughter. She is ever-changing, accommodating and breaking barriers while flowing like an eternal river.

This painting is an attempt to look for that woman – the only person who knows who she really is.



**An artistic attempt by Dr. Omkar Bhatkar  
SHE-links 2020**





Covid-19 has locked down Santa's hopes of distributing gifts this year. It's your turn to be Santa's Co-Kaun-spirator and spread happiness. Collect your Happiness Jar and Santa's PPE Kit from St. Andrew High School office and return the Happiness Jar filled with non-perishable goodies like stationery, personal hygiene products, toys, accessories, games etc. to be distributed to various girls' orphanages across Mumbai. Return the Happiness Jar to the office by Monday, 25th January 2021.

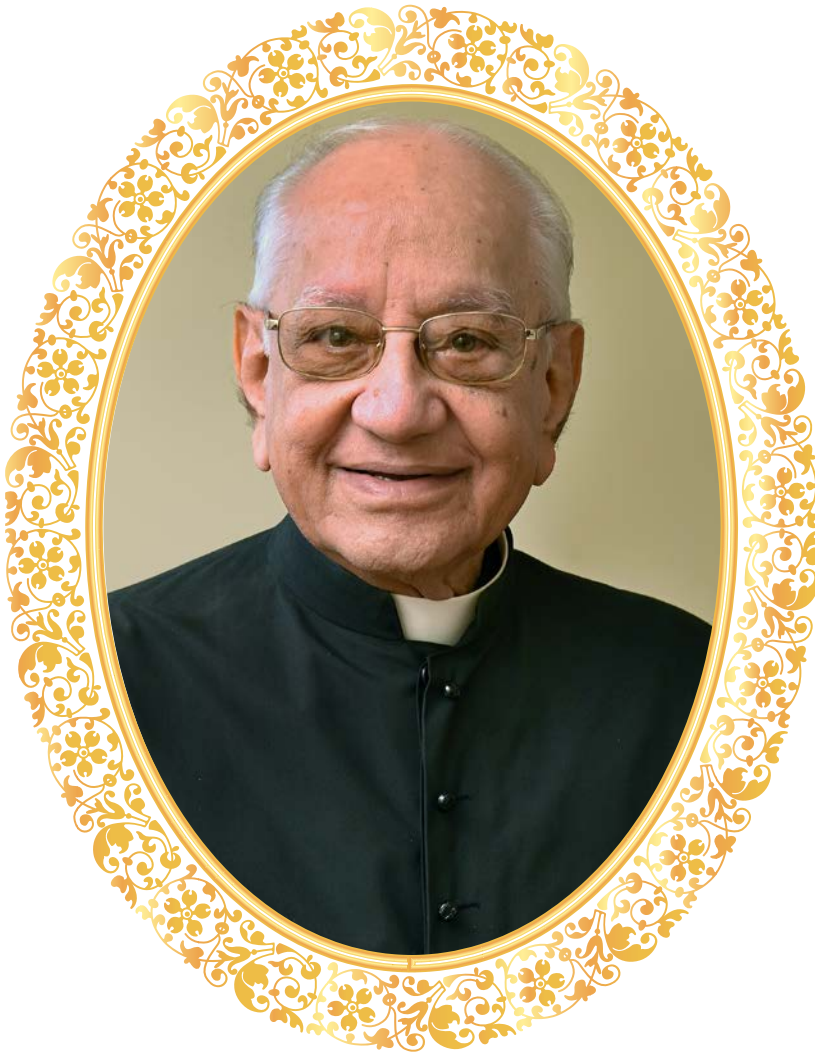
**HELP YEH-LO SANTA  
SPREAD CHEER  
IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WITHOUT FEAR.**



**Please contact Yeh-Lo Santa: 97692 96630 (9am to 4pm)**



*Rest in Peace*



**Msgr. Nereus Rodrigues**

**Principal, St. Andrew High School, Bandra  
(1959 – 1969)**

*Given Msgr. Nereus Rodrigues' contribution to St. Andrew High School as well as St. Andrew's College, would it be too presumptuous to rename St. Dominic Road after him to Msgr. Nereus Rodrigues Road?*

