



Saints Times



Volume 1 | September - November | 2017-18

GRADUATION OF 2017



On 9th November 2017, eager graduates-to-be, along with their parents and teachers, attended the O-level graduation of 2017 in the Main Hall. Everyone and everything was dressed to the nines. The girls donned their prettiest dresses while the boys were suited up. Even the main hall had a makeover in the colors of the bright blue and silver, from the balloons to the stage - lined with fresh flowers – to the podium, draped in curtains.



The evening kicked off with the ceremonial precession in the hall, starting with the teachers in blue robes and followed by the students in their customary black graduation robes and caps. After Mrs. Lise-Ann welcomed the guests, a short yet beautifully choreographed Sri Lankan dance followed. Once the instrumental performance took place, a special video of memories was played. By now, the lingering tension had dissipated and an atmosphere of nostalgia laced with fond recollections settled in slowly. The whole

display earned a few tears from audience. Next came the honoring of each and every graduate that successfully passed year 11 with flying colors. Students, including the merit graduates received congratulatory scrolls; while the top three girls and boys were awarded sashes – Tawhida Kabir and Alina Varakukala, Kenzia Fernandes, and Mehnaz Halima; Delwin Benson, Stefan Crasto and Nikhil Pereira, Muhammad Yaseen and Jason James. To everyone's surprise, students were also handed in certificates for two dignified categories recently introduced under Pearson – Pearson High Achiever Awards and Pearson Outstanding Learner Awards.

Another integral component of the graduation that made the night even more special were the speeches by Bishop Paul Hinder, Dr. Al Kindi (The School Sponsor), our Principal Mr. Paul Joseph and our Vice-Principal Mrs. Lise-Ann.

Their motivational words paved a way for the new a-level students to work even harder and climb to greater heights, advising them to 'improve the flavor of society, and fill it with a rich aroma of brotherhood and peace.' The

Valedictorian Mehnaz Halima reminisced about her satisfactory school life,

commenting on friendship and the Saintz family, the presence of fear and strength, hard work and courage. The graduation came to an end when the students stepped outside and rushed to take pictures with their fellow students, even taking part in the famous ritual of throwing their caps in the air and shouting in elation. Everyone was ecstatic. Proving that the End does indeed Crown The Work, the newly graduates move on to the next stage of their lives. A few words for them – "Good Luck, and May the odds be ever in your favor."



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PEARSON ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1) 97 Pearson High Achiever Awards
- 2) 3rd place for GCE A-level Grades A* and A in all of UAE
- 3) 2nd place for GCSE Grades A* and A in all of UAE
- 4) 2nd place for PEARSON OUTSTANDING LEARNER AWARD in all of UAE

MERIT ACHIEVERS (IN ORDER OF MERIT) AND PEARSON HIGH ACHIEVER AWARDEES AMONG BOYS:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Vihan Fonseka | 7. Ernest Rodrigues |
| 2. Adithya Britto | 8. Antoan Ashraf |
| 3. Khondoker Labib | 9. Mathew Katalia |
| 4. Tejas Kokatnur | 10. Aveesha Dahanayake |
| 5. Chanul Desilva | 11. Jishan Sharif |
| 6. Nathan Gomes | 12. Devaughn Menezes |

MERIT ACHIEVERS (IN ORDER OF MERIT) AND PEARSON HIGH ACHIEVER AWARDEES AMONG GIRLS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Irushi Imaduwege | 7. Ravidya Lakshani Perera |
| 2. Joyasree Roy | 8. Tooba Abdullah |
| 3. Ahela Majeed | 9. Leighanne Fernandes |
| 4. Anumi Kumarawadu | 10. Kamilia Farah |
| 5. Aniq Tabassum | 11. Saheli Gunawardana |
| 6. Malaika Cornello | |

BATCH OF 2017 – TOPPERS

BOYS

1. Jason James & Yaseen Shakil
2. Stefan Crasto & Nikhil Perera
3. Delwin Benson

GIRLS:

1. Mehnaz Halima
2. Kenzia Fernandes
3. Tawhida Kabir & Alina Varakukala

PEARSON OUTSTANDING LEARNER AWARDEES:

- 1) Mehnaz Halima
 - Highest Mark in the MIDDLE EAST in IGCSE ICT
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE FRENCH
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE PHYSICS
- 2) Ahela Majeed
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE ISLAMIC STUDIES
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE CHEMISTRY
- 3) Delwin Benson
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE CHEMISTRY
- 4) Julianne Tolentino
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in IGCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE
- 5) Khondoker Labib
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE CHEMISTRY
- 6) Marielle Andal
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES
- 7) Muhammad Yaseen
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE CHEMISTRY
- 8) Malaika Cornelio
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES
- 9) Stefan Crasto
 - Highest Mark in the WORLD in GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

MERIT LISTERS/TOPPERS and PEARSON HIGH ACHIEVER AWARDEES



Girls (From Left): Kenzia Fernandes, Alina Varakukala, Tawhida Kabir, Aniqha Tabassum, Joyasree Rooy, Ravidya Lakshani Perera, Ahela Majeed, Saheli Gunawardana, Malaika Cornelio, Kamilia Farah, Irushi Imaduwege, Tooba Abdullah And Leighanne Fernandes



Boys (From Left): Matthew Katalia, Stefan Crasto, Adithya Britto, Devaughn Menezes, Jishan Sharif, Vihan Fonseka, Khondoker Labib, Muhammad Yaseen, Nathan Gomes, Jason James, Tejas Kokatnur, Ernest Rodrigues, Aveesha Dahanayake And Nikhil Perera



Secondary Prefect Investiture



Out of the shadows stepped forth the student leaders of the school, namely the Head Girl, Head Boy, house captains, their respective assistants and school prefects. Light emanating from their candles like the Aurora, pushing back the darkness - with each step they took, prophetic of the impact of their roles in the school community.

Once the procession was complete they assembled on stage, standing at attention while the national anthem was played, followed by a beautiful prayer from sister.



Subsequently the **head girl** (Rhea Lobo) and **head boy** (Jason James) took their oaths preceded by the **assistant head girls** (Andrea Fernandes and Kenzia Fernandes) and **boys** (Downen Buhay and Vihan Fonseka). These were followed by the house captains and assistant house captains:

- Red** Darren Noronha, Calwyn Pereira(boys) Carmelia Farha, Swanthrie Pereira (girls)
- Yellow** (Matthew Katalia and Tejas Kokatnur (boys) Alina Vrarkukala, Elissa Kadmani (girls)
- Blue** (Stefan Crasto, Nikhil Joseph (boys) Sara Perera, Janine Fernandes (girls)
- Green** (Ahsaam Sajid, Jishan Sharif (boys) Malaika Cornelio, Chealsy Cutinha (Girls)



Afterwards all the prefects took their oaths and everyone came forward in pairs to be badged by their parents, Next our head boy and head girl gave their heartfelt speeches, paving the way for their leadership in the year to come.

After the formalities, the entertainment ensued,

shepherded in with a violin solo by Aaron DeSouza, whose soulful playing of "The Last Goodbye" by Billy Boyd and "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran, set the tone for the evening.

Next came, our talented girls of grade 11 (Andrea Pereria on the violin, Hannah D'souza on the keyboard and Tanya D'souza) who put on a moving rendition of "Turning Tables" by Adele.



The ceremony ended with all the newly elected student leaders coming together to take pictures as a record for posterity that will surely live on in their cherished memories of their Wonder Years at St. Mary's Catholic High School.

PREFECTS (BOYS)	PREFECTS (GIRLS)
Dwayne Lobo	Tawhida Kabir
Ricky Kundani	Irushi Imaduwege
Rolando Perera	Alina Varakukala
Fatin Ishraq	Malaika Cornelio
Devaughn Menezes	Saheli Usheeja
Regan Ramos	Tooba Abdullah
Regan Fernandes	Joysree Roy
Ervin Kumar	Aniqa Tabassum
Yaseen Shakil	Amana Hassan
Karam Essa	Camelia Farah
Faizan Rahman	Prisca Kague
Delwin Benson	Nethuli Amaratunga
Adithya Britto	Natasha Rodrigues
Rahul Jayasinghe	E.M Methushani
Maconell Fernandes	Angel Anto
Shadman Zahir	Buddisha Dharmarathne
Christoph Fernandes	Sumbal Ahmed
Chanul Desilva	Dione Pais
Wavell John	Wyushka Alphonso
Vincent Besas	Joythy Saha
Darren Noronha	Elissa Kadmani
Maarij Uddin	Swanthrie Pereira
Aaron Rodrigo	Pamodee Theenabadu
Calwyn Pereira	Sadini Silva
Matthew Katalia	Sharon Fernando

Anlon Varakukala	Elisha Elvina
Nathan Gomes	Dreshti Rawtani
Hayden Fernandes	Chealsy Cutinha
Tejas Kokatnur	Elizabeth George
Labib Rahman	Jennifer George
Jishan Sharif	Althea Retig
Nikhil Perera	Janine Fernandes
Avesha Dahanayake	Shania Dessa



Tanya D'souza
Andrea Pereria
Pritika Tilokani
Malaika Vaidya
Tasneem Majid
Ann Matthews
Nashita Samiha
Millen Jean
Sarah Perera



University Fair

With the hearty concern for the endeavors of its students, our school organized the first University Fair of 2017, on Thursday 28th of September. There were around 70 universities present from the United Kingdom, Australia, USA, and more. The main hall of our school buzzed with eagerness and excitement of students from Years 10 to 13, supported with the accompaniment of their parents. Each class had a particular time slot arranged for them - ensuring that everyone got enough time to visit each of their desired universities. Students were extremely pleased with the plethora of university choices at the fair and each one left with a pile of university pamphlets, flyers and merchandise. The representatives from every university were very approachable, informative and honed students about their intended fields, and helped to clear the muffled view of their future plans. I, myself, felt a sense of relief as I got a better vision of where to head, in concern to my medical university plans. I always had a burning desire to pursue my higher education in the UK and this fair gave me the opportunity to see what exactly the UK has in store for me.



*International & Local
University Fair*



Due to the great success and response from the previous fair, the second University Fair was held on for all the Universities across the United Arab Emirates. The fair was arranged in a similar manner to the previous fair and once again, left the students feeling immensely delighted and informed. This fair provided a light of encouragement, especially for the students who were not keen on going abroad for their higher studies. It helped students pave the path for their future with the wide range of university choices in mind- both of the first fair, as well as the second.

Andrea Pereira - Year 11D

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

WINCHESTER 2017

We came, we saw, we conquered. Our first ever representation at a Model United Nations stirred up the competition and swept all major trophies: eventually beating out hardened, veteran delegations from other schools to land the “Best Delegation 2017” at the Winchester Model United Nations. Having no prior experience, trusting only our grit, hardwork and determination, St Marys stormed the scene and left a mark.



After weeks of gruelling research, training and teamwork, we approached the unknown – arriving at Winchester High confident yet hesitant – not knowing what was ahead of us. Undaunted, we were immediately thrust into the midst of the storm.



Committees sessions (spanning the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Human rights Council) were intense. Delegations representing the interests of each one of the 192 states within the UN had tussled intensely, proposals, amendments, heated debates amongst other things.

Topics covered ranged from Dealing with Nuclear Fallouts to the Impacts of Harmful

Traditional Practises on Women. Even with each topic holding such a vast stream of knowledge waiting to be divulged into, all 22 of us Marians mastered country policies and general backgrounds with fortitude and commitment. Research was paramount to a well-rehearsed delegate and made the difference between getting noticed and being heard. With this in mind, each Marian dedicated thought and effort into their work, putting together binder’s worth of information ready to sweep the competition off their feet.



The competition spanned 3 days with opening speeches and caucuses giving way for socialising and formal debates sparking arguments and disparity. Each day held its own memories as we delegates, worked to stand up for our countries rights while promoting international unity as best as we could. On day two, a crisis situation arose where delegates across each committee were forced to think on their feet due to an emergency situation. Here delegates had to use critical thinking and analyse who best it could trust to make spontaneous decisions in life and death situations.

Committee sessions were interactive and allowed delegates to state points of information; in addition a competitive spirit was formed by Day 2 as delegates sent and received discreet messages to form alliances. Day 3 had delegates chosen to present their own resolutions in front of all 192



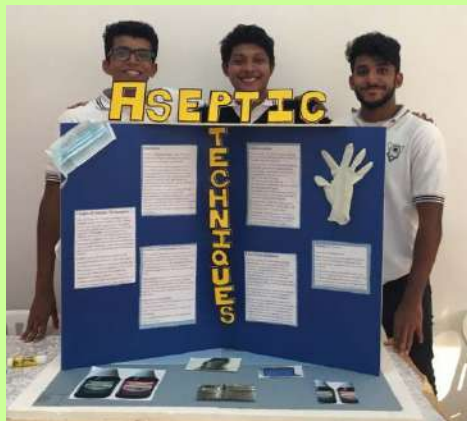
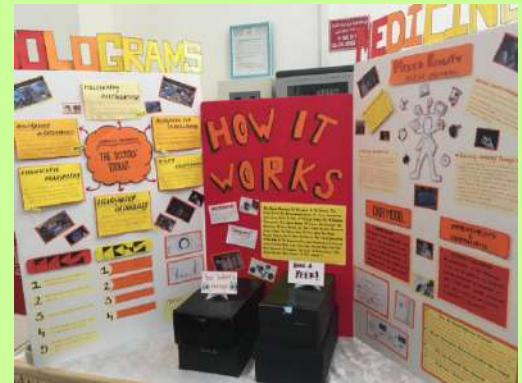
countries and its various representatives and Marians once again found itself a part of the chosen few to stand up and express their hard work. A joyous victory ensued at the awards ceremony with delegates from St. Mary's picking up more than handful of awards:

Best delegate (World Bank) awarded to Yaseen, Best position paper (IAEA) awarded to Harish, Runner up Best position paper (IAEA) awarded to Jason, Runner up Best Resolution Paper (IAEA) awarded to Darren, Best position paper (GA) awarded to Lance, Best position paper (World Bank) awarded to Malaika, Runner up best position paper (World Bank) awarded to Saheli, and the overall Best Delegation Award was awarded to our school.

GULF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – MEDICAL AND SCIENCE EXHIBITION 2017

The world of science is vast and limitless. It is the noise of machines, cars, and factories that awaken us every morning, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the books we read, the recreations we enjoy – all have something to do with the application of science. The Gulf Medical University, Ajman recognizes the importance of discovery and innovation in medicine and science. And with the 11th edition of MASE, they offer hundreds of students the chance to display their talent, creativity and innovation.

Three groups from Grade 12 and 13 eagerly participated in this year's competition. The groups consisted of Shehani, Shania, Christina L., Rose and Labeeba from Year 13 for the poster category with the topic "Holograms in Medicine". Rohan, Mahishan, Jadon, Sanket and Nirvan from Year 13 for the poster category with "Aseptic Techniques". And Nathan, Matthew, Nethuli, Adithya and Amana from Year 12, for the project category with "Diseases of the Digestive



System". The event was held over the 25th – 26th of October and the groups were accompanied by our biology teacher Sir Anwar and Mr. Peter. This year, MASE breaks the record as the biggest interschool Science competition, with over 350 project submissions, 200 poster submissions and 5000 visiting students.

We arrived in Ajman on the first day feeling anxious but with our spirits high. The GMU campus was flooded by the participating students who had put their projects, posters

and paintings on display throughout the university.

Each team hurried to find their spots and set up their posters and projects, as the first day was dedicated to the visiting schools and students. For the poster category, Team "Holograms" and Team "Aseptic Techniques" got to exhibit together. We were excited as groups of students were attracted to our posters, listened to our presentation and eagerly asked questions. "Holograms in Medicine" discussed the progressive use of holograms and augmented reality in medical applications such as surgery and diagnosis. We were inspired to delve into the bright possibilities that the future of medicine holds. We made two prototype models of working holograms, and even made mini holograms to give away. "Aseptic Techniques", presented the various practices and procedures used to prevent contamination from pathogens in various



hospital and health care settings. For the project category, Team "Diseases of the Digestive System", really brought out their creativity as they made a life size working model of the digestive system. They demonstrated how apple juice travels through the digestive system, and discussed diseases such as celiac disease and acid reflux (GERD).

The first day was long and tiring, but by the end of it, everyone couldn't wait to go back. In addition to the poster and project exhibition, GMU hosted an anatomy museum, pathology museum, dental simulation lab and clinical simulation lab of GMU. Most would say that the anatomy museum was the most fascinating part of the exhibition, as human cadavers that medical students use were on display. This was the first time seeing real human organs for most of the students, so it was truly an unforgettable experience. The second day brought with it more nerves as the time had come to meet the judges. By 1pm, all three judges had come to each of our exhibits and evaluated our work. Presenting to them individually was intimidating, yet the fact that we were all so passionate about what we chose to exhibit, really gave us the confidence to stand by our projects. Our spirits were lifted and confidence boosted as our Year 12 and 13 peers came to visit the exhibition. Next came the long wait for the awards ceremony.



Finally, at 4pm the awards ceremony began. Teachers from each school were awarded with participation certificates for their students' hard work. The award for grade 12 poster category came up, and we were ecstatic to find out that Team "Holograms in Medicine" placed third amongst 200 other poster submissions. We were given a trophy and certificate as well as a cash prize.

Unfortunately, our two other groups did not place in the end, but they were happy nevertheless for the invaluable experience.

In the end, after weeks of hard work and two long, arduous days, all three groups were content with their efforts and the two days of memories made. GMU MASE inspired and encouraged us young scientists, in recognizing our talent and ability. As role models we are empowered to encourage further exploration and development of knowledge, analytical thinking and skills in our peers as we work together to build a better future in science.

Shehani Siripala

(Year 13)

TIPS TO ACE A-LEVELS

-EBBIN BINNY-



I've been at St. Mary's Catholic High School for 14 years, from KG right upto A-levels. I achieved 3 A* in Physics, Math and Accounts and an A in Chemistry for my A-levels. I have joined mechanical engineering at Loughborough University in the UK.

I would like to share a few tips on how to ace A-levels:

- 1) **Attend and pay attention in class** - I have barely missed any classes on any of the subjects and this has helped me a great deal in understanding difficult concepts which I wouldn't have been able to do on my own. Ensure you don't skip any classes and listen attentively while taking notes regularly.
- 2) **Don't leave anything to the last minute** - This is one of the most important things that you should ensure to avoid. You will have quite a long break in between your mocks and boards so don't waste this time, but instead, study and be as prepared as you can for the boards.
- 3) **Good study-play balance** - Again, equally vital in your A-level preparation. Do not overwhelm yourself with studies and end up burned out at the most important time of the year. Your studies are the most important but also, do have an activity that you can turn to so as to relax. I was a part of the football team at school and I played the sport regularly, and I was also able to maintain a good balance between my studies and play.
- 4) **Have a study schedule for exams** - Another part of my preparation was making a study timetable, where I put down details of what subject I would study in the weeks leading up to the exams, and this enabled me to have a balance between studying 4 subjects and making sure I didn't neglect any of the 4 subjects.

The way to the new A-Levels

| Taslim Mahbub |

Having successfully passed through 2-years of A-Levels at Saintz, this article will try to express what I wish I knew about A-Levels. Achieving the best grades possible must be the goal. Firstly I will discuss some of the general points that you need to be alert of and then I will discuss about each science topic individually.

It's NOTHING like O-Levels!

I know you have already heard this but hear it again. This time from a guy who spent a lot of hours playing games during his o-level exams Now hear this from the guy who had no time to even see the opening screen of any game during his A-level's exams. Now this is largely because of the volume you will have to revise through, moreover, the portion covered in the last year of A-levels is much more than all three years of O-levels combined. And to worsen it, you will be learning a lot of difficult concepts towards the end of your second year. To become fluent in these topics and at the same time revising the old notes, leads us to our next point.



Time Management and Information Selection

Managing your time is crucial in A-levels. That is to say, you have to know how much to invest in each of your activities. And by activities I do not mean studying. Studies are just half of your path to success in A-levels. But in this section, I'll mainly speak about academic time management and selecting what you need to study. Prepare a schedule at least a month before your examinations. Divide your time, giving majority of the portion to practice what you think you are weak at. But most importantly, study smart and not hard. You will have to learn this amazing skill of selective learning, which is to, in simple terms, study what you think you are going to be tested upon.

Be active and have fun

Now this might sound contradictory to my first part. If A-levels is much harder than the previous, why would I be recommending you to be active in social events? Because as stated, studies are just half of your path to success. To make most of A-levels, you need to explore your options. Be involved in the extra-curricular activities in school and outside school. Join interest based groups, whether it be computer gaming, programming, sports or an art related one. Participate in the seminars that talk specific fields and lets you explore different universities. And most importantly, spend time with your friends, explore around and make contacts, because some of them will last a life-time. Do not be the person who's not seen anything beyond books over books, because even if you have the A*'s without having a social life, you have not done A-levels right.

Understand first, practice second

This is inevitably the most important part of academic success. To really get good grades in A-levels you do not need to practice as much as you need to understand. Try to get to the bottom of every topic you study, understand how it works, see the idea behind solving problems. Only then should you get to practicing questions from past paper or the workbook. To really clear it up, if you do not understand how to deal with the type of questions, then you will stumble in the board exams because the questions will not be familiar to you. It is better to know how to solve a specific type of questions by reading the logic behind them than to spend hours and hours of your time 'blindly' solving questions.

Mathematics

From here onwards I will briefly talk about my experience with each of my subjects. Math will be the most fun subject and I recommend this subject to anyone regardless of your choice of major. It is very fun to learn and again the way to succeed is understand then solve problems. Do papers from Solomon press, Gold papers and crash math. Your most valuable resource for math papers is Physics and Maths tutor website. Exam solutions is also a good resource for learning concepts.

Chemistry

In my opinion this was the second most intuitive subject. To succeed in chemistry, you will have to relate all your topics to the environment around you. Try to understand why specific things are being taught to you and appreciate the implication of those chemical processes around you. The labs are great fun, don't be afraid to ask questions as to why things happen in this manner and not the way you would have thought. People are going to scare you by emphasizing the difficulty of organic chemistry, but if you give yourself enough time to familiarize with the reactions, it will become a part of your memory. Textbook is more than a valuable resource, do questions from past papers and more importantly the exam-style from textbook and workbook (orange colored)

Physics

Unlike the prior, physics really does not have much to do with the book knowledge. Initially you will be using the textbook to strengthen the topics but then it is up to you to explore different scenarios and possibilities in the physical world. Again try to appreciate and relate everything you are studying. Do different type of questions, solve the past paper and text book questions along with the workbook. Physics mainly has to do with application so solve interesting questions that you stumble upon. To make mechanics easier, look around how the physical world behaves and then try to integrate with your course.

Biology

Amongst the science subjects, biology will test maximum your ability to select information. The subject will be filled with volumes of information, but you have to be smart about highlighting what is important and what is not (important for board exams, of course all knowledge is power).

ADDITIONS TO OUR FAMILY

Joining a new school is always a daunting experience. Irrespective of when you join, it never gets easier. Whatever said or done, new friends, new teachers, new classrooms and an unknown journey lies ahead of every new student. It is where you would spend a predominant portion of your growing years hence it's imperative to have a smooth transition. However considering St. Marys remarkably humble and homely atmosphere it never takes long nor is it a daunting task for new children to assimilate within our ranks. Standing testament, we interview 3 children, providing varying perspectives of their experiences.

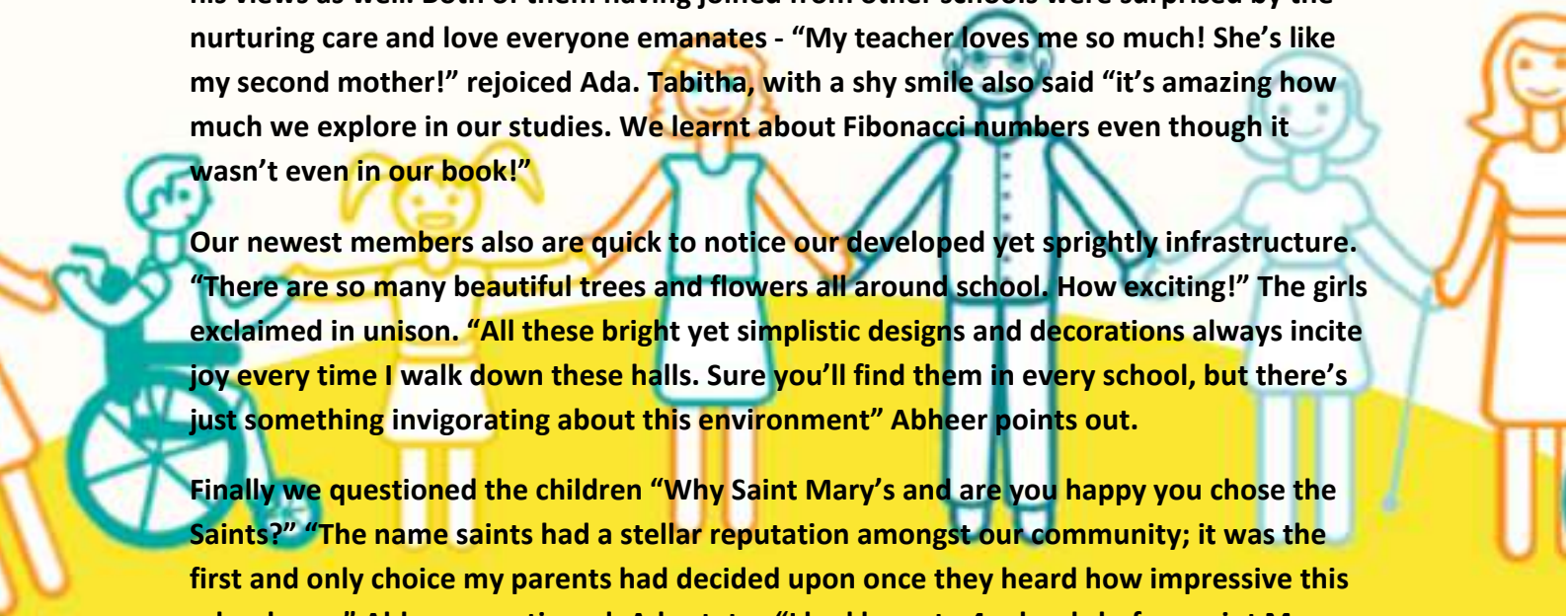
For Abheer Shah, year11 – having left Dubai for merely 8 months before returning, joining St. Marys seemed to be a world away. “I effortlessly mixed in with everyone. I was taken aback by how kind, welcoming and genuine everyone was. Everyone just resonated so well. “When asked about how different people were compared his previous schools, he chuckled “I guess teenagers everywhere share the same interests. However no one treated me differently, students, teachers and even the janitors always greeted each other with warm smiles.” He did notice some differences though – “there is a substantial focus on academics and discipline. That will take a while to get used to.”

Ada Torres and Tabitha Sampson – two new prudent young 4th graders seemed to echo his views as well. Both of them having joined from other schools were surprised by the nurturing care and love everyone emanates - “My teacher loves me so much! She's like my second mother!” rejoiced Ada. Tabitha, with a shy smile also said “it's amazing how much we explore in our studies. We learnt about Fibonacci numbers even though it wasn't even in our book!”

Our newest members also are quick to notice our developed yet sprightly infrastructure. “There are so many beautiful trees and flowers all around school. How exciting!” The girls exclaimed in unison. “All these bright yet simplistic designs and decorations always incite joy every time I walk down these halls. Sure you'll find them in every school, but there's just something invigorating about this environment” Abheer points out.

Finally we questioned the children “Why Saint Mary's and are you happy you chose the Saints?” “The name saints had a stellar reputation amongst our community; it was the first and only choice my parents had decided upon once they heard how impressive this school was.” Abheer mentioned. Ada states “I had been to 4 schools before saint Marys, and this is my favourite school so far.”

That summarizes the thoughts emotions and feelings our newest additions to the flock had to express. Wishing them nothing but the best of luck and prosperity, hopefully they blossom into talented, creative and extraordinary Saints. Vamonos St. Marys!



Pink Day

On October 26th, the whole Saint Mary's Family dressed in shades of pink to raise awareness for Breast cancer; a dominating form of cancer amongst women, this silent killer claims one in eight women in the United States. Initially being a taboo topic, this devastating health hazard has successfully gained attention worldwide and every year during October, the pink hue is used to signify the population's fight against breast cancer, inclusive of all age groups.

To the fallen heroes and those currently suffering, a short prayer – written by a cancer survivor – was read out during the morning assembly, wishing for a speedy recovery to the victims. The words of the cancer survivor touched everyone's sympathy and conscious in different ways, paving way for an uplifting start to the day.

The rest of the day consisted of students and teachers looking cheerful in their pink attires and pinning pink ribbons on their outfits to support the cause. The prefects also went to every class to collect donations; these will be sent to foundations to fund extensive research for treatments against breast cancer, and help those who are unable to afford the medical expenses and burdens that come with this illness. The children from the primary section showed their enthusiasm and contributed to the day by assembling themselves by forming a human ribbon. Everyone in school that day was in 'Pink' spirit.

Not only were the people in school decked up but the hallways and the corridors were decorated with pink charts boasting words of encouragement, persevering spirits, undying courage and an overall element of true strength. Charts that did not consist of words but only art also portrayed the same but in a different way. A variety of art styles brought directly from personal experiences and a mutual understanding of breast cancer showcased students pouring their hearts out as a sincere helping hand to those in need.

Every year, during the month of October, the St. Mary's school community contributes in the effort of raising awareness about breast cancer along with the rest of the world. It is our belief that nothing is permanent and hard times can be overcome by the full support of the people around you because it is not just one person's battle but it is a battle that we are fighting for our mothers, sisters, wives and friends.

*“Supporting the **FIGHTERS** admiring the **SURVIVORS** honoring the **TAKEN** and never, ever giving up **HOPE**”*



Mahima Ahsan

A-Levels, Year 13



DUBAI FITNESS CHALLENGE

DARREN NORONHA - YEAR 12

Dubai has discovered a new area of focus, lifestyle of its residents. A good lifestyle is achieved when one is fit and healthy; this requires two things, exercise and nutrition. Dubai has already covered the area of nutrition through the recent rise in tax of unhealthy 'junk' food/drink/products. Now, in an initiative proposed by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum; we are called to join in helping Dubai become the most active city in the world with the Dubai Fitness Challenge.

As a school, St. Marys is directly involved as the well being of young will pass on healthy lifestyle habits to future generations.

- ❖ Firstly, special assemblies are allotted every morning for exercises led by sports teachers' this allows students to start the day full of energy and readily warmed up.
- ❖ Secondly, the school has appointed class fitness leaders whom to which are given the role of re assuring students are involved in the DXB fitness challenge.
- ❖ Thirdly, St. Marys holds events in which Dubai Police teams are called to teach and exercise with children of various classes.
- ❖ Students of St. Marys use the DXB fitness challenge app to give the school an overall ranking of second place out of all the schools across Dubai

The American Heart Association says adults 18 to 65 years old should get in 30 minutes of moderately intense activity at least five days a week. The DXB fitness challenge is an important opportunity to change lifestyle for not only the young, but aged as well. Join St. Marys in the DXB fitness challenge for 30 days of fitness, your limit is only you.



FLAG DAY AT SAINT MARY'S

After years of turmoil, sacrifice and foreign occupancy six individual tribes became one United Arab Emirates, at union house on the 2nd of December 1971. Today 47 years later we commemorate their sacrifices as well as the assumption of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan as president of the nation

This year to celebrate this momentous occasion, two of our schools very own talented musicians; Tejas Kokatnur year 12 and Aaron DeSouza year 13, were invited to play with the Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra, at that very same location where a nation was born;

Spirits were high as the crowd awaited his arrival and then...silence.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and his daughter Sheikhha Al Jalila approached the flag as children from schools across the UAE serenaded them waving flags and our valiant troops put on a brilliant flourish of high precision maneuvers with their rifles.

The conductor gave the signal and then we began the national anthem not as individuals, but as one united unit, just like those six tribes all those years ago each. When it was over there was a hum in the air, which grew to a crescendo revealing 4 fighter jets that flew behind us gushing out the colours of the flag.

After that the sheikh and his daughter advanced toward us and addressed us stating "I am very proud of all of you" exhibiting the sign of victory.

Aaron DeSouza – Year 13



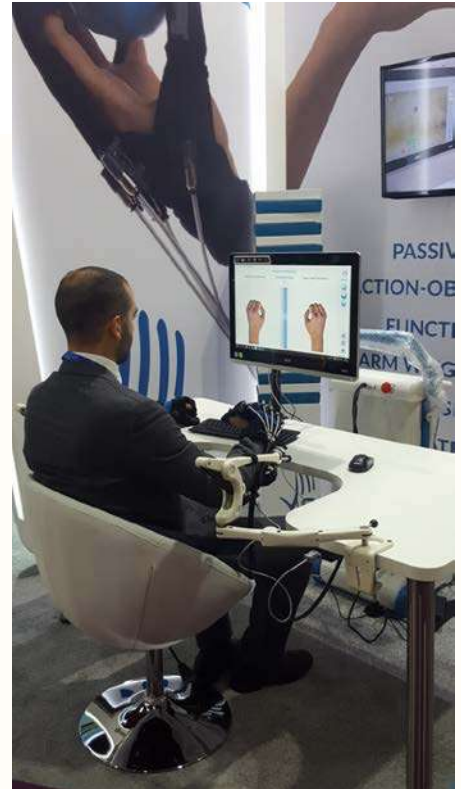
AccessAbilities Expo

On Sunday 7th November 2017, students of grades 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 attended the AccessAbilities Expo held at Dubai World Trade Centre. They got a chance to interact with companies that worked on an established goal to provide new tech to help support the disabled.

The Expo showcased businesses as well as government sectors, promoting platforms tailored to help people with disabilities. Companies showed their latest products that can help the disabled do simple tasks in their daily lives. There were modern electric wheelchairs with Bluetooth connectivity, toys to help disabled children learn, new eye sensing technologies to help navigate digital devices and even personal AI robots to help with day to day tasks.

The government sector demonstrated their e-services and how they made it user friendly to the disabled by integrating support for eye sensing devices as well as audio output. They also introduced tablets that can raise and lower dots hence allowing blind users to read in Braille and respond to the services.

The event also consisted of a sports ground where everyone could take part in activities; but with a catch. They had to play in wheel chairs to experience the life of a disabled athletes. Archery involved archers shooting at a target while sitting on a wheelchair and Basketball involved taking hoops while sitting in a wheelchair. They even had Paralympic wheelchair racing where the student got to experience how a Paralympic racer used the special wheelchair. They were supported throughout the track by an expert racer in a wheelchair. This helped strengthen the community and live up to their name by juxtaposing disabilities by calling it AccessAbilities



There was also a photo booth, provided by Canon, where the students could take pictures and post motivational thoughts and messages for the disabled, inspiring them to not view their disability as a setback but strive to achieve as much as they can regardless of their disabilities.

Local businesses were set up to sell handicrafts such as paintings, necklaces, earrings, handbags and wallets that were all hand-made by people with disabilities to prove that a disability is only a minor setback, and that anyone could do anything if there is a will to do it.



Everyone left the event with knowledge and understanding that even disabled people could achieve anything, and that it is our responsibility as individuals to help them as much as we can.



AL NOOR ASSISTIVE TECHX

On the 3rd of November, A level students attended an event held by Al Noor Training Centre where they were given an insight on the advancements in assistive technology (AT) to help the disabled handle day to day challenges.



Al Noor Assistive TechX is an event which supports the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai a role model for involving people with disabilities by providing them with all the necessary services to strengthen their position as an effective element in society.



The tour started off from the entrance where the students interacted with a child who had disability in learning. He gave tickets to all the students to the cinema which showcased 7 individuals with disabilities and how they were benefiting from AT technology to do their daily jobs.

Inside the cinema hall, the students were shown to their seats by Talia: a capable teenager in a motorized wheelchair.

After the cinema, the students were guided to the Exhibition center where volunteers as well as students from Al Noor training Centre helped educate us as to how technology is helping disabled individuals adjust to actions in life which most take for granted. Simple actions like picking up groceries, opening the fridge or making your bed, all of which the general public takes for granted are difficult tasks for most of these individuals.



There were some disabled individuals that showed how they used AT to make wonderful creations. Some of the students used the Eye gazing technology that tracks eye movements and translates it into cursor movements in a computer to design dresses which were then created by people with disabilities using low-tech AT. The final creations were wonderful examples that disabilities cannot stop the determined.



The dress in the picture was designed using eye gazing technology by Maitha and tailored by a talented disabled individual

There were also sections that showcased low-tech AT to help people with disability adjust to normal life. Some examples are: specially designed spoons, round knobs on refrigerators to help people with gripping problems to open fridges, Velcro attached to bedsheets and pillow covers so that even a one handed person could make their own bed.

They even showcased new applications that can help children, who face speaking difficulties, communicate with the general public. The event showcased a lot of applications that can help the disabled to do day to day things such as creating shopping lists, communicating and even making food.

At the end of the event the students of St. Mary's could proudly say "IamATaware"



BrainSim 2017

What is BrainSim?

BrainSim is an active simulation wherein students are given exposure to a real-life business situation. This gives them an insight as to how a business would work in the real world.

Saintz @BrainSim 2017

On October 12, three of our students went to the SP Jain University at Academy City to attend the BrainSim competition. It was a long day filled with lots of fun, enriching activities. The experience was



exhilarating as the trio challenged themselves to incorporate a business idea into the hierarchy of their company.

On reaching Academic City, the squad found themselves lost in the labyrinth of university campuses. After a little exploration, they reached their destination - SP Jain University. Entering the edifice was the beginning of this great event.

After a small introduction, students were directed to the simulation lab where the competition began. For the simulation, each team had to work on a computer and had 90 weeks to convince everyone in their business to accept their idea. Different activities cost different number of weeks, and each activity would serve a unique purpose and

target a certain number of people. For example, holding a private meeting to discuss the benefits of the idea with a group of four people was a good way to start off. It costed one week and targeted important people enabling feedback as well as raising awareness of the idea.

There were different stages of acceptance for the idea: Unaware, Aware, Interested, and Adoption. We had to convince everyone in the business to adopt our idea. Occasionally, there would be an opposer. In this case, the students would have to work harder to ensure that there were no oppositions in the business. In some cases, the decisions made would have little or no impact on the business. Every move had to be played with acumen.

Overall, it demanded critical thinking and effective decision making much like the real-life scenario. Our school did not win but it was a great learning opportunity for all the students. During the

activities, students also got to mix around with others from different schools enabling them to exchange valuable information as well as to make new friends. It's a prestige to be able to participate in such events, which come up so rarely, and it would be apt for every student who looks forward to being an entrepreneur in the future to take up such challenges in the future.



GREEN HOPE CONFERENCE

On the 14th of October 2018, Green hope conducted a Climate change conference at Middlesex University, Dubai, in which, over 60 students from more than 10 schools across Dubai participated. 10 of our very own students along with Mr Charles represented SMCHS and took part in the various activities during the course of the event.



They started off the day with a small orientation given by the Green Hope presenters about climate change. Its causes and adverse impacts which really raised mindfulness amongst our students about the ever-growing danger that faces us on a global scale.

Each student representing SMCHS and every other school was placed in different groups, along with a multitude of other participants from various other institutions, in order to improve collaboration amongst students. This was tested in the group activities which were held. As this took place, an artist from each school had to produce the finest masterpiece they could in 45 minutes on the given theme of 'Climate Change affecting the World'.

As the event continued, a panel discussion was held with an open interaction with the distinguished guest, as a result of which the students truly felt that their mind had been opened to a realm of information they didn't know much about.

This was followed up by a short break after which, each school had to perform a pre-prepared piece. An undoubtedly

amazing showcase of talent as each school danced and sang in the name of a Cleaner, greener environment. SMCHS Danced and Sang along to; 'Love Song to Earth'.

As the event came to an end at 3:30, the schools received awards based on their performances, and there wasn't a single student in the room without a smile. Overall, A truly valuable use of a Saturday morning as our students came back with smiles on their faces, and knowledge in their minds and a greater understanding of Climate Change.



PRIMARY PREFECT INVESTITURE

The primary prefect investiture ceremony was an extremely special and auspicious day for all students of Saint Mary's catholic high school, as primary students took their place as new student leaders. It showed everyone the caliber and motivation of students at St. Mary's. Becoming a primary prefect gives students the chance to take responsibility, enabling students to develop qualities that eventually make great leaders.



The ceremony lead by Miss Rose was elevated with the presence of the senior leadership team who made the afternoon unforgettable. As the prefects solemnly paraded to the stage, led by the Head boy and Head girl, they proudly took their places, ready for the challenges that lie ahead. The students proudly chanted the national anthem followed by the prayer led by Sister Archana.



The primary captains and vice captains then took their oath, pledging to be responsible and to fulfill their duties as newly elected leaders of the primary section. The students pledged to do their job with dignity and to the best of their abilities. The primary captains (Ryan D'souza and Nabiha) gave eloquent speeches on their responsibilities and thoughts on becoming primary leaders. Their speeches undoubtedly motivated other primary students to aspire to be great leaders.

The primary prefects were honored to receive their badges and take their places as the new leaders of our school, making their friends and parents proud. The primary prefects are the future of Saint Mary's and will soon receive their roles as senior prefects, becoming a primary prefect not only allows them to learn what a leader does, but to also grow a gentle and friendly character which they will take with them throughout their life.

It is often said, Leaders are not born; they are made through rigorous work, commitment and passion. At Saint Mary's, this is what we wish for in our student leaders, to inspire them to walk in the path of the Marian promise, and to wear the badge of a primary prefect with pride. These are the leaders of tomorrow who we all know will not only bring the best to the St. Marys community but to society as a whole.



CEMETERY VISIT

'The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living.' ~ Marcus Tullius Cicero

On Friday, the 20th of October, the bible students from Grade 8 – Section E and F – and Grade 9 – Section E and F – went to Al Jaddaf Cemetery in Dubai. Accompanied by Sir Peter and Sir Melroy, the journey by bus commenced at 8:30 and the group reached the destination by 9. Throughout the ride, the students observed silence and pondered on what awaited them at the final resting place of the deceased.

Once they arrived, the students cleaned the graves using brooms and rake to brush away at loose sand and leaves from each mound. As they worked, Chloe Dlima of Grade 9 commented on how the somber atmosphere and terminality of an elaborate existence overwhelmed each of them. It was truly sad to see headstones that claimed the lives of children, elderly and even twins. The trip concluded after 2 hours and the visitors left with one thought: Every wellbeing, hardship and fortune was buried underground forever.



ONE ROOT, ONE COMMUNITREE

Mother nature gives us more than we could ask for. The environment and all within gives us a place to survive and grow, so it is only right that we give back what is so generously bestowed upon us. Every year, over 7 billion trees are cut down. To put that into perspective that's about 55,600 a minute.

One tree produces about 8,500 pages of paper. Whilst that number may seem inconsequential, but putting it into perspective of a global scale and the amount of paper used on a daily basis, it is a colossal amount.

More importantly than how much is used, is how much is wasted. This is very unsustainable, and it threatens not only our lives, but the lives of forthcoming generation. Granted, there is a lot for us to do in order to amend our mistakes, as well as to insure we don't hinder our world's potential

The One Root, One Communitree initiative, is lead by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) with the aim of helping people comprehend that; "Taking care of our environment is fun and easy, as long as citizens make efforts towards establishing a sustainable future.". over the course of its 22 year existence EEG has successful planted over 2,091,727 trees in the UAE.

The initiative encourages the "communitree" to recycle paper, and plants a single tree for every 2 tonnes collected

Our school has garnered a tremendous quantity of 2.5 tonnes of paper and is continuing to push this amount up in the coming weeks in order to reach its goal of 4.0 kilograms in order to get 2 trees planted in the name of our school at the Greenfield Community School.

These steps of collecting and recycling paper are just the initial steps towards the betterment of not only are lives today but the betterment of our planet and although there is still a long way for us to go our journey to a greener tomorrow must begin somewhere.

And so I leave you with the ethereal words of J.R.R Tolkien "When summer lies upon the world, and in a noon of gold Beneath the roof of sleeping leaves the dreams of trees unfold; When woodland halls are green and cool, and wind is in the west, Come back to me, come back to me, and say my land is best.

LET US STOP BECOMING BULLIES OR VICTIMS OF BULLIES

By Mavis Joseph, PSHE Teacher

There are many bullying scenarios---from schoolyard intimidation to violence, to name calling, to sexual harassment to cyber bullying and to verbal abuse.

Whether your child is a victim of a bully, or whether you suspect your child is the bully, some patterns of behavior can be noticed. They include lack of empathy, aggressiveness, use of violence as a solution to problems, quickly rushing to anger and getting frustrated easily.

All human beings are born with five psychological needs: the urge for safety; survival; security; love and belonging and the urge for power. The last one gets us in trouble that may eventually lead to bullying.

Our urge for power: We want it, we want it our own way now and we are born with this urge which we experience but we're not born knowing how to follow this urge responsibly and respectfully. So if you have ever watched a couple of three year olds, one sees the other child has a great toy, and if she wants it, she will go over and she'll grab the toy and if she needs to she will punch the other, push her down, pull her hair, whatever it takes to get the toy. Most parents ignore this thinking they are too small to be corrected. Not realizing already she is already becoming a bully.

We urge to have the world and we want it. So bullying may always be present. Around age ten - eleven- twelve children are demanding and requesting more freedom and with that means they want to have more access to social media which is also bad. Teaching our children the term and what it means to meet their urge for power responsibly and respectfully will help them not become bullies.

With these all said, parents and teachers have to make the children aware of the need to achieve greater urge for love and to value more the accumulation of acceptable behaviors so as to help them not to become either bullies or victims of bullies.

By Student Council

RESPECT

Showing respect for others is one of the most important values in the world. It means showing care for another person. Without respect everything around you would be less peaceful. You show respect in many ways every day that you may not even realize.

Respect occurs when you:

- Listen to others
- Play fair
- Use good manners
- Wait your turn
- Compliment someone

You can show respect every moment of every day by doing things like:

- Practicing the golden rule
- Practicing random acts of kindness
- Saying please and thankyou and excuse me
- Not teasing and encourage your friends not to

So being respectful is one of key ingredients to be the best person you can be.

Thought for the day:

"Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners."

SUPER AWARD

I began a new chapter of my life on October 23rd, 2017. It was the day when I took my very initial steps on what is now my second home; the ice.

I spent multiple hours on ice trying to learn its art in rapid speed. Many hours of my days were also spent watching tremendously talented famous skaters compete internationally. On seeing all the top skaters win such prestigious competitions, I was driven to excel at my new found obsession – figure skating.



Though professional figure skating was not my ultimate goal, I still wanted to pursue competitive skating at regional and national levels because I felt that figure skating was the factor that separated me from a crowd. Till today, figure skating is a hobby that I am very passionate about.

The amount of time and hard work I put in for training increased tremendously. I was spending five hours after school on the rink, my parents decided to send me to India in January of 2017 to compete in the Indian National Figure Skating Championships. The competition was supposed to originally take place in Shimla but due to bad ice conditions, the championship was shifted to Delhi. We travelled 7 hours from Shimla and reached Delhi safely. In relation to the shift in venue, I had hoped that the ice was better in Delhi; but it was rather mediocre.



Despite the many factors that agitated me, I managed to skate the best I could in those conditions. I came out with a bronze medal. Unhappy with the results, the following months back in Dubai were a blur. I spend most of my time skating, striving for that shiny gold medal. I was not about to give up.

Alas, my time came in October when another national competition was held in Delhi. My mother and I had travelled to Delhi by ourselves only to see that the ice was still in terrible condition. Not able to do anything about this I decided to work with what I had. With my eyes on the prize, I was preparing myself to go on the ice only to find out that my music refused to play at all. I was still determined though I did not get to skate to my own music. I managed to come out with a silver medal; still disappointed with the results.

I have also participated and won medals in many other figure skating competitions within the UAE itself such as Skate Emirates. I am currently training and getting ready for the next Indian national championship hoping to win gold this time around. Third time's the charm.

Jesilyn Paul - Year 9A



PRIMARY SPORTS DAY



No one is born an athlete, but training and hard work makes one. The sports day is one of the most sought after events in junior school, displaying the true ability of sportsmanship and athleticism in children.

Parents flooded the stands hours before the sports day began, eager to support and cheer on their children. They were as excited as the children themselves, jumping off their seats, pulling out their phones as soon as the ceremony was to begin. Behind the scenes sports teachers, house masters, sports captains, vice captains and volunteers ran great lengths to ensure the children were in order and the day went in a breeze. They really put in efforts working days without end to train these future athletes.

All the kids were lined, the house flags were raised and the march music began to play - the game was on. They really did have a big entrance with parents screaming from the sidelines and picture flashes going off at every step. The opening ceremony and oath taking was done in the presence of our principal, Mr. Paul and vice- principal, Mrs. Lizzanne. "The sports day is now declared open" is the sentence all the kids were dying to hear, before the day kicks off.

After drills and dances were done by grades 1 and 2, children of all grades were lined up for the big races. Nervous children received motivational pep talks from their house captains, reassuring them and allowing them to gain confidence.

The points sky rocketed and so did the winners who all had their special moment on the podium as they received winning medals. Unicorn had an early lead and this proved valuable, Griffon who was trailing at 4th place was given hope as they suddenly boosted up to second place with Phoenix and Pegasus just behind.

POSITION	HOUSE
1st	UNICORN
2nd	GRIFFON
3rd	PHOENIX
4th	PEGASUS



DARREN NORONHA – YEAR 12



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In October, Our St Mary's Football Team Girls were invited to participate in an event hosted by Gems Modern Academy wherein schools all over Dubai would join in a friendly competition in one of the World's most beautiful game- Football and fight to claim victory. Our team managed to get through the semi-finals after pushing themselves to the limit and playing their best.

After hard work and determination during practices, the team of 12 led by their captain Adrienne sought on forward to their first match.

The first game was against the team of The Indian High School Girls and our team performed outstandingly scoring goal after goal and were unstoppable for those 30 minutes resulting in the final score of 4-0, 3 of which scored by our captain and one of which by Renee.

The following game, The Saintz team once again claimed victory against JSS International School with a score of 2-0, a phenomenal performance with the captain scoring 1 and Ana scoring the other and with this hey proceeded to the semi-finals.

Unfortunately, after a gruelling match against Gems Modern Academy Girls, our winning streak has ended as both teams were unable to score against each other leading it up to the penalties. Though we may have lost with a score 2-0, the team has performed excellently and will continue to perform that way.



RHEA JOSE GRADE 10D

Z&S 2017

(Manipal University Dubai), 24th October 2017

Don't run away from challenges, run over them.

We appreciate and are thankful for these opportunities provided to us by the school and our sports department. Our Basketball coach, Ms. Aevelyn

has always prepared us to give a tough fight.

We knew it was going to be a challenging game and yes, we were ready to give our 100%. Our match was against DPS Dubai, a strong and competitive team.

We arrived at the court which was packed with the toughest yet finest teams from all over Dubai.



Our game was pretty intense. We played zone to zone with on point defence towards our opponents and the score moved from neck to neck. Towards the end of the last quarter they took the lead by 3 points and won with the score of 18 - 15 .

Yes, we were all disappointed but at the same time we were happy about the fact that we succeeded in giving them a hard time on court.

After all, you can't win unless you learn to lose.

A TRIP TO MEYDAN EQUINE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Mariya Unnisa, Grade 4D

On the 6th of November 2017, Grades 4D and 4C went to the Meydan Equine Educational Programme. I was overjoyed and thrilled. My friend Nurhan and I were partners. We were instructed to assemble in the girls' quadrangle, which was deserted. We soon climbed in the bus, and Nurhan took the window seat but promised to let me have the seat while coming back. I accepted and buckled my seatbelt.

After a long chat about horses, jockeys and what they eat, we finally reached our destination. My teacher, Ms Fatima, told us to line up with our partners and we did as we were told. I then followed my teacher and met our guide, whose name was Juliani.

The stables we went to first were called *The Grand Stables*. There was a beautiful horse called Airwarshoe, who won a 1200 meter race on Saturday. Nurhan and I touched a brown horse; it was very silky, smooth and glossy. And friendly, too. I also met an Arabian horse who was 5 years old and originally from South Africa. Did you know the horses also do their exercises on a treadmill? They eat barley, honey, oats, oil, bran, Za'abeel Race Mix and date syrup.

Then, we entered *The Hay Room*. It smelled like raisins. The hay - Thamoote hay - from the United States of America. The horses all sleep on wood shavings, which cost 50 dirhams each. We also got to see some horses taking showers, and it seemed fun.

Our exciting day came to an end when we went to *The Ferrer Room*. That room is where the horses wear their shoes and I got one of their shoes! The trip to the Meydan Equine Educational Programme was very fun and all of us, from 4C and 4D were so happy to see the horses. We hope we can go again!



MANIPAL TOURNAMENT

Dramatic defeat over an extravagant effort from the young boys

Tuesday 24th and 25th October 2017 was a heart-trembling day for the young boys of St. Mary's. This was Manipal University's first year of hosting the interschool tournament. The transient event brought our School Basketball and Volleyball Boys to a focused state of mind. Being the first tournament of the year for both the teams, victory of the tournament meant the world to the young athletes.



It all embarked with the Basketball team first. Fluttering with agitated minds, they faced the cunning Winchester School. Our dexterous players from St. Mary's fought the first half with all they had, along with their coach, Mr. Chandra. Therefore giving them a good start in the first half with the score (08-05). As the second half commenced, they pushed themselves to the limit but the five ferocious opponents responded with a challenge, turning the game around and putting themselves ahead of the game. The efforts of our St. Mary's Boys weren't enough to cope with the pressure suppressing them, leading to a defeat. Thus, ending their tournament with a tight score (12-17).

Our school Volleyball team was left to bring back home victory over the Manipal tournament. The young boys were not afraid and ready to face anything that would hinder them from winning the tournament. Their diligent coach, Mr. Moses made the St. Mary's volleyball players confident with the talent they have upon themselves. But was it enough to seal the deal?



Straight from semi-finals, New Indian Model School, Sharjah stood their ground to battle against our talented boys to reach the finals. However, our volleyball team disposed their nervousness and aimed to only play their very best. The battle begun with the St. Mary's boys dominating the court, showing them how truly passionate they were with the sport. Ending the first

set with the score (15-8). The momentum was carried forward to the second set, finishing the game with the score (15-4). It was proud win which advanced them to the finals.

Tension aroused as our boys faced their rivals in the finals, New Indian Model School, Dubai. A skillful volleyball team which showed equal determination as our school team. Although, our boys were not afraid to engage against them. The finals commenced with an equal brawl against both the sides. NIMS Dubai gained the lead, but our boys gave it their all to catch up and win the first with the score (15-10). It was a blissful moment for them winning the set. All they needed was one more set to claim victory. As the brawl continued, the second set was rather a slack for the boys. Terribly losing the set with the score (9-15). The game was now head-to-head and the boys felt terrified. Proceeding to the third and final set. It started with a big lead from the opponents. However, the boys fought back but it wasn't enough to obtain victory, ending their tournament with the score (9-15) and being placed as first runners up.

Leaving the Manipal University with despair for both the teams; Basketball and Volleyball, our talented athletic boys still hope to push and motivate themselves to do more than better for the rest of their upcoming tournaments. As in the end of the day, our young athletes brawl with blood, sweat and tears, standing high to represent our beloved St. Mary's School.

Dowen Buhay – A-levels (Year 12)

SUNDEEP BATAVIA MEMORIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Heart over height in the resilient brawl

The 14th annual Sundeep Batavia Memorial Tournament in 2nd November 2017, held by the Delhi Private School Sharjah brought together a ferocious competition, which saw 39 schools battle for titles in basketball, table tennis and cricket. The Saintz basketball team took part in this battle, along with 15 other schools, to bring home the trophy.

The first league game saw the Saintz breeze through Gems Millenium School, Sharjah. A display of

speed and agility led the team to a 58-13 win, with Daniel Ruiz being the top scorer at 11 points. The second league game too showed the Saintz ability to fight against height with skill. A consistent display both offensively and defensively against the Bright Riders School, Abu Dhabi reaped the rewards. Nicholas Mendoza (17 points) and Aaron Agawin (12 points) led the team to a 56-48 victory to secure the team's place in the quarter-finals.

A constant fight between 3 point shooting and put-back layups highlighted the third league game. The Saintz boys, leading 21-20 in the first half were ready to keep up the tenacity

in the second. Unfortunately, a brilliant run by the boys of Our Own High School in the third quarter was enough to seal the deal for them. A fourth quarter comeback was not enough for our boys. Rolando Perera (24 points- 8 3-pointers) led the team in scoring in a

heart-breaking loss 63-52

The team's hopes were still alive, but their true challenge awaited them at the quarter finals: The host team – DPS Sharjah. Having previously played the team in a losing

effort, the Saintz boys looked for more than just victory: they looked for redemption. Yet the fight put on by the Saintz boys against the overpowering DPS Sharjah team, backed by their home crowd, was not enough to take them to the semi-finals but brought a premature end to their journey in the Sundeep Batavia tournament.

Despite not being able to win the championship, the Saintz basketball team successfully disproved the popular belief that height makes a winning team. The impact made by the boys was enough to leave them proud of their journey in the Sundeep Batavia tournament.



SP JAIN BRAIN SIMS



Cooking Is FUN



A Labour Of Love



Flag Day Raise your Flag

Dubai Fitness Challenge



Access Abilities Expo 2017





INVESTITURE CEREMONY



Investiture Ceremony



Investiture

CEREMONY



LAUNCHING THE VISION



GREEN HOPE CLIMATE CONFERENCE



GREEN HOPE Climate CONFERENCE



**Pink Day
Hope
Revived**

EEG
*Climate
Conference*

**Graduation
2017**

*Al Noor
Assistive
Tech*

**Access
Abilities
Expo 2017**

EDITORIAL TEAM

COLIN PEREIRA – YEAR 13

LABEEBA OMAR – YEAR 13

DARREN NORONHA – YEAR 12

JASON JAMES – YEAR 12

RHEA LOBO – YEAR 12

KYLE D'SOUZA – YEAR 13

DANIELLE D'SOUZA – YEAR 13

DOWEN BUHAY – YEAR 12

HARISHWARAN MANOHARAN – YEAR 13

MAHIMA AHSAN – YEAR 13

REANISA MENDONCA – YEAR 13

SABBIR ALAM – YEAR 13

SAMANTHA COSIO – YEAR 13

SHEHANI SIRIPALA – YEAR 13

YASEEN SHAKIL – YEAR 12

AARON DESOUZA – YEAR 13