



LPF ACADEMY

Newsletter Second Term 2009/2010



MARTIN LUTHER KING III VISITS LPF

More than four decades after Martin Luther King Jnr. delivered his now-famous "I have a dream ..." speech, his son, Martin Luther King III, heir to not just a famous name but an inexpressibly more famous dream, founder of the organization Realizing the Dream, travels the world to carry on the mission of his father.

For us at the LPF schools, for Bernie Anderson, our Founder, it was validation of the highest possible order; an endorsement beyond our wildest dreams to have MLK III visit LPF Academy with his team. It was international recognition of the value of the work undertaken, already

carried out and still in the pipeline.

During that heady afternoon of February 2nd, Founder, faculty, well-wishers, parents and students all gathered in the auditorium to greet Dr King and his team. Some symbolic and significant rituals, the lighting of the oil lamp, the unfurling of the flags of Sri Lanka, LPFA and the Peace flag, creating of a peace collage added a gossamer skin of solemnity to the bubbling excitement and awe almost tangible in the air.

Peace songs were sung, inspiring words uttered, peace work explained, journals signed, various people intro-

duced, and of course, dozens of photos snapped off.

The Peace Gang was in their element to have such an icon as the son of the freedom fighter, Rev MLK Jnr., peace maker and hero to all who knew oppression and injustice, stand hand in hand with them and say, in effect, "Let's make peace happen, together!"

Let's all help realize the Dream!



TO KNOW MARTIN LUTHER KING JNR.

The exhibition on MLK Jnr. at the National Art Gallery was visited by our older students.

They watched a documentary, listened to recordings, flipped through books, perused information panels and took quizzes to learn about Dr King, the influences of Mahatma Gandhi, the American Civil Rights Movement, plus the thread leading to the present, to MLK III and to President Obama. It was a proud moment for LPFA when the active participation and knowledge of our children was acknowledged by Mr. Glen Davis of the U.S. Embassy and an invitation given to visit the U.S. Embassy to as his special guests

Our Directress and some Faculty members also attended a lecture on related topics at the Art Gallery.



Sri Lankan Freedom Fighter's kin at LPFA

GG Ponnambalam remembered. sharing a daughter's view

We were delighted to welcome Dr Wijyalakshmi and her daughter Dharshana, the daughter and grand daughter of one of our most respected statesmen and one of the authors of Ceylon's independence, GG Ponnambalam. After touring the school, the ladies met the students of Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the faculty.

Dr Wijyalakshmi spent some nostalgic moments talking of her father and his achievements in work-

ing for this nation's independence and progress. She shed a tear or two as she spoke with an obvious depth of affection of her late father, their simple life despite their wealth (see p. 3)



G.G. Ponnambalam

Upcoming Events

MARCH & APRIL

MARCH

9th—12th : 3rd year Montessori Conference

20th : Peace Gang's Jumble Sale.

23rd: Visit to traditional Puppet Art Museum

26th & 27th: Primary/Secondary School Parent Conference

APRIL

5th: Easter Egg Hunt

6th: *Perahera* with LPFM & Last day of 2nd term

EDITORIAL

Celebrating our Third!

LPF Academy is now three years old! But, as in a kind of time warp, it seems like it has been longer, probably because so many things have happened in our brief history.

From 5 students, we have really done a fast-forward in student numbers, counting over 160 in this academic year, from our Young Children's Community to Grade 6. The increase in Faculty goes without saying, but we are always on the alert to recruit qualified and experienced members for our expanding academic activities.

It is also with no little pride that we can now offer our students a range of co-curricular activities. We have

PE, basketball and swimming for the sports fans, Cub Scouts & Girl Guides packs to help with leadership training, Art with the acclaimed Tony Hopman, our visiting sculptor Ajith introduced students to the textures and techniques of clay sculpting, there's singing and dancing, a taste of woodwork, a corner for the Green Thumbs with our Garden Club's vegetable garden, plus activities with the 5S team, the Recycling Club, the newly-established Web Club and of course, the Peace Gang, with their myriad activities!

A big coup for us was the Assistant District Commissioner, Ms. Wathsala Wijewickrama, agreeing to help our Cub Scouts.

I'm also very happy to announce that, from 1st March, our drama students have one of our most re-

spected and experienced actor/directors to train them: Mr. Jerome de Silva. We look forward to great theatre work with him.

We're also thrilled to welcome Mrs. Shaila Amalean, the only woman to be two-times national champion and only woman to represent Sri Lanka in international competitions and No 63 on the World, to help set up Scrabble as a regular weekly activity from 11th March.

In order to achieve a more efficient administration, a decentralized structure was implemented with an Admin & Coordinating Team set in place, with several senior teachers working with the Admin Staff.

While thanking God for His bountiful blessings, we salute you parents in your indefatigable efforts to help us! Our achievements have been won with your full participation and assistance, and we are indeed grateful for the dynamism of our parent coordinators and helpers. Here's to LPFA!

Adfecta et persevera!

Going Out— travelling to other “classrooms”

The first “going out” this term for the Primary (Grades 3—6) was in order to learn more about different types of theatres in Colombo. Students visited the Lionel Wendt theatre and heard about the proscenium arch or picture frame theatre. They became familiar with the different areas of a theatre, from Green Room to flies to foyer. They then visited Colombo's only Greek-style, arena theatre at Vihara Maha Devi Park and tried out what it would be like to be actors or audience in an open-air setting.

Chef Pablis was the star at their 2nd day out at Mt. Lavinia Hotel. Grades 2-6 toured the hotel's vast kitchens, learned about food - handling and eating! - from a Master Chef. High-

light of the day out: Pablis' special demonstration.

Grades 1 & 2 had separate visits to the Post Office, learning all about the process of posting. The whole school had already had a special visit from, and chat with, the local postman when he came to LPFA.

Grades 1 & 2 so enjoyed seeing the animals at the Farm at Diyagala Boys' Town.

The Montessori students had a special combo of visits for Independence Day celebrations: they part of the LPFM Independence Day celebrations and learned to march courtesy of the Sri Lanka Air Force, as well as visiting Independence Square and the Museum there.

THAI PONGAL

The traditions and rituals involving Pongal rice, Kolam, the sacred cow, and other elements of this festival were not only learned but also practiced at the celebrations this year. Thanks, Ms Chelvy and parents!

SILENT JOURNEY

WE WERE HAPPY TO NOTE THE PARTICIPATION BY PARENTS AT OUR SILENT JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY OF OUR CHILDREN'S WORLD AT LPFA.

GG Ponnambalam remembered(from page 1)

and shared her memories of what he did during his years in government, designing plans for progress in the north as well as in the south of Sri Lanka. She urged students to carry on the great work of such statesmen of yore who dedicated themselves to their motherland, and for whom the burden of the foreign yoke dispelled division among them, pulling them together in their struggle for independence, for self-rule.

Students and teachers alike had questions to ask this gracious lady,

who is a long-time friend of our Founder and an extremely generous donor towards the establishment of Bridge 2 Peace. With simplicity and self-deprecating humour, she talked of life during her childhood and youth, her family, and of course, especially her famous father.

It was a touching moment when this well-travelled lady exclaimed that the excellent cup of tea served her brought back memories of Ceylon tea drunk with condensed milk during her childhood. (Shanthi was tickled pink!)



Mrs. Chandra Fernando addresses the parents



Conflict resolution demonstration

Our CUB SCOUTS join 1800 others for weekend holiday camp

For our fledgling Cub Scout pack, being at Colombo District's holiday camp at Royal College on the 91th, 20th and 21st of February was a huge experience. Four of the younger ones from Grade 2 and 3 joined for just the day camp on Saturday, but 8 Cub Scouts stayed there two nights, accompanied by their *Akelas*, Ms Pushpa and Ms Angela. They had to take everything, sleep in classrooms, organize

meals and so on. Being without their families was a big 'lesson'. . Being part of such a huge crowd was in itself a slight shock to the system for the students of our little Academy! They had cultural shows, films, exhibitions and a few fun rides to keep them occupied. For most of the Cubs, this was the first time for many things. Bernie visited the Scouts on Saturday. While appreciating the parents'

enthusiastic support, a very big "Thank you" to Ms Pushpa and Ms Angela, who went above and beyond the call of duty during this special activity.

US MONTESSORI
EXPERT VISITS LPF

Our LITTLE FRIENDS on Centenary Walk

The Girl guides' Association organized its Centenary Walk on the 20th of February, and we were happy to have several of our guides representing the Academy, accompanied by Ms Dilini, the Sylvanna, and Ms Dilushi. They all joined the other guides in the walk commencing at the Girl Guides HQ. After

the Walk, the girls had some fun going around the trade and entertainment stalls.



Little Friends at the walk

Mrs. Chandra Fernando, one of the foremost trainers and consultants in USA was with us this term to share her insights with the Faculty and to introduce to the parents just what exactly Montessori Elementary is all about. It was a very valuable and interesting sharing of knowledge and expertise, and Faculty and parents alike were given much to think about. As she is also very keen on the work done by the Peace Gang, she has proposed a book to help introduce the various facets of peace at student level.

Puppets & Folk Tales

As part of the preparation for the visit in March to the new Traditional Puppet Art Museum in Dehiwela, the students of the Primary did a study of puppets and actually produced their own hand-made puppets. There was a variety of hand puppets, glove puppets, and those on strings too.

The best part was presenting the puppet show to the Montessori students!

2nd March was Sinhala Language Day. In order to focus on the value of this endangered language, our Sinhala Language teachers and their students of the Primary prepared a series of items, including songs, speeches, a dramatized version of a popular folk tale involving that legendary problem-solver *Maha Dena Mutta* and a dance. Good show, all!

SUBODHI FOUNDER TRAINING LPF FACULTY

Founder and former Director of Subodhi Institute, Piliyandala (the Institute of Integral Education), Rev. Father Mervyn Fernando, is now firmly on board as a regular resource person. He will carry out a programme of training and further education for our Faculty. The first two sessions took place on the 22nd and 24th of February. Fr Mervyn has been a guest speaker at a parents' meeting already, and his vast store of wisdom, experience and knowledge is now at the disposal of the LPF schools.

For decades, Fr Mervyn has been preaching the kind of vision that we are espousing, so he is happy to join us on our journey. He is a trainer of youth, a counselor, peace worker, astronomer, scientist, philosopher, published author, academic and much more.

We are indeed blessed by his presence and support!



YCC JOURNAL

YCC welcomes the 2010 batch of "young minds" to the LPFA community.

INDEPENDENCE DAY AT LPFA

In an effort to help our students understand and acknowledge the roles played by the statesmen of Ceylon in gaining her independence from the British Empire, so that we may enjoy the life we live today, Independence Day was celebrated this year on 2nd February by having the major players in the struggle for freedom represented by some of our Primary students, who then spoke on the achievements of each one.

The younger students were requested to wear traditional ethnic dress, as our independence also calls for recognition of Sri Lanka's

pluri-lingual, multi-cultural society, and the fact that the freedom fighters of Ceylon were of all communities and ethnicities.

It was indeed an eye-catching, colourfully dressed set of youngsters who gathered in the auditorium that morning. Our "statesmen" too were in suitable costume. We appreciate the teachers' guiding hands, especially Mrs. Angela's efforts to realize this event.

Later that day, of course, another momentous event helped us be more conscious of the price and value of freedom: the visit by Martin Luther King III.



Peace Gang

New members

We are proud to announce that twenty-five new members joined hands with the Peace Gang on the 6th of March, with the intention of equipping themselves with knowledge and understanding to create a more peaceful world. We wish them and the very best in their endeavours in working towards a better tomorrow.

Jumble Sale

The Peace Gang is in the process of organizing a jumble sale to be held on the 20th of March.

Donations could be made of new or nearly new clothes, kitchen items, books, toys and games, jewellery etc., which will be collected between 9th and 16th March.

The money raised will make up a large proportion of the fund for Peace Gang activities and will support Bridge 2 peace in Lunugamwehera.