



Editorial By Devi Gunasekera

Hello Everyone,
It gives me great pleasure to greet you at the beginning of another year. As we reflect on the past year, we can feel elated that 2005 was a great year for us, during which we have been able to form our organization and establish contact with Mahamayans spread around the globe. We are deeply indebted to our school for the success we have achieved in our careers and our lives, and are proud to be Mahamayans. The time has come for us to ask ourselves, "What can we render in return to our great School?". With the beginning of the new millennium the horizons have become wider and the world has shrunk in space and time as a result of new technology. Though we haven't got a chance to learn it as a

Mahamayans, our youngsters have that great opportunity, and it is an obligation for us to gear them to face the challenges that are ahead of them.

Our school is in need of computers for its computer lab. We can explore avenues to improve the facilities to impart up-to-date Computer Technology by providing computers or by finding ways and means of raising funds towards achieving this goal. Think about the way you can help. We need your creative ideas and involvement to complete this task. Also we intend providing a new column in our next publication entitled "Letters to the Editor". We welcome your comments and suggestions to improve

the quality of the Newsletter.
Wishing one and all a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year 2006!!!



Hi, I am Devi Gunasekera, Editor of 3rd issue of "Maya Puwath" I was at Mahamaya from 1981 to 1989. After graduating from Medical Faculty Peradeniya, I worked at Base Hospital Nawalapitiya before moving to USA with my husband Gamini. Currently we are residing in Washington State and we have a three year old daughter (Vishaka). I love to travel, listen to music and play with my daughter.

BOOK NOOK

"Readers are lucky, they will never be bored or lonely" Natalie Babbit (author)
I consider myself very lucky to have the love of reading ingrained in me. Reading has been my companion & friend throughout my life & still continues to do so!! It has given me a window to go places and meet people of different eras, countries and situations. I do my reading mostly for leisure. There must be many of you who will be doing some serious reading and it would be great if we could share our different experiences via our newsletter. So write to us of your favorite books and their authors and we can make this an on going success!!!

One of my favorite authors is Judith Macnaught. I have read most of her novels and the ones I like most are the historical romances. "Something Wonderful", "Whitney My Love", and "Once and always" are some of those

that I have read. They are all full of fun and laughter with courageous heroines who are different and lovable.

Jayne Ann Krentz is a novelist who writes of present day romances. Or rather, those that are based on the modern woman... "Trust me", "Family Man", "Deep Waters" and "Perfect Partners" are some of her books.

For those of you who are not romance enthusiasts but are into mystery and death, there is author Patricia Cornwell. But I must warn you her books are full of dead bodies and medical details. "All that Remains", "The Body Farm", "Cause of Death" and "The Last Precinct" are some of her books that I have enjoyed reading. Some would consider her writing a bit morbid but I like the tense atmosphere with the pushed almost frenzied attempt to solve the crime before the killer strikes again!!!!

2005 Maya Highlights

- The school cadet platoon was able to win the De Soya challenge shield at All Island Girls' Cadet Competition and was ranked as the Presidential Cadet Platoon 2005. They also won the De soya memorial shield for the 10th Consecutive time.
- Kaushalya PUNCHIHEWA won the 1st place at the 'Miming Competition' (Senior Division) at All Island Drama and Performing Arts Competition held in Colombo
- Four senior Guides from our school will be participating in an International Conference which will be held in Sangam-India at the World Girl Guides Headquarters.
- A musical Show presented by the popular artist Mr. Sunil Edirisinghe was held on 5th December 2005 in Aid of the Teachers' Guild. This was sponsored by the Old Girls' Association – Mother Branch.
- Mrs. Asoka Rajasinghe and Mrs. Manel Mallikarachchi retired after 23 years and 09 years of service respectively.



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Mary Higgins Clark is also a mystery writer. "We'll Meet Again", "Pretend You Don't See Her", "Silent Night", "Weep No More, My lady" are some of her books that I have read. Her writing is not as morbid and she adds a touch of romance to make it more exciting.

In my next issue I hope to have some of your reading experiences. You can send in your views of any of the above mentioned books (if you have read them or if you were encouraged to read them after reading this article) or introduce us to new authors of your choice. Don't hesitate to write in whatever form, we will edit it & send it back to you for your approval before it is printed. But please do write.....

"I always knew that deep down in every human heart there was mercy and generosity. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Even in the grimmest time in prison, when my comrades and I were pushed to our limits, I would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps for a second but it was enough to reassure me and keep me going. Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished." --- Nelson Mandela in "Culture and imperialism"

Sent By Nazrana Caffoor



Spiritual- Google images

How can you claim to know the taste of watermelon when you have only licked the rind?-- Korean Proverb

Good Old Maya Land

Like a flock of swans swimming in the lake
 Like a bunch of "Temple flowers" blooming on the trees
 Like a group of atoms bonding together
 We grew up in a blessed land of "Maya"
 Above the lake - Cross the Rajan's peak
 With the bliss of the Dalada Temple
 We learned our Maya values
 We inherited our Maya culture
 Coming from different parents, race, color and creed
 We bonded together with "Oneness" in the Maya land
 Through our smiles - Through our tears
 We held our hands tight- Never letting it go
 Nourishing in the same womb!
 At the end, though the time is different

for all of us
 We faced the truth - realized the life
 We led our lives drift away from beloved Maya land
 By cutting the same code that fed for all of us!
 Through the roller-coaster rides
 We ended up in different lands
 But the "Maya seeds" that planted in our minds
 Got stronger and healthier day by day
 Sure it will become a big tree one day
 Under the shade of our Mother Maya tree
 Hands are not the same that we used to held
 But minds are the same from the

same womb
 This fed the same food to become enlightened
 To become who I am and who you are today
 We all may be different from our human form
 But didn't we cut the same code?
 Let's hold hands again once more
 In the name of Good Old Maya Land!

By Sriyani Dissanayake



Colors Nite

Mrs. Indra Vithanaachchi, the principal and Dr. Sarath Amunugama, the finance minister at the time taking the salute.

The ceremony was held on the 24th of October 2005.

Teaming up...

"You make a living by what you get

You make a life by what you give"

Winston Churchill

Dear members of MGCAANA,

The News Letter Committee is humbly soliciting your assistance to improve the computer lab in our precious school We cordially

Committee, please contact Nadeeka Ranasinghe, the Chairperson at Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com. If you are interested in doing events for our MGCAANA, please write to us and get the approval of the Board Of Directors in advance. We can plan it together.

Few Fundraising Strategies

1. The personal ask: this is the simplest, most straightforward and most likely to get the money we need right now. Personal asking is a great strategy if you know a lot of people whom you are willing to approach personally without offering something concrete back.
2. Social gatherings: A great way to raise money is the tried-and-true



to improve the computer in our precious school We cordially invite all alumnae members to rise to the challenge and raise funds to our main objective. We all know this is not an easy task. However, if all of our alumnae friend and families team up, the task can be achieved. The information we have at the moment as follows....

Two members of MGCAANA have contributed funds to purchase two used computers and an honorary member has donated two more used computers. We are looking for funds to meet shipping costs for them which amount to approximately \$200. (This is a special concession rate because the Shipping Agent in Vancouver, B.C. is an old Rajan and his wife is a Mahamaya alumna).

Also we need some more used computers which are in good condition with following features. They should be Pentium III or IV with a switch in the back to convert from 110V to 220V. It is not necessary to send monitors; principal has mentioned that they can manage with what they have for now. So our goal is to keep our eyes and ears open to see where and how we can find the computers and also how to raise money for the shipping expenses.

If you had been in fundraising campaigns before, you would know it takes hard work, diligence, motivation, and enthusiasm, but the rewards are many. If you would like to be part of our Fundraising

2. Social gatherings: A great way to raise money is the tried-and-true house party. Dinner or refreshments) With this strategy, you can invite friends and acquaintances to a gathering at your house to learn more about the campaign. At the house party you can ask to make a contribution.
3. Community dinner: People love to eat and socialize and this could be held as a variation on a food theme: a cocktail party, potluck dinner. A community dinner is usually held in a public venue such as a community center, restaurant, or an apartment clubhouse.
4. Car washes: Holding a car wash is a fairly simple and straightforward fundraising event. A car wash works best when you have a small but enthusiastic group of, preferably young people who are willing to get dirty washing cars.
5. Raffles: A common, easy and fun way to raise almost any amount of money is a raffle. Almost everyone is familiar with raffles, having bought tickets for them and perhaps even won a prize in one. Raffles basically appeal to people's desire to win something as well as to get something for less than it is worth.
6. Garage sales: It is hard to find a person living in the United States who hasn't held one, bought something at one, or at the very least walked or driven by one. These are popular because you know what they say...one person's trash is another person's treasure. Garage sales are easy to organize, with little extra time and planning their fundraising potential can be increased by involving more and more people in the activity.
7. If you are interested in doing direct sales or pre sales this website would be the best place to purchase items, and my personal favorite of all. www.fundraising.com
8. Personal pledging: If anyone wish to send monetary contributions to support this agendas please send them to our head office address.

MGCAANA

2417 NE 20th St

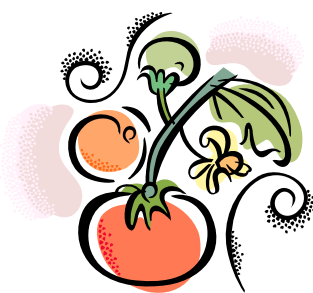
Renton, WA 98056

We hope that by now you are excited to try one or more of the above mentioned fundraising strategies. Newsletter Committee wishes you great fundraising success for this beautiful cause.....and fun in getting there!!!!!!!

Sent By Priyanka Jayakody



Pictures of Annual Prize-giving which was held on 14th of October. The chief guest was Prof. Kapila Gunasekara, The vice chancellor of university of Peradeniya and Mrs. Manel Gunasekara.



Family of Tomatoes

A family of three tomatoes were walking down town one day when the little baby tomato started lagging behind. The big father tomato walks back to the baby tomato, stomps on her, squashing her into a red paste, and says, "KETCHUP"!!!

AHAJOKES.COM

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Update on Current Projects

Dearest Members:

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America (MCGAANA) is only five months old, yet we are extremely pleased with our accomplishments so far. Our vision is to build a future where alumnae living in North America and present students of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy will work together to benefit society. Members of MGCAANA, you are our strength and support; thus, we consider it our duty to inform you about our projects in progress.

Computer technology has become an important requirement in the present education system in Sri Lanka, and Mahamaya Girls' College is trying its best to work up to the current standards. As an organization committed to increasing educational growth among our students, we are planning to **send used computers** to Mahamaya Girls' College. As of today, we have been able to collect four used Pentium III and Pentium IV CPUs, which contain the desired memory capacity and the software programs (MS Word, Excel, etc.) that would serve the school's needs. These computers will be shipped in the month of February 2006. If you would like to donate new or used computers or give monetary support to the cause, please e-mail us at Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.
MGCAANA is delighted to introduce our new best program, the **Host and Travel**

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.

--Abraham Lincoln

To do no evil;

To cultivate good;

To purify one's mind:

This is the teaching of the Buddhas.

2006. If you would like to donate new or used computers or give monetary support to the cause, please e-mail us at Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com.

MGCAANA is delighted to introduce our new host program – the **Host and Travel Club**. The objective of this program is to provide safe accommodation to students (undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral) during short school breaks and longer vacations and to facilitate acclimation of former Mahamaya Girls' College students on arrival to the United States and/or Canada. Please see our website (www.mahamayaalumna.org) for more information and let us know if you would like to become a host or a guest.

Furthermore, we are in high spirits and looking forward to celebrating the **75th anniversary of Mahamaya Girls' College** in January 2007. As a part of the remembrance, we are hoping to publish a commemorative magazine. Currently, we are in the process of setting up a Publication Committee in order to produce a first-rate magazine. We kindly request you to participate in this wonderful event by becoming a committee member and/or contributing articles. We truly hope that all of you will assist us in making this occasion a fabulous one.

Also, we are getting ready for our next **Annual General Meeting**, which is going to be held during the long weekend of May 26-28, 2006. Those of you who attended the previous one know that it was a great success. We hope to see all of our regular members, student members, and honorary members present at the meeting; we welcome the family members to participate in our social events after the meeting. We will send you more information in the near future. Moreover, it's time to choose a new Directorial Board and an Executive Committee; we strongly encourage you to participate in the **2006/2007 elections**. So much effort has been put into creating MGCAANA, so it is vital to elect alumnae who will continue to operate this organization to grow to its fullest capacity.

We recently sent out a **Membership Questionnaire** to determine the direction that MGCAANA should take in the future. We genuinely want to improve our services to our alumnae and Alma Mater, so it is vital to obtain your impartial and honest views. If you haven't filled out the questionnaire yet, please take a moment to complete it, and the link is <http://www.mahamayaalumna.org/surveyQues.php>.

The Fundraising Committee is planning to organize a raffle and a book fair to **raise funds**. The committee is in great need of more members, so please let us know if you are willing to join. If you have experience in fundraising or would like to share your ideas with us, please write to us; we are eagerly waiting to hear your voice. Additionally, the Membership Drive Committee is working hard to **recruit more members**. If you know any Mahamaya alumnae who have not joined us yet, please encourage them to do so; we would be more than happy to send membership applications to them if they are unable to download the application from our website.

As members of MGCAANA, let's get together and plan more and more activities, let's support our brilliant school to our level best, and let's develop MGCAANA into the *best* alumnae association in North America. Please read the minutes of our Board Meetings so that you will be better informed of our activities and plans, visit our website regularly, e-mail us your ideas and comments, be a frequent contributor to our newsletter, *Maya Puwath*, and participate in our activities – in short, be an active member of MGCAANA. Your support will only persuade us to do better and better. We, the MGCAANA Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, thank you very much for letting us be a part of this excellent organization. We look forward to hearing from you. May the Triple Gem bless you all!

Best Wishes,
Dharshani Nanayakkara.
Secretary,
2005/2006

This is the teaching of the Buddhas.

--The Dhammapada

The Essence of Survival

"Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed.

.....Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest Gazelle or it will starve to death.

It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle.....

"When the sun comes up, you'd better be running"

— *Successories.com*

