

Volume 10
NUMBER 04

August 2014

Maya Puwath

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MGCAANA



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As a water bead on a lotus leaf,
as water on a red lily,
does not adhere,

so the sage
does not adhere
to the seen,
the heard,
or the sensed.
– The Buddha

realbuddhaquotes.com

Friendly Reminder..

Your membership is really valuable to MGCAANA to continue its support to our fellow Mayans.

How to Join/ Renew your Membership:

Regular Mail:

Please send in your completed Membership Form with your annual membership fee to MGCAANA by regular mail. You could download the membership form at: Membership Form (PDF Version) We will acknowledge receipt. If you have any questions, please contact us via e-mail.

Our email: Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Apply online:

Please go to:

<http://www.mahamayaalumnae.org/membership.html> to renew your membership

Canadian Members: The Membership fee can be paid either in US dollars or the equivalent amount in Canadian dollars.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." — Winston S. Churchill



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Dear Members,

With gratitude and pleasure I am writing the editorial for the August 2014 Maya Puwath. Hope all of you are enjoying a blessed summer with beautiful warm weather and looking forward to a change of a season with crisp autumn air. A new season with vibrant fall colors is the sign for some of us as parents to prepare our children for another school year, whether they are in grade school or college bound for brighter futures. Also for educators to look forward to another successful school year, with hopes of making a difference in their students' lives.

Instruction ends in the school-room, but education ends only with life.

Frederick W. Robertson

Though we all are born with different entities, education brings and integrates these entities together and made us who we are today and gave us a significant life. Along the journey of my education, I have met extraordinary teachers who made a great impact on my personal and spiritual growth, have experienced wonderful memories to cherish, and created lifelong friendships and bonds to carry on. Though I spent my elementary school days in many rural parts of Sri Lanka traveling with my teacher parents, my best school day memories go along with Maya time. With that thought I would love to dedicate this issue of Maya Puwath to our very own beloved principal Mrs. Pilapitiya, in honor of her unprecedented efforts and the services she offered for many of us to create who we are today.

Though, Mrs. Pilapitiya's demise brings a heartache to myself and many other Mayans, her legacy and the continuous dedication to our school will never be forgotten. Even though I briefly got to know her as my principal while I was at school, four years ago I had a wonderful opportunity to meet this extraordinary human being, and had a chance to build a friendship as an adult. In her presence, I became the very same school age student, but her warmth and kindness changed the atmosphere to a very sensible and joyous one. Her smile was contagious and found the humorous side of her personality that I was unaware of as a student. I'm thankful for the tour I took with, Mrs. Pilapitiya and Dr. & Mrs. Werake exploring Seattle while sharing stories and laughter. Today, as we keep her memory alive, let's pass on merits to her according to our own beliefs in gratitude of her dedication to the mankind. She will be fondly remembered by her staff members, students and the community with an appreciation.

Concluding the editorial, behalf of the Newsletter Committee, I would like to deliver my kind appreciation to each and everyone who have made MGCAANA a successful possibility while its moving forward to her 11th successful year.

Editorial By

Priyanka Bandara Jayakody

Good times in Seattle with Mrs. Pilapitiya...

Memory... is the diary that we all carry about with us. ~Oscar Wilde



MGCAANA ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

**Remembering our beloved Mrs. N. K. Pilapitiya
- Former Principal -
and Offering Alms in Memory of Her**



**Madam N.K. Pilapitiya addressing our
MGCAANA Annual General Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina USA in 2010.**

As you know, one of our best former Principals of Mahamaya who shaped our lives to be who we are today, passed away on June 20, 2014. It is our turn to show our love and gratitude to our beloved former Principal who sacrificed her whole life, day and night, to bring out the best in us and gave the best well-rounded education to thousands of girls.

As Mayans are scattered in USA and Canada, we the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee of MGCAANA, and newly formed Welfare Committee agreed that the best way to offer dana in memory of Mrs. Pilapitiya would be to offer dana in individual cities of residence by the Mahamaya alumnae. Dana means offering not only to temples, but also to homeless or any person who need food, clothing, and other necessities. As there are temples in main cities in USA and Canada, organizing a sangika dana can be a possibility. If there is no temple close-by, giving a dana to homeless or an economically disadvantaged would be a good suggestion. Even sponsoring an economically disadvantaged child in memory of her would be a great idea.

When you plan to do a dana, we would appreciate if you could let us know either to [Mahamaya alumnae@yahoo.com](mailto:Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com) or to [sri dissa@hotmail.com](mailto:sri_dissa@hotmail.com) so that we can pass the message to all our members in the area in advance if they would like to join you in the event.

We would appreciate if you could send some pictures of the event. We will publish them in our Newsletter Maya Puwath to share with others.

***Unname udakam vattam yatha ninnam pavattati
evameva ito dinnam petanam upakappati.
Yatha varivaha pura paripurenti sagaram
evameva ito dinnam petanam upakappati.***

***Just as the water fallen on high ground flows to a lower level,
Even so what is given from here accrues to the departed.
Just as the full flowing rivers fill the ocean,
Even so what is given from here accrues to the departed.***

Thank you very much.

MGCAANA President, Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee



IN REMEMBRANCE....

"අප යන යන සැම තැන ඔබ සිටි නම -සුමගට අප හට ගුරු වෙවා!!"

June 22,
1:11pm

2014 at



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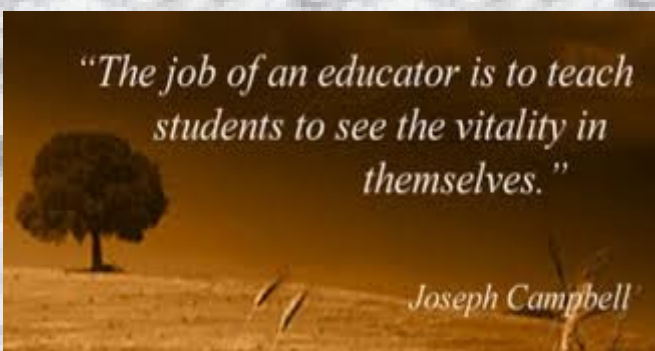
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Photo credit: <http://archives.dailynews.lk>



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නිමරු —



A teacher takes
a Hand, opens
a Mind and
touches a Heart



IN REMEMBRANCE CONTINUED....

Mrs.N.K.Pilapitiya (June 22,1932 - June 20,2014)

Educator Par Excellence -- An Appreciation

Mrs. N.K. Pilapitiya will always be an inspiration to others. She energetically and strategically focused on bringing out the best in students, faculty and people around her and to shape a robust and just society. I have warm memories of our time together and feel privileged to have her as my principal during my teaching career at Mahamaya. I looked upon her as my friend and mentor who evoked my admiration and affection. I feel so privileged to have had time with her here in US few years ago.

It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that really matters. She spent nearly 60 years of her life in various schools and academic institutions in Sri Lanka. I am going to write only the tremendous work she did during her time at Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy.

Mrs. Pilapitiya worked as our Principal from January 1981 to 1990. In 1990 she left the school to start her new appointment as the Deputy Director of Education, Kandy District.

In 1981 when Mrs. Pilapitiya was appointed to Mahamaya, she knew Mahamaya had two great visionary principals before her. Mrs Soma Pujitha Goonawardene (1951-1972) the Principal of 21 years who brought the school to an unprecedented level in humanities, sciences and extra-curricular activities, and Mrs. Lalitha Fernando who took the reins after Mrs. Goonawardene left and was Principal from 1972 to 1980.

Below are some of many contributions Mrs. Pilapitiya made during her Mahamaya days. As these contributions are not documented in one place, my effort is to write down briefly in memory of her with great admiration and gratitude.

1. When she assumed duties in 1981, below the Shrine Room, there was one **two-story building** somewhat unfinished. She completed construction of that building and built **another two story building** parallel to that. Those buildings housed the grades 6 to 8.

2. **The Fully Equipped Three-Story Science Block** : In recognition of her achievements, then Education Minister constructed three-storied building with four science laboratories and many classrooms. It was built at the end of the play ground in 1982. This new science block expanded the number of science students and the quality and level of the science stream at Mahamaya. Science Advance Level classes expanded further.

3. **The Auditorium worth Rs. 30+ million**: Before Mrs. Pilapitiya's time, many attempts were made to build a desperately needed hall/auditorium for the school, but had failed. Mrs. Pilapitiya bravely took on the challenge. She courageously went after every possible avenue to get the funds, and completed the Auditorium in 1980 before she left, where we had our first School's Prize-Giving in our own Auditorium.

4. **The Three-Story Home Science Building with a Tuck Shop and Classrooms at the End of the Science Block**: Much needed space for Home Science and Art was allocated with the Tuck Shop in the ground floor. That was her next project she completed.

5. **The Table-Tennis Gym/Training Hall in the Hostel Premises**: Mrs. Pilapitiya wanted to help produce table-tennis national level players. That in mind, she created a place to practice. This dream came true when Mahamaya produced national table-tennis champions within a short time.

6. **The Multi-Story Building in the Primary School**: To house many students who sought admission to the Primary Section with the population growth, the old building of early 20th century on the other side of the Lake called “Hancock Bungalow” was not adequate. With so much effort, Mrs. Pilapitiya was able to get the space the school needed by building a multi-story building.

7. **The Three-Story Building behind the Shrine Room that Houses the Library and Several Classrooms**: Her vision was to expand the library and give more space for students, teachers and books. She envisioned a fully equipped library in school. The top floor of the building was given to the library and the other stories for classrooms. Before she left in 1990, the library was moved to the new building.

8. **Mahamaya Becomes a National School, the highest among the Schools**: On high academic performance and available resources, Mahamaya was chosen as one of the few National Schools in the country in 1982 under her great leadership.

9. **Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities**: During her time swimming, table tennis, gymnastics and chess were introduced. Writers Club, Cadets' Band, and several other activities were started during her time. The existing other sports activities she greatly supported were Netball, Basketball, Athletics, Table-Tennis, and Tennis. Nature Club and General Knowledge teams were popular among children. General Knowledge Team produced national champions during her time.

Aesthetic studies such as performing arts (dancing, drama) and art were given a special place. Art exhibitions, breathtaking dance performances, and, English and Sinhala drama of our Mayans brought color to school's life. She encouraged well rounded education for all.

10. **Mahamaya Girls' College Past Pupils Association Funds**: When she came as the Principal in 1981, the Past Pupils' Association had only Rs1,500 in its account. She was an excellent leader in fundraising. With her advice, a stall at Bogambara Carnival, the Pola every year at school, became good avenues to raise funds for the Past Pupils' Association.

In few years, under her leadership the Association had collected enough money to gift a brand new van to the school, that cost Rs.600,000. Past Pupils' Association donated Rs100,000 to the Auditorium Fund as well.

11. **“Colombo Branch”** was born: Mrs. Pilapitiya saw that we need a **branch in Colombo for the Mahamaya Past Pupils's Association**. As our we had quite a number of alumnae living in Colombo, she saw that practical need. Mrs. Pilapitiya and the PPA Committee went to Colombo number of times to have meetings with them. In 1984 after many meetings with them, the **“Colombo Branch”** was born.

By seeing the children blooming in the environment that she created for them, she rejoiced at every child's achievement. When she came to visit USA few times, she was elated to hear about our Mayans' professional accomplishments and was happy to meet them personally. She did not expect anything back from anybody. What she wanted was to experience the pure joy of Mayans' achievements. I was amazed at her excellent memory. She remembered the names of students, teachers and parents, years and dates that are important, what was achieved by whom during what time. Mrs. Pilapitiya visited some of our alumnae here in US whenever she got a chance.

We lost an educator par excellence and a great human being. May she attain the bliss of Nibbana!

- Sujatha Werake_

Visiting Mayas in Seattle..

Fall 2010



Mrs. Pilapitiya, Mrs. Werake, Devi Subasinghe and Priyanka Jayakody



In memory of....

The Following article was shared and discussed with me by a very dear friend of mine on January 12, 2014; a wonderful human being who never feared death. Exactly three months later, on April 12 2014, he peacefully took his last breath as a content person at age of 52. As the editor for this issue of Maya Puwath, honoring his beautiful life , I decided to share this article with my fellow Mayans.

THE FEAR OF DEATH

Death is happening at every moment. Yesterday is dead. And you are born today in the present. Death has never an enemy. Real enemy is your non-acceptance of the flow of life and your rigidity on how life should be. You have treated death as an end of life; in fact it is a door to a new beginning. Be happy with the door and do not bang yourself against the door.

A man was riding on the horse sitting towards its tail. His wife saw him and screamed at him: "you are stupid; you have abused this beautiful gift I gave you." The husband answered; "you are a stupid and you gave me a stupid horse; it is going in the wrong direction and I am seated in the right direction where I have to go."

People have an answer in spite of being wrong. An answer does not change our lives, but living and acting wisely does.

We would have come across many who say, 'I am God fearing!' This is nonsense. We should love God, not fear Him!' It should be 'God loving' not 'God fearing!'

Swami Vivekananda said, 'Be fearless. If there is one word that you find coming like a bomb from the Upanishads, bursting like a bomb-shell upon masses of ignorance, it is the word, fearlessness'.

Some go from one astrologer to another with their horoscopes to find out when death would strike them. As far as they are concerned, their horoscopes are 'horrorscopes.' Such people are more afraid of when they would die rather than what they would do while being alive! This fear would devastate them both mentally and physically!

While talking about mortal fear, Rabindranath Tagore said, 'Long before you were born in this world, compassionately, God made sure that there was milk in both the breasts of your mother. He may well have created another for you after your death! Who knows? So, have faith!'

We can only advise all those who are afraid...plan for your future; there is no harm in that. But your fear about the future would only ruin your happiness.

In order to protect your wealth, plan where to keep it safe; without doing any of these things is meaningless.

Instead of conjuring images of fearful events like 'What if I fail in the examinations? And thus spending time weakening yourself, use it fruitfully to prepare and pass in the examination! Life is a series of examinations; we need to pass them with flying colours. This is a gift we can offer to God.

Shared by Priyanka Jayakody

Visit to My Alma Mater

Jasmine bushes by the shrine room remain silent yet watching and listening to everything what the girls are saying and doing. Near by Araliya tree carried beautiful bunches of white flowers. Again silently keeping the secrets over decades. School girls running around just like white swans wearing below the knee length white uniforms, white shoes, long hair breaded and neatly tied with a white ribbons or the short hair tucked away from eyes with a clip and a white ribbon. Nothing has changed except new building in every corner.

I walked into the Principal's office and I was greeted by one of my old college mate Mrs. Visaka Herath now serving the school as vice principal with a warm smile and a hug. In Sri Lanka we never hug our teachers or elders, but for that moment we were not strangers anymore just the little ones that ran around in that place many years ago, the two who played field hockey together when we were little children. Then she took me to her office and we sat down to giggle and catch up since we apart.

After a little while, Visaka introduced me to the Principal Mrs. Indra Withanachchi. She did not know me as a student at Mahamaya but does not matter, her charming smile and her loving greetings made me just comfortable to talk to her without any fear. I bowed down and sat in front of her and started our conversation. As the minutes passed by I felt more and more comfortable with her and we talked about the Mahamaya then and now and the progress of the place. It is amazing how far it has come since I left Mahamaya in 1979.

I told her that I am here representing Mahamaya Old Girls Alumnae Association of North America (MGCAANA) as a 2014-2015 president, and I have lot of things to ask and discuss with her and let her know that what we can offer on behalf of MGCAANA representing all the members. She said to me with a warm smile that how glad she is that there are Mayans out there who have achieved their dreams in all over North America and Canada and yet never had forgotten their alma mater. Our conversation went on almost an hour without even noticing and many people were waiting outside to meet her for important jobs. I politely said to her that I do not want to consume all her precious time and she said to that she couldn't let me go just like that and call one of her helper to get freshly squeezed juices for the two of us. Obviously another hour went by in between her talking to others on certain jobs and keeping me informing about Mahamaya, it's modern culture and her dreams for its future. Then she introduced me to another vice principal Mrs. Uthpala Seneviratne, school coordinator for the VSTF program to continue on MGCAANA businesses with Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund awards. She was also a lovely lady with lot of compassion for the children. She explained to me about the application process and how the children were selected and how thankful she is to MGCAANA for giving the helping hand for the children that are in need of financial support.

As I was leaving I was greeted by several of my parallel schoolmates who are now in the staff and we caught up with our own past and present. They are now serving their Alma Mater with the same knowledge that they got while being their as kids now clad in saris and osariyas and looking so much mature and grown up. I left the school that day promising that I would come again for the most important event that MGCAANA has been doing for the last eight years which is awarding financial support for the children who are doing extremely well yet meeting day to day challenges.

By Sriyani Dissanayake



Vidya Scholarship Award Ceremony

MGGAANA established the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund (VSTF) about 8 years ago with the objective of helping economically disadvantaged students and high achievers at Mahamaya Girls College in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Dr. Mrs. Himashini Diyabalange and Mrs. Geetha Eragoda are the current administrators. At Mahamaya, a committee headed by Mrs. Indrani Karaluvinne and assisted by Vice President: Mrs. Chamila Jayawardhane, Secretary: Mrs. Aloka Ratnayake, Treasurer, Mrs. Priyanka Wansekera Rathnakumara, Assistant Secretary and School Coordinator: Mrs. Uthpala Seneviratne manage the fund. On behalf of MAGGANA, I thank all of them for their valuable time and work.

I had the good opportunity to participate at the 2014 award ceremony held on 07-24-2014 while on vacation in Kandy. I had been pre-informed by Mrs. Sujatha Werake about a possible speech on behalf of MAGGANA at the ceremony.

It was a simple but elegant ceremony organized by the committee and the students involved. Mrs. Indrani Karaluvinne did the welcome speech followed by the Principal Mrs. Indra Withanachchi. She had introduced me to everyone and told the students that wherever she went she found old Mahamaya girls who are doing well locally and internationally. She also said the value of this awards and as Mayans to be appreciative and to write thank you notes to the donors. Mrs. Priyanka Wansekera Ratnakumara spoke next and Mrs. Chamila Jayawardhane read the annual report. The Vice Principal, Assistant Secretary and the school coordinator Mrs. Uthpala Seneviratne spoke next explaining the process to the students and thanking for MGCAANA and to Dr. Mrs. Himashini Diya-balanage's and Mrs. Geetha Eragoda's hard work getting donors to donate money so that these children will have a chance of staying at Mahamaya and continuing their own dreams.

This year MGCAANA through VSTF awarded ten scholarships. Students from different age groups and backgrounds received Rs. 6000, each which was deposited in their accounts with respective banks. Most of these students had gained admission via the Grade 5 Scholarship and are doing well academically, in spite of economic and other hardships.

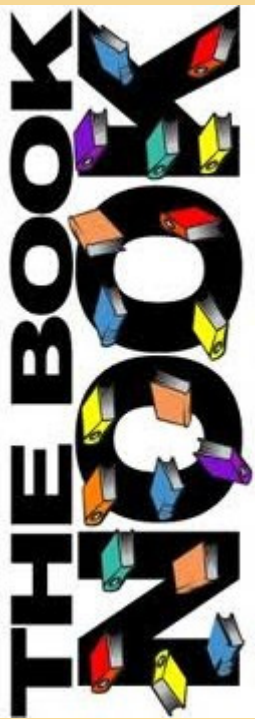
In all our speeches and also privately we discussed how to improve the number of applicants and to increase the monetary funding amount that they are receiving in coming years. We all showed them these awards are not only helping them financially; but also, giving them merits to include as their achievements in their academics. At the end was my speech.

On behalf of MAGGANA, I briefly explained our mission and vision and how the VSTF formed and its expectations. I thanked the VSTF administrators and Mrs. Sujatha Werake's tireless effort of over looking the interest of MGCAANA and VSTF. I thanked the Principal Mrs. Indra Withanachchi's support of our association and its agenda. I personally thanked the local committee of VSTF of their efforts over looking the paper work and administrative work that had to be done with local banks. I thanked Mrs. Uthpala Seneviratne, vice principal's contribution of distributing the applications and educating the staff to encourage students to apply for the opportunity. Finally, I told the students of how fortunate they are to get the help they needed so they can continue on their dreams and making the name of Mahamaya to be proud of who they are. Also, I explained to them the value of getting this scholarship and how they can benefit in the future when they apply for higher education or in an employment situation. I asked students to talk to their friends and encourage them to apply for the next round of scholarship.

We all ended up having tea together to mark the celebration of another year's milepost in VSTF work. I thank the MGCAANA and VSTF committee for giving me the opportunity to witness this event. I am humbled by this opportunity and greatly appreciate your hard work as a fellow Mayan and as a member of this great establishment. Seeing the smiles, the enthusiasm in their eyes was the best memory in my visit to Kandy this summer.

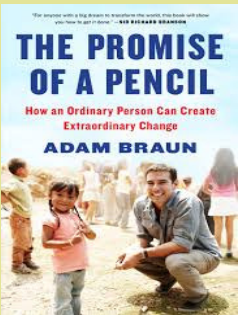
Submitted by Sriyani Dissanayake





Shared By

Priyanka Jayakody



Adam Braun began working summers at hedge funds when he was just sixteen years old, sprinting down the path to a successful Wall Street career. But while traveling he met a young boy begging on the streets of India, who after being asked what he wanted most in the world, simply answered, "A pencil."

An inspiring and meaningful book about making a difference in the world. As a young author and an explorer, his adventure reassured my faith in humanity and the story resonated with me profoundly.

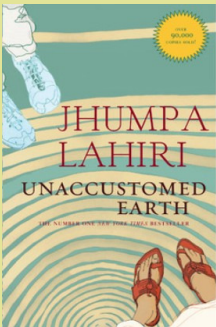
It is a book I will recommend for all ages, which will inspire you to dream big and have confidence to reach your dreams and goals, no matter how big or impossible they may seem.

In moments of uncertainty, when you must chose between two paths, allowing yourself to be overcome by either the fear of failure or the dimly lit light of possibility, immerse yourself in the life you would be most proud to live."
— [Adam Braun](#)

Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri

Pulitzer Prize-winning author, a superbly crafted new work of fiction: eight stories-longer and more emotionally complex than any she has yet written-;that take us from Cambridge and Seattle to India and Thailand as they enter the lives of sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers, daughters and sons, friends and lovers.

Jhumpa Lahiri is one of my favorite authors who brings me closer to home with her poignant writing. Eight stories she composed in Unaccustomed Earth portrays a description of love, conflicts, cultural cohesion, personal choices and family expectations. Most importantly she is a storyteller of everyday people; you and I.



"The sky was different, without color, taut and unforgiving. But the water was the most unforgiving thing, nearly black at times, cold enough, I knew, to kill me, violent enough to break me apart. The waves were immense, battering rocky beaches without sand. The

farther I went, the more desolate it became, more than any place I'd been, but for this very reason the landscape drew me, claimed me as nothing had in a long time."

— [Jhumpa Lahiri](#), [Unaccustomed Earth](#)

Mayans Around the Globe

MCK Class of '82 continues to support the welfare of their teachers and the school

As mentioned in the Singalowaada discourse by Lord Buddha, respect and compassion are complementary parts of the relationship between students and teachers. This relationship does not necessarily end once a student has left the guardianship of the teachers, as repeatedly shown by the MCK class of '82 members. Realising that their teachers who nurtured them are now ageing and reaching stages of their lives when a thorough assessment of their health condition and lifestyle is helpful, the MCK Class of '82 organised and successfully completed a free health clinic for the past teachers of Mahamaya on 22nd March 2014 in Kandy at the Kandy Club.

The group received generous help from various sources to accomplish this task. The Institutions and professionals who gave generously of their time and expertise are, in no particular order; Harcourt Pharmacy, Hema's, our own MCK class of '82 member Dr. Muditha Monnekulama, Dr. Nandika Rajakaruna (younger sister of Nilmini of the class of '82), her colleague Dr. Ashani Munasinghe, and Mrs. Priyangani Athapaththu, the nutritionist at the Kandy Hospital.

The first series of tests conducted by the Harcourts Pharmacy included, basic blood test, blood pressure, assessment of BMI, and estimate of body-fat content [Photos 1A, B & C]. This was followed by somewhat painful blood sampling tests by Hema's [2A, B & C]. After these tests, the past teachers and past pupils, some of whom had arrived on an empty-stomach prepared for blood tests, enjoyed a simple course of morning tea [3A, B & C]. For those teachers as well as pupils who needed a general health assessment, Dr. Muditha Monnekulama was at hand for an overall health check [4A]. Dr Nandika Rajakaruna and Dr. Ashani Munasinghe performed basic eye tests [4B &C] and guided those who needed more comprehensive treatment with appropriate advice to follow. One of the most useful items for both young and old was the very informative presentation by nutritionist Mrs. Priyangani Athapaththu whose explanations, advice and guidance on diet and life-style, over-weight and obesity were a true eye-opener to many! [5A &B]. Afterwards, the president of the Past Teachers Association, Mrs Podi Menike Jayaratne thanked the current group president Kumari Teminimulla and the committee of the MCK Class of '82 group. The teachers then went on their way, we hope, feeling looked after, and nourished by yet another opportunity to re-connect with their past colleagues and past pupils. Life can be so fleeting; we the students certainly appreciated the moments of togetherness with people who matter!

Once the teachers had left, quite similar to our school days, the mice started to play!! It was time for the 'girls' to focus on something less serious and more fun - beauty! Our own renowned beautician Manori Jayaweera of Bhagya Salon arrived with two assistants to attempt a face-lift for her eager class-mates. Manori started with a presentation on general beauty tips [5C] and then provided advice for individual conditions [6A & B]. As expected, there was no shortage of volunteers for her demonstrations! [6C, 7A, B &C, 8A]. The beauty clinic was a resounding success too.

I am sure that every Mayan reading this will agree that these ladies [8B] who organised and took part in this successful event, benefiting 45 past teachers and 21 past pupils are true beauties; inside and out!

The following week (27th March 2014), the untiring MCK Class of '82 group also donated long-needed basic necessities to the school hostel [8C]; the donations were made by six kind and generous members of the group.

Compiled by Achela Fernando (nee Godigamuwa) on behalf of MCK Class of '82.

8th August 2014.

A

B

C

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



33 and Counting - Part 9 - Niagara Falls & Great Lakes

Our team, Sachith, me, Bhagya and Sumedha again hit the road and reached Geethika's home around 11.00 pm without much stops and entertainments. We had the best dinner of our road trip that day, string hoppers, potato curry, Salmon curry and a pol sambol. We had a relaxed night with chit chats and catching up with lost memories at the University of Peradeniya.

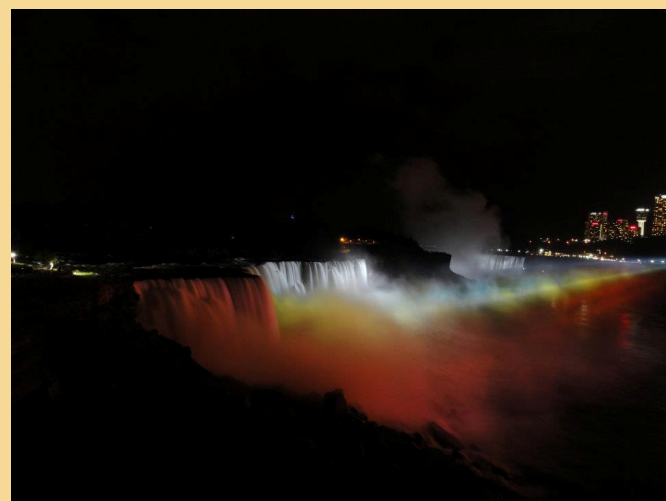
On 15th of August, we started early towards Buffalo, NY to visit Niagara Falls. We were packed with lots of snacks made by Geethika and all the leftovers from previous dinner. We took the New York turn pike and drove few hours until we faced the only obstacle of our road trip. A flat tire!. It was Bhagya who noticed the tire while we were in a gas station. Since it was a rental car, we contacted the rental company and they asked us to bring it to the nearest branch for an exchange. The free towing service provided by the company was not allowed on the turn pike, hence we pumped air into the tire to the maximum and drove about 15 minutes to the company branch while praying for all the good lords to help us with any way to reach the destination without any hassle, and we did!.

After exchanging the car and reloading our belongings we started our drive again and reached Buffalo around 8.00pm. Although our initial plan was to visit the fall the next morning, we thought to go ahead and catch the night sight too. If you are planning on visiting the Niagara Falls, I say not to miss the night view as it is a heavenly beauty your eyes can catch on earth. We were mesmerized by the view of the falling water through all the colorful lights. The Rainbow bridge and the night view of the Canadian side added an extra beauty to the picture.

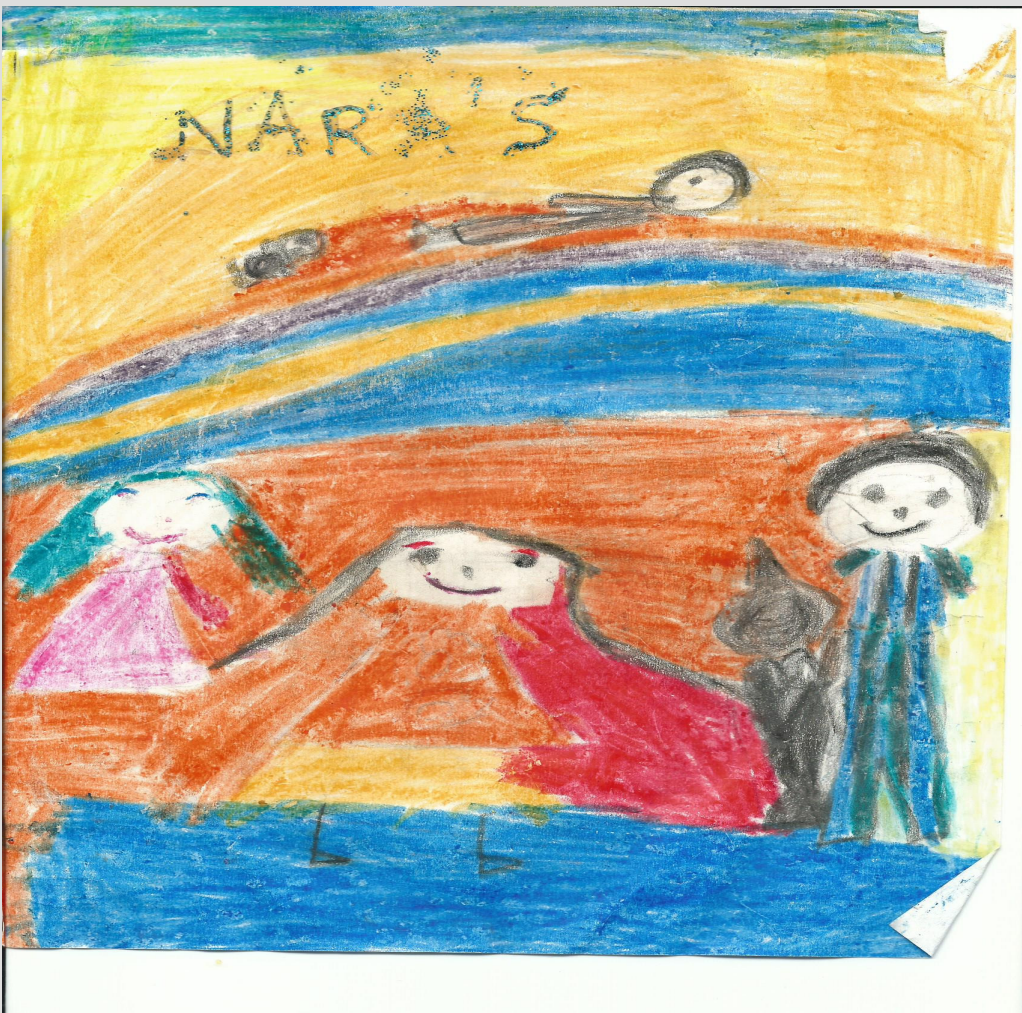
The next day was all reserved to spend the time at Niagara Falls. First we took the boat ride "Maid of the Mist" which carried us to the base of the falls. The sound of the falling water from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario made it almost impossible to hear a single word uttered by the person next to you. We just remained silent and absorbed all the beauty of the Niagara Falls through the mist. Then we walked around the islands and took the "Winds of Cave" ride. It was a great experience to get hit by the cold falling water. We played on the wooden deck like 5-year olds dancing under the rain...

The breathtaking view of the Fall kept us there for few more hours and then we started heading towards Detroit, Michigan to spend night with Sachith's cousin and all the other friends at Wayne State University.

By Hemalika Abeysundara



Young Talent



Drawings by Mihini Methnara Gunarathna, Age: 6 yrs : Ramirez Charter Magnet School



Triangle by Minuki Nimnara Gunarathna Age: 2 yrs: YWCA Child Care

A PUBLICATION OF THE MAHAMAYA GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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