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Mahamaya Girls' College
Alumnae Association of North
America

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure I compile the October issue of the Maya Puwath. As I observe my surroundings in upstate New York, I am enthralled by the multitude of colors on the trees and the sheer beauty. This fascination never ceases. Annual apple picking, hay rides, pumpkin decorating as well as apple and pumpkin pies have become a family tradition. This year, thanks to a fundraiser from my daughters varsity swim team, I decorated the front of my house with pots of 'mums' ("daspethia" from our childhood), which I contemplate will be a new annual tradition. Simultaneously, as the days get shorter, mornings get colder, I long for the summer, greenery and the long days. I dread the day when we will soon turn the clock forward. In reflection, these are all traditions and changes foreign to our childhood, but are integral to lives of our children born here. Yet, these are differences I share with fellow Maya alumnae.

In this backdrop of change and history, this issue contains the advertisement for the MGCAANA scholarship intended to assist those with experiences similar to us. Please advertise this among those that are eligible. Next, is the advertisement for the 5 K run fundraiser along with details on the 5K run in Gainesville, FL to inspire and encourage those of you contemplating organizing one. Last, but not least are two children's corner articles by alumnae children. First, article is about the lunar eclipse. Second, is on a trip to Buddhist caves in Mumbai India.

Finally, I extend my appreciation for continued membership with this MGCAANA and then enlist you to do the following: (a) please renew your membership, if you have not done so; (b) active participation in the organization will go a long way towards helping those that come after us; and (c) News Letter is in need of another editor – this is a rotating position where you can choose to edit issues when you can fit it into your schedule with the expectation of about 2 an year.

Vajeera Dorabawila, Issue Editor

MGCAANA

**UNDERGRADUATE
&
GRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

2015-2016



- This scholarship is intended to provide cost of books and material for a single semester for Mahamaya Girls' College alumnae pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in the US and Canada.
- **The scholarship award amount has been increased to \$ 500.00 each, thanks to an anonymous donation from a beloved member of MGCAANA.**
- **One of these scholarships will be awarded in memory of Mrs. N. K. Pilapitiya.**
- The scholarship will be awarded to (a) student(s) demonstrating outstanding academic achievements, leadership ability, participation in extracurricular activities, and a significant level of financial need.

APPLICATION PERIOD AND DEADLINE:

- August 15, 2015 – December 31, 2015
- Applications postmarked after the deadline will *not* be accepted.

AWARD NOTIFICATION:

- By January 31, 2016

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please visit our website at www.mahamayaalumnae.org to view and download the scholarship application.

If you have any questions about the MGCAANA Scholarship Program, please email us at Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

We look forward to reading your completed application!

5 K (3.1 mile) Run/Walk/Ride for a good cause & stay healthy!



FUNDRAISER FOR MGCAANA

Let us all come together to raise
funds to help fellow Mayans.

DATE: Each State/City/area you can set
your own date.

WHERE: Where ever you live-

In your own neighborhood

TIME: You can set your own time.

Be a Leader! Get your friends join you!

You can ask your family and friends to join you.

Donate any amount as you wish!

Gainsville 5K Run

Date: Sunday, October 18th, 2015

Place: Kanapaha Park in Gainesville Florida

Mayans in Gainesville area:

Sriyani Dissanayake,
Udeni Dharshika Wijesooriya,
Shamindri Tennekoon,
Primali Navaratne (Absent)

Event was supported by few other Sri Lankan Graduate students and families. The day started with a run and ended after playing a round of cricket. We shared delicious “Kiribath,” with chicken curry and “Seeni Sambol,” which some of the new comers from SriLankan devoured thanking for all of us.

We have collected \$ 100 as our donations for the Association from this event.

Sent by Sriyani Dissanayake



Sample participants



Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

2417 NE 20th Street, Renton, Washington 98056, U.S.A.

Website: www.mahamayaalumna.org

E-Mail: Mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Dear BOD Members/Current Advisory Board/members

We are so lucky. We have such devoted, energetic and enthusiastic members among us.

As you all know Mrs. Harshi Waters wanted to take a break from all her duties that she has been doing for years. Harshi was our Legal advisor and was one of the founding members of MGCAANA. She has dedicated her time in all aspect of MGCAANA. I thank her on behalf of all of us for her dedication and hard work. Harshi, it is difficult to let you go but we all understand your position and priorities in life. So, thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

Harshi Waters asked me to contact few senior and most experienced MGCAANA members to fill this vacant position in the Advisory board.

I am very happy to announce the appointment of Geetha Eragoda joining the Advisory Board of MGCAANA 2015. In the past and even today she is an active member of MGCAANA. We are so fortunate to have Geetha Eragoda as our new adviser as she has so much knowledge and experience regarding MGCAANA.

Geetha, I thank you for taking this responsibility and I have no doubts that you will help and guide us and lead us in the right path.

We have already confirmed this position and welcomed Geetha Eragoda as our new Advisory Committee member on Sunday, 23rd 2015, at our last BOD Meeting.

Thank you.

Regards,

Sriyani Dissanayake

Lunar Eclipse

By

Ravindu Inesh Karunarathne 2 nd Grade Bear Path Elementary



Last night we planned to see the lunar eclipse. We all went outside around 7:30 pm in the night. We looked up and did not find the moon in the sky. Then we went inside and looked in our “sky guide” in my mom’s i-pad and my dad’s computer. We found the moon in the sky guide. It was in the Southern direction. We dressed up in warm cloths and went inside the car with my big telescope. We were trying to get to the park. But when we driving, we saw the big moon right above our street! We were so excited, that we got to see the moon. Instead of going to the park, we went back and parked near a curb next to a pond. A few minutes later, we were experimenting, and focusing our telescope on the sky. When my dad was trying to focus, he found the moon. But, there was something unusual about the moon. There was a black shadow trying to swallow the moon! I was so scared to death! But my dad said not to worry. I didn’t know why he said that. But my mom said it was the earth’s shadow. A few minutes later, the moon turned to yellow, to orange and orange to red. I saw it as the “bloody moon”. I first thought a black dragon swallowed the moon. But when it burped it shot out red flames! We left the place, at 11: 30 pm in the night. I know the next lunar eclipse would be in 2033. (Typed by Ammi: from Ravindu’s writing journal)

Kanheri Caves, Mumbai India

Rock-Cut Buddhist Monuments: Statues, scenes and dwellings dating back to 1st Century BC

By Vidhu Bulumulla (Grade 5: Birchwood Elementary)

Kanheri Caves are an ancient Buddhist, my religion, meditation place. There were over 100 caves in all and we saw about 10 of them. All the caves were located on top of a mountain. Given they were on a mountain, the view from there was spectacular.

The caves are in Mumbai, India. We went there on our trip back from Sri Lanka and took a tour of the caves on July 8, 2015. They have been there since 1st Century BC. These caves had holes, nooks and crannies. The holes were from poles used to support structures and nooks and crannies were from bugs eating away at the rock. These were a combination of natural and man-made events.

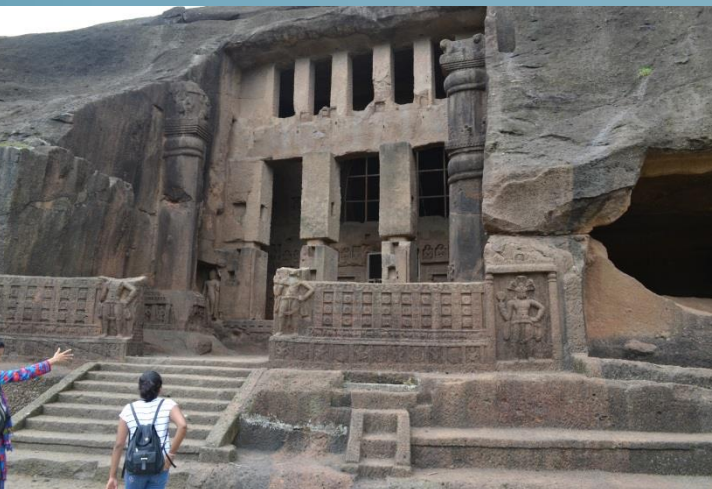
We had a pretty good guide. She taught us things we did not know and took us to many different caves and explained the carvings in the caves.

When we were coming off the mountain, down the steps, there were lots of monkeys. I have probably seen that many monkeys only once or twice. I remember that these monkeys were brown, and did not seem to care about all the people around. Most of the monkeys were on the rails and some were on the steps.

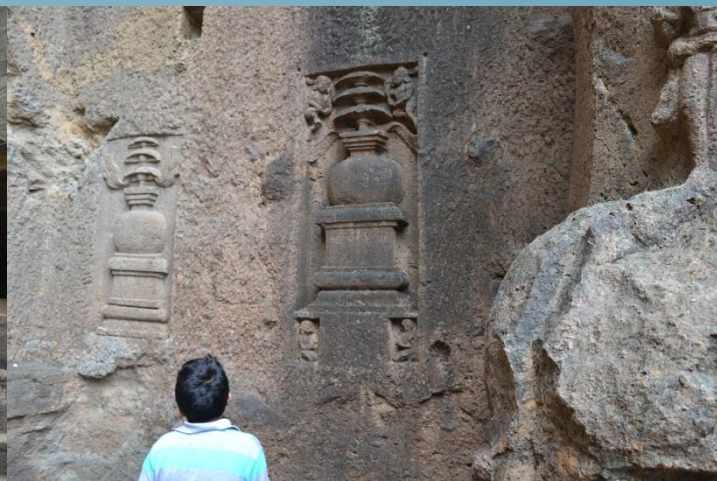
Writing journal

A Sample of Caves

Photography by Bulumulla Family (July 2015)

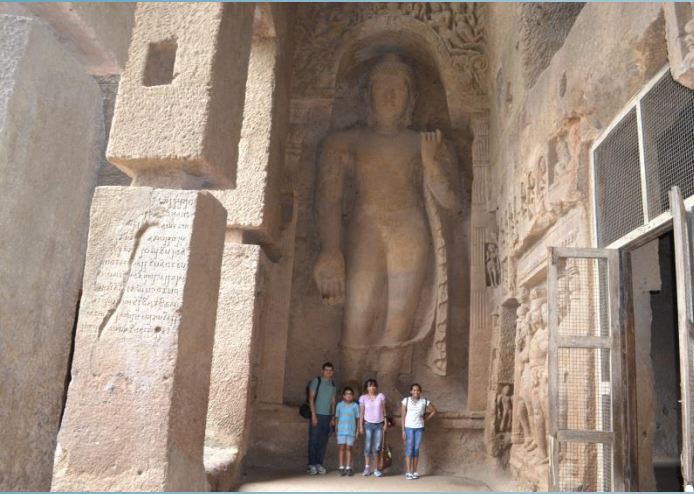


One of many caves used for meditation



A small Stupa "Dhagaba"

A Sample of Kanheri Caves (continued)



A Buddha Statue (one of many)



A depiction of a family (we think)



Depiction of Buddhist history



A large Stupa "Dhagaba"

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

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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