

Volume06

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2010

Maya Puwath

BI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MGCAANA



DHAMMAPADA

See the world as a bubble, a mirage. Be non-attached and death cannot touch you. (Dhammapada, verse 170)

Whatever an enemy may do, he cannot harm you as much as your own wrongly directed thoughts. (Dhammapada, verse 42)

Hearing the truth, the wise become like a calm, unruffled lake.

(Dhammapada, verse 82)



If you want to know the past, to know what has caused you, look at yourself in the PRESENT, for that is the past's effect. If you want to know your future, then look at yourself in the PRE-SENT, for that is the cause of the future.

-- Majjhima Nikaya

Start living now. Stop saving the good china for that special occasion. Stop withholding your love until that special person materializes. Every day you are alive is a special occasion. Every minute, every breath, is a gift from God.

--

Mary Manin Morrisse



Dear Readers ,

We hope the new year has had a positive start for each and everyone of you and is progressing as you had planned. We are proud to say that our goals for a new look for the Newsletter have been achieved with a whole lot of hard work and dedication.

We wanted to make the Newsletter more interactive. And we feel that objective has been achieved by our new additions. With the new additions our goal is to address not only our Maya members, but their families as well. We are very proud and optimistic about introducing the young talents and a special thank you goes out to our young contributors. In addition we hope to bring a Sinhala lesson to our youngsters created by our very own Mrs. Sujatha Werake. The Crossword Puzzle is our most exciting and creative new idea. Hope you will enjoy solving the puzzle and we are looking forward to your feedback.

As a thriving association, MGCAANA is proudly launching the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund in near future and the Endowment committee brings you the latest news about the fund. We have a request from Mahamaya Collage principal for English reading books for the primary school. A notice with all the details and how you all could contribute is else where in the newsletter. We hope our members would make this a successful project by donating or contributing in any manner they could afford.

As we progress with our non-profit organization it would be great to see more members join in our effort. We are launching in to more programs but the members who are willing to give of their very precious time are not increasing. Most are silent and some may not be comfortable offering their services as they were not approached. As a society that is spread out from coast to coast as large as North America, we cannot know personally of each and everyone of your talents. It would be great if our members would volunteer their services in any form they feel comfortable in contributing. This would give the few of us actively involved some much needed help. Everyone involved in making MGCAANA a success today are also members who have very busy lives. But they make the effort and spend a few hours a week doing some thing for their alma mater.

We hope that more of you will make the effort in joining us to take MGCAANA to greater success.





Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Congratulations to our 2009-2010 Scholarship Recipient

We received applications from several of our alumnae who have demonstrated excellence in their academic achievements, leadership ability, and participation in extracurricular activities. We would like to thank all our outstanding applicants who took the time and effort to send in their application. It was not an easy task for the Scholarship Selection Committee to select the finalist from this most qualified applicant pool.

Our goal is to motivate our student members to shine academically as well as personally, so we truly hope that you all will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in the years to come. For your convenience, we have also made the scholarship application available online. As always, if there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

We are extremely proud to announce our 2009-2010 MGCAANA Scholar – Pawani Mihirangi Jayaratna. She received a \$250.00 scholarship.

Pawani Mihirangi Jayaratna is a freshman at the University of Mississippi, and her major is secondary education with an emphasis in biology. After completing the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in arts at Mahamaya, she migrated to the U.S. with her parents. At Mahamaya, she was an active member of many societies and groups, including the Art, Media, ADIC, and Astronomy Societies, as well as the dancing group. She has trained in both Kandyan and Kathak dancing. Pawani has also received numerous awards in the field of dancing and has represented Mahamaya at the national level. Upon completing the Bachelor of Arts degree in education, she hopes to teach biology to middle and high school students. She also wishes to pursue higher studies while serving as a teacher. Moreover, given Pawani's interest in dancing, she plans to join the university ballet group in the future.

On behalf of MGCAANA, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Scholarship Selection Committee would like to sincerely congratulate Pawani and wish her continued success in her academic and professional pursuits.

Best regards,

Dharshani Nanayakkara

Chairperson, Scholarship Selection Committee

Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of North America

Please donate English books to our Primary Section's new reading room

An Appeal from the Principal of Mahamaya Girls' College.

LET'S DO A BOOK DRIVE IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH!!

Dear members,

This is the time you start your spring cleaning. Those of you who have used- children's books that you want to get rid of, please consider donating them to the Mahamaya Collage Primary school. The Principal is inviting all of you to donate books to the new reading room.

This year, with the initiative of our own member, Samanmala Dorabawila who moved back to Sri Lanka and the unwavering support of our Principal Mrs. Indra Withanachchi, the school started teaching English from Grade 1 using the phonics system. It indeed has proved to be a great success! (Normally the children start learning English from Grade 3 as you know.)

For classroom use:

They ask for help to access **Readinga-z.com** for thousands of books and workbooks that can be available for them for a fee. In the reading room, they have about 20-30 books at present. Surely we can fill this room if we have the heart to do it! Let's go for it!!!

Dear members, This would be a great opportunity to be part of this wonderful project. Please contact us at

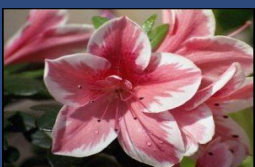
mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com

Share the joy of volunteering in this project. We will find a way to send the books if you tell us you want to donate your books.

Those of you who want to donate money to buy children's books for the Primary Section, send the money to MGCAANA, 2417 NE 20th Street, Renton, WA 98056. Indeed we are ready to send you a receipt for your tax purposes and buy the well needed books for the Primary Section with that money.

Thank you so much in advance for your support.

Mrs.Sujatha Werake and Samanmala Dorabawila.



A woman is like a tea bag - you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water.

AZALEAS

— Eleanor Roosevelt—

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Dulani Sandanayaka(10 yrs)
Sengupta Art Studio , Boston.



A Nursery Poem for Children

AS I WAS GOING TO St. IVES

As I was going to St. Ives I met a man
with seven wives,
Each wife had seven sacks, each sack
had seven cats,
Each cat had seven kits: kits, cats,
sacks and wives,
How many were going to St. Ives?

source
Nursery Rhyme and Poem
From Love-Poems

Dear Reader's ,

We are proud to introduce our “Young Talent” section in our Newsletter. This segment is a mode of including the families of our Mayan members. We would like our readers to use this segment to get their children involved .There by introducing them to that part of life when we were kids who went to a school named Mahamaya .

We welcome all your children's talent be it a poem, song, creative writing or art work. Let them be a part of our Newsletter .

Thank you.
Newsletter Committee.

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1. Who was the youngest president
of the United States?

2. What is the capital of Bulgaria?

3. According to classical Greek mythology,
who was the first mortal woman?

4. What is the longest river in Europe?

5. When lions and tigers mate, what do you
call their cubs?

6. Where did Idi Amin rule from 1971-1979?

7. Two states bill themselves as the "Sunshine
State." Can you name them?

8. How many people were on Noah's Ark?

9. Who wrote the novel 'Dracula'?

10. What is the name of the Russian stringed
musical instrument with a triangular body?

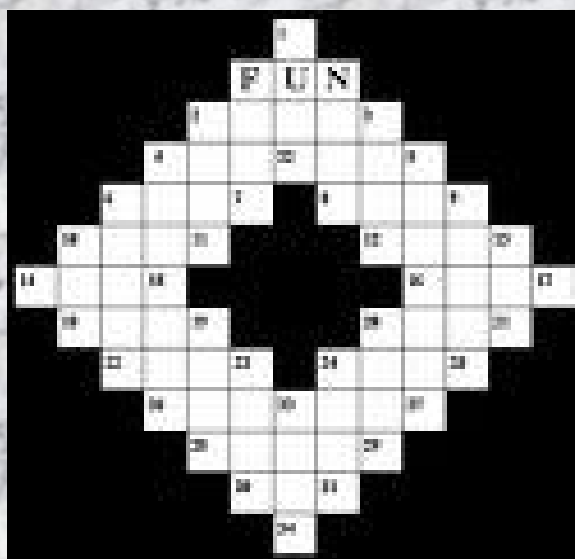
Sent in By Himashinie Diyabalanage

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Sinhala Hodiya

A puzzle that translates Sinhala words to English and is
based on the Sinhala Mul Potha



Dear Readers ,

We are very excited to present our very first Crossword Puzzle to you . Our puzzles are created for the Newsletter by Mrs. Pushpalatha Gunasekera. This puzzle can be solved online and all the answers are available at the same website. Please cut and paste the following address ;

<http://www.armoredpenguin.com/crossword/Data/2010.01/2118/21184629.289.html>

Hope you enjoy solving the puzzle and will let us know your thoughts about this new addition to the Newsletter.

Thank you.

Sent By ; Pushpalatha Gunasekera



Beauty isn't worth thinking about; what's important is your mind. You don't want a fifty-dollar haircut on a fifty-cent head.
- Garrison Keillor -

DAPHNE
--



SINHALA LESSON

By Sujatha Werake



Reading and Writing Sinhala for the Three to Six Year Olds

This is the first article of a series under the title “Reading and Writing Sinhala for the three to six year olds.” First I would like to write about language learning of a young child.

Language Learning:

Learning of any language is the child’s most remarkable and amazing achievement and one of the first intellectual tasks of the child. Young children achieve the language skill so rapidly in a very short time. They learn and absorb like a sponge. From the day they were born, they watch the lips move, by six months start repeating the syllables, by nine months they know that words have meanings, by twelve months they intentionally repeat the words, by fifteen months their objects have names, by eighteen months baby talk begins, by twenty-four months they talk in sentences. The parents are the child’s first language teachers. Human voice is so important in the intellectual development of the young. The first six years of the child’s life, is the most important period with a special sensitivity to language.

According to Dr. Maria Montessori, “Not only he creates his language, but he shapes the organs that enable him to frame the words.” Among thousands of sounds and noises that the baby hears, s/he reproduces only those of the human voice. The sounds at first that were meaningless, bring him/her comprehension and ideas. The child has absorbed sentences and their constructions. As Dr. Montessori puts it, “We acquire knowledge by using our minds, but the child absorbs knowledge directly into his psychic life... The child creates his own ‘mental muscles.’ We name this type of mentality, ‘The absorbent mind.’” S/he learns his/her mother tongue, unaware of the complexity of its grammar or its difficulties in pronunciation.

During this sensitive period, a second language can be introduced to the child. S/he should hear clear speech, good pronunciation and correct grammar. As bilingual parents, ideal way is to use both languages in the home. Also the child can learn another language from neighbors, relatives or even from a tutor.

Other sources: Libraries have good book and non-book materials for language learning for children. Educational television stations offer language lessons.

The sensitive period for language is the time of golden opportunity for the child to learn with ease. Languages can still be learned after this sensitive period. But it will take a conscientious effort to acquire the language, which comes naturally to the small child.

Sujatha Werake

Anyone can sympathize with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend's success.

-- Oscar Wilde

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Acknowledgement :

Mr. Dhammatilaka Bandara passed away peacefully on Feb’ 24th, after a long illness. He is the father of our esteemed editorial committee member Priyanka Jayakody. She is one of the founding members of the newsletter committee. She has been working on the new layout of the newsletter even during her father’s long stay at the hospital. She checks up on the progress of the newsletter while sitting next to her father who under went several surgeries during his last days. I knew she was under a lot of stress and used the work on the newsletter as a way to reach out to friends who gave her something different to think and do.

Mr. Bandara was an old boy of Ananda Collage, Colombo. He served Sri Lanka as a science teacher and a deputy director of education before he retired and migrated to the US. He is survived by his wife Visakha, his only child Priyanka, son-in-law Primus, and two grand children Mindy and Ianthie. He was 74 years old. May he attain Nirvana.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Priyanka and her family.

Editorial Committee.



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1. Theodore Roosevelt. (42 years, & 322 days)
2. Sofia
3. Pandoraa
4. The Volga, 3,692 [km](#) (2,294 [mi](#))
5. Ligers when the father is a lion; tigons or tiglons when the father is a tiger
6. Uganda
7. Florida and South Dakota
8. Eight-(Noah, his wife; and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives)
9. Bram Stoker
10. Balalaika



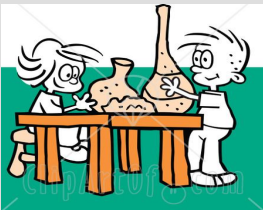
Daffodil

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

-- Helen Keller



MISCELLANEOUS



ONION RICE

1. 2 cups Basmati rice cooked (or any other type of white rice)
2. 1 large onion chopped finely
3. 2 large cloves of garlic
4. 3 green chilies chopped
5. 1 sprig curry leaves chopped
6. 3 tablespoons oil

Heat the oil in a pan. When heated add the onions, garlic, chilies and curry leaves to it. Fry well until the onions are golden brown and a soft aroma is produced. Stir well, add the cooked rice to it and continue to mix well. If more oil is required add some more to it. Add some salt and pepper according to taste to the rice and mix well. Serve hot and enjoy. Is excellent served with chili paste and fried eggs but can be enjoyed on its own as well.

<http://www.infolanka.com/recipes/mess1/127.htm>

Personal Note ;

I have tried this recipe to have a change from my everyday cooking. It turned out to be a delicious fragrant dish of rice. My family loved it !! Instead of oil, I used butter to fry the vegetables...

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INDIAN STUDIES FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION

The American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) invites applications from scholars from all disciplines who wish to conduct their research in India. Go to www.indiastudies.org.

Submit their applications electronically. The web site now has model successful proposals from three former AIIS fellows--one junior, one senior, and one performing arts--to provide some guidance to applicants.

Eligible applicants: 1) U.S.citizens; and 2) citizens of other countries who are students or faculty members at U.S.colleges and universities. For applications please contact the American Institute of Indian Studies, 1130 E. 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60637. (773)702-8638. Email: aiis@uchicago.edu. Web site: www.indiastudies.org deadline is July 01/2010



It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start.-- Mother Teresa

CREATIVE WRITING

Memories from my first year at Mahamaya

I started schooling in Mahamaya Girls’ College in 1982.The year was special because the school celebrated her 50th birthday. I was in the sixth grade class.6- B, to be specific. Our class was in the oldest building that existed. Together with our class ,there were two other sixth grade classes. 6 D class was in the new building close by. The building we were in was really old and “to my feeling” it was ready to collapse at any time. I am not sure how many times I looked at the roof. Even though it was old- it housed a music room, art room, agriculture room, home science room and many study rooms together with a “bathroom complex”. We were all new to each other so everyone made friends fast. Our class teacher was Mrs.L.Gunasekara .We had 46 students in our class which included Ramya, Indrani, Dhammika, Mallika, Susantha, Anusha , Samudrika, Dulini, Dilrukshi, Champa, Chandana, Himashini, Awanthi ,Anoma, Gayana ,Nishani, shirani,Priyani, Deepika ,Saroja, Chamila, Upeksha,Indumathi, Priyanvada, Gowry ,Priyanka, Kusalika, Ajitha, Ayoma and the rest I can’t recall. When something was done according to the register’s order I was easily spotted because I was 6B -2, the second in the register of attendance.

During that time Samuduni Wijayatilaka was the head prefect. She was nice and kind to us. We mostly saw the other older akkas on Mondays when we had assembly in the playground. The other four days assembly was taken over by Mrs.Karunaratna for 6th and 7th grades just outside our class rooms.

Mrs. Gunasekara, Mrs. Kumari Herath, Mrs. N.Weerasinghe, Mrs. Ranpatabendi, Mrs. I. Petiyagoda, Mrs. Navaratne, Mrs. M Silva were the first set of teachers who brightened my first year. I did eastern music and agriculture as specials. As I remember some of my other friends had Mrs. Rajapakse, Mrs. Niyangoda and Mrs.Seneviratna for their specials (Dancing, Art and home science).

We did “Diya –goda” in the flight of steps which shaped like a moon stone. We picked “Thel –Endaru” seeds every morning and I can’t remember what we did with them. I’m sure no one ate them because everyone is still alive!

My first day after school was not at all fun. Since I was not riding an assigned school bus, I had to squeeze in to one of those buses which passed via Kandy town. So I just took Kadugannawa school bus –the first one I saw after coming out the gate by the girls’ hostel. It was not a fun ride. I felt as if my rib cage was being crushed .It was hard to breath. I was surrounded by the big girls and their loud voices. I cried but did not forget to keep my head up to reach the open air above. When the bus stopped at central Market, the battle began! I was out, but my back pack and the water bottle were still struggling to make their way out. Finally I was the proud owner of a bag with a broken strap and a bottle with no cap!

Do you think being a sixth grader was so much fun? Well, we were under some pressure outside the class. We always thought why the fifth graders had to come and invade some of those vacant rooms in that building. So we were ruled by “nangi s” and “akka s” alike. We were empowered by those already ruling ‘seniors’ in primary section. Shhh ! There were some nangi s who really ruled us .If we did not listen we were in trouble. They knew the school surroundings better than we did. That’s the reason. So we had to obey. But at the end of the day we were happy no matter what happened during the day.

I still remember Gayana and Anusha’s antics in the class. Himashinie, Chandana Kumari and Champa were the whispering trio. Gowri was even quieter. They were talking. But not like on top of the voices like some of us !My loud voice was not welcomed by Mrs Gunasekara .She has carefully put it this way to my mom’s ear at the parents’ day “ She is doing very well in class But she’ll do much better if she lowers the volume of her voice..”I love my teacher! But my voice remained the same.

There’re so many untold stories and sweet memories in sixth grade. Soon the building was brought down to make way to the auditorium .During my very few visits, I would go there and I walk around. I could still feel the atmosphere. I recall the beautiful memories linked to the yester years. It’s been a long time. It’s been 28 years! Yet the memories of the happy days will stay forever in my heart.

Sagarika (Welegama) Rathninde

[Thankyou Himashinie for your support in finding names and giving me a good feedback amidst her busy schedule]

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

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