



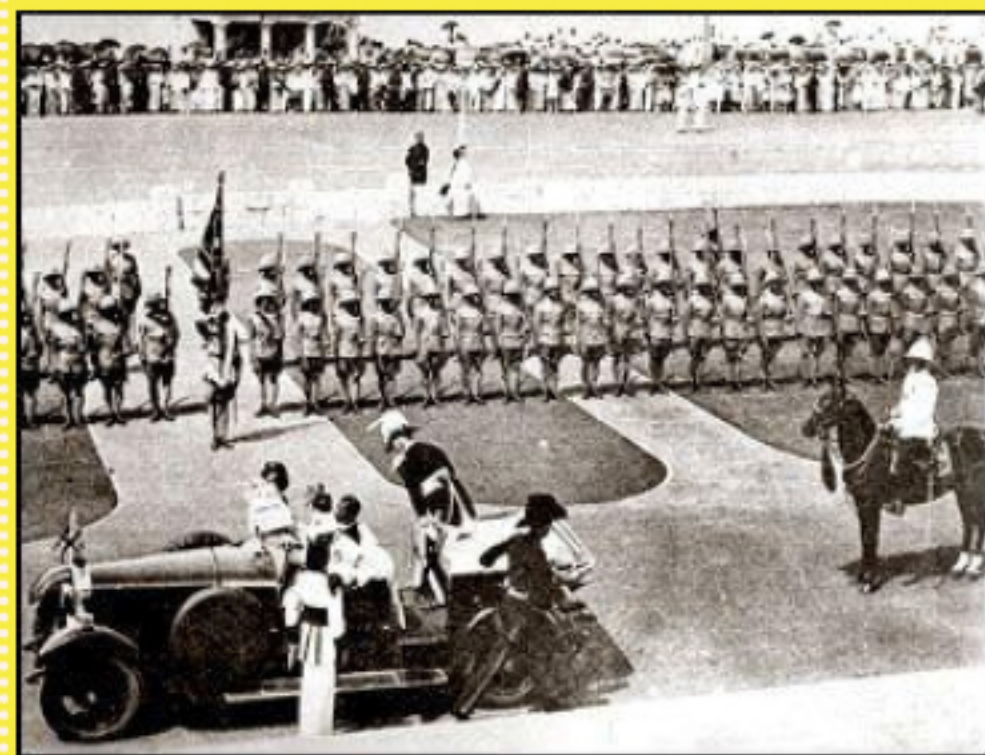
## Dhammapada

*"Your worst enemy cannot harm you as much as your own thoughts, unguarded. But once mastered, no one can help you as much."*

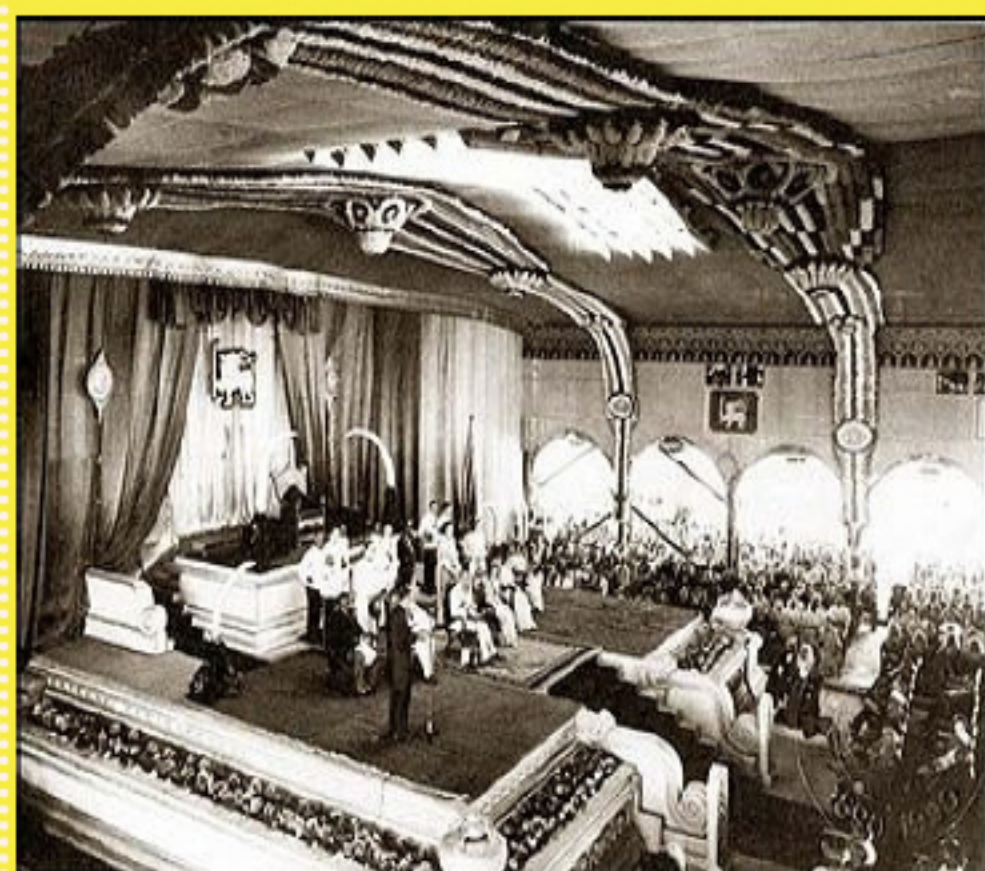
*"All conditioned things are impermanent"- when one sees this with wisdom, one turns away from suffering".*



Independence Day Parade- 4th February , 1948



The formal ceremony marking the start of self-rule, with the opening of the first parliament at Independence Square by Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester in the presence of Rt Hon D.S. Senanayake as first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.



Dear Readers

Behalf of the newsletter committee I am happy to write the editorial of the first issue of "Maya Puwath" in year 2013. Winter break was over in a blink of an eye and most of us are experiencing very cold weather this time of the year. For all of us month of February is important as a nation celebrating 65th independence.

Even though we are thousands of miles away from home, we were proud to take part in year 2013 Independence Day celebrations.

It is time to mark your calendars for the 9th Annual General Meeting of MAGCAANA. This year AGM will be hosted by Mrs. Geethanjalie Selvendran (Nee Wijayapala) on May 26th in Palm Beach County, Florida. Hope you all can participate in this important event.

Bimonthly publication of Maya Puwath brings together all Mayans in North America as one family. This is a platform where we all share our memories, thoughts and news of our community.

Many things may have changed within several years or decades after leaving our alma mater. Memories live within us as Mayans that bring wonderful feelings about our times we spent at school.

Whether you are a student taking zillion courses, a working woman with tons of deadlines, a mother with an active bunch of kids, a cook, a homemaker or a representative of all these categories, we invite you to share your stories with us.

Wish you all a successful year ahead.

Gayani Weeraratne (Nee Indrasena)





## MGCAANA ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

### The 9th AGM/Dinner Dance

We have the pleasure of inviting all Mayans,  
their families, honorary members and well wishers  
to

**The 9th Annual General Meeting** of  
Mahamaya Girls' College Alumnae Association of  
North America

hosted by

**Mr. Selva Selvendran &  
Mrs. Geethanjalie Selvendran ( nee Wijayapala)**

To be held at

6144 Windlass Circle, Boynton Beach,  
Florida 33472

**Sunday, the 26th of May, 2013 (Memorial day  
weekend)**

**From 2 pm to 5 pm**

**Dinner Dance from 6 pm at the same venue** If you  
have any questions, please email us  
at [mahamaya\\_alumnae@yahoo.com](mailto:mahamaya_alumnae@yahoo.com)

### 9th AGM More Information

*The official AGM information, agenda and the ballot information to  
select your 2013/2014 board members will be mailed soon.*

#### Closest Airports-

**Palm Beach International Airport (561-471 7400) Code :PBI**  
1000 James L. Turnage Blvd, West Palm Beach , FL 33415

**Fort Lauderdale International Airport (866-435 9355) -Code : FLL**  
(45 minutes away, This has **better deals and more flights**)  
320 Terminal Drive, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

**Miami international Airport -(305) 876-7000 Code: MIA**  
(60 to 90 minutes away)  
2100 NW 42nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33126

Tri-Rail connects Miami and Fort Lauderdale to Boynton Beach.  
[www.tri-rail.com](http://www.tri-rail.com), 800-TRI-RAIL (800-874-7245)

#### Hotels-

**Courtyard by Marriot, Boynton Beach**  
1601 N. Congress Avenue  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426—(561) 737-4600

**Hampton Inn by Hilton, Boynton Beach**  
1475 West Gateway Blvd.  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426—(561) 369-0018

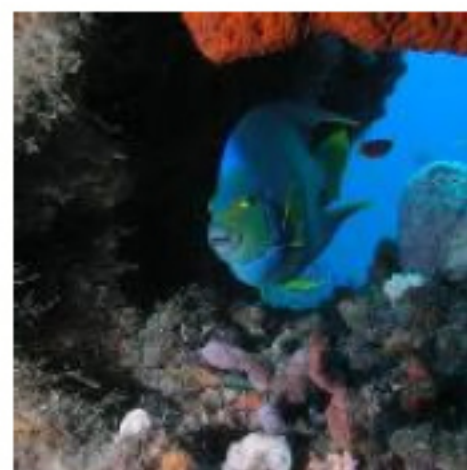
### Tourist Attractions in Boynton Beach



Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee

National Wildlife Refuge



Underwater Explorers

Due South Brewing Company

<http://www.tripadvisor.com>







## Vidya Scholarship Trust News Update

### ***We just passed the 58% mark!!!***

We are very happy and pleased to announce that we passed the 58% ( \$ 11,663 ) mark last month with generous donations from our members, alumnae and well wishers all over the world. Now we are in the second phase of our journey heading towards the goal of \$20,000.

### ***Our progress and what we have achieved so far...***

Initially during the years 2009-11, 3 fixed deposits were established at the Bank of Ceylon, Kandy branch, Sri Lanka. Ten scholarships worth of Rs. 3000.00 ( R.s. 1000.00 per term ) were awarded in the year 2011 from the interest earned. More recently two more fixed deposits were added to the trust fund (in 2012-13 ) . We are really excited that we were able to raise the amount of a scholarship up to Rs. 6000 ( Rs. 2000 per term ) for the year 2012 and award 10 scholarships.

### ***Please help us in this great cause***

Please support our cause. Send your donation to our Treasurer, 2417, NE 20th Street, Renton, WA 98056. Any amount is welcome. MGCAANA is a Non-Profit Organization registered with the US Federal Government. Hence you will get the tax benefits for your donation if you are in USA.

Thank you in advance!

### ***Thank you to the outgoing Board of Trustees of the Vidya Trust Fund (VSTF):***

The outgoing Trustees, who served in the Trust in Sri Lanka from 2009 to 2012 and helped us establish the VSTF and started giving scholarships to economically disadvantaged students at Mahamaya.

Outgoing trustees: Dr. Samanmala Dorabawila ( Assistant Secretary ), Mrs. Nilakshi Weragama, Dr. Dharshani Nanayakkara ( Secretary & representative of MGCAANA ).

We owe a big thank you to our attorneys Mahesica Giragama ( Sri Lanka ) and Harshi Waters ( USA )

Dear all, without your support, we would not have achieved what we did. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all what you did.

### ***Welcome the New Board of Trustees and Officers of the Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund for the Year 2012/13:***

President: Mrs. Priyanka Wansekera Ranthnakumara

Vice President: Mrs. Uthpala Seneviratne

Secretary: Mrs. Aloka Ratnayake

Treasurer: Mrs. Indrani Karaluvinne

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Chamila Jayawardhane

Trustees & representatives of MGCAANA: Mrs. Geetha Eragoda

Dr. Himashinie Diyabalanage

Welcome aboard all of you! Thank you for accepting our invitations to be part of VSTF. We are looking forward to work with you to make year 2012-2013 a wonderful year for the VSTF.

Himashinie Diyabalanage ( CO-Chair, Endowment Committee & Trustee representing MGCAANA )

## **Congratulations to our 2012-2013 Scholarship Recipients!**

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 will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in the years to come. As always, if there is anything that we can do to help you, please let us know.

**We are extremely proud to announce our 2012-2013 MGCAANA Scholars – Taniya Madhushani Pathiranage and Lakmini Widanapathirana. Each scholar received a \$250.00 scholarship.**

**Taniya Pathiranage** is a doctoral student majoring in chemistry at the University of Texas at Dallas. After successfully completing G.C.E. A/L in biology at Mahamaya, she entered the University of Peradeniya in 2007 and earned a special degree in chemistry. Taniya is passionate about North Indian music and has completed Pravesika, Prathama, Madyama, Visharadh parts I and II at Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapith in India. She has participated in numerous competitions and has won countless prizes in music. Taniya is a talented violin player. She has won the All Island award and Central Province award at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual session of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science in 2004. She has served as a temporary demonstrator at the Peradeniya University Department of Chemistry and currently serves as a teaching assistant at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research interests are in medicinal chemistry; her work at Peradeniya includes generating biofuels using microbials biofilms. Taniya's career goal is to become a successful researcher in her field of study.

**Lakmini Widanapathirana** is a doctoral student majoring in organic chemistry, particularly supramolecular chemistry, at Iowa State University (ISU) of Science and Technology in Ames, IA. After successfully completing the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination at Mahamaya, she entered the University of Peradeniya in 2003 and graduated with a B.Sc. degree in chemistry with a first class honors. She has won the Baxter Young Investigator Award for research on medicinal chemistry and an Academic Excellence Award at University of Peradeniya. Her research interests include designing, synthesizing, and applying bio mimetic material for transmembrane transport and fluorescent surfactants used in light harvesting and catalysis. Her research work has been published in several journals. Lakmini serves as a research and teaching assistant in the Department of Chemistry at ISU. At Mahamaya, Lakmini was involved in the Astronomical Society. She is a member of the ISU Sri Lankan Student Association and has participated in many cultural events. Lakmini has served as MGCAANA's treasurer and vice president. She aspires to work as a chemist or a researcher.

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

Best regards,

Dharshani Nanayakkara

Chairperson, Scholarship Selection Committee



MGCAANA President Meets The Principal and The VSTF Trustees

On her recent visit to Sri Lanka, MGCAANA President and Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund co-chair Geetha Eragoda met with our principal, Mrs. I. Withanachchi and all the trustees over a lunch at Hotel Mahaweli Reach, Kandy, in appreciation of their dedication and commitment to the cause of MGCAANA's Vidya Scholarship Trust Fund and to celebrate the good work that Trust Fund has brought to the economically disadvantaged children at Mahamaya.

The focus of their meeting was to discuss the importance of the vision and mission of the Trust Fund, to learn how both parties can collaborate and continue to improve in executing each other's responsibilities. The other topic that was discussed was how to improve the channels of communication between the school and MGCAANA. Everyone who attended enjoyed the pleasant evening.



Aloka Ratnayake, Chamila Jayawardhane, Geetha Eragoda,  
Principal Mrs. I. Withanachchi, Mrs.Uthpala Seneviratne,  
Mrs. I.Karaluwinne, Priyanka Ratnakumara



.Aloka, Chamila, Mrs.Karaluwinne, Geetha,  
Mrs.Withanchchi, Mrs.Uthpala S, Priyanka



Mrs.Karaluwinne, Aloka, Mrs.Uthpala, Priyanka, Geetha, Chamila, Mrs. Withanachchi

Another Stage in Life  
By  
Chathuri Nugawela Munasinghe

Latterly, I felt that the job I was doing was not fulfilling enough, in this world of specialists, I want to be a generalist. I felt I was becoming a specialist in an area that I was not really passionate about, I did not get to see results on the ground, and I hardly got to meet any new people. So as part of my midlife crisis, I decided to quit my job amid the gasps of many. In this economy? They asked. They do have a point, we have two kids to feed and being a single income family is not fun. However, money is not everything. A happy mother is a paramount need for the happiness in the home. My husband - bless his heart, says, if that is what you want and it makes you happy.....So I quit and now am taking some courses.

This has opened up other issues with the children, our daughter in particular. She was heard to muse, " Amma is not very smart, she has to go back to school this late". She doesn't quite realize that part of the reason why I stay home is because I want to study, not necessarily to play. Then of course she has access to all types of stationary, My sticky pads, note pads, highlighter pens etc. She ask me if I play hopscotch with my friends during recess. Since I am now in school as far as she is concerned these are very legitimate questions! Then she runs off with my markers. I have been offered help on numerous occasions to do the highlighting for me on my text books. I have a new label - all hand made by my daughter on the back pack I use - to identify my bag from other students! My text books have pink flowers drawn with a pink marker, her new toy! One note she had written on my text book said I love you Amma. Then she asks me periodically as she sees me staring in to my text book, "anything going into your brain yet"?

My husband had to go to Sri Lanka on a family emergency in the midst of my exams. As I was cramming chapters in, my children remained a constant distraction. So I asked my kids to give me some time, to bear with me, and I asked them "imagine what would happen if I failed my exams" and my son replied, " it doesn't matter Amma, we will still love you!". How can you be annoyed as they clamored for attention while their father was away!

In class I as undoubtedly the oldest, in fact I sit next to a very clever young gentleman who is old enough to be my son! Youth of others is very energizing in ways as I am losing mine. The differences between their world and mine, is stark. I am probably the only one who takes down hand written notes, everyone else is typing away, at their laptops or iPads at break neck speed. I am not very computer savvy and have had no formal training in typing. I need to see the key board to type. The referencing is all online, no one moves in the library, you hear the occasional giggle, or you see someone smiling at the computer and you wonder what is so funny in the notes provided by the professors to make someone laugh as I grapple through, frowning, trying to make sense of it all and trying to make the most of my time. Then I realize they are facebooking! - distractions we never had!

Finally, my advice to the young out there- finish your degrees before having kids, it is not fair by them or yourself!

Wishing you all a prosperous 2013!



33 and counting - Part 3 - July in Seattle, Vancouver & Victoria Islands

When our research work were accepted to publish in the ICIAM 2011(International Conference in Industrial & Applied Mathematics), we were excited about visiting Vancouver, Canada. Getting Canadian Visa was a hassle free process because we had the invitations from the conference. The Mathematics Department of TTU and SIAM funded for the trip partially and we planned our trip to visit Vancouver and surrounding places.

Our plan was to fly to Seattle and then drive from there and cross the border to Canada and reach Vancouver. We used this chance to visit our beloved Mrs. Werake who is also one of my mother's best friends. After reaching Seattle on 16th of July evening, we rented a car and came to the Werake residence. Dr. and Mrs. Werake welcomed us dearly and we had a great dinner with them. The evening was enjoyable, filled with old memories and stories about MGCAANA while the details regarding travelling information between USA and Canada were provided by Dr. Werake.

We left Seattle the next morning and reached Vancouver around 2.30 pm. After reporting to the conference, we checked in at the University of British Columbia (UBC) hostels. I must mention all the support given by Buddhika malli who is Prabodini Samarakone's younger brother. He helped us to find places, to get a phone connection and then Veranga, one of our junior batch mates from University of Peradeniya helped us with transportation information and other valuable details.

The ICIAM conference held at the Vancouver Conventional Center, was a five day program (18th - 22nd July) with lots of presentations covering many areas of Applied Mathematics. Our presentations were scheduled to Tuesday and the conference gave us a chance to volunteer so that we can reimburse our registration fee. Since the conference schedule allowed us free afternoons, we planned to visit as many attractions as we can. We also met Amy (Dr. Amy Ekanayake) one of our friends who graduated from TTU a couple of years ago. I will write more about Amy and her husband Dinesh ayya (Dr. Dinesh Ekanayake) later, when it comes to our road trip to New York and Chicago.

After the lecture series on Monday, we two and Amy walked around the city with Buddhika malli. The city was decorated with flower pots, and the buildings created a European environment. We met some Sri Lankan students at UBC on our way back. Since our presentations were scheduled on Tuesday we spent the whole time at the conventional center. The Vancouver Conventional Center is used as a port for ferries which provides trips to Alaska and many other attractions. It was interesting to watch ferries departing and loading/unloading which made Sachith so enthusiastic to ride on a ferry. Sachith and I volunteered on Wednesday morning and had some nice time meeting interesting people attending the conference, and discussing their research work. Wednesday afternoon was reserved to visit Stanley Park, one of the top attractions in Vancouver. We covered the beautiful rose garden and the aquarium then had a dinner with Veranga and Harsha malli. Harsha is also from University of Peradeniya now pursuing his PhD at Simon Frasier University.

On Thursday morning we visited another hot pick in Vancouver, the Capilano Suspension Bridge. The bridge is 140 meters (460 ft) long and 70 meters (230 ft) above the river and was built in 1889. Treetop adventures and nature trails around the forest full of Douglas Fur trees were a new experience for us. I must mention the Museum of Modern Arts (MOMA) at UBC and we were amused to see some artifacts from Sri Lanka there. That day was ended with the lovely dinner at Ashanthi and Lalinda ayya's place.

Friday was the last day of the conference and after collecting our certificates we were free the whole day. The time we spent with other graduate students from China, India and Brazil at the volunteer center was fun filled and it made the conference more enjoyable. We visited the Vancouver lookout which gave a full 360 degree view of the city and then came back to UBC hostels. Another unforgettable place we visited was the Japanese "Nitobe Gardens" at UBC. The calm and green environment of the garden led us to a different world. Small waterfalls and pools with Japanese figures have created a one of a kind surrounding.

On 23rd morning, we checked out from UBC hostels and visited some beaches on our way out of the UBC premises. I must say that University of British Columbia is one of the most beautiful universities I have visited. Our next destination was to Victoria Island and we planned to reach it via a ferry. We drove into the ferry in our car and parked it at the lowest level and climbed to the upper passenger deck. Enjoying the cool breeze of the Pacific Ocean we started our journey to Victoria Islands.

I will hold the details of rest of our trip to Victoria Islands and visiting back Seattle until the next article.....

Hemalika (Karunaratne) Abeysundara.





Traveling in Spain and buying "Pan"

Last time I took you on a journey to Spain - to Madrid and around the Sol city sharing our experience of being lost in translation. You may remember us buying boxes and boxes of cheese and seafood for dinner going against the menu we picked. That evening we returned to the hotel with those boxes. We were tired and hungry, wanted to have a good rest before the next day conference. Ravindu who had a good nap on the way, back in the train, was asking for food and fed with cheerios. We still didn't have bread. We passed several bakeries alongside the road when we were returning to the hotel so knew finding bread is not going to be a challenge. Sanjeewa stepped out to get bread. I started working on my presentation. It was already dusk and the clock was ticking, no sign of Sanjeewa who stepped out to get bread. Our cell phones were not activated for roaming and I was beginning to feel nervous. After about an hour or more, I heard the knock on the door. So relaxed ran to the door to find Sanjeewa standing there carrying lot of breads. " Why did it take so long?" I asked. "Well", he said "no one knew what bread was". I was simply stunned " WHAT?, we saw bread all around". Bakeries and bread and all other luscious food that originated with flour were in abundance but no one used the word "bread", Sanjeewa has walked from one place to another until he met a kind man who knew what bread was. The man guided him into a nearby bakery and got him bread. After all bread is called "Pan" in Spanish just like in Sinhalese. We had a good laugh, as it appeared Sinhalese has a better luck in Spain. "Pan" is not a traditional Sri Lankan food to begin with and the Portuguese invasion brought us "Pan". Portugal is sharing border with Spain explaining pretty much everything.

After a very good night sleep, next morning I woke up, dressed in formal cloths and headed to the conference by a Taxi. This conference was bit different from what I have been attending over the previous years as it was focusing more on education research and innovation. Little over six hundred participants who attended the conference were representing 60 different countries. I was very impressed by the inauguration ceremony - it was extremely well organized having the focus of education in mind. Several well-known educationalists humored the audience with stories about video games and explaining how one can incorporate a video game into a classroom. In another place, I remember one specific slide displayed on the screen showing a K-classroom. The teacher was asking a question "*Can you give a word that starts with the letter - I?*" *All kids in the classroom with their hands up were answering - " iPhone, iPad, iCloud, iPod, iTunes .....etc"* It sure brought me a smile and soon it struck in my head that these are our kids and they become our students in the future. We have the challenge of teaching our own kids who are born in the digital age. Traditional chalkboard, the conventional classrooms or the teachers are not going to attract them into the schools, colleges or the universities.

Later on, I met several participants from the USA and they immediately became my good friends. English was the official language at the conference. Spain is now introducing English as a language in their primary and secondary schools. The education minister who addressed the inaugural ceremony stressed the importance of English as a second language and publically expressed her dismay toward the current situation in the country. Thank God, I thought, my future tours are going to be lot easier than this.

As always the case, I walked around to see if there were any other Sri Lankans in the conference. I didn't have much hope, but had very little expectation of finding at least one other perhaps representing USA, UK or Europe. The global map in the venue was filling up with several colored pushpins, symbolizing the different nationalities in the conference. I reached the map with two pins in my hand with the intention of placing one on Sri Lanka and another in USA - I didn't have the heart to leave Sri Lanka empty. To my surprise, there was already a pin on the little island. I was overjoyed to know the presence of another Sri Lankan! I placed mine next to that and was thinking if he is just another person who is working for another country like me! I moved away from the board, walked several steps and bumped into a guy (literally speaking it was a bump). I raised my head and there he was - an Asian descendent looking at me with a broad genuine smile. It was him - the other one, Professor Fernando, representing University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I couldn't be prouder. He was representing the country who baked the cake and I was representing the country who decorated the cake !. We became instant friends, we talked and talked and had a great time, sharing news from the homeland, mostly politics and little bit on innovation and education.

After the conference we travelled Madrid. We visited the Royal palace in Madrid. The present Royal family does not reside in the palace and some rooms (out of about 3500) are used for administrative purposes. The palace is beautiful and consisted of some unique architecture. Tourists are not allowed in certain areas but we saw enough evidence for the beautiful interior decorations. Out side of the palace, the royal garden, water fountains are breathtaking and the Royal chapel, right across the courtyard also showed some remarkable architecture. I found the gates (huge doors) to the chapel pretty amusing and I believe they are called as "ANGEL GATES".

We spent another day touring and eating good food. Spain has a pretty good reputation for arts. Although the country went through a number of revolutions, the history-art-culture, all were left in tact. We found some time to visit a famous art museum - MUSEO NACIONAL DEL PRADO. The work of Van Dyck and Martin Rico is unspeakably beautiful. We were judged as Indians and some offered us tour guides to explore the Van Dyck's chamber in the museum. They said, " this is like Taj - Mahal, don't miss it and have a guided tour". Well, I don't know about Taj Mahal, but if you are planning a visit to Spain, Del Prado in Madrid is a place you should not miss. We both loved Van Dyck's work. Ravindu loved it too - he pointed to a large painting hanging down from the ceiling and said, "Ammi, that uncle is hurt and the aunty is crying" - underneath the painting it read "lamentation".

Ending our three days visit in Spain, we headed to Rome. Stay tuned...

- Hashini Mohottala

Lamentation



Angel Gates



Two pushpins were found on Sri Lanka



Royal Palace side-view



Pan



MOTHER’S LOVE By Nilmini Wickremeratne

You hold me close in your gentle arms  
So cozy and far away from harm  
Soothing away my falling tears  
Making the new baby feel most welcome

You watch me as I grow  
From cuddly baby to a little girl  
You gently nudge me step by step  
And in no time I am ahead

You help me stand up when I fall  
And sometimes you even let me fail  
You tell me it's certainly okay  
Not to be perfect and winner of all

You helped me see what winning means  
The medals the cups and the certificates  
You also showed me to look back  
And see the face of the runner up

It dawned on me then  
That winning is not the most important thing  
It is being content with what you get  
Try to be happy by each sunset

From girl to woman I slowly grew  
With heartbreaks and silly woes  
You were to me most faithful then  
Making sure love I felt  
When my world around me fell

You smiled as I found love  
And needed to branch out on my own  
Now you look on prouder still  
As I sit with three little ones of my own

You still run to come to my aid  
Early morn or late at night  
You think of me from far away  
And call me many times a day

The little ones are in your thoughts  
You think of ways to make contact  
You send them cards and sing them songs  
Or make cookies or go for walks

You stand beside me even now  
Listening, try to ease the pain  
Even with all the angry outbursts  
Of a woman lost and on her own  
You stand beside me still

I don't know how to thank you now  
I am at a loss for words  
Except that this must be the age-old truth  
Of the meaning of the word mother  
Who is by herself  
A beauty beyond the word.

A Celebration in Style

The 65th Anniversary of Sri Lankan Independence was celebrated in grand style in an audience full of Sri Lankan Expatriates in New Jersey, USA. The event was organized by the Sri Lankan Mission in New York and was held on Sunday, February 10th, 2013 at the Piscataway High School in New Jersey. Sri Lankan Expatriates of all different ethnic, religious, academic, political, and social groups in the Tri-State area arrived in large numbers, in spite of 12 inches of snow fall from a snow storm the day before. The auditorium with a seating capacity of 800 was packed to full capacity and there were standees of nearly 100 guests as well.

Source : WWW.defence.lk



Egg Roll Recipe

Ingredients:

- 200g tinned tuna
- 400g potatoes, roughly chopped
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp pepper roughly ground
- 4 eggs, hardboiled, peeled, halved lengthways
- 300ml oil, to fry
- Tempered spices
- 100ml oil
- 1 tsp pepper
- 2 chili, finely chopped
- 1 small onions, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 sprig curry leaves
- Pancakes
- 1 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 300ml milk
- Oil, to fry
- Crumbing mix
- 1 cup flour
- 4 eggs
- 100ml water
- 300g breadcrumbs

Sent By [Samanthi Prasangika Abeyrathne](#)

Created by Peter Kuruvita  
(Taken from[http://www.sbs.com.au/food/recipe/13407/Egg\\_rolls\\_](http://www.sbs.com.au/food/recipe/13407/Egg_rolls_))

Preparation:

- Place the tuna, salt and pepper in a pot, and cover with water. Place over medium heat until the tuna has cooked through. Drain and set aside.
- Place the potatoes in a pot and cover with water. Bring to the boil and cook until the potato has cooked through. Remove from heat, drain and peel. Set aside.
- To make the batter, whisk the flour, eggs and milk until smooth. Set aside for 10 minutes, until ready to fry.
- Combine the cooked tuna and potatoes in a bowl and mash until smooth but still reasonably dry. Season with salt and pepper.
- To temper the spices, heat the oil in a pan over high heat. Once hot, add the pepper, chili, onions and curry leaves and fry until the onions brown. Remove from heat and combine with the fish and potato mixture. Set aside.
- To make the pancakes, heat the oil in a non-stick pan over high heat. Once the oil is hot, spoon a ladleful of the mixture into the pan and swirl to coat.
- Once the pancake is loose enough to come away from the pan, flip it over and cook the other side. You don't want the pancake to crisp – it should still be soft enough to fold without tearing. Repeat with remaining batter. Once all the batter has been used, set the pancakes aside.
- To make the crumbing mix, whisk the flour, eggs and water in a bowl and set aside.
- To assemble the egg rolls, lay a pancake on a clean work bench. Top with a small amount of the fish and potato mixture. Place an egg half on top. Fold each side of the pancake into the centre to form a square parcel. Use some of the egg and flour mixture to help the edges stick if necessary. Repeat with remaining pancakes and filling.
- Coat a roll in the flour and egg mixture, and then the breadcrumbs. Repeat with remaining rolls and set aside until ready to fry.
- To cook the rolls, heat the oil in a pot over high heat until it reaches smoking point. Add the rolls, one at a time one, and fry until crisp and golden. Remove from the oil and drain on paper towels



My First Play

Hello my name is Thisara and I would like to tell you about my first play. It was actually quite recently that I finished the play I had been working on for four months. I had never done drama before and I was anxious to try out. The main reason that I didn’t want to was because I had to sing by myself at the auditions. But, I was curious to see what would happen. I am in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and the play we were auditioning for was open to 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The play that I was auditioning for was a play called Aladdin. It is based on a movie of a young homeless boy who finds a lamp with a genie inside of it. The genie gives the homeless boy, Aladdin, three wishes. He uses one wish to become a prince so he could possibly marry Princess Jasmine, a girl he has fallen in love with and also a girl who must be wed to a prince at a certain deadline. But, she does not want to be forced to marry someone she hates. Her father, The Sultan, insists she gets married to one of the princes but Jasmine doesn’t want to. Meanwhile a power hungry advisor to the Sultan, Jafar tries to overthrow the throne in mix of it and is also trying to find the lamp.

I had seen the movie before and all the roles seemed very hard to play. The director had the dance choreographer teach us a simple dance. I completely stunk at it. Frankly, I was not in a good mood when it was my time to sing. But I didn’t worry about the nervousness or the all the kids staring at me, or the director’s eyes looking into my soul. I just sang. Since it was the last day to audition he called back a few kids to do some lines. I was one of them. I thought I nailed it! I had emotion and feeling when I was saying the lines, and I even made the director laugh when I was acting (in a good way). I was pretty confident when I went home; the only part I was worried about was the dancing I did.

When the director sent an e-mail with names of who made up the cast..... I was in it!!! I was going to play the Sultan, Jasmine’s father. I was thrilled! The next months were pure agony. We learned dances, songs, lines, and tips. There is so much to think about, to smile, to show reaction, to think about what’s next, how to prepare for that. But it was a lot of fun. The pressure was so exciting and on opening night I thought I did pretty well! This experience has sparked my interest in drama. I am going to continue on with it. I have made friends to keep for a lifetime. Drama is so much fun; I don’t know what I would do without it.

Thisara Jayasinghe    6<sup>th</sup> Grade        West Middle School, Andover, MA

This event was organized by the Colombo Branch of Past Pupils Association of Mahamaya Girls' College Kandy.

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වැඩි විස්තර සඳහා අමතන 077-3021223 /දක්ශිනී 077-7746074 අමතන්න.

Comments from the audience

**Deshabandu Dr.Vajira Chitrasena** said, “We are proud to be associated with the Colombo Branch of the Past Pupils’ Association of Mahamaya Girls’ College, Kandy. I am happy and thankful that they have chosen to support our efforts as we strive to uplift the traditional dance and theatre arts of our country, and through those endeavours, to also mould young artistes and citizens who are disciplined, value our own culture and customs and incorporate them into their daily lives. I am greatly appreciative of my daughters and three granddaughters for taking on the responsibility of preserving our dance and culture, and for doing so with devotion.I am particularly proud of my daughter Upeka, who for many years was the Dance Company’s principal dancer, and who now dedicates herself to promoting our productions and training our dancers to be even better than their predecessors...Lastly, my blessings and gratitude are with the dancers and drummers of the Company, who are astonishingly faithful to us at a time when the dance is heavily commercialized and its essence is rapidly disappearing. The Dance is Sacred.”

<http://life.dailymirror.lk/article/4389/ridmaranga-vajira-in-perspective>