

President's Message

It gives me great pleasure in sending this message to the souvenir devoted to the day's event. The Annual Dinner of the OBA has taken a different form this year with all collections being diverted towards alleviating the sufferings of the Tsunami victims in the north-eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

The members of the Executive Committee are continuing to show great interest and enthusiasm in the development of our college and are looking out for ways and means to improve educational and sport activities in our school yard in Jaffna.

With the triple events coming up in 2006, the Committee is taking extra interest in making the contribution of the OB & GA- UK felt. May I thank the members of the Committee for their contribution and devotion.

I wish all attending, a pleasant evening at the Social Evening & Dinner!

Thank you.

R.Rajasingham

President, JCC-OB & GA, 2005.

Forthcoming OB & GA Events 2005

AGM - 21/05/2005 - 7:00PM

Venue : Bell, 308, Ley Street, Ilford, Essex.

Central Vs St. John's Big Match 09/07/2005

Message from the Principal

I have great pleasure in sending my best wishes to the Central OBA, UK, on the occasion of its Social & Dinner evening.

I am very happy our Old Boys, inspired by "Live in Service glad and free," the last lines in the College Anthem, have come forward to collect funds and make their contributions as well, to alleviate the sufferings of their Tsunami affected brethren.

On behalf of the teachers, students, parents and members of the staff, I wish them success in their venture.

"CENTRAL'S FLAG MUST NE'ER BE LOWERED!"

K. Rajadurai.
Principal.

A Senior Retired Teacher from abroad visits College after two decades.

It gives me great pleasure to write a brief message in this year's souvenir of the JCC OSA UK, particularly because I had the opportunity of visiting our school last September after nearly two decades. It is during this period that the great institution underwent a disastrous period of disruption and destruction. Even though many organisations like ours in the UK and many other branches world over helped the school financially, we were very pessimistic about its redemption to its old glory and status.

When I visited the school in September 2004, I was very relieved to see it to be as it was in 1980 when I left after seeking early retirement to go abroad. The school was in session when I visited it. It looked orderly, neat and appeared to a great extent academic as if some sort of renaissance was taking place. I think in my opinion it is taking place.

The Vice Principal Mr Nagaratnam an old colleague and friend who teaches chemistry told me that the school is progressing well with about 2700 children and more than 110 staff members doing reasonably well in exams and admissions to universities.

I was also able to watch children play a cricket match with another school in the beautiful grounds in front as early preparations for the "Big Match".

On another occasion called the "Teachers Day" to my delight and surprise I watched how the entire staff was taken in procession by the students, accompanied by Nathaswara music from Trimmor hall junction to the school hall for greater reverence and felicitation.

The school is very appreciative of all the help and concern provided by the JCC OSA UK and they are looking forward to more. I am sure the present OSA here under the loyal custodianship of the distinguished old boy DR J.C Duraisingham, with a special education project under Dr Sivanathan and a "Bus for School" drive under Joy Pooranachandran will greatly help the school.

In addition to this, the ambitious project "a swimming pool" for Central under the sleeve of the present president of the Colombo branch of the JCC OSA, when materialises, will help the school further grow into a model of the North, provided the '87' - '01' history does not repeat itself.

With best wishes

T Puthirasingam.
London 2005

Trapped in Tsunami Wave

One-time BBC Journalist and a former Jaffna Central teacher

It was a peaceful Sunday morning in Thalaiady, a coastal hamlet in Tamil Eelam where the inhabitants having returned home from a colourful morning church service on the day after Christmas were sitting down to a family breakfast when suddenly the ocean rumbled a horrendous war-drum and the skies screamed an eerie siren. The first to respond were the birds and animals which shot in different directions in panic. Men, women and children along the coastal belt, startled at the deafening noise, thought the Sri Lankan Bukhara war-planes were descending on their village.

What the people along the coastline saw was something they had never seen in their lives before. From the midst of the blue-green spread of the wide ocean, a huge bulge was rising about fifty feet from the shore all along the coast, first into a fuming steam and then into a soggy ashen pulp. As it sped towards the shore, the towering wave at thirty feet high arched into an attacking cobra, baring an army of killer fang crests. All that the helpless people could do was to pick up their babes and rush out not knowing where they were fleeing.

The speed at which the killer wave breached its shores and wiped out the line of villages settled for centuries along the south and north-eastern shores of Sri Lanka beyond recognition was unbelievably blood-curdling!

Quite unaware of the pandemonium along the coastal belt about a kilo meter away from my sister's house, I was seated at the dining table with ten others for breakfast when a kid at the table, peeping through the window suddenly blurted, "There's water rushing at us!" I was amused. I turned in the pointed direction when I saw a spread of muddy, murky black water, tearing down the parapet walls around, rushing towards the house. I could not see any of our neighbours' houses. But I could hear screams.

Water that shot in through the back door rose knee high and we all realised we were marooned. There was no moment to hesitate. We loaded the women on the dining table and handed over the kids to carry. I waded through the rising water and opened the front door for the water to rush out. As I held the doors wide open, I saw people, cattle, roof-tops, barrels and furniture drifting in the flood outside.

Water-level inside the house was rising. It came up, chest high. Despite four strong men pressing it down, the dining table began to flutter and as it trembled, the kids started screaming. The thought of the lives of my loved ones being plucked away before my eyes made me shudder. I felt myself being dragged out by the strong current. I held on to the door frame but realised I could not hold on for long. Was this going to be my end? First a shudder and then tranquillity settled in my mind!

And suddenly the flow stopped. There was a stagnant still. Was the flood hesitating?

And then, water started receding. A very forceful retreat, dragging back huge trees which crashed on lives on their path, crushing them. Once the killer-wave withdrew, we rushed out to help our neighbours.

From the main street we could see hyper activities at the distant beach. We dashed there. The Sea-Tiger coast-guards were already there, rescuing people enmeshed in heaps of debris. The speed at which they were operating was astounding. Thanks to them, scores of lives were saved that morning. Their walkie-talkies cackled and Tiger vehicles rushed to the spot. Injured were rushed to distant hospitals as directed by a Thileepan mobile medical unit which was also there. We helped cleaning the injured, bandaging wounds, walking injured to vehicles and stretching out lifeless bodies in rows.

At the beach and later at the local hospital I saw more than 140 bodies, mostly women and children. For days, I could not sleep peacefully.

Why was this old man spared while hundreds of young lives were plucked away before his very eyes, is a question still rattling in my mind.

A.C. Tarcisius

Doctor Durai Reminisces.....

The Tsunami that occurred on Boxing Day (26/12/04) was one of the worst disasters to affect many Asian countries, including Sri Lanka. Major parts of the coastal areas were affected; worst hit was the North East causing a multitude of deaths among all our communities. "

Our association is organising a get-together and the profits from this event will be donated to the Tsunami fund.

I spent the first 16 years of my life in Kankesanthurai, close to the sea where it was a common occurrence during the Christmas time for the tidal waves to flow about 40-50 yards in land, very close to the houses occupied by our families.

Later during my time as a medical officer at Tellippalai a severe Tsunami occurred on the 22nd of December 1964, affecting the Jaffna area. The worst hit was the Myliddy coast where there were more than 60 deaths, while fishing in the Indian Ocean, including few who studied with me at the KKS American Mission School early on in my life. I then moved onto Jaffna Central to continue with my education.

In 1967, when I was the DMO in Kayts, another mini Tsunami occurred affecting Delft,

Analaitivu, Pungudutivu and the adjoining coastal areas causing many deaths in the sea.

Both Tsunamis occurred in areas where I had been working. The relief effort at that time was carried out by medical staff, volunteers, first aid workers, social workers, the police, teachers, students, MP's, local council members and the general public all working in unison.

The Tsunami has caused destruction mostly in the coastal belt. The majority of the people here are fisher folk from all communities toiling hard to support their families on meagre income. The highest death toll was in the North East.

I hope all our past pupils, friends and well-wishers will rally around the blue, chocolate and blue. Now is the time for combined action.

Central flag will never be lowered.

Dr J.C. Duraisingham.

Centralite escorts an MEP to Tsunami land

Robert Evans, Member of the European Parliament, visited the Tsunami hit areas of the north-eastern Sri Lanka in early February. The entourage comprised Councillor Thaya Idaikkader, Sutha of Times Travel and Skantha. The pre-dawn arrival at Katunayake on the 6th made it convenient for them to take the morning flight to Jaffna, where the party stayed at Kopay Hilton by Robert, a lodge that belongs to Skantha.

The day's itinerary included three major functions. The first was a visit in the morning to Point Pedro where the visitors met a number of Tsunami affected victims. Robert was shaken at the sight of the devastation and the plight of the victims. Two truths emerged from the statements of the victims. The services rendered by the LTTE were swift and timely while the help promised by the Government was yet to reach them although six weeks had lapsed.

The evening functions were in Jaffna where a new computer centre, financed by the trustees of the London Kanaga Thurkkai Amman Temple was to be opened in the town. TITTA, a London based Eelam students organisation has provided free courses in computer training and English language at the centre. It was a well organised function with Ilamparuithi, the head of the LTTE political wing in the peninsula and around 200 people attending.

The day ended with a visit to the Teaching Hospital in Jaffna, where Robert's gift included valuable medicines brought from London. He walked through over-crowded wards where inadequacy of beds caused patients sprawl on the floor of the corridors.

Day two commenced with a visit to the LTTE Political Head Office at Kokuvil where a three-hour meeting with Ilamparuithi ensued. The next call was Kopay Maha Vidyalayam where Skantha had instituted in 2002, a Computer Training Centre and a library, available for students by day and free for use to the public after school.

From there, they proceeded to Chavakacheri where another free Computer Training Centre was thriving, yet another service provided by Kanaga Thurkkai Amman Temple.

At Kilinochchi, the party was received by Pulithevan, Head of the LTTE Peace Secretariat, and he provided transport for them to visit the Tsunami affected areas in Mullaitivu, Vettalaikerni and Kaddaikkadu. At Mullaitivu, a £35,000 project which Skantha had initiated in 2004 and spent £5,000 already, was in ruins. Most of those, including 15 children, who had participated at the inaugural ceremony had perished in the killer-wave. Before the party retired for the day, They had a meeting with Tamilchelvan and then visited Manivannan

Day three saw the entourage first in Trincomalee visiting Tsunami affected refugee camps managed by the TRO, where it distributed food items taken from London and Rs.100 to every family in the camp. On reaching Colombo, Robert met the Press before returning to London.

Sutha provided the flight for the politicians while Skantha arranged for their accommodation and local transport in Sri Lanka.

Editor.

(Skanthatheva Subramaniam was at JCC 1964- 1972)

Hip Hip Hurray to:

Pushka for his £100 and evergreen support!

Orbital Sri Shankar for his £100!

Seven-a-side Prabaker for his £100!

Glenkie Restaurant & Bell - Sasikaran for his £50! and

Man & Co Thirulinganathan for his £50!

Let their business flourish!

COLLEGE SONG

Wet the ground and wind opposing,
Just ten minutes yet to play;

Play up Central, no reposing
On the gains of yesterday.
Now's the time for combined action,
Pass the ball from man to man;
Never selfish, play no faction
Proved worthwhile since sports began.

Chorus :

Central ! Rally for the school then,
Take the field with one accord;
Keep your courage cool and clean then
Central's flag must ne'er be lowered.

Financial Assistance Scheme for Education (FASE)

At the AGM of the Association held on the 20th of May 2000, it was unanimously accepted that a very positive approach to help Jaffna Central College improve its academic excellence and profile would be through financially helping its students to achieve academic success.

Towards this, the Association has set up a scheme to provide financial assistance to needy, deserving and capable students in the 'A' Level classes to achieve the grades to proceed to higher education. Initially, it would be an annual award of Rs5,000/- each, to 10 students, 5 in the first year and 5 in the second year in the 'A' Level classes, totalling Rs50,000/- annually.

M Annalingam	J Ariyaratnam	A Thurairajah
R Balasundaram	P Balendran	T R Sri Mohan
J C Duraisingham	T Arulampalam	T Thiyagalingam
P.Ganeshalingham	P.Gnananandan	R E Sreeharan
D C Jayarajah	S Jegarajah	S Sivayogan
K Kalavannan	I Mohanakumar	T Raviraj
S Shethran	S Sivakumaran	M S Sithamparam
V Shivakumaran	S Shivanathan	M Ravidraa
S J Nalliah	D J Niles	V Sabanathan
V P Prahalathan	K S S Rajah	D M Rajeswaron

S Rajaratnam

R Rajasingham

M G Rajendran

M Navaratnarasah

S J Pooranachandran

To Those interested :

Please see the adopted Report of the Secretary to the Scholarship Committee of the JCC OBA Colombo Branch, appearing under the heading "Jaffna Central College Past Students' Scholarship Scheme" in this Souvenir.

If you wish to be part of this Scheme, Standing Order Forms are available at the door. If you wish to make a one off donation, you can make it either in Sterling or in Sri Lankan Rupees.

Rupee cheques payable to "Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association Colombo Branch" and post date it by a month, to give us time to send it to Colombo.

Sterling cheques payable to "JCC OB & GA UK Branch"

Please send your cheques:

JCC OB & GA UK Branch, 57 Bournemouth Road, London SW19 3AR

Harold Alakeson

Jaffna Central College Past Students' Scholarship Scheme

The Scholarship Scheme which commenced in 2001 is sponsored by the Jaffna Central College Old Boys Associations of Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka, Colombo Branch and the Old Boys and Girls Association of the United Kingdom. The Scheme has a Mission and a Vision.

The Mission of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance to bright and needy students of Jaffna Central College, to pursue their educational career. In this venture, the scheme is currently targeting students in the Advanced Level and University categories.

The Vision of the Scheme is to enable Jaffna Central College to provide proper foundation to its students to turn out to be distinguished and educated so that they may hold responsible positions in all walks of life both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

Applications for the award of the Scholarship are invited through advertisements in the local news papers. A Standard Application Form, both in Tamil and English is used. The

applicants are requested to submit their applications through the Principal of Jaffna Central College, in the Standard Form, supported by letters of recommendation. In addition, applicants are required to submit a certificate from the respective Grama Sevaka.

The applications are initially considered by the Scholarship Committee which at present comprises the following:

Chairman :K Thayaparan

Secretary :N Sri Pragasa

Members :E Nadarajah
M Arulanantham

Ex Officio Members :L J Gnanapragasam
R Baskaran

Selections are based on the following criteria:

- a. Period of study at Jaffna Central College.
- b. Performance at GCE O & A Level Examinations.
- c. Family income.
- d. Special circumstances like physical disability etc.
- e. Recommendations of the Principal of Jaffna Central College and the Grama Sevaka.

The selections made by the Scholarship Committee are based entirely on merit and every stage of the selection process will be transparent. The names of those selected by the Scholarship Committee to receive the awards are ratified by the Executive Committee of The Old Boys Association, Colombo Branch.

The above is an extract from a recent Report of the Secretary to the Scholarship Committee of the JCC OBA Colombo Branch.

Twenty - Twenty Champs

Choc and Blue Flies High in London

The Centralites emerged champions, at the first ever Twenty – Twenty Tournament organised by any Sri Lankan cricket club when Jolly Stars Sports Club organised a historic quadrangular bout at Shenley CC, Hertfordshire in May 2004.

The Central Team beat its traditional rival, St.John's in the finals and carried away the trophy, thanks to a concerted effort the winning team displayed in the field throughout the day.

Raviraj made an outstanding contribution, as has been his style in many a tournament, in the years past. But Sathees, Suresh and Arunodhayan, recent infusions into our London team, stole away the show and the day.

The trio's display of confidence and brilliance in different departments featured well throughout the day. A hearty welcome to them. Let's wish them a well entrenched stardom on the London Central Team in the years to come.

The Following formed the team:

T.Arunothayan (Captain) , T.Raviraj, S.Sathees, K.Suresh, T.Ramesh, V.P.Parahalathan, B.Muraleetharan, M.Darmarajah, N.Thamilalagan

K.Rajasekar, S.Wijeyanathan, S.Niro

S Satheeskumar was voted the player of the series and S.Wijeyanathan was voted the best bowler.

The team was ably managed by Paul Prahalathan.

T.G.Singham

K. Pathmanathan !

T . Arunothayan !

P. Balendran !

A ..Pathmanathan !

B. Muraleetharan !

K. Rajasekar !

I. Mohanakumar !

S .J .Pooranachandran !

A. Maheethan !

R. Rajasingham !

T. Raviraj !

K .Prabhakaran !

N. Sagthivel !

V..P. Prahalathan !

S. Shanmuganathan !

S. Saravanabavan !

P. Shanmuganathan !

V. Shivakumaran !

S. Sivakumaran !

T. Sri Mohan !

T. Sritharan !

J. Sudharson !

F. S. Francis !

Y. Jeyachandran !

K. Kalavannan !

R..Balendran !

S.Thayalan !

T.Gnanaratnasingham !

Your monthly contributions of £2/£5/£10 towards JCC - OB &GA Fund, has made it possible to successfully complete 3 projects: i. Furnishing JCC Computer Room UK at college, with 7 computers; ii. Providing college with a multi-media projector; iii. Sponsoring needy children, A/L, at college. Kick-off for this project was made possible thanks to the thrust made by Dr. S.Sivanathan, P.Ganeshalingam, H. Alakeson and K.Kalavannan.

Your continued contribution towards a bus for school, having reached £4,500 is moving gradually towards its target of £9,000. The handing over of the vehicle is scheduled for 2006 when the school meets its Triple Celebration, namely, 190th year, Battle of the North Centenary Encounter and OBA Centenary.

Joy Pooranachandran! Your effort here is much appreciated. This is also an appeal to all old boys to join hands with Joy in making this college dream come true!

Mr K.P. Nathan! Your monthly contribution of £25, is a great strength in this build-up.

If more members could chip in, on a monthly basis, our OB & GA will have a strong footing to venture on more beneficial projects.

There is a plan to organise an OBA trip to Jaffna in 2006 to grace the Triple Celebration at college, if the situation there is conducive. Those wishing to join the CHEER, please contact Murali 07956 360 129, Joy 07956 016 286 or Singham. 07956 396 092

Editor.

The Editor's Note

The Centralites in the UK are rising again to do their duty!

I am proud to be part of the Centralite venture to wipe the tears off the cheeks of the Tsunami affected victims, still suffering, way back home.

It is our way of telling them we are with them in their moment of peril and suffering.

It is also our way of reminding others that we have a humanitarian duty towards the Tsunami holocaust victims whose loved ones and livelihoods have been wiped out in a moment of nature's fury!

The victims need resuscitation and rehabilitation. Every kind act, every sympathetic move and every magnanimous contribution, however small, helps!

Let generosity in our hearts wake up and give vent to the noble, decent and humane side of ours!

This attempt to help would not have been successful without the enthusiastic contribution of Joy, Muraleetharan, Prabhakaran, Thamilalagan, Kalavannan, Sivakumaran, Rajeshwaran, Harold, B.Jeyarajah, V.Sabanathan, Srimohan, Sudharson and Dr Thuraisingham.

Members of the Executive Committee of the OBA too deserve special thanks.

Thanks to the magnanimity of our advertisers, the Souvenir is in your hands now.

T. Gnanaratnasingham