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Word from our Deputy-Principal



“Dear Parents, Students, Teachers, and Friends, Greetings and a very happy New Year to you all. The previous year was very eventful. We ended last year with the Nativity Night, which was attended by students and teachers of primary, secondary, matric, and Cambridge sections. It was organized by Mr. Faheem Fredrick and his team of dedicated and enthusiastic students. We begin the first quarter of 2024 with a feast day celebration and program in January; the school plays in the middle of February, followed by the farewell of our outgoing students, class X of matric, and class XI of Cambridge. Preliminary examination of classes IX and X of matric, and mocks of grades X and XI. The final exams for grades I to VIII will be held in the first quarter of 2024. We wish our students the very best for their upcoming exams.”



AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

Charles Dickens, one of the most renowned and celebrated novelists of the Victorian era, left an indelible mark on English literature with his captivating storytelling, vivid characters, and keen social commentary. Born on February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, England. Dickens grew up in challenging circumstances that greatly influenced his work. His early experiences working in a factory and his family's financial struggles provided him with firsthand insight into the social injustices and disparities of 19th-century England.



HIS FAMOUS WORKS

"Oliver Twist" (1837-1839): This novel tells the story of an orphan, Oliver, navigating the harsh realities of Victorian London, highlighting social issues such as poverty and child exploitation.

"David Copperfield" (1849-1850): Often considered Dickens' most autobiographical work, this novel follows the life of the titular character as he grows from a neglected child to a successful author, exploring themes of hardship, love, and resilience.

"A Tale of Two Cities" (1859): Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, this historical novel contrasts London and Paris, intertwining the lives of characters caught up in the tumultuous events of the time. The opening line, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," is iconic.

"Great Expectations" (1860-1861): This coming-of-age novel follows the life of Pip, an orphan with unexpected fortunes, exploring themes of social class, identity, and moral redemption.

"A Christmas Carol" (1843): A timeless novella that has become synonymous with the Christmas season. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation after encountering ghosts on Christmas Eve emphasizes the spirit of generosity and redemption.

A Child's Hymn

Hear my prayer, O heavenly Father,
Ere I lay me down to sleep;
Bid Thy angels, pure and holy,
Round my bed their vigil keep.

My sins are heavy, but Thy mercy
Far outweighs them, every one;
Down before Thy cross I cast them,
Trusting in Thy help alone.

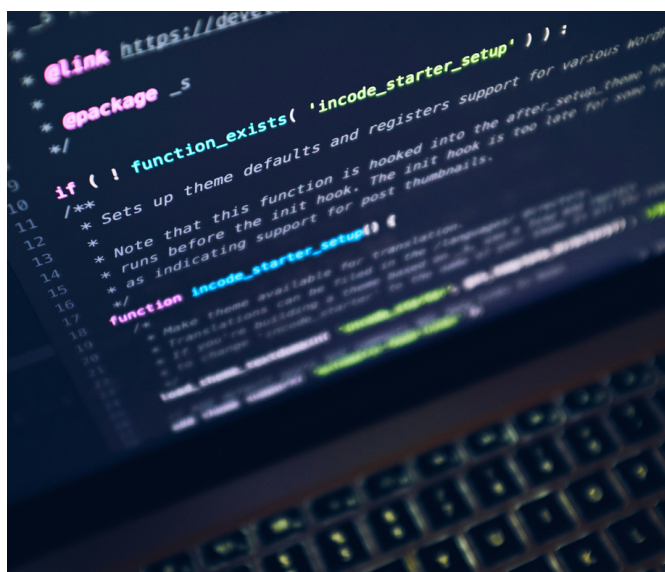
Keep me through this night of peril
Underneath its boundless shade;
Take me to Thy rest, I pray Thee,
When my pilgrimage is made.

None shall measure out Thy patience
By the span of human thought;
None shall bound the tender mercies
Which Thy Holy Son has bought.

Pardon all my past transgressions,
Give me strength for days to come;
Guide and guard me with Thy blessing
Till Thy angels bid me home.

Technology: A Double-Sided Coin

Technology is advancing at a rapid pace, making our lives more convenient and easier every day. Computers and mobile phones have become essential in our daily lives, providing us with many advantages that help us excel in ways we never thought possible. However, technology also has disadvantages and can lead people astray. Thanks to the invention of mobile phones, communication has become easier. You can call people on-the-go and leave messages for them to receive instantly. Social media also plays an important role in connecting us with friends and family, helping us expand our social circle. Moreover, technology has improved the lives of people with disabilities, making things like electric wheelchair platforms and hearing aids more accessible. On the other hand, too much information can be dangerous, especially for young minds. The dark web is an example of this, where harmful things are sold and money is extorted. This can negatively affect children if they are not monitored. To address these concerns, many people restrict explicit websites and monitor their children's internet usage. Additionally, the rapid development of AI technology raises concerns about job security, privacy, and ethics. While AI can already create images, music, and writing, it could potentially lead to job displacement in the future. Therefore, it is important to strike a balance between embracing technological progress and addressing its drawbacks. As we navigate this complicated landscape, fostering responsible use, ethical development, and continuous dialogue will be key to harnessing the full potential of technology for the betterment of society.



By : Seth Amir

Talk with the Silver Jubilarians



Mrs. Starina is one of the most dedicated teachers at St. Paul's English High School; she has been with us since 1999. During her 25 years with us, she has made many fond memories with her students and wishes to make more. She also shared some advice for the students, emphasizing the importance of hard work, dedication, continuous learning, and, finally, being humble.

When did you join the school and when did you become the coordinator ?

In November of 1999, I was assigned as a substitute teacher for Grade 7 at Cambridge. Shortly thereafter, on January 4th, 2000, I became the class teacher for grade 6. Currently, I have served as the coordinator of secondary education, specifically the matric section, since 2017.

In what ways has your time in the school facilitated your growth?

As a teacher, I have had the privilege of growing alongside my students, having joined the school immediately after completing my intermediate studies. Through my tenure at St. Paul's English High School, I have had the opportunity to pursue both professional and academic education, culminating in significant personal and professional development.

How has the administration changed over the years?

I have worked under the guidance of 3 principals, Bishop Max Rodrigues, Father Anthony Martis, and Sir Leonard Dias, and 3 coordinators, Miss Thress, Miss Lynn, and Miss Shazia.

What was the most memorable time in the school for you?

I still remember the memorable days of my early years, when I was only a junior and was constantly learning from my seniors.

What is your message for the students?

My message for all is to work hard, never give up, always be willing to learn, and remain humble no matter what heights you reach.

Mr. Riaz exemplifies dedication and hard work in his role at the school. Despite not being a teacher, his contributions make him an integral part of the school community. His commitment to his responsibilities and the overall well-being of the institution has set him apart.

When did you Come to this school and why?

I came to this school from Punjab in 1998, and I came to the school because I wanted to help children in their educational journey.

What advice do you have for someone starting their career as a school supporting staff?

Be kind, work hard, and always be willing to learn. Teamwork is essential, and a positive attitude makes a big difference.

How do you see the future of the school, and what role do you envision for yourself?

I am optimistic about the future growth of the school, and I foresee myself continuing to support students and being a part of their journey.

What advice do you have for the current students?

Appreciate every moment and embrace education beyond textbooks. The time you spend here will have a profound impact on you in ways that you may not realize at present. Dare to take risks, cultivate meaningful friendships, and continuously strive for personal development.

In the realm of sports education, Sir Philip stands as a beacon of inspiration at our school. With a robust background in physical education and a passion for fostering holistic development, he brings more than just skills to the field. His journey as a sports teacher began two decades ago, marked by a commitment to instilling not just athletic prowess but also life skills in his students.

When did you join the school and why did you decide to become a teacher?

I joined this school in August of 1998. I made the decision to become a sports teacher because I wanted to pass on the sport's knowledge that I gained in my time as a cricketer to children.

Were you approached by other schools?

I was approached by other schools, but I did not want to leave this wonderful school, so I refused the offer of other schools and stayed here.

How much has the school changed over the years that you have been here?

I would say that the school has changed a lot over the 25 years that I have been in it. I have seen many students come and go over the years.

One message that you want to give the students?

The message that I want to give the students is that they should respect their parents, teachers, and everyone. This will help them to go far in life.

Interviewed by:
Mirza Ali Baig

Interviewed by:
Kendrick Joseph

Interviewed by:
Rajiv kumar

Silver Jubilee Celebration

"Honoring 25 Years of Dedication at St. Paul's English High School"



On January 25, 2024, some of the most dedicated names of St. Paul's, namely Mrs. Starina Johnson, Mr. Riaz Masih, and Sir Philip Dias, celebrated their 25 years of dedicated service at St. Paul's English High School. They play a crucial role in creating a positive environment and fostering the physical and mental growth of the students.

To mark this occasion, the school organized a mass to bestow blessings upon them, followed by a special event in their honor.

The mass commenced with the grand entrance of the Silver Jubilarians, accompanied by the scout and the band of St. Paul's English High School. Bishop Benny Mario Travis led the mass and offered a special prayer, blessing the Jubilarians. The regular rites of the mass proceeded, featuring readings from Acts 22:3–16 and the gospel from Mark 16:15–18, which narrated the conversion of St. Paul.



During the sermon, Bishop Travis spoke about Paul's conversion and its relevance to our lives. Following the sermon, the Jubilarians presented offerings such as fruits, wine, and bread. Meanwhile, the volunteer society collected donations, generating a substantial amount. The Media Graphic Society handled the photography.

The school choir filled the air with melodious praises of the Lord.

After communion, the priest called forward the Silver Jubilarians. As a token of appreciation, they received sashes from our principal, Leonard Dias. This marked the conclusion of the mass.



Post-mass, the Silver Jubilarians were escorted to the school auditorium, where a brief event was held in their tribute.

On the night of the 27th, a dinner was held at St. Paul's English High School for the Jubilarians and their families. Students from classes 1 to 11 showcased their diverse skills. The ground buzzed with excitement and anticipation as the young performers took the stage, delivering a mesmerizing performance ranging from dance and music to drama. The audience was treated to a delightful display of talents, reflecting the vibrant and dynamic spirit of the student body. As the performances unfolded, the cheers and applause echoed through the ground, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.



The event was a platform for showcasing individual talents and a testament to the collective spirit of the school community.

To conclude this memorable night, a sumptuous dinner was organized, providing a perfect opportunity for students and teachers to unite, share laughter, and strengthen their bonds. The night's event truly captured the essence of St. Paul's, fostering a sense of belonging and celebrating the rich talents within the school community.

BY: Kendrick Joseph

PAUL'S PRIDE:

ROARING SUCESS OF TUSHAR MAHESH



(Tushar Mahesh , Principal Lenoard Dias and Sir Faheem)

Tushar Mahesh, a bright student at St. Paul's English High School, recently achieved a distinction in Religious Studies. This achievement is recognized by the Cambridge International Association Examination (CIAE) and shows that Tushar had the highest marks in this subject in Pakistan. This accomplishment brings great honor to our school.

How has the learning environment and support at our school contributed to your success?

The school environment feels like a second home, playing a pivotal role in shaping one's values and character. From the beginning, the school community's unwavering support has exceeded my expectations, including the principal, coordinators, teachers, and even the security personnel. Their kindness, support, and politeness have nurtured precious qualities within me, laying an essential foundation for my future. The spirit of healthy competition in academic pursuits has driven my success, emphasizing the importance of maintaining balance and not exceeding reasonable limits. The camaraderie among friends, like soulmates, has enriched my experience and fostered an amiable atmosphere that promotes personal growth.

Participation in various school societies has significantly broadened my perspective, introducing me to aspects I had not explored before. Teachers, as architects of the learning environment, deserve profound respect for instilling essential qualities such as patience, persistence, and determination in me. These qualities have been instrumental in my preparation and overall success.

Are there any mentors or role models who have influenced your approach to learning and success?

My parents are my primary role models, contributing significantly to my achievements. Their hard work and unwavering dedication motivate me to study and utilize my time positively. Their sacrifices stand as a testament to their love and affection. They are my true superheroes, irreplaceable in my life.

Speaking of mentors, no one can replace Sir Faheem Fredrick Inayat. I can't forget the challenging days during my CIAEs when I went to Sir Faheem every day at school, often being the only student there at that particular time. He sacrificed his time for me, knowing I was the only child present. With an extensive knowledge of his subject, he made me feel comfortable discussing anything, instilling belief in myself. The result speaks for itself—a distinction across Pakistan!

Were there any challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them to maintain such high academic standards?

There were several challenges I faced, but over time, I managed to overcome them. Firstly, covering the religious studies syllabus proved difficult due to practicing a different religion, Hinduism. Secondly, poor time management posed a challenge as we had to complete an 80-mark paper in just 90 minutes. Thirdly, my handwriting was a significant issue, leading to warnings about potential failure if not improved. Seeking help from seniors, especially Pratik Harani, was crucial in overcoming these obstacles. Through the rigorous practice of past papers, I learned effective time management, turning what initially seemed impossible into a reality. Despite being one of the lowest scorers in the final mock exam, I persevered, never losing hope and staying dedicated.

Low my success to individuals like Pratik Harani and Sir Faheem Fredrick. **I would like to encourage my fellow students to never give up and to view failure as a stepping stone to success.**

Interviewed by : Kendrick Joseph.

The Enduring Legacy of the English Literary Society



The English Literary Society is a legacy that has been with us for more than 25 years. Mrs. Gloria Noronha was the founder of the society; although she moved to Canada, the society continued to thrive. In the past 18 years, the society has organized many events, such as the annual interclass contests. These contests include poetry, elocution, speech, and debate and are open to students in grades 1–11. In addition to these events, the English Literary Society has also organized other big contests, like the "Hippo" and "Kangaroo" competitions. And the English Literary Society continues to host events to date with the same dedication.

A Recent Event Hosted By Our English Litreary Society



The English Literary Society also hosted an event on December 16, 2023. It was organized by Rainbow Mega Event as a contest to judge students' creative writing skills. Mrs. Pushpa Manatunga led the event. Thanks to the dedication of the English Literary Society members, the event was successful. St.Paul's received 33 gold medals, and Muhammad Sher Ali, a 7th grade Cambridge student, won the grand prize of Rs. 1,50,000.



Beneath the Twinkling Stars: An Enchanting Journey into the Heart of Christmas



The Nativity unfolds as the epitome of our salvation, portraying Jesus as the promised Savior, Universal King, and Prince of Peace, according to the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Unfortunately, the essence of Christmas often gets overshadowed by material distractions, prompting the students of St. Paul's English High School to present a meaningful live Christmas play on December 16, 2023. Under the direction of Mr. Faheem Fredrick Inayat, assisted by religion teachers Mrs. Fatima D'Souza, Mrs. Angeline Francis, Ms. Esther Mussarat, and Mrs. Shazia Tellis, the event was graced by His Grace Archbishop Benny Mario Travas and Rev. Fr. Edward Joseph, among other dignitaries. The production featured five elaborately decorated stages, complemented by excellent props, music from Zack Amir, and lighting by Albern Arif. Traditional attire, including long robes, sashes, turbans, and beards, adorned characters like Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Magi, market dwellers, and King Herod. The primary section students, portraying Angels, looked admirable, with wings provided by Mr. Faheem and Mr. Shahbaz. The Nativity story commenced with the visit of Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, pledged to Joseph. Overcoming her fear, Mary accepted the angel's message that she would bear a son named Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Caesar Augustus's decree for a census led Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Shepherds, informed by an angel, paid homage to the newborn, praising and glorifying God.

Following Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, the Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, guided by a star, seeking the King of the Jews. Disturbed by the news, King Herod secretly sent the Magi to Bethlehem, urging them to report back. The Magi found the child, worshipped him, and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Warned in a dream, they took an alternative route home. A highlight of the play was the portrayal of Mary and Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem for the census on a live donkey.



Equally captivating was the entrance of the three kings on live camels, guided by a lighted star. Mr. Leonard Dias, the principal, emphasized the enduring significance of peace on earth during Christmas, urging an experience of Jesus through the holiday. He thanked Mr. Faheem, the religion teachers, and the entire cast. His Grace, Archbishop Benny Mario Travas, acknowledged the challenges of celebrating Christmas amid inflation, noting that some regions, including Palestine and Bethlehem, would only have prayer services. He underscored that Jesus came for everyone, not just the poor and vulnerable.

In conclusion, the audience thoroughly enjoyed the play, commending the students and instructors for successfully conveying the true spirit of Christmas. The production encouraged everyone to embrace the message of love and salvation embedded in the Nativity story.

By: Rosario V. Fernandes

Exemplary Leadership: Sir Leonardrd Dias Receives Prestigious Award for Educational Excellence



John Quincy Adams, a former U.S. President, once wrote, "If your actions inspire others to dream, learn, do, and become more, then you are a leader." Achieving things in life requires hard work and dedication. This can be seen in our devoted principal, Sir Leonard Dias. He recently won the 2024 Education Legend Award. For over 38 years, his commitment and dedication have provided opportunities for students to showcase their talents. This has led him to this position today.



He holds a Masters in Applied Physics. Sir Lenord Dias started as a teacher of physics, chemistry, and mathematics. He gradually worked his way up to become the principal of St. Paul's English High School. The Federation of Private Schools of Pakistan initiated the Education Legend Award. The chairman, Aleem Qureshi, founded it. It is one of the most prestigious honors a teacher can receive. The colorful ceremony took place on January 13th at the Arts Council of Karachi. The Chief Guest, Madam Rana Hussain, is the Minister of Education for the Government of Sindh. She presented the awards to distinguished individuals. Several heads of schools from the Catholic Board were also honored. These included Mr. Anthony D'silva, former principal of St. Patrick's High School and Executive Secretary of the Catholic Board of Education; Ms. Amelia Gonsalves, principal of St. Patrick's Girls School; and Sr. Julie Pacheco, principal of St. Joseph's Convent School. Many other principals received the award as well.



In a ceremony held at our school on January 15th, Principal Leonard Dias proudly displayed his award to the students, teachers, and coordinators during the morning assembly. He delivered an inspiring speech about the award, emphasizing the importance of teachers' work ethic, love, and commitment to their students. He reiterated that this award is a testament to the achievements of the entire school. Our enthusiastic principal, Lenord Dias, is guiding St. Paul's English High School. The school aims to make a significant impact. We wish him continued success and many more accolades.



By: Zack Amir

Celebrating the Joy of Childhood: Children's Day

Our school recently hosted a Children's Day event that lasted for about an hour. Miss Pearl expertly coordinated the event. She worked tirelessly to bring the celebration to life. Miss Myra guided classes 1 and 2, while Miss Pushpa guided classes 3 and 4. The teachers also contributed to the event significantly. The festivities began with students in classes 2-4 showcasing their talents. They filled the air with enthusiasm and excitement. The younger students from class 1, guided by Miss Mary Myra, joined in, adding their charm and innocence to the event. Laughter and joy filled the atmosphere. The school was filled with rejuvenating energy. There were mesmerizing dance performances.

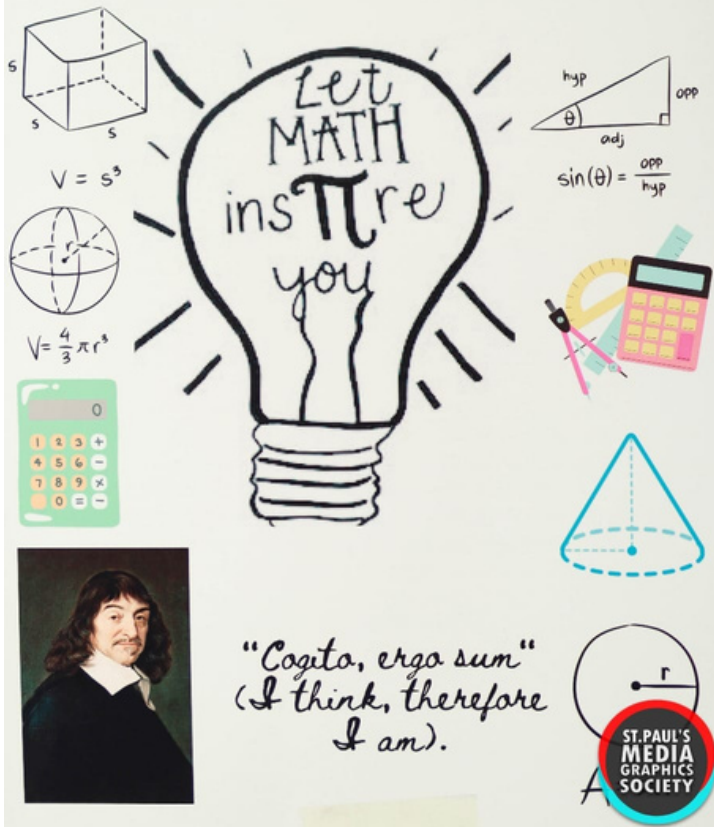


There were also soulful prayers, including the Gayatri Mantra and Muslim prayers.

Our school's budding poets recited inspiring poetry recitations. The diversity of cultures and talents highlighted the unity within our student body. The event concluded on a heartwarming note. Our esteemed principal, Sir Leonard Dias, shared a special message. He spread love and positivity among all attendees. As the older classes watched the event, it reminded them of the pure joy of childhood. It brought smiles to their faces and warmth to their hearts. Thanks to the dedication and effort of Miss Pearl, Miss Myra, Miss Pushpa, and all the teachers, a great show was put up for us. It was truly a day filled with laughter, learning, and love. It rekindled the essence of childhood for all of us.

BY: Albern Arif

Descartes Mathimatiká Club



Tushar Mahesh started the Descartes Mathimatiká Society in 2023. The society aims to encourage mathematical education and appreciation. Ahmer Essa, Fardan Rauf, and Aman Kumar Panjwani were important founding members.

Under the guidance of Sir Roman Rodrigues and Miss Ume Hafsa, the society organized its first major event in 2024. It was the Math Bee competition with three tough rounds: elimination, rapid-fire, and the final round. Over 300 students participated from the lower secondary section and the Cambridge section. The final round of the Maths Bee competition was open to the audience, with the venue being the school's AV room. The questions were displayed on the projector, and the response was excellent.

Future plans

In the future, the Descartes Mathimatiká Society plans to host more events to inspire students' love for math. These events will include competitions, talks, workshops, and question-and-answer sessions. By making math enjoyable and encouraging friendly competition, we hope to motivate more students to excel in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. We sincerely thank our founding team, patrons, and participants, and we also like to thank the volunteers for their dedication that made the Math Bee and the dreams of the Descartes Mathimatiká Society a reality. We appreciate your ongoing support as we advance mathematics education and talent development.



(Members of the Mathimatiká Society)



(Math bee held by our mathematic society)

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS

- **Mass Of Ash Wednesday**
will be held in the auditorium by the Religion Teachers
- **Mocks Of Cambridge Section**
- **Prelims Of Matric Section**
- **Farwell Of Grade X Students Of Matric Section and Grade XI Students Of Cambridge Section**
- **Urdu Debate will Be Organized By Urdu Society**

DATES

14 February

22 February

In March

In March

In April

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Media Graphic Society***

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Come one, come all! We're opening the doors for the next issue of S.P.E.L.L., and we'd love to hear from all our amazing students and teachers.

Share your amazing work on our email and get a chance to be featured in the next issue of S.P.E.L.L.

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