Events of 2012 - 2013

The school reopened on 4th June.

On June 13th, the various clubs of the school were inaugurated by Mr. Manoj Kannan in a simple ceremony held during the assembly. Mr. Manoj Kannan, an alumnus of our school, is a Lecturer at the Department of Biological Sciences in BITS Pilani.

Prize Day was held on 15th June. Mr. S. Ram, Chairman, Wheels India Ltd gave away the medals and certificates to the prize winning students. The awards for the "Best Outgoing Boy and Girl" in class XII went to Aditya Rajagopalan and Mahima Vishwanathan. The Challenge Cup for "Best All Rounder Boy and Girl" were awarded to Vaidya Pallasena and Debashri S. Mr. Ram also presented service awards to teachers who had completed 20 years of service at Vidya Mandir. The teachers who received the award are Ms. Maheshwari Natarajan, Ms. Nirmala Devi, Ms. Uma Balasubramanian, Ms. Uma Nagarajan, Ms. Uma Narayanan and Ms. Uma Varadarajan. From the non teaching staff, Mr. Sundara Vadivelu received the award for completing 20 years.

Alumni Induction was held on 16th June. Our principal, Mrs Bhavani Raghunandan, formally inducted the class of 2012 into the alumni fold. Besides the class of 2012, alumni members from older batches also attended the function in large numbers and made the evening a memorable one.

Reflections, the inter-school cultural festival hosted by Vidya Mandir, was held on the 6th and 7th of July. The new events included this year such as Dota, Counterstike and sporting events such as football, basketball were well received. The chief guest for the inaugural ceremony was Mr. Unnikrishnan, the popular singer. PSBB KK Nagar won the overall trophy.

Entrenous, the intra-school cultural fest held on 13th and 14th July showcased the multifarious talents of the students from the senior classes. The competition was stiff as usual but finally "experience" triumphed and the 12th graders walked away with the top three prizes. (First Place - 12 C, Second Place - 12 D, Third Place - 12 B)

The Inter house dramatics, held on the 21st of July, saw intense competition among the four houses. The judges for the day were theatre personalities, Mr. A.K. Sriram and Ms. Indrani and our alumnus Shravan Karthikeyan. Kanchenjunga House won the first prize for their play, "The pen of my aunt".

On July 7th, The SPAM and Heritage club members attended a lecture by Mr V. Sriram on the various Music Sabhas in India. In his lecture, Mr. Sriram traced the growth of the Sabhas over the decades. On August 3rd, the SPAM members attended the final day of Svanubhava at Kalakshetra.
The Heritage Club members were taken on a "heritage walk" along the Beach Road at the Marina. The informative walk covered many famous landmarks on this road such as Queen Mary's College, Ripon Building, Ice House, All India Radio Station etc.

Art Club members visited the Cholamandalam Artists' village on June 30th. They also attended workshops on collage-making by Ms. Asma Menon and on making greeting cards by Ms.Priya Venkat.

The Interact Club members visited Blue Cross, the animal welfare society in Velachery and the orphanage, Karnprayag where they donated medicines, milk powder and other articles for infants. The annual raffle draw was conducted on 7th December and the amount collected was distributed to six organizations - Blue Cross, Karnapravag, Vishranthi, Sevalaya, Kakkum Karangal and New Life.

The Literary and Dramatics Club members visited Museum Theatre to watch Vijay Tendulkar's play - "Silence! The Court is in Session". The members also actively participated in the Inter-house Dramatics and took the lead in organizing the event.

The Commerce Club members were addressed by Prof. Shivakumar from London Business School and Prof. Ramaswamy from R.R.Academy about career opportunities available to commerce graduates. They also visited Swastik Bottles factory and Sunfeast Biscuit Factory in Pondicherry. These visits gave the students an understanding of production process in the industry.

The members of the Chemistry Club were involved in a range of interesting activities such as Tambola, Dumb Charades and Anagram - all with the flavour of Chemistry! The Class 12 members went on a field trip to a sugar factory and a paper factory in Kanchipuram.

The Independence Day celebrations started with the hoisting of the tri-colour and rendering of the flag song. This was followed by an entertainment program consisting of patriotic songs, colourful dances, thought-provoking speeches and a skit "Dream India".

The 57th Annual School Day celebration was held on 16th August at Narada Gana Sabha. The program started with Amrithavarshini, the school orchestra, which kept up its reputation for excellence. The Middle School English Play looked at "Around the World in Eight Days" through the eyes of a child and the Tamil Play featured colourful and vibrant folk dances from Tamil Nadu. The Hindi Play featured Premchand's "Lanchan". The colourful Dance Drama, "Krishna Leela", showcased the antics of Lord Krishna as a child and also featured his compassion for his true devotees. The Sanskrit Play depicted the timeless tale of Lord Muruga. The night ended with the High School English Play, "The Pen of my Aunt" which was placed first in the inter-house dramatics competition.

The Annual Sports Day was held on September 1st at the Y.M.C.A grounds. The first event of the day was march-past by the seniors and super-seniors which was followed by the torch-bearing and oath-taking ceremonies. The drill display by the primary and junior students showcased their excellent co-ordination skills. It was a bright and sunny day and the students participated enthusiastically in the races and other events held throughout the day. At the end of
the day, Kunchenjunga House emerged overall winners. Ms. N.R. Indu, former table tennis national champion, presided over the function and distributed prizes. The individual champions were

- **Juniors:** Aniruddha K and Srishti Suren
- **Seniors:** Harshavardhan Shankar and Sanjana S
- **Super Seniors:** S.P. Chidambaram and Easha P. Yadav

Teachers' day was celebrated on September 5th. The celebrations began with an entertainment program put together by the students of class 12. Later the students organized games for teachers such as throw ball, volleyball, chess, and caroms and cheered them along while they battled it out. Races were arranged for the non-teaching staff also.

Primary Sports Day was held on 14th September in the school grounds. Avinash Narasipur (5C) and Dhanshita RA (5B) were declared sports champions for the year 2012-2013. The kindergarteners participated in a host of races and other fun games in school as part of their Sports Day celebrations.

On 14th November, 45 students from the Methodist Girls' School, Singapore and 20 students from the St. Joseph's School, Singapore visited Vidya Mandir. The students were taken on a tour of the campus after which they attended two periods of classes which also gave them an opportunity to interact with our students. The hosts and the visitors presented short entertainment programs which helped them gain insights into each others' cultures.

The Annual Project Day was held on 16th November. Ms. Lakshmi Srinivasan, Principal, P.S. Senior Secondary School was the Chief Guest. She appreciated all the students from kindergarten to X for the excellent display and praised them for their creativity and enthusiasm. The topics for the display ranged from "Math and Arts rule our hearts", "Pushpanjali" - a world of flowers, "Peak to Peak" - a journey over many mountains, to Vivekananda - a photo journey. The Arts Club arranged the sale of greeting cards made by students.

Infohigh, the annual computer science cultural fest was also held on 16th November. Ten schools from the city participated in the fest and competed against one another in events such as programming, quiz, web designing, power point presentation etc. DAV Boys Gopalapuram was the overall winner.

Vidya Mandir High School goes green! On 21st Dec 2012, the Solar Power Project was inaugurated by Mr. Viji Santhanam, President, Management Committee of Vidya Mandir. The solar project was sponsored by the 1987 Alumni batch. On the occasion of their 25th year reunion, the batch wanted to make a meaningful contribution to their alma mater as a token of their remembrance, respect and affection. The project was executed by U-Solar, a company started by Mr. K.R. Harinarayan, an alumnus of the 1987 batch. This eight-kilowatt battery-based system can provide regular power for lights, fans, and computers for around 32 classrooms in the high school building and can be used as a backup during power cuts. The system is expected to result in considerable savings in power bills and there are plans to increase the
capacity in the future in a phased manner. This non polluting system is a significant step in the school's effort to reduce its carbon foot-print.

The SPL elections were held on 9th January. Mugilan R was elected School Pupil Leader and Sairaghev Vaghul C, Saadhana V were elected Assistant School Pupil Leaders.

Funfest held on 19th and 20th January saw an excellent turnout of students. Many new game stalls and fun activities were introduced this year and the students enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The PTA members deserve a special mention for their tireless efforts to make the Funfest a grand success.

This year the Republic Day function began with the observation of a few minutes of silence due to the untimely passing away of our student, Nitheeshwaran of VIII B on the previous day. The entertainment programs planned for the day were postponed to a later date. The Principal hoisted the national flag and students presented patriotic songs and speeches. This was followed by the solemn investiture ceremony wherein the new group of prefects headed by Mugilan R formally took charge from the outgoing prefects led by Karthik Nathan.

The Founder's Day was held on 4th February. It was a special occasion as this year marks the birth centenary of Mr. T S Santhanam, one of the founder members of our school. In his presidential address, Mr. Viji Santhanam urged the students to uphold the principles set by the founders to take Vidya Mandir to greater heights. The Chief Guest of the day, Padma Shri Dr. Mohan Kameswaran delivered the memorial oration. In his inspiring address, Dr. Kameswaran narrated stories of ordinary individuals who fought against many odds to come up in life and serve the society.

The Primary School celebrated their annual day on 8th February in the school premises. The program started with the school orchestra, Amrithalahiri, followed by plays in English, Tamil and Hindi. The plays featured themes ranging from protection of the environment, importance of team work to stories from Indian History. The Dance Drama portraying the life of Andal brought the evening to a colourful end.

The KG school day which was held on 22nd February showcased dances from different parts of India. The little ones in their vibrant costumes danced to the lively music capturing the hearts of one and all.

The Board exams and Summative assessments for all classes were held in March.

The school closed on the 21st of March for a short break. Progress reports were distributed to the student on 29th March.
The school reopened for the new academic year (2013-2014) on 1st April and will close for the summer on 20th April. The school reopens on June 4th after the summer holidays.