Events of 2013 - 2014

The school reopened on 10th June.

The various clubs of the school were inaugurated on 12th June during the morning assembly. The chief guest Mrs. Sharanya K Krishnan, an accomplished singer and alumnus of our school, inaugurated the clubs and also entertained the gathering by rendering a few classical songs.

Prize Day was held on 14th June in the open air auditorium. The Chief Guest of the day was Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurty, Director, IIT Madras. He presented service awards to six staff members who have completed 20 years of service at Vidya Mandir. The awardees are Ms. V Vijayalakshmi, Mr. V Viswanathan, Ms. Geetha Balakrishnan, Ms. Vasudha Rao, Mr Deenadayalan and Mr. Govind. This was followed by the prize distribution ceremony for the year 2012-13. The prizes for the "Best Outgoing Boy and Girl" in class XII went to Karthik Nathan and Thanvi Srikanth. The "Challenge Cup for Best All Rounder Boy and Girl" were presented to Srijayanth S and S. Bhavana respectively.

Alumni Induction was held at 4 pm on 14th June in the Sripad Hall. The principal, Mrs Bhavani Raghunandan addressed the gathering and formally inducted the class of 2012-13 into the alumni fold. The alumni were also addressed by Mr. Kandaswamy, President of Vidya Mandir Alumni Association and Mr. Krishnan who is heading the Office of Alumni Affairs. The new alumni members were briefed about the new VM portal that is being set up to facilitate better interaction among the alumni.

On 29th June, fifty two Art Club members participated in a pot painting workshop conducted by Mrs. Sunitha Commuri. The workshop which was held in the school was thoroughly enjoyed by the students.

The inter-class cultural competitions Entrenous was held from July 1st to 6th. The events for this year included Creative Writing, Junk Art, Shipwreck, Block and Tackle, T-shirt Designing, Quiz, Dumb Charades, Just a Minute, Debate, Adzap, Voice over, Lexicon, Channel Surfing, Music and Dance. This year 11B lifted the Entrenous cup with 12D and 12 A finishing second and third respectively.

The inter-school cultural extravaganza, Reflections, was held on 12th and 13th July. The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Function was Mr. Anil Srinivasan, Classical Pianist, Founder-CEO Rhapsody Music. Twenty schools from the city participated in the various fun-filled events with a spirit of healthy competition. PS Senior Secondary School emerged the overall winner and the prestigious "The Reflecto" prize was bagged by PSBB K.K. Nagar.

A group of six students from Class X attended the VI Regional Conference at Methodist Girls' School Singapore from 17th to 22nd July. They were accompanied by their teachers, Ms. Juno Thangakumar and Ms. Vimala Balajee. The theme for the seminar was "Thinking the Unthinkable".
The PTA AGM was held on 22nd July at 5.00 pm in the Sripad Hall. The new office bearers took charge from the outgoing members who were appreciated for their valuable contributions.

From 22nd to 25th July Alumni sponsored Volley Ball matches and PTA sponsored Basket Ball matches were held in the school. The winners are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VolleyBall</th>
<th>Boys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Don Bosco Higher Sec. School, Perambur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>Velammal Matric Higher Sec School, Mugappair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runner Up</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 teams</td>
<td>Madras Seva Sadan Higher Secondary School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lady Sivasami Higher Sec School</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basket Ball</th>
<th>Boys</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Velammal Matric Higher Sec School, Mogappair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>MCTM Higher Sec School</td>
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<td>Runner Up</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 teams</td>
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The InterHouse Dramatics held on 27th July had the four houses battling for the top position after weeks of frenzied preparations. The judges for that day were well known theatre personalities, Mr Shankar Sundaram and Mr Neelakantan. The romantic comedy "Sweet and Twenty" put together by the Nangaparbat House bagged the first prize. The Best Actor (Male) was Akash Ramdas and Best Actor (Female) was Mitra Visvesh and the Best Director was Deepika Rajesh.

On 3rd August, a Paper Craft Workshop was conducted by Mrs. Shrividhya of "I Craft" for the Art club members. Exotic envelopes, flowers and boxes were made by the members with great enthusiasm.

The 58th School Day of Vidya Mandir was held in Narada Gana Sabha on 31st August 2013 at 4 pm. As has been the tradition, the program started with "Amritha Lahiri", the school orchestra. The orchestra rendered three classical songs and lived up to its reputation for excellence. The Middle School English Dance showed three generations of people fighting over the superiority of their music and featured songs from the "The Sound of Music", songs by Abba, Michael Jackson and the recent favourite "Gangnam Style". The action-packed Sanskrit Play "Keechaka Vadham" portrayed the killing of the evil Keechaka by Bheema and the auditorium resonated with the angry exchanges between Keechaka and Bheema. The Hindi Dance showcased the vibrant folk dances from Rajasthan, Kashmir, Gujarat and Punjab. The colourful costumes of the Garba and the energy and vigour of the all-time favourite Bhangda had the audience joining in, in full measure. The thought provoking Tamil Play "Sudum Vinai Seyyum Soozhchi" told the story of the turbulent times leading to Gandhari’s marriage to the blind king, Dhritharashtra. The
sacrifice of Gandhari and the frustration of her brother Sakuni were brought out in a moving performance by the students. The Dance Drama, "Shanmughaprabhavam" was a thematic presentation depicting the life of Lord Muruga. The grace and expressiveness of the dancers had a professional touch to it that captivated the audience. The High School English Play, "Madly in love", a romantic comedy, had the spectators in splits and it showcased the mature acting skills of the senior students.

On 10th of October, 23 members of the Chemistry Club, "Effervescence" went on a three-day educational trip to Trichy. They were accompanied by their teachers Ms. Shoba Raman and Ms Kanchanamala. They visited three factories - the Trichy Distilleries and Chemicals, Bunge India Pvt Ltd, a Vanaspathy factory and Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited. The factory visits gave the students insights into the working of chemical industries.

The Annual Sports Day was held on 19th Oct at the Anna University Grounds. The Vidya Mandir Flag was hoisted by S.P. Chidambaram, the Super Senior Champion of 2012-13. He then declared the sports meet open. The march past by senior and super senior students, the torch bearing ceremony and the colourful drill display by the students of class V set the tone for the sports day. The blazing sun did not deter the students who participated in the different races with unbridled enthusiasm. A spirited drill display by the middle school preceded the Prize Distribution Ceremony. The Chief Guest for the Prize Distribution function was the National TT Champion, Mr. Anthony Arputharaj Amalraj, who gave away the prizes to the winners. This year Nilkant House emerged winners after many years much to the happiness of its house members. The Individual Champions were

**Juniors:** Sriram Bhaskar and Shreya Sanjay  
**Seniors:** Harish D and Srishti Suren  
**Super Seniors:** Rohit K and Nethra V

Mole Day was celebrated on 23rd October with fun-filled activities planned for the entire day. During the assembly, the concept of mole day was explained to the students after which students of Class 10 presented a humorous skit featuring a chemophilic family. Classes 9 to 12 participated in Chemistry-based games and activities such as sudoku, making a collage, housie, mole relay etc. A team of class 11 students also demonstrated fun chemistry experiments to classes 6, 7, 8 to awaken their interest in Chemistry at an early age.

The inter-school chemistry fest "BONDS 2013" hosted by Vidya Mandir was held on 9th November. As the chemistry club, Effervescence, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the fest began with the felicitation of 10 eminent chemistry teachers from various CBSE schools in the city. Ten schools participated in the fun-filled competitions - Be a Prof, Quiz, Bondography, Lexichem, Lab adventure etc which were judged based on subject knowledge, communication skills and sense of humour. At the end of the day, PSBB Nungambakkam emerged winners, followed by Bala Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School.
On 13th November, thirty six students, escorted by four teachers from the Methodist Girls School, Singapore visited our school. During the morning assembly, the Singapore students entertained our students with choir songs to the accompaniment of jingling coloured hand bells. They were later taken on a tour of the campus after which smaller groups attended 10th standard theory classes and science labs. After lunch, the Singapore students bid farewell, taking with them new experiences and friendships made at Vidya Mandir.

On 13th and 14th November, the Indus Life Sciences 5-A-Side Football Tournament for boys was organized in our school. Sixteen CBSE schools participated in the tournamnet. To the delight of VM students, the Vidya Mandir B team emerged winners and the Vidya Mandir A team won the second place. The third place was taken by Chettinad Vidyashram. The individual winners were

**Best Player:** Abhinav Nair, Vidya Mandir  
**Promising Player:** Sriram V, Vidya Mandir  
**Top Scorer:** Sarthak Gupta, Chettinad Vidyashram

The campus was abuzz with activities on the rainy morning of 16th November. While students from classes KG to 8th standard were celebrating Project Day, the Computer Science Department and Commerce Club members were celebrating their cultural fests, Info-high and Commercium respectively.

**Project Day:** The Annual Project Day was inaugurated by Dr. K. Mohana, Principal, Modern Senior Secondary School, Nanganallur. The Chief Guest went on a tour of the project display and appreciated the creativity and hard work put in by the students. The colourful greeting cards put up for sale by the Arts Department, interviews of famous film personalities such as Kamala Hasan, K. Balachander and Arvind Swamy by our students, the "Vegetable and Fruits Dance" put up by the children of class V were some of the special attractions.

**Info-High:** The main events for the computer science fest included Programming (DO-IT), Quiz (TELL-IT), Power Point Presentation (SHOW-IT) and Web Designing (WEB-IT). With tough competition among the thirteen participating city schools, the overall trophy remained undecided till the last event of the day, Quiz. Finally, Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School emerged winner of Info-High 2013.

**Commercium:** Many city schools participated enthusiastically in the Commerce fest that had events such as Office space designing, Shipwreck and Mock Parliament. PSBB Nungambakkam bagged the first place followed by Bala Vidya Mandir and Siva Swami Kalalaya.

On 22nd November, our music club, SPAM, organized Harikatha by our class VI student, Varsha Bhuvaneshwari for its members. The one-hour rendering by the child prodigy had the audience enthralled both by the excellent rendering of the story "Vatsala Kalyanam" and for the selection and quality of her music.

On the 25th and 26th of November, the students of class X, along with their teachers, visited Neyveli Lignite Corporation. They were taken on a guided tour of three lignite mines by a geologist from NLC who explained to them the different stages in the working of mines. He also
narrated the history of how lignite was first discovered in Neyveli to the time Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited was set up as a Government of India Enterprise. They were also taken to a point where they got an excellent view of an opencast mine.

The music club, SPAM, organized its annual competitions on 27th Nov 2013. Students from classes 6 to 12 competed in vocal, percussion and instrumental music. This year, SPAM also introduced dance competitions in the junior and senior categories and it was very well received by the students with a lot of enthusiastic participation. The judges also performed short pieces for the students much to their delight. The principal distributed the prizes to the winners during the assembly.

On 27th November, Chennai Live FM (104.8) along with Westland Publishers organized an interactive program with authors, RamG Vallat (Oops! The Mighty Gurgle!) and Yamini Prashant (Mishti). Yamini Prasanth is a class 7 student of Vidya Mandir. The program was attended by the members of the Literary and Dramatics Club and Katha Club and it was facilitated by Jane, RJ of Chennai Live FM. This event was broadcasted in the "Book Show" program of Chennai Live FM on 30th November.

On 12th December, our school hosted Children's Musical Rhapsody, a program that aims to promote interest in music in children. It was organized by classical pianist, Mr. Anil Srinivasan, who is also an alumnus of our school. The students were treated to a violin concert by Shreya Devnath followed by an interactive session with Mandolin legends U.Srinivas and U.Rajesh. The event concluded with a song by our school orchestra.

Republic day was celebrated on 24th January. The principal hoisted the national flag and students presented patriotic songs, speeches and colourful dances. This was followed by the solemn Investiture ceremony. The new team of prefects led by Harshavardhan took over from the outgoing team headed by Mukilan.

Funfest celebrated on 25th and 26th January, is a much awaited event for VMites. The students along with their friends enthusiastically tried out different games at the game stalls - the new attractions being "Mirror Mirror on the Wall", "Touch me not" and "Water Zorb". The stalls offering tattoo, hair colouring, mehendi and the photo booth saw a lot of patronage. The food stalls were also constantly packed with students trying out the various delectable snacks and drinks.

On 30th January, the students of class 11 hosted a get-together to bid farewell to the outgoing class 12 students. Following games and high tea, the class 11 students entertained the gathering at Sripad Hall with popular songs and lively dances. The highlight of the evening was the competition for the prestigious titles of Mr. and Ms. VM. After some excellent display of
talents, Abhinava Shriram and Samyuktha Chandar were chosen Mr. VM and Ms. VM respectively.

On 31st January, the primary school celebrated their Annual Day. A melodious performance by the school orchestra set the tone for the evening. A spirited portrayal of "Alibaba and the forty thieves" by the little ones of class I was followed by the story of "The emperor who loved clothes" enacted by Class II students. The students of class III then took the audience "Around the world in eight minutes" by presenting vibrant dances from different parts of the world. The Tamil Play featured the story of Ayyappa while the Hindi Play featured a humorous tale of Akabar and Birbal. The English Play by the class IV students brought out the story of how thirteen became "The Baker's Dozen". The grand finale of the evening was the colorful Dance Drama depicting the story of Ramayana.

Founder's Day was celebrated on 3rd February. The Chief Guest for the function was Dr. Preetha Reddy, the Managing Director of Appolo Hospitals Group. In his address, Mr. Viji Santhanam, the President of the Managing Committee, recounted the tireless efforts made the founders and past principals to make Vidya Mandir one of the top schools of the city. He also appreciated Ms. Bhavani Raghunandan for her efforts as the principal, to take the school from strength to strength for the past 17 years. In her memorial oration, Dr. Preetha Reddy told the students how her school had taught her the importance of doing small things to perfection. She asked the students to make two promises - 1) to never forget the responsibility they have towards safeguarding the environment around them and 2) to never treat other health casually. She asked them to take good care of their health by avoiding junk food and getting adequate exercise and also asked them to take care of the health of their family members.

On 21st February, it was the turn of the kindergarteners to display their talents to doting parents, grandparents, family and friends. This year, the little ones performed dances featuring different parts of the body, the hectic schedules of a young child and the stories of Dumbo, the elephant, and that of a princess who loved to travel. The colourful costumes and the endearing performances of the tiny tots won the hearts of 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 28th March.

The school reopened for the new academic year (2014-2015) on 2nd April and will close for the summer on 18th April. The school reopens on June 3rd after the summer holidays.