Hi friends

I am Nedumaran of the 1975 batch “Cheeka’s batch to most of you. A few of us VM alumni have got together to revive the Alumni Association of our school. The great thing about Vidya Mandir is that, barring a few exceptions all of us have very warm feelings towards the school. This was on abundant display during the 1963-78 reunion almost exactly 3 years ago on September 5, 2000. With the golden jubilee of Vidya Mandir around the corner in 2006, now is the ideal time to reestablish old contacts and renew old ties not only amongst us but with the school as well.

Today the Internet makes it a lot easier to bring together people in different parts of the world and we too would like to make full use of this hence this e-newsletter, which should hopefully (with your support) become a monthly feature.

All right, what can each of us do? Simple:

(a) Get as many of your VM friends as you can to log on to www.vidya-mandir.com and register in the Alumni registry. There is also a year wise list of students who passed out and in case your name is not there please bring it to the notice of the webmaster.

(b) Send us nostalgic articles, general interest articles, pictures etc. etc., to be carried in future issues of this newsletter

(c) Give us suggestions on what activities you would like the alumni association to be doing and how the internet can be used to improve contacts

(d) If you are in Chennai and would like to volunteer to help organise alumni activities (see below) please let us know.

For a start, a few weeks ago, we got together alumni whose children are currently students at VM- these being the easiest to get hold of. About 60 turned up and were very positive about this revival proposal. Quite a few volunteered to help and hence a sort of informal committee has taken shape. This committee has been meeting pretty regularly (touchwood) and a lot of ideas are being thrown up. Watch this space for more action!

One of the (few) things that the Alumni association has been doing year after year thanks to the efforts of the past Alumni President Kamakoti (batch of 1965) is sponsor a state wide inter-school volley ball tournament. Now that he has stepped down after a valiant innings it is up to us to continue this tournament which is going to happen in October.

Following the 1963-78 meet mentioned earlier, the 1980-85 batches have decided to get together during the first weekend in December. (If you are from one of these years you might want to get in touch with Bhargav Sundaram (email: bhargavsundaram@vsnl.com) or Lakshmi Baliga (email: baligas@vsnl.net) and mark the dates in your diary.) This group, in addition to the get together is also planning an Alumni Vs Present school team fun cricket match on the morning of the get together. Â More sentimentally the next day the 1984 batch is planning a dawn-to-dusk
inter school Double wicket cricket tournament (a rarity these days) in memory of their classmate Gautam, a very promising first class cricketer who died last year of cancer.

Also on a sad note we regret the untimely passing away of our Vasudevan Sir, on the 8th of July. He was with us during the last reunion in 2000 and his death due to a heart attack was a real shock to us here. We will miss his ebullient and jovial presence.

That’s it for the moment. Please give me your feedback and most important - chip in and make the Alumni Association of Vidya Mandir a “happening” association.

Regards
Nedu