



# Saints Times



Volume 1 | September - November | 2018-19



# A Message from The Principal

My Dear Parents,

A Golden Jubilee celebration is indeed a momentous occasion to be cherished for a lifetime. Fifty Golden Years have passed for St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai and it is an honour for our Marian Family as we look back in deep gratitude for all those who have gone before us. Our theme for this Golden Jubilee Year is 'Cherishing the Past, Celebrating the Present, Championing the Future!' I would like to offer my thanks to each and every member of our Marian Family for your unwavering support for the school.

We are also so close to saying goodbye to the year 2018 and also to bid farewell to 'The Year of Zayed', as we remember with the deepest appreciation the benevolence and kindness of Baba Zayed.

It has been a packed three and a half months at SMCHS, Dubai and once again the children leave us in total wonderment at their capacity to be highly driven and energetic.

Christmas is my favourite time of the year. The bright lights and tinsel that decorate the tree are reflected in the young ones' excited and expectant eyes. The rest of us choose perhaps to remember the magic of our own childhood days, while focusing on how to best use the spirit of the season to remain in peace and harmony with one another.

This is a joyous time, a time for reflection, a time to celebrate the achievements of our children and a time to be hopeful for a year ahead that will be filled with endless opportunities for learning and for them to showcase their many talents.

I wish you all Seasons' Greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year.

Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
(Principal)



# GOLDEN JUBILEE INAUGURAL CELEBRATION

*Cherishing the Past, Celebrating the Present, Championing the Future!*



A 'school' is commonly defined as an institution for educating children. The students and teachers of St Mary's however, have always known that these buildings, having prospered for 50 years, meant something much more.

Founded in 1968, St Mary's Catholic High School Dubai was a work of miracles from its very inception. This school has blossomed from its humble beginnings into an institution that continues to fulfil its mission to "*Serve with compassion to develop a deep sense of integrity,*

*mutual respect and tolerance*"; all to ensure that each and every student, from all backgrounds, is allowed to "*holistically develop as successful learners and responsible citizens.*"



Fittingly, the halls of our school were painted with shades and hues of gold: golden balloons, golden streamers, golden banners – you name it! It was such an honour for us, the students, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Inaugural Celebration of St Mary's with Bishop Paul Hinder, Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia. His message for the student body was filled with promise for a bright future for the school, and praise for the legacy of the past and the present school's management, faculty and students. It truly made the experience memorable and unforgettable.

And of course, as with most celebrations as sweet as this, we had to share in a slice of cake! Everyone gathered in the school quadrangle to celebrate this momentous occasion - the principal, vice principal, respected teachers and the proud ambassadors of St. Mary's Catholic High School, as well as the students.



The harmonious singing of our school song filled the vicinity of the boys and girls quadrangles, and the unity of the Marian family felt proud and true, in that very moment.

Perhaps best expressed by our Head of English, Mrs. Viji D'Silva, *"The singing of the school anthem was an inspiration to champion the challenges to learn as we give and receive."* When the senior leadership team came together to cut the cake, many understood the emphatic meaning behind it: during the 50 years our establishment has prevailed, we have faced a multitude of obstacles, both large and small. Even still, true to the Marian spirit, our faculty and students alike have never given up. We have learned to face challenges head on. Our school is a true testament of this legacy.

*"The balloon release that concluded the inaugural ceremony was an absolute delight,"* our beloved Secondary School English Language and Literature teacher Mrs. Marissa Bennet exclaimed; and indeed it was. The balloons in the sky seemed to represent the rise of a long awaited phoenix, reborn after 50 years of learning, growth and discovery, reflecting on and then rejoicing in its own accomplishments. The act of releasing the balloons stood for everything we are as a school, swelling with knowledge during our academic careers and finally being released into the world, making it a brighter, more charming place to live and learn in.

Amidst the celebration, the students surely were not forgotten. Just when everyone thought the inaugural golden jubilee celebrations were over, and that the teachers had returned to the mundane regime of their hectic class schedules, there was a surprising array of treats to satisfy everyone's major cravings. Incorporating the multicultural society that resides in our school, our principal Mr Paul Joseph had seen it fit to treat the students to an ethnically diverse meal pack. The students were ecstatic and upon collecting their token of appreciation, as they all sat down immediately and enjoyed their well-deserved treat. The delicacies gave us students the chance to reflect on how much St. Mary's Catholic High had done for its community over the past fifty years. The school has yet again



managed to give back to the dedicated student body and members of faculty, showing their compassion and spirit of giving amongst the leadership team.

Our Math teacher, Mrs. Asha Binny, having completed 23 years St Mary's, passionately confides her pride and reverence for this joyous event. She has complete faith in the past, present and future students, that they will be *"successful leaders who will bring a culture of peace and love in our society."* The famous American poet James Russell Lowell once emphatically wrote,

***"As life runs on, the road grows strange with faces anew – and near the end. The milestones into headstones change, 'neath every one a friend."***

The 50 year pinnacle undoubtedly gives rise to new beginnings and an era of improved learning and growth, but as we go to fulfil further milestones, we maintain our plight and efforts to do so as a community; as the Marian family.

Here's to celebrating 50 more years of a legacy worth holding on to, a legacy worth dedicating our lives to, and a legacy worth fighting for.



# GRADUATION 2018



*The air was filled with electricity and adrenaline as the Class of 2018 made their way into the school, which they had known as home for eleven years. This particular batch of students were infamous for their ever-present wit and charm, but most importantly, for their ambition and their drive for success. Having faced the worst and the best that the GCSEs had to offer, these young men and women were ready to complete their final rite of passage at St Mary's Catholic High School.*

*It was a bright, humid afternoon on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November; the weather however, was the last thing on the graduates' minds as they nervously adjusted the lapels of their suit jackets, and practiced walking straight lines in their brand new stilettos. The scene behind the curtains of the Bishop Bernard Gremoli Hall stage was one of comical flurry: student volunteers running back and forth with certificates and placards and banners, our vice principal Mrs. Lise Ann organizing the final touches on the stage and the programme, graduates sneaking into the hall and being chased out, simultaneously.*

*Despite the timely chaos, there was a sense of excitement in the air; Fifty Golden Years at St Mary's entailed an occasion of the highest grandeur. Gold coloured fairy lights decorated the ceilings of the entrance of the hall, balloons of gold and blue and white filled the hall, and the spectacular backdrop (created by St Mary's very own collective of Art students, with the help of Mrs. Sandhya, Secondary School Art Teacher, and Mrs. Sharon, Primary School Art Teacher) shone brightly.*

*With the greatly appreciated help and consideration from our beloved teachers (from missed classes to helping us catch up - we owe them the world!), the Class of 2018 took the initiative to plan, perform and participate in our own graduation. The hectic and strenuous practices that preceded the final event were highly valued; to the ex-Saints that took the time to make our graduation even more special - we are grateful.*

*The night began with an opening performance from our primary section, where they graced the audience with Buchaechum- the tranquil of it all did calm our nerves in the slightest bit - and evolved to the amusing and lively Gangnam Style, which definitely won the audience's hearts.*





Shortly afterwards, the audience of the Graduation Ceremony were reminded of the diversity and amalgamation of cultures that make St Mary's what it truly is: "a melting pot of talent," as our beloved Vice Principal Mrs Lise-Ann Watts Pinto often describes. This was evident by the tasteful Sri Lankan dance, which included the graduating girls, ex-students and students from the lower grades, who cumulatively did not fail to mesmerize the crowd with their rhythmic gestures and moves! To add to this flavorful variety, the Sri Lankan dance was then followed by a dance by the Filipino girls from the graduating batch and the lower grade, which astounded us with their burst of talent displayed through their spectacular and swift steps.



Every graduation, year after year, we struggle to pause and take a deep breath; reflect on the incredible year that we have all prospered through. Needless to say, the wise words of our teachers and leadership team helped us remember this important step in our graduation. This year was no exception, as Mr Paul, Bishop Paul Hinder, as well as Dr Al Kindi, took to the stage to share their words of wisdom, advice and love, which we intend to keep in our hearts and use as a guiding light for the rest of our endeavors.

With the air of nostalgia quite prevalent in the air, it seemed like a fitting time to share the Graduation Video: an collection of precious memories from the past and present, a very special poem written by our very own Rizvi Azeem to narrate the story of our school lives, right from the first grade, and to add our unique Class of 2018 spot of colour, the Mob dance compilation that included the entire batch coming together to (attempt to) create something special of our final days together.

Then, the moment which we were all waiting for arrived, after much anticipation. It seemed to speed through the night, much faster than we expected. Sweat on our brows, hearts beating erratically, we made our way across the stage from the wonky legs of the wings, as we have done many times before. The Roll Call of the Girls was announced by Mrs. Viji D'Silva, and



*presented by Bishop Paul with Sister Archana. This was followed by the Roll Call of the Boys, announced by Mrs. Marissa Bennet, and presented by Dr Al Kindi and Mr Paul.*



*The crowd became more aroused as it was finally time to call upon the Merit Achievers of the Class of 2018, of which for girls was announced by Mrs. Asha, Mathematics teacher of Secondary School, and presented by Bishop Paul Hinder and Mr Paul. The boys were called upon by Mrs. Amy, Senior School Guidance Counselor, and presented by Dr Al Kindi and Mr Paul. Finally, Mr. Warren D'Souza, our Senior School Section Head, announced the graduates who secured the top three positions among the boys and the girls for the year 2018:*

**1<sup>st</sup>** - Alastair Dale Correya and Lance Gragasín

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - Sanyu D'souza

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - Ahmad Siddiqi

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**1<sup>st</sup>** - Janine Fernandes and Karin Kingston

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - Marushka DeSouza

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - Malaika Vaidya, Tasneem AbdulMajid and Mosammat Allin Sanzana

*Every once in a while however, a few students seem to travel the extra mile and achieve something extraordinary. It brought great pride to the teachers as well as the students of St Mary's to announce the six Pearson Outstanding*

*Achiever Awards, presented by Mrs. Vichitra Gabriella, Pearson Examinations Officer. The winners included:*

1. Karin Abrena Kingston
  - *Highest in the World for GCSE English Literature*
2. Janine Maria Fernandes
  - *Highest in the World for GCSE English Literature*
3. Tanya Jessica D'Souza
  - *Highest in the World for GCSE English Language*
4. Alastair Dale Correya
  - *Highest in the Middle East for GCSE French*
5. Marushka Savia DeSouza
  - *Highest in the Middle East for IGCSE Accounts*
6. Ahmad Siddiqi
  - *Highest in the Middle East for IGCSE ICT*

*Shortly after, elated from yet another outstanding achievement under his belt, the Class of 2018's valedictorian and current Head Boy Alastair Dale Correya delivered one of his infamously humorous speeches, reminding the graduates once again of how far we have come, and how much farther we can go.*

*Indeed, to appreciate how far we have progressed forward, it is important to remember the incredible group people who helped us get there. Our vote of thanks to the honorary guests was announced by Mrs. Rose Libreja. Tokens of appreciation were handed to the teachers and staff by the graduates promptly afterwards.*



*The elated atmosphere was expeditiously succeeded by yet another display of talent by our graceful ballerinas who went on to merge with an exciting collection of contemporary dancers. Together, they really depicted the many*



*talents that Saintz students have and always will possess. For being gracious enough to share their talents, we commend the graduates who choreographed the dances, and sacrificed their time and energy to make our night really special.*



*Last but not least, in true St Marian fashion, we closed the night with a celebration of song. With the help of the talented Mrs. Delushie, our music teacher, selected members of the school choir, and some very talented grade elevens, the Class of 2018 performed the passionate ballad "This is Me" - a take on Keala Settle's original rendition from the movie-musical "The Greatest Showman." It was an extraordinary display of musical prowess; the refined instrumental skill sets combined with the passionate voices belting out the lyrics truly made for the greatest show!*

*Before we knew it, the curtains drew to a close. Needless to say, the night was one filled with joy, laughter and tears. To have journeyed through 11 years together, defying all obstacles that encumbered our path and emerging victorious, it is evident that the Class of 2018 will continue to push through every barrier and conquer every endeavor they seek. After all, "The End Crowns the Work."*

## *Merit Achievers*



***Girls:** Janine Fernandes, Karin Kingston, Marushka DeSouza, Malaika Vaidya, Tasneem Abdulmajid, Mosammat Allin Sanzana, Shania Dessa, Ayezza Marajas, Megan Rodrigues, Tanya D'souza, Rachel D'souza, Andrea Pereira, Judith Ratanayake, Pritika Tilokani, Inoshi Nilmika, Haya Imtiaz, Althea Retig, Rheia Desai, Ann Matthews, Leann Pinheiro*

***Absent from the pictures:** Asl Abunayla and Katherine Alberto*



***Boys:** Alastair Correya, Lance Gragasín, Sanyu D'souza, Ahmad Siddiqi, Devesh Bapat, Karan Srikrishna, Mahima De Alwis, Raphael D'souza, Dylan Silveira*

***Absent from the pictures:** Dinesh Kumar and Justin Varghese*



# Prefect Investiture Ceremony - 2018



***“The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves”***

In the 50th year of St.Mary’s Catholic High School, the senior prefect investiture holds a certain significance to the entire school body. On the 30th of September, 2018, the entirety of the 11th and 12th grade were part of this auspicious event, with a total of a hundred students titles as prefects for the academic year of 2018-19.

The entrance procession began the ceremony, with the prefects of year 11 and 12 leading the procession. The house/ vice captains entered next, followed by assistant leaders as well as the Headgirl and Headboy, with all carrying respective flags. The Head girl Malaika Vaidya and the Head boy Alastair Correya received their duties with a sense of pride, and established their roles through the oath taking and badging ceremony. While holding the school flag, they vowed to serve and protect the school, and to accept the responsibility they were handed.



To be of dutiful assistance to both the Head girl and Head boy, Assistant Head girls- Janine Fernandes and Tanya D’souza- and Assistant Head Boys- Raphael D’souza and Andrew Bastians- pledged their support and willingness to help not only the heads, but the entire prefect body.



The Sports Captains then followed with their badging and oath taking, the 'Magical and Peaceful' house of Unicorn is led by their captains Cleon Draper and Andrea Pereira, as well as vice captains Moinul Alam and Bianca Desouza are set to build sportsmanship and unity between themselves and others.



The 'Legendary' house of Gryffon had their flags held out by their captains Joshua De Guzman and Megan Rodrigues, with the assistance of their vice captains Kevin D'cunha and Marushka D'souza, as they pledged to strive to achieve the goals set to them as leaders.

Showcasing our schools importance for resilience and absolute determination, are our captains: Mathisha Pasan and Rachel Dsouza, and vice captains: Tim Vinod and Samantha Gonsalves, of the house of the 'Immortal' Phoenix, pledging to rise from situations just like the Phoenix rises from the ashes.



Portraying the remarkable qualities of their mascot; the 'Swift' Pegasus, captains: Dave Menezes and Elizabeth George, and vice captains: Daniel Cardoz and Hannah Dsouza vow to work as mediators and motivators to the student body in quick decision-making.



After the heads and assistants received their badges, the time had come for the prefects of academic year 2018 – 2019 to recite the oath that they would keep in



their hearts, minds and souls when they serve the school to keep the school ordered and organized at every moment of the academic year. The prefects raised their right hand as they recited the oath, with great pride and honour, vowing to accept the responsibility and authority handed to them.

Following this, proud parents of the prefects came to the stage to badge them when the prefect's name was declared, showcasing a moment of family pride. A total of 90 seniors (both boys and girls) were declared as prefects of the year 2018-19.

This was followed by inspiring speeches from the head girl and head boy, both of whom spoke of two extremely important values for prefects: responsibility and leadership. The Head Girl, Malaika Vaidya, delivered a speech about knowing oneself before helping others, and urged her prefect body to do the same, while the Head Boy Alastair Correya proceeded to deliver a humorous but inspiring speech, pushing his prefect body to carry the duties given to them with pride. The ceremony was concluded by a short solo-dance performance by Kushali, from 9A, with a combination of ballet and contemporary that wowed the audience.

Overall, the ceremony ended as an impeccable success, with each prefect's smile shining as bright as their badges, and heads held high with the sense of respect they carried. With their responsibility in mind, they hope to cherish the past, celebrate the present and champion the future in all aspects of life.



Malaika Vaidya, Andrew Ryan, Kimberly Aranjo and Sanyu D'souza

# Sports News 2018 - 2019

## BASKETBALL

Heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Mayweather Jr once said, "A true champion can adapt to anything." This inspiration rings true for our very own champions, the Saintz Basketball team!

Our Junior Team participated in the GMA Interschool Basketball Tournament (U-14) organized by the GEMS Modern Academy between 30th October and 15th November 2018 and were victorious, winning the championship, after hours of dedicated practice and work.

In the league round they played against Our Own High School (Al Warqa), Dehli Private School (Sharjah) and The Millennium School, Dubai. Expectantly, our young boys, with sweat on their brows and their hearts on their sleeves, won all the matches!

In the Quarter finals they played against NIMS Sharjah and demolished the competition, with a score of **81 - 18**, followed by the semifinals where they played against St. Mary's Muhaisnah and won **78 - 56**.

During the Finals on 15 November 2018, they battled it out for the ultimate title on the basketball court against DPS Sharjah and won the championship **112 - 31**. The 112 points scored is the all-time record in UAE Interschool Basketball that will go down in history, and the prized efforts of our junior basketball team have brought great pride and valor to the St Mary's School's name and legacy. Congratulations boys!





### The Players:

*Lenon Ramos (Captain), Kien Aclan (Vice Captain), John Addison Endoso, Dylan Munoz, John Paul Ygnacio, Juan Jarred, Angelito Gabriel, Miguel Angeles, Achilles Maling, Minuka Pathirage, Ralf Baysa, Eudric Bryce Hernandez*

### **Coach: Mr. Christopher Chandra**

#### **- Zest Manipal University Sports Festival (Junior Team):**

Quarter final St. Mary's Vs The Winchester School, Jebel Ali, won 24-22

Semi Final St. Mary's Dubai Vs St. Mary's Muhaisnah, won 44-32

Final St. Mary's Vs DPS Dubai, won the Championship 37-22

### The Players:

*Kien Aclan, Rafael Reyes, Aldrine Gomez, Russel Rodrigues, Joshua Lim, Joshua Dsouza, Lenon Ramos, Om Raje, John Vincent Gimenez, Orlando Perera, Shenel Rebeiro, John Allen Maravillas*

#### **- TMS (Senior Team):**

Saturday 27-10-2018

St. Mary's Vs Bright Riders

Won 50-22

Sunday 28-10-2018

St. Mary's vs DPS SHJ

Lost 42- 51

#### **- DPS Sharjah Sundeep Batavia Memorial Tournament (Senior Team):**

29-10-2018 St. Mary's Vs Ambassador, won 65-41

31-10-2018 St. Mary's Vs Indian High, won 47-43

Quarterfinal St. Mary's Vs GEMS Winchester School, lost 43-42

### The Players:

*Kien Aclan, Cleon Draper, Rolando Perera, Joshua De Guzman, Prabash Desilva, Joshua Lim, Joshua D'souza, Russel Rodrigues, Lenon Ramos, Om Raje, John Vincent Gimenez, Orlando Perera, Aaron Agawin, Alastair Correya*





Both senior as well junior Girls basketball teams made it to the finals in the Manipal University, ZEST Sports Festival tournament, with their long hours of hard work finally paying off. Unfortunately, our Senior team missed 1<sup>st</sup> place by a meagre few points, winning runners up for the tournament. However, our capable Junior team won the tournament with a grand lead of almost 15 points against their opponents.

- Basketball Team Senior Girls Won the runners up in ZEST Sports Festival
- Basketball Team Senior Girls Won the Runners up in GMA Sports Festival
- Basketball Team Junior Girls Won the Championship in ZEST Sports Festival



**The Players:**

*Rhem Hart, Krista dos Santos, Katrina Aliza, Andrea D'silva, Trisha Pais, Rachel D'souza, Mariam Anna, Bianca Mammen, Nicole D'souza, Shania D'costa, Dya Kapoor*

*Mikayla Rodrigues, Sumiksha Chakraborty, Malaika De Souza, Patricia Pasia, Myke Cabarloc, Mirielle Rulloda, Seleena Beverly, Joanne Ferrao, Hayley Viegas*

***Coach: Mrs. Aevelyn Maria Jean***



## **VOLLEYBALL**



Our Boys Volleyball team competed in the **Victoria Tournament**, winning the quarter-finals against Woodlem Park Ajman, and a crushing win against NIMS SHJ in the semi-finals. The finals was a disappointing but well-fought game against NIMS DXB to win Runners Up.

We also participated in the St. Mary's Church Festival.

### **The Players:**

*Stefan Crasto, Giles Alva, Kevin D'cunha, Daniel Cardoz, Trevor Fernandes, Ayaan Afzal, Revidu Induvara, Deshan Wijesinghe, Joseph George, Ali, Alden Jack*

In the ZEST Sports Festival Held at Manipal, our boys beat Habitat School in the quarter-finals, and semifinals was cleared with a win against Winchester DXB. Finals was a loss against NIMS DXB, winning First Runners up. Congrats to our boys!



### **The Players:**

*Stefan Crasto, Kevin Dcunha, Mathisha Pasan, Daniel Cardoz, Giles Alva , Ayaan Afzal*

*Christopher James, Thushan Thenabadu, Shane Rodriguez, Jeff Lewis, John Paul*

***Coach: Mr. Alan Moses***



Never a team to back down from a challenge, our Saintz Girls Volleyball Team participated in the ZEST Sports Festival organized by Manipal University where they won with a score of 18-15 against DPS Sharjah and clinched the final game, 15-8, against NIMS Dubai, bringing home the trophy. Congrats to our girls for yet another outstanding performance!



**The Players:**

*Karelle Villacampa, Angela Pasajol, Pia Pasia, Ishara Sewwandi, Leanne Fernandez, Maria Navarra, Olisa Rebello, Rochelle Deanna, Josna Ouseppachan*

***Coach: Mrs. Liza Mantalaba***



## **FOOTBALL**

The Junior Team played the GMA Tournament where they made it till the quarter-finals.



The Senior Team participated in multiple tournaments; the St. Mary's Church Sports Festival, Skyline Tournament and Our Own Sharjah Tournament. Unfortunately, with the tough competition the boys didn't make it to the finals. Better luck next time, boys!

### **The Players:**

*Dwayne Almeida, Chanuth Ranasinghe, David Almeida, Shawn Rodrigues, Calwyn Pereira, Jackson Lyall, Nigel Gonsalves, Leander Nazareth*

*Rehan Deminha, Kridge Gonsalves, Aaron Nazareth, Keenan Noronha, Moinul Alam, Maconnell Fernandes, Hayden Viegas, Reagan Ramos*

***Coach: Mr. Joshua Rajarathinam***

The senior Girls Football Team played in the GMA Tournament, organized by GEMS Modern Academy. Following successive victories group stages, they made it through to the semifinals to face against the home team GMA, but lost in a tight game with a score 3-2.



**The Players:**

*Ana Rodrigues, Elizabeth George, Ranya Lobo, Rhea Pasto, Michelle Pudda, Adrienne Nicole, Renee Colaco, Nicole Maged Nicole Mendes, Alyson Dias, Katrina Caguiat, Denita Barboza, Maryann Saldanha, Jessica Fernandes*

***Coach: Mrs. Shermil Fredita***



# PRIMARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

MORNINGS OF CELEBRATION AND FUN!









## **PRIMARY PREFECTS INVESTITURE CEREMONY**

***‘If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.’ – John Quincy Adams***

St Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai held its Primary Prefect Investiture Ceremony for its Golden Jubilee Year (2018-2019) on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 under the theme: Cherishing the Past! Celebrating the Present! Championing the Future!

The event, which was held at the Bishop Gremoli Main Hall, kicked off at 8.00 am with a procession led by the Head Boy Alastair Correya and Head Girl Malaika Vaidya, closely followed by the newly elected prefects, all carrying candles, while their Senior Leadership Team, teachers, friends and family members watched with pride. The prayer song was sung by a group of Year 5 students.

Ms. Rose Libreja-Yater, the head of the Primary Section, called upon the Principal, Mr. Paul Asir Joseph, to give the welcome address. He commended the elected leaders for being selected and called upon every member of the team to strive to serve the school well by being models of exemplary behaviour. Head Boy Alastair and Head Girl Malaika delivered inspiring speeches in which the newly elected prefects were made aware of the challenges ahead and were encouraged to cherish the rich legacy of values which is an integral part of St. Mary's, before passing them on to their juniors.

The ceremony was further highlighted with the much-anticipated moment when the new prefects took the oath, promising to uphold the values and principles of the school and the duties bestowed on them. Kyle Fernando was recognized as Captain for the boys and Rosy Leo as Captain for the girls. The eloquent speeches that they delivered thereafter were meant to inspire their peers to work together with

them to make the school a wonderful place. The honor of pinning the badges on all the prefects was given to the proud parents of each student. A meaningful song was sung by Year 4C about self-acceptance and leadership. The ceremony ended with a warm Vote of Thanks by Sr. Mary Barboza. Afterwards, light refreshments were served to the parents and other guests.

By the end of the ceremony, each of the 34 Primary Prefects were ready to work together in their leadership roles, to make a difference in the Primary section of the school.





# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

When one stands at the podium, everything else fades into the background. All you have is your research on a paper in front of you and a microphone in your hand.

Silence.

When you stand at the podium all the courage, passion and wit you can muster will be used to do one simple thing: to speak. A MUN conference is where you have to attain the courage to speak, and it is probably the greatest achievement you can get in-front of a room of 30 unknown faces, speaking on a burning global issue and recognizing the different parts of reality. Yet, year on year, delegates show that they are capable of rising to the challenge and become inspirations for those around them. For Maya Angelou once said,

**“If you can speak, you can influence. And if you can influence you can change lives”**

This year, 30 students from The Saint Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai participated in the Model United Nations conference hosted by The Winchester School, Jebel Ali on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018, where all likeminded, intellectual individuals gathered around in a large space in order to cohesively debate on a trending subject

The delegation consisted of the coordinators and coaches, Darren Noronha and Nikhil Perera representing the 13<sup>th</sup> grade along with a fresh and vibrant group of newcomers mainly from the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. From these 30 delegates, the entire school community was overjoyed to learn of the fact that 5 delegates received individual awards, an amazing achievement that cannot be overstated.

The prizes were awarded to:

- Rizvi Aseem (Best Speaker)
- Darren Noronha (Best Delegate)
- Arun Siby (Best Position Paper)
- Alastair Correya (Best Resolution Paper)
- Elizabeth George (Best Position Paper)



Winning prizes in such a competitive conference is no small feat and this is indeed a testament to the dedication, hard work and skills of the winners.



The remarkable thing about WINMUN 2018 was the multitude of fresh faces that were eager to make their mark. 25 delegates that had never been to a previous conference, but the one thing that was common among all of the participants was the eagerness and excitement to portray their skills to the rest of the world. The journey from the initial registration to the final day of the conference could be described as a 30-day rollercoaster of a ride. Juggling school work and position paper deadlines, the delegates had to sacrifice many sleepless nights of never-ending research, hours of reading news bulletins and days of deciding what to wear only for this final day, where all their abilities would finally, be tested.

The two coaches certainly made the preparation easier with tips and advice and even holding a mock committee session. Nevertheless, when the day finally came, our hearts repetitively pulsing but regardless of the fear, we all ventured on and gave it our all.

There were fights, arguments, scuffles and rivalries - the competition was fierce. The delegates were put to the test both in the way that they could convey their country's point of view and in the way that they interact and form ties with other country's representatives. Rivalries and allies alike were made on the committee floor; roaring speeches and damning revelations of facts peppered the proceedings and made sure that not a single moment was made dull during the ever so formal debate.

Our delegates had to argue, debate and negotiate their way through a plethora of formalities and rules of procedure that took a week to only memorize and we would still have some difficulty getting our point across, but we still did it.

However we prevailed, emerging as one of the top schools in the conference behind Our Own High School and Dubai Scholars. The whole experience from start to finish, whilst long and arduous, was in the end, extremely rewarding. Every single one of the newly minted delegates emerged from the conference a little different from when they entered, both in the way that they view reality and understand world events in a way in which they could contribute to reality in order for the world to be a better place.





WINMUN 2018 is the fourth MUN conference that the school has participated in, and the first of this academic year, and from the small group of 20 delegates that started it all in 2017, the school is now home to a vibrant and proactive MUN community that currently consists of over 60 delegates participating in multiple conferences with a junior committee in the works.



The inspiration for this growing group of budding delegates can be traced back to winning the Best Delegation award in the very first conference that the school participated in, WINMUN 2017, a truly pivotal moment in the school's history.

The success of that conference had a definite ripple effect on the school, and opened a new avenue for young public speakers to express their skills.

A MUN gives a person more than just a platform to showcase a student's debate skills; it provides a doorway into a greater understanding of our rapidly changing world. An understanding that was all viewed from just the formation of small committees that consisted of topics such as politics, social discrepancies, finance, cyber security, laws, and so forth.

A MUN will make you understand and appreciate the world we live in and the important discussions that are made to make it that way, or even change it for the better. All in all, WINMUN 2018 was a resounding success. We didn't win the best delegation trophy, but what we achieved was a relationship between the delegates, which is something far greater than just a bustling debate community. Our inspiration stems from our efforts to represent our school for the honorable institution it is.





# Cemetery Clean-up

In an effort to encourage community service and put to action moral values, the boys from Year 8 of St. Mary's Catholic High School took part in a cleanup drive at Al Jaddaf Cemetery on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The school collaborated with St. Mary's Catholic Church in order to use this opportunity to facilitate the students' active interest in playing their part in society.



Being nurtured over the years, the students were prepared beforehand on the importance of the task that lay ahead, and more importantly, the significance behind it. Maintaining the resting place of those who have gone before them, the students were well aware of the reverence that was required throughout the entirety of the drive. Nevertheless, the determination and subtle

enthusiasm lingered within them.

On arrival to the cemetery, the students were divided into groups to improve the smooth functioning of the drive and were allocated their tasks. With minimal guidance from the teachers, the boys went about dusting, sweeping and cleaning the granite surfaces of the graves. While the surrounding sand, blazing morning sun and stubborn weeds increased the difficulty of their task, their determination continued to remain strong as they proceeded confidently. What was initially a simple act of community service soon became a mark of respect for those who are no longer in our midst.



Upon completion and with a sense of accomplishment, the students said a small prayer before returning back to school. Indeed the experience had taught them a key value which they could practice in their everyday lives - the need to respect and think about those who have died and reflect on the dead, in order to value the gift of life.



# International University Fair 2018

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As young students at the cusp of our academic adventures in school, the thought of flying the nest sooner than later can be overwhelming. For most students this means packing up boxes of memories from school, and starting a new chapter at university.

To aid with this transition from our fairly routine school lives to that of bustling university students, our school held it's second international university fair for Years 10 to 13 in the Bishop Gremoli Hall.

The first segment held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September featured 50 UK universities. Students were allotted specific time slots as per their year group to explore the fair, and interact with representatives from different UK based universities. The fair allowed most of us to come face to face with application procedures, university funding, and courses that truly align with our passions. One of St. Mary's alumnus, ex-student Ebbin Binny, gave us a better understanding of the transition from a high school student in the UAE to esteemed colleges in the UK such as University of Loughborough. We left the first fair feeling motivated to achieve the grades that may sometimes appear to be impossible.



20 Universities from the USA were next to set up camp on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Representatives from some of the top universities, including University of California Berkeley and Creighton University were present to shed light on improving applications. Several students attended the fair and were familiarised with external examinations such as the SATs, extra-curricular activities and grade requirements, all of which would boost their admission chances.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, we welcomed 25 local universities in the UAE. This gave several students an insight into the prospective educational landscape the UAE has to offer.

Students engaged with representatives to discuss application criteria, course details, and scholarship opportunities, and returned informed about the UAE's drive to be amongst the best in higher education.



The final set of 20 universities from Canada came to the school on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. Many students viewed their higher studies in the country as a bridge to settling abroad, and so were eager to gain as much information from top Canadian universities such as University of Waterloo, York University and University of Alberta. Surprised at the wide range of courses offered throughout the country, the students were made aware on the importance of their grades,

especially for A Levels, in order to successfully gain admission into universities in Canada.

Our school's effort in bridging the gap between students and their future allowed each of us to grasp the responsibilities that come with independence, aside from its privileges. It served as a reminder that it was high time that students focused on a career path and sought ways to attain it. Each of us today is more mindful of the life we aspire to create for ourselves, and must start working towards it – because we now know that change is a long, transforming process; not an instant shift.



# PINK DAY

*“We all stood in somber silence. We knew the reason for being assembled here: to support the worldwide cause; to think PINK”*

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the students and staff of St. Mary's Catholic High School celebrated 'Pink Day' to raise awareness and support brave women around the world who fight against breast cancer or had overcome it. The students and staff were dressed in different hues of pink to show their heartfelt admiration for those who had overcome breast cancer and continued to live with grace and dignity.

The day began with a short prayer for each fighter of breast cancer, to give them hope, resilience and a speedy recovery. We stood there together to appreciate the women who had fought the tense battle against breast cancer and we said a silent prayer for every



woman who had lost in the merciless race against death. We celebrated the resilience of the many brave women who stand as examples of hope for those who constantly fight this battle

Not only were the St. Mary's family decked up in pink, but even the hallways of the school were decorated with pink banners to show appreciation of the preserving spirit,



undying courage and the true strength of the victims.

The students of Year 9 and Year 10 students showed their

enthusiasm, by putting together vibrant stalls consisting of games and food during the break. The stalls attracted students from all year groups, accompanied by their teachers. The funds raised would be sent to foundations for treatments to heal the tumors that cause breast cancer and to help those who are unable to afford the medical expenses and burdens that come with this illness.



Together as a school community, we celebrated the stories of strong women and their willpower to fight cancer instead of succumbing to the illness. As the day passed, so did the fun, food and the games. But one collective emotion outlived the celebrations. It did not fade, it lingered on: Hope.



## Curtin University Dubai Business Cup Challenge 2018

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2018, the students of Year 12 took part in a Business Competition which was offered by Curtin University Dubai and this year's competition focused on blockchain technology as well as the use of cryptocurrency in businesses. It was a competition that lasted a month and was well contested throughout.

The interschool competition brought together 50 schools with 117 teams participating; as a result there was a competitive spirit which was felt until the Finals. Each team could have four to seven members from Grades 10 to 13 and each school could send up to four teams. Students were required to review real-world business cases, make business plans, analyze crucial business situations and present a case to an academic and professional panel of judges. Students were given an opportunity to work in a team which allowed them to use their critical-thinking and problem solving skills along with business acumen to solve issues which were found specific to the UAE.

St.Mary's had 4 teams participating each having at least 7 members with a total of 27 students representing the school, they include:

Future Billionaires (4<sup>th</sup> rank) - Team Leader: Richard Francis with Hannah D'souza, Mahima De Alwis, Pritika Tilokani, Ranya Lobo, Raphael D'souza and Soha Ahmed.

Crypto Tigers (9<sup>th</sup> rank) - Team Leader: Elizabeth George with Annora D'Souza, Bianca D'Souza, Karl Mendonca, Marushka DeSouza, Samantha Gonsalves and Tanya D'Souza.

The Capitalists (33<sup>rd</sup> rank) - Team Leader: Rithmi Akithma with Aaron Nazareth, Althea Retig, Joshua D'souza, Muhammad Ayaan, Nathan Mendes and Sherry Pithawalla.

Sparks (44<sup>th</sup> rank) - Team Leader: Rushad Patel with Ahmad Siddiqui, Laveesh Lilaramani, Megan Rodrigues, Mellanie Conceicao and Mustaheel Zaki.

This added to the effort that was put in to making all the cases unique and as best fit for the scenario to be solved by providing the necessary solutions.

The preliminary rounds were composed of three case studies that were sent online to the respective team leaders of the teams over the course of three weeks. Each week, a new case study was released and teams were asked to solve the case within one week and submit their answers every Thursday in order to earn a cumulative score which was reflected on the leaderboard and was dynamic throughout the long month of hard work; courtesy of the late submissions at times as the deadline would be at 12 in the afternoon. On the day of the submission of the fourth and final case study, it was on the same day that we had the Parent Teachers Meeting that hindered some of our efforts of uploading our answers on time. Luckily there was an extension of about two hours and so all the teams were able to submit the case studies in the last 10 minutes before the deadline. It was an intense yet enriching experience to see almost all of us trying to send the web transfer at about the same time. Pressure built up that day but we were able to face it head on.





“The Business Cup Challenge differs from a one-day competition as it focuses equally on learning as well as imparting skills necessary in real-life businesses. The objective behind this four week initiative is to prepare school leavers for the real world as they embark on a journey into the working world. Students not only compete but also learn with each case study”, said Mr Daniel Adkins CEO, Curtin University Dubai’s Academic Infrastructure Provider, Transnational Academic Group.



Participating students received not only scores but in-depth feedback as well on each case study submitted online; this provided great help to many teams which allowed them to further improve on their answers as the weeks went by. At the end of week three, the top 8<sup>th</sup> ranked teams moved directly into the final round to present the fourth case study on the day of the final ( 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2018) which took place in the Emirates Institute for Banking and Financial Studies in Dubai International Academic City.

One of the teams from our school made it to the final round by default as the Future Billionaires secured the 4<sup>th</sup> rank and were able to present their case study which lasted 10 minutes in front of the esteemed panel of judges and the other teams who looked on from their seats. Those 10 minutes went out as fast as we had finished all the Hunter Foods Gourmet Chips that was provided to us during the lunch break. The slides went one after the other as the grit was shown from the Future Billionaires throughout their presentation; it was captivating to see how well coordinated the students were in being able to talk about the use of blockchain technology to impact the education industry.





The remaining three teams and the rest of the competition went through the elevator pitch round for the finals, and two winners from that round joined the top 8<sup>th</sup> ranked teams for the presentation round as well. The elevator pitch round, presented by one team member for 40 seconds to pitch a business idea, served as a second life-line for the rest of the teams to make it to the final presentation round but sadly none of the remaining three teams were able to qualify from our school.



After the long wait of all the elevator pitches and presentations; it was finally over and the top three teams were announced by Mr. Daniel Adkins on stage.

It was unfortunate that we all had to take the certificates and medals of participation although one line remained in our heads and that was, "No team has lost today but everyone is just building towards something better and that time will tell on how well we succeed in life through pursuing all our aspirations, ideas and goals that we wish to fulfill in the upcoming future".



We would all like to thank Curtin University for organizing and making such a special competition happen and we were proud to represent our school: St. Mary's Catholic High School, Dubai. We would especially like to thank Mr. Yogesh Raje, Blockchain Advisor and Mrs. Vichitra Gabriella, Business Studies Head who helped us out in all the case studies from the extra classes to the hours spent on improving and adding to the finished answers that were sent online to Curtin University.

Joshua D'Souza





# Emirates Environmental Group Students Workshop – November 2018

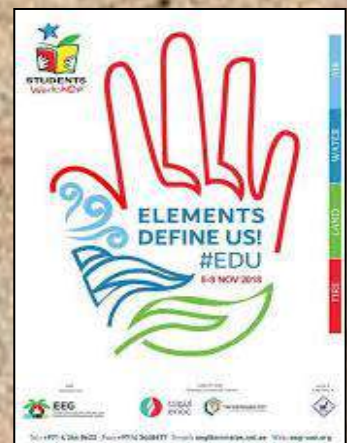


The EEG is a professional working group of environmental enthusiasts who are devoted to protecting the environment through the means of education, action programs and community involvement. They are one of the most active environmental NGO's in the region. EEG's educational programs raise proactive individuals, who hold an important role in making the changes necessary to sustain our

planet. One such program was a workshop for the primary students to provide them with an opportunity to maximize knowledge and skills on the current sustainability issues and to inculcate a sense of awareness, responsibility and care for one's environment. It was held at the **Rashid School for Boys** on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018. Several schools participated in this event. The students who represented the St. Mary's Catholic High School were; Danielle, Reuben, Nayef and Rihaan from Year 6. They were very excited to participate in this event and were in awe of the huge campus as well as its natural surroundings - they even saw a giant tortoise! Refreshments and lunch were provided as well!

The main focus of this workshop was about the four main elements that influence humanity - Fire, Water, Land and Air. Thus, the theme - '**Elements Define us**'.

**The element of 'AIR':** The students were given cards with the names of different GHG's (Greenhouse Gases) like carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, CFC (Chlorofluorocarbon) etc. These were described as 'deadly for the ozone layer'. The students learned that methane was roughly 30 times more potent as a heat-trapping gas. The activity for the element of air was to pin the cards on a picture of a landscape in places where they thought that these greenhouse gases came from. They also discussed how these gases could be controlled by planting more trees, using renewable energy etc.





**The element of 'FIRE':** It was explained that fire is a form of energy. It had good and bad aspects, which were briefed to the students. Some of the other forms of energy discussed were solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, etc. Students were asked to create a superhero which would save humanity in different real-life scenarios such as forest fire, earthquake, poisonous gas leak etc. They could draw and name their superhero.

**The element of 'LAND':** Students had to make a food plate by choosing some food items from the given list; each having a certain number on it. Volunteers checked the food plates and added the numbers on the food items chosen. They explained that the higher the total value, the larger the environmental pollution. E.g. The juice and fizzy drinks that are packed in PET bottles cause environmental pollution during large scale production, transportation, refrigeration and packing.



**The element of 'WATER':** An outdoor activity was conducted in which there was a 'mini ocean', i.e. a blue mat that had all the latest plastic waste collected by the Emirates Environmental Group themselves. Students were divided into different groups and each group had three checkers and six runners. The runners had to run and get any type of plastic

items from the 'ocean' and the checkers had to check and sort what type of plastic it was. For example, the checkers with the number 1 got all the PETE items (Polyethylene Terephthalate) The only way to check the type of plastic was to check the number on it. The number '1' checkers collected the maximum items which were made of PETE and they belong to plastic items that could be recycled.

They also met the chairperson of a company called '**Simply Bottles**', who explained the problems about disposing plastic. The students learned about the four different types of plastic. They were: Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE), Polypropylene (PP), Polyethylene



Terephthalate (PETE or PET) and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE). They were surprised to learn that plastic could be shredded, melted and woven into threads to make a fabric that could be used to make T shirts mixed with cotton. She was wearing one of those T Shirts made of 50% plastic! The workshop ended with a closing ceremony in which the students were given certificates. It was indeed an enriching learning experience for them!

#### **Credits:**

Danielle Therese Magno – 6D

Reuben Mammen – 6C

Rihaan Aseem – 6F

Nayef Moath Thaha – 6F

**Compiled by:** Mrs. Anitha Aseem





# **DUBAI SCHOLARS VENTURISTS BUSINESS COMPETITION**

The early morning of 20<sup>th</sup> October, four aspiring entrepreneurs- Rushad Patel, Musteheel Zaki, Hannah D'souza and Pritika Tilokani, represented the school in the first inter-school business competition hosted by Dubai Scholars. The four categories of this competition were

1. Application, wherein students were required to display their programming skills and channel them into the fierce business competition.
2. Business plan, wherein students were required to showcase their aptitude through a practical and applicable presentation of an innovative business idea.
3. Marketing, wherein students were required to blend their creativity to build a successful marketing plan.
4. The quiz category, chosen by the students of St. Mary's, wherein the four students, as a strong team, went through two intense elimination rounds and the final Master Round which ultimately decided the winning school.

The quiz category was undoubtedly highly competitive, right from the first round. With restricted time to complete a list of questions, the participants were racing against time to choose the right answer for questions based on everything business under the sun; from the richest women in the world to the most profitable business, the tension was certainly palpable among the participants.

After qualifying the first round, the participants were briefed about the "buzzer" round, this time, questions posed live and with an audience. Heart racing, sweat trickling and brain totally buzzing under the pressure, the four had to ensure that they would be the first to hit the buzzer in order to win the opportunity to answer and therefore, the opportunity to earn their team points too.



After an hour's worth of quiz rounds, Rushad Patel, Musteheel Zaki, Hannah D'souza and Pritika Tilokani, secured the fourth position for our school. Participating in this competition has not only further promoted business ideas for the four, but has also helped them get hands-on experience in a stimulated business environment where they would be able to use their business skills to battle challenging rival firms in the international market!



# Hand Washing

On Monday morning, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, it was announced in the morning assembly that year 1 to 4 students are going to attend a special session on 'Washing Hands'. We all got excited to hear this and awaited the programme excitedly.

As the bell for the fourth period rang, we were all summoned towards Bishop Gremoli Hall. We all sat down but were little noisy because of the anticipation and buzz in the air.



One important factor in keeping yourself and others healthy lies within our own hands – literally.

Proper hand-washing is one of the best and **easiest** ways to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others, according to DIRECT CARE.

The goal of the session was to raise awareness on 'Hand Washing' among the little future investors. We were able to achieve this goal through the interesting video on 'Hand Washing', engaging discussions and the effective questioning done by the facilitator, Ms. Noura, representative from Direct Care.

She expressed varied ideas and methods of reducing the harmful effects of not washing hands in daily life. Ms. Noura also shared her expertise on the benefits of washing hands on a daily basis, especially using **anti-bacterial** Dettol products, e.g. soaps, liquid soaps, hand sanitizers, wipes etc.





The session consisted of discussions and activities that allowed us, the participants, to share and explore different ideas that we as individuals could apply in our lives to overcome the diseases which spread only because of not washing hands, such as influenza (recently diagnosed as life-threatening disease). It raised our awareness as kids to know the most 'targeted times' of the day that we need to wash our hands:



- a. Before eating any type of food during any time of the day
- b. After eating
- c. After using toilets
- d. After Playing outside

The session's main focus was on washing hands properly which is meant for most of the kids is simply placing hands under running water for a few seconds. But in reality it takes much more than simply placing your hands under running water for a few seconds.

How can adults help make sure children are washing hands correctly?

Here's the correct procedure. Teaching these steps is usually a "work in progress":

#### STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Wet hands with water.
2. Lather up with soap. Be sure to lather the backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails.
3. Scrub hands for 20 seconds - about the time it takes to say the alphabet slowly or hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
4. Rinse hands well under running water.
5. Dry hands using a clean towel.



It was a truly eye opening session; nothing lost, but a lot gained as the students all left Bishop Gremoli Hall wiser, with a booklet consisting of the instructions on 'Hand washing', an interesting maze and names of Dettol products for keeping clean.

Anna Therese, Zenaida Maria D'Souza, Kunwar Yoaab Jiwanmall, Bianca Isaacs -

Students of 3-A

Florence Mathew, Eva Hailey Prithwani - Students of 3-B

Domnic Savio Lobo, Francine Noelle - Students of 3-C

Students of 3-D

Alexis Uday, Mathew Arron Generoso - Students of 3-E



# ANNUAL VICARIATE CONFERENCE

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2018, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Vicariate Conference was held at our school campus from 7:00AM – 4:00PM. The intriguing theme exhibited this year was “Everyone Engaged, Everyone Challenged: Exploring Possibilities”. The conference involved the collaboration of about 500 inspiring teachers from the five St. Mary’s Group of Schools, UAE. Teachers who attended this conference were promoted in enhancing and enriching their teaching skills and abilities.



The teacher's registration commenced in the morning with the assistance of prefects and a few staff where lanyards were distributed to all teachers and presenters. Simultaneously, our Year 8 students helped with supplying light refreshments in the quadrangle with enthusiasm. The keynote speaker emphasized on embedding a culture of reading across the curriculum and the importance of teaching effective reading. Teachers were navigated around the school with the guidance of our fellow students.

Similarly, in the afternoon, lunch was served by the Year 12 prefects. Throughout the three breakout sessions, aid was provided by prefects and volunteered students, which included ensuring that all necessary materials were ready for the presenters. All teachers were left with a great gift, which was empowering them to institute new techniques to all the young minds they uplift.

***Karin Abrena(Year 12)***  
***Tanya Xavier(Year 12)***  
***Paula Gueco(Year11)***





## SKYLINE UNIVERSITY: TALENT HUNT COMPETITION

On the 16th of October, 24 students from Year 12 of St Mary's Catholic High School set off to participate in the exciting 'Talent Hunt' business competition at Skyline University, Sharjah.

Excited, we piled into our school bus awaiting the journey to Skyline. Upon reaching the university, we gulped down our nervousness, ready to face whatever came our way. The competition itself involved three categories:



- The travel and tourism category, where we had to design a business plan based on the tourism and travel sector in UAE
  - The new general business proposition, where we had to invent a new product or service that fills in the market gap.
  - The mobile application category, where participants had to invent an app that would be beneficial to the market.
- We were able to enrol ourselves in groups of 2-4 people. We were a total of 7 groups and 24 students.

The groups were judged based on their presentation of the idea, creativity, and feasibility and how well they could persuade the judges.

The team that enlisted for 'travel and tourism' is as follows:

- 1) Tanya D'souza, Ranya Lobo, Samantha Gonsalves, Aaron Nazareth

The team that enlisted for 'new business proposition' is as follows:

- 1) Hannah D'souza, Pritika Tilokani, Soha Irshad

The teams that enlisted for mobile app are as follows:

- 1) Sherry Pithawalla, Rithmi Akithma
- 2) Marushka DeSouza, Bianca D'souza, Annora D'souza, Megan Rodrigues
- 3) Raphael D'souza, Nathan Mendes, Mahima De Alwis, Karl Mendonca
- 4) Althea Retig, Jennifer George, Mellanie Conceicao, Brianna D'souza
- 5) Joshua D'souza, Enrique Fernandes, Vishan Malintha





After registering, we were assigned to rooms where we were introduced to a team of three judges and met other participants from other schools.

All groups had a time constraint of 4 minutes and could utilise a presentation or a video to portray ideas. Lunch was provided to us at 12pm. All the products of our work were judged by esteemed CEO's, prime staff of faculty and prestigious partners of The Skyline University.

What we found unique about the university was that they had corridors dedicated to legends that brought forth innovations such as Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. This not only showed us that Skyline was a university that promotes creativity, but also a university that inspires its students to reach for the stars.

As each group went by finishing off their presentations and answering questions put forward, if the judges had any, the day came to an end.

Relieved that we had finished our work we anxiously awaited the results to be revealed at 6pm on the day itself, on which teams would advance to the finals.

As a reward for their extraordinary performance, the team consisting of Raphael D'souza, Nathan Mendes, Mahima De Alwis and Karl Mendonca progressed to the finals! Their unique idea for an e-teaching mobile application called 'E-Plato' didn't fail to impress. They returned to Skyline University on the 17th of October and fought it out against 12 other teams, in the same category, all from different schools around the country.

Unfortunately our students were unable to secure any prizes, coming short of the overall winners and the runners up. However, they did not lose, as they walked away smarter and wiser, with their heads held high, knowing next time, they can put up a better fight. Every experience is a new opportunity to learn, and this was a perfect example for the students of St. Mary's.

**Sherry Pithawalla (Year 12)**



# ***Business Competition: SP Jain's Annual Brain Simulator Contest***

*As the school term of 2018 began, a number of extracurricular activities arose for the students of St. Mary's Catholic High School; one of these activities being SP Jain's Annual Brain Simulator Contest, which was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.*



*The contest centers on allowing students to experience situations imitating those involved in a real business through a multi-player simulation game. Aspects of the game specifically draw on a student's decision-making ability put in the context of a business scenario. The Brain Simulator Contest, abbreviated as BrainSim, comprised of two rounds: the elimination round and the business simulation round. The contest was made interesting by the fact that it was open to any and all students, whether they were of the commerce stream or not. This gave everyone an equal chance to get to know about the way a business may work.*

*The elimination round was an online aptitude test. Students were required to register online.*

*Students were also able to access certain sample tests which gave us the chance to familiarize ourselves with the format of the upcoming aptitude test. The window of time when we could answer the test was given in an email a couple of days before it is taken. Questions challenging our reasoning ability, and English and Math prowess determined whether we would qualify for the final round. The 3 test toppers from each school would be called for the final simulation round on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of October.*

*From our school, Althea Retig, Bianca D'souza, and Annora D'souza (Year 12) topped and moved on to the next round.*

*On the morning of the final round, the team of three students made their way to SP Jain School of Global Management. The Brain Simulation contest spanned the entirety of the day, from the*

9:30AM to 4PM in the afternoon. With no prior experience and only information from the SP Jain website, the three of us headed into the competition with confidence and enthusiasm. The team was also provided with an agenda upon arrival.

Despite the duration, time passed fairly quickly once the affairs began. Due to the number of participants, there were two batches of teams who would be undertaking the simulation; our school's team was in the first batch who were able to begin the game.

Designed by Harvard, the simulation task assigned to the groups was to adopt eco-friendly products as innovation directors of a sunglass company. The challenge was to convince your co-workers to accept the proposal in the least amount of weeks, with each decision made costing the players valuable time and credibility, but at the same time, enabling them to garner support. In a matter of three hours, the simulation was completed.

However, SP Jain still had much more to offer. While the first batch undertook the business simulation, the second batch was able to participate in team building exercises. After lunch, the roles were reversed. The teams coming in from the first batch were able to enjoy the activities offered by the volunteers- one of which included constructing a casing that should enable an egg to survive a five-storey fall... safely. The participants were not the only ones that experienced a recreational activity; the teachers who accompanied the teams also had a gathering held in the morning as students were being briefed. This allowed for a rapport between students and teachers from many different schools all over UAE and it made the event unforgettable.



After all the activities, the awarding ceremony was conducted, and the event closed with a farewell speech. Although the school team did not secure the trophy, we received an experience to be treasured and a hope of doing better next year.

- By Althea Retig (Year 12)



# Charity Food Sale for Dubai Cares

## by Year 1, 2 & 3

‘Charity begins at home’. This is what the Marian family portrayed when the teachers, parents and students of years one, two and three got together and organised the food sale on 28<sup>th</sup> November, the proceeds of which would be donated to Dubai Cares – a philanthropic organization working to improve children's access to quality primary education in developing countries.

It was overwhelming to see the response of parents, donating healthy food cooked by them at home. Food included vegetable sandwiches, fruit and vegetable stick skewers, juices, fattoush, tabouleh, a variety of cakes baked at home, and much, much more. It was a pleasant sight, seeing children and teachers flocking to buy healthy snacks and drinks from the little ones who were so eager to contribute to this noble cause. Each Dirham earned brought a smile to their tiny faces. The Arabic fraternity got together this year and sold some delicious Arabic cuisine, which of course was sold out in a few minutes. We also had a henna stall – many of our students made a dash for this, it also brought out one of the many hidden talents among our teachers.

By the end of break most of the children had sold all their snacks and were very happy to have made a positive contribution towards a charitable cause. These are some values that we instill in our young ones from an early stage so that they grow to become valuable, responsible and trustworthy citizens in the future.

Cidiera from year 4 B had this to say, ‘I was very excited about the food sale because my little brother was selling cupcakes. I was so surprised to see so many people for the food sale.’

Leon from year 3 C had this to say, ‘I was happy about the food sale and asked my mother to give me a lot of coins, so that I could go and enjoy the yummy food on sale.’

Ashlyn from year 7 E had this to say, ‘The children of year 1,2 and 3 contributed to the food sale enthusiastically, selling various treats and others supported this noble cause by buying these delicacies. The family of St. Mary’s incorporates the spirit of union epitomized and exemplified by the rulers of the UAE into daily lives.’

Mark from year 3 D had this to say, ‘It is good to have food sale for charity because I like to help people who are in need.’

Alana from 1 B had this to say, ‘I had fun! I sold my food very quickly. I loved the food sale.’

Priya from 2 A had this to say, ‘I wanted to sell all my food because I wanted to give lots of money to Dubai cares.’

## **STOP BULLYING, STOP DISASTER**

“Bullying is killing our kids. Being different is killing our kids and the kids who are bullying are dying inside. We have to save our kids whether they are being bullied or are bullying. They all are in pain.” - Cat Cora

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that approximately 4,400 deaths occur among young people from suicide each year, 22% of which are from bullying cases. There are about 100 attempts of suicide to every 1 successful suicide. A little over 14% of students in high school consider suicide and just about 7% of them attempt suicide.

Bullying is intentionally aggressive behaviour repeated over time, which involves an imbalance of power. In most scenarios, bullying can be a serious act of prejudice, discriminating against a person's way of life, nation, race, and culture. This can result in violence, and disturbances in the child's behaviour. Bullying can affect physical and emotional health, both in the short term and later in life. It can lead to physical injury, social problems, emotional problems and even death. Children and adolescents who are bullies are at increased risk for substance use, academic problems and violence to others later in life behavior

There are different types of bullying:

1. **Physical bullying:** They hurt you physically for example pinching, kicking and punching.
2. **Verbal bullying:** They hurt you verbally for example calling names and insulting
3. **Social bullying:** They hurt you behind your back and try to ruin your social reputation for example lying and spreading rumors, encouraging others to ignore/exclude you.
4. **Cyber bullying:** Nowadays, the population for media platforms has increased drastically, especially for children. This doesn't allow them to socialize with many people in person, and, if the gadgets are taken away, some people tend to take their anger out on others in school. It is a form of bullying that is increasingly common nowadays, used mostly by teenagers and young adults. Cyber bullying hurts you through social media by using hurtful texts, images or videos, and hacking your account. Thus, we must protect the account with Cyber-Security apps. After an encounter with a Cyber-bully, gain time for mindfulness, inform an adult, and block the user.

# STOP BULLYING



Keep an eye out for these signs that someone is being bullied:

- Mysterious injuries
- Lost or torn clothes or books, etc.
- Pretending to be sick
- Constant nightmares
- Falling grades
- Running away from home
- Not listening to parents

So how can we stop bullying? We can do so by first and foremost recognizing bullying for what it is. Training children to first ignore the bully, then walk away and then tell an adult. In case this doesn't work at school one can approach teachers, counselors and finally the child protection officer who, for us at St. Mary's Catholic High School, is Miss Lise Ann. The government, schools, parents and all stakeholders must be involved to get rid of this grave problem and to empower each young person with the necessary skills to deal with and overcome such situations.

The following is information that is currently ongoing on the part of the UAE Government and our school. *UAE Government initiatives:* On April 21<sup>st</sup> 2018, the Ministry of Education (MoE) organized the **National Bullying Prevention Week** to raise awareness on bullying in partnership with more than 20 local and federal entities. Dubai Police have launched a '**Safety Ambassadors**' programme that has seen training of 72 students drawn from government and private schools to report any bullying and illegal activity. Extensive provisions within its UAE Penal Code (Federal Law No. 3 of 1987), and the Cyber Crimes Law (Federal Decree No. 5 of 2012) on **Defamation**, which is often at the core of cyber bullying.

*School initiatives:* On November 20<sup>th</sup> 2018, the school arranged a talk on Cyber Bullying so that students can be aware of it. Anti-bullying Champions are nominated in each class to report and stop bullying. School takes strict action against bullies.

Armed with this information together we can and will put an end to bullying in this nation and all over the world.

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STOP BULLYING

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*With many thanks to the gracious efforts  
of our St Mary's student body who wrote  
the articles as well!*