

MOIR SWEEPS PRIZES AT INTERNATIONAL HISTORY BEE AND BOWL

The International History Bee and Bowl is organised by an American firm that hosts quiz competitions throughout the USA, Europe and Asia. It is run by a 19 day champion on the famous American show Jeopardy who was a contemporary at Princeton of former Moir teacher Rajinda Jayasinghe. It came to Sri Lanka for this first time in February as part of its Asian tour that also included stops in Dubai, Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok, Beijing and Shanghai.

Our two teams won the Varsity and Junior Varsity Bowl competitions, respectively, winning all ten of their matches between them. In the solo Bee competition, Amjad Hamza won the Middle School category and Kanishka Jayawickrama was the Varsity Champion. All our students thus qualified for the Asian Championships to be held in Hong Kong later on in the year.



MOIR WINS 'MOST VALUABLE SCHOOL' AWARD AT MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Congratulations to our delegation to the Colombo Model United Nations (COMUN) who won the highly prestigious 'Most Valuable School' award. This award recognized the school's outstanding contribution not only to the debates in the conference but also to the organisation and administration of the event. In total, 500 students from 25 schools took part in the conference, including schools from Jaffna, India and Dubai.

The school was also runner-up in the Community Service award after the students donated stationery worth Rs. 75,000 to the COMUN Community Service partner, the Foundation for Goodness, having organised fundraisers in school.

A record six students also won individual awards for their outstanding performance during the debates:

<i>Emily Hayward</i>	High Commendation	UN Commission on Human Rights
<i>Ji Hyoung Kim</i>	High Commendation	Administrative Staff
<i>Darshan Kanagaraj</i>	Honorary Mention	UN Commission on Human Rights
<i>Sashini Jinasena</i>	Best Foreign Policy Statement	UN Commission on Human Rights
<i>Ishrath Irshadeen</i>	Best Novice Delegate	General Assembly Committee 3
<i>Ahmed Ismail</i>	Best Novice Delegate	General Assembly Committee 1

Three of our students were members of the Executive Committee that organised the conference. Hishma Hafeez was Chair of General Assembly Committee 1, Aron Rahim was Co-Deputy Head of Administration and Anneka Alok-Mathur was Official Photographer.



MARCH 2014

ELIZABETH MOIR SCHOOL

MOIR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Elizabeth Moir School cherishes its continuing relationship with former students. We are delighted, therefore, that our alumni activities have been reinvigorated by the establishment of the Moir Alumni Association last year. Two former students now teaching at the Senior School –Shazana Shahjahan and Shaun Perera– have taken the lead in establishing the new organisation.

Over 450 students have already joined the association, incorporating members of every year group from the class of 1997 to last year's leavers. This includes students who had their entire education at the school as well as others who were only at the school for one or two years.

The new association hosted its inaugural event last December: a social gathering attended by almost a hundred former students as well Mrs. Moir and several members of staff. As well as meeting old friends and sharing memories, a variety of House competitions were organised and old rivalries were soon resurrected in some hotly contested games. The next planned event is a cricket match between the school team and an alumni team in June.

Past students who wish to register as members can sign up on www.facebook.com/groups/MoirAlumni/.

MOIR ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST (MAST)



Hisham Mabrook

A group of alumni based at Harvard University, led by Hisham Mabrook, have established the Moir Alumni Scholarship Trust (MAST). Hisham, who was a scholar here himself, studied Engineering and Computer Science at Harvard and now works in Boston in corporate strategy. MAST aims to enable students from all backgrounds to obtain a world-class education at the school by providing scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to afford the fees. This allows alumni to give back to the school and allow others to benefit from the same opportunities they received while here.

MAST was launched at the first meeting of the Moir Alumni Association and several former students contributed to the trust. Other alumni who wish to make a donation should email contact@mast.moir.lk or go to <http://mast.moir.lk>.

GWANG HOON WINS PLACE AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Congratulations to Gwang Hoon Lee who has been given a conditional offer to read Materials Science at Queen's College, Oxford. Queen's, founded in 1341, is one of the oldest and most beautiful Oxford colleges with an elegant neoclassical frontage on the High Street designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor and one of the finest libraries in the world.

Gwang Hoon's academic achievements at this school compare with the very top students in the world:

- *IGCSE World Prize in Mathematics and Further Pure Mathematics*
- *100 % in A Level Maths (across six units)*
- *800 / 800 in SAT II Mathematics I & II*



JUNIOR SCHOOL CAROLS AT MOUNT LAVINIA HOTEL

The Junior School Choir was invited to Mount Lavinia Hotel on Sunday 15th December to sing carols on their Singing Christmas Tree in the hotel courtyard. On the day, persistent rain meant that the singing had to be moved inside, to the hotel lobby, instead. This did nothing to dampen the spirits of our choristers who treated a large

audience to an array of classic carols and modern Christmas songs, as they sang for about one hour without a break. Meanwhile, the hotel handed out mulled wine and mince pies to those watching. It was a lovely way to bring the term to an end and fill everyone with festive spirit, and a wonderful experience for our young singers.

INTER HOUSE MUSIC



The hottest tickets in town in January were for the Senior School Inter House Music competition. As ever, the audience was treated to a very wide range of music, from Bach to Jessie J!

Dance Club President, Amar Riyaz, was a very popular winner of the Solo Dance competition, having narrowly missed out on winning for the past three years. This year his brilliantly original and highly entertaining routine meant there was no stopping him.

Although the dancing is normally the crowd favourite, it was the quality of the singing that really stood out this year. The House Choirs had set the standard for the entire night but the Solo Singing raised the bar even higher, with all four singers producing stunning performances. It also provided a change of pace from the modern pop music that had dominated up to that point with two of the singers choosing jazz classics, one from as far back as the 1930s.

The judge's lengthy deliberation reflected how difficult it was to separate the singers and eventually there were joint winners: Francesca Mudannayake, for her characteristically soulful rendition of My Funny Valentine; and Nuha Bazeer, for her very clever, highly original and hugely successful down-tempo adaptation of You're the One That I Want from the musical Grease. One is among the most experienced singers in the school, having sung solos in numerous concerts; the other had never sung alone on stage before in her life. This is what Inter House Music is all about: giving opportunities to everyone, finding new talent, and brilliant performances.

ALICE IN PANTOLAND



For their school play this year, the Junior School performed a very entertaining version of Alice in Wonderland, with a few Sri Lankan twists added in – such as the Duchess going to have her hair done at Ramani Fernando Salon. It was a fun-filled feast as all the characters desperately tried to keep the Red Queen happy, and thus their heads attached to their shoulders, by capturing the Jammerwocky who had stolen all the Queen's favourite jam. There were star turns from Malak Naseem as Alice and Eleanora Deemer as Susie. Sanuth Gunasekera was a hilarious Duchess, Leonid Mylvaganam a despicably cunning knave and Yumna Hussain a suitably terrifying Queen. All the audience also enjoyed the entertaining double act of Ricardo Seneviratne and Hussain Jafferjee as Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee. Even if the superb Azim Ilham as the White Rabbit always had the wrong panto, the Junior School showed that Alice in Pantoland was certainly the right panto.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

The Senior School put on a brilliant adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic satire of young love, double lives and superficial impressions at the Punchi Theatre in February. It is not an easy play for such a young cast to perform, with its adult themes and challenging script, but every member of the cast worked extremely hard in rehearsals to master the tricky dialogue and performed superbly. Rachel Hayward and Shakuntala Fernandopulle shone as Gwendolen and Cecily, whose love for their fiancés emerges to be based only on them being called Ernest and evaporates immediately when they discover that neither is. The senior member of the cast, Senal Wijetunge, injected energy into every scene he was in, giving confidence to the younger cast members. He captivated the audience whenever he was on stage with his natural comic talent and a face that he seemed to be able to manipulate into a million different expressions.



MOIR HOSTS SUPER 8 FOOTBALL

In February, the school hosted a 'Super 8' competition for the top four international schools and four leading local schools. This was the second time we had held the tournament, having arranged a similar one two years ago. It provided a great new challenge for our team and an opportunity to see how we compared to the best teams from local schools.

The team prepared for the competition with a series of eight friendly matches, winning seven against teams as varied as St. Joseph's, CIS and the Korean FC in Colombo, and drawing against arch-rivals Royal Institute.

Our team opened the tournament against S. Thomas' and came from behind to earn a crucial win, courtesy of two late goals by Haren Puththirasigamoney. The next game was against tournament favourites, Zahira College, known as the 'Kings of School Soccer', having provided a host of players for the national team and won the All-Island Football Championship in two of the last three years. Our team played a great game and pushed Zahira all the way before succumbing in the end. A comfortable win against Lyceum

in our final pool game took us through to the semi-final, where Royal Institute awaited again. We had the vast majority of chances during the game, and countless near misses in the closing stages but, just as in the Inter International Schools final earlier in the year, the game went to penalties, and fortune again favoured our opponents. The team can, nevertheless, be very proud of their performances in another extremely successful year.

Group Matches:

S. Thomas'	Won	3-1
Zahira College	Lost	1-3
Lyceum, Nugegoda	Won	4-0

Semi Final:

Royal Institute	Drew	1-1
	(Lost on penalties)	