

## Preface

The Executive Committee of the Old Boys' Association, Canada Branch wishes to celebrate the one hundred years of the founding of the Old Boys' Association in Jaffna (Dec.1906) with the release of this special Souvenir. It is nothing but fitting that we should remember and celebrate the constructive contribution rendered by hundreds of old boys to enrich the life of our students at Jaffna Central College, Jaffna. One hundred years of service is something to be proud of and it is our hope that everyone of the old boys in Canada and in other parts of the world will remember this day and pay their respect for an institution which has moulded them into what they are today.

We have arranged a Special variety entertainment festivity to mark this historic event and "Madhya Deepam" will be one of the highlights of our cultural activities organized to gather everyone here under one roof. Throughout its existence, the association has played an active role in academic, social and sport endeavors of the institution. Many old boys have brought fame to the college and are looked upon as excellent role models.

We wish to take this opportunity to salute all members of our association in Canada for their unflinching co-operation and dedicated service to enrich the quality of life of our members in a new land which we now call our home.

The committee is thankful to the Souvenir Sub Committee- Messrs. R.Chelvaratnam, R.Sivakumar, Krish Jeyanathan, K.Theivendirarajah and T.Pararajasingam for their valuable contributions , suggestions and criticisms. The committee also wishes to express its gratitude to the members and many others who have contributed their share to the publication of this issue, in the form of articles, photographs and other material of interest. The committee's thanks also go to many of our old boys and well wishers who came forward to advertise in this issue. The financial backing from old boys and well wishers is a constructive factor for the success of our endeavors.

Finally we wish to thank Mr.S.Yoganathan, former President of our association and Managing Director of Grapharts Printers(Toronto,Canada), Mr.M.S.Rameez and Mr.S.J.Ravindrakumaran for compiling, type setting and printing this beautiful souvenir.

Executive Committee,2005/2006  
JCC-OBA, Canada  
July,22<sup>nd</sup> 2006

# Message from the President

It gives me great pleasure in writing this message for the special centenary souvenir being published to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association in Jaffna.

We the old boys of Central must be proud to be part of a 190 year old school with a 100 year old tradition of Alumni Organization, a distinction unparalleled in the modern history of northern Sri Lanka. Central situated in the heart of Jaffna, the capital city of the north was at the helm of education, the distinguished personalities on the first historic committee of 1906 and their credentials are a testimony to this fact. Let us play our part in helping the school to grow and flourish.

Our Canadian branch is perhaps the largest congregation of old boys outside Sri Lanka. I am happy to state that we have functioned successfully for the last 14 years and respectfully carry on the great traditions and the colorful image of this great institution. This is reflected in the Special Centenary OBA Souvenir 2006 released today, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 at the "Mathiya Theepam," the variety entertainment show staged at Sir John A MacDonald Collegiate, Toronto, Canada

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members and to all other centralites and well wishers who have willingly come forward to make these events a great success. It is not possible to put up a big show and to publish a Souvenir of this kind without the financial support of our sponsors and advertisers. Many of the sponsors and advertisers are old boys of Central. In Canada they have become successful entrepreneurs, perhaps having picked up this skill of entrepreneurship in their school years without knowing it.

The time has come to further prepare the school children of today not only in academics but also in technical and entrepreneurial skills for nation building. Science and technology can become useful to society when put into practical use, and that use requires practical skills, acquiring these skills should start early in school.

Stalling the process of rebuilding and moderning schools, colleges and Universities will be detrimental to the future of our Tamil community. A country's or nation's history is nothing but the story of growth and development of its institutions and the achievements of its individual citizens. Therefore if the Tamil community is to be part of this history, our citizens must feel free to grow and excel in all walks of life.

## **Central flag must never be lowered**

Dr .K. Theivendirajah  
President, JCCOBA Canada  
July 22.2006



## Message from Our Secretary

Centenary of any institution provides an opportunity to reflect on time past present and future. Over the years the multi-faceted activities of the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Associations, all around the globe have reflected the central, social and spiritual values set for the institution by the founding fathers.

The Canada branch of the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association was officially inaugurated in October 1992. Since then the association has carried out many activities and programs to support our goals.

Among the many programs the most significant are the following:

- "Mathya Theepam" the variety entertainment show,
- Annual Joint Picnic with our sister school Vembadi Girls' High School
- our annual "Big Match" against St.Johns College the "Battle of the North"
- Annual Dinner Dance and get together.

The feature articles included in this issue would offer a comprehensive picture of these activities.

The association has helped our school in many ways through out the past decade through donations. In recent years when a member visited Jaffna, direct donation to the school was given through the member. In this way we were able to make a direct evaluation of the urgent needs of the school and allocate our funds justly.

Since 2000 we have been participating in the in the Joint Scholarship Scheme with other OBA branches namely U.K, Sydney and Colombo, to assist the bright and needy students of our college to pursue their higher education in Sri Lanka. We also have started a scholarship scheme with the University of Jaffna to assist students entering the University from our college.

Humanitarian activities have occupied a central place in our efforts to foster the values promoted by the founders. The following charities received substantial support from our association.

- The Canadian Red Cross
- St.Peter's Church, Jaffna
- Ramakrishna Mission -orphanage, Batticaloa.
- Maruthanamadam Achcharamam orphanage

In this context our association has helped the Methodist Church of Point-Pedro to provide relief for the local residents affected by the Tsunami.

We have gone beyond community to support activities of this nature. The Annual Walk- A-Thon in support of the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children Foundation is an example of this type of activity. From 2005 Vembadi Old Girls' Association has actively associated itself with this humane effort.

Among those who have given us valuable support, special mention needs to be made of the Advertisers, sponsors of various events and the donors.

The Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada has grown to its present stature through the dedicated efforts and personal commitment of the past and present executive committees and the supportive membership. Hopefully this dedicated spirit will continue to be fostered by the younger generation of Centralites in Canada.

.....**For your school for her true praise,  
Live in service glad and free.**

**R. Sivakumar.  
Secretary  
JCC OBA Canada.**



# Message From The Principal



## JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

Tel: 021-2222194, 021-2223658 Fax: 021-2226397 e-mail: yaricent@stlnet.lk

I have great pleasure in delivering this greetings for the centenary celebration of the Old Boys' Association, of Jaffna Central College, Canada. The inaugural meeting of the OBA, our official records reveal, was held on 25<sup>th</sup> Dec.1906 at the college hall presided by Rev.W.M.P.Wilkes. It is a landmark in the glorious history of our school. We entered the new millennium with great expectation. Our college has produced many eminent personalities in the field of education such as doctors, engineers, athletes etc.

After the untimely death of the Principal, the late Mr.K.Rasathurai, I took over the School as the acting principal in October 2005. Since then I have been performing my duties with the support of the staff and the school community to ameliorate the standard of education as well as sports and games with good discipline.

Even today amidst the political unrest in Jaffna, the college contribution is no significant. I am sure the OBA of Canada will offer their share in the development and welfare of our institution. I also wish express my greetings to “Mathiya Deepam”, your variety entertainment show and to the Centenary Souvenir published by the OBA, Canada.

Finally, on behalf of my colleagues and students, I wish the OBA,Canada many more years of fruitful service to Jaffna Central College.

**“ The Central flag must ne'er be lowered”**

Mr.S.Pathmanathan,  
Acting Principal  
Jaffna Central College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.  
18.05.2006





**President (Ex-officio)**  
REV. W. M. P. WILKES, B.A., L.C.P.  
Principal | 1903—1908,  
| 1910—1916.



**Vice President**  
NEVINS SELVADURAI, Esq., B.A., J.P., M.B.E.,  
Principal, Jaffna Hindu College,  
1891—1909, 1914—1925,  
Member, State Council, 1934.  
(Old Boy)



**Vice President**  
DR. S. C. PAUL, M.D., F.R.C.S.,  
Retd: 1st Surgeon, General Hospital,  
Colombo.  
(Old Boy)



**Vice President**  
JOSEPH GRENIER, Esq., K.C.,  
Puisne Justice, 1911—1912.  
(Old Boy)



**Secretary**  
M. A. ARULANANTHAM, Esq., B.A.,  
District Judge, Chilaw, 1925—1929.  
(Old Boy)



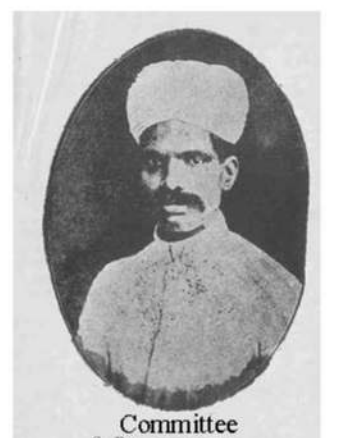
**Committee**  
A. Mc. G. C. TAMPOE, Esq., I.C.S.,  
Inspector of Municipalities, Madras.  
(Old Boy)



**Committee**  
W. DURAISWAMY, Esq., B.A.,  
Crown Advocate.  
Member, Legislative Council (1921—1930)  
Manager, Jaffna Hindu College.  
(Old Boy)



**Committee**  
HON. MR. A. SARAPATHY,  
Member, Legislative Council, 1918—1921,  
Editor, "Hindu Organ," 1891—1924.  
(Old Boy)



**Committee**  
S. RAJARATNAM, Esq.,  
Advocate,  
Member, Legislative Council, (1924—1930)  
Manager of Schools, Hindu Board of  
Education, Jaffna.  
(Old Boy)

## The first historic committee of Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association in 1906

President: Rev.W.M.P.Wilkes, B.A., *Principal, Jaffna Central College (Ex-officio)*

Vice-Presidents: The Hon. Mr. Joseph Grenier, *Acting Pusine Justice of the Supreme Court of Ceylon.*  
R.H.Leembruggen, Esqr., *Retired Chief Inspector of Schools*  
A.Mylvaganam, Esqr., *J.P., U.P.M., of Copay*  
Dr.S.C.Paul, F.R.C.S., M.D  
Nevin Sevadurai, Esqr., B.A., *Principal, Jaffna Hindu College.*  
Rev.R.M.Sethukavalar, M.A.

Secretary: M.A.Arulanandam, Esr., B.A., *Advocate.*

Treasurer: L.P.Spencer, Esqr., B.A., *Jaffna Central College Staff.*

Committee: Rev.J.T. Appapillai.  
K.C.Kathirgamar, Esqr.  
R. Kandiah, Esqr., *Secretary, D.C., Jaffna.*  
A.McG.C.Tampoe, Esqr., *I.C.S.*  
C. Mudaliar Muttiah, Esqr., *Merchant.*  
J.K. Chanmugam, Esqr., B.A., L.T., *Head Master, Jaffna Central College.*  
W.Duraisamy, Esqr., B.A., *Advocate.*  
A.Sabapathy, Esqr., *Editor, "Hindu Organ".*  
G.N.H.Tampoe, Esqr., *Proctor, D.C., Jaffna.*  
C.S.Rajaratnam, Esqr., B.A., *Advocate.*  
V.Kathiravelupillai, Esqr., B.A., *Proctor.*  
K.Chelliah, Esqr., *Proctor, D.C., Colombo.*  
D.F.Tampoe, Esqr., *Broker, Colombo.*  
W.A.Walton, Esqr., B.A.  
M.Abdul Cader, Esqr., B.A., *Advocate.*  
Dr.C.Sittambalam, *L.M.S., Kayts.*  
S. Thambiahpillai, Esqr., *Proctor.*

# Executive Committee of JCC - OBA , Canada, 2005/2006

President:	Dr. K. Theivendirarajah
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. R. Chelvaratnam Mr. Siva Kanapathipillai Mr. K. Tharmasangary
Past President:	Mr. D. C. Balarajah (Ex-officio)
Secretary:	Mr. R. Sivakumar
Asst. Secretary:	Mr. S.J. Ravindrakumaran
Treasurer:	Mr. S. Srirenganathan
Asst. Treasurer:	Mr. S. Thevarajan
Board Members:	Mr. S. Sukumaran Mr. D. Puradchithasan Mr. S. Sri-Guggan-Sri-Skanda-Rajah Mr. M. Muruganandarajah Mr. K. Thomas Mr. D. Somasundaram Mr. G. Yoganath Mr. T. Thavendiran Mr. K. Jeyakumar Dr. T. Kiruparajan Mr. S. Thirugnanasothy Mr. Krish Jeyanathan
Honorary Members:	Mr. V. Vigneswaran Mrs. L. Selvaratnam Mr. S. Nadarajah
Board Members (USA):	Mr. B. Shyamalan Mr. K. Patkunarajah
Auditor:	Mr. N.Vijayaban

# The Birth of the JCC Old Boys Association in Canada

*Krish Jeyanathan*

*(old boy and president OBA Canada 1992 - 1994)*

I must confess at the outset that I am very proud to be part of a group of Jaffna Central College (JCC) old boys who were instrumental in the launching of the JCC Old Boys Association in Canada. I can proudly say that this group who was so enthusiastic and determined in forming an association is no other than a young team of cricketers who had made Canada their home after the 1983 communal troubles in Sri Lanka.

I considered it a great privilege and honor when these schoolmates of mine, especially the late Jeya Kanaganayagam, late Thirukumar and their team, approached me and discussed their interest and keenness to inaugurate the association. We then contacted as many old boys and schoolteachers who had also made Canada their home and lived in Toronto. They were very supportive of our decision and gave us all the encouragement to go ahead with our plans.

Our first inaugural meeting was held with great enthusiasm at a Church hall in Toronto on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, 1992. It was well attended by many teachers and old boys, young and old. I consider it to be a great honor to have been elected the first President of the JCC Old Boys Association in Canada. The committee consisted of the following 11 members:

President	Mr. Krish Jeyanathan
Vice Presidents:	Late Mr. Jeya Kanaganayagam Mr. T. Pararajasingham Mr. S.D. Jeyasingham
Secretary	Late Mr. K.J. Thirukumar
Asst. Secretary	Mr. D.C. Balrajah
Treasurer	Mr. K.M. Shanthikumar
Asst. Treasurer	Mr. S. Perinpanathan
Committee Members	Mr. Nada Jeyadevan, Mr. M. Muruganandarajah, Mr. D. Puradchidasan Dr. S. Sooriabalan, Mr. T. Sripathy & Mr. S. Yogasinghe

The 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1992 at my residence. At this meeting, Mr. Pararajasingam agreed to draw up the constitution, and it was also decided that the association would be registered as a non profit organization, focusing more on the aspects of service orientation.

One of the main objectives of the Association was to maintain contact with the principal and the school, offering support and providing assistance in helping them maintain the high standard of the school. The Association also helped deserving students and teachers of the school to further their academic pursuits.

With these objectives in mind we hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Dance in the fall of 1993 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fall of 1994. The Annual Dinner Dance provides an opportunity for the Old Centralites to reminisce our long lost school days and to meet old school friends and their families, the staff members and well wishers of our school living in this country. On both these occasions we were overwhelmed by the support and encouragement shown by the members and the well wishers. We are very grateful to them for their participation and would like to thank them for their generous contributions which enabled us to make a generous donation of \$5000.00 to our school in the year 1994.

Since we started our Association in late 1992 we have been successful in widening our scope to accommodate the many objectives of our constitution.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to thank every old boy and the staff members of JCC who has contributed to the growth and success of our OBA. Finally, I wish to thank all the succeeding Presidents and their committee members for their sincere hard work in maintaining and keeping the Association in very high standing.



# “Good Old Days” at Jaffna Central

*Kingsley Ariaratnam*

*(old boy and president OBA Canada 1995/96)*

It is interesting that when one begins to reflect on the "good old days" at Jaffna Central one of the things that stand out in one's mind is the location itself. The first is of course the imposing "cricket grounds." It has been the source of many outrageous celebrations at the end of most of the Central-St. John's encounters! We would 'baila' dance our way along the Front Street, turn right on to Vembadi Road, take the left at the First Cross Street junction to reach the tall iron gates of the Vembadi Girls' hostel. There at the gates, the noisy celebrations would gather extra momentum as if it was the girls inside had hit all the sixes and boundaries that had given us the victory! Anticipating our arrival the gates would be firmly locked; but the girls kept their room-lights on to indicate they were watching us and joining our celebration!

'The grounds' is lined on one side by a row of buildings, each a source treasured memories. It begins with the arresting view of the most conspicuous landmark of Jaffna town in those days, the Clock Tower. It left such an impression on me when I first joined Jaffna Central as a little boy (in what would be grade III these days) that its memory looms larger than the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State, or even our own Post Office Tower! Although by then it was already a historic monument, I cannot remember any day it failed to show the correct time, and it is perhaps the only public building in Jaffna that got a colour-wash from time to time!

Next to it stands the Lockwood House, the two-story house that Principal C. A. Smith built, almost with his own hands, as residence for the ministers of St. Peter's Church. I recall him standing there, day- after-day, supervising the workers who made the concrete blocks to build up the structure. And when the frame of the roof was in place, most of the "grown ups" from the "baby boarding" stood in a line from the place where the tiles were piled up, winding up the stairways all the way to the second floor and to the ladder that touched the rafters, passing the tiles hand to hand to the workers that put them in place. At the end of the day we were all invited to the Principal's bungalow, No.1, Front Street, for a cup of Vanilla Ice Cream, a rare and delicious treat in those days. We in the 'baby' hostel had a continuous "connection" with this house; every time the water tank on the top of the house filled up and water began to spill out of the overflow pipe, one of us was expected to run up to Peter or Mendis to ask them to switch off the water pump!

This house, which stood just across the little playground that separated it from the Baby Hostel, housed some of the people that have left deep impressions on my life. D. T. Niles, who followed "Smithar" as Principal, had this house as the "base" for his international travels! He put Jaffna on the world map, and we are yet to meet a preacher with the eloquence, authority and charisma that DT exhibited in the pulpit. Then came Donald Barlow- slender, tall, always oozing with friendly smile and with the happiest and longest face I have ever seen! Decades later my brother Ariarajah, also of the baby hostel, occupied the same house as the minister of St. Peter's Church. "My claim to live in this house," he said jokingly, "is that I helped to put the roof when it was first built!"

Next to Lockwood House was the "Baby" Hostel itself (Now called Trimmer Hall), which holds for me some of the fondest memories. Of course there were no babies there; most of us had grown up there into robust teenagers, and I lived there for nearly 10 years until we were moved to the Senior Hostel for the 'last few school years. It is here that we made life long friends; it here that we had to find ways of out-smarting our burger matron, Lambroken, whom we always referred to as "Leg-broken," and those who followed her; it is here that we longed for the Sunday meal that had the fatty meat curry made of lamb meat that Smithar imported directly from his home country of Australia; and it is here that we had to stand at the beginning of a row of toilets without doors, call out 'one,' 'two,' 'three' and 'four' for responses from any that were occupied, and proceed to the empty one turning our faces from any that were occupied.

Next, at the beginning of the Front Street, was the Principal's bungalow that Rev. and Mrs. Smith and their son Clement (now a missionary doctor in Australia) occupied. When DT became both principal of the college and the minister of St. Peter's he moved into the Lockwood house, leaving Rev. Lewis and Mary Julian to live in the Principal's bungalow. It here that they had their two daughters, one of whom had an additional Tamil name, "Malar." These two, with hearts of gold, perfected their fluency in Tamil. "Julian Pothagar," almost a pandit in Tamil, walked about like the Leaning Tower of Pisa because of a spinal injury sustained in war. But many of us leaned on him for inspiration for a self-less life fully committed

to service; and Mary Julian was the kindest nurse in our times of illness; never met anyone more kind ever before or after!

Next to it, tucked away from view, was the Senior Hostel; then the cricket coach 'Thambyah Master's' house, and the CoJlege itself- with the important "land marks" of the Peddy Kadal } across the corner of the street in front of St. Peters, Kandiah Kadai at the back at the First Cross Street junction, leading to the V.T. Moses where we could buy not only note books and pencils but also a 'rubber sweet' for a cent! Kandiah Kadai had a layout that made it possible to hide if Smithar or any other teacher showed up to check the place while we enjoyed the vadai, kathali valai palam, and plain-tea during school hours!

But what gave the College the majestic look that went with its reputation were those rounded massive pillars in front of the Romaine Hall and the adjoining St. Peter's Church - so massive that four of us had to join hands to embrace anyone of the columns.

But behind these impressive buildings stood people, particularly teachers, men and women, who left profound impressions on us. Each of them had their own personalities and we had our own 'names' for them to highlight their idiosyncrasies, including such fond names like Chakkar, Paniyar, Pallar, and Kaddaiyar! But now, looking back at those formative years of our lives, we are so grateful for what they had been to us. It is difficult to begin to name them, but most of us are aware of those teachers that stand in our memories as people who had shaped something of what we have become today, each in their own way.

It is said that when they finished building the St. Paul's Cathedral in London, some people were so impressed with the architectural achievement that they wanted to build a memorial to its architect, Sir Christopher Wren. "That would be an insult," said others, "The cathedral itself is the memorial monument to his achievement" In the same way, the College itself is a memorial to principals like C. A. Smith and so many teachers that gave themselves in our service.

Backto the Cricket Ground, I recall that on the night before the Central-St. John's match each year, 'Smithar' would show us the film, "Don Bradman," a film on the greatest batsman of all times from his own country. It was his way of inspiring the team and all of who would come to cheer them into victory.

It is of interest that the College Song is also built on the image of the cricket match.

"Wet, the ground; and wind, opposing;  
Just ten minutes left to play!  
Play up Central, never reposing  
On the gains of yesterday!"

And it gently moves us to the play ground of real life:



# MY MEMORIES OF GOOD, OLD CENTRAL

*Dr. T. Sooriabalan MBBS, MRC Psych (UK), FRCP*

*(Old boy, Past President-JCCOBA, Canada: Consultant Psychiatrist, Scarborough General Hospital, Toronto)*

Heartiest congratulations to our OBA for celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of JCC,OBA in Jaffna. I am grateful to the Lord for my days at Jaffna Central, 13 years in total. Jaffna Central always had a very interesting and colourful calendar throughout the year. Athletic meets, soccer matches, cricket matches, prize giving days, H.S.C Union dinners, Saraswathy Poojas, Carol services and exhibitions to name a few.

As a primary school student we always looked forward to the last day of the term which our then Principal, Rev. Smith would address the students in Tamil and then distribute candies. It was not the candies that mattered but the way it was carried out term after term, year after year by the Australian missionary.

At the age of 8, I learned the first steps of Baila dancing at the Central- St. John's cricket match- the big match of the north. What fun we had year after year at the "friendly" battles! The music of the guitars, mouth organs, accordions, bongos, and the rabanas combined with the singing and dancing of the bailas made the event more entertaining. Of course, added to this was the high pitched cheering by the girls from our sister school Vembadi - God bless their voice boxes. There were some of us who wanted to celebrate the event by fortifying their blood stream with a kind of fermented Palmyra juice, affectionately called "panapaptan". Some of them argued that it was a good source of vitamin B complex, which they lacked during the hot afternoons.

Another event which we enjoyed during our early days was the film shows organized and shown by Mr. Victor Rajaratnam. They were mostly shown on a Friday evening and we thoroughly enjoyed the cartoons and the western cowboy movies filmed in black and white. What a way to start our weekend.

As a cub and later as a scout I learnt quite a lot of practical things, from reef knot to real issues of life. We thoroughly enjoyed the annual scout camping held at the Old Park, sleeping inside canvas tents,

cooking, having camp fires, singing, dancing, and meeting many other scouts from various schools of the Province. During our time Mr. P. Manoharan was our scout master, a kind hearted, pleasant and ever smiling soul who met every criteria of the word gentleman. He was a true scout, ever ready and willing to help anybody at any time.

Prize giving days were very colourful events, rewarding for those who had worked hard with their books. During the Primary and Middle school days I had mixed feelings about these events because I was always picked up to play the female role in the plays or in the group dancing. We had days of practice under the supervision of Miss. Thambiah, Miss. Joseph, and Miss. Somasundram. Looking back it was fun dressing up like a girl but thank God I didn't turn out to be a cross dresser!

Then the school sports meets the excitement of track and field practices under the watchful eyes of Mr. T. Selvarajah, along with the daily consumption of a glass of ovaltine and an egg, never thought about our cholesterol levels. Mr. Nava Niles was always our favourite announcer for these events with his crispy clear, commanding voice.

The H.S.C Union dinners were very memorable evenings for every senior student for various reasons. A chance to wear full suit on a humid evening and to dine in western style. A very formal event with full courses starting with the soup. An occasion to practice the art of using fork and knife without causing any injury to the innocent person seated next to you. There were rare occasions when the chicken on our plates suddenly became alive, and landed on the plate of the other. Also a chance to listen to Mr. Guitan and his band playing the good, old songs of the mid fifties and sixties, year after year. If you were very lucky you may get a "once in a life time chance" of sitting next to a student representative from one of the girls schools. Then of course the "after dinner speeches" full of puns and jokes aimed at various members of the staff. We also enjoyed attending such functions in other schools and we were considered to be the "chosen ones" when picked to attend the

H.S.C. Union dinner at a girls school. Needless to say it had sparked school day romances in a few who were under the influence of full moon.

On a serious note, we are thankful to the years and years of dedicated service of the teachers who taught patiently and helped us to achieve our dreams. Mrs. Mathiaparanam who taught us maths in Middle school, Mr. Nadarajah who made the boring civics and history classes into very fascinating ones, Mr. Rajasenan for his lively zoology lectures punctuated by the “annual jokes” and for his neat dissections of rats, frogs and cockroaches. Thanks to Mr. Thiruchelvam and Mr. Balasundram for their chemistry lessons, Mr. Vigneswaran and Mr. Nadarajah for the physics education. Special mention should be made of late Mr. Paramanatham, a very dedicated teacher who taught us botany and chemistry, organized botanical excursions and school picnics, and spent hours after school preparing us for the University examinations. In a material world where time was equated with money, he gave hours and hours of his valuable time free of charge.

Thanks to late Mr. E.T. Rajaratnam and Mr. Ratnasingam for teaching our mother tongue. We thoroughly enjoyed Treasure Island with Mr. Alagakone, our English teacher. However, he put us to sleep during the civics lessons. I suppose the Donoughmore Constitution was too much to handle at that time by our 11 year old brains! We were very alert for the arithmetic class taught by Mr. Vellupillai, which immediately followed our napping session. The first and the only time I received “Pirapam palam” was for not memorizing the thirteenth times table! If I remember correctly, that day except for two students, the whole class received the “palam”. Obviously, the number 13 was unlucky for many of us. However, Mr. Vellupillai was a very good teacher and a man with a heart of gold.

On a lighter note, we may fail to go to the temple on Fridays or attend the church services on Sundays but never failed to pay our Sunday homage to the Regal “Matha”. It was part of the “curriculum” for most of the Centralites. The 4pm “arati”/“service” was very popular as we would be home by 6.0pm. Our unsuspecting parents thought we had returned from a game of cricket at the college grounds. One rupee was more than enough for the “pooja”, 65 cents for the front seat reservation in the gallery and 25 cents

for a packet of peanuts. It was no wonder that when I went to England, I felt I was in a very familiar surrounding.

It was standard joke during our time that any student who was sacked from his school, could be accepted at Jaffna Central. Very true but those who joked, failed to understand the compassion and sympathy shown by our principals towards these unfortunate ones. Central had students from all walks of life. The school hostel was a “mini U.N.”. Sinhalese, Burghers, Muslims and Tamils from all parts of the Island came to live and study together. I am very proud to be a product of such an institution.

Well, it is nearly two decades since I left my homeland and I am very “homesick”. Through the media and others when we hear the tragic stories of our land, our heart bleeds, our eyes are dry, no more tears to shed. Oh God, forgive us for the sins of our past, please grant us peace and tranquility, let our younger generation live in harmony.

I still hope and pray that one day we will be back in good old Jaffna to see the Choc and Blue flag flying high with children playing merrily in the field. My God bless all those who have sacrificed their lives for the betterment of the students.



# Jaffna Central College and I ... Remembering A Lifetime ...

By Saravanamuttoo Yoganathan, Past President of JCC OBA of Canada 1999/2000

My thoughts go back to the year 1949 when I joined Jaffna Central College as a 5 year old student in the Lower Kindergarten, carrying a slate, a piece of chalk, and a lead pencil. At that time those were the only things you used for learning, whether you are rich or poor. My Lower School, Middle School and Upper School education, all throughout at Jaffna Central 14 long years in one school with only the GCE Certificate at the end. Why such a long time? During this time, at the end of every year, a promotion test is held, but whether you pass or fail the exam, you are automatically promoted to the upper class. However, when it comes to GCE 'O' Level a Government Exam our good old school couldn't do anything for us, but it allowed us to stay on in the same class for 3 years so that we could sit for the GCE exam for more than 5 times. Also, we made our own classes first GCE Upper, next year GCE Special and the following year GCE Super. Our classroom is Romaine Cook Hall North, South & East more than 60 students, including some Prefects, Best Cricketers, the entire Soccer Team and all the best athletes backed by most of the Central spirited teachers, who were always supporting the Sports and the sportsmen.

During this long period, I have seen 3 Principals, Rev. C. A. Smith, Dr. T. C. Niles and Mr. A. E. Thambar. Some teachers had been there for more than 20 years, some only for a few years. I really enjoyed as a Middle School student during Rev. C. A. Smith's time. We witnessed him building the 'Match-box Van'. The Jaffna Central Carnival was very interesting when he brought Gun-Boat Jack and his wife from abroad, to ride a Red Indian motor cycle inside the 'Well of Death' (first time in Ceylon's history). The school went on strike also during Rev. Smith's time. I still remember him in his pair of white shorts and shirt and stockings, riding a push bicycle with a cane in his hand and going around to 'Kandiah Kadai', 'Milk Bar' and 'Central Café' to see if any of the students were out there, smoking. One time Kandiah himself was caned in the middle of First Cross Street and Chapel Street junction for selling cigarettes to students. At times, you could even see Rev. Smith at the Regal Theatre around 6:30 p.m. to catch the hostel students coming out after the 4:30 matinee show. Most of them got their caning on the spot. Believe it or not, but there were times when St. John's students too got caned by mistake.

In 1960, during Harthal, Gandhi McIntyre of Jaffna Central organized a procession with other schools and it was a big success.

It is sad when we hear of some of our own classmates' tragic deaths, while they are still young.

In 1962 some of us left school and started the 'Senate' at our own school grounds, which starts at 7:00 p.m. with two of our favourite teachers, Mr. Kirubarajah and Mr. Kirubaharan. Life went on like this even after school in Jaffna. Even though we were back-benchers, most of our teachers' advice to us was 'Do not give up hope in life'. That helped us to look forward to our future.

I am very glad that I am still in touch with most of my classmates and very happy that they are doing really well in their life. Most of them are in England and Australia.

Finally, it is a great pleasure for me to be a Past President of Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada. We are doing our best for our school back home for the past 10 years. More than I explaining about our activities in Canada, it is best for you to read and know about our services to our old school and to Canada, in the following pages.

Always be proud to be an old Centralite.



# Message From The Past President Chelvaratnam Ramasamy

President, J.C.C.O.B.A. Canada 2001 And 2002

I am greatly delighted to be associated with Jaffna Central College, as a student from 1947 to 1957 and thereafter involved with the Old Boys Associations in Jaffna, Colombo and Canada for almost 59 years. Of the 100 years of the Alumni Associations existence since 1906, I am proud to record my association with the Old Boys' Associations continuously for almost 50 years, the latter half of its existence.

With the founding of Jaffna Central College in 1816 and with my association with the College for almost 60 years, I proudly recall the days of Rev. C.A. Smith, Rev. Dr. D.T.Niles, M/S. J. C.Charles, A.E.Thamber, K.Thievananthampillai, T.I. Abraham, S.Ratnasingam, V.A. Alagacone, K.Mathiaparanam, Ariaratnam, S.Mahalingam, S.Arunachalam, R.K. Rajasenan, M.Paramananthan, Selvarajah Thambiah, V.D. Jeyaratnasingam, S.Pararajasingam, Sebaratnam and Comrades N.Ethirveerasingam and Pararajasingam, K.Thayaparan, K.Kanageswaran, S.Thavalingam and Suntharalingam, R.K.V.Premachandra, Bunny Vantwest, Gauthamadasa, M. Sivasithamparam, K.Somaskandan, S.Kandasamy, Librarian K. Manickavasagar, V.T. Ganeshalingam, V.T.Sivalingam and V.T. Suntharalingam, who are worthy to be mentioned, for their stewardship, encouragement and training and comradeship given by them at Central.

On immigrating to Canada during the year 1994, my first contact was a call from the one and only Late Thirukumar who invited me over the Phone to attend the Central Nite Get-together and Dinner Dance. I gladly accepted the opportunity and attended the Central Nite Get-together and Dinner on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. October 1994, ( just a week after my arrival in Canada ) conducted at St. Gabriel's Church Hall and met numerous Old Centralites at that function. Thereafter due to Late Thirukumar's instigation and compelling request, I did get associated with the activities and the administration of the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada, since 1995. Since then I have been elected as a Committee Member and thereafter elected to hold office as the Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Vice President and President. Thus started my association with the Alumni Association of Canada.

I am proud to be the General Secretary in office with Dr. T.Sooriabalan as President, in organizing our maiden Cultural Show “ Mathiya Theepam “ in conjunction with the 180<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary Celebration of our College, staging at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute on Saturday May 24, 1997, which was a great success and gained praise from all parts of Toronto and the Media. Our aim is to evolve a Joint Scholarship Scheme with the support of the O.B.A., Branches all over the Globe in order to assist the bright and needy children of our Alma mater, to pursue their Higher Education in Sri Lanka. This Cultural show was conducted annually for Six years up to 2002, and the Sixth Mathiya Theepam was conducted on Saturday May 11, 2002 at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute.

I also wish to recall and remember with great pain of mind that, during my office as General Secretary, we were unfortunate to lose two great Stalwarts Jeya Kanaganayagam on 24<sup>th</sup>. January 1997 and the one and only Kantharatnam Joseph Thirukumar on 23<sup>th</sup>. January 1998. We fondly remember both Late Jeya Kanaganayagam and Late K. J. Thirukumar, who laid their life's for the greater glory of our Alma-mater Jaffna Central College in particular and for the greater glory of J.C.C.O.B.A. Canada on the whole. The memory of Jeya Kanaganayagam and Thirukumar lingers in our Hearts and it is our fervent prayer that their souls rest in peace with God.

We the J.C.C.O.B.A. Canada also created history by releasing a Commemorative Stamp in Commemoration of the Milestone achievement Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup>. Cricket Anniversary of the Cricket encounter between Jaffna Central and St. John's Colleges. This Commemorative Stamp depicting the College Crest of chocolate,

Blue and Gold of Jaffna Central and the Red and Black of St. John's Colleges, was released on the Cultural Night “ Mathiya Deepam 2001 “ at Woburn Collegiate Institute Auditorium and the First issue was presented to our Old Boy and Staff member Mr. T.Pararajasingham.

Another humanitarian services that was undertaken by the Alumni Association of Canada was the Walk-A-Thon organized in support of the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation at the Morningside Park Area 5, Scarborough, on Saturday June 30, 2001 from 8.30 A.M., to 10.30 A.M., followed by the Joint Picnic with our Sister College Vembadi.

Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada have created history in Canada by being the FIRST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN CANADA to organize and continue the Jaffna's Big Match Jaffna Central St. John's Cricket Encounter for 17 years continuously; the FIRST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION to organize a Walk-A-Thon in support of a Canadian Service Organization and the FIRST to publish a Canadian Stamp in commemoration of an achievement in Sports in Jaffna, which were possible only due to the untiring efforts of the Members of the Committee and by the overwhelming support of the Membership, the Donors of Trophies and the Business Establishments who have responded positively to our requests for Sponsorship and advertising to ensure the overall success of the programs we organized during the last 15 years.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the Members are the Assets of every Association. It will only prosper with the Unity and dedication of all the members. “ United we stand divided we fall “, with this belief and with your unstinted support and overwhelming attendance at all our Programmes, I have firm faith that we can implement our programmes for the development of the College in an effective way. Always keep in mind that the Events are yours to participate. I also kindly request each and every member to uses his influence to enroll as many members as possible and sincerely hope each of you will share my enthusiasm for the goals we can accomplish together. Together we will aspire to take this Association to greater heights.

We wish to Thank all Old Centralites, their Families and Friends for your help and moral support, and wish to convey our sincere appreciation to our Sponsors, Banner and Souvenir Advertisers for their generous assistance and appeal for your continued support in our efforts to assist our Alma mater at the hour of need.

Hence, the need of the hour is to come together and consolidate our efforts solidly behind the Old Boys Association, so that our Association will go from strength to strength and we could jointly be of greater help to our “ Alma Mater and the Students of our College “.



# Inauguration of the Jaffna Central College OBA(Canada Branch)

By

*D.C.Balarajah*

*( Old boy and past President of JCCOBA, Canada )*

It gives me pleasure to refer to the birth and growth of the JCC,OBA of Canada. When I arrived in Canada in 1986,from Dubai, I found that there was no Association of the JCC in Canada, despite the fact that there were many old boys of JCC living in Canada. I also found that there were senior teachers like Mr. K. Rajasenan, and Mr. Jeyasingam in Toronto. After lengthy discussions with them and other old boys like the late Mr. K.J. Thirukumar, we decided to form a group. When we contacted the old boys, their response was very positive, and we went on with our efforts of forming the group. The initial meeting of this group took place at Mathy's residence around mid 1989 with about fifteen old boys. In that meeting the following decisions were made:

1. To contact as many old boys as possible and to start an Association of JCCOBA.
2. To explore the possibility of a joint venture with the Vembadi OGA.
3. Encourage group activities among old students of our college.

We continued to meet, at the residence of other old boys and worked to bring together most of the past pupils and teachers. We also spoke to the Vembadi OGA, and senior teachers like Mrs. Rasamany Rasanayagam, and Mrs. Mani Rajasenan, who were very encouraging. We had a joint Dinner of the group with the Vembadi OGA. Before the association was formed, as a lover of Cricket, I contacted my friends who were Johnians and arranged to play a friendly Central St.Johns cricket match. This match was so successful that the tradition continues to this day, played annually during summer at the Sunny Brook Park, Toronto. This event brings together families and friends of the past pupils, and everyone has an enjoyable summer day.

Our discussions continued, and we met at the residence of Richard Devapalan to make the final arrangements for an inaugural meeting. To mention a few who were present; late K.J.Thirukumar, K.M.Shanthikumar, Jeya Kanaganayagam , Nada Jeyadevan, S.Perinpanathan, M.Muruganatharajah, D.Puradchidasan, and Kris Jeyanathan.

The inaugural meeting was held at a church basement in Oct.1992. At that meeting the following were elected as office bearers:

President: Kris Jeyanathan  
Vice Presidents: Jeya Kanaganayagam  
T.Pararajasingam  
S.Jeyasingam  
Secretary: K.J.Thirukumar  
Asst. Secretary: D.C.Balarajah  
Treasurer: K.M.Shanthikumar  
Asst. Treasurer: S.Perinpanathan  
Committee: M.Muruganatharajah  
Nada.Jeyadevan  
D.Puradchithasan  
T.Sri Pathy  
S.Yogasingam

In 1993, the committee drafted the constitution, and the Association was subsequently registered as a non-profit organization. Since the formation of the OBA, we have grown in numbers and strength over the last fourteen years. We continue to support our Alma-Mater in Sri Lanka.

In conclusion, I would like to thank every old boy who has contributed to the growth of the OBA, especially the Presidents and their committees who did an excellent job in keeping the Association afloat.



## Message from the President of JCC,OBA, Colombo

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the Souvenir being published to mark the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of JCC OBA Jaffna by the Canada branch. We remember with great respect and with thanks the founder Rev.W.M.P.Wilkes BA ,LCP the then Principal of Jaffna Central College.

Being the first school founded in year 1816 in North of Sri Lanka by the Wesleyan missionaries, the faithful and distinguished old boys of the college living in different countries got themselves together and formed branch Associations in each country.

The love, humanitarian feelings, dedicatory attitude for the immediate needs of our school students was felt by all the old boys wherever they were. These feelings made the JCC OBA, Colombo branch to establish a scholarship scheme for the needy children to advance their studies at school and universities This noble idea was readily accepted by the Branch associations in Australia, Canada and UK, who readily gave of their support and cooperation to the project, named Joint Scholarship Scheme since 2001.

I take this opportunity to thank all branches for extending their whole hearted support and cooperation in our efforts. Praying the ALMIGHTY to give us strength, unity and guidance for the continued success of this noble scheme.

The members of the JCC OBA Colombo branch join me in congratulating you all and wishing all success in your endeavor to maintain the glorious traditions and standards and mould useful citizens from our school in the years to come.

V.R.VADIVETKARASAN.  
President  
JCC OBA Colombo Branch.  
Colombo.  
June.14,2006



## Message from the President of JCC-OBA, Jaffna

It is a pleasure to pen a few lines to the Souvenir published by the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada to commemorate the 100 years of the founding of the OBA. In Jaffna.

We feel proud to see Centralites spread all over the world united under one roof are living to the expectations of our Almamater to a line from our college song chorus; “ Central flag must ne'er be lowered”.

Jaffna Central has a proud record to speak of academically and in the field of sports. To mention a few who brought honour and credit to our college, Saint Arumugar Navalar heads the list followed by Peter Percival, P.T.Cash, Kalapulavar Navaratnam, Rev.D.T.Niles etc. In the field of sports our ever green Dr.Nagalingam Ethirveerasingam who brought credit to the nation as well as to the college by winning the gold medal in High Jump and creating a record at the Asian Games held in Japan. Similarly Central continues to produce men of eminence in the academic field as well as in the field of sports, which we should be proud of.

Centenary of the Old Boys' Association is not an easy one. How many milestones this Association would have passed to keep the flag flying to bring all Centralites under one roof of togetherness. This is all due to the untiring efforts of our predecessors who had toiled hard under trying conditions specially during the war time in Jaffna.

It is time that Centralites all over rally round at this hour of need to reach out to their bretheren in Jaffna even in a small way. I have reminded of an incident

V.T. Sivalingam  
*President*  
*JCC OBA Jaffna*  
*Attorney-at-Law & Notary Public*  
*Management Consultant*  
*Commissioner of Oath*





## St. John's - Chundikuli Past Pupils Association - Toronto



Jun 25<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Dear Centralites,

Congratulations to your Old Boys' Association on reaching the milestone of one hundred years of useful existence. This is something not many schools can boast of, and be proud of.

The success and achievements of your school is, in major part, due to the contribution of the Old Boys' Association. The students who have gone through your prestigious school are certainly thankful to their Alma Mater and this is expressed by their wholehearted support to the Old Boys' Association.

As the President of the Toronto chapter of the Old Boys' Association of St. John's College, I hereby send my best wishes to the souvenir which is being released by your Association.

Good Luck

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raj Kumar'.

Raj Kumar  
Co-Chairperson  
SJC-CGC PPA -Toronto



## Message from the President of Vembadi Old Girls' Association

I am privileged to send this message on behalf of the Vembadi Old Girls Association (VOGA) for the souvenir being published to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association. It warms my heart to see that Centralities are upholding such traditions even so far away from home.

There are those educational institutions whose name alone invokes thoughts of greatness; Central is among those institutions. Students at Central go on in life to become leaders in their fields, bringing respect and prestige to the institution that nurtured them. It is indeed a testament to Central that its past students maintain such high standards over the years, and even more so that they do it here in Canada, oceans away from their beloved school.

Vembadi and Central are siblings and today's event brings nostalgic memories of years gone by. We not only relive our old school bonds here in Canada we make them stronger. Over the past few years we have worked together on many occasions and I am delighted today, on behalf of VOGA, to extend our support and encouragement for this anniversary celebration. We wish this function and its organizers every success.

Rathy Anandarani Arulanantham  
President,  
Vembadi Old Girls' Association (Canada)  
2006



# Jafna Central national school of nation's pride

*P.Monokeran  
Old Boy and Teacher of JCC*

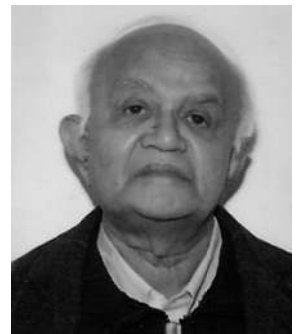
In the heart of Jaffna city stands  
A noble school of popular brand  
Bequeathed by Methodist mission  
Christian education it's faith admission.

Jaffna Central its name renown  
In the midst of history wore a crown.  
A centenary and four score years old  
Served long years to up-hold  
Virtues Wisdom Veneration Divine  
That spirit of Central ever shine

Carving on its hall's doorway  
Depict play study and pray  
Care for body mind and soul  
Was school's concern, its righteous goal  
National school of nation's pride  
Served Sri Lanka countrywide  
Professional's pedagogues politicians true  
The school produced no few

Tamils Singhalese Muslims Burghers  
Mingled freely, all like brothers  
No cast creed colour or kind  
Then did cleave us, be mankind

But ethnic war in recent times  
Struck the school in northern climes  
It has it's rise, but will never fall  
“LET'S BUILD CENTRAL” my clarion call  
The college colours Chocolate, and Blue  
Flag flew high as the college grew  
With pomp and pride and blessing showered  
Central's Flag will never be lowered.



## எம்மை வளர்த்த அன்னை

தம்பையா சிறீபதி  
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mwpt;hya;J;s; vdi d mi oj;J;r; nrdwNghJ  
mj d; ngUi ki a> Gfi o ehd; ed;F mwpej pUff  
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# My memories of Jaffna Central College

*R.K.Rajasenan B.Sc. (Hons)  
Retired Vice-Principal*

Today Jaffna Central is 190 years old and its alumni association has been in existence for 100 years. I had the good fortune of joining the staff of this great institution in 1954. My association with the college spans a period of 52 years. The best years of my life were spent at Jaffna Central. This institution in course of its existence has produced outstanding men of eminence in every field. Schools, like families, have their tradition. It is by these traditions that schools are known and respected. Honesty, integrity, self-sacrifice, compassion and non-discrimination are some of the qualities ingrained in the traditions of Jaffna Central College.

It was in April 1954 that I finished my studies in Madras Christian College and returned to my home in Jaffna. I reached home on a Saturday morning quite oblivious as to what my future was going to be. After breakfast I sat on the front verandah with day's newspapers. There was the "Daily News" and the weekend "Morning Star". My eyes caught an advertisement in both papers. The advertisement read as follows: "Wanted for Jaffna Central College, for immediate appointment, a graduate (preferably an honours graduate) to teach zoology in the Higher School Certificate Classes". I showed the advertisement to my father and he asked me to contact Mr. Charles, the Vice-Principal, who was well known to him. When I met Mr. Charles at his home, he looked at me in his inimitable way and asked me "Thamby what can I do for you?". I introduced myself and told him that I had just finished an honours degree in zoology at Madras Christian College and returned only this morning and that I had come in response to the advertisement. He was excited and behaved as if he had won a sweep. He said the Principal was away on holidays and that he would be returning soon. He more or less guaranteed me a place.

Next Monday morning, I received a telegram from the Principal requesting me to meet him in the college office. It was holiday time. When I went there that morning I was introduced to the Principal Rev. C.A. Smith by Mr. Charles. He gave me the necessary forms to fill out. After the formalities were over, the Principal welcomed me and told me the date of reopening and said my time-table would be ready on that date.

Life is full of options, choices and opportunities. God has a plan and a purpose for each and every life that will ultimately lead to the complete fulfillment of one's destiny. My intention was to get into teaching job and use that as a stepping stone to get a better job in the Fisheries Department or the Agricultural or the medical Department as an entomologist. This was my plan but God had his plan for me and God's plan prevailed.

Teaching is a sacred trust. In my case teaching was in my blood. My grandfather was a head teacher in a mission school. My father retired as Principal of Atchuvely Christian College. Our family had been involved in education for more than one hundred years.

My first day at Central is still fresh in my memory. I was officially introduced to the staff and students at the morning assembly. I was given H.S.C first year, H.S.C repeats and a special S.S.C class. My first period was with the H.S.C repeats. As I walked into the class, I was given a warm reception. I made use of the time to get to know the students and they were given the chance to get to know me. From that class a good number entered the University that year. About five for Medicine, one for Veterinary Science and a few for Science degrees. A few days after I joined the staff, my friend Puthirasingam who had majored in Botany also joined the staff.

At the time I joined the staff, the College had an excellent tutorial staff. In the English Department were teachers like Rev. Smith, Messrs. Theivananthampillai, Mahalingam, Victor Rajaratnam, Alahakoen and Kulasegarasingam. Later additions were Messrs. Balasabathypillai, S.H. Sethukavalar and Kandiah. In the Math department were Messrs. Jacob, an outstanding Math teacher at that time, Arunasalam and Mrs. Mathiaparanam. Later additions were Messrs. Radhakrishnan, Vigneswaren, S. Nadarajah, J.A.T. Sethukavalar and Thambirajah. In the Chemistry Department were Messrs. Subramaniam of "Vingnam" fame, Thiruchelvam, Balasuntharam and Selvaratnam. Later additions were Messrs. Navan Niles and Nagaratnam, an excellent Chemistry teacher who retired recently as Vice

Principal. In the Physics Department were Messrs. Tamber who retired later as Principal, Vigneshwaran, S. Nadarajah and J.A.T Sethukavalar. The Biology Department was managed by Messrs. Ariaratnam, Vaucheeswaran and Aseervatham. Later along with me and Puthirasingam four other dedicated teachers, Paramanathan, Kulendran, Sivaveerasingam and R.A Thambirajah joined the Department. For Commerce, there were "Kalai Pulavar" Navaratnam, Messrs. S.D. Jeyasingam, Kandasamy, Balasubramaniam and Miss. P. Chelliah. In the Geography Department were Messrs. J.C.Charles, Manickavasgar, and Pararajasingam. For History there were Messrs. S.H. Sethukavalar and James S. Storer. In the Tamil Department were Messrs.Sarma, Mathiapparanam, Kumaresan and Rasaratnam.

The middle school supervisor at that time was Mr. T. J. Abraham who was also the Prefect of Games. He did yeoman service to the College in the field of Sports. In recognition of his services he was awarded a Grade I special post by the then administration. He was succeeded by Mr. N.S.Rathirasingam, as Middle school supervisor. Later Mr. Rathirasingam was appointed Vice Principal and ended his career as Principal. Brent Lieut. Col. K. Balendra of the Sri Lanka Cadet Corps. Who took over from Mr. Rathirasingam as supervisor, was also in charge of the College Cadet Corps and was ably assisted by Lieut. Nagaratnam. Balendra was also in charge of the College Band. Some of the middle school teachers at that time were Messrs. E.T. Rasaratnam, P.K. Balasingam, Victor Kirupairajah, V.D.Jeyaratnasingam, Kasi Viswanathan, M.Jeyaratnam, K. Somasegaram, Pavanandan, A.M.David, Yogaratnam, Abraham Lincoln, Anthonypillai, Philipmery and Basheer.

The lower school Head master at the time was Mr. Kanagasabai and he was succeeded by Mr. Velupillai. When Mr. Velupillai retired Mr. V. Sivarahaj was appointed head master and later Mr. T. Kanagalingam succeeded him. The lady teachers in the lower school were in a class by themselves. They were Mrs. Richard, Ariaratnam, Thurairatnam, Selavarajah, Selvaratnam, Kanagaratnam, J.T. Chelliah, P. Rudra, Singaravel, and A. Victoria. Their talent proved very useful in the extra curricular activities of the school too. Two other teachers deserve special mention- Mrs. E.S. Tambiah and S. Sivapragasam. These two were institutions by

themselves. Their contributions as Physical Director and as art master respectively, are well known to past Centralites.

There were the office staff, the Librarian, Laboratory attendants, Ground boy, Bus driver, and Watcher. The role played by them is no small measure contributed to the welfare, success and efficient running of the school. Mr. S. Alagarajah was the chief clerk and he served the institution for more than 35 years. Mr. Benedict was the Accounts clerk and was later succeeded by Mr. Yogarajah. Mr. Dharmalingam was the Hostel clerk and she discharged her duties efficiently. Mr. J.M. Selvadurai was Hostel master during Rev. Smith's time and later worked in the College office. The laboratory attendants helped to maintain the laboratories up-to-date. The office peons were Mrs. Dharmasena, Gunadasa, Paramanathan, Veerasingham and Annamalai. Dharmasena was a jack of all trades trained by Rev. Smith. He was in charge of Plumbing, Electrical and all mechanical installations in the school. He had a very rare sense of humour and we used to enjoy his jokes. Mr. K. Manickavasagar was the Librarian and he did a very good job in re-organizing the Library. Mr. Sinnathamby was the Ground Boy when I joined the staff. He was quite efficient and later, after retirement he was in charge of the College Canteen. Mr. V. Kandiah who replaced him was an asset to the College and he has served the institution for a number of years. Mr. Menon was the College Driver when I joined the staff. He was a very efficient Bus Driver and did a number of all Island trips. He also had an interesting sense of humor. He was succeeded by Mr. Balasubramaniam.

I will be failing in my duty if I don't mention Mr. Rasiah. He formed an integral part of Jaffna Central. One cannot imagine Jaffna Central without Rasiah. He made the College, his home. He lived in the room next to the Chemistry laboratory. He started as a laboratory assistant and ended as an overseer. So many generations of students have come in contact with him. He helped in the maintenance of the Campus.

There were about forty students in each of my classes. Of the forty students some were very keen, some were 'unbearable', some 'inconceivable', and some 'impregnable'. I had to teach everyone of them

and keep them happy and attentive. I thank God for the gifts of a sense of humor and ready wit. I was able to control them with laughter. I loved them all and I really enjoyed every minute of my teaching at Jaffna Central. I produced very good results since I paid attention to the weakest students in the class. Whenever I walked into a class, I was carried away by the smiles on their faces. Their faces brighten, their eyes sparkle and one can read the expression on their faces. An expression of anticipation. They knew that in addition to learning, they were going to enjoy some jokes. Even now when I meet some of my former students, they say that whenever some of them meet, their conversation never ends without my name cropping up. At the O.B.A Dinner last year, one of my former students walked up to me and said, "Sir, you were more of a friend than a teacher". That is what many others have said to me. This is because I had compassion for all of them. Though I don't publicize them, I have helped many students in various ways. Apart from appearing as a defense lawyer, on behalf of the students, before the authorities, I have organized finances for needy students, found jobs for the jobless, free meal in the hostel for students who didn't bring lunch and even helped some in finding their life mates.

My students are scattered all over the globe and whenever I meet any of them, some hug me, some kiss me and some even cry out of joy to see me well and alive and say how grateful they are. In 2001 my wife and I went on a holiday to England and about fifty or sixty of my former students and about twenty five of my wife's students organized a lunch for us and we really enjoyed their company. Last year we went to Sydney, Australia and my former students organized a BBQ at the Olympic Park and I was able to meet some of them. I was happy to see them all doing well.

During the 27 years I was at Jaffna Central, I held various positions in the school. I was Secretary of the Teachers' Guild, Basket Ball Coach, Teacher in charge of the A.L Science union, Patron of the A.L Union, House master of Percival House, Member of the Sports committee, Master in charge of the Board of prefects, the most responsible student body of the College. I was appointed Vice Principal along with Mr. Balasuntharam. I am 80 years old now but people looking at me say I look 70. My Cardiologist was surprised when he found out I was 80. I owe this

to my students and my fellow teachers. They helped me to maintain my youth.

Jaffna Central College Alumni Association is celebrating its Centenary this year. I remember the good old days before the take-over of schools how we looked forward to these celebrations. It was a full day program. Past students came from all parts of the Island and accommodation was provided in the hosted for those who did not have any place to stay. The day started with a Cricket match between the past and the present, followed by a soccer match and fancy dress parade in the afternoon. Prizes were awarded to those in the best fancy dresses. The celebrations came to a close with Dinner in the evening. The dinners were well attended and the after dinner speeches were a treat to listen to. One of the early arrivals for these functions was Mr. Marcus Thambiah. He used to arrive a couple of days early and entertain us with some of his experience at Jaffna Central. The Golden Jubilee of the O.B.A was celebrated in Sept. 1956 during the Principalship of Rev. Dr. D.T. Niles. It was celebrated on a grand scale.



*R.K.Rajasenan B.Sc. (Hons)  
Retired Vice-Principal*

## மத்தியின் மைந்தர்களால் மறக்க முடியாதவர்



Kddhs; mj pgh; fhyQnrdw j pU. f. , uhrJi u mth;fs; 1996 etkgh; khj k; fy;Yhhpi a nghWgNgwwNghJ fwwy; fwggj j y; el tbf i fffhd ngsj ffr; #oy; mopti lej pUej J. , eepi yary; vdghapUej kjj paj j ha; nghdNghy; c au topai kjj hh; , th; j dJ gj tjj ffhyj j py; fy;Yhhp; tshrrpfhf mauhJ ci oj j j hy; c ilej fl bl qfs; caheJ epkhej d> Gj pa fl bl qfs; gl nl hsp tRf pdwd> Gj hkz ba Kwwk; GqgthdJ. , j dhy; rpej mofpa ngsj ffr; #oy; c ss ghl rhi y aho; kjj pa fy;Y}up vd 2005k; Mz L ei l ngww Nj rpa ghl rhi y fsp; mj pgh;fs; \$l j j j py; fy;tp mi krrh; \$wpai k , th; gz pfF fpi l j j NgwhFK;

fy;tj j i wapy; i f t p l g g l N l h i u m u t i z j j m t h ; f s ; p d ; f y ; t j j u j ; j c a h j j p a N j h L A j j f h y j j j y ; t b r r p a i l e j n r d w k h z t h f s p d ; f y ; t g n g W N g W f i s n g h J g ; g h l i r f s p y ; g b g g b a h f m j p f u p f f t o p a i k j j h h ; f y ; t p A k ; , i z g g h l t j h d n r a w g h L k ; , U f z ; f s ; v d f ; n f h z ; L , i z g g h l t j h d r ; n r a w g h L f s p Y k ; \$ b a r p u j i j v L j ; j k h t l ; > k h f h z > N j r p a e p i y f s p y ; f y ; Y h u p a p d ; j l j j i j k z L k ; g j p g g j j h h ;

“kjj p;pd; kz pfnfhb eej j pak; epi yfFK;” vDk; fy;Y}upf; fl j j j p d ; m b i a m b f f b c r r h j j J G J i k f s ; g y T k ; n r a j h h ; M u k g g u p t p y ; , U g h y h i u A k ; , i z j j i k > n g U e ; J L g g h l ; l N g h l . b i a % d W e h s ; f s h f ; f p a i k > n r d w y ; n r d ; N l h d ; ] ; f y ; Y } u p f S f ; f p i l a p y h d k l ; L g g L j j g g l ; l g e ; j g u p k h w w g N g h l . b i a

mwpK fggLj j pai k> fy;Y}up;pd; ] j hgf j p d j i j nfhz ; l h l t o p a i k j j m j j p d j j p y ; f y ; Y } u p a p y ; M u k g g j j i k v d m L f ; f p n f h z N l N g h f y h k ;

khwwqfs; %yk; Vwwqf;hz gNj khepyj j epaj naDK; kej p j i j a w p e j N r h j i d f i s A k > N t j i d f i s A k > r p Y i t a h f r ; R k e ; J r h j i d f i s r ; r u j j p u k h f ; f p a K d d h s ; m j p g h ; f h y Q n r d w j p U . f . , u h r J i u a t h f s ; f y ; t p N g z ; n e Q r q f s p y ; F d w h j k z p t s f f h f v d W k ; x s p t h r p n f h z L s s h n u d g J k p i f a h d \$ w w y y .

nj dkuhl rrapYss keJ tpy; fphkj j py; gweJ j dJ Mukgf; fy;tpi a keJ tpyk; , i l e p i y f ; f y ; t p i a r h t f r N r h p , e J f f y ; Y } h a p Y k ; n g w W g p d G g l ; l g g b g i g , y q i f g ; g y f i y f ; f o f j j p d ; N g u h j i d t s h f j j p y ; n j h l h e j g l ; l j h h p a h f n t s p N a w p d h h ; j d J M r p h a g g z p i a f p o f f p y ; f p z z p a h t p y ; M u k g g j j K s s p a t i s a p y ; n j h l h e j m j p g u h f g j t p A a h ; T n g w W > f l l t d ; G y k ; k . t p f h q N f r d J i w e N l ] ; t u h f f y ; Y } h p m r R N t y p k . t p M f p a t w w p y ; m j p g h ; g j t p i a m y q f h j j , W j p a h f a h o g g h z k ; k j j p a f y ; Y } h a p y ; j d J N r i t i a e y ; f p d h h ;

ahi d Nghdw fkgb ei l Ak> r p q f k ; N g h d w r p k k f ; F u Y k > f O F N g h d w \$ h p a g h h i t A k ; n f h z ; l t h ; “vz ; g j j j h y ; v a j y ; v s n j d g h ; a h h k l L k ; g z G l i k v D k ; t o f F ” v D k ; t h d k i w f N f w g v y N y h U l D k ; r p u j j f ; f i j j j j g ; N g r p m u t i z j j j g z G l d ; g o f p a t h ; j p w i k f s ; v t h p l k ; , U e j h Y k > , i y k i w f h a h a ; , U g N g h i u f ; F d w p y p l j j k h a ; x s p t h r n r a ; J f y ; Y } h p f F x s p A l b a t h ;

fhyk; , k ; k d j i d m f h y k h d h Y k ; f y ; t p A y f k ; f z j “f y q f i u t s f f k ; ” v d W v k f F t o p f h l L k ; v d j ; j p l q n f h s N t h k ;

“kdj dhfg; gwggi j t p l j n j a t k h f k i w t J N k y h d J ”

fhyQnrdw j pU. f. , uhrJi u gwmpa j ftyfs;  
 fy;tj j fi kfs; B.Ed, B.A., M.A (Ed)  
 gwej j pfj p 1947.09.08  
 ahogghz k; kjj pa fy;Y}hap; y;  
 fl i kNaww j pfj p 1996.11.04  
 fhykhd j pfj p 2005.10.12 nj hFj j toqf;patH; r.gj kehj d;

“mej ehs; Qhgfk; neQrNy tej Nj  
ez gNd! ez gNd! ez gNd!  
, ej ehs; mdWNghy; , dgkha; , yi yNa  
mJ Vd? Vd? ez gNd.....”

I dream of being a boy roaming the Jaffna streets again  
As I realize that I do not know much of the land where my journey began

I dream of walking to my beloved Central College via the Chapel Street  
Chatting with everyone and anyone along the way whom I meet

I dream (?) of the cane lashings from Muttiah master for writing with the left hand  
And this time I realize he wanted me to succeed in the “big studies” in a foreign land

I dream of all those debates we had in the Botany class with Kulendran master  
Where I am sure we could have solved a number of the world's problems a lot faster

I dream of organizing the Wilkes house with my colleagues for the annual Sports Meet  
As it was those Romaine House blokes who we so badly wanted to beat

I dream of cycling double to the VTK's Chemistry tuition  
And this time I promise I will study and may even understand the meaning of fusion

I dream of the Under 16 match where we “almost” beat St Thomas in the Semi finals  
But without that so-called “neutral” umpire Ponnambalam we could have been in the finals

I dream of watching Rameez caressing that ball towards the cover boundary  
This time I hope I will stand tall (without fever) to make my big-match entry!

I dream of drinking the plain tea at our favourite hide out - the Premier Café  
Now I could never be such a free flowing soul sipping even the most delicious latte

I dream of the time after school everyday when I joined the “Senate” chaired by Sri  
So that sitting on that parapet wall we can let our dreams go free

I dream of meeting my friend Mithiran again a beacon of talent and dreams  
And this time I will ensure that the meaning of his life fully beams

I dream of cruising the streets of Nallur with my friend Siva  
And who knows we might even pop into get some blessings from (Lord) Muruga

I dream of catching up with Nagendra who always smiled despite our hostel food  
And locking horns with Rudran sorting out the societal issues of the brotherhood

I dream of doing a few songs of TMS with Ravindrakumar even without the karaoke  
And might even try out a few good ones of Thiruchchi Loganathan and Seerkazhi

I dream of showing to my family the Jaffna where it was fun without iPod or even a TV  
But alas, will our homeland ever regain its glory of how it used to be

I dream of find a way to express my gratitude to my alma mater  
Thanks OBA for giving me a chance to get started with this letter

**Suren Surendran**  
(From Auckland, New Zealand)

At Central  
(1966-1977)



# MATHIYA THEEPAM VARIETY SHOW

மத்திய தீபம் பல்கலை நிகழ்ச்சி

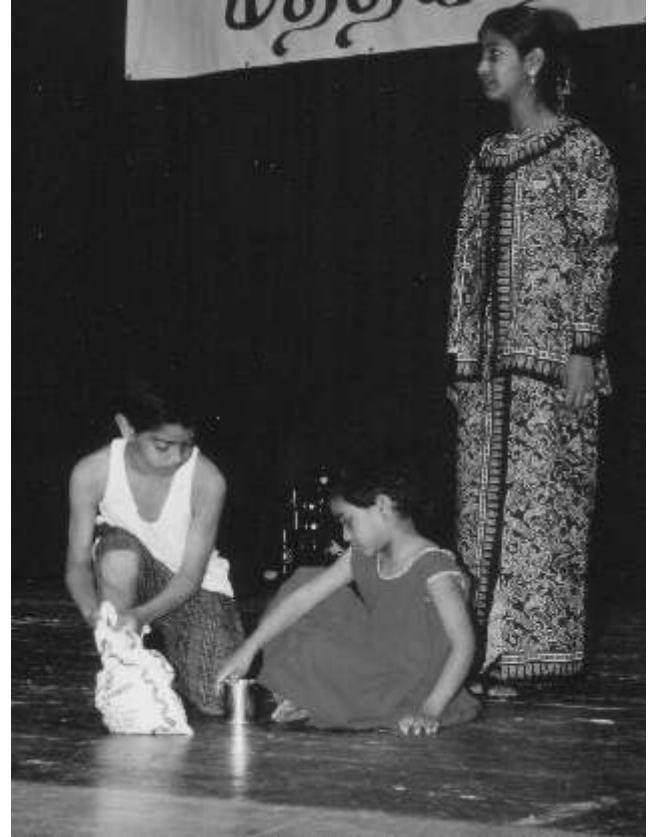
by R. Chelvaratnam

The large exodus of our people to different countries has given us new directions and concerns towards the preservation of our Culture and Identity. These concerns gave the birth of "Mathiya Deepam Variety Show", a truly Central's Cultural Entertainment. Our aim behind this endeavour is to form a Scholarship Fund for the needy and the deserving students of various Grades starting from the Fifth Grade, going up to University Entrance level.

The Members, their Families and Friends demonstrated their solidarity, love and loyalty to their Alma-mater by an overwhelming participation at our Maiden Variety Entertainment conducted on Saturday May 24, 1997 at the Winston Churchill Collegiate Auditorium, which was a great success and gained praise from all parts of Toronto and the Media. This success shows that wherever the Centralites are, they "Keep their Honour True and Bright" as the tradition goes. This Cultural Show not only provides an opportunity for the Old Students and their Children to show their talent but also gives the Centralites, Families and Friends living in Canada and States to come together as a Community, meet with one another and enjoy the Cultural Show of their own lith and kin.

We are deeply grateful and wish to express our deep sense of gratitude to all our participants young and old in demonstrating their talent and for entertaining us with their excellent performances. The Tamil Media in particular gave us due recognition in providing the required publicity for our Programmes. We are grateful and deeply thankful to the Tamil Media for their encouragement and support.

We are extremely thankful to each and every one of the members and their Families, deeply grateful for the generosity of our esteemed Donors and the Advertisers for their magnanimous support and assistance and look forward to their continued co-operation in the years to come.



# எனது ஆசிரியப் பெருந்தகைகளும் ஆருயிர் நண்பர்களும்

S.J. Ravindrakumaran (1963 -1977 at Central)

1963 Mk; Mz ;L St. Peter's Church , d;  
 gpdGwk; , UfFk; Percival Hall , y; vdJ  
 UKG fy;tp ahokj jpa fy;Yhhpary;  
 MukgkhdJ. mgNghi ja mj pgh; j pU A.  
 E. j kghpd; kfs; vdJ Kj yhtJ tFgG  
 Mrphpi a. , th; gpd;dhs py; vkJ  
 Mrphpah;fs py; xUtuhd j pU. fej rhkp  
 mth;fspd; ki dt pahdhh; MdNg  
 cUthd j pUkj j ahs k; nryi yah vdJ  
 Kj y; tFgG Mrphpi a. ehd; , qf pyhe;J  
 ehl bwFr; nryy NeUk; Nghnj yyhk;  
 , ti uAk> mddhhpd; rNfhj hpAk; vkJ  
 Music Teacher ck; Md gtsk; Teacher  
 [Ak; (mdi wa Miss. Rajah) rej pffj;  
 jtWtNj ayyi y. , jji d MdLfs;  
 fope;Jk; , UtUk; vdi d cINd  
 mi lahs k; fz ;L nfhs;tJ xUGwk;  
 Mrrhpak> kWGwk; ngUi k. vdJ  
 , uz ;lhk; tFgG Mrphpah; j pU.  
 gukyppq;fk; , thpd; kUkfd; Dr.  
 kNdhfud; (Jaffna Hospital) vdJ  
 cah;tFgGj; Nj hod; gukyppq;fk; Master  
 xtntH rejpapYk; jdJ cycle [ t  
 pl bwq;fpg; ghi j apd; kWGwk; cUI bf;  
 nfhz ;L nrdw gpd;dh; Vwp XLthh;  
 ehq;fs; vdd nraj pUgNghk; vdgi j  
 ahUf;Fk; nrhyy Ntz baj pyi y. vdJ  
 %dwhk; tFgG Mrphpi a j pUkj p  
 rpt g;g pufhrk; fz ;bgGk; mdGk;  
 epi wej th; <oj; j kpo; kffs; ngUk; j k;  
 mi laf;\$ba rpwe; j xtpaUk;  
 rpwgpAkhd vkJ xtpa Mrphpah; j pU  
 rpt g;g pufhrk; mth;fS k; vkJ  
 Mrphpi aAk; , staJ j kgj pfs hff;  
 fy;Yhhpt shfj j pd; csNsNa Mukgj j py;  
 thoe;J tej dh; j pU. rpt g;g pufhrk;  
 mth;fs; meehl ;fs py; Windsor  
 jpi uauq;fpy; i tggj wfhf M.G.R. ebj j  
 “vd; fli k” jpi uggl j ;J fhd cut out  
 vkJ tFggi wad; KdNd i tjj  
 mofhf ti uej fhlrp , dWk; vddhy;  
 kwff Kbahj J. cUjj puh Teacher  
 nrhyy; j ej “mkkh ehd; tpi sahl g;  
 NghNwd” ghl Yk; nry;tp yyp uh[ ul z k;  
 Teacher, Piano thrj j gb nrhyy; j ej  
 “Away in a manger” ghl Yk; , gng hOJ k;  
 vdf;F kdgg h k; ngz ; Mrphpah; fi s  
 Teacher vdWk; Mz ; Mrphpah; fi s

Master vdWk; ehk; mi of;Fk; toff;fk>  
 Mq;fpy nkhopary; jtW vdgJ ed;F  
 nj hpe; hYk; vq;fshy; mej goff;ji j  
 khwwpf; nfhs; Kbej Nj ayyi y. vdJ  
 ehd;fhk; tFgG Mrphpi a j pUkj p  
 Ji uu; j pdk; vng hOJ k; xU gukG  
 i tjj pUggh; Mdhy; mJ mtUf;Fg;  
 gad;gl ;l Nj , y; i y. vk; i k  
 kpul ;L t j w; fhf kl ;L Nk mi j  
 i tjj pUggh; guhf;Fg; ghj ;J f; nfhz ;L  
 Nfl ;l Nfs;tpNa Ghpahky; tpp;f;Fk;  
 khz th;fS fF “thdk; Nghl ;l Nj > G+kp  
 j hq;f;pdNj vdW , U” vdf;f; z ;lybf;Fk;  
 mdG Mrphpi a j pUkj p mhpa; j pdk;  
 vk;f;F fwgg; j ghl k; “#oy”.  
 j pUkj p FkhuRej uk; gbggg; j j “j kpo”.  
 vdJ , yykh; Romaine House , d;  
 Mrphpah;fs; j pU. Kj i j ah> j pUkj p  
 Ji uu; j pdk> cUj j puh Teacher  
 vdgth;fshy; Lower School Sports meet  
 , y; Romaine House Captain Mf ehd;  
 nj hpT nraaggl NI d; Kj i j ah master  
 , d; guk; gbAl d; gof;pa March Past , dW  
 nraj hYk; xOq;fhf tUk; toi k  
 NghyNt Romaine House first. vdJ  
 l ej hk; tFgG Mrphpah> j pU. j kgpK; j j  
 mth;fs; meehl ;fs py; vng hOJ k;  
 ntwwpi yi af; Fj gg;f; nfhz bUf;Fk;  
 j pUkj p fdfuj j pdk; vkJ Mq;fpy  
 Mrphpi a. j wng hOJ , qF fdl ht py;  
 trj ;J tUk; vkJ mdG Mrphpi a  
 ntwwpi y ghf;Fg; NghLk; toff;ji j  
 KwwhfNt epWj j ptpl ;l hh; , d;DnkhU  
 l ej hk; tFgG mdG Mrphpi a j pUkj p  
 gukhdej k; , tUk; fdl ht py; trj ;J  
 tUf;pw h; , thpd; kfd; gpughfud;  
 vd;Dl d; cah; tFggpYk> gpd;dh; Jaffna  
 College Technical Institute , y; Electronics  
 gbggg;Yk; \$l gg;bj j mdGj Nj hod;  
 mff;hy; j j py; Hostel master Mf , Uej  
 j pU. <] tughj k; vdJ Mwhk;  
 tFgg hrrhpah; fz ;j gg h l j j kpf  
 mwGj khfr; nrhyy; j j ej th; vdJ Vohk;  
 tFgG Mrphpi a. j pUkj p Hudson  
 nry;tu h. Pencil, Ruler, Pen vdW  
 vi jahtJ tll by; kwe;J i tjj ;t pl ;L  
 tFgGf;F tUk; vq;fS fF nry;tu h  
 Teacher eyy dose nfhLggh; “vdJ

fi lrp kfS fFk; cqfS i la taJjhNd.  
 mts; vyyhg; nghUl fi sAk; Kj yehNs  
 vLj Ji tjJ tPlths; cqfS fFk; mti sg;  
 Nghy fhpri dAl d; Vd; tFgGfF  
 tuKbahJ” vdW \$wjj pl Lt hh; Ntkgbary;  
 gbffk; xU ngz gisi sAl d; vki k xggpl L  
 klk; j l Ltjh? Nuhrffhuhfs; myyth  
 ehqfs; Kj yehs; Pencil l kweJ tej thfs;  
 kpf; ftdkhf mi j vLjJ vkJ School Bag  
 , Ds; i tjJ ntwwp tLhfshf mLjj ehs;  
 tFgGfFr; nryNthk; MdhY; , dW note  
 book l Na tll by; kweJ i tjJ tPl Lg;  
 NghapUgNghk; klz Lk; eyy dose fpi l fFk;  
 fi l rpti u j pUej Nt , yi y. ehd; Advanced  
 Level gbffk NghJ j pUkj p. Hudson  
 nry; uh[ h Xa; Tg; ngwwhh; mthpd; Xa; Tehs;  
 ci ui a MwWk; ghffpak; vdfFf; fpi l j j J.  
 kwffhky; , ej r; rkg tqfi s vdJ ci uary;  
 Nrhj J fnfhz NI d; Mrphpi a rphj j gb  
 kpfTk; urj J fNf l l hh; rpy Mz LfsS fF  
 Kd; fdlh tej pUej Mrphapl k; vdi d  
 Qhgfk; , Uffpwj h vdfNf l l NghJ > vdJ  
 ngai uAk; nrhyyp> ehd; j d fF farewell  
 speech nfhLj j i j Ak; \$wpdhh; nkarpythj J g;  
 NghNdd; , Jjhd; aho; kjj pa fy; Yhp  
 Mrphahfspl k; css rpwgG. vj j i d  
 tUl qfs; flej hYk; j kJ khz thfi s  
 kwffhj mwGj khd Mrphag; ngUej i ffs;  
 vkJ j i yi k Mrphpauhf , Uej  
 NtYggpsis master l mwphaj kjj pa  
 fy; Yhp khz thfNs , yi y vdyhk; mthpl k;  
 gpuk; gb thq; fhky; j ggpa kpf r;  
 nrhwgkhd thfspy; ehDk; xUt d!!! vdDI d;  
 Vohk; tFggpy; gbjj mi dtUNK vdWNK  
 kwffKbahj Rthurpakhd rkgtk; xdW  
 elej J. kjj pa cz T , i l Nti sapd; gpd;  
 Kj y; ghl k; “j kpo”. Mrphah; NtYggpsis  
 master. mth; tFggpwF teJ > “vyNyhUk;  
 ntsapy; thpi rahf epy; Yqfs; NtkgbfFg;  
 Nghfyhk?” vdf; \$wpt pl L > “, Nj h tUf pNwd?”  
 vdW nrhyypj; j dJ mYtyf mi wfFr;  
 nrdwhh; t pl i yg gUt j j py; , Uej  
 vqfS fFg; gaqfu thrill. NtkgbfFg; Nghfg;  
 Nghf pNwhk; xU girls' school fF t pahi t  
 Kfj J l Dk > fi yej KbAl Dk; Nghtjh?  
 ez gd; ej j pahgudpd; notebook , wFs;  
 vgnghOJk; powder , Uffk; mdW mtd;  
 powder stock fhypahdJ. mi dtUK;  
 mofhfj; j i ythhp powder mbj J  
 NtkgbfFg; Nghfj; jahuhf line , y;  
 epdNwhk; NtYggpsis master tej hh>

“Fl bad; (gy Mrphahfs; vdi d  
 , ggbj jhd; mi oj j hhfs> ez ghfs;  
 mi oggJ fl i l utp) fj pi ui a vLj Jf;  
 nfhz L th” vdwhh; Ntkgbary; , yyhj  
 fj pi uah? Vd; , qfpUeNj fhtpf; nfhz L;  
 nryyNtz Lk? kdj py; vz z pai j j;  
 i jhpakhff; Nf l NI t pl NI d;” NtkgbfFh?  
 Ki sj J %dW , i yt pl tpyi y> mj wFs;  
 ngli l fspd; gsspf; \$l k; Nghf nubah?  
 Ntggkuj j bff el Tqf l h> XbgNgh” vdW  
 rpkk fhrrid gj pyhf tej mLjj tpehb  
 ehqfs; vyNyhUk; vqfs; block , d;  
 Kd; d pUej Nt g; gkuj j pd; mbary;  
 mkhej pUeNj hk; tFggi wg; GS ffj j j j;  
 j thggj wfhf mth; Ntggku epy py; ghl k;  
 el j j pdhh; toffkhf , ggbahd rej hggj j py;  
 vyNyhUfFk; guggkgok; fpi l j j pUfFk;  
 MdhY; vqfs pd; epi y fz l NtYggpsis  
 master fNf tapW FYqfr; rphgG tej J.  
 , ej tFggpy; ehk; gbj J f; nfhz bUej NghJ  
 ez gd; n[ aNkhfdpd; jahh; fhykhddh;  
 rpwpa taj hapUej hYk; mtdJ Jahpy; ehk;  
 mi dtUK; gqFnfhz NI hk; , t tFggpy;  
 vd; DI d; gbjj thfspy; Qhgfj j py; css  
 rpyh; - fpu] z jhrd> rptuhkd> epuQrpw>  
 n[ ak> n[ auh[ h> n[ gNerd> Nj tghyd>  
 Nj tuh[ d> Brian Abraham & Beadle.  
 Wood work Class , y; n[ aul z k; master  
 fFj; nj hpahky; Bat nraNthk; MdhYk;  
 vggbaK; ftdj J t pl k; mth; vqfi s  
 Nehffp tRtJ > mUfpyUfFk; j l Lgnghy;  
 gpd; dh; fpi l ggJ xU thuj J fhtJ typ  
 Fi wahky; , Uffk; mthpd; ngah; ngww  
 fhJ f; fjsS . FWkG nraAk; vqfi s mUfpy;  
 mi ofFk; fhrt pRtehd; master vkJ  
 i fi a md; Gl d; gwWthh; MdhY;  
 i fggpbAl d; EsS k; fpi l ggj hy; ehk;  
 neopej gb , Uej vOkGNthk; Vohk; tFgGg;  
 gbj J f; nfhz bUej NghJ j pU.  
 NtYggpsis master vOj p , affpa “guj d?”  
 vd; w ehl fk > m fpy , yf; i fj;  
 j kpoj j pdt pht py; Kj y; ghpi rg; ngwW vkJ  
 fy; YhhpfFg; ngUi k Nrhj j J. NtYggpsis  
 master cl d; Kj j jah master> t pfl h; master>  
 Ji uuj j pdk; teacher> Mf pNahh; cj t pahf  
 , eehl fj j j g; gapwWt j j dh; , eehl fj j py;  
 guj dhf gh] fuDk > uhkdhf m fpy Dk >  
 Ffdhf uQrpw; ck > kej p p Rkej pudhf  
 A. rpt FkhuDk; i fNfapahfg; ngz ; Nt l j j py;  
 ehDk; ebj Nj hk; fy; Y] hparpy; gapdW  
 ehl fffi y , dWk; i fnfhLffpdwJ.  
 vkJ vl l hk; tFgghrphah; j pU. gthdej d;





GCE A/L Union  
Annual Dinner 1976



JCC Cricket Team 1977



## Message from President, JCC Old Boys' & Girls' Association, UK Branch

It gives me great pleasure to send this message for inclusion in the Souvenir to be published to mark the 100 years of founding the JCC OBA, Jaffna. Congratulations OBA Jaffna on reaching this very important milestone and on behalf of my Association I wish you Good Luck and may God Bless all your undertakings. I through this message, compliment the OBA Canada for taking the initiative to publish a Souvenir and organise a Cultural Event to mark this very memorable year for the OBA Jaffna.

OBA Jaffna should be the Mother of all the other OBAs and must act as the main link between Jaffna Central College and its OBAs. I wish that the OBA Jaffna will be proactive, effective and a guiding light to the other OBAs.

One of the primary objectives of the OBAs is to help Jaffna Central College and its students. The OBA Jaffna is geographically close to the College and its students and hence, in a very favourable position to liaise with the College and the other OBAs both in Sri Lanka and abroad. I hope that the OBA Jaffna will perform this vital role and help the other OBAs in their service to the College and its students.

Finally, I thank the OBA Canada for the opportunity to send this message.

Harold Alakeson,  
President,  
JCC OBA U.K. Branch  
U.K.

# My Days at Jaffna Central

*Ram Sundaresan, B.Sc., (Colombo), M.Sc., (Dulhousie)  
Old boy 1958-1962*

I was one of those who happened to join Jaffna Central due to the tide of ethnic violence that swept the country in July 1958. There was a mass exodus of Tamil students from the Colombo district to the north and I joined the school in grade IV. As we were thrown into a totally new environment and a considerably different curriculum, I walked into the school with a great deal of anxiety and trepidation. But these fears were soon laid to rest by the warmth of the fellow students and the caring teachers. We had two remarkable teachers in the lower school, Mrs. Richards and Winslow. I integrated into the school quite quickly that I managed to come on top of the class at the end of the school year and my class teachers demanded a treat from me. So my mother packed some goodies for the teachers on the last day of the school. Those days the monsoon rains in Jaffna were so severe, that when its very bad, the school would close at the end of the morning session and we would have the rest of the day off. This is something the present day student cannot dream of.

My days in the middle school are vivid as a result of the two dedicated teachers in Science. We had in Messrs. Nadarajah and Thambirajah. Their incisive teaching of the subject, made many of us develop a keen and avid interest in Science subjects. Also the thorough grinding in Mathematics by the late Vellupillai master, as he was affectionately known, stood us in good stead, later on in the years. The oratorical contest in English and Tamil conducted annually by the Northern Province Teachers Association was something we looked forward to every year. I was fortunate to be trained by Mr. Navo Niles in English, which was instrumental in successfully representing my alma mater.

I went through two principals at Jaffna Central. One, an eminent scholar, the late Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles and the late Mr. A. E. Thamber. But it was Mr. Theivananthampillai the Vice-Principal who was responsible for enforcing discipline in the school and I dare say no student wished an encounter with him in the school office. The year of 1960 was a watershed in the history of Jaffna Central as with many of the privately managed schools in Sri Lanka, when the government “took” over these schools. Though I was very young at that stage, the sense of nostalgia and a

degree of resentment was palpable in the school community.

In 1961 the school reached a milestone, 140 years (145 after the revision) of existence. This was commemorated on a grand scale by the staging of a science exhibition and a series of sports competitions and cultural programs.

The cricket season in the northern schools were enlivened those days, by the school boy cricketer of the north contest conducted by the Sunday Observer. This was keenly fought by the arch rivals in cricket, Jaffna Central and St. John's College. There was much fervour on both sides in collecting and mailing the coupons to the press. M. Sivaratnam, an outstanding cricketer of Jaffna Central, was adjudged the school boy cricketer of the north in the year 1962. This year also marked the culmination of my stay at Jaffna Central. But I consider myself privileged to have gone through the portals of this great school.



# என்றும் பெருமதம் கொள்ளும் எனது கல்லூரி

F.nj aNtej puhl h B.Sc (Ceylon), Ph.D.(London)  
gi oa khz td; (1951-1958)> aho; gy:fi yf:fof j htut:paw; NguhrpupaH(1978-1992)

aho; kjj pa fy;Yhup gi oakhz tH rqrj j pd;  
Whwwhz L tphi t KddpL ntsptUk; , ej  
rOrpi fapy; , rrpW flLi ui a vOJ tj py;  
kl l ww kfprrrmi l fNwd;

tl fF , yqi fapd; j i yefuhd ahogghz j j pd;  
kjj pary; kqfhJ 190 Mz Lfshf fy:tf:F  
Mwwpa gq:fi dAk; mji dfflb vOggp  
tsHj J XH rpwej fy:tp epi yakhf:pa fy;Yhup  
mj pgHfs; MrpupaHfs; gi oakhz tHfs;  
vyNyhi uAk; ehk; kwffFKbahJ.

fy;Yhupapd; tuyhwwpy; fl ej , U rfhgj qfshf  
ei lngWk; c sehl Lg; NghH j hd; mj d;  
tsHrrpary; ngupa ghj rgi g VwgLj j pAssJ. , J  
vkJ fy;Yhup:F klLkyy tl fF fppf:py;  
css gy fy;YhupfS fFk; Vwgl nj hdwhFk;  
vdPdK; , ej , ffl l hd fhyj j py; fy;Yhupi a  
Gdui kj J j pUkgTk; mj d; gi oaepi yi kfF  
nfhz L nrdW ntwwp lba ngUi k fhyk;  
nrdw fy;Yup mj pgH f.uhrJi uFF NrUk; mth  
, ffy;Yhupf:F Mwwpa msggupa Nri ti a ehk;  
xUnghOJk; kwff:f;\$l hJ.

XtnthUtupd; thofi fapy; j k; c l Yk;  
cssKk; tsHrrp mi lAk; , sk; gUtKj hd;  
kpfKff:pakhd fhykhfmi kfpdwJ. , j d;  
ngUk; gFj p fl l j j l l 13 tUl qfs; fy;Yupary;  
nrytpl ggL fpdwJ. , ffy;Yhup thofi fj hd;  
j ki kNa mwpahJ j kJ thoi fapd; gpw:fy  
tpUj j pi aAk; mj dhy; mi lAk; rUk;  
rpwggpi di aAk; eHz apff:pdwJ. vdNt ekJ  
gpUnj rj j py; ekJ gpsi sfs; gpd:dH ekJ  
gpui l fs; Mwwy; kpf:ftHfshf ehl j l fl b  
vOg:gt;y:i k nfhz l nrawj pdw;  
c i latHfshf tuNtz Lkhdhy; ghl rhi yfs;  
fy;Yhupfs; nj hopy:Elg fy:tp epi yaqfs;  
gyfi yf; fofqfs; tsuNtz Lk; , i t  
, di wa fhyfl l j j p:F Vww ti fapy; Gj pad  
GFj j p vyyh kl l kf:fs:pd; ey:thot:pwf:h  
nj hopygl Ntz Lk;

ehd; vdJ fy;Yhup; gbgig , U , l qfs:py;  
ngwNwd; lej hk; juk; ti u khdpgha;  
nkkNkhwpay; Mqf:pyg; ghl rhi yapYk; gpd:dH  
gy:fi yf:fofk; nry:Yk; ti uapyhd kpfj p  
fhyj j j aho; kjj pa fy;YhupapYk;  
gbj Nj d; kjj pa fy;Yhupf:F Nghtj w:F  
fhuz khf , Uej tH fhyk; nrdw vdJ

mdGf:Fupa i kj Jz H S.M.Mi rggpsi s.  
, tUk; , tupd; j k:gp fhyk; nrdw  
V.M.Mi rggpsi s ahokj j pa fy;Yhupapd;  
kjj pg:F:Fupa gi oa khz tHfs; .  
V.M.Mi rggpsi s 1924 Mk; Mz L  
mfpy, yqi fapy; Kj yhf te:J  
vej ut:pay(engineering) Gi yi kggupR ngwW  
, yz l d; gy:fi yf:fofk; nrdwhH. , tH gpd:dH  
gy fhyk; aho; , eJ f:fy;Yhupapd; mj pguhf  
, Uej tH. , Nj fhyj j py; , tupd; rf khz tdhd  
A.W.R.kapy:thf:dk; 1926 Mk; Mz L  
mfpy, yqi fapy; Kj yhf te:J nghJg;  
Gi yi kggupR ngwW , qf:pyhe:J nrdW  
fy:hej j g; gl l k; ngwwhH. , tHj hd; gpd:dH  
, yqi fg; gy:fi yf:fofj j pd; Kj yhtJ  
ngsj f:tpaw; Nguhrpupauf epakdk; ngwW  
ahokj j pa fy;Yhupf:F ngUi k j ej , dndhU  
gi oakhz td;

fy:tpad; rpfukhd kjj pa fy;Yhupary; gbff:  
thagG fpi l j j i j apl L ehd; vngghOJk;  
ngUi kggLtJz L. fy;Yhupary; ngwWJk;  
ngwhj Jk; gy cz L. Vohk; tFggpy; mdi wa  
mj pguhf , Uej Rev.C.A.r:kj; vqfS fF  
jrRNTi y tFgG vLj j hH.fpi kfF xUehs;  
el f:Fk; , ej tFggpy; i fths> c sp rff:sp  
j pUf: Nghdwtwi w vggbg; ght:ggJ vdw  
j pd:fi sg; (skills) ngwNwd; mz i kapy; ehDk;  
vdJ fdba Mqf:Nya ez gDkhf fhggw;  
Nghl ggl bUej gbfi s Xf; kuj j hy; Md  
gbfshf:f:Ndhk; vdJ ez gh; Nfl l hH eHxU  
Ez z papud:tpayhsH vggb , t:tsT j pi kahf  
kuNti y nraaKbej J vdW. , j wF kjj pa  
fy;Yhup mj pgUf:Fj j hd; edwp\$wNtz Lk;

ehd; kjj pa fy;Yhupary; , Ue:Jj hd; 1959 , y;  
, yqi fg; gy:fi yf:fofk; nrdW gl l k; ngwW  
1963, y; Nguhj i dg; gy:fofj j py; c j tp  
t:ppTi uahsuhf vdJ nj hopy; thofi fi a  
Mukggj Nj d; gpd:dH1966 Mk; Mz L , yz l d;  
nrdW 1969 , y; gpwgGupi kapary; (Genetics)  
fy:hej p gl l k; ngwW rpy fhyk; Nguhj i dapy;  
t:ppTi uahsuhf , Uej gpd:dH ehd; gpwe:J  
tsHe:J fy:tpfww nrhej kz z py; Nri t nraa  
tpUk:gp 1978 , y; aho; gy:fi yf:fofj j py;  
j htut:paw; Nguhrpupaufg; gj t:NawNwd;  
gj pdehd:F Mz Lfshf aho; gy:fi yf:fofj j py;  
t:ppTi uahwwp mdi wa ehl L epyi k fhuz khf

1992 gyfi yffofjij tpl tpyf fdlhi t  
vdJ Gj paj hafkhf VwWNSd;

vdJ tQOhd MhtjjpwFk; mwptpaw;  
rpej d fS fFk; fhuz k; mdW ehd; kjjpa  
fy;Yhupay; ngww Ki wahd fy; tNa. , jwF  
cWJi z ahf , Ueji t rpej MrpuaHfS k;  
tQOhd Ma;T\$!qfS k; mdW Mhtj;Jl d;  
ngww tQOhd nraKi wj; jpwdfs( practical  
science skills) vdi d NkYk; tQOhdj j pYk;  
Muharpayk; \$ba <Lghl i l VwgLjjjaJ.  
, j dhy; vd; fy;Yhupa a vdWk; thojjj;  
j tWtj pyi y. vdJ MrpuaHfS py; mdGfFupa  
V.tpfNd] ;tud> K.uhl Nrdd> P.kNdhfud;  
fdlhtpy; , Uf;fwhHfs;

ehd; c apay; tQOhdpahf , Uej nghOJ k;  
fy;Yhupay; fww mbggi l , urhadk; tNrl khf  
nraKi w , urhadk; vdi d , j Ji wapYk;  
i ftpl tpy; i y. flej tUl k; vdJ  
Ma;T\$!j j pd; , urhadg; gFj papd;  
eHthfgnghWgi g VwfNtz ba Nji t tej  
nghOJ fy;Yhupay; ngww j ddkgpf i f  
(confidence) jhd; vdi d ntwwpfukhf eljj  
VJ tha; Uej J. , j wF vd; kj pgGfFupa kh] iH  
j pUrnr;tkj hd; fhuz k; , ti u mgngH OJ rpy  
khz thfs; gdpah vz L gl k; nrhyyp  
ei fggJz L. ehd; mti u xUnghOJ k; mggbg;  
ghHj ;j j py; i y. mth f b d k h d  
Nghf;Fi latuhapDk; j dJ khz thfs;  
eyyKi wapy; , urhadk; fwW gyfi yffofk;  
NghfNtz Lk; vdW Mj qfk; mtupl k;  
vgnghOJ k; fhz ggl j J.

ehDk; vdJ mz z Dk; vOj ;Jg; gBl i rapy;  
rj j p ngwW nraKi wg; gBl i rfF nfhOkG  
nryy Ntz baUej J. nfhOkG nry;tJ  
vqfS fF Kj wj li t> kh] iH j pUrnr;tk;  
j dJ fhup; vqfi s ahogghz g; Gi fapj  
epi yaj j pwF mi oj ;J thoj j p topaDggpaTh.  
, J mtuJ caupa gz gpi dAk; , urhadj j py;  
mth nfhz i gpbggpi dAk; fhL LfpuJ.

kjjpa fy;Yhupad; , rrpwej , urhad  
Ma;T\$!j j pdhl hfj j hd; , yqi fapd; Kj w;  
, urhadg; NguhrpuaH A.fei jah D.Sc., Ph.D.,  
(London) ngUi k <l;bdhH. , thj hd;  
, yqi fapy; tQOhdj j py; mj pc aHej D.Sc  
gl i j j Kj yKj yhf; ngww tQOhdpAk;  
MthH. ehd; fy;Yhupay; gbfFk; nghOJ gy  
fy;tphkd;fspd; j pwi kfi s mwpathagG  
, Uf;ftpy; y Mdhy; gpd;dh gyfi yffofj j py;  
MrpuaHf , Uej fhyj j py vdJ ez ghfshd

fhyk; nrdw Prof.V.Appapillai (Physics), Prof.R.  
Appathurai( Agriculture) Prof.C.Sandrasegaram  
(Education) vdJ MrpuaH Prof. Morgan  
Thambiah,(Botany) Prof.V.Navaratnarajah  
(Engineering) NghdwtHfs; vdJ fy;Yhupay;  
fwwthfs; vdgi j mwpe;J ngUkj k;  
mi l eNj d;

kjjpa fy;Yhup xU fpw] j tg; gsspf;\$l khf  
, Uej nghOJ k; kww kjj;J khz thfi s  
fpw] j j t j i j fwfNth myyJ fpw] j t  
Nghj i di af; Nfl ;fNth eHgej pf;fggl tpyi y.  
fpw] j tk; kwwthfs fF el fFk; nghOJ , eJ  
khz thfs fF mwtpay(ethics) gbggpf;fggl j J.  
mJ vdfF edF gpbj j pUej J. , dW fdlhtpd;  
murhqf ghl rhi yfspy; rkak; , yyhJ  
fy;tgap;ytJ NghdW l kgJ Mz LFS fF Kd;  
vdfF kjjpa fy;Yhupay; fpi l j j i j ap l  
ngUkj k; mi l fpdNwd; , J vdi d Rakhf  
aj hHj j khd Ki wapy; rpej pf;fj ;Jhz baJ.  
mwtpay; ghl j j py; mNdfkhf j pUfFws;  
gbj Nj d; vdfF t pUggkhd Fws; vgnghUs;  
vj j di kahapDk; mgngHUs; nkagngHUs;  
fhz gJ mwpt. czi ki a mwptJ jhd;  
tQOhdk; tQOhdk; mofhdJ mJ , dpa  
cssqfspy; czi kapd; Cl hf kpfrrpwej  
epi wi t vdWk; j utyyJ.

kjjpa fy;Yhupay; ehd; ngwwtwi wf; \$wpNdd;  
ngwj j twpa rpytwi wf; \$whkYk; tpl KbahJ.  
fy;Yhupay; j l nl Oj ;J (Typing or Key-boarding)  
, Uej J Mdhy; mj j pwi d mdW  
fwfj j twpaJ vt;tst gpi o vdgi j gpd;dh  
jhd; cz uKbej J. mi u kz j j pahy j j py;  
, ffl i ui a fz dpa; Nghl Ntz bai j  
nraa xU ehs; vLj j J. fz dpa; ghti d  
, dW gyupd; nj hopyYk; mdwhl thoi fapYk;  
epuej ukhfptpl ;J Mj yhy; j l nl Oj ;J  
fdlhtpd; fy;Yhupfspy; xU fl i hakww  
ghl myfhfg(optional course) gbgggg j py;  
Mrrupak; vJ Tkpyi y.

vdJ fy;Yhupay; gy tpi oahl Lf;fi s  
fwwpe;J nfhz i nghOJ k; eHri yf;  
fw;ftpy; i y. , j dhy;  
fl wfi u tpl Ki wfi s  
my;yJ eH rhHej  
epfo;Tfi s Koi kahf  
urpf;fKbatpyi y. MLk;  
fi yi a kjjpa fy;Yupay;  
ngw ; w p U f ; f y h k ;  
j twtpl Ltpl Nl d; vkJ rqr  
fopahl ;L t pohf;fspy;



ez ghfs; utp Nahfh> ghyh NghdwtHfs; Mb  
kfp;tJld; gq;Fnfhs;Kbat;yi y vd  
Mj qfk;mi l tJz L.

vyNyhUf;Fk; jk; fy;Yhup thof;f  
, dñaj hfTk; mNj rkak; Mffk; c i l aj hfTk;  
, Uf;fNtz ;Lk; , j w;F fy;Yhup eyy  
rej Hggq;fi s VwgLj j pfnfhLf;fNtz ;Lk; mNj  
Neuj j py; ngwNwhUK; j k; g;si sfsd; fy;t;py;  
mffi w fhl b fy;YhupAl d; l f;f;akhd cwi t  
Vw;gLj j p khz thfi s Rarpe; j i d  
c i l atHfshf j Hf;fkhd KbTfi sj;  
j hkhfNt vLf;ff;\$ba gf;Ftj; j  
VwgLj j Ntz ;Lk; vdW \$wp mad; j Bd;pd;  
mUi kahd , f; fUj ;Jld; vdJ flLi ui a  
epi wT nra;f;Nwd; “mwpt;Yk; ghHf;f  
Kf;f;akhdJ fwgi dj j ;pd;”;



During our president Dr. Theivendrarajah's visit to JCC

# My School Career at Jaffna Central College

*By Kandiah Ganeshapirabu  
(Probably the very senior student of Jaffna Central College)*

I started my studies at Jaffna Central College in 1931 during the time when Sri Lanka was ruled by British Empire. I joined in the lower classes and all my studies were in English medium. My principal was a British named Rev. P. T Cash and the vice principal position was held by a Tamil Ceylonese Mr. J. W. Arulpragasam. The vice principal was a strict disciplinarian and was responsible for maintaining discipline of students at that time.

My first class teacher was Mr. G. W Thampar and I can still remember him how he taught English to us. My mathematics teacher was Mr. Gunaratnam and my Tamil teacher was Mr. Sarma. These gentlemen are men of honesty, character and discipline. It was a wonderful era where we have to abide by the strict disciplines of our teachers. I can still remember I used to walk 4 miles up and down to school daily. After two years studies, I joined Jaffna Hindu in 1933 which is closer to my home. I was a science student at the matriculation stage of my studies. While I was studying in Jaffna Hindu College, my Botany teacher passed away suddenly. Botany was my favorite subject. Five of my class mates including I decided to go to Jaffna Central as they had a good botany teacher. So again my studies at Jaffna Central started in 1937 where I studied till I completed all my studies in this great institution.

My school life was like a family life. I had several friends in school and we are united in every way. We had very enjoyable moments and some sad moments. I can remember even now that while I was studying in the higher grade, a class mate of mine contacted with typhoid and passed away. It was a big blow for the whole class and it took some time to come to normal. I can still remember that our Principal Rev Cash, all the teachers and students walked two miles where the student's house situated for a memorial prayer. Some of my teachers started crying while the prayer was going on. It was at that time I realized how we were loved by our teachers. I can vividly remember my mathematics teacher Mr. Jacob, botany teacher Late Mr. Abraham Kovoov.

Jaffna Central has produced a number of brilliant students and academics who are holding high positions in various parts of the world. I can recollect

one of my class mates is Mr. Morgan Thambiah who is a very brilliant student during our time, became the Professor of Botany at the University of Colombo. I lost my father at the age of 3 and I was brought up by my Uncle Proctor Aiyathurai who was one time Chairman of Jaffna Urban Council. During his tenure of office he opened the Subramaniam Park situated near the Jaffna central college. His sons and my cousins late Dr. A. Karunanadhan and Late Justice A. Sivananthan are both products of Jaffna Central College. They held several positions in educational and legal professions. Since I was a very keen science student I joined medical profession at the age of 22 and worked till the age 81.

Now I am 89 years old and I feel probably I may be one of the oldest students of Jaffna Central College. I wish to thank Professor K. Theivendrarajah for giving me an opportunity to write this short note about my student life of my Alma mater which has produced many intellectuals through out its history.

It is a privilege to say that I was an old student of Jaffna Central College.

I wish for the success and prosperity of Jaffna Central College.



*Kandiah Ganeshapirabu*

## CENTRALISM- A PERSPECTIVE

*T.Pararajasingam, B.A(Ceylon)  
Old Boy and Teacher*

Centralism is a socio-economic philosophy that believes in social justice and economic equality. It was believed by the founding fathers of this great institution Jaffna Central College, that **PRAYER, LEARNING** and **SPORT** will help in realizing the objectives of this philosophy .The society of the time was in the process of shedding many vestiges of feudalism that were an impediment to progress. Our “almamater” through her responsive nature and adoptability was and is able to perfect this concept to meet the challenges of the times and succeeded in realizing social justice and economic equality .We, on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Old Boys' Association of Jaffna Central College, take pride and joy in speaking about the dynamism of “**Centralism**”

The true nature of this philosophy was to accommodate everyone irrespective of his or her social or economic status in the society. This 'openness' paved the way for many budding Scholars an opportunity to develop their full potential thereby enhancing their personal life and that of the community from which they came. As time progressed, the historical evolution of the country enriched '**Centralism**' and created an environment in the College, favourable for a very high level of awareness of what was plaguing the society. The responsiveness of the student population to these conditions helped them in a positive way to meet the challenges. They learned the importance and usefulness of understanding, toleration and compromise in solving life-challenging problems. “**Centralism**” went home with the students and initiated social awareness in the hearts and minds of the other members of the family and the community. This had a “**Domino**” effect on the larger community helped much needed social reforms to improve the quality of life .The institution prospered in all areas of academic, athletic and cultural spheres. Mention should be made here of the proud achievement of having nurtured an Olympian **N.Edirveerasingam**. There are hundreds and hundreds of professionals who have excelled themselves in various walks of life and had /has brought honour to their Alma matar.

Over a period of time “**Centralism**” became pragmatic and viable with the contributions made by

old boys, administrators, teachers, parents, well wishers and by the students of the day. Their thoughts and dedicated service made “**Centralism**” a formidable socio-economic force capable of initiating a social revolution in the local community and extended its influence far and wide. Since space and time doesn't permit me to write about the many who have played their role to enrich the name of our Almamater.I wish to write about one who with dedicated service placed the institution and “**Centralism**” in a new perspective. He was Rev.C.A.Smith.He came all the way from Australia with his family to serve Central and his accomplishments gave a new meaning to '**WHAT IS SERVICE**' .He led by example and practiced “**Centralism**” The institution benefited and blossomed forth under his leadership

We, **Centralites** should keep the flag flying high in spite of what is happening to the fabric if our community and country.100 years of service by the OBA is a great achievement and we the old boys should join hands and strengthen her hands in service of our Almamater.



# உத்தம மாணவர் பற்பலர் தம்மை மத்திய கல்லூரி மாண்புறத் தந்தது

ehf. rz Kfehj gsi s

gi oa khz tUk; - XaT ngww mj gUk;

tj j pahyaq;fs> Nj thyaq;fs>  
kl hyaq;fs; vdg d xU r%fj j pd; fy;tp fl Ts;  
cz h;T> fi y gz ghLf i s tshj nj Lggj py;  
i fnfhLj;J c j Tk; epWtdq;fshFk;  
Myaq;fs; myyJ Nj thyaq;fi s i kakhff;  
nfhz L tj j pahyaq;fS k; kl hyaq;fS k;  
gq;Fggz rfi s nraJ tej d. rkaq;fspd;  
tshrrp;F , twwpd; tshrrp ceJ rfj rfs hf  
, UeJ tej d. murhq;f;fS k; j dpahh;  
epWtdq;fS k; fy;tp i a nghWgNgww gpd; NkNy  
\$wgg l %dww;FKss , i l j j hf;f;f;f;f;  
gbggbahff; Fi weJ tUtj hapwW. fy;tp  
tshrrp gfj p tshrrp gz gh l L tshrrp  
Mfjai t xdwpyhd;W gpd;dg; gpi z ej Uej  
epi y khwp Nj a;T epi y vaj yhapwW.  
r%fj j pw;Fk; mtw;wpy; mf;fi w  
, yyhkwnghapwW. gh l rhi y r%fj j tuhfa  
ngwNwhh> Mrpupah;fs> gi oa khz th; Mfja  
Kj j uggpdupd; \$l L Kawrp Myaq;fS k;  
kl hyaq;fS f;Fk; cupa gq;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
eyftiyi y. mNj Nghy gh l rhi yfspd;  
tshrrp;py; mtwi wrhhej Myaq;fS k;  
kl hyaq;fS k; fupri d nfhsstiyi y.

ngwNwhUf;Fg; gsi s f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
vt;tst mf;fi w , Uej Nj h> mt;tst  
mf;fi wi a mdi wa gh l rhi yfs; j kJ  
khz th; Nky; mj j khff; fhl b tej d.  
mJkl Lkyyhky; Mrpupah;fS k; j kJ khz tupd;  
cahty; fz Z k; fUj J khf , Uej dh;  
FUFyf;fy;tp Ki wNghy khz thfs;  
nrhynydr; nrhyyp , U vd , UeJ fwwdh;  
Mrpupah;fS k; fy;tp vd w nrbf;F mwpT eh;  
thhj J> rpej i d vUgNghl Lr; reNj f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
fi s gl;Lq;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
c d;Di la Mrpupai ug;g;w;wpr;nrhy;Y>  
c di dggw;wpr; nrhy;Yf;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
gh l rhi yi aggw;wpr;nrhy;Y> c di dggw;wpr;  
nrhy;Yf;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
gh l rhi yfshYk; khz thfs; j dj J tk; ngwW  
Kj j pi u gj pf;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
j dj J tk; ngwW , dj J tf;Fk; rh dNwhuhf  
, Uf;  
kfonta;J f;  
gh l rhi yj j hAk; mt;thNw  
khd;f;  
fy;tp;f;  
n r y t o p f ; F k ; k h z t h ; f s ;  
ghf;  
mJTk; g;  
Ntz Lkh!. , gghl rhi yf;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
gy;Ji wrhh;

Mrpupah;fshYk;> mj pgh;fshYk;>  
gh l rhi yfS f;Fg; Gwkghd KawrpfshYk;  
khz thfs; fi lenj Lf;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
gLf;  
khj pup (Model) c Utk; ngWf;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
ahf;

aho; efuggl rhi yfi sg; nghWj j ti u  
1814y; kj j pa fy;Yhup;f;Fk; 1816y;  
ahogghz f;fy;Yhup;f;Fk; ad;pad; fy;Yhup;f;Fk;  
c Lt;py; kfs;f;  
fy;Yhup;f;Fk; Rz bf;Fsp kfs;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
Ki wNa nkj b] j > mnkup;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
fhy; Nfhs; , lgg l J . , ej ti fa;py; aho;  
kj j pa fy;Yhup 192 Mz Lfi s epi wT nraj  
%j j gh l rhi yahf ahogghz j j py; kl LkyyhJ  
, yqi fa;NyNa j pf;  
mj d; gi oa khz th; r;f;  
epi wi t , ej Mz L nfhz lhl , Uf;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
, j d; fpi sfs; fdl h> , q;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;f;  
mT] j Nuypah Nghdw ehLfs;py; tYthf  
nrawgl L tUf;  
ahokj j pa;fy;Yhup;f;Fk; gupNaht;hd; fy;Yhup;f;Fk;  
, i la;py; ei l ngwWte;f;  
MI l k; vdW \$wggLk; MI l k; 100tJ tUI khf  
, ej Mz L khhr; khj j j py; rkKbTwWssJ.  
JLgg l l k> ci j ge;f;  
Nghdwtwi w Kj d; Kj yhf ahogghz j j py;  
mwpKfk; nraj gh l rhi yAk; , JNtahFk;  
nr;di dg; gy;f;  
gy;f;  
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E h w ; w h z ; b d ; e L g ; g F j p a p y ;  
mggy;f;  
thagi g , f;fy;Yhup ngwWj j ej J l d>  
gykhz th;fi s Maj j ggLj j p rj j pai laTk;  
nraj J . thj j f fy;tp i a Kj d; Kj yhf  
mwpK fg; gLj j pa ngUi kAk; , j wNf c z L.

, ej fl Li ui a vOJk; ehd; 1945k;  
Mz ;by;Ue;J 1956k; Mz ;Lti u xU  
khz tdhfTk; gpdG 1990y; , Ue;J 1996  
ti uapYk; mj p;ghfTk; , Ue;J sNsd; vdJ  
gh l rhi yg; gUtj j py; c l d; khz th;fshfTk;  
rf khz th;fshfTk; , Uej gyh; 70  
tai j j j hz bt;f;  
, UggJ kf;  
, Uf;  
, q;f;  
NghJ k; c z l hFk; , dgj j pw;F vyi yNa  
, yi y. vq;f;  
tshj J c Uthf;  
mej



# My Memorable Years At Jaffna Central College

*Samuel Maheswaran  
BVSc (Ceylon), MS (Minnesota), Ph.D. (Minnesota)  
Professor of Microbiology  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
University of Minnesota, USA*

I am indeed happy to write a short article for the special souvenir to be published by the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada in connection with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Old Boy's Association in Jaffna. I am a distinguished old boy of Jaffna Central College (JCC) who started life from humble beginnings. I enrolled as a student at JCC in 1942 after my family moved from Colombo to Jaffna since my father was transferred as a Post Master to the Jaffna Post Office. My family lived down Second Cross Street for a few years and we then moved to a newly built house in Kantharmadam. Unfortunately, I don't have vivid memories to recollect from the years 1942 to 1946 because these were uneventful years in my life. However, I do remember that I had three good friends namely, S.G. Mather, Jeyarajasingham (Jella), and Wicknarajah Nalliah. My favorite teacher during this period was Miss. Nalliah who taught us English grammar. She was a very strict disciplinarian, however, at the same time she was very kind and compassionate. Since my father died unexpectedly in 1946 after a short illness, my mother coaxed me to attend a school closer to Kanthermadam. Heeding to her request, I grudgingly transferred to Jaffna Hindu College and studied there for two years. Since I had several unhappy experiences at Jaffna Hindu College with fellow students and several teachers I pestered my mother innumerable times that I wanted to transfer back to Central College. Upon further pondering and reflection she agreed with my request and I was glad that I was back again at Central College in late 1948. I can recall with fond memories and nostalgia the golden years as a Centralite during 1951 to 1954. This was the time Reverend C.A. Smith was the Principal and Mr Charles was the Vice Principal of the college. During these years I had the fortune of having several great teachers namely, Mr. Jacobs who was a brilliant Mathematics teacher, Isaac Ponnambalam, Victor Rajaratnam, Mr and Mrs Mathiaparanam, Oliver Thuraisingham, Devanthampillai, Sharma Iyar who taught us Tamil grammar meticulously, Mr. A.E. Thamper who was a brilliant teacher in Physics, Mr. Subramaniam, Mr. Tiruchelvam, Mr. Rajasenam, and Mr. Ariyaratnam.

My favorite teacher was Thamper master. He was a person of sterling qualities who maintained a cool temperament even in the midst of crisis and most importantly, an intellectual. He helped me focus in my studies and helped shape who I am today. I am indeed, very grateful and owe a lot to him for mentoring me and also extricating me out whenever I got into unpleasant mischief's with fellow students during the last three years of my college days. I will never forget his generosity whenever I sought his help and assistance.

In addition, during the years 1951 to 1953 I also played cricket for JCC. I was the Wicket Keeper for the team during 1952 and 1953; won the batting championship in 1952; was Vice Captain of the team in 1953; and most importantly, we beat St. John's College in years 1952 and 1953. We had a formidable team in 1952 which was captained by Rajendra. I will always cherish the comradery I experienced with fellow players namely, Kanagasingham, Nagendran, Sri Pragasa, Chittu, Jella, Devan Thampoo, and R.K.V. Premachandra. Mr. Selvaraja Thambiah, and Mr. Jeyaratnasingam were our Cricket Coaches during this time and they did a tremendous job putting together a group of youngsters and coaching them to be a formidable unbeaten team in Jaffna. By the way, in my estimation Mr. Jeyaratnasingam was the best all round athlete at JCC during the 1950s. Because of my popularity as a cricketer, I was honored by the student body and selected as a Prefect in 1952.

I passed my University entrance examination from Central College and entered the University of Ceylon in 1955 and majored in Veterinary Science. Indeed, I was one of the fortunate ones because during those times competition to enter into the University of Ceylon was very intense and brutal because of the limited number of slots available. Because of my good scholastic background I received from Central College, I performed extraordinarily well at the University of Ceylon and was the top student in my batch. I passed out in 1960 with second class honors with distinction.

In 1962, after experiencing a very stiff competition with several other young scholars, fortuitously, I was awarded a Smith-Mundt Fulbright scholarship to pursue studies leading to a Ph.D degree in Microbiology in the United States. And I chose the University of Minnesota to accomplish my life-long ambition. At the University of Minnesota, I excelled in my graduate studies and received my MS degree in 1966 and Ph.D. degree in 1967. Upon completion of my degrees at Minnesota, I did a Post-doctoral fellowship in Medical Microbiology for two years at the University of Manitoba Medical School in Canada. I returned to the University of Minnesota as an Assistant Professor in 1969. Indeed, I am very proud to state that I was the first person of color to be hired in the Department of Microbiology as an Assistant Professor. My academic training and experiences at Central College helped shape who I am today. Over the years, I have excelled in research, teaching, and have trained 17 Ph.D. students in the field of Microbiology at the University of Minnesota; I was the Director of Graduate studies 1984 to 1990; Assistant Chairman of the Department 1995 to August 1997; and Chairman, September 1997 to June 2001. I am now back as a Professor of Microbiology. All these academic achievements were accomplished

because of the training I had as a youngster at Central College.

Finally, although I have lived in North America for almost 44 years and embraced its culture, my best friends are all old Centralites. They are: S. N. Ganeshan from Vancouver, Canada; D.C. Jeyarajah, S.G. Mather, and Dr. W. R. Nalliah from England; Sri Pragasa and K. Kanag-iswaran from Colombo, and Navan. N. Niles from Sydney, Australia. All of them call me affectionately “**SK**”. Quite often we call each other on the phone and recall fond memories and good times during our days at Central College. As old Centralites, we will continue to cherish our true friendship as long as we live in this earth..



*Samuel Maheswaran*

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Romaine Hall under Renovation



# My time at Jaffna Central College

by Sri-Guggan Sri-Skanda-Rajah  
At Central June 1958 to December 1960.

My mother, my two elder sisters and I had to relocate to Jaffna following my family's actions in defending our lives and those of ninety other Tamils in Ratmalana during the 1958 race riots. At that time my father P. Sri-Skanda-Rajah was the District Judge in Jaffna. We lived in the Judges' quarters inside the Jaffna Fort.

It was decided that I should seek admission to GCE O-level class at Jaffna Central College. My father spoke to Mr. Thamber, the Vice – Principal at the time and I was admitted as a student in Mr. Theivananthampillai's class.

When I started attending class I did not receive a warm welcome from my new classmates. It appeared that my coming from Colombo especially from Royal College was strike one against me. Strike two was that I was an obviously disabled person, having lost the use of my right arm in a bicycle/motor vehicle accident. Consequently I had to learn to cope in a somewhat hostile environment. I was largely ignored by most of my classmates and some times bullied by some foolhardy others. Within the first two months or so the bullies had learnt the hard way to leave me strictly alone. I won't elaborate on how that came about.

In class I worked hard and earned the respect of my teachers especially in Math's, Physics Chemistry, English etc. In December 1958, I sat the GCE O levels passing remarkably well with distinctions and credits. When I moved into the HSC first year in 1959 my Math's teacher fell seriously ill and was hospitalized for a long period of time. Mr. Thamber called me in and instructed me to take the Math's classes for GCE O level class and Maths & English classes for forms 1,2 and 3. At the end of 1959 I was most gratified to hear through Mr. Thamber that all my students had done exceptionally well in the subjects that I had taught.

This experience boosted my confidence considerably and also despite my general mischievousness brought me into Mr. Thamber's good books. For his part he took a great interest in having me represent JCC on various occasions such as Vembadi and Chundikuli dinners and other student related events. At all of these events I had to make speeches in English. He always helped me with the content of the speeches; initially I thought to make sure that I did not embarrass JCC by perhaps saying the wrong things.

My collaboration with Mr. Thamber opened my eyes to the fact that through me he was giving vent to his light hearted nature and great sense of humor that he was constrained from showing while performing his official duties as the defacto Principal of JCC; Rev. D.T. Niles being largely absent. He would inject considerable amount of humor into my usually dry drafts.

Mr. Mahalingam and the Rev. Edward Barlow were two other persons who exerted considerable influence on me while I was at JCC. Mr. Mahalingam ensured that I read classical literature and modern literature and thus broadened my mind. He also exerted considerable pressure on me to compete in essay writing contests and as a result I was rewarded by winning two while at JCC.

Rev. Barlow was very instrumental in ensuring that my diction, pronunciation and enunciation of English words was as good as it could be. He helped me by insisting that I rehearse and practice my speeches over and over again. As a result I won many an elocution contest in the Northern Province.

I also got an opportunity to act the part of Ernest in the Oscar Wilde play "The Importance of Being Ernest". Other noteworthy participants included Kris Jeyanathan & McIntyre (a.k.a. Ghandi). I was privileged to win the Best Actors' award on that occasion.

My one disappointment at JCC was that Rev. Niles declined to fund a tennis team to play in the All Ceylon Public Schools Tournament. At JCC there were a few students who were quite good tennis players. Despite my disability I had learnt to play tennis using one arm only. I was coached by my father who in earlier days had been a North Ceylon Champion.

As a result of Rev. Niles' decision I left JCC at the end of 1960 and joined St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya where the then reigning Public Schools Champion was. My purpose was to compete to secure a place in the team. I wanted to compete in the tournament in 1961 even though I knew that according to the rules I would not get "school colours". I succeeded in being selected, played in the tournament, and was eliminated in the third round.

All in all the time I spent at JCC were the best years of my schooling.



# Sweet Memories Of My Glorious School Days, Accomplishments And Continuation Of Service.

*R. Chelvaratnam*

My period of life at Jaffna Central College was ten long years 1947 to 1957, the best period free from stress and devoid from family responsibilities. Jaffna Central has molded tremendously my "thinking" on every aspect on Social behaviour, which bestowed me the Highest position in Sports Management in Sri Lanka, being the Only Tamil apart from being the one and only Old Centralite to hold prestigious Positions in the Administrative level of Cricket and Cricket Umpiring in Sri Lanka Sports Field.

The foundation and the training we received from our Alma mater gave us self confidence, courage, determination and the ability to take up any position in our life and have given great many opportunities being the one and only Centralite to hold these prestigious posts, on numerous occasions at top level administrative posts in the field of Sports in Sri Lanka.

I was elected to hold the Posts: ( 1 ) The General Secretary of the Jaffna Amateur Athletic Association under the leadership of V.T.Sivalingam with able support from V.T.Ganeshalingam; ( 2 ) The General Secretary in the Jaffna District Cricket Association under Dr. J.P.C. Philips as President ( 3 ) Was also associated in the Jaffna Cricket Umpires Association not only as an active Umpire but also as an Administrator as well.

Work involvement took me to Colombo, where I was proud to be the one and only OLD CENTRALITE to be the Cricket Umpire in the Association of Cricket Umpires Sri Lanka and the Umpires Panel officiating numerous School, Mercantile, State, Nationalized & Government Services matches, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka Tournament matches and the School Big Matches, officiating throughout Sri Lanka.

I was also the First Old Centralite elected to hold various Administrative Posts in the Sri Lankan Sports Field as follows:.....

1).Elected as the General Secretary of the Association of Cricket Umpires Sri Lanka for Three Consecutive years under M/S Upali Mahanama,R.I.T.Alles & Bandula Warnapura as Presidents of the Association during my tenure of office and thereafter the General Treasurer for two years.

2). As a Representative of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment,

I was elected as the Tournament Secretary of the Nationalized Services Cricket Association for Three consecutive years and thereafter as the General Secretary for two years under M/S. Noel Wimalasena and Ashroff Ghany as Presidents, until I immigrated to Canada. I also did represent the Nationalized Services Cricket Association in the General Meetings of the Board of

Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka.

3). I was also elected unanimously as the Secretary General of the Nationalized Services Sports Federation holding this prestigious post under the leadership of Mr.Ashroff Ghany for Four years consecutively, where the membership mostly comes from Corporations, Boards, Banks and Nationalized Establishments.

I also wish to recall some of the very interesting incidents and/or occurrences that I may recall during my College days.

## Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Jaffna Old Boys Association in September 1956

The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Jaffna Central Old Boys Association of Jaffna was celebrated in September 1956.I could still recall the large procession with Nathaswaram and Thavil that brought the Rev.C.A.Smith and plenty of Dignitaries from Colombo from the Jaffna Railway Station to the College for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration.The Diamond Jubilee Celebration, where I was one of the participant, was a grand festivity of Fancy Dress parade and Fancy Dress Soccer match and Cricket where I could remember, numerous Old Boys came from Colombo to join this fun and festivity.

## Jaffna Central St. Patricks 2<sup>nd</sup>. Eleven Soccer Match

This was a day to rejoice. A day of reconciliation between two leading Colleges, Jaffna Central and St. Patrick's college after a lapse of ten long years. The Jaffna Central 2<sup>nd</sup>. Eleven Soccer Team, self being the Goalie of the side, walked into St.Patrick's College Grounds for their soccer encounter being played after ten long years of absence.

Yes, both School Authorities headed by Rev. C.A.Smith and Rector Father Joseph in response to appeals from the Old Boys of both Schools and sports loving public, decided to make truce after long lapse of period, forget the past and get together on the Field of Sports. When Jaffna Central 2<sup>nd</sup>. Eleven walked into the ground, to our amazement and shock, we noticed neither Spectators nor School Boys on the grounds. But nonetheless, we walked into the Grounds and suddenly we heard thunderous round of applause coming from the balcony of the College building and immediately we noticed the Rector, Staff and leading Old Boys there to welcome us. This was a day in the History of the College and none of the Centralites, who were there at the grounds, would forget in their life.

## Central St. John's Big Match 1954.

Another incident I could recall was the Big Match between Jaffna Central and St. John's College,if I recall correctly was in 1954, which year Jaffna Central College Old Boy's Association Jaffna Branch was celebrating the event on a grand scale. The match commenced with a massive crowd of Old Boys and

Cricket enthusiasts watching the match. On the Second day before Tea interval, St John's College was in a precarious position losing 8 Second Innings wickets and an early finish to the match. At this juncture, the J.C.C.O.B.A., Officials sent word to our College Skipper R.K.V.Premachandra, not to finish the match before tea interval but to prolong the game up to the tea interval. Skipper R.K.V., was faced with an extremely difficult decision to make, whether to comply with the request of the OBA or a finish the match and be a hero of the crowd. However Skipper was compelled to comply with the request of the OBA Officials to the dismay of the Crowd. The match commenced after a grand Tea and everyone expecting an early win for Jaffna Central. But the St. Johns batsmen were holding the fort, batting with determination and purpose. The time was running Central has lost its grip. StJohns batsmen batting stubbornly. The crowd on the other hand was shouting for the Centralites to go for the kill. The skipper went all out using all his best bowlers, quickies Pararajasingham attacking and even the fielders were positioned just in front of the batsman not even yards from the bat. But of no avail.

St. Johns batsmen were holding on, doing a wonderful job for their College. Finally, the match ended in a Draw with jubilation from St. Johns camp. “Cricket is a game of chance, When you are on top, you must attack and if you relax, the Game is bound to have a turn”, this is what Cricket is all about. Determination on the part of the St. Johns batsmen with full concentration was the result, where **CRICKET WAS THE WINNER.**

#### Romaine House Athletic Champions after 10 years

A great occasion I could recall is the day we the members of the Romaine House Athletic team became the House Athletic Champions after a lapse of 10 long years. After deep consultation, tactical planning by our group of Self as the Athletic Captain, V.T.Ganeshalingam and S.Thavalingam the Romaine House emerged as Athletic Champions with tremendous backing and from our House master V. Alagacone, House Captain Yogasunderam. It was a joyous day for the Romaine House boys with House Master Alagacone beaming with a broad smile, which was another rememberable day of my School life.

#### College Hostel Strike and first day after the strike

The Hostel strike will be written as one of the sorrowful days in the History of the College. The strike prolonged for more than two weeks, resulting in damages to the hostel crockery and furniture and a black mark on the reputation of the College on the whole. The strike was over after some days and on our return to School, an Assembly was called for by the Principal Rev. C.A. Smith. The Boys and the Staff members assembled at the quadrangle in front of the Open-air theatre. There was pin drop silence when Rev. C.A.Smith entered the Open- Air Theatre stage. He came forward to the mike and suddenly threw something on to the stage and to the utter disbelief of the students and staff, Something fell and broke into pieces with a loud sound. The

impact was something like a blast in the hearts of the Boys and staff members. With tears rolling from his eyes, this great Builder, Administrator and Preacher Principal Rev. C.A. Smith spoke to the students with a trembling voice.....

“BOYS MY HEART ALSO BROKE INTO PIECES LIKE THE GLASS TUMBLER”, then he begged the students that “CENTRALITES SHOULD MAINTAIN THE DIGNITY OF THE COLLEGE WHICH WE ARE THRIVING HARD TO HOLD “. Conitnuing he said, “FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AND CONITNUE YOUR STUDIES AND BE YOURSELF A MAN, YOUR PARENTS AND THE COLLEGE ARE EXPECTING FROM YOU “. After the assembly we went to our Classrooms with a feeling of heavy heart and guilt with tears rolling from the eyes of every student.

This is another day and an incident no Centralite during that time will ever forget in his lifetime.

#### My Participation in the activities of the O.B.A.

After my School days and on my return to Jaffna on work involvement, I was associated with the services of the O.B.A., Elected as the Assistant Secretary of the Jaffna O.B.A., and thereafter elected into the Colombo O.B.A. Committee After immigrating to Canada, I was associated with the Canada Alumni Association, which is another history in the making of my involvement with the Alumni Association of Canada.

I wish to proudly remember my Principal Rev.C.A.Smith, Vice Principals Mr. A.E.Tamber, Mr.J.C.Charles, my Prefect of Games Mr.T.I.Abraham, Kalaippulavar K.Navaratnam, M/S.Theivananthampillai, S. Mahalingam, V.Alagacone, R.K. Rajasenan, Selvarajah Thambiah, T. Pararajasingam, V. D.Jeyaratnasingam, S Paramanathan, S.Kandasamy and my Collegues N.Ethirveerasingham, Kanageswaran, K.Thayaparan, K. Somaskandan, S.Thavalingam, R.K.V.Premachandra, Bunny Vantwest, N. Pararajasingham, N.Sivasithamparam, V.T.Sivalingam, V.T.Ganeshalingam and many many more where the list is very very long and sincerely Thank my Gurus and my Comrades for everything they rendered to me in my student life at Central which was the foundation for me to achieve my ambition.

Reflections of the precious memories of our life at Jaffna Central certainly re-juvenates our spirits, link the Past and the Present and the Future.

kj j pãpd; kz pfnfhb ej j pak; epi yfFK.

# Report Of The Committee Appointed By The Old Boy's Association Of Jaffna Central College To Determine The Date Of The Founding Of Jaffna Central College

*The Committee comprises of Mr. K.Kathiravelupillai, District Judge Chairman;  
Members Dr. K.Sittampalam. M.A., Ph.D., Head : Dept. of History, University of Jaffna and  
Dr. Rev. A.W. Jebanesan,B.D., Minister Methodist Church, Jaffna.*

## **1993-01-05**      EXTRACTS:

The Executive Committee of the Old Boys' Association of Jaffna Central College, appointed us to determine the DATE OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COLLEGE from those connected with Jaffna Central College and, they received written submissions from three people, namely;

1. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muthiah, M.A., (Hull), B.D. (Seram), President: Methodist Church of Sri Lanka, Colombo.
2. Dr.A.Sinnathamby, B.A.,Dip.in-Ed., M.A. (Ed.), Ph.D (Ed), Formerly Education Officer.
3. Mr. K. Manickavasagar, Librarian, Jaffna Central College, Jaffna.

The Old Boys' Association tendered the written submissions of the above-named three persons for us to consider the Date of Founding of the College.

In addition to the written submissions of the above-said people, the following publications, among many others, were used for our guidance.

1. Jaffna Central College: Centenary Memorial Edition ( 1834-1934) published in 1936 by the Committee appointed to write the History of Jaffna Central College.
2. A History of the Methodist Church in Ceylon, 1814-1964 Edited by Rev. W.J.T. Small.
3. Kankesan Kalvi malar, published by the Principals; Association of Kankesanthurai Circuit in 1985.

In the absence of any written documents left by the Founders, the History of a College is normally traced from the contemporaneous writings, correspondences, and also related writings of the Old Boys. Fortunately, as far as Jaffna Central College is concerned, we were able to go through the Centenary publication, along with the literature On the History of the Methodist Mission in Ceylon and other Missionary Schools in Jaffna.

Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muthiah in his written submission has stated as follows: “ In 1989 Methodist /central College, Batticaloa, started by the Methodist Church, celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary. In 1991 Newstend Girls' School in Nogombo, another Methodist School celebrated its 175 Anniversary. While checking our records, we came across a new fact regarding Jaffna Central College. I wish to pass on the information as to the Date of the Founding of the School, which came to be known later as Jaffna Central College. The Rev. James Lynch and the Rev. Thomas Squance arrived in Jaffna on 10<sup>th</sup>. August 1814. On arrival

in Jaffna they met Mr. James Mootart, the Sub Collector who received them gladly and with whom they stayed. The two Missionaries began to study Tamil and were assisted by the Rev. Christian David, a pious Tamil Preacher who was a convert of the pioneer Indian Missionary, Christian Schwarts.

According to our records: On August 1<sup>st</sup>. 1816 the Old Orphan House and the Lutheran Church opposite the Esplanade were purchased from the Government by James Lynch for a sum of 646 Rix Dollars. It was the First Property acquired by the Mission in Jaffna, and provided it with a well situated Chapel and School. ( Small, W J T Ed. A History of the Methodist Church in Ceylon 1814-1964, Wesley Press, Colombo, 1964 P.63 ). The English School which was started in this building was later named in 1817 a Jaffna Wesleyan English School. In 1824 the School which existed at the Esplanade was moved to the Vembadi Mission House Building. In 1834 the Rev. Peter Perceival expanded the school curriculum and facilities and renamed the school as “ Jaffna Central School “.

From these records you will see that 1<sup>st</sup>. August 1816 is the date of the opening of Jaffna Central College.

Dr.A. Sinnathamby, in his short written submission states as follows: “ My research on Jaffna Central College reveals the fact that Jaffna Central College was founded earlier than 1834. the fact to be brought out is that Rev. Peter Perceival reorganised Jaffna Central College and not founded it.

The Wesleyan Missionaries came in 1814 and in the same year they founded the Sunday School which became popular internationally. The modern trend in educational history of this Institution is to be by the continuity of the tradition of the Institution from 1814. the Wesleyan Missionaries started educational activities in Jaffna in 1816 after purchasing the Old Orphan House. Lynch and Squance began teaching in the purchased building itself. It is the Sunday School which began by the Methodist Mission, later became Jaffna English School, and subsequently renamed as “ Jaffna Central School “. The Jaffna Central School became “ Jaffna Central College” in due course.

Mr. K. Manickavasagar, in his thirty three page type written submission has analyzed various sources to determine the DATE OF FOUNDING OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE. His work pertaining to the origin of this school is more or less a research and cited reliable authorities to determine the date of founding of this Institution. He has brought out the drawbacks of the Jaffna Central College ( 1834-1934)

Centenary Memorial Edition, published in 1936. In fact, his submission was guidance for us to consider various authorities, and to determine the date of founding of Jaffna Central College. In his conclusion he has stated that the forerunner of Jaffna Central College was founded on the First day of August 1816. The Centenary Memorial Edition of Jaffna Central College ( 1834-1934), published in 1936; and the History of Methodist Church in Ceylon (1814-1964) published by the Wesley Press, Colombo are the most important materials available to us to trace the founding of Jaffna Central College.

Though the Centenary memorial Edition of 1936 says about the period of development between 1834 and 1934, it covers a period anterior to it.

Mr. K. Navaratnam, Secretary to the Centenary Memorial Edition Committee In his preface to the Edition states that this book is divided into three parts. The First part deals with the arrival of the pioneer Missionaries and the founding of Schools. The period dealt with in this section is from 1814 to 1833, during which time Central was a mixed English School catering to the needs of the children of the Jaffna Town. The Second part begins with the reorganization of the school by Rev. Perceival, under the new name of Jaffna Central School and covers the period between 1834 and 1869. The Third part deals with University Affiliation and the development of Collegiate Education as far as 1934.

It is clear from the Centenary Memorial Edition of Jaffna Central College that this School was started before 1834 and it was only reorganized the re-named as Jaffna Central School in 1834 by Rev. Peter Perceival.

The following Four Chapters of the Centenary Memorial Edition are important for our considerations and comments.

- i. The Wesleyan pioneers.
- ii. Founding of Schools.
- iii. Wesleyan English School.
- iv. The Jaffna Central School...

#### CONCLUSION AS TO THE DATE OF FOUNDING OF JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE

A. The First Wesleyan Missionaries arrived in Ceylon on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Of June **1814.** On their arrival they felt that they could use education as a Medium to achieve it. This is quite evident from their activities Soon after their arrival. For, they established English Schools in the same year of their arrival in Galle, Matara and Batticaloa.

B. At this time they were also assured of Government support. This is Known from the letter of the “ Good Christian Brownrigg” dated 17<sup>th</sup>. Of August 1814, written to the Secretary of State. This letter is Quoted in T. Ranjit Ruberu's book “ Education in Colonial Ceylon ( 1962) p. 136 as follows: “ When the first batch of four Wesleyan Missionaries arrived in the year 1814, Brownrigg granted an allowance of 50 Rix Dollars per month to each priest on

condition that they would in return give instruction to the native Headman and their children in the great object no less important to the Govern --ment of acquiring a knowledge of the English Language “.

This information is also found in the “ History of the Methodist Church in Ceylon” (p.84) where it is stated that the Government paid small sum to the Galle and Matara English Schools began in 1814 at Governor Brownrigg's suggestion.

C. Therefore, one has to reviews the activities of the Wesleyan Missionaries in Jaffna against the above background. These Missionaries reached Jaffna on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Of August 1814. As stated in the Centenary Memorial Edition of Jaffna Central College, the two Missionaries, Lynch and Squance, proposed immediately on their arrival to open up Schools. Their work during this period (1814-1816) was largely Preliminary, No Building had yet been purchased. Services were Conducted in the Fort Church. Lynch and Squance were learning Tamil And a beginning in the way of Christian literature was made by Circulating sermons in Tamil written on Olan. They were preaching In the Bazaar, conducting a Sunday School and converting people.

D. However, on the First of August 1816, the Old Orphan House and Lutheran Church opposite the Esplanade were purchased by Lynch from

The Government for a sum of 646 Rix Dollars. This was the First Property acquired by the Mission in Jaffna. E. The naming of the School and the Date of its Founding are the two Other key issues, which deserve our consideration.

F. With regard to naming: As there is clear evidence for the naming of The Schools opened by the Wesleyan Mission in 1814 at Galle, Matara

And Batticaloa as English Schools, we are convinced that in Jaffna Too they adopted a similar method by naming their First School as

“ English School “. G. Regarding the Founding of the School: the available evidence suggests that the property for the school and a Chapel was bought on the First of August 1816. the authors of Ceylon and its methodism' say That the building was provided with a well situated chapel and a School ( p.35). This is in agreement with the reference found in

The book titled “Notes in Jaffna”, where the author says that the Building was converted at a small expense into a small School and a Chapel (p.8). Spending money for the repairs is also further

Confirmed by the letter of Harward written in 1816.

H. Although the evidence cited above confirm the repairs effected to The newly purchased building, they do not mention anywhere Categorically as to when this was done; before the actual occupation

Of the building or during the occupation of the building. Probably, They would have been done at a time when the School had started Functioning.

I. The perusal of the documents of the Wesleyan Mission Church clearly Shows that the actual founding of the English School took place on

The date of the purchase of the property on the First of August 1816. This is also testified to by the letter by Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muthiah who, being the President of the Methodist Mission in Sri Lanka had the materials of the Mission at his disposal. This is in tune with the activities of this Mission in other parts of Sri Lanka as well.

J. As far as Jaffna is concerned the real execution of the plan of the Missionaries was delayed for want of a suitable building at the time of their arrival on the Tenth of August 1814 for two years. Nevertheless, the evidence at our disposal vouches for the fact that they were doing preparatory work during this period before the purchase of the building on the First of August 1816. They were engaged in preaching in the Bazaar organizing a Sunday School, converting people and finally drawing up a plan for schools.

K. With a definite plan and property at their disposal their task of founding the school was facilitated by other factors as well. For instance, the Orphan House they purchased had the tradition of functioning as a school during the Dutch period although it ceased to function since the year 1803. There is also evidence to show that the very same Missionaries who worked in Colombo had used the orphanages of the Dutch for similar purposes.

L. The preparatory work of the Missionaries during the period 1814-1816 shows that there was no problem in getting teachers or students for this purpose. Lynch, along with the assistance rendered by Daniel Theophilus, who was very keen in opening up schools found it easier to execute his plan smoothly. Moreover, Governor Brownrigg's letter to the Colonial Secretary dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 1816 assured a regular monthly pay for the teachers of these schools. All the factors would have encouraged the Missionaries to found the school on the very same day of the purchase of the property.

M. The founding of the school on the First of August 1816 is also further confirmed by the reply Lynch received from Rev. Glennie, Colonial Chaplain, dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 1816, quoted by Ranjit Ruberu (p.182). Although we did not come across the copy of the letter written by Lynch to Rev. Glennie, the reply itself vouches for the fact that Lynch had really written to Rev. Glennie about his recently founded school itself. It is quite possible that Lynch as the Chairman of the Wesleyan Mission of Ceylon (1816-1824) would have been happier in announcing the foundation of the school before the 6<sup>th</sup> September. The letter reads as follows, "No school I feel, will succeed in this country however properly established in the first instance, unless they are strictly and constantly attended to, afterwards. All institutions of this kind, however good the rules of discipline, will rapidly degenerate, unless strictly attended to by active European Superintendents who have the success of the Gospel principally at heart and uppermost in their thoughts".

N. There is also some more evidence for the functioning of the school established by Lynch. Mr. Carver in his letter of 31<sup>st</sup> March 1817 has mentioned that a youth of eighteen years, a student of Lynch, been violently persecuted because he became a Christian. Moreover, Lynch visited Madras in February of the same year (1817) to lay the foundation for a Methodist Mission there. Hence it is very likely that his visit would have been a follow up of his success in Jaffna. The Wesleyan Mission drew up a programme of establishing a school in August 1817. Three more schools were established at Vannarpannai, Navatkuli and Puttur in 1818, probably after their

initial success in founding an English school on the First of August 1816 which was renamed as Wesleyan English School in the following year. This school was reorganized and renamed as Jaffna

Central School by Rev. Perceival in 1834. Finally it was named as Jaffna Central College in 1869.

O. On the basis of, the facts mentioned above, we are convinced, beyond doubt, that the Jaffna English School, the nucleus of the present Jaffna Central College, was founded on the First of August 1816, the date on which a property was purchased for establishing a school and a chapel. In this connection, we the Old Centralites around the globe, wish to convey our grateful thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee Mr. K. Kathiravetpillai, Dr. K. Sittampalam and Dr. Rev. A.W. Jebanesan and Rev. Dr. Kingsley Muthiah, Dr. A. Sinnathamby and Mr. K. Manickavasagar for their valuable submissions to the Committee to enable the Committee to arrive at their convincing conclusions to determine the date of the founding of Jaffna Central College at FIRST OF AUGUST 1816.

*This Extract is the True report of the Committee appointed by the Old Boy's Association of Jaffna Central College to determine the Date of Founding of Jaffna Central College, Collected and reproduced for the Information of the Old Centralites and those interested in the History of the College by Ramasamy Chelvaratnam.*

# பல்கலை வேந்தன் K.S. பாலச்சந்திரன்



vq;f;spd; ghuhl ;Lf;Fk; kj ;gGf;Fk; c upa aho; kj j pa  
fy;Yhupad; gi oa khz td; K.S.ghyrrej pud; xU rwej  
ei frRi t ebf d> rpd;kh ehl f ebf d> , af;Fz h> fj hrp;paH>  
vOj j hsh> t;pkHrpfH vd;g; gy;fi yf;sy; rwe;J t;sq;Ff;wHh.  
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mwp;Kfkhd xU g;paH , d;W vkJ kj j pa j ;gk; gy;fi y  
ep;forrr; muq;f;py; gy;fi y Ntej d; vd;w gl ;k; #l b mti u  
nfsut;ggj ;py; aho; kj j pa gi oa khz t r;q;fk> fdl h kl ;l ;ww  
kf;porrr; nfhs;S f;w;J. mtupd; fi y M;Htk; NkYk; tsu

யாழ் மத்திய கல்லூரி பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம்  
கனடா கிளை

# Memories of an Accidental Wicket Keeper

*M S Nazeer (1962 - 1973 at Central)*

As your blood pressure trying to scale dizzy heights and your waist line wants to move farther and wider with age, you tend to think of the best years in life the childhood and the school days. To those who don't know me, I was at Central from 1962 to 1973 and played Cricket for 1<sup>st</sup> XI during my last three years. Everyone will have tales from school days to share, and here are some of mine which mostly related to Cricket. Most of the Centralites who played or watched Cricket in the 60s and 70s can relate to most of my experiences while others may find them interesting.

## *Early days*

Like many who grew up with me I was a cricket fanatic. With my siblings, cousins, kids from neighbourhood I always found somewhere to play especially streets and tiny backyards where a big Jack tree doubled as stumps, to the annoyance of the neighbours. Retrieving balls from neighbours aren't always easy. Some were nice but one of the them was so mean that she slits our tennis balls and threw back to make them unusable. In a way the butchered balls were partly responsible for my strokes along the ground in later years. While we were toying with tennis ball cricket during our primary school years, college first XI cricketers were our heroes. I used to count how many Central cricketers I have sighted during our day at school and check out against my brothers numbers. I was so excited when I saw school cricketers at close proximity, after all school cricket is the best we ever had then as we didn't have TVs to beam live international cricket at home. I hardly ever missed any matches Central played, but some times it was more fun playing outside the boundary with friends than watching a match. We soaked up the atmosphere of the match but we had our own fun. "Garam Sundal" (spicy chickpeas) and popsicles tasted better on match days for some reason.

The most memorable cricketing days were no doubt the lunch time cricket while at primary school. One hour lunch break started at 12.30. I don't think any of us learned anything between 12 to 2pm. Lunch is consumed within a few seconds at the 12.30 bell and we are out in the ground within 3 minutes. Couple of suitcases (soft school bags and backpacks were never invented then) stacked on top of each other served as stumps. Match fixtures are made against neighbouring classes during morning breaks. If you want to make it in the playing XI, cricketing skills won't guarantee you a place, but owning a ball, bat or a suitcase will. Batting side captain and his best friend inevitably opened the batting, but the rest of the batting order depended on who is the fastest to snatch the bat from the batsman who loses his wicket. Once the match starts the boys who watch the match gradually make their way near the pitch and they end up being closer to the action than the fielders. Matches normally started with eleven on each side but by the end of the break the number swells and becomes a free for all contest. There will be a few dozen matches go on at the ground during lunch time with hundreds of boys in action, but at 1.30 the ground will vacate within a few seconds. Back in the class room nothing can penetrate your brain till about 2pm while your dripping sweat settles down.

## *On becoming a Wicket Keeper*

My graduation from tennis ball to cricket ball started when I managed to impress the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI coach Donald Ganeshakumar during the trials when about hundred boys turned up, where the skills honed in our backyard came in handy. I have been a wicket keeper all along my cricket life starting from Jaffna Central then at Middlesex

University in UK and nowadays for VicTamils here in Melbourne. But wicket keeping wasn't my first choice. I became one totally by accident. I still remember playing my first ever 3<sup>rd</sup> XI match against Kokuvil Hindu (only a few schools used to field 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and cricket season lasted only a few matches). I was fielding at third man and walking upto mid on at the end of the over after over. Balls hardly ever reached me and I got a bit bored. I wanted to be part of the action. At the same time our wicket keeper was having problems catching the balls cleanly, injured his fingers and pleading with his captain to stick to spinners and not the pacemen because he simply couldn't cope anymore. At the end of the innings he complained to the coach and I volunteered to take up the glove. I don't know what made me to volunteer - probably my boredom at thirdman. So in the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings I donned the keeping glove for the first time ever in my life, didn't do too badly and never looked back! Whatever Keeping skills left in me are now are the reason Victamils are giving a game on Summer Sundays now, eventhough during most of my cricketing life, I was selected primarily as a batsman. My brother Rameez took up keeping after me for central then my nephew Fowzan did the same before becoming a bowler when leading St. Johns. Whether you do well or not, Wicket keeping keeps you always in the game while fielding and one thing is guaranteed you'll never get BORED.

## *Cricket gear 1970's style*

Good Cricket bats are so rare in our days. Only 2 or so at most would be bought per season that the rest are leftovers with the splitting wood meticulously wound with oiled black twine by Kandiah our evergreen groundboy. Only the opening batsmen had the luxury of choosing bats. The ones who follow normally exchange the bat midway to the pitch at the fall of a wicket. The two best bats would never be the same and you have a preferred bat. While you waiting your turn to bat you secretly wish the next wicket to fall should be the guy with your favourite bat! At times even if your wish comes through, the not out batsman in the middle spoils your day by exchanging the bat before the ousted batsman leaves the pitch! Thinking about Kandiah who recently departed this world, he is a genius. I wonder how he single handedly prepared all out pitches, marked out all the running tracks for athletic meets, repaired the matting, cricket gear etc. His topless figure is hard to forget and he bothered to wear shirt only on match days and when he went to his family in Point Pedro once in a while.

When I became a "senior" player, I was able to bribe Kandiah and got my preferred bat used in the season earlier cleaned, oiled and wound again and was able to take it home as if I own it. There is a kind of cool feeling those days riding the bike with your "own" bat placed on the handle, boots tied together by their laces hanging over bracket meant for the light and the colourful home made tote bag hanging over your shoulders going to the cricket practice. You didn't need the Grey Nicolls coffin sized cricket bag to fit your kit in as you never owned any equipment and never changed your outfit during the course of a match no matter how dirty they got.

Thinking about the cricket outfit we wore those days, they were awful to put it simply. Comfortable, loose fitting trousers are never heard of; White cotton drill trousers washed with a dash of "Milk White Blue" and ironed with starch is a must for the match. The fashion of the day was tight fitting trousers with hems a couple of inches above the ankle and cricket bottoms are no exception after all what we wore on the field were worn day to day for school as well.

None of us owned any cricket gear and they were always provided by the school and we had to share them. They are all dumped in the "coffin" in Kandiah's room which weighed about a ton and acted as his bed at night. To fish out any protective gear with all straps and buckles (decades before Velcro) intact itself before a game or a practice session is a special skill. Our coach Selvarajah master would pull out a couple of brand new gloves every season which has very economical thorny rubber strip sewed on each finger on a cotton glove. Come to think of it, the design of that glove is the only thing we ever shared with Sir Don Bradman! We were never taught how to evade a bouncer. So this glove is guaranteed to knock your knuckles off when fending off a head high bouncer! Often one has to use protective gear just used by another which would still be wet with sweat. Boxes are the worst to bear but thankfully they were worn outside the jockstraps buckled around waist and thighs. Some players who are in the team for their bowling don't even think highly about any protective gear. They are at home grabbing the bat without gloves. Given a choice they would rather go to the middle without any protection for their often brief stay. Wicket Keeping pads were never invented then the keeping breed had to contend with heavy batting pads.

### ***Battle of the North***

No experience can beat playing in the Big Match in front of thousands of fee paying, noisy spectators against St John's when you are a Central cricketer. I did play thrice, in the first one I have hardly anything to remember personally, but Mahendiran's century is still unforgettable. I didn't have a very good day behind the stumps and it was awful having to walk through the crowd into the school building for lunch & tea. Taunts, verbal abuses are liberally thrown by people who enjoy the freedom of speech after a couple of drinks and you don't want to know who says what as your eyes are fixed on the path and you are just following your mates into the safe haven of the school building. The second year was the best ever for me and your eyes wide open and lit up and you want to make eye contact with the people after you make a match saving 84 rescuing your side which has lost 4 wickets for about less than 10 runs on board. Notching up a 50 in a big match is really a thrilling feeling when the spectators who sit at the edge of the boundary invade the pitch to have their own thrill to shake your hand, give plenty of advice on how to play the rest of your innings, coupled with cap pulling, bat snatching and even lifting off your feet in appreciation. But reaching such a milestone have a downside too being hugged and kissed by toxicated supporters (not students). The awful odour of arrack which stays with for quite a while. I am pretty sure some don't even know who are they congratulating or what for. I kicked myself losing my wicket without joining the exclusive club of Big match centurians, but was happy with that important innings. The big match drew a lot of pilgrims annually to Jaffna especially the old boys employed in Colombo and one of the rituals of them is get drunk before the match starts. Getting the Best batsman's trophy at the big match was the highlight of my school cricket life and I duly went to Gnanams studio to have my customary picture taken with challenge trophy along with other borrowed ones before returning the trophy. The other three trophies on offer at the big match for best bowler, fielder and allrounder have spent time in our household in the following years when won by my younger brother Rameez and nephew Fowzan. Our household experienced somewhat unusual problems when they played against each other in the Big match. Our backyard also produced two more school cricketers in the family with elder brothers Aboobucker and Hameed Ali for playing for Central and Jaffna College respectively.

### ***Language Barrier***

We had mixed feelings playing against outstation schools. We looked forward to going out of Jaffna to play and the fun associated with it is one thing, but socializing with them when they come down to Jaffna

is something we didn't look forward to due to the lack of spoken English skills which were at a premium. When you are leading the side, you simply can't avoid having to talk to the opposing team - our self confidence simply takes a nose dive when we have to play "English speaking" teams like Royal College. Thankfully, I didn't have to lead a side against Royal and had the satisfaction of leading the side beating Maliyadeva (Kurunagela) at Jaffna in 1973. I had the privilege of captaining Central in 1973. Though it was an honour, I don't think I enjoyed the responsibilities which came with it too much.

### ***Touring team from Australia***

Australian Schools X1 toured Srilanka in before 1972 season and they had a game against Jaffna Schools. Though I was in the team along with other centralites Mahendran & Shanthikumar, I couldn't make it into the final X1 and have to sit out as a reserve with a few others. I probably would have made it into the playing eleven had the match took place at the end of our season after a few decent scores with the bat, especially in the big match. Australians rested few of their best who took turns as their scorers. For Jaffna schools, I was nominated as the scorer, not probably because of my somewhat neater handwriting, but I think others were too scared to sit with the Australians. Though I didn't fancy at first, I was was left with no choice. But it wasn't that bad and the Aussies didn't take offence to my limited English. Ray Bright & Graham Yallop were among rested players who scored with me. Both of them went on to play for Australia and Yallop captained the Aussie in the Packer era. While the Jaffna schools lost, the highlight for us was Shanthikumar's 6 wickets which earned high praise from Aussies manager and he went on to play for Srilankan schools, which is no mean feat, emulating his brother Donald Ganeshakumar who toured Australia with Srilankan school team years earlier.

### ***Selvarajah Master***

No Jaffna Central cricket story from our era would be complete without the mention of Selvarajah master. He is a great character and a legend in his own right. My memories of him are so many as a man who almost worked from home and as the only the man able keep his job while enjoying his drink daily while at work! Who can forget his trips to the bar at the Rest house at 10 am in the morning on borrowed students bicycles and returning with somebody else's. Above all he was a longstanding figure associated with Cental's sports, a good friend of us all and an unforgettable one.

### ***Finally....***

It wasn't easy being a Muslim in a 95% non muslim environment. When you grow up inevitably there are frictions, competitions, jokes & fights among boys with taunts sometimes bordering on religious lines. You get hurt no doubt, but you learned to live with it. Not all teachers are innocent either when they crack jokes on religious grounds in front of the class but when you are in the minority you have to cop it in the chin. But as I grew older and became a cricketer I never felt others treated me any differently and looking back, I cherish every minute of my school days at Central.  
(mnazeer@unidrive.com.au)



## Some Recollections of Jaffna Central

As a newly admitted student, I went into residence in the Junior Dormitory of Rigg-Hall Hostel (there were three dormitories – Junior, Senior, and HSC) in the third week of January 1948. As it was the first time that I was separated from my family, I felt very home-sick. I found the surroundings alien, faces unknown, and the food horrible. A few days later, the senior students organised a strike at the hostel protesting the quality and quantity of food served there. Bigwig politicians like Cumaraswamy of Chavakachcheri and Tharmakulasingam of Point Pedro were involved in settling the issue and bringing back normality. It took a few more weeks for me to earn a few friends, get used to the food and surroundings and settle down to a peaceful and useful life there. It was then that I started to admire and appreciate the community at Rigg-Hall Hostel.

There were students from distant villages, Vadamardchy, the islands (especially Nainativu and Karainagar) and even from Mullaitivu and Vavuniya. What attracted me most was the cosmopolitan nature of the community because of the good number of students from Batticaloa, a fair number of Muslims from Mannar and the few Sinhalese and Burghers from South Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

There were a few good sportsmen among them. Cader (Mannar) and Gunabalasingam (Batticaloa) excelled in soccer, James Thambirajah (Batticaloa) was a good middle order batsman, and scored 60-odd runs in the big-match against St John's in 1949. Among the Sinhalese students, Piyaratne played cricket and, few years later, his younger brother Premachandra excelled in all sports and served as a Senior Prefect too. Edwin took part in boxing. Among the Burghers, Ainsley Van Twest excelled in fielding in the covers, as well as in the throwing events in athletics, and Van Buren was a wicketkeeper. Such a mixed community in a school hostel in Jaffna now is beyond our imagination in the present day disturbed political situation there.

Among the teachers residing at the Hostel at that time, all the others except Mr J M S Selladurai were young, Indian, science graduates. Among them, one Mr V E Easau was an outstanding sportsman. At the first athletic sports meet organised by the newly formed Jaffna Amateur Athletic Association, he took part in five events, and won all of them – 100 yards,

220 yards, high jump, putt and discus throw. He was very good at basketball too.

Again, it was in another third week of January 1958 that I went to Central as a new member of the tutorial staff. There were a good number of old boys in the staff. Principal, Dr D T Niles and Vice Principal Mr A E Tamber were both old boys. Mr Tamber had his entire high school education there. After his degree, he joined the staff, and retired as its principal in the early sixties. There were almost ten old boys in the teaching staff and, in addition, Alagarajah was the chief clerk in the college office and Manikkavasagar the librarian. Central was a private school run by the Methodist Mission and preference was always given to old boys in appointments as teachers and members of the clerical staff.

My first few days in the staff room were almost like a revelation to me. A good number of my teachers were still there. Mr Mahalingam, a strict disciplinarian in the classroom, was friendly, jovial, and helpful in the staff room. Selvarajah Thambiah was the court jester. All were treated equally as his targets for verbal jokes and pranks in deeds. Even Mr Tamber was not spared by him. Rajasenana and Jeyaratnasingam entertained with occasional jokes. Jeyaratnasingam was the sports star and our hero during my school days, having captained in cricket (twice), soccer, *and* athletics and served as the Senior Prefect! Mr Kulasegarasingam was there, with his hobby of collecting academic degrees: he already had an honours BA(London) in English, a Diploma in Education (Ceylon), a first in laws, and was a Tamil Balapandithar to boot. What's more, he was preparing for the finals of his law degree and to become a full-fledged Tamil Pandithar! Victor Kiruparaj, a well-known sports columnist for the Times Group of Newspapers, was also there.

The staff and teachers' circle meetings were very lively, educative and entertaining ... Both Dr Niles and Mr Mahalingam had the mastery of the English language, the former in diction and pronunciation, and the latter in vocabulary. Neither of them missed an opportunity to show off his talents and excellences. There were others, too, to educate and entertain with a simple turn of phrase in the language. In one teachers' circle meeting, an argument cropped up regarding its constitution. Mr E T R Edwards, who wanted to stress his seniority and knowledge of the constitution, started his

argument saying, "I had been a member of this circle since its inception...", and the quick-witted Mr Tamber, from the opposing camp, quipped, "Well, Mr Edwards, I had been a member of this circle since its conception...".

Finally, I would like to refer to the history of basketball at Central. Mr Easau introduced it in 1948. I took charge of it in 1958. In 1959, Central got an up to date, metalled court, with the latest model posts, largely because of the efforts of Prefect of Games, Mr T I Abraham and Vice Principal, Mr A E Tamber. Inter-house matches were played regularly from 1959. The Northern Province Basketball Association (NPBA) was formed that year and I was elected as its secretary. I continued to serve in that capacity until Dec 1966. The NPBA organised school tournaments for senior and junior (under 16) teams every year regularly and trophies were awarded. Central won a number of championships in both groups. As the NPBA secretary was from Central, it functioned almost as the headquarters of Basketball in the North. A visiting team from Madras played exhibition matches on Central courts. A number of coaching camps were held there. The Jaffna combined schools' team and district team (clubs) had their practices there before they left for their tournament matches in Colombo.

The highlight and real pride of place for Jaffna Central Basket ball courts were earned in 1962, when Central organised the Public Schools' Basketball Championships there. Leading teams from Colombo, Moratuwa, Batticaloa and Trincomalee participated and the matches were played under floodlights. Mr Abraham was in charge of organizing the event. He spared no efforts to make it a great success, and earned all the praises of the parent body and media. In fact, that was the only All Ceylon Public Schools' Tournament held in Jaffna up to that date.

An educationist once commented that, "education is what remains in you after you had forgotten all the subject matter you learned at school". I wrote this short article with what remains in me after being educated at Jaffna Central. Recalling events exactly, after a lapse of nearly fifty years, is a difficult mental exercise. I have tried my best to recall a small part of Central's history in its different aspects. I could not recall the exact dates, as no documentary evidences remain. All my documents

were lost with my home in Jaffna. I am, indeed, grateful and pleased for this opportunity to write about Central.

**S Nadarajah, B.Sc, Dip.in. Ed.**

**Student – JCC Jan 1948-Dec 1952:**

**Teacher JCC Jan 1958-Dec 1966.**

**(Retired as Chief Education Officer, Education Dept., Jaffna)**



# THE HOUSE (veedu): Destroyed Sanctuary of Tamils

Rev. Dr. Albert W. Jebanesan

What is it that gives a human being the feeling of house, of 'home'? What happens if one loses it? One could say that we understand the feeling of 'home' when we have lost it temporarily or irreparably. This was my experience when I listened to Tamil refugees in refugee camps constantly lamenting the loss of their homes and families. The '*veedu valavu*' (house, compound) surrounded by solid fence (*veli*) is a most important concept in Tamil life.

Sinathurai was born Sinnamugathuvaram in the district of Batticaloa, a fishing village near akkaraipattu. He was a fisherman but saved money little by little "to build his own *veedu* with a *valavu*". Sinathurai's life was focussed on earning enough money to build a *veedu*. That was his ambition, purpose and goal of life. His dream, savings, plans, and ambitions were shattered when the house was completely destroyed in by Tsunami attack within few months after the house-warming ceremony. After loosing the house Sinathurai and a child he does not want to go back to his village.

In Sinathurai's life losing the *veedu* does not only mean losing a real property. With the loss of his *valavu* he felt he had lost his being as a person in his village. He lost the status of being considered respected human being.

Kanapathy is an old man living with his son's family. Kanapathy lost his wife and the house. He says "My *veedu* is in Jaffna". This explains the core of the meaning of Tamil *veedu* House and compound of the Tamil society is that grouping ordinance that turns the mere individuals to a Sri Lankan Tamil person with a common culture for life together. Without *veedu valavu*, Tamil people will loose their meaning in life and loose their inner peace. A building or structure cannot form a Tamil *veedu* and no common garden or public park can replace the *valavu* on which a *veedu* is built. I begin to understand Kanapathy's torment about *valavu*:

I planted several trees with my own hands, *tampi* My coconut trees would be bearing coconuts now. If I were in my *veedu* I could have plucked mangoes *tampi*. I planted several fruit trees, vegetables and flowering shrubs for beauty and utility in my garden. I made use of every piece of land that was my life, enjoyment and whole purpose of being a person in my village.

Sinathurai and Kanapathy's stories make our understanding more clear. The *veedu valavu* forms an integral communion in Tamil life. In this communion a Tamil person would feel as a whole integrated personality, close to the soil. If that is taken away, then it forms a vacuum, which other material benefits cannot replace.

They need to have a property with compound to feel 'comfortable'. People feel insecure and uncomfortable because their comfortable condition was altered by the context of the present house. Kanapathy's statement of "my life, enjoyment and whole purpose of being a person" shows the close bonding one can get to the house and compound. When that 'life and enjoyment' is removed from a person, then his 'purpose' in life is 'lost'. One begins to live a life without happiness, without peace of mind, and so without any purpose for living. The Sri Lankan Tamil historical, social and cultural context, one can say, then emerges from *veedu valavu* as Holmes puts it: "A place one feels safe, relaxed and secure to store his treasure." (Holmes 1980: 54) Moreover, the concept of house and compound enables a person to identify with a specific group of people who live with the same conceptual background. There is no one distinctive grouping among Tamil people; it is divergent and varied and becomes very complex to analyse, due to the different caste groupings. Yet there are commonalities that weave every Tamil village into a unified Tamil society. It is desirable to understand these patterns to understand the unifying link that brings every Sri Lankan Tamil under one broad umbrella called Sri Lankan Tamilhood. However, Sri Lankan Tamils see a solid substructure to Tamil life, the whole area of *veedu valavu* becomes an enlargement of one's house. (Holmes 1980: 53) You do not feel lonely, isolated, threatened because "you and yours are sealed in, safe and sound, in your compound." (Holmes 1980: 53)

The concept of *veedu valavu* first depicts the idea of shelter and sanctuary, "one's home is one's refuge, a place one runs to in times of danger" (Daniel & Thangaraj 1995: 239) and second, creates the feeling of owning the space of one's life. A person "personally, socially and spiritually" feels "at peace" (Holems 1980: 54) within his *veedu valavu*. Although the Tamil word *veedu* literally refers to a house structure or a residential unit of a family, it

contextually gives a different meaning to the Tamil refugees. The Sri Lankan anthropologist Daniel (1987: 109) explains this eloquently:

A house, to a Tamil, is more than just a structure built to the specifications of the owner. It is like all other forms of substance, in constant flux, mixing with and changing according to the substances that come in contact with it.

The *veedu* is not just a building. The *veedu* is a substance, a living organism, and like any other living organisms needs nurturing and protection. In the mind of the Tamil refugees, the *veedu valavu* created an emotional relationship between the physical structure and the social community in a way similar to human attachments. In our conversations I was able to perceive a deep suffering for the loss of this relationship. They were emotionally moved when they talked about human losses in their villages; in a similar manner they cried when they talked about the loss of their *veedu valavu*. No insurance company can compensate for this loss.

The entire concept of life style has changed for them very quickly, even before they realised that they needed to change themselves. Tamil refugees do not feel content in an alternative house or temporary tent/shelter. All the Tamil refugees during had come to the refugee camps as fugitives, and shared the traumatic experiences faced by them before they sought asylum in a camp. In the case of all the persons interviewed in camps, when 'the waves came', order gave place to disorder, peacefulness gave place to restlessness, the familiar became strange, security became insecurity,

life became the project of survival, and in many cases they have become refugees in their own villages. The familiar norms and values were no longer functional; now they were living under different circumstances, and their basic Tamil life was threatened; they found that their life became impossible in their own cultural context, because the context had been disintegrated.

Their symbols now have no meaning, their gods have no power, and their temples are no longer the gravitational centres of life. we see that the waves have destroyed the 'sanctuary' aspect of Tamil houses.

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Mr. Vigneswaran handing over books to the principal Late Mr. K. Rasathurai for the library on behalf of JCC OBA Canada Branch

# Central's Flag Must Never Be Lowered

*C. Kamalaharan  
B.A. (Cey), PGDE-TESL  
(an old boy and former teacher)*

After a lapse of fifteen years, looking back nostalgically, I embarked on a trip to Jaffna mainly to see my alma-mater, Jaffna Central College where I had spent the major part of my youth both as a student and as a teacher.

With enthusiasm mounting, I entered the peninsula. But my expectations gradually dwindled as I proceeded inland. The debris of skeletal buildings here and there, the chopped off coconut and palmyrah palms, the landmine warning sign boards along the Kandy road were a prelude to what was in store for me.

In Jaffna as I drew closer along the clock tower road, the panoramic view of Central's frontage could no more be seen, due to the construction of a wall all around the playground. My heart sank as I turned around and saw wilderness spread all over the place.

What a paradise was it then! The area was bustling with life; the public library - the pride of Jaffna, the open-air theatre and the Veerasingham hall that provide a variety of entertaining programmes, the Duraiappah stadium with jubilant soccer fans, the serpentine queue of movie fans in front of the Regal cinema, the Dutch fort and the court complex, the amusement of children in the Subramaniam park, the Muniappar temple and the St.Peters church and not forgetting "Mani Annai's portable" tea kiosk that caters mainly for Central. All these were things of the past, in this compact sprawling area. In such a conducive environment was Central then.

Today the area had lost its pristine beauty. No more could be seen the hustle and bustle of city life, no more could be seen the various literary and aesthetic activities that enthral the public. Instead the entire area is deserted and comes to a standstill before dusk.

But inspite of all these adversities and calamities Central continues to function with its flag fluttering in the gentle breeze that comes from the nearby shoreline. The renovation of damaged buildings, the construction of new buildings and the installation of updated educational equipments continue unabated.

All these are possible due to the untiring efforts of the Old Boys Associations spread all over the world, providing relentless and commendable service at the National and International level.

It's really a great landmark in the history of the O.B.A to celebrate its centenary this year. At this juncture, a much greater responsibility awaits the O.B.A.. We are passing through a crucial period of uncertainty and disillusionment. In the past Central had withstood all upheavals and it will continue to withstand them in future too. I am sure our O.B.A. in its "combined action" will rise up to the occasion, serve the college more earnestly, more energetically and more enthusiastically and see that "Central's flag must never be lowered."



## யாழ் மத்தியமே...

### உளவளமும் உடல்வளமும் கொண்டு வளர்வாயாக!

Dr.K.Senthilnathan  
Community Health Educator

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j l Lgghl by; i t j j UggJ mtrpak; %i si ag;  
ghtj ;R; nraaggLk; Nti yfS fF FS fNfhR  
ghupa mst Nj i tggL;pdwJ. vdpDk; ehp;T  
Neha; cssth fS fF FS fNfhRtpd; mst  
FUj paPy; \$L t j dhy; gurhuz mK f;fk; fhuz  
khf mji d %i s j pwkgl ghtpf;f Kbahky;  
j p Wf;pdwJ.

j pdKk; Vj htJ goti fs; cz tpy; NrHf;fggl y;  
Ntz Lk; nfhaahggok> khkgok> gyhggok>  
thi oggok> mddKddhggok> mddhr;ggok>  
Nj hi l > Nj rpf;fha; vdgd c l Yf;Fk;  
cssj j pwFk; kpf MNuhf;fpakhdi t. , twwp; y;  
css fdpAgGffs; Cl ;rrj ;J ffs; vdgd  
%i si aAk; c l i yAk; ruptu  
, aqfi tff;pdwd.

Kej ppi fggok> ] Nuhgup Nghdw goq;f;py;  
fhz ggLk; mdNj hrad;pd;] ; (Anthocyanins)  
vd;fpdw gj hHj j k; eukGf;fzjjhf;fq;fi sf;  
fl j ;J f;pdw nraw; ghli l NkkgLj ;J tJ l d;  
Gj pa euk;Gfs; c UthFti j Ak;

B<sub>6</sub>, Nghypf;fkpyk; vdgd cz T ti ffsy;  
 NrUk;ngH0J mi t %i sapy; NrUk;  
 N` hNkhrp] ;wpdpd; msi tf;Fi wf;f  
 cjTfpdwd. , j dhy; kwj p %l hgGj j di k  
 vdgd ek;fp rpej i dj nj spT VwgLfPwJ. i rt  
 cz TggpuaHfs; j kJ B<sub>12</sub> rj j p w F ghy>  
 j api uNa ekgpapUj j y; Ntz Lk;

ehk; Rthrp;Fk; fhwwpy; css guhz thAi t  
 cly; kOtJk; flj j prnry;tj wF FUj papy;  
 css nrqFUj pr; rpWJz pfi ffs; cj Tfpdwd.  
 guhz thA vyyhtj cly i ogGf;Fk;  
 mtrpakhdJ. , j i df;flj; j prnry;Yk;  
 nrqFUj pr; rpWJz pfi ffs; c Uthtj wF Guj k>  
 t pwwkpd; B<sub>12</sub>> Nghypf;fkpyk;, , UkGrrj ;J vdgd  
 kpfTk; guj hdkhdi t. , i t cz tpy;  
 NrUk;ngH0J FUj prNrhi f(Anaemia) NehAk;  
 ek;fp cly; eyk; rpwf;fPwJ.

vz nz a; ti ffsy; tpsf;fhj eynyz i z >  
 xynt ziz vdgdtwpy; eukghj  
 nfhOggkpyqfs> t pwwkpd; E Nghdw Nghdw  
 xl rpNawwntj pufs; (Anti oxidant) vdgd cz L.  
 , i t eukGf;fyqfi s RwwpAss nkdr;t;pd;  
 j di k nfi hky; , Uggj wF cj t pGupf;pdwd.  
 khdz j z Ak; kpfTk; eykhdJ. , j pYss  
 xl rpNawwntj pufs; , Uj atpahj p ek;opT Nghdw  
 Nehafi sj ;j LfFk;j di k nfhz ;i t.

fl u ti ffsy; gyti f cz L. fLkgri r  
 epw , i y ti ffsy; , UkGrrj ;J> Nghypf;fkpyk;  
 vdgd cz L. , uj j k; c Uthtj wFk> %i s

euk;Gf;fyq;fsy; fz j ;j hf;fq;fs;  
 ei lngWtj wFk; , i t mtrpak; cz tpy;  
 NrHj ;Jfnfhssggl y; Ntz Lk; c lwfi sgG  
 mfdW kd cwrhfk; Vwgl toptFf;Fk;  
 mupe;nj Lj j ntq;fhak> J Utpa  
 cssj ;Jfs;fs> fOtpa gri rffl uti ffs;  
 vdgtwi w gliH Grpa ghz ;Jz Lfspi l Na  
 i tj ;J fhi yAz thff; nfhs;tJ eyyJ. fl u  
 ti ffsy; css ehHgngHUs; cz Tfs;  
 c wQrggLk; Ntfj j j Ak; msi tAk; rH  
 nrat;j dhy; ehHrrj ;J k; edi k Gupf;pdwJ.

gUgG ti ffsy; eyy Guj k> ehHgngHUs;  
 t pwwkpd; B<sub>6</sub>> Nghypf;fkpyk; vdgd epi wa cz L.  
 kdk; epj hdkhfTk> mi kj pahfTk;  
 nrawgLtj qF rNwhNuhdpd; (serotonin) vdw  
 gj hHj j k; %i sapy; Nghj padT c UthFj y;  
 Ntz Lk; , j wF t pwwkpd; B<sub>6</sub> cj t p Gupf;pdwJ.  
 HpgNuhghd; (Tryptopan) vdw mi kNdH mkpyk;  
 rpNuhNuhdpd; Mf khWtj wF t pwwk B<sub>6</sub> cj T  
 fPwJ.

%i s rpwgghfj ; nj hopw; gLtj wF cz Tl d;  
 c lw;gapw;rpAk; Nj i tg;ghLfpd;wJ.  
 cstsj ;Jl d; cly;tsKk; NrHej hy; tsKl d;  
 thoyhk;



JCC Library

# REMEMBERING THE LATE STALWARTS OF J.C.C.O.B.A. CANADA

By R. Chelvaratnam

*We, the Past and Present Members of the Committee and the Members of the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada wish to dedicate this Page to the memory of our esteemed Old Centralites and two of the Founder Members of our Alumni Association of Canada. We very affectionately recall to memory the pioneering efforts of two of our Great Old Centralites, who are undoubtedly " GREAT STALWARTS ", who laid their life for the greater glory of our Alma-mater " Jaffna Central College and to the betterment of the Alumni Association of Canada.*

*We wish to recall the words of sentiments that were recorded during their funeral Oration and pamphlets, which we feel will be appropriate at this juncture to remember them.*



## JEYA KANAGANAYAGAM

*BORN 03-06-1942. DIED 24-01-1997.*

Ever smiling face, Kind and gentle in approach, a good sense of humour, dedication to cricket, Music lover, Devoted husband, Loving father, True gentleman and a good friend This was Kanags in a nut shell and this is how he would be cherished in our hearts.

Kannax, the epitome of cricket is no more. The sudden demise of Kannax has left a vacuum in the hearts of many. His untimely passing away is a great loss to the Cricket world and to the community at large. Many of us are still under the shock. His esteemed qualities of a sense of dedication, humbleness and wisdom, earned him fame and name in whatever endeavors he undertook. Many of us who have associated with him will always feel the pain of his absence. Kanaganayagam was a distinguished Old student who achieved stardom in the field of Cricket, for his impeccable manners, stylish Outfits, Superb cricketing ability and above all, A gentleman par excellence. He was friendly, very resourceful and absolutely helpful to everybody. He was a cricketing legend and had been deeply involved in the development of Junior Cricket, dedicating himself fully to the promotion of Junior Cricket in Canada.

Jeya Kanaganayagam the gentleman cricketer, passed away at Scarborough, after suffering a heart attack on January 24, 1997. Our Vice President's death has created a big void among all of us and among the Old Student's Association of Jaffna Central College, Canada.

May his soul attain everlasting bliss.



## KANTHARATNAM JOSEPH

### THIRUKUMAR

*BORN: 03-09-1950 DIED: 23-01-1998.*

Our dear friend Thiru spent all his life serving the people through his involvement with the Church, with the Old Boys' Association of J.C.C., with J.S.S.A., and various Sports and Cricket Association and Clubs. Thiru had a very positive and optimistic attitude towards life. In spite of his dreadful and terminal illness, he never wanted others to be burdened with his pain. Perhaps it was Divine Grace that gave such an attitude towards life, so that Thiru could serve fellow brothers and sisters as long as he lived on this earth. Knowing very well his days were numbered, he refused to get angry with God, but accepted his decision as final. He wouldn't even share his pain and anxiety with others. That was the character of this man called Thiru. They say that when good souls are ready to depart from the physical body, God sends angels to escort such souls to Lord's heavenly kingdom. I have no doubt in my mind that, God himself would have descended upon the earth to take Thiru under his protective wings. No more pain or suffering for this true son of God. Thiru's motto was service to anyone and everyone and to any Association or Club that requests for his services, often at the expense of his health. The Toronto Tamils Cricket Club, the Centurions, Jaffna Schools Sports Association, Canada, Toronto Softball Cricket Association, Toronto & District Cricket Umpires Association, Bahrain Cricket Association-Umpires Panel and the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada in particular and his Alma-mater Jaffna Central College in general, profited immensely by his dedication, wide knowledge and valuable experience he gained as First Class Cricket

Umpire, Cricket Coach and Sports Administrator. Thiru's immense contributions and valuable service will be carved in the history books of these Associations and are all examples for every one of us to emulate. His love for his Alma-mater Jaffna Central College was unique. Thiru was one of those who was instrumental in founding of the Old Boys' Association Branch in Canada. As a Founder Member / Secretary and later Vice President, he enlisted the assistance of almost every Old student living in Canada. His dedicated service to his Alma-mater, was highly appreciated by the entire membership of the Association and presentation of the " Meritorious Service Award " at the Central Nite 1997 was a fitting tribute. The spontaneous and overwhelming gathering the Canadian Tamil Community, Cricket enthusiasts, Friends and the Old Boys of Jaffna Central living in Canada, United States and England, turned up in thousands braving Canada's chill weather, to show their respect for this cricket legend and sports Ambassador on Saturday and Sunday January

24<sup>th</sup>. and 25<sup>th</sup>., 1998 during the Visitation and Wednesday January 28, to attend Late Thirukumar's interment was actual testimony of his greatness and his respectable qualities. Those who came to know him would remember Thiru fondly, not only for his love of cricket, but also for his unique disposition toward fellow human beings. This praiseworthy human quality developed to such an extent that on many an occasions he has ventured out to help his Alma-mater in spite of his failing health. His love for his Alma mater was unique. It could be said that Thiru Thought Central, Spoke Central and Worked for Central.

Thiru, whose hands proudly carried the Central's Torch, is now covered with earth, but will always live in the hearts of every one of us.

We the Old Centralites will never ever forget his qualities and the services he rendered to the Alumni Association of Canada.



Past President Mr. D Balaraj's visit to JCC in 2004

“ Unto the Glory of God and the Best and the Highest “

“ Live in Service Glad and Free “.

### Continuation of Humanitarian Service by the Canadian Centralites

True to the Motto of the College and to the objectives of the Jaffna Central College Old Boys' Association of Canada, many an Old Centralites scattered far and wide of this Globe, genuinely motivated to assist the Alma-Mater at a time our School and the Nation highly expect our services and assistance. In this connection, concrete steps were taken by our Alumni Association of Canada to help the College, the College students in their Higher Education pursuits and also to various Voluntary Service organizations back home and in Canada. In our endeavour to assist our Alma mater, a sum of \$ 5,000.00 was the initial Donation of assistance contributed by the Alumni Association of Canada in the year 1994. Service to our fellow human beings is another motivating factor that has spurred us to help various Voluntary Service Organizations thro our Association. For this endeavour, the response from the Membership and the Business Entrepreneurs were magnanimous and was beyond our expectations. The mood and the response of the membership helped us immensely to execute our plans and objectives. The overwhelming response of the Old Centralites in Canada and States are praiseworthy. These members who form the backbone of the Alumni Association deserve the praise of the Nation. The Committee conveys its sincere Thanks from the bottom of its heart to the Membership and to the Business Community of not only the Old Centralites but also others who value and cherish humanitarian ideals and assistance.

Our Humanitarian assistance to Service Organizations commenced :-

- a. In 1994 with Donations of \$ 3,500.00 to Canada Red Cross Society to help Northern Sri Lanka.
- b. With a Donation of \$ 808.55 in 1998 to Jaffna St. Peter's Church Building Fund.
- c. In the year 2000, a Donation of \$ 1,200.00 to the Batticaloa Ramakrishna Mission Orphanage.
- d. A Donation of \$ 1,000.00 to the Orphanage of the Jaffna Maruthanamadam Achchramam.
- e. Donation to the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation by way of Pledges thro our Walk-A-Thon commenced another history making endeavour by our Alumni Association of Canada. Pledges amounting \$ 3,100.00 was collected in 2000; \$ 1,992.54 in 2001; \$ 1,603.00 in 2002; \$2,716.00 in 2003; \$ 3,420.00 in 2004. From the year 2005, the Walk-A-Thon became a welcome Joint venture of Jaffna Central and Vembadi Girls and the Pledges amounted to \$ 3,210.50. We take this opportunity to Thank Vembadi for their welcome decision to join us in this Joint venture.

In acknowledging the Donation, the Swami in Charge of the Ramakrishna Mission, Batticaloa Orphanage, writes “ We are overwhelmed by your magnanimous gesture in Donating the entire proceeds of the function to us, towards the running of the Orphanage Homes. It is great and very noble of the Jaffna Centralites to have spared a thought in this substantial manner for their less fortunate brethren in the East. That is the essence of Charity. Charity certainly must begin at home, but it should not

end there. Your action can be truly acclaimed as really humanitarian. Whoever decided to help us must be thanked for this benevolent move for which we are eternally grateful. May Bagavan Sri Ramakrishna the Apostle of the harmony of Religions bless the Office Bearers, the Membership and the Families of the J.C.C.O.B.A. Canada abundantly. “.

We resolved to broaden our Humanitarian Assistance Program, irrespective of Old School ties, creed, Religion or Race. In this journey we have assisted Service Organizations in Canada, like the Red Cross Society of Canada and the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children Foundation. We can proudly declare that we were the FIRST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN CANADA to organize a Walk-A-Thon for the Sick Kids Hospital. This was a great success and we propose to continue this venture and solicit the wholehearted co-operation and assistance of the membership to this great cause. We are Thankful to our sister College Vembadi Girls Canada Branch in accepting our invitation for a joint venture of this Humanitarian Program and will continue to be a Joint venture from the year 2005.

In our objective to assist the Alma Mater and to assist the bright and needy Students of our College in their Higher Education pursuits, a Joint Scholarship Scheme was formulated with active participation and Fund involvement by the Colombo, Australia, Canada, and U.K. Branches. It is our commitment to improve the quality of life and living conditions of the students of our Alma mater, hence the entire proceeds of the Mathiya Theepam Cultural show will help fund the Scholarship and Bursaries for the students of our College. In this connection we made our commitment by contributing in 2000 a sum of \$ 3,200.00 and in 2002 a sum of \$ 1,200.00. An additional sum of \$ 6,000.00 was contributed to the University of Jaffna for Bursaries to the Students from Jaffna Central only.

In continuing our assistance to our beloved Alma mater, in 2004 our assistance to the College was as follows:

\$ 1,200.00	Donation of Library Books thro Mr. V.Vigneswaran Master during his visit to Jaffna.
SL Rs.40,000.00	Funding of the Hall of Fame Project.
SL Rs.20,000.00	Cost of One Steel Almirah for the Library.
SL Rs.30,000.00	Cost of Cricket Boots for the 2004 Cricket Team.
SL Rs.20,000.00	Cost of Soccer Boots for the Soccer Team.
SL Rs. 5,000.00	Donation to the Primary School for Purchase of Prizes for the Grade I Students Sports Meet.

These Funds were handed to the College Development Society By R.Chelvaratnam during his visit to Jaffna in 2004.

Our Motto is Service; Our Endeavour is Service and Our Aim an Objectives too is also Service to our Alma Mater and to the bright and needy Students of Jaffna Central College. For this we appeal for your continued support and assistance.

## CANADA'S CENTRAL ST. JOHN'S BIG MATCH ENCOUNTERS PLAYED FROM 1989 FOR 17 LONG YEARS...

The Battle of the North Big Match encounter was first played in 1901. This cricket encounter has evolved into a traditional Sports Festival lovingly looked forward to by the Cricket enthusiasts of Jaffna. During the year 2001, the Alumni Association of Canada published a Commemorative Stamp in Canada to celebrate the Centenary of the Central St. John's Cricket encounters. It is with pride and joy that we record these Historical events and join hands with the Centralites scattered, the length and breadth of the planet in wishing the Alma mater Jaffna Central College all success. These endeavours of the Alumni Association of Canada will not see the light of the day, if not for the enthusiastic and wholehearted support of its members and the leadership of the Executive Committees. We are also deeply Thankful to the Business Community for the magnanimous offer of assistance in fulfilling our aims and objectives. The Big Match tradition has also been instituted in Toronto, Canada where the two Collegiate Old Students Alumni Associations organize Annual Cricket Encounters. These matches are played annually at the Sunnybrook Park Grounds during the months of July and/or August each year. We proudly place on record that the First Annual Cricket Encounter was played at the Dominion Park, Scarborough on 19<sup>th</sup>. August 1989. Jaffna Central's K.M.Shanthikumar and Johnian's M.Thuraisingham Captained this historical encounter, which was won by Jaffna Central.

The Result of the Matches played in Canada is not important. What is the essence is that it should be played in the true spirit of Sportsmanship and enjoyed by all

players and the spectators alike.

Up to 2005 Jaffna Central O.B.A. Canada has Won nine encounters, St.John's Old Students Association of Canada has won five and Three matches were abandoned due to Rain.

The Veteran's Encounter was played for the First time during the year 1997, Captained by Central's Late V.D. Jeyaratnasingham and Johnians by T.S.Nathan, which was won by the Johnians.

As at today of the 17 Big Match Encounters in the Series, every encounter is played in a spirit of friendship, co-operation, comradery bringing the past memories thousands of miles away from our homeland.

The Result of the Series of 17 Matches is as follows:  
Jaffna Central O.B.A. Won Nine ( 9 ) Encounters. St. John's O.B.A. Won Five ( 5 ) encounters and the Balance Three matches ended in No Decision due to rain. The Veterans played Nine matches and Jaffna Central Veterans Won Five Encounters and St. John's Won Two matches, with Two No Decisions.

The Cricketers of both Jaffna Central and St. John's should be congratulated for the spectacle of competitiveness, played in the true sense of sportsmanship. The Best Team will Win the Trophy and the Team loses also Win the hearts of those who witness these encounters for their superlative and thrilling game of Cricket lovely Cricket.



JCC OBA Vetarens team 2000



JCC OBA team 2000

**WALK - A - THON**  
**Toronto Hospital for Sick Children Foundation**

*R .Sivakumar*

*“There is something in the human condition that eternally yearns for a greater sense of  
connectedness yearns to reach out and deeply touch others.....”*  
Corinne McLaughlin and Gordon Davidson

Jaffna Central College Old boys' Association of Canada started the Annual Walk A Thon in aid of the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children in 2000. Our gratitude goes to our then president Mr. S.Yoganathan for initiating this humane project. We are proud to announce that our association was the first Alumni Association from Sri Lanka to conduct a Walk-A Thon in Canada to support a local Hospital.

Every year during the month of June-July we organize the Walk AThon along with our Annual Joint Picnic with Vembadi Old Girls' Association. Vembadi joined with us in this humane project from 2005. This year's Walk-A-Thon was held on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Morningside Park. Also this year's donations reached the record high of \$5,200. Thanks to Vembdi for their active participation and support.

Since the inception of this humane project we have collected donations as follows:

2000	\$3,100
2001	1,993
2002	1,603
2003	2,716
2004	3,420
2005	3,210
2006	<u>5,200</u>
Total	<u>\$21,242</u>

The donations are handed over to Sick kids Foundation shortly after the Walk-A Thon. We also invite a guest representing Sick Kids Hospital for our annual Dinner and Get together- the “Central Nite”. We offer our gratitude to all those members who obtain pledges, from various donors. In this context special mention must be made of Mr. Thomas Thevarajah, and Mrs. Rasamany Thevarajah, who labored hard to get the highest pledge support consecutively for 4 years in memory of our Teacher, Late Mr. M.Paramananthan. They were honored in one of our “Central Nite” functions for their outstanding contribution to this project.

What do our donations mean to sick kids?

The Hospital for Sick Children, affectionately called Sick Kids, is one of the largest pediatric academic health science centres in the world, with an international reputation for excellence in health care, research, and teaching. Sick Kids is among the top four hospitals in the world.

In Ontario Sick Kids is the only children's Hospital that provides the Full range of treatments for most complex cancer treatments.

Cardiac Centre at Sick kids is one of the largest most successful in the world with survival rates unsurpassed.

the neurosciences Centre has set the standard of care for pediatric stroke

Sick Kids has the largest pediatric cataract service in North America.

The Children need us and our donations help the world-renowned doctors and scientists find breakthrough treatments and cures for devastating childhood diseases.

-Recruit and retain world's top medical professionals

-Fund essential equipment and core facilities.

Currently more than 2000 children in treatment for cancer alone at sick kids Many are fighting for their lives. The small donation we make can make a difference in the world for a child and family who are desperate for hope and cure.

We are happy that the Walk-A-Thon project has drawn immense support from our old boys and Old Girls and proud that we **believe in Sick kids**. In effect this project reflects the humane nature of all our activities. We have gone beyond community and reached out to the larger whole.

**“Healthier Children A better World”**





Mr. & Mrs. Thevarajah

JAFFNA CENTRAL COLLEGE  
COLLEGE SONG

*Wet the ground and wind opposing,  
Just ten minutes yet to play;  
Play up Central, No reposing  
On the gains of yesterday.  
Now's the time for combined action;  
Pass the ball from man to man;  
Never selfish play nor faction,  
Proved worthwhile since sports began.*

*Chorus:*

*Central Rally for the School then,  
Take the field with one accord;  
Keep your courage cool and clean then,  
Central's flag must ne'er be lowered.*

*On the field of life when striving,  
Keep your honour true and bright,  
Play up Central Ever thriving  
On the fruits of grace and light,  
For your Comrades of the old days,  
Scattered far though they may be,  
For your School and, for her true praise,  
Live in Service glad and free !*

*Chorus:*

**JCC OBA Canada Branch Sincerely Thank  
all the advertisers for their kind support to  
make this event a success**