

Report of The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind

The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind is pleased to present its report for the year 2012 in respect of the School for the Deaf Ratmalana, School for the Blind Ratmalana and Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind Kaithady, Jaffna

Mandate and Mission

To provide a professionally managed service using quality trained manpower, appropriate technology and methods, to facilitate and enable those lives that have been placed in our care.

Schools Statistics

Student Numbers as at December 31st 2012

	Males	Females	Total
School for the Deaf	139	92	231
School for the Blind	110	82	192
Nuffield School	110	99	209
Total	359	273	632

Staff as at December 31st 2012

	School for the Deaf	School for the Blind	Nuffield School	Total
Academic	32	31	29	92
Non Academic	19	29	22	70
Grand Total	51	60	51	162

As seen from the table above the student population as at 31st December at the School for the Blind Ratmalana was 192, School for the Deaf Ratmalana is 231 and Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind Kaithady is 209 making a total Student Population of 632.

The total staff which comprised of both academic and non-academic staff was 51 at the School for the Deaf, 60 at the School for the Blind and 51 at the Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind. Whilst the schools continued to receive a grant from the Government to meet the salaries of the teachers in the approved cadre of the Ministry of Education, the salaries of the Board appointed academic staff and all non academic staff were raised by the Board of Trustees.

Centenary Year Activities and Celebrations

The year under review was a special one, being the Centenary Year of the two Ratmalana schools of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind. Special events were organized to commemorate this occasion. The main highlight of the celebrations was a well attended Service of Thanks Giving held at the Chapel of the Holy Child Ratmalana on 17th June, where the Lord Bishop of Colombo Rt.Rev.Diloraj Canagasabai was the celebrant. This was followed by the unveiling of the statue of Ms Mary Chapman the founder of the Ratmalana schools, issuing of a commemorative stamp and an Exhibition of Arts and Crafts by the students of the Ratmalana schools and the Nuffield school. A Centenary Souvenir was published to mark the occasion.

In addition to the above the following were held as celebration events which also were fund raisers during the Centenary Year

- i. A Centenary Walk was organized by the Resource Development Committee together with the Rotaract Club of the University of Kelaniya in association with the Principals, staff and students of the Ratmalana schools. The participation of the Bishop of Colombo on this occasion was very encouraging.
- ii. A colourful concert by the students of the Ratmalana schools was held at the Ladies College Auditorium, organized by the Principals and staff with leadership by Members of the Board of Trustees .

iii. A cricket match between the past and present pupils of the School for the Blind was held at the grounds of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, organized by the Principal and Staff of the school, with leadership by Members of the Board of Trustees.

iv. Printing and sale of Christmas Cards, a project undertaken by the Resource Development Committee.

Schools' Activities and Events

Though faced with financial and other constraints and limitations, substantial progress was made in educational and other areas of school activities

Education

The schools continued to offer an education to the children up to the G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination, in line with the Department of Education curriculum. Those who qualified for G.C.E. Advanced Level gained admission to Private and Government schools for which we express our gratitude to the respective Principals. Students, who did not qualify, had the option of remaining for a further period of one year to continue vocational training or apply for job placements where possible through the schools.

At the School for the Blind, five students sat for the Grade 5 National Scholarship Examination and two were successful this year. Sixteen students sat for the Ordinary Level Examination, fifteen for the first time and one for the second time, of whom five were successful.

At the School for the Deaf twenty two students sat for the Grade 5 National Scholarship examination and twenty six students sat the G.C.E. (O/L) examination. Ten students have been selected to receive training on IT at the institute for Humanitarian Agencies.

At the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind ten hearing impaired students and six sight impaired students sat the G.C.E. (O/L) examination .

The School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf held a combined Prize Distribution at the Holy Emmanuel Sunday School Hall, while the Nuffield School held its' own at the School hall.

IT and Computer Aided Education

All three schools have their own computer laboratories and Information Technology is a curriculum subject. While talking computers and magnifiers are utilized to teach the blind students, computers with narrations & items labeled are used for the education of deaf children.

At the School for the Blind a special computer unit was set up with a Blind Graduate from the University to give training and guidance to the children in computers. At present there are two teachers working in this Unit to assist the children.

Staff Training and Development

At the School for the Blind, the Mathematics Teacher Ms.Renuka participated in a training seminar and the Oriental Music Teacher Mr.Amila Indrajit attended a course on Oriental Music programmes. A few matrons in the hostel attended a training programme on "Care for Care Givers" conducted by the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies(Gte)Ltd. A matron and a House Master participated in a training programme under the Department of Social Services. Rev.Amal Fernando conducted a counseling program for the Principal, Vice Principals and Teachers. Grade 5 teachers along with the children, attended a seminar on the scholarship examination in July. The teachers were given an observation trip to the Mental Hospital in Mulleriyawa in May.

At the School for the Deaf fifteen Teachers visited Dalugama St. Joseph Deaf School and thirty teachers and matrons visited the Matara Rohana Deaf and Blind Special School to observe their teaching Methods. Staff Training programme (on hearing aids & Speech) was held on 2nd April at the Ratmalana Audiology Centre, conducted by the Vision Care Optical Services. On 24th May a Speech and Auditory Seminar was held at Ratmalana Audiology centre for the Deaf School Primary section teachers. A seminar on Speech Therapy, was conducted by Ms. Ianthi Perera, a Lecturer at Kelaniya Medical Faculty. Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka Organized an IT

Training session for the Teachers and Students. All the teachers and matrons attended a counseling programme in September. A teacher training programme was held on 4th April

At the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, Ms. Anne East a retired teacher and expert in Sign Language, and Ms. Lezed from the United Kingdom and Ms. Vasuki Rajasingam from Jaffna, conducted seminars and workshops in August and November for the Principal and teachers. The facilitators also observed the students' activities in the classes and advised on ways of improving students' performance. A workshop was held in May by World Vision for staff and students, on "Ways of Developing the School". Public Relations Officer of Police Mr. E. Sugumaran, conducted a seminar for students and the staff in July on the topic of, "Road Rules, Child Abuse and Drugs." Six teachers were sent for a two year teacher training programme at the Kopai Teacher Training College. Acting arrangements were made by the respective teachers.

Vocational Training

Vocational training was continued in all three schools. The vocational training imparted to the students varied from school to school depending on the ability of students and the resources available in the particular school.

At the School for the Blind, rattan weaving, coir work, bead and ornamental work were taught to the children

At the School for the Deaf, Carpentry, Horticulture, Printing, cookery and Sewing were taught. A NVQ level 3 Aluminum Fabrication Course commenced for ten students at the Technical College

At the Nuffield school Vocational Training was continued depending on the ability of the students. The main vocational training was conducted in Carpentry, Agriculture, Mechanics, Painting, Beauty Culture / Facial & Hair dressing. Students were also given training in Sewing, Handicraft, Metal Work, Welding, Poultry and Cattle Breeding.

Sports

At the School for the Blind, the Annual Inter-house Sports Meet was held on 8th March, This being the Centenary Year, the certificates and the trophies were designed accordingly for the events. The students participated in the Zonal Athletic Meet and some qualified to participate in the Provincial Athletic Meet and obtained places. Swimming Classes were arranged under the guidance of a coach, and the students received lessons in swimming at least three times a week.

At the School for the Deaf, the Inter House Marathon was conducted successfully on 24th February and the Inter House Sports Meet which was sponsored by the Lions Club of Colombo North 306-B1, was held on 2nd of March. Organized swimming classes were conducted for the students at the School for the Blind Swimming Pool.

At the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, the Annual Sports Meet was held on 24th February under the patronage of the Archdeacon Ven. Jayanth Jeyaweerasingham. The school participated in Zonal Sports Meet in March and won places. The school cricket team participated in the T20 Noel Vimalendran Cricket Tournament held in April. A member of the school team was selected as the best player.. Students participated in the Northern Provincial Karate Federation programme in October and won many Gold, Silver & Bronze medals. The students also participated in the National Karate Competition in November at the Sugathadasa indoor stadium and won 01 gold and 02 silver medals, while there were four students from the school amongst the best eight participants.

Extra Curricular and Other Activities

At the School for the Blind, the students took part in a Chess Tournament organised by the National Council for the Blind on 11th November. A Literary Day Programme was organized at the School on 28th September, many schools in the Piliyandala Educational Zone participated in this programme. Students participated in a Festival of Songs "Gospel in Perfect Harmony" organised by S Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia on 22nd October. A few students participated in a dance and music competition organised by the Western Province Unit of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs & Heritage in November. They were awarded the first place for their creative group dance and singing performance.

At the School for the Deaf, four students had the opportunity to proceed to India to perform their Dancing Talents, Sponsored by "NATANDA" Group. On 23rd September International Deaf Day sponsored by the Social Services Department (Western Province) was held at the John de Silva Memorial hall Colombo and the students performed a dance. English Day was held on 05th March, sponsored by the Muslim Ladies College, Colombo. The Art teacher and the Students contributed in a big way, by drawing the pictures for the Christmas Card Project organized by the RDC

At the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, the Scouts participated in the events and activities organized by the Zonal Education Director, Thenmarachchi, and were appreciated by the Zonal Directors for their good performance. Little Friends and Guides participated in camps and activities held at Jaffna College Vaddukkodai in July 2012. They also participated in the Art competitions held at the Vembaddi Girls High School for the celebration of Borden Paul's day in February.

Students participated in an Agricultural Competition organized by the Director Thenmarachchi Zone Education Office in May and was placed first. A few students appeared for the Miruthangam Oriental Music Examination held by the North Ceylon Oriental Musical Society (NCOMS) in April. The senior students were taken to an exhibition organized by Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna in May. In February the students were taken on an organised trip and excursion visiting Kataragama, Colombo, Mannar.

Schools Welfare, Infrastructure, and Staff Matters

Health and Welfare

All three schools were visited by Medical Officers who checked on the health of the children, and the Public Health Inspectors who examined the premises and made recommendations. Medical and Dental camps were also held in the schools. The children were sent to the respective specialists as when necessary. Student Counseling and Physiotherapy have been given special emphasis and trained Counselors and Physiotherapists visit the schools to meet the needs of the students.

Orientation and Mobility Training

At the School for the Blind, all totally blind children and teachers were provided with white canes for their use inside the school premises, those who joined newly are given a training on the use of the cane. White Cane Day was celebrated on 15th October with programmes by present and past pupils of the school. Orientation and Mobility courses are continuing on Tuesdays and Thursdays by O & M instructors who have received training in this field.

At Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind, hearing aids and white canes received from donors were issued to the Deaf and Blind students respectively. Dr.Ranjith Thambyrajah an ENT Surgeon resident in the UK and his colleagues visited the school, examined the students and gave Ear Moulds & Hearing Aids in August.

Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

The infrastructure maintenance and development in all three schools is given high priority. The buildings continue to be maintained satisfactorily, thanks to the assistance rendered by agencies, donors and well wishers. The Board of Trustees too spent for the maintenance where necessary. At Nuffield the Serendib Charity, a charity registered in the United Kingdom undertook to renovate most of the hostels and other areas where renovations have been neglected due to the ethnic war. They completed the renovation phase which started in late 2010 spending totally approximately LKR 10Million. At Ratmalana too some of the buildings underwent major renovation & refurbishment. There are more buildings that need major renovation as they are now getting old, for which donor assistance is solicited.

Appointments & Retirements

As the Board was unable to find a suitable successor, Rev Keerthisiri Fernando the Vicar of Holy Emmanuel Church Moratuwa, was appointed as the Acting Principal of the School for the Deaf from January to December. The Board expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Keerthisiri for undertaking to fill this gap. The Board is pleased to inform that Mrs Samanthika Jayasooriya has been appointed as the new Principal of the School for the Deaf and will assume duties in January 2013. She is a graduate and an Attorney at Law with several years of teaching experience and has also worked as Mathematics advisor in the Ministry of Education.

Past Pupils Associations

Past Pupils Associations were active in all three schools where the members of the PPA interacted with the students of the schools by playing games and conducting other events.

Obituaries

The Board records with regret the passing away of Ms Swarna Nanayakkara, the Co Vice Principal of the School for the Deaf. Mr Jackson Wijesiri, a past teacher of the School for the Deaf and Ms Manonithi Jenananathan,

Secretary Nuffield School who were called to rest on 17th September 07th November and 20th December 2012 respectively.

Finance and Funding

Income & Expenditure

The annual statement of accounts gives a detailed analysis of the financial position. The total income and expenditure was Rs.97.5 Million and Rs.93.1M respectively. The total expenditure was in fair excess of the budgeted amount, mainly due to expenditure on urgent infrastructure needs and salary and cost of living adjustments which were considered necessary.

Fund Raising and Meals Donations

Considerable emphasis and priority have been given to fund raising in order to meet both the running costs and infrastructure development of the schools. The Board records with pleasure that a special effort was made during the Centenary Year to raise funds for the schools. Apart from the fund raiser events described in the section under Centenary Celebrations, a Centenary Appeals Committee was set up in 2011 for fund raising highlighting the Centenary Year which received an enormous response and helped in a considerable way to enhance the Board funds. We have also received donations from organizations & well wishers specifically for infrastructure development. The Board of Trustees and the Resource Development Committee (the fund raising arm of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind) continued its fund raising programmes. Special mention has to be made of the Bishop's appeal sent out thrice a year and the Sponsor a Child Programme, where sponsors make a monthly donation of Rs. 2,000 either as a lump sum payment for a year, or on a monthly basis to meet part of the costs of maintaining a child.

The Meal Donations Programmes was run smoothly, the response for the appeals was encouraging in respect of the Ratmalana schools, where most of the meals are donated. However at Nuffield there is a need for more donors which would ease the burden on the Board.

Acknowledgement

The CSDB wishes to thank all Organizations, Donors and Well Wishers who rallied around to make life more meaningful for our students and also helped by way of donations, meal donations, grants and other facilities for us to continue to operate the schools. The Board also expresses its gratitude to the Ministry of Education and the Provincial and Zonal Educational Offices, the Ministry of Social Services, and all other Government and non-Government institutions for their financial and other assistance

Cmde Lakitha Mendis
Executive Director