

# **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 this report for the year 2015, in respect of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind, which governs the Schools for the Deaf & Blind Ratmalana and Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind Kaithady, Jaffna. This report covers the activities during the year under review.

## **Mandate and Mission**

To provide a professionally managed service using trained manpower, appropriate technology and methods, to facilitate and enable those lives that have been placed in the care of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind.

## **Governance and Oversight**

While the Board of Trustees governed and laid down policy for the schools, the Executive Committee ensured and supervised the implementation of the policies set out by the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee which met every other month monitored the progress and activities in the schools, though the respective Principals are responsible for the daily operations in the schools.

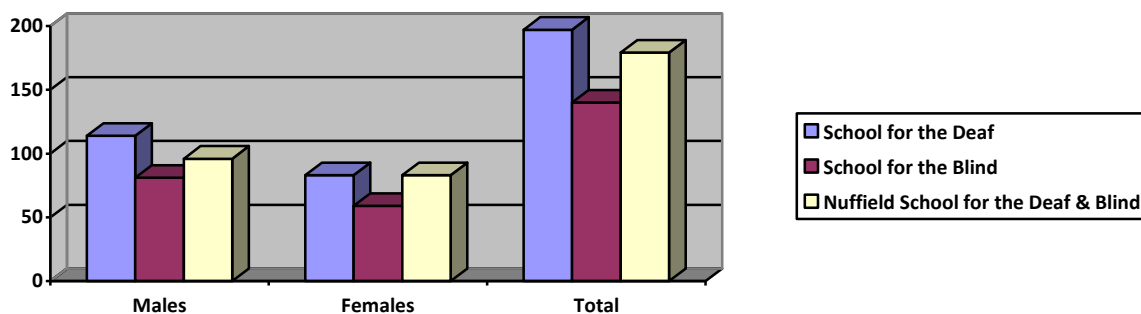
During the year under review, the Board of Trustees met on three occasions and the Executive Committee on six occasions. The Annual General Meeting was held on a day that the Board of Trustees met and preceded the Board of Trustees meeting.

Sub Committees in various disciplines such as Education, Welfare, Infrastructure Development etc, comprising of members drawn from the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, maintained an oversight on the schools and advised / assisted the Principals to manage the schools.

## **Schools Statistics**

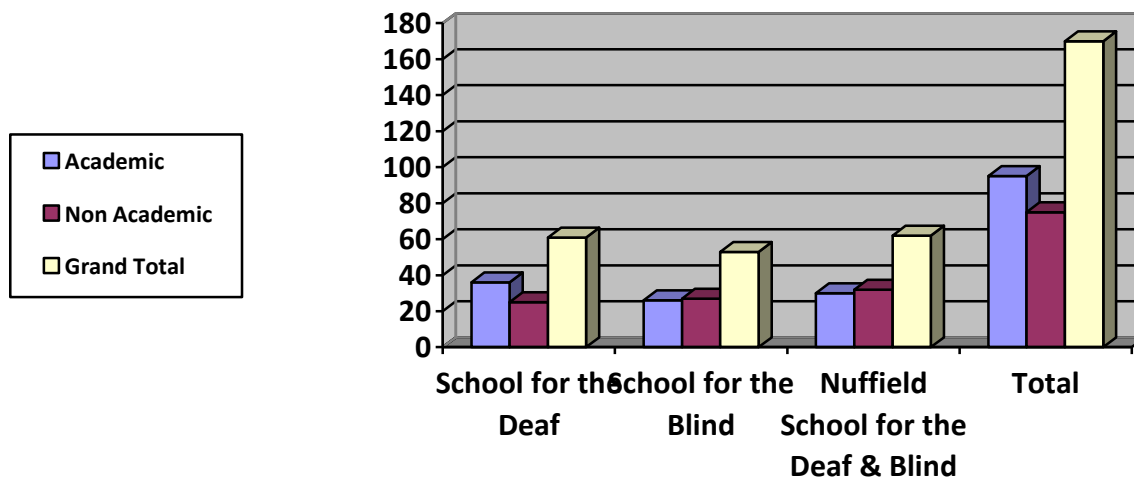
### **Student Numbers as at 31 December 2015**

	Males	Females	Total
School for the Deaf	114	83	197
School for the Blind	81	59	140
Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind	96	83	179



## Staff as at 31December 2015

	School for the Deaf	School for the Blind	Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind	Total
Academic	36	26	30	95
Non Academic	25	27	32	75
<b>Grand Total</b>	61	53	62	170



## Important School Events

### School for the Deaf

The school is the proud recipient of the “ Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award” ( Bronze Award ) from the National Youth Services Council, Maharagama. Ten students from grades 10 & 11 were involved with this award and this is the first time in history it was awarded to a school with differently able children. The 103<sup>rd</sup> Founders Day was celebrated on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June with a Holy Mass. A drama and an Art Competition were organized as part of the celebrations. The Bible Society launched a signed DVD on the Book of Acts. The Chief Guest was Rt. Rev. Diloraj Canagasabay, the Bishop of Colombo. The senior students of the school celebrated the Children’s day at a Home for the Elders in Moratuwa. Also “Campaign for Child Protection”, an event organized by SERV together with Kindernothlife, Germany to celebrate the children’s day was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October at Independence Square, 50 of our students between the ages 10 – 18 years and 10 teachers participated.

### School for the Blind

The veteran actor Mr. Nissanka Diddeniya was the chief guest at the “Kalaulela”. A British youth award named “Duke of Edinburg International Award” was awarded to three students who

successfully completed all four steps at the Bronze Level. A Children's day programme was conducted by Sirasa Tv at Stein Studio on the Children's day. They also participated at the Children's day program organized by the Divisional Secretariat at 'Kamkaru Sevana'. The annual Carol Service was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2015 and Rt. Rev. Diloraj Canagasabey, the Bishop of Colombo graced the occasion. They participated in a carol program and "Gospel in the Perfect Harmony" program at the S. Thomas Prep, Colombo. Founders' day and the Teachers day were also celebrated.

## **Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind**

The World Teachers' Day was celebrated by students in October. Various events were celebrated throughout the year. In March Tamil day, World Teachers and Children's day in October & Annual Carol Service in December were celebrated respectively. World Disability Day was celebrated in December by participating in an Art Competition organized by the Zonal Educational office in Chavakachcheri and other programs organized by the Social Services Department to celebrate same.

## **Education**



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

## **School for the Deaf**

The biggest challenge face by a hearing impaired person is the Language, in this sense special language classes were conducted by class and subject teachers. Though the pass rate is not up to an appreciable standard, after nearly 8 years one student was successful in obtaining two credits and six passes at the 2015 GCE O/L examination. With the collaboration of John Keells Foundation and Gateway College, programmes titled "English for Teens" and "English for Primary Students" were implemented successfully. Teachers of Gateway College conduct English lessons for our O/L as well as Primary students. Most of the lessons are conducted in a very innovative manner using Multi Media projectors.

## **School for the Blind**

During the year we refocused our attention on education and made significant improvements to teaching methods. We also provided more braille machines to the children so that from grade 6 onwards all children have their own machine to use. These efforts had a significant improvement in O Level results this year compared to the last. Out of nine Students only one passed the GCE O/L examination with Math and is qualified to do GCE A/L. However 5 more students have passed without Math and are qualified to do GCE A/L with Math being repeated next year. All students passed Oriental Music at the O/L this year. Special classes were conducted for students who sat for the Grade 5 Scholarship Exam and the GCE O/L exam during August holidays and daily afterschool. Past papers in all O/L subjects were transcribed in Braille and were given to all O/L students. Four students obtained over 100 marks at the Grade 5 scholarship exam which is creditable given the number of questions they cannot answer as the question paper is not tailor made for the blind students.

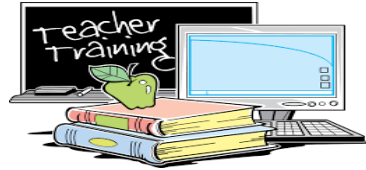
## **Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind**

35 students sat the G.C.E.O/L examination in 2015. Four students qualified to study for G.C.E. Advanced Level. 06 students sat the Grade 05 National scholarship examination, 01 hearing impaired student obtained 120 marks. Two students obtained above 70 marks. The students actively participated in Zonal and Provincial level competitions in subjects such as Tamil, English, Mathematics, Science, Music, and Art. For religious studies, Christian children are sent to the School Chapel every Friday and on special days such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and school birthday. Hindus children are sent to the temple near to the school on Fridays. Miruthangam ( Traditional Drum ) is taught to sight impaired students and IT is included as part of the curriculum for all students from grade 6 upwards. Library facility is available for all students from grade 1.

## **Information Technology and Computer Aided Education**

All three schools have their own computer laboratories and Information Technology is a curriculum subject. Computers with Speech software is used to teach all sight impaired children and Vision Enhancers are utilized to teach the low vision students. Computers with narrations are used for the education of Hearing impaired children.

# Staff Training and Development



## School for the Deaf

Inspectors from the Divisional Education Office visited the school in July and gave advice and guidance where necessary. 21 teachers completed a course in Sign Language with the Social Services Department. Former Principal Mrs. Marie Wijeratne also conducted a Speech & Language Therapy program. Special Spoken English classes were also conducted for the teachers by Mrs. Suhashi Victoria. Manager of the Ratmalana Audiology Centre Ms. Renuka Fonseka and her staff conducted a seminar for the teachers and all hostel masters and matrons on maintenance of Hearing Aids and reading of Audiology reports. A workshop on Teaching and Learning Methodology was conducted by Mrs. Nirmali Wickremasinghe. More training on IT, History, Science, Practical & Technical Skills, Math & Child Protection were done throughout the year.

## School for the Blind

All teaching staff of grades One, Seven and Eleven were trained on all subjects by the Department of Education as the syllabuses was revised for 2016. Teachers participated at the seminar titled “ Education Need for the Differently Able Children” conducted by the Piliyandala Zonal Education Centre. Two teachers participated at the “ E Thakshala” the IT seminar. Seminars on History, Science, Practical & Technical Skills & Math were done throughout the year. Two teachers participated a Library Training Session.

## Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

Teachers participated in the seminars and workshops related to special and general education conducted by the Zonal, Provincial and the Ministry of Education. Ms. Anne East from United Kingdom, who is a specialist in sign language visited and conducted an Advanced Skills Training Program for selected teaching staff. Three teachers completed their 02 year training program at Kopay Teachers Training College and rejoined the School in December 2015. Another teacher entered Kopay Teachers Training College for the 02 years which commenced in July.

## Vocational Training



Vocational training plays an important role in all three schools. The vocational training imparted to the students is identified depending on the ability of students and the resources available in the respective schools.

### **School for the Deaf**

While Carpentry, Horticulture, Printing, Bakery & Pastry, Cookery, Sewing & Mushroom cultivation continue as Vocational training, an Anthurium cultivation project is the latest addition in 2015.

### **School for the Blind**

Over the years the Blind School has neglected the area of vocational training. The School administration is working on a new plan to implement relevant vocational training programs. We expect that the new plans to be presented after the August holidays for review by the school community.

### **Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind**

While the main vocational training subjects such as Beauty Culture / facial, Hairdressing, Carpentry, Agriculture techniques, Poultry and Sewing continue this year too, we hope to start Home Science training for girls and boys in the near future, as it would help with employment in the hospitality industry. Vocational Training is given for all students from Grade 08 to 11.

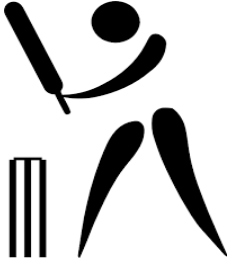
## Sports

### **School for the Deaf**

The Tennis Court was converted into a Basket Ball Court with funds arranged by former Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Dulip De Chikera. Volley ball and Swimming continue to have weekly practices. The Annual Inter house sports meet was held in February. Western Province Special Schools sports meet was held in July and the students performed well at this meet. The school band performed at the opening and closing ceremonies, the students performed a drill display which was appreciated by most.



## **School for the Blind**



Students emerged winners in all events they took part at the Piliyandala Zonal Office Sports Meet, Western Province ( Special Education ) Sports Meet and Sunshine Games. They were placed first at the Social Services Department District sports meet and Zonal Meet in all events. Mercantile Cricket Association very generously sponsored cricket coaching fees for 2015.

## **Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind**

A marathon took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2015 before the inter house Sports Meet. The Annual Sports Meet was held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015. Mrs. P. Francisca Sinnathurai, Rtd Principal of St. Charles Mahavidyalayam, Jaffna graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Mr. K. Sivakugan, Manager, Dialog Service Centre, Jaffna was the Guest of Honor. The students actively participated in the Athletic Meet held at the Zonal Educational level (Thenmarachi) in May 2015. Many of our differently able students received certificates having competed with normal students. Students also participated in the Athletic Meet held by the Northern Provincial Education Department in Vavuniya and their performance was highly commendable and received 10 certificates and a trophy. The school cricket team participated in the Vimalenthiran Trophy in April 2015 and came up to semi finals. At the provincial Karate Competition held in Vavuniya 7 students were selected to take part in the National Karate Competition in Colombo at which Ms. Jilothana won a Gold Medal. At the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Navatkuli Maha Vidyalm the school cricket team became the third runner up, the football team was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Volleyball team became the champions.



## **Extra Curricular and Other Activities**

### **School for the Deaf**

The Sri Lanka Festival of Music, Dancing & Speech in affiliation with the British & International Federation of Festival of Music, Dance & Speech conducts competitions every year in dance, music, singing, speech & drama the children won Gold medals in individual and group events competing with normal children in the dancing category. The school is one of the five 5 institutions chosen by the Ministry of Public Administration, Local Government & Democratic Governance for the setting up of a Bio-Gas Project within the School premises. This project will be funded by the Ministry who will provide all the equipment and technical know-how.

## **School for the Blind**

At the singing competition organized by the Department of Cultural Affairs in Association with the Social Service Department our students were placed first. The Sri Lanka Festival of Music, dance and Speech organized by the British & International Federation of Festivals of Music the students received a Special Award for the Best Special Needs Performance Category. The students exhibited the history of the special education system to date at the 3<sup>rd</sup> “ Adyapana Exhibition 2015” held at the BMICH. With the Guiding Commissioners the Girl Guides – ( Special Education ) celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind**

A Christmas Card Drawing workshop was conducted with 17 students. 5 students participated in the Primary School art competition organized by the Zonal office. The Zonal Education Office organized a tour to Nuwara Eliya and Vavuniya for the Children with Special Needs and 30 boys from the primary section participated in it.

## **Schools Health and Welfare, Infrastructure development,**

### **Health and Welfare**



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

Speech and Language therapy is provided to students in need at the School for the Deaf and for the Deaf children at the Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind.

Vision Care Jaffna branch and Medcon Audiology Centre with Eye and ENT specialists conducted a health camp for the students. Dr. Ranjith Thambyrajah an ENT Surgeon resident in the UK and his colleagues continue to visit the school, examine the students and provide Ear Moulds & Hearing Aids.



## **Infrastructure Development & Maintenance**

A boundary wall at the School for the Deaf was constructed with labor from the SL Army. School for the Blind had a complete facelift with color washing and repairs that were pending for some time. The labor was provided by the Sri Lanka Air Force and raw materials are mostly by donation. At the Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind the Scout room was renovated by the Sri Lanka Shipping Company Ltd. A new Water Purifying Plant, repairs and color wash the hostels and built a new water tank from the CBM additional grant.

## **Finance and Funding**

### **Resource Development Committee (RDC)**

The main objective of the RDC is to raise funds to run the three schools under the purview of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind. RDC carried out three fundraisers for the year 2015, namely a Sing Along, Silent Art Auction and a Christmas Card Project. These were done outside of the ongoing Sponsor a Child program and the Meals Program. The total income from all RDC fundraisers is approximately Rs 39 Million.



### **Fund Raising and Meals Donations**

Considerable emphasis and priority was given to fund raising in order to meet both the operating costs and infrastructure development of the schools. We have also received donations from organizations & well wishers specifically for infrastructure development. The Board office and the Resource Development Committee continued the fund raising programs and raised a total of Rs.46 Million during the year. Much appreciation is due to the general public, who respond readily to the Bishop's appeal sent out thrice a year to about 2000 addresses on each occasion, requesting for donations.

In respect of the Ratmalana schools, most of the meals were donated and the program continued to run smoothly in 2015 as well.

In addition the Clarendon Foundation, a charity registered in the USA, continued to fund the meal cost in the year under review for the Nuffield School, for which we are thankful.

## **Income & Expenditure**

The annual statement of accounts gives a detailed analysis of the financial position. The total income and expenditure was Rs 126 Million and Rs 120 Million respectively.

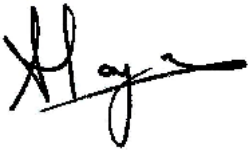
## **Past Pupils Associations**

Past Pupils Associations were active in all three schools. The PPA of the Deaf School donated 100 chairs and a main gate to the school.

## **Acknowledgement**

The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind, 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, child sponsorships and other facilities for us to continue to operate the schools.

The Board also expresses its gratitude, to the Ministry of Education, the Provincial and Zonal Educational Offices, the Ministry of Social Services, and all other Governmental and Non Governmental Agencies, for their financial and other assistance



*Subhashini Meegama*  
*Secretary, Board of Trustees*