

## From the Desk of Dr. Shanti McLelland -Principal, Wesley College January 2013

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**G**reetings and best wishes to the pulsating Wesley Community for another exciting and sensational New Year!

**W**esley is ready to greet 2013 like the “Rise of the Phoenix” full of confidence, responsibility and commitment to deliver an education that is both first class and responsive to Wesley College that is rapidly changing society to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

**In general**, Wesley’s transformation in the last three years is about much more than ever before. Thanks to the Wesley community, gone are the days when Wesley had to sell the small park and the teachers’ quarters to raise funds for salaries and critical renovations that had been stalled for years. We are assured that Wesley loyalists will rally around to take Wesley brand to great heights that we have never seen before.

**With your generosity**, we have built two aesthetically beautiful new edifices to blend with the old, a flamboyant swimming pool, that was lingering and languishing for many a decade as just a dream, is now a reality. So is the elegantly renovated Hostel, Dining hall with over 1500sq.ft of teak wood and natural wood ceiling, state-of-the-art Washrooms, elegantly remodelled Cartman Library, and the three computer labs rolled-in with over 50 computers. In addition we are pleased to have the upgraded staffroom, main office, and the physics, chemistry and biology laboratories.

**The transformation** saw, smaller classes, hiring of more teachers and increased number of classrooms. Incredibly, students, staff, parents, old boys, and administrative staff walked into the school with lot of passion and belongingness to inhabit the lush green and clean environment with pride. The Wesley community visited with lot of energy and activity, which made Wesley a more vibrant and lively place to reminisce the wonderful memories of the “Golden Years”. Some of the exemplary events were the “Wesley Walk of Grit” and “Junior Revolve Walk”, the flamboyant swimming pool, six-a-side cricket, double blue dance, Founder’s day celebrations and the Prize Giving that was graced by the President of Sri Lanka.

**The transformation** was also about the commitment and dedication our staff who made valuable contributions at the grade-5 Scholarship examination, and both the GCE Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Examinations. Transformation led to Wesley’s academic standards reach a new high, with nearly 100% passes at GCE O/L and a high level of University Entrants from the

outstanding results at the GCE A/L. We can take pride in the fact that these results are unmatched by most of the leading Colombo Schools. The O/L pass rate for English and Mathematic achieved the encouraging 90-100% range. Interestingly, students' interest in non-traditional subjects such as Design Technology, Art, Media, and Aesthetics studies has increased dramatically.

**The** Year 2012 ended with optimism. We've had phenomenal experiences, both exhilarating and challenging. We owe a lot to a few who worked relentlessly to keep the Wesley's mission intact. In a positive note we celebrated the year end with a grand display of talent at the Festival of Choirs organised by Wesley College. This year we performed excellently well to win the Inter-school Invitation Carol Competition at Temple Trees and delightfully, Wesley teachers' choir was also invited to perform there.

**Proudly**, our sports teams excelled and performed remarkably well. Two cricketers and two Rugby players won Provincial schools colours, Two hockey players toured Malaysia with the National Schools team. One senior soccer player was selected to represent the Sri Lanka schools team for their tour of Thailand. Wesley Junior Table Tennis players continued to dominate nationally and internationally to win in competitions in Korea and Thailand. Tennis, Basketball, athletics and chess had mixed results.

**Wesley's** extra-curricular activities, performances on stage in both drama and Sinhala ballet, English oratory and speech craft, library and poetry literary achievements were extraordinary. Our debating teams emerged the best at inter-school championships, and members of the team participated at the Asian and World championships in Philippines, Qatar, and South Africa. The Brass bands, Hewisi bands and Carnatic band, at both senior and junior levels provided amazing performances. It was commendable that the Commerce Union, IT, Arts, Aesthetic groups, and College Prefects organised activities were able to enthusiastically draw more than 50 schools, which is an extraordinary record of confidence in Wesley's friendly relationships with other schools.

**In professional** development, more than 20 teachers enrolled in a Microsoft organized tutorial on MS Office applications. Another group of 20 teachers volunteered to participate in a discussion on unleashing the power within to be a successful teacher. Thirty four senior students attended a leadership programme in Bangalore. Seventy students had the opportunity to participate in two leadership training programmes. All these events were organised by the Wesley OBU.

In 2012, we successfully experimented with starting the London A/L classes outside the mainstream classes. We are hoping that this endeavour will help the students to enhance their standard of English and IT. In 2013, we will also invite our primary and middle school students to challenge the London examinations from Grades 3-9 as a no cost option.

Branding, of Wesley's prestigious name will be used as a marketing tool to raise awareness of Wesley's prestigious position as a leader and role-model in the broad spectrum of education. As a benevolent gesture, Wesley's facilities such as the Wesley grounds & pavilion, swimming pool, chapel, hostel, College hall, conference rooms, classrooms and aesthetic bands have been given out to many schools and organizations at no cost to them. Wesley believes in the importance of sharing our facilities particularly with the outstation schools as a means to of developing good relations and give their students exposure to the fine facilities our students are privileged to enjoy.

In the next few years, the visionary governance, is to mold Wesley to become the finest school, to teach, to learn and to play, satisfying the holistic needs of exemplary citizenship, outstanding leadership, self-imposed discipline, trilingual communication skills, and epistemology enabled by information technology, *Ora et Labora*.

**“Come join the success story – Wesley to the Fore”**

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