

CNIS Chronicle

Christ Nagar International School

University of Cambridge International Examinations – UK, Registered Centre IN-653
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Newsletter Vol. 33, Onam 2017

Principal's Message



Hearty Greetings of Onam!

It has been three months since the beginning of the academic year 2017-18. While the portions are covered progressively, various ceremonies bring vibrancy to the campus. This newsletter recaps the colourful events in the words below.

There was less rain this year but plenty to make our campus green. To some students, this is a new setting; to some others changing the gear to suit the terrain of the life's ride is a challenge. As a new principal took charge this year, I wonder how you are getting used to the new ways. I am also getting used to the ambience and dynamics of a formal academic institution.

We have a varied mixture of cultures and languages among the student community even if English language is a common factor. Thus the interaction among the students as well as staff can enrich us and broaden our hearts to love and care beyond borders.

Onam is such a beautiful celebration where we appreciate the plentifulness of the blessings and the richness of relationships. I see senior grade students helping the lower graders in carrying their bags. Our teachers want to accompany the students in their journey of progress not only in the academic matters but also in the cultural and artful ways. Our supporting staff also toil day in and day out contributing to the positive ambience. Together we can!

CNIS wishes hearty greetings of this season to all parents, siblings and grandparents. We also remember our well-wishers and all those who are in one way or the other connected to the CNIS on this festive season.



Rev Fr Dr. Sony Palathra CMI
Principal



New Captain of the Ship



Rev Fr Dr. Sony Palathra CMI joined the CNIS family at the beginning of this academic year. Hailing from Changanacherry, Kottayam Dist, he is also serving as **Vicar Provincial and Councillor for Pastoral Ministry and Evangelisation** while working as the **Principal of Christ Nagar International School**. He took his doctorate in Education from Materdei Institute of Education, Dublin, Ireland, on *Evangelisation of Young People on the Internet*.

Teacher Training Workshop

On 29 May 2017, a training session was conducted for the CNIS teaching staff. The session was done by **Dr. Sonali Geed**, Academic Director of TIPS group of schools since 2011. As an experienced educator, administrator and academician, working in the field of curriculum development, faculty training and teaching for the IB, IGCSE & CBSE Boards, she has been successfully leading various prominent schools through international affiliation process, for the past 24 years. During the training sessions, the teachers were challenged intellectually and various teaching techniques and strategies were discussed and revised.

Workshop on Deploying iOS in Education

On 30 May 2017, Ms. Manisha Bhandari, Cambridge Exam Coordinator, attended a workshop conducted by Apple Systems Engineers at Hilton Garden In, Thiruvananthapuram. The workshop focused on how to deploy iOS in the teaching learning scenario.

School Reopening

Mr. K. Shefeen Ahamed IPS, Deputy General of Police, inaugurated the commencement of the 14th academic year of our school, on 5 June 2017. The Chief Guest delivered an influential talk on setting and attaining goals, and each one's duty towards his/her country which rekindled the spirit of each and everyone present in the school for achieving success. Rev Fr Dr. Sony Palathra CMI, our Principal, led the school in the dedication prayer. Our Principal hoisted the school flag, thereby officially setting a rightful start to the new academic year, along with the Academic Coordinator, Mr. Thomas Mani.

Higher Studies in the UK: An Orientation Session for Parents

On 26 May 2017, an Orientation Session on the fee structure, scholarships, application procedures, required documents and advantages as an international student, was provided for the parents of the prospective students who are planning to pursue their higher studies in the UK. The session was conducted by Ms. Mirrin Raikhan, British Council, Chennai. The session was very informative and elaborate. All details with respect to the courses, fees and other basic requirements were covered.



Environment Day

The school celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2017, by planting trees in the school premises, led by **Mr. K. Shefeen Ahamed IPS**, Deputy General of Police and our Principal.



International Yoga Day 2017

CNIS celebrated International Yoga Day on 21 June, with a colourful yoga performance of nearly 300 students. It was an amazing performance that began with the duo acro yoga performance by CNites Dia Simi Raj and Punya S A. of Grade IV-I with mesmerising super flexible yoga stretches. The students of Grade I performed yoga for the song "I am Yoga", spreading the message of "Being still and calm", followed by Sun Salutation by the students of Grade II. Students of Grades III and IV enchanted the audience with their "Dance for the Sun" performance. The students of Grades V, VI and VII soothed everyone's mind and body with the relaxing meditation music.

Art Fest

As part of the **Cultural Fest 'THRILL CNIS'** the Art Department conducted colouring, painting, poster making, pot painting and pencil sketching competitions for the students of Grades I to XII, in June & July. More than 350 students took part in these events.



World Music Day

World Music Day was celebrated on 21 June. Music Day is a connected set of free public events which takes place every year across the globe marking the beginning of summer solstice. As part of the celebration, CNites Bhamini S Neelamana of Grade IV-G, Richie Martin of Grade VII-I, Adithyan S Neelamana of Grade VIII-I, Khalid Jaleel of Grade VIII-G and Nevil Joseph of Grade VIII-G performed a theme song called 'Avengers'.



Investiture Ceremony

On 22 June 2017, the Investiture Ceremony of Christ Nagar International School was held in the august presence of the former Principal of the school, **Rev Fr Sebastian Attichira CMI**. The Principal, Rev Fr Dr. Sony Palathra, officially declared the office bearers of the new student council and handed over the School Flag and the House Flags to them, in a symbolic gesture of investing them with their duties and responsibilities. CNItes Aiswarya Hari and Humayoon Hussain took charge as the School Leader and Deputy School Leader respectively. The Captains and Vice Captains of the four houses and the class prefects were also sworn in. Rev Fr Sebastian Attichira implored the students to maintain the uniqueness of the school and to transform themselves into true human beings upholding the values of integrity and righteousness. The event came to an end with the hope of completing the academic year, fulfilling all the aspirations, under the able leadership of Rev Fr Dr. Sony Palathra, bolstered by the Student Council. Rev Fr Joseph Vattaparambil CMI, the Manager of the Christ Nagar Group of Schools was also present.

Reading Challenge Programme

The Reading Challenge Programme was inaugurated by a budding poetess of our city, **Ms Meera Nair**, on 30 June 2017. Ms Meera Nair enlightened the students on the importance of reading through a short story. The interactive session by Ms Meera Nair was an innovative way of inaugurating the Reading Challenge Programme. The Programme kick started with CNIta Daksha R Nair of Grade I, reading out a short story to the audience. The programme was well defined by **Mr Naveen Kumar**, Executive (Library and Information Services) of the British Council. Students were encouraged to write book reviews by their class teachers. They participated in the workshops conducted by the trainers of British Council, Chennai, between 8 & 10 August. The objective of the workshop was to harness creativity and develop language skills through various activities. The certificates would be given away to the students during the closing ceremony to be held in the month of October.

Congratulations and Celebrations!!!

On 30 June 2017, CNItes were honoured for their victory in various national and international competitions.

CNIta Diya.V.S of Grade IV-G bagged the First Rank in the 16th International Level National Cyber Olympiad, First Rank in the 19th National Science Olympiad Zonal Level and the First Rank and the International Topper position in the 7th International English Olympiad. She secured the Second Rank in the 1st International Sports Knowledge Olympiad, Zonal Level. She received three Gold Medals, a Silver Medal and a Cash Award for these achievements. She also received an Academic Excellence Scholarship of Rs. 5000/-, a Trophy and a Citation from the Science Olympiad Foundation.

CNIta Samridhi Sampath of Grade III-C was honoured with the Second Rank at the 19th National Science Olympiad, Zonal Level. He was presented with a Silver Medal.

CNIta Adithyan S Neelamana of Grade VIII-I was presented with a Silver Medal for getting the Second Rank at the 19th National Science Olympiad, Zonal Level.

CNIta Lidhya John of Grade VIII-G was honoured with a Silver Medal for getting the Second Rank at the 7th International English Olympiad, Zonal Level.

CNIta Sapna Harilal of VIII-G bagged the Silver Medal for attaining the Second Rank at the 7th International English Olympiad, Zonal Level.

CNIta Liza Mary Renjith of Grade III-C received a Bronze Medal for achieving the 4th Rank at the 7th International English Olympiad, Zonal Level.

CNIta Marwa Sajjad of IV-C was awarded with a Trophy and a Scholarship of Rs.10,000/- for attaining the 4th Rank at the International Spelling Bee Championship conducted by MaRRs International Spelling Bee.



Charity Drive Inauguration

The students of CNIS are motivated to be involved in social work through which they further motivate others in social action which in turn would help them to live a self sufficient and dignified life. The official launch of the CNIS Charity Programme was inaugurated by **Dr. A. Sampath**, Member of Parliament, on 10 July 2017. The student coordinator for Charity Drive, CNlfe Meenakshi Anil, presented the Annual Charity Plan for the year 2017-2018. The Chief Guest congratulated and encouraged the students for the noble initiative.



Atithi Devo Bhava

On 10 July 2017, the CNIS family welcomed **Ms. Vanessa Agnes** from France along with her three daughters to our school. They spent two weeks in our school as teacher and students. They took part in various interactive sessions, visited classes and became part of our school community. We are expecting them to pay us a visit in the next academic year.

Inter School Competition

Cre8 2017

On 15 July 2017, CNlfe Aysha Joyce of Grade X participated in **View Point**, a photography contest in **Cre8**, an inter school art and design fest conducted by L'ecole Chempaka, Thiruvananthapuram.



International Days

World Population Day

On 10 July 2017, *World Population* day was celebrated with CNlfe Sawan B Nair of Grade I educating the student community about the origin and purpose of celebrating the day, the importance of family planning, gender equality and women empowerment. Students of Grade I entertained the audience with a dance.



Nelson Mandela Day

On 22 July 2017, students of Grade II made and displayed posters depicting various facts on *Nelson Mandela*.

Kids Support Kids

43 students from Grade IV, accompanied by the Principal and teaching staff visited **Lenny Peters Home for Girls'**, **Kaniyapuram**, Thiruvananthapuram, on 18 July. They donated toys, stationery, clothes and other necessary things to the young girls at the poor home. Our students were reminded of the blessed life they currently enjoy and agreed to visit the home with their family.



Thrill CNIS 2017

The CNIS Cultural fest, *Thrill CNIS*, was held on 27 and 28 July 2017. The function was inaugurated by **Mr. Hesham Abdul Wahab**, renowned playback singer and composer and **Ms. Rekha Ratheesh**, cine artist. Mr. Wahab was honoured to be in the midst of the Christ Nagarians as he holds a close connection with Christ Nagar group of institutions. He also adorned the morning with his mellifluous voice. The audience was enthralled by the performance.

Grand Parents' Day

On 27 July 2017, Grand Parents' Day was officially inaugurated by renowned playback singer and composer, Mr. Hesham Abdul Wahab. The elderly grandparents were honoured. Mr. P. Ramachandran Nair, grandparent of CNITE Adithya Nair of Grade IV-C, was specially honoured as the senior-most grandparent present on the occasion. The audience was dumbfounded to witness two elderly grandparents singing in tune.



Girls' Cell

The motive of the Girls' Cell is to empower our girl students. It is a help desk aimed at the social, cultural and educational development of the girl students. One of the activities as part of their social development was the collection and display of greeting cards dedicated to the grandparents, prepared by the students. These cards were displayed in the school premises on the occasion of honouring the grandparents. Inauguration of the logo depicting girl power was done by **Ms. Rekha Ratheesh**, cine artist, on 27 July 2017. CNITE Hawwa Sara and CNITE Meenakshi Anil, the Girl Cell Representative, designed the logo for Girls' Cell. Upcoming activities include organising awareness programmes for girl students on various topics.

Talents Day

Talents Day was celebrated on 7 August. Organised to tap the leadership skills and teaching aptitude of our students, the day was inaugurated by our Principal **Rev Fr Dr. Sony Palathra CMI** by handing over the symbolic **CHAKRA** to the Student Principal CNITE Shiva Anilkumar. The administration of the school was jointly shared by Student Vice Principal CNITE Kevin S Emmanuel, Staff Secretary CNITE Ann Mary S and Senior Assistants CNITES Priyamvada Ajish and Aysha Joyce. CNITE Aarya Vijay of Grade XII was selected as the best student teacher.



A Volunteer from The Bay State

Mr. Andrew Abraham George, a Grade XII student from Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School, Sudbury, Massachusetts, USA, visited our school during his vacation in India, and spent almost a week with us. Mr. Andrew was happy and excited to have spent some quality time with our primary section students and volunteered to engage students in classroom based activities. We hope to meet him again next year.



Farewell to Rev Fr Sebastian Attichira CMI (Au revoir)

The staff of Christ Nagar International School bade an emotional farewell to our former Principal, **Rev Fr Sebastian Attichira CMI**, on 22 June. Senior teaching staff shared their experiences with Fr Sebastian Attichira. Former Staff Secretary, Ms. Pallavi Singh, presented him with a memento as a token of the love and gratitude of the members of staff. **Rev Fr Joseph Vattaparambil CMI**, Manager, Christ Nagar Group of Schools, adulated the Man of the Hour with his kind words. **Rev Fr Dr. Sony Palathra CMI**, newly appointed Principal, CNIS, **Rev Fr Bino Pattarkalam CMI**, Principal, Christ Nagar Central School and Christ Nagar English Higher Secondary School, **Rev Fr Joseph Eenthumkuzhy CMI**, Vice Principal, Christ Nagar Group of Schools, were also present.



CNIMUN & Debate Club

The 2nd edition of the **Christ Nagar International Model United Nations (CNIMUN)** and **Debate Club** got flagged off on 14 August 2017. The Executive Board was constituted with CNlites Aiswarya Hari, Anand Sankar, Sarang Rakesh, Rohith R and Sanjana Nair as the office bearers. Along with the existing members of the previous year, new members were inducted and the introductory session on the general conduct of an MUN conference was also held. Rejath R, former CNlite and head of the Club, led the session. The members of the club will be trained for taking part in the forthcoming MUN conferences.



Visit by the South Zone Head

On 18 August 2017, **Mr. Dilip Kottapadath**, Manager, South India, Cambridge International Examinations, paid us a friendly visit to address the various challenges faced by the teaching faculty regarding the syllabus and examinations. He has promised to revisit the school during the second term for an even more productive rendezvous.

CIE Orientation Programme for Teachers

On 23 August 2017, an orientation programme on 'How to Navigate through the CIE Website', was conducted for the teaching staff of our school. The orientation was given by **Dr. Sabitha P R**, CIE Teacher Support Coordinator. The programme gave new insights to the teachers on how to plan and implement new teaching strategies based on the Cambridge perspective of teaching and learning.

Workshop on Reading and Writing

A workshop on 'Reading and Writing' was conducted from 8 to 10 August by trainers from British Council, Chennai. The objective of the workshop was to harness creativity and develop language skills of students through various activities.





Upcoming Events at CNIS & Reminders

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| Sept 11 | - Reopening after Onam Holidays |
| Sept 15 | - Star Day |
| Sept 18-22 | - PTA Meeting (individual dates will be intimated later) |
| September 27 – 28 | - Science Fair |
| September 30 | - Last day to pay Term II fees without fine |
| October 5 | - Cambridge IGCSE/AS/A Level (Oct/Nov) Examinations Begin |
| October 23 | - 2nd Mid Term Review Begins |
| December 11 | - 2nd Term Review & IGCSE First Mock Exam Begin |
| December 22 | - School Closes for Christmas Vacation. |