



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members of OBA,

I wish you all a very interesting and fruitful year ahead. As President of our esteemed Association, I am thrilled to connect with each of you through this newsletter. Our community continues to thrive, and your ongoing support is truly invaluable.



It is after a long gap that we bring out this newsletter. Although we have many social media groups and communication with each other has become much easier, one still misses the 'Kazhakootam Bulletin'. We intend to bring out a newsletter every quarter beginning with this one. For it to be regular and successful we need continuous flow of information about change of status of our members and other information such as informal gatherings etc, from the people administering various OBA Chapters as well as representatives of different batches.

I am sure that you are all aware of the successful conduct of NBN Memorial Teachers Enrichment Programme conducted on behalf of the OBA by the Kochi Chapter. About 50 teachers from different schools attended this programme and the feed backs received from participants were truly encouraging. The event also allowed us extend our influence to a new area, besides lowering the dependency on the school for our activities. It is hoped that other OBA Chapters and Batches too come forward with initiatives which could benefit the school as well as alumni.

The Executive Committee of the OBA has decided to take two more measures for stability and continuity in the functioning of the Organisation. The rented accommodation allotted to the OBA is being repaired and essential office stationary and equipment are being procured so that it becomes a functional office. An office clerk is also being employed on a contractual basis so that information gathering is continuous and office records are maintained properly. We hope that these measures will bring about positive changes and OBA can undertake more initiatives for the benefit of the community and the school.

In this edition of the newsletter we have tried to gather as much information as possible. There are still gaps to be filled and I am sure with the help of the clerk and a functional office we would be able to keep improving the output. I once again appeal to all members for your continued cooperation. Together, let's continue to strengthen the bonds that make our Alma mater special. Wishing you success and fulfillment in all your endeavors.

Warm regards,
Col M Sajjad (Retd)
President SSKZM OBA

OBA REUNION 2023 - FANDAGO

The Reunion 2023 – named FANDANGO! by the organising batch of 1996 was conducted on 22 July 2023 with elan. Large No of Old Boys and Ex Teachers joined in the event making it a day to remember.

Presence of 5 3 star ranking officers, Lt Gen Unnikrishnan Nair, Air Marshal R Radhish, Lt Gen Johnson P Mathew, Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan & Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikandan was a unique day in school’s history.



96 Batch at the Saluting Dias



Activity Updates Batch of 1996

Guruvandanam



The TOP Brass



Astronomy Lab set up for school by 96 Batch



Fun for all..



STAR ALUMINS



List of Presidential Awardees

PVSM

1055/81 - Lt Gen M Unnikrishnan Nair AVSM, SM
1130/81 - Air Marshal R Radhish AVSM VM
1168/82 - Lt Gen JP Mathews UYSM, AVSM, VSM

AVSM

1569/85 - Maj Gen Vinod T Mathew YSM

VSM

2444/94 - Col Arun K

Mention-in-Dispatches

4610/13 - Maj Rajat Sharma

Highlights from the School



Passing out Parade - January 2024 - **Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan AVSM VM** reviewed the parade

54th Old Boys Association Reunion was held in the school premises. Commemoration meeting and other allied programs were held. As part of the 54th Old Boys Reunion, a cultural program, Musical Evening was hosted in the auditorium. Furthermore, prize distribution was also held.

Twenty First Century Global Citizen Programme (TFGCP) for the senior cadets of classes X and XI was conducted by **Mr. Babu Mathew** and his team

Sainik school Kazhakootam emerged as the Southzone Champions of South Zone Sainik Schools Games and Cultural Championship held at Sainik School, Kalikiri.

Sainik School Kazhakootam stood overall 2nd in position among all sainik schools in All India Sainik School National Games held at Sainik School Kunjupura



Mr. Babu Mathew, Psychologist, 91 Batch, conducting personality Development program at school

Center for Leadership and Behavioural Studies (C-LABS) of Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a two-day workshop for cadets and staff in the school auditorium. **Gp Capt Rahul Tyagi and Gp Capt Joshua** from the IAF were the resource persons.

Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma, VM, Senior Officer-in-charge Administration, Southern Air Command Thiruvananthapuram visited the school and presided over the 98th LBA meeting on 23 Aug 2023.

A group of ten cadets and two staff members of Sainik School Sujapur Tira visited the school as part of Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat (EBSB) Student Exchange Programme.



Brig Salil MP graced the valedictory function as chief guest.

A Free Medical Camp for all staff and immediate family members, organised by 1997 Batch Old Boys 'Roll Call 97' was held at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium.

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, a lecture by **Mrs. Mekha Anna Abraham**, renowned Counselling Psychologist on 'Importance of Mental health' was held.





NBN Memorial Teachers Enrichment Program - Nov 2023

The Old Boys Association of SSKZM orchestrated a dynamic and impactful workshop for educators, spanning two enlightening days. This gathering aimed to rejuvenate teaching practices, foster collaboration, and equip teachers with essential skills for an evolving educational landscape.

Dr. Manoj Menon set the stage with an engaging ice-breaking session, breaking down barriers and creating an atmosphere of trust and camaraderie among the participants.

Dr. Angela Susan Mathew took the reins in exploring innovative teaching and learning pedagogies. Her insights sparked a collective enthusiasm for adopting fresh approaches to education, enriching the teaching toolkit.

Dr. Binoy Joseph's session delved into the intrinsic joy of the teaching and learning process. Participants were inspired to infuse their classrooms with passion and positivity, fostering an environment conducive to effective education.

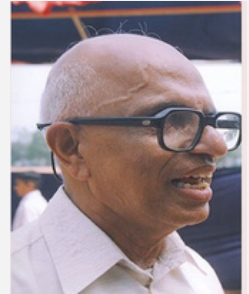
An exhilarating outdoor session aimed at enhancing team-building skills was led by **Commander Sam T Samuel**. Through hands-on activities, teachers discovered the power of collaboration and effective communication. Next day Dr. Manoj Menon returned to guide educators on effective leadership within academic settings. His session empowered teachers to take on leadership roles with confidence and purpose.

The session by Dr. Angela Susan Mathew emphasized the crucial role of mentorship in shaping successful teaching careers. Teachers gained valuable insights into fostering supportive relationships with their peers. Post lunch session by Commander Sam T Samuel shared practical insights into effective management skills, equipping teachers with tools to navigate the challenges of classroom and resource management.

Special Mention: A Toast to Hospitality

One cannot overlook the outstanding hospitality provided by the organizers. The participants expressed their gratitude for the excellent stay and delectable food at Rajagiri Business School, acknowledging the thoughtful efforts to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience.

In conclusion, the Old Boys Association SSKZM Teacher's Workshop was a resounding success, providing a platform for professional development and collaborative growth. The combination of insightful sessions, interactive activities, and warm hospitality exemplifies the commitment of the organizers to creating an environment where educators can thrive and continue shaping the future of education.



From across the Globe - Chapter Meets and Updates



CENTRAL TRAVANCORE CHAPTER LAUNCHED

This is the latest chapter of OBA, formed primarily for the large number of old students hailing from and living in the districts of Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha to stay connected and to impart the values imbibed at SSKZM to the society at large.

The chapter was formally launched on 31 December 2023 by our beloved old teachers **Mr NG Thomas** and **Mrs Mary Thomas** at their Thodupuzha residence



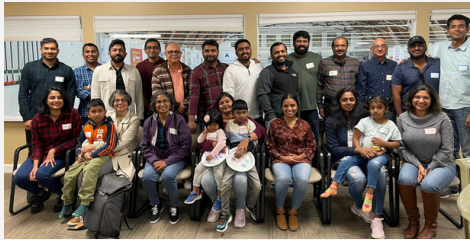
From Across the Globe - Chapter Meetups and Updates



1973 Batch



1977 Batch @ Kumarakam



Canada Chapter @ Bradford



1973 batch @ Idukki With Mary Miss



1967 Batch @ Paravur



1967 Batch @ Kodanad - Feb 2024



1967 batch @ Paravur - Feb 2023



Bangalore chapter meet - hosted by Air Marshal Radhish at his residence



Women Power - 1977 Batch @ Kumarakam



1966 Batch @ Ernakulam



76-batch and families at their batch mate Sindhu's residence in Thiruvandapuram, May 23

DOWN THE MEMORY LANES





CHAPTER SNIPPETS

BANGALORE CHAPTER

After a gap of three years, the Chapter had their get-together on 12 March 2023. The get-together was a huge success with over 70 Old Boys attending with many who turned up with families. Cmde KM Nair from the 1965 Batch was the senior most. A game of Tambola followed by entertaining performances by individuals and family members kept the audience engaged throughout the function. There were prizes for the batches with maximum attendance and these were won by 1979 batch (12) and 1998 batch (8). Maj Gen KS Venugopal (Retd) (413/72), President, Bangalore Chapter initiated the conduct of the get-together and provided his wholehearted support. Air Marshal R Radhish AVSM VM (1130/81), Air Marshal B Saju AVSM VM (1227/82) and Wg Cdr MS Rajesh (2735/97) hosted the event at HQ Training Command Mess.

CENTRAL TRAVANCORE CHAPTER

The chapter was formally launched on December 2023 by former teachers **Mr NG Thomas and Mrs Mary Thomas** at their residence in Thodupuzha by signing the members register. They were gifted with a copy of the Malayalam Translation of Gitanjali by its author M Balachandran (697/76). On their request "Where the mind is with out fear", a prayer from the book that was often heard at the school assembly was read out by young George Kutty, son of Dr Ashish Bens (3393/02). Others present at the ceremony were Raju Sebastian (650), Roy Mattakkal (1033), Dr Vijy Paul Thomas (1769) and Capt Ramesh Babu (888), the coordinator. The Chapter has 110 members including old students from other parts of the country and includes people from the first batch and t2023.

NAM KAZHAK CHAPTER

The Chapter has more than 200 members and still growing. The NAM (North American) Chapter is represented mostly by people from USA and Canada. A grand get-together was held at Dallas in May 2023 in which 83 Old Boys attended and the overall attendance was 200 including families. In addition to the big g2g we had multiple small gatherings at Dallas, Houston, Bay Area, Seattle, Toronto, New Jersey and Chicago. Another major g2g is planned to be held in 2025 at Toronto, Canada.

CANADA CHAPTER

The Canada Chapter held a few meets in the recent years. A lunch meet was held at Nirvana in September 2021. A second get-together was held at Midland during fall 2022. Again in November 2022 another get-together was held at the cottage of Romy Thomas in Oshawa. In December 2023 a winter get-together was held at Bradtford.



BATCH BRIEFS

1965 BATCH

Of the 49 listed members of 1965 Batch, 10 are no more and 30 are in touch with each other. Five of the members are located at Bangalore and have regular get-together among themselves and together with other batches. There are seven in Trivandrum and are in regular touch. They had a get-together on 04 Oct 2023.

1966 BATCH

30 joined the 1966 Batch in the 7th Standard of whom four passed away and the where about of five are not known. Others are in touch with each other.

1967 BATCH

The 1967 batch had a strength of 50 on joining of whom 34 passed out and others left midway. Of the 50, according to available information 42 are alive and 29 of them are in touch with each other. They have been having regular get-togethers for the past many years. Last year they got together at 'Fragrant Nature Resorts' Paravur in February and this year again they met on 5th and 6th February 2024

1968 BATCH

Having over 50 children joining the batch between 1962 and 1965, the 1968 Batch had the first group of North Indian students joining their batch. They were the first ones to get two girl cadets too who were children of staff members. The batch participates keenly in OBA activities and have regular get-togethers too.

1970 BATCH

The Batch had over 40 students of whom 34 are in touch with each other. A get-together was held in July 2019 to plan the 50th anniversary of Passing Out in Dec 2020. However the get-together in December 2020 could not be held due to Covid pandemic.

1972 BATCH

The total strength of the batch was 97 when they joined of whom 65 passed out in 1972, four in 1973 and 27 left early due to various reasons. One of their classmates died in an accident in 1971 at aluva and 13 more passed away later. The batch had a number of get-togethers starting from 2015 at Kumarakom and in 2016, 2017 and 2018 at Kovalam, Nedumbassery and Wynad. Due to Covid pandemic get-togethers couldn't be held in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. However, they met at Poovar to celebrate their Golden Jubilee of Passing Out in 2022.



BATCH BRIEFS

1974 BATCH

The 1974 Batch had 75 Cadets including four day scholars, of whom three were girls. The three girl students and 11 others left the school at various stages and finally 61 students passed out in 1974. Of the 61 who passed out, 25 (40.98%) joined NDA. Besides daily interaction on WhatsApp, batchmates have weekly Google meet on every Monday. Over the years the batch has had a number of get-togethers at various locations, namely Trivandrum, Bangalore, Chennai, Kumarakom, Patiala, Goa and Munnar. The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Passing Out of the Batch was held at Fragrant Nature Resorts, Paravur, Kollam from 23-26 February 2024. As a token of our love for the school, a small memento was presented to all employees of the school including Class IV employees. The batch also gave sports goods worth INR 75,000/- to the cadets. Over the years the batch has been regularly contributing to the OBA and the School. A sum of INR 14 lakhs was given to the OBA besides INR one lakh to Project Shine. The members of the batch have utilised their influence to provide CSR funds worth over 72 lakhs to the school (Roll No 550 PJ Joseph - 35 lakhs, Roll No 551 CR Sasi Kumar - 10 lakhs, Roll No 578 K Vijayan Nair - 27 lakhs). Roll No 558 Maj Gen VN Prasad who was heading the L&T Division at Coimbatore was instrumental in providing assistance through CSR funds to Project Shine for three years.

1973 BATCH

84 students joined the batch during the years 1966 and 1967 and later four from the senior batch joined them in their 8th standard. 73 passed out in 1973 of whom 11 are no more. The Golden Jubilee Get-together of the Batch was conducted at Greenberg Resorts, Kulamavu, Idukki from 15-17 December 2023 and was attended by 36 from the batch along with their family totaling 70. On the last day of the event Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by the OBA was presented to Alex Pothan (Roll No 500) and Ajit P Menon (Roll No 490) by beloved Biology Teacher Mrs Mary Thomas.

1975 BATCH

The batch had a strength of 48 students of whom 43 Passed out in 1975. Three of the batchmates are no more. All except one are in touch with other batchmates. They held their latest get-together at Lake song, Kumarakom in September 2023.

1976 BATCH

The 1976 Batch had a strength of 95 of whom 80 passed out. 18 out of the 95 who joined the batch are no more. Of the 77 remaining 60 are in touch with each other. The batch has had 10 get-togethers in total, the latest being held at Kochi on 9 January 2024 and on 11 January 2024 at Trivandrum.



BATCH BRIEFS

1977 BATCH

The 1977 Batch has 54 members who are in their Whatsapp group in addition some others who are not whatsapp friendly remain connected through other modes and participate in get-togethers. They had their latest get-together at Lakesong Resort, Kumarakom in June 2022 in which 30 batchmates and family totalling around 60 participated.

1978-79 BATCH

The Batch prefers to call themselves 1978-79 Batch as they were the first 10+2 Batch and many of them joined NDA in 1978. They had 96 students in the batch of whom five are no more. The batch has been regularly having get-togethers and during the last one year there were two. Between 24 to 26 February 2023 a get-together was held at Udaya Samudra in which 48 from the batch attended along with their families. The total attendance was 100. Again from 22 - 25 February 2024 another one was held at Bangalore in which 43 from the batch attended and the attendance including families was about 80. The important milestones of the batch are that they had the highest number of entrants into NDA (36). They were also the first batch to do 10+2 and remained in the school for 8 years.

1980 BATCH

The batch had a strength of 103 of whom 8 have left for heavenly abode and 95 remain. 40 batchmates along with their spouses attended their Golden Jubilee Year celebrations on 3rd and 4th of July 2022 at Trivandrum. They had a visit to the school as well. 25 batchmates again met at Naval Officers' Institute Kochi on 8th July 2023. A collection of short stories by P Jagadish (988) was released in Kochi on 02 July 2023 by veteran Malayalam writer Shyam Pushkaran. The same was handed over to the SSKZM Principal for the school library during Old Boys Day celebrations on 22 July 2023. Jose J Kattoor (1003), Executive Director, RBI retired from service on 31 July 2023, Ajith Kumar Varma (1025), Chief Commissioner Income Tax, retired from service on 31 May 2013 and P Muraleedharan (964), Executive Director, LIC retired from service on 31 May 2023. The batch is planning on a get-together in 2024 for which plans are being worked out.



BATCH BRIEFS

1982 BATCH

The batch had a strength of 157. They are having a get-together in Andaman and Nicobar Island from 09 - 14 April 2024 as Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan , AVSM, VM , Commander Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) is from the batch.

1986 BATCH

The Batch had a strength of 88 including six girls on joining in 1979. 54 of them are in regular touch. They have an annual get-together with around 25 to 28 attending regularly. They have had gatherings in Bangalore, Chennai, Kochi and Trivandrum. In the last two years, Hari Krishnan, Brig Sajan and Capt Pradeep left for heavenly abode. Nine of their batch had joined the armed forces of whom two are still in service.

OBITUARY



**Roll No 49 Mr. Binoy Jacob
departed us in Jan 2024.**

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE