



EDITORIAL

After the riveting experience that was 2016, with all its good moments and bad, drew to a close, we all were left in anticipation as to what 2017 might bring. What secrets might unveil and what memories will be made. Since day one of the first term, 2017 has proven to be a year full of surprises and twists and turns none of us expected but will surely make memories that we will remember for the years to come. From the rollercoaster of a sports meet, to an intense oratorical competition and then a earth shaking women's day and a moving speech with the two individuals who took Sri Lanka all the way to the top- 2017 has not only been a thrilling experience for us in school but for people all around the world. The first term of the year, known for as the term that sets the mood with the sports meet, set us up for a year of eventful change in our minds and on the field. While we've all had moments when we've been on the verge of tears, lost and broken under the gaze of the burning sun, there were also moments of pure and uncontested happiness that vanquished all our problems even if it was just for that moment. Be it collectively rising to our feet at the sound of victory in the sports meet or hearing that women can take the world by storm too or just sitting in a classroom surrounded by people you cherish and care for- this term has, if anything, been quite a dramatic one.



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SPORTS MEET

The annual interhouse sports meet was held on the 23rd of February this year. It was an event that was long anticipated by the girls. Early morning march pass practice, after school sports and band practice and late night décor had the girls on their toes for two months straight.

In this year's sports meet we had record breakers, Shenaya Wickramasighe in the under 15 category who broke the 400m record and Kiyasha Rodrigo in the under 13 category who broke the record for putt shot. This wondrous day was not only one for sports but both the Kadyan and the Tamil dance troupes stunned with beautifully choreographed dances at the end of the day. The bubbly and talented girls of the SEU did not fail in bringing smiles to each of our faces when they showcased their athletic prowess.

This year the school was fortunate enough to have the principal of Trinity College Kandy –with which Ladies' College shares a rich and memorable history- as chief guest. Mr. Fowler-Watt did not fail to invoke laughter from the listening audience when he delivered his speech and shared stories from when he served as housemaster in an all girls boarding school in England.

At the end of the evening Nixon emerged overall champions for décor and Loos as the winners of march-pass. Collectively, all the students sat in anticipation under soft sunset sky to hear that for the first time in over two decades Whitney emerged sole victors of the annual interhouse sports meet. And as typical as it sounds, this year each house, so dedicated to reach excelsior, poured sweat and blood onto the field, giving it utmost for the highest, deep down knowing that there is absolutely no attainment without effort. And in the end, first second or fourth, we were one team, one overzealous group of adrenaline fueled children who had, each in their own way, earned nothing less than the best.

The true spirit of sportsmanship and companionship was showcased that night when not only the victorious house but all the other houses rose to their feet to cheer on the winners. It was in these defining moments that the students of Ladies' College stood as 'ONE FAMILY, UNBROKEN'.



Oratorics

Inter House activities kicked off this term with the English oratorical competition which was held on the 31st of January, followed by the Sinhala and Tamil oratorical competitions.

Many undiscovered public speakers were revealed on the 31st, with students ranging from grades 7-13 eagerly taking to the stage to deliver speeches to the rest of the school body. The topics were based on a wide variety of themes including celebrities, global warming, commercialization of feminism and terrorism.

Raaya De Silva of grade 8 won 1st place in the junior category while Devni Jayaweera and Amanda Jayawickrama of grade 9 won 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

Shanya Sadanandan of grade 12 (London) secured 1st place in the senior category with an eye-opening speech on the commercialization of feminism. Second place was awarded to Nimaya Gunawardena of grade 10 while Avvayar De Mel of grade 12 (Local) was placed third.

The Sinhala and Tamil oratorical competitions took place with the same enthusiasm in the morning and afternoon on the 15th of February. Again, the day was filled with passionate speeches given in the respective mother-tongues of the students.

Devangi Wickramaratne of grade 9 was placed 1st in the junior category for best Sinhalese speech while Jithya Kumaragamage and Nisyah Peiris were awarded 2nd and 3rd places.

Tharushi Henagama of grade 10 came 1st in the senior category, followed by Yenuli Fernando and Ninadi Sri Lanka Wijayage who secured 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

1st place was given to Harini Jeyaruban of grade 9 for the best Tamil speech in the junior category with Ashwini Koneswara and Anzhia Sritharan were placed 2nd and 3rd.

Abinaya Sritharan's (grade 12 Local) intense speech won her 1st place in the senior category with Sagishnavi Baraneetharan coming 2nd and Kanishka Selvaraj being placed 3rd.



MUN

The MUN club ventured to Singapore earlier this year to participate in the prestigious Yale-NUS Asia Pacific Model United Nations Conference, held at the National University of Singapore, from the 13th -15th January. During the course of three days filled with intense debate, our MUNers discussed topics held under various simulations of the UN itself, ranging from Space legislature to international security to socioeconomic problems. These were discussed with students from 32 nations across the world, in a forum where they not only ventured to solve real world issues, but also to connect with people from across the globe. The MUNers fared extremely well at this conference, with Midula Wijeynandan and Shanya Sadanandan winning two Honorary Mention awards, and Shanya Sadanandan winning the award for the Best FPS. Additionally, our team was a part of the Sri Lanka delegation which won the Outstanding Overseas Delegation Award, a very high and prestigious honour. We congratulate the MUN team for their hard work and success at this conference, as well as their teacher-in-charge-, Miss Lilamani De Sayrah and Coach Nayanthara Balapatabendi for the time and commitment they put into ensuring the very best for the MUN team this year. Not only were our girls able to broaden the horizons of their minds but they were also able to understand critical situations and enjoyable time. The future starts with each and every one of its leaders who sit behind us and beside us and sometimes are ourselves.



DEBATING

The English debating team kick started the year with the Stafford International school debate tournament and was closely followed by the Ananda School NM Perera Debating Tournament in which the Ladies' College novice team got placed winners of the Novice Finals. The team comprised of Thisari Ranasinghe, Kimaya Abeysinghe and Sheraih Peries. The Ladies' College B team fought a tough fight and went all the way to the finals to serve an amazing debate. Although they were placed runners up, they delivered three amazing speeches that evening. The team comprised of Tiasha Kamalgoda, Abinesha Rajaratnam and Mithsandi Seneviratne.

THE CLIMB

On May 21st 2016, Jayanthi Kuru Uttampala became the first Sri lankan to reach the summit of Everest. This term, she and her climbing partner, Yohan Peries, came and spoke to us about their adventure. They spoke of how achieving their dream of conquering Everest was a long term investment- they began training five years in advance, with daily fitness and a weekend sprint up and down Piduruthalagala as the most basic component of their preparation. In order to test themselves before jumping into the deep end, they climbed Kilimanjaro and other mountains all over the world in the years leading up to 2016.

When they finally made it to Everest, every step was a struggle. The duo faced immense hurdles in their path, such as altitude sickness, homesickness, pressuring deadlines, and the knowledge that one wrong step would result in their demise. Jayanthi emotionally expressed the difficulties of being slower than the rest, and the constant fear that she would be unable to reach the next camp on the route to the summit and give up her life-long dream. Yohan told us about the heartbreaking moment when he began running out of oxygen and was faced with the choice between reaching the peak and dying, or turning back just 400m away from the end and escaping with his life- and it was inspiring to see his support for Jayanthi as she ultimately carried the Sri Lankan flag to the summit alone. She remunerated that it was a team effort, and that her success was contingent upon his support - and incredibly, they plan on climbing Everest again next year so Yohan too can achieve his dream.

Jayanthi's success was life changing not just for her, but for all Sri Lankan women who watched her break social stereotypes and reach heights that no one had yet. The dynamic duo won the hearts of every LCite, and inspired many to reach for their dreams - no matter how high they may be.



FOUNDERS' DAY

This February, we celebrated our school's 117th year of excellence. Founders' day began with the school flag being marched to the beat of the drums, in to the chapel, to the founders' day service where we remembered past principles and their accomplishments, and prayed that days to come would be kind to us.

Then it was off to our class rooms with "Happy birthday LC!" scribbled on the blackboards, it was time for our class parties. After stuffing ourselves with chips and fizzy drinks, we were off to assembly, where we relived the rich history of Ladies' college. The assembly was presented by the Grade 12's who left us both in awe and in fits of laughter. We were reminded how our school grew, in number and strength through good times and bad, for over a hundred years. But through it all, through the hard times and the good times, the true Ladies' College ethos was never lost.

After assembly, we headed off to the back garden, with balloons and boards, for the well awaited teachers versus prefects netball match. Draped in the tattered clothes and gory makeup, the prefects danced on to the grounds to the music of Michael Jackson's "thriller". They hoped to win the match this year, after a long run of falling short of beating the teachers. It was a tight match, but once again the teachers took home the trophy.

It was fun filled day, which left us all proud to be LCites.



Assemblies

This term we had all the Literary Societies present Sequels and Trilogies to world famous books in every language. They all presented an exciting and entertaining assembly that encouraged us to read books- even the ones out of our comfort zones.

The Grade 12's presented the assembly for founders' day and we also had an entertaining and educational assembly for Independence Day as Sri Lanka celebrated her 69th year of independence and liberty. We had many special guests come to talk to us about their experiences and motivated us to change the world we live in and to accept the world as it should be rather than it is. We thank all the societies for their amazing jobs!!

Sudoku and more

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