



## EDITORIAL

With the start of a new calendar year students jumped straight into a term filled with activities. After the first initial days excitement of new classes, new teachers and perhaps, for some new sections and subjects all together, the school appears to settle down a little during the day. However, the moment the 1.45 bell rings, it's a whole different story. The school comes alive as once more as students who appeared to be completely tired out by classwork find some life in them again, the tuck shop fills with girls clamouring for their lunch, anxious not to be late for sports practice. The shouts of "ball ball bean bag", various house cheers and general high spirited chatter fill the air- the house spirit can almost be tasted and it doesn't die out till late in the night, as students stay on to work on their house décor in the old hall under the watchful eye of Miss Shammugam. In the midst of it all Ladies' College celebrated its 118th birthday and students and teachers alike came together for a day filled with excitement with a particularly iconic musical encapturing the history of the school being put on stage by the grade 12s. Despite the chaotic and hectic nature of the "sports meet term", our students continue to excel in the various fields of debating, oratorics, sports etc. One wonders how they do it all.

## SPORTS MEET

*The thammattama drums played a familiar and nostalgic beat. Athletes with their game faces on, stretched and strode in preparation for their sprints. Crowds poured in to fill the brick red pavillion, old girls and parents alike donned in their house colours, ambitious to be the loudest voice in a sea of people. Teams huddled for the last time before their races , a mixture of nerves and excitement churning in their stomachs...  
(cont. on page 3)*



## INSIDE!

***Sports Meet  
Founders' Day  
Assemblies  
GRC Day  
...and more!***

# IN PICTURES



# SPORTS MEET

(cont. from page 1) This year, the annual Inter-House sports meet was held on the 23rd of February. After 2 months of grueling training students from grades 4-14 arrived at the back garden at 12.30 p.m. each determined to do her very best for her house.

Suyasha Daniel established a new 400 meter record in the under 15 age category, while Sarisha Gunasekara broke the under 17 shot-put record and Maithri Pieris shattered the record for the under 15, 100 meter hurdles event. After weeks of tireless and exhausting training under the blazing heat of the afternoon sun, the coveted class relay trophy was ultimately secured by Dale.

The theme for house décor this year was “The Gods and Goddesses of Olympus”. Crushed bottle lids, old tires, recycled milo packets all came together to create perfectly detailed structures bringing out not only the story of the respective Gods, but also, the life lessons and morals learnt from them. Ultimately, it was Whitney’s house decor which stood out the best, earning them the décor cup at the end of the day.

The chief guest for the event, was Mrs Hiranya Fernando the Principal of Methodist College. The constant cheering that proceeded throughout the prize giving, fizzled out instantaneously into anxious murmur. Team mates who had become so much more within the past two months held each other’s hands tightly, as they prepared themselves to hear the overall result and to find out which house would take home the coveted ‘House Challenge Shield’. Dale house was placed fourth, and Nixon house placed third. And after a wait that seemed to last forever, it was announced that Loos house came in second while Whitney house walked away with the shield, defending their title. The sports meet was then called to a close when the games captain, Kiara Benjamin gave the vote of thanks and the houses marched for the very last time, as the flags were lowered.



# Founders' Day

The walls of our classrooms were adorned in red and white. The voices of children singing "happy birthday" was heard everywhere. Ladies' college was celebrating its 118th birthday. Walking in through those red front gates, its hard to imagine a time when the vast patchwork of buildings that make up our school did not exist. Yet 118 years ago, Ladies' College was nothing more than a vision fueled by the passion and drive of a young but determined Irish missionary. On February 8th, we paid tribute to her, and all the other women who worked against all odds to create the alma mater we know and love today. The day began with a thanksgiving service within the chapel, followed by celebratory parties held in the red and white adorned halls of school by students, past pupils and teachers. Founders' Day assembly took an unusual turn when the students of grade 12 took to the stage to present "Founders' Day: A Musical", giving a refreshing take on our school's long and illustrious history. It was equal parts hilarious and endearing, much like school life itself, and was well received. As always, the day concluded with the traditional Teachers vs. Prefects netball match, a game in which the prefect body tried, as always, to gain the edge with their well choreographed gangster piece; However the teachers continue to reign supreme, despite their simple choice of sarongs and skirts, bringing home the trophy to the staff room once more. Nevertheless, regardless of which side you cheered for, Founders' Day remained the memorable day it has always been since the inception of Ladies' College.



# What does being an LC-ite mean to you?

*For our Founders' Day edition of the Red Letter, we challenged you to come up with an answer to this question in less than 50 words. Your responses were incredible- here are some of our favourites:*

The hall is packed with children, sweaty and covered in glitter. Strong rivalries divide the room into four distinct categories, and yet, despite the obvious tension, each one clutters over the implicit borders -the smell of food is stronger than any house spirit. Each girl worn down by the load of decor she's crafting, wanders from house to house to sate her hunger. Unity, some would say. A school bond. Hunger, says some others. I'd say both.

-Avvayar De Mel (Grade 13)

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Finding myself in everything that I never thought I could do and finding people who knew me better than I knew myself.

-Erandi De Silva (Grade 13)

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Being an LCite means never being bored –there's always some event or the other to keep you busy  
Being an LC-ite means doing the things you thought you never could- with people who never seemed to exist before

Being an LCite is crying waterfalls when you finally have to leave behind those familiar red gates  
Being an LCite is an experience you'll never forget.

-Vinuri G (Grade 7)

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School. It's like a Ferrero Rocher.

A small, dense, intimidating community that frankly, doesn't look worth the effort from outside.

One layer in, you're breaking through the stresses of homework, sports and societies.

But ultimately, when you sink your teeth into the luxury of bonds and friendships formed through late nights and hard work, you realize that that seemingly unimpressive, unattractive brown ball was worth everything in the end.

-Shanya Sadanandan (Grade 13)

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It's not that we're smarter or faster or better,

It's not just about what's in this Red Letter

It's because everyone's got something, academic or athletic

At LC you get to be anything you pick!

Yeshiah Peries (Grade 8)

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# Debating

All 3 debating societies plunged straight into a season of intense debate in a range of tournaments, including the prestigious law faculty debating tournament and the interhouse debating competitions this term.

The English Debating society began the year by participating in the Elizabeth Moir Debating tournament, where the B team comprising of Erandi De Silva, Mithsandi Seneviratne, Thisari Ranasinghe and Devni Jayaweera emerged runners up, with the A team managing to reach the semi finals. At the Stafford International School Debating tournament, the A team fought their way to the semi finals. At the all island Law Faculty Debating tournament, the A team comprising of Avvayar de Mel, Tiasha Kamalgoda and Mithsandi Seneviratne emerged runners up, and the B team were octofinalists. Githmi Rabel and Shanya Sadandan were also given the honour of participating in Cambridge university's debating tournament, where they represented not just their school, but also the standard of debate within their country as well.

At the English Inter-House debating competition, Whitney, Nixon and Loos were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively, With Shanya Sadanandan being adjudged Best Speaker.

The Sinhala debating team began their season by participating in the divisional secretariat tournament for the Borella Schools. They went on to take part in the all island law faculty debating tournament, where the A team was ranked 17th out of 54 schools; the B team also performed quite well. Inter-House Sinhala debates was won by Whitney, with Dale and Nixon placing 2nd and 3rd, and Mithsandi Senevirtane claiming the title of Best Speaker.

Finally, the Tamil Debating team also performed exceptionally well at the Tamil law faculty debating tournament, where the A team emerged semifinalists. Although Tamil Ineter-House debates are yet to be held, there is little doubt that the teams will continue to shine.



## Assemblies

This year's assemblies began with the three literary societies and their take on "autobiographies", a vast and diverse topic which resulted in an array of memoirs and life stories being presented on the LC stage. The Sinhala Lit society kept us close to home, showcasing our country's proud literary masterpieces such as Martin Wickremasinghe's 'Ape gama' and Sonali Deraniyagala's 'Wave'. The English Lit society dared us to venture down the unknown, challenging us to broaden our perspectives with the likes of 'Mein Kampf' by Adolf Hitler and 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' by Maya Angelou, whose authors have undoubtedly influenced our world in one way or another. The Tamil Lit society chose to venture across borders as well as within, in search of the finest autobiographies the language had to offer, such as 'Sathiya Sothanai' by Mahatma Gandhi. All 3 society assemblies were well received. The grade 10's gave an unconventional performance of our Independence day, choosing to draw inspiration from events that were singular to the day, such as the Independence day parade and the hoisting of the national flag. Future assemblies will include inter-house events, such as solo singing.



## Oratorics

Oratorics goes beyond the usual hi's and byes in our day to day lives. The art of taking our vocal communication to a new level of delivery is a challenging task to master. However some rise to this challenge and excel at it, and this year's interhouse oratorical competitions showcased nothing less than the best.

In the English oratorical competition held on February 15th, Shanya Sadanandan emerged victorious overall the senior category, with Avvayar De Mel and Erandi de Silva coming 2nd and 3rd respectively; Raaya de Silva, Sajani Ratnayake and Reiha Wimalasekara claimed 1st, 2nd and 3rd places respectively in the junior category.

The Sinhala and Tamil oratorical competitions were both held on the 21st of February. Yenuli Fernando and Chanali Hemagama were placed first in the senior and junior categories respectively for Sinhala oratorics. Tharushi Henagama and Thisumi Herath were placed 2nd and 3rd in the senior category and Jithya Kumaragamage and Nisyah Peiris were placed in the junior category.

Meanwhile, in the Tamil oratorical competition Sagishnavi Baraneetharan, Abinya Sritharan and Abishana Thiruthaneesan were placed in the senior category, with Chamintha Athanayake, Athmika Prajeeth and Githuja Kirithan being placed in the junior category respectively.

We congratulate all the orators on their skillful performances and for setting the bar exceptionally high.

# Nursery Activity Day

“Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.” Nursery activity day was held under the exciting theme: “Bugs and Butterflies” which challenged them to delve into the vast world of insects by engaging in fun filled activities and showcases. They presented what they’d learnt to their parents along with the Principal and Vice Principal, through song and dance, followed by a series of invigorating games where fun and knowledge combined to create an interactive day of learning for the youngest of our LC-ites. As a reward for their amazing performances, each one of them was gifted with popcorn and candy floss, as well as a set of Butterfly wings to carry them back home.

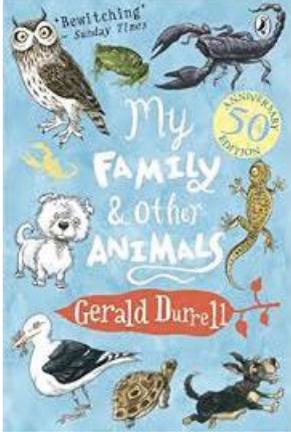


# GRC Day

January 13th found Ladies College infused with the spirit of the Mediterranean as the Greek and Roman civilization students held their very first GRC day, within the school grounds. Invitees from St. Thomas’ College Mt Lavinia, St. Bridget’s Convent and Bishops College banded together with LCites to participate in the variety of events lined up for the day, including performing classical plays derived from their syllabus with a quirky twist of acting them out in various accents! A series of fun filled games followed, each of which incorporated a certain god or goddess into the challenge. Dr.Punsara Liyanage from the GRC department of the University of Kelaniya who graced the occasion as Chief guest, engaged into an informative discussion on the merits of studying the subject as an A/level subject, following which she took part in adjudging the drama competition. . Lunch was the product of Dulara Perera. The event was an overall success, with positive reviews from all participants involved.



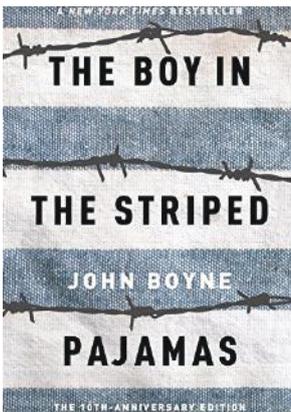
# Just Read It.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### 'My Family and Other Animals' by Gerald Durrell

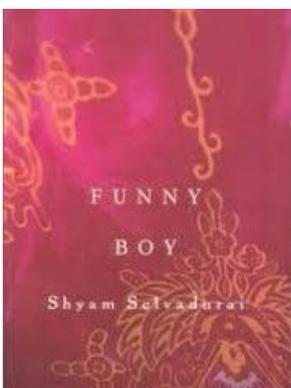
When the unconventional Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, gray English climate, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sunny Greek isle of Corfu. For young Gerald Durrell, this seems like the adventure of a lifetime- venturing into an exotic land filled with marvelous animals and insects to study...there's just one problem- his family. There's Larry, who almost sets the house on fire; gun-obsessed Les; and Margo, whose suitors are as numerous as her acne and diets. With a crazy family like his, chaos is bound to ensue in this laugh- out loud book you won't want to put down.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### 'The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne

"Some things are just sitting there, waiting to be discovered. Other things are better off left alone." Bruno needs a friend. His father's new job has taken him away from his home in Berlin, and now he's stuck in a new house with his annoying older sister and no one to keep him company. What Bruno really wants to know, though, is why the people living in the huge compound beside them wear pyjamas to work everyday; and why that means that he can't go to meet them. Then he meets Shmuel, a boy in striped pyjamas and suddenly, Bruno's world is changed forever...



## UPPER SCHOOL

### 'Funny Boy' by Shyam Selvadurai

In a large affluent Tamil family living in Colombo, Arjie is an oddity- a fact which he struggles with consistently, growing up. Set in Sri Lanka during the thirty years' civil war, this poignant coming-of-age novel charts a boy's loss of innocence as he grapples with family conflict, political realities and his own identity. As the racial tension in the north continues to grow and spread to Arjie's own world, Arjie struggles to protect the friendships he has finally cultivated.

## QUIZ

*How well do YOU know LC? Answer the following questions correctly and drop this page in the box outside the prefects room with your name and class to win a prize!*

1. Who was the first principal to officially let the boys jump in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. It is commonly believed that the skeleton in the science lab originally belonged to a long serving member of staff. What was this person's occupation? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Miss Lillian Nixon, the first principal of Ladies' College was very much influenced by her own teacher, and principal at Cheltenham Ladies' College. What was the name of this lady? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What purpose is the brass bell which hangs outside the prefects room supposed to serve?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. State the full names of the individuals the four houses are named after.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Some say the school pond has no bottom. Some say that it's really a well. Or perhaps, it's bottom is just a few feet below the surface level. How deep is the pond, really? \_\_\_\_\_

## Sudoku!

6				2				9
	1		3		7		5	
		3				1		
	9						2	
2			8	7	5			3
		5		1		4		
	7			8			9	
		1		4		8		
			2	5	9			