

ST.JOHN'S UNIVERSAL SCHOOL
Palavakkam, Chennai – 41

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Mrs. Ajitha Mathews
Senior Principal

Hearty Greetings from SJUS

I take great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Academic Year 2020-21.

At the outset, let me express my respectful homage to the Founder Couple of St. John's Group of Schools, Rev. of Dr. G. Rajakumar and Mrs. Sakuntala Rajakumar whose vision and mission laid the foundation on which we stand today. I extend my warm greetings to our esteemed Correspondent Mr.R.Sureshkumar and Mrs. Regina Sureshkumar, our Director Mr.S.Calvin Jesudev Rajakumar, Principal Mrs. Leela Rani, all the respected teachers, parents & loving students.

The year 2020-21 was a tumultuous year globally due to the Covid – 19 Pandemic that put the world into a turmoil and affected our life style totally. Needless to say, all educational institutions had to adopt new techniques for imparting education. Educational transactions went virtual.

Academic Honours

The fourth batch of class X students took up their Board Examination in 2020 and it is with great joy that I congratulate all the students and teachers for securing 100% Pass. Miss Lorah Susan Paul secured 95% and is the School Topper. The Subject Toppers are :

Name of the Student	Subject	Marks %	Name of the Teacher
Lorah Susan Paul	English	94	Ms. Malarvizhi
S. Gokul	Tamil	92	Mrs. Latharani
Lorah Susan Paul	Hindi	93	Mrs. Shanthi
V. Jonathan Prince	French	96	Mrs. Sarasamani
Lorah Susan Paul	Mathematics	99	Mrs. Mercy Kanagammal
Lorah Susan Paul	Science	94	Mr. Raja Sathish Mrs. Jayabala Mrs. Ramya Naveen
V. Jonathan Prince	Social Science	95	Mrs. Leela Rani
Lorah Susan Paul		95	
Avanthika Kadhiresan		95	

We congratulate class X 2019-20 Batch.

Virtual Classes & School Management Committee Decisions

As an after effect of Covid – 19 which hit Chennai by the middle of March, schools were closed as per government order from 19.3.2020. However, the CBSE requested schools to conduct online classes for students. Like all educational institutions in the country, we geared into action. The SMC decided to open the school virtually step by step after preparing and equipping our teachers to take classes through online mode. It was decided to avail the services of Next Education to train our teachers to take classes through online medium and prepare them to commence classes for classes IX and X by April 16th. The decisions of the SMC taken on March 28, 2020 under the leadership of the Correspondent, Sr. Principal, Principal, and other members of the committee are listed below.

- 1) to open the school in the virtual mode using the help of Next Education India Private Ltd., a private organization whose products have already been used by our school for digital classroom.
- 2) to give rigorous training by Next Education Team to the teachers to enable them to use technology to support online teaching and learning through their NLP.
- 3) to open the school virtually in a phased manner from April 16th 2020, starting with class IX and X, then VI to VIII and finally the Primary Department, with a well prepared time table.
- 4) to collect fees after receiving Government Order.
- 5) to distribute text books & notebooks for the academic year, 2020-21 at the student's homes.
- 6) to promote all the students and prepare report cards based on the exams already conducted.
- 7) to conduct re-exam for students of class IX who had not qualified for promotion, as per the guidelines issued by the CBSE.
- 8) to close the school office for the safety of the office and sub. staff & carry out all the administrative work, including admissions for 2020-21 and fee collection through online mode.
- 9) to start School Whatsapp Groups for each class under the leadership of Staff co-ordinators for various categories – Category 1) LKG – III, Category 2) IV to VII, Category 3) VIII to X.
- 10) to send common instructions and messages from the Senior Principal as well as the teachers through the Whatsapp Parents Group, and also send e-mails to parents whenever required.
- 11) to conduct talent shows and organize functions and celebrations in the online mode.
- 12) to continue with Counselling Sessions; to conduct music classes and conduct P.T classes with the assistance from 'School of Sports'

14) to conduct tests and exams and all other co-scholastic assessments in a manner that would not be burdensome to the students.

15) to conduct Parent Staff Contact Session virtually.

Once the Court Order was given on Annual Fee Collection at School, the SMC decided to carry it out in August. It was decided to collect 75% of the Annual Fee in two phases 40% as the first instalment and 35% as the second instalment after the physical opening of the school. As per the decisions taken by the SMC, mails were sent to each parent, giving details of the fee to be remitted on online mode. As the schools were not physically opened, following the instructions of the Government, it was decided to collect the second instalment by the end of February.

It was also decided to transfer our virtual classes to a different Service provider, Google Classrooms which are free.

CBSE Initiatives Adopted @ School.

The Central Board of Secondary Education, once again proved its mettle through various initiatives and action plans to meet the most grievous challenges posed by the Covid – 19 Pandemic to the school going students and their teachers & parents. CBSE spared no effort in giving well thought out directions & guidelines to overcome the pressing issues that threatened the fabric of education. Some of the very effective steps adopted by the Board and practised by our school are listed below.

➤ **Staff Orientation Programmes through Centre of Excellence**

CBSE spared no efforts to continuously hone the professional skills of the teachers through the Capacity Building Programmes which are mandatory for teachers. Specially to be mentioned is that all teachers were issued CBSE digital ids. What used to be a one or two day programme covering a wide spectrum of skills, as well as subject oriented workshops and training sessions, quickly transitioned into one hour virtual session, the timing of which never interfered with the regular online classes. Expert educational leaders, principals and eminent educationists and specialists of various skills led very interesting sessions throughout the year. Each teacher was expected to put in 50 hours of training sessions. All our teachers took part avidly, received certificates and were successful in implementing their knowledge and awareness in their class rooms.

➤ **Opening Educational Portals** and publicizing their use in the difficult times. A few which students have been advised to use are :

➤ **Diksha App** – For Sample question papers, videos of experts teaching, details of syllabus, NCERT Textbooks etc.

➤ **Shiksha Vani** – CBSE Podcast App – to keep the students parents and teachers updated about the latest news & events of the CBSE.

➤ **Dost for Mobile App Life** - Counselling given to students of IX to XII who need it due to the many problems faced by them by the lack of activity, being cooped up at home and many a time suffering due to lack of technological support.

- **Jan Andolan Campaign** : Organizing a campaign titled Public Health Response to Covid – 19 Appropriate Behaviour. Teachers, parents and students took pledge & received certificates. Wide publicity was given to this and teachers took up sessions with parents and students and they were encouraged to speak and give presentations of Covid – 19 Appropriate Behaviour. Weekly feedback was given to the CBSE to ensure that the campaign reached all.
- **Competency Based Learning** – Great importance was given to this and the teachers were given in depth training by the CBSE as well as by the Senior Principal to create awareness on the major shift not only in the pattern but the goal of education. Teachers designed their lesson plans outlining the learning outcomes of each lesson / chapter.
- **Art Integration** – Art Education was designed to be incorporated in all subjects. Clear cut strategies for this were provided and the assistance of the Art teachers were employed by subject teachers to neatly assimilate art into regular teaching as per the guidelines given by the CBSE.
- **EK Bharat Shresta Bharat** – Learning about other states of our country became part of the curriculum. Students of one state were to do a project on another state, prescribed by the Board. The analysis, study, comparison and contrast between one's state and a neighbouring state became a very enriching experience for the students. This year Tamilnadu was coupled with Jammu & Kashmir. The projects done by our students were stunning in information, aesthetics and overall impact.
- **Multi disciplined Integrated Project** – Students were prompted to understand how the various subjects they learn which are seemingly different are all inter connected. Students thoroughly enjoyed this adventurous exploration to discover the hidden and underlying connection between various subjects and presented their integrated projects on multi disciplines.
- **Webinar on National Education Policy** – As soon as the National Education Policy was floated by the Central Government, Mr.Srinivasan, the Regional Officer, CBSE, Chennai organized a Webinar, which gave clear insight into the revolutionary changes in the educational system of our country. All our teachers attended the Webinar and gained great insight into NEP. Several Orientation Programmes were also organized by COE. The Principal and Teachers participated very enthusiastically.
- **Continuous Learning Plan** – CBSE displayed great concern on the impact of Covid – 19 on students. The Board framed an elaborate Questionnaire covering all areas of teaching, learning, difficulties involved, methods adopted to bridge the learning gap. The elaborate & carefully drafted questionnaire had 100 questions to be answered by the schools on Google Form. Needless to say, the nature & quality of the probing questions prompted schools to evolve different strategies to ensure that all students are cared for by schools.
- **SEWA** – This is a very commendable initiative by the CBSE to induce Social Awareness among students. Our students participated avidly in all the activities designed for them by the Eco Club.
- **Toy Fair** – Toy based Group Project for EK Bharat Shresta Bharat. Students could enroll and could virtually visit and learn about the fantastic toys made exclusively in

India, products of our rich heritage of culture. The various activities outlined the importance of various types of toys to be used as a learning and teaching tool.

- **Storytelling as Pedagogy** – Great importance is given to story – telling, as an effective teaching tool. Several of our teachers attended the special sessions and were able to enhance their teaching skills.
- **Artificial Intelligence** : The Subject Teachers nominated by the Principal attended a three day Workshop on how to use A I as a teaching learning tool. Five of our teachers attended and received Certificates after submitting videos on how these tools are used by students.
- In short, the CBSE had worked as a strong, unifying force binding all the 2500 + schools under its wings, constantly making praiseworthy efforts to keep the light of knowledge & wisdom alive and keep learning as holistic as possible in the most trying of circumstances. And I take this opportunity to thank the CBSE for all the dedicated efforts to keep the light of learning, lit under all circumstances.

Olympiads

We live in a highly competitive world and in order to be successful, children need to develop critical, creative and analytical thinking, logical reasoning, presence of mind and time management. We encourage our students to develop these essential skills through academic oriented activities like Olympiads, Talent Examinations, Science Exhibitions, Reading Programmes and so on.

In the Olympiads conducted by the SOF, a few of our students won awards, medals, gifts and certificates for their achievements.

Science Olympiad :

- 1) Mast. P. Athul Shankar - International Bronze Medal, Certificate of Outstanding Performance and Gift Worth Rs. 1000/-
- 2) Miss. Hannah Cheryl Daniel - International Bronze Medal, Certificate of Outstanding Performance and Gift Worth Rs. 1000/-
- 3) Mast. Jason Travis Daniel - Zonal Silver Medal, Certificate of Zonal Excellence, and Gifts Worth Rs. 1000/-
- 4) Miss. Jeena Mariam Joy - Gold Medal of Excellence and Participation Certificate
- 5) Mast. G. Ryan Arya - Medal of Distinction, Certificate of Distinction and Gifts Worth Rs. 500/-
- 6) Mast. Jaswanth .C - Medal of Distinction, Certificate of Distinction and Gifts Worth Rs. 500/-

English Olympiad :

- 1) Mast. Ryan Arya - International Gold Medal, Certificate of Outstanding Performance and Gifts Worth Rs. 1000/-
- 2) Mast. P. Athul Shankar - Distinction

- Maths Olympiad :**
- 1) Mast. P. Athul Shankar - International Rank
 - 2) Ms. Hannah Cheryl Daniel - International Rank
 - 3) Mast. Jason Travis Daniel - International Rank

Sports

Ms. Diya Sunil won the gold medal in State level tournament and qualified for Nationals and represented and played for our State under her age category in Nationals Sub junior Taekwondo tournament. She has made her mark in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Ms. Periyanaayaki of class IX won the Second place in Junior Level Chengalpattu District Silambam Championship – (2020-2021) organised by Chengalpattu District Silambam Association and she participated in the 39th Tamilnadu State Junior Silambam Championship organized by Tamilnadu Silambam Association.

Mast. Varunan .B of class IX participated in CBSE Clusters Athletic Meet at New Delhi at Sub Junior Level in Table Tennis in 2019-20.

Functions and Celebrations :

Even though we could not gather in the school for official functions and celebrations, students were enabled to participate in all the school programmes virtually.

Founder's Day

July 23rd is our Founder's Day when we celebrate our Founder Chairman, Rt.Rev.Dr.G.Rajakumar's birth Anniversary. Students avidly participated through their class presentations with speeches and posters and poems remembering their Founder. A colourful and musical programme was presented on the day which resonated with loving memories of our Founder. Senior Principal addressed the students and paid rich tributes to the Founder.

Independence Day and Republic Day

On August 15th we celebrated our Independence Day 2020 with deep patriotic fervor, virtually. A very colourful programme with excellent contribution by students was presented on the occasion as PPT. Melodious patriotic songs by students & teachers as well as thematic dance by students, resonated in the virtual classrooms. The Independence Day Message was given by the Senior Principal.

Mrs. Ajitha Mathews, Senior Principal unfurled the flag at the school on the Republic Day and the teachers took the pledge. She gave the Republic Day Message and a colourful presentation was done through the virtual medium.

To Sir with Love

Usually the school wears a festive look when the staff & students greet their Correspondent Mr. R.Sureshkumar on his birthday. Eventhough the students could not meet their beloved & respected Correspondent, their regard knew no bounds as they poured their deep affection through lovely Greeting Cards, Poems, Speeches and so on. The Virtual presentation was indeed a treat for the eye.

Teachers Day

This is always a day that students look forward to as they get to greet and thank their teachers in myriad ways. In the school, the class X students under the leadership of Students Council organize programmes every year. Undoubtedly it was a day of unbridled joy for students & teachers. This year too, class X gave a memorable programme on the virtual platform to greet and thank and honour their teachers. Needless to say students of all classes poured out their love for their teachers in many little ways on the online platform.

Children's Day

On November 14th, Children's Day was celebrated on the virtual platform English Literary Club took the initiative and conducted various Club Activities on the occasion. Students enthusiastically participated in Fancy Dress, Oratoricals, Essay Writing, Poster – Making and various Art & Craft activities. Various classes participated through individual class presentations. Specially to be mentioned is the KG kids Children's Day presentations. Our School Notice board too wore a festive look through the warm & colourfully decorated Notice boards to convey our love to our little ones.

Ms. Nethra of UKG rendered an inspiring message on Children's Day which won every one's heart.

Christmas Programme

Even though we had no regular School Assembly, each day started with a prayer given by a teacher. During Christmas, we usually undertake an Outreach Programme by organizing a fundraising campaign to help the poor and the needy. This year, we could not accomplish that. The online programme commenced with a prayer song beautifully rendered by our teachers Mr. Pradeep, Mrs. Olive Samantha, Mrs. Susan Serena, Mrs. Shamili, Mrs. Ida and Ms. Ophirah of class VII. Ms. Amaya, class V rendered the prayer and Mast. Roshan of class III shared the Word of God. Our Correspondent and our Director greeted the students and Senior Principal gave the Christmas message. She took us back to our real school, decorated for Christmas, the class assemblies and programmes, through her words, Pictures & Videos of previous programmes of school decorations.

LKG students mesmerized us by their colourful and tender Christmas presentations, children taking their turns to be Christmas Stars, Christmas Tree, Mother Mary with Baby Jesus and of course, the Santa Claus. Class VI students enthralled us with a beautiful choreography. The Manger scene presented by Aalya, Melanshia – class VII made it very real for all of us. The Christmas Programme concluded with a sumptuous Christmas feast given by our Correspondent to our staff.

Talent Shows

From April onwards our children were encouraged to send Video presentations displaying their talent. Students participated avidly through relevant and inspiring speeches,

presentations creating Covid – 19 Awareness, dances, singing, thematic choreographies, fancy dress and a variety of thoughtful presentations.

Conclusion

I express my great thankfulness to God Almighty who guided us and strengthened us to continue with running the school virtually.

My sincere thanks to Mr. R. Sureshkumar, our Correspondent for his continuous encouragement and support and guidance throughout the academic year.

My thankfulness & appreciation to Mr. S. Calvin Jesudev Rajakumar for his unstinted support.

Let me express my thankfulness to all our teachers for not only equipping themselves to meet the challenges that Covid – 19 put on them, but executing it through effective and purposeful virtual classrooms.

A great thank you to all the non teaching staff, who supported us throughout.

I extend my thankfulness to all the parents who stood by their children and became real partakers of the learning adventure. I have nothing but words of admiration & appreciation to each parent who, in spite of practical problems, ensured that the learning activity of the students went smoothly.

And finally, my dear children, thank you for taking up the challenge of virtual learning and going all the way along with your teachers. To become learners from inside your homes, not able to have a real life experience in the classroom, not to be able to learn directly from your teachers, not to be able to play and have the usual normal fun must have been the greatest or most painful experience for you. And I thank you for taking up your learning seriously in spite of all the difficulties that you must have gone through. I thank you with a fervent hope that a bright & beautiful dawn awaits us, when we get back to our ‘old normal’.

Thank you.