February has set the tone with the celebrations of the Year of the Monkey, a charismatic and inventive figure of the Chinese Zodiac bearing close compatibility with the Vision of our school. As the clever monkey, we shall transform challenges into opportunities and open new avenues for innovation and development.

Already, the challenge of Mother Nature pouring torrential rains in many localities has prompted our Benevolent Club to initiate action to alleviate the hardship of victims of floods in Rivière du Rempart. “Ki news Sima?” would like to arouse the awareness of all its readers to the affliction of the hundreds of people who have lost the fruits of their life-time labour within minutes, amidst a wild flow of water.

Our school also was not spared. A flooded roof... an uplifted light dome ... and the clinking water rushed as a divine blessing into the new gymnasium. It was more of a threat than a challenge, promptly overcome through teamwork and an instinctive drive to save and preserve our “temple of Health and Fitness”, a new cornerstone of our evolving School Culture.

Elders of the school today...
Leaders of the world tomorrow...
and along the way, so many opportunities to grasp and to develop with confidence, with responsibility, with respect and above all with humility and compassion for those who would have opted to settle down half way or even earlier.

Good luck girls and be SMART!!

Rector’s Message

Elders... Leaders

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Editing Team

Editor in Chief: Mr P.C Wan Wing Kai
Editors: Mrs D. Khugputh; Mrs U. Narisimlu; Mrs C. Pillay; Mrs P. Narasimmuly; Mrs S. Hemmuth; Mr R. Ramdhean
La Clémence Road, Rivière du Rempart
The appellation suits the Committee to a T- its prime purpose being the welfare of all its members besides cooperating in the smooth running of other activities at school.

Members who joined the above Committee are people who are willing to assist others on a voluntary basis, in all activities related to the welfare of their colleagues. Welcome parties, farewell parties, common meals, get-togethers and sharing the mirth during wedding ceremonies and birthdays of their family members are some of the occasions that the Committee ensures itself to mark and share the happiness among all colleagues.

It is both a matter of coincidence as well as suitability to hold a welcome party jointly with the celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival at school. Many of us look forward to relish the Chinese delicacies and this is no secret to the Rector, Mr Wan. This is why he never fails to cater to our tastes with a variety of specialties, including home-made sweets. (A special thanks to Mrs. Wan on behalf of all colleagues). Thus, it is now a beautiful habit to start our life in our workplace every year amidst a spirit of caring and sharing to reinforce the healthy atmosphere within the Sima family.

We do not choose the colleagues with whom we work and welcoming every new member with a cup of tea is not a mere gesture of hospitality but a humble evidence of the warmth, care and concern towards one another. A feeling of togetherness is a pre-requisite for a healthy workplace. Above all, we spend so many hours of our life together: sharing, caring, discussing, advising, joking and laughing- all contributory in driving away the pangs of a stressful life. This workplace ethics adds to the reminiscence of not only the days but also the moments we spent together.

The Staff Welfare Committee earmarks every opportunity to render such memories sweet and indelible. Before holding any function, when the Committee meets to discuss the preparations, it’s a pleasant scene: all heads, minds and hearts put together to draw forth the best possibilities to please all colleagues. Every minor detail is put forward, any inadequacy met before, any erroneous provision, any matter gone awry before and how to enhance the quality of the arrangements all become the overriding concern of the Committee. All members cook up ample time to participate in meeting sessions and to monitor everything for the successful completion of the activities.

My pen motivates me to go the length of pouring out my deep and sincere appreciation for the colleagues who are always on the forefront to help and ensure that the activity undertaken by the Committee bears the fruit of all efforts. Their dedication and caring attitude surpass all restricted thoughts and their sense of benevolence contributes in their deep commitment as members of the Staff Welfare Committee. Their endeavours do not go futile. Often, at the end of the activity, everybody has a smile, iconic of satisfaction. This satisfaction is reciprocal.

*“Plus vous donnez des bienfaits aux autres, plus vous vous faites du bien. C’est un moyen d’être bon avec soi-même.”*

The fact that many more members have volunteered to join hands together to make the task lighter this year bears testimony to the plain truth of the above saying in French. Let us keep up with our good efforts. All the best to the Staff Welfare Committee!
Promoting Ethics alongside Aesthetics

In last month’s issue, “Ki News Sima?” depicted the “ballet” of students and parents striving hard to secure a subject combination to move up to Lower 6 and to preserve an iota of “ego” vis-à-vis peers and society.

The debate has been extended to the moral conduct expected from the teaching profession, a philosophy of life termed “Ethics”, too often relegated to a mere expression of “Aesthetics” which promotes beauty and taste.

“Ethics” or “Aesthetics”? One does not necessarily exclude the other since moral conduct expresses the inner beauty of the mind.

Ethics

Broadly defined, “Ethics” concerns the capacity of an individual to clearly demarcate the morally right from the morally wrong. It can therefore be said that Ethics belongs to the realm of the Freudian superego, which governs our actions and decisions based upon what we have constructed as being right or wrong.

Educators, by their very nature, are intrinsically bound by core ethical principles towards themselves, the students and society as a whole (Morin, 2008). Completion of the syllabus and administrative duties should not represent any form of obstacle in fostering civic education, integrity and moral values.

Ethics teaches us to value the tiniest of efforts made by our students in any particular subject or extra-curricular activity. The practice of private tuition is relatively widespread among educators, to the extent that it can even be considered as “normal” social praxis. However, from an ethical point of view, prioritising tuition over school work might be wrong. In the same ethical line of reasoning, giving private tuition to the same students we are teaching at school may also be questionable.

Ethics must also be pivotal in our professional relationships at school. Respect must be the “mot d’ordre”. We cannot judge colleagues because of their background, their dress codes or because of their subject areas. If proper pedagogy means differentiation to suit the different learning styles of learners, then proper quality assurance would mean differentiation to suit the different teaching styles of teachers. Judging to a large extent violates the ethics of tolerance. Like Morin (2008 p. 216) states:

“L’intolérance est comme un équivalent psychique du mécanisme immunologique d’inacceptation du non-soi; elle constitue un rejet de ce qui n’est pas conforme à nos idées et croyances”.

If confidentiality is not respected, it may lead to the very unethical behaviour of backbiting and labeling.

Key features of Code of Conduct

Business Practices
- Compliance with laws, rules and regulations of the law of the land and the firm
- Fair dealing with customers, suppliers, competitors and employees of the firm
- Conflict of interest from Company’s interest
- Honesty & Ethical Conduct of Company’s premises
- Confidentiality of information of company and its customers, associates of the company
- Proper use of company assets

Disciplinary Practices
- Declining offers & gifts which can create conflict of interest
- Providing true information during joining
- Compliance to official orders
- Not engaging in other employment activities
- Communicating responsibly with media
- Avoiding false & irregular declaration
- Avoiding negligence of work
- Acceptance of transfer without undue reluctance

Ethical Conduct
- Abstain from all activities that can damage reputation of company
- Non Participation in illegal activities
- Constraint from engaging in violent activities
- Avoid thefts and thefts of office
- Refusal of bribes for official purpose
- No long absence without official information
- Avoiding damaging company assets
- Abstain from indecent disorderly behavior
- Avoiding strike at work or inducing others to strike at work

Management of Discipline and Pedagogy

Following the publication of the Student Attendance Policy and the Student Behaviour Policy by the Ministry of Education, two Working Committees have been set up to:

a. draft a School Behaviour Policy specific to our school and

The management of Discipline and Pedagogy operates via a network of Section Leaders whose responsibilities are to channel reported issues from students to either the Discipline Committee or the Pedagogical Committee for prompt and relevant action.
Success

In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.
Success doesn’t come to you, you go to it.
You create your own opportunities.
Success occurs when opportunity meets preparation.
If you really want to do something, you will find a way. If you don’t, you will find an excuse.
Never allow waiting to become a habit. Live your dreams and take risks. Life is happening now.
Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.
Work hard in silence, let your success be your noise.

With a Percentage Pass of 78.8 % at Higher School Certificate for the year 2015, Simadree Virasawmy SSS has fared well in the Asian languages at National Level with several of our students passing with flying colours and ranked among the best candidates. They are namely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamil</td>
<td>ANJALI SINAMMEI MOORGHEN</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YAMEEDEE LUTCHMEE</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHITRAJYOTI SADASIVAM</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NAVINA POINEN</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COVALEI POINEN</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telugu</td>
<td>YASHITA SADE ANKAMAH</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Studies</td>
<td>BIBI NOORYA SURROOH</td>
<td>A*</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above students are worthy of our heartfelt congratulations.
We wish them success in their future endeavours and hope they will be held high in esteem as role models.

Mrs. M. Chengamah Arassen Pillay
**Bi La Mer - Mobile Eco Lab**

In the context of the Eco-School Project and under the aegis of Reef Conservation, our school has been blessed with the visit of the dedicated Mobile Ecological Laboratory, so cutely known as “Bi La Mer”, on Thursday 04 and on Tuesday 23 February 2016 for an Awareness activity on the importance of corals and the conservation of our eco-system.

The students of Form 3 have been thrilled by the fascinating presentation on marine life and the world of corals, a living organism which is too often wrongly assimilated to a rigid white stone. This magnificent exposé should be a must for all the students of the school.

**Coral reefs - facts and figures**

Coral reefs are complex mosaics of marine plants and animals. They occupy only 0.7% of the ocean floor, but provide a habitat and nursery ground for 25% of all marine species on the planet.

Corals are composed of thousands of tiny animals called polyps and are responsible for building the largest biological structure on earth.

Coral reefs protect shorelines from erosion, storm and wave damage. They provide some protection against tsunami waves. As well as being a source of food and income, corals provide an incredible diversity of beneficial medical pharmaceuticals and contain pharmaceutical compounds found to help fight heart disease, asthma, viruses, cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Moreover, corals assist in carbon and nitrogen level fixing and help with nutrient recycling. Without corals, the amount of carbon dioxide in the water would rise dramatically and that would affect all living things on Earth.

However, the future of coral reefs is in jeopardy as they have become threatened by human and natural disturbances. Reefs grow best in sunny, shallow, clear water. The water must be clear and shallow so that the reefs can get lots of sunlight. The best temperature for coral reefs is between 25°C and 31°C. The major factors that affect the health and function of our reefs are climate change, pollution and dynamite fishing.

Mrs N. G-Deepooa

**Reef Conservation**

Reef Conservation is an individual local organisation which is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the marine environment of Mauritius through the implementation and management of conservation, research, education and sensitization projects.

One of their education and awareness projects is “Bi La Mer” which was at our school on Thursday 04 and Tuesday 23 February 2016. Their main aim is to sensitize the citizens since their early age about the importance of reef conservation and how to respect and protect our marine life.

The exposé presented by Mrs Claire Rose was an eye opener. The passion with which she transmitted her knowledge of our Coral reefs and marine life reached out to our students. Our girls pledged to be more careful next time they will be at the seaside and to refrain from propagating any kind of pollution as well as to raise awareness in other people.

Mrs N. G-Deepooa
Activities of School Clubs

School Clubs have been quite active during the month of February with tangible results, both in terms of visible transformations to the school environment and in terms of an enhanced school ethos, characterised by an impressive participation of students and teachers in the Fund Raising activities of the Benevolent Club.

An increased awareness of the affliction of the less fortunate and of the hardship of victims of torrential rains has instilled an aura of compassion over the whole school community. “Ki News Sima?” associates itself to the efforts of members of the Benevolent Club.

Art and Creativity Club

Stimulating environments spark imaginations and enhance creativity. Without any doubt, all students of Form 4 and educators who are part of the Art and Creativity Club... Mrs Abdoolatiff, Mrs Arasen-Pillay, Mrs Luchun, Ms Bucktawar and Mr Choytun have shown their dedication and enthusiasm to foster their project since the start of the school year, under the tutelage of their coordinators, Mrs Uppiah-Beeharry and Mr Ramdhean.

The main objective of the club was the creation of mural paintings on the walls, near the stairs in the different blocks A,B,C and D. The theme of the different murals was bubbles and flowers.

After two months, we are proud to say that their hard work has paid off... the blank spaces on the walls have given the opportunity to our creative students to give free reign to their artistic expression.

If in one block we are pleased to see a sea of blue bubbles rising artfully on the wall, in another block our mood is instantly uplifted with the colourful daisies and hibiscus sprouting on the wall. Each minute spent on drawing and painting these murals has strengthened the ties between our students and their teachers.

Our Sima family has achieved another milestone in the uplift of our school. This project has successfully established the potential of our young artists at school, as well as confirmed that educators and students can work in collaboration successfully.

As the saying goes...

“Coming together is a beginning,
Staying together is progress
and working together is success”

Ms P. Bucktawar

Fun in Funding

Benevolence is another revealing facet of the Sima family. As such, our school has always been sensitive to reach out and help the less fortunate ones like disabled children and retirement home.

In view to cater for them and to reiterate our close bonding with them, the Benevolent Club took another laudable initiative and was already at its second fund raising activity on the 25th February.

A sale of ice-cream and sweets was held during recreation with the ever energetic members of the club. The activity was met with success with the boundless support of our Rector and eagerness of students and staff buying, enjoying and participating in the Fund Raising.

Overall, it had a positive impact on its young members of Lower six who showed a lot of goodwill and leadership qualities.

The receipts of the Fund Raising Activities would eventually be used to finance the various benevolent actions of the Club, namely Lunch for the Senior Citizens, visits and donations to the children of specialised schools and the annual Christmas Party for needy children in December.

Mrs Ursheena Narisimlu
Our school offers a variety of opportunities to students through the activities of School Clubs and Departments. Their valued contribution is regularly praised and given recognition during our Morning Assemblies. Students who have excelled in competitions at school, regional or national level are rewarded in the presence of the whole school community.

Already in February, some of our students have excelled in Regional Badminton and Cross Country competitions. Students of Form 2 have been awarded Certificates after completing successfully the Junior Achievement Mascareign Programme, "Mon Quartier".

It was indeed an honor for me to participate in this public speaking competition which was held at Droopnath Ramphul State College. There were seventeen (17) representatives from different Secondary Schools altogether.

When we reached there, participants took part in a draw to determine the order in which we would be called upon to perform. Mine was 12th and I was waiting impatiently. The more I watched and listened to the other participants speaking, the more I was motivated and eager for my turn. So, while waiting, I kept on encouraging and ensuring myself to do my utmost for my school.

Participants had to speak for 5 minutes, excluding question time. A few of the topics on which we had to speak were:

"Men from Venus, women from Earth", "Cigarettes smoking", "Technology", "Mass media" among others.

Fortunately, I was assigned a much more interesting topic to speak on... "The importance of 5 minutes". At 12:15, I stepped onto the stage facing the audience and I started to speak. Though I was quite confident, I felt a bit disappointed for not being selected, but contented with the fact that I had participated at national level.

It was, in fact, an immense pleasure for me to participate in this activity and represent my school. It helped me to break the ice...of facing an audience and interacting with people. Moreover, it was really an enriching experience for me to attend the workshop held at Collège du Saint Esprit and delivering my speech for the heats.

I would like to seize the opportunity to thank my teachers, namely Mrs Narasimmuly for having provided me with the opportunity to participate in the contest and to have faith in me and Ms Bucktawar for encouraging, coaching, fine-tuning, motivating and accompanying me throughout.

THANK YOU
1. Members of the Environment Club are finalising the Eco-Code fresco during Activity Periods with the participation of students in the Art & Design Department.

2. Mr Henry Wan Wing Kai, Ag. Rector of the school, has had the honour to receive a gift set of “African Children’s Stories” books from the hands of Mrs Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia and Chancellor of Ducère Foundation Ltd.

3. The Benevolent Club, known as the B-Fun Club, has initiated action for our school to provide some assistance to the victims of floods in the region of Rivière du Rempart, in terms of food items and household materials.

4. A Discipline Committee has been set up to take pro-active actions to inculcate good behaviour and a positive attitude in our students. Members of the Committee have been implementing a new set-up in the morning for a smooth flow of students to their Form rooms after Assembly.

5. The torrential rains of February have had minor incidence on the school, with temporary accumulation of water in the school quadrangle and an intense fright when roof water poured through the Light Dome of the Toilets Unit in the Gymnasium.

6. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parent Teacher Association will be held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at the seat of the school.

7. Congratulations to the following students for their commendable performance in the MSSSA - Region 7 Badminton and Cross Country competitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Name of Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>Minim</td>
<td>HORTANCE Marie Kellia Martina</td>
<td>Silver Medal</td>
<td>Qualified for National Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minim</td>
<td>GUEVIN Marie Béatrice Grace</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Qualified for National Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>HONAJEE Pravina</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Qualified for National Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Minim</td>
<td>ANTOINETTE Marie Anatagia Joanna</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Qualified for National Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minim</td>
<td>VILMONT Marie Francesca Louisa</td>
<td>Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Qualified for National Cross Country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. The new School Gymnasium has brought in a new culture among teaching and non-teaching staff members who have become very health and sports conscious. An increasing number of new-look sportsmen and sportswomen in sport outfits can be seen staying back at school during their "afternoon offs" for some keep-fit exercise and badminton practice. In a few months’ time, Simadree Virahsawmy SSS will have a healthier and slim-trimmed staff, a blessing for the school.

9. The School environmental landscape is being transformed with the setting up of a new Residential Project facing the school’s front view.

10. “Ki News Sima?” wishes a pious and safe journey to Ganga Talao to all the pilgrims for the Maha Shrivratee festival.