Love of the Motherland, Sense of Patriotism and National Solidarity have been the driving features of the month of March for the Sima Family.

The celebrations of our 48th National Day have set the “décor” to stage a live illustration of the thoughts of the 18th century Philosopher and Political Theorist, Thomas Paine.

The month of March has also been marked with the International Women’s Day and the World Poetry Day, two celebrations that have provided our students with enriching experiences through the activities of the National Women’s Council and Universal College. Our school has also been selected to participate in a Student Anti-Corruption Conference by the ICAC and “Ki news Sima?” highly values such initiatives that promote personality development for our youth.

Several talks and workshops have also been held on Road Safety, First Aid and on studies at the Mauritius Marine Academy, a project launched by the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Island.

“Ki news Sima?” expresses the wish that our young students take benefit of the wider scope of studies now available and of diverse prospects opened to them for a career.

In last month’s issue, our elder students of Lower and Upper Six were portrayed as the Leaders of tomorrow and the guardians of our school culture.

This culture has long been imprinted in our earlier generations of students. A handful of the “2012 Upper 6” cohort paid a surprise Courtesy Visit to school to meet their teachers and the Rector in an atmosphere of sublime happiness and contentment – the spirit of Sima Family.

The initial tender moments of re-encounter, with roses and bouquets as testimony of their love and affection, were followed by an exciting tour of the school premises, the discovery of the many structural transformations and the... magnificent gymnasium which alas came too late for them.

If only they could start anew their secondary school years... in any case it felt so good to walk back down Memory Lane.
48th National Day Celebrations 2016

Our 48th National Day has been proudly celebrated on Friday 11th March 2016 in the presence of our Guest of Honour, Dr Ponsamy Tiroumalechetty, OSK, a highly educated, experienced, cultured and multi-lingual academic, scholar, writer, poet and so many more attributes that make of him a perfect role model for our students and an inspiration for the youth of our Motherland.

Throughout his successful and brilliant career as Educator, Lecturer, Professor and Research Officer, he has lived up to the theme of our celebrations this year, “nou destin dans nou lamé”, since he has forged his own destiny, his own path in life and fulfilled all his endeavours and dreams - dreams so beautifully illustrated in his anthology of poems in Tamil and in English and in various publications.

His ascent in the field of Education bears testimony to the whole school community that, be it from Rivière du Rempart or from any other locality of Mauritius, one can always open a window to the World of Education and Culture and take “so destin dans so lamé”.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson stated:

"The world makes way for a man who knows where he is going."

At a time when he should be enjoying a well-deserved and peaceful retirement, he is still on the move, still firm in his motives. His relentless involvement in various Cultural Organisations, in the promotion of the Tamil Language and in the promotion of National Unity are highly laudable and praiseworthy.

We, at Simadree Virahsawmy State Secondary School, feel proud to share the same vision and mission of Community Service through our School Benevolent Club which has vividly demonstrated that National Solidarity is not just a plain and hollow slogan for the Sima Family.

Forty eight years of independence which have witnessed countless transformations in our country in the fields of country planning, infrastructure, technology and economy have fortunately preserved an essence of our social values of compassion and sharing.

With the emergence of new climatic phenomena, torrential rains and flash floods, our students and educators have not remained insensitive to the misfortune and hardship of those numerous families of Rivière du Rempart and all across the island who have lost the fruits of a lifetime labour within minutes of a wild flow of water.

On the occasion of the National Day Celebrations, our Guest of Honour, Dr Tiroumalechetty, OSK, kindly associated himself with this philanthropic initiative of our Benevolent Club to extend some assistance, in terms of a donation of food items to eleven families whose representatives have been invited to participate in our Flag Raising Ceremony.

Students and teachers can be proud of their contribution in that “élan de Coeur et de Solidarité” as active participants in the development of their country, respectful of elders and compassionate to those in need.

Mr. Henry Wan
Celebrating 11th March 2016 with a touch of Human Kindness

The celebrations of our 48th National Day on Friday 11th March 2016 have been an inspiration and a lesson of Humanity to all students and teachers at Simadree Virahsawmy State Secondary School.

When compassion blends with thoughtfulness and pragmatism, our heart beats in harmony to the rhythm of our mind and opens our arms to soothe and comfort our brothers and sisters in moments of suffering and distress.

Truly, the blessings of Maha Shivaratree must have blended the "milk of human kindness" with the pouring rain.

My pen reveals

I feel the urge to pour out my thoughts and feelings today only not because of any skepticism that they might change but because words will entrust them the attribute of a permanence. Besides, right now my pen is my true helper and I can truly entrust myself to it to draw forth what is finding a way inside my heart and mind.

I have always believed that true commitment is like that calm, clear flowing water that can always find its way out in spite of so many hurdles lying on its path. Today I have witnessed that when a truly committed heart blends with an intelligently thoughtful mind, the product cannot be other than beautiful.

We, in the Benevolent Club, were racking our brains as to when and how to offer the donations (boxes containing food provisions) to the group of needy villagers; Mr. Wan advised us about the inclusion of this activity in the independence celebration programme. Honestly speaking, a faint feeling of fear lingered in my heart (lest something might run counter to the smooth running of the programme).

Today when I stood watching the pupils carrying the boxes, my colleagues offering them and the guests receiving them so willingly and happily, I felt: "how wrong was I!"

To me, the beauty of the whole programme culminated with this item. The immediate responsiveness of the guests and that of our pupils as helpers made me a proud spectator of this act of donation.

The true feelings of our heart have a catalytic effect on our mind which is compelled to produce beautiful ideas that marvel others.

The chief guest of our function today was very right to say that we have a leader who stands beside us to advise us, before us to lead us and behind us to support us.

The idea of our Rector was righteously included and undeniably proved a beautiful idea, the mixed product of beautiful thoughts and pure feelings. Some people are really endowed with the milk of human kindness - Mr. Wan is surely one among them.

Mrs. D. Khugputh
Model State Parties
Anti-Corruption Conference

It was indeed an honour for us to participate in this competition which was organised by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). It was a three-day conference from 15th to 17th March 2016 and held at the BPML Conference Hall, Cyber Tower 1, Ebène.

The Managing Director of ICAC, Mr Kaushik Goburdhun, declared the competition open and addressed the participants, followed by Mrs Sayago, Justice Officer of the UNODC.

After the submission of the write-up of a presentation based on the corruption level of the country allotted to each participating school, forty five schools were selected for the final. Simadree Virahsawmy SSS was designated to represent Denmark, the country ranked first with the lowest level of corruption on the basis of the Transparency Index of 2015.

We presented our work on Day 1 itself and it was an immense pleasure to participate in this activity. It helped us to break the ice: of facing the audience, interacting with the judges and propose solutions to combat corruption in our assigned country, Denmark. It was a platform where forty five candidates voiced out their views and recommendations against the evils of corruption.

We would sincerely like to seize the opportunity to thank our English teachers, Miss Bucktawar for having entrusted us with the honour to represent our school and Mrs Rugoonauth for her help and assistance in polishing our presentation, for her motivation and for having been with us all the way accompanying during the Conference.

THANK YOU

Ms. Arwenna Seeam
Ms Anisha Angateea

Promoting an Ocean Economy

The Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Island launched a Sensitisation Campaign on the emergence of an Ocean Economy, a new developing sector of the Vision 2030 of Mauritius.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, a series of talks has been scheduled in schools to introduce our students to “les métiers de la mer”, a domain offering an immense variety of job prospects for the more ambitious and temerarious of our youth.

In that context, our school welcomed Captain J. Hubert Noël on Thursday 17 March 2016 for a presentation on studies available in the field, both internationally and locally at the Mauritius Marine Academy, Pointe aux Sables, Mauritius.

The students of Upper Six have been marvelled by the attractive marine world, the luxurious ships, the sumptuous marina and exquisite sea environment – a dream that can be fulfilled through study, perseverance and ... the thrill for adventure.
Model Commission of the Status of Women (MCSW)

The Model Commission of the Status of Women (MCSW) was held as a two-day conference at the Trianon Convention Centre, Phoenix, on the 24th and 25th March 2016 for the first time in Mauritius, under the aegis of the National Women’s Council. Our Lower Six and Upper Six students at Simadree Virahsawmy SSS were given the opportunity to participate in the conference as delegates of the Federal Republic of Germany.

This two-day conference and the preceding one month’s time given for preparation was a transforming journey for the students as they shaped themselves into the role of delegates of this prestigious nation by developing the required knowledge, language affinity, diplomatic stance, discursive attitudes within protocol standards and open-mindedness. The learning by doing structure/format of the conference was a novel experience for our students, which they at first struggled with during the first day but by the second day they fitted right into the proceedings and took every opportunity provided to participate actively into the different panel discussions.

This conference exposed them to several aspects of gender issue with a focus on women plights tackled nationally and internationally. They learnt about women issues such as forced early marriages, forced abortions, domestic violence, marital abuse and rape, women as silent victims, unreported violence against women, stereotypes, discriminations and prejudices faced by women, women in higher risk of contracting Sexually Transmissible Diseases (STD) such as HIV/AIDS, gendered digital divide, women illiteracy and the feminization of poverty and unemployment among others. Also, they developed awareness of the disparity of health care assistance provided worldwide to women especially in terms of pre-natal, natal and post-natal care. They interacted with different policies and strategies proposed by different nations towards obtaining gender equality through women empowerment and leadership training in the economic, social and political sphere.

Their growth was not only restricted to knowledge development but also extended to the development of skills such as questioning, listening, research, interaction, communication, leadership, debating, management, team building and team work, networking and discussion among others.

All in all, this two-day conference has been an experience enabling a comprehensive growth in our students, oriented towards increasing their knowledge, developing their aptitudes and skills and shaping their personalities for compatibility in the 21st Century socio-economic system that they will integrate in the near future.

Ms. Dorita Beeraje

International Women’s Day

The International Women’s Day was celebrated at school on Tuesday 8th March 2016 during our Morning Assembly, under the supervision of the Sociology Department, headed by Mrs Christine Bardothier-Fidèle.

The message of Mrs Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, calling for action to “Step It Up for Gender Equality” was read to the assembly and Student Rimena Christophe read the poem “A toutes les femmes”.
It is unfortunately sad to note that, in spite of strict and dissuading Road Traffic regulations enforced on our road users, the number of casualties and deaths resulting from road accidents does not show any tendency to decrease.

The violent impact of accidents, as witnessed by the crushed and compacted metal scraps, is a clear indication of speed or reckless driving, if not... racing and the consumption of alcoholic drinks.

Many other factors contribute to the causes of road accidents, including the careless behaviour of pedestrians, a category of road users which includes many of us and especially our young students. The non-observance of simple road habits may lead to dramatic encounters which could have been avoided through preventive measures and the education of road users.

It is in this context that a workshop was held on Road Safety on Monday 28 March 2016, conducted by Mr H. Sunassee, Senior Technical Officer from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport to raise awareness among our Form 3 students. The students have had the opportunity to interact with the guest speaker on their personal experiences and observations on the roads and in... buses.

"Grandma, why do you have such a big, terrible mouth?!"

This question from a famous classic fairy tale never fails to jolt us back to our childhood and so it did again on Monday 21st March 2016 when student Vanshika Ramchuritter of Form 3 Begonia charmed the audience with the narration of the ever so popular story of "Little Red Riding Hood".

It was a laudable initiative of the Universal College to organise literary activities in the context of the World Poetry Day but the greater feat was that of our students who bagged most of the prizes away, with excelling performance in some of the competitions.

The group of students, accompanied by teachers from the English and French Departments, were also given the prospect to broaden their knowledge and the chance to meet and be inspired by three illustrious guest personalities, namely Dr. Jean Georges Prosper, Mrs. Shakuntala Hawoldar and Dr. Fuad-EI-Sadek Ruhmaly who graced the audience with readings of their exceptional poetry.

Participants from various schools of the region also got the opportunity to display their talent in poetry recitation and one of our girls, Rimena Christophe of Upper 6 Mix, in her own sweet and poised way, took away the first prize with the recital of a patriotic poem in French.

In addition to this, the slam competition in French language allowed the emergence of our school's blooming talents as two little girls of Form 2, coached and guided by Mr. V. Jeetun, won the first prize and second prize respectively.

Last but not the least, in the category of Upper Secondary School, Tasneem Heetun of Form 4 Science, captivated the interest of the members of the jury and that of the audience alike while she related the story “Two Wolves”, an American folk tale, with so much ease and refinement. Both Tasneem and Vanshika (Lower Secondary Category) were the 1st runners up in their distinct categories.

Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to our winners, our torch bearers, who undoubtedly have made Simadree Virahsawmy SSS beam with pride and paved the way for more success to flow in our direction.

Mrs N. Nundloll
Miscellaneous Events

The First School Term of the year has been marked with a variety of activities for the students and teachers, both at School Club level and Departmental level. While some are annual features like the Flag Raising Ceremony or the usual End of Term Staff Lunch, others are dedicated to specific events and projects.

“Ki news Sima ?” has selected a few snapshots to share those experiences and thrills with its readers.

End of Term Staff Lunch
Trois variétés de “briani” !!
Il y a de quoi saliver !!

Confession pour la Pâques
Petite vérification d’usage et
En route pour les
« Noces de Cana »

Parent Teacher Association
Annual General Meeting

Concours d’Orthographe
de l’Alliance Française
Heureusement, il y avait la Radio “Robot”
pour la dictée !!

Concours de Vidéo Clip
Un coup de pouce à
L’école voisine, R. Prayag SSS

First Aid Course
Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
Silver & Gold
1. Officers responsible for the **Eco-School project** called at school on Wednesday 16th March 2016 for a site visit and a status report on activities of the Environment Club. 
   The **Eco-Code** fresco will be completed shortly and relevant arrangements will be made to sensitize the whole school community on the objectives of the project.
   The main aim of our school is to qualify for the award of the **Green Flag**.

2. Thanks to teachers of the French Department, students of Forms 5 and 6 have been able to enjoy and experience a live performance of the humouristic play "**Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon**" by Theatralis.
   The girls have been thrilled by the setup, the costumes, the talented performers and "**l'ambiance vivante et exaltante d'une pièce de théâtre**".

3. Students of all classes have been on Educational Tour scheduled over three days as follows:
   - **Tuesday** 29 March 2016 : Form 1 and Form 4;
   - **Wednesday** 30 March 2016 : Form 2 and Form 5;
   - **Thursday** 31 March 2016 : Form 3 and Form 6.
   Thanks and appreciation to all accompanying teachers for their commitment and care for the students during the activity.

4. Our School Football Team took part in the MSSSA Zone 1 Tournament (Girls). Unfortunately, our young girls have not been able to match with the senior players.

5. At long last, our Football Ground will be re-instated with a first phase of works allocated to a Private Contractor for the clearing of the grounds.
   Once cleared, further works will be contracted out for the levelling of the surface, sowing of grass and re-hauling of the drainage system.

6. The school has been short of a replacement for our Telugu teacher for the First Term, in spite of request communicated to the authorities.
   A meeting was held with parents and relevant arrangements were made for the process of the First Term Student Reports.

7. "**Ki News Sima ?**" would like to extend its best wishes to all students and teachers for "**Happy Holidays**" and to those who will be travelling : "**Bon voyage**".