A warm welcome to our first issue of “Ki news Sima?” for 2016, a new school year launched with a booming start in spite of staff transfer and waves of commotion that set tangling the wings of our School Climate and Culture without faltering.

As Winston Churchill rightly observed, the kites of our Sima Family rose highest against those winds of change. With the shift of the sun for Makar Sankranti, our school has been boosted “on air” to yet greater heights through “Talk of the town” on Radio Plus.

Our commitment to Quality Service and Education is as strong as ever... even stronger with the novel administrative setup that will enhance Customer Service at school and add value to the work of our ancillary staff. Moreover, within less than a week after the release of SC Results 2015, an amended Time Table has been implemented with provisions for Form 5 Repeaters and promotion to Lower 6.

“Ki news Sima?” extends its appreciation to the Secondary Education and TVET Directorate and in particular to its Director, Mr Lindsay Despois, for the commendable National Student Attendance Policy and Student Behaviour Policy, two useful documents that set the guidelines for a more rational and efficient monitoring of discipline at school.

Not only does this add to aesthetics but it opens the way to a technological upgrade with the implementation of a computerised student attendance, piloted at school since 2014.

This would however necessitate the prior training of selected ancillary staff in basic ICT skills, a medium term objective that would uplift their work status and contribute to our sound School Ethos.

The promotion of the concept of “Quality” is however not achieved overnight with a change of furniture. It demands time; it needs to be demonstrated through our own practice and only then would all partners adhere to the concept.
Overview of Club Activities
Mrs. V. Khugputh

Resumption of studies in 2016 at school went on a smooth pace. After their welcome, the Form 1 students seem to be adapting to their new environment with much ease and quite effortlessly.

On the other hand, their duties assigned to them, educators have embarked on their teaching task with assiduity. Activity periods have again allowed school clubs to resume their activities afresh. Educators in charge have designed a new calendar of activities along with well-charted objectives.

The B-Fun club, with a new group of Lower Six students, is looking forward to carry out its scheduled activities successfully. Its aim to instill the sense of benevolence in students is reflected in the diverse activities both indoor and outdoor. The students get the opportunity to meet, befriend and help students of schools that are responsible for the education of the less fortunate, physically or mentally disabled who look forward to meet friends of other schools.

A new building, the Multi-purpose gymnasium situated at the back, conspicuously adds to the beauty of our school. Its dome-shaped ceilinged structure lends a majestic look as it stands, a living reality now. Its spacious feature and existing facilities as well as comfort have generated a befitting idea - the birth of the ‘Fitness Club’. Both a group of educators and the Form 2 students are enthusiastically availing themselves of the weekly ‘zumba’ dance sessions. Isn’t it a thrilling innovation in our school?

Under the aegis of the Sports, Leisure, Health and Values Club including the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award group, students can now enjoy different indoor sports activities more comfortably. Gone are the days when the scorching sun or the intermittent rain would disrupt the smooth running of their practice. I don’t think it would be wrong to state that we have really been blessed with this newly constructed shelter.

The activities of the Environment Club, responsible for the Eco-schools Program, can in no way be overlooked. Members of this club lend a strong contributory hand in maintaining cleanliness within the school precincts. Under the guidance and support of the educators, the members have the knack of turning a deserted nook in the school compound into a lively, flowery spot that feeds the eyes of the beholder. Besides, the place emits a look of gratitude to the hands and fingers that toiled to transform it into a cleaner and attractive little corner. Charles Dickens, I am sure, would not have missed to repeat “Cleanliness is next to Godliness” at such a sight.

The Arts and Creativity Club has left no stone unturned in launching its initial activity. Equipped with paints and brushes, the Form 4 students have manifested their interest and creativity through aesthetically pleasing color combinations and enhanced the beauty of the walls beside the stairs in different blocks. With many such other activities envisaged throughout the year, the club will unimpeachably contribute in the development of the creative skills of students; thereby fulfill its objectives ultimately.

Students of Form 1 are members of the Entrepreneur Club. This club has the propitious aim of helping our young girls to have a deeper knowledge of a new discipline of studies at school - Entrepreneurship. Educators in charge intend to renew the JAM Program “Mon Quartier”, to organize both indoor and outdoor activities besides inviting resource persons at school. This initiative will assist our pupils to gain a wider knowledge of the business world.

The smooth running of club activities in our school is laudable. With the unflinching support and guidance of the Rector, our efforts are crowned with success. Good luck to the members of all clubs!

Zumba et Sima: une combinaison gagnante
Mrs. S. Hemmuth-Oozeerally

Si le *zumba* a été inventé par hasard, en guise de ‘réponse improvisée’ à un oubli, il n’en est pas moins vrai qu’il représente une activité physique à la fois exigeante et ludique. Mêlant exercices d’aérobic, danse et musique latino, le *zumba* a pour mérite de créer une atmosphère de détente sur fond musical, tout en favorisant une activité physique relativement intense.

C’est dans cet esprit que le ‘Sports, Leisure, Fitness, Health and Values Club’ a débuté l’année. Sous la baguette de Mme Canacreddy, instructrice de *zumba*, les trois classes de Form II, ainsi qu’une dizaine d’enseignants ont pu profiter d’un moment de « détente intense » qui a aussi encouragé le resserrement des liens entre tout un chacun.

Les filles ont manifesté un enthousiasme débordant tout au long de la session. Au terme des soixante minutes consacrées à l’activité, elles en redemandaient, malgré une fatigue physique visible. Tout le monde a pu profiter du cadre pour le moins somptueux du nouveau gymnase.

‘Prends ta caméra, ... Zoome bas sur Sima. Et... clic, t’en verras que du feu.’
The way forward, Who paves it?

At the start of a new School year, parents and students normally look forward to the next level of study with lots of enthusiasm, motivation and high hopes. However, there would generally be two cohorts of students, namely those moving up to Form 4 and Lower 6, who would still be “in the process of finalising their subject options” in the light of their last Exams Performance and, to a lesser extent, to a set goal in life.

This annual “ballet” of students and parents trolleying up and down the corridor to the Rector’s Office for hours and for days after the release of the School Certificate Results has prompted “Ki News Sima?” to ponder over this feature of our school life and to provide its readers with some food for thought. Your views and appreciation would be most welcome.

The dream is mine ...

خود پوجھے بنا تیرہ رضا کيا بے

(علامہ اقبال)

Raise thy Selfhood so high, that before each dispensation,

God Himself may ask thee what thy wishes are

(Baal-i-Jibreel, (Ode 47))

At the beginning of the academic year, many parents and students have come to the Rector with requests of change of subjects. Some of these requests are made on the basis of results received at Form 3 level and others are based on the exigencies of parents. The latter sometimes want to live their dreams through their children and very often tend to neglect the penchant of their child for particular subjects, specific intelligence or learning style.

Not all of us can become doctors or lawyers. But whatever we choose to do in life, we must do it well and to always aim for excellence. This is the message in the above verse of Iqbal who encourages us in the acceptance of “selfhood”, “la connaissance et le respect de soi meme”, thus accepting our imperfections and recognizing our potentials. And the teachers’ role becomes crucial in the way that we are to guide these learners in this path of recognition, which they will condition by their own deeds and individual self.

We are not here just to instruct, we are here to provide a platform to our youngsters, whereby they start recognizing themselves and become independent learners; they learn to make good choices based on their own independent learning and reach a capable state where they are not afraid to dream.

Under the empyrean’s fortress are men who can

Seize angels, capture prophets, and get God Himself

(Rumi)

Mrs. S. Hemmuth-Oozerally

An e-Go to save our ego

Human nature is defined as:

“The shared psychological attributes of humankind that are assumed to be shared by all human beings”.

That said, defined and done is no guarantee however that every human being would be behaving and reacting similarly to the set norms of the collectivity because... human nature is complex, attributes varying from one individual to another, a concept difficult to comprehend. To make things even worse, there is our personal “ego”, that which compels us to move in a desired direction against all odds and common sense.

This preamble portrays clearly the settings of lengthy discussions with parents and students over their qualifications and subject combinations for promotion to Lower 6. Sandwiched in between the Official Guidelines for the promotion exercise and the distressed students claiming her asserted right with three Credits (or two in exceptional cases) to move up to Lower 6, a school administrator struggles his way into an intricate lacework of options to devise the miracle combination, or should I say... concoction of unrelated subjects under the close surveillance of the afflicted parent. Finally, they have it their way, relegating the psychic trauma of having to repeat Form 5 and securing the educational green light, what could be termed an e-Go to save the ego of both student and parent.

Gone are the days when Pedagogy and Counselling were the attributes that helped fulfil the dream and vocation of the student, when parents would be more concerned about the career and the dream of their wards, would be more attentive to their material and emotional needs, to their physiological and intellectual growths, to provide them with sound leisure activities, including music, history, crafts, painting, reading and lifelong values of respect, courtesy, service and compassion.

Today, the material world tends to drive each and everyone to be minimalist. Everyone wants to acquire the minimum required qualification with the minimum effort and in the minimum possible time. Yet, everyone is expecting maximum return from minimum investment.

Mr. Henry Wan
Also known as the festival of harvest in India, ‘Makar Sankranti’ marks the day when the sun begins its northward journey and enters the sign of Capricorn from the Tropic of Cancer. It is normally celebrated with pomp and fervour in many parts of the world including Mauritius.

However, the celebration of any such festival is given another dimension at Simadres Virasawmy State Secondary School. Hence, because the festival coincided with the resumption of studies, it was a way to welcome everyone here - the existing and the new members of the Sima family. The zeal with which everything was planned and concretised is yet another unflinching symbol of the school culture that has been established since long.

Our chef, ‘Mrs Sheila’, in collaboration with other staff members took the initiative of preparing the traditional ‘kithchri’ accompanied with various ‘chutneys’ and without forgetting the delicious ‘brede mouroung’. It goes without saying that the blend of each and every flavour was a real delight to the palate.

Therefore, as everything started on a delicious blend of flavours because of Sankranti, it undeniably heralds that the ‘Sima family’ is a place where the strong bond co-exists just because everyone adds a little bit of his or her own taste to make our institution unique.

‘Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is progress; Working together is success.’

~Henry Ford
1. Thanks and appreciation to students of R. Prayag SSS for their valuable assistance in the transfer of furniture and equipment for the Physical Education Dept to their new premises in the new Gymnasium. The Department has left no stone unturned to motivate students and the School Administration to provide guidelines to parents for the introduction of CIE Physical Education as a new subject in Form 4.

2. Mr Henry Wan, Ag. Rector of the school, has been delegated by the Director, Secondary Education and TVET, to participate in “Talk of the Town” on Radio Plus on Wednesday 13 January 2016 on the theme: “Comment réussir sa scolarité”. The program has been a golden opportunity for our Ag. Rector to share “on air” the innovative culture of Simadree Virahsawmy State Secondary School.

3. Administrative and Technical arrangements have been completed within less than a week for the compression of Lower 6 classes to accommodate a Form 5 Repeater class to avoid undue inconvenience to students and teachers after the School Certificate Results.

4. Waterproofing works have been completed on the school building, except for the Home Economics Block on which the Photo-voltaic system is found. Works on this last building block will start soon to put an end to the hardship experienced by teachers and students during rainy days.

5. Congratulations to Students who have been successful in the concours “DELF Scolaire”. They have been awarded with Certificates during morning assembly.

6. “Ki news Sima?” would like to express its thanks and appreciation to Dr Ratna SOOKLALL, Educator Hindi and Mrs Anita BUNDHOO, Educator English, who have been transferred to R. Prayag SSS and Goodlands SSS respectively.

    Thanks, appreciation and congratulations to Mr Dharmdeo CHACOORY, Lab Attendant, who has been promoted Senior Lab Attendant and posted at Piton State College.

7. The School year has started on a very good footing with a facelift brought to the School lobby for enhanced Customer Service and efficient administration of attendance. This item of furniture is symbolic of the high standard set at Simadree Virahsawmy SSS.

8. Our school seems to be emitting so much positive vibes that the neighbouring community is even entrusting their puppies and pets to our care. Fortunately, our Sima girls are so fond of pets that, after a whole day caring for the abandoned puppy, the latter found its way to a new adopted family. Bravo, little girls. We are so proud of you.