

RETURN TO

Childhood



LENS SUPPLEMENT ONE

ZEST 22: PARENTS' CARNIVAL

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From the Principal's Desk...

ZEST 2022 was a huge success and the first of its kind in the history of Loyola School. We thought it most appropriate to reciprocate it with an exclusive supplement which will be another first of its kind in the history of our in-house publication. Warmly do I congratulate all the parents, grandparents, staff members and students who organized such a massive programme and made it a resounding success, and followed it up with valuable write-ups that document the unprecedented venture.

It was for a noble cause that *ZEST 2022* was conducted. The breakdown of the proceeds given below will give you an idea of how far our efforts have been successful.

PTA's collection between 19 & 21 November:	Rs. 141610
Staff collection on 19 November:	104870
<i>Khel Dhamaka</i> of Std XI:	36740
Contribution from parents:	843070
Contribution from students:	141610
Total	1300000

As the kidney transplant operation needs more time, Rs.1300000 is deposited in FD and a monthly interest of R.7583 will be given to Sajjan to meet his other medical expenses until the surgery is possible. Thank you all for your generosity.

Fr P.T. Joseph, S.J.

ZEST 2022

My Reflections

S. Rakesh Kumar

The motto of the event was to spread smiles. I feel happy that ZEST 22 accomplished what it set out to do—collecting a decent amount that would be used for bringing smiles to those who haven't smiled for long.



19 November 2022 will be engraved in the minds of each one of us who were enthralled by the scintillating performances at ZEST 22.

I was awestruck at the outset by the impeccable rendition of the school anthem by the members of the PTA and ZEST 22 Volunteers. It felt like each singer has been an ardent Loyolite regardless of gender.

The quality of the onstage events and their arrangement were the outcome of the efforts for more than one month put in by close to 50 volunteers including the PTA members and the sacrifices made and tireless practice sessions attended by our dear performers.

I still remember the day when the idea of ZEST 22 germinated during one of the internal PTA discussions, and associating it with a

The writer, serving the fourth term as the PTA President of Loyola School, is the father of Abhay Rakesh of VII B.

noble cause gave us the additional energy to ensure the event is a grand success. Just as we had visualized it, the programme turned out to be a milestone in our School's history, something you can equate to adding a feather to our School's cap.

ZEST 22 received a lot of attention on social media. Right from our first teaser to the *Loaf of Love* campaign, our videos were viral across many social media platforms. We are proud to be a part of the School's heritage and glad that the participation at the event was beyond our imagination. Children, parents and grandparents poured in to such an extent that the food vendor had a tough time meeting the unexpected demand.

The food stalls of our teachers were in high demand too. Students queued up to taste some lip-smacking dishes prepared by their dear teachers. The gaming zone set up by the students of class XI saw a surge in players lining up to try their luck and win prizes.

The business stalls were equally busy with visitors thronging their booths to enquire about products/services and to purchase dress materials, plants, cakes, gardening essentials, electronic devices and household essentials.

Our professional photographers at the photo booth were quite busy clicking families and friends who wanted to take home a souvenir of the precious occasion.

*And, when you
want something,
all the universe
conspires in
helping you to
achieve it.*

Our blood donation campaign also received enthusiastic response from prospective donors who registered to be part of the blood donors group.

The motto of the event was to *spread smiles*. I feel happy that ZEST 22 accomplished what it set out to do—collecting a decent amount that would be used for bringing smiles to those who haven't smiled for long.

It is for the first time in the history of our school that such an event was organized. This would not have been possible without the support of our dear Principal, Fr P.T. Joseph, SJ and the School Management. It is ungrateful not to mention the earnest contributions of Loyola teachers, uncles and aunties who helped with the various arrangements and wholeheartedly supported the initiative.

The whole event was such a grand success that it reminds us of the oft-repeated sentence from Paulo Coelho's novel *The Alchemist*: "And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."

THE PRELUDE

To the Programme

Deepti Pillai



Zest22 was one of its kind and a successful endeavour. This event was prodigious for the very reason that it was a beautiful illustration of parent-school relationship with wondrous participation of not just the school faculty but parents too and making it all the more heart-touching for the participation of grandparents and a few great grandparents as well.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of our Father Principal as well as our pillar of support, the PTA president. This momentous unison of the school and the PTA hosting the event in the best possible way was profusely delightful and overwhelming. The very ambience of joy around was beyond description. The most heart-touching part of the inaugural function was Loyola grandparents lighting the lamp. That the event adopted the name and tagline suggested by a junior student, the school gave the PTA a free hand in organizing the programme, and the parents and grandparents set the stage ablaze with their dazzling performances and the audience was bountiful in applause speak volumes about the sense of belonging, ownership and pride that is patent to the members of the vibrant Loyola fraternity. The day was particularly unforgettable for the parents for letting them relive their childhood memories and prove that their talents have not been lost in spite of the passage of time.

The writer is the mother of Siddart Nair, III D



Principal Fr P. T. Joseph, S. J.



PTA President Rakesh Kumar

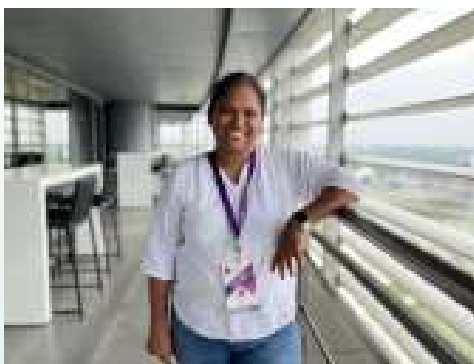


Parents, grandparents and great grandparents after lighting the lamp

Strengthening the Roots

Sindhu Chendurpandian

The Captain knew that we were about to sail out not on any makeshift raft but on a majestic cruiser, so it needed skilled manpower in plenty. He enlisted the finest craftsmen for the purpose and built an army to handle all the departments of the undertaking. His army needed no briefing as these people had travelled along with him for long and knew what exactly was needed. Forming themselves into smaller groups, they diligently discharged the duties they assumed and ensured the resounding success of ZEST 22.



As we rewind it still brings us the goose bumps at the very thought that we were able to carve a history in style. Something which was just a topic of discussion during coffee sessions finally flying out from its cocoon as beautiful as it can be. ZEST 22 is not just the organizing committee's pride but each one who participated in it or witnessed it has that within their heart. It paved the way for many individuals to realize their innate capabilities and what they should be doing to keep them happier.

After a couple of years living a confined life within walls, when we stopped interacting with our fellow mates, ZEST 22 did help to rebuild the lost relationship and trust. It brings us lot

The writer is a techie by profession and the parent representative of VI D. She is the mother of Sobhan Indra Kumar of that class.

of emotional moments. In retrospect, this was indeed a small wish of our PTA president in getting all parents under one roof by conducting a cultural event at school. He used to share this during our virtual meetups, and at some time we got excited and asked ourselves whether we would get enough participation. As school reopened after the pandemic scare, they returned to their regular activities. And one day we heard about Sajan uncle's health and we were briefed by the Principal on how teachers and students were preparing themselves to support him. The PTA readily agreed to be a part of that and proposed to get some business stalls for the purpose and ensure enough visitors by arranging a cultural event and thereby generate more funds. Though we were sceptical about the approval of the cultural programme, the Principal gave us the green signal and a free hand to do it. That put a tremendous pressure on us because we had to put up a show equivalent to what Loyola usually delivered.

As usual a survey report was sent early September and we received a very cold response from parents since the midterm exams were going on. Soon after the exams we ran another survey and we got a tremendous response of more than 80 individual item. We were puzzled thinking how we could host so many items. PTA representatives played a vital



The captain and the crew onstage with Fr Principal, Dr P.T. Joseph, S. J., after accomplishing the mission

role here and ran a campaign within their group explaining the proposed carnival and also getting group events created. Slowly we began to see the group events shaping up. The silent campus during weekends started reverberating with music and dance steps. For most of the parents, this became a routine for 3-4 weeks. And it was tough after the programme got over to come out of this routine, and multiple reminders had to be sent to let them know that *ZEST 22* is over!

We could see cramped feet during the dress rehearsals, but the dancers braved the cramps to make sure that they put up a spectacular show on the stage.

The Captain knew that we were about to sail out not on any makeshift raft but on a majestic cruiser, so it needed skilled manpower in plenty. He enlisted the finest craftsmen for the purpose and built an army to handle all the departments of the undertaking. His army needed no briefing as these people had travelled along with him for long and knew what exactly was needed. Forming themselves into smaller groups, they diligently discharged the duties they assumed and ensured the resounding success of *ZEST 22*.

Hats off to all the parents and grandparents for their relentless practice and immaculate performance. We could see many of the parents choosing a new routine, rehearse the dance steps, and practise whenever they got a little time. We could see cramped feet during the dress rehearsals, but they braved the cramps to make sure that they put up a spectacular show on the stage. The success of any event depends on the triangular relationship among the people who coordinate, participate and witness. We were fortunate to have all these elements fall in the right places.

On 19 November we all witnessed something which no school in the city could present. Parallel to the parents' programme in the auditorium ran the business stalls on the campus. The stage events were equal to what professionals could present. We could hear from grandparents that *ZEST 22* gave them an opportunity to see their own kids perform onstage after a very long time. Spouses and boys had a different perspective after the programme was over. The emotion we could see on the backstage is beyond words. A big salute to the organizing committee for handling 50 odd events and running them without any lag or confusion.

Loyola always believes in a healthy relation among the school, parents, and boys, which helps to build confident young minds. *ZEST 22* made it stronger and made us parents understand how much the school values us and our small cultural event gave so much happiness to everyone around. We eagerly wait for being a part of similar ventures in future.



Aleyamma Jacob



I went back to my school days for a while and felt like singing in front of my childhood friends and school teachers. I for a moment forgot that those were my grandchildren and their parents or grandparents. I am lucky enough to have got an opportunity to be a child again. That was my *Chinna chinna asai*.

The writer-singer is the grandmother of Ryan Alexander Sanju of Std. II E

Parents' Carnival



First Loyola parents carnival was celebrated in a befitting manner. I am happy that on behalf of our ward, his father, mother and I participated in the event.

About me, I was apprehensive of facing a crowd for singing a song on stage. However, due to the confidence and encouragement given by the organizers and family I could perform comfortably.

Let us express our gratitude to the school authorities, the organizers and all those who worked day and night to conduct the event in a nice manner to the satisfaction of all the teachers, students, parents, and grandparents.

All the very best

Bhasukuttan M. B.

Grandparent of Abhiram S. Nithin, VIII B

Memories of ZEST 2022

Lekshmi Subhash

Presently, the friends' circle of Loyola boys of Class VIII has been expanded to include their parents as well. The WhatsApp groups created for practice sessions are now more lively with discussions about family trips and meet-ups, as ZEST 2022 has opened up new horizons of friendships for us.

ZEST 2022 got over, leaving behind the energy, the vibe, and the rejuvenation inside each one of us that we will cherish for a lifetime. Until ZEST 2023, the spirit of ZEST 2022 will remain fresh in our memories.

After enrolling in the group events, I was, like many others, very sceptical about how I would be able to juggle between home, work, and family and manage the practice sessions. But once the team was formed and practice sessions started, everything fell into place. Attending the practice sessions became a priority as the enthusiasm of our team was amazing. It was as simple as re-living the good old childhood days. I became the old tenth grader waiting for my turn to perform in the school auditorium.

I was quite lucky to be a part of the dance and music teams, *Dazzling Divas* and *Team Octaves*, in both of which everyone supported

and motivated me as my own family. So, the outcome was amazing. 19th November 2022 made way for a great entertainment show both for the viewers and the participants. The programme was well-organized and on schedule.

Presently, the friends' circle of Loyola boys of Class VIII has been expanded to include their parents as well. The WhatsApp groups created for practice sessions are now more lively with discussions about family trips and meet-ups, as *ZEST 2022* has opened up new horizons of friendships for us.

Thanks a lot the PTA of Loyola School for this venture and all the very best wishes for carrying it forward.





Dazzling Divas

From left: 1. Vineetha R., M/o Advait Manoj, VIII A & Abhinav Manoj, VI C; 2. Veena Sajin, M/o Vismay Sajin, VIII D; 3. Lekshmi Subhash, M/o Adwaith Jith, VIII B & Aryyan Jith, LKG D; 4. Kavya Jithin, M/o Madhav Jithin, VIII D; 5. Sindhu Vijayan, M/o Mahasvin M., VIII B; 6. Renjini V. S., M/o Alan S. R., VIII D; 7. Shyja P., M/o Madhav Praveen, VIII B & Vihaan Praveen, III B; 8. Sajna Master; 9. Gayathri Janardanan, M/o Navneeth Krishnan S., VIII A; 10. Dr. Sreeja J., M/o Abhinand M. Nair, VIII D; 11. Ajithakumari S. R., M/o Karan Suresh, VIII B; 12. Sreeji Prasanth Kurup, M/o Sreehari P. Kurup, VIII B; 13. Jinu Abraham Glaxon, M/o Austin Alex Glaxon, VIII B; 14. Tintu Sudeep Culas, M/o Abhinav Culas, VIII D



Team Octaves

Standing from left: 1. Lekshmi Subhash, M/o Adwaith Jith, VIII B; & Aryyan Jith, LKG D; 2. Anupama S. L., M/o Aadith Rajeev, VIII B; 3. Ajithakumari S. R., M/o Karan Suresh, VIII B; 4-5 Sreeji Kurup & Prasanth, parents of Sreehari, VIII B; 6. Jithin V., F/o Madhav Jithin, VIII D; 7. Sajin V. S., F/o Vismay Sajin, VIII D; 8. Sindhu Vijayan, M/o Mahasvin M., VIII B; 9. Vineetha R., M/o Advait Manoj, VIII A & Abhinav Manoj, VI C; 10. Rajalekshmy R., M/o Niranj A. R., VIII C; 11. Dr. Madhavadas K., F/o Abhinand M. Nair, VIII D; 12. Sivakumar K.R., F/o Pranav S. S., VIII B. **Sitting from left:** 1. Megha Anna Thomas, M/o Chris George Thomas, VIII A; 2. Shyja P., M/o Madhav Praveen Kumar, VIII B & Vihaan Praveen, III A; 3. Dr. Sreeja J., M/o Abhinand M. Nair, VIII D; 4. Binitha N. Philip, M/o Ron Kuriakose Rajesh, VIII C

COMPERING

an incomparable event

Smita Sharma

"I wish my school days could have dragged on a little longer, or that I could go back and do it later in Life."

Cara Delevingne.

ZEST 2022 confirmed my belief that it is extra-curricular activities that make school experience rich, fun and rewarding. I am grateful to the organisers for making me a part of the compering

Our MC team had seven members. Our coordinator Mrs Tintu Sudeep Culas divided the entire programme into three segments and assigned a two-member team for each segment. The comperes for the first part, which started at 10 a.m., were Deepti Pillai and Gayathri Janardanan. Since they were the first MCs, the pressure on them must have been tremendous. The MCs for the second phase, which started at 12:30 p. m., were Mrs Rekha Kamath and Mrs Arya Panicker. Mrs Binitha N. Philip and I did the compering during the third stage which started around 3:15 p.m.

The pressure behind the curtain was tremendous because there was some last-minute shuffling of events. With not enough time for preparing the script, much of the compering had to be extempore. But the coordinator came to our succour and all of us could do well.

The event was very live and colourful and the participation went beyond anyone's imagination. There were as many as 54 events presented by the parents and the grandparents. The programme was so successful that the vibrant fervour amongst all the members of the different teams is beyond description. It was a take away for the children too, that together we can achieve anything. It was conveyed to the kids that *their school career is one of the only things in life where one joins crying and also leaves crying*. School life may be hard and annoying at times but everyone would miss it when it ends because it is the most important part of life and a treasure of memories. Likewise, ZEST 2022 is over but each one of us will cherish its memories forever.



The MC Team: 1. Rekha Kamath, M/o Indraneil Pradeep, II E; 2. Arya Panicker R., M/o Daksh Yain, II E; 3. Binitha N. Philip, M/o Ron Kuriakose Rajesh, VIII C; 4. Smita Sharma, M/o Ansh Sharma, XII E; 5. Tintu Sudeep Culas, M/o Abhinav Sudeep Culas, VIII D; 6. Deepti Pillai, M/o Siddart Nair, III D; 7. Gayathri Janardanan, M/o Navneeth Krishnan, VIII A

team which gave me a chance to relive my school days once again. I felt like a student while practising in the classrooms of Loyola School for the event and inquisitively roaming around the stalls, and finally, nervously compering the magnificent performances of parents and grandparents.

To be sure, at first I was a little sceptical about my role as an MC because I am a north Indian. We came down to Thiruvananthapuram because my husband, an Officer in Indian Air Force, got posted here in April 2022. My misgivings were unwarranted because the entire ZEST team was absolutely supportive.

THANK YOU

for making it happen

Neeta Teresa Luke

The prospect of performing in front of a crowd was in equal parts terrifying and exciting. But it truly was a pleasant experience since this was the first time we attempted an endeavour of this sort in almost two decades.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Loyola School and the PTA for organising ZEST 22 which offered us the unforgettable opportunity to perform onstage. It was indeed a proud moment and a feeling of sheer bliss to perform in front of our own boys.

When this idea was first put on deck, there was a closed group formed by the parent representatives of various classes. Multiple ideas were thrown back and forth and a plan came to life. The initial idea was to do a *Thiruvathira* and then a fusion dance was decided upon. We wanted to present an eclectic mix of both old memories and new ideas that would entertain all generations in the crowd. During the initial practice sessions, inhibitions were present and for some, the rust and dust of years of no practice proved to be a challenge. But as with any earnest initiative, both skill and camaraderie grew. We brainstormed for new ideas to balance the budget and at the same time ensure high-quality result. The practice sessions became something to look forward to. Working mothers took care of the immediate chores at home and the office-going mothers scheduled their meetings in such a way that our practice sessions could be attended.

Most of the days the practice sessions were held in front of the school canteen. On other days it used to be at the house of one of the participants. The refreshment time with chats used to be a time to relish. Finally the D-day arrived and it felt like we were all back in college. Even though it was not a competition, that flurry of butterflies in our stomach was all too familiar. The prospect of performing in front of a crowd was in equal parts terrifying and exciting. But it truly was a pleasant experience since this was the first time we attempted an endeavour of this sort in almost two decades.

Performing in all shimmering costume in front of a cheering crowd peeled off those two decades and made us relive our youthful days at college. It was quite overwhelming to see the response of the crowd and receive their compliments and congratulatory messages. All the events were really well curated and practised that the day seemed to be over in a jiffy for the crowd.

This day is something that we all will remember and relish in our lives. This was a real eye-opener for many of us who found talents hidden within us. Thank you all, thank you very much, for rekindling the spark.



Left to right:

1. Priya C. Kurian, M/o Tom Alex, IX A & Jerom Alex, IV A; 2. Karthika Sasi, M/o Skandan K. Vinod, IX B; 3. Binushma S. G., (M/o Shreyas S. B., IX B & Sidharth S. B., VII D); 4. Neeta Teresa Luke, M/o Neel Thomas Jewel, IX C, Johan Luke Jewel, IV B & Daniel Jacob Jewel, UKG C; 5. Aswathy Santhosh, M/o Akshat S. Nair, IX A; 6. Lekshmi Jayan, M/o Aashish D. Krishnan, IX C; 7. Lekshmi Hari, M/o Abhinav Hari, IX A; 8. Nisha P. Kurur, M/o Nipun Murlidharan, IX A; 9. Merin Ria Mathew, M/o Jake Joe Jinu, IX C & John Joe Jinu, IV C

JINGLED ALL THE WAY

Ajish Jacob

But more than the onstage performance, the precious takeaways are the lighter moments we shared and the bond created among a set of 'unknown' parents to join hands together with the school management for a noble cause.

We began virtually in the new normal way by joining a WhatsApp group with a dozen unfamiliar Loyola parents to participate in a group song for ZEST 22. Then we met each other offline at the school premises the following Sunday. Thanks to the PTA president Mr. Rakesh Kumar who was instrumental in bridging us and supporting our various needs.

That was a new beginning and from there things started falling in place slowly and steadily. We christened our group *Jingles* and in a week or two, we finalized the songs, prepared karaokes and merged them seamlessly, adjusted pitches of the songs, decided on dress code and what not. Moreover, our evenings were devoted to practice sessions at the school cafeteria.

The numbers speak for themselves for our in-depth collaboration. In three weeks we exchanged 746 WhatsApp messages using 6439 words and 22163 letters. 223 emojis, 92 files and 48 links were shared apart from the numerous offline interactions that happened in parallel.

Practice gave us a can-do attitude and built synchronization among us by leaps and bounds. Timely support and valuable inputs from Deepu sir and the Event Committee came in handy to do justice to our potential on the stage.

But more than the onstage performance, the precious takeaways are the lighter moments we shared and the bond created among a set of 'unknown' parents to join hands together with the school management for a noble cause.

Hats off to all who worked behind the scenes.



From the left: 1. Reethu Jeskleen, M/o Jovan Renato Jeskleen, III B; 2. Sarada Devi P. S., M/o Devanand M. S., IX B; 3. Sneha Ajish, M/o Aviv Jacob, V D & Albie Jacob, III A; 4. Jyothisree Jayakumar, Grandmother of Ishan A. Ananth, III C; 5. Ajish Jacob, F/o Aviv & Albie; 6. Nithin Sathyan, F/o Abhiram S Nithin, VIII A.; 7. Deepu Alex, F/o James Alex Medayil, II E.; 8. Jeskleen Justin, F/o Jovan Renato, III B; 9. Lekshmy Srinivas, M/o Abhinav Rajesh, VII B.; 10. Sangeetha Arun, M/o Rishikesh Arun, VII D; 11. Devinath J., M/o Aadinath S., VII A



Hours of practice and the soul-satisfying performance brought the team members closer together that they thought it warranted a close-up selfie too as a souvenir!

TEAMING UP

once again

Arya Krishnan E.

Our initial conversations itself proved that all of us shared the same mindset which is the main reason for our team bond. The practice sessions made us think that we are young students once again. The month-long practice and costume trials added to our busy schedule and at the same time offered us welcome relief from its humdrum monotony.



“So you think we can dance?”

“Sure, why not? Haven’t we proved that we can...”

That was indeed a nostalgic moment for all the eight of us as we got a chance to go onstage once again. Some of us had thought that we wouldn’t perform again after the days of our formal education; some had felt that dancing was easier said than done for a mother. But our spirits prevailed and we proved that we can perform.

Our initial conversations itself proved that all of us shared the same mindset which is the main reason for our team bond. The practice sessions made us think that we are young students once again. The month-long practice and costume trials added to our busy schedule and at the same time offered us welcome relief from its humdrum monotony. Finally on the D-day all of us were very much excited not only to perform onstage but to perform in front of our boys. It was reassuring to see their eyes gleaming in joy when their mummies were onstage. Most of them tightly hugged us after the dance which itself was a heartwarming experience.



Team Tharang

From the left: 1. Shilpa Arun, M/o Nakul A., I C; 2. Anjali Aneesh, M/o Abhiram Aneesh, I D; 3. Arya Krishnan E., M/o Dhanvin A. Aswin, I C; 4. Devi Rajan J., M/o Saatvik Suresh, I C; 5. Aswathy S. Kumar, M/o Aadhinath S. Nair, I D; 6. Resmy A. R., M/o Rishikesh K. R., I C; 7. Deepthi N., M/o Johaan S., I C; 8. Dhanya P., M/o Navneeth Krishnan H., I C

Finally the month-long effort proved fruitful and more importantly this was the beginning of a beautiful relationship amongst all of us. Hope this stays forever. We have already begun thinking about presenting something more challenging next year at the parents' carnival.

Our sincere thanks are due to Loyola Management and the PTA for rekindling our lives to be alive onstage once again.

RELISHING The Moment

Rajasree S.



Yes, the day has come; November 19th 2022 has been marked as one of the most memorable days for not only the parents but also to the boys who could proudly watch their parents perform many activities at ZEST22. The day carved out many beautiful moments that Loyola School could cherish forever.

As one of the participants, while sitting among the crowd, I just closed my eyes and remembered how much I travelled in a month's time to be in such a state. When I first heard about such a programme, like any child, I also wished to be part of multiple events. But due to priority items in front of me, I closed the topic and submerged in my busy world. The spark happened when I got to know about the preparations for the event, and I decided to participate in at least one item not only for my son but also for myself. Yes, everyone put forward themselves, contributed the utmost, showcased their talents, and realized the energy within.

The school became our second home. Everyone in the team was eagerly waiting for the practice sessions. The chit-chats, fun, snack time, and the life stories were so endless that the time was not

enough for us. Our better halves and children adjusted to make our time valuable. The school campus echoed our sounds. We had been a great support to one another, valued every inputs and we became one big family. Days went by; all preparations over, everything ready and set, we eagerly waited for 'The Day'. We had our final round of practice backstage and got ready for the performance. We knew that the audience was generous with applause. We put on a beautiful smile on our face to camouflage our palpitation and butterflies in the stomach and reassured one another that we could do it. And we did it! We danced our heart out and conquered the stage. As the curtain fell, we hugged one another in joy and said in unison: "When next?"

ZEST22 was an eye-opener for many of us, and we knew ourselves better. The energy and enthusiasm is still up. As I was going through these memories, I felt how important each moment is, and how much joy we could give to our kids. They were so happy that they must have felt proud of the talented hidden in their parents. Special thanks to our power-packed, fun-filled Sindhu for always encouraging and motivating us. Without her guidance, we NavaTarang would not have performed on the stage. Thank You!



Team NavaTarang

From left to right: 1. Rajshree Arun, M/o Abhimanyu A. Sarma, IV D; 2. Shifi Madhavan, M/o Aman Vasanth, VI D; 3. Ann Koruth, M/o Safal Mathew Koruth, VI B; 4. Dr Alan Chris, M/o Aaron Sajin, VI D; 5. Sindhu Chendurpandian, M/o Sobhan Indra Kumar, VI D; 6. Rajasree S., M/o Aarav A., VI D; 7. Juby Jacob, M/o Rishith V., VI D; 8. Lancy Praveen, M/o Dhevanandh P. L., VI D; 9. Sreeja S. Kumar, M/o Gautham Abhilash, VI B; 10. Sapna M. K., M/o Aaved B. Nambiar, VI B



Rhythm

Rajana V.R.



It is difficult to express the happiness *ZEST 22* gave me. Still, it will be a regrettable failure if I let the chance to express my gratitude slide by.

I was elated to find that *ZEST 22* offered a platform for parents and grandparents to showcase their talents and that dance was one among the options. At the beginning, I was a little unsure as to whether I would be able to dance like I did back in my college days. Even though I used to choreograph dance covers for my kids, going onstage after thirteen years was a little daunting. Still, for my love of dance, I found myself as the choreographer-performer in a group of seven working mothers and two housewives.



Rhythm Team

From the left:

1. Binsy Smiji, M/o Bobby B. Smiji, III C; 2. Deepthi D., M/o Sarnjay Sivadeep Prasad, V E & Shriansh Sivadeep Prasad, II D; 3. Divya C. J., M/o Ishan Pradeep, IV C; 4. Aiswarya S. K., M/o Alfin Jose, X C & Jofin Jose, VI C; 5. Rajana V.R., M/o Sreeranj S.R., VI C & Sreerav S. R., II C; 6. Ancy Antony, M/o Haddin Antony, IV B; 7. Bismi Samad, M/o Ryan Babu, XI F & Aman Babu, VI C; 8. Sangeeta S., M/o Prajit L., VII C; 9. Anu James, M/o Nathan Jose Abraham, II A

It is not easy to find a group as energetic as ours. I would cherish for the rest of my life every moment we spent together. It felt like being a part of a family and reliving my college days. All of us were willing to sacrifice our family time for the sake of our dance practice.

However, ours was not a smooth ride; we did endure quite a few bumps. One of our members had a fall and was prescribed rest. It was quite disturbing for all of us considering how close we had gotten to her over the practice sessions. We all felt sorry for her considering how she had been with us for 90% of the journey and could not be with us when we had to finally perform. Moreover, her absence necessitated changes in our formation.

Then, another member had an ankle sprain and she had to practise with a bandage on. It was quite concerning. It felt as though there was some force stopping us from dancing. Still, we fought through and kept doing what we loved and were thrilled to be finally ready for the performance. As we were to be called upon the stage, we stood in a circle like the members

in a cricket team and reassured one another. Once our dance ended, it felt a little strange as I no longer wanted to leave the stage. I wished the song lasted longer. It is weird how one moment you are frightened to get on the stage and then you want to hold on to the stage like a child clinging on to its mother. Being on the stage felt both familiar and unfamiliar, comforting and unsettling to me. It was a paradox of emotions. Words would not do justice if I were to describe the great satisfaction I had for having performed on the stage. It felt powerful. It felt like something I want to experience every now and then. We are even thinking of performing at other events. I do not know how practical it is considering how most of us have multiple tasks to take care of. Still, we keep our fingers crossed.

Thanks to Loyola School and the PTA team for giving us an opportunity to pursue our passion and carry a ton of memories to cherish and a circle of friends that I am forever grateful to be a part of.

BACKBENCHERS

The Real Superheroes

Arun S.

We didn't know how to move ahead. I discussed with my family—wife Rajshree and son Abhimanyu—as to what we should do to entertain the kids. Many topics were tossed around and finally we zeroed in on a classroom skit, but with the Avengers theme. Everyone was elated by the idea.

As a kid I was always excited to be on stage even though I had stage fright. The kid in me got super excited on seeing the message about the Parents' Carnival. I applied and after days of waiting, I finally got a call from the PTA President asking me to join the skit.

However, we didn't know how to move ahead. I discussed with my family - wife Rajshree and son Abhimanyu - as to what we should do to entertain the kids. Many topics were tossed around and finally we zeroed in on a classroom skit, but with the Avengers theme. Everyone was elated by the idea.

It was challenging as we had to entertain the kids with fun, incorporate meaningful messages as well as include the main motto of ZEST 22, 'Spread the Smile'. With lots of help from my son, I quickly completed the script. Now, the real challenge was to get participants for the skit. There were already four members in our group but the skit had 12 characters in it!

Days passed by and we were still short of participants. I informed the President that the skit was unlikely. He assured me that we would get the participants and that we would perform the skit.

The writer, who conceived and directed the skit, is the father of Abhimanyu A. Sarma of IV D

On the day of the event, the team performed exceptionally well and the kids loved it. Thanks to the audience, PTA and the school management for all their support. Of course, thanks to my team for their total dedication and commitment.

With the PTA committee's support, we started to add members. With nine days to go, we finally had 12!

With a week to go, we started practice. I was all tense for one wasn't sure if we could pull it off and many were performing on stage for the first time! Added to this, some were participating in other stage events and finding common ground for practice was easier said than done.

Every day we practised in school from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Each passing day the excitement grew. Soon enough there was confidence that we could do well on stage. Music, costumes - readymade and bespoke, props, everything followed. We were ready.

On the day of the event, the team performed exceptionally well and the kids loved it. Thanks to the audience, PTA and the school management for all their support. Of course, thanks to my team for their total dedication and commitment.






From the left: 1. Dr. Nithin Sathyan (Thor), F/o Abhiram S. Nithin, VIII B; 2. Ram Govind Narayan (Hulk), F/o Niranjan R. Nair, IV D; 3. Molex K. (Harley Quinn), M/o Alex Augustine Wales, VI D; 4. Shaju L. Mony (Iron Man), F/o Johaan S., I C; 5. Arun (Minnal Murali) & 6. Rajshree (Wanda), parents of Abhimanyu, IV D; 7. Suchandan Shyamal (Spiderman), F/o Aamay Shyamal, VI D; 8. Pradeep P. Suthan (Captain America), F/o Govind P. Suthan, V D; 9. Beena Ajith (Black Widow), M/o Nathan Ajith Varghese, IV B; 10. Shima (She Hulk & 11. Sreekanth (Batman), parents of Rithav S., VI D



Irfan Mohammed Ali of Std V C being honoured for suggesting the name and the tagline for the event



Mr Anilkumar R. proposing the vote of thanks



The **Melody Queens**

Anjali Narayanan

*Convinced that we haven't lost our talents
along the way, we have already started
discussing plans for going
onstage next year!*

We, *the Melody Queens*, have proved that we are more than just helicopter moms! Of course, we were thrilled to be performing in front of our little heroes. It was eye-opening to see their eyes filling with joy as we sang. After our event, the majority of them hugged us tightly. That was a thrilling experience. That memory will live with us for the rest of our lives.

It was a nostalgic moment for all of us; we recalled the events and festivals during our school and college days. We never anticipated being able to take part in the programme in this way. All of us developed a lovely friendship during the little practice sessions, and we were eager to get together more frequently because they gave us a break from our busy schedules.

One significant fact was that Master Abhinand M. Nair of Class VIII D, who gave us musical accompaniment, was someone we had never met before. We, a group of mums, give him our heartfelt blessing and hope that he will be a celebrity in due course.

We are also glad to have made our grandparents recollect the days when they used to see us perform onstage and feel proud of our latest performance. All the mothers of the *Melody Queens* brimmed with pride as we proved that their daughters' talent hasn't diminished.

Our sincere thanks are due to Loyola Management and the PTA for hosting such a wonderful event and for restoring our passion for performing onstage.



From the left: 1. Abhinand M. Nair (Std. VIII D); 2. Rekha Kamath, M/o Indraneil Pradeep, II E; 3. Suchithra G., M/o Badarinath, I C; 4. Aswathy S. Kumar, M/o Asdthinath S., I D; 5. Lulu Nandakumar, M/o Sidharth Nanda, I D; 6. Hally T., M/o Rithunandan V., I D; 7. Gayathri Nair, M/o Ishaan Ganesh, I C; 8. Reshmi A. R., M/o Rishikesh K. R., I C; 9. Divya M. P., M/o Advik N. D., I D; 10. Anjali Narayanan, M/o Abhiram Aneesh, I D



Swaratarang

THE BOND OF MUSIC

Sreeja S. Kumar & Juby Jacob

Practice sessions were filled with so much fun, frolic, laughter, food, and of course lots of singing! This took us back to our school and college days and we had a chance to relive those good old memories!

We were surprised when the PTA representatives came up with the idea of an event where the parents would be the performers. Though hesitant at first, many started showing interest later and finally the programme overflowed with a multitude of events.

Thus, a small group of like-minded people, passionate about music, joined hands and *Swaratarang* came into being. Our group had a few good singers and a few amateurs who wanted to give their best. As days went by the bonding amongst us increased and the vibrant atmosphere allowed us to sing to our heart's content.

It was amazing to see how everyone put in the effort to find some time out of their usually busy schedule to practise.

Finally, the day arrived when we had to sing on stage! We did feel nervous at the beginning, but when we saw our kids and parents among the audience eagerly waiting for us to perform, we felt very happy. This

brought out the best in all of us. Right after our programme, our boys rushed backstage to congratulate us and we felt very emotional. We felt so proud when we saw our boys boasting about us to their friends! For us, the whole experience was awesome that can't possibly be described in words.

This event poured light on many of our talents that were hidden and unknown to our spouses and kids. Our parents also got a chance to watch us perform once again in a very long time. They were so proud and teary-eyed, reminiscing our good old childhood days. We can't express enough gratitude towards our boys and family members for the support that we received throughout this event. This would not have been possible without your love and cooperation.

We are extremely happy to have made a whole lot of good friends, not just friends! *Swaratarang* is now like a family. We are always in touch checking on each other, planning get-togethers and seeking opportunities for more performances. We wholeheartedly thank the PTA and Fr Principal for organizing such an event. This initiative is much appreciated.

We look forward to such events in years to come.



From the left:

1. Ancy Rajan, M/o Haddin Antony, IV B;
2. Devika K., M/o Akshay Balagopal, VI B;
3. Anjana Krishnan, M/o Keshav Balachandran, VI B & Madhav Balachandran, II A;
4. Aiswarya S. K., M/o Alfin Jose, X C & Jofin Jose, VI C;
5. Abhilash V. C., F/o Siddharth A., VI C & Sachith A., III C;
6. M. R. Vinod Thampy, F/o Achuth Vinod, VI B & Keshav Vinod, LKG;
7. Vasanth Rangaswamy, F/o Aman, VI D;
8. Juby Jacob, M/o Rishith V., VI D;
9. Gayathri Suresh, M/o Srihari Shenil, VI D;
10. Dr Alan Chris, M/o Aaron Sajin, VI B;
11. Sreeja S. Kumar, M/o Gautham Abhilash, VI B;
12. Bindu L., M/o Ananthan S., VI B

ZESTFUL HOSTS

and the esprit de corps

Yogesh Bhargavan Nair

What seemed to be a daunting task before the start of *ZEST 22* turned out to be extremely smooth because of the camaraderie among the team members.



Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships, said Michael Jordan, the world-renowned former professional basketball player from the USA.

ZEST 22 was nothing less than a championship for the 50-odd volunteers, who strived day in and day out to ensure the minutest details of each event were taken care of.

A prodigious event like this required us to divide ourselves into nine support groups to provide optimal support to participants, technicians, business stalls, and the audience.

The Welcome & Enquiry Booth was set up to receive guests and address queries connected with the event. The Participant Registration Booth ensured participants who registered for the programme turned up for the event as per schedule.

The writer is the father of Aakarsh Yogesh Nair of XI B and the parent-coordinator of Narayana Entrance Coaching.



The Facility and General Support team ensured participants are available 30 minutes prior to their event and seated in the Participant Area, while the Media and Technical Support team ensured the requirements for each event were addressed and the media was in sync with the programme schedule.

Our Backstage Support team were on their toes throughout the programme as they had to ensure necessary arrangements on stage and off stage were catered to for each event. Our Master of Ceremonies Team with their lively interaction ensured the audience was engaged throughout the programme.

One of the highlights of *ZEST 22* was our Photo Booth where families thronged in large numbers to capture their fun-filled moments. Our Photo Booth team ensured a continuous flow of visitors to get clicked with their friends and families.

Along with a few of our dear parents, I was in charge of coordinating the entire programme under the able leadership of our PTA President, Mr Rakesh Kumar. What seemed to be a daunting task before the start of the event turned out to be extremely smooth because of the camaraderie among the team members.

ZEST 22 has been a great learning experience for many of us and it helped in building new friendships.

ZEST 23, here we come!



INEFFABLE MOMENTS

Sankar Aniyan

We decided to take up the challenge which would also motivate our own kids not to shy away from any task however daunting it might appear.

What Joseph Bitner Wirthlin said is a truism: *Some memories are unforgettable, remaining ever vivid and heartwarming.* This is what we all experienced during ZEST 22, our first ever Family Day event. We were all in full spirit to make it the most successful and memorable one.

Each one of us was assigned duties and we started our planning. It was then our PTA President Rakhesh made a surprising revelation: *We parents are going to sing the school anthem as the first event on the D-day.* We were apprehensive of the idea, and I was the first one to voice it. I recollected the day when it was my turn to read the newspaper in the school assembly and myself trembling while doing it. The very thought of singing unnerved me but as usual our ever-cool president identified a few enthusiastic PTA members and urged us to give it a try. He was confident that we as a team could do it. We decided to take up the challenge which would also motivate our own kids not to shy away from any task however daunting it might appear.

Once we decided to take the plunge, the whole atmosphere changed. We formed a lively group and got from Deepu Sir the right karaoke to support our rendition of the anthem. I could see the vibrancy of

The writer is the father of Mukund Sankar, I A & Kesav Sankar, V A and the PTA Representative of Class V A.

Rekha, Reshma, Merlin... all singing in full-throated ease and giving guidance to the ever-struggling baldies in the group that included me too. Meanwhile some of us took the extreme step to seek help from our kids. After a little practice my kids came to me and said: *Daddy, it would be better if you drop this idea or stand behind the group.* It was then that I resolved never to fail before my kids and beat a retreat. I heard similar stories from some of my fellow singers as well.

We assembled at the school in spite of our busy schedules. They were the funniest moments of learning, teasing and supporting one another and making sure we perform the anthem with grace and respect. On the D-day, it was the first event. Deepu sir and the media team gave the final guidance for the karaoke and positions, and we went onstage. It was an awesome feeling to be on the stage of the majestic Loyola Indoor Stadium to sing the school anthem in front of three generations that included our own parents, kids, and their teachers. The moment we finished singing, we could see tears of joy in every singer and a smile on our Fr Principal and a sense of gratification in our PTA president.

As the Italian writer Cesare Pavese says, *We do not remember days; we remember moments.* Those are the moments we hold closest to our heart.



From the left: Renga 1. Raj S., F/o Adithya R. & Advait R., II D; 2. Maneesh M. K., F/o Pranav M., II B; 3. Yogesh B. Nair, F/o Aakarsh Yogesh Nair, XI B; 4. Sankar Aniyar, F/o Mukund Sankar, I A & Kesav Sankar, V A; 5. Muralikrishnan Balachandran Nair, F/o Kesav Muralikrishnan, IV C & Dhyan Muralikrishnan, II C; 6. Abhilash A.R., F/o Gautham Abhilash, VI B; 7. Merlin George, M/o Evan Philip Mathew, III D; 8. Tintu Sudeep Culas, M/o Abhinav Sudeep Culas, VIII D; 9. Deepa S., M/o Neerad R., III B; 10. Tanuja Pillai, M/o Hari Govind Shyam, IV C; 11. Vineetha R., M/o Advait Manoj, VIII A & Abhinav Manoj, VI C; 12. Reshma Prakash, M/o Aeshan Gokul, V B; 13. Biji Velayudhan Radha, M/o Shivanand Karthikeyan, LKG D; 14. Binitha Philip, M/o Ron Kuriakose Rajesh, VIII C; 15. Abhaya S. R., M/o Madhav Manu, VII C; 16. Rekha Kamath, M/o Indraneil Pradeep, II E; 17. Suja K. R., M/o Aarush S. S., UKG C & Aagney S. S., V D

ZEST 22: THE GALA...

Nair Prasad Ramachandran

When a cause is backed by like-minded people the result can be nothing short of a gala. ZEST 22 felt like a gala and that too performed by the royal ballet.



ZEST 22 can inarguably be called the opening act of a series of colourful carnivals to follow for years to come.

Yes, at the outset it was a fundraiser to support the already strong *Loaf of Love* movement initiated by Loyola School during the trying times to extend a helping hand to the needy. The journey of ZEST 22 wasn't any different; it was certainly to address a need and that too of someone very dear to the Loyola family. And when a need arises within the family the foremost thing is to look for what can be done within in order to address the same. That is exactly where it all began; it was a planned act from the very beginning, but like it has been through all these ages, when the cause is a noble one everything falls in place and so it did for ZEST 22 as well. And when a cause is backed by like-minded people the result can be nothing short of a gala. ZEST 22 felt like a gala and that too performed by the royal ballet.

The writer is the parent of Akshaj Prasad of Class V E

*Thoroughly thrilled
and elated by what
was put together, I
can only thank the
whole team that took
it as a challenge and
came out with an
unprecedented
carnival in its truest
sense and hope that
we will be back in
2023...*

When we see superb performances of our children we admire their hard work. Yes, it is hard work and effort put in by them, but it also is with the unstinting support of their parents. In a way it is their enthusiasm which transmigrates into the children.

What we saw in *ZEST 22* was the unleashing of the enthusiasm, passion and talent which were once their own and showcased on countless stages but shelved for years in order to attend to the call of life. Once *ZEST 22* set the stage and set ablaze the dormant passion, there was no looking back and what we witnessed on the stage were heartwarming and mind-boggling performances.

Every performance in *ZEST 22* was the result of hours of practice for almost a month and maybe more. It looked more like a colourful School Fest where the young ones showcased their talent but, to correct you again, it wasn't. All the performers were parents and grandparents. Their enthralling performance was the outcome of strong leadership and team spirit. They knew how to manage a show that was unheard of; they knew how to pull the right cords so that what emerged was soothing music to the ears and spectacular scenes for the eyes.

And in between all these there were new friendships created, laughs shared, and bonds forged which made it more special.

What added more colour to *ZEST 22* was the hearty involvement of the teaching and non-teaching staff in its conduct.

There were true leaders who took the entire extravaganza to a different level by their sheer will to come up with something that brings joy and creates smiles all around. They made it look all the more easy.

Thoroughly thrilled and elated by what was put together, I can only thank the whole team that took it as a challenge and came out with an unprecedented carnival in its truest sense and hope that we will be back in 2023...



Beats in the Wings

Dr. Sreeranjini

Art unites people. It transcends linguistic, economic and sociocultural barriers. It can make the world felt. This felt feeling may spur thinking, engagement and even action. Art helps us identify with one another and expand our notion of 'we' from the local to the global level.



It was quite unexpected that I got a platform to perform *Kathakali* at ZEST 22, the parents' carnival at Loyola School. Initially I was not much aware of the importance of the event but gradually I saw the programme picking up momentum and the ripples of enthusiasm widening. This persuaded me not to lose the opportunity to go onstage in my ward's beloved school.

Still, I started preparation for the performance only when my husband Dr. Sreejith strengthened my wavering resolve by offering his unstinted support.

Usually, *kathakali* is performed overnight as a whole story, along with many supporting characters. To trim the story without losing the contents and the context was a cumbersome task. The enthusiastic programme coordinators helped me to finalise the contents and the background music and also provided all the technical support.

The story was *Duryodhana Vadha* a popular *Attakkatha* taken from the epic *Mahabharata*. I performed as Duryodhana, the eldest of the Kaurava kings. The scene we performed was Duryodhana's court where he discussed with the courtiers the arrival of Sree Krishna as a messenger of the Pandavas. Duryodhana knew that Sree Krishna was coming to ask for the Pandavas' rightful share of the kingdom.

My husband supported me on stage by performing as Dhritarashtra, Duryodhana's father. For an authentic appeal we made the *Thiranottam* and I showed the audacity to take up the *Kathivesham*. As a matter of fact, women have forged ahead on par with

The writer-performer is the mother of Hari Govind S. P. of Class III D

menfolk in *Kathakali*. Still, performing a *Kathivesham* which is an embodiment of *Rajasa* character is a task for them, especially the *Alarcha* or the vocal performance. As I look back, I feel contented as we succeeded in leading the audience through the prismatic mixtures of this traditional art form of Kerala.

Art unites people. It transcends linguistic, economic and sociocultural barriers. It can make the world felt. This felt feeling may spur thinking, engagement and even action. Art helps us identify with one another and expand our notion of 'we' from the local to the global level.

It is an unforgettable experience in our life and I feel proud to be a parent of a proud Loyolite.



GALLERY

of the

Trailblazers



Classical Dance by **Team Kerala Thanima**, featuring **Gopika C. Nair**, M/o Rishi R. G., IV D; Prathyusha P., M/o Rayansh Rahul, UKG B; **Vineetha Rajeev**, M/o Vineeth Arun, I A; Senny, M/o Johan K. Denny, VIII A & Joshua K. Denny, III B; **Kavitha Binoy Thomas**, M/o Thomas Joseph Binoy, IX A



Classical dance by Metzonía Roy, M/o Dhayan Savio Roy, II E



Welcome Dance: Gayathri V.S.
M/o Aaryan M. Nair, II B



Mono-Act: Anusha
M/o Akash J., VI B



Mimicry: Jayachandran Nair
F/o Abhinav Krishna J. S., VIII A



From left to right: 1. Kshemada K., M/o Shankara K., II A; 2. Aiswarya S. Kumar, M/o Arnav A., II A; 3. Sreelakshmi J. J., M/o Abhinav Anildeep, II A; 4. Anjana Krishnan, M/o Madhav Balachandran, II A & Keshav Balachandran, VI B; 5. Athira Gopan, M/o Adhav D. Nair, II A; 6. Sameera, M/o Ivaan S. Alex, II A & Nathal S. Alex, LKG

THE WONDER MOMS OF III D



Setting the stage ablaze are, from the left: 1. Bhavana K. S., M/o Gagan A., III D; 2. Merlin George, M/o Evan Philip Mathew, III D; 3. Revathy Sivan, M/o Hariharan S., III D; 4. Justina Thomas, M/o Ryan Thomas Jacob, III D; 5. Dr. Soumya G. A., M/o Mukunda Krishnan S., III D; 6. Deepti Pillai, M/o Siddart Nair, III D; 7. Anjali Yayathi, M/o Ved Vyas Yayathi, III D; 8. Subha Krishnamoorthy Vijaya, M/o Vihaan S. Vivek, III D; 9. Lakshmi Murali, M/o Gautam Renjith, III D



Abhinand M. Nair, VIII D & Music Teacher Deepu M.

PERFORMERS

on the proscenium



Hindi solo song by Ratheesh Pillai,
F/o Aastik Rateesh, II D



Duet by (Left) Ajith R., F/o Adhikesh A.R., LKG A
and (Right) Dinshad, F/o Afnan Mohammed, LKG E



Malayalam duet by Sobha S. & Vasanth Krishnan Nair,
grandparents of Aaryan M. Nair, II B



Hindi solo song by
Dr. Lekshmy Srinivas,
M/o Abhinav Rajesh, VII B



Tamil semiclassical song by
Vasanth Rangaswamy,
F/o Aman Vasanth, VI D



Malayalam solo song by
Dr Madhavadas K.,
F/o Abhinand M. Nair, VIII D



Malayalam solo song by Sangeetha Arun,
M/o Rishikesh Arun, VII D



Malayalam solo song by Renju V. R.,
M/o Abhay A. R., IV D



Malayalam solo song by Indu Nair,
M/o Vaibhav, V E



Hindi solo song by Sreeji C. S. Nair,
M/o Sreehari P. Kurup, VIII B



Malayalam solo song by Dr. Sunija B.,
M/o Abhiram S. Nithin, VIII B



Malayalam solo song by Abhilash V. C.,
F/o Siddharth A., VI C & Sachith A., III C



Recitation of ONV poems by
Sarada Devi P. S.,
M/o Devanand M. S., IX B



Malayalam solo song by Jacob Joseph,
F/o Joe Jacob, II C



Tamil solo song by
Jyothisree Jayakumar,
Grandmother of Ishan A. Ananth, III C



Malayalam solo song by Sreekanth S.,
F/o Rithav S., VI D



Malayalam solo song by Gayathri Ranjith,
M/o Mahadev Jnaneswar, UKG D &
Mukund Jnaneswar V D



Malayalam solo song by Ancy Rajan,
M/o Haddin Antony, IV B



Tamil solo song by Mithu Manoj,
M/o Akshaj Prasad, V E



Hindi solo song by Vishnu S.,
F/o Rishith, VI D



Malayalam solo song by Sanith R.,
F/o Anoop S., XII E



English solo song by Rekha Kamath
M/o Indraneil Pradeep, II E



Malayalam solo song by Thasneem S.
M/o Shazine Rayan S. T., II C &
Shehzad Izyan S. T., LKG C



Hindi solo song by Sweta Shivram,
M/o Vedansh, I B



Malayalam solo song by Mrs. Sobha K. P.,
grandmother of Adharv Aswin, II C



Malayalam solo song by Ajith Varghese,
F/o Nathan Ajith Varghese, IV B



Malayalam devotional song by Aldous Joseph,
F/o Neel Mathew, LKG B

Three Cheers to the Threesome...



Setting up the Photo Booth for parents to freeze fleeting moments and preserve memories for ever



Amitha Mathews (M/o Hanok Itty Vimom, I A), Gayatri Rajan (M/o Laxman Sankar, I B) and Shahina Shaan (M/o Saahil Ibrahim, V C & Ahad Ibrahim, I B) who missed most of the entertainment at the Indoor Stadium to ensure that the Photo Booth did exceedingly well. Hats off to you ladies for your selfless service in generating a sizeable amount and contributing it to charity.

ZEST 2022: Genesis of a Seminal Venture

Elizabeth Mathew

“Hands that help are holier than lips that pray.”



When one member of a family faces problems, it is but imperative that the others extend their helping hand. And that is what gave birth to *ZEST 2022*, a charity initiative envisioned by the teachers to help one of our dear family members, Mr. Sajan, who needs support for the treatment of his kidney ailment.

The idea of organizing such an event was received well by the management, with the Principal, Fr. Joseph, SJ enthusiastically extending all the required support.

To begin with, we decided to get a name for the event from the students by organizing a competition. They had to suggest a name and a tagline, and design a logo for the event. From all entries received, the name, *ZEST'22*, along with the tagline *Let's rejoice in spreading many smiles* was unanimously chosen. It was proposed by Irfan Mohammad Ali of Std. V C.

An organizing committee was formed and it was decided to host *ZEST '22* on Saturday, 19 November. The committee then met several times to chalk out the events, to plan the modalities and give shape to the ideas received. Our initial plan was to contribute by doing what we are good at, apart from teaching, that is, making and selling goodies to the foodies. Then, the students of Std. XI under the guidance of their class teachers offered to organize a game zone, rightly named *Khel Dhamaka*.

It was at this time that the ever-enthusiastic PTA led by its President Mr. Rakhesh Kumar volunteered to join hands with us and scale up the programme to a whole new level. The PTA had been rendering charity services under its umbrella project called *Loaf of Love*. Their plan was to arrange a parents' carnival this year. The idea was most welcome to all of us because that would lead to a larger number of people converging onto the campus which would improve our sales prospects too. The PTA took on the responsibility of organizing the variety entertainment programme of the parents and grandparents in the school auditorium and getting business stalls set up in classrooms and along the corridors. Well, to cut a long story short, *ZEST 22* assumed a whole new dimension, and the D-day will linger longer in the memory of all people who had been associated with it either as organizers or performers or spectators.

Sticking to the original plan, the staff made and served fruit juices, milk shakes, cakes, cupcakes, cake with ice cream, fruit salad, bhelpuri, samosa chat, and *pothichoru*, all of them flavoured with loads of love. And, as promised, the boys of Std. XI set up the game zone and ran the show with acumen that would shame professionals.

All the while, the auditorium had been reverberating with the applause of the audience who were delighted by a variety of dances, songs, stand-up comedy and even the esoteric dance form, kathakali.

To me, the highlight of the day was the contribution of Shaun Remany Saugar of Std. VII D. He brought to us his piggy bank intact as his contribution. We opened it in the Principal's presence. Wow, Rs.3242! We knew instantly that it augured well and our ambitious charity initiative would exceed all expectation. The boy endeared himself to all of us by not running off to the entertainment venue but by helping us at the food stalls, serving food, collecting cash and even making juice. We appreciate you Shaun as much for the qualities of your heart as for your musical prowess.



Grinning from ear to ear are the vendors (above) welcoming the aficionados of fruit salad (below)



Brisk business at the bhelpuri and cake counters

KHEL DHAMAKA

Aswin Madhav S., XI B



As one of the six coordinators of *Khel Dhamaka*, I am extremely happy that the game zone we set up as a part of *ZEST22* was a grand success. The other coordinators were Asmin Shafeek, Aromal H. S., Joel Jobby Jacob, Niranjana B. Kumar, and Dhanush L. R., representing the six divisions of Std XI. We had meticulously planned everything and finished all preparation and collected all props and could therefore set up the zone half an hour before the scheduled start of the programme on 19 November 2022.

We offered six games: Hoop a Loop, Flight to Victory, Bottle O' Flip, Topple in the Dark, Blind Man's Art, and Pyramid of Giza. Printed rules displayed prominently at the venue made it clear to the participants what they were to do to win the game. We had pretty brisk business though the centre of attraction was the auditorium where variety entertainments of the parents and grandparents went on non-stop.

It was a noble cause that brought us together; and it was for the same reason that many participants paid the money and played the game knowing quite well that they wouldn't succeed. Hosting the games was a great experience for all of us, the batch of 2k24. Thank you Loyola for your trust in us and for letting us run the show.



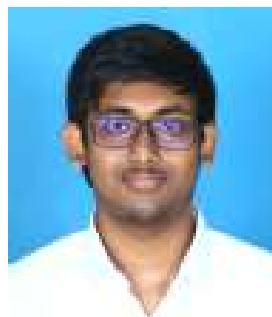
Aromal H. S.



Dhanush L. R.



Asmin Shafeek



Joel Jobby Jacob



Niranjana B. Kumar

The game zone contributed Rs. 36740 to the charity kitty. Well done boys!



Special thanks to all the
BUSINESS STALLS
for their contribution to the charity



ഒരു വട്ടം കൂടി



നിഷ്കളങ്കമായ ബാല്യം, മറഞ്ഞു പോയ പുസ്തകങ്ങളുകൾ, എവിടെയോ ഉപേക്ഷിച്ച് ഒഴുക്കിനൊപ്പം ഞാനും സഞ്ചരിച്ചു. പിന്നീടൊരിക്കൽ ഒരു സ്കൂളിൽ വരുമെന്നോ സ്റ്റുജിൻ സൃഷ്ടം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നോ ഒരിക്കലും സങ്കല്പിച്ചിട്ടേയില്ല! എന്നെത്തന്നെ മറന്നുവെച്ച കാലത്തിന്റെ പുസ്തകങ്ങളുകൾ വീണ്ടും തുറന്നപ്പോൾ എന്തൊരു സന്തോഷം. അമ്മയ്ക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെയും ഒരു മുഖമുണ്ടോ എന്ന് മകൾ. ഭാര്യയ്ക്ക് ഇങ്ങനെയും ഒരു കഴിവുണ്ടോ എന്ന് ഭർത്താവ്. വിവാഹം, ജോലി, മക്കൾ എന്നിങ്ങനെ ജീവിതം സ്ഥിരമോടുന്ന വഴികളിലൂടെ ഒഴുകിയ നദിയിൽ ചുഴികളിലും മലരികളിലും അടിഞ്ഞട്ടിലെ ഉരുളൻകല്ലുകളിലും അവശേഷിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്ന സ്വപ്നങ്ങളുകളെ തുത്തുവാരിയെടുത്ത് ഒട്ടിച്ചു ചേർത്താൽ ഇങ്ങനെയൊക്കെ എന്ന് ഞാൻ പോലും ചിന്തിച്ചിരുന്നില്ലല്ലോ! ഇടയ്ക്ക് എപ്പോഴോ 'ഞാൻ' അമ്പിട്ടു പോയിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ സന്തോഷം തോന്നുന്നു. മകന്റെ വിടർന്ന കണ്ണുകളിലും ഭർത്താവിന്റെ പുഞ്ചിരിയിലും ഞാൻ പുനർജനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു!

എന്നെപ്പോലെതന്നെ ബാല്യത്തിന്റെയും കൗമാരത്തിന്റെയും ഇടനാഴികളിൽ പലരും മറന്നുവെച്ച കുറച്ചുപേരെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോൾ പുനർജനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനൊരു അവസരം... നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞു തീർക്കാനാവില്ലതിന്. സ്വയം നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തി മറ്റു ജീവിതങ്ങൾ വാൻതെടുക്കുന്ന ഓരോ അമ്മമാർക്കും ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു ദിവസം നൽകിയതിന് ലോയോളയ്ക്ക് നന്ദി! ഇനിയുമിനിയും ഇത്തരം അവസരങ്ങൾ നൽകുക. ഓരോ അച്ഛനമ്മമാരും അവരെപ്പറ്റിച്ചേർന്നു നിൽക്കുന്ന കുഞ്ഞുജീവനുകൾക്ക് വേണ്ടി മാത്രം സ്വന്തം യൗവ്വനം ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചവരാണ്. എങ്കിലും എല്ലാവരുടെയുമുള്ളിൽ ഇപ്പോഴുമുറങ്ങുന്ന കുട്ടികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി, ഇനിയും ഇനിയും അവസരം നൽകുക. നന്ദി!

മെൽലിൻ ജോർജ്ജ്
M/o Evan Philip Mathew, 3D



സൗന്ദര്യം വാരി വിതരുന്ന ഒരാശയം

മാതാപിതാക്കൾക്കും രക്ഷിതാക്കൾക്കും വേണ്ടി ഒരു കാർണിവൽ നടത്തുമെന്ന വാർത്ത ടെലിഗ്രാമിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ തന്നെ അത് അവരുടെ വാതിലുകളിൽ മുട്ടുന്ന, അപൂർവ്വമായ ഒരു അവസരമായാണ് അന്ന് എനിക്ക് തോന്നിയത്. കല എന്നത് സൗന്ദര്യ ശാസ്ത്രമാണ്. അത് പ്രപഞ്ച നിലനിൽപ്പിന്റെ ശ്രോതസ്സായ സച്ചിതാനന്ദ (സത് ചിത്ത് ആനന്ദ) കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഉറവയായി വന്നെത്തുന്ന ഒരു ഊർജ്ജ പ്രവാഹമാണ്.

കവിത എഴുതാനുള്ള വാസന, ആ ഊർജ്ജത്തിന്റെ ഉറവ, ചെറുപ്പം മുതലേ ലഭിച്ചിരുന്നെങ്കിലും, പലയിടങ്ങളിലായി പല കവിതകളും കുറിച്ചിട്ടിരുന്നെങ്കിലും, അതൊക്കെ സൂക്ഷിച്ചു സമാഹരിക്കാൻ അന്ന് ഞാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. മുൻഗണന ഇല്ലാതെയായിരുന്നു അതിന് കാരണം.

ഇപ്പോൾ കടന്നുപോകുന്ന എന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ മൂന്നാം പുരുഷാർത്ഥ (കാമം) കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ, കുറെയേറെ കവിതകൾ വിരിയുന്ന സാഹചര്യമാണ് നിലവിലുള്ളത്. അവയിൽ ചിലതിന് സംഗീതം നൽകാൻ സുഹൃത്തായ, Dr B വേണുഗോപാലൻ നായർ (സംഗീതത്തിൽ ഡോക്ടറേറ്റ് നേടിയ, തണ്ടർ ബേർഡ്സ് വേണു, എന്ന് സംഗീത സഭിക്കിളിൽ അറിയപ്പെടുന്നയാൾ) സ്വയം സന്നദ്ധനായി. ഇവയിലൊന്ന് ZEST കാർണിവലിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ കിട്ടിയ അവസരം പാഴാവരുത് എന്ന നിർബന്ധ ബുദ്ധി ടെലിഗ്രാം കിട്ടിയ മാതൃകയിൽതന്നെ എന്നിൽ വന്നുരവിച്ചു. തന്നിലൂടെ മൊട്ടിട്ടു വിരിയുന്ന കവിതകൾ താൻ തന്നെ ആസ്വദിക്കുന്നതിനു പുറമെ, മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കായി നിലവിലുള്ള വാക്ടാപ്പ് ഗ്രൂപ്പുകളിൽ ഇടുക പതിവായിരുന്നു. അവിടങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം അത്യാനന്ദം അറിയപ്പെടുന്ന അംഗങ്ങളായിരുന്നു ആസ്വാദകർ. അതുകൊണ്ട് തന്നെ സൃഷ്ടിപരമായ വിമർശനം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന ആസ്വാദനം അവിടങ്ങളിൽ സാധ്യമായിരുന്നില്ല. തന്റെ കവിതകൾക്ക് പുറം ലോകത്തേക്ക് ചിറക് വിരിച്ചു പറക്കുവാനുള്ള അവസരമായി ZEST 2022 നെ ഞാൻ കണ്ടു. പലരേയും പോലെ മുളിപ്പാടിനടക്കാൻ സമർത്ഥനായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും സ്റ്റേജ് ആലാപന മികവിൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ പിന്നിലായിരുന്നു. ഈ കുറവ് ഒരളവോളമെങ്കിലും നികത്താൻ വേണുഗോപാലൻ നായർ സാറിന്റെ സഹായം ഉപകരിച്ചു. സംഭവ ദിവസം അടുക്കുന്നതോടെ ഉത്സാഹവും വർദ്ധിച്ചു വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. സഭാ, ചുണ്ടിൽ കവിതാലാപനം തത്ത്വിക്കളിച്ചു.

ഒരു ഇവന്റ് വിജയകരമാക്കാൻ ഓരോരുത്തരും വഹിക്കുന്ന പങ്ക് വളരെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. അതിൽ നേതൃത്വപരമായ പങ്കിന് അതീവ പ്രാധാന്യവുമുണ്ട്. ഇവിടെ, പരിപാടിയുടെ സമാപനത്തിൽ, നായകനായ മിസ്റ്റർ രാകേഷിനോട് കൂറച്ച് വാക്കുകൾ സംസാരിക്കാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ, ഒരു വാക്കു പോലും ഉരിയാടാതെ ടീമിനെ മുഴുവൻ സ്റ്റേജിലേക്ക് വിളിച്ചു വരുത്തിയ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ നടപടി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വിജയമന്ത്രം എന്താണ് എന്നത് പ്രകടമാക്കി. തന്റെ ടീം അവരുടെ മുമ്പിലുള്ള ദൗത്യം എങ്ങനെ ഇത്ര വിജയകരമായി പൂർത്തിയാക്കിയെന്നത് നാം മനസ്സിലാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യൂ. വാക്കുകളില്ലാതെ വാക്കുകളേക്കാൾ വാചാലമായ പ്രവർത്തിയിലൂടെ മുഴുവൻ ടീമിനും അദ്ദേഹം ക്രെഡിറ്റ് നൽകി. എന്റെ കവിതയിലെ അവസാന ശ്ലോകത്തിലെ ഞാനെന്ന ഭാവമൊട്ടൊന്നു മില്ലാതെ എന്ന വരികൾ ഇവിടെ നായകൻ രാകേഷിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രസക്തമാണ്.

ഇനി, നമുക്ക് സംഭവത്തിന്റെ ആശയം നോക്കാം. 'അത് വളരെ ചലനാത്മകവും, പുതുമയും നവീനത്വവുമുള്ള ഒന്ന്' എന്നതാണ് ഏവരുടെയും പ്രതികരണം. തയ്യാറെടുപ്പിന്റെ ഓരോ ഘട്ടത്തിലും നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന സമഗ്രമായ ഫോളോഅപ്പ് പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ തയ്യാറായ മുഴുവൻ പേരെയും ആവേശഭരിതരാക്കിയിരുന്നു. 2022 നവംബർ 19-ന് ലഭിച്ച വേദി അതിന്റെ ചരിത്രത്തിൽ മുന്നൊരിക്കലും കണ്ടിട്ടില്ലാത്ത ഒരു ശക്തിപ്രവാഹത്തിന് സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിച്ചു.

ക്ഷേണം, ഗെയിമുകൾ, ഫോട്ടോഗ്രാഫി, നഴ്സറി, മറ്റ് കൗണ്ടറുകൾ എന്നിവയുടെ വൈവിധ്യമാർന്ന ക്രമീകരണം എല്ലാവർക്കും ഒരു ഉത്സവാനുഭൂതി നൽകി. വേദിയിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാ ഇനങ്ങളും കലാപരമായ മികവ് പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചു. ഊർജ്ജസ്വലമായ ആവേശം എവിടെയും പ്രകടമായിരുന്നു.

അനിൽ സാർ സമാപനത്തിൽ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചതുപോലെ, പരിപാടി മുഴുവൻ ഉയർന്ന നിലവാരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു കാർണിവലായിട്ടാണ് അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടത്. എന്നാൽ പരിപാടികളിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ പ്രാപ്തരായവരിൽ പത്തു ശതമാനമേ എത്തിയുള്ളൂ എന്നദ്ദേഹം സൂചിപ്പിച്ചത് ഗൗരവമായിട്ടെടുത്ത് ഭാവി ഊർജ്ജ തന്ത്രങ്ങൾ (Divine strategies) ശ്രദ്ധയോടെ നമുക്ക് മെനഞ്ഞെടുക്കാം

ഭാവിയിൽ കൂടുതൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ ലഭ്യമായെ അനുകരിക്കുമെന്ന് തീർച്ചയാണ്.

പ്രായമായവരുടെ പ്രധാന മുൻഗണന ആവേശമേ അർഹിക്കാൻ തീർച്ചയായും നിർമ്മലമായ ആസ്വാദനമാണ്. നമ്മുടെ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് അർഹിക്കാൻ തീർച്ചയായും സന്തോഷകരവുമായ നിമിഷങ്ങൾ കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാനുള്ള ദൈവിക അവസരമാണ് ലൊയോള ZEST

മുഴുവൻ ടീമംഗങ്ങൾക്കും അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾ,

ആദരവോടെ,
ഗണേഷ് വി. സി.
 [അനുരാഗ് N പിള്ളയുടെ (ക്ലാസ് 10 ബി) മുത്തച്ഛൻ]

മധുരസ്കൃതി

ഇക്കഴിഞ്ഞ Zest 22 ൽ Solo Song ന് പങ്കെടുത്ത ഒരു വ്യക്തിയാണു ഞാൻ. കഴിഞ്ഞ ഓക്ടോബറിൽ എന്റെ മകൾ ഇതെക്കുറിച്ച് എന്നോട് സൂചിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇതിനു മുൻപ് ചില വേദികളിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് ഉൽകൃഷ്ടമായ തയ്യാറെടുപ്പുകൾക്കു നടുങ്ങിയിരുന്നില്ല.

ഈ സംരംഭത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുത്ത എല്ലാവരും വളരെ മികച്ച പ്രകടനങ്ങളാണ് കാഴ്ചവച്ചത്. പെന്യമക്കൾ പഠിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാലയത്തിൽ ഒരു പരിപാടിയിൽ നേരിട്ട് പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതിലുള്ള സന്തോഷം വളരെ വലുതാണ്. ഈ പ്രായത്തിൽ ഒരു സാദാസീനു മുൻപിൽ ഒരു പരിപാടി അവതരിപ്പിക്കുക വഴി കിട്ടുന്ന മാനസികവും ശാരീരികവുമായ ഉണർവ് അനിർവചനീയമാണ്. ഈ സംരംഭം വിജയിപ്പിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ച സ്കൂൾ അധികൃതരെയും മറ്റുള്ളവരെയും അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു. ഭാവിയ്ക്ക് ഇത്തരം ഉദ്യമങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും ഉണ്ടാകട്ടെ എന്നും ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു.

പി. രാജീവ്
Grandparent of Vineeth Arun, 1 A



The Upcoming Supplement

LOYOLA INTRAMURAL EXHIBITION