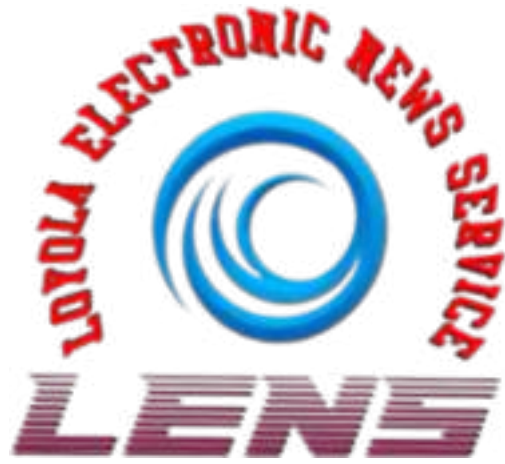


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*From the Principal's Desk*

## **Embarking into Excellence:** **A Vibrant Start to the New Year at Loyola School**

As we begin on a new year, the pages of our journey unfold with enthusiasm and achievement at Loyola School. The inauguration of the Aquatic Complex, a dream project envisioned by Fr Devassy Paul SJ and initiated under the guidance of Fr P.T. Joseph, the former principal of Loyola School, and brought to fruition, now marks a significant milestone. The completion of this Semi-Olympic Swimming Pool is a testament to our commitment to holistic development. It was our honour and privilege to have Fr PT Joseph SJ inaugurate it. Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ our manager blessed the

swimming pool. Additionally, adjacent to the Aquatic Complex, a new play-cum-parking area has been meticulously crafted, enhancing the overall infrastructure of our esteemed institution.

Republic Day was celebrated with fervour, reflecting our commitment to patriotism and national pride. However, one of the most remarkable initiatives took centre stage this year. In collaboration with the Guinness World Record-winning Lifeology, the Central Board of Secondary Education launched the National Guidance Festival 2023-24. This prestigious event, which seamlessly integrated the much-acclaimed Skill Expo, began its journey in New Delhi on 19 September. The grand finale, hosted at Trivandrum Loyola School on 12th January 2024, was a historic moment for us. It was the first time such a programme was conducted in Kerala, and Loyola School earned accolades for its facilities and the active involvement of our students and teachers in the programme.

In a bid to provide practical exposure, our students had the unique opportunity to visit ISRO and Milma Dairy for field experiences. These hands-on encounters not only enriched their understanding but also sparked curiosity and inspiration.

The senior-grade students are currently immersed in board practical exams and pre-board model exams, navigating the challenges with resilience. May God continue to bless them on this academic journey, guiding them toward success and growth.

A highlight of the month was the visit of Fr John Ravi SJ, Conference Secretary for Jesuit Schools Education. His address to LOBA and JAAK executive members, staff, and students in separate meetings left an indelible impact. Fr John Ravi emphasized the importance of never forgetting the poor and encouraged our students to be men and women for others. His words resonate as a guiding light, inspiring us to instil compassion and social responsibility in the hearts of our young Loyolites.

As we embrace the achievements and challenges of the past month, we look forward to the continued growth and success of Loyola School. The dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our parents and former students propel us towards a future filled with promise and accomplishment.

**Fr Salvin Augustine, SJ**

# LOYOLITES IN THE LIMELIGHT



## **Ashwin Raj Pradeep, IX C & Ananthakrishnan L., IX A**

teamed up to win the Second Prize and Cash Award of Rs. 10,000 in COGNIZANCE (Quiz) at Christ Nagar College, Maranalloor. Also, they won the First Prize in the Medi Amrithakaran quiz competition, organized by the Kerala Government Medical Officers' Association.

Ananthakrishnan continued his winning spree by securing the First Rank in the State-level examination of Vidyarthi Vign Manthan 2023-24 organised by Vijnana Bharati in association with NCSM and NCERT



## **Megha R., XI B**

First in UAP All-Kerala Painting Competition organized by the Kerala Jesuit Society



## **Ishaan Sajay, IX B & Vaishnav A. Nair, IX A**

teamed up to win the Third Prize and Cash Award of Rs. 5,000 in COGNIZANCE (Quiz) at Christ Nagar College, Maranalloor.

In the Science Talent Exam conducted by the Department of Physics, Mar Ivanios College, Vaishnav A. Nair secured the First Prize and Ishaan Sajay secured the Third Prize.



## **Ram Gopi, IX B**

Second Position in the Science Talent Examination conducted by the Department of Physics, Mar Ivanios College



**Abhiraj A., X A1**

*Kalaprathibha* title at *Nadam Kerala School Kalolsavam*,  
1st in *Kadhprasangam* at *Sargolsavam*, and  
3rd in *Srishupadam* (Mal. Recitation)



**Leonn Tom, V B**

secured the 1<sup>st</sup> place in Freestyle and Backstroke, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Butterfly Stroke at All Kerala Swimming Competition organized by Onattukara Sports Academy and contributed to the team's 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the Group Relay event. Also, he secured the Second Place in 50 m Backstroke, and Third Place in 50 m Butterfly Stroke, 50 m Freestyle, and 200 m Freestyle at iSwim Meet organized by the Glenmark Aquatic Federation at Lakshmbai National College of Physical Education, Trivandrum.



**Amrithavarshan Prasanth Pillai, V B**

2<sup>nd</sup> Position in the under 1600 rating category at the 6<sup>th</sup> Kudremukh FIDE-rated Rapid Tournament held in Mangalore on January 6-7, 2024



**Ishan S., VI D, Neellesh Manub, VI D and Manav A. Rejith, VIII A**

First Position in Kerala State Interschool Team Chess Championship 2024 in the category 3 (LKG to Std. XII) held on 25 & 26 January 2024 at Thrikkakara Municipal Community Hall, Kakkannad, Ernakulam



**Abhaidev S. S., VI A**

Bronze medal in the 35<sup>th</sup> Trivandrum District Jr Open Karate Tournament



**Devarsh B., VII B**

Selected to Trivandrum District Cricket Association U-14 Team



**Kishan Kumar, VI A1 & Niranjan Nair, VI A1**

won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in Category 2 Still Model at the CBSE Interschool Science Exhibition at Navajeevan Bethany Vidyalaya School, Nalanchira

# WINNERS IN ST THOMAS INTER-SCHOOL ROBOTICS COMPETITION

## FIRST IN BATTLE BOT ADVANCED & THIRD IN EXHIBITION (SENIORS)



Rishi Gogoi, IX B1



Ishan Abhilash, IX B1



Jack Mathews, IX A1

## FIRST IN FASTEST LINE FOLLOWER



Aaron Renji Mathew, VIII B



Pranav P. S., VIII B



Devaraaj Kishore Menon VII B

## SECOND IN ROBOTIC EXHIBITION (JUNIORS)



Vasudev S., VIII B



Devadarshan R., VIII B



Abhinav A. Chandra, VIII B



# LOYOLA AQUATIC COMPLEX

*Another Feather in Our Cap*

Keshav Balachandran, VII B



**A year ago**, Loyola embarked on a journey, initiated by our former Principal, Fr P.T. Joseph SJ. A major outcome of his initiative is the new Aquatic Complex and Parking-cum-Play Area. On 16th January 2024, the blessing of the new complex was held in the presence of the Rector and Manager of Loyola Institutions, Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ, former Principal Fr P.T. Joseph SJ, Principals Fr Salvin Augustine SJ and Fr Roy Alex SJ, PTA and LOBA representatives, teachers and students.

The ceremony commenced with the ribbon cutting by Fr P.T. Joseph SJ. This was followed by blessing of the new Aquatic Complex by the Rector Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ. Harmony permeated the air when the prayer song was sung by Pranav P. Nair of VII C. Ashin Anil of IX B1 formally welcomed the dignitaries and the members of the audience. Then the presidential address was delivered by Fr. Sunny Kunnappallil SJ who reminded everyone of all the blessings we enjoy. Next, in his inaugural address, Fr P.T. Joseph SJ expressed his happiness in being able to share such a special moment at Loyola.

The workers of the Aquatic Complex were acknowledged and felicitated by Fr Salvin Augustine SJ, at the function, for their hard work and dedication. Fr Salvin also addressed the students and said that he hoped to see everyone utilize the new facility well. The PTA President, Mr. Rakesh Kumar and the former LOBA President, Mr Renjith R. addressed the gathering. Master Abhinand M. Nair, the Asst. School leader, formally thanked everyone for their presence. The ceremony ended with the school anthem.

As Loyolites, we are proud that our school is home to a Semi-Olympic swimming pool along with a baby pool too.





Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ blessing the Aquatic Complex



Fr Salvin Augustine SJ



Mr Renjith Raveendran



Fr P. T. Joseph SJ cutting the ribbon



Mr Rakesh Kumar



Memento of appreciation to the contractor Mr Antony Joseph and the site engineer Mr Justine George



# Visit of Fr John Ravi SJ

Conference Secretary for Jesuit School Education in South Asia

Mary Titus Mathew



The members of staff and students of Loyola School were privileged to listen to Fr John Ravi SJ, the Conference Secretary for Jesuit School Education in South Asia, during his visit to the school on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The session for students in the morning was more like an interactive one with Fr John Ravi asking questions to which students responded. During the assembly for the students in the morning, Fr Ravi spoke about the need to make the classroom a place where students discover themselves and how they should strive to excel as human beings thus improving their holistic performance. He urged the children to have a passion for what they do, despite living in a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) world, and to work hard as the quality of life depends on the passion with which one lives one's life. He touched on the fact that one can find one's passion by the attitude he has. Fr Ravi reminded the students of the need to have compassion and kindness towards the needy. In response to one of the questions posed by a student about his passion in life, he said that he developed a passion to serve after seeing many people suffer. A number of students came forward with their queries which were answered by him in a satiating way.

The meeting with teachers, in the afternoon, was also an interactive session. He elicited responses from the listeners about their experience as teachers and urged them to take time for and care of themselves. He reminded them of the importance in creating a happy, conducive atmosphere for children in class. He requested them to establish and strengthen interpersonal relationships. He told them about the importance of taking time with God as it is only God's grace that helps us move on with strength.

The content of Fr John Ravi's messages was an eye-opener for some and a reminder for some others. Summing up, the powerful message we can infer from his words is that we should strive for excellence for God's greater glory and still remain humble and compassionate till the end.



# REPUBLIC DAY

## *Celebrations at Loyola School*



During the celebration of Republic Day 2024, our school campus brimmed with patriotic enthusiasm and a feeling of pride filled us. The NCC cadets headed by our ANO Chief Officer Anilkumar R. led the way in arranging a noteworthy celebration. The esteemed chief guests for the occasion were Frs Salvin Augustine SJ, Roy Alex SJ and Shelton SJ who were smoothly guided to the dais with accuracy and discipline by two committed NCC cadets, C/Sgt Ishaan Sajay and C/Sgt Ananthakrishnan L.

The proceedings began with the unfurling of the national flag, a representation of unity and freedom. The entire gathering stood in respectful silence as the tricolour waved with pride in the air, harmonized by the emotionally resonant melodies of the national anthem.

C/Sgt Ananthakrishnan L., with eloquence and poise, delivered a warm and heartfelt welcome speech, setting the tone for the festivities. Following this, the felicitation speech in English by C/Sgt Adithya R. added a touch of linguistic diversity, while the Hindi felicitation speech was delivered by Cadet Vismay Sajin.

The highlight of the event was the inspiring speech by Fr Roy Alex SJ, the chief guest, who shared insightful thoughts and words of encouragement with the assembled students and cadets. His words resonated



with the spirit of the occasion, emphasizing the significance of the day in the context of our nation's history and values.

The assembly was orchestrated by Cadet Vaishnav A. Nair, the MC, who ensured a smooth flow of events and engaged the audience with enthusiasm.

After the speeches, the NCC cadets, under the command of C/Sgt Adithya R., showcased their discipline and precision in a well-coordinated parade. The rhythmic procession, precise formations, and synchronized motions mirrored the disciplined training and dedication invested by the cadets.

The day not only signified the celebration of the nation's sovereignty but also presented a chance for the school community to unite in a collective essence of pride and togetherness.

The celebration made a lasting impression on the hearts of all participants. The NCC cadets demonstrated their dedication, orderliness, and love for their country, turning the occasion into a notable

achievement. The reverberations of the parade and the inspirational words are sure to stay with those present, encouraging a deeper understanding of the principles our esteemed nation upholds.

**Jai Hind!**

**C/Sgt Adithya R.**





# MEET OUR ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH



**Randeep Hari**

Randeep Hari is a proud alumnus of the 1993 ISC batch. His brother, Ranjit Hari, too shares the Loyolite legacy, belonging to the SSLC batch of 1989. During his school years, Randeep distinguished himself as the captain of the basketball team, leading it to victory in the memorable Loyola Cup clash against arch-rivals St. Thomas School. His leadership also extended to being the captain of SS House.

Randeep pursued Electrical and Electronics Engineering at CET and then embarked on a corporate journey with esteemed IT giants such as HP, Intel, and Centurion Link. In 2008, he transitioned from the corporate world, venturing into e-Learning and Development startups. This period also saw him exploring his love for trekking in the Himalayas.

Driven by a profound passion for the mountains and the outdoors, Randeep's journey culminated in the founding of Cafe Buransh. Nestled in the picturesque village of Sari in Uttarakhand at an altitude of 6600 feet, it is the ideal hang-out for anyone who loves to live in harmony with nature, and the perfect base camp for hiking to Deoria Tal or trekking to the mighty Chandrashila and the Panch Kedars. This boutique cafe and stay reflects Randeep's dedication to providing a unique mountain living experience.



# National Guidance Festival & Skill Expo

**Sruthy Sreekumar**



In a landmark initiative, the Central Board of Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Guinness World Record Winning Lifology, launched the National Guidance Festival 2023-'24. This prestigious event, integrating the much-acclaimed Skill Expo, began its journey on 19 September 2023, in New Delhi. The festival culminated in the grand finale at Trivandrum Loyola School on 12 January 2024.

The festival's journey that commenced in New Delhi set a precedent for the events that followed. The Delhi segment witnessed the participation of luminaries such as Mr Sanjay Kumar IAS, Secretary SE&L, Ministry of Education, Ms Nidhi Chhibber IAS, Chairperson of CBSE, Prof. Dinesh Saklani, Director of NCERT, and Dr Biswajit Saha, Director of Skill Education at CBSE. The event was further enriched by sessions from industry leaders like Mr M. K. Anand, MD and CEO of the Times Group, Mr Mohit Soni, CEO of the Media & Entertainment SSC, Prof. T. G. Sitaram, Chairman of AICTE, and Mr Bala Iyer, Vice President of Reliance Jio.

As the festival moved through cities like Chennai, Bangalore, Guwahati, and Varanasi, each location added its unique flavour to the event. In Bangalore, the focus was on 'Future Tech' and its implications for education and career choices. In Chennai,

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*The author is Assistant Manager at Lifology who doubles as Social Media Manager too.*

the emphasis was on the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern education. In Guwahati, the highlight was on the role of local knowledge and skills in global development. In Rajasthan, the focus was on 'Local to Global' strategies, while in Varanasi, it was on blending heritage with contemporary education.

The finale at Trivandrum Loyola School synthesized the knowledge and insights gathered from across the nation. It was a celebration of knowledge, skills, and diversity, providing a fitting conclusion to this national odyssey.

The Festival welcomed a diverse group of participants, ranging from students of classes 7 to 12, principals, heads of institutions, government officials, corporate representatives, and parents. The festival nurtured creativity, innovation, and peer learning among students and educators, aligning with industry and societal needs.



Arrival of students from across the country: Reception, Registration and Refreshments



The Skill Expo, a cornerstone of the festival, delved into themes like 'Local to Global', 'Future Tech', 'Health and Wellness', 'Hospitality & Tourism', 'Sustainability & Environmental Conservation', and the 'AVGC Sector'. These themes were carefully chosen to reflect the evolving global scenario and to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The finale of National Guidance Festival at Loyola School was a

spectacular event marked by the esteemed presence of luminaries like the former ISRO Chairman Padma Vibhushan Dr. Madhavan Nair, Dr Biswajit Saha of CBSE, Mr R.V. Balasubramaniam Iyer from Jio Platforms Ltd, and Brigadier Salil M.P. from the Indian Army. Their invaluable insights and leadership greatly enriched the festival's spirit of educational excellence.

Adding to the grandeur of the finale, we were honoured by the presence of Mr Sathish Pahal, Deputy Secretary of CBSE, and the principals of Loyola School, Frs Roy Alex SJ and Salvin Augustine SJ. Rahul J. Nair, Director of Lifology, symbolized the collaborative essence that made this festival a reality.

The festival also featured several 'Career Gurukuls' like Robotics Gurukul, AR/VR Gurukul, and Humanities Gurukul. These interactive sessions offered children the opportunity to learn directly from experts in these fields.

These Gurukuls were more than just workshops; they were incubators of future skills, where students engaged



Brigadier Salil M. P. being ushered in to Loyola Indoor Stadium



The luminaries on the first row just before the start of the formal inauguration



Loyola School (CBSE) Principal Fr Roy Alex SJ, Director of Lifology Mr Rahul J. Nair, CBSE Deputy Secretary Mr Sathish Pahal, Vice President of Jio Platforms Ltd Mr R. V. Balasubramaniam Iyer, Former ISRO Chairman Padma Vibhushan Dr. G. Madhavan Nair, CBSE Director Dr. Biswajit Saha, CBSE Regional Director Mr Mahesh Dharmadhikari, Rector of Loyola Institutions Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ, and Loyola School Principal Fr Salvin Augustine SJ



Lighting the traditional floor lamp



Padma Vibhushan Dr. G. Madhavan Nair



Mr Sathish Pahal,



Mr R. V. Balasubramaniam Iyer



Fr Roy Alex SJ

with cutting-edge technologies and explored diverse disciplines under the guidance of seasoned professionals. It was a unique chance for young minds to dive deep into areas like robotics, augmented and virtual reality, and humanities, gaining hands-on experience and valuable knowledge.

The National Guidance Festival truly was a celebration of knowledge, skills, and diversity, providing a fitting conclusion to this national odyssey of learning and cultural exchange.

The partnership with Lifology and CBSE's role in orchestrating this festival is monumental. It reflects the board's vision of integrating skill development into mainstream education, preparing students not just academically but also for real-world challenges.





Mr Mahesh Dharmadhikari



Dr. Biswajit Saha



Brigadier Salil M. P.

It is heartening that the culmination event brought on to Loyola campus around 1500 students from 25 schools in addition to many students from across the country with their exhibits and all of them felt at home and returned with rich experience and happy memories.





# A TOUR OF SKILL EXPO





*PARENTS' CORNER*

**ZEST '23**

**PARENTS' CARNIVAL**

# ZEST '23

## Harmonizing Rhythms and Spreading Smiles



S. Rakesh Kumar



On 18 November 2023, Loyola campus transformed itself into a lively arena for *Zest '23*, the Parents' Carnival that harmonized rhythms and spread smiles. It turned out to be a memorable day of celebration filled with joy, laughter, and togetherness.

The inaugural ceremony began with the welcome address by the PTA President followed by the inaugural speech of Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ, the Rector and Manager of Loyola Institutions. The Principals of the ISC and CBSE schools, Fr Salvin Augustine SJ and Fr Roy Alex SJ felicitated the PTA initiative. A solemn part of the formal function was the lighting of the floor-lamp by the grandparents.

The official launch of *Zest '23* by Fr Salvin was followed by a range of events that entertained the attendees throughout the day which witnessed an impressive turnout with nearly 1000 footfalls. From cultural performances in the indoor stadium to a medical wellness camp and a blood donation drive in the ISC block, *Zest '23* offered a plethora of activities for everyone.

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

The programme brought on to the stage a large number of parents who performed in 52 events that comprised solo and group items. Congratulations to all the participants on their acclaimed acts that stood out for their professional excellence.

The Medical Wellness Camp and the Blood Donation Camp were hugely successful on account of the collaboration of the partners, RCC Medical College and PRS-Karkinos Cancer Centre. 47 persons made use of the free checkup and 30 people donated blood.

The *Threads of Hope* clothing drive collected 35 items, contributing significantly to a noble cause.

*The Medical Wellness Camp and the Blood Donation Camp were hugely successful on account of the collaboration of the partners, RCC Medical College and PRS-Karkinos Cancer Centre.*

The Business Stalls and Panoramic Junction offered a delightful experience for everyone. The *Galaxia Game Zone*, and the food stalls run by the teachers and students deserve a special mention for adding a unique flavour to the carnival.

Special appreciation goes to the teachers, NCC boys, uncles, and aunties whose dedicated efforts and participation elevated the carnival to new heights.

My heartfelt acknowledgment goes to *Zest* host team who tirelessly worked for the success of the event. Last but not least, a huge thank you to ACV for the excellent coverage of the programme.

*Zest '23* was a celebration that not only brought joy to many families but also made a positive impact on the community. Let us carry forward the spirit of togetherness and continue spreading smiles in the days to come.





Rector Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ



Principal Fr Salvin Augustine SJ



PTA President Rakesh Kumar



Principal (CBSE) Fr Roy Alex SJ



Parents, grandparents and great grandparents after lighting the lamp



Perfect rendition of the School Anthem by the parents

# A GRAND CARNIVAL

*of Unity, Triumph, and Endless Possibilities*

Sree Lekshmi S. L.

*As a first-timer in the Loyola parent community, I was initially apprehensive about the level of participation and how the events would unfold. Despite hearing numerous success stories of Zest '23, I wanted to experience firsthand how the events would transpire and eagerly waited for 18 November for Zest '23.*



Certain buildings seem destined to frame beautiful scenes through all their windows, while some events carry a touch of magic by an unseen force, making them memorable and their next episode looked forward to. *Zest* is one such event where an invisible hand adds a dash of wonder, transforming it into pure magic. *Zest '23* undoubtedly harmonized the rhythms of a group of people who consistently go the extra mile to share smiles with those in need.

As a first-timer in the Loyola community, I was initially apprehensive about the level of participation and how the events would unfold. Despite hearing many success stories of *Zest '23*, I wanted to experience firsthand how the events would transpire and eagerly waited for 18 November for *Zest '23*.

*Zest '23* was more than just a cultural event; it was an endeavor to contribute our share of light to the community around us. The overarching objective was to raise funds, from registration fees and the various other events, to add to the larger initiative taken by Loyola School to construct houses for

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The writer is the mother of Madhav Aravind of LKG A

two non-teaching staff members. Additionally, there was a clothes collection drive for those in dire need and a blood donation camp to save lives.

I consistently try to maintain internal clarity regarding the purpose of any action we undertake, evaluating whether the efforts and time invested are worthwhile. In an era in which numerous options exist for people to unite and interact, the involvement of Loyola parents should transcend being a mere association of parents; it should set unique examples. One rationale I have for this commitment is a thought: What about individuals who, during their school days, yearned to participate in art events or learn music, dance, or other art forms but couldn't for whatever reason? Perhaps they always sought a platform to showcase their skills but never found one. Now, as they are settled in their lives and are able to acquire these skills, where is the platform for them to showcase their talents? What if those who were actively participating in all events during their school days, lost a space to showcase their talent at a later part of their life, when life got busy? *Zest '23* emerges as a perfect remedy for both these scenarios. This realization led me to understand that regardless of the time we need to invest, being a part of this initiative is going to be valuable!

From the day I joined *Zest '23* host team, I witnessed many examples of hard work, dedication, and constant effort in achieving excellent results in a voluntary initiative. Despite



**Team Mazhamohini: Gayathri V. S., Shruthi Gopinatha, and Emy Jacob Fernandez**

*From the day I joined  
Zest '23 Host Team, I  
witnessed examples  
of hard work, dedication,  
and constant effort in  
achieving excellent results  
in a voluntary initiative.*

being busy with their personal and professional lives, parents invested time, energy, and effort in regular practices, fine-tuning their skills to perform in front of a large audience. Their commitment ensured that these weren't just passion-driven performances but attempts that could compete with professional-level initiatives within the same spectrum.

There were numerous entries for cultural programme and we shortlisted 51 items for the final performance. The event commenced at around 9 AM with a prayer, followed by the welcome address by the PTA President Mr Rakhesh Kumar. This was followed by the inaugural address by Rev Fr. Sunny Kunnappallil, SJ (Rector & Manager), and eloquent speeches by Rev Fr Salvin Augustine, SJ and Rev Fr. Roy Alex, SJ, and by the Staff Secretary Ms Sonia Rajendran. The lighting of the lamp ceremony was performed by a group of grandparents, creating a sight to behold.

The first performance featured a *Mobiniyattam* by three beautiful dancers, paying homage to the *Sagara Shayanan* of Thiruvananthapuram, serving as an enchanting precursor to the elegance that would unfold throughout the event. The captivating aura created by this dance resonated through all the subsequent performances. The programme showcased beautiful songs sung by both parents and grandparents, an *Oppana* that transported us to a typical Malabari household, providing a vivid experience of being in a *Kalayana Veedu*. Also, there were performances of *Thiruvathira*, speeches based on life experiences, group songs, group dances, a poignant song on *Chbath Puja* accompanied by beautiful visuals in the background, a vibrant dance by the teachers and numerous other scintillating acts. The auditorium transformed into nothing short of an opera hall on that day, and every face beamed with pride as their respective events unfolded.

Beyond the auditorium, a diverse array of events ran concurrently. *Threads of Hope*, our clothes collection drive, received an overwhelming response with numerous well-packed clothes in excellent condition. *Health Horizon*, featuring a Medical Wellness & Early Cancer Detection Camp, drew a substantial turnout. The blood donation camp saw enthusiastic participation, while *Panoramic Junction* captured 360-degree photos of attendees. The food courts, skillfully managed by both teachers and students, offered delectable cuisine, and the engaging game zones kept everyone entertained.

Parents had the opportunity to set up business stalls, and the registration form for these stalls was shared well in advance across class groups, resulting in an excellent response to this opportunity.

By the time the programme concluded, everyone felt that we had accomplished something truly monumental, equivalent to a grand carnival. This event was truly led by a visionary captain who understood the potential for challenges and deficiencies. He reminded his team not to be demotivated if something went wrong, and a group of parents rallied behind him with a selfless motive. The shared passion and the remarkable efforts invested were nothing short of 'Wow.' Managing different sets of parents with strong opinions is no easy task, and this is where the programme achieved immense success. The division of responsibilities among various teams, coordination efforts, discerning what is best for each group, and ensuring that there was someone to address every question or query that arose that day all contributed to the success of the programme.

The school management's contribution to this success is unparalleled. As Fr Roy Alex SJ highlighted in his speech, *the school took care of the children till 4 p.m. and then took care of the parents after 4 p.m.* All doors were open for practice during the evening hours, with no restrictions on anything, and parents always felt supported. Fr Salvin Augustine SJ's contribution to the event is extraordinary. He actively participated in planning meetings, provided valuable feedback, and had a clear understanding of why we should have Zest '23. This symbiotic relationship between the management and parents truly created a wonder of collaboration and success.

The event received support from various media outlets, with ACV present throughout the event, engaging with multiple stakeholders, covering different venues, and ensuring that the purity of this idea is effectively conveyed to the outside world. Anil Sir's thank-you notes beautifully encapsulate the vibrant energy, unwavering passion, and visionary spirit that defined the







essence of the event. His words serve as a fitting tribute to the collective effort and enthusiasm that made *Zest '23* an unforgettable experience.

As the final notes of *Zest '23* fade away, we find ourselves immersed in the afterglow of a grand carnival that transcended boundaries. Fuelled by the passion of parents, fortified by the unwavering support of the school management, and enriched by the diverse contributions of many, *Zest '23* will be etched in our memories as a testament to collective dedication.



As we eagerly await the encore in *Zest '24*, we carry forward the responsibility that success begets. Beyond being an event, *Zest* has become a symbol of what can be achieved when a community unites with a shared purpose. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to all who contributed, to every stakeholder, and to the media outlets that broadcasted the essence of *Zest '23* to the world.



May the coming chapters of *Zest* unfold with even greater vibrancy, collaboration, and triumph, showcasing the enduring spirit of the Loyola community. Until we gather again for next year's carnival of camaraderie and creativity, let the echoes of *Zest '23* linger, inspiring us to reach new heights together.



# A Spectacle of Talent, Unity, and Unforgettable Moments

Sindhu Chendurpandian

*Despite setbacks, such as a group withdrawing due to injuries, parents exhibited resilience and put on a splendid show on the grand stage. Zest not only rekindled memories of school and college days but also became a family affair, drawing in grandparents who enthusiastically cheered for their children.*



As the academic year unfolded, the eagerly awaited question on every parent's lips was: *When is Zest '23?* The buzz intensified in the month of August, with inquiries pouring in as many parents eagerly awaited the announcement of the event date. A pivotal conversation with Fr Salvin Augustine paved the way for *Zest* to return for its second year, on condition that it would bring something new and refreshing to the table.

Embracing the challenge, the organizing committee embarked on a journey to infuse innovation into the beloved *Zest* while preserving its core essence. The journey began with a talent form distributed to all parents, revealing a trove of hidden talents that had long been dormant.

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The writer is the mother of Sobhan Indra Kumar of VII C

The pool of multitalented individuals, ranging from those who paused their pursuits in college to others who left their passions behind in school, set the stage for an exciting exploration.

Fuelled by the enthusiasm generated from the talent form responses, the organizing committee reached out to those eager to contribute. New faces, both organizers and participants, emerged, breathing new life into the Zest tradition. To enrich the event further, traditional dance was introduced, bridging the generation gap and ensuring that the younger audience remained connected to their cultural roots. A pivotal decision to limit parental participation to one event streamlined the planning process, letting the committee chart out the programme seamlessly. The date was set, but the challenge remained:

how to recapture the magic of anticipation and surprise. The collective solution came in the form of a flash mob. Choosing the school's Sports Day as the perfect backdrop, the flash mob not only surprised the students, teachers, LOBA members and parents, but injected an element of mystery and excitement into the upcoming event. Kept under wraps, the flash mob became a testament to the dedication of parents who practised tirelessly, turning novices into seasoned performers. On November 11, 2023, at 11:00 am, Loyola bore witness to a ground-breaking flash mob, sparking conversations across town and setting the perfect stage for Zest '23.

Simultaneously, participating groups poured their hearts into rigorous practice sessions, transforming the school into a hub of activity after school hours and on weekends. Despite setbacks, such as a group withdrawing

due to injuries, parents exhibited resilience and put on a splendid show on the grand stage. Zest '23 not only rekindled memories of school and college days but also became a family affair, drawing in grandparents who enthusiastically cheered for their children. The event seamlessly blended entertainment with social responsibility, featuring stalls by Loyola parent entrepreneurs, medical camps for parents and teachers, and a blood donation drive. These drives underscored the event's commitment to community welfare. The introduction of a 360 camera added a contemporary touch,

providing attendees with a unique and immersive experience.

The success of Zest '23 would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of committee members, participating teams and

our parents who took time to be part as audience. From registrations to backstage coordination, media management to crisis resolution, each committee played a pivotal role. While Zest'23 spanned just one day, the month-long preparations for parents created lasting memories and forged new friendships, strengthening LPG, the Loyola Parents Group. Zest '23 reminded us that with the right group of committed and passionate individuals, success is inevitable. In short, Zest '23 was not just a showcase of parental talents; it was a celebration of community spirit, creativity, and camaraderie that will be etched in the hearts and minds of Loyola families for years to come.

Kudos to the organizers, participants, and everyone who contributed to making Zest '23 a resounding success!

*Zest '23 was not just a showcase of parental talents; it was a true celebration of community spirit, creativity, and camaraderie that will be etched in the hearts and minds of Loyola families for years to come.*

# ZEST '23: A BLESSED TOGETHERNESS

Yogesh B. Nair



*Zest '23* emerged as a resounding success, transforming Loyola School into a vibrant arena of togetherness on 18 November. Under the theme *Harmonizing Rhythms and Spreading Smiles*, the carnival unfolded with a diverse range of entertainment programmes, including cultural performances, a medical wellness camp, and a blood donation drive.

The event boasted impressive participation, attracting nearly 1000 attendees. The Medical Wellness Camp successfully served 47 participants, and the Blood Donation Camp received contributions from 30 generous donors. The *Threads of Hope* clothing drive, aimed at supporting those in need, collected 35 items, making a significant impact.

Collaborations with partners RCC, PRS Karkinos, and ACV added to the success of *Zest '23*, enriching the experience for the attendees. The Business Stalls, Panoramic Junction, Food Courts, and Games Zones offered a delightful and engaging atmosphere.

Grateful appreciation is due to teachers, NCC boys, uncles, and aunties for their dedicated efforts and participation, elevating the carnival to new heights.

As *Zest '23* came to a close, it left a lasting impact not only on the families in attendance but also on the broader community. The success of the celebration serves as an incentive to carry forward the spirit of togetherness and continue spreading smiles in the days to come.

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The writer is the father of Aakarsh Yogesh Nair of XII A

# A Delightful EXPERIENCE

Renju V. R.



*Zest* is an initiative of the PTA supported by Loyola School management. For the second consecutive year, the programme turned out to be a roaring success because the people behind it did such a wonderful job to plan and implement it and the performers put all their hearts into their respective acts.

As a mother I am quite happy and proud that I got an opportunity to go onstage and sing a Malayalam song in front of an audience that included my own son. I am so delighted by the experience that I look forward to such a chance in the next edition of *Zest*.

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The writer is the mother of Abhay A. R. of V B

# *Beyond Celebration,* Towards **Social Impact**

Abhilash A. R.



*Zest '23* was a vibrant carnival that not only showcased the talents of Loyola parents but also nurtured a sense of community spirit. The event transcended the realm of creativity, incorporating initiatives focused on social responsibility and healthcare awareness, weaving harmonious rhythms, and spreading smiles throughout the school community.

*Zest '23* commenced with a dazzling display of talents, as parents stole the spotlight by exhibiting their skills in a variety of acts. From singing and dancing performances to skits and games, they actively participated, showcasing their diverse skills and bringing joy to everyone present.

### **Give the Gift of Life: Blood Donation Camp**

In collaboration with the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) Trivandrum, *Zest '23* hosted a Blood Donation Camp under the theme *Give the Gift of Life*. The school community, including parents, teachers, and staff rallied together to donate blood, contributing to a noble cause that can save lives. This initiative aimed at raising awareness about the importance of blood donation and contributing towards saving lives, highlighting Loyola School's commitment to social responsibility and strengthening ties with healthcare partners dedicated to the well-being of the broader community.

### **Prioritizing Health and Wellbeing**

In collaboration with PRS-KARKINOS Cancer Centre, *Zest '23* organized a comprehensive Medical Camp. This camp offered a range of free services, including:

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The writer is the father of Gautham Abhilash of VII B

- **Cancer Screenings:** Providing early detection opportunities for breast and oral cancer.
- **Awareness Sessions:** Educating the community about early detection, prevention, and treatment options.
- **Medical Consultations:** Offering personalized health advice and addressing concerns.
- **Diagnostic Tests:** Facilitating blood sugar and ECG tests for a holistic health assessment. This initiative aimed not only to promote physical well-being but also to foster a culture of proactive health management within the Loyola School community.

### Threads of Hope: Weaving a Warmth of Support

The empathy of Loyola School reached new heights with the Threads of Hope Clothing Collection Drive, conducted in conjunction with *Zest '23*. Parents and

students contributed generously by donating gently-used clothes. The collected items were then distributed to those in need, spreading warmth and hope within the community. This drive symbolized the commitment to nurturing empathetic and socially responsible individuals who understand the significance of collective efforts in creating positive change.

*Zest '23* proved to be an exemplary event that successfully combined celebration, social responsibility, and healthcare awareness. The commitment to community welfare and the celebration of talent within the school community solidified the success of the event, making it a memorable and impactful experience for all involved. The echoes of *Zest '23* will undoubtedly resonate as a beacon of inspiration for years to come.



# Crafting Dreams with Zest

Sameera Alex



In our busy lives, we teamed up for *Zest* to showcase our talents. Balancing work and family, we faced the challenge together. As a team, we practised in the evenings and brainstormed on weekends, putting everything into our shared dream. Our kids cheered us on, saying: *Go for it, Mom*. Their belief pushed us past every obstacle. Even in chaos, our families stood strong, supporting us through it all. During *Zest* preparations, our shopping days brought laughter. Forming separate groups, we selected dresses, earrings, bangles, and more. Each group's inclusive choices brought us together, strengthening our unity and creating valuable memories. Our school's commitment to helping others is evident, using *Zest* proceeds for charity. This adds meaning to our celebrations, reinforcing kindness values in our school. Happy to take part, we played a small role in this good cause. Much more than a showcase, it was a heartfelt effort to make a difference. Thanks to the *Zest* conductors, our school, and everyone involved for creating an event that truly gives back. We have rediscovered our old talents and now encourage all parents and grandparents to join for the next *Zest* programme. Let's unite and give it our best. As *Zest '23* concludes, we'll treasure these moments. Looking forward to the next *Zest*.

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The writer is the mother of Ivaan S. Alex of III A and Nathal S. Alex of UKG D





Aiswarya S., M/o Arnav A. of III A; Athira Gopan, M/o Adhav D. Nair, III A; Sameera Alex; Sreelakshmi J., M/o Abhinav Anildeep Nair of III A; Kshemada, M/o Shankara of III A; Sini Alex, M/o Evan Alex Petta of III A

# A Dream Got Wings



**Lekshmi Raj**

*Zest* emerged initially as a helping hand to our beloved staff mainly through uncovering the talents of the parents and grandparents. It changed many dreams to reality and turning points in many lives. When I attended *Zest '22*, I was totally disappointed as I was not in a condition to participate due to health issues. But I got a chance to step on to that dream platform of Loyola School as I gave the correct answer to a questions meant for the audience. It was a great moment for me when I was asked to say a few words about myself and my children. That was a proud moment for a mother to tell about the little one who is studying at Loyola and the one who stepped down proudly from the school as the Best Loyolite and the School Leader in 2021-'22 and secured the third position at the school and the eighth rank at the national level in the ISC exam. I could feel the presence of my three strong boys as all of them grew up here performed on this great platform. As I stepped down that stage I made a decision that I would participate in *Zest '23*.

I constantly checked with PTA members regarding *Zest '23* and when I got the entry form, in excitement I filled in many items like dance, song, recitation etc. But I was asked to select only one and I selected dance as I had studied one earlier. I was so excited as this would be my first solo performance on stage in front of such a big audience. I have had a great passion for dance and music from childhood days, but not been able to study or perform. I was so confident of the dance bit I knew. But just a week or two before *Zest '23*, I was asked to change the song for dance as the same one was selected by another

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The writer is the mother of Abhinav Krishnan of VIII A

group. I was totally disappointed and confused about what to do and decided to drop this and go for a song that will be easy for me in this short period as I am not a trained dancer. There came Ms Tintu Sudeep, the parent representative of Class IX, who motivated me to move forward with the dance performance itself. Finally I made up my mind to come up with another one. After so much of googling, I found a *Ganesha Stbuthi* performed by the renowned dancer Ms Samyuktha Puthembekar which was more apt for a beginner like me. As I started my practice, I was even doubtful whether I could do it or not. I practised with the help of YouTube videos and did my makeup all by myself all because of the motivation from my family and friends. I stepped onto the stage bowing my head to all my well-wishers in mind, with an attitude of gratitude. As the music began I started automatically as Nagavalli was dancing and my dream was getting its wings there, like a dancing feather in the wind. No words to describe that divine happiness.

The dreams of many parents and grandparents got wings through this mega event. I appreciate the efforts behind this event and realise how talented the parents are and get the answer as to why and how our kids excel in all the school activities. Other than cultural events, medical camps, blood donation, promotion stalls, games sections, food stalls of the teachers, the photography section, cloth collection for charity and many more have given *Zest '23* a great image in our minds. The idea of collecting marginal payments for the programme photos and videos which will be going to charity is a wonderful idea.



I thank each and every one associated with *Zest '23* from the bottom of my heart. The school management and the PTA president, a true team leader, heading with the right team members were the success part of this story. I always love to be a part of this in the future too. Last but not the least I express my sincere gratitude to the almighty for all these positives happening in life. Let us wait for more miracles to happen.

# *A Celebration of* **SHARED IDENTITY**

Arun G. C.

As a parent actively involved in organizing *Zest*, I am always pleasantly surprised. *Zest* isn't just a get-together; it is a special celebration that strengthens the connections within the Loyola School community. It is not just an event; it is a celebration of our shared identity and the diversity within our school family.

When I think about my experiences at *Zest*, I remember the happy moments, the lively cultural programme, and the heartwarming interactions with other parents. The cultural programme, with classical dances, songs, and group events, is especially meaningful to me. It is where

talents shine, and our sense of community gets even stronger. I have even had the pleasure of singing in the programme, which I really enjoyed. Performing in front of a big audience, including our own children and fellow parents, is incredibly satisfying. The stalls opened by parents were also an enriching experience for me. *Zest '23* has been a delightful journey from start to finish. Every step, from getting ready for the event to wrapping it up, has been filled with a sense of togetherness and shared joy.

Events like *Zest* transform Loyola School into more than just a place for education; they turn it into a close-knit community in which every member adds to the vibrant tapestry of our school life.



The writer is the father of Arjun A. L. of VIII B1 and Advaith A. L. of II B1

# An Inspiring OPPORTUNITY

Sindhu Vijayan

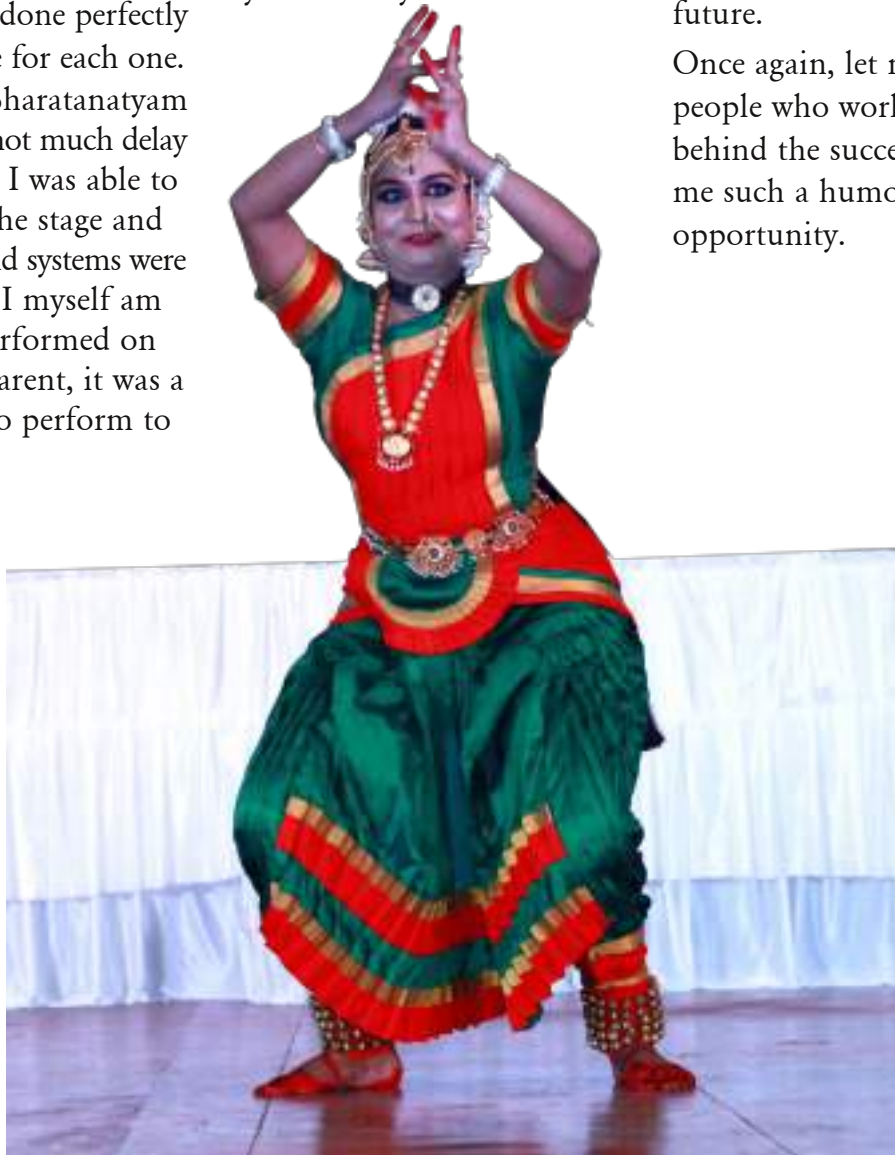
*Zest!* What a wonderful and well coordinated programme it was! A huge thanks to the organizers who had taken their own time and collected the information required for the smooth conduct of the programme. The schedule of the events was done perfectly with enough time for each one. My event was a Bharatanatyam dance. There was not much delay for my entry and I was able to perform well as the stage and especially the sound systems were done excellently. I myself am proud to have performed on that stage. As a parent, it was a proud moment to perform to

on such a stage and in front of my own son. It was inspiring to see parents of my age handle this responsibility with such care and dedication. All the events were equally good and I felt nostalgic as it reminded me of my school days.

It was a huge opportunity for all the parents who had missed their chances for one reason or another.

Overall the *Zest* programme was a roaring success and hope it will remain like that in the future.

Once again, let me thank the people who worked tirelessly behind the success for giving me such a humongous opportunity.



The writer is the mother of Mahasvin M of IX B

# Savour the Memories

Rajasree Arun



As the school reopened, the first question on every parent's mind was, "When is *Zest '23*?" This inquiry reflected the success, joy, unity, and eagerness of each parent to participate in this wonderful initiative. The entire team, fuelled with increased enthusiasm, officially launched *Zest '23* on 18 November.

After a year since *Zest '22*, we had numerous plans to prepare ourselves for the upcoming event. However, things didn't unfold as expected. From selecting songs to designing background graphics, every aspect came together through our teamwork in the hectic month leading up to the event.

Like every team, we initiated discussions and faced numerous struggles in finalizing songs, costumes, and positions. The idea of infusing humour into our dance routine sparked a new thought process. Despite facing challenges, our practice sessions and spirited discussions persisted. However, the dynamics changed when two of our dancers fell

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The writer is the mother of Arav A. of VII C



**Team NAVATARANG featuring**

Back centre: Anusha P. S., M/o Akash J. of VII B; Middle Row Left to Right: Ann Koruth, M/o Safal Mathew Koruth of VII B; Sreeja S. Kumar, M/o Abhilash Gautham of VII B; Lancy Praveen, M/o Dhevanandh P. L. of VII A1; Rajshree Arun, M/o Abhimanyu A. Sarma of V A; Juby Jacob, M/o Rishith V. of VII C; Front Row Left to Right: Shifi Madhavan, M/o Aman Vasanth of VII C; Rajasree Arun; Sapna M. K., M/o Aaved B. Nambiar of VII B

ill, and one had to deal with a personal emergency. This led them to decide to step back from the dance, casting a sombre mood over the entire team. Despite the setback, our team remained resilient. We didn't give up; instead, we patiently waited for their recovery, visited their homes, ensured they still felt part of the team, and that we were in this together. This not only brought joy to them but also motivated them to return to practice sessions, ultimately making the performance a reality.

As working mothers, our practice sessions were held at the school. I vividly recall those weekends when we would arrive at school in the morning and leave in the evening, feeling exhausted but contented, knowing that our efforts were geared towards achieving the desired level of perfection in our dance routine. While not everyone could attend every practice session, we made sure to capture videos and share them, ensuring that everyone could contribute and catch up in the following days. The school

premises echoed not only with the sounds of songs from various teams but also with the shared happiness among school faculty and even the security staff. Our late evening practices would only conclude when the security staff kindly requested us to leave the campus, as they had to attend to their duties. Throughout this journey, we framed every moment spent together—our jokes, conversations, shared meals, and hearty laughter—solidifying the bond that made us feel like a family.

The awaited day arrived, and our event was scheduled for the morning. Adorned in vibrant costumes that captivated everyone's attention, with our faces beautifully made up, we waited for the call. Our children approached us, eager and excited, offering us any help we might need—all with joyful faces. As the moment unfolded, we took centre stage, and together, we triumphed.

Filled with confidence and smiles, we conveyed the message that Team Nava Tarang was not only prepared to confront any challenges but also committed to staying united as one team, one family. The remarkable level of synchronization and beauty infused into our dance routine surprised not just the

audience but also left us in awe of our own collective achievement. It was a celebration of unity, talent, and the joy of performing together.

Reflecting on these memories, I realized the significance of each moment and the joy we brought to our children. Witnessing their happiness, I imagined the pride they must have felt in discovering the hidden talents of their parents. The anticipation for the next event is already building up!

A heartfelt thank you goes to our powerhouse of energy, the delightful Sindhu, who consistently encouraged and motivated us. Without her guidance, the stellar performance of Nava Tarang on the stage would not have been possible. Thank you!

Everything became possible due to the unwavering support from our families – the cheers from our children, motivation from our parents and in-laws, and the encouragement and strength from our beloved husbands. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of them for the tremendous help they provided, making this experience a smooth and memorable success. Thank you all!





# ശുഭം

Ajish J. Jacob

തെല്ലൊന്ന് പരിഭ്രമിച്ചാണ് Jingles, ZEST '23 ന് കൈ കൊടുത്തത്.

ഔദാരാനാവാത്ത ചില സാഹചര്യങ്ങൾ മൂലം കൂടെയുണ്ടായിരുന്നവരിൽ പലരും കൊഴിഞ്ഞു പോയി.

'ഇത്തവണ വേണോ?', 'വല്ലതും നടക്കുമോ?', 'പണി പാലുമോ ?... തുടങ്ങി പലവിധ ആധികൾ ശേഷിച്ചവരുടെ ഹൃദയന്തർഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ കിടന്ന് ഉടുക്കു കൊട്ടി .

"നന്നത്തില്ലേ....ഇനി കുളിച്ചു കയറാം" എന്നാരോ പറഞ്ഞപ്പോഴാണ് , ആകുലതയുടെ താളം അൽപ്പം കുറഞ്ഞതും ആത്മ വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റേ സ്വരം ഉച്ചസ്വമായിൽ എത്തിയതും .

പിന്നീടുള്ളത് ചരിത്രം.

പുതു മുഖങ്ങൾ എത്തി, പരസ്പര പരിചയമായി, പാട്ടുകളായി, കരോക്കെ ആയി, പരിശീലനമായി ചുരുങ്ങിയ ദിനങ്ങളിൽ Jingles വീണ്ടും, ദാ...., എണ്ണയിട്ട യന്ത്രം പോലെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നു ....

ഒടുവിൽ ആമോദത്തിരകൾ ഉയർത്തുന്ന, നിലാമഴയിൽ രാഗമാലിക ചൂടുന്ന, പുള്ളാം കൂഴലിന്റേ കഥ പറയുന്ന, അനുരാഗത്തിന്റേ മധുപൗർണ്ണമിയാകുന്ന, ഈണത്തിൽ മുങ്ങിത്തുടിച്ച രാമായണക്കാറ്റിന്റേ ഗന്ധവുമായി അവർ പ്രേക്ഷക മനസ്സുകളിൽ പെയ്യിറങ്ങി .

ശുഭ പര്യവസായിയായ ഒരു കഥപോലെ...



Jeskleen Justin, F/o Jovan Renato Jeskleen of IV B; Ajesh Thankachen F/o Johan T. Ajesh of V C & Ivaan T. Ajesh of LKG D; Ajish J. Jacob & Sneha Reba Ajish, parents of F/o Aviv Jacob of VI A & Albie Jacob of IV A; Resmi G., M/o Achyuth H. & Adithya H. of UKG D; Divya Sreekumar M., M/o Adhvik Sandeep of LKG C; Sneha Zachariah, M/o Amith Nishel Tharakan of X A & Jayant Nishel Tharakan of V C

# A Day to Remember

Angelo Dcruz

*Zest '23* was one of the most professionally run programmes that I have been a part of recently. What was really interesting was the energy on display by all the volunteers on that day. Their hard work and commitment made the date memorable for a lot of parents.

Sometime in July, I got an email inviting participants for *Zest '23*. It had been a little more than a year since I had started performing stand-up comedy for events and I didn't want to let slip an opportunity to do an act in my alma mater. I promptly sent in an entry and within a week was contacted by a member of the organizing committee confirming my participation.

In the course of the next couple of months I was contacted at least a couple of times to check on me if I was on track with my preparations for the event. I was astonished with this kind of dedication of the folks and decided to put my best foot forward. I started working on my script due to these interventions and was fairly confident on putting up a good show.

A week before the event I was again contacted to apprise me of the schedule and when my event was slotted. In fact, one day prior to

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Angelo Dcruz is the Joint Secretary Loyola Old Boys Association (LOBA) and parent of Ethan Percival Angelo UKG B



the event I was contacted to reiterate the reporting time and other details like registration. The organizers left no stone unturned to ensure that all the participants were clear of everything that was expected on the day of the event.

Finally, on the D-day everything worked like clockwork right from the registration to my event. You could see that the army of volunteers work like a well-oiled machine to make things happen. I am sure that behind this there might have been a lot of planning, meetings, and deliberations. My aunt Esther Gladiz, an ex-teacher in Loyola, was totally blown away by the anchors of the event. She mentioned that their confidence, poise and clarity of their speech would give a run for the money to the best in the business. She had accompanied her grandchildren, Abram and Abel from UKG F. Their mother Neema (my sister) was performing in Thiruvathira . I couldn't agree more; indeed the MCs were awesome. They owned the stage whenever they came in and did their thing. Countless hours would have been spent on preparing the script of the event and the hard work was quite evident from their scintillating performance.

During my act I felt that the lights and the sound system were the best of all the venues I have been performing in. My heart filled with immense pride at the start of my act when for the very first time both my name and our son's name were beamed in the background on the LED screen. That instant is going to be lingering in my mind for many years to come. The infrastructure provided in the event was top-notch. Post the show, the video of the event was also released to us within the stipulated time committed earlier. That is testimony to the fact that the organizing committee was ready to walk the talk.

Overall the day was quite memorable for all the participants, viewers, kids and all who were present. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the PTA of Loyola for giving me this opportunity to come back and perform 20 years after graduating from this esteemed institution. This time around I was not a student but rather the parent of an incumbent student.

# JOURNEY FROM MOMS TO STAR MOMS

Ar Deepti Pillai



*Zest '23* was an absolutely zestful and zealous event. We were a part of the inaugural run of the parents' carnival last year and enjoyed every moment of that programme, *Zest '22*. It has been a rhapsodic reunion of last year's Wonder Moms of III D as we teamed up as the Wonder Moms of IV C to perform once again, in *Zest '23*. We are absolutely delighted to have given a new lease of life to our long-lost but once invested talents and made a mark in the bargain. It has been a thrilling journey for us from Moms to Star Moms!

This was made possible by the stupendous efforts of the *Zest '23* organisers and the unstinted support of Loyola School Management. Thank you all parents who conceived and realized such a high-profile programme that not only provided us a platform but also indirectly encouraged our own children to perform without fear because Loyola Management is committed to the ideal of all-round development.

We look forward to *Zest '24*.

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The writer is the mother of Siddart Nair of IV C



### WONDER MOMS OF IV C

1. Krishna V. S., M/o Advik J. Nair;
2. Lakshmi Murali, M/o Gautham Renjith;
3. Anjali Yayathi, M/o Ved Vyas Yayathi;
4. Anu Anna John, M/o Yohan Mathew Panicker;
5. Ar. Deepti Pillai, M/o Siddart Nair;
6. Bhavana K. S., M/o Gagan A.;
7. Revathy Sivan, M/o Hariharan S.;
8. Justina Thomas, M/o Ryan Thomas;
9. Subha Krishnamoorthy, M/o Vihaan S. Vivek



# THANIMA

## *Graceful Rhythm of Tradition*

Amalu Navas

*Following Henry Ford, we came together in the beginning, progressed by being together and worked together towards success.*



Bob Ross once said: *I think there is an artist hidden at the bottom of every single one of us.* The right platform will provide a strong foundation to accentuate these talents. *Zest '23* was a platform to showcase the arcane talents that made up the *Thiruvathira* team *Thanima*. Every performer dreams of an open stage without a judge or jury. The zeal and opportunity for performing on a big stage brought together ten moms engrossed in their personal lives and careers to acclimate their schedules for practice. The passion for dance and the desire to perform on stage was the one thread that held us together. Some backouts that necessitated team rearrangement couldn't blow out our spirit. We enjoyed each of our practice sessions. Following Henry Ford we came together in the beginning, progressed by being together, and worked together towards success. Finally, on 18 November 2023, our dream came true. With smiling faces and pounding hearts, we danced on Loyola stage in front of hundreds in attendance. Our coordination was applauded. As Paulo Coelho wrote, "It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting". The experience was exhilarating. Our team is deeply indebted to the Loyola School authorities, our PTA team who worked behind this avant-garde, and our family members for their unfeigned support. We are anticipating the *Zest '24* with great eagerness.

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The writer is the mother of Aadam Izyan Najeeb of I B



***Thanima***, featuring:

1. Vrinda Rajeev, M/o Ayaan V. Anoop, LKG B;
2. Amalu Navas, M/o Aadam Izyan Najeeb, I B;
3. Arya Satheesh, M/o Vedhik Chandran, IV C & Vairiav Chandran, LKG B;
4. Aadithya L. R., M/o Daivik Madhav, LKG B;
5. Anupriya U., M/o Madhav V. Nair, I D;
6. Preetha Rajeev, M/o Amarnath Rajeev, XII A1;
7. Jisha Sankar, M/o Mukund Sankar, II A & Kesav Sankar, VI B;
8. Neema Therese, M/o Abram Alen & Abel Alen, UKG E;
9. Lini M/o Abner Jeolin, I B; and
10. Reethu Jeskleen, M/o Jovan Renato Jeskleen, IV B

# TARANG

## A STORY OF PERSEVERANCE

Devu Sukumar



Amidst the busy fabric of parenthood, where time is more precious than anything else, my journey with nine other mothers unfolded as we set out to revive a shared passion for dance. Loyola School's Parents Carnival *Zest '23* became perfect platform for a story characterized by dedication, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of our dreams.

Our collective journey under the name “Tarang” began with a shared decision to carve out time for ourselves amid the daily whirlwind of family and responsibilities. Despite conflicting schedules and the myriad demands of life, we forged a pact to attend practice sessions, determined to honour our commitment to the performance.

The road to perfection was paved with challenges. Obstacles seemed to shadow our every step, testing our resolve at every turn. Our performance was one of the last on the list. We were waiting for our makeup artist to come, and yes the last challenge of the story –the makeup artist arrived late. Undeterred, we rallied together, pooling our limited skills to transform the setback into an opportunity to showcase our resourcefulness and adaptability.

Backstage, amidst the fluttering nerves and racing adrenaline, the atmosphere evoked the camaraderie of our college days. The spirit of unity and shared purpose bound us, and we made it to the stage, just in time.

When the curtains finally ascended, the stage metamorphosed into a canvas for our shared passion. The

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The writer is the mother of Vikhyath Nair of II B and Vaibhav Nair of LKG B





**Team Tarang**

Gayathri R. Nair, M/o Ishaan Ganesh of II A1; Deepthi N., M/o Johaan S. of II A1 & Ryan S. of LKG B; Rejitha R., M/o Mukund Sai of II A1; Gayathri Rajan, M/o Lakshman Sankar of II B; Milu M. S., M/o Pranav S. Nair of II B; Resmy A. R., M/o Rishikesh K. R. of II A1; Dhanya P., M/o Navaneeth Krishnan H. of II A1; Devu Sukumar; Devi Rajan, M/o- Saatvik Sukesh of II A1, and Resmi T. T., M/o Mario Pius Fernández of II B

dance unfolded with a grace born from hours of dedicated practice and an unyielding determination to overcome every obstacle. The applause that followed wasn't just a testament to our performance; it was a celebration of our collective triumph over challenges.

As the accolades rained down, we were transported into a realm of nostalgia, reliving the thrill of our younger years. The appreciation acted as a tonic, infusing us with renewed energy and a drive to outdo ourselves in the future.

Yet, the true measure of our success lay in the gleaming eyes and proud smiles of our children. We had become more than just performers; we had become living examples, showcasing the importance of

perseverance, hard work, and the pursuit of passion.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Loyola School, the *Zest '23* team, our choreographer, and our families. Each played a pivotal role in supporting our endeavour, transforming what seemed like a small dream into a resounding reality.

Ultimately, this dance performance wasn't just a show—it was a testament to the indomitable spirit that flourishes when passion meets perseverance. Like many others who performed during the day, our story is the story of mothers, standing as a beacon, inspiring others to pursue their dreams despite the challenges that may stand in their way.



# FROM SCRATCH to SPOTLIGHT *The Technical Team's Journey*

Merlin George

*Beyond being a mere spectacle, Zest '23 provided a valuable lesson in the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and the remarkable spirit within our parents' community.*

It brings immense joy to pen down the journey of the technical team in orchestrating *Zest '23*, a carnival that has become an integral part of our spirit. Since the beginning of our journey, we have faced challenges head-on, turning them into milestones, all while valuing the spirit of teamwork. Our journey kicked off in October with Sunday get-togethers, where we meticulously planned every detail under the watchful eye of Rakhesh Sir. The first challenge was sifting through parent database entries which involved reaching out to each entry individually and inquiring about their preferences. Following this, we tackled the multifaceted task of selecting teams,

devising schedules, and gathering comprehensive details from the participants. Each step demanded a collective effort from the team, emphasizing the importance of coordination and cooperation. With the expert coordination of Sunil Sir (Father of Bhagath Sunand and Bharath Sunand) and Nanda, we created a seamless schedule with precise timing. The interaction with participants, led by Rakhesh Sir, Nanda and myself, was not without its challenges. Coordinating the upload of songs to the drive became a nerve-racking affair, as participants tended to leave it until the eleventh hour. To streamline the process, we created dedicated folders in the drive for each team and participant, urging

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The writer is the mother of Evan Philip Mathew of IV C

timely submissions. Sridevi, Sreelekshmi and Deepa played pivotal roles in entering the details of the participants collected and creating the PowerPoint presentation.

On the creative front, I collaborated with Rakesh Sir for the creation of teasers, posters, and banners that all of you observed either on or before the *Zest* event.

The zestful day arrived, and the technical team took centre stage. We seamlessly managed the song playing and operation of the new LED screen, turning potential anxiety into a flawless execution. Glitches, like a laptop freezing, tried to dampen our spirits, but a quick switch and adept problem-solving ensured the show went on without a hitch.

The coordination of Sridevi, Sreelekshmi, and Deepa with the registration team ensured a harmonious reconciliation of programme charts. Their work made sure the event ran smoothly and everyone felt connected. Their meticulous work ensured a smooth

flow from participant connection to backstage transitions. Despite being a technical team, we played key roles in lost-and-found management, MC coordination, and participant connectivity.

*Zest '23* posed its unique set of challenges, yet the collective hard work and unity of the team effectively transformed all these obstacles into triumphs. Upon reflection, *Zest '23* stands not only as a programme but as a powerful testament to the strength of teamwork, resilience, and the unwavering spirit of our parents. In essence, it proved to be an extraordinary journey in which challenges tested our mettle, but the persistent team spirit and genuine passion for *Zest* ensured that we faced them with smiles. Beyond being a mere spectacle, *Zest '23* provided a valuable lesson in the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and the remarkable spirit within our parents' community.



From the Left: 1. Sridevi K. S., M/o Karthik Nandakumar of VI A; 2. Merlin George; 3. Nanda Kumar R., F/o Karthik Nandakumar of VI A; 4. Deepa Pradeep, M/o Govind P. Suthan of VI A; 5. Dr. Sreelekshmi Nair, M/o Daksh R. Nair of VI C



# THE MAGICIANS

behind

# ZEST '23

Jacob Thomas

After *Zest '23*, I conclude that Loyola is not only the best school in Thiruvananthapuram, but one of the best in the country. Loyola not only treats its students with dignity and compassion, but also their parents as well.

For a parent like me who has a deep sense of regret for not exhibiting my singing skills during school days, I am re-living my younger days by singing and entertaining folks. *Zest* has



given the absolute platform for folks like me. With regards to its backstage folks, I have not seen such a young, vibrant, and self-motivated group of individuals who have meticulously planned and executed in military precision every bit of the programme. They are not doing this out of boredom, nor are they unemployed. They are so terribly busy folks who have squeezed in their passion to their daily busy lives with the vision of making *Zest* the best parents carnival. The planning, regular follow-ups, the ease, and warmth with which the organisers connect with

all the parents are just phenomenal. Moreover, with this all the parents have become closer to one other. We are like one family, Loyola!

It is with much heartfelt gratitude that I can think of the Loyola management which really supports all worthwhile initiatives. No wonder, the students who graduate from Loyola have four most important virtues in them. They are humility, resourcefulness, leadership and empathy. I am a living testimony. I have not seen a school where students respect the non-teaching staff as much as the teaching staff.

As a Loyolite myself who entered the portal of this great institution in 1988, I imbibed all these qualities which helped me not only become a better person in career but also life. As I reach my office, I happily greet our security, cleaning staff with so much of happiness and love for them, because they take care of our facility. This thought was instilled in my mind by Loyola. Even before my son was born, I had decided to send my kid to Loyola if it was a boy. I did not even hesitate a second.

The feeling of being a Loyolite stays with you as long as you are alive. Loyolites always stand out in any crowd because we are brought up in an environment of discipline and compassion for humans. No wonder we sing aloud:

*Virtue, shielding us, Knowledge for our weapon,  
Onward Onward Loyola scions!*

This is not just in the anthem; it is present in every Loyolite.

Cheer Loyola scions!

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The writer is the parent of Ryan Thomas Jacob of IV C



# A SYMPHONY OF COLLABORATION

## MC Team Reminiscence

Reshma George Gomez



In the realm of working as a group, the MC Team stood with unity and shared vision. Our journey started with different talents coming together, creating a tapestry of skills that formed the strength of our collective success.

From the early freewheeling discussion to the final triumphs, our work unfolded like a well synchronized orchestra complementing one another.

The harmony among us echoed from the very start, so our innovative ideas began to weave together.

*The MC team set out to accomplish a task and ended up building an enduring relationship.*

Our teamwork came out as a light; we pared the small obstacles, turning them into stepping stones to growth.

Our friendship grew during the late-night discussions and it became the core of our success. Our dialogue and constructive feedback were the pillar of our collaborative spirit.

For the MC team, it was not just a project but a relationship we made as we journeyed through it. This is the story of our teamwork, a reminder that together we can achieve more than we ever thought possible.

We are grateful to the organizers of the exciting *Zest '23* which created hope and provided us great experiences. The captain of our ship Rakhesh Sir was indeed a person to look up to for all the guidance. He brilliantly formed a circle of versatile members who complemented one another.

The MC team set out to accomplish a task and ended up building an enduring relationship.



**The MC Team:** Reshma George Gomez; Sreeji C. S. Nair, M/o Sreehari P. Kurup of IX B; Tintu Sudeep Culas, M/o Abhinav Sudeep Culas of IX C; Gayathri Janardanan, M/o Navneeth Krishnan S. of IX A; Binitha N. Philip, M/o Ron Kuriakose Rajesh of IX B1



Bass Guitar: Rishi Gogoi of IX B1; Vocal: Prijith S. S., F/o Pranav S. Prijith of II A1, Lead Guitar: Rishi's father Dr Mukunda Gogoi



**Team Taal Tarang**

Dr Edza Davis M/o Reuben Dan, UKG E; Dr Geethu Krishna, M/o Advay Aravind, UKG F; Dr Dhanya Vivek, M/o Abel Varghese Vivek, IV B; Mary Chris Pereira, M/o Zane John Jackson, LKG D; Lakshmi Thampi, M/o Arjun A. L., VIII B1 & Advaita A. L., II A1

# DAZZLING DIVAS

## at ZEST '23

Sitara G.



*Zest*, the Parents' Carnival, which started its run in 2022, has been an event that Loyola parents look forward to because it is a time for them to go back to their school or college days and bring out the child in each one of them.

We, the Dazzling Divas'23, represented the group of mothers of the ninth graders and our choice of performance for this year was modern *Oppana*. We started our practice in late October under the guidance of our star choreographer, our Sajna Master. She prepared a brilliant mix of songs and dance moves, suiting the theme and our group. It was all upto the team to learn, practise, polish and perform.

Amidst our busy schedule, we tried not to miss any practice sessions, which were two days of two hours each per week initially and gradually we started practising for at least three hours on alternate days. It wasn't easy to make it happen every time due to conflicting work schedules and priorities at home. But our motivation level was high to transcend any obstacle.

Everything related to the *Zest* preparation was nothing less than fun, including getting the costumes ready, shopping for accessories and the most important of all was the beautiful camaraderie that we formed among us. This gave all of us some free space which unconsciously encouraged most of us to perform without any inhibitions or fear of detractors.

Finally, when the day of the event arrived, in between all the rush, chaos and tense moments, we knew we had each other's support and that was the key ingredient which made our performance lively and beautiful. We, the Dazzling Divas, would like to thank everyone behind the *Zest '23* for giving us the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful group and perform onstage.

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The writer is the mother of Siddharth B. Nair of IX C





From the left: Vineetha B., M/o Advait Manoj of IX A; Veena Sajin, M/o Vismay Sajin of IX C; Shyja Praveen, M/o Madhav Praveenkumar of IX B; Vidhya Prathap, M/o Nakul Dinakar of IX C; Razeena Begum, M/o Arshad Muhammad of IX B; Dr Zinia Anzar, M/o Mohammed Ibnu Anzar of IX C; Dr Sreeja Madhavdas, M/o Abhinand M.Nair of IX C; Dr Jinu Abraham, M/o Austin Alex Glaxon of IX C, and Sitara G., M/o Siddharth B.Nair of IX C



# Dance like no one is watching

Mullu Das J.



It was a wonderful experience for us teachers to perform in front of our beloved students and parents at *Zest '23*. Most of us were first-timers and the only experience we had as a group performing before such a large crowd was when we danced before our students on Children's Day hardly one week before *Zest '23*. That performance ignited the passion in us, and it really gave us the confidence to perform in such big events.

We were thrilled when the organisers extended their invitation to participate in *Zest '23*. We were not without apprehensions, though. We knew that contrast would heighten the effect and it was a real challenge because dazzling performance by the parents in *Zest '22* had set a benchmark of excellence rather difficult for us to reach. We decided not to allow this fact to dampen our enthusiasm and instead to walk the talk. As teachers and mentors, we are used to inspiring our mentees with the oft-quoted truism: *Practice makes perfect*. Rather than allowing the opportunity slip by, we were resolved to grab it because such chances are rather rare.

Determined to practise what we preached, we went on honing our newly acquired skill on a daily basis, and started feeling that the effort paid off and our dance routine became easier and more graceful.

It was a dream come true for all of us when we performed the dance before the huge crowd on the day of *Zest '23*. I personally felt very proud because during *Zest '22* I was only a spectator as a parent and now I am a teacher performing along with a bunch of talented colleagues onstage at *Zest '23*.

We teachers are very grateful to the school management and the PTA for giving us this opportunity to showcase our talents outside of the classroom. Finally, kudos to each member of my team for showcasing not only their talent but also for their dedication to the art of dance.



Gouri Priya, Deepthi Rajeev, Ajitha Shibu, Binu N. B., Jeena Mohanan (M/o Jai Nandan Manish, II C), Justicia Jerome, Aswathy S. (M/o Adish S. Krishna, II B), Mullu Das J. (M/o Dayaan Gautam II A)  
Choreographer: Swathisree Malavika

# Photo Gallery



**Team Swara Tarang** featuring

1. Alan Chris, 2. Devika K., 3. Anjana Krishnan, 4. Gayathri Suresh, 5. Vasanth Raj R., 6. Abhilash V. C., and 7. Vinod Thampy



**Team Octaves**

1. Jithin V., F/o Madhav Jithin, IX C; 2. Sivakumar K. R., F/o Pranav S. S., IX B; 3. Prasanth G. K., F/o Sreehari P. Kurup, IX B; 4. Balagopal K. S., F/o Siddharth B. Nair, IX C; 5. Dr Madhavadas, F/o Abhinand M. Nair, IX C; 6. Ajithakumari S. R., M/o Karan Suresh, IX B; 7. Megha Anna Thomas, M/o Chris George Thomas, IX A; 8. Lekshmi Subhash, M/o Adwaith Jith, IX B; 9. Anupama Rajeev, M/o Aadith Rajeev, IX B



Medley of Johnson Hits: Abhinand M. Nair and Deepu M.



Ajith Varghese



Rajeev Sreedharan



Storytelling trio: Reshma Sooraj flanked by her sons Ishaan Sooraj of VIII C and Aaryan Sooraj of III A



Sreekumari M.



Mrs Jyothisree Jayakumar



Mrs Sarada Devi



Mr Rajeev Prabhakaran



Dr Lekshmi Srinivas



Dr Dinkle Sitaram



Dr Thasneem



Dr Sreerenjini



Ms Darsana



Mrs K. Padmadevi



Mrs Deepa Suresh



Ms Athilya



Couple Dance: Shiva Ram and Sveta



The Host Team erupting into rapturous gyrations at the roaring success of Zest '23

*A little away from the limelight,  
curating creativity for charity...*



**The ladies who manned the Panoramic Junction:**  
Ms Ancy Ansari, M/o Jahan Mohammad of II B; Ms Shahina Shan, M/o Saahil Ibrahim of VI C and Ahad Ibrahim of II B; Ms Amitha Mathews, M/o Hanok Itty Vimom of II A





# PROMOTIONAL STALLS

