



# Musaeus Miscellany

June 2020

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## Musaeus College Senior English Literary, Music and Drama Society

### PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY '19

-*Bhagya Semage*

The Annual Prize Giving Ceremony of Musaeus College was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2019 at the Peter de Abrew Memorial Auditorium with much grandeur. The event was graced by the presence of Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo.

The event commenced with the arrival of the distinguished guests, followed by the flag ceremony and the lighting of the traditional oil lamp. The welcome address was delivered by the Chairman, Mr. Ajitha de Zoysa, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and was followed by the Annual School Report presented by Madam Principal Mrs. Nelum Senadira.

The Chief Guest, Mrs. Chandrika Wijeyaratne addressed the audience, imparting the award winners with her advice which left a lasting impression in the young minds of our students.

Then came the most anticipated moment of the evening: The Prize Distribution Ceremony. Musaeuites who showcased their expertise in the academic arena were felicitated with awards and certificates.

The event concluded with the Vote of Thanks delivered by Chamathka Jayasekara, School Captain for the years 2017/18 followed by the National Anthem.

We congratulate all prize winners for a job well done and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours!

### SPORTS AWARDS CEREMONY '19

-*Ravindi Ratnayake*

The young sports stars of Musaeus College were proudly recognized and felicitated at the Annual Sports Awards Ceremony held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 at the Peter de Abrew Memorial Auditorium. Mr. Mahela Jayawardene, veteran cricketer and former captain of the Sri Lankan Cricket team graced this splendid event as the Chief Guest, while the Guest of Honour was Dr. Harsha Alles, Chairman of the Gateway Group of Organisations.

Following the arrival of the distinguished guests, the event commenced with a welcome dance performed by the school dance troupe and the lighting of the traditional oil lamp. The welcome address was delivered by the Chairman Mr. Ajitha de Zoysa.

The Distribution of Awards commenced with the Inter-House Championships and amidst much fanfare, Olcott house emerged as the Best house This was followed by the felicitation of the School Games Captain and Deputy Games Captain for their dedication in enhancing the world of sports.

Talented sportswomen of Musaeus College were recognised throughout the event for their expertise in the sports arena. A stimulating and awe-inspiring speech by the Chief Guest, Mr. Mahela Jayawardena left a significant impact in the minds of the audience, and was succeeded by the most highly awaited Award Distribution: School Colours and International Representation. The most outstanding sportswomen of the school were felicitated, drawing conclusion to the Distribution of Awards.

The highlight of the event was the donation of more than Rs. 11 million to the Little Hearts Project with the aim of constructing a new 12-storey Cardiac and Critical Care Complex at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital. This was officially handed over to Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe by the Principal, Mrs. Nelum Senadira.

Following a farewell to the former Deputy Principal, Mrs. C. Jayatilaka, the event drew to a conclusion with the Vote of Thanks being presented by Binuri Gunawardena, School Games Captain for the years 2018/19.

Our sincere congratulations go out to all young sports stars for their exceptional achievements and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

### RISE FROM THE ASHES

-*Warsha Senaratne*



Life sees us through many journeys, which bring joy and torment alike. However, what defines us is not the amount of pain that we have endured, but how well we have chosen to rise from it.

The Peter de Abrew Memorial Auditorium and Sports Complex was a milestone in the 128 year legacy of Musaeus College. Rising

from the dreams of Musaeuites past and present, it stood as a beacon of hope of the evolution of our Alma mater in her journey towards a successful future.

Yet, 2016 brought an unforeseen disaster as our dreams went up in flames along with our auditorium.

It has been three long years but finally with the strength and courage of the students, the staff, the Past Pupils' Association and the Administration of Musaeus College, once again we walk through the doors of the newly renovated Peter de Abrew Memorial Auditorium as it opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 amongst the blessings of the venerable sangha.

Today, it stands as a reminder of the resilience nurtured by our mother; Musaeus College, who urges us to 'follow the light' no matter how dark the times may seem.

### MUSAEUS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 128 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!

-*Hansathi Pallewatte*



An epicenter for knowledge, talent, dedication and spirit, Musaeus College commemorated 128 years of excellence on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. Currently educating over 6000 Buddhist girls in the island nation of Sri Lanka, the school prides itself on delivering a well-rounded education, with her students excelling in the fields of academics, sports and aesthetics – a feat consistent across generations!

Decorations, courtesy of the Senior Prefects' Guild for the years 2019/20, spanned the entire school; from the archway at the Rosmead Place entrance where students walk into school, to the staircases crisscrossing the school. A small ceremony, prominently marked by the release of 128 birds out of captivity, paralleled the spirit of Musaeus College enlightening students under her wing to be disciplined, well-mannered and dedicated young women in society.

We, at Musaeus Miscellany, along with the entire student population, past and present, take this opportunity to wish our Alma mater – who pushed us and continues to push us to be the best version of ourselves – a very Happy Birthday!

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FELICITATED

-*Patalie Hettihewa*

Throughout the 128 year legacy of Musaeus College, Mother Musaeus has produced many talented young personalities in the academic arena. Through hard work and perseverance, Musaeuites excelled at the Cambridge Ordinary Level Examination, Pearson Edexcel Advanced Level Examination and GCE Advanced Level Examination 2019 surpassing all expectations.

Here are our high achievers,

**Cambridge Ordinary Level Examinations – May/June 2019**

**9A Grades**

Sandali Athukorala

Imasha Fernando

Kasuni Vitharana

Sandali Athukorala was able to achieve the following awards at the Cambridge O/L Examination 2019:

Award for 8A\* grades

First in Sri Lanka in Biology

First in Sri Lanka in Sinhala

First in the World in Mathematics

Best Across 9A Grades – World 1<sup>st</sup> place

**Pearson Edexcel Advanced Level Examinations – May/June 2019**

**4A Grades**

**Physical Science** - Binali De Alwis, Hiumi Kumarasinghe, Tharusha Jayasinghe

**Biological Science** - Gaveshika Gunasekera, Nethmini Sirimanne

**Commerce** - Tanushri Chakravarthy

**GCE Advanced Level Examination 2019**

**Arts Stream** - Vinuri Perera- Island 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Commerce Stream** - Gimasha Tharindi Chandradasa - Island 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Bio Science Stream** - Binuri Gomez - Island 3<sup>rd</sup>

We heartily congratulate these achievers for their colossal accomplishments and wish them luck in their future endeavours!

## News

### EDITORIAL

We fall. We make mistakes. We go through overwhelming challenges. We get lost in the maze of life. But, we will always find our way back. We rise. We learn. We overcome what seems to be the most daunting challenge. We grow and mature.

We gather strength and courage in the process of conquering these tests that life has to offer. We are human, not perfect. We endure pain. We heal, we recover.

Maybe you are yet to achieve greatness or witness a miracle. Maybe you believe that you are a human living a dull life. Tighten your seatbelts, you are about to ride on a rollercoaster and discover the greatest adventure of a lifetime.

You may not be a Harry Potter or a Peter Parker or any other superhero wearing a cape, but you do have an extraordinary power: potential. Potential that will take you to your greatest heights and guide you through your special journey. The aptitude that will help you soar.

Life itself is an ultimate irony. The most primitive form of life, so minuscule it's invisible to our eye, has taken control over the planet. We never know what future has in store for us until it unveils itself.

*"Time is limited. So don't waste it living someone else's life" - Steve Jobs*

Life is short. Everything is temporary. Death is inevitable. Think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive, to breathe, to think and to enjoy. Acknowledge the beauty of life. At the end, it is only your legacy you leave behind as you move on. Thus, let's make our lives a little worthwhile.

On this rollercoaster ride, nothing will be free and anything might cost you everything.

*"That's the thing about pain, it demands to be felt." - John Green.*

It has to be endured with all might to win the battles against your demons, to thrive and survive. On this journey, people will come and go. Some will leave an impact on your life forever. Some will ride beside you to the very end. They will protect you and will catch you when you fall. They will listen and will understand your truest feelings and will respect you. When you are tired and weary, they will remind you to keep fighting. Moreover, they will love you limitlessly. They will make you feel special and beautiful.

This is your life. Do what you love and love what you do. Embrace the moment. All emotions are beautiful. Life is simple. Open your mind and relax. Get lost in the ocean of opportunities. Seize your dreams. Find yourself a true identity. Recreate thyself. Explore the vast and exciting universe. Find your stars and moons. Live your dream. Wear your passion with pride.

Start your journey to unveil the amazing destiny that awaits you.

*Signing Out,  
RnB*

### GAVEL INSTALLATION '19

- *Dulandi Gunasekera*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Installation of the Gavel Club of Musaeus College was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2019. The event commenced with two outstanding performances by the Gavellors Nethaya Punchihewa and Dinadi Pillippuhewa.

The new members of the club were installed under the supervision of the Club Growth Director, District 82A; Srianthie Salgado.

The new post bearers for the years 2019/20 are as follows,

President	- Minali Weerakkody
Vice President Education	- Dulandi Gunasekera
Vice President Membership	- Nethaya Punchihewa
Vice President Public Relations	- Jithma Ranasinghe
Secretary	- Naveera Abeywickrama
Treasurer	- Binudi Gunathilake
Sergeant at Arms	- Dinadi Pillippuhewa

### Committee

Editors	Features	Sports
Bhagya Semage	Bhagya Semage	Ravindi Ratnayake
Ravindi Ratnayake	Subhathi Kannangara	Imasha Fernando
Co-Editors	Warsha Senaratne	Osuri Mapitigama
Hansathi Pallewatte	Sasindie Subasinghe	Kavya Seneviratne
Minali Weerakkody	Devni Wijewickrama	Teachers in charge
News	Stuff n' Stuff	Mrs. Dammi Waidyatilake
Hansathi Pallewatte	Minali Weerakkody	Mrs. Wathsala Weeraratna
Dulandi Gunasekera	Dulya de Silva	
Oneli Perera	Ashwini Mayadunne	
Lohansa Bandaranayake	Patalie Hettihewa	

### INDUCING EMPATHY INTO HEARTS

- *Osuri Mapitigama*

In August 2019, Musaeus College joined hands with a national fundraising project during which the students compassionately embarked upon a meritorious deed to the whole nation of Sri Lanka.

More than 3000 children born in Sri Lanka wait in line for a heart surgery every year but 1500 of them don't live to see their turn. Although the majority of the surgeries are successful, most hospitals lack sufficient aftercare facilities.

The project initiated by Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe, Consultant Pediatric Cardiologist at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, invited Musaeus College to assist Little Hearts to gather funds to expedite the construction of a 12- storey Cardiac and Critical Care Complex, allowing it to provide optimum treatment for child patients. Currently, LRH is the only tertiary care referral centre for children with congenital heart disease and other critical illnesses in the country.

Musaeuities pledged to support these children and their families for whom hope is unreachable.

Under the patronage of Madam Principal, Mrs. Nelum Senadira, each student was given a free till to help save lives. The Teachers' Guild of Musaeus College has bequeathed Rs. 500,000 and with the support from well-wishers and the student body, a generous Rs 11,035,482 was raised in total. This was handed over to Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 at the Sports Award Ceremony of Musaeus College.

Musaeus College raised the greatest amount ever donated by a school with the soul empathy engraved in our hearts. This will aid in saving thousands of lives and fill their tender hearts with pristine bliss.

### MCRC ROWS FORWARD WITH COURAGE

- *Lohansa Bandaranayake*

The 16<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Ladies' College vs. Musaeus College Regatta was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 at the Colombo Rowing Club premises. The event was graced by the presence of Miss Ishika De Silva, the 1<sup>st</sup> female captain of the Colombo Rowing Club.

Amidst an enthusiastic crowd of blue and red, the two teams battled it out to win the coveted Marie Musaeus Higgins Challenge Trophy. After an evening of tense competition, the regatta drew to a conclusion as the Ladies College oarswomen claimed victory with a score of 52 to nil.

After two successive years of victory, the trophy was awarded to the Ladies' College team, as both sides cheered in good sportsmanship.

Our congratulations go out to the Ladies' College Rowing Crew for their achievement. We, at Musaeus Miscellany, eagerly look forward to the upcoming Regattas, and wish the best of luck to the Musaeus College Rowing Crew in reclaiming the esteemed trophy!



## Features

### FREEDOM OF THINKING: IT'S LEGAL TO HAVE YOUR OWN OPINIONS

-Devni Wijewickrama

About five seconds after I sat down to write this article, I realized that I had no idea what freedom of thinking *actually* is, so I ran a web search. Basically, freedom of thought is the right we have to think whatever we want, whenever we want, without being suppressed by other people.

It was the last six words that caught me.

Suppression of thought is obviously difficult, unless you're a freaky, sparkly vampire who can read other people's minds (*apologies to any Twilight fans*), but that doesn't mean it's never been done. Freedom of thought was classified as a basic human right only in 1948, but before that... well, let's just say it's been a long journey.

What's so important about freedom of thinking is that it's the predecessor to every great change that has happened in the history of industrialization. Every phenomenal discovery has always rooted from a single individual, daring to think a little bit differently from the rest of society. When that apple fell on Newton's head, he could've just cursed it to hell like a normal person, and we wouldn't have gravity. (*Or, Newton could've fallen asleep under a coconut tree and had his skull cracked open.*)

The thing is, with great power comes great responsibility. We live in an age where almost anybody can make their own choices without being scared of legal suppression. What we should remember, though, is that sometimes, our words and our actions can have a serious impact on other people. We will always have the independence to have our own opinions, but it's how we act on it that defines the type of people we are.

So, the next time you feel the urge to scream at the incredibly annoying person who's sitting next to you in class, maybe tone it down a bit. Try screaming at them inside your head instead.

### "IS IT JUST ME OR IS IT GETTING CRAZIER OUT THERE?" - 'JOKER' 2019

- Subhathi Kannangara

'Joker' is a 2019 American psychological thriller film directed and produced by Todd Phillips, who co-wrote the screenplay with Scott Silver. The film, based on DC Comics characters, stars Joaquin Phoenix as the Joker and provides a possible origin story for the character.

Inspired by Martin Scorsese's 'Taxi Driver' and 'King of Comedy', 'Joker' is an intense character study about one of the most infamous and recognizable personalities in the DC universe. The plot follows Arthur Fleck; a failed standup comedian and clown, slowly descent into madness and insanity, which inspires a cultural revolution in a crumbling Gotham city. While the movie on the surface is simple, narrating a probable origin story for Joker, upon deeper consideration it depicts a vivid narrative about mental illness, violence and social injustice.

Aside from the plot or the controversy, 'Joker' creates bigger impact on cinematic history for three reasons. One being visual cues. 'Joker' provides its audience with an unreliable narrator. Arthur Fleck, with his slowly declining mental stability, is shown to have graphic hallucinations where he recreates reality to befit his perspective. As the story progresses, the strings keeping him tethered to our reality breaks, making it increasingly difficult to identify what our reality is and what reality means to Arthur. The story almost splits into two, how the world sees Arthur and how he sees himself. The blurring between the line of illusion and reality is masterfully portrayed with stunning visual cues almost all hidden in plain sight. The struggle he goes through to hold on to what little sanity, happiness and normalcy he has, and the swift plunge into madness is beautifully shown mostly through such prompts. More complex issues of social inequality, violence, self-harm, neglect and darker tones in general are handled in a similar manner of showing, rather than telling.

Another reason is Joaquin Phoenix. His performance as Joker is truly Oscar worthy, perhaps even more. He gives the previously unknown Arthur, a sense of home in the bleak DC universe. His portrayal of a man's road to self-ruin is sensational. Every movement, every pause, has meaning and motivation. (*he absolutely nails the iconic Joker laugh by the way*) He makes the audience sympathize and root for Arthur while being able bring out the psychotic and chaotic nature of Joker perfectly. He gives the character an immense amount of depth and complexity that it feels larger than one man. While Heath Ledger's performance in 'The Dark Knight' is paradigmatic, Joaquin Phoenix's recreation of the character is truly exemplary.

The last reason for 'Joker' to be a cinematic triumph is the score composed by the Icelandic musician and composer Hildur Guðnadóttir. Her score used alongside other older songs such as 'That's Life' by Frank Sinatra, becomes the heart and soul of the movie. The music used in the movie is carefully written and used until it becomes a textural background, almost a living presence on the sidelines. The fabric of music flows perfectly with each scene and is intertwined with the emotional intensity. What becomes more interesting in this movie is how the characters and the score are always connected and woven together. Moreover, there is a full circle where visuals and music come together. The music and film develop into each other and infuse the complete work with this interconnected creation. Arthur is often portrayed as a man with music within him. Each bit of song or music used, is aligned with his mental state. As it is shown that the plot is driven the way Arthur sees fit, so does the music. It flows in time with his thought process and once again it becomes infinitely problematic to deduce whether what we hear is in his head or not. Through this application, once again the audience is not *told* a story but is able to feel it. The viewer can sympathize and feel for Arthur and is led to believe that in his broken and harshly mistreated world, his actions make sense. The music feeds into that message and it becomes a mirror to the Joker's madness.

As an in-depth, character study of the clown prince of crime, 'Joker' is quite truly a cinematic stroke of genius. From the amazing cinematography, astonishing costume, sound and set design, world building, narrative, and especially the acting from Joaquin's part are nothing short of masterful. It's wonderfully directed, managing to perfectly capture the entrancing, dark and hypnotic journey that Arthur Fleck goes through, as he spirals into chaotic madness and ironically, for the first time in his life perhaps, happiness by finding the beauty in chaos.

### POCKETFUL OF WORDS

- Subhathi Kannangara

In the end, we'll  
all become stories.

Margaret Atwood

www.idlehearts.com

Pretty Ugly

I'm very ugly  
So don't try to convince me that  
I am a very beautiful person  
Because at the end of the day  
I hate myself in every single way  
And I'm not going to lie to myself by saying  
There is beauty inside of me that matters  
So rest assured I will remind myself  
That I am a worthless, terrible person  
And nothing you say will make me believe  
I still deserve love  
Because no matter what  
I am not good enough to be loved  
And I am in no position to believe that  
Beauty does exist within me  
Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think  
Am I as ugly as people say?

(Now read bottom up)

by Abdullah Shoaib

EVERY DAY, EVERY  
HOUR TURN THE  
PAIN INTO POWER

ROCK  
BOTTOM  
HAS BUILT  
MORE  
HEROES  
THAN  
PRIVILEGE

BLOGMILKSHOP.COM

THE FIRE INSIDE YOU

There is enough fire inside you  
to put all of hell to shame,  
but you are pretending to be water  
for someone who is too afraid to handle  
the dragons in your belly.  
Stop crushing the thing that makes you.  
Embrace the flames.  
Be whole again for yourself  
and no one else.

Nikita Gill

# Stuff n' Stuff

## WAVE OF CREATIVITY WASHES OVER THE STREETS OF SRI LANKA

-Imasha Fernando

*"Graffiti happens at the intersection of ambition and incompetence: people want to make their mark on the world, but have no other way to do it than literally making a mark on the world."*

-Paul Graham

A new trend has swept across the nation as the youth of our country have come forward to transform the bleak, plain streets of Sri Lanka into an array of vivid, bright and colourful pieces of art. This new phenomenon has seen abandoned buildings, highway bridges and parapet walls transformed by street art; each telling a unique story of culture, history and heritage.

The movement has been set mainly to eliminate the visual environmental pollution created by posters and polythene, which was the core discipline of the new presidential campaign. This political trend was later taken forward by citizens, converting it into a social trend that allowed artists to express themselves on a public scale, while also forming bonds with their community.

Although the response has been mainly positive, there were also accusations from artists like Prasanna Weerakkody, a world renowned artist known for his paintings on the lives of the Sinhala people, saying that people have been copying his work without prior permission and claiming them as their own. Many have also pointed out the lack of proper laws or policies regarding the regulation of graffiti and concerns of maintenance for the future.

Sri Lanka has an artistic heritage. We have a historic tendency to draw on walls, dating back to the Sigiriya frescoes. Is what we're witnessing today a social blip fuelled by politics, or is it part of a bigger cultural phenomenon that we are not yet aware of?



## FAVOURITE TALES THROUGH A NEW LENS

- Minali Weerakkody

Fairy tales, crimes, classics and thrillers are all very dear and near to our hearts when laid upon in writing. We always admire the protagonist because it is their journey that we are experiencing, but it is not uncommon to ponder the origins and the journey in the view of a secondary character out of admiration, entertainment or even for the horror of it.

This is to all those fond imaginations.

### 1. Harry Potter recounted by Draco Malfoy

It is not that Harry is not interesting enough, but we'll all be lying if we say that Draco Malfoy isn't a fan favourite. The story following Draco will show the vulnerabilities that a person has to face just due to the ideologies of their parents. We see how Draco becomes this partial villain because of the duties and notions that are expected from him, but in reality, he just wants the pain of inadequacy washed away. This series would indeed be an eye-opener of how society creates its own villains.

### 2. Pride and Prejudice narrated by Caroline Bingley

The romance between Elizabeth and Darcy could not be more perfect. Yet, it would be interesting to read their tale as told by Mr Bingley's sister, Caroline Bingley, who one could say is blatantly interested in Darcy. It would be like listening to the tale of Cinderella from the point of view of the evil sisters. The frustration and the adamant yet, futile gestures to diverge Darcy's gaze from Elizabeth would be quite entertaining.

### 3. Percy Jackson in the view of the Gods

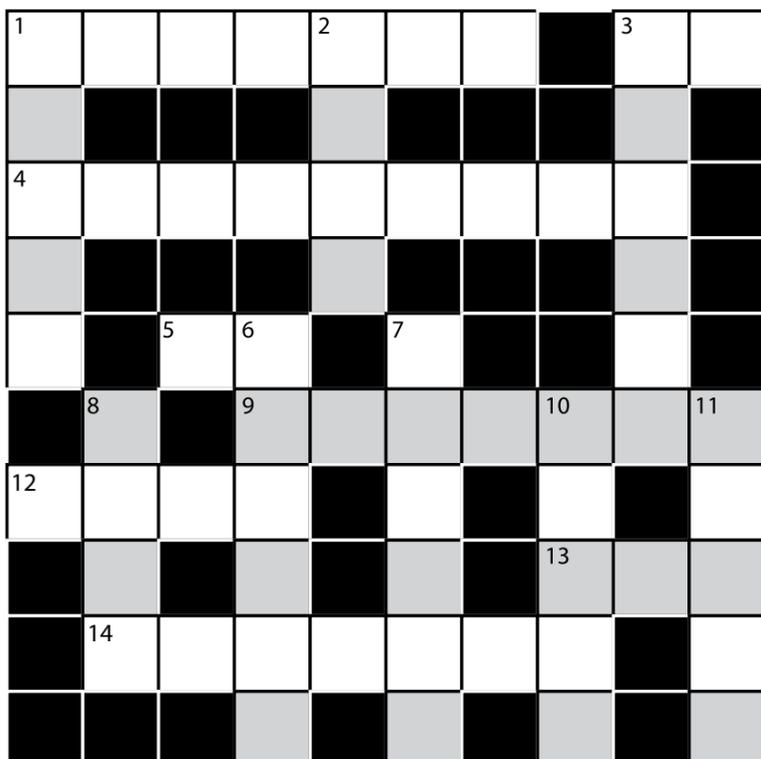
Wouldn't it be hilarious to read how the gods ridicule the puny demigods from their imperial thrones, who run around because a spring or a corpse tells them to? Fighting with each other on who has the best kid and how they try to solve problems, that were consequences of the actions of the gods themselves. Would be very narcissistic but, nevertheless a very interesting anecdote.

### 4. How to Kill a Mockingbird as experienced by Tom Robinson

With the world blazing due to racial prejudice and continued violence against people of colour, there is no better time to revisit a tragic classic in the view of the innocent. Reliving the trauma that Tom faces because of the difference of his skin colour; accused of the rape of Mayella, a white girl who actually tried to seduce him and is beaten by her own father. The plight of Tom is worsened when the beatings given by Mayella's father is used as evidence against him. The tragedy of his life will end with a bullet through his head. It is indeed heart-breaking to follow such a predicament.

### 5. Stephen King horror novels relived by the Monsters

I never understood why people loved scaring themselves to no bounds and Stephen King's novels were no exception. The very concept of monsters was widely popularised due to his brilliant works. Yet, the creation, life and the existence of these monsters varying from Pennywise to the Raggedy Man, is not characterized. It would definitely be more horrifying to learn how these abominations in the mentalities of once innocent people evolved to become the feared horrors they are now.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

1. Former president of USA
3. Artificial intelligence
4. Mt. Merapi is located in this country
5. Bachelor of Arts
9. A proportion in relation to a whole
12. A large plant with edible corms
13. An animal on the Australian Coat of Arms
14. A founder of Hogwarts

### DOWN

1. The COVID-19 initially broke out in this country
2. An award which recognises the excellence in live Broadway Theatre
3. Jeff Bezos is the founder of this multinational company
6. Well famed space mission launched by NASA
7. An alloy made of Copper and Tin
8. An epidemic which broke out in 2003
10. Each and all
11. Dull or heavy blow

## Creatives

### COLLOQUIUM

Dear readers,

We are excited to announce our newest segment, "Colloquium".

We will be introducing a new topic each issue and would like to hear your opinions on them. You can argue for or against the topic, and the best argument from each side would be published.

**Topic: Should schools be religion based?**

You can send your submissions to [mcmiscellany@gmail.com](mailto:mcmiscellany@gmail.com).

Word count: 200 words

Deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> of July

### THE ROGUE CHILD

- Sasindie Subasinghe

There was a battle between the heart and the mind  
It raged on for years and years through time  
And on a certain dawn the battle was done  
The heart had caved in and the mind had won

With the greatest agony she summoned the soldiers  
The honours they won resting on their shoulders  
They were crowned for their victories despite their mass  
The crowned soldiers were all she could ask

She sent them marching to the one who ran wild  
She sent them marching to her favoured child  
She sent them marching to the marvel in vogue  
She sent them marching to her child that went rogue

They left with great vigour under her orders  
To tame not to kill unlike brutal war does  
And not long after the child was stricken  
Plagued by the soldiers the child fell victim

She did this out of love; she did this out of hate  
Her love for all children, to change their fate  
Her hate for the blindness to all her warnings  
The storms, the hurricanes, the floods, the burnings

She sat on edge watching the fight  
Her mind sat knowing it did the world right  
And on raged the battle between the riled  
The mighty earth mother and the human child

### COSMOPOETICA WINNER

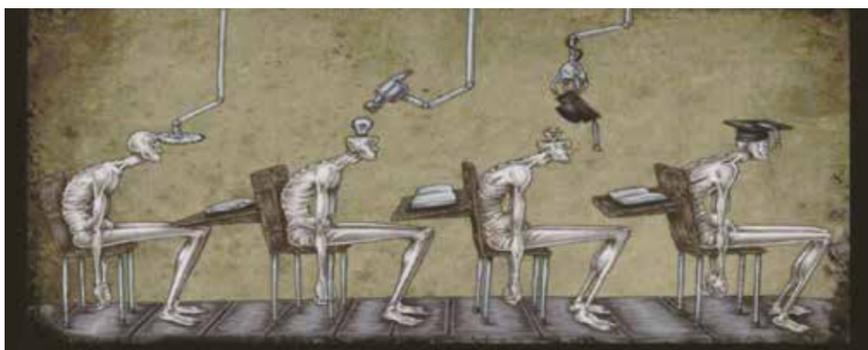
-Senujee Wickramasooriya

12B<sub>2</sub> Sci

A dreamer,  
An artist,  
Walked through  
those iron gates  
Heard music  
never heard before  
Saw colours  
on an empty canvas  
A creator,  
A fascinating mind,  
Entered into  
that room  
Curious little heads  
Full of questions  
Rich with ideas  
to change the world  
time passed  
years flew by  
and the light within them  
slowly began to die.

The dreamer stopped dreaming,  
The artist withered away  
Learnt to never ask 'why?'  
And to not ask questions  
Trapped in a prison,  
Walls made of logic  
Bars made of 'intellect'

The prisoner a 'genius'  
Swept away in a mad race  
To reach the pinnacle  
In a world of  
'well-balanced' beings  
Souls once filled with  
vibrant shades  
Reduced to nothing but  
a dreary grey



### TIME TO INCLUDE: COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT 2019

- Hansathi Pallewatte

The Community Service Club of Musaeus College commenced 'TIME TO INCLUDE' the community service project in July 2019. Prioritizing our belief of inclusivity amongst all communities, the team set out to make a difference in the lives of autistic children and to eliminate the stigma shown to the so called 'different ones', while helping the members of our fellow student body to open their hearts to understand, love, accept and respect these differences.

#### WHAT DID WE DO?

#### 1. VOLUNTEERED AT 'REACH BEYOND' – AUTISM AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

We decided to collaborate with Reach Beyond – Autism and Child Development Center in Tickell Road, Borella. We got the opportunity to bond and play with so many little children who loved to have fun. During the August holidays, we helped the crew at Reach Beyond decorate the classrooms with origami creations and various other decorations. The inflatable pool we donated served as the ball pit, serving the dual purpose of being filled with water and balls to play with according to the child's need. Furthermore, sensory toys for them to play with were also donated.

#### 2. INTRA AND INTER SCHOOL AUTISM AWARENESS WORKSHOPS

Students of Grade 9 and 10 attended this workshop, to which Mrs. Malathi Kahandaliyanage, Mrs. Tharsiny Markandu and the rest of the Reach Beyond team were the guest speakers. The workshop visibly brightened when three autistic children from Reach Beyond came into the auditorium and joined the proceedings. One of our main intentions was to spread awareness not only within our school, but within other schools around Colombo so that the message to include children with autism would spread far and wide. Therefore, the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 saw participants from several schools in Colombo and both primary and upper school students of Musaeus College attending the inter school workshop. The highlight of the day was the speech of legendary singer Bathiya Jayakody, whose words of inspiration recalled by a childhood as a special needs child, moved everyone.

Badges and leaflets including information to both parents and children promoting autism awareness were distributed to all participants of the workshops. It was indeed a feeling of accomplishment that dawned on all of us when we saw the yellow badges pinned on the schoolbags of students every day.

#### 3. CHILDREN'S DAY PROGRAM FOR THE AUTISTIC CHILDREN OF REACH BEYOND

Children all over Sri Lanka celebrate Children's day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, and we were quite surprised that the children at Reach Beyond, most of whom cannot attend regular schools in the country, have never participated in a Children's Day program. After a day of fun filled activities including singing, dancing and painting, the smiles on the faces of the children as they left made it all worthwhile. The autistic children were joined by students of the primary section, to give the day a more rounded appeal.

#### 4. AUTISM AWARENESS ART EXHIBITION

Children at Reach Beyond, did not have the exposure and experience of having their talents displayed for people to see. Therefore, we organized an Art Exhibition; open to the public, promoting autism awareness. To have variety, we showcased art done by autistic children art done by the students of Musaeus College on their viewpoints on autism.

#### 5. LAUNCHING OF INSTAGRAM PAGE

Modern problems require modern solutions. As teenagers ourselves, we understood that the widest reach we could have for our project was social media and therefore we launched an Instagram page titled 'Time to Include' – Documenting Autism in Sri Lanka one story at a time.

The statement, 'our differences make us who we are,' never made more sense than once we finished our project. Interacting with children who wanted to play, dance and sing just like us, but could not, was truly eye-opening in making us realize that there's not much of a difference between us. The disabled are the world's largest minority and each one of them has the power to inspire.

There is so much we can do to make another person smile, and this is what makes the world go round. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world; so involve yourself and volunteer!

# Sports



Year of the iconic Wavin' Flag, 2010 FIFA WC saw Spain securing their first World Title



Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt makes history as the fastest man on Earth. His performance at the Olympics earns him the title "Lightning Bolt"



Champion road race cyclist, Lance Armstrong admits to using performance enhancing drugs and is stripped of his titles



Total of 22 medals; Michael Phelps titled the Most Decorated Olympian of All Time beating the previous record holder Larisa Latynina

**WAVIN' FLAG: FIFA WORLD CUP**  
2010

**ALL BLACKS STRIVE TO WIN: RUGBY WORLD CUP**  
2011

2012

**THE LANCE ARMSTRONG CONTROVERSY**  
2013

A tense match between Germany and Argentina drew billions of viewers, as the latter wins 1-0



**ICC WORLD T20 TURNS INTO BATTLE OF THE ASHES**

**INDIA STRIKES GOLD ON HOME SOIL: ICC WORLD CUP**

**PHELPS AND BOLT MAKE HISTORY**

**MURRAY V. DJOKOVIC SHOWDOWN**

2014

**FINALE OF A CENTURY: BILLIONS TUNE IN**

2015

**FIGHT OF THE CENTURY?**

# Decade in Sports

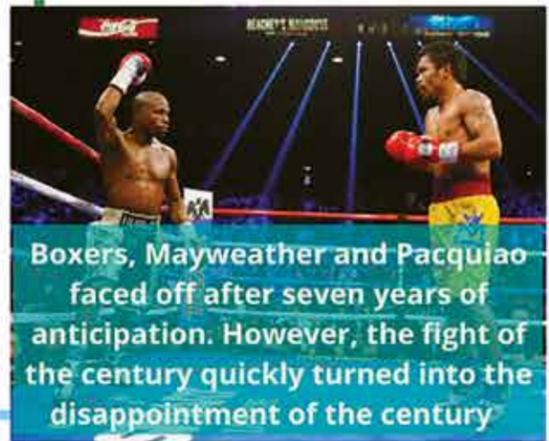
- Kavya Seneviratne and Oneli Perera

**SIMONE BILES WINS 25TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDAL**

**DARK HORSE CROATIA'S OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE: FIFA**

**THE "LIGHTNING BOLT" GIVES FINAL BOW**

**TAKING A STAND BY NOT STANDING**



Boxers, Mayweather and Pacquiao faced off after seven years of anticipation. However, the fight of the century quickly turned into the disappointment of the century

2019

**"THE MOST DRAMATIC MATCH OF ALL TIME": ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP**

2018

**MBAPPE MAKES HEADLINES**



Simone Biles became the most decorated gymnast of all time as she won 5 gold medals at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships.

2017

2016

**RIP TO A LEGEND**



In 2016, Joseph Schooling wins Olympics Gold medal beating his childhood hero, Michael Phelps



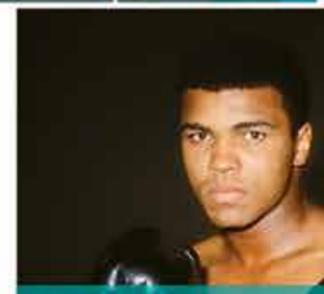
NFL player Colin Kaepernick kneels during the National Anthem, protesting the oppression of Black people and POC



The ENG v NZL finale ended with a tie, with the games going for a super over for the first time in ODI history. The super over also concluded in a tie, with England winning their first championship on the boundary count back rule.



Kylian Mbappé follows Pelé to become the second teenager to score at a FIFA World Cup final.



One of the Greatest Boxers of all time, Muhammad Ali dies at age 74 due to septic shock

-Digitalised by Ravindi Ratnayake