XAVIER DARPAN

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Provincial's Message

Dear and Rev Fathers and Brothers,

Loving and prayerful Greetings from Provincial House, Rajkot.

As we are in last phase of Lenten season, a period marked by reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal, it is crucial for us to focus not only on external acts of piety but also on inner transformation. This sacred time presents a unique opportunity for deepening our self-awareness and fostering personal growth in alignment with our spiritual journey.

Self-awareness forms the bedrock upon which all personal growth is constructed. It entails introspection, reflection, and a profound understanding of our thoughts, emotions, and actions. Throughout Lent, let us dedicate ourselves to cultivating this awareness through prayer, meditation, and sincere self-examination. By conscientiously assessing our strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement, we can embark on a journey of self-discovery that leads to spiritual maturity.

Moreover, self-awareness is inherently tied to humility, a virtue central to the Lenten season. By acknowledging our limitations and imperfections, we open ourselves to the transformative power of God's grace. Let us embrace humility as we strive to become more self-aware, recognizing that true greatness lies not in self-aggrandizement but in humble service to others.

In addition to self-awareness, Lent beckons us to prioritize self-growth – the continual process of becoming the best versions of ourselves. This journey of growth encompasses spiritual, emotional, and intellectual dimensions, each requiring intentional effort and dedication. Let us utilize this sacred season to nurture our souls through various spiritual exercises, while also investing in our intellectual and emotional well-being through study, reflection, and self-care.

Furthermore, let us remember that self-growth is not a solitary endeavour but a communal one.



As members of the religious community, we bear the responsibility to support and encourage one another in our individual journeys of transformation. Let us create spaces for dialogue, sharing, and mutual accountability, where we can glean insights from each other's experiences and grow together in faith and love.

As Pope Francis aptly reminds us, "In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could lead to a hardness of heart, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of the boundless love of God, in order to experience his tenderness."

The Lenten season invites us to contemplate how we can deepen our bonds with our brothers in faith, our fellow priests, and the wider community. It challenges us to seek reconciliation and healing where there may be division or discord, to extend forgiveness and compassion to those who have wronged us, and to build bridges of understanding and empathy with all whom we encounter.

In conclusion, may this Lenten season be a time of profound self-awareness and growth for each of us. Let us commit ourselves wholeheartedly to the pursuit of spiritual maturity, trusting in God's abundant grace to guide and sustain us on our journey. Together, may we emerge from this season renewed in mind, body, and spirit, ready to serve God and our fellow brothers and sisters with greater love and compassion.

Yours lovingly in Christ,

Fr. Binoy Elavunkal CMI
Provincial.

News Updates

ENLIGHTENING SEMINAR EXPLORES THE INTERSECTION OF 'HUMAN RIGHTS & GOSPEL VALUES'



In a profound convergence of ethics and spirituality, a one-day seminar titled 'Human Rights & Gospel Values' was organized on December 17th at Navjyoti Training Centre, Dhroliya. The event, a collaborative effort between Fr. Thomas Kolamkuzhiyil, the director of Navjyoti Training Centre, and the Department of Education, aimed to delve into the crucial intersection of human rights and gospel values.



The seminar was graced by the presence of Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ, a distinguished social activist hailing from the Jesuit Gujarat Province. Fr. Cedric Prakash brought a wealth of experience and a daring spirit to animate the sessions, creating an enriching environment for the participants. 45 participants consisting Priests of St. Xavier's Province and Religious sisters from various congregations in Rajkot City benefitted from the expertise and daring spirit of Fr. Cedric Prakash.

HOME COMING OF GLOBAL MISSIONARIES

The missionaries, representing the global face of St. Xavier's Province, Rajkot; Fr. Joseph Kanavally, Fr. Paulose Pottampuzha, Fr. Taiju Thaliath, Fr. Jaimon Thandappilly, Fr. Francis Ackapadi, Fr. George Ottalankal, Fr. Dionish Thazhathuveetil, and Fr. Jose Pattathil recently visited their home province during the months of December and January, bringing with them a wealth of experiences, insights, and inspirations.







Having completed their sojourn in the surroundings of the province, and home town, these missionaries have now returned to their respective international missions. They are assured of our prayers and love to accompany them.

BRO. JIBIN MANAKUZHIYIL CONFERRED THE SACRED ORDER OF DIACONATE



In a momentous occasion that resonated with spiritual significance and joy, Bro. Jibin Manakuzhiyil was conferred the Sacred order of Diaconate on the 11th of February, 2024. The sacred ceremony took place at Samanvaya Theologate in Bhopal, where the Bishop of Gorakhpur, Mar Mathew Nellikkunnel CST, presided over the ordination. The St. Xavier's Province extends its warmest congratulations and prayerful wishes to Deacon Jibin, confident that his ordained ministry will be a beacon of light, leading towards deeper spirituality, compassion, and service in the spirit of the Gospel.

FOSTERING SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND COMMUNITY BONDING

In a spirit of unity and fraternity, the Pastoral Department organised a dynamic zonal gathering that unfolded over three enriching days from the 3rd to the 5th of February. Guided by the insightful leadership of Fr. Cyprian OIC from Bethany Ashram, Pune, the gathering drew



Rajkot - Surendranagar Zone



Kachchh Zone



Jamnagar Zone

together participants from various corners of the province, fostering spiritual renewal, communal bonding, and a shared commitment to the CMI mission. The Zonal gathering of Kutch District was held at St. Xavier's CMI House Shinai, the Rajkot & Surendranagar Zones gathered at St. Mary's CMI House, Chotila and the Jamnagar Zone gathered at St. Xavier's CMI House, Jamnagar.



FR. JOSEPH VADAKEDATH EMBARKS ON PASTORAL MINISTRY IN CANADA



Fr. Joseph Vadakedath set foot on Canadian soil on February 24, 2024, to commence his pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Fr. Joseph Vadakedath, with his unwavering commitment to the CMI mission and compassionate pastoral service, carries with him the collective hopes and aspirations of the St. Xavier's Province. His departure marks not only a personal milestone but also a testament to the global mission of the province. As Fr. Joseph begins his pastoral ministry in this new cultural and spiritual context, the St. Xavier's Province expresses profound gratitude for his dedicated service and sends him forth with heartfelt wishes for a fruitful and rewarding apostolate in Canada.

TRUST MEETING AND INSIGHTFUL SEMINAR ON MINORITY RIGHTS



In a concerted effort to deepen the understanding of minority rights the Department of Finance organised a one-day seminar on 'Minority Rights.' Guided by the expertise of Adv. Jose Abraham, an Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court, the seminar brought together a diverse group of 50 participants, including CMI priests from St. Xavier's Province, representatives from St. Chavara Province in Bhavnagar, and sisters from various congregations in Rajkot. The seminar, held with meticulous planning and execution, provided a comprehensive exploration of the legal aspects and ethical considerations surrounding minority rights. Adv. Jose Abraham, known for his profound knowledge in constitutional law and minority rights, navigated the participants through key principles, landmark cases, and contemporary challenges faced by minority communities.



Following the enlightening seminar, the afternoon session transitioned into a trust meeting that underscored the critical importance of documentation. This emphasis was based on the comprehensive visitation conducted by Fr. Tomy Ekkan and Fr. Jose Mangalamkunnel to all institutions within the province for the verification of documents. The trust meeting served as a platform for open discussions about the challenges and opportunities in maintaining accurate and up-to-date documentation.



The participants collectively recognized the importance of thorough documentation as a means to uphold transparency, accountability, and compliance with legal standards.

REMEMBRANCE OF SR. PRASANNA DEVI, 'THE FIRST CHRISTIAN HERMIT' OF GUJARAT





On Sunday, February 25, 2024, the first death anniversary of Sr. Prasanna Devi, renowned as 'the First Christian Hermit' of Gujarat, was solemnly commemorated at Atmeswar. The prayer ceremony, held on the Girnar, was organized by Fr. Christanand, the present hermit, and witnessed the participation of Fr. Thomas Cheeramkunnel CMI, Vicar of St. Ann's Parish, Junagadh, along with parishioners and devoted followers of Sr. Prasanna Devi. The ceremony served as a touching reminder of the profound influence Sr. Prasanna Devi had on the spiritual landscape of Gujarat and the lives she touched through her devotion and teachings.

SHARED COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL -2024



In a spirit of shared commitment to spiritual renewal, the CMI priests of St. Xavier's Province, Rajkot, and St. Chavara Province, Bhavnagar, gathered for a two-day renewal programme on March 7 and 8 at St. Xavier's Provincial House in Rajkot.







The renewal sessions were guided by Fr. Joy Francis OCD, who delved into the 'Challenges of Community life and how to become a community.' The programme also included Faith Sharing by Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil SDB, offering profound perspectives and encouraging a deep exploration of faith. Addressing contemporary concerns, Fr. Prasant Palakkappilly CMI shared valuable insights on the 'CMI Environmental Policy'.



NURTURING VOCATIONS: FORMATION UPDATE ON ASPIRANTS AT RAJKOT AND GONDAL

The aspirants, currently based in Rajkot have returned after a rejuvenating period of home holidays, ready for the next phase of their formative experience. As the formation calendar progresses; in the month of May, the candidates at Gondal will move to Rajkot to pursue their +2 studies at Christ School, Rajkot.





The province extends its prayers and best wishes to the aspirants, trusting that their formative experiences will contribute to their personal growth and the greater mission of the CMI community.

ST. ELIZABETH SHCOOL, ANJAR
DISPUTE RESOLVED; BOUNDARY WALL CONSTRUCTED



St. Elizabeth School in Anjar has successfully constructed a new boundary wall between their property and that of neighboring land, putting an end to a longstanding dispute that persisted for years. The newly constructed boundary wall marks the end of a chapter of dispute and the beginning of an undisputed future regarding our property. Hearty congrats to Fr. Naiju and Fr. Joody for their perseverance and commitment to the cause.

ST. XAVIER'S SHCOOL, JAMKHAMBHALIA
TWILIGHT GALA 2024



In an amazing display of talent and creativity, St. Xavier's School in Jamkhambhalia celebrated its Annual Day, aptly named 'Twilight Gala 2024,' on March 9, 2024.



The mega show, lasted for 3 plus hours was a feast to the eyes of the present hundreds of audiences. Different themes staged, relevant to the students and parents served its didactic purpose. Rev.Fr. Binoy Elavunkal, the provincial was the president of the function and many priests and religious from various institutions and government officials of various portfolio were present at the magnificent show of talent. Kudos to Fr. Benny CMI, the principal, Fr. James Kachappilly CMI, the manager, the CMC sisters, teachers, and students for staging this wonderful programme.



NEWS FROM THE CENTRES

NAV JYOTI TRAINING CENTRE, DHROLIYA



Postulants Journey - Seminar

Nav Jyothi Training Centre at Dhroliya is in the fifth year of its existence. This year after the monsoon showers of blessings it welcomed several people from different walks of life: Students teachers, social workers, priests, nuns and lay people, for a pilgrimage of spiritual, mental, intellectual, physical, and psychological renewal.



Vanaprasta : Retired Teachers' Meet





Get together of Govt. School Children

Through eco-walks, yoga practices, spiritual discourses, silent meditations, nature visits, liturgical worships, they could come into contact with the other self and got revitalized. They came, stayed for a day, a couple of days and weeks. Individuals, groups, families, and religious communities enjoyed the nature's hospitality and God's compassion and found themselves in mystical solitude and refreshing breeze of Spirit.



Retreat : St.Ann's Sisters, Mumbai Province



Aspirants Motivated



Welcoming Newly Professed FCC Religious



Retreat for Students



Blessing of Newly Erected Good Shepherd Statue

MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL, JAMJODHPUR

Remarkable Academic Year 2023-24

In the vibrant landscape of education and co-curricular activities, St. Mother Teresa School in Jamjodhpur proudly reflects on an exceptional academic year 2023-24. The success of the academic year can be attributed to the spirit of teamwork and commitment that permeates every facet of St. Mother Teresa School. The collaborative efforts of the school's managerial team, led by the Manager, and the principal, along with the unwavering dedication of the entire staff, have created an environment conducive to learning, growth, and holistic development. Throughout the academic year, students at St. Mother Teresa School actively participated in a plethora of activities, showcasing their talents and commitment to personal and collective growth.

Some of the notable achievements and activities include: Swachata Abhiyan, Mother Tresa-day charity works, Vanya-Praani Divas Ujavani, Iner-National Rangotsav, Diwali-Christmas celebration, Paitriotic Days, Sports Day, Science Fare, Khel-Khala Maha Khumbh & Quiz-GKIG competitions and Annual day "Prayan" celebration.



Annual Day



Charity Day





Christmas Celebration



Janmashtami Celebration





Seminar - Tobacco Awareness



Study Tour - Rajastan







Science Fair





Swachata Abhiyan

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL, JAMNAGAR,

COMMEMORATES G20 SUMMIT WITH ENTHUSIASTIC STUDENT PARTICIPATION

In a lively celebration echoing the global significance of the G20 Summit hosted by our nation in New Delhi, St. Francis School on September 08 organized a series of events that showcased the talent and enthusiasm of its students. As part of the commemoration, the NCC cadets of St. Francis School took the lead in organizing engaging activities such as G20 poster-making, drawing competitions, and debate competitions. These events served as a platform for students to express their perspectives on the G20 Summit and its implications for global cooperation.



In addition to the artistic endeavours, a spirited debate competition was held, where students engaged in insightful discussions on various aspects of the G20 Summit. The topics ranged from economic policies and global governance to environmental sustainability and social development. The debates not only demonstrated the students' knowledge of international affairs but also encouraged critical thinking and effective communication skills.

SWACHHTA KARYANJALI: A PIONEERING INITIATIVE TOWARDS CLEAN INDIA BEAUTIFUL INDIA



In a remarkable display of commitment to cleanliness and environmental awareness, St. Francis School organized a comprehensive Swachhta Karyanjali on October 1, aligning with the national vision of a Clean India Beautiful India.

Under the inspiring slogan "Clean India Beautiful India," the school orchestrated various activities aimed at raising awareness about the detrimental effects of single-use plastics and promoting proper garbage disposal. On this day, the entire staff of St. Francis School came together for a collective cleanliness program, setting a shining example for both students and society at large. The teachers, in a symbolic gesture, set aside traditional chalks, used for imparting knowledge, and picked up brooms to actively participate in cleaning the school campus.

By involving both staff and students in this impactful endeavour, St. Francis School hopes to foster a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility within the school community and beyond. This Swachhta Karyanjali serves as a testament to the school's dedication to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and its mission to create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable India.



NAVY DAY CELEBRATION WITH UNIQUE HUMAN ANCHOR FORMATION

In a remarkable celebration of Navy Day, St. Francis School organized a special event on November 23rd, honouring the Indian Navy and paying tribute to its exemplary service. The highlight of the celebration was a distinctive human anchor formation created by the students during the school assembly.



As the entire school community gathered for the Navy Day celebration, students from various classes came together to form a human anchor, symbolizing strength, unity, and the indomitable spirit of the Indian Navy. The captured image of the human anchor formation stood out as an exemplary representation of the celebration and was recognized as the best image from Gujarat by the National Cadet Corps (NCC). This prestigious recognition reflects the creativity and dedication of the students and the school in showcasing their support for the Indian Navy.

PATRON'S DAY CELEBRATION

St. Francis School immersed itself in spiritual reverence and gratitude on December 3rd as it celebrated School Patron's Day, dedicated to seeking the blessings of St. Francis Xavier, the esteemed patron of the institution. The day was marked by various programs that highlighted the life and contributions of St. Francis Xavier.



Named after the revered saint, St. Francis School continued its tradition of seeking the patron's blessings and acknowledging the significant role St. Francis Xavier plays in the ethos of the school. The celebration aimed to instil a sense of spirituality, gratitude, and inspiration among the school community. The students put up various programs that delved into the life, teachings, and contributions of St. Francis Xavier. Through skits, speeches, and presentations, the students showcased the values and principles upheld by the patron saint, emphasizing the importance of compassion, service, and education.





THRILLING CYCLOTHON

In commemoration of Subhash Jayanti, with the support of the 8 NU NCC, St. Francis School organized an exhilarating Cyclothon on January 23rd. The event, supported by the Department of Forest and the City Traffic Police Department, showcased the school's commitment to holistic development. The Cyclothon, covering 14 kilometers, provided an opportunity for NCC cadets to showcase their cycling prowess and physical endurance. In addition to the cycling segment, an extra 10-kilometer trekking adventure was added, making the event even more challenging and adventurous. The flag-off ceremony was a distinguished affair with the presence of notable guests, including Mrs. Ananda Bhatia, Mrs. Smitha Bhatia, and Mr. Rahul Joshi, all active members of the Indian Cycling Club.



NATIONAL VOTER'S DAY CELEBRATION

In a spirited celebration of democracy, St. Francis School commemorated National Voter's Day on January 25th, emphasizing the importance of active participation in the electoral process. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students who took a solemn pledge to exercise their voting rights as responsible citizens of India. As part of the celebration, students gathered to take a pledge, promising to contribute to the democratic process by exercising their voting rights when eligible.



ANNUAL DAY - TERRA FEST - A CELEBRATION OF EARTH AND EXCELLENCE

St. Francis School's Annual Day took on a distinctive hue of environmental consciousness and excellence on January 13th, with the theme "Terra Fest" resonating throughout the celebration.







The event, graced by Mr. Charles Mathew, the Superintendent of Customs at Relia nce, as the chief guest, and Mrs. M.N Jadeja, PSI City B Division, Jamnagar, as the guest of honour, unfolded with a powerful message about protecting and celebrating the Earth. The Terra Fest theme infused the event with a vibrant spirit of eco-consciousness, emphasizing the significance of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL STUDENT SHINES IN NAVANAGAR NATURE CLUB CYCLOTHON

A remarkable achievement unfolded as Master Makkati Murtuza from St. Francis School secured a position in the top ten participants of the Cyclothon organized by the Navanagar Nature Club on January 21st. Master Murtuza showcased exceptional endurance and cycling prowess by completing an impressive 50 kilometers.





In recognition of his achievement, Master Murtuza was honoured with a well-deserved medal, a memento, and a certificate. The accolades serve as a testament to his dedication.

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL MARKS REPUBLIC DAY WITH GRAND CELEBRATION





St. Francis School echoed with patriotism and pride as the students, staff, and esteemed guests came together to celebrate the 75th Republic Day on January 26th. The event was graced by the presence of Commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Indrajeet Singh Chauhan, who served as the chief guest for the occasion.

The ceremonial flag hoisting was conducted with great honour by Lieutenant Commander Indrajeet Singh Chauhan in the presence of the school manager, Rev. Fr. Cyriac Varghese. The ceremony also included the esteemed presence of other distinguished guests, including Rev. Fr. George Joseph, Principal of St. Xavier's School, Rev. Fr. Saji Mathew, Principal of St. Francis School, and Vice Principal Rev. Fr. Jijo Thomas.



The students took centre stage in presenting various and remarkable Republic Day programs, showcasing their talents and fervor for the nation. The programs were meticulously organized and executed, displaying perfection in every aspect. From patriotic songs and stirring speeches to vibrant cultural performances, the celebration was a testament to the students' dedication and enthusiasm.

EXCEPTIONAL TALENTS

St. Francis School Students Shine Bright, Earn Prestigious Title and Certificate of World Records in a celebration of extraordinary talent, Mehta Krisha from Std. VI and Nandhana Nair from Std. IV of St. Francis School showcased their exceptional skills by winning the special title of "Nrithya Medhini 2024" in the classical dance category. This remarkable achievement took place during the World's Largest Patriotic Day Celebration 2024, organized to commemorate the grand occasion of the 75th Republic Day.







The two talented students not only left an indelible mark on the grand event but also garnered global recognition for their outstanding performances. In a momentous acknowledgment of their exceptional talent, Mehta Krisha and Nandhana Nair were honoured with the Certificate of World Records by RAABA Book of World Records.

ATHLETIC SPIRIT AT ANNUAL SPORTS DAY 2024



St. Francis School celebrated its Annual Sports Day on February 10th with a burst of enthusiasm and sportsmanship, as students showcased their athletic talents in various events. The inter-house sports day not only provided a platform for students to exhibit their sporty prowess but also emphasized the importance of participation and teamwork.



The school's commitment to fostering a sports culture was evident throughout the day, with house in charge teachers dedicating themselves to nurturing and encouraging the students. Their commitment and spirit played a pivotal role in moulding the young athletes and bringing out the best in them. The event kicked off with a spirited march past, showcasing discipline, unity, and pride among the participating houses. Students then engaged in a series of races, jumps, tug of war, and relay events, captivating the audience with their skill and determination. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as participants and spectators alike revealed in the thrill of the sports day.





REV. FR. PROVINCIAL'S VISIT

St. Francis School was honoured by the gracious presence of Rev. Fr. Provincial on February 19th, as he made a significant visit to the institution. During his stay, Rev. Fr. Provincial dedicated ample time to immerse himself in the school's activities, gaining a personal understanding of the atmosphere within.

Fr. Provincial, engaged in meaningful interactions with teachers, staff, and students, aiming to grasp the essence of the educational environment. He shared insightful perspectives on the evolving landscape of education and encouraged educators to embrace change, emphasizing the importance of moving from traditional conditioning to cultivating volatile adaptability and innovation.



St. Francis School expresses gratitude to Rev. Fr. Provincial for his valuable time and guidance during the visit. The enriching experience has left a positive impact on the school community, fostering a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to educational excellence.

ST.XAVIER'S SCHOOL - MUNDRA

NATIONAL LEVEL CHAMPION OF SCIENCE DRAMA

A Glimpse Of National Science Drama Competition 2023- 24



The National Science Drama competition 2023- 24 was organised by the National Science Centre, Mumbai on 5th January 2024.

NSDF showcases how drama can bring science to life through Storytelling, Dynamic Performances and Creative Stage Craft.

The students performed the science drama named 'JAY VIGYAN JAY ANUSANDHAN', and became the Gujarat State champion where 29 District of Gujarat had participated. Mrs. Shrabani Mohanty was selected as the Best Script Writer & Best Director of the State Gujarat. The drama was selected for representing Gujarat in the Western India Zonal level competition which was held on 25th November 2023, at National Science Centre, Mumbai.

From the Zonal level also the science drama of St. Xavier's Mundra was selected for the National level competition. The Best Actress Award of Western India zone was awarded to Nimisha Vaghela of Class 9-B, of the school. It was one of the biggest achievements for our Gujarat state and St. Xavier's Mundra and Kachchh District.

The National Science Drama Festival, 2023-24, was held in NEHRU SCIENCE CENTRE, MUMBAI, on 5th January 2024.





From each zone; North, South, East, West & North East, two groups each had participated.

Gujarat was declared as, 'NATIONAL JOINT WINNERS' of Science Drama Competition 2023-24.

It was a wonderful journey cum learning experience and the moment to be proud of for the school as well as the Gujarat State. The performance, the efforts, the arrangements, everything got a mass appreciation.

SHAKESPEARE DRAMA HELD AT ST. XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL, MUNDRA.





Drama is a strong medium of communication. In order to develop dramatic skills and promote acting ability among students, St. Xavier's School, Mundra, organized an inter house Shakespeare Drama Competition on 5th January, 2024 evening was a great success. The drama was based on the different plays of William Shakespeare. The drama played by each group were "Macbeth", 12th Night, King Lear and Julius Caesar respectively.

The play Julius Casesar by Yellow House secured 1st Position Anupriya Rai from Std: X-B and Makwana Dishali from Std: IX-B chosen as best actor and actress respectively. It is glad to inform you that this is the first time that the Shakespeare Drama competition has been conducted in Mundra by a School and of course this is a proud moment for St. Xavier's School, Mundra.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, MUNDRA ACHIEVES AN ENROLLMENT IN THE NCC.



It is a great achievement that St.Xavier's school, Mundra, got enrolled in NAVAL NCC, effective from the academic year 2023-24. Naval officers Mr. Deepak Jatt and Mr.Gourav Sharma from Bhuj Airforce camp came for the selection. Sixteen boys and nine girls of classes 8th & 9th, were selected according to their performance and age.

Two teachers Mrs Soumya and Mrs. Elwina were appointed as CTO's. (CARE TAKER OFFICER)



The school's focus on overall development of its students, has broadened its limits by enrollment in the NCC, hereby committing towards making the students responsible and remarkable citizens.



In the all AINACS BASKETS BALL (GIRLS) and CRICKET (BOYS) St. Xavier's School, Mundra became " Runners-up" in both categories in the competition that was held at Bhavnagar on 20th January 2024.



NEW SCHOOL

We have secured permission for starting a school in the premises of St. Xavier's School, Mundra. The new school named St. Xavier's Public School is a proposed CBSE School supposed to begin from the academic year 2024-25. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Jino and Fr. James Katteth for their dedication and hard work in attaining the permission!

PLOTS PURCHASED

We have purchased 3 residential plots at Mundra, adjacent to the present land. It connects with another plot of ours opposite to the main land. Our access to this plot would have lost, had we not bought this new plot admeasuring just above 500 sq. Feet.

It was Fr. Jino who took the lead in purchasing and verifying the legal matters, before registering the land at sub registrar's office, Mundra. Congratulations dear Father.

SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL - RAJKOT

MUN-FOSTERING DIPLOMACY AND DIALOGUE





Saint Paul's School, Rajkot hosted the 7th edition of its MUN Programme for the students of Classes 7 to 12 on 8th and 9th December, 2023. The programme was organized by the school in association with SkillSphere Education, a pan India educational enterprise that conducts various skillset development programmes for students.

The programme was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest Prof. Arvind Akshan, HOD Physics, Christ College, Rajkot, Rev. Fr. James, Principal, Saint Paul's School, Ms. Pranjali Magar from SkillSphere and one of the student representatives.

212 students from 6 reputed schools of Rajkot participated in the MUN under various committees like the United Nations Security Council, United Nations Environment Programme, UN Women, United Nations General Assembly and the Lok Sabha, as delegates representing different countries. The agenda of the programme was 'Development and Equality beyond borders'. During the conference, the delegates researched their assigned country's policies and positions on the agenda. The stimulating MUN sessions saw the delegates utilize their skills of introduction, opinion development, debating, collaborative problem solving and drafting resolutions.





The dedicated involvement of the organizing committee, volunteers and the delegates was recognized during the closing ceremony. The winning delegates were given certificates by the Principal. The enriching experience left the delegates feeling empowered and enthused to become global citizens who can contribute to creating a better world!

DUO SHINE AT THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL READING OLYMPIAD



Aishwarya Pandey



Ananya Marndi

Young Bibliophiles from Saint Paul's School, Rajkot made the school proud with their outstanding performance in the 4th International Reading Olympiad conducted by the leading online reading platform freedom.

Aishwarya Pandey of Grade 4 secured the Second Runner Up Position at the International Level whereas Ananya Marndi of Grade 6 was declared the Second Runner Up at the Zonal Level.

BATTLE OF MINDS-INDIAN ARMY QUIZ 2023 PAULINES' FEISTY PERFORMANCE IN THE SEMIFINALS

With a commendable performance, the team from Saint Paul's School, Rajkot qualified for the semifinal round of the prestigious 'Battle of Minds- Indian Army Quiz '. 32,000 schools of the country had participated in the online preliminary round of the Quiz. The landmark Indian Army Quiz was held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of India's victory in the Kargil War.



The team members Jeny Hinsu (Grade 10), Aarav Astu, Fazila Bharmal and Samrat Sinha (Grade 9) displayed amazing grit and gumption in the quarter finals round of the Quiz held at Pune, battling it out with top 40 schools, earning a spot in the semifinals. They gave a spirited performance in the semifinals held at Chennai in the month of December 2023, where they conceded their spot in the finals with a narrow margin. All the four students were awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 20,000 and a Samsung Tablet each.

FUTURE CLASSROOM BY LUXROBO, SOUTH KOREA-DRIVING INNOVATION





Saint Paul's School, Rajkot has always been at the forefront in driving innovation in the classrooms and adopting the latest technological tools for making teaching and learning process engaging. The school has developed a Future Classroom cum Lab in collaboration with LUXROBO, a South Korean company that designs interactive Robotics and AI programming tools and modules. The Lab was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Benoy, CMI.





The introductory sessions for the Future Classroom were held in the school from 15th to 19th January, 2024 for the students and teachers of Grades 3 to 9. The students had great fun learning through the MODI (STEAM and AI) module and working with the 'Brick Pack Inventor' creating robots like Guide Bot, Bumper Car, Viking Ship, Spinner, Counting Bot, Earthquake Alarm and Spotlight among others.



AN EVENING AT SCHOOL-LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOMS

An evening spent at school offers an opportunity to the students to acquire life skills and learn beyond the school hours. With this objective, Saint Paul's School, Rajkot organized 'An Evening at School' for the tiny tots of Grade 1 in the month of December 2023.





The school playground resonated with loud cheers from the little champs as they performed activities like balancing, jungle gym, crossing over ropes and passing through tunnels. The hissing of the puppet snake on the drum beats had the children break into peals of laughter! The children thoroughly enjoyed navigating through various patterns and shapes painted on the floors. Finally, the experience of sitting in the school assembly area dining together with friends provided the children cherished memories for a life time!





CELEBRATIONS : EMBRACING THE FESTIVE SPIRIT!

NAVRATRI AND DIWALI

Keeping the tradition of Navratri alive, Saint Paul's School, Rajkot organized ' Garba Utsav' for the students and staff. The celebration began with the conventional 'Aarti' led by Principal Rev. Fr. James, followed by specially choreographed traditional sheri garba, dandiya and sword dance performances by the students. The school courtyard transformed into a dance floor as the students and staff enjoyed swirling gracefully in sync with rhythmic garba beats. The lovely garba decor and the traditional attires of the dancers added a splash of colour to the festive ambience! The best dressed garba players and the best garba dance performers were recognized.



In view of the Diwali festival, an enactment of Ramayan in the form of a dance drama was also presented by the students. The young learners of Grade 2, in their inimitable style, made an appeal to everyone to observe a 'Green Diwali' through their skit.

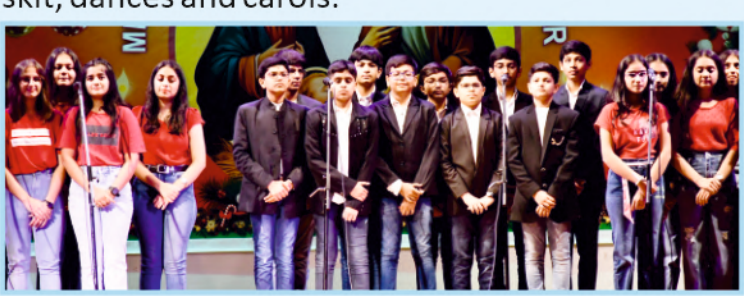
CHRISTMAS

Christmas celebration at Saint Paul's School, Rajkot was everything bright, nice and merry! In true Christmas spirit, besides woollen clothes, the proceeds from the Food Fair organized in the school and old newspapers collected by the students and teachers were donated to an NGO for mentally challenged children.





All the school notice boards and classrooms were decorated on the theme of Christmas by the students. The Primary School students had exciting activities like Christmas tree and candle decoration whereas the students of Middle School made Christmas Cards and unique life size Santa Puppets. The students of Grades 9 and 7 presented a spectacular Christmas Programme on the occasion which included Christmas messages, skit, dances and carols.







MISSION WATER:
ANNUAL PAULINE'S DAY- GRADE 3



The young learners of Grade 3 from Saint Paul's School made 'Conservation of Water' their mission for the Annual Pauline Day held on 3rd February, 2024. The event began with a choreographed presentation on the transformation of water into its solid, liquid and gas form by the students. Each child wore a headgear resembling a water droplet.

The programme involved presentations on Rainwater Harvesting, Reverse Osmosis, Need for Water Conservation, Paper Marbling, Blow Art and Paper Mache activities. A skit on water pollution was performed to spread awareness on the issue and the role of river Narmada was highlighted with the integration of the song 'Reva'. The students explained the aims, objectives and processes of each presentation to their parents, addressing any queries they had. The entire event was managed by the students themselves. To showcase the efforts put in by the children, a wall describing their entire journey was prepared.



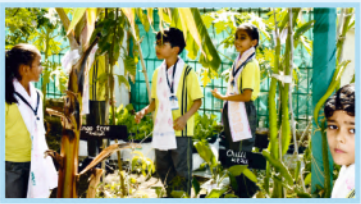


The biggest takeaways for the students were enhanced cognitive abilities, proficiency in multiple languages, practical application of Mathematics and Science subjects and a better understanding of the ecosystem!

ALL ABOUT PLANTS-ANNUAL PAULINE'S DAY GRADE 2



The students of Grade 2 presented their Annual Pauline's Day on 13th January, 2024 on the theme of 'Plants'. The school courtyard underwent a magical transformation, blooming into a vibrant floral wonderland! The students wore beautiful stoles which had their self-created block print patterns on them.







The event began with a shloka recitation followed by a dance performance by the students on the song 'I Can Fly'. Thereafter, the students and parents embarked on an immersive journey to designated areas. Along the way, the children showed different types of plants growing in the school and shared fascinating facts about them, leaving their parents in awe. A cozy and peaceful library with soothing music was set up in the school garden where the children read captivating books on the theme of 'Plants' to their parents. Next, the parents were taken to the Kitchen Garden and the Organic Fertilizer Pit, where the students explained the benefits of edible parts of the plants and demonstrated the process of making a compost pit. At the 'Art House', the children worked in groups to create scarecrows and explained how they help the farmer protect crops from pests and birds. The children exhibited their football and basketball skills at the fitness corner.





CREATIVITY GALORE-ANNUAL PAULINE'S DAY PRE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Annual Pauline's Day events for the Pre Primary Section of Saint Paul's School, Rajkot were held on 27th January and 10th February, 2024.



The events brought to the fore amazing talents and creativity of the young learners.

The tiny tots confidently showcased their reading, speaking, gross motor and life skills. They shared their knowledge about animals and birds with the parents.

They also won the hearts of one and all with their captivating dance performances. The parents were thrilled to watch the videos capturing the glimpses of their children's time spent at school. They were extremely happy to see the projects works of their children adorning the classroom walls. All the children were given appreciation cards for their efforts.





CAREER COUNSELLING SEMINARS
THE WAY AHEAD



Mr. Surya Kumar, Expert Coach for Competitive Exams and Teachers' Trainer, was invited by Saint Paul's School, Rajkot in the month of January, 2024 to guide the parents of Grades 8 and 9 regarding the career options for the students in various streams. Thereafter, the teachers of the school conducted similar Career Guidance sessions for the students of Grades 7 to 9.

SEMINAR ON 'EFFECTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES'
LEARNING HOW TO LEARN WELL!



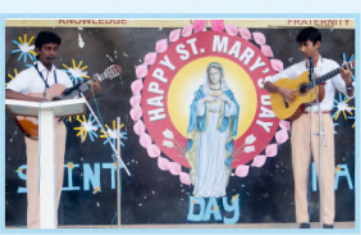
An interactive seminar on 'Effective Learning Strategies' was conducted at Saint Paul's School, Rajkot by eminent educationist Ms. Kabita Agarwal on 25th January, 2024. Techniques like acrostics, brainstorming, thought patterns, graphic organizers, video and audio lessons and story board were discussed with the students during the session.

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL, RAJKOT
A JOYFUL TRIBUTE TO MOTHER MARY; THE PATRONESS OF THE SCHOOL





On the auspicious occasion of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Mary's School transformed into a hub of devotion and artistic expression as students and staff came together for the Patroness Day Celebration. The event was a heartfelt homage to Mother Mary, the patroness of the school. The Celebration included students showcasing a myriad of Mother Mary-themed songs and dances.





CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION



Solemn Christmas Celebration was organized on 23rd December with cultural activities and competitions related to Christmas. Fr. Thomas Pulickkunnel presided over the function as the chief guest of the day. The celebration included various students' performances, showcasing their talents through Christmas-themed plays, songs and dances. The classrooms and corridors were adorned with colorful decorations, handmade crafts, and Christmas Trees, creating a joyful and festive ambiance.








INCULCATING CONCERN -CHARITY DAY




The Social Service committee (Marian Service Wing) Conducted a 'Charity Day' on 30 December, 2023. Parents and students Contributed wholeheartedly to the success of this drive as a result of which we received a good amount of wheat flour, Javar flour, Rice, Slippers, Winter Clothes etc. and Rs. 20,770 in cash. The teachers along with the student representatives visited the slum areas of Rajkot on 08 January, 2024 and distributed the food materials and clothes to the needy. The money collected was donated to Navjeevan Trust (Meals on Wheels Programme) and Shree Ramcharit Foundation Trust,' Rajkot.




ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

In this year's much-anticipated Annual Sports Day, our school witnessed a spectacular showcase of athleticism, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The event, held on 12 and 13 of January, 2024 was a resounding success, with students from all grades Pre-KG to XII enthusiastically participating in various competitions and activities.








The days were kicked off with impressive opening ceremonies having Mr. Charles Mores as the Chief Guest on 12th January and Colonel Prakash Vyas (Retd.) as Chief guest on 13 January, featuring a colorful parade of teams and the lighting of the torch.




Our young athletes showcased their skills in a diverse range of sports, including track and field events and team sports. The closing ceremony was a fitting conclusion, with awards presented to commendable athletes, acknowledging their dedication and achievements.





REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION & ALUMNI REUNION



Saint Mary's School witnessed a historic Republic Day celebration as the esteemed 1973-74 batch, celebrating their 50th year since graduating from the school, graced the occasion with their presence. In an atmosphere charged with pride and nostalgia, Saint Mary's School celebrated Republic Day in grandeur, accentuated by the reunion of 28 esteemed alumni and their family members from the illustrious 1973-74 batch. The day commenced with a poignant flag hoisting ceremony, accompanied by a stirring display by the School Band.



The event unfolded with insightful speeches that highlighted the significance of Republic Day and underscored the pivotal role education plays in nurturing responsible citizenship. The cultural performances that followed added a vibrant touch to the celebrations, showcasing the diverse talents of the current students.

The focal point of the event was the special alumni meet, where members from the 1973-74 batch revisited their alma mater, creating an atmosphere brimming with laughter,



camaraderie, and a profound sense of nostalgia. Mr. Rajiv Modi, the distinguished Founder of 'Sasken Technologies Pvt. Ltd,' Bengaluru, and one of the 28 Alumni present, graced the occasion as the chief guest of the Republic Day Programme. During his address, Mr. Modi fondly recalled his school days and acknowledged the instrumental role Saint Mary's played in shaping his career and life. The alumni shared inspiring anecdotes about their diverse journeys post-school, reinforcing the enduring bonds formed within the walls of Saint Mary's School.



The Republic Day celebration at Saint Mary's School transcended the ordinary, as the presence of the 1973-74 batch alumni added an extraordinary dimension to the event. The day was not only a celebration of the nation but also a joyous reunion that brought together generations of Saint Mary's students. The shared memories, laughter, and inspiring stories shared during the alumni meet served as a testament to the enduring legacy of Saint Mary's School in shaping not only academic careers but also fostering lifelong friendships and success.



SAINT HILARY SCHOOL, DHRANGADHRA

EXHIBITION AND FUNFAIR



With the aim of fostering a spirit of innovation and provide a platform for students to display their projects and skills, Saint Hilary School, organized an Exhibition and Funfair on 16 February, 2024. The exhibition and funfair held was a vibrant showcase of talent and creativity engaging students, teachers, parents, and the people of Dhrangadhra.





Students played a key role in organizing and managing the event, which gave them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, planning skills, creativity, and teamwork. The displays included different working models, art gallery, selfie zone, game zone and food zones which attracted many visitors from the local community. Families, friends, and neighbours came together to support the students and enjoy the festivities. It also helped the school to strengthen its ties with the local community. The event was solemnized with the presence of Jayeshbhai Patel- Director Omax Cotspin Surendranagar, Kuldipsinh Zala -President Municipality Dhrangadhra and Rajeshbhai Patel - Bureau Chief of Sandesh News Surendranagar and others.

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH - DHRANGADHRA



The Feast of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara was observed with great fervour at Saint Mary's Church in Dhrangadhra, spanning three spiritually enriching days from January 26th to 28th. The faithful gathered for a Novena, a series of prayers and devotions, to honour the revered saint. On the Feast Day, Fr. Titus Mandy, the officiating priest, presided over the Holy Eucharist, delivering a poignant homily that resonated with the congregation. In his address, Fr. Titus Mandy encouraged the attendees to emulate the unwavering faith of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara and to cultivate a deeper connection with their spirituality.



Lenten Journey – A Himalayan Task



Dn. Jibin Manakuzhiyil CMI

Traversing through the majestic mountains to reach their summit is always a daunting task, akin to conquering the Himalayas. However, once you reach the top, a sense of accomplishment envelops you. As we find ourselves in the Lenten season, Pope Francis reminds us in his Lenten message that "when our God reveals Himself, His message is always one of freedom." Each Lenten season beckons us towards freedom, urging us to mature in our freedom and steer clear of falling back into slavery. Just as climbing a mountain demands physical strength and endurance, Lenten practices require spiritual fortitude and perseverance. Through prayer and fasting, individuals can deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their faith. While the journey through Lent may present challenges and difficulties, the rewards of spiritual growth and transformation make the effort worthwhile. The obstacles faced during Lent enable individuals to ascend to new spiritual heights and encounter God in a profound and meaningful manner.

Similar to the sense of accomplishment and wonder experienced upon reaching a mountain peak, the Lenten season culminates in the joy and jubilation of Easter. By sacrificing and persevering throughout Lent, individuals can fully grasp the significance of Jesus' resurrection and revel in the joy of new life in Christ. Lent serves as a period of introspection, repentance, and rejuvenation, providing a chance for individuals to draw closer to God and deepen their faith. Just as climbing a mountain can be both challenging and rewarding, Lent offers a similar opportunity for spiritual growth and transformation. The swift flow of the Ganges River symbolizes the intensity and unwavering commitment required during this period of reflection, repentance, and sacrifice. Both journeys are challenging yet fulfilling, ultimately leading to a sense of accomplishment, inner resilience, and spiritual cleansing. Just as conquering a towering mountain or navigating the currents of a mighty river demands dedication, embracing the Lenten season can result in personal growth, transformation, and a deeper connection with one's faith. This Lenten season has the potential to liberate us from our shortcomings, allowing the love of Christ to guide us towards true freedom. May this daunting task find success, much like the Ganges flowing from its source in the mountains to its ultimate destination.



GLIMPSES OF RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2024



















PROVINCIAL'S SCHEDULE

March 16-26

Visit to the home of Aspirants from Orissa and engaging with vocation coordinators from various dioceses, fostering collaboration and support for the vocation ministry.

May 10-22

CMI Foundation Day at Mannanam and Visiting the families of Dn. Jibin and the Scholastics in Kerala.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7 - 9 Scholastic Gathering

OBITUARY

Mr. Shaju Chokkattu



Mr. Shaju Chokkattu (55), the beloved father of Br. Benn (Aspirant) was called to eternal rest on 23 February 2024. The Funeral service was held on 24-01-2024 at St. Sebastian's Church, Kozhichal.



Mr. Ouseph Papachan

Mr. Ouseph Papachan (90) the beloved father of Fr. George Njavarakkattu was called to eternal rest on 27-02-2024. The funeral service was held at St. Joseph's Forane Church, Velielchal on29-01-2024 at 10.00 am

Mr. K.U. Jose Koodakattu



Mr. K.U. Jose Koodakattu, the paternal uncle of Fr. Saji Koodakattu was called for his eternal reward on 21st February 2024. The funeral was held at St. Mary's Church Karakunnam.

Let us pray for the repose of the souls.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

Fr. Jilson Pinakkattuparambil, Fr. Saji Koodakkattu, Fr. Jose Mangalamkunnel, Fr. Jinto Indikuzha
For the Department of Education and Communication Media

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