



# OBA Calling

November 2015

Greetings from the OBA!

**From Shashi  
Lewis,  
President, OBA**

The Managing Committee is pleased to present the November 2015 edition of the OBA Calling Newsletter, the first of a series designed to provide a glimpse of activities of the OBA and School to Old Boys in India and around the world. We present a summary of recently concluded and upcoming events, as well as contributions of Old Boys in several walks of life.

The OBA continues to give back to school in many ways – to students who are preparing for life after school, to needy students and to teachers and staff. The OBA invites contributions from Old Boys for future editions of the OBA Calling Newsletter. We look forward to hearing back from you, meeting you at OBA events, and sustaining the close and unique ties between School, the OBA and Old Boys across all our Chapters in India and overseas.

**From Rev Fr  
Clifford  
Sequeira, SJ,  
Principal, SJBHS**

Many an Old Boy who visits School after a long time describes the feeling thus: 'It feels just like coming home.' To welcome Old Boys back to School is a vibrant, very well organized, highly effective and robust Old Boys' Association. This venerable Association which will soon celebrate a century of its existence is an important pillar of support to the Management of the School. Not only does the OBA go all out to nurture and strengthen ties with Alumni but they also actively participate in and conduct several events in School.

It is therefore a matter of joy to know that the OBA has embarked on yet another venture aimed at bringing the Alumni closer to School. The OBA of our School is one of the very few in India which has several Chapters across the nation and the world and this Newsletter will forge closer ties among our Old Boys across the globe. I wish the OBA all success in this new initiative and look forward to reading their Newsletter regularly.

**OBA events  
scheduled for  
Nov-Dec 2015**

**Back to School – For Our Golden Greats** (Old Boys over 50): November 22, 2015 (Sunday)  
**Inter-Batch Football Tournament:** November 29 and December 6, 2015 (Sunday)  
**Christmas Dinner for Old Boys and Families:** December 12, 2015 (Saturday)

**The OBA wins  
yet again!**

Winning is a habit, isn't it? The OBA team won the **Inter Alumni Association Cricket Tournament** by defeating St Germain at St Germain on September 20, 2015. Congratulations, team OBA!

A unique event for Old Boys was held in the School Hall on Friday, September 4, to celebrate the passing out of the **Batches of 1955, 1965, 1975 and 1985**. Former Principals and Teachers joined the Old Boys for the **Back to School 'Multi-Batch Reunion'**. About 75 Old Boys participated in the high energy event. Old Boys had traveled from all over the world to recollect fond memories. Many of us had written our ISC and ICSE exams in the same hall. "Five minutes more" resonated strongly in our ears! The Batch of 1975 presented mementos to Fr Claude, Fr Hedwig, Ms Rosario, Mr Kutinha, Mr Pinto and Mr Wilson.



The **Batch of 1975** was the largest batch at the event with 27 Old Boys celebrating being together after 40 years, including overseas Old Boys from the USA and UK. Looking back down the years with fondness and gratitude, the Batch of 1975 presented silver mementos to Fr Claude, Fr Hedwig, Ms Rosario, Mr Kutinha, Mr Pinto and Mr Wilson.



In another noteworthy event, the **Batch of 1990** had a phenomenal reunion starting with an offsite get together and continuing with the Blue and White Bash and OBA Day. Over 60 batch mates were present, including those who had traveled from USA, UK, UAE and Singapore. Their teachers participated, and everyone was presented with mementoes and T-shirts. The Deccan Herald newspaper featured the large gathering of the Batch of 1990 on OBA Day.



The visiting Old Boys continued their celebrations with Bangalore based Old Boys over Saturday at the Sports Day and the Blue & White Bash. They reconvened in School on Sunday, September 6 for the much awaited **OBA Day** celebrations beginning with the early morning Holy Mass. The festivities extended till late afternoon, by which time the Old Boy's team had soundly thrashed the present School Boys' team in the Hockey match, and large 'dekchis' of Biryani had been comfortably put away.

The **Coorg Chapter** of the OBA hosted the **SJBHS OBA CONNECT – Coorg 2015 (October)** event in Madikeri on Saturday, October 10, 2015. Some Old Boys stayed at Home Stays while others were hosted by fellow Old Boys at their Plantation homes. The AGM was followed by the Connect event with live music, food and drink, and ended late at night around a large bonfire. Congratulations to the **Batch of 1975** for strong support, being the largest batch with 14 Old Boys present at the event.



Continuing the glorious sporting tradition, SJBHS won the **Under-16 Group 1, Division 1 Cricket tournament** for the KSCA Cup, defeating Delhi Public School in closely contested two-day final on September 8, 2015.

SJBHS conducted the annual **Inter-school Carnival and Cultural event (Phenomenon)** on October 30 – 31, 2015. Over 20 schools participated, drawing a record high of over 24,000 participants, establishing the event as the most attended Inter-School festival in Bangalore.

The event featured a variety of competitive events including Music, Dance, Quiz, Rap Battle, Poster Making, Product Launch, Basketball, Football and other competitions. In addition, for the first time, a Kids' Entertainment Program consisting of Caricatures, Cartoons and Magic Show for kids from LKG to Std V was conducted. SJBHS were the overall winners. Congratulations, students and staff for hosting such a successful event!



Merely two years since inception, the **SJBHSMUN 2015 (Model United Nations)** event recorded a participation of a staggering 400 plus delegates from across the country.

The event was conducted from November 5 – 7, 2015. With seven unique committees, including the Historic United Nations Office for Project Services and the House of Commons, two committees which have never been simulated before in the Bangalore MUN circuit, the delegates were offered a rich array of topics to debate and contest on.

Old Boys are making a mark across varied fields including Science, Technology, Medicine, Healthcare and Sports around the world.

#### OBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2015

**Dr Ragaven R Baliga (Batch of 1975)** is Professor of Internal Medicine at the Ohio State University; Associate Director, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. He has written 17 world-class textbooks – some published in multiple languages – over 40 book chapters, over three hundred and fifty articles in professional journals.

He has held teaching responsibilities at University of Aberdeen, Hammersmith Hospital (University of London), Harvard Medical School, University of Michigan and Ohio State University. Dr Baliga is the author of '250 Cases in Medicine', which has become a reference manual for medical students, and winner of a NIH National Research Service Award, a 2-year grant to work at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Baliga epitomizes what it means to “win and spread our school’s renown” and “with our deeds enrich her crown”, an inspirational winner of the OBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2015.

#### OBA Awards for Significant Achievement 2015

**Dr Lloyd Vincent (Batch of 1975)**, renowned Nephrologist (St John’s and Narayana Hrudalaya) has pioneered the development of low-cost Kidney Dialysis machines that are now being used to provide affordable Kidney care to patients in developing countries through a community development model. Dr Vincent was a recent winner of the prestigious DST-Lockheed Martin Innovation Award.

**Dr Neil Lobo (Batch of 1989)** is a Research Faculty at the University of Notre Dame (USA), currently working on a Bill and Melinda Gates-funded research project investigating the prevention of malaria and dengue transmission. Dr Lobo’s contributions have the potential to transform the lives of millions across the world.

**C S Santosh (Batch of 2000)** completed the gruelling Dakar Rally in South America in 2015. He holds the distinction of being the first Indian to have raced in the Dakar Rally, and is the highest ranked Indian on the Asian Motocross and Supercross Circuit.

Among Old Boys who have achieved top accolades as a result of their varied contributions are four **Kurian brothers** who completed their schooling from SJBHS in the 1970s and 1980s. **Jacob**

## The Kurian Brothers

**Kurian** is the eldest brother who studied at NIT Trichy and XLRI, and turned around Tanishq after having been appointed COO in the mid-2000s. Based in Bangalore, he is now a partner in the private equity firm Silk Route. **Mathew** graduated from Madras Medical College and is now a pediatrician with the National Health Services in the UK, where he is settled.

The identical twins **George and Thomas** are 11 years younger than Jacob. The twins graduated from IIT Madras and Princeton University, followed by MBAs from Stanford University. George is CEO of the \$6-billion computer storage and data management company NetApp while Thomas is President of the \$36-billion server, applications and database provider Oracle, responsible for Software Development.

## A Salute to Family Ties

Some of our Old Boys have been part of large families, and occasionally of multi-generation families. A unique instance of nine brothers of the **KT family** comes to mind. The brothers completed schooling between 1962 and 1985: **K T Thomas 1962, K T Paul 1963, K T George 1964, K T Sebastian 1965, K T Nicholas 1968, K T Joseph 1973, K T John 1973, K T Abraham 1975 and K T Lazar 1985.**

Moreover, an uncle of the nine brothers K T George passed out in the late 1940s, while a few boys of the next generation are students at this time. The OBA takes this opportunity to salute the KT family – and other families – who have reposed many generations of confidence in SJBHS.

The OBA continues to support needy students so that they can benefit from an education at SJBHS. Many batches have instituted Scholarships through several **OBA Batch Scholarship Funds**. There were 130 applications for the 2015-16 academic year. The Scholarship Committee met the parents of 126 applicants, based on which Rs 1,350,000 worth need-cum-merit based Scholarships were awarded. Fee installments are paid out directly by the OBA to the school. The OBA thanks those who have contributed and seeks ongoing support from alumni all over the world towards this noble cause.

The **Staff Medical Insurance Scheme** covers full-time teachers who have completed two years of service in the school; their families are also covered. Moreover, retired teachers and staff who had completed 10 years of service are covered under the scheme along with their spouses. The premium needed for 2015-16 was Rs. 656,000 which was paid fully by the OBA. The OBA thanks those who have contributed and seeks ongoing support from alumni all over the world so that staff members can benefit from Insurance coverage.

## Old Boys Are Giving Back!

In an invaluable gesture the **Batch of 1996** announced the initiation of the **Staff Personal Accident Insurance Scheme** on Teachers' Day 2015. Under this scheme, every member of the teaching, non-teaching and support staff of the school is insured for Rs. 300,000. The scheme was dedicated to Fr. Ronnie Prabhu, SJ, Rector of the Batch. Thank you, Batch of 1996!

The SJBHS **OBA Teacher Kaizen Program** was initiated by the OBA in early 2015 with the objective of enabling the continuous skill development of SJBHS teachers. The schedule for the second pilot spans November – December 2015. The Kaizen Program is a set of intensely interactive sessions that seeks to foster a creative approach to teaching by freeing the minds of teachers from the constraints of the syllabus, examinations and ICSE Board regulations.

The **North America Chapter** of the OBA will shortly be supporting a **Career Counseling Program** for students in Standard IX and higher, with the objective of helping them choose an appropriate career path. The Program is likely to include a Speaker Series, Career Day Fairs and an Innovation Lab. A second initiative is to run a **Mentoring Program** directed at Old Boys who need assistance with overseas college search and admissions, finding employment, relocation and setting up business ventures.

## Obituaries

We regret the sad demise of the following Old Boys. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families. May their souls rest in peace.

Edgar Fernandes, Batch of 1980 – September 17, 2015

Lestin Spielmann, Batch of 1998 – September 28, 2015

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## Photographs of recent events

[SJBHS OBA CONNECT – Goa 2015 \(August\)](#)

[Back to School – 2015 September](#)

[OBA Day – 2015 September](#)

[Inter Alumni Association Cricket Tournament – 2015 September](#)

[SJBHS OBA CONNECT – Coorg 2015 \(October\)](#)



# Old Boys' Association

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St. Joseph's Boys' High School