



OBA Calling

August 2019



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Upcoming OBA Events (OBA Day Weekend)

OBA Back To School – Fri, Aug 30 – 7.00 pm
Blue & White Ball – Sat, Aug 31 – 7.30 pm
OBA Day – Sun, Sept 1 – 7.15 am

Future OBA events (Oct to Dec 2019)

SJBHS OBA Connect – Coorg 2019
SJBHS OBA Connect – Middle East 2019 (Nov 15)
OBA Inter Batch Football Tournament – 2019
JOSEXCEL – 2019
OBA Christmas Dinner – 2019

Message from George Ollapally, President, OBA

Dear Josephite,

Greetings!

As my term comes to a close, the OBA welcomed our new Principal Fr Sunil Fernandes and bade adieu to an OBA stalwart Fr Hedwig da Costa whose dedication, commitment and service was legendary.

My thanks to teams of committed MC members and other Josephites who helped plan and organize our various events. The Connects (especially the inaugural Delhi-NCR and US West Coast events), Sports events, JOSEXCEL, Memorial Service, OBA Buzz and other activities, following the OBA Centenary Celebrations were all well received.

The OBA Calling Newsletter has been our way of keeping you in touch with the school, the OBA activities and fellow Josephites in various fields. Vice President Jyotinath Ganguly's efforts, have, over the past years, been commendable, and deserves thanks.

I am confident that in coming years, with your continuing support and participation, we will go from strength to strength.

Fide et Labore,
George Ollapally '68,
President, OBA.

Message from Fr Sunil Fernandes, SJ – Principal, SJBHS

Dear Alumni / Old Boys,

For the last one hundred years, the OBA has served as the pillar of SJBHS, shouldering great responsibility towards your alma mater. The Management, Staff and students deeply appreciate your initiatives in multiple areas.

It is because of your generosity and caring, your commitment and steadfastness, that this school continues to be rated among the best schools in India. I admire your well organised network based purely on brotherhood, loyalty and friendship.



Despite your varied careers and interests, it is the love for your school and the values and teachings you imbibed here which hold you together, and I salute that spirit. Your interest and participation in school activities and service to the school are reminders of the Jesuit traditions of 'men for others'. Our boys see you as role models and hope to emulate you in your chosen fields.

Congratulations on finishing the first one hundred years of your association. Your commitment to nation building, public service, defence and sports, medicine and entrepreneurship is widely acknowledged.

We are blessed to have your love.

Thank you.

Fr Sunil Fernandes SJ,
Principal, SJBHS.

Fr Hedwig da Costa SJ – A Panagieric by Fr Eugene Lobo SJ

Only a few are fortunate to obtain a death like that of Fr. Hedwig Da Costa, on the feast of our founder St Ignatius. In the words of St Paul he has fought a good fight, ran a good race to obtain the eternal crown, the heavenly reward. Today, we feel the absence of a great person, a stalwart, who made his impact wherever he went, and whatever work he did. As Berber Casson says; "it is better to look forward and make new mistakes, than look backward to do nothing."



Fr Hedwig was my community member for more than 16 years, a good friend with whom I use to share books as he was a voracious reader. Born in Bangalore on 21st of September 1936, Fr Hedwig did his schooling at St Joseph's Boys High School, completed his Cambridge exam before joining the Society of Jesus in June 1953. Later he completed his graduation at St Aloysius College Mangalore and his Master's Degree in the United States. He was ordained on 17th March 1967 and offered his final vows on 2nd February 1974.

Having a rapid glimpse into the life of Fr Hedwig, we see him as a great person, educator, administrator, scholar, visionary and caretaker. He spent his entire life as a teacher and administrator. First in St Joseph's Boys High School and later in St Joseph's Evening College and St Joseph's Day College. He was Principal in all these three institutions and brought about a constructive development. He was Rector St Joseph's College for six years. Later he was the treasurer of Karnataka Jesuit Province and finally of Ashirvad and Jesuit Nivas.

He proved to be a good administrator, looking into minute details not ignoring anyone and contributing his best for the sake of the institutions. As an educator he introduced new programmes in the colleges, supported students and guided teachers in their work. We are aware of his love for the poor to whom he give fee concessions and helped them in their needs. The teachers even now admire him for his frank speech, direction and kind heart in spite of his external stern face. The students loved him and the old students constantly approached him to greet him and invite him to participate in their programmes.

Fr Hedwig is well remembered for his memory and his powerful speeches. He could easily recall history, situations, events, political facts, religious celebrations and quote them with ease. He was a walking encyclopaedia. Students, young persons, scholastics who approached him with ease for clarification and clearing doubts. He could speak easily on Shakespeare, Shelly, Wordsworth, Robert Frost and any poet or author with authority. Fr. Hedwig was very human in his dealing with others. He had a heart for all, particularly the poor and the sufferings. He was very particular to visit the sick, helped the marginalized and for students offered fee concessions. He was able to get jobs to people and quietly helped them financially while in administration.

Dear Fr Hedwig, it is time for us to say goodbye to you. We, the Jesuit family, along with your family, staff, students, well-wishers, bid farewell to you. You lived a beautiful life, shone as a person and presented as a great Jesuit. Now you are moving to a great abode. As you go into eternity, your memory will be with us in our hearts. You will be with Jesus and Mary in the Heavenly Kingdom. Farewell to you.

OBA Achievement Award Winners – 2019

The OBA congratulates the winners of the OBA Achievement Awards - 2019! The OBA takes great pride in the achievements and contributions of Josephites across disciplines, across the globe.

OBA Lifetime Achievement Award

- Cecil Noronha '54 – Civil Services
- Air Marshal Trevor Osman '55, AVSM, PVSM – Defence Services
- Stan Thaekekara '63 – Tribal Development

OBA Award for Significant Achievement

- Rahul Tadimalla '97 – Finance & Music
- Dr Anand Vinekar '91 – Paediatric Ophthalmology

Nomination for OBA Managing Committee – 2019–20

The OBA invites nominations for the OBA Managing Committee – 2019-20. Please drop your nomination in the sealed box placed in the OBA office between Monday, August 19, 09.30 am and Saturday, August 24, 4.00 pm. The first list will be published on Saturday, August 24 at 5.00 pm. Members of the MC and those who have filed nominations are invited to be present.

Nominations may be withdrawn by Friday, August 30, 4.00 pm through a letter addressed to The Election Officer, handed over at the OBA office, after which the final list will be prepared.

Nomination forms are available at the OBA office and here <http://sjbhsoba.net/forms.html>

Upcoming OBA Events

Back to School Friday, August 30 – 7.00 pm

Come back to School to meet Josephites from your batch and across batches. Josephites bring the OBA year to a close, a year marked by Connects and Games to facilitate camaraderie and fellowship.

Blue & White Ball Saturday, August 31 – 7.30 pm

The B&W Ball will be a formal yet fun event with music for all ages, for Josephites and families (children over 16 years only). Event details will be shared soon. Dress code: Indian & Western formal.

OBA Day Sunday, September 1 – 7.15 am Holy Mass

OBA Day begins with Holy Mass at 7.15 am, followed by honouring Josephite battle casualties, School song, Breakfast, Photograph, 101st AGM, Past vs present Hockey match and Lunch.



Recently concluded OBA Events

OBA Buzz – 2019 (Aug 2 – 9)

OBA Buzz is an annual extra-curricular event at SJBHS where students from Std 5 to Std 12 participate in a number of competitive activities. Having started as a Quiz competition in 1990, the OBA Buzz is a multi-faceted event that students look forward to every year. While the OBA guides the captains and leads, it is the students, helped by their teachers, who plan, schedule and execute the various competitions. Members of the OBA judge the events and also conduct the Quiz competition.



OBA Buzz 2019 featured an increased number of events – including Air Crash, Charades, Collage, Creative Writing, Dance (Group, Solo), Debate, Elocution, Music (Instrumental, Vocal), Mad Ads, Mock Rock, Personality, Photography, Skit, Stand-up Comedy and Quiz. The MC thanks Fr Principal, Teachers and OBA volunteers for their support – year after year!



SJBHS OBA Connect – Goa 2019 (Aug 3 – 4)

SJBHS OBA Connect – Goa 2019 was the last Connect of the OBA year. The venue was the luxurious Goan Heritage Resort on Calangute Beach, with the fellowship events being held in the Pine Tree Beach Shack nearby. The Warm-up dinner and fellowship on Saturday evening was followed by the Chapter meeting, lunch and fellowship on Sunday morning, stretching late into the afternoon. Camaraderie, food and music helped make the Connect very special, indeed.



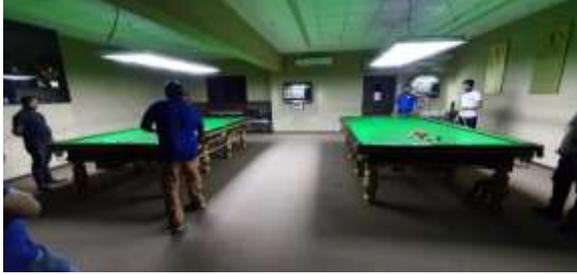
Over twenty five Josephites and their families participated, from Goa, Bangalore, Coorg and Delhi. As a special gesture, the OBA Goa Connect cake was cut by the parents of one of the Old Boys (Toddy, '97). The OBA thanks Josephites and their families for participating and thanks the OBA Goa Chapter for hosting Josephites. The office bearers of the Goa Chapter for 2019-20 were elected: Hubert Saldanha '77 (President), Lloyd Macedo '74 (Secretary) and Michael Rozalla '56 (Treasurer).

Century OBA Tri-Series – Badminton, Snooker, Squash – July 21 (Sun)

Rev Fr Sunil SJ inaugurated the second edition of the OBA Tri-Series Tournament with a prayer. Badminton, Snooker and Squash games played between 10 am and 6 pm. Fifty two players registered. The players were divided into four teams: Chat's Favourites, Shikari's Athletes, Ranga's Boys, and UK's Pets. The Josephite spirit was evident in the fact that players spanned almost 50 years, from the Batch of 1970 to 2018. Thank you for your continued support!



After hard fought yet fun games, UK's Pets won with 17 points. Shikari's Athletes in second place with 11 points. Chat's Favourites and Ranga's Boys finished with 10 points each. Prize distribution was followed by dinner and fellowship. Jyotinath, Gregory Pacheco, and Noel handed out medals and the cup to the winners. The one-day format was well received by the participants.



The OBA thanks Catholic Club and the organizing committee comprising of Gregory Pacheco, Arun D'Souza, Neil Goveas, Mayur Chandra, Sajid Khan, Rehan, Jay Prabhu, Conrad D'mello, and Vikram Chugh for detailed planning, connecting with OBs and scheduling the games precisely, making the OBA Tri-Series 2.0 event a success.

Old Boys in the Spotlight Dr Albert Hunga Shaw – '69

Albert Shaw was born in 1953, and studied in SJBHS from 1963 to 1969. Initially he was in St George's house, but later went on to Captain St David's house.

He was accomplished across diverse areas: Academics, Swimming Champion in all events, Hockey for 3 years for the seniors (School Captain in 1969), Cricket & Football in the Senior team, a champion gymnast and a good actor.



After school, he continued to excel. He represented the Karnataka State Hockey team in the Junior National at Bombay in 1969, Correira Cup winner at Sri Lanka in 1972, Senior Nationals at Bombay in 1973 and Senior Nationals at Poona 1974, Senior Nationals at Bhopal 1975.

He was a member of the Senior Indian Hockey team and played in the Beighton Cup at Kolkata in 1973, Indian X1 final 18 member for the World Cup at Amsterdam, Holland in 1973, Indian X1 Vs Polish National team 1974, Indian Youth Team to Afghanistan in 1975, Indian Team tour to New Zealand in 1976, Rene Frank International Hockey Tournament at Chennai in 1976, Rest of India X1 Vs Victorious Indian Hockey team in 1976. Besides, he was a member of the University Blues (Bangalore University) for Hockey (1970-1974) and Swimming 1971-1972.

Hunga went on to study at St John's Medical College and is currently a Doctor in the UK. Albert represents a true Josephite, well rounded and humble. The OBA honoured Hunga for his contribution to Sports and Games by honouring him at the JOSEXCEL (Josephite Excellence in Sports) awards, Dec 2018.

Group Captain Rohith Vijayadev – '91

Group Captain Rohith Vijayadev joined St Josephs in the 4th Std in 1984 to pass out in 1991. He was featured regularly in the School Annual for sports achievements including a Gold medal and a Bronze medal at the National level and numerous State level medals in Karate.

Rohith graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA) in 1996. Commissioned in 1997, he was posted in North East India in a transport Squadron flying the Avro for four years. He then operated the Avro in Central India before being selected to become a qualified flying instructor and served at the Air Force Academy during 2006-07, teaching the art of flying.



He subsequently moved to Tambaram as Directing Staff at the Flying Instructor's School for two years, as a Cat 'A' Flying Instructor. He then was chosen to fly the Embraer Business Jet with the prestigious Air HQ Communication squadron in Delhi.

Further, Rohith graduated from the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington in 2013 and followed up with another tenure on the Embraer. He subsequently commanded a communication flight in South India before being selected to undergo the Higher Command Course at the Naval

War College in Goa completing his MPhil degree in Defence and Strategic Studies. He is presently commanding an operational transport squadron in the North East and has over 6,000 hours of flying logged on numerous aircraft including the HPT-32, Kiran, Avro, Dornier and Embraer.

Mrs Sunaina Rohith who is a management graduate has been the wind beneath his wings, along with Nandika and Advik, his two lovely children who study in Guwahati.

According to Rohith, 'Fide Et Labore' has been the guiding principle always and SJBHS to him was the place which gave him the freedom to be himself, a strong foundation and friends for a lifetime. Fr Denis Coelho was the benevolent soul who even allowed him to miss examinations in order to pursue extra-curricular sports. It was an honour for Rohith to find out that SJBHS has produced some elite warriors who have fought for the country in '62, '65, '71 and other wars. He was proud to hear that there have been a few who have risen to high ranks in the three services more so in the IAF. Rohith looks forward to meeting some of them in the near future.

Rohith was the Chief Guest at the SJBHS High School Annual Day in July. The OBA thanks Rohith for his continued involvement and support.

Prashanth Sakhmuri – '77



Prasanth Sakhmuri was from the 1977 batch (George's) of St. Josephs Boy's High School. A science graduate from MES College, Prasanth completed his masters in rural management at IRMA in 1986.

Having been through multiple schools, looking back, my stint in St. Josephs was probably the most formative of all my experiences, the many interactions with Fr. Hedwig and his cane ensured a good strong character which will stand the test of time. I have made some of my best friends in this period and the OBA has been very effective in keeping all of us in touch. Teachers like Luke, Yates, Chatterjee, Mrs. Sait... to name a few were feared, loved and respected.

After a short stint with rural development institutions and the cooperative sector and strongly influenced by Dr Kurien (The founder of AMUL and the milk revolution), Prasanth was an early entrepreneur who established the country's first stainless steel vacuum bottle and cryo container manufacturing unit in Bangalore in 1989. He then joined Hind High Vacuum Company Pvt Ltd (HHV) and is currently its managing director.

HHV is India's leading vacuum technology company involved with thin film technology, space research and material science. With over 55 years of expertise in the design and manufacture of high vacuum equipment for research and industrial applications, HHV has operations in India and the UK and has its products being sold all round the world and some of the most prestigious research institutions in the world have been its customers

Prasanth was also the founder of HHV solar technologies limited which was India's first thin film technology based solar panel manufacturer. HHV solar Modules have received recognition worldwide and have been used in many prestigious solar projects. Prasanth has now established India's largest flat optics and infrared optics fabrication unit in Bangalore. Through this facility HHV services multiple sectors that include Aerospace, Automotive and Defense.

HHV's research and development program received the national award for successfully commercializing indigenous technology in 2018. Prasanth received this award from the President of India on technology day.

An avid golfer, Prasanth is one of the earliest certified international referees in the country and a qualified Golf course rater. As a member of the Karnataka Golf Association managing committee, He is responsible for the operations and upgrade of the prestigious KGA golf course.

Nikhil Kanekal '02



Nikhil Kanekal (Executive – Group Strategy, The Printers Mysore), is a fourth-generation business leader at The Printers Mysore, better known as the publisher of Deccan Herald and Prajavani newspapers. Before becoming a part of his family enterprise, he worked as a staff writer with Mint in New Delhi, where he covered the Supreme Court of India. After starting off as a sub-editor on the city, state and nation desks at Deccan Herald, Nikhil took on various roles in the business, including being a reporter, management consultant and digital publisher.

Over the last five years, he has played a bridge role and laid the foundation to transform The Printers Mysore from a 71-year-old newspaper and magazine publisher into a digital-era media company. He has worked with the CEO and Directors on strategic projects for the company. From June 2017 to November 2018, he was mandated with building the digital business, which has now started to take flight under a new leader. He continues to learn about media and mass communication by exploring new business opportunities and ideas. He is a member of the visiting faculty at the Asian College of Journalism in Chennai and the convenor of the ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism.

Nikhil graduated with a master's degree (M.S.) from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in New York with a specialisation in investigative journalism, and has served on school's Alumni Board. He received a bachelor's degree in law and humanities (B.A. LL.B.) from Symbiosis Law School in Pune.

Nikhil attended SJBHS from 1995-2002 and remains a proud member of St. Patrick's House. He played cricket for St. Joseph's, with four Cottonian Shield victories (twice Under-14 and twice Under-16) being his most cherished accomplishments. Nikhil is married to Yamini Kumar, an architect, and they live in Bangalore. He can be found on Twitter @nkanekal.

News from School

Congratulations for achieving 100% pass in ICSE and ISC – 2019!

The OBA congratulates Fr Principal, Teachers and Students for achieving 100% pass in the ICSE and ISC exams, yet again! Best wishes from the OBA to the students for continuing success in future!

State level Swimming and Air Rifle Shooting – August

Our school Junior team won the State level CICSE (Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations) Boys U-14 Swimming Championship held this month.

Independence Day Air Rifle Championship - Open Sight Rifle Competition (August 10): Dhruv Khincha (Class 9), Vivian Celestine (Class 10) and Anshul Paranjyoth (Class 9) won the Silver medal, while Chiranth (Class 9) won the bronze.

The OBA congratulates the boys, coaches, Fr Principal and parents for the achievements!

Grand Hockey double! – August 6

Congratulations to the Junior and Senior Hockey teams for scoring a Grand Double – for the second year in a row! Both the finals were very closely contested.



The Juniors won the Fr Eric Vaz Memorial Tournament beating FAPS 4-2 in the penalty shootout. The Seniors won the Centenary Shield by beating Vidyashilp Academy 4-2.

The OBA congratulates the boys, coach, Fr Principal and parents for this superb achievement – the Grand Double twice in a row! The OBA thanks Sandeep Somesh, International Hockey player, for handing out the prizes.

Udit Dhanuka Memorial Awards for Excellence in Cricket – July 2



Udit Dhanuka Memorial Awards

Priyal Singh (Seniors) – KSCA U-16, ACE Cup, Karnataka U-16
Prabhakar (Juniors) – KSCA U-14, BTR Shield, Karnataka U-14,
Karnataka U-16.

OBA Special Awards

Shivam M B – KSCA U-14, BTR Shield, Karnataka U-14
Aditya Rao – KSCA U-14, BTR Shield, Karnataka U-14.

The OBA thanks Fr Principal for permitting the Awards to be instituted. The OBA wishes the coaches and parents for their support, and wishes the players the very best in the years ahead!

Transcendence – Science & Technology Festival – June 21-22

The third edition of Transcendence 2019, the SJBHS Inter-School Science and Technology Festival, which is a premier event in Bangalore, provided an environment to awaken the spirit of scientific curiosity. Transcendence 2019 was a great success with over 1,300 participants from 40 institutions participating in 16 events.

Bharat Ratna Prof C N R Rao, National Research Professor, was the Chief Guest. The Panel discussion was conducted by Mr Vijayananda (AI Architect, Philips), Mr Sabapathy (Director, Data Science, Danlaw Inc.) and Dr Abraham Varghese (Biologist).

The fest included events including Zenith, 221B, Elixir, CosmiCon, Cryptoquest, The Bench, Code-Blodded, Hardwired, Square Up, Board Room, Gaming, Qwhiz, Psych-OH, Enigma, Outline, Brain Candy and The Dialogue, addressing diverse areas across science and technology. The OBA congratulates Fr Principal, teachers and students for successful planning and execution.



A Tribute to Fr Hedwig – by Pastor T J Jose '75

A towering colossus he stood
Amid the educators of his time
And ruled an unruly brood
Rebellious children in their prime.

He was a true disciplinarian
Punctual, prompt and precise
Of the Ship he was the captain
Through perilous seas he'd guide.

He taught Shakespeare's sonnets
His plays and his rhymes
The pentet, the sestet and octets
Things we've forgotten in time.

The snooty kids he did not spare
The cane showed them their place
It was done with utmost care
Such attitudes he would efface.

The books he'd read a dozen
His knowledge was deep and wide
He trained the rouges elocution
By his rules they had to abide

The 75 batch was his heartache
With them what was he to do?
How much more could he take
The crassness of the crew.

So when the fullness of time came
To dispense with the motley crew
Did away with the valediction
And there were no adieus.

He knew one day they'll return
The prodigals, on dusty roads and worn
Knew their hearts would always burn
For the Light relentless shone

Some decades later when
They came trudging back - the horde
They were all fine gentlemen
Such as the school could afford.

It took time to change them
And yet he waited patiently
The lesson he had taught them
He had left to them and posterity.

And now when in the dust his body is laid
Life's labour complete at last
"Faith and Toil" shall be played
As eventide approaches fast.

We are thankful for his memory
To the motto faithful remain
To selfishness he gave a remedy
Selflessness in spite of pain.

Obituary

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

- Fr. Hedwig Da Costa, SJ (1952) – July 31, 2019
- Lenroy Saldanha (1966) - July 18, 2019
- Ajay Chandani (1988) – July 14, 2019
- Timothy Balraj (1974) – July 14, 2019

Contact Us!

+91.80. 2229.1711

oba@sjbhsoba.in

[The OBA invites you to contribute to future editions of the OBA Calling](#)

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Photographs from recently concluded OBA events

[OBA Buzz – 2019](#)

[SJBHS OBA Connect – Goa 2019](#)

[Century OBA Tri-Series Tournament 2.0 \(Badminton, Snooker, Squash\)](#)

OBA Calendar of Events

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Donate towards the OBA Centenary Fund and Advertisements for OBA Annual Report 2018-19

OBA Centenary Fund: <https://sjbhsoba.net/donate/product/oba-centenary-donations/>

Advertisements for OBA Annual Report 2018-19: <https://sjbhsoba.net/donate/oba100/oba-ads/>



Old Boys' Association

Estd.1918

St. Joseph's Boys' High School