

HOLY CROSS



QUEST

DECEMBER 2023



HOLY CROSS

MATRIC HR SEC SCHOOL

K.N.Colony, Ammapet, Salem-636014.

www.salemholycross.com

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Dear Readers,

As we are nearing the end of the year 2023, we hope that the past year had been a year of fulfillment and joy. The season of Christmas exudes the spirit of brotherhood, unity and universality. We thank all those who contributed towards the success of this News letter and wish a Happy 2024.

Warm Regards,

Editorial Team

Happy reading, everyone!"

Editorial Board

BRO. SESURAJ, C.S.C. PRINCIPAL
MR. B. EDWARD JOSEPH, VICE-PRINCIPAL
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students , Teachers, Parents and Well Wishers.

- The month of December rings in the joyful season of Christmas. Christmas is a universal festival celebrated in all the corners of the world irrespective of race, language and religion. Even in India, we can see the presence of Santa Clause, Stars, and Christmas Trees etc in Malls, Stores, Public places and Houses. Even the Television channels telecast special programmes for Christmas.
- Christmas season is also a season of hope, faith, joy and peace. Apart from the materialistic preparations, care should be taken to prepare spiritually for the coming of Jesus through sharing what we have and developing the virtue of forgiving other and not carrying the baggage of hatred and mistrust.
- When we look around the world, we see wars and conflicts everywhere. It is because of lack of trust and the unwillingness to engage in dialogue. Let the Christmas season bring an end to their clashes and establish peace and prosperity.
- I take the opportunity to thank you dear parents, old students and well-wishers for inviting our school Christmas carol group to your houses and showing your hospitality.
- I would also like to thank all the students and parents for responding favourably to my call for Christmas Charity and donating generously in cash and kind. Your contributions have been shared with many Oldage Homes, Orphanages and Poor Families. I am sure God will bless you all and give you multifold in return.
- Once again, I wish you all the joys of the season and a very Happy New Year.

**BRO. SESURAJ CSC
PRINCIPAL & CORRESPONDENT**





Christmas Tree

'O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Thy leaves are so unchanging'

Come December, the festivities of Christmas begin to unfold. An integral part of these festivities is the putting up of Christmas trees in Malls, Shops, Schools, Squares and Homes. It has become an icon of the season

What is a Christmas tree?

A Christmas tree is a decorated tree usually an evergreen conifer like fir, larch, and spruce. Nowadays, Christmas trees are made of artificial synthetic materials which are easy to handle and transport. Yet, in some places, original trees are cut and decorated for celebration.

History of Christmas tree

Christmas Trees seem to have originated in Germany in the 16th century, with records indicating that a Christmas tree was placed in the Cathedral of Strasbourg in Germany in 1539 under the leadership of the Protestant reformer Martin Bucer. The Christmas tree is also associated with the Protestant reformer Martin Luther who is said to have first added lighted candles to an evergreen tree. The tradition spread to Britain when Queen Victoria married her German cousin Prince Albert in 1841. This tradition further spread to America by the German Protestant settlers. The colonial rulers spread this tradition in their respective colonies. This it became a universal symbol of Christmas.



Decoration of a Christmas tree

The Christmas tree is decorated with tinsels (long strings made of shiny colour paper), baubles (shiny ball like toys made of plastic), cones (seeds of a coniferous tree), tiny stars, serial bulbs, candy canes (a cane shaped stick candy which is traditionally white with red stripes and flavoured with peppermint), ginger bread and chocolates. Usually Christmas gifts are hung on the branches which will be given on Christmas day. On top of the Christmas tree, usually a star (star of David) or an angel Angel Gabriel) is placed.





Symbolism of Christmas tree

Since Christmas tree is an evergreen tree, it symbolises immortality and positivity. The pointed leaves signify Christ's own Crown of Thorns and Resurrection.



Trivia

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the tallest Christmas tree had been fixed at Northgate Shopping Centre, at Seattle in USA in 1950. It was 221 ft high.

- The tradition of placing a Christmas tree in the White House began in 1889 during the Presidency of Benjamin Harrison.
- Rockefeller Centre Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Centre in New York City is a world famous Christmas tree which attracts thousands of tourists during the season.
- It was only in 1982 that a Christmas tree was placed at the Vatican.
- Holiday Tree Farm in Oregon, USA, is the largest wholesale supplier of natural Christmas trees in the world.
- China, though not a Christian country, is the largest manufacturer and exporter of artificial Christmas trees and decorative ornaments.

So, the next time you see a Christmas tree, remember, there is so much history and information attached to it.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

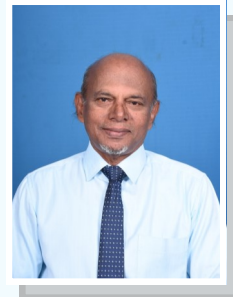
1. According to Guinness Book of World Records, which has been the tallest Christmas Tree so far?
2. What are the names of the reindeers of Santa Claus?
3. Where was Baby Jesus born?
4. What are the two other popular names of Santa Claus?
5. What are the colours of Christmas Candles?
6. Which is the highest earning Christmas movie of all time?
7. Feliz Navidad is. a Christmas wish in which language?
8. Who were Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar?
9. Which was the first MNC Company to use Santa Claus for advertisement?
10. To which country does the Christmas Island in Indian Ocean belong?





Answers :

1. Northgate Shopping Centre Christmas Tree in Seattle, US, set up in 1950.
It measured 221ft.
2. Dancer, Dasher, Donner, Princer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Blitzen and Rudolf.
3. Bethlehem
4. Kris Kringle, Saint Nick
5. Purple, Pink and White
6. Home Alone
7. Spanish
8. The Magi or Three Kings
9. Coca Cola
10. The Elves



Mr. Edward Joseph
Vice Principal

Activities of the Month..

Plastic Awareness Rally (02.12.2023) :

- 12 (TN) BN NCC – Salem, conducted a ‘Plastic Awareness Rally’ in our school on 02.12.2023 in which 98 Army Wing Cadets participated.
- The Rally was flagged off by Rev. Fr. Charles Davis, Associate Professor, St. John’s Medical College Hospital, Bengaluru, in the presence of our Principal Bro. Sesuraj, CSC.
- The Rally ended at Selva Nagar. The Cadets displayed placards denouncing the use of plastic goods.
- The Rally was coordinated by First Officer J. Arul and Havildar Sathananda.



Students' Suppose Christmas / OBA Day (09.12.2023) :

- This year Students Christmas Celebration and OBA Day Celebration were held together on 09.12.2023 at Open Stage.
- Sr. Irudaya Francy, SMMI, Headmistress, St. Mary's GHSS, Arisipalayam, was the Chief Guest. Mr. J. Thirunavukarasu, OBA President and Proprietor of Thangam Pipes was the Guest of Honour. The OBA honoured the Principal and other Brothers as well as the staff Advisors. The Management in return honoured the OBA President and office bearers.
- Christmas Carols were sung by both Primary and High School Students. The Primary students enacted a Nativity Play. High School students performed a dance.
- The Chief Guest spoke about the importance of Christmas and the Good News brought by Jesus. The Principal appreciated the OBA for its involvement in the school activities and for celebrating the OBA Day.
- The Chief Guest distributed the Grand Nite Participation Certificates to students. The entry of Santa Claus with a translator enthralled the audience.
- Later, the OBA hosted lunch for all the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff of the school. There was a Limited Over Cricket match conducted between the Old Students and our Teachers. The match was won by the teachers.





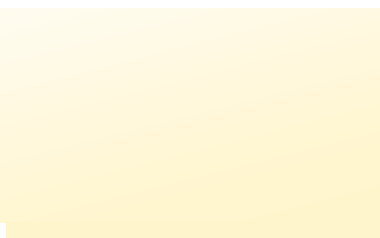
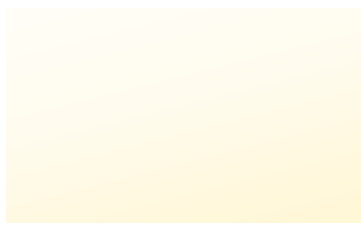


Staff Christmas Celebration (23.12.2023) :

- The Staff Christmas Celebration was held on 23.12.2023 in the Bathija Hall.
- The celebration began with a Holy Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. Singaroyan, Bishop Emeritus , Salem Diocese.
- After the mass, the teachers and Brothers went on a procession to the School Christmas Crib reminiscing the route taken by Joseph and Mary in their long journey from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea. Carols were sung along the way. Bishop Singaroyan blessed the Crib.
- After tea break, the teachers assembled again in the Bathija Hall for the celebration. Christmas song and video was played by Mr. Patric Raj, The Brothers were honoured by the staff. The Prayer Committee members sang the Christmas Carols.
- Interesting games were conducted by Mrs .Jayanthi, Mrs. Vanishree, Mr. Leo J, Mr. Leo X, Mr. Vijay and Mr. Jestin.
- Lucky Draw was held and lucky winners took their gifts from the Christmas Tree.
- Gifts were exchanged among the teachers.
- The Principal spoke briefly about the spirit of Christmas.
- The management also gave cash gift to all the staff members.
- The celebration came to an end with lunch.







Christmas Carols :

- Our teachers and Brothers were on a caroling spree on 20th and 21st of December. They visited the houses of Parents, Teachers, Old Students and Well-Wishers and prayed for them. On the first day, the dinner was hosted by Er. Karunanithi of R. K. Constructions. On the second day, Mr. Raja of Selvamaligai, the PTA President hosted the dinner. The caroling was coordinated by Mr. J. Arul.



Silver Jubilee Reunion : 23.12.23

- About 30 old students belonging to '98 Batch celebrated their Silver Jubilee Reunion in the school on 23rd. December, 2023. Old Teachers Mr. Mohandos, Mr. A. J. Selvaraj, Mr. Geoffrey, Mr. Selvaraju, Mr. Vishnu Naidu, Mr. Paul, Mr. Veeraragavan, Mr. Joseph Arul, Mrs. Mary and Mr. Vijay attended the Reunion.
- They assembled in front of St. Mary's Block. Mr. Paul called them to order. Mr. A. J. Selvaraj recited the prayer. All the students sang the School Anthem ' Let's loudly sing'.
- Students then wanted to recall their class room experiences. They assembled in the class rooms in which they had studied. The teachers took mock classes for them. Usual Attendance was taken. The students interacted with their old teachers and brought back the memories of their school days.
- After Tea Break, the students assembled at Bro. Louis Leduc Hall in the Primary Campus. Bro. Sesuraj csc, Bro. Kulandai csc and Bro. Yesudhasan csc were honoured. All the old teachers were honoured with shawl and gift. Then, all the students shared about their experiences in the school and gave self-introduction.
- Later, the '98 Batch students hosted lunch for all the teaching and non-teaching staff of



the school. After lunch, the students proceeded to Yercaud for their evening celebration.

- The Reunion was coordinated by Dr. Ramesh, Mr. Jayamurugan and team.



Christmas Charity :

- Blessed Basil Moreau, the Founder of Holy Cross is quoted as saying 'Education is not only developing the mind but also cultivating the heart'. Holy Cross School not only aims at academic excellence but also reaches out to the poor and the marginalised in times of need.
- In response to the appeal made by our Principal Bro. Sesuraj CSC, the students donated generously in cash and kind for Christmas Charity.
- Items like bed sheets, blankets, towels, grocery, soaps, toothpastes etc were collected.
- These donated items were given to the following institutions personally by the Brothers.

- ◇ Anna 4 Home for Semi Orphan and tribal Children, P.N. Palayam.
- ◇ Don Bosco AIDS Children Home, Nilavarapatti, Salem.
- ◇ Leprosy Centre LRCC, Omalur.
- ◇ St.Gabriel Home for Children, Agraharam
- ◇ Amala Anbu Karangal, Gundukallur.
- ◇ Lotus Home for Children (Girls), Alagapuram
- ◇ M C Convent Home for Mentally Retard (Women), Alagapuram
- ◇ M C Brothers Home for Mentally Retard (Men), Sanniyasigundu.
- ◇ Anbu Illam Care Home for Street Children, Mulluvadi Gate
- ◇ Poor families in Udayapattim, Kandashram, Thathampatti, Perumal Kovilmedu and near the School





NCC CAMP (22-12-2023 to 31-12-2023):



- 12(TN) BN NCC conducted an NCC camp at SKV Vidyashram Senior Secondary School, Kandampalayam, Paramathi, Namakkal, Dt.
- 525 cadets from 25 schools and colleges participated in the camp. 39 cadets from our school attended the camp.
- Besides Drill and PT Classes, CLP Classes were conducted on Map Reading, Weapon Training, Field Craft, Indian Army History, Disaster Management, First Aid and Health and Hygiene.
- Games like Volleyball, Football and Basketball were conducted.
- In the evenings, Cultural activities were conducted in Singing, Solo Dance, Group Dance, Karate, Silambam etc.
- Highlights of our participation :
 - II - Place - Drill
 - Runners - Basketball
 - Runners - Volleyball
 - Certificates - Cultural activities



First Officer J. Arul led the cadets and participated in the camp.

First Officer J.Arul



Nobel Prize Winners List – 2023

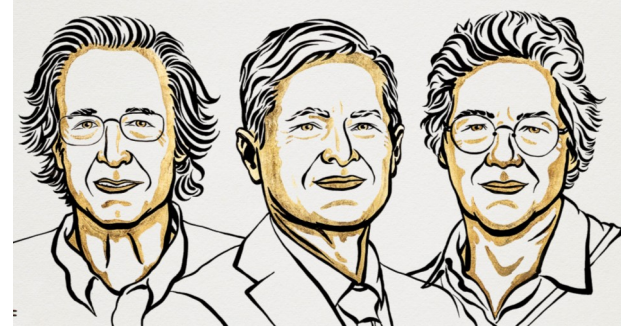
Nobel Prize in Physics 2023 Winners List

Awarded to

- The Nobel Prize in Physics 2023 was awarded to **Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L’Huillier.**

Discoveries

- For experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter.



Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 Winners List

Awarded to

- The Nobel prize in Chemistry 2023 was awarded to Mounji Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov.

Discoveries

- For the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots.



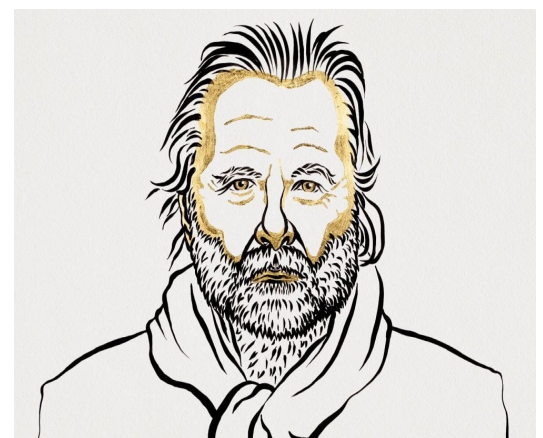
Nobel Prize in Literature 2023

Awarded to

- The Nobel Prize in Literature 2023 is awarded to the Norwegian author Jon Fosse.

Given for

- For his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable.



Nobel Prize 2023 in Peace

Awarded to

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize 2023 to Narges Mohammadi.

Given for

- For her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.



Nobel Prize 2023 in Economics

Awarded to

- 2023 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences awarded to Claudia Goldin.

Discoveries

- For having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes.



SHRISH S R

12- G



Succinct Schooling Phase

- A Child is admitted in Pre.KG
When he is barely 10 – KG
He plays around & his thinking is shallow
A toy is the only thing he likes to wallow.
- He progresses from milk to tea
Starts studying the alphabet and the number
He learns values with glee
He aims to become a pilot or a plumber.
- With innocence, he completes his primary education,
And advances from addition to Algebra
He craves for attention
And understands that money is not ABRA – KA – DABRA



- He reaches his Higher Secondary.
Places everything other than academics as secondary
He inhales the extreme tension

Meaning :

- Stanza : 1

A child is admitted in the school when he is too young. All he knows is to play around happily and he never overthinks like the adults. He doesn't want anything other than toys which he places over wealth.

- Stanza : 2

He is not dependent on his mother anymore He acts, thinks and decides on his own. He learns admirable qualities with joy. He doesn't judge people. For him a pilot and a plumber are the same that he aims to become either of them.

- Stanza : 3

He completes his primary education and says "Good - Bye" to his innocence. He indulges in complex thinking like algebra. HE likes to be the best. He understands that money is not produced/ earned with magic.

- Stanza : 4

He reaches his higher secondary education (11th and 12th std). He concentrates on his academics and doesn't show importance to sports, cultural etc. He experiences the tension of reality and he aims to score high marks in order to get free seats in college. With this his school life ends.



GOKUL D
12- G

Achievers of the month:

- Kashvi's first International open fide rated Chess tournament – 2023.
- It was held at Mangaluru, Karnataka on 9th and 10th of December – 2023.
- Under 13 Category Paresh has got 1st place.
- 3rd International Grand Master Open Chess Tournament – 2023
- It was held at Velammal College of Engineering and Technology in Madurai, Tamilnadu.
- Paresh has got aver all rank in open 10th place.



PARESH
8- D



Achievers of the month:



Junior JSK Zonal Cricket Tournament Salem – Namakkal – Erode Zone

- The Junior JSK Zonal Tournament was held at Neelambal Subramaniam School from 26-12-2023 to 30-12-2023.
- Our School Team lead by Karthikeyan V – XII – Std, defeated Erode C. S Academy School in the final and emerged Champion for a record second time a row.



The Team was monitored by our Cricket coach Mr.Sundaravaradhan S.



Mr.Sundaravaradhan S
CRICKET COACH

Chief Contributors



Karthikeyan V
12–D, CAPTAIN



Shivajana S
10–D, Best Batsman, Best Bowler and Emerging Player Award



Pratheshwaran S
10–B, Best Bowler Award



Rithish Kanna S
12–C, Man of the Match Award and Super Striker Award.



Achievers of the month: PRIMARY SCHOOL



Tamilnadu – State Level – Silambam Championship – 2024

I - PLACE



HEMANTHKUMAR R
5-A



JAGATH KIISHORE M S
5-D



JEROME JABASTIN A
3-B



MUTHU KUMARAN M
1-B

II - PLACE



HARSAN N
1-A



ISHANTH P S
1-A



HOWSHITHAN N
2-C



MOUNEESH P S
4-B



DEVAKSHAN
4-D



SRI HEMANTH S
4-D



HRITHIK VARSHAN S N
5-E





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