



Saraswati
Vidya
Niketan



Cornelia Ida, WCD, Guyana. www.svn.edu.gy

Newsletter 2: December 2016

President of Guyana Donates G\$1 M to SVN



President of Guyana, Hon. David Granger presents gold plaque to SVN's Principal Pujya Swami Aksharananda Ji on October 16, 2016 at graduation ceremony. This plaque will feature the names of SVN's top students beginning with 2016. The President announced that he will donate G\$1 M to SVN.

Saraswati Vidya Niketan (SVN) Students Excel Again

SVN continues its outstanding results at the regional examinations in 2016. The Ministry of Education released the results of the top 157 students, that is, those scoring 8 Grade Ones and more. SVN stands second in the whole country with regards to the number of students who graduated with 11 Grades Ones or more or 8 Grades Ones or more. At SVN, 8 of the students passed 11 Grades One or more.

FOUNDER

Principal: Swami Aksharananda,
PhD Hindu Studies



"SVN continues to be outstanding, thanks to our dedicated teachers, students, and parents...." - Swami Aksharananda



Ramkumarie Ramdass, SVN's 2016 top CSEC student passed 19 subjects with 13 Distinctions, 5 Grade Ones, and 1 Grade Two.

PREPARATIONS ON GRADUATION DAY

SVN's Students, Staff and Volunteers — Glimpses of Karma Yoga at SVN



Front entrance of SVN campus on graduation day



Art with Rice and Color - several pieces of art by SVN students were on display.



On-site food preparations for guests

PREPARATIONS ON GRADUATION DAY

SVN's Students, Staff and Volunteers — More Glimpses of Karma Yoga at SVN



Students prepare seating arrangements

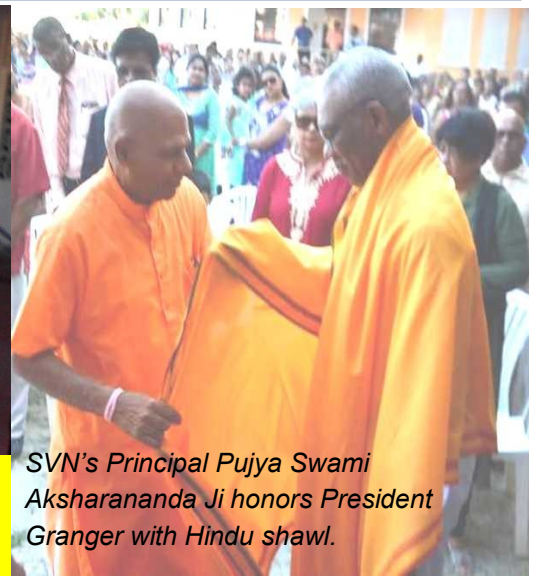


Students setting-up recycling system

HIGHLIGHTS AT SVN'S GRADUATION CEREMONY 2016



SVN students welcoming President Granger with Sanskrit recitations. In the background in the red kurta is Shri Lakshminarayana Balasubramanian Ji of Chennai, India who teaches Sanskrit and Vedic Chants.



SVN's Principal Pujya Swami Aksharananda Ji honors President Granger with Hindu shawl.



Ms. Ryhaan Shaw performs Dipa Prajvalana (lighting of the lamp) with Pujya Swami Aksharananda Ji to officially inaugurate SVN's 2016 graduation ceremony. A section of the attendees in SVN's courtyard is shown. Directly behind Swami Ji is Dr. Somdat Mahabir of the National Cancer Institute; Partly hidden behind and between Swami Ji and Ms. Shaw is Shri Yesu Persaud, Founder of Demerara Bank Ltd.; President of Guyana, Hon. David Granger is seen with his shawl; Mrs. Sita Nagamooto, wife of Prime Minister Moses Nagamooto is seat to the right of the President.



Left: SVN students performs a beautiful dance. Above: This is one of several pieces of art on the SVN lawns made from rice and color.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Professor Clement Krishnanand Sankat, Principal, The University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus delivers keynote address at SVN graduation.



Professor Clement Sankat, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal, The University of the West Indies addressing SVN's graduation on October 16, 2016. Professor Sankat was born at Number 64 Village in Berbice. He was introduced by NIH Scientist, Dr. Somdat Mahabir, who was born at Number 57 Village. Professor Sankat lauded the achievements of the school and focused his attention on the fact that SVN does not have a National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA) marks limit for admittance to the school. Students who gain low marks at the NGSA are admitted. "They did not do well at previous examinations and through this institution, they are opening doors to future careers which they could not have done otherwise," he stated.



SVN students reciting the Shishyaanushaasanam of the Taittiriya Upanishad in chaste Sanskrit. The chant is an ancient exhortation to the graduating students.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented by President David Granger to Ramkumarie Ramdass



PRINCIPAL'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AT CAPE

Presented by Pujya Swami Aksharananda to Vamanadev Hiralall



CAPE

This is the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination. SVN's best CAPE student in 2016 was Vamanadev Hiralall who passed 8 CAPE subjects. In 2015, SVN's Vamanadev passed 19 CXC subjects and came in second to his SVN classmate, Victoria Bhushanie Rajab who passed 20 CXC subjects.

PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented by Mrs. Sita Nagamootoo (wife of PM) to Kimberly Najab.



OTHER AWARDEES



ADDITIONAL AWARDEES



Cornelia Ida Mandir Award for best CSEC student -
Ramkumaire Ramdass



AWARDS TO RAMKUMARIE

At the impressive SVN's 2016 Dikshant Samarop (Graduation Ceremony), the top graduating CSEC student, Ramkumarie Ramdass, who passed 19 subjects (13 with distinctions), in addition to receiving the President's Award of Excellence, also received a cheque for G\$20,000, a laptop computer, US\$500 (Suryanarayan Mandir Award presented by Dr. Amarnath) and the Cornelia Ida Mandir's Award.

OTHER AWARDS

SVN's runner-up CSEC student, Kimberly Najab, in addition to receiving the Prime Minister's Award of Excellence, also received US\$500. Vamanadev Hiralall, the top CAPE student received the Principal's Award, CI Mandir Award and US\$500 (Suryanarayan Mandir Award). Thanks to Surya Mandir NY for US \$1,000 in awards money. Other CAPE students received awards handed out by SVN's Administrator Kamine Singh.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID?

"There is no better place than SVN to speak about values. This very institution is a monument to our diversity. The name itself is not only indicative but also inspirational...Education can achieve a lot, but only if it is accompanied by values." - Hon. David Granger, President of Guyana at SVN Oct. 16, 2016. 8

UPDATE ON SVN'S SCIENCE BUILDING PROJECT



SVN's is in the process of building a new state of the art science facility with laboratories for biological, chemical and physical sciences. This new facility is a required to achieve the vision of SVN's Founder and Principal, Pujya Swami Aksharananda Ji to pioneer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education grounded in Hindu cultural values in Guyana. Construction is moving at a slow pace because of inadequate funding. Friends and well-wishers of SVN are encouraged to support the SVN Science Building Fund. Swami Aksharananda's vision includes the use of this facility for scientific research and data-driven approaches to finding solutions to problems. Scientific research is sorely lacking in Guyana and SVN plans to help fill this void.

IN MEMORIAM

SVN extends sincere condolences to the families of the following friends and supporters who passed away in 2016:

Pandiit Radharaman Upadhyaya — school teacher, Hindu priest and friend/supporter of SVN.

Shri George Subraj - philanthropist and friend/supporter of SVN.

Shri Ganga Ram Dwarka - distinguished Guyanese civil servant and friend/supporter SVN.



Professor Clement Krishnanand Sankat presents Pujya Swami Aksharananda, Hindu Scholar, Founder and Principal of SVN, a copy of his book while Hon. David Granger, President of Guyana looks on. Guyana-born Sankat was Principal of The University of West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad.

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA

Donates Books to Saraswati Vidya Niketan



On October 28, 2016, Saraswati Vidya Niketan (SVN) received a donation of 284 books from the High Commission of India. The picture shows Indian High Commissioner, Shri V. Mahalingam handing over the books to Principal of SVN, Swami Aksharananda. The books are of 57 titles on various subjects such as Philosophy, History, Religion, Politics, Science, stories of Hindu Gods, Temples of India and learning Hindi among others. The Indian High Commissioner urged the students of SVN to make use of the books to enrich their knowledge about Hindu culture

In Conversation at Saraswati Vidya Niketan - Oct. 16, 2016

Shri Yesu Persaud (in white), Dr. Somdat Mahabir, Shri Jiall Kisson (reading), Dr. Clement Krishnanand Sankat, Shri Hemraj Kisson, Shrimattie Aisha (Doodnauth) Singh, Shrimattie Sita Nagamootto, Shri Nowrang Persaud and Judge Nandram Kisson



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Contact Information:

Please contact us to learn more about SVN and how you can support our mission:

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Eminent Individuals at SVN Graduation Oct. 16, 2016:

President David Granger, Yesu Persaud, Hemraj Kisson, Dr. Clement Sankat, Judge Nandram Kisson, Sita Nagamootto, Ryhaan Shaw, Bernadette Persaud, Jiall Kisson, Ravi Dev, Aisha Singh, Bonita Harris, Jiall Kisson, Nowrang Persaud, Dr. Somdat Mahabir, Pastor Ronald McGarrell, Maulana Mangat, Dennis Jaikarran, Malcom Harripaul