Welcome back to school!

Welcome back, one and all, to our new academic year 2012/2013 and a special welcome to the new students and their parents to our LPF Community. It’s wonderful to have the classes buzzing again!

From this year, LPFA is no longer the only LPF Academy around, since the new Academy at Rajagiriya, offering the national curriculum in English, is now functioning. So we must now be specific about LPFA Dehiwala or Rajagiriya - and in time, who knows where else?

Yes, we are now a network of schools: 5 LPF Schools, one B2P School under our wing, plus the Mother Teresa Montessori classroom. We are also overlooking the setting up of a in-house Montessori school in India for an industrial zone run by Brandix.

There are a few significant things that have changed in tandem—like the new logo that we revealed at the Back to School evening for parents!

After an intense oval-table conference, it was decided that we’d go with French all the way—so the name on the logo is: La Petite Fleur—Les Écoles (meaning the schools, and pronounced “lez ay-coal”), and you will notice that the melding of the old logos has resulted in this logo now registered for the whole school network.

We’re also providing school bags in our school colours, if you wish to purchase one—these are more suitable however for younger students, or as a smaller alternative for certain occasions for older ones.

Under review at the moment is our Website, for “LPF Schools”, not the individual schools, so it is being totally revamped! Soon to be on a screen at your desk!

It’s an exciting and dynamic time of growth and consolidation. Finding the right people for this culture one of our biggest challenges!

It will be a hard-fought battle, continuing to promulgate this vision of education within a society where educational policies, practices and protocols seem to have gone alarmingly off-kilter in too many ways.

But the LPF Schools in Sri Lanka are ready . . . Vive La Petite Fleur and the Montessori way of life!
2012 MILESTONES!

ROLL CALL!

New at LPFA this term:

YCC: Zishan Cader
Naathiq Sulaiman

Montessori:
Vihas Tennekoon
Ismail Nair

Elementary I & II:
Melina Piyasena
Shehara Lamont
Vinuth Bandara
Ranik de Silva
Hanan Mayura

Maria Montessori Class:
Shabri Ahamed,
Talib Sameer,
Osandu Dharmawardana

Gandhi Class:
Suha Shafeek

Mother Teresa Class:
Joel Davey

Nelson Mandela Class:
J.B. Hikari Lisara

Dalai Lama Class:
Shimain Britney,
Daniel Vittachi,
Aithan Binthi Ibrahim

Chief Seattle Class:
Asma Khadija,
Neha Shafeek,
Ismail Zidhaan Anees,
Sahan Perera

Aung San Su Kyi Class:
Ahmed Fayaz,
Fathmath Nadhyaan

- LPF Montessori Ratmalana—20th anniversary year
- LPF Academy Dehiwela—5th anniversary year
- LPF Montessori Galle—founding year
- LPF Academy Rajagiriya—founding year
- LPF Teacher Training Centre—founding year
- Outreach classrooms in other locations:
  Mother Teresa Montessori Classroom, Prem Niwasa—founding year
- Overseas, LPF-style Montessori—India, founding year

Back to School Night 2012

The annual experience of literally being in your child’s place for a while was offered our parents of Primary and Secondary students on the 11th of September, when parents sat down to listen to their child’s classroom director/directress and discuss what’s in store for them in the year ahead.

We thank the parents who made the time for this vital evening, and for the input you provided, helping teachers and the administration by your comments and suggestions, and also your invaluable support.

The main discussion for the evening was spearheaded by Dr Tony Gunatilleke who spoke on Nutrition & the Child. The value of home-cooked, balanced, nourishing meals is inestimable, and often, many adults do not realize how much the child’s performance at school is helped or hindered by what they eat—or don’t eat, in some cases.

One essential family ritual, sitting down together for at least one meal a day, was another important nutritional and relational aspect Dr Tony emphasized.

Our Directress also spoke on the industrial philosophy which engendered the kind of stratified education prevalent today, and compared it with the small school concepts and Montessori practices we offer at LPFA.

⇒ We will organize the Back to School Night’s experience for parents of Grades 3, 4 as the Classroom Directresses will be with us and the Maria Montessori students in the last week of October, so notices will reach you shortly with details.
NO GUNS FOR CHRISTMAS!

Inseparable from our school activity, The Peace Gang is a source of great pride and satisfaction, for our students naturally weave community service and social responsibility into their daily lives.

Initiated by Aunty Bernie at the annual residential Peace Camp in August, this campaign aims at excluding toy guns from shops, homes, under Christmas trees, in stockings, in fact, out of the festival celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace. It started with posters and banners within school, made by the children themselves.

Then, to celebrate International Peace Day, the message flew large, clear and high – on kites! Students, teachers and parents of the school, not just PG members, gathered on Galle Face Green on 22nd September to fly kites bearing that message.

It was a proud moment and a highlight when students went up to a toy seller on the Green and persuaded him to put away all the guns he had on display!

We made the national media, as Rupavahini covered the event and aired it a few days later. Next up will be posters. Leaflets, bumper stickers to create more awareness.

We are also extremely happy to announce that Dr. Janet La Valley, PhD in East-West Psychology, whose son Hanan has joined our Elementary Class, is a visiting resource person at LPFA. She comes to us with immense experience in many fields: Peace Curricula, play therapy, counseling for parents, married couples, orphans, refugees, trauma victims, healing modalities, and a great deal more.

Dr. Janet is currently the Academic Dean, Colombo Institute of Research and Psychology, and has held a host of very distinguished academic positions in various institutions in Sri Lanka and the USA.

New PG material includes a new Puppet Theatre. Any volunteer puppets out there?
GANDHI CLASS TO WELCOME NEW CLASSROOM DIRECTRESS

It was disastrous, losing our new Grade 3 class teacher in the first week of school.
After setting up the class Monday, she was unable to come to school from Tuesday, the first day, onwards and by Friday, she had decided to resign, for personal reasons.
You can imagine us, hm?? But the teachers cooperated to keep the students on an even keel. Aunty Bernie went on a teacher hunt with a vengeance.
Happily, Natalie, a lady with 8 years’ experience of teaching Grades 3-8, and also of heading a school in Nuwara Eliya, is to join us in October.
With further bonuses of being President of a Toastmasters’ Club, and a candidate for training in Cub Scout leadership, as Akela, she is the kind of teacher we hunt for, often unsuccessfully, but Lady Luck was with us this time. We look forward to her arrival.
Parents, very sincerely, thank you for your patience and understanding! A Back to School night is on the cards for you soon . . .

AUNTY BERNIE CAN TAKE IT ON THE CHIN!

DISTINGUISHED INDIAN PROFESSOR VISITS LPFA

WAS IT THIS CONFLICT RESOLUTION SESSION THAT SENT SUBA TO CHINA?

Wedding bells rang out very recently for two of our teachers, Fazrin (Classroom Directress of Mother Teresa Class) and Nishani (Science specialist). Our heart-felt wishes to these beloved teachers for many, many years of married bliss and special blessings always. They have been an integral and invaluable part of our staff, giving above and beyond the call of duty to make our school what it is today. To their new husbands Irfan and Asela—you have made wonderful choices! Welcome indeed to the LPFA community.

The patter of little feet . . .

Mathematics teacher in the Secondary section, Shazna (also a parent) and her husband Naushad have been blessed with a little boy. We wish the happy parents, his big brother Waqif and baby Raidh every happiness and blessing, now and always.
Our Peace Maker: The Dalai Lama

“Education is the proper way to promote compassion and tolerance in society. Compassion and peace of mind bring a sense of confidence that reduce stress and anxiety, whereas anger and hatred come from frustration and undermine our sense of trust. Because of ignorance, many of our problems are our own creation. Education, however, is the instrument that increases our ability to employ our own intelligence.”