

C.M.S GOVT. BOYS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL KARACHI

CHURCH MISSION SCHOOL ANNUAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GATHERING

AN INITIATIVE BY ALUMNI OF CMS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SCHOOL

On 18th January, 2020, the second annual meet-up event was held at Church Mission School (CMS) for Alumni Association of CMS. This association was formed by Mr. Meraj Nazar in 2016 with an aim to form a better place for students by all aspects. Currently the association is working on providing quality education, sports opportunities, IT support and interfaith harmony. The event was a platform to revive the spirit of giving back to the community and the alumni shared their memories of time when people from different religions and ethnic entities studied and played together and lived in harmony celebrating the diversity. Mr. Waseem Akhtar, Mr. Mahesh Passa and Mr. Aslam Merchant came from USA to attend the event. Former test cricketers Mr. Mushtaq Muhammad and Mr. Sadiq Muhammad came from UK and joined the alumni at the event.

Pakistan is a nation with different cultures, ethnic groups and religion and this diversification is the strength and beauty of this state. People from different religions in Pakistan have significant contributions in the development of this nation and their contributions are commendable in every field. One such contribution is the formation of Church Mission School'. This school was found in 1846 by Colonel Henry W. Preedy, the first collector of Karachi and the patron of Christ Church which is situated across the street. Prior to its nationalization in 1971, it was one of the best educational institutions of the city.



The school has produced great legends in the history of Pakistan including Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and a number of cricketers of international repute such as Javed Miandad, Mushtaq Mohammad, Sadiq Mohammad, Intikhab Alam and Haroon Rasheed. Some of the notable alumni also include Azizullah Sharif (Journalist), Mr. Zubair Tufail, Mr. Altaf Padela and Mr. Fawad Yousuf from business community of Karachi. Mr. Meraj Nazar achieved first position in the Karachi High School Board Examination in 1960 and Mr. Aslam Merchant achieved third position in the Board Examination in 1975. The alumni of the school meet annually at the school to strengthen the ties and collectively make an effort to provide better education opportunities for students and also provide better sports facilities in school.

Mr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman Paracha, former Commissioner Karachi and Honorary Secretary of Sindh Madressatul Islam Board, was the chief guest of the event. Mr. Paracha, who has dedicated his life to educate, support and provide opportunities to the underprivileged, told Team Pur Sukoon Karachi, "Today the alumni have left the comfort of their personal lives and have gathered in their home school to discuss how they can contribute to make it a better institution for future generations." Understanding the need of good educational facilities and need to elevate the education standards in school, Mr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman Paracha has been working long for the improvement of school infrastructure and has helped in the renovation of original blocks of CMS.

Mr. Meraj Nazar, who pioneered the idea of forming an Alumni Association Group, in his message said, "The Alumni initiative has come a long way since it's launching in 2016. Having recognized the progress, we are also well aware of the fact that still a lot has to be done to realize the Alumni vision of making CMS a model school and a front-runner, both in education and sports."

The first annual function of the alumni association was held in 2019. This year, the annual meet up grew bigger in number as more alumni showed up at the function. Currently around 125 alumni are part of the association who are located in different parts of the world including the USA, Canada, England and New Zealand but majority of alumni are located with in Pakistan.



Through the alumni association, Mr. Waseem Akhtar was also requested to visit the school. He came from USA and visited the school in 2017 and contributed to build a library, which was done in just 16-17 days. He said, "I am very proud of this library because there was no library in the school. After building the library the books kept coming. Abdul Qadir Moulvi made the biggest contribution who is my senior. Today the library has more than 2,300 books." Mr. Waseem Akhtar also initiated the sports activities at CMS keeping in mind its past traditions in sports and games.



A cricket academy is formed at CMS which trains students 3 days a week for 3 hours. Mr. Shaukat Ali Rajput, a certified cricket coach and an alumnus, train the students. The cricket academy is being overseen by the former test-cricketer Mr. Sadiq Muhammad. Speaking to Team Pur Sukoon Karachi he said that alumni association is doing good job but if there is support from government things will become much better. He appreciated the efforts of Commissioner Karachi and said that he is doing great work in the city and support from officials like him will give a lot to the students.

Mr. Waseem Akhtar's son, Mr. Muteen Akhtar conducted basketball training and coaching sessions

for the students at CMS. He has been playing Basketball since the age of 5 and has played Basketball on college level in California. He has been training the students and has formed a team. Now the association is planning to form a basketball court within the school premises.

Alumnus Mr. Mahesh Passa and Mr. Joel Andrews promoted the message of peace and said that the unique thing about school is its interfaith harmony. Mr. Passa said, "We have alumni who are from different religions and we never felt any difference when we were studying and even today we are all same. We all are united for the cause of education and trying to improve this school. This is the real Pakistan; this is the way it was and this is the way it should be."

The efforts being made by CMS alumni association for transforming the school and making all the efforts in providing quality education and opportunities in sports while promoting peace and harmony is appreciable.

