

THE RED VELVET



Quarterly Magazine of the Ladies' College Old Girls' Association



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APRIL 2026



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MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Nicole David Wijesinha

A new chapter of leadership begins. We offer our warmest of welcomes to our new Principal, Mrs. Nicole David Wijesinha, as we continue to educate, empower and inspire women.

As one family unbroken we shower our blessings and prayers upon her, as she has now been appointed as the 10th Principal of Ladies' College.

Our congratulations and best wishes to you !

Q & A

WITH OUR NEW PRINCIPAL



Q : What inspired you to become an educator and eventually a principal?

A : My inspiration to become an educator began with my own mathematics teacher, whose approach to teaching left a lasting impact on me. Instead of encouraging rote memorization of formulas and steps, my teacher focused on helping us understand concepts deeply and meaningfully. This method of bringing purpose and clarity to what needed to be done transformed the way I viewed learning, and it became the foundation of my own philosophy as a teacher.

As I continued in my career, this belief in conceptual understanding expanded beyond the classroom into my administrative roles. I came to value listening to the views of others and working collaboratively toward shared goals, principles that shaped my leadership style and strengthened the teams I was part of. Through years of experience in education and the various leadership responsibilities I was entrusted with, I developed the confidence and conviction that I had what it takes to lead a school effectively.

Becoming the Principal of Ladies' College is both an honour and a profound affirmation of my calling. I see it as an opportunity not only to lead but also to serve, a response to God's call on my life to guide others in the pursuit of meaningful, transformative education.

Q : What is your vision for the school?

A : As the new Principal , my vision builds on the legacy of our founders, Principals, Vice Principals, Sectional Heads and staff who have faithfully served our beloved school and made it the great institution it is today.

I see this school not just as an institution but as a community of faith, learning, and belonging. I am committed to honouring its Christian foundation while warmly embracing the diversity that has always been its strength. My hope is to walk alongside our students and staff, listening, learning, and growing together, as we nurture young women to think critically, act compassionately, and live with integrity. I want every girl at Ladies' College to feel seen, valued, and empowered to discover her purpose.

Q & A

WITH OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

Q : What is your approach to teamwork amongst staff?

A : My approach is rooted in trust, mutual respect, and a shared sense of purpose. A school thrives when its educators and support staff work collaboratively, valuing each other's strengths and perspectives while remaining aligned in their commitment to the students. My goal is to cultivate a positive and inclusive working environment where staff feel supported and motivated, knowing that together they are shaping not just academic outcomes, but the character and future of every student in our care.

Q : What qualities do you hope students develop during their time here?

A: In this new era, I hope our students develop not only intellectual excellence and confidence, but also a strong sense of humanity and purpose. While we are advancing rapidly in technology and its application to our daily lives and striving to become ever more efficient, I want our girls to never lose sight of the qualities that allow human beings to truly thrive. At the heart of this is the ability to show compassion, respect and empathy. In a world increasingly shaped by screens and systems, these qualities remind us of our shared humanity. They help build meaningful relationships, strengthen communities, and shape individuals who are not only capable, but also kind, ethical, and grounded.

Q : What's one interesting fact about you that people might not know?

A : I naturally like to keep things organised and in the right place. I enjoy bringing a bit of method to the madness. I just feel more at ease and focused when things are in order.

Q : What do you like doing in your free time?

A : I enjoy activities that help me relax and recharge. Travelling with my family is something I value most. We often choose destinations close to nature, where I can appreciate the beauty of God's creation. I also enjoy spending time with friends, especially playing board games, where my competitive side tends to come out. In addition, music is an important part of my downtime, as it helps me unwind and stay inspired.

SIP & STRETCH





SIP & STRETCH



Sip & Stretch made a refreshing debut as a first-of-its-kind wellness event, setting the tone for the year with mindful movement and uplifting energy. Participants began with registration and outfit collection. Before enjoying a relaxed walkthrough of 'The Shoppes', including visits to selected stores and exclusive discounted outlets, along with a refreshing drink.

The highlight of the evening was a serene sunset Pilates session, a guided one-hour mat class led by a Balanced Body certified instructor from Nufloe, thoughtfully designed to suit all ages and fitness levels.

Guests also received complimentary event T-shirts from Carnage and enjoyed light refreshments by Dilmah after the session.

Blending wellness, community, and lifestyle, Sip & Stretch offered a rejuvenating experience that truly lived up to its name.





CARNAGE

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GREENFIELD FARM
ORGANIC
LIFE





FLOOD RELIEF

Due to the devastating effects of Cyclone Ditwah many were displaced and lives were lost. In this time of devastation we gathered financial contributions and essential relief items and officially handed them over to the Diocesan BSR Office of Colombo of the Church of Ceylon - a step in supporting flood victims.

We are grateful for every generous heart that made this possible.

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THE LADIES' COLLEGE OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

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TO THEIR HANDS**

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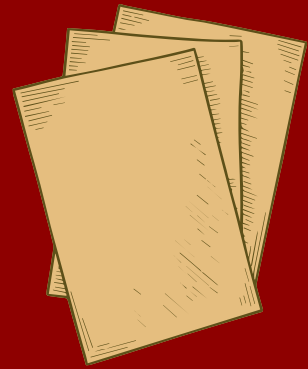
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REID AVENUE BRANCH

**ALL DONATIONS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO
DIOCESAN BSR OFFICE OF COLOMBO OF THE
CHURCH OF CEYLON FOR DISTRIBUTION.**

She

MEANS BUSINESS

Ladies' College Old Girls' Association



The Ladies' College Old Girls' Association has launched She Means Business, a pioneering digital initiative designed to support and promote small and medium enterprises led by alumni of Ladies' College Colombo. The platform marks a significant milestone as the first Old Girls' Association in Sri Lanka to create a structured digital space dedicated to showcasing businesses run by its former students.

More than a promotional feature, She Means Business aims to celebrate and empower women entrepreneurs within the LC network. Through curated digital features across OGA platforms, the initiative will spotlight Old Girls who have established ventures in diverse fields such as fashion, wellness, food, technology, consulting, creative industries, and social enterprises.

The project recognizes the vital role small and medium enterprises play in Sri Lanka's economy while acknowledging that women entrepreneurs often face challenges in gaining visibility and scaling their businesses. By leveraging the strength of its alumni network and digital reach, the OGA hopes to provide greater exposure, credibility, and collaboration opportunities for women-led businesses.

The platform will feature founder stories, brand journeys, product showcases, leadership insights, and direct links for audiences to engage with the businesses. With She Means Business, the OGA reinforces Ladies' College's legacy of nurturing confident, capable women and extends that tradition into the entrepreneurial landscape, encouraging the LC sisterhood to support and uplift one another.



Ladies' College Old Girls' Association



PRESS CONFERENCE



Ladies' College Old Girls' Association



FOUNDERS' DAY





FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE

The service unfolded in a deeply reverent atmosphere, drawing all present into a meaningful time of worship and reflection. A highlight of the morning was the welcome prayer, led by the President of the OGA, Mrs. Anjali Karunaratne, alongside senior OGA members and the new Principal of Ladies' College- Mrs. Nicole David Wijesinha, symbolising unity, faith, and shared purpose within the community. The congregation was then moved by a heartfelt and inspiring sermon, which gently reminded all present of the enduring power of faith, grace, and compassion in our daily lives. Its message resonated deeply, encouraging reflection, renewal, and a strengthened commitment to living out Christian values with sincerity and love.

The service was further enriched by the OGA choir, whose beautifully rendered hymns created a serene and uplifting atmosphere, guiding the congregation through moments of quiet contemplation and praise.

The sharing of the elements was conducted with grace and solemnity, fostering a profound sense of togetherness and spiritual connection among those gathered.

Overall, the service was a moving and spiritually enriching experience, centred on faith, fellowship, and the quiet strength found in collective worship.











FOUNDERS' DAY BRUNCH

The 126th OGA Founders' Day Brunch was a memorable and elegant celebration, bringing together members of the Ladies' College community in a spirit of warmth and nostalgia. The hall was beautifully adorned with an exquisite arrangement of roses and fresh fruits, complemented by delicate tassel chandeliers that added a touch of sophistication to the setting. The gentle melodies of a live violinist further enhanced the ambience, creating a refined and welcoming atmosphere for the morning's proceedings.

The event commenced with the arrival of the Principal, Ms. Nicole David Wijesinha, who was warmly welcomed by those gathered. This was followed by the School Hymn, marking the significance of the occasion and setting a tone of unity and pride. A symbolic highlight of the morning was the cutting of the Founders' Day cake, led by the Principal alongside the President and Vice President of the Old Girls' Association, celebrating 126 years of legacy and tradition.

The gathering was further enriched by addresses delivered by the President of the OGA, Mrs. Anjali Karunaratne, and the Principal, whose words reflected on the values, achievements, and enduring spirit of the Ladies' College community.

The celebration concluded with a delightful brunch, featuring a diverse Sri Lankan-inspired buffet and a charming popsicle cart, adding a light and enjoyable touch to the morning. Guests enjoyed not only the thoughtfully curated spread but also the opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate this significant milestone together.

















THE LADIES' COLLEGE OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION (UK)

The Ladies' College Old Girls' Association (UK) recently celebrated the school's 126th Founders' Day with a Thanksgiving Service and lunch in Chelsea, London. The service, held at Christ Church and officiated by Reverend Prebendary Dr. Brian Leathard, featured Leshanthi Corea proudly bearing the school flag.

At St. Luke's Hall, President Nilusha Piyasena honoured long standing members such as Dr. Suma Suriar, Ramani Leathard, and Triveni Mahadeva for their dedication to the UK OGA. The celebration featured a quintessentially Sri Lankan feast, including hoppars and a stunning ribbon cake by Ruth Ram Sivajeevan.

The afternoon radiated LC style through laughter, baila dancing, and a spirited House song competition. This vibrant gathering not only brought back memories but also strengthened the bonds of sisterhood and community among UK-based alumni, ensuring the school's legacy continues to flourish across generations and continents. As Vice President Udeshi Amarasinghe said, "We are all LCites, we are One Family Unbroken."

The Thanksgiving Service was arranged and coordinated by Ramani Leathard

The beautiful and elegant decor of the hall was by Nafisa Saheed





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LUXURY TABLETOP RENTALS

A large, solid green circle containing the text 'GREEN CABIN' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is centered and framed by two thin, light green curved lines above and below it.

**GREEN
CABIN**

SERVING SINCE 1884



AVURUDU

For many of us, Sinhala and Tamil New Year, or simply Avurudu, is more than just a date on the calendar. It is a feeling. It's the smell of freshly made kavum in the kitchen, the sound of laughter during traditional Avurudu games, and the quiet anticipation for the auspicious time to begin the new year.

At its heart, Avurudu marks a time of renewal and new beginnings. But what makes it truly special in Sri Lanka is how it brings people together. Regardless of ethnicity or religion, families and communities pause their busy lives to celebrate shared traditions—reminding us that, despite our differences, we are deeply connected.

As Sri Lankans, carrying forward this legacy means more than just following rituals. It means understanding why we do them. Lighting the hearth becomes a symbol of hope, sharing meals becomes an act of love, and visiting elders becomes a gesture of respect that strengthens our roots. Even something as simple as inviting a neighbour to celebrate with us can help bridge divides and build unity.

In today's fast-paced world, Avurudu gives us a rare chance to slow down, reconnect, and celebrate who we are. If we continue to embrace its traditions with intention and open hearts, we won't just preserve a festival, we will keep alive a spirit of togetherness that Sri Lanka truly needs.



AVURUDU

CREATE YOUR OWN AVURUDU GIFT BOX/BAG

STEP 1

Pick up a beautifully handwoven pan basket or bag. A colorful one will bring an extra splash of joy to the Avurudu season.

STEP 2

Fill your chosen bag or box with delightful handmade soaps, flavorful homemade jams, and traditional sweets.

STEP 3

Finish it off with a rustic jute ribbon or string, and your thoughtfully prepared gift bag or box is ready to brighten someone's Avurudu celebrations.



AVURUDU

TRADITIONAL AVURUDU GAMES

1. KANA MUTTI (BREAKING CLAY POTS)

Blindfolded players try to break clay pots hanging above them

2. LISSANA GAHA (GREASY POLE)

Competitors climb a slippery pole to reach prizes at the top

3. KAMBA ADEEMA (TUG OF WAR)

Two teams pull on opposite ends of a rope in a test of strength

4. OLINDA KELIYA (OLINDA GAME)

Players hit each other's olinda seeds in a game of skill

5. KOTTA PORA (PILLOW FIGHTS)

Two players sitting on a pole try to knock each other off with pillows

6. ALIYATA AHA THABEEMA (PINNING THE EYE ON THE ELEPHANT)

Blindfolded players try to pin an eye on an elephant drawing

CELEBRATE SINHALA & TAMIL NEW YEAR



AVURUDU

2026 AUSPICIOUS TIMES

Punya Kaafaya (Inauspicious Time)
14th of April - 03:08 AM to 03:56 PM

Dawn of the New Year
14th of April - 09.32 AM

Lighting the Hearth & Cooking
Dressed in red clothing, facing South and
preparing milk based rice
14th of April - 10.51 AM

Transactions & first consuming of meals
Dressed in red clothing and facing South
14th of April 12.06 PM

Anointing of Oil
Dressed in green clothing and facing East
15th of April - 6.55 AM

Leaving for work
Dressed in white clothing and facing South
20th April - 6.27 AM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sip & Paint
23rd May

Comedy & Cocktails
13th June

Pickle Ball Tournament
17th July

Fair
8th August

September Event
TBD

Sip & Stretch
19th October

Christmas Dinner
29th November



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