



S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' UNION

(Estd. 12th May, 1978)

No. 98, Steuart Place, Colombo 03.

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1st December, 2017.

*Cheer, Cheer, Prep School Boys,
For our home by the roaring billows,*

Dear Prepites,

The previous night (29th) we learnt exactly how close 'our home' is to the 'roaring billows' with the powerful winds that wreaked havoc around the country not sparing Prep School.

By last morning (30th) you would no doubt have seen images of places that are cherished in your childhood memories, badly damaged. While these pictures and videos fail to highlight that one of the structures that was badly damaged was a temporary marquee put up for a function at School and the other is *Fortrose*, which is under restoration, it is hard to take away from the fact that extensive damage has been caused to the School we spent our formative years.

At 7.30 AM Members of the Executive Committee of the Old Boys' Union called on Fr. Dushantha Rodrigo, the Headmaster, and inspected the School premises. From their initial assessment it was apparent that the roof and ceiling of several buildings, including the Chapel, the Library and Computer Laboratory had been badly damaged and that the library books and computers were exposed to the elements. Our immediate call for plastic boxes and hair dryers to salvage the library books and computers was met with generosity and promptness and the immediate requirements in the process of recovery have now been fulfilled.

Subsequently an inspection of the School premises was conducted by a group comprising architects, engineers and cost consultants who will provide the Headmaster with a detailed bill of quantities and costs. They have confirmed that every building in the School has suffered damage in varying degrees. Based on their initial assessment they have indicated that **asbestos sheets, ceiling sheets, roofing timber (seasoned), window glass, cement, sand, cement blocks and paint** would definitely be required. Smaller items such as locks, bolts, hinges and stainless-steel nails would also be required. They have also recommended that the labour should be given out to several contractors to speed up the construction as the Headmaster requires all work to be completed by the 2nd of January, 2018 when the new term begins.

Given the extent of the damage and the tight deadline by which reconstruction needs to be concluded by the cost is expected to be high and comes at a time when the School has pledged much of its resources to restore *Fortrose* - the building which housed the School in its early days.

Any *Prepite* or well wisher who wishes to contribute either material or monetarily could do so by contacting **Mr. Imran Hassan (Vice President) on (+94)777915933** or **Mr. Rajindh Perera (Assistant Secretary) on (+94)720706261**. Any queries could also be directed to prepobu@gmail.com.

All cash deposits should be made to:-

S. THOMAS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL - OBU
NDB Bank (Kollupitiya Branch)
Account No. - 101000593118
SWIFT Code - NDBSLKLX
Bank Code - 7214

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YEARS
1978 - 2018



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(please scan or photograph a copy of your deposit or online deposit transaction confirmation and e-mail it to prepobu@gmail.com or WhatsApp it to Conrad on +94777264119.)

The Headmaster has informed us that the December vacation has been advanced and that all School functions which were planned for December will be held at venues outside the School so that the children will not miss out on any activities, which they have been looking forward to. We are extremely grateful to the Principals of Ladies College and Methodist College who have kindly agreed to permit the use of their Auditoriums free-of-charge to hold the Prize Giving and Concert. **Your presence, to show solidarity with the School and the students, at the Carol Service on Saturday the 2nd of December at 6 PM at St. Paul's, Kynsey Road, Borella will be greatly appreciated.**

We thank everyone who helped in the 'clean-up' operation today and all the old boys who called over at Prep School to express their solidarity and offer their assistance. In particular, we would also like to thank His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo; the Archdeacon; the Warden of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia; and the Principal of Bishop's College for their expression of solidarity.

As students who benefitted from our education at S. Thomas' Preparatory School it is our duty to ensure that the School is ready for the students when they arrive in January. Our aim should not be to simply replace the damaged, but to rise from this blow and modernize the ailing infrastructure of the School. Dwarfed by skyscrapers Prep School took the brunt of the gale force winds yesterday, but decisive action at this present moment by us Old Boys, could equip the School to face the rigors of the changing face of Steuart Place.

Lets cherish the School of our youthful years ...

Executive Committee

S. Thomas' Preparatory School Old Boys' Union

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