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‘JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM’: THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AT COTTONS

On the 20th of December 2025, Bishop Cotton Boys’ School hosted its annual Christmas programme, titled ‘Journey to Bethlehem’. The programme presented an enigmatic display to the audience, guiding them through key moments associated with the Nativity while highlighting the values of faith, humility and togetherness. Notably, this year’s celebrations unfolded in an open-air setting, giving the occasion a distinct and memorable character.



Soon after the entry of the dignitaries, the students of kindergarten took to the stage to present the audience with an enthusiastic dance performance, invoking a feeling of warmth and cheer in the celebrations that evening. The performance was followed by the opening prayer delivered by Rev. Christopher Samuel, invoking the blessings of the Almighty and setting a reverent tone for the evening. Following this, the school choir mesmerized the audience with an almost angelic performance of the opening hymn, ‘Angels from the Realms of Glory’. Their harmonious voices filled the atmosphere, adding a sense of calm and grace to the programme.





The occasion was further enriched by a message from Rev. Dr. Vincent Vinod Kumar, highlighting the true spirit of Christmas and the way God can work powerfully in our lives during times of need. Following this heartfelt message, began the much-awaited Annual Christmas Musical which was a magnificent live adaptation of the film ‘Journey to Bethlehem’, bringing the timeless story of Nativity to life through music, drama, and visual splendour. The production was directed by our Principal, Mr. Alistair R. A. Freese, along with Ms. Gabriella Tannishtha, Ms. J Princy Sharon and Mrs. Rupali in close collaboration with several school departments, reflecting the true spirit of collective Cottonian excellence.

“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.”

-JANICE MAEDITERE

The musical traced the sacred journey of Mary, portrayed with grace by Ms. Gabriella Tannishtha, and Joseph enacted by Mr. Avinash Romario, as they fled to Bethlehem while being relentlessly pursued by the tyrannical King Herod, enacted with commanding presence by Rev. Immanuel Nehemiah. The narrative was further enriched by compelling portrayals of the three Magi, Antipater, and a host of other characters, each contributing depth and vibrancy to the performance. The act concludes with the joyous birth of Christ, underscoring the timeless values of hope and faith that lie at the heart of the Christmas story.







The play was followed by the Vote of Thanks, delivered by the Vice Principal, Mr. Dhiviyanathan J, expressing gratitude to each and every individual who was instrumental in making the Annual Christmas Programme a reality. Following this, Rev. Christy Gnanadasan led the audience in the closing prayer, aptly followed by the benediction delivered by Rev. Dr. Vincent Vinod Kumar, invoking the blessings of the almighty once again as the events of the evening came to close. The annual Christmas programme concluded with the closing hymn, 'Silent Night', leaving the audience with a sense of warmth, reflection and festive cheer. The programme was elegantly compered by Mrs. Evelyn Sumana, Mrs. Monica Joseph and Mrs. Bindhya Kumar, ensuring a seamless flow of events.

The school expresses its sincere appreciation to the Art Department for the impressive props, with special mention of Dr. Sridhara S, Mr. Ramprasad S Y, Mr. Suraj R, Mrs. Bhagyalakshmi, Mrs. Helan Mary Hemalatha, Mrs. Hema Premath and Mrs. Sujatha B. Special thanks are also extended to Mr. Daryl Kumar for the excellent choreography, and to Mrs. Lorraine Chan and Mrs. Sadhana for the exquisite costumes, meticulously stitched in-house, all of which significantly enhanced the splendour of the production.

AMAZING FACT

How Santa Claus Got His Famous Look

Saint Nicholas, the 4th-century Bishop of Myra (modern-day Turkey), who is the primary historical inspiration for the legendary figure of Santa Claus, was originally depicted wearing colours of green or blue, linked to humility and the church. The modern-day depiction of Santa, wearing a bright red fur suit and hat, evolved in the 19th and 20th centuries from commercial illustrations of the character.

KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2025

The Kindergarten Christmas Celebration, held under the delightful theme "Shimmer & Shine," was a vibrant and joy-filled event. The presence of our Principal, Mr. Alistair R. A. Freese, Vice Principal, Mr. Dhiviyanathan J, and Treasurer, Mr. P. Johnson, added warmth and grace to the morning.





The teachers enhanced the festive spirit with melodious carols, and the Principal's address offered uplifting words of encouragement. The celebration concluded with great excitement as Santa Claus arrived, delighting every child with a special gift: a cricket bat and a football. Gratitude is extended to the coordinators, Mrs. Beaula and Mrs. Mary, along with all the Kindergarten teachers, for their dedicated efforts in making the programme a memorable success. The morning truly shimmered with joy, hope, and the timeless magic of Christmas.



The programme began with a Bible reading, followed by an invocation, and a prayer, followed by the honouring of the guests. The children presented a lively Christmas medley and an endearing performance titled "The Meaning of Christmas." A beautifully enacted nativity play brought the Christmas story to life as the children portrayed Mary and Joseph's journey, the angels, shepherds, and the wise men with charm and innocence.





"The greatest miracle of Christmas is not the star or the angels, but that God came to us as a child." -CHARLES SPURGEON

THE 36TH KINDERGARTEN ANNUAL ATHLETIC SPORTS MEET

The 36th Kindergarten Annual Athletic Meet was celebrated with colour, energy, and exceptional coordination. The event began with the proud torchbearers representing all 18 sections of LKG and UKG, followed by an impressive march past showcasing discipline and confidence. A solemn prayer by Rev. Immanuel Nehemiah and a warm welcome by the Principal set the tone for the day. The school was honoured to host Mrs. Christy Pridarshini F, Principal of Bishop Cotton Girls' School, as the Chief Guest.





The atmosphere sparkled with the charming Candy Delight mascots, bringing Candy Land to life. The LKG students captivated the audience with their lively "Tooty Frooty" drill using colourful fruit cushions, while the UKG students thrilled spectators with the spirited Cottonian Grand Prix. Creative novelty races added excitement throughout the event.

In the interschool competitions, Bishop Cotton Girls' School secured top honours in the girls' events, while Bishop Cotton Boys' School excelled in the boys' category. The flat races kept the audience cheering, and the Parents' Tug of War proved a lively highlight with enthusiastic participation.

A special note of gratitude is extended to the Physical Education Department, along with the coordinators and teachers of the Kindergarten Section, for their dedicated planning and tireless efforts in making the event a grand success.

The meet concluded with the reminder that beyond every race, the true victory lies in the courage, joy, and togetherness shared by all.

YOHAAN MAKES HIS MARK IN FOOTBALL

Yohaan Philip Jose (12th grade) made his professional Super Division football debut this year at the age of 17 for Students Union, a club that was established in 1951. He made the first XI in three of the matches, appearing in six games overall. He was picked by Students Union for the league after the striker scored 9 goals in the C Division earlier this year

Bishop Cotton Boys' School wishes him on as he carries the diverse legacy of the institution to greater, prouder heights



STRENGTHENING SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES: POCSO & RTE ACT SESSION FOR STAFF



A comprehensive and insightful session on the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and the RTE (Right to Education) Act, with a focus on child protection, was conducted for the teaching and administrative staff of Bishop Cotton Boys' School on 12th December 2025.

The session was led by Mrs. Sujatha Suresh, a noted child rights activist, who shared her expertise on safeguarding practices and legal responsibilities within educational institutions. She elaborated on key provisions of both Acts, emphasising preventive measures, early identification of concerns, and mandatory reporting protocols. It served as a beneficial interaction for the staff.

The programme began with Vice Principal Mr. Dhivyanathan J introducing the resource person. Mrs. Sujatha Suresh was then felicitated by the Principal, marking a warm and respectful welcome to the distinguished speaker.

Mrs. Suresh also highlighted the crucial role educators play in fostering a secure and vigilant environment for students. Her practical insights and clear guidance reinforced the importance of sensitivity, awareness, and timely intervention in child safety matters





GOOD SAMARITAN INITIATIVE BY BISHOP COTTON BOYS' SCHOOL

The Good Samaritan Initiative by Bishop Cotton Boys' School exemplified compassion and generosity during the Christmas season. Over 2,325 beneficiaries from underprivileged communities, old age homes, and homes for young individuals. The programme began with a prayer by Rev. Christy Gnanadasan, Vice Chairman, in the presence of the Principal, Treasurer, Vice-Principal, and administrative staff, followed by a benediction emphasizing selfless service and giving back to society. The active participation of the school leadership and staff highlighted the institution's commitment to fostering values of kindness, empathy, and social responsibility.



COTTONS EXCELS AT THE STATE LEVEL ATHLETICS MEET 2025

Bishop Cotton Boys' School delivered an impressive performance at the State Level Athletics Meet 2025, held at the Shri Kanteerava Stadium on 13 December 2025, with students excelling across track and relay events. The achievements are as follows:

Individual Achievements:

- **Neveen Gladwin** (Middle School) secured Gold medals in the 100m and 4×100m relay.
- **Ahil Ali** (Senior School) secured the Silver medal in the 1500m and the Bronze medal in the 400m.
- **Abhay Kadival** (Middle School) secured the Silver medal in the 400m and the Gold medal in the 4×100m relay.







Relay Achievements:

- **Hiyan M. Jain** (Middle School) secured the Gold medal in the 4×100m relay.
- **Jaden Jeremiah** (Middle School) secured the Gold medal in the Sub-Junior 4×100m relay.
- The Under-16 School Team: **Dheeraj Lionel D, Tapan Tarun P, Akarsh Samuel P, and Daniel A Joel:** secured the Silver medal in the 4×100m relay.

The school places on record its sincere gratitude to Coaches Mr. Devaraj D and Mr. Shivakumar for their dedicated training and mentorship, which played a pivotal role in these commendable achievements.

THE SHETH-GOMES ESSAY INVITATIONAL

The Sheth-Gomes Essay Invitational is an annual creative writing competition instituted by the graduating batch of 1981 of Campion School, Mumbai, in honour of two esteemed Campion teachers, Mr. Joe Sheth and Mr. Stanley Gomes. Ameya Karaba of Bishop Cotton Boys' School, Bangalore, proudly represented the state of Karnataka as the only out-of-state participant. This year's thought-provoking topic was: "What Social Changes Will Power India in the 21st Century?" The event proved to be an enriching and inspiring learning experience for Ameya Karaba, providing invaluable exposure to a high-calibre panel and a competitive literary platform.



YOUNG COTTONIAN MAKES HISTORY AT WORLD RECORD KARATE DISPLAY

Paarth SP of Class II was part of a historic Guinness World Record event for the Largest Karate Display, organised by the World Karate Masters Association (WKMA) and held on 5 October 2025 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The record was set with 863 participants performing a synchronized karate display, demonstrating exceptional discipline, precision, and teamwork. Paarth's committed participation contributed to the success of this landmark achievement in martial arts. The event showcased remarkable coordination and discipline, bringing together young martial artists from across the country in a display of unity and skill. In addition, Paarth SP was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and Honour for his active participation in an official attempt recognised by Bodhi World Records.







These achievements reflect his dedication, enthusiasm, and passion for excellence, making him a source of pride and inspiration at a young age. This accomplishment stands as a testament to the importance of physical education and character-building activities in holistic student development. The school applauds this outstanding feat and encourages students to pursue excellence beyond the classroom with dedication and confidence.

COTTONIAN SHINES AT THE MEERA UBEROI CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Aarav Anil Astekar (X D) and Sukrit Sivaprasad (XI D) proudly represented the school's ICSE and ISC sections at the Meera Uberoi Creative Writing Competition held at Sacred Heart Girls' High School on 19 November 2025. Aarav Anil Astekar secured the top position in the ICSE category, outshining participants from 15 schools. The topic for the competition was "The day your shadow decided you wanted a different life."

Sincere appreciation is extended to Mrs. Elizabeth Angiras and Mrs. Neelika Joel for their guidance and support.



COTTONIANS MAKE THEIR MARK AT THE BASEL MISSION CHRISTMAS CHOIR COMPETITION

The Junior School Choir of Bishop Cotton Boys' School won 3rd Place overall at the prestigious Basel Mission Christmas Choir Competition, delivering a heart-warming performance that reflected dedication, harmony, and festive spirit. Their performance resonated with poise and precision, earning appreciation from both the audience and the adjudicators. The achievement stands as a testament to the choir's discipline, perseverance, and collective passion for music. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Samson Jebakumar for his diligent training and guidance, which played a pivotal role in shaping the boys' outstanding performance.



COTTONIANS SHOWCASE THEIR SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT AT THE INDIAN OIL SCIENCE QUIZ

The Bengaluru round of the Indian Oil Science Quiz 2025, held at the Good Shepherd Auditorium in association with The Times of India, saw participation from 142 schools. After a challenging written preliminary round, six schools qualified for the finals conducted by quizmasters Mr. Kunal Savarkar and Ms. Seema Chari. Bishop Cotton Boys' School was represented by Chayank Kaushik and Ameya Karaba, who, although not qualifying for the finals, secured three audience prizes. The team was mentored by Mrs. Sujin John. The event provided a dynamic platform promoting scientific learning and excellence.



COTTONIANS EXCEL IN THEIR SECOND TERMINAL EXAMINATION

Bishop Cotton Boys' School successfully conducted its Second Terminal Examination which commenced on December 8 2025 and concluded on December 19 2025, marking a pivotal assessment phase for students across various grades. The examinations offered key benefits, including detailed feedback for targeted improvement and reduced end-of-year stress.

Being the last major examination before the Final Examination, it served as a great platform for all the young Cottonians to treat their academic endeavours more seriously and attempt to achieve excellence in their respective subjects. Overall, it underscored the school's commitment to holistic development and academic excellence.



PATIENCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Patience is the key
That opens the door to an opportunity.
To have patience is the ability
To have the right temperament to achieve your goal.

Patience is a feature of a person
Who is punctual and disciplined.
he will never lose sight of his dream
Because he is stable on the path leading to it.

Someone who doesn't have patience
Is a quick addict to his dreams,
And like a fool, he takes a shortcut
Who loses his achieving spirit.

So be patient and humble
Do not, in front of your fears, tremble.
Be a man who is confident
And become fearless, without shedding a tear.

For your path is straight,
Your goal is near.
So be patient right now and everywhere.

-Kedar Kamdiniya
VII A

Photographs







Works of Art



Sugaksh Class 1 I




Srijith Class 1- I




Srijith Class 1 I

ACTIVITY CORNER

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Spot as many differences as you can between the two pictures given below, write them down on a sheet of paper with your name, class, and section, and submit it to the reception. The winner that spots the most differences will receive a special prize.

Thought For the Month

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."
- Maria Robinson

The Team

ALWIN MATTHIAS	– 11 A
AYUSH PREM	– 11 B
GLENN HAREL	– 11 B
SAAYUSH PAL	– 11 A
SUKRIT SIVAPRASAD	– 11 D

EDITOR:
MRS. MADHURI NAIR SANJEEV

GIGI INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CAMPIONSHIP

We the Cottonians,
We are all here,
We want to do yes,
Always our best.

Our motto is,
Nec Dextrorsum,
Nec Sinistrorsum,
Hip Hip Hurrah!!

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NEC DEXTRORSUM NEC SINISTRORSUM