



## 22ND ANNUAL GET TOGETHER CELEBRATION OF OF **VELANAI CENTRAL COLLEGE** OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION-CANADA



Aug 6th 2017 was a bright and sunny summer day and was ideally suitable for a get together celebration of the past students of this reputed educational institution of north Sri Lanka located in the island of Kayts. Nearly 500 people of Velanai area including the past students and well-wishers gathered together on the spacious lawn of Milliken Park in Scarborough to ensure the success of this great function.

S. Elancheliyan, the energetic President of Velanai Central College Old Students Association – Canada for the past six years was obviously in very effective control and once again presided at this well attended gathering. While Dr. V. Panchalingam a distinguished old student was the chief guest for this uncton, there were also a number of special guests, including two former teachers of this college Mrs. P. Sinniah and Mr. Kanaganayagam. In addition, Mr. Kugapalan, Emeritus Professor of Geography of University of Jaffna and Kanthappu Iraivan, an Executive member of Velanai Central College past students Association -Colombo also graced the occasion.

The day's events began with the college anthem being recited by past students Mrs. Kala Chelvam, Thaya Ponnampalam and Kavitha Kanthan. The next event was the hoisting of the college flag by Mr.

Raymond Rajabalan, a retired Science teacher and son of late Mr. Stanislaus who served the college for nearly 15 years.

Immediately after this a variety of sports events efficiently co-ordinated by Mrs. Thaya Thanapathasunderam, Sulo Kandavel, Auna Vijitharan, Messrs. Balasuntheram, Vijitharan and Jeevan were begun. The dozens of children gathered at the occasion joyfully participated in the various activities adding fun and pleasure.

Numerous volunteers together with the executive committee members of the association got themselves actively involved in the various activities ensuring that everything proceeded according to schedule. The organisers also served to the participants a variety of sumptuous meals including rice and curry with goat meat. In addition they also served the all-time favourite sea food kool and Tandoori Chicken. Apart from these, the children served with roast corn and ice cream also had a great time.

By early afternoon dark clouds began to gather and the President felt he need to speed up the rest of the events and soon the prize giving for the winners of the sports activities began. He then addressed the gathering pointing out that a hand out is being distributed providing the details of the various activities of the past students association. He also

mentioned about the immediate needs of the Alma Mater and provided details of the plans designed to meet the future needs of the students.

Mr. Kugapalan, Emeritus Professor of Geography then spoke about the needs of the schools in the various islands and provided details regarding the gradually falling standard of education in that region. He however expressed the hope that the standard of education is bound to improve in the near future because of the dedicated activities of the past students Association in Canada.

Mr. Kanthappu Iraivan of Colombo branch of the past students association of this great institution then spoke about the various activities of their association. Mr. Kanaganayagam, a retired teacher then spoke of his days of serving this institution and stressed the need for hard work and dedication for anyone wishing to improve his standard of his or her life. Mrs. Sinniah, another teacher who served this college many years back recalled her pleasant memories of her experience and appreciated the sincere efforts of the past students association.

Finally the chief guest Dr. Panchalingam speaking at the occasion praised the various activities of this association and requested he organisers to move forward with greater efficiency and put in greater efforts to help the progress of their old school.