

A Report

THE FIRST ALUMNI MEET OF SJS



Report Prepared by: Aneeta Langford

Report Contributors: Archana Ashok, Aswati Abraham, Anitha George,
Cyndhia Joseph

Report Dated: 9th May 2024

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	2
<i>Inception</i>	2
<i>Course of Action</i>	2, 3
Phase 1 - The Team.....	2
Phase 2 - The Strategy	3
<i>The Event</i>	4
School Tour, Reunion Highlights.....	4
Conclusion	4

Introduction:

27th April, 2024 marked a very special and momentous occasion for all Josephites as we celebrated our 1st Official Alumni Meet on the school premises.

Inception:

An idea originally conceived in 2017 during the Golden Jubilee of St. Joseph's School by our then Principal Sr. Carmen, took wings last year under the leadership of Sr. Suranjana and Teacher Mariamma and a reunion for batches 1990-2005 was tentatively planned.

Course of Action:

Planning and execution of our School Reunion was an opportunity for us to use all of Henri Fayol's Management Principles, something that SJS taught us in grade 11 and 12.

Phase 1

Forming a team to work towards this goal was a task but one that worked itself out, when the CORE team came together.

They say, **team work makes the dream work**, and the CORE team worked tirelessly for months to make this milestone event a successful one.

The Bankers (Who monitored the inflow and outflow of funds)

Amitha Ashokan, Bindiya Fernandez

The Media Team (Highly creative team responsible for delivering daily doses of nostalgia)

Aneeta Langford, Archana Ashok, Asiya Khannum, Neetu Edison

The Operations team (Who very efficiently handled the F&B, decor, budgets, sponsors, event partners, music & games)

Anita Manoj, Beverlie Fernandez, Linda Joseph, Tina Varghese

The Event Emcees (Who delighted everyone with their grace, wit, and charm)

Lizy Fernandes and Nidhi Paul

The Production team (Joining the dots)

Alumni:- Anita George, Aswati Abraham, Cyndhia Joseph

School Staff:- Daphne Viegas, John Conrad, Sr. Shelja

The Executive Producer (Guiding Light and Curator)

Sr. Suranjana (Prestina Rocha)

This team structure existed only in paper and was not truly rigid as some of us went over and beyond defined borders and expectations to set the ball rolling. A classic example of this is the Creativity and Coordination behind our Alumni souvenirs

Phase 2

- 1. Identifying Alumni Contacts:** With no pre-existing framework to rely on, the team initiated the process by identifying at least three influential alumni who served as pivotal contacts, leveraging their networks.
- 2. How we reached out:** St. Joseph's School website, Facebook, Instagram, chance encounters, reaching out through mutual friends etc. You name it and we have tried it!
- 3. Registration:** An all-encompassing Google form was created for the registrations.
- 4. Budgeting:** A comprehensive budget was set, considering various expenses such as venue, stage decor, catering, photography and videography, momentos & gifts in all forms.
- 5. Fundraising and Sponsorship:** Recognizing the financial implications of hosting such an event, our team proactively sought funds from both corporate entities and alumni who came forward as individual sponsors. For this, customized tiered sponsorship packages were created.
- 6. Vendor Selection and Coordination:** Giving priority for our alumni businesses, contracts were negotiated, and arrangements were made to secure services ranging from catering to décor.
- 7. Weekly Meetings and Progress Tracking:** The team held regular meetings to discuss our weekly to-do list, provide updates on our action items, address challenges, and make strategic decisions. Clear communication, collaboration and accountability remained strongly rooted among the core team. (*Weekly sprint planning in a corporate world*).
- 8. Social Media Campaign:** Creative content, such as throwback photos, video messages from Teachers, alumni spotlights, and interactive polls, were deployed to generate excitement and encourage participation. With close to 700 followers now, it is safe to say social media was used in a constructive manner.

By meticulously executing each of these steps, the team was able to navigate the complex and uncharted territory of planning a memorable Alumni Reunion and ultimately, the successful culmination of the same.

The Event:

Our success lies in the fact that Ex- students from batches of 1990-2005 travelled from all over UAE, India, Bahrain, and US to be a part of this event. The SJS Reunion was also covered by the National Newspaper dated April 30th, 2024.

School Tour

As the alumni embarked on a school tour guided by present St. Joseph's students, we traversed the familiar corridors and took a seat in classrooms of yesteryears.

Reunion Highlights

The gathering commenced with a heartfelt prayer and the familiar school calendar hymns led by Tr. Shanti and the current students of SJS. This was followed by the spirited rendition of the school anthem, as it celebrated our shared history and enduring legacy!

Bishop Paul Hinder was our Chief Guest and we are grateful for his presence at our event.

Sr. Suranjana's speech was inspiring and welcoming and truly was a pleasure to have worked with her, organizing this event.

The presence of 13 senior Teachers, made the occasion even more joyous. These teachers spent years shaping us and this platform gave us the opportunity to thank them for who we have become. Each teacher was invited and given a token of our appreciation.

Video messages of old Principals and Sisters were played at the event, and it was heartwarming to hear their fond memories of being at SJS.

The event was packed with performances from former students and a lively dance by current students. Together, the Alumni played games, danced, and enjoyed a delicious meal. It is safe to say we revisited a cherished corner of our childhood, leaving with hearts full of happy memories.

Conclusion

The innumerable photos cannot truly capture the true essence of the reunion; the electrifying vibes, the rush of nostalgia, or the deep sense of belonging we experienced, but these we can keep close to our hearts to remind us of this cherished day.

The 110+ attendees are thankful to Sr. Suranjana for the opportunity to return to our Alma Mater and be a part of this Reunion. We are grateful to the school for bringing us back together, to reconnect and reminisce with old friends and make new ones. This day will always hold a special place in our hearts as our Homecoming.

Thank you, St. Joseph's School! Thank for you for the past, the present and the future!



Bishop Paul Hinder



Sr. Suranjana



From L-R, Sr. Minette, Bishop Paul Hinder, Fr. Chitto, Sr. Suranjana



Senior Teachers with Sr. Suranjana



The CORE Team