



Mr. K. Ganeshalingam, B.A. (1997-2002)

Mr. K. Ganeshalingam from Saravanai joined the school as a teacher and became as Principal in 1997 and served in this capacity for 5 years. He graduated from the University of Peradeniya with a B.A. degree and earned his M. Ed from the University of Jaffna. Due to the fact that the permanent buildings including boys and girls hostels of our college were occupied by the Srilankan Navy, the school was to be run at Saraswathy Vidyasalai of Velanai in 1997.

He tried to restart the college in its original place with the assistance from Mr. S. Radnarajah (former Zonal director of Education) and Mr. S. Ratam (Former Assistant Govt. Agent of Velanai) and succeeded in 1998. The legend Math teacher and the vice Principal, Mr. Pon Easan was his right hand and helped him for all his endeavors.

The reopening ceremony was held on August 28, 1998. As the hostel buildings and the playground were in occupation by the Navy, the smooth function of the school was thoroughly disturbed. The roads in which the students and the staff coming to the school were closed. Under these circumstances it was obvious that our school could not function like any other school in Jaffna district. However, The Principal, Mr. Ganeshalingam ran the school as best as he could in the face of the many hardships the College, students and staff had to face. He was a man of action during his period as Principal.

He started a nutritious lunch project for the students with the financial aid from Velanai Central College OSA - Canada in 1998 and continued till 2000.

Due to this vital program, the number of students had considerably increased from 150 to 500 during the next three years. In 1999, G.C.E A/L classes had also been conducted with 70 students. and the prize giving day was held on **November 1st 1999** with the **Golden Jubilee** celebration of the college. An inter-house sports meet was held on March 21st 2000 after nine years. The school administration newly used a micro phone system that was donated by OSA-Canada in this sports meet.

Mr. Ganeshalingam had an excellent coordination and communications with the old student's associations in Inland and the overseas as well. A much-honoured citizen in the community, he is always in the thick of all social, religious and cultural activities. The community would have gained more if he had been continued as Principal for a few more years but, it was not to be! He voluntarily retired in 2002. In order to honour and appreciate his unselfish service to the school, the OSA-UK invited him as Chief Guest for their silver jubilee celebration in Oct. 2012.

By: S. Elancheliyan