



The Late Mr. E. K. Nagarajah (EKN), B.A.

As the flame of a candle is snuffed out by an unexpected gust of wind, the same can be said for how one of our veteran teachers, Mr. Elayathamby Kandiah Nagarajah departed this world on Dec 27, 2012. He came from a well-known family in Velanai. He was perhaps one of the first old students of our College. He earned his B.A degree in India. After having graduated, he joined as a teacher at our school in 1960 and served in this capacity for 28 years till his retirement in 1988.

He was a strict disciplinarian and punctuality was one of his obsessions. Although strict, at the same time he was a fair and just man. His students one and all respected him highly and even after all these years his old students frequently tell me how much gratitude they owe him for his teaching, encouragement and direction in their lives. He taught not only Geography, English, and Social Studies, but the values of honesty, hard work, and conscientiousness.

Although he had been educated in India and hailed from a family of means, he was aware that many students at Velanai Central College came from poor families, and that they felt the stress of school work and home work. This was shown in the way he prepared his students for exams and acted in his interaction with them. In particular, he engaged students in team building activities and initiatives to help students get to know one another. He led a group of students as volunteers to level the new playground. Also, he served as a group head of the Elango House for long time.

"Small" kind acts, such as giving a student a ride in his car, or his courtesy and kindness in dealing with students are cited. His "bigger" deeds, such as setting up the school canteen as a sales outlet for essential food at reasonable and affordable prices were visionary. He stood by his principles always and taught us to be content with what we have and not to live beyond our means.

Further, many well-known incidents in his teaching life could be cited to highlight Mr. EKN's eminence and refinement. **In all things he led a life of supreme simplicity.**

We would do well to dwell on his contributions to our College and the way he treated all students. We can neither bear his loss nor forget him. He lives in our hearts.

By: S. Elancheliyan