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# Loyalty Pledge

## Newsletter

Issue 01 - January 2012

### Loyalty Pledge

Royal College's Loyalty Pledge is the genesis of pride, loyalty and repaying the debt one owes to the beloved Alma Mater, Royal College. Instilled in the hearts and minds of Royalists young and old, the Loyalty Pledge is the invisible chord that connects all 'Blue and Gold blooded' Royalists on a global platform.

As a proud son of Royal College you have inherited a legacy for a life-time being endowed with a rich learning environment, culture and heritage. You have reached great heights in different spheres of life thanks to the nurturing you have received at Royal.

Each Royalist owes a debt to his Alma Mater. And it is your bounden duty to give back what you have received. The Loyalty Pledge is your Golden opportunity to repay your debt to Royal in both 'words' and 'deeds'.

Make the Loyalty Pledge your priority. Give your time and money to the College and join forces with the plethora of activities organized by the Royal College Union's Loyalty Pledge Management Committee, which celebrates its 10th Anniversary on November 21, 2012.



To ensure that Royal College Colombo stays at the pinnacle, as the premier boys school in Sri Lanka, and is recognized as a leading brand name locally and globally in the field of primary and secondary education.

### Our Mission

To ensure every Royalist enjoys the best possible school career, with maximum utilization of skills and talents, to gain a competitive edge professionally and personally.

### LOYALTY PLEDGE

### OATH

"I pledge with all my heart that, wherever I may be, I shall always remember with love and loyalty my alma mater, Royal College that taught, guided and molded me to be what I am.

I also pledge that now and in the future, both in words and deeds, I shall keep her fame inviolate and strive to repay the immeasurable debt I owe to the school that nurtured me to man's estate".

## Projects under the aegis of the Loyalty Pledge

- Help a Needy Student (HNS) Scholarship Programme**  
 Providing financial assistance to deserving current Royal students and past Royalist undergraduates in order to fulfill their basic requirements
- Sports Scholarship Programme**  
 Providing financial and other forms of assistance to students who excel at national/international level
- Annual Medical Camp**  
 Focuses on all year 6 students to identify the medical conditions and behavioural disorders of each student and provide necessary medical treatment and attention with the help of The Royal College Doctors' Association
- Assistance for English**  
 language speech and drama in the Primary section
- Educate students on the history and traditions of Royal College**
- Organising the twin EDEX-National Higher Education and Career Expo annually.**
- Career Guidance and Leadership Development Programmes**
- Think Green projects at Royal College -**  
 Bio Gas furnace at the College hostel, Rain Water Harvesting system, waste segregation, re-cycling and best practices that are activated on a 365 basis to educate, activate and engage students towards sustainable living

# Whiz Kid at Maths bags another Bronze medal

**Ayusha Sashtarka of Royal College shines at International Mathematics competition**

The competition held in Nepal from 13th to 17th November 2011, witnessed 50 teams, competing fiercely, to solve complex Maths puzzles, in a bid to gain a top place.

Ayusha spoke to us at the Loyalty Pledge, on his return, together with his proud parents the De Fonsekas. "Nepal is just like Sri Lanka, it is very picturesque", says Ayusha shyly, trying not to focus undue attention to his accomplishment of having beaten his seniors to win his Bronze on November 14th.

This medal is one of many, symbolic of his brilliance in the subject, having shown an early penchant for Maths and figures in Grade One. The other medals he has won recently are a Bronze at the

"The International Mathematics and Science Olympiad" in Naga City, Philippines, in September this year, and yet another Bronze medal won at the "International Math and Science Olympiad for Primary Schools" in 2010.

One of his medals is embossed with the words, "smart, skilled and creative in a joyful competition for excellence". Ayusha is no doubt smart, having won local and international competitions, and has achieved 95 marks for Maths at the year end-term examination at Royal College.

A grade 7 student, his favourite subject is undoubtedly Maths and he aspires to be an Engineer on day. He also loves nature and dabbles in gardening as he has

a 'Green' thumb. He also keeps score on the game of Cricket, citing Kumar Sangakkara, as his number one cricketer.

Having gained admission to Royal College from Wellipillawa Primary School in Ganemulla, from the Grade Five Scholarship exam, this youngster has shown his excellence in Mathematics, having also bagged a Gold at the "National Science and Mathematics Olympiad Competition" in the Junior category in 2011, in Sri Lanka.

The Royal College Union Loyalty Pledge sponsored Ayusha for his three International competitions on an honorarium basis, and whilst applauding his achievements, wishes this budding Mathematician all the best for his future!



**Ayusha Sashtarka Fonseca**

Though Ayusha is just 12 years old, he competed successfully in the "Asia Intercities Teenagers Mathematics Competition" and won a Bronze medal, recently.

## 'Local Einstein' displays Mathematical talents

**Senal Santhush Kotuwewatte wins third Bronze medal for**

Senal Santhush, a Grade 7 student of Royal College, has clinched his third Bronze medal for the year, after competing at the "Asia Inter-Cities Teenagers Mathematics Olympiad". (AITMO 2011) The competition held at the picturesque Malpi International School, in Nepal, between November 14th -17th witnessed hundreds of students participating in a tough Mathematics competition.

The result for Senal at this competition was winning a Bronze medal and a host of friends. "I really enjoyed participating this year, in all three competitions. I

have learnt a lot and have made many friends too", said Santhush.

Recollecting the past year which entailed a lot of globe-trotting, he reminisced, "The International Maths Competition", in July in Indonesia was my favourite tournament so far". He also won a Bronze medal at the "International Maths and Science Olympiad in Philippines held in September.

An aspiring Astronomer, he keeps abreast with the latest discoveries in space, inclusive of Earth's possible 'twin planet', located 600 light years away, and is interested in all NASA probes. He is also a

proud Gold medal winner at the Sri Lanka Junior Astronomy Olympiad Competition - 2011, conducted by the Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka, awarded at the Olympiads Award Ceremony at the University of Colombo.

Having his 'trinity of medals' around his neck and a big smile on his face, Senal aims to participate in four more competitions in 2012. We wish him best of luck for his future endeavours! The Loyalty Pledge Management committee sponsored him on an honorarium basis for all three overseas competitions.



**Senal Santhush**

## Young Royalist aspires to emulate grand masters at Chess

S. Anojan is at his best when he is check-mating his opponent across the chess board.

Having participated in an international chess tournament in Brazil, from 17th to 27th November 2011 at the National Youth Championship, organized by the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka, Anojan had just returned to Sri Lanka, when we met him at the Loyalty Pledge office, on December 6th.

Anojan is very modest about his prowess at chess. Soft-spoken and just eleven years old, he is a Grade 5 student of Royal College.

He has been a chess player, representing Royal College, from the age of 8 years, competing in many a tournament locally and overseas. He was the reigning junior national Chess champion from 2007-10. Other International tournaments, such as the Asian International School Chess Tournament in Sri Lanka from 2007 to 2010 and the same tourney held in New Delhi in 2011, have given him exposure, confidence and enabled him to better his game.

When he is not playing chess competitively, Anojan likes to swim

and says that free-style is his favourite stroke. He also likes cricket and is an ardent fan of M.S. Dhoni.

Reverting to the topic of chess he says that Vishvanathan Anand is a super grand master whom he wishes to emulate, and master the game in the hope of being a grand master himself.

He was sponsored on an honorarium basis by the Royal College Union Loyalty Pledge Management Committee.

Interviews by : Ms. Sharlene De Chickera, Career Services Manager, LPMC



**S. Anojan**

# Royal 'Karate Kid' captains Sri Lankan contingent to Malaysia

At 19 years Akila Fernando is a Karate Black-belt, having achieved Colours in Karate at National level from the Western Province of Sri Lanka. His most recent achievement was being selected as the Sri Lankan Karate captain for the recently concluded International Karate championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from June 24th-26th 2011.

The international competition witnessed the participation of 12 countries inclusive of Sri Lanka, and Akila had to face three contenders from Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Iraq, respectively. Though he was unable to secure

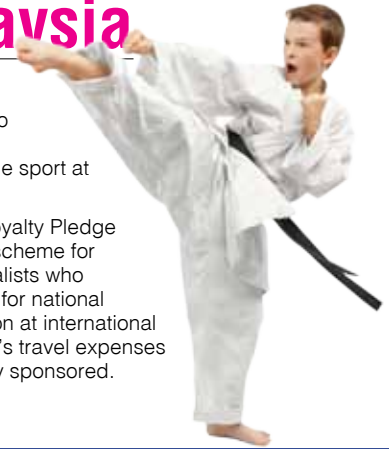
a medal he was proud to represent his country, whilst still being a school-boy.

Akila has faced many a national competition, and won a host of medals, but this Malaysian competition was his first overseas outing and he was glad for the exposure and experienced gained. "I competed in the 55 Kg weight category and had to compete with more senior contenders. I was very happy to represent my country and also my alma mater", he said.

There are more Karate championships on the cards soon, and Akila requests those who

love Karate to join forces to popularize the sport at College.

Under the Loyalty Pledge honorarium scheme for present Royalists who get selected for national representation at international events, Akila's travel expenses were partially sponsored.



## Help a Needy Student (HNS) Scholarship Programme



Principal of Royal College, Mr. Upali Gunasekara addresses the donors, well-wishers and students at a Loyalty Pledge Awards ceremony



A donor hand over an award to a student

The (HNS) Scholarship Programme established in 2003 continues to facilitate students with financial need. In 2010/11 a total of 135 scholarships (125 student and 10 undergraduate) have been awarded.

The aim is to help deserving students to become well rounded individuals who will bring credit to the school and the country and in so doing bring pride and joy to Royal College and their families.

## A Royal undergraduate pledges from the heart!



Mr. Manju Ariyaratne, Secretary RCU, Mr. Kamal Abeysinghe, Secretary Loyalty Pledge and Maleen Abeysdeera at RCU

### Donates part of his prize-money to Loyalty Pledge

Maleen Abeysdeera, 22, was under the spotlight and was attempting to become a millionaire on the 'Sirasa - millionaire', quiz show. Having answered 11 questions in a row correctly, he was unfortunately eliminated from the competition, by the quiz master, as he was unable to recall the title of the Nobel Literature prize winning title in 2000.

Though he was not able to win the grand prize, having won Rs. 200,000/- in this fierce TV competition, he seemed to have the best answer as to how to spend his prize-money, as one of his first thoughts was to pledge to Royal, with his prize money. With this noble intention crystal clear in his mind, he walked into the Loyalty Pledge office, last Monday, to donate.

Wondering why an Undergraduate wanted to pledge, as the usual Royal donor is more senior, we were curious at first about his donation. Maleen merely smiled and said, "I just wanted to give back to a needy student from

Royal, who is studying at Moratuwa University!"

I have seen the challenges my fellow students face at campus, and having experienced a great school life, at Royal, which helped me to achieve university entrance, I just wanted to help my fellow Royalists in turn, he opined.

He wants to do more for Royal youngsters, at University, and whilst at the Loyalty Pledge office choose his recipient with care, an undergraduate of the same Moratuwa University. He says that sometimes senior Royalists do not witness the hardships of those studying at Undergraduate level, and since he has witnessed the difficulties of his colleagues first-hand is motivated to assist them.

Maleen also loves to enjoy the natural beauty of Sri Lanka, and feels that his donation would spur more royalists to give back to the school of their fathers and help fellow royalists achieve their career ambitions.

# We know your heart beats for Royal!

**Pledge today to a budding Doctor!**



Malik Perera\* (not his real name), wants to become a doctor one day, and save lives. This desire is probably triggered off by the fact that Malik lost his father, a member of the Sri Lanka armed forces, who sacrificed his life for his mother-land, in the 30 year war now

concluded. This sacrifice cost Malik a father, when he was just a baby.

Malik, 12, is a bright student in Grade 6, having gained entrance to Royal College in the year 5 scholarship examination. Hailing from a remote town, he has adjusted quite well to his new school, Royal College, and is proud to be a student of this great institution.

However, whilst enjoying his school life and competing with his peers, Malik and his family also face daily economic challenges. But Malik has his heart set on becoming a doctor, and has embraced the true spirit of Royal, facing the ups-and- downs of life with a never-say-die attitude, aspiring to be of service to his alma mater and country.

Malik is another Royal doctor to be! There are many other young Royalists like Malik who are

talented, intelligent and smart, who need to be championed by senior Royalists who want to help youngsters achieve the best in life.

Join us in our quest to assist the many other Maliks at Royal College, who can benefit from your pledge, and as a result experience the best of academic, sporting and co-curricular activities at Royal College.

The Loyalty Pledge Management Committee (LPMC) manages the 'Help a Needy Student' (HNS) Programme under its portfolio of services to the students of Royal College, from Grade 6 to 13 and has targeted 125 scholarships for 2011/12.

We invite you to join forces with us today, in our quest to champion young Royalists with financial need, to achieve their dreams!

## The Loyalty Pledge

**As a Royalist you have had the best possible school-life and succeeded in real life!**

Today is your Golden opportunity to 'repay your debt' to your alma mater.

Make your loyalty count!

Make a difference in the life of a deserving Royalist!!

**Become a Loyalty Pledge Member or Donate a Scholarship.**

**PLEDGE TODAY!**

All your Scholarship and Membership donations can be made to the Loyalty Pledge office:

RCU Skills Centre, Rajakeeya Mawatha, Colombo 07.

Contact Sharlene or Saman on;

Tel: 011 432 70 70

E-mail : lpmc@rcu.lk

Or, donate online:

[www.rcu.lk/GIVE/donations](http://www.rcu.lk/GIVE/donations)