THE FLARE

MAR THOMA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL 53 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS LETTER OF MAR THOMA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL, TIRUVALLA, KERALA | VOL. 23 | OCTOBER 2026

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MTRS SHINES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL



Mar Thoma Residential School, Tiruvalla, proudly celebrates the remarkable achievements of its students at the national level. Mishael Johan Sam clinched first position in karate while Sanand S. Michael was part of the team that secured third position in football. Adding to the school's sporting glory, Sneha Mariam Jacob was also a part of the team that won the third position in the 4×100-metre relay race.These outstanding accomplishments reflect the students' dedication, perseverance and sporting spirit, bringing immense pride and honour to the school.

MISHAEL JOHAN SAM SANAND S. MICHAEL SNEHA MARIAM JACOB

53rd COMMEMORATION DAY





Mar Thoma Residential School joyfully celebrated its 53rd Commemoration Day on Monday, 8 June 2026, marking a significant milestone and a memorable beginning to the new academic year. The auspicious occasion was graced by His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, whose presence added solemnity and significance to the celebrations. All the members of the Agency were also present on the occasion, adding to the importance and grandeur of the celebration.

The day was made even more special as it coincided with the opening day of Pre-KG and LKG, when the school warmly welcomed its youngest learners. Their arrival brought a delightful sense of freshness and excitement to the campus as they stepped into a joyful world of learning, laughter, friendship and new experiences.

The celebration thus marked not only another year in the school's journey of excellence but also the beginning of a new chapter for our little learners, making the occasion truly memorable for the entire school community

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

"TEACHERS PLANT THE SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE THAT BLOSSOM THROUGHOUT A LIFETIME."

Teachers' Day 2026 was celebrated with warmth, gratitude, and vibrant pageantry, honouring the teachers whose guidance and dedication continue to shape the lives of students. The celebrations were conducted by the Student Council, creating a memorable occasion filled with appreciation and affection for the teaching fraternity.

Adding another beautiful dimension to the occasion, the Editorial Board, under the initiative of the Student Council, presented a special Teachers' Day greeting magazine titled "THE BEACON." The magazine was a thoughtful and creative tribute to the teachers, bringing together expressions of gratitude and admiration from the students. It stood as a beautiful presentation of the love and respect held for the teachers and created a lasting impression on the occasion.

The celebrations reflected the spirit of gratitude that lies at the heart of Teachers' Day. Through vibrant expressions, thoughtful gestures, and the presentation of The Beacon, the students conveyed a message that the influence of a teacher extends far beyond the classroom, leaving an enduring mark on every life they touch.





53rd INVESTITURE CEREMONY



Mar Thoma Residential School, Tiruvalla, conducted its 53rd Investiture Ceremony with great pride and dignity on 9th July 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in the school auditorium. The ceremony marked the formal induction of the newly elected Student Council, entrusting them with the responsibility of leading the student community with commitment, integrity, and service.

The programme was graced by Mr. K. Cherian George, Regional Director for India, the Middle East, and the ASEAN Region at Fohhn Audio AG, Germany, as the Guest of Honour. In his inspiring address, he encouraged the young leaders to uphold discipline, responsibility, teamwork, and compassion while carrying out their duties.

The Principal administered the oath of office to the newly elected student leaders, who pledged to serve the school with sincerity and dedication. The office bearers proudly received their badges and sashes, symbolising their commitment to leadership and excellence.

The ceremony concluded on a solemn and inspiring note, motivating every student leader to lead by example and contribute positively to the growth and values of Mar Thoma Residential School.

MENTOR MINDS

"Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, and knowledge makes you great."

- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



As we cross the halfway mark of the academic year 2026-27, I am filled with immense pride reflecting on the transformative journey we have shared over the past five months. A school newsletter is more than just a collection of updates; it is a living testament to our shared triumphs, growth, and the vibrant spirit that defines our institution. This milestone offers us a beautiful vantage point to celebrate the curiosity, innovation, and character that have flourished within our campus.

Our students have truly lived up to Dr. Kalam's words, turning challenges into opportunities with remarkable creativity and grit. Watching our students embrace challenges with resilience and support one another with empathy reassures me that we are nurturing the leaders of tomorrow.

The brilliance of this mid-year milestone is a collective achievement, built upon the sturdy pillars of our community: our dedicated educators, our supportive parents, and our phenomenal students.

As we look ahead to the second half of the year, let us carry this powerful momentum forward. Let us continue to push boundaries, shatter ceilings, and elevate our standards of excellence.

Above all, we pause to offer our deepest gratitude to God Almighty, whose abundant blessings, divine guidance, and protective grace have sustained and prospered our school community through every step of this journey.

Thank you for making our first semester unforgettable. Together, let us continue to reach higher and shine brighter.

Warm regards,

ANITHA SUSAN VARGHESE
PRINCIPAL

FIFA WORLD CUP CELEBRATION





Our school celebrated the FIFA World Cup on 21st July, 2026 with the aim of spreading the spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and global awareness among students. The event was conceptualized by Ms. Cynthia Merina Varghese and conducted by Class 9 under the guidance of Ms. Keziah Ann John, Mrs. Bindu Rani G, & Mrs. Athira S.

The programme began in the school auditorium with students from LKG to Class 12 gathered in jerseys of their favourite football teams. From there, the students marched in a colourful parade to the school ground. The formal ceremony commenced with flag hoisting. This was followed by experience-sharing speeches by Tessia, Gautham, and Shahabas S of Class 9, who spoke about the World Cup and the teams they support.

The highlight of the day was a free kick session in which the Principal, Vice Principal, PT Teachers, and selected students participated enthusiastically. The energy continued with a vibrant flash mob by the boys and girls of Class 9. The event concluded with a group dance where music was played and all students joined in with great enthusiasm

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY





Mar Thoma Residential School celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2026 with various activities promoting environmental awareness. The programme featured speeches, a poem recital, a poster-making competition, and a presentation on "Inspired by Nature for Climate Action." Principal Mrs. Anitha Susan Varghese awarded the winners. The celebration concluded with the planting of a mango sapling on campus.

CLUB ACTIVITIES INAUGURATION 2026-27

The Club Activities Inauguration for the academic year 2026-27 was held on 17 June 2026 at Mar Thoma Residential School, Tiruvalla. The ceremonial lamp was lit by the Guest of Honour, Ms. Melvia, an award-winning author, poet and proud alumna, along with Principal Mrs. Anitha Susan Varghese, Vice-Principal Mr. Alvin Joseph, Headmistress Mrs. Aleyamma Mathews Joseph and teachers Mrs. Jyothisree V, Mrs. Elsy Chacko, Mrs. Geenumol Chacko, Mrs. Sindhu Susan Varghese and Mrs. Soji Mariam Sunny.

The programme featured prayer, Bible reading, cultural performances and recitation. In her inaugural address, Ms. Melvia inspired students to pursue their passions with creativity and commitment. The introduction of the club resource persons marked an enthusiastic beginning to a year of learning and talent development.



FELICITATION

Success is not measured by the destination alone but by the discipline to persevere and determination to rise above every challenge.

With great joy and pleasure, our school has organised the felicitation ceremony for our star achievers, Samuel John Koshy and Simon Jacob (alumni). Samuel John Koshy had secured an exceptional 11th rank in the KEAM entrance examinations 2026 and also came up as first rank holder from Pathanamthitta district.

Simon Jacob had secured an impressive 52nd rank in KEAM examinations (Pharmacy) 2026.

Mrs. Elsy Chacko and Mrs. Reena Elizabeth Chacko , former teachers of our achievers delivered the felicitation address, congratulating their hard work and dedication. As a token of appreciation and our joy in their accomplishment, Principal Mrs. Anitha Susan Varghese presented them each with a memento.

Their reply speeches truly inspired many to strive for what we desire with determination.



INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION

A Proud Victory in Eloquence & Intellectual Debate

Rima Susan Reji of Class XII and Elina Anna Abraham of Class X represented our school in the Inter-School Debate Competition held at MMAR School as part of their Jubilee Celebrations.

Facing stiff competition from various participating schools, both speakers demonstrated exceptional eloquence, critical thinking, and persuasive reasoning throughout the event.

Through their articulate delivery and compelling arguments, they secured the Third Position in the competition and were awarded a memento and a cash prize, bringing immense pride to our institution.

Congratulations to Rima Susan Reji & Elina Anna Abraham on their remarkable achievement!



THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

The new academic year at Mar Thoma Residential School, Tiruvalla, commenced on 3rd June 2026, with renewed enthusiasm and hope. Mrs. Anitha Susan Varghese, Principal, warmly welcomed the students to the campus and encouraged them to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead with confidence and determination.

Adding significance to the occasion, the Guest of Honour, Rev. Sunil Chacko, Vice President of the Mar Thoma Educational Agency and Vicar of Jerusalem Mar Thoma Church, Kuttappuzha, Tiruvalla, officially released MTRS Spectrum 2025. The first copy was received by The Principal. The magazine celebrates the creativity, talents and achievements of the MTRS family, reflecting the vibrant spirit and all-round excellence of the school.

Prefect's Quill

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."
– Vincent van Gogh

A school year is shaped by countless moments—events, achievements, celebrations, and experiences that become cherished memories. The Flare, our half-yearly magazine, brings together these moments and presents a glimpse of the journey our school has undertaken so far.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our Chief Editor, the members of the Editorial Board, and our Editorial Prefects for their guidance, dedication, and meticulous efforts in compiling this edition. I also extend my gratitude to all the teachers and students whose participation and contributions have made these moments memorable.

The Flare seeks to preserve the spirit and milestones of our school community, offering a glimpse into the vibrant life of our campus.

With great pleasure, we present this edition of The Flare, a reflection of the memorable journey of our school so far.

AIDAN J THOMPUMKUZHY
Special Prefect (Campus Publications)

ANTI-DRUG DAY

As part of the observance of International Anti-Drug day, an Inter-House Flashmob Competition was conducted at Mar Thoma Residential School on 6th July 2026, soon after the morning assembly.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from all four houses—Blue, Red, Green, and Yellow. Through a blend of dance, music, drama, and mime each team presented creative flash mobs centered on the theme- "Say no to drugs". The performances portrayed how addiction can destroy dreams and relationships while emphasizing hope, determination, and the value of leading a healthy, drug-free life.

The performances were evaluated by the judging panel. Blue House bagged the first position, while Green House secured the second position. Yellow house and Red House shared the third position.



INTER-HOUSE CULTURAL COMPETITIONS 2026–27



The Inter-House Cultural Competitions 2026–27 were inaugurated at Mar Thoma Residential School, Tiruvalla, on 17 July 2026, with renowned Music Director Mr. Vinu Thomas, of Drishyam fame, as the Guest of Honour. The ceremonial lamp was lit by the Guest of Honour, followed by the Principal, Mrs. Anitha Susan Varghese, Vice-Principal, Head Mistress , the Head Boy, Head Girl, and the captains of all four houses, who graced the occasion in traditional attire.

In his address, Mr. Vinu Thomas encouraged students to pursue their passions with dedication and perseverance, reminding them that participation, creativity and teamwork are as valuable as victory. The event celebrated artistic talent, camaraderie and healthy competition among all four houses.

FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE



A flood relief drive was organized by the teachers and students of MTRS on 18 August 2026 to support families affected by the recent floods in the Chathenkkeri–Valavanadu area. The team visited Valavanadu, Chathenkkeri, a thuruthu that was severely impacted by the flood waters, with the aim of extending care, support and solidarity to the flood-hit community.

The journey gave the students a glimpse into the difficulties faced by the community in the aftermath of the floods. The surroundings bore visible reminders of the damage, while the resilience of the residents reflected their courage and determination to rebuild their lives. The team interacted with families who had lost essential belongings and were still recovering from the impact of the floods.

Relief materials and essential supplies were distributed among 30 affected families as a gesture of support and solidarity. Beyond the materials, the presence of the teachers and students and their interaction with the families conveyed a message of concern and togetherness. The students were particularly moved by the living conditions of the people, especially the children and mothers in the area.

One of the most touching moments of the visit was meeting baby Alvina, an infant born during the flood. The experience left a deep impression on the students and encouraged them to look beyond their own circumstances and appreciate the basic comforts and security that are often taken for granted. It reminded them that even a small act of kindness can bring hope to someone going through a difficult time.

For the residents, the visit was more than just a relief effort; it was a reminder that they were not alone. The drive reflected the true spirit of "Karuthalinte Onam" – Onam of Care and Sharing. It also became a meaningful learning experience for the students, transforming the values of kindness, sharing and service into something they could experience personally.



EXPLORING THIRUVALLA'S RICH HERITAGE - HISTORY SEMINAR I &II.



Humanities students of Mar Thoma Residential School, Tiruvalla, with teachers Ms. Anju Mani, Ms. Cynthia Varghese and Ms. Vijily Vijayan, attended "Thiruvalla Vazhu" on 27 June 2026, inaugurated by Minister P.C. Vishnunadh, on Thiruvalla Copper Plates and medieval Kerala.

On 18 July 2026, students of Classes 8-12 attended "Nelcynda- Naakkida" at St. Mary's Church, Niranam, exploring ancient Nelcynda Port, Roman trade, Kannassa poets and religious heritage.

80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY PROGRAMME

The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervour by Mar Thoma Residential School on 15th August, 2026. The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by the Head Girl, Lena Mariam Riju. This was followed by a soulful prayer song by Norah Lee Thomas, invoking the Almighty God's presence and blessings for the occasion. The ceremonial Flag Hoisting was performed by the Guest of Honour, Prof. Dr. K. Jacob, Secretary of the Mar Thoma Educational Agency, followed by the respectful rendition of the National Anthem.

The cultural assembly began with a stirring patriotic song presented by the School Choir, setting a solemn and inspiring tone. The Pre-KG and KG students presented a captivating choreography, followed by a vibrant 'Tiranga' group dance and a solo drama titled 'From Chains to Freedom' by Hannah Ann Anish of IV C, adding colour, patriotism and reflection to the celebrations.

The Guest of Honour, Prof. Dr. K. Jacob, delivered an inspiring keynote address. The celebrations continued with a poem recitation by Bhadhra P. Nair of Class XI A, an energetic group dance by Class X students, harmonious group songs by Class IX and Class XII students, and an impactful mime performance by the Senior students.

The memorable celebration concluded smoothly with a formal Vote of Thanks proposed by the Head Boy, Koshy Purackal, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, teachers, and students who made the event a grand success.

"Freedom in our minds, faith in our words, and pride in our souls – Happy 80th Independence Day!"



MTRS UNDER 19 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM EMERGED AS CHAMPIONS OF THE CISCE B- ZONE INTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT.



ONAM CELEBRATION 2K26

The Onam Assembly, Dhrithankam 2K26, conducted by Class 12 (ISC '27'), was a vibrant celebration of Kerala's rich culture, traditions, and artistic talent. The programme brought the spirit of Onam alive through a colourful pageantry of cultural performances and student talent that set the day ablaze.

In addition to various events like vallamkali, pulikalli, the special highlight of the celebration was the Malayali Manga Competition, which captured everyone's attention with its lively participation and traditional charm. The assembly successfully blended culture, creativity, and entertainment, making Dhrithankam 2K26 a memorable and joyous celebration of the Onam spirit.



RAINBOW DAY CELEBRATION

MTRS Pre-KG recently hosted a vibrant and joyful Rainbow Day Celebration, filling the campus with bright smiles, cheerful laughter, and a spectrum of vivid colors. The event was designed to celebrate diversity and creativity, reinforcing the heartwarming message that every child is a unique color in the rainbow of life, and together they create a masterpiece.



The little stars of Pre-KG arrived at school dressed in dazzling spectrum hues, proudly representing the seven colors of the rainbow—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

The day's itinerary was packed with engaging and educational activities tailored for young learners. Children participated in hands-on color identification and interactive learning games, followed by lively, energetic sing-along sessions featuring rhymes dedicated to colors and nature's harmony. A major highlight of the celebration was a collaborative arts and crafts group activity, where the children worked together to create a stunning creative masterpiece that showcased the collective brightness of the class.

The Rainbow Day celebration proved to be a resounding success, blending fun and foundational learning to leave the children with unforgettable memories of joy and colour.

PROMOTING HEALTHY SMILES: TOOTH FAIRY DAY CELEBRATION

It was a day of bright smiles and creative fun as young learners from Pre-KG, LKG, and UKG participated in the Tooth Fairy Day celebration, organized by the Indian Dental Association (IDA), Thiruvalla Branch.

The event kicked off with an engaging Tooth Fairy-themed Colouring Carnival, where little artists enthusiastically showcased their creativity. Prizes were proudly awarded to the first, second, and third-place winners in each category.

Following the art competition, Dr. Naveen Thomas Daniel led a child-friendly and informative oral health awareness session, teaching the children the importance of daily dental hygiene and demonstrating correct brushing techniques. As part of the initiative, a comprehensive dental screening camp was also conducted, assessing the oral health status of over 80 students.



Blending creativity with essential health education, the event successfully inspired our little ones to take good care of their teeth for a lifetime of healthy, beautiful smiles.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: MTRS TIRUVALLA HOSTS ANNUAL PRIZE DAY



Mar Thoma Residential School celebrated its Annual Prize Day on 1st July 2026, honoring the outstanding academic achievements of its ICSE and ISC Board Examination toppers.

The event commenced with a soulful prayer song by the school choir, followed by a welcome address from Principal Ms. Anitha Susan Varghese. The highlight of the day was the prize distribution, where meritorious students received awards and gifts.

Delivering the keynote address, the Guest of Honour Shri. Jobin K. George, Tahsildar and Executive Magistrate of Tiruvalla Taluk, congratulated the achievers. He urged students to remain disciplined and spoke candidly about societal challenges, including youth substance abuse, reminding them of their responsibilities as social beings. Ms. Rakhi Mariam Thomas (English Department) also felicitated the Students encouraging them to view success as a stepping stone to inspire others.

The audience was treated to a wonderful musical performance by 12th-grade students Evan Aby Kurien, Chris Anna Sunny, and Albina San Abhilash. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Vice-Principal Mr. Alvin Joseph, making it a memorable day of recognizing talent and inspiring future success.

PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT SUB-JUNIOR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HOSTED AT MAR THOMA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Mar Thoma Residential School, Tiruvalla, successfully hosted the Pathanamthitta District Sub-Junior Basketball Championship. The MTRS Girls' Team emerged as the Runners-Up in the tournament, while Angelina Anna Abraham was crowned the SHB Sub-Junior Girls' Champion for her outstanding individual performance.

During a special felicitation ceremony, MLA Adv. Varghese Mammen presented the runners-up trophy to the team. The programme began with a welcome address by Mrs. Anitha Susan Varghese, Principal of Mar Thoma Residential School, who congratulated the players and appreciated the efforts of the coaches and organisers.

Throughout the championship, the entire MTRS community enthusiastically cheered for and encouraged the team, reflecting the school's strong spirit of unity, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



FOSTERING A PASSION FOR BOOKS:

MTRS Celebrates Reading Week



Mar Thoma Residential School celebrated Reading Week from 22nd June to 29th June 2026, hosting a vibrant series of multilingual literary programmes designed to cultivate a love for books, storytelling, and public speaking among students.

The week-long celebration featured engaging daily assemblies in English, Malayalam, and Hindi. Students showcased their talents through inspiring speeches, captivating story narrations, and beautiful poetry recitations. A major highlight of the event was the thoughtful book reviews presented by students, introducing their peers to popular fiction titles such as 'Caraval', 'The Hunger Games', and 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder'.

From senior students to young voices like little Vaidehi Bala from Class I D—who charmed the audience with a Malayalam poem on the closing day—the active participation of the students reflected a deep, collective passion for literature and learning.

STAFF RETREAT AND ENRICHMENT SESSIONS



Mar Thoma Residential School recently organized a comprehensive Staff Retreat and professional enrichment programme to foster collaboration, self-reflection, and continuous learning among the faculty.

The retreat commenced on 25th May 2026 with an inspiring opening session led by Rev. Joe Joseph. A major highlight was an insightful workshop on the DISC Model conducted by the Mar Thoma Church Animation Centre (CHANCE) team, directed by Rev. Rency Thomas George. The session helped teachers to gain better understanding of personality types and interpersonal communication. This was followed by a practical session on prudent financial management led by Mr. Lijo Varghese.

Further enriching the faculty's professional journey, additional sessions were held on June 6th. Prof. Mohan Varghese led an engaging discussion on handling real-life situations inside and outside the classroom, while Prof. Dr. Sunila Thomas introduced educators to innovative teaching approaches and new avenues to make the learning process more meaningful. The sessions provided a valuable platform for faculty development, reaffirming the school's unwavering commitment to excellence in education.

THE FLARE	TEAM
Managing Editor	: Ms. Anitha Susan Varghese, Principal
Chief Editor	: Mr. Alvin Joseph, Vice Principal
Senior Editor	: Ms. Aleyamma Mathews Joseph, Head Mistress
Editors	: Ms. Rakhi Mariam Thomas, Ms. Anju Mani, Ms. Keziah Ann John, Ms. Sneha Hanna Mathew, Ms. Cynthia Marina Varghese.
Student Editors	: Aidan J Thompumkuzhy, Erin Nibu Mathew, Sudhanandh D Bhat, Riya Liss Rengy, Anagha G Pillai, Gautham Rahul, Steve Mathew Sibin, Tessia Lee Robert, Thasmayi K Aji
Amenities	: Ms. Krishnaveni M. V., Ms. Priya K. Joseph, Ms. Soji Mariam Sunny, Ms. Vishnu Priya.
Layout & Designing	: Anish A K, Cloudart, Kottayam

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