
Veritas Academy



Volunteer Miss Florence Williams of Oxford, England helps remedy one of the consequences of Original Sin. Miss Williams is a professional teacher with a degree in physics. She has taken a sabbatical to come to India where she teaches all the sciences at Veritas Academy and is busy equipping the new science laboratory (well... it's a big cupboard really).

PRESS GANG SUCCESS

For a brief spell of six months (until February 2009) Veritas Academy has a enough volunteers to fill all the teaching posts at the school. The generosity of the staff (four local Tamil faithful and four volunteers from overseas) means that the thought of Monday morning is no longer the cause of dread. It means that lessons can be prepared thoroughly and books marked with plenty of red ink.

In the long term, however, we need to have greater stability among our staff and we really do need to separate the older boys and girls (they are reaching that troublesome age which is beautiful expressed in French as *la crise d'adolescence*, or even better, *l'age bête*). The plan is to build another school building on the site of the new orphanage for the juniors and senior girls and to teach the senior boys in the new school building due to be built at the priory ...oh to dream.

FROM ALL BUREAUCRATS

From all bureaucrats, Libera nos Domine! This is a cry that echoes across the world from the mouths of all who wish to do something useful (particularly in relation to schools).

After twelve months of document preparation, appointments, visits and even the payment of "special officer fees" in brown envelopes, planning permission for the new school building was denied.

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"I really don't like homework," thinks Sesu of Singamparai.



Mary Rita is in trouble it seems. Kneeling down is the most minor of punishments. For the most serious offences the cane is still an option for the boys.



Mrs. Arokia, the Tamil mistress, and Mrs. Juliette, the kindergarten mistress relax at breaktime.

The reason: the building was less than 30 metres away from the neighbouring cemetery (even though the priory building is about 3.5 metres from the cemetery wall). This hitherto unsuspected regulation must now be accommodated; the

school building will now be redesigned to fit in another corner of the priory grounds and the planning process recommenced.

We must not be downcast, however, this delay might well turn out to be a generous act of Providence. The good Lord

foresaw from all eternity the plunge in building commodity prices (iron, steel and cement) at the onset of the current global recession and may have deliberately stayed our hand until those price falls filtered down to the Palayamkottai market. This is yet another example of how the Catholic Faith can make sense of the tumultuous world in which we live. Ω



One of the competitors on "Children's Day" at Veritas Academy. Throughout India, classes are replaced by games to give everyone the chance to make even more noise. The children enjoy it.