

The Tea Times



Issue: 10th June 2018

A newsletter by our Advanced Diploma Students

A strong lady and a new school

Today, there is a name which has become famous among tea estates – read more on pages

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Extreme weather in Maskeliya

Maskeliya is a place where a number of people live together with different culture and religion. – read more on page

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Goal Driven!

Here is a goal driven who has given up so much in his life and coming to Tea Leaf Vision to learn English - read more on page

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There is always a way if you are committed.

Ms. Kalaiarasi is an Advanced Diploma student who travels from Watawala to continue her studies – read more on page

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Did – You – Know?

The only place which creates opportunities and focuses on students' growth is Tea Leaf Vision - read more on page

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Tea Leaf Vision is proudly supported by Tea Leaf Trust UK and Lebara foundation Sri Lanka



Message from the Staff:

If you want to shine in life, self-motivation is essential. You must know how to motivate yourself. You must be able to keep your strength high no matter how discouraging a situation is.

Everyone has sadness in their life. Life gives a lot of confusion to everyone, but most people can't find the way to overcome their pain. They spend the rest of their life in fear, tension and over think things so they spoil their upcoming happiness. There are many people who find ways to change their sadness into happiness and make their lives wealthy.

Try to set your goals and write them down. Be motivated by reading books and quotes, watching inspiring videos and sharing your successes with successful people.

You may not get success overnight but if you follow the good things that motivate you to achieve your goals then definitely you will become a successful person in your life.

"I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself." -Mikhail Baryshnikov-

Mr. Chandrasegaran Thiyagaraj



Ms. Tharika Perera and Tea Leaf Vision Nuwara Eliya

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

-Thomas A. Edison-

This quotation motivates and inspires us unconditionally. It gives real hope of the communities to reach a successful life.

“Tea Leaf Vision” is a place that transforms a person who enters with no hopes to a well-spoken individual full of future plans. It started its journey in 2010 in Maskeliya.

Mr. Pare, the co-founder of this school, wanted to expand this organisation to provide its service to a larger group of students.

Ms. Selvaraj, the Director of Tea Leaf Vision, decided to start a new school in Nuwara Eliya. From her research, she knew that there were many families in estate areas who did not have the income to access English Education. The new project in Nuwara Eliya began in 2016.

As the result of this, Tea Leaf Vision welcomed a strong and hardworking individual to the family. Ms. Tharika Perera, the Principal of Tea Leaf Vision Nuwara Eliya, joined as a manager in 2016 and faced many challenges to build a strong foundation for Tea Leaf Vision in a new place.

Ms. Perera was a student at Beacon Hill English Academy in 2008, and as soon as she completed her diploma she became a teacher at the same academy and she got the opportunity to meet and work with Mr Pare and Mrs Shah, the founders of Tea Leaf Vision.



Ms. Tharika Perera

The Principal of Tea Leaf Vision Nuwara Eliya

After working there for a couple of years, she decided to join Lyceum International School where she could grow her career professionally and experience new challenges. Within a few years, she was promoted to be a manager. Though she reached a higher position with higher salary she wasn't satisfied with her job.

Ms. Perera loves to help people who face difficult situations and is a professional counselor in Sri Lanka. She was looking for a place to give her support to people and she needed to pursue that ambition. At last, she was informed about Tea Leaf Vision and she decided to join the organisation to continue her work helping the neediest people.

The school started in a small building which didn't have enough space or ventilation. They accommodated more than 100 students in a hall for the three months course at this building.



Soon after the first course, Tea Leaf Vision Nuwara Eliya moved to a new building. Actually, it was a house in Hawa Eliya, which is 15 minutes from Nuwara Eliya town. It took a few minutes to climb a small mountain to reach the place in the cold and the bad weather of Nuwara Eliya. The new building was better than the old, but on the many heavy rainy days it never failed to leak inside the classrooms.

Ms. Perera worked really hard with her team to promote the course. They put up banners and gave out leaflets. Moreover, they walked far to access many houses on many tea estates outside Nuwara Eliya.

She often guides and motivates the staff in hard times. She has led wonderful and successful events, which gave a very good impression to the community. The Talent Show and Business Fair revealed the value of the course to the community. Therefore, parents and students engaged with the course well and finally they were able to graduate 93 students.

Ms. Perera happily says: “after moving to the current building with better classrooms and facilities in Nuwara Eliya town, I feel really positive and am ambitious to promote and help even more youngsters than the last couple of years. This year, 68% of the students are from tea estates and low-income families which is a good start to fulfilling the purpose of why Tea Leaf Vision exists.”

She motivates herself by seeing the growth of the students and conducting successful events with the young staff team. She believes her staff’s commitment and hard work are the main elements of the success of TLV Nuwara Eliya School.

She shares: “English language is essential to Sri Lankan people to be well-educated and to carry one’s self towards to a successful future.” Therefore, she is very thankful to Tea Leaf Vision for helping her community and letting her pursue her passion.

She looks forward to the opportunities to extend Tea Leaf Vision’s mission in order to support many more individuals who are in need.

“Follow your passion, be prepared to work hard and sacrifice, above all, don’t let anyone limit your dreams.”

- Ms. Tharika Perera -



**Group Service Project
at Tea Leaf Vision
Nuwara Eliya**



**Talent Show
at Tea Leaf Vision
Nuwara Eliya**



Weather Conditions in the Maskeliya Area



Maskeliya has a lot of natural surroundings. There are approximately 16 plantations around Maskeliya and there are numerous people who work in the tea estates. But it is the place that is getting a large amount of natural disasters due to the bad weather conditions.

Because of these bad weather conditions there are some major problems, which are making the people struggle emotionally and financially. Especially our students have a hard time coming to school.

A student said:

“I have to go across the river to get home but now the river is overflowing due to the heavy rain. As a girl I’m myself scared to go home. This is what I am overcoming to come to school these days.”

-Hansika from Norton-

In addition, the students are coming to school every day with wet clothes and shoes. They sometimes feel uncomfortable to study since some classrooms are also dripping due to heavy rain.



Students also have difficulties travelling to school and back home due to floods, strong winds and landslides. Due to these problems students don't have buses on time; and sometimes no buses in the evening to go home.

When they fully get wet they don't also have enough clothes to wear the next day to come to school. Especially boys are wearing flip flops to come to school.

Students mentally and physically feel tired due to the cold climate and severe weather.

Tea Leaf Vision always looks for ways to help the students. In the school there are so many activities, one-to-one sessions, and counseling for the students to make sure they feel stronger both physically and mentally.

Thank you, teachers and students, for your countless effort and commitment towards the school.





Case Study/Interview: **S. Y. G ANURADHA CHINTHAKA** (Main Diploma Student)

He is coming from Matara and staying in a boarding house to continue his studies. As he has heard about our school from his relatives who live in Maskeliya, he is really interested in learning in our school. He always shows his gratitude and interests towards to the school.

He has two brothers and a sister. He was working as a Management Assistant in Sri Lanka Land Reclamation & Development Cooperation before he came to Tea Leaf Vision. Though he has completed his management degree he is coming to Tea Leaf Vision to improve his English knowledge to take himself further in the future.

His aim is to speak fluent English at the end of the year. He said “This was a challenging and strange environment for me to improve myself since I lived in a community where only Sinhalese live.

Tea Leaf Vision is a place that brings different types of people together, and that made me scared and a bit confused to continue my studies. As time passed by, I started to know the people and the lessons I learn here give me confidence to move with different people. Today I’m here as a celebrator and celebrating diversity.”

He gave up his family, friends, and moreover his job to learn English though it’s hard. He realised the importance of learning English.

He says “I feel very special and comfortable when I’m in the school. The teachers and my lovely friends are always supportive to me. I would be thankful to you if you establish a school in my place and I’m happy to give my hands to you to start a school there.”

He is an inspiration to the students and the teachers. He is an upcoming star who is waiting to shine in the future.

We are very proud to have you here in the school **S.Y.G ANURADHA CHINTHAKA.**





Case Study/Interview: Ms. Kalaiarasi (Intern)

Her father's name is Raman and he is a businessman in Hatton. Her mother's name is Pushpawathy and she is an estate worker. She has a brother and a sister. Her brother is working in Jaffna and her sister is schooling.

She completed her Ordinary Level and Advanced Level in Watawala Tamil Vidyalaya and joined Tea Leaf Vision in 2017 as a Main Diploma Student. This is her second year and we are very pleased to have her in the school since she is giving up her one more year to help TLV and improve herself.

It's not very easy for her to sacrifice one more year; she finds really hard to travel to school every day. She has to get 3 buses every day from Loneck to come to Maskeliya. This is the most difficult thing that she faces every day. If she wants to get the first bus she has to wake up early morning 5.00 am and get the bus. When she goes back home it will be 6.30pm so she wants to spend 4 hours travelling per day.

She spends 250 rupees (equivalent to two kilos of rice) per day for her transport. She often feels tired and goes home and sleeps without being able to do any domestic work. Her parents were not really happy sending her to school due to her physical condition. The teachers have talked to her parents and explained the importance of learning and the support they are giving to her.

Did-You-Know?

Learning is our hobby. Learning English is our passion. Learning various things is interesting and fun.

Do you think Tea Leaf Vision teaches only English to the students?

Every Wednesday is a special day for the main diploma students. On this day students go to different clubs to do/learn useful activities.

See what the students do every Wednesday during their clubs.

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These days she is paid some money for teaching on the Rotary Mobile Community Library Bus and it has also been agreed that she can leave school at 3.00 o'clock.

Her parents are happy with the things she is doing in the school and she also goes home early and helps her family. She likes reading books and that boosts her to take books from the library and read. She is also a great photographer.

Tea Leaf Vision is very happy having Kalaiarasi in the school.



Did-You-Know? Clubs at Tea Leaf Vision

Every Wednesday Tea Leaf Vision gives a chance to the students to learn the things that they are interested in below categories: Journalism & Photography, Art, World Knowledge, Cookery, Games, Carom and Chess.

Students will choose their favourite club and learn the skills with the support of the teachers in the school. This is to make the students happy and relief from stress and worries.

Clubs happen after the students learn Emotional Health in the morning and the lesson will entertain and make them relax and study freely. Moreover, this makes the students to have good communication with students from other classes. Students improve their creative, presenting, communication, speaking, and learning skills.

Journalism club: Providing information to the school and community to make possible decisions about their lives, their communities and their society.

Art club: Students learn to make different handicrafts using recycled materials. This helps the students to be creative and start their own businesses.



Chess Club

Games club: Where the students have fun with different activities and learn new games.

Cookery club: Learning to cook delicious and different types of food.

World knowledge club: Creating the students to think broadly and critically.

Carom and Chess: Students will be taught the rules of the game and competing with their friends.

"A happy mind can teach a thousand things."

- Donate to Support -

Tea Leaf Vision Centres for Professional Development

We run vocational education centres that focus on English, Information Technology and Employability. Our two centres are situated in the heartlands of the tea plantations and provide full-time education for young people aged 18-24.

Our vision is to up-skill the impoverished youth so that they can realise their potential and enter into the work place as confident individuals with abilities to make a valuable contribution.

"The wonder I saw in an island is Tea Leaf Vision. A little story has finished; but with a topic for a novel." –
Thiruselvam Dilan – 2014 batch



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