# Sri Lanka Vihara Perth Damma School



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# Mavu Piya Upahāra Ulela



**Canning Town Hall** 

20 November 2016

### Programme

**4:00 pm** Arrival of guests and parents

**4:15 pm** Lightning of the oil lamp

**4:30 pm** Welcome - Vice President Education SLSBS

**4:35 pm** Anusasana - Venerable Siri Sobhitha Thero

**Class presentations and Award of Certificates** 

**4:45 pm** Level 1 Homage to the Lord

**4:55 pm** Level 2 Amma and Thaththa

**5:05 pm** Level 3 Life of the Buddha

**5:15 pm** Level 4 Sath Sathiya

**5:25 pm** Level 5 The most precious gift

**5:35 pm** Level 6 Guess how much I love you

**5:45 pm** Level 7 The Noble eightfold Path to Happiness

**5:55 pm** Launching Dhamma School Website

**6:05 pm** Vote of thanks by Secretary DSPTC

**6:10 pm** Mavu Piya Upahara

**6:30 pm** Refreshment

# Message from Ven. Beruwala Siri Sobhitha

The Abbot & Chief Incumbent

Sri Lanka Vihara Perth



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13.11.2016

Worshipfully I offer this flower to you my dear mother dear father

Loving and Forgiving

A token of my love and respect

and

I ask your forgiveness

If

I have hurt you

Through carelessness Of speech

or deed.

May I be forgiven.

Iforgive Precious child of mine -

> Without hesitation Without reservation

With a heart

ful1

of metta

of boundless love

which parents

know full well.

Like no other does.

Be well

Be happy



# Message from Mr. Lalantha Senevirathne

Vice President (Education) – Sri Lanka Sinhalese Buddhist Society

# පර්ත් ශී ලංකා විහාර බෞද්ධ සංගමය වෙනුවෙන් සුභාශිංසන පණිවිඩය..

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අනුශාසකවරුන් වශයෙන් විහාරස්ථවාසී මහා සංඝරත්නයටද, මව් පිය උපහාර උළෙල නිර්මාණය කළ නිර්මාතෘවරියනටද, ඉමහත් කැප වීමකින් සේවය කරන ආචාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ ගුරු මහත්මියන්ටද මම ඉතා ගෞරව පූර්වකව පුණාමය පුද කරමි.

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#### **Dhamma School Coordinator's Report**

Mrs. Ramani Gunasekara

The year 2016 started well with everything going smoothly and according to plan. The Sil programme in March, the Vesak bhakthi gee and dansela all performed well. The Poson presentation too was greatly admired and appreciated by those who saw it.

In June, the old awasa where three classes were conducted was demolished to make way for the new building, and the Dhamma School has had to work under very trying circumstances. It is to the great credit of the children and teachers that they have been very accommodating and shared spaces in true Buddhist spirit. All these changes, difficulties and events not working out exactly the way we wanted, are a very good reminder of the Buddha's teachings of anicca, dukkha and anatma. It is impermanent, not satisfactory and we have no control over events.

As parents and teachers, we must equip our children with the wisdom and skills to cope with a world that is changing rapidly. Our children will be subject to far more anxiety, fear, stress and disappointment, as well as uncertainty in educational opportunities and in the job market. In short, they will be subject to more dukkha than you, their parents.

Over the last decade in our community, there have been two known suicides: one of a school boy, the death of a young man due to a drug overdose, two murders involving domestic violence and several deaths due to cancer. I personally know three young people who have attempted to take their lives.

While we have been spared so far, natural disasters affect the lives of tens of thousands in Australia itself. With changing ideology in the Western world, we don't know if or when mainstream politics becomes anti – immigrant here in Australia too.

What can we teach our children to help them cope?

The first thing is to believe that karma and vipaka shape and direct our lives – *sabbe satta kammassaka*. And then, teach them that those who live by the Dhamma are protected by the Dhamma: *Dhammo have rakkhati dhammacari*. Sila is our protection and the best "insurance policy".

#### **DS Activities**

All our teachers try our best to give our students the opportunity to practise what they've learnt. Learning by itself does not lead to peace and happiness, which is the goal of the Buddha's teaching.

We organise activities to develop their minds, to practise dana, sila and bhavana. We do our best to help them make good karma.

Sadly and very disappointingly, not all parents seem to see it that way.

Only a handful of students participated in the dana for the sil aththo. Less than half came for the sil programmes. Attendance is poor and irregular with social activities and other commitments taking priority.

As you know, the teachers are volunteers. Those teachers with young families make a huge sacrifice of their time and effort but they keep going despite all the disappointment as they love their work and know that this a Dhamma dana. The best "upahara" teachers can receive will be to see regular attendance.

It is not all doom and gloom however! There is much good to be appreciated.

#### Katina Pinkama 2017

Once every three years, the Dhamma School invites monks to spend the Vas season at the temple - the vas aaradhna - and looks after them for three months. We have already done so twice and it is our turn once more next year.

Groups of five families take charge for a week. One family at a time visits the temple daily and conducts a Buddha Puja. All five families sponsor a bana on Saturday.

## **Dhamma School Parent-Teacher Committee (DSPTC)**

Our greatest support comes from the DSPTC who take care of all administrative matters. This leaves teachers free to concentrate on class work.

Our heartfelt thanks to the 2015-16 DSPTC committee led by Nandika Mirihana as VP Education. It was decided last year that a new committee should be elected after the SLSBS AGM and not at the beginning of the year, and most members served on committee for one and a half years.

Among **many** other things, they did an excellent job in arranging makeshift classrooms along the verandahs with blinds to keep out rain and heaters to keep us warm.

We'll be happy to move to new accommodation before the full blast of the summer sun is on us.

A warm welcome to the new committee led by Lalantha Seneviratne who is continuing the good work. Their first task was to revise the database retaining only names of students who re-enrolled, and with that, have got the Sunday classroom roster running smoothly. The DSPTC/PSS Finger food stall at the SLSBS Food Fair was popular as always with all food items selling out. A Dhamma School website is being planned.

We would also like to add that one of our past pupils, Janitha Kekulawala has become a committee member of the SLSBS.

#### **Improvements and Upgrades**

We now have a colour printer in addition to the black and white one. We wanted lessons for the younger students especially be attractive and inviting. Colourful and age appropriate text books are being planned as it is difficult to buy the kind of books we want. We will print them ourselves.

We look forward to new classrooms and vastly improved teaching conditions next year.

## **Books and teaching materials**

We find that getting children to memorise gatha is easiest in the first three years, and the Gatha Potha has been a great asset.

When you see people with dementia and memory loss, you observe how they are finally left with childhood experiences and memories. Our children too will grow old one day and what better legacy than to know pirith and gatha to comfort them in their old age!

Venerable Sobhitha will be getting another impression of the Gatha Poth printed in Sri Lanka in time for next year.

#### **Projects**

Our dana project this year has been to make contributions to the Temple Building Fund. We want our children to feel part of it, that they too helped build it, for they are the greatest beneficiaries.

We plan to carry it on to next year as not enough has been collected. The tills feel too light!

#### **DS Staff**

Our staff have become an extended family who support and care for each other as teachers as well as in our personal lives. This makes Dhamma School something we all love and enjoy, and look forward to each week.

All teachers are committed Dhamma practitioners and five attended the December retreat at Jhana Grove last year. Two were expectant mothers.

L2 class teacher Malika Fernando went on maternity leave for 4 months and is back with her class. New relief teacher Kumudinee Dalugoda Herath filled in for her.

Dedunu Perera had twins and may not be able to return for a while. Parent Gayathri Jayawardena has started assisting Erandee in L1 and we're hoping she'll continue. With 50 children in the L1 class, the relief teachers will have to become full time teachers next year.

We are delighted to have past student Pinithi Siriwardena, now in Year 11, coming in whenever she can to assist with teaching.

#### Thank You!

On behalf of the DS Staff, I would like to thank Venerable Sobhitha our patron for his support and guidance and Venerable Visuddhawansa for conducting weekly Buddha Puja.

We especially thank Ven. Wilpita Sudharmalankara who served as abbot before Ven. Sobhitha for conducting two excellent atasil programmes. He spoke in simple Sinhala so that the children could understand him directly. We did some interpreting for those who are not fluent in Sinhala.

The children were very attentive and most interested in what he taught. He in turn praised the DS students and said he could always pick them out at public functions as they were well behaved and could sit quietly.

We look forward to 2017 and with your continued support make the Dhamma School shine even brighter!

Ramani Gunasekera

Dhamma School Coordinator

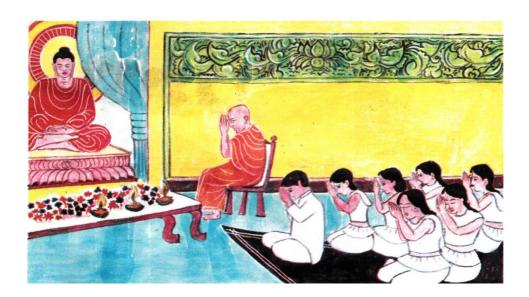


# **Level 1 Presentation**

# Homage to the Lord

We sing a song about paying respect to the Lord Buddha

In the ancient land
a child is born
once in a time so long
And the gods and men
so they said
homage to the lord
namo thassa
bhagawatho arahatho
samma sambuddhassa///







Ven. Sri Sobhitha Thero

**1st row from left:** Janiru Epa, Ridmi Yatagama, Amaya Gunawardhana, Vinudi Kulasekara, Thulani Haputhanthri, Yovindu Wehalle, Hansa Elpitiya, Yonal De Vas Gunawardhena, Sachiv Silva, Thisari Arachchige, Minhas Kularathne, Raviru Balasooriya

**2nd row from left:** Thinuka De Silva, Dinsi Liyanage, Nethuli Sirikumara, Gihanga Nisali Wickramasuriya, Sanuji Liyanage, Thaviru Wijesinghe, Naveena Kumarapeli, Sahan Vitharana, Sohansa Niyangamage, Saakya Mendis

Last row from left –Erandee Sonnadara (Class teacher), Thenu Hettiarachchi, Thumindu Ranasinghe, Danindu Karunanayake, Senuk Warnapala, Hiruja Basnayake, Akain Ranawaka, Dinal weerakoon, Senhas Palliyaguruge, Jenuda Sandula Imaduwa, Gayathri Jayawardhena (Teaching Asst.)

Absent: Samith Mapa, Arundee Sahabandu, Semika Mudalige (in Level 2 photo), Senuji Imaduwa, Thiluni Weerasooriya,

#### **Level 2 Presentation**

### My precious Amma - my precious Thaththa

Parents are the fountains of our lives. They are our precious gems. They are the sun and the moon in our world, in our family. As Buddhists, as well as grateful and faithful sons and daughters, we cannot think of a life without our parents.

So we sing this song as a tribute to our loving parents......

Amma my dear - thaththa my dear You both are so great and precious to me There's none in this world Who can take your place So I'm singing this song in praise......

> You brought me up with a lot of care Kindness so rare towards me My precious Amma - my precious thaththa

I worship you both like this.........
I promise I will be a good loving child
Respect you both and live as advised
My precious Amma - my precious thaththa
I worship you both like this..........



Written by: Aunty Indrani (Indranee Wickramarachchi)





#### Ven. Sri Sobhitha Thero

**Front row from left:** Sunera Ranasinghe, Sithuki Jayasinghe, Kusalna Thibbatuwawa, Menara Perera, Sanuthi Paranavitharana, Shaveendra Perera, Thisal Dodangoda Arachchilage, Kenul Senanayake, Ravishka Senanayake, Anuk De Silva

**Back row from left:** Thisasna Thibbatuwawa, Natasha Walawage, Thimiri Sooriyakula, Sandeli Rathnayake, Nimsith Muthuthanthri, Mrs. Malika Fernando (class teacher), Binuk Vidana Gamage, Sanjeewa Attygalla, Ruhansi Abeywickrama, Semika Mudalige (Level 1), Januthi Pulasinghe

**Absent:** Kavinima Mallawa, Saara Wijethunga, Sasmi Koralage, Seheni Jayasinghe, Senara Galhenage, Thanusha Dayananda, Siluni Sarukkalage, Sayumi Sarukkalage, Nisith Mapa, Veedhi Pelpola, Vihan Pathirana

#### **Level 3 Presentation**

#### Life of Buddha

Today we are going to do our class presentation on a topic we learned in class. That is about The Life of Buddha.

We are going to talk about Buddha's life from the day he was born until his death. We enjoyed learning and watching movies about Buddha's life story very much.

Enjoy our little presentation.











#### Ven. Sri Sobhitha Thero

**Front row from left:** Hamesh Jayawardena, Minsandi Wehalle, Anuji Withanarachchi, Haritha Elpitiya, Kanchana Navarathna, Binthi Gunawardena, Hasala Dharmakeerthi

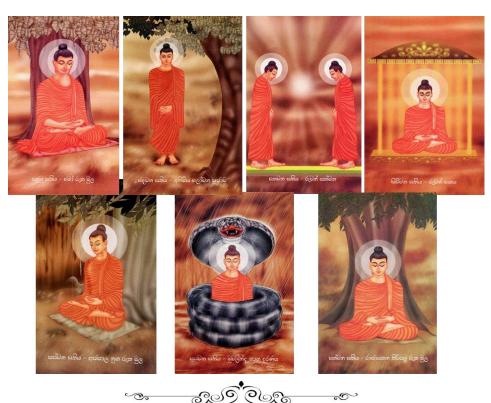
**Back row from left:** Okithma Ranasinghe, Maleesa Abeyweera, Seth Subasinghe, Menadee Thilakaratne, Ms. Thulani Rajapakshe (class teacher), Sasanka Jayaratne, Ameesha Silva, Ravija Balasooriya

Absent: Virula Yatagama, Chanumi Weerasinghe

# **Level 4 Presentation**

#### Sath Sathiya

Sath Sathiya is about how the Buddha spent seven weeks in the vicinity of the Bodhi tree where he attained Enlightenment. **1ST WEEK**: Sat under the tree, experiencing happiness, freedom and peace. **2ND WEEK**: Stood without moving his eyes in gratitude to the tree that had sheltered him during his struggle for Buddhahood. **3RD WEEK**: Psychically created a golden bridge in the air; walked up and down to dispel gods doubts. **4TH WEEK**: Created a beautiful ruwangeya. Sitting inside, he remembered what was later called the Abhidhamma. **5TH WEEK**: While sitting under the Ajapala tree, he replied to a Brahmana: a perfect Brahmana by one's deeds and not by birth. **6TH WEEK**: It began raining heavily; the huge Muchalinda Nagaraja came out and coiledhis body seven times around the Buddha to keep him warm; placed his hood over the Buddha's head to protect him from the rain. **7TH WEEK**: He meditated under the Rajayatana tree. Met Tapassu and Bhalluka, who became the first to take refuge in the Buddha and Dhamma.





#### Ven. Sri Sobhitha Thero

**Front row from left:** Senomee Nanayakkare, Devindu Kodikara, Senuthi Punchihewa, Semindee , Rajendra Perera, Pabawath Dharmakirthi, Poojani, Dinali Illangasinghe, Nirmani Mallawa, Ravindu Pothpitage

**Back row from left:** Lisadi Warnapala, Hasiru Siriwardhana, Nethuli Kannangara, Mrs. Rajika Perera (class teacher), Sanija Liyanage, Damitha Mendis, Idumini Semage, Vinuja Thibbotuge, Nadev Mahatalagalage, Thisal Wickramasinghe

Absent: Nadinsa Withanage, Tinara Galhenage, Dinath Dias Abeysinghe

#### **Level 5 Presentation**

## The most precious gift

The most precious gift one can have in life is the blessing of loving, caring parents.

On this special parents' day, with deep feelings of gratitude and respect, the Level 5 students of Perth Dhamma School are here to unfold a short presentation.

We want to show how much we treasure your kindness, generosity and dedication.

The sacrifices you make for our happiness, and the value of your wisdom, your guidance and encouragement is enormous.

We appreciate your presence here today, and of course! the lavish presents, we mean the gifts you give us, so very often.

So our dear parents, open up your warm hearts, accept our heartfelt sentiments and feel happy and blessed.





#### Ven. Sri Sobhitha Thero

**Standing from left:** Mahindu Pothpitage, Sethum Kularatne, Dehemi Abeysinghe, Tharana Mallawarachchi, Maleesha Jayaratne, Mrs. Indranee Wickramarachchi (class teacher), Pemitha Thibbotuwawa, Malmi Kodikara, Chanuala Nanayakkara

Absent: Ryle Ediriweera, Nadiv Katulanda, Ramon Mendis, Vishal Amunugama

#### **Level 6 Presentation**

### Guess how much I love you

No one is more important than our parents in our lives. Their love and care for us is only second to the Buddha's great compassion. We can never ever pay them back in this lifetime. The best we can do is making them happy by being good and doing good.

Our parents never complain the hardship they have gone through to bring us to where we are today. Always with sweet smiles, you protect and comfort us unconditionally. You possess the incredible qualities of 'Brahma Viharana; metta, karuna, muditha, upekkha' as the Buddha said.

Our presentation today is just to show how much we love you.

Guess how much it is....

To the sky....to the universe... to infinity......

No matter how much it is, we know it is still a tiny little bit of your mighty love for us....







#### Ven. Sri Sobhitha Thero

**Standing from left:** Senaya Abeyweera, Akaashi Ranaweera, Sujaya Liyanage, Tharushi Kannangara, Mrs. Tharanga Thotagamuwage (class teacher), Charuka Dharmaratne, Rashini Weerasekara, Rumesha Seneviratne, Nisani Gunawardhane

Absent: Buwaneka Gunawardhana

# **Level 7 Presentation**

# The Noble eightfold Path to Happiness

The Noble Eightfold Path can and should be practised by all, not just the Sangha those interested in meditation. The L7 students will explain what they have learnt on how practising the Eightfold Path leads to happiness.

Wisdom	Right Understanding
	Right Aspiration
Morality	Right Speech
	Right Action
	Right Livelihood
Concentration	Right Effort
	Right Mindfulness
	Right Concentration





Ven. Siri Sobhitha Thero

**Standing from left:** Pubudini Dharmarathna, Dilan ilangasinghe, Nivin Kumarapeli, Wikum Pathirage, Mrs. Ramani Gunasekera (classteacher), Hemal Jayawardena, Manesha Kularatne, Anuththara Kuruppu, Parami De Silva

Absent: Kishani Wijesinghe, Hansini Amunugama, Sachith Wijesinghe, Sisan Weerasinghe, Harini Weerakoon, Romick Ediriweera

# **Dhamma School Parent-Teacher Committee 2016/17**



Front row from left: Sidath Kuruppu, Chandana Weerasekara (Treasure), Tharinda Yatagama (Secretary), Ven. Siri Sobhitha Thero, Lalantha Senevirathne (Vice President Education-SLSBS), Ramani Gunasekara (Dhamma School Coodinator), Tharanga Thotagamuwage

**Back row from left:** Chanaka De Silva, Kamal Senanayake, Gayathri Jayawardhena, Nirosha Perera, Thulani Rajapaksha, Rajika Perera, Indranee Wickramarachchi, Sandamalee Dissanayake, Malika Fernando, Erandee Sonnadara, Gemunu Gamage

Absent: Gayan Weerasooriya, Nalinda Hewage

# In memory of Erandi Moksha Balage

She was meant to be here with us today as a special guest, to give an inspirational talk on how she coped with illness.

Sadly she passed away on October 31, a week before her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, after a five year battle with leukaemia. She handled her illness with such dignity and courage. She seemed to grow more beautiful as she grew more sick. There seemed to be a special aura around her.

The picture of her as a child is of the mischievous little girl I remember and knew well. she couldn't sit still for more than a few minutes. Like most was not keen on Dhamma School, but came because her parents insisted.

When I see our present students often looking disinterested and bored I know that unknown to them they are learning and absorbing Dhamma. Dhamma that will support and comfort them in good times and bad.

Punchiththi, is she was affectionately called was definitely not a meditator, struggling and twitching throughout sessions. When she was first hospitalised I visited her, and feeling helpless seeing her so sick in bed, I asked if I could do some chanting and take her through a short meditation. Probably out of respect and good manners — with all her hyperactivity she was never rude or disrespectful — she nodded her head. As I started on a kayanupassana, mindfulness of the body — she remained so quiet and attentive that I went on for almost half an hour. 'that was good' she said. I often did guided meditations when I visited her and she said she did it on her own when she was stressed or upset and that it was helpful.

We did a special meditation and blessing for her at Dhamma School the day she passed away. The next week even the younger children looked sombre when I announced she had died. We did a metta meditation for all beings and shared merit with her. We talked about death and dying and how important it was to appreciate life and live it well.

We do not know what our kamma has in store. If we do our duty to all, love and cherish parents, children, family and friends, keep our actions and words from harming or hurting others, we leave no room for regret. Not having rfegreat or remorse the Buddha said, is the true cause of happiness.

May Moksha have a favourable rebirth and may she continue to practise well.

Ramani Gunasekera







# Memory Lane 2016

 We were lucky to have dhamma discussions with several monks came to our temple time to time.



- Discussion with Ven Missaka Kamalasiri (07 Feb 2015)
- Discussion with Ven Wilpita Sudhammalankara (21 Feb 2015)



# Our first Sil program for the year (20 March 2016) We observed Ata Sil and Ven Susara conducted the whole Sil program.



Buddha puja

Morning 'gilanpasa' time



Are we talking something about Dhamma, Seriously.....?

Doing bodhi puja



Queue for 'pirith nool'

#### 3. United Nations Day of Wesak Celebration (07 May 2016)



"We wish you a happy Wesak A happy Wesak day Love and peace, Hope and joy Will shower upon you"



Reciting the Buddhist words of Loving Kindness "May all beings be happy"

# 4. It is fun...here we are preparing for our big event for the year, Wesak (15 May 2016)

We L1s made Buddhist flags. And we made greeting cards to our parents wishing a happy Wesak



#### We L2s too made Wesak cards and flags;



"We celebrate Holy Wesak On full moon day in May Because our Noble Buddha Did show us 'The Way'

So I wish my parents on this day With heartfelt love and care Contentment happiness peace and joy Where ever they are."

#### L3-See our Buddhist flags. Here is the poem we wrote in our Wesak cards to parents;

"The full moon- shining bright On this Wesak Day Reminds us of 'The Buddha' Who showed us 'The Way'

Thus my dear parents On this Sacred Day I wish you contentment And peace everyday"



This is what we L4s wrote in our Wesak cards;



Oh look! At the Wesak full moon Illuminating mother earth Reminding us of the birth of The Buddha Who showed us 'The Way'

His Enlightenment and Passing away Took place on Wesak Day With great respect and gratitude The world celebrates this sacred day

I wish my precious parents
With heartfelt love and care
Contentment, happiness, peace and joy
Wherever they are

Thank you Aunty Indra for making these lovely poems for us

L5, here we are making 'atapattam'





L6 making 'atapattam', yes it is a team work...

We L7s decorating our lanterns.





Our Wesak decorations hanging along the temple corridor (21 May 2016)





# 6. Here we are on stage singing Wesak Bhakthi Gee (22 May 2016)



Level 1 &2

Level 3 & 4





Level 5, 6 & 7

Our parents singing Wesak Bhakthi Gee (22 May 2016)



7. We made a replica of 'Mahindagamanaya' and presented on how our lives enriched after the arrival of Arhat Mahinda Thero (19 June 2016)





Level 5 presentation



Level 6 presenters

Level 7 presentation

# 8. With the help of our parents and teachers, we offered 'dawal dana' for 'sil eththo' (16 July 2016). A training for carring over future duties to the temple.

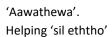


Preparing Buddha puja

Setting up for offering 'dawal dana'



'Dana' offering for 'sil eththo'





9. Our second Sil program (25 September 2016) for all levels. Ven. Wilpita
Sudhammalankara Thero conducted the whole Sil program. We learnt these two

little poems.

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Dhamma discussion

අතාගත ලෝකය ලබන්නේ ආලෝකය මා හැදුනු දාකය මගෙන් විය යුතු මෙහෙය ඒකය





Dhamma discussion

# 10. Here we are taking part of 'Katina Perahera' (16 October 2016)







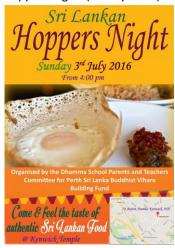


11. Our parents organised and supported fundraising events to raise money for the temple building fund. We wish all the best for new building project. We all will have proper space for our Dhamma School classes very soon.



Dhamma School together with Perth Sinhala School run the finger food stall at every SLSBS food fair (03 April 2016)

Hoppers night (03 July 2016)



Food fair (06 November 2016)





Roll up.... Roll up.... for delicious spicy food......

#### Thank you to.....

Ven. Beruwala Siri Sobhitha Thero and Pallewela Visuddhiwansa Thero for providing guidance and advice towards the Dhamma School improvement

### Thank you to ....

Kind and generous people around us.....We are blessed to have you always with us. You supported us in many ways by.......

- Providing sounds and other technical support Lakevent
- Capturing and editing class and committee photos
- Providing technical support for class presentations
- Assisting teachers at the backstage to organise gifts and certificates
- Providing technical support for souvenir printing
- Capturing photographs on the day
- Preparing certificates and students report cards
- Providing transport for numerous purposes
- Bringing food and beverages
- Donating money to cover various expenses
- Helping hall preparations and final cleanup

In addition to the above mentioned, we thank **everyone** for their support and time spent towards to make this event a success.

Theruwan Saranayi

DSPT Committee 2016/17

20/11/2016

