



NEWSLETTER

Institute of Western Music & Speech – Sri Lanka
(Incorporated by Act of Parliament No. 44 of 1988)

September - 2024

Office Bearers

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Mrs. Suhashini Victoria

Chairperson - Examinations Board

Mrs. Maureen Silva

Vice President (Music)

Mrs. Shiranthi Asirwatham

Vice President (Speech)

Mrs. Geetha Wedage

Vice President (Social Activities)

Mrs. Kishani Ferdinando

Hony. General Secretary

Mrs. Neluka Nanayakkara

Hony. Treasurer

Mrs. Faria Salie

Hony. Secretary- Examinations Board

Mrs. Dinali Illangatilake

Council Members

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Mrs. Minna Tange

Mrs. Shyamini Perera

Ms. Jehani Gamalathge

Mrs. Majella Silva

Mrs. Venica Abeygoonewardena

Ms. Amanthie De Silva

Mrs. Sonali Jayatunge

Examination Board Members

Mrs. Priyanthika Wickramasinghe

Mrs. Ramani Soysa

Mrs. Niranjalee Weerakoon

Mrs. Shanuka De Alwis

Mrs. Shahani Dewaraja

Mrs. Ruvini Tudugala

Message From The President



It is an honour and privilege to serve the IWMS, the premier examining body in Sri Lanka in Music, Speech and allied subjects, as its current President.

As it has been customary, the first working day was on the 25th of June 2024 which commenced with the boiling of milk and religious observances of all faiths, followed by breakfast.

The climax of our exams and most important event in our annual calendar are the prize-givings which totaled 15 and were held at Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium and the grand finalé at BMICH.

I was happy to have met almost 300 teachers, at the “Teachers’ Day” which was held on the 21st of July at Kingsbury. I am sure you all enjoyed the spirit and camaraderie at this event.

I take this opportunity to thank the sponsors and the council for their unstinted co-operation and hard work in making this event a success.

There were a series of successful speech seminars organized at many centres islandwide to enlighten the teachers of our examinations. I thank our qualified panel of examiners for their commitment and dedication to make IWMS the most innovative, reputed and professional examining body in music, speech and allied subjects in Sri Lanka.

The IWMS with your continued support will strive to take music and speech to a much wider student population across the country in serving the future leaders of our country.

I look forward to your continued support at all times and May God Bless You All!

Mrs. Suhashini Victoria

Annual Christmas Get-together

The annual Christmas get-together of IWMS was held on 19th December 2023 at the IWMS Auditorium. The examiners, retired examiners, staff members and receptionists enjoyed a day filled with games, singing and dancing followed by a festive lunch.



New Year - 2024



The traditional boiling of milk and the lighting of the oil lamp was carried out at the IWMS premises, with the office bearers and the staff members present.



Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2024



Prize-giving - 2023

This year we conducted 14 prize awarding ceremonies at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium, Colombo 14, on the 4th, 14th, 21st and 29th of May, 2024.

The final prize-giving was held at the BMICH on the 9th of June, 2024. Over 14,346 candidates received their awards at these prize-givings.

The chief guests at the final prize-giving were Mr. Shehan Karunatilake, the winner of the 2022 Booker Prize and Mrs. Karunatilake.



Conferring fellowship

At the Final Prize Giving held at the B.M.I.C.H. on the 9th of June, 2024, **Honorary Fellowships** were conferred on



Mrs. Neluka Nanayakkara



Mrs. Shanuka de Alwis



Mrs. Niranjalee Weerakoon

Teachers' Day



July 21st was a memorable day for our teachers and members as we celebrated Teachers' Day at the Kingsbury Hotel in Colombo. Teachers from across the country gathered for a festive event with refreshments, fun activities, singing, dancing and delightful surprises.



50 Years of Service

The 75th birthday of Mrs. Maureen Silva, President for the year 2023, was celebrated at the IWMS auditorium on the 7th of November 2023. With over fifty years of dedicated service to our institute, Mrs. Silva has held key positions, demonstrating exemplary leadership and commitment. Currently serving as the Chairperson of the Examinations Board, she continues to guide our organization with her extensive experience and vision.



*Congratulations! & Celebrations
As you celebrate 75 years today
Congratulations! & jubiliations
May you be blessed with joy and
love throughout the day!*

*You've been a source of
inspiration and encouragement
To all of us here at the IWMS.
Paving the way for us to reach
untold uniqueness
With courage and patience
So true of you.*

*May God bless you with good
health and happiness always
May He shower you with his
mercy and his blessings
May you be always under His
protection and guidance
God Bless you ALWAYS
and FOREVER!!!*

AGM



The AGM for 2024 was held on 23rd March. The Office Bearers, Council and Board members were elected for the year and was followed by a time of fellowship.

Staff News

Annual Outing

The annual trip of our staff and their families took place in July 2024, including a two-day overnight stay at a hotel in Chilaw. The group thoroughly enjoyed the trip, with laughter, bonding and unforgettable memories made throughout the getaway.



Mr. Udaya Rajapaksha joined the Institute of Western Music and Speech as our new Administrative Officer on September 2, 2024. With over 35 years of professional experience in sales, marketing, and business development, he has held senior management and administrative positions for the past 20 years. Before joining the Institute, Mr. Rajapaksha served as Country Representative for a Mumbai-based Indian Company in Sr Lanka.

We warmly welcome Mr. Rajapaksha to our IWMS family.



After 17 years of dedicated and exemplary service, we bid farewell to **Mr. D.L.V. Jayaratne**, Director Administration, as he steps down to focus on personal commitments. Your leadership, integrity, and commitment to duty have left a lasting impact, and you will be greatly missed.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.



Examinations Board News

Message from the Chairperson, Examination Board



Dear Teachers and Members,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you again as chairperson of the Examinations Board. The IWMS as it is fondly known is specialized in promoting, nurturing and developing the talents of our dear children islandwide in the fields of Music and speech. We also conduct Examinations for teachers which have become very popular.

I thank the panel of examiners for their dedicated service to the Institute. Their support and efficiency have ensured the smooth running of the Examinations. We are indeed grateful to all our teachers for the co-operation given to us down the years. We did go through a hard time during the pandemic and it was your continued support that helped us to achieve our goals.

We have come a long way since then and we have now steadily progressed. Please feel free to contact me if ever you need any assistance.

Wishing you good luck & God's blessings!

Mrs. Maureen Silva

Practical Examinations



Practical examinations for the year 2024 commenced on the **25th of June** with prayers at the IWMS premises.

Seminars for music and speech teachers were conducted by the Institute at the IWMS auditorium and Sasakawa Hall, respectively, on 18th June, 2023 and 11th June, 2023. The syllabus content for each grade was discussed in detail, with a question-and-answer session providing all teachers with tips for teaching as well as a clear understanding of how their students will be examined. Each participant was given a handout that included the contents discussed.



In November 2023, a seminar for teachers of **Daybridge International School** was held at their school premises. The main objective was to guide the teachers on how to help their students become 'Effective Speakers'.

Additionally, the teachers of **JMC International** were provided with guidelines on how to train students from Preliminary to Grade III in Spoken English and Written English, based on our syllabuses.

These sessions were conducted by our Senior Examiners – Mrs. Suhashini Victoria, Mrs. Maureen Silva, Mrs. Faria Salie and Mrs. Geetha Wedge.



On 13th August, 2024, 67 speech teachers from Leeds International School branches across the island attended a speech training session at the IWMS auditorium. This seminar, conducted by our most senior speech examiners Mrs. Maureen Silva, Mrs. Faria Salie and Mrs. Geetha Wedage – was held at the request of the Leeds International management. The session also provided detailed guidance on teaching Spoken English for Grades One and Two. Feedback from the participants highlighted the seminar as a great success.

On a lighter note....

“Teacher: ‘What is the longest word in the English language?’
Student: ‘Smiles.’ Teacher: ‘Why?’
Student: ‘Because there is a ‘mile’ before the first and the last letter.’”

YOU LOOK SO MUCH THINNER!
THANKS! I HAD MY APPENDIX REMOVED...

Why did Shakespeare only write in ink?
Pencils confused him – 2B or not 2B?

What's the difference between a cat and a comma?
One has claws at the end of the paws. The other is a pause at the end of a clause.

Contact IWMS

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