



**“One mother-land, one song, one dream”**

**EDEX Nenapahana and ORAP join forces to uplift rural school in Piliyandala**

Named after the renowned Sinhala music composer and founder of Sinhala Geeta Sahitya, Mr. Ananda Samarakoon, the Wewala Ananda Samarakoon Vidyalaya, Piliyandala, comprising 210 students, both boys and girls are striving to emulate its founder’s talent and also compete in a modern world of constant change.



Though the school flourished originally, being one of the oldest in the area (142 years) most of the parents began to send their children to schools based in the town, when the standard of the school declined over a period of time. However thanks to the time, resources and

guidance of the Old Royalists Association Piliyandala, (ORAP) the school authorities and students currently enjoy fresh impetus in terms of educational excellence, sports and aesthetics.

The ORAP founded in 2009 with the initiative of M/S Anura Gamage and Harshana Adhikari comprise 160 members. It is presently led by Mr. Chandima Athukorala and has the distinction of being the only Past Royal Group, which is affiliated to the Royal College Union, based outstation; the others being foreign based.

Among their initiatives are the ‘Rajakeeya Shilpa Yathra Sammanthrana’ series established in 2013, with a view of knowledge upliftment of school children in Piliyandala area and prepare them for O/L Exam.

In this context, when invited by Mr. Harshana Adhikari, to visit the school, the EDEX Nenapahana Team was only too pleased to support the cause further. The ORAP realised the value of the collaboration of EDEX Nenapahana would create, to enlighten, enthuse and empower the students.



On a sunny morning, on May 5th 2017, the EDEX and Nenapahana Officials, visited the school, to share gifts of books, sports items, furniture and computer items. It is noteworthy to mention that Decathlon, a Sports Accessory provider, operating in Sri Lanka, and headquartered in France also contributed to this endeavour by providing two Computer Tables, one White Board with Stand, one notice board, one World Map (Board) and one Lenovo Think Pad.

The cool breezes, had set the EDEX banner fluttering, and the school children were lined up in crisp white, to greet the visitors. The modest hall was the venue for the traditional lighting of the oil-lamp, speeches and entertainment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman of EDEX, Mr. Mahinda Galagedera, encouraged the students to compete and create a platform of equality, with other school students, and to inculcate a 'can do; attitude! He also thanked the ORAP for their affinity to Ananda Samarakoon Vidyalaya and for inviting the EDEX Team to collaborate, and encourage the youth in their quest for educational excellence.

Mr. Anura Gamage of ORAP gave a brief account of their organization and rationale for CSR initiatives. Mr. B.W. Weerathna, the Principal and Mr. Rasika Galappathy, Director of Nenapahana, also spoke on the occasion. The programme was the 82nd in the series of Nenapahana outreach programmes. Mr. Sudheera Senaratne, Secretary EDEX too graced the occasion.



If you wish to create a song in the heart of rural students, and wish to be part of a National cause, connect with EDEX Nenapahana today! Web: [www.edex.lk](http://www.edex.lk) T: 011 5521497.