

SALUTE THE TEACHER.

A number of teachers at St. Joseph's Convent School recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. This Golden Jubilee is a proud moment and a befitting accolade for a most important task well done.

Most of our problems in Pakistan stem from the low percentage of Literacy in our country, every new broom in Administration talks of attending to this shortcoming on a war footing but alas it ends with the articulation!

We the parents can never repay what these teachers have given our children. Fortunate the school, fortunate the students for this continuity in their lives while disorder reigns supreme all around them!

Miss Necieta Dias is one of the Golden Jubilarians who feels that teaching has been a source of great joy and pride to her to have had an opportunity to have served well hundreds of young people who say,

**“Dear Miss Nita, we know you well,
Your face is familiar we can tell,
You have been here long, so calm and quiet,
Even when we create a riot!
Please excuse us if we don't attend;
To our duties make us bend.
Teach us strength, accept our thanks,
For moral guidance, within our ranks.”**

Her students, one and all, not only past and present but even the future students from the Primary Section all know her, love her and cannot wait to be in her class in the Middle school section!

Nita Dias completed her Matric in 1952 and then started doing substitute teaching while continuing her studies as a private candidate. Along side which she also learnt music...piano, first with Mrs. Tobin, and when Mrs. Tobin left for England she continued with Sister Alban Mary and completed Teacher's diploma both theory and practical.

After completing her BA. privately and Teacher's training from St. Pats Teachers Training Course. She joined St. Joseph's Convent School and has had a successful career in teaching from 1955 to 2005. Initially she was the Music teacher taking singing and helping with the School Concerts, after a few years she was given the primary and Middle school classes to teach.

Her pet subjects have been English Literature and English general but of course in the primary section the class teacher is responsible for teaching all the subjects to their class. Miss Nita Dias has found that most of the students are happy to gain new knowledge, she said it is a joy to see their spirit of acceptance and co-operation.

We do not hear too much of this spirit now a days from the teachers, so how has she managed to receive this? "Well one has to have fun and laughter in class too and lots of interactive projects said Nita. One has a discipline problem if there is not enough to occupy the class, but as the number of students is getting larger every year one has to use new ways of discipline use novel ideas and I try to keep discipline in class fun by making the first errant student in charge to keep the class in order till the next student at fault becomes in charge...that keeps them in order and none lose their self respect or feel victimized!"

"Yes of course the measure of discipline, obedience and submissiveness to authority has changed greatly said Ms Nita; So also in this age of learning information or knowledge however one thinks of the present; the students have a wide knowledge as they are all used to surfing the net for information and we teachers must learn to grow too".

All who have known Nita mention the generosity that she has poured into her work, her dedication, her lovely sense of humour, her gentle nature and smiling face which has inspired thousands of children to learn to play the piano and in class besides teaching the facts and figures like every good teacher Nita has inspired growth, taught them to think, to motivate the students to build great lives.

Like her colleagues quote she has shared the treasury of her knowledge of books and truth and beauty with the students. The students can feel she believes in them she respects each one and feels love for them.

“Unknown, unsung the teacher does a noble work on earth, she lights candles of greatness to dissolve the darkness of ignorance and fear, a quiet worker building the foundations of tomorrow”.

I pray and salute all the teachers in Pakistan, they work to make their students life rich and meaningful, imparting sound values to those who will guide and protect the world tomorrow like the Jubilarians of St. Joseph’s Convent School in Karachi, my Alma Mater too!

**By Hasina H. Sajun.
770 words.**