

AG - Alumni Times

BRINGING TOGETHER GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI



VOL. 2

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

LIONEL CHELLAPPA
PRINCIPAL,
AGCS (PARK STREET)



As we begin a new year, I extend my warm wishes to all our members and their families for a blessed and fulfilling year ahead. I congratulate the newly elected committee and appreciate their willingness to serve with dedication and unity.

My sincere thanks to the team for organizing the coffee meet, which fostered fellowship and connection, and for the release of this newsletter, strengthening communication within our association.

I look forward to a year of continued co-operation and growth.

Best wishes.



MENTOR-SPEAK

Dear Alumni
Let me wish you all a blessed 2026. Hope it will be great year for all of you.

I joined The Assembly of God Church School in the year 1975 and left after 35 years. At that time Rev. Dr. Ronald Shaw was the principal of the School. I had the privilege of working with all the principals like Mrs. G. D. Shaw, Dr.R.Shaw, Mr.A.K Malvea, Rev. Dr. A.S Raj, Miss.V.C. Subaiyah and Mr. L.W. Hartnett. The teachers were friendly and the senior teachers helped and guided the junior teachers, who joined the school.

We were in Royd Street and we could interact with the founders of the school Rev. Dr. Mark Buntain and Rev. Dr. Huldah Buntain. We were one big family with all the staff and students/

I really enjoyed my life in A.G School.

One of the unique features of A.G is the morning Chapel service. The founder spoke to the students we also had the principal, other pastors, teachers, staff and visitors as speakers. Short messages to motivate the students and make them think were given. These messages helped the teachers and the students.

We had also Dr. Solomon Wong, Rev. Dr. John Higgins and Rev. Dr. Ivan Satyavrata as speakers to the students.

Our Alumni are found all over the world. Hope you have taken with you the lessons you learned in School / Chapel.

I am reminded about our school motto, MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST.

Try to do your very best.

When I look back, I am grateful to the LORD for his faithfulness. Hitherto the LORD has helped us. May the LORD bless you and your families.

Ms. ANNIE KURIAN
FORMER PRINCIPAL

DOWN MEMORY LANE

THE TEACHERS WHO SHAPED MY LIFE

**DR SOLOMON WANG - BATCH OF 1978,
EX-ADMINISTRATOR (AGCS)**



Some stories are written in books, but mine was written in the halls, classrooms, and chapel of The AG School (18 Royd Street), where I studied from kindergarten through high school, from 1964 to 1978. What I gained there was far more than an education. I gained direction, discipline, faith, and a sense of purpose.

When my mother passed away at the age of six, my world felt unbearably empty. But God placed me in a school filled with teachers who refused to let me walk through life alone. They were more than educators; they became my guardians, mentors, and spiritual guides. They saw a hurting child and responded with compassion, prayer, and firm, loving guidance.

The AG School became my safe place. My teachers shaped my character, strengthened my faith, and kept me on the straight and narrow path when life could have easily pulled me off course. Their influence reached far beyond the classroom. They built my confidence, nurtured my calling, and helped me believe that God had a purpose for my life. I could name easily name dozens, but here are the names of a few Pastors, leaders, and teachers, namely, Pastor Mark Buntain, Dr. Ron Shaw, Miss. A. Kurian, Mrs. Lillian Finnerty.

Among all of them, Mrs. A. Chacko stands out as my favorite teacher, a powerful role model whose grace, strength, and godliness left an indelible impression & a lifelong imprint in my heart. She taught with conviction, corrected with kindness, and lived with quiet spiritual authority. Her example helped form the leader, educator, and minister I would later become. One of the defining moments of my youth happened in our school chapel. During one of my last chapels before graduation, I prayed a simple but bold prayer: "Lord, help me complete a

PhD by the age of 40." God answered that prayer exactly. But He didn't stop there.

Years later, in a remarkable full-circle moment, I returned not as a student but as the Administrator of all 23 AG Schools from 2002 to 2006. Only God could write a story like that a story in which a little boy, once motherless and searching, becomes a leader responsible for the very institutions that shaped him.

Looking back, I know this truth deeply:

I am who I am today because of my teachers and all the glory belongs to God.

To every teacher who invested in me, prayed for me, corrected me, and believed in me: thank you. Your influence lives on not just in my life, but in every student I have had the privilege to serve.

To God be the praise. To God be the glory.

PS: I know that my readers have their favorite and not-so-favorite teachers and/or "experiences" in school. But I can almost guarantee with 99.99% certainty that 75% of AG ALUMNI will disagree with me, and 25% will be shouting in glee and agreement with one statement: "North or South, East or West, GREISEN HOUSE is THE BEST"!!! 😊

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...

A Journey of Gratitude, Values, and Vision

FEROZ H ALI - Senior Cambridge Batch of 1972

There are institutions that educate the mind—and there are a rare few that shape character, conscience, and destiny. The Assembly of God Church School, Kolkata, belongs firmly to the latter.

As a proud alumnus of the Senior Cambridge batch of 1972, I look back with deep gratitude and nostalgia at the immense privilege of being nurtured under the towering vision and spiritual stewardship of Pastor Mark Buntain and Mrs. Huldah Buntain—the Founder and Co-Founder of the Assemblies of God Mission in India. They were not merely administrators or missionaries; they were visionaries, nation-builders, and committed soldiers of the Christian faith, whose lives were lived in total surrender to a higher calling.

The school gave us far more than academic instruction. It gave us a strong intellectual foundation, instilled high moral and ethical values, and encouraged fearless intellectual engagement at a time when such freedom of thought was a privilege, not a given.

I was fortunate to participate actively in intra-school and inter-school debates, act in dramas, and even write humorous plays for the Annual Functions—opportunities that allowed creativity, confidence, and communication skills to blossom naturally. These formative experiences planted seeds that would later shape my professional life in ways I could never have imagined then.

At the heart of this nurturing ecosystem stood Mrs. G. D. Shaw, our loving, compassionate, and gracious Principal,



whose quiet strength and maternal leadership left an indelible impression on young minds. In the Junior School, we were blessed with a galaxy of outstanding teachers—Mrs. Chacko, Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. John, Mrs. Mukherjee, Mrs. Ghosh, and Mrs. Kessop—each of whom brought dedication, discipline, and deep affection into the classroom. They taught with pedantic uprightness.

Later, under the stewardship of Dr. Ronald Shaw, learning reached new heights. Alongside him, the unforgettable and witty duo—Mr. Ivan Sassoon and Mr. Alfred Martin—turned every English class into a masterclass of learning infused with humour, insight, and joy. What an experience—and what a privilege—to be taught by such masters!

It was principally due to their exceptional academic calibre and extraordinary ability to open young minds that we excelled in English, sharpened our thinking, and learned to articulate ideas with clarity and confidence. They fortified our worldview and trained us not merely to pass examinations, but to engage the world intelligently and ethically.

The school stands tall even today because of the unflinching toil, sacrifice, and faith of Rev. Dr. Mark Buntain and Mrs. Huldah Buntain—a legacy that the present dispensation continues to uphold with sincerity and commitment. They lived by the mission's timeless credo:

[Message to the future generation](#) ✨

CAMPUS BULLETIN

GREENATHON 2025



'Our Dream Kolkata Green', held on 22 November 2025, was a vibrant celebration of environmental responsibility and student leadership. The day began with a Mini Marathon and Awareness Drive from Red Road through Park Street, uniting students, teachers, and volunteers in promoting sustainable living and a greener Kolkata.

Back on campus, participants engaged in events such as G-Inspire, G-Fusion, G-Muse, G-Paint, G-Reel, G-Speak, G-Scrap, G-Panorama, G-Invent, and a science exhibition. The formal programme at G. D. Shaw Hall featured a welcome by the Principal, addresses by Chief Guest Dr. Himadri Sekhar Debnath and Greenathon Ambassador Mr. Arjun Chakrabarty, followed by cultural performances and prize distribution, reaffirming the school's commitment to environmental awareness and collective action.

55TH ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEET 2025



The 55th Annual Athletic Meet was held on 9 December 2025 at Gitanjali Stadium, Kasba, and was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Alvito D'Cunha, former national footballer and East Bengal Club legend. The event opened with a colourful March Past by the four houses, the unfurling of the school flag, and the oath of sportsmanship.

A full schedule of track events, relays, team events, and special races for teachers, staff, and parents followed. The meet concluded with the Prize Distribution Ceremony, with **Buntain House** emerging as the overall Champion, celebrating sportsmanship and teamwork.

INTER AG MEET 2025



The campus came alive as AGCS, Park Street hosted the Inter AG Meet, bringing together schools from Park Street, Tollygunge, Haldia, and Purulia in a celebration of talent, teamwork, and holistic education.

Students competed in basketball and football, intellectual events like AG-Bard and AG-ThinkTanks, indoor games including table tennis and darts, and the music-themed highlight adAgio. AGCS, Park Street emerged as the Overall Winner, as the event fostered camaraderie and lasting bonds across the AGCS community.

CAMPUS BULLETIN...CONTD

Our School Shines at the Telegraph Awards 2025

Our school proudly marked its presence at the Telegraph Awards 2025, held on 23rd and 30th August 2025 at South City International School Auditorium and The Science City Auditorium. The institution was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence in Maintenance and Eco-Friendly



TELEGRAPH AWARDS 2025

Initiatives, reflecting its commitment to sustainability.

Students were recognised across multiple categories. Hritosha Paul, Ritisha Pramanick, Garvit Jivarajka, Ahashmita Sinha, and Md. Wildaan Azzumar Siddiqui received Certificates of Merit for Excellence in Extra-Curricular Activities. Saptarshi Basu (alumnus) and Md. Sannanuddin were honoured for Courage, with the latter also receiving a Scholarship.

In the arts, Soumili Pain (alumnus) was awarded for Outstanding Talent in Dance, while Bedanta Dey and Ryan Prahaladka were recognised for Music. Academic excellence was celebrated through alumni Anurag Nandi and Ayushman Samanta. Pulak Kumar Paul received the Certificate of Honour for Shining Star Employee.



INTER-HOUSE

TALENT CONTEST 2025

The Inter-House Talent Contest, held on 17th October, was a vibrant celebration of creativity, bringing together students across houses to showcase their talents in Western and Eastern categories. Events included Western Vocal Solo and Group performances, with solos featuring selections from artists such as Adele and Rod Stewart, and group performances inspired by Boney M.

The Eastern segment highlighted rich musical traditions through non-film vocal solos like Ragradhan Gaan and Dhrupad, folk group performances rooted in Gambhira, Bhawaiya and Jhumur, as well as choreographed Indian contemporary dance based on educational themes. An instrumental solo category added further diversity, allowing participants to explore music freely.

The contest witnessed enthusiastic participation and impressive performances throughout. At the end of the competition, Hogan House emerged as the overall winner, with Greisen House securing the second position, making the event a memorable celebration of talent, teamwork, and artistic expression.



CAMPUS BULLETIN COURTESY : CRYSTAL SAMUEL,
TEACHER REP TO ALUMNI ASSOC.

HEALTH MATTERS : WHAT THE EXPERT SAY...



DR TAPAS DAS - 1984 ICSE Batch
Consultant Gastroenterologist & Lead Hepatology
- North West Anglia NHS, Foundation Trust.
Peterborough, UK.

The Pour and Its Price: Shaken and Stirred?

Alcoholic beverages contain ethanol, a psychoactive and toxic substance with dependence-producing properties. Despite centuries of cultural acceptance, alcohol is linked to serious health harms. According to the WHO, over 2.5 crore deaths globally are attributable to alcohol. There is no safe level of alcohol consumption. Alcohol is classified as a Group 1 carcinogen, alongside tobacco, asbestos, and radiation. It causes at least seven cancers, most commonly bowel and breast cancer,

and also cancers of the mouth, throat, larynx, oesophagus, and liver. Cancer risk increases with consumption and is independent of price or quality, as alcohol's carcinogenic effect results from its biological breakdown in the body. Claims of protective effects in some studies are largely artefacts of methodology and selective comparisons. A look at England and India highlights the scale of harm. In England, liver disease is a leading killer of young adults. In 2020, it was the second highest cause of years of life lost among people aged 16-64. Premature deaths from alcohol-related liver disease rose 23% between 2011 and 2020 (from 4,300 to 5,285). Women died younger than men on average (55.6 vs 57 years). Hospital admissions rose sharply from 15,596 in 2010-11 to 24,544 in 2020-21.

India contributes 18.3% of global liver disease deaths. Mortality from cirrhosis and chronic liver disease has steadily increased since 1980. Alcohol sales volumes have grown 30-35% in the last five years, particularly among young people, setting the stage for a surge in liver disease. In 2022, 20% of all liver transplants in India were due to alcoholic liver disease. WHO data shows 18.9 deaths per 1 lakh population from cirrhosis in 2021, placing it among the top ten causes of death in India. Post-COVID, alcohol consumption has increased further, with rising drinking rates among women, notably in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam.

Alcohol and road safety remain a major concern. After declining between 2019 and 2021, drink-driving fatalities rose to 1,503 in 2022, likely an underestimate. Alcohol impairs judgment, reaction time, and attention, making accidents inevitable. Road traffic injuries rank among the top ten causes of death in Indian men. The legal blood alcohol limit is 30 mg/100 ml, with penalties up to Rs. 10,000- and six-months' imprisonment for first offences. Alcohol also contributes significantly to obesity and diabetes. NFHS-5 shows 23% of women and 22.1% of men are overweight by BMI,

while 40% of women and 12% of men have abdominal obesity. Diabetes prevalence has surged from 32.7 million in 2020 to 89.8 million in 2024, and is projected to reach 156.7 million by 2050. Alcohol provides 7 calories per gram; a 25 ml measure of 40% ABV whisky contains 50-60 calories, promoting weight gain, especially abdominal obesity.

Alcohol misuse is significantly underreported, particularly in rural and tribal India, yet its impact on health, productivity, and the social fabric is profound. As alcohol becomes more accessible and disposable incomes rise, a more cautious and informed approach is essential to safeguard India's demographic dividend.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Shinjana Biswas Batch 1998 won the ALUMNI IDOL 2025 - INTER ALUMNI SINGING COMPETITION organised by MHS



Rekindling Memories: The Power of a Kolkata High School

Walking through the gates of AG High School after more than forty-five years, the familiar corridors, scent of chalk, and echo of morning prayers brought back memories that had quietly shaped a lifetime. What once held laughter and mischief still carried the spirit of belonging and learning.

After a fulfilling international career, from serving as CEO to mentoring Indian startups in Europe, I often reflect on how deeply my journey was influenced by the values instilled in those classrooms: integrity, discipline, respect, and compassion. In 1976, after completing my ICSE, I moved to Vienna, Austria, where I studied Engineering and Software Programming at the University of Vienna and

later earned an Executive MBA from Cal State Hayward, San Francisco. Life taught me that its toughest examinations are often lived, not written. AG's true strength lay in its people. It taught us the importance of relationships, unity in diversity, and the value of genuine friendships that transcend boundaries of culture, religion, and distance. Recently, organising a reunion for the 1976 and 1978 batches reaffirmed these bonds time had changed us, yet connected us even more deeply.

To fellow alumni, I say: stay proud, stay grounded, and stay connected. AG High gave us the wings to fly and the wisdom to remember our roots.

With love,
 From the land of The Sound of Music,
 Vienna-Austria-Europe

MUKUL RAJPAL - 1975 ICSE Batch



[Happy to Connect](#)

OUR GUIDING LIGHTS

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS, TEACHERS, AND ALUMNI

MRS MARY PETERS, FORMER TEACHER



[My Journey](#) 

I joined A.G. School on 18th January 1967. At first, my work timing was only two hours a day.

On that day, my husband SAM and I went to church. After the service, Uncle Bob told us that Mrs. Buntain wanted to see us. She asked me to work at the school along with my husband. I began working for just two hours a day, and I was very happy.

After two years, I started working full-time. In this way, I continued my work at the school for forty years.

My life was good working with children. Even after I retired the school, my old students remained close to my heart. After I retired few of my old student's still remembers me and checks on me if I could join them to any school functions be it Coffee meet or Crescendo. You feel so proud that your student's still remember you. Love you AGCS Alumni for still keeping in touch with me and a wish on Teacher's Day is an extra bonus to my life as a Teacher

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGEST.

MR GLENN STONE, FORMER TEACHER

It is with real joy and cherished memories that I present this article for the AG newsletter. Thanks to my dear friend and ex student, Mr. Peter Mitter, for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts and experiences associated with the Assembly of God Church and School in Kolkata.

I joined the Junior School Department in 1970 after graduating as a teacher and later in 1976 was appointed as Church Music Director. It was indeed an honour and privilege for me to have launched my professional and ministerial career in this respected and prestigious institution.

Under the guidance and leadership of our beloved pastor Dr. Mark Buntain and his wife Mrs. Huldah Buntain, I became more confident and responsible as I grew older. Along with Dr. Ronald Shaw, they became my mentors who made me what I am today and I am grateful for their input in my life.

In 1978 I married the love of my life, Gloria (Fraser) Stone who graduated from AG in 1971. After having done my Music degree in Bethany Bible College, Santa Cruz, California, we resumed our work in Kolkata in 1982.

Currently we live in Sydney, Australia and God has blessed us with 2 lovely daughters and a son and 5 grandchildren!

Our lives are filled with hope and happiness and I believe the future is even brighter.

I still keep in touch with many of our ex students in AG.

My siblings Ian, Ann Ramgopal and Rodney have all been associated with the Assembly of God in Kolkata for many years and we are proud of this legacy and spiritual heritage!

My mum May Stone was a kindergarten teacher there for many years before she passed away. Also my wife's parents and her siblings were part of the AG Church family.

May the new year 2026 be one of joy, peace and new ventures for you. God bless

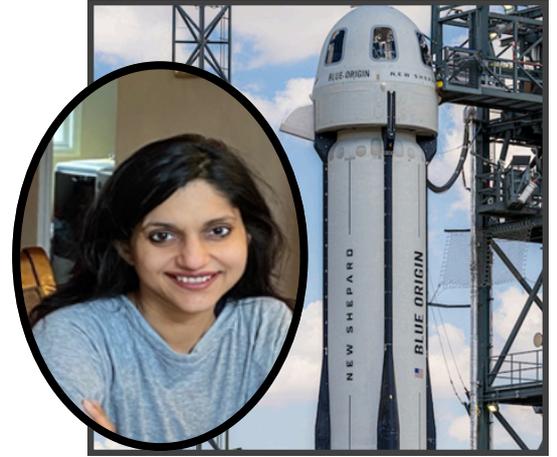


Mr. Glenn Stone

VOICES THAT INSPIRE

“THE ROCKET I WORK ON IS ENABLING “SPACE TOURISM” WHERE THE VISION IS TO MAKE “SPACE” ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE, WITH A GOAL OF “MILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN SPACE SOMEDAY IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE”

Today, after 20+ years in the Aerospace industry, I am in an Engineering Manager role at Blue Origin, a space exploration organization, founded by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. My role is to manage the team and the software deliverables for the New Shepard rocket designed at Blue Origin. The rocket has software associated with the crew capsule, the engine, propulsion module and the controlling ground system; I help to ensure that the software for these systems are developed meeting the highest safety standards and delivered on time for our many missions to space. Besides space tourism, my company also provides the platform to send various payloads and scientific experiments to space that will eventually lead the road to living in space possible. Every day is a journey to make one more step forward to the future where space travel transforms to be a nominal way of life just like how the Wright Brothers had once envisioned the Airplane travel.



APARUPA GUHA, 1994 ISC
Software Technical Project Manager,
New Shepard, **Blue Origin**

As I reflect on my school days at AGCS School, I can't help but acknowledge the incredible impact the institution had on both my professional and personal growth. My school will always hold a special place in my heart because it shaped me far more than just my academic foundation, it made me the "person" I am today. I remember feeling both supported and challenged, which helped me build confidence in my own abilities. The inspirational morning chapel service graced by phenomenal speakers taught me life lessons that I continue to draw from. My teachers challenged me to stretch my mind to learn, solve complex problems and drive towards academic excellence. My classmates helped me thrive socially and enjoy the simple joys of friendship. The school provided the infrastructure for a stable environment to pursue our academic aspirations.

After graduating from AG, Aparupa completed her B Sc. in Economics & then Masters in Computer Science from Sam Houston University, USA & pursued her career in the field of Aviation and Aerospace.

ANNUAL COFFEE MEET 2025



EDITOR'S DESK

SECRETARY, ALUMNI
ASSOCIATIONHEMANT KAPOOR,
1995 ISC BATCH

Seasons Greetings.

May 2026 bring new opportunities, happiness and prosperity to all. We at Alumni, are committed to support each and every member of our School. At the end of this curriculum, our class XII students will make a choice, which will determine their future path. We welcome them to become a part of our Alumni and benefit from current members, who come with vast knowledge and resource. Further, we look forward for an eventful year for our alumni in terms of activities, where we can contribute and support our Alma Mater.

I also take this opportunity to present the New GC for the year 2025-2026, post the AGM held on 11th October 2025.

Warm Regards

Mr. Lionel Chellappa - President
Mr. Arun Bose - Vice - President
Mr. Surajit Kundu - Vice - President
Mrs. Madhumita Singh - Vice - President
Mr. Hemant Kapoor - Secretary
Mr. Sandip Bajaj - Asst. Secretary
Mr. Rajesh Agarwal - Asst. Secretary
Mrs. Ileena Guha - Asst. Secretary
Mr. Sanjay Agarwal - Treasurer
Mr. Rajiv Kumar Mimani - Asst. Treasurer
Mr. Gaurang Dave - Gov. Council Member
Mr. Saurabh Murarka - Gov. Council Member
Mr. Peter P K Mitter - Gov. Council Member
Mr. Arindam Banerjee - Gov. Council Member
Mr. Jashojit Mukherjee - Gov. Council Member

EDITORIAL DESK

Dear Fellow Alumni & Respected Teachers

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our Newsletter -a testament to the unbreakable thread, **Ag-ites**, that bind us across years & miles. Our School forged lifelong Connections in those hallways , classrooms. Today, this platform re-ignites that Spirit , ensuring our bonds endure.

So we continue to celebrate our Mentors, Triumphs, laughter, memories & share nostalgic tales that warm our hearts.

Its more than pages; it's our eternal hope to stay connected - bringing together generations of Alumni.

We are happy to Introduce AV links of few of our Alumni & dear teachers, available in the Digital Edition @ www.agcsalumni.org

Let's contribute stories, updates, photos – Together we keep the Flame alive!!

DID YOU KNOW?

Is there a Country without any official Capital ??

Yes, **Nauru**, A small Island Republic , known as the World's third-smallest country by area. Spanning 21 Sq. km. & 12000 odd Pop-size. Yaren is the de facto Administrative District with Govt offices & Parliament. Settled by Micronesians in 1000BCE , gained independence in 1968

No other Sovereign Country Matches this set-up _ Bolivia has dual Capitals, South Africa has 3 capitals for separate roles while City States like Monaco & Vatican City equate their own territory to a Capital.



AGM

View the Digital Edition @
www.agcsalumni.org

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