



PLANET GREEN FORCE



October 2026

Principal's Message



As Principal of Ananda College, I proudly introduce Planet Green Force, our pioneering initiative addressing the UNESCO key concepts of sustainability. This platform empowers our students to drive impactful results for a sustainable future.

Crucially, it brings to life the UNESCO "Happy School" concept. At Ananda, happy teachers and happy students work hand in hand to create positive changes. With our dedicated teachers, our students prosper. We appreciate our teachers every single day and salute ALL teachers on World Teachers' Day and everyday as agents of change that propel the future of the world. Our vision is to share this inspiring message with other schools, both locally and internationally. I congratulate the writers and readers of this newsletter; you are the agents spreading this vital message across the world. Finally, I express my deepest gratitude to the Prime Minister and the officials of the Ministry of Education for their continuous support in launching these vital activities. Let us march forward toward a greener tomorrow.

D.M.L.P. Disanayaka

PGF For All Schools

By Harith Wickrema, Founder



"Education for all is a principle advocating that all children, young people and adults should have access to quality education, regardless of background or circumstance. This inclusive approach emphasizes the importance of equitable learning opportunities, aiming to eliminate barriers related to gender, socioeconomic status, and geographical location."

— UNESCO

It was music to our ears when our newly appointed Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasinghe stated from her heart: "I am the Minister of Education for ALL schools," close to 22 months ago.

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Message from Dr. Benno Böer

As Chief, Natural Sciences Unit, UNESCO Regional Office in New Delhi, I have been associated with Planet Green Force since its formation. I have had the privilege of watching PGF grow from an idea into an organization that delivers tangible results. I have seen the journey from the foundation-laying ceremony of the Research and Learning Center at Ananda College, to a building now approaching completion, and the remarkable engagement of thousands of students sharing their own handwritten ideas for a more sustainable future.



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Clean Sri Lanka - Beyond Cleanliness



Mr. Sugeeshwara

It was a remarkable opportunity for us to sit down with Mr. S.P.C. Sugeeshwara, Additional Secretary to the President for the National Clean Sri Lanka Programme, and hear firsthand about the vision for creating a cleaner, more responsible and environmentally aware Sri Lanka.

Mr. Sugeeshwara explained that the government is currently focusing on three major projects: Prajashakthi, which aims to eradicate poverty and empower rural communities, Digitalization, which seeks to modernize financial and governance activities through technology, and Clean Sri Lanka, which focuses mainly on developing positive attitudes among Sri Lankan citizens.

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PGF For All Schools

Embracing this statement, the PGF Research & Learning Center being built at Ananda College was declared a national asset open to all students by the Principal of Ananda College, Mr. Lal Dissanayaka, and the Center will engage students from all corners of the island. United Nations SDG #17 emphasizes partnerships and collaboration. Inspired by the Prime Minister, PGF already engages students beyond Ananda. UNESCO ASPnet schools participating in International Day of Education to Zahira and St. Joseph's schools joining for the "Clean

Sri Lanka" project at Maradana, etc. Efforts like these are just the beginning of future island-wide collaborations. This edition of the PGF Newsletter salutes teachers. Without teachers, none of us would be where we are today. For me personally, I am a grateful product of my teachers at Ananda, especially former Principal Col GW Rajapakse. PGF is my way of thanking teachers and my school, Ananda College, for making me who I am today, with the ability to provide resources to support Education for all, SDG # 4.

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Your many initiatives show how these ideas can become practical action, inspired by the five principles of the former UNESCO Green Academies - youth, water, biodiversity, clean energy and waste management - which guided schools towards climate resilience. In 2024, UNESCO further developed this approach through the UNESCO Green School Quality Standard. I encouraged you to travel with me to participate in the 10th South and Central Asian Biosphere Reserve Meeting in India in 2023, the 12th World Environmental Education Congress in the United Arab Emirates in 2024, and the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Hangzhou in 2025. I wanted PGF to observe different approaches and build international connections. I believe these experiences have strengthened your vision and PGF's ability to connect local action in Sri Lanka with partners in the wider world. What resonates with me most is PGF's ability to inspire young people

to act, including through your visit with Ananda students to the Sinharaja UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

You know how concerned I am that the Triple Planetary Crisis is a reality. Humanity needs a truly concerted international action to return to living in harmony with nature, engaging people, especially young people, in this effort. Positive change is needed at the grassroots level, supported by visionaries. You are one of them. I strongly encourage you to continue working with UNESCO and other specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Harith, you should be proud of how far PGF has come. I hope you will continue to turn your vision into action and inspire a new generation to do the same.

Dr. Benno Böer (Chief, Natural Sciences, UNESCO South Asia Regional Office)

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Growing Green Citizens, One Habit at a Time

At Ananda College, Planet Green Force believes that responsible citizens are not made overnight; they are shaped through everyday choices and lasting values. Our members learn to respect nature and to live sustainably through simple, consistent habits: recycling, saving energy, and consuming mindfully. Beyond these practices, we encourage critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership, so that our students grow into young people who act with both compassion and responsibility. Equipped with these qualities, they are ready to take on the challenges of climate change and resource scarcity, helping to build a greener, more resilient future for all.



M.M.W. Sureni Perera
Teacher in charge
PGF Society

PGF Sustainable Ideas Competition a Success

The "Sustainable Ideas Competition," organized by the Planet Green Force (PGF) Club of Ananda College, was held recently at the college premises. The main objective of the competition was to foster creative thinking, knowledge, and skills among students regarding environmental conservation, resource preservation, and sustainable development. All students of the college from Grade 1 to Grade 13 participated in the competition.

Students presented a large number of practical ideas such as conserving water and electricity, reducing the use of plastic and polythene, waste segregation, tree planting, minimal consumption and conservation of natural resources, wildlife protection, and ecological balance. The winners selected by the panel of judges were awarded gifts and certificates. This program marks another important step taken by PGF towards creating a greener generation.



Mr. J.A.K. Jaikantha
PGF Team Ananda College



Reasons for such a high interest in the PGF

Maintaining global sustainability requires a commitment to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PGF turns these goals into tangible action. Moving beyond mere theoretical discussions, the initiative actively engages students, teachers, parents, and the broader community, inspiring them to integrate SDG-aligned practices into their daily lives.

PGF provides an ideal platform for transforming sustainability into instinctual "best practices" for future generations, fostering strong enthusiasm within the school network and extending its reach to families and local community members.

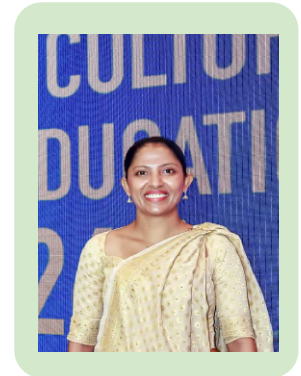
To expand this impact, schools can adopt several targeted strategies:

Practical Waste & Energy Management
Implementing hands-on composting, zero-single-use-plastic policies, and solar energy initiatives.

Experiential SDG Learning:
Embedding real world environmental problem-solving and community service projects.

Community Outreach Workshops:
Hosting interactive seminars to educate families on sustainable living, resource conservation, and eco-friendly household practices.

By linking classroom concepts with community action, PGF transforms abstract ideas into a driving force for lasting environmental resilience.



Sandya Madagammana -
PGF Team at Ananda College

Green Spark School: A Happy and Eco-Friendly Future



Senuli Rashwita Menon
Grade 8

Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

The Green Spark School is an idea to make schools greener, happier, and kinder to nature. Today schools use lots of electricity and produce plastic and paper waste. Classrooms can also be hot, noisy, and uncomfortable.

Bright Minder is a smart system that switches off lights and fans when classrooms are empty. Green corners with plants, tiny ponds, recycled furniture, and colourful clay pots will create calm spaces while celebrating Sri Lankan culture. Bamboo blinds, traditional patterns, small shrines, and Bodhi corners will provide comfort and quiet reflection.

Other ideas, including the Cinnamon Breeze Restroom, a zero-waste lunch area, and solar-powered study spaces, will save energy and reduce waste. Together, these changes can help students learn peacefully and feel calm, happy, and proud. Green Spark School can make education sparkle through clean energy, kindness, and creativity.

Clean Sri Lanka - Beyond Cleanliness

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During the interview, Mr Sugeeshwara emphasized that the Clean Sri Lanka Programme is not limited to keeping the country physically clean, but to also encourage citizens to act responsibly, prevent corruption in workplaces and services, and protect the environment. He added that people can sometimes prioritize their own interests without considering the impact of their actions on others or on the environment. Therefore, the programme seeks to encourage greater responsibility and civic consciousness. As part of this effort, public spaces such as the Colombo bus stop are being renovated, while measures including CCTV monitoring and increased enforcement are being introduced to encourage people to respect public spaces and regulations.

He also stressed the importance of student involvement. Since students are the future of the country, engaging them in environmental and community projects from a young age can help foster the positive attitudes and sense of responsibility that the Clean Sri Lanka Programme strives to promote.

By Bivon Fernando (Grade 11)



SDG #17 – Strengthening PGF Through Collaboration



With Julia Heiss, UNESCO Chief of the Section for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Marina Ader, UNESCO Education Specialist, Greening Education Partnership (GEP), Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Division



With Dr. Farzana Khan, Education Specialist, UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Asia and the Pacific (UNESCO Bangkok)



David Rivers, Director Senior Data Scientists at Bank of America | NASA Citizen Scientists; Harith Wickrema; Andy Henning - NASA Citizen Scientists; Sam Ippisch - NASA Citizen Scientists



Dr. Kelsey, Biosphere Program Scientist, NASA and Harith Wickrema discussing collaboration with NASA GLOBE program at NASA Headquarters



With Dr. Elfitihri Rahmah who serves as the Chief of Capacity Development and Water Family Coordination for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)



At the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development Conference, PGF committed to host the South Asia program for the UNESCO's Global Engagement Network for Science (GENS) in June 2027 at Ananda College. With Lin Wang, UNESCO Project Officer, Basic Sciences, Research, Innovation and Engineering Section and Indira Ashwini Madanayake, UNESCO, Associate Programme Specialist



With H.E. Mr. Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to France & Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and his wife, Dr. Niroshini Epitawalage, botanist and research scientist who brings her expertise to Lanka and the Maldives with Harith Wickrema the PGF Advisory Board and Neil Wysoczanski. His Excellency played a leading role in the successful international effort to designate World Seagrass Day.



Vimendra Sharma, FAO Representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives with Harith Wickrema and Yohan De Silva



Meeting with Azusa Kubota, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives; Harith Wickrema; & Himali Jinadasa



Behind The Scenes of PGF



Rifa Wadood, Minister Commercial, Embassy of Sri Lanka in France, and Wes Teter, Senior Specialist for the Higher Education Section within UNESCO's Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems



Chandana Samarasinghe, Electrical Engineer, Anil Cooray, Prasanna Fernando, Mudita Jayakody, Architect for Planet Green Force Learning and Research Centre, Yohan De Silva, National Coordinator, Planet Green Force, Manuranga Vice Principal, Lt. Rajakase (SLN) and Roshan, Teacher, Ananda College.



Discussing ways to combat malnutrition: Charith Gunaratna, Manager, Nutrition Advisory Division, CIC; Siriweera Gamage, Director, Hayleys; Aroshan Seresinhe, Group CEO, CIC; Harith Wickrema; Sarath Alahakoon, Chairman/Joint Managing Director, SMAK; Yohan De Silva



With Chandana Samarasinghe, Yohan De Silva, Russel Aponso, Senior Additional Secretary to H.E. the President at the Presidential Secretariat, Aroshan Seresinhe, Group CEO of CIC; Supun Weerasinghe, Group CEO and Executive Director of Dialog Axiata PLC and Deepthi Aponso



Strengthening relationships: Mr. & Mrs. Lal Dissanayake; Mr. & Mrs. Yohan De Silva; Harith Wickrema; Mr. & Mrs. Aroshan Serasinghe; Mr. & Mrs. Muditha Jayakody; Nira Satguru

With Yohan De Silva and Samitha Senevirathne, President of Old Boys Association



Prof Lalith Rajapaksha, Director/Centre Chairman UMCSAWM & UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Resources Management in South Asia with Yohan De Silva, National Coordinator, Planet Green Force, and University of Moratuwa faculty

Agrivoltaic Technology: A Step into the Future of Sustainability



Prof. Buddhi Marambe

Senior Professor of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture,
University of Peradeniya

Agrivoltaic technology is a rising and fairly new method of energy production which is taking the globe by storm during the past decade. To put simply, agrivoltaics is the synergic combination of the cultivation of agriculture and livestock while simultaneously engaging in solar power generation on the same plot of land. This method is seen heavily in developing countries as well as nations with higher economic stability. Thus, the implementation of such technology in our nation is paramount. In order to spread awareness about such technology, the usage of demonstrations will prove valuable. As such, the scientific background regarding this modern way of development can be effectively introduced to the masses via the display of its application. Furthermore, as students of the college, this opportunity proves itself as a worthy chance to showcase our roles as true and honest leaders.

Interviewed by Nelusha Medagoda

Grade 11-9

Environmental Sustainable Development

As long as we love our environment, it will protect us. Environmental sustainable development means using natural resources responsibly to meet present needs without harming the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It focuses on protecting the environment while promoting economic growth and social wellbeing. We should go in search of effective ways and means to love, protect and preserve the environment for future generations without damaging it. This includes reducing pollution, conserving water, protecting forests, using renewable energy and managing waste properly. Sustainable development also encourages biodiversity conservation and action against climate change. All of us have a role in supporting sustainable practices. By promoting environmentally friendly technologies and responsible lifestyles, environmental sustainable development helps create a healthier planet, improves quality of life, and ensures long-term balance between humans and nature.

Dumindu Pathirana

Grade 12 Arts 2

Green Education: Growing Schools for People and Planet

Across the globe schools are becoming living laboratories where young people learn to navigate the challenges they will inherit. Green education is a transformation that weaves sustainability into what students learn. It is also about how schools operate. It is about how communities connect with their environment. Green education improves learning and reduces costs. It empowers students to act as responsible citizens.

Why this matters now is plain. Climate change, biodiversity loss and public-health risks are interlinked. They shape the futures students will live in. Teaching sustainability early builds habits and mindsets that endure and influences families and communities.

Green education is not an extra. It is an investment in schools. It is an investment in learning. It is an investment in a resilient society. Schools that teach and model sustainability prepare students not just to understand environmental problems, but to design and lead solutions.



Tharundi Sahansa Abeysirigunawardhana

Grade 10

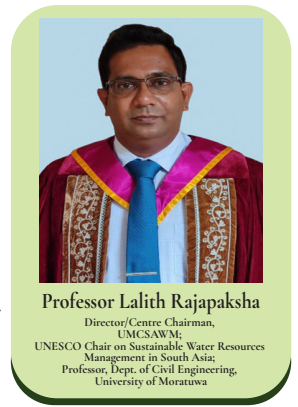
Sanghamiththa Balika Vidyalaya



Planet Green Force - A Timely Need - Professor Lalith Rajapaksha

According to Prof Lalith Rajapaksha, Planet Green Force (PGF) is a timely and highly beneficial initiative for the future. The University of Moratuwa collaborates with various international institutions for sustainable development, and the association with PGF has been a valuable experience. The University of Moratuwa places special emphasis on water conservation, protection of water sources, and the quality of drinking water for our citizens. He made the point that PGF provides an excellent platform to share this knowledge and experience with school students. Prof Rajapaksha explained that many Old Boys of Ananda College are currently studying at the university, and their experience in environmental protection is immensely valuable to the school. He looks forward to supporting the expansion of the PGF program to other schools across the island and to fostering a scientific exchange of ideas.

Interviewed by Mihitha Pathberiya
Grade 12



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“අද අප රැකගන්නා සොබාදහම, හෙට අපට රැක ගනියි.”



Sanuka Thathsilu Karasinghe Arachchi
Ananda College, Grade 10-11

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is essential for the future of our planet. It means fulfilling present needs without harming the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This concept focuses on achieving a balance between economic growth, social well-being, and environmental protection. Reducing pollution, conserving natural resources, and using renewable energy are important steps. Governments, organizations, and individuals must all contribute to this effort. Simple actions such as saving water, reducing waste, and planting trees can bring significant change. Through sustainable development, we can create a healthy environment, a higher quality of life, and a stable and prosperous future.

World Seagrass Day, March 1: Harnessing Nature's Power for Future Prosperity



Beneath Sri Lanka's coastal waters lies a powerful natural asset: seagrass. With 15 recorded species, these underwater meadows support fisheries, marine biodiversity, coastal protection and climate resilience. On 23 May 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/76/L.56, proclaiming 1 March World Seagrass Day by consensus, co-sponsored by 23 countries. Sri Lanka helped advance this global recognition and international conservation commitment.

Susantha Udagedara, Blue Resources Trust



Clean Maradana Through the Eyes of the Principal of St. Joseph's College Colombo

Cleaning and resurrecting Maradana Railway Station, and concurrently the minds and hearts of those who use it, Clean Maradana 2026 was a project organized by a coalition between Ananda College, Zahira College and St. Joseph's College, with prefects taking the lead along with teachers, Old Boys and fellow students. The project, an offshoot of "Clean Sri Lanka," took place on 21st June.

The Rector and Principal of St. Joseph's College Colombo, Rev. Fr. Ranjith Andradi, made the point that given the schools' three religious backgrounds – Ananda College in Buddhism, St. Joseph's College in Catholicism and Zahira College in Islam – the Clean Maradana also fostered religious harmony. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of projects such as this to the future of Sri Lanka and the salience of the participation of teachers in such initiatives. Teachers guide students and the influence they bear is immeasurably valuable.



Interviewed by Supun Ariyasinghe (Grade 11)

Leading the Green Charge: PGF at Ananda College



Vinuda Vidanagamage,
Head Prefect, Ananda College

Sustainability has become part of how we lead at Ananda College. Through Planet Green Force, students have taken ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals, turning big global ideas into small, everyday actions within our own school community. Our societies and clubs, through environmental initiatives and conservation-focused events, have shown that when young people are given the chance to lead, real change follows.

As Head Prefect, I've noticed this shift in how students carry themselves, there's a growing sense of responsibility that goes beyond just academics. Clean water, protected ecosystems, mindful consumption are things that matter to us, genuinely. PGF has given students a space to think critically and speak up for what they believe in. Moving forward, we hope to keep this momentum going and let sustainability stay a part of who we are as a school.

The Teacher in the Age of AI: Planet Green Force Investigates the Effect of AI on Education

Planet Green Force of Ananda College held multiple student-teacher discussions this week, in relevance to the upcoming Teacher's Day celebrations. The discussions covered various aspects of challenges faced in today's technological world. This consultation with Madam Dammika included wide-spread concerns like the practical implications of artificial intelligence (AI) in lesson planning and why AI will never replace the empathy of human teaching. It was unveiled that teachers of Ananda College are well aware of the importance of teaching students about using AI responsibly and of how the role of the teacher should adapt according to the growth of technology.

Mihela Gunaratne (Grade 10-11)



Seeds of Security – Growing a Sustainable Future



Through hands-on gardening activities, students developed practical agricultural skills, environmental awareness, responsibility, and an appreciation for nature. The cultivation of the school garden also encouraged teamwork, collaboration, and active participation. It promoted healthy lifestyles by encouraging time outdoors and connecting with nature. Ultimately, "Seeds of Security" aims to grow not only plants, but also knowledge, sustainability and a stronger commitment to a food-secure future. "Seeds of Security" is an initiative of the PGF, designed to encourage school children to establish and maintain home gardens and

gardening within the school while promoting sustainable living. Through the distribution of grow bags and seeds donated by CIC, students were given the opportunities to plant, nurture, and grow food. The project contributes to UN SDG #1: no poverty and SDG #2: zero hunger by promoting household and school-level food production and increasing awareness of food security.

Rusath Wickramasinghe
Grade 10-9

The Chaya Plant: A Solution for Optimal Nutrition

Hailing from the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, the chaya plant proves its worth as a staple of nutrition due to its hardy tendency to thrive in even the most adverse climates while still supplying a cornucopia of nutrients to its consumer. The chaya plant, which still thrives as part of Mayan culture, proves its worth by supplying an extremely high degree of Iron, surpassing iron fortified food such as spinach or legumes, effectively earning it the title of "Tree Spinach." It also holds the key to solving the nationwide issue of nutritional deficiency, which has plagued Sri Lanka for time innumerable. Thus, plans to populate the crop nationwide are being drawn up as we speak, in order to relieve the current calamity the nation is facing.

-Nelusha Medagoda interviewing Dr. Ranil Senanayake,
(International Specialist on Analog Forestry; Chairman, Earthrestoration)



Giff Hill Head of School Liz Kinsella joins Planet Green Force Founder & Island Green Living President Harith Wickrema and Island Green Board Member Curtis Penn as they discuss the importance of growing your own food and nutrition security with Giff Hill students.

A ceremony in the horticultural center of Giff Hill School marked its naming as the first PGF partner school in the territory. Giff Hill will serve as a model for others in the US Virgin Islands, with the expectation that additional schools will be brought on in the future.



Clean Maradana 2026: Insight from the Principal of Zahira College



Clean Maradana 2026, organized by the prefects of Ananda College, Zahira College and St. Joseph's College, took place on June 21st at Maradana Railway Station. In our interview with the Principal of Zahira College, Mr. A. R. M. Trizviyy Marikkar, he highlighted how, similar to the goals of Clean Sri Lanka, the goal of Clean Maradana was not just to clean the surroundings, but also to cleanse the hearts of students and provide a sense of civic responsibility. The project saw the involvement of students, prefects, academic staff members and Old Boys alike.

Addressing continuity, he suggested making it a recurring event on the annual calendar and advised it should evolve into a long-term partnership. He emphasized that the deep involvement of teachers was a key reason for the project's success, and commended teachers on their focus on the development of the next generation.

Interviewed by Vihas Imandiv Rupasinghe

Traversing the Academic Path through the Eyes of an Adept Educator

I was extremely lucky to be given the opportunity to interview one of Grade 11 section's academic staff, Mrs. Vindya Manthirathne. She chose the path of education due to her desire to inculcate knowledge, attitudes and skills within the new generation, as well as introducing model citizens to society. She serves as an excellent example for any would-be teachers who wish to traverse the same occupational path.

Her career has led to many of her greatest joys. She understands the concerns of students and adapts her teaching style accordingly, further cementing her status as a brilliant and adept educator. In her three decades of service, she remarks that she has felt zero regrets. According to Mrs. Vindya Manthirathne, "A teacher has the power to alter a student's journey through life by a single word." Her view is that the role of a teacher, as a creator of decent individuals, is eternal.



Mihela Gunarathna
Grade 10-11

Education Without Pressure! The Teacher Who Respects a Child's Mind



We interviewed Mrs. Lanka Wijerathne, the current class teacher of grade 11-12. According to Madam Lanka, encouraging vs. pressuring students is an important distinction. Students learn in different ways and it is best to adjust the approach accordingly. She first explains the lesson to all students and then she individually focuses on the students who may need extra help.

Mrs. Lanka Wijerathne emphasizes that exam results are only one qualification to enter the A/L section. Discipline is also very important. It is vital to lift all the students together to build team spirit and encourage success. Care must be given to students' mental well-being.

Building a fun, enjoyable learning environment allows students to work together to achieve a shared goal. The teacher-student relationship is not just about academics. Teachers also play a role in building up a better society consisting of well-disciplined, well-adjusted individuals.

M. T. Sasindu D. Maepagala
Grade 11-9



Ananda Student W. Jithuka Mindiya Walpita Receives Presidential Environmental Award



His Excellency, Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake presented W. Jithuka Mindiya Walpita with the Presidential Environmental Award for Environment Friendly Innovations, School Category. This was in recognition of his three inventions: Nano Solar Ray Filter Glass for Solar Observations, Nano Green House Solar Ray filter polythene, and Nano biodegradable Grafting Plaster Polymer.

These inventions aid in sustainable approaches to agriculture, horticulture and solar observations. Also pictured are Anton Jayakodi, Deputy Minister of Environment; Sunil Hadunneethi, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship; Dr Dammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment; and Prof Thilak Hewawasam, Chairman CEA.

Art of Sustainability



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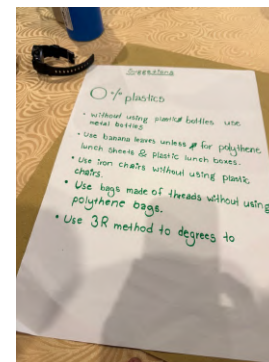
Bulath Offering by Student with Gratitude for His Teacher



K. Randiw Sajenda
12 A2
Ananda College



Withanage Mahima Diyon
Grade 1 Pink



Experiences Gained from Establishing the PGF Society

The objective of establishing the Planet Green Force (PGF) Society at Ananda College was to expand greening education by promoting a sense of responsibility for protecting the school environment and to foster attitudes towards sustainable development among students. Practical attention is especially focused on tree planting, beach cleaning, crop cultivation, and minimizing the use of polythene. Disseminating scientific knowledge on water conservation and sustainable development is also an expectation. Many schools have joined us in these projects. Collaboration with the University of Moratuwa provided valuable research experience. Through the partnership with UNESCO, leadership, teamwork, and social responsibility were nurtured among students, taking learning beyond the classroom. PGF will render a great service to the future world as a whole.

Binuk Wanniarachchi

Secretary

PGF Society, Ananda College



Launch of the PGF Society, Ananda College with teachers-in-charge, office bearers, and Members, Executive Committee, PGF on May 25, 2026.



Discussion with Environmental Club.



Teacher Training Programme



Right-To-Education: The Youth Speak Up

April 2026 has been a landmark month for the UNESCO Club of Ananda College, balancing human rights advocacy with cultural preservation. Right to Education Series Concludes The club's three-part series wrapped up with its final session, "Questions for Digitalization to Right to Education." This hybrid event explored the complexities of modern classrooms. Discussions centered on three pillars: the dual impact of technology on learning, strategies to bridge the digital access gap, and the necessity of student safety and privacy in digital spaces. The sessions reinforced that the right to education now inherently includes the right to equitable digital access. Certificates of participation were issued to all attendees. Fusion '26: Heritage Meets Innovation Looking ahead, the club officially opened registrations for its flagship initiative, Fusion '26. Framed as a space "where heritage meets innovation," the event challenges students to blend traditional roots with forward-thinking ideas. Using the imagery of a lantern-lit wattle-and-daub hut, the club invites students to actively engage in shaping the future by honoring their past. Through these initiatives, the UNESCO Club continues its mission: defending fundamental rights while cultivating cultural identity. As the club stated, the dialogue is ongoing—the right to education is a cause they champion every day.



The Water We're Running Out Of

In the corridors of Ananda College, we debate many futures, but the most urgent crisis is invisible. We must face a harsh reality: Sri Lanka's "Blue Gold" is vanishing. We treat water as an infinite gift, yet pollution and mismanagement drain our reservoirs. From contaminated ancient tanks to drying rural wells, scarcity is no longer a distant threat. Quality education is meaningless if a student is too thirsty to learn; economic growth is impossible without a sustainable supply. We must move beyond awareness to aggressive conservation. Protecting watersheds and innovating in wastewater recycling are the only ways to ensure our taps don't run dry. Water is the lifeblood of our island—to run out of water is to run out of time



Hiruka Sandes Perera

7-9

Beyond net zero pledges: why carbon offset markets are failing and what genuinely binding climate accountability looks like

Net zero pledges often depend on carbon offset markets, but these systems are not very reliable. Many offset projects do not lead to real cuts in emissions. Some protect forests that were never in danger, while others can be undone by fires or human activity. In some cases, the same emissions savings are counted more than once. Weak rules and poor monitoring make it easy for companies to report progress without actually reducing their pollution. This creates a false sense of success and allows firms to delay meaningful action. True climate accountability requires strict and enforceable rules. Governments must set clear limits on emissions and ensure honest, detailed reporting. Independent bodies should verify all data to prevent misuse. Carbon pricing systems should be strong and should not depend heavily on offsets. Companies must also take responsibility for emissions across their supply chains, not just their direct activities. Most importantly, there must be serious penalties for failure to comply. Binding laws must be enacted, rather than voluntary promises, to ensure real, measurable, and lasting reductions in emissions.



Dinara Hettiarachchi
Grade 12 BE



Nature's Balance Sheet

Biodiversity loss is often reduced to the idea of species extinction, but the reality extends far beyond that simple and incomplete view. Ecosystems depend on complex interactions between plants, animals, insects, and microorganisms that have developed over thousands of years. These relationships maintain balance, and when one part is removed or disrupted, it can trigger a chain of changes throughout the entire system that are not always immediately visible or easy to predict. Over time, these disruptions affect human life in ways that are both direct and profound. Agriculture relies heavily on pollinators, water systems depend on broader ecological stability, and many medical resources originate from natural environments that scientists have still not fully explored or understood. The loss of even a single species can quietly remove possibilities that humanity has not yet had the opportunity to discover. The challenge is that these effects develop slowly and without obvious warning signs. Because the decline is gradual, it often goes unnoticed until the consequences become more serious, more widespread, and considerably harder to address or reverse. Protecting biodiversity is therefore not only about preserving wildlife for its own sake. It is also about maintaining the interconnected natural systems that support food production, human health, and the long-term survival of both ecosystems and the people who depend on them.



Mihela Gunaratne
Grade 10-11

Teach Climate Literacy

Quality Education (SDG 4) is the key that opens doors to the future, but instead, our education system traps students in an ocean of "doomsday" prophecies. Everywhere in cyberspace, there are warnings of melting ice caps and the end of the world which only serves to paralyze students rather than encourage progress. Such doom-mongering can easily turn anyone off from learning. No matter how much we learn about

renewable energy and sustainable biology, knowledge alone does nothing to solve the issue. Sri Lanka needs young minds like us to lead it to success. Instead of worrying ourselves with eco-anxiety, let us channel our energy into eco-action. The better informed we are, the braver we will be to take initiative. Let us learn how to save the planet.

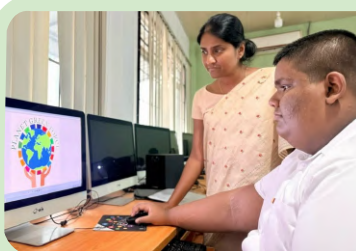
Rivindu Perera
Grade 12
Lyceum College, Wattala

Woman on the Climate Frontline

Environmental change affects communities in uneven ways, and in many regions women experience its impact more directly through their daily responsibilities. Tasks such as collecting water, managing food supplies, and maintaining household needs become significantly more difficult when droughts, floods, or resource shortages occur. These pressures increase both physical workload and time demands, often leaving little room for rest, economic activity, or personal wellbeing. At the same time, women frequently play a central role in local environmental responses. Small-scale farming adjustments, conservation work, and community-based solutions regularly depend on their active involvement, practical knowledge, and long-standing familiarity with local ecosystems. In many cases, they are among the first to notice environmental shifts and adapt accordingly,

often doing so with limited resources and institutional support. Despite this, their contributions are not always reflected in broader decision-making processes. There is often a significant gap between those experiencing environmental stress most directly and those designing policies intended to address it. This disconnect means that practical, ground-level insights are frequently overlooked in favour of top-down approaches that may be less effective and less responsive to the communities they aim to serve. Recognising this imbalance is essential when considering both the full scope of environmental challenges and the most practical, inclusive solutions for affected communities.

Supun Ariyasinghe
Grade 11-12



With sincere thanks: Award-winning Graphic Designer S.M. Yumeth Dintharu designing the newsletter with his teacher, Ms. Priyadarshani.





Join the Planet Green Force Society!



A Rare Opportunity to Enhance Your Educational Experience
Beyond International Standards
Be Part of Solutions on Issues Related to Climate Change
Share Your Ideas & Innovations
Hands-On Research & Experiments with Top Universities.
Planet Green Force in Action!

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**PLANET GREEN FORCE
SOCIETY OF ANANDA COLLEGE**



18.08.2026

The President,
Ananda College Broadcasting Unit (ACBU),
Ananda College,
Colombo 10.

Request for Permission and Arrangements to Introduce the "Green Word of the Week" Concept

Dear President,

On behalf of the Planet Green Force (PGF) of Ananda College, I am writing to propose a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing environmental awareness and fostering a culture of sustainability among our fellow Anandians.

The Planet Green Force, founded and supported by Mr. Harith Wickrema (Founder of PGF), works actively toward promoting sustainable habits, environmental stewardship, and green principles within our school community. As part of our ongoing efforts to showcase Ananda College as a leading Green School, we are introducing a new initiative titled "Green Word of the Week."

This initiative aims to introduce students to essential sustainability terms, eco-friendly concepts, and core green principles in an engaging and accessible manner. To maximize the reach and impact of this program, we kindly request the support and assistance of the Ananda College Broadcasting Unit in the following areas:

1. Morning Announcements: Introducing the selected "Green Word of the Week" during the morning assembly announcements, accompanied by a brief definition and its significance in daily life.
2. Weekly Reinforcement: Encouraging ACBU announcers and members to incorporate and highlight the green word where appropriate in day-to-day announcements throughout that week.

We believe that leveraging the powerful voice of the ACBU will play a vital role in embedding green concepts into the daily lives of students. We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss the logistics, scheduling, and content handover at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time, support, and dedication to school initiatives. We look forward to working together to inspire a greener future for Ananda College.

Yours sincerely,

Binuk Wanniarachchi
Secretary
Planet Green Force
Ananda College

Approved / Recommended by:

Mr. G.A.R.L. Perera,
Deputy Principal

Mrs. Sureni Perera,
Teacher-in-charge



PGF Research and Learning Center - A “Clean Sri Lanka” Facility for All



Planet Green Force Research and Learning Center (PGF Center) will serve as a beacon of cutting-edge greening education and research for all Sri Lankan students. It is the embodiment of the President’s “Clean Sri Lanka” mission and is being constructed with assistance from the Sri Lanka Navy. Incorporating the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the tenets of UNESCO’s Greening Education Partnership and Climate Science Literacy, as well as collaborations with the University of Moratuwa and the University of Peradeniya and others, the PGF Center is a true example of UN SDG #17: Partnerships for the Goals.

The facility will offer interactive displays including a Nature/Living Salon, featuring seagrass and mangrove propagation exhibits. A Food Security Salon will feature aquaponics, hydroponics,

agrovoltatics, soil regeneration, composting, etc. An Epicurean Theater & Auditorium and Research Laboratory will provide facilities for research projects based on students’ and faculties’ passions to address energy, water, food and nutrition security, perhaps even microplastics related to human health and affordable, scalable alternatives for single-use plastics. Designed by alumnus Architect Muditha Jayakody, the PGF Center features rainwater harvesting and use of cradle-to-cradle materials where possible, etc. It will be off the grid, powered by renewable energy with battery back-up.



Come experience walking up 17 steps of the grand staircase depicting the 17 SDGs.



Progress as of August 2026.
Thank you, Sri Lanka Navy.

A Very Special Tribute

Mr. Janakantha deserves special recognition for his total dedication, passion, hard work, and absolute commitment to greening education in Sri Lanka. In his own humble way, he consistently delivers results. His ability to motivate students to become engaged with PGF has been nothing short of extraordinary. Mr. Janakantha has also shown himself to be a true team player, recruiting many other teachers to help build

a solid foundation for PGF at Ananda College and beyond. His commitment extends beyond the school, as he has even recruited his wife and son to support and actively engage with PGF. A huge thank you to Mr. Janakantha for his dedication, passion, and invaluable support.

PGF Thanks Our Supporting Partners Antrya Solutions, CIC, Trotuman Pepper Locke, UNESCO

