



The Headmaster's Words



How do we measure success? That is the question I often ask myself. There are so many things we can measure – exam results, academic success, new innovations, to name but a few. We are never short of things that lend themselves to measurement and analysis!

But we all know that not everything can be measured. Someone once said, "We must measure what we value rather than value what we can measure." These are wise words. I am sometimes tempted to believe that the easier things are to measure, the less they have to tell us about what really matters.

The bigger processes in life cannot be measured for they include many intangible features – mystery, beauty, the sweep of a rainbow, the breadth of human potential – even failure and the lessons it can teach. Having confidence in these bigger processes takes faith rather than measurement – and there isn't always a lot of room for that in our busy schedules!

Amidst the achievements and successes which characterise our lives let us not lose sight of the bigger picture and the truly significant. As Albert Einstein once wrote to a friend, "Try not to become a person of success but rather try to become a person of value."

One of MUWCI's initiatives to nurture persons of value is to use all funds raised through donations and summer programs towards scholarships for students applying to MUWCI. I hope you will support me in this endeavour.

Julius Caesar: A Kathakali Performance

Kathakali is a highly stylised Indian dance drama noted for its attractive make-up of characters, their elaborate costumes, detailed gestures and well-defined body movements presented in tune with the anchor playback music and complementary percussion.

On the 20th of January 2010 MUWCI was treated to a rather unique combination of theatrical styles. The Sadanam Gandhi Seva Sadan troupe from Trivandrum in Kerala performed a Kathakali rendition of the famous Shakespearean play Julius Caesar. The show was choreographed by the leader, Sadanam Hari Kumar, who also starred as Marcus Brutus. It was a visual treat for most MUWCI students, most of whom had never watched such a performance before.

A lot of effort had gone into putting on the performers' makeup, which was extremely detailed yet immaculately done. The actors' faces were painted green or yellow, with black paint to highlight their facial features and indicate whether they were good or evil characters.

The costumes included large and heavy headgears which were heavy and restricted the movements of the dancers. What was fascinating, however, was the fact that despite this, they were able to pull off the theatrics of a plot as dynamic as Julius Caesar. Hence the onus was on correct facial expressions and hand gestures, both of which were carried out spectacularly.

It was interesting to see how even in the absence of dialogue, they were able to convey a story as complicated as Julius Caesar, showing how art can connect and speak to people across cultures.