

Academic Report for the Academic Year 2010 –2011

The Academic Team continues to work with the principals and teachers in the Presbyterian Education Board schools with the aim of improving the quality of education in these schools. We wish to enhance the managerial and leadership skills of the principals and to help the teachers to develop professionally. With this in mind, the Academic Team makes regular visits to schools; observing classes, talking with principals and teachers and giving help and advice where necessary. The team has had a number of overnight stays in the boarding houses, which has enabled it to assess the progress being made by the Christian students staying in the boarding houses. Enrolment is increasing in many schools and improvements are seen in the quality of education being offered. Schools also face many challenges, including the problem of finding well qualified staff.

In June the Academic Team was busy preparing for the teacher training programme which took place in Murree from July 11, 2010 to July 18, 2010. A small team of three trainers came from the U.S.A. to teach on the programme, so some of the sessions were led by members of the Presbyterian Education Board Academic Team. The Presbyterian Education Board is thankful to Peach Tree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, for providing the funds to run the programme and to the team of trainers, Ms. Caroline Ryan, Mrs. Cassa Andrews, Ms. Shawna Shapiro and Dr. Dubash for the excellent training they have given. Teachers do benefit from these trainings and, with follow up from the Academic Team, are able to implement what they are learning. The teachers who attended the training programme ran workshops in their own schools to share what they had learned with other members of staff.

During the summer vacation, schools ran extra classes for students of Classes 5, 8, 9 and 10, as they are taking board examinations in 2011. A special programme was run for boarding house students in Classes 8, 9 and 10 from Christian Girls High School Pasrur, Christian Girls High School Sargodha and Christian Girls High School Sangla Hill. Students from all three boarding houses stayed in Pasrur boarding house for one month and took classes each day. Regular visits were made to Pasrur by the Academic Team to monitor the programme. Students were given regular tests by the teachers in Pasrur and at the end of the month they sat tests set by the Academic Team. To encourage the students in their studies, prizes were awarded to students who gained the highest marks in these tests. As well as being an opportunity for the students to continue their studies, it was also a chance for the girls from the different schools to get to know each other.

During the summer vacations, boarding house students were again involved in an Adult Education Programme. Forty two students from different boarding houses were supplied with materials and given some training which enabled them to run adult education classes in their home villages. Students were encouraged to run classes with up to ten adults, teaching basic literacy and numeracy. As well as being a great service to their communities, it helps the students to develop in confidence.

In July, the decision was taken by the Presbyterian Education Board to start F.Sc. and F.A. classes at Christian Girls' High School Pasrur in September 2010. The timetable of teachers from the Matriculation Department has been adjusted to enable some of the Matriculation teachers, in addition to newly appointed teachers, to teach Class 11. The principal of Christian Girls High School Pasrur, Mrs Shahzada Parveen, has started the process for getting the school registered as a higher secondary school.

Presbyterian Education Board schools continue to do well in the Matriculation Examination. In 2010, four of the schools obtained a 100% result. Many students from our schools are continuing their studies at various colleges or have gained places at nursing schools. Two students from Christian Boys High School Martinpur are now studying at F.C. College in Lahore. The Presbyterian Education Board is helping to support them financially in their

studies. Last year a student of Christian Boys High School Martinpur, Junaid Shahswar, went to F.C. College on a Presbyterian Education Board scholarship. He is studying F.Sc. Pre-Engineering and in the first year examination he scored 444 out of 520 marks, securing fourth position in F.C. College.

In August and September, graduation ceremonies were held in all schools for the outgoing Class 10. Overall 132 students graduated from Presbyterian Education Board schools. All students were given a certificate and twenty four students were awarded a gold medal for obtaining A+ or A grade at Matriculation. Appreciation letters were given to all teachers who obtained a 100% pass rate in their subject.

As mentioned at the last board meeting, it is now compulsory for all schools to take the Classes 5 and 8 Board Examinations in 2011. Syllabuses have been adjusted in these classes to comply with the board requirements. The decision was taken at the principals' meeting in August that all Christian students in Class 8 will do Ethics rather than Islamiyat. Unfortunately there is no text book available for Ethics in Classes 5 or 8, so members of the Academic Team have spent a lot of time preparing notes, in line with the Ethics syllabus, to be used by teachers and students. Two hundred and sixty four students sat for the Class 5 examination. Two hundred and sixty one students (98.8%) passed the examination. Two hundred and thirteen students took the Class 8 examinations. Most of these students have passed, but we have recently heard that there was a problem in the marking of the Ethics MCQ paper, so we are trying to get these papers remarked.

In November, pre-board examinations were run in all schools. The aim of these examinations is to assess how students in the different schools are doing and to give them practice in taking board examinations. All students are allocated a roll number and papers are set by the Academic Team according to the board pattern. Papers are sent back to the P.E.B. office in Lahore and then distributed to other schools for marking. Results are then compiled in the P.E.B. office. It is a huge undertaking, particularly as Classes 5 and 8 took pre-board examinations as well as Classes 9 and 10. This meant we had 964 students taking the examinations. However, we feel that it is a good investment of time and money as it gives the students the practice they need, so they will hopefully obtain better marks in the board examinations this year.

We continue to run co-curricular activities in our schools as we feel these activities are very important in the overall development of our students. Individual schools arrange a variety of activities and the Academic Department of Presbyterian Education Board co-ordinates three inter-school competitions. The Inter-school Urdu debate competition took place on October 9, 2010. Nine schools participated. The team trophy was won by Christian Boys' High School Martinpur. The Inter-school Carol Singing Competition took place on Saturday December 4, 2010 at Kinnaird Academy in Lahore. The choir competition was won by Kinnaird Academy High School for Girls and the solo competition was won by a student from Christian Girls High School Sangla Hill. The overall trophy also went to Christian Girls High School Sangla Hill as they obtained the highest mark when the marks from the choir and solo competition were added together.

The Inter-school Science Competition took place on April 30, 2011 in Lahore at Kinnaird Academy High School for Girls. Two months prior to the competition, schools were sent a list of investigative projects to work on. They were encouraged to have as many students as possible working on projects and to hold school based science competitions. The winners of the school based competitions would then be sent to the inter-school competition. Eleven schools from the Presbyterian Education Board school system took part in the competition, including Rainbow School for Special Education. Each school submitted two investigative projects in each category; the first for students of Classes 3 - 6 and the second for students of Classes 7 - 10. For many, this was the first time they had worked on such projects, as

the previous science competition was held in 2008. On the day of the competition, students displayed their work and talked to the judges about their projects. Evaluation of the projects by the judges was based on set criteria; had students achieved their objectives; was there evidence of scientific investigation, design, ingenuity and innovation or creativity, was there evidence of team work and was there effective visual and spoken communication. The judges were impressed with the ability of the students to communicate what they had done, but more work is needed to help students and teachers in carrying out this type of investigative projects. During the coming year we hope to work with individual schools, so that next year the quality of the projects will be at a higher level. During the day, there was also a science quiz and two problem solving competitions, one for the primary students and one for the secondary students. It was a fun day of activity and learning. The overall competition was won by Kinnaird Academy High School for Girls as they came first in the projects and the science quiz. PEB School Sialkot won both the problem solving competitions. We are thankful to the judges for giving their time to judge the projects and to board members who supported the programme.

In January 2011 we had a group visiting from various churches in the U.S.A. The group visited Kinnaird High School for Girls, Christian Girls High School Sangla Hill, Christian Girls High School Martinpur, Christian Boys High School Martinpur and Christian Girls High School Pasrur. On January 29, 2011, the group attended the ground breaking ceremony for P.E.B. High School for Boys, Sargodha. The programme was also attended by a large number of invited guests. The vision is to build a school for 2500 boys. Students from Christian Girls High School Sargodha and E.M.S Sargodha took part in the programme.

Annual examinations were held in all schools in March 2010. The academic team worked with the schools to improve the quality of the examination papers given to the students. Textbooks for the new academic year were also reviewed by the academic team. For the academic year 2011-12, we have made a few changes in the syllabus, particularly in the English syllabus, in order to give our students a better foundation. All schools are now using Oxford or Paramount English in Classes Nursery to 4, 6 and 7, rather than PTB English. We have held three workshops with the English teachers to help them use the new books and will continue to support them during the year. Syllabi have also been reviewed in the different subject areas.

This year, we again hope to run extra classes for students of Classes 5, 8, 9 and 10, in the summer vacation and the special programme for boarding house students in Classes 8, 9 and 10 from Christian Girls High School Pasrur, Christian Girls High School Sargodha and Christian Girls High School Sangla Hill.

The Academic Team continues to work towards achieving its set targets. This includes the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, in both English and Urdu, in all students; continuing to develop the English language curriculum and implementation of it in all schools; developing scientific thinking through the use of problem solving activities in mathematics and science; imparting necessary skills to the schools for further improvement of the Matriculation results; increasing enrolment in all schools. There are many challenges, but with your support, we can face these challenges and we will see these schools continuing to grow and flourish.