

## MRS. KALYANI LAKSHMAN

Being the fifth principal, Mrs Kalyani Lakshman was a blessing to Devi Balika Vidyalaya. She assumed duties as Principal of this prestigious school in June, 1995. She was a member of the staff from 1983 to 1992. She assumed duties as Principal in June 1995, and brought in her valuable experience as a staff member to this post. From the time she took over the school it has been a period of rapid development.

Miss Kalyani Siriseeli Munasinghe was from Ihalayagoda, Imbulgoda, Gampaha. She had her school education at Rajasinghe Maha Vidyalaya, Imbulgoda and Rathnavali Balika Vidyalaya, Gampaha. She passed out from the University of Peradeniya in 1968 as a Bachelor of Education.

Mrs. Kalyani Lakshman after teaching in the outstations for some time, came to St. Anthony's Girls' School, Kollupitiya. When she got the appointment as a Commerce teacher at Devi Balika Vidyalaya, she was able to introduce Japanese language to the A/L stream. She taught Japanese voluntarily. She rendered her services as the deputy principal of Lindsey Balika, Colombo, and Principal of Yasodara Balika, Gampaha before she joined Devi Balika as the principal.

What is most striking in Mrs. Lakshman is her simplicity and charming manner. She is humble and approachable. She is a good listener and gives a patient hearing to those who come to her with innumerable problems and has the ability to make an unbiased decision.

Through regular interaction with students, she was able to identify the strengths and talents of them. She provided opportunities for them and guided them in the correct directions.

The support, guidance and co-operation of her husband Prof. W.D.Lakshman ( later honoured with the title Deshamanya) were always there with her in doing all these ventures.

It is due to her efforts that a hostel for Devi Balika became a reality. She not only obtained the premises but was also involved and interested in every move towards the progress and development of the hostel.

Mrs. Kalyani Lakshman is an efficient, fortunate and lucky person. It is after she took over as principal that several groups of past pupils working on different projects facing many hardships and several years of struggle, were able to 'see the light at the end of the tunnel'. Some of the major projects are:

- The Wimala de Silva Auditorium
- The "Sarana" Devi Balika Hostel
- The Kalyani de Zoysa Library Complex
- Devi Archives

She had the strength, ability and courage to lead Devi Balika and its pupils towards the goals which our founder principal initiated. Dear Mrs. Lakshman, as Devi PPA members, our sincere wishes are with you.