



Mr. Leslie Mahase: An Icon

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“Have a disciplined, tolerant and productive day. Be your brothers’ and sisters’ keeper. Look out for one another.” No longer will we, the students and staff of Hillview College, hear these words echoed through the main hall each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. No longer will we be greeted by the warm, reassuring smile, amicable gestures or excitable announcements of our Principal Mr. Leslie Mahase. 2021 is not just the second year of what feels like a perpetual, global pandemic, it is also the year our beloved Principal will be retiring after a career of distinguished service in the educational fraternity. To us, Mr. Mahase was more than a Principal, he was an icon.

But what makes Mr. Leslie Mahase an icon? For one, Mr. Mahase has had a long, illustrious career at his alma mater Hillview College. He joined the staff of Hillview in 1983, and in his 38 year long career, functioned as Dean of Studies from 2000-2005, Vice Principal from 2005 to 2007 and Principal of our esteemed institution from 2007-2021. His years of service exemplifies his loyalty, love and commitment to our institution, not just for part, but for the entirety of his professional career. He is indeed iconically “hillview to the bone.”

The diversity, range and depth of Mr. Mahase’s service at Hillview College, inside and outside of the classroom, is worthy of veneration. He taught the Sciences which were his speciality at University, specifically, Biology, and also taught Chemistry and Physics. But, in addition, he

taught subjects in the field of Humanities, like Religious Education, Ethics and General Paper proving he is a man of many talents.

Outside of the classroom, he served on many diverse committees during his tenure at Hillview College, including the Discipline and Studies departments, numerous Special Events Committees, Sports Committees and Graduation Committees. What students may not know is that Mr. Mahase was also, at one point, the Head of the Sports Department and the Head of Grant House. He was also the coach of the swim team for a time before Mr. Sterling Manchouck became the current coach. His iconic presence has pervaded every aspect of Hillview life from academia to sports, both inside and outside of the classroom, as a teacher and as an administrator.

An icon is also known for his significant, memorable contributions and Mr. Mahase has made so many tangible, positive contributions to Hillview College, especially in his years as Principal. Under his tenure as Principal, there was a meteoric increase in the number of co and extra curricular activities at the school which continues to grow until today. The Journalism Society was just one of the many clubs that thrived under his tenure. Additionally, the expansion and rehabilitation of the playing field or the “hill” which students enjoy was also facilitated by Mr. Mahase. So when you venture on the hill for a “sweat” with your friends, remember this was a treasured accomplishment of our icon, Mr. Mahase. The complete refurbishment of the labs and staffroom and the construction of two new buildings to facilitate the expansion of the curriculum, along with the anticipated increase of students and staff was also an achievement under his tenureship as Principal. Perhaps Mr. Mahase was also our good-luck charm because in his years as Principal, Hillview had a record hat-trick of national titles among secondary schools by both the Premiership Cricket and Swim Teams in 2017, 2018 and 2019. These victories did not come easily, but came through the provision of resources, training, coaching and sponsorship which Mr. Mahase masterfully organized. To top the icing on the cake, Amrit

Galbaran brought the President's gold medal home to Hillview in 2020 which symbolically and simultaneously signalled a final stellar achievement for our Principal, Mr. Mahase, in his last year of service.

There are countless people in the world who have amazing talent, but there are only a few who can reach icon status. The profound and indelible impact Mr. Mahase has made to Hillview College marks him as one of our icons. As he retired in April 2021, Mr. Leslie Mahase will certainly be missed by all of the parents, students, staff and members of the community but his legacy will continue to live on and his impact will always be remembered. While generations before us will have their icons, we too have ours. We, the students, wish our icon Mr. Mahase a happy and blessed retirement.

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