



VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

Volume 3

Issue 2

April 2011

VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged
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NEW YEAR 2011

The New Year began on a good note with Mr.Lakshminarasimhan and family visiting Vasantham as they do every year. His grand daughter's birthday celebration took place the same day and they sponsored the breakfast for all the children that day. In the afternoon, Satya Sai bhajan was organised by a group of Vasantham's well-wishers. They donated teaching and play materials and also sponsored the lunch for the day. Special thanks to all of them for making the beginning of the year, memorable.



INAUGURATION OF VOCATIONAL UNIT - EMPLOY & EMPOWER

The inaugural ceremony of the mobile vocational unit by the differently abled at Vasantham was held on the 27th of February 2011 (Sunday) at 3.30 pm. The mobile vocational unit titled "Employ & Empower" was funded by Citizens' Run Trust and was inaugurated by the Trustee, Mr. Ranvir Shah. Other guests who were present were Mrs. Jaya Krishnaswamy & Mrs. Vimala Kannan, Madhuram Narayan Centre, Mr. Natarajan Raman and volunteers from Dream India and Punnagai Charitable Trusts, Mr. Rahul Nambiar (Playback singer), Ms. Chithra Parameshwaran (Speech Language Pathologist), Mr. Krishnamurthy, Vasantham's well-wisher and many parents of children at Vasantham. Children received trophies in appreciation for their work and the stipend holders were honoured. Bank passbooks of children already receiving stipends were also handed over.



NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF VASANTHAM

A casual vacancy was created by the demise of the Past President of the Board of Management of Vasantham, Late. Rev. Dr. S. Suvishamuthu. In lieu of this, Mr. B. Suresh Kamath was elected and will serve as the President of the Board of Management of Vasantham henceforth. Further, it was discussed and decided by the members of the board of management of Vasantham that Dr. Rev. S. Suvishamuthu's birth anniversary will be observed and celebrated at Vasantham on the 18th of January every year.



Dr. Rev. S. Suvishamuthu



Mr. B. Suresh Kamath

PONGAL CELEBRATION

Pongal celebration was held on the 9th of January 2011. A variety of cultural shows were organised. Lots of games were conducted. Pongal was celebrated in complete tradition with *thoranam* tied all around the Vasantham campus, Pongal being cooked in the traditional earthen pot. *Rangoli* competition was also held. Volunteers from Dream India and Punnagai trusts, parents, special education trainees from Vijay Human Services participated enthusiastically to make it a very memorable day for all the children and their parents.



DONATION

Classroom and therapy materials were donated by Mr. Prasanna, Ms. Shruthi & friends from the Psych Gang, USA. These materials were specifically selected and purchased from Super Duper Inc., USA.

Mr. Prasanna, Ms. Shruthi & family visited Vasantham, spent time with kids and donated the materials. These materials have been of profound use, drawing the children to learn more from them!!



Eye SCREENING CAMP

An eye screening camp was conducted by Vasan Eye Care Hospital on the 23rd March 2011. Hundred and thirty two children were screened. The camp went on for the whole day and the doctors patiently screened all our children. Special thanks to the team of doctors who came over. Children who require further detailed evaluation will be followed up on a later date this year.



Visit by DDRO

The District Differently Abled Rehabilitation Officer, Mr. Joseph Ravi visited Vasantham on the 19th of February 2011. The purpose of this visit was to inspect the institution and gauge the activities for the renewal of the recognition. He applauded the inspiring work being undertaken at our institution, having also heard praise worthy feedback from several people.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fifteen Special Educators attended a 2 day Seminar on "Facilitating communication in children with autism spectrum disorders" on the 25th and 26th of February 2011. This seminar was organised by the Department of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences & Vidyasudha at Sri Ramachandra University.

STALL

Vasantham products were exhibited and put on sale at our stall at the All India Otorhinolaryngologist Conference (AOICON) organized from the 6th to 9th of January 2011. The stall was at Chennai Trade Centre. Special thanks to Dr.Sundari, ENT surgeon, Sundharam Medical Foundation, for facilitating the same and Dr. Mohan Kameshwaran, Madras ENT Research Foundation for sponsoring the stall.

The following donors and well-wishers visited Vasantham during the past months, spending quality time with the children,

- President and Secretary of Shree Gujarat Stri Mandal. They have also donated classroom furniture.*
- Current President, President-elect and members from our long time sponsor, Food bank RYA Madras metro.*
- Students from Spartan and Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary Schools.*