



VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

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VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged
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NEW YEAR 2013

2013 New Year began with Mr. Natarajan Raman from Dream India coming in on the 31st of December 2012 with a cake and icing pastries. Kids were surprised and thrilled. On the 1st of January 2013, Mr. Lakshminarasimhan, Mr. Sowrirajan and family visited Vasantham. As they do every year, Ms. Sowjanya's birthday was celebrated at Vasantham that morning. They joined the kids during breakfast and spent quality time interacting with the kids.



PONGAL CELEBRATIONS

Anyone who walked through the streets of East Mogappair would have found colourful decorations taking them back to the old childhood days, a feel of being. It was on the 6th of January 2013, a Sunday morning, when 'Pongal-o-pongal' was being celebrated at Vasantham. Vasantham's campus was tastefully decorated with thoranams and kolams. Children were dressed colourfully with mehendi and nail polish on their fingernails. Pongal was prepared in two big pots with outdoor fire at Vasantham's campus.

Several games were conducted with the intention of improving various skills like fine motor, eye-hand-co-ordination, etc. The children participated in all the games with overwhelming enthusiasm. Further, rangoli competition was conducted for the parents and volunteers. Family members of Mr. Ashok Kumar, Assistant Commissioner of Police, distributed the prizes to the winners. Everyone had a filling lunch with two varieties of Pongal and sugarcane. Post lunch was the best event of the day, 'uri adithal', a traditional game of breaking a pot of water tied up high while being blindfolded. It was surprising to see many kids at Vasantham who had difficulty in ambulation, move around comfortably attempting to break the pot. The children went back home with a bag full of gifts and goodies.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

The 64th Republic day was observed on the 26th of January 2013. Mr. Arulmozhi, reporter-Tamilan TV and Mogappair talk, was the chief guest for the event. He has been a long time supporter and well-wisher of Vasantham. It's been his constant support which has paved the way for almost every programme at Vasantham to be in the media focus. The day began with lighting the kuthuvilakku and a prayer song by Vasantham children. Following this, the chief guest hoisted the national flag. Children were dressed up colourfully and performed dances for a couple of songs whilst others sang patriotic songs as well. It was heart warming to witness the interest they expressed and the co-ordination they maintained inspite of the limited practise. The chief guest was accompanied by his son, who did the media coverage of the event. Further, the chief guest appreciated the Vasantham family for the work and promised to continue his support through all possible means. The programme for the day concluded with the national anthem.



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

On the 8th of March 2013, United India Bank had invited the Founder & Director of Vasantham, Mrs. Alli Murugesan and couple of students to join their Women's Day celebration. They also provided donation to Vasantham. Further, staff from New India Assurance visited Vasantham and spent time interacting with the kids. All the kids enjoyed their presence. Further, they donated teaching/play materials and vessels for the school.



AYYAPPAN POOJA

An Ayyappan pooja was conducted at Vasantham on the 16th of February 2013 by the ONGC team. The day began with kids and staff alike decorating the school and gearing up for the pooja. The entire school wore a festive look. Laksharchana was conducted in the morning. It was surprising to witness the kids perform the archana so meticulously. Around 11 am, Kalaimaamani Thiru Veeramani Raju arrived with his team and began the bajan. Words cannot describe the happiness and peace experienced by everyone present. He sang songs of all religion and had everyone mesmerized. Thiru Veeramani and his team were surprised by the knowledge of our kids on bajan songs and praised the efforts of all involved. Delicious lunch was served following the pooja. Vasantham would like to thank the entire ONGC team and Thiru Veeramani and his team for their efforts and time spent with children with special needs. The entire day was a great experience for the children as well as those present.



PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Vasantham children participated in the educational programme conducted by Dream India on the 24th of February 2013. Children from few other NGOs such as Udhavum Nanbargal and Iyarkai participated in the programme conducted at Alathur village. Vasantham children took part in the elocution, drawing, essay, Thirukural recitation and quiz competitions. One of our students, Jayakanth won the first prize in elocution competition. Further, couple of our children also won special prizes in Thirukural recitation and drawing competitions. It was good to see children from all schools cheer each other, maintaining a sportsmanship spirit. The day ended with an enthralling array of cultural programs by all the children. The entire day's events proved to be of great joy to all the participants and children at Vasantham too. Vasantham thanks Dream India for consistently providing opportunities for Vasantham to participate and compete with normal school children in various educational competitions.



GLIMPSES

- *Friends from Shell India Markets Private Limited visited Vasantham on the 12th of March 2012 and conducted drawing competition for the kids. Kids enjoyed the day with the volunteers.*



- *Dental screening camp was conducted by SRM Dental College. Children who require further treatment are receiving the same at SRM Dental College. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ravi, Dean; Dr. Magesh and team for their support in this great endeavour.*
- *On behalf of the Department of Human Genetics, Sri Ramachandra University, Ms. Shruthi visited Vasantham on the 25th of February 2013 and donated teaching and play materials to the special children.*



- *Nursing students from Omayal Achi College of Nursing and Thai Moongambikai College of Nursing visited Vasantham on the 15th of February 2013.*
- *Stall with products prepared by special children at Vasantham was displayed (for sale) at Paypal office at Sholinganallur on the 5th of March 2013.*
- *Stall with products prepared by special children at Vasantham was displayed (for sale) at Wipro office at Sholinganallur on the 7th of March 2013.*
- *The mosaic in the kitchen and dining hall has been replaced by vitrified tiles on the floor and walls. Vasantham thanks Foundation Marc Sauquet for their support in making this possible.*
- *A week of cleaning the floor of hostel rooms and rest rooms happened in the month of March 2013 by a handful of volunteers. Vasantham thanks them and our student Jaghadeesh's father for making the necessary arrangements for the same.*

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Vasantham's Board of management member and our long time supporter, Mr. Venkat celebrated his birthday by cutting a cake and sponsoring food for the special children at Vasantham on the 23rd of February 2013.



One of our long time supporters, Mr. 'Blade' Shankar celebrated his daughter's first birthday with the special children at Vasantham. He sponsored the food for the day. Kids enjoyed their presence. Further, Baby Sahana cut a cake and distributed sweets to all the children with her family. All children were gifted with a cap by Mr. 'Blade' Shankar and family.



As done every year, one of our students Jagadeesh's birthday was celebrated on the 27th of March 2013. His birthday is one of the most awaited birthdays by all children. His family was present on the day to cut the cake. They distributed gifts to all children and staff. Kids enjoyed the day thoroughly. The food for the day was sponsored by his parents.

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