



VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

Volume 6

Issue 2

April 2014

VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged
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Up in the air ☺

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NEW YEAR 2014

New year began with one of Vasantham's long term supporters Ms. Sowghanthika's birthday celebration and food sponsor by her family, as done every year. The snacks for the evening were sponsored by Mr. Ganesh, via Dream India. Children enjoyed the day with goodies and watching various shows on television. Special prayer for well being and prosperity was also carried out.

REPUBLIC DAY

Republic day was observed on 26th of January 2014 when Mas. Siddheshwar hoisted the national flag along with Mr. Natarajan Raman from Dream India. The significance of Republic Day was discussed, following which sweets were distributed to all the children in the hostel.



GIFT A CONCERT

It was a typical Margazhi month for individuals with special needs at Vasantham. On the 3rd of January 2014, students from Bhoomika Trust conducted a Carnatic concert with the title 'Gift a concert', with three students of renowned singer Smt. Bombay Jayashree performing vocal, mridangam and violin. The concert went on for about one and half hours. All the children and adults were engrossed in the concert. They were seated patiently for the entire show, expressed keen interest in music and appreciated the efforts of the artistes. The artistes also took extra care and efforts to entertain the children. Further, the programme came to an end with an amazing performance by one of Vasantham's students, Mr. Jayakanth who kept the spectators spell-bound.



VISITORS

Students from Apollo College of Nursing, Sri Ramachandra University, Veltec and Thai Moogambigai visited Vasantham on various days ranging from one day to a period of 2 weeks. Further, the students and faculty from Apollo College helped in the preparation of health registry, conducted basic first aid classes for teachers and parents during parents-teachers meeting and relaxation therapy for teachers. Dentists and students from Chettinad Hospital conducted Dental camp for children and staff at Vasantham. Special thanks to Dr. Shivakumar for organizing the same. Further, members from ONGC Mahila Samithi donated vessels, teaching and play materials, provision to Vasantham kids.



PONGAL CELEBRATION

Pongal celebration was held on the 4th of January 2014, when the entire campus was decorated traditionally with thoranam and kolam. The kids, staff, parents and volunteers were dressed colourfully and neatly arranged the bricks for preparing pongal in the open under sunlight. The wicks of the traditional lamp was lit by the students and staff. As the Pongal was being prepared, dance, music, several games and competitions such as Rangoli, balancing the carom coins were conducted. A game of uri adithal was also organised and most children expressed profound interest to participate in the same. A variety of delicious dishes were served for all following which prize and gifts distribution were held. Kids enjoyed taking goodies back home. Volunteers from Dream India and Punnagai trusts were part of the day. Many children went on vacation and school re-opened on the 17th of January 2014 after Pongal holidays.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

- Our constant supporter and well-wisher Mr. Blade Sankar's daughter Baby.Sahana's birthday was celebrated on the 9th of February 2014. Further, Mr. Blade Shankar celebrated his birthday also at Vasantham with the children on 23rd of February.
- One of our longtime supporters Ms. Thalir celebrated her daughter Nandhana/Nila's birthday at Vasantham on the 28th of January 2014. Cakes, sweets and snacks were distributed for all the kids.
- One of our students, Mr.Jaghadeesh celebrated his birthday at Vasantham on the 27th of March 2014 by cutting cake, giving away numerous interesting gifts for the children every year.



FIELD VISIT

Individuals with special needs in the elementary class were accompanied by four staff to Padhashaala School. Students from Vasantham did enjoy every aspect of the day starting with the environment, hospitality and the activities. Children keenly observed the experiments carried out by the students and explanation by the faculty members. In the current fast moving world, it was a great opportunity for Vasantham kids to experience and visit an institute respecting and following eco-friendly and traditional values. Thanks to United Way of Chennai for introducing Padhashaala to Vasantham kids.



EXCURSION

An excursion was organised for the children at Vasantham on the 22nd of February 2014. The children enjoyed watching animals and birds. They also enjoyed playing on the park which had the swing, slide, etc. Snacks were served in the middle. Lunch was served in the park in the eating area. Further, these individuals visited the beach and had a great time. Children played various games in the beach. Special thanks to Apollo College of Nursing for providing transportation facility and sending student volunteers to join the kids for the excursion.



GLIMPSES

Maintenance: Netlon mosquito net was installed at the hostel and classrooms during the first week of January.

Meeting: Board of the Management was held on 3rd January 2014; Parents-teaching meeting on 1st March.

New entries: New students were evaluated on 20th January 2014; New staff members have joined.

Stall: Stall with products prepared by individuals with special needs was displayed at Welcome Colony during Women's Day celebration on the 31st of March 2014.

TALENTS IN THE AIR

End of January and early February 2014 was filled with high decibel levels in Mogappair. The reason for which was the practise sessions and preliminary rounds of the Sports Day at Vasantham, a special school for the mentally challenged. 1st of February 2014 brought the summary of events and felicitation process together. The event was inaugurated by Ms.Souhantika, National Chess Champion. About 30 individuals with special needs accompanied by staff and volunteers took a rally around East Mogappair by carrying the torch and the banner commemorating the Silver Jubilee celebration of Vasantham. This sensitization rally was carried out as a part of the 25th year of Vasantham's growth. Many kids surprised the people on the road by walking with pride.

Post rally, children enthralled everyone displaying their skills on several outdoor and indoor events such as running race, frog race, potato gathering, cricket, throw ball, kabbadi, carrom, chess, etc. Most games were planned with the intention to improve motor skills of the kids. It was a pleasure to watch them cheer, support and help each other during various sports and games. Parents and volunteers were stunned to see the talent and the energy kids displayed in enabling and encouraging their friends to win.

Volunteers from Thalir, Punnagai, Dream India, Chennai Volunteers and other well wishers were present the whole day and cheered the efforts of children. Volunteers also gave away the prizes that included trophies, medals and certificates to children. Proud children displaying their medals and trophies were a sight to behold. The day ended with vote of thanks followed by National anthem. Children, parents, staff and volunteers had a day that would remain forever in their memory

