



# VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

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VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged  
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## CITIZENS' RUN TRUST

Citizens' run trust, who is our constant supporter, had their annual run organised on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2010 (Sunday). We participated in the run and children enjoyed walking on the beach lane. We also gave a short interview to the Hindu NDTV media about Vasantham's work and the support offered by Citizen's Run to the needy. This year Vasantham will be supported by Citizens' Run towards vocational training project (purchase of a mobile bunk house).

We had also participated in the press conference organised prior to the run, in the month of July, which included dignitaries from The Hindu, Indian Express, Citizen's Run, Madras Round Table, other NGOs and media.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY ...

India's 64<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrations at Vasantham was truly a special affair. The programme got off with 'varna bhagwan' darkening the sky. However, he showered his blessings instead of rain.

The programme began with the guests lighting the traditional 'Kuthuvillaku'. Followed by this, special children of Vasantham sang a prayer song. The national flag was hoisted by the guest Shri. V.Doraiswamy, Chief Promoter and Managing Director of Abhinitha Foundation. He was generous enough to support Vasantham by funding the re-painting of the entire campus during summer holidays. Followed by this, a block printing unit sponsored by Punnagai Trust was inaugurated and it will be a part of Vasantham's vocational training section where adolescent and adults with special needs (Intellectual Disability, Autism, Borderline intelligence) will be involved in designing bags, mats, table and bed spreads. Considering the need for a new vehicle to pick-up and drop children to and from Vasantham, Shri. Krishnamoorthy, a constant well-wisher and donor to Vasantham, inaugurated our brand new Tata Magic.

This was followed by a Cultural programme, where the children were colourfully dressed to express their talent in various programmes. They kick-started proceedings with a prayer song, which was exclusively written and tuned for Vasantham. They also sang several other patriotic songs such as Vande Mataram and Paarukullae nala naadu. Children expressed their yoga skills by performing a sequence of steps involved in 'surya namaskar', which is being taught to them by our yoga instructor (Smt.Swahila Shambhavi) twice in a week, to all the children, at no cost. Other cultural shows included the pussy cat dance, traditional kerala onam dance - 'kai kotti kali', fusion dance, song with the theme of unity (not just between religions, but with respect to acceptance of children with special needs by the society), thirsty crow story, human pyramid and also the semmozhiyam thamizh mozhi song. Everything was indeed a visual treat for the audience.

Prizes were distributed by Dr. H.Thamizhchelvan, Associate Professor, Faculty of Dental Sciences, Sri Ramachandra University and other guests to all the children. Dr. Thamizhchelvan has been instrumental in facilitating various health camps at Vasantham and has promised to continue doing the same and more. We did have our guest's family members, friends from Swasam trust, parents and other well-wishers join us for the celebration.



## TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION

The teacher's day celebration was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2010. Our yoga instructor Ms. Swahilya Shambhavi was the guest of honour. She delivered a brief lecture and made all the parents feel the essence of yoga. Rev. Suviseshamuthu, President, board of the management of Vasantham graced the occasion with his presence. The guests felicitated both our teachers and staff. Rev. Suiveseshamuthu's speech on the role of teachers in children with special needs was very motivating and encouraging. The stipend holders among our students were also felicitated. Few of our parent's partially supported the expenses towards the celebration.



## CHILDREN'S PARK

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, children visited the children's park at Guindy. Parents and volunteers from Punnagai and Swasam team joined us. Children enjoyed watching various animals, birds, snakes, and had a great time playing in the park on the slide, swing etc.

