



As is our tradition, Saibaba Central School entered the new academic year with our Teacher Training Programme (TTP). All the teachers reported to School on 30 June 2012 feeling refreshed and eager to face the new school year with renewed energy and zeal. The TTP started under the able guidance of the Principal Mr. P. Chandra Sekhar Rao.

School Assembly

The school assembly has become an interesting event for everyone in the School. It is a platform where children can compete with each other (house wise) and show case their talents, and a place of empowerment where students can train themselves to conquer their fear of speaking in public. Students from all classes take part in the assembly and may speak to the School. This year we have added "Improve your Word Power". Every day a new word and its usage is explained by one of the children, and students try to use it in their conversation that day. The word is also written on the communication board on the second floor and children are encouraged to learn and use this word in their day-to-day life.

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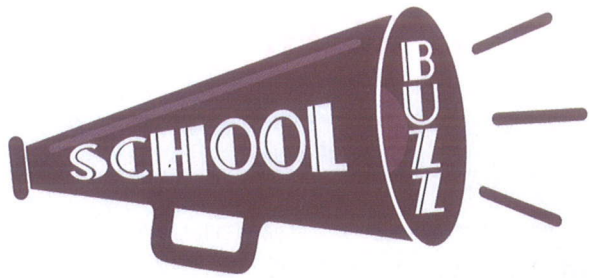
Positive Behaviour Management



Because our school follows a policy of no corporal punishment, it is imperative that our teachers master the art of skillful classroom management, the kind that fosters positive behaviour in the classroom. The Principal took the class and explained positive behaviour management and its various aspects.

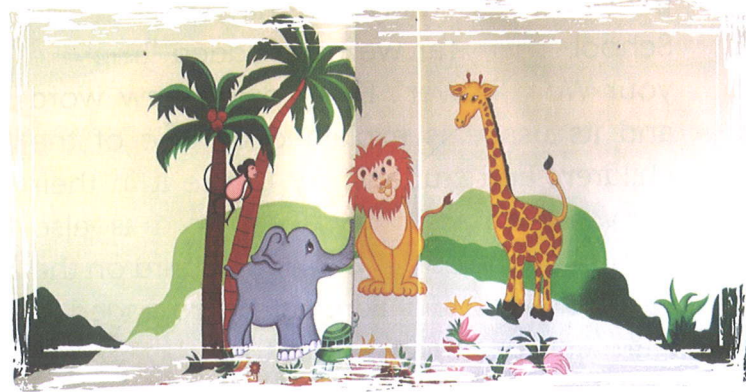
While giving the teachers a general idea of the common problems that could lead to a child behaving inappropriately, he asked the teachers to look into the causes of such behaviour. Not only did he give the teachers tips and techniques to tackle inappropriate behaviour, he also refreshed their knowledge about the theories of reward and punishment.

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Colourful Kindergarten

The pre-school section and kindergarten are giving a colourful and pleasant welcome to the tiny tots. They will find their classroom adorned with beautiful murals – a joyful introduction into their new environment. The murals feature various themes, such as ocean with interesting creatures in it, a forest and its dwellers, a moral story, a countryside view when traveling by train, and characters of Micky Mouse and his friends. The themes used in these murals create a playful and magical environment that will bring to life the children's imagination.



Positive Behaviour Management

From Page 1

(This theory is central to B.F. Skinner's premise of Operant Conditioning and how to bring such theories into practice through programmes like the Coin System, or the Discipline Committee.) Of course, the reward and punishment system is only a part of the solution. The other part lies entirely in the way that a teacher deals with a child, so it is vital that the teacher possesses the skills of conflict management and effective communication.

The most important ingredient in achieving the right solution to a negative behaviour problem is the teacher's expression of care and affection towards the child. Once the child forms a bond with the teacher, the teacher can use that bond to steer the child towards positive behaviour. For example, a teacher could express how the child's behaviour affects her through active listening or by using 'I' statements like "I feel..., when you..." Eventually, such resolutions will lead to a classroom environment that motivates the children to achieve good grades while encouraging discipline, nurturing the spirit of healthy competition, and building positive attitudes and a productive atmosphere and happy relationships.

Means of Communication

In this computer age, the arrival of new gadgets is causing people to forget one of the oldest means of communication. Students are well-versed in and dependent on instant messages such as SMS and e-mail. Consequently, many are losing the art of letter writing. To remedy this, the students of Class VII were given a project to write to their fellow classmates using either an inland cover or a postal envelope. Children were excited to go to the post office to buy the covers. They wrote to all their friends and are keeping the letters and replies as souvenirs.

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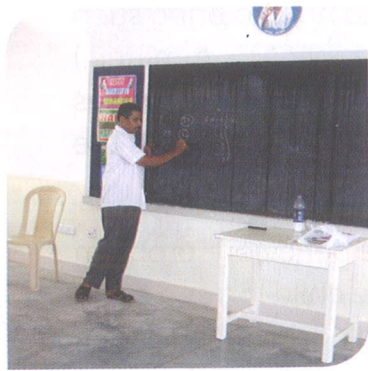
Saibaba Central School

Sai Babuji Nagar

ONGOLE

Prakasam Dt. - 523105

Guest Lecturers



Our teachers at SCS were truly fortunate to meet and learn from experienced teachers from across the state who were invited to share their knowledge and expertise in the field of education.

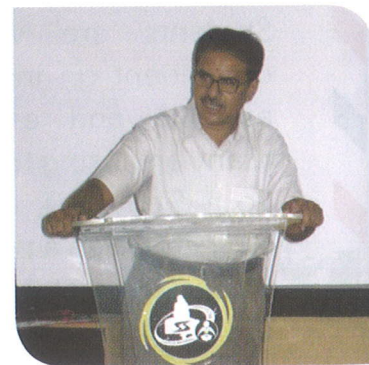
Foremost among the guest lecturers was Mr. NCS Rao, a man with an enviable academic record as a teacher for forty-six years. He is considered to be a legendary teacher, a guru in the true sense of the word and, is beloved by many of his students.

Mr. NCS Rao started his session with the words "Mother is the first teacher." Thus, he explained, a teacher must try to emulate the nurturing qualities of a mother – nurturing and helping a child to become a building block in the future of our nation. Mr. NCS Rao also said a great teacher is a constant learner, one who is always aware of the latest developments in his field of study, thereby gaining mastery in that field. In addition, he believes there are no limits to the ways in which one can teach a topic. The more one explores, the more ways of teaching one will find, he said.

Mr. NCS Rao stressed that a teacher must not merely be an instrument to transfer knowledge to a student, but also someone who instills ethical and moral values in the students. To do this, one must follow such ethics and morals oneself. Only such a person can ever really be a leader or a role model. He believes that it is important for students to have someone they can emulate and admire. Such a role model can influence them to become the kind of citizens that will benefit our country and the world.

Later, during a question-and-answer session, he shared further nuggets of wisdom from his decades as a teacher, additional insights into the art of teaching, and advice on how to deal with some of the challenging children in class.

(Mr. N.C.S Rao started his academic career as a teacher and housemaster in Sainik School, Korukonda. He worked there with distinction for twenty years. Later he served as the principal of VPS Siddhardha Public School, Vijayawada for eleven years. Then, for fifteen years, he took up the reins of Krishnaveni Educational Society and guided it to distinction. He is now retired and lives with his family in Vijayawada.)



Mobile Science Exhibition

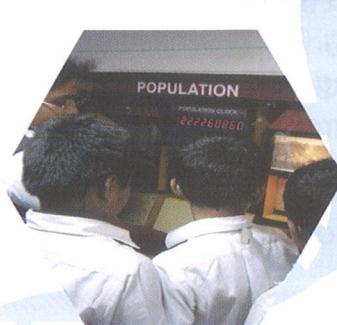


We had the opportunity to have a Mobile Science Exhibition on the environment from Regional Science Centre, Tirupathi visit our School. The exhibition consisted of three main sections:

- **Ecology:** Dealt with the diverse nature of life that exists in oceans, on land and nature's interdependence.
- **Environmental Pollution:** Dealt with the causes of pollution in air, water and soil and the pollutants. It showed the difference in the lifestyle of urban and rural areas, and how lifestyle can contribute to pollution.
- **Conservation of environment:** The rapid depletion of natural and conventional energy resources and the need to conserve the sparse resources.

Students from Classes V to X visited the exhibition and understood that most of our serious environmental problems are due to lack of awareness.

Some students of Classes VIII, IX and X took the initiative to explain the exhibits in detail to all the students who visited the exhibition. They were able to answer many questions like: Why is our planet blue? Why is Venus very hot? Why is Mars very cold? What makes Mars red? Is it clear water or dirty water that sustains more life forms?



| Focusing on Social Studies

Explaining that maths helps us lead a better life, language helps to communicate, and science makes life comfortable, Mr. NCS Rao said that Social Sciences combines everything and tells us how to use everything. As a Social Science teacher, one must teach students about their country, land and people and explain the role humans play in constructive as well as destructive roles. History, one of the Social Sciences, tells us about the lives of people, where they lived, when they lived and how they lived. Geography, another of the Social Sciences, teaches us about our country. Civics, still another, instructs us how to govern, and economics informs us how to manage. Mr. NCS Rao explained the fundamental concepts in Social Studies along with techniques to make learning easy for children.

In the concluding interactive session, teachers learned how trivial things can matter greatly in moulding a student into a good citizen.

In addition, a very informative group discussion was held with the teachers of Biological Sciences and lecturer Mr. Ramprasad. He is known to everyone as a walking encyclopaedia and he enlightened the teachers in various areas of biology.

The Telugu department had an opportunity to undergo a workshop conducted by Mr. Hema Sankar Rao. He emphasized how a Telugu teacher can teach children to learn Telugu in the easiest of ways. He also taught them various techniques to overcome mistakes while writing and speaking.

On the 4 June an ELT (English Language Teaching) workshop was conducted by Mr. Pardhasarathy. He had worked for twenty-five years in CBSE schools and held various administrative positions, as well as conducting more than one hundred teacher-training workshops in various organisations; he has attended and chaired many seminars in ELT.

The workshop consisted of various sessions with different topics for all English teachers. A session on Communication Skills was presented in which Mr. Pardhasarathy taught the difference between using communication as a tool to learn a language and using a language to communicate. He emphasized the three qualities of communication: appropriacy, fluency, and accuracy. He explained the phonological and morphological orders and their role in communication. He spoke about various strategies in classroom activities such as group discussions, pair work, dramatisation, seminars, speeches and role-playing. Mr. Pardhasarathy also explained how to instil the strategies such as turn taking, turn making and turn denying in the minds of young learners in debates and group discussions.

The afternoon session on phonetics was conducted exclusively for English teachers to help the children to develop standard pronunciation.

| How to Make a Good Question Paper

Questions provide a feedback on what students are learning and they can stimulate development of higher-level thinking skills, strategies, and habits. Questions also distinguish mechanical learning, or learning by rote, from learning for understanding. Therefore, a question paper is the basic tool used in an examination to test the learning of a student. Validity, reliability and usability are the three main attributes of a good test. To make a test valid, it is necessary to analyse the objectives of the course and decide which questions (such as multiple choice, very short answer, short answers or essay type questions) are to be included for testing, by giving weight to the objectives of the test, namely knowledge, understanding and application skills. A good question really tests what it is intended to test.

To make the test valid, the design of the question paper plays an important role. This topic was addressed by our Principal Mr. PCS Rao. The following points were covered in his presentation:

- ☑ A good question paper contains questions that cover various learning outcomes and follows learning levels based on Bloom's taxonomy.
- ☑ Bloom's taxonomy of learning objective is a key tool in structuring and understanding the learning process.
- ☑ Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) are those skills in the top 3 levels – analysis, synthesis and evaluation – and are important in Critical thinking.
- ☑ Keeping the questions simple to provide clarity.
- ☑ Ambiguity in questions must be strictly avoided.



| Kindle eBook Reader

The Kindle is an e-book reader which enables its users to shop for books, then download and read them. We can read e-books, newspapers, magazines and blogs on the Kindle. The name itself means to light a fire and it is an apt metaphor for kindling intellectual excitement. The School, wanting its pupils to develop a love for reading and thereby to improve their English skills, has purchased many Kindle e readers. We are happy to report that about two hundred books have been downloaded onto each of these Kindles and will be given to students to read books during the library period.

Einstein said, *"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."*

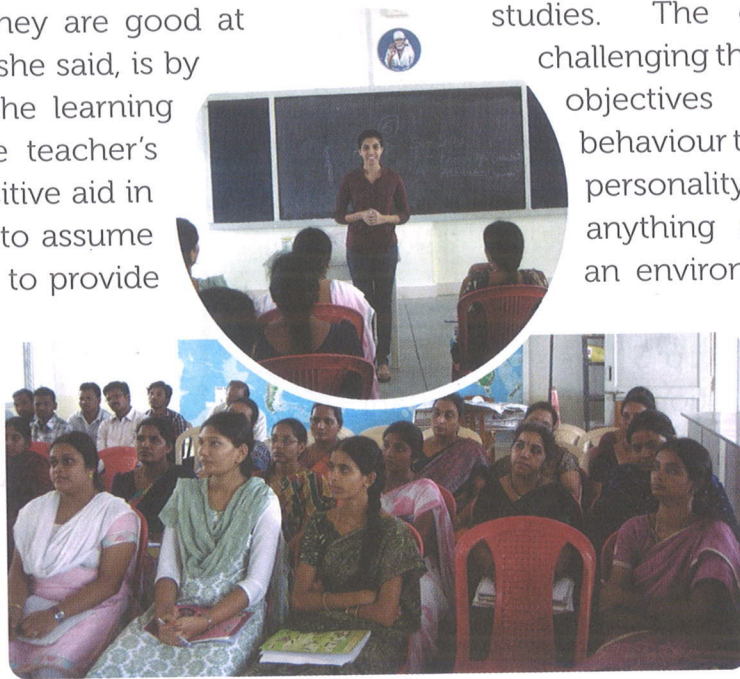


Interactive Session with our Academic Director, Ms. Sruti Sainathuni

As a part of the orientation programme for our teachers, Academic Director Ms. Sruti Sainathuni held an interactive session, "Our Vision and Mission." She reminded our teachers how their work can be effective and successful by infusing love of learning; nurturing the spirit of enquiry; providing a secure and stimulating environment; and by preparing a sound foundation for the later stages of the children's education. She made us aware how our school pledge and prayer aptly reflect the ethos of the school.

Talking about the problems teachers face in the classroom, especially ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), Ms. Sruti Sainathuni said that although learning-challenged students may never sit still, they are good at them under control, she said, is by work. She stressed the learning emphasized that the teacher's ADHD must be a positive aid in Sruti warned us not to assume wanted the teachers to provide can freely express his She also challenged inspire the students that they learn by by our teaching. emotional reaction everything, she to stroke the and see what

studies. The only way to keep challenging them and praising their objectives of the child and behaviour towards students with personality development. Ms. anything about children. She an environment where a child or her inner feelings. the teachers to to such an extent themselves and not Concluding that is at the core of told the teachers emotions of a child wonders will follow.



On the third day, Ms Sruti talked about punctuation. These are the non-verbal signs which help a reader to understand and interpret written communication. Punctuation enables a reader to recognize the writer's intention. Worksheets were distributed to teachers to work on the exercises there and then.

School Assembly

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The General Knowledge quiz, which is scheduled for every Thursday, motivates the children to go through various General Knowledge books. Most students of Class VI and above get their personal copy of The Hindu each working day at the School. Every week the number of students who get 100 per cent in English spelling is increasing; the names of these top performers are announced in the assembly as a reward.

Arrival of New Bus

The School has bought a new bus as part of its commitment to provide our students with a safe and comfortable journey to School and back.



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$$2+2=4$$



Correction of Class Workbooks

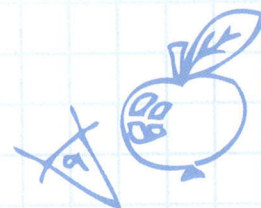
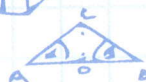
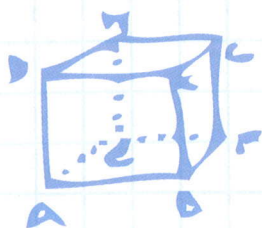
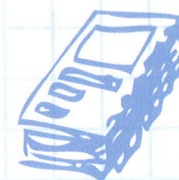
Class workbooks are authentic learning tools for all students. After a thorough explanation of the lesson, the teacher writes notes on the blackboard. Responsibility for copying the notes correctly into their books now lies with the students. In order to make the students realize this responsibility clearly, the teachers have been instructed to stop correcting the class notebooks. Teachers explain the disadvantages of taking incorrect notes to the students. Initially teachers faced some hurdles, especially in Telugu and Hindi, but children are realizing their responsibility and are writing the notes correctly. We are very happy to see the change in them.

α, β, γ

ABC



$$a^2=b^2+c^2$$



$$1+1=2$$

New Discipline System

The School has organized a Discipline Committee comprised of a group of teachers. Each teacher is assigned a particular area of responsibility. The duties of the committee include checking the neatness of classrooms, arrangement of books on the shelves, and students' uniforms. In addition, the committee checks on students' regular school attendance. For each area ten points are awarded per week. Finally, all these points are totalled and the highest-scoring class is announced. Students are thus motivated and are beginning to score full points in all areas.



Instruction in State Syllabus Maths

The students of Class V to X are given ample training in State syllabus maths. Every week, a test is given with multiple-choice questions. Students who perform well in the test are called to the stage and honoured in front of the School. This generates a keen desire to do well.

Words Worth - Interactive English

To enhance the standards in spoken English among children, SCS launched an advanced programme called Words Worth. It is a computer-based training for spoken English and is designed for learning English while enjoying the experience of instant correction of pronunciation. The programme is designed in eight modules, and each module is further subdivided into eight sessions.

The most important feature of this software is that it is developed in the order of LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing). A student can master any language by following this order. It covers pronunciation, grammar and communication skills. Each module is meticulously designed for a particular age-group of students, keeping their day-to-day requirements in mind. The modules are progressively more difficult, which enables students to develop excellent competence in English. The programme allows children to check the pace of their learning and to correct themselves. They can listen, learn and correct their pronunciation with the help of play/record options, and they can look at the stress and intonation graph being displayed on the screen. Students can record their pronunciation, listen back and compare their pronunciation with that of experts. This programme makes it very interesting and easy for children to learn and improve their communication skills and spoken English. It has 'Instructor Lead Training' and 'Computer Based Training' versions, so that the teaching is comprehensive. Effectively designed flash cards are provided, for the teacher to use in the sessions.

Mr Guruminder Singh, an expert trainer from Words Worth, conducted a training programme for our teachers. As it is computer-based and interactive, the children enjoy this learning process. It creates interest and captures their attention facilitating effective language development.



Evergreen SCS

"He that plants trees loves others beside himself." – Thomas Fuller

On 16 July, the Students of Saibaba Central School, with the motto "Hand-in-Hand Let's Take a Stand," formed a committee under the banner Evergreen SCS. With the guidance of science teacher Mrs. Rajasree, the committee aims to promote a green environment everywhere. The group has distributed a plant each to all section of the School. Over time they will award honours to the class or section that takes the best care of its plant using organic means.

The members of this club also would like to do a survey in Ongole about the status of tree plantation. While carrying out this survey, the students would like to educate people about the benefits of planting trees and bring awareness about the increasing pollution.

In school assembly, members of this committee have explained the various causes of air, water, and sound pollution. They have also suggested preventive measures to stop further pollution. Here are some of them:

- * Carry a cloth or paper bag for shopping.
- * Turn off electricity when not in use.
- * "4 Rs" principle: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover things.
- * Help in cleaning up litter in water-filled areas.
- * Do not throw garbage in drains or canals.

Anish Rohan wonderfully concluded the program by taking all the students into an imaginary world for a few minutes with his magical words. He asked the students to imagine a barren land leading to death, and then transforming this arid land into lush green fields leading to a happy life.

Finally all the members requested the gathering to stand hand-in-hand and repeat the slogan: "Hand-in-Hand Let's Take a Stand" – Evergreen SCS!

Green Brigade

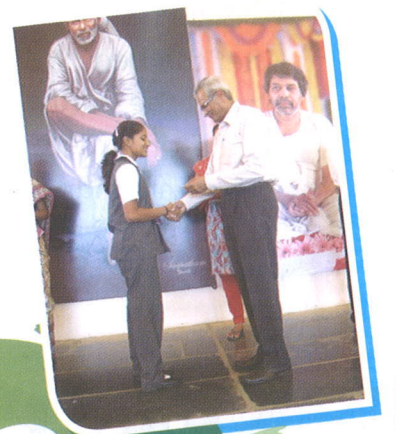
A few months ago, our students (Classes VIII, IX and X) formed a committee that focuses on Mother Nature and named it "The Green Brigade". All the team members have the same intention: to bring more greenery into this world. Inspired by an article about how engineering college students began cleaning up the river Yamuna, our students decided to choose a clean-up project of their own.

The Green Brigade committee was formed on 17 June 2012. It includes members from the senior classes. They are all provided with badges of identification.

Checking and reducing the use of plastic bags in our School is the committee's main objective. Many effective measures have already been taken by the committee. The plastic bags that students bring to school are being replaced by paper bags and cloth bags. Children have also suggested the type of plastics that should be used and those which should not be used. The students are now counselling each other about the problems caused by plastic waste and suggesting alternatives to plastic!

This programme has inspired many students who, in turn, have motivated their parents to stop using plastic bags. They are persuading their parents to take cloth bags to market to carry vegetables and other provisions. Some parents have told us that their children have forced them not to use plastic bags! This proves again that children can work wonders when they wish to. In addition, the Green Brigade committee watches over the conservation of water and plants in the School and prepares posters to keep the students aware of its ecology projects.

A web link www.facebook.com/greenbrigade.sbcs.svs has also been created by them to bring awareness globally. The members check the site regularly. Every Monday, a thought-provoking idea is given by the team to promote green awareness at the School assembly.



Vermicomposting

Earthworms provide invaluable help to farmers.

1. They help in tilling the soil.
2. They help make the soil porous which allows the seepage of water.
3. They break down biodegradable waste, which turns to manure that provides essential nutrients to the crop.



Vermicomposting is a process that uses earthworms to turn biodegradable waste into rich, black, earthy-smelling, nutrient-rich humus. Our School is implementing vermicomposting because it is effective and it does not cause any kind of pollution or damage to the environment and plants.

Here's how vermicomposting is working at the School: a section of our backyard was cleared for vermicomposting, and a shed containing four soil beds was built. Before the worms were placed in the soil, certain steps were taken to prepare the beds. First, the soil beds were filled with layers of manure and kept moist for a week to cool them down to optimum temperature for the worms. Second, kitchen waste such as vegetable peels, leftover rice, coconut fibre and waste paper were spread over the beds. Earthworms will feed on these and degrade them into fine particles. This process should be continued for about three months. Later, this soil can be taken out and dried for two to three days, then used as an organic manure to grow crops or vegetables.

After the beds were ready, students of Classes IX and X enthusiastically came forward and placed the earthworms in the four worm beds (on 30 July). Children are happy to have hands-on experience and learn how earthworms play a role in providing organic manure to humankind.



Quiet Time

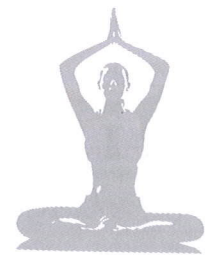


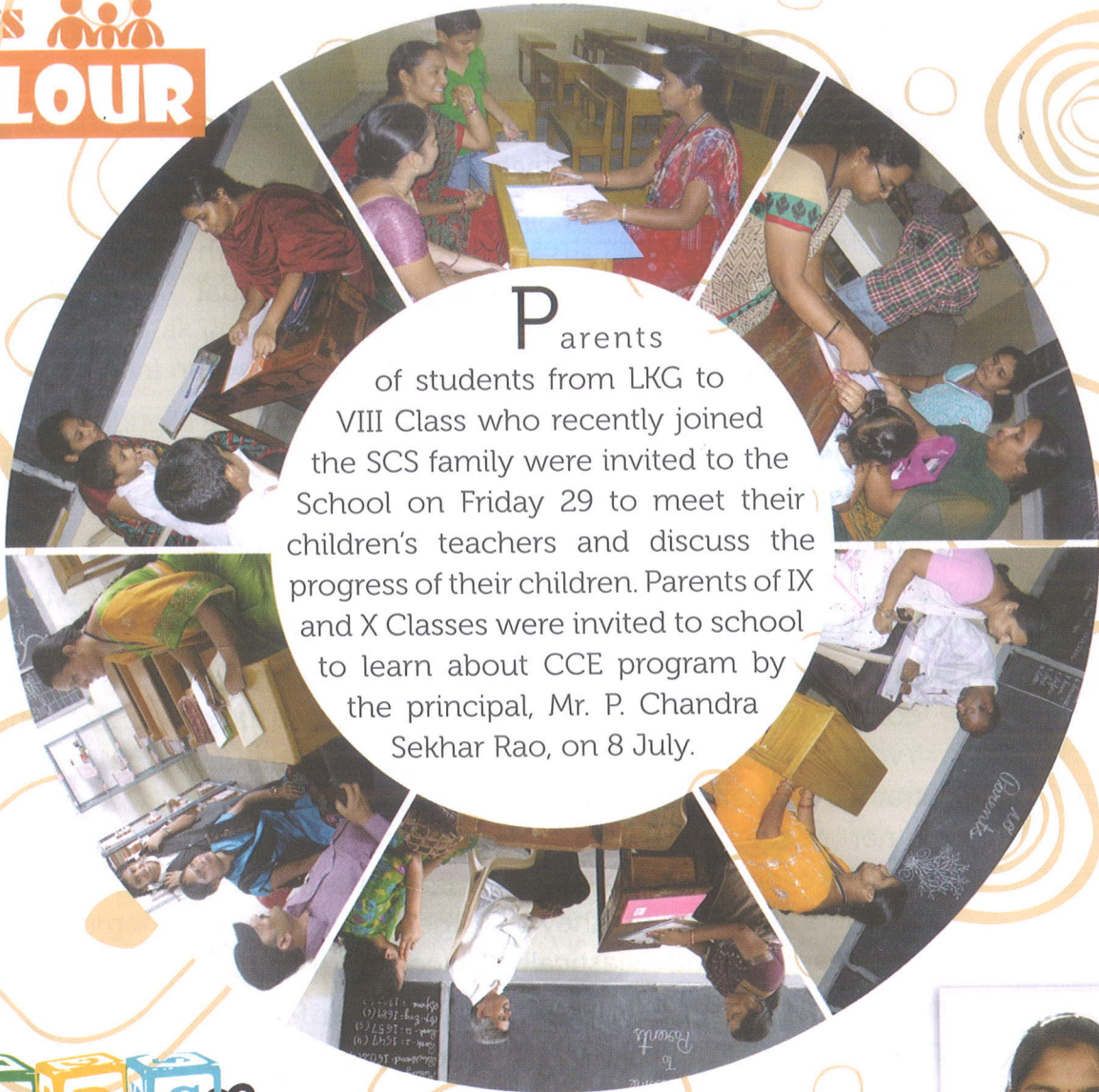
A predominant feature of modern life is stress. Pressures of time, activity and demands of a job place individuals under tremendous stress. Our teachers are also under stress caused by dealing with many children at the School and giving individual attention to their needs. Then they are busy after work looking after their own families. To help relieve this stress and assist the teachers in developing inner resources, the School has organized a special time for them to meditate and recoup their energies.

“Without patience, magic would be undiscovered – in rushing everything, we would never hear its whisper inside.”—Tamora Pierce, Sandry’s Book

The dome of the administration block has been converted to a beautiful hall for meditation. Ms. Yvonne Weier, a world-renowned Vipassana teacher, trained our teachers in meditation as a way to find inner peace. This activity, dubbed “Quiet Time”, is held every morning between 8.30 and 8.50. All teachers attend unless they are otherwise engaged. The teachers enthusiastically welcomed this new activity as it is a great help to them.

One of our teachers told us, “I now experience a deep peace and I am staying cheerful from dawn to dusk. In the beginning, for the first five minutes I was disturbed by many thoughts, but now, I am able to experience peace and cheerfulness. Not only peace and cheerfulness, but my confidence levels also increased exponentially.”





Parents of students from LKG to VIII Class who recently joined the SCS family were invited to the School on Friday 29 to meet their children's teachers and discuss the progress of their children. Parents of IX and X Classes were invited to school to learn about CCE program by the principal, Mr. P. Chandra Sekhar Rao, on 8 July.

KIDS CORNER

This is **Gagana** of Class VI.

I would like to share my experience of how I started collecting money for blind people. When I was at another school, one fine evening all the students were asked to gather in the hall. There some blind people came and sang beautiful songs. Their voices were sweet and melodious. Everyone enjoyed their songs, including our Principal. Afterwards, our Principal gave a short speech and said that if children help them, they would be given a medal and a memento. So I thought I would also help them – but not for any medal.

I started collecting money. Each of my best friends gave me one hundred rupees, but most of the elders hesitated to give even one rupee. I thought, "Why are people so tough and mean that they can't give at least a rupee?" It was then that I realized how Indian society is driven by selfishness. I have given all the collected money to those blind people. And on 7 July 2012 I recieved the medal for my service.

"Serve the poor, you will be served by God"

