



SAIBABA CENTRAL SCHOOL

SCHOOL TIMES

AUG - SEP 2012

INDEPENDENCE



CELEBRATIONS



Independence Day, 15 August, was celebrated splendidly at the School. The Principal, Mr. P. C. S. Rao, opened the festivities with the hoisting of our National flag. All houses paid their respects and then sang the National Anthem. Later, the School band proudly participated for the first time in a School march-past followed by the NCC contingent. The whole School marched smartly to the beat of drums and the tune of musical instruments. The presence of our own band caused the event to liven up greatly and added to the spirit of the occasion. Later, all houses assembled in Babuji Hall for the cultural programme. The Principal addressed the parents, students and teachers. His speech was truly inspiring and thought-provoking. The students who took part in the cultural programme dressed up in aesthetic traditional costumes, and sang and danced. Students recalled and spoke of the freedom fighters who made so many sacrifices and endured great hardships to secure our independence. The programme helped the children in understanding the meaning of freedom and the significance of Independence Day.



COLOUR DAYS

Our world is filled with colours! They make everything we see beautiful. Colours are everywhere – in nature, food, clothing, playthings – everywhere we look! In education, it's important to emphasize colours in our daily lives as they stimulate children's imagination and delight their sense of sight.

We usually talk about colours every day, and in this way children begin to learn their names. However, they may not know which colour goes with which name. You can help children identify colours by asking them the colour of different things. Observation + language = learning.

At SCS we have "colour days" to teach our kindergarten children the various colours. They are learning to identify different colours and the many objects of daily life in those colours. This helps them in cognition as well as descriptive speech.



YELLOW DAY



Yellow Day was held on Saturday, 11 August. Tiny tots from the kindergarten sections celebrated Yellow Day with excitement. Students and teachers dressed up in yellow and the children made cut-outs of yellow-coloured fruits, vegetables, and animals. They made paintings and brought yellow objects such as bananas, mangoes, lemons, and various yellow flowers from their homes. Their classrooms were adorned with yellow ribbons, paper and flowers. The parents were invited to the school, and they turned up to proudly witness the work done by their children. All the little angels eagerly presented rhymes and songs in the presence of their parents. The Principal addressed the parents and children about the importance of the colour yellow and colour therapy.



GREEN DAY

Green is the colour of life. It stands for youth, hope and nature. In recent times it has also come to mean a way of life. It symbolizes a small footprint in terms of resource consumption and living in an ecologically responsible way.

As part of our colour days, we had a Green Colour Day for the kindergarten sections on 29 September. Parents were invited to the School to see the creativity of the children. The teachers and children decorated the classrooms with anything green, and they all wore green clothes for the day. Green vegetables, fruit, leafy vegetables and leaves were displayed

along with the children's artwork. The classrooms had a festive look with balloons and decorations and the little scholars were very happy to see their parents at school.

The programme started with a welcome address by the Principal, Mr. P. C. S. Rao, followed by Ms. Sruti Sainathuni, the Director for Academics. The children then sang songs and gave short speeches about the colour green and all things green. It was wonderful to see that tiny tots of three to five years had no stage fright and were eagerly seeking the microphone! The day ended with the parents visiting the classrooms and having group photographs taken with their children. Each little student left clutching a green banana, a parting gift from the school.



Science Workshop

conducted by Mr. Ram Prasad

The students of Classes IX and X recently attended a guest lecture by Mr. Ram Prasad, who has over 25 years of experience as a lecturer of botany at SRR and CVR College, Vijayawada.

Mr. Ram Prasad was happy to share knowledge on his area of expertise with the children, and gave a brief description of biodiversity, explaining how it is sustained to a greater extent in the oceans than on land. To illustrate his point he played a film about the natural history of the oceans, called "Deep Blue", which had some remarkable shots of sea creatures. It was a thrilling couple of hours and the students sat through the session completely mesmerized by the sights.

Later, Mr. Ram Prasad held an interactive session with the students during which he touched upon various interesting topics. He spoke about the largest tree on land in India - the banyan in Anantapur district, which occupied 1.5 hectares of land; and the largest plant in water - the Red Sea Microcystis. He also related a very important fact: 96-97% of oxygen in the atmosphere is supplied from oceans (especially by phytoplankton) while the land supplies only 3%. He spoke further about the largest mammals on land and in water, the African elephant and the blue whale, and how they are predominantly vegetarian.

The students eagerly absorbed all these remarkable facts. The second session was for Class X students only. It was a workshop on "The purpose of knowing blood groups and blood types" during which our guest also explained what an Rh factor is. Later, he demonstrated how to discover one's own blood group and type by taking blood samples.

Overall the students were really excited about participating in this workshop and conveyed their enthusiasm and appreciation to the management.



TEACHERS DAY



The Day of Appreciation

Teacher's Day at Saibaba School was celebrated with much joy. Everyone, teachers and students alike, participated in all the activities with much eagerness. As a token of appreciation for the teachers, the students decorated their classes and wrote warm and loving sentiments on the blackboards indicative of their love and respect for the teachers. It was a pleasant sight to watch as the buses arrived and unloaded impatient students who promptly ran to their respective teachers with vociferous cries of 'Happy Teacher's Day!'

The School assembly was led by Mani Deepthi of Class X who gave a speech about the origins of the day and explained the importance of a teacher. Later, the senior students of the School took care of the classes while the teachers had a break from their duties. All purchased gifts were banned, including greetings cards from shops. So the students made their own greeting cards and decorated them colourfully and filled them with their thoughts and words. It was touching to see how hard they worked to prepare such unique cards to show their appreciation for their beloved teachers.

The School hosted a lunch for the teachers, which was followed by a throw-ball competition for ladies between the teachers of Mahatma and Buddha houses versus the teachers of Einstein and Krishnadevaraya houses. They fought an intense battle with each point being fiercely contested. The children sat on the sidelines and cheered wholeheartedly for their teachers. At the end of an hour, there was no result and the match was declared a draw. The gentlemen had a



volleyball match – Mr. Mahesh’s team versus Mr. Satyanarayana’s team. There was a stiff fight for every point here as well and the students lustily cheered the efforts of the teachers. Finally, Mr. Mahesh’s team won the match 2-1. The fiery sports battles were followed by refreshments for the teachers.

The teachers had a rare opportunity to relax from their daily duties and to play at the School while the elder students got a taste of a teacher’s daily responsibility. Everyone enjoyed the day in a spirit of mutual love and affection.

Happy Teacher’s Day!



THERMAL POWER STATION

As part of a continuing effort to educate our students on the practical application of theoretical study, the School organized a trip to the thermal power station located near Tangutur on 12 September for the students of Class X.

Students often learn theoretical concepts during their lessons in class while missing out on their practical application in everyday life. One example is electricity. Most of us have no idea how electricity reaches our homes, how it is produced nor are we aware of how a country’s economic wellbeing is tied to its abundant availability. To redress this lack of awareness over an essential commodity, the students of Class X were taken to the Agrigold power station near Tangutur. This factory uses wood as the feedstock to produce electricity. They produce 5 megawatts per hour and are linked to the Southern power grid. Around 200 tons of water drawn from the Musi River adjoining the plant is used in the production of electricity. The cost of production is currently Rs.5 per unit.

The class was taken on a tour of the plant and introduced to the processes behind the production of electricity by the plant’s engineers. It was a most interesting trip and the students of Class X thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Green Bloom

Recently an activity was organized by our esteemed Ammagaru to green those areas of the School which had not yet been planted due to construction work. The effort was also to include re-potting of some plants we already have.

The children were informed about the project and told that they could volunteer to join it if they wished. The children responded magnificently with over 50 of them turning up to participate in carrying plants, manure and bricks and performing other chores. They helped in planting a multitude of saplings and worked cheerfully throughout the day. They were unused to such strenuous physical activity but their enthusiasm more than made up for their lack of muscles! The School greatly appreciates all those who came to support our endeavour with such whole-hearted zeal.

Greening of the school



Bees are friends of farmers. They fulfill an important function in agriculture by enabling the mixing of pollen from male and female species of plants. This helps in better yields and ensures their continuation. In some crops the increase in yield has been reported to be more than 25 per cent over crops raised without honeybees.

Honey Bees

The School has long felt the need to have some honeybees on the campus. We wanted the garden to be made more colourful by having more flowering plants, and also wanted to train our students in bee culture so that they could further develop that as a hobby or perhaps even as a vocation in future.



We got three beehives from Anandapuram in Krishna District on 16 September. Mr. K Chinna Babu, a professional with more than 30 years experience in bee culture, came along with the bees and trained us in handling and looking after them. A short training capsule for Class X by Mr. Chinna Babu was suggested, and bee keeping was introduced as an extracurricular activity in the School for interested children.

The bees selected are Cerana Indica, which are mild in nature and good providers of honey. We learned how to handle them and how to harvest honey. We also learned how to identify the queen and how to divide the hives when they are become over-populated. We want to develop this activity by increasing the number of hives and have the interested students take care of them.

Exposure to such a wide variety of nature's abundant bounty, and awareness of its role in our daily life, serves to enhance the children's respect for Mother Nature.



Cycling Expedition

The summer water storage tanks area of Ongole wore a festive look early in the morning of 26 August 2012. It was the meeting point for 88 boys and girls from our School, participating in a day's expedition. All were decked out in multi-coloured and trendy clothes and were milling around bubbling with excitement. They had their bicycles with them and were eager to be off on their adventure ride. Most had never made a long trip by bicycle before, and underneath the bravado one could see their nervousness! The children were from Classes VI and VII and were going to Marlapadu area for a cycling-trekking trip.

The ride started at 7.45 am sharp, without waiting for latecomers. The route was via Sarverayudu Palem, Errajerla to Marlapadu. After cycling for three hours they reached the campsite. The children were given a break to have a drink of water. They then climbed three hillocks nearby. They had a fine view from the top of the hills, where they could see Ongole and the surrounding countryside. After a brief rest, they came back to the campsite where they played various games, including football, volleyball, throw-ball, baseball and chess.

It was then time for lunch, which was followed by more games until the children had to return. They were given a cooling glass of lime juice and were accompanied back to the meeting point where they were received by their parents. It is a pity that the children are hardly ever taken by their parents on such trips. The School is filling a need by inculcating a spirit of adventure in the children. It builds their character and develops the will and confidence in them to surmount anything they may face in later life.



MOCK ELECTIONS

Mock elections were conducted on 18 August for Classes VI to X as part of a social studies activity. The purpose was to enable the students to understand the power of the people in a democratic nation and the significance of their vote.

The elections were conducted to elect MLAs as well as MPs. The nominations for the posts were made by a lottery. Polling officers, polling agents and security personnel were selected from each class. After the nominations, the selected students were asked to name their party and choose a symbol. They then had a discussion with their respective groups and declared their party name, symbol and manifesto. Next, using creative ways, they started campaigning. A party whose symbol was the drum, asked the voters to vote for the drum by showing a drum. It was really a great experience for the students as they worked to convince the voters to support them.

Two polling centres were set up for the voters. Elections were conducted in a manner resembling real elections. The polling officers had the voter lists and they checked each voter's ID card. A ballot paper was made available to each voter and ink was used to mark their finger in order to prevent them from voting again. The elections created a lot of interest in the electoral system, and the children performed their assigned duties conscientiously and with great care.

There were students acting as reporters, who drew the attention of onlookers with their interviewing techniques. They interviewed teachers and students and checked periodically on whether the polling was taking place peacefully.

When we asked for feedback from the children on their experience after the elections, we found that they had realized the power of the common person in electing the right representatives.

We are thankful to the Principal for his support and encouragement in executing this very interesting activity. Our sincere thanks are also due to our staff Mr. Koteswara Rao, Mr. Satish, Mr. Mahesh & Mrs. Sasi Lakshmi.



A significant proportion of the Indian population is old. Earlier, when the joint family system held sway, elders were cherished by their families and looked after with love and affection. Now, in the present scenario of nuclear families, the elderly are ignored and tolerated at best. In many families they are being driven out to fend for themselves. All too frequently one finds crass ingratitude in the young. They forget that these elders had sacrificed and toiled to bring them up and provide the best things for them by hard work and drudgery. They are too enamoured of their own comforts and begrudge even a square meal to these elderly members of their family.

Many factors have contributed to the alienation of the elders.

1. Migration of young couples from the rural areas to cities in search of better employment opportunities to improve their own lives.

2. Youngsters are sometimes resentful of the attitude of their parents.

3. Many youngsters have moved to places far away from their native homes and in the recent past to many countries abroad. So even if they want to they cannot accommodate their parents in their own homes.

4. Elders are sometimes subject to diseases which require expensive care. The children are unwilling or incapable of meeting the expenditure.

The students of Class VI visited an old age home in Ongole to see for themselves the conditions in which some elders are living. They are taught at School to respect and care for the elderly. Here they saw how society is doing the opposite. This old age home was privately run. There were 30 inmates, all women. The students talked to them to gather the reasons why they were living in the home. Some had fought with their children for financial shares and were driven out. Some had no one in this world. Some were left there because the children were all working and unable to look after them. The old women were accommodated and fed for free. The home arranges medical checkups for them and provides free medicines through the generosity of some doctors. Some students cried upon hearing their stories of abandonment and tried to console the elders. They distributed fruits to the inmates. The inmates advised the students to look after their parents when they became old. The students left the home with a heavy heart after seeking the elders' blessings.



VISITING AN OLD AGE HOME





Karate Championship

Six students from our School participated in the prestigious ninth AP State Karate Championship 2012 held in Vijayawada on 9 September 2012. This competition was held under the aegis of Japan Shito Ryu Karate Association and was organized by Sanku Kai Karate Do Association of India.

A total of over 600 students from all over the state attended the competition. Under the able guidance of their Karate master, Sri D. Venkateswarlu, our students did the school proud by winning two gold medals, three silver medals and one bronze medal in the competition. It was truly remarkable that each of the six students who participated in the competition won a medal.



The list of winners are:

- P. L. N. Mani Kumar - Gold medal
- N. Sai Koushal - Gold Medal
- B. Sai Gopi - Silver Medal
- Y. Gowtham - Silver Medal
- K. V. S. N. Sai Charan - Silver Medal
- D. Mani Varun - Bronze Medal

The School congratulates the winners for their outstanding performance and extends its hearty appreciation to Sri D. Venkateswarlu, the Karate master, for training them so well.

Eco-friendly Vinayaka – A student's effort to conserve the environment

As Ganesh festival was fast approaching, the words 'Save the Environment' were constantly ringing in my ears. I thought hard about how I could become part of this slogan, and hit upon a novel idea of making an eco-friendly Ganesha using green leafy vegetables.

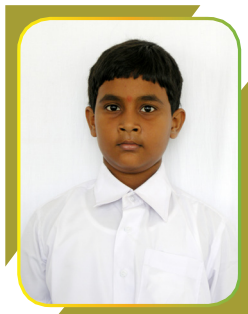
I prepared Ganesha using the following vegetables:

- Pumpkin for the stomach
- Brinjal for the hands
- Bottle gourd for the legs
- Ridge gourd for the trunk
- Carrots for eyes
- Green chillies for the eyebrows
- Peepul leaves for the ears

It turned out so majestically that the media like Eenadu newspaper and Gemini TV published and telecast my efforts (on 9 September)!

I was overwhelmed with joy that I was able to do something to protect my Mother India. Come on friends, you too can join with me and together we can completely ban the idols made of plaster of Paris!

I. V. S. Jatin, Class VIII



School Band

For the very first time in the history of Ongole town, a school band has been started and we at Saibaba Central School are very proud to share with you that this memorable event took place in our grounds. School bands typically comprise of students who rehearse and perform various instrumental pieces at school gatherings. They play percussion instruments such as cymbals, kettle drums, bass drums and wind instruments such as the bugle, trumpet etc.

Mr. Anthony R. Dougherty, a retired police bandmaster from Tamil Nadu, was called in to train the students. He has been in this field for over 45 years. He held the flag during the South Asian Federation games 2008 leading 42 drummers in Nehru Stadium, Chennai. He has had the honour of conducting many master bands and also trained the special police band of Tamil Nadu single-handedly. We are truly fortunate to have him training our students.

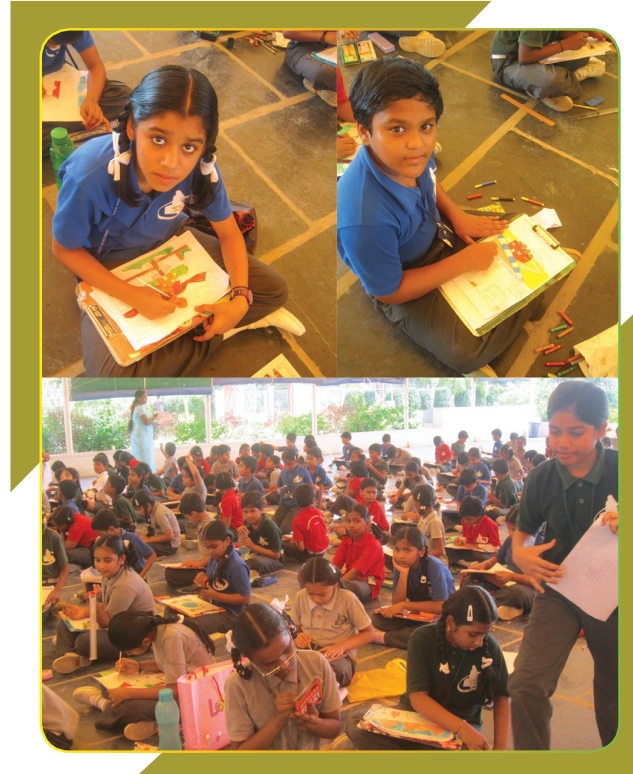
Twenty-two students from Classes VII and VIII were selected for the band. Accordance to their capacity, some took up wind instruments and some percussion. They were trained vigorously for three consecutive days by the bandmaster with the assistance of his son, Mr. D. L. Dougherty. The children were enthusiastic about acquiring a new skill. They were determined to succeed and did not seem to care even when their fingers hurt from lack of experience with such heavy instruments. The marching band is preparing for the 65th Independence Day celebrations.

The school band strives for harmonic development and rhythmic coordination to raise the



art of music-making to a higher level. It is a pleasure to watch the students work hard at achieving this new skill set which will only serve to expand their horizons.

Painting Competition on Energy Conservation



A painting competition on energy conservation was conducted in the school premises on 22 September for Classes IV to VI. The children were given three themes for the competition on the previous day. They were free to select any one of the following for painting:

Save Electricity - Bring Progress

Do the Nation a Favour- Be an Energy Saver

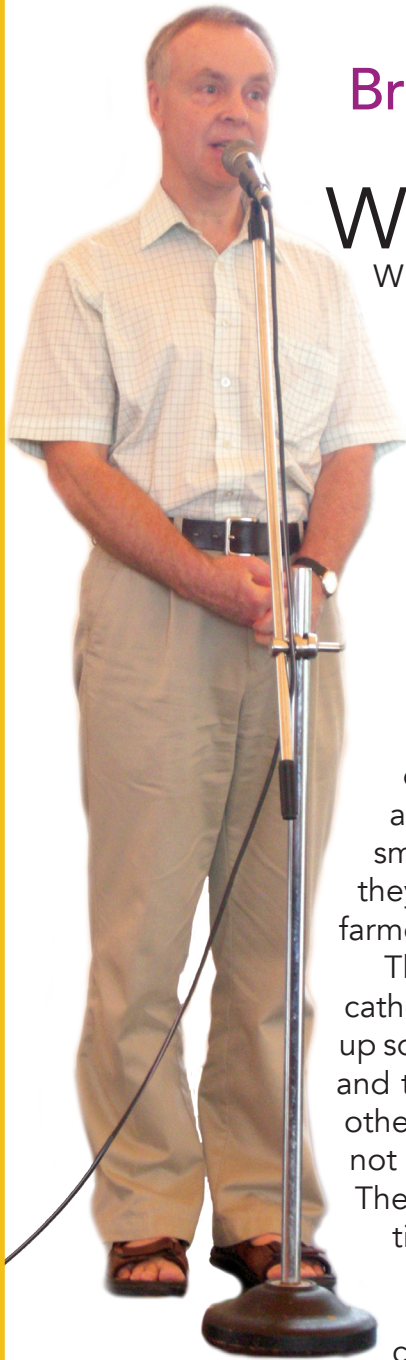
Wind, Water, Sun: Energy for the Long Run

The children took part in the painting competition with great enthusiasm. Some were really able to bring forth their inner feelings and expressed them through their art and painting. Exposure to such competitions alerts the students to use electricity wisely even at home.

The aim of this campaign by the CBSE is to inculcate the habit of saving energy right from childhood. It also indirectly raises awareness in children and parents about the importance of conserving energy for future generations. It gives the message that conservation is not just one individual's struggle but a social responsibility for all.

GUEST LECTURES

Bradford Cathedral – An Ecological Design



We received a group of visitors from Britain at the School on 27 September, namely Mr. John Burgess, Mr. David Burgess, Rev. Andy Williams, Ms. Jenny Williams, Ms. Zoe Burgess, Mr. Chris Burgess and Ms. Alison Williams. The children gave them a warm welcome during the School assembly when the Correspondent, Major Suresh Babu, introduced them.

Later, Classes VII and VIII were asked to gather in the multimedia theatre for a presentation about Bradford Cathedral. Rev. Andy Williams, who was once a teacher himself and is now acting Dean of the cathedral, praised the eco-friendly ambiance at our School. He said that he had worked in three other large schools and found the environment in our school more appealing in comparison.

He presented a slide show on Bradford Cathedral, which has become an “eco-cathedral”. The 600-year-old cathedral is located in the city of Bradford, Yorkshire, UK. Every year close to 5000 people come to worship there. Rev. Williams suggested that just as we worship the creator of this earth, so it is our duty to respect His creation. He explained how the staff at Bradford cathedral started environment-friendly measures in their own small way. For example, instead of buying food or milk from supermarkets, they began to buy directly from the local farmers, thereby supporting the farmers by paying them a fair price.

They also started a project to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide in the cathedral. Rev. Williams, a priest at the cathedral, hit upon the idea of setting up solar panels on the roof of the building so that they could generate electricity and thereby reduce the emission of carbon. Initially he faced opposition from other people – they felt that the cathedral, being quite an old building, would not be strong enough to support the panels. Mr. Williams persisted, however. The engineers and other professionals took utmost care to clamp the panels tightly to the roof. This clamping would prevent heavy winds from shifting the rooftop and damaging the structure. Forty-two panels were arranged on the roof along with three inverters to convert direct current to alternate current (voltaic electricity). Normally, people in England receive electricity

from conventional sources such as by burning coal or, to a certain extent, from nuclear reactors. This is how carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere, increasing global warming. Keeping this in mind, the cathedral began to harvest non-polluting solar energy and has succeeded in reducing carbon emission despite early opposition.

Here are the statistics of energy generated from the cathedral’s solar panels:

When there is not enough sunlight they generate only 360 watts, which is sufficient for 7-8 bulbs. In days of good sunshine they generate much more, up to 8,000W.



They have been able to generate 68000 KW of electricity in one year. This could save 2,939 kg of carbon.

These panels can work for over 25 years and save 73,750 kg of carbon over that period. They could save 25 per cent of the money spent on purchasing electricity. The British government encourages eco-friendly solar projects by paying anyone who has solar a certain amount for their saved energy. To save further on power, the cathedral now use 15W bulbs instead of 100W.

An interactive session was held after the presentation during which the children had many questions for Rev Williams. In response to one of the queries, Rev Williams stated that his goal is to save 90 tonnes of carbon in 30 years. He also mentioned that Bradford Cathedral was the first cathedral in the UK to install solar panels, and quite possibly the first in the world.

The presentation was quite inspiring and made the students think about how much they can save Mother Earth from further depletion of her non-renewable sources of energy. Being in India, where abundant sunlight is an integral part of our lives, it is high time to bring awareness among people in Andhra Pradesh as well as the whole country about how useful and important it is to harvest solar energy.



Some impressions from the visitors:

"...We were particularly struck by the overall beauty of the School, from the design of the buildings to the surrounding grounds – what a beautiful environment for learning! We were also very encouraged by the forward-thinking attention given to environmental sustainability, from the rainwater harvesting system to the natural air-cooling design, and the presence of eco and green groups among the pupils."

Jennie Williams

"We were immediately impressed by how smart the children looked in their uniforms, and by how well-behaved and happy they were.

The quality of the infrastructure was instantly apparent, with bright white walls, cooling airflow through intricately latticed windows and everything spic-and-span.

The library contained a huge selection of books, as well as current newspapers and magazines, and felt very welcoming as a place to read, study or browse. We noted the recent arrival of a number of Kindles, and also the up-to-date interactive equipment in both the IT rooms and the language labs. The junior classrooms were absolutely charming with their warm colours, decoratively painted walls and enchanting furniture.

After lunch we met Ms. Sruti Sainathuni, Director of Academics, and enjoyed an informative tour of the beautifully kept gardens and playgrounds, which included a viewing of the school composting facility and a newly introduced group of beehives, both recent developments in a school that is without doubt regularly innovating and improving what it has to offer to its young students."

John Burgess



PARENT'S PARLOUR

MEET THE TEACHERS

Parents had the opportunity to meet their children's class teachers in a "Meet the Teachers" programme held on 22 September after Formative Assessment -II exams and discussed ways to help the children to improve academically.



CONDOLENCES



It is with profound grief that the School condoles the passing of two of our School family.

Mr. D. Koteswara Rao, a bus supervisor of the School, drowned on 5 August. An innocent dip in the sea turned into a heart-breaking disaster for his family as he was swept away by the current. He and a few of his friends had gone to bathe in the sea on a casual trip they had organized themselves. While they were bathing, they ventured deeper and deeper and ultimately lost their foothold. While most of them were able to get back to solid ground again, Mr. Koteswara Rao was swept away and drowned.

The body was found by fishermen and brought to shore. He leaves behind his parents and younger sister.

The School conveys its condolences to the bereaved family and prays to the Almighty to grant them strength to bear this loss.

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO MASTER SRIRAM'S FAMILY



Master Prasanna Phani Sriram, aged 6, a bright young student of Class I, passed away on 4 September, due to cancer of the abdomen. The School is deeply saddened and offers its sincere prayers for the family in their hour of grief. May the merciful God give them the courage to bear the pain of losing their little boy.

Sriram joined our School in the year 2010 as a student of LKG. He was a bright young lad, full of life, a very good student and quite fun-loving. He was well-liked by all his teachers. He made many friends in the School and was beloved by all. His battle with cancer started when he was in UKG. Unfortunately, it was not diagnosed till it was well past the secondary stage. His parents took him to the best hospitals in Chennai but there was little the doctors could do. He was absent from School for a few months undergoing treatment, which included chemotherapy and radiotherapy.



Sriram had to go to Chennai every fortnight for chemotherapy and had to follow a strict regimen of injections every day at home too. He hated being cooped up at home and started pestering his father to allow him to attend school. He loved being at the School with all his friends. However, his father was against the idea as Sriram was weak and also could not control his bowel movements as a result of the cancer. In addition to these complications, Sriram had a hole in his chest made by the doctors to inject fluids into his body. Sriram's father was afraid that if he were to be accidentally pushed or jostled by other children, the hole could rupture.

Sriram would not take no for an answer and started putting a lot of pressure on his parents. He loved the School so much that he refused to eat or take medicines unless they sent him to School. He started a Satyagraha at home to compel his parents to send him to School. His parents finally yielded and came to the School to request us to take Sriram in again. The School had its reservations as well about how Sriram would be able to cope and how we could prevent other children from hurting him unintentionally. An ayah would have to be designated specially for his care. In the end, it was agreed to let him come back, as no one could see him continue to suffer as a result of being prevented from attending School.

The smile on Sriram's face when he rejoined School and met his friends again was a wonderful sight to see. He was elated and would not stop smiling the whole day. He started taking his medicines regularly and was a happy lad again. We did have some hiccups with him due to his incontinence and weakness but the teachers and ayahs did a great job in helping him have a normal School life. He was good in class and was doing quite as well as the other children. He wrote all the exams well and was promoted to Class I at the end of the year. He had a good holiday during the summer vacations and rejoined the School again in June 2012.

Unfortunately his health started deteriorating during the month of August this year. After fighting cancer courageously for over two years with a smile on his face, he finally succumbed to the illness. Sriram will be missed by all of us at the School. We won't forget how he was cheerful in the face of imminent death and neither will we forget his immense love for the School.

The school conveys their condolences to the bereaved family and prays the almighty to grant them strength to bear this loss.

BOMMALA KOLUVU

As a part of an activity conducted to illustrate the Telugu lesson "Bommala Prapancham", the children of Class IV and their Telugu teachers organized a Bommala Koluvu on September 26, 2012. Different types of toys, fruits, vegetables and utensils etc., made of various materials were arranged and aesthetically decorated. The presence of the toys naturally made the children very happy and they understood their lesson through practical means.

The idea behind conducting such programmes is to inculcate a love of learning in every child, by making learning a joyful experience. This enables all-round growth and holistic development of the child's personality.



ECO-FRIENDLY VINAYAKA CHATURTHI

The Green Brigade of the School is very active in identifying areas where damage is being done to the ecology, and in suggesting suitable remedies for it. They have held presentations for Classes VI to X, educating them on how to reduce the use of plastic bags and the alternatives that can be used. These classes were very lively and the students, who are all ardent conservationists, participated eagerly.

Vinayaka Chaturthi was on 19 September. A lot of plaster of Paris and chemicals usually get dumped in our water bodies when the idols of Ganapathi are immersed after the festival. This endangers the living organisms and plant life in the water as the chemicals cause serious harm. Mortality rates for life in the water bodies shoot up in the long run. The Green Brigade sought the School's permission to conduct a presentation on how to celebrate an ecologically responsible Vinayaka Chaturthi. The School Management readily gave permission, as increasing ecological awareness in the students is one of its priorities. During the School assembly, the Green Brigade gave a demonstration on how to make ecologically friendly idols of Ganapathi and how to celebrate the festival in a manner that does not harm the environment. They suggested the use of idols made of earth and biodegradable items. They advocated the use of vegetable dyes to paint the idols.

