



VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

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VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged
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The VASANTHAM family ☺



SUMMER VACATION

The summer vacation began from the 7th of May 2011. School re-opened on the 23rd May 2011. During these holidays, extensive maintenance work was carried out at the school premises.

New children were admitted during the last week of May and early June 2011. A total of 19 new children have been admitted to this new academic year at Vasantham. Ten of our children have left us for reasons such as employment, inclusive education in mainstream school and shift of residence.

EXCURSION

A team of young IT professionals from Hella Engineering sponsored a day at Blue Lagoon Beach Resort on the 1st of May 2011. That was the first time that Vasantham children visited a beach resort. Children and staff reached the place by 10.30 am. As always, the first agenda for the day was prayer by our children. Various games such as passing the ball, lemon and spoon were conducted. Children took away prizes by aiming the ring on the various gifts displayed. The boys were very involved in the cricket game and the girls in kho-kho. It was surprising that they made sure everyone, especially the volunteers, maintained the rules of the game. Children were also involved in singing and dancing. One of the volunteers entertained the kids with mimicry. Apart from staff from Vasantham, volunteers from Hella Engineering, Dream India and Punnagai Charitable Trust joined us. Volunteers from Hella Engineering also donated gifts, teaching materials and fan for Vasantham children. Special thanks to Mr.Suresh Kamath (CEO, Lasersoft Infosystems Ltd) for providing conveyance and Mr.Natarajan (Founder, Dream India) for co-ordinating and facilitating concessional rates from Blue Lagoon management. The management of Blue Lagoon did not just stop at providing concession. They also made sure kids enjoyed the maximum by visiting us regularly, being very hospitable and by providing free ice creams to all.



VISIT BY FOUNDATION MARC SAUQUET

On the 9th of June 2011, our friends from Foundation Marc Sauquet, Spain, visited Vasantham. They have been supporting us for many years in purchasing vehicles, constructing ramp, etc. They reviewed the status of the projects they had supported previously. We have submitted request for few new projects as well. They were accompanied by our long time constant supporter and well-wisher, Mr. Ranvir Shah, Citizens' Run Trust.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On the 1st of April 2011, members from Punnagai Charitable Trust celebrated one of their founder trustee, Mr. Alagappan's birthday at Vasantham. Cake was cut and sweets were distributed to all the children. Kids surprised Mr. Alagappan with lots of gifts.



One of our student Mr. Jagadheesh and his sister's birthdays were celebrated at Vasantham. They distributed sweets, snacks and gifts to all children. Jagadheesh's family and friends have been celebrating their birthdays, providing gifts and spending time with all the children for the last few years. Also, music director Mr. G. V. Prakash celebrated his birthday at Vasantham by distributing sweets and cutting cake.



FUN DAY

Our constant supporters, the Food Bank, Rajasthan Youth Association, Chennai celebrated their anniversary on the 24th of April 2011 at DG Vaishnav College, Arumbakkam. They had organised several games and cultural activities for children. Our children enjoyed the morning with children from other NGOs as well. They also provided lunch for all. Food Bank has been providing food grains and cereals every month for Vasantham since 1994.



PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING

The first quarterly programme plan meeting was held on the 11th of June 2011. All the students were assessed for the current performance during the last week of May and first week of June 2011. Current status of every student, depending on their performance in various specific goals, and the goals for next 3 months were available for the parents and guardians. General rules and regulations and other updates regarding the progress of the institution and upcoming events and goals were discussed with the parents. Parents also discussed regarding the activities their children were engaged in during the holidays and the challenges faced by them during this time.

NEW INITIATIVE

Considering the challenges faced in inclusive education, i.e. integrating children with special needs in regular school, a new initiative has budded. Since June 2011, at Vasantham separate classes have begun for our children with special needs who are capable of following the mainstream syllabus. Few children who have been attending regular school and few more from Vasantham are attending these classes. Classes have been grouped based on the knowledge and performance of the children, as in 1 standard, 5th standard and so on. Few parents and well-wishers with regular school teaching background and a person from DPI are providing suggestions and advise with respect to curriculum and resources. These children will be prepared to appear for the National Open School exam from 8th standard onwards. Till then, regular monthly, quarterly and annual evaluations will be carried out by the school itself.

RENEWAL OF RECOGNITION

The process of renewal of recognition from the office of the state commissioner for the differently-abled is complete. This renewal is valid till the month of May, 2013.

VISIT

April 9th and 23rd - Students from Velammal Mat.Hr. Sec School

May 4th - Students of TamilNadu Open University.

June 1st week - Student from Omayya Achi College of Nursing