



VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

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VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged
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Winning moment ☺



NEW YEAR, 2012

The New Year began with Mr. Lakshminarasimhan, Mr. Sowrirajan and family visiting Vasantham as they do every year. Ms. Sowjanya's birthday celebration took place the same day and they sponsored the breakfast for all the children that day. Also, Mrs. & Mr. Radhakrishnan provided sweets for the children at Vasantham. One of our students', Jagadheesh's father distributed diaries to all the staff. New Year eve was marked with fun, with the children enjoying themselves cutting cake and indulging in wafers, sweets and snacks.



PONGAL CELEBRATION

Pongal was celebrated at Vasantham on the 8th of January 2012. Vasantham's campus was tastefully decorated traditionally with thoranam. Children were dressed colourfully with mehendi and nail polish in their hands. The pongal was prepared in a big pot with outdoor fire at Vasantham's campus. Several games such as lemon and spoon, 'dressing up my friend' were conducted for the children. Further, rangoli competition was conducted for the children and parents. It was surprising to witness the way many of our children handled the rangoli powder and colours in a professional style. Mr. Ashok Kumar, Assistant Commissioner of Police, distributed the prizes to the winners. Everyone had a filling lunch with two varieties of Pongal and meals. Children also had cotton candy and sugarcane. Volunteers from Dream India, Punnagai Charitable trust, parents and well-wishers were also present to entertain and encourage our children. Vasantham children went on Pongal holidays between 12th and 17th of January 2012.



SPORTS DAY

Dream India Educational and Charitable Trust organised an inter-school sports day on the 28th of January 2012 at Sri Ramachandra University playground. About 200 children from 5 different corporation schools participated. Children from Vasantham participated in various events such as running race, shot put, discus throw, long jump and relay. It was a treat to see our children compete and complete each event with absolute sportsmanship. They were truly amazing. There was a special performance of drill by our children after which everyone honoured the children with a standing ovation. Chief guests, Mr. Meenakshi Sundaram and Mr. Prime Point Srinivasan, encouraged and congratulated the participants for the wonderful performance.

Vasantham extends a sincere note of thanks to Dream India, especially Mr. Varun, Mr. Mani, Ms. Niel and Mr. Natarajan for making Vasantham a part of this event. Dream India has consistently given several opportunities for the special children at Vasantham to compete with normal children. This really means a lot and is making a huge difference in the expression of talents and skills by our children. Something that needs a specific mention here is an incident that happened during the vigorous practice session. During a running race, when all kids were running towards the other end to win, one child stood silent looking around without knowing what to do. A co student standing beside him, who was leading, stopped suddenly. As soon as he realised the one next to him was missing and was just standing without running, this boy ran back to pull him along and both participated in the running race. Words fail to explain the innocence and care these children possess.

During the last two weeks of March 2012, several sports and games events were conducted for the children at Vasantham in the campus and at a ground nearby. The competitions included running race, relay, frog race, walking race, ball throw, lemon and spoon, potato gathering, shot put, high jump. For the first time, a team event of throw ball was conducted. On the 24th of March 2012, final events of few competitions were conducted. Mr. Gopalakrishnan, father of Sudhakaran, our student, declared open the sports meet. The highlight of the day was the throw ball match. It didn't appear as though it was the first time the children were participating in throw ball. Instead they all performed like experienced players playing with strict rules and still being sportive of each other. The throw ball match was as exciting and thrilling like an India-Pakistan cricket match where there was a nail biting finish, with both teams having equal opportunity to win. Prizes were given to the winners and runners-up of all the events. Some of the children bagged 3-4 trophies in various events. Prizes were distributed by the chief guest and our supporters from Dream India, Punnagai, Swasam charitable trusts. Parents and volunteers couldn't stop cheering the kids as every one's performance was awesome.



SPORTS DAY (Photos)



REPUBLIC DAY

One of our long term supporters, Mrs. Dolly Radhakrishnan and family were the chief guest for the celebration of 61st Republic Day at Vasantham. For the first time, children were trained to formally carry out a march past. They marched in an orderly manner, requesting the guests to hoist the national flag. Special thanks to Mr. Natarajan, Dream India for training our children to march. Children also performed a drill with absolutely great co-ordination. Sweets and gifts were distributed to all the children.



EXCURSION

A large group of children, staff, few parents and volunteers visited the zoo and beach on the 10th of March 2012 at Chennai. Children explored the zoo by travelling in battery operated cars. They were thrilled to see the lion, tiger, giraffe, deer, bear, varieties of snakes, etc. They also spent time on the swing, slide and others in the play area. Post lunch, the children also drew whatever they saw in the zoo. We extend a special thanks to the authorities at the Chennai Zoo for providing concession and ensuring that the children got their best. The next spot was beach at Kovalam, where kids were building their dream sand castle. They enjoyed splashing in the waves while others played cricket, throw ball and kho kho in the beach. Snacks were served there. Volunteers from Dream India and Punnagai joined us. Closer to sunset, the Vasantham family left the beach to get back to school. It was indeed a wonderful day of excursion.



EYE CAMP

The first session of the annual eye screening camp was held on the 30th of March 2012 at Vasantham. A team of trainees and doctors from Sankara Nethralaya were involved in assessing each child patiently, the whole day. We extend special thanks to our student Harish's mother for initiating and co-ordinating this.



GLIMPSES

- ❧ The restrooms in the hostel were renovated with better facilities. This project was funded by one of our student's parent, Mr.Gopalakrishnan and Rotary Club
- ❧ Anns and Annettes of Rotary Club of Madras North West visited Vasantham and donated wooden stools for classroom usage.
- ❧ Mr. Gopal who owns a shop in Koyambedu market provided few vegetables and fruits.
- ❧ Employees from CTS visited Vasantham and spent a day with the children. They conducted games and sports such as cricket, ball games, etc. Few of them also taught our children to prepare craft materials.
- ❧ Trainees from Vijay Human Services, RAAS; students from Omayal Aachi, Vels Sree Mookambigai and GRT Colleges of Nursing visited Vasantham as a part of their curriculum
- ❧ Stalls with products made by the special children at Vasantham were displayed at SBI Life Insurance
- ❧ Few students pursuing Chartered Accountancy visited Vasantham and purchased gifts prepared by special children at Vasantham
- ❧ Jayamal Jaychand Kaur Devaraj Bhora Trust donated new uniforms for our children in the month of February 2012.
- ❧ The 2nd Quarterly Programme Plan meeting was held in March 2012. Mr.Joseph Ravi, District Differently Abled Rehabilitation Officer, Thiruvallur District addressed the parents and teachers about the benefits and schemes available for individuals who are differently abled.
- ❧ A Lord Ganesh diety was installed at Vasantham's campus after a holy 'ganapathy homam'.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

One of student Jagadheesh's birthday was celebrated on the 27th of March 2012. Being a die-hard cricket fan, he cut a photo cake with Dhoni's picture on it. All the children enjoyed the celebration. His parents distributed gifts to all the children and staff at Vasantham. Another student, Sudhakar's birthday was celebrated by distributing sweets to children and staff. One of our well-wishers, Swasam Charitable Trust celebrated their friend's birthday with special children at Vasantham.

