



# VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

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VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged  
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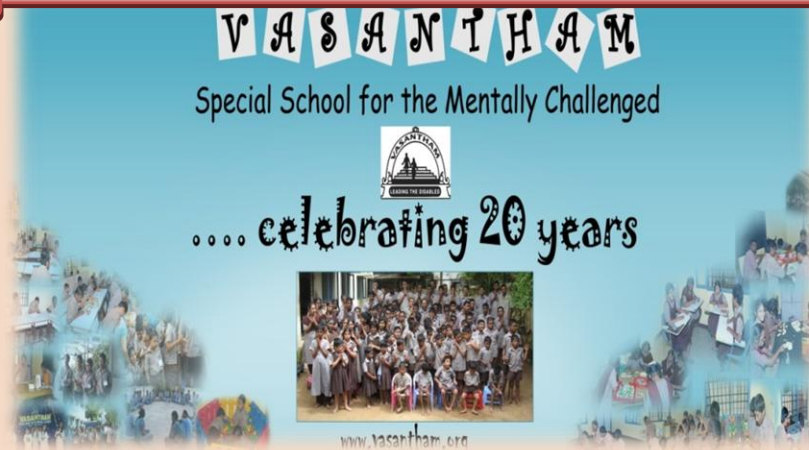
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VASANTHAM family wishes you a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010



## DIWALI CELEBRATION

Diwali, the festival of lights, was celebrated in great spirits at Vasantham as usual on 12.10.2009. Crackers, new dresses, sweets, games, dance, songs and what not.....Our children had one of their best times ever. The day was sure memorable for all at Vasantham.

The day began with lots of games and a magic show. Kids enjoyed the magic show thoroughly. Following the magic show, we had children dance and sing songs. This was followed by a mesmerizing cracker bursting session, a visual treat indeed. Armed with the support from various volunteers and staff, the children burst crackers under their watchful eyes. It was wonderful to hear from our volunteers that our children made their Diwali very special. We thank all those who sponsored crackers, new dresses etc for our children. Special thanks to parents and siblings of our children, who made the day special with their presence and support.



## VASANTHAM'S 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November 28<sup>th</sup> ... a memorable day in the history, present and future of Vasantham's journey. Two decades ago, it was closer to this very day that Vasantham was born.

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations were held at Rani Seethai Hall, Chennai. The programme commenced with our children singing Vasantham's prayer song, followed by the traditional lighting of the kuthuvilakku by guests Shri. 'Crazy' Mohan & Shri. 'Madhu' Balaji (Crazy Creations), Prof. P. Jeyachandran (Director, Vijay Human Services), Dr. Viswesvaran, Shri. B. Subramanian (Asst.Prof., Dept. of Speech Language & Hearing Sciences, Sri Ramachandra University) around 10 am. This was followed by welcome dance by our girls and several of cultural events put up by our children.

Shri. B. Suresh Kamath (CMD, Laser Soft Infosystems Ltd. & Member, Board of Management, Vasantham), Shri. R.R. Kubendran (Chief Planner, CMDA), Shri. Sekar (Auditor, Vasantham), Shri. Ananthakrishnan (The Abhaya), Shri. A.R. Ramaswamy (Secretary, Rani Seethai Hall) & Prof. Roopa Nagarajan (Course Chairperson, Dept. of Speech language Pathology and Hearing Science, Shri. Ramachandra University) were the special guests for the day. The welcome address and the talks delivered by each of our eminent guests were highly motivating and encouraging. Our beautiful kids, parents and our supporters added flavour to the day.

The day's celebrations were tied up with the induction of several projects such as,

- Release of Souvenir to mark the 20 year smooth journey of Vasantham
- Release of "Making a difference: A short film about the Intellectually Challenged & Vasantham"
- Inauguration of Projects:
  - "Move towards inclusion" and honoured three of our children (from the early intervention group) who are mainstreamed
  - "Vocational Training: Supporting my Family" under which the provisional store (Vocational training for packing) and the stationery store were inaugurated
  - Release of specially designed T-shirt for Vasantham
  - Felicitation of Vasantham's constant pillars, staff and members of the board of management

Mr. Subramanian (Vasantham's dance master) & Ms. Krupa M. (Speech Language Pathologist, Vasantham) were the MCs for the day. Shri. B. Suresh Kamath delivered the welcome address. Our kids enthralled the audience with their specially put together monkey dance, vegetable dance, UV light dance, speech on "Role of Students in uplifting India" by Shridhar, and a short play titled "Lion & The Rabbit." R.K.Karthik's and Pravin Raj's mothers read out the articles written by them. Smt. Alli Murugesan (Founder and Director, Vasantham) delivered the vote of thanks thanking all those who had made the day possible and special.

**Photos can be viewed from this link (kindly copy paste the link)**

<http://picasaweb.google.co.in/lh/sredir?uname=vasantham89&target=ALBUM&id=5410245201266989009&authkey=Gv1sRgCNeG8YuJ26axNw&feat=email>

## CITIZENS' RUN TRUST

Our children participated in the run organized by Citizens' Run Trust this year too. Braving the showers, our children ran from Lady Wellington college along the shores of Marina beach on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2009. It was a wonderful sight to see our children participate in this event. Vasantham thanks Citizen's run trust for their unending support.



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A superb X-mas tree and various gifts marked the Christmas celebrations at Vasantham, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2009. Mr. Vasanth (Our website designer) & Sathyan Dev (Wellwisher) joined us for the celebrations. Children performed various programs like dance, songs etc that made the day special.



## MOVE TOWARDS INCLUSION...

Inclusive education is an important step towards the future of the special children. Everyone around speaks of inclusive education, but the first step towards it is acceptance and socialisation with normally developing children.

On this note, our children participated in the Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations organized by Dream India at S.V. Destitute Home for Girls, Poonamalle on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. Shridhar gave an electrifying speech, while Pravin Raj and Jayakanth sang melodiously. Not to be the one left behind, Satish stole people's heart by his spellbinding dance.

Vasantham family thanks DI for this great opportunity intreated to the children and for the experience of a lifetime. Shri.B.Suresh Kamath (Board of management of Vasantham) was the guest of honour.



## PARENTS-TEACHERS' MEETING

The third quarterly programme plan meeting (parent teachers meeting) was held on the -- of December 2009 (Saturday). Dr. Prakash Chidambaram (Paediatric Psychiatrist, Royal Hospital, Melbourne) was the special invitee. He patiently answered all the queries raised by the parents regarding their children. He emphasized on the importance of therapeutic management for children with pervasive developmental disorders, and ADHD.

Apart from this, each child's progress and future goals were discussed with the parents. The following Saturday, individual meeting was also organized for all the children. Dr. Prakash Chidambaram also did meet few of our parents on another day upon special request.



### REGULAR CALENDAR EVENTS

- Medical camps for our children.
- Observational visits by nursing and special education students from various colleges, in and around the city.
- Individual parents-teachers meeting

### Others....

1. Staff attended 3 national level conferences focusing issues on the needy
2. Registered with the National Trust Act for the Disabled
3. Shri.B.Suresh Kamath celebrated his mother's birthday with Vasantham children and distributed sweets.
4. Stall with products made by our children at Symantec, Chennai (Thanks to Ms.Thalir), iNautix (Thanks to Dr.Vidya Durai &Mr.Balaji) and TI cycles (Thanks to Ms.Dolly)
5. Participated in the World disability day celebration function organized by the DDRO, Thiruvallur District on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2009.