



# VASANTHAM e-Newsletter

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*VASANTHAM Special School for the Mentally Challenged*  
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## *Examination*

Among the eight children from Vasantham who appeared for their standard eight examination, one student cleared all papers. The others have cleared few subjects. This being the first venture for the children and school, the efforts of students and teachers are much appreciated.

## *Independence Day*

Zen Runners, the team of marathon runners who supported Vasantham by raising close to Rs. 6.5 lakhs during The Wipro Chennai Marathon 2014, were invited as guests for the Independence day celebrations. Mr. Ravi Sundaresan, a Zen Runner, hoisted the national flag. He was accompanied by 8 other Zen Runners. Furthermore, few other long term supporters of Vasantham - Mr. C.A.Menon from AyyappaBhaktha Sabha; Mr. Srinivasan from MRL AnbargalNesakarangal; Mr. Natarajan from Dream India - joined in as special guests for the day. The flag hoisting was followed by lighting of the traditional lamp and inauguration of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's memorial photo at Vasantham by Mr. Natarajan. The guests delivered motivating speeches and promised to continue their support to Vasantham. Vasantham children displayed their talents through a range of amazing cultural programmes with several dances, songs, speeches and fancy dresses on the stage. Further, Mr. Amith and his band performed a light music show for an hour to entertain the audience. Since the construction of the stage at Vasantham, this was the first programme and thus a special one too.



## *Teacher's Day celebration*

Teacher's day was celebrated on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 (Saturday). The day began with quiz competition and games for all teachers and few individuals with special needs. During the parent-teacher meeting in the afternoon, Mr. Arul Prakasam, renowned orator, delivered a humorous and thought provoking lecture for the teachers, parents and children. All the teachers and supporting staff were honoured and felicitated by the guest. Further, members from the Inner Wheel Club of Chennai Gemini visited Vasantham and honoured the teachers with gifts on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2015. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, the teaching staff along with the Founder Director and family had lunch as a part of staff welfare activity.



## *Loom workshop*

A one day hands on workshop on spinning a loom was conducted by a team of three members headed by Mr. Naresh from Ergo G2 on 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. This was facilitated by Zen Runners who donated two looms worth Rs.36,000. They suggested considering building of a specialised unit for loom as therapy and vocational training. The Zen Runners are likely to support Vasantham during The Wipro Chennai Marathon 2015 too.





## *Excursion*

About 40 individuals with special needs from Vasantham accompanied by 15 staff members travelled by the Chennai Metro Rail to and from Koyambedu to Alandhur on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. This was a first time experience for all of them. They were oriented and few students had the opportunity to book the tickets and commute via escalator. The staff at CMRL were highly supportive and the children experienced great hospitality.



## *Glimpses*

Vasantham's speech therapist visited University of Warwickshire, Coventry, UK in July 2015 to deliver an oral presentation as well as a poster on children with autism. Further, she attended a certification training on 'More Than Words', a parent empowerment programme for children with autism at Bangalore which would commence in November 2015.



Special puja and havan was conducted before Independence Day for the stage and renovated

## *Meeting*

The second quarterly programme plan meeting was conducted on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 at Vasantham. Regular instructions and updates were shared by the Founder-Director Mrs. Allimurugesan. Parents also had an opportunity to interact with their children's class teacher and therapist. Further, individual and small group meetings were conducted for few of the students during the following two weeks.



Special homage meeting was conducted at Vasantham for Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam

## *Visitors & supporters*

The following donors and well-wishers have supported Vasantham over the last few months:

- **Mr. K.S. Kalidas** and family, **Mr. Suresh Kamath** (President, Board of the Management of Vasantham), **Mr. Venkatesan** (Member, Board of the Management of Vasantham) sponsored towards the construction of concrete stage at Vasantham's campus.
- Following the visit by members of **Foundation Marc Sauquet** in May 2015, they have approved and sent funds towards purchasing a new custom made washing machine for Vasantham
- **Mr. 'Blade' Shankar** celebrated his son's birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. They gave away snacks to all children. Mr. Shankar celebrates his family members and friends birthday with Vasantham children and keeps it a low profile one.
- One of our long term supporter from HISCA, **Mr. Dooraiswamy**, donated some toys for children
- **Ms. Aparna Mudhaliar** and **Ms. Asha Sekar** visited Vasantham and distributed sweets and colourful tiffin cutlery set.
- On different occasions, **Mr. Vinoth Kumar** along with his wife and friend **Mr. Velu; Ms. Kavitha** and her son from **Dream India** visited to distribute biscuits and sweet
- One of our students, **Mr. Harish Viswanath's** parents donated a cot for our new project 'Natpu'. Another student, **Mr. Jayakanth's** parents have funded towards installing mosquito net in the hostel area in first floor of Vasantham.
- Another long term supporter, **Mr. Vinoth Kumar Rengarajan** donated Rs.50,000.
- **Dr. Dinesh Kumar and family** have been donating Rs.5000 per month for medical expenses on a regular basis over the last few years
- **Mr. S. M. Parthasarathy** has been supporting Vasantham over a decade by donating Rs.600 pm
- **Zen runners** have sponsored 2 looms worth Rs.36,000
- Birthday celebration: **Mas. Siddheshwar; Mr.R.K.Karthik; Ms. Gayathiri & Ms. Jayapradha; Mas.Mukundhan.**
- **Lucas TVS** donated sweets; **Ad2pro team** visited and donated Dhal, Oil and Sugar; **AvaSoft** team visited and donated toiletries, biscuits, Invictans organized games for a whole day and donated snacks.

Furthermore, nursing students and special education trainees from nursing colleges and special education training institutes have been visiting Vasantham as a part of their curriculum.



### *Upcoming events*

- ✓ Shifting of 'Vasantham-Natpu' from Mogappair to Madhuravoyal
- ✓ Participation in the educational fest conducted by Dream India on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015
- ✓ Saraswathy Pooja and Vijayadasami on 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2015
- ✓ Diwali celebration on 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2015
- ✓ Science exhibition from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- ✓ Annual Day on 28<sup>th</sup> Of November 2015