

News from Shishu Mandir



Vol. XVIII, April to September 2018

Welcome to Shishu Mandir! We are pleased to share with you the developments and programmes from April to September 2018.

Green Campus School

Right from young age our children have been made aware of problems in respect of the environment. They have been frequently participating in rallies highlighting such issues. So they participated in planting trees together with government schools, Interactors, Rotaractors and volunteers. Campaigning against the use of plastic, they have even gone around selling cloth bags at the entrances of malls. Hence it is no surprise that the Green Campus School Award was given to Shishu Mandir by the Mayor of Bengaluru, taking into consideration the high standard of cleanliness and greenery maintained in and around the school campus. Thanks to the aunties who maintain this cleanliness, of course with the cooperation of the children and the staff.

Kannada Prathibha Puraskara 2018

Two of our Shishu Home girls, Bindhu and Ramya, who scored 99 and 98 marks in their Kannada SSLC exam, were awarded with the Kannada Prathibha Puraskara. The event was organized by Akhila Karnataka Sam-skrita Vedike which promotes Kannada language and literature. The toppers in

the II PUC board exam were Pavithra and Nagaveni and Bindhu and Ramya in the SSLC exam. Congratulations!

Miracle Baby



In March Shreyas, a baby of a few days of age, was brought to us. The staff noticed that he required immediate hospitalisation, as he had blue lips and nails. The doctors were wonderstruck at the survival of the baby which had such immense cardiac complications. An immediate open heart surgery was performed to give the child a chance to survive. A second heart surgery the child had to undergo after a gap of seven months. Having braved two major surgeries, currently the child is

out of danger thanks to the skills of the doctors and the prayers of all of us well-wishers. Esteemed Aishwarya Trust took the burden of the high medical bill, though Manipal Hospital has to be appreciated for their generous concession.

We are the World, we are the people!

It was a Saturday, when the call came from Scania, a multinational company, asking for our electricians and fitters for helping in flood ravaged Alwaye, Kerala. 6 volunteers from the fitters and 8 from the electrical department and their trainers immediately responded to the SOS. Within 10 hours they reached the flood victims who were totally helpless and ill-equipped to clear the debris of their devastated homes. Our technical volunteers sprang into action, repairing motors, cleaning the mud and slush in the mains and in the junction boxes. In three days, they fixed electrical connections in 375 houses in different locations. It was a heart-touching experience for our youngsters as well as for the beneficiaries. There was so much of genuine sharing from the part of the volunteers and the victims. The local people offered whatever supplies



they had in terms of drinking water and biscuits to the volunteers. Our boys, knowing well their sad plight, gratefully acknowledged their generous gesture and gently declined their offer and went on tirelessly with their work in making their utilities functional. In recognition of their heart-touching voluntary service in flood affected Kerala, our trainees from the electrical and fitters department and their trainers were honoured with appreciation certificates from SCANIA.

Kaiwara Calling

Kaiwara could easily be referred to as a temple town, considering the presence of the numerous temples. Wooed by the spiritual ambience and the enchanting call of the hills, our trainees take turns and make a trip to the hills just for the thrill of it. Entry into the temple, which is carved out of a rock, is indeed awe-inspiring. Packed lunch in the park and spontaneous group games at the play area of the park are a bonus to the outing that is organized for every new batch of trainees.



Adoption – a new Life for a Child

In our fast developing world more and more parents opt for adoption to experience the joy of parenthood and

to give a truly new life to a child. In this field Shishu Mandir has been in the forefront even at the national level. We started with 7 adoptions in April, and eventually there were 14 new admissions. 6 babies have been given for in-country adoption and one baby went for inter-country adoption. A total of 144 home studies, which is the basis for the court procedure, and 177 follow-up reports have been completed to supervise the further development of the adopted child.



CNC Machine Arrival

The long pending CNC machine finally arrived thanks to our generous donors Tech Mahindra and a private person. It had its long journey all the way from Coimbatore, weighing about 1.7 tons and costing nearly a fortune, the machine is now adorning the fitters' department. In true Shishu Mandir spirit the trainees also worked hard to give the workshop a new face. Even their physical strength was utilized to the brim while offloading and transporting the machine to its new location. Remembering our original roots in Germany we invited the German Consulate staff of Bangalore, Mr. Martin Rohlmann, to inaugurate the new machine. He was awe-struck seeing our establishment and not having had any notice of us till then in the circles of the German Consulate. The program started with a prayer song followed by the lighting of the lamp. As the chief guest Mr. Rohlmann cut the ribbon and switched on the machine. He then gave a spirited



keynote address in which he congratulated Shishu Mandir Community College (SMCC) for starting the CNC unit and promised to associate himself with Shishu Mandir more closely in future. Mr. Jegan Tharmaraj, the guest of honour from Tech Mahindra, gave away the *Best Performer Awards* to five students of SMCC. In his speech he praised SMCC for its transparency and consistent performance. He also declared SMCC as the *Star Partner* of Tech Mahindra Foundation.



Now on all working days, our fitters, 25 in number, get trained on the CNC. On Saturdays and Sundays, 13 trainees from TTF and 17 from TE Connectivity also are taught on the CNC machine. the candidates from TTF and TE Connectivity have the advantage of having been trained through ITI courses. The CNC machine is thus put to maximum use all around the week.

Snapshots from the Department of Social Work

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is a leading international not-for-profit

organisation which works to make Giving more effective and Charities more Successful. CAF India has a wide range of Giving Solutions by delivering Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions of multinationals, public sector undertakings and Indian commercial giants.

Through the active correlation of our social workers with the surrounding schools, CAF India facilitated a Dengue insurance for the children of 26 government schools. 3333 students are the beneficiaries who can claim up to Rs 20,000 for the treatment of Dengue. CAF India has set aside Rs 10 lakhs for this project.



Another big success of the Social Work Department was the organisation of a camp for differently abled people of this locality. Among the many who attended the camp, 27 were given government certificates to avail free train and bus passes and free medical services. As per a government scheme they can also claim free sites besides exemption from income tax.

Thanks to the financial support of donors and sponsor parents, a total of 52 houses have so far been constructed for our school children, 5 in this year. Many more children are in the waiting list. As and when funds trickle in, houses will be built immediately.

Celebrations

With the hoisting of the tricolour on August 15th, the celebration of the 72nd Independence Day started with a meaningful cultural programme in which the sacrifices made by the armed forces were highlighted. One play



stressed on the uppermost importance of education for every human being after which every child solemnly promised to teach his or her own dependents to read and write. Maintaining secularism as one main pillar of Shishu Mandir, Bakrid (Id-ul-Adha) was celebrated with great zeal. Staff members belonging to Islam made it special by explaining the true meaning of the festival.

Kamsale and Kandyan

Kamsale, a folk dance from Karnataka, India, and Kandyan, a dance from Kandy, Sri Lanka, were performed at our place as part of the inter-cultural exchange between India and our neighbouring Island nation. 13 delegates from Sri Lanka interacted with our Shishu children thanks to Mr. CNN Raju and Mr. Sriganesh from the Indian Foundation for Global Peace Education, who organized the event.



SSLC & PUC

It was a proud moment for Shishu Mandir to announce the results of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Board Exams. When only 57 % of the students in the entire State of Karnataka cleared their SSLC, it is no mean achievement for our students who showed 100 % pass results with 50 % passing with Distinction (more than 85 %). Congratulations to the teachers and students!



This year the star performer was Ashwini M. with a total of 92.48 % in the SSLC results. Born into a family of a drunkard father she spent 11 years in Shishu Mandir, got one double promotion and reached the qualification for PUC in Science. Influenced by the meetings with the Shishu Mandir staff, the father left drinking many years ago. Ashwini now pursues a career in Computer Science. Among the II PUC students 5 secured Distinction, among them Vanitha and Nethravathi with 100 % in Accountancy and Business Studies. It is heartwarming for us to note that our past students are keeping the Shishu Mandir flag high.

Tit-bits from Shishu Home - Sweet Home



Shishu Home is a home away from home to every child who gets admitted in it. While 28 children come under Care and Protection, 23 babies have gone for adoption. So a total of 51 children enjoyed a Home with warmth and love. Nowadays whenever there is a difficult health situation with an abandoned baby, the government departments first request us to accept this baby, as they are sure that we will take the best care.

Teaching via Skype

Mr. **Rajiv Talwar** and Mr. **Ramaswamy**, well-wishers of our school, regularly conduct classes in Maths and Science for the 10th std. students via Skype. It is a very convenient way of communication in a traffic overburdened city like Bangalore, where the time taken for commuting exceeds the time for teaching by far. To promote the students' interest in Science and Technology, an exhibition was organized at three levels for the students to discover their own talents, creativity and scientific temperament.

5 E - Model in Teaching



Mr. **Pradeep**, a resource person in the field of teacher training, conducted a

training programme for the teachers to write effective lesson plans based on the 5 E Model – Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate. The students will benefit greatly from this new teaching model.

Inauguration of a new Bus

The long awaited 35 seater bus, which was donated by BOSCH, ultimately became a reality. We were really amazed to hear how the money was collected from the employees. Mrs. Katja Lang from Germany took the



lead to collect the necessary amount. She involved her husband, who is also working in Bosch, and a few of her friends to project the need of a bus for our school in India and in Germany. She even made a small chart depicting the various activities of Shishu Mandir. It took them a big effort and several months to reach the target amount. But they were overjoyed when they could hand over the key and the vehicle to us which was done in an impressive celebration in true Indian spirit.

Techno-Friendly

Shishu Mandir has always been a forerunner for incorporating technology in education through the good offices of individual volunteers and MNC sponsors. Ms **Dhanalakshmi** from Qualcomm, as the Regional Ambassador of Bangalore for Technovision Apps, has been instrumental in guiding our children to develop mobile applications. They came up with astonishing apps, as for instance *Save EW app* - for saving electricity

and water, *Missie Motorist app* - for rural women to learn a skill like driving a four-wheeler, *Park me app* - for locating parking space, *Re-learn app* - for school drop-outs to complete their studies, *Own maid app* - for finding a suitable housemaid. They won the 1st and 2nd prize at the regional level of Technovision Apps conducted in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

Sports and Games

Every summer without fail, Mr. David Foy from USA is here to train our children in unicycling, juggling and tight rope walking. Having entered our gates as a normal tourist, he got so much attracted to our system of uplifting poor children that it became a need for him to spend at least one month with us and even complementing our fleet of unicycles. Hats up to this man's service from the heart!



In course of time our extra-curricular activities have grown from height to height. Every child pursues at least two activities apart from classroom learning. But during the holidays our extra-curricular activities reach unknown numbers by offering sessions in pottery, clay modelling, training in First Aid, village camps, trekking, zip lining, rappelling and net-climbing as well as swimming, football, basket ball, volley ball, chess, carrom, and of late even a theatre workshop and ballet dancing.

We would like to conclude this report with all good wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year for all of you and all suffering people at large.