

# News from Shishu Mandir



Vol. XIII, January to March 2016

**Welcome** to Shishu Mandir! We are pleased to share with you our latest developments and programmes in the quarter year from January to March 2016

## Founder's Day

January 11th, our annual Founder's Day, is a day which everybody lives up to with great feelings of achievement and gratitude. Our children perform a breath-taking programme and our teachers take pride in their children's note-worthy development, especially in the field of dance and drama performance. This day also gives them a feeling of the big Shishu Family which comprises more than 1000 people. Former students gather together and enjoy seeing each other again.

This year's particularity was the release of the Mathematics book for the Prep children, which was compiled by our teacher Aparna Latha and Bettina Zauner, who added an unmistakable tinge of German systematics and appeal.

Utilising the talent of our English guest teachers, a play was enacted which enthralled the spectators to the maximum. The acting was natural, no artificial exaggeration when expressing emotions. It was extraordinary and very pleasant.

As usual the day concluded with a delicious dinner, which our cook Babu is known for and which made the day complete in all respects.

## A New Life Style in Pyramid Valley

A group of students visited Pyramid Valley, a meditation centre. Pyramids are understood to be objects capable of drawing energies from all directions, thus the main building was pyramid shaped. Our students were requested to sit in silence to concentrate on their breathing and to listen to their inner voice. They were fortunate to meet the founder **Brahmarishi Patriji**, who is observing total silence for a full year.



## Planting of Saplings

Not only Shishu Mandir's buildings are green, also the political orientation is 'green': The children are taught not to waste paper, further not to misuse water, electricity and avoid producing CO<sub>2</sub>. On this basis the CAN Trust offered Rs. 10.000 for planting saplings, an offer, which the Interact Club was very happy to take up. As an initial step 10 saplings were planted at Shishu Mandir's Child Care Centre.

## Castrol Training Programme

Our automobile students were lucky to get a special training from GMR Foundation. Along with this training they also had the opportunity to offer free services to the public under the supervision of their trainers, Mr. Narasanna and Mr. Suresh. Our students appreciate such occasions very much, in fact they ask for the next service day before the first one has finished. We also notice that such outreach programmes kindle their self-respect a great deal. Unexpectedly Castrol Oil Company honoured the students with a gift of Rs. 500/- for participation and a tool kit. A pleasant surprise! But even without the gifts of GMR Foundation this training rendered such a good echo that we invited all workshop owners within a radius of 3 km for a similar session. 38 followed our invitation and experienced a meaningful day of training.

## HR Manual

Shishu Mandir has reached a size which demands clear rules of management for any given situation. So on the advice of KPMG we took up the composition of another strong-hold of an organization: HR Manual formation.

For that Mr. Anand and Mrs. Hella worked out the code of conduct of the management, which will take care of man power planning and recruitment, payroll processing, learning development, performance management, exit management and employee travel.

**Farewell to our 10<sup>th</sup> Standard**



Every year our 10<sup>th</sup> standard children have to say good-bye to school life which they enjoyed for twelve great years. It is a day of nostalgic memories of their good and bad days in the family and security of Shishu Mandir. Also this year many could not control their tears. But the next junior batch did their best to provide a meaningful programme for their seniors and made the day very memorable.

**Decathlon at our Place**



Decathlon, which has its outlets of sport articles throughout the world, proved their global connections by bringing a group of 15 people from different European countries plus Bangladesh and China to us. They spent time with the children while speaking about their respective countries in the context of sports. What could be more interesting for our students than sports? They listened spell-bound. In their earlier

visits Decathlon had donated a lot of sport equipment to us. This time we dared to go a few steps higher, we requested them to construct a standard tournament basketball ground for our students to practice under tournament conditions. We keep our fingers crossed!

**Mahadevan's Marriage**

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 was the day, when our past student Mahadevan got married. Of course he was not our first child to be married, but his marriage was special. He did not celebrate it in a luxurious style, as we usually see with even our own children, but had the modesty of choosing our school as the place for celebration. Under the hands of our artists Jayaprakash and Ericks the place won an impressively festive look. There was no live band, no glamorous outfit, but by no means did it wear a 'poor man's look'. It was sweet and warm and in all respects exhibiting the mentality which is Shishu Mandir's very own. Hats off to Mahadevan!



**The Rotaract and Interact Clubs**

Mr. Manoj Kabre, an active Rotarian, discovered his heart for Shishu Mandir. Their two youth wings, the Interact and the Rotaract Club, are platforms where they encourage youngsters to develop their responsibility towards the society. In true Rotary manner our applicants had to get the permission for membership from the central authority after which we performed the installation ceremony. Our Mama was the chief guest. She highlighted the common goals of Rotary and Shishu Mandir.

**Aspire Girls**



KPMG in its zeal to bring out excellence in girls' professional careers increased their support to us remarkably. From 6 selected candidates the number rose to 21 who get supported in a great way. The main focus lies on Science. Therefore regular visits to Kuppam, where they are exposed to Science experiments, widen their knowledge, and the previously dreaded subject becomes a cherished companion. They are guided by young scientists whom they can ask any question and be sure to get a meaningful answer. Every day they focus on a different subject in order to touch all the three: Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Such exemplary tutoring has its price, but KPMG is happy to sponsor our brainy students with Rs. 1200 per student per day.

**One more House Construction**

In the course of 11 years we occasionally received funds for the construction of small houses for the worst affected people in our area. Following this idea 45 houses were constructed, the most recent one for our 5<sup>th</sup> standard student Rakshitha. This time we faced the problem of getting sand at a reasonable price.

Consequently the construction took one whole year. Two other houses, which had been built by us in earlier years, were knocked down by a private builder to widen the road. To our utter surprise the families were given new houses at a place just 300 meters away.

### International Women's Day



Of all commemorative days in the year International Women's Day is celebrated in a great way at Shishu Mandir, as it is going hand in hand with Shishu Mandir's primary aim: the liberation of women. This year we focused on our Self Help Groups (SHGs). The programme started with a session on **Yoga for good Health** by Mr. Prabhu, a post graduate in Yoga Science, which was enriched by a video that highlighted the health benefits of yoga. From health the programme went to kitchen gardening, which was demonstrated by another video. Thus the International Women's Day concluded on a green note, but more importantly by spreading awareness.

### Our Drama troupe at Bagalkot

Our Kannada drama troop, that is students of class 1 to 9, had performed the play 'Bommanahalli Kindari Jogi' at Bagalkot by the invitation of the government. It must have been an impressive performance, as our troupe received another invitation, this time for the Ravindra Kalakshetra in



Bangalore City. What a jump!!! For our budding actors it was a thrilling experience and naturally they gave their very best to an audience of 1000 Bangaloreans. Ultimately they were even mentioned in the press.

### Ion Exchange – a new Supporter

It was a lucky turn that the MD of the Ion Exchange Company became aware of us at a time, when we were contemplating to have a water softener system, as the water at our school was extremely hard and not really suitable for consumption. They graciously donated a water plant to us which is a gift of Rs. 50,000, indeed an overwhelming present for us.

### Teachers' Joy in 'Enjoy'



Trelleborg from Sweden was kind enough to present us a new car, 'Enjoy', an 8-seater. It will be used to transport the teachers, doctors and also children to hospitals, when required. Since Trelleborg showed a great appreciation for our services, we dared to request them for a special help: the construction of a multi-purpose hall and for the higher education of our children.

### Canvassing for new Students

We think that the most powerful promoters of our vocational courses

are our students themselves. Consequently one Sunday all Community College students and their trainers gathered to move to Ramamurthy-nagar where they distributed pamphlets and explained about their experience in Shishu Mandir. Their testimony must have been impressive, as they collected 325 names of prospective students with their telephone numbers and addresses. As usual our electrical and automobile students also gave free services to the public. The fruit of this day is already seen in the new enrollments to the Community College.

### Trip to Delhi and Agra



Like last year our children participated in a 'Lego Robot Competition', in Chennai, where they secured the second prize. This qualified them to participate on the national level at Delhi. The robotics have to be programmed to fulfill specific tasks with utmost precision. Though our children could not fulfill their dream to win in this competition, they had the unique chance to see the **Taj Mahal**, the monument which stands out for Indian Culture per se and which adorns all their History books. It was indeed a dream come true.

## The Story of Gandhimathi V.



Gandhimathi, a BBA graduate from Karnataka, had to move to Tamilnadu to stay with her uncle and aunt. Her father, a brother of notorious sandal wood smuggler Veerappan, who was wanted by the police of Tamilnadu and Karnataka for the last three decades, had got many threats towards his family that he feared for his daughter's life. Further Gandhimathi had seen a fire accident, in which her parents were afire, a scene, which continued to haunt her all along. So her father hoped that a change of place and environment would do her good.

After her graduation she wanted to work. But due to her family background she was rejected many times. Finally one export garment company employed her as a quality checker. She earned Rs. 6000 per month, more than nothing, but very little for a person with a bachelor degree. So after six months she decided to continue her studies and work side by side. She came back to Bangalore. There also the search for a job proved extremely frustrating, so much so that she developed thoughts of suicide. Her only luck was that she had found a simple and cheap hostel which was run by Salesian Sisters. One Sister took a special interest in her and hearing her desperate story of searching a job and wanting to continue some kind of education, she directed her to Shishu Mandir Community College. There she was immediately accepted and admitted in the Tally course. Along with any vocational course Shishu Mandir also gives classes in English and Life Skills and as a special support for Gandhimathi Shishu Mandir paid her hostel fees. This was the turning point. For the first time after many years she could look forward to the future and her haunting memories became weaker and weaker. Her happiness increased even more, when after the completion of the Tally course she found a job as an accountant straight away and was paid Rs. 18,000. Life really brightened, she worked hard and happily in her company Agiti Logistics, which also noticed her genuine efforts and dedication. But life changed again. Her family wanted her to get married to a boy in Chennai. Gandhimathi could accept this happily, but leaving her company, where she had been so happy, was making her very sad. But again life changed: Agiti Logistics, her company, had a branch in Chennai and even a vacancy which Gandhimathi could take up. She immediately got employed and as they had experienced her eagerness at work before already, she was offered Rs. 23,000 straight away.

Your efforts and perseverance, Gandhimathi, have ultimately paid off. We all hope that your life will continue this happily , as it has turned now!

**Written and edited by Gregory Mark, Dhinakaran, Ericks and Hella Mundhra**

# News from Shishu Mandir



Vol. XV, July to September 2016

**Welcome** to Shishu Mandir! We are pleased to share with you our latest developments and programmes in the quarter from July to September 2016.

## Special Needs Children

Along with babies with normal health, we also receive babies with health issues who require special treatment. To our surprise we find adoptive parents even for such babies. For instance a baby with a heart problem was adopted by a nurse working in Manipal Hospital, Bangalore. Another child with a congenital pyloric stenosis had to undergo an emergency operation to be saved. He is sure to find parents. There is Christbin, a boy of almost 2 years, with a congenital kidney problem. He had an operation and is going to be adopted by a couple from Malta. Another child who weighed 4800 g at the age of one year, gained weight 'by the hour', once it had reached our home. This child found a loving home very soon. 2.6 year-old Gowri went to her adoptive parents in Kerala. All these children had temporary or also lasting health issues, but our Baby Kushi, twin sister of Ayush, was at the verge of dying and was saved with an enormous medical effort. Unfortunately she remained with a lasting brain damage causing retardation and epileptic fits. She gets all care and medical treatment, yet her future is unknown.

## Mega Blood Donation Camp

In August a 'Mega Blood Donation Camp' was planned. It took shape thanks to the Manipal Blood Bank which accepted the invitation of the main organiser, the Rotary Club Whitefield Central. Our Shishu Mandir Rotaractors spread the word through social media, and additionally the staff of our Community College went around convents, seminaries and educational institutions to motivate the youngsters for the event.



Much to our joy more than 100 people came, but due to underweight or other physical conditions most of them could not be considered. Still 43 units of blood were collected, out of which 16 were from our own trainees and the staff. It was our first attempt of this kind, so we were pleased with the result.

## Women Awareness Programs

In view of the appalling family situations which we see in our children's families, we consider it a great need to tap on the women potential to bring about a socio-economic change in our country. We feel that enterprise development holds the key to resolve such problems. Consequently Shishu Mandir organized an entrepreneur awareness program, in which 150 women of our Self Help Groups (SHG) participated. Surprisingly 59 of them registered for a further 10-month training program taking place on two days per week. They seem to be electrified by such new and for them revolutionary prospects for their lives.

## Gaining new Skills ...

A workshop was soon arranged, always with the aim of detecting their inborn potential. To make it even more attractive the training was done with soft skills. The women experienced group discussions, slide shows, role plays, and a puppet show. And the women came out of their shell and responded! Many of them participated in the discussions, women who would never have dared to open their mouth and utter an own opinion. It was heart

-ening to see their development and self-liberation and more so, as a few husbands, who happened to be present, declared to support their wives' endeavours in whatever way possible.

### Which Product can I make?



To expose the women of our awareness program to different small-scale production units, we provided a visit to the 'Organic Greenhouse', the nursery at Lalbagh, and a factory, where bags were being manufactured from tetra packs. Everywhere the main skill, which was necessary for the particular product, was explained in detail so that the women received a lot of information. Much attention was given to the tetra pack utilisation, because of the welcome side effect of decreasing waste products by turning them into useful articles. Further the women learnt about making compost and starting a nursery at home. This exposure should yield good results.

### Impacts of Street Plays

As part of the feedback from a street play on corruption, the parents spontaneously promised to refuse accepting money from political parties, but vote for candidates who do not offer money. While we are appreciative of their resolution, we have all difficulties in believing that it will ever come true!

Another street play, this time enacted by the women of the villages around, had an equally unusual effect – the fathers also wanted to be trained in street play acting!

### Technical Touch

As we felt the need to acquaint our children with basic technical skills we made the students of class 7 and 8

attend training classes in our automobile and electrical departments. This should not only serve as a welcome advantage for their limited means, but also instill in them the feeling of respect towards technical trades. We deeply deplore that our children take undue pride over people of technical trades, because of their capacity to speak English.

### Bonding with Geometry

Geometry, one of Mama's favourite subjects, was due to be taught in std. 8, 9, and 10. Hearing this Mama jumped in to utilise the opportunity of dealing again with triangles, angle sums and the like. She is convinced that it is in the hands of the teachers to make students beam with joy and ask for more learning. With that conviction she went to work and – no wonder – even got the teachers interested and involved in her beloved subject Geometry.

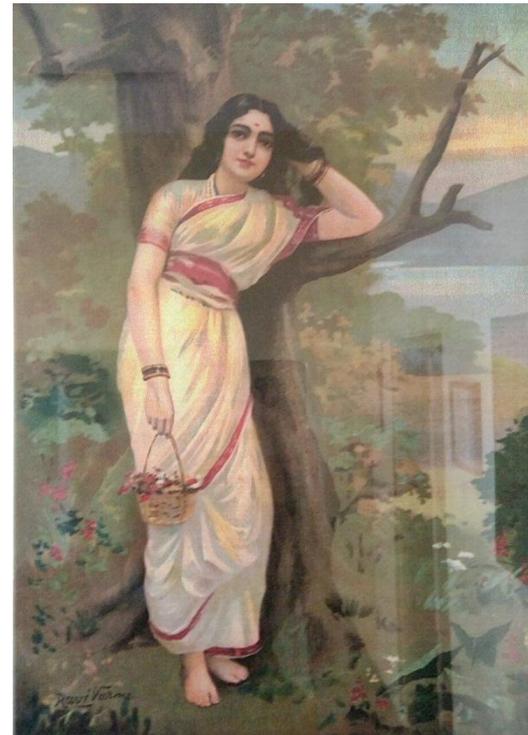


### KPMG Support

No student can get a more intense education than our Aspire Girls thanks to KPMG. This time they arranged for a career guidance session which is indeed highly needed for our children at the time of leaving school. KPMG takes big efforts in strengthening their academic performance, particularly in the Science stream, but also commerce and accounts were brought to them by a program on finance, banking, accounts, stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Periodically their CSR team members visit our school to get a feedback on all their programs.

### A Peep into the World of Art

Ravi Varma (1848 – 1906) was a celebrated Indian painter and artist. His works are examples of the fusion of European techniques with a purely Indian sensibility. He was notable for making lithographs of his paintings available to the public, which greatly enhanced his reach and influence as a painter and public figure.



Mr. Bala Chandra and Mr. Raj from Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation wanted to acquaint the common man with Ravi Varma's paintings. They escorted our children to the National Gallery of Modern Art at Bangalore, where a fully new world of art opened to them. They were overwhelmed by the beauty and sensitivity of these paintings.

### A Special Impact of Mama's Visit

Every visit of Mama is a source of inspiration and motivation to the teachers. This time apart from the spontaneous program on Geometry classes she planned to meet the teachers individually to discuss with them the setting of question papers. The teachers responded with great openness. It was taken as a welcome opportunity for improvement. They

also immediately approved of her suggestion to give double promotion to Bhavani, an outstanding girl in standard 4, who was right away sent up to standard 5. Even there she excelled in all the subjects, only in Maths she wanted extra classes which were gladly arranged.



Bhavani

It was a well deserved honour for Bhavani and an inspiration for all the other children.

### Our Weakness – being on Time

As every year the Annual Report keeps us busy up to the last minute. How should it be different this year? It was of course not. Only with Mama's intensive push and Mr. Ericks' burning the midnight oil we managed to complete it on time. No wonder, as it has reached a length of 55 pages in all!

### Also in Administration ...

Finally one more important and indeed long overdue improvement was introduced in our administrative system: It was the preservation of the students' test papers arranged in class-wise folders and in alphabetical order. We are growing slowly, but steadily!

### Learning English with the Computer



The newly installed English lab is a big boost for our students from class 4 onwards. With head phones on they are eagerly working on the given tasks. We hope that this direct contact with native English speakers will further refine their grammar and pronunciation. There is much to be improved!

### Sex Education

In keeping with the needs of the time we invited Enfold Training Centre to provide sex education classes for all our children. For the small ones the topics were "I am special", "Importance of the Body" and "Good and bad Touch". For the senior ones the topics were on personal safety, teasing and bullying, body image, building self-esteem, physical and emotional changes during puberty, body safety rules, resisting and reporting abuse, and also acts related to child abuse. Also a session in Kannada on how to handle children was conducted for the non-teaching staff including the security staff. Altogether we see the great need for such instructions which



our teachers cannot handle with confidence. We will continue for minimum six months engaging specialists on this subject.

### Motivating Experience

Concern India Foundation called our Bharathnatyam children for a reach-out program in favour of differently abled children. It was a unique experience for our children to bring a smile on the faces of differently abled children and their parents through their dance performance. Being confronted with a big group of these children they realised with surprise how fortunate they are to be able-bodied due to no merit of their own.

### Teachers' Day



*Teaching is the profession that teaches every other profession - Tilak, freedom fighter.*

As every year the students of class 9 made the day colourful and special. They had thought of a pleasant cultural program as well as amusing scenes. It was indeed very funny to see the students interviewing their own teachers. Each teacher was presented with a book titled 'Good Teaching' based on the quote of Swami Vivekananda, "We want an education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded by which one can stand on one's own feet".

Written & edited by  
Hella Mundhra  
Joseph Dhinakaran  
Ericks

## Successful Story

### Punith Kumar



Punith Kumar's father was a building sub-contractor who had well understood the present world's great demands for technically skilled persons. Therefore he was looking for an ITI education for his son Punith to pick up a skill or two. At that time he came to know about Shishu Mandir Community College and the offer of technical courses free of cost. Punith, who had just completed his SSLC, gladly enrolled himself for the electrical course. He was sure that after some years of experience he would be able to manage on his own like his father. But bad luck was in store for him. As he was following his course, he was diagnosed as a patient of a Pituitary Adenoma, a tumour in the brain, for which he was advised to keep bed rest for a year. It was a paralysing

shock for a youngster of 17 years with all life expectations in front of him. He was shattered.

But he recovered. In 2013, Punith was back to his normal self. He was advised not to take up work that would involve physical strain, which was a highly limiting factor. He contacted our community college again to find out what more was in store for him. But to his utter dismay he came to know that according to the policy of the institution, no second chance was given to anyone who had dropped out once. He was distressed. However, knowing Punith's particular medical condition, the Community College made an exception and re-admitted Punith, this time for a Tally Course. With free access to computers, Punith picked up all the basics of computer handling along with his main subject Tally, and with the all-round formation offered at the Community College, he got prepared to take up a job suitable to his health. All what he had gained from the Life Skill and English language classes stood in good stead in his first job as a tele caller in Aegis for a salary of Rs. 6500.

Today as Punith Kumar works at his computer, sitting in an AC cooled chamber in a 3-star hotel, he fondly remembers his Tally days in room No. 215 at Community College. Yes, Punith Kumar is a Computer Operator now at the Evoma Hotel with a salary of Rs. 15,000. It is a second life for him and much more will be in stock thanks to his basic skills gained at the Shishu Mandir Community College.

# News from Shishu Mandir



Vol. XVI, October to December 2016

**Welcome** to Shishu Mandir! We are pleased to share with you our latest developments and programmes in the quarter from October to December 2016

## **Adoptions – Unimaginable Arrivals**

A research student (PhD) in Pune had no choice, but to give away her baby after having looked after it for over 6 months. She bowed down to keep up her family reputation...

Another newborn baby was abandoned in the open to the mercy of rodents which had already bitten the child before it reached Shishu Mandir. Fortunately the wound healed without complication. But unfortunately a couple appeared, who declared to be the parents of the baby. A DNA test was conducted which confirmed the authenticity of the parents. So we had no choice, but to give back the baby, although we still cannot free ourselves from the thought that they only claimed the child to give it to somebody else for money.

Another baby was delivered by a teenager who parted with the child, as she wanted to finish her schooling. The child, fair and plumpy, was given in adoption in the routine way. But within one week it was returned by the adoptive couple on the assertion that the child is medically 'not fit', as it is supposed to have coarse features and short limbs. Indeed – the child has features of the North Eastern region of

India. Now the child will go for adoption under the category of special needs children - abroad.

## **A Touch of British Drama**

This year's four teaching assistants from UK were a real blessing. They accomplished numerous tasks like creative writing, book clubs, reading sessions, developing teaching aids and more, and five months flew by like lightning. As a climax they staged Shakespeare's 'Midsummer Night's Dream', which really bore a native touch. Thanks a lot and adieu, goodbye, fare-well, and good luck to all of you!



## **Upgrading Exam Standards**

Special care was taken by the teachers in preparing the question papers for the third unit test, the final one in the first term. Mama personally scrutinized the question papers to make sure that they were student-friendly, covering the core areas of the

syllabus, and maintaining good practices in the evaluation process.

As usual, extra coaching was availed for our students even during the Dasera holidays. This time the students (and the teachers) managed a significant improvement in their results.

## **Social Media**

Shishu Mandir is well known among the multi-national community as an institute with appropriate infrastructure and transparency. In an effort to extend our publicity further our well-wishers Mrs. Aravinda and her husband, Mr. Pritham, produced a film of just one minute starring our children and teachers. It will be uploaded into our website, social media and Just Dial and should indeed prove a boost to our fund raising activities.

## **Community Development - Medical services**

'Once upon a time' Mama as a medical doctor had availed herself to the poor in terms of free medical services in and around Ulsoor, Bangalore. What was pioneered by her some 40 years ago continues even now thanks to Mrs. Vimala of our Child Care Centre who coordinates

Help Age India and MVJ medical college hospital doctors to conduct medical camps for the general public of Kithiganur every fortnight. TE Connectivity contributed a van to Help Age India for this purpose. The fortnightly mobile medical service provides BP and sugar tests besides administering medicines for all sorts of ailments free of charge. By stationing the van at our school the medical service is extended to Bhattarahalli and Jyothinagar.

### **Saving young Girl from Sex Trade**

A 13-year-old girl had to be rescued from her own parents, as she was forcefully taken out of a boarding school to indulge in sex trade. Thank God, we were informed immediately and could intervene in time. She was counselled and admitted in another boarding school. The victim's parents are severe alcoholics.

### **Parents' Meet**



Although the parents of our children have ample trust in us to give the best of education to their children, we want them to share the responsibility for their children's development and success. Regular meetings, which are more and more attended by the fathers also, are held, and Mr. Anand, with his unique talent of keeping a mirror in front of them, gives them a good mouthful of unpleasant and not easily digestible truths.

### **Library Day**

Whenever book exhibitions have been held, there have usually been good responses from the public, which shows that after all the habit of reading has not disappeared totally. In fact we begin to think that the reading



habit is actually picking up in spite of electronic gadgets which are stealing our time away. We decided to put a memorable imprint on the Library Day during which the entire school staff sat together and read books for several hours. Afterwards we held discussions, shared thought and also ventured into enacting some of the stories. Indeed we will remember this day for a long time!

### **Extraordinary Success of our Past Students**

Leelavathi, our past student, participated in a 40 km cycle race at state level and secured the second place. We are over happy about her achievement. Congrats!

It was also a pleasant surprise to see 70 of our past trainees turning up for an Alumni meeting. They keep in contact with us and do a great job in mobilising new students for our courses.

### **International Competitions**

Just as our students, the teachers too have their share of exposures in terms of training programs and seminars. 6 of our teachers are part of a project that has 15 activities spread over eight months. In addition to this, exchange programs with three different European schools are on the cards which may qualify our teachers to obtain the 'International School Award Certificate of Recognition' from the British Council. Winning this recognition for a second time would make us eligible for funds from the British Council for specific educational programs. Our teachers are all set to bag this award.

### **Demonetization**

November 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 started like a normal day with newspapers being distributed in the early morning. But what they carried on their front pages was unimaginable: **All 500 and 1000 rupee notes were declared instantly invalid.** It was a blow like a bolt from the blue. A declaration of war could not have been worse. Cashless ATMs and endless queues in front of them were the sight of the day causing enormous suffering to the common man. And Shishu Mandir was no exception to this. Although the day-to-day activities were not disturbed much, Shishu Mandir faced huge problems, when it came to money transactions. Hospital bills, petrol bills, food bills – how to pay all these big amounts with a daily limit of Rs. 25000? It took days to get into the possession of a debit card which alleviated the stress to some extent. But what about all the small households which could ill afford a debit card? Shishu Mandir took the bull by the horns and initiated an awareness campaign by using its past students to teach the villagers the usage of debit cards and mobile phones. All credit to the management!

### **Children's Day**



In Shishu Mandir Education Centre every day is Children's Day, as every activity is centered around our children. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, however, it was made special by the teachers who wore their dancing shoes and rocked the stage with a breath-taking performance. Also a Kannada skit was performed which really stole everybody's heart.

## Exposures



Our children are far from being frogs in the well, as they have enough and more exposures in various fields away from the school campus. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> standard students were out to HAL Museum to watch a documentary on aeroplanes. They were lucky as they could witness a highly informative discussion. Further, KPMG invited our Aspire Girls to a counseling session on career options. In turn they interacted with differently abled children at Mount Carmel College.

Last not least our Bharathnatyam group gave dance performances at JLL Company in UB City and at the Annual Day Celebration of their dance school, where our girls were shining stars among 80 young girls.

## Rotaractors



As members of the Rotaract Club our past students avail themselves of many opportunities to interact with other college students who are involved in various community development activities. Through this exposure they get ideas for their own activities. So they visited old age homes and made themselves useful to the old people, conducted outings on cycles, arranged weekly dance classes and organized activities for students of government schools. Hats off to our Rotaractors!

## Volunteering

Rainbow Homes in India are usually run by NGOs using government school buildings. One such Rainbow Home has a visitor coming every week to assist 70 and odd children, mostly orphans. He teaches them English, washes their clothes and cleans their living area. Currently he is mobilizing funds for a water filter besides collecting pre-owned clothes for them. It is indeed heartening to know that the regular visitor is none other than our Shishu child Sudu. Going by



the example of numerous volunteers whom he had seen during his Shishu Mandir days, he has taken up the inspiration and is helping these youngsters to the best of his capacity.

## Congratulations

Hearty congratulations also to Anand Babu, our past student, on clearing his MBA in one go in spite of his regular duty at the work front and his self-imposed weekend commitment at Shishu Mandir. Big kudos also to all our college going students who have done well in their exams!



## Save the Girl Child



In October our community college students performed a street play on "Save the Girl Child". It highlighted the various government schemes for the empowerment of women, thus paving the way for a new awareness and self-confidence in women. We will not rest until the last husband has stopped beating his wife!

## Our Multipurpose Hall – a Delight for the Eye

We are in the final race of finishing our Multipurpose Hall, an auditorium which will hold 500 people. As in any building the end bears the biggest strain. The work is carried out almost around the clock with dozens of workmen hammering, sewing,



welding iron bars causing a deafening noise. Still one person seemed to be nailed to the floor, Mama. With her suggestions, creative and aesthetic interventions the work gained momentum. We keep our fingers crossed for a successful finish till 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 – the Founder's Day.

Two computer labs adjacent to the auditorium too have to be finished till the inauguration. We are grateful to UTC for their great financial support.

Written & edited by  
Hella Mundhra  
Joseph Dhinakaran  
Ericks

## Visit to Germany



For the third time Mr. Anand was invited by the German Shishu Mandir Society for a meeting of reflection and assessment. Our teaching methodology was up for discussion. It was an intensive time of two weeks in which Mr. Anand, Mrs. Vimala and Mrs. Farhath visited several English and German schools. The main difference they found in the individual and self-determined process of learning. The children are guided to know the rules of the task which is expected from them, and afterwards it flows like a silent river. Only here and there the teacher had to give explanations, otherwise the worksheets were self-explanatory and interesting. Although the children could move freely in the classroom to speak to the teacher or take new worksheets, it was always highly disciplined.



Even in kindergartens the small children showed an astonishing silence and harmony which made the visitors wonder. The explanation for this disciplined behaviour was that all children get a detailed guidance in a warm and endearing manner in advance, and afterwards it is closely monitored and enforced. In course of time it gets internalized, and supervision can be reduced to a bare minimum. Thus the learning process is smooth and efficient.

One of the main problems of the Indian team, namely 'How to use phonetics and to which extent is phonetic teaching helpful?' was convincingly answered by the teachers of the English schools. Discussions were also held to highlight certain problems of the primary teachers. It was felt that it is needed to recruit experienced Prep teachers, who will accept our methodology, and maybe also Montessori trained teachers, irrespective of the high cost. Multisensory learning through outdoor activities added a special dimension to the learning process, which extended to the use of utensils like knives, hammers, nails, scissors and more. But above all the impressive degree of discipline prevailing everywhere was attributed to the teaching manner in kindergartens. It was clear, social skills should be the main aim and in the centre of all kindergarden teaching and not the mindless repetition of rhymes and letters in parrot-like fashion. With a head full of impressions and a feeling of a new start all the three returned to India.