



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 3 **Sevalaya's News Letter - August 2008** Serve 5 Price-Re.1

## Dear Friends,

The month of July saw many extra curricular activities being introduced to the children of Sevalaya. Education can come in many forms, it may be through art, dance, music, sports etc. Such avenues are available to the city children very easily. But what about the village children and that too, poor and destitute children...? Help comes from all directions.

Sevalaya's friend and a well known artist, Mari Anand came forward to have his select paintings displayed in Sevalaya for a day. This art exhibition was open not only to the children of Sevalaya, but also for all children studying in nearby schools. We had children of all ages visiting the art exhibition whole day and Mari Anand was personally present to explain each painting and also to answer any questions on paintings and art. It was interesting to note that he had also written small poems for each painting. This event, we are sure, would have evoked some interest in the young minds to appreciate the art form and also to try painting themselves. Apart from this, artist Mari Anand has offered to donate all his paintings to Sevalaya – we will be organizing an art exhibition in the city shortly and make this paintings available for sale. The proceeds from this sale will be used for the construction of our second school building. As reported in our previous news letter, we completed the land purchase transaction early this month and now the land is ready for construction. The final blue print is getting ready, and very soon we will be starting the construction activity.

This program was followed by an invitation by Ms. Revathi, noted film star and social activist, to our children, to witness the dance programs organized to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> annual function of Saraswathi Gana Nilayam, of which she is a student. Select children from Sevalaya, who are interested in dance came to the city and

watched professional dancers perform, for hours together. This was a rare chance for our children, who have seen such programs only on TV. The children were very happy and kept discussing about what they saw for the next few days.

There was one more program this month – a musical discourse, an art form, which is almost disappearing, by a young girl, performed at Sevalaya. The way she inter-wined a story with songs and presented it was very interesting and new to the children of Sevalaya. The various ragas of classical music was flowing like the Cauvery on 'Adi 18'. To see another young girl performing like this would have kindled interest and confidence in the minds of the young artists of Sevalaya.

To bring in education in different forms is a great challenge and to make it interesting to the children is a bigger challenge. Art, dance and music, we are sure, will be interesting ways of educating children and the feedback from children on all these programs prove that they enjoy such programs.

Thanks & Regards  
**Murali**





**Kamarajar Birthday Celebrations  
Prize Distribution**

### **Camps & Tours**

On 17/07/2008 a trip to Anjaneya Temple, Kakkalur was organized for 2<sup>nd</sup> standard students. On 28/07/2008, another trip to Lord Muruga Temple, Kundrathur was organized for 3<sup>rd</sup> standard students.

### **Club Activities**

In the Tamil Club meeting on 01/07/2008 Mr. P.Sounder Rajan spoke on Tamil Folk Songs. English club students concluded the phonetic reading development skills with a reading competition conducted on 17/07/2008. Ms. Kanika Gupta, Volunteer from Canada, was the judge on the occasion. Prizes were distributed to the winners by Ms. Kanika Gupta. The Mathematics club met on 09/07/2008 and 18/07/2008. Students were asked to solve problems involving time and work. Ms. Vijaya has explained about White & Red Blood cells and also explained the uses of 'Stethoscope' in the Science Club meet on 09/07/2008 and about Newton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Law on 17/07/2008. In the Social Science Club meet on 17/07/2008 there was a discussion on students' ambitions guided by Mr. R.Vijayaragavan. In the club meeting on 19/07/2008 Prof. Swaminathan, the special invitee explained about compiling a Cultural Atlas for Thiruvallur District. The Social Science club has taken up this project under the guidance of Prof. Swaminathan.

### **Co – Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities**

Mr. Dhayalan of Mittanamallee conducted Sanskrit Classes on 06/07/2008, 13/07/2008 and 20/07/2008 for the hostel students. On the same days Mr. M.Chelladurai conducted Music Class.

### **Events**

Sevalaya celebrated the birth anniversary of former chief minister of Tamilnadu Thiru. K.Kamaraj on 15/07/2008. The chief guest was Mr.S.Thulasi, Tamilnadu Fire Services. Thirur. He gave away prizes to the winners of the different competitions (Music, art, Essay writing and elocution) organized as a part of the Kamaraj day celebrations.



**Eye Camp Inauguration**

Shanthy Sri Asramji Seval Mandali, Chennai presented a programme of Ram Amthe Bhajans on Shri.Kabeer Pandit on 18/07/2008 on the occasion Guru Poornima.

Sevalaya hosted an Art Exhibition "WINDOWS" displaying the works of artist Mr. Mari Anand on 21/07/2008. Ms. Revathy, noted film personality and social activist inaugurated the exhibition. Ms. C.Vijayalakshmi, the Chief educational Officer of Thiruvallur district was the special Guest on the occasion. Children of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School and children from nearby schools visited the exhibition.

### **External Events**

Sevalaya was selected as the Best Institution for Value Based Management by Pegasus Institute of Excellence at a meeting on 11/07/2008. A cash Award of Rs 3 lakhs was presented to Sevalaya.

Sevalaya's Mobile library visited Kaliyanur Kandigai Village on 16/07/2008.

30 children were taken to the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual day celebrations of Saraswathi Gana Nilayam at Narada Gana Saba, Chennai on 27/07/2008.

### **Medical Camps**

A 15 day eye camp in Kasuva and the surrounding villages was conducted by Sevalaya in association with Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai from 07/07/2008 to 23/07/2008. 1300 people were benefited from 17 villages. Free cataract surgeries were performed for 197 people.

A Siddha Medical Camp by Jaya Indian Medicine Pharmaceutical Pvt. Ltd. was organized on 27/07/2008. 300 villagers were benefited by this camp. Free medicines were distributed.

Students from Ramachandra Dental College visit Sevalaya every Monday to conduct periodical check up of all the students.



**Siddha Medical Camp**

### **NSS Activities**

The NSS club of Sevalaya cleaned the Shiva Temple at Puliyur on 01/07/2008 and the Amman Temple at Thottikkalai on 17/07/2008.

### **Publications**

The collection of 15 essays on Leadership Qualities based on the lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Mahakavi Bharathiyar and Swami Vivekananda, penned by Sevalaya Founder and Managing Trustee Mr. V.Muralidharan and published as a serial by KALKI Magazine is now out in the form of a book titled "Vaiyath Thalamai Kol" by Vanathi Pathippagam, a leading Publishing House in Tamil.

### **Sports**

Sevalaya students participated in the Athletic meet arranged by Thiruvallur Dt. Athletic Association at Ajay Stadium, Avadi 05/07/2008. S.Rajan of XI Std. won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in Discuss Throw. 4 students participated in the State level Athletic meet at St. Joseph Engg. College, Sholinganallur on 19/07/2008 & 20/07/2008. M.Arunakumari & K.Chitra represented Thiruvallur District and participated in State level senior Kho-Kho tournament at Thiruchenkodu, Namakkal Dt on 26/07/2008 & 27/07/2008.

### **Staff Book Review**

On 05/07/2008 Mr. A.A.Kingston reviewed stories written by Bharathiyar. Mr. V.Muralidharan discussed poems written by Bharathiyar on 12/07/2008. On 19/07/2008 Mr. R.Vijayaragavan took up for discussion Bharathiyar's articles on Philosophy and on 26/07/2008 Mr. P.Narayanamoorthi spoke about the book "Bharathi on Women of Tamilnadu" written by Dr. Nalli Kuppasamy.

### **Students Book Review**

On 05/07/2008 M.Arun Kumar reviewed the book Source for Youth (Tamil) written by Mr.Manavalan and on 19/07 2008 R.Bharathidasan spoke about Thirukkural by Thiruvallur.



**Dental Camp**

### **Temple Visits**

On 04/07/2008 the Hostel Boys were taken to Roman Catholic Church, Thiruninravur and on 11/07/2008 the Hostel Boys were taken to Gurudwar at Avadi. The hostel girls were taken to Vinayagar Temple at Ramanathapuram on 04/07/2008 and 11/07/2008. On 20/07/2008 the Primary level hostel students were taken to Gurudwara at Avadi. The senior citizens were taken to Sri Veeraragavar Temple at Thiruvallur on 16/07/2008.

### **Training Programmes**

On 05/07/2008 by Mr. J.Murali Krishnan conducted a Training Session on "Development of Early Stage Communicative Skills" to Secondary grade Teachers.

Mr. S.Jayakumar & Mr. J.Lakshmanan attended a two-day workshop on 11/07/2008 & 12/07/2008 at Bangalore, on 'Innovation in Elementary level Mathematics'.

Mr. D.Subramanian, H.M., Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Chengalpet conducted a training on School Administration on 12/07/2008.

On 17/07/2008 a training programme for Secondary grade Teachers "Motivation in Class rooms" was conducted by Mr. Balaraman.

10 teachers from Sevalaya attended a session on "Child Psychology" by Ms. Vidhya Shankar of Relief Foundation on 26/07/2008.



**Guru Purnima Function**

## Hypnotists, we are not available!

Gandhiji walked a steep and narrow path- the path of Truth and Non-violence. He was way ahead of his contemporaries and none could keep pace with him in his spirit of non violence. He died a sadder man seeing his Dream India crumbling down before his own eyes within a few months of attaining political freedom. More than the power politics and the corruption that had crept in so fast, he was saddened by the communal orgy and violence that followed the vivisection of the nation. The partition was in spite of his strong dissension, yet he refused to undertake a fast, as suggested (demanded?) by somebody. He spent the rest of the 168 days of his life that followed, using every bit of his left energy to bring sanity in to the minds of people. He died a martyr like Jesus Christ.

Mass murders, loot, arson, forced weddings, forcible eviction, rape and every thing that the evil in Man could conceive was committed. The victims were all innocents. And in most cases, many of the perpetrators were educated, normal people like you and me, otherwise sane in normal times. This is the pattern of all communal violence that had followed since then. Does it require a sociologist to investigate the causes?

"They" slow poison our minds. "They" tell us of the distant past. Speak about our supremacy; our subjugation, injustices to our language, race and religion committed centuries before. "They" misquote poets, misinterpret or "create" history in their own way. "They" brain wash us;. Hypnotize us. "They" whip up our emotion at the drop of a hat. Who are "they?" what are their motives? There is not much point in you and me researching in to it. Some spiritual gurus are trying to get in touch with "them" and reform them. We pray for their success.

But what can and must the ordinary mortals like you and me do about it? It is a myth that the legislatures or governmental power could do anything, as Gandhiji would say. The power is with us, the people. Then what do we do?

We should refuse to be hypnotized into a sense of paranoia. We should not allow our minds to be destabilized. We should remain strong and should not allow any idea of hatred to invade our minds. We should follow the very simple (simplistic?) suggestion made by Gandhiji. We, to whatever religion we belong, must feel our identity with every one of the millions of the inhabitants of India. In order to realize this, every one of us will have to cultivate personal friendship with people belonging to different faiths other than one's own. Let us study the literature of other religions, besides our own, and understand the underlying spirit of "Love" espoused by every religion. (This is practiced in Sevalaya literally, and in spirit.)

Gandhiji said, "God will not help us, if we utter his name, while having a dagger concealed under our arm."

Let us not allow our minds to be destabilized. Let us do a bit of exercise every day to keep in mind the fundamental Truth of all religions. Let us not, consciously, or unconsciously, by our thought, word or deed, lend even a semblance of support to the Devils.

Let us contribute to bring about the day when, like Swami Vivekananda said, "upon the banner of every religion will be written, in spite of resistance: 'Help and not Fight,' 'assimilation and not Destruction', 'Harmony and Peace and not Dissension'."

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