



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 2 **Sevalaya's News Letter - June 2007** Serve 3 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

When the grade 12 results were published on 14th May, all of us at Sevalaya were not happy. The reason – one student out of 48 didn't clear the exam. He failed in one subject. After all the hard work put in by teachers, students and others, we could not retain that magic figure of 100% pass result this year. The result percentage slipped to 98, which was not acceptable. We are happy to note that the standards have been set so high that anything less than 100%, is not acceptable at all! 98% is not all that bad – we still retained the number one position in Thiruvallur district. Out of all Tamil medium schools in the district, we are still on top. But missing that 100% mark, prevented us from having a full scale celebration. The school topper, Vijayakumar got 1051 marks out of 1200 (87.6%) and we are hoping that he will get an Engineering seat in a good college.

When the grade 10 results came on 31st May, the school again wore a festive look. Yes, we did it again. 100% result for a fifth time in a row! All the 53 kids cleared the exams. Leave alone the Thiruvallur district, even in the entire state of Tamil nadu, we are not sure how many Tamil medium schools have done this achievement. The school topper Chitra scored 461 out of 500 (92.2%), sofar the highest in Sevalaya's history. The district rank was another 20 marks away and the state rank was 30 marks away! We hope to catch up with these ranks next year.

All the school toppers (Ofcourse most of the students in Sevalaya's school) are first generation school goers. Many of them are deserted children, left under the care of Sevalaya. Even the children coming from the

villages around are from the poorest of the poor families, can't even afford power connection! Some of the children come to school without having any breakfast, as they have no money to buy food. Such children getting 90% and above, the credit goes to all the staff of Sevalaya. During the last three months of the run up to the exams, we asked the village children also to stay on the campus so that they can have good food, good lighting for reading and ofcourse, the availability of the staff round the clock, to help them with their studies. Many staff members also stayed on the campus to help the children!

The cook had to prepare food for nearly 60 more kids. He didn't mind the extra work, as he understood that he was also contributing to the success of all children. It was a perfect team work by all staff, teaching and non-teaching, which has brought this glory to the organization.

Many of our donors are particular that their money is spent on the education of the children. Yes, most of our expenses are educational expenses and we have given maximum return on investment. I am sure donors will feel very happy that their money is put to proper use, not just spending the money for the cause for which it was donated, not just sending receipts in time and having accounts in order, but over and above all this, the effectiveness is seen in the results our children and staff are producing year after year, clear measurable demonstration of effectiveness!

Thanks & Regards
Murali



K.Chitra 461/500



P.Amul 435/500



M.Gomathi 425/500

High School Toppers 2006-2007

Tamil

1. K.Chitra - 91/100
2. M.Gomathi - 90/100
3. P.Amul - 89/100

Maths.

1. S.Ashok - 92/100
2. M.Gomathi - 91/100
3. K.Chitra - 90/100

English

1. K.Chitra - 89/100
2. R.Lagesh - 79/100
2. M.Gomathi - 79/100
3. P.Amul - 77/100

Science

1. K.Chitra - 93/100
2. P.Amul - 92/100
3. N.Logeshwaran - 88/100

Social Science

1. K.Chitra - 98/100
2. N.Logeshwaran - 95/100
3. P.Amul - 92/100

External Events where Sevalaya participated...

Ms. S.Kavitha and Ms. L.Anasuya, staff of Sevalaya attended the Preschool teachers training program on Early Childcare Development and Learning for Pre-Primary Teachers conducted by RELIEF FOUNDATION from 07/05/2007 to 12/05/2007.

Study Circle Meeting (Staff)

Ms. N.Annapurna reviewed the book "22 Non-Negotiable Laws of Wellness" by Kreg Anderson on 12/05/2007. "Search Within" (Tamil), authored by Dr. Walter Doel Stables was reviewed by Mr. R.Sakthivel Murugan on 26/05/2007.

Students' Study Circle Meeting

R.Yamuna Rani reviewed the book "Known Epics : Unknown Stories" (Tamil) by T.S.Narayanasamy on 19/05/2007. "One Sky: One Moon" (Tamil) by V.B.Giri was S.Santhi's choice for discussion in the meeting held on 26/05/2007.

Temple Visits

Hostel Boys visited Ramanathapuram Vinayagar Temple on 04/05/2007, 11/05/2007 and 18/05/2007 while the girls visited the temple on 04/05/2007 and 25/05/2007.



L.Vijayakumar
1051/1200



S.Nithya
992/1200



B.Sathish
942/1200

Higher Secondary School Toppers 2006-2007

Tamil

1. D.Kanaga - 177/200
2. R.Vaishnavi - 175/200
3. M.Thenmozhi - 173/200

Maths.

1. L.Vijayakumar - 192/200
2. S.Nithya - 170/200
3. V.Gomathy - 149/200

English

1. B.Sathish - 173/200
2. D.Kanaga - 170/200
3. R.Vaishnavi - 168/200

Computer Science

1. L.Vijayakumar - 185/200
2. B.Sathish - 169/200
3. M.Thenmozhi - 162/200

Physics

1. C.Guna - 177/200
2. L.Vijayakumar - 173/200
3. S.Nithya - 172/200

Biology

1. E.Chitra - 158/200
2. R.Arul Priya - 154/200
3. K.Kalidass - 148/200

Chemistry

1. S.Nithya - 186/200
2. L.Vijayakumar - 176/200
3. C.Guna - 167/200

Agriculture

1. M.Santhiya - 170/200
2. M.Shanthini - 169/200
3. S.Gayathri - 165/200



E.Chitra
994/1200



M.Ramani
990/1200



M.Shanthini
987/1200

Art of Loving

Love is the core message of religions and of all great masters. "Love thyself." "Love thy neighbour." "Love thine enemy." "Love All." "Start the day with Love; fill the day with love; end the day with love; that is the way to God". They all proclaim.

Mahakavi Bharathiyar goes farther ahead and sings that even if people do not till their land and sow seeds, Nature will provide food; their duty is to simply love. Coming as it does from the pen of the bard who vowed to honour sweated labour and plough, and make the vain revellers a target of mockery, this seems paradoxical. Does he use his poetic licence to embellish his verse? Not so. He speaks of a Utopian state where the true universal spirit of love prevails everywhere. It is like the "Euclid's point" that Gandhiji would often speak of- an ideal to be strived for. What the bard says is in line with Gandhiji's views. Nature has resources to provide for the needs of every resident of the earth, but not for their greed. If man does not, in his selfishness, indulge in mindless consumption and hoard things, what grows of its own nature will be sufficient to provide for all. This is an ideal.

Love, Gandhiji would say is the most misunderstood word. It can mean anything from physical attraction to possessive oppression. Hence he used the word "Ahimsa" to denote the pure, divine, pristine, love which embraces the whole universe. It is no ahimsa if we love in return only those who love us. We have to love even those who harmed us. Gandhiji did this. But for the rest of us, it is easier said than done. "HOW TO" is a big question. Love is an emotion like any other like happiness or sorrow. How can it be dispensed "On demand" on the command of a scripture or the exhortation of a leader? Philosophers want us to remind ourselves that we are children of the same God and are tarred with the same

brush. Hence all of us are brothers. The same universal spirit in us resides in others also. These thoughts will make us love others. Does not seem to help for lesser mortals like us. Some other preachers give out some techniques. In prayer or meditation think of the other person, visualize him, think of some of his good qualities, and think "as if" you love him. Fake it if you cannot make it. To our simple mind, all these exercises seem to be futile and needless. What Michelangelo said once comes to our mind. How he was able to make very beautiful statues? The answer was, the statues with their divine beauty were already there. He simply removed all the crude and unwanted parts. Likewise, the divine love is already within all of us. Only selfishness, ego and negative feelings like jealousy, greed, obsession, anger and arrogance cloud this pure love. Try to remove them. By practice. Regular observation of self and determined efforts. We will be able to love all without any reservation. Start serving all. Loving all becomes natural. Love all and serve all are two sides of the same coin.

Then, after all why should we love others? This is like the question why should we do good to others? It is life to do good. It is life to love. It is death to nurture hatred; it is death to be selfish. He who loves dedicates his all to others. Unloving person is dead despite the physical possession of skin and bones. Love is expansion. Selfishness is contraction. Let us hear a few words of what Swami Vivekananda says on this subject: "None lives my boys, but he who loves. Feel, my children, feel, feel for the poor, the ignorant, the down-trodden, feel till the heart stops and the brain reels and you think you will go mad-throw the soul at the feet of the Lord, and then will come power, help, and indomitable energy, It is love that pays. It is character that cleaves its way through adamant walls of difficulties"

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Editor: [T.S.Venkataramani](#)

Send your comments to: [Sevalaya, Kasuva, Pakkam \(P.O.\), Near Thiruninravur - 602 024, Tamil Nadu, India.](#)

Phone Nos. : [9444346699](#), [9444620286](#), [9444620289](#), (044) [26344243](#) & [26346162](#).
E.mail : sevalaya@vsnl.com visit at: www.sevalaya.org