



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

JUNE 2017

Repeating excellence in Board results

100% in Std XII, 99.3% in Std X



Above: Lap of honour for school topper R Mohan. Sevalaya Murali and Trustee E Lakshminarayanan cheer him on

Top Right: V Surya, a physically challenged boy with Sevalaya Murali and S Chandrasekar, Volunteer, Sevalaya

Right: Std X Topper Sangeetha with her friends

Sevalaya broke into celebration when results were announced on 12th May 2017 for the Std XII Board exams, as for the eighth time the school had achieved 100% pass. Out of the 136 students 28 students secured 80% marks and

above and 131 secured 60% and above. R Mohan was the school topper with 1119/1200. C Satya came in a close Second with 1116/1200 and D Gowri came in Third with 1084/1200.

Barring a lone student, 126/127 students



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Std XII Board exam school toppers

R Mohan, a calm and quiet achiever in the Bio-Maths group is the school topper. He has been a student of Sevalaya since his LKG days. He aspires to be a doctor. His father Rajendran is a mason and Kanchana works as a daily wage earner. His elder sister is an alumna of Sevalaya too. As an all-rounder, he has participated and won medals / trophies in various inter-school competitions and sports.



R Mohan
1119/1200

C Sathya, a student of the commerce stream, dreams of a bank managerial job. Hailing from Nedumaram village of Thiruttani, her family lives in brick kiln where her parents work. Her elder brother is studying B.A History in one of the colleges near Thiruvallur. She is a bright student and joined Sevalaya in 6th Std . Her hobbies are reading and drawing. After completing the XII exams she has been helping her parents by working in the same brick kiln.



C Sathya
1116/1200

D Gowri of Kavanur village who wants to become a chartered accountant bagged the third place with 1084 marks. She has studied in this school from Std I and is an active all-rounder who has won several prizes in various competitions. She is also good at sports and has brought laurels to the school in handball. She lost her father 5 years back and her mother supports the family by working as a daily wage agricultural labourer. Bold and active Gowri is ever ready to help her classmates.



D Gowri
1084/1200

Joy of giving: *the way of life*

Once again Sevalaya children have proved that underprivileged children from the villages can do equally well in academics if proper facilities are given to them.

A school with proper classrooms, laboratories, equipment, books, note books, other learning kits, library and above all caring teachers, will make sure that children who have lost both parents, children with single parents, children from broken families, children from bonded labour families, children who have criminal background and left under the care of Sevalaya under Juvenile Justice act, children from very poor village families can also do well in 12th and 10th grade exams.

Sevalaya once again achieved 100% results in 12th grade (136/136) and 99.3% in 10th grade (126/127) this year.

The achievement assumes significance, considering the background of the students of the school, most of whom are first generation learners. This has

been possible only with the support of donors like you who can experience the joy of giving, when your contributions have made a positive change in the lives of the under privileged children. Sevalaya thanks you for your continuous support in the last 29 years.

This year also we have 2000+ such children, who need your support. To get the initial requirements of two sets of uniforms, notebooks and other educational kits, we need an average of ₹1000 per child. To support a child for one year for education, it will cost ₹ 8000 per child. If you prefer to create an educational endowment to support one child permanently, it will cost ₹ 1,00,000.

You may send cheque drawn in favour of Sevalaya to our city office address :

No 54 P S Sivaswami Salai North, Mylapore Chennai – 600004.

You can also directly transfer your

contributions to our bank accounts details of which are provided below:

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS :

Account Name: SEVALAYA
Account No: 218601000134
Bank: ICICI BANK
Branch: Mylapore Chennai - 600004
IFSC CODE: ICIC0002186

Account Name: SEVALAYA
Account No: 029101000008743
Bank: INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
Branch: Dr. RK Salai Branch (EE Road Branch), Chennai - 600004
IFSC Code: IOBA0000291

For further information please visit

www.sevalaya.org

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

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(99.3%) who appeared for Std X Board exams cleared the same. 66 students got more than 80% (400/500), 22 students got 70% and above and 24 students scored 60% and above. Ten students secured 100/100 in Social Science, including G Kirubakaran who was placed 3rd in the school. The first mark was secured by R Sangeetha 480/500, with R Bhavani placed second at 479/500 and G Kirubakaran 478/500.

The result is even more impressive considering the fact that these students are all first generation learners, coming from extremely underprivileged background. One of the students V Surya,



Jubilant school toppers R Mohan and C Satya with Sevalaya Murali, and trustees N Annapoorna and E Lakshminarayanan

X Std has a physical disability and needed the help of a scribe to write the exams. However his hard efforts resulted in his getting 391 /500.



Lap of honour for C Sathya

The unstinted support of the donors all through the years, the self-motivated students and dedication of the Sevalaya staff once again proved to be a winning combination.

Std X Board exam school toppers

R Sangeetha, the school topper is the daughter of a mason and aspires to join the Administrative services. Despite recurring health issues before the board exams, she never slacked in her efforts and even helped her classmates. She is good in sports and represented the handball team at the district level.



R Sangeetha
480/500

R Bhavani, the daughter of a painter, has been a class topper from primary school. She bagged the 2nd place with 479 marks. Her family faces many financial problems and Bhavani is singularly focused on improving the status of their family. Sevalaya's services have been a big motivational factor in moulding her thoughts, resulting in a desire to join the medical profession and serve the underprivileged.



R Bhavani
479/500

G Kirubakaran, whose father works as a lorry driver stood third with 478 marks. He was a quiet and reserved boy when he joined Sevalaya School. He has now transformed into a gregarious boy and has shown all-round improvement in both sports and academics. Kirubakaran wants to major in Science, and become a science teacher.



G Kirubakaran
478/500

Tinytots display their talents



On 25th March 2017, a spellbound audience watched the tiny tots of Sevalaya's Montessori as they entertained everyone with their songs, dances, rhymes and recitation. It was the Annual Montessori Exhibition day where the

talents of the children all through the year were on display.

The Chief Guest of the function B Senthil, District Child Protection Officer appreciated the talents of the little ones



Top : Cultural programme by Montessori kids

Left : Sevalaya student proudly presents her work to B Senthil, District Child Protection Officer and P Ekambaram Probation officer

and spoke to the parents about the importance of spending quality time with the children and earning their trust. He recollected his experiences of coming to Sevalaya campus as a NSS volunteer.

Montessori hall at Sevalaya was sponsored by Page Pierre Foundation, Trelex, Switzerland and the Montessori kits are sponsored by Asian Paints Ltd

Students paint and play with SCGBS volunteers

On 6th May 2017, 35 volunteers from Standard Chartered Global Business Services (SCGBS) descended on the campus and conducted 'Summer camp' games for 51 students belonging to Std VI – Std VIII. Among the activities were games such as ball exchange, driving cycle tube, tug of war, Bamboo trunk painting, Balloon sculpting – balloons that formed into shapes of animals and birds when children blow air into it.

"I loved all the games, especially the tug of war. It was a good learning experience."

J Mahesh, Std VII



Students avidly painting bamboo trunks with SCGBS Volunteers

"It was a very exciting day. I enjoyed each game, and I learnt something new today. I like Bamboo painting and will decorate my house. I am going to take it up as a hobby."

G Madhumitha, Std VI

Volunteer Feedback

"The facility is good and the hospitality excellent. I was very happy to spend the day with children."

Naveen Sridhar, Ezone India- Trainer

BNY Mellon volunteers 'serve and assist' Volley ballers

Ten BNY Mellon volunteers visited our campus on 15th April 2017 and played volleyball with 36 students. It was fun time for both, as they played some friendly games. They coached the students on techniques in serving, assisting and smashing the volleyball. The students are eagerly awaiting a second round of friendly games.

Volley ball match in progress between team Sevalaya and BNY Mellon volunteers



Sevalaya athletes win 26 medals at State Level meet

Individual championship for R Archana



R Archana proudly displaying the individual championship medal

At the State level Athletics championship-2017 held at T J S Matriculation School, Pudukkottai, our athletes won 26 medals, in various sports. A Rajan, SDAT Coach, Nehru stadium, Chennai presided over the event and gave away the medals. 600 athletes from 25 schools in four districts (Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chennai, and Thiruvanamalai) participated in the event. The fistful of medals were won by just 12 athletes, each of whom participated in multiple events. Sevalaya athletes are sponsored by Lionbridge Technologies.



GOLD

| Name of the students | Std | Event |
|----------------------|------|--------------|
| Archana R | VIII | 400M |
| Dinesh R | VIII | 400M |
| Kavitha G | XII | 200M |
| Archana R | VIII | Long Jump |
| Kiruthika V | VIII | High Jump |
| Kiruthika V | VIII | Shot-Put |
| Kiruthika V | VIII | Discus throw |
| Dinesh R | | 4X100M Relay |
| Deepak V | | |
| Rajesh N | | |
| Dhanush Raj S | | |

SILVER

| Name of the students | Std | Event |
|----------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Devaraj A | IX | 800M |
| Kavitha G | XII | 400M |
| Archana R | VIII | 200M |
| Archana S | | 4X100M Relay (Under 14) |
| Archana R | VIII | |
| Punitha R | | |
| Kiruthika V | VIII | 4X100M Relay (Under 19) |
| Kavitha G | XII | |
| Gomathi S | XI | |
| Swetha R | | |
| Gayathri D | | |

BRONZE

| Name of the students | Std | Event |
|----------------------|-----|--------------|
| Gomathi S | XI | 1500M |
| Gomathi S | XI | 800M |
| Gomathi S | XI | Discus throw |
| Kavitha G | XII | Long Jump |

Three week summer camp keeps students fit

Summer Sports Camp is a much awaited event for the hostel residents and some day scholars.

153 students participated in the camp this year which was held from 21st April 2017 to 13th May 2017. The games included Volleyball, Handball and Basketball while Athletics events included the 100M, 80M hurdles, long Jump and, Shot-put. Video clips of some of the greatest athletic events and ball handling in sports were screened to the students.

During the valedictory function held on 13th May 2017, the Chief Guest

C Thirugnanadurai, an Olympian, Ex. National Athletics Coach, lauded the efforts of Sevalaya in promoting sports.

D Mohanbabu, Thiruvallur District Athletics Association Secretary, mentioned that it was a pleasure to see the students actively participate in sports even during the summer holidays.

M Gunaseelan, Thiruvallur District Athletics Association Joint Secretary, motivated the students to give equal importance to sports, as it will keep them mentally and physically strong.

Prevention of sports injuries



Dr Dharmesh Kubendiran explaining about sports injuries with a model

Dr Dharmesh Kubendiran, Sports Therapy consultant, **Dhanwanthri Maruthuvam**, visited our campus and gave the demonstration on various types of sports injuries, to the athletes, and sports persons. He listed out the common injuries both muscular and fractures and ways to avoid them, while playing various sports.

Sri Ramanuja Acharya – a sage for all ages



Manivannan, Chief Priest of Sri Bakthavatsala Perumal Temple at Thiruninravur performing Puja to Acharya Sri Ramanuja . Also in the picture Sevalaya Murali, Isaikkavi Ramanan, E Lakshmi Narayanan, Trustee, and T S Kannan, Civil Engineer

The 1000th Birth Anniversary of Sri Ramanuja Acharya was celebrated at Sevalaya on 28th April 2017. The idol of Sri Ramanuja was brought to Sevalaya, in accordance with custom and tradition, from Sri Ramanuja Kaingarya Trust and prayers were offered by the temple priest.

‘Isaikkavi’ Ramanan, a renowned speaker on literature and spirituality, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

He explained to the students in a simple language, the greatness of Sri Ramanuja Acharya, and a forerunner for Sevalaya’s inspirers, Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda. He also mentioned that Sri Ramanuja firmly believed in advocating social service as an essential part of worship, way back in the 10th and 11th century, and that his teachings are very relevant in the modern times we live in.

Interpersonal skills to the fore



Interpersonal Skills Training in progress

A training program was conducted by Prof Dr S V Mani on 26th April 2017. The session focused on Interpersonal skills at work and the major thrust areas were on communication styles, personality traits and interpersonal skills. Traits such as attitude, courtesy and behavior were discussed. The discussion centered on

communication styles such as assertive, aggressive, passive-aggressive, submissive and manipulative and was discussed with examples. Twenty staff from the campus and city office participated in the session.

The dynamics of interpersonal skills within a team was also discussed in fair detail which included setting of goals, assigning of roles and communicating within a group.

A key learning was the importance of body-language and the need to adapt the right posture to deliver the correct message. Another was never to discuss issues if no solutions are in sight. The session was wrapped up with the need to control anger. Overall the session was rich in content, entertaining and interactive.

Management annual review meet



SPL captains after sharing their achievements and next year goals

The trustees, advisors and team leaders of Sevalaya met for two days, 16th-17th May 2017, at Holiday Inn Sabari, Chennai, to review the performance of their respective teams in the past year and set the agenda for the forthcoming year. There was a general consensus that the cooperation between the teams have improved, which led to projects being completed on time and with in budget. The goals set for the forthcoming year were also discussed, with the trustees and advisors pitching in with their valuable advice.

Chennai school visits campus



29th April 2017 saw 44 High school students and 5 staff from M Ct M Chidambaram Chettiar International School, Mylapore visit Sevalaya campus. They interacted with students and played football, basketball, throwball with boys and girls. They also donated stationery items, biscuits to children and elders. It was three hours of fun and frolic for both sets of students.

“Better is to educate an underprivileged child”

-MahaKavi Bharathi

“The soul of India lives in its villages”

-Mahatma Gandhi

“God comes in the form of Roti for a hungry man”

-Swami Vivekananda

Well wisher

"Inspired to do more, after each visit to Sevalaya"

K Shakthivel



K Shakthivel a donor from Pallikaranai, Chennai has been associated with Sevalaya for the past 4 years. He is a Mechanical Engineer, having studied in Arulmighu Meenakshi Amman college, Kancheepuram. He came to know about Sevalaya through T S Kannan, Civil Engineer who is associated with Sevalaya for many years.

He visited Sevalaya with his family and was immediately inspired by the various

"Really happy doing what I'd always wanted to do..."

L N Anupriya

It is lunch time and a big crowd of children, elders and staff are having their lunch. Anupriya, Senior Manager Operations is overseeing that everything is going on well when there is a sudden alert. 10 members will be coming for lunch in another 40 minutes. Swift instructions are issued to see what needs to be replenished and Anu can be seen going into a huddle with the kitchen staff. Suddenly someone from the Old age home comes running with the news that one of the elders has fallen down and Anu rushes there simultaneously ringing up the Doctor to alert her about the emergency. Right then, a boy from the Home rushes to her to share a good news .He has got a prize in the interclass competition. Giving him a big hug and a smile Anu rushes back to see if everything is ready in the kitchen, when a staff from the Gaushala approaches her with list of requirements for cattlefeed. This is just a small peek into the daily routine of Anu who heads Sevalaya's Vivekananda and Gandhi units.

Anupriya joined Sevalaya three and a half years back as campus co-ordinator and was later promoted as Senior



Children displaying the sports kits generously donated by K Shakthivel

activities and is a regular donor since then. He first sponsored a solar water heater for hostel. Then, he donated Montessori kits, mats for children and this year he has donated sports items for children.

He has two sons. The elder one is in XII and the younger is in X. His wife is a homemaker. He is happy about the

opportunity to support Sevalaya and profusely thanks Kannan for introducing the organization to him .

Shakthivel says, "I like the environment, transparency and the personal touch Sevalaya gives to all donors. The care for the children and elders is evident whenever we visit."



Manager Operations. With a Masters in Social work and 5 years experience in a similar NGO, Anu efficiently manages her units and ensures that all residents including the cows are taking care of properly.

Coming from a lower middle class family with her father incurring losses in business, Anu's desire to go to college seemed a distant dream, when an uncle stepped in to support her under-graduation. After completing BSc in Chemistry , she worked in small organizations where she learnt computers and administration. However her heart was set in continuing her studies in social work.

Anu's supportive and understanding husband encouraged her to go in for a PG in social work. She left her 45 day old daughter in the care of her mother

and mother in law to go to college. It was a tough year bringing up a baby and attending college, but she managed and secured Second Rank in the University.

She is all praise for her mother in law who took care of her home and her 2 daughters who fully understand her responsibilities and adjust to her tight schedule.

Her future plans as a captain of the team Happy Homes is to ensure that all the elders, children and staff of the unit are happy. With the support of her team, she wants to develop Sevalaya's homes as model homes.

"I am really happy doing what I had always wanted to do and seeing the happy residents here makes my life fulfilling", says Anu with a bright smile on her face as she rushes off to attend to the next task.

An ace in studies, dance and sports

N Shobana

10 years old, N Shobana has been studying in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Nursery and Primary School for the past 7 years. She joined in LKG and is now studying in Std V. She is a local girl living in Kasuva village. Her father passed away a few years ago, and her mother is working as a tailor in Ambattur Clothing Factory.

She has a natural flair for dancing and her dance teacher says that she is a rare talent, and has the capacity to execute



intricate steps, very easily. Recently, she won the first prize in Bhumi Nakshatra competition. Shobana is a well disciplined and focused girl.

Laughter and Yoga – a classic mix for good health



S Sampath alias Haho Sirippananda, conducted a one day laughter yoga session for 80 staff at its campus on 2nd May 2017.

Sirippananda, explained that there were 170 scientific practices for this type of Yoga. During the 6 hour session 23 types of practices were offered to the staff. These were a combination of yogic postures and breathing exercises interspersed with doses of humour. The

benefits of doing these exercises for half an hour daily were manifold, including high levels of energy, and transformational thinking. The session offered an opportunity for Sirippananda to skillfully interweave motivational techniques and bring out the best from each staff.

Sirippananda has conducted nearly 4000 programmes in various schools, colleges, old age homes, organisations and thousands have benefitted from the same.

Her mother is astonished by the way Shobana has changed over the last three years. She says it is a boon that a school like Sevalaya is in the neighbourhood. Shobana says, "I like to read about the teachings of Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda. I want to help and be kind to others."

Shobana is very good in academics, sports and dance. She says that she likes her teacher V Suganya most because of the way she handles children and makes them understand the subjects well. She also says that her teacher encourages her to perform well in academics as well as extracurricular activities.

This humble natured girl is liked by everyone and she has the potential to grow in both fine arts and academics and earn many accolades.

Nursing Assistant Internship



5 nursing assistant students of Sevalaya's Community College went for internship at New Life Teja Hospital at Ambattur.

They were provided opportunity to work in the various areas of the hospital such as all the wards and operation theatre. The ward visits with the senior nurses was a valuable learning experience for them on how to check the patient history and more importantly how to deal with the patients. They learnt about Venflon procedures, administering drips, dressing up injuries and general patient care.

The Nursing Assistant course at Sevalaya's community college is sponsored by BNY Mellon.

New Additions to Sevalaya family



A Mageswaran, Trustee, Social Worker



K Muthuramakrishnan, Advisor, Social Activist & Educationist



B Chandramouli, Advisor, Social Worker

Discrimination Dispelled

It was at Mount Abu that destiny put Raja of Khetri in the path of Swamiji. The Raja became a lifelong friend and disciple of Swamiji. He played a major role in Swamiji's visit to America carrying aloft the banner of Spirituality.

The meeting of the two had an interesting background. Swamiji was staying in the house of a Muslim wakil making himself very comfortable, spurning the offer of the host to arrange for Brahmin cooks etc. One day, Munshi Jagmohanlal, Private secretary to the Raja visited the house and much to his consternation found a Hindu sannyasi resting there casually wearing a loin cloth and a piece of ochre cloth. Thinking that he was no better than a rogue, he asked Swamiji, "Well, Swamiji! You are a Hindu monk. How is it that you are living with a Muslim? Your food may now and then be touched by him." At this Swamiji flared up and said, "What do you mean? I am a sannyasi. I am above all your social conventions. I can even dine with a bangi. (Sweeper) I am not afraid of

God, for He sanctions it; I am not afraid of the scriptures, for they allow it; but I am afraid of you people and your society. You know nothing of God and scriptures. I see Brahman everywhere, manifested even in the meanest creature. For me there is nothing high or low. Shiva, Shiva!"

Jagmohan was so impressed that he wanted the Raja to meet him. Raja himself visited Swamiji and it was then a long journey of mutual friendship and admiration. Swamiji was taken to the Khetri Palace where he stayed for about three months. Swamiji enlightened the Raja on various spiritual points.

Incidentally it was at Khetri palace that Swamiji got rid of a bit of Maya lurking with him.

One evening, the Raja was being entertained with music by a nautch(dancing) girl. Swamiji was in his own tent when the music commenced. The Raja sent a message asking him to join the party. Swamiji sent word in return

that as a sannyasi he could not come. The singer was deeply grieved when she heard this, and sang, as it were in reply, a song of Surdas. The girl's melodious voice reached the ears of Swamiji.

"O Lord, look not upon my evil qualities.

Thy Name, O Lord, is Same-sighted.

One piece of iron is in the image in the temple,

And another, the knife in the hand of the butcher;

But when they touch the philosophers' stone

Both alike turn to gold.

So, lord look not upon my evil qualities."

Swamiji immediately went to the Hall and joined the party.

Of this incident, he writes later, "Hearing the song, I thought, 'Is this my Sannyasa? I am a sannyasi, and yet I have in me the sense of distinction between myself and this woman. That incident removed the scales from my eyes. Seeing that all are indeed the manifestation of the One, I could no longer condemn anybody."

29th Annual Report: Communication sponsorship

You can support Sevalaya and benefit from visibility for your brand in a philanthropic context. This opportunity comes in the form of 'Communication Sponsorship' in Sevalaya's 29th Annual Report.

Sevalaya Annual report reaches 10,000 people in the Government and Corporate sectors, besides High Networth Individuals. Additionally, uploaded on our website, it enjoys perennial viewing.

In keeping with the design of the

publication, select sponsors will get to feature their brand/ company logo and name, along with the by-line. The space earmarked varies, with one-third page for Platinum Sponsor to 4 cm x 6 cm for Bronze Sponsors. In addition,

similar space in an issue of Sevalaya's monthly newsletter "Love all Serve all" will come as a bonus.

Additional insertions in the newsletter can be booked at moderate extra cost. 8,000 printed copies of the newsletter and an additional 25,000 copies as emails are despatched to our donor community. Uploaded on our website, the newsletter also enjoys added visibility. Communication Sponsorship shows you in a favourable light generated by the goodwill Sevalaya enjoys.

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Height : 4 cm

Width : 12.5 cm

₹ 15,000

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Height : 4 cm

Width : 6 cm

₹ 10,000

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