



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

MARCH 2018

Foundation stone laid for new sports centre



P C Krishnan, General Manager, Petrofac Engineering Services Ltd unveiling the plaque for the foundation stone laying of Sevalaya's sports centre

P C Krishnan, General Manager, Petrofac Engineering Services Ltd, laid the foundation stone for a new sports centre at a colourful function held at Kasuva campus on 21st February 2018.

The sports centre is housed in a 1200 sq.ft building with latest gym equipments for strength and fitness training.

While speaking at the function P C Krishnan, stressed upon the

importance of sports in the development of children. He expressed his hope that the new sports centre will provide opportunities for the budding sports talent of Sevalaya to blossom to their full potential.

He was also very appreciative of the special care given by Sevalaya to children who show promise in sports and the facilities offered to them for improving their fitness and skills.

He further mentioned that Petrofac was pleased to partner with Sevalaya in this initiative.

R Sathyamoorthy, Assistant General Manager, Petrofac Engineering Services Ltd participated in the function.

Sevalaya has encouraged our interest in sports. Our PET master provides vigorous training. All our needs are taken care of. Special nutritious food is provided to us. Now the new sports centre sponsored by Petrofac will help us to keep ourselves fit and achieve our goals.

R Dinesh, Std IX

Certificates/job offers to Community college students



Course completion certificates were distributed to the students of Sevalaya's community colleges - Vadanallur and Ambattur at the Ambattur centre on 23rd

February 2018. A few students received placement order also on the occasion.

Continued in page 2...

Great work Sankarapandian!



P C Krishnan handing over gifts to A Sankarapandian, PET Master, Sevalaya

Sevalaya has shown remarkable progress in Sports in the past couple of years. The untiring dedicated efforts of A Sankarapandian, Physical Education Director is a major contributing factor for this success.

In appreciation of his efforts Sevalaya Management presented him sports equipments worth ₹ 10,000.

A Sankarapandian received the gifts at the hands of P C Krishnan, General Manager, Petrofac Engineering Services Ltd.

Joy of giving: *the way of life*

Dear Friends,

Ponmanidevi is from a village Nallagoundanpalayam, in Erode district. She started her career as a school teacher and retired as a head mistress. She is now 80 years old. Her husband passed away 20 years ago. After that she was living with her son, Dr Karthikeyan. But, as fate willed it, Dr Karthikeyan met with an accident while constructing his house, and passed away. This left Ponmanidevi all alone.

On seeing Ponmanidevi's condition, her sister, Marathal, came to her rescue. So Ponmanidevi moved to her sister's place. Marathal and her son started taking care of Ponmanidevi.

In 2006, when the Department of Backward Classes, Most Backward

Classes and Minorities Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu planned to construct hostels for poor children, Ponmanidevi readily donated 2 cents of her land to the government. With this donation, the village got free hostel facility for the underprivileged children. In 2015, when the girls school in the village applied for upgradation from high school to higher secondary, Ponmanidevi again helped by donating ₹ 2 lakhs to the education Department and finally higher secondary section was started.

With Ponmani devis's support Std XI was started but the school needed more land to construct classrooms for Std XII. Once again Ponmanidevi came forward and donated 1 acre of her land, which is worth 4 crores. With this donation, Std XII

can be now be started.

More such donations may be forthcoming in the future by this magnanimous lady!

"I want to do good as long as I live" says Ponmanidevi. Recently she was honoured for all her good deeds in a function, where Education Minister participated and appreciated her generosity.

But she is just a simple village lady, not expecting any rewards or publicity. She is only looking for more opportunities to help her village children. Ponmanidevi is a living example of how personal tragedy can be converted so beautifully into public good. India lives because of such people.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

...continued from page 1

Sevalaya's alumni create waves in workplace



N Sandhiya receiving award from Prashanth, Operations Head of SRM Delhi and S Iswariya from J D Sillion, CEO of Flatirons

N Sandhiya and S Iswariya, the alumni of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College Ambattur, who did E-Publishing course and were employed in Flatirons Jouve were selected as Best Performers in the Quality Control Category (QC). The Best Performer Award was presented to them at the Annual Day celebrations of Flatirons Jouve at Grande Resort, Mahabalipuram on 20th January 2018.



On 2nd January 2018, an alumni from the second batch of the E-publishing course, K Sharmila Devi received a gift from D Venkatesh Kumar, Chairman and Managing Director of Quick Sort Technologies, on 2nd January 2018 for her outstanding performance in Quality Control.

We acknowledge the role of LTI in shaping the lives of these students by sponsoring the E-publishing course.

While two courses E-Publishing and Tally are conducted in Sevalaya Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community college, Ambattur, Sevalaya's community college in Vadanallur offers free training in basic computer skills. Both the community colleges are sponsored by LTI (formerly L&T Infotech).

While the E-publishing students got job offers from Flatirons Jouve and Quick Sort India, Tally students were offered jobs in Maaruthi Associates and Rithvashya Management consultancy, Egmore, Chennai. The students from Vadanallur got job offers from Ruralshores Business services Pvt Ltd, Uttiramerur.

Flatirons Jouve has been Sevalaya's technology partner since the beginning of the E-publishing course, and visit the community college to give guest lectures to students. The students also get a chance to visit their facility in Chennai for industrial visits and get a feel of actual work environment.

Guest lecture and Industrial visit

On 3rd February 2018, D Paraman, Special SI of Police, Tamilnadu Police Academy, Oonamanchery, Vandalur visited Sevalaya Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community college and conducted a 4 hour session for students of Tally course on the basics of Tally applications.



D Paraman conducting session on Tally

Go green drive



Volunteers from Larsen & Toubro Infotech at the tree planting programme at Avadi Housing Board area

Rotary club award to Sevalaya sports achievers



Sevalaya sports achievers with L to R : Rtn D Devendra, Asst. Governor, Rtn. Hema Mani, Secretary, RCMV, Rtn. G Chandramohan, District Governor Nominee, Rtn. Mythili Muralidharan, Chairman, Project Indica and Dr Prof S V Mani, Advisor, Sevalaya

S Amsa of Std VII, R Swetha of Std X, V Deepak of Std VIII and P Santhosh of Std XII- the upcoming sports stars of Sevalaya who represent Tamilnadu in Handball were selected for the Indica Youth Star Award. The Awards were presented

by Rotary International District 3232 Project Indica Team at the event *Minmini Poochigal* on 27th January 2018 at NKT National Girls Higher Secondary School, Chennai.

Project Indica, was launched by Rotary Club of Madras Vadapalani, the club attached to Rotary District 3232 to support underprivileged students reach greater heights in chosen fields.

The Chief Guests were Dr H V Hande former Health Minister, Government of Tamilnadu and Rtn G Chandramohan.

During the award distribution Dr Hande congratulated the awardees and advised the students to shed any inferiority complex, be assertive and develop themselves by availing all the opportunities that come up in their lives.

Rtn G Chandramohan, congratulated the awardees and said, that "dreams are the touchstones of one's character. Students are the real hopes of tomorrow"

Hema Mani, Secretary, Rotary club of Madras Vadapalani had nominated the four students for the award, for their achievements in sports.

Learning by watching



On 7th February 2018, five students from the Girls Handball team visited Thiruvannmalai sports complex to watch the 46th National women's handball matches. Our students observed the various ways of scoring effectively, handling the ball, passing the ball quickly (including fake ball passing techniques). The trip was organised by Tamilnadu Handball Association.

"We watched the Himachal Pradesh vs Haryana game. I got a lot of ideas about how to play together as a team and always look for teammates who are free and pass the ball to them. I will use these techniques in all the games."

S Archana, Std VIII

Dyslexia training



Sevalaya teachers at Dyslexia training session

Madras Dyslexia Association conducted expansive training sessions for the teachers of to identify and teach dyslexic children. Seven sessions were held each Saturday, beginning December 2017. Training was imparted on how to teach the dyslexic children to read, write, and learn spellings, in English and Tamil and to teach Mathematics. Emphasis was laid on teaching basic phonetics to the dyslexic children. Once the children have this foundation, it will be easier for them to pronounce words, and use rhyming words and expand their knowledge step by step.

When it came to Math, the teachers were asked to make use of flash cards, repetitive numbers and patterns which improved the chances of the children's better learning.

40 Primary school teachers benefitted from these sessions. The impact is likely to reach about 150 children.

Respect for parents



Students performing paadha pooja to parents

As a unique initiative, the citizens of Sowcarpet rallied the students to conduct a '*paadha pooja*' for their parents, at Sevalaya campus. On 4th February 2018, 200 students came with their parents and showered them with the love, respect and acknowledged their sacrifice in bringing them up.

Some of the students became emotional while performing *pooja*. The organizers quoted texts from the scriptures about the importance of revering parents and how their blessings will always guide them. Participating in the event, Ranjit Burana, private citizen, said that this programme is aimed at inculcating a respect for parents. He further suggested that 14th February of each year may be chosen to organise and celebrate *paadha pooja* by students to their parents.

Alumni host 69th Republic day activities at Sevalaya



Students taking pledge during the 69th Republic day

Every year, Sevalaya alumni congregate at the campus and conduct the Republic day celebrations. It is a wonderful opportunity for alumni to catch up with their current stations in life. Nostalgia fills the air.

This year the Chief Guest was S Ashok Shankar, Programmer Analyst, Cognizant Technology Services. He hoisted the national flag and was present in the campus for all the other events. After completing School final in Sevalaya in 2009, he went on to complete his BE (Electronics and Communications Engineering) at Anna University college of Engineering, Tindivanam. After joining CTS, he contributed his entire first-month salary to Sevalaya, as a measure of gratitude.

G Raghavendran, another alumnus, currently Vice President, Standard Chartered Bank- Global Business Solutions, also actively participated in guiding the current batch of students who

will be appearing for the Board exams this March.

G Ilayaraja, President of Sevalaya's Alumni Association, and a member of Sevalaya's Board of Trustees, could be seen interacting himself enthusiastically with his old friends and other alumni in the role of a mentor.

Many alumni shared their experiences, and had a touching story to recall. The common theme was the solid platform Sevalaya had set for them during their early years and continued assistance even after finishing their school.

The highlight of the day's celebrations was the blood donation camp that was held at the campus under the aegis of Rotary club of Mutthamizh, Chennai. 86 pints of blood were donated by the villagers, alumni and staff.

Another event that happens regularly is the farewell party for the outgoing Std



Alumnus Ashok Shankar hoisting the National flag

XII students. The alumni and teachers give motivational talk to the students and prep them up for the forthcoming Board exams. Year after year it is an emotion filled environment, as the students get ready to face the next phase of their lives.



Blood donation camp in progress



Alumni students praying for the success of current batch of Std XII

Sevalaya students featured in Design for Change award yet again

Sevalaya's unique initiative on alcohol free society has been recognized for a DFC award yet again. The students chose alcohol abuse as it is one of the primary reasons for their poor economic condition. Many of them have faced various kinds of financial difficulties in their daily life all because of the drinking habit of the elders. The wage earners are mostly under employed. The problems are compounded when they come home inebriated and make the lives of the rest of the family a living hell.

The students brought their mothers to the



school, keeping their palms embedded in their mothers and solemnly swore not to touch alcohol in their lives. This was done in front of the village elders. It was an emotionally charged moment for both the mothers and their children.

They wore T-shirts pledging not to touch alcohol in their lives. The students have taken up the cause and have decided to go around the villages and create awareness about the ills of alcoholism.

Left: Students with Design for change certificate

Session on English for all



20 Literature (English) students and 3 staff from The Literary Seminary-Dr MGR University visited our campus on 10th February 2018 to take a session on English for all, as part of an outreach programme

of their college. Dr S Padmarani Kannan, Convenor, A Thangam, Coordinator, and Lakshmi Mohan, staff coordinator, the Literary Seminary conducted this interactive session. The Std VIII and Std IX students were asked to introduce themselves, and talk about their favourite items. They were taught different tenses and their practical usage.

"This class was very useful to me. I have learnt how to speak and how to pronounce words. I understood how to write formal and informal letters."

A Jayashree, Std IX

Sevalaya sweeps Bhumi Nakshatra awards – yet again



For the ninth year in a row, the boys and girls residing in Sevalaya hostel, romped home with the most medals as well as the Overall championship award. In the initial round held in September 2017, at Alagappa's School, Purasaiwalkam, Chennai, 1000 students from 35 residential homes from five zones in Tamilnadu participated in the events. There were a total of 17 events, like clay making, rangoli, poster making, paper dress, black and tackle, connection, storytelling, story writing, pot painting,

quiz, song, drama, dance, adapt tune, zone defense. Sevalaya students participated in all levels had won 14 first prizes and 6 second prizes.

In the final competition held on 28th January 2018 at Olcott memorial High School, Besant Nagar, 1500 students from 55 homes participated in the same 17 events. The students won 6 first prizes, 7 Second prizes and 1 Third prize. The Overall Championship prize was also bagged by Sevalaya students.

Motivation session

On 27th January 2018, a motivation session was conducted for students appearing for the Board exams, at the Kasuva centre.

R Murali disciple of Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji gave up his lucrative career in Siemens India and joined the Global Organisation for Divinity for spiritual growth. Speaking to the students he stressed upon the importance of respecting parents and appreciating their sacrifices for the welfare of the children. He also advised the students to stay away from TV and cinema till the exams are over. 245 students of Std X to Std XII benefitted from this session.



R Murali, disciple of Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji interacting with students

Training at Aravind Eye Hospital



Sevalaya teachers with Dr G Natchiar, Vice Chairman, Aravind Eye Hospital during the training session on early detection of vision problems in children.

Brimming with confidence, each step of the way

- A Thamizharasi

A Thamizharasi, currently studying in Std V, has been a student in Sevalaya since Montessori (almost 7 years). She has been a naturally curious girl since childhood, and is eager to learn new things. Although she is enthusiastic in her studies, it is her extra-curricular activities that excite her. She is very dexterous and has made many craft items that are on display in her class. She is equally proficient in Drama and oratory and has won quite a few prizes in both for the School. She has won the first prize in oratorical competition held on Kamarajar birth anniversary. She got appreciations from all for her participation in a Drama held in Sri Niketan School. She ranks among the top three in academics in her class.

She ensures that the classroom is always kept neat and clean, a habit she picked up



during her formative years. Her parents and neighbours are equally appreciative of her, as she keeps her surroundings spic and span at home, and talks to her friends in her neighbourhood about the importance of cleanliness. She is very gregarious and is always there to lend a helping hand to her friends.

Her teachers are fulsome in their praise for her discipline and calm demeanour.

She is independent and assertive, at once. She is very dexterous and has created many craft items during the arts and craft sessions.

Her current ambition is to become an IAS officer and serve the rural poor.

Her parents Elumalai and Anjaleswari are daily wage labourers. They have 3 daughters. Their main aim in life is to educate their daughters well.

Meandering through life, learning life's lessons

- P P Kumar

69 year old P P Kumar hails from Kannur, Kerala. He is single (never married) and lost his parents a decade ago. He has no siblings.

He started his nomadic life more than five decades ago, when he came to Tamilnadu in search of work. He dropped out of school after completing Std VII. After doing odd jobs for a few years, he joined Gemini studio as helper in recording theatre at the age of 18 years. He worked for eight years and learnt to drive. He moved to Pondicherry and tried his hand in the Hotel industry. It somehow did not suit his fancy and he went further west to Goa and worked in a pawn shop.

The glitz and glamour of Mumbai lured him a year later where he tried his hand



as a painter of sorts. He worked in tea shops and bakeries. He went back to Goa and this time he tried his hand in the shipping industry. This took him to many places within India as well as to Sri Lanka and Singapore. He reached Chennai and tried his hand in starting a bakery within the city. Unfortunately it did not work too well and he had to shut shop.

It was around the same time that he started losing his vision. The manager

of the shipping company, where he was working knew of Sevalaya and brought Kumar to Sevalaya on 1st February 2015.

He is very compassionate and is always eager to assist his room-mates. He assists those who are weak, in bathing etc. He also serves as a standby when the security personnel take a short break. He goes to visit his ex-owners of tea stalls and bakeries, every once in a while.

HCL volunteers - keeping their date with hostel children, senior citizens



Each year, around New Year, volunteers from HCL Technologies, Chennai, come to

spend time with the hostel students and the elders in the old age home. This year

the volunteers came to the campus on 10th February 2018. While the gentlemen took the cricket route to engage the boys who reside in the hostel, the ladies played Basketball and Kho-Kho with the girls. Hostel students from Std VII-Std IX participated in the games.

The elders were happy to spend time with the volunteers.

We enjoyed playing cricket with the volunteers. Our team was placed second in the cricket tournament. The volunteers donated 3 cricket bats and 6 balls.

S Dhillip, Std IX

Importance of chanting



On 20th January 2018, six members from Global Organisation for Divinity (GOD) came and shared the importance and advantages of chanting 'Rama Mantra'. They gave some useful tips to face the examination. They mentioned that chanting the Mantra creates a bridge between us and God. It gives us courage, wisdom, knowledge and strength to face any situation in life. About 150 students attended the event.

Students win prizes in 9th HSSF thematic competition



In competitions held over a period of time and at different locations, two students persevered to win second prize in 'Riddle' competition, at the Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair (HSSF) held at Guru Nanak College, Velachery, Chennai between 24th January- 29th January 2018.

S Ransani of Std VIII won second prize in

which 325 students participated.

V Lavanya of Std VII won second prize in which 300 students participated. "Her quick thinking is another asset." says D Aswini, Lavanya's class teacher.

Sevalaya put up a stall at the six day long HSSF Fair, to espouse its various activities.

Project Trust Coordinators's visit



On 31st January 2018, K Bharavi, Country head and coordinator, Project Trust and Fra Macintyre, Overseas Department Manager, Project Trust visited Sevalaya campus and monitored the progress of the volunteering and teaching activities by the two UK volunteers.

Sevalaya children at Lionbridge Annual Day and LTI family day



18 students from Sevalaya participated in the Annual Day celebrations of Lionbridge Technologies on 5th Jan 2018 at Hotel Ilara, Navalur. The students presented dance and music programme.



Sevalaya children presented a colourful dance performance at Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) family day in Chennai. The children were happy that they got an opportunity to exhibit their talents.

Prison life-1909

Gandhiji was ordered on January 15, 1909 by the Police Officer in Volkrust to produce his registration certificate and to give means of identification. He failed to do it, and was produced before the Magistrate who ordered that he be removed from the Colony. He was then removed and left at a spot at the border, a quarter of a mile away. But he defiantly returned almost immediately. He was re-arrested, but no charge sheet was issued. He proceeded to Johannesburg.

Gandhiji along with seven others was sentenced at Volkrust on February 25, 1909, as they refused to produce certificates of registration, and to give fingerprints. They were to pay a fine of 50 pounds each or to undergo three months' imprisonment with hard labour. All of them preferred to go to jail instead of paying the fine. Gandhiji made a statement in the court. He said, "I consider myself as the greatest offender

in the Asiatic struggle, if the conduct I am pursuing is held to be reprehensible, I ask you to impose on me the highest penalty."

Gandhiji was released on the morning of May 24 from the Pretoria jail.

Gandhiji's observations on courting jail were:

"The one view is why one should go to jail and there submit oneself to all personal restraints.. Far better to pay up the fine than thus to be incarcerated. May God spare His creatures from such sufferings in jail. Such thoughts make one really a coward, and being in constant dread of a jail life, deter him from undertaking to perform services in the interests of his country which might otherwise prove very valuable.

The other view is that it would be the height of one's good fortune to be in jail in the interests and good name of one's country and religion.

There, there is very little of that misery which he has to undergo in daily life. There, he has to carry out the orders of one warder only, whereas in daily life he is obliged to carry out the behests of great many more. In the Jail, he has no anxiety to earn his daily bread and to prepare his meals. The government see to all that.

They also look after his health for which he has to pay nothing. He gets enough work to exercise his body. He is freed from all his vicious habits. His soul is thus free. He has plenty of time at his disposal to pray to God. His body is restrained, not his soul. He learns to be more regular in his habits. Those who keep his body in restraint, look after it.

Taking this view of jail life, he feels himself quite a free being. Those who think this way are sure to be convinced that even jail life can be attended with blessings."

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Send your comments to:

City Office : Sevalaya, No 54, P S Sivaswamy Road (North), Mylapore, Chennai-600 004, Tamil Nadu, India.

phone: 7299064457, 9444333529, 044-24982204

email: sevalayaprhead@sevalaya.org, sevalayakasuva@sevalaya.org

www.sevalaya.org ; www.facebook.com/sevalaya ; www.youtube.com/sevalayacharity

Correspondents:

Anupriya Suresh, Kingston A A, Prasanna Parthasarathy, Radha Srinivasan, Vijaya R

Copy Desk: Rangarajan P

Layout: Rekha Perumal

Editorial & Design Consultant:

Thomas T Abraham