

## Hyundai Wia funds library building



L to R Sevalaya Murali, Chang Hae Jang, J Rajesh, C Ravi and J Pugazhendi

The *Bhoomi Pooja* for a 625 sq.ft library building was performed on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Hyundai Wia is sponsoring the construction at a cost of 12 lacs. Chang Hae Jang, Chief Operations Officer, Hyundai Wia laid the foundation stone in the presence of J Rajesh, Asst. General Manager, HR, Hyundai Wia, was present

J Pugazhendi, Village Administrative Officer, Nathamedu, and C Ravi, Panchayat official also participated in the function. A part of the building will house an e-Seva centre which will provide online access to Government information and services for the villagers.

## Std XII Results: Its a 100%, the 9<sup>th</sup> time



School Topper Madankumar scored 555/600

For the ninth year, Sevalaya has secured 100% pass results in the Std XII Board exams held in March 2019. More details on page 2

## Dymos Lear sponsors tailoring course at Ravanasamudram

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 4 months free course in Tailoring was inaugurated at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College at Ravanasamudram, Tirunelveli. The course is sponsored by Dymos Lear. 20 women are provided training in tailoring. In addition to that students are also taught craft work, value education and spoken English.

Inaugurating the course, K Rajeswari, Inspector of Police, Economic Offenses Wing, Tirunelveli said that it is a great opportunity for the poor women to learn a trade and earn their livelihood and asked them to make use it. Pottalpurur Mosque hereditary Inamdar Safi Shah, Dr Amir John, Dr Paramasivan, Kadayam, Father Arul Dinesh, of Kadayam Church, Munnah Mohammed Salim of Ravanasamudram and Retd Army Personnel S Mandiramurthy from Alwarkurichi participated in the function. Foundation stone for a toilet complex in



Dr. Paramasivan, K Rajeswari, Father Arul Dinesh, Donor Nalla perumal, Sevalaya Murali

the college was also laid on the occasion. The construction is also sponsored by Dymos Lear.

The community college functions at the ancestral house of educationist R S Nallaperumal of Ravanasamudram, who donated it to Sevalaya.

Coming from a poor family, the tailoring course is really a boon for me. Sevalaya is providing free training in tailoring which will help me earn a living. We are also taught crafts and spoken English.

**P Subbulakshmi, Tailoring student, Ravanasamudram**

# Joy of giving: *the way of life*

Dear Friends,

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019, Sevalaya campus at Kasuva was filled with the laughter of happy students as the results of Std XII Board exams started coming in. All 135 students who appeared for the Boards had successfully cleared the exams with excellent marks. 66% of students have secured first division marks. Topper scored 555 / 600 (93%). Each year sees a steady improvement in the performance of students.

Many of these students live in small single room houses with no special facilities for studying. These children have to help out their parents who mostly work as daily wage earners and struggle to keep the family afloat.

There are at present 2083 students studying in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar School and more than 1000 students getting trained in 10 trades at 8 community colleges across Tamil Nadu.

Tuition centres at 4 locations give coaching to nearly 100 students who have been showing remarkable improvement in their academics. Breakfast programmes in 2 Government schools at Thanjavur have supported 874 students appearing for board exam. 125 students of 5 Panchayat Union schools are also getting breakfast daily.

The credit for these achievements definitely goes to the unstinted support of well wishers, philanthropists and corporates who have always stood by Sevalaya. The teachers of Sevalaya spare no efforts to coach the children. They spend extra hours in the mornings, evenings and all holidays to sit with their wards and patiently guide them at their own pace. In the evenings many houses have drunken parents creating a nuisance and children are able to study only because they remain at school with their teachers. Snacks from the dining hall gives them energy and the teachers' presence a world of comfort, where they forget about all the troubles at home and concentrate on their studies. Sevalaya wishes to thank its well wishers and staff for their support without which all this would not have been possible.

There are 2000+ underprivileged children studying in the school in the current academic year who need your support. The initial expenses for the academic year 2019-20 for 1 child comes to ₹ 1000. You can also sponsor a child's education for a year by contributing ₹ 8000 and bring light into the lives of these under privileged rural children.

Contributions can be sent by way of cheques favouring Sevalaya to Sevalaya 54 P S Sivaswami Road North, Mylapore,

Chennai 600004 or directly remitted to Our Bank account.

To remit contributions directly into our Bank account

Bank Details

## Indian Donors

Account Name: SEVALAYA

Account No: 218601000134

Bank: ICICI BANK

IFSC CODE: ICIC0002186

Account Name: SEVALAYA

Account No: 029101000008743

Bank: INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

IFSC Code: IOBA0000291

## Overseas Donors

Account Name : Sevalaya FCRA

Account No : 064993900000111

Bank : YES Bank

Swift Code : YESBINBB

IFSC : YESB0000649

Thanks & Regards

Sevalaya Murali

## Sevalaya secures 100% pass results again

The topper is S Madankumar who has scored 555/600. His father is an agricultural labourer and mother works for daily wages. Madankumar is a friendly boy and always helps his friends in studies. He wishes to pursue higher studies in medicine.

S Surekha, second in school with a score of 540/600 is a bright, active and outspoken girl is good in extracurricular activities. She has won several prizes in oratorical competitions. She aspires to become a Chartered Accountant. Her parents work in a private company. They earn less but are determined to support their daughter to achieve her dreams.



School topper Madankumar celebrating success



Surya with his father

Surya lost his mother when he was young. His father is a tailor. Surya was affected by a nervous disorder which made him immobile. His father brings him to school by cycle everyday. His friends carry him to class. He wrote his X, XI and XII exams with the help of a scribe. He wants to do B.com and work in a Bank.

Teachers took special care by conducting special classes right from June last year. test are conducted, test papers evaluated immediately and feedback given to help them improve their performance. Food was also served for all students attending the extra classes.



# Standard Chartered CEO volunteers at Kasuva centre

Kwan Chee Sun (Head, Standard Chartered Global Business Services India, (SCGBS), Gita Karunakaran Head, Corporate Affairs and 80 Volunteers from SCGBS visited Kasuva Centre and conducted a one day summer camp of arts and crafts for 122 students of Std VII on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The students were taught to make paper hats. Colour papers and cello tapes were provided to the students and they had fun making colourful hats. The next session they were taught to make sparrow spindles using plastic water bottle and plastic plates. Games were also conducted and it was a day of fun and frolic.

Earlier 70 volunteers from SCGBS visited Sevalaya Kasuva centre on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019, to conduct arts and crafts session for 143 students of Std VI. The students were taught to make thread lanterns using thread, fevicol, and armed cushion sofa using balloons, thread and tape. All the materials were provided by the volunteers and the students enjoyed the day. Gifts were distributed to the teams that made the best craft items.



Kwan Chee Sun, CEO, SCGBS and volunteers with Sevalaya childrens



I was very happy. The annas and akkas were very friendly. It was fun making thread lantern and cushion sofa as a team with friends. I sat on the sofa we made and it felt good. Our team was presented a pouch as a gift. It was an enjoyable day thanks to SCGBS

**Kanmani D Std VI**

## PPG Asian Paints CEO motivates students



Kumar Padmanabhan addressing the students at Thirubuvanai

Kumar Padmanabhan, CEO, PPG Asian Paints, Leo Christopher, Plant Manager, Thirubhuvanai and Saurav, HR Head, PPG Asian Paints visited Sevalaya's Community college, at Thirubhuvanai, Puducherry, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The college is sponsored by PPG Asian Paints. Four months free course in tailoring, basic computer applications and AC & Refrigeration mechanic is conducted for the underprivileged students from the near by 15 villages.

## Another batch qualifies at Ambattur



Vignesh Arunachalam distributing course completion certificates

Vignesh Arunachalam, Corporate Social Responsibility Officer, L&T InfoTech distributed certificates to the 52 students of the fourth and fifth batch of Tally and E-Publishing students at a function on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019, at Ambattur Community College. Yogesh, Arjun and Srija, Associates from L & T Infotech participated in the function

## Who will quench their thirst?



For Free water bowls for birds

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## Easter celebrations at various centres



*Anand Joshua cutting cake with children*

Sevalaya celebrates all important religious festivals of all faiths to promote a sense of religious harmony among students.

Easter was celebrated at Kasuva centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019.

Anand Joshua, Executive Director, Christian Institute of Management, Chennai was the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest explained the significance of the holy day and reminded the children of the importance of caring for others in need.



*Brother A Isaac with the students*

At the community college at Sunguvarchathram, Brother A Isaac of Catechist in faithful Community Church, Kannur was the Chief Guest for the Easter celebrations on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

He spoke about the crucifixion of Christ and the resurrection on the third day and its significance for Christians.



*Pastor Abraham addressing the students*

Pastor Abraham from Mission India University was the Chief Guest and P G Edward was the Guest of honor at the Easter celebrations at Ravanamamudram centre on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Guest addressed the gathering and felt

The Chief Guest said that Self-discipline, Self-control and Self-confidence are the three qualities one should develop to reach better stages in life.

## Honing their debating skills



*L To R G Sarmi, S Rithika and T Themabavani, the top three winners of the CE programme*

Cognitive Exchange (CE) is an international speech and debate programme designed to improve communication skills among students.

Sevalaya is the first school in South India in which the program is piloted. It was an 8 week video conferencing session in which 20 students from Stds VI to VIII of Sevalaya participated.

The trainer Anusha Subramanian from US, explained to the students about how to develop a topic and presentation techniques like body language, diction and the like.

In the concluding session, all the students were asked to make a speech on any important event in India in the last hundred years.

## Commemorating patriotism and divinity

Three important events were commemorated on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre-Sri Ram Navami, the birth of Lord Rama, the centenary of Jallianwala Bagh massacre which was a turning point in India's freedom struggle and the anniversary of Salt Satyagraha - another defining moment in India's freedom movement.

A S Rangaramanujan, Retd LIC official a donor and well wisher associated with Sevalaya since inception, Vidya Subramaniam, noted Tamil writer and C Ruthrakumar, Asst. Executive Engineer, TANGEDCO, Thiruninravur were the Chief Guests on the occasion.

Students of Sevalaya enacted the ruthless massacre that happened at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13<sup>th</sup> 1919. They also presented a dance on Sri Rama's life. The manuscript magazine *Vidiyal* prepared by students was released on the occasion.



*Vidya Subramaniam releasing Vidiyal L to R Sevalaya Murali, S Krishnakumar, A S Rangaramanujan, C Ruthrakumar*

Rangaramanujan, in his speech mentioned that divinity and patriotism are like the two eyes of a person and appreciated the efforts of the school in promoting these among students.

Writer Vidya Subramaniam spoke to the students about Vedaranyam Salt

Satyagraha. The talk was clear, interesting and informative.

Ruthrakumar urged the students to make best use of the opportunities provided by Sevalaya to succeed in life.



# Welcome Tamil New year



*Cultural programme by Sevalaya students*

The first day of the Tamil Month *Chithirai* which usually coincides with 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> of April every year, marks the beginning of the new year as per Tamil calendar. Tamil New Year was celebrated on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 across the centres of Sevalaya. Sports events and Kolam competitions were held for the villagers in the neighbourhood at all centres and prizes were distributed at the function.



*Dr Iraiarasan lighting the lamp*

At the Tamil New Year celebrations on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Kasuva centre, the Chief Guest Thanjai Ko. Kannan presented a power point presentation on Tamil language and a brief history of Tamilians. His narrative on the influence Tamil in Arab countries, China, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore and the culture and traditions of Tamilians kept the audience totally spellbound.

Special guests Dr Iraiarasan and Marai T Thayumanavan spoke about the greatness of Tamil and the celebrations of the first day of *Chithirai* month in other Asian countries like Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore.



*Aswath Hari distributing prizes to the winners of the competitions*

Tamil New Year's day was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Ambattur Community College. Aswath Hari HR, Manager, SGS Limited was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Jones, HR- Recruitment of SGS Limited also participated in the function. Conveying his wishes on the occasion of Tamil New Year, Aswath Hari urged the students to make best use of the opportunities provided by Sevalaya.



*S Thirumalai Nambi addressing the students*

On 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019, at the celebrations at Ravanasamudram centre, S Thirumalai Nambi, Regional Manager, Pandya Grama Bank, Tirunelveli Junction was the Chief Guest. Conveying his wishes to the students of Sevalaya, he also spoke to them about various schemes in banks to support the small entrepreneurs.

## Farm-fresh organic vegetables



Organic farm fresh vegetables and bakery products and craft items available at Sevalaya City Office every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

## Goal Programme for girls



*Girls playing net ball*

Sevalaya, NAZ, GBS together organized Goal- a life skill programme and Net ball for 65 girls of Std VIII at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre. It was a 10 months programme from June 2018 to March 2019. The programme focusses on women empowerment, healthy living through training in netball and life skills education.

This training facilitated the children to identify their talents, promoted self confidence, team work, listening skills and concentration, and leadership qualities. Healthy snacks were provided to the children during the sessions.

10 students are also selected to participate in the ONNC (One Nation Netball Cup ) tournament organized by Naz to be held in New Delhi from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. This program is sponsored by Standard Chartered Global Business Services.



## Crafting a successful life - Sathya

Many girls sitting around in a circle engaged in jewellery making with threads, laces, paper etc is a very common sight in Sevalaya's community college in Ambattur. Guiding them all patiently, giving them ideas and suggesting improvements is the ever smiling Sathya, who joined Sevalaya as housekeeping assistant in 2017.

Sathya hails from Chidambaram and is the last of four daughters. Her parents are daily wage labourers. After completing VIII standard in a local school, her parents sent her to Chennai through a manpower agency, to work as a live in help in households and did baby sitting, helped in kitchen and did all odd jobs.

Sathya got married to Dhandapani, a native of Thirukkoolur in 2007. Dhandapani is a construction labourer in Chennai. After marriage, to supplement family income, Sathya continued to work as house maid. Later she got a temporary office assistant job in LIC. She met with an accident and due to knee injury she could not continue her job. She stayed at home for 3 years.

Later when her health improved and she



was looking for a job, the civil engineer with whom her husband was employed referred Sevalaya and told her about the opening for a housekeeping assistant.

That proved to be a turning point in her life. She is all praises for Mohanavalli who was in charge of Ambattur community College then and is the Associate Vice President, Operations now.

"Mohana mam encouraged me to learn computers. She taught me to create a word document, excel, scan documents and save it in folder. She also taught me to use internet and that really opened up a new world for me. I am very interested in arts and crafts. In my village I used to draw big rangolis in front of my house. After i got access to internet I learnt fashion jewellery making, wire bag making, making flowers and

frames using paper, wall hangings using waste materials by seeing craft videos in YouTube.

And whatever I learnt, I enjoy teaching it to the students who come here to do E publishing and Tally courses. A group of girls from Hindu College who joined the Tally course and learnt jewellery making here, made fashion jewellery and earned money to pay their exam fees. I was very happy when I came to know about that." says Sathya.

Sathya has a son who is in Std XI and a daughter studying Std VIII. "I have never seen / touched a computer in my life before I came to Sevalaya. Sevalaya has provided me wonderful opportunities. I am more confident and happy now, thanks to Sevalaya." concludes Sathya.

## Acting Training by alumnus actor



*Bharathikanth conducting acting training*

Alumnus Bharathikanth of Sevalaya conducted an interesting session on acting techniques for nearly 70 students of Sevalaya on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Bharathi who lost his father was a resident of

Sevalaya's hostel from Std III till Std XII. He was good in acting, music and other extracurricular activities. He is now working as a freelance acting trainer after completing his BSC MPA and has started

acting in movies recently.

The importance of body language, facial expression and voice modulation in portraying the individuality of a character was explained through demonstrations. Students enacted skits in small groups and areas of improvement were demonstrated. He gave several tips on image creation, imagination, using gibberish language and taught different types of acting.

"It was the most wonderful day in my life. I can still remember how he taught Navarasas. He demonstrated sorrow through his expression and tears so realistically"

**Sumitra Std X**



## Pulavar Pechiammal Pandian remembered



L to R Sevalaya Murali, V Balasubramaniam, M Pandiyan, V G Santhosham, Dr P Meganathan, Malar Selvam

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Sevalaya conducted oratorical and Thirukkural recitation competitions in memory of Pulavar Pechiammal Pandian. 125 students from 25 government schools in Thiruvallur District participated in the competitions.

Rolling trophies and prizes were distributed to the winners at a function organised on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The function was presided over by Chevalier Dr V G Santhosham, Chairman, VGP group of companies. Thirukkural M Pandian, Additional Chief Manager, Mines II, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Malar Selvam, Chairperson, Prestige bella Vista Tamil Sangam, V Balasubramaniam, Technical Director, Shardha Shree Ispat Ispat Ltd, Nagpur and S Udhayam Ram, Editor, Uratha Sinthanai magazine were

the Guests of Honour.

M Solaiappan, Retd. Chief Educational Officer, Madurai, Pulavar S Sivakkannu, Retd. Tamil teacher and Vel Shanmugam, Industrialist, Madurai and sons and daughters of Pulavar Pechiammal graced the occasion with their presence.

DR V G Santhosham said the efforts of Dr P Meghanathan and family in honour of their mother should serve as an inspiration to the students to respect their parents.

P Saravanakumari, daughter of Pulavar Pechiammal Pandian, shared the memories of her mother who was a tamil poet and said "She supported the education of many poor children She has also written commentary for Thirukkural which will be published shortly"

## Summer camp for music and games

6 girls from Sevalaya participated in the one day summer camp for traditional music and games - *Panpattu Payirchi mugaam* organised by Swara Bharathi, an association in Thiruninravur to promote and develop a taste for traditional music among rural children.

The camp was held at SKMM Vivekananda Vidyalaya in Thiruninravur on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in which 150 children participated. They played traditional games like hide and seek and *pallanguzhi*. Kolam contest, quiz on carnatic music, dumb charades on ancient Tamil proverbs and group singing were a few of the events conducted on the day.

A C Ravi, convenor of Swara Bharathi, presented gifts to all the children who participated. A fun filled day which also gave the children an opportunity to appreciate our tradition and culture. The music class at Sevalaya is sponsored by Lionbridge Technologies.



Sevalaya children singing at the summer camp

## NSS Camp



L to R G Saraswathy, M Pitchammal, J Selvanathan, J Vicent Kamaraj, P Kannan

65 NSS students from Ambedkar Law University, and School of Excellence in Law camped at Kasuva Centre from Chennai 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The NSS camp was inaugurated on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019 by J. Selvanathan,

B.Sc., B.L., Principal District and Sessions Judge, Tiruvallur. M Pitchammal, B.Sc., B.L, Chairperson, Permanent Lok Adalat, Tiruvallur, G Saraswathi, M.L., Secretary, District Legal Service Authority, Tiruvallur, Dr D Kannan, Asst Professor, Dr M Vidya,

Asst Professor, NSS program officer, and Prof Dr A Raghunadha Reddy, Director(Incharge), Dr Ambedkar Law University participated in the programme.

During the week long camp, the students helped the villagers to draft and present petitions for laying of roads in villages, obtaining identity card for unorganized sectors to the district judge. They also conducted two days legal aid camp in villages around Sevalaya like Pakkam, Puliur and Kasuva.

Planting of 100 tree saplings in Kasuva, conducting legal awareness programme for students of Pakkam Government school and organising a rally to create an awareness on consumer rights, child rights and right to vote among the villagers were the major activities in the camp. Sevalaya students participated in the awareness rally programmes.

# Chellamma's ear-rings.

If Bharathi was a Mahakavi, his wife Chellamma was in no small measure the impelling force behind his greatness. Perhaps, it is easier to be a Mahakavi than to be the wife of one.

Contrary to the general belief, Bharathi's household was a happy one in spite of the persistent penury and the hardship caused by the Raj. That is why he could sing, "How many Crores of happiness you have bestowed, my Lord!" The source of such happiness: Chellamma.

When Bharathi was not clear in his mind about switching to India magazine, it was Chellamma who gave him the fillip to take the decision. When he was feeling lethargic, it was she who urged him to, "go, write". She was the watchdog to ensure that he dispatched his columns to Swadesamitran as per schedule. Perhaps these are less known facts of Bharathi's life.

Of course, as a middle class housewife, she had enough reasons to be annoyed with him for his oddities idiosyncrasies. Which woman could be happy with the bounty the husband receives, when he spends almost the entire sum in

books, and brings a paltry 15 rupees for household necessities and not a single saree for the wife? How can she be happy when the borrowed rice she had reserved for the day's meal is thrown to the sparrows, however beautiful is the poem he composes on the occasion?

The point to be observed is, she was not wanting in the spirit of compassion and help to the needy. Here is an episode to illustrate the point.

Surendranath Arya was a great patriot and good friend of Bharathi family. He was incarcerated and during his Jail term he was put into contact with some Missionaries. Partly by duress and partly by persuasion he was converted to Christianity. He was to be sent to America for higher studies. He descended at Bharathi's house at Pondicherry after a long time and was full of self pity while narrating his story. While Bharathi was doing his bit to console him, Chellamma was listening to "Anna" with moist eyes.

While the time for leaving came, he was lingering with a hesitant look. Bharathi guessed it and asked, "Arya, do you have money to go to Madras?"

Arya was silent.

Bharathi spoke to Chellamma. "Chellamma! Give him money!" That was characteristic of Bharathi. He would not bother to know the financial position at home.

Chellamma wore a blank look for a moment. Then suddenly she went downstairs. There was no knowing what she was up to.

It looked as if it was ages. After a long wait, she came with her hands filled with currency, which she slipped in to the hands of Bharathi, who in turn gave it to Arya. This over, Bharathi and Arya looked up at Chellamma.

Her ear-rings were missing. After a few months, Chellamma received a Money Order from Arya, with the note: Dear sister, I do not know how to thank you for your timely help. I know you pledged or sold your ear rings to help me at a critical hour. Kindly get an ornament of your choice and wear it as a gift from your elder brother."

Source: Mahakavi Bharathi (Tamil) By Ilandai Su.Ramasami

## Photography workshop



*Photography workshop in progress*

Staff of Sevalaya are constantly given training to better themselves in their work areas.

S C Suresh and G Arun from Sevalaya attended a workshop "Beyond Photography" conducted by the well known freelance photographer Prashanth

Viswanathan at Goethe Institute Max Mueller Bhavan on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

They learnt several technical aspects of photography like lighting, focus, angles and position. The importance of patience, concentration, attention to detail and creativity was brought out through various photographs. Usage of digital watermarks, theme and concept related photography were a few other points covered during the session

"It was a very useful session. The workshop has completely changed my way of looking at the world. I have realized the importance of photographs which are documents of evidence of important events and people "

**S C Suresh**



Lions Club of Progeny, Thiruninravur, donated a smart classroom to Sevalaya. The smart class was inaugurated on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 by MJF Lion R Suresh, District Governor District 324 A6 - Region XIII. Ln R Ramesh, Secretary Governor, MJF Ln Dr K R Kalyani, President Lions Club of Progeny Thiruninravur and members of the Lions club participated in the function.

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