

DR DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT

2016 – 2017

PAMELA MARTINEZ – “PATHWAY”
MATRICULATION SCHOOL

Agili, Sendhivakkam Post –603 319 Kancheepuram District

Tel : 98401 21859, 98948 03599

"HAVE THE POOR HELP THE POOR"

Pathway began in 1975 with just two children in a small, rented house in Chennai, India.



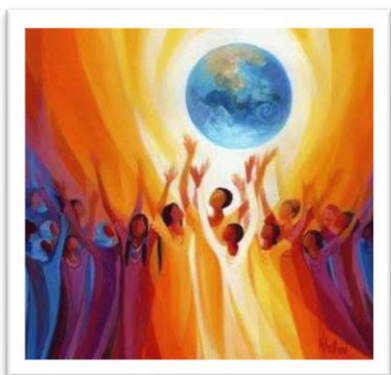
A D S N Prasad, an Audiologist and Speech Pathologist, sought to fill the void existing in the care and rehabilitation of mentally retarded children.

From these humble beginnings grew an organization that has served almost 31,700 children and adults in two city centers and a rural agricultural farm.

Prasad guides Pathway with the belief that

"EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO UTILIZE THEIR POTENTIAL IN ORDER TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT, REGARDLESS OF MENTAL OR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS."

Pathway is a voluntary, charitable, nonprofit and non - governmental organization which serves children and adults without any bias to religion, caste, creed, or any other consideration.



ORGANIZATION – GOVERNANCE

Pathway has a clearly defined Memorandum and Articles of Association which directs the working of the organisation. This society has a distinguished Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MRS. SUDHA SUBRAMANIAM
PRESIDENT

MRS. DHULI PATNAIK
VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. CHANDRA. PRASAD
GENERAL SECRETARY

MR. A. RAMAR
TREASURER

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Mr. Y. V. R. Rao
Mr. Shanth K Jain

GENERAL BODY MEMBERS

Dr. Pradhan Ravindranath
Mr. Rajesh Ramana



Pathway is run under the auspices of Dr. Dathu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust a Registered Society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.

❖ Recognized by the office of the Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu (Department of Differently Abled Welfare).

The organization receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

The organization receives grant in aid from the office of Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of Tamil Nadu (Department of Differently Abled Welfare) for the project “Pathway -Home for persons with Mental Retardation and Associated Conditions”

Pathway is monitored and audited yearly by independent parties to ensure proper implementation of all finances and governance.

RECOGNITION AND GRANT-IN-AID

- ❖ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India
- ❖ Office of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, Government of TN
- ❖ Department of Social Welfare as a recognized Orphanage.

REGISTRATION AND PERMISSION

- ❖ Director of Exemptions, Dept. of Income Tax, Govt. of India, Nungambakkam, Chennai U/S 80G of the Income Tax Act.
- ❖ Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, Government of India, New Delhi
- ❖ Registered with The National Trust for Autism, under section 12(4) of the Act for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Disabilities and Mental Retardation, Government of India, New Delhi
- ❖ Registered under Justice Juvenile Act, Department of Social Defence, Govt of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Registrar of Societies (South), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
- ❖ Registered with Department of Social welfare, Govt of Tamil Nadu under Orphanages and other Charitable homes supervision and control act 1960
- ❖ Registered with Department of Social Welfare, govt. of Tamil Nadu under section 52 of persons with disabilities, equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation act 1995
- ❖ Registered with Directorate of Matriculation Schools, Govt of Tamil Nadu

ORGANIZATION BOARD

DR DATHU RAO MEMORIAL CHARITABLE TRUST ORGANIZATION - BOARD

The board members meet at least four times a year to transact the business of the organization and meets every year to conduct the Annual General Body meeting to review the work of the organization and resolve various important issues, including: Acceptance and passage of yearly budget

- ❖ Reviews of audit accounts and balance sheet
- ❖ Appointment of auditors and lawyer
- ❖ Election of officers
- ❖ Long- range planning and development goals of the centres
- ❖ Offers general direction in the everyday operation of the organization.



SUDHA SUBRAMANIAM
PRESIDENT



DHULI PATNAIK
VICE-PRESIDENT



CHANDRA PRASAD
GEN SECRETARY



M A RAMAR
TREASURER



SHANTH JAIN
TRUSTEE

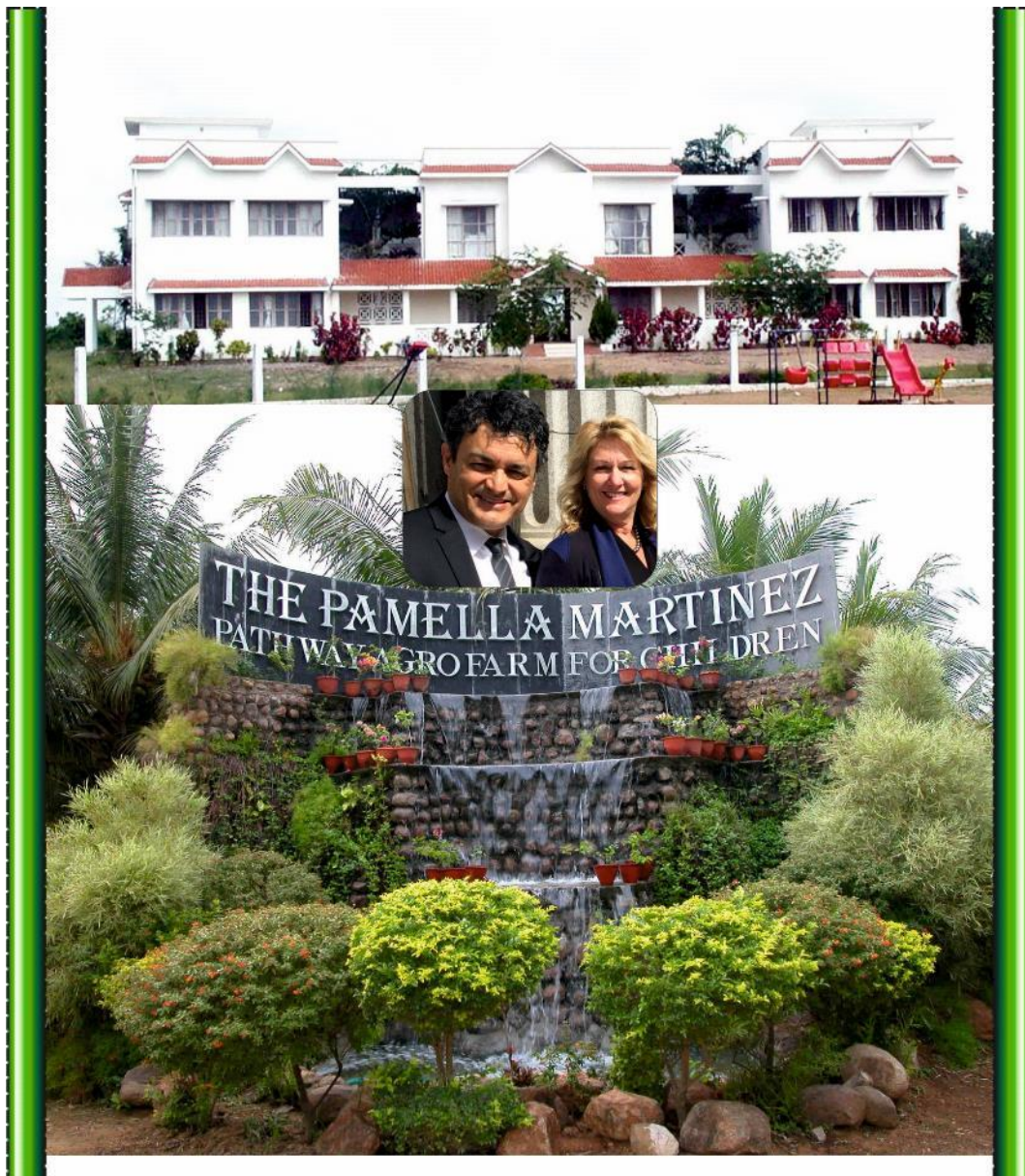


DR PRADHAN. R
TRUSTEE



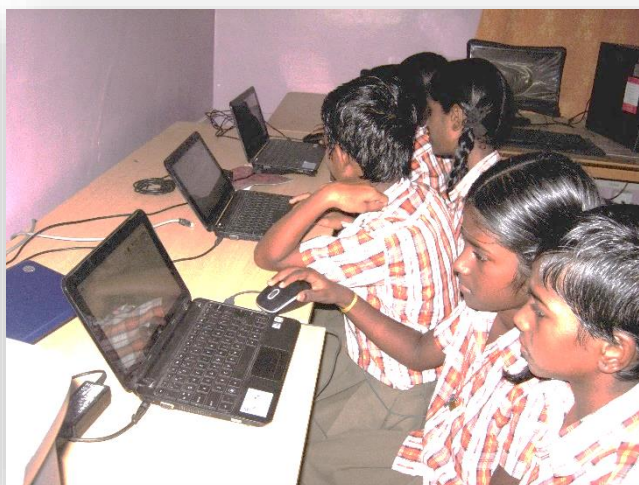
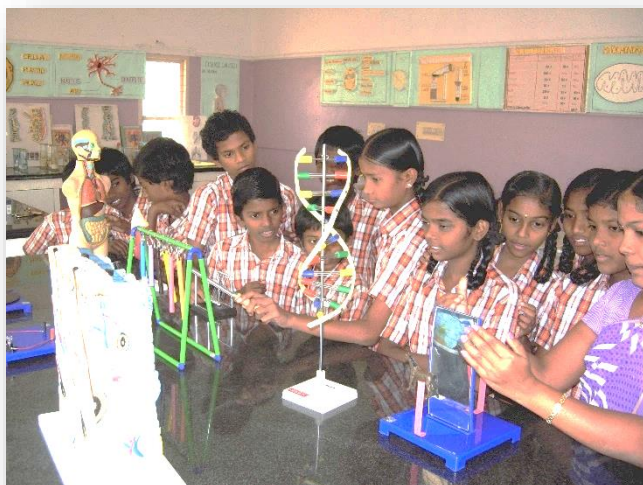
Y V R RAO
TRUSTEE

THE PAMELA MARTINEZ PATHWAY AGRO FARM FOR CHILDREN – AGILI



The Pamela Martinez AgroFarm is the most innovative rehabilitation and educational facility in India. Currently housing 200 children who live there year-round, the Farm provides food, clothing, medical care, and education, while using agriculture as a means of therapy, job training, and income generation.

The Pamela Martinez – Pathway Agro Farm for children was established during September 2001. This unit has been named after the donor houses a large facility consisting of the following:



- ✿ DORMITORY UNIT FOR BOYS
- ✿ DORMITORY UNIT FOR GIRLS
- ✿ LARGE KITCHEN AND DINING HALL
- ✿ A WELL CONSTRUCTED SCHOOL BUILDING
- ✿ WELL EQUIPPED PLAYGROUND
- ✿ MEDICAL CENTER
- ✿ DENTAL CLINIC
- ✿ STAFF QUARTERS FOR ESSENTIAL STAFF
- ✿ QUARANTINE BLOCKS TO ISOLATE SICK CHILDREN





This unit has been established to assist children who are either orphan or destitute children, children from broken homes or children who may partial orphans are also being admitted. Currently the Agro-farm is housing 245 children who live all the time at the agro-facility and receive food, clothing, and medical help and undergo education at the school, which has been established at the farm. All Farm children attend a well organized English medium school as prescribed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.



The school is fully recognized by the Directorate of Matriculation Schools, Chennai and this Directorate has accorded recognition from 1st to 8th standards/ grades during the year 2004-2005. During the year 2005-2006 the school has been further upgraded up to 9th and 10th standards and it has been proposed to open more facilities for children. Separate laboratories for biology, Physics, Chemistry and a library have been opened with all necessary ingredients. Further, a well quipped computer lab and a vast library has been added.



All the children are taught various subjects including those subjects as per the syllabus and also thoughts and chapters from our scriptures and moral stories as every day teaching for an hour. Considerable importance is given for English conversation, reading and writing. In addition to various learning

opportunities, children are stimulated with painting, arts and drawing to hone their artistic abilities. At this time 60 staff have been appointed at the agro-farm, which include a Principal, faculty members, wardens, nurse, house mothers, doctor, dentist, cooks, watch and ward, driver, etc. All the staff is well qualified in their respective fields. In addition to the above six watch and ward staff have been appointed to ensure security for the facility.

The medical facility which has been functioning is offering comprehensive medical care to all live-in children of the Agro Farm and also offers medical support and care to all of the staff. In addition, the out-patient medical unit serves over 750 poor out-patients every month at the clinic who approach the Agro Farm from surrounding villages.

EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ✿ ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL PATTERNED ON THE GOVT. OF TAMILNADU'S "MATRICULATION SCHOOLS" REGULATIONS
- ✿ RECOGNIZED AND ACCREDITED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF MATRICULATION SCHOOLS, CHENNAI
- ✿ YEAR 2001-2002: KINDERGARTEN AND GRADES 1 –6
- ✿ YEAR 2002-2003: ADD GRADES 7 AND 8
- ✿ YEAR 2003-2004: ADD GRADES 9 AND 10
- ✿ YEAR 2006-2007: ADD GRADE 10
- ✿ SEPARATE LABS FOR BIOLOGY, PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY ARE IN PLANNING
- ✿ COMPUTER LAB – 2004 - 2005
- ✿ LIBRARY - 2006
- ✿ CURRICULUM INCLUDES AGE-APPROPRIATE SUBJECTS. CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO ENGLISH CONVERSATION, READING, AND WRITING. ARTS AND MUSIC ARE INCLUDED TO DEVELOP CREATIVITY SOCIAL VALUES AND MORALS ARE ENCOURAGED
- ✿ QUALIFIED STAFF



"Help us grow into our Dreams..."

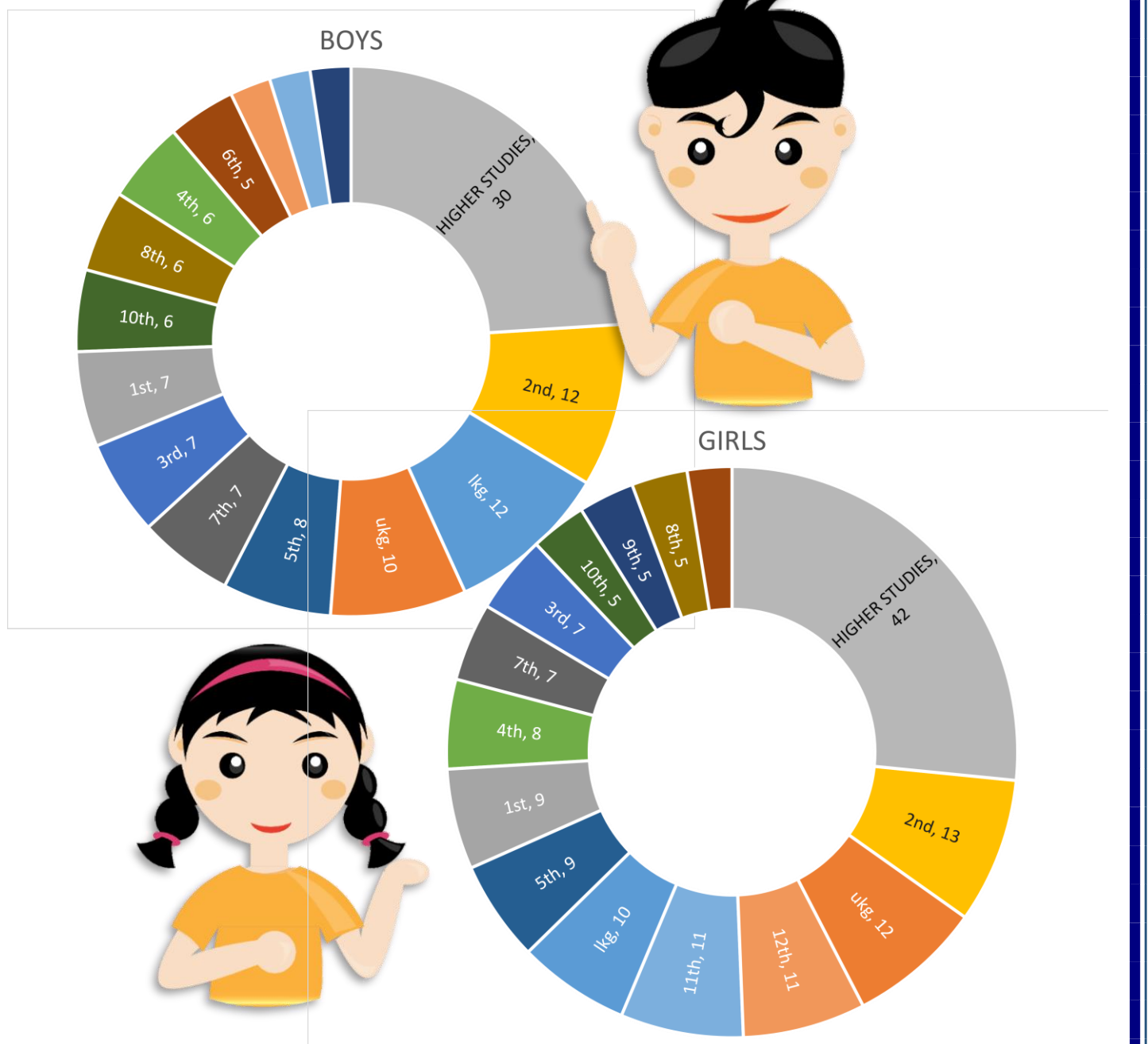


Apart from this, the Agro Farm which has established a “Hospital on Wheels” serving a number of villages every week continues with the same with renewed energy. The medical unit at the Agro Farm has the services of well-qualified doctor, nurse and an attendant. In addition to this, periodic visits by a dental surgeon, pediatrician and others are available bi-weekly.



STUDENT POPULATION

as of March 31, 2017



GRADE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
lkg	12	10	22
ukg	10	12	22
1st	7	9	16
2nd	12	13	25
3rd	7	7	14
4th	6	8	14
5th	8	9	17
6th	5	4	9
7th	7	7	14
8th	6	5	11
9th	3	5	8
10th	6	5	11
11th	3	11	14
12th	3	11	14
HIGHER STUDIES	30	42	72
			283

FROM THE DIRECTORS



As we welcome the New Year, we are indeed grateful for the many blessings we have received. This year saw new challenges in form of cyclone which left a trail of disaster not just for us but the entire Tamil Nadu state which had been affected. Infections and injuries and other skin problems were the biggest issues we were confronted with along with increase of snakes, scorpions etc during that period. We also face the monkey menace. An estimate of nearly 100 thousand in US dollars was our damage. It was



heartening to realise that during this trial period we led a charmed life since all the kids, and staff at all the facilities were unharmed We are grateful to have been blessed with courage, strength, and above all with mercy of God to overcome these daunting challenges.

We are indeed very grateful to Sabin Foundation, Mr Yoh-Chie Lu and Mr William P Benac and Mr John-Luc Butel who came forward to help during these challenging times for basic needs of the staff and children. The staff has pledged to intensify their efforts and serve more of His children with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. As members of the editorial board, we earnestly hope that you enjoy reading this annual report.

This year too we had visits from some very wonderful well wishers like Ms Bonnie, Ms Noji Chizuru, Mr. William P Benac, Mrs Barbara Benac, and Mr John-Luc Butel

It is also our desire to magnify our endeavor to serve many more “poorest of the poor” through our outreach program in remote villages. We believe that every child is special and has been especially sent

to us to be served. At this marvelous time we convey our continued gratitude to all our partners and benefactors and pray for their continued love, munificence, and association.

CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS!!!!



SRIDHARAN

The Tamil Nadu 10th Result 2017 was declared on Friday. The Directorate of School Education held that the overall pass percentage stood at This year, the overall pass percentage stood at 94.4%, which is the best in last five years and more than 0.6% from last year's 93.6%. Apart from being the highest pass percentage recorded in the last five years, This time again, the girls outperformed the boys by scoring 96.2%, while the latter obtained 92.5%.. Close to 9.82 lakh students appeared for the examination from schools across the State of Tamil Nadu. According to figures by the board, 4.91 lakh students were girls and 4.9 lakh were boys. Many students appeared for the examination as private candidates as well.



GAYATHRI

While the government has not declared state ranks, they have announced the names of students who scored centum in each subject. 61,115 students scored full marks in Social Sciences which is a record but centum in other subjects have seen a dip. 13,759 students have scored centum in mathematics which is 4,995 lesser than last year. In Science, 17,481 students scored full marks. 69 students scored centum in Tamil while no student received full marks in English. This year, a total of 9,82,097 appeared for the TN SSLC Exam. Virudunagar district has topped in the state in which the pass percentage remained 98.55%, followed by Kanyakumari and Chennai where 98.17% and 93.86% students passed.



SATHYA

The year 2016 - 2017 has been another year of challenges, material loss but with a ray of hope at the end of the tunnel In spite of all these odds the Almighty did shower some choicest blessings too. The tenth results were announced. Everybody waited with a bated breath to hear the results. The minute the news rolled in to say that all the children had passed except one it was a scene of celebration. Remembering our previous year results, this year the boys had taken the lead.



VASANTH KUMAR

Sridharan has scored the highest at 82%, followed by S Gayathri at 76%, and Sathya including Vasanth Kumar have scored 71% In our grading system, a grade 80% or



BALAJI



VISHAN KUMAR



ANALAKSHMI



SANTHIYA



MARIARATHINAM



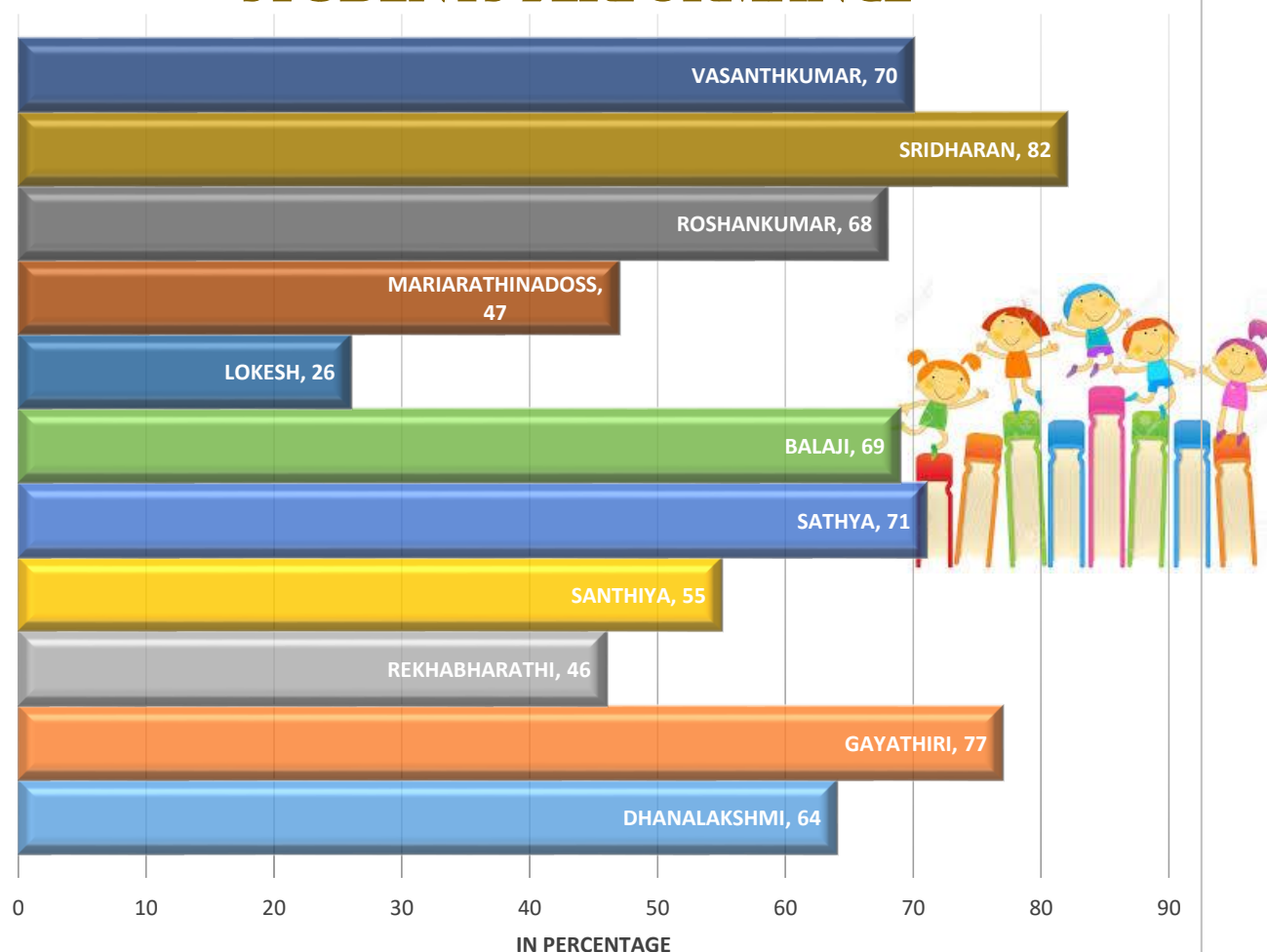
NISHABHARATHI



over is considered in the "A" range. These children have shown perseverance and a remarkable attitude during their stay with us.

When I spoke to these kids a few days after they received their results they told me that they were keen on pursuing their 11th and 12th standards followed by university. Sridhar, for instance, wants to become an engineer, whereas Gayathri, Sathya, and Vasanth want to study further after taking a stock of the options open to them. With results like what they have attained - they have opened doors for

STUDENTS PERFORMANCE



themselves to study whatever they would like to.

Now let's put some light on importance of class 10 study, everyone knows that having passing certificate of class 10 is very much necessary because it is the minimum criterion which is set by Indian government to get a job in government department. Even private sector are demanding this certificate if anyone wants to work in private sector which includes banks, factory, show room or any other area. There are total 31 boards in India which are working in education field. Each Board have its uniqueness in exam pattern,

marking style, subjects. General procedure of each board is exam of secondary class starts in March and April Month and results are generally announced in month of May and June 2016 respectively.

Our students have received excellent support from the teachers. The students had the opportunity to tackle several practice exams before the final government tests. This experience was spearheaded by Sudha Subramaniam, who devised methods to make lessons interesting and to improve scores, introducing novel techniques and designs, being ably assisted by Principal Annadurai. The efforts of the teachers need to be praised as each one of them took upon themselves the responsibility to guide and goad each child to study and perform.

Sudha Subramaniam addressed the children and the teachers and urged them to do well in their lives. She said that Pathway's doors will always be open to them for any help they may need. She urged children to utilize this resource and benefit in every aspect in their lives. She reminded students how Pathway and the school had greatly influenced their lives, as there has been sea change not only in their appearance, growth, development but also in their total achievement and potential.

Director of Pathway, Chandra Prasad congratulated the children and the teachers for this wonderful result. She counseled the children on the values of life that are much more important than just scholastic performance, that it is important to gain all-round excellence in life so that they can be great people of character first and then great citizens of India. She called on each one to follow a righteous path, she asked the children to be grateful and follow the right and truthful path outlining stories of very poor children who had succeeded in life, not only by studying hard but also by contributing to the welfare of the family and of society. She also stressed that the children should be grateful to their alma mater and their teachers at all times.

Chandra Prasad congratulated all the children and teachers and said that she was very proud of their performance and looked forward for their continued achievements in life and welcomed every one of them to contact Pathway at any time.

THE WORLD YOGA DAY



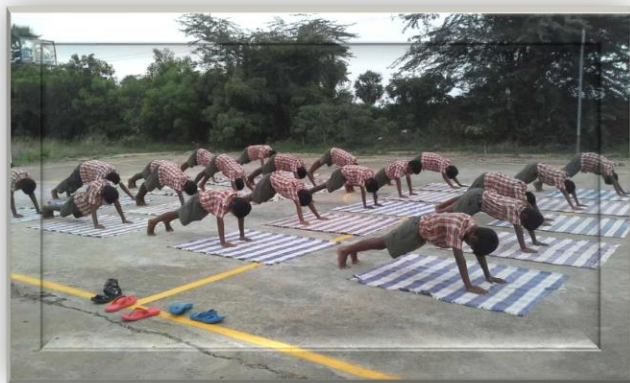
It was a landslide victory for India at the UN General Assembly when the United Nations declared June 21st as International Yoga Day (or World Yoga Day). This came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged the world community to celebrate yoga at the international level, in his maiden speech at the UNGA in September 2014. He had said, “yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition. It is not about exercise, it’s a path through which an individual can discover his sense of oneness with nature. It embodies unity, unity of the mind and the body,

thought and action, restraint and fulfilment. On the whole, it’s a holistic approach to health and well being.”

The idea of an International Yoga Day had garnered overwhelming support: 175 countries in the 193-member General Assembly had joined as co-sponsors as on December 9, 2014, the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA resolution. The initial official document circulated to the General Assembly, known as the L document, itself had 130 member states joining as co-sponsors, including the five

permanent members of the Security Council, several Asian, European and Latin American countries and nearly 60 per cent of African nations. It could be concluded that India had managed to lay its golden paving stone to walk proudly through the gateways of the world and embrace yoga practitioners across the globe.

It is estimated that close to 200 million people around the world practice yoga (of some form or the other), a majority of them in India, and over 20 million of them in the United States alone. With this resolution for an International Yoga Day, more people will become aware of the tenets of yoga and will be encouraged to follow a yogic life style, a life that is healthy, humble and devout.



BKS Iyengar, one of great modern propagators of yoga was quoted:



"yoga, an ancient but perfect science; deals with the evolution of humanity. Yoga means union – the union of body with consciousness and consciousness with the soul." The reason why June 21st was suggested was because it is the Summer Solstice, and from the perspective of yoga, it marks the transition in the Sun's celestial passage from north to south.

Understanding the above we at Pathway became a part of the world yoga day celebrations. Across all the centres we embraced yoga too. This was not a new concept to us since it has been a part of our curriculum. The benefits of the same is manifold. The children were made aware of the relevance of yoga in daily life. Different asanas were demonstrated under the guidance of the trained staff.

The pictures shown give you a glimpse of the different asanas performed by the children and the wonderful concentration with which they exhibited their learning.



DR KALAM MEMORIAL DAY

The most loved President of India, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam was a scientist who made India proud with his missile defence programme. But his favourite job was teaching and that's how he wanted the world to remember him. Due to his love for students and focus on promoting education, the United Nations declared his birthday (October 15) as 'World Student's Day' in 2010.

Such was his aura that students across the nation looked up to him. His quotes are still shared on social networking sites. His sudden demise on July 27, 2015 shocked the nation but Dr Kalam died doing what he loved best: teaching. Delivering a lecture to the students of IIM Shillong, Dr. Kalam fell down the stage suffering a stroke and passed away almost instantly. The entire nation grieved his demise irrespective of caste, creed, location or religion.

A scientist of global repute, Dr. Kalam was respected the world over. In 2005, Dr. Kalam visited Switzerland, after which the country declared May 26 to be observed as 'Science Day' as a mark of respect and in honour of his visit.

The list of awards bestowed on Dr. Kalam is endless. In 1981, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan and in 1990, the Padma Vibhushan. He was later awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contributions to research, the field of science as well as his work with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence Research and development Organisation (DRDO).



Dr. A.P.J Kalam memorial day was conducted in not just in Pamela Martinez Pathway Mat. School but other centres too on 27.7.2016, staff and children joined hands to display their feelings. At the Chennai centre they displayed his quotes in chart form. At the farm children from Social club enacted a skit about Dr.Kalam, a poem on him was read by Anika Princy, his achievements list was read out to the school group by A.Srimathi The staff in turn explained to the children and described his journey of life along with his life achievements and awards in simple narrative form. After this session there was a fun session which included quiz to ascertain the amount of information imbibed.

THE TALENT COMPETITION

Nakshatra consists of an annual talent festival and the Nakshatra Reach Out programme. Nakshatra Reach Out consists of competitions at children's homes before Nakshatra and a year-long talent development programme including workshops and structured sessions after that.



The talent festival has an array of competitive activities to ensure that children of all age groups from children's homes participate and gain immensely from competing against their peers. 50 different



EVENT	PARTICIPANTS
ADZAP	ANIKA PRINCY.R, MURUGESWARI, SUSMITHA V
GROUP DANCE	ARCHANA.S, GAYATHRI, JAYAPRASSANA, JAYAPRESSI, NISHALINI, SUNITHA S
PAINTING	ROSHAN KUMAR, VIGNESHWARAN P
POT PAINTING	ANIKA PRINCY.R, ROSHAN KUMAR
	ROSHAN KUMAR
QUIZ	BALAJI.R, SRIDHARAN
RANGOLI	JAYAPRASI.J, NISHALINI, SUNITHA S
SKIT	BALAJI.R, DAVID S, MARIYARATHINA DOSS, ROSHAN, SRIDHARAN, VASANTH
ZONE DEFENCE	ANIKA PRINCY.R

competitions in arts – including flower arrangement, pot painting, clay modelling, elocution, dance, song etc and athletic and sporting

competitions like sprint, high jump, shot put, volley ball, chess etc are conducted to facilitate maximum talent discovery. The event is peppered with entertainment, games, workshops and a science exhibition to keep the children busy even while they were not competing.

Children from third standard to tenth are allowed to participate in the above events mentioned.



Nakshatra is Bhumi's annual national talent festival in arts and sports for children from orphanages. Over 7,000 children were expected to participate this year. In their words they provide -

- a platform for the children to 'Dream', exhibit their talents, get competitive exposure, 'Discover' their potential, 'Dazzle' in an atmosphere of healthy competition and enrich themselves with much needed perspective about their inherent potentials.
- To improve the self confidence of children, contribute to their holistic development through promotion of extra-curricular activities.



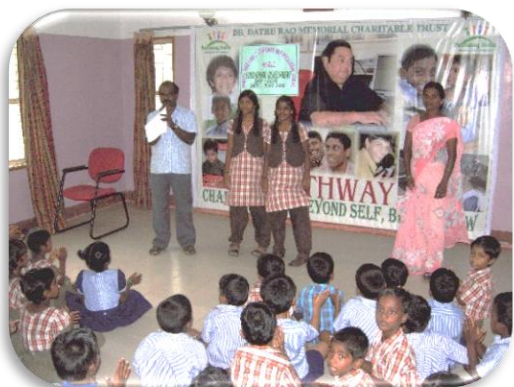
The event took place at Anna University at the Madras Institute of Technology. A total of 7 boys and ten girls took part in the cultural event. We are extremely proud to announce that we not just participated but won first prize in all the categories and lifted the trophy of

excellence for children's home-cultural. The children came home with a huge haul of medals and certificates which was the cynosure of all their peer groups. The management and staff congratulated the children and couldn't find a better gift than their students achieving laurels for them. Every achievement the child makes is a feather in our cap.

WORLD POPULATION DAY

World Population Day awareness program was conducted by the Science club educators namely - Ms. Gunasundari, Mr. Dhanasekaran & Mr. Prem Kumar. A small skit was played to display about the demerit of population ratio and illiterate children by IX and X std students. The participants were James, Sridhar, Balaji, Roshan, David and Mariarathinadoss. The educators used different methods of teaching in form of overhead projectors, charts and short video presentation regarding the world population. July 11, 2016, recorded World Population Day population as **7.419 billion**. Of that total, 60 percent lived in Asia, 16 percent in Africa, 13 percent in the Americas, 10 percent in Europe, and 0.5 percent in Oceania. They also explained the theme of this year as - 'Investing in teenage girls.'

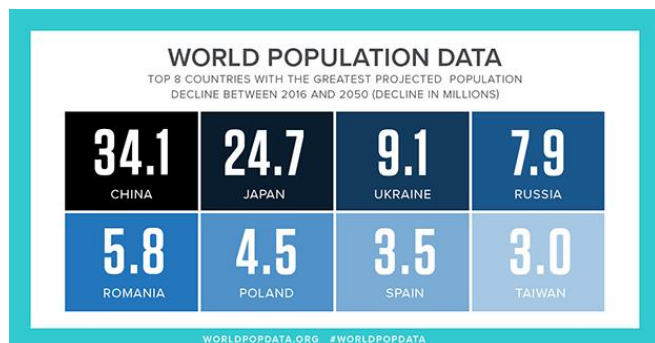




Teenage girls around the world face enormous challenges. Many are considered by their communities or parents to be ready for marriage and motherhood. Many are forced from school, damaging their future prospects. Even among girls who stay in school, access to basic information about their health, human rights and reproductive rights can be hard to come by, leaving them vulnerable to illness, injury and exploitation. These challenges are exacerbated among marginalized girls, such as members of ethnic minorities or those living in poverty or remote areas. Yet when teenage girls are empowered, when they know about their rights and are given the tools to succeed, they become agents of positive change in their communities.

Empowered and educated girls and women have a better chance of leading healthy, productive lives. In August, Population Reference Bureau (PRB) released its 2016 World Population Data Sheet package, including their latest projections for world, country, and world regional populations for both 2030 and 2050. Here are a couple of sneak previews.

Top of the Pop: The rankings of countries with the largest populations will reshuffle between now and 2050, with India overtaking China in the top spot. **Shrinking populations:** While trajectories of global population typically focus on growth rates, not all countries will see



growing populations in the decades to come. The eight countries with the largest projected nominal declines would shed nearly 100 million from their combined population total if the projections prove accurate.

70TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

It was at the stroke of midnight of August 15, in 1947, that India finally won its freedom from the British Rule. The event was marked by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, broadcasting his famous speech 'Tryst with Destiny' over All India Radio. That magical night was enough to draw tears for years, from all those who were born and lived during that period. Even today, patriotic songs that are

broadcast through the day still manage to bring out tears for some and invoke a deep sense of patriotism and pride in all Indians.



For any country, its journey into the future is influenced by the journey of its past, and therefore, it's important for the present generation to know and recognize the sacrifices that our forefathers made for the freedom that we take for granted – well, mostly – today. It's also a day for the present generation to discuss and debate the learnings of history to ensure that we, as a nation, do not repeat any past mistakes. India's Independence Day is celebrated all over the country as a National holiday of India. It is observed every year in every Indian states and union territories with great enthusiasm. President of India gives a speech every year in order to “Address to the Nation” on the evening of a day before the Independence Day. It is celebrated with big passion in the Capital of country on 15th of



August where the prime minister of India hoists the Indian flag on the Red Fort, Delhi. After the flag hoisting, National Anthem song is sung and twenty-one gun shots are fired to salute and honour the Indian flag and solemn occasion.

This year the Independence day became more special since our Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to launch a programme named as “70 Saal Azadi-Zara Yaad Karo Kurbanī”, also called “AZADI70” (means, 70 years of independence-Do recall the sacrifices). The aim of this campaign was to make Indian people aware that country is first and individual is secondary as well as remember those supreme sacrifices made by the great freedom fighters of India during the freedom struggle. There was also a week-long “Tiranga Yatra” in order to motivate people regarding nationalism and patriotism.

Since many schools have a plethora of activities organised in the week leading to the D-day, schoolchildren make the extent of celebration by singing patriotic songs and the National Anthem, performing stage acts on ‘Azaadi’-inspired stories, collating Prime Ministers’ Independence Day speeches and so on. Flag hoisting ceremonies are also carried out in schools and are followed by patriotic songs and sweets distribution. Similar events are organized in residential colonies and societies across the country. At our Pathway centre the staff and the children were busy right from 6 am, Every child showed his /her keenness to give their best performance. Excitement feverishness had already paved its way. The past few

months practice was going to be tested today. They were to demonstrated their new found learning in the form of a dance, drill, drama, and skit children were ready to present colourful programmes based on India's independence.



The co curricular activity in the special classes had submitted their skill by making tri colour batches using the appropriate ribbons to design our National Flag. This was given by pride by the students to the staff and directors which were equally worn with pride by the proud wearers of the same.

The children were raring to go and perform. The principal Mrs Jeyseeli took charge. Her one whistle brought every child to form a line and assemble near the flag mast area. They stood in attention waiting for their next order.

Our President Mrs Sudha Subramaniam was requested to unfurl the national flag. She and the Vice President along with the Treasurer moved to the centre stage to do the honors. With rapt attention, every soul standing there watched with the greatest pride. The unfurling of the flag showered down the soft fresh petals of marigold, jasmine and ofcourse the rose. The lovely breeze swaying the florets and petals gently down was a lovely sight to watch. The flag by right seemed to stand up to its full potential, gently swayed by the breeze. The bright blue sky with the flag trying to touch the heights the assembled group sang the national anthem in unison. The unison and the emotion brings out the patriotism in every assembled person .By the time the national anthem ended the last of petal had rested on the ground causing a myriad of colors covering the earth.

The dignitaries took their seat to watch the kids performance. It started with a drill and followed by a dance presented by 8 children. This song - senthamizh nadenum pothinile written by Bharthiyar a very famous poet. This was followed by a drama depicting the freedom fighters This was well presented by the children, choreographed by the special educators and others of Pathway. Children dressed as Gandhi, Nehru, Bhartiyar, Subash Chandra Bose, Tilak and other great patriots. The narration of the same was beautifully executed by Harish.. The event came to close with distribution of sweets and special lunch for the day.

The trust board members immediately then drove down to the agro farm to oversee the celebrations at the farm.

The Independence day celebration at the Pathway Agro Farm for Children was a highly colourful feat this season. The grand display of talent were eye catching and awesome by the children of the Pathway-Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and adolescents of the Pathway-Sabin Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of Disabled. Over 200 children of the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School were seen to be rehearsing for this big day for almost a fortnight. They had prepared a long programme of nearly three hours to be presented on the eve of the Independence Day. Similarly, boys of the Sabin Centre were also seen to be practising many programmes which they were planning to showcase on the D Day.

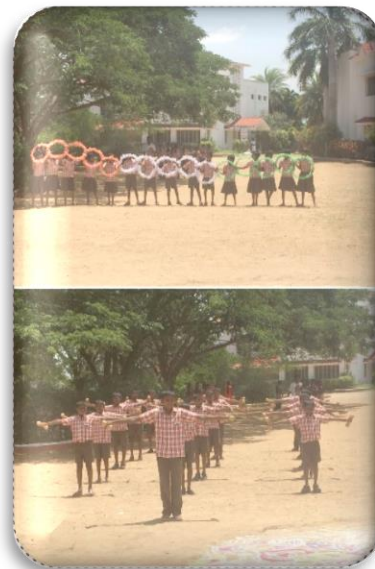
The Independence day celebration were planned fairly elaborately in the grounds of the school where a special flag mast is permanently installed. It is the rule of the organization that every day as all the children assemble for their morning assembly and morning prayers there should be hoisting of our national flag with the singing of national anthem; this was done to inject a sense of ownership and patriotism amongst the children right from the beginning of their lives.

On this special day the flag mast was well decorated with colourful paper and the entire area was decorated with colourful buntings and tiny flags. The area around the mast had ornamental variety plants and a tastefully decorated rangoli by the girl children added beauty to the entire background. Every child was found to sporting with a small Indian Flag that was affixed on the lapel of their shirts.



All the staff and all invitees were encouraged to affix such flags. The entire show was well very choreographed and organized to the minute detail.

The show started with an impressive march past by nearly 234 children comprising of able and disabled children of the Farm. They marched with precision driven by a rhythmic band that was played by two senior boys. This year the specialty was that our youngest kindergarten children too were involved. All the children in their neatly pressed clothes and neat footwear marched perfectly and went past the saluting base and the Flag mast where the President of our trust was present with the principal to take the salute. Each class lead by its leader marched past the saluting base in perfection saluting the flag with reverence. The march past culminated in orderly assembly of all children in their slots and with this the day was set to unfurl the national flag. The President was asked to unfurl the tri-colour by the principal and the leader of the school. As the flag was unfurled there was copious sprinkling of petals of roses, jasmines and various flowers showered on her and others. This signalled the singing of national anthem which was rendered with great poise and decorum.



The children of the
Pamela Martinez
Matriculation

School and Orphanage presented a huge variety of programmes consisting of drill which also had elements of yoga asanas, using hoops to emphasize the colours of our national flag. The boys showcased their talent using dumbbells and topping it with a pyramid show where the inner most circle of this human chain moved in a beautiful circular formation and the apex of the human pyramid depicting the national flag with a salute. Similar more different

formations were displayed by the boys of various classes. The girls not willing to remain behind showed their prowess too in the separate drills they performed like a human pyramid taking the salute under their guidance of their teacher and guide- Ms Gunasundari.. the exercises also involved using of lazems.

This was followed by a speech in Tamil by Archana and Dhanalakshmi, a tamil poem by Anika and Pandurangan, A speech in English by Sathya which all related to the nation's independence. A fancy dress,



was displayed by our very tiny tots which definitely brought a thunderous applause from their school mates and all others present. This was followed by a mime which was truly executed well by the senior boys depicting the theme-

UNITY IN DIVERSITY The entire show was full of great educational value and truly delightful. The songs and dances presented by the children were particularly spectacular and grand.

The children with special needs from the Sabin Centre for Education and Rehabilitation of Disabled did not lag behind in any sphere. Apart from being a part of the main marchpast they also showcased highly enjoyable and loveable programmes comprising of songs and dances with the theme of independence. They also performed the different yoga postures and their benefits which drew great amount of appreciation. This three hour grand programme ended with a closing message by the present directors followed by distribution of chocolates, pastries and a sumptuous lunch.

HERITAGE OF INDIA

Children from Pathway were invited to perform a folk dance conducted by YMCA, Vepery under the category of inter school Folk dance competition on august 26th 2016. The theme offered was Heritage of India. We received this offer with only a week's notice. As usual children were ready with enthusiasm and were eager learners.

After a group discussion with the concerned staff they decided to perform a few folk dance numbers like -- Thappattam, Karakattam, Oilattam, Kambu Attam and Pyramid. The children were first given knowledge of these various dance forms through visuals, literature and demonstartions by local artists.

The finalists selected from various classes were B.Divya, Priya, Karthika, A.Srimathi, V.susmitha, S.Prabhavathy, R.Gracy, T.Saravanan, D.Naresh Kumar, D.Pandurangan, c.James, S.Sridharan, A.Vasanthkumar, E.Roshankumar, R.Balaji. The staff who were to train them were Mr.dhanasekaran, and two lady teachers R.subhashini and A.Mohanavalli.



We would like to offer our readers a jist of some of these traditional folk dance forms and their meaning

The Indian state of Tamil Nadu has a rich cultural tradition of folk style music and dance forms. They reveal the artistic habits and performance skills of the Tamil people. They have come down from generation to generations. The folk arts like dance and music are internationally well-known for their inimitable style and rhythm. The folk dances of Tamil Nadu exemplify the spirit, artistic ethics and theme of the land. By tradition, folk dances are performed during celebrations and religious occasions.

The folk dances of Tamil Nadu such as, Thappattam, Karakattam, Mayilattam etc has gained popularity and importance throughout the world. This country has produced the most famous folk dances of the world. Such folk dances are performed primarily during the local carnival performance by the

neighborhood people. Many of the folk dance forms are performed by the village community of Tamil Nadu, and every part of their daily life is going together with folk music and dance. Some of these folk dances are still thriving in the state. Thappattam is one of them.

A hand held drum instrument called Thappu is used for Thappattam dance. It has a strong tie with the Tamil culture, just like any dance style. Thappattam is a folk dance accompanied by emotional and entertaining drum music. It is one of the most pulsating and captivating variety of dance in the state played several events.

Parai Attam, or Thappattam, is a dance in which folks beat Parai and dance to its rhythm. It is one of the oldest traditional dances, originally performed for multiple reasons, ranging from warning people about the upcoming war, requesting the civilians to leave the battlefield, announcing victory or defeat, stopping a breach of water body, gathering farmers for farming activities, warning the wild animals about people's presence, during festivals, wedding, celebrations, worship of nature and so on.

Oyilattam literally means elegant dance since the term 'oyil' means beauty or elegance and 'attam' stands for dance. The graceful dance Oyilattam has emerged from the southern districts and is still considered a popular folk dance in the region. It was traditionally a dance where a few men would stand in a row and perform rhythmic steps to the musical accompaniment, with the number of dancers increasing; over the past ten years women have also started performing this dance. Typically, the musical accompaniment is the Thavil and the performers have coloured handkerchiefs or ribbons tied to their fingers and wear colourful dhotis with ankle bells.



DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

The kids at the farm and the Sabin centre were invited for celebrating in advance Diwali on the 16th oct 2016. This invite came from the Tamil Nadu Crackers Association and District Child Protection Unit. A total number of 80 boys, 46 girls and 13 staff included attended the same. They were kind enough to arrange transport facility and special dinner for all.

Diwali celebrations on 16-10-2016 was conducted at YMCA by Kancheepuram district assisted by Mr David who is the District Child Protection Officer. Transport, dinner and crackers were provided free of





cost. We are indeed grateful to them. Children at the main centre celebrated Diwali with the same gusto on 26th Oct followed with a cultural programme. New dresses and sweets were distributed for all the centres

This year Diwali fell on the 26th October 2016. Diwali, or Deepawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row(*avali*) of clay lamps (*deepa*) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness. This festival is as important to Hindus as the Christmas holiday is to Christians.

In northern India they celebrate the story of King Rama's return to Ayodhya after he defeated Ravana by lighting rows of clay lamps. Southern India celebrates it as the day that Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu, the Preserver (one of the main gods of the Hindu trinity) sent the demon King Bali to rule the nether world. In all interpretations, one common thread rings true—the festival marks the victory of good over evil.

Diwali, celebrated in October or November each year, originated as a harvest festival that marked the last harvest of the year before winter. India was an agricultural society where people would seek the divine blessing of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, as they closed their accounting books and prayed for success at the outset of a new financial year. Today this practice extends to businesses all over the Indian subcontinent, which mark the day after Diwali as the first day of the new financial year. Indians celebrate with family gatherings,

glittering clay lamps, festive fireworks, strings of electric lights, bonfires, flowers, sharing of sweets, and worship to Lakshmi. Some believe that Lakshmi wanders the Earth looking for homes where she will be welcomed. People open their doors and windows and light lamps to invite Lakshmi in. Over the centuries, Diwali has become a national festival that is enjoyed by most Indians regardless of faith: Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

All the centres from Pathway were a part of this festival. Children donned new colourful dresses and they looked forward for the special meals and sweets which would follow for the day. Crackers being a part of this festival it was kept minimal to sparklers and safe flower pots with a few display of fancy fireworks. Children had been busy from morning. They had very tastefully produced colourful rangoli patterns in front of their building entrances with each group trying to outdo the others.



All the simple rituals of Diwali have a significance and a story to tell. The illumination of homes with lights illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope. From darkness unto light — the light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, that which brings us closer to divinity. and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity. According to one belief, the sound of fire-crackers are an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the gods aware of their plentiful state. In all this joyous festival is always welcomed by not just the kids but adults too.

Every special educator as well as other educators for normal children prepare their wards a month earlier to the history and significance of this festival in form of varied activities.

2016 CHILDRENS DAY PROGRAMME

Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.

- JOHN F KENNEDY



Children's Day also known as Bal Divas, honors the awareness of people towards the rights and education of children. On this day schools organize various celebration with little kids which is fun. Parents must play a key role in celebrating this day along with their kids and should be aware about their dreams and desires. V K Krishna Menon proposed the idea of Universal Children's Day to the UN General Assembly and they accepted this proposal in October. India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was born on November 14. Apart from being known for his skills as a statesman, Nehru was also immensely fond of children.



He thought children are the future of a Nation and they need utmost care. They win over our hearts with their angelic eyes and innocent smiles. Nehru wished his birthday to be celebrated as Children's Day. Since his death in 1963, his birthday is being celebrated as children's Day in India. So the Children's Day is dedicated to the children of India. Children are loved by one and all.. Children's Day is not just a day to let the future generation have its say. It is a day to remember a leader who, in his quiet but determined way, laid the foundation to convert a nascent nation into a world power. The more popular and famous of Nehru's pictures show him with children. He is always called as Chacha Nehru (Nehru Uncle). His thoughts can be summed up in the following quote-

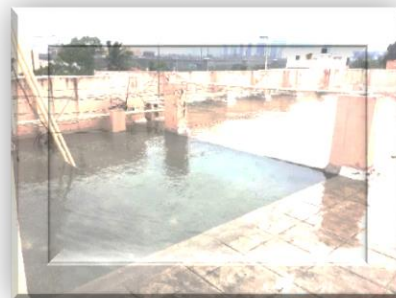
"Grown-ups have a strange way of putting themselves in compartments and groups. They build barriers... of religion, caste, colour, party, nation, province, language, customs and of rich and poor. Fortunately, children do not know much about these barriers, which separate. They play and work with each other and it is only when they grow up that they begin to learn about these barriers from their elders."

It was time for fun and frolic, a day of celebration, as the staff and children of Pamela Martinez School and the Sabin centre prepared for Children's Day, a day to remember Jawaharlal Nehru, free India's first prime minister, with love and fondness. The excitement grew as the enthusiastic children all assembled to celebrate the event. Ably led by principal Annadurai and a team of dedicated teachers, great treats were prepared for the children. The faces of the tiny tots from kindergarten beamed as they saw their favorite snacks dangling before their eyes. They had to blow balloons till their balloon burst. A mix of shyness, curiosity and every other expression was evident on their faces. After the girl babies it was the turn of the boys. Their younger peers watched with amazement the beautiful colors of the balloons blooming into greens, purple, yellow and pink with a dash of white too. There were some surprise extempore too from these tiny tots. The mike seemed to be larger than the speaker. The next very interesting activity was pinning or drawing a tail of the elephant drawn on the blackboard being blindfolded. The entire group would break into tingling laughter when their peer fixed the tail other than the correct space.. Some of the kids cheered and some just enjoyed the experience. The girls not to be left behind took part in the same activity. This followed by a group dance Children took part in various games, mime shows, puzzles, painting, and singing. Children from Sabin centre - Vetrivallal and Zakir presented a short but sweet play. At the end of the day the children appeared to be exhausted from their activities while thoroughly enjoying their cakes and traditional Indian sweets. Such childhood delight made the adults realize that children are indeed precious gems and are divine gifts from above!

DEVASTATION OF VARDAAH CYCLONE AT CHENNAI, FARM & SABIN CENTRES

Last year we were hit with floods and we were gearing back to normalcy when nature decided to strike out at us again. But this time it was in the form of a cyclone also known as Vardah. The name Vardah, an Urdu word meaning red rose, contributed by Pakistan. The name of cyclones in the Indian Ocean Region are decided by the member countries, which are India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar, Maldives and Oman.

Even before we could realise and gather our wits the cyclone had hit us with a wind speed of 120 and 130 kmph bringing with it heavy rain that lashed the coast in Tamil Nadu and neighbour Andhra Pradesh all through Monday. We at Pathway were so shocked to see a sudden change in weather that for a few minutes we were rooted to our spots not knowing how to handle the situation. There was a sudden quietness and we sensed fear in the kids eyes. This sudden change brought us back to reality and we took stock of our



surrounding. Orders were given and the older kids rushed to close the windows and checked and made sure that every head was counted and safe inside the building.

The next area to look into was our terrace door. It seemed that nature was enjoying playing tag with us. It took super human effort to close the terrace door. The wind speed had increased by now. We thought we were safe and decided to get back to our usual chores when we heard the first shattering of glass. All the smaller kids were herded to their dorms since that seemed at that time to be the safest area. A few older kids and we assessed the damaged. In a few minutes the entire glass panes had shattered and rain with full glee burst into the building. The next sounds we heard were the swishing of our trees. Prayers became intense. We prayed for every life to be safe. It seemed nature was not in a mood to listen. There was a thunderous sound and our gigantic trees had been ploughed down by this mighty wind. we tried our best to stop the water gushing in by using every available vessel to collect the excess water. Magically every drum or bucket seemed brimming with water. We remembered our office was down and with magical speed we rushed to save our files and computers. Having done that we waited patiently for nature's calamity to settle down. Lunch was forgotten. We were too busy deciding how to minimise our damages. Our immediate concern was no child should fall prey to that shattered glass inside the buildings. Little did we realise that nature had decided to give us some more flying object gifts like-broken shafts, broken asbestos bits flying in and all the other unwanted materials. We did realise that the power lines were down and so was the internet. There was no way to contact anyone. Outside situation was not less. Nearly 20,000 people had been evacuated from low areas. Cyclone Vardah made landfall in Chennai on Monday afternoon between 3 p.m. And 5 p.m., uprooting trees, defacing highrises, smashing cars, disrupting public transport and telecommunication, bringing the metropolitan area to a standstill.

The total rainfall received from early Monday up to 6 p.m. was 16 cm in the Chennai region alone, according to the Meteorological department. By 8 p.m. The windspeeds decreased to 60-70 kmph, and the system now a 'cyclonic storm' moved westwards, bringing moderate to heavy rainfall to the interior areas as well.

By the next morning when we stepped down to the ground floor we were shocked to see that our main entrances were blocked by the fallen trees and the vehicles were damaged. The enormity of destruction was slowly seeping into our minds. We tried to get information about the farm and children residing at the Sabin centre. Fortunately no life was in danger but the aftermaths like -snakes, scorpions etc were another challenge we had to meet. Our biggest ever challenge is always infections occurring during these periods.



We decided to first clean up the centres phase by phase. Help was not available since every staff member were facing the same situation as we were. This is the most beautiful time to relish and feel blessed that children never gave up hope and decided to contribute their mite. Their confidence helped us to overcome the worst situation.



When we took stock of our surroundings we found that we had lost our terrace garden nursery cover, our medical roof had been blown away, our dental clinic was totally flooded with water, 80% of our window glass panes were shattered. Nature didn't even spare our plumbing lines which were ripped away along with our display boards. We never realised till it did take place that we would be in darkness for a fortnight and internet for coming months wouldn't work.



The next entire month was spent day in and day out in cleaning up the mess and trying to get lowest quotations to fix the glass panes and the roof. Certain priorities were immediately met and some we had to wait till we could raise some more funds.



Out at the farm the situation was as grim. Many glass panes were broken, trees in hordes had lost their bearings and our entire paddy cultivation was destroyed. Though the damage was intense but we were happy that no life was in danger. We were thankful to that Almighty for keeping us safe. Our prayers were answered and we are indeed humbled by HIS grace.

Summing up our city's damage the Corporation officials pegged the number of trees fallen at 568 along the 471 bus routes and over 33,000 interior roads in the 426 sq km of the Greater Chennai Corporation limits, impeding the flow of traffic. Flight operations were also suspended at the Chennai airport along with Suburban train services . the roads, were flooded with ankle-deep water, remained deserted now, with tree branches, police barricades and banners lying twisted by the side. Power supply, banking transactions were affected too.



CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION



Since 13th December so much havoc in our state in the form of the Vardah cyclone, we celebrated Christmas on a very low key. The basic in house programmes were conducted since the children had prepared for the occasion and their beautiful art work banner was displayed to their peer groups. The message of Christmas eve was not lost on the children. They proved in action this time by gifting away their toys to other needy children in and around our centres and gave their time in community service since every place was strewn with broken branches of trees, garbage in form plastic materials of all sorts etc. they decided to clean and beautify their surrounding areas. We were touched by their resolve and learnt that Christmas was after all giving and not taking. We are proud and blessed

to have such wonderful children in our facility. I can sum up this feeling in the below words of the prophet-



"Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values." - Thomas S. Monson

PONGAL



Mid January is an important time in Tamil Nadu, so also for Pathway. The harvest festival falls typically on 14 January. This time the harvest brought great cheer in the hearts of everybody at the Pathway Agro Farm as plenty of rice and vegetables were harvested. This three day long Pongal festival was celebrated with great fun and frolic by the children and staff of Pathway, Chennai, the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and the Sabin Centre for the differently abled.

The wardens, spl school staff, Farm staff, Supervisor, Electrician, Plumber, Driver and Hostel staff, teachers are called to participate in the event with their Tools All the children are involved in the spring cleaning of the entire campuses. The drivers are incharge of cleaning their vehicles. In general every body is involved in the above activity. Though this practice is in everyday life here but this gives a start for a new year ringing in freshness and beauty all round. Special prayer was said by Archana, and there after the Principal explained about the meaning and concept of these three days significance much to the delight of Bonnie Lynn who was visiting us then.



A small joint prayer or pooja is organized and the blessings are given in form of puffed rice, fruits, sweets and ofcourse the inevitable goodness of sweetness- the sugarcane. this community act brings people closer and friendships and ties get stronger. Worshipping the tools which offer one's livelihood makes them respect these aids.

Pongal is celebrated by the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as well as Tamils worldwide, including those in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Mauritius, South Africa, USA, Canada and Singapore. The festival is at least 1000 years old although some believe that the festival is more than 2000 years old. As per epigraphic evidence, it used to be celebrated as Puthiyeedu during Medieval Chola empire days. It is thought that Puthiyeedu meant the first harvest of the year. People of all religions celebrate the pongal festival. This is a harvest festival - the Tamil equivalent of Thanksgiving.

Once the pongal is ready a Padayal (the offering) is first made. Sharing of the Pongal with friends and relatives follows a few minutes of meditation or a prayer. The children were absolutely excited about this day. The excitement of a festival is always writ with pleasure on their face and this showed in their eagerness to follow any ritual rules like getting up early in the morning and having a shower and donning new clothes. The previous night the kids had collected their old clothes and each one had made their own bundles since the first day, Bhogi, is celebrated by throwing away and destroying old clothes and materials, by setting them on fire, marking the end of the old Thai and the emergence of the new Thai. The excitement was definitely on high since they receive new clothes and toys to mark the occasion. The day set off by the girl children drawing kolam decorations in front of their school and dormitory buildings. Everywhere colorful buntings were installed. The buntings waved along with the breeze matching the childrens smiles. Their enthusiasm brought a renewed energy in the adults who thought less of their everyday worries and became a part of the scenario by joining the kids in the festivities.

The second day, Pongal, is the main day, falling on the first day of the Tamil month Thai (January 14 — 15). Also known as Sarkarai Pongal or Veetu Pongal, it is celebrated by boiling rice with fresh milk and jaggery in new pots, which are later topped with brown sugar, cashew nuts and raisins early in the morning and allowing it to boil over the vessel. This tradition gives Pongal its name. The moment the rice boils over and bubbles out of the vessel, the tradition is to shout of "Ponggallo Ponggal!" and blowing the sanganu (a conch), a custom practiced during the festival to announce it was going to be a year blessed with good tidings. All the children from all the centres joined along with their staff and our special visitor Bonnie too watched the setting up of the clay pot on bricks with wood as the fuel. The sugarcane was a part of their decoration which was used in the form a stand . The children were dressed in their new clothes and the entire farm was dotted with a riot of colors. A bystander could watch the kids bobbing their heads and chatting gleefully waiting for their principal to say the prayers. Once done all the pair of eyes were focused on the pot waiting for the rice to boil over. The sight of the rice boiling over immediately brought a chorus from children who shouted "Ponggallo Ponggal!" The happy faces smiled gleefully and waited with bated breath to receive the offerings made and ofcourse the best loved sugarcane. Children were busy seated in and around the playground area with their sugarcane pieces in their mouth and their strong teeth skillfully



tearing the top layer and enjoying sucking the fresh juice. The excitement was hard to contain. Many a times watching them sends an adult back to his memory lane where he or she relives their childhood. The third day, Maattu Pongal, is for offering thanks to cattle, as they help farmer in different ways for agriculture. On this day the cattle are decorated with paint, flowers and bells. They are allowed to roam free and fed sweet rice and sugar cane.

Some people decorate the horns with gold or other metallic covers. In some places, Jallikattu, or taming the wild bull contest, is the main event of this day and this is mostly seen in the villages.

The staff had organized a wonderful fun day programme for children. Some children were dressed in their traditional costumes. The older girl children danced a classical number in front of their peers to mark the day's festivity. This was followed by a popular game known as Tug of war. The air was filled with happiness and joy and cheering sounds from the crowds who egged their groups to pull harder to win the contest. This was displayed by the tiny tots, middle school kids, special children, and ofcourse the lady staff members who were pitted against the male staff members. The boys were thrilled that their gender won. The adult special children weren't going to be left behind and they showed their skill in musical chair which was won by Armugham followed by Zair. The last but not the least was the blindfold game which challenged the participant to hit a pot which is hung eight to nine feet above the ground and try to smash it and carry the prize housed in it. It seems like another version of piñata. Tired and exhausted the kids trooped in for their special food which they enjoyed and welcomed the nap after it.

During the final day, Kaanum Pongal (the word kaanum means "to view") people visit beaches and theme parks. The children in batches were taken out to visit the nearby bird sanctuary. They were delighted.

This day is a day to thank relatives and friends for their support in the harvest. Although it started as a farmers festival, today it has become a national festival for all Tamils irrespective of their origins, caste or even religion. It is as popular in urban areas as is in rural areas.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS 2017



Republic Day is the symbol of true spirit for the independent India where military parades, exhibiting military equipments, salute to the national flag by the Indian president and variety of events are take place at this day. Indian national flag has horizontally tricolour (upper saffron, middle white and bottom of dark green colour divided in the equal proportion) and a wheel (navy blue colour, having 24 spokes) in the centre representing the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka.

India is a country having people of different cultures, societies, religions and languages who interplay with each other harmoniously. Independence to the India is the great pride as it was obtained over years after facing a variety of obstacles and hurdles.

The day is celebrated every year to feel the Indian people very proud for living in the multi cultural and independent country. Republic Day is celebrated in very colourful and exhilarating ways in order to make memorable and significant celebration of the year. National Anthem is sing by the people participated in the celebration. This celebration brings all the Indian people together at one place and thinks at one topic

The chief guest on Republic Day of India 2017 was Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. As every year, the India would follow the great Indian culture and tradition “Atithi Devo Bhav” of welcoming the prime Minister of another country as a chief guest. The major highlights of this years 68th republic day are-

- For the first time a contingent of the National Security Guard (NSG) popularly known as the Black Cat Commandos walked down the Rajpath during Republic Day celebrations.
- The parade also saw the fly-past of three LCA Tejas Aircraft flying 'Vic' formation and the Airborne Early Warning & Control System (AEW&C) developed by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- Indian Air Force tableau with the theme "Air Dominance Through Network Centric Operations" received huge applause from the massive crowd at Rajpath. The tableau featured scaled down models of fighter jets Su-30 MKI, Mirage-2000 and also AWACS, UAV, Apache and communication satellite.
- The stunning show by the marching contingents of Army which included horse-mounted columns of the 61st Cavalry, the Mechanised Infantry Regiment, the Bihar Regiment, the 39 Gorkha Training Centre, 58 Gorkha Training Centre, the Madras Engineering Group and Centre and 103 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) Sikh Light Infantry.
- Abu Dhabi crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations at Rajpath.



The 68th Republic Day anniversary was celebrated with pride at Pathway. The boys and girls of the Centre were seen to be practicing many program which they were planning to showcase. On this special day the flag mast and the entire area was decorated with colourful rose petals and buntings and tiny flags. Each child was found sporting a small Indian flag that was affixed on the lapel of their clean white shirts. The show started with an impressive march-past by nearly 50 children. They marched with precision driven by a rhythmic band that was played by two older boys. All the children in their neatly ironed clothes marched perfectly past the saluting base. As the national flag was unfurled by the President of our trust with the Vice -



President at tow, there was a shower of fresh petals of roses, jasmine, marigold and various other flowers. This signaled the singing of national anthem which was rendered with great poise and decorum.

Republic day was celebrated at Pathway, Chennai in a grand manner. There was feverish excitement in the children as many of them were ready to present a colorful program. Beena was dressed up as mother India, Divya and many other girls were dressed up in their white and colourful chiffons ready to dance to the patriotic tunes selected for the occasion.

As the children were called to attention, Sudha Subramaniam was requested to unfurl the national flag. With this the children, staff and everyone assembled sang the national anthem in unison. Children dressed





as Gandhi, Nehru, and other great patriots passed by, drawing resounding claps from all assembled, culminating in praising and offering obeisance to Mother India. The event came to a close with distribution of sweets. Every year these special moments are captured on camera and they get embedded in the special album of special children achievements. Children at Pamela Martinez and the Sabin Centre group were not to be left out. They showed their prowess in the different drill and exercises like pyramid formation which was followed by resounding applause from their groups. In

children practised their best to win audience alike. The march past beat of the band .The band leader counterparts were in their best .This year the salute was taken by



all the hearts of their trainers and was followed by a wonderful had made sure that all his attire which caught envy of many the Principal



ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY OF THE KANCHEEPURAM DISTRICT SELF FINANCING SCHOOL'S ASSOCIATION

On the fifth November the Kancheepuram District Self Financing School Association honoured our school in the –THE THIRD AWARDS CEREMONY’ for hundred percent result for the tenth standard for the



year 2015-2016. We were awarded with a plaque and certificate which was received by the principal.

PATHWAY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2016

The Pathway Excellence award was conferred in an impressive but a simple function recently at Pathway, Chennai. The venue was tastefully decorated with colorful 'Shamiana' with a large stage. These awards were conferred on meritorious poorest rural children of Tamil Nadu selected from all over the district. This concept of bestowing awards on such children was conceived six years ago. Pathway being an organization serving the disabled and the poor wanted to focus on the needy children who show promise in their scholastic performance. The mandate of the organization has been to serve the most needy and deserving children without any bias to their religion, caste or any other consideration.

It is the aim of the organization to discover the unsung heroes who live in the dusty rural areas of the state without being recognized. The aim of Pathway also has been to uncover the potential of highly deserving children who are generally neglected or marginalized by the society because of their obvious problems, such as, poverty, lack of opportunities, poor facilities in the rural areas, etc. The panel also studied the performance of each short listed student in his/her scholastic achievement as well as in their all round achievement. The specialty of this award was to allocate a mentor to each of the selected awardees. Pathway has selected a panel of highly successful professionals drawn from different walks of life for the mentorship program. The panel consisted of doctors, engineers, captains of industry, marketing and business management experts, scientists, administrators, etc

The Pathway Agro Farm for Children was packed with invitees, a large section was





earmarked for children, their parents, there were rows of seats that was reserved for principals of schools from the rural areas. The faces of children were beaming with smiles of great expectation. They were all seated as per their awards. All together 8 meritorious awardees were present to receive the honours. It was really interesting and overwhelming to listen to the parents of the some of the children who hailed from remote rural areas. They expressed their glee and delight in participating in a such an event and thanked Pathway for this great opportunity. The principals of village schools were equally delighted with the honour bestowed on their wards.

Excellence award was given for three categories of high performers. During this event 8 meritorious children were conferred with Pathway special Awards. These awards were bestowed on children shortlisted from all over the district which also included a couple of children from the Pamela Martinez /Pathway Matriculation School and Orphanage who matched their performance with high performing children from different parts of the state. Children who obtained high scores, who were first generation or first time school goers were selected for all the awards. The award consisted of a cash prize, a certificate, a medal and a shawl.

The most coveted awards were:

The Pathway Judge William Sheffield Excellence Award

The Pathway- Gary Sabin Excellence Award

The Pathway A D S N Prasad Excellence Award

The Pathway- William P Benac Excellence Award

The Pathway-Jean-Luc Butel Excellence Award

The Pamela Martinez/Pathway Excellence Award



These prestigious awards were bestowed on children who showed exceptional grit and strength and also superlative performance in their scholastic performance despite severe trials and tribulations.

Almost every Awardee had a great and impressive story. The Pathway Judge William Sheffield Excellence Award was conferred on G Pandian. He and his sister were brought to our fold in the year 2005 by their single parent who is a housemaid. He has passed with flying colors making us proud with 96 % score. He is continuing under our guidance for his higher studies. D. Jothilakshmi and her four other siblings lost their mother at a tender age and were brought to Pathway by their father who was a labourer. Despite this hardship, despite this poverty and in spite of these trials and challenges she was adjudged First Rank in her school and second in the district with over 93% scores in all subjects, with 100% in science and social studies. Pathway salutes this great achiever and bestows The Pathway A D S N Prasad Excellence Award. She was thrilled to receive this honor.

The Pathway-Gary Sabin Excellence Award was bestowed on K Chandrakalai from Kanikapuram village studying in the Govt.School, Kilkodungallur, Wandavasi.has scored 98percent with centum in social science This 15 year old has been attending a government high school in a remote village, and has shown great dedication, perseverance and ability in her education and in her life. Hailing from a very poor family, living in a shanty hut, carrying water for over 5KMs everyday for survival, this girl has excelled despite severe challenges.

Chandra Prasad, Hony Director and Chief Functionary, Pathway, described briefly the work done by the organization for the disabled from the past 40 years and has also outlined contribution made by Pamela Martinez school and orphanage and the Agro Farm, from the past 15 years. She said nearly 40,000 lives have been touched by Pathway for over these years. She conveyed her grateful thanks to Judge William Sheffield, Gary Sabin, William and Barbara Benac, Pam and Alex, and Jean-Luc Butel and Carole Butel for their long association and for their great contributions.

Ms Sudha Subramaniam, President and Director Spl.Projects chaired the programme and Mrs Dhuli Patnaik, Vice-President, Pathway proposed a vote of thanks.

NAKSHATRA SPORTS LEAGUE

12th Feb, 2017 marked the inter-home sports fest day organised by Bhumi. This event witnessed participation from many orphanages and shelter homes in and around Chennai. The event provided a platform for children to exhibit their talent, athletic prowess, and develop sportsmanship attitude. Coming from a lesser privileged background, these children hardly get any exposure to sports and this event essentially gives them that opportunity and plays a major part in helping them explore their talents.

Looking at the statistics of the event, the numbers look incredible. Kids from over different homes poured in for the event, of which many were participating for the first time. A Nakshatra record-breaking 7000 children participated in the event. The event was made possible because of the efforts of many volunteers. This year the sports fest was hosted at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which is a multipurpose stadium and has a capacity of 40,000. The complex also houses a multipurpose indoor stadium with a seating capacity of 8000 which hosts volleyball, basketball, table tennis games.

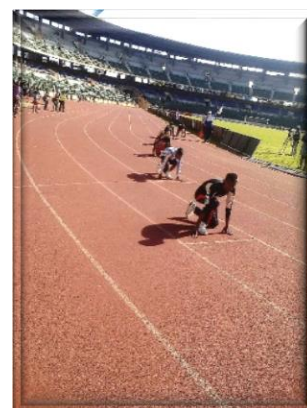


The event day commenced 9:00 am, quickly all the kids were provided with a sumptuous breakfast followed by a brief photo session for each home. The venue sported a tent erected to provide seating arrangements for the kids and duly the inauguration ceremony kicked-off at 9:30 am with the grand tradition of lighting the torch, which was passed around in short lap by student representatives of winning homes of previous years

BALAJI R	400 MTS SS BOYS	200 MTS SS BOYS	4*100 MTS RELAY BOYS
CHANDRU	SHOTPUT SENIOR BOYS		
DAVID.S	200 MTS SS BOYS		4*100 MTS RELAY BOYS
DHANARAJ.D	LONG JUMP JUNIOR BOYS		
PANDURANGAN	CHESS SENIORS		
SRIDHAR.S			4*100 MTS RELAY BOYS
VASANTHKUMAR.A			4*100 MTS RELAY BOYS



Our Children, boys who were selected for this grand finale participated in three categories – Juniors, Seniors, Super Seniors. 100m, 200m, and 400m race followed by the most anticipated track event – the relay. Field events including shot put, long jump, and high jump, saw enthusiastic competition. The outdoor events showed the maximum energy and loud cheering with events such as Kho-



Kho, Kabaddi, Tennikoit, Volleyball, mini-football, shuttle badminton, and throwball. Simultaneously the indoor event saw quiet sporting among the kids with Carrom and Chess. There were volunteers at every stage who attended tot the task of guiding and attending to the kids. Childrens safety and welfare was given the utmost importance. As the day came to an end and the announcement of the winners was being read out our staff and children waited with bated breath. We



are utterly delighted to inform our readers that our children did receive prizes in the following category-



Panduranga received the second place in the Chess Seniors category along with a certificate of Merit, D Thanraj in junior boys category received the second place in Long jump along with the certificate of merit. We believe that sports is a very important sphere in ones life. If started early in life it can fuel a passion in the games and the spirit of sportsmanship is instilled for life. After the prize distribution ceremony and the vote of thanks delivered our staff along with the children and principal made their way back from Chennai to their farm unit tired but satisfied and happy.

VARIOUS CLUB ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

MONTH	CLUB NAME	CLUB LEADERS NAME	CONCEPT	PARTICIPANTS
JULY	SOCIAL SCIENCE	K.KATHIRAVAN, R ANIKA PRINCY AND DAVID	WORLD POPULATION DAY	A SKIT IS DONE BY IX AND VIII STD CHILDREN ABOUT DEMERIT OF POPULATION PERCENTAGE HIGH
AUGUST	ALL CLUB		INDEPENDENCE DAY	MARCHPAST, DRILL AND EXERCISES, DANCE, SPL CHILDREN PROGRAM, CULTURAL, SPEECH, MIME, FANCY DRESS..ETC
AUGUST	ART & CULTURAL	NISHALINI, JAYAPRESSI, JAYAPRASANNA, SUNITHA	CULTURAL PROGRAM- BHUMI	85 CHILDREN
SEPTEMBER	SCIENCE CLUB	S.DAVID, S KISHORE, SHRIDHARAN	SCIENCE QUIZ	TEAM A: SRIDHARAN, DAVID, JAMES, PANDURANGAN, KATHIRANVAN, VIGENSWARAN, KISHORE, AMARESAN TEAM B : SATHYA, ANIKAPRINCY, MURUGESWARI, NISHALINI, SRIMATHI, PRIYA, PREETHI. WINNERS- TEAM A
OCTOBER	ART & CRAFT CLUB	NISHALINI, JAYAPRESSI, JAYAPRASANNA, SUNITHA	AYUDH POOJA	CHILDREN FROM SABIN AND FARM
OCTOBER	SCIENCE CLUB	S.DAVID, S KISHORE, SHRIDHARAN	DR. APJ KALAM MEMORIAL BIRTHDAY	SKIT ABOUT DAY TODAY LIFE WITH SCIENCE, KALAM'S THOUGHTS AND HIS CONTRIBUTION - P.VIGENESWARAN, SRIMATHI, JAMES, DHANRAJ, ANISHA PRINCY
OCTOBER	ART & CULTURAL CLUB	SRIMATHI, JAYAPRESSI, JAYAPRASANNA, SUNITHA	PRE DEEPAWALI	WENT TO CHENNAI -YMCA GROUND- MET WITH CINE ACTORS - PARTICIPATED IN HERITAGE OF INDIA AND WITNESSED DISPLAY OF FIREWORK
NOVEMBER	TAMIL CLUB	S.ARCHANA, JAYAPRASANNA, A SRIMATHI, NISHALINI	STATE LEVEL COMPETITION	WINNER OF TAMIL ESSAY WRITING -SRIMATHI WINNER FOR DRAWING - VENKATESH, DAVID, VASANTH KUMAR- CONDUCTED BY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATION
NOVEMBER			SCHOOL X STD 100 % RESULT AWARD GIVEN BY TAMILNADU PRIVATE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION	RECEIVED A MEDAL AND CITATION FOR 100 % RESULT IN X STD FOR 2015-2016
NOVEMBER	MATHS CLUB	NANTHA KUAMR, NISHA, SRIMATHI AND ANIKA PRINCY	CHILDRENS DAY	TAMIL KURAL SAYING, FUN GAMES FOR KIDS, MATHS PUZZLES, MATHS TABLES CROSS CHECK TEST, SPEED TEST CONDUCTED BY TEACHERS

NOVEMBER	SOCIAL SCIENCE CLUB	M.MURUGESWARI, SUSHMITHA, DAVID, ANISHA PRINCY	GINGEE TOUR	GINGEE EDUCATIONAL TOUR FROM VIII STD TO X STD
NOVEMBER	ART AND CULTURAL CLUB	NISHALINI, JAYAPRESSI, JAYAPRASANNA, SUNITHA	CULTURAL BHUMI FINAL, CHENNAI ADYAR	17 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED
DECEMBER	ALL CLUB		CHRISTMAS	ALL THE CHILDREN FROM SABIN AND FARM GROUP WERE INVOLVED
JANUARY	ALL CLUB		PONGAL	ALL THE CHILDREN FROM SABIN AND FARM GROUP WERE INVOLVED
JANUARY	ALL CLUB		REPUBLIC DAY	ALL THE CHILDREN FROM SABIN AND FARM GROUP WERE INVOLVED
JANUARY	ART AND CRAFT CLUB	NISHALINI, JAYAPRESSI, JAYAPRASANNA, SUNITHA	ART EDUCATION - DEMO CLASS	COCONUT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, HOUSE MADE BY ICE STICKS, RAT MODEL MADE, COCONUT SHELL, BAG ETC
JANUARY	SPORTS CLUB	ROSHAN KUMAR, MARIYA RATHINADOSS, CHANDRU	SPORTS - COMPETITION - OMR AGINI COLLEGE-	
FEBRUARY	SPORTS CLUB	ROSHAN KUMAR, MARIYA RATHINADOSS, CHANDRU	NAKSHATRA SPORTS FINAL AT NEHRU STADIUM	PANDURANGA- WINNER FOR CHESS, DHANRAJ WINNER IN LONG JUMP
FEBRUARY	SCIENCE CLUB	S.DAVID, S KISHORE, SHRIDHARAN	SCIENCE EXHIBITION	SUSMITHA, NISHA, VASANTHA, MARIA, SRIMATHI, KARTHIKA, SUNITHA, MURUGESWARI, DAVID, JAYAPRASANNA, JAMES, NISHALINI, KISHOREKUMAR, PRABHAVATHI, GRACY, SUNITHA
FEBRUARY	MEDICAL		MR VACCINE, POLIO IMMUNISATION CAMP	
FEBRUARY	SCIENCE CLUB	S.DAVID, S KISHORE, SHRIDHARAN	NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY QUIZ	TEAM A : JAMES, KATHIRAVAN, KISHORE KUMAR, AMARESAN, TEAM B : NISHA, MURUGESWARI, SRIMATHI, JAYAPRASANNA WINNERS WERE TEAM B



DRAWING COMPETITION



The human resource development and research organization, Dharampuri extended invitation to participate in the competitions conducted by them. There were two state level categories of which were-Drawing and Essay competition. The children were given

information about the above and many came forward to send in their entries. We are very glad to inform our readers that three children A.VASANTHA KUMAR – X, S.DAVID – IX, and M.VENKATESH – VIII were the recipients of first prize bagging a book and certificate as prizes. In the category of Essay competition A Srimathi too received the first prize in the form of a book and a certificate.

The organizers took care to send Certificate to all participants and appreciation certificate to the in-charge teachers

SCIENCE EXHIBITS

The word SCIENCE CLUB has stemmed from the meaning- learning by doing, which allows children to explore, express themselves, do independent research and be involved in constructive activities. This kind of activity channelizes their talents and allows development of scientific attitude and interest in scientific activities which aids in better concept setting. This particular club encourages not just individual but also group participation. The success of this club is finally based on the science teachers who are the heartline of these activities. They are the ones who can enthuse interest into the children by fostering critical thinking and strengthening the problem solving skill which would give rise to a confident student.

The science club this year chose to highlight their activities by making and demonstrating various models made by them. In the process of making the children are able to assimilate knowledge in a concrete way.

Projects are important for their educational values and for their positive long-term effects on students. While doing a project, students learn how to face challenges and how to overcome problems. This activity allows them to gain a deeper understanding of science and the scientific method which aids them for a better understanding which they can use in their day to day life.

The following were constructed and the working was demonstrated by them with the support of their educationists.



- ❖ L.S. of KIDNEY :Functions of kidney was designed as a model by using waste materials like pipe , water bottle, colour powder etc. it was prepared by Sridhar with the help of science teachers
- ❖ COMPUTER : A model computer was designed by James and Sridhar using thermocol ,colour paper and waste boxes with the help of their guide Sumathi
- ❖ HUMAN TONGUE : A model of the human tongue was constructed by using clay and then painted by Anika Princy who explained about the various functions of tongue , including the sound production.
- ❖ DESCRIPTION OF HUMAN CELL : Vasanth described the Different types of blood cell , nerve cell, smooth muscle cell, fat cell, bone cell ,ovum and sperm by using the
- ❖ GLOPAL WARMING : Sushmitha was able to demonstrate the negative aspects of global warming like the decrease of co2 since the plantation of trees has suffered a setback. She also outlined the problems of industries smoke, waste burn smoke , vehicle smokes etc which were added causes of global warming.
- ❖ CHILDREN'S ATM : Using the concept that was designed by his science teacher ,A.G.Krishna used waste paper to create the box . He explained the function of an ATM to his other peer group.
- ❖ WIND MILL : A model wind mill was made by Kishore with the help of Sasikala teacher. The student was able to demonstrate the production of electricity at low cost without man power. He successfully used low cost materials like ice-cream sticks, small motor ,wires and battery .
- ❖ MOTOR PUMP : P .Vignesh a vii std child designed with the help of his guide a motor pump using a plastic water bottle and a small fan motor he was able to explain its functions especially in agriculture area.
- ❖ STEAM BOAT : A fisher man working model boat which moves with the help of pressure concept was explained by Jayapasanna ,of ninth std
- ❖ SOLAR FAMILY : the solar planets model was displayed in the box with their descriptive names by Kishore successfully
- ❖ POP CORN MACHINE : the function and working of a pop corn machine was devised using cool drink bottles, candle and maize by Rekhaharathi
- ❖ PROJECTOR : this was constructed by by Sridhar
- ❖ HYDRAULIC LIFT : The function of a hydraulic lift which is mainly used for lifting heavy machineries and vehicles was



explained by Srimathi who once again used low cost Water heater :

- ❖ WATER HEATER : A small home water heater was designed by Kathiravan and Pandurangan
- ❖ BALLOON ROCKET : by making a simple balloon rocket Gayathiri was able to explain its principle.
- ❖ AIR COOLER: a small air cooler model was designed by Jayapreesi who used a small motor , thermocole and a water bucket
- ❖ KALEIDOSCOPE : an all time favourite – the kaleidoscope was exhibited.
- ❖ WATER TANK OVERFLOW ALARM : by using ice-cream stick , wall clock speaker, battery they were able to construct this model. The need to save water was the concept. ELECTRICAL SERIAL : Santhiya demonstrated the two type of serials in electricity light namely the Serial circuit and parallel circuit

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATIONS

29th march was engraved in every soul who had known Dr Prasad the founder and father of Pathway. This day has been declared as the Founders day in history of pathway. We wanted every individual to honor and respect and in his memory create moments of treasure this day.



In consultation with the staff of all centres we decided to conduct a full day programme involving parents, our alumini group and children from all centres. The programme was designed to have fun elements, cultural programme along with fun games. This year we had some surprise visitors from Singapore Katie Deavor and her two wonderful daughters who became of guests of honor.

Everybody gathered around 9 in the morning at the schools play ground area. The day started with a opening prayer and hymn. It was followed by unfurling a huge banner of the founder whose ever smiling face brought heartfelt respect and cheer from every soul present. After paying our humble respects to this wonderful visionary a birthday cake was cut. This cake was especially prepared by special hands of Chennai centres bakery group.

Children paid their respects in different forms like greeting cards by the Sabin group, flowers from the tiny tots, in memory poems for their dad from the older children and some had even prepared individual cards. The mike was later handed over to the hony director followed by the president of the trust. Children were patient and very respectful.as the speeches were over their tiny whispers and excitement started



growing. This is the first time they would be seeing their parents too taking part in the fun games and vice versa. The tiny tots had a series of games to attend to like the potato gathering, balancing a ball on a tiny plate, sack race, balloon bursting, and arranging paper cups in limited time period. Every game was watched with earnest spirit and loud cheering with applause and claps rendered the air. Now it was the turn of the parents. The games played were musical chair, matching picture game, going through memory test and finally the tug of war. The biggest applause was for the tug of war. Childrens beaming smiles left us totally satisfied. The spirit of happiness seemed to have surrounded us all. Every game event ended with a prize which was so kindly distributed by our guests. Snacks were distributed at the end of this session.



After a sumptuous lunch and a bit of relaxation the kids and staff were ready for the next session. The next session was started by 3 in the afternoon which concluded by 5 in the evening. The various programmes conducted were group dances, special talent show by Paul Johan, solo and group dances by different class groups. The highlight of the show was a magic show by David and Chandru and finally a fun skit. The children from all centres had participated to make this a very memorable event. As expected every event was concluded with special prizes. The Sabin group boys had to blow balloons till it burst. The winners declared here were Citibabu and Dayalan. Thaneer, Sarvana, siva, Sheikh and anand were involved in the game of throwing a light plastic ball into a bucket kept at a distance. Sheikh was declared a winner here. Not to be left out of the festivities the staff too participated in the fun event. The entire campus was resounding with cheers and childrens laughter. I am sure there could be no better way to celebrate a founders birthday which gladdened so many hearts.



GINGEE FORT, GINGEE (SENJI)

It was a beautiful sunny day as can be. The day had approached which the kids were looking forward to. This was an annual Educational tour on the 19th of November 2016. The two higher classes were chosen for this excursion.

The girls and boys dressed in their spotless uniforms headed by their instructors boarded the mini van. The incessant chatter and happiness was very evident on their faces. Curiosity and the questioning mind was at its best. As the van rolled out the kids waved goodbye to their other school groups and finally

settled in their seats. After the initial excitement settled down a bit their instructors chose to educate the kids on the history and background of the fort. This information and knowledge was necessary to prepare them to enjoy the sights they were going to. The distance to be covered was around 70kms To keep their spirits high and to impart more knowledge their science teacher Mr Dhanasekar.

Decided to narrate in simple language which later would turn to question and answer on their return journey. Their was absolute silence in the van since the kids didnt want to miss out on the trailer of their actual tour.

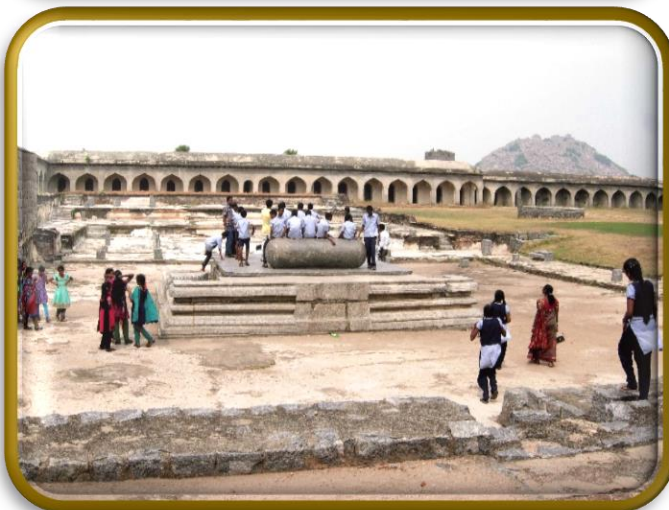
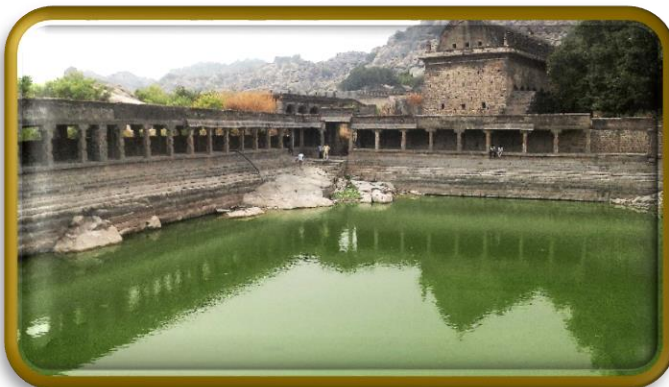
The teacher narrated the following saying --- Gingee Fort or Senji Fort (also known as Chenji, Jinji or Senchi) in Tamil Nadu, India is one of the surviving forts in Tamil Nadu, India. It lies in Villupuram District, 160 kilometers (99 mi) from the state capital, Chennai, and is close to the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The fort is so fortified, that Shivaji, the Maratha king,

ranked it as the

"most impregnable fortress in India" and it was called the "Troy of the East" by the British. The nearest town with a railway station is Tindivanam and the nearest airport is Chennai (Madras), located 150 kilometers (93 mi) away.

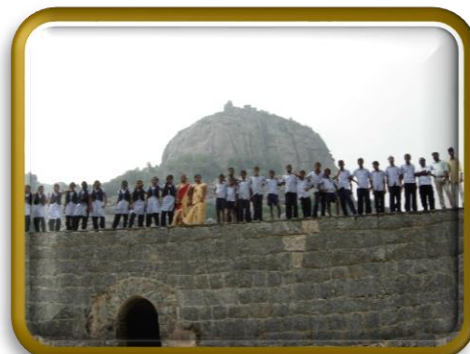
Originally the site of a small fort built by the Chola dynasty during the 9th century AD, Gingee Fort was modified by Kurumbar during the 13th century. As per one account, the fort was built during the 15–16th century by the Nayaks, the lieutenants of the Vijayanagara Empire and who later became independent kings. The fort passed to the Marathas under the leadership of Shivaji in 1677 AD, Bijapur sultans, the Moghuls, Carnatic Nawabs, French and the British in 1761. The fort is closely associated with Raja Tej Singh, who unsuccessfully revolted against the Nawab of Arcot and eventually lost his life in a battle.



The Gingee Fort complex is on three hillocks: Krishnagiri to the north, Rajagiri to the west and Chandrayandurg to the southeast. The three hills together constitute a fort complex, each having a separate and self-contained citadel. The fort walls are 13 km (8.1 mi) and the three hills are connected by walls enclosing an area of 11 square kilometers (4.2 sq mi). It was built at a height of 800 feet (240 m) and protected by an 80 feet (24 m) wide



The complex has a seven-storeyed Kalyana Mahal (marriage hall), granaries, prison cells, and a temple dedicated to its presiding Hindu goddess called Chenjiamman. The fortifications contain a sacred pond known as Aanaikulam. On the top



of the hillock, there are minor fortifications. The fort, in modern times, is maintained and administered by the Archaeological Survey of India. The fort is one of the prominent tourist destinations in Villupuram district. The fort complex is called 'Troy of the East', as the fort was very effective in keeping attackers at bay that it earned the quality of being 'impregnable' just like Troy. The Gingee Fort complex has been a Monument of national importance since 1921.

Hearing the above- Archana was curious to know the legend regarding the naming of the fort and how it



changed with different leaders who took over the same. Her query brought a chorus from the other children and with a smile their teacher told them that the Bijapur Nawabs who held the fort from about 1660 to 1677 AD called it Badshabad, while the Marathas who succeeded them called it Chandry or Chindy. The Mughals, on their capture of the fort in 1698 A.D., named it Nusratgadh in honour of Nawab Zulfiqar Khan Nusrat-Jang, the commander-in-chief of the besieging army. Later, the English and the French called it Gingee or Jinji. The early Madras records of the English give the spelling Chingee or Chengey.

Their were smiles all round as the kids try to say in different tones the word Gingee fort. Mr Dhanasekar was amused with their antics. He looked around and said that if they were prepared to listen to more he would narrate some more stories behind this legend. All the eager faces immediately turned towards him and waited with bated breath to hear more. He continued saying that as per Tamil legend, the tragic tale of Raja Tej Singh, popularly known in Tamil as Thesingu Raasan, is associated with the fort. The true life story of Tej Singh and his general, Mehboob Khan (aka Maavuthukaran), who were friends, has inspired many poems, street plays, and countless other stories. He was the son of Swarup Singh and revolted against the Nawab of Arcot, and was defeated and killed in the war that followed. Though Gingee became a part of the Nawab's territory in 1714, the young and courageous Tej Singh became a legend and his life, love and brave but tragic end were eulogized in various ballads.

As a group, the seven goddesses are still said to guard the fort, and each of the seven has a temple within the area. But three of the seven stand for the rest as the immediate recipients of the actual sacrifice: two



of them, Kamalakkanniyamman and Kaliyamman (Kali), whose temples are within the fort, and one, Mariyamman, who represents the town.

A place of great historic interest, this fort was so well fortified that Shivaji ranked it as the "most impregnable fortress in India" and the British called it the "Troy of the East". However, after the fort passed into British hands, it did not see any further advancement and was declared as a National Monument in 1921 and was under the Archeological Department.



Recently the Tourism Department of India has tried to popularize this remote and often forgotten fort in Tamil Nadu. Gingee today, with its ruined forts, temples and granaries, presents a different picture from the glorious splendor of its bygone days. But the remains of that glorious

past, speak volumes about the numerous invasions, warfare and bravery that it witnessed.

The children had with rapt attention heard their teacher and were ever so eager to get down and looked forward to their destination. Mr Dhanasekar decided to give them some time to have their group discussions. A few of them had dozed off and some continued with their queries to their teacher.

The vehicle had stopped for a break and children were happy to stretch their feet for some time before getting back into the vehicle to continue their journey. They were now very close to their destination. The eager faces looked out of the windows and they were awed at the gigantic proportions of the fort.

The vehicle finally rolled into the parking area and children stumbled out. It was not an easy task to keep their excitement down. After a few minutes, they all lined up and started towards exploring their surroundings.

It was getting past noon for their lunch, hence their hunt was on to spot a clean spot to eat and then explore every nook and corner of this historic fort. They finally did find one and along with their staff they enjoyed their feast with nature at its best. They happily finished their pre packed lunch and after cleaning up their area they headed out armed with the new found knowledge about the fort.

Both the boys and girls tried to outdo their peers to find those particulars mentioned by their teachers. It was a child's play to run up the steps and find what lay beyond. Deepika was the first one to find the granite Tamil inscription of the legend. She eagerly beckoned the others to read the same. Every detail that was heard in the van was now unfurling before their eyes. A hectic two hours of exploring tired some of them and they decided to rest



their feet on the beautiful lush green lawn. Memories were created and captured in photograph form.

They spent a very fruitful time till late evening and then tired but happy headed back home. Their next day assignment was waiting for them to write and capture their experiences of their tour.

The cool breeze aided their journey back home.

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETINGS



The Pamela Martinez Pathway home committee meeting was conducted on 30.08.2016 and 3.01.2017. They were attended by officer bearers - Mr.J.David Paul District child Protection Officer, from DCPO,kancheepuram, Mr.I.Zaheeruddin Mohamed, a CWC Member. and Mr. V.Palayam also from District Child Protection Office The other members who are a part of this committee are student members apart from the management of The Pamela Martinez Home Committee. The meeting started with a introduction and all the members were

introduced to each other.

At the close of the meeting the present CWC members appreciated the management. They confirmed their happiness about the various activities taken by the Home and its maintenance. They also commented about the pleasant atmosphere and the fact that every activity run was in accordance to the rules. The management thanked the committee for their kind words and the meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer followed with lunch.



PATHWAY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This year I made a call to Vignesh and invited him to come over to Pathway to meet me. He diligently took my call and met me. I had wanted to know how each ex Pathway student was faring and whether we could create an opportunity to meet up since each one would be involved in their examinations or other responsibilities. After having a long session with him and Surya it dawned on us that the event Pathway excellence award day would be ideal.

We set out to inform every student we could get the contacts and then decided to rope each one of them with some responsibility so that they felt a part of the entire function. It took a week to formulate all the ideas and details of how we would go ahead with the programme. The guests list too was prepared.

What really touched my heart was a suggestion from Vignesh. He, Surya and Prashanth decided to help me out with the programme by taking over the video presentation of various events that had taken place during the current year. I was touched by their affection and the zeal to show their support. They sat down and chalked out every detail and decided to camp at the farm a few days earlier to look into the preparations. We have been extremely fortunate to have such caring youngsters whose actions make our chest fill with pride.

We set the date for 23rd Feb so that our main well wishers and supporters- Bill Benac his wonderful wife Barbara and John-Luc Butel could be a part of the same. it was indeed a very pleasant sight to see the former graduates trooping into our hallway of Pathway in singles, twos, and groups. The smile on their faces was enough to make us realise that there couldn't be a better reward. Every child entering into this portal showed sense of responsibility and the urge to be a better human being. They settled down soon and after the initial official takes they jumped into excited conversation. It was a bit hard to control their excitement of meeting each other but finally they did settle down.. after the function we all gathered into the directors living space and gathered in a circle to listen to their achievements and progress that they were making in their lives. The alumina has helped in making them stronger by binding their love and fellowship for each other. Taking a stock of their progress it was indeed wonderful to hear that raman

was currently working in Courtyard Marriott after doing a craft course in IHM and his twin having done the same course is working with ITC Grand Chola

Venkatesh who had completed his diploma in medical Lab Technician course and continues to work with VHS hospital. Aakash pitched in to say that after completing the bakery he has been absorbed by KFC in Chennai's airport zone. On the other hand his sister Aashika is doing her B.Com in final year. Meenakshi pitched in to say she is hs completed her fourth year in Aeronautical Engineering and has come out with



flying colors. Today she is Bangalore trying to find a placement. She will be joining the likes of Swathi who has completed BE(ECE) Engineering and is working today

Some children having finished their basic education are leading fruitful family life like Sarala, Meena, Shantini. Shilpa who has completed her graduate course in Zoology is currently serving a mission. Akila who has there more siblings and being the eldest in her family has completed her graduation and is currently working in IIT Chennai. She is happily married too. Her next sibling Agana has completed her graduation course and is currently working with KKG Jewellery Their third sibling Anitha is studying in second year B.Com.The children were absolutely thrilled to hear each others progress. Not to back out about their progress were Sarvanan who is entering into final year of RENAL DIALYSIS TECH and doing part time job too, Binitha in final year of MEDIAL IMAGING TECH, Priyanka in final year of RENAL DIALYSIS and Praveen in 2nd year of RENAL DIALYSIS. All these kids are studying in SRM UNIVERSITY. Vignesh who was listening to them prompted to say that he was studying in a field that no one had taken in their batch. All the kids smiled and looked at him knowingly and quipped----Yes we are aware that you are doing Journalism in Madras Christian College. Suriya nudged him and said that he too was in a different line. He has completed his Diploma in Computer Engineering and right now working with IIT madras tech park .

Meghanathan is in his final year of B.TECH (ECE). The other kids have just completed their courses like Nehru, Jude, Kalaiselvi who is looking out for a job, the other children are still studying like Mercy,



Esther , amudha, vithya Bharathi, aravind, Manjula, vijayalakshmi, sandhiya, sowmiya and seetha. Vidhya and Anushaya are in pursuing Nursing, suganthi and Padma are currently doing microbiology. K. sornamugi, Saran have qualified in ITI and currently working. Deepalakshmi who has another four siblings completed her hiher secondary and is working with a HP gas agency and Velu with same qualification is working in an mobile company. Manikandan, Prashanth qualified in hotel management and is working today in one of the fastest growing chain of hotels known as A2B. Robinson too completed his diploma in hotel mamnagement and currently working with a leading hotel in Chennai. Our benefactors Bill Benac, Barabara Benac and John -Luc who were present were pleasantly surprised and they listened with rapt aattention. The true seeds that were sowed in the ground years ago were showing promises today. The positive growth of the children had made our day. We sincerely thanked the Almighty in keeping these kids safe and always trying to keep them on the right path of life.

I would also like to mention here that Prashanth was our second contributor of his salary earnings in form of stationery for the children. The first being Issac who today is an Aeronautical engineer working in Russia.

The members reinforced the promise they had made to Dr. Prasad to meet regularly and exchange their trials and successes with each other and assist in any way possible to uplift other children who are in need and bring them to the notice of Pathway so that required assistance could be extended. The Directors urged

members to extend their hand of support to all the children who have passed out from Pathway to join PAA Further, they also requested members to help their alma mater by volunteering their time to offer services to children at Pamela Martinez School and Sabin-Pathway group

STATISTICS – STAFF

POSITION	NO
PRINCIPAL	1
TEACHERS	15
PHYSICIAN	1
DENTAL SURGEON	1
WARDENS	3
WATCHMEN / SECURITY	6
HOUSE MOTHERS & AYAHS	14
COOKS	5
FARM SUPERVISOR	1
PLUMBER	1
ELECTRICIAN	1
DRIVER	1
FARM WORKERS	10

MEDICAL DENTAL UNIT / FARM

The medical unit at the Pamela Martinez/ Pathway Agro Farm & Orphanage has continued. It's services towards solving the medical needs of the hundreds of children and staff of the facility. The medical unit is offering comprehensive medical and dental services not only to the inmates of the Farm but also to needy people from the neighbouring villages, such as:



- ❖ Agili
- ❖ Mathur
- ❖ Koodalur
- ❖ Munianthangal
- ❖ Sendivakkam
- ❖ Sinthamani
- ❖ Unamalai
- ❖ Panchayath

Staff includes:

- ❖ Qualified medical doctor
- ❖ Nurse plus attendant
- ❖ Driver

Unit is fully stocked with medical equipment and supplies for basic care

Average number of patients treated in one month:

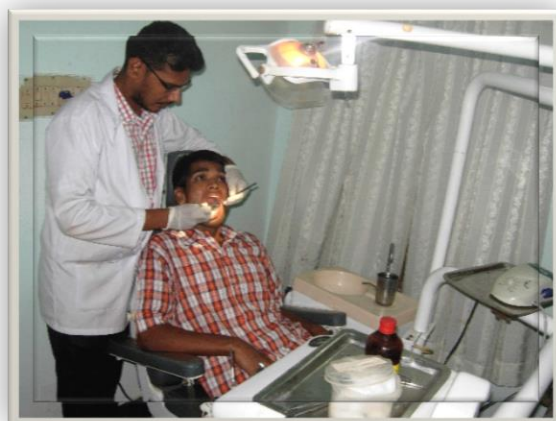
- ❖ Male –55
- ❖ Female –38
- ❖ Children –300



Apart from offering just medical services to a limited number of poor and needy patient now the organization has decided to modify and magnify this work by adding services to the disabled, particularly in the far flung rural areas of the district. This mobile disability and medical hospital or hospital on wheels has already made a pilot move in offering services in certain areas. Now the organization will extend this services to certain towns and large villages, as Pathway has already conducted data collection in at least 6 towns and large villages.

The dental unit is continuing it's services to hundreds of children of the Orphanage as well the special children and adults of the Sabin Centre for Rehabilitation and Education of the Disabled. It has also conducted camps thereby reaching more in numbers.

Poor patients from these villages have been attending the medical unit for their general medical needs, where they receive drugs, medicines besides consultations and diagnostic tests. All these services continue to be offered free of cost to the most deserving.



ORAL POLIO VACCINATION

Every year literally Pathway has been a base to draw in children from surrounding areas to get benefitted from the govt driven polio vaccination programme in January and April. We feel satisfied to note that in some humble way we are able to help the cause of polio eradication in India



Two drops of polio vaccine are administered to all children below the age of five except the sick children. All vaccinated children will be marked with ink on their left little finger.

With the global initiative of eradication of polio in 1988 following World Health Assembly resolution in 1988, Pulse Polio Immunization programme was launched in India in 1995. Children in the age group of 0-5 years administered polio drops during National and Sub-national immunization rounds (in high risk areas) every year. About 172 million children are immunized during each National Immunization Day (NID).

The last polio case in the country was reported from Howrah district of West Bengal with date of onset 13th January 2011. Thereafter no polio case has been reported in the country (25th May 2012).

WHO on 24th February 2012 removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.

The Pulse Polio Initiative was started with an objective of achieving hundred per cent coverage under Oral Polio Vaccine. It aimed to immunize children through improved social mobilization, plan mop-up operations in areas where poliovirus has almost disappeared and maintain high level of morale among the public.



Community >

ADYAR TIMES / DECEMBER 11 - 17, 2016

'Pathway' to progress

By V. Vaishnavi

Pathway is a voluntary, nonprofit NGO for children and adults with Cerebral Palsy, speech and learning disabilities and mental retardation. They have a comprehensive vocational programme for their inmates, with activities that generate income and give job placement, thus realizing their potential to do work that gives them hope and dignity.



"Our founder, A.D.S.N. Prasad, started Pathway to provide care and rehabilitation for children with mental retardation. Though we face many challenges while training our inmates, we believe that nothing is impossible because even the word 'impossible' has the word 'possible' hidden in it. We try to make products that are both visually appealing and are easy to teach our students, and make teaching aids to simplify the process of making the products. Sometimes it takes months to come out with a product, but the joy, pride and self worth on

the faces of our children during our crafts fairs makes it worth while," says Chandra Prasad, the Honorary Director of Pathway.

The types of jobs available to inmates at Pathway range from weaving, making greeting cards, jewellery making and offset printing are focused on bringing out their talents and motivating them.

They are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and visitors are welcome to view and purchase items from their collection of beautiful, colourful, and painstakingly crafted works of art during these hours. Some of the interesting items include, a Nativity set with dolls made of colorful glass beads woven with precision using computer-rendered designs. They have a large range of quilled works of art, many wall pieces, table decorations, dolls and a jewellery line made of colourful paper quills. Wind chimes, table decorations, made of Paper Mache or pulped paper is another item. They make greeting cards made of collages, punched paper, desiccated flowers and leaves and take special orders for weddings and other functions. Scented and decorative candles and freshly baked bread, buns, cookies and pastries are also available.

Pathway is registered with the Dept. of Income Tax and donations are exempt from taxation under section 80G of the Income Tax Act. At E-76/1, 12th West Street, Kamaraj Nagar, Thiruvannmiyur. Ph: 2448 3949.



6

Thiruvannmiyur

Pathway shows the way



Pathway, an organisation serving the disabled in Thiruvannmiyur conferred 'The Pathway Excellence Awards' on meritorious, poor rural children of Tamil Nadu selected from all over the State on Feb. 23 at their Pathway Agro Farm for Children, in Melmaruvathur.

During this event 8 meritorious children were conferred with Pathway special Awards including a couple of children from the Pamela Martinez Matriculation School and Orphanage run by Pathway in Melmaruvathur. Chandra Prasad, Hon. Director and Chief Functionary, Pathway, described briefly the work done by the organisation for the disabled for the past 40 years. Pathway can be reached at 2448 3949

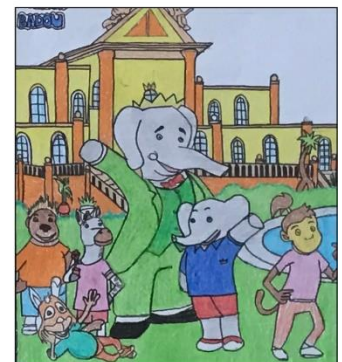
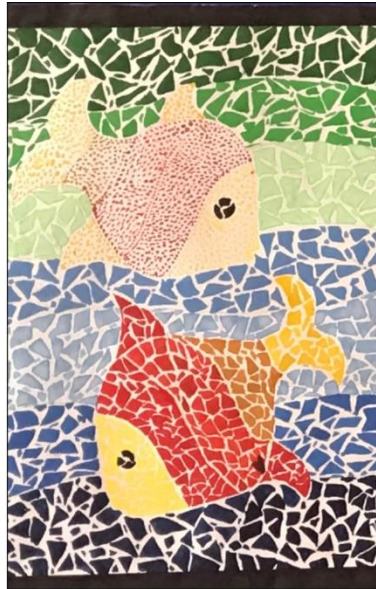
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LOVE THROUGH ART



AWARDS



Pathway has received numerous awards and prizes from various sources and institutions over the years:

🏆 GODFREY PHILIP Social Bravery Special Award conferred on A. D. S. N .PRASAD in the year 2013

🏆 THE PROFESSOR RAMESH K OZA Oration Award conferred on A. D. S. N. PRASAD in the year 2013

🏆 “Best Employee” awarded to one Pathway employees – Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2013

🏆 "The Noble Soul Award" - Award of Excellence in the field of Social Responsibility & for Valuable Support presented by Sathyabama University on 7th December 2013

🏆 Pathway Centre for Rehabilitation & Education of Mentally Retarded was awarded " –The Best Institution for the Disabled for the year 2009-2010 by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu, - Mr. M. Karunanidhi

🏆 “MCDS-Award for a couple rendering exceptional services to the disabled” awarded to - –Mrs Chandra Prasad and A D S N Prasad, 2007. Award consisted of cash award, plaque and a citation handed over by Hon’ble Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu, in the presence of many distinguished persons including Mr. Devarajan, Managing Trustee of MCDS.

- 🏆 Award for “Services Rendered to the Mentally Disabled”
–Council of Parent's Association of the Mentally Retarded, Chennai, 2002
- 🏆 “Vocation Excellence” award to A.D.S.N. Prasad for his services to the disabled
–Rotary Club International, 1999
- 🏆 1998 award for “Most Outstanding Institution in India Serving the Disabled” and “Most Outstanding Employer of the Disabled in India”
–Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, (awarded in 1999)
- 🏆 “Best Institution Serving the Disabled”
– Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. J. Jayalalithaa, 1995
- 🏆 “Best Employer of the Disabled”
– Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 1995
- 🏆 “Best Employees” awarded to two Pathway employees
– Hon’ble Social Welfare Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, 1995
- 🏆 “Exceptional Contribution for Services to People”
–Government of Karnataka, 1995
- 🏆 “Services Rendered to the Mentally Disabled in India”
–Japanese SIVUS Council, 1993

