

Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai

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Family Village Farm
News Letter
July to September - 2010

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*Let shadows come, let shadows go, let life be bright or dark with woe,
I am content, for this I know, Thou thinkest, Lord, of me*

In Praise of God

We have found comfort in God's love. When times are troubling we find wisdom, comfort, refuge and peace in his love. The Lord's amazing Grace has guided us through the last months. We rejoice in the shadow of your wings.

HOME NEWS

THE BLESSINGS RECEIVED

We would like to give you a little update of our children. We are glad to report that all our children are physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally healthy, well-nourished and well looked after.

New admissions

There were 5 new additions to our Nursery; P.Ganesan, S. Logitha, M. Gnanasekaran, S. Swetha and S. Mohan, were admitted into LKG and UKG in our King's School respectively. Mrs. Parvathy, a 70 year old lady, was taken in to the Pannai as a Grandparent.



Ganesan



Gnanasekar



Logitha



Swetha



Mohan



Parvathy

Children admitted into higher education

Aiswarya and Ammu, who have passed their 10th grade examinations, have joined a boarding school in Ranipet for further studies +1. Yuvaraj has joined +1 at Katpadi Government Higher Secondary School.

Training Courses

Suseela, Gowthami and Amirthavalli, who have completed 10th grade, joined a two year Secretarial Training Course in Coimbatore. Hema has joined a Tailoring Training program, also in Coimbatore. Neelavathy and Kalaiarasi, having finished their +2, have joined a Multipurpose Health Worker Course at Amblikkai. We have also been able to secure a place on a Diploma course in Nursing at CMC hospital for Pavithra. Anand, Ragahavan and Naveen have joined professional courses in Thindivanam. We are also pleased to inform you that Raghuraman, who excelled in academics, has enrolled on a B.Com degree course in Voorhees College, Vellore.



Raghu



Saranya



Naveen



Pavithra



Raghavan



Gowthamy



Suseela



Hema

Retirement

Mrs. Shenbagavalli, a cottage mother who has given 40 years of faithful service to our children and the institution, retired on 28th August 2010. We would like to congratulate and thank her for her inestimable contributions to MBKG Pannai. We wish her all the best and a peaceful retirement.



J-Ministries

This is a group which helps us by ministering to our children once a month. The ministry provided facilities and helped educate our children through our annual camp at Transworld India, at Paramankeni, Kancheepuram. They organized sessions for our older children, incorporating themes such as 'living life to the fullest', 'anger management' and 'freedom'. Our children learned skits, religious songs, and developed a greater understanding of the Bible. Of course, they also had a great time and played a variety of games. Thank you J-team for your wonderful services/ministries to the children.



Sathish Kumar was brought to MBKG Pannai when he was 6 months old. He was raised here and received his education in the King's Matriculation School. From Lower-Kindergarten to Tenth Grade, Sathish Kumar was top of his class and then went on to complete his higher secondary education in one of the local schools. After excelling in school yet again, he was offered a place in Kancheepuram and graduated with a first class B.Pharmacy degree. He subsequently went on to complete a Masters in Pharmaceuticals at a university in Northern India (NIPER).



Sathish Kumar

After completing his Masters degree his dream was to do a PhD in Bio-Medical Science in the United States of America. The Lord fulfilled all of his heart's desires and he was offered a PhD at Miller School of Medical Science, Miami University, with a full scholarship! All of this has been due to his hard work and perseverance, and we wish him all the best of luck in his new life in America. We would like to thank his sponsor, and the Global Ministries without whom it is unlikely that Sathish would have achieved all that he has.



Sathish Kumar's Farewell



AGM 2010



New Study Hall Boys' Hostel

Competitions

- Handwriting competition for grades VI to X.
- Art competition in Vellore attended by nine of our students.
- Two of our VIII grade students took part in a Tamil poetry recitation competition in Vellore. Krishnathwani won 2nd place, gaining a merit certificate and a thousand rupees, while Durga came in 3rd place, winning a certificate and three Tamil books. Out of the 400 participating, King's was the only school to receive four prizes.
- Boys and girls participated in the Zonal Sports Games, finishing with excellent performances in kho kho and football and a 3rd place in basketball. Dhineeth, Aravind, Jasmine and Manimegalai all won individual awards in athletic disciplines.



Amirthavalli



Anand Kumar



Kalaiarasi



Neelavathy

By God's Grace we are now on the right track towards academic excellence. We have put into motion a series of measures which are already paying dividends; special programs for both high and low achievers, meetings with parents of low achievers to gain their support, as well as regular faculty development programs.



Our dire need for a new bus was met by the grace of Global Ministries and we thank them and Jane Callhill greatly for their generosity.

Ongoing Programs

J-Ministries Visit:

There was felt a need for a J-Ministries' program for the teachers at King's, regarding commitment and accountability in the teaching profession. Mr. Charles Mani presented a PowerPoint slide show introducing the 8 T's – Target, Tools, Training, Time, Truth, Trust, Tracking and Touch. He encouraged the teachers to use adequate teaching aids in classes to make the learning process a joyful one. He emphasized the importance of visual learning as a means to understanding the material. He also mentioned the need for counseling for the children, as well as the role of 'attitude' in teaching. This would be an on going faculty development program at the King's school.

Destiny Education

Joy scheduled a workshop for the teachers to introduce them to new teaching methods and ways to implement them. She proposed new strategies on reading and lesson planning, as well as techniques and tools to make learning fun. All the teachers benefitted greatly from her visit and were excited by the prospect of putting these new-found ideas into practice.

Teacher's Day Celebration

The students did not forget to honor their teachers on 5th September. With an array of spectacular dances and skits they pulled out all the stops to entertain the teachers, and finally presented each with a gift to complete this joyful event.

Dr. Colleen McLaughlin, University of Cambridge Faculty of Education

We were fortunate enough to have Dr. Colleen with us, a highly prominent figure in the education field. The workshop dealt with education and learning in the 21st century and was attended by teachers from Ida Scudder, Balavihar and Vidyalayam schools (associated with CMCH), it was a great privilege for King's. The event was a huge success and inspired the teachers to improve their teaching methods. Our sincere thanks to the Astor family for introducing Dr. Colleen to us!



VISITORS

Milo, Ms. Daphne Astor's godson visited our Family Village Farm and was able to help the students improve their spoken English by conducting reading tests for the higher classes.

Dr. Margaret Bearerly's niece, Miriam, also paid us a short visit.

Four volunteers from England, Sarah-Jane, Suzy, Fran and Christian, visited us at the beginning of the month. They helped prepare an activity room for the LKG and UKG children by painting an "under the sea" theme on the wall and a life-size Snakes and Ladders game on the floor. Christian is staying with us for the remainder of the month.

Dr. Colleen's Experiences



Dr. Colleen

I came to India and to MBKG Pannai for my first time and had the wonderful opportunity of staying for a week and meeting with many different groups. I spent time talking to and learning from the teachers, the mothers who were caring for the young people and the principal. I also observed the teaching and joined in the day-to-day life of the boarding side. I was privileged to give a workshop for teachers and head teachers of three local schools, including King's School. The conference was very well attended and was a sea of colour and expertise. We debated the future of education and shared our experiences and also celebrated a teacher who had won a national award for excellence. I hope one day to be able to come back to the Pannai and visit with the many people I met.

Please, partner us by...

Praying for the children in the Home and School, our mothers and grandparents that they may be comforted and blessed and that we remain good stewards of all of God's Mercy, Grace, Care and Love to all the precious lives that He has placed in our hands to care for and love.

Sharing your Love with the little children who love being carried and cuddled. So, please pay us a visit and spend time with our children.

Sponsoring a child for a month would be Rs. 1350 or US \$ 30, which provides for food, shelter, clothing, medicine and recreation.

Sponsoring a house mother or a grandparent for a month would be Rs. 1350 or US \$ 30. This is an urgent need as many of our mothers and grandparents are not sponsored.

Supporting our Endowment Fund for Higher Education. This fund goes towards funding our aged out of sponsorship children who are doing their professional courses in different disciplines, like Engineering, Physical Education, Para medical education etc.,

Sponsor a Day Student's education at King's Matriculation School to enable them to continue their studies here.

Sponsor a meal for all our children during your family functions, Anniversary, Birthday, festivals and other special occasions [Cost: Breakfast Rs. 1500/-, Vegetarian Meal Rs. 3000/-, Non-Vegetarian Meal Rs. 5000/- and Sweets Rs. 1200/-.]

Suzy's Impressions

Now that I am back in England I have had time to think about my experiences in India and the time I spent at MBKG Pannai really stands out. I was so impressed with how friendly everyone was and it is a very welcoming place. The strong friendships that the children had with each other is clearly a testament to what a great place it is to grow up and receive an education in. I really enjoyed spending time in the village and meeting the children and staff. I hope to come back and volunteer for longer in the not too distant future. I hope the kids enjoy playing in the activities room that we painted!



- ◆ YES ! I Want to keep the light of hope alive by;
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