

# News from Shishu Mandir



Vol. XIII, January to March 2016

**Welcome** to Shishu Mandir! We are pleased to share with you our latest developments and programmes in the quarter year from January to March 2016

## Founder's Day

January 11th, our annual Founder's Day, is a day which everybody lives up to with great feelings of achievement and gratitude. Our children perform a breath-taking programme and our teachers take pride in their children's note-worthy development, especially in the field of dance and drama performance. This day also gives them a feeling of the big Shishu Family which comprises more than 1000 people. Former students gather together and enjoy seeing each other again.

This year's particularity was the release of the Mathematics book for the Prep children, which was compiled by our teacher Aparna Latha and Bettina Zauner, who added an unmistakable tinge of German systematics and appeal.

Utilising the talent of our English guest teachers, a play was enacted which enthralled the spectators to the maximum. The acting was natural, no artificial exaggeration when expressing emotions. It was extraordinary and very pleasant.

As usual the day concluded with a delicious dinner, which our cook Babu is known for and which made the day complete in all respects.

## A New Life Style in Pyramid Valley

A group of students visited Pyramid Valley, a meditation centre. Pyramids are understood to be objects capable of drawing energies from all directions, thus the main building was pyramid shaped. Our students were requested to sit in silence to concentrate on their breathing and to listen to their inner voice. They were fortunate to meet the founder **Brahmarishi Patriji**, who is observing total silence for a full year.



## Planting of Saplings

Not only Shishu Mandir's buildings are green, also the political orientation is 'green': The children are taught not to waste paper, further not to misuse water, electricity and avoid producing CO<sub>2</sub>. On this basis the CAN Trust offered Rs. 10.000 for planting saplings, an offer, which the Interact Club was very happy to take up. As an initial step 10 saplings were planted at Shishu Mandir's Child Care Centre.

## Castrol Training Programme

Our automobile students were lucky to get a special training from GMR Foundation. Along with this training they also had the opportunity to offer free services to the public under the supervision of their trainers, Mr. Narasanna and Mr. Suresh. Our students appreciate such occasions very much, in fact they ask for the next service day before the first one has finished. We also notice that such outreach programmes kindle their self-respect a great deal. Unexpectedly Castrol Oil Company honoured the students with a gift of Rs. 500/- for participation and a tool kit. A pleasant surprise! But even without the gifts of GMR Foundation this training rendered such a good echo that we invited all workshop owners within a radius of 3 km for a similar session. 38 followed our invitation and experienced a meaningful day of training.

## HR Manual

Shishu Mandir has reached a size which demands clear rules of management for any given situation. So on the advice of KPMG we took up the composition of another strong-hold of an organization: HR Manual formation.

For that Mr. Anand and Mrs. Hella worked out the code of conduct of the management, which will take care of man power planning and recruitment, payroll processing, learning development, performance management, exit management and employee travel.

**Farewell to our 10<sup>th</sup> Standard**



Every year our 10<sup>th</sup> standard children have to say good-bye to school life which they enjoyed for twelve great years. It is a day of nostalgic memories of their good and bad days in the family and security of Shishu Mandir. Also this year many could not control their tears. But the next junior batch did their best to provide a meaningful programme for their seniors and made the day very memorable.

**Decathlon at our Place**



Decathlon, which has its outlets of sport articles throughout the world, proved their global connections by bringing a group of 15 people from different European countries plus Bangladesh and China to us. They spent time with the children while speaking about their respective countries in the context of sports. What could be more interesting for our students than sports? They listened spell-bound. In their earlier

visits Decathlon had donated a lot of sport equipment to us. This time we dared to go a few steps higher, we requested them to construct a standard tournament basketball ground for our students to practice under tournament conditions. We keep our fingers crossed!

**Mahadevan's Marriage**

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 was the day, when our past student Mahadevan got married. Of course he was not our first child to be married, but his marriage was special. He did not celebrate it in a luxurious style, as we usually see with even our own children, but had the modesty of choosing our school as the place for celebration. Under the hands of our artists Jayaprakash and Ericks the place won an impressively festive look. There was no live band, no glamorous outfit, but by no means did it wear a 'poor man's look'. It was sweet and warm and in all respects exhibiting the mentality which is Shishu Mandir's very own. Hats off to Mahadevan!



**The Rotaract and Interact Clubs**

Mr. Manoj Kabre, an active Rotarian, discovered his heart for Shishu Mandir. Their two youth wings, the Interact and the Rotaract Club, are platforms where they encourage youngsters to develop their responsibility towards the society. In true Rotary manner our applicants had to get the permission for membership from the central authority after which we performed the installation ceremony. Our Mama was the chief guest. She highlighted the common goals of Rotary and Shishu Mandir.

**Aspire Girls**



KPMG in its zeal to bring out excellence in girls' professional careers increased their support to us remarkably. From 6 selected candidates the number rose to 21 who get supported in a great way. The main focus lies on Science. Therefore regular visits to Kuppam, where they are exposed to Science experiments, widen their knowledge, and the previously dreaded subject becomes a cherished companion. They are guided by young scientists whom they can ask any question and be sure to get a meaningful answer. Every day they focus on a different subject in order to touch all the three: Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Such exemplary tutoring has its price, but KPMG is happy to sponsor our brainy students with Rs. 1200 per student per day.

**One more House Construction**

In the course of 11 years we occasionally received funds for the construction of small houses for the worst affected people in our area. Following this idea 45 houses were constructed, the most recent one for our 5<sup>th</sup> standard student Rakshitha. This time we faced the problem of getting sand at a reasonable price.

Consequently the construction took one whole year. Two other houses, which had been built by us in earlier years, were knocked down by a private builder to widen the road. To our utter surprise the families were given new houses at a place just 300 meters away.

### International Women's Day



Of all commemorative days in the year International Women's Day is celebrated in a great way at Shishu Mandir, as it is going hand in hand with Shishu Mandir's primary aim: the liberation of women. This year we focused on our Self Help Groups (SHGs). The programme started with a session on **Yoga for good Health** by Mr. Prabhu, a post graduate in Yoga Science, which was enriched by a video that highlighted the health benefits of yoga. From health the programme went to kitchen gardening, which was demonstrated by another video. Thus the International Women's Day concluded on a green note, but more importantly by spreading awareness.

### Our Drama troupe at Bagalkot

Our Kannada drama troop, that is students of class 1 to 9, had performed the play 'Bommanahalli Kindari Jogi' at Bagalkot by the invitation of the government. It must have been an impressive performance, as our troupe received another invitation, this time for the Ravindra Kalakshethra in



Bangalore City. What a jump!!! For our budding actors it was a thrilling experience and naturally they gave their very best to an audience of 1000 Bangaloreans. Ultimately they were even mentioned in the press.

### Ion Exchange – a new Supporter

It was a lucky turn that the MD of the Ion Exchange Company became aware of us at a time, when we were contemplating to have a water softener system, as the water at our school was extremely hard and not really suitable for consumption. They graciously donated a water plant to us which is a gift of Rs. 50,000, indeed an overwhelming present for us.

### Teachers' Joy in 'Enjoy'



Trelleborg from Sweden was kind enough to present us a new car, 'Enjoy', an 8-seater. It will be used to transport the teachers, doctors and also children to hospitals, when required. Since Trelleborg showed a great appreciation for our services, we dared to request them for a special help: the construction of a multi-purpose hall and for the higher education of our children.

### Canvassing for new Students

We think that the most powerful promoters of our vocational courses

are our students themselves. Consequently one Sunday all Community College students and their trainers gathered to move to Ramamurthy-nagar where they distributed pamphlets and explained about their experience in Shishu Mandir. Their testimony must have been impressive, as they collected 325 names of prospective students with their telephone numbers and addresses. As usual our electrical and automobile students also gave free services to the public. The fruit of this day is already seen in the new enrollments to the Community College.

### Trip to Delhi and Agra



Like last year our children participated in a 'Lego Robot Competition', in Chennai, where they secured the second prize. This qualified them to participate on the national level at Delhi. The robotics have to be programmed to fulfill specific tasks with utmost precision. Though our children could not fulfill their dream to win in this competition, they had the unique chance to see the **Taj Mahal**, the monument which stands out for Indian Culture per se and which adorns all their History books. It was indeed a dream come true.

## The Story of Gandhimathi V.



Gandhimathi, a BBA graduate from Karnataka, had to move to Tamilnadu to stay with her uncle and aunt. Her father, a brother of notorious sandal wood smuggler Veerappan, who was wanted by the police of Tamilnadu and Karnataka for the last three decades, had got many threats towards his family that he feared for his daughter's life. Further Gandhimathi had seen a fire accident, in which her parents were afire, a scene, which continued to haunt her all along. So her father hoped that a change of place and environment would do her good.

After her graduation she wanted to work. But due to her family background she was rejected many times. Finally one export garment company employed her as a quality checker. She earned Rs. 6000 per month, more than nothing, but very little for a person with a bachelor degree. So after six months she decided to continue her studies and work side by side. She came back to Bangalore. There also the search for a job proved extremely frustrating, so much so that she developed thoughts of suicide. Her only luck was that she had found a simple and cheap hostel which was run by Salesian Sisters. One Sister took a special interest in her and hearing her desperate story of searching a job and wanting to continue some kind of education, she directed her to Shishu Mandir Community College. There she was immediately accepted and admitted in the Tally course. Along with any vocational course Shishu Mandir also gives classes in English and Life Skills and as a special support for Gandhimathi Shishu Mandir paid her hostel fees. This was the turning point. For the first time after many years she could look forward to the future and her haunting memories became weaker and weaker. Her happiness increased even more, when after the completion of the Tally course she found a job as an accountant straight away and was paid Rs. 18,000. Life really brightened, she worked hard and happily in her company Agiti Logistics, which also noticed her genuine efforts and dedication. But life changed again. Her family wanted her to get married to a boy in Chennai. Gandhimathi could accept this happily, but leaving her company, where she had been so happy, was making her very sad. But again life changed: Agiti Logistics, her company, had a branch in Chennai and even a vacancy which Gandhimathi could take up. She immediately got employed and as they had experienced her eagerness at work before already, she was offered Rs. 23,000 straight away.

Your efforts and perseverance, Gandhimathi, have ultimately paid off. We all hope that your life will continue this happily , as it has turned now!

**Written and edited by Gregory Mark, Dhinakaran, Ericks and Hella Mundhra**