

Bright Sparks

Nalamdana Youth Education & Leadership Program Newsletter, Issue 5, June 2009

Student Editorial Team
2009

A.Praveena

K.Shruthi

G.Karthik

Hi Readers,

This is our fifth issue.

Hope you all enjoy our presentation.

-The Editorial Team

Congratulations!

The following were the top marks obtained in the 2009 board exams, among the Nalamdana Youth Education & Leadership Program students:

10th Grade:

R. Praveena: 93.6%

T.Revathi: 91.2%

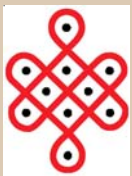
R.Brindha: 89%

12th Grade:

A.Praveena: 78.6%

R. Srimathi: 70%

V.Deenadayalan: 63.5%



Nalamdana

This issue includes articles by the students, as well as the report on the Youth Education & Leadership Program by Nalamdana, for the years 2007 to 2009.

Free Expression

Articles by the Students on topics of their choice:



AIDS AWARENESS

Prevention is better than cure. It is more true with reference to HIV/AIDS. Why? No cure is available for AIDS. Awareness programs have become quite essential to educate the masses about the dangerous effects of HIV/AIDS.

AIDS is not a disease by itself. It is different from all other diseases. Viruses are present in the air, but mother nature has provided us with the power of immunity. So we are able to keep our health normal.

Once this immunity becomes deficient, we are lost. It is beyond repair. That is what AIDS means "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome". What causes this immune deficiency?

When the HIV virus enters the human body, it destroys the "T" Cells which actually are our soldiers- protecting us from infections. Thus, in course of time, all the immune strength leaves the body and we become open to all kinds of infections. This final stage is called AIDS.

In modern times, fancy and fashions draw us away from the way of nature. We live in a way different from the discipline of the elders.

We have succeeded in eradicating some deadly diseases like small pox. We are trying to wipe out polio completely. But the field of medicine is perplexed by a new disease: AIDS, which has no known remedy or cure. The first case was reported in 1981 in the USA. Today it has spread all over the globe.

Affecting over 1% of India's total population, Tamil Nadu is one of the worst affected states in India after Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Sikkim.

Transmission of HIV is through sex, (Homosexual or Heterosexual), with an infected person; or through the use of infected needles (drug abuse); or through transfusion of infected blood and blood products. Even infants can contact the disease from a HIV affected mother, through the placenta.

A cure for AIDS is still a dream. AIDS awareness programs have become a must. The youth should be advised to avoid free

*"A Cure for
AIDS is
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dream"*

sex. They must be educated about the dangers of drug abuse and sharing needles. Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society, (TANSACS), and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Directorate of Teacher Education, gave effective AIDS education, by training students of Standard IX and XII throughout Tamil Nadu. Yet, this is not enough.

HIV/AIDS education must be made a part of school curriculum right from standard VI. Life skills can be inculcated in young ones by developing love for a disciplined life.

A. PRAVEENA, XII

EVE-TEASING

Eve-teasing is a bad habit among some boys. Girls are very troubled by this. The boy is spoiling his future and his life. The main reason for eve-teasing is cinema. We must try to stop eve-teasing.

S. Vikram, IX.

A DREAM:

Once a boy got a magic paint brush. He didn't know that it was a magic brush. He went home and painted a beautiful flower pot and he showed his mother. His mother appreciated it.



After five minutes the flower pot disappeared from the paper. He was amazed! He saw

a real flower pot. He looked hard at it. He realised that, the flower pot was the one which he had drawn in his book. After that incident he was very happy. Whatever he drew with the magic brush, after five minutes became real. Suddenly he heard his mother's voice.. He realised that it was all a dream.

D. Prasanna vignesh
VIIIth. Std

BLACK MONEY

- * Black Money is not black in Colour.
- * It is the money which has avoided tax.
- * It came about by corruption.
- * Corruption is an offence in our country.
- * Corruption can be rooted out by vigilance.
- * If Black money is destroyed, the country will developed very quickly.
- * Nowadays corruption is under control, because of the awareness of people.

M. AJAY, Diploma 2nd year

MATHEMATICAL MIRACLE

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S. RAKESH, XI

WRITING STORY

Stories are the easiest way to improve the world.



Many great writers have appeared in this world. They include, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, etc..

Their stories have improved the power of imagination among the people.

Stories include power of imagination and moral.

Stories can be small, or written as a novel.

R.T.Abhishek
VIIIth Std



Storyboard activity with Anushka Meenakshi

INTERESTING FACTS

+ The word 'Umbrella' Comes from the Latin Root word 'Umbra', Meaning Shadow

+ Thomas A Edison invented a Voting Machine in 1869 that was never used.

K. Shruthi, XI

BOOKS AND READING

Happy is the man who acquires the habit of reading when he is young. He has secured a lifelong source of pleasure, instruction and inspiration. So long as he has his beloved books, he need never feel lonely. He always has a pleasant occupation of leisure moments so that he need never feel

bored. He is possessor of wealth more precious than gold. Ruskin calls books "Kings Treasure" - Treasuries filled, not with gold and silver and precious stones, but the richest much more valuable than there - Knowledge, noble thoughts and high ideals. Poor indeed is the man who does not read, and empty in his life.

Reading gives the highest kind of pleasure. Some books we read simply for pleasure and amusement - for example, good novels. We choose the right kind of books. When we are tired or the brain is weary with serious study, it's the healthy recreation to lose our selves in some observing story written by a master Hand.

Books are the most faithful of friends. Our friends may change but our books are always patiently waiting to talk to us. They are never cross, peevish or unwilling to converse, as our friends sometimes are. It is no wonder a reader becomes a "Book Lover".

Mr. Bala Gangathar Thilak, says that he would welcome good books even in hell because he feels that books have the charm to turn hell into paradise.

Holiday by Mr. Rabindranath Tagore is my favourite Story.

K. SRUTHI, XI

(Ideas borrowed from High School English Grammar & Composition by Wren & Martin)

*"Books are
our most
faithful of
friends"*

HOW I SPENT MY LAST SUMMER HOLIDAYS

(An imaginative piece)

Summer holidays, as far as I am concerned are of great importance to me and my family. Each year we spend our summer vacation in one hill resort or the other. Having enjoyed South India's famous hill resorts namely Ooty, Kodai and Yercaud, we decided to spend the summer in Kashmir. The very suggestion met with discouragement from our parents. But my brother and I insisted that we should make it in spite of the risk. We left madras by train. We had a brief stop over at Delhi we reached Srinagar, the diamond jewel of India.

Srinagar is one place which should be visited during different seasons. The river Jhelum runs throughout the entire city. There are seven bridges over the rivers we spend most of our time on our floating boat house, on the "Dal Lake" which is a major tourist attraction. One can see floating hotels and gardens. Then we reach Sher Bhavani temple and climbed up the Shankar hill temple and Gulmarg by Pondi.

A trip to Kashmir without shopping lacks charm. We purchased a lot of things etc., we shall never forget our summer holidays.

A. PRAVEENA, XII A



English Class

Every Summer, workshops are held at nalamdana, for these children.

Interactive sessions on improving English skills, communication skills using theatre, radio plays and popular art forms. These sessions are conducted by in-house trainers as well as volunteers and special resource persons.

Two stories, written and illustrated by the students, working in groups, using paper cuts and paint:

THE GOLDEN EGG



A farmer had a hen which laid two eggs per day. One day the hen laid a golden egg.

The farmer was

surprised to see the golden egg. He sold the golden egg and lead a happy life for a while.

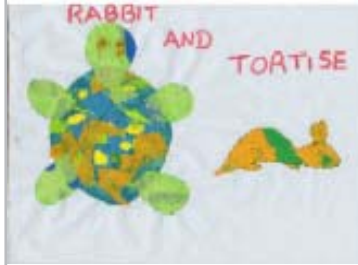


Soon he become a rich and greedy man. He decided to kill the hen and take out all the golden eggs from its stomach. He did that but no golden egg was found.

Finally he realized his foolishness and felt sorry for what he did.

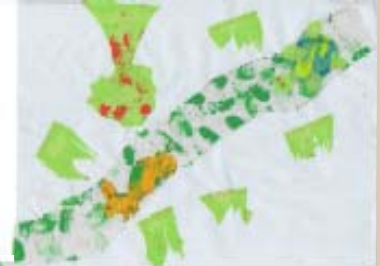
Moral: never be a greedy person.

THE RABBIT AND THE TORTOISE



Rabbit challenged a tortoise for a running race. Tortoise agreed to the race.

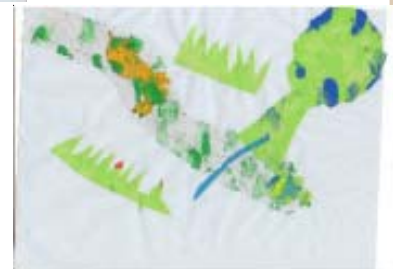
Rabbit had a view that tortoise moves slowly and it will never win the race.



They started the running race. Rabbit moves fast and tortoise moves slowly.

So, rabbit thought he can take rest for a while and he falls asleep.

But tortoise keeps moving and win the race finally.



Moral: slow and steady wins the race.



Group Activity

Activities summary:

1. **English language lessons** by Prema Raghunath
2. **Interactive Spoken English** by Kaveri Bharath
3. **Theatre training** by Iko and Nalamdana core team.
4. **Trip to Library**, accompanied by Bama and Arivalagan
5. **Creation of flip charts** on Reproductive health, assisted by Bama and Ramesh. Final versions were made with inputs from the core team, and was made into a short film by R.Jeevanandham, Project Director, Nalamdana.



7. **Special Event:**

Annual meet and thanksgiving June 2007. Chief guest Dr. Nirmala Ravishankar (Board Member, Friends of Nalamdana, U.S.A.)
Two former students announced their willingness to support new students, at this event - a proud day for Nalamdana.

6. **Field Trip** with students, organised by P.Oyyavandhan, (Senior Core Member), as part of Nalamdana's community service: Vairavan Kuppam overnight stay, drama by Nalamdana on Child rights, sports organized by Nalamdana scholarship students for local children.



8. **Computer classes** by Deepam Group's volunteers

9. **Videography sessions** by Anushka Meenakshi

List of Students Supported through Nalamdana's program for the Year 2008-2009

No.	Student	Std	Sex	School
1	R. Srimathi	12	F	St. Raphael's Girls Higher Secondary School, Santhome,
2	V. Vijayashanthi	12	F	St. Raphael's Girls Higher Secondary School, Santhome,
3	V.Deenadayalan	12	M	P.S.Higher Secondary School, Mylapore,
4	M.Ajay	12	M	P.S.B.Polytechnic college, Kelambakkam,
5	A. Praveena	12	F	Manuelmony Matric.Hr.Sec.School,
6	V. Anbalagan	12	M	Govt. high secondary school, Solinganallur
7	P.Surendar	12	M	Don Bosco Higher Secondary school, Perambur,
8	N.Rajalakshmi	11	F	St.Antony's Girls School, Madha Church Road,
9	S.Arthanareeswaran	11	M	Sri Iyyapa Matriculation School, Shollinganallur
10	Banu	11	F	Rani Meyammai Girls Higher Secondary School, Mandaveli
11	G.Karthik	11	M	P.T.Lee Chengalvaraya Naicker polytechnic College, Vepery,
12	S.Rakesh	11	F	Government Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam,
13	K.Sruthi	11	F	Ganeshbai Galada Jain Girl's School, Mint Street,
14	S.Ganesh	10	M	P.S.Higher secondary School, Mylapore
15	Queen Cindrella	10	F	Government High school, Okkiyam Thuraipakkam,
16	P.Rajalaksmi	10	F	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur,
17	R.Brindha	10	F	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur,
18	S.Rama Prabha	10	F	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur,
19	T.Revathi	10	F	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur,
20	R.Komala	10	F	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur,
21	R.Praveena	10	F	Avvai Home, T.V.R.G. Higher Secondary School, Adyar,
22	B.Aravind	9	M	Sri VenugopalVidyalaya, Matric.school, Sringeri Mutt Road,
23	G.Sinduja	9	F	Sri Sankara Matric.Hr.Sec.School, Thiruvanmiyur,
24	C.H.Sindhuja	9	F	Kesary Higher Secondary School, Mylapore,
25	K.Manimegalai	9	F	Government High school, Okkiyam Thuraipakkam,
26	K.Sowmiya	9	F	Government High school, Okkiyam Thuraipakkam,
27	J. Kanchan	9	F	Government High school, Okkiyam Thuraipakkam,
28	V.Sharmili	9	F	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanmiyur,
29	S.Vikram	9	M	Corporation High School, V.P.Koil street, Mylapore,
30	R.T.Abishek	8	M	Sri VenugopalVidyalaya, Matric.School, Sringeri Mutt Road,
31	D.Prasanna Vignesh	8	M	Santhome Higher Secondary School, Mylapore,
32	V.Siva Sakthi	8	F	Pole Star, Matric Higher Secondary School, Nanmangalam,
33	G. Usha Devi	8	F	P.U.M School, Perungudi,
34	N.Ramya	8	F	P.U.M School, Perungudi,
35	S.Gopinathan	8	M	P.U.M School, Perungudi,



THE NALAMDANA YOUTH EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Nalamdana, is a Non- Profit NGO working with urban slum and rural communities, since 1993 . They have been supporting economically challenged young students since 1995, selecting them under a rigorous process, to ensure they complete their 12th grade and also learn leadership qualities.

Under this scheme, students from localities within Chennai, who attend different schools (corporation and private) have been helped by Nalamdana's Scholarship to complete their basic schooling every year. Each year, as the students complete their 12th., a new batch is selected for the next year, keeping the total at thirty five.

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M. Sampath

Assistance to the
student editorial
team, provided by:
Bama Jayabalan and
Kaveri Bharath

Selection process

Applicants are selected after a rigorous screening process that includes an application with academic record, essay, group discussion, personal interview and students' home visit. The parents are also interviewed in order to understand the background of the children and their problems from a different angle. At the end of every year the academic performance of the student, as well as their extra curricular participation, is reviewed.



As on date, over 150 students have been supported. Of these, most of them completed 12th grade. A few chose to stop at 10th grade and take up job oriented training. A few have established themselves in various professional fields like dental hygiene, engineering related firms, while some outstanding performers have been recruited by leading Software Companies. Some of them have pursued college education with help from other donors, some of whom were sourced by Nalamdana.

The students learn to interact together, gain confidence and have fun while they learn during their summer breaks.

You too can help this program, by supporting a student, contributing skills , or donating in general towards program costs, summer workshops and day trips.

Please visit our website www.nalamdana.org for more information on Nalamdana's work.

We Thank:

- Asha Chapters - USA
- The Rani Chandran Memorial Fund
- The Kaveri Mani Endowment Grant
- And all the individual donors who support this program