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**Isai Ambalam School Newsletter - Volume-9**

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Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 6:42 AM

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**Isai Ambalam School Newsletter**

Volume 11 April- August 2022

Isai Ambalam school has a goal of supporting each child and teacher connect with who they are to achieve their highest potential. We restarted school in April and continued our theme of learning about each month and what is special about the month - with learning about the palm tree and a week on palm leaf craft, the beauty that came out of these crafts and learning set the

**Education trip to Thiruvannamalai**

The group of 22 children and 5 adults went on 3-day educational trip to a small village named Sorpanandal in the Thiruvannamalai district to know about natural farming. We travelled on the express bus so that the children could know the names of the villages, the route, and the distance. Mr.

tone for this term. We approached Maths, Science through crafts, projects and games. We engaged with Gardening and setting up sports facilities and had educational trips to support our learning and growth. This newsletter describes these initiatives.

### **Palm Tree**

The Palm Tree is a very giving tree with every part of the tree - leaves, flower, fruit, sap (palm jaggery), trunk, to the roots is useful, no wonder it is the state tree of Tamil Nadu. It grows abundantly around Auroville, yet many children do not know much about it. We decided to honour the tree and learn not only about environmentally, but also culturally and by working with our minds and hands and learning visually to do Palm Craft. From the 1st to the 8th grade, we planned relevant goals, outcomes and lessons.

In aani month when the palm fruits are abundant, a Palm Festival organized by an NGO Panagkaadu and children from 4th to 8th grade went to Poorikudisai village to participate in it. Hundreds of Palm tree climbers participated and they displayed a variety of products made from Palm trees. The children interacted with many of them and understood the usefulness of Palm trees. After seeing the palm products, children wanted to learn the skills of creating various items themselves. The organizers were very cooperative and motivated the children to learn and create various useful articles from the palm tree.

Chandrasekar has a farm and does organic farming. He took care of the accommodation and the food. The children differentiated their life in the new environment. The place is fully covered with farm areas with water irrigation.

The children planned what they are going to learn for 3 days.

According to their plan on the 1st day, they learned about collecting the seeds and store them for a long time and learned how to prepare the dried bottle guard as a vessel to store liquid items for many days. They used the empty bottle guard as a musical instrument. They played with it. They learned how to care for the animals and feed them as they care for the school cows.

The next day they learned how to swim in the river. They learned to go trekking on the hill. They learned the types of vegetables which were grow there. They learned to harvest vegetables and some processing.

On the last day, they learned how to channel the water to the whole farm. They came to know different varieties of millet and harvested them. Mr. Chandru explained more in detail about Nammalvar farming and how he follows



The 3rd and 4th-grade learned two songs about the Palm trees, the benefits of planting Palm trees and Nungu (Ice-apple – i.e. the Asian Palmyra Palm) and Panai vellam. They learned the difference between Panai-vellam and sugar, and how it supports the environment in general. They learned the medicinal benefit of Panai-vellam.

The 5th-grade children learned a song and learned to read a story about the palm tree in Tamil and English. Through the story, they also learned “nothing is ours” – “Everything is given by the Divine as a gift”.



After returning to school, the children started learning from the literature collected from the exhibition on various themes. The teachers created respective texts according to the level of each grade, and they eagerly started learning them.

it.



He and his family gave nutritious food, snacks, and herbal tea to all children. They took care of the children very well.



The STEM and Isai Ambalam teachers supported and guided the children to be more effective and efficient.

### **Aadu Pulli Aatam**

Learning about culture includes traditional games in Isai Ambalam school children we started playing Aadupuliyattam with a few children, as the materials to play the game is minimal almost all children started





The 6th-grade children learned a song, processing the palm leaves to make various products. The 7th & 8th-grade children learned how and why the manuscripts were made in palm leaves in the olden times, why it was selected as our Tamil Nadu state tree, why it was called “Karpaga Virutcham”, the types of palms, the uses of palm trees, how to plant and cultivate it, how it protects the soil erosion, why it is planted on the coastal and borders of the field, history of the tree, how it allows surviving the birds and animals, it’s medicinal values and uses. Additionally, they have done the exercise and understood the concept of the text. We invited 2 resource persons to teach handicraft products made in palm leaves for a week. We organized their time to teach multiple products to graded children. The children learned to make earrings in various designs, pouch and pencil box, bird, a hand fan, a watch, ring, basket, stars, cubes, keychains, triangular pyramid, square, etc. from palm. They learned the mathematical aspects too. They enjoyed it and were motivated. They were able to observe the resource

playing it. To tap into the energy an Aadupuliyattam tournament was conducted in the school. The children and adults were divided into four groups where everyone challenged and played with the others in round robin fashion. One pair from each group then faced each other which allowed the children to also watch many parallel games and learn from it.



#### **Building the ground**

The finals of the Aadu Pulli was conducted differently. We wanted to build a large court. Interesting the children wanted to learn mathematics while building the court so they got it right. We challenged them to build the court without using a measuring tape and only with a rope. The 7th graders used ratios to figure out the lengths they needed. The children were able to build the court within half an hour and get all the line segments right.

#### **Tournament:**

On the same day, the tournament was conducted and there were four places where the tournament was conducted inside the school. From each group, the finalist person was taken and they were playing on the big court that the children made. Initially, it is very difficult

persons' teaching and concentrate on their work without distractions. Of them, 25 children developed the confidence to teach their schoolmates as well. They wanted to show their products to their parents and exhibit them at home. The school has planned to have a palm craft session in the regular school timetable. They also have the session during sleepovers. The children started thinking about their forefathers' wisdom and their recognition of living naturally and how it has been destroyed over time. Children wanted to revive their understanding of using natural products and lead a healthy life. This project gave a memorable experience for all the children and also the teachers.

### **Palm craft**

After completing the Palm project interested students got homework assignments and did multiple palm products at their homes. They taught their siblings and neighbors. The older grade students have created their own designs. They made earrings in triangle shapes, stars with more petals, fish in different sizes, etc.



to play without having a big picture of the whole ground and doesn't know how to decide which place to place the goats and the tigers. Finally, it took half an hour to complete one game and it was a challenge for both the opponent. For the tigers and goats, we asked the KG children to stand on the points wherever the players are asking to move and stand. In the end, one person won the game and the session ended nicely.



### **To teach the children 'the concept of full and empty'.**

Kindergarten children use different types of materials to do different activities. Today they have done measuring activity. Each child comes in turn, takes empty vessels, and fills them with water. Some children filled the vessel without spilling and overflowing, and some enjoyed pouring into vessels.



After the individual performance, we



### Pythagoras Theorem with 8th Graders

The Pythagoras theorem states that if a triangle is right-angled (90 degrees), then the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides. Observe the following triangle ABC, in which we have  $AC^2 = AB^2 + BC^2$



To prove that 8th grade Isai Ambalam children worked on the visual proof based on Indian Knowledge Systems of the Pythagoras theorem. This involved making a triangle and its corresponding squares.

Further another congruent triangle and a polygon was created that covered the sum of the squared of the two smaller sides. The same two triangles and a polygon were then used to cover the square of the hypotenuse (larger side) proving that the sum of the two is the third.

tried them in pairs and asked them to fill them without wasting water. Here they took a little more time as being careful not to spill and should not waste water.

This game activates their motor skills and they learned that we should not waste water.

They came to know the size of each vessel. If it is small, they have to be careful and it took more time to fill, and if it is big it is easy to fill and takes less time.

### Ball passing activity

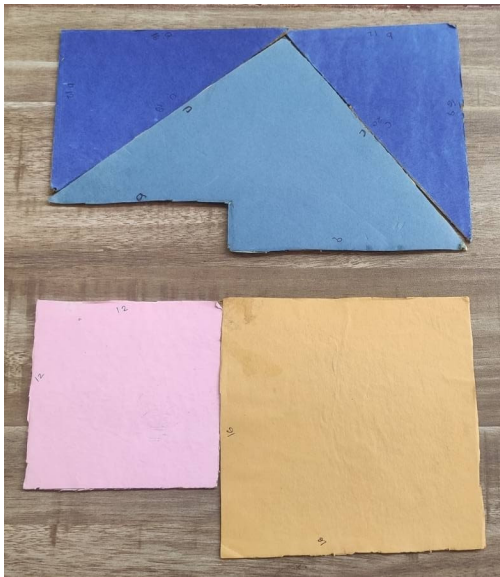
Two groups are standing in the parallel lines. Two balls will be given to the first child who stands the first in both rows. They have to pass the ball above their head to the next person. Both groups have to start together and whoever passes the ball to the last person is the winner. This game motivates their alertness and concentration.



### Arranging the pebbles on the picture

The KG children are much interested to arrange the pebbles on the picture. The teacher drew a picture for each child and gave the pebbles. The KG children were able to focus and do this activity. Through this activity, their fingers got strength, and eye and hand coordination has concentrated. They can be in silence





They applied Pythagoras theorem while doing the ground measurement to check whether the two lines are exactly perpendicular to each other. They put the tape on the lines and marked two points 4 ft and 3 ft. They measured hypotenuse it was nearly 5ft.  $4^2+3^2=5^2$ . Then They confirmed that the two lines are perpendicular to each other.

In the garden, 8th-grade children grew creepers. They made three different types of creeper beds. The first bed needs a vertical height of 4ft wooden support sticks and the rest two need 5ft and 6.5ft. They used Pythagoras's theorem to cut the wooden support sticks that will make the vertical height of 4ft, 5ft, and 6.5ft.

### Prime and Composite Numbers

The 5th class children learned this week, prime, and composite numbers. We introduced the prime numbers to children it was difficult for them to picture the concept (as prime numbers are numbers, that can be divisible by one and itself). With the dienes block,

till they complete their activity.



### Shramadhan at Isai Ambalam

The word Shramadhan means labor (Shram) and donation (Dhaan). Shramadhan means a voluntary contribution by the person towards community welfare involving physical effort. To incorporate that quality in the students, Isai Ambalam school organized a cleaning activity on the new school ground on the 29th of August, Monday.



All the school teachers and students from 5th to 8th grade participated in this activity. Everyone assembled at 8.30 am on campus and started cleaning the school ground. Volunteers from STEM Land, Shifuians also joined the cause. Each of them took a small area and started cleaning along with the children. This activity incorporated the qualities of community building, voluntary contribution towards community welfare, and Self-growth.

we asked them to form a square/rectangle starting from 3 if a number can be represented as a square/rectangle then it is a composite number ...whereas if can't then it is a prime number.



Through the activity, all the children learned the concept. After that, we played a game where the numbers asked by the teacher or a student find and raise their hands if it is the prime number they must raise their left hand and the composite number raise their right hand. it was very fun and they enjoyed it.

At the end of the game, we learned the divisibility rules as a simpler way to find prime and composite numbers.

### **Small trip of Gardening in Isai Ambalam**

#### **How to engage the children:**

First introduces the basic knowledge of planting and seasonal vegetables. They had learned about farming and wanted to know how farming could be done with limited water. They have different types of seeds like white radish, tomato, Beetroot, Brinjal, and eggplant. Our students select the white radish and Beetroot. This year February to April, they decided to cultivate the white radish and beetroot for Planning.

#### **Step 1: Clean the place:**



Research has shown that getting involved in one's community can improve overall life satisfaction, lower stress leading to a decreased risk of premature death, and can help improve conditions such as depression. The activity took place for 45 minutes. Children enjoyed doing it and they wanted the ground to be used for sports. Children started using it to play frisbee and football.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo**

Sundaravalli, who has worked at Savitri Bhavan on the works of Mother and Sri Aurobindo came from Chennai to Isai Ambalam School for the 150<sup>th</sup> Sri Aurobindo's Anniversary Birth to interact with children on Sri Aurobindo's life events. She is also the sister of Subash (former executive of Isai Ambalam School) and is a well-wisher of the school. She came to Auroville and stayed for 6 days and helped the children to learn about Sri Aurobindo. She narrated the prison experience for class 6, Uttarapara's speech for class 7, and the 5 dreams of Sri Aurobindo for class 8. The children had a new experience. They wrote down their doubts and had conversations for clarification with her.



Third standard and four standard students are joined. They clean the place using equipments like rake, trowel, hand wheel barrow, fork, shovel, watering can, and garden hose.

**Step 2: Preparing the raised beds:**

They made raised beds. Each bed consisted of 5 layers and the dimensions are 15'x 3'x 2'. They measured the place and sprayed water on the bed using the watering can and garden hose. After the soil will be ready for cultivating seeds.

**Step 3: Seeding the plants (Radish and Beetroot):**

Alex, Saranya, Seventhi, and Kayalvaizhi, Siva, Stella were involved in teaching the raised beds and in planting seeds with the children. After waiting for a few days the children were thrilled when they could see small shoots coming out.

**Step 4: Removing the unwanted plants in the raised bed:**

Over the months they were taking caring of the plants and pouring water to the plants and weeding and noticing if insects had affect the plants are not. The children felt responsible for their plants and noticed them carefully.

**Step 5: Harvesting the Radish:**

The plants had grown well. They checked one plant if it had grown. When they saw that it had grown they harvested the plants and gave it to the Isai Ambalam school kitchen.

They enjoyed the healthy vegetables they ate for lunch which were free of

During the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, the children practiced the "The Pilgrimage of Sri Aurobindo" play and came to know about the physical activity of Judo and the principles told by the Mother.



On 25<sup>th</sup> August the children enacted the play, Judo, and dance at the SAWCHU building.

**The school blog is available at:**

[tinyurl.com/iaschool/](http://tinyurl.com/iaschool/)

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pesticides. They learned the ways of the plants in their garden.



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