There is always something special about every year that makes us want to write and share with you all. The special thing about this year is that we have retained all our teachers from the local area and that all of them are so happy to work with children that the overall atmosphere of the school is extremely joyful and enticing. There has been a reduction in the number of hostel children since 19 children of the 12 to 14 age group passed out and joined the government schools in their villages. This has brought the hostel back to manageable levels. At present there are 56 children in the hostel. The hostel building structure was completed in May when the concrete roof of the first floor was done. We were very hard pressed for labour. And we have to thank our stars and Mr. Arun of ITI Dharmapuri who took the lead in organizing his civil students to do shram daan for our hostel building. We will be forever indebted to those students both girls and boys who took so much joy in working with concrete in the hot sun in May. All we need now is to finish the new building to make the place comfortable before the winter.

There are 36 children in the NCLP Project and 60 in the primary school. There has also been a stabilizing of the day school admissions and in all we now have 96 students.

A new teacher called Muthulakshmi is now taking care of the LKG and UKG children totally 25 in number. Rani as usual is doing wonders with the 1st level children 15 in number. Rameshwari is comfortable with the 2nd level 19 in number and she is showing signs of becoming a good public relation person for puvidham. Samandhi is looking after and nurturing the 3rd, 9 in number and the 4th, 11 in number. 5th has two sections the tamil medium 6 children is looked after by a new teacher called Sasi from the next village and the English medium of 6 children is taken care of by Madhavraj. He is also teaching the 6th English medium of 4 girls. The 6th Tamil medium 9 is being taught by kuppusamy. The 7th Tamil medium 7 in number is being taken care of by Sembagam and the 7th English medium 5 in number is being guided by Meenakshi.

In april Madhavraj and Kuppusamy spent 5 weeks in HBCSE as teacher fellows working out experiments to make the curriculum more relevant to Farming as a central activity through which learning in all the subjects will be facilitated. Apart from this the other activities are Origamy by Samanthi, Clay work by Rameshwari, stitching and embroidery by Rani, Tailoring by Muthulakshmi, Farming by Meenakshi and Kuppusamy, Computers by Madhavraj, Painting and drawing by Meenakshi.

In may Rani, Sembagam, Samanthi and Rameshwari went to VIKASANA school in Bangalore for training. Malathi akka and Nagu spent 4 days teaching them ways to bring science into the classroom, art work and craft, and conversational English.

Ram and his class of last year 8th went for a trek to ooty along with the teachers. It was their first experience of seeing a real forest and many wonderful memories remain in their hearts of the trip. They stayed at the guest house in the Korakunda estate. The visit was facilitated by the Chamraj tea estate group through Mr Durga Hegde.

Rani learns balancing tricks

The new hostel building

building pit mud house with roof.
From the beginning of June this year Meenakshi has taken the backseat in decisions about the activities in the school and the teachers have been managing admissions and organizing the work all by themselves with a few words of advice from Meenakshi. The idea is to slowly have them take care of all the everyday affairs of the school and then Meenakshi will be free to take up organic farming extension work in a nearby village called Kalanikattur with the help of her class of 7th.

To start this off Meenakshi and Kuppusamy went to Itarsi to Mr. DIPAK SUCHDE’s farm to learn the basics of Natueco farming. They have come back and started to make the two basic elements instrumental to the philosophy and practice of Natueco farming: Amruth mitti and Amruth jal.

The 36 children of the NCLP project received one set of uniforms from the project and another set from The Hemalatha trust in Dharmapuri. We added to the quantity and got one set of uniform for all the children in the hostel since they were not having good clothes.

Some children went for their Karate test and got their next colour belt. 35 children are regular karate students. The singing master Prapanjan comes every Sunday and the 25 children who learn singing are on to the second kaalam.

Madhavraj and Meenakshi went to a Nai talim work shop organized by Samanvaya knowledge trust, a Chennai based consulting organization, at CCD Madurai in August as resource persons. They trained 20 teachers in the teaching of science, Math and English over two days. August 15th was great fun and lot of team games like Kho Kho were organized. There were also poetry competitions and drawing competitions.

Rani and Muthulakshmi are going for a tailoring class to learn proper tailoring to be able to teach the children of the 7th and 8th class. We have 3 sewing machines and the children have already mastered the basic straight stitching.

Lots of fun at kho kho

30 Children and 6 teachers went on a tour of Rameshwaram and Madurai visiting vaigai dam and a huge waterfall called Aagaya gangai at Kollimalai on the way. It was a very fulfilling trip and all of them were awed by the whole experience of the spread of Tamilnadu and the difference in culture within the state. Over and above this was the wonder of seeing the Indian ocean and the Bay of Bengal mixing and yet maintaining their unique identity at Dhanush kodi. The children were also shocked to see dead turtles on the shore and asked many questions about the reasons of their dying in such large numbers. There were discussions about the pollution and the children were talking about it for a long time. The children also proved their stamina again by walking 10 kms to and from Dhanush kodi. They all had a gala dip in the Bay of Bengal before walking back.

Empathy with the turtle’s fate

Do look us up at www.puvidham.net or come to puvidham in person any time.

If you would like to foster one or more children or contribute to any of the activities, do contact us at puvidham@gail.com

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September 09 puvidham narumanam