

Dear friends ,It is really wonderful to write to you all in the middle of the growing season, though the rains have not lived up to their initial promise. The learning activities got off to a great start in June,with about 15 new kids joining up.



The dome building We are short of classrooms space so we planned to build a new building during the summer vacation. The building will be a dome surrounded by 4 laboratory spaces and 4 classrooms around it. We hope to be able to use it as a planetarium too, with some portable planetarium equipment. We had two masons from Jhalawar in Rajasthan from Deven and Sudhi's school who came to Puvidham to learn to build with mud and brick. They were here for two weeks during which we finished the foundation and

made a few arches. With a lot of inputs from Sabarimani (currently in 9th class) ,Rani & Moorthi, now the building has come up to lintel level and is waiting to be domed and roofed .

The school & Hostel

On June 6th the school and the hostel restarted with a new energy. A lot of butterflies came into the Puvidham garden and a few old trees put out branches and reached far. Though some of the butterflies flew away ,there are 60 Tulirs, Buds,Dewdrops,Honeybees and Malars in Puvidham. We have 20 children in the hostel. Maheswari ,a graduate in history from Nagarkoodal village has joined as a teacher and Moorthi left Puvidham for further studies.

The paper workshop Mr. Ranjan De conducted a joyful & wonderful workshop from 27th June to 3rd of July on form development using paper , matchsticks and other waste material . Folding and rolling newspaper into coils was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and the fact that they were converted into beautiful objects was a total wonder for them . Ranjan lets the kids innovate and create and they made paper bowls and flower bowls etc. Madhavaraj came out with a totally new product - an egg holder made out of paper .

Cardpaper forms on the folded plate principle surprised all by supporting the weight of a couple of bricks. The beautiful match sticks pyramids were the high light of the workshop.



The farming activity

As we got some early rains we started the farming project for the Buds and Dewdrops. While the Buds(3rd standard children) have a common plot near their classroom, the Dewdrops (4th standard children) are very enthusiastic and eager to work - measuring and drawing, making bunds, planting and weeding - on their individual plots. We expect a flood of fresh juicy vegetables in October!

Learning to be worldly wise

Nagini & Ram who were at Puvudham last year, are at Bangalore. Nagini, now with Poorna school, organized a tour of Bangalore for 19 Buds, Dewdrops and Honeybees from August 10 till 14. They had a great time at the Bannerghatta safari park. The visit to HAL gave the children a lot of information about the flying machines that they saw for the first time, taking off and landing. The wonders of science in the Visweswaraiya Science Museum appealed to the children and now they do a lot more experiments and record them neatly.



Anees, a 'snake' expert who has many pet snakes, shared his knowledge with the children. He helped the children to handle the snakes and their fears and superstitions slithered away!

Independence Day & sports day

We all had great fun with sports & games on the Independence Day after the flag hoisting. We had marble and spoon race, tyre race, stone relay race, running and indoor games like Dumb -charades, Hindi Quiz and musical stones which they all enjoyed the most. Meenakshi's father, Mr. Harpal Singh (Nanaji to all the kids) also had fun distributing the prizes.

Knitting workshop

Mrs Rajabala Singh, Meenakshi's mother and Naniji to all, held a workshop on knitting from August 20th till 25th. Malars(7th standard children), Rani and Maheswari have learned to knit scarves and sweaters. Now Malars are teaching the Honeybees and Dewdrops to knit. It seems they all enjoy knitting very much and this winter will be warm and cozy!

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