



# TI TIMES



SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2005 - 2006

## Newsletter from T.I. School, Ambattur, Chennai - 600 053.

(For Private Circulation only)

SEPTEMBER 2005

### INSIDE

- + WATER PLAY
- + THEATRE
- + NEWS IN PICTURES
- + BOOK REVIEWS
- + PROFILES
- + YOUNG ACHIEVERS
- + READERS MAIL
- ... AND MUCH MORE



TI wins overall championship for the Seventh consecutive year in the 9th AMMF Sports Meet hosted by TI on 10th and 11th August 2005.

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Dear reader,

*What are textbooks for? This is not something that came up in my head overnight. It has been there, gnawing at my conscience since long. Are we really giving our children the best material? It may even outrage some of you if I say we are better off without these textbooks, which anyway don't cater to the 'Child's' needs. Unfortunately, publishers and authors bound by rigid norms and vague stipulations combined with commercial reasons are unable to give their best. Finally, it's a whole gamut of reasons, logic and practicality at play where no one is at fault but everyone suffers in silence. And the nightmares are real and there to live with, with the kind of material that is brought out.*

*Is textbook a haphazard compilation of facts and concepts, forgetting that, all what the child needs is a simple lucid material that excites and entices him to learn more? The textbook is primarily for the child, not for 'examination' or teachers. It must be well within the child's language, vocabulary, comprehension and presentation. If we don't provide the right kind of textbook/reading material to the child we may lose out on their natural, inborn skill of self-learning which is essential and inevitable in higher learning. The present textbooks (with a few honourable exceptions) with their pseudo-standard style and content if not anything, gag those skills in children instead of nurturing. The textbook must be 'a joy' that must be savoured and devoured by the child and not something to be coped with in the classroom.*

*With all this in mind it's but natural that we want to start our own material production though, in a small way.*

*A team of teachers is already working on it and we hope to produce a part of it by the second term.*

*No doubt, that's a daunting task ahead we have on hand, but, isn't it our responsibility to put some strength and power in the book and make it more meaningful to a 'child'? We will keep you informed as the work progresses.*

Regards



A Leader to be Proud of

*Our Principal Shri Venkatkrishnan is one among the eleven Principals of City Schools to be conferred with the title*

**"PADMA VIDHYASAGAR"**

*by Padma Sarangapani Cultural Academy and Lions Clubs International Dist. 324 -A6*

**OUR GOAL - EXCELLENCE**

## ***KG in Cool Waters***

### ***Making the most of Water Play***

It has always been my secret wish to jump into those puddles on the road and splash water on a rainy day and take great pleasure in watching the irksome faces of the passersby but as a grown up I restrain myself from doing it and I am sure this is every adult's wish too.

Children have a natural affinity to water. But, every time there is a water play session parents get a little apprehensive and anxious for the fear of their child getting infected. Perhaps it is time to take a close look at the nature of 'Water play' and the potential it holds for engaging young children in meaningful learning.

Water play not only fosters curiosity, imagination and experimentation but also certain skills like;



- Social skills –through working together, sharing things, respecting each others' space
- Physical skills- through use of both large and small muscles while tapping, splashing, pouring, swimming, jumping etc in the tub
- Language skills – through usage of a variety of related vocabulary like dip, wet, dry, squeeze, wipe, splash, swim, wash etc
- Mathematical skills- through measuring bottles, containers and terms like half, full, empty etc
- Knowledge of water animals like fish crocodile etc

Finally the effect is soothing and therapeutic to a restless child and above all it is simply fun to play in water as there is no right or wrong way of doing it.

As Head of the Section it has always been a struggle to explain, cajole, and convince adults about the importance of 'water play' and I hope I 've sufficiently inspired you all to encourage and allow your children to experience the joy.

For all you know, the Internationally famous, young swimmer Kutraleeswaran must have made a head start from his nursery tub! Isn t it just the right start for our kids too!

***(Teachers do use their discretion in case of unwell and sensitive children for 'Water Play')***

Heather  
Head (KG Section)

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## ***Theatre Talk***

The annual Drama and Dialogue Festival held at The School, KFI (Krishnamurthy Foundation of India) is the most prestigious and much awaited event where select schools are invited to participate. TI school has been a part of this for the past several years, developing and training its own theatre group in the process. The uniqueness of this is, at the end of each theatre performance, a panel of experts interviews children to see if they have really

### *Histrionics at its height*



**'Shakthi'**



**'Pittan'**

identified themselves with the roles they played and the issues they portrayed. This kind of an interaction with the students helps them deliver an intense performance and live their characters.

This time, the theatre group of class XI staged a mime "Shakthi" and a drama "Pittan" in the Drama Festival which were highly acclaimed as 'powerful and thought provoking'. Mrs. Nagammai and Mrs Meera Gopi led the team.

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### ***Magpie Robin & Copper Smith in Ambattur!***



Folks! Don't mistake them for some Hollywood stars on a city visit. These are two of the many varieties of birds that frequent Ambattur and surrounding areas. "Bird watching is something you can start from your backyard" says Mr. Ravishankar, Physics teacher from SRM Higher Secondary School, in a lecture session on "Amateur bird watching" organized on 6.8.05 as a part of Nature Club activity. Ravi is not a stranger to the school, he was a staff in T.I. five years ago. An avid bird watcher himself, he can identify many species by name and his presentation left the children of std. XI spellbound.



***Mr. Ravishankar on 'Bird Watching'***

Birding is fun and a rewarding hobby. Learning to identify different kinds by their shape, colour and song is a hobby, which can bring many moments of real pleasure to both children and adults alike. It can change an ordinary walk in the park or a street into an exciting adventure. Thankfully, Ambattur is still alive with some greenery and birds. Bird watchers! Start from your back yard. A good pair of binoculars is a bonus but all you need to do is, just stand and stare.

## News in Pictures

### Preparing for IIM - insights in career planning



*Mr. Krishna, Senior Executive - Marketing (Retd.) interacting with students of class XII on different career options.*

### Opportunities in Service Sector



*Wing Commander P.S.K. Kumar with Students of class XI and XII on Combined Defense Services*

### Where does the garbage go?

### Class IV knows



*As a part of their English lesson activity, students learnt to make pen holders, greeting cards, doll houses, book marks etc., from waste material.*

### A sister bonds with her brother

### Vasudaiva kutumbam



*Primary students celebrating Raksha Bandan*



*Primary Children celebrating Krishna Jayanthi*

### **On the Right Tracks Since 1996**

You would take a second look at him when he glides past and wonder if that packet of sprouts in his hands has something to do with his exuberant charm. He vouches for its goodness and offers you too, not before rattling away all the nutrients it provides. He is the 'Final Statement' on health & Fitness. Mr. Ramalingam, our Physical Director has a casual air about him and you know, that he knows, he is competent, passionate and a complete authority on his subject.

He has a range of degrees from Sociology to Athletics under his 'Black Belt' and the never-ending list of awards, medals, certificates and championships he achieved is mind-boggling. Talking about a few of his achievements, he represented India in the World Karate Championship held in Tokyo in 1993, Asian Karate Championship held in Kuala Lumpur in 1994 and Asian Pacific Karate Championship in Pune in 1996. Though he is a 'Black Belt' in Karate with 13 years of practice and dedication, his soul is in Athletics..

Ramalingam is a tornado on the tracks and with equal gusto trains children for State and National level Athletic events.

"He is not afraid of any task of any magnitude and I am amazed at his ability to stay unruffled in the most critical of situations," says his colleague Mr. Ravi with ardor in his voice. A good singer and lover of old MGR songs, gentle and childlike, Ramalingam is one who doesn't take kindly when children faint and swoon if they have to stand for long in assemblies.

"Along with studies, we need to encourage sports, as it increases their mental alertness and physical stamina. Regular physical exercise must be made a habit" he urges, pleads and laments with all concerned. Children are perpetually in awe of this 'Super Man', perhaps, secretly nurturing a wish to be like 'him' one day. He is known for his wacky sense of humour and adults adore his style of telling proverbs. After ten years in TI, Ramalingam follows his dream and moves on to the other side of the Globe on a new assignment.

***It is with heavy heart the staff and children of the school bid goodbye to Ramalingam and wish him glory and success.***

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### **She Strikes the Right Chords**

Fresh out of Queen Mary's College equipped with a Bachelor's degree in music and a teacher-training certificate from Music Academy this young girl of twenty-two steps into TI with a song on her lips and dreams in her eyes. Seventeen years later the sparkle in her eyes gets even brighter with the immense learning and growth in her personal and professional life over the years in TI.

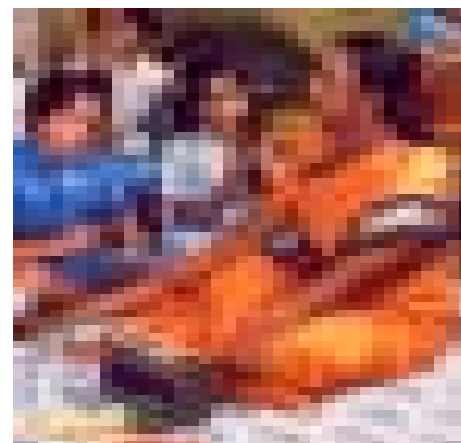
There is always news around Mrs. Ramamaheswari for a hungry reporter. Hers is the most happening department in the school and she demands the well-deserved attention and she gets it too, laced with love and admiration.

With the exposure and opportunities that came her way in TI, in due course she became quite adept at appreciating the finer nuances of various forms of music be it light, classical, folk or Hindustani. She sings with ease in eight languages but the one close to her heart is 'Devi Browa Samayamide.....' a Telugu Kirthana by Shyama Sastri.

Though a music teacher basically, her venturing into Scouts and Guides activities in 1998 did not happen by chance but with a burning passion from her side. In 2001 she underwent a rigorous course in "Himalayan Wood Badge" the highest level in Scouting and Guiding and a Badge instructors and examiners course exclusively to train children for Rajya Puraskar and Rashtrapathi awards. Rama is an active participant and representative of school in many a national and international event bringing laurels and recognition along.

She takes great pride in all her activities, be it escorting children to a music concert or singing around a campfire braving cold breezes at the highest peaks or marching on the roads with her scouts and guides advocating world peace.

As a school parent, she is forthcoming in her appreciation for teachers. "It's a total metamorphosis for me and whatever I am today it is because of TI and our Principal" says Rama as her eyes turn misty.



"I have a great book in my hand 'A Curse on Elizabeth' is one of the Sweet valley series books. Elizabeth is a little girl cursed by a 'mummy' and has terrifying experiences in a local museum. This is for all those who love horror and mystery. Don't miss it!"



It's a good read for boys too.

Andrea Dhanraj Class VII

Hai Booklovers,

I am crazy about sweet valley series. I started reading them when I was in 7 standard. The 2 years that passed from then saw me turning into a Sweet Valley addict .

Treasure at Death Valley & Nightmare in Death Valley are a set of very interesting books. The way in which it is written is simply superb.

Every one who reads it, is sure to enjoy and will recognize what bliss means. I really run short of words to describe the power these books have.

Fall into sweet valley yet remain unhurt.

Aarthi Venkatesan IX B

Bonus read

Cooking Abilities of Young Children

Helping prepare and cook foods is a great way for children to :

- learn,
- have fun, and
- try nutritious foods.

What activities your child will be able to help with will depend on her or his age. Keep the following in mind when including young children in cooking activities.

**2** - year-olds are learning to use the large muscles in their arms. Try activities such as:

- scrubbing vegetables and fruits
- carrying unbreakable items to the table
- dipping foods
- washing and tearing greens

**3** - year-olds are learning to use their hands. Try activities such as.

- pouring liquids into batter (you measure first)
- mixing batter or other dry and wet ingredients together
- shaking a drink in a closed container

- kneading dough
- washing vegetables and fruit
- serving foods
- putting things in the trash after cooking or after a meal

**4 and 5** -year-olds are learning to control small muscles in their fingers. Try activities such as:

- juicing oranges, lemons , and limes
- peeling some fruits and vegetables (bananas)
- mashing soft fruits and vegetables
- scrubbing vegetables (potatoes. mushrooms)
- cutting soft foods with a plastic knife (mushrooms, hard-boiled eggs)
- measuring dry ingredigrends
- cracking open\breaking eggs
- beating eggs with an egg beater
- setting the table
- wiping up after cooking
- clearing the table after a meal

(Source - Internet)

Young Achievers



A Brush with Success



Sriram R. XI wins second Prize



Geerthi T. X gets third prize

Prize winning entries in the Painting Competition held as a part of 'Eye Donation fortnight' celebrated by Frontline Satellite Eye Hospital, Ambattur on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The Theme is 'From Darkness to Light' & 'Blindness to Sight'.

**Parrot House on Top.**



*Chief Guest for the Annual Athletic meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2005 Dr/ Sethu Kumanan, Chairman. Sethu Baskara MHSS giving away overall championship to Parrot House.*

**The Best Guides group award in the city goes to...**



*B. Radhika, XII Std. and R. Swetha , V Std. receiving Silver Rolling Trophy and Certificate of Honour from Mr. Thomas Varghese, GM Southern Railways, Chennai, in a function organized by Mylapore Academy on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005.*

**IX AMMF sports meet hosted by TI on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2005**

**The Proud Champions.**



*Acaemic Advisor Mrs. Lakshmi Rajappa with students who won Individual Championship.*



**Smiles of Success**



**TI wins over all Championship for the Seventh Consecutive year.**

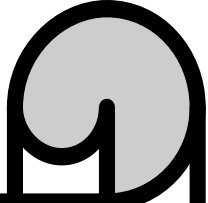
**Heritage club Bags First Prize**



*Dr. Suresh a historian & Archeologist from INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art, Culture and Heritage) taking a close look at the display during his visit to Judge the entry.*

The Prize winning model of Masilamaneeswarar (Siva) Temple, Thirumullaivoyal built by students of IX B on the occasion of Chennai Day celebrations is on display.

Participants from different schools chose different heritage sites in the city as subjects for their models. The teacher-in-charge of this project is Mrs. Gayathri Ravindran.



*Dear Shankar,*

*Parents on parenting*

*ER. Saravanan F/o Rakshak, LKG*

At the outset, I would like to thank you and TI school management for their efforts and courtesy shown towards us during parenting programme. Conducted in Feb ' 05. We thoroughly enjoyed the programme and it was of great help. Indeed I was able to share some of the ideas to my relatives and friends.

*S. Rajaganesh F/o R. Shamini, XI.*

I still remember the excellent workshop on parenting given by you and your wife. My whole-hearted thanks to you and your wife...

*S.V. Venkatesan F/o V. Kharan, V*

Out of all the techniques we discussed on the other day, "The agreed timing for watching TV" – agreement between parent and child worked out well and it is being practised in case of my son.

We are trying to implement all other techniques also.

***Our Parent Educator Shankar replies:***

Dear parents,

Thanks for your mail. We look forward to hearing from you about the successful implementation of your action plans. Anytime you need to clarify your doubts or to elaborate any approach, skills or systems that we discussed, please feel free to let us know.

We value and cherish our association and it is our pleasure to be of value and service to you.

Happy parenting.

The other readers who filled our hearts and their feed back forms are Dr. S. Senthamarai, F/o T. Srivanathi, I and Mr. C. Udayakumar, F/o Sapna, LKG.

Our special thanks to Mr. A.R. Radhakrishnan, F/o R.S. Vikash, VI, for sending some excerpts from an article on "Effective Teaching and Successful Teachers" for circulation among teachers.

***(The feedback is only a trickle these days. Please remember, we always want to hear from you)***

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