



# TI TIMES

SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2005 - 2006



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

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OCTOBER 2005

*Allowing himself a rare moment of pride in his work*



*Principal Shri R. Venkatakrisnan receiving the award and citation from Dr. M.S. Palanichamy, Vice Chancellor, TN Open University in a formal ceremony held by Padma Sarangapani Cultural Academy and Lions Club International District 324 – A6 on 5<sup>th</sup> Sep. '05.*

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## ***He makes the difference*** - a profile of our Principal

*( A humble attempt at translating into words all that was shared and expressed by the teachers )*

It was a rare departure from his normal self when he accepted the title 'PADMA VIDYA SAGAR' conferred on him for his dedication and achievements in the field of education, as, he is the one who believes that 'awards or no awards, good work goes on'. For Mr. Venkatakrisnan M.A, B.Sc, B.T, R.B.Visharad the award is not a milestone reached but a gentle reminder of all those miles ahead.

With almost four decades of commitment, lakhs and thousands of waking hours in the cause of education, in pursuit of excellence, one cannot stop listing the honours and awards that came his way.

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***OUR GOAL - EXCELLENCE***

In a true sense, his career and association with education and learning started way back during those days when he was still in his half pants when he used to accompany his 'teacher father' everywhere. He was only 19 when he started his career as a Science cum English teacher in an aided school. With Telugu for mother tongue, schooling in Tamil and a teaching experience of 14 years in a Hindi medium school, he was a raging surprise for others in the field. He was probably the youngest Headmaster of the times proving that age has nothing to do with position.

Venkatakrishnan is the embodiment of everybody's dreams, aspirations, and ideas and each day for him is one more wish fulfilled and each night yet another dream dreamt. There are always tough times to handle, bold decisions to make, conflicts to resolve but to find meaning and relevance for everything, is his fundamental goal.... a lofty quest too!

He is much ahead of his times in his thinking and differently indifferent to set patterns, rigid structures and mindsets. With his seemingly unconventional thinking he deliberately throws out challenges, asks the most unusual questions, creates excitement and fires passion in his team members. He makes

everything possible with two questions 'Why' & 'Why not'?

Venkatakrishnan is sensitive to the changes in the field, made radical changes, took rare initiatives, all the while aligning better, the focus of the institution to the changing needs of the children. There are many 'firsts' in the history of TI. The 'No detention policy' is in vogue for the past 13 years. He reached out to everybody when he abolished punishments in school and saved children from the trauma punishments caused. School counselling and examination without invigilation are concepts that are yet to find place in other schools.

Throughout his career, in various ways he has been able to positively impact everything and anyone and generate a loving commitment from his team. As an able administrator, leader, educator, if he provides you with that unique insight, as a friend, mentor, guide he gently uncovers your blind spots, jolts you out from mediocrity and forces you to think beyond.

Words cease to mean anything when you have to talk about his passion and love for all that is 'children and learning' and 'school' is the first, second and last love for this high priest of education.

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## ***To Sir with love***

### ***Revealing Moments***

No child left behind (NCLB) is a law implemented in US from 2002. The overall purpose of the law is to ensure that each child in America is able to meet the high learning standards. But the same concept NCLB (No detention in any class) is in practice in our school for the past 13 years because of strong will power of our own principal. He initiates all the innovations in teaching-learning processes even before these are thought about and uttered by the educational research scholars around the world.



**V. Srinivasan**  
*Teacher, Computer Science.*

The dialogues with him will be like Plato's dialogues with Socrates. The method of questioning by Socrates is called 'Socratic irony'. Mr. Venkatakrishnan questions the most fundamental beliefs and shatters the myths about the most proven methods. He is never satisfied with the existing structures and systems. Like a 'yogi's constant search for truth he searches for new innovative ideas and concepts.

Sometimes it is difficult to face his questions. But if you analyze them a lot of new avenues open. So I see him as 'the Socrates of TI School'. Any aspirer as a leader in the field of education can work under him and become a leader without any specialized training.

In 'Bhagavad-Gita' (chapter 3) Lord Krishna tells Arjuna 'whatever a superior being does, the others imitate.'

### **He leads the future leaders**

He is a great resource to the School and the teaching community. His words always ring in my ears "You should take the lead. I want to see my teachers going as leaders to other Institutions" revealing the magnitude of his magnanimous attitude. I am sure no other Head of Institution would think and act like him. The award is a fitting tribute at a time when the school has stepped into its Silver Jubilee year. I am moved, touched, beyond words for everything he is and feel great and proud to work under his leadership.



**S. Ravi**  
Physical Director

### **Fond Remembrances**

*Bharti Writes from Delhi*



**Bharatiya Vidya  
Bhavan's PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
A chain founded in 1938 by Kulpati Dr. K. M. Munshi  
J-30, Defence Enclave, Goyla Tajour Road, Tajour Khurd, Near Sector-19 Dwarka



Respected Sir,

It is with a deep sense of pride and fulfilment that I recall my stay at the TI School.

Although, my tenure was very short (exactly three months) but the ideas and concepts about the lesson plans and the teaching skills which I learned there shall always remain with me. At the time of my joining, all these were new to me and it was difficult to cope up with the school standards, but you along with your staff went out of way to teach me at the earliest. Your personal interaction with individual teachers in development of day to day lesson plans, is something which I will never forget.

After having reached Delhi, I got selected as the Principal, Bhavan's Public School, Dwarka. All the education practices, which I had learned at the TI School, are being imparted to my teachers. For most of the teachers here, all this is a new concept. Only after having been exposed to it, they realize the amount of benefits that can be accrued for both themselves and the students.

I look forward for a continuing association with the TI School and will be most happy to be part of any future learning programs.

Meanwhile, do let me know if I could be of any assistance to you from this side.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

*L. Swami*  
(Bharti Sir)

*(Thank you Bharti for that loving letter and wishing you success in your new position.)*

I am at once elated and embarrassed at the sentiments expressed by my colleagues in these pages on the award bestowed upon me recently.

I dedicate this honour to

- the thousands of children who provided challenges for my growth
- the parents who delivered these children into my fold with unlimited trust
- the managements of the three schools for giving me an opportunity to explore and experiment
- the trustees of AMM Foundation for the enormous freedom I enjoy
- the former Correspondent Mrs. Seetha Subbiah who spurred and supported me during difficulties in the early days of the growth of TI School
- Mrs. M.M. Murugappan and Mrs. Arun Murugappan for their loving support
- Dr. Ramkumar, Secretary of the AMM Foundation, who provokes and challenges me to take to uncharted paths
- Mrs. Lakshmi Rajappa, Academic Advisor, AMMF my ruthless critic and friend.
- all my teachers for the solidarity expressed and their willingness to walk with me in my adventures, with unsuspecting faith
- the non-teaching staff who helped me sharpen my administrative acumen
- my father from who I Inherited the fundamentals of academic and administrative skills
- my mother who always expresses concern about my mental and physical health
- my children who always stand by me and keep applauding my smallest achievements
- my wife who is tolerant to my occasional (or frequent?) indifference to commitments at home
- my **Gurus** of 'self exploration' Ms Neeta and Mr. Inbasekaran who helped me redefine the purpose and meaning of my life

The world I live is a stage and the role I play pales into insignificance in the backdrop of the most significant roles played by all the above people.

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## **Hip Hop Learn**

*All Play & All Work in K.G*

We played 'Pandi (a traditional game)' in my childhood days but not like this. Here the squares on the floor are filled with different words, numbers, letters pictures etc. The child throws a small flat piece of wood into any of those squares and hops to the word, reads it and comes back.

The game serves more than one purpose. The child

- Reads the word as a whole.
- Recognizes letters, numbers and pictures.
- Learns action words like jump, hop, pick, throw, clap etc.
- Develops body balance and enhances gross motor skills.
- Enhances concentration and focusing.



At a time when our traditional games are losing their charm over video / computer games this is the most innovative and ingenious way of passing it on to the coming generations with an additional feature of a learning outcome.

Moms! Tuck your 'pallus' around for those hip, hop jumps with your kiddos, it doesn't really matter if you have to draw the squares in your living room, but make sure to use your creativity and imagination while filling up the squares. We welcome suggestions from you on any other forgotten games, which you and I played when we were kids that could be revived in a new light.

**Mrs. Mala**

Teacher, KG

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### ***A Juicy Affair***



Did you know that UKG children could squeeze a lemon, toss a dash of salt, spoon the sugar, stir it gently in the vessel, pour it in the glasses, garnish it with their smiles and serve it in style?

They did all this and more as a part of their EVS activity. Now they know how a lemon looks, feels, tastes but we know something else too; that their finger muscles got enough strengthening exercises for the day.



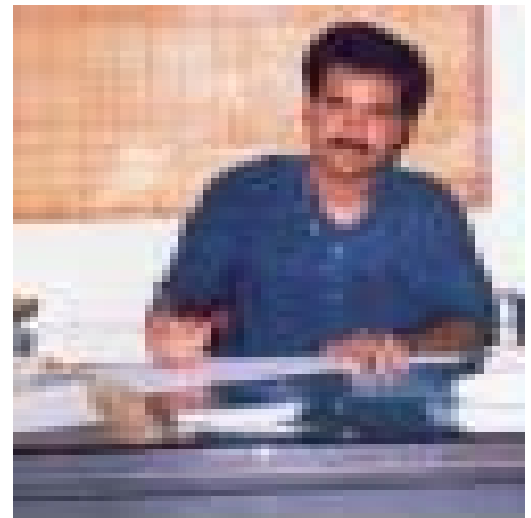
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### ***Meet the Middle School Head***

#### ***The Silent Charmer***

There is an air of quiet dignity about him, he radiates calm confidence, sets the class on fire with his knowledge and passion and engages himself intensely over anything that is remotely connected to Biology. Mr. Senthilkumar M.Sc., M.Ed., a product of Madras University, and one of the senior most teachers of the school has taken over as Head- Middle School (VI –VIII) with effect from 01.09.05. He will be in charge of all academic and related matters concerning middle school in his new capacity.

Senthil started his career with the school in 1993 as Junior Biology teacher and became a P.G. Assistant in 1996 by sheer dint of hard work and dedication. His passionate involvement in evolving and standardizing lesson plans is much appreciated by one and all. Students love to be in his classes forever, refusing to come out of his spell and he successfully mesmerizes his willing subjects into learning beyond the books.



This endearing, soft-spoken Biology teacher with his disarming smile is capable of infecting you, with his feverish interest and enthusiasm in his subject leaving you asking for more. His only other indulgence is his Nature Club activities, a convenient extension of his 'first love', which varies from plants and birds to crocodiles depending on the season and mood. From human endocrinal system to plant pathology he can talk at a stretch on his subject and spend endless hours with his books in the library oblivious to the world around, by which time you would have suffered enough complexes about your almost non-existent knowledge of cell division and so on and on.

Senthil has recently enrolled for M.Phil. Programme with Annamalai University to further enhance his knowledge.

She enralls with her tone and tenor, her commanding voice silences the most noisy, defiant class. Mrs. Meera Gopi who has taken over as Head - Primary Section in the month of July is a heady mix of drive and determination.

Starting her career in 1993 with AMM School after doing her Diploma in Anglo Indian Teacher Training from Church Park, she worked in TI from 1996 to 2000. After a brief stint in a school in Muscat for two years she rejoined TI in 2002.

Meera in her varied roles as Academic co-ordinator, a core group member of the 'excellence' committee has contributed a lot considering her short tenure. Her immense potential and leadership qualities saw her to the present position. With her fiery spirit and enthusiasm she spurs great interest in children for spoken English, and it's not uncommon for parents approaching her with a request to make their children speak like her.



She strongly feels that school is a place to be remembered forever by a child and draw inspiration throughout its life and successful teachers create a certain mood and a certain appeal for it. She is a strong advocate of life skills at all ages be it a KG child lacing it's shoes or a gawky teenager styling his hair. She urges, that a 'TI'-ite would leave the portals of the school as none other than a cultured, refined and a 'complete' individual and she personally sets an example for all those qualities.

Outspoken in her views, with a do or die attitude fortified with a kind of pulsating energy, she whips past you with her strong ideas and lays her heart for a cause she believes in.

***We wish both Heads success and strength in their new position***

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### ***All about Macmillan Tests***



International Assessments for Indian schools (IAIS) is an educational measurement and assessment service that helps students realize their optimum potential to grow and reach international standards.

This is the second year TI students have taken these assessments conducted by Macmillan Publishing house on 10.9.05 covering classes III to XII .The assessments cover a wide range of skills in English, Mathematics, Science and Computer skills. Registrations for the tests were optional and a total number of 65 students for English 61 in Science 119 in Math's and 30 in computer skills appeared in the tests. The students will receive a diagnostic report on their performance and a certificate indicating the level of achievement by end February 06.

This is purely to identify their academic strengths and weaknesses. Analytical, reasoning, problem solving, interpreting visual data are some of the skills assessed in these tests. Realizing the importance of these skills, apart from the regular assessments, the school will be designing similar assessments every fortnight for the benefit of all children. The first set of tests will be conducted in the first week of second term.

The detailed analysis and results of these tests will be hugely beneficial to teachers, students and parents to help in the growth and development of the students.

## **A Trip to Kodai**

### **On conserving nature**



**The team with Mr. Rajmohan,  
Member – Green Peace Foundation and  
Palani Hills Conservation**

The 'flora and fauna in Kodai is arresting' Students of XI B rave excitingly about the picturesque topography during their recent educational trip to Kodaikanal between 28<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> Sep. These four days were packed with exhilarating treks through the thick 'Sholas, a visit to the Herbal garden and Astro Physics lab and discussions with experts on methods adopted to conserve nature. The team under the guidance of Mr. Senthilkumar proposes to have a presentation of their experience and learning in the second term.

## **Visitors of the Month**

### **What they say**

"A rare opportunity for me to meet such versatile, talented, hardworking, self less teachers and non-teaching staff who have put in heart and soul to render thoughtful work ... Sarah John

"Love to Visit again" .... Rajan Mathews



**Mr. T. Rajan Mathews (Centre), Correspondent, Mrs. Sarah John, Headmistress, St. Thomas Matric. HSS, Madhavaram and their team interacting with Mrs. Heather during their visit to KG Section.**

## **Snippets**

### **Choosing with care**



**Class X students taking aptitude test**

### **Career Counselling in October**

Students of class X after finishing their aptitude test and workbook exercises now wait for individual counselling by ICS (Institute for Career Studies) team from Lucknow. The team counselled about 120 students last year.

The individual counselling sessions by Dr. Amrita Das, the Institute Director and her colleague are slated for 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of Oct. '05.

At the end of the session each student will be given a detailed analysis report and a career portfolio.

**Music - the universal language**

**Mrs. Rama Maheswari and Mr. K. Ravikumar took part in a Community Singing Course held at New Delhi between 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. '05. Both leaders learnt patriotic and community songs in twelve different regional languages. About thirty eight participants from all over the country attended the course. They are planning to implement the same in the classes at different levels.**

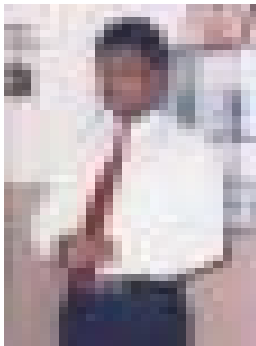


**A Special Honour**

**Scouts, Guides help develop character, says Governor**

8 Guides and 5 Scouts from TI received the Tamil Nadu State Rajyapuraskar Award from the Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu in a function held at Raj Bhavan, Chennai on 30.08.05. This is the highest award at the State Level.

**You can bank on him**



**A presentation on banking products by Mr. L. Charles, Manager, Centurion Bank for XI & XII Commerce students on 02.09.05.**

**A Sa**



**Is there a happier moment! Mrs. Usha Karpakambal receiving a peck on her cheek from a child on teachers day.**

**Kerala comes alive in Primary assembly.**



**Children celebrating Onam**

**Young achievers**

**Anirudh G**



**Prabakaran S**

**Anirudh G and Prabakaran S of XII Std. stood 5<sup>th</sup> in the Regional level Young World Quiz held at Kamarajar Arangam on 06.09.05. The team came to the final round after several screening rounds. Both students were presented with gift vouchers and gift hampers.**

**The winning streak**



**Dream team bags the trophy**



**Mr. C.K. Suresh and Mr. S. Michael**

**TI bags the trophy in Table Tennis (Doubles) for the third Consecutive year in the SBOA Inter-school staff tournament**