



TI TIMES



SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2005 - 2006

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

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DECEMBER 2005

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WINNERS OF NATURE QUIZ '05



Aravind & David with their
Prized Trophy

Details on Page 8 . . .

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Dear Parents,

It's quite disturbing and depressing as I sense a creeping indifference and apathy from the parents lately. You may feel angry, embarrassed and hurt but today I particularly feel an urgent need to talk and share a few things that I find difficult to digest on my own.

This pertains to the Yoga classes we started for VI - VIII Stds recently. The first circular for payment was sent on 28.9.05. Out of a total number of 244 parents who received the circular, 156, never gave a thought to it. When a reminder was sent on 14.10.05, the response was slightly better, but 85 parents still thought it didn't deserve any attention. There goes a second reminder and a third with an option of three dates to meet the Vice Principal in case of a query. The number of productive hours and energies wasted in the process is almost sinful. Can you imagine that, till date there are still 13 parents who haven't responded in any manner for reasons known only to them!

*Unfortunately, most circulars on P.T meetings and parenting programmes are met with the same fate. In all the cases, only 50% of them are present, inspite of our repeated reminders. A parent's absence without a valid reason in all likelihood may be interpreted as **'indifference'** in the minds of the teachers, while the child gets conflicting messages on values and discipline through such attitude and negligence displayed by adults, knowingly or unknowingly.*

Please understand that any activity the school takes up, is not a diversion, but rather an extension of a good education programme, which enriches and contributes to the holistic growth of a child. Am I unreasonable, if I expect you to be involved, responsible and sensitive to your child's school and activities???

Learning involves nourishment of the mind, body and soul. We want our children to grow into beautiful human beings with qualities of head and heart and not just Xerox machines under annual maintenance contract in TI, do we?

I want to hear from you.

Venkatakrisnan



OUR GOAL - EXCELLENCE

NATIONAL SUMMIT ON QUALITY IN EDUCATION IN BANGALORE



Mrs. Sheela Raghavan Vice Principal (Junior Section) and Mr. Senthil Kumar (Head, Middle School) participated in a two -day conference conducted at the Convention Center, NIMHANS, Bangalore by CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) on the 10th and 11th November '05.

Experts from the field of management, education and I.T shared new practices that could be followed at schools to make the teaching- learning process more meaningful and equip students to face the challenges of the modern world. The team gained insight into self-learning methods and effective strategies to enhance cognitive skills in place of rote learning in students.

ART OF QUESTIONING

A workshop for VI, VII & VIII Science & Maths Teachers

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Any questions please!

About 24 teachers from SRM and 10 from TI participated in a workshop conducted by Mr. Athmaraman Mathematics consultant on 12th November, in TI school.

In the forenoon session, there was an elaborate discussion on educational objectives and framing of questions, classified under different domains, such as knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The discussion also covered possible mistakes one might commit in framing different types of questions like, multiple choice, one-word answers, true or false, matching etc. followed by a try-out strategy.

The exercise created awareness, that, one should be careful in the preparation of any type of question, to get the maximum outcome.

The afternoon session was exclusively for Math teachers covering various aspects of teaching methodology. Several topics in Mathematics were considered and possible teaching strategies were suggested. In particular, as a motivational strategy, an introduction to recreational Mathematics was given.

All the teachers felt that the discussions gave them insight into the various strategies that can be implemented for better results and the subject was very relevant.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

From spectrometer to Sachin Tendulkar

Mike reads Amalraj's mind

I would be incomplete as a Physics teacher without his assistance in the Physics Lab during practical classes. I would give anything to have that calm and poise with which he conducts himself. He is a potent combination of hard work and values, but gentle as a breeze with 16 years of devotion and dedication modestly worn on his frail shoulders. Amalraj is my playmate, a team member in our wild volleyball and shuttle tournaments, and an elder brother, who is ever generous with his wisdom, gently nudging me now and then, here and there about my habits.

For once, his characteristic hesitant smile broke into a wide grin, as I sat down for a chat with him.

Michael: How do you handle such diverse jobs like managing practical classes, maintaining the instruments, distribution of books and notebooks, getting things ready for examinations, daily assemblies etc.?

Amalraj: (jokingly) If I can handle a physics lab with a degree in commerce, I can handle a variety of other things too. (Gets back into a contemplative mood) When I joined as a lab assistant in 1988, I was assigned the job of managing Physics Lab based on my earlier experience and later on, it's purely encouragement from our Principal to take up different tasks. I owe it to him for the trust he placed on me.

I still remember those days when Principal would sit with me, sort out books and tie bundles for distribution. He taught me dignity of labour.

Michael: You are a good player too, how did you develop interest in games?

Amalraj: Again, I must thank Principal for encouraging me to play in my free time. I've come a long way from a young boy in a remote school who never knew what a ball and shuttle looked like. Now I am reasonably good at volleyball, shuttle badminton, carrom and other indoor games and you know, what fun we have playing in tournaments outside the school.



Amalraj (Right) with Michael (Physics teacher).

I love watching cricket matches and simply adore Sachin Tendulkar.

Michael: Sir, coming across so many batches what difference do you see in the present generation of children?

Amalraj: Students are smarter; grasp things quickly, more inquisitive and more ambitious now. And there is a change in their style of interaction with adults. They treat their teachers like friends, openly communicate and express their feelings.

Michael: Changes you perceive in school...

Amalraj: Yes, as an institution, in the past 5 to 6 years there is lot of movement towards improving the quality in all areas. For me, excellence is something you strive for, every moment and every day in everything you do. I always think of making today better than yesterday.

Michael: Thank you so much sir, talking to you was a great experience and I am sure youngsters like me will always look up to you while handling their personal and professional lives.



KG WELCOMES GOMATHI

With a compelling desire to excel in her profession and 12 years of teaching experience in KG and Primary sections, Mrs. Gomathi M.A (Eng. Litt) joined TI in the first week of November 05. She is fluent in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Sanskrit and English and her other interests are artwork, drawing, gardening and painting.

FROM CHENNAI TO CANADA

Arun Santhanam's 'Touching Moments'

I was in TI from 1988 to 1990 and later moved to Mumbai. After completing my Chartered Accountancy and also the American CA (CPA) I worked in India and Middle East before moving to Canada in March'05, where I am presently working as Audit Manager for a world's leading audit firm called Ernst and Young.

Last week I happened to meet some of the old TI buddies in USA and it was a good reunion after many years.

Some of the good old memories I have are, the cricket matches we played. I still remember the golden moments of how 'Peacock House' (my team) beat 'Flamingoes' and how we sadly lost to 'Eagles', not to mention the cheering from the whole class for the matches.

I cannot forget the fun we used to have at the Annual day functions and also the farewell to the seniors by juniors is one of the touching moments in each one's life.



Arun with wife Ramya and daughter Sahana

Email : pras_arun@yahoo.com

Thank you Arun for that loving mail. Our best wishes to you and your family always.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

A Story Warm And Witty

A GRANDMOTHER'S TALE BY R.K. NARAYAN

His grandmother in the story is your grandmother too. She leaps out of every page, taunts you, chides you, looks at you as a silly brat and disciplines you with a firm hand. She tells her grandson (the author) the story of her mother in an interesting and sustaining tone.

How she tells the story and how the author indulges in it overshadows the story itself.

With simple narration and simple language the book is a pure delight for a non- English reader and a superb gift to all Narayan's fans.



Parents of Primary children! Read it out for your kids!

THE YOUNG REVIEWER

IN THE CLUTCHES OF 'THE WITCHES'



'The Witches' by Roald Dahl is an exciting fun -filled book with many unexpected turns and twists. The narrator is a young boy whose grandmother is a witch specialist and teaches him how to recognize witches.

I had a great time reading those gripping instances of the narrator's and his grandmother's escapades with the witches. This makes a good read for Harry Potter fans too as these witches are different and dangerous unlike witches in Harry potter.

Friends! don't just let this book pass by. Just read it.

Mouniga V. IX 'B

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY TEENAGER AND HIS / HER EMOTIONAL HEALTH

On parenting your teens

What should I know about my teen's emotional health?

Overwhelmed by the physical changes, facing a number of pressures- from friends to fit in and from parents to do well in school, adolescents encounter new experiences. Also they often struggle with a strong desire to be independent. They may experiment with new values, ideas, hairstyles and clothing as they try to define who they are.

Is there a problem?

If you suspect there is a problem, ask your teen about what is bothering him or her. And then 'listen'. It is easier to cope with the problems when they are small. This also gives you and your teen the opportunity to learn how to work through problems together. Do not hesitate to seek the help of a counsellor if needed.

Warning signs

- Agitated or restless behaviour
- Weight loss or gain

- A drop in grades
- Trouble concentrating
- Ongoing feelings of sadness
- Fatigue, loss of energy, Lack of motivation
- Low self esteem
- Trouble falling asleep

You can help by

- Communicating your love, and your values
- Setting expectations and limits, such as insisting on honesty, self- control and respect for others while still allowing teenagers to have their own space.
- Praising appropriate behaviour that gives a sense of accomplishment and reinforce your family's values.
- Giving criticism positively and with love
- Developing a friendly relationship with your teenagers.

Courtesy; young world (The Hindu Aug.12)

NEWS AT A GLANCE

Creative Careers



Mrs. Geetha Nair from SAE (College of Audio Engineering, Digital Film making and animation) addressing the students of X, XI & XII on career opportunities in Media Industry on 12.11.05

Giving shapes and forms



Students of std IX learning the process of moulding and casting using different materials like clay, concrete, plaster, cement, Fibre etc. The various skills learnt in this activity will come in handy for those who are planning to study medicine, architecture or sculpting in future.

How to set goals and keep them?



Mr. Suresh Ramasubramaniam, DGM, ICICI (International Business) Mumbai, addressing students on the importance of formulating a goal as a part of career planning process.

Just when X'mas is around.



The Heritage club members on a visit to the St. Joseph's Church in Ambattur. The students plan to have a display of models of all the churches in and around Ambattur.

Voices in the air



23 students participated in live choral singing at All India Radio Station on 23-11-05 for the Akashvani Annual Awards competition 2005.

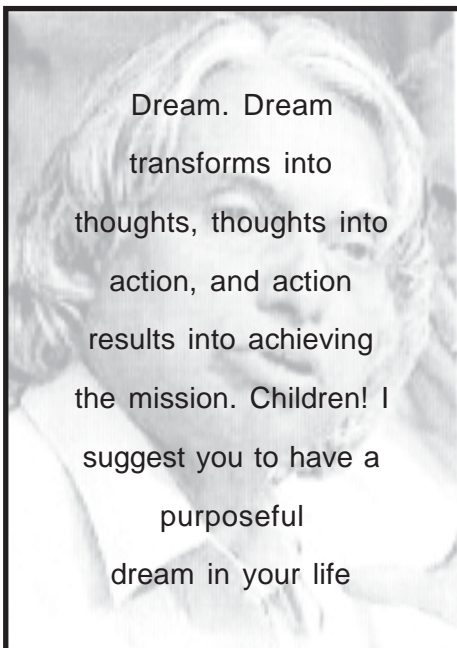
Socially aware



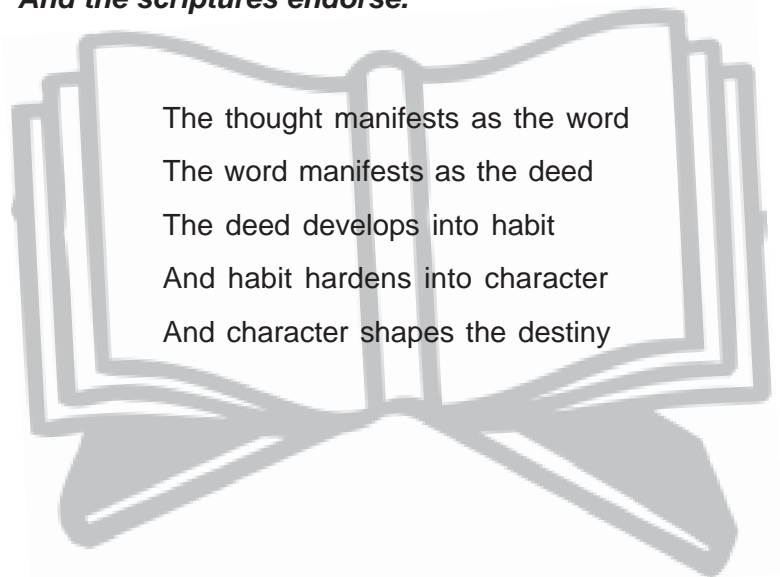
8 students from IX Std participated in a symposium on social awareness at The school, KFI on 22nd November '05 conducted by Mr. Anand Pathwan the famous Documentary Film Maker.

DREAM, DREAM...

Abdul kalam's message on children's day



And the scriptures endorse.





YOUNG ACHIEVERS

Heath wise

S. Shilma (X Std.) wins a cash award of Rs. 1000/- (Consolation Prize) for her essay on 'Changing Life styles and their impact on health' in the 'Best All rounder competetion' organised by Cholayil Sanjeevanam.



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**The young poetess pours out her heart
as the rain lashes outside**



**As her words flow
S. Revathi, X std.**

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NATURE QUIZ '05

A cycle of hope for the environment

David George J of XI and Aravind of XStd bagged the rolling trophy in the GNAPE (Group for Nature Preservation and Education) Nature Quiz 2005 held on 12th Nov05 in AMM School.

The event was sponsored by Cavincare and co-sponsored by Arun Ice creams, Viveks and Department of Environment, Govt of Tamil Nadu.

The team is one of the 8 teams that made it to the final round from among 65 teams of the city schools. The questions revolved around wildlife local and global. Among other sponsored gifts they also received a 'Hurricane' Hercules Cycle sponsored by TI Cycles.

David is passionate about science and dreams of becoming a scientist while Aravind wants to be a doctor and is yet to make up his mind whether to become a Cardiologist or a Neuro Surgeon. Both children owe their success to their Biology teachers for all the additional information shared in the class. And of course, their favourite TV channels are National Geographic and Discovery.



Smooth ride for David and Aravind (Left)

Scouts and Guides Awards

Recipients of 'Rajya Puraskar' Award for 2004



From left (standing) : **P. Pawankumar Singh - XI, P. Sriram - X, A. Magesh kumar - X, S. Abishek Vijay - X, Prithviraj - X**

From left (sitting) : **PR. Abinaya - XI, L.R. Laxmi - XI, Venkata Lakshmi - X, M. Aishwarya - XI, Divya Somasundaram - X, S. Revathi, G. Sarasu, K. Priyanka (not in pic)**

Recipients of 'Rashtrapathi' Award for 2004



R. Sri Ram - XI, B. Shanmuga Priya XI, B. Radhika - XI, S.M. Yamini (not in pic)



LKG ADMISSIONS OPEN

Application forms for LKG admissions will be issued on **18th, 19th and 20th of January '06** between 9am and 10.30am in the KG building.

Contact school office for queries on 26585707 / 26583266

