

SmileTimes

(For Private Circulation Only)

The Newsletter of Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth School

Vol 2, December '07

Independence Day Celebrations

Freedom is our very nature as only with freedom can joy, generosity and other human values blossom.

H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



Children rejoicing in their freedom during the Independence Day celebration in school

School Library Upgraded

The Project of upgrading the existing School library was inaugurated on Independence Day, 15th Aug 2007. The library has a new collection of books including several books in Kannada, English, Hindi, books of science, encyclopedia and others. This project of upgrading the library was taken up by students from USA who had come to the Ashram for a summer camp. Construction of the main library is going on in full swing.



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the second edition of Smile Times, a newsletter with updates on our latest initiatives in education.

H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar says that educating a child should be holistic, not just a process of stuffing their head with information. Just coming to class and learning a few lessons is not really bringing up a child. We have to see to the needs for complete development because body and mind are linked. The body and mind are so linked that what we put in the body reflects in the mind and what we put in the mind reflects in the body. Human values need to be cultured for the sake of mind and the body. These principles are the basics on which you can start building your idea of human values.

Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth School is committed to excellence in holistic education and focuses on all-round development of the child. Along with academics, education is balanced with an emphasis on social responsibilities and human values thus providing value based education to rural children.

As we go along, we will continue to share our progress with you as it is our combined endeavour to build a better future for the children of our country.

Do write to us with your feedback at ruralschool@vvmvp.org

Regards,

Smt. Bhanumathi N



Quote

“Just information is not education. It is culturing our behavior and attitude. It is our ability to perceive things better. Perception, Observation and Expression, the three aspects of education have to be improved.”

— H. H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Editorial Team

Smt. Bhanumathi N

Bangalore desk and Delhi desk

Designed by: Tarun Sewak



Thank you all for your contribution towards the first successful year of the Gift a Smile Project in Delhi.

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A foundation and a new beginning



Vijay Kumar,
Ex Student and Teacher
Ved Vignan Maha
Vidya Peeth School

I am Vijay Kumar V.N., an old student of VVMVP School. My education here from Class 1 to 10 paved the way for my future, as I went on to become an Arts graduate. The blessings of Guruji, Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji, and the encouragement given by Bhanu Didi and Narasimhan Anna have been an important part of this accomplishment.

Bhanu Didi has given me an opportunity to work at VVMVP school. My ambition was to teach others whatever I had learnt and it is being fulfilled by teaching here. Moreover, it is a great privilege to work with the teachers who had taught me. In this school I not only work as a computer operator but also impart the knowledge I have learnt, to others.

All the staff members are helping me perform well and the Principal Shri. Gangadhar is a source of great support. My main and primary motivation to perform at school are the students themselves. They have all done Art Excel course and are always smiling and full of joy and enthusiasm. It is a happy environment and this enables us teachers to perform our duties effectively and efficiently.

Just as a small squirrel had helped Shri Rama to build the bridge, Rama Setu,

I wish to thank each and everyone associated with this school for giving me an opportunity to be a part of this lovely school and helping my other rural colleagues.



Prvathamma M. S.,
Teacher, Ved Vignan
Maha Vidya Peeth
School and mother of
Vijay Kumar

"When I joined the school, the Ashram was like a thick forest. Today it has become a temple full of inspiration and peace".

I came to the Ashram in November 1987 and started my seva as a teacher after meeting Guruji and Pitaji. At that time, the Ashram was like a thick forest and I was almost afraid to work in such a place. Pitaji inspired and gave me confidence Maa Vishalakshamma, Bhanudidi and Annaji also inspired and encouraged me a lot. They treated me like their family member and taught me how to work in the Ashram.

Their love has made me work in the Ashram for 20 years. I always thank them and feel great regard & gratitude towards them. I have done my Basic &

Advance courses with their guidance and blessings

Many facilities have been provided to students and teachers in the school. Children are given free textbooks, notebooks, food, clothes and conveyance. Other facilities provided are Computer education, Library facility, Tailoring Training, Science laboratory and much more. The institution is growing every day, and valuable education is being provided to the children as can be seen from the results shown by the children in S.S.L.C. Examinations for the last 9 years.

Teachers are also looked after well. The atmosphere here enables us to work comfortably without difficulty.

There are many teachers like me, who are working here since many years, namely Chennamma, Gangamma, Usha, Mangamma, Ramakrishnappa etc. All teachers and students are encouraged and inspired by Guruji, Bhanudidi, Narasimhanna, Sri Vishnupada Swamiji and the Administration Committee I am proud to say that I am working in this institution.

Smile compulsory

Q. What do you call a tooth in a glass of water?

A. One molar solution



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email: Pawan@thecandledux.com Web: www.thecandledux.com



Clippings

A New Academic Year

The new academic year commenced in June 2007.

New admissions 125 boys and 105 girls in the high school & 140 boys and 120 girls in the primary section.

The school has a new collection of books in Kannada, English, Hindi, books of science and others.

A new route of the school bus covering 15 villages has been introduced. We have also got 2 new big buses

A well equipped computer lab is being set up.



As is done every year, note books, text books, stationary items, uniforms were provided to all the students.



"I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?"

Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."
- One of the last notes left behind by Gandhi in 1948, expressing his deepest social thought.

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Results

The students have secured good results for the past few years in Board exams and now our school is considered to be one of the Best schools in South Karnataka. The much awaited exam results were finally declared.

108 students passed in the 10th Boards of which **2 achieved distinction, 39 students secured first class marks,** 45 secured second class and the rest passed with average marks.

The 10th class pass students have gone on to higher classes, 20 students in Science, 35 in commerce and 40 in Arts of the PUC and rest have taken admission in ITI, JOC and technical training courses.



Parents' teacher meeting for the primary school was held and all parents participated actively and discussed all round development of their children.

Sports time!

Our school won the Champions trophy in the Inter-School Sports Meet.

The boys' team and the girls' team won the volley ball match. The girls team also won the Kabaddi match.

Vishalakshi, a 7th class student, won the Individual Girls Champion of Sports Meet as she won first prize in Discus throw, Shot put and 200 metre running and was part of the winning team of Volleyball and Kabaddi.



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Summer of So Much More than Just Service

- Monisha Dilip

This past summer, 10 American teenagers and I stayed in the Art of Living Ashram in Bangalore for a two-week program termed "Summer of Service." Our main goal was, of course, service, but we ended up doing so much more. We were also able to build international friendships that would last a lifetime.

We volunteered at the Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth School. Here, children from rural villages come to study. Everything, including education, books, and uniform, is given free of cost to them. Our project here was to upgrade the existing library.

The project was inaugurated on Wednesday, August 15th, 2007, India's 60th Independence Day. We got shelves, chairs, tables, and most importantly, books. The books ranged from the fictional favourite Enid Blyton to Britannica Encyclopedia. We started by painting the walls with various pictures of our choice. On some days, the school kids joined us in this activity, helping us bond with them. We then brought in the shelves and the books and started shelving according to subject.

During the time we were not helping at the school, we were involved in several other activities. These ranged from

discussing economics, the IT sector, entrepreneurship, Vedic Mathematics and taking a trip to the city of Mysore and viewing beautiful artwork. At the Ashram, we visited a rural development program that empowers women and saw how they were trained to produce articles they could sell to earn their living.

We were not the only international visitors. There were people from Morocco, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Oman, among many others. This trip impacted people from all over the world and I am truly glad that I was a part of it.

"What struck me the most was that these simple rural children were happier than most rich people in the world could ever hope to be"

Pitaji Speaks

An incident from Guruji's childhood as narrated by Pitaji, Guruji's father. "One day when I opened my briefcase in a meeting at work, I was startled to find it full of toys, instead of my official documents. All my colleagues had a hearty laugh at my expense! When I went home that evening, I emptied out my briefcase in front of my son. As the toys piled up in front of him, he laughed and simply pointed at the piles of my papers, neatly arranged along with his other toys!

Looking at his lovely smiling face, my anger melted, and we both laughed together. This incident stayed with me for a long while. I eventually understood that perhaps in his innocent way, Guruji was letting me know that at home, I should be more of a father, a husband and a son, than an official on parole"



Sharing with little friends

Sri Sri Sanskar Kendra in Rohini, Delhi has started a toy bank called "Natkhat" - by the kids for the kids. Once a month children bring in their toys for distribution among less privileged children. Thus Sri Sri Sanskar Kendra is spreading smiles and also imbibing the right values in children attending the Sanskar Kendra.

Poonam Markan
Coordinator Sri Sri Sankar Kendra Rohini, Delhi



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Diwali

Every lamp that you light is symbolic of a good quality. There are good qualities in every human being. Some have forbearance, some have love, strength, generosity; others have the ability to accept all as one's own, yet others have a scientific temperament that will uplift humanity; and others have the ability to unite people from all religions. A latent talent is a lamp. When latent talents

awaken, that is Diwali.

Don't be satisfied with simply lighting one lamp; light a thousand. For example, if you are a good sevak, don't be satisfied only with that; light the lamp of wisdom in you. Acquire knowledge. If you are interested in acquiring knowledge, don't limit yourself only to that. Take an interest in the creative arts, in dance, music etc.

Diwali is lighting:

The lamp of love in one's heart;

The lamp of abundance in one's home;

The lamp of compassion to serve others;

The lamp of Knowledge to dispel darkness.

It is said that for the fool, Diwali only comes once a year. But for the wise man, Diwali is every moment and every day. I would like you all to be wise and to celebrate Diwali every moment and every day of your life.

(Excerpts from the message given by H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on the occasion of Diwali)



School is essential for the development of a child's mind. Learning for a child starts with the mother and continues as education in school as he or she grows up. After the parents, it is the teacher who influences a child's mind in school. Guruji has provided so many facilities for us in school such as free food, uniforms, shoes, books etc. We are very lucky to study in such a school. Our school has facilities like a big play ground, clean toilets, library, computers etc. Every class room has benches for children. We celebrate all national festivals with lots of enthusiasm. We participate in many functions and competitions.

GEETA . M
8th 'A'

"The school is a temple of knowledge, teachers are like priests and the students are devotees", as said by our elders. Such is our school Ved Vignam Maha Vidya Peeth, which was founded in 1981 by our Guruji Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with a strength of 30 children and has now grown to a strength of more than 2000 children. Subhashita says "Vidya daan is the best among all the charities one can do". By establishing Ved Vignam Maha Vidya Peeth, which is responsible for our future, Poojya Guruji has earned the highest place in our hearts.

There is a saying that teachers are sculptors who, using the chisel called education, create good citizens. Our teachers are doing just that. Besides education, our teachers encourage us in all other activities like physical education and other extra curricular activities. Every year annual competitions and Talent fountain are held. We thank Guruji for providing us with this wonderful opportunity to study with such great teachers.

S. PRAVEEN
9th 'A'



"The purpose of education is to increase awareness. Only an education that can nourish virtues can impart true intelligence."

His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar



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Yaadein, a musical evening with Chittraji was celebrated in Delhi on 13th May to celebrate the birthday of H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. It was a tribute to the golden era of Hindi film music. The evening was well attended by about 8000 people and Chittraji's beautiful melodious voice left all spellbound. The event was in aid of the Gift a Smile project. Volunteers from Delhi and NCR worked collectively to raise funds with the support of Delhi Apex Body.

For Delhi Gift a Smile Desk it was an honour and a blessing to celebrate Guruji's Birthday with an event promoting Gift a Smile.



For more details contact:
Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth
 21st Km, Kanakpura Road,
 Udayapura Bengalooru (South) – 560082
 Karnataka, India
 Email: ruralschool@vmmvp.org
 www.vmmvp.org
 Ph.: +918032976908

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