

# SAI SEVA SANGH

Regd. No. 1961/88

## “SAI REFLECTIONS”- QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (June-Aug 2013)

SRI SATHYA SAI VIDYA MANDIR

*(A Free Educational Institute for the Underprivileged and Orphan Children)*

Dear Friends,

A loving sairam to all of you! We are proud to share our school with you and hope you enjoy your journey around this newsletter. The news magazine has been designed and conceived to present an overview of our successes, achievements, latest developments and future plans. Reading this magazine will give you a comprehensive idea of what makes our school special.

As you all are aware, The Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Mandir caters predominantly for pupils coming from an economically disadvantaged background. In the last two decades the teachers and management of the school, along with its well wishers have worked against many odds to fight the curse of illiteracy and poverty that forced these kids to become child laborers instead of being happy, learning children.

Our effort to help the children excel remains our top most priority. We are committed to ensuring that every pupil receives an education that enables them to attain the highest levels of achievement possible. You will discover a school that has created the most stimulating learning environment, a relevant and challenging curriculum and an active partnership with parents and the communities in which our pupils live, work and play. It really is a place to build dreams. Don't take our word for it, find out for yourself...

### SCHOOL UPDATE:

- 1) The school was reopened on June 10<sup>th</sup> after the summer vacation.
- 2) Entrance tests for new admissions were conducted in June, which resulted in the intake of 40 new students which included 6 orphan girls and 10 children with single parents.
- 3) The 10th standard students of the year (2012-13) have achieved outstanding grades in the recently conducted board exams.



Grade	Description	Number of students
A1	90 to 100%	5
A2	80 to 90%	8
B1	70 to 80%	2
B2	60 to 70%	2

The school has maintained its past record of 100% pass percentage raising the bar to score a highest ever marks of 558 (Out of 600).

We are also extremely delighted to highlight that the top two ranks have been scored by the Orphanage students associated with the Sri Sathya Sai Dheenajanodharna Pathakam.

Ms.Sukanya - 558/600 - A+ Grade

Ms.Madhavi - 558/600 - A+ Grade

- 4) The **Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini** team led by **Sri Satyajit** visited the school and interacted with the students and teachers. Sri. Satyajit commended the voluntary input made by the teachers due to which the school was successful in maintaining such high standards.



Quote- “ Never in my visits to the many schools that I have been, have I come across such a unique institution run on the voluntary inputs of so many teachers”.

Value education has always been the most unique offering of all the Sathya Sai Schools and we wish to state that our school shall always put its best foot forward and cooperate with the Vidya Vahini team in adapting to newer and more creative ways of imparting value lessons to children.

- 5) **HEALTHCARE**-In addition to providing education free of cost, the school conducts regular health camps for children and their parents in the premises. Homeopathic medicine is often administered for seasonal diseases and dental camps were also held in the recent past. This year, preventive medicine in Homeopathi for swine flu, cholera etc were given to all the students by Dr. Srinivas and Dr. Shailender(Honorary doctor in our Homeopathi clinic running in our campus). An Eye camp was conducted by Youth for Seva organization. They screened all the students thoroughly and distributed spectacles to 26 students.

- 6) A promising student by name Srikanth studying in 9th class of the school living in the slum aged about 16 years suddenly collapsed at school unable to even stand on his own. He lost total control of his limbs waist downwards. Anxious parents with the help of the school teachers approached the medical faculty, who diagnosed it as a rare medical condition “Guillain Bare Syndrome”. The doctors have estimated that the only treatment possible is a course of medication by intravenous injection costing about Four lakhs of rupees.



Sai Seva Sangh approached various pharmaceutical companies and acquired the injections at a lower price than the market rate and a few injections at free of cost. With the likeminded kind souls who contributed their might in whatever manner possible we rescued this brilliant student from the clutches of this dreadful condition. He was also given physiotherapy treatment and now he is hale and hearty.

- 7) Parents' meeting was held to discuss the higher education needs of the 10<sup>th</sup> passed students and to acclimatize the parents of the new wards to the principles of the school.



- 8) Alongside teaching, the children are shown films of renowned personalities to help them assimilate value lessons better. Adi Sankaracharya film which was dedicated to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba by Global Peace Productions was screened and nearly 150 children and staff enjoyed the film.

#### SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION:

Students who display enthusiasm for higher studies are encouraged at the Sathya Sai Vidya Mandir and are allowed to pursue higher studies. Teachers, counselors and professionals are roped in to guide the students along his/her area of interest to help them gauge their potential according to their abilities. While some students opt to pursue professional courses that could help them hone their skills, most students branch out to train as medical assistants or undertake courses that could bring them immediate income. The school NEVER dissuades a bright child and always allows to follow their heart.

- 1) 17 merit students from the recently passed 10<sup>th</sup> batch are being supported to pursue higher education in the best of the city's private colleges (DAV public school, Sri Chaitanya etc)
- 2) Six students have been enrolled at the L. V. Prasad Institute of Eye care to pursue "Optometric Nursing" course. The students are being provided a stipend to meet their daily expenses, while the hostel and education has been provided totally free of cost by the institute.
- 3) One boy of the orphanage Sri Burra Naresh secured admission in B. Sc (Diary) at S V Arts College, Tirupathi (Run by TTD) and another boy secured admission in Polytechnic DECE course.

#### TRAINING PROGRAMMES ATTENDED:

The service of education is perhaps one of the only wings of seva that needs constant upgradation. Teacher Educators are key actors in maintaining and improving the quality of education and training systems in our system. To help our teachers keep pace with the demands of the changing pedagogy and students' requirements, our teachers are nominated every year to attend intensive training programmes.

- 1) Two teachers participated in the certificate course in E.H.V(Education in human Values) conducted by the Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Dharmakshetra, Mumbai.
- 2) Two primary school teachers attended a Mathworkshop on "Making Maths easy for the primary students". This was conducted by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Educare, Chennai.



### **Maths workshop at SSSJE, Chennai.**



### **E.H.V Classes...**



- 3) Teacher's orientation course held by Sri Sathya Sai State trust was attended by 10 teachers. This session was highly appreciated by the participants and it provided the much needed motivation for the new academic year.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE ADDED:**

### **Class Rooms...**



### **Audio Visual aid for teaching...**



- 1) Custom made wooden furniture comprising of benches and desks have been provided for all class rooms (UKG to 10th).
- 2) The audio visual room has been enhanced by adding a 54 inches LED TV and video projector to provide visual aid to the daily lessons taught to the children, improve spoken English skills and provide weekly entertainment.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Guru Purnima celebrations were held in the school during which Sri. Dharmadata (Director --Drugs control) was the chief guest of the occasion, who felicitated the merit students of the recently passed 10<sup>th</sup> batch. School bags and uniform are distributed to all the 300 students of the school.



- 2) Vedam workshop was conducted for students from 6th class to 10th class by Mr .Mani (Alumni Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prashanthi Nilayam).
- 3) Our students were invited to recite vedas in Ramakrishna Mattt for the Youth festival conducted by them. The organisers including the Swamiji's were left spellbound and admired the fluency with which the little ones recited the vedas in perfect synchronization.
- 4) 4 days Youth empowerment seminar was conducted from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> Aug by Art of living teacher Mrs.Lalitha. The children were taught breathing techniques, yoga and guided meditation. Fun quotient was added to the event by conducting value based games.

### ***Vedam Chanting at RamaKrishna Math***



### ***Youth Empowerment seminar By Art of Living***





## SRI SATHYA SAI DEENAJANODHARANA PATHAKAM (Old Age Home and Orphanage):

The Old Age Home continues to admit the elderly without considering cast and creed and without charging anything to them at any time. In the years to come, we wish to undertake this activity in better way and in more efficient manner. The elderly are also assigned duties to suit their convenience and are participate in all school celebrations. This year has been particularly active for the elderly.

- 1) All the inmates are doing well and actively participating in all the daily chores and special functions conducted at the school.
- 2) Angha Devi Vratham was performed by the Old age home inmates and the orphanage students. The ritual highlights the best practices to be followed by women and elderly according to the Hindu system.
- 3) The priest stressed on the importance of the various activities that need to be performed on a daily basis further elaborating on the inner significance of the same.

## BHAGWAN SRI SATHYA SAI SPECIAL SCHOOL (School For Differently Abled Children):

- 1) The strength of the school has increased to 60+ members in the current year
- 2) 14 Niramaya health cards were distributed to the Mentally Retarded students( it's a medical claim policy for Rs. 1 lakh per year for one child) An additional 30 Niramaya health cards have been applied for.
- 3) As an accredited partner under the Govt. National trust for mentally challenged, legal guardian ship applications have been routed through the school to certify the legal guardians for 5 students who have crossed 18 years of age.

### Vocational Centre



### Class Rooms



- 4) Three staff members have successfully completed their B.Ed in Special Education (MR) with the support of the Organization.

## ALUMNI VOICE (Yagnesh-Ex-student of Sri Sathya Sai VidyaMandir):

“I can still recollect the day in 2000 when I joined the school in 5<sup>th</sup> std. My parents were casual laborers in Moosapet and I was working as a helper in a medical shop. That was the most important day in my life as it changed my life for the better. I have practically grown in the school and studied there till my 10<sup>th</sup>std, it was my second home. The teachers then took special care to chose the right course for my higher education and have supported me to complete the same. Today I have completed my B.Tech in Electronics engineering about which my parents and me had not even dreamt about.



I am now well settled having joined GENPACT as a hardware engineer and drawing a salary of 3.5 lakh. What I am today is only due to Bhagawan's grace as he has given me a solid educational foundation right up to B.Tech. I am very grateful to Him and would like to give back to the society which has supported me throughout.

## **FROM THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF SAI SEVA SANGH:**

### **Sai Seva Sangh outlook for next year.**

We have started the year 2013-2014 with the blessing of Bhagawan with renewed vigor and dedication. The Board meeting was conducted recently to discuss the key focus areas and address the various challenges being faced by the different units of Sai Seva Sangh.

The key discussion point was regarding the financial strain being felt by the Sri Sathya Sai Special School and Sri Sathya Sai Orphanage on year on year basis.

There are 60 special students in Sri Sathya Sai Special School. The running costs of the school have shot up considerably due to the additional expenditure needed for medical care of the special children, transport costs, inflation and stipend being doled out to all the students.

Therefore to help the school become partly self-sufficient and generate a certain amount of funds within the school we have decided to provide additional infrastructure needed for setting up revenue generating activities such as Book binding, Screen printing, envelope making, phenyl and washing powder making etc.

The special children will be trained on these skills which will help them gain practical working skills and they will also be provided with additional monthly income.

A special child within a time frame of about 4-5 years develops the much needed skill set to carry out their daily activities, support themselves and move around socially in the society. The monthly expenditure of training each special child is Rs 2160/- (Which includes education, meals, speech therapy, physiotherapy and vocational training)

On the Orphanage front there are 48 orphan girls of different age group in the home. The orphan children need our support up to 18 years of age. The monthly expense of each child inclusive of education and boarding is about Rs. 2160/- per month.

### **Donations:**

In order to keep offering these programs, we rely on the support of our generous donors. We appreciate your efforts and hope that you will continue to make a difference.

The money received will help to support the programs not covered by the school budget. We ask that you consider supporting our cause. We let you know the progress of the child you are sponsoring by sending you a photograph of them, the reports from their school and any other details that may need your concern.

We request you to reap the joy of molding the life of a certain child and witness the visible benefits gained by the ward. We will keep you posted on the progress of the child you are sponsoring by sending you a photograph of them, the reports from their school and any other details that may need your concern.

Therefore we take this opportunity to reach out to each and every one to come forward and sponsor these 108 children and offer the garland of these 108 budding flowers at the lotus feet of our beloved Lord.

We thank one and all for the continued support provided over time and look forward to working together in the coming year.

## **Offer a fresh leaf of meals to God...**

Swami says –“See me in the needy and love them as you love yourself”. Once Swami narrated a poignant and heart-rending analogy regarding the same.

“Most of you must be aware that when we organize a marriage, there is an order in which food is served. First, the guests are served with all the delicacies, and then the relatives have their food. After them, the close family and the couple have their food. If there is any food remaining post that, the workers and helpers at the wedding hall are given food to take home for their kith and kin. If food still remains, the beggars and poor people nearby are called and given food. The leftovers are then thrown away for the dogs and crows to come and eat.”

At this point, Swami made a statement that wrenches the heart.

**“My condition when I seek Love is like that of the crows and the dogs! People offer their love to everyone they find and only the discards are offered to God.”**

At this point, the audience was in tears. But Swami only had a gentle smile. He also gave an assurance,



**“If anyone offers their love to God in their youth, they earn the right to demand from the Lord anything, anytime. Youth is the most sacred time in life which should be offered to the Lord.”**

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Education is one of the cornerstones of the Sathya Sai system. Only under school programs will you see long-lasting, sustainable reforms as education becomes more consumer-oriented. As school administrators begin to view their institutions as serving students, will change in the society be swift and meaningful. Towards this goal and the greater one of following the footsteps of our beloved Bhagawan, the Sai Seva Sangh will always remain in Sai Service.

For more details regarding the school and the affiliate organizations, interested members can log on to [www.saisevasangh.org](http://www.saisevasangh.org),

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