

# Rangammal Memorial Hr.Sec.School for the Hearing Impaired

Sambanthanur



## MAGAZINE (Oct-Dec)



2016

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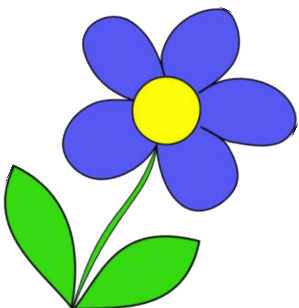
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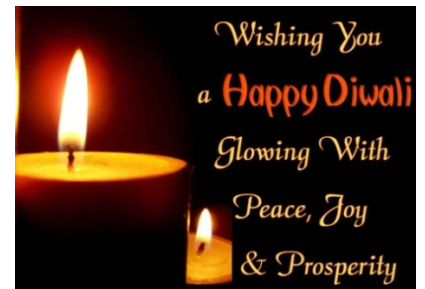


## DIWALI CELEBRATION



As usual, Diwali was celebrated with great enthusiasm by our children. It is known as the Festival of Lights-lights signifying the triumph of good over evil. For this reason, colourful and bright fireworks are let off plus a bonfire round which we all dance and play, much to the delight of the children. Small earthenware lamps are filled with oil and are arranged on the parapet surrounding the open terrace of the school. In this tropical country the majority of houses and buildings, especially the older ones have open roofs where the family often gather in the cool of the evening (mosquitoes permitting) so most of the houses in the town follow the same practice for Diwali and light small lamps on the parapet of their open roofs.

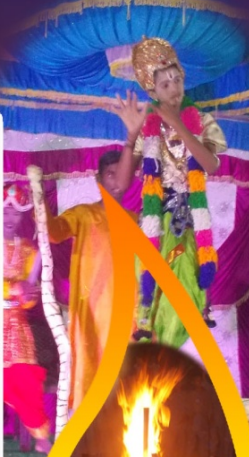
Our school is about 5 kms from the town looking directly on to the 'Holy Muntain'(a median sized hill which is believed by the Hindus to have, in ancient times, been the dwelling place of Lord Siva) for this reason Tiruvannamalai is a place of pilgrimage for the Hindus. As we gather on the roof, we can see all the twinkling lights from the town, a very beautiful sight.



A 'regular' school from the town joined us in our celebration and a well-wisher provided a delicious meal for us all. The children, student nurses, student teachers and some staff performed cultural dances and a good time was had by all. The following day the children went for a short holidays to celebrate with their families. As you will know, India is a place of many religions Hindu (majority), Muslim, Sikh, Buddist, Jain and Christianity. On the whole, we live peaceably together and the children are taught by example and word to respect the religious belief of others while sincerely trying to follow the teachings of their own faith.



# DIWALI Celebration





## GLOBAL HAND WASHING DAY



On Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 'Hand Washing Day' was observed in India and enthusiastically celebrated by our children. This is an attempt by the Government to create awareness and reduce the incidence of gastro-intestinal diseases. The majority of Indians especially in the rural areas still eat by hand. Cutlery is rarely used. If the hands are carefully washed prior to eating, there is little

danger of infection. However, in many areas, water is scarce, especially in Tamil Nadu where the monsoon failed and we are having to buy water, as the wells are very low. In these circumstances, standards of hygiene reduce-why 'waste' precious water is the attitude.

Although the above circumstances do not occur in the school where standards of hygiene are rigorously taught and observed, in their villages it is not always so. In the past, many children developed gastro-intestinal diseases and skin diseases and scabies when they went home for the holidays. However, the parents often tell us that the children will remind them to wash their hands before they eat and ask to take a daily bath during the holidays! We also re-enforced the importance of rubbish disposal and the use of bins for various types of waste. We also explained about the use of plastics and its detrimental affect on the environment and wild life especially sea dwelling species. We showed a picture of a beach in the North of India clogged with plastic waste. Our compound has never looked so clean!



## SMART CLASS

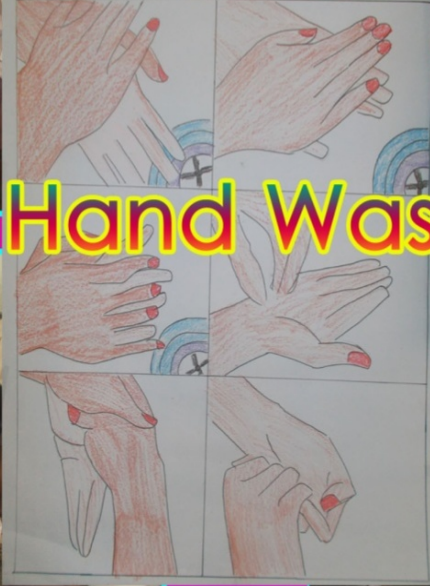


We are the first school for the hearing impaired in Tamil Nadu to introduce this particular technology. When the Chief Educational Officer heard about it, he appreciated our efforts and is interested to pay a visit and see the classes in action. This is a teamwork effort between Madam, Fr. Saul – our IT advisor and the S.W.T. in the UK. The teachers were given training in

this technology and both teachers and students find the system very useful. All of us at Rangammal realize that we are educating our children to enter a digital world, which is constantly changing and expanding. Without this knowledge the children will be 'illiterate' and unable to cope with our fast changing world – also they enjoy it! it is a great reward for any teacher to see their students developing their knowledge and critical faculties etc. Our children are anxious and enthusiastic to learn so we must rise to the challenge.



கைகழுவுதல் அன்று நிலைகள் Oct-16



# Global Hand Washing Day



# Smart Class



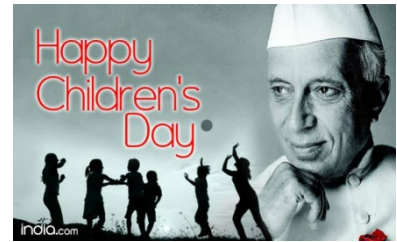


## CHILDREN'S DAY



Children's Day is celebrated all over India on November 14<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawahar Nehru, our first elected Prime Minister after Independence in 1947. It is always celebrated with much joy and enthusiasm. Prime Minister Nehru was very aware that children were the future of the Nation and introduced many educational reforms, free Government Schools etc. Especially for those children from the poorer sections of society, many of whom had not been exposed to even basic education, some free schools run by religious organizations were available but not enough to ensure even 'basic' literacy for all. Female children often did not attend school but were kept at home or withdrawn from school to care for the younger members of the family.

Now primary and middle school education is compulsory for all children and the Government is making every effort to improve the standards in their schools. For the above reason Children's Day is celebrated with great joy at Rangammal. Many events are organised by the teachers and students. The great majority of children and their parents realize the importance of education. The parents try to ensure a better life for their children and encourage them to study and achieve.



## VISITORS FROM ENGLAND



In November, Mr. Tony and his team again visited the Rangammal School. The children welcomed them in the traditional way. They had an opportunity to visit each class and they spent time with the children. They also brought many gifts which were sent by the sponsors and the children were so happy to receive the gifts. The visitors also had great joy in giving gifts to their own sponsored children. They had a meeting with the teachers and discussed the progress of the school and the improvement seen in the children's hearing ability following the use of digital Hearing Aids.

Finally, they encouraged them to carry on their good work. They also paid a visit to the Day Care Centres and the CPMR construction work and they were happy about the progress of the construction work. The visitors played their usual cricket match with the Rangammal children, India Vs England. Mr. Tony as England captain told that his team had lost the match against India for the last 10 years. However, for the first time England won the Match by one run. It was a great joy to Mr. Tony and his team. They left the school campus with lots of memories.

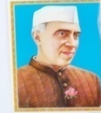






# Children's Day Celebration

குழந்தைகள் தின விழா  
நவம்பர் 14



## Visitors from England





## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



As usual, the Rangammal School celebrated Christmas at the School campus. The children made a beautiful crib at the entrance of the School, one in the Chapel and one in the Auditorium. They decorated them with Christmas Bells, and colourful lights. It attracted everyone. A lovely Christmas tree was placed near by the Crib. Baby Jesus was placed in the crib. It was lovely to watch. Most of the sponsor had sent their Christmas gifts to their sponsored children and the children looked so happy on that day with their Christmas gifts.

A High Mass was celebrated in the morning. The Nursing School and the Day Care Centres, senior staff from the hospital and the RMRS members also attended the Mass. The choir sang beautiful Christmas songs. Fr. Saul, the Salesian Priest, gave a gospel message about the supremacy of Christ's love for mankind, which was a great blessing to all. Special prayers were offered for the well-being of the children. A delicious Christmas lunch was served to all. In the afternoon, a cultural programme was conducted, in which the Nursing students and DSE HI students also joined with the Rangammal Children. Everyone enjoyed the cultural dance. The Nativity Play was so natural and the audiences were amazed to watch it. At the end, Father Christmas appeared with his colourful dress and amused everyone with his humorous dance. He gave sweets to the children.



Madam gave Christmas gifts to everyone. The day was celebrated with great joy. The following day the children left for their Christmas holidays with their family. Only a very small percentage of our children are in fact Christians but Madam believes that we should celebrate all the major festivals of each religion followed in India. In this way, we try to teach tolerance and love for all – “You must love your neighbor as yourself” – which is personally the central message we should take away from our Christmas celebrations.





# MERRY CHRISTMAS



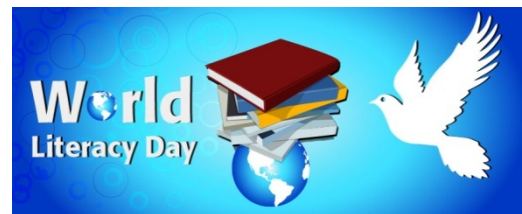


## WORLD COMPUTER LITERACY DAY



The School celebrated World Computer Literacy Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the School campus. The aim of which was to increase awareness amongst the population regarding banking and information technology. The Prime Minister Mr. Modi is anxious to create a 'Cashless Society', However, the great majorities of the rural population do not have a bank account and have little idea of online transactions etc. The cancelation of high denomination notes e.g Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 was announced in the first week of November in India. As a result, normal life was completely disrupted causing great hardship to many. For this reason, the Government is exercising a greater awareness through the various media's of on line transactions, purchasing etc. Schools were advised to introduce these subjects within their curriculum, which we are already doing through our IT sector.

The Head Teacher gave a short speech on 'Digital India', which was launched by the Central Government to reduce paper work, improve efficiency and save time. The teachers also taught the domestic workers about the convenience of online purchasing, online payment etc. All over India, this has been a difficult time especially for the poorer less educated people. However, in Rangammal all staff have now opened a Bank Account and their salaries are paid directly into their account. So the use of cheque books and credit cards is an ongoing Educational subjects not only for the children but for our employees. So we are continuing this 'In Service' education for both children and non academic staff to familiarize them with the concept of a cashless society.



## WORLD AIDS DAY



World AIDS Day is observed on 1st December each year. The Rangammal School celebrated World Aids Day in the School campus. The celebration was organised to raise awareness among the students. A short speech was given to the boys and to the girls respectively about the deadly nature of the disease and how it is spread. Video clips also were shown to the children. The children were also taught how it can be prevented. There is still a lot of fear and misunderstanding surroundings HIV +ve patients and still in some cases they are discriminated against. This includes children who have been born HIV +ve. Sexual matters are not discussed freely in India and many adults, including teachers find it culturally difficult to do so. However, with deeper understanding this is reducing in Rangammal, to the benefit of all children and adults alike.



# World Computer Literacy Day



**WORLD AIDS DAY**  
DECEMBER 1, 2016

