



AIKIYAM SCHOOL

New Creation Bilingual School

Harmony Oneness Unity

ஐக்கியம் பள்ளி

October 2023

From our Principal

Aikiyam School is a school started with the noble aim of raising the educational standard of the students of the Auroville bioregion and making them better citizens for the future. Though our school is CBSE accredited we are trying to implement the CBSE curriculum in the way of Sri Aurobindo's ideal of integral education. In that way, I am able to say with great pride that we have made many achievements in the last academic year.



we took them to the Muthumalai Tiger Sanctuary, where the students were shown how the animals live freely in the natural environment. Our students saw the endemic species of Nilgiri Biosphere like Nilgiri Dambar Deer, Nilgiri Languor and wild animals like elephants, Indian bison, sloth bear, spotted deer in their natural environment. Also, they visited a tea factory in Utagamandal and were shown how tea is made there. Overall, it was a very useful educational tour.

At the beginning of the last academic year, on 21st June, in association with Sethrakalari, the art of yoga that strengthens the mind and body was celebrated on Yoga International Yoga day. Also, pranayama training is being given to the students during the morning assembly of the school.

On August last year, In commemoration of Sri Aurobindo's birthday, our school students performed dance, drama, elocution and traditional arts like yoga and silamabam in the SAWCHU hall in Auroville Bharat Nivas campus.

We see that not only in our country but also around the world, awareness events are taking place to protect children from violence. Our school teachers and students participated in various programs along with the Auroville Child Protection Group. Our teachers and students performed a child protection stage play along with the Auroville Yatra team.

The play also clearly explained how children are affected by the actions of a few misbehaved people in the society. It was also intended to point out how parents should responsibly raise their children to be good citizens. Our students performed not only in our school but also in the surrounding schools of Auroville. Following that, it was also performed in the Auroville Unity Pavilion as per the request of the public and parents.



In our last academic year, we took four teachers, one medical nurse, two volunteers and 20 students to Nilgiri Biosphere to explain the importance of Biodiversity. As a part of the tour,

In December last year, our 7th and 8th class students, teachers Vanitha and Ramalingam from our school, along with the Auroville trip group, went to Kaipanikuppam for a 20 kilometer cycle tour from Auroville to Ushveli areas. Then the students remarked with amazement that they saw many migratory and exotic birds.

Last January, a dance troupe called The Vanavars came as volunteers to our school. They organized dance programs on the theme of unity and diversity. The artistic team taught our students and teachers the dances of various countries in a very elegant manner. In a very short time, our school students and teachers along with the group danced on the theme of unity and diversity in our Republic Day ceremony which made the ceremony very effective.

The school's annual function was held on February 19th, marking the milestone for all the events that took place in our school during the last academic year. During the function, our teachers and students presented the highlights of all the events held in our school during the last academic year. It showcased the creativity of our students and the efforts we have made to implement an integrated curriculum in our school. Honourable Auroville Secretary, Dr Jayanthi Ravi, came to the program and saw and appreciated our work. She

had lunch with all of us which made all the working staff of our school very excited and made it a memorable moment.

Radhakrishnan

Knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are: It is better that you become. There is nothing mind can do than cannot be better done in the mind's immobility and thought-free stillness. When the mind is still, then the truth gets a chance to be heard in the purity of the silence.

The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.

Sri Aurobindo

International Yoga Day

Celebrating International Yoga Day: Yoga for Humanity.

On this auspicious day, our school children came together to celebrate the beauty and significance of Yoga. With mats laid out under the open sky, we embarked on a journey of self-discovery and inner peace.

As the sun painted the horizon with hues of warmth, we gathered to breathe, stretch, and connect. Led by experienced yoga teachers, we flowed through a series of asanas, each posture a reminder of the unity between our bodies and the universe. Inhales and exhales synchronized, creating a rhythm that echoed the pulse of life itself.

But Yoga Day was more than just physical postures; it was a chance to delve into the realm of the mind. Guided meditation allowed us to quiet our thoughts and find solace in the present moment. With closed eyes, we embarked on a journey inward, exploring the depths of our consciousness.

Yoga is more than just a collection of movements; it's a way of life. It teaches us patience in our practice and in our interactions, reminding us that growth is a gradual process. It nurtures flexibility, not just in our bodies, but in our minds – encouraging us to adapt to challenges with grace.



As the day drew to a close, a sense of serenity enveloped us. We had celebrated more than just a physical activity; we had celebrated ourselves – our strengths, vulnerabilities, and the potential for growth. Yoga Day had ignited a spark within us, a spark that would continue to flicker, reminding us to seek balance and harmony every day.

In celebrating Yoga Day, we had not only embraced a tradition passed down through generations but also taken a step towards better physical health, mental clarity, and a deeper connection with the world around us. As we rolled up our mats and dispersed, we carried with us the essence of this day – a reminder that true well-being starts from within.

Nainital Trip. (Including India's Capital, Delhi)

Vanakkam, my name is Lee Theobald. As a school volunteer I got the chance to accompany the 8th standard to their final school trip. Our journey would lead us all across India to visit India's Capital Delhi, Agra and Nainital a hill station in North India. Our travel started on 23th April in Aikiyam School from where we took a bus to Chennai train station. Two days' train ride led us through the slowly changing landscape of India,

the green fields of Tamil Nadu slowly faded and more and more dry countryside with simple huts, farmers, small fields, and herds of goats appeared.

Passing through Rajasthan, I noticed, that the people entering the train were dressed differently, the fabric of the woman's sarees looked more noble and showed embroidered sparkling ornaments. Furthermore, most woman wore their scarf in a way that it covered their head. I enjoyed the train ride. The students talked and giggled with one another, excited for our further travel. I met very cute, interested children who curiously asked me a lot of questions about my life, my home country Germany, my travels, and my stay in India.



We arrived in Delhi and the next few days we spent exploring Delhi and Agra. I enjoyed every second of this touristic sight-seeing since it was also my dream since a long time to visit these places. In Delhi we used the Metro and Bus to visit Qutub

Minar, Akshardam, Delhi Red Fort, India Gate, Jama Masjid, the Lotus Temple, a market and the Government Department.

To go to Agra we took a bus. In Agra we visited the Taj Mahal, Agra Red Fort, Madura and Virndhevan. Imagine a white



majestic building with towers reaching out up to the sky in the distance, the Taj Mahal. You pass under a red archway and the more steps you go forward, the bigger the Taj Mahal becomes, huge and majestic in its white beauty. In these two and a half days in Delhi and Agra we saw a lot of beautiful buildings, the heritage of India's history.

After two days, it was time to leave to take the train to Nainital, a hill station in the Himalayan Mountains. After one night of train ride, we reached Nainital in the morning. We fixed our luggage on three mountain Jeeps which brought us to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram within two hours ride. We slowly climbed up the serpentine of the Himalayan mountains. It

Archaeology Project

My name is Visalatchi. I am class six teacher. The students recently did a project on Archaeology. I'm sharing with you the details of project.

The purpose of this project is to know that history is to throw light on the past. This is done through discovery and study of historical sources. It is rather easy to find sources for writing the history of the recent past because there is plenty of handwritten and printed material on and about modern State and Society. There is also enough material in respect of medieval times. In ancient Greece and Rome, there were historians to write the accounts of their times. But ancient Indians, who wrote on many subjects, rarely wrote history.

Our students curiously observed and searched the way of the ancient people who lived that period. Meanwhile students went to visit Kaduvelli Siddha's Jeevasamathi and Irumbai temple. In that temple there is a lot of

was incredible to see the jungle, impenetrable and greener than I have ever seen a forest, many animals like langurs hiding inside.

In the coming days in the Ashram, we would follow a fixed schedule which included morning sport from 6:45-7:45 am, a quick breakfast, some outdoor activities, inside training sessions to learn about the climbing equipment, talks about the new experiences, lunch, dinner, an evening meditation and an inspiring talk about topics around a healthy lifestyle, one's talent and life purpose, the importance of discipline and self-fulfilment, led by the members of the Ashram. I personally found the evening talks really inspiring and it gave the teenagers a chance to reflect on their way of living and take decisions in a way they want to navigate their future life.

In addition, the stay in itself became kind of a challenge, since we had to deal with seven days of rain, wind and incredible cold, even in the daytime. It taught us the lesson to appreciate the small but essential things, like having warm clothes, a warm safe place to sleep, good food, drinkable water and being able to take a shower. We realized that the comfort and luxurious life we have nowadays is not in any way 'normal', since people living in other places of the world, like in the mountains, still struggle to find their basic needs. Furthermore, the children learned to take care of their rooms to keep them clean and they discovered the beauty to get to know other teenagers from the International Sri Aurobindo School of Hyderabad. It was gorgeous to see how the children slowly found ways to overcome the language barrier between Hindi and Tamil, by using English and their hands and feet.

Despite a lot of rain, we did practice as many outdoor activities as possible. During our stay we went for rock climbing, river crossing, several treks in the forest and mountains and we visited the traditional Nainital City Market. The Auroville students mastered these activities excellently and had a lot of fun. In a nutshell for many of the students, the 14 days trip to Delhi, Agra and Nainital will be taken home as a beautiful and instructive memory which will last a lifetime. I personally enjoyed the trip and it gave me a new insight into India's beauty, of historical architecture and the diverse nature that India has to offer.



inscriptions written over the wall. Also, they went to Pondicherry Museum to observe the ancient materials used in that period. Children explored a lot during the field trip.

Archaeological sources give us some knowledge of the life of the ancient people. India is rich with ancient ruins, remains and monuments. They also learnt a lot of details about the

Students' Journey Towards Understanding the Local Eco-system.

We are travelling along with nature in our way of life. However, since the day we stepped into the modern world, little by little, the time we take to really travel along with nature has decreased. Thus, we have to face many large-scale disasters like a Global warming, Tsunamis and Corona Virus. We are involved in the destruction of nature.



A cycle ride to raise awareness about water scarcity, deforestation, air pollution and the fact that only by planting a seed of awareness among students can we bring about a change.

A bicycle ride took students on a tour of the endangered tropical dry evergreen forest not far from the school. This is a protected forest recognising that natural forests are still being protected in some way protecting valuable species of plants, animals, and birds.

They visited Marakkanam Municipality in Villupuram district, where reserve forest is located to identify the remaining Flora and Fauna. They went to Kaipenikuppam, a coastal village and Kizhputtupet, Kaluveli wetland bird sanctuary.

We continued to the Villupuram District Collectorate Office premises where the general public are informed about protection of Akil, Saaniveeran and trees which are on the verge of extinction, creating green forest, preventing global warming, encouraging monsoon rains in appropriate seasons and clean water for all the living creatures of the world. The school students came together and created awareness among others by painting on cloth.

archaeology and gave a project presentation in the classroom in front of other children and shared their ideas from this topic.

Dance Sessions with Bill and Livia

Bill and Livia Vanaver, who form a professional USA dance company, recently conducted dance sessions with Aikiyam students. Here are their reactions, along with their teacher, Mala.

I am Pretish, from 2nd grade. We did German dance, The Shoemaker and Sand. Thank you for sharing your heart with us through the dance. We learned more about the dance, and we like the dance very much because the way you teach us was so kind and loving. We learned more things about the dance and country related things thank you so much for giving this dance for us.



Hi, I am Thineshgaran, student of 4th grade in Aikiyam school. We did Virginia real dance with Livia and Bill it was so nice. I feel very happy and thank you Livia and Bill and we love you.



Hi, this is Mala from Aikiyam School, and we enjoyed the dance along with Bill and Livia and their team. It was a lovely opportunity for all of us including students and teachers. The topic which they took for this year was impressive and did a great job. We teachers enjoyed so much dancing with our kids and it was also presented in front of such a big audience and that was a first dance performance for me specially. So we really enjoyed it. We would like to continue this lovely opportunity every year as a gift from them and the team. Hopefully expecting every year this. Thank you so much and love you and the team. Bye!



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