

# **BALAVIDYALAYA**

## **THE SCHOOL FOR YOUNG DEAF CHILDREN**

### **50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT**

The sixth decade of Balavidyalaya commenced with gratitude to God. Five glorious decades have passed by. More than 1200 children have developed language and speech and were in the mainstream.

Even though the academic year started only in June, the Golden Jubilee Celebrations commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 – the schools 49<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It was decided, every month a different kind of celebration would be held. Reaching out to the society and making an awareness about the importance of early identification and early intervention was the goal. Further making the team of teachers, parents and the child feel special was the aim.

#### **1. Open House**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Open house was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2018, the 49<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the school. 90 friends, well-wishers, alumni students, current students and their respective family members attended the programme. Charts on 'Importance of Identification, Intervention, & prevention of Deafness in young children' were put up and staff interacted with the participants explaining them. A three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was released.



#### **2. Open House**

300 NSS students from 8 city colleges attended the programme. Charts on 'Importance of Identification, Intervention, & prevention of Deafness in young children' were put up and staff interacted with the participants explaining them. The children's work, tips on identification and the Balavidyalaya milestone banners were displayed. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was played. There was a presentation on DHVANI Methodology by the Staff.



### 3. Open House

44 delegates working as Special Educators of the Deaf who had come to Chennai to attend the NCED Conference attended the programme. The delegates were from many cities of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat including Mumbai, and Pune. They watched the



school at work. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was played. A presentation on how they could start early intervention centers in their home towns was made and that was followed by a discussion

### 4. Open House

80 NSS students of IIT Madras participated in the programme. Charts on 'Importance of Identification, Intervention, & prevention of Deafness in young children' were put up and staff interacted with the participants explaining them. The children's work, tips on identification



and the Balavidyalaya milestone banners were displayed. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was played There was a presentation on DHVANI Methodology

### 5. Open House

250 Final MBBS students of Department of Community Medicine - Madras Medical College participated in the programme. This programme was held in MMC. Staff of Balavidyalaya along with Dr Nirmala President of the PTA went to MMC. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was played. The presentation on DHVANI Methodology



was made by the staff. They also touched on the tips on how to identify deafness in children and prevent deafness. There was an interactive session on how they could contribute in the field of early identification and prevention of deafness.

## 6. Open House

The staff of Balavidyalaya along with Dr Nirmala President of the PTA conducted the programme in the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology – Egmore. The participants included a team of Post Graduate Students of the Institute. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was played. The presentation on DHVANI Methodology was made by the staff. They also touched on the tips on how to identify deafness in children and prevent deafness. There was an interactive session on how they could contribute in the field of early identification and prevention of deafness.

## 7. Open House

The staff of Balavidyalaya along with Dr Nirmala President of the PTA conducted the programme in the Institute of Child Health – Egmore. The participants included a team of Doctors from the Institute. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was played. The presentation on DHVANI Methodology



was made by the staff. They also touched on the tips on how to identify deafness in children and prevent deafness. There was an interactive session on how they could contribute in the field of early identification and prevention of deafness.

## 8. Open House

A group of teachers from mainstream schools participated in the programme. Charts on 'Importance of Identification, Intervention, & prevention of Deafness in young children' were put up and staff interacted with the participants explaining them. The children's work, tips on identification and the Balavidyalaya milestone banners were



displayed. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was played There was a presentation on DHVANI Methodology. The participants were also given information on how they could extend a helping hand to the mainstreamed child.

## 9. Teachers Day Celebrations

In the afternoon for one hour the parents played with the children. Care was taken to ensure it was not their child's class. Then the parents volunteered to entertain the staff and students for the next hour. The parents enthusiastically put up a classical dance, had a role play rhyme,



two role play stories and conducted games for the teachers. The school then hosted a tea party for the parents, children and teachers.

## 10. Navarathri Celebrations

Saraswathi Puja in school was celebrated in a grand manner. All the children and parents saw the golu display in school. The children individually paid obeisance to their respective parents and gave them betel leaves, turmeric, betel nut, fruits and flowers. The parents and children then were given a cup of sundal made by the school. The parents and children enthusiastically participated in the celebrations.



## 11. Children's Day Celebrations

Children's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm. A merry-go-round, and games were organised for the children. The children and the parents went around the school playing the various games. A group of alumni parents and some alumni sponsored gifts, balloons and snacks for all the children.



## 12. Awareness Walk

An awareness walk was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The walk 'Help deaf and hard of hearing children Listen from infancy & talk for a lifetime' was held in Elliotts beach road. The walk was flagged off by Dr. Nirmala Muthu the President of the PTA. The walk started at Thalapakatti Briyani,

went up to Velankanni Church and wound up outside Cozee Restaurant. A rainy day did not dissuade our enthusiasm, and approximately 525 people joined us for the walk. All the participants were given T Shirts with the School's emblem and



Motto and caps. The participants carried the schools banner, and placards. The parents released white balloons when the walk started and red when the walk was completed. We thank all the participants and volunteers who helped us to make the walk smooth and successful.

The last working day for the year was 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2019 and the school reopened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019. For the second term the school closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September and reopened on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019.

### **The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Day Celebration**

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Day was celebrated in the Schools Coramandel Auditorium on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2019. Mr. S. Senthil Kumar the Executive Director of Indian Oil Corporation was the Chief Guest. Dr. G. Prabhakaran MBBS, DCH, MD, Fortis Malar - Paediatrician was the



Special Guest. Mrs. Sashikala Mahendran, the mother of Mithran M who was getting integrated into the mainstream in June spoke about her experiences with Mithran. Mr. Rishi Shivakumar an alumnus doing his first year BTech in IIT M spoke about his life till date.

21 children below the age of 3 joined the programme since June.

1 from Cuddalore, 1 from Andhra Pradesh, 1 from Ariyalur and 18 from Chennai

21 children successfully completed the programme and have joined the 1<sup>st</sup> standard in various part of the country.

1. **Mithran. M**, Vallammal Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Maduravoil
2. **Devi Kamakshi M**, Manthan Vidyashram, Kottivakkam, Chennai
3. **Reya Senthil**, Vidyodaya Higher Secondary School, Chennai
4. **Jaasir A**, M.G. Public School, Ramanathapuram
5. **Sri Ranga G.D**, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Coimbatore
6. **Tanish. T**, Velammal Higher Secondary School, Madhavaram
7. **Siva Karthik. S**, Narayana E – Techno School Neelangarai
8. **Sruthika K**, Sans Academy, Chennai
9. **Kogul Prasad R**, K.S.R.Hi Tech School, Virudhachalam
10. **Manya Bhandari**, Army Public School, Delhi
11. **Rizwan S**, Seethakkadi High School Tondiarpet
12. **Saisree K**, Chettinadu Vidyashram, Chennai
13. **Zakianam. J**, Indian School Mullasah, Muscat
14. **Jaishivani. S**, St. Francis, Porur, Chennai
15. **Diya. R**, Valammal Higher Secondary School, Thiruvottiyur
16. **Mahatru. V**, Sankara Vidyalaya, Tambaram
17. **Santhosh Guganathan**, Narayana E-Tech, K.K.Nagar
18. **Yaswanth. P**, Moong Bai Goenka School, Chennai
19. **Dharshika. R**, St.Joseph Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Villupuram
20. **Jihan**, Blue Bell School, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
21. **M.Yashwanth**, Dindugul

## Alumni Torch Bearers

### Tenth Standard Board

8 of our alumni have completed their 10<sup>th</sup> Tamilnadu State Board Exams.

1. **Manisha. A** tops scoring 81 % followed by
2. **Shreya. M.S** 80 %
3. **Nithishwar. V** 74 %
4. **Akkshaya. N.S** 67 %
5. **Amirtha Selvarajan** 65 %
6. **Gowri Shankar. A** 63 %
7. **Dhanedran. D** 51 %

**Ashvanth. S** completed from the ISLC Board scoring 82.4 %. The children have all joined the 11<sup>th</sup> standard in their respective schools.

### Twelfth Board Examinations

Natasha.R scored 87 % from the CBSE Board, a very high rank in NEET and has joined MBBS in Government Medical College and Hospital Chandigarh

In the Tamilnadu State Boards 5 students passed out of their twelfth boards.

**Yokesh Sathappan.** A tops scoring 89% and has joined B.A Economics in Loyola College followed by

2. **Divya. B** 77 % B.Com Queens Marys College
3. **Anitha** 67 % B.Com Syed Ammal College
4. **Abishek. S** 65 % BCA, SRM Institute of Science and Technology
5. **Trisha** 50 % B.Sc Home Science Mahalakshmi Womens College

### Post Graduates

**Sowmya Ganesh** passed out of the Integrated course of M.Tech from IIT M. She scored a very high mark in CAT and has joined IIM B for MBA

**Aakhil Shehabaz Shaik** passed out of the Integrated course of M.Tech from IIT M

**Vijai Pranav** passed out of LLM from Queens University UK. He has taken up a job as an intern in JFA Law Firm in Chennai.

**Niveditha M.** passed out of M.Com scoring the 1<sup>st</sup> rank in Taxation in her college.

**Keziah. Mathews. S** passed M.Sc Statistics from Pondicherry Central University and has joined as a Data Analyst in Ernst & Young EY India LLP, Chennai

**Anu Abraham** has topped her college in Masters in Fashion Design

### **Graduates**

**Sanjana Marda** after completing B.Com from Sriram College of Commerce New Delhi has joined Deloitte Gurgaon.

**Apoorva Rao** completed B.Com and is continuing her CA

**Keran Ann Mathews** completed B.Com and has started CA in Hyderabad

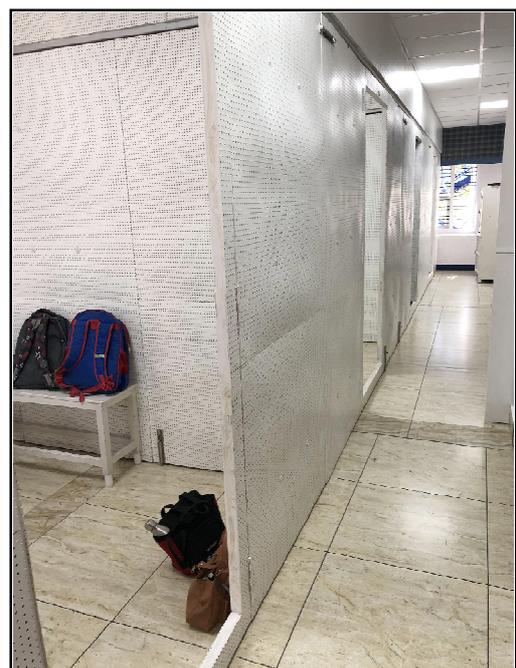
**Sneha Ramu** completed B.Sc in Micro Biology with Distinction from Stella Maris College

**Shraddha Agarwal** doing her M.Sc 1st year Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Warwick University UK gets the 1<sup>st</sup> place at FFactos for Start-up competitions in Birmingham UK for having developed an App to help the deaf.

### **Help from Corporate Social Responsibilities**

#### **First Floor Renovation of Class Rooms**

Coromandel International Ltd as part of their CSR activities helped to renovate one wing of the classrooms in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The wing which had five classrooms and a lobby was renovated in such a manner that the whole wing could be opened up and made into a hall whenever required. The hall was fitted with LCD screens to enable reception of the activities happening in the auditorium.



When the partitions are closed it would become four sound treated classrooms. We thank Coromandel International Ltd for their philanthropic contribution.

### **Inauguration of Second Flight of Steps**

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd as part of their CSR activities made a second flight of staircase at the back of the school leading to the auditorium. We thank IOCL for their generous contribution.



### **Donations**

We continued to receive the phenomenal support from our well wishers and friends. Gupta Family Foundation and ASHA for Education from US have sent us their continuing donations.

Mr. Shaik Shoeb an alumni has joined Vodaphone after his MBA from IIM B. He donated his first drawn salary to Balavidyalaya. We thank Shoeb and bless him for his life ahead.

Mr. Vikram P after completing his B.C.A donated his first salary. We thank Vikram and bless him for his life ahead.



Thursday Charity Club donated towards the Children's Day celebrations. We thank the Founder and members of Thursday Charity Club for their continued support.

### **Conferences and symposiums**

Mrs. V. G. Tharana represented the school in the conference 'Early Intervention Strategies for the habilitation of children with hearing impairment' conducted by Dr. S. R. Chandrasekar Institute of Speech and Hearing in Bangalore. She presented a paper on "DHVANI Methodology breaks the barrier of silence, enables deaf & hard of hearing children listen and talk & make mainstream education accessible"



## Recognitions

Dr Meera Suresh the Honorary Vice Principal was honoured for her services in the field of Special Education by the Inner Wheel Club of Madras Fort as part of their Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

## Visitors

The visitors during this year include

Mr. Ganesh Murthy from ASHA for Education US

Mr. Aditya and Mrs. Sumana Suresh with a team



The Deputy Director Mr. C.S.Vikgnesh Kumar with a team from the Evaluation and Applied Research Department. They visit to collect information on Cochlear Implant users.

Mr. Balakrishna Naik D the General Manager IOCL Pipelines division

Ms. Purnima from Asian School of Journalism

Ms. Nisha Ratchayan from the organisation - GROW

Teacher Trainee students from the 'Teacher Training College for the Teachers of the deaf, Aishbagh, Lucknow and 'AWH' Calicut.

## Advocacy programes

Mr. Ganesh Nadar from Refiff.com, Ms. Priya N.P from Ananda Vikatan, and Ms. Swathi from Adyar Times interviews the Management and publishes articles in their respective publications.

Polymer TV telecasted a two minute clipping about Balavidyalaya and the Golden Jubilee Celebrations during the month of November.

The Tamil Daily Newspaper Dinamalar published an article with information about deafness by our Honorary Director Mrs. Saraswathi Narayanaswamy.

Five glorious decades have gone by. Balavidyalaya has stood steadfast in its ideals and continues in its service to the young deaf infants and children. We seek the blessings of the almighty and the well wishes of our family and friends to continue in our journey.

*Let us help children with hearing impairment*  
**LISTEN FROM INFANCY AND TALK FOR A LIFETIME.**