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Fortnightly

Electronic edition

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We learn and we also earn

G.G. Thirupthika
Student Reporter

This is all about our special brothers and sisters who strive to lead a dignified and self respected life. There is this DS Special Children Welfare Association in Virugambakkam to give hands to their parents after their schooling education is over.

The DS Special Children Welfare Association formed by parents of mentally challenged adults, more specifically of Down Syndrome has been functioning since 2005.

The children, now adults, are given vocational training in weaving of kitchen mopping cloths, towels and doormats, tailoring, juice making. Areca plates and bio-degradable cups are also manufactured with the help of special educator at this centre.

The products manufactured here are and its



sold in the market and the proceeds go to fund the 'salaries' of these special people and the cost of running the workshop.

Recently, Rotary Club of Madras East, donated Rs. 2.75 lakhs towards the cost of a hydraulic press machine to manufacture the areca plates and cups, known as *donnais* traditionally.

T.P. Jagadeesha Murthy, chief manager of Canara Bank, St Mary's

road branch inaugurated the machine and donated a sum of Rs. 10000 on behalf of the bank.

The children also learn dance, sports, yoga, and other activities with the help of experts. These children work while they work and play while they play. They are happy that they too earns a salary.



DS Special Children Welfare Association accepts orders for the eco-friendly plates and cups for the Navaratri. The Association can be reached at Plot no. 4, Door no.2, Annamalai Colony, Virugambakkam. Phone : 23760640. Email : dsscwa@hotmail.com

The co-ordinators of the association are Lakshmi Sundar (94453 30617) and Mahalakshmi Thiagarajan (98400 70438).

This fortnight for you ...

SCIENCE QUIZ

Sep. 17, 2013

To mark the founding day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), an Inter-school Science quiz - Eureka 2013, is organised by CSIR and its Structural Engineering Research Centre. The quiz is open to students of classes X, XI and XII. Teams of three can participate in the quiz.

The quiz will be held at Vignyan auditorium, CSIR campus, Taramani.

For more details and registration, contact sripadas@gmail.com

WORKSHOP Science Toys Making

Sep. 21, 2013

ThinkDiff S'kool, K K Nagar is organising a Toy Maker workshop for children of ages 7 years and above. Free and open to kids who are interested in DIY, creating, tinkering and discovery.

Paddle boat, simple motor, toy car, solar powered fan and similar Science toys can be made during the workshop. Children can walk in between 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

ThinkDiff S'kool is at 450/1, Lakshmanasamy Salai, K K Nagar. Contact Bhvana KA, on phone no. 80561 00293.

Young Writers' Workshop

Sep. 21 & 22 2013

The Children's Space, Alwarpet is organising a weekend writing

workshop for children with each session lasting for about 120 to 150 mins.

The workshop is suitable for children of 12 years and above. Jaya Madhavan, an award winning novelist, poet and columnist will conduct these sessions.

Contact phone no. 87544 70178, childrenspacechennai@yahoo.com

STORYTELLING

Sep. 17, 2013

Hungry Minds, Children's Online Library is conducting a storytelling session for children. Eric Miller from the World Storytelling Institute will entertain kids with his stories. A fee of Rs. 150 will be charged per kid.

Venue: Horizon International Academy, Madambakkam

Contact Ms. Padmavathy on phone no. 9585229538.

Listen to a Folktale

Sep. 21, 2013

Tale Spin, Anna Nagar conducts a storytelling session for kids and adults on less known folktales of India on Sep. 21, 2013 between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Storyteller Asha Sampath will introduce the participants a tale or two that probably haven't been much heard.

Fee is Rs. 150 per person. Venue: Studio 149, AB 149, 3rd Main Road, Anna Nagar. Contact phone no. 9840833953.

(Continued on page 6)

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Natha Mayil, a fundoo chess wiz

Ananya Balaji
Student Reporter

N. Natha Mayil of class 7 studying in Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School is a chess champion representing Chennai for Tamil Nadu Chess Association in under 11 category.

She has been learning chess from the age of 7 and got the inspiration from her parents who initially taught her the game.

Natha Mayil prioritises her time to manage both chess and her studies well.. Her parents help her by watching and analysing chess tournaments online and help her in practising different moves in Chess.

"My school is always supportive and understanding for my pursuit," says Natha Mayil. The secret behind success, she says, is hard work and determination which always pays at the end in any field.

Natha Mayil has won many tournaments including the first prize in RMTIS Tamil Nadu junior chess tournament and TKSS children's chess tournament 2010 and 2012.

She is currently getting trained at Shakthi Chess Academy in Mylapore. Her FIDE rating is 1343.

"My role model is Hou Yifan from China since she is the youngest women's world chess champion," Natha Mayil smiles and moves on.

Budding skating champion Thaadshayini

Young T. Thaadshayini studying in Std I in P.S.Senior Secondary School, Mylapore has won two gold medals in Rink I and Rink II events in the Chennai State Level skating competition held by Tamil Nadu Amateur roller skating Association held on September 8, 2013. She participated in the under 6 girls category.



Earlier she won three gold medals in Rink I, Rink II, Rink II A events in the Chennai District Level skating competition conducted by the Association on August 1, 2013.

She is also a recipient of silver medal (QUAD - RINK - I

Time Trial) in the Chennai District Level Roller Skating competition held in July this year.

She is qualified to participate in the national level skating competition to be held at Nagpur in December later this year.

Thaadshayini trains with Mr. SreeKumar and Mr. Nandalal of Besant Nagar Roller Skating Club.



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Sri Annai Kamakshi Kalaikudam conducts online art classes

The 17 year old Sri Annai Kamakshi Kalaikudam now conducts classes online for those who want to learn art at their own pace.

Online classes can be taken for students above the age of 3 years. For students below the age of 8 years, their parents need to guide them initially.



Drawings are also taught depending upon the field chosen by students like architecture, visual communication and so on.

S. Venkatachalapathy, who holds a masters degree in Fine arts, trains the students at the Kalaikudam.

Sri Annai Kamakshi Kalaikudam is at Plot 998, Door no. 19, 74th Street, 12th Sector, K.K. Nagar. Phone no. 2464 0429.

The courses are available for students living abroad also. For registration, contact by email, mentioning the type of drawing and paintings of your interest. Email : sriasalam@yahoo.co.in

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INTERVIEW

She has been the cynosure of all eyes ever since she received the National Award for The Best Teacher from the CBSE, yet fame sits lightly on the shoulders of **Geetha Nandhakumar**, vice-principal, Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, as she continues her day to day work as teacher and administrator with the same passion with which she had begun way back in 1984.

Soham Bhadra, **Student Reporter** of YOCee, catches up with her for a chat at the school.

In spite of her busy schedule, Ms. Geetha Nandhakumar readily set aside some time for me when I approached her for a short conversation for YOCee.

She made me feel at ease at once with her winning smile, warmth and poise. She had no problems with a green horn reporter like me and gave all the time in the world not only to answer my questions but also to pose for the perfect shot.

Excerpts from the interview:

Heartiest congratulations Ma'am on your National Award as the Best Teacher by the CBSE. What was your first reaction on receiving such a coveted award?

I felt happy, proud, grateful and privileged.

When and where was the award ceremony held? Please give us some details.



Dedicated to teaching: Ms. Geetha Nandhakumar, vice principal, Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, Kilpauk

It was held on 4th of September 2013 at India International Centre, Max Müller Marg, New Delhi, and was attended by dignitaries and many fellow awardees from all over India.

Can you give us a brief background of your teaching career?

I am from Coimbatore and have done M.Sc. B.Ed in Zoology. I started teaching in 1984 at Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar. I joined Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram in 1986, and was appointed Vice-Principal in 2002.

Now that you have reached the peak of your career, have you set yourself any other goals for the future?

You don't exactly work for an award; it just 'comes' but you must do your duty.

You are an inspiration for all of

us. Please tell us who or what inspires you in everyday life?

Well, Ajeeth Sir, our Senior Principal, who himself is an earlier recipient of this award, continues to inspire me to give my best, as do many motivating qualities in teachers and students alike.

Do you get time off from your busy schedule? What are your other interests/hobbies?

I like to read, though I get very little time for it. Of course there are commitments at home too!

What message would you like to share with us at this moment?

Yes, this is for all of you. Do your best, don't fall back on excuses. Take complete responsibility for what you are doing. Live every second to the fullest and have no regrets.

This fortnight for you ...

(Continued from page 2)

CRAFT SESSION

Sep. 22, 2013

Make animals using paper plates. At the Children's hour hosted by Crossword Bookstore, Alwarpet this Sunday. Children will have fun learning to make animals with paper plates. From 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The session is for children of ages 4 to 10 years. Contact Crossword Bookstore at 47, TTK Road, Alwarpet. Phone: 42031705

Coaching for NTSE

From Sep. 21, 2013

Nehru Children's Cultural Association conducts coaching classes for students preparing for the National Talent Search Examination. Classes will begin on Sep. 21 and go on till Nov. 10, 2013. On Saturdays 4 to 6 p.m. and on Sundays 8.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

Maths, Physics, Chemistry, History, Civics, Geography, Biology will be covered in the coaching. Contact M. R. Sugumaran of Nehru Children's Cultural Association on phone no. 81444 16484

Science camp for children

From Sep. 21, 2013

Spark Science Club is offering a six-weekend introductory science camp in which participants work like scientists to observe natural laws, design and conduct experiments, record and analyse data.

The camp is for students of Class VI,

VII and VIII and will be held on Saturdays between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. from September 21 to November 2, 2013.

Registration is limited to 15 students. Registration/ fee details, contact spark@iiteach.in or visit www.iiteach.in

Competitions for Children

Sep. 28, 29 & 30, 2013

The Preschool of India is conducting a inter-school competition for kids in the age group of 2yrs to 9 yrs.

Date: Sep. 28, 2013 - Venue - The Preschool of India, Door #1, Plot #79, Krishnamachari Street, Sri Devi Karumari amman nagar, Valasaravakkam.

Date: Sep. 29, 2013 - Venue: The Preschool of India, 16, Sterling Avenue, Sakthi Nagar, Porur,

Timing: 8.50 am to 6.30 pm. Prize Distribution by 7 p.m. at both the venues.

Kids of Pre-KG to UKG can participate in Yoga, Colouring, Sloka, Action Rhymes, storytelling, classical dance, singing and fancy dress competitions.

For children in Std I to III, competitions in Yoga, Oration, Sloka, drawing, Essay writing, classical dance, singing, western dance and fancy dress will be held.

There are also competitions for parents and grand parents.

For Registration, contact by phone: 8939993332, 8939997770, 22520483, 22522435. E-mail: reachus@thepreschoolofindia.com. Registration closes on Sep. 27, 2013. Registration Fee Rs.100/- per event.

Students can enroll for any number of events.

Storytelling workshop for children

From Sep. 30, 2013

Spring and Zoom is organising a week-long storytelling workshop for children.

The sessions will be conducted by Jeeva Raghunath, international storyteller. The workshop will be interactive and full of fun that help the child develop various skills.

Suitable for children ages 3 to 5 years.

The workshop will go on till October 4. For more details, please contact 9940450495 or 9600083124. Registration is on now.

To publish your events here, please e-mail the details to editor@yocee.in

Please note to include the name and phone number of the contact person.

Details without these details will not be accepted for publication.

Golu Doll making workshop

Sep. 28, 2013

DakshinaChitra is conducting one-

(Continued on page 7)



Mini reports

(Continued from page 6)

day workshop for children for making a doll for the Navaratri Golu and take it home.

The workshop fee would be Rs.500/-inclusive of materials and transportation per participant. Conveyance to and from DakshinaChitra, will be provided.

For more information and to register, contact 98417 77779, 24462435, 24918943

Grammar made easy

P.S. Nandini
Student Reporter

Thejomaya conducted 'Grammar Adventures' an Interactive Grammar Workshop on Aug. 10, 2013 at their premises in R.A.Puram. The interactive event was for kids aged 6-10. Mrs. Karpagam Gurunathan conducted this workshop. The iPad activities, blending teaching with technology were well received. She is a postgraduate with 15 years of experience in the publishing field (grades K-12, US books).

Another session of Grammar classes will be conducted at Thejomaya in Oct. 2013. Contact Thejomaya at 9 Karpagam Avenue, 1st Street, R.A Puram. Phone: 45535518, 9381329450

National Award for city teachers

Four senior teachers from Chennai schools received National Award for Teachers from the Govt. of India on the occasion of Teachers Day this year.

P.C. Selvarani, principal, SBOA School

& Junior College, Anna Nagar; Geetha Balachander, Principal, DAV Boys Sr. Sec. School, Lloyds Road; Kamyia Sridhar, PGT-Chemistry, Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav Sr. Sec. School, Arumbakkam; Geetha Nandakumar, vice principal, Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram, Kilpauk received the award at a function held in Delhi on Sep. 4, 2013.

Music Concert by the young

As part of the monthly Sunday Kutcheri in the Park organised by Sundaram Finance, R. Anirudh Subramanian, a class 8 student of Chettinad Hari Shree Vidyalayam, presented a mikeless concert on Sep. 1 at the Nageswara Rao Park in Mylapore. Anirudh is a student of Guru Padma Sandilyan. He was accompanied on the Mridangam by Kishore Ramesh and on the Violin by Parur Ananthalakshmi. Kutcheri in the Park is held on the first Sunday of every month to promote young talents in music. Children below 15 years can utilise this opportunity.

To apply for auditions, contact 94450 34557. Email: sundaykutcheri@gmail.com

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN IN CHENNAI

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Paramapadam, exhibit of the fortnight at the Egmore museum



As part of 'Exhibit of Fortnight,' the Art Section of Government Museum, Egmore, has displayed *Paramapadham*, a traditional snake and ladder game, in Kalamkari work on hand woven fabric.

The game depicts the attempt by human beings to reach God.

The ladders represent the virtues and snakes the vices. People of the past generation played this game at night on the *Vaikuntha Ekadasi* and stayed awake throughout the night.

It is on display till Sep. 22, 2013. For details, contact the museum on phone 2819 3238.



Gardening starter kit for kids

Kamakshi Nursery based in Royapettah is putting up an exhibition cum sale, Green Thumbs on Sep. 20 to 22 at Gallery Sri Parvati on Eldams Road, Teynampet. There will be sale of indoor and outdoor plants and gardening consultation on the spot. The special attraction at this show is demo and sale of gardening starter kit for children.

Kamakshi Nursery is at 15, Hanumantha Street, Balaji Nagar, Royapettah. Phone: 28132593

Fun and stories

Goodbooks, Anna nagar is organising an evening of fun and stories by the famed storyteller Jeeva Raghunath on Sep. 21, 2013 between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.



The event will be held at Goodbooks, at I-63, 4th Street, Anna Nagar East. Tickets are priced at Rs. 150 per head. For details, contact 9840810361

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PS Senior wins TCS IT Wiz regional

After a tough competition with the last year's champions, SRDF Vivekananda Vidyalaya, the team from P S Senior Sec School emerged winners of the regional rounds.

S. Abhinav and Bharath Sivakumar both students of class 12 of P S Senior, Mylapore were chasing the defending champions in the finals closely to become the first ever team from their school to win the regional rounds of TCS IT Wiz quiz.

The quiz was conducted on Aug. 21, 2013 at the Music Academy, Chennai.

The six teams that made it to the finals after a written prelims of 20 questions were from Gateway - the complete school (Sanjeev Rao and

Ruthrabalan), P S Senior Secondary (S. Abhinav and Bharath Sivakumar), Chennai Public School (Ronak P and Arjun P), SRDF Vivekananda Vidyalaya (Pooja A. J. and Sidhharth S), Chettinad Vidyashram (Sri Aurobindo and Mula Vamsikrishna) and SBOA (Aditya Jayaprakash and K. Bhavish).

While Abhinav and Bharath won an iPad each, the runners-up from SRDF Vivekananda Vidyalaya received Galaxy tablets.

The team from P S Senior school will represent Chennai region in the National finals to be held in Delhi in December, later this year.

Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School held their Model United Nations conference, SanMUN 2013, on August 9, 11 and 12, this year. It was held from 9 a.m to 3.30 p.m. on all these days.

Ajit Singh, Consulate General of the Republic of Singapore, Chennai inaugurated the SanMun 2013. N. Kumar, Honorary Counsel for Greece was a guest of honour. 327 delegated representing 23 schools from Chennai, Bangalore and Sharjah U.A.E. participated in six committees.

The MUN simulated six of the major MUN committees. Disarmament and Security Committee, United Nations Environment Program, Futuristic Continual Crisis Committee, Economic and Social Council, Human Rights Council and Security Council.

The chairs, vice chairs and moderators for each of these committees were students from Sri Sankara school and other schools, who were well versed with MUN and its workings. The secretary general of the MUN, Akshat Jain, a student of Sankara school has an astounding experience of 17 MUN's. He was also the chair of UNEP, his preferred committee.

The conference was declared open by

Students discuss global issues at Model United Nations conference

Anirudh Madhavan and Ananya Balaji
Student Reporters



the Secretary General and for the next three days what followed was some fantastic debating and resolution making on various issues of importance as well as value in various committees.

Each committee also formed its own resolution to their agendas, which gives hope that students can be the peacekeepers of the future. Students

debated upon several topics such as energy sharing, family issues, unemployment, economic crisis and conflict in the Middle East in UNHRC, UNEP, DISEC, Economic and Social Council, UNSC and Futuristic Continual Crisis Committee. Resolutions were passed in all committees.

The conference was formally closed on the 11th of August around 3.30 p.m in the afternoon. After this, there was an awards ceremony to recognise the best delegates from each committee, and the delegate who had submitted the best Position Paper, a paper explaining the stance of a country on the issue and proposed solutions.

Bishop cotton boys school, Bangalore representing Palestine and PSBB, Nungambakkam representing the U.K, won the best delegates award.

The Executive Board comprising of all the chairs were given awards too for their hard work. There was also a feedback session to evaluate the quality of the MUN. SanMUN 2013, the eight edition of the most popular MUN in Chennai once again was at its best and enthralled students by introducing them to the eternal message that "Change begins with us. We are the change we seek."

View Chennai from the lighthouse soon

Aishwaraya D Kalro
Student Reporter

It is celebration time for all those who love sightseeing as Chennai's Eiffel Tower or commonly known as the Marina beach Lighthouse, is re-opening soon; after almost two decades. One can enjoy a bird eye's view of the Bay of Bengal from the 10th floor of the Lighthouse which is all set to become a beauty spot!

The 45.72m tall, ten-storied Marina lighthouse is expected to open to public within a time period of two months. A scheme announced last year said, 13 lighthouses in India would be converted into tourist destinations, four of which are from *namma* Chennai! The public can view the city and the Bay of Bengal from the Marina beach lighthouse in about two months as maintenance work is still under progress. Visitors won't have to climb up a



fleet of stairs, as the lift is being repaired. The lift can be operated only up to the 9th floor after which visitors will have to climb up one floor to get a majestic view of the gleaming city. A nominal entry fee

will also be collected, however it is still not determined, an official said. The light house will be open to public between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. tentatively. School children, accompanied by school teachers will be allowed to enter the lighthouse from 10 a.m onwards.

The authorities are trying their best to take and implement some precautionary measures to avoid all the possible mishaps and accidents from this tall building, which was one of the reasons why the lighthouse was closed for public earlier. The wall of the balcony is being raised by four feet. A new lighting system, fencing/grilling and painting of the walls are a few steps taken as a part of the maintenance of this building.

It's time to get ready with backpacks and cameras, to picture the beautiful city!

Dreams for the city

Aishwarya V
Student Reporter

It was when Chennai turned 374 this year, the city saw many celebrations for a week.

Dream Madras, an initiative by United Way was conducted in Valluvar Kottam on Aug. 19 and 20. The theme for the inter-school competition was 'Your Vision for Chennai in 2030'.

Students from different schools exhibited their ideas about their perspective of Chennai in the days to come, through any platform like in the form of a movie, video, power-point presentation, models, charts ... Many schools enthusiastically participated in this colorful exhibition.

The future citizens had outstanding ideas for the betterment of Chennai.

An eco-friendly and plastic free Chennai was envisioned by a set of students.



Exhibits portrayed that plastics need to be banned on a large scale and people should move towards jute and cloth bags, soon. A related exhibit also stressed that more trees and most importantly, trees of suitable kinds be planted. "Planting any tree, not knowing its characteristic could lead to soil degradation," said the student who designed the exhibit. The importance and advantages of Solar Power were also highlighted in many of the exhibits.

Chennai is known for its authentic traditional flavours. Many of the exhibits chose one of the many cultural flavours of Chennai as their central theme. Bharatnatyam, the famous classical dance art form and Sari, the attire were the most popular among them. The Gen Next were of the opinion that our rich cultural heritage be preserved.

Marina, the second longest beach in the world, is undoubtedly the pride of Chennai. But, of late, Marina beach sees a large amount of refuse that washes ashore, a constant reminder of the pollution caused by its citizens. A couple of exhibits suggested that this longest beach in India can also become the cleanest if we take an initiative to rid marina of its dirty drapery.

The picture of Chennai painted by the students was thoughtful and colorful. The visitors hoped that something concrete will materialise from the thoughts of the future engineers and administrators.

Cleanup the coast



The Indian Coast Guard (East), TREE Foundation and Loyola College are celebrating the International Coastal Cleanup Day 2013 to instill a sense of responsibility among general public

on the problem of garbage dumped into the sea and its effects on marine life.

The Coastal and Marine Debris Clean Up has been instrumental in creating an awareness on 'Threats to the Marine Environment', including Marine Biodiversity

Conservation among student community, fisher folk and general public.

The organisers invite all students from schools, colleges, student groups and general public to join this year's International Coastal Cleanup to be conducted on Sep. 21, 2013.

Between 7.30 a.m and 9.30 a.m. The drive meets at the Marina Beach, near Labour Statue.

Interested volunteers/organizations/schools/colleges can contact Rammya Ravi at 94443 06411, 99621 48404 or email to treerootsandshoots@gmail.com to register their groups.

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Fun with Science

Wonders of Science” - Series One, A three month workshop for kids 6-8 years starting from October 4th (Fridays).

Navratri workshop on “Fun with electricity” for kids 8-12 years will be conducted by The Yellow Bus, Besant Nagar in association with CurioKidz.

From Oct. 7 to 11, 2013 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Registrations closes by 22nd September. For details contact 98845 49688 / 4551 1819

Dance Workshop

Modern moves 2, creative dance movement sessions with Andrea Jacob will be held at Hippocampus, Adyar on Wednesdays from Sep. 18 to Nov. 13, 2013. Participants can experiment with different dance forms, explore dance techniques of different genres and rhythmic patterns expressed by the feet.

The sessions will be held from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Hippocampus Children's Company is at 4/11, Indiranagar 3rd Avenue, Adyar.

Contact 42116417 to register.

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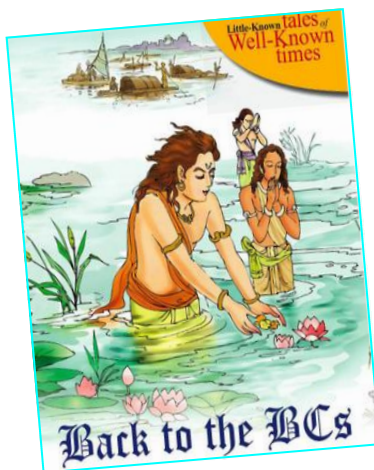
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Listen to stories from history

Read about Chandragupta Maurya, Chanakya and Vishnu Sharma in history book and wonder how they really were and what did they do?



Pavithra Srinivasan, who has written a book on stories from history will tell these interesting stories at this story-telling workshop for kids.

On Sep. 21, 2013 between 4.30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Interesting activities follow the story-telling session.

The session will be held at Landmark, Citi Centre, Mylapore

Limited to 30 kids on first come first served basis and entry is free for the sessions. Preferred age group of kids is 8 - 13 years

To register for the session, contact Landmark at phone no. 64523500 or just walk-in to the store.

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