




Sensing nature through art

By Kritajnya Raghunathan, Student Reporter



Traditional activities using natural resources and learning to create art with them was a new experience for many kids at this camp held in the green campus of Kalakshetra.
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CiTy scan

Web site of Tamil Nadu School Education Department

www.pallikalvi.in, a joint venture by the Tamil Nadu State Parent Teacher Association with Mark and Meclin Solutions Pvt. Ltd. is the web site for all the information relating to school education in Tamil Nadu. The web site has separate sections for students, teachers and schools. The students section has links to learning resources, syllabus and online text books. The web site will add online question bank soon for students to practice.

Now, wear outfits made of banana fibre

After the jute fabrics, it is banana fibre that would be used in garments. Weavers in Anakaputhur, near Chennai have come out with the outfits made of banana fibre with the support from the National Research Centre for Banana, (NRCB), Trichy. The garments made of banana fibres do not shrink and the colour does not fade after a wash. They keep you cool too.

Green Oscar award for the founder of TREE Foundation, Chennai

Dr. Supraja Dharini, founder of TREE (Trust for Environment Education) Foundation, has received an associate award of the Whitley Award (Green Oscar) carrying 10000 GBP for conservation of Olive Ridley turtles and dolphins, off Chennai coast.

New Members of Parliament from Chennai

In the recently held Lok Sabha elections, the three parliamentary constituencies in Chennai elected their new Members of Parliament. T. K. S. Elangovan of DMK from North Chennai, Dayanidhi Maran of DMK from Central Chennai and S. Rajendran of AIADMK from South Chennai have been elected.

School for the children of army personnel opened in Chennai

Golden Palm Army School in Nandambakkam, is the new school opened on May 26 for the children of defence personnel. Affiliated to CBSE, this school now has upto class 7 and will be extended upto class 10. The school is situated in a sprawling eight-acre campus will start functioning from July 6. The school has place for civilians too - 20% of the total seats.

Fun recipes for kids

By Pallavi B and Nandini P. S, Student Reporters



When children hear the word 'cooking', they normally

picture their mothers cooking in the kitchen. But after they attended a book

launch in Hippocampus in

C.P.Ramasamy Road on

Saturday, April 25, 2009, they could picture themselves making up quick snacks.

A group of kids and their parents or grandparents recently attended this launch of a cookbook for kids. The book Kids' Kitchen is authored by Sabita Radhakrishna who is a freelance writer and broadcaster. She hosted a program called 'Wonder balloons' for kids on Doordarshan. She has already written two other well

known cook books for adults.

Her first book, Anaram, on the traditional cuisine of Tamil Nadu, won her the Gourmand World Award for the Best Indian Cook Book for 2002. She published 'The Quick Cook: 60 minutes menus' in 2006.

Why a cook book for kids? Sabita says "My four grandchildren wanted me to write a cook book for them before I started writing novels and stories". The four of them experimented with the dishes, made some changes and helped her greatly.

One of Mrs. Radhakrishna's granddaughters Aditi has drawn the illustrations in the book. Aditi is a student of class 10, Abacus school. They were done when Aditi was ten years old. Aditi says, "I feel that kids would be able to identify with the recipes better if a kid did the illustrations." She adds, she enjoys drawing very much. Aditi worked for over a year and drew over 350 pictures illustrating the various steps in each recipe. However only around 15 were used in the book.

The book has recipes of salads, snacks lunch and dinner, juices and milkshakes, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes for some of which you need elders' help. Each chapter begins with a small story pertaining to the subject. For example she showed a milk story in the milkshakes section which tells the importance and goodness of milk.

Published by Westland, the book Kids' Kitchen is priced at Rs.195.

Read the full story on www.yocee.in/cityroundup.php



SCHOOLS in Chennai

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info
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Whats ^{up} in June

Workshop on Herbs June 28

The TREE Roots and Shoots, Tambaram (a part TREE Foundation) is organising a workshop for the school students on Herbs Around Us on June 28.

This programme will focus on educating the students about the herbal resources in our country.

A short snap test to the interested students would be conducted in your school 10 students will be shortlisted to participate in the workshop. These students will become ambassadors to promote the significance of the herbs to the rest of the students' community.

For more details kindly contact mobile no. 99402 03871 or email to: caravind90@gmail.com

Sports, arts and science

lectures June, 1 - 28

The Children's Club Society, Mylapore will hold Cricket coaching on weekends for boys for age group of 8 – 13 yrs, table tennis coaching (daily) for age group of 7 – 15 yrs, Chess coaching course of 10 classes from June 11 for age group of 5 – 15 yrs.

Drawing and painting classes will be held on weekends 8 - 9.30 am for age group of 5 – 15 yrs.

There will be an exhibition of paintings by children on June 21 and 22 from 9.30 am – 4 pm

This year's Sunday Science lectures (free) for students of classes 10, 11 and 12 will be inaugurated on June 28 with a lecture by Dr. B. Viswanathan, Dept of Chemistry, IIT at 10 am.

For more info contact the Hony. Secretary at the Club premises between 5 and 6.30 pm. Phone .No: 284 74140 (before 4 pm)

Events on World Environment Day June, 5

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) celebrates the 'World Environment Day' each year. This year, TERI, in association with Hewlett Packard plans to commemorate the World Environment Day by organising an 'Environment Fair' (*sutrupurasuzhal vizha*) in Chennai. This will include an 'On the spot painting competition' and 'Quiz' for the students.

For more details contact the co-ordinator Ms. Livleen K Kahlon on the email - kahlonl@teri.res.in

Holiday Tour to Karnataka

By S. Sruti, Student Reporter



Nehru Children's Cultural Association had organised a week-long holiday tour to Karnataka for school students from May 17 to 23.

The participants from various schools were taken to India Meteorological Department, Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institute of Astro-Physics and Master Control Facility, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), Hassan - India's first satellite control facility.

Dr. Manjunath Krishnapur, Assistant Professor of Maths, Indian Institute of Science explained concepts of Number Theory to the students. Dr. Lancelot of Indian Institute of Astro-Physics showed the process of manufacturing concave and convex mirrors in a telescope.

Dr. S. Chatterjee of Indian Institute of Astro-Physics, Dr. Proshenjith Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Dr. Prof. G.S. Bhat, Chairman of Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, M. Sai Prasad, Assistant Meteorologist, India Meteorological Department and Rajesh Anil Alva, Satellite Officer, Master Control Facility took the classes. In MCF, Students had a glimpse of how the GSLV satellites were controlled and were shown the images of the earth's surface captured by the satellites.

Students enjoyed the trip and said it was a nice experience. They felt that it was interesting and informative. The teachers at various institutes felt that it was really wonderful to interact with school students from a different city.

You can contact Nehru Children's Cultural Association on phone no. 2445 3014

< Read full story on www.yocee.in >



Ganesha and Shiva's Personal Demons at this launch



By V. P. Ishan, Student Reporter

The 26th of April, 2009 was witness to Lord Ganesha ripping through the galaxies with his trusty light sabre...Don't get it? Well, Hippocampus was home to the launching of Masquerade's Youth Theatre.

The members of Masquerade lead by Mr. Krishna Kumar (popularly known as KK) conducted a story reading session titled 'Ganesha the prankster'. The session combined the stories of Ganesha, Star wars and had a hint of Power Rangers too. The members acted out the story of Ganesha's birth and read the story on how he humbled the Lord of Wealth, Kubera.

Masquerade, is a performance group dedicated to the growth of theatre in Chennai. It was founded by Mr. Krishna Kumar and a group of enthusiastic theatre buffs in 1994. The group's current focus is to bring in the concept of community theatre, with larger audiences and social interaction.

For the story- telling, Siddarth Shivakumar was the voice of Ganesha, Dileep Rangan was Lord Shiva while Ramya Mukund portrayed Parvathi. Harshavardhan Ganesan, Hrishi Siddartha and Sanchith Shivakumar played the roles of the narrators. The three narrators also took on the role of SPD, Shiva's Personal Demons!

About the Masquerade Youth Theatre (MYT), KK said, "We have started this to provide a platform for the youth so that they can have fun and entertainment, but



with a purpose. We want to redefine youth theatre and youth contribution to community. We would like to set up a scholarship corpus to help

deserving students study further"

Why the the unusual fusion of stories? Harshavardhan, a member of Masquerade, said "We included the other stories to make it as fun for the children and contemporary too"

Following the launch of the youth theatre, Camp Neuve, a theatre workshop was conducted by MYT for 15 days.

KK says about how the group would function, "MYT will hold workshops only in the summer but there will be many more events like these being conducted to keep the members active"



Contact Masquerade Youth Theatre at the email - masquerade.madras@gmail.com

This newsletter is available for free pick-up at these places. Tell your friends too!



- The Children's Club, 212/96, V. M. Street, Mylapore.
- Hippocampus Children's Co. 1/E, Subbraya Avenue, Behind Sony World, Abhirampuram.
- The Madras Terrace House, 15, Sripuram II Street, Royapettah
- Enchanting Elves, No.26, Ranganathan Avenue, Sylvan Lodge Colony, Kilpauk.
- Hansel & Gretel Kids Play Centre, 11 Jagadambal Street, T.Nagar.
- Peek-a-boo Patterns, 16, Kasturi Rangan Road, Alwarpet.

Sensing nature through art



The city of Chennai had loads of camps. But this was one where children could interact with nature in an eco-friendly environment and the main purpose of this camp was for the kids to have fun with nature and art.

This summer workshop was held in the Kalakshetra campus organised by the Aseema Trust from May 4 to 9 for children aged 8 to twelve years.

On the first day of the camp Sukant anna, the director of the camp grouped the kids into five different groups. Two activities were held each day and at the end of each day a short film was shown.

Cloth weaving was an interesting activity, where one was given a wooden frame to weave thread into and then that kids were told to go look for leaves, flowers and anything else that was attractive that also could be added to the frame.

The story of khadi followed our learning to use a spinning wheel to make thread was another.



Clay work was attractive and everyone participated enthusiastically, especially during the session where wheel pottery was taught.

Then it was paper making where old paper was recycled by first making it into a pulp and then adding water to it and then a wooden frame was used to give it the shape. After that it was left for drying and then it was time for leaf printing!

Paint was put on a leaf on both side using a roller and then was pressed onto a paper to make an impression.

Kalamkari was a much awaited event. The kids learnt the proper methods to make the pictures. One can say it is a pretty complicated process. It was taught by a kalamkari artist Prabhakaran sir.

And then it was pot painting and kolam.

The films which were shown were interesting, touching and educational. On the last day there was a small party where all the kids brought varieties of food from their homes and shared

amongst everybody.

On the last day, it was an exhibition of the art works by the kids made during the camp and the parents of the participants looked at each piece with awe.

Then came a surprise a theatre show - Kadal bootham - in tamil by artiste Velu Saravanan and his group. Some kids enjoyed and some people lets just say were scared of for reasons

? Do you organise events for kids

Mail us the info to editor@yocee.in !

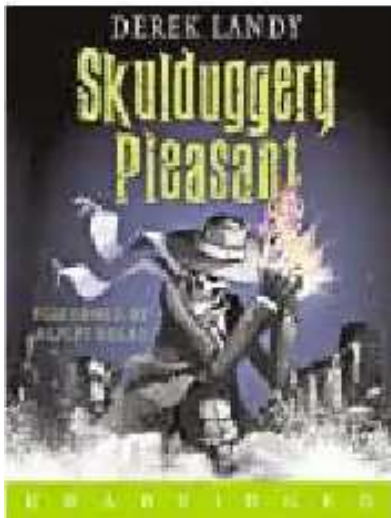
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Skulduggery Pleasant

Author : Derek Landy



*Book review by
Malavika Ravi, Class 9,
PSBB, Nungambakkam*

Stephanie is taken out of her normal world when her uncle is murdered suddenly,

leaving her his whole fortune. Her uncle used to write horror fiction, or so she thought, because as time passed, she realised that things which she believed were stories had become true.

Vampires (not your harmless ones), Hollow Men, Cleavers, warriors and dangerous magical powers all took hold of her when she willingly agreed to avenge the murder of her uncle.

Skulduggery, a living skeleton, detective and powerful user of magic, helps her figure out mysteries and shows her things she has never dreamt of. Read about Stephanie and Skulduggery's dangerous endeavours, and how they fight back against the powerful Serpine. Can they save the magical realm, before it is too late?

Read this fast paced, extremely humorous novel, where the author combines many vital points to give one climax which is thrilling and un-put-down able...

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*Read full review and more book reviews at
www.yocce.in/booknook.php*

From the editorial desk



Hi young friends!

It's time to be back at school again.

All new books, classrooms, teachers and some new friends too.

YOcee is receiving mails from many kids on the summer holidays they enjoyed.

Akarsh says it was fun going around the city and catching up with his holiday homework. Sruti went on an educational trip to various places in Karnataka. Vasudha has holidaying in the North East and checking emails from her friends in Madras to keep a track of what's happening here.

And how do you keep contact with your friends when you are away? Or when you do not want to pick up the telephone to speak with them? Do you use short messaging? Or how long is your message to share the news with your friends?

Do you think short messages over cell phones (SMS) is really useful? If so, when? How do you make the most of the instrument when you are away?

Tell us your opinion. We welcome it in SMS patten and size. But email them to editor@yocce.in. Interesting messages will be published on the website.

Of course, you are not supposed to use it in your classes, as it will take away your concentration from the attentive learning!

Let's discuss more on this soon.

Have a great new academic year!

*Revathi
Editor*

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Quiz fizz . . .

The Indian Quizzing League (IQL) recently concluded its first summer camp in quizzing for children aged 10-15. The summer camp was held for 4 days over two weekends from May 16-24, 2009 in R.A.Puram.

The IQL is a Chennai based quiz club aimed at making quizzing fun. Apart from having regular quiz meetings, the IQL also hosts quizzes for schools, colleges and their independent India Quiz, an annual quiz that happens on January 26.

The ten children who attended the summer camp from various parts and schools of Chennai (there was one girl from Kota, Rajasthan as well) were introduced to the world of quizzing, the methods of collecting information, learning to be aware of various trivia and facts and the stories surrounding questions.

The kids also brought and presented their own questions, thus building their presentation skills and boosting their confidence as well. V. V. Ramanan, ace quizmaster was present in one of the sessions and shared his experience of more than 25 years in the quizzing field. During the course of this camp, the IQL also launched their first Quiz newsletter.

The grand finale quiz hosted at the end of the camp covered different topics, gave the kids a taste of the different kinds of rounds along with the funda behind each trivia being presented. Parents were present on the last two days to cheer their wards in the camp. Prizes were also awarded to the winners of the final day quiz.

The IQL team plans to make the summer camp a



regular feature to help children learn with fun through quizzing.

To know future camps and events of IQL, contact Karthik Narayan on phone no. 99620 70090

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