

SmileTimes

The Newsletter of Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth

Vol 1, May '07



“ When everyone comes from a point of contributing to society, you will have a divine society. ”

- His Holiness Sri Sri Ravishankar

The Beginning...

In 1981 His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the founder of Art of Living organisation laid the foundation for Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth, a school for holistic and modern education, with 30 children.

...Now...

Provides free education in Kannada along with free meals, stationery, uniforms and bus transportation to over 2000 children from 45 villages, 95% of them being first generation learners.

...The Vision

Holistic education with emphasis on social responsibilities and human values to rural children across India.

How it all began...



Dear Reader,

Welcome to our first edition of 'Smile Times' a newsletter with updates on our initiatives in education.

The Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth School was founded by H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar 'Guruji' in 1981. The school provides holistic education to rural children and the strength of the school has grown to 2000 students. This school is a 'model school' and over 65 rural and tribal schools have been set up across India.

Through the 'Gift a Future, Gift a Smile', 'Euro a day' and 'Dollar a day' programs that many of you are a part of, the dream of going to school for thousands of rural and tribal children across India has come true.

Smile Times is an endeavour to update you on the recent developments of this school, the difference it has made in the lives of the children and our future plans. The first edition begins with a brief introduction to the school.

We are keen to hear your views, so please do write in to us at ruralschool@vvmvp.org

Regards,

Smt. Bhanumathi Narasimhan

* Editorial Team

Smt. Bhanumathi Narasimhan
Gulveen Somal, Tarun Sewak
Bangalore desk and Delhi desk

*"Life is sacred, Celebrate Life,
Care for others and share whatever
you have with those less fortunate
than you. Broaden your vision for the
whole world Belongs to you"*

-His Holiness Sri Sri Ravishankar

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*Thank You for
Gifting a Smile*

From the little Hearts

My School



I come to this school from a far off village and my school provides free bus facility from my home to school. Every year our school conducts a free educational tour for the 10th standard students. We have a good playground and our teachers support us to participate in various sports activities. We also have various other courses like computer training, tailoring etc. Our school is a suitable place for the all round development of the students and we are very grateful to our beloved Guruji H.H. Sri Sri Ravishankar.
Niranjan B., Class - 9A

We are students of the Ved Vignana Maha Vidya Peeth school at Udayapura, Karnataka founded by our honourable H.H. Sri Sri Ravishankar Guruji. We go to school in the big yellow bus every day. We receive all our books, uniforms, and midday meals without any fees and the classrooms are well ventilated and have electricity. Our teachers teach very well and encourage us to participate in extra curricular activities like debate, quiz competitions etc. We, the students, consider ourselves really fortunate to be a part of this wonderful institution and are extremely grateful to our honourable H.H. Sri Sri Ravishankar Guruji.

*Kavitha (8 A), Nagaraj (8 B)
and Pushpalatha (8 C)*



**SMILE
COMPULSORY**

Why was 6 afraid of 7?



Because 7 8 9!

Clippings



The SS LC (10th Class) exams were held in March 2007

After the exams had concluded, the 10th class (120) students and staff went for a one day tour to Belur, Halebedu, Shravana Belagola, Yediyuru and Goroh dam villages

Drawing competition with the theme 'Natural Scenery' held on New Year's eve.

Saraswati Puja was performed for all the students (Sarasvati is the goddess of knowledge)



On 26th January, 2007 India's 58th Republic day was celebrated in the school. The program was presided by **Swami Pragyapadji**, who hoisted the National flag and explained the importance of Republic Day



Some of the Clippings from the activities at the Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth School between January to March 2007:

Third trimester evaluation conducted for classes LKG to 7th (English medium) and classes 1st to 9th (Kannada medium) in March 2007



Paintings by the school children were displayed at a prominent Art Gallery in Helsinki, Finland in January 2007



THE ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Annual Day function included various sports and cultural activities being conducted separately for class 1st to 4th and class 5th to 10th. The sports activities included 100m, 200m and 400m running race, relay, disc throw, volley ball, throw ball, kabaddi, kho kho and the cultural activities were singing, folk singing, quiz, debate, speech competition, rangoli etc. Prizes were distributed to the students who won the competitions. Naveen (Class 10 A) won 1st prize for Kannada debate competition and Naseen (Class 9B) won 1st prize for religious prayer speech. Nagabhushan's voice won the hearts of all and he secured 1st position in patriotic and folk song competition. Karthik D (Class 10 B) won 1st prize for clay modeling while Karthik B (Class 8 B) won 1st prize for story writing. The team consisting of Pavtihra, Manikanta, Lohitha and Vinod won 1st prize in the quiz.

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Mr Abbas Mahmud (Managing Director)

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The school library, science laboratory and computer laboratory is currently being constructed.

Bhanu Didi speaks:

Laying the foundation..An upbringing that speaks volumes...

Both our parents were responsible for inculcating diverse and beautiful values in our home. Our father introduced us to spirituality and our mother introduced us to religious traditional values. This was such a beautiful blend!

Our mother was a very happy, supportive person, who never indulged in complaining. Pitaji is a very independent person with no demands. He has always emphasised service and social responsibility. Our parents gave us so much freedom.

They set us a very good example, always sharing and never fighting. We were a very close-knit family, but my parents would consistently say "Everybody is your family". I feel Guruji's whole vision of an "extended" or "One World Family" was such a natural progression from this. He translated those words into experience rather than letting them remain mere platitudes. They say children choose their parents. Perhaps that is why He chose these parents - so supportive, so independent. And they allowed him to be so light and so free.

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A teacher writes in

Usha Gangadhar,
Teacher,

(Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth, Bangalore)
(Text translated from Hindi)

Our school provides a rare combination of holistic education that includes modern day academic education and also knowledge of the Vedas. In addition to providing free education to these children whose parents cannot afford to educate them, our school provides free transport to all the students who come from over 45 villages and also mid-day meals. As teachers, we make an extra effort so that all students can achieve the best results.

We also offer special training on physical education and extra curricular activities in addition to teaching pranayams once a week. The students play games ranging from kabadi and kho-kho to volleyball. They participate in inter-school sports competitions and have won awards in district and state level competitions. The extra curricular activities include Sanskrit debates, clay modeling, rangoli drawing, etc and students have won state level competitions.

Once a year we celebrate the Annual Day which includes a prize giving ceremony for the various competitions which range from sports to cultural activities.

This well rounded education at Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth school is being provided by the grace of Guruji and I consider myself fortunate to be a part of this noble sewa project.



Anurag Sunder,
(Gift a Smile Team,
New Delhi)

'GAS team'

!!! and there were guffaws of laughter as I attempted a smart sounding name for our Seva team ! GAS or Gift a Smile started when a vaccum was developing around me. With no Seva activity around, it came as a Guru sent opportunity (as ever!). Couple of get togethers later, it never dawned how so many of us came together, picked up responsibilities, started working on this project and lo and behold there were smiles all around in no time ! Smile of Seva, smile of satisfaction, smile of experiencing Guru's grace, smile of bringing a smile to a small child who I might never meet in my lifetime and most importantly smile of having someone flow with us as he sponsors the education of an innocent life.

To me, Gift a Smile Seva has brought the knowledge of Gita closer than ever before. How magnificently and gently has it brought in clarity the concept of doer & doership. There were times when pushing our abilities & throwing in that extra tinge of effort would still not bring requisite results but throw in doubts... do we push harder? Do we change our strategy? Is this the right project for me? Am I good enough for this noble Seva? All of these led to one final answer give in 100% with complete surrender. Knowledge oozed out of every event, every moment that I came across. The Master unfolded the golden path so lovingly. Our team has just started; there are miles to go as we, the blessed ones cherish this path of love, joy & knowledge.

'Helping Rural Friends'

* 9 year old Adit Shankar from Delhi gifted his own Christmas gift of Rs 500/- to his friends at Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth School. He is now inspiring his friends to 'help a friend' through Gift a Smile.



North square mall (Pitampura), New Delhi
Great India Place Mall, Noida
E-17 South Extn II, New Delhi
A-5 Connaught Place, New Delhi

Generosity is not an act
it is a state of consciousness,
but it finds its expression in an act
-His Holiness Sri Sri Ravishankar

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Upcoming Events

- ❁ Art of Living Delhi is organising Yaadein, a musical evening of ethereal love, by Chitra Roy, nightingale of the Art of Living to celebrate the birthday of Dear Guruji, H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, on Sunday, 13th May 2007. The event is being held in aid of the Gift a Smile project.
- ❁ A book fair is being organized by the volunteer team of 'Gift a Future, Gift a Smile' in Delhi. The team is collecting old books and these will be sold during the book fair in order to raise funds for the project.



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