

BALSAM ACADEMY

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A MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Envision a future where education goes beyond traditional boundaries. Picture children like Maya not just as learners but as active contributors to society, adaptable to change and deeply connected to the environment.

Meet Maya, a curious and adventurous young girl, always questioning and fascinated by the world around her. Her parents, despite their busy lives, prioritize quality time with her, nurturing her curiosity and guiding her explorations. Maya's teachers also encourage her, ensuring that her education extends beyond the classroom.

Maya learns not only from textbooks but from her environment, experiences, and interactions. Her education becomes a holistic journey, integrating thinking, feeling, and doing—a concept known as lifelong learning. This approach equips Maya with the skills and flexibility needed to navigate life's challenges, teaching her accountability, resilience, and responsibility for her actions.

Maya's growth isn't solely attributed to her curiosity; it's also influenced by the genuine interest her parents and teachers exhibit in their activities. Observing them, Maya learns to approach tasks with enthusiasm, whether it's studying for a test or planting a sapling in her garden. She develops a sense of selflessness, caring for her community and contributing to the world in meaningful ways.

The future of education, therefore, mirrors Maya and countless other children, learning not just for grades but for life. It involves parents and teachers becoming partners in the journey of lifelong learning.

To turn this vision into reality, we must cultivate a culture of lifelong learning. Children need the right environment, guidance, and tools to value natural resources, respect nature, and become responsible global citizens. It's a call to action for parents and teachers to collaborate in making lifelong learning a way of life—nurturing curiosity, fostering a love for learning, and instilling a deep respect for the environment. The future of education is not merely about learning; it's about living.

Balsam Academy



WHATS' IN A NAME?

As majestic as the Balsam firs that quickly grow to become towering architectural trees with a bold presence in the landscape and with a unique dispersal system found in the Balsam flowering plant, we at Balsam stretch our arms to reach the horizons and share knowledge with no limitations whatsoever.

SCHOOL SYMBOL

Our school affirms commitment to nurturing inventiveness in each child. Secure in the warmth of a caring school with parents, facilitators and the environment symbolized by the golden yellow triangles while the green circle represents the student who will be inspired to realize his/her potential and aspire for excellence in all their endeavours.

SCHOOL COLOURS

Yellow, white and green form the tri-colour of Balsam Academy. Colours taken from the elements fit in with our approach to life and learning.

Yellow – vibrant and charged with energy that we associate with childhood, symbolize a passion for life, learning and knowledge, for action of both mind and body.

White – brings to the mind the values of friendship and unity, of peace that we must help to promote, the world over. It also reminds us that as individuals, we belong to a larger group, the family of man.

Green – symbolizes the gift of life, strength and talents, which we must develop and use to the fullest. It is therefore the colour of endeavour of endless progress and prosperity.



OUR VISION

Balsam Academy aims to provide a supportive learning environment that enables students to maximise their potential through a comprehensive and holistic education approach.

OUR MISSION

Balsam Academy is dedicated to creating a supportive learning environment that fosters the holistic growth of each student. We encourage and motivate students to become life-long learners who strive for excellence. We achieve this by instilling essential life skills and values, which equip them to make a positive impact on their communities.



CORE VALUES

Respect

At our core, we value respect for oneself, others, and the environment, treating everyone and everything with dignity, fairness, and consideration.

Integrity

We uphold honesty, trust, and ethical behaviour in all aspects of our lives, adhering to a strong moral code and holding ourselves accountable for our actions.

Compassion

We demonstrate care, empathy, and understanding towards others, promoting a culture of kindness and supportiveness that extends beyond our immediate community.

Responsibility

We take ownership of our actions and decisions, acknowledging the impact they have on ourselves and those around us, and taking steps to ensure our choices align with our values.

Diversity

We embrace and celebrate the uniqueness of individuals and cultures, recognizing the value of different perspectives and experiences, and fostering a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect.



CORE PRINCIPLES

Supportive Learning Environment

Balsam Academy provides a nurturing environment that supports the holistic growth of each student, fostering their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development.

Holistic Growth

Balsam Academy values the growth of its students beyond academics, aiming to develop their emotional intelligence, social skills, and physical well-being, thus nurturing their holistic growth.

Lifelong Learning

Balsam Academy instills a love of learning in its students and encourages them to strive for excellence in all areas of their lives, promoting continuous learning and personal development beyond the classroom.

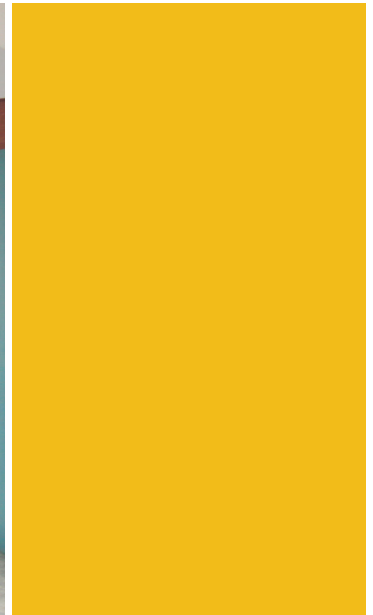
Essential Life Skills and Values

Balsam Academy emphasizes the importance of essential life skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, effective communication, and collaborative teamwork, while also instilling values such as respect, responsibility, integrity, and empathy in its students.

Positive Impact

Balsam Academy aims to equip its students with the necessary tools to make a positive impact on their communities, empowering them to lead by example, and become responsible global citizens, both now and in the future.





HISTORY OF BALSAM ACADEMY

A child born in the year 1938 grew as a man who did not complete elementary education in school but was an active learner, who not only consumed but produced knowledge by setting up industries in Bangalore. He played a leading role in creating entrepreneurs and job opportunities in Bangalore. A man with a broad vision with thoughts flowing from a stupendous mind made way for the development of the village near Arcot, the birthplace of his ancestors.

His initiation of changing the life in the village and their economic conditions began in 1986 when he preferred agriculture to an industry. A futuristic thinker, a silent performer, he left behind distinctive marks with his green thumb. A temple, a school and a hospital was what he planned for the villagers. The temple was under construction when he left this world in 1989.

Treading in the footsteps of Late Sri. K. Balaram was too large to fit in. His life partner who had to transform from a homemaker to an industrialist, completed the temple project and was actively involved in the developments of the village, accomplished all this and more with great ease while she successfully raised her children who are also inclined to shaping a better place for the children of tomorrow. Balsam Academy – a dream project, was founded under the stewardship of Smt. V.B.Saroja, Founder Trustee of Balaram Memorial Trust.

First opening its doors in 2004 as an after-school activity centre to a pre-school, the school developed as a co-educational school with 14 students to start off. The school that has moved to its present address is adored by visitors. Today, Balsam Academy stands out exclusively as a place for continued learning - a dream come true.



ACADEMIC APPROACH

Balsam Academy is dedicated to providing a pedagogical plan that seamlessly aligns with the National Curriculum Framework and the National Education Policy, creating a learning environment that is rigorous and fosters joy and meaning for children.

Our curriculum transcends the conventional, focusing on developing application-oriented competencies. This approach integrates the learning environment, resources, teaching approaches, assessment programs, and methods, as well as the values and ethos of the school.

With the emphasis on cultivating an inclusive, child-centric learning environment to empower students to become independent, self-reliant, and lifelong learners; our curriculum is designed to be more than a syllabus, focusing on a practical yet professional approach to develop application oriented competencies that are precise and measurable.

Interdisciplinary instruction plays a crucial role, and thereby the teaching-learning processes include collaborative learning, cooperative learning, reciprocal teaching, discussions, group projects, blended learning with the integration of ICT (Flipped Classrooms), experiential learning, problem-based learning, case studies, portfolios, presentations, and projects.

We incorporate a Waldorf Inspired Teaching Approach tailored to accommodate diverse backgrounds, learning styles, and intelligences of our students, ensuring teaching methods cater to various stages of development.

Additionally, to further enrich the learning experience, students are offered membership to school clubs with clear objectives set by club owners, comprising both parents and teachers. This approach encourages students to take ownership of their learning journey and extends their education beyond the confines of the classroom.

Recognizing the importance of social responsibility, we are also committed to making a positive impact on communities through community outreach programs. These initiatives instill a sense of civic responsibility in our students, fostering empathy and a commitment to creating positive change in the world.



BEYOND ACADEMIC APPROACH

An integrated curriculum approach at Balsam Academy provides continuum of concepts with skills -based learning, and provides opportunities to students to enhance artistic skills, pursue physically active and healthy lifestyle and build life skills. The integrated approach helps to build the strongest possible foundation for children from the elementary years onwards.

Art Education

Art Education is a part of the curriculum at all levels from class 1 to 10. Two periods in a week for each section of each class is allocated to involve students in the activities as specified in the CBSE Manual. Students explore different media and techniques and their use for creative and productive expression for common use. Opportunities are provided for development of awareness about folk arts, local specific arts, and other cultural components leading to an appreciation of national heritage. Locally available material is used to make different products. Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Language Arts (creative drama, puppetry, poetry) are some of the media of creative arts that are facilitated.

Art Integrated Learning

Arts Integrated Learning is a creative and constructivist teaching-learning approach through which students demonstrate their understanding of a concept through various art forms. It signifies exploration of academic content (ideas, concepts, prior knowledge) and skills sets to be acquired by a student through the various forms of Art.

Art Integrated Project

Art-Integrated Project work for classes I to X is designed to make teaching- learning competency-based and joyful. As part of this, at least one Art-Integrated Project in each subject are taken up by all students of classes IX and X from the academic session 2020-21, and students of classes I to VIII are also be encouraged to take at least one Art-Integrated Project (trans-disciplinary project) in a given academic year.

Art Integrated Project are conducted as per the following guidelines:

Classes I–VIII, Art Integrated Project should be of trans-disciplinary nature. The project work includes more than one subject and this is considered for Internal Assessment in the subjects concerned.

Classes IX and X, the students take up the art integrated project work as subject enrichment activity in all the subjects for internal assessment. Minimum of one project work for students from classes I–X is mandatory to integrate any art form of the paired State /UT, as defined under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Programme.





Health and Physical Education

Acknowledging that health is a multi-faceted concept encompassing physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being, our approach aims for a comprehensive view of holistic health.

This holistic perspective integrates three essential components: Health Education, Physical Education, and Yoga. Each of these elements contributes to achieving a well-rounded state of health that spans the physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions. It emphasizes that true health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a state of overall well-being. By seamlessly integrating these aspects, our program ensures that learners receive a comprehensive education and acknowledge the interconnectedness of various dimensions of well-being.

Library

Our extensive library houses over 12,000 volumes, including books, videos, DVDs, CDs, and periodicals continually updated. It provides students and teachers with diverse reference materials, internet facilities, and a daily E-newspaper, encouraging active discussions on current events. We enhance literary and language skills through selected works, including stories, poems, videos, and articles. Literary weeks, in collaboration with Language departments, further enrich the literary experience, offering dynamic platforms for exploration and understanding. In essence, our library serves as a vibrant center for intellectual exploration and active engagement with literature, media, and current affairs.

Information and Communication Technology

We foster an exploratory approach to the theory of ICT, encouraging students to apply their knowledge practically in areas such as graphs, charts, data manipulation, and authoring.

Our well-equipped ICT infrastructure is utilized effectively, ensuring that students have access to computer systems with a student computer ratio of 1:1. Classrooms are equipped to facilitate computer-mediated learning, and digital lessons contribute to integrated and multidisciplinary collaborative learning experiences. The integration of e-learning from home is seamlessly woven into the curriculum, providing flexibility and continuity in education.

To further support students and educators, we organize ICT training and professional development programs on a continuous basis. This commitment to ongoing learning ensures that our school community remains proficient and up-to-date in leveraging the full potential of ICT for educational enrichment.

Outbound Learning

Outbound Learning serves as a dynamic platform, offering unique learning experiences. This approach inspires students to surpass their perceived limitations, unveiling strengths they may not have realized they possessed. The immersive wilderness settings provide an ideal backdrop for students to explore and push their boundaries, fostering not only personal growth but also instilling confidence in their abilities. This hands-on, experiential learning approach empowers students to embrace challenges, encourages self-discovery, and promotes a sense of confidence derived from overcoming obstacles.

Community Out Reach Projects

The Board is actively championing the imparting of essential life skills, health and hygiene awareness, sanitation practices, disaster management, vocational education, environmental education, and values education. These initiatives are not just integral to the educational framework but also extend to making a positive impact on the community, nation, and the global arena.

A key component of this endeavor is the Community Outreach program, which serves as a catalyst for creating awareness among children and equipping them with life skills. This outreach extends beyond academic and global boundaries, cultivating a mindset that embraces community service and societal well-being.

Furthermore, as part of our commitment to preserving cultural heritage, we actively involve students in hands-on activities such as weaving, handcrafts, traditional arts, crafts, painting, and other folk arts. This not only imparts practical skills but also ensures that these ancient art forms remain vibrant and do not fade into obscurity. Through this holistic approach, the Board aims to instill a sense of responsibility, cultural appreciation, and global awareness in the young generation.

Clubs

At Balsam, we prioritize a comprehensive education by actively involving students in diverse social, athletic, and artistic clubs and societies. Scholastic and co-scholastic activities are integral to our curriculum, including a wide range of co-curricular opportunities. Students join clubs such as Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Math, Science, Language, Tourism, Heritage, Eco, Tech, and Health and Wellness, where their participation and achievements are assessed. This approach not only enhances academic skills but also fosters teamwork, leadership, and a holistic understanding of various disciplines, aiming to develop well-rounded individuals prepared for success in diverse environments.





OUR CAMPUS

Nestled within these pages is a glimpse into the heart of our institution, reflecting our commitment to providing a supportive learning environment. At our school, we believe in holistic development, ensuring that each student's educational voyage encompasses not only academic excellence but also personal growth and a profound connection to the world around them.

Our state-of-the-art facilities are designed to nurture a safe and secure haven for exploration and discovery. From well-equipped classrooms to interactive learning spaces, every corner echoes our dedication to fostering an environment where students feel empowered to inquire, explore, and thrive.





PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Our commitment to fostering a strong partnership with parents commences from the moment you contemplate Balsam Academy and continues beyond your child's school years. The Balsam experience is a shared journey for both parents and children. Consequently, our objective is to ensure parents are well-informed and actively involved in their child's educational journey.

As part of our commitment to the Partnership for Success initiative, we encourage Balsam parents to actively engage in their child's education by completing ten (10) Parent Involvement hours each school year. These hours can be documented on the Parent Involvement Card, and parents who fulfill the required hours will be acknowledged during our Awards Day celebration.

This initiative not only recognizes and appreciates your valuable contributions but also reinforces the collaborative effort between parents and the school for the success of our students.



TESTIMONIALS

I am filled with gratitude for Balsam Academy, which has been my happy home for the past thirteen years. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the staff members who have supported and encouraged me throughout my journey. Moulding a student into a respectful human being is no easy task, but Balsam has done an exceptional job. The faculty has not only taught me about academics but also about life in general. They are supportive and welcoming, which makes Balsam the best school for newcomers. I have learned so much from my surroundings, not just from textbooks. Balsam has always provided me with a sense of happiness and belonging, and I am forever grateful for that. I am proud to be a Balsamite, and I will cherish the memories I have made here for a lifetime.

- Aathirai R (Class of 2022-23)

எனது மகள் பத்தாம் வகுப்பு படித்து முடித்து இப்பள்ளியை விட்டு செல்லும் நிலையில், பால்சம் அகாடமி பற்றி சில எண்ணங்களை முன் வைக்கிறேன். ஏழு வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு இந்த பள்ளியை பற்றி ஒரு சிறந்த கருத்து மக்களிடையே இருந்ததை அறிந்து இப்பள்ளியில் நமது குழந்தை படித்தால் சிறப்பாக வருவான் என்று சில எதிர்பார்ப்புகளுடன் இப்பள்ளியில் சேர்த்தேன். அவை அனைத்தும் நிறைவேறி முழு திருப்தி இன்று எனக்கு கிடைத்தது.

மேலும் கல்வியில் சிறந்த பயிற்சி பெற்றோர்கள் தங்கள் குழந்தைகளை பார்த்துக் கொள்வதைவிட பலமடங்கு பொறுப்புடன் ஆசிரியர்கள், மாணவர்கள் என்று இல்லாமல் மிகுந்த பாதுகாப்புடனும் அனைவரிடம் நடந்து கொள்ளும் விதம் மிகவும் என்னை கவர்ந்தது. மேலும் இந்த வருத்தத்துடன் இந்த பிள்ளைகள் வேறு பள்ளிகளுக்கு செல்லபோகிறார்கள் எனவே அவர்களை தேர்ச்சி பெற வைத்து அனுப்பிவிட்டால் மட்டும் போதும் என்று இல்லாமல் அவர்களுக்கு அடுத்ததாக எந்த படிப்பை தேர்வு செய்வது, எந்த துறையை தேர்வு செய்தல் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு சிறப்பாக இருக்கும் என்ற மனக்குழப்பத்தில் இருந்த எங்களுக்கு அதை தெளிவுபடுத்தும் வகையில் 'கேரியர்கைடன்ஸ்' என்ற நிகழ்ச்சி மூலமாகவும் ஆசிரியர்களின் தனிப்பட்ட ஆலோசனைகளின் மூலமாக எங்களுக்கு தெளிவு பெற செய்ததும் இந்த பள்ளியின் மேல் உள்ள மதிப்பு இன்னும் கூடுதலானது என்றே சொல்லலாம்.

மேலும், நல்ல பள்ளி ஆனால் கட்டணம் அதிகமாக உள்ளதே எப்படி படிக்க வைக்க போகிறோம் என்று கவலையில் இருந்த எங்களுக்கு, 'திவ்யபாரதி நன்றாக படிக்கிறாள், அவள் இங்கு தொடர்ந்து படிக்கவேண்டும்' என்பதற்காக கட்டணத்தை குறைத்து எங்களது கஷ்டத்தில் பங்கு எடுத்துக் கொண்டதற்காக இந்த தருணத்தில் நன்றி சொல்ல மிகவும் கடமைப் பட்டிருக்கிறேன். மேலும் மாணவர்களின் உடல்நிலை, விளையாட்டு, ஒவ்வொரு மாணவரையும் முழுவதுமாக அறிந்து அவர்களுக்கு தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் அளிக்கப்படும் பயிற்சி, ஒழுக்கம் என இப்பள்ளியின் பெருமைகளை பற்றி சொல்லிக்கொண்டே போகலாம். இவ்வளவு சிறப்புமிக்க இந்த பள்ளியில் எனது மகள் படிக்கும் இந்த நேரத்தில் 11-12 ஆம் வகுப்புகள் இல்லையே என்று கவலை எங்கள் மனதில் உள்ளது. மேலும் இப்பள்ளி எங்களை போன்ற இனிவரும் பெற்றோர்களின் மனத்திலும் நீங்கா இடம் பிடிக்கவேண்டும். என்றும் எனது மகள் இப்பள்ளியில் படித்ததை நினைத்து பெருமையுடன் செல்கிறேன் என்று கூறி உங்களிடமிருந்து விடை பெறுகிறோம். நன்றி!

- கே. சுமதி
திவ்யபாரதியின் அன்னை
2017-18

TO KNOW MORE

To know more about our procedures & policies, innovative educational programs and the vibrant community at Balsam Academy, feel free to click the titles below and explore.

Admissions

Approach

Assessments

Glimpses

Grader Handbook

Newsletters

Parent Handbook

School Timings

Student Activities

We are dedicated to providing comprehensive information and answering any inquiries you may have about our school's unique approach to education and fostering a supportive learning environment. For more details you can contact us through:

Website: www.balsamacademy.org

Email: balsamacademy@gmail.com

Phone: 04172-272611 / 12

Address: 5/410A, Vanapadi Road, Bharathinagar Extension, Ranipet - 632403

Join us on this journey of academic excellence and holistic development!