

2020-21

SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

BALSAM ACADEMY, RANIPET

OVERVIEW

STAFF STRENGTH	
Teaching Staff	51
Administrative Staff	9
Others	38
STUDENT STRENGTH	
Primary School	465
Middle School	287
Secondary School	132

NUMBER OF NEW ADMISSIONS IN THE SESSION	
CLASS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED
LKG	65
UKG	7
1	6
2	2
3	9
4	3
5	3
6	2
7	3
8	0
9	0
10	0

SUBJECT WISE TOPPERS

SUBJECT	NAME OF THE STUDENT	PERCENTAGE
ENGLISH	N. SADHURTHIKA & T. HARINI	92%
TAMIL	S. SWATHI & K. SWATHI	97%
HINDI	NA	NA
MATHEMATICS	M.P. SHUMANTH	100%
SCIENCE	N. SADHURTHIKA & M.P. SHUMANTH	97%
SOCIAL SCIENCE	D. KALAIMARAN	98%

CBSE RESULTS 2019 -20 CLASS X

Total number of students appeared	47
Total number of students passed	47
Total number of Distinctions	6
Total number of First Divisions	20
Total number of Second Divisions	17
Total number of Third Divisions	4
Total number of students failed /did not appear	Nil

SCHOOL TOPPERS

NAME OF THE STUDENT	PERCENTAGE OF MARKS
SADHURTHIKA.N	95.8%
SHUMANTH.M.P	94.8%
KALAIMARAN.D	93%
VIJAI SARAIVANAN R.G	92.6%
SWATHI.S	91%

*FINAL EXAMINATIONS WAS NOT COMPLETED DUE TO LOCKDOWN

OBSERVATION OF CLASSES

All teachers were given opportunities in the beginning of the school year to prepare and present their teaching to the Core Committee of Balsam Academy. Once the classes started online, each teacher was paired with another teacher to extend support, be it technical or managing children. Within 3 months of time, all teachers were quite comfortable with online class delivery.

All classes /teachers were observed on daily basis by the Core Team for next 2 months. Minor tweaks were made to make classes effective. Later, Academic Coordinator observed the classes of few struggling teachers. Teachers were given additional training in technical skills, content preparation and delivery.

BEYOND ACADEMICS

To foster holistic development in students, Balsam Academy lays emphasis on co-curricular activities.

The Beyond Academic departments of Music, Arts, Health and Physical Education, Library, ICT and Work Education have been engaging the students with activities year long. To gear up for the pandemic situation, the ICT department prepared series of ICT skills videos for both mobile and computer system. The videos series helped teachers, parents and students to transit to online teaching-learning platform and also be regularly updated with new apps.

The usual co-curricular activity rooms and playgrounds fun were taken to the students' home. Visual Arts, Library, Performing Arts, Music, HPE, ICT and Work Education teachers customized the curriculum grade-wise for offline sessions and also for online classes for Grade 6-10, so that students did not miss the fun and opportunities to enhance their skills.

Students of grade 6-10 were guided towards contribution to family, neighbourhood and society, via projects such as Preparedness Manual for Covid, Power and Water Audit and Sustainable practices, Grow your Greens and Best from Waste.

Level-wise and House wise activities (broadcasting, newsletter, assemblies, celebrations etc) were conducted via Class WhatsApp group and Google Classroom to update students about the key happenings, vocabulary built and to create awareness about National and International Days.

It is a matter of pride that, along the Beyond Academics curriculum, the subject teachers have integrated activities - puppet show, debate, article writing, elocution, story telling, singing, craft work to name a few; that help students to develop problem-solving, reasoning, critical thinking, creative thinking, communication and collaborative abilities.

The celebrations calendar for the academic year concluded on a happy note with Kindergarten Graduation and Appreciation and Awards Day for Grade 9 & 10.

SCHOOL EVENTS

'It always seems impossible until it is done'

Pandemic or not, nothing stopped us from coming up with the best ideas to engage and support our students. Click on the link to see how the school community embraced the challenge and conducted the virtual events.

<https://tinyurl.com/mcexb755>

CLASS ACTIVITIES

KINDERGARTEN:

2020-21 was a year of wonder for us. Kindergarten children got hold of the online learning through mind boggling activities like wet on wet painting where the children mastered the wave of a brush and strokes. We brought in multi linguistic and cultural learning by celebrating Onam with Pookalams and dance. Students and parents together as a community we all worked towards making a perfect blended learning for our beautiful young minds.

LEVEL 1:

Hands on activities done in grade 1 and 2 in the year 2020-2021:

* Hands on learning allow the students to directly observe and understand the concepts in a better way. Our young chefs from G1 were encouraged to prepare a healthy snack using ragi and dates. To put it in a nut shell, the children learnt measuring the quality, handling things and the nutritional value of eating healthy snacks.

*Teaching through the arts can present difficult concepts visually, making them easier to comprehend. Art integration helps the children in the development of motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision-making, and inventiveness. Accordingly to make the students feel ease, reading activity was given as a project based learning for Grade 2 where the children read the words ,collected pictures and made a vocabulary book amazingly. It is over whelming to know that the objective is attained by every single child extensively.

* Measurements and capacity were implemented by using the vessels available at home. the children were able to connect with the concept well since it was done by themselves and the things available at home.

* The creativity in the children was provoked by making animal faces by tracing their hands' outline in different ways.

LEVEL 2:

Hand Shadow Puppets!!!

Students of Grade 5 created their hand shadows of the poem 'My Shadow. They experienced using their hands and produced shadows and named them. Students understood that when they moved their hand towards the flashlight it got bigger and when they moved their hand away it got smaller.

Students analyzed how shadows formed and demonstrated the understanding of the terms such as translucent, opaque and transparent through the creation of shadow puppets.

LEVEL 3:

"Every day, the Earth spins once around its axis, making sunrises and sunsets a daily feature of life on the planet. It has done so since it formed 4.6 billion years ago, and it will continue to do so until the world ends."

We get day and night because the Earth spins (or rotates) on an imaginary line called its axis and different parts of the planet are facing towards the Sun or away from it. ... Over a year, the length of the daytime in the part of the Earth where you live changes. Days are longer in the summer and shorter in the winter.

Grade 6 students learnt about Motion of Earth in their Geography. There were explained about the occurrence of day and night for better understanding students were asked to do an activity.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Heritage Club	G.6- Conducted 'Pick and speak' activity to recall the fact of ancient monuments of India. G.7- A quiz was conducted on monuments of medieval history of India(style of architecture, name of the monuments, features and dynasties who built them)
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Geo Club	G.8- Students worked on the objective of sustainable development. Geo club activities were integrated with work education curriculum.
Disaster Management Club	G.9- Geography lesson 'Climate of India' was integrated with disaster management club. 'Cause effects' diagram on Cyclone floods (Nivar) was done to understand precautions to manage the situation.

INTRA SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Art Contest:

'Take Part in Art' intra school competition for students of grade 1 to grade 10 was held in the month of October. The poster announcing the event, themes and art form was posted in Google classrooms and received 237 entries for the contest. The shortlisted entries were evaluated by jury members Mr.Vinoth, Designer of Roca in Parryware, Ranipet and Mr. V Balamurgan, Founder of Imagination Art and Craft Academy, based on the specified criteria. Top three winners were announced for each grade on 29 October, 2020.

Tell a tale contest:

Our language is the foundation upon which we build our identity. With the aim of nurturing the artistic aptitude of our students "Tell a tale" contest was conducted in the month of January 2021. On this delightful occasion, students narrated their stories on various topics, assigned to them.

INTER-SCHOOL EVENTS

Young Innovator Contest:

Hub of Learning - Young Innovator Inter-School Contest was conducted keeping in mind the aim of CBSE and pursuance of children's natural curiosity and imagination to quench their thirst of creativity. With this event, we attempted to provide a platform for the schools in Collaborative Learning Hub to share innovations and new experiences with the community.

Participants were expected to make an Idea Presentation on the topic, '**A Path to Sustainable Future**' in 8+2 minutes.

The program was witnessed and judged by an eminent personality Dr.Santosh, Assistant Professor Department of Physics, Thanthai Periyar Government Institute of Technology, Vellore.

The day was made remarkable by the participation of 8 individuals from four different schools (Vedavalli Vidyalyaya, SKV International Public School, Balsam Academy, Bright Minds Vidhyodaya)

Pushpanathan.R of Balsam Academy won 1st prize of Rs.7500 and Janathul Firdose.M of Bright Minds Vidyodaya won 2nd prize of Rs.5000 and Sonam Kumari R of Vedavalli Vidyalyaya won 3rd prize of Rs. 2,500

CBSE Expression series:

The titles for the drawing competition were sent on December 13, 2020 by CBSE EX-PRESSION SERIES ON ART AND CULTURE to showcase the individual talents of the students for the year 2020 -2021. Students created painting that would imitate the art and modernity between the two states, keeping in mind the lifestyles and cultures of the two states of Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir and their traditional way of life.

Every interested student participates in these competitions they have revealed the cultural life style of the people living in Tamil Nadu and the nuances of the Talangal sculptures they worship. Class wise students' paintings were selected by Art team and uploaded in the CBSE official website. Certificates were then sent to the students who attended immediately through the mail Id

PCRA Competition

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) conducted Essay writing, Painting, and Quiz competitions to raise awareness among youth about the conservation of Petroleum products, importance and use of renewable energy sources, and how to practice conservation tips in our daily lives, and save the environment. For effective communication, students were asked to choose and present their ideas and messages for conserving petroleum products and reducing emission, in English, Hindi or Regional languages. 2 students for each category was selected and uploaded for state level competition as next level.

JCW Challenge

JCW Challenge is an initiative by the Balaram Memorial Trust along with Verve Sports Academy. The main motto behind this challenge was to instil the sense of being fit to every individual with respect to the CBSE fit India challenge. The event was kicked off on December 14th, 2020 with the people all around our community fixing individual goals to either Jog, Cycle or Walk for 21 days. On January 4th, 2021 the challenge got over with our participants sharing their daily achievements through the virtual platform. The results for the individual activities were announced on January 9th, 2021 with Mr. Pugazhendhi Viru Marley winning first prize for Jogging, Mr.Sai Sathya Krishna winning first prize, Mr.Srini-

vasan Govindan winning second prize; Mr.Siddarth Ilayaraja winning third prize for Cycling; Ms.Thrina Soni winning first prize, Mr.Vikram S winning second prize; Mrs.C.Premalatha winning third prize for Walking. And all the other participants received e-certificates.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

To cherish the importance of special days we organized assemblies in order to sow the need of important days in everyone's mind. As we had virtual classes during the academic year 20-21, we had virtual assemblies to inculcate the value and importance of the special days as listed below

Date	Day	Observation	Incharge
23.10.2020	Thursday	Dussehra	Admin
30.10.2020	Friday	Eid-E-Milad	Level 1
14.11.2020	Saturday	Diwali & Children's day	Level 2
25.12.2020	Friday	Christmas	Level 3
01.01.2021	Friday	New year	School Heads
13.01.2021	Wednesday	Pongal	Level 4

WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS

The ICT head conducted a series of training for the students to integrate technology to e-learn through Google classroom. Self-learning modules were circulated to students for effective usage.

A workshop on career guidance was conducted for the students of Grade 9 & 10 on 28.11.202, partnering with the Future captains to help students to look into their innate talent and skills and define their career path.

Mathematics Day – Activities

To celebrate the Mathematics Day 2020, the Math department organized various activities in special assembly to encourage the students towards mathematics.

An International Webinar on “Srinivasa Ramanujan His Life and His Work” was organized by Department of Mathematics, KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology on 16.12.2020 from 12:30 pm to 01:30 pm. Department of Mathematics, Balsam Academy attended the meeting with the resource person Prof. Michel Waldsmidt, Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu, Université Pierre et Maries Curie, Paris.

Mr.Arindam Roy, Advisory member of Balsam Academy has conducted a workshop for G9&10 students with the following scheduled.

Grade	Date	Time	Topic
G9	22.12.2020	04:30 pm to 05:30 pm	Probability in Real life
G10	23.12.2020	04:30 pm to 05:30 pm	Dynamic approach to Trigonometry

Class & Section	Class Strength	# Present	# Absentees	Attendance %
G9	66	36	30	54.5
G10	66	28	40	42.4

Attendance Summary

Workshop for primary graders: Students of G1 and 2 enthusiastically participated in the activity on making an origami frog. They made different kinds of frogs using colour paper and enjoyed colouring as well. They measured the length using ruler after tapping 5 times. This shows their creativity and curiosity.

WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS

Balsam believes in continually upgrading teacher skills to cater to the requirements of the 21st century learners. This year, we had special and unique challenges due to COVID. The paradigm shift was gracefully accepted and transformed the entire Balsam staff. Training for Waldorf Approach in mainstream schooling, blended material generation, online teaching and technical skills to enhance confidence in content and delivery have been the main focus in the first two quarters of 2020-21 academic year. Training by experts, peer- training, self-learning and demonstrations was the approach adopted. Teachers further shared the knowledge with other fellow teachers widening the sphere of wisdom.

The ongoing CPD sessions provided at Balsam stands phenomenal! The sessions set a remarkable change in the attitude of teachers towards the learning environment and refined their abilities, knowledge and aspirations. The teachers equipped themselves with the recent trends in the educational field. These sessions also provided a platform for regular interaction and discussion among the faculty members to upgrade their professional skills.

We confidently proclaim that BalsamStaff is well-educated, equipped and trained to handle situations and we have made a huge shift in adopting the new paradigm.

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

The purpose of providing education for our children goes beyond making them employable but it includes helping them to develop right attitudes. Balsam Academy attempts to a co-operative approach with the parents by conducting an 'Educate for Tomorrow' workshop to educate that learning in the school must be supplemented and enriched by the activities of parents at home.

It is mandatory that every parent should attend this workshop to get admissions. This year we conducted it on 6th February for Kindergarten parents and 12th February for parents of Graders. The workshop prepared parents to equally demonstrate commitment to education by establishing conducive environment at home.

While the school teaches moral values, parents are to complement the efforts by inculcating right values and norms for children at home.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

The SMC meeting was convened in the month of May, October and December to govern and review the activities and policies of the school to ensure consistency with the requirement of Board and State Law.

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL:

PTC was formed for the year 2020-21 with new members to develop and engage in activities which support the students and school. They were asked to represent the school to the other parents to ensure full cooperation in total school program.

RENEWALS AND COMPLIANCE

As mandated by the CBSE board and State Government, the school has renewed the following certificates and licenses from relevant authorities during the Academic year 2020-21.

1. Drinking water certificate
2. Fire safety certificate
3. Sanitary certificate
4. Form A, B, C & D
5. Ground water & RO water - Test report

Also, the school has applied for the renewal of State Recognition certificate and DTCP approval.

RENOVATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

With school being remained shut due to pandemic, the infrastructure renovation was not undertaken fully.

1. A regular painting of premises was undertaken to avoid environmental damage and
2. The civil work for lift installation was completed.

MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE /ASSETS

Good natural conditions such as lighting, air quality and disinfected campus as mandated in the COVID-19 SOPs were followed to ensure safety of staff and the Grade 10 students during their visit to campus in the month of January.

All the assets were maintained monthly to avoid overhauling expenses due non/less usage in the absence of students. Equipments such as Generator, RO plant, Pumps & motors, Surveillance cameras, Furniture, Electrical and electronic products were maintained to be ready for re-opening.

ADDITIONS /IMPROVEMENTS OF FACILITIES

Implementation of Google Classroom for E-learning

A comparison study was made and selected Google G-suite as our technological partner as it offers google docs, slides and sheets. It was found to be a good alternative for MS office. It is secure and we have a good LMS solution called as Google classroom. By using this, the teachers conducted virtual classes and students submitted their assignments.

Networking at Admin office:

In order to avail uninterrupted internet facility for effective operations the Local Area Network for the admin block was built.

PREPAREDNESS FOR SAFE REOPENING

It was necessary to be proactive to keep the school system ready for safe re-opening. Staff members were trained on behavioural and physical safety by School Nurse.

The admin team drafted detailed protocols for each scenario like Entry/Exit norms, Sanitization norms, Visitors policy, Social distancing norms, Classroom protocols, break rules, Transport protocols etc.,

Seating arrangements plan for students with social distancing was made. Timetables for alternate day working and shift day working were made by the Vice Principal.

COVID 19 related health and hygiene SOPs were followed and records were maintained.

PARENT SURVEY REPORTS

With the right directions and timely guidance from the management, our staff members tried to reach out to the parents to plan for continued learning in the month of April. We interacted with the parents over call and conducted surveys using Google forms as well. Our overall aim was to check on their well being and the level of support that they can offer for e-learning for their children.

Balsam parents, as always, were very supportive and excited about the Learn from Home concept. It was found that 70% of parents could provide the facilities for online learning. Some of them were little worried about their children and their studies as they could not provide laptop/internet for learning. 10% did not receive calls or SMS due to the prevailing network issues and 20% could not afford to provide gadget to their wards for e-learning.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

Balsam Academy has an extensive 5 years strategic plan with clear objectives set for each year in the form of Whole School Improvement Plan. This serves as a roadmap in building a world class school system. The WSIP and Newsletters are uploaded in the school website.