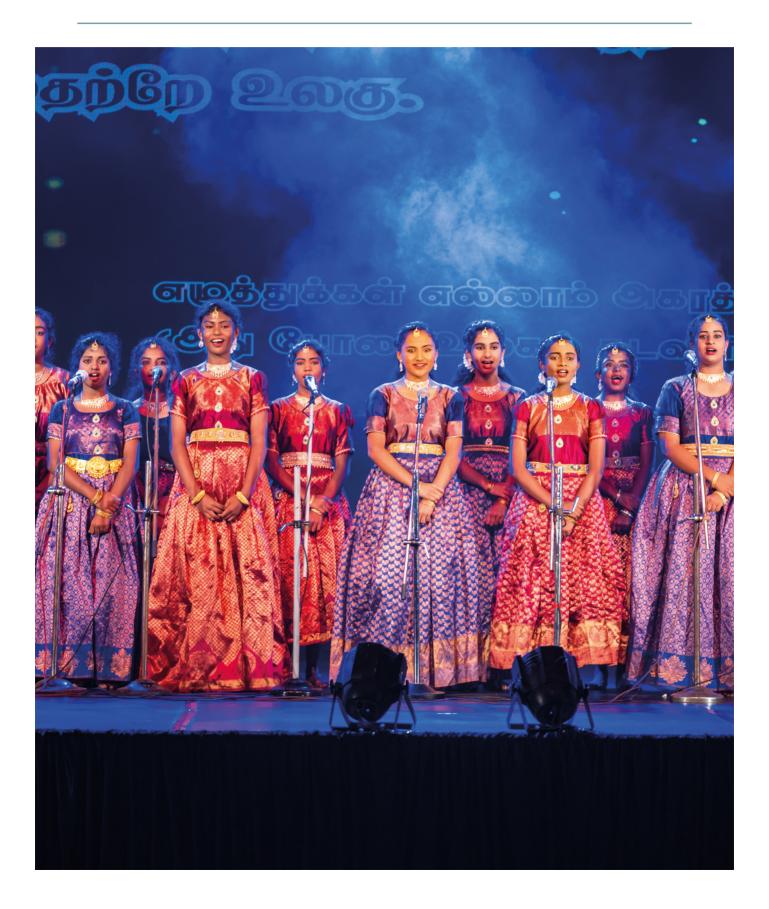
# IMAGINE



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# FROM THE DESK OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (SCHOLASTIC)

Dear Parents and Guardians.

In second term, as exam time drew near, there was nervous excitement. Along with many celebrations and cultural events, students were ready to review what they learned. Instead of just memorizing everything, some got creative. They turned lectures into mind maps, developed ways to remember past events, and even wrote funny songs to understand tricky formulas.

Each subject came alive in its own special way: leaners explored nature outside, made colorful potions in pretend labs, created math-magic solutions, and recited poems. Even though everyone was busy studying, there was still time for laughter and teamwork. Study groups were formed to dissolve fears and share knowledge.

In this unique way of preparing, each student discovered their own best way to learn. This wasn't just about getting good grades; it was about enjoying the lifelong learning.

Alongside, teachers discovered new ways of understanding students through mentoring and one-on-one interactions. It was indeed, a learning for everyone!

- Shubhadaini Joshi

"Education is the mother of civilization. Education is the life of the soul. And on education rests the fate of the coming generation." Swami Vivekananda

# SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT

Balsam's Science Department hosted a "Young Innovator Contest" on Sustainable Development Goals for Grades 9-10.
Mohammed Ayaan SA & Sujith NP (Balsam) secured 1st place. The event fostered cooperation and valuable feedback.



**Theme:** Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs)

**Grades:** 9 (SDG 7) and 10 (SDG 9)

Entries: 15 from 13 schools

**Winners:** Mohammed Ayaan SA & Sujith NP (Balsam) - 1st, Sezhiyan Pugazhendi & Maitreya KK (Krisar) - 2nd, Mugilan S. & Manoj

Kumar GS (Vidyapeetam) - 3rd **Guest of Honour:** Dr. Leema Rose

Viannie (Jury Member) provided insights and praised students' research alignment with VIT

students.



Grade 10's Ayaan, Sujith, Sheejal, Kalyan, & Srivatsan rocked **Youth Ideathon**! Their "Medsack" idea, tackling medical challenges, landed them in the national top 1000, showcasing their ingenuity and societal impact potential.

# The Problem Statement

Medication management issues in India include high packaging costs, incorrect dosage consumption, medication timing challenges, medicine wastage, prolonged use of old prescriptions, self-medication, and dependency on caregivers. These problems impact patient wellbeing and healthcare quality.



# YOUTH IDEATHON

Again, Grade 10 students, Ayaan and Sujith, made our school proud with their innovative "Gravity Assisted Energy Storage" project. A winning concept from the Inter-district Young Innovator Contest, guided by VIT Professor Sivacoumer and alumnus Vishal Ram, found new wings at the CBSE Science Exhibition 2023-24.



Ayaan and Sujith's project soared among 86 others, earning them a spot at the regional exhibition at RMK Senior Secondary School, Chennai. Their impressive model showcasing a creative solution to energy challenges earned them a place at the regional level competition. Their success reflects Balsam Academy's commitment to fostering a culture of scientific exploration and inspires others to pursue their passion for science and innovation.

# **Grades 6-8 Inter-Language Reading**

**Contest Champs!** After rounds of reading, top finalists emerged from each class, showcasing their love for reading and linguistic talents.

# G6 Explored Hands-on Learning:

Sathuvachari Science Center fuelled Grade 6 curiosity with interactive exhibits blending science, social, and math!
Students loved the engaging experiences, boosting logic and reasoning skills.

The **spell bee contest** was a magical mix of excitement and learning! Grades 3-5 buzzed with anticipation as they tackled tricky words, showcasing their impressive reading and spelling skills.

Science and math came alive for our Grade 4s on a field trip to Mani Mark! Engaging talks and Q&As with top execs and friendly team members unveiled the company's secrets and career paths. This hands-on adventure gave them a taste for the business world, showing how values fuel success.

Balsamites participated in **CBSE's Reading Challenge:** An initiative to boost reading skills and critical thinking for students in grades
6-10 in both Hindi and English. The goals were to engage students, assess comprehension, and strengthen critical thinking & analysis.



# KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarteners celebrated Gandhi Jayanti by diving into the inspiring story of Mahatma Gandhi. Through captivating tales, they learned about freedom, justice, and peace, even adding new words like "fighter" and "Father of the Nation" to their growing vocabulary. This enriching experience planted the seeds of important values in their young hearts.

**Singing contest** attracted a mix of practiced voices and shy requests, from school rhymes to hidden gems. Anticipation buzzed as children took turns in the contest.



### **GRADE 1**

# **Ek Bharath Shreshth Bharath Culmination**

Students donned traditional garb from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, learning about their cultural significance and diverse styles. This immersive experience deepened their understanding and appreciation for different cultures!

# **GRADE 2**

Grade 2 **storytellers tackled mini-problems** with creative solutions, boosting fluency and confidence. Applause and greetings polished their public speaking skills!



# **GRADE 3**

# **Ek Bharath Shreshth Bharath Culmination**

A wildlife quiz project introduced students to West Bengal's diverse species. They created booklets, presentations, apps, and video quizzes, showcasing their creativity and ICT skills with parental support. Highlights were:

- Theme: West Bengal wildlife (animals, birds, reptiles)
- Activities: Creating quiz booklets, PowerPoint presentations, quiz apps, and video quizzes
- Collaboration: Students in house groups, parents supporting ICT integration
- Outcomes: Learning about wildlife, showcasing creativity and ICT skills, fostering family bonding



# **GRADE 4**

The EBSB initiative promoted cultural exchange between Tamil Nadu and West Bengal through students researching, creating albums, playing traditional games, and learning each other's languages.

Highlights were:

- Objective: Strengthening cultural and social ties between Tamil Nadu and West Bengal
- Activities: Cultural Exchange: Showcasing traditional music from both states Language Exchange: Promoting learning and exchange of Tamil and Bengali
- Sports and Games: Creating albums, researching and comparing games, playing on the ground
- Outcomes: Cultural understanding, language learning, teamwork, and fun.

Grade 4 students traded textbooks for a real-life science and math adventure at Mani Mark Private Limited! Engaging presentations brought their classroom lessons to life, while Q&A sessions with top executives and dedicated team members sparked their curiosity about careers and workplace values. This enriching experience left our students with a deeper appreciation for the world of business and the importance of strong values.





### **GRADE 5**

Through observation and photography, EBSB ignited students' passion for the culture around them. From local landmarks to exotic festivals, they delved into cultures of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Their research unearthed fascinating stories of history, food, music, and more, which they compiled into stunning albums, a testament to their newfound appreciation for cultural richness. This journey not only broadened their horizons but also strengthened the spirit of unity in diversity, all while refining their technical skills.

# 'நேர்மை நிறைந்த தீர்ப்பு'

என்ற பாடக்கற்பித்தலை தொடர்ந்து, அதனுடைய கற்றல் வெளிப்பாடாக மாணவர்கள் பாடப்பகுதியில் உள்ள நாடகமாக வடிவமைக்குமாறு அறிவுறுத்தப்பட்டது. நாடகம் அமைப்பில் அழகாகவும் அருமையாகவும் பாடக் கருத்துக்களோடு, புதிய கருத்துக்களையும் விளக்கினர். பாடக்கருத்துகள் மாணவர்களுக்கு மனதில் பதியவும் அவர்களின் படைப்பாற்றல் திறன்களை வெளிக்கொணரவும் இச்செயல்பாடு சிறந்த வாய்ப்பாக அமைந்தது.





# **GRADE 6**

**EBSB activities fostered cultural exchange** and understanding between Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Students:

- Sang a Bengali song: This hands-on experience helped them learn another language's melodies and connect with the culture.
- Researched musical instruments: Delving into traditional instruments deepened their appreciation for both states' musical heritage.

Through these activities, students:

- Developed cultural understanding: They gained a broader perspective on the rich diversity present in both regions.
- Strengthened cultural pride: They learned to value and celebrate their own cultural heritage while respecting others.

 Embraced unity and shared identity: Singing together fostered a sense of connection and belonging between the people of both states.

विद्यार्थियों ने शिक्षा के साधन में नवीनता बोते हुए फ्लैश कार्ड तैयार किए हैं। उन्होंने अपने त्वरित ज्ञान प्राप्त करने की प्रक्रिया को बढ़ावा देने के लिए वर्ण-चित्र का सहारा लिया है। इसमें एक तोरण बनाने का प्रयास किया गया है। धन्यवाद और स्वागत जैसे शब्द चित्रों के माध्यम से सार्थक रूप में प्रस्तुत किए गए हैं, जो बहुत ही सुंदर हैं। इसमें शब्दों के साथ-साथ रंगीन और सर्वांगीण शिक्षा के उदाहरण भी समाहित हैं, जो छात्रों को समझदार बनाने का उद्दीपन है।

# **GRADE 7**

# EBSB: Culinary Heritage of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Students brought forth a delightful fusion of flavours through their digital cookbook creations. Through thorough research and hands-on experiences, they discovered the flavours, techniques and cultural significance behind each dish.

Students wowed peers with vibrant presentations, sharing their EBSB food discoveries and passion for cooking. They turned discoveries into digital cookbooks, sharing flavours and fun across class! We're so proud of their journey and commitment to embracing cultures through food!

### **GRADE 8**

# **Ek Bharath Shreshth Bharath Culmination:**

Students joyfully explored the art forms of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. They marvelled at the colors of Tanjore paintings, Patachitra paintings, Santhal and Mathubani paintings. The event showcased learnings through art displays. Students discovered connections between the art forms, emphasizing unity in diversity. The celebration not only deepened our understanding of traditions but also highlighted how art serves as a beautiful bridge between diverse cultures.

இரண்டு முதல் எட்டாம் வகுப்புகளைச் சார்ந்த 38 மெல்ல கற்கும் மாணவர்களுக்கு தமிழாசிரியர்கள் தமிழ் எழுத்துகளின் இலக்கணம் சார்ந்த புரிதலை, செயல் திறன் அடிப்படையில் சிறப்பு வகுப்புகளாக செயல்படுத்தினார்கள்.

# **GRADE 9**

Grade 9 classrooms bloomed with life during a peer-powered session on **natural vegetation** and wildlife! Students transformed, some into eloquent teachers, others into eager detectives, all exploring the wonders of the natural world through presentations, videos, and quizzes. The air crackled with questions, explanations, and laughter as they learned from and with each other, building teamwork, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the ecosystems.

### **GRADE 10**

Imagine teachers joining students in laughter and pillow fights! **The sleepove**r in December fostered a unique connection between students and their teachers, breaking down barriers and creating a more relaxed and supportive learning environment. It wasn't just about academics; it was about forging friendships and building trust.

### **ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT**

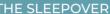
From pre-class quizzes to real-world scenarios, classrooms buzzed with diverse learning strategies. By understanding students' strengths and encouraging multiple perspectives, we unlocked deeper understanding, critical thinking, and lasting academic success. This tailored approach ensured every student thrived in a rich learning environment.

# QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"The most precious gift we can offer our children is our presence. When mindfulness embraces our thoughts and actions, we become mirrors reflecting their true essence."

- Thich Nhat Hanh













- Read a concept draw it, retell it, and connect it with another subject for holistic understanding.
- Group Learning 3 to 4 friends read a concept; write your understanding; play a game of sharing points – without pauses. One taking pause is out of the game.
- Create flash cards to practice spellings.

# **PARENTS**

- Create a culture of conversation with your child. Spend 15 minutes with undivided attention to simply "talk" with your child.
- Listen to the child check the message they may have for you. These can be tips for us to grow as wise parents.
- Respect child's feelings and thoughts. Give them space to share.

STUDENTS

# FROM THE DESK OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CO-SCHOLASTIC)

Dear Parents and Guardians.

As we wrap up another enriching quarter, warm greetings to you all!

The October-December phase brought new challenges and shared triumphs. Beyond Academics remains committed to nurturing academic excellence, character, critical thinking, and a love for lifelong learning.

Looking back, the dedication of our students, the commitment of our educators, and your ongoing support have been crucial to our success.

Dive into the pages of this newsletter for stories of achievement, updates, and glimpses into our vibrant educational community. Your continued support is indispensable to our success. Here's to a quarter of exploration, growth, and the joy of learning.

Best Regards,

Roshan Balaram

"Academic qualifications are important and so is the social and emotional intelligence that goes beyond the classroom. We need to embrace a holistic approach that equips individuals to navigate the complexities of life."

Elon Musk, Entrepreneur and CEO of SpaceX and Tesla



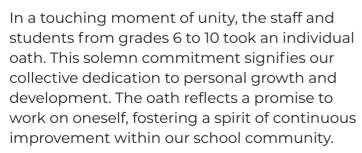


# BALSAM ACADEMY SHINES AT AMPS EDU EXPO & CONCLAVE

Balsam Academy proudly participated in the AMPS Edu Expo and Conclave at Chennai Trade Centre on October 8th and 9th. The dedicated staff actively engaged in enlightening seminars covering diverse educational topics. Ms. Hemakumari, the Instructional Leader, was honoured with the prestigious Mudalvar Award, recognising her outstanding contributions to education. Adding to the accolades, Ms. Shalini, the Vice Principal, received the LAMPS Eco-Friendly Campus Award, acknowledging Balsam Academy's commitment to sustainability. These achievements underscore the school's commitment to excellence and innovation, setting a commendable standard for educational institutions. Congratulations to the Balsam Academy team for their remarkable accomplishments!

# FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

On the auspicious occasion of Founder's Day, celebrated on 20th October, our school came together to honour and celebrate the birthday of our esteemed correspondent, Smt. Saroja Balaram. The day commenced with a heartfelt video presentation showcasing her unwavering passion and impactful social activities, inspiring both staff and students.



The day was not just a celebration of a birthday; it was a testament to the values and vision that guide us. On this special day, the winners of young innovator contest were honoured with the cash prize and certificates.





# A CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA - "தமிழ் கூறும் நல்லுலகு"

நமது கலாச்சாரம் பார் போற்றும் செழுமையின் அடையாளம்! அச்செழுமையைப் பறைசாற்றும் வகையில் எங்கள்/பால்சம் பள்ளியின் ஐந்து முதல் பத்தாம் வகுப்பு வரையிலான மாணவர்கள் 29.10.2023 அன்று "தமிழ் கூறும் நல்லுலகு" என்ற மாபெரும் கலை நிகழ்ச்சியாக தமிழ்நாட்டின் பன்முகத்தன்மைக்கு சான்றாக விளங்கும் பாரம்பரிய நடனங்கள் முதல் தற்காப்புக் கலைகள் வரை துடிப்பான காட்சிகளுடன் கூடிய மனதைக் கவரும் நிகழ்ச்சிகளால் முத்திரைப் பதித்தார்கள்.

இக்கலை நிகழ்ச்சியில், ஐந்திணை வாழ்வியலைக் காட்சிப்படுத்தி சங்ககாலத்திற்கு அழைத்துச் சென்றதோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல் கரகாட்டம், ஒயிலாட்டம், மயிலாட்டம், பொய்கால் குதிரை ஆட்டம், பறையாட்டம் ஆகிய கலைகளில் மாணவர்கள் தங்களது திறமைகளை வெளிப்படுத்தியதால் அரங்கம் முழுவதும் தாளங்கள் மற்றும் கரகோஷங்களால் எதிரொலித்தது. இந்த நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்ட ஆற்றலும் துல்லியமும் தமிழ் கலாச்சாரத்தின் சாரத்தை உண்மையாகப் படம்பிடித்தது. அன்றைய மாலைப் பொழுதின் சிறப்பம்சமாக தற்காப்புக் கலைப் பிரிவு இருந்தது, இளம் மாணவர்கள் சிலம்பம் மற்றும் வால் சண்டையில் தங்கள் திறமைகளால் பார்வையாளர்களைக் கவர்ந்தனர். இந்நிகழ்வில் மதிப்பிற்குரிய **திரு. தாமு** (தாமோதிரன்) அவர்கள் எங்களை கௌரவிக்கும் வகையில் அவரது ஊக்கமளித்த உரைகள் இளம் கலைஞர்களிடம் எதிரொலித்தது. வளமான கலாச்சார பாரம்பரியத்தை முன்னெடுத்துச் செல்ல அவர்களை ஊக்கப்படுத்தியது.

"தமிழ் கூறும் நல்லுலகு" என்பது வெறும் நிகழ்வல்ல; இது தமிழ் கலாச்சாரத்தை அடையாளப்படுத்திய விழா! இக்கலை விழா ஒற்றுமை மற்றும் நீடித்த உணர்வின் கொண்டாட்டமாகவும் அமைந்தது. இதுபோன்ற நிகழ்வுகளால் நாம் தொடர்ந்து மாணவர்களின் திறமைகளை வளர்த்து, வெளிக்கொணரும்போது, நமது கலாச்சார பாரம்பரியத்தின் துடிப்பான இளம் தலைமுறைகளை இணைக்கும் பாலமாக மாற்ற வழிகோலலாம்!



# "Champions keep playing till they get it right" - Billie Jean King

# **CBSE CLUSTERS MEET**

In a remarkable display of athleticism and determination, Balsam Academy's very own Sanjana A soared to success at the CBSE Clusters VI Athletics Meet held on October 31, 2023. Competing in the fiercely contested Javelin throw under the under-19 category, Sanjana clinched the third-place position, securing a well-deserved bronze medal.

# **ANNUAL SPORTS EVENT**

Dry Run 1 was a triumph of skill and sportsmanship for students in grades 1 to 5. The day featured thrilling qualifying rounds for various events, including the running race, standing broad jump, medicine ball overhead throw, grab bag relay, jumping strokes pairs, and ball delivery. On 4th November, the achievements of these young athletes were duly recognised. The event not only showcased their physical prowess but also emphasised the importance of teamwork and healthy competition, leaving everyone inspired and proud of their accomplishments.

Thrilling feats unfolded during Dry Run 2 too! Grades 6 to 10 showcased their athletic prowess in the 100m, 200m, and 600m sprints, shot-put, long jump, discuss throw, and the electrifying relay. Qualifying rounds built up the anticipation, leading to a crescendo on November 18. Students' achievements were celebrated, recognising their dedication and sportsmanship. Balsam Academy not only fosters academic excellence but also molds champions on the track, instilling values of discipline and teamwork. Sports Day was a testament to the spirit of healthy competition and the pursuit of excellence among our dynamic student body."









# **SPORTING CHAMPIONS**

In a thrilling showcase of strategic intellect and athletic prowess, Balsam Academy students emerged victorious at the VVNKM School Tournament for Indoor Games on November 3, 2023. Athletes of our school showcased their agility, precision, and competitive spirit. The rallies were marked by lightning-fast reflexes. powerful smashes, and strategic placements. Our badminton players left an indelible mark on the tournament, securing victories that resonated with the dedication they invested in honing their skills. The success in badminton added a dynamic and athletic dimension to Balsam Academy's achievements at the VVNK School Tournament.

In a riveting display of skill and sportsmanship, Balsam Academy students showcased their athletic prowess at The Geekay School Tournament 2023, Balsam Academy's football team demonstrated exceptional teamwork, strategy, and agility. The victories in football and skating serve as inspiration for students to pursue their passion for sports, fostering a legacy of excellence. The school remains committed to nurturing athletic talents and providing a platform for students to shine in various sporting disciplines.

# **INTER-SCHOOL ART & CULTURAL MEET**

Balsam Academy students left an indelible mark at the Dextra 2023, an inter-school art and cultural meet organised by Bright Mind Vidyodaya on November 2, 2023. The Dextra 2023 inter-school art and cultural meet proved to be a landmark event for our School, with our students shining brightly across various artistic domains. The victories in painting, wealth out of waste, T-shirt designing, and clay modelling reflect the dedication, creativity, and excellence that define our academic and artistic community. The event was not only a celebration of talent but also a testament to the dedication. and artistic flair of our students who clinched victories across various categories.

# **CRAFT MASTERS**

In an engaging activity, 4th and 5th graders connected with nature by crafting enchanting dolls from coconut shells, adding vibrant colours. Actively participating, they showcased creativity, resourcefulness, innovation, and originality. The environmentally conscious approach conveyed a powerful message about conservation. The aesthetic appeal, attention to detail, and versatility in using recycled materials were outstanding, inspiring others to explore creative endeavours with environmental responsibility.



# **SKILL EDUCATION**

Our school is dedicated to shaping well-rounded individuals equipped with essential life skills. In recent weeks, each grade has delved into tailored work education activities, fostering practical abilities that extend beyond textbooks. Our sixth graders embraced the art of organisation with a focus on decluttering, creating storage space, and utilising tools like folders and labels. Seventh-grade students

navigated the practicalities of life by learning to identify and sort different types of clothes, along with perfecting the art of ironing and folding. For our eighth graders, the emphasis was on academic organisation. From streamlining study areas to using digital tools for assignments, students acquired skills crucial for academic success. Ninthgrade students delved into basic first aid skills, gaining knowledge that extends

beyond the classroom. From treating minor injuries to understanding emergency responses, this initiative promotes a sense of responsibility and community within our school. These work education activities are a testament to our commitment to providing a holistic education. By instilling these practical life skills, we empower our students to face the challenges of the real world confidently.



# SPORTING ACCOLADES CONTINUE TO ROLL ON

Dynamic G8A player Karkuzhali.L has earned the honor of representing the Ranipet District in the U-18 Basketball State Championship. Her exceptional skills and passion for the game have secured this prestigious opportunity. Let's rally behind Karkuzhali.L, extending heartfelt wishes for success in the upcoming state championship.

Our Physical Education teacher, Ms. Vidhya Shree K.R, clinched the bronze medal in Discus Throw at the 41st Tamil Nadu Master Athletics Championship 2023–24. Her dedication to both teaching and athletics is commendable. Ms. Vidhya Shree K.R now advances to the national stage in the Master Athletic Championship in Maharashtra, representing our school with pride. Congratulations to both achievers! Your success resonates with the spirit of excellence that defines our school.

# **NURTURING LIFE SKILLS**

Our students have been immersed in a series of work education activities aimed at cultivating practical life skills. These initiatives are designed to equip our students with essential tools for navigating various aspects of life. Here's a snapshot of these enriching experiences: The importance of punctuality was emphasized for grade 6, setting the stage for effective time management. In the festive spirit, seventh graders showcased their creativity and teamwork through Christmas decoration skills. Beyond academics, eighth graders explored money management, comparing prices and creating shopping lists, instilling valuable financial decision-making skills. These work education activities exemplify our dedication to providing a holistic education. By honing these practical life skills, we empower our students to navigate the complexities of the world with confidence.

# **RECYCLING**

Grade 1 students enthusiastically crafted their own spinner wheels, showcasing creativity and resourcefulness. Their designs reflected individuality, highlighting the transformative power of art even with recycled materials. Guided to create patterns independently, students honed artistic skills. Beyond the joy of creation, spinner toys offered sensory stimulation, catering to tactile preferences, and served as entertaining visual delights for the young minds.

Ist and 2nd graders joyfully participated in the "Water Buffalo" physical education activity. Triggered by a whistle, the buffalo became hungry, and children eagerly tossed balls into its mouth net. This interactive "Listen and React" exercise engaged kids in a playful way, prompting them to respond like animals based on commands. The activity combined fun and coordination, making physical education both enjoyable and instructive.

# **KATHABHOOMI**

Balsam Academy had a training session conducted by Ms. Adithya, Founder of Kathabhoomi, on 26th and 27th December, 2023 exclusively for Pre-Primary and Primary teachers. The workshop focused on enhancing reading skills, providing teachers with valuable strategies, tips, and engaging activities. Ms. Adithya also introduced a comprehensive implementation curriculum, empowering educators to seamlessly integrate these tools into their classrooms. The training not only enriched our pedagogical approach but also promised to elevate the reading experience for our students. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact of these techniques on our students' literacy journey.

# HO! HO! CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

This year on 22nd December, our school had organised Christmas day celebration. Christmas brings cheer and love and we celebrated it with the same favour, spreading the message of love and joy among our children. Our students danced to joyful tunes. All the students and faculty members were excited and full of enthusiasm for the celebration. The students brilliantly presented melodious Christmas carols like "Joy to the world" and "Jingle bells". The sound of carols, the joy in the atmosphere filled up the surroundings and made the Christmas gathering more effervescent.

Two Santa Claus came dancing to the tune of Jingle bells. It really made the ambience pleasant and exuberant. This was the best way to come to an end of the year and welcome another one with outstretched arms. The children carried home the message of sharing and caring as well as the pleasure and pride of spreading peace, true to the spirit of celebration. As a token of love the level three students have donated food items, stationary things to the Deena Bandhu Ashraman. Really it was a euphoric moment for all the level three students and the faculties.

# STAFF WALKATHON: PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

We are thrilled to share the success of the Walkathon activity conducted for our esteemed teachers on December 30, 2023. The event was a delightful blend of enjoyment and health consciousness, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie among our dedicated educators. Participants revelled in the invigorating walk, fostering a sense of well-being and unity within our academic community. The walkathon served as a gentle reminder for our teachers to prioritise their health, encouraging regular physical activity for a balanced lifestyle. The event was a resounding success, leaving our teachers refreshed, rejuvenated, and more mindful of their overall well-being.







# THE ADMIN ODYSSEY

# HONOURING TRADITIONS AND NURTURING UNITY: AYUDHA POOJA

As the echoes of laughter and the spirit of togetherness still linger, we find ourselves reflecting on the joyous celebration of Ayudha Pooja at Balsam Academy. It was an occasion that brought our school community together in a beautiful tapestry of tradition, culture, and unity.

The Ayudha Pooja celebration this past 23.10.2023 was nothing short of magical. The administration team, alongside our school leaders, immersed ourselves in the rich traditions of this auspicious festival. It was a day filled with reverence, gratitude, and a shared sense of purpose that resonated throughout our school grounds.



# GATEWAY TO EXCELLENCE: BALSAM ACADEMY ADMISSIONS 2024-25 OPEN

Excitement fills the air at Balsam Academy and the neighbouring community as we prepare to welcome aspiring minds for the academic year 2024–25! Commenced on October 25, 2023, our admissions registrations were opened, inviting eager learners to join our nurturing educational community. To spread the word, we unveiled our dynamic Admissions Referral Program and Merit Scholarship Program flyers and banners on October 29, 2023, during the school's cultural day event "Tamizh Koorum Nallulagu" at a prominent public venue.

These programs are designed to not only provide a seamless admission process but also offer opportunities for referrals and merit-based scholarships to support needy students. The vibrant banners and eyecatching flyers showcase the essence of our school's commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. We encouraged our existing parents, staff, and well-wishers to share the news and be a part of our referral initiative.

At Balsam Academy, we believe in fostering a diverse and inclusive community of learners, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming new members to our educational family. Stay tuned for a year of discovery, growth, and excellence!



# **SPARKING JOY WITH SAFETY**

On November 7, 2023, Balsam Academy took a proactive step toward ensuring a safe and joyous Diwali for our students with a pre-Diwali safety awareness program that was conducted by the SIPCOT Fire Safety Department and led by Mr. Vinayagam, Safety Officer of Ranipet District. This enlightening session was a collaborative effort with our SDMC coordinator and administrative team.

Designed specifically for Grades 6-8, the program empowered our students with the knowledge and techniques required for the safe cracking of various crackers during the festive season. Mr. Vinayagam's expertise guided the children through essential safety measures, emphasising responsible and secure celebration practices.

At Balsam Academy, we believe in fostering an environment that not only celebrates traditions but also prioritises the safety and well-being of our students. As the Festival of Lights approaches, we extend our appreciation to Mr. Vinayagam, the SIPCOT Fire Safety Department, and his team for their commitment to imparting invaluable safety wisdom to our students.



# EMPOWERING HEALTH, NURTURING FUTURES

In the spirit of safeguarding the well-being of our cherished students, we are delighted to share the resounding success of our recent Special Vaccination Camp held on November 25, 2023, right here on our school campus. Partnering with the local state government, this initiative aimed to prioritise the health of our students aged 5, 10, and 15, offering a convenient and accessible solution for parents and guardians.

Our collaboration with the local state government allowed us to bring a vital health

service directly to our school community. The support from the government was instrumental in ensuring a smooth and effective vaccination process, underlining our collective commitment to the health and safety of our students.

### SPECIAL VACCINATION CAMP

**On-Campus Convenience:** The vaccination camp was conveniently hosted on our school premises for easy accessibility, providing a familiar setting for students and simplifying the process for parents.

Vaccination Administration: Administered by our dedicated school nurse, along with qualified nurses from the Public Health Center, vaccinations were carried out with utmost care and professionalism.

**Information and Clarification:** Our nurses and doctor were available for information and clarification, ensuring parents felt informed and empowered to make the best health decisions for their children.

**Community Support:** The vaccination camp showcased the collective spirit of our Balsam Academy community, with parents, guardians, and students coming together to prioritize the health of our school family.

Looking Forward: The success of the Special Vaccination Camp highlights the strength in collaboration and community spirit. Our gratitude extends to the local state government, our school nurse, attending nurses, the doctor, and every participating parent and guardian.



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Aarathana R.R. (Grade 6C) secured
   2nd place at the Sriram Ilakiya Kazhagam
   district-level speech contest at Venkateshwara
   Secondary School on 08.10.2023.
- The October 14th "Young Innovator Contest" awarded Balsam Academy's Mohammed Ayaan SA & Sujith NP (G10) first place for their exemplary creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Aryavardhan S. and Akilah Kounin (G9B) impressed at the Young Innovator Contest Forum, showcasing their research and innovation through the topic "TEGs."
- Mohammed Ayaan SA, Sujith, Sheejal, Kalyan Shree, and Srivatsan, (G10C) cracked the top 1000 in the Youth Ideathon with their "Medsak App," revolutionising medication management in India on 28.10.2023.
- Sanjana A (G8A) secured 3rd place in Javelin throw (600 gm) at CBSE Clusters Girls Athletic Meet 2023-24 held on 31.10.2023.
- Mohammed Saleem. K (G3A), checkmated his way to victory, claiming first place at the state-level chess tournament on 03.11.2023.
- Karthick S (G2B) won a bronze medal in the state-level Silambam competition on 10.12.2023, showcasing his talent and dedication in Arcot.
- Roseth Kumar.T (G3C) dominated the inter-school Silambam competition, scooping up 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in single stick (different categories) and a 3rd in double stick on 19.11.2023

 The Dextra Events were organised by Bright Minds Vidyodaya on 03.11.2023 and our children participated and bagged the prizes. The winners' list is shared below:

### 1st Place Winners:

- Priyadharshini S (Grade 4B) Painting -Landscapes competition
- Heshna M (Grade 6B) Pottery painting -Warli Art competition
- Gopesh Kanna H (Grade 8A) "Wealth out of waste" competition
- Sanjana A (Grade 8B) "Adapt tunes" competition
- · Udith Raghav S (Grade 7) Fantastic Fables

# 3rd Place Winners:

- Moniesh.V S (Grade 7C) T-shirt Designing competition (Theme: Aquarium)
- Sujin S (Grade 4A) Clay modeling competition (Theme: Animal kingdom - A Layout of jungle)
- Mohammed Ayaan S A and Sujith N P (G10 C), wowed the CBSE Science Exhibition with their ingenious "Gravity-Assisted Energy Storage" model, showcasing their remarkable scientific talent on 12.12.2023 and 13.12.2023.
- Srikanth M participated in the National Level PowerPoint Presentation competition in New Delhi and won the second prize with a certificate for excellence.