



Lining up for the Grade 4 bicycle race at the 2006 Shanti Bhavan Sports Day

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

Each person has a special talent and every person would like to show other people her or his hidden talents someday. The sports stars of Shanti Bhavan were just waiting for that moment, when an opportunity crossed their path on 2 Feb 2006.

On that day, there was great excitement in the atmosphere of Shanti Bhavan because we were having our Eighth Annual Sports Day. The children were very anxious, and our P.T. Master, Mr. John, was very nervous. At last, at 4:30 pm the great moment arrived. There was a spirit of competition and determination.

Dr. George was our chief guest. All the children participated in the march-past like smart young soldiers. Lilly of the seventh grade took the oath. The entire P.T. ground was anxious to watch Kavitha of seventh grade light the torch. The

flames of light inspired a spirit of determination in our young sports stars. Following that, the children of fourth through eighth grade performed Taekwando, a Korean martial art. Their instructor was Aunt Nancy.

Then the most awaited event arrived: the track events! Students from Preschool through eighth grade participated. Everyone was rooted to her/his seat during the relay. The silence was broken by the excited shouts of the winners. The prize distribution was fun because all the winners were so eager to receive their prizes.

Dr. George distributed the prizes, and there was a smile of satisfaction on his face as he watched his young sports stars walk confidently to the victory stand.

Our Eighth Annual Sports Meet ended with a happy smile on everyone's

Dear Friends,

We, the children of Shanti Bhavan, have created our very own newsletter for our school. With basic direction from our teachers, it has been we, the students, who have written and published the articles and art work inside. We used Adobe Photoshop and PageMaker for the graphics and layout.

This newsletter has articles by the middle grades, and stories and poems by the junior grades. We have also included pictures and many other interesting pieces that might catch your attention. It also has news about recent events that have taken place in Shanti Bhavan.

We plan to publish the newsletter twice a year. We hope to keep in touch with our friends around the world through the newsletter.

We wish you the very best,
The Voice of Shanti Bhavan



face. It was a spectacular event and the students did a great job entertaining the grown-ups to make Mr. John's dream come true. The day concluded with the jubilant shouts of the winners of the triumphant Team Neptune.

- Carmel Shilpa Anthony Raj, Grade 7



Dr. George with his youngest children.

Our Youngest Learners

Crying... screaming... for their parents. Leaving their parents is very disturbing. Most of them run back to their parents and hide under their moms' sarees. Some are shy and nervous. Most of them are scared to leave their parents. As they get familiar with the house mothers and the school, they are happy and content in the school.

At home these children speak Tamil, Telugu, Hindi or Kannada. At first the house mothers use their mother tongues to communicate with them. English is introduced gradually during the first year of Preschool .

Children get up at 7 o'clock in the morning. Then at about 8 o'clock they have breakfast.. The facilities staff makes sure that nutritious food is served for the children.

At 8:30a.m. they start their classes. They watch videos related to learning topics, such as the alphabet, and phonetics. They also have activities to develop their skills in imagination and creativity. Then they have lunch and take a

nap. After their nap, they have a delicious snack. It is followed by some outdoor activities. They play in the park till about 7:00 p.m. and then have a bath. They have dinner between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. followed by a good night's rest.

The Preschool children of the current academic year joined Shanti Bhavan in the first week of June. There are 12 girls and 12 boys. They were screened and checked by the psychologist and paediatrician in the clinic. These wonderful kids come from poor families. Shanti Bhavan has certain rules and regulations for entrance to the school. They must be around four years old. Shanti Bhavan takes one child per family.

The Preschool kids have become smarter and more creative since they arrived. They are very dynamic. One of these children might one day become the President or Prime Minister of India. When they return from their vacation, most of them are happy and gay, but some are sad too.

- Arun Rama Reddy, Grade 7

A Truly Great Guest

His Holiness, Sri Sri Sri Balagangadharanatha Swamiji visited Shanti Bhavan for the third time in the history of the school. The primary reason for his trip to the area was the inauguration of the new high school in Deverapalli, which was built partially with contributions from our founder, Dr. George. Swamiji took time out of his busy schedule to speak to the children and staff of Shanti Bhavan.



Swamiji speaking to the children, with Dr. George at his side

His Holiness arrived by two in the afternoon. He lit the decorated brass lamp and gave a short talk in Kannada, which was translated into English by his disciple. Later on, we were given an opportunity to ask questions . Then the choir sang two songs, one in Tamil and the other in English.

After the programme was over, the children took photos with Swamiji. When everything was over, Dr. George and many of the staff members sought Swamiji's blessings Swamiji left Shanti Bhavan around 3:00 p.m.

- Stella Joseph Mary, Grade 8



Jasmin and Maxime our Canadian friends

Friends We Knew

There are many ways to enrich our knowledge. One such way is with the help of volunteers. Volunteers share their skills and experiences, which is a fun way to learn about the world outside Shanti Bhavan.

The first volunteer to meet us after the 2005 summer vacation was Orly Friedman. Since she hails from the Jewish community, she gave us vast information about her faith including the festivals celebrated. She introduced us to Shakespearean plays, one of which was Romeo and Juliet. She also taught us games that developed team spirit and cooperation.

There were many other volunteers from all over the world who enlightened us in many fields. Jean fascinated us with her wonderful voice and introduced us to the history of music. She also improved our tennis skills. Rachel was a fabulous ballet dancer. Her performance had us transfixed in wonder for over an hour.

Jasmin, Maxime, Julie and Maryanne were medical students who shared their knowledge of health, hygiene, skating, basketball and aeronautics. Jasmine really fascinated us with his stunts during our skating classes. Jasmin and Maxime were very good actors. They came well prepared for their sessions and presented very well. We liked and still remember their classes.

Lindsay enhanced our reading skills. Patrick taught music and a few new games. Sarah taught chemistry and art. Eduard encouraged us in the field of computers and helped us in math.

- Sindhu Manimala Muniswamy, Grade 8

A Night to Remember

On a stormy night, as you near the cherry garden of Shanti Bhavan, you will be horrified to see a fire blazing and a forest tribe dancing and chanting, "Rombol! Shombo! Looya!" Help! There is a strange tribe out there!

Afraid? Do not worry. They are only the children of Shanti Bhavan beautifully dressed as American Indians. Then the remaining children dance and sing for their audience seated among the trees.

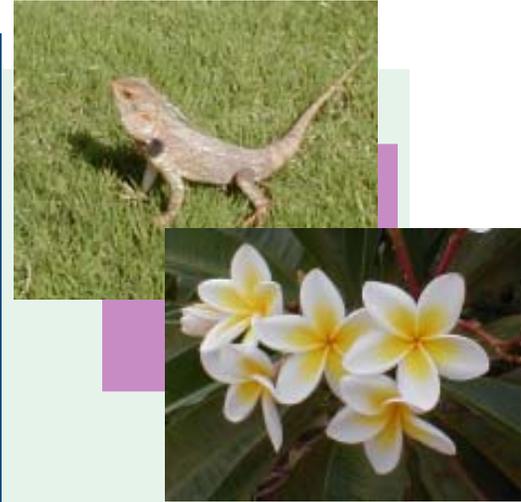
Once a year, the children of Shanti Bhavan have a campfire. They dance, sing and talk enthusiastically around the fire.



Shakthivel of grade, 6 dancing with fire

On the evening of 28 November 2005, tents were put up for the children. Faces turned gloomy when it appeared cloudy, but luckily, it did not rain. It was dark when we started. The programme was compered by two seventh grade girls dressed as tribals. It was very entertaining. The sixth graders lit the camp fire and then the other grades sang and danced. The campfire ended with everyone dancing. We had a great time singing and dancing to the tunes of tribal, folk and pop music.

-Karthika Annamalai, Grade 7



Nature's Wonders at SB

We need plants and animals everywhere around us. Otherwise, we will not be able to live. The ICSE board had sent us a notice, which said that we should work on the topic "Nurture Nature for Our Future" for a fortnight. Therefore, I had written a small paragraph on what plants and animals need for a happy life.

Animals need shelter and a clean environment to live in. They need a clean place too. They need good plants everywhere. The plants help us too, by taking in carbon dioxide and giving out oxygen. The animals also need plants to eat. They need good air to breathe.

- Meena Devi Gopi, Grade 2

Trying to Understand Six Million Deaths

We gave a presentation on the Holocaust, one of the worst genocides of the 20th century that took place sixty years ago. Adolf Hitler perpetrated this crime against humanity. In Shanti Bhavan we are studying about similar crimes against humanity. The students of sixth, seventh and eighth grades presented the atrocities and enacted certain scenes from the genocide. Miss Haseena and Mr. Daniel helped us present this project.

- Mahalakshmi Keshavan, Grade 8



School building extension in progress

Building our Future

Dr. George's plan to extend the school building to accommodate more children is taking shape. The construction of the extension block started in June 2005. It is progressing. The ceiling work of the ground floor is complete. By May or June 2006 the ground floor will be ready. The construction workers are working very hard to meet this target.

- Vinay Prasad, Grade 8



My Lovely Teachers

My teachers work hard day and night
And to our world they give us light
To overcome my obstacles they are my guides
And still their love for us never subsides
Of knowledge they are the best wives
And they give us gems of our lives
They look after us with love and care
Teachers like these are very rare.

- Chiathra Vijay Kumar, Grade 7

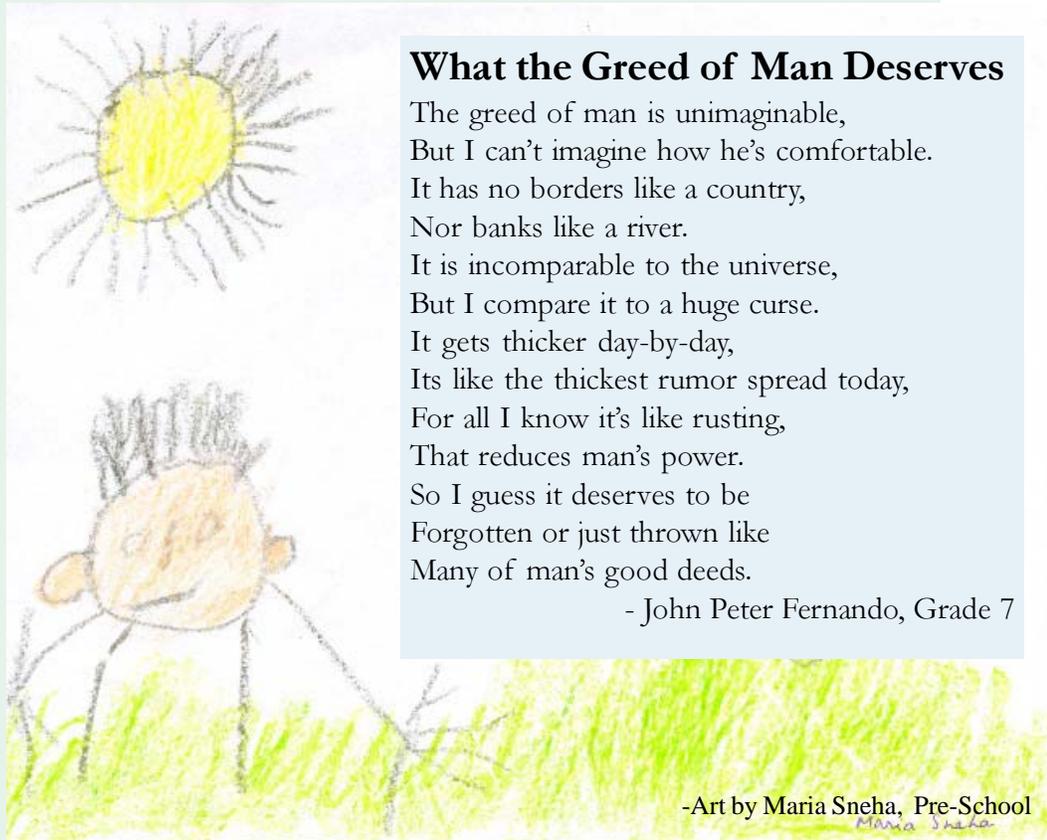


Art by Sindhu Manimala M., 8th Grade

Too Much Hot Air

If factories are polluting the air, that is wrong. Vehicles give out smoke. We should not smoke. We should use unleaded petrol. If we pollute the air, the ozone layer tears. It is nice to use unleaded petrol for vehicles. Factories should not let out smoke. If the factories give out smoke the sky becomes gray.

- Rajesh, Grade 2



What the Greed of Man Deserves

The greed of man is unimaginable,
But I can't imagine how he's comfortable.
It has no borders like a country,
Nor banks like a river.
It is incomparable to the universe,
But I compare it to a huge curse.
It gets thicker day-by-day,
Its like the thickest rumor spread today,
For all I know it's like rusting,
That reduces man's power.
So I guess it deserves to be
Forgotten or just thrown like
Many of man's good deeds.

- John Peter Fernando, Grade 7

-Art by Maria Sneha, Pre-School
Maria Sneha

WHAT'S THE BUZZ ON MONKEYS?



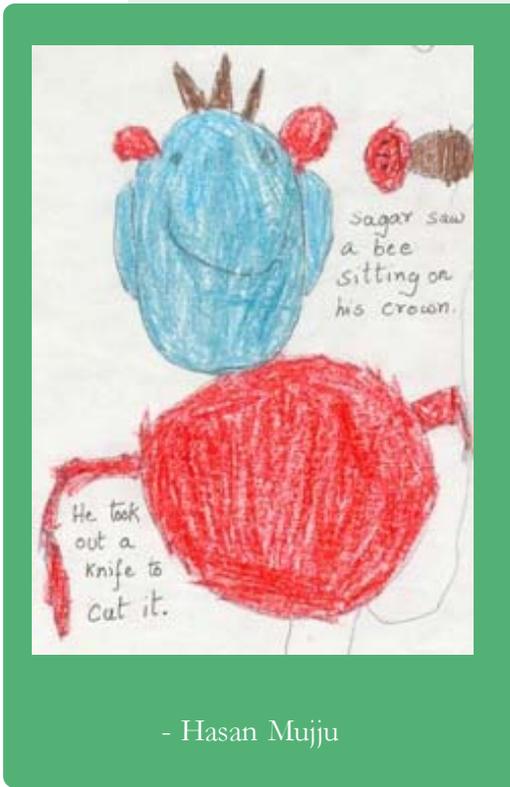
A Story in Pictures by the Kindergarten

Last month the Kindergarteners were asked to create an illustrated story about different kinds of monkeys. You probably have never heard of most of these unique species! We hope you learn something new while appreciating their art work.



- Crowncy Jenina Almada Joseph

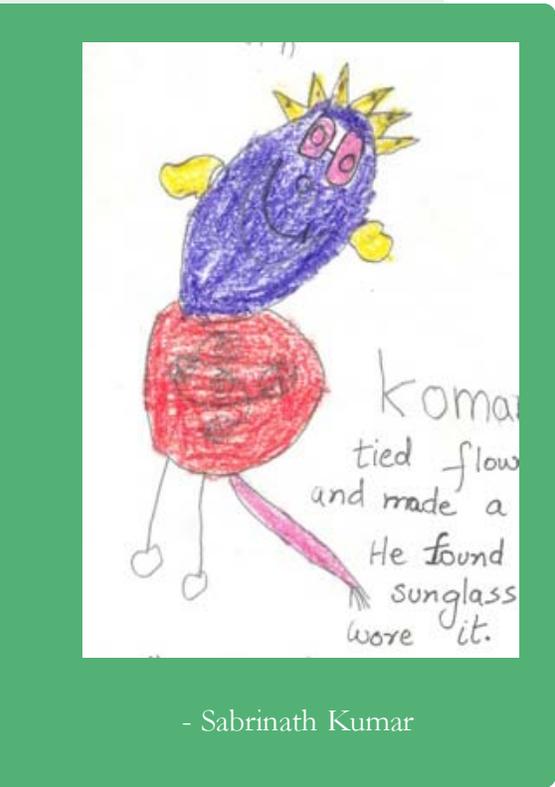
- Bharath Kumar Gopi



- Hasan Mujju



- Amarnath Shakthivel



- Sabrinath Kumar

NATURE SPEAKS THROUGH ART



- Clement Abilash, Grade 7



- Divya Natesan, Grade 6



- Bhavani Somarshakar, Grade 1



Our school follows the ICSE syllabus. So, when our teachers told us to work on 'Nurture Nature for our Future', our two art volunteers, Halee and Devina, held an art competition. The unbelievable artists of Shanti Bhavan gathered for a time of fun and competition. They let their imagination go wild but limited it to the theme of appreciating and protecting our natural environment. All the students did a great job. The three best artists' pictures are shown above. Pictured to the left are all the winners of the art competition with Halee and Devina.

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