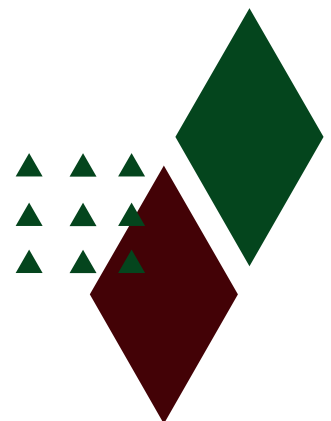


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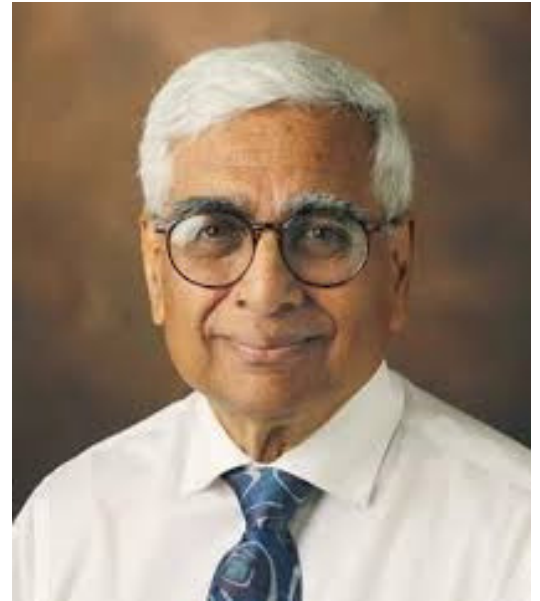


“It took a long time coming – over seven years – but Vidya Vanam is finally a recognised school affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).”

Dr Sriram Subramaniam



from the president



To people outside the firmament of the bureaucracy in India, it does not have the same accomplishment as to those within the circle. I give my thanks to everyone who played a role in making this happen.

An unanticipated consequence of the CBSE affiliation is that we can now have classes up to 12th grade. We are rapidly expanding our academic requirements to meet the needs of the high school students. I have always admired the art programmes and the aesthetics the students have shown in their Project Day and Annual Day events. The recognition by CBSE that art should be a subject of learning and part of the curriculum is something we have believed in and now that it is here, we plan to be one of the premier centres for art education and learning.

Another initiative introduced last year was the programme for Basic Rural Technology, for 8th to 10th grade students. A mini geodesic dome constructed by the students is their learning centre. We have eight students enrolled and anticipate a total of 25 when the programme is in full swing.

Early in 2019, we lost Dr N Uma, our consultant and board member. She gave her services to the school as a doctor and fund raiser and support to the board in surmounting obstacles. We will miss her.

The school will open to a new academic year with the knowledge that we are a recognised player in the field of education, bringing to the table novel ideas to meet the challenges faced by those who do not have the resources but aspire to know and to learn.



vision & mission

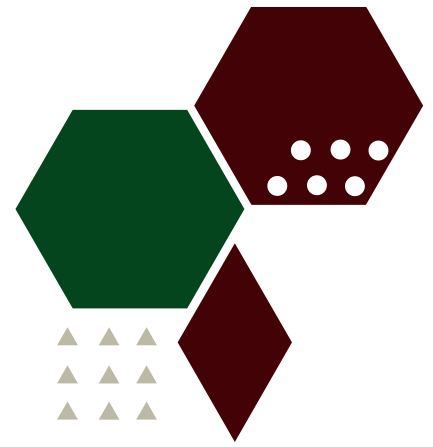
Vision: To nurture tribal children to become self-confident, motivated, knowledgeable, and emotionally stable adults who will be the leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow

Mission: To provide a fear-free learning environment and a specially designed curriculum that integrates today's educational requirements with the community's unique needs; To inculcate appreciation and respect for their culture, their knowledge base and the environment.

Objectives:

- To build an integrated personality; achieved only when the intellectual, emotional and the physical needs are fulfilled
- To build empathy for the environment, the community and all living creatures
- To ensure that children are free to voice their opinions, think critically and pursue their individual passions
- To ensure the cultural heritage of the tribal communities is weaved into the educational and academic curriculum

permanent members



**DR SRIRAM
SUBRAMANIAN**

President

**internationally recognised neuroscientist currently holding the
William Weaver Chair in Experimental Neurology at Vanderbilt
Medical Centre, Nashville, USA**



**MS PREMA
RANGACHARY**

Secretary

**Engineers innovative programmes
by which art can enhance the under
standing of language and sciences.**



**MS SHANTHI
RANGANATHAN**

Vice President

**Social worker and the founder
of T. T. Ranganathan Clinical
Research Foundation.**

rotating members

**Bhooma Parthasarathy
Jagdish Dore
Manish Shah
Jaishree Raman**

Educational Consultant: Susheela Raghavan



faculty & staff

Vidya Vanam's faculty saw the addition of three new members: D Vidyacharan for senior school mathematics and physics, M Sukanya for senior school social science and C Sridharan for the DBRT programme. Sneha Marappa joined as Project Coordinator.

Vidya Vanam has full-time teachers for arts and crafts and physical education and part-time consultants for special educational needs assessment, dance, vocal and instrumental music. Pre-KG and primary teachers, classroom assistants are recruited locally so they are familiar with the tribal dialect. Middle and High School faculty are recruited from across India. The full-time faculty has the following levels of certification: UG & B.Ed, ECEd, BA, MA & B.Ed, PG & B.Ed, D. Ted; and MBA. Vidya Vanam also has part-time volunteers who come from India and abroad for short spells and help in various ways.

Vidya Vanam's staff, both teaching and non-teaching, is given medical insurance through the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). The employee contribution is 1.75 per cent of his/her salary while the management contributes 4.75%.

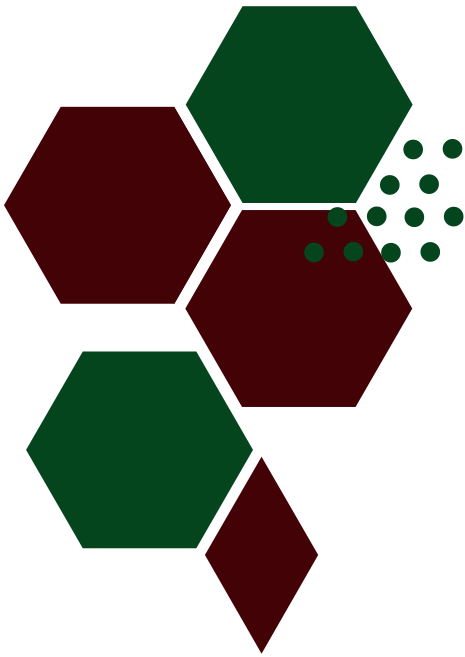


student profile

Class	Total		Total
	Boys	Girls	
10th Std	7	14	21
9th Std	13	13	26
8th std	7	11	18
7th Std	17	8	25
6th Std	14	9	23
5th Std	10	9	19
4th Std	11	8	19
3rd Std	16	10	26
2nd Std	14	14	28
1st Std	13	9	22
UKG	10	10	20
LKG	13	14	27
Grand Total	145	129	274

The school has 145 boys and 129 girls, summing up to 274 children.

While 52.19% of these children are from the SC/ST community, the remaining 47.81% are from BC/MBC/OC community.



events

National Conference on Education:

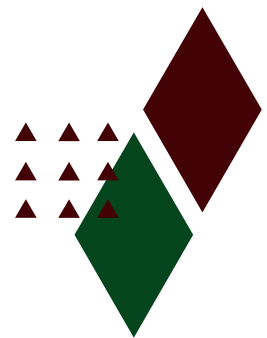
Vidya Vanam's third National Conference on Education was on the theme Peace in Education. Inaugurated by Prof Samdhong Rinpoche, former Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in Exile, with the Keynote Address was delivered by Dr K VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, other speakers were eminent author Perumal Murugan, academicians Prof AR Venkatachalapathy, Gita Jayaraj, Dr N Markandan, Prof Sambaiah Gundimeda and V Vasanthi Devi, eminent musician and public intellectual Vidwan TM Krishna, former IPS officer and social activist Dr RS Praveen Kumar, peace educator Chintan Girish Modi, neurologist and researcher Dr Subramaniam Sriram, educationists Santhya Vikram and Banu Nagesh and Vidya Vanam's Academic Coordinator TM Srikanth and some of the school's students. The conference was attended by over 100 teachers and educators from across India. The conference included workshops on the role of language in conflict resolution, inclusivity, living in sync with Nature and reflective writing facilitated by Dr Kathy Ganske, Prema Rangachary, Dr Sanjay Molur and Dr Neeraja Raghavan.

Annual Day:

The junior school performances included skits, songs, dances and mime, while the senior school did plays in English and Tamil, Rabindra Nritya and Rabindra Sangeet, the Assamese Bihu dance, a mime on dangers of plastic among others. The plays included one on the agricultural crisis in India and another on the elections.

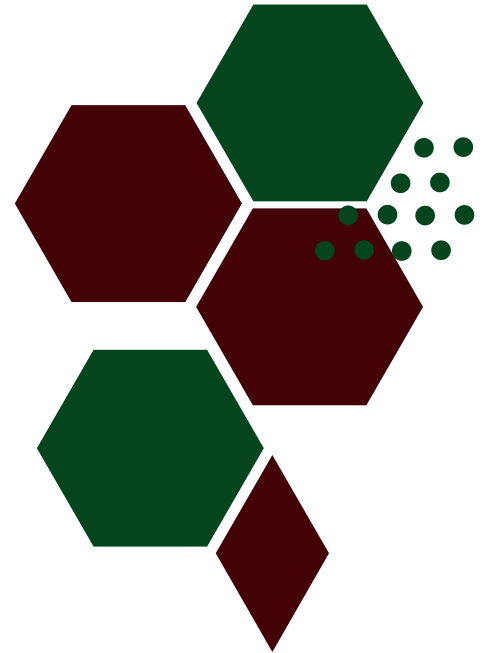
Project Day:

On December 15 was Arivu 2018. The theme was Food and Nalini Thimraj, Principal of Monarch International College of Hotel Management, Ooty, was the Chief Guest. In social sciences, the children looked at how agriculture and food cultures evolved. In arts, the children did paintings with coffee and seeds. In English, they read stories connected with food, especially authors like Laura Ingalls Wilder. They also researched on towns that have given their names to specific foods. In Tamil, they studied culture of food festivals and the South Indian etiquette of meals. In science, the students studied cooking methods, food colouring and balanced diet. For Maths, they studied ratio-proportion in recipes and use of algebra in calculating BMI.



Svanubhava:

In February, Vidya Vanam hosted the two-day cultural festival Svanubhava with performances ranging from Bharatanatyam, Koodiyattam poikkal kuthirai to villupaatu and Carnatic music for an audience of over 900 students from schools in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Tiruchi. The performers were Kapila Venu from Irijnalakuda, Kali Veerapathiran and group, Brinda Manickavasakan, Shreya Devnath, Trichy G Aravind, Bharathi Thirumagan and group, Delhi Sairam, Sunil Kumar and Friends, Kalai Kuzhu from Chennai, Mahalinga Badaga Troupe and Nadi Rao and group. There were also stalls that showcased the local Irula food and arts like patachitra, stone carving, jewellery and artefacts carved from stone, metal and beads.

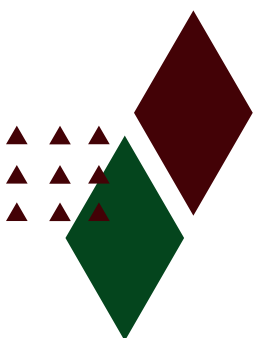


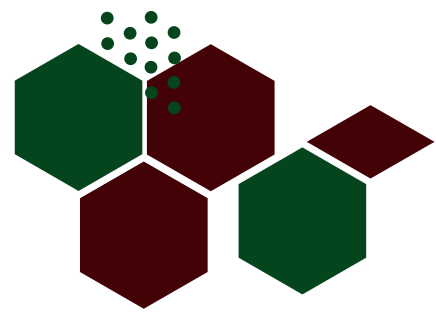
events

Sports Day:

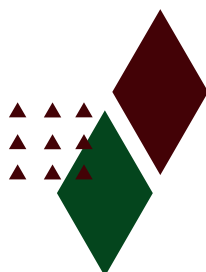
Held on September 20, the chief guest was sports entrepreneur Sabari Karthik, who won a gold medal at the International Junior Karate Championship in 2009, a silver medal in Malaysian Open in 2011, and silver and bronze medals in the first South Asian Karate Championship in 2011. Apart from aerobics, mass drill, yoga, athletics, and field events, there were some fun games like swimming on the table, bursting balloons, obstacle race among others.

Apart from these, there were a host of other events including field trips, workshops for the students and teachers, theatrical performances and more.

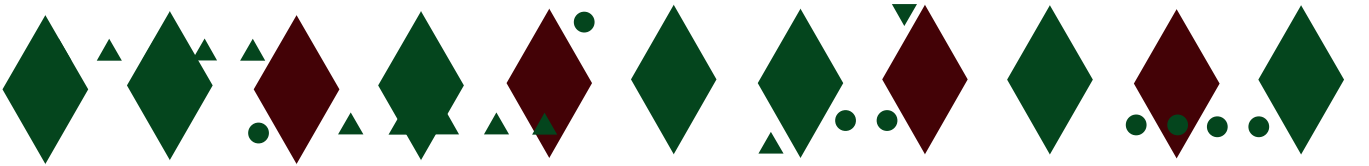
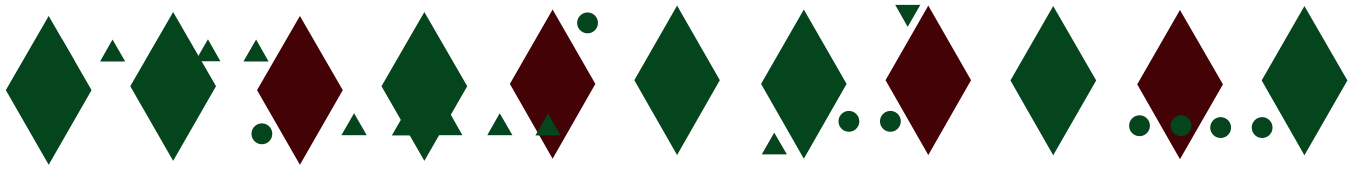




Expenses 2018- 2019	
Expense	Total
Affiliation expenses	2,90,120.00
Books, Stationery periodicals & examination fees	7,57,387.00
Building and garden maintenance	4,92,305.00
Kitchen expenses	2,76,832.00
Events	2,34,636.00
Educational training/excurison /workshop	2,95,891.00
Food & refreshments	12,21,953.00
Vehicle maintenance	10,94,017.00
Honararium & remuneration	19,86,401.00
Internet charges	2,83,200.00
Salary & wages	53,12,000.00
Sports Articles	35,320.00
Staff welfare expenses	4,60,185.00
Uniform expenses	4,27,095.00



financials



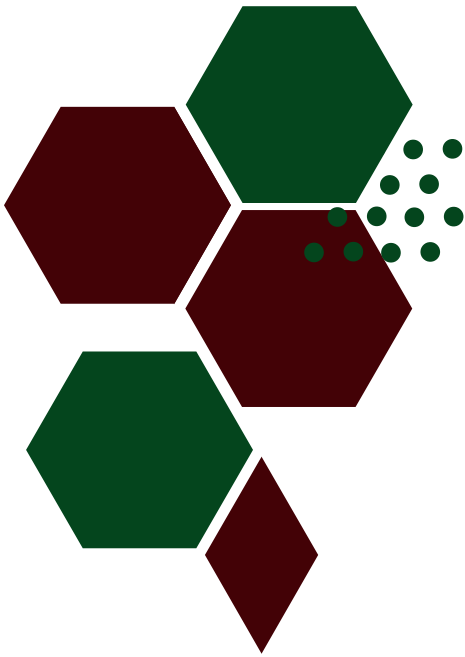


The School Committee met twice in the year: in June and October. Among the resolutions over the two meetings were earmarking space for the DBRT programme and approving cost of construction approved; conduct of health check-ups thrice a year by doctors from Chennai-based Sai Healing Trust, who would also prescribe medication and further action where necessary, apart from the vaccination drives conducted by Coimbatore-based Shanti Ashram and the government health department; and approval for an initiative to introduce a mobile art programme where other children from the villages around Panapalle where the camp would be conducted.





This year, visitors ranged from teachers, students, artistes and others. Well-known social reformer and educationist Sri M shared his experiences with teachers and students. The Kattaikuttu Gurukulam, Kanchipuram, conducted a lec-dem on koothu while Adavu Theatre group from Chennai performed a play based on Therukoothu. The Tamil Nadu Alternative Education Network held its annual meeting in September. Teachers and students from institutions like Azim Premji University, Bhoomi College, Bishop Appasamy College, RVS College, GRD College, Kongunadu College and others visited the school to study its methodology and interact with the teachers. Food blogger Rakesh Raghunathan and food writer Shanthini Raghunathan were special guests during Project Term.



In association with the Sumanasa Foundation, Vidya Vanam has launched a mobile art programme at Panapalle. Art teachers and theatre artistes conduct classes for children from the area and surrounding villages every Sunday.

Vidya Vanam has introduced the Diploma in Basic Rural Technology offered by NIOS as a livelihood training course for students who have completed Std. VII. The eight students who joined the course underwent training at Vigyan Ashram, Pabal, Maharashtra, and constructed a dome as their workspace. They are taught the basics of wiring, fixing points on a switchboard, hanging bulbs, repairing motors, winding coil, different kinds of circuits and wiring and are also cultivating half an acre of agricultural land. They learnt about intercropping and different techniques of organic farming. The vegetables they raise are used in the school kitchen.

achievements

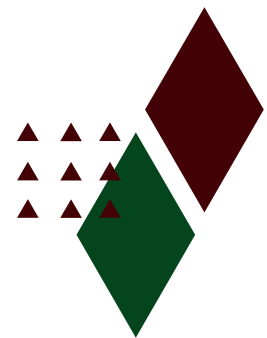
Vidya Vanam's students made Chekutty dolls for Kerala's Chendamangalam weavers who were affected by the floods in the state.

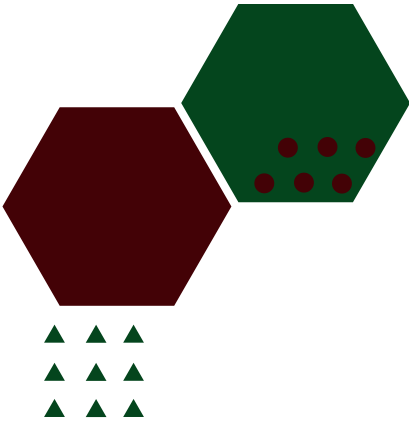
Dejashvi and Prakash, participated in a National Workshop on "Crafts of India-Gond Painting" organised by Department of Apparel and Fashion Design, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore.

Vidya Vanam's director, Prema Rangachary, presented the story of Vidya Vanam: Evolution of Transformational Education at the 25th International Democratic Education Conference (IDEC) held in Bengaluru.

150 kids from Vidya Vanam participated in the annual inter-school competition conducted by SACON. Over 2000 children participated in total. Prakash of Std IX won the first prize in painting; Shanthala of Std X won the first prize in bird watching; Keerthana of Std X won the first prize in Tamil poetry and second prize in English poetry; Roopa of Std X won Third prize in Tamil poetry; P Dhivya of Std X won third prize in Tamil essay.

In March, Skill Angels conducted an international competition in which over 12,000 children from across the world participated. All students from Std IV to X were part of this and Trishala from Std VIII won prize for being among the top 100 for Critical and Analytical Thinking.





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