

THIRD TERM APRIL 2020

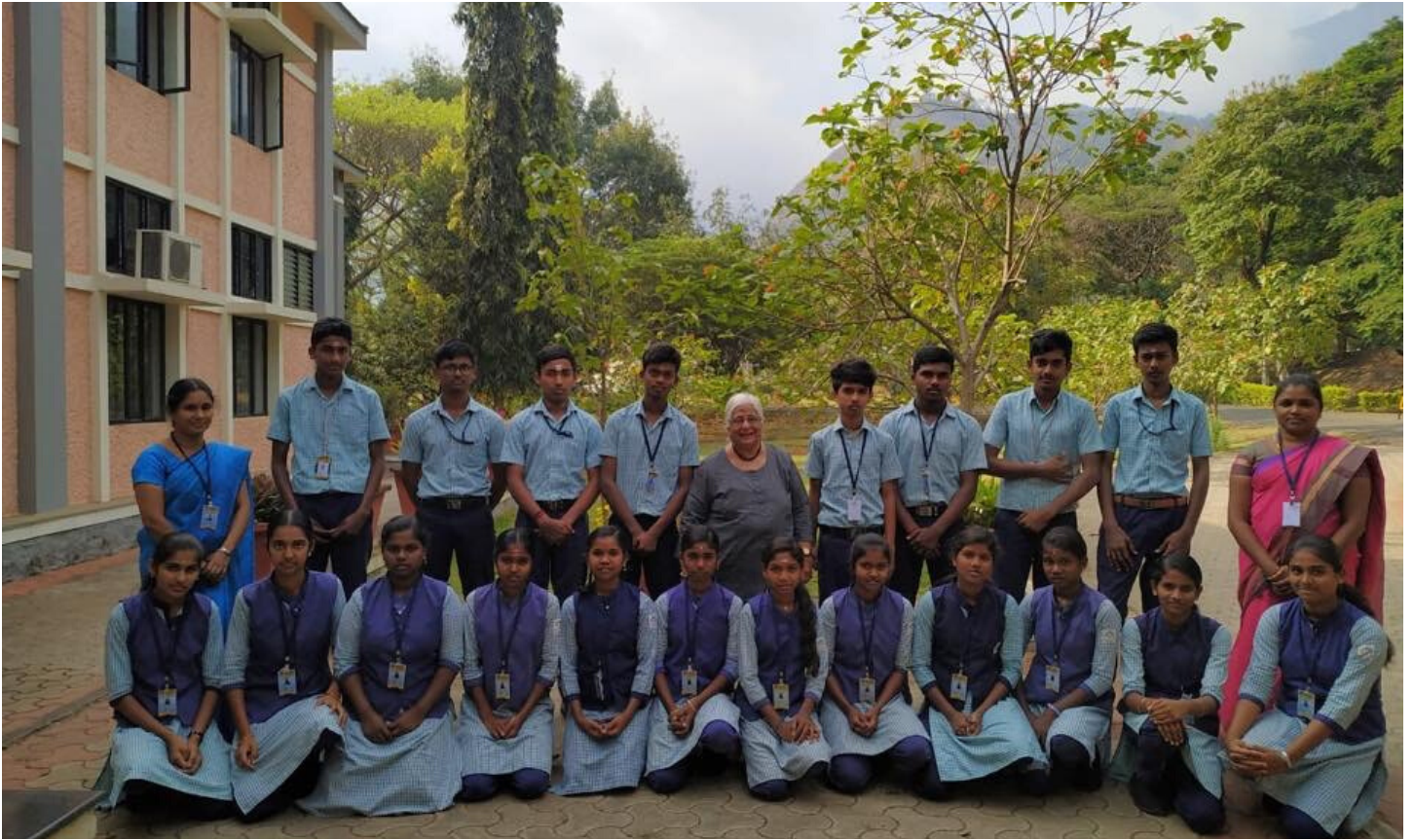
VIDYA VANAM NEWS LETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

- Students and teachers celebrated Pongal on January 10th.
- Vidya Vanam hosted Svanubhava, a two-day multi-cultural festival involving the community.
- The first batch of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) students appears for the Std X National Board exam.
- Students win prizes at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) annual inter-school competition.

ACHIEVEMENTS



The first batch of students appeared the Std X CBSE exam held between February and March 2020. Their centre was Chinmaya Vidyalay International School Siruvani, 50km away from Anaikatti. Vidya Vanam's teachers were also called for invigilation duty at other schools and to correct answer papers.

The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Anaikatti, conducted its annual inter-school competition with topics based on wildlife and nature. The following students won prizes in these categories:

ART

Sandhya from Class VII, Dakshin from Class IX and Dejasvi & Adityan from Class X.

POETRY

Sudharma from Class IX, P. Divya from Class XI

ESSAY WRITING

P. Divya & Saranya from Class XI

TAMIL STORY WRITING

Tilakeshwar & Sivashankar from Class VIII

NATURE QUIZ

Santhala & Ilakkiya from Class XI

EVENTS



PONGAL CELEBRATION

On January 10th, before the school closed for the week-long festive holiday, students and teachers celebrated the Tamil harvest festival Pongal. The school was decorated with kolams (geometric designs made with coloured powder) and Pongal was made on a firewood stove and distributed to everyone. Firewood stove is a traditional way in which food is prepared.

SVANUBHAVA

A two-day cultural event, Svanubhava saw around 500 students from schools in Coimbatore and Tiruppur flock to Vidya Vanam. Performances included Adavu, a Therukoothu-based play by Chennai's Theatre Akku (Therukoothu is a form of traditional street theater); a Carnatic recital by Sangeetha Sivakumar and group; an Odissi performance by Prithvi Nayak and Akshiti Roy Chowdhury from Nrityagram, Bengaluru; a Mohinattam demonstration by Vidya Pradeep and group from Kalamandalam; Thudumbattam by Cheran Thudumbatta Kalaikuzhu from Coimbatore Toda dance from the Nilgiris and devotional music by the Jogappas, a community of transwomen musicians from rural Karnataka. Vidya Vanam's students performed a play on the importance of India's Constitution and read out the Preamble.

This event was covered in The Hindu MetroPlus:

<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/theatre/a-round-up-of-svanubhava-2020-at-anaikatti/article30651684.ece>

EVENTS



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

On January 26th, the school assembled to hoist the Indian flag. They also read out the Preamble to the Constitution and performed skits, mimes and took part in quizzes.

VISITORS

Around 33 student teachers from Dr. G. R. Damodaran College of Education visited the school to interact with teachers and students and study Vidya Vanam's methodology.

INDUSTRY VISIT FOR FOOD PRODUCTION STUDENTS VANAKKAM ITC WELCOMHOTEL, COIMBATORE



On February 25, Std XI students who were studying Food Production visited ITC WelcomHotel as part of their industry visit along with the faculty member Mohamed Rafi. The students visited all the departments of the hotel and interacted with the staff. The hotel staff was patient and enthusiastic, as they shared their experiences with the students and allowed them to become hoteliers for a day. Their interaction with the Executive Chef showed them how the kitchen of a five-star hotel works. The children also got to see all the amenities provided to the guests who stay in the hotel. Despite their busy schedule, the hotel staff ensured that the students got to see everything that is required to keep a five-star hotel going. They also learnt that Learning Begins With Doing.

M Parameshwari, of Std XI, said, "We saw lots of interesting things. For the first time, I saw a swimming pool on the rooftop. In the kitchen, the open refrigerator - a cold room that people can walk in and out of and where foods like meat were stored - and the salamander, which is used to broil, grill, toast and brown, were interesting. It is used to finish the food items. There are two type of salamanders: hand-held and other like a oven.

COVID-19 Help



When the Covid-19 pandemic struck and the lockdown was announced, many of the families in and around Anaikatti were caught unawares. Vidya Vanam and its teachers decided to see what they could do to help. Since the government was supplying rice and pulses, we decided to provide other food items like varieties of dry beans, spices, salt and cooking oil. This was done with contributions from staff and friends of Vidya Vanam. Around 1000 families in 25 villages were helped by this initiative. The staff not only contributed money but also helped pack the rations into packets that could be easily distributed. Our office assistants coordinated with the local Public Distribution Supply Officer to ensure this reached the needy families. These community projects to help the students and their families are continuing.

MEDICAL CAMP



Dr Lakshmi Ramanan from Chennai's Shree SAI Healing Trust conducted a general health check-up on January 31 and gave the school feedback on specific issues that needed further investigation or treatment. Importantly, a form of anaemia is prevalent in the community. The students who have this particular blood problem are closely followed.