

the school



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - 2025

Editorial- This issue of the school newsletter is a snippet of events, trips, student reflections and assemblies by alumni that happened at school. We hope the readers will enjoy these moments through the pictures and writings shared in this issue.

A Documentary and a Conversation



The Long Assembly on July 16th was by Vilasini Kailasam, an alumnus of the school. Vilasini is a filmmaker with a particular interest in the documentary form. She screened her debut film- 'Nigazh Unarvu' that she had made as part of the Creative Documentary Course at SACAC, New Delhi. Through filmmaking, she seeks to learn how to look closely and question the fixed assumptions we often carry. Her work so far has explored themes of labour, care, and the ways people experience and make space in the everyday city.

The screening was followed by a question answer session wherein students raised questions on the process of the film and the various elements like the shots she had used, the texts she had curated and the people who were part of the film. Like she said in response to a question that was raised by one of the students, "This film, while it does not have me in it, is all about me."



A Visit to the Fire Rescue Department.

Students of middle school from Godavari and Mahanadi went on a field visit to the Fire and Rescue Station at Siruseri on 17th July. The groups went by the school buses and after a short half hour ride, reached the Fire Station.

At the Fire Station the students were met by two uniformed staff. Mr. Govindsamy, the person in-charge proceeded to explain the work of his department. Mr. Srinivasan, another of the personnel joined in the conversation explained to the group, the types of rescue work they do, including attending to fire and other emergencies. This was followed by a tour of the station and the students got to see the equipment, fire and rescue vehicles, the gear that is worn, the inflatable dinghies that are used for flood rescue and the emergency response systems that they work with.

The fire station is in a spacious compound and has spaces for the staff to play sports as well. There were also some dogs living in this compound sharing the space with the fire personnel. Some of the questions were around the number of vehicles in the station, whether there are calls at night they respond to, the number of emergency calls in a day and other such questions to understand the work of the fire personnel.



The firemen answered all questions patiently and conveyed the following safety message:

- When a building is on fire, one must shout, FIRE, FIRE and go to a safe location away from the burning building.
- Ask an adult to get in touch with the fire and rescue department by calling 112.
- Give clear directions to reach the location of the fire.
- If clothes are on fire, one should fall and roll on the ground.
- Children are not expected to respond to fire or rescue emergencies as it may be risky.

It was a well spent day with much information shared around the important aspect of fire safety. As one student said at the end of the trip, "I now know how much work goes into putting out a fire!"

An Artist on Campus



The school had a visiting artist- Ms. Anita- from Vishakhapatnam for a period of two weeks in August. Ms. Anita is a professional sculptor and painter. Her specialty in the former is working with clay and in the latter- water colours. She also has expertise in needlecraft. Her other interests include trekking and motorbiking.

During her time at the school, she worked largely with the senior school students, teaching them how to work on the pottery wheel that the school has acquired just recently. She also worked with them in envisioning their sculpture piece as part of their ISC portfolio. She did a session for the teachers of the school with each of them creating an art work from clay. She shared her passion for all these areas with the students and teachers of school in a morning assembly.

It has truly been a time for learning and quiet work in the art room of the school, and we hope she will visit us again in the future.



The Festival of Drama and Dialogue



The festival of Drama and Dialogue took place over two days, the 29th and 30th of July 2025. More than a hundred students from ten different schools from in and around Chennai participated in the festival this year. The list of participating schools included AMM Matriculation, Sankara School, KC High, Christ Wood, Tatva, AVM School, Vidyasagar, Good Earth School, Pathashaala and Abacus Montessori.





This festival has been organised for over thirty years now and the aim of the festival is to create a non-competitive platform for school students, to encourage them to explore a theme and express their social views and concerns through the medium of theatre and drama. Problems in relationships, the importance of listening to one's intuition, dealing with stress, and the exploitation of tribal culture were some of the key themes discussed in this year's drama festival. A space for dialogue was organised after every two plays, where students and teachers discussed the theme of the plays, social issues brought out and the processes followed during their preparation. This discussion, which is an important part of the festival, allowed for sharing of many thoughts and questions.





The students of Class 11 presented two plays- one in Tamil and another in English. The Tamil play- 'Sangeetha Payithiyam' as well as the English play- 'Nauchtland' were adaptations from original plays. The former raised questions around authority, the abuse of it and the blind acceptance of it by others while the latter examined the rather pertinent question of understanding art as separate from the artist. The use of music, powerful dialogues and humour made both plays a visual delight for the audience.



Opera Singing by an Alumnus



The school had an interesting Long Assembly on Opera music by an alumnus, Raj Naren, on Friday, 8th August. Raj talked about Opera music as well as his specialty- the tenor- at the assembly. He sang four songs- two in Latin, one in German and another in Italian for the assembly.

Raj passed out from school in the year 2019 after which he pursued his diploma in Western Vocal Music at the A R Rahman's KM Conservatory. He is currently in Belgium, refining his technique, and being tutored by Mr. Axel Everaert at the Royal Conservatory of Mons. He has performed at various Masterclasses in France and Belgium and also won accolades for his performances.

It was a special experience for all who were part of the Assembly and one hopes that he will continue to come to school to share his journey with music in the future.



A Trip to Auroville

The Class 10 students went on an overnight trip to Auroville between 2nd and 7th of August. The intention of this trip is to understand sustainable living by being part of communities at Auroville. The students were divided into three groups and stayed at Pichandikulam, Auro Orchard and Annapurna. They worked largely within their respective communities helping out with the daily work-from working on the fields, to tending cows, to cooking and planting. The students had conversations with the founders of these communities to understand their work.



They also visited other communities like Solitude to understand permaculture and Swaram- a place that uses music as a means of bringing about consciousness. The group visited the Solar Kitchen and Auroville Papers to understand many other aspects of Auroville. As all overnight trips go, the students came back with a pocketful of memories.



A Trip to the International Institute of Tamil Studies



On 20th July, the students of Class 10 went on a day trip to the International Institute of Tamil Studies at Taramani. All students whether they had taken Tamil as their second or third language, participated in this trip. The aim was to learn about the lives of people in the Sangam Age and the various activities they did based on their diverse environment.

One student had this to say, "I found it interesting that the short films we watched had clear pictures and animations to make it understandable for all."

The trip created the opportunity for students to see how ideas and creations were developed in ancient South India and how it had a wide spread impact on the entire modern world. Seeing the ancient artifacts and sculptures also put into perspective how far India and the society has honed itself over the centuries; while also reminding us how effective and simple the practices and inventions of those times were.



Another student said, "From watching the video, I learnt how medicine was practised and how water management worked in the Sangam Age and even in the Harappan civilization. The experience I had on this trip contributed to my knowledge of History and of the Tamil language itself."

In all it was a day well spent in understanding the depth of Tamil culture and the students came away richer in their understanding and appreciation of it.

The Class 12 trip to the School Farm - student reflections

*I see nature for what it is,
for what it could be*

*A black and yellow bird sat right
next to me almost as if I wasn't even there, as if it wasn't
bothered by my presence*

*I realised that I was always so
focused on what I was doing that I hadn't even noticed how well
my class was capable of coming together to do something*

The Class 12 students spent time in an overnight stay at the school farm at Kilapakkam over a weekend. The students stayed at a hall close to the farm and went on walks, tending to tasks on the farm and in conversation with their teachers. The students shared their experience after coming back through reflections they wrote. Here are a few of those reflections...





I never thought time spent doing nothing
could feel so short.

It was a leisurely
hour that allowed me to write poetry again. The simplicity of the
surroundings lessened confusion and provoked thought.



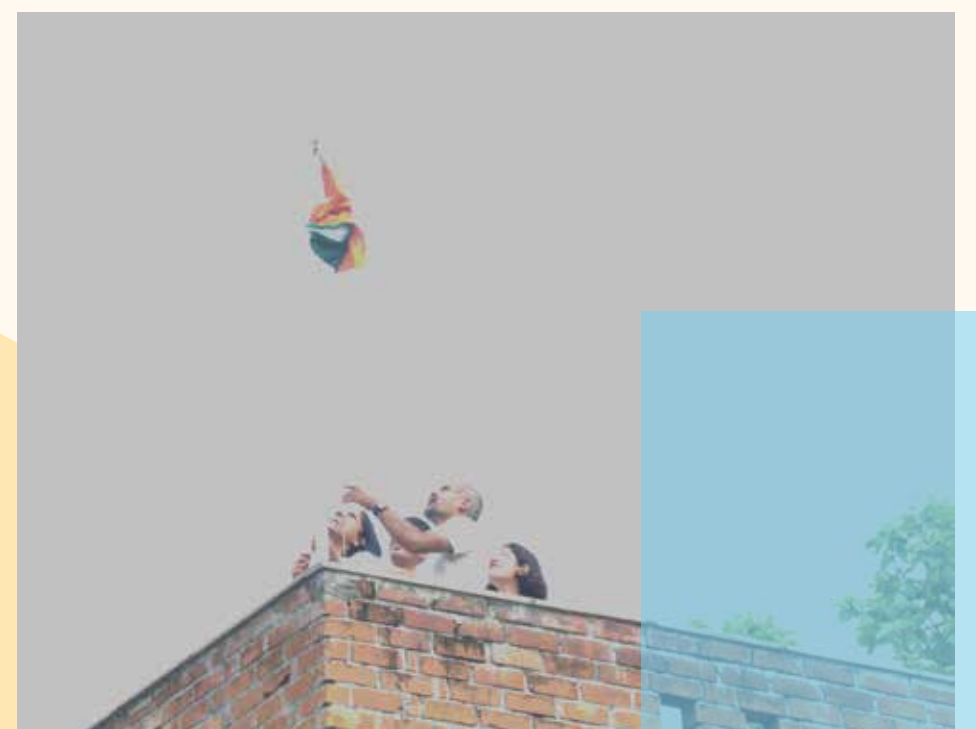
Independence Day Assembly

A special assembly was held on 15th August for the Independence Day. There were songs, chants with speeches by students, a teacher and a guest speaker as part of the Assembly.

The assembly began with some energetic singing by the students and teachers of the school. This was followed by three students of Class 12 speaking around their understanding of democracy, diversity and culture and the idea of independence. The teacher speaker also spoke about her thoughts around freedom and what it is to be truly independent.

The guest speaker for this assembly was Mr. A R Venkatachalapathy- a parent of the school who is a prominent Indian historian, academician, author and translator known for his work in social, cultural and intellectual history, particularly of colonial and post-colonial Tamil Nadu. He is also the recipient of the Sahitya Academy Award for his work in the year 2024. He spoke on the different nuances of the very idea of freedom and independence.

The Assembly concluded with the hoisting of the national flag to the singing of the national anthem.



Sports Day - a photo feature

