

RIPPLES

The Arvind Foundation Newsletter



Dear Readers,

We hope you enjoyed the new format of our newsletter as much as we did creating it. In this 13th Edition, we bring to you the festivals celebrated at the Foundation. The celebrations this year have been rather special with the children giving each festival a personal touch in their own way!

Thank you for your continued patronage and encouragement that keeps us going!

Gomathy T
Editor

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Pongal

The special needs children enjoy lots of rights and privileges in the society. They also have their responsibilities which they need to perform. Upholding the traditional values, understanding its significance, grasping the essence and carrying it in their daily lives is something that special needs children cultivate in themselves.

As part of the Pongal celebration, the 'Paarambariyam' of Tamil Nadu was brought to them everyday through dances like Kolattam, Gummi, 'Veera Vilayattukkal' like Uriyadi, Silambattam etc. The stories and songs extolling the values of the tradition associated with Pongal were told on a daily basis which brought home the essence to the children.

Tarun (name changed) who is scared of fire came forward to put rice and dhal into the boiling pot for making sweet pongal. Rahul (name changed) who usually is unable to jump, this time tried to move out of the ground and hit the pot for Uriyadi.

Mothers, students and teachers danced in gay abandon during the Gummi group dance. Silambattam was a coordinated movement of dance along with songs and everyone wanted to try it out with the bamboo stick. Special needs students did their bit for the society by observing the tradition and upholding its values.



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Christmas

On 19th December we celebrated Christmas at Arvindalayam. Our children from our Chennai and Chengalpet centers celebrated Christmas together with the carol group. The students from each center performed skit, drama, dance or movements. Everyone enjoyed the program immensely and had lot of fun and togetherness. It was heartening to see our special children to sit through the celebration for almost 2.5 hours. Our guests were volunteers from Cognizant outreach and students from Anna Adarsh. Our special thanks to Mr. Vijay Anand and the choir group who made the day more lively.





CHRISTMAS



Karthigai Deepam and Diwali

All students across all our centers celebrated Karthigai deepam on 4th December. The stories and songs related to the karthigai deepam were shared for the whole month and students enjoyed to play with clay and made beautiful diyas for the celebration and enjoyed bursting crackers on the day. All students were dressed in traditional costumes.

Diwali was celebrated with the usual pomp and splendor.

The preparations started weeks ago when the students were told the story of Narakasuran and crackers - lights were burst every day to make the students get used to the sounds and lights.

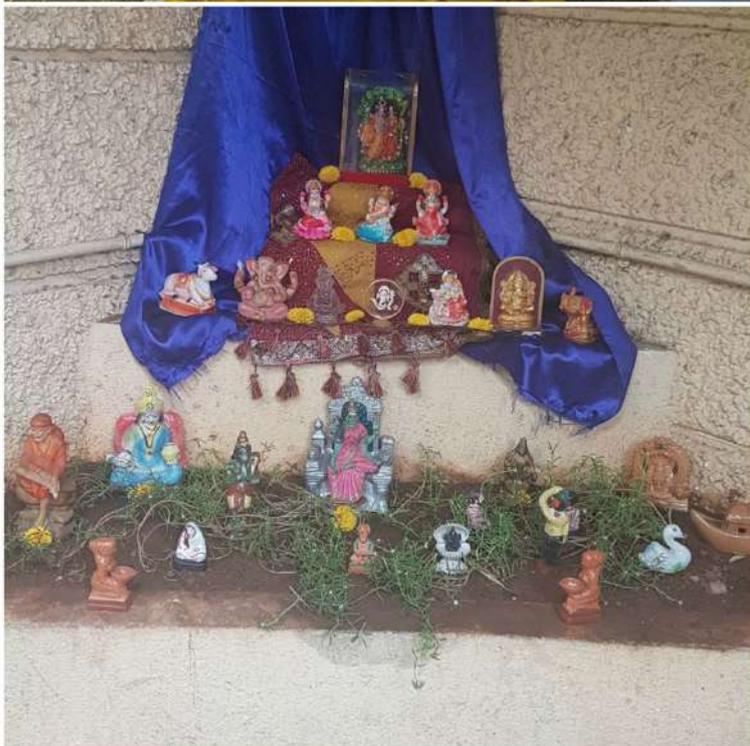


DIWALI AND KARTHIGAI DEEPAM



Navarathri

Navarathri preparation was a joyous time as for the first time the students and staff of Arvindniketan MADE the clay dolls by themselves, colored them and decorated the golu stand.



NAVARATHRI

The children made clay dolls depicting their activities in school and it was a proud moment for all of us to display them in the kolu.

