

TIRUCHY DIGEST

HOLISTIC GROWTH

- **Vimala School nurtures their students' talents**
- **Sports and extra-curricular activities are encouraged**

● **Express Features**

This is an institution where each and every child's individuality is identified and they are nourished in all aspects of life, as envisioned by Bishop John Aelen," said sister FSJ Arokiyam, Superior General and Chairperson of Vimala Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thuraiyur. "We not only give importance to moulding their mind and body, but also to enrich their soul and find their hidden potential."

The school was established in June

1969 by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph. Now entering its 49th year, the school's vision is to provide an encouraging atmosphere that allows students to gain intensive knowledge, develop intellectually and be rejuvenated spiritually.

"Providing bookish knowledge alone won't help the students fit into the society," said Principal Sister Maria Selvi. "Here, the students are taught in an environment which kindles their curiosity, which in turn urges them to learn."

With its spacious classrooms, expansive grounds and library, students of the school not only secure state-level marks in the board exams but also shine in sports by bagging state-level awards in tennis, shuttle, badminton and athletics. They are encouraged to participate in various competitions to bring out their talents, interests, and uniqueness, and to explore their own creative ways to complete tasks than walk on the beaten path.

"We believe that supporting every child to inculcate valuable etiquette,

SCHOOL OF THE WEEK (MARKETING FEATURE)



being able to stay calm and composed in all the situations of life with courage through value education classes daily is the extreme goodness of the school," said Sister Selvi. English is the encouraged medium of communication in the school. To ensure complete fluency in the language, a Nursery of Communicative English operates within the school. It offers innovative activities for students.

The school also provides a variety of extracurricular activities like karate, yoga, violin and Bharatanatyam, abacus, with facilities like a language lab, calligraphy course, literary association and Junior Red Cross society to supplement their studies. NEET coaching is also pro-



“Students are taught in an environment which kindles their curiosity

—Sister Maria Selvi, Principal



Sangamam at school

The Shivaani Vidhya Mandir Senior Secondary School in Aranthangi recently hosted 'Sangamam'. The special guest for the programme, Erode Mahesh, a host on a TV channel, advised parents to encourage and support their children's ambitions. R Chellasamy, president and other dignitaries were present.



One-day conference

The Mount Zion College of Nursing held a state-level conference on 'enhancing and empowering nurses in managerial skills'. Jayabarathan Chelliah, chairman, Mount Zion Educational Institutions, Jayson K Jayabarathan, director, Florence Jayabarathan, vice-chairperson, Mount Zion Educational Institutions, S Ramesh Babu, CEO, Meenakshi Hospital, Thanjavur and Jasmine Sheela, principal, were also present.



Borrow books, get award

The History Department of Periyar EVR College held a programme recently. The students who borrowed the most books from the department library were awarded. Former principal S Rajendran addressed the gatherings. The principal of Bharathi Matriculation School K Balakrishnan was invited as the chief guest of the programme.



Endowment lecture

The Padmavibhushan Dr V Krishnamurthy Endowment Lecture was organised by the Department of Computer Science, National College. S Venugopal, director, NIT - Nagaland, gave a special lecture on the advancements in robotics and automation systems in nuclear plants. Principal R Sundararaman and director K Anbarasu were present.



Participants at the Thanjavur Heritage Walk visited Matchapureeswarar, a Chola period Kovildevarayanpettai temple

The fish temple from the Chola dynasty

● **N Ramesh**

The 31st Thanjavur Heritage Walk was organised by the Tamil University with the DHAN foundation, INTACH to the Matchapureeswarar temple. The temple was built more than 1,100 years ago at the Kovil Devarayanpettai near Pandaravada in the Thanjavur-Kumbakonam Road. It boasts of 55 inscriptions which are from the medieval Chola period. A lone inscription of Hoysala is also found in this temple.

Professors S Rajavelu and N Adhiyaman from the Maritime History and Maritime Archaeology Tamil University told the participants that the temple was known as "Tiruchelur Mahadevar" according to inscriptions. The legend of this temple says that Lord Vishnu took the avatar of fish (macha) and worshiped the Sivalingam in the temple. An inscription in the temple shows a fish pouring water on a Sivalingam from its

mouth. The professors said that the Vimana (tower) is in Nagara style with the images of Durga, Tirumal, Alamar Selvar, Naan Mugan and Vinayaga inscribed on it.

The village, which was called Tiruchelur during the Chola period, was also a 'Brahmadeyam' (a tax-free land gifted by the village to Brahmins) known as "Rajakesari Sathurvedi Mangalam". It was a big town during the Chola period, with hamlets including Choolamanicheri, Kalakacheri, Pandithavachalacheri, Manoramcheri and Madam Amainda Pandaravada.

The inscriptions in the temple record the many grants and donations given. During the reign of Parantaka Chola I (907-955), the temple was given eela lamps, gold and eela kasu as a grant. Kundavai Naachiaar, the

sister of Raja Raja I, also donated heavily to this temple. Some land in the village was donated for medical treatment at the "Sundara Chola Vinnagar Azhwar Aathular Salai" in Thanjavur, which was a hospital-like establishment during that period.

The inscriptions also record the practice of bringing water from the Cauvery and Kudamuruti rivers, which were located nearby, for pooja during Sankranti and other auspicious days. The inscriptions also reveal donations given by the wife of a trader who traded in the 'Tirubhuvana Madevi Perankadi' (super market) which was functioning at Thanjavur during the Chola period. The circumambulatory hall around the Sanctum and the other shrines were built during 15th century by one Kongaraayar, the professors said, quoting the inscriptions.

Temple inscriptions speak of a land grant to a hospital functioning in Thanjavur during the Chola period

Dentist-turned-poet pays tribute to Rajendra Chola



Kaalathai Vendra Gangaikondaney! is a mixture of Chola history and literature

● **Express Features**

A young dentist from Jayankondam, S Babu found the Tamil poet in him six months ago. So far, he has released two books on poetry in his hometown Tiruchy. One of the books, *Kaalathai Vendra Gangaikondaney!*, is a mixture of Chola history and literature, where he narrates the unique aspects of the dynasty in simple and modern poetry. Most of the pages in this book are devoted to Rajendra Chola, who, according to Babu, is a super star among all other Chola kings.

"When I decided to write on Chola kings, I bought many history books and finished reading them before I wrote anything. I noticed some interesting facts about the Chola dynasty and used them in my poetry so that it would be a blend of history and literature," he said. Babu admires the magnificence of Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple and sculptures in his poetry.

The dentist-turned-poet did his schooling in the Government Higher Secondary School in Jayankondam in the Ariyalur district during which he was interested in writing essays and delivering speeches. With the encouragement and support from his teachers, he took part several elocutions and essay-writing competitions. Yet until six months ago, his interest in Tamil literature was confined to only reading books, never poetry.

Babu developed the habit of posting a WhatsApp status every day with two or three lines of his poetry and his friends enjoyed it immensely and motivated him to keep writing on social media. He started writing poems under the pen name 'Magilam'.

During his book launch, lyricist Pa Vijay praised his writing skills immensely. Historian Ila Thiyagarajan also praised his books and said, "Poems like these can take historical facts more easily to the youngsters than history books." His other book *Oru Uli, Orayiram Sirppangal*, consists many short poems. Babu and his wife Mathavi, who is also a dentist, run the Prabhu Dental Clinic at Jayankondam.

● **Ashwini Sekar**

Rotarian Hermon Carduz has been a French teacher for 20 years. He is also a self-taught artist and the owner of the Leaders Choice Art Gallery in the city, which houses around 100 of his paintings.

Inspired by the works of MF Hussain, Salvador Dali and Claude Monet, Hermon uses different styles such as impressionism, pop art, surrealism, minimalism, and realist in his art. The gallery holds an annual themed exhibition, for which he works through the year on his paintings.

The latest exhibition at the six-year-old gallery was named 'The True Spirit of Service, Mother Teresa'. It spoke of noble work of Mother Teresa while highlighting the inspiring events she came across. Hermon is presently working on an art project titled, 'Colors that Heal', which will be displayed in August.

"Prayers have given me the positive energy to create more than 400 pieces of artwork," said Hermon, who is also

The art of art



Hermon's exhibition spoke of the noble work of Mother Teresa

a soft skill coach, author, musician, salsa dance trainer, motivational speaker and a communication skill trainer. Holding a bachelor degree in Physics and masters in French, English and Business Administration, Hermon also teaches architectural sketching and trains students for the National Aptitude Test for Architecture (NATA).

He has also collaborated with many well-known artists like Rev Fr James Thamburaj SJ, former principal of Loyola College, Chennai and Rev Fr

Arul Doss SJ, vice-principal, St. Joseph's College among others. Hermon has held many solo exhibitions in other cities. His art was exhibited for a fundraiser in Cardiff, UK. "I am always thankful for the inspiration I have received from the institutions I worked in. I have imparted knowledge to students from 28 countries and have inspired more than 2,500 students," he said.

The 38-year-young, as he claims, artist is now planning to pursue a PhD Programme on French Art and Gothic Architecture and preparing to apply for the international Cochin Binnale, which will be held in November 2018.

Photos: MK Ashok Kumar

GIFTS WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

● **Ancy Donal**

Nothing can convey your love for someone more than a personalised, handmade gift. Understanding their value, a 23-year-old girl in the city works hard to infuse her creativity and emotions to create the perfect gift.

Manisha Gidia is passionate about art and has been making personalised handmade gifts for the last two years. Her venture, Artistry, uses social media to promote and sell her goods, which has had over 200 orders.

"It was initially spread through word-of-mouth and my first customer was my best friend," she said, reminiscing on her journey. "I focus on bringing out my client's emotions in my products and I am excited to see them happy and satisfied." Initially, Manisha began making goods to help her niece with her school project and later learned more by watching videos before making it her full-time job.

One of her first orders was to customise 300 trays by making a de-

coupage on wood. This gave her the confidence and courage to continue her passion despite quitting higher studies. She said, "My family always has my back, especially my sister. Her feedback has helped me improve my skills."

"Cardstock, pattern papers, metal charms, embellishments, stickers, and tags are materials I work on, most of which are bought online from other states," she said. Manisha takes orders for return gifts, anniversaries, birthdays and special occasions according to her client's budget. She also makes key holders, fridge magnets and painted vases.

"People now are ready to adopt this flourishing trend. I have nearly 100 clients in and out of Tiruchy," she said. Manisha conducts scrapbooking and decoupage workshops for adults and summer art workshop for kids.

"A little bit of creativity and a lot of patience is all that matters. I would suggest people choose customised gifts which are useful and has emotional value," she said.



“I focus on bringing out my client's emotions in my products. I am excited to see them satisfied.

—Manisha Gidia

Photos: MK Ashok Kumar