



Newsletter

New Creation Bilingual School

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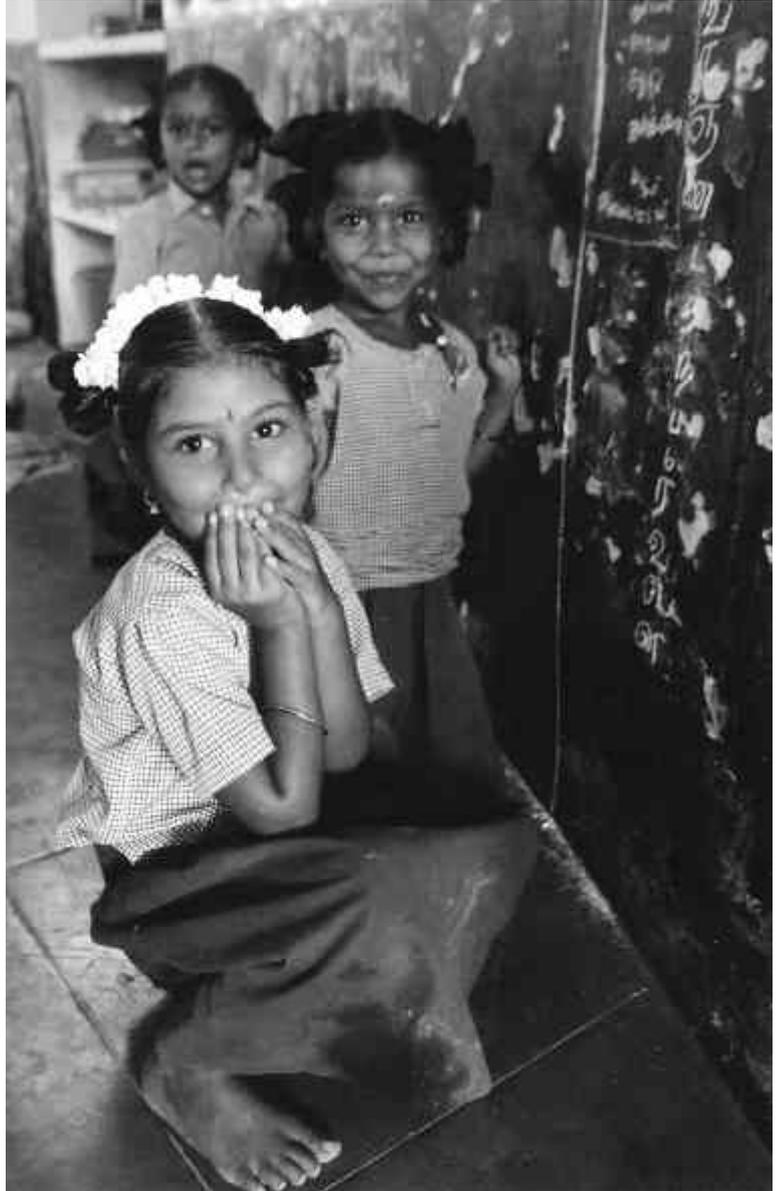
Dear friends, vanakkam! Although we don't come to you with flying colours this time, rest assured: all is well in our school, energies are high, with children eagerly responding! Finding ourselves in a pretty grim financial situation, we are presently tiptoeing through our budgets in order to make ends meet. We therefore had to let go of some more luxurious touches, such as a proud and colourful newsletter to you. We're sorry for this, and trust that you will enjoy reading about us in black & white anyway!

Success with CBSE

We passed various inspections during this last year, and as a result our application for accreditation by CBSE (India's Central Board of Secondary Education) was granted for a trial period of three years. This is an important step towards our aim of becoming a model that other schools in disadvantaged areas can follow.

Also New Era Secondary School (NESS), an Auroville outreach school in the Aspiration settlement, received the green light. The two schools, which are located quite near to each other, may together form in future a coherent and recognised channel for certified education up till 12th standard. As you may have understood from our earlier letters, CBSE has developed an excellent curriculum but, sadly, only 10 % of Indian children have presently access to this programme, - and certainly not those in rural areas.

Now the adventure really starts and a lot of work lies ahead of us!



- shy, proud, and happy, and privileged to belong to the 10%..! -

MISSION STATEMENT OF NCBS

The school's mission is to provide an appropriate kindergarten, primary and intermediate education to children from Kulapalayam and other villages, which are geographically connected to Auroville, based on the principles of integral education, as defined by the founders of Auroville, the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. The school strives to maintain a creative and joyful atmosphere, where the uniqueness of each child is respected and nurtured.

The school's aim is to provide quality bilingual education in Tamil and English, covering all of the standard academic subjects, physical education, and a wide variety of vocational options to prepare children for life in a rapidly changing world, while still maintaining contact with their Tamil cultural heritage. In the near future, children may also earn equivalency certificates so that secondary education can be continued in a school which is recognised by the Tamil Nadu Government.

New Creation Bilingual School is an Outreach day-school under the Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research (SAIER) for more than 200 children, with classes which range from pre-kindergarten to the eighth grade. All tuition, educational supplies, nutritious snacks and mid-day meals are provided free of charge.



In foreground: Principal Shankar in discussion with Mr. Doudou Diène; background: Ms Suryagandhi, member NCBS Support Group, Dr. Marc Luyckx Ghisi in discussion with Mr Ambu, science teacher at NCBS and other schools.

Visits from VIPs

We're also pleased to tell you that during the meeting of Auroville's International Advisory Council in July this year, two of its members visited some schools in the Auroville bio-region, including NCBS. Mr. Doudou Diène, director of inter-cultural, inter-religious dialogue & peace culture at UNESCO, and Dr. Marc Luyckx Ghisi, theologian & researcher in global cultural transformation, toured the premises and had intensive talks with Principal Shankar, whom they had met earlier during a conference in Formia, Italy.

Focus

Colours in Tamil Nadu can be bright and fierce and strong, and so can the sounds. Our students live in villages where houses and huts are closely huddled together, constantly surrounded by all kinds of noise. Those of you who have been here may *nostalgically* remember the temple music amplified by loudspeakers, sounds of radio ditties from tea shops, loud TVs playing in every hut, the incessant barking of dogs, persistent cawing of crows, and the loud and animated manner of speaking on cell phones and otherwise. There are, of course, also sometimes the heated sounds of dispute, or of laughter or domestic squabbles between neighbours, and so on.



- learning to be still and concentrated, making beautiful shapes -

No wonder then that children coming to our school initially tend to be a noisy, bubbly and boisterous lot.

All the more rewarding it is to observe how they gradually learn to get used to being quiet, in a quiet class room, and fully focus on what they are doing without distractions around them.

The students appreciate the calming atmosphere of silence and concentration that makes them dare to let the best of themselves emerge, - that makes them flourish...



- finding the missing piece -



It was the close collaboration between Principal and teachers during these last years that managed to establish this nourishing atmosphere. It created an educational environment that makes students progress not only in their academic and/or vocational formation, but also in their personal development, refinement of their personality and growing self esteem.

Certainly when considering their background, we find this of utmost importance, and we here share some of these moments with you.



1. 8th grade student Velvizi in full concentration...
2. dance on August 15th, India's Independence Day...
3. computer classes in the new Kolam Computer Centre in the New Creation settlement...
4. Vijaychandar of 3rd grade made his own Ganesha in clay...
5. first scribbles on the blackboard...
6. tailoring..., working with cloth donated by Auroville units...
7. teachers receive intensive English classes with Ms Firooza from Auroville...
8. full concentration in 8th grade geography class...
9. some serious carpentry work underway!...
10. teacher Pugazhendi, bright student Kumari and the math-sticks!...
11. a belated photo of the Auroville Nature Camp in Kodaikanal's fabulous environment, where NCBS students happily joined with Auroville youth in May this year...





- join us in our endeavour to give these children a good and integral education -

Update

We're happy and grateful that one of our donor friends has given a large percentage of the money we need for the construction of a badly needed building complex to house library, science lab and space for the school's therapeutic "special needs" work. However, as we already hinted in our previous newsletter, we are sorry to report that, in step with the world at large, the school is going through a financially rough time at the moment and we just barely make it.

The fact that we have, so far, been able to make ends meet is because some of you, loyally, maintained their old commitment of sending some small contribution from time to time, even in these hard and uncertain moments.

Thank you!

Seeing the steep inflation rate and how it increasingly threatens to hamper the ability of the school to continue at the present rate of progress, we have been approaching Indian corporations but without success thus far. Our undertaking may be just too small and too unglamorous for them. It would already immensely help if someOne would 'adopt' our school, and help us with a monthly amount of, say, € 1000. Apart from what we receive from Auroville, we actually need twice as much, but a regular sum would give us something to hold on to.

You can transfer your donation or monthly contribution via the Auroville International Centre in your country, or send a cheque made payable to 'Auroville Unity Fund' to our address given here below. Please indicate clearly, on an accompanying note if needed, that the donation is for New Creation Bilingual School's 'running cost'. We will send you a receipt in return. If you want to receive breakdowns, project proposals, budget overviews, annual statements by SAIER, a 5-minute documentary, powerpoint presentation, or any other documentation, you are most welcome to get in touch with us via the contact details given below.

As always, thank you for being with us!

The New Creation Bilingual School Support Group

Principal Shankar, and Dianna, Franca, Françoise, Janet, Mauna, Suriyagandhi, along with all the school's children, teachers, other personnel and friends.

(Dr. Heidi Watts of Antioch New England Graduate School in USA, Martin Littlewood of Auroville International UK, Satyakam Karim and Devasmita Patnaik of Auroville International France, all long time friends and supporters of the school, attend our meetings when present in Auroville.)

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www.auroville.org/education/village_schools/newcreation_bilingual.htm