



Cary Tamil School

Cary, North Carolina, USA

<https://www.carytamilschool.org>

NEWSLETTER

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From the Mind of the Principal

Mr. Selvan Patchamuthu

If you are new to the Cary Tamil School family (CTS), you just entered into a very special school. Cary Tamil School is a close-knit educational community that promotes the Tamil language and culture in a safe and friendly environment. I extend a warm welcome to all of you and look forward to working with you.

Everyone at CTS understands that safety is our number one priority. Thank you for taking the time to read and follow these points:

1. Do not use cell phones while you are driving in the school zone.
2. Our students' ages are from four to teen so drive your vehicle very slowly and carefully in the school zone without any distraction.
3. Always be mindful of children crossing between parking lots. Some of the parking spaces are allocated to CTS TEACHERS ONLY so that they can get to class on time. Similarly, many parking spaces are allocated to PARENTS. Please park in the spaces allocated for parents and DO NOT park in the spaces allocated for CTS Teachers.
4. Although you may think you can quickly drop off or pick up your child and get back to your car sometimes it takes longer than expected and we do not want to hold up that moving line. If you need to get out of your car to pick up your child or put them into car seats, please park in the lot and pick up your child.
5. Your cooperation with PARENT VOLUNTEERS who will be guiding the traffic is greatly appreciated.

Attendance Matters:

Good school attendance is one of the primary indicators of school success. Students cannot learn if they are not in school, so in advance, thank you for ensuring that your child is here on time each day. The classrooms open and teachers arrive at 1:30 p.m. and the class start time of the school day is 1:45 p.m. Our teachers work extremely hard to prepare and deliver instruction from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Unless it is absolutely necessary, (medical appointment, family emergency), please do not pick up your child early from school. Every minute of our learning day counts!

Talking in Tamil at home and regular homework matters:

Are you ready to set the example and talk in Tamil at home? Students who do their homework regularly tend to do better at the classroom. Please help them and motivate them to do their homework daily. Please remember that they are learning a new language and it involves lot of effort from your end.

Get Involved!

One of the best ways to embrace the new school year is to get involved—both students and their parents. For our students we have some competitions, Tamil Mazhai, and School year book activities. For parents, volunteering during school initial classroom setup, substitute teachers, reset the classroom back, traffic volunteer and event volunteer.

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From the Heart of the Editor ***Dr. Nagalingam Sivayogan***

For the growth of our Cary Tamil school, contribution of the Newsletter is very important. Last year CTS had 270 students and 58 teachers and now it has 357 students and 74 teachers. To bring this tremendous growth of the school to the knowledge of everyone, the newsletter could play an important role.

Our Tamil school's first newsletter was published in April 2015. Thereafter it was not published due to unavoidable reasons. Now the present committee has decided to bring it back and also to publish in every term. As a first attempt this Newsletter is being released. We will try to publish this continuously. This newsletter contains information from the Principal, Vice Principal and class teachers.

By this newsletter every parents and students will be able to know what is being taught, how it is taught, and why it is taught in each class. In future newsletters, we are planning to include small articles from teachers, short grammatical articles, results of school competitions, and some useful information. In the future we are planning to include small contributions from students as well. Therefore, we request all teachers to give your support to us to publish continuously the way you helped this time.

We will be happy to receive your feedback on this newsletter and promise to improve in the next newsletter. □

Newsletter Editorial Board 2016 -2017

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From the Mind of the Principal

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Parent Teacher Conference:

Parent – Teacher conference is one of the most impactful activities that support our children, parents, and staff in assisting our students to become confident, competent Tamil language learners. Thank you for making the time to meet with your child's teacher and for the things you do to help set your child up for success at school and beyond. Any time you have questions or concerns about your child and their learning outcomes and needs, please do contact us. □

A Few Words About the Cary Tamil School ***Dr. Thani Kumar Cheran***

Cary Tamil School (CTS) is a registered, non-profit organization and it has received tax-exempt status under the 501 (c) (3) rules of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of the United States Treasury Department. Therefore, the donations given to CTS are tax-deductible under the IRS rules.

CTS is very fortunate in receiving all necessary help voluntarily with lot of enthusiasm from all of its stakeholders: The Board Members, teachers, parents, students, and all well-wishers. The interest and dedication shown by everybody is simply outstanding and highly commendable. Many members of Tamil Sangam of Carolina, Inc. are heavily involved in CTS with genuine interest. The objectives of these two organizations are very similar. Hence, they are able to work together very well. The close cooperation that we have is immensely beneficial for both organizations.

The periodic meetings that CTS holds with the teachers and the parents help the school board to evaluate things on an ongoing basis and make necessary corrections and enhancements to improve the teaching and run the school efficiently and effectively. It should also be mentioned that the fees collected by CTS are among the lowest compared to those charged by other Tamil schools in the United States. □

News from Pre School

This year the pre-school was initiated for the first time in CTS. Learning Tamil in USA is difficult, when an early platform is provided for our kids, we wanted to lay good foundation for the kids. We thought fun way of learning will help kids to learn our mother language, Tamil, so it makes them energetic and excited. We want the kids to come to the class every week with smile and cheers.

When kids come to school we welcome them with 'Vanakkam' and start the class with Tamil rhymes with actions and educate them with moral stories. We also wanted to highlight the way we interact with kids. When teaching the students a song about a crow, we teach them not only the song, we also discuss about color of the crow, and the sound it makes.

We encourage kids to ask questions. One day a kid bought a flower and she wanted to know color in Tamil. We moved away from the planned activity and talked about the flowers and their colors. Since the topic interests kid, they are prompt to listening. We show them real vegetables like tomatoes and okra and talk about their colors and names in Tamil.

To keep them active, we introduce games like when we say "coconut tree" kids has to stand up and when we say "coconut" kids have to sit down. To improve their motoring skills on Tamil, we give them practice sheets as homework which interests to do themselves.

During special occasions we talk about festivals like Deepavali, the significance of the festival and provide them with some coloring sheets. We asked the kids to dress up during Halloween and talk about their costumes in Tamil, to improve their speaking skills.

Kids are rewarded with stickers, stamps on hands. We feel that all the above has helped the kids to learn Tamil actively. □

News from Grade 1 A

We start our class with "Tamil Thai Vazhthu". We converse in Tamil for first 10 minutes of the class. Then we check the home work from previous week.

Students practiced to write and spell Tamil 12 Uyir, 1 Ayutham and 18 Mei Ezhuthukal. Kids learned to spell and write 23 uyirmei ezhuthkal (஁ + ஂ = ஃ format) and 27 Tamil words . For Oral, Kids learned numbers from 1 through 20, any 8 family relationships, any 6 colors, any 6 animals, any 10 fruits, any 6 shapes. Kids practiced 4 sing along songs included in the 1A Tamil lesson book. □

News from Grade 1 B

For the first quarter, the 1B class students were taught the first 5 lessons from text book (Paadanool) and practice book (payirchinool).

In Tamil letters, we taught consonantal vowels (uyir meiezhuthukal) until the "஁" series. We made sure the kids can read, pronounce and identify those letters without much difficulty. In addition, small words from the textbook that contains these consonantal vowels were taught, and importance was given for reading and understanding the meaning of those words. Moreover, kids were taught to read small sentences with these words.

From the practice book, we made kids practice the Tamil words in different formats, like find the missing letters, make a word using the letters, unscrambling words, etc. Introducing new words was one of the main objectives of this activity.

In grammar, we covered singular and plural. Kids were taught to identify and write plural words for singular words found from the text book lessons. Speaking in Tamil is a challenging aspect for some 1B kids. So we encouraged kids during the beginning of each class to participate in conversations in which they can share interesting things that happened for them during that week in Tamil language.

We have introduced Thirukural this year. And for the first quarter, two Thirukurals were taught with story and meaning.

1B teachers are doing a wonderful job in indulging kids in ways that will interest them in learning the Tamil language. □

News from Grade 2 A

In 2A Tamil Class, we primarily focus on Spoken Tamil. We request kids to speak in Tamil during class hours and also make sure whether they speak or practice Tamil at home. We do lots of conversation in Tamil by asking them to explain pictures and form a story.

We practice Tamil Songs with different interesting tunes. We help kids to speak on their own to explain stories, pictures and statements to make sure they understood them properly.

Our aim is for kids to do more conversations in Tamil by looking at things and being able to explain properly. We introduce tenses by simple conversations to make them understand the difference between the tenses. □

News from Grade 2 B

The students of class 2B learned few basic grammars like nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives with some simple examples from their text books in their first term. They also learned names of the months, days of the week, shapes, colors, and fruits names in Tamil.

We completed up until lesson 5 from the text book and workbook. The students are encouraged to read small story books (in class and home) in order to develop their vocabulary.

We taught them the first four Aathichudi along with its meaning and with a simple story related to it for the students to easily understand the fact. Further, to motivate their interest in Tamil language, they learned a Thirukkural with its complete meaning.

Students are assessed every week during their class time based on their reading, writing, speaking, and quiz and listening skills in the Tamil language. The teachers record the attendance and homework scores for each and every student in the log and maintain it. □

News from Grade 3 A

We covered till page 30 from 3A Syllabus ('Paadanool') and till page 31 in Practice Book ('Payirchinool') and 2 lessons from Characteristic of a Good Citizen ('Panbulla Kudimakkal'). On top of these we covered family, Happy moments, times parents got frustrated, kids, pets, pranks, scary moment which keeps awaken, favorite characters, and unforgettable memories from Teachers Guide.

In grammar, we covered First/Second/Third person, ன ல டு the unique letters of Tamil and its sounds and different words using these three letters. To understand and practice better, we provided Students Guide on the set of words and grammars on how to form a Tamil word. On top of these, we taught 5 new Thirukkural and 2 poems from moral books. We taught Thirukkural with stories to understand better and have students to write the same their own at home. It was beneficial than expected. □

News from Grade 3 B

The primary aim of the 3B class is to teach the student all round proficiency in Tamil. To this effect, the year-long goals of the 3B curriculum is to prepare the students in multiple dimensions. Students are coached to read fluently the lessons in the book, understand them, and answer questions.

Students are taught to write simple sentences and short essays on a given topic. Giving homework in writing sentences using given words, and writing simple essays on themes (such as Deepavali) and poster making provides a variety of experiences. Also students are encouraged to talk in Tamil with their family and in the class in complete sentences. Also, we encourage students to chat in Tamil on particular topics.

Students are given a set of words each week to study, know its spelling and meaning. These words are also used in writing exercises. The word-bank concept is encouraged. We continue to emphasis on some earlier grammar concepts that have been taught in earlier classes. These include tense (kaalam), gender (paal), rationality (thenai) and plurality in verb (venai chol) usage in sentences.

We also introduce concepts in participles (idai chol) and adjectives (uri chol). Apart from these in this class we also show examples in singular-plural combinations, equivalent words (enai chol), and word doubles (erattai kilavi).

In terms of advanced grammar, we also teach concepts in word coining (punarchi) with examples of how words get joined in sentences. We also encourage students to write essays and prepare for cultural events. □

News from Grade 4 A

During the first quarter of the 2016-2017 school year, the 4A class has been working on the following: In Grammar, we reviewed basic grammar such as tense, gender, place, letters, words, nouns, verbs, and adverbs. They were trained to read the Text book, practice book and Panpulla Kudi Makkal book and to summarize them in Tamil.

Students also learned to write complex sentences, compound sentences and to use the proper adjectives in connecting the words in sentences. Students also researched about Tamil Nadu and started to write an article about it. Students also engage in healthy and lively discussion in the class on good topics like “Nallinakkam”. □

News from Grade 4 B

In this class, text book chapters, grammar, and literatures are properly taught. The goal is to make the students be able to write, read and talk in Tamil at the end of this course.

Students create and follow a word list from the syllabus. Grammar from each chapter and syllabus is also taught and given training. They are taught literatures like, Kondrai Venthan and Tamil proverbs.

They are being trained to read and write with fluency and there are multiple rules and tricks being taught for them to help in this process. Students also learned to write various types of stories, essays and letters.

Apart from these students also learned one Thirukkural per week. We also followed Panbulla Kudimakkal book and taught students to be a better citizen.

Students were encouraged to discuss any topics that interest to them and exchange their own views on it and ask question. This process not only improves their skill, but also learned Tamil culture and traditions more. This encourage each student to continue through this Tamil learning journey. □

News from Grade 5 A

On the first day of school, we reviewed basic grammar to jog the student’s memory. In the first lesson, we compared our traditional games to the games played around the world today. “Adu Puli Attam” was featured in our second lesson, students then answered questions. They also discovered answers for a riddle song.

They practiced reading “Parakkum Sattai” lesson with an appropriate accent. We worked on learning Tamil words and its synonyms relating to science and astronomy. In grammar, we practiced the use of periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, colons, semi-colons, apostrophes, and quotes in sentences. Students then learnt the meanings of Thirukural and Pazhamozhigal (old sayings).

They also studied words with multiple meanings and placed it in sentences. Students read and analyzed an advertisement and found answers to the given questions. There were word bank quizzes conducted every class. □

News from Grade 5 B

5B students are learning lot of vocabulary words with English and Tamil meaning so that they can fluently converse and write sentences and essays. They learn the very basic grammar like use of subject verb and objects to form correct sentences. They learn words with different sounds and learn to pronounce them properly and understand the difference in the meaning.

They learn to split the big words into small words and put together small words into one big word so they can read without making mistakes.

They also developed interest in literature by learning Thirukkural, Pazamozhi, Athichoodi, and other poems. In class we discuss some topics like friendship, citizenship, unity and integrity etc. □

News from Grade 6 A

In the first term of grade 6 A, we studied Section 1 which explains the importance of ambitions of life and Section 2 which explains the structure of social associations, that contains subjects 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Apart from this, in Tamil grammar, we studied the grammatical case (Vetrumai Urubugal) and how to connect them with nouns in the sentences. Also we studied 3 proverbs from the text book and 2 Thirukkurals. Apart from these training was given in writing small articles in the titles that is taken from the core of the subjects studied. □

News from Grade 6 B

Due to some unavoidable circumstance, we could not bring the news of Grade 6B in this Newsletter. □



Some websites that are useful to students to learn Tamil

www.tamilvu.org

<http://www.southasia.sas.upenn.edu/tamil>

www.noolagam.com

www.tamilacademy.com

<http://useful.tamilpriyan.com/learn-tamil.html>

<http://www.quora.com/What-are-the-most-effective-ways-to-learn-Tamil-at-home>

<http://dictionary.tamilcube.com>



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