



Cary Tamil School

Cary, North Carolina, USA

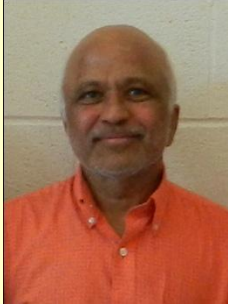
<https://www.carytamilschool.org>

NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Volume: 2

Number: 3



From the Mind of the Principal

Mr. Selvan Patchamuthu

I am extremely happy to know the release of the third and final Newsletter of our school, during this academic year. It is extremely a hard task to continuously publish the Newsletters successfully, so I really appreciate the Editorial board of the Newsletter for their hard work.

I have always been mentioning in all the Newsletters about the importance of the safety of our students. Our intention is to “Prevent danger than to be sorry”, and be prepared for any hazards. As a part of this measure, we conducted a Fire Safety Drill activity on 04/31/2017. Upon activation of the fire alarm, all teachers, students and everyone present there, followed emergency procedures by exiting their classes and moving to safety zones in an orderly fashion with caution. This activity has given us a lot of confidence in our safety measures. Student safety is our utmost importance in providing them with the best education. In addition to our school’s responsibility in students’ safety, we request that parents provide students with necessary information to help them to be prepared for any emergency situation.

Our students have successfully completed their school year. Our Teachers and Management have dedicated their service to prepare the students for their next level. Many parents have provided their extended support to the school as volunteers. We would like to appreciate and thank everyone for their cooperation. On 03/26/2017, we extended our heartfelt gratitude to the teachers in a felicitation function.

A training program for our teachers was conducted on 05/21/2017. Professor Nina Namaste, from Elon University, came as a resource person for this workshop. Apart from rendering her excellent training to our teachers, she also provided us with several suggestions. We are delighted about her willingness to offer us training in the future as well. Such training programs will improve the standard of our school and the quality of education. We sincerely thank Professor Nina Namaste for her valuable service.

The yearbook of our school is currently under the print and it will be in your hand very soon. Group photos were taken for the yearbook on 03/19/2017. Mr. Ashok Nagarajan has been working relentlessly towards publishing our yearbook and we sincerely thank and appreciate his efforts. Mr. Tharmar and Dr. Thani Cheran were involved in peer observation sessions in teachers’ classrooms to observe their teaching practices and procedures. They analyzed their observations and had discussions with our teachers with their suggestions and encouragement. Also, members of our management helped us in several ways in the smooth functioning of our school. We thank everyone for their support.

We have come to the end of another successful academic year. We hope everyone continues to provide support and cooperate with us, in upcoming years, to help our students learn well. I also request all parents to encourage students to converse with you in Tamil over their summer break. You can create a favorable environment for Tamil learning by letting them listen Tamil songs and watch Tamil movies. Also, you can explain them the importance of Tamil Language and make them feel proud about it. These will help them to develop a desire to continue learning Tamil in the coming years.

We request you to provide your valuable feedback towards improvement of our school. Such constructive suggestions are necessary for us to provide and improve the quality of education for our students. ♠


Contact email: cts.principal@yahoo.com

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

First Newsletter of our Tamil school's for this academic year was published on 01.15.2017 followed by our second Newsletter on 03.29.2017. Now the third Newsletter is also being released on 06.4.2017. First, I wanted to thank all the members of the Editorial board who worked hard to make this possible. We have prepared and published each Newsletter as best as possible, based on the feedbacks that we received from various sources.

We wish that the parents should discuss about the Newsletter with their kids. Most of the kids are not aware of the publication of the Newsletters. Parents should take a printout as they do for the homework and motivate the kids to read the Newsletter at home. We worked very hard and spent our precise time to publish each and every Newsletter. Even though we hardly see our students or parents reading our Newsletter, but we get feedback from some foreign people and outsiders, which make us happy.

This Newsletter consists of Principal's message, various important events that took place in our Tamil school along with the pictures, messages from class teachers, information about teachers' workshop and experiences of other race people learning Tamil language at our school.

Please send all your feedbacks about this Newsletter to us. Next year another team will be publishing the Newsletter for Cary Tamil School. We sincerely thank for all the support you have given to us and we want you all to continue to give the same support to the next Editorial board as well. 

Contact email: nsivayogan@gmail.com

Newsletter Editorial Board 2016 -2017

Dr. Kasi Azhakanandam

Mr. T. V. Ramasubramanian

Mr. Selvan Patchamuthu

Mrs. Ramya Varadarajan

Dr. Elangovan Gopal

Mrs. Sharmila Kumar

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Selvakumar

Mr. Ashok Nagarajan

Volunteers' Brigade of the School ***Dr. Nagalingam Sivayogan*** ***Editor***

As parents, we are forced to render volunteer service at least twice in an academic year for the school since it is mandatory as mentioned in the enrollment. Most of us feel the urge to get over with the burden of volunteer service quickly. You might have also noticed, some of us while volunteering is eagerly waiting for the day to end and rush back to home. Everyone knows and understands that, in the USA, the life is with full of commitments and the schedules are very busy; we know that it is quite normal.

We all have come from either from Tamil Nadu or Sri Lanka. Based on our culture, we have learned from the view of the present society that some tasks are not acceptable and are considered inferior. However, some volunteers take initiatives and responsibility on their own while render their service. They do not feel any burden in what they do; instead, they love to perform. It will not be justice and fair towards the active volunteers if I do not write about them in our Newsletter. I noticed that, some of our volunteers, without any hesitation did their service with a smile. For example, after our Teachers Appreciation Lunch, Tamil Mazhai, and Tamil Competition days, volunteers cleaned the entire place including trash cans which were used to collect food plates (rental premises cleanliness is an obligation). We are grateful to them, and they rightly deserve a Million thanks!

Have you ever noticed, thanked or smiled at our volunteers? Specifically, volunteers who were standing whether the day is hot, cold or rain, to open your car doors every week when you dropped your kids off? I appreciated seeing in our Teachers training day, when the volunteer opened the car door and reminded parents that 'today class ends at 2.45pm, so please pick up them on time'. The way they took care of each and everything amazed me. Apart from that, volunteering for follow up on attendance, helping classrooms arrangement also serves as a guide for other volunteers as well. They also voluntarily take School's group photos, Students activities and events photos without getting tired and by waiting for long times. Some of them come any time when we call them as substitute teachers. I would like to mention here, none of these volunteers are my friends. But, as I see them two or three times during the class time every week while volunteering, I feel that they are

close and familiar to my heart. I feel their service to our school is greater than what I am doing my service as a teacher. We have published a photo of some of them in this Newsletter. The Newsletter takes this opportunity to recognize and appreciate their contributions to our school. ♠



Mohanraj, Nirmal, Karthik, Jegatheesan, Vijayakumar, Theepak, Bharatraj, Arun

Our Experience in Cary Tamil School Amy Belfer and Styrling Rohr Undergraduate Students of Elon University



A number of Elon University students involved in the Periclean Scholars Program of 2019 began attending Tamil School this year because we will be working with a community in Sri Lanka for the next few years. To better understand the country and to better work with our partner and our community, we wanted to learn generally about Tamil experiences in Sri Lanka, both today and during the Civil War, and to learn practical Tamil phrases we could use in the country. This community at the Tamil School has truly welcomed us with open arms. Our teacher, Dr. Muraleetharan, accommodated our inconsistent schedules, showed us great patience, and was always willing to answer our questions, even when they were not typical for language instruction. For example, since we thought talking with Sri Lankan Tamils may be both more common place and more important for us, than reading documents written in Tamil; we chose not to learn the alphabet. We also focused more

heavily on common vocabulary than grammar. Dr. Muraleetharan made our lessons enjoyable and adjusted his curriculum to our level and our interests, in a way that was both engaging and incredibly useful. With his help we designed a resource document, which lists several important Tamil phrases and Sri Lankan customs, for members of our class to take with them to Sri Lanka. We also taught all of our classmates at Elon a few words in Tamil each meeting time. Attending the Tamil School and talking to people there has helped us begin to understand the diversity and depth of Tamil experiences in Sri Lanka. We have also learned much more Tamil in a short time than we thought we could. These lessons have been truly invaluable, educational, and highly enjoyable. We are extremely grateful to everyone at the Tamil School for teaching us Tamil Language and Culture. And we are very excited to put it in practice of our learning when several of us travel to Sri Lanka this summer! ♠

Reflections on teachers Training Workshop



A training workshop for the teachers of Cary Tamil School was held on 05.21.2017. Prof. Nina Nameste from Elon University conducted this workshop at CTS. Here, one of our teachers, Mr. Selvaraj Kotteswaran is sharing his experience of attending this workshop. These ideas and other the things discussed on this workshop will certainly improve the teaching capacity of our teachers and improve the standard of our school too. We praise the teacher who came forward himself to share his thoughts in this Newsletter. We also express our gratitude to Prof. Nina for accepting our request and conducting this workshop.

My learning in the workshop Selvaraj Kotteswaran

The training given to our teachers was really very useful. Many things learned in that workshop made some changes in my mind. Why do I come to Tamil School? Am I fulfilling my intension in a



proper way? I am asking these questions myself and searching for answers. A thought came to my mind that, if I share the ideas that I learned in the workshop with my fellow teachers, it will improve the standard of our school. Editor of the Newsletter also encouraged me to write this article. I am giving only the five concepts that remained in the bottom of my mind even after coming back home from the workshop.

Spoken and Written?

Most of us have agreed and acknowledged the fact that many students are struggling to write a proper structured sentence in Tamil. Usage of spoken words while writing has been identified as one of the main cause of these unstructured sentences. The suggestion provided by Prof. Nina Namaste to create a chart table and add words during class time has been much appreciated. This introduction of word charts in the class room will help the kids to understand the differences of words on their own. For an example ‘**Thangachi**’ should be written as ‘**Thangai**’.

Things that could add values in our language teaching

One of the suggestions is to teach the kids about ‘Social Justice’ with citing examples. For instance, we can give information on our Tamil medicine. This will be benefit not only in improving their social behavior but also educate them in the traditional health benefits using homemade alternative medicines. Similarly we can teach them important traditions of Tamils.

Importance of the role of Motivational activities

Motivation plays a critical role in guiding their behaviors. We can add interesting and relevant contents in our teaching and also include simple team games and rewards. This will help the kids to build up team spirit, work as teams, and help them to become more confident for open discussions. We should also encourage the kids have a 5-10 minutes social talk / free chat in Tamil within themselves as they see weekly once. I believe this will also help them to pay attention and focus on learning during our teaching.

Why am I being a teacher?

I am here to teach Tamil, so what do I need to achieve my goals as a teacher? And I am here to make a real difference in my students' lives. If I am prepared well for every class, that would greatly impact the way I teach and how it improves my students' learning experience. Students will have the expectation to attend every class. A teacher should give an impact on students by showing that he/she has come to class by well prepared for teaching. Then only students also will learn seriously.

Usage of Cell phone

Students and teachers should know when to use the Cell phone. As a teacher, we can only use it for education purpose. We should not use it for any personal purposes, which would encourage students to misuse their cell phone in class. Teachers should communicate with students to avoid use of cell phone, because the teacher would be distracted and the other students will lose their focus as well.

These thought would have come to the mind of fellow teachers as well. But when is in written as a document, then one can read again and again and implement them easily. ♠

First Professional Workshop for the Teachers

Dr. Nagalingam Sivayogan
Editor

The first workshop for our school teachers was held at Lake Wheeler Park on 04.04.2015. The workshop was conducted on the same day when Tamil Sangam also hosted the “Chithirai Festival” at the park. The workshop was conducted by Professor Terri Tomasek, from Elon University. In the course of training, she presented a variety of subjects. At first, she discussed the professional teaching standards which have been followed in some states of the United States. Later, she discussed the different standards in teaching a language to the students. Teachers also shared their own opinions on how to



add these standards to our curriculum. She then discussed how to evaluate our students according to the standards. She also made a number of comments about the methods of standardization and how teachers can use them to enhance their teaching.

This workshop was very helpful and many teachers learned in the training courses and started to implement some new teaching methods in their classes and improved the students' learning skills. Cary Tamil School was so grateful to Professor Terri Tomasek and would like to thank her very much through this newsletter. You can view the video clip of this training on the following link. If anyone wants any materials discussed in this workshop, then can contact the Editor or the Principal. ♠

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi5chSvrzeE>

News from Pre School

In this third semester, kids learned vowels அ to ஓள, and Aytha Eluthu ஃ. Kids were trained in these Tamil letters with the help of a practice writing sheets in class and also as homework. We taught the words Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle, Aunt, relationships using the family tree project. More words like; Clock, motorcar, Kannan rhyme songs were taught to the kids. Animals like; Lion, Tiger, Elephant, and Giraffe were taught using the picture of the animals. Kids were listening to the fox, ant, and rat stories. Kids were listening and learning enthusiastically. ♠

News from Grade 1

In term 3, we concentrate on preparing the children for the next level 1 A. They start to learn consonantal vowels by combining consonants and vowels in the format க் + அ = க. This format helps the children to understand how each letter is formed and pronounced. We cover the letters க, கா.....ன, னா. At this time, children learn to form short words using the letters they studied this year. For example, அம்மா, பழம், etc. They are taught how to read and write 5 to 6 words a week, a total of 30 words along with English meaning. We test these words in the final exam by giving fill in the blanks and match the following. This exercise provides a strong foundation for the next level where they will learn much more words.

For oral part, we continue with learning new songs, days of the week and festival names. To encourage spoken Tamil, they are required to prepare 5 sentences on any topic they like. Also teachers during class, ask children various questions to encourage spoken Tamil.

In addition to learning new lessons, good amount of time is spent on revising the lessons learnt in previous terms. In summary, this level provides a strong foundation on vowels, consonants and consonantal vowels (அ, ஆ வரிசை) and to read and write short words in addition to good vocabulary. ♠

News from Grade 1 A

For Class 1 A, we taught kids to read and write 18 consonants (mei eluzhthukal) and first 2 series of consonantal vowels (uyirmei eluzhuthukal) (க் + அ = க & க் + ஆ = கா series). Trained the kids to learn and write singular and plural for 5 different words. We also taught nearly 60 Tamil words so that kids could understand and read them. Kids learned to read about 30 sentences with 2 to 3 words in each sentence. Kids also learned 4 Tamil rhymes. ♠

News from Grade 1 B

In this last term, we covered all the pending lessons from 11 to 14 and remaining parts in practice book. In the Tamil letters, we taught consonantal vowels (uyir meiezthukal) from "ஓ" to "ஓள" series. We also went through the whole series all over again to make sure the students can identify and pronounce those letters without any difficulty.

In grammar through sounds students learned about short and long vowels. They were trained to identify these with the help of suitable words.

Two new Thirukurals with their meaning also were taught in this term.

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 the 3rd term, 2 A students learned about family, relationships, society and various jobs in the society. Additionally, more importance was given to sentence formations using different words. We also discuss the importance of selecting appropriate Tamil words for animal's and bird's sounds.

Since this is the last term, we revise all the lessons, words, songs and stories. Students are very enthusiastic on revising; in fact they bought various memories and incidents from past classes. We, 2 A class teachers, so proud and confident that all our students are ready for the next grade. We take this opportunity to thank the parents for their wonderful supports. ♠

News from Grade 2 B

Reading is important to the students and in order to improve this skill we regularly got library books and made the kids to learn them in class and also in home. We also covered some lessons from “Panbulla Kudimakkal” book and completed reading stories from that book and taught the remaining portions from text book and practice book. Students learned few Thirukkural's and practiced writing sentences for a given word and a small paragraph for a given topic. We also reviewed lessons taught from first and second term. I am so proud to say on behalf of all 2 B teachers that our class kids progressed very well in learning Tamil this year. They started with learning words and now they are able to make sentences and small essays on a given title on their own. We are wishing all the best for our class kids to continue learning Tamil language. ♠

News from Grade 3 A

In Class 3 A, we taught our students from pages 50 to 70 from the text book and worked on pages 46 to 74 on the work book, thereby completing the syllabus for this year. Also, we taught them 4 more chapters from the book ‘Panbulla Kudimakkal’. Further, we taught them two ‘Aathichudi’; ‘Udaiyathu Vilambel’ and ‘Ookkamathu Kaividel’ along with their meaning and relevant stories. We had earlier paused teaching Tamil grammar. However, we taught students

Pronouns and Interrogative Nouns and completed the planned learning activities. We did not have additional learning of ‘Thirukkural’ during this semester. Students practiced writing essays about various topics such as; their home, neighbors home, favorite sports and birthday celebration. During the last three weeks, students reviewed their learning and we conducted quiz competitions amongst them by dividing them as four teams. Students were highly motivated with the quiz competition. We have provided our students with Tamil knowledge that is required for them move to the next level, in the best possible way. ♠

News from Grade 3 B

It is hard to believe that we are towards end of school year! That is because our students and teachers had a great time learning together Tamil Language and the time passed by quickly! We have completed the syllabus and we have started doing revision of what was taught throughout the years. We are focusing on how to speak Tamil fluently as well as focusing on how to write Tamil without making common mistakes. Of course, we always end each class playing “Tamil word” games which students loved it! Our students learn Tamil in a fun ways but they are very competitive when they challenge with teams within their class. We also spent a quiet a bit of time on the last lesson which has “Aathichudi” Our students loved it as Aathichud is a popular collection of single line verses written by Avviyar. Our students were able to understand the meanings what is written in the book but we had also asked them to give real examples that they had encountered /experienced in their life which relates to the Aathichudi. The teachers have inspired the students to keep learning Tamil Languages and always be a good citizen of the world. We believe that we have made our students to be the best students. We wish our students to continue to learn our Tamil Language and Culture in our school! ♠

News from Grade 4 A

Due to some unavoidable circumstance, we could not bring the news of Grade 4A in this Newsletter. ♠

News from Grade 4 B

In this Quarter, Kids learned a lot of new words and their usage. They used learned to use these in sentences and paragraphs. In Grammar, they learned the usage of “Aanal” (ஆனால்) and “Athanal” (அதனால்). They learned Edithukkaatu uvamaI Ani (எடுத்துக்காட்டு உவமை அணி) and Ilporul UvamaI Ani (இல்பொருள் உவமை அணி). More on that, they have revisited Adukkuthodar (அடுக்குத்தொடர்) and Irattai Kilavi (இரட்டைக்கிளவி). In Literature, they have learned Vetri Verkkai (வெற்றி வேக்கை), Pazhamozhi and 5 more Thirukkural. We have learned all the lessons from Panbulla Kudimakkal. In the last week, we have practiced and revised for final exam. Our students are ready for not only the final exams but for the next class too. They have learned all the lessons, words, grammar and literature with patience and passion. With the hope that they will be the best students for next year, we say good bye to this year. ♠

News from Grade 5 A

Due to some unavoidable circumstance, we could not bring the news of Grade 5A in this Newsletter. ♠

News from Grade 5 B

5B students are improving their vocabulary skills and reading skills by doing reading log every day. They read story books, Panpulla Kutimakkal book and text book. They can not only read faster, they can read with less number of mistakes now. They practiced sentence making in all homework. Now they can make nice sentences with more than five words. They learnt Verrumai urubukal (வேற்றுமை உருபுகள்) for Tamil grammar. We practiced some of them through work book examples. We learnt good values through 'Thirukkural', 'Pazamozhikal', 'Athichudi'. Some values are importance of controlling the anger, say good words and not to hurt others by saying harsh words etc. I am confident that the 5B students will pass this level with necessary skills in Tamil. ♠

News from Grade 6 A

During this term, we completed our last unit in the text book that covered lessons on fantasy stories, learnt some of the homophones, studied all the remaining commonly used proverbs and Thirukkural in the text book. Students completed the exercises pertaining to these chapters from the exercise book. In this class we constantly encourage open discussion on various subjects that students are interested to talk about and we reinforce the Tamil culture and tradition as we talk through these subjects. ♠

News from Grade 6 B

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

Informal Tamil Class (ITC)

This unique class was developed to accommodate older students interested in learning Tamil including non-native speakers. As such, students who attend this class come with different interests and backgrounds. Therefore, it is not easy to develop a curriculum for these students. The language has to be taught based on the interest and ability of the students. During this year, the group comprised of nonnative speakers who married Tamils and Elon University students who plan to go to Sri Lanka and participate in studying abroad. Due to the variety of different backgrounds, we teach according to their varying needs.

We use the textbooks approved by our school and other grammar books. These older students are capable of grasping the material faster and we are able to cover the materials in six months, that could take 4 years for younger children to master. Some students learn the alphabets very fast and learn to read very quickly. Guest teachers also help with teaching these students to speak. In addition, knowing that the students are employed or studying, we accommodate their busy schedules. Though it can be a challenge to teach these students, it is a rewarding experience. ♠

Newsletter Editorial Board 2016 -2017

Left to right

Dr. Kasi Azhakanandam, Mr. T. V. Ramasubramanian, Mr. Ashok Nagarajan,

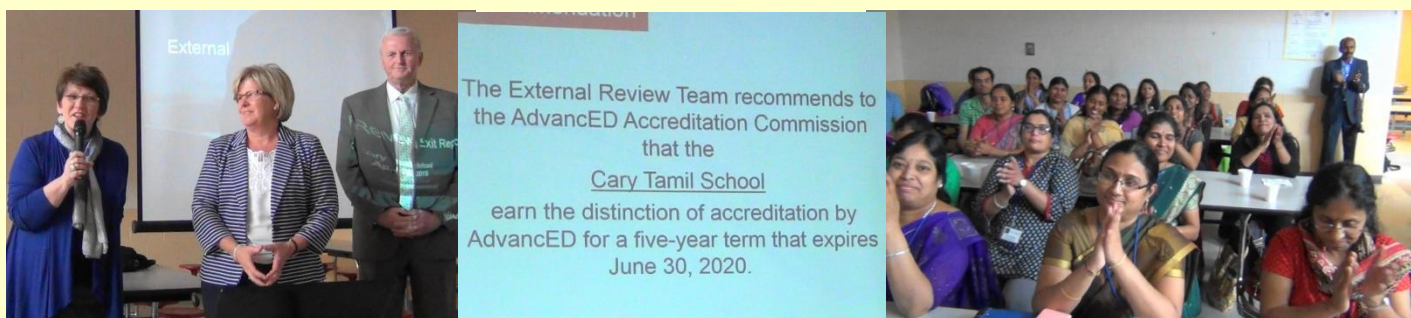
Dr. Elangovan Gopal, Dr. Nagalingam Sivayogan, Mr. Selvan Patchamuthu, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Selvakumar, Mrs. Sharmila Kumar, Mrs. Ramya Varadarajan



Teachers Group of Tamil School 2016 -2017



***Happy moments of getting accreditation
on 04.26.2015***



Teachers' Felicitation Lunch 2016 - 2017



Prof. Terry having lunch with with fomar Principal before the first workshop

Prof. Nina having dinner with the Pricipal and Editor after the workshop



Mr. Tharmar sharing his classroom observation

Farewell to Mrs. Chitra Baskaran Tamil Teacher 2010 -2017



Some moments in the workshop



Cary Tamil School

North Carolina, USA

<https://www.carytamilschool.org>

© Cary Tamil School, 2016 -2017



