



# Cary Tamil School

## Cary, North Carolina, USA

<https://www.carytamilschool.org>

# Newsletter

January 2018

Volume 3

Issue 1



### ***From the Mind of the Principal:***

#### ***Mr. Selvan Patchamuthu***

I am excited and honored to welcome each and every one of you to the beginning of a new year at Cary Tamil School. This school year will be a year of setting and reaching attainable goals, working harder and smarter and taking our school and student achievement to the next level of "GREATNESS". At Cary Tamil School we are dedicated to a student-centered program that promotes reading, writing, speaking in Tamil, as well as learning Tamil culture. As staff, we are here to support all of you - by any means necessary - to ensure your children reach their fullest academic potential.

### ***Student Safety:***

Student safety is our number one priority. Please adhere to the following guidelines while you are on the school premises:

- ◆ Do not use cellphones while driving in the school zone.
- ◆ We have students aging from 4 years to teens - so drive your vehicles slowly and consciously in the school zone without any distraction.
- ◆ Always be mindful of children crossing between parking lots.
- ◆ When you pick up your kids, ensure that all the kids are seated and wearing their seatbelt before you start moving your vehicle.
- ◆ Please ensure that the teacher has an active phone number in our file to reach you for any emergency.
- ◆ Help and cooperate with our dedicated safety and traffic control volunteers to ensure the smooth flow of traffic.

### ***Attendance and being on time for class:***

The most commonly heard excuse for tardiness from students is that they are coming from a birthday party or family social events or guests at home. It conveys the wrong message to the students that the school is a lower priority over birthday party and social gatherings and therefore it is an activity that they do not have to excel in. Students cannot learn the weekly lesson if they are not in school, so please ensure that your child is here on time every day. Unless it's very important (medical appointment, family emergency), please do not pick up your child early from school.

Every minute of our learning day counts!

*Continued in Page 2*

**From the heart of the Editor:**

**Mr. Saravanan Arunachalam**

Dear CTS Parents, Teachers and Students -

We are very delighted to bring the first issue of this Newsletter for the academic year 2017–18. In this issue we bring you the CTS Graduation news from last year, Tamil Competition held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Salem Middle School, a new adult student interview and academic news from all class rooms.

At CTS, we have classes starting from Pre-K to High School level 1 (HS1A) and it took lot of efforts to collect all the class news and compile them in a Newsletter. So Teachers, please give us your support by reading this to your students in the class room and give a few home works from Newsletter articles. And Parents please read them at home to your children. This will encourage the kids to read in Tamil and also help you know about various activities that are taking place at CTS.

We are welcoming your feedbacks as well as Tamil articles, grammar lessons and interesting facts that will help students and teachers in our school. So interested teachers and students, please send your feedback and articles to 'cts.newsletter.editor@gmail.com' address. We can make this Newsletter a success only by providing relevant content.

I take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to my fellow Newsletter Editorial Team members, Teachers and Volunteers who helped me immensely in bringing out this Newsletter.

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**Newsletter Editorial Team (2017 - 18)**

- Mr. Vijayakumar S. G.**
- Mr. Vedha Vedhaiyan**
- Dr. Nagalingam Sivayogan**
- Dr. Thani Kumar Cheran**
- Mr. Senthil Kumar**

**From the Mind of the Principal:**

Continued from page 1

**Homework:**

The kids who are doing more homework tend to get higher test scores and it reinforces the concepts they learned in the classroom. Since we only have one day of class a week compared to five of a regular school, homework is a vital part of our students' learning experience. It is very important that parents sit with students while they are doing homework. Doing so provides an excellent opportunity to converse about students' learning progress. It is not beneficial to do all the homework in one day and parents should help the students plan ahead of time and split up homework into smaller portions to be done throughout the week.

I want to emphasize that Cary Tamil School is a regular school that just happens to occur once a week and that CTS is accredited by the same agency that accredits the Wake County Public School System, and our expectations are no different from your kids' regular schools. Before you ask for an exception to any of our school-related work or for attendance, ask yourself if you would ask for the same exception at your child's regular school.

Schools are busy places and we are no exception. We tend to miss out on the chance to stop and reflect upon the influence that our inspirational teachers hold over the students. The little conversations, the friendly smiles and brief compliments mean the most to our dedicated teachers.

I am looking forward to another great year and am confident that by working together we can help your children be happy learners of Tamil and our culture and have a productive year!

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## CTS Graduation (2016 - 17 )

**Dr. Nagalingam Sivayogan**

Cary Tamil School conducted its graduation for 2016 - 17 year students on June 11th, 2017. Prof. Terry Tomasek, Associate Professor of Education at Elon University, presided over the function and felicitated the graduating students.

**An excerpt from her speech on the graduation function:**

*It is a privilege and joy to be with you today to share in this celebration. I offer my congratulations to all the students for your hard work and perseverance in successfully completing this program. Nothing of important and value comes easy! I also would like to congratulate the teachers and school administrators who are here today. You too have worked hard and persevered through many challenges. There is no greater joy than to see your students be successful! Finally, a word of congratulations to you, parents and family members. The most powerful language learning happens right in the home. You were your child's first teacher and I know how happy you are today to see your children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren be recognized for this milestone in their language learning.*

*Language preservation is the effort to prevent languages from becoming unknown. A language is at risk of being lost when it is no longer taught to younger generations. Language is an important part of any society, because it enables people to communicate and express themselves. When a language dies out, future generations lose a vital part of the culture that is necessary to completely understand it. This makes language a vulnerable aspect of cultural heritage, and it becomes especially important to preserve it.*

*From this perspective, any form of linguistic decline or disappearance should be seen as an irreplaceable loss for the common cultural heritage of humankind. This is why the work of the Cary Tamil Language School is so very important and I applaud the great efforts that you take in making sure that your children are learning Tamil.*



## Tamil Competition

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Selvakumar

In order to motivate and encourage our students to learn Tamil language, Cary Tamil School conducts Tamil competition annually. This year the competition was held on Saturday, November 18th, 2017 and so many kids actively participated and exhibited their talents. The organizing team conducted many competitions for various age groups of students. The list of competition and total number of students participated in each event are shown below:

Competition	Classes	Students
Singing	Pre K, 1, 1A, 1B	62
Fancy dress	Pre K, 1, 1A, 1B, 2A	60
Drawing	1, 1A, 1B, 2A	165
Spelling Bee	1B, 2A	46
Speech	2B,3A,3B,4A,4B,5A,5B,6A	23
Thirukkural	2B,3A,3B,4A,4B,5A,5B,6A	24
Essay	2B,3A,3B,4A,4B,5A,5B,6A	17

It was a Herculean task to conduct these many events simultaneously, with close to 400 students participating. But the organizing team (Mr. Ramesh Rathinakumar, Mrs. Uthamisree Sureshkumar, Mrs. Jeyalakshmi Ravikumar and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Selvakumar) has done a tremendous job in conducting this event successfully. The team was supported by the Principal Mr. Selvan, Mrs. Raji and many enthusiastic volunteers. The organizing team wish to convey their "Huge Thanks" to all those who helped the event in every way possible.



From Left: Ramesh, Vijayalakshmi, Uthamisree, Raji and Jeyalakshmi

## CTS - History and its Growth

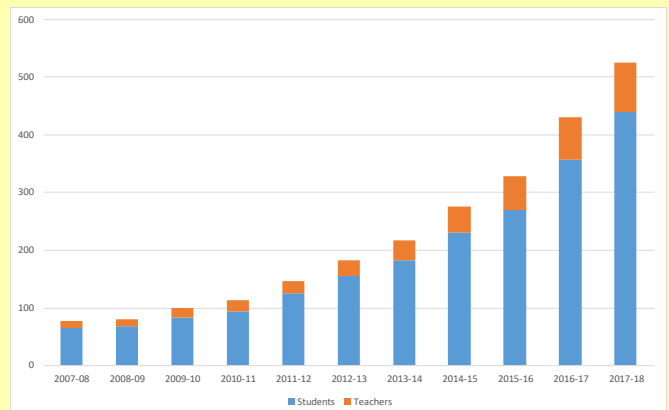
Mr. Saravanan Arunachalam

Cary Tamil School was started with just 5 students in 2005. When it was first started, no facility was available to conduct the classes. In the initial days, classes were conducted in principal houses and later in various libraries such as Eva Perry Library in Apex, West Regional Library in Morrisville and Cameron Village Regional Library in Raleigh. AS the strength continued to grow, CTS started moving out to bigger facilities like Herbert C Young Community Center in Cary and then at Cary Arts Center in downtown from 2011 to 2014. CTS moved to our current Salem Middle School facility from academic year 2014-15 onwards and we teach about 425 students with 85 volunteer teachers for the current academic year.

In the initial years, CTS tried with various syllabus to see which will be suitable for our students. California Academy, German Academy and Singapore Tamil School Syllabus were investigated and found Singapore syllabus as the most suited for our students. At CTS, 15 different classes from Pre-K to High School Level 1 are taught. In addition to text and exercise books, library books are brought from Singapore for the past 2 years and given as additional books to each of the CTS students.

Wake County Public School System has recognized Cary Tamil School as one of foreign language schools and give 2 high school credit to students who complete Level 4 (4A & 4B) in CTS. In April 2015, CTS was awarded the prestigious accreditation by AdvancEd Accreditation Commission for 5 years, until June 2020.

## CTS - Students - Teachers Growth



## **New Student Interview:**

**A graduate in Biomedical Engineering from NC State University, who is working now as a software consultant in Sunrise Technologies, has joined Cary Tamil School this year as a student to learn Tamil. Mr. Soorya Kumar is learning accelerated Tamil course under the guidance of Dr. Murigiah Muraleetharan. Our Newsletter team interviewed him about his experience in CTS.**

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**Newsletter Editor:** Hello Soorya Kumar, Can you tell us about yourself and your level of comfort in Tamil ?

**Soorya Kumar:** *I was born in India and lived there for 3 years. Then, my Parents and I moved to the US and we have been living in Raleigh/Cary area for about 20 years now. I learned to read and write Tamil at a basic level - when I was young, but I never reached a good fluency.*

**NE:** What inspired you to learn Tamil Now?

**SK:** *When I go to India, I want to speak in Tamil with my Grand parents, as well as with others in my family. I know how much it means to them that though I grew up in America that I am trying to keep our language and culture alive.*

**NE:** What are the challenges that you faced by not learning Tamil in your early days?

**SK:** *Not learning Tamil fluently when I was young, caused me challenges in my later years - because I am not confident to speak in Tamil with my family in India. It created a barrier to better connect with my family in India, and also it made me more dependent when I am in India.*

**NE:** Did you feel bad for not learning Tamil in your early days?

**SK:** *Certainly. It is easier to learn languages when you are younger, and I have to put in more efforts to do it now. It is a missed opportunity for me.*

**NE:** What are the advantages that you feel, when you learn Tamil at your later years?

**SK:** *One advantage of learning Tamil in my later years is, I have a stronger understanding of grammar and language structure now. And my pattern recognition is better as an adult which helps in learning a language.*

**NE:** How is CTS helping you to learn Tamil?

**SK:** *Murali Uncle is helping me practice to read, write and speak Tamil each week. I can tell in a short time, I am already becoming better at all three. I am able to expand my vocabulary and work on things that I have struggled before, like prepositional suffixes and verb conjugation.*

**NE:** What's your advice to your friends or someone who felt that it is so late to learn mother tongue now?

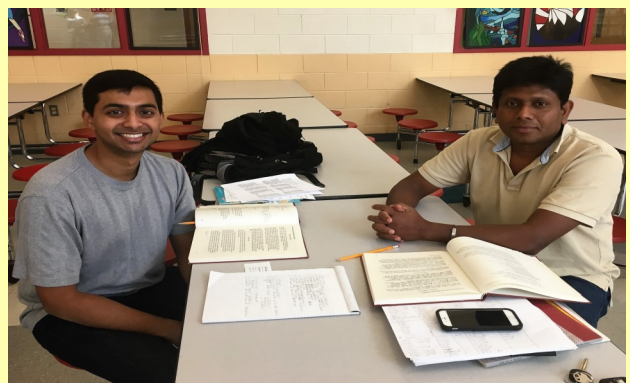
**SK:** *It is never too late to learn a language, even though it's harder at later years. You must be determined and be prepared to put in extra efforts outside of classes. Progress will be slow until you really take it upon yourself.*

**NE:** Do you have any thoughts to parents, who agree to their kids for not learning their mother tongue - as it seems difficult to learn?

**SK:** *Learning your mother tongue is very important. You lose a link to your culture without it. The importance of keeping that link is more significant than the difficulty of learning. It is difficult for me too, but that is what drives me.*

**NE:** Anything else you wish to share with our readers?

**SK:** *I am very grateful to CTS and Murali Uncle. Hopefully when I am a parent myself and if I live here, or in an area where something like CTS is available, I'll put my kids in. Because this is a great service, which I wish it existed when I was a child.*



*Soorya Kumar and Dr. Murigiah Muraleetharan*

## **News from Pre K:**

This year our preschool kids started class with a smiling face. We, teachers, welcome them with “Vankkam”, followed by singing “Tamil Thai Valthu”. The classes start with Tamil Rhymes with actions and educate them with moral stories. We encourage the kids to ask questions. We show them real vegetables (tomatoes, okra, eggplant, etc.), talk to them about their colors and their name in Tamil. Kids are encouraged to talk by show and tell.

A project work - “How to grow a plant” - was given to kids as homework. In the following weeks, the kids shared about their experience with the sprouted plants. To Keep the students active and educate in a playful way, we introduced games such as: When we say “ Coconut Tree”, the kids will stand up and when we say “Coconut”, the kids will sit down. Kids are rewarded with stickers for their participation in class. We feel that all the above have helped the kids to learn Tamil actively.

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## **News from Grade 1:**

In term 1, we started the year with a show and tell, where students brought their favorite toy and spoke two sentences about it in Tamil. This was done to make them comfortable and to open up the communication with their teacher and peers. And they learned to read and write “Uyir Eluthukkal” in 1st term.

In oral, they learnt the names of animals, flowers, fruits and body parts. They also learnt to count from 1 to 10. They learnt the song, “Oodi Vilayadu Pappa” in term 1.

To improve their spoken Tamil, they were taught small stories from the book. To encourage the kids to participate in Tamil competitions, we coached the kids perform the songs/speech in class.

By the end of the first term, most of the kids have mastered the above topics and have done very well in the test. After each class, they are rewarded with stickers and a chocolate after the exam.

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## **News from Grade 1A:**

We start our class with “Tamil Thai Valthu”. We converse in Tamil for first 10 minutes of the class, and then, we check the home work from the previous week.

In this 1st term, students learned to spell and write 12 Uyir Ezhuthukal and 18 Mei Ezhuthukal. They also learned first 2 series of uyirmei eluzhuthukal (க+அ=க & க+ஆ=கா) and Tamil Oral numbers from 1 through 20, 8 family relationships, 6 colors, 8 animals, 10 fruits and 6 shapes. They also practiced 4 songs included in the 1A Tamil lesson book.

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## **News from Grade 1B:**

For the first term, the 1B class students were taught first 5 lessons from text book (Paadanool) and practice book (payirchinool). In Tamil letters, we taught consonantal vowels (uyir meiezthuthukal) until “உ” 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 as well as to read small sentences with these words.

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. In this quarter we have introduced 2 “Thirukural” with their meaning. Speaking in Tamil is a much challenging aspect for some 1B kids. So we encouraged kids during the beginning

of each class to converse in Tamil. During these conversations, they shared interesting things that happened to them during that week.

1B class teachers are doing a wonderful job by motivating the kids in Tamil language in ways that will interest them.

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### **News from Grade 2A:**

We start our 2A class at 2:15 PM with “Tamil Thaa Valzhthu”. We ask the students to converse in Tamil for few minutes about any interesting things they did, any journey they took or about festivals that happened in the last week. Then we conduct dictation from words that were taught in the last class and encourage those students who perform well.

Then we introduce new lessons from the “Paada Nool” and make sure the students understand them well by asking them to repeat what they learned in the lesson. We ask the students to do exercises from “Payirchi Nool” as well as make them practice the “Uyirmeyi Eluthkkal” series with patterns such as க்+அ=க, and க்+ஆ=கா.

We teach social values like “Helping others”, “Hard work” and “Not to cheat” through interesting short stories and the students learn them with interest. If time permits, we will also teach the stories from Library book and “Panbulla Kudimakkal”.

Every class, we record the student’s attendance and their class scores in the tracking sheet.

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### **News from Grade 2B:**

In term 1, Class 2B students learned, in Tamil, the names of the months, days of the week, shapes, colors and fruits.

We completed till lesson 5 from the text book and from the workbook. We taught them the first four Aathichudi along with its meaning, in both Tamil and English, for the students to un-

derstand easily. Further, to motivate the students, we taught them two Thirukkural with their complete meaning in Tamil and English.

Grammar is the foundation to read and write any language properly. Keeping this in mind, we taught basic grammar like nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives in Tamil with simple examples from their text books.

Every week during class time kids are assessed based on their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in Tamil language. The teachers also record and maintain the attendance and homework scores for each week.

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### **News from Grade 3A:**

At this stage, our main objective is to have the students write their thoughts in not less than 5 sentences in Tamil. Our syllabus has been designed to achieve the same.

In First term, we revise the grammar learned in previous stages to make sure that the students are familiar with it and use it at appropriate places. Covered lessons from pages 1 to 39 and practical pages from 1 to 46.

We select and taught Thirukkural based on Aathichudi in lessons, to emphasize their meaning. We practiced on Kuril and Nedil to make sure that students understand their usage. We are planning to continue the same in next 2 terms as well.

Students did homework on writing sentences - not less than 6 sentences - on given topics. They learned 2 stories from Panbulla Kudimakkal book and 2 stories from library book. As we have holidays and Tamil Mazhai event coming in next 2 terms, we covered little more in the first term.

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### **News from Grade 3B:**

The lesson plan for 3B is based on the Singapore curriculum with the aim of improving our

students' proficiency in the Tamil language. A secondary aim of the 3B lesson plan is to make sure that the students are also prepared for the next class, 4A - in the Cary Tamil School. The 3B syllabus and lesson plan are based on three principles:

- a. Meet the stringent criteria of Wake County School District's foreign language requirements,
- b. Meet the qualifications of the accreditation agency towards continuous and measurable improvement, and
- c. Serve the goals of our Cary Tamil School in educating and improving the next generation.

To this effect, the year-long goals of the 3B curriculum is to prepare the students in multiple dimensions. These dimensions are chosen to provide a well-rounded education and experience in the Tamil language and provide a platform for continuous education. We emphasize the students to focus on reading, writing, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, literature and cultural values of Tamil.

In addition to the above, we encourage our students to bring out their talents and linguistic skills through participation in events such as 'Tamil Mazhai' and 'Tamil Malar'. As teachers, we use these opportunities to bring out the talents of our students as well as provide a venue for reducing their shyness and their reticence.

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### ***News from Grade 4A:***

In the first term, the 4A students learnt the first 4 lessons in the Text book. Through these lessons, students learnt about the Pongal festival being celebrated in Tamil Nadu and the Chinese New Year being celebrated in China. They also discussed and learnt about how the festivals being celebrated by people from different races have something in common. They also learnt the Konraivendhan from the text book and learnt the moral behind each of those verses.

From the exercise book, students completed all the exercises from the first two units. In grammar, they are practicing to write proper sentence using gender, tense and person. They learnt moral lessons from Panpullakudimakkal text book and also discussed about these values in the class. The three classes in this 4A are actively participating in the class room discussions and are very much motivated in learning Tamil!

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### ***News from Grade 4B:***

In the first term, We covered until page 26 from 4B Syllabus ('Paadanool') and until page 29 in Practice Book ('Payirchinnool') and 2 lessons from Characteristic of a Good Citizen ('Panbulla Kudimakkal'). In addition, we covered topics such as, "My favorite writer", "Hospitality", "Helping in Danger", "Religious Festivals", from the Teachers Guide.

In grammar, we covered: Same type of letters; The way Tamil letters follow consonants; and The letters that can come in the front and in the last of Tamil words; and The letters that cannot come either in the front or in the last of Tamil words. We gave a handout that describe the laws involved in them.

Further, we taught ஂ, ஃ, ழ—the unique letters of Tamil and its sounds and different words using these three letters. We also gave a handout on various words having similar sound involving ஂ, ஃ, ழ. Also we gave a handout on how to use symbols like comma and quotation marks, etc.

We also taught 4 proverbs, 2 Kontraiventhans and 2 Vetri Vekkai. In addition, as the students showed interest in learning science in the class, we taught them, in Tamil, some science concepts. It was received very well by the students.

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### ***News from Grade 5A:***

During the first term, 5A students were taught “Vetrumai urubugal” and punctuations. Students practiced the use of periods, exclamation points, question marks, commas, colons, semi-colons, apostrophes, and quotes in sentences. They also studied words with multiple meanings and learnt to use these words in sentences. Students were encouraged to read advertisement flyers and answer the given questions.

From the text book, students were taught traditional games which stimulates the functioning of brain. Students worked on learning Tamil words and its synonyms relating to science and astronomy. There were word bank quizzes conducted in every class. Students then learnt the meanings of Thirukural and Pazhamozhigal (proverbs).

Importance was given to reading the lessons fluently with no mistake. In class, we emphasize that the conversation must be in Tamil.

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### ***News from Grade 5B:***

For this term, we have reviewed all the grammar learned so far and we gauged students’ level on their reading and writing skills. The students have learned 55 new words, including the synonyms and English meaning for all the words. They learned to use these words in sentences and paragraphs. One important goal for this school year for this class is to improve their writing and speaking skills. Students are working on improving these skills.

In Grammar, we learned ezhuvaai, payanilai, seyappaduporul, combining two words, separating two words, combining two sentences and Anigal.

We also taught our students 10 Thirukkural and their usage in life. Our students continue to show lot of interests in learning Tamil and writing and speaking in Tamil.

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### ***News from Grade 6A:***

6A is a high school level course and all the students in this class in our Tamil school are studying in high schools. Our goal is to make learning Tamil an interesting and motivating process for them. For this quarter, we identified students’ level on their reading and writing skills. Based on their level the curriculum has been chosen for them.

In this term, they have learned 50 new words, their synonyms and English meaning for all the words. They learned to use these words in sentences and paragraphs. One important goal for this school year for this class is to improve their writing ability using various punctuation marks and using different formats and templates like story, essay etc. Students are diligently working on improving these skills.

In Grammar, they have learned: Vili vetrumai; payanilai; combining two words; separating two words; combining two sentences; using ‘Melum’ to combine sentences and Anigal.

Our students learned 10 Thirukkural and their usage in life. They continue to show lot of interests in learning Tamil and writing and speaking in Tamil. Even with their busy academic schedules, their interest and enthusiasm in learning Tamil and reading and writing in Tamil is inspiring and motivating other students and for me as a teacher. We are continuing our journey in hope of having a very productive and fun year!

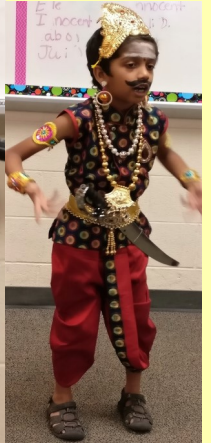
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### ***News from Grade 6B/HS1A:***

Due to unavoidable reasons, we could not bring the news of Grade 6B and HS1A in this News-letter.

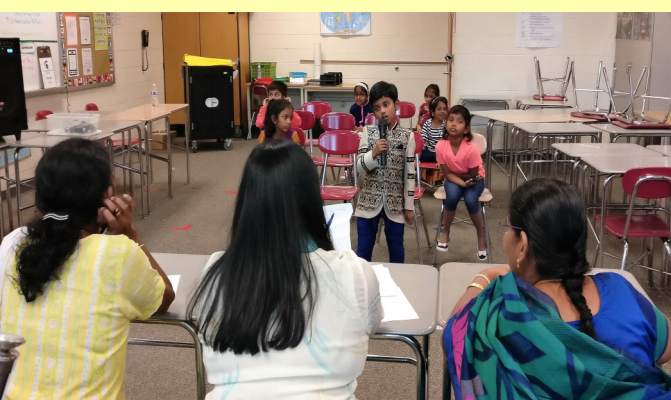
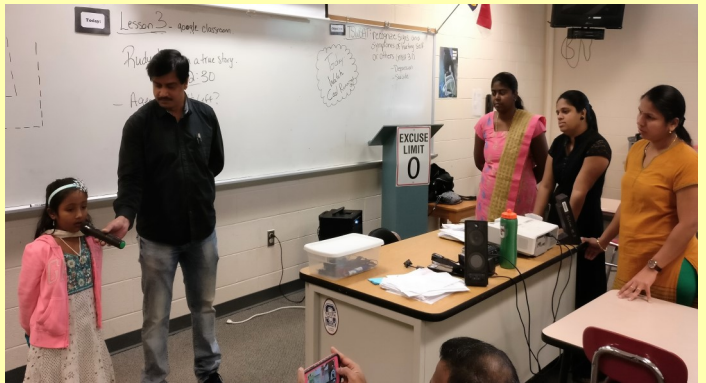
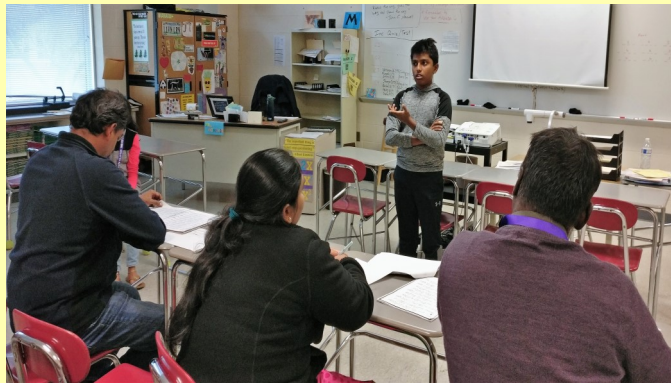
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Tamil Competition results will be announced in the Tamil Mazhai Event that's scheduled to be on Saturday, February 3rd 2018. In the mean time, we are showing you some of the pictures of the Tamil competition event.



To see all the pictures taken on the event, please follow the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17J5urOBJa14pVHLZnZG0nP1Iik3CPht>





### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

**Jan 21, 2018 - 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM**

- Principal - Parents meeting

**Feb 3, 2018 - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

- Thamizh Mazhai @ Salem Middle School

**Feb 25, 2018 - 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

- II Term Test

**Mar 4, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

- Parents - Teacher Conference

**Mar 11, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

- Teachers meeting

**Mar 18, 2015 - 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM**

- Photo Day for Aandu Malar

**Mar 25, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

- Final Day for Aandu Malar

Article Submission.



### **Useful Desktop Tools for Tamil Typing**

**i) Keyman Desktop -**

<https://keyman.com/desktop/>

**ii) NHM Writer -**

<http://software.nhm.in/products/writer>

### **Online Tamil typing**

<https://keymanweb.com/>

#tam,Keyboard\_ekwtamil99uni

<http://tamil.indiatyping.com/>

### **Popular Tamil Fonts**

Latha, Nirmala UI, Vijaya

### **Useful Websites for free Tamil Books:**

Below are the list of websites that offers free Tamil books online in many formats (including Amazon Kindle .mobi format). All these below websites make Tamil books available online via volunteer support. If you are interested, you can also participate in bringing Tamil books online with any of these team below.

<https://ta.wikisource.org/>

~2000 books available

<http://freetamilebooks.com/>

~300 books available

<http://www.projectmadurai.org/>

~600 books available

