



SreeRamNews



A publication of Sree Ram International Residential Public School, Ezhilode, Kannur District, Kerala

SreeRamSchoolExpanding.....

Our school population has more than doubled this school year, from 13 students to 27 students, and growing. As many of our readers will know already, Sree Ram School was started to serve poor children, not that we close our doors to children from families who are financially solvent, our goal is diversity in religion, nationality, and economic status. But, we were founded with poor families, and especially poor single mothers, in mind and our fee structure reflects this concern. We do not now, and may not for several years, generate enough income from enrollments to pay our expenses. Therefore, as we go into our second year, it is necessary to expand our income-producing activities to help us overcome our financial hurdles.

Girls Hostel

Therefore, Sree Ram School is announcing the opening of a girls' hostel designed to serve students at Sanskrit University, a full-service university recently moved into our neighborhood. We've spoken with the University President who has agreed to work with us to inform new students. The income from these hostel students will help cover our teachers' pay - our biggest single expense and one we've had difficulty meeting in the past. We expect to begin hostel operations in June and be fully utilized by September of this year.

Computer Education Center

The second income-producing project is the opening of a computer education center - as soon as we get the computers. Can you help? We need computers to use for training our own children (we have only one now, which is both our office



and our educational tool) and to offer evening classes for local, fee-paying adults. Used computers, even outdated ones, are perfectly fine with us! This would be a wonderful in-kind contribution. If you, or your friend, or an organization you know is upgrading - how about packing up the old computers and sending them to Sree Ram School. We don't mind the age - Remember, we are teaching beginners and we're not picky! Please help us get started!!

LKG & UKG – Our three and four year olds



Visiting Teachers and Special Guests Program

Last year we had our first visiting teacher, Valerie Dearing, an art teacher from Baltimore, Maryland, USA, was with us for 6 weeks, around Christmas time. Valerie had heard about Sree Ram School from our Mama, Vanidevi, who had taken art classes with Valerie at the Omega Institute, in Rhinebeck, N.Y., the summer of 2005, when both were working as volunteers at the holistic education center. When she heard about Sree Ram School, Valerie was immediately interested. She took a leave of absence from her job at School of the Incarnation, in Baltimore, to come and teach our children. One of her purposes was also to help our teachers learn to incorporate art into their daily classes. We hope to continue this program and Valerie is planning to visit us again this year.

We are hoping that more visitors from the west will join us this year, either to teach in your specialty, or to simply enjoy Kerala and learn what we are all about. We have a place for you to stay and we will feed you. We will arrange special trips to Kerala's attractions,

including ashrams, our famous backwaters and ayurvedic institutes, and more.

Enrollment Doubled, Poor Kids Coming, Sponsors Needed

Sree Ram School is growing! Last year we had only 13 students. This year we have 27. They are too darling; see the attached pix! If we keep doubling, we will have over 200 students for our 5th year. Indu insists that we will have 500! However, as you know, we exist to serve poor children and about half of our children pay no fees, so finances continue to be a problem. Our goal is to find sponsors for all of these children, who will send money monthly to cover their child's books, supplies, uniforms, and monthly fees. Only \$30 per month will cover all expenses for one child. (Smaller monthly donations are perfectly acceptable. Give according to your budget!) Won't you consider sponsoring a poor child? Look at the student pictures following and see if you find someone who touches you....



Valerie(above) at Christmas and (below) with Indu in Auroville



P.T.A. Formed, Officers Elected

This week, we held our first PTA meeting and elected a President and Secretary. Our secretary, Nazeema, is Muslim and our president, Gita, is Hindu. We are so happy about our diversity; we have no problems getting along with one another in our area. Vanidevi has been teaching a yoga class for teachers and parents in which all three of our major religions are represented – Muslim, Hindu, and Christian. By the way, under the black burqas, the Muslim women are just as colorfully dressed as anyone! Isn't that good news?

See Nazeema and Gita at left, ready to work to improve our school.



Abiraj Is Strong After His First Operation

You may remember our plea for help for Abiraj last school year. He needed two operations – one to improve his breathing and one for his heart. His parents had no money to pay for the needed surgeries. Our plea was heard across the seas – we love and are so grateful to you, our supporters! In this case, Mama Vanidevi's sister, BarBarA Olmstead, from Indianapolis, Indiana stood up to be counted as she paid for Abiraj's first operation. Thanks, Barb! His family is grateful and so are we. Abiraj has the biggest smile to go with the most mischievous eyes! He's just a beautiful child and we appreciate everyone who has helped Sree Ram over the last year – helping us to help these little darlings!

Abiraj (see him on right) will be needing another operation – this time for his heart. You'll be hearing more for us then.



Sree Ram's Library is a priority now!

We're working to develop a school library. Children's books are another wonderful in-kind donation – send your kids, nieces, nephews, friends kids old, out-grown books - it will be a great help to these kids who

are learning English to have more English language books. Start a Book's For India campaign in your kids school! Collect from your neighbors!



Some of you already know that our director, Indu, has been needing to have a hysterectomy, due to large and multiplying fibroid tumors, for some time. She's tried twice and been sent back home from the hospital due to problems. The first time, there were breathing problems as a reaction to some medication. Indu is asthmatic, so this can be serious. The second time, her blood was not clotting properly and she has been taking medication to remedy this. The third try is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20. Please keep Indu in your prayers!

That's Indu with husband, Satheesh, on the left, at the end of school picnic last year.

Operation Scheduled for Director Building Fund Starting: Invest – Benefit The Kids and Benefit Yourself!

If you don't have the time or inclination for giving, how about considering an investment in the future.....Children are our future, after all. We are looking for people who want to double their money in 5 years to buy shares for 50,000 rupees (about \$1255 at today's exchange rates) - it can be done with a monthly payment of just \$100, or a one-time payment of \$1100 (discount for cash). In 5 years, you will receive your money back, plus interest equaling the amount of your investment. Indu is talking to architects now, who are providing us with a school plan. She is determined that we should have our own building in two years. Don't doubt her – I've seen her prayers working!

In addition to our increased enrollment, if we own our own building in 5 years, the government of India will begin to support us by paying all teachers salaries. This is our biggest monthly expense and frees some cash to put into our repayment fund for investors.

Donation Information!

Remember, Sree Ram School is a charitable trust. We depend on your help, to help these kids. Send in-kind contributions like computers, or library books and cash donations to:

**Bharati Nair (Indu)
Sree Ram School
Vanidevi House
Near AKG Vayanasala
Ezhiode, Payyanur 670309
Kannur District, Kerala
India**

For electronic transfers:

**Syndicate Bank
M.M Center
Main Road, Pyyannur-670 307
Kerala-Kannur (Dt)
Phone- 04985- 203066
Bank Branch no. and Acct no: 4202 220 000 2892
Swift Code SYNBINBB 030**

We Need Sponsors!



Nandhana, 2nd from left with Nandhu, Aiswarya, Anandu



Haritha



Muzen



Pranav (right) with Adil



Swalika



Vishnu



Aswathlal (right)



Akshai (with Mom)