

Thursday, October 30, 2008

Events Of October -2008

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF NAMMA VEEDU MONTESSORI HOC – OCTOBER 2008

30.9.08- HOC has spent 5 solid hours to set up the Navarathry Golu to celebrate the 10 days grand festival. This is the festival in India to celebrate the end of all evils as great demons who were killed by the eternal power “THE DIVINE MOTHER”.

What is golu?

Golu is the arrangement of various clay dolls on steps based on Indian mythology which clearly explains the concept of life and various concepts of spirituality. This festival lasts for 10 days during which children and adults gets the chance to express their talents and appreciate the aesthetic sense in all actions.

We have arranged dolls in 5 steps and teachers are welcoming the villagers as guests.

We are also planning for parent’s competitions, mother worship and teachers worship. Usually in India many new schools admit the beginners on the 10th day of the festival.

Today teachers performed the morning rituals to the DIVINE MOTHER and enjoyed the “doll marriage” festival. Mean while we have also went for canvassing for new admissions. This article will be further sharing about various exciting events and incidents which is going to happen on these 10 days. Let us wait for the fun.....

2.10.08- Today we came to know that Miss.Kalaivani who has joined with us also is going to continue her higher education and she is leaving us. We are in need of good facilitators in HOC like Miss.Kalaivani and Miss.Bodhini. We are hunting for a very good person who can first show the real motherliness and care then the Montessori Method. Let us wait. I need to study really the situation of other 3 staff members. They are also good in conducting the HOC. But they need to imbibe the system soon and more. Yes! It is not easy to have a Montessori HOC in a village like this.

4.9.08- PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING. We started the meeting sharply at 9.30 A.M. There were only 8 parents representing the group. The agenda was as follows with the minutes of the meeting.

- All the teachers were there.
- Dr.Madeswaran and Mrs.Dhanam was the chair person.
- We gave a warm welcome.
- We explained why it is important to attend any meeting or occasion in a school for a parent.
- “a child will neglect a mother who could not recognize the child’s work and timing”. This was the message to all the parents.
- We were planning to have a parents committee to represent and work for the various needs of the HOC.
- “The school is not an institution, but it is a social well fare unit in the tiny village for the up liftment of the people from the child hood. This has to be realized through our freedom given in HOC.”
- The annual budget was explained especially about the source of income to SAKTHI

FOUNDATION through Dr.Pradheepkumar.

- The fees income was also put before the parents.
- The need for the expense, need to realize the fees structure though it is based on charity were explained.
- Transportation facility and its cost were discussed.
- Observation for the parents was announced.
- Need for child observation was explained.
- The HOC requested the parents to approach the adults to know about the activities of their children and not to talk ill about the school outside without understanding the concept behind the system.
- HOC has welcomed parents for a next meeting to plan the annual day celebrations.
- A simple explanation was given about English teaching and home work pattern was also explained.
- The history of writing within a child was explained.
- Miss.Kalaivani and Miss.Bodhini were facilitated by all of us for their beloved and commitment.

THE SACREDMOST MOMENTS – MATHRU POOJA

After a short break we did the “mathru pooja”. We explained the need and meaning behind worshipping our parents and elders and why we are touching the feet of a person for blessing.

Children were taught how to perform the ritual to their mother. They were so excited and every child did the pooja perfectly with total concentration and love.

Many parents were in tears out of love and blessed their children with hugs and kisses. Few fathers attended the pooja and accepted the respectful moments from their children.

Then Navarathry pooja was performed by the teachers. Mrs.Shanthi chanted the 108 sacred names of Goddess Mahalaxmi and Maniamma offered the flowers. There was pin drop silence in the school. Later we relished the “puliodarai” dish prepared by Usha amma.

Few children left their parents but others just went to work. When the PTA meeting was happening, children went to an other room and worked for 1.5 hrs without any break.

This is the 5th day of Navarathry festival. Our HOC GOLU is so sweet to see with compact arrangement.

6.10.08- Mrs.Priya living in Sendurai village has joined for observation to become a teacher in our HOC. She is the classmate of Mr.Jeyaraman. Her husband is working as a catering technologist in Tamil Nadu hotels in Madurai. Her 1.75 year old boy is a immature child with many health problems. She has joined with us to show a good path of stress less education to her boy from this time and she is also very calm and peaceful in mind which is very essential for us.

9.10.08- first vijayadasami day in HOC: HOC has celebrated the final day of Navarathry festival with grand and spiritual sense.

- 3 new children got admitted in our HOC.
- Naveen- 1.75 years.
- Diwakar- 1.75 years.
- Darshini- 2 .75 years.[she needs some special care to walk well]
- SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE DAY:

1. Children and trust have honored all the staff with special gifts.

2. Teachers have made children to write all the Tamil scripts and initiated the writing exercise. This is the traditional way of initiating a child on his very first day in a school on this day.

CHANCE FOR A GOOD TEACHER: From Vijayadasami day Mrs.Priya from the same village is coming for observation. She is also having a small child who is ready for the Montessori HOC.

She is observing all the activities of the HOC and also practicing all EPL activities from other staff members. The staff members are able to run the HOC with confidence in the absence of 2 experienced people. In the mean time one of the parents has talked ill about the staff for writing about the fees payment in the note book. The parent is also not happy with the system and spoke ill in the village. We are not emotional and we are asking them to come to us for any doubts, but they have never turned up even for a single meeting. The child's father is a teacher in the government school.

We are having the PTA on Saturday and we are asking the parents to be ready for the observation week and orientation. Beyond that if they are unhappy, they will be asked to take away the child. The parent's attitude towards the school and staff are making strong impact on the child and she is also expressing that in the school. Teachers feel very difficult to handle this particular child.

18.10.08- Today we conducted PARENTS TEACHERS MEETING. Only 6 parents were there but they were very conscious about the PTA. The following topics were discussed as follows,

1. Parent must recognize their child actions and appreciate.
2. We have discussed about the events of Annual festival.
3. Kolam, Drawing, Story telling and Speech will be conducted.
4. Parents were asked to perform the various acts before their children so that their children will appreciate their parents' skills.
5. Again annual budget was discussed and we have spoken of the transport expense. One of the parents was suggesting with a cheap auto. We need to wait and discuss about it.
6. Again we spoke about the CODE OF CONDUCT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS.
7. We have requested the parents to come to the HOC for any clarification.

STAFF MEETING:

1. We spoke about the child observation and report making.
2. We have seen the discussed about the individual plans of every child.
3. Staff- parents communication.
4. Reema who has left the HOC need to collect the report.
5. Deepawali celebration and Skandha sasti celebration.
6. Grounding and independence.
7. Child's attitude towards various issues of HOC.
8. Mrs.Priya was given the appointment letter. We are happy with her attitude towards the Montessori education. She says,
' I thought that this place will be baby care centre, but now I have understood that It is the place where we care and shape a child with real love and intelligence.'
9. Her 1.25 year old son is also very active and he too got admitted in the school. He is very much involved with the Montessori materials.

10.Mrs.Priya have the following characters which are good for HOC: She is very calm and quiet. She is also very keen in observing any thing and she clears her doubts immediately. She is also able to maintain the link between her son and other children in the HOC.

19.10.08- Today the children were on leave. We started the sessions at 9 A.M. First we spoke with Saravanan's mother.

1. The character of the child is getting changed and he has to be guided.
2. The parents must be aware about his attitude and also about the help given by the foundation.
3. They cannot talk about the help outside of the HOC.
4. He will be helped only based on their cooperation.
5. New dress for Deepawali was given to the child with Rs.100 by my mother for Deepawali.

24.10.08- DEEPAWALI FESTIVAL.

Today we have celebrated Deepawali festival in HOC with divinity and simplicity. We are promoting the idea of traditions and culture but not the luxury. So we have made it as a point that we never spend too much of money in luxurious celebrations.

This year we are observing the RAMAYANA TRADITION. So teachers have presented the legend of SreeRama. We have shown the Ramayana cartoon movie few months back.

As usual the HOC building was decorated with flowers and mango leaves. Children and staff decorated the MARAPAACHI WOODEN DOLLS as SreeRama and Sitha Devi.

They imagined that they are welcoming back to Ayodhya and chanted the sacred name of Rama and made a small procession inside the HOC compound.

The idols were brought inside the prayer hall. They were placed on the altar and the legend was repeated. Then special rituals were done by staff and children to them.

Then the brass idol of Devi Annapoorani[Goddess of food] was brought from the prayer altar and placed on a plate. Special sacred bath was given to idol with ghee, milk, honey, sandal paste, and saffron and turmeric water.

Then the importance of food, wastage of food was explained to the children. Big lamps were lighted and children recited the chants.

On 23rd staff and children cooked a traditional sweet and that was also offered to the Goddess. Lemon rice was cooked by Mrs.Usha and got offered to the goddess.

Later every body gathered and tasted the festival feast and greeted each other. HOC announced holidays for 5 days. But we are offering food to 3 poor children for 2 times on all days.

Now the HOC has to begin its preparation for SKANDHA SASTI FESTIVAL. This is one of the most important festivals of the state. It is to celebrate the success over the evils by Lord Murugan[native God].

Mean while the village has received heavy rains and even we announced a day holiday on 22.10.08. But I feel very proud to say that out staff conducted the HOC with children who are near to the school.

25.10.08- Mr.Ganesh's father merged with the God today morning.HOC is praying for his soul's peace.

29.10.08- HOC has opened after 5 days of Deepawali holidays. Children were excited to come back and they got settled soon. From today we have started preparing the HOC to celebrate the grand SKANDHA SASTI POOJA.

Every day Mrs.Shanthi is performing the poojas to Lord Murugan in our school house and dramatizing the mythology of Muruga.

Today they have gone out for a nature walk to observe the village pond filled with pure fresh water after heavy rainfall.

HOC prayed for the health and wealth of Dr.PradheepKumar, for his birthday.

Thankyou!