

ਬਦੇਹ ਬਾਪੁ ਭੋਵਾਵਾਇ

Our Newsletter
April - July
2022

Editorial

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Advaya Shaale newsletter.

We have completed the 1st 2 months of the '22-'23 Academic Year and we are joyful everyday to have the children with us in the classrooms. We now talk of the online world like that of the past and we sincerely hope that it remains that way.

The teachers have plunged into their blocks and the school has come alive with the much awaited singing, chatting and playground ruckus.

The highlights for these two months have been the wall climbing and the daily 'Pinecone Currency Bazaar' !!

The focus for this year is to have a lot more parent interactions enabling the community to come closer and meet more often.

The parent craft circle along with our handwork teachers have started to meet every Wednesday at school and we are seeing some exquisite work by our parents. This is an open group, please feel free to join and learn and create. There is also a Whatsapp Group that has been created for all of us to connect on areas of interest outside of the school and also to promote our parent entrepreneurs.

The months of June and July have been busy and we have tried to capture all the important moments in this newsletter. It also carries some information on the summer trainings our teachers went through. We are hoping the next newsletter contains some parent contributions in the form of articles, puzzles, paintings...etc. We want to hear from you!!

Hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Signing off, on behalf of the whole team
Shivali

Advaya Shaale In The second Septennial

- Ms Latha Madhusudhan

“Arise, oh Shining light,
Take hold of growth and becoming,
Lay hold of the weaving of forces,
Yourself ray forth, life awakening.
In face of resistance, gain.
In stream of time, disperse.
Oh, shine of light, abide.”

Rudolf Steiner, from the Twelve Moods.

Advaya Shaale has now reached Class Seven. A momentous and memorable journey for those that have been part of this seven year journey- the founding process, the birthing process and then the vertical and horizontal integration process. We grew in strength and in numbers both students and staff and of course the community. Today we stand at a crossroad of expansion, a dream that is tangible and real , yet so far and surreal with a mammoth task ahead of us.

Yes, I am speaking of the future building of the school -a vision of a new building, the hard work, the new economics that would come into play, for this dream to become a reality. It's time now to awaken the 'Sleeping will', of the old and the new community members of Advaya Shaale. How apt are the above lines of Rudolf Steiner! Its time to take hold of the weaving forces, its time to take hold of the growth forces for the sake of the children of Advaya - for the now and the future children. I urge each parent and student to Meditate on the above lines and abide by the light and shine forth.

Most Anthroposophical founders of Institutions are inspired by a 'moral Intuition' says Coenraad Houten. Something wants to come down, wants to live, wants to be. This must be given a form – a spirit structure. This form of the Institution is now a 'Being' that of Advaya Shaale ; existing in its three fold aspect of Thinking, Feeling and Willing.

It exists through the trinity of the Institution comprising of: The teachers and the management staff, The parents and then The students. Rudolf Steiner talks of the three-fold social order... the trinity mentioned above is interdependent and only the awakening of the social will of the people involved will bring about an evolution for the 'Being 'of Advaya Shaale.

We all know of evolution of the individual Being through the seven foldedness. The spirit structure of Advaya has seen through the Will forces, it has been nourished through the birth of the etheric forces that means the first step in the process of incarnation is complete.

This spirit structure has to move into the second stage of development – that of soul development. The Being of Advaya goes through a constant process of incarnation, growth and development. This is expressed through the ideas and values living in the staff and the students and in the internal structure, thus we find the trinity of three interdependent bodies becoming an organic whole form. The Being of Advaya is all set for a new organizational growth similar to that of a three-fold human being.

The school in a sense is ready to meet the outside world. The impetus for healthy growth of the school comes from a collective awareness of the whole community to re-envision the school, its expansion to bring in a new social order, to see that the pioneering children get to fully experience the Waldorf philosophy and bring about a transformation in the social and cultural realms of society, as future beacons of the society. We are at a transitional phase that could become a transformational phase only if there is a systematic breakdown in the organizational structure for a healthy development of the school as a living entity.

The contribution of every parent to this developmental process is crucial and can be transformative.

This task can be achieved through conscious working at the societal level by the community finding ways to engage in the economic, financial and physical and human resources.

Steiner hoped for the first Waldorf school to engage the economic sphere in forming collaborative relationships that support education. In today's world we expect and hope to create an essential source of funds for the school's operation. Volunteers for the three realms collection of the fund,(nerve sense system) disbursing and management of the fund (rhythmic system) and the limbic system with responsibility of governance of the school, all require an army of people . Just like in the Treta yuga the army of squirrels aided the building of the Bridge over the ocean, so too does Advaya Shaale need every force, every bit of energy from the community big or small to make this developmental process a reality. There is no eligibility criteria for engaging in this. The one chance of Being the change that you always wanted to be is here, let's rise up and take this on as a community.

A high school for our Advaya children and a transforming education system is what we have to dream about, meditate on and work towards.

Warmth, Light and love from me to you

Latha Madhusudhan

For

Advaya Community Trust

Grade 6 (Mar '22)- Visit To Belum Caves

Rocks are individuals, just like students. Each one is unique and special, and not at all easy to understand, birthed through a process that is both miraculous and mysterious. In our Geology block we studied that each type of rock contained characteristic minerals, and that rocks are being created and recycled all the time through a “rock cycle” of sorts.

This study included a trip to Belum Caves in Kurnool Andhra Pradesh. It was indeed a wonderful way to end the academic year for Grade 6 when we visited the Limestone caves and saw the stalactite limestone formations. It was a 5 ½ hour journey covering a distance of 300km.

It was a very enriching experience for all of us to go about 200m below the ground and explore the caves which were quite big. We were all perspiring profusely in the caves though it was not hot! We got to see the force of water which had etched its marks on the hard rocks.

The class spent a lot of time together and these experiences of social bonding and personal growth accompanied a growing appreciation and respect within the children for the greater forces at work in nature, and also in their lives.



Clay work and it's Relevance

At Advaya Shaale we begin working with Clay in a formal manner from Grade 3. Clay modelling is a highly immersive activity and gives us the opportunity to integrate our willing, feeling and thinking. It allows us to develop artistic value and children learn to work with the 3 dimensional form. Handling clay and sometimes even struggling with the material helps develop and strengthen our emotional intelligence. Clay as a medium allows us to meet the outer world through inner activity while handling external earth material. Some of the projects done by our children can be seen below.



Teacher Training for G6 & G7

By Gopa David our Mentor for the higher grades.

She has more than 20 years of experience in teaching and has been a Class teacher and Middle school teacher for more than 12 years at Abhaya, Hyderabad.

She is also the Indian ambassador in the International Waldorf School's Forum.

We are very fortunate to work under her able guidance.

She has been our mentor since last year. However this year it was wonderful to have her training in person at Advaya Shaale.

Many teachers from other Waldorf schools also participated. It was a 10 day long intensive training for Grades 6&7.

We started with the overview of each grade. The curriculum and the physiological development of the child in each grade and how the curriculum complimented the growth and provided balance and harmony which are the key factors in education to lead to developing free thinking individuals was at the core of this training.

We were given a glimpse of how each subject would give nourishment to the growing children. We were in awe of how each and every subject in the Grades worked with the Thinking ,Feeling and Willing / Head ,heart and hands. It was wonderful to experience how science like Physics and Chemistry would unfold in the classroom.

The most important aspects of Waldorf education was touched upon beautifully in the way our day during the training was planned with breathing in and out woven with music ,speech and movement followed by intensive Steiner text reading to understand the 'whys ' and 'hows' of each lesson & how it must transcend in the classroom.

We then looked at the curriculum and practical ways to teach the concepts in the classroom after which we would enter into the realm of art (charcoal, veil painting or perspective drawings) and let the day's learning sink in!



Teacher Training for G1 to G5

A four day workshop was conducted by Shailaja teacher for grades 1-5. The workshop was hosted by Advaya Shaale, where teachers from several Waldorf schools attended the sessions.

The workshop imparted a clear understanding of the consciousness of the child, how a well designed Waldorf curriculum would support the changing consciousness of each child and how to take the curriculum to class effectively.

During the sessions, many activities were conducted in detail. Verses and songs relevant to each grades were practiced. The rhythmical spatial exercises were experienced through Bothmer stick activities. Teachers also practiced Form drawing, which creates an awakening effect through spatial orientation and awareness of body geography. Black Board drawing, which improves the creativity and imagination of children was rehearsed. Many group activities relevant to the each grade were comprehensively dealt with.

The Workshop proved to be a vivid and practical learning experience to all participants. In addition to the above mentioned activities, the workshop also integrated important aspects of storytelling, rhythmic movement, visual arts and music.

It was also wonderful to interact with teachers from other Waldorf Schools in India. On the whole, the workshop provided each participant a holistic, integrative and a joyful experience.



Summer Bazaar

At the beginning of this academic year, as we were trying to put together the calendar of events, we felt the need to first have one large event and then branch into smaller focused ones. Thus was born the idea to have a quick bazaar - by our parents and for our parents!! A team of volunteers came together, ideas, suggestions and learnings from the past were discussed and the beautiful Advaya Shaale Summer Bazaar took place on the 25th of June 2022.

The morning of the bazaar was cloudy and while some of us had jitters, the combined energy of our parents and children as they walked into campus kept the Rain Gods at bay. The bazaar saw a variety of stalls from jewelry to art, to clothes to organic products and lots more.

The food stalls had delicacies from the homes of our parent community cooked and brought forward with so much love and warmth. The Advaya kitchen, also had a stall serving french fries and pancakes - which was a big hit with our children. The games organized by our parents ensured the children were busy and happy while us parents either shopped or dug into some goodies. Storytime by Hetal Teacher, also saw the children crowding into a classroom to travel to far lands with herwe never tire of stories in a Waldorf School!! The rain Gods kept their promise till the end of the bazaar and the rain came down only at the very end expediting the packing process !!

It was a beautiful day where the Advaya Community got together after a very long gap...some new friends were made and old friends were reacquainted with!

This was also our first Fund Raising Event towards the High Grade Initiative and we collected a total of Rs 1 Lakh at the end of the day.

Thank you to each and every one of you for making it such a special day....and here's to many more gatherings!



School Assembly

From this Academic Year we have started meeting together as a school once a week. Every Friday, the entire school assembles in the grounds and the children of any one grade present their morning circle to the rest of the school. If there is an upcoming festival, the children also talk about the relevance of the festival. The reason behind this was mainly for the school to gather together periodically so that we could sing together, say the morning verse together, relevant announcements can be made and every grade gets to see what the other Grades are engaging with. The energy on a Friday is palpable and it is a pleasure to see all the children and teachers gathered for this.



Parent Talks - Know your Child

The pandemic resulted in all of us withdrawing into our shells and living life from one day to the next. As a school, we lost the ability to plan ahead and our focus only became the children and how to make learning engaging for them despite the restrictions. This resulted in the parent community growing apart and a lot of questions started to arise.

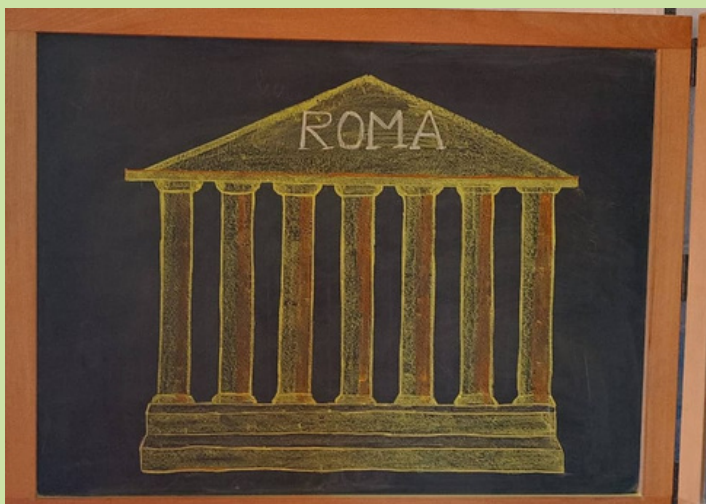
The focus of this academic year is to bring the community a little closer and also remind us of why we have chosen Waldorf Education over other streams of education. Are you here because it is an alternative school or are you here for the love of Waldorf? This is a question we all need to know the answer to, for which it is imperative that we understand what happens in the classrooms of Advaya Shaale, what are the tools our teachers use to work with your children.

Latha Teacher and Viju teacher have come together and deigned a series of talks including 3 sessions to focus on these needs. The first session of this 3 part series took place on the 9th of July. It was a full house and we had almost all the parents of Grade 1 to 3 present and a few from other grades too.

As a 1st, we introduced the idea of parents sharing their takeaways from segments of the session, in a few brief sentences/words on the class Whatsapp groups. This we hope would allow for all of us to have a point of reference to go back to at a later date. We have 2 more sessions coming up in the series and we hope it answers a lot more of your questions. See you all there.



Teacher's Work - Art



Children's Work - Prose and Poetry

Nero as Rome burned

The world around him burned.

Nero played a tune
A tune forgotten by all
A song long forgotten
Buried in ashes a an empire

What was his train of thought that time
To burn a city so fine.

He plucked his strings
While an empire grinds to dust.

Nero sat with his lyre
While watching this fire.

Contribution from
Grade- 7



Monsters are cruel , Monsters are kind,
Monsters are very , hard to find !
Monsters are small , Monsters are big,
Sometimes you find them , wearing a wig !
They are blue , They are pink ,
Most of them , always stink !
Monsters are little , monsters are few,
Monsters are very , hard to chew !
Most of these monsters are rare ,
But none of these monsters are fair !
They feel happy , they feel sad,
But none of these cute little monsters are bad !

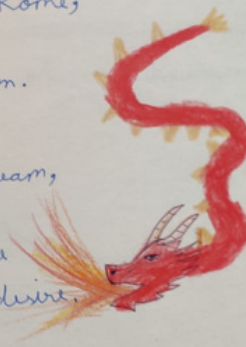
Contribution from
Grade -5

Hannibal - A story unbelievable

An obedient son he was,
Following his father camp to camp, battle to battle,
A keen learner he was,
He grasped all the war tactics,
He took an oath to destroy Rome,
Every breath he took,
Took him closer to his dream.

Deep down in Hannibal's dream,
Was a dragon full of steam
Bursting with flame and fire
Destroying Rome was his desire.

He made a path towards Italy
Preparing to attack the city
They faced avalanches
And met angry tribes
He marched up the mountains
While getting frost-bites.



Contribution from
Grade -6

Credits

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**For contributions/feedback please reach
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Thank You