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RELATIONSHIP ON RECORD

Post Summer Issue

JULY 2024

Summer of Growth

Inspiring Minds and
Building Community



Inaugural Province of Mindanao
JULY 2024

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02 August 2024

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YAR Children

@ Moolakadu, Salem

03 August 2024

Celebration with

young Salesians

@ Yerkand

04 August 2024

Celebration with

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05 August 2024

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PROVINCIAL DESK



My dear confreres and members of the Salesian Family:

It is my privilege and joy to present to you this month's edition of the Urvu magazine, especially following the hectic summer programs of 2024. My sincere appreciation and congratulations go out to all the Salesians and lay collaborators who have given their best for the welfare of the young people in our care, to whom we owe our life and mission. As we gear up to celebrate the conclusion of the Silver jubilee celebrations of our province, it is wonderful to see the variety of programs and activities that have been planned and executed in all our houses. God bless you all for your hard work and commitment. May our enthusiasm grow each day, serving as a great source of inspiration to the young.

We are all familiar with the saying, "An idle mind is the workshop of the devil." Today, young people are increasingly becoming addicted to various distractions, especially mobile phones. I was pleased to see in the workshop of our senior Salesian brother George a sign that read, "Keep busy and keep cheerful." This embodies the Salesian charism: helping the young to stay busy and cheerful every moment of their lives. As I perused the magazine, I was delighted to learn about the hundreds and thousands of young people who kept themselves busy and cheerful this summer by participating in all the programs with optimism and joy. I am certain that our father and founder, St. John Bosco, would be smiling at us all, feeling proud and elated about the multifarious activities conducted in our province. Let us continue this tradition in the future so that many more young people may develop themselves and journey toward a bright future.

Special thanks to the media team for producing this magazine with captivating layouts and attractive colours, which are sure to capture the readers' attention. I also extend my gratitude to all the authors of the articles, especially the Urvu correspondents from various Salesian communities, for their excellent documentation and timely reporting of important events. I encourage all of us to cultivate the habit of writing, not only to document history but more importantly to help the young develop their talents and potentials, ensuring they stay busy and cheerful.

Always with the young
Agilan Sarprasadam SDB

Engaging Summer Camps at Don Bosco Vidiavelli

Kalavasal: A Summer to Remember

This summer, Don Bosco Vidiavelli Kalavasal made a significant impact on the lives of children by hosting two distinct summer camps, each tailored to ignite different passions and cater to various age groups. These camps offered a blend of spiritual enrichment, educational activities, and recreational fun, ensuring an unforgettable summer for all participants.

Nurturing Young Minds: The Residential Camp for Catechism Children (VBS)

The "Vocation Bible Class" (VBS) camp provided a well-rounded experience for 45 children, focusing on strengthening their foundational knowledge of the Bible and enhancing their spoken English skills. The camp commenced on the evening of April 28, 2024, with the arrival of children from various parishes of the parish. Fr. Vimayan, Rector of Don Bosco Vidiavelli Kalavasal,



officially inaugurated the program on April 29, 2024.

To keep the children engaged and foster a spirit of camaraderie, participants were divided into groups and engaged in a variety of activities designed to be both fun and educational. Highlights of the camp included:

- Singing and Dance Competitions: Encouraged creativity and expression.
- Skit Performances and Fancy Dress Contests: Helped develop confidence and public-speaking skills.
- Treasure Hunts and Quizzes: Added adventure and mental stimulation.
- Indoor and Outdoor Games: Promoted physical activity and teamwork.
- Daily Holy Eucharist: Provided spiritual grounding.

The camp culminated in a closing ceremony on May 5, 2024, where

participants were recognized for their efforts and achievements through a prize distribution ceremony. The success of the camp is attributed to the unwavering dedication and visionary leadership of Fr. Paulsamy, the Parish Priest of Don Bosco Vidiavelli Parish Kalavasal. His guidance, along with the tireless efforts of dedicated volunteers, ensured a smooth and enriching experience for all the children.

Celebrating Talents: Summer Camp in Villages

The second camp aimed to provide a platform for children from 10 surrounding villages to showcase their talents. With a focus on celebration and skill development, the camp featured:

- Singing Competitions:** Allowed musically inclined children to shine.
- Elocution Contests:** Gave budding orators a platform to express themselves.
- Games:** Promoted teamwork and sportsmanship in a fun, inclusive environment.

The highlight of this camp was the opportunity for 300 children to come together, celebrate their talents, and forge new friendships across villages. These activities not only nurtured the children's talents but also fostered a sense of community and belonging.

A Summer of Growth and Learning

These summer camps provided children from surrounding villages with a chance to learn, grow, and connect with their peers in a stimulating and supportive environment. The camps catered to different age groups and interests, ensuring a summer filled with fun, learning, and personal development.

Special thanks and appreciation go to Fr. Anand, whose exceptional leadership was the cornerstone of the summer camp's triumph. His unwavering commitment and inspiring vision guided these programs to resounding success, leaving a positive impact on the lives of the children. We are deeply grateful for his dedication and the remarkable influence he has had on our community.

Conclusion

The summer camps at Don Bosco Vidiavelli Kalavasal were a resounding success, providing a positive and nurturing environment for young participants to learn and grow. These initiatives not only enhanced the participants' skills and knowledge but also fostered a sense of community and empowerment among the children. We look forward to more successful camps in the future, continuing to inspire and empower the youth of Kalavasal and its surrounding areas.

FR. IMMANUEL KARTHIK

HEALTHY MIND AND HEALTHY LIFE

Don Bosco Anbu Illam (DBAI) Coimbatore organized a vibrant summer camp for children attending the evening study centers. Approximately 330 children from 16 evening study centers participated in the camp, which revolved around the inspiring theme of "Healthy Mind and Healthy Life."

Objectives and Focus

The primary objective of the camp was to instill in the children the importance of maintaining both a healthy mind and a healthy body. The camp covered a range of topics essential for holistic development, including:

- Primacy of Education: Emphasizing the value of continuous learning and knowledge acquisition.
- Healthy Eating Habits: Educating



children about the negative impacts of junk food and the benefits of a balanced diet.

- Good Hygiene Practices: Promoting cleanliness and personal hygiene.
- Positive Interactions: Encouraging respectful and positive interactions with elders and peers.
- Life with Conviction: Instilling strong moral values and principles.

Camp Execution

The camp was meticulously planned in collaboration with the staff of Anbu Illam under the leadership of Fr. Amalorpavaraj.



Rector. The brothers and staff were divided into two teams to conduct the camp activities across the various evening study centers from the 29th of April to the 15th of May. The camp culminated in a grand event held at the Don Bosco School of Excellence, Vellaiyinai, along with other priests of DBAI.

Final Day Celebrations

The final day program was a lively mix of performances and competitions, including dance, skits, and various other activities. Approximately 253 children from the 16

evening study centers participated in this grand finale. The event was graced by esteemed guests including the Rector and Correspondent of Don Bosco School of Excellence, Vellaiyinai along with other priests of DBAI.



Conclusion

The summer camp at Don Bosco Anbu Illam was a remarkable success leaving a lasting impact on the participating children. The activities and lessons learned during the camp have undoubtedly contributed to fostering healthier minds and lives among the young participants.

CL JOSHUA MARASELVAM



Recognition and Awards

Prizes were awarded to the winners of the various competitions, and all participants received gifts as tokens of appreciation for their enthusiastic participation. The support, cooperation, and collaboration of the Salesian community staff and volunteers were instrumental in the camp's success, ensuring that the children not only enjoyed the events but also enriched their learning experiences.



INVESTITURE CEREMONY



Leadership and Excellence

at Don Bosco School of Excellence, Coimbatore

"Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge," said Simon Sinek. This philosophy was vividly demonstrated at Don Bosco School of Excellence, Coimbatore, through a series of events from March to June 2024, showcasing leadership, academic excellence, and community spirit.

Student Council Election

The student council election was held on 22nd June 2024, providing a democratic platform for students to exercise their fundamental right to vote. The preliminary round invited students interested in standing for elections to submit their nominations based on specific criteria. Campaigning commenced on 21st June 2024, and the final stage involved students from grades V to XII.

The polling process was democratic and anonymous, with students selecting their preferred candidates through an open voting system. This electoral process not only educated the students

about democracy but also encouraged them to take an active part in school governance.

Investiture Ceremony

The Investiture Ceremony on 29th June 2024 was a significant event, marking the official appointment of the new student council leaders. The ceremony was graced by Rev. Fr. Ricopar Royan as the chief guest and attended by students from grades VI to XII, teachers, and parents of the student council members. The event symbolized the beginning of a new chapter of leadership and responsibility at Don Bosco School of Excellence.

The ceremony highlighted the values of integrity, dedication, and leadership that the institution holds dear. The newly appointed leaders took an oath to uphold these values and lead their peers with responsibility and commitment.

Academic Achievements

Don Bosco School of Excellence achieved exceptional academic results for the academic year 2023-2024. The dedication and hard work of students and teachers culminated in outstanding outcomes, with a total score of 483 in Grade X and 454 in Grade XII. These results reflect the school's commitment to academic excellence and the holistic development of its students.

Cultural and Community Engagement

Apart from the academic and leadership events, Don Bosco School of Excellence also engaged students in various cultural and community activities. These initiatives aimed at fostering a well-rounded education, emphasizing the importance of community service and cultural awareness.

Conclusion

The period from March to June 2024 was marked by significant milestones for Don Bosco School of Excellence, Coimbatore. The student council election and investiture ceremony were not only educational experiences but also pivotal moments in the students' journey of leadership and personal growth. The exceptional academic results further underscore the school's dedication to excellence in education.

As Don Bosco School of Excellence continues to nurture future leaders, these events stand as a testament to the institution's commitment to providing a comprehensive and empowering education. The success of these initiatives highlights the collaborative efforts of students, teachers, and the wider school community in fostering an environment of learning, leadership, and excellence.

FR. GAMALIYEL



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Walk Ahead with English

A Transformative Summer at Don Bosco English Academy

Dindigul: The Don Bosco English Academy recently concluded its vibrant and impactful summer English camp "Walk Ahead with English" (WAWE), held across two batches from April to May 2024. The camp aimed at enhancing the English language skills of students through interactive and engaging activities. The inauguration ceremonies, led by Fr. Rector, set the stage for an enriching learning journey, emphasizing the importance of mastering English and the spiritual essence of the camp.

Inauguration and Student Enrollment

The camp was inaugurated on 8th April 2024 for the first batch and 2nd May 2024 for the second batch. A total of 157 students participated, with 78 in the first batch and 79 in the second batch. During the inauguration, Fr. Rector highlighted the significance of English proficiency in today's world and the holistic mission of Don Bosco English Academy. The students were divided into four teams—WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat—each receiving files and study materials tailored to their learning needs.

Structured Learning and Enthusiastic Participation

The camp featured separate classes for boys and girls, ensuring focused attention and effective learning. Nine dedicated teachers rotated between classes, imparting knowledge with zeal and energy. The students' enthusiasm was palpable, making the teaching process dynamic and interactive. The curriculum extended beyond the classroom, encouraging students to engage with teachers and peers to clarify doubts and practice their language skills.

Comprehensive Assessment and Continuous Improvement

To gauge the students' progress, two revision tests were conducted during the camp. Students were also given opportunities for self-learning, such as reading books and constructing sentences using verbs displayed on the notice board. These exercises were reviewed by mentors, ensuring continuous improvement. At the end of the course, students appeared for oral exams in self-introduction and grammar, which they found both challenging and enjoyable.

Daily Life at the Camp

The daily routine began with the Holy Mass, which was compulsory for Catholic students and optional for others. This spiritual start was followed by a morning study session and breakfast. The morning assembly, organized by different teams, included speeches on current topics, fostering public speaking skills. Classes ran from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, interspersed with breaks. Afternoon sessions included TED talks, class revisions, and mentoring, while evenings were dedicated to reading practice, worksheet completion, and preparation for competitions.

Engaging Competitions and Activities

The evenings came alive with a variety of competitions designed to showcase the students' talents. Activities included:

Ice Breakers

- Self-Introduction
- Language Building
- Object Explanation
- Acting out Tamil Film Comedy Scenes in English
- Skit Competitions

- Fancy Dress Competitions
- Fun Games
- English Hops
- Speech Competitions
- Debates
- Storytelling
- Advertisement Competitions

Sharing Unforgettable Moments in English

Singing Competitions (Tamil songs translated into English)

Students eagerly participated in these competitions, demonstrating creativity and collaboration. The efforts of the teams were commendable, with each group showing impressive performance and discipline.

Spiritual Enrichment

Spiritual guidance was integral to the camp, with early Holy Mass and opportunities for confession. On the penultimate day, an adoration cum confession session was held, allowing students to reflect and seek spiritual renewal. This experience was particularly meaningful for many students who made heartfelt confessions after many years. The Salesian vocation promoters from both SDB and FMA addressed the students, encouraging them to consider religious vocations.



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Valedictory Function

The camp concluded with a valedictory function where students showcased their talents and expressed gratitude towards the institution. Representatives from each team shared their camp experiences, and parents in attendance praised the training provided. It was heartening to see Tamil medium students confidently speaking in English. Prizes, including dictionaries, and certificates were awarded to all participants, celebrating their achievements and progress.

Conclusion

The "Walk Ahead with English" summer camp at Don Bosco English Academy was a transformative experience for all involved. The camp not only improved the students' language skills but also fostered a spirit of camaraderie, creativity, and spiritual growth. The dedication of the staff and the enthusiasm of the students made this camp a resounding success, setting a high standard for future educational initiatives.

CL. HENRY JIBIN ROSARY





SUMMER CAMP 2024

Nurturing Minds and Hearts in Saveriyarpalayam

The vibrant village of Saveriyarpalayam witnessed a transformative Vacation Bible School (VBS) camp titled "VENIL VIDUMURAYIL VIALLIVAM" from the 1st to the 17th of May 2024. Hosted at St. Xavier's Middle School, the camp brought together 115 children for a 15-day journey of faith, learning, and fun, guided by the blessings of Our Blessed Mother, St. John Bosco, and St. Francis Xavier.

Opening Ceremony

The camp commenced with a beautiful prayer service and the imprinting of palms on the VBS poster, symbolizing unity and collective spirit. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Fr. Justin Sengol SDB, Fr. Xavier Michael SDB, Fr. Albert SDB, and Sr. Sahay Mary CIC, who inspired the children with words of wisdom and blessings.

Team Spirit and Daily Routine

Children were divided into four teams: Love, Peace, Joy, and Hope. Each team, identified by distinct colours, participated in a series of activities and competitions fostering teamwork and camaraderie. The daily routine began with a Morning Assembly, where teams presented prayers, Bible readings, thoughts for the day, and news, setting a positive tone for the day.

Educational and Enriching Sessions

The camp featured a structured schedule with three morning sessions focused on:

- **Catechism Classes:** Learning the 73 books of the Bible, important biblical characters, and participating in quizzes on the Bible, Mother Mary, and saints.
- **Spoken English Classes:** Building basic English communication skills.



Special Animations: Covering a wide range of topics including healthcare, photography, handcrafts, self-defense, mental well-being, child protection policies, and life skills.

SOB, and Fr. Rubin Alex SDB, who guided the children for their constructive use of the holidays. Gifts were distributed to all participants and volunteers as tokens of appreciation.

Activities and Competitions

The camp also offered a plethora of games and competitions designed to enhance personal and social skills. Activities included party games, clay arts, singing, wealth from waste, paper crafts, outdoor games, cooking rangoli skies, fancy dress, treasure hunts, dance, campfires, and quizzes. These activities not only showcased the children's talents but also encouraged healthy competition and teamwork.

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual development was a key focus with daily rosary and Holy Eucharist sessions. Teams were responsible for animating these sessions, deepening their sense of devotion and love for the Blessed Mother. Regular attendance checks ensured active participation throughout the camp.

Valedictory Function

The camp concluded with a grand valedictory function on the 17th of May. Children, grouped by their interests, presented various performances, impressing parents and well-wishers. The function was graced by Fr. Justin Sengol SDB, Fr. Xavier Michael



Conclusion

The VBS camp at Saveriyarpalayam was a resounding success, leaving a profound impact on the participating children. Through a blend of faith, education, and fun, the camp has set a remarkable example of holistic development, nurturing both minds and hearts.

ON JOHN PAUL

St. Xavier's Church, Saveriyarpalayam, Dindigul: A Season of Milestones and Celebrations

Saveriyarpalayam, Dindigul: The parish of St. Xavier's Church in Saveriyarpalayam has witnessed a series of remarkable events and community initiatives, marking a season of progress and celebration. From the inauguration of a new community hall to impactful social service campaigns, the parish has been a hub of activity and engagement.



Inauguration of St. Xavier's Community Hall

On 14th April 2024, the long-awaited dream of the people of Savariyarpalayam came to fruition with the inauguration of St. Xavier's Community Hall. The event began with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Agilan, Provincial of the Salesian Province of Trichy, accompanied by priests, religious sisters, well-wishers, benefactors, and parishioners. The celebration was a heartfelt expression of gratitude to God, Mother Mary, St. John Bosco, and the patron St. Francis Xavier.

Fr. Xavier Michael, Vice-Provincial, blessed the hall, and Fr. Agilan officially opened it. The inauguration featured a vibrant cultural program, with children of the parish performing joyful dances, adding color to the occasion. The event concluded with a lunch for all attendees, making it a day of joy and community spirit.



Don Bosco Social Service Centre Initiatives

Helmet Awareness Campaign

On 3rd March 2024, the Don Bosco Scouts, in collaboration with the Traffic Police Department of Dindigul, organized a Helmet Awareness Campaign. The initiative emphasized the importance of wearing helmets for safety. Free helmets were distributed to two-wheeler riders, making a significant impact on road safety awareness in the district.

Women's Day Celebrations

Women's Day was celebrated at two levels at the Don Bosco Social Service Centre, Savariyarpalayam:

Ilam Thedi Kalvi Teachers' Celebration: On 2nd March 2024, 300 teachers from the Sandarpatti block gathered for a celebration. The event featured speeches by notable guests, including Mr. Thirupathi, Deputy Project Director of Ilam Thedi Kalvi, and Fr. Arul Justin, Parish Priest. A Women Parliament was created for the first time in the district, marking a significant step in empowering young women.

SUDAR Self Help Group Celebration: On 8th March 2024, 100 women from various Self Help Groups gathered under



the theme 'Panmai Enaihu Perumai'. The event included speeches by Sr. Brigit, Headmistress of Our Lady School, and other dignitaries. The SUDAR SHG also supported a beneficiary with a tailoring machine, highlighting their commitment to community support.

Environmental Initiatives

The Don Bosco Eco Club actively participated in World Environment Day on 5th June 2024. Along with the Railway Police Force and auto drivers, they distributed saplings to passengers at Dindigul junction. On 17th June 2024, a tree plantation event was organized at Dindigul jail, and saplings were distributed to the South Police Station. These activities were aimed at raising environmental awareness and promoting greenery in the community.

World Day Against Child Labour

On 12th June 2024, the parish observed World Day Against Child Labour across all evening study centers. Children took an oath and participated in activities aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of child labour and the importance of education.

World Anti-Drug Day

The parish marked World Anti-Drug Day on 26th June 2024 with an awareness rally organized by the Don Bosco Children Movement. The rally emphasized the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of a drug-free society. Fr. Jeyabalan from the Manithami De-addiction Centre spoke on preventive measures, while Fr. Xavier Michael, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee of Dindigul and Madurai, encouraged children to spread awareness among their peers and families.

Conclusion

The recent activities at St. Xavier's Church, Savariyarpalayam, highlight the parish's commitment to community development and social welfare. Through various initiatives and celebrations, the parish continues to inspire and empower its members, fostering a spirit of unity and progress. These events have not only brought the community closer but also set a precedent for future endeavour in social service and community engagement.

FR. ALBERT YESUDAS

Empowering Young Minds: "CHILL SUMMER 2024"



In a remarkable initiative to foster holistic development among children from neighbouring villages, the Tharangam Community of Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Kazhiappanallur, organized the vibrant "CHILL SUMMER 2024" camp. This summer camp, held across three different locations, aimed to instill essential values and life skills in young minds, engaging them in a variety of educational and recreational activities.

Introduction

The Tharangam Community has been dedicated to serving neighbouring villages through Evening Study Centres since its inception. Currently reaching out to 272

students from 3rd to 12th grade across 10 villages, the community extends its support even during holidays by organizing enriching summer camps. The primary goal of these camps is to help students acquire values that enable them to become better individuals in society.

Camp Objectives

The main objectives of "CHILL SUMMER 2024" were to impart knowledge on the importance of education, cleanliness, unity, and to instill values for life. These objectives were achieved through a mix of classes, competitions, games, seminars, songs, and debates. The camp was meticulously organized under the guidance of:

Rev. Fr. Daniel Sebastian SDB
Rev. Fr. Prince Raja SDR
Rev. Fr. Robert William SDB
Sr. George SDB
Sr. Livingston SOS
Sr. Robert Sahayaraj SDB

CHILL SUMMER: ONE

The first camp was held in Thodaraipettai, with 63 enthusiastic students participating over four days. Nearby night schools such as Abisakalattai and Thiruvilakkachi also took part. Inaugurated by the village chief, the camp included value education classes, games, and sing-alongs each morning. Competitions such as fancy dress, singing, dancing, skits, speeches, and drawing were highlights of the camp. The event concluded with a valedictory function where prizes were distributed to the children.

CHILL SUMMER: TWO

The second camp took place in Malayur Kanni Kovil Street, benefiting 58 students along with participants from Karuvazhalakkal and Mala Pathi New Street night schools. The camp activities were inaugurated by the village chief and included daily classes on cleanliness, the importance of reading, and unity. Special events like Rangoli, treasure hunts, singing, dancing, and fancy dress competitions kept the students engaged. The camp concluded with a valedictory program, where prizes



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were distributed in the presence of the children's parents.

CHILL SUMMER: THREE

The final camp was held in Therangambadi, with 53 students participating including those from nearby night schools like Kazhucheri, Puthupatti, and Thirukkalecheri. Daily sessions focused on teaching values for life, supplemented by a variety of games, songs, and competitions. Events such as sand sculpting, Rangoli, speeches, and skits added excitement. The valedictory program featured the headmistress of St. John's School who distributed prizes and expressed gratitude to the organizing committee for their efforts.

Conclusion

The "CHILL SUMMER 2024" camp was a resounding success, thanks to the dedicated support and constant guidance from the community. Sr. Robert Sahayaraj SDB expressed heartfelt gratitude towards the Tharangam Community, Fr. Rector, the Salesians, the boarding boys, the coordinator Mr. Naderaj, and the evening study teachers and volunteers. Their collective efforts ensured the camp's success, making a significant impact on the young participants.

S.R. ROBERT SAHAYARAJ SDB

Empowering the Marginalised: Living Don Bosco's Dream at Keela Eral

"We should not serve the poor like they were Jesus. We should serve the poor because they are Jesus." - St. Mother Teresa

At Don Bosco Mission Keela Eral, we are dedicated to living the dream of Don Bosco by uplifting the standard of living for the poor, the young, orphans, and the marginalized. Situated in a rural area, Keela Eral Parish serves the spiritual and holistic empowerment of its community members. From March to May 2024, the Don Bosco Mission organized several impactful events aimed at nurturing the minds and souls of the local populace.



Holistic Initiatives for Community Empowerment

Easter Blessings and Sacramental Statistics

From 10th April to 20th May, Deacon Sabinson undertook the Easter blessings and compiled sacramental statistics across various villages including Bommalyapuram, Mathapuram, Ettayapuram, Echilappanayakkanpatti, Valampatti, Mala Eral, and Keela Eral. Visiting around 250 families, he assessed their sacramental needs, highlighting the immediate requirement for the sacraments of initiation and marriage rectification. This initiative provided an enriching

experience by connecting with families and understanding their spiritual and social circumstances.

Bommalyapuram Village Festival

From 1st to 10th May, Bommalyapuram celebrated its 82nd annual feast in honour of Adakkalai Matha. The festival, organised in collaboration with the Salesians and the parish priest, culminated in a grand celebration presided over by Rev. Bishop Stephen Antony Pillai, who conferred Holy Communion and Confirmation to 14 children. The community's active participation made the event a resounding success.

Catechism Annual Day and Picnic

On 28th April, the annual day for catechism children saw 35 children and 15 volunteer teachers gather at Don Bosco College of Arts and Science. The day was filled with engaging activities and Biblical teachings, culminating in a showcase of the children's

talents through songs, dances, and skits. Following this, the children enjoyed a delightful picnic at Bee Town Water Park near Thoothukudi Airport.

VBS Camp SEMA SUMMER Rock n Roll with Jesus 2.0

From 1st to 16th May, the Vacation Bible School (VBS) camp titled "SEMA SUMMER Rock n Roll with Jesus 2.0" was conducted across Keela Eral, Bommalyapuram, and Mathapuram. Targeting students from 1st to 12th standard, the camp saw 165 participants. The programme included educational sessions, competitions, and special events designed to instill Biblical knowledge and essential life skills. Children were grouped into teams named after the four evangelists: Angels (Matthew), Bulls (Mark), Lions (Luke), and Eagles (John). The camp concluded with a valedictory function and prize distribution, celebrating the children's active participation and achievements.

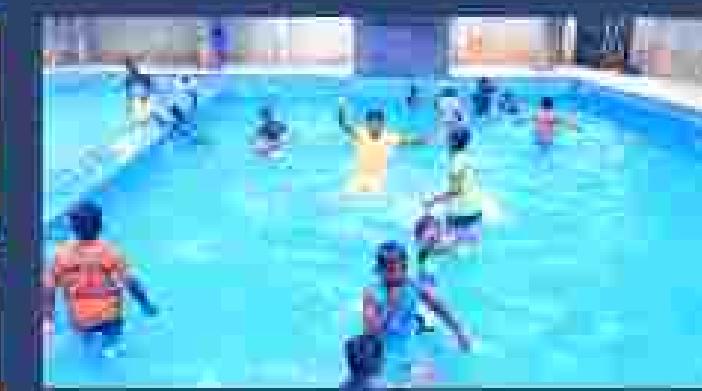


Football Coaching Camp

Held from 8th to 13th May, the football coaching camp, led by Fr. George Chinnappan SDB and head coach Mr. Edwin Louis, provided intensive training to 35 boys. The camp featured a mix of theoretical and practical sessions, culminating in a final day match. The participants, divided into Super Seniors, Seniors, and Juniors, showcased remarkable enthusiasm and skill development, setting a high standard for future events.

Theekuchi Folk Arts Training Camp

From 24th to 28th May, the "Theekuchi" Folk Arts Training Camp aimed at preserving traditional arts and uplifting underprivileged students. Organised by Fr. George Chinnappan and supported by the SC/ST Commission, the camp featured 20 participants learning various folk arts such as Oyil, Karagam, Lezim, Silambam, and Palai. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Fr. Rajadevan.



Conclusion

The community of Don Bosco Keela Eräl tirelessly works towards the holistic empowerment of the local populace. Through various initiatives and events, we strive to uplift and nurture the young and marginalized, ensuring their growth in faith, education, and life skills. My time at Keela Eräl during my diaconate ministry has been an enriching and transformative experience, moulding me into a better pastor for the future. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Don Bosco Mission Keela Eräl community and the local people for their support and collaboration.

DR. SARVANSON SDB

and other dignitaries, who emphasized the importance of cultural heritage and education. The camp successfully revived interest in folk arts, providing students with valuable skills and confidence.

A Blend of Learning and Celebration

Summer Specials at Don Bosco Youth Village, Keeranur

Keeranur: The Don Bosco Youth Village in Keeranur hosted a series of impactful events and programmes this summer, aimed at educating and enriching the lives of young participants. Highlighting the importance of social responsibility and skill development, these events were well-received by both the children and their parents.

Observing International Day Against Substance Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

On 26th June 2024, the Don Bosco Youth Village, in collaboration with Arockia Annal Hr. Sec. School and Utkamadhu Kalividai Trust, an addiction treatment centre initiated by DB JANANAM, observed World Anti-Drug Day. The event aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of prevention.

Fr. John Dharman, in his introductory address, emphasized the international theme for the day: "EVIDENCE IS CLEAR INVEST IN PREVENTION." Around 1500 children participated in the event, forming the slogan "SAY NO TO DRUGS" to convey the day's message powerfully. The event was graced by honourable judges Mrs. Muruganandhi and Mr. C. Rajesh of Keeranur Judiciary, along with personnel from the Police Department, including DSP Mr. Siva Subramanian, Mr. Anand Menickam, President of the Commerce Association Keeranur, inspired the children to spread the anti-drug message in their homes and neighbourhoods. The entire event was captured by a drone camera and shared across all social media platforms.

Engaging Summer Camps

The summer camp at Don Bosco Youth Village featured three diverse and enriching programmes:



Folk Arts Training

The Folk Arts Training programme, held over five days, attracted 60 participants who quickly developed a passion for folk dances. The children mastered their skills to such an extent that they are now ready to perform at local feasts and celebrations, showcasing their newly acquired talents.

Spoken English Course

The two-week Spoken English course drew 50 participants from the neighbourhood. The coaching team, comprising lay experts, provided effective language training. The children, who paid a nominal fee, made remarkable progress in their English skills. Plans are in place to follow up with regular refresher courses throughout the year to ensure continued improvement.

Scout Training

The three-day Scout Training programme saw enthusiastic participation from 32 children. The training focused on the basics of scouting, fostering a spirit of discipline and teamwork among the young participants.

Positive Impact and Feedback

All the summer programmes received a warm welcome from both parents and children. For the participants, the summer activities at Don Bosco Youth Village were a delightful and enriching experience. Many children expressed their desire to spend more of their summer vacation at the village, reflecting the success and impact of the programmes.

Conclusion

The summer initiatives at Don Bosco Youth Village, Keeranur, were a resounding success, providing valuable opportunities for learning, personal development, and community engagement. The combination of educational programmes and social awareness activities ensured a holistic approach to summer learning. With the support of dedicated organizers and enthusiastic participants, the Youth Village continues to inspire and empower the youth of Keeranur.

FR. BARNABAS



Propel English Camp 2024

Nurturing Language Skills and Unity at Don Bosco Kuthenkuly



Kuthenkuly: The "Propel" English camp at Don Bosco Kuthenkuly, held from April 12 to 27, 2024, brought together 73 students, 13 volunteers, and 6 Salesians for a transformative 15-day immersive learning experience. This camp focused on mastering English tenses and other fundamental language skills, providing a comprehensive platform for academic growth and community building. The collaborative environment and diverse activities played a crucial role in the camp's success, fostering linguistic development and a sense of unity among the participants.

Inauguration and Opening Activities

The camp began with a short inaugural program on April 12, 2024, at 6:20 p.m., graced by parish priests from neighbouring areas. Their support and encouragement set a positive tone for the camp. The following day started with a Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Johnson, the correspondent of

Don Bosco Kuthenkuly, whose inspiring words motivated both participants and volunteers.

Daily Schedule and Activities

Each day commenced with a morning assembly, providing students the opportunity to speak on stage, practice English, and build confidence. The classes focused on English tenses, parts of speech, useful sentences, and basic conversational skills. These activities were coordinated by Father Januarius, assisted by Brother Edwin, with unwavering support from other Salesians. Their dedication and enthusiasm significantly contributed to the camp's success.

Evening Programs and Activities

The evenings were filled with interactive programs and grammar games to reinforce daily lessons in an engaging manner. Various games promoted teamwork and

KUTHENKULY

friendships among the participants, helping them develop not only their language skills but also their social skills and confidence.

Spiritual Development

In addition to academic activities, participants engaged in spiritual development through daily Holy Eucharist, rosary, and religious hymns. These spiritual elements fostered a sense of community and personal growth, strengthening the bonds among participants.

Excursion to Kanyakumari

As part of the camp's holistic approach, students were taken on an excursion to Kanyakumari from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This trip provided a much-needed break from the rigorous academic schedule, allowing students to unwind and experience the beauty of India's southernmost tip. The excursion encouraged students to connect outside the classroom, fostering friendships and shared experiences in a natural setting. The stunning views and serene atmosphere offered a refreshing escape, making it an enjoyable and memorable outing for everyone involved.

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the parish priests of neighbouring parishes for their invaluable support in conducting the camp. Their presence at the inaugural event and continued encouragement were essential to the camp's success. Furthermore, we owe a debt of gratitude to the parents who trusted us with their children's education and supported our efforts. Their collaboration and participation in camp-related activities contributed to the welcoming and positive environment that made this camp truly memorable.

Outcomes and Conclusion

The combined efforts of the Salesians, volunteers, parish priests, parents, and enthusiastic students made the "Propel" English camp a resounding success. By the end of the camp, students had significantly improved their English skills and forged lasting friendships. The mix of learning, spiritual growth, and recreational activities ensured a holistic experience for all involved.

The "Propel" English camp at Don Bosco Kuthenkuly not only enhanced the linguistic abilities of the participants but also fostered a strong sense of community and personal development. The success of this camp underscores the importance of comprehensive educational programs that integrate academic, spiritual, and social growth.

FR. JANUARIUS



LALGUDI - Manakkal



A Week of Fun and Learning

Manakkal Summer Camp 2024

Manakkal: From 3rd to 8th May 2024, the Manakkal community hosted a joyful and enriching summer camp that brought together 45 boys and girls. The camp was designed to provide a balanced blend of spiritual education and engaging activities, ensuring that the children had a memorable and productive week.

Daily Activities and Structure

Each day of the camp was thoughtfully structured to maximize learning and fun. The mornings were dedicated to catechism classes, where the children received valuable spiritual lessons and insights. These sessions were aimed at deepening

their understanding of faith and building a strong moral foundation.

As the day progressed, the atmosphere became increasingly vibrant with a variety of engaging activities. The evenings were filled with lively party games that fostered camaraderie and teamwork among the participants. Special events added a unique charm to the camp, offering platforms for the children to showcase their talents in various competitions.

Competitions and Talent Shows

The camp featured a series of competitions, including singing, dancing, drawing,

and cooking. Each event provided an opportunity for the children to display their creativity and skills. The singing competition resonated with melodious voices, the dance sessions brought dynamic energy, and the drawing and cooking competitions showcased the children's artistic and culinary talents.

This harmonious blend of education and entertainment not only fostered the campers' personal growth but also created lasting memories. The summer camp at Manakkal was a resounding success, leaving the children with new friendships, enhanced talents, and a deeper appreciation for learning and community.

Village Festival "Mary Help of Christians"

The Village Festival, celebrated under the auspicious title "Mary Help of Christians," commenced on 13th May 2024 with a solemn flag-hoisting ceremony. The festivities continued until 19th May, culminating in a grand celebration. Parish priests were invited throughout the week to celebrate masses, adding spiritual significance to the occasion.

A highlight of the festival was a vibrant car procession that wound its way through the village, showcasing the community's joy and devotion. The parishioners were filled with enthusiasm and happiness as they came together to celebrate their faith and heritage. The Village Festival fostered a sense of unity and amity among the villagers, serving as a testament to their unwavering faith and community spirit.

Spiritual Pilgrimage to Sogathur

Under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Jude Muthuselvan, Rector of Manakkal Parish, two groups of devoted parishioners embarked on a spiritual pilgrimage to

Sogathur, a revered divine center. The first group visited on 6th June; followed by the second group on 13th June. This faith-renewing program drew a total of 45 participants seeking to deepen their spiritual lives and unite with the divine.

The journey was a testament to the parish's commitment to nurturing a strong spiritual foundation. Led by Fr. Jude Muthuselvan, the participants immersed themselves in a comprehensive program designed to revitalise their faith. The experience included prayerful reflections, inspiring sessions, and moments of contemplation, all aimed at rejuvenating their spiritual essence.

The spiritual journey to Sogathur proved to be a transformative experience, empowering the participants to return to their daily lives with renewed vigour, hope, and a deeper connection with the Almighty. The Manakkal Parish community celebrates this collective spiritual growth and expresses gratitude to Fr. Jude Muthuselvan for his dedication to their faith journey.

Conclusion

The summer camp, village festival, and spiritual pilgrimage organized by Manakkal Parish in 2024 were a testament to the community's dedication to holistic development. These events not only provided opportunities for learning and growth but also fostered a sense of unity and spiritual enrichment among the participants. The success of these initiatives reflects the strong leadership and commitment of the parish to nurturing both the minds and spirits of its members.

FR. IMMANUEL KARTHIK



A Summer of Faith and Fun

Kodai Vivilia Kondattam @ Madurai

Kodai Vivilia Kondattam (KVK for 2K Kids) 2024, Run, Jump, Play But Do Not Sin – St. John Bosco

Summer Camp Report

The Salesian community of Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur, Madurai, organised an engaging summer camp cum Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the parish children from 6th May to 18th May 2024. The camp, themed "Kodai Vivilia Kondattam" (KVK for 2K Kids – 2024), aimed to enrich the children's understanding of the Bible and Catholic faith through a variety of events and activities over 11 days. The camp saw an enthusiastic enrolment of 131 children, with 98 attending the inauguration.

Organising Committee and Volunteers

The camp was organised under the guidance of:
Rev. Fr. George Fernandez – The Rector & Parish Priest
Rev. Fr. Eugene Florence – The Administrator
Rev. Br. Yovan – Student Brother

Rev. Br. Selva – Camp Incharge

Volunteers Ms. Jacqueline, Ms. Jasmine, and Mr. Hendry played a crucial role in conducting the camp for the parish children.

Objectives of the Camp

The primary objective was to provide an enjoyable yet educational experience that would help children grow in faith. The camp focused on imparting knowledge about Christ and the Scriptures, while also covering various essential topics such as moral values, positive use of social media, and mobile addiction. The aim was to keep the children engaged in activities related to the Scripture, promoting a positive environment for their growth alongside their peers.

Inauguration

The VBS camp was solemnly inaugurated on 6th May 2024 by Rev. Fr. George Fernandez and Rev. Fr. Shaktaraj. They inaugurated the camp by presenting

shaws to each team leaders. The children were divided into four teams named after the evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Daily Activities and Learning

The camp ran from 9:15 AM each day, beginning with a prayer and morning talk. Regular classes and seminars started from the second day, handled by Br. Selva and the volunteers. Topics included:

- Biblical Stories
- Moral Values and Stories
- Mobile Addiction
- Positive Elements of Social Media

Br. Yovan and volunteers conducted sessions on stories, action songs, and claps.

Special Programmes and Competitions

The camp featured an array of special programmes and competitions to foster enthusiasm and team spirit among the children. These included:

- Short Films on the Lives of Prophets & Kings
- Life Events of Salesian Saints
- Dance, Singing, and Storytelling Competitions
- Fancy Dress and Fireless Cooking Competitions
- Marian and Bible Exhibitions
- Jolly Time with Party Games and Action Songs

The children actively participated in these events, showcasing their talents and teamwork.

Concluding Day and Prize Distribution

Originally planned for 18th May, the valedictory function and prize distribution were postponed to 24th May due to heavy rain. After the feast day Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. George, the event featured

cultural programmes followed by the distribution of prizes. Rev. Fr. George and Rev. Fr. Packiraj graced the occasion as chief guests, commending the children's efforts and distributing the prizes.

Conclusion

The "Kadal Vivilia Kondattam - 2024" summer camp successfully concluded, leaving a lasting impact on the children. The Salesian community's dedication to enriching the children's faith and knowledge was evident throughout the camp. The children, parents, and volunteers expressed immense satisfaction with the camp's activities and outcomes.

DN. SABINSON SOB



Summer Football Coaching Camp at Don Bosco Surya Nagar: Nurturing Future Athletes

Madurai: The community of Don Bosco Surya Nagar, Madurai recently concluded a highly successful summer football coaching camp. Held from 26th May to 2nd June 2024, this camp was designed to foster both physical fitness and technical prowess in young athletes. With 50 enthusiastic participants, the camp provided an intensive training regimen aimed at enhancing the football skills and overall fitness of the boys, many of whom were from our own school and football academy.

not only physical and technical training but also moral and ethical guidance.

Nutrition and Refreshments

To support the physical demands of the training, eggs and bananas were distributed to the boys on specific days (4th May, 12th May, 26th May, and 2nd June). These refreshments played a crucial role in keeping the boys energized and focused throughout the rigorous sessions.

Goals and Achievements

The primary goal of the camp was to offer systematic training and foster professionalism in young players, essentially guiding them towards a future in sports. The camp prioritized physical stamina and technical skills with sessions focused on improving technical competence and conducting physical exercises.

The success of the camp was evident as the boys demonstrated significant improvements in their stamina and skills. They were able to run and play for over an hour without showing signs of fatigue, reflecting the effectiveness of the training program. The boys' passion for football was palpable, and their commitment to attending the sessions on time every day contributed to the camp's overall success.

Holistic Development

In addition to football training, the camp emphasized the holistic development of the participants. Members of the Salesian community were actively involved, sharing messages about Don Bosco and instilling values that go beyond the football field. This approach ensured that the boys received

Conclusion:

The summer football coaching camp at Don Bosco Surya Nagar was a resounding success, exceeding expectations in both participation and outcomes. The camp not only improved the boys' football skills but also instilled a sense of discipline, teamwork, and dedication. The positive feedback from both participants and organizers underscores the camp's impact in nurturing future athletes.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the coaches, Salesian community members, and all those who contributed to making this camp a memorable and fruitful experience for the boys. The success of this initiative has set a high standard for future programs, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to inspire and empower young athletes.

FR. ANAND



Summer Heats in Namakkal:

Transformative Camps for Youth

Namakkal: This summer, Don Bosco Vidyalayam Kalavasal in Namakkal organized a series of enriching and educational camps aimed at providing children and young people with valuable skills and experiences. These camps were designed to utilize the summer holidays productively, offering programs that ranged from English language learning to computer skills training. The initiatives were met with enthusiasm and active participation from the local youth.

English Camp:

Recognizing the need for English proficiency among children from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds, a ten-day English camp was organized from 24th April to 3rd May 2024. The camp targeted children aged 10-17 years, providing them with the basics of spoken English.

Key Highlights:

Participation: 35 children actively participated in the camp.

Instructors: Br. Alwinraj, a student of philosophy, along with RHS candidates Christopher and Nis, conducted the sessions. They were supported by Brs. Britto and Nirmal from the DBA Namakkal Community.

Activities: The camp included grammar lessons, vocabulary building, reading practice, and interactive games to enhance speaking skills.

Summer Camps Across Villages

To ensure children utilized their summer holidays in a meaningful way, five-day camps were conducted across various villages for children aged 6-17 years. These camps aimed at holistic development through various activities and awareness programs.

Key Highlights:

Locations and Participation:

Varadarajapuram: 42 participants (17th April - 21st April 2024)



Nerur: 67 participants (24th April - 28th April 2024)

Thalamalaiapatti: 59 participants (8th May - 12th May 2024)

Pudupotti: 46 participants (15th May - 19th May 2024)

Activities: Included games, personal hygiene and health awareness, child rights education, cultural and environmental activities, and talent exploration.

Objectives Achieved: The camps helped children improve their self-image, confidence, and general knowledge, and provided them with a quest for learning and personal development.

Computer Skill Training

Understanding the increasing importance of computer literacy, a month-long computer course was conducted from 1st May to 31st May 2024. The course was designed for young people and students who had completed their higher secondary



education, aiming to equip them with essential computer skills.

Key Highlights:

Participation: The course drew significant interest, especially from young women, due to the rising demand for computer skills in the local job market.

Instructor: S. Janifer led the comprehensive training sessions.

Curriculum:

Basics of computer operations and MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

Introduction to photo-editing with Adobe Photoshop and video editing with Pinnacle. Training on internet usage, social media, and online shopping.

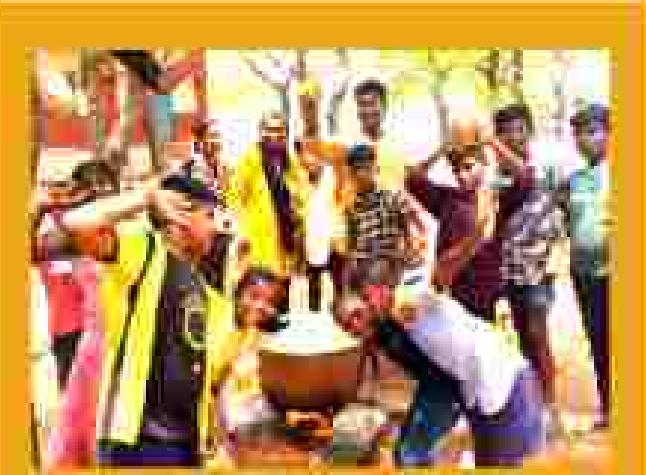
Practical sessions and assessments to ensure skill mastery.

Conclusion

The summer camps, organized by Don Bosco Vidivelvi Kalavasal in Namakkal, were a resounding success. These initiatives not only provided the children with essential skills and knowledge but also ensured they spent their summer holidays in a productive and meaningful way. The enthusiastic participation and positive feedback from both the children and their parents highlighted the impact and success of these programs.

Special thanks to the dedicated team of instructors and volunteers who made these camps possible. Their commitment and hard work ensured that the children had an enriching and enjoyable summer, paving the way for a brighter future.

FRIAMOS



Jillunu Sila Kaalam

Enriching Young Minds at Don Bosco Parish

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

With the blessings of the Divine Word, we commenced the Vacation Bible School titled "Jillunu Sila Kaalam." This enriching camp took place from 27th April to 11th May 2024, welcoming 148 children (64 boys and 84 girls) from seven villages of our Don Bosco Parish (Nettur). Held across Kalakudi, Seethakurichi, Nettur, and Kavalakurichi, the camp was a remarkable success supported by dedicated volunteers and the community. Here is a brief overview of the camp activities at each location.



Kalakudi Camp

The camp in Kalakudi began on 27th April with registration, followed by ice-breakers and games to make the children feel at home. The inauguration was led by Rev. Fr. Vincent SDB, the Parish Priest. Forty-two children benefited from this camp, starting each day with prayer and singing practice for Mass. Daily themes and Bible verses were introduced for meditation and memorization, enhancing the children's spiritual growth. The camp concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, made possible with the support of parishioners.

Seethakurichi Camp

Seethakurichi also kicked off its camp on 27th April, starting with registration and ice-

breaker activities. The children were divided into three teams: Mary, Jesus, and Joseph. Daily assemblies allowed teams to share their experiences and achievements. Classes focused on the early Church and the seven sacraments, complemented by activities like VBS songs, seminars, outdoor games, and evening competitions. The children learned prayers and engaged in various educational and entertaining activities.

Nettur Camp

The Bible Summer Camp at Nettur ran from 6th to 11th May 2024, aiming to provide a spiritually enriching experience for children and teens. The camp began with an opening ceremony led by Assistant Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Siluvai Adimi SDB, followed by ice-breaker activities. Highlights included Bible study sessions, creative workshops, role-playing exercises, and a talent show. The camp concluded with a day of celebration, where children showcased their talents in cooking and various performances, with parents invited to witness their achievements.

Kavalakurichi Camp

The camp in Kavalakurichi started on 6th May with forty children. The inaugural function featured a prayer service and an address by Fr. Rajadevan. The children participated in daily assemblies, classes on basic prayers and sacraments, and a variety of competitions including drawing, cooking, and treasure hunts. The final day featured a memorable concluding program with dance

and singing performances, followed by prize distribution.

Special Programmes and Activities

Across all locations, special programmes were organised to raise awareness about environmental responsibility, health, and hygiene. Talks on "Green Village - Clean Village," media usage, and the number of diseases in Tamil Nadu were conducted. Outdoor games like handball, hand cricket, throwball, and leg cricket were also arranged. Afternoon sessions included party games, singing, drama, dance, and Bible quizzes, providing ample opportunities for children to showcase their talents.

Conclusion

The "Jillunu Sila Kaalam" summer camp was a well-organised event, made possible by the support of the Rector of the Community, Rev. Fr. Rajadevan, Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Vincent, and Fathers Siluvai Adimi and Aldon. The children thoroughly enjoyed the camp, with many expressing a desire for an extended duration. Special thanks to Br. Jibin, Mr. Daniel, Ms. Sangeetha, and volunteers Kulandai Rijjin Idhayan, whose sacrifices and efforts ensured the camp's success. We also extend our gratitude to our benefactors whose generosity made this possible. We hope this camp helped the children to cool their hearts with the Word of God.

CL. JAMES YOGESH



Summer Camp Report

Funshine 2024



INTRODUCTION

The community of Bosco Maiyam, Sagaya Nagar Parish held a summer camp in a broad manner from 1st May 2024 to 22nd May 2024 and also had first Holy communion class from 1st of May to 22nd of May 2024. This camp is mainly conducted for the students from 3rd to 9th standard students; since 10th, 11th and 12th students write their public exam. Around 100 students enrolled their names and participated in this summer camp. The camp was entitled as Funshine 2024. The students from Pallithamman, Puliyadithamman and Nedodai and the locality participated in this camp.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

1. Fr. Susai Savariannan Sdb
2. Fr. Viyanni Sdb
3. Fr. Xavier Vinoth Sdb
4. Dr. Vimal Sdb
5. Bro. Mathew (Diocese)
6. Bro. Arun Sdb
7. Sr. Roselin SMA

OBJECTIVES OF THE SUMMER CAMP

The target age group for the summer camps were children from 6-14 years old. The whole idea of the summer camp is to increase the learning level of the student and instilling in them the skills needed for their welfare.

- Children must be introduced to Zumba dance, life-based activities.
- Children should come out of stage fear and creating in them self-confidence.
- Instilling in them value-based life through seminars and competitions.
- Teaching the children how to live their life with convictions.
- Making them happy by teaching action songs and party games.

DAILY ORGANIZATION OF THE CLASS

- Assembly
- Action Songs
- Break
- Seminars, Short story
- Party Games
- Competitions
- Departure

COMPETITIONS

We had invited great personalities to interact with the children on various topics. The seminars were really effective and useful to our children. The various seminar topics and the personnel are:

- Fr. Anto- Green Energy
- Dr. Vimal- Health, First Holy Communion prayers
- Fr. Xavier Vinoth- General Knowledge, Hand crafts
- Bro. Arun- Action Songs, Claps
- Bro. Mathew- Eco Concern, Biblical world
- Sr. Roselin- First Holy Communion

SPECIAL EVENTS

We have organized various special events, party games, competitions and Zumba Dance to make the children happy and to bring out their talents.



Children were very interested and cooperative in all the events.

INAUGURATION

We have inaugurated the summer camp on 1st May 2024. Fr. Susai Savariannan, Rector and Parish Priest of Bosco Maryam and other confreres were also present for this event.

Funshine 2024

There were around 100 students enrolled their names for this camp. 90 students were regularly present for all the events. They were divided into three teams namely Fun, Sun, and Gun. Children were actively involved in all the events with team spirit and with sportive mind.

VALEDICTORY FUNCTION & PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

We concluded the summer camp on 22nd May 2024 with the valedictory function together with the children of Nedodai. Fr. Susai Savariannan Sdb, Fr. Xavier Vinoth Sdb, Dr. Vimal, Bro. Arun and the Parents were the chief guests for this event. Students



exhibited their talents through dance, singing, action songs, etc. Fr. Xavier Vinoth gave the chief guest talk and motivated the students towards their future. At the end, the children were awarded with the prizes without any disparity. All the parents and children were very much happy about the summer camp 2024 and its events.

WORKS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE CAMP

- Recruiting and conscientizing the students of different schools of locality (2 Government schools, and all the villages of Sagar Nagar Parish, Bosco Mayam).
- Advertised through Sunday's instructions before the summer camp.
- Planning the events and getting the prizes for the children.

EVALUATION OF THE SUMMER CAMP

It was a cherishing experience for me to conduct this Sunshine 2024 summer camp. First of all, I would like to place on record the immense cooperation that we received from the Rector and confreres of Bosco Mayam community in conducting this Sunshine 2024. Fr. Rector and the administrator had provided us with all the necessary equipment for our summer camp. So, I extend my special thanks to all the Salesians for the motivation and help rendered throughout the camp. I experienced a greater amount of happiness in living with this community during my stay over here and in conducting this summer camp. They were very approachable and friendly and ready to sacrifice their time and energy for this camp. Thanks a lot.

DN. VIMAL SDB



URAVU

Summer of Joy and Learning

Don Bosco Anbu Illam's Enriching Activities in Salem

Salem witnessed a vibrant and transformative summer at Don Bosco Anbu Illam (DBAI) organized a series of activities aimed at the holistic development of children across various regions. From educational programs to exciting camps, DBAI ensured that the summer of 2024 was filled with learning, fun, and valuable experiences.

APRIL ACTIVITIES

Election Manifesto for Children's Welfare

On 1st April 2024, Don Bosco Anbu Illam Salem released an election manifesto titled "*Voice to be Heard - The Future Voters*." The event presided over by Fr. Casimir, the director of DBAI, highlighted the four fundamental rights of children as outlined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): survival, development, participation, and protection. Esteemed panellists, including Mr. Thirunavukarasu, Assistant Professor of Microbiology at Government Medical College, and Mr. S.V. Govindaraju, former Joint Director of Collegiate Education, discussed the manifesto's key aspects.

Higher Studies and Career Guidance

Recognizing the needs of children from marginalized communities, DBAI, in collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu's Athi Dravidar Department, conducted a higher studies and career guidance program. On 15th April 2024, 250 students from 16 working areas were taken to Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College to explore educational and career



opportunities post-12th standard. Experts from various fields provided insights on different courses and career paths.

Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Casimir Raj SDB

The Silver Jubilee of the ordination of Fr. Casimir Raj was celebrated on 21st April 2024 at Mulluvadigate. The event was attended by Salesians, diocesan priests, religious members, family, friends, and benefactors. The Holy Eucharist, followed by a felicitation ceremony and fraternal meal, marked the occasion. The celebration was a testament to Fr. Casimir's dedication and service.

MAY ACTIVITIES

Kalloori Kanavu: Higher Studies and Career Guidance

On 15th May 2024, Salem Corporation, in collaboration with just Now Salem and DBAI, organized "*Kalloori Kanavu*" at Jayarani Women's Arts and Science College. The program, presided over by Mr. S. Balachander IAS, provided guidance for students seeking higher education opportunities. Around 230 students benefitted from the event, gaining insights on various courses and government scholarship programs.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT DBAI - SALEM

Don Bosco Anbu Illam Salem reaches out to thousands of children every year through their summer activities, organized under various awareness themes. This year, the summer activities were held in Adivaram, six slum areas, and forty villages, with themes chosen according to the location and interests of the participants. Approximately 1500 students participated in the summer camp, engaging in a variety of enriching activities.

Adivaram

The summer camp at Adivaram was inaugurated on 9th April 2024. The camp, titled "Kadayil Oru Kondaattam - To Learn, Be Happy, and Rise Up," saw participation from 60 students. Activities included interactive sessions on wildlife conservation, drawing competitions, a magic show, eye camps, and dance competitions. Experts enlightened students on topics such as science, space, and environmental conservation. The camp concluded with a grand event featuring a treasure hunt and campfire.

Six Slum Areas

From 29th April to 3rd May 2024, DBAI conducted a summer camp in six slum areas of Salem. The camp, titled "Nangalum Pangalargal," included themes like "Vellodu Vilaiyadi" and "Iyarkaiyal Nesipom." Activities ranged from party games, action songs, and moral stories to tree plantation and magic shows. The camp

emphasized nurturing nature, traditional games, and avoiding excessive mobile use. The final day featured an interface meeting on body health management supported by government health officials and Anganwadi teachers.

Forty Villages

The summer camp in 40 villages was a grand success with over 1000 children participating. Themed "Nature is My Friend," the camp included activities such as art out of waste, learning local history, library visits, health and hygiene education, and playing traditional games. In Salem slum areas, activities included law awareness, paper arts, magic shows, and public speaking. The camp provided a platform for children to explore their surroundings, learn about their local culture, and develop essential skills.

Conclusion

Don Bosco Anbu Illam's summer activities in Salem were a resounding success, providing children with opportunities to learn, grow, and enjoy their summer. The comprehensive programs, ranging from educational seminars to fun-filled camps, ensured that the children had a memorable and enriching experience. The support from the DBAI community, volunteers, and benefactors played a crucial role in making these activities possible.

FR. AROCKIARAJ MICHAEL



A Summer of Growth and Fun

at Don Bosco Care Home

Salem: The Don Bosco Care Home organized a grandiose 20-day summer camp from 14th April to 3rd May 2024, filled with engaging activities and competitions. The camp, aimed at fostering teamwork, creativity, and personal development among the boys, was titled "லோ போக்குவரத்து யேல்" led by Fr. Lawrence SDB, the camp saw the participation of 49 enthusiastic boys, divided into four teams named after popular IPL teams: CSK (Chennai Super Kings), KKR (Kolkata Knight Riders), MI (Mumbai Indians), and RR (Rajasthan Royals).

Inauguration and Daily Activities

The camp was inaugurated on 14th April 2024, with an assembly where the leading

team hoisted the flag. Each day began with an assembly, followed by classes where boys were divided into three groups according to their grade levels: 1st-8th, 9th & 10th, and 11th & 12th. The boys enhanced their skills in English, music, and arts, taught by Br. Valan, Fr. Hervin, Fr. Lawrence, Br. Yovan, and volunteers Ms. Hannah and Ms. Franziska from Germany. After classes, the boys prepared for the evening events, showcasing their talents through a variety of programs.

Events & Activities

The summer camp featured a plethora of events and activities designed to keep the boys engaged and help them develop new skills. These included:



- Fancy Dress Competition
- Tamil Night
- Singing Competition
- Short Film Competition
- Drawing, Poem, and Essay Competitions
- Traditional Games
- Dance Competition
- Volleyball Tournament
- Badminton Tournament
- Party Games
- Movie Screenings
- Basketball Tournament
- Cricket Tournament
- Indoor Games Tournament

Special Programs

Throughout the camp, boys participated in various activities that fostered skill development, friendship, and enjoyment. The daily schedule was packed with learning and fun, ensuring that each boy had the opportunity to shine in different areas.

Concluding Day of the Camp

The summer camp concluded on 3rd May with a grand program. Fr. Peter, the Rector of the community, distributed prizes to the teams, recognizing their efforts and achievements. The camp ended on a high note, with boys celebrating their wins and the experiences gained over the 20 days.

Conclusion

The 2024 summer camp at Don Bosco Care Home was a resounding success, providing a platform for boys to develop their skills, form lasting friendships, and create cherished memories. The camp's diverse activities ensured that each participant had a chance to learn, grow, and enjoy their summer to the fullest.

CL SINTO MARATHASON



Sayalgudi: The annual summer camp at Don Bosco School of Excellence (DBSE) in Sayalgudi, titled "Shining Stars of SAYAL - 2024," was a vibrant success, bringing together students for three weeks of engaging activities and learning from 1st May to 18th May. The camp aimed to provide a balanced mix of academic enrichment and physical activities, ensuring students had memorable and beneficial experiences.

the successful completion of this segment of the summer camp.

Archery

Archery sessions introduced students to the basics of the sport, emphasizing concentration, precision, and discipline. Professional archers provided training on techniques and safety. Regular practices helped students grow their archery skills, and competitions were held to encourage participation and skill improvement. By the end of the camp, students showed significant progress in their aim and focus.

Skating

Skating lessons were provided for beginners and intermediate skaters, focusing on balance, coordination, and basic techniques. Expert skaters offered personalized coaching, and safety gear was provided to ensure a safe learning environment. The new skating court

was filled with colourful skates, and a mini skating marathon on the final day showcased the students' newfound skills.

Table Tennis

Table tennis sessions aimed to develop hand-eye coordination, reflexes, and strategic thinking. Professional coaches conducted drills and matches to enhance skills. Friendly tournaments fostered a spirit of healthy competition with students enjoying the fast-paced nature of the game and improving their agility and strategic planning.

Basketball

Basketball training focused on teaching the fundamentals of the game, teamwork, and physical fitness. Experienced coaches taught dribbling, shooting, and defensive techniques. Daily team games allowed students to apply learned skills in a practical setting. A final match showcased the students' improved gameplay and teamwork.

Conclusion

The summer camp at DBSE School Sayalgudi was a resounding success, offering a perfect blend of educational and recreational activities. The diverse events ensured that every student found something of interest, promoting all-around development and enthusiasm for learning and sports. Positive feedback from students and parents highlighted the camp's success and set a high target for future events.

SUMMER CAMP FOR EVENING STUDY CENTER STUDENTS - 2024

Sayalgudi: DS – SAYAL organized a summer camp for students from evening

study centers. Based on the number of participants, two or three villages were combined, and the camp was conducted in one main village. This summer camp was an excellent opportunity to reach out to evening study centre students and animate them.

The camp began with a talk by Bro. Herman, focusing on moral values. Children were divided into different teams to ensure active participation. Party games were conducted to kickstart the camp. Messages on life skill development, child rights and duties, and the importance of education were shared throughout the camp. After lunch, various competitions were held, and students actively participated.

Beneficiaries

The summer camp benefited 570 students, providing them with a platform to learn, grow, and enjoy their time meaningfully.

Conclusion

The summer camp for evening study centre students was a dynamic and enriching experience. The full involvement of students made the camp active and alive, ensuring it was a valuable addition to their educational journey.

The success of these summer camps reflects the dedication and effort of the Don Bosco School of Excellence and DB – SAYAL in fostering the holistic development of their students. These camps provided not only academic and physical enrichment but also instilled important life skills and values, paving the way for a brighter future for all participants.

FR. SAVARIYAPPARAJ ARULRAJ



Salesian Vocation Camp 2024

A Journey of Faith and Fulfillment

Thanjavur: Among the various summer camps conducted in the Trichy province between April and May, the Salesian Vocation Camp 2024 holds a special place. Themed "You are Mine" (Isaiah 43:1), this camp was an inspiring journey for the participants. Supported by Fr. Thomas Louis, the Rector, and other confreres of Don Bosco Vaguppa Nagar Thanjavur, the camp took place from 1st May to 18th May 2024. Spearheaded by Fr. Antony Samy, the Vocation Promoter, along with Br. Rosmen Sam as the camp chief, Br. Ebiston, Br. Shajil and PHS members Achaguraja and Merlin, the camp offered a rich experience for the young participants.

Inaugural Day

On 1st May 2024, around 65 boys arrived and registered for the camp. They were divided into four teams and participated in group dynamics and ice-breaking sessions to get familiarized with one another. The evening concluded with the Holy Rosary and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The next day, Fr. Xavier Michael, the Vice Provincial, inaugurated the camp with the Holy Eucharist, emphasizing the joy of responding to God's call and the mission of the Salesian congregation: "To be signs and bearers of God's love and to save the souls of the young."

A Closer Look towards God

From 2nd to 17th May, each day began with the Holy Eucharist presided over by various resource persons who addressed the students on relevant topics. Regular rosary services, adorations, and good night talks focusing on the dreams of Don Bosco enriched the boys' understanding of God's call and their spiritual growth.

Don Bosco: Our Model

The camp's secondary aim was to acquaint the boys with Don Bosco and the Salesian congregation. Themes such as "Don Bosco: A Man of Prayer," "Father of the Orphans," "Friend of Youth," and "A Dreamer" were explored creatively by special resource persons. The Don Bosco quiz and Marian quiz further deepened their knowledge. The Don Bosco Nite, filled with puzzles, riddles, games, mono acts, and quizzes was a highlight allowing the boys to showcase their understanding and enthusiasm.

Playground, Spirituality, and Competitions
In line with Don Bosco's philosophy, the camp offered various competitions to help boys develop their talents. Folkarts training, dance with DJ, talent shows, fancy dress, mono acts, skits, and mime competitions were organized. These activities helped the boys overcome stage fear, gain self-confidence, and embody gospel values. Sports and games like volleyball, football, and basketball promoted team spirit, physical fitness, and camaraderie.

Visits and Picnic

Visits to significant places fostered fraternal love and provided educational experiences. A treasure hunt took the boys to Auxilium School and Valponasco Museum, depicting the life of St. Mary



Mezzareello. A one-day picnic to Thanjavur Big Temple, Poondi, and Sangipatti included a session on agriculture and organic farming, concluding with valuable lessons on sustainability and teamwork.

Intellectual Growth

The camp included regular classes and assignments to aid intellectual growth. Liturgy, spoken English, and grammar classes were conducted by Br. Ebiston, Br. Achaghu, and Br. Merin, respectively. Prayer recitation and memorization in both English and Tamil were integral parts of the program. On 17th May, a final exam assessed the boys' intellectual calibre.

Gratitude Day

The camp concluded on 18th May with a valedictory function and parents' meet. The event graced by Fr. Provincial, featured performances by the boys and



testimonials from participants and their parents, expressing gratitude for the memorable experience. Fr. Antony Samy thanked the parents for their support and highlighted the importance of nurturing vocations.

Thanks a Million

Heartfelt thanks to Fr. Provincial, Fr. Vice Provincial, and Fr. Economer for their support, and to the Rector and the community of Don Bosco Thanjavur, for their moral and material assistance. Special appreciation to Fr. Antony Samy for his commitment and meticulous planning making the camp a resounding success.

Viva Don Bosco!

BR. KOSHAN SAM SDB

Summer Camp 2024 at Don Bosco

A Journey of Learning and Growth



The much-anticipated summer camp of 2024, titled "ULŪŪPĀp JI ULĀ i PōhPm" (A Beautiful Journey), commenced with great enthusiasm at Don Bosco with 140 eager students. The camp was inaugurated by our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Ferrington SDB, who set the tone for the 22-day program by outlining its purpose and goals, inspiring the young participants to make the most of this enriching experience.

Camp Structure

The summer camp was thoughtfully divided into two sections:
Spoken English Camp
VBS Summer Camp

Both camps ran simultaneously, ensuring that participants could benefit from both without any overlap. Students were divided into four groups named after Angels: Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, and Uriel. This team-based structure fostered a spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie, enhancing the learning experience.

Daily Schedule and Activities

Each day at the camp began with a morning assembly, where students sought God's blessings and guidance. The curriculum included a variety of classes aimed at improving multiple skills:

- Holy Bible Study
- Computer Skills
- Drawing
- Spoken English
- Handwriting Classes

In addition to the academic sessions, the afternoons were filled with a plethora of programs and competitions designed to keep the students engaged and active:

- Talent Shows
- Singing and Dancing Competitions
- Drawing and Skit Performances
- Speech Contests
- Mural Exhibition
- Health Management Workshops
- Physical Fitness Camp
- Campfire Activities
- Cooking Seminars
- Children's Rights Seminar
- Sports Day

Support and Participation

The youth group played a crucial role in animating and executing the camp schedule. Their dedication and enthusiasm ensured the smooth running of the activities. Local benefactors generously provided refreshments, contributing to the overall success of the camp. Their spontaneous support was greatly appreciated by all.

Concluding Ceremony

The camp concluded with a grand ceremony held in the parish hall, attended by the Parish Priest, Parish Council members, and all the faithful. The ceremony celebrated the efforts and achievements of all participants. The group leaders and members put in their best efforts, and the Uriel team emerged victorious, with Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael teams following. Special prizes

and gifts were awarded to all participants, recognizing their hard work and dedication.

One-Day Picnic

As a reward for the successful completion of the camp, all group members enjoyed a one-day picnic to Tarangambadi. This outing provided a perfect opportunity for the children to relax and bond, creating lasting memories of their summer camp experience.

Conclusion

The summer camp of 2024 at Don Bosco was a remarkable journey of learning, growth, and fun for all participants. It not only enhanced their skills but also instilled in them values of teamwork, dedication, and community spirit. The collective efforts of the organizers, volunteers, and benefactors made this camp a resounding success, leaving a positive impact on every child who participated.

BR. VINITH SDB





Empowering Minds and Strengthening Faith

Summer Programs 2024 at St. Theresa of Child Jesus' Church Therespuram

Therespuram The summer of 2024 was marked by vibrant and transformative programs at St. Theresa of Child Jesus Church in Therespuram. From spoken English classes to an enriching Vacation Bible School (VBS) camp, the church provided a plethora of activities aimed at holistic development for the youth of the parish. Here is a detailed report on the initiatives undertaken during April and May.

Spoken English Classes

Recognizing the need to enhance communication skills among students, the parish organized a 12-day spoken English course for students from 8th to 12th standard. Conducted from 15th April to 27th April, the primary focus was to instill a love for the English language and prepare students for a brighter future. The course structure included grammar

lessons, vocabulary, conversation practice, and reading sessions. A total of 26 students participated with great enthusiasm, finding the course both useful and engaging. Feedback from the participants indicated a high level of satisfaction and a sense of having spent their summer productively.

YO YO – 2024 (VBS Camp)

The VBS camp, themed "YO YO – 2024," was conducted from 1st May to 15th May 2024, providing a productive platform for children to spend their summer. Approximately 310 children registered for the camp, which centered around biblical characters and Christian values. The objectives of the camp included:

- Teaching children about the Bible and Christian values.
- Fostering a sense of community spirit through various activities.
- Encouraging teamwork, respect, and kindness.
- Providing opportunities for creative expression.

The daily schedule started with an assembly and concluded with a prayer. Activities included classes on biblical characters, party games, special events, and seminars on life skills.

Highlights of the VBS Camp

Inaugural Day: On 1st May, the camp began with registration and team division. The official inauguration was held on 2nd May by Fr. Amelraj Susai, Srs. Jeba and John from PMA.

Fancy Dress Competition: Held on 3rd May, judged by Mrs. Nancy & Mr. Manikandan.

Dance Competition: Conducted on 6th May, with judges Mr. Genis & Ms. Bommu.

Bible Quiz and Exhibition: Held on 7th May, appreciated by special guests from the Catechetical Department of the Diocese.

Drawing and Rangoli Competition: Conducted on 8th May, with judges Mrs. Romalis & Mrs. Murugeswari.

Singing Competition: Held on 9th May, judged by Ms. Shena, Ms. Susmi & Ms. Pradeeba from the Parish choir group.





Cooking Competition: Held on 10th May, with judges Mrs. Amala and Mrs. Rajakani.

Treasure Hunt: Conducted on 11th May, leading to St. Joseph's Church at Cruzpuzram.

Sports Day: Held on 13th May.

Valedictory Function: Conducted on 14th May, with prize distribution by Fr. Amalraj Susai, Srs. Rosy, and John.

Picnic to Kanyakumari: Concluding the camp on 15th May with a joyful picnic.

Parents expressed immense satisfaction with the camp, noting their children's happiness and the valuable lessons learned. Children also expressed their gratitude for the enriching experience.

Holy Communion Classes

The First Holy Communion classes commenced on 17th May 2024, with 97 students registered and 88 attending regularly. The classes covered basic Christian rites, the significance of Holy Communion, and the Sacrament of

Reconciliation. The 11-day preparation included an oral test to determine eligibility for First Holy Communion. The dedication of catechism teachers and volunteers was instrumental in the successful completion of the classes.

Conclusion

The summer programs at St. Theresa of Child Jesus Church in Therespuram were a remarkable success, providing children and youth with opportunities for learning, spiritual growth, and personal development. Special thanks to the rector, administrator, and all confreres of the SDB and FMA communities for their unwavering support and guidance. The programs have left a lasting impact, fostering a strong foundation of faith and knowledge among the young participants.

DR. SESU RAI SDB



VBS Camp at Don Bosco Amsam

A Joyful and Enriching Experience

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) camp at Don Bosco Amsam was a resounding success, bringing joy and valuable life lessons to the children of the parish. Held from 9th May to 18th May 2024, the camp was a vibrant mix of spiritual, educational, and recreational activities that kept the children engaged and enthusiastic throughout.

Inauguration Ceremony

The camp was inaugurated on 9th May at the Mary Help of Christians Shrine Amsam, amidst a gathering of joyful faces. Rev. Fr. John Kennedy SDB, Rector & Parish Priest, delivered the inaugural speech. In the ceremonial candle, and officially declared the camp open. The first day saw an impressive attendance of 190 children. The camp's structure and schedule were clearly explained to the participants, ensuring their remarkable engagement from the very beginning.

Daily Activities

Each day of the camp was packed with a variety of activities and programmes that the children thoroughly enjoyed. They were divided into four teams, and points were awarded for participation and performance in various activities, fostering a sense of healthy competition and teamwork.

Sessions and Games

Rev. Fr. Charles Kumar SDB, the assistant parish priest, conducted sessions on how to be an altar server, teaching gestures to enhance the altar service experience. Bro. Ithaya Joel SDB led the children in action songs and claps, which they eagerly participated in every day. Numerous party games were also organized, teaching the children the importance of teamwork and collaboration.

Dance in the Rain

One of the highlights of the camp was an impromptu dance session in the rain. The children were overjoyed to dance under the showers, making it a memorable experience filled with laughter and delight.

Special Events

Sports Day

A dedicated sports day was organized, allowing the children to engage in various games under the scorching sun. Despite the heat, the children expressed their happiness and enthusiasm, enjoying the games to the fullest.

Cooking Competition

The cooking competition generated significant excitement among the children. Participants from various age groups showcased their culinary skills, striving to impress the judges. The event was not only fun but also a great learning experience for all involved.

A Day Out

The children were taken on a fun-filled outing to the newly opened "Wonder World" water theme park at Sengipatti. The day was packed with enjoyable activities, sumptuous



lunch, and delicious tea, leaving the children with unforgettable memories.

Conclusion of the VBS Camp

The VBS camp concluded with a sense of accomplishment and joy. The children not only had fun but also grew spiritually and humanly. They learned valuable lessons and developed skills that will help them in their daily lives. The success of the camp is a testament to the dedication of the volunteers and the leadership of the Don Bosco Amsam community.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the ten dedicated volunteers who ensured the smooth running of the camp and maintained discipline among the children. Their contribution was invaluable in making the camp a success.

The VBS camp at Don Bosco Amsam was a truly enriching experience for the children, providing them with a blend of fun, learning, and spiritual growth. The positive feedback from the children and their parents highlights the camp's impact and sets a high standard for future events.

BY: ITTHAYA JOEL

Tech & Tradition 2024

Blending Faith Formation with Modern Technology

Manikandam, Trichy: This summer, the Department of Christodayam, in collaboration with Alaihal Media, organized an innovative course titled "Tech & Tradition 2024." Designed to update and enhance the skills of catechism teachers and religious leaders in faith formation, the course aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to leverage technology for effective online ministry. Hosted by the community of Don Bosco Manikandam, the event was a resounding success.

Inauguration and Course Overview

The course, held from April 11 to 13, 2024, saw the participation of 19 individuals, including two lay teachers and several religious nuns. The inauguration ceremony, led by Fr. Jayan Joseph, the director of Christodayam, began with a solemn prayer session, setting a reflective and focused tone for the course.



Day 1: Importance of Going Online and VBS

The first day commenced with Fr. Selva's session on the importance of utilizing the internet for faith formation and outreach. He emphasized the potential of online platforms to reach a broader audience and enhance community engagement.

In the afternoon, Fr. Mala Susai, the Catechetical Director of Tiruchy Diocese, conducted an enriching session on Vacation Bible School (VBS), exploring its potential in virtual settings. The day concluded with Night Olympics, a series of team-building activities organized by Fr. Arul Antony and Fr. Anthonysamy, fostering camaraderie among participants.

Day 2: Resource Platforms and Practical Skills

Day two focused on practical skills and resource platforms. Fr. Selva introduced various online platforms useful for faith formation and communication. Hands-on sessions on Canva and InShot apps were led by Fr. Shajan and Bro. Eblesh, respectively, teaching participants to create engaging visuals and short video content. The day culminated with a competition in image editing and Reels creation, allowing participants to showcase their newly acquired skills.



Day 3: Content Creation and Youth Accompaniment

The final day included a practical session by Fr. Shajan, building on the previous day's lessons on content creation tools. Fr. Rosario provided valuable insights on effectively accompanying today's youth in the digital age, addressing the challenges and opportunities of digital ministry. The course concluded with an evaluation session and a Q&A addressing participants' questions and ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the topics covered.

Closing Ceremony

The course concluded with a closing ceremony where Fr. Selva distributed certificates to the participants, marking their successful completion of the program. The event was a testament to the commitment of the organizers to provide a stimulating and engaging learning experience.

Overall Impact

The "Tech & Tradition 2024" course was a well-rounded program that successfully blended theoretical knowledge with practical skills. By combining hands-on workshops, engaging competitions, and insightful sessions, the course provided participants with the tools needed to utilize technology effectively for faith formation and online ministry.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Alaihal Media and the organizing team for their dedication and hard work in making this event a success. Their efforts ensured that the participants left with enhanced skills and a renewed sense of purpose in their mission of faith formation.

FR. JEVAN

URAVU



Fostering Learning and Skills Development

Alaihal Media's Summer Programs

Manikandam: Don Bosco Alaihal Media orchestrated a comprehensive array of educational initiatives this summer, including an English language learning program, the "Love English to Live" English camp, and an editing camp. These programs were designed to engage students in enriching and interactive environments, providing them with valuable skills for their future endeavors.

English Language Learning Program

The English language learning program captivated students by integrating traditional village games such as kho-kho, kabaddi, skipping rope, and seven stones (lagori) into the curriculum. This unique approach created a dynamic

and engaging learning atmosphere. The program aimed to enhance students' language skills in a fun and interactive manner, ensuring they remained enthusiastic and motivated throughout.

"Love English to Live" Camp

The "Love English to Live" camp, conducted with great enthusiasm, focused on nurturing a profound affinity for the English language. The camp's multifaceted approach included grammar lessons, interactive discourse, effective communication strategies, and fundamental computer proficiency. By going beyond conventional language instruction, the camp incorporated basic computer

Literacy training covering Excel worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, Word documents, and typing skills. This holistic approach ensured that students not only improved their language skills but also gained essential computer knowledge.

Media Camp

Simultaneously, the editing camp was meticulously crafted to equip participants with indispensable proficiencies in a spectrum of editing software. The curriculum blended theoretical discourse with hands-on practice sessions, providing participants with practical training across various editing platforms. Distinguished trainers spearheading the camp included:

- Fr. Selva Kumar: Artificial Intelligence
- Fr. Shajen: Canva
- Mr. Sagayam: Video Editing
- Mr. Sebastian: Photo Editing and CorelDRAW

These experts contributed their vast knowledge to enrich participants' skill sets, empowering them with the tools necessary for adept media manipulation.

Key Insights and Outcomes

Engaging Learning Atmosphere: The integration of traditional village games within the English language learning program created a lively and dynamic learning environment.

Holistic Language Learning: The "Live English to Live" camp's emphasis on grammar, interactive engagement, effective communication, and computer literacy fostered a genuine passion for the English language.

Practical Media Skills: The editing camp provided practical training across various editing platforms, equipping participants with essential media manipulation skills.

Positive Feedback: Participants expressed profound satisfaction with the program's content and delivery, appreciating the acquisition of competencies that will enhance their efficacy in media content creation and manipulation.

Conclusion:

The success of these summer programs underscores the efficacy of innovative pedagogical methodologies and interactive learning paradigms. Don Bosco Alaiyal Media's commitment to fostering learning and skill development has provided students with invaluable experiences preparing them for a brighter future. The comprehensive approach taken in these programs not only improved language proficiency and computer literacy but also empowered participants with practical media skills, making a significant impact on their educational journey.

Don Bosco Sunaiyan



A Blend of Fun, Learning, and Community Service

Summer Camp 2024 at Don Bosco Nest Tiruppur

Tiruppur: Don Bosco Nest Tiruppur successfully organized a vibrant summer camp titled "ULOG YMKRM" - 2024 from 1st to 20th May 2024, providing a dynamic platform for young people to engage in a mix of educational and recreational activities. The camp, which welcomed youth from 6th standard to college-going students, saw the participation of 35 enthusiastic boys and girls from the locality.

Pre-Planning and Organization

The meticulous planning and execution of the camp were spearheaded by Bros. Joshua Seemon and Valan, along with staff members Mr. Arun Abishak and Mr. Aswin. Under the guidance of Fr. Felix, the Rector and Director of Don Bosco Nest, Fr. Inbaraj, the administrator, ensured that

all necessary resources were available, contributing significantly to the smooth running of the camp.

Inauguration and Daily Activities

The camp officially commenced on 1st May with an initial attendance of 18 students, expanding to 35 as the days progressed. The inauguration ceremony on 3rd May was graced by the community members of Don Bosco Nest and the participants were divided into teams named after popular social media platforms: YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram.

The daily schedule was designed to balance learning and fun. Each day began at 9:30 AM with a morning assembly, where a team would animate the session, and a representative would deliver a speech on current topics. The morning sessions included English grammar, value education

classes, and English conversation practice followed by Tamil reading practice using newspapers.

Afternoon Programs and Competitions

The afternoons were dedicated to a variety of special programs and competitions including dance, singing, skits, fancy dress, and Tamil debates. These activities not only entertained the students but also helped them develop their talents and confidence. Additionally, music lessons, table tennis, and computer classes were held, providing the students with a broad spectrum of skills and knowledge.

Community Service and Excursions

A highlight of the camp was a visit to a care home for differently-abled individuals on 17th May. The students brought snacks and monetary contributions, spending about an hour engaging the residents with various programs. For many of the participants, this was their first visit to such a facility, offering a profound and enriching experience.

Conclusion and Prize Distribution

The camp concluded on 20th May with a series of creative programs and a prize distribution ceremony, celebrating the achievements and participation of the students. Additionally, students from 8th grade were invited to the campus on weekends to prepare for special exams and receive skill training.

Acknowledgments:

The success of the summer camp at Don Bosco Nest Tiruppur is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the organizers, volunteers, and community members. Their dedication ensured that the camp was a memorable and enriching experience for all participants, fostering a spirit of learning, creativity, and community service.

ER. PRABU PRAKASH



கனம் குறைக்க வேணு
உயிர்ப்புகளுடைய
சுர்த்துப்புக்குல்



Reviving Joy and Learning

Summer Camp 2024 at Don Bosco Varadarajanpet

Varadarajanpet: After a hiatus of nearly five years, the eagerly awaited Summer Camp at Don Bosco Varadarajanpet was inaugurated on 30th April 2024. The two-week camp, which concluded on 11th May 2024, saw the enthusiastic participation of fifty children from the neighbourhood. Under the guidance of Fr. Martin, the camp was meticulously planned and conducted with zeal by Br. Agustin, Br. Arulwin, and Br. Melvin.

A Dynamic Start

The camp commenced with a spirited inauguration ceremony, setting the tone for the weeks ahead. Each day began with a morning assembly, which was followed by a structured schedule of catechism, moral science, and spoken English classes. This blend of spiritual, ethical, and linguistic education aimed to provide a holistic development platform for the children.

Engaging Activities and Competitions

Participants were divided into four teams, fostering a sense of healthy competition and teamwork. A variety of competitions were organized, including drawing, dance, singing, mono acting, treasure hunts, and dedicated English and sports days. These activities were designed not only to entertain but also to develop the children's talents and skills.

Inspirational Addresses

Throughout the camp, the children were inspired by addresses from several key figures:

- Fr. Gamaliel SDB, Rector
- Fr. Sebastian Jacob, Headmaster
- Fr. Arrockis Antony
- Fr. Henry Dominic Bosco Hossel Warden

Their motivational speeches encouraged the participants to make the most of the camp's opportunities and to strive for personal excellence.

Highlights and Achievements

The camp was filled with fun, joy, and learning, creating a memorable experience.

FR. HENRY DOMINIC



For all involved, the structured yet varied program ensured that the children remained engaged and enthusiastic. The competitions and activities helped in honing their skills and boosting their confidence.

Concluding Celebration

The camp concluded with a vibrant cultural program on 11th May 2024. Prizes and snacks were distributed to all participants, celebrating their efforts and achievements. The closing ceremony was a joyous occasion, marking the successful revival of the summer camp tradition at Don Bosco Varadarajanpet.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Fr. Martin for his meticulous planning and coordination, and to Br. Agustini, Br. Arulwin, and Br. Melvin for their enthusiastic execution of the camp activities. Their collective efforts ensured that the camp was not only a success but also a transformative experience for the children.



A Beacon of Learning and Fun

A SUMMER CAMP OF ST. ANTONY'S CHURCH, VILATHIKULAM

Vilathikulam: The town of Vilathikulam, known for its cultural heritage and architectural beauty, recently witnessed a flurry of educational activities at St. Antony's Church. From 9th April to 23rd May 2024, the newly built church, standing majestically in the heart of the town, became the center of a vibrant summer camp that drew students from the parish and neighboring villages. These camps, meticulously planned and executed by the community members, offered a blend of academic and recreational activities, fostering an atmosphere of learning and joy.

Comprehensive Summer Camps

The summer camps commenced on 22nd April 2024, with ten enthusiastic students attending the inaugural session. Each day began at 10:30 AM with a prayer song and a short prayer, setting a serene tone for the day. The daily schedule included a variety of classes and activities.

Computer Classes: From 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM, students were immersed in basic computer skills, including MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The hands-on sessions were a hit with students deeply engaged in their learning.

Reading, Listening, and Writing Skills: The afternoon session, starting at 2:00 PM, focused on enhancing students' English language proficiency through reading practice, listening exercises, and writing skills development. Interactive games were also incorporated to motivate students and improve their speaking abilities.

Movie Screenings

Every Saturday, the camp featured movie screenings to help students overcome their inferiority complex and fear of speaking English. Films like "Kamali from Nadukaveri," "English Vinglish," and "Peter Rabbit" were shown, providing both entertainment and valuable lessons.

Substation Camps

In addition to the main parish camp, summer camps were also organized in three substations: Vathalekaraik, Kathalampatti, and Vilvamorathupatti. Held from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM over three days in each location, these camps saw more than 100 students participate. Various games and activities were conducted, with students energetically engaging in the programs.

Valedictory Function

The grand finale of the summer camp was held on 21st May 2024, with Bro. Sasyarej as the chief guest. The valedictory function featured students showcasing their talents through speeches and performances reflecting their learnings from the past month. Prizes were awarded, leaving the children with happy hearts and a sense of achievement.

Success Through Dedication

The success of the summer camps can be attributed to the meticulous planning and commitment of Fr. Suresh Felix, Rector & Parish Priest of Vilathikulam, and Bro. Sasyarej, director of Vembu Social Service Centre. The dedicated efforts of the Salesians, staff, and students played a crucial role in making the camps a memorable experience.

Gratitude and Reflections

The May 2024 camps were a grand success, thanks to the unwavering support from the community and the blessings of the Triune God. The initiative not only provided educational enrichment but also fostered a spirit of camaraderie and personal growth among the participants.

Beneficiaries

The summer camp reached a total of 123 students across various locations,

Vilathikulam: 10 students

Vathalekaraik: 32 students

Vilvamorathupatti: 36 students

Kathalampatti: 45 students

The camps have left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of the participants, paving the way for future educational and personal development initiatives at St. Antony's Church, Vilathikulam.

FR. ANTO BELEVENDIRAN



Summer Camps 2024 at The Retreat, Don Bosco Yercaud

Empowering Young Minds

Yercaud: The Retreat - Don Bosco Yercaud, in collaboration with the SPS Foundation, orchestrated a series of highly successful summer camps in 2024. With the able leadership of Fr. James, the overall in-charge, and Br. Thomas as the camp chief, along with Brs. Rejeet and Freeman, the camps provided a plethora of enriching experiences for the young participants. Additionally, three MSW interns played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of the camps.

Summer Football Camp

The Summer Football Camp, held from April 29th to May 4th, 2024, was a highlight of the season. Led by experienced coaches Mr. Edwin Louis and Mr. Noor Basha, the camp focused on developing technical skills, tactical awareness, physical fitness, and match simulations. The participants

not only honed their football abilities but also built mutual trust, friendship, and sportsmanship. The coaching and supportive environment received high praise from both participants and parents, with many expressing interest in future camps.

English Camp

Running from May 6th to May 9th, 2024, the English Camp aimed to enhance the language skills of tribal children in Yercaud. Structured sessions emphasized vocabulary, grammar, mentoring, and interactive activities, which helped improve the students' English skills, confidence, and collaboration abilities. The camp successfully provided an enriching experience, fostering a love for the English language among the participants.

General Camp

The General Camp, held from May 13th to May 17th, 2024, was designed to provide social awareness and educational opportunities to tribal children in Yercaud. The camp featured a variety of activities, including:

- Arts and Crafts: Encouraging creativity and artistic expression.
- Fire and Safety Training: Teaching essential safety skills.
- Dance Competitions: Promoting physical activity and teamwork.
- Basic Computer Classes: Introducing fundamental computer skills.
- Health and Hygiene Sessions: Emphasizing the importance of personal care.
- Motivational Talks on Education: Inspiring the importance of learning.
- Trekking and Treasure Hunts: Fostering adventure and exploration.

These activities had a profound impact on the children, fostering a sense of community and empowerment among the participants.

CE. EDWIN RAJA

**Positive Impact and Future Prospects**

The summer camps at Retreat Don Bosco in Yercaud were a resounding success, offering valuable opportunities for the holistic development and education of students. The programs, led by experienced coaches and educators, provided an enriching experience that enhanced the participants' skills and knowledge. Moreover, the camp fostered a strong sense of community and empowerment among the children, leaving a lasting impact on their lives.

Conclusion

The summer camps at The Retreat - Don Bosco Yercaud provided a positive and nurturing environment for young participants to learn and grow. The success of these camps underscores the importance of innovative educational programs and dedicated mentorship in shaping the future of young minds. As we look forward to more successful camps in the future, we remain committed to inspiring and empowering the students of Yercaud.

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