THULIR TRUST

5/971, Kaliyankottai village,
Velanur PO, Sittilingi Panchayat,
Theerthamalai SPO, Harur Taluk,
Dharmapuri Dt., TN
636906
Phone :+91 96554 82919

Website: www.thulir.org
Email: thulir@gmail.com
Pongal Celebrations

The teachers and students celebrated Pongal by cleaning the school, smearing the ground with cow dung, painting the walls and making colorful kolams. The celebration included the traditional Kummi dances and cooking tasty pongal.

Storytelling Workshop

Kumar Shaw, has been cycling through the country on a nationwide mission to revive and create awareness about the significance of storytelling.

He regaled the children with witty, timely, and fascinating tales. Under his guidance the children created their own stories.

Senjikottai Trip
The teachers and students went on a day trip to the historic site of Senjikottai. Senji has been owned by a parade of powers in its 900 year history -- from the Cholas and Vijayanagar to Bijapur and Telugu Nayakas. It was fascinating to walk on the forts that the Marathas and Mughals tried to scale.

On the way back the group stopped at the Sathanur dam across the Thenpennai river and played in the park there. The children were mesmerized by the crocodiles at the crocodile farm there!

**Sports Day**

The children enjoyed two whole days of sports and games in February along with students from the government school in Palakuttai and the Thulir Alumni. We included two co-operative games where one wins only if the whole team wins, or the entire team loses.

For instance at Musical chairs as the number of chairs reduce after each round the participants have to still make sure that everyone gets to sit. We were amazed at how more than 15 children managed to sit on one chair!

**“Teachers for Change” Workshops**

With the help of the Barefoot Academy we organised four 3 day workshops for teachers from Marudam, Payir, Vanavil, and Thulir this year to gain an understanding of socio-economic structures, inequalities, our constitution and our role as responsible citizens to create a free, just, equitable society in the future.
**Government Approval Process**

We got the DTCP (Department of Town and Country Planning) approval for our school in May this year. We got the initial government approval and permission for the school in July. We have now applied for the certificate of recognition.

**The Sittilingi Run**

The Runner's High group along with Thulir, THI, SOFA, Porgai, and the Panchayat teams -- organised a run to bring the community together and raise awareness about physical fitness!

A total of 428 runners, aged between 4 to 70, both from Sittilingi as well as friends from Chennai, Marudam School, Thiruvannamalai, and Ananya School, Bangalore ran the 2k, 5k, or 10k races.

**Run to Thulir**

The talent and enthusiasm witnessed at Thulir many years ago has been the seed to conceptualise “Runner’s High - a wonderful community of runners who change lives through running”.

Santhosh, Mani and Krishan from Runner’s High, Bangalore inspired everyone with their ‘Run to Thulir’, running all the way from Bangalore to Sittilingi between October 29th and November 1st.
Painting workshop

Akash Yaligar and Roma Patadia, two architects and artists, conducted a sketching and painting workshop in Sittilingi from August 20th to 22nd. The teachers, doctors and children enjoyed playing and experimenting with paints and colours, light and shadows, under their gentle and expert guidance.

Training of Construction Artisans

Some of the construction artisans that we trained in Sittilingi are now building three houses in Thiruvannamalai. Krishna has been training the artisans on site while helping each house owner fulfill their dream designs in the best aesthetic and ecological fashion possible.
Dance workshops

All of us at Thulir love dancing, and we eagerly look for dance instructors who can teach us new dances. Christy, an obstetrician and gynecologist, taught not only the teachers and students at Thulir but also the nurses and doctors in the hospital many dances over the course of a month.

Cultural Programmes

A cultural programme was held at the end of November where the Thulir, Hospital, SOFA and Porgai teams showcased everything they had learnt under Christy’s guidance.

The 200 odd people thoroughly enjoyed the show. Christy’s choreography and the hall decorations he had organised were astounding. Every Wednesday during the assembly each group of students put up a performance of their choice. These performances have steadily improved in quality and we wanted the parents to see them.

So we had a cultural evening for parents in the first week of January where the children performed songs, dances and plays that they learnt at school, for their parents.

Tamil Nadu Alternative Education Network meeting.

The annual meeting of the Tamil Nadu Alternative Education Network was held at Thulir this year from December 3rd to 5th.
32 educators committed to the cause of learning, teaching and nurturing with a deep focus on the child, the environment and society interacted and shared experiences, perspectives and thoughts. This group met online before and after the meeting, and also prepared a draft of their suggestions to be sent to the state Education Policy Committee.

Interaction with the government school children.

Our weekly classes in the government schools at Palakuttai and Nammangadu continued with more emphasis on hands-on, activity-based learning and crafts. Suresh continues his evening classes for government school children in Palakuttai village.

Visiting the Book Fair at Salem

All the teachers and their children went on a day trip to the book fair in Salem in November. The teachers came back with their bags stuffed full of delightful books for the school and their family.

We are truly grateful to all of you for the belief you place in us.

Thank you for your support.
Support Us!

Donations can be transferred directly to Thulir’s State Bank of India accounts.

Indian donations:
Account no: 3179396966,
Bank: State Bank of India,
Branch: Kottapatti Branch
IFSC code: SBIN0006244

Donations in India are tax exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. For donations from foreign countries, please mail us for details.

Please visit our website [http://www.thulir.org](http://www.thulir.org) for more details of our programmes.

Regular updates of our activities are also made in the blog site [http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/](http://www.thulir.org/wp/blog/)

We welcome your comments; please mail us at thulir@gmail.com