

Snap shots - 1996 - 97

We made a study of the work done by students of other schools of the same grade. We found that they did a lot of written assignments. Our children didn't. We are now stepping up the written work too. We hope that they will soon match any child anywhere. The elder group is now about 6 to 7 years of age.

We have substantially revved the engine for the older group ; they are ready for absorbing a lot more in a session than before. By September they were ready for full day school and the timings changed from 9 am - 1 pm to 10 am - 4 pm. The attention span of the children has increased to cope up with that ! Formal classes are still held only from 10 to 13:30 hrs. The next half day is spent in GK, painting, art-work, games, quizzes.

We now provide a full lunch at 1:30 p m and follow up with a 'nourisher' at 15:30.

We have been testing out the books that we are hoping to publish. The response is great and the kids are just devouring the books. It took 3 years with the 1st group and just 1 with the younger ones ! Learning Curves ??

We have the older children sit at the computer and work on the CDs. With the younger ones the teacher operates. We have a special learner CD for math and encyclopedia CDs to go with the topics being done in the GK class.

We celebrated our third year on August 15, quietly, with the children singing songs in three languages. Then the much awaited sweets. The staff then sat in meditation praying for the future of the school, our well-being and thanksgiving to all donors.

We had a 'Computer Week'. During various quick trips out of AVK we had procured a lot of 'interactive learning' CDs and encyclopedias on CD. All that they have been taught in class - day and night, seasons, eclipse, rockets and landing on the moon ; they have a visual experience. They now want only printed texts and suddenly our writing is not good enough!

In the neighbouring street a new temple has been constructed. An elephant was brought there and promptly we had it visit the school also. We had each child sit on the elephant and feed it. The noon was spent in discussing animals.

Sushila, Aruna's sister, was here for Diwali with her daughter and two of her students with small packets of assorted dried fruits. Crackers of course they had in plenty to burst in the school and to take home. There

were children from the village too. It was a very colourful and happy season, and the joy in their eyes was satisfying.