



## Greetings from Eureka SuperKidz!

*The academic year is drawing to a close. We have been focusing on grade-wise advanced skills in all subjects. Children have been using practice worksheets to reinforce their skills.*

*In many villages, once all children in the village achieved specific expected skills, children were given "I Can" certificates (eg., "I Can Subtract") in front of their parents and village. But it was not all work and no fun for children. This month, we conducted Science Quiz event in all villages. The event saw children participating eagerly in huge numbers. In many villages, the winners were appreciated and given prizes in community events in the village. Block level winners from all the 55 blocks that we work in took part in an exciting state level finale hosted by volunteers from Infosys and Juniper networks.*



### Tutor Shalini's timely intervention



Raja is an 8 year boy studying in Class 3 in Manakkal village in Lalgudi block. He lost his father when he was 8 months old. His mother too abandoned him when he was just a child. Sadly, his grandmother who took care of him also died. Orphaned, he was left with his relatives in the same village.

The Eureka tutor Shalini Mary knew of his situation and enrolled him into her classes. Raja had been a bright child who even came first in school. But recently, Shalini noticed that Raja was not attending her classes regularly, nor was he attending the school and had started slipping in his grades. While a few months back he was able to solve fractions sums very well, he now struggled with even division problems, which he was good at. Shalini found that Raja was being made to do household chores and was being ignored and not being taken care of well. She and the field staff approached the local church for help. The Sister at the Church has now adopted Raja. He has started attending school and the Eureka classes regularly. Shalini hopes this is the end of Raja's troubles.

### Snippets from the field...

#### A fun outing for children

Eureka students and tutors from Kottai Gramam village in Vandavasi block had a fun outing to Birla Planetarium and Guindy Children's park in Chennai. This is the children's second outing in 2 years. Chennai volunteers helped organize this trip.

Volunteer Divya got entry tickets to the Planetarium at concessional rates. The children spent around 5 hours watching the 3D film show and playing in the park.

Volunteer Ranjith had this to say, "I noticed a 5 year old girl in our group, scribbling numbers on the floor with a chalk, while we were waiting in a queue. It amazed me that most children had come armed with writing materials! The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip. We had a great time accompanying them."

#### Community leader acts promptly

Classes in Periyakaruppur village in Anthanallur block are held in the community center in the village. Since the place was being used by some to keep hay after harvest, the entire place would be littered with hay. To add to the children's woes, of late, some miscreants in the village were using it to dump liquor bottles, making the place unfit for use.

Field coordinator Senthil and his team sought the Panchayat leader's help. The Panchayat leader promptly discussed this with people in the village. He convinced the youth not to dirty the place in future. He made sure the place was cleaned up and gave a written permission allowing exclusive use of the space for children's learning. He has also promised to arrange for lights at the center. We need more such supportive leaders!



#### Annual "SuperKidz" Day celebrations!

Children and tutors in Ambalapuram, Aalampadi and Orathur villages in Keerapalayam block decided to conduct an annual SuperKidz day. Children put up a cultural show for their parents. The evening was filled with music, dance, plays and fancy dress shows! Parents were excited to see their children perform on stage! They were also very happy with what children were learning at the center and expressed their praise for the tutors' dedicated efforts, at the gathering.

## An event to remember!

This March, nearly 10,000 children studying in classes 6-8, from 1000 villages across 55 blocks in Tamilnadu, took part enthusiastically in the science quiz event conducted in their villages. The quiz was launched at the village level on National Science Day. Top 3 students from each village, one each from classes 6-8, were declared winners in their village. The winners from nearly 800 villages took part in block level selections based on a written quiz. The top teams from each block were selected to compete at the state level Eureka Science quiz competition.

The event sponsored by Juniper Networks Foundation, was hosted by Infosys at their Mahindra World City campus, near Chennai. Professor R.Ramanujam, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Mr.M.S.Balakrishnan, Sholinganallur Infosys DC Head and Mr.V.Lakshminarayanan, Mahindra City DC Head were present at the event. The grand finale had nearly 200 children from 55 blocks of Tamilnadu who took part in the fun-filled daylong event.

The day started with an interactive session with Juniper volunteers. Volunteer Karthik of Juniper had a fun quiz for children, modeled after "Neengalum Vellalam Orukodi", a popular quiz show hosted in Tamil by well-known actor Surya. Since this is a widely watched programme, children could easily relate to it and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

Volunteers from Sneham and Spark within Infosys had a presentation showing videos of famous personalities like Sachin Tendulkar and Amitabh Bachchan, to inspire the children.

The children, for many of whom this was their first visit outside their village, were accompanied on a tour of the sprawling campus. The swimming pool, badminton courts and the gym had the children watching with wide-eyed wonder!

The quiz event started with a written round for all children. Selected teams went on to the final oral quiz. This session was conducted by Dr. Ravi Shankar and had five interesting rounds including the exciting buzzer and audio-visual rounds. Children bowled the audience over with their answers covering a variety of topics, explaining even concepts of natural selection and evolution!

The top 3 teams were given cash prizes and awards. The children returned home with memories of a fantastic day spent in the city!

