



Dear friends,

Last quarter, you heard about what our children had planned to do this summer: what skills they wanted to learn, and where they wished to go and so on. In this issue, you will see which of those dreams turned to reality.

Also, we've hit this year's half-way mark already... How close are we to achieving what we set out to do at the beginning of the year? And what about our plans for the rest of the year? Slide right in to learn about all this and more!



# Five *Fabulous* Field Trips!

# park

ZOO exhibition marina  
mandapam museum vandalur  
riding quercusland  
shoping cinema  
vyp  
therevuthidal  
osaram  
kiskintha  
beach  
bank  
chire  
swimming  
children's  
mahabhalipuram golden  
boat  
gandhi  
crocodile

You might remember the summer camp article from our [previous issue](#). We asked every Pudiador child to vote on a favorite field trip destination, and here's what they came up with. After many days of discussions and planning, our team developed a comprehensive summer camp schedule that incorporated the children's ideas as well as the learning goals we set for them. Read on for the highlights of our 2012 field trips!

## May 2012

A Saturday morning that started out much like any other; kids traipsing in to the Ramapuram Center bright and early. Today, it wasn't just the Ramapuram kids - we had a full house of children from all four centers. Breakfast had never been more fun or charged with excitement because— yes, it was a field trip day! In fact, the first field trip this summer that the kids had picked for themselves- a day they had been looking forward to for a while. So off they went to the **Tirunindravoor village** that Saturday morning to experience a day in a farmer's life.



# ... Field Trips ...

One of our veteran volunteers, Prof. Latha, met the children there with five of her students and a round of cool spiced buttermilk to beat the heat. Then, the children visited an organic spinach farm and learned how natural biofertilizer is made. They discussed the pros and cons of chemical and biofertilizers with a scientist, Mr. Arivarasan. They lunched with the farmers at Sadana Kudil gardens, hung out with them after, and even helped with a bit of weeding.



It wasn't all a one-way street. The kids entertained the hosts with a street play, a dance, songs and a mime show. And they waited for the moon to make an appearance to have the traditional dinner by moonlight. The cloudy night and the hidden moon did not restrain their appetites and spirits at the wonderful dinner, and they returned home late, tired but sated, happy and appreciative.



# ... Field Trips ...

Couple of days later, the children met again at the **Vandalur Zoo**. The hundred odd children were split into smaller groups. The highlight of this trip was the lion safari where the kids got to see fearsome animals up close in the open, from inside the safety of their vans.



A “field” trip and lions and tigers in just two days!

And that was just the beginning of an eventful summer. All the more enjoyable because the kids played the biggest part in picking their own destinations and deciding on what they wanted to experience and learn all summer long!

Next up was the **planetarium**, where they learned about the planets in 3-D; spent hours in the play area with cool experiments and exhibits. They also visited the awe-inspiring **Anna Library**, took in the volumes of books, and checked out some videogames too.



# ... Field Trips ...

Another day was at the **museum**, where the kids experienced some rare artifacts and felt one with history. They spent that evening at the ancient **Marina beach** and played to their hearts' content. They celebrated the birthday of one of our volunteers at the beach and so there was cake!



The final field trip of this summer, the children's most popular choice, was to a **theme park**! It was a fun day of rides, thrills, squeals, and all-round craziness. Definitely a day to remember...



# ... Field Trips ...



While we weren't able to fit in two other big vote items - park and railway station - they are on the cards for the coming months.



This summer's field trips brought the children from 4 different communities together, to learn, to play, and to see the world together, hand-in-hand. To top it all, the children participated in the choosing and planning of their own field trips. And that's what this summer has been all about - for them and for us.



# Mid-year Musings

We are happy to note that we are on track for most of the goals we set in January.

To **implement an activity-based curriculum**, we added two staff members to our development team. In April, the team visited Puvudham Learning Center, a village school south of Chennai, to understand their novel teaching methods. The school's founder, Mrs. Meenakshi Umesh graciously shared her curriculum that has evolved over the last 10 years. Inspired by Puvudham's approach to learning, Pudiyaador's new curriculum is being developed as we write this. Our team is working on daily lesson plans, staff-training, and teaching methods to better deliver content to our kids. At the time of publishing, Pudiyaador's academic curriculum will cover mathematics and languages, with science and social sciences to follow.



A weekly community clinic run by a volunteer doctor has jumpstarted the **Pudiyaador health program** at two of our centers. We are hoping to infect the remaining centers with similar programs by year-end!

Our ground team has already identified a candidate community for **establishing the next Pudiyaador center**. This time around, we will attempt to “stagger-setup” the new center: kick-off with two activities, art and sport, for the first two months; then gradually add more activities, to finally arrive at a fully functional center, by next May. We will keep you posted :-)

Lastly, a quick note on the recent excitement at the centers, due to our involvement with two remarkable organizations. Pudiyaador's newest partners bring truckloads, well, bus-loads of fun!



**Magic Bus**, is a sports-for-development NGO, that has changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of kids through its innovative weekend sports program. We are partnering with Magic Bus to bring their sports syllabus to two of our current centers.

**M-art-ram**, or “change” in Tamil, is a team that works for social change through art. They are helping us develop a curriculum to present visual art, theater, music and dance in a fun yet structured manner. M-art-ram's weekly classes will be run by professionally trained artists and musicians. Their plans include adding science to the academic syllabus through visual art, involving parents and community members in the production of a street-theater performance, and conducting a movement-photo-narrative workshop that will challenge kids to come up with a story from 4 photographs that they have shot during the photo-session.

We can't wait to get started!



# Planning for the Summer

# Folk Dance

# Sports

# Visual Art

# Western Dance

# String Instruments

# Classical Dance

# Craftmaking



## Summer Camp Planning Sheet [2012]

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	A		B		C		D		E		F		G		H		I		J	
	Days   Centers	AM	PM	AM (10 am - 12 pm)	PM (1 pm - 5 pm)	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
1																				
2																				
3	May 1	Tue			Dance: Mythili, Vimala: Thappaattam: Red kercheif (one each): Snacks & Water	Tailoring*, Sports (Football), Movie	Dance: Deepika, Vikram (Gramiyanadanam): Speakers, Song from PR (on USB): Snacks & Water	Making flower vase, tailoring, movie, sports	Dance: Rathna, narmatha: Thappaattam: Red kercheif (one each):	Basket, Games, Computer, Movie										
4	May 2	Wed																		
5	May 3	Thu																		
6	May 4	Fri																		
7	May 5	Sat																		
8	May 6	Sun																		
9	May 7	Mon	[3 Buses from Rane] Vandalur Zoo																	
10	May 8	Tue			Mythili, deepika, Pillayar Malai, Br. painting, Mar painting, Fish mouth	Bead mala, Sports, movie	RB, narmatha: Pillayar Malai, Br. painting, Mar painting, Fish mouth	Making flower vase, tailoring, movie, sports	Vikram, Vimala: Pillayar Malai, Br. painting, Mar painting, Fish mouth	Embroidery and beading(Akhila), C Movie										
11	May 9	Wed				Golden Tree, Sports, movie														
12	May 10	Thu				Golden Tree, Sports, Movie														
13	May 11	Fri	[2 Buses from Batcha] Planetarium, Anna Library																	
14	May 12	Sat			Mythili, deepika, Pillayar Malai, Br. painting, Mar painting, Fish mouth	Clay Modelling, Sports, computer	RB, narmatha: Pillayar Malai, Br. painting, Mar painting, Fish mouth	Rangoli, Embroidery, Sports	Vikram, Vimala: Pillayar Malai, Br. painting, Mar painting, Fish mouth	Yoga, Fun with Science										
15	May 13	Sun			Ranjitha, Vikram: Boat drama, Vande Mataram: Tabla (for drama and afternoon starter class), Indian flag	sports, computer	RB, Vimala: TV Drama	Rangoli, Embroidery and Beading (Akhila, Mekhala), Folk Music Dance (Vasundara thomas, Kalakshetra) Chamikki,	Mythili, Deepika: Kuzhandhaigalin Urimai: Shawl for each	Arts & crafts, dance(Free style) Yoga, Fun with Science										
16	May 14	Mon				Wire Bag, Sports, Movie														
17	May 15	Tue				Wire Bag, Sports, Movie														
18	May 16	Wed																		
19	May 17	Thu	[1 Bus from Rane ~ 3 Days] Egmore Museum, Railway Station, Marina																	
20	May 18	Fri			Drama Practice	Art work by sukumar														
21	May 19	Sat	[2 Buses from Batcha, 1 Private Van]: Field trip to farm house at Thirunindravoor																	
22	May 20	Sun			Samaki work,	Samaki work, computer, Sports	Clay modelling Drawing	Rangoli, Embroidery, Sports	Arts & crafts, dance(Free style)	Folk Music Dance (Vasundara thomas)										

Based on an simple voting system, children presented us with a bunch of ideas to choose from... Detailed weekly schedules for the activities were drawn up by a panel of 6 older kids, assisted by the Ground Team. So, how did the plans turn out, you wonder?

# Pappu can dance Salsa!



We didn't need 3D glasses to enjoy the mime performances, movie screenings, skits and plays, movement workshops, hip-hop, folk dance and classical dance sessions that the children participated in throughout the month of May!

The summer camp's dance & theater classes were entertaining for the kids, their parents and our staff as well ...

# Wherefore Art Thou?



# Wherefore Art Thou?



Such captivating masterpieces emerged from the hearts of our kids at the end of a fun-filled month of arts & craft projects. It was a sight to behold at the final show & tell!



# Sports Illustrated



Fun and games, mornings and evenings, outside and inside, kept us on our toes, and made our kids happy :-)

Have you been wondering what *you* can do to help?

Here are our *current and specific* needs →



### YOU CAN TEACH ONLINE!

Using Skype, you can connect with our children during weekday evenings and weekends (IST) to:

- Help with academics
- Impart any of your skills
- Demonstrate science experiments
- Hold discussions about relevant and important topics
- Simply chat with the children about their lives and yours

Sign up for a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly slot at:

[www.pudiyador.org/signup](http://www.pudiyador.org/signup)



### We welcome donations

([PayPal](#), [Google Checkout](#), Cash, or Cheque)

- One-time or monthly
- We're a 501(c)(3) organization
- We also have FCRA clearance
- **All donations are tax-exempt**



### Spread the word

- Partner us with other NGOs
- Ask your employer about CSR
- How about matching donations?

### 1. Doctors!

- Any specialty doctors to volunteer at our weekly community clinics.
- Child psychologist who speaks Tamil.  
*Do you know any?*

### 2. Projector and speakers

- Skype classes are clearer on the big screen
- We also screen educational/fun movies

### 3. Educational material

- Books in English for ages 3-10
- Illustrated books for non-readers
- Picture cards for innovative story telling
- Dictionaries (English and/or Tamil)
- Puzzles/activity books, board games

### 4. Music and sports equipment

- Veena, guitar, tabla, mridangam, sitar, keyboard, *thappu*
- Bats/balls/frisbee for group sports

### 5. Cameras and Camcorders

- Digital cameras to record activities and share between centers
- Camcorders for curriculum development and documentation

### 6. Other

- 3 netbooks or laptops and 2 desktop computers - in good condition
- 4 computer tables, 2 storage cupboards/bureaus

Contact our Program Manager  
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### We would love your feedback!

Our newsletter team would love to hear from you—after all, you are the reason our team exists! Please let us know what we can do to make this newsletter more informative and enjoyable. Or just drop a line to say hello :)

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