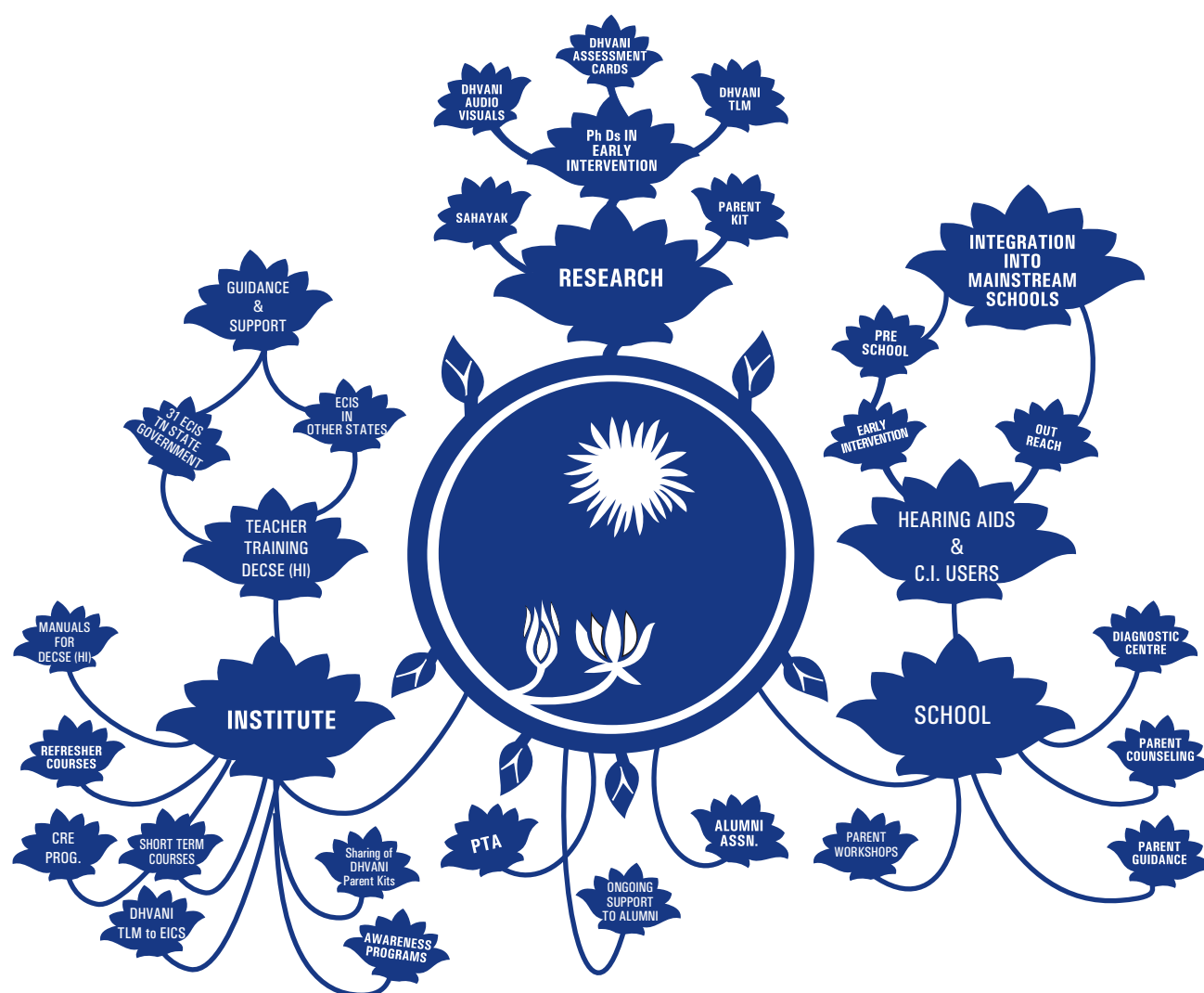


# BALAVIDYALAYA

THE SCHOOL FOR YOUNG DEAF CHILDREN  
&  
THE INSTITUTE FOR TEACHER TRAINING

52 YEARS OF STERLING SERVICE



LISTEN FROM INFANCY & TALK FOR A LIFE TIME

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

# **BALAVIDYALAYA**

**THE SCHOOL FOR YOUNG DEAF CHILDREN  
&  
THE INSTITUTE FOR TEACHER TRAINING**



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# **BALAVIDYALAYA**

## **THE SCHOOL FOR YOUNG DEAF CHILDREN**

### **52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022**

We have great pleasure in submitting the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of Balavidyalaya, The school for young deaf children.

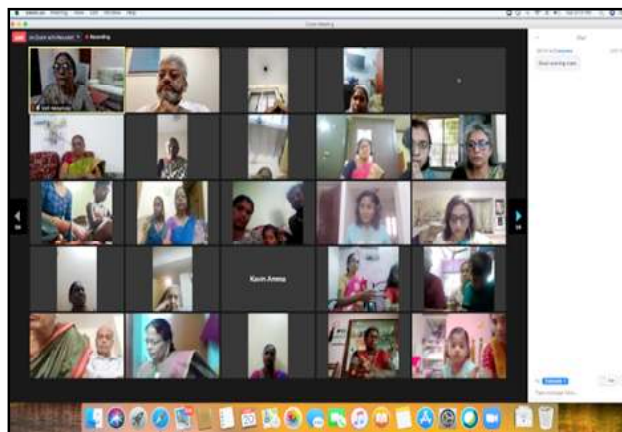
#### **Annual Day Celebrations**

We celebrated the 51st Annual Day of the School on March 20th, 2021. Since Tamil Nadu was under lockdown, we hosted a virtual ceremony for the first time in our history. After the opening prayers, Dr. Valli Annamalai, Honorary Principal, welcomed everyone via Zoom. We were fortunate to have Dr. Uma Ram, Director and Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Seethapathy clinic and hospital, and EV Kalyani Medical Centre, as our chief guest. Dr. Ram in her remarks emphasized the importance of the MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) vaccine in preventing hearing loss from viral infections. She also called for universal screening of new-borns for early detection of hearing impairments. Our annual day celebrations included other speakers. Mr. Ram Narayan Prasad, a US-based alumni, shared his experiences at Balavidyalaya. Mrs. Banu Hari, grandmother of Rakshitha, a child completing our Pre-School programme, also shared her experiences. The Annual Day featured nine children from our Pre-School programme who were soon set to leave Balavidyalaya to join a mainstream school. These nine children recited rhymes (that were pre-recorded) and participated enthusiastically in the School Annual Day.

Dr. Meera Suresh, Honorary Vice-Principal, presented the Annual Report of the School. On this special



day, we also had an opportunity to congratulate our colleague Mrs. Rani Pitchandi who successfully completed 20 years of service in Balavidyalaya. The events concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Meera Suresh. Even though the event was a virtual celebration, we thank everyone for participating with zeal and Zest. About 100 participants joined us virtually from different corners of the world.



## The School

Balavidyalaya the school for young deaf children admits only deaf children below the age of three. There is no lower age limit. The youngest admitted so far was 52 days old. Admission is open throughout the year. All services in School are offered free of charge.



We wrapped up the last term of the 2020-21 Academic Year on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021. Since the 51st Annual Day was virtual we were unable to give the nine children leaving for the mainstream their prize books and medals. So prior to closing for the summer holidays, we invited all the nine children for one last visit to our School. Abundant care and safety precautions were followed on this day. The children and their parents collected report cards and transfer certificates. Prize books and medals were also distributed. As a token of their appreciation, the children also presented teachers and staff with drawings and gifts. While following safety protocols, photos were taken to mark the occasion and celebrate another cohort of “graduates”.



Our School reopened on June 7th 2021 for the new academic year 2021-22. Again it was another term of virtual classes. Balavidyalaya teachers continued to use WhatsApp to guide parents and provide activities for children in our EIP and Pre-School programmes.

14 children were admitted during the course of the year. 10 children were from Chennai, 1 from Pudukottai, 1 from Thiruvallur, 1 from Tanjore and 1 from Bangladesh

In the last week of September, the School held an online meeting with parents of children who are expected to join mainstream schools in 2022. The purpose of this meeting (which is organised every year) is to guide parents on the “integration” process. During the meeting, we discuss school readiness of each child with his/her parents. We also guide them on how to approach schools, understand their criteria for school selection, refer them to alumni or parents of alumni who may have feedback on specific schools and overall, help parents navigate the process of helping their child transition from Balavidyalaya to a mainstream school.

10 children completed our programme and joined mainstream schools. Their details are listed below.

No.	Name	School joined
1	V.Nithin	Sankara Vidyalaya, Pammal, Chennai
2	K.Lakshaya	Children’s Garden School, Mylapore, Chennai
3	S.Deepak	Sankara Vidyalaya, Pammal – Chennai
4	R.S.Tharun	I Z Global School, Pallikarnai, Chennai
5	M.R.Rakshitha	Montford Higher Secondary School Ayanavaram, Chennai
6	K.Dewesh	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar, Chennai
7	J.Mohan	Kavi Bharathi Vidyalaya, Thiruvatriyur, Chennai
8	S.H.Yathavi	J.S.S. International School, Ooty
9	A.Jayden Ryan	Boss Matriculation School, Madipakkam - Chennai
10	KeziaSeema Evangeline S	Jessy Moses Higher Secondary School, Ayanavaram, Chennai

On September 28th, we started in-person lessons with the support of our fully vaccinated teachers and staff. In the first week, we offered one-to-one instruction for 1-hour per child. Parents were given the option to either continue online lessons or avail in-person classes. We carefully planned the operational strategy to support this move. Parents who chose in-person sessions were given detailed instructions with do's and don'ts to ensure the health and safety of our entire community. For instance, we insisted that children could only be dropped off and picked up by fully vaccinated parents. We closed our play area for safety reasons. We also undertook frequent temperature checks and disinfecting of common areas, toys, desks and other materials that children and teachers came in contact with.

The last working day of the first term was October 1st. Our School reopened for its second term on October 18th to virtual and in-person classes. But the same week we had to close due to heavy rains in Chennai for two more weeks. We had an added problem of power shutdowns in some areas due to the rains. So only parents and teachers who had power were able to continue with online virtual classes. The last two weeks of October and November we worked intermittently face to face because of inclement weather.

We closed for the second term Christmas holidays on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. We planned to open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2022 in person. Omicron played spoilsport and we could conduct only virtual classes. Finally on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2022 the Government of Tamil Nadu announced that schools could function face to face. The teachers and parents eagerly started attending school and it functioned in full swing. The teachers and parents had a lot to catch up and help the children to reach expected progress. The work is still in progress.

We sincerely hope the pandemic and the unpredictable weather comes to an end thereby helping us to function effectively.

### **Alumni Corner**

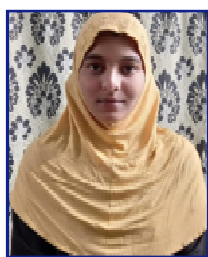
As always, we are delighted to report updates from Balavidyalaya alumni.

Four alumni completed their tenth exams in the State Board.



### **From the Tamil medium we have**

- 1) M. FahimaThapasu who has now joined the science group with computer science and maths
- 2) A. Mohammed Salim who joined the commerce group
- 3) A. Arshad Ahamed who has also joined the Commerce Group
- 4) S. Lithikaa who shifted to English medium and has joined Commerce Group



M. Fahima  
Thapasu



A. Mohammed  
Salim



A. Arshad  
Ahamed



S. Lithikaa

### **From the English medium we have**

- 1) V. Akshitha who has joined the Science group with Maths
- 2) G. Pranayashree has joined the Commerce group
- 3) S.Praveen has joined the Diploma in Computer Science



V. Akshitha



G. Pranayashree

Shreya M.S. completed her 12th exams, earning high scores across her subjects (Business Maths 88, Accounting 87.34, Commerce 83.11, Economics 85.78 and English 87.34) and has joined B.Com in Stella Maris College for Women.



Shreya M.S.

Ashvanth. S. successfully completed A levels (Advanced Level UK subject based qualifications), securing A in Biology, B in English, Maths and Chemistry. He joins B.Sc Hons Biology in Azim Premji University.



Ashvanth. S.

Sanjana Marda joined IIM-Bangalore, making her the third alumni to join that prestigious institution.

Mahrukh Zaidi after a successful completion of MBBS joins Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Lady Hardinge Medical College in New Delhi. She becomes the first medical professional amongst the alumni.

Arun Chakraborty joins M. Litt in Creative Writing in Abardeen University in Scotland.

Divya Yalla successfully completes her MBA.

Meera Kattakaren completed her post graduate diploma in applied data science from the University of Canterbury - Australia.

Ajay E completed his diploma in Computer Science.

We are proud of all their achievements and wish them best of luck in the future!



Mahrukh  
Zaidi



Arun Chakraborty



Divya Yalla



Meera  
Kattukaren

## Donor Updates

As our school offers all educational services free of cost to deaf children this has only been possible through the support of individuals like you. This year also, due to the pandemic, we decided not to release our annual souvenir which was an important source of donations for us each year.

We decided to create an annual donor group from amongst our working alumni and parents. We invite all of you belonging to the Balavidyalaya family to please consider joining this group and helping us.

We also appealed to friends, family, philanthropic organisations and corporations to donate and support our work. Here we wish to specifically acknowledge contributions made by a few of our donors. Specifically, Coromandel International supported us again this year with a donation. We continue to be supported by the Gupta Family Foundation, USA, for which we are thankful. Similarly, Asha for Education USA has continued to support of our work. They continue to engage with us which we find extremely valuable and encouraging. Recently, representatives from Asha for Education observed a couple of our online classes and had an in-depth conversation with Dr.ValliAnnamalai and Dr.Meera Suresh



on teaching-learning during this pandemic. Finally, this year, for the first time, we had an opportunity to receive a donation from US-based Guru Krupa Foundation. We are very lucky to receive their passionate support.

To all donors, we are grateful for your support. Your help furthers our mission, and your confidence in our work allows us to stand tall and do so much more. Those who wish to contribute, please visit our website for more information. <http://www.balavidyalayaschool.org/appeal-fordonations/>

### **Grant in Aid - Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment**

We are grateful to the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment – Government of India for giving us the grant under the Grant in Aid Deen Dhayal Upadaya Scheme for the year 2019-20

### **Policy change**

We found some parents struggling to teach their child in English. As a result of this the child was not progressing. So we decided to once again bring back Tamil medium as an option for specific cases.

### **Awards and Recognition**

In 2021, Balavidyalaya was accepted as a member of WHO's World Hearing forum. In July 2021, we received a certificate of participation from the World Health Organization for participating in World Hearing Day 2021. We created and shared a short-animated poster on social media to generate awareness regarding the causes of hearing loss in children and its prevention.



We are proud to announce that our teacher, Mrs. B. Poovarasi, was one of 50 recipients of an award from Honourable Minister for School Education on the occasion of Teachers Day 2021. The event was organised by the Rotary Club of Madras North. Mrs. B. Poovarasi received the award from the Honourable Minister for School Education, Mr. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi

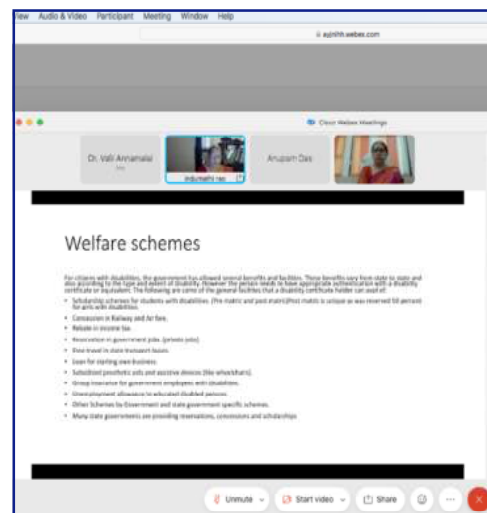


## Participation in Seminars and Conferences

❖ In June, we attended a virtual meeting with Tamil Nadu State Government officials including the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled, the DDAWO Mr. Shrinaath, Mrs. Sheeba Anand (Speech Therapist in SRTC) and other NGOs running Early Intervention Centres in Tamil Nadu. The meeting, was attended by Dr. Valli Annamalai and Dr. S. Subbulakshmi. The Commissioner asked about the condition of all the Early intervention centers. A discussion was held on how virtual classes were conducted by the centers.

❖ In August, Balavidyalaya was invited to participate in a stakeholders' consultation for a proposed World Bank project for persons with disabilities. The virtual meeting was organised by the office of the State Commissioner for the Differently Abled. Dr. Valli Annamalai and Dr. Meera Suresh participated in the discussions.

❖ In August again, Dr. S. Subbulakshmi and Dr. Valli Annamalai attended an online meeting organized by the DEPWD's Ministry of Social Justice to understand the various Government of India schemes and programs available to differently abled people. The meeting was aimed at informing organizations working with differently abled people.

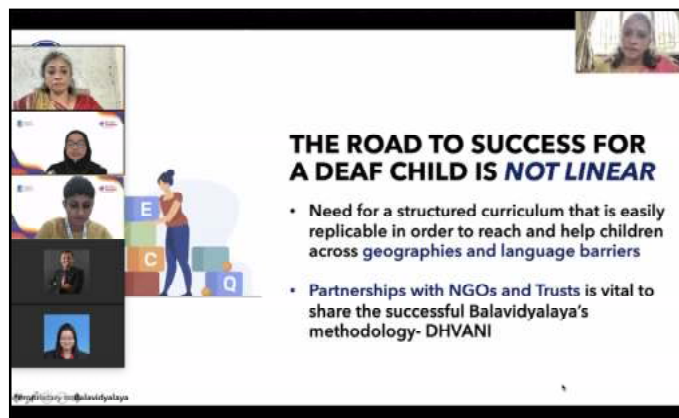


❖ During the same month of August, Dr S. Subbulakshmi and Mrs. Sridevi attended an in-person meeting conducted by the DDAWO Mr. Shrinaath and Mrs. Sheeba Anand. They discussed the importance of getting Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards issued by the Government of India to persons with disabilities. The meeting also outlined the process for getting UDID cards. It also discussed the mobile app that is currently available to register and verify individuals who are differently abled.



❖ In September, Dr. Meera Suresh attended a virtual webinar conducted by the WHO Hearing Forum to discuss the soon to be released WHO Advocacy Handbook for Ear and Hearing Care.

❖ In December Dr Meera Suresh presented a paper in a virtual International conference held in Malaysia by Quest International University – SEMB 2021. She presented a paper on 'Balavidyalaya and the success of DHVANI in helping infants and young children' which was pre-recorded and sent. This was followed by a good healthy interaction with some paediatricians and officials living in Malaysia.



❖ In January the three teacher assistants were deputed to the Tahsildar Office in Alandur to assist the Tamil Nadu Government officials in the UDID Identity cards camp.



❖ In January Dr Meera Suresh gave the key note address during the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of CLIPS – Cochlear Implant Programme of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research – Department of ENT Head & Neck Surgery & Department of Speech Language & Hearing Sciences. Her address was on 'How and what do the parents need to know and do when their child goes to mainstream schools for integration'.



❖ In January Dr Valli Annamalai and Dr Subbulakshmi attended the virtual meeting held by the DDRWAO State Government on the various Schemes offered by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

❖ In March Dr Valli Annamalai and Dr Meera Suresh attended a meeting on the various early intervention centers in Tamilnadu. The meeting was on the possibility of merging all the early intervention centers. It was chaired by the commissioners of the Department of Education, Differently abled and Health – Government of Tamilnadu.



❖ Dr Valli Annamalai attended the virtual meeting by the Commissioner of the Differently Abled. This meeting was on the Chief Ministers Comprehensive Health Insurance Schemes.

## Workshops

In the month of February, a two-phase workshop was held for parents.

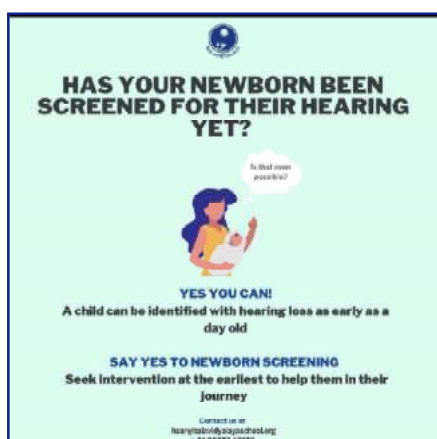
In the first phase, parents were shown videos on how to work with their children. The second phase will be held after a few weeks with the parents handling their children under supervision.



## Awareness Programmes

On World Disabled Day the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021 we made awareness posters on tips on identification of hearing loss in children and once identified what should be done. These posters were distributed and struck in Hospitals, Maternity Hospitals, clinics, shops and public places with the help of the staff and parents.

These posters were also put up and shared on all our social media sites of facebook, whats app and instagram.



## Administrative Updates

As per the amended provisions of the FCRA enacted in September 2020, NGOs registered under the Act were asked to open a designated bank account with the State Bank of India's main branch in New Delhi, and register Aadhaar details of the chief functionaries. We are happy to report that in March 2021, we opened a bank account at the SBI, Delhi and complied with all the requirements. In May 2021, this account became operational, allowing us to receive foreign funds. This year we also registered Balavidyalaya Trust in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs portal. This allows us to undertake CSR activities on behalf of companies. We also successfully updated our website in September to reflect recent changes.

## Staff Milestones

This year we have three staff completing 30 years of service. We congratulate Dr S Subbulakshmi, our Couse coordinator, Mrs R Hemalatha our Assistant Head Mistress, and Mrs V.Usha our teaching staff for their untiring work in Balavidyalaya. We wish them all the best for a healthy life ahead.

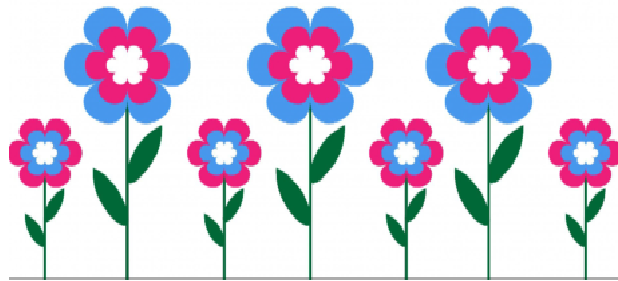


We congratulate the siblings Mr. S Damodharan our night watchman and Mrs S.Varalakshmi our ayah for completing 20 years of service in Balavidyalaya. We wish them all the best for a healthy life ahead.



We congratulate Mrs.Tamilselvi V our non teaching staff for completing 10 years of service. We wish her all the best for a healthy life ahead.

We hope our face to face in person work in school continues and the pandemic comes to an end. We hope all of you enjoyed this Annual Report.



*Let us help children with hearing impairment*  
**LISTEN FROM INFANCY AND TALK FOR A LIFETIME.**





EIP - Tamil - Rithamika, Maaran, Aadhi Dev,  
Maha Dev, Kadhija



EIP - English - Thanishka, Agasthiya Guhan,  
Chanvi, Safiyya, Vaishnav, Hashwin



Pre School - Top to Bottom L to R - Pranav Krishna, Gerson Raj, Pavala Mithran,  
Jeswinth, Farzeen, Christlin, Vishahan, Tev Visakan, Kanishka, Raghuram, Saisha,  
Branusha, Dhanvi, Pavin Vinayak, Pranitha



Staff & Students of BVI



Staff of Balavidyalaya



The Lotus represents knowledge.  
The Sun dispels darkness of ignorance and makes the lotus bloom.  
The school Balavidyalaya breaks the barrier of silence in  
children's mind, initiates them to the music of sounds and  
helps them communicate verbally.  
Balavidyalaya Institute removes the misconceptions on the  
capabilities of deaf infants and young children from the  
mind of special schools and special educators and makes  
them the ambassadors of oral education.

**“LISTEN FROM INFANCY & TALK FOR A LIFE TIME”**

தாமரை அறிவின் அடையாளம்.  
ஆதவன் இருளை நீக்கி உலகை ஒளி  
வெள்ளத்திலாழ்த்தி தாமரையை மலர வைக்கிறான்.

பாலவித்யாலயா பள்ளி  
குழந்தைகளை மௌனச் சிறையிலிருந்து விடுவித்து  
ஒலியுலகத்தில் பேசி மகிழ வைக்கிறது.

பாலவித்யாலயா ஆசிரியர் பயிற்சி நிறுவனம்,  
சிறப்பு பள்ளிகள் மற்றும் சிறப்பு ஆசிரியர்கள்,  
மனதிலுள்ள தவறான கருத்துகளை நீக்கி,  
செவிக்குறையுள்ள குழந்தைகளின் திறமைகளை அறிந்து,  
அவர்களை பேச வைக்கும் முயற்சியில்  
ஆசிரியர்களை ஈடுபடுத்துகிறது.

“மழலையில் கேட்டு  
வாழ்நாள் முழுவதும் பேசு.”



## Bumble Bee & Balavidyalayans

According to Recognized Aerotechnical tests, the Bumble - Bee cannot fly because of the shape and weight of his body in relation to his total wing area.

The Bumble-bee doesn't know this. So he goes ahead and flies anyway.

According to Recognized theories children with Hearing Impairment cannot speak.

Bala Vidyalayans don't know this. So they go ahead and speak anyway.

## கருவண்டும் பாலவித்தியாலயா குழந்தைகளும்

விமான அறிவியல் கோட்பாட்டின்படி கனமான உடம்பும் மிக மெல்லிய இறக்கைகளும் உள்ள கருவண்டால் பறக்க இயலாது. ஆனால் கருவண்டிற்கு இது தெரியாது. அது பறந்து கொண்டேன் இருக்கிறது.

அறிவியல் கருத்துப்படி செவிக்குறையுள்ள குழந்தைகளால் பேச இயலாது. ஆனால் பாலவித்தியாலயா குழந்தைகளுக்கு இது தெரியாது. அவர்கள் பேசிக் கொண்டேன் இருக்கிறார்கள்.