



S.I.W.S.
N.R. SWAMY COLLEGE OF COMMERCE & ECONOMICS AND
SMT. THIRUMALAI COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
MAJOR R. PARAMESHWARAN MARG, SEWREE – WADALA ESTATE,
PLOT NO. 337, WADALA, MUMBAI – 400 031.

Southern Cultural Association

Academic Year 2019-20

1) Pongal Celebrations: Southern Cultural Association organized 'Pongal Celebrations' on 24th January 2020 from 8:00 am onwards. Like every year, this year too, the festival was celebrated with a theme- "Marutuva Pongal"- Health and well being for all. The event began with Ma-Kolam(Rangoli with rice flour).The participants decorated the premises beautifully with their traditional art and set the festive season rolling. The event that followed was 'Pongal Making'. Students showed a lot of enthusiasm and zeal by coming together to make pongal. This event began by the lighting of the lamp and offering prayers to the sun lord by the Chief Guest for the occasion – Mrs. Varsha Gaikwad – The Education Minister for schools, our Chairman-Shri R.Radhakrishnan, our Hon. General Secretary-Shri.M.Ananthasubramanian and our Principal Dr.Usha Iyer.

The dignitaries wished all the participants a very happy pongal and encouraged students to continue to take part in such celebrations by visiting all the groups who participated in pongal making. Besides this, stage events were organized with a view to provide a platform for the students to showcase their talent. The cultural event began with a prayer song by Prof. Chandra of the Junior College followed by the introduction and felicitation of the Chief Guest Mrs. Varsha Gaikwad. Our Principal Dr.Usha Iyer welcomed our Chief Guest for the event and requested her to address the gathering.

The Chief Guest wished everyone in the audience a very Happy Pongal/ Makar Sankrant/ Lohri. She said that she was overwhelmed by the way the students organized the event and appreciated their efforts. She shared her learnings and experiences and emphasized the importance of education and encouraged the students to outperform in academics. She also added that there is no substitute to hardwork and dedication, which also is precisely the reason for her success. The first dance was "Karagattam-the traditional dance form which invoked the blessings of the almighty. Many more dance forms like Bharatanatyam, Folk and free style contemporary songs on pongal in tamil were performed by the students. Our Principal Dr.Usha Iyer in her address spoke about "Dhanam Pradhanam"- that sharing and giving are the essence of the festival. In light of the same she gifted the non teaching staff with a pongal pannai- pot with rice, jaggery and dal, which indeed filled their heart with joy and happiness. Students enjoyed the event and promised to make it bigger and better the next time.



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2) **Thirukkural Recitation Competition:**

➤ **About the event:-**

Southern Cultural Association organized “Thirukkural Recitation Competition on 21st January 2020. Shri. Vadilai Pradaban and Shri. James Devadasan judged the event. Mr. Vaidhyathan- General Manager-The Hindu graced the occasion as one of the judges of the event.

➤ **Major Highlights of the event:-**

- Both Tamil and Non-Tamil teachers and students participated in the event and recited thirukkural couplets on “Health”.
- Students dressed up as “Thiruvalluvar” and mesmerized the audience with their wonderful performance.

The event began with a prayer song sung by Ms. Chandra and her team of students. Our dignitaries from the management Mr. M. Ananthasubramanian, Mr. Kumar, Our Principal Dr. Usha Iyer and Shri. Vaidyanathan lighted the lamp. Ms. Padmavathy welcomed the esteemed guests and audience and explained the importance of holding the competition. Students dressed up as ‘Thiruvalluvar’ and mesmerized the audience with their wonderful performance.

Our Principal Dr. Usha Iyer welcomed the guests and audience to the event and encouraged and appreciated the participation of Tamil and Non Tamil teachers and participants. She also mentioned the significance of ‘Thirukkural’ and its application in our daily lives. Not only Tamil teachers but Non Tamil teachers also participated and won the hearts of the judges and the audience by reciting the couplets on ‘Udal’-(Health) after having thoroughly practiced the couplets. Teachers not just recited but also understood and explained the meaning of the couplet recited by them. Teacher participants explained the meaning in details and were applauded and appreciated by the audience for the same.

Both Tamil and Non-Tamil students took part in the competition and recited the couplet. As always there was a lot of zeal and enthusiasm in students. Students were very happy for recitation but showed eagerness in applying the meaning of the couplets to their lives. Students made the college proud by outperforming at Tamilzhangham during ‘Thiruvalluvar Dinam’ celebrations and were showered with blessings and applaud by the audience.



3) **Pattimandram:** Southern Cultural Association organized “Pattimandram” on 20th December 2019 in the Seminar Room CB-208 at 10.30 am. The topic for the same was “Reason for reducing number of students in the spoken Tamil”:

1. Western Outlook of youngsters
- or
2. Lackadaisical attitude of elders

The event was judged by Smt. Amala Stanley – (CEO of SVPM Trust Schools, Thane & Ex Principal of Little Flower High School Thane). Renowned speakers like Shree Arumuga pandian, Smt. Praveena Shekhar and Shree Sendhur Nagarajan represented “Team Youngsters” while “Team Elders” included Shri Venkata Subramanian, Shri Venkatraman and Smt. Bhuvana Venkat.

The program was telecasted on JPR news channel. Our Chairman Shri R.Radhakrishnan and Hon.Gen. Secretary Shri M.Ananthasubramanian graced the occasion with their presence. Our Principal Dr.Usha Iyer motivated the students to speak in Tamil highlighting the importance and beauty of the language. Smt. Padmavati Srinivasan along with the faculty members very innovatively introduced the topic to the audience.

The idea of holding this event was to emphasize the need for speaking “Tamil”. Both Degree and Junior College students expressed their opinion and were encouraged with a huge round of applause from our Principal, Guest speakers and audience.

Shree Arumugapandian in his very humorous speech made a point that the western culture has completely taken over the way Tamil is spoken on a day-to-day basis. His practical approach to the topic left the students absolutely mesmerized. Smt. Praveena Shekhar highlighted the importance of learning proper Tamil and very effectively emphasized how western culture has taken over the way youngsters speak the language. Shree Sendhur Nagarajan spoke about how dominating English and Hindi interface has taken over the way tamil language is spoken today. The team presented practical points on how the other languages have an influence on spoken Tamil for today’s generation.

The opposite team very well defended the points of “Team Youngsters”. Smt. Bhuvana Venkat got a thundering applause for her speech. She spoke on how it is important for the elders to communicate in Tamil so that the younger generation can take after them. Shree.Venkatraman very interestingly brought about the point that there has to be a conscious effort by each one to speak in tamil and not let other languages take over the charm and rhythm of the language. Shree Venkatatasubramanian gave it a more analytical approach and narrated live examples of how children today are encouraged to study English and other foreign languages and not their own language Tamil.



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He cited a few examples of how important it is for parents to set the right learning atmosphere for their children to be able to learn the language. Soon after both the teams finished their rounds of debating, the Judge - Smt Amala Stanley addressed the audience. Madam began by congratulating our Principal Dr. Usha Iyer for coming up with such an interesting and apt topic for today's generation. She gave her views on both the teams and team members individually and also summarized the discussion.

Each speaker expressed their willingness to participate in Pattimandram every year. It was a great learning experience for the students. They enjoyed the event thoroughly.

Ms. Iyengar Subhashini
Convenor, Southern Cultural Association



Dr. Usha Iyer
Principal

Date: 31/02/20

PRINCIPAL
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