

## **Kumaraswamy Govt Primary School**

### **Current Status:**

The current strength of the school is about 100. The strength this year is apparently lower than last year. Some children have left and joined private schools. The quality of teaching could be one factor that contributed to this. The HeadMistress, however expects the strength to reach about 125 by end of June

They had 3 govt teachers (including Mrs Mayawati, who is the head master) last year. One teacher retired last year, and her replacement is yet to come in. Another teacher, Mrs. Shankuntala, who worked on deputation last year, is being be posted to another school this year. In her place, another teacher has come on deputation.

Most children who graduated from class V are seeking admission in the Basavannagudi high school for class 6.

Initially we had been considering the idea of starting class 6. But following suggestions from Ram that we should really be looking at making use of existing govt resources (such as the Basavannagudi school which already have rooms and teachers, and functioning under-strength currently), decided to encourage the children to get enrolment there. The plan to start class 6 could be revisited once more rooms materialize.

The volunteer teacher, Mrs. Prabhavathi, who has been working in the schools with support from Asha is continuing this year.

Toilets have been completed.

A compound wall is starting to come up (perhaps it covers about 15% of the perimeter currently)

A summer session of over a month was taken by the Mrs. Prabhavathi. I believe some academics and some things like artwork were covered. With a large number of children showing up, it perhaps was a bit demanding on the single person handling it. We need to plan this more next year, include different activities so it will be productive and enjoyable for children.

There are reports that there is a grant in the pipeline for construction of 2 additional rooms. This might materialize only after another few months.

The noon-meals provided by Kannada Kasturi are reaching the schools very late (as late as 2:30 PM). Because of this, the attention span of the children starts wavering from afternoon. The organization's reason for the delay is that the rice supplied by the govt has lot of stones etc, which need to be cleaned up before they are cooked. Also, apparently, these schools fall towards the end of the supply schedule for the auto-driver.

Ram and Venkat had been teaching Math couple of days every week. Ram has also had a couple of interactions with the parents around performance of children.

Sadhana will be volunteering to take the art class once a week, on Saturdays, this year also. Apparently, there is a govt directive this year to incorporate more art aspects into the curriculum.

Suja had been volunteering and teaching English towards the latter part of the school year.

Kalpana taught Math for a few months.

Neelima has been going to the schools twice a week, and teaching English.

There will be a semester system starting with this year. The school year will be broken up into two, with exams in between. Earlier even if they get off to a slow start, they used to cover it in the latter half. This will be difficult this year.

### **Performance of Children:**

Major efforts will need to be put in to improve the learning levels of children in this school, from what Ram and Neelima indicate.

Ensuring more individual attention to children (which will be facilitated by providing adequate number of teachers).

We should ask the teachers to set targets for the learning levels to be achieved by the end of the year and work towards them.

### **Requirements:**

- Ensure that the noon meals reach the children at a reasonable time of about noon, as with last year. **The Kannada Kasturi organization has to be spoken to and requested to expedite the food delivery.** Otherwise, the purpose of the noon-meal program will be defeated.
- **Ensure that the post of the teacher who retired last year is filled as soon as possible.** Till the time this materializes, we should enlist the help of another volunteer teacher. Apparently, one candidate, Mr. Shekhar has been identified. He has training, and 1 year teaching experience. Neelima has interviewed him and found him to be quite motivated. Depending on how things shape up, we could discontinue after 3 months or continue it after that (Approx Cost for 3 months:  $3 \times 2000 = \text{Rs. } 6000$ )
- The volunteer teacher, Mrs. Prabhavathi, who is working with support from Asha is continuing this year. Currently she is getting paid by Ram through his personal contribution. We should substitute this with Asha funding.  
Approx Cost:  $(12 \times 2000 = \text{Rs. } 24,000)$

- **Secure release of funds from the govt for the construction of additional rooms.**
- One of the existing rooms should be partitioned with a wooden panel so that classes can be held without interfering one another. **Approx Cost: ??**
- Volunteer coverage should be ensured once Neelima's time availability becomes more restricted starting next month.
- The non-academic events and cultural program held last year should be repeated. I think last year's event was very well received by the children and some of the performances put up by the children last year were simply fantastic and showed the potential they have. **Approx Cost: Rs. 3000**
- We could get a notice board outside the school for putting up things such as photographs of school, post accomplishments etc. The school had requested for photographs from the school day that Ram/Pradeep had taken. **Approx Cost: ??**
- Notebooks: Neelima plans to take care of the initial requirement as her contribution. A source which supplies books at reasonable prices will need to be identified. There could be additional requirements down the line.

Mrs. Mayawati has requested for three 200 page books for each child of class I through IV, and five 200 page books for each child of class V. In addition, there is a requirement for pens, pencils, rubbers, drawing items and geometry boxes.

- Electric connection. This could be used for purposes such as playing English learning audio tapes (a set of 10 have apparently been provided by the govt, but currently are not being put to use because of no electricity). With electricity, we can consider also showing some educational videos/programs on TV and also look into getting a computer.

Mrs. Mayawati mentioned that the cost would come to Rs. 10,000 out of which Rs. 5,000 could be used from a govt grant. Neelima feels that the total cost should come to lesser than this. We could look into it, and whatever is the requirement over and above the Rs. 5000, we should put in.

- Educational visit: Visit to a place such as Bannerugatta national park can be arranged. Children were very much looking forward to such a trip last year, however it could not be taken up. If we can eliminate the transportation costs through use of buses of the Alliance Business Academy, this would leave us with costs of the park entrance fee and food. Will perhaps come to about Rs. 50 per child (for a total of Rs. 5000).

- There is a plan to have a parents meeting next Saturday to discuss some of the quality aspects. It will be good if some Asha volunteers knowing Kannada can be present then.
- Saturday library sessions should be continued. Initially Rohini was taking this. After she left, I believe the volunteer teacher was continuing this. We need to ensure effectiveness of these sessions.
- We should ensure that the sports material we provided will be put to use and not just be under lock and key.
- Need for flash cards for teaching English words, and English picture books with large print and basic words. The books that we had previously given, in English, are of a standard that the children cant handle currently.
- The local community is apparently dumping garbage in front of the school. During rains this causes a lot of stink and also is unhygienic when food is served closeby. The community/SDMC has to be requested to address this situation.
- Art material for the class Sadhana takes