



Sastha Tamil Foundation

P.O Box 251753 Plano

TX 75025-1753

director@stfnonprofit.org

www.stfnonprofit.org

Plano Tamil School Annual Report
2017-2018

Contents

Contents	1
About US	3
Year in Review – A Recap	4
Curriculum	4
Teachers Training & Staff Enrichment	5
Competitive Events	5
Community Service and Social Events	5
Tamil School Annual Day	6
Vaaram Oru Thuli (VOT)	6
Enhancement to Website	7
STF and PTS Events in Media	7
Communication	7
About STF Charity Programs	8
Reading Program and Library Activities	8
Tamil Library	8
Reading Log Program	9
Accreditation	9
Survey	9
OpenSIS	
University Language Credits via UPenn	10
Acknowledgement and Credits	10
The Journey Continues	11

Plano Tamil School Team	14
Room Volunteers	14
Administrative Staff	14
Students Volunteers	14
Class Photographs	
Mazhalai	15
Level 1A	16
Level 1B	16
Level 1C	17
Level 2A	17
Level 2B	18
Level 2C	19
Level 3A	20
Level 3B	20
Level 4A	21
Level 4B	22
Level 5	22
Level 6	23
Level 7	24

About US

Welcome all to the 17th year of Plano Tamil School, a 100% volunteer run organization, a subsidiary of Sastha Tamil Foundation - www.stfnonprofit.org, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with over 60+ volunteers as teachers, facilitators and administrators.



Year in Review – A Recap

We started 2017 – 2018 academic years with a record enrollment of 330 students. This is our 17th year of service towards providing quality Tamil language education. This is our first year of concurrent enrollment at Frisco ISD, through which children who are enrolled in Frisco ISD and pursuing Level 7 and Level 8 at our school get 2 world language credits, considered towards their graduation plan from ISD. Our first set of children will be graduating with LoTE credit next and we are so excited about this. We thank our Teachers, Volunteers, Parents, Students and all the patrons for the unstinted support.

Venue

Plano Tamil school continues to run its operations from 2 buildings - one in Hedgcoxe Road and the other in Rasor Blvd.

Curriculum

There was no change to the curriculum plans and Plano Tamil School continues to follow a blended curriculum that combines the best of ATA (American Tamil Academy, www.amtaac.org) one of the versatile Tamil language boards in North America and our in-house curriculum which has been refined and adjusted based on students, teachers and parents feedback.

The school is continuing to provide report cards to all the students at the end of each unit. Students' Attendance, Homework and their Unit Test grades are taken into account in

generating the report cards for each unit. Report cards were generated by using a data management tool Fedena.

LoTE approval obtained from Frisco ISD



5515 Ohio Drive
Frisco, Texas 75035
469.633.6000
469.633.6050 (fax)
www.friscoisd.org

October 10, 2017

Dear Mrs. Visalakshi Velu,

Thank you for applying for concurrent enrollment for high school LOTE credit with Frisco ISD. We have reviewed the application and materials of The Plano Tamil School. Frisco ISD will award LOTE credit based on the following criteria:

- Current accreditation through AdvancED/SACS Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (as of 2015)
- All TEKS for appropriate course levels are taught

A student from The Plano Tamil School that enrolls in one of the courses listed below during non-school hours will be awarded the following credits:

- Successful completion of Level 7 at The Plano Tamil School will earn LOTE Level 1 credit.
- Successful completion of Level 8 at The Plano Tamil School will earn LOTE Level 2 credit.

Please note:

- Students may only request credit for the courses listed above after completion of the 6th grade year in Frisco ISD.
- Students will need to provide the transcript to be reviewed verifying completion of the language course no earlier than the Spring of the student's 8th grade year. The transcript must include the language and level(s) completed.
- The only credits accepted are for the two courses listed above.
- GPA points will not be awarded for concurrent enrollment courses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We look forward to working with you and your students.

Respectfully,

Allison Ginn
LOTE Coordinator, Frisco ISD
469-633-6854
ginna@friscoisd.org

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS	ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS	EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
Mike Waldrip, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools	Todd Fouche, Ed.D. Business Services	Kenny Chandler Student Services	Melissa Fouche Technology and Media Services
Michele Crutcher Assistant to Superintendent and Board of Trustees	Katie Kordel Curriculum and Instruction	Pamela Linton, Ed.D. Human Resources	Amanda McCune Communications and Community Relations
	Doug Zambiasi Support Services		

Student Volunteers

We had 6 student volunteers volunteer with us. They are students who have graduated from Plano Tamil School and are continuing to volunteer with us in an effort to give back to the community.

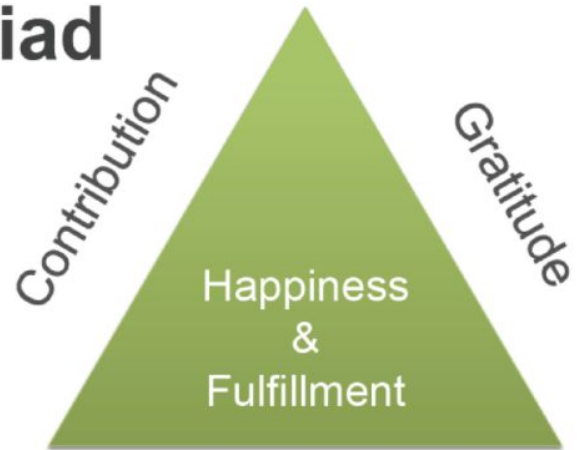
Teacher's Training & Staff Development:

The kickoff for the current school year was initiated with a Teacher Orientation Program at the Velus residence. Volunteers are a critical part of the tamil school. The Mission, Vision and the higher purpose of why we are doing what we are doing was discussed in detail. An overview of the organizational approach was also provided. The calendar for the school year was circulated. Orientation logistics were discussed. The highlight of the teacher orientation was the in-depth interactive Q&A that helped all the volunteers learn about the Plano Tamil School culture. Teacher's guidelines and the Room Volunteer guidelines was also circulated among the volunteers. This was followed by a delicious lunch which everyone enjoyed . Everyone felt that the events of the day set the tone for an exciting school year and appreciated and thanked the school for conducting it.

The Triad

How to serve:

Yourself
Students
Parents
Co-Teachers
PLTS Administration



Servant Leadership

During the school year, the school also arranged for another teacher training with Dr. Sankaran Radhakrishnan, Lecturer - Dept. of South Asian Studies, UT Austin. It was an all day event. After the training, all the teachers and volunteers felt that the training provided them with lot of value add in terms of delivering the teaching to the students. The key



highlight of the training was that tamil should be taught to the students here in the u.s. as a second language and not as a first language.



Updates from STF & its activities :

Competitive events are an integral part of the Plano Tamil School program. The parent non-profit organization – Sastha Tamil Foundation – is a strong support for motivating and conducting these events at the school level and outside of the DFW and Texas State level. One of the main goals is to bring out each student's potential. Also, STF treats every participant as a winner to encourage him or her, so that next time they can perform better and improve their skills.

For this academic year Plano Tamil School had following programs:

- 6th week presentation
- Reading log program

For this academic year Plano Tamil School jointly participated with STF events as below:

- Thirukkural Competition
- Aathichudi
- Pechu Potti
- Katturai Potti
- Competition Ceremony (தமிழ் ஆராதனை விழா)

Plano Tamil School students and parents participated in these following events.

- ❖ STF Basket Brigade. <https://www.anthonyrobbinsfoundation.org/basket-brigade/76/>
 - This is a local event during every year Thanksgiving day.
 - Details for 2017-2018 can be found here <http://stfnonprofit.org/Basket-Brigade-Volunteers>
- ❖ STF's Annual Charity Fundraiser – **“Creating a Compelling Future”**
- ❖ Embrace, Educate & Excel - an inspiring speech and motivational training for next generation
- ❖ This was an annual charity fundraising program to support Udavum Karangal. More details can be found here: <https://stfnonprofit.org/charity-events/stf-annual-charity-fundraiser-event-2017>

These events provided a great platform for the students to learn the significance of community service as well as helped them to learn the outside world interaction.

Community Events

Children of Plano Tamil School participated in the Chithirai Thiruvizha celebrations organized by Metroplex Tamil Sangam. Therukoothu which was staged during our annual day was staged again during this event which got some rave reviews from the audience.



Tamil School Annual Day

Plano Tamil School's annual day showcases our children through Iyal Isai Nadagam. Each class showcases their talents in their own creative ways, through acting out plays with different themes, with morals and values, or to portray our rich culture. This also aids the children to build their public speaking skills.

When: April 8th 2018 at 2.00 - 6.00 PM

Where: Granville Arts Center, Garland, TX.

The grand 17th year Annual Day celebration of Plano Tamil School is held on **April 8th 2018, at the Granville Arts Center, Garland TX.**

Since the motto of the school is to provide stage presence to all (330+) students, the event is conducted over a span of 6 hours, split into two halves.

A team of 50+ volunteers including the Teachers, Assistant Teachers and Room Volunteers will direct, script and choreograph the programs.



17th Year Annual Day Celebrations!

You and your family are cordially invited to our
Plano Tamil School's (2017 – 2018) 17th Annual Day celebrations.
We have a variety of programs showcasing Tamil Culture.

Date & Time: Sunday, April 8, 2018, 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Venue: Granville Arts Center, 200 N. Fifth Street, Garland, TX 75040

Chief Guest

Ms. Anne McCausland
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Frisco ISD

Agenda

- ❖ Tamizh Thai Vazhthu
- ❖ Welcome Speech
- ❖ Performances by Students
- ❖ Teachers, Volunteers Recognition
- ❖ Break
- ❖ Performances by Students Continues
- ❖ Award Ceremony for Thirukkural and Tamizh Thiran Pottigal
- ❖ Thank you Speech

STFnonprofit.org | [YouTube.com/SasthaTamil](https://www.youtube.com/SasthaTamil) | [FB.com/SasthaTamilFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/SasthaTamilFoundation)



Class Photographs

Mazhalai



Level 1A



Level 1B



Level 1C



Level 2A



Level 2B



Level 2C



Level 3A



Level 3B



Level 4A



Level 4B



Level 5



Level 6



Level 7



Vaaram Oru Thuli (VOT)

The Vaaram Oru Thuli (வாரம் ஒரு துளி) is distributed to the Plano Tamil School Google group members throughout the year, every Friday.

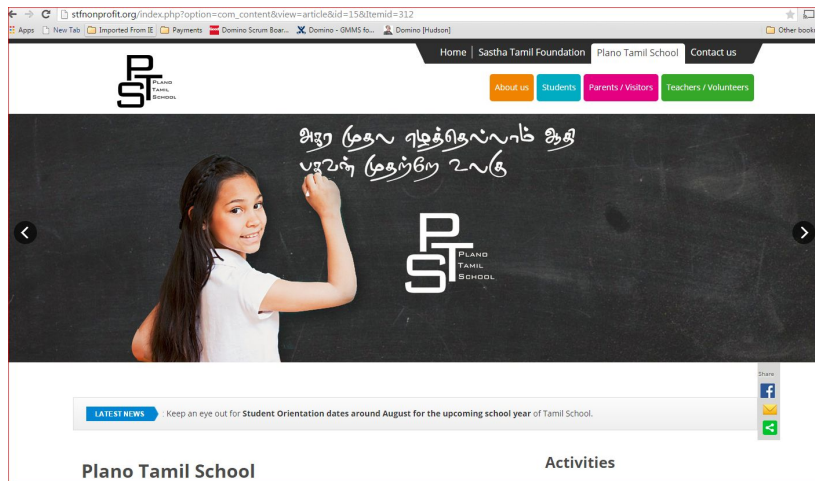
This email covers mainly the interesting articles about the Tamil language heritage, culture, famous Tamil leaders, world leaders, moral stories and any other topics which are useful to the students and parents. Along with this any school related important upcoming schedules/reminders are announced as needed.

Google Group URL: <http://groups.google.com/group/pltamil>

Enhancement to Website

Website is an integral part of our communication strategy and we continue to invest time and resources into our new website as it is an integral part of our communication strategy. The website also has mobile browser viewability.

A new website was launched in 2015: www.stfnonprofit.org. It is hosted under a new server with additional storage capacity. The registration for 2017-2018 was open through the new website. Many enhancements were made to the website. All the resources for students and parents are now available on the website as well.



STF and PTS Events in Media

Several STF and PTS events are published in the online news and magazines. The key events and online links are provided in our brand new website.

<http://stfnonprofit.org/News-Media>

Communication

School updates are sent out to each student's family every week. Our communication includes school news, a calendar of events and other useful information. Vaaram Oru Thuli, containing interesting facts, is also sent every week. Parents may keep a close eye on the communication to be fully informed of PTS' happenings. School annual report will be sent out annually. You may also receive emails about class progress and any other general information from your respective teachers.

Reading Program and Library Activities

Tamil Library : The Plano Tamil School Library is one of the attractions for the students and their parents. In the academic year 2017-2018, few changes were introduced in order to accommodate the student growth and demand since 2010.

At the beginning of the year, the Library was operated only in Hedgcoxe AMH location. Since the new location was opened, the Students from Level 3 – Level 7 moved to the new location Rasor AMH. It was inconvenient for the students to come and check out books from one Library location. So we have introduced a new branch in the new location for the benefit of the students.

More than 50 **new books were added** as part of this academic year due to the student growth.

This academic year, we had a substantial growth in registration with over **240 registered library members**.

Initially we started this Tamil Library with only 40 books, now we have around **1500+ books**. This collection includes Children's story books, Bilingual books, Novels etc. Our children's books collection has many different varieties. We have books that are suitable for children of all ages, especially the younger children who are just starting to read. We also maintain around 250+ storybooks and magazines for the adults.

Reading Log Program

As part of this reading log program, Library books were given to each class based on the level. These books were distributed and exchanged every week to the students with the help of Room Volunteers or Teachers.

Around **350 level-wise books** were distributed for this Reading log program.

During every 6th week presentation, one student from each class was selected for the reading log winner and awarded during the presentation. This year we have given pencils, highlighters, bookmarks as a gift to those winners. Around **56 winners** are recognized in this academic year.

Also during the Annual day celebration, from each Level, one **grand prize winner was recognized** for the whole academic year.

Acknowledgement and Credits

Plano Tamil School has been a pioneer in providing quality Tamil education to the Dallas-Fort Worth community. The sustained success has been made possible due to the untiring efforts of parents, teachers and the students.

The School is **thankful to American Tamil Academy for their massive** efforts to bring all Tamil schools together in the USA, and for providing a platform with a standard syllabus and colorful textbooks.

The School is **thankful to the Alpha Montessori School** for providing both the venues for weekend classes for several years.

The School is **thankful to AdvancED**, for their guidance and their role as auditors for our accreditation purposes.

The School is **thankful to the parent volunteers** for their tremendous support.

The Journey Continues...

As the journey continues, Plano Tamil School continues to be steadfast in its vision to be a leading provider of quality education in Tamil language and to be a Platform for Students, Teachers and the Tamil Speaking community to Protect, Promote and Preserve the richness of Tamil language and culture.

Our Staff & Team



Plano Tamil School Team

Teachers

We are ever thankful to our amazing talent pool of teachers who dedicate their time and effort in making our Plano Tamil School a unique learning environment.

Mazhalai Nilai A

Mrs. Meera Lakshmanan
Mrs. Amudha Navaneethan

Nilai 1 A

Mrs. Uma Muthiah
Mrs. Srividya Sundar

Nilai 1 B

mrs. Sudha Vadivel
Mrs. Anuradha Sathiyachalam

Nilai 1 C

Mrs. Vidya Balamurugan
Mrs. Anandhi Raja

Nilai 2 A

Mrs. Hemamalini Gnanavel
Mrs. Divya Rajendran

Nilai 2 B

Mrs. Preethi Mohan
Mrs. Srividya Sundarajan

Nilai 2 C

Mrs. Thejambika Venkatesan
Mrs. Priya Narayanasami

Nilai 3 A

Dr. Deepa Rajakrishnan
Mrs. Maria Lourdusamy

Nilai 3 B

Mrs. Anitha Kasi
Ms. Ramya Velu

Nilai 4 A

Mrs. Vanitha Selvaraj
Mr. Jayaraj Velayutham

Nilai 4 B

Mrs. Vidhya Ramesh
Mrs. Maha Satya

Nilai 5

Dr. Raj Radjassamy
Mrs. Priya Sriram

Nilai 6

Mr. Govardhanan Ramachandran
Mr. Senthil

Nilai 7

Mr. Subramoni SV
Dr. Anand Chellamuthu

Room Volunteers

We are ever thankful to our dedicated Room Volunteers for helping our students along with the teachers who dedicate their time and effort in making our Tamil School a unique learning environment.

Mrs. Priya Venkat

Mrs. Jananee Manickam

Mrs. Mageshwari Vignesh
Mrs. Anitha Kasiviswanathan
Dr. Divya Vijayakumar
Mrs. Kalpana Mahesh
Mrs. Sulakshana Natarajan
Mrs. Viji Govardhanan
Mrs. Kavitha Srivatchan

Mrs. Deepa Calyanakoti
Mrs. Rashmi Dwarakanath
Mrs. Radha Narayanan
Mrs. Shenba Sathiyamoorthy
Mrs. Gayathri Ravi
Mrs. Nithya Murugaian
Mrs. Rampushpam Jayakumar

Student Volunteers

Mr. Hrithikeshwar Sriram
Ms. Nandini Elangovan
Ms. Harinee Balu Srimalar
Mr. Akilan Gnanavel
Ms. Shanmathi Venkatesan
Ms. Kaviya Saravanan
Mr. Arjun Venkat

Please visit our website for a list of our Tamil School volunteers:

<https://www.stfnonprofit.org/teachers-volunteers/teachers-volunteers-article>

Administration Staff

We are ever thankful to our amazing talent pool of Administrative and Back office staff for dedicating their time and effort in making our Tamil School a unique learning environment.

Plano Tamil School Non-Teaching Volunteers:

Mr. Sriram Krishnan
Mr. Ravi Calyanakoti
Mr. Jaishankar Natesan
Mrs. Radhika Narayanan
Mr. Venkatesan Ellappan
Mrs. Kavitha Venkatesan.

We also have our most dedicated Library volunteers:

Mrs. Priya Anand
Mrs. Vanitha Jayakrishnan
Mrs. Poornima Rajagopalan