

**Sastha Tamil Foundation**

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**Plano Tamil School Annual Report**  
**2019-2020**

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## About US

Welcome all to the 19th year of Plano Tamil School, a 100% volunteer run organization, a subsidiary of Sastha Tamil Foundation - [www.stfnonprofit.org](http://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 2019 – 2020 academic years with a record enrollment of 370 students. This is our 19th year of service towards providing quality Tamil language education. This is our third 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 second set of children are graduating with LoTE credit. We thank our Teachers, Volunteers, Parents, Students and all the patrons for the unstinted support.

## Venue

In an effort to accomodate the continuous growth of our Tamil school population and to

conduct all levels in one location, we have moved into a newer and larger venue. Our school is now located at **Genstar Montessori**, 10205, Custer Road, Plano, TX.

The sessions are being conducted as follows:

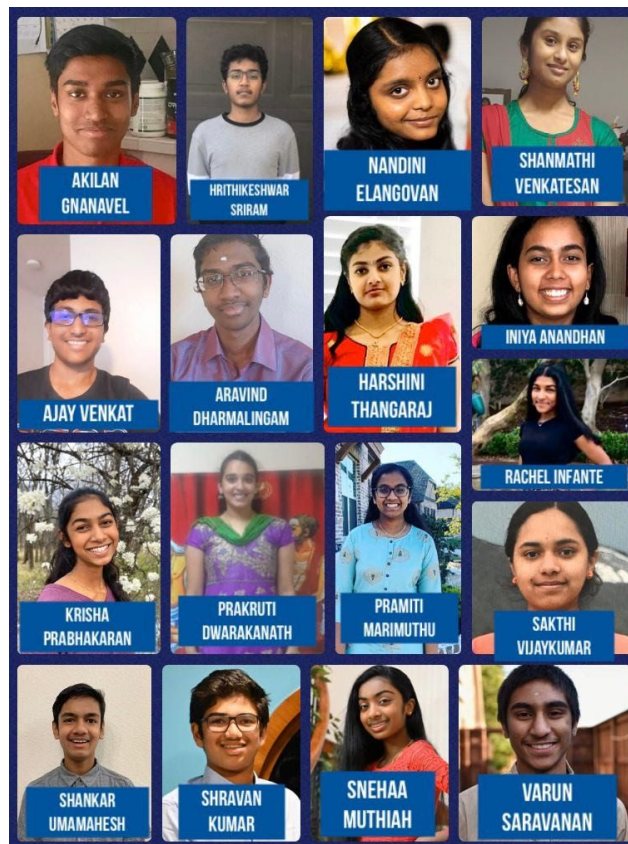
1:30 PM to 3:30 PM - Level 6, Level 7 & level 8

3:45 PM to 5:45 PM - Level 1 thru Level 5

3:45 PM to 5:15 PM - Mazhalai

## Student Volunteers

Plano Tamil School is so proud to announce that there are 17 student volunteers. These are students who have studied/graduated from Plano Tamil School and are returning to our school to volunteer their time and “give back” to the community.



## 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](http://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. Using a streamlined, cohesive way of introducing Tamil, each level was appropriately divided so that we still preserve the comprehensive essence of the language. These are a few salient features of our curriculum. The students were provided with ATA books and our in-house books to support their academic progression. The curriculum continues to inspire the students by providing a best in class learning experience. A few items like storytelling, 6<sup>th</sup> week presentation, reading log program, and Thirukkural learning continue to distinguish our students while promoting the all-round development of a student's personality.

The school continued to provide report cards for each unit in the academic year. Student's Attendance, Homework and their Unit test grades were taken into account in generating the report cards for each unit.

## E - Learning

In an effort of enhancing the technology usage, the school continued the **GSuite** platform for communicating with the students and parents.

Continuation of online homework using the tools like **Quizlet, Tamil keyboard typing** made the students more enthusiastic to learn the language. This year, the school invested in purchasing 6 tablets, apart from a chromebook which was already in use to provide for the students of all levels to make use of this e-learning more effectively in the classroom settings. We also tried another online learning tool called Book Widgets in one of our levels as a pilot program.

## E-Learning approach :

An e-learning page was designed detailing the e-learning approach that the school planned to take.

<https://sites.google.com/stfnonprofit.org/elearning/home?pli=1&authuser=1>

(site can be accessed using the stfnonprofit.org id only)

- We bought 6 Samsung tablets with rugged cases Aug / Sep 2019.
- We configured the tablets to be locked down to enterprise level security for safety of kids (Disabling browser , camera, secure password etc.)
- We curated APPS that are appropriate per level - Kids were grouped into 6 teams and they take turns to use the 6 Tablets. Every class will get 1-2 times in 6 weeks.
- Students were then taught to use and learn the APPS that gamify TAMIL learning

according to their level / age.

- In addition to the in class time, the same apps were provided as free links for kids to practice at home using their own device. (Instructions provided on the eLearning Portal)

### **Curated Apps :**

1. Touch and tracing based to learn letters
2. Sound based – Kids needs to identify the letters or words spoken by the computer
3. Fill in the blanks, Crossword Puzzle words
4. Form words seeing the pictures
5. Learn Tamil keyboard layout and use it to type the words

### **Application Screen Shots**













### In class Device game based learning Tamil Pictures



### Virtual Learning

At the time of Covid 19 Pandemic, as per the State's ordinances of Social Distancing, and in accordance with all local school districts, Tamil school's in-person classes were suspended for two weeks in the month of March. The school board then had a rapid plan to continue the remaining instructions of the academic year in virtual mode and worked diligently during that time in accomplishing it . The remaining classes were conducted virtually through



Google Meet and the school successfully completed the 19-20 Tamil School Year. The transition to virtual mode by teachers and students were phenomenal and smooth with the help of our dedicated technical team. Test revisions, Final tests, Handing over of report cards & certificates, Parent-Teacher meetings, End of school year volunteer meetings were all conducted via online. The school's efforts and coordination in introducing G-Suite in the previous years had already laid a strong foundation which greatly contributed in successfully shifting to the online model of running the school and winding down the year's activities.

## **Teachers Training & Staff Enrichment**

During the summer vacation, in the month of July and August, the Director, teachers and the syllabus review committee reviewed the ATA books and PTS books thoroughly to finalize syllabus for each level. The committee also prepared weekly lesson plans and spread them over the calendar year with 5 Units of 6 weeks each.

Throughout this academic year, teachers and volunteers actively participated in PTS meetings and training.

PTS has been ensuring ongoing collaboration between parents and the school through the 6<sup>th</sup> week mandatory Parent Participation and Teachers Conference. This provided the bridge between parent, teacher and student. Parents have the opportunity to review their child's progress and clarify any open questions.

## **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. To this end, participation certificates and medals are given to all students participating.

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

- Thirukkural Competition
- Aathichudi Recital
- Pechu Potti
- Katturai Potti
- Competition Ceremony (தமிழ் ஆராதனை விழா) -A grand awards ceremony was conducted online celebrating and applauding all the winners of the event.

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

- ❖ STF Basket Brigade. <https://www.anthonyrobbinsfoundation.org/basket-brigade/76/>
  - o This is a local event during every year Thanksgiving day.
  - o Details for 2019-2020 can be found here  
<http://stfnonprofit.org/Basket-Brigade-Volunteers>
- ❖ STF's Annual Charity Fundraiser – “**Out-Think, Out-Work, Out-Care**”
- ❖ This was an annual charity fundraising program to support Udavum Karangal. More details can be found here:  
<https://www.stfnonprofit.org/charity-events/9th-annual-charity-fundraising-event>

## Community and Social Events

The Plano Tamil School also participated in community and social events. Though these events were optional, there was an overwhelming support from the students and the parents. 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.

This year, plano tamil school participated in the grand Pongal celebrations conducted by Metroplex Tamil Sangam. Around 10000 people participated in the day long festivities.





Our student Ms. Shreya Venkatachalam, also represented our tamil school by delivering a speech at the fundraising program organized by Tamil Nadu Foundation in February 2020

## Tamil School Annual Day

Plano Tamil School's annual day showcases our children through Iyal Isai Nadagam. Due to Covid 19, we were unable to conduct the annual day this year.

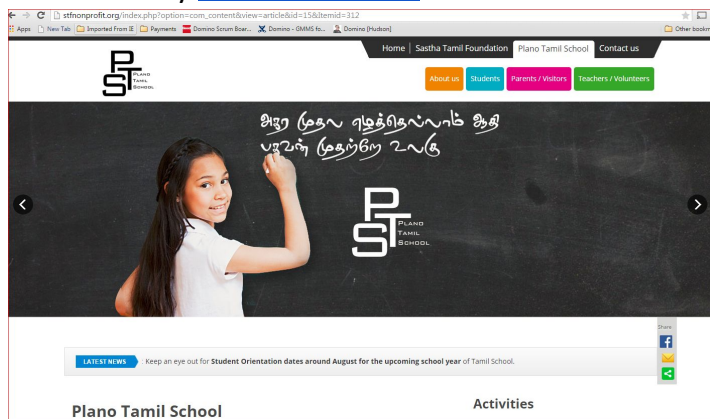






## Website

We continue to use our portal [www.stfnonprofit.org](http://www.stfnonprofit.org) and the site is being updated and maintained by [www.floble.com](http://www.floble.com)



## STF and PTS Events in Media

STF continues to maintain its facebook page : [facebook.com/sasthatamilfoundation](https://facebook.com/sasthatamilfoundation)

STF also has a YouTube link : [youtube.com/sasthatamil](https://youtube.com/sasthatamil)

Please subscribe to our facebook/youtube pages for latest updates from us.

## 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.

## Tamil Library

The Plano Tamil School Library is one of the attractions for the students and their parents. In the academic year 2019-2020, few changes were introduced in order to accommodate the student growth and demand since 2010.

Since the school operates in a new location, the Library was operated in one location, the Students from Level 6 – Level 8 conveniently checked out books after their class time and rest of the levels were able to check out either before or after their class time

More than 180 **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 **1700+ 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.

The students were awarded with free Ice-cream coupons on their effort of reading with the minimum of 30 mins each week for 6 weeks. This enticed and encouraged the students to read more.

**One grand prize winner was recognized** in each level for the whole academic year.

Winners List:

Mazhalai - Sanvika Rajkumar - 1850 minutes  
Level 1A - Meenu Thirugnanam - 5,145 minutes  
Level 1B - Jadin Mack Kumar - 2,130 minutes  
Level 2A - Kaneshka Sudhakaran - 2,768 minutes  
Level 2B - Tarika Aravind - 3215 minutes  
Level 3A - Pranav Selvakumar - 6560 minutes  
Level 3B - Vaishnavi Keerthivasan - 7025 minutes  
Level 4A - Vaisshnavi Sri Navaneeth - 1,885 minutes  
Level 4B - Vethaanthika Karthikeyan - 3,415 minutes  
Level 5 - Mounish Sekaran - 3,070 minutes  
Level 6 - Vidyuth Srinivasan - 2,590 minutes  
Level 7 - Sai Navneedh Narayanan - 8,595 minutes  
Level 8 - Jerusha Abraham - 6115 minutes

### **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 : [Subscribe Link](#)

### **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 Genstar Montessori School** for providing the venue for weekend classes.

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

The school is **thankful to all teaching and non teaching** volunteers for their time and effort in this school's continuous development. We have over **15 student volunteers** this year who have successfully graduated from our tamil school.

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

**The Journey Continues... and we are excited to step in to the 20th year of Plano Tamil School.**

# Our Staff & Team



## Plano Tamil School Team Teachers

### Mazhalai Nilai

Mr. Rajesh Kanna Durairaj  
Mrs. Anandhi Raja

### Nilai 1 A

Mrs. Uma Muthiah  
Mrs. Jananee Manickam

### Nilai 1 B

Mrs. Divya Vijayakumar  
Mrs. Kavitha Venkatesan

### Nilai 2 A

Mrs. Hemamalini Gnanavel  
Mrs. Priya Narayanasamy

### Nilai 2 B

Mrs. Thejambika Venkatesan  
Mrs. Suganya Anand

### Nilai 3 A

Dr. Deepa Rajakrishnan  
Mr. Jayaraj Velayutham

### Nilai 3 B

Mrs. Radha Narayanan

### Nilai 4 A

Mr. Senthil Jayaprakasam  
Mts. Maria Lourdusamy

### Nilai 4 B

Mrs. Priya Venkat  
Mrs. Udhaya Sriram

### Nilai 5

Dr. Raj Radjassamy  
Mrs. Amudha Navaneethan

### Nilai 6

Mrs. Priya Sriram

### Nilai 7

Dr. Anand Chellamuthu  
Mrs. Vanitha Selvaraj

### Nilai 8

Mr. Govardhanan  
Mrs. Shenba Sathiyamoorthy

## Room Volunteers

Mrs. Priya Adhiseshan  
Mrs. Vidya Renganathan  
Mrs. Lavanya  
Mrs. Priyadarshani  
Mrs. Afrose Shahul Hameed

Mrs. Sudha Kumar  
Mrs. Rashmi Dwarakanath  
Mrs. Viji Govardhanan  
Mrs. Uma Chidambaram

## Student Volunteers

Mr. Hrithikeshwar Sriram  
Ms. Nandini Elangovan  
Ms. Shanmathi Venkatesan  
Mr. Shankar UmaMahesh  
Mr. Akilan Gnanavel

Mr. Ajay Venkat  
Ms. Rachel Infante  
Ms. Sakthi Vijayakumar  
Ms. Prakruthi Dwarakanath  
Mr. Varun Saravanan



Ms. Snehaa Muthiah  
Mr. Shravan Kumar  
Mr. Aravind Dharmalingam  
Ms. Iniya Anandan

Mr. Shravan Kumar  
Ms. Harshin Thangaraj  
Ms. Pramiti Marimuthu

### **Administration Staff**

Plano Tamil School Non-Teaching Volunteers:

Mrs. Visalakshi Velu  
Mr. Raman Velu  
Mr. Sriram Krishnan  
Mrs. Radhika Narayanan  
Mr. Venkatesan Ellappan  
Mr. Jayaram Thiagarajan  
Mr. Vasudevan  
Mr. Sudarshan  
Mr. Elango  
Mr. Rajkumar  
Mr. Hari  
Mr. Diwakar

Plano Tamil School Technical team :

Mr. Muthiah Subash  
Mr. Vighnesh Balasubramanian  
Mr. Sathiyamoorthy Shanmugam  
Mr. Rajesh Khanna  
Mr. Adithan Veeraraghavan  
Mr. Jeen Bennet  
Mr. Senthilkumar Palanivelu  
Mr. Thirugnanam Subbiah  
Mrs. Radhika Narayanan

We also have our most dedicated Library volunteers led by Mr. Venkat & Mrs. Kavitha Venkat

Mrs. Poornima Rajagopalan  
Mrs. Manjula Arulmanikanda  
Mrs. Uma Chidambaram