



Newsletter 01/2022

14.04.2022



Dear friends in India, dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr David,

Best wishes to all of you from Arivu-Team Nienburg, Germany!

We hope that this newsletter finds you in good health. The Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing. The number of infections is high, but often the symptoms are quite mild. So the government plans for reducing the restrictions more and more.

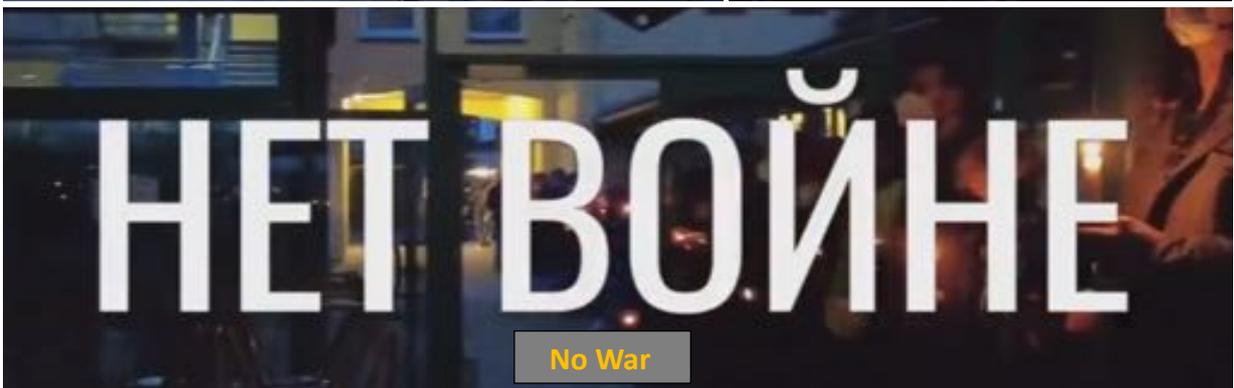
The topic that currently depresses us much more is the war in Ukraine.

In addition to these difficult topics, there were also many beautiful things at school, we are enjoying the spring weather and preparing for Easter. This we would like to share it with you. Recently we would also like to include some of the activities of Aktion Indien in our newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading!

Chain of lights at Albert Schweitzer school Nienburg on 28th of February

24th of february, the news announced that Russia and his president Mr. Putin have declared war against Ukraine and started military operations. Everybody is still shocked of this war and nobody can really imagine what happens daily to millions of innocent people in this country. Quickly, pupils, teachers and parents decided to organize a manifestation for peace with a chain of lights. First, our headmaster Mr Dr Wegener directed a short speech to all participants and remembered Albert Schweitzer, namesake of our school and admonisher for peace. Albert Schweitzer said: „Only thinking in which the attitude of reverence for life comes to power is capable of letting the time of peace dawn in our world.“

In the dusk, over 300 people of the school community held candles in their hands and formed a human chain around the main school building.



Members assembly of Arivu (Annual meeting) as online Video Conference for the second time



24th of march, the annual members assembly of Arivu was held online. In the meantime, everyone has gotten used to video conferencing. Despite many advantages, it is still unfortunate not to meet everyone in person.

As we looked back on 2021, we had a special memory of Fr John Suresh. He was a great soul, the heart and motor of many projects. We miss him. At the same time we are impressed by the energy with which Ms Nandhini Krishnan is leading the projects and we are happy about the support of VG and Nodal Agent Fr Backia Regis and correspondent Fr David Nesan. We wish the whole team every success in their future work. The members who have taken part in the video meeting got a review of the activities in 2021. We send special thanks to the parish in Wannsee who chose Arivu as partner program for two years. With their donations we plan to continue our support for the boarding St John's home and help with school fees for families in need. As an outlook on 2022 we are confident that the pandemic will decrease and we are looking forward to bringing out more of our usual activities.

Fancy dress week of standard 13 at ASS



For standard 13 time of lessons at school ends on April 1st 2022. After the Easter holidays they start writing their final exams from April 24th onwards. We wish good luck to all of them!



It is already a long tradition that the pupils choose different themes and spend the last week fancy-dressed in their classrooms.

This year, they decided for „time travel“, „everything except human being“ and „heroes of the childhood“. Furthermore, they kindly asked the teachers of their exam subjects to do the same and fancy-dress as well. So, pupils of standard 13 had a lot of fun and it was a colorful „good bye“ from school.

Lene Lieders and Janne Bade – youth speakers of Arivu

Our association Arivu has a close relationship to Albert-Schweitzer-Schule in Nienburg. Till the foundation of Arivu there are always two students of Albert-Schweitzer-Schule in our core committee. They are called “youth speaker”. It is her job to bring the perspective and concerns of the students to our activities. At the same time they are a link to the student body of the ASS. Lene, who was elected in 2021 as youth speaker, writes about the activities at ASS.

School Club

The Albert Schweitzer Schule has a school club where we are doing various kinds of India and partnership related activities and projects.

Janne and I, Lene, are members since the last summer. We are in standard 10 and 11.

We both take great joy in learning about India together. I even visited India in 2018, which was very nice.

Together with the other students we’ve done some interesting activities during the last months. In December we baked cookies, for example chocolate chip cookies and sold them the other students and teachers.

Just recently we told the students in standard 5 about our partnership. We went in each class individually and explained the reasons and concept of our relations with St John’s Home for Children in Need. There were various topics we discussed with the children. We showed them videos and talked about Father Suresh and Ms Nandhini Krishnan’s work . Our aim was to get them interested in our concept and more important in a class partnership over a longer time.

We look forward to seeing some new faces in our „Club“ soon. As for the near future, we plan to do many more activities together, such as making our own candles.

Happy Easter in advance!



New 5th grade partnerships

In January, Hilde, Lene and Janne went through all five 5th grade classes and informed the students about the partnership between the ASS and St John’s Home. We reported to the students about the problems of the Dalits and why it is so important for the Indian students to get a good education. The 5th graders were very interested and all classes decided afterwards to take on a partnership. This means that the class has pledged to raise funds for St John's Home over the next 2 years.





The photos show four of the 5th classes. On three of the photos you can see snow. That's a bit weird, because usually it doesn't snow here in April and the photos were taken on April 1st.

It's an old tradition that people here on April 1st tell little lies to fool each other. If the other person believes the story, you shout "April, April" out loud and laugh 😊 - this is called an April joke. So this year the weather obviously played an April Fool's joke. In any case, the 5th graders were happy about the snow and hope that their friends in India will be happy to see snow on the photos too!

India Club at the ASS

This year, the India Club made and sold small surprise matchboxes. When you open the box, you will find a little surprise inside. We also colored candles in the group and sold them in the schoolyard. We plan to sell the candles and matchboxes that we have left at the open house in April. At the open day, the 4th graders from primary school come with their parents to see the ASS and then decide whether they want to come to the ASS next year.



India Club at Gymnasium Oesede

Gymnasium Oesede (GO) is a school in the town Georgsmarienhütte, which is located near Osnabrück in the northwest of Germany. Around 1200 students and 100 teachers are learning and working here.



Kathrin Haase, one of the founders of Arivu and member of Aktion Indien, is working here as a teachers since 2008 when she left from Nienburg.

In 2020 the school decided to establish constant support and a partnership to Dr Arulappa Hr Sc School by Aktion Indien. Due to the pandemic it was difficult to organize bigger events. So we hope to improve our activities step by step. In 2021 we founded a school club with students of standard 5 and 6 who are especially interested in this partnership.



We wrote some Christmas cards and were happy to receive some from students of St John's home. We organized some fundraising activities and visualized the results for all teachers and students. We



learned about various aspects of life in India. At the moment we are working on different posters with which we will create an exhibition at the school.



Students of Gymnasium Oesede are also shocked by the war in Ukraine. They decorated the windows of their classrooms with symbols of peace and solidarity, they discussed with their teachers what's going on in Ukraine and organized a "march for peace" with 2500 students from four different schools on March 18th.

Winter is over, spring is coming



After a long period of dark, cold and cloudy weather all people long for the sun. You can see in the garden how nature is coming back to life. Everywhere small leaves in light green and brave flowers start to blossom. New life is breaking free everywhere.



Also winter times has its beautiful moments. But we are more than happy that spring is coming.



On April 1st, we had an unexpected onset of winter. Luckily it only lasted a few days and most flowers survived the snow.



*Dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr David,
we send our special greetings and wishes to you and all
our Indian friends!*

*We remember Fr John Suresh in a special way!
Please convey our wishes to all children in St John's
home, to all teachers, students and staff of Arulappa
Higher Secondary School and all members of WE-
Group!*

We wish you a very happy Easter!

Hilde, Andrea, Lene and Kathrin for Arivu-Team