



*Dear friends in India, dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr Davidnesan,
best wishes to all of you from Arivu-Team Nienburg, Germany!*

We hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and mood. We are happy to share some activities that have taken place in the months January - march. We hope you enjoy reading!

India - group of the ASS Nienburg

In this term, several children joined the India-Club.

Together, we have already baked little cakes and sold them in the hall during the breaks. Because the school cafeteria is closed at the moment, the cakes were so popular that all the cakes were sold, before we managed to decorate the table. ☺



In addition, we prepared for the open day at the ASS. We made posters about St. John's Home and about the partnership between ASS and St. John's Home, which we will put up at the school.



ASS Partnership with St. John's Home

In January Janne, Lene and Hilde informed the new 5th graders about the partnership with St. John's Home. The children were very interested. All classes want to organize small donation campaigns in the school from time to time in the spirit of the partnership.

Annual Meeting of Arivu

The annual general meeting of Arivu was held on Tuesday 21.03.2023. We decided to hold it as an online video conference again this year so that as many members as possible could participate. We were pleased to welcome Regina and Michael Krug, Karl-Heinz Niemeyer and Hedda Freese as well as the core committee. In addition to a review of last year's activities and a brief report on current developments in India, important elements were the election of the new board and a look at the financial situation as well as the discussion of the projects for the current year. We decided to support the upcoming renovation work in Neerpair this year. We are especially looking forward to welcoming visitors from India soon!



New youth-representative for Arivu

In our last Arivu-member-meeting we reelected the board of Arivu. Janne no longer stood for election as youth-representative because she already has got a lot of other volunteer duties. We thanked Janne for her many years of cooperation. And we elected Nora as our new youth-representative.



Here is what Nora says about herself:

Hello, I'm Nora Munk Munk, I'm fifteen years old and I go to 9D at the ASS. I'm happy that I am now the new youth-representative of Arivu . I'm looking forward to meeting Nandhini, Viji and Ambrose after the Easter holidays.

Final year students of ASS celebrate last week in school



From 20th to 24th of march the pupils who will pass their A-levels soon celebrated their last days at school. Every day, they have chosen a different motto to get fancy-dressed. The pictures show one group dressed "time line". It means that their costumes either went to the past or to the future.



24th of march, the fun came to an end and now it's time to work hard for the final exams in april and may. For all the other pupils and teachers the Easter holidays started and everybody is happy to relax some days.

On the death of our former headmaster Dr. Ralf Weghöft

Unfortunately, we have to share sad news with you: 5th of February, our former headmaster Dr. Ralf Weghöft passed away at the age of 68 after a short stay in hospital. Two times, he visited Neerpair and the Dr. Arulappa Higher Secondary school. The whole school community of Albert-Schweitzer-school and the Arivu-team was deeply touched by this unexpected message. Many have written in a book of condolences and have also taken part in the funeral ceremony.



Chain for peace against war in Ukraine

Many people in Germany and Europe are very concerned about the war in Ukraine, which has been going on for over a year now. To express their concern and the wish for peace worldwide, an alliance of peace initiatives from Münster and Osnabrück have called for a human chain to be formed between these two cities on 24 February 2023, the anniversary of the attack on Ukraine.



Despite the rainy weather, about 20,000 people gathered on the 45 kilometers separating the two cities to make a statement against the war that has now been going on for a year.

The march started shortly before 16:00. Everyone held hands, from Osnabrück to Münster. In most places the chain was closed. However, where there were not enough people, it was closed with ropes. Many people also brought their own posters. From our school, 200 students got involved to take part in the chain for peace. When the chain was closed, the church bells rang. Afterwards, the song "Give peace a chance" by John Lennon was played and many people joined in. In retrospect, we can only hope that this sends a signal against war.

India Club and other activities at Gymnasium Oesede

Every year in February/March, our school invites the pupils of the surrounding primary schools to an open day. The aim is for the future fifth graders to get to know their new school. Our school, Gymnasium Oesede, wants to present itself in the best light and has prepared many interesting information stands, but also activities to take part in. A special highlight are always the experiments in chemistry and other natural sciences, but also the foreign languages English, French, Spanish and Latin.



This year we also informed about our partnership with the Dr Arulappa Hr Sec School in Neerpair for the first time. The India-AG created interesting posters and together with some teachers colourfully decorated the room. Lassi and Indian snacks were served and found enthusiastic consumers.



In the last picture you can see Lena, a student of standard XI, presenting a snake. The Gymnasium Oesede has a "Vivarium" with terrariums containing snakes, reptiles and amphibians. Pupils take care of the animals under the guidance of an experienced teacher and learn a lot about biology.

Before the Easter holidays, the India-AG took it upon themselves to inform our youngest pupils, namely standard 5, about our partnership project in India. They created a PowerPoint presentation and used photos to report about the Dr Arulappa Hr Sec School, the primary school and St John's home. The pupils of year 5 listened with interest. They were particularly moved by the simple conditions in which many children live and the injustice they have to experience as Dalits. At the same time, they were impressed by the commitment of their peers, how important the school is for them and the joy with which they go to school. Now we are very happy to welcome Nandhini, Viji and Ambrose to our school in April and hope to hear a lot more from them.



MARIANO-JOSEPHINUM in Hildesheim



On Monday, 23 January 2023, the India-AG informed the entire 5th grade about the living conditions in India and about the partner school in Neerpair. The pupils listened attentively and got an impression of how different a childhood is in India: If you come from a poor family, you often cannot go to school, but have to help out at an early age so that the family does not go hungry. A good school education is important to build a life for oneself!

It quickly became clear to the 5th graders that they wanted to learn more about their peers and want to continue supporting this project.

Primary school in Buschhoven



In February, Aktion Indien got a donation from the primary school in Buschhoven near Bonn. For more than 18 years this school is supporting the projects of Aktion Indien.

We are very thankful for their commitment and constant support!

On the homepage of their school they write:

Fr John Suresh and Ms Nandhini Krishnan already visited Buschhoven twice and told children and parents about the life of his pupils. This gave our children a direct connection to the aid project. Every year during Advent, we organise a project week, our "Musical Week", in which the children work on a theme in different ways. The results of the work (handicrafts, presentations, small demonstrations, etc.) are sold at the end of the week at our "Colourful Afternoon" or offered for donations. The entire proceeds go to the "Project India".



Annual Meeting of Aktion Indien in Giesen

On Tuesday, 28.03.2023, the Annual General Meeting of Aktion Indien took place in Giesen at the home of the Mispagel family. It was a very fruitful meeting, with Hannes Datta and Martin Jensen participating via video conference in addition to the people in the picture. We are looking forward to further cooperation.





Dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr Davidnesan,

we send our special greetings and wishes to you and all our Indian friends!

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!

At Easter we give painted eggs as gifts and decorate our homes with them. The egg is a symbol of fertility and new life. We celebrate this new life in the resurrection of Christ.

We wish everyone to experience how the sadness and hopelessness of Good Friday is transformed into the joy and confidence of Easter.

We wish you a happy Easter!

Hilde, Andrea, Nora, Kathrin and all Arivu-Team

