



*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!

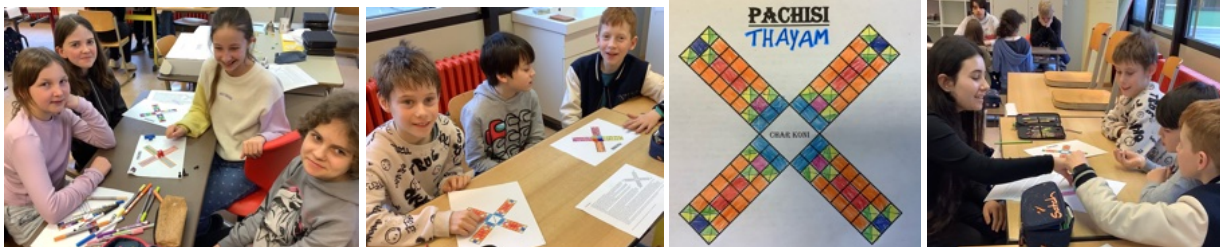
India - club of the ASS Nienburg

This semester there are more than 20 children, mostly from Standard 5, in the India club. All of them are very interested in learning about the lives of the students at St. John's Home. They want to help ensure that all children can get a good education and are therefore involved when we do campaigns to collect donations. So for example we already baked cakes and sold them in the hall.



Apart from that we searched for information about India on the internet and created a quiz about India and St. Johns Home. On the Internet we also found Information about Pachisi - an old Indian board game. Ambrose later told me that in Tamil it is called THAYAM.

Anyway, we recreated the game and played it in the India-Club. Everyone had a lot of fun, as you can see in the pictures.



Demonstrations for democracy and against racism in Germany

Since January, many students and teachers of the ASS and many more people all over Germany have been taking part in demonstrations against racism. On the weekend of 20-21 January alone, more than 1.4 million people demonstrated in Germany. There were many more demonstrations in the weeks that followed, and a demonstration in almost every German city. It was a great feeling to be there with so many people demonstrating for democracy and human dignity. The reason for the demonstrations is that in recent years the groups that want to destroy our democracy and do not respect human rights have become stronger.





Many people came to the demonstrations with home-made posters. On the posters you can read things like "A human being is a human being" ... regardless of nationality, region, colour, ... So the demonstrations sent a great message of human dignity.



French – German – exchange program



From Wednesday the 22th of November to Friday the first of December we had guests from France at the Albert Schweitzer School. So I (Nora) will tell you about the program. Our guests stayed with us in our families and we had very much fun together. We played games, baked Christmas cookies and visited the town Bremen. In Bremen it was very cold so we tried to do the sight-seeing-

tour as fast as possible and then went from shop to shop for being inside of buildings as long as possible. Despite the temperature we still had a nice time. The christmas market in Bremen is really beautiful.

The french guests also did two trips to Bremerhaven and Berlin with their teachers. The time in Berlin was even shorter than planned because the train that brought them there was two hours late.

In a few weeks the German students, including me, are going to go to France and visit their exchange partners there. I am already very excited about this journey!



Annual Meeting of Arivu

The annual general meeting of Arivu was held on Thursday 14.03.2024. We decided once again to hold it as an online video conference. This year were a small group only, because several members could not participate due to illness, a five-day-trip with their students or other duties. The more we were pleased to welcome Regina and Michael Krug in addition to the core committee. After a review of last year's activities and a brief report on current developments in India, we reflected our financial situation and discussed the projects for the current year. We sincerely hope the renovation work in Neerpair will start very soon and the new toilets can be built.



“One Billion Rising” – Flashmob at the ASS



"One Billion Rising is a global movement of women committed to ending violence against women and girls. On 14 February, flash mobs or other actions are launched around the world. The same song "Break the Chain" is sung in different languages and a very similar dance is performed. To draw attention to the situation of women, the campaign was also carried out in our school on 14 February. During the break

some students got together and danced to the song.

Here <https://ass-nienburg.de/one-billion-rising-flashmob-an-der-ass> you can see a film of the dance at ASS and here the English version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhgl4EWY9vQ>

Time to say „Goodbye“ to Albert-Schweitzer-Schule (ASS)

Pupils of standard 13 studied nine years at ASS, some even ten years, before now the end of school is coming soon for them. For standard 13, time of lessons at school ends on Friday, 15th of march 2024. After the Easter holidays they start writing their final exams.



Also this year, they continued the long tradition that the pupils choose different themes and spend the last week fancy-dressed in their classrooms. The pupils decided for „initial of their first name“, „everything except human being“, „heroes of the childhood“ and „advanced level classes“. Even some of the teachers did the same and came fancy-dressed to school, for example as „Snow White and the



dwarfs“ So, pupils and teachers had a lot of fun and it was a colorful „goodbye“ from school.

Waiting for the sun and warmer weather after long period of winter



After a mild winter with only some snowy days the weather becomes a little bit warmer. You can see the first flowers and small green leaves. The nights are furthermore cold and I, Edda, feed the birds in my garden.

India Club and other activities at Gymnasium Oesede



Like Hilde describes earlier also in Georgsmarienhütte we had gatherings to demonstrate for our democracy in Germany.

In recent years, one party, the AfD, has become ever stronger. This party is suspected of not respecting our constitutional values.



On the same weekend as in Nienburg (February 3rd), 2000 people gathered in Georgsmarienhütte. Shortly beforehand, it had become known that a group had met secretly in Germany to discuss the country's political future. Plans were made to deport people who were not born in Germany. Some journalists managed to publicise these plans. This has shocked many people and shaken them awake. So many people want to show that they do not agree with such plans at all and that they want to stand up for our democracy.



Some students from our school decided that they want to organise another assembly to keep the protest alive and bring the issue to the attention of young people in particular. They organised a large assembly in the center of the town on 9 March, where they gave various speeches, our school band played and various people took part. A lot of people came together to support the cause.

MARIANO-JOSEPHINUM in Hildesheim – commitment for India



The focus this spring was on two major projects for India. On February 20 evening, the India-group hosted a special event at school. Several of the school's activity groups provided an entertaining program by presenting something from their work. The India club presented the partner school in Neerpair and showed photos. We also sold drinks for the benefit of our partner school. At the end of the evening, students, parents and teachers went home satisfied: Everyone had spent an interesting evening in a good atmosphere.

On March 8, the school opened its doors to welcome visitors. On this day, the India club offered to decorate arms and hands with henna tattoos, sold scented bags and organized a raffle. It was particularly nice that two Indian families from Tamil Nadu would like to enrol their children at the school. They were delighted with our advertising pillar, which is currently covered with photos from last summer's trip to India. The picture of a peacock painted by a pupil, which we had in front of the door, also reminded them of their homeland. This made the open day a real day of encounters for us.

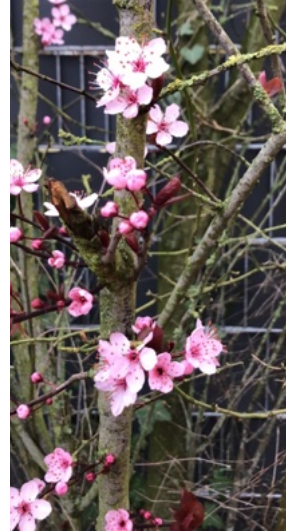


But not only the India-AG is committed to India: students of an art class painted postcards for India and sold them during a vernissage. The annual India Action Day will take place on May 15. The students are already looking for a job for this day so that they can donate their wages to India afterwards.

Annual Meeting of Aktion Indien in Giesen



On Friday, 22.03.2024, 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 Hilde Munk participating via video conference. We are looking forward to further cooperation.



*Dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis,
dear Fr Davidnesan, dear Ambrose, dear Viji, 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!

After a long period of darkness, nature awakens to new life. The first colourful flowers grow everywhere and a delicate green of new leaves develops. In just a few days, we will be celebrating the feast of Easter, the festival of life! Easter is the victory of life over death!

May God shower you abundantly with his blessings and give you new hope and confidence!



We wish you a happy Easter!

*Hildé, Andrea, Nora, Edda, Kathrin and all Arivu-Team
and Cordula from Mariano-Josephinum*

