



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

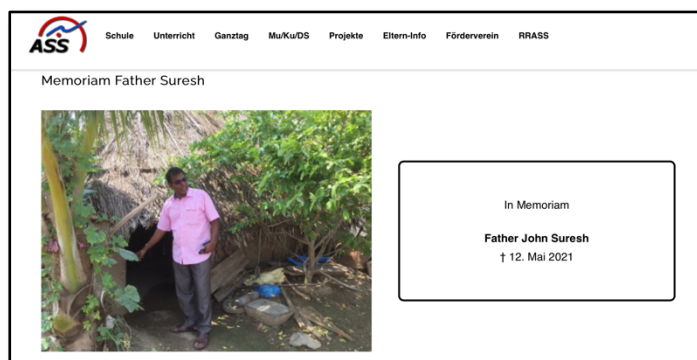
Best wishes to all of you from Arivu-Team Nienburg, Germany!

We all are still in shock about the sudden death of Fr John Suresh. We can hardly believe he is no longer with us physically. But he is with us in our memories and in our hearts. He filled our hearts and our heads with a vision of a just society and his mission to empower the marginalized. Not only in India but also here in Germany people share his dream and work together to make it come true.

Memory of Fr Suresh

After Father Suresh's death, many people who had known Father from his visits in Nienburg, approached our Arivu-team and expressed their shock about his sudden death and their deep sadness. We all will remember Father's warmth, his ability to motivate and inspire others.

Many people have also expressed their will to continue their financial support for the continuation of Father's ideas and projects. Particularly noteworthy in this context is that the Berlin Wannsee parish, contrary to its usual tradition to change donation projects annually, has decided to support Arivu and thus Father's projects as an annual donation project for another year in 2021/2022.



Obituary on Homepage of Albert-Schweitzer-Schule (ASS)

Greetings and Wishes from our newly appointed Headmaster of ASS

In May 2021 Dr Sebastian Wegener was appointed as new headmaster of ASS Nienburg. Hilde informed him about the long lasting partnership between ASS and St John's Home in Neerpair. He was very much impressed about your work and wishes to continue the collaboration in the future.



Dear friends,

it is a great pleasure for me to write you a few words as the new headmaster of the Albert-Schweitzer-Schule.

It is an honour for me to succeed Dr. Weghöft in this office, and I hope that our school's connection with you will continue to strengthen in the coming years.

Let me assure you that cooperation, support and friendship will remain pillars of our school's philosophy, in accordance with the values of our namesake, Albert Schweitzer.

I am looking forward to hearing from you, and maybe one day I will have the pleasure of meeting many of you in person.

May god bless you and your work!

Yours faithfully

Dr. Sebastian Wegener

A-Level fun day 2021



We are relieved that the number of Corona-infections has come down rapidly in May and June. So schools reopened for all students on May 31st. Students, teachers and staff were very happy and grateful. Especially for the final year students it was a great relief. They could complete their examinations with very few restrictions only.



After last oral exams, when all students of standard 13 have passed their A-levels it is a tradition to celebrate a day of joke and fun to say goodbye to the school. When the other pupils and staff reached the school in the morning, they found the building decorated and partly wrapped with paper. The windows showed the message "Abi 2021 - we leave".

Besides, most of the entrances were locked. Due to Corona rules, the boys and girls couldn't have a show program on stage as usual. Nevertheless, the end of this day followed the old tradition. It means that the three students with the best results jump into the pond right next to the main school building and if they don't want to, some others throw them in. Although it was a rainy day, more than thirty students finally took a bath and had a lot of fun.

Farewell Celebrations after A-Level Examinations

For a long period of more than 15 months lessons were not conducted as usual. Schools were closed or partly closed. So this year the final examinations and the graduation ceremony were something special. Mareike – youth speaker of Arivu Core Team – expresses her feelings when finally getting her A-Level Certificates and celebrating this success with her family.



Mareike (dark dress) together with a friend proudly presenting their A-Level Certificates

"For a long time we thought we would only be allowed to celebrate our graduation with a few people. Therefore the happier we were when we got the permission to have a wonderful ceremony on July 2nd at the Nienburger theatre. Of course there were hygiene measures, but in this way all of our close family members were allowed to be with us. For the relatives and friends who could not attend the ceremony, there was a livestream on YouTube. There were lots of laughter but also lots of tears. Great speeches were given and emotional songs were performed. For example five students sang „Our last summer“ by ABBA. This made all of us cry. The next day we even were allowed to celebrate our prom. More than 1000 people – of course everyone had to bring a negative antigen-test. We were really, really happy to celebrate without masks and keeping a distance of 1,5m. In some way it felt a little strange and unreal after 15 months of pandemic."

In the beginning we had a delicious dinner with our families. Later in the evening many other guests and friends joined us and we had a wonderful party until sunrise at about 5am.

It was a wonderful evening, even though most of us were in tears because we did not want the time we spent together to be over. It was a sad good-bye in the early morning.

All in all it was a fantastic , incredible party for which we are really grateful and that created memories for a lifetime."



Farewell Ceremony for former headmaster Dr Weghöft



Patience was necessary for several months, but now the day has come: 8th of July, the farewell ceremony for our former headmaster Mr. Dr. Ralf Weghöft has finally taken place. The afternoon started with a mass in the church St. Martin right in the city center and next to his home. Due to Corona and the hygienic rules for events, about fifty guests were invited, among them his family, friends, representatives, some teachers, staff, pupils and parents. This auditory attended a mixture of a live show and many videoclips and messages from different persons.

Mr. Weghöft was very touched by all these hearty surprises and messages. When the video messages from Nandhini and especially from Father John Suresh (taken in December 2020) were on the screen, i was absolutely quiet and a sort of silent homage to Father as well.



After a program of two and a half hours with many highlights, Mr. Weghöft himself addresses personally to his guests in order to thank them and to invite them to have a drink in the garden behind the church.



So, the farewell ceremony came up to an end in the early evening and our "pensioner" may continue to enjoy his new period of life without daily obligations.



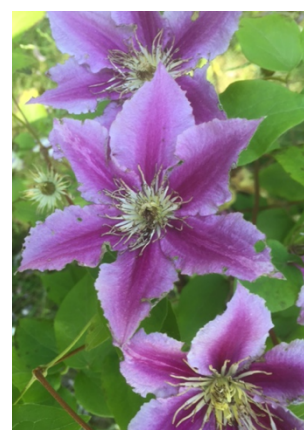
Activities at the Albert Schweitzer School

In the last newsletter we reported that this year due to Corona the 5th grades were informed by an online presentation about the projects in India.

Several classes have now decided to take over a sponsorship and monthly collect money for a place in St. John's Home.

When our schools reopened in May and the students were allowed to come back to school, the students of class "5c" approached their teachers with the idea to set up a flea market in their classroom. The children now make small toys or bring used toys from home and sell them to their classmates. They donate the proceeds to Arivu for St John's Home.

The students of class "5e" were so enthusiastic about the idea of the "5c" that they are now planning for such a flea market table aswell.



Dear Nandhini, dear Fr David,
we send our special greetings and wishes to you and all our Indian friends! Please convey
them 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!

Hilde, Andrea, Mareike and Kathrin for Arivu team