

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

We hope that this newsletter finds you in excellent health and high spirits. The year is coming to an end. Time to look back and summarize the year. One of our highlights in 2024 definitely was our trip to India and the overwhelming welcome you gave to us. It was wonderful to be with our friends and exchange thoughts and ideas. For us it was a very enriching, inspiring and refreshing time with all of you and with the children and students of St John's campus and as well with young people of WE-Group. Thank you so much!

We are happy to share some activities that have taken place in the months October - December. We hope you enjoy reading!

India - Club at ASS Nienburg



This year there are many children in the India working group. Everyone is very interested in the projects in India. In the last few weeks we have baked cookies and roasted almonds to sell at school. We had a lot of fun, when we painted Henna-Tattoo (Mehendi).



Of course, the group from our school that was in India in October also showed us photos of the Dr. Arulappa Hr School and the St. Johns hostel. It was very interesting to learn more about the situation of the students there. We also made new posters to inform the other students of

our school about the projects.



Travel Reports



As you know 😊 we were in India with a group in October.

We were all very impressed by the projects and the great commitment of your team in Chennai and Neerpair. We especially remember the visit to Father Suresh's grave.

Of course we want to report about our impressions here and spread Father's ideas and goals. To this end, we are preparing an "India evening" at the Albert-Schweitzer-School in January.



Frida-Lotte has already given a talk in her parish. She writes:



On December 18, I invited my local church community to an Advent café afternoon where I presented our partnership between Arivu and our dear friends from India. I also reported on our enriching trip in October using photos and videos to raise interest in our partnership. The idea of cultural ex-



change and support for educational work is very close to people's hearts, especially at Christmas time. Therefore the feedback was very positive (donations: 130€)! We send our love, contemplation and joy to our Indian friends for sharing it around the world!



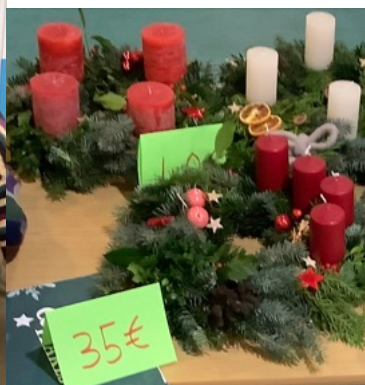
India - Club of ASS sells cakes on parents-teachers day



The annual parent-teacher day for standard 5 and 6 took place at the Albert Schweitzer School at the end of November. Parents came to school to talk to teachers about their child's situation. On these days, the India AG, together with the Arivu team, sold coffee and cakes to parents.

Decorating Advent wreaths

We also decorated and sold Advent wreaths, as we do every year. Edda knitted socks and pull-overs all year round to sell in school. We also made jam and cookies. So we had a big stall and lots of parents and teachers bought something.





Activities at the ASS – Tea concert



In the middle of Dezember, Albert-Schweitzer-School opened its doors for the traditional "Five o'clock-tea". Instrumental groups and the choir have played and sang some advent and christmas songs. Parents, pupils and



teachers listened and gave big applause.



The India Club sold coffee, tea, cake and cookies and they were happy that many guests donated some extra-money. Miss Edda joined the team as well and sold her knitted socks and pullover.



Cold weather in Germany

Leaves are changing its colours and fall down. But winter isn't coming really! Only one night we had a little bit frost making icy powder over the the meadow and the leaves.



Start for Winter Holidays



Friday, 20th of December was our last day at school in 2024. Before all pupils, teachers and staff went on winter holidays for two weeks, the school community celebrated its traditional service at St. Martin church. Classes prepared this service and have chosen the title "Colourful X-mas" for this year. The choir sang and instrumental groups played songs.

Christmas preparations in the Munk family



Every year before Christmas we have a sock advent calendar. Every day in December before Christmas, a sock is filled with a little surprise. This year we made it so that everyone had to fill the calendar for the others. For example, Nora came up with a little brainteaser for Ronja, and the first clue was in the sock, and then Ronja had to look for the second clue, and so on.

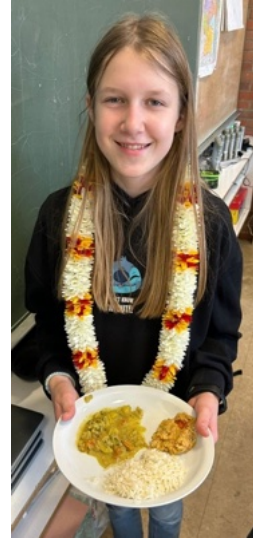
We also have little nativity figurines of the Holy Family. We put them around the house in the time before Christmas. On Christmas Eve they come to the manger so that we can celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



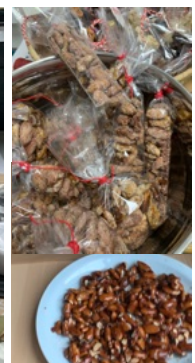
India Club and other activities at Gymnasium Oesede

On October 23rd-25th, we provided three days with special projects for the students of standard 7. One of the topics the students could choose was "India". We watched a short film about the life of a family in India, we tried Indian clothes, decorated the entrance of our school with Kolams, learned about Dalits, cooked an Indian meal and draw Mehendi. Of course we also reported about our trip to India and watched a lot of photos of Dr Arulappa Hr Sec School and St John's campus.

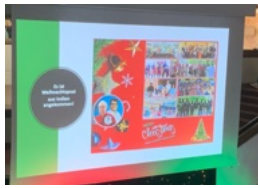




For the third time, the Christmas bazaar at our school was a highlight in the last week of the Advent season. The proceeds will go to our partner school in India. In the classes, in working groups and at home, creative and hard-working handicrafts were made to support this cause. We were delighted to welcome so many visitors from parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. Thanks to all the dedicated teachers and students!



On Friday 20th of December, we had the last day at school. Now schools are closed for two weeks of Christmas holidays. On that day students dress in special way. We also had a small celebration with all our students in the hall.



A special joy was the arrival of your Christmas Card. We presented it to the whole school community via beamer. That was a special moment. We felt a close connection to our friends in India!



Activities at MARIANO-JOSEPHINUM in Hildesheim 🇮🇳 Over 300 runners at the 3rd MAJO Run

The "MAJO Run" - the summer biathlon around the cathedral - took place for the third time on Friday afternoon. A great deal of organizational effort was once again put into preparing a great sporting event for over 300 participants. The India club took care of the catering, our event technology team provided the best music and our teacher Mr Hermann Strüber was once again the brilliant microphone host for the day's competition. The sports department had their hands full with the preparation and implementation.



The following pupils won their year group races:

- Julian Ranke (5b) and Lahja Stracke (5b)
- Oskar Müller (6e) and Anna Wolpers (6a) / Mathilda Redenbach (6d)
- Antonina Borrmann (7e) and Noah John (7e)
- Sophia Wolpers (8a) and Felix Hunhoff (8b)



Our association of former Josephinians and Mariano-Josephinians sponsored a class campaign for the best class in each year. The class winners 5c, 6a, 7a and 8d were delighted.



Project Day India for students of standard 7 organized by India club Mariano Joesephinum

On 25.10.2024, the "Project Day India" took place for all 7th graders, which was organized for the first time by the India-club. For six lessons, we dealt with various aspects of India.

In the first lesson, we were given general information about our partner school and played a game of kahoot. Then, in the second lesson, we did a kind of escape room about the religions in India (Hinduism and Buddhism).

After the break, we were able to make an Indian elephant or the Taj Mahal, for example. We used thicker paper in different colors and glued small gemstones onto it.

Finally, we spent the last two hours learning about Indian culture, including Indian money. We also tried Indian spices and ultra-spicy Indian "sweets".

I really enjoyed the day, especially the sweets, although they weren't really sweet. We also all had a lot of fun making things.

Philipp Beckert, 7a



Dear Nandhini, dear Fr Regis, dear Fr Charles, dear Ambrose,

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!



Lights shine everywhere and everything is festively decorated. People are preparing for Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of love, hope

and confidence. But it is also a time when we miss the people who are not with us. We especially remember Fr John Suresh. May Christmas fill us with comfort and confidence so that we can feel the joy of Christmas.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!

Hilde, Andrea, Edda, Cordula, Kathrin

and all friends from Arivu-Team and Aktion Indien