



The 70th Bala Mandir Foundation day was celebrated in a grand manner on March 8th. An array of activities that celebrated the spirit of our founders was organized. True to the vision of our founders and the credo of 'Inclusion' at Bala Mandir, the events and activities involved the diverse groups of people who have contributed to the growth of BM and executed its vision. Donors, volunteers, children, staff and others turned out in a spontaneous outburst of remembrance, support and joy.

March 8 Morning Inaugural Pooja for the Multipurpose Hall

An auspicious homam saw many members, coordinators and staff of Balamandir participating. MrP. Natarjan, Mrs. Leela Natarajan, Mr Krishnan, Mr. Vijayan and Mrs & Mr. Lars Odd Pettersen., Chairman of Braade Stiftung. Mr. Pettersen inaugurated the new Bala Mandir Cultural Centre. Prasadam was distributed on the occasion and a special lunch was provided for everyone.



March 8th Evening Sarva Dharma Prayer At The Multipurpose Hall

Sarvadharmha prayer was held at BM cultural center the same evening. The all Faiths meet organized by Ms.Punitha Ramalinga saw priests of diverse religions offering prayers to the Almighty. . BM children sang bhajans on Sarva dharma and the meet ended with the distribution of a healthy apple snack.



**March 9th
Morning**

Alumni Meeting

On 9th march a BM Alumni meet was organized by social worker Mr.Arulraj, Mr.Pradeep and Mr.Naresh at BM cultural centre. Alumni shared their experiences in and out of Bala Mandir. Mr.Natarajan explained the various changes at Bala Mandir and the future directions.. Reminiscences, reunions, games and a special made for lasting memories.



March 9th Evening Volunteers Meeting

A Volunteer meet was organized by Mr. Ashok Aiyer and Ms. Archana, that brought together volunteers from different organizations to share their experiences. Strategies to streamline and enhance volunteering were discussed.



March 10th Morning Villupattu

On 10th March a scintillating Villupattu programme was organized on “Empowering through Education - the Blala Mandir story” at the newly inaugurated BM cultural centre. “Kalai Chudamani” Thirumathi Bharathi Thirmurugan & “Yuvakala Bharathi” Thiru Kalaimagan traced the genesis, growth and services of Bala Mandir from a home to a holistic centre for child care, learning, education, and development.



March 10th Evening Function At Vani Mahal

The 70th Anniversary of Bala Mandir was celebrated with the children putting up a colourful Song and mime presentation on Inclusion at Mahaswami Hall in Vani Mahal. Shri. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the Chief Guest at the event, spoke on the yeoman service rendered by Bala Mandir and the need to become a leader in policy making on childcare and development. He released the commemorative Desk top Calendar of Bala Mandir. The Special Address A presentation by Mr. Natarajan traced the journey and growth of BM and highlighted the future directions. A tribute film on the Guiding Lights was screened followed by thanksgiving by Maya Gaitonde, HGS to the staff, Members and Donors and all those who played a role in shaping BM.

