



BREADS
Bangalore Rural Educational
and Development Society

SLICE

NEWSLETTER

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BREADS Bangalore

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Director's Message

FR GEORGE PS

Executive Director
BREADS

When adults think of summer holidays, our first thought is how to keep our school children engaged all through the long vacation. For students, it is a break from their routine school days and a time to be 'simply free'. Some plan a list of things to do during their summer vacation. Summer camps are a great solution for the situation and the Don Bosco system maximises its advantages.

Our summer camps are especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds because they are rare chances for them to enjoy special moments and create happy, lasting memories in their childhoods. Sharing their camp experiences and learnings with other schoolmates later, gives a positive boost to their overall performance at school. This Slice brings you glimpses of the summer camps conducted by Don Bosco partners across Karnataka and Kerala. Your continued support brings these moments of joy to these children. Thank you!

Fish swim, birds fly, children play

– Dr Garry Landreth
(Play therapist)



Play is defined as activities that appear to be freely sought and pursued solely for the sake of individual or group enjoyment. Play is a cultural universal and typically regarded as an important mechanism in children’s cognitive, social, and emotional development (APA dictionary).

Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood — Fred Rogers (children’s television producer) What joy it would bring to children to know that play is a legitimate productive activity and not a waste of time as they are often told.

Play is indeed a serious issue. Erik Erikson, an expert in human growth and development, defines play as a situation in which a child can work through experiences by creating model situations and master reality through planning and experimentation. Play offers opportunities for self-expression, mastery, and growth in a way that fits the child’s developmental level.

In fact, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Article 31, directs State Parties to recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. Governments are also directed to provide opportunities for the same. The first-ever **International Day of Play on 11 June** is a call to fulfil this right of the child. It is fittingly observed one day before the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June, emphasising a child’s need to play.

SUMMER CAMPS

Summertime and childhood. Long holidays and play. Fun and freedom from tight schedules and homework. As adults, we remember summer holidays as some of the best times of our childhoods. For those of us who were fortunate enough to enjoy childhoods, that is. Unfortunately, very many children do not have the same opportunity. Our education/activity centres and summer camps try to create these opportunities for the children with whom we work.

The Don Bosco partners conducted residential and non-residential summer camps reaching out to around **4000+** children, each of them in their own formats according to the local situation. They also designed the camps with various themes and related activities, involving local communities wherever possible.

Why do BREADS and its Don Bosco partners put in the hard work and resources to organise summer camps? So that Mallika, a student from Savantagal centre, Devadurga can enthusiastically express her enjoyment and learnings from the camp experience, wishing it would run another month. To ensure that all these underprivileged and vulnerable children experience some of the joys of childhood. Being rewarded when many children echo Ashish, a participant of Summer Smiles, "As the summer camp came to an end, I left with a heart full of cherished moments and a newfound confidence that will shape me for years to come."

DON BOSCO SUMMER CAMPS 2024

Besige Besuge (Summer Unity) in Chitradurga

One hundred and forty children from 12 supplementary education centres, their teachers, and CHITHRA staff participated in a 3-day residential camp, which helped the children learn how to live together amicably. The children were exposed to various aspects of safeguarding by professionals. The Block Education Officer informed them about various child protection services. The Deputy Superintendent of the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) explained child rights and their violations, the SJPU and the POCSO Act. In an exciting demonstration, the fire brigade showed children about fires, safety precautions, the fire brigade and their emergency services. The children learned about teamwork and leadership skills. They had inputs on Kannada & English languages. Campfires, song & dance, theatre & storytelling, drawing, meditation, yoga & taekwondo, sports & games, good food, prizes and open spaces ensured a memorable experience for the children.



Summer Smiles in Bangalore with SSG

Ten days of fun, frolic, laughter and learning for 200 children in the lush green outdoors of Kristu Jyothi college, and you certainly have summer smiles! These were children from the supplementary education centres in the local low-income areas. Ferried to the venue in buses every day, the children looked forward to arts and crafts, yoga, karate, dancing, games, songs, competitions, fun events, and tasty food!



Summer Thrill in Davanagere



The boys and girls (121 children) of the residential bridge course and supplementary education centres enjoyed an eight-day residential summer camp organised by DBCLM. The children were motivated about leadership, friendship, and group building. They learned to manage time and anger, goals, spoken English and meditation. The mobile clinic staff organised first aid and cleanliness classes for the children. Fun activities of the camp were night games and campfire, rain dance, art and craft, treasure hunt, and party songs and dances.

SUN FEST 24 in Devadurga



SUN FEST reached out to more than 300 children from seven rural supplementary education centres over 27 days, through evening programmes. Activities sparked off creative learning and fun, through memory & knowledge games, puzzles, drawing, dance, singing, clay modelling, traditional games such as kabaddi and khokho. Local School Development Monitoring Committees (SDMC) & Gram Panchayat members, and parents participated in award ceremonies, successfully motivating them all towards continued education. The camp significantly impacted the children's creativity and holistic development, which was happily acknowledged by their parents.

Other DB Summer Camps in Karnataka



In Bidar, Yadagiri, Kalaburagi and Vijayanagara, Don Bosco partners each organised five camps of a 3-day duration, reaching out to totally 2000 children from our activity centres. In Mysuru, DB Makkalalaya reached out to 50 children from our learning centres and the surrounding slums, in a 15-day summer camp.

Don Bosco Summer Camp in Kollam

FCDP hosted a week-long summer camp for 50 students of classes 7-9 from the local fishing community, which helped them to discover their strengths, build confidence, and develop important social skills. Career guidance, fun competitions, talent training, interactive group activities and life skills sessions kept the children enjoyably engaged. The students received certificates and prizes at the close of the camp.



Sparks, Wings, Darshan 2K24 in Thiruvananthapuram

DB Veedu conducted four camps creating enjoyable impact on 135 girls and boys from various backgrounds in the city.

- Sparks, for local school children was a blend of education and entertainment: team building, co-curricular challenges, camaraderie and skill development. A picnic and treasure hunt were highlights ensuring lasting memories.
- Wings, for girls from four childcare institutions, addressed personal growth, life principles, addictions and healthy relationships. Team building, games, cooking, quizzes and talent fests helped showcase the girls' skills.
- Another camp for children from Karimadom, a low-income area, focussed on inspirational talks, educational sessions, and career guidance. A camp newspaper, dynamic games, team-building exercises and a picnic facilitated fun, bonding and intellectual growth.
- Darshan, welcomed past pupils of DB Veedu to a week of edutainment and growth. They refreshed language skills, enjoyed games and activities that invigorated the group.



Summer Mela (Festival) at Palluruthy

A month-long camp for the youngsters of Don Bosco Boys Home offered an enriching experience, combining academic, creative, and physical activities to foster all-round development. A competitive group system kept up the motivation. Besides English, the boys were coached in outdoor sports. An indoor sports tournament and Night Olympics were conducted. MELA Kalotsavam (cultural festival) was a highlight. The students showcased their talents and creativity, even producing a handmade magazine. Additionally, the boys enjoyed movie nights, campfires, activities, games and loads of fun!



BOSCO's Summer Camps in Bangalore



Eleven different camps across Bangalore offered 778 children enriching and educational experiences during the summer. Girls and boys from the BOSCO childcare institutions (Rainbow Home, Yuva Kendra, Nivas, Nilaya, Vatsalya Bhavan, Mane & Vikas) and supplementary education centres in Sumanahalli, and elsewhere enjoyed a diverse range of activities: games, crafts, educational, child protection & self-development sessions, health checkups, cultural programmes and excursions. The camps successfully fostered creativity, skills, and community spirit, with loads of fun, play and good food.



CALENDAR

MAY 2024

- Induction of 24th batch – DB BEST Academy
- Summer camps for children
- Needs assessment survey in Lingarajapuram slum
- Project monitoring visits by BREADS
- Internships at BREADS by college students
- Observance of World No-Tobacco Day
- CSR employee engagement – Deutsche Bank

JUNE 2024

- Observance of World Environment Day
- Observance of World Day Against Child Labour
- Project monitoring visits by BREADS
- Project visit by funding partner – ADPG
- State-level staff training – DREAM programme
- CSR employee engagement – Indigo, Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank
- Human Rights ToT Programme

BREADS NEWS



Opportunities for a Career Take-off

Don Bosco Job Placement Network (JPN) recently partnered with BREADS' DB BEST Academy to explore job...

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Farewell to Fr. Deepu Mathew SDB

Bidding farewell is always hard, but also joyful when we think of the better opportunity kept ahead of that...

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Empowering Futures: DB BEST Academy Students Receive...

Students of DB BEST Academy under BREADS received basic computer training through a one-on-one...

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Achieving Milestones in Life

For every Indian student, the Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations are huge milestones because these are some of the results that we end up carrying...

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Clean bowled, Tobacco!

Vaping is cool. Many youngsters in urban schools and colleges would say that. There's a culture created around it to promote its coolness, which...

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