

TLC Newsletter *July* 2023

Dear all,

We are about to begin the new year 2023-2024. This year we start with special circumstances, as many families and facilitators are out. July will be "drop in" time, and as everyone arrives back we will expand the program accordingly. We trust you have enjoyed the break and are fresh and ready to start the year!

The Nursery and Older group (The Saplings) come together on the 10th of July.

Monday 10th July 2023 - Work Day in Base Camp from 9:00 - 13.30 for all children, parents and facilitators. At 11:30 we will have our TLC community gathering (important to attend to make decisions together) followed by lunch.

Comings and Goings

We would like to warmly welcome the following new children/families to TLC!

Nursery

Dharani age 2 officially joins big brother Roo with parents Lauren and Raj.

Amsel age 2 and his parents Edward and Anandi, will join after Amsel turns 2 in September.

Edward is one of the TLC Nursery Facilitators.

Saplings

Iben age 12 and her mother Natalie from Norway.

Aria age 7 and his mom Nina and his father from Iran.

Lourenço age 9 and his parents Caio and Lúcia from Brazil.

Noa age 5 and baby Sandro join the rest of the family (Mae, Helena, Antonello).

Calys age 10 and his mother Mukhande, french but living in Peru.

Pepe age 12 joining Ravi and Nicoletta.

Goings

Yann, Gautier, Thomas and Anick have left to go back to France.

Alex for now is to stop work in the kitchen team and remain with us in the spirit of collaboration.

Goni is moving to Transition for a trial term.

Seulon is moving probably to Deepanam in December.
Hillel, Roni, Avigail, Osnat and Amos are leaving to Israel.
Nilima left TLC and she is working in HAA kindergarten

Start of the year information

Nursery information

ENROLMENTS

The TLC Nursery is offered mornings Monday to Friday for children aged 2+ years. We start the new school year with 6 enrolments - 2 of which will join later in the year (one out of station and another on turning 2 years old). 3 children have been unable to continue as they are not volunteers, Aurovilian or Newcomers - as required by the the AV School guidelines.

PARENT-FACILITATOR ROSTER

Thamu and Edward, our facilitators, will attend each morning. Given the reduced numbers, the parent facilitator roster is paused and will resume once numbers increase. This roster remains a core value of the Nursery vision - one that we are enthusiastic to maintain, especially as we open up to the wider community.

TIMINGS and MEETINGS

Nursery drop off is between 8:45 - 9:00am. Please do your best to be on time as it supports our morning routines and helps create a peaceful atmosphere.

Our morning finishes after lunch and closing circle; parents are requested to pick up children between 12:30 - 12:45pm.

The Nursery team will continue to meet weekly on Mondays 1:30 - 3:00pm. In addition to the Work Day on the first Monday of each month, parents/facilitators will also meet fortnightly on Mondays 3:00 - 4:30pm to develop the Nursery space and materials.

OUTINGS

We will continue to have outings once a week (day to be confirmed). Last year we enjoyed regularly visiting Dehashakti, Baraka and Matrimandir.

Saplings information

We face a very different situation this year. Several families, children and facilitators will be arriving this new year in late July, August or September because they are out of Auroville for personal reasons, and all the new families are still waiting for visas and will also join after the start of the year. So the beginning of the activities will be organized with the children and facilitators who will be present and gradually we will integrate the other children and facilitators who will arrive in the following times.

Obviously this beginning of the year is not preferable and the schools in Auroville do not accept arrivals in the middle of the term but we understand the current situation and for this year we will premise this in the hope that for the next few times the situation will be more stable for all of us.

Mira and Mrinalini will be present to facilitate the start of the year.

Aikya will join to offer Spirit&Nature when she returns in July and of course she will continue with world game.

Schedule for July:

ATB: we have a ATB space in deepanam on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and we will start in the beginning of August with Tamar and Ohad are back in Auroville. Tamar also offers ATB for adults so please contact her if you are interested.

Creative Movement: we will start when we have enough kids to make groups.

For the **Open Spaces** we will see when more families are back and we will organize new activities on Friday afternoon, open to other kids too.

All the **sports activities** are restarting like usual so children will check with Mirnalini for the schedule of the new term.

Facilitators coming late

Sara is in the final stages of her Montessori training, and will have this as her main focus until September. She will offer some areas of exploration to the children during this time special in math and great stories in base camp during the mornings.

Tamar, Ohad and Mahima will be out until the beginning of August.

Children/families coming late:

Ravi, Kalina, lam, Mila, Sophia, Pepe and new admission families they will join when they arrive.

Teams, Tasks

As you all know, The Learning Community is not a school but created by what all of us bring to it. It is essential that all parents who choose this journey take part in holding this project through our Teams and Tasks, and by active participation in the monthly Community Gatherings and other co-education activities and events. As many families are out at the start of this year, please be aware that this impacts the overall functioning of TLC, as much needs to be done by very few. Be ready to put extra time and energy upon your return to balance the extra input of others while you were away. **Please see the section on TRIPS how you can help while you are out!**

Remember, all parents have committed to contribute a minimum of 2 hours per week to their chosen team. When parents do not do their part, it falls on others, and the facilitators are the last ones to step in to do things that have not been done by others which directly impacts the work with the children. It is your responsibility as an individual parent to join a team, and be active in it. The Community team and Team leaders should not have to put energy into following up on this.

Community team - To follow up with all parents to see that everyone has found their areas of involvement and that Teams and Tasks are flowing smoothly, and to work to solve any issues regarding parent involvement. To facilitate the monthly Community Gatherings, send out invitations and reminders about events, and work towards healthy and open communication in the community. To create the Dew Drop Inn as our community meeting and co-education space, and to organize and facilitate Open spaces arts and games afternoon including children from the wider Auroville community. (Present members for the new year: Sashka, Mrinalini, Ines,)

Aspiration and Progress Team - To hold the Integral Education vision of TLC and facilitate the educational research by guiding the journey from theory into practices. Attend School board and SAILER meetings, report writing, research documentation etc (This group requires full involvement, long term commitment and minimum one year TLC of active involvement in the work with the children in TLC). (Present members for the new year: Sara, Mira, Mrinalini, Mahima, Lauren, Helena).

Campus Love team - Care for the campus and buildings, through repair, new constructions, beautification. (Present members for the new year: Alexey, Vanitha)

Generosity team (Kitchen and garden) - Drive the pedagogical project Seed to Plate by holding and facilitating a learning environment for the children - to learn to plant, harvest,

cook and eat what grown seasonally and locally, with an international variation to bring in a cultural diversity in what we eat. (Present members for the new year: Mira, Seetha, Prem, Krishna)

Abundance team (finances) - To make and hold the TLC budget and manage running accounting work and distribution of funds. (Present members for the new year: Amy and one person from each team)

Nursery team - The team working daily with children age 2- 5/6 . Members are decided in the team to create stability and continuity for the children. (Present members for the new year: Thamu, Edward,)

Saplings team - The team working daily with children age 6/7-14. Members are decided in the team to create stability and continuity for the children. (Present members for the new year: Sara, Mira, Mrinalini, Tamar, Mahima)

Welcome team (new admissions) - Communication with new families and school admissions, visa letters, presentations, meetings etc. (Present members for the new year: Giorgia, Maya)

- Meetings within your Team** - Regular meetings are scheduled by each team. The team leader has the responsibility to coordinate these meetings, the work in the team, and the communication with the finance team, and sharing a monthly update of the work in the team at the Community Gathering.

Community Events

- Workdays for this year - Put them in your calendar now!** Monday July 10th, Tuesday August 1st, Friday September 1st, Monday October 9th, Wednesday November 1st, Friday December 1st and Friday December 22nd, Monday January 8th, Thursday February 1st, Friday March 1st, Monday April 1st and Tuesday April 30. Remember that **all parents need to keep these dates open and are expected to participate**, and the **kitchen team will prepare lunch for everyone**. If you for some reason are not able to participate please share this in the tlc chat beforehand and check for a work task to do at another time of your convenience in the week of the workday.
We look forward to a great start working together!

- All TLC Community Gatherings - take place every monthly workday from 11.30-12.30. This is a place for everyone to bring topics - to share ideas, discuss, learn, and problem solve.

If you have topics for the **Community Gathering** please send an SMS to Mrinalini. If time permits, we will include all topics, if not, the Community Team will prioritize the topics and some may be kept for the next community gathering.

Remember that it is your individual responsibility to bring all concerns or questions to the community gathering. Issues should be addressed right away in this forum. It is the time/place to share, to gain clarity, find solutions and build understanding.

In case you can not participate in Workday it is important to communicate this in our TLC whatsapp chat so we can organize the morning and you will take a task to complete in your time during the week. The community team will follow up on this and assist those who were unable to come on Monday to find an alternate task.

If a parent needs to be temporarily relieved of their TLC responsibilities (team participation, workdays etc), this has to be shared with the community at the CG. Joining TLC means making time to be a part and prioritizing this unless there are very special temporary circumstances that then are shared and agreed upon in the all TLC community gathering. It is very important that everyone is aware if a family is not able to participate, to keep the engagement and positive energy in the community. If you have any issues regarding your community participation, share this with the community team who will help you bring the topic to the community gathering.

Schedule & Mentors

Regarding the children's schedules for next term, they will begin to plan these with their mentors gradually as.

For any concerns, doubts, emerging situations and help regarding your child, please remember to always connect and communicate with your child's mentor. Each child has an [individual mentor](#), please read the document "*Mentors in TLC*" here [Mentors TLC.](#)

We will plan the individual mentor for each child when they are back in Auroville and restart the activities.

To remember for Base Camp

The children are welcome to arrive between 8.30-9.00 and settle in with their work.

All children need to have arrived before 9 am otherwise the day after they need to come early with parents and help in the service preparation.

Remember that morning is a quiet zone in Base Camp, and adults and children on campus need to keep in mind to speak softly as others will be engaged in focused work. The day ends at 13:00 for the Nursery children and 13:30 for the older children. All children are expected to remain in Base Camp until this time. For the Nursery children the moment after lunch is needed to close the day together in a quiet way before their afternoon rest. For the older children playtime and socializing after lunch is an important part of the morning - enabling the kids to deepen their connections with others and to allow the many vital expressions of their beings to emerge during play. After 13:30 children will have individual schedules, depending on their sports activities, individual nourishment sessions and others.

These schedules will be finalized in the first week of the beginning of term.

We encourage all older children to cycle to Base Camp, please support your child in this.

For the Saplings Group: Remember Pencil Cases!

Each child needs to have a proper pencil case. The pencil cases are kept in Base camp. Your child's pencil case should be ready at the start of the term and contain:

- Several new pencils (old ones can get dry and hard to sharpen)
- A good pencil sharpener (marked with your child's name)
- Scissors (marked with your child's name)
- Color pencils in all colors (also new so that they can sharpen easily)
- Eraser
- Ruler (marked with your child's name)
- Glue (marked with your child's name)



Trips this term

Since last year, the Trips group have been planning for the older children to take part in the International Democratic Education Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal on the 15-20 October, followed by a trek/camping in the Himalayas. We still need to raise a lot of funds for this and

need parents to get involved with lots of creative ideas to make this happen. **This is a good task for those of you abroad to help with while you are out - FUNDRAISE!!!!**

For the younger children a short trip in Auroville/bioregion will be organized.

Dew Drop Inn

We are looking for someone inspired by local and seasonal produce, creative international cooking, and who loves working with children. We need to find someone to take the role as lead facilitator of the pedagogical project the "Dew Drop Inn". To be a driving part of the kitchen team (lunch and snack for TLC children and facilitators), and to develop it into an Auroville Community Kitchen/Cafe together with the children. If you know of such a person, please put them in touch with Mira.

Monthly Parent Contribution

Please remember to set up your monthly parent contribution through financial services..

For older group children, parents contribute rs 500/month for one child in TLC, rs 750/month for two children, and rs 1000/month for three children. This goes to a common pot to cover common expenses during the year, such as trips. (Only Aurovilian parents contribute as this is included in the student fees that newcomer and guest parents pay).

In addition, parents now need to add an extra 150/- per month to cover the cost of the weekly swimming bus. Please change your monthly f/s transfer accordingly.

The parents of Nursery children contribute the same as above. This goes to cover facilitator maintenance and other expenses.

The contributions for the older group should be made through an automatic monthly transfer to FS **account nr 103229**

The contributions for the nursery group should be made through an automatic monthly transfer to FS **account nr 253047**

Please set up your automatic monthly transfer asap so that the finance team does not have to have the task of following up on individual parents payments, as this becomes extra unnecessary work. Thank you!

This does not apply to Volunteer and Newcomer parents, as you are already paying a school fee (if need more information please contact Maya or Amy/Mira).

Communication Guidelines

Our main guideline for whatsapp groups is that **we only share short messages** about everyday things that need to be communicated. If there is a need for a response it can be done as PM/DM (private/direct message). We **don't answer with emojis or short comments**

that are not necessary for all. If this is not followed the whatsapp groups get overloaded with messages and we don't pay the same attention to them. Important messages can be missed.

For anything that needs deeper discussion or is of a sensitive nature, we meet to talk. We never use whatsapp or email for this. **Contact the mentor or a member of the aspiration team to book a meeting.**

We don't use voice messaging as it requires a lot more time from the receiver, and also there is no way of knowing the nature of the content beforehand. Therefore voice messages require to be listened to in private. Most of the facilitators have children around at home, or live with other people, which makes it difficult with confidentiality and privacy in regards to content shared if parents communicate with voice messaging.

We have four whatsapp groups:

- **TLC integral learning** - for sharing of practical information for "older children" (not nursery), our newsletters, questions to all etc. All parents and facilitators need to be a part of this group as there can be important info shared regarding practical functioning. This group should only be used for messages relevant to all the children (or the majority) - it is NOT for messages pertaining to individual children. Please message your child's mentor or the relevant facilitator in these instances.
- **TLC nursery** - a group for sharing of nursery activities, our newsletters, questions to all etc. All parents and facilitators need to be a part of this group as there can be important info shared regarding practical functioning.
- **TLC photo moments** where we share photos of the kids, quotes, reading material, invitations to events in av and other stuff to share with all. Please keep your sharings positive! (People can silence this group if it gets too much for them) People no longer in TLC are welcome to stay in this group to stay connected.
- **Team WhatsApp groups** to discuss week/monthly work that needs to be done. Depending on which team and task you will choose to participate in, you will then be automatically added to the relevant group.

We have an all-TLC email where we mainly send newsletters, schedules etc. It is not used so often. Please remember to inform the community team if you change your email.

Thank you for taking care of all by following these guidelines.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this. We look forward to another beautiful year of living and learning together with ourselves and our children, growing in the implementation of the Principles of Integration in our lives, and deepening in the knowledge of beings, inner and outer.

Thank you for dreaming with us ...

With love, gratitude and joy

Aspiration team

(Sara, Mira, Mrinalini, Mahima, Lauren & Helena)