

TLC Newsletter *January* 2024

Dear all,

We would like to welcome everyone back after the term break! We look forward to strengthening our spirit of community this term, and would like to engage everyone in this effort to bring more togetherness. Each new year reflects change and we always aim to put our focus on the areas we see need to improve. Last year 2022/2023 we had big gaps in the participation to hold the tasks in our teams, and therefore this put major focus on teams involvement at the start of the year in July. At the same time the facilitators navigated the pedagogical work in a year of a lot of late comers in both families and facilitators. Meanwhile many families and facilitators were directly impacted by the larger situation in Auroville. One aspect of the changes in Auroville has been that many new regulations in the field of education are being implemented, and TLC has had to attend numerous meetings (school board, SAIER, executive meetings, FAMC budget meetings, meetings between schools....) followed by a lot of time needed to process this emotionally and practically.. So clearly the reality of the past term had drifted our attention and energy in many different places, and our community spirit got a bit sidelined by us all. Especially for new families just arriving in Auroville/TLC this must have been challenging.

Community is what holds us together, what brings joy, creativity and sense of purpose. This term we want to focus all our community efforts on togetherness. Community spirit is at the heart of TLC. Together we can make this shift and co-create what we want as a shared experience, the reason we all chose to be a part of this intentional community.

As always, the Newsletter is long, but it is our way of sharing information in our community, and it comes just once a term. So please read it carefully, from start to finish, so you don't miss any important information.

As always, we start with a **Work Day in Base Camp from 9:00 - 13.30** on **Monday 8th January 2024** 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 and cake for the December birthdays.

Fundraising - Amazing work everyone!! We raised a lot of funds.

As the Nursery is not receiving any support from SALLER for now, and we are stretching our regular TLC budget to include the Nursery needs both in development of the environment, supporting facilitators, and regular expenses. A huge job has been done by the community to fundraise for this, as well as for the upcoming Saplings trips. A big thank you to all of us and all others who supported!!!!

YC fair

The lovely community efforts at our regular YC fundraising brought 10,000 Rs.

AVIUSA matching funds

The collective efforts brought a total of \$6,091.83 to TLC.

Cutbacks in the field of education starting now. Other than our regular fundraising events for trips we now need to start to look into becoming self-sustainable. Can we use the Dew Drop Inn as a first step in this direction?

DEW DROP INN - Building Community, Feeling of Togetherness, Joy and Inspiration - and striving for self-sustainability

Aims for our community this year is **community building**, where we can come together and co-create:

The Dew Drop Inn (educational cafe and community kitchen) - Let's bring the project alive! Other than serving as our community kitchen we can offer a cafe and lunch scheme for the wider Auroville Community. Staying within our focus of using mostly local and seasonal produce, if you love to cook, bake, or simply beautify the space, - come together with your energy here! This will become the amazing learning experience that the children envisioned when they created the concept of this project when we came back to Base camp after Covid.

Other than just serving food and refreshments, the Dew Drop Inn is our possibility to take a first step towards self-sustainability financially.

We need all our efforts and creativity to make this happen. Let's make this our collective project, our community heart in Base Camp..

Lunch Scheme - From February we will start offering lunch scheme 3 days a week first to parents/friends and then to the wider community. Mondays Korean lunch, Tuesdays Italian lunch, Thursdays Israeli lunch. Please support the first step by if possible moving your 1/2 lunch scheme to TLC from February. And have others join you too!

Cooking Class Korean Food - As a part of making the Dew Drop Inn into an income generating part of TLC, Kyonghyon/Lee, who has many years experience both from running the kitchen in Sadhana Forest, as well as running the Visitors Centre Cafeteria, will join us one morning a week. This will be a regular cooking class, learning how to make Korean dishes. It will be every Monday starting from the 22 January to some time in March. Parents, facilitators and children can take part, but the commitment is to come every Monday during this period to get this training. *During this time we are sure that Kyonghyon/Lee will also share many valuable structural changes we need to make to be able to successfully run a community kitchen/cafe.* Contact Ela before 17 th January to sign up for the course.

By offering other types of events we can bring people to the Dew Drop Inn, making it into an Auroville community center for children and adults. The campus could be used for many different things in the afternoons/evenings.:

Movie Nights - Let's start regular movie nights! We have a brand new projector for this purpose! We can have evenings to screen films for the adult community and movie nights for the children. It can be open to the wider Auroville community too. Let's make it happen! A first suggestion is Wednesday evening falafel night with a children's movie. The kitchen team will make the food - who wants to form a team to hold the movie aspect?

Co-education - Lets meet and discuss education over a cup of tea and slice of cake. We have started building up an educational library in the Dew Drop Inn. A place to sit and read, meet together to reflect and share together, formally or informally! Open for all interested in education in Auroville.

Board Games time - We have a cupboard full of board games. Why not have a regular time to come together and play? Is anyone interested in facilitating this as an Auroville event? It could also be on the weekend or evening.

Other ideas...?

We will start this more active work of realizing the Dew Drop Inn and using this collective effort to bring us all together through a brainstorming on the topic together at the community gathering on Monday.

Comings and Goings

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

We would like to welcome Elze, who will be exploring TLC this term with focus on research.

Welcome back Elena, nursery facilitator.

Welcome back Miya, working in the Dew Drop Inn and garden.

Welcome Kyonghyon/Lee who will teach Korean cooking one morning a week.

We welcome Licia who is joining the Dew Drop Inn team.

Children/families we welcome:

Chanoch and Eden will be back, hopefully soon.

Seeko (3) with parents Iya and Simon from Georgia arriving at the end of January.

Simya (6) and her mother Bahar.

Sahar (5), Sun (10) and Zeev (12) and parents Adi and Gal joining in February.

We would like to welcome Rohit (15) who will be exploring TLC, moving from just facilitator to facilitator and student.

We welcome back Solar (4) and his mother Xime to explore TLC.

Goings:

Mira and Kavi go to Italy in the middle of January as Mira needs to be with her mother.

Iben and Nathalia will take time to land in Auroville and figure out their path forward. We are happy to meet with any parents who want to know more of the process behind this decision.

Mukandhe and Calys have decided to step out of TLC.

Base Camp

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 Base Camp time starts between 8.30-9.00 (Saplings) and 8.45-9.10 (Nursery), and 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. From February the Nursery schedule will end in Base Camp at 15.00, extending the schedule to include time to sleep and forest exploration.

We encourage all Saplings children to cycle to Base Camp, and to as many of their afternoon activities as possible. Please support your child in this.

For parents and facilitators who want to stay in Base Camp for a conversation - please start to use the Dew Drop Inn and leave from the Dew Drop Inn gate in the corner of the campus so as not to distract your child.

Research this year

This past year our research has been focused on the role of the holistic educator. Read the published article here:

<https://her.journals.publicknowledgeproject.org/index.php/her/article/view/2942>

For the coming term Elize will join us to explore and document the following questions:

- (1) how can a school be “a place of being” not “a place of doing”?
- (2) What tools and instruments help children to pursue knowledge, acquire skills and build beliefs that are meaningful to them?
- (3) How does a self-directed learning environment promote a conscious way of learning?
- (4) What mindset allows the authenticity of both younger and older beings to express?.

The research will be conducted via three axes: tools, environment and mindset of the learning space.

Regular Community Events

- ☐ Community building Workdays for this year - Put them in your calendar now!
Monday January 8th, Thursday February 1st, Friday March 1st, Monday April 1st and Tuesday April 30. Remember that **these days are essential for our feeling of community, getting to know each other and sharing on topics that are relevant to us all.** Make every effort to join! 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 so that everyone is aware that you can't make it.
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 and Community Gathering it is important to communicate this in our TLC whatsapp chat so that the community knows who will be present.

Community Board

The community board is just inside the gate. You can't miss it! Make a habit to read the information on the board. The Community team and Aspiration teams will fill the board with this and that, so if you have anything that you feel should be on the board, pass it on to them...

Other information:

- On Thursday 11 th January a group of 18 people will join for lunch and a sharing/presentation about TLC.
- Pongal holidays are on 15th 16 th and 17 th January. The Nursery will organize an outing for the children on the 15th , facilitators will have a workday. For Saplings 15 the will be a holiday as its the day Mira is leaving and day before Sara returns.

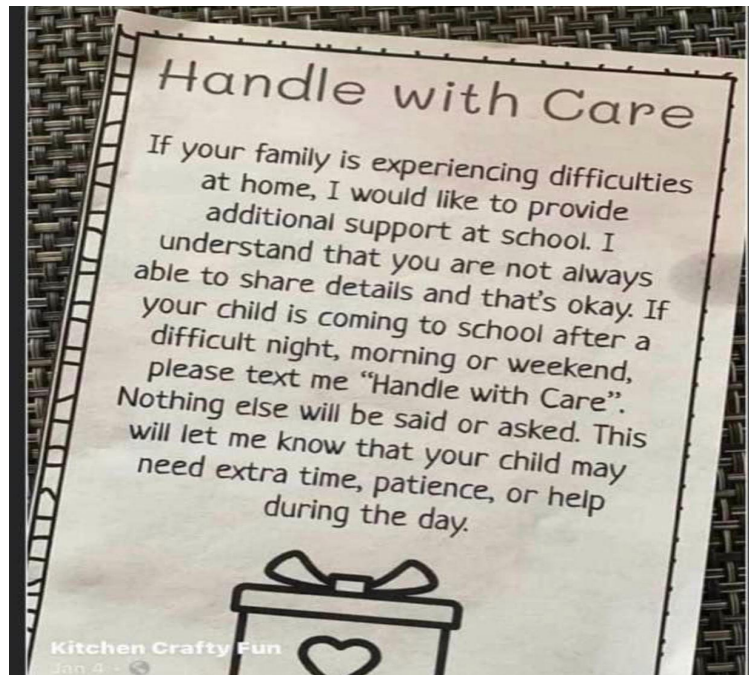
AND NOW TO THE KIDS....



We wanted to remind parents that we have one beautiful tool
that we have used for some time in TLC....

Please send a "handle with care" message to your child's facilitator
so we can hold them with care during a challenging moment





Open Spaces

Open spaces is the time that we in TLC open up our activities and campus to the Auroville community, and to people visiting Auroville. Nursery open spaces by prior booking only.



NURSERY INFORMATION:

Nursery Facilitators:

After having been run with full parent involvement until now, we parents are sooo ready to go back to our own work now... and the past term was actively dedicated to finding

facilitators. Now the big step is happening to move from parent facilitators to non-parent facilitators. We found an amazing team to take this work forward:

Our Nursery Team will from now consist of: Edward, Elena, Bahar and Adi (arriving in February). Claudia and Maya (for co-education) and Helena and Lauren (for Aspiration team) will guide the new team.

A lot of focus will be on getting to know each other, creating the learning environment, setting routines etc. From February the program aims to extend to afternoons too.

Nursery Schedule:

On Monday 15th the children have an outing with parents. Facilitators have the day to plan and prepare the environment together. (Pongal holidays 16-17 January).

Schedule link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13HINNlC6_coZFfj5udPbfeK2XqhgMO2lwiNjUmmD_o4/edit?usp=sharing

SAPLINGS INFORMATION:

Saplings Facilitators:

Sara will be back from Italy in the middle of January.

Mira will be leaving from mid January as her mother is unwell and needs her support.

Helgard will announce when her sessions restart.

Schedule and mentors:

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 (consequence decided by the children in community gathering).

Regarding the children's schedules for next term, they will begin to plan these in the first week of the new term. From the lotus diagram we will integrate the change needed in the schedule based on children/parents/facilitators meetings and the opportunities available for this term.

In TLC we include the richness of activities offered in Auroville as a part of the children's afternoon program, while mornings are focused on our pedagogical projects in Base Camp. Commitments for a minimum of one term for activities they engage in. As a parent it is your

responsibility to share all activities that your child has in their schedule so they can be added into the schedule. The mentor should be informed of the child's full weekly schedule.

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](#).

Monday 8	Tuesday 9	Wednesday 10	Thursday 11 *	Friday 12
Base Camp 8:30/9:00 WORKDAY all TLC community: parents, children & facilitators	Base Camp	Base Camp	Base Camp	Evegreen
8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	8:30 to 9:00 arrive	9:00 arrive
11.30 Community Gathering (CG) parents & facilitators	Circle for beginning together: new children and holiday sharing (facilitators and children)	lotus diagraph & goals	lotus diagraph & goals	free exploration
	snack	snack	snack	snack
	Quality tree	CG: TLC agreements - facilitators & children		12:00 move to base camp
12:30 lunch together	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch	12:30 lunch base camp
	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC	13:30 finished BC
13:30/15:00 Trip project	ATB Deepanam 13.30 to 14.30(Kavi, Sophia, lam, Mila, Chakor, Kabir, Lorenzo)	NO lam theatre	ATB Deepanam 13.30 to 14.30 (younger kids)	Open space 13.30 to 15.00
	Swimming La piscine 15.00 to 16.00 (Kavi, Sophia, lam, Mila, Chakor, Kabir, Lorenzo)		Swimming La piscine 15.00 to 16.00 (younger kids)	
			* Korean group visit TLC	

*schedule can change for ATB in case Tamar will have Watsu course

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 is 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)



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, rather use the emoji reaction option. 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 always 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. Or bring the topic to the all TLC Community Gathering.**

We DO NOT 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 SAPLINGS, 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** is the group that includes all members of TLC (plus some former members). Here 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!.
- **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.

We only use our TLC email for official emails, not for any internal communication in TLC. We have two email addresses, tlc@auroville.org.in for communication with SAIER, school board or outside bodies. Our email tlcwelcome@auroville.org.in is for communication with interested families and with Auroville school admission only.

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

Endangered Crafts Mela

In February we will again host the Endangered Crafts Mela in Base Camp. For a week the campus will transform into a busy and beautiful space for children from different schools in Auroville and the bioregion to come together in creativity and fun. We will as usual need to clear our spaces to make place for visiting schools and crafts people to sleep, and extra hands will be needed both in preparation and afterwork. If you are new and have not experienced the crafts mela, go to the News & Blog section on our website and you will see several films of this amazing yearly event.

Thank you all for taking the time to read all this information...

We look forward to a new term bringing a feeling of community, togetherness and joy.

With love and gratitude
Aspiration team
(Helena, Lauren, Maya, Mahima, Mira, Mrinalini & Sara)