



*The Staff*

2014 a twelfth and final year will open. The new eleventh year class has 32 students who are offered courses in the commerce stream with subjects like economics, accounting, commerce and computer science. There will be courses in science and humanities streams next year if a minimum number of students come for admission. With these studies completed, they will be able to apply either to a university or for entry to a vocational training programme. It is hoped that some of them will join the Vocational Training Centre recently set up on TS land.

As we can imagine, the staff are very proud of this step forward in providing needy children with equal educational and employment opportunities. Started by our TS co-founder, Col. H.S. Olcott, in 1894, the school is located in the south-eastern part of Besant Gardens. It provides free education in Tamil, along with textbooks, uniforms and a nutritious breakfast. The government pays for the midday meal of the 460 children and the school adds a nutritional supplement.

The second reason our help is needed is because in spite of receiving a wage increase in June 2013, its teachers are still significantly underpaid. The Olcott Education Society (OES) – the entity that runs the school – has a “corpus fund” (also known as an endowment fund) which brings in enough income to cover one-third of its running expenses. For all the rest, it depends on donations. Since donations fluctuate from year to year, those in