

## **Bagless day – Grade 8**

### **A Trip to Mudhumalai**

Our school surprised us with a bagless day outing on 19<sup>th</sup> August, to Mudhumalai. We planned an early breakfast but was delayed. The jostling crowd of Std VIII A&B piled into mini- buses and began our journey to the Tiger Reserve in Mudhumalai. We reached by 11:00 a.m. and were taken for a Safari into the reserve. Our guide and driver explained to us the wildlife habitat of the forest. On an 80,000 acre of thick flora and fauna stands this reserve home to around 120 Indian Tigers. This forest is a border for Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka. There are also deer, panthers, elephants, wild pigs, and a variety of birds. This forest is mainly covered with Teakwood and Rosewood tree. We were told that elephants use the teak tree bark as a digestive remedy for their indigestion. If it has an irritating itch is scratched away on the trunk of a crocodile bark tree. The uprooted trees are decomposed. The elusive and majestic tiger was not spotted. This almost brought a disappointment to the group, but we were met by a small herd of elephants munching on their lunch on our way out and it made our day. We saw deer and monkeys basking in the sun. We also witnessed our late Chief Minister MGR watch tower, water bodies and a live camera inside the forest. The Mayor River is a home to crocodiles so we were not allowed to venture near. By about 2:30 p.m. we reached our Resort- The Running Stream and enjoyed a delicious lunch. All of us were taken to a small stream near the resort and we had a great time splashing in the water. Our journey back was quiet since we rested in our buses. We reached school by 7:00 p.m. in time for dinner. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are immensely thankful to our Principal and administration for giving us this nice experience. We also thank the teachers who escorted us.