



Thanks for participating in ICA Summer Picnic at Big Creek State Park!! Yummy food, good weather, fun Boat rides, and 60's music!! Some of us enjoyed walking/biking on the trails. ICA appreciates your enthusiasm and support!



ICA Sport's Day at Inis Grove Park was a great success! Thanks to all the Volleyball and Carrom teams!! ICA is appreciative of your participation & encouragement. Thank you!!





Fundraising with friends: by Aarya Sharma, Darsh Shah, and Eeshan Shah

A group of kids in our community did a fundraiser to support Covid relief in India. We sold pizza, lemonade, and cookies. What started as just a few kids turned out to be a parade of many others. We were overjoyed that so many kids cared and wanted to help. We were really excited to see that our Principal of Fellows elementary school and several teachers came to support us. Here are the quotes from some of the friends who helped with this fundraiser.

A shout out to everyone who came and donated. All the money that was collected will go to Samarth: A foundation dedicated to helping Indians in need of food during Covid times.

“It was very fun. They included other people to help other than kids who were in charge. They were doing it for a good reason and not to buy things for themselves.”- Mihika Banerjee (2nd Grade)

“I thought it was a great lemonade stand. I liked that money was being donated for a good cause. I got to help out a little bit and really liked it.”-Anika Banerjee (6th Grade)

“It felt good to help people who are in need.”- Rhea Rudrapatna (4th Grade)

“The Pizza and cookies were yummy!” -Rohan Rudrapatna (2nd Grade)

“It was a really fun event. What we liked the most was how everyone came together to help the poor. It was nice to see the community come together. The best thing was that we got to spend our evening with our friends.”- Sarah and Josh Bierbaum (5th and 3rd Grade)

“I had tons of fun doing the stand. The cookies were amazing. Sports day was amazing too. It was a good lesson in learning about raising money for those in need.”- Keertna Anand (4th Grade)





Chai Tunes: A Melodious Band of Chai & Good-Music Lovers



The month of June is ruled by the planet Venus. Venus represents beauty, admiration of love, passion, merriment, and harmony! This all sounds like, “music to my ears”. So, for this month’s newsletter, I decided to talk to our beloved musical band, Chai Tunes!! Listening to them talk about their musical journey, their love for a cup of chai and Bourbon biscuits, and the common philanthropic values they share, was as harmonizing as their live performances. Get ready with your 'chai ki pyali' to go on this tuneful journey with me and please do not forget Bourbon biscuits. They take their chai very seriously!!

The Beginning: Five or six years ago, a smaller group of people (Pradeepa, Abhijit, Anupam, Atul, Shankar, and Sriram) started playing informally. “Actually, we owe it to ICA”, says Shankar as they performed for the very first time in ICA Talent Nite, as a group! As more people (Balaji, Nikhil, Rajshri, and Sree) kept joining, the formal group started taking shape, gradually. “It took about a year or so, for enough of the group to gel. We performed first, back in 2016 - which seems like super ancient history”, says Balaji. Since then, Chai Tunes, has managed to perform one gig per year except the year 2020. “2016 and 2017, our first two concerts were at Zeke’s and 2018 was at the City hall”, says Nikhil. In the year 2019, they performed at a friend’s daughter’s wedding, here in Ames. Unfortunately, the year 2020 could not work out for them, because of the pandemic. Chai Tuners are eagerly waiting for things to get back to normalcy so that they can get back to spreading music to the community!

The Name: “We might have a list somewhere, it was a democratic process”, claims Nikhil. They are all chai lovers, so chai had to be in the name of the band. “We can’t function without chai”, says Rajshri. There were few other contenders for the title such as Tea for free and so on, but “Chai Tunes” was something they unanimously agreed upon. The band also serves chai in all their concerts!

The Crew: Pradeepa and Rajshri are the lead female singers who are trained in Hindustani Classical music. Rajshri has also released an album of her own in India called, "Boondein". Anupam is the rhythm guitarist and, is one of the male vocalists. Shankar (the treble maker) plays both lead and bass guitar. Nikhil and Sriram play the keyboard and are part of the male vocalists' team. Balaji is a percussionist who plays a variety of instruments like drums, conga, and is trained in playing Mridangam. Shivani (Chai Tunes' generation -Z member) and Sree Nilakanta are trained flutists. The band also has had guest performers like Ajay Nair and Rajeev Arora as well as the ISU student band Punk Pundits. “No one really leaves Chai Tunes. Atul and Abhijit, even though they left Ames, they will always be part of Chai Tunes family”, says Balaji. Sree also writes for the band. He wrote and composed the opening song, "Swagatham", for the band. Chai Tunes performed on his Malayalam song during the 2018 Kerala Flood Relief concert. It is one of their memorable performances to date!

The Philanthropy: “Every concert of ours has been a fundraiser kind of a concert”, mentions Pradeepa. The band does not charge money to anyone to come to the concerts. “We have not done this for any monetary gain, but we thought we could also do some good while having fun together! So, that is where all our events have had a philanthropic goal alongside”, claims Balaji. Through their ICA-2018 Ames City Hall concert, Chai Tunes raised over \$4,000 for Kerala Flood Relief funds. “One thing we have always wanted to do is, be relevant to the local community, and of course not forget our origins, and also try to do something that could be of national impact, if possible”, says Shankar. The band is super proud of their efforts in keeping all three goals in check, mostly!!

By: Manusmriti Agnihotri





ICA's signature event - "The Talent Nite" is coming up soon!
The preparations are in full swing! We at ICA, are looking forward to seeing you out there. We are seeking participation from our wonderful community. Please sign up if you haven't already!! If you would like to just come and enjoy the performnaces, please RSVP on the ICA Website!!

Upcoming Events



ICA Talent Nite 2021



When: June 27th, 4:00 PM - 6 PM

Where: Bandshell Park

