



# Piali Ashar Alo School

## January-April 2016 Report

---

Despite one of the hottest starts to the New Year, these months were also some of the most dynamic: we celebrated our ninth anniversary, organized our first-ever school picnic, opened the upper floor of our new school building and were awarded the prestigious *True Legends* award by Telegraph Daily. Our volunteers Renata and Polona worked hard to teach our children English, we received visits from a number of other individuals and were particularly glad to welcome our friends from CED foundation. We enrolled 25 new girls into our youngest group and had new sponsors join our growing family.

### 1. Opening of the Upper Floor Together with German Foundation CED



Let's take a brief look back: In February 2008, we established our school in small rented spaces with a group of just ten children. In 2009, we purchased our own property with the help of the *Preserve Slovenia – Help India* action project, whose instigator and sponsor was Ms. Romana Jordan. We began with the construction of our new school building in November 2012 and celebrated the

opening of the ground floor - which we've since already been able to move into - in February 2014. We then continued with the construction of the upper floor, the opening of which we celebrated during these last few weeks. The entire school building was constructed with donations granted to us by the German CED Foundation – which made us all the happier that they were able to join us for the celebration of our final opening.



Our friends from CED – Fuat, Kerstin and Petra, spent intensive school days with us in the classroom as well as at the homes of our students. Despite the high temperatures that hovered over 40 degrees Celsius, we remained in great spirits and spent a wonderful time together.

This year, we also received a visit from the Lucia family, who made a special donation to our school in memory of their deceased sister and aunt, Maria Elena Alessandrini. In gratitude, we named the multi-purpose hall on the upper floor in her honour.



## **2. “True Legend” Award from *The Telegraph* Daily Newspaper:**



We are very honoured that our work has received an award from renowned daily newspaper, *The Telegraph*. Together with eleven other wonderful projects that contribute to making the world a better place, we were named “True Legends”. Anup and I dedicate this award to all of You who stand by our side. Thank you for your unselfish support and friendship!

You can read the article on the following link:

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160201/jsp/calcutta/story\\_66870.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160201/jsp/calcutta/story_66870.jsp)

## **3. Picnic and Sports Day**



Sincere thanks to the young and extremely dynamic Prayaas group from Hind Motor that made it possible for us to prepare our first-ever school

picnic for our children on Republic Day! The young team were excellent animators and



organized lots of sports and games so that there was no end to the fun and laughter. In real picnic style, we decided to do away with rice and instead treated ourselves to delicious breads, poori, potato curry, topping it all off with tomato chutney and Bengal pastries for dessert. For the day's conclusion, we danced to the beat of Bollywood hits so that we had a really hard time saying goodbye. Many thanks to the Prayaas group for an unforgettable day and welcome to visit us again!

#### **4. Drawing Workshop**



Our students participated in the 'We Own the Future' art workshop organized by Apeejay Anand Children's Library. 1000 children from various schools and organizations participated in the workshop so that there was no shortage of fun and happy company. In a relaxed atmosphere, the white shirts in the children's hands transformed into rainbows of colour. Each child also received a gift bag filled with school supplies. A wonderful experience for all our students!



#### **5. Yoga with Ms. Nandini**

We're very happy when we're joined by people from different walks of life, with different talents. And we're always ready to learn something new.

Ms. Nandini introduced us to our first session of yoga, during which we imitated the tiger, turtle and snake and transformed into lotuses, trees and flowers. We learned basic yoga poses and meditation techniques for children.



## **6. Volunteers Polona and Renata**

We can't even imagine our school without our volunteers anymore. This time, it was Polona and Renata who reminded us of the true meaning of motivation, creativity and a wealth of positive attitude. We learned a lot of English and a little less Bengali, went to



the movies and art workshop together and gave each other small gifts. Life is beautiful when we are friends and when we help one another.

***We thank all of you who stand by our side!***



***Mojca and Anup Gayen, Piali Ashar Alo***

[www.pialiasharalo.org](http://www.pialiasharalo.org)