

Piali Ashar Alo school: report April – September 2011

Our children sailed into the third (and last) academic term of this school year, which is due to end in December. The period from March to September is at first very hot indeed, but later marked by rain and high humidity. This is why the lessons seem to tire us more easily, for which we are all the more look forward to the holidays and our visitors.

1. Visits – volunteers

Although these past few months have been in terms of weather the most tiresome, our visitors did not let us down. **Janja** and **Klemen** have spent three lovely weeks with us, during which time they introduced Slovenia to our children, they helped with English lessons and encouraged the overall creativity. And as if that wasn't enough, they were the initiators for creativity workshops, set up for the mothers of our children. Additionally, I am pleased to report that the mothers are still regularly visiting the said workshops, where greeting cards and jewelry are being handcrafted.



Pika and **Mak**, who brought bagfuls of candies for our children, were also visiting, and so were the girls from **POTA** – a network for international group volunteering – Erika, Špela, Nina, Danijela, Marta, and Anamarija. POTA members don't miss to pay a yearly visit at our school, for they are also one of our biggest

sponsors. On this occasion we, together with the children, prepared a short cultural programme and showed them round Piali.



2.Special occasions

1. Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Day



On 9 May we celebrate the anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore's birth. He was a Bengalese poet, philosopher, painter, composer, musician as well as a Hindu reformer. This year the image of this literary mastermind can be seen practically everywhere, for in 2011 we observe his 70th death anniversary. Because it is highly significant for the children to become aware of his works, they read (or sang) his poems as well as works of prose at the ceremony.

2. Independence Day



In India, the Independence Day is celebrated on 15 August, when every school in the country – including our own – lifts the flag and carries out a cultural programme, with a crucial necessity of the national anthem being sung. To make this more fun the teachers prepared a short general knowledge quiz with awards for the winners.



2. Teachers' Day

On 5 September we celebrate Teachers' Day in India. On this occasion, the children always put the effort to prepare something special for their teachers. As this year was no different, the children set up a programme including singing and dancing, and provided the teachers with simple gifts. This undoubtedly made every one of us really pleased.

3. Activity in Slovenia – Humanitarian Society Light of Hope

1. Save Slovenia – help India

In this school year the pupils from 25 Slovenian primary and secondary schools gathered more than 3600€ by means of selling wastepaper. Mind you, 2011 is the year of volunteering, whereby the above activity took place on account of an environmental humanitarian action entitled *Save Slovenia, help India*. This was the second time that the said action was sponsored by a Slovenian member of the European Parliament, dr. Romana Jordan Cizelj. The school that in the span of this year's action gathered the most waste paper, was the Anton Ukmar primary school from Koper. The latter hosted a concluding performance that was attended by primary secretary of the Indian ambassador in Slovenia, Mr Surinder K. Datta.



2. Volunteer Day

The Volunteering Fair took place in the centre of Ljubljana on 23 May, where the Light of Hope society also kept a stall. We aimed at making the passers-by acquainted with our School of Photography; admittedly, what seemed to be the most interesting for the crowd were the revelations of the volunteers who had already visited our school, alongside kana hand painting.

3. Our school's updated website: www.pialiasharalo.org

I kindly ask everyone to check out our renovated website, that's being organized by Tamara Bizjak and Leon Oven, who are also our sponsors.

Finally, below you can find two photographs taken in Piali in the monsoon period.



Greetings,

**Mojca and
Anup Gayen**

