

Piali Ashar Alo School Report September – December 2013

After several long months of extremely difficult weather conditions that were filled with excessive rain and humidity, we are finally happy to report on having some beautiful, sunny and pleasantly warm weather. Although the temperatures are still not very low, we're cosily wrapped up in woolly scarves because we're not used to having cool weather here.

We completed the school year in fitting style – with good report card results and some well-deserved sweet fruitcake.



Santa Claus also came to visit us in India, leaving some mandarins and candies.

Special Days and Events

In India, we celebrate Teacher's Day on September 5th. To mark this special occasion, our students helped prepare a short programme and were also excited to give our teachers some small gifts. For their part, the teachers tested themselves in quizzes, pantomimes, assembly activities and a memory game. It was a lot of fun for everyone because our teachers proved to be very competitive and the winners were separated by only very tight margins. To make sure that our teachers weren't the only ones able to celebrate, we put together an even greater programme for Children's Day. On this day, we were happy to receive a visit from a magician who created a truly magical atmosphere. Long after his visit, our kids were still trying to figure out how he managed to pull flowers out of an empty hat, create two coins from one and find dolls that had been lost. On this very special day for children, our students received new school bags.





Hurray, we're going on a trip! The cooler months are suitable for us to wander outside a little. Our students took a bus trip from Piali all the way to Kolkata, where they visited some famous sites including the Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral and Science City educational park. We ventured on our trip by bus – which proved to be quite an adrenalin rush along the damaged village roads!

We also connected with organization CINI YUVA (Adolescent Resource Center of CINI), which works in the area of preventing and educating young women on the negative effects of early marriage, the importance of education, the rights of children and teenagers. CINI YUVA is also active in teaching about sex education, personal hygiene, the physical and emotional changes that happen during adolescence, etc. For a start-up programme, CINI YUVA prepared three-day workshops for our girls, placing an emphasis on teaching and consolidating social values such as the awareness of self, personal needs and wants, how to say 'no' when something isn't wanted, how to make positive decisions, how to constructively resolve disagreement, etc. The workshops were pleasantly fun, dynamic and particularly experience-oriented. We look forward to continuing to work together in future.



Those of our former students who are now enrolled in higher grades of public school help at our school on their days off. They like to assist our teachers with lessons and guiding classes. They're also able to independently guide younger students during games and creative activities.



Activites in Slovenia – "Sketch a Brighter World"

We've also been good and active in Slovenia! In co-operation with the Slovenian branch of Ladies' Circle International, the Light of Hope Association and numerous elementary schools in Slovenia, the 'Sketch a Brighter World' collection for school supplies took place during the months of October and November. Through the dedicated effort of teachers, volunteers and schools' student organizations, elementary school students collected over 100kg of



school supplies. This included about 3000 pencils, pencil crayons and other writing materials, several hundred erasers and pencil sharpeners as well as lots of other small-sized materials like scissors, glue, stickers, rulers, etc. The following elementary schools participated: Anton Tomaž Linhart Radovljica and branch schools Ljubno and Mošnje, Davorin Jenko Cerklje na Gorenjskem, F.S. Finžgar Lesce, Gorje, prof. dr. Josip Plemelj Bled, Radenci, Stražišče Kranj, Šenčur, Trebnje and branch school Žalna of Louis Adamič Elementary School in Grosuplje. Courier service DHL took special care to ensure that the supplies were delivered to us very quickly. We are sincerely grateful to everyone who participated!



New School

February 2nd, 2008 was a very special day. With a group of 15 students, 1 teacher and a pair of visitors, we opened a new school in the village of Piali and began our first school year in small rented facilities. At the time, no one could have even imagined that this was only the beginning and that six years later we'd be just a hop, skip and a jump away from entering our new school building - together with 100 children and 5 teachers! A very sincere and great thank you to each and everyone who has supported us and stood by our side over these past six years!

We wish you a truly wonderful holiday season and much fortune in the New Year!

*Mojca, Anup and the
entire Piali Ashar Alo
family*



Piali Ashar Alo

