



# Piali Ashar Alo School

## January - April 2017 Report

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The first months of the year also mean the beginning of the school year for us. Before we're hit by the hot months of summer, we take advantage of the cooler months to organize Sports Day, visit Kolkata and celebrate our school's anniversary. This year was also the first time we were actively involved in the library fair.



Our children nearly always have smiles on their faces. Whether it's Monday or Friday, whether we're cleaning the school premises... the days could be humid and rainy or sunny and warm... our children always have a smile on their face. Inspired by this, we thought it'd be appropriate to celebrate our annual

anniversary with the very simple message of: "Joy". The stage came alive in the colourful shades of the rainbow, sun and vibrant flowers. Our girls danced and sung songs that spoke of joy. Thanks to Ms. Asha, the head of the orphanage, Ms. Nandina, the yoga teacher, Mr. Cliff along with the girls from Piali Learning Center and the representatives of the Rotary Club for attending our event. Thanks also to Renata from Slovenia, Gastao from Portugal and Manuel from Spain who joined us in our celebrations.



We were again happy to accept the invitation of Apeejay Ananda Children's Library, which organized an art workshop and a competition for many children from different schools and non-profit organizations. This year, our students drew pictures and wrote letters of the alphabet on white T-shirts. They also received bags of school supplies as a

stimulating gift.



Sports and Games is a really special day for us. It means we get to leave our small classrooms for the vast outdoor space of the playground, where we pass the ball around, run, skip rope, play balance games, try to eat cookies with our hands tied behind our

backs... and other fun activities that really get the pace going. The awards given out to the winners are really just icing on the cake. And for a well-deserved break, a slice of bread, eggs and a banana await.

We were visited by music students from Geneva who prepared a wonderful music workshop



for our students. We used just our hands and feet to keep up with the lively rhythms. Thanks to #LiveIn School and Indian Guitar Federation for this wonderful opportunity of learning and spending time together.



We also went on a day trip to the zoo and museum. A bus full of music and singing made sure we didn't feel car sick... and we were happy to drive along the dusty macadam road and onto the wide city street that provided us with fine views of the skyscrapers and other amazing buildings. The museum made the dull pages of our history books come alive with meaning... looking at historic articles like coins, tools,

skeletons, fossils and even a mummy (!) was something else to behold! And you can imagine the zoo is always a big hit for the kids... young and old alike!



This year we also presented our handmade cards and jewellery to visitors of the library fair in Kolkata for the very first time. We also wanted to take this opportunity to show our students that collecting and/or making money is not easy. We showed our crafts to lots of visitors who stopped by our 'improvised' stand. We were also assisted by Jasmina, Tazmira and Chandrima. With the sale of our

products, we raised enough money to cover the costs of the bus ride to the zoo and museum.



Meanwhile, Renata, Gastao and Manuel showed us how a photograph comes to life. Our small activity room changed into a dark room for a day.

Photo paper and some secret chemical ingredients did the magic trick... the white paper turned into real imagery. This was a very interesting experience for us! ☐



***Thanks to all of you who help write our story.***

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

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