

PialiAshar Alo School

January - March 2018

Like every year we entered the new solo year in January. However, the first weeks of this year were different: we were preparing for the 10th anniversary of our school , which we celebrated on February 24th. This time, we strived to make the program especially beautiful, hearty and honest. The feedback from our visitors, joy, gratitude, as well as tears in the eyes showed us that the effort payed off. I sincerely thank the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Borut Pahor, for taking the patronage over the ceremony. We were particularly pleased that His Excellency Mr. Ambassador Jozef Drofenik, together with his wife, Mrs. Ala Adamio, honoured us with their presence. The RS Consulate in India, Mr. Bagaria, was also among us. Members of the German CED organization, humanitarian society Luc Upanja from

Slovenia and members of the Society of Slovenes in India celebrated with us as well.



Thank you for all your support and kind words. This time even my mother came over, it was her first visit to India. We would also like to thank all other friends from near and far who have honoured us with their presence on such an important day. On the stage, our children's talents were



demonstrated through dance, music and dramatization. We saw variety of acts, from Indian classical dance to modern Bollywood

and the touch of evergreen songs such as "You raise me up" and "Doe a deer". The display of talent and wonderful performances will remain with us for a long time to come.



The 10th anniversary celebration was not the only notable event in this year. Here are a few others we would like to bring to our notice:

1. New admissions

Pre-primary and primary classes admitted 27 new students. We are thankful to all the sponsors who have generously come forward to take care of the new admissions.



We have a very diverse group ranging from little Rohini who doesn't have any fine motor skills and will first have to learn how to hold a pencil, to Ankita who is already versed in Bengali and English alphabets.

2. We are now open on Saturdays as well

Due to the fact that our girls are often left unattended, most of the time with no help for academics, we decided to open our doors on Saturdays as well. Saturdays will be devoted to group studies, with emphasis on peer learning with minimal teacher supervision. We will also have a break for snack and play.



3. Music and exercise with football

In addition to singing, playing on harmonium and guitar, our girls are also playing violin from January. We would like to sincerely thank the American Blue Grass music group for donating two new violins. We are well aware of the importance of a musical expression that helps children improve concentration; bring inner peace and a sense of music to add to their talents.



Till now we have just improvised gymnastics but things changed, since our physical education is now led by a trained teacher. We admit that nothing can happen without the hard work, the "huffing and puffing" for our posture to improve and our muscles to become more flexible. Two of our girls joined football training in Kolkata. Girls rule! In January, like every year, we organized a sports day.



4. Poulomi and Susmita admitted to English medium school

We are incredibly proud of Poulomi and Susmita who successfully passed the entrance exams in English medium school. With the help of our sponsors they will continue their education in grade 5 in St. Stephen's School in Champahati. Even though we will miss the terribly, we wish them nothing but success!

4. Cataract surgeries and corrective glasses

The health issues of the elderly people from the rural area, where life is hard, are often neglected. Because medical help is expensive, they tend to go to the doctor only when really urgent. Problems with cataract are common, and although treatable, it is too burdensome financially for families to go for it. We are grateful to the Sushru Hospital and the Argobbhava organization, which performed the surgeries of the cataract free of costs to eleven elderly people from our village, and made sure that some of our children and parents got corrective glasses.



5. Donation by Second Vivekananda Bridge Tollway Company Pvt. Ltd.



We would like to sincerely thank Second Vivekananda Bridge Tollway Company Pvt. Ltd., for the new façade, fresh drinking



water and solar power that will help us stay an environment friendly school.



Thanks to all of You who help and support us!

Mojca and Anup Gayen

www.pialiasharalo.org