

Piali Ashar Alo School

April-August 2018

After a hot summer, when we were able to take some holidays, it was finally time for a monsoon, a rainy season. Nature at this time really comes to life and the rice fields become romantically green. Of course, it also causes difficulties, especially for those villagers whose homes become full of water. Some areas become flooded, because water does not drain fast enough. However, our children know how to enjoy in the rain, splashing around the puddles, playing football in the mud, and letting the ships go down the flooded streams.

In our new report, you can read the news of the last few weeks.

1. Activities in Slovenia

We are very pleased and grateful that this year as well we could spend some time in



Slovenia. We wanted to take this opportunity primarily to organize a special meeting for our Slovenian friends to mark the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the school. Our work would not have been possible without our faithful supporters, sponsors, volunteers and other friends, so it seemed only right that



we would personally thank them for their loyalty. We organized this meeting in the middle of May. The venue was kindly given to us by A.T. Linhart Radovljica Primary School, with whom we have been developing friendship for several years. We also owe multitude of gratitude to many others who helped us: Humanitarian Association Light of Hope for the organization, a dance group from

Krsko music school with their choreographer Rosana Horvat for a great dance performance, Ema Pogacar, Barbara Mosnik and Urska Ferbar for the sweet treats, and to Sonja Ravbar for the beautiful photos and to many others.



In Ljubljana old town, we had our own stand with our products, cards, earrings, necklaces, and even pencil racks and colourful scarves.

Thank you to Artish and Patsy, who were kind enough to let us use the venue. We also thank all the visitors for voluntary contributions that will provide a one-year schooling for one of our girls.



We are also looking forward to our new partnership with Bicevje Primary School from Ljubljana. We have already exchanged two dolls - symbolic toys which will travel between the Slovenian and the Indian worlds, and create colourful stories with Slovene and Indian

characters with the help of children.



Bicevje Primary School from Ljubljana organized a wonderful humanitarian event called "FOR YOU, FOR ME, FOR THE WORLD", where donations were collected to help children of our school in India. The event was also attended by the President of the Humanitarian Society, Klemen Tomsic, the Ambassador Blanka Jamnisek and Dr. Anica Kos Mikus, the president of the Slovene Philanthropy. A special surprise of the evening were singers Murat and Jose with their rap song "From the People for the People", whose lyrics reminded us about the situation in society and encouraged the need for mutual respect.



2. Events at school



Children from A.T. Linhart Primary School prepared a nice surprise and sent us a large package of school stationery with letters and drawings, which made our girls especially happy.

POTA volunteers made the monsoon days look a little bit brighter. POTA is a programme of the Catholic Youth Community. The POTA programme has already been operating for 13 years to those young people in the summer months to volunteer

on projects around the world. One of them is also our school in Piali, where volunteers have been visiting us for many years. Volunteers along with the children do art and crafts, sing



and dance, play and participate in sports.

They also teach children English, as well as about the world, especially about Slovenia and Germany, which are the countries where their sponsors are from. Together we explore the differences and similarities between cultures and customs, and we are realizing that we are connected by the desire for love, acceptance, mutual trust and friendship.



Every few months we organize a parent-teacher meeting, when we also invite one of the representatives of other non-governmental and state organizations working on behalf of the village community.

This time we were visited by a representative of the local Health Center, where various medical help and counseling is provided to the villagers.

On August 15, we celebrated Independence Day like every year. Our girls, along with their teachers prepared a great program with singing, dancing, recitation and raising the flag. The children





danced in colourful costumes, traditional saris and Indian tunics.

Our upper hall was also in the rainy months full of the musical sounds of the traditional Bengal music, as well as of more modern sounds of Bollywood songs. We are thankful to Siddha Foundation for organizing small music concerts at our school.

We successfully continue with the sewing and cosmetic courses, which last for six months. Courses are mostly attended



by mothers who do not go to work, and also by students who

want to gain new skills. After completing the course, they continue to sew at home for their family and also for other customers, and with a cosmetic-hairdressing certificate they can be employed in cosmetic and hairdressing salons, which are located in both towns and rural areas.



At the end we would like to thank all of you who stand by our side!

Mojca in Anup Gayen

www.pialiasharalo.org