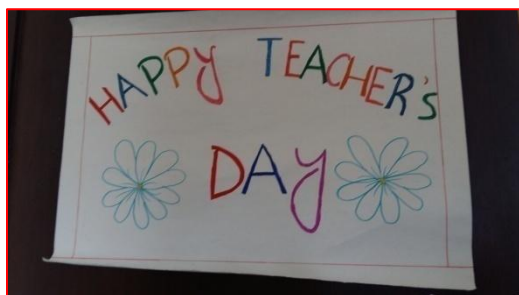


Piali Ashar Alo School

September-December 2018

The period from September to December is the time of holidays in West Bengal: among them the largest two are Durga Puja, dedicated to goddess Durga, and Diwali, the festival of lights. At our school we also prepare a nice Christmas celebration. In spite of a smaller number of working days, there were quite a few things worth to report in these last few weeks:

1. Teachers' Day and Children's Day



In September, we celebrate the day of all our teachers and in November we celebrate the day of all our children.

One of the specialties of India is that holidays are celebrated with lots of color and bang, so cultural programs and celebrations are a real pleasure for the eyes.

While for the



teacher's day, children and pupils prepare a program

for them. On the children's day, the teachers prepare a program for the kids, which is extremely interesting, as teachers are those who step on the stage. At our school teachers sang, danced and amused us with a short skit. The girls dressed in their most beautiful clothes, while the cooler weather allowed us to finally play at our school playground. All pupils received new school bags on the day of the child.

2. Let's play football



Since there are no organized sport activities in the village, children and young people are increasingly sitting in front of the TV screens or phones. We decided to organize football training in cooperation with the sports club on weekends. The turnout was huge and very positive, obviously it was something that the young people needed, as 70 children and young

people, both boys and girls joined us. We will make sure that the field is arranged in a way that playing is more enjoyable.

3. Conversational English and Computer Classes

In public schools, especially in the countryside, children and young people do not get enough opportunities to learn a foreign language or at least the basics uses of computer. Thus, young graduates cannot communicate in English and they lack in practical knowledge of using a computer. Many young people are afraid that they will not be able to conquer these almost basic skills, so we decided to organize a group, where students could learn English and basic computer usage together. The beginning is really slow, but we will insist because we know how important these basic skills are for life and employment.

4. We are learning kindness and generosity



We want our girls to develop all their potentials and talents and become what they desire: teachers, nurses, doctors, football players ... Above all, our prayer is for them to have a good and kind heart and are generous in their minds and actions. For this reason, we started a new project, in which we share something we have and with people in need: this time it was with the abandoned and homeless at the railway station. This was an important experience, we tried to overcome our boundaries and let ourselves be what we want and what we should also be: friendly towards each other. And perhaps, perhaps only, this is a sign of true courage. "A kind life ... is fundamentally a life of courage." (Wayne Muller)

5. Blue grass and Music classes



With a lot of joy, again this year, we were expecting American Blue Grass Journeyman band. They prepared a

nice program for us, different than last year, as also our violinists, guitarists and an accordion player were presented on stage. They again gave us musical instruments as presents: violin, mandolin, and a digital keyboard.



6. Volunteers of Manja and Marusa



Thank you, Manja and Marusa, who spent some winter weeks with us. Manja "gave us" a beautiful mandala on the wall, decorated garden pots and taught us crocheting. Marusa, helped us to learn more efficiently and prepare for the last tests, and helped us organize a Christmas celebration.

7. Ordinary day in India: doctors, musicians and dancers

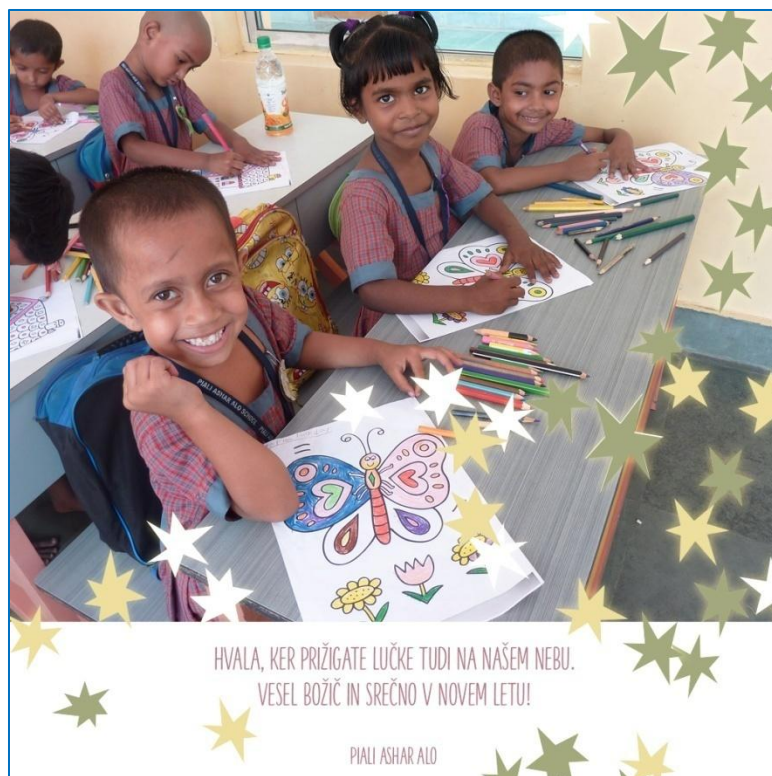


In collaboration with "Kolkata Classics Trust", which works under the auspices of Mrs Jennifer A. Heemstra (otherwise very successful musicians, pianists), we organized a general gynecological examination for



our older girls, the mothers of our children, and other female inhabitants of the village. Musicians from the USA presented classical music and magical, unusual instruments to us. With dancers from SANVED, which helps girls and women who were rescued from human trafficking, we danced together!

This year, on the Christmas day, we opened the school doors and prepared a Christmas program and picnic for everyone. We wish a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year 2019 to all our friends.



HVALA, KER PRIZIGATE LUČKE TUDI NA NAŠEM NEBU.
VESEL BOŽIČ IN SREČNO V NOVEM LETU!

PIALI ASHAR ALO