



Piali Ashar Alo

Piali Ashar Alo School

January-May 2019

»The world is like ringa ringa rose, every thing comes and every thing goes, every thing goes round and round, now we're here and now we're gone.«

The above is an approximate translation of a children's poem written by the amazing Slovene poet and storyteller Anja Štefan. And just like in the song, we, too, have completed another circle and are wrapping up the first few months of this year with some good news. Even though our days are filled with challenges – some expected, others not—we tend to keep our chin up and remember the good things that happened, while we use the challenges to learn lessons of patience, kindness and endurance

1. We blew our 11th candle

We celebrated our school's birthday this year with a beautiful cultural program and we are proud to say that we are now 11 years old, no less. Dr. Fuat, the member of the German CED



foundation that has supported us for many years, celebrated with us and that made us all feel very grateful. But of course we were equally happy to see all others join us, too: parents and friends, who took the time to come and celebrate this very special day with us.





2. Games, sports, and a picnic

Throughout the year we are left with little opportunities to play outdoors, because the weather here is very hot and humid most of



the time. For this reason we always gladly welcome winter, when we tend to spend as much time outside the school walls as possible. We like to organize a school sports day in winter, and run, jump rope, play ballgames as well as funny challenges like biting biscuits with tied hands and jumping with tied feet in order to pick potatoes on the floor. We welcome all competitors with enthusiastic clapping and award the winners.

We still encourage all village children to come and play football with us on the school grounds on Saturdays and Sundays.

We are very grateful to members of Basdhoni Ridhi club, who invited us to their yearly picnic, where we indulged on delicious Indian snacks. Our girls also got presents: every one of them left the picnic with a beautiful, warm pullover.

3. A visit to Science City



The best school days are the ones we don't spend behind classroom doors, and that is mainly due to the unforgettable field trips. Ms. Sushmita Chakraborty is a software engineer at a big company in Kolkata, who decided to celebrate her birthday this year in a different way. Namely, she took our elder girls on a field trip to the Science City of Kolkata, one of the biggest science centre in the Indian subcontinent that has proved as a major attraction for



the residents of Kolkata. We spent a wonderful day together learning, gaining new experience and having fun.



4. Studying with Teja

Teja, a future class teaching graduate, visited us for the third time to share her amazing talent, skills and knowledge with us. She taught our kids English, Geography, how to play the guitar and keys, and also prepared a dance act for the celebration of the school's anniversary.

5. We hosted a theatre



Besides dancing, our girls really love theatre. They love to take part in plays we organize for celebrations, because they love to perform. But this was the first time that we were visited by actors. Thanks to ThinkArts organisation, a theatre group called Jhala Pala performed a humorous, but educated play called »The Lonley Queen and the King« for us.

6. Celebrating the birth of Rabindranath Tagore

In West Bengal we celebrate the birthday of a great Indian poet, writer, esseyist and literat Rabindranath Tagore on 9 May. As the Slovene translator Ana Jelnikar expolored, Tagore's work greatly influenced the work of the Slovene poet Srečko Kosovel. We celebrated the



anniversary of T agore's birth with a colourful and very beautiful cultural program.

7. Vegetables from our garden



The school grounds are not very big, where by the schoolbuilding takes up most of the land. But that is all the more reason for us to be proud of our little garden that is being so generous with us. I mean, just take a look at our tomatoes! Apart from tomatoes, we also grow zucchini, turnips, chilli peppers, spinach and much more.



Children are still learning how to play musical instruments and this year, there is another one on the list: Indian

drums or tabla.

Besides, we encourage our elder students to help the young ones and we organize learning aid before school. The eldest girls have classes until 6 p.m., because it is our intention to keep children for as long as it's possible in a safe environment that stimulates learning and creativity.



We wish to thank all of our godparents, friends, as well as the organisations Luč Upanja and CED for their help. Another thanks goes to everyone who took the time to visit our stall in Ljubljana.

