



Piali Ashar Alo School

September - December 2023

The autumn months are marked by major Hindu festivals, so there are quite a few school vacations during this time. Above all, we look forward to slightly cooler days, which mean that our playground is filled with children. It is always very interesting to me how even older girls still like to play on the swings and go down the slide. We also take advantage of these winter days for morning walks among the beautiful rice fields.



Saturday afternoons are reserved for karate, and early Friday mornings are reserved for learning simple yoga asana.



In the month of October, we set up a stand with our products in one of the residential areas in the city of Kolkata. Visitors could choose from T-shirts with different inscriptions, painted bottles, jewelry, coasters and much more. In the meantime, we also prepared simple Bengali snacks, which were the most popular. Admittedly, we didn't sell much, but the time spent together was something special. The girls connected wonderfully with each other and it was inspiring to see how creatively they could spend their time together. They also trained their social skills, as they had to present their school and life to numerous visitors. We used the free hours to visit the nearby shopping center, and above all to chat and eat good food.



In December, we also end the school year. Some students were more successful, some less so. They study very little at home: partly because of the conditions and partly because of low internal motivation. Since student in Bengal's state school system up to the eighth grade can advance to the next grade even if they do not reach the minimum standards of knowledge, our girls take learning and the responsibilities associated with it less seriously.

But they are always excited when we organize different activities: whether it is games, creative workshops, project learning, cultural program... They are very happy to participate, just to avoid "textbook learning" in the classroom. You can see some glimpses in the photos below. I was most impressed by the model of



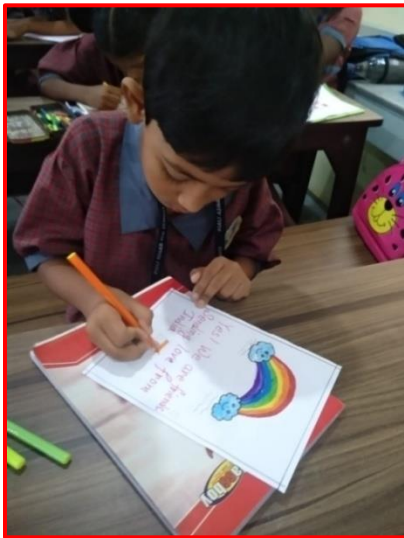
the periodic table. Great credit goes to our teachers, who try to make the learning process as interesting as possible.



Our girls were very happy to be able to present their talents on a bigger stage than ours: they danced and sang at the local village fair, impressed the audience and received the first prize.



After a long time, we again wrote letters to our Slovenian peers. I would like to thank Mrs. Dragica Milojevic from OS Fran Kranjac Celje for the initiative and student Jost, who was our "letter bearer". Jost came to visit us for a few days, brought letters from Slovenian students and took ours back to Slovenia.



We said goodbye to Sonia and Matheiu, who were our volunteers for a year. Both very successful in their professional lives, they decided to put their careers aside and help with various projects in India.



Their help was invaluable, Sonia an excellent teacher of mathematics, English and history, and Mattheiu an excellent artist, illustrator, caricaturist and musician. They also actively participated in all our celebrations, whether in singing or dramatization. Their warmth, positivity and creative and constructive search for solutions helped us to learn many new things. We will miss them very much.



We thank you for all your support. We wish you happy holidays and all the best in the new year.

Yours Piali Ashar Alo Family