

Piali Ashar Alo School

Report January – April 2012

Since our last update, our children have not only started the new school year, but already completed the first semester. Into the fifth year of our school's activity, we can proudly say that our scholastic family is getting larger still. There are 22 new students enrolled in the Nursery class, which amounts to 92 of us in total. Resultantly, the morning assemblies in our school yard have become very lively, to say the least.

1. Special days

a) Sports day

There was a sports day held in our school yard on 6 January. We had quite a capricious weather, but



luckily managed to finish all the competitions before the rainfall. The children competed in various different disciplines, such as: *show what you know* (a masks game), *jumping rope skills*, *speedy handing of the ball*, *race with feet tied together*, *marble-and-spoon race*, *race with an intermediary math task*, *speedy shoeing*, and other amusing games like *music chair*, *who's stronger*, etc. The winners received practical awards, sponsored by Soumen from the Hindmotor company.

b) 4th Annual Function

We celebrated the fourth anniversary of our school in late January. The children and the teachers prepared a lovely program including singing, dancing, and drama for the parents, villagers, and our volunteers.





c) A visit to the amusement part

What brought the most cheerful smile about our children's faces in these past few months was a long-promised visit to the amusement park in Kolkata. Naturally, in the end all of us – including our volunteers Katarina and Suzana, who accompanied us – and not just the children had an amazing time.

d) New student enrollment

At this we would like to thank everyone who in any way contributed to the fact, that we were able to enroll new students this year as well. It is nice knowing that with your help, we are able to help, and to enable ever more children to attend school.



2. Visitors



Volunteers Suzana, Tamara, and Katarina spent some time with us in the past months. Katarina helped by teaching English to our children – and by embellishing our once-barren notice board –, Tamara taught them an English song that proudly premiered on our Annual function in January, whereas Suzana spent a good six months with us and thus became a proper member of our family. We utterly appreciate your time, devotion, as well as optimistic viewpoints. Your help was invaluable.





The children seem to be most chipper when their sponsors pay a visit, and this time it was Mrs. Manja – our student Anamika’s sponsor – whom we gladly welcomed. She spent a highly active week in our company with teaching, toying and simply being creative.

We also welcomed members of a German organization called [CED - Stiftung Christlicher Entwicklungsdienst](#) with their president, Dr. med. Sussane Pechen, who purchased a number of our greeting cards. They delighted our children with lollipops and us with their willingness to help with our building of the new school.



3. Our children



This time, allow us to introduce Andriya, who has been attending school for three years. He lives with his grandmother for his parents had deserted him when he was just a toddler. The two of them, together with Andriya’s aunt and uncle, live in a small bamboo house. When he first came to our school he was utterly lost and not very down-to-earth, but now he can read, write, and calculate, the latter being his favourite pastime, apart from colouring. He knows how to take some credit for helping his grandmother with household chores. All in all, Adriyo is a very cheerful boy, who astonishes all our visitors with his captivating smile.



Puja and Chandrima are classmates as well as neighbours; they both attend the second class and always come to school together. Their home is a good thirty-minute walk from school, which is perfectly acceptable throughout the year, but a rather difficult task during the humid monsoon period. Chandrima is an only child, and because both her parents work, she spends most afternoons as well as evenings on her own. Puja, on the other hand, has a little brother with whom she really enjoys playing. Both of them are very lively and happy girls, who frequently help their parents in and around the house. Chandrima's favourite subject is English, whereas Puja prefers Bengali; both, however, enjoy and are equally good at drawing, singing and dancing.

To sum up, we are enclosing a photograph depicting a scene from one of our study walks and sending you our kindest regards.

Mojca in Anup Gayen

