



Piali Ashar Alo

# Piali Ashar Alo School January –April 2015

---



In the month January, our school marched into yet another new school year. We marked our seventh year opening with a larger cultural program. This reflected special moments that remind us of the good times we had in the previous year as well as the challenges we have faced. This is also a time when we express our gratitude to our sponsors and donors – you, who have helped us successfully complete another school year. The central theme of this year's celebration were Indian festivals, with our students presenting the celebrations that take place in the Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities. Owing to this theme, this year's program was especially exciting and colourful and at the same time, it reminded us of the importance of tolerance and respect for all different types of cultures and religions.





One of the best gifts we can give is a book. The first time our students hold a book in their hand is when they come to our school. At this time, they leaf through the book and look at its illustrations. Of course, this marks just the first step on the path to developing a

lifelong love for books and reading. Because we want our students to feel that the book is a great friend of theirs, we take them to visit the book fair each year. At the fair, students are able to select some books and illustration books by themselves. Because the book fair has lots of visitors this occasion also marks a great opportunity for them to understand how important books are to avid readers.



In the month of January, we enrolled 27 new students into our youngest grade. There are girls who are just learning their first letters and numbers. The group is very dynamic and diverse. Some of the students already have a little knowledge, whereas others are completely at the very beginning stages of learning. Some are very motivated and listen carefully to their teachers. Others find it hard to sit still and are very hyperactive. The group therefore



presents a big challenge for us all but especially for the teachers who ensure that the students are active during planned activities and that they also receive individual help so that each can effectively progress at her own pace.

The support of German organization CED is invaluable for us, so we are always very happy and honoured when we can host their members at our school. During the month of

May, members of CED joined us to celebrate our anniversary and also used the time to visit some of the students they sponsor. CED organization is also financially sponsoring the construction of the upper part of our school building, which we began last year.



Lea and Sara were our first volunteers this year. The sociology and psychology students inspired our students with new creative ideas. They improved the look of our youngest group's classroom and joined us during English lessons. They were also enthusiastic about the cultural program we held for our school's anniversary. We are grateful that they spent part of their holidays with us and hope to meet them again in future.

We got a wonderful surprise from the students of Anton Tomaž Linhart Elementary School from Radovljica, Slovenia, when they sent us two large packages of combs and toothbrushes as well as



some special packs of sweets and candy tucked inside. A special thanks to class 4A and project and practical



their teacher Maja for leading this for sending us this very friendly and gesture. Through our exchange of drawings and letters we hope to get to know each other even better and weave ever closer ties.



Our sewing and cosmetics courses are also receiving increasing attention. Many women who have successfully completed this training are busying themselves with their new found knowledge. Some have also found jobs – this provides us with additional confirmation that we are on the right path. The time that these women spend together as a group is also important because it provides them with an opportunity to exchange their experiences,

to talk about their everyday troubles and to get a breather from their domestic chores.

***We thank all those of you who stand by our side!***

***Mojca and Anup Gayen, Piali Ashar Alo***

***[www.pialiasharalo.org](http://www.pialiasharalo.org)***