

# Piali Ashar Alo School : January – March 2011 report

These first few months of the new academic year are above all remembered in light of our many visitors/volunteer, as well as the admission of new pupils into the Nursery class.

## 1. Our visitors/ volunteers

As a result of our cooperation with the Faculty of Education in Ljubljana, we for the first time hosted two future primary school teachers Urška Urek and Tina Omahna, with their mentor Nina Mikolic. Ursa and Tina positively brought freshness with their lessons brimming with new ideas and various activities. In this regard they performed two experiments called “volcanoes” and “rockets” with the students, they introduced Slovenia using photographs and posters, helped the students write letters to Slovenian pupils, they actively participated in various creativity workshops, and were truly indispensable in terms of English lessons, and individual supplementary lessons. Furthermore, Nina and Ursa introduced some basic hygiene to the children along with their demonstrations of the correct ways of washing oneself, and brushing one’s teeth. They brought piles of drawings, photographs, and activities that the students not only loved, but also gained much from, and so did we all. Upon their return to Slovenia Ursa and Nina are going to present their recorded impressions of their stay here, as well as the experience to their fellow students.



Andrej Golob is a freelance photographer, who spent nearly one month with us. He organized a photography workshop for older children, and the latter were of course thrilled about taking photographs and trying out proper cameras on their own. Additionally, we are still extremely anxious about seeing their final project, namely a report on the children’s everyday life illustrated with an array of photographs.



Moreover, Polona Simončič, and Sabina Martinčič with Peter Močnik also paid a visit to our school, whereby they manufactured some creative products for the children and brought a backpack crammed with T-shirts, notebooks, and pencils, respectively. Thank you.

For the second time around, we hosted

some representatives of FAMI, a German foundation that has been helping us from near to the very beginning. They came to visit us in February and were all extremely pleased to see the progress considering our school.

Additionally, we had a few more visits: Darja and Mateja Dolenc, wherewith Lokenath, their protégé, was only too happy about it; Peter Krajnik, who joined in order to become the godfather of a little girl called Mumpi Das; Jure Kolenc and Žiga Roser, both soon-to-be graduates at the Faculty of Architecture in Ljubljana, who decided – much to our delight – that the topic of their diploma paper should be the projection our new school, and who brought much toys that were collected thanks to LU Foundation.



## 2. Special occasion days

### - Sports Day

In order to catch the last days of not too-hot weather, we organized a sports day at the very beginning of the academic year. Due to various physical activities that the children took part in – whereby the ones that exceeded the most were duly rewarded – this was indeed a lovely day.

### - Celebration to Mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Piali Ashar Alo School



We celebrated the 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday of our school on 19 January, and reminiscently recalled the progress that was made along the journey from those tiny rooms that held no more than fifteen children and one teacher, to today's spacious classrooms and eighty pupils altogether. As it goes without saying, we made some mistakes that only served as lectures for the future. Admittedly, the Piali Ashar Alo School would not be here and functioning without those of you who offer us not only financial help, but also great understanding by your sweet words of approval, your sending of Christmas cards with best wishes, various school materials, toys, by paying visits, and so forth. The list does not end here with our counting of blessings, so we wish to thank you all.

- The admission of new pupils



In February we welcomed sixteen girls to our school, and they are already studying English and Bengalese alphabets as we speak, in addition to numbers, coloring, dancing and singing, and facts about their native Indian nature.

- The Parent – Teacher Conference

We organise a parent-teacher conference four times per year, and we are pleased to see that ever more parents are keen to participate, as it is crucial for the parents to be as actively involved in their children's education as they can.

### 3. The Life and Times: Mongola Biswas

When we first met Mongola, she was yet a very small, dirty little girl, wearing nothing



but underpants, with her head and body covered in a great deal of what seemed little bumps and open sores. This was two years ago, at which time Mongola didn't speak or cry, so we took care of her health and well-being first. A year later she was admitted into our youngest group of children, and at this point I'm proud to say that Mongola is a clever girl, who is keenly learning writing and mathematics.



Last but not least, I will attach two links that show two home-made video about our school. The first one was contributed by Swarup Dutta and shows a fragment of our annual celebration, whereas the second was by Tamara Bizjak introduces our everyday school routines.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYaftL8TFCE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZojHj4irkE>

Many thanks for all your support, and best wishes,

Mojca and Anup Gayen