



NEWSLETTER

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education@aseema

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.."

- William Butler Yeats

Aseema believes that it is essential to arouse each child's curiosity, which is part of the learning process. At Aseema we create a learning environment which is meaningful and fun, yet challenging and capable of encouraging the child to make clear and informed choices. In Standards I and II at the Pali-Chimbai Municipal School (PCMS) we have realigned the curriculum to focus on activity-based learning. To assist children to absorb fundamental concepts effortlessly and store them in long-term memory, we have developed teaching aids, stories, role-playing and hands-on learning. In the higher classes a group of volunteers regularly conducts Creative Learning and Logical Reasoning classes, fulfilling one of Aseema's primary education objectives - to teach students analytical and conceptual thinking.



This semester started with Environment Day, when each class planted a sapling in the school garden and promised to be responsible environmental caretakers. Students also reaffirmed the important values such as love and forgiveness through skits performed by them on Friendship Day. The Children's Movement for Civic Awareness (CMCA) club continues creating civic awareness at PCMS. This year, standard VII attended 'Inspiration' an event organized by CMCA at St. Mary's School,

Mazagaon. The event addressed sensitive issues like water management, garbage segregation, spitting and urinating in public places. The club appointed students as "water police" and also put up posters to ensure that the students do not waste water. The importance of garbage segregation was reiterated by their visit to Orchid Hotel.

This year, the children were excited to have their second official School Council, inducted on Democracy Day - 6 July 2009. Captains from each class were elected by the students themselves. Student Council members provide feedback on important decisions with respect to student welfare, discipline and cleanliness. The children have a "Children's

Box” - a colourful box where they are encouraged to drop notes concerning their ideas, thoughts, suggestions and complaints. A memorable first was the induction of the Parent Teachers’ Association (PTA). The parents of the PTA help with the distribution of the mid-day meal and planning as well as co-ordination of field trips.

On 15 August, nine PCMS students participated in a Wrestling Competition at M.E.T. Rishikul, Bandra Reclamation. Four students won prizes at this competition. The students of the Santacruz Municipal School (SMS) also participated in Speech and Drawing Competitions held by the MCGM where two students bagged prizes for their art.

Under the tutelage of Mr. Amole Gupte, well-known film maker, our children have written, directed and enacted a short film, “Ansoon Bane Moti”. Mr. Abbasaheb Jadhav (Education Officer, MCGM), Mr. Shahid Kapoor, Mr. Vishal Bharadwaj, Sriram Raghavan, Aditi Govitrikar along with the children’s parents and teachers were present for the first screening of the film at the M.E.T. Institute of Mass Media. The film actor, Mr. Shahid Kapoor was the Chief Guest who said a few words of encouragement to the children. This film focuses on the inter-personal bond of friendship among children. It is the first effort of a dedicated and on-going theatre and cinema studies Workshop conducted at Aseema.



In September, the children enjoyed a special Workshop on clay modeling held by Kumar Nitin to show children how to prepare clay models of ‘Ganpatis’ and other objects. The students learnt to make clay models of historical figures and other figurines representative of their culture. Such activities underscore Aseema’s emphasis on experiential learning in the classroom.

Some students and teachers attended the “maths through origami” Workshop conducted by Mr. Ravidha at NCPA. The Workshop focused on learning by doing and the children learnt about geometrical figures through paper folding as well as formulas and solving puzzles.

On the eve of Mother Mary’s birthday, the Pre-Primary section of St. Joseph’s Academy, Juhu, organized a party for our Pre-Primary students at SMS. They sang rhymes and distributed gifts like soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes and handkerchiefs to our children. Some of their volunteers also painted the children’s palms with ‘mehendi’ and other colours.

Our Schools were closed for a week as a precaution against Swine Flu. On re-opening the children worked hard to catch up with their studies. A fun-filled 'Navratri' celebration sponsored by Fidelity was organized in both Schools. Prior to a delicious lunch, all the children changed into their party dresses and swayed to popular 'dandiya' songs.



'Diwali', the much awaited festival of lights, signaled the end of term and, as always, was a great hit. The children chose to call this event 'Diwali Dhamaka' where some children decorated the corridors with 'rangoli' while others decorated their classrooms with charts and hand-painted earthen 'diyas'. They particularly enjoyed the traditional Diwali "besan ke ladoo".

The teachers had a gala time on Teachers Day over a lunch and games at PCMS followed by a movie, "Yeh Mera India" at a local theatre. The teachers were touched by the lovely posters put up by the students – one read, "T:- is for the lessons she 'taught'; E:- is for the 'excellence' of thought; A:- is for her 'attention'; C:- for the 'class' which gives her tension; H:- is for the 'high' expectation which she mentions; E:- is for the 'enthusiasm' in her role; R:- is to get 'ready' to achieve the role".



Two of our Pre-Primary teachers attended a Conference on education organized by the Innovation Wing of the City Montessori School, Lucknow. Aseema, along with 35 out of 250 delegates, won the 'Innovation In-Process Fellowship' award. We also have two of our Pre-Primary teacher trainees currently attending a Montessori Training Programme at the Sir Ratan Tata Institute. Teachers from Ranchi, Educo and RTI also visit the Pre-Primary section for observation and had a fruitful exchange of ideas with our teachers. All of these initiatives help strengthen our Pre-Primary curriculum.

The Aseema teachers have been working very closely with the MCGM teachers at PCMS and this partnership has helped greatly in improving the quality of education at the school.

A Trust fund by Celador, a production house, was set up as an offshoot of the movie 'Slumdog Millionaire', to improve the lives of children living in Garib Nagar, a slum community in Bandra (East). The two child artistes - Rubina Ali and Azharuddin Ismail in the film are residents of this community and have been studying at Aseema for the past year. Plan International, an international NGO has been entrusted to identify four local NGOs to address specific concerns such as health, child rights, education and vocational training over a five-year period. Aseema is responsible for providing quality education to the children of Garib Nagar.

We are now looking for committed and enthusiastic teachers (as Class Teachers, Lifeskills Teacher, Computer Teacher & Art Teacher) for our schools in Bandra and Santacruz. Interested candidates may send their resumes to contact@aseema.org or call at 26407248 / 26430185.

The Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon, an annual event that showcases the spirit of unity of the city of Mumbai, is scheduled for 17 January 2010. Over the years, numerous corporate and individuals have partnered with their chosen NGOs to raise money and morale. Our sincere thanks to the 150 participants who will be running/walking for Aseema. We request everybody to support them by pledging towards their walk. Each pledge you raise makes a difference to the lives of our children. For more information please do write to us at donors@aseema.org or call us at 2640 7248 / 26430185.

The festive greeting cards and gift sets based on paintings created by our young artists from Room 13 - the Art Studio - have brightened Diwali in many homes and offices. The response for the greeting cards has been very encouraging and continues to emphasize the innate potential of our children. We also have some new bags and pouches with a beautiful design. Once again we bring you our new Aseema Calendar for the year 2010...



Cover Page of Aseema Calendar 2010

Aseema's children are young & smart
As depicted from their art
Let's all do our little part
By marketing their work of art

**To book your copy contact us
at products@aseema.org
Or call us at 2640 7248 / 2643 0185.**

We are grateful to all our supporters and well-wishers for their continued support in helping us keep the lamp of education burning. A BIG THANK YOU TO Amole Gupte, Faraz Ansari and their Team, Concern India Foundation (Morgan Stanley), CMCA, City Montessori School (Lucknow), Fidelity International, Homi Bhabha, K. C. Mahindra Education Trust, Estate of Late Mrs. Kanta Devendra Bhukhanwala, M.E.T. Mass Media, Nasser Suterwalla (Ekta Foundation), Orchid Hotel, PACT, Rajan B. Datar, Rita & Bala Shroff, S. C. Brown, Tech Mahindra Ltd., St. Joseph's Academy (Juhu), The Bai Alamai & Seth Ardeshir Talati & Sarosh B. Mody Trust, Wyndham Sergeant, and Zarine Malva and RTI.

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