



## NEWSLETTER

March 2010  
11<sup>th</sup> edition

education@aseema

*"Limitless sky where the child soars high,  
With dreams unlimited and visions fly.  
The child is the centre, the reason we are,  
At Aseema we believe each child will go far."*

**- Sharmistha Kant, Sonali Gonsalves & Nicola Dadyburjor**

Aseema follows the 'Child Centered Approach', which promotes the right of the child to choose, make connections and communicate. It allows freedom to children to think, experience, explore, question and search for answers. It presents a creative celebration of the children's work, as was seen at the Annual Exhibition held at our Schools on 26 and 27 November 2009.



The students enthralled the audience with their songs, skits, experiments and exhibits on 'Conservation' of plants, animals and resources. It was heartening to see the Pre-Primary students enacting the skit, "Save our Forests" written and directed by Sonu Kumar, a student of Std. IX. The students welcomed visitors to their schools and introduced them to various exhibits on conservation and pollution. Through the entire experience, the children's joy and pride at their accomplishments was evident and heartwarming.

On Children's Day, G.E. in partnership with Jet Airways invited 20 students for an hour long "Flight of Fantasy". On the same day, Ravi Choudhary and Shabanaaz Shaikh, students of the Pali Chimbai Municipal School (PCMS) participated in a talent contest for the Trophy for Artistic Excellence organized by Raëll Padamsee's Create Foundation. The students were delighted to see their teachers enact a skit called "Modern Day Cinderella" for Children's Day.

The Celebrate Bandra Trust invited Aseema to run 'Awareness Campaigns' at the Celebrate Bandra Festival 2009. 26 children participated in Western Dance and Folk Dance Competitions at the festival, and won third place in the Western Dance Competition.



(SMS)

held on 17 December 2009, was another celebration, where each child was a part of either the March Past or an athletic event or a drill display—lezim, judo, malkhamb, pyramids and the Christmas dance. With generous support from the Vidya Trust for developing the SMS playground, we were able to have the Sports Day for the Pre-Primary students at the newly developed SMS playground on 29 January 2010. For the first time, the BMC organized their Interschool sports competition at this playground. The students of Std.VIII participated in Kabbadi and Kho Kho and won the second prize in Kabbadi. 12 students from PCMS and SMS participated in the Mayor's Judo Championship 2010, and 4 students won Gold Medals, 1 student won a Silver Medal and 3 students won Bronze Medals. All these activities strengthen our belief in holistic and integrated learning.

G.E. sponsored the Christmas party at the Support Centre and also felicitated six Aseema children who are now enrolled in colleges. The Network of Single Professionals (NESP) sponsored the PCMS Christmas party. The students enjoyed traditional Christmas sweets and sang carols, as well as watched Indian dance performances. Some students of the Pre-Primary Centre were invited to Mocha Mojo for milkshakes, cookies and gifts. The Secondary Section celebrated a 'Green Christmas' in keeping with the Annual Exhibition theme on 'Conservation'.



On 19 January 2010, we commenced the Lifeskills Training Programme. A representative from the Kherwadi Social Welfare Association made a presentation on different vocational training courses available. 20 students have enrolled for this programme and they attend classes on basic reading, writing and conversation skills, and are exposed to general awareness topics, sports and computers.



Our children have been on excursions to the Zoo, the Parle Biscuit Factory, The Bombay Natural History Society, Taraporewala Aquarium, the Rain Water Harvesting Plant at Sea Line, the Nehru Science Centre, the Nehru Planetarium, the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company. They have also participated in an exhibition on civic awareness, "UTSAV" organized by Children's Movement for Civic Awareness (CMCA). Some students were invited by Taj Lands End, Bandra for a New Year lunch

buffet at their hotel. The Annual Picnic to the J. J. Hospital Nursing Association cottage in Madh Island was greatly enjoyed by our children and all our helpers.

We have started the adoption process for the English medium (Pre-Primary and the Lower Primary Section) of the Kherwadi Municipal School for the Plan Project in Bandra (E). On 19 January 2010, we commenced an intensive training programme on the 'Aseema Approach' for the teachers of the Plan Project. We are also in the process of identifying relevant State government schemes which would benefit and support children's education.

All 40 children from our Anganwadi at Jambhwadi, Igatpuri participated in different athletic events on the Annual Sports Day on 8 December 2009. It was an enriching experience for the neighbouring villagers and parents. In February 2010, they enjoyed a picnic to the local dam. Construction of the Pre-Primary Section of our Education Centre for Tribal Children in Awalkheda resumed after the monsoon.



A three day training programme for all our staff was held at the Leslie Sawhny Centre in Devlali. We had motivating and interactive sessions on Experiential Learning, Integral Education, Yoga, Systematic Planning and Perfection in our Work, Professionalism in Work, Taking Responsibility and Decision Making, Relationship Building, Confidence Building and Positive Thinking.



Our Aseema products continue to be much appreciated. The 2010 Aseema calendar along with a new range of products like bags, spectacle and mobile covers, aprons and all the other Aseema products are now also available at the New Work Centre for Women at 3 Shyam Sadan, 93 S. V. Road, Khar (W). Telephone No. : 2648 8034.

children.

The Volunteers' Meet on 7 November 2009 marked the joyful celebration of one term of volunteering by many new volunteers who joined the Aseema family in June 2009. The Aseema family grew bigger and happier as veterans and new volunteers played games and lunched while sharing memorable experiences with

The support of our corporate partners was evident on the day of the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2010. Along with Aseema staff and volunteers, seven corporate teams ran in support of Aseema's cause. Teams and individuals from Amol Kitchenware, Avendus, DBS, Fidelity Fund Management Pvt. Ltd, G.E., HSBC, Lurn Inc., Solvay Pharma, Tata Motors and Tresvista Financial Services participated in the Marathon and helped raise a significant amount for Aseema. The enthusiasm and commitment of all the runners was palpable and we are truly grateful for the effort taken by each of them.



Our sincere thanks to American Women's Club, Amita Parekh, Amol Kitchenware, Avendus, Bandra Gymkhana, Beena Parekh, Behram Sabawala, Besant Montessori, CMCA, Candies, Celebrate Bandra Trust, Charities Aid Foundation, DBS, Drive India Enterprise Solutions Limited, Elizabeth C Dudley, Essar Group, Fidelity Fund Management Pvt. Ltd., G.E. Captial, Government Law College, HSBC, Indus International, Indian Institute of Planning and Management, Mumbai, J. B. Petit School, J.J. Hospital Nursing Association, Jamnabai Narsee School, Jet Airways, Kherwadi Social Welfare Association, Kotak Securities, Leslie Sawhny Centre, Lurn Inc., Madhumita Ray, Mahindra Finance, Mandakini Trivedi, M.E.T. Rishikul Vidyalay, Mocha Mojo, Morgan Stanley India Pvt. Ltd., Morgan Stanley Asia (Singapore), PACT, Pfizer India, Ranjit Malkani & GiveIndia, Raëll Padamsee & Create Foundation, S. P. Jain Institute of Management & Research, Sandeep Kumar, SARRA, Shobha Rao, Solvay Pharma, Taj Lands End, Tata Docomo, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra Foundation, Toofles Foundation, Tresvista Financial Services, UBS Investment Bank, Veena Naren and the Vidya Trust.

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