

Fifteen years and over fifteen hundred children pursuing formal education!



Celebration of Aseema's 15th Birthday

This December, Aseema completed 15 years. To commemorate this special day, students had unique celebrations in their centres. Students from our Pre-Primary Centres painted and sent out birthday cards to all members of the Aseema family. Our Primary Sections researched and portrayed the Aseema story through murals and time lines; whereas the older students shared their experiences through essays and paintings. In Igatpuri, our little ones visited the community and met children who were out of school. They gave them simple handmade flowers and encouraged them to enrol themselves.

The students are always so happy to talk about their school and all that they are learning. School really has been a fascinating place for them over the past few months. A Snake Show was organized recently wherein the children saw live snakes of different varieties. The purpose of this show was to help them overcome their aversion to snakes and to cultivate awareness on the importance of protection of their habitat.



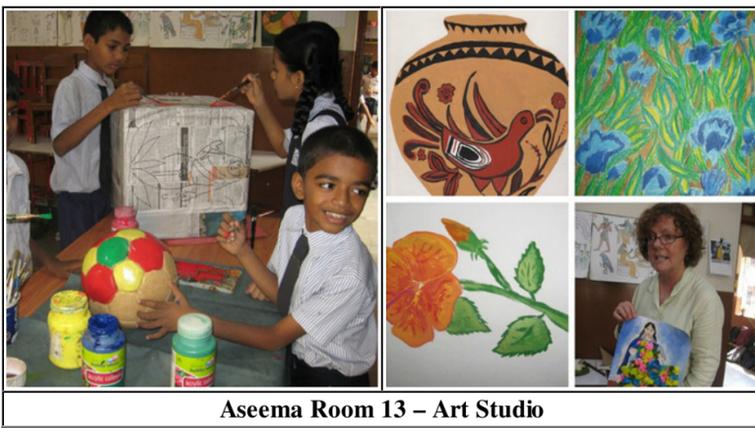
Develop Scientific Thinking

Our older students have been busy developing scientific thinking. They organized an exhibition of their projects and encouraged peer learning. Our younger ones, too, have been 'playing scientists'. They have been trying to think about things which intrigue

They have been trying to think about things which intrigue them and find the answers to those intriguing questions. Some of the questions they have been dealing with are, "Why is the sky blue?", "Why are human beings present only on earth?", "Why does the bird on the electric wire not get an electric shock?", "If our mind controls our bodies, then why do people do bad things?" and so on. Clearly, both the teachers and the students are realizing that being a 'scientist' is not an easy job at all! Nevertheless, they are trotting along happily on this exciting journey and discovering new things everyday!

Our teachers too have been working on upgrading their skills through monthly Interactive Learning Programmes. Recently, our teachers attended a workshop on Puppet Making to aid language development conducted by Mumbai Mobile Crèches. Other teachers participated in a session on Body Awareness and some learnt advanced activity based learning techniques.

Parallel to their academic pursuits, students and Aseema supporters participated in various Sports activities. In Igatpuri, students and their parents participated in the Annual Sports Day. In Mumbai, some students participated and won accolades in District and State Level Judo Competitions. Spurred by the cheers of students and teachers at the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2013, 54 individuals and five Corporate Challenge teams from eBay India, Nivea India and L & T Financial Services ran in support of Aseema. Our youngest supporter, 12-year old Proteeti Sinha swam 200 laps at the 7th Open Marathon Swim Gala at Khar Gymkhana to support the education of underprivileged girls.



Aseema Room 13 – Art Studio

Aseema's Room 13 – Art Studio has been a hub of creativity, fostering imagination, critical thinking and innovation. Our budding artists have greatly benefited from workshops on Native American Pottery and Van Gogh's Sunflower and Irises conducted by Varsha Trivedi, Hibiscus in Water Colours by Shilpa Shah, Installation on things that delight children by Jean Floyed from Room 13 Scotland and Bruce McLean's Composition with Paper Cut-outs by Charmaine Sellwood. The ingenious works of these young artists are depicted on Aseema products, the sales proceeds of which, enable our children to have access to quality education. Catch a glimpse of and buy these products at <http://www.aseema.org/products-0>. Good news! Aseema products are now also available at the Oceane Store in South Carolina, USA.

We welcome your support to help us empower many young lives with an education that is truly meaningful for them. You could send your contributions online at <http://www.aseema.org/donate> or by cheque drawn in favour of Aseema Charitable Trust. To avail tax deduction benefits for the financial year 2012-2013, do send your cheque contributions by Wednesday, 27 March 2013.

Many thanks to Amole Gupte Cinema, Anjal Malkani, Arval India Pvt. Ltd., Bai Freny Darab Pader Charitable Trust, Barkha and Sonzal, Being Human – The Salman Khan Foundation, BNP Paribas, Breach Candy Swimming Bath Trust, Cafe Mocha, Charities Aid Foundation, Charmaine Sellwood, Dazzle Lifestyle, Deutsche Bank, Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Dinanath R. Thakkar, eBay India, Essar Group, GCO Global Conference Organisers, Godlass Nerolac Paints Charitable Trust, Gulf Polymers, HDFC Bank, Indian American Education Foundation, Jai Hind College, Jean Floyed, K.C. Mahindra Education Trust, L & T Financial Services, Late Indira Sleight and Anthony Sleight, Mandakini Trivedi, Moet Hennessy India Private Limited, Mumbai Mobile Crèches, Nivea India, Pheroze Kudianavala, Plan India, Promise to Act for Children Today, PVR Nest, S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research, Sahara Hospitality Limited, Saint Gobain Foundation, Sharat Bansal, Shilpa Shah, Singapore International School, SNTD Women's University, St. Anthony's Road Residents' Association, Sudha Bhamidipati, Sunil Luthria, Systems Plus Solutions, Tech Mahindra Foundation, The Vidya Trust, The Wingate Foundation, United Way Bengaluru, United Way of Mumbai, Varsha Trivedi, Vakils, Feffer & Simons Pvt. Ltd, Watson Pharma Pvt. Ltd. and Whistling Woods International.

Children's Box

I started my library when I was in Std. V with 5 children who came for Arbi Class, but now I have 15 children coming to my library at home. Though these students go to the Urdu Medium School, they are too curious to learn English.

To continue this good work, I received some books from Aseema. I was also given a small grant to buy books from Vakil's Library. At Vakil's I selected 13 books and was given 18 more books by the Librarian, who heard about my library. I now have 31 books in all and I will continue with my library class during the May vacations.

In future, if children finish reading these books, I will get some more books and make them read. I will make sure that I keep a record of my library books accurately.

- Soliya Qureshi

Soliya is a 12-year old student of Aseema. Inspired by the library in her school, she now runs a library for other children in her community.