



NEWSLETTER

November 2008
7th edition

education@aseema

*"The most valuable gift you can give your child is
to listen to the little and big things in his life."*

– Kimberly Keith

Every child has the right to be heard, to know that her voice matters, that it will be listened to and taken seriously. We acknowledge this fact and try to give our children numerous platforms to make themselves heard, and to make a difference.



This year, for the very first time, our children had elections to identify their representatives for the school's Student Council. They cast votes by a secret ballot and the children they chose were elected as members of the Council. The Student Council will now act as the voice of the children and will dialogue with the teachers about their thoughts on education and ideas for their school. The concepts of democracy and leadership have now become very 'real' for the children.

Our Std. VII students have taken the lead in spreading environmental awareness amongst other children in the school. Under the guidance of an organization called 'Children's Movement for Civic Awareness', they have formed a club which they call 'The City Change Club'. They have taken an oath to live by the simple principle of responsible freedom and to keep their environment clean and healthy. Their first initiative was a play on the importance of education and scientific thinking in dealing with superstitions.

On another occasion, some of our children visited Juhu Beach to assist with the clean-up activities following Ganesh Visarjan. The event, organized by International Coastal Clean-Up (ICC), emphasized the need for us to take ownership of our environment and live responsibly.



Our young artists in our art studio – Aseema Room 13 – were also working on beautifying their environment through an introduction to two new forms of art. A workshop on mono print was conducted by Ms. Oli Ghosh, and another workshop on making lamp shades was organized by Ms. Medha Prabhakar. While the former gave the children a chance to learn a new technique, the latter allowed them to work with a three dimensional object. Both workshops were enjoyable and inspiring for Aseema's artists.

In the midst of exam preparations, the children in both our schools were treated to a fun-filled Navratri party by Fidelity Fund Management Pvt. Ltd. The children came together to dance to traditional Dandiya music and enjoyed a delicious lunch.

They also participated in several excursions in the past few months including a visit to the Nehru Planetarium, the Bandra Fair, Rajesh Khanna Garden, Joggers Park and an Independence Day art event organized by G.E.



The teachers too, went on an excursion this year as Teachers' Day was celebrated in a novel way. All our teachers and staff were treated to a three-day training programme at a serene ashram beyond Lonavla. This visit to 'Shaktiyogashrama' gave our staff the opportunity to spend time together in an informal setting and learn about Indian culture and dance, yoga and meditation. The lush green surroundings and thought-provoking sessions made

this trip more meaningful for all our staff. We came back feeling rejuvenated and looking forward to more such occasions.

Our Products Division now has a new collection of office items, such as a pen stand, visiting card holder, etc. These items make an attractive set and are an excellent gift idea. We also have a new set of coasters and our Calendar for 2009 is now available on order. The calendar, this year, has striking images of elephants made by our very talented artists. Do visit our office to see these new products!



While we have been engaged in encouraging the children to speak up for what they believe in, we too have been made to stand up against something we believe is wrong and unjust. We have recently been made aware that the local authorities intend to set up a garbage dump near the plot for our Education Centre for Tribal Children in Igatpuri. Solid waste from the city will be brought to this clean and pristine region and will be dumped here. This land is situated very close to the village wells and the homes of the tribals. We believe, the dump is bound to pollute these sources of water, create stench and lead to various illnesses. We intend on continuing to oppose the establishment of this garbage dump and do hope you will support us in any way you can.

It is, thanks to your support through all our endeavours, that Aseema has been able to empower so many young children. In these past few months, we owe special thanks to, Akanksha, Asha Berkeley and San Francisco, Claire Gibb & Rob Fairley, CMCA, Dr. Robin Pinto, Fidelity Fund Management Pvt. Ltd., G.E., ICC, Joan & Michael Ross, Johnson Diversey, Lehman Brothers, Medha Prabhakar, Mr. & Mrs. Dastur, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Fernandes, Oli Ghosh, Rajan Datar, Ryan and the Kripa Foundation, Sudha Bhamidipati, Shaktiyogashrama, Shelter Don Bosco, Sri Aurobindo Society, St. Joseph's Academy (Juhu), Tech Mahindra Foundation, Tony Sleight, and Vidya Trust.

If you do not wish to receive our Newsletter in future, click on the [Unsubscribe](#) Link.