



AN EDUCATION CENTRE FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN



NEWSLETTER

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education@aseema

"If you can dream it, you can do it."

– Walt Disney

Each time we see our children accomplish more and exceed our expectations, we are encouraged and inspired to dream bigger and do more ourselves. In these past few months, the children have shown us time and again, that they truly have immense talent and limitless potential.



This was particularly evident during our exhibition of paintings and products which was held in December. Since several years now, Aseema has subscribed to the art philosophy of "Room 13" which gives young artists a lot of freedom in their creative expression. Taking this philosophy one step further, our artists have recently elected a Management Committee from amongst themselves and are learning to run their art studio like

a business. In addition to being introduced to fund raising and marketing skills, the committee members are also organizing their own art exhibitions. Their first exhibition – entitled 'Awakening' – was held at the Indusvista Art Gallery and was inaugurated by celebrated sculptor Arzaan Khambatta. By taking responsibility for an entire event, setting up the art gallery and showing visitors around with confidence and aplomb, our young artists reminded us just how much they are capable of.

Our students impressed visitors on yet another occasion when they participated in an annual exhibition of their schoolwork. They decorated their classes with projects and charts and welcomed visitors to see all that they had learnt. While some recited poems and challenged guests to quiz them on mathematic sums, others performed science experiments and patiently explained complex concepts. Through their numerous presentations, art, music and judo displays, the children assured all visitors that they were learning so much more than simply academic work.



Our children also participated in several events and competitions and were proud to win some of the events. Some of our older children participated in an event organized by Children's Movement for Civic Awareness and were awarded for their efforts to spread



environmental awareness. Another team of children from our Secondary school were runners up at an interschool quiz competition organized by Novartis. Some of our younger children also won prizes for their graceful folk dance at a Talent Contest organized by the Lion's Club (North Mumbai). And our budding sports enthusiasts won gold, silver and bronze medals at

the BMC's Annual Sports Competition and at an interschool sports event organized by Concern India Foundation. Our teachers have put in so much effort into making each of these events a learning experience for the children and we are all delighted to see them do so well.

The past few months have also seen a lot of celebrations and events □ field trips to new and interesting places, Christmas parties and Children's Day celebrations. On children's day we were invited once again to be a part of the Fantasy Flight organized by G.E. and Jet Airways. Our children were most excited to sit in an aeroplane for the first time and enjoyed the games and entertainment organized for them.

Another interesting event was the release of the internationally acclaimed film, Slumdog Millionaire. Two of our young Aseema children – Rubina and Azharuddin – have starred in the film and have done an exceptional job. We are happy that the producers of the film have enrolled the two children in our school, where they will be assured a strong educational foundation.

Our events for 2009 began with the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon on 18 January. We were supported by teams from Fidelity Fund Management Private Limited and a large number of individuals who expressed concern for our cause.

Later that month, our schools in Mumbai and Igatpuri celebrated their Annual Sports Day. As always, this was an occasion for our children to come together and celebrate the true spirit of sportsmanship. All the children participated in relays, drills, judo and mallkhamb displays. They challenged themselves to do better, cheered for one another and impressed their Chief Guest, Mr. Amole Gupte, with their enthusiasm and energy.



Amole's association with our children has been one of mutual love and respect. The children now look forward to his weekly Cinema and Theatre Club sessions. This club is introducing the children to world cinema and exercises which help them improve their confidence and communication skills. It is amazing to see the children enthralled with a Majid Majidi film, or expressing their views on a Charlie Chaplin classic and writing scripts and screenplays of their own. The exposure that they are receiving to meaningful cinema is something they will certainly treasure for a long time.

We, too, value the support we have been receiving from all of you – our long time associates and wonderful new friends. We are especially grateful to Aditi Govitrikar, Aloo Sound, American School of Bombay, Amit Romani, Amole Gupte, Anantha Narayan, Antonio DaGama, Apostolic Carmel High School, Arya Vidya Mandir School (BKC), Arzaan Khambatta, Bai Alamai & Seth Ardeshir Talathi & Seth B Mody Charitable Trust, Bipasha Basu, CMCA, Capita India Pvt. Ltd., Claire Gibb & Rob Fairley, Concern India Foundation, DBS, Dr. Ravi Chittal, Fidelity Fund Management Pvt. Ltd., Fr. Joe Pereira, G.E. & Jet Airways, HDFC Bank (Khar), IMAX Dome Theatre, Indusvista Art Gallery, J.J. School of Art, Lion's Club (North Mumbai), Lotus Trust, MET Rishikul Vidyalay, Mohile Parikh Centre for Visual and Performing Arts, Raell Padamsee & Create Foundation, Morgan Stanley, Pia & Madhusudhan Reddy, Rency Kannenkeril, Sabero Organics Gujarat Ltd., Satish Rao, Sheetal Mehta, St. Stanislaus School, Sudha Bhamidipati, and Tech Mahindra Foundation.

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