

December 2010
Newsletter No. 2

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Nav Jeevan Sanstha

Dear Friends,

Hello from all of us at Nav Jeevan Sanstha! It's hard to believe that the end of the year is already upon us. Since our last newsletter in October, there has been plenty of activity in our school and hostel.

Our academic exhibition at the beginning of October was a great success. The students were divided into different focuses from language and history to science and maths, and each group created posters, did science experiments, and made working models in preparation. The day of the exhibition our students explained their projects to community members and our chief guest Father Balashoury, the principle from Mont Fort School in Nagpur. The kids had a lot of fun and worked hard to create and then explain their exhibitions, highlighting the fact that they had fully grasped the scientific concepts behind their experiments. We got a lot of compliments on how bright and talented they all are.

In mid-November we held our second annual fete (children's fair) where students and community members played games, ate food made by our teachers, and bought crafts and clothes. The day was filled with fun activities, but the students were most excited about the computer games we had set up and free ice cream donated by Dinshaw's ice cream.

Academically things are flourishing. We have a steady computer teacher who is working with our older students on their typing and computer navigating skills. This school year also marks the debut of offering English medium for classes 1-4. It's difficult to learn all subjects in ones second language, but our students have been working hard and are moving forward with their subjects well. Our teachers are dedicated to seeing all the students' succeed- both in English and Hindi medium- and their hard work in ensuring academic success has been key as we attempt to incorporate the English medium courses.

Along with these courses, our 9th standard students are preparing for their 10th standard board examinations. One necessity to their success on exams is hands on exposure. In order to ensure this, a fully functioning science lab is a necessity. We are in the process of installing all the needed equipment for a biology, physics, and chemistry lab. We plan to have it finished and up and running by the end of this month allowing this years students ample time to prepare for their board exams next year.

All of the students are doing great in their studies. Especially the older kids (8th & 9th standard), as they have become very dedicated to their academics. After school while

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most of the kids are outside playing, a lot of our older students sit down and study by choice without even having to be told. The 9th class students are keen on doing well on their 10th standard board examinations and it shows.

Frequently people tell us they want to help but would like to know specifically how. One new venture that NJS is attempting to start up is a 'Sponsor a Child' program. We already have about 10 students sponsored for the full school year. The idea is not only to get monetary support to provide the kids with education, healthcare, clothing, etc., but also to provide the kids with an external mentor and friend. In sponsoring a child we want to open the lines of communication between the sponsors and children through letter writing, giving the child something special on their birthday, and so on. Our goal is to get every child sponsored. If you're interested in sponsoring a child please email Aneeta Patel at aneeta.patel@gmail.com for more information.

With your continued support we know our work, students, and school in general will flourish. We hope your holiday season is blessed and thanks for your continued interest in our school!