



## NEWSLETTER – September 2010

*Dear Parents,*

*We hope that you all had a happy Janmashtmi, Eid and Ganesh Chaturthi. All these festivals were celebrated in the school with great enthusiasm by children and teachers. While the festivities have been going on, we have also had to deal with some effects of the heavy rains. The damp and dreary weather has caused many children to come down with viral fever, Gastroenteritis, cough and cold etc. We are doing our best to keep the school environment clean and to reduce the risk of spread of any infection. However, we ask for your cooperation also in this regard. If your child is sick, kindly do not send the child to school.*

*Children have completed the first quarter of this year. The Kindergarten has been very lively with all the festivities. Children helped make delicious Gavallus and Sheerkurma. While braiding and stitching is part of the daily Kindergarten activity, the children have also been cooking, drawing, pasting, cleaning and painting on a weekly basis.*

*The children of **Grade 1** are very comfortable in their new surroundings. They run around happily, exploring the beautiful campus. They started with the Form Drawing block and then went on to discover the wonder of Letters and Roman Numbers. They are currently learning to play the Recorder and doing the Language block.*

***Grade 2** has finished the block on Cursive Writing. Next came the Number block in which they learnt to perform the basic operations involving 2 digits. Language block had them learn about Meera Bai and currently they are doing their second Number block with 3 digits and tables of 6.*

***Grade 3** has finished Creation, Building and Linear Measurements blocks and are currently in their Grammar block. During their Building block, the children constructed a lovely tree house with the help of their teachers and many Parents. For their measurement block, they went and measured the dimensions of the various classrooms with their feet and their rulers. These children have also been attending cookery classes, conducted by some Parents in the class.*

*Grade 4* has completed the Norse Mythology, Fraction and Geography blocks and is currently in the Man and Animal block. As part of their Geography block, they visited some of the important landmarks of the city, namely Tank Bund, Birla Mandir and Charminar.

*Grade 5* has completed History of Writing, Ancient History of India, Persia and Mesopotamia, Plant study block and is now in the Decimals block. The children have been introduced to the fountain pen in this class. They visited the Sanjeeviah Park to study plants and Algae and did some bird watching.

*Grade 6* has completed the Ancient Rome and Asian Geography blocks and learnt about percentage, profit and loss and simple interest in their Math block. They have just been introduced to Physics as a subject. They spent an entire evening in the school (until about 8pm) to conduct experiments about "light".

*Grade 7* has completed the Indian History, Algebra and Physics blocks and at present, they are doing the Nutrition block. As part of their Indian History project work they made models of Indian temples and sketched the important monuments of India.

*Grade 8* has completed their Physics block in which they presented projects on "light". In their Plant Biology block, they did vegetable gardening and in their Platonic Solids (Math) block, they made different solid models. They are currently in the Human Biology block.

Our *Grade 9* children have been registered with the CBSE. They have completed blocks on History, Physics and Chemistry and are now doing Political Science and Mathematics. As part of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation, they will be appearing for their first internal assessment exam this month.

From Grade 6 upwards, tests are conducted at the end of each block. We request all Parents to be actively engaged in your child's work. We request you to monitor test results, help your child with homework and work with the Teacher to provide any extra help the child might require.

This year, children of Grades 6 and up are **learning instrumental music in the school**. Every Wednesday morning, the following classes are held for these children - Tabla, Keyboard, Violin, Flute and Guitar. Children have opted to learn the instrument of their choice. The pleasant music is very soothing to the ear and it is truly wonderful to see the children display so much discipline and perseverance. **Classical/folk dance** continues to be part of the curriculum this year for children of Grades 3 and up. We request you to send your child in **comfortable clothing for the class - long, loose Kurtas are recommended for the older children**. Children can bring their Kurtas to school and change for the class.

*Birthdays are always special for children and they often want to share this day with their classmates and teachers. We welcome simple cakes and toffees on this occasion. However, we would like to remind you to **kindly send cakes without icing**. Most of the icing on commercially baked cakes is unhealthy and we believe that children will be better off without this. Also, if at all possible, we request you to send the cake in a container that can be returned to you. We are trying very hard to reduce waste in the school and recycle as much as possible. Your help in this regard will be highly appreciated. We would also like to request you to kindly avoid sending chocolate bars and other snack items which could be unhealthy for children, in the school bus. We have **several children in the school with severe allergies to nuts, dairy products etc. and would like them to be safe in the school buses also.***

*We have 2 student volunteers with us in the school. Daniel and Luis have come from Germany and will be with us for this academic session. They are staying in the Kindergarten campus and volunteering in the Grade campus. They have chosen to come to India for their student programme and are keen to travel and learn as much as possible about our country. Should you wish to invite them for festivals and functions in your home, please contact Nirmala.*

*We wish to **thank our Parent community** for always working as partners with us. Parents of several classes have helped (and are continuing to help) organize class trips. A very special lunch was organized by children of the high school for all Teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day. This would not have been possible without the support of their Parents. Some Parents have been volunteering their time to assist Teachers in some classes. Many Parents helped build the tree house in the school with the children of Class 3. Special mention is to be made of the following Parents who have been extremely generous with their time and effort - Ms Anita Damodar (mother of Rohit and Revanth) for making several trips to our campus and donating beautiful plants and pots to the school. Ms.Tanya (mother of Luca and Helena) and Ms.Yukie (mother of Hina and Fine )for spending many hours in the Kindergarten, working with the teachers and children. Ms.Lisa (mother of Krishna and Megha) for enthusiastically starting cookery classes for children, Shad and Rukhsana (parents of Tarab and Shams) for many hours spent designing, planning and executing the construction of the tree house and for donating valuable Waldorf books to our teachers. We truly appreciate your involvement in the school activities.*

We wish to make **two very special announcements**. Ms.Jyotsna (Class VI teacher) has been chosen as the representative from India to be a member of Hague Circle. She will be attending the Hague conference in Nov 2010 and her role will be to present a report on the Waldorf School movement in India. The other important announcement is that Ms.Manorma Kamineni, one of our high school teachers, has recently returned from Norway with a Master's degree in Waldorf Education. She has spent many months in the last couple of years shuttling between Norway and India to achieve this milestone. The topic for Manorama teacher's thesis was "Waldorf school and Parent involvement in Sloka" (the case of the Hyderabad Waldorf School). Manorama teacher would like to address our Parent community and discuss the topic of her research and parent involvement in the school and student education. We will let you know the date of this meeting.

The **construction of the school building** is progressing very well. On the ground floor, the shells of all the classrooms have been completed. On the first floor, classrooms are taking shape. We invite you to visit the school to see this beautiful building. We expect the architects, Ms.Christiane and Mr.Egon Tietz to be with us next month, to guide us through the finishing stages of the building.

Please mark the following in your calendar:

There is a **change of date for 2 events**. Sports Day will be on Friday, Nov 12, 2010 this year and Jharoka will be postponed to later in the year. We will be sending you more details about these events at a later date.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Term fees will be payable from Oct 4 to Oct 25, 2010**. The challan for fee payment will be given to the children by Oct 1, 2010. As before, fees will be collected in Axis Bank. This time, along with the Term fees, we will be collecting the Transport fee for 5 months and the Lunch fee for 4 months.

Please visit our **website** : [www.slokawaldorf.org](http://www.slokawaldorf.org) for updated information about the school. Also visit [www.picasaweb.google.com/slokaparents](http://www.picasaweb.google.com/slokaparents) for **pictures of all the recent activities in the school**, including pictures of the construction of the school building.

We thank you and wish you all the best for a happy Dussehra.

Sloka Teachers and Trustees