

## **Saksham Newsletter 2017**

The mood continues to be upbeat here at the Saksham Vidhyalaya. We are glad that we have a lot of good tidings to share with the rest of the Saksham family, who has been cheering us on and lending us support in many different ways. Most of all, we are grateful for the trust you have in this project and the team who is carrying it forward.

For many involved with Saksham, the association has grown into an emotional one. So we have come by many occasions when a happy event in their own lives finds an occasion for celebration along with the kids in the school. Akanksha Yadav still comes on a Sunday, when she can take off time from her weekends to teach art and craft to the kids.





They are full of smiles when “Didi” appears with her bag, carrying materials for that day’s class. As she has been doing for the past several years now, she chose to celebrate her birthday in August 2016 with the



children. These are the little “big” things that make the kids feel loved and wanted and which nurtures their self confidence. So a high five to you dear Akanksha ☺

Smt. Rajeshwary Thiagarajan , presently the President of Rotary, Noida and a long time supporter, introduced Mr. Shemeem Anwar, , Director of the Great India Place, Noida, to the children of the school at the end of August.



An outcome of his visit was that the children got an opportunity for enjoying free rides in the Amusement Park, “World of Wonders” which is a part of the GIP Mall in Noida. Needless to say the kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The fare per ticket is otherwise around Rs. 600/ It is hardly likely that the kids would have had such a treat , if it was not for the generous offer by Shri Shemeem. Anwar. Thanks to you

Sir and to Smt. Rajeshwary Thiagarajan. This is the second or third occasion when such a generous gesture has been extended by them.





The mid-day meals are continuing, thanks to Shri V.V.Ranganathan, Founder of the Sai Anna Laxmi Foundation .Do visit this website for more details of this organisation: .

<http://saiannalakshmifoundation.weebly.com/>

Grateful thanks to Shri Vinod , Dr. Monica Arora and the members of the Vincent De Paul's Society for sponsoring the nutritional supplement of bananas and milk for the children

Independence day was celebrated in the school, as also the Rakhi festival .



For the latter occasion the students of DAV Modern Public School joined the children for the festivities.

Abhinav , from HCL , has been a regular volunteer the school . In September , he walked in with boxes of biscuits in his hands and with goodwill in his heart as always . He held a session of career counselling for the group of senior girls and boys in the school. Admittedly, this is one area which is very important in the scheme of things as the children do develop aspirations by the time they are in high school and are at a loss about how to go about securing a direction towards a good job that is both within their financial

means and capabilities. For this reason, Abhinav's involvement is much appreciated. Hope you walk a while more along with us.

In October 2016, the children of Saksham Vidhyalaya participated and won medals in a sports event organised by the Society of Sports and Cultural Advancement of which Smt. Bimlesh Sharma, the present Pradhan of Nithari village is the President and Smt. Rajeswary Thiagarajan is the Vice President. This society has been formed with the intention of giving a positive direction to the natural zeal and potential of children through art and culture and sports. For the first time in Nithari, a library has been made functional by this Society.



As in the past years, a cultural programme on the occasion of Basant Panchami festival was also organised by SSCA in February 2017 at the Indira Gandhi Kala Kendra, Sector-6, Noida, in which the kids took part and won prizes. The Saksham team places on record their appreciation for these laudable efforts on the part of SSCA.

Visit their Facebook page to learn more :

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009040163547&pnref=story>

Another major event in October was the visit of Shri Naresh Jain, Shri Pawan Jain and Ms. Aparna from the Educare Foundation, U.S.A, who have been supporting our efforts financially in a big way. It is always a matter of great satisfaction and pride for us when our patrons themselves visit the school and go back satisfied that the help that they are extending is being put to the optimum benefit of the



children and they are happy with the results. A live interaction between the teachers, Trustees and the students of Saksham and the Educare team was also organised on the occasion of the Annual Conference of the Educare Foundation which went off quite well. Educare has pitched in this year as well with a generous donation towards the expenses of rent and salaries of the teachers running the school.



Apart from this, they gave us an additional contribution towards the expenses of an educational trip for the children around Delhi.

Our sincere thanks is placed on record for Educare's involvement in the cause.

To learn more : <http://www.educarecharity.org/>

The students of SC DAV Public School, Noida and the Amity University Noida had also come around to the school to interact with the children and engage in various activities with them. The students of Amity have also donated a set of textbooks of English for the use of the students. Thanks a lot for these initiatives.

We are continuing to coach students of the Vth standard for appearing in the competitive exams for admission to the Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalayas, which are residential schools run by the Central Government for providing good quality education to children from an economically weak background. . It

is to the credit of the teachers of Saksham who have been coaching them that every year one or two children are able to clear this exam. Last year too, one student , Komal, had cleared the exam .

This year 13 students have appeared for the Navodaya entrance exam. Their names are Manisha, Sandhya, Nitin, Aakash, Sachin ,Nargees, Naushad, Nisha Anukrati Richa ,Karan ,Shivam,Mukul. The exam was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, this year. The results are likely to be out in June . We wish them all the best.

A big thanks to Shri Krishnan Venugopal , Senior Advocate, Supreme Court for still being with us in our efforts. Your generous contribution of is deeply appreciated.

Thanks to all our regular supporters from Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

As per our tradition all festivals are celebrated in the school.







“Confident Girls”, is a programme which is being run jointly by the HCL and the NGO, “Mamta”. An event for the girl-students of Saksham was organised by them for creating awareness about sexual abuse and how to instill confidence in the children for dealing with such instances if they happen. A big thanks .



We are proud to inform that Ms. Maneesha Seth, a resident of Sector-26 , in Noida , who has been involved with Saksham for many years as a volunteer, has now been co-opted to hold the post of a Trustee of Saksham. We are sure that she will bring fresh impetus and inputs in the matter of running the school.





We also welcome the team of Concentrix, Noida who have in the recent past become associated with Saksham. We are happy that they visited the school with their team and celebrated Holi with the children with colours, cultural activities and loads of fun. They distributed stationery items to the children and also donated four desktop computers for use in the classrooms.

Thanks to Ms. Alena Mukherjee and the entire team of Concentrix .



A great opportunity came the way of our talented bunch of children when they got to showcase their acting skills at the Microdrama Festival organised in Delhi by “Vriksh” a theatre organisation , along with the children of two other NGOs. 25 micro-plays had been staged in the competitive section. The participation of Saksham also got a mention in the newspaper report covering this event.

<http://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/vriksh-indias-first-micro-drama-festival-looks-to-say-it-all-in-10-minutes/621013/>

Thanks to Shri Ajith Maniyan for making this happen.

Much thanks to all our other supporters who have been donating in kind or cash on a regular basis



Last, but definitely not the least , a huge thanks to Shri Ramesh Shamdasani and the Shamdasani Trust for their annual donation of Rs. 1.5 lakh . Their sponsorship goes back over a long time and this biding trust in this endeavour and its efficacy is the stuff that stokes the fire of warmth and enthusiasm in the hearts of the members of the Saksham Team. Thank you so very much.

Thank you Shri Madan Jha for helping us with our accounts and auditing .

Concluding with an anticipatory bail as always , if anyone's contribution in cash or kind or by way of moral support has been lost sight of. To us, each gesture of good will , big or small, matters and we are grateful to you all.