

premdan newsletter

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Happenings @ Premdan

Through the past 36 years the area of Colaba has been enriched by the presence of a Kindergarten named Garden School. Through the past years the kindergarten has changed its appearance. Parents did not seem to feel the importance of Schooling. In recent years with the 6 Kindergarten classes we have over 240 children being prepared in these 6 classes. Three are Known as Garden School and cater to the children of domestic workers, pavement dwellers and slum dwellers around parents around Colaba . The same in the Geeta Nagar area where we help 35 children and in the slum area of Reay Road a slum for mostly migrant workers of the South of India where we help educate about 80 kids. These children are about 4 -5 years of age. We start class at 9.00a.m. with prayer and a session of yoga which helps concentration. Then teachers who are trained for this age group take them for Alphabets Number work, Manners, Values, Environment, Art Craft Poetry, Games, Story Telling, Acting, Singing. Their school day finishes at 2.00p.m.



Since a great number of them are unable to have a wholesome meal they get a breakfast at 10.30 a.m. of either milk, biscuits, bananas or a cereal. At 12.30 the children of Garden School and Reay Road receive a hot lunch of Rice and a cereal called Dhal which they thoroughly enjoy.

Though our children come from financially poor families family life is important and the children are brought and taken from school every day by a member of the family. During the academic year Sr. Louisa who is a trained social worker visits the families of the children and short lists those who will need financial help to continue their education.



The students from Standard 1-VIII who are helped by Prem Dan and now go to different schools but are close to Prem Dan come in for help in their studies after their school from 3.00 – 4.30.p.m. Our Staff together with a few volunteers and students of St. Xavier's College Mumbai help the children with their studies.



At Claudine's Home at Kharghar we have fifty-eight Boarders. Most of these children have one parent only and come from families whose parent is unable to look after her due to severe illness, poverty or home problems. These children are looked after by the Community of the Religious Sisters of Jesus and Mary. They rise in the morning on school days at 5.30a.m. Those interested in athletics go to school early for training. The others leave at 7.00a.m.-1.45p.m. for school. Besides the regular classes the children have a number of extra curricular activities which they can opt for. They return home for lunch at 2.00p.m. They then see to their personal work and cleanliness of the home and grounds. Time is given for study, Games prayer. They do Gardening once a week and each one is given a house hold job to do with a partner. Birthdays and feasts are celebrated in grand style. There is a lovely homely atmosphere in Claudine's home.



Mumbai is a crowded town years ago Sr. Felicity bought a place on a hill station at Khandala an hour and half from the city of Mumbai. During the year we take our children of Claudine's home, our children who are sponsored and children from our Missions for Camps to this hill-station. Besides beginning an outing they are involved in sessions for building up self esteem, working on values, social awareness topics, and helping the down trodden. Games, skits, Power-points are used which help the child get involved. The sessions are conducted mostly by the Staff and Teachers of Prem Dan.



Every day at 12.30 noon and 5.00p.m. we supply food about 20 families. Once a month we give food in the form of Rice, Oil, Tea, Curry Biscuits, Pulses, Sugar to 40 families which is very much appreciated.



The parents of the sponsored children and those who attend our Nurseries come over at times to listen to talks on health, bringing up their children, developing their talents and also opening a Bank account.

The entire staff at Prem Dan is involved in giving of their best to all the children involved in the Prem Dan Project.

Our deep and sincere gratitude goes to you our sponsors for your encouragement, interest, concern and love which you express in so many ways. We pray each day those God Bless you and your dear ones in all they do.

God Bless and a sincere THANK YOU!!

**From Srs. Felicity,
Zelia Fernandez
and Louisa Adhav.**

