

Thirteenth of June 2002 was a red-letter day, marking the beginning of a new academic year in most of the Mumbai schools. After two months of good vacation the children were all set with their bags and books to begin the new school-year.



Beginnings breathe freshness and vitality, but they also remind us of our finiteness, making us aware that life is short and sometimes tragic. We know that God is good and all knowing – nothing catches Him by surprise; not the car out of control, the malignant tumor, the hurricane or any disease. So even as we question and wonder the reason and cause for each event, we can be confident that God knows and that in everything, even the senseless tragedy, He is working. Let us then, take each day of this year as it comes, living each moment to the fullest.

Significant Events:

- March 19 - Madhu Bala Shah, the actress, celebrated her birthday at the Garden School, with her little son. They distributed little boxes of cake, samosas, wafers and candy to the children.
- March 22 - witnessed the Lions and Lionesses of Cuffe Parade gather at garden school to present a mixer and 4 electric egg beaters for the Vocational Training Centre at Kharghar.
- April 13 - the Inauguration of the Home Science Course for Baking and Cooking.
- April 14 - Dominic Curran, a sponsor, ran the London Marathon and collected almost one lakh rupees for Prem Dan.
- July 2 - Classical Dancing commences at Kharghar. Thanks to our generous sponsor, Arjun Mathrani, we are able to have dance classes twice a week for the children at the Boarding.

Achievements

- ❖ 75 % of the children passed their final examination and have been promoted to the next class.
- ❖ At the SSC examination - of the 17 that appeared, 16 were successful. The successful ones are: Alaguneela Anbu, Clara Mendonca, Jayashree Shetye, Irene Mendonca, Rukayatu Manuel, Wilson Rajan, Sarita Sonawane, Suryakant Acharya, Amar Sode, Manesh Vellappa, Rita Yadav, Harishankar Tota, Salosini Mogli, Manoj Shejale, Naveen Maneg & Simon Rathinam.
- ❖ 5 appeared for the SSC examination from the National Open School, of which the 4 successful ones are: Gracy Joseph, Reuben Joseph, Caroline Pragasayam and Jenita Arul.
- ❖ 60 new children have been admitted to various English Medium Schools and we have been able to find sponsors for a little more than half the number.
- ❖ Alka Sarkania has been elected the Head Girl and Lily Gabriel, Poonam Issai and Roopa Golekar have been elected captains of Holy Name High School.

Important Visits To Prem Dan:

- March 21 – Anjali Mathrani and her daughter Devika visited the Garden School.
- March 25 – Julie Headon from Ireland visited Garden School and took some of the children out for a treat and gave them gifts.
- April 15 – Mr Jurgen Feix (the famous uncle J) was down from Germany to meet the children at the Garden School and the Boarding.
- July 11 – Prince Peter and his delegation of the Knights of Malta, 12 in number, arrived with boxes of clothes, medicines and baby food for the children. During their three-day visit, they met the children at the Garden school, the Reay Road Slum and the Boarding at Kharghar.
- July 16 – Philip Baudin and his family arrived from France and met the children at the Garden School and later at the Boarding.
- We also appreciate the occasional visits of the Alitalia and Lufthansa crew and other local benefactors. We are grateful for the clothes, toys and other goodies brought for the children.

To all who have renewed their sponsorship for this year, we say a big "Thank You." And we warmly welcome all our new sponsors into the Prem Dan Family. May God bless and reward your generosity in ways He knows best.

Yours gratefully in Jesus and Mary,

Sr. Felicity Morris

SISTER FELICITY MORRIS

Sr. Patricia Santos

SISTER PATRICIA SANTOS

Dated August 3, 2002.