

Dear Friends,

The academic year 2005 – 2006 is soon coming to a close with children preparing earnestly for their final examinations. All the extra-curricular activities have come to a halt and there is a serious study atmosphere prevailing.

Let us take you back to the last few months of hectic activity:

December 2005:

- In the first week, we had an official visit by our very own Sister Provincial and Councillors. They met the Staff and children of Garden School and visited the Geeta Nagar slum school.
- On the 10th and 11th, the Social Service League of St. Xavier's College organized Project Care, a programme for underprivileged children. 62 of our children from Standards 1 to 4 attended the programme where they had games, fun and snacks and received gifts and a lot of love. They also conducted pre Project Care sessions with the children to interact with them and get to know them.
- On 19th, the girls of Std 2 of J B Petit High School interacted with our children. They put up a programme after which they distributed snack boxes to the children.



- On 20th, the children of Garden school, Geeta Nagar and Reay Road had a common Christmas party.

The snacks and gifts for the party were donated by Binaifer Daruwalla and her friends.

Thanks to Karin Tratz of Germany, the Elizabethians and many others who brought soft toys, each of the children received a soft toy to take home.

- 14 homeless children spent the Christmas vacation with us in the Convent. We are grateful to St. Anne's community for providing a place for these children to stay during the vacations. With the number of homeless girls increasing because of HIV and other factors, there is a need to provide a stable Home for these girls that they can call their own and have a sense of belonging. It will also provide an opportunity to take our other sponsored children during the year for week-end programmes and seminars so as to provide an-all round development and also more bonding with us. We are very grateful to Sr. Astrid, our Provincial Superior and her Council for giving us a part of their property in Khandala to build 'Prem Dan Children's Home'. The process of obtaining statutory permissions has been initiated. We are grateful to a few of our sponsors and benefactors who have already donated towards this cause and we hope that some more of you will be able to support this Home.



January 2006:

- On 13th, Beth and Laura from Manchester arrived at Garden school to have an experience of working with our children. They spent two months interacting with the Staff and children and gave them new insights and teaching aids. We are grateful to them and to the Aquinas-India partnership that has been established.





- On 27th, the children of the 3 kindergartens had Sports Day with a P.T. display and a variety of races. There was a good spirit of competition and collaboration.

- The children also greeted Sr. Felicity on her birthday.

- We were happy to meet Arjun and Anjali Mathrani from USA who dropped in to see us.

- On 31st, the Rotaract Club organized a Drawing Competition for the Garden school children and awarded prizes for the best drawings.



February 2006:

- Meena and Gunthard from Germany visited Garden school and met some of the children sponsored by their friends.
- 12th: SPONSOR DAY



Around 450 children gathered at Holy Name High School hall to remember and pray for their sponsors. The children were given a motivation talk on Study techniques and Preparing for Examinations after which they had group games and were given snacks.

- On 25th, the Staff went for a Picnic to Marve beach and had a wonderful day.

March 2006:

- Thomas Feix and Wolfgang Spitschan arrived from Germany on 3rd March. As soon as they stepped foot in Garden School, they set out to work filming and interviewing the Staff, children and others involved. We hope the much awaited documentary will soon be released for viewing. We are grateful for all the extra work and money they put in totally at their cost.



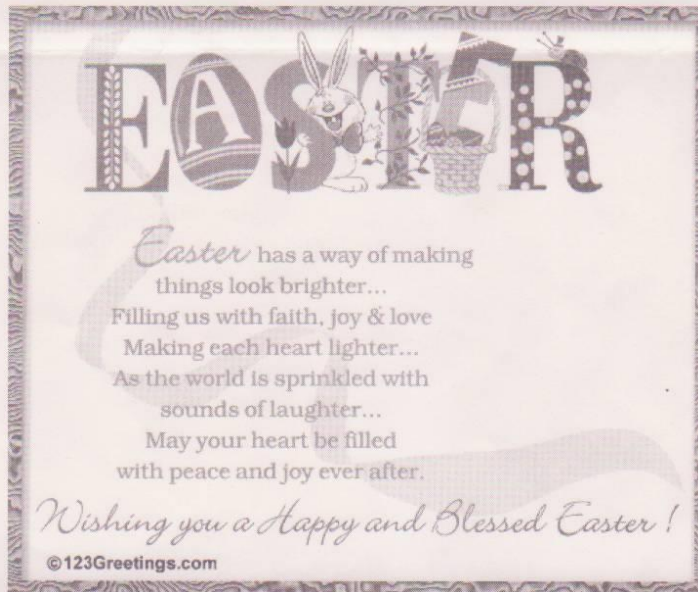
- 35 children are appearing for their final Secondary State Certificate examination and 5 children are appearing for the National Institute of Open School examination. Depending on their grades in these exams they will have to look out for different Colleges. Thank you for helping these children reach this stage of their life. They are now able to earn and learn and be more independent.
- We thank you dear sponsors for your interest and commitment to your child and to Prem Dan. This programme can continue only because of your generosity and support. Enclosed you will find a letter of your child with the family picture. It may not seem very realistic as it is taken in a studio and the children are in their best attire but I hope it will give you a picture of their families.
The new academic year commences from June 2006 and we wish to remind you to please renew your sponsorship at the end of May to enable us to pay the children's fees in June.
- We are extremely indebted to all those who work silently and efficiently collecting sponsorships, motivating sponsors, sending out letters and information, thus keeping Prem Dan going. Without their untiring efforts Prem Dan would not be able to reach out to all the underprivileged children in our care.

A Big Thank you to



Philippa Merchant - Australia
 Peter van Wijk - Belgium
 Eddie Moore & Priya Bradshaw - Manchester, England
 Philippe & Frederique Baudin - France
 Thomas Feix and Wolfgang Spitschan - Germany
 Julie Headon and Jane Hancock - Ireland
 Sr. Teresa Anaya and Linda Manni - Italy
 Anne Marie Beziat - Switzerland

May God bless each of you and your families abundantly.



In loving gratitude