

# PREM DAN NEWSLETTER

July 2006



Dear Friends,

We welcome you to the new academic year 2006 – 2007.

The school year commenced on June 13<sup>th</sup> and the children were excited to get back to school and meet their friends after a full month of vacation.

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June, we had a long week of admissions to our 6 kindergarten classes – 3 at Garden School, 2 at Reay Road and 1 at Geeta Nagar. There were long lines of parents waiting eagerly to admit their children since they receive everything free of cost, thanks to our generous benefactors.



We try to give first preference to the poorest of the poor and yet it is not easy to select the children at this stage since many try to appear poor to get maximum benefit.

The kindergarten class is an important year since the children come to us with absolutely no knowledge of English and by the end of the year they are able to speak and write in English.

Of the many who came for admission we have admitted 195 children for this academic year.

During the Course of the year, all these children's homes will be visited to select the poorest ones for sponsorship. The other important criterion for selection is the academic progress of the child. We monitor the children's progress to see which of them will profit from an English medium education. There are some poor deserving children who would be better off in a public or local school where they have minimum or no fees.

The deserving children who secure admission into English medium schools have to pay high fees which they could never afford and so we have to find sponsors to give them the opportunity to get a good education and thus have a better future for themselves and their families

From the last year's kindergarten classes, we have taken 60 children for sponsorship and are very grateful to the new sponsors who have accepted to sponsor a child and form part of the Prem Dan family.

We thank our existing sponsors, most of whom have renewed their sponsorship, for enabling us to pay the children's fees in time. Most of the schools expect a major part of the fees to be paid in the months of June and July.

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We also appreciate the donations from benefactors towards the feeding programme, stationery, medical and other expenses incurred for the children. To all those who have contributed towards the new Children's Home, we say a big thank you.

With the onset of the monsoons, the temperatures have come down and Mumbai is much cooler. A lot of precautions are being taken to avoid the deluge of last July the 26<sup>th</sup>.

33 children appeared for the Secondary School Certificate examination, of which 30 were successful. The successful ones are Agnes Gonsalves, Akshay Nawale, Amir Shaikh, Anthony Pereira, Asgarali Khan, Bala Arsan, Dolly Regvel, Geeta Yadav, Jacintha Lesrado, Krishna Shetye, Krupa Rathod, Lily David, Mercy Joseph, Mitesh Shirke, Nelli Devika, Pramila Swamy, Pravin Narsappa, Priyanka Haldankar, Reena Pradhan Narsingh, Rupali Sonawane, Sandeep Valmiki, Sankith Thombre, Shabnam Ansari, Shahid Shaikh, Sheetal Garud, Shenaz Shaikh, Smitha Shinde, Sonia Chakor, Sujit Surendran and Swami Pandiyan

Arti Joginder, Mayuri Bhide and Reena Sashi completed their school through the National Institute of Open School.

Thank you for supporting these children and enabling them to complete their school education. Many of them have already taken admission into different Colleges and are looking out for part-time jobs. This helps them to earn and learn and makes them more responsible and independent.

You will find a copy of your child's school report card along with the letter. Please do not send any mail to the school address on the card. In case you would like to write to your child please send it to our address below.

May God shower his blessings on you and your families and keep you in His loving care.

**With love and gratitude,**

**Sr. Felicity Morris and Sr. Patricia Santos**