



# PREMDAN NEWSLETTER

## Christmas 2009

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### Dear Friends,

Once again, we approach the season of Christmas and so we send you our heart-felt love and good wishes.

Be sure to remember the warmth and hope, you have brought into the life of your sponsored child, as you go about your daily chores and prepare for the love, hope and joy this season brings.

Your sponsorship has made it possible for these underprivileged children to have the joy of celebrating Christmas in a meaningful way.

We thank you for your helping hand and wish you and your family, the blessings of love, peace and joy of Christmas.



Childrens' Day was celebrated on November 13, 2009. Our staff greeted the children with a prayer followed by a movie Jumbo which they thoroughly enjoyed, helping themselves with sweets at regular intervals.

At noon our children were entertained by the Taj President Hotel staff who came personally to visit the children. The children were happy to receive gifts of a snack box full of goodies along with a refreshing drink.



Ten executive members of The Lions Club of Bombay visited the Garden School on 6th October 2009. They donated some grains and lentils towards the feeding program and each child had the pleasure of receiving a snack box and a water bottle.



Teachers Day was celebrated on 4th September 2009, with a meaningful prayer service followed by games and lunch.

### Khandala Camp

The camps were held on 14th and 15th of October 2009 for the girls and on 23rd and 24th of October 2009 for the boys. The theme for both the camps was "Peace and Harmony"

Khandala is a place which captures everyones heart and the children were very happy to see the beauty of God's Creation. It was refreshing change for the children after finishing their examinations.

The place and weather of Khandala flowed with our theme . All our sessions , games , prayer services brought out the message of peace and harmony. We tried to communicate this message to our children, and they, in turn, expressed their desire to try and live the message and pass it on to their friends.

Children enjoyed the camp . They were excited and happy and were reluctant to return home. For the animators it was an opportunity to understand the children better. These two camps were sponsored by Mr, Ulrich Nanz and family from Germany. The children prayed for their benefactors.



## Not Daniel in the Den... But Dainal in Our Lady's Home... and now for his story

Dainal Jacob's mother died of H.I.V. when he was two years and he lost his father at the age of five.

His grandmother took custody of the child and he lived with her under a rickety staircase a few blocks away from Prem Dan.

Couple of years later he was admitted into our Garden School and within a short time he disappeared and we could find no trace of him.

Again after a year he appeared in a worse condition than when formerly he came to us.

However we could not reject him and started the process of re-educating him all over again. Finally in June 2009 we have admitted him in Std I into a secure Boarding School called Our Lady's Home run by the Diocesan Clergy.

His joy was so great when he entered the dormitory and saw his bed, he jumped into it and exclaimed "At last I have a bed to sleep on!"

We hope and work towards a bright future for Dainal.



## Mass Media Students send a message

On September 17 and 18, 2009 the students and faculty at Prem Dan Garden School had the pleasure of watching skits put on by mass media students from St. Xavier's College and Wilson's College; respectively. The idea was conjured up by sociology teacher Reena Agrawal in order for media students to fully grasp the power of influence of the media, and to obtain a deeper clarification of the target audience, in this case, children under ten years of age.



The first skit, by St. Xavier's students Raveena, Aditi, Pranav, Aloma, Gary and Giselle, contained a central theme of the 'Golden Rule': treating others as you would like to be treated, played out in a story of why we should not cheat others. The students especially enjoyed Raveena's enthusiasm and giggled at her exceptional performance. Afterwards, they played a game called "Fire on the Mountain" with the children, where raw kindness in young hearts was demonstrated where places in the groups formed were given up to friends in acts of sacrifice. It was much fun to be a spectator of such joyful human activity.

The students said, "Children are fun, we were able to revert back to our own childhood imaginations in creating this project and it was delightful to recap on our own experiences from youth with some improvisation onstage." Mass media students added that they learned valuable lessons themselves that will be applied throughout their careers such as obtaining a thorough understanding of the audience in order to better target and engage them using maneuvers like walking among them asking yes/no questions and periodic recapping of the story.

On Friday, the next day, we had the pleasure of watching a different media class of Ms. Reena's, this time from Wilson's College. The message conveyed in this skit was "United we stand, divided we fall," where a family who worked together was able to find the treasure and defeat the evil demon while their attempts to escape victoriously alone came up short. Their play was in Hindi, recreating a traditional tale. The evil demon made the children roar with laughter as he grumbled and growled amidst the audience with his long haired costume on. The media students then led the group in team races to exercise the lesson learned. They commented afterwards, "Although it's more difficult to hold on to the attention of a child, the entire effort was made worthwhile when we saw all the children smile 'at our silly antics'. All in all it was quite the treat for everyone to witness two very entertaining and wholesome skits.

*Gretchen Marteney*

We thank you, our dear sponsors for promptly renewing your sponsorships, thus enabling us to pay the children's fees in time.

We also thank our benefactors and sponsors for donating all the useful items and donations towards the feeding program.



**We wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and a joyous New year!**

Sr. Felicity Morris, Sr. Juanita Coelho, Sr. Vidya Pathare & all the Staff at Premdan