

premdan newsletter

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December 14, 2011 was an important date for us at Prem Dan for our Mother General. Angeles Alino and Sr. Monica Joseph spent time with our children, and Staff. Our kids put up a small item for them and Mother spoke to all the staff about the importance of our school and the need to help each child give of her or his best to-day and every day.

As you are aware the academic year we follow is from mid-June to mid April. Presently our children are getting ready for their Final Examination. The Education Department at Government level has since the last two years, introduced the

automatic promotion policy (Class 1 – 8) in the schools which aims to stem dropouts in the School System. This policy has to some extent helped to lessen the stress on the part of the students. On the other hand there seems to be an indifference on the part of many of the weaker students to challenge themselves to do better.

In our Boarding at PREM DAN, Kharghar we have in this year introduced JUDO, one of the skills of self defence. We thank Mr & Mrs. Rakesh and Katri Patel for sponsoring these sessions.



Our Jesus and Mary High School, Kharghar staged a musical entitled 'ANNIE'. The school students of the entire school participated in the show. Our Boarders too who are studying in this School took part in the Musical. For a number of students it was a beautiful new experience of working in a team and doing their best whether it was acting, dancing or singing.



Initially our sponsored children resided in the surrounding areas of Colaba near PREM DAN. Down the years families have moved to the suburbs of Mumbai because of cheaper accommodation and better facilities. We try to keep in contact with these children by inviting them to our 'get-togethers' and Camps and also help them maintain their correspondence with their sponsors.



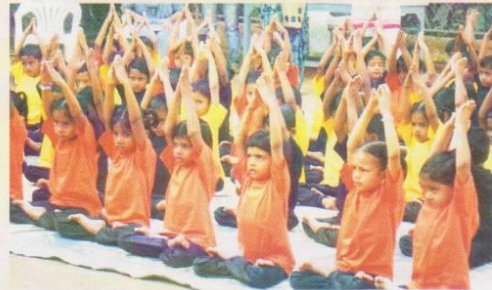
Early in February we had the joy of welcoming the staff and students of Aquinas College, Manchester, England. Over the past six years this 'Work Experience' of theirs is very well organized by their Vice Principal Mr. Eddie Moore and a Staff Member Mrs. Priya Bradshaw. Their students profit immensely from working with the children of the Garden School, Reay Road and Geeta Nagar. In the afternoons they work with the middle and secondary School Children who come to be helped with their studies.





The Lions Club of Mumbai feasted our children during the Christmas period. Besides the games they put up a Magic Show which enthralled each child and adult.

Since November 2011, we have introduced the teaching of YOGA to our little nursery children of Garden School. We are beginning to notice a calming effect on the behavior of these little ones.



One of our faithful and generous sponsors Dr. & Mrs. Vincent D'Sa family and friends have been reaching out to our children over the past few years and in a very special way at Christmas time. Each child goes home happy and excited with a special Christmas gift.

For the past three months James Moran and Jemila Berry from Manchester, U.K. came for an experience on life in Prem Dan. I quote below something of what they shared.

"...Our three months at Prem Dan... has flown by! We were greeted on our first day by the Garden School children doing their morning yoga session which was a nice introduction. We were, however, lulled into a false sense of security thinking that the children would always be as quiet and serene as they were whilst doing yoga, how wrong we were! During our time with Prem Dan the children have been energetic, boisterous, loud and fearless but an absolute joy to work with. Outside the classroom and playground we worked with small groups of 1-3 weaker children to help progress their reading, writing and numeracy skills. With our limited Hindi and various techniques to try and keep the children's concentration we noticed definite improvements with these children as each week went by which was particularly rewarding. Throughout the three months, the Sisters generously allowed us to stay at the boarding facility in Kharghar where we were looked after very well and made to feel at home. Staying in Kharghar allowed us to spend two days each week working with small groups of Prem Dan girls at the Convent of Jesus and Mary High School and helping with extra tuition and homework in the afternoons and evenings. Working with the older girls provided us with different challenges. We soon realised that the questions about England, our families and various other topics that we were asked were partly due to curiosity and partly distraction techniques to delay having to do maths homework!



Helping at the after school club and with the girls at Kharghar was particularly enjoyable as it allowed us to see the progression of children who had come through the Garden, Reay Road and Geeta Nagar schools and progressed onto fee paying schools which wouldn't have been possible without Prem Dan."

During the past few months we have received a number of Visitors interested in seeing the work carried out at Prem Dan. They express a wish to spend a few days to experience life in Prem Dan or just to visit their sponsored child. To each one of you we say a very big Thank you!

We at Prem Dan especially the Staff and Students

Wish you a **Happy Easter.**

May Christ's spirit of HOPE and CHANGE which we experience during the Easter Season shine in our lives and spread to all those we meet.

Thank you and God Bless from,
Srs. Felicity Morris, Zelia Fernandez and Vidya Pathare

