



## NEWSLETTER

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9th edition

education@aseema

*“Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the entire staircase...  
Just take the first step.”*

*-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

We have begun the new academic year 2009-10 with complete faith and trust. We are designing and commencing new projects, extending our classes in the Secondary Section and laying great emphasis on the implementation of Aseema’s educational philosophy in all that we do. It is a challenging and exciting time for all of us at Aseema and we are proceeding with a strong belief in the potential of our children and in our own conviction to our cause.



Towards the end of the last academic year, our children made the most of their potential at the Amar Inam Annual Day 2009. Once again, all our 650 children from the Pre-Primary to Secondary Sections participated and performed items on environmental awareness, the value of education, friendship, etc. The venue hall was filled with parents who were brimming with pride at seeing their children do so

well. Our Chief Guest was Ms. Thrity Dolikuka who has been a committed volunteer and an integral part of the Aseema family for over ten years. We also had parents of some of our children as Guests of Honour - Mr. & Ms. Sayad and Mr. & Ms. Nelson - to show our appreciation of the keen interest they take in their children’s progress.

Some of our children have also made us incredibly proud. Ashish Gaikwad and Mamta Aiedurappa are the first two students from Aseema to appear for the S.S.C exam. Both of them have passed the exam and have done well scoring 58 percent and 71 percent respectively. In addition, two other students - Nirmala Gaikwad and Ravi Kumar - have appeared for the NIOS (Std. X) exam and have fared well.

We were also extremely happy to see a significant improvement in the examination grades of our children, from the first to the second term. Through the use of creative teaching methods, our children have been able to appear for the examinations with greater confidence and obtain better scores. We intend on working harder to make the learning even more enjoyable and stress free for all the children in our schools.

In this new academic year, we have started classes in Std. IX at our Secondary Section in the Santacruz (W) Municipal School. This Secondary Section was set up by Aseema last year and ran classes for Std. VIII only. With the commencement of Std. IX this year, and plans to set up Std. X next year, we will be able to offer quality education to children in the higher standards as well.

We are also working on developing an activity-based learning programme for the children in Stds. I and II in our school in Bandra. While the children in these classes have been learning well under the guidance of able teachers, we feel strongly that a more practical and 'hands-on' learning approach would benefit them tremendously. We have, therefore, designed an approach that is in keeping with our educational philosophy and allows each child to learn at his/her own pace. The children will continue to study the curriculum prescribed by the State and will appear for the mandatory exams. They will, however, do so in a much more independent and experiential manner and will be able to make their learning more rewarding and lasting.

Some of our older children were also able to experience and learn through hands-on work. A group of children from our Support Centre went on a three-day visit to the village of Awalkheda in Igatpuri. The children conducted an extensive tree plantation drive there, having planted over 600 saplings. They were happy to work hard and be so close to nature and are eagerly looking forward to seeing 'their trees' grow strong and tall.

The land where the tree plantation was undertaken is the site of Aseema's proposed Education Centre for Tribal Children. In spite of facing numerous challenges and obstacles, we are happy to share with you that construction of our Education Centre commenced on 12 April 2009. We are grateful for the prayers and support of our many generous donors and well wishers who have helped to bring to fruition, this project, along with our other achievements of the past few months.



We would like to say a special Thank You to Amole Gupte and his team, Besant Montessori School, G.E., Gordon Institute of Business Science, Inam Rahman and Family, Joe Greenstein, K.C. Mahindra Education Trust, Navroz Seervai, Prisca Centre, St. Joseph's Convent High School, Tanya Dubash and Times Global

Broadcasting Co. Ltd. for their unstinting support.

We would also like to express our gratitude and love for Carolyn Fernandes who was the Education Officer in Aseema for over four years. Carolyn is now pursuing a Post Graduate Degree in Education and we wish her much success in all she does.

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