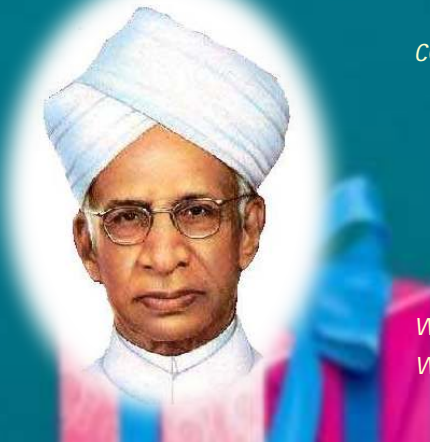


चंदेपुत्र वीती



Newsletter of VIDYA
Delhi NCR • Mumbai • Bangalore

Happy Teachers' Day



Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5 in the honor of late Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, former President of India.

"We have to combine ancient traditions with modern knowledge. If we wish to have an open society, we should have open minds."

The Teachers' Day and The Independence Day of India were celebrated all across VIDYA Institutions with great fervor and patriotism.



Proud to be an Indian

School Watch VIDYA School, Gurgaon

Highlights



Flag Hoisting by Eminent Guests.

69th Independence Day was celebrated with a great joy attended by the entire school fraternity. The flag hoisting was graced by eminent guests, Poonam Saharia and Rajan Pandey.

V. Suprabha, the Principal and Priyanka Mathur were in attendance. The students took a pledge to honor and respect the national flag. This was followed by chanting of mantras, music, dance and yoga under the guidance of Guru Antarang Anand Yogi. V. Suprabha, addressed the students and teachers. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Activities Coordinator Annice Thomas.

Mandira's Mandir (Temple)

We miss you Mandira, you will always remain with us.

It is with utmost reverence that VIDYA Mandira was conceptualized and is now being implemented. It is almost a spiritual feeling as one meets these women who are fulfilling Dr. Mandira Mukherjee's dreams...they have come in full force to be in team Mandira. They are the torch bearers of this unique women's empowerment programme.



Dr. Mandira Mukherjee was a star, a loving, professional leader who worked closely with VIDYA for almost 15 years. She came as a doctor to VIDYA's Bal Vihar and then went on to create a movement for women. This was the path breaking VIDYA Micro Credit movement with over 150 single participants in Delhi. She worked with them in slum communities and helped them carve out a future in most difficult circumstances! It is due to her inspiration, faith and courage, that so many women could transform. Meet Sunita, abused, beaten by her husband and in dire need for funds to take care of her children. With the VIDYA loan, she opened a small shop on the window of her jhuggi and that changed her life. Today in her little temple, next to the Gods she has a picture of Mandira, in gratitude for the transformation and the support in her life!

May she rest in eternal peace.

A prayer meeting was held on the June, 24 in the School attended by Mandira's near and dear ones.



Rashmi Misra with VIDYA Mandira participants

Educate-Empower-Transfer and VIDYA moves ahead with the promise of Employability. The course started on August 3 with more than 30 participants.

VIDYA-Mandira , a programme for women was initiated at VIDYA School by Chairperson Rashmi Misra. Many women from the communities participated. Most of these are mothers of the students of the School. The courses being offered include English, Computers, Driving and Martial Arts. The course is in full swing. It was VIDYA's dream to start such a programme for the under privileged women where they can develop and emerge as confident and skilled earning members of their families. It is a landmark beginning in the process to

Awards and Honors

Eleven VIDYA students, presented a short skit at British Council's International School Award Ceremony on July 8 at Hotel Kempenski, New Delhi. The school had been selected from amongst many other schools to perform the skit.

The ceremony had been organized by British Council to felicitate the Principals and school co-ordinators from across the country who won the prestigious International School Award. Rashmi Misra, the Chairperson, and Dilruba Kalsi, Manager, received the prestigious trophy on behalf of VIDYA fraternity.



British Council Award Winners

Annual Prizes



Congratulations

The School held its Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony 2014-15 on July 18. The ceremony was held to felicitate those students who have performed exceptionally well in academics as well as co-curricular activities throughout the year.

Inter House Quiz

An Inter House Social Science Quiz was organized in the school on July, 15. The main aim of the quiz was to help students develop critical thinking abilities.. Dreamers stood first with Innovators, Creators and Achievers at second, third and fourth position respectively.

Workshops



On Motivation. A workshop on Motivation was conducted by Prof. Harish Chaudhary at Vishwakarma Bhavan, IIT Delhi attended by the academic staff of VIDYA School and Bal Vihar, Delhi. Prof. Harish focused on many important issues and concerns pertaining to the education system in India. He emphasized on the fact that the only root of development for our society is education.

Motivation by Prof. Harish Chaudhary



Efficient, Effective, Enterprising

On Effective Professional Teachers. The workshop on Qualities of an Effective Professional Teacher was a great success conducted by Mr. Tushar. The main aim of the workshop was to enlighten the teachers on the qualities a teacher must have in order to become a good professional.

A teacher must have multiple approaches/methods/techniques to teach the same thing in different ways. A video on a class of rowdies was shown. It depicted how a teacher successfully changed her students and brought out the best in them.

On Drama

Sixteen students of class X and XI attended a workshop on drama and speech at Preschool Spark, DLF Phase I, Gurgaon. The nine days workshop was conducted by My Club Spark as a part of its Summer Camp Program. The main aim of the workshop was to make the students more confident.

Elections and Orientations



General Elections were held for the post of Head Girl, Head Boy, Vice Head Girl, Vice Head Boy, Sports Captain and C.C.A. Incharge. All the students were extremely enthusiastic. The voting process was carried out peacefully. The results were declared by the Principal and the candidates were congratulated for their Victory.

An orientation programme for the ASPIRE girls of class X was conducted by KPMG. The main aim of the programme was to familiarize the parents of ASPIRE students with the benefits of the various programmes associated with KPMG. Pritika Chand, the volunteer from KPMG, interacted with the students and motivated them to speak about their expectations from the programme. Thanks KPMG



Besides many more activities, the Inter House Social Science Quiz organized in the schools helped students to develop the critical thinking abilities and grow as concerned citizens.

An Investiture Ceremony nominated new members to the student's council. The Head Boy and Head Girl received the school flag and badges in an elaborate ceremony.



A session of Career Counseling was conducted by the volunteers of Genpact

A Road Safety session was organized by Delhi Traffic Police to familiarize and sensitized the students with the importance of traffic rules.

VIDYA Bal Vihar, Delhi



It was an outstanding performance by the tiny tots of Bal Vihar as they celebrated the spirit of Independence Day. VIDYA is grateful to Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited for making the event a huge success. Sanjay Gupta, MD of the Bank graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and unfurled the flag along with Malavika Goyal, Vice Chairperson VIDYA. Mr Gupta was so touched by what he saw-little ones were uninhibited as they sang and danced around joyously to a standing ovation.

Homage was paid to freedom fighters and the journey was presented in multiples hues as the children showcased a fusion of yoga and classical and modern dance

VIDYA family bows to the entire team of Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited for their commitment for taking Bal Vihar under its wings for years to come.

There was another Independence Day function at the Panchsheel Club and the children received appreciation for their performance. Thank you Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited



Highlights

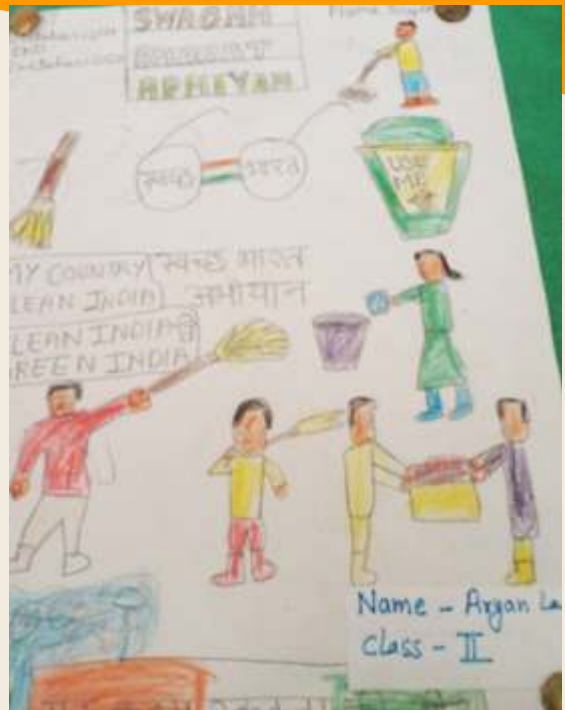
An interschool poster making competition was held at Waulden School. The topic was "Minimize Pollution and Maximize Happiness". Cimon and Sameer of class V won the consolation prizes.

DESH- (Discovering Excellence by Our Homeland Serving Foundation) conducted a creative workshop mainly to involved children to increase their vocabulary and expose them to different professions.

Volunteers from KPMG engaged the children in a story telling session to increase the listening skills and appreciate cultural values.

The Morning Assembly this year focuses on states of India. Special features like costumes, cuisine, sports, tourism, climate, etc are demonstrated through popular folk stories and theatre.

Collage making competitions were a great success.



On the spot painting competition on "Save Girl Child" or "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" (Clean India).

Community Update, Delhi

In **Munirka**, regular computer and Tae-Kwondo classes are being conducted. To appreciate environment conservation, the students planted saplings and are nurturing them. The waste material is being utilized to create useful items for daily use. Rahul, the pride of Munirka is now selected in the Hotel Management degree course by the Ashok Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Management.



Multihues of Munirka

In **Pappankalan**, the students returned after the long summer break. They were full of energy and excitement. They enjoyed another round of singing and dancing with Music Basti. New students have joined the remedial programme. Handicrafts and stitching classes are in full swing.

Many students regularly move on to regular schools.



In **Okhla**, Dr. Mandira Mukherjee's birthday was observed on Aug 18 by celebrating Women's Empowerment Day. She is the true spirit behind many empowering projects. The library is richer by thousands of books donated by her. It was a sentimental moment as children expressed their gratitude to Mandira Ma'am in a well attended event in the presence of Dr. Mukherjee's husband and family members. Mandira Ma'am, rest in peace, VIDYA will carry your torch ahead.

iVolunteer has placed three engineers from Michigan University at the Okhla Center. They teach children English conversation along with basic knowledge of alphabets, colours, voice modulation etc.

Nakshatra2015 is a cultural event organized by Bhumi involving various competitions in painting, singing, dancing, etc. Okhla Centre has won 17 prizes in different events.

A Stakeholders' Meeting was organized to interact with the parents and coordinators. Such interactions lead to many success stories.



Caring Cop...Girl Child's Hope

Rakshabandhan is a festival that upholds a woman's dignity and provides protection...it is a sacred bond of affection between brother and sister. This festival is regularly celebrated in VIDYA's Institutions.



Gaga over Yoga

In IIT-NSS programme, the Independence Day provided a platform for students to showcase their talent through various cultural presentations.

In the adult education, the women are gradually gaining the poise and confidence through their literacy projects. Volunteers are the great source of inspiration.

Three Cheers Priyanka Mathur



She directs human resource strategy, executes operations and clinches deals. Soft spoken, down to earth and dynamic, time and again she has proved her mettle in getting things done... be it donor management, in house efficiency and keeping the team sprit high. VIDYA is proud to have Priyanka Mathur leading the Delhi team. She stands tall as the Employee of the Month! She truly deserves this recognition for her competence and confidence. Congratulations!

VIDYA Mumbai

Bhavishya Yaan

Girl Power

The Mahindra Special Services Group conducted a self defence program for the girls of Bhavishya Yaan. 104 girls from BMC Schools participated in the event held at the Worli Ambedkar School. The team was lead by Lt Col S.K Sharma. Mahindra SSG used a combination of presentations, role plays and discussions to make the girls aware of the different situations that could arise and also taught techniques to protect themselves in such situations.



Young Achievers

Bhavishya Yaan organised a grand function to felicitate the students who had passed their 10th exam with distinction in the academic year 2014-15. The event was held at the G K Marg School Auditorium and was put together by the Rotary Club of Bombay. TV star Ronit Roy was the celebrity guest at the function who along with Sonya Mehta, President of RCB and Pallavi Darade, Asst Commissioner of BMC schools distributed prizes to all the students who had passed their exams with flying colours. The event ended with a thank you note by Rotarian Ekta Shah.

Reaching the Stars



Shining with Shahid Kapoor, the Famous Movie Star.

Bhavishya Yaan students from the G K Marg Municipal School were fortunate to visit the sets of the famous dance reality show "Jhalak Dikha Jaa" which is aired on Colors Channel. Their enthusiasm was palpable as they sang, danced, laughed and talked all the way throughout the journey to the set of the show. They were exceptionally curious and eager to meet Shahid Kapoor who was the Star Judge of the show on that day. Upon reaching the sets, children settled with bated breath as they saw the host, celebrity judges and the contestants of the show. They were thrilled and awestruck to be able to share centre-stage with such a huge star. A guest appearance by actors Saif Ali Khan and Katrina Kaif was the icing on the cake.

Beyond School

Highlights

Pretest for all the students across five centres conducted to check and compare the increasing learning curve of the students throughout the year.

Scientific learning for senior students as they visited a donor partner for lessons in science and mathematics. It was a unique exposure.

Board games for senior students along with youth beneficiaries for chess and carom competition with a donor partner were exciting.

Computer Learning Resource Centre

Tally Academy

VIDYA Mumbai forged a new partnership with Tally Academy recently. It is a great opportunity for the beneficiaries to learn an industry recognized course, give online certification exams and get quality placement assistance.

Certification

All CLRC centres had their individual certification programs. An awareness module on “cyber safety” was presented by all the centres. Congratulations to all the students for successful completion of their certificate with flying colours.

Another Feather in the Cap

A new CLRC was added to the educational base of VIDYA Mumbai at Swaminarayan Nagar, Powai. This centre with a capacity of 16 computer systems will serve a range of courses like NIIT-CCIB, Tally 9.0, Big Byte, Fun Byte for lesser privileged children and youth from the community as well as nearby communities like Hari Om Nagar and Gautam Nagar. Aparna Shetty from BG (British Gas) as the chief guest inaugurated the centre. The whole event was very interactive with excited children eager to try their hand at computers being guided by the VIDYA team. Jayshree Murali of VIDYA weaved an engaging poetry around the full form of ICT on the spot! Looking forward to digitally empowering the community in times to come!



National Institute of Open Schooling



NIOS Orientation

Welcoming the New!

An orientation to mark the commencement of the academic year at Open School was held on August 14. Students as well as their parents attended the event with great enthusiasm. Manvi Singh, Director VIDYA Mumbai shared the story of VIDYA along with its vision, mission and programmes with the attendees. This was followed by Youth - Program Manager, Vaishnavi Vaidyanath giving information on the Open School program at VIDYA. Core Management Team member, Jayshree Murali amazed the crowd with her eloquence. Mementos were distributed to all star performers of last year as a token of appreciation. They shared their experiences and spoke highly of the teachers who had motivated them to study further. Two of the students had completed their schooling after a gap of 10 years - what an achievement and inspiration for the current batch! Later the newly joined Resource Mobilization Manager, Ankit Bhuptani spoke on the value of time and opportunity by narrating a story from Panchatantra. What an inspiring and thought provoking event it turned out to be!!!

Making them Job Ready



Polishing Soft Skills

Soft skills are increasingly becoming the hard skills of today's workforce. A session on soft skills in collaboration with Barclays Compliance Division was held on August 21 for students of Open School. After the formal introduction by our VIDYA team member Ankit Bhuptani, Mr. Baxi started explaining the need for developing soft skills. In his session, he briefly covered five major non-verbal soft skills through a short video - Handshake, Eye-Contact, Crossed Arms, Smiling and Posture. He talked about how non-verbal gestures can be as powerful as the verbal ones to convey our thoughts. Later for a better understanding of the concepts, the Barclays team performed a skit covering all the above skills.

Youth Forum

Cultural Exchange

Friends of VIDYA Asawari Deshmukh and her son Atharv Deshmukh visited VIDYA's Youth Forum. They are from Arizona, United States and were in Powai to share their experiences of shifting and settling in a foreign land with the Youth Forum members. Atharv along with his friends Fransisco, Andy and Brenen had come to spend some time and interact with the youth in India. It was a wonderful exchange of ideas, experiences, dreams and aspirations. The youth shared their life experiences and how VIDYA's values have helped them to continue their education in the midst of all adversities.

Voicing Opinions

The Forum started with yoga classes by Pia Bhagat. She showed some yogasanas and breathing exercises to calm and relax one's mind and body. The Youth Forum then had a discussion on the role of youth in independent India (especially looking at the contemporary scenario). They came up with points such as love and respect for the nation, increased sense of materialistic life, voting rights of youth, development of youth, individualistic attitude, bad habits and bad company, pornography, unemployment, "showing off" behaviour and adults' view towards the youth. The session was explorative, clarifying one's understanding/ misunderstanding regarding many issues, role of today's youth in the national context.

Life Skills through Poetry



Poetically Yours

The Youth Forum began by the participants creating a story in English of a college going boy by drawing references from their own lives. Initially the participants found it tough to create a story in English, but with a little bit of help and guidance from the VIDYA team did a fairly good job in the end. In the second round of activity they were asked to form teams and write poetry. Poetically the soft skills were further polished as the participants were asked to jot down their thought process as well. The teams came up with beautiful poems on nature, relationships, rainy season etc.

Mera Bharat Mahaan



Celebrating Independence

Independence Day was celebrated with reverence, enthusiasm and gusto throughout VIDYA Mumbai. Children along with the teachers and the supporting staff actively participated in making this day special. The day started with everyone decorating the classrooms with the tricolour and singing our national anthem with respect and pride. Role plays and skits were enacted beautifully. Quizzes were conducted to gauge the understanding of the topics discussed. The kids then unleashed their creative side by making our national flag, photo frames, charts, rangolis, decorative torans and book marks.

VIDYA Bangalore

Gottigere High School and Primary School

VIDYA has spread its wings adding many more feathers. With the addition of two new schools, an additional almost 400 children have joined. With new students three new teachers have also joined the VIDYA family, Welcome Praveena and Vaishali for Weaver's Colony program and Savitha for Gottigere Primary school.

Academically this year, VIDYA will be focussing on spoken English. The computer classes have begun the advanced training wherein the children will be taking courses in Photoshop, CorelDraw, and Web Page design.



All the scholarship children have settled down well in to their respective courses. VIDYA is grateful to Soci t General  and Synergy for fulfilling dreams.

Welcome Mary



Mary is a student at the School of Social Work at Michigan University. As part of her course, Mary was interning with VIDYA and spent very valuable time and participated in the community visits. She has given VIDYA program a fine perspective and a new life to the whole program.

Here Learning is a Pleasure...



With the monsoon rains, the Gottigere team has also been filled with freshness and excitement. Tests and evaluations are a weekly feature for all classes in all the three at Gottigere High School, Primary School and the Weaver's Colony School.

The 10th remedial English classes are on in full swing. This year, there is about 60% of the class strength participating, and attending the morning sessions regularly. Revision tests based on the Board pattern are now done weekly, and the children are benefitting from it.



Friends from California



The High School students had friends from California visiting them. It was really heart-warming to see students “vibing” so well with students from the USA. VIDYA children were able to make friends quickly. They were even able to converse with their friends in their language with perfect ease. Gifts were exchanged, the visitors sharing famous American candies and sweets, Pop-Tarts, Jolly Ranchers, and the like as well as art and craft materials. VIDYA children responded with jewellery, cards, folders, diyas and gel candles made with their own hands.



*Independence
is my birth
right.....*

The vibrant high school students

On Becoming Better Citizens...



The Rotary Midtown Bengaluru President, Sathish Manandi addressed the gathering and motivated the children towards becoming better citizens of tomorrow. Rotary Midtown organized the celebration breakfast. The children were also given certificates and medals for their achievements in sports. VIDYA Chintan Sabha was held at Evoma, where each had the opportunity to meet the others from the VIDYA Bengaluru team. There was an orientation for the teachers presided

over by our Founder-Chairperson, Rashmi Misra. This was followed by sessions to review progress and plans for the year and to rededicate to the ideals and vision of VIDYA.



If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.

*Power to People's President for his Passion for Teaching
With an ignited mind, Kalam flew high on wings of fire
APJ Abdul Kalam 1931-2015*

**One VIDYA, One Mission, One Vision, One Culture...May
the Force Continue to be with VIDYA**

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