Dear Friends,

Greetings from VIDYA!

On behalf of the entire VIDYA family, we wish you a joyous and fulfilling New Year. We hope that all your endeavours this year, to better yourself, your loved ones, society and the world at large are fruitful, as we remain secure in the knowledge that every little action counts to make a better world.

As we step into 2018 with new energy, new beginnings and new dreams to achieve bigger goals, we bring to you a few glimpses from the month which has gone by. Starting from getting together to experience the joy of learning at VIDYA Utsav to welcoming the festive season in the warm circle of the VIDYA family and friends, December 2017 was a month full of celebrations for us.

VIDYA UTSAV

On 9th December, 2017, VIDYA hosted its annual event at IIT Delhi to celebrate the joy of learning. Mr. Sanjaya Gupta, the Managing Director of PNB Housing Finance Limited graced this occasion as the Chief Guest. The foyer was beautifully decorated with handmade objects, paintings and handicrafts that were prepared by the VIDYA students and community women. After the traditional lighting of the lamp and the address by VIDYA’s Chairperson Mrs. Rashmi Misra, 200 students from all the centers of Delhi and Gurgoan commenced the program by singing the VIDYA song ‘Dhruv Tare sa ban kar tu’. The primary children delighted the audience with the
rendition of Ganesh Vandana and a foot tapping welcome song.

A thought provoking play 'Before and After Partition' highlighting the changing face of India over the years was presented by the senior students. The younger students stole the show with a colorful ‘NAVRAS’ (nine emotions) which was a beautiful blend of music, narration and dances. While the students were rewarded for scholastic and co-scholastic excellence, Ms. Indu Mahajan and Ms. Malvika Goyal were honored with the 'VIDYA Life Time Achievement Award' for their timeless and significant contribution towards the cause VIDYA supports.
WORKSHOPS AND VISITS

1) Living Your Dreams by AVEGEN:
A workshop was conducted for the students of class 12th at the VIDYA School by Dr Akash Ganju. AVEGEN is an organization working for the betterment of health technology for the less privileged people. Dr Ganju motivated our students to dream big to enhance their lives. He exemplified Kapil Dev’s passion for bowling which helped India win the World Cup in 1983, to inspire them.

2) Experiential Learning:
Ms Ashima Agarwal from Experi-

3) Gender Equality:
An interactive session on gender equality was conducted by the VIDYA counsellor Ms Arati Bhatt, for the women of the Mandira Margam Program, Usha Silai centre in Gurugram. This workshop in particular touched a sensitive chord within them as coming from a background where women are still looked down upon, they could relate to the subject very well. Some of the ladies also shared their personal experiences.

4) Visit to the Heritage Transport Museum:
A few volunteers from
Hub conducted a series of experiments to demonstrate the chapter on soil for the students of class V at the Bal Vihar School. The children were thrilled to see and perform the experiments. It was indeed a different and interesting learning experience for them.

Mercer organized an excursion to the Heritage Transport Museum for the students of grade VIth. The children were delighted to get an opportunity to explore some of the most amazing vintage motor vehicles.

5) Cricket Match: Volunteers from WEB HELP organized a cricket match for the senior students of the VIDYA School. Our students defeated the WEB HELP team by 128 runs and were overjoyed to receive the trophy. The volunteers also distributed gifts and had an interactive session with the students.

6) Speakers' Platform: The third session of the speakers' platform was organized by the RBS volunteers. These sessions have helped our students grow so much that they unanimously decided to face the audience and talk. The session was full of confidence and energy. Some students also presented skits.

LITERARY FESTIVAL
The Literary Festival celebrated at the VIDYA School Gurgaon, experienced a plethora of activities like creative writing, picture compositions, poem recitations and comprehensive reading. The week long festival culminated on 22nd December with a commendable show put up by our students. While the junior students demonstrated Alice in Wonderland and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in the form of a play, the senior students presented book
reviews and their critical appreciation of books like the Guliver's Travel and the Tale of the Melon City.

SOFT SKILLS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVOR

On 27th December 2017, a very interactive workshop on soft skills was conducted by the Executive Director of VIDYA, Mrs. Dilruba Kalsi for the entire team at the VIDYA School. The workshop focussed on effective communication, critical thinking, creativity in classroom transactions and efficient ways of improving the work ethos to achieve the desired goals collectively.

The teachers actively participated in this workshop and shared their experiences and suggestions candidly regarding the same. The workshop has helped the teachers learn the importance of interpersonal skills like respecting the views and accepting the shortcomings of each other with an open mind.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The entire VIDYA family welcomed the much awaited festive season with infectious energy and positivity. While the three SDMC schools organized special assemblies to mark the birth of Lord Jesus, the students of class 2 at the Bal Vihar School visited a play school 'Nestling' to celebrate Christmas with the children there. At the VIDYA School, Gurugram, Volunteer4India and
Cosco surprised the children by bringing in a truck full of balls to play with. A carnival was also organized by KPMG for the primary students.

The women at the Mandira Margam Program, Usha Silai centre in Gurgaon learnt to stitch Santa caps and also walked the ramp in costumes designed by themselves. It was indeed the best way to bid farewell to 2017 for them.

While a dance show was organized by the NSS volunteers at IIT Delhi, the children at the Pappankalan Community project had gala time singing carols and dancing to the tunes of 'jingle bells'.

SUCCESS STORIES
Due to financial problems Shilpa was forced to quit her previous school. However, Shilpa never underestimated the power of education. Not losing hope, she joined the NIOS program at Gurugram, in 2016 with the motive of completing her schooling. Her hard work bore fruits when she passed the CBSE class 12th examination with flying colors and got placed at IRIS-Corporate Solutions Private
Limited near Badshahpur.

Currently, Shilpa is not only supporting her family but is also pursuing a degree in B.Com from Delhi University through correspondence. VIDYA is proud of you Shilpa and we have full faith in your potential.

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