Teacher’s Day

This issue of VIDYA VARTA is dedicated to the teachers. The very word teacher evokes a sense of reverence and dignity; the teacher is a magnet where the goodness of a student is anchored. Remember Eklavya or Arjun, who surrendered to their teacher completely. Teachers Day was celebrated all across VIDYA on September 5 with gratitude.

Two highlights of this month were Teachers Day and International Literacy Day.

I found guidance, friendship, discipline and love, everything, in one person. And that person is you.

“Happy Teachers Day”
The examination system has been re-organised as per Comprehensive and Continuous Evaluation (CCE) system. Classes I-V are being tested on daily basis by applying CCE tools and techniques, thereby reducing the examination stress. Summative Assessment I for classes VI-IX was conducted from September 13th-24th.

Madam Kalsi, a CCE trainer, conducted a workshop for teachers highlighting the assessment and evaluation for primary and secondary classes and acquaint them with new methodologies and strategies. Class IX students have been registered with Central Board of Secondary Education for board examinations to be held in 2015.

The school website will be launched shortly, showcasing all the activities and events.
On the occasion of International Literacy Day on September 7th, PRATHAM, an NGO, provided books for conducting a read-aloud session for all classes, followed by activities based on the books. Through this One-Day-One-Story campaign, students were enlightened about worldwide literacy; where language is no barrier. The selected book was ‘Paplu-the Giant’.

The student were inspired by the character Paplu, a kind hearted giant. It was the sheer power of story-telling that students listened in pin-drop silence and identified with the character.

The story session was a joyous experience, what with the students being introduced to a wonderful world of reading and imagination. The students enjoyed drawing their favorite characters, dramatising the whole story and sharing the morals learnt.
Mothers Too!

On September 13th, a literacy program for the mothers of the students of the primary wing was initiated with the support of Genpact as a part of community initiative. This training covers the basics of English language besides other subjects.

Socially Useful

Sri Ram School students visited the VIDYA School on September 19th. The students of this well known institution were kind enough to present some science experiments to the students of class V as a part of their socially useful and productive work program. They also conducted a small quiz after the experiments to assess the impact of learning.

Banking Basics

Deutshe Bank India’s volunteering week started on September 21st. A meaningful interaction for two days was organised on September 24th-25th with the students of classes VIII and IX and their mothers. The volunteers introduced banking as another avenue which the students could consider. A visit to the bank’s local branch was an eye opener. The students and their mothers learnt the importance of finance management and investment opportunities. Various banking processes were also explained.
Football Talent Hunt

The coaches of Bhaichung Bhutia Fooball Schools conducted a workshop on September 21\textsuperscript{st}. This was an initiative of Indian Football Foundation (IFF) to eradicate inequality and provide equal opportunities in sports amongst the economically weaker sections.

IFF also distributed free jerseys to the best players who participated in the workshops. Through such workshops, IFF aims to promote football and identify talented players who will be offered scholarships.

VIDYA is honoured to be a participant of such innovative initiatives through the medium of sports.

Fun with Football
Education at VIDYA is like lighting a flame and showing the way. Continuous efforts are made to upgrade the standard of education through workshops and brainstorming sessions. Students are encouraged to be creative and curious and new methodologies are adopted to assess the impact.

Apart from regular academics, fun-filled sports activities keep the students fit and fine. There are frequent drawing and painting competitions on currently relevant topics like water harvesting, festivals of India, etc.

Ajay Agarwal, a noted personality in education, conducted a workshop on new age learning skills.

Our thanks go to Indu Mahajan, Rishabh Bhutani and Kunta Agarwal, for providing special nutritious lunch to the students of Bal Vihar.

Workshop on New Age Learning
Going Good, Ganeshi

Ganeshi is the daughter of Kishan Singh, a cook at IIT campus, Delhi. Her father expired recently and despite no financial support, she continued her education and cleared her 5th class in 2003 from VIDYA.

She is physically challenged and a first generation learner and completed her primary education, thanks to VIDYA. She completed her higher studies from Gargi Sarvodaya Vidyalaya. Later, she completed two years of elementary teachers’ training and simultaneously continued graduation.

She aspires to be a teacher one day. For a child of illiterate parents, she has the courage of dreaming big and religiously follows the dream to this day.

Keep the flame burning, Ganeshi, VIDYA is proud of you!
1. COMMUNITY UPDATE

*Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Education*

Prof. Ashok Misra has been awarded prestigious lifetime achievement award for his invaluable contribution to education by higher education forum in Mumbai on September 5th, 2013.

Prof. Misra is former dean of IIT, Powai Mumbai. He is also the member of VIDYA Executive Board and chairman of Intellectual Ventures.

Our heartiest congratulations go to him.

A distinguished engineer and scientist, Prof. Misra has for more than three decades served in the field of education as a teacher and a researcher. He obtained his B.Tech. degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1968, M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Tufts University in 1969 and Ph.D. in Polymer Science & Engineering from University of Massachusetts in 1974.

He also completed the Executive Development Program in 1999 at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, Illinois.

*Prof. Ashok Misra*
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Motilal Nehru Camp, Munirka, Delhi

Voracious Volunteerism

The integrated community development program at Munirka is one of the oldest, and a role model for other programs that have evolved. Along with supportive education, the children, youth and women are offered a wide platform to build their lives upon. Various festivals are celebrated from time to time to strengthen interpersonal bonds.

VIDYA salutes the spirit of volunteerism in its various community programs. In Munirka, Jessica, Danielle and Joyce from Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS) along with Astha, have created a joyous environment for learning and sharing. There are regular computer classes, musical sessions, Taekwondo training and other academic sessions. They also celebrated Teachers’ Day here.

Victory for Volunteers
There is nothing more rewarding than a life lived in the service of others. Can you read? Then read to a blind student. Do you know music? Then teach music.

In Lotus Club, music classes were restarted by Shantanu and Ipshita from Music Basti. Andrew and Cony from the US are two CCS volunteers who are at present involved in various activities at the centre.

Andrew is teaching grammar to remedial children and Cony is creating health awareness in the women’s groups. This amazing volunteering has seen happiness coming from caring and sharing.

Teacher’s Day was celebrated as a tribute to the love and effort put in by the teachers all year long to bring out the best in a child.
The highlights of the month were Teachers Day, learning paper craft and fabric painting along with regular mentoring by GE. Fifteen students of the Bridge Course visited Bal Vihar on Teachers’ Day and addressed the students on various subjects. This was a unique experience for the seniors – a chance for them to be the inspiration to the juniors and handle them with love.

For the first time, art and craft classes included fabric painting. The students painted their own T-shirts in different colors and designs. In paper craft, they learnt how to make folders and photo frames with artistic inputs.

Mentoring programs continue with usual enthusiasm.

Adobe Youth Voices held a workshop on Stop Animation. Two teachers, one each from Saink Farms and Okhla attended this wonderful workshop. This experience will enable the teachers to teach the children various facets of Stop Animation. This is an ongoing program in collaboration with American Youth Foundation for training in Computer Animation and documentary making in stop motion.
**2. COMMUNITY UPDATE**

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**With the Stars**

**GE** organized a trip to the stars. It was a dream visit of 30 students to the Nehru Planetarium on August 31st. Students were literally with the stars, and enjoyed a visual treat of various star formations, constellations, planets and lights. Later, a film show was organized followed by a quiz and delicious lunch provided by GE.

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**Mentors’ Magic**

**Price Water Cooper** executives have started a mentoring program at **DLF Cyber City**. Started on September 13th, the program is initially for five students of Okhla centre. There will be two classes per month to benefit the students in their studies and strengthen English conversation.

Regular academic classes are continuing.
The students of theatre class acted in a movie titled “Mad about Khan”. The international premier of the movie was organized in late August at Lok Kala Manch. The students of Moon Dance classes staged a scintillating performance to a huge round of applause from the audience and also received a standing ovation to the movie.

Children who acted in the movie were invited on the stage and presented DVD of the movie by the producer Alex of Kids Power Media. Later, another screening of the movie was organized at Basti Vikas Kendra, on the request of the community people who could not be accommodated in the hall earlier.
Music has no language and no boundaries. The children experienced a musical high when *Corn Potato String Band* performed at the centre. This band brings the earthiness of rural America and is popular among mine workers.

The members of the band organized a musical workshop for the children, who were ecstatic to use some of the oldest and traditional, but unseen musical instruments from America. They sang songs, but the highlight of the day was a live story telling through moving pictures.

*Music Masti Workshop*

This is an initiative of *Music Basti* as musicians are visiting India under a *US embassy* sponsored culture exchange program for musicians to take their music to different parts of the world.
Beyond Prayers

It was a fun filled day of ‘Dahi Handi’ on Janmashtami to celebrate the birth of lord Krishna. Such religious celebrations often go beyond prayers to build up a community strength. Traditionally ‘Dahi Handi’ is an all boys team work of building a human pyramid and reaching the pot of milk tied way up on a rope.

But what was unique at Okhla centre was that this challenge was accepted by the girls for the first time. They had their own pyramid and courage to reach it. And boys, they did it! As the pot broke, they were showered with milk, literally. It was like Lord Krishna was blessing the girls for their grit and determination.

Adharshila Empowerment

Recently Adharshila supported Beauty Culture and Health along with Cutting and Tailoring programs certified the successful women from the community. The certificate distribution program was presided by the founder trustee Neena Jolly. Sahiram Pahalwan, a noted social worker, distributed the certificates and was pleasantly surprised to see such a large number of beneficiaries from a small centre. The program encouraged women to become self reliant.

Job.com

The Times of India with timesjob.com organized a job fair at Vocational College of Studies for those students who have completed three month of English Speaking course. Leading companies were present for a recruitment drive. Fifteen students who had registered themselves went through the interview and received on-the-spot job offers at decent salaries. Particularly, Kanhaiya was fortunate to pick up a part time job to and continue his education at the same time. He now works in a travel agency with which he supports his education.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Health Awareness**

Good-bye monsoon, and come in infections! This is the time when people fall sick due to various viral infections in the moist air. VIDYA organises health camps regularly to ward off seasonal diseases. Three doctors were in attendance in the recent health camp and medicines were provided free of cost. 240 people got the benefits from this health camp.

**Resonance of Re-sound**

VIDYA has tied up with Music Basti for a program called Re-sound. Under this community project for the socially challenged people, in particular street children, music classes will be organised through a network of volunteers. The idea is to develop and enhance life skills, self-confidence, communication skills, creativity and cooperation through group learning. 80 children have already enrolled and as many are on waiting list. Such is the success of this program.

**Child Labour**

A new project involving protection of children engaged in child labor is underway. Household surveys are being conducted to identify children of 6-14 years of age and enroll them in the project sponsored by Non-formal Education Centre.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

We salute our teachers.
My teacher is like my mother
These are the sentiments of the students

Selfless Service

Volunteering makes a big difference in VIDYA’s evolution as a catalyst of change. Cross Culture Solutions have placed two more volunteers in the Okhla Community teaching English Speaking.

Four volunteers have come from Lady Sri Ram College teaching Mathematics. Four more students have come from Jamia Millia Islamia University, spending 15 hours a week for field work.

We thank Malavika Goyal for considering our projects for volunteer placements. VIDYA is also grateful to Dr. Habibur Rehman and Sanjay Ingole for selecting Okhla Centre for social work volunteers. Volunteering is a dynamic interaction to spark and sustain empowerment of the marginal people.
Reading Festival

On the eve of International Literacy Day, VIDYA Mumbai launched a month-long reading festival. Reading programs were organised in nearby public and private schools.

The joy of reading aimed to build foundational skills that are important for early readers. This event reached out to more than 500 children.

Beach Clean Up

Within the 10 days of Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations coming, NIOS students, alumni and mentors rolled up their sleeves to clean up beach organised by VIDYA’s environment partner SPROUTS.

The Clean Up was an eye opener for the filth that we leave behind in the name of celebration, with scant regard to the environment that holds our key to our very survival.
Let The Music Play

VIDYA turned musical with the arrival of **Soordas Powale**, a renowned music guru. The session was attended by staff and students enthusiastically.

The music resonated in the hearts of all, and everyone agreed that they felt peaceful, elevated and happy after the session and eagerly awaited the next class.

Crafty Day

One of VIDYA’s corporate friends, a multinational bank in **Hiranandani**, invited 35 children as a part of their “**Bring your child to work day**”.

It was a creative session by **Hobby Ideas** which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children.
Bhavishya Yaan Program

September is the month for exams and there is so much to do: study for exams, learn and revise and not forget the creative activities.

Computers are a great favorite and facilitate creative expression in the form of visiting cards, folders, desktops and screen savers.

How can Teachers’ Day be not a big day? The teachers of Gottigere Primary and High Schools were touched by the various gifts of love and respect.

Various life skills and related activities like dancing, debating, storytelling, newspaper reading, handicrafts making continue as per schedule in both primary and high schools. Our thanks go to Rotary for sponsoring earthen lamps painting (Diyas) for the forthcoming Diwali get together.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Mali Foundation

Students are enjoying various activities like basic Mathematics, advanced English and choosing the right goals and careers with the help of professional counselors.

The NIIT certified basic and hardware course is providing focused education, making the students self-reliant in the tech savvy environment. Computer knowledge instills a sense of pride, especially in women, as they feel at par with women of privileged society.

The dull walls of the classroom have come alive with fresh coat of paint in bright colors thanks to students’ enthusiasm to decorate their classrooms.

Art Intervention
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Open House

It is the first time that an open house was held at VIDYA on September 14th. It certainly was a success in terms of active participation by students, volunteers and donors. A wide variety of products were on display creating a sense of pride in the students who made them. The women of VIDYA also exhibited their multiple talents of singing, dancing and chanting.

Go Green

A tree plantation drive undertaken with vigour and warmth: this is VIDYA’s message of going green and saving the eco system. Many donors were kind enough to leave their small saplings smiling in VIDYA’s courtyard. As always, VIDYA’s team is committed to protect and nurture these saplings. Our thanks go to K. Dinesh of Infosys, Shanthini Dawson of Friday Convent and Rajni, Viji and Khaled from Sukumith Trust and Rekha Rao from Open house.

Teachers were honoured on the Teachers Day

“There are two kinds of teachers, the kind that fills you so much that you can't move. And the kind that just gives you a little prod and you jump to the sky”.

Robert Frost
Why should you become a friend of VIDYA?

Be a part of a huge moment to educate, empower and make a difference to your neighbourhood, your city and your country.

VIDYA has been creating a meaningful impact for almost three decades in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore and needs your support.

**Education:** Over 2,50,000 underprivileged students have been educated providing access to good quality education.

**Empowerment:** Women across the country are educated and vocationally trained.

You are welcome to join the VIDYA network. For details get in touch.....