Spring is here, full of fragrance of fresh blooms as we seek blessings from Ma Saraswati on Basant Panchmi. On this day, we rededicate ourselves on the path of knowledge.

Ma represents the ever flowing consciousness - the ever engaged mind with creativity flowing like a river - dhara pravah, be it in education, music or dance...
Wishes Granted

The United Health Group (UHG) generously fulfilled the wishes of pre-primary tiny tots. It was a regular visit to UHG office for an interactive session when the children received gifts as per their wish list.

Much to their delight and surprise, the children returned home with their precious toys, dolls, game sets and bicycles. It is a pleasure seeing these children go round and round on their bicycles in the school premises.

Olympians

Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) International Mathematics Olympiad first level results were declared recently.

It was indeed a proud moment for all the VIDYA award winners. Student from III- IX standards have now been selected for the second level.

Fielding Icons

Senior students visited Summer Field School to participate in an Inter school essay writing and painting competition. The theme for both the events revolved around icons who have contributed in literature, arts, environment or heritage of India. Interaction with students of other school was an enriching experience.
1. SCHOOL WATCH

Self Defence

A session of Taekwondo display was organized involving various techniques of self defence.

This display was performed by the senior students reflecting a synchronized spirit of coordination, strength and patience. The session was held under the eagle eye of the physical education instructor.

American India

Students of VIII standard visited the American India Foundation to showcase the three selected projects under film making. These were, a comic strip titled Stereotype and two documentaries on Migration and Superstition.

The entries were reviewed for the final release. Later as part of the grand projection, Stereotype and Migration were screened at FICCI auditorium in New Delhi.

Concern India

Early this month, a sports event was organized by Concern India Foundation. Twenty Four NGOs from National Capital Region participated in the event. Some of VIDYA students were awarded the certificates of participation.
1. SCHOOL WATCH

**Book Fair**

Pragati Maidan in New Delhi was abuzz with book lovers in the recently concluded New Delhi World Book Fair 2014.

Some of VIDYA students visited the fair and soaked in the flavors of a variety of books in Hindi and English. This excursion was planned to encourage the students to imbibe habit of reading.

While in the fair, the students also participated in the painting competition held in the premises.

**Activity Spectrum**

- Regular activities like inter house competitions in Elocutions, Music, Dance, Sports etc continue as usual.

- Prep and Remedial classes are being held so are the Yoga sessions.

- UHG friendship programme continues as per schedule and final selection for nursery admissions is over.

- Revisions for final exams are underway.
Preet Dhupar, CEO of BBC India visited the School. The Vth standard students were thrilled to have Ms. Dhupar amongst them. It was an interesting session full of anecdotes, options and opportunities available in the field of media communication. The students were eager to know so many things about leadership, media skills, breaking news etc.

The star of the show was Vishal who confidently led a 15 minute session on the Big Bang Theory. He had planned this presentation with his class teacher. Every student present in the class was excited by Vishal’s theory and soon he was bombarded with a volly of questions. He tried to answer the questions with best of his ability.

Later the class was segregated into different groups according to their interests and strengths. There were cartoonists on one table, creative writers on another, anchors and news presenters on yet another. It was a mini media house into play. The day focussed on providing multiple opportunities of access and exposure to assist the students in building strong communication skills, confidence and team work.
The month of February comes with the final exams which are scheduled from 21st - 28th. There is stress, there is anxiety and to help the students, a workshop was organized by Ma Purnananda of Chinmaya Mission.

Prior to exams, the workshop guides the children and staff to develop strong and stable mind and face the challenges confidently. Meditation, an important component of workshop has the power to bring about positive changes in mind control.

Students from Munirka CDP and Bridge Course Okhla and Sainik Farms also attended the workshop by Ma Purnananda.
1. SCHOOL WATCH

*Talent Hunt By Tamana*

All across VIDYA in Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai and Bangalore, **Christmas** was celebrated. There were cakes and cookies and there was joy in the anticipation of 2014.

Earlier, the festival of lights **Deepavali** was celebrated with the hope that VIDYA all across attains success and bliss with every light lit on the occasion.

![Little Girl Anshu, the Award Winner](image)

*Basant Blessings*

Ten students of Bal Vihar went to Bhatkhande Institution of Music and Dance on the occasion of Basant Panchmi to seek the blessings of Ma Saraswati.
The main focus in the Community Empowerment is to educate and transform.

Total beneficiaries in Munirka settlement as on today are 251.

The morning session has 125 students in primary and non formal sections.

The afternoon session has 126 students in the remedials and various classes till XII.

Precious Premises

In Basti settlements, the urban slum dwellings, there is always an anxiety about lawless elements.

The VIDYA premises in Munirka Basti has been long under threat of trespassing and capturing by the locals who perhaps want to use the place for some other activities.

Thanks to the intervention of the local MLA Pravesh Saheb Singh Verma who has assured the possession of the centre only for education of children and women.

VIDYA is grateful to Verma Ji’s support.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

New Academic Year

Planning of the new academic year was initiated with a fruitful meeting between Parmananda Santra of NIIT and Dr. Rekha Chaturvedi of VIDYA.

A new chapter will soon open with the NIIT programme at the Munirka Centre and Sanjeev from the community has already been trained to take the responsibility of conducting the programme.

CSS Volunteers

Olivia and Hillary, the Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS) volunteers are here, full of fun and dedication.

The little ones enjoy their sessions of English Communication with the gentle ladies.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Pappankalan Community Development, Delhi

**Computer Competence**

Finally the NIIT is here. From this month, the NIIT CCIB course has commenced with 22 students.

The course material has arrived and the students are busy on the eight computers available at the centre.

This is a dream come true for the people in the community.

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**Finally Finals**

The remedial group has just finished the last music class because the revision for final exams is underway.

To enable exam preparations, the club activities are halted for the time being.

The women’s groups are busy with their regular activities empowering them to learn and earn.
The Youth Management programmes under the Bridge Course provide a bridge to help the less privileged youth return to mainstream hence known as Bridge Course.

**Mentors’ Moments**

Price Water Cooper’s (PWC) much awaited mentoring sessions every month are very popular with the students.

General Electrical (GE) mentor Vikas conducted a computer training session for 12 mentees at GE office, Gurgaon. Students learnt the skills of handling MS Word, Excel and Power Point presentations.

Six laptops attached with the projector were made available for the students to learn and practice. Yogita and Vikas also explained advantages and disadvantages of facebook and use of mobiles on roads.

The students were encouraged to respect their parents, teachers and neighbours as these are the people who guide and love unconditionally.
The final event of Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) was held on February 13 at FICCI auditorium. Twenty five schools and NGOs participated in the event.

Bridge Courses were represented by 11 students and one teacher. The documentary on Hard Work prepared by VIDYA students was screened and appreciated.

Another comic strip on Domestic Violence was screened. A Shield of appreciation was presented.

This rocking AYV Live Delhi event celebrated the completion of eight successful years by screening 25 out of hundred odd short films produced in 2013 by youth from Delhi and NCR.

A picnic was organized for the students at Pratapgarh Farms in Haryana. It had all the elements of fun and frolic in the rustic atmosphere of huts, water ponds, cattle barns full of farm animals.

The students enjoyed creative activities like Charkha spinning, pot making and painting and various games. There was delicious food and melodious music for students to break into “one to three four, get on the dance floor”!
Okhla Centre is forever a hub of amazing range of activities. It was here that the Republic Day on January 26 became an occasion to showcase the prowess and dreams to achieve more. The focus was on honouring the rights and responsibilities provided to every individual under the Constitution of India.

Nirmal Singh Rana, the Fena Foundation Chief was the guest of honour. Ten students of MSW also attended the programme. Highly applauded was the Project Mashaal that encourages women to be strong and self reliant. The computer students who have cleared their basic IT exams were awarded the certificates.

**Inter Agency Interaction**

VIDYA students were blessed to participate in an Inter Agency meet at Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI). The four interns from this University are already associated with Okhla Project.

These volunteers prepared and encouraged the students to participate in a gala event attended by 600 participants from different NGOs.
Job Fair

The Times of India group of publications organized a job fair for the students who have completed the three month English course.

All sixteen students who participated in the fair have got offer letters for various jobs.

Teach India

Another Times of India initiative, Teach India has started the new batch of English Speaking classes.

To encourage higher participation, door to door mobilization is conducted in the community.

Laura Returns

Welcome Laura. She has returned after six months and more girls are looking forward to her cooking classes.

So many applications were received that for the first time a lottery method was used to select the cooking class students.
Stand Up and Fight

The theatre class students attended a movie screening at FAT (Feminist Organisation) and presented a skit on women safety. Most of the visiting members to FAT were girls. Women safety is the most relevant intervention right now.

VIDYA has started a safe street campaign. A survey was conducted to understand the safety issues in association with Kids Power Media. It was discovered that 77% of girls feel unsafe and 96% have been teased at some time or the other.

41% are regularly teased on the way to and from school and within the community. In the face of an attack, most girls freeze out of fear. What is needed is presence of mind and basic self defence moves.

Thanks to Kids Power Media for this initiative and motivation to handle this issue.

Safety Audit to Spot the Vulnerable Street Locations
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

**VIDYA, Mumbai**

**Nutri Nuggets**

VIDYA invited the Foundation for Mother and Child Health (FMCH) for accessing the nutrition status of children in the community upto 10 years of age.

The necessary data was collected by the trained staff and based on the results, a series of workshops have been scheduled.

Recently a fun based activity on eating habits was conducted all across the Beyond School Programme Centres in Powai. The focus was on nutritional eating habits.

**Capturing the Mughals on Canvas**

**Watching Wetlands**

SPROUTS, VIDYA’s environment partner was at Sewri jetty on the eve of World Wetlands Day on February 9 conducting a Flamingo and Wader Watch.

Five staff members and 45 students attended the watch activities that also included nature trail, painting, flower Rangoli etc.

**Critical Intervention**

The Senior Management team of Nomura- Kerman, Leon and Preeti visited the Powai Office to help VIDYA demystify the sexual harrassment policy. The team also offered the relevent mentoring services along with assistance in critical areas of Human Resource development.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Live Jam

A musical motivational session was organised at NIOS Powai English High School by Live Jam, a musical group. The audience was enthralled by every sound and beat.

Environment Module Session

Urban gardening was the focus of this session for the students of Beyond School Programmes. This initiative mirrors the community transformation that is gradually shaping up.

Students and teachers are happily joining in the digging and planting and creating students as green ambassadors of environment in every community.

British Columbia Visitors

Thirty eight MBA students from the Sauder School, University of British Columbia visited the community centres of Beyond School Programmes.

It was a meaningful interaction including reading session, games, self defence tactics...
Sudhakar Pednekar has completed 10 years with VIDYA. In recognition for his dedication and commitment, he was felicitated with a Long Service Award on February 10. Excerpts from the letter of appreciation by Founder Chairperson,

“Congratulations on completing 10 years with VIDYA.

We are so very proud of your sincerity and loving giving that has made the Beyond School a role model programme to be replicated across the country.

The ripples of your work are visible with every student you have nurtured. Each one has learned from your discipline, courage and confidence.

Each one has today a dream! Thank you from all of us, you are an outstanding model teacher.

Blessings and best wishes”.

~ Rashmi Misra
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Bangalore
Gottigere Primary and High School

Brushing Up

The final exam time is here and the children of both the schools are busy brushing up studies done during the year. The board exams begin on March 28.

Great attention is being paid to improve English, write better and speak best.

Computer competence is being enhance by practising Excel and being comfortable with tables and charts.

Exam Time

Life Skills

The focus this month was on stress and time management. All the children are learning basics of classical dancing.

The students learnt about various states of India including the cuisine, the traditions and culture.

This activity was to inculcate a sense of pride in national unity in diversity.

The fleece blankets are oh so warm! Thank you Satish Manandi, the generous Rotarian.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Infosys Prizes

The Infosys prize ceremony was a rare event for two students of High School. They met Kofi Annan, the former General Secretary of United Nations.

It was a dream come true to meet this stalwart in person and listen to his inspiring words. Also present were the founding members of Infosys, jury members and the awardees.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Reshma K. from standard IX for winning the third prize in the Spelling Bee competition. She was featured on the front page of the Sunday Times of India.

Resham happens to be sister of Dawood, the winner of last year. Both the spelling siblings have made VIDYA proud.

Sauder Volunteers

The High School had visitors from Sauder School of Business Management, University of British Columbia. They spent the day with the students and learnt about the journey of VIDYA and strong bonds with Rotary.

Thanks to Synergy for helping with the cards and mementos. This team also visited the Mali Foundation set up.
Angel Drivers

Breaking the traditional barriers, the women from Bhagini learnt driving through Rotary Driving Classes.

Now the seven from the initial ten are working with Angel City Cabs. You will find these women drivers zipping around Bangalore in their Angel cabs setting a healthy precedent that women CAN and WILL achieve their dreams.

Encouraged by this performance, the Angel Cabs are looking forward to extend their training and strengthen the women’s expertise on the road.

Women’s Health

Eminent member of Innerwheel Club and the renowned Doctor Seemanthini addressed the women on various aspects of women’s health.

This included critical concerns of personal hygiene and other issues.
Innovatia Partnership

Innovatia, an award winning global knowledge management solutions firm based in Canada, US and India has expressed interest in partnering with VIDYA.

Liane Ghosh, the India head, and her team are willing to offer help to VIDYA women by inviting them to the Innovatia office.

This step will enhance work ethics, improve spoken English and basic computer knowledge.

Eureka Moment

VIDYA’s life lessons were highlighted by Bangalore Mirror, a popular local newspaper on February 4.

It is a crisp account of VIDYA’s journey of almost three decades of educating, empowering and transforming the less privileged.

The write up features Rashmi Misra, Founder Chairperson as she reminiscences the growth of the VIDYA seedling planted years ago.

Rashmi Misra,
VIDYA Founder Chairperson
Friends of VIDYA

Power of ONE

One seed creates a tree
One tree starts a forest
One smile begins a friendship
One candle wipes out darkness
One touch shows you care
Yes, You can make a difference!

Friends of VIDYA

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, 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.

VIDYA IS JUST A CALL AWAY