It is VIDYA’s constant endeavour to empower the GIRL CHILD. On International Women’s Day, March 8, VIDYA rededicates its resolve to educate, empower and transform the girls, particularly from less privileged families.

It is election time. It is an appeal to all the women associated with VIDYA to go out there and exercise your right to vote. Make a choice. Your vote matters.
Exams are over. Results are out. New admissions have been decided. There is a relative lull in the school as it closes for a short break before the new sessions begins in April.

At the VIDYA School, the socially challenged children, particularly the girls are groomed to achieve full potential in their academic, creative, emotional, physical, moral and spiritual development.

**Technology and Media**

It was an unusual yet useful panel discussion on “Uses and Misuses and Technology and Media” held on March 14 for students of standards VI-VIII.

The discussion entailed viewpoints by two different teams and concluded by the lead anchor. A musical programme followed the discussion.

**Cycling Around**

The juniors went around happily on their recently received tiny cycles. It was an achievement of sort showing off their riding skills.
Regular activities like elocution, music, dance, clubs, house meetings, sports, co-curricular, remedial and Yoga classes are running as usual.

The final selection procedure for nursery admission is over and the new session begins on April 4.

The students of standard I-V were tested using the comprehensive and continuous evaluation pattern whereas summative assessments were held for standards VI-IX.

Parent Teacher meet was held for the distribution for final term report cards.
Admissions and Excursions

The new admissions are already in place with 50 students for nursery and ten in other classes. An increasing enthusiasm by the parents in the parent teacher meet (PTM) is a delight.

The parents are willingly participating in the child’s performance and growth. More than 90% parents have attended the last PTM.

The new session has started on March 20. Books and stationary have been distributed to the students.

The session has started with fun filled excursions to Qutub Minar and Jamali Kamali.

The guided tours have helped the children to absorb various facets of Indian history.

The juniors visited the children park and enjoyed the swings and slides.
After the finals, came the final results.

On March 15, the results were declared with 280 out of 304 students being promoted to the next levels.

The outstanding students were rewarded for excellence.

Social Networking

A meeting was held at Bal Vihar to create a special cell for VIDYA social networking.

This process of strengthening communication has already been initiated at Bangalore.
Suhana, the Scholar

She is only 13 and already a scholar. Suhana, the standard VII student has just won the coveted first prize in Vedic and Mental Maths in her school.

She studies in Sarvodaya Vidyalaya and attends remedial classes at Munirka centre. She loves Maths which is very rare in girl students. Well done Suhana, VIDYA is proud of you.

Children’s Hope

They came. They saw and soaked in the warmth and love of children at the centre. Kavita Gugnani and Hema Rao of Children’s Hope Foundation visited the centre on March 4 and interacted with the staff and students.

Dr. Rekha Chaturvedi of VIDYA was in attendance. VIDYA is grateful for the support from Children’s Hope Foundation.

Healthy and Happy

The Family Planning Association of India conducted a health camp on March 20.

It was well attended by the Mothers along with their children to receive the care and cure tips.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Splash and Colour

Holi has special place in our hearts. It’s a festival of colour and joy.

The community women and girls of school along with the volunteers from the Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS) prepared special sweets for Holi.

The feast of sweets was followed by splash of colours.

Fun Time

After months of exam stress, the children were looking forward to some fun time.

So on March 25, an excursion to the famous Delhi Zoo was organized for the students of standards III – XII.

The Delhi Zoo is famous for its vast expansive enclosures for animals and birds to breathe free. Miles and miles of greenery captures the spirit of the visitors.

Sanjeev, the Computer Teacher, with the children at the zoo
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Pappankalan Community Development, Delhi

Music Basti for Social Change

‘Sapno ki Duniya’ is one of the songs composed by VIDYA students at Pappankalan centre. It is part of Re-Sound, a six month community music program introduced in 2013.

The objective of the program is to use Music as a medium to build critical life skills through music-learning and song-writing taught in a group based, creative and fun methodology, with at-risk children and adolescents in the National Capital Region.

The children's song talks about the world of dreams and aspirations, how while they may be young yet they are not small, but are in fact the conquerors of their dreams. This project was led by Teaching Artists Ipshita Roy and Shantanu Chaudhary from Music Basti.

The project is working with over 100 children across selected non-governmental organization partners working for education, rehabilitation and child welfare in communities including Okhla Industrial Area, Mehrauli, Kapashera, Pappankalan Dwarka, and Mahipalpur. Re-Sound is being led by a select and trained group of 20 musicians working as Teaching Artists in the program.

Under the umbrella of VIDYA, the Pappankalan project helps the community women and children to initiate changes that empower them to discover their own potential for better quality of life.
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.

**Meeting the Mentors**

It was a thanks giving session at the GE corporate office on March 5. This is the last session of the year.

Vaman Sabharwal, Managing Director Global Treasury Operations at GE Capital India, personally wished the students best of luck for their forthcoming exams.

The students were overwhelmed by the affection and guidance of GE mentors throughout the year.

To make this last meet memorable, Nasir dedicated a song while Lokesh and Akbar presented a small dance.

Beth Giruber and Bev Petterson, the GE executives from US also interacted with the students.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Career Counselling

Swati of Youth Reach Programme conducted a two days workshop on career counseling.

The students were advised about various job options available in computers, hospitality etc.

Maximum enquiries were about computer related jobs.

Testing Times

Pre Board exams were held from March 20-28.

Meanwhile National Institute of Open Schooling practical exams were also conducted.

Regular academic classes are continuing with focus on revision in preparation for the final exams.
Okhla Centre is forever a hub of amazing range of activities. Recently a workshop was organized on safe sanitation attended by 32 women.

The VIDYA staff visited the community to feel the pulse of the people regarding their water and sanitation problems.

In response to the feedback, the workshop was organized on March 4 enabling a healthy participation. The participants were motivated for collective action to keep their environment clean.

Farewell for Beyond School

A fond farewell was held for 80 students of Beyond School programme on March 8. Students of standard IV gave the farewell party to the students of standard V.

These students have had a special bonding with the school having been associated right from the beginning.

A small cultural programme along with gifts for the outgoing created an emotional send off. They were blessed by their teachers.
**2. COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**Teach India Convocation**

A convocation was organized by The Times of India Group of publications to facilitate the students who have successfully completed the three month English Speaking Course.

The students of last three batches of Teach India initiative attended the convocation in Siri Fort Auditorium on March 9 and received their certificates.

CEO of Teach India honoured VIDYA with partnership certificate received by Kulsum Farooqui. VIDYA is grateful to Teach India for supporting the programme.

**Holy Holi!**

It was a medley of colours, a sheer delight. Children were awaiting and preparing for this festival, days in advance and came with colours.

Holi has a special place in the Indian scenario when the spring has set in and summer is yet to arrive.

The flowers are in full bloom and the people enjoy being drenched in colour, going beyond difference of social caste and creed.

They hug each other with warmth and enjoy a feast. Holi at the Okhla centre continued till late evening.
On March 22, a stakeholders meet was organized.

Community people engaged in garment industry attended the meeting.

The school Principal, social workers along with police officials were in attendance.

Stakeholders Meet

Holi has a special place in the Indian scenario when the spring has set in and summer is yet to arrive.

A new empowered women force is emerging in all walks of life. To honour this force, the International Women’s Day was celebrated in Okhla Centre with gusto.

The programme outlined the achievements of women as they stand today. The women spoke fearlessly on various issues affecting them in day to day life, the safety and security being the topmost topic.

Twenty three women of adult education classes were appreciated and honoured for their courage to step out of their four walls. They were also given special kits followed by refreshments.

I Can I Will

Stakeholders Share Their Views

It’s Never Too Late to Learn!
Train the Trainer

Learning is a never ending process. The Bhavishya-yaan Mumbai in its mission to educate, empower and transform believes in keeping the trainers updated with the best training.

Recently, train the trainer module was introduced to keep the trainers abreast with the new soft skill training on various topics ranging from effective reading, curriculum development, communication skills, sensitive parental issues, critical thinking, team building etc.

The six day interactive sessions were conducted by the core management team providing a great learning experience for the facilitators and the management team.

Social Enterprise Expo

‘Abhyudaya’ 2014 was a first of its kind social festival of IIT Mumbai in early March.

The members of women’s programme and office staff from VIDYA Powai participated in this NGO and social enterprise expo.
**Computer Certification**

The 50 students of Milind Nagar centre who have successfully completed their computer course were given certification of Big Byte+ NIIT+Tally.

77 students of Powai centre received the certificates.

**Marathon Mentor**

Dinesh Hedda, a friend of VIDYA from Goa shared his full marathon running experience with the students.

He is a full marathon runner SCMM 2014 and a science hobbyist. He donated 25 science kits for the Beyond School Programme at Powai.

Thanks to Jayshree Murali, a core management team member for introducing Dinesh Hedda.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

Call and Mail

Pradeep Deshpande, an Air India Pilot and mentor of NIOS programme facilitated a recruitment call and mail from Datamatics Global Services Limited for the post of Passenger Service Executives at GVK, Santacruz Airport.

He also conducted an orientation programme for Airport recruitment and gave the youngsters an idea of preparation for the interview, documentation, dress code etc.

Fourteen VIDYA students made it to the first round of interview, thanks to his guidance.

Music Concert

Pandit Ajay Pohankar, the renowned music maestro presented the melodious Indian classical music in a concert organised by Powai Fine Arts in IIT Mumbai Auditorium.

The little ones of VIDYA were invited and enjoyed the opportunity to perform in the concert. The sang the popular VIDYA geet.
Leadership Skills

Atma, a non-profit organisation that aims to provide high quality education to underprivileged children and youth through a unique approach, conducted a knowledge sharing session on March 25.

It was attended by staff and community leaders who come specifically from the rural migrant background.

A Personal Effective Session (module 3) for VIDYA staff was organized at Hiranandani, Powai on March 29.

Forty Five students showcased the activities of 16 sessions conducted by SPROUTS at the environment exhibition for Beyond School Programme on March 29.

Margam Leads the Way

Margam programme celebrated Women’s Day with Certification of Tailoring and Mehendi course, 44 participants have successfully completed their course.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA, Bangalore
Gottigere Primary and High School

March has been a month of preparations and celebrations.

With the final exams about to begin, students of both the school are busy with preparations. A small Sharda Puja was celebrated on March 14 asking for heavenly blessings prior to the exams.

The students with 100% attendance and best all round performance along with the Student of the Year were awarded. The Sherwood High School has kindly donated books and gifts to the students of the school.

Women’s Day was also celebrated highlighting the education of girl child.

Marathon for VIDYA

The enthusiastic Canadian school children participated in the Marathon to raise funds for VIDYA.

They collected donations to sponsor scholarships for three children for the Bhavishya yaan programme.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

VIDYA Bhagini Programme
Mali Foundation

Being Woman

Bhagini is VIDYA’s women’s wing in Bangalore. Be it literacy, livelihood skills, courage, confidence...all efforts aim to strengthen the power of being a woman and lead a better quality of life.

The International Women’s Day on March 8 showcased the power of being a woman. Veena Sabhahit was the main speaker who enlightened the audience with her very simple yet profound talk on women and their daily grind.

Eminent people like Rekha Rao of Mali Foundation, Asha Amaara Khan, Smitha- friends and volunteers of VIDYA and our very own Chairperson Rashmi Misra graced the occasion.

Representatives of Association for promoting Social Action (APSA) were also present. VIDYA products were displayed for sale and awareness amidst the school, parents and art lovers of Bangalore at two locations- Dunmore School and Kynkyny Art Gallery.

JAAGO RE, elections are around. It’s a call to the women to awake, arise and exercise their right to vote. The Tata Global team has offered an initiative favouring women to make smart and good choices as they participate in elections. The Jaago Re team visited VIDYA to highlight election issues and participate intelligently.

LADIES CIRCLE is an association that has supported VIDYA by donationg a UPS for streamlining administration system. Thanks for other useful items like furniture, utensils, garments etc.
2. COMMUNITY UPDATE

**English Certification**

A major breakthrough has been made with Tagore Institute in Bangalore for certifying the women who are learning spoken English.

This step will validate the training programme and help the VIDYA learners to get the right impetus.

**Social Media Meet**

To have uniformity and a single voice as we communicate with the world at large, a social media meet was hosted in early March.

This effort will help to focus on VIDYA’s presence.
It was mentioned in the earlier issues of the Newsletter about the training of women drivers. Well, these women have done it! They have all passed the driving tests and now the training is being extended to make them completely road savvy.

Being women, they have to acquire the skills of self defence, dress code, physical and emotional abuse, road safety, civic sense and etiquette.

VIDYA is grateful to Rene Rocke– a German national who is an expert in self defence. He conducted the relevant sessions.

Rocke was introduced by Shoma Bakare– a dear friend of VIDYA. Along with these sessions, Smitha –a dedicated volunteer and friend conducted sessions on self abuse and soft skills.
Welcome to a magical flute recital by Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, the noted flute player. Pandit Chaurasia has always been a pillar of support for VIDYA and will be performing at the India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on May 3, 2014 to help VIDYA in its endeavours.

To fund the education of the children at VIDYA is a constant and ongoing challenge. The immediate concern is to raise funds for the sponsorship of the 40 new nursery admissions in VIDYA School for the year 2014-2015.

VIDYA would be grateful if YOU could be one of the sponsors of the concert and forward this letter to other corporates and business houses willing to sponsor the event.

VIDYA appreciates your caring and sharing
For Details Contact
Sarita Shahi-9868125410
Shreya-9555928062

VIDYA Integrated Development for Youth & Adults
Block S, Plot No. 3126, DLF Phase III, Gurgaon - 1220002
Tel No. =91-124-4049559
Email: delhi@vidya-india.org, office@vidya-india.org
Website: http://www.vidya-india.org