



BAAL DEVO BHAVA
Shishukunj
LET EVERY BUD BLOOM



international इतु

E-Newsletter....a bridge to Shishukunj

February 2025



Dear Bhaio and Baheno (Brothers and Sisters)

Namaste! Welcome to our Shishukunj International Setu. We are delighted to introduce our February 2025 edition of Shishukunj e-newsletter.

February is a very special month for us. It is a time when we remember our beloved brothers - L to R: Shree Devchandbhai, Shree Indubhai and Shree Vallabhbbhai; and many more who have served or been part of Shishukunj over the years. So wherever you are, please take a few moments to remember these Shishukunj souls with a prayer and a thought.

We have a few news and thoughts to share - so hope you all enjoy and become enthused by reading of Shishukunj activities and stories making a difference around the world in this issue of Setu.

- Setu Team

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“

Heroes can be big, heroes can be tall.
Heroes can be young or old,
Bhai or Ben.
Or anyone at all.
Heroes are so brave.
Heroes do great deeds.
To do whatever has to be done,
When others are in need.
So thanks to all the Shishukunj heroes,
For doing what you do.
To help those who are fragile,
We proud of you.

”



Shishukunj launches the Kilol Programme: A tribute to Vallabhbhai, Devchandbhai and Indubhai

On the 50th remembrance day of Vallabhbhai and Devchandbhai; and on inspiration by our founder member Indubhai, Shishukunj is launching the Kilol programme. The word Kilol in Gujarati denotes playfulness, merriment, fun - we would like to spread this to children who because of family circumstances find themselves displaced from their traditional communities, their families migrating in search of livelihoods. Our late elders left behind in Shishukunj a strong legacy of empathising with marginalised communities.

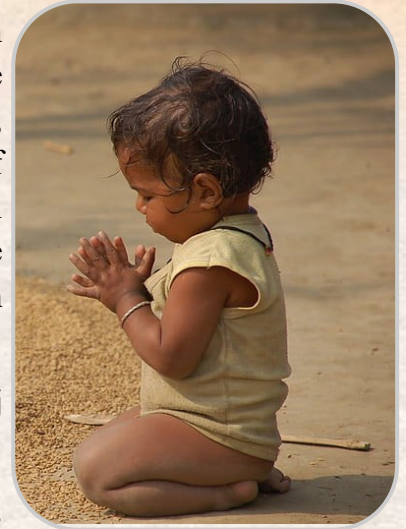
The first project in this Kilol programme will be Kilol - SIS Bhuj (Shishukunj International School Bhuj)

Our objective is to provide local children the joy of learning, playing, singing, through activities like sports, music, art, technology, and academic support, thereby fostering a holistic development experience that would otherwise be unavailable to them. These are children of agricultural migrant workers who have been enrolled in a local primary school.



Shishukunj International school Bhuj will open up its facilities for these activities. We are employing two facilitators for this project and encouraging school teachers and others to volunteer their time for this noble cause.

Children will encounter a sense of dignity and discover the joy of childhood, which otherwise would not be a given. Overtime they should be able to transfer this attitude to their neighborhoods and communities. Shishukunj Kilol Programme will benefit all - children, guides, volunteers and well wishers.



“ Education is not just academics but is life itself. Life oriented, through right living and for bettering the lives of others is the true definition of education.

This is the larger dream of the project! If you would like to contribute to this project please write to admin@shishukunj.net

”

Footprint to Handprint

- Rutvidbhai Dholakia

We are already aware of the single-use plastic menace and the threat it poses to life forms.

Slowly, but surely, students have been becoming more alert and observant to this problematic situation and have been engaging on how the extent of the problem can be reduced. Along with reducing the wastage, came the thought of re-using the waste, to create something new.

As part of our nature and art club, where we also talk about working with hands and about dignity of labour, where no work is too small, the idea to create an "otla" or a bench made of used plastic bottles stuffed hard with plastic litter and mud came up.

Soon, the visiting Bharat Darshan team and the students started bringing back used bottles and wrappers and started packing them tight.

Sitting in the winter sunlight, getting our hands dirty, working with the new group of students, we started making "bottle bricks" - each tightly packed bottle would act as a brick if it was stuffed tightly till it became almost rock hard. After passing the quality check performed by students, the bricks were handed to the construction team, where a few experienced adults, patiently guided the students on how to select the venue, mark the layout for the otlā, how to level the ground, in what ratios to mix cement and sand, how to lay the hard foundation of stone, to how to place the bottles, to how to start binding them, and then smoothening the surface. Everyday, it then needed to be watered. Using a brush, the wet cement was also scraped off to bring a bit more aesthetical appeal to the otlā via the flower shaped bottoms of the bottles.

Soon, the otlā was ready, and we now have a nice bench made of almost 200 waste bottles, which we use to sit on and watch sports, or take a break in between.

Here's to saying yes to refusing, reducing and re-using - from footprint to handprint, action!



Making of Eco Brick Otlā



Eco Brick Otlā- Work in progress



Eco Brick Otlā in use!

Shishukunj Centres around the World

AFRICA

Dar-es-Salam: Dipenbhai (E: dipentransit@gmail.com)

Diwali Grand Dinner 2024 was organised on 31st October 2024. More than 200 people attended the event. It was a fund raising event to to run the Shishukunj activities through out the year and for the maintenance of the hall. All the Sponsors, volunteers and *Karyakars* worked effortlessly to made this event a great success.



Diwali Grand Dinner

Limuru: Anilbhai (E: anilshah@acmecontainers.com) /Marthaben Ndanu (E: martha.ndanu1@gmail.com)

The second Term of the academic school calendar ended on 31st July 2024. The school closed for a three week holiday and reopened for the third term on 27th August 2024. As the third term being the shortest term, learning was the major activity taking place. The school was also preparing PP2 children who would be transiting to Grade 1 next year in various primary Schools.

It was the final year in pre-primary level for the children of PP2 Class whereby a total of 74 learners transited to Grade one at different public Comprehensive School. It was their second year in pre-primary level a total of 100 learners, transited to PP2 for 2025. Beginner class – It was their first year in pre-primary level for the PP1 Class – a total of 125 learners, transited to PP1 for 2025. They had new intake of 77 learners from 2025 beginner class, which was a success as all learners reported to school on January 8th 2025. The Kenya System of Education has fully transitioned to CBC – Competency Based Curriculum. Most of the learners have reported to school on 7th & 8th January 2025 and settled in class, as learning is progressively taking place. The third term of the school Academic ended on 23rd October 2024. The school closed for 2 months holidays (Nov to Dec) for Christmas holidays.



Snack Time



Lunch Time

Mombasa: Hinalben Vaja (hinalvaja@yahoo.com)

Shishukunj Mombasa has continued to enriching *sabhyos* through a series of culturally significant events and activities. These initiatives not only provided opportunities for creative expression but also helped foster a deep connection with our traditions and values. The various programs held were designed to engage children and adults alike, enriching their lives through cultural learning, artistic expression, and community celebration. Here's an insight of the activities carried out.

Gurupurnima Utsav, a day dedicated to honouring teachers and mentors, was celebrated with great enthusiasm with vibrant stage program that included various cultural performances, *guru vandana* and speeches by children. *Sabhyos* participated in Ganesh Utsav at Shiv mandir as well as learnt the artwork of making Ganesh-murti from clay. The Navratri and Sharad Purnima celebrations hosted by Shishukunj provided an opportunity for children to experience the vibrant cultural traditions. A workshops focused on the art of creating grain rangoli was also held. Finally, Diwali get-together at Shishukunj was a grand event that brought together children and their parents.



Making Ganpati idol with clay



Bhajan on Guru Purnima Day

Nairobi: (E: kalaniketanshishukunj@gmail.com)

For the first time ever, Kalaniketan Shishukunj organized a two day Box Cricket tournament from 17th & 18th August 2024 which was open to the general public. There was an overwhelming response. A total number of 25 teams participated in different categories.

SHIPA (Shishukunj Parents Association) organized Grandparents Day on 25th August 2024. The children honoured grandparents with *Chandlo*, *aarti*, Garland, *Mithai* and sought blessings by bowing at their feet. All grandparents felt deeply respected and appreciated. From heartfelt *Bhajans* and *Dhoons* to special games, the smiles and love shared made this day truly unforgettable. Grandparents Day at Shishukunj was pioneered by Late founder Indubhai Davey.

Ganesh chaturthi was celebrated from 7th to 9th September 2024. Ganesh Staphna was done on the morning of 7th September. The event consisted of Fancy dress competition, *Dhoons* & *Bhajans* as well as *Garba* and *Mahaprashad*. It was the first time that they hosted this festival on a large scale.

The Shishu Mela, was held on 29th September 2024. An exhilarating day of fun for the little ones with lots of games at the children's village, General stalls to keep the public engaged and mouth watering food from various food stalls. Additionally, a spectacular cultural program by the Shishukunj children.



Box Cricket- Participating Team



Ganesh Chaturthi



A special day for Children's Navratri whereby very young children were given a chance to enjoy our traditional *raas & garba* was held on 5th October 2024 in conjunction with Chinmaya Mission. The little ones came decked up in traditional attire. Diwali dinner was organized by SHIPA on 16th November 2024. Baal-din was celebrated on 1st December 2024, before closing for the year, children were taken for a fun day out at an indoor games facility. Kendra resumed on 5th January 2025 with many new intakes.

Uttarayan was celebrated on 12th January 2025 with making of *Ladoos* and Kites with the assistance of SHIPA. Yoga sessions have been introduced in the early morning Sunday Kendra.



Grand Parents Day



Shishu Mela- Performance



Fancy Dress- participant



Shishu Mela- Audiance



Shishu Mela- Stall

Totto-chan: Book Review

A child's viewpoint



The book is written from the point of view of a little six year old girl, Totto chan, who has been expelled from a regular, conventional school with its attendant insistence on 'discipline', because the child loves standing at the window, talking to strangers, inviting street musicians into the school premise, to sing for the students, and generally being the joyful self that every little six year old child can be.

This is a book about a child and children: and about the adults who can remember what it was like to be a child. If you have a child in your home, growing up in front of your eyes, you can see her reflection in the words and deeds of Totto-chan.

Read the book to recall your childhood. Read the book to savour the sharpness of good writing. Read the book to teach your children, and yourself, that there was life even before the mobile and 'Alexa' and 'Netflix' came on the scene. Read the book to remember that a child needs time and space to be a child; and that rushing her from one tuition class to the next, one 'music-lesson', or 'sports-coaching' class to the next, doesn't constitute childhood. Read the book to remind yourself that the essence of life is joy.



Dhrangadhra: (E: admin@shishukunj.net)

In the month of August, Dhrangadhra Shishukunj Kendra celebrated many festivals. On 15th August they celebrated Independence Day. The children performed dances on patriotic songs and speeches on Independence day. 10th August is observed as Lion's Day. The children observed the day and teachers explained about population and dwellings of lions in India and world as well. The school celebrated festivals like Raxabandhan, Janmashtami, and Navaratri. Rakhi making session was organized in the school before Raxabandhan. On Janmashtami children were wearing beautiful and colourful costumes and Matkifod and dandiya ras was organized in the school. On Navaratri nine girls had played the roles of Navdurga. On 5th September they celebrated Teacher's Day and students played the roles of teachers.

In sports, the children participated in Khel Mahakumbh and presented their best performances in the different tournaments and many of children achieved positions ranging from 1st to 3rd positions in district level tournaments. The children get good training under the Gujarat Sports Authority and develop their skills in the sports of their interests.



Musical Chair– Event



Sports Day– Game

Indore: For more details visit www.shishukunj.in

In the month of August Shishukunj Indore Jhalaria Campus organized award ceremony to reward and applaud the students for their academic excellence or giving 100% attendance during the year 2023 – 24. The Principal congratulated them to motivate students.

On the occasion of Independence Day, students presented a spectacular special assembly, Darpan 2024. The theme of patriotism was beautifully woven throughout the impressive program, comprising a soulful patriotic song, a captivating dance performance, and a thought-provoking skit. The students' outstanding performances instilled a sense of national pride and responsibility among the audience. By focusing on patriotism, the assembly aimed to educate young minds about the significance of national identity and the importance of being a conscientious citizen. The students of classes I and II conducted Public Speaking Event on the topic of 'India- a country of Diversity'. The Shishyans of Sr. KG participated in a paper folding activity 'Origami' and learnt art and craft. The school celebrates National Sports Day every year to honour the contribution of Major Dhyan Chand, 'the wizard of hockey' of Indian Sports. The students, along with the dedicated educators, eagerly participated in a 3 km 'Shishukunj Run.'



Worship of Lord Ganesha—Darpan



Community Helpers Roles—Darpan



Workshop on 'Personal Hygiene'

The North Campus students held Extempore Competition. The students were given the topic abruptly and they expressed their views on the topic. A shooting competition was held. The children presented an inspiring 'Nukkad Naatak' and an amazing dance performance to raise awareness among people about importance of physical fitness. Providing food for thought, their performances also highlighted the ill effects of playing games on mobile phones, tablets and play stations.

The students presented a programme highlighting the significance of Raksha Bandhan, Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Onam with dances and colourful traditional costumes. On Raksha Bandhan, the Shishyans took part in the Rakhi Making Event. They came up with unique ideas and made a variety of attractive Rakhis. The students mesmerized the audience with a captivating play on King Mahabali's life, graceful dances on Lord Krishna and Lord Ganesha, and an engaging skit on the facets of Lord Krishna's personality. The presentation also featured thought-provoking visuals and inspiring messages about Lord Ganesha. The presentation beautifully roped in the elements of tradition, culture, and values, reminding us of the importance of these festivals in our lives.

A workshop on 'Personal Hygiene' was conducted by the educators for the students. The importance of keeping the body clean was discussed thoroughly. To honour the teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day, students performed a skit. The students also observed the festivals of Navratri, Diwali and Christmas to display heritage of culture. The North Campus celebrated World Meditation Day on December 21, 2024, with great enthusiasm and purpose. The event aimed to emphasize the importance of meditation in fostering mental well-being and resilience, especially in today's fast-paced and demanding world. The North Campus celebrated World Meditation Day on December 21, 2024, with great enthusiasm and purpose. The event aimed to emphasize the importance of meditation in fostering mental well-being and resilience, especially in today's fast-paced and demanding world. North Campus, marked a memorable celebration of 'National Youth Day,' honouring the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The event was a heartfelt tribute to Swamiji's ideals of self-discipline, perseverance, and holistic development.

The school celebrated Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal on 15th January. The festival of harvest was celebrated with utmost zeal and enthusiasm. Students were taken to the stage area where a special setup was laid out to mark the occasion. The children were informed about the importance of Makar Sankranti and its distinct name in every region and the different festivities that are followed across the country. The children enjoyed their time with a vibrant and energetic Punjabi dance. The dance brought out the true essence of the day which was 'fun and festivities'. The day ended with a joyous treat of jaggery, puffed rice, sesame brittle and peanuts; the children shared the warmth of the festival with their classmates and teachers.

They celebrated 26th January and performed songs, dances and speeches on Patriotism. National flag was hoisted by the chief guest and National Anthem was sung with saluting the flag.



World Meditation Day



Onam Celebration



Christmas Celebration



**A real hero is one who does the right thing,
 when the right thing isn't easy to do...**

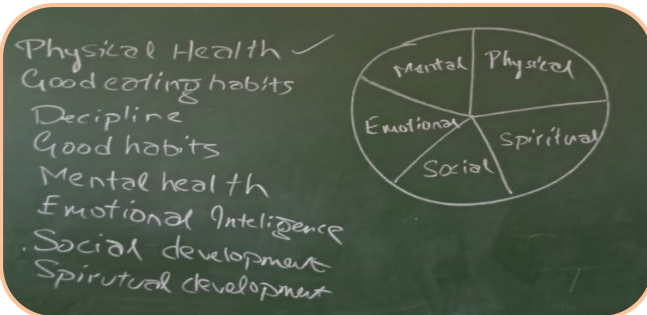


ASIA

Bengaluru: Soundarya H (E: soundarya.hanumanthappa@gmail.com) / shishukunjbengaluru@gmail.com)

Shishukunj London and Shishukunj Bengaluru is proudly sponsoring children of age group over 12 years, encouraging them to explore career opportunities that best suit their interests. Soundarya Akka, Renuka Akka, and Vani Akka conducted a career counseling session to guide the children in making informed decisions about their futures. About 60% of the sponsorships are dedicated to supporting girl children, promoting gender equality in education. The sponsored children are pursuing various streams, including pre-university courses in science, commerce, and arts, with 10% of them advancing to master's degrees.

Shishukunj started a new Center at Mysore. It conducted a series of enriching sessions with the children of Channakeshava School, focusing on holistic development. These sessions emphasized the importance of balanced nutrition, teaching children about the benefits of a well-rounded diet for their physical and mental well-being. Additionally, the program highlighted emotional intelligence, helping students understand and manage their emotions effectively, fostering empathy and resilience. Discipline was another key topic, where children learned the value of self-control and structured routines in achieving their goals. Overall, these sessions aimed to nurture well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills necessary for personal and academic success.



Holistic Development Session



Garland Making

Shishukunj has been actively engaging high-education sponsored children through virtual sessions over Google Meet. During these meetings, they discussed, about the progress of their education, any challenges they might be facing, and potential volunteering opportunities at Shishukunj Bengaluru. These sessions provide a supportive platform for the children to voice their concerns and seek guidance. They have a plan to meet once a month to share updates and introduce new technologies, ensuring that the children stay abreast of the latest advancements.

Shishukunj has started engaging children every 2nd Sunday at Bharatiya Grameen Mahila Sangh. These sessions include literary programs to foster a love for reading and writing, and Baalsabha to help children overcome stage fright and build confidence. For physical well-being, they conduct *Kavayata* and *Hukomos* sessions. There will be music lessons, art and craft activities, and many more exciting programs designed to nurture creativity and holistic development.

Shishukunj Mysore organized a series of art and craft sessions for the children of Channakeshava School. These sessions were filled with creativity and fun, as the children learned to make beautiful artificial garlands. These sessions aimed to foster a love for art and creativity. Board games and puzzles also were played by children. To improve children's pronunciation, they held phonics sessions where children learned recognition of sound and blending of sound etc.



Visit to Bharatiya Grameen Mahila Sangh

The children of Shishukunj Mysore expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the participants of the *Tuk-Tuk Ride*. In their thank you card, the children commended the participants for their adventurous spirit and resilience, drawing inspiration from their cross-country expedition. They highlighted how this unique journey exemplifies determination and teamwork, and conveyed their appreciation for the positive impact and raising funds for charity. Through these notes, the children celebrated the essence of exploration and the bonds formed along the way. Six of our Karyakars joined the *Tuk-Tuk* rally at Mangalore and rode with them till Murudeshwar. It was a unique experience for them !



Mankuva: Durgaben (E: shishukunjgujarat@gmail.com)

On 15th August, the school celebrated Independence Day. The children sang patriotic songs and performed dances on the music and songs. Festival of Raxabandhan was celebrated with great delight. The girls made Rakhis and decorated dishes. They put Rakhis, *kanku* and *chokha* to tie them on the wrist of boys. In September, Janmashtami was celebrated. Small children were dressed up in Radha- Krishn costumes. The gils were wearing colourful *chaniya-choli* and boys *kurtas- pyjama*, *kediyu* and *salwar* with crown and *Morpichh* on heads.

On the occasion of Navratri little children dressed up with traditional costume. Diwali is also one of favourite festivals for children. They beautifully drew colourful rangolis and made diyas and distributed sweets on the occasion. On the occasion of Christmas students drew a beautiful flower-vase on a paper. They painted the pots and pasted leaves of tamarind tree on it.

On 28th of December around 35 guests from London Shishukunj visited Mankuva Anganwadi. The children and teachers warmly welcomed all guests in Indian traditional way. The children presented group songs and storytelling before the guests.

On Makar Sakranti the children made kites out waste papers and decorated the campus with kites. The students performed dances on the rhymes and enjoyed the day. 26th January was celebrated with speeches on the occasion and dance performances on patriotic songs. The children were dressed up in tri-colours costumes (orange, white and green colours). They hoisted the flag and sang national anthem salting the flag.



Raxabandhan Celebration



Kite Making—Makar Sankranti



Republic Day Celebration

Shishukunj International Foundation (SIF): (E: admin@shishukunj.net) (W: www.shishukunj.net)

SIF assisted in the management work of Tuk Tuk Safarnama organised by Shishukunj London. SIF also become a part of planning and execution of Bharat Darshan team. 60 members from Shishukunj London visited the Shishukunj International projects of Gujarat.

Apart from Tuk Tuk ride members and Bharat Darshan Team, many guests like Bhaskarbhai-Meenaben, Salimbhai-Durriahben, Dinaben and Rekhaben from overseas visited the Bhuj school and other projects around Bhuj. On 26th December, SIF hosted the foundation ceremony of teachers resource centre. All the participants of Tuk Tuk Safarnama, Bharat Darshan team, SIS Bhuj children and staff and Dhanvantri school planted saplings in Vidyakunj premise.



Bharat Darshan team at Outreach Centre



Bharat Darshan team at Nilpar



Tree Plantation at Vidyakunj campus

Nilpar: Nakulbhai Bhavsar (E: gssnilpar@rediffmail.com)

In the first week of August, a few guests came from Mumbai to Nilpar. They were welcomed by hostel children. The guests distributed chocolates, notebooks and pen-pencils among children. All children were very happy to receive gifts and guests were also happy to see children's smiling faces. On the festival of *Shravan Maas* (according to Hindu calendar) *Hindola Utsav* was celebrated in the temple. All hostel children and teachers visited the Swaminarayan temple at Rapar. Children enjoyed this visit.

On 15th August, they celebrated our Independence Day with tremendous national spirit. A grand celebration was organised in Subhash ground of Rapar. In the beginning of the function, national flag was unfurled and saluted. They had Parade as well as sports and cultural programs. Under the campaign of '*Har ghar Titanga*', students held a rally. Festival of Raxabandhan reflects love between brothers and sisters. Some guests were invited to witness the celebration of Raxabandhan. The girls made Rakhis and tied them on boys' wrists symbolizing good wishes for brothers. All the boy students also grew trees expressing their love towards sisters. They enjoyed a delicious dinner including a sweet on the occasion. The Teacher's Day was celebrated in the school on 5th September. All the children had played roles of teachers with responsibilities. The students enjoyed becoming teachers and teaching other students who are actually their peers. The classes were decorated and a feast was cooked for all.

As a cultural activity, children had performed a play on "Patriotic Jagdusha". (Jagdusha was a well-known *Nagarsheth*- a businessman- in a kingdom. Jagdusha was famous for his generosity for the citizens of kingdom.) The students celebrated Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October. The children presented a drama on some of the incidents from Gandhiji's life since they can learn morals from it. Shri Rameshbhai Sanghvi and Shri Kokilaben also highlighted some events from Gandhiji's life. In the month of October, students visited a milk dairy where they saw the whole process of storing milk and other milk products and how they are packed. They also saw a documentary film on dairy products and dairy system. 3rd October is observed as The World Animal's Day. The school held an elocution competition on the topic of 'Importance of Animals and Birds for Eco System'. Some guests from Nursery Department of Rapar attended the function and gave some prizes to first three winners of competition. They also talked about some extinction of species. Thus they celebrated the day with sharing important information about importance of animals in our lives.

On the death anniversary of Shri Manibhai Sanghvi (founder of Gram Swaraj Sangh) his family was invited at the school. The children were briefed on agriculture. They had group dinner and played *garba* at the end of celebration. The children had organised a trek to '*Shiyaliyo Dungar*' to enjoy the winter. They explored new places across the trek, enjoyed local fruits like guava and sugarcane. Cyber awareness is an important part in the society. The school held a program to inform children about technology, advantages and disadvantages of using internet and how to be safe from cyber frauds.

For the development of teachers' technology skills, a training was attended at Surat by group of nine teachers. The training was about the use of smart board and software in teaching methods. The *Bharat Darshan* Team - guests from London - visited Gram Swaraj Sangh on 22nd December in the morning. The children exchanged their culture with one another. The Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm.



Raxabandhan



Children enjoying Sports



Trekking

Shishukunj International School, Bhuj: Tanujbhai Shah (E: shahtanuj@hotmail.com) / Sandhyaben Acharya (E: management@sisbhuj.org)

Grade 2 students actively participated in removing weeds from the kitchen garden. With this activity, it increases hands-on skills and experiences as well as bring children slightly closer to nature. The fifth graders attended the crafts workshops at *Khamir* (A Kutchi handwork Industry) in July to explore the local crafts of Kutch - their traditional techniques and the science, math, philosophy on which these crafts are based on, as well as their connections with nature and the several stories behind them! From pottery to bell making, from charkha spinning with cotton and wool to weaving on small looms, from indigo dye making to *Ajrakh* block printing, from lacquer work (the lac insect was a wonder !) to *Namda* wool work, children got a glimpse into the rich craft culture of Kutch, the lives and work of our local craftsmen.

The school had first Shabadshaala session of this year with the renowned folk artist Shri. Kaluram Bamaniya and his *mandli* from Rajasthan. Students thoroughly enjoyed learning *bhajans* like '*Vaari Jau re*' and '*Meera Jahar ko Pyalo pi gai re*'. Through these sessions, students not only developed a deep interest in folk music but also learned that these *bhajans* are spiritual outpourings celebrating the all-pervasive divinity in its impersonal and attribute less form.

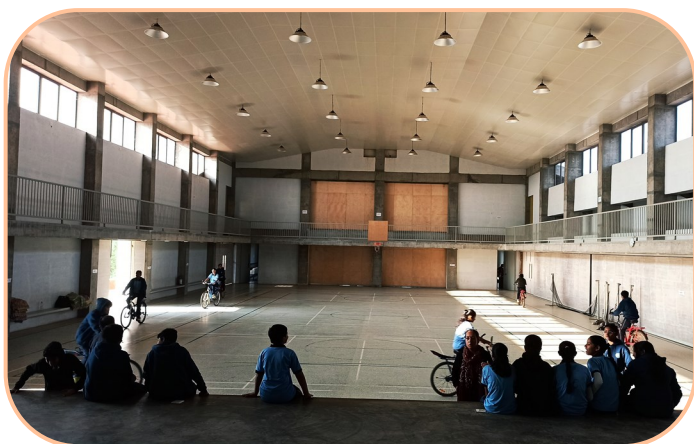
The long-awaited, 'Climbing wall' was finally ready to be used by children. Learning how to climb, how to place one's feet and hands maintaining balance, plan out a map in one's mind and adapt it on the way up (and down), needs the mind to be fully attentive and focused, while listening to the body.

Children of class 1 performed the germination activity in school. The students planted some of their favorite things like chocolate biscuits in one bowl, and seeds in another bowl to experience the result of the question "What happens next?" Grade 6 Eco - Art group completed their first group painting. Painted with mostly natural colours, this project was led by children. They led responsibly, inclusively and compassionately helping each other learn and improve. They also described their painting in writing. Students of grade 5 made *Khakhra* pizza based on a recipe from one of the chapters in Gujarati subject and the images say all about the taste.

In October, school celebrated festivals like Navratri and Diwali. As always, dancing together was an experience to cherish! On 14th November, Children's day celebrations took place, with students running the school for one complete day, as they stepped into the roles of adults. Bicycling started again as an activity, clubbed with a reading programme, and with the cycling track resurfaced again, students are having a good time getting their sports teachers to chase them!

Annual function preparations were started with a special flavour this time, since the Bhuj school was the welcoming point, where it was the Finish line for the *Tuk Tuk Safarnama 2024* - Rickshaw ride from Rameswaram to Bhuj - around 2800 km in 36 rickshaws over 13 days.

On the second day of the annual function, there was a tree plantation and short blessing ceremony of the hostel project where the teachers training centre is also beginning to take shape now. All students and parents got a chance to witness the ride and join us in welcoming everyone.



Children Cycling



Quiz

Rishibhai -a guest from London- visited the school, who spent a lot of time with teachers and students, teaching the intricacies of Kho-Kho and sports in general. The school was also visited by a team of scientists and educators from Ahmedabad who wishes to set up such a Math and Science centre in the school that it will beneficiate teachers and students of not just the Bhuj school but eventually of the neighbouring areas too. The school had the opportunity to host students from Shibumi School Bangalore. They spent a day with the students of SIS-Bhuj in the Diwali break. It was a unique opportunity to mingle, and exchange each other's cultures and backgrounds. Shabadshala *mandali* regularly visits the school and interacts with children, learning and singing newer and different verses. There was a workshop session on "Understanding Adolescents" with a renowned



Visit by Shibumi school students

practitioner and the parents. On similar lines, a session on cyber security was with children and teachers across middle school and high schools to become more aware on how to use the mobile phone and internet services more safely.

Community Outreach Programme, Bhuj: (E: admin@shishukunj.net)

They celebrate all festivals at the Kendra and make some symbolic activities related to the festivals such as drawing and colouring National Flag on 15th August, Rakhi making, idol making of Ganesha etc. They learnt to make some decorative items. They made small tables and chairs with match sticks, a wall piece with mud work and mirror work (*Abhla*) on it. They learnt to paint the pictures on papers with colours. They also learnt to print 'Tatoos'. Nensiben visits all Kendras regularly and teaches the children new things. She taught children to make pictures with spreading the paints on paper with fingers.

They obtained knowledge of identifying different coins and notes of Indian currency. They pasted different notes and coins on a chart paper and labelled them with their values. They also drew pictures of the Sun and coloured it beautifully. They learnt to make beautiful house and butterfly with thermocol and made a flower with candy sticks. They made some toys with mud work. They made a beautiful show piece with paper and plastic spoons pasting on a paper dish. They also enjoyed making different pictures with peels of pencils. They played some sports and warmed up themselves in winter days.

They had presented various activities to welcome and entertain the guests from Shishukunj London, The Bharat Darshan Team. They also learnt new things like good habits and manners from the guests. They learnt some new *Baal-geet* and rhymes. On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, children of all four kendras were given kites to enjoy the festival. Jain Mahila Mandal had distributed charts of animals pictures, vegetables pictures, alphabet charts etc.

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Kite Flying Day Celebration



Children with guests



from waste paper

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne: Nileshbhai Morker (E: truebox2222@outlook.com) Dineshbhai Varsani (E: varsani68@yahoo.com)

The second half of this year continued with more amazing events carried out by karyarkars and teams of Melbourne Kendra. The first large scale project of the year was held in mid July, The Charity and Fundraising Day. The event invited all parents and children along with members of the council to have a fun day doing many fun activities and having a chance to win great prizes in the raffle draw. Aiming to raise funds for water filtration tanks to be donated to those in need. They successfully raised the fund and were able to donate 50 water tanks.

The following events were small scale events which were conducted during our normal kendras. Rakshabandhan and Ganesh chaturthi were celebrated by educating children the importance of respective festivals. Finally the event came for that everyone always waits for. The Main shibir. They headed to YMCA discovery camp site taking everyone on board and exploring various interesting activities. Ranging from chilling *vyaayam* to thrilling new activities. Giving a chance for all *baalakos* to form a team and have fun. The last event of the year was Diwali rangoli event. This event was in combination with the fund raising event that was carried out earlier. The children first assembled the water filtration tanks that were to be shipped out to those in need and then had fun creating amazing rangolis.



Rangoli Making



YMCA Camp Site Activities



YMCA Camp Site Activities



Raxabandhan– Rakhi Making

Nature's Music By Lenore Hetrick

**I love nature's music, and summertime songs.
In the forest her great singers, gather in throngs.**

**The wind plays the harp, and the birds take the tune.
The bass part is sung by the man in the moon.**

**Each one knows his part,
To the very last letter.
And even on radio
Doesn't sound any better.**



EUROPE

London :

The *baalako* of Shishukunj London have had a variety of fun activities and events. With a continued focus on Indian culture, Baal Kendra celebrated Navratri in the month of October. The young *baalako* learnt about the celebrations involved through designing *dandiyas* with different coloured fabric and creating beautiful mirror-work *Aarti thalis*, whilst the older *baalako* delved deeper into the significance behind the 9 colours of Navratri when painting their own coasters. Food week went down a treat with Baal Kendra learning various culinary skills and having a helping hand from our parent volunteers. From making fruit skewers and cheesecakes to perfecting their *thepla* rolling and *kachori* making, the younger *baalako* thoroughly enjoyed the cooking experience! They kick-started 2025 with the theme of Harvest festival, where *baalako* explored the many ways it is celebrated across India such as Makar Sankranti in Gujarat, Lohri in Punjab and Pongal in Tamil Nadu.

Yuvak Kendra *baalako* have also taken part in plenty of fun and thought provoking activities. Devchand Gooch spent time exploring the meanings represented in the Shishukunj logo and the *Dhwaj*, the themes of gratitude in the *shloks* and significance of the *Adarsh Chintan*. Vallabh Gooch did an incredible job of preparing and delivering *baalvartas* to the younger *baalako* at kendra, ages ranging from 5 to 11. They learnt the importance of language, characterisation, tempo, distance, localisation, and hesitation, incorporating all into their *baalvarta* delivery. There has also been plenty of fun during *ramat*- sessions. Devchand Gooch showcased their impressive Indian dodge ball skills whilst Vallabh Gooch solidified teamwork skills through games like Bench ball and different variations of Chakbilu. In Indu Gooch, *baalako* received a number of sessions to aid their development in life and Shishukunj, including the importance of goal setting, and how to set objectives to achieve them as well as what a child's development journey is, and how Shishukunj's activities support this. *Baalako* of year 11's and 13's in Indu Gooch have become Deputy Heads of Year to the younger *baalako*. This is a major step in their Shishukunj journey, and will provide them with regular hands-on experience of organising activities and spending time with other children.

Shishukunj London had a fantastic *Jeevan Ghadtar Shibir* in August 2024. *Baalako* got stuck in with a variety of activities and really "switched on their potential". Despite the rainy weather, there was a buzz the entire weekend with *baalako* pushing themselves to be more independent, helping one another and working collaboratively as groups to complete challenges. Some of the activities involved *baalako* creating their own fires and cooking delicious pasta; a hilarious *manoranjan*; *ramatgamat* competition, day and night ECAs and kawayat. We look forward to future *shibirs* up and coming this year.



Navratri Celebration



Jeevan Ghadtar Shibir



Jeevan Ghadtar Shibir



In December 2024, Shishukunj London embarked on a challenge and journey of a lifetime. Headed by Hakubhai Hirani and his team, 108 participants from the UK, Kenya, Canada and Singapore and a support team of 20 others took to the roads of India and drove a Tuk Tuk to fundraise for one of our Sewa projects. The group consisted of many Shishukunj Life members and many non Shishukunj Members, who all made great efforts before the trip to fundraise for the Shishukunj Bhuj Project.

The Shishukunj International School in Bhuj, is starting a new phase where we want to build two new hostels for boys and girls and also a Teacher's Training Facility to help more underprivileged and low income children from rural Bhuj and surrounding areas. Our aim is to increase the educational reach to these children and also to teach other teachers' around India, the Shishukunj way of teaching, which is *Gamat Saathe Gnaan* and holistic development.

A bhajan bhojan was held in May 2024 at Shishukunj Bhavan, London to raise funds and enhance awareness of this project to many. Through further advertising by the participants of the Tuk Tuk Safarnama and raising awareness in their own groups and social media, the wind started to pick up on this challenge about to happen from 13-25 December 2024.

Most participants and teams arrived in India by 11 December and made their way to Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu by the 12th Dec. The challenge was to drive a tuk tuk from the southern tip of India (Rameshwaram) to the West of India (Bhuj, Gujarat) covering 3000 km over 12 days. Having had some training on the 13th Dec on how to drive a tuk tuk, gears, reverse and how to drive the vehicle on the road, we were let loose on the 14th. There were 36 Tuk Tuk's in total with three participants per tuk tuk. Each tuk tuk was decorated with its own team name/identity design and also the sponsors who generously supported the event.



On the 14th of December, we were on the road! It was going to be 6am most days so we could get 200-250km of driving in every day before dusk and be able to make a few stops along the way for lunch etc. The town driving was the most difficult straight away with gear control being really important and off course we stalled lots. It took a few days of building up our confidence to really get the hang of it and different road conditions made this all a challenge. We had to deal with bumpy roads, gravel tracks, traffic where it was stop start, pot holes which really made the two sitting at the back jump and massage their bums!!!

We often sat in the tuk tuk for 6-7 hours a day and all in the team had to be alert of the driving conditions, the route maps we used Google Maps and then in order for the support vehicles to track all of us, we had a Live locations group. Since our Tuk Tuks were new, we had the luxury of having few Atul (Company who made the tuk tuks) mechanics with us all the way where they serviced the Tuk Tuks at night, helped in the day with road repairs and also fixed them when they were involved in accidents.

Having early starts every day and driving almost 200-250 km did really challenge everything including our alertness to deal with situations. The worst was the public buses on the roads, which stopped for no one and never gave way. They were known to be the worst drivers in India. We quickly

learnt how to dodge cars, avoid cows and people and get through small spaces in order to get through the Indian Traffic!



The weather initially was warm most of the time. As we drove further north, into Gujarat it got colder in the mornings. Having an open vehicle with no closure really gave us all the elements including wind and rain! We had to wear layers for the changing climate from cold to hot in the afternoons and a cutting chai in the mornings on a road stop on the way always helped.



At a few places once we got there, we had time to do a bit of local sightseeing or walks to enjoy the town. Others we got there late which also meant we had a few places where we drove in the dark, which in itself was another challenge. The challenges we faced also meant some of our participants had accidents. This was hard as some of these participants never joined again and some even came back to the UK with fractures. This made us all nervous and still we carried on knowing that this could be us anytime. The intensity of driving in the roads increased and when going round sharp corners we learnt quickly to take it easy and not try to zip round.

One of the challenging drives was going up the Western Ghat, even though the roads were wide, the incline was steep at times and the tuk tuks was almost crawling up the hills. The roads were not all smooth, but very rough roads with pot holes and often large trucks were going up so the crawl became even slower, the idea of stalling on these inclines was often hard to start again and hill balancing became a skill too we had to learn!

The bonds we made with each other within our own tuk tukswas immense as we trusted each other with our lives. We knew how each other thought, even to the extent if one wasn't happy!!! The navigational nightmare was always a laugh as we often ended up in wrong directions, going up highways the wrong way or even ended up on prohibited roads where the other drivers looked at us in surprise!



Having so many of us on the trip, meant the bonds we made with the others on the trip was also unique as we all had different experiences which we shared over a cutting chai on the road or a sugar cane juice on the road! Having similar experiences made us all

a team of drivers willing each other on. Thankful we made it each day in the evening. It was a food heaven on the roads where garam garam vada pau and bhajia were served if not dosa and idli for breakfast.

We went to a girls' school funded by one of the other charities we support in Sayla, Gujarat and the response was electric. They were so excited to see us and we saw the benefit of education in rural areas especially for girls who were often denied an education still in India.

Our final destination was the Shishukunj International School, Bhuj in Gujarat which is what we raised funds for to build the two hostels for boys and girls and teachers' training facility. The overall programme is to provide extended set of facilities with fund raising target of approx £1.2 million.

We spent some time with the children of the school, planted trees as part of the trip and placed soil in the foundation for the hostel and training facility. We were really impressed with the level of academic ability as well as knowledge of the children with a very good grasp of the English language. They had also been following the tuk tuk trip as we went along and had a wall mural being done with wildlife flora and fauna on our route and the different states we went through.

Shishukunj London baalako had been also learning about the sewa project in the term and had all come together to send a collective message to the tuk tuk participants and to the children of Bhuj School. Overall the trip was an electrifying challenge where so many people came together for one aim of fundraising for this project and really pushed barriers to achieve the goal of getting to Bhuj safely.





The End Is Here

As the Bells Toll after an exhausting trip,
We are going back the UK to articulate our thoughts and let our bum cheeks rip,
To say it's been good would be an understatement,
for each memory created resisted abatement.

As we leave India, the world moves on,
Its vibrant colors fade to grey,
yet in our hearts, it's never gone,
Those moments of chaos and love will always stay.

If one were to say we have not become closer would be a lie,
After all we were all packed like sardines in Alibhai's car,
But on a more serious note we had the best time,
And writing this I begin feel lazy so I just hope you enjoy this rhyme.

Nihirbhai thank you for all you have done - you have acted like my metaphorical mum.
The trip you had organised has been eye opening and memory lush,
Even though we didn't have access to our blush,
Your approach guidance and wisdom made everyone feel there was no rush,
Even whilst individuals poo sat in a toilet waiting to be flushed.

To the Core Team - where does begin other than wanting to sing,
Morning and Evening, Day and Night you have cared and calling for help had never more than one ring,
When chundering and being difficult you jumped in and helped without questions,
To the point that if you all are so loved if we were to compare you all and hold an election,
No one would command a majority and gain a selection.

But back to the trip and what we saw,
To call it unforgettable will not do it justice and
to watch it via MP4 will not be like experiencing what we saw raw,

It will stay with us like pani and puri - and never leave us,
Even though we knew what we were going to see the shock and things we took for granted really made us reflect
and realised the extravagance of what we do when we make a fuss.

From Ahmedabad to Nilpar and from Nilpar to Kutch,
It seems we have seen a fair share and some may argue far too much.
But as Bharat is so vast and green, and cramped and grey - the extent of what we saw was far too little to portray
The whole orchestra where each string plucked and each key pressed -
represents a changing attitude of a shifting nation moving.

From what may have been described as pits of despair,
To an air in which individual freedoms rung and a nation in which people really cared.
But to say that that was the whole truth would be a sham,
Homes were pipes for some, or cement slabs without water -
disease rife and ideologically plagued were some farms,
Parts of Gujarat wanted to make your hearts melt,
The state which we saw was like touching a rose surrounded by thorns with each and every prick felt.

But as we have now reached our home,
I ask if you will use your pencil to the end? Treasure the opportunities presented to you?
Savour every piece of rice on your plate?
Try and make a difference where you can?
And focus on what really matters?
I know I will try, and I hope you do too.

- Aniruddhbhai Dhadphale



Shishukunj Affiliated/supported Centres around the World

Chaitanya Charitable Trust, Jamnagar: (E: info@chaitanyatrust.org)

The Chaitanya Charitable Trust conducted a tree plantation drive with support of Microsoft in Jamnagar. They try to contribute in Green Environment and make the city pollution free. They distributed blankets to the needy people to protect themselves from extreme cold. They also distributed snacks, *chikkis* made from ground nuts and *tils* in order to provide them healthy food in winter days. They don't miss any efforts to bring happiness on the faces of children. They celebrate children's birthdays and feed them with tasty food in good restaurants. They celebrated Children's Day on 14th November. All children played games and had good meals. The prizes were distributed to the winners of games. On the festivals of Christmas children enjoyed the party at a restaurant where they enjoyed good food, playing games and dancing. They distributed Diwali Kits to the children with the support of Microsoft.

They held a cleanliness campaign on Gandhi Jayanti. They had a skit on the topic of 'Save Water' and 'Grow Trees'. Use of eco bricks is one of the steps in contribution to save the world from pollution. The Chaitanya Charitable Trust organized sessions and explained about benefits of using eco bricks.



Children's Birthdays Celebrations



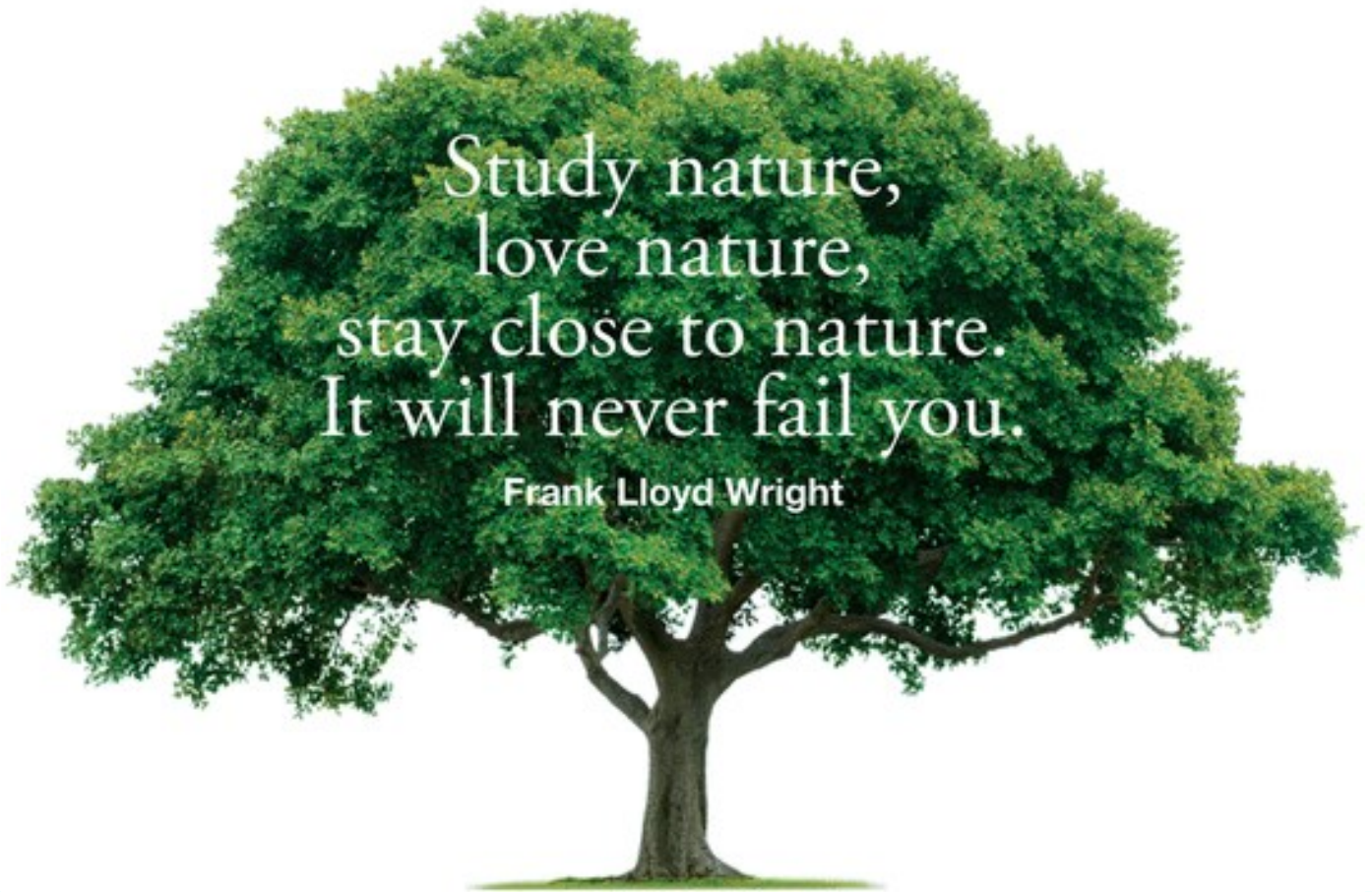
Grow Trees Campaign



Blanket Distribution

Study nature,
love nature,
stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.

Frank Lloyd Wright



Dhanvantri School, Bhuj : (E: mvkulkarni50@rediffmail.com/sardaneelamp@gmail.com)

The students of Dhanvantri School were invited to participate in Baal-mela at Khamir (A Kutchi handwork Industry) in a workshop. Total 10 students had participated in the workshop where they got chance to get training for various art & craft such as weaving of cloth, block printing on cloths, mud work, vegetable dying print etc. The students of Dhanvantri School get vocational training where they get opportunity to learn skill of different profession. As a part of their vocational training, they made Rakhis for the festival of Raxabandhan. To motivate and appreciate the efforts of those children, Rakhi-mela was organised in the school. There was a very good response from people and they had bought different items made by children.

Children visited the Milk Shop. They were acquainted with some information about storing process of milk. They knew the rate of milk, different milk products, varieties of ice crème, the reason for why we should keep milk and milk products in a cold storage and what temperature should be maintained in a cold storage etc. The students of grades 2 and 3 visited vegetable market. They learnt to identify different vegetables, how to weigh them, different units of weighing them and about the rates of vegetables.



Janmashtami Celebration



Independence Day Celebration



Navratri Celebration

Dhanvantri School organized an educational trip to Mandvi – a nearby city. Around 105 members including students, parents and teachers had participated in this tour. They visited Vijay Vilas Palace and Ambe Dham – a temple near Mandvi. Vijay Vilas Palace is a museum in the palace of former King of Kutch.

A few of the students participated in a sports competition -specially for handicapped children - held at Kera and Baladiya. All of them enjoyed very much. In cricket match, two children—Sushant and Adil won the prizes for best players. The School celebrated Sports Day in school campus itself.

As a part of Diwali celebration, students of Dhanvantri School decorated the school campus and designed beautiful rangolis. They introduced some food items and sweets to the children. They fired some crackers under safety and care of teachers. The teachers also explained students about 'Safety Rules' and taking care with precautions while firing crackers.

The Bharat Darshan Team of students, and Karykars from Shishukunj, London visited Dhanvantri School on 27th December. The students of Dhanvantri School welcomed all the guests. Guests learnt about different disabilities in different children and how to teach them. The guests interacted with the children and tried to understand their challenges. The students presented cultural programs before the guests. It was great experience for guests as well as school.



Aavishkar—Annual Function Inauguration

The school celebrated its Aavishkar-9 - an annual function on 18th January. This celebration takes place every year to tribute founder of the institute Late Dr. Shantuben Patel. In this program all handicapped and mentally impaired children perform best program with an attitude of “*Hum Kisi se Kum Nahi!*”

Shishukunj Residential School, Bagasara: (E: yvmst@rediffmail.com)

The children of Bagasara enjoyed drawing, art & craft activities. Some guests visited them from Mumbai. They allotted some activities to the children. Some guests came from Amreli who engaged them in the activity of listening a beautiful stories told by them. The students of class 7 presented project on different organs of body. One of the guests demonstrated rotation and revolution of the Earth on the International Moon Day. An interesting Computer Quiz program was organized for the children and they enjoyed the Quiz.

In sports, the children participated in Taluka Level competition and achieved 2nd position. The children played Kabaddi and volley ball tournaments. The children presented a drama on the theme of addiction and delivered a social awareness message in a parents meeting. They organized a tour to Junagadh where children visited important tourist places of Junagadh.

On 2nd October the children acted drama (“*Sonano no Sooraj Kyare Oogshe?*”). They also contribute to bring awareness among people about Green Environment. They presented a drama on the topic of ‘No use of plastic’ to control pollution. Some of the children had participated in ‘*Rangotsav*’ program at national level.

A three day ‘*Prakruti Shikshan Shibir*’ was organised by the Forest Department of Junagadh. A group of children went to attend it. The children also had participated in cartoon making and good hand writing competition.

A group of students was invited to visit Rashtriya Baal Bhavan, New Delhi. Around 50 groups were arrived from different places. They met each group and introduced themselves. In Baal Bhavan they visited Birds zoo, a museum on the theme of *Mahabharat*. There were many stalls for different activities in Baal Bhavan like block printing, drawing, *mehndi*, photography, science, entertainment, clay work, Best out of waste, stitching, an aquarium and many more stalls. The children also visited Lal Killa and Chandni Chowk.

The Bharat Darshan Team (group from Shishukunj London) visited Bagasara in December. They welcomed the guests with musical band and presented many of cultural performances. They performed a comedy drama, Hanuman Chalisa with the exercise of pyramids and many more items. It was a great meeting for all of them, the Bharat Darshan Team as well as Bagasaras Shishukunj family.

On 5th January, students enjoyed a day picnic to safari park. On the festival of Kite Flying, children made kites and ate healthy *chikkis* made with jaggery, *til* and groundnuts. They celebrated 76th Republic Day of India. Khel Mahakumbh sports event is organised by government of Gujarat. The students participated in volley ball and Kabaddi competition and won the prizes.



Hanuman Chalisa with Pyramids



Picture with Thumb Impression



Drawing Session

“

The act of creating for young children is about the process, not the outcome. Children need to explore, take risks, make their own choices. This is the richness of creativity. This is the groundwork for future solving.

-Meri Cherry ”



Saheli Gramya Vikas Sansthan Trust (Bagvadar): (E: saheligsvtrust@gmail.com)

On 15th August, school celebrated Independence Day. They performed songs, dances and dramas on the theme of Independence of India. On 5th September, they celebrated teacher's Day. Children took responsibility of teachers and played teacher's role with the guidance from teachers. The Hindu Festivals like Raxabandhan, Janmashtami, Navaratri and Ganesh Chaturthi were celebrated in a traditional manner. All the children participated in the program wearing colourful costumes and played *garba* and *dandiya raas*. They also celebrated Krishna Janmotsav with Matkifod program.

On 2nd October, children had cleanliness campaign in entire campus. They sang some prayers and *bhajans* favourite to Gandhiji. The children of Bagavdar celebrated festivals like Diwali and Gujarati New Year with making and decorating *diyas* and distributing sweets.

In December, the school held different competitions like drawing, singing and cooking. They also organised sports day and children played various games in the winter days. The prizes were distributed to the winners. On the festival of Makar Sankranti, school held Kite Making program. The children made beautiful kites with different shapes, sizes and colours. The school celebrated The Republic Day with various programs like patriotic songs, speech and flag hoisting.



Cleanliness Drive



Drawing Competition



Independence Day Celebration

Happy Faces School (Bhuj): (E: happyfacesnurseryschool@gmail.com)

Happy Faces school now known as The Mango Global Preschool. They organize many activities for kids that they can learn many new things with fun and enjoyment. The Mango Global Preschool organizes many activities for kids that they can learn many new things with fun and enjoyment. It Organized Balmela for all the children and had around more than 30 fun learning activities for kids. The school held a camp for serving sharbat to all the *padyatris* going to a temple of Ma Ashapura in Kutch. The Mango Global Preschool organised various funny games and sports events for the kids. The students of Karigar Shala visited the Mango Global Preschool and engaged the children with games. The children enjoyed playing for the whole day.

A team of *Tuk Tuk Safarnaama* and *Bharat Darshan* - guests from London visited The school in December and spent their time with the students. They tried to interact with young kids and taught new things to the students. The Police Team of Bhuj visited the school and had a session on the topic of "Good Touch and Bad Touch". The session was very fruitful because it is very important for children to become aware of identifying the difference between Good Touch and Bad Touch. The school organised a tour to Veterinary Hospital for the students as a part of hands on experience for the kids and they learnt how care is taken of sick animals in a veterinary hospital.



Bharat Darshan Team in School



Baal mela



Veterinary Hospital Visit

Shishukunj Outreach Centre, Canning (West Bengal) :

The Shishukun Outreach Kendra celebrated 2nd October with story telling on the incidents from Mahatma Gandhiji on the theme of 'Non violence and Truth'. Children made spinning wheels (charkha) with papers. Durga Puja was celebrated on 10th October. Students decorated classrooms with eco-friendly crafts. Cultural dance were performed to showcase Sundarban traditions. Teachers conducted a short awareness talk on reducing plastic waste during festivities.

Diwali was celebrated with Sweet Distribution on 31st October and 1st November. A special Diwali celebration was held where students decorated diyas and lanterns. National Education Day was observed on 11th November with the theme: "Education for All". A Tribute to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was dedicated with a speech by teachers. Drawing competition was held on the topic "My Dream School." Yoga and storytelling sessions emphasizing the importance of knowledge were organised. The Children's Day was celebrated with the theme "Every Child is a special". The students performed songs and recited self-written poems.

The World Soil Day was celebrated on 5th December. The theme was "Healthy Soil, Healthy Future" Gardening workshop were held where students planted seeds in small pots. Teachers explained the importance of soil conservation through creative storytelling. Christmas was Celebrated on 24th December with the theme "Joy of Giving" Students created Christmas cards and decorated a tree with handmade ornaments. Small gift distribution among underprivileged students was done. Teachers and students performed a short play.



Christmas Celebration



Routine day



Guests from London

Where Next?

We always welcome any feedback, thoughts from all readers of this newsletter – it inspires us to write the next issue knowing someone values the effort put in and supports in improving our newsletter. Your centre's activities, personal stories, photos would make the next issue more colourful and interesting to read.



BAAL DEVO BHAVA
LET EVERY BUD BLOOM