

BULLETIN MARICA

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Love, Peace, Harmony

December , 2015

Dear Friends and well wishers,

Great joy to all on the occasion of Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016 !

Many thanks to each of you for taking an active part in the development of the schools and the welfare of the children. Thanks to your support, we could achieve the following :

MARICA I - TOLICHOWKI -

In this term we tried to do more for children with special needs : more games, projects and activities with children witting in regular classes and sports under the leadership of a professional, . Children with special needs could interact often with their friends. All events culminated in the children's day, on November 14th.

Children with speech impairment can now pronounce vowels and took an active part in the skits. Sadia was the clever crow of Aesop's fable and received a round of applause for her good acting.

Maryam stood and delivered her short speech on the historical origin of this very special day. Mudassir came back for his 2 – months long medical isolation. He was grateful to his friends for visiting him and making a workshop at home. He participated in the mecanic crane assembly and the vegetable carving contest and got a prize.

Common projects and greetings preparation were the occasion to promote various values like friendship, communication, team spirit and acceptance of differences.

Two more children with special needs were welcome in this term : Noor Ullah and Malik. Speech and physio therapy classes started in November. Some improvement show in the children's attitude and results.

MARICA DKK

Our aunties worked hard to give the garden a clean look. Our school is now back into its original pleasant atmosphere. The main building was extended with 6 class rooms , which makes the verandah much longer. Children enjoy playing tennis table and baby foot there in the morning and read their lessons under the vigilance of Ms Prithivi, an ex-student of Marica II.

The staff recovers from the sadness felt after Mrs Afroze's demise. Teachers are dynamic again. They have to work hard and faster as this academic year is one month shorter than the previous ones. It will end on 31st March 2016 and the new academic year will start on April 1st. Children will receive all their books and stationery before going on holidays. This new calendar suits better the present time and climate.

Children participated in sports meet. Six received a gold medal and were selected to play at the national level ! Others compete at school and interschool level. More competitions will take place between 21st and 30th December.

Divyam reads class IV and gets the encouragements of all his classmates. He also gets

additional support after school to help him read more and understand concepts. On 14th November, several additional slow and sportive races were organized to suit Dyviam's wheel chair capacity. Dyviam felt excited and other children understood the feeling of sitting throughout the day. A strong friendship slowly appears and elder boys now involve Divyam in the morning exercises.

Ameen also improves. His mother carries him to class in the morning and collects him at 2.00 p.m. He now sits alone in class. just like all other children do! What else can he wish ? He walks better, understands well. Education is more tactile and verbal till he grips his pen better.

Like children of the city school at Tolichowki, DKK children use modern books teaching the state syllabus, use work sheets, do field trips and excursions which are means and occasions of learning life and concepts practically and lively. A mason was invited to Marica to show big students (possibly future civil engineers) how to prepare a wall, cement and plaster on a small surface. This small section has been painted by other students and is now the basic mural for story telling and theatre in the Nursery class.

MARICA CHEVELLA

Slowly, we progress towards the opening our vocational centre, end of December. The same technical teachers work at Chevella in the morning, then at Kesaram and finish the day at Chengomul. More news will be brought to you in our next newsletter.

MARICA KESARAM

Our new school is getting equipped with beautiful steel furniture. It is appropriate and scorpion safe. Children's belongings are well protected and equipment handy, ready for the various classes. Tiphaine our present visitor daily takes a group of children to offer special classes according to their needs. On alternate days,

- analysis of words and reading practice with some 12 dislexic children. Every year new victories are witnessed. We work along Anne Cecile's* guidance.
- games with low vision and slow learners. This method brings joy and enthusiasm to the small group. Gradually, they acquire skills and build up knowledge. Some physical flaws reduce and new capacities are discovered.

Many competitions, activities and games were organised on the occasion of the children's days. Tiphaine planned it long ahead and the event turned out to be a one-week event, much to the satisfaction of children and teachers !

The food supplement is offered three time a week. Papayas are now ripe and they are regularly offered to all. Such supplement of vitamins does good to children and teachers.

CHENGOMUL PROJECT

The tents are still present around Chevella – Kesaram, but the children have been sent back to remote villages. Some have been enrolled in the local government school. The police sees to it that no child roams in the streets in the day.

Marica has decided to follow the children back in the remote isolated country. Chengomul is the result of this move. It is a village 20 kms interior, far from Chevella. Only two government schools in telugu and urdu cater to the needs of the local population.

Educating children to English and info technology might help reduce the migration to the metropolitan city. If we start with younger children, bigger one will get the message and large companies will have the possibility of employing people at home or locally. Tiphaine and a local B Ed. Teacher started teaching the children of these two schools spoken English with dynamic and interactive methods. The principals have offered a class in their respective establishment . Parents and educators are very happy of the results obtained.

THE VISITORS

In the past 8 months, some visitors have interrupted their travels to spend some time at Marica :

Bernard et Jocy have repaired and replaced the seat covers of 5 big school buses. It was a long and tedious job ! Bernard has also done many smaller repairs in the premises while Jocy would do the stitching and help Marie Christine with more administrative and social works.

Hester and Benoit could visit Marica Kesaram and were welcome by the children in Telugu. They could shoot a small film and present it at the annual meeting of Fribourg in September.

Tiphaine, student of H.E.C. Paris has spent 2 months at Marica and will stay till end January 2016. She has led the Chengomul project and special classes for some children of Marica Kesaram. In January, she will assist in Nepal to transport the educative material to the schools in the mountain, west of Pokhara.

OTHER PROJECTS

Our partner schools in Nepal, Victor Hugo in Katmandu and Calyx school, in west Pokhara mountain use the material brought to them and they are doing well. Our next visit is due in January. Already interactive methods, maths kit , spoken English cd's and more educational material is collected and ready to be flown.

Bernard and Chenou, two Gypsies with a great heart have their own project for hostel children in poor areas of Anantapur. They have asked MC to take them to Nepal to help there too. A trip was done in February 2015. We walked up the Himalayan hills to the Arupata school, west of Pokhara where no visitors go. The next trip is scheduled for January and money already collected and ready for them.

Marica work continues with the same energy, always close to the under privileged children. Your faithful generosity « keeps our energy at the top ». We are happy to serve and confirm that all donations are used only for the welfare of the children. All transport and other travelling costs being borne by the travellers themselves.

Many thanks again for your wonderful support.
With the love of all at Marica.

Marie Christine de Rochemonteix
Fondatrice