REACH

Empowering Girls Through Education



by The Visram Foundation Newsletter

Christmas 2014

Dear Donors, Sponsors and Friends,

Greetings from the REACH Institute! We thank you for taking the time to review our Newsletter and take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Prosperous New Year.

All the children and the staff at REACH Pray for the good Health, wealth & prosperity of all our Donors and well-wishers.

We would like to share with you the developments and additions at the REACH Institute.

In June 2014, our Trustee Mr. Amin S. Visram visited the Institute with his family and spent a week with us. His wife and daughters had a wonderful time interacting with the girls.

This year, Mrunal Nelge was appointed as the Administrator, and Shubhra Gaikwad is now handling the position of Public Relations & Liaison Officer - a new position to handle all the schools and colleges the children attend and constantly look out for better schools & colleges!

This fiscal year we also welcomed some needy girls from different cultural backgrounds. We have a total of 19 new admissions this year at the Reach Institute.

On the Academic front, all the girls of Grade 10 have successfully passed their board exams and have sought admission in Junior Colleges and Grade Eleven in the Commerce and Science courses. Some of the girls are attending the Rosary Junior College. Our Grade Twelve girls from Dastur College & Don Bosco College are preparing for their board exams and they will be graduating soon.

We have also appointed a career counselor who assists and guides the girls in their career selection.

Needless to mention that these achievements have only been possible with your support, cooperation and patronage, for which we are thankful to you ALL.

Happy Holidays!!

Shubhra Gaikwad Public Relations & Liaison Officer



Our Dedicated Staff:

Mrunal our Administrator is strongly supported by the existing dedicated staff members comprising the Head Matron, Rozina Chunara and Assistant Matron Sheela Shah. Shubhra Gaikwad is making significant contributions in her capacity of Public Relations and Liaison Officer. Sheela who is from Mumbai is a caring lady and all the girls like her a lot. Sulabha continues to look after the younger children and our dedicated drivers Yuvraj & Sandeep continue to drive the girls to school and back.

Students' Council Elected: This Academic year we have again successfully established a Students Council. Fair elections and an investiture ceremony was celebrated in October 2014 in the presence of the management, staff and teachers. It was delighting to see young leaders shouldering responsibilities sincerely. All the necessary polling arrangements were made for the election.

Professional classes: We have continued with the process of providing professional classes to the Grade 10 & 12 girls for Science, Mathematics & Commerce .

New Addition: This year, we had the opportunity to get admissions for our Grade Eleven girls at the Rosary Junior College which is very reputable. The level of education at this Junior College is excellent and the staff members are very strict and disciplined. One of the girls is in the Science course while the other three girls are in Commerce.

Health check-up Camp:

We carried out the Health check-up Camp at the Institute which comprised of hemoglobin screening and dental check-up. Necessary treatment has also been carried out post the camp. The members of the Health Board also carried out a gynecology session for the girls at the Institute.

Excellence:

Two of our Grade 10 girls Farzikna Nathani & Simran Lakhani both from Stella Maris School, scored above 80% in their board exams. They were felicitated by the local Politicians for their performance and were awarded trophies & mementos as a token of appreciation.

Afreen Lalani & Taslim Samnani of Grade Twelve both from Don Bosco Junior College participated in Inter-college sports - Kho Kho (a **tag** sport played by teams of twelve players who try to avoid being touched by members of the opposing team, only 9 players of the team enter the field) and both won gold medals. They were felicitated by the college Principal.

Extra activities:

Goal setting session: The Local Education Board conducted Goal setting sessions for the girls of Grades Seven to Nine with an aim to find out the strong points in their extra-curricular activities like sports, painting, art & craft etc. They were further counselled & motivated to pursue and nurture these activities in the future to become sportsmen, artists etc.

DFC – Design for Change: This was a 3 day session organised by the Youth Board where the girls were given activities on what they would do to keep the Institute & surrounding area clean, general cleanliness, refrain from using plastic bags to save the environment, disposal of garbage from vegetables by preparing manure, etc. This concluded with a grand finale and the participants were appreciated.

General: To enable the older girls save time and concentrate more on their studies for their upcoming exams, we purchased two additional washing machines in addition to the existing ones to ease out their laundry chores. They are now able to do their laundry easily and spend more time on their studies.

This year, we have about 17 girls from Grade 10 of different schools who would be appearing for their Board exams. We have 12 girls from Pune International School, 2 girls from Stella Maris School and 3 girls from St. Francis School. After their Board exams in March 2015, they will be going to Junior Colleges.



RIFAT FIDAL

Rifat is from Kosamba village near Surat, Gujarat. She lives with her father, mother and an older brother who is doing his second year Degree in Architecture. Her father works at a Courier service and earns a minimum wage which is very difficult to sustain the family. Her mother is a housewife.

Rifat is in Grade 10 at the Pune International School and intends to become a Chartered Accountant when she graduates. She is also looking forward to making donations to the Reach Institute once she starts earning as she feels the children at Reach are her family as she has been at the Institute for 7 years.

She enjoys living at the Reach Institute which she calls home and the girls her family members. She enjoys the food and advocates that all the staff members and the Baimas (elderly helpers – women) are caring and loving.

Her hobbies are painting and singing.



Your generous gift will keep our children's faith alive.



Dreams will become realities!

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