

# MAITREYA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

**Our year was filled with excitement and fun. We are most fortunate to have made it through another year and to have you as a friend to share our stories with you. Here are some of the highlights of 2017:**

### **Heart Sutra Choir:**

A group of 13 students, consisting of 12 girls and 1 boy, had the privilege to perform the Heart Sutra to H.H. the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama at the Kalachakra in January. Their performance touched a lot of hearts, and after the performance they received numerous invitations to perform the Heart Sutra at events across India. In December this team participated in the Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage in New Delhi.



**The MS choir performing the Heart Sutra in New Delhi.**

### **Record number of pupils:**

This April, the beginning of the 2017 academic year, we started with a record number of 217 students. This is a huge increase from the 62 students we started off with in 2012. In addition, the school added an extra Class 2 B to accommodate the increased number of students. We welcomed a new teacher to our team, and added a new class 6 for the first time.

### **New Principal:**

Another highlight to the start of the new academic year, was the appointment of our new principal, Mr. Pema Tsering. Pema has been part of the MS team for almost 5 years, and joined MS as a teacher after he graduated from CUTS (Central University of Tibetan Studies). His excellent display of kindness, love, compassion and patience, as well as his passion for teaching and high ethical standards made him the perfect candidate for this role. Pema also had a book published this year, called "Reflections about Love and Happiness". We wish our new principal the best of luck and tons of success.

### **Collaboration with other schools:**

In August, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever, Maitreya School had the opportunity to collaborate with Raj Hans Public School for a friendly Kabaddi match. This created the opportunity for MS to create awareness, share our story and make new friends. We now have a good relationship, and will build on this to create a better Bodhgaya community.



**First friendly Kabaddi match.**



**Ven. Namgyel with our teachers.**

### **Universal Education Workshops:**

Ven. Namgyel had 2 workshops with our school in November, focusing on Universal Education, an idea founded by Lama Yeshe. The workshop involved all of the teachers, and also covered the 16 Guidelines. The 16 Guidelines are part of our daily routine, where each teacher gets an opportunity to cover one of the 16 Guidelines and to share it with the entire school during the morning assemblies.

### **School Exams:**

We had two formative exams so far, and we are very satisfied to have seen the increase in the November exams' pass rate. There are a number of factors which affected this, but we know that this would not have been possible without the commitment from all our teachers. They have really worked hard to increase the number of attendance and on their daily teaching. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated, creative team, and we are truly thankful for all that they do.

### **Parents Days:**

We have had 3 successful Parents-Days so far this year. This creates an opportunity for the parents to see the school, meet the teachers and ask questions to the teachers. With the last Parents-Day in December, we had an assembly hall filled with parents. The children entertained them with a fancy dress play, and the teachers, students and parents all had a good time. Having the parents participate in the Parent-Days are very important for us, as it gives both parties an opportunity to communicate any concerns and questions. So far, we have been very pleased with the attendance, and we feel positive about the future of our children.

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### **Community Service:**

So far, we have had four community service programs this year. In our December community service project, we focused on waste management. We had a team that created awareness through discussing this issue with the members of the community and informing them about the consequences of the continuous littering that's taking place. The students then lead by example when they went out into the surrounding areas and picked up all the waste and garbage, leaving the area clean and tidy.

### **Volunteers and Guests:**

We have had a number of people coming to the school, including actual volunteers coming for long terms, and short term Root Institute guests spending a couple of days with us. Amongst the volunteers were Anabela from Ecuador, giving yoga and art classes for a period of three months, Sue, coming from the United States of America, sharing her teaching skills with all the teachers and Annie Mcghee, also sharing her English and Yoga skills with us. We always welcome the Root Institute guests, as it gives us an opportunity to share our story and create awareness.



Community service cleaning with a volunteer

100 New sweaters that were bought.

### **Donations and Expenses:**

As we are growing, our expenses are also growing in order to accommodate the number of students and teachers. Not only do we need cover our day to day operational expenses, but also have larger expenses from time to time, such as yearly uniforms and sweaters, employing additional teachers and equipping additional classrooms. We have been very fortunate to have received financial donations as well as educational items through sponsors and from our Amazon wish list. Our aim is to grow our monthly membership base in order to have more of a steady source of income, making it easier for us to grow independently without the financial support from Root institute.

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our supporters again for the loving kindness they have shown and to have made it possible for us to complete another year. This would definitely not have been possible without your support.**