



RIPPLES AND RAINBOWS

Loreto Day School Sealdah
122, A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 014

December 2012

Editorial

Dear Friends,

Christmas is here again. Carols, soft twinkling Christmas lights, cookies, cakes... It's a time to feel the warmth of every "Happy Christmas" that comes with every card and a time that rekindles Christmas memories.

Friends, I often wonder why some memories are more precious than others and why some are so cherished forever. A time for nostalgia surely.

My earliest Christmas memories are two-fold. One is of my mother saying "Baby its time to design your dress.... and to this day each time I sit at her sewing machine (now mine) I think of my mom sewing my Christmas dress to perfection...of bows and ribbons, of frills and lace... a gift from my Christmas angel.

And the second is when we as a family walked to the church in the dead of night. There as we sat in silence in the darkened pews, I watched the glowing red candles, in their brass holders, with soft organ music in the background and all of us waiting, for that moment....

I guess it must have been the same years ago, when angels and shepherds, kings and princes and all mankind stopped just for that moment when the first chords of "Joy to the world..." had heralded the moment when the Prince of Peace was born. O Holy Night.

Theresa Mendes
Editor



"BORDHOMAN GIRLS"



RENOVATIONS



SCHOOL CONCERT



DANCE



FESTS

REGULAR SCHOOL NEWS

REPAIRS & RENOVATION : The entire school was on a massive operation clean up and many areas received repairs and renovations. The administrative wing has seen great changes and the office areas have got a whole new look. The junior schools is proud to announce their own little reading room and a beautiful concert hall all beautifully tiled and gleaming on the roof.

Both computer rooms have got a facelift too and more computers have been installed for the Rainbows and regular students.

School Activities : About 40 students participated in the World Marathon Challenge Race at the Gitanjali stadium organized on World Food Day to bring about awareness among children of their rights. The project was "No child is born to die, save the child"

P.T.O.

Co- Curricular: Besides academic challenges children also wish to have some recreation and so we had the Cartoon network Oggy Party as a school contact programme. During this activity the children were engaged in exciting mind boggling games and won exciting goodies as prizes. There was also a school contact programme to participate in Chota Bheem ka Fatafat formula where the children enjoyed an interesting and informative workshop on self defense. They had fun games to play and won exciting prizes from Pogo.

Quizzing : Six teams of three members each from Classes IV, V, and VI participated (mixed up to ensure balance within the team) in the Maggi Quiz,organised by Nestle and the winning team went for the city finals. In late September the students also entered for the Bournvita and Limca quizzes held at The South City International School and Gyan Manch.

Cultural Events : In late September our students participated in the Patriotic Song competition held at the Arya Samaj Mandir while a few others took part in the Sutanati cultural programme at the Shova Bazar Natya Mandir where they entered for the Dance, Song, Recitation and quiz events. They bagged the second prize in Dancing and the third prize in Singing. In September two groups of students participated in the Western and Eastern dance competition at The Indian Museum organized by Parivaar an organization working for deprived children.

Fests : At the Horlicks International Fest held at Kala Mandir in October our students participated in a few off stage events and won the third prize in Essay writing.

Art & Craft : At the Camlin inter school drawing and handwriting contests our students from Classes I to X, our students bagged many prizes.

At the Google Activity Doodle for Google "Unity in Diversity" programme students from Classes I to IV participated and the winners received lovely drawing kits. There was also an art and craft contest where the students were asked to design and decorate a box using waste materials thereby stimulating all their creative skills. The best two finalists were invited to a workshop with Rob the creative genius from Pogo. This programme was organized by Hewlett-Packard in collaboration with Pogo.

– Ms. Davinder Roy

Quizzing MI4 (Multiple Intelligence Quiz) was conducted by Zee Quiz, a creative organization of the Zee network. In order to be a part of the "final four team" the participants from the different zones of India had to go through the hurdles.

At first twenty girls were shortlisted from Loreto Sealdah, of which Purbasha Roy, Adrija Ghosh, Manochita Taraphdar and Ayantika Sen were selected to go up to the next level, which was the inter school level of the East Zone. After qualifying through the respective school levels, we were selected from amongst the three hundred odd participants from various schools across India. The quiz event was held in Mumbai in September and aired on Zee Television. We felt on top of the world, as the experience was not only fun-filled but exhilarating and inspirational. We gained a lot of self confidence and above all it opened the door of exposure for all of us.

– Ayantika Sen, Manochita Taraphdar, Class- IX

SHARAD PARIKRAMA

Come September and the city of Kolkata is draped in festive fervour and the children plunge into festive shades. For days ahead many a happy face came peeking in to sweetly ask. "Miss when is the Puja Hungama?... and of course our dear friends from the Rotary Club of Victoria did not let us down. They invited 100 children for the Sharad Parikrama on October 22. At 8 am a sleek coach arrived and the children were whisked off to the Safari park, for the flag off by none other than the bewitching beauties from Tollywood. The children went into a frenzy to see their favourite stars and it was an effort to restrain their enthusiasm. After much fanfare and photo shoots, the coaches lumbered along for a daylong joyride of pandal hopping, gorging on goodies, laughter and fun. Thank you Sarah and Rakesh Macwan and all the Rotarians.

– Theresa Mendes

SCHOOL CONCERT

In September the junior school staged their very first annual concert where all students from Classes Nursery to Class IV performed. The theme "Our beautiful and wonderful world" was a musical bonanza of poetry, songs and dance. The children paid rich tributes to Mother Nature, God's gift to us.

The brilliant performances, portrayed their awareness and appreciation of nature's beauty and the values derived from it. All the parents and families were invited over the four day presentations and the applause was altogether rewarding.

– Ms. Nilanjana Mazumdar

IT'S DEBATING TIME.....

The economics department of Bhavans Gangabux Kanoria Vidya Mandir organized an inter school debate on December 4th 2012. The motion of the day was "Unemployment is the only outcome of technological advancement". 12 schools participated such as La Martinere for Boys, South Point High school, Apeejay School etc.

I spoke against while my opponent Oindrilla Sanyal of Class XI spoke for the motion. The jury consisted of 3 eminent Economics professors. The debaters varied from being aggressive and amusing to extremely languishing.

Our deliberations were followed by the 3 judges expressing their views for the day. Dr. Menon,

professor of Economics, Lady Shree Ram College Delhi inspiring remarked that "the standard of school debating would soon overshadow the colleges..." Finally the much awaited moment of the day arrived. Amidst pervasive silence disturbed by audible heartbeats, the names of the best speakers for and against the motion were announced. To my joy I was declared the best speaker against the motion. The winners received mementos while the others received certificates of participation. It was rounded off with a photographic session. In retrospect it was a swell day with a fine blend of excitement, competition, aggression and pure fun.

– Amreeta Das, IX

CHILDREN'S DAY although the most annoying element of childhood is to be called a child yet there is one day which marks a departure from this idea, Children's Day. After a week of grueling exam hysteria we finally celebrated Children's Day on December 5th, 2012.

Adhering to the beautiful dress code set by our Principal, we children turned up flaunting our style in as child-like a manner as possible. A prayer service with nuanced speeches by our teachers followed by a round of rocking antakshari left us watching in bewilderment as our Principal and teachers struggled with the piquant Hindi numbers. After this the senior school moved upstairs where we hit the dance floor hard, while the middle school watched 4 enlightening films from the Environmental Film Festival. The day ended on a very happy note with refreshment boxes. Maybe its good to be adults but really "rocking" to be children.

– Amreeta Das, Class IX

SCHOOL FAMILY MASS

As the year ends many of us resort to reflecting on time gone by and time to come. There are mixed feelings of regret, loss, pain, joy and of course hope. It is with these myriad feelings that the staff, students and families were invited to a Mass to welcome the Advent season..

On December 1st 2012, Fr Gregory celebrated the

mass at Loreto Sealdah. The grounds were filled to capacity, the choir was superb, the homily thought provoking and the reverence awe inspiring. The preparations were done by Classes V to XII. After the mass the families enjoyed hot tea and cakes thus setting the mood for a perfect season to come.

– Theresa Mendes

Clubs :

On being inspired by the International Justice Mission a theme dance recital was organized by the Cultural Club of Loreto Sealdah with the theme being "Journey of a girl." Through the medium of dance the dancers portrayed the daily torment, trauma and anguish of hundreds of young girls who were victims of trafficking, harassment, domestic violence, deprivation and abuse, as they journey through life, at times alone and at times with desperate spouses with little or no support. This had a drastic impact as many were weeping.. Thank you Girls, it was a great initiative.

Careers

Animation Workshop: On December 12 The Scribbling Toddlers School of Animation held a day long animation workshop for Classes XI and XII at

Loreto Sealdah. This was an attempt to introduce them to the magic of animation film making and its career options. This was surely an eye opener as many encountered a whole new world and many ideas for career choices and options.

Science Aptitude Tests :

Edmiron Technologies Ltd which provides quality preparatory classes to students aspiring for careers qualifications in the fields of Science, Engineering and Medicine conducted free aptitude tests for Classes IX, X, XI and XII on December 10th 2012. It was indeed a great experience for our students who got an insight into many a preparatory model.

– Ms. Meera Paul

RAINBOW NEWS

ACADEMICS: The senior rainbows from the regular school as well as from the Baptist Mission and Corporation schools have appeared for the final examinations and have done reasonably well. Thanks to our friends from Cognizant who came religiously every Sunday to coach and prepare them for the exams.

CO- CURRICULAR : A fantastic get together was organized by Cognizant and the Mary Ward International Development Centre for the rainbows from Classes VI to VIII at Loreto Elliot Road, in September.

On September 15th Classes X, XI XII from the Rainbow attended a programme on Peace, Love and Rock-n-Roll at Nazrul Mancha.

On September 29th, at the finals of "Tal- Hunt" organized by Cognizant, the rainbows stood first in the group dance and received prizes and certificates.

SPORTS : Five rainbows were selected for the sports held at the Gitanjali Stadium on October 16th.

DIWALI was celebrated with much gusto by the rainbows. An exciting evening of fireworks, sweets and

sumptuous dinner for all the rainbows was held at Loreto Bowbazar with Alexandra Aziz as the chief guest. Every verandah, staircase, stairwell, corridor and corner was lighted with candles and the soft glow was illumined on many a cherubic face.

CHILDREN'S DAY : On November 14th Children's day was celebrated for the rainbows with great affection. Sr Flora organized a picnic to the zoo for all the little rainbows while the seniors were invited to Wipro sector V, to celebrate Children's Day, with their staff and trainees. They were welcomed by Ms Ananya and her team with sumptuous food boxes, followed by a sit and draw session in the beautifully spacious, colourful cafeteria leading to the grand open air stage performances. Our rainbows performed two dances and received prizes and much applause. Thank you Mr K.G. Mohan, Ananya and the entire Wipro team for making Children's day so special for us.

MOTHER'S MEETINGS : The usual mother's meetings were held on the last Saturdays of every month to which a good turnout of mothers and family attended.

– Ms. Wendy Seddon

GOLPO MELA : On November 21st children from many schools in Kolkata came together and spent a day at Mohur Kunj telling stories, playing games and painting, in short having a gala time and all this precipitated by a wish to celebrate Children's day with the underprivileged children of Kolkata. Peace Works collaborates with Nabadisha through the project "Share Stories Open Minds" which uses the creative medium of story telling to affect minds.

The story tellers were of all ages the youngest being

Zaiba who was just 5, yet her gestures and articulation and even her jig was heartwarming. 50 little Rainbows excitedly participated in everything that the mela had to offer. Besides storytelling there were 3 band performances by schools, games and book stalls, reading and art corners and open air workshops, all on the theme of Peace. Was it peace or tolerance? Perhaps mutual respect and sharing? Or just maybe dollops of Hope scooped in cones of fun and humour.

– Shailza Rai, from Peace Works Foundation

On Volunteering.....

It is not easy to come as a foreigner to a city like Kolkata and to work at a school where everything had changed just a few months ago; the new management still knee deep in work trying to create new structures. Obviously nobody apart from Theresa Mendes the school social worker was overtly enthusiastic about my arrival in late September 2012. However as a teacher for teenagers and young adults I had learned to cope with difficult situations and so I just put my hand and mind into whatever I could do. I worked with the older rainbows and girls from classes V and VI and it was fun, and after a while I had my own class the "Bordhoman girls" These were tribal girls from remote villages around Burdwan district. We were expected to learn and get ready to appear for the Board exams in March, so we did our best to analyze short stories from the 40's of the last century and all the conjunctions that mankind has heard of. Now, explaining what a "Balkan rug" is, to girls from a remote village of West Bengal was surely a challenge!!

Then the puja vacation set in and after some nice trips to Gopalpur on sea, the Sundarbans, Shantiniketan and of course in and around Kolkata, I initiated a small art project with the Loreto Bowbazar Rainbows. We painted pictures

based on the works of the painter and architect Hundertwasser and inserted some glittery paper snips. The results were fantastic. As my evenings were still very lonely, I was more than happy when the Rainbows invited me for the Diwali celebrations at Loreto Bowbazar. It was a great evening. The school wore a festive look with hundreds of candles lighting up every bit of the school. We began with a prayer followed by the fireworks, giggles, laughter, and fast Bollywood dances.

Finally I would like to say that there were also other remarkable encounters with the teachers and students. I thank Rooma Biswas who introduced me to wonderful Bengali cuisine at Ballygunge place and Kewpies and to a repertoire of Tagore's songs, and above all, my thousand encounters with Theresa, without whose help, and scolding's I would never have managed the public transport system or got to see how the other half lives at 6am in the morning. I would like to thank her for these impressions which I will never forget, for it is indeed encounters like these that have changed my life forever and propelled me to think beyond my comfort zone.

– Alexandra Aziz, Bremen Germany.

FROM THE PROJECTS.....MWI

We are happy to share with you the extensive work carried on by our very committed team. As Project Director for nearly a year my experience has been deep and of huge value. I am happy to be a part of every project and to see them all excel as a team. We thank each one of our visitors, volunteers and well wishers for their continuous support and trust. May God bless you all keep you in His loving care.

With warmest regards and prayers.

Sr. Flora Anthony

Human Rights Education

- # HR issues such as child marriage/ rights, child labour, gender discrimination, and care for the elderly have been integrated into the EVS text books of Standard V and will be in use from 2013.
- # 31 teachers participated in the second teacher's syllabus training programme held on 6th and 7th of September with regard to child protection and guidelines on Corporal punishment in view of the RTE Act.
- # A parent's sensitization programme was held on Sep 9th on the role of the parents and the local authority in the RTE Act, covering the municipal wards 6,7,8,9 and 10. Approx 200 parents and guests were present with the guests.
- # An orientation programme for 61 interns and 6 teachers was held for the B.Ed interns of Scottish Church College on Dec 6th on Values, Ideal Education and the Modules of HR, with a demo lesson.
- # The training for Human Rights Club leaders was held on the 8th, 9th and 10th of Oct, for 85 teachers and students on freedom, concern and gender discrimination.
- # After a year of advocacy with the Dept of Education West Bengal Govt., finally the Sarva Shiksha Mission of Purba Medinipur district included the training on Human rights in the in-service training of teachers. 100 teachers from 100 schools selected from four sub divisions of the district were trained on human rights in a two days training programme on the 26th and 27th of Nov. Sr. Cyril – Director of Inclusive Education, Dr. Devasahayam director of The Institute of Human Rights Education Madurai and members of the Loreto team were the resource persons. This is the first step towards the inclusion of Human Rights in Teacher's education.

– Ms. Christine Gupta

Hidden Domestic Child Labour : Creating Opportunities for working children was our main aim.

1. An Orientation to Teachers and training of children's groups was held from the 11th to 15th of Sept for 48 teachers and 156 children, the aim being to form peer children's groups who will identify child domestic workers and out-of-school children, to teach and mainstream them into formal schools.
2. In observation of the Child Rights week, activities such as the screening of Jiya and CRC Rights were done at the Big Bazar, Sealdah outlet from November 15th to 30th. The daily footfall was around 3000 to 4000 and on the weekends between 6000 to 7000.
3. Posters on Right to Education Act developed by the peer student groups have been distributed to various schools in the operational areas and also to 100 schools of Purba Medinipur district. These posters were also pasted all over Sealdah Station.
4. Many children also participated in a medley of events at the cultural program at Don Bosco School - Park Circus such as drawing, mehendi and Antakshari. Till date 194 children have been identified by the peer groups and have been mainstreamed into formal schools. 40 older children are into the Beautician's course and 20 boys have been enrolled for Housekeeping on completion of which they will have job placements..

- Ms. Christine Gupta

Knowledge Hub

In September we had 6 workshops for the Seminararians from Morning Star College - Barrackpore, Teachers from Banitirtha and Government schools, on skills and techniques, Human Rights, Values and Peer Teaching. A team also went to Raipur (Chhattisgarh) where they shared materials on Math's & English teaching. In November Knowledge Hub was busy visiting different schools and the book 'A Tool Kit by Teachers' was given to each Principal. The following books were developed by The Knowledge Hub Team which is now printed and ready for use along with a Tool Kit for Teachers

1. Graded English for inclusive education (class I - VI)

2. History for inclusive education for class V (English and Bengali)
3. History for inclusive education for class VI (English and Bengali)
4. Teaching Manuals Experimental Science for class V
5. Teaching Manuals Experimental Science for class VI
6. Methodology on Theme Teaching (Primary level)

The Inter School Mela was held on 10th December to felicitate all the peer groups who were trained to identify and reintegrate children back to school.

- Knowledge Hub Team

Sampurna

Lotus Child group - Ireland, who had built a Sampurna Centre last year will build another centre in Srikhanda in February. Ms. Alannah and Mrs. Anne Marie Smith visited us briefly to finalize matters before the entire group returns to build the centre. We were invited by Loreto College on December 1st to put up a stall on their campus to sell the Sampurna handicrafts, and we really appreciate this gesture by the Loreto Community. We have begun training the women inmates within the Dum Dum central Jail in collaboration with a registered Trust TRACKS, in chalk making, incense, paper bag and screen printing over 16 days workshops from December 3rd. This is a new venture and we hope to effect some changes in the lives of these women. Lastly we had a Handicraft stall at the Loreto Sealdah Fete on December 11th.

- Jhimli Dasgupta

Brickfield Schools (BFS)

The schools for migrant children in brickfields reopened in early November with the return of families to the brickfields from their homes in Bihar, Jharkhand and, occasionally, Bangladesh. 30 schools are currently running with almost 60 teachers. On an average about 50 children attend each school for the 6-7 month season. For many children this is their one experience of school in their life. When a child returns to a BFS for a second year teachers and project staff welcome them back with great affection - as if they were finding their own child again after a long absence. When the child remembers much of what she/ he learned the previous season they feel a special pride and happiness.

We are grateful to our funders in Netherlands, Ireland and UK, and to visitors who give whatever they can afford to keep the BFS running for another year. In the current season we again provide an urgent health programme for BFS workers and children with a partner - NSN- with doctors and nurses in attendance. We were able to cover half of our brickfields.

TOYS : Our younger BFS children need durable, plastic construction toys. Donations of secondhand toys by visitors and friends will be joyfully received.

- Mr. Jon Elis

Fisher Folk : This project of the Traditional Fish Worker community of Odisha (Orissa), phase II, began in May 2012. In this phase we aim to impart quality primary level education and coaching support to the children, studying in the Government schools of classes V, VI and VII and pre primary level (ICDS) education for children of 15 villages from three districts- Bhadrak, Jagatsingpur and Kendrapara

Currently we have 15 primary level centres (support schools- 15 X 50 children), where 712 children are enrolled and 15 coaching centres (50X15 children) where 572 children are enrolled plus 3 primary level (ICDS) education centres where 68 children enrolled. We have 63 teachers appointed and trained. Up to November three district level follow up trainings, was one training workshop for six resource teachers, two supervisors and the local coordinator were done.

Two community level meetings, in two districts were organized through our Odisha partner OTFWU (Odisha Traditional Fish Worker Union) in order to mobilize the local community on the issues of health and sanitation, self help groups and exploring local resources for income generation. A thrice weekly snack is provided to the children. Monitoring and evaluation is ongoing and a survey on social mapping is being done.

– Tapan Naskar

CHILDLINE : The Training on ICPS (integrated and Child Protection Scheme) communication and documentation was attended by the CHILDLINE staff. At the 'Kite Flying Festival' organised by Loreto Sealdah in association with Mass education on September 17, at the Brigade Parade Grounds on Biswakarma Puja over 250 colourful kites bearing the CHILDLINE logo, spinning tops and spools of kite thread as well as delightful snacks were distributed amongst the street and marginalised children. CHILDLINE banners were also displayed in 4 Puja pandals around Dum Dum, Khardah, Santosh Mitra Square and Park Circus. A training programme on "Introduction to Street Work" was conducted by a team from "Street Invest" co hosted by Child Line India Foundation, between 3rd to 6th December which was attended by Mehtab Ara the project coordinator.

– Mehtab Ara

Visitors and Volunteers

We arrived in Kolkata on November 22, this being our second visit to the city. We will be here up to December 29 so we will celebrate both my birthday and Christmas here. A bit of a difference for us because if we were to have celebrated these occasions in the U.K. it would have been usually cold with either snow, ice or rain! Here in Kolkata it promises to be lovely and warm with sunshine every day. In fact I bought an umbrella, as a sun shade, rather than as protection from the rain; such a thing would be unheard of in the UK.

As we are both a Teacher and a Social Worker we have enjoyed being at Loreto Sealdah. It was wonderful to see the teachers having a lot of fun as they celebrated 'Children's Day' on December 5, especially during the song competitions which they call "antakshari". We also enjoyed going to the American Center with a group of Rainbows to see the film 'Little Women' The girls are a credit to the school.

As we arrived in the run up to Christmas programmes we were involved in the assembling and packing of the Christmas gift hampers, that each of the deprived students at Loreto Sealdah receives. Our own preparations for Christmas have included buying a large cardboard star, a small Christmas tree and a set of small Santas to hang on it. This will be a much less elaborate Christmas than the one that we would experience at home, but the message remains the same and is seen in the giving of even the simplest gift to another. We wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and hope that you will find God's peace and love in your hearts.

– Sue Jenkins and Elaine Smith

Jane Bahen from Go Global University US visited us to explore the possibilities of helping us with para medical personnel and supplies.

John XXIII College Australia visited us between September 29th to October 12th and had a wonderful time in the school and Rainbows. They also traveled to Hazaribagh and returned to spend more time with the Rainbows. We are very grateful for the gifts they brought for the children's Christmas parcels and for inviting the staff to their "going away" dinner.

Peter Milligan, 4 students and staff from St Edmunds College- Canberra Australia were here for two days

Elaine Smith a English Teacher and Sue Jenkins a retired social worker from England were here with us from November end to early December. They helped in every possible area and were especially fantastic with the Christmas gift packing for all deprived children.

Belvedere College from Ireland like all years visited us with a new batch of students. They taught the Rainbows in the mornings and in the afternoons.

St. Patrick's college - Melbourne was here with 15 students for 4 days in December. They were very energetic and enjoyed their time with the Rainbows. Some students went to visit the Brickfield schools and some spent their time with the Rainbows in Loreto Bowbazar.

–Ms. Sanghita Mondal

Sr Cyril's Travels

In September to Australia as Resource Person for the International EREA (Edmund Rice Educational Association) Conference in Melbourne.

There are 49 Christian Brother Schools all over Australia and there were principals and teachers from all of them. Sr M. Cyril was invited to share her vision of education which she had successfully implemented in Loreto Sealdah over the years – a system based on Mary Ward's values of love, freedom, sincerity and justice where the children not only develop intellectually through the academic programme of the school but are also challenged emotionally through interaction with rural children, street children, children of redlight areas, trafficked children, children of different abilities, children from the brickfields and the Eastern Bypass and child labourers. Such an interaction and their reflection on it is designed to provide the sort of allround education which develops them into agents of human change for society later on. That is why the EREA and many other competent educationalists around the world are finding this model so attractive.

VISIT TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In November Sr.Cyril was invited to Prague in the Czech Republic for a film festival at which the film "Sit beside me" based on Loreto Sealdah was screened.

Sr Cyril was invited to be present for the film premiere and to answer questions asked afterwards. There were many questions then and in the workshops that followed each day for groups of teachers interested in the concept of Inclusive Education and all the other aspects of schooling such as the teaching of street children and rural children by regular students of the school and their involvement in the other outreach programmes to brickfields and the Eastern Bypass where they learn to welcome children from all backgrounds in a totally inclusive atmosphere. The people in Prague intend to set up an Inclusive Education Trust which would address the issue of exclusion all over Europe and perhaps elsewhere including Africa and India.

- Loreto International News Bureau

Dear Friends

Christmas is special time for all of us. It comes at the end of one year and the beginning of the next, the meeting of time gone by and time to come. It has been a year since I have assumed office, a year that has been hard, but also a year of many encounters of transformation, that have surely changed lives forever. At times I wondered, why did I accept the challenge and at times I felt honored to head this great school with its vibrant traditions of giving and caring... and all through 2012, I guess I have been celebrating Christmas everyday, for as each character came into play, the wonderful staff (teaching and domestic), the beautiful children, the colourful rainbows and the supportive families, I understood and appreciated their presence and placed each one in a special place in my heart, like each character in the nativity scene.

Now, as the year draws to a close and my inner self settles into peace I celebrate the connections we have with each other; I celebrate the joys to come, I celebrate the gifts we have to offer and I am full of hope for I believe Emmanuel- God is with us.

Sr Igora Pinto, ibvm
Principal

