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Updates from October - December 2013



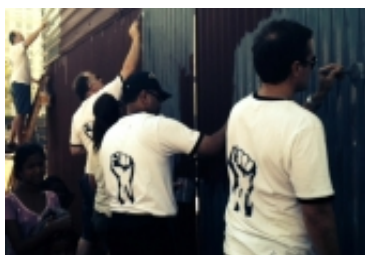
Exploring the Solar System at the Udaan Science Fest

Education - A Journey of Joyous Discoveries

THE QUARTER THAT WAS BY ASHLESHA CHITNAVIS

Children across Secondary section of Udaan squealed over a working model of a windmill and watched fascinated, the blinking lights of Dalton's model of Atomic Structure. Amidst the excitement of planets moving on separate orbits and games on nutrition and dietary facts, a group of volunteers watched with pride as their students explained each of the science projects with nervous confidence in Udaan's first ever Science Fest on 26th October 2013. 30% of these children were children with learning disabilities in varied forms. Today irrespective of his/her identified aptitude status, each participant of the Science Fest knows the significance and ways of harnessing alternative sources of energy and most importantly they believe in what they have learnt, convinced to apply it in the real world. Such experiential learning is unmatched in its learning potential. Learning by Doing gives mind space for observing and reflecting, breaking and building, questioning and concluding and leads to forming connections between theories learnt behind the desk and the real world.

The last quarter was a reinforcement of our many convictions – that experiential learning is a permanent assimilation of knowledge, that education is a journey of joyous discoveries making way for innovations and that a group of well-intentioned, motivated citizens can make it all happen.



Corporate Partner JLT brought joy and colour to Udaan and the partnership entered a truly synergetic phase with the visit of Mr. Burke, Group Chief Executive, who visited the Learning Centre and reiterated their commitment to Udaan. Further, the spirited ISMP group, constituted by the senior management of various JLT global entities, wanted to be more than mere visitors at Udaan. They plunged into all programmes, meeting a cross-section of beneficiaries to understand the organization and the children as insiders. Furthermore, armed with paint cans, brushes and rollers, they painted the Hamaari Udaan Library giving it a new and colourful look.



Festivities brought in happy moments and implicit learning. On 1st October, children reinforced the teachings of Gandhiji through an act of 3 monkeys and teachers contributed with a Nukkad Natak. Dusshera celebrations exhibited the essence of integrated curriculum with children of Kindergarten and Primary level dressed as 9 forms of Mother Durga and introduced themselves as manifestations of each strong attribute that a woman possesses. Secondary level students performed the skit on Setu Bandhan, ending on a note of work and worship. Diwali brought in new clothes for the children and parties across all grades organized by JLT and Nomura.



Co-curricular experiences led by dedicated volunteers at the Saturday Club brought many new learnings for the children. The 1st term culminated on 26th October 2013 with a presentation of different forms of Indian dance, an exhibition of experiments and working models explaining scientific concepts and more. The 2nd term began in December with new clubs such as Yoga Club, Music Club and Indoor Games Club. The latter was specially formalized keeping in focus the needs of children from remedial groups who are learning to calculate, build vocabulary and analyse concepts through games such as Chess, Pictionary and Monopoly.



Field trips followed themes with specific learning objectives at each level of the curriculum. Students of the primary level got introduced to community helpers by enjoying a ride in the fire brigade engine, a guided tour and a demonstration by the firemen of their work at the Vikroli Fire Station. At the secondary level, the focus was to create awareness about the environment and some classes went to the Bombay Natural History Society Conservation Centre whereas others mapped the flora and fauna at the Jijamata Zoo with Sprouts Environment Trust. The senior



Music and Art mark Children's day celebrations at Udaan. On Children's Day we proudly organized our very first Music Fest. Trained by Mrs. Katrani, our Music Teacher Volunteer, some students from primary grades turned into old 'Auntie Monicas' whilst others into the 'Duck family'. All students sang straight from their hearts and enthralled the audience with their singing ability. The secondary children got an opportunity to express their dreams and aspirations through another creative and powerful medium: Art. With drawings on the theme of 'Meri Udaan' and 'My Dreams' we



It is said that Noah's Ark was built by volunteers. We at Udaan experience the value of such volunteers in all our programmes. Mrs. Sharon White, has been one of these wonderful volunteers at our Computer Centre for the past 3 years. She designed the whole curriculum of the Computer Centre with systems and structures formalized in every area. After becoming an NIIT partner centre in June 2013, the curriculum was redesigned under her leadership to meet the NIIT course objectives. We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs. White who moved back to England, her home country. We

secondary children had an opportunity to be a part of the "TECHMATE" at D.Y Patil College of Engineering where they learned about innovation and entrepreneurship and were encouraged to dream big and make their ideas come true.

saw many future doctors, pilots and teachers amongst us and were inspired to give flight to those dreams. Volunteers from Atma judged the drawings and prizes were awarded to the best ones.

wish her all the best for her future and we will ensure that the Computer Centre will always maintain the culture and standards that she has established.

Empowering 800 children through Education

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