



Piali Ashar Alo

Piali Ashar Alo School

May – September 2024

The new school year in Slovenia that started in September, has already moved into the second half. It is interesting that these rhythms have "slipped under our skin" so much that we often expect them to be the same everywhere in the world. However our school year starts in January and ends in December.

These are some news from the past few months:



This year, two of our girls, who successfully passed their high school board exams, enrolled in university for bachelor degrees. Sanchita is the daughter of parents who finished only a few classes. Her mother is not employed and her father sells office supplies. No one speaks English at home but Sanchita learned the language very quickly. Thanks to her sponsors, we were able to enroll her in an English school. She took the opportunity with both hands and made a success story out of it. She has decided to study psychology and is already attending her first lectures this month.



Juthika's parents have basic education. Her mother is a domestic help and her father cleans cars. Due to financial difficulties, the parents often quarrel, occasionally one or the other leaves the home. Despite all the challenges, Juthika persevered, completed her high

school and enrolled in English studies.

Sanchita and Juthika are very cheerful, bright and ambitious girls. When they don't have classes, they come to our school and help with the younger children. They are like chaperones to our guests. They prepare presentation of India for the visitors, often take them on a tour of the village and acquaint them with Bengali customs.





We keep our fingers crossed that they will continue bravely with the same spirit. University education has been shaken by many scandals, from corruption, irregular lectures to political pressures, where all students are expected to take a political stance. Sometimes it really breaks my heart where we send these dear children of ours and I pray that they will have enough wisdom to successfully navigate the sea towards adulthood.



This year's monsoon weeks were also brightened up by POTA volunteers. This time it was Katja, two Evas, Ana and Meta. Katja is already employed as a special pedagogue, the others are students. They prepared a series of educational, musical and creative activities for the children. They helped us make Christmas and New Year greeting cards for the godparents. They also decided to jointly become the godmothers of one of our youngest girls. Thank you girls!



Silvia, a psychology student from Italy, also stayed with us for a month. She especially helped the English teachers by introducing more spirited teaching into the lessons. We also learned some Italian words. On her last day, her parents and brother surprised us with a visit. Silvia's family will also take one of our girls under their wings.

We were also visited by a large group from Slovenia, from the Maribor University District under the



coordination of Marija, a teacher who visited us 11 years ago. The group included Zan, a computer science student and photographer, Niko, Pija and Manca, medical students, Simona, a family doctor, Aljaz, an electrical engineering student, and Primoz, a priest. For our students they prepared a first aid workshop, a presentation of Maribor and lively team activities. At the end, the priest Primoz blessed all the school rooms, we concluded the day with a common prayer.

We celebrated International Earth Day in a special way. We talked about love for the environment we live in, about practical ways to keep it clean and how to take better care of plants and animals that are our friends. We also organized a march through the village to raise awareness about the importance of caring for the environment.



I am happy to write that we have finally succeeded in at least partially establishing a laboratory for simple chemical and physical experiments and biological research, which are an important component of the educational content. We hope to be able to purchase a skeleton and a microscope in the future. I can say that the learning content here is very demanding and the textbooks are very detailed. Volunteers are always amazed at how much our girls already need to know.





Second Vivekananda Bridge Tollway Company Private (Howrah – Kolkata) has been supporting us for many years. They make sure that our school is better equipped. In this year, the biggest acquisition was 4 smart boards, which enable us to have more interactive and picturesque lessons. They also sponsored school furniture, a water filter, solar panels, sewing machines and many other things. Sincere thanks to Mr. Anjan Chowdhury who believes in our work and our children.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to visit our friends and supporters, the CED family organization, in Germany during the summer holidays. We gathered together at the presentation in Munich, where we were able to present the innovations in our project, as well as the successes and challenges. Also, the president of the CED organization Dr. Susanne Pechel spoke about other projects supported by CED on other continents. Without the support of the CED organization, we would not have our new school building. In addition, they support the education of more than 40 of our children. Thank you very much!



Thank you also to everyone who came to our almost traditional presentation stall in Ljubljana. Erika - Patsy, the organizer of Artish, welcomed us as always with open arms and assigned us a booth, which we gave an Indian color, this time also with spicy snacks. Many of you visited us, mostly our former volunteers, some of them now married and mothers. It was nice to relive

shared memories. Sincere thanks also to the [Humanitarian Society Luc Upanja](#), which unites all our Slovenian friends.



Those of you who have been following us for a long time may have noticed in some photos that the girls have a different uniform. It's true: twice a week they have organized exercise and more comfortable clothes for it. The t-shirts are in four colors: blue, green, red and yellow - because the schoolgirls are organized into four groups (houses), which also compete with each other in various categories: from sports to creative.



We also continue with tailoring and hairdressing/cosmetology courses. Computer and conversational English spoken courses are also available. All programs are open and intended for anyone who would like to acquire new skills. The most popular course is the tailoring course, where women learn various sewing and tailoring techniques from planning to final production.



Thanks to all of you who make our service to Piali community possible.

Your Piali Ashar Alo Family

www.pialiasharalo.org