



# b-in-touch

"Educating minds...strengthening roots...for a better tomorrow."

## Issue Highlights

- Inspection of Nurseries
- Fancy Dress and Poetry competition
- General Health Check-up Camp
- A day filled with colors
- Best Female Student & Male Student Award
- Best Teacher Award
- English Conversation Program

## Inspection of Nurseries

At *Buniyaad*, we believe in Best Practices and, Annual Inspection is an important element for Assessment and Progress. **Mrs. Padma Desai** a volunteer teacher with *Vidya* for a few years now, and also an in house Volunteer with the English Conversation for women, who, undertook the task of Inspection for 2011-12. Mrs. Desai gave her invaluable inputs post inspection, which was held in Jan. 2012. She found that the Nurseries functioned well given the prevalent conditions in which the teachers and Nurseries thrive. She penned her thoughts and we take this opportunity to share the same with our readers. The

**I have worked with Mobile Crèche children for some time now. I am used to their shrieks and screams. The toddlers' bashing up each other is considered normal. So, when I was asked to inspect *Buniyaad* Nurseries, I didn't know what exactly to expect, even though, these were "*Buniyaad* Nurseries". Besides, I had never been to these localities before.**

So, I was pleasantly surprised when on a chilly wintery morning, I was greeted by clean, freshly bathed and well-dressed *Buniyaad* toddlers. And when they sat down, religiously closed their eyes and started reciting prayers, they made my day! All the nurseries were well equipped with different charts and other teaching aids. The worksheets were complete. Most of the children could recognize colors, shapes, animals, birds, vegetables etc. Even the shy children were ready to talk and answer little later. The efforts of all the teachers were visible. I felt at Parksite *Tekdi* class the children were squeezed

into a tiny place. But surprisingly even there children looked quite happy.

**Thank you *Buniyaad* for giving me an opportunity to spend time with the lovely kids. I wish *Buniyaad* Nurseries All the Best!**

## Fancy Dress and Poetry competition

The Poetry Recitation and Fancy Dress competition kicked off on a crisp morning of 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 at Nirvana Park at Hiranandani Gardens, Powai. The excitement in the air was palpable with students from all nurseries coming in droves and teachers and volunteers organizing the participants and teachers. All the fancy dress apparels were sourced from homes, displaying resourcefulness. Children in different colored outfits and even different colored faces milled around! The competition commenced with an opening address by Mrs. Saigita Narayan, one of the founder members of *Buniyaad*. **Mrs. Sapna Bajaj & Mrs. Swikriti Sengupta** were the judges for Fancy Dress while **Mrs. Nirupma Rao & Mrs Kavita Asher** presided as judges for the Poetry Recitation competition.

The children were soon segregated for the poetry competition and the fancy dress competition respectively. Children in the poetry recitation were undaunted by new faces of the judges and by the length



of their English poems. Some of the little one's immaculate recitations bowled the judges over completely. Students were given some well known and

some very new poems to spike their interest levels like- 'The baby in the cradle, goes rock-a-rock-a rock', 'An Elephant walks like this and that, He is terribly tall and terribly fat'. These poems were selected on the basis of the age of the students and varied in length and the difficulty of the words used. First prize was bagged by **Sweta Gaikwad** from Nursery No. 3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize by



**Prateeksha Sonkamble** from Nursery No.2 and **Aryan Rajput** from Nursery No. 4 won the 3rd Prize.

The Fancy Dress competition saw children dressed as consumer goods of everyday use. The emphasis was on products, which benefitted them and brought about a better lifestyle. Innovative

ideas came to the fore as kids paraded around as toothpastes, washing powders, milk cartons & biscuits among other things. They also had to say a one-liner or sing a jingle describing the benefits of the products. The third prize went to a duo presented as 'Surf Excel'. While one child was dressed in Surf Excel packet the other child introduced

him and described his benefits as a washing powder. The second prize was bagged by a group of girls dressed in pristine white advertising **Nirma** by way of the popular jingle "Washing powder Nirma doodh si safedi..." The beauty



of this piece was the sheer confidence of the girls who presented their piece without the help of extraordinary costumes. But the first prize was easily for the child who



came dressed as **Crown TV**. This costume was striking in terms of the effort taken to make it look real. The young participant advertised a

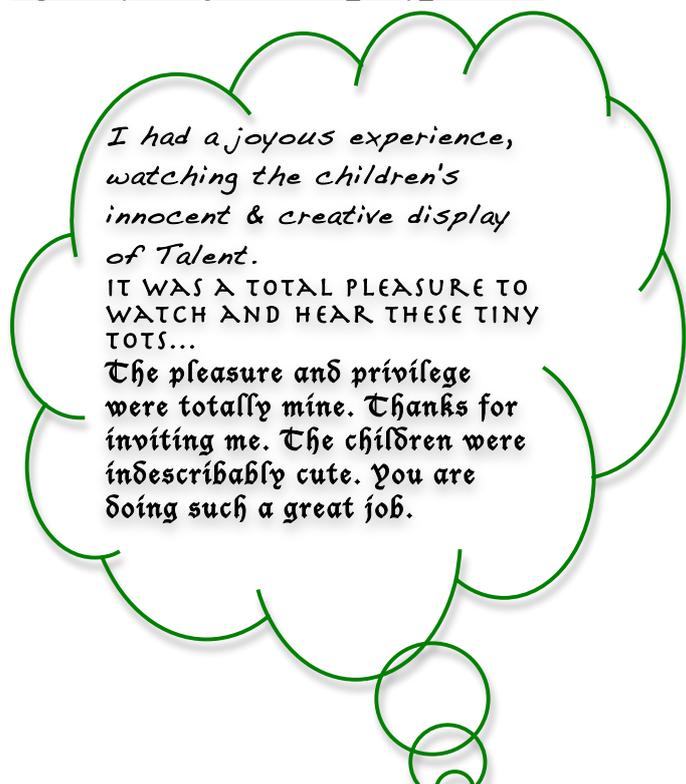
popular Salman Khan song saying "ab **Crown TV** par dekhiye Salman Khan ka gana dinkachika dinkachika

oh oh oh..." on it with much confidence and gusto, thereby winning the judges' hearts.



Mrs.Vibha Kulkarni, a *Buniyaad* member signed off the event with a closing address and sincere thanks to all the Judges for gracing the occasion and to the teachers for their efforts. All the teachers and staff were then given gifts as a token of appreciation.

[http://buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_fancy\\_dress.html](http://buniyaad.org.in/activities_fancy_dress.html)



*I had a joyous experience, watching the children's innocent & creative display of Talent.*

**IT WAS A TOTAL PLEASURE TO WATCH AND HEAR THESE TINY TOTS...**

**The pleasure and privilege were totally mine. Thanks for inviting me. The children were indescribably cute. You are doing such a great job.**



### General Health Check-Up Camp

The concluding session of General Health Check-Up Camp for the Academic Year 2011-2012 was held across all Nurseries from 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February 2012. **Dr Rashmi Shrivastav, Dr. Kenia and Dr. Geeta** took out time to conduct the camps. During the check-up, basic physical parameters of each child were recorded and compared with previous recordings. In some cases, the Doctors were pleased with the parents who had put in extra efforts to incorporate health tips given to them. In some other cases, the doctor reiterated the necessity to introduce and maintain healthy eating habits.

Medicines for treating common and chronic ailments were dispensed free of cost and children with specific ailments were referred to specialists. The camp was successfully completed with the help of Class-Teachers, Volunteers from *Buniyaad* and parents who provided medical details pertaining to children for correct diagnosis. We, at *Buniyaad*, extend our heartfelt



thanks to doctors for extending their valuable support.

### A day filled with colors:

#### Intra- class coloring competition and Holi Celebration

*The only competition worthy of a wise man is with himself. Washington Allston.*



This year *Buniyaad* introduced the Intra-class Coloring Competition for the kids. Coloring is the favorite pursuit of children and also helps in fine-tuning the finer motor skills of preschoolers. Students were provided with a

pre-drawn sheet of a castle and were asked to color it in any colors they wanted. Remarkable improvement was seen in the strokes of children who would earlier just scribble. Two winners were selected from each class- **Krishnadeep and Prem from Nursery No. 1, Shradha Saroj and Ayush Bobde from Nursery No.2, Mayuri and Vedant from Nursery No. 3, Nidhi Chavan and Aryan Rajput from Nursery no 4.**



[http://buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_classactivity.html](http://buniyaad.org.in/activities_classactivity.html)

The day was filled with colors as the coloring competition was combined with the *Holi* celebrations.

**Mrs. Hema Kodi**, an active Volunteer with *Buniyaad* shared her experiences with us. [http://buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_celebration.html](http://buniyaad.org.in/activities_celebration.html)

*Holi*, the festival of colors brings with it fun and joy. Every year, we, at *Buniyaad*, celebrate *Holi* with our tiny tots. The much-awaited day arrived and the kids were excited when they saw the *Holi* colors and the sweets. On the day of the *Holi* celebration, we also had intra-class coloring competition. After the students finished coloring we had a short talk with the kids regarding the festival. They were very excited and few kids told us that they play *Holi* with their *pichkaris*, apply color to their neighbors, parents, siblings etc. We applied herbal *gulal* to each child and distributed sweets and savories. Kids were overjoyed and we, as Volunteers, carried the sweet memories with us.

### Results: Best Female Student Award And Best Male Student Award

*If you care enough for a result, you will most certainly attain it - William James*

Even when they are the final assessments of *Buniyaad*!! During an academic year, students of *Buniyaad* Nursery and Playgroup learn poems, songs, alphabets, numbers, art and craft, etc. Finally, comes the time to bid adieu to *Buniyaad* and set out in the world called School.

The first week of April saw the culmination of all the efforts put in by the teachers, volunteers and the students. Students appeared for their final assessments. As protocol, Team *Buniyaad* needs to decide top two students. As in the past, this year also the task was very difficult. The whole year's all-round performance (in academics, competitions, class participation etc.) is considered. After much deliberation the names of the **Best Female Student and the Best Male Student** were decided.

**Miss Pratiksha Sonkamble from Nursery No. 2 Milind Nagar and Master Aryan Rajput from Nursery No. 4 IIT Tirandaz** were awarded the **Best**



**Female Student and Best Male Student Award** respectively. As the recipients of the Top Awards, the children receive cash prize, a certificate and a Trophy from *Buniyaad* Nursery and Playgroup.

The Nurseries now close for the Summer Holidays.

[http://buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_reports.html](http://buniyaad.org.in/activities_reports.html)

### **Best Teacher Award**

*Buniyaad* offers various opportunities to the teachers to expand their horizon. The teachers try and win as many inter-nursery competitions as possible throughout the year. But, the **Best Teacher Award** remains the most coveted amongst all. Team *Buniyaad* evaluates the class teachers for their overall performance in and out of the



classroom. This involves academic and extra-curricular skill-sets, efforts to improve teaching in the classroom etc. The Inspection Report also forms an integral part in deciding the Best Teacher Award. Based on these criteria, in the Academic Year

2011-12, the **Best Teacher Award** goes to **Mrs. Sarika Matode**. Our readers may remember that Mrs. *Matode* was the winner of Best Teacher Award last year as well!! Team *Buniyaad* congratulates Mrs. *Matode* and wishes her all the very best for future endeavors.

The Editorial Team chatted up with Mrs. *Matode* to gain insight into factors motivating her and dig out the secret of success in two consecutive years!!! Log on to <http://buniyaad.org.in/partners.html> to read the interview.

### **English Conversation Program for Women**

*Buniyaad* provides a platform for those with a deep desire to speak in the global language 'English'. They may have missed out on opportunities in life earlier but

are now foraying into the world of spoken English. Their enrolment in *Buniyaad's* English Conversation Program is the first bold step. The program is meant for women of all age groups with basic knowledge of English reading, writing and comprehension. At present, the English Conversation Program is being conducted at the premises sponsored by '**The Byke**' in Powai Plaza, Hiranandani Gardens. These classes are conducted in a very friendly atmosphere, keeping in mind that the students are 'going back to school'. This helps the



students overcome their inhibitions. At the same time, quality is not compromised in any manner. Students have various sessions, coursework, role-play **and** assessments!!

Each session begins

with revising the salient points from the previous day and are seamlessly incorporated in the current session. Lesson plans are designed to help the students relate to their day-to-day activities and express this in simple English. This is utilized in the students' lives when they are teaching their children or conducting daily business. Fine nuances of the language are highlighted and taught which gives the students an edge over others. 'I could read everything, but not understand much; I could not express my thoughts fluently in English; I thought grammar is just to be memorized' – these were the common problems faced by most of the students. By and large the attitude now is to pursue their dreams with confidence.

One of the students, **Mrs. Priya P. Rane** expressed her sentiments in the following manner – "Till last year I had to keep quiet when my child asked me questions. Today I am proud to be able to answer her every question. What I have learnt here is not only bookish knowledge. My self-confidence has increased manifold

and I thank my in-laws and my husband to have supported me through out."

**Mrs. Mitali Jadhav**, another student says confidently,

"Today when I have learnt to

express my thoughts and ideas fluently in English, I feel that sky is the limit for my future".



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