

Newsletter from The Vatsalya Foundation October - December 2013

Dear Friends,

The quarter October-December marks the half yearly exams for the children at Vatsalya and lots of visitors from Mumbai and abroad. The quarter is special due to the annual day of Vatsalya as well as Dussera, Diwali and Christmas.

Education

Apart from school studies the children of Vatsalya are exposed to various other means of gaining knowledge and developing personality. One such event was a quiz co-ordinated by Concern India Foundation and Sanofi Company held on 9th December at Andheri. Arif, Avinash, Bablu from Shelter Home won the second prize in the general knowledge quiz in which three other groups had participated. The children also got the opportunity to visit the marketing, finance and admin departments in the Sanofi Company's office premises.

To be able to address an audience of 200 with confidence and clarity is not a small feat for children of 12-14 years age. On 9th November Anil Gonel and Rohit Sahu from Vatsalya's Shelter Home gave introduction of the organisation and its work to an audience of 200 students of the St. Stanislaus High school, Bandra. Impressed by the description of Vatsalya's work and the confidence of the boys, the students later visited the Shelter Home and spent time with the boys.

Festivals of the season



Durga Puja and Dussera were celebrated by the children of Vatsalya by participating in the events of Puja at Bengal Club, Dadar. They participated in pottery-making, fabric painting and drawing workshops and competitions. Diwali was celebrated by sharing sweets and lighting up *diyas*. The *diyas* were painted by the children of all the centres and sold in various exhibitions.

Every year Christmas brings smile and happiness to the children of Vatsalya as many donors, friends and well-wishers come to celebrate the festival with them. Children too are eager to decorate the crib for the baby Christ and lit candles. A group of employees of **Juris Corp** Company visited the Shelter Home on 21st December to celebrate Christmas with the children. The group conducted a Collage Competition for the children and gave away three prizes. The children enjoyed preparing collage on different themes giving expression to their ideas and views. Another Christmas party for the Vatsalya children happened at **CCI club, Churchgate** on 22nd December. The party in the stadium was filled with fun and frolic as they enjoyed the space by running and playing games. They got the opportunity to meet and interact with children of Municipal Schools and private schools who had come to the party. **Rotary Club of HR College** also celebrated Christmas on 23rd Dec 2013 at the Shelter home which was a surprise for the children.

Art & Craft



The children at Vatsalya are encouraged to participate in various sessions and workshops on art and craft in order that their energies are channelized in creative directions. A session on making *akash kandil* (hanging decorative lamp for Diwali) and greeting cards was conducted at the Shelter Home by the Vatsalya team on October 25th. Another session on fabric painting was conducted on October 27th at the Shelter Home At Bandra centre the children learnt to make glass painting, fabric painting Making masks and greeting cards over a number of sessions.

Vatsalya celebrates its Foundation Day!



'Sneh Milan' provided more than 300 kids from all the centres of Vatsalya a platform to perform on the stage. From *Koli* song to Bollywood hits, they performed many dances and expressed their joy. The audience comprised donors and supporters of Vatsalya.



Outings - Children's Day on November 14th brought cheers to the children of Vatsalya when they were taken for an outing to Hajali where they saw the mosque and took dip in the waters of the sea.

40 boys from Shelter home and 20 girls from the Mahim Centre got the opportunity to enjoy games, dance, and ice-skating on 29th December at the Essel world sponsored by Mittal-Shah Group.

Corporates and Civil Society organisations

Team members of **LRN Company** visited the Shelter Home on 3rd December to interact with the children. The team members enjoyed serving a special lunch to the children while the children amazed them by their dancing talent. **Clariant** Company, Thane on 11th October on the occasion of their annual day invited Vatsalya's children to perform a dance number for their employees.



IAS Officers Wives Association (IASOWA) visited the Shelter Home on 18th November and donated library cupboard and games materials. Mrs. Manju Bhatiya, wife of the Chief Secretary, Maharashtra Government and her colleagues commented, "*Vatsalya's children are very good, they are very happy and creative children*". Members of **Revenue Offices for Women Association (ROWA)** visited the Shelter Home on 19th December and distributed food items to the children. The ladies from **Lioness Club of Breach candy** sponsored a special lunch for the children and interacted with them on 18th November.



Volunteers from **Tinkle** magazine for children visited Vatsalya and conducted drawing session for the children. They distributed story books and the children performed dances for them.

Health

A medical camp was organised on 15th December by **Khushiyan** organization. 55 children participated in this camp in which a paediatrician and an ophthalmologist conducted a check-up of the children.

Performing Arts

The children participated in the **Star Nite** programme on 27th December organised by Star Dance Academy at Nehru Centre. The children performed two dances and got appreciation from the guests and audience.



Sports - "Batizado" Capoeira

As many as 20 boys from the Shelter Home participated in the annual graduation function of the Capoeira, the Brazilian martial art on 19th, 20th and 22nd November. They passed initial, first and second levels and got yellow, Yellow-Green and Green belt respectively from the maestros.

Warm regards,

The Vatsalya Foundation Team

(For further information please contact at info@thevatsalyafoundation.org)