

Rato Bangala Samachar

24 November, 2011



We have come to the end of yet another eventful term and would like to share some of the highlights of this term through this newsletter.

Judith Gold at Rato Bangala

As Rato Bangala comes close to its 20th anniversary, Bank Street trainer, Judith Gold conducted a landmark training session for a month from 28 August to 24 September. Judith worked with teachers and the school leadership on various aspects of the curriculum and supervision. She conducted a series of sessions with teachers from Grades I-VIII on planning and implementing the new topics and ideas in Social Studies effectively. With the school leadership, Judith focused on the coaching process. The highlight of Judith's time here was the setting up of the block areas in Grades I and II and preparing teachers to use them. We thank Judith for inspiring us all with her high energy level and enthusiasm for teaching and learning and for conducting memorable sessions.

Visit by Beth Norford

Bank Street trainer Beth Norford was here at Rato Bangala for a month. Ms. Beth was one of the first trainers to visit Rato Bangala in its early days. This time around she was here to collect information for a book that she is working on, which will be based on Rato Bangala School and its accomplishments over 20 years. During her stay she held meetings with the School Patron Mr. Kamal Mani Dixit, Mr. Kedar Sharma (RBPOP member), Dr. Shanta Dixit (Director, RBS), Ms. Milan Dixit (Principal, RBS), Ms. Kumudini Shrestha (past Teacher and PTA Member), Ms. Astha Thapa Pande (RBS Graduate 2003 and RBS Employee at present), Ms. Astha Dahal (RBS Graduate 2004) and Dr. Kedar Nath Shrestha (former Dean of Kathmandu University) and parent Mr Ram Chandra Praja, getting their perspective on RBS and education in Nepal. This book will be published in 2012, during the 20th Year Celebration of Rato Bangala.

Assemblies

Grades I and II had their Assembly on 12 November. Grade I students performed dances and songs along with plays like 'The Foolish Tortoise' and 'The

Pied Piper of Hamelin' in English and 'Jungay Dai Ko Kotba' and 'Bhakullay ko Sathi Ko?' in Nepali. The program was followed by a Pot Luck Lunch. We would like to thank the Parents Representatives for organizing the Pot-Luck.

Grades VI A, B and C had their Assembly on 9 September. Besides singing and dancing, they performed plays like Werewolf in Town, Villa on Venus, Modern Cinderella in English and *Ganga Ram ko Nyaya, Raja ko Naya Poshak and Aladdin Ra Gajab ko Tuki in Nepali*.

Students of Grades VII A and B presented English and Nepali plays in their Assembly on 23 September. The English plays performed were the court scene from the book 'The Merchant of Venice' and 'Electra' and in Nepali they performed 'Aulis Ma Iphigenia' and 'Suun Ko Bhado'. Besides that, they performed classical and modern dances, an English song and recited a Nepali poem.

Grades VIII A and B had their Assembly on 16 September. They performed the plays 'Dragon of the Wind' and 'Charlie's Aunt' in English and 'Muna Madan' and 'Bhoot Ghar' in Nepali.

Congratulations teachers and students for a job well done!

Mha Puja

Unlike in the past, this year *Mha Puja* was organised entirely by the students and teachers, and was celebrated by the students of Grade IVA & IVB on 19 October. The celebration this year was a little different from the past with the students cooking the different items for the *Newari Bhoj* themselves with great enthusiasm. It was a lovely treat for all involved and a great occasion to learn about Newari culture. It gave our students an opportunity to appreciate others' beliefs so as to become more tolerant and understanding towards different cultures. We thank parents Mrs. Sangeeta Shrestha, Mrs. Jyoti Shrestha, Mrs. Nirmala Subba, Mrs. Anu Agrawal, Mrs. Sabita Maskey, Mrs. Rajani Vajracharya and Mrs. Rajeeta Shrestha of Grade IV for their support in teaching the students about the *mandap* and help-

ing with the celebrations. We congratulate the teachers and the students of Grade IV, for planning, organizing and celebrating the event with so much enthusiasm. We also thank all the other teachers and staff members who helped with the preparations, particularly cooking with the students.

More Festivities

Along with the *Mha Puja*, festival celebrations were held in full swing this term with Grade I going on a trip to Mangal Bazaar for Tihar shopping, buying Laxmi Puja materials for their personal baskets and making Tihar sweets. Grade II sang deusi and bhailo songs around the school. Grade III made garlands for their own classrooms as well as for the school. Since Grade V study about Nepal, a small *Laxmi Puja* celebration was organised by students and teachers of Grade V. Grade V students also learnt to make *dubo ko mala*. This tied in well with the different cultural celebrations of Nepal. Grade VI students celebrated Diwali in Indian style. They wore Indian costumes, made Rangoli designs and later in the afternoon, enjoyed Indian snacks.

Field Trips

As you are aware, the spirit of the Rato Bangala Method lies in learning in and out of the classroom. This is exemplified by the numerous fieldtrips taken this term. Given below are the highlights of this term.

Grade I students visited the zoo on 20 October. Since the students are studying about animals this term, the trip was an educative outing. They also celebrated their 100 Days in School on this trip.

Grade II went on a trip to the Aviary at the zoo to learn about birds on 24 August.

Grade III went on a trip to the whole sale market in Kalimati and a few retail markets around the Patan area, to learn about markets.

Grade IV students went to the Laboratory School in Kirtipur on 4 November, to interact with and understand visually challenged students- after reading the biography of Louis Braille. They handed over some books to the school that was bought with the money Grade III made in their market. Thank you Grade III for your contribution!

The students of Grade IX spent a day with the children of Bright Horizon School as part of their community service programme. They worked in the classrooms doing hands on activities with them.

Grade IX went to Kathmandu Durbar Square on 18 October as a part of their Social Studies Curriculum.

Grade X went on a Social Studies fieldtrip to Bhaktapur on 16 August.

A2 Business Studies and Physics students went on different trips outside the valley for two days on November 11. The Business Studies group, accompanied by their teachers Mr. Penjor Tashi and Mr. Dipendra Dhakal along with Ms. Deepa Thapa, visited the Rahul Dairy Factory, the Wai Wai factory and the Coca Cola factory in Bharatpur. The Physics group, with Mr. Ajayendra Laghu, Mr. Rajendra Khatri and Ms. Deepa Ghimire, toured the Cancer Hospital in Bharatpur.

Other Exciting Events

Grade III and V participated in the Inter Section English Poetry Recitation Competition held at the school on 26 August. The winners were:

Grade III

First	III B	Asmi Shrestha
Second	III B	Ashiyana Prasai
Third	III B	Prasanna Pradhan
Third	III A	Swayashreyee Bhattarai

Grade V

First	V C	Yangchenla Lama
First	V B	Adrija Vaidya
First	V A	Ojashwi Rani Nakarmi
Second	V C	Batshala Rijal
Third	V B	Mehul Sah
Third	V A	Alexa Maharjan

The Inter-House Math Quiz was held for Grade VI to VIII on 26 August. It was organised and conducted by the RBS Math Club on 26 August. The winners were:

First - Yellow	
Grade VIII	Asmita Bhatta
Grade VII	Abhaya Gauchan
Grade VI	Sabir Khagi

Second – Blue	
Grade VIII	Ayush Ghimire
Grade VII	Pranaya K Shrestha
Grade VI	Prakriti Kandel

Third – Green	
Grade VIII	Akankshya Shrestha
Grade VII	Pema D Lama
Grade VI	Priya Pradhan

Fourth – Orange	
Grade VIII	Ayush Joshi
Grade VII	Priyanka Dangol
Grade VI	Devansh Agrawal

The Inter School Team Nepal Literary Contest was held at St. Xavier's School on 13 August. Sarthak Sharma of Grade IX participated in the English and Shantam Jha of Grade X participated in the Nepali competition.

Inter School Art Competition organised by Kathmandu Pragya Kunja School was held on 20 September. Aidan Gurung and Riwarz Udas of Grade V participated and won the First Prize in the competition. Congratulations.

Grade III Market

The students of Grade III ended their Market study with a culminating project where they ran a fruit and vegetable market at the school from 21 to 23 September. The profit made this year was Rs 16,367. They had a snack party to celebrate their hard work and also contributed to Grade IV to buy books for the visually challenged students of Laboratory School. The great number of skills that the students learnt from the Market project was amazing as they worked as cashiers, designers, slogan writers, record keepers, sellers and paper bag makers. The problem solving that went on during the three days was very impressive as well. We would like to thank the parents and teachers for visiting the Grade III market and supporting this endeavour.

Coffee house

The students of Grade VIII held a Coffee House on 4 November to showcase their poetry writing skills. Well done!

Sports

On 2 September, a Football Match was organised by the Football Club in the school premises. The graduates of 2011 secured first place followed by A2 in second place and A1 winning the third place. It was an enjoyable series.

Exams End Successfully

IGCSE for Grade X, A Level General Paper and Environmental Management Cambridge International October/November session has finally come to an end.

On 26 August, a Charity Show was organised by the combined effort of the graduates of 2011 and the A Level students. The purpose was to collect funds to aid the Dailekh Project, which they successfully did. On 8 September, during the morning assembly the proceeds were handed over to Mr. Min Shahi, the Program Coordinator of Dailekh School Project.

Special Guests

Mr. Umeshwar Joshi, a renowned Physicist gave a talk to the A2 class as well as the A1 Physics students on 14 November. Mr. Joshi works at Fermilab with CERN. He shared his experience as a scientist and gave a glimpse into the intricacy of high level scientific research such as quark and neutrinos.

Dr Shagun Narayan Joshi visited Grade II and gave a special talk on first aid and safety. Thank you Dr. Joshi for giving us your valuable time.

As part of the Media Unit on Grade VIII, **Mr. Kunda Dixit** the editor of Nepali Times conducted a special class on the media. The students of grade VIII are currently working on very exciting projects on the media. Mr. Dixit also conducted another session on geography using the Google Earth for Grade V students.

Mr. Kanchan Dixit conducted a session on the River Bagmati for Grade IV students. We would like to thank Mr. Dixit for helping out with the Grade IV curriculum on a regular basis.

A debate was organised by the A Level students; the topic was "Prostitution Should be Legalised". After the preliminary rounds, the final was held on 2 September. Journalist **Mr. Rabindra Mishra**, from BBC Nepali Service and **Mr. Santosh Shah**, president of Today's Youth Asia and the host of "Power Talks" on Image Channel were invited to judge the event. Ms. Perry Thapa was also in the panel of judges. On proposition Apekshya Prasai, Abhigya Maskay and Rakesh Burathoki were the speakers and on opposition were Veda Khadka, Pranav Bhandari and Soul Raj Joshi. It was a very competitive debate and the winners were from the opposition by a narrow margin. Well done organisers! And thank you judges for giving us your valuable time.

HMUN 2011

After intensive preparations, a group of ten A Level students attended the Harvard Model United Nations 2011 held in Mumbai, India from 18 to 21 August. They went as the Norwegian delegation. They were delegates of 9 different committees. The students were; Aarjit Adhikary, Nirabh Koirala, Aishwarya Kansakar, Shaibyaa Rajbhandary, Agrima KC, Yodeen Sherpa, Veda Khadka, Neeva Shrestha, Sonam Shrestha and Sonish Pant. Ms. Hima Pradhan and Ms. Rajni Upadhyaya accompanied the students. Around 1000 students from all over India and the region participated in this conference, the first of

its kind. Veda made us proud by getting a Special Mention.

CMUN 2011

The students of Grades VIII, IX and X participated in the CMUN Mumbai, India from 14 to 16 August. They were accompanied by Ms. Milan Dixit and Ms. Rekha Pandey. The students were: Ishan Sharma, Janavi Nahata, Rajshree Upadhyay, Anusha Pahari, Anoushka Shrestha, Sajal Raj Satyal, Neha Rajbhandari, Komal Kanwar, Saurav Sharma and Raghav Poddar.

RBS Model UN 2011

Our annual Model UN conference will be held on 15-17 December. We welcome parents to visit and observe the sessions. Students from Grades VII to A2 will be participating and they have been attending Sunday workshops to prepare for the conference which is run by the A Level students.

College Talk

The A Level students had a series of talks by representatives from various universities. On 13 September, interested students from the Management and Social Science streams attended an informative presentation by David Evans from Asian Pacific University popularly known as APU, Japan. Then on 22 September, an information session was held by John P Nesbitt, Assistant Director, Undergraduate Admissions, Vanderbilt University, USA.

Bhakta Prasad at the Kathmandu Literary Jatra

Kathmandu Literary Jatra, organised by The Nepal Economic Foundation, was held at Patan Durbar Square from 16 to 18 September. It was a great opportunity for Literature from Nepal and beyond to be showcased on a global platform. During the event, Rato Bangala Kitab re-launched the revised 9th edition of its well-renowned book “Adventures of a Nepali Frog” by Kanak Mani Dixit.

Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness initiated a plastic free campaign for which they organised “Haat Bazaar” on 12 November. To support the cause, our Grade VIII students donated 45

cloth bags, made using part of the money they raised in the non-uniform day celebrating World Environment day. As an initiative to keep plastics away from our school, every year Grade VIII have decided to give part of the money raised in the non-uniform day to make cloth bags and sell them around the school.

In the month of August, Shamak Davar Institute for Performing Arts conducted a three week long dance workshop at RBS.

About 50 students of Grades VIII, IX and A Levels took part in the workshop. At the end of the workshop, all the performances were showcased at a finale at DAV School. We received an overwhelming response from parents and students to include these workshops as a regular activity in school. Therefore in the month of November, SDIPA is having its 3 week Dance Workshop again, this time for Grades VI and VII.

Staff Development

In addition to the Bank Street training, there were several other sessions attended by our teachers this term.

Primary Grade teacher Ms. Shilpa Rimal went on a training program to Jerusalem, Israel organised by the Ministry of Education, Israel from 27 August to 23 September. The training was on “Professional Development and Training for In-Service Teachers”.

A Workshop for English Teachers was organised by the British Council on 16 and 17 September. RBS Middle School teachers Ms. Mamata Rai Sherchan and Ms. Margaret Singh took part in the Workshop.

A-Level teacher Ms. Perry Thapa participated in the Cambridge International General Paper Online Training on 24 September.

A-Level teachers Mr. Dipendra Dhakal and Mr. Amrit Thapa participated in Mathematics and Accounting Training held at the British Council on 19 and 20 September.

Admissions for Grade I – 2012

The admissions process for the incoming Grade I will begin soon and the key dates are given below:

12 to 16 December	Form Distribution
15 to 21 December	Prospective Parents Visit School
22 December	Last Date To Submit Forms

Term III Begins on 29 November for Grade I through X.