

# Rato Bangala Samachar

6 November, 2009

We have come to the end of yet another eventful term, and would like to update you on the highlights of the last few months and also to share with you the plans the school has for the rest of the academic year and beyond.

## PTA (PARENT-TEACHER-ASSOCIATION) NEWS

Several PTA meetings have been held in the past term, there has also been a meeting between PTA and the Parent Representatives. As per the Rato Bangala School Parent Teacher Association Policy Document, the following work areas of the PTA were discussed and PTA members took responsibilities as per their interests.

- **Education and Parenting.** This will be led by Dr. Pushpa Sharma who will organize three parenting sessions in one year.
- Mr. Shekhar Golchha has volunteered to lead some activities of the **Toast-Master's** club at the School.
- **Cultural Activities and Volunteering** has been combined and Ms Kabita Shah and Ms Ramila Karmacharya will coordinate these areas.
- **Communicating** will be led by Ms Kumudini Shrestha.
- **Fundraising** was something that interested Mr. Golchha and Mr. Ramesh Sharma.
- The PTA believed strongly that the Prayas project should get continuity in Dailekh.
- Other matters discussed focused on ideas for extra-curricular activities. It was clear RBS has a lot of extra-curricular activities but perhaps not enough communication to let the parents know about it. Some ideas that were brainstormed at the meeting were:
  - a. Community living for a week or more
  - b. Village experience, like the one in Markhu, perhaps in Dhading
  - c. Star gazing; this could be combined with an overnight trip
  - d. Bird watching
  - e. Gardening
  - f. Hiking and excursions with parents
  - g. Mountain biking

The first session on **Parenting by Dr. Pushpa Sharma** (MD Psychiatry) will be held on 5th



December at the Kamal Mani Theatre from 2:30 to 5:30 pm. The talk will focus on adolescents. Parents of students from Grade VII through X are invited. We warmly thank Dr. Sharma for kindly consenting to share his expertise with us. We look forward to the session.

## RBPOP (RATO BANGALA PARTNERSHIP IN OUTREACH PROGRAMME)

After the completion of five years of work in five districts of Dailekh, Myagdi, Dhading, Makwanpur and Lalitpur, RBPOP has now focused on Dailekh District, and the project is being called the Dailekh School Project, and will be run jointly by RBPOP and Rato Bangala Foundation. All the 452 schools of this district are partners of the Dailekh School Project. A lot of work has gone into the Dailekh School Project, and now we are ready to send a team of 48 trainers to train 1800 teachers for three weeks each in 12 parallel sessions. This training will be completed in the next four months.

## YOUTH TO YOUTH TO CHILD (YYC)

Members of the Dailekh School Project realized that schools would be bereft of teachers during the four month long teacher training, so Rato Bangala students came to the rescue. Under a project called Youth to Youth to Child (YYC) twenty recent Rato Bangala graduates have been trained and ready to go to Dailekh where they will train 1800 youth to substitute in their neighboring schools while the teachers are away on training. The YYC program is taking a shape of its own. This program has been possible by the generous support of DANIDA. The students have been actively raising funds through special events like kite-flying and a talent show, and they have also received funds from Save the Children.

## EVEREST SUMMITTERS VISIT RBS

Bringing the message of following one's dreams, 10 exceptional young Nepali women who scaled Mount Everest visited RBS and conducted a comprehensive presentation of their experience and achievement. The hour long presentation consisted of a slide show, interviews and a short documentary of the actual ascent. We would like to thank Resident Representative of WFP (World Food Program) and RBS

parent Mr Richard Regan for taking the initiative to bring the group to RBS. The students were truly inspired.

### **MHA PUJA**

We would like to thank the parents of Grade IV for organising such a wonderful Mha Puja celebration. We know how much careful planning; meticulous organization and active participation was required to make this event a success and we are grateful to the parent representatives and the grade IV teachers. All involved thought it was a lovely treat and a great occasion to learn about Newari culture. As in the past years, this proved once again to be a wonderful opportunity for parents and teachers to work together and bond as members of the RBS family.

### **MORE FESTIVITIES**

Festival Celebrations were held in full swing in Unit 1 with Grade I flying kites at Madan Smarak before the Dasain break, going on a trip to Mangalbazaar for Tihar shopping, buying Laxmi Puja materials for their take home baskets and making Tihar sweets. Grade II made nimkees and sang deusi, bhailo songs. Grade III made garlands. Grade V studies about Nepal, so a small Laxmi Puja celebration was organised by students and teachers of Grade V. This tied in well with the different cultural celebrations of Nepal.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

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 highlights of the Unit I trips this term.

#### **Home Visit**

Grade I A and I B visited the homes of Aahana Rajbhandari and Adishree Shrestha as part of their study of Families. We would like to thank Aahana, Adishree and their family members for welcoming the two classes into their homes and helping the teachers further enrich the students' learning.

#### **Neighborhood Study and Diorama Exhibition**

Grade II studied the neighborhood as part of their Social Studies curriculum. They visited the School's neighborhood to learn about the shops and the services in the vicinity and then made models of what they saw in the form of a diorama. They also went to the zoo during their study of birds.

Other trips included Grade III to Godamchaur, Thimi Farm, Patan Retail shops, Kalimati Whole sale vegetable Market and Paper Recycling Plant. We

thank Suyog and Shalin Chitrakar's parents for allowing grade III students to visit their recycling factory every year.

Grade IV students visited Patan Durbar Square to observe the festival of Gai Jatra, Patan Mahabihar to observe the sculptures during art class, as well as a trip around Ring Road. They also went to the Laboratory School, Kirtipur, to interact with understand visually challenged students- after reading the biography of Louis Braille, and with a card written in Braille letters.

**Grade V** went to Bhaktapur to study the Malla period architecture. They looked at the temples, shrines and architecture unique to Bhaktapur.

We thank all the parents who volunteered their precious time to accompany the classes on these trips and provide support to the teachers.

### **ASSEMBLIES AT RATO BANGALA THIS TERM**

Grade VII students presented four Greek tragedies to the parents this term. Electra and Alcestis were performed in English and Hecuba and Iphigenia in Aulis, in Nepali. Grade VIII students successfully put a musical Annie in English and *Pinda Ko Parinam* in Nepali. Congratulations teachers and students for a job well done.

### **EXCITING EVENTS IN UNIT TWO**

The students of Grade VIII celebrated the completion of their poetry session by organising a Coffee House in their classrooms. The parents who took time off to be with us and the teachers from our PTTP course enjoyed listening to various poems presented by the students. Grade VII students enacted the Trial of Socrates by stepping into the shoes of various personalities of the period and completed the Literary Panel based on the play, Merchant of Venice and the book Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths successfully. In the true spirit of Diwali, Grade VI students not only created beautiful Rangolis but also dressed up in colourful costumes befitting the different states of India. To complement their study of India, they ended by enjoying delightful snacks.

### **SHORT STORY AND ART COMPETITION**

Prakriti Shrestha (Grade X) and Shrabya Timsina(Grade IX) took part in a valley wide English Language short story contest held on 1 August by Quixote Cove in collaboration with the British Council. Grade VI students Daya Shrestha and Janavi Nahata attended the art programme called the Stepping Stone Art Competition.

## EXAMINATIONS

The first term exam for the A Level students has come to an end. We had a PTC for the A1 students and a PSTC for the A2 students on 15 October and 22 October respectively. We would like to thank all the parents of A1 and A2 for coming to the PTC. The CIE November exam for General Paper, Environmental Management, Math and Economic AS Level is in progress. Grade X students are also currently taking their first set of external examinations starting with the PSAT and moving on to First Language English, Mathematics and Coordinated Sciences for their IGCSE.

## INDIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS (INMUN 2009)

The following A Level students will be going to Delhi from November 24-29 to participate in the Indian Model United Nations conference: Akchheta Karki, Arya Bhattarai, Atul Chandra Adhikari, Byanjana Thapa, Prabal Man Dhoubhadel, Prabhat Shrestha, Pratima Ghale, Pratistha Bhattarai, Samarjeet Singh Thapa, Shazia KC, Shubham Sapkota, Subrat Subedi and Suprima Rai. They will represent Costa Rica, Ireland and Mozambique. The three groups have been preparing well and are looking forward to a stimulating conference. They will be accompanied by the coordinators Ms Rajni Upadhyaya and Ms Rekha Pandey.

## RATO BANGALA SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2009

Rato Bangala School Model United Nations conference 2009 will take place from 13 November to 14 November, 2009. We invite all the parents to make time to come and visit the committee sessions. The sessions are bound to be very stimulating and it will be encouraging for the student delegates to have an audience.

The schedule will be as follows:

### November 13, 2009 (Day 1)

8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:00	Opening Ceremony
9:00 – 10:30	Session in Committees
10:30 – 10:45	Tea Break
10:45 – 1:00	Session in Committees
1:00 – 1:45	Lunch
1:45 – 3:45	Session in Committees

### November 14, 2009 (Day 2)

8:00 – 10:30	Session in Committees
10:30 – 10:45	Tea Break
10:45 – 1:00	Session in Committees
1:00 – 1:45	Lunch
1:45 – 3:00	General Assembly
3:00 – 3:45	Break
3:45 – 5:00	Closing Ceremony

## FIVE FOR CHANGE

Conflict may have ended, but its traces still remain in the life of countless people affected by it. The wound seems still as fresh as when they were formed. One of the major victims of war and conflict were children, who were supposed to go to school and lead a happy life but, they were stripped off books and armed with weapons. Grasping this sentiment, The Theatre Club of Rato Bangala produced a play, titled *Abyakta Awaaj* on 8 August 2009. This was a fundraiser to educate five conflict affected children for five years for an initiative called *5 for Change*. The sale of tickets raised Rs 139,500 and on the spot donation added Rs 9,500/- Deducting all expenses Rs 79,000 was the net income. Out of this, 25% a sum of Rs 19,750 was contributed to the RBS scholarship fund for marginalized children. A job well done!

The entire production was written and directed by the students of the theatre club and staged in The Kamal Mani Theatre. The Theatre Club put in many extra hours after school to stage a show that was of a high standard. The work that the students put in was impressive and the audience went away with the feeling that the show should have been performed many more times, so that more people could have watched it. We congratulate the Theatre Club, for their excellent work.

## THE GIZMO CLUB

A novel idea initiated by two very persevering members of A2 gave birth to the Gizmo Club. We are happy to state that the Gizmo Club has been very active. They purchased a printer through funds raised by having interested students secure rbs email addresses and now A Level students are able to print their work in school itself. This was a much needed service at A Level. All the activities related with the printer are managed solely by the Gizmo club.

## MUN CLUB FUND RAISER

The Executive members of the RBS MUN club in close collaboration with the Music Club organized a fund raiser on 17 July. The Music Club took care of the performance and the MUN Club took charge of the sale of food. As it was the last day of term 1 for the junior and middle school the RBS MUN Club felt this fundraiser was a good way of ending the term. The total amount raised was Rs. 66,287. We would like to thank the parents, teachers and students for contributing baked goods for the bake sale which was so popular that it sold out in no time! Congratulations Music Club and MUN Club.

## KNIT ONE, SAVE ONE

The items (caps, sweaters, socks and mittens) that the students from Grades VI to X knit last term for Knit One, Save One campaign will be distributed in Dailekh by the A Level RBS graduates who are volunteering there for the Youth to Youth to Child programme.

### **CLOTHES DRIVE FOR NYANOPAN**

We would like to thank the parents of Grades I to X for contributing to our Clothes Drive for Nyanopan. Nyanopan is an effort to take warm clothes from people who can spare them to the cold mountainous regions of Nepal for those who do not have the resources to get warm clothes. It is an initiative of Captain Vijay Lama and several airlines have joined this effort to transport the clothes to these regions of Nepal. The students of Grade IX took the responsibility to collect the clothes and organize them into respective bags ready for sending off.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **A Platform for Youth to Raise their Voice against Climate Change**

The students of Grades VI to X took part in an awareness campaign organized by Small Earth Nepal in partnership with WWF to highlight the impact of Climate Change in the Himalaya and Nepal by signing a petition to raise their voice against climate injustice.

On August 31 five students attended the Government Level opening ceremony focusing on Climate Change inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal. The students read out a petition on behalf of the youth and handed it over to the Prime Minister to make their voice heard in the UN.

#### **Special Lecture on Climate Change**

We are grateful to Mr Ajaya Dixit who conducted a special class on Climate Change issues for a group of twenty A Level students who have been selected to work specifically on this topic.

#### **Climate Action Day**

24 October, 2009 marked the International day of Climate Action. A group of A Level students, initiated by Kripa Dongol, participated in a cycle rally in the morning, in a march in the afternoon and in the diyo (traditional lantern) lighting programme in the evening.

Another group headed by Pratima Ghale, involved themselves in "CFL for 350" as 350 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere is the safe level of carbon for healthy survival. Himstar sponsored the

event by providing all the 350 CFL bulbs and also 25 T-shirts. The awareness campaign was focused in 4 areas: Tokha, Suryavinayek, Bungamati Chowk and near Kavre bus park.

### **The South Asian Youth Summit on Climate change**

Two A Level students, Alina Pokhrel and Pratima Ghale, were selected to participate in a conference to tackle climate change. One very interesting aspect according to one participant: The leftover food from lunch and dinner was actually used to fuel the biogas plant to again prepare food. Besides, everything used in the conference, from paper to cups, were recycled.

This summit at Mirabel Resort Hotel met its objective of forming a regional platform for young people to initiate collective actions, as a South Asian Youth Network on Climate change was formed at the end of the 3 day summit

### **Inspiring Climate Education 2009(ICE09)**

Principal Ms Milan Dixit attended the Conference Inspiring Climate Education 2009(ICE09) in Copenhagen, Denmark from 12 to 14 October. The objectives of the conference was to "attract attention to teaching current climate change, collect, qualify and disseminate teaching materials, exchange, inspire and develop best practice and contribute to international cooperation and network". Ms Dixit had to present a poster and a unit on teaching climate change. She felt that this was a very good learning experience which has helped in meeting the above goals not only during the conference but in the future as well.

### **DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

On September 2009, Director Dr Shanta Dixit visited Vienna at the invitation of Ambassador Dr. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL, Director General for Development Cooperation. On this occasion, Ms Dixit had the opportunity to visit many people working in the field of education and share the work done at Rato Bangala.

Ms Heide TEBBICH, Director of "BAOBAB" (Global Education Resource Centre), Mag Heide-Marie HAIDINGER, Department for international bilateral affairs, Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture and Dr. Dagmar HACKL, Rector of the "Pädagogische Hochschule Wien" (University of Education Vienna). "There was a lot to learn from these institutions, and generally people were very excited to hear about what Rato Bangala was doing, both within its own school, and as part of the outreach program. The dedication of the people both

working with the Government and in the private sector was praiseworthy," according to Dr Shanta Dixit.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

RBS continues to be strengthened by the teacher training programme offered by the Rato Bangala Foundation. Five Unit I teachers completed the Child-Centered Level I training this year. They are Kanta Rai, Nripa Malla, Kauslaya Devi Khadka, Mamta Sharma and Prakriti Karmacharya.

To date 13 current RBS staff have completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Education(PGDE) conducted by Rato Bangala Foundation, Kathmandu University and Bank Street College of Education and 25 teachers to date have completed subject specific units.

### WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Ms Bilquees Banu and Ms Anamika Shrestha attended a workshop on 11 Oct organized by Wild life Conservation Nepal held at Shankar Hotel. The programme focused on how to make Science and Environment classes exciting for students.

The librarian of Pingal Bal Pustakalaya, Ram Prasad Dhakal attended a workshop entitled A Gateway to Lifelong learning and Literacy Skills on 1 November, 2009.

### BOOKS FOR PINGAL BAL PUSTAKALAYA

Grade VIII students handed over books, maps and charts to the librarian of Pingal Bal Pustakalya on 4 November in the morning assembly. The books were bought with the funds(Rs 9, 500) collected during the non-uniform day on World Environment Day.

### KEDARPARITOSHIK PURASKAR

The Kedarparitoshik Puraskar was awarded to Ajit Lal Ram Jageshwor from Garahai Janata Madhyamik Vidhyala Seha, Saptari who secured the highest marks 93% in Nepali. The Kedarparitoshik Puraskar is awarded every year to the student who scores the highest mark in Nepali in the whole country.

The information is provided to us from the Examination Controller's office after the SLC results are released.

### SPORTS

The students of Grade VIII participated in Shridiwa Monsoon Basketball Tournament 2009 and reached the semi finals.

### Results of Inter-House Competitions for this term

#### *Inter-House Girls Kickball (Grades 2 to 4)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Orange	First
2	Blue	Second
3	Yellow	Third
4	Green	Fourth

#### *Inter-House Boys Kickball (Grades 2 to 4)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Yellow	First
2	Orange	Second
3	Green	Third
4	Blue	Fourth

#### *Inter-House Girls Football (Grades 2 to 4)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Yellow	First
2	Orange	Second
3	Blue	Third
4	Green	Fourth

#### *Inter-House Boys Football (Grades 2 to 4)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Orange	First
2	Blue	Second
3	Yellow	Third
4	Green	Fourth

#### *Inter-House Boys Basketball (Grades 2 to 4)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Orange	First
2	Blue	Second
3	Green	Third
4	Yellow	Fourth

#### *Inter-House Girls Basketball (Grades 2 to 4)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Yellow	First
2	Orange	Second
3	Blue	Third
4	Green	Fourth

#### *Inter-House Hopping Catching Tournaments (Grades 2 to 4)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Yellow	First
2	Orange	Second
3	Blue	Third
4	Green	Fourth

*Inter-House Boys Football (Grades 5 -6)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Orange	First
2	Yellow	Second
3	Green	Third
4	Blue	Fourth

*Inter-House Girls Football (Grades 5 - 6)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Orange	First
2	Green	Second
3	Yellow	Third
4	Blue	Fourth

*Inter-House Girls Football (Grades 7 -8)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Yellow	First
2	Blue	Second
3	Green	Third
4	Orange	Fourth

*Inter-House Boys Football (Grades 7 -8)*

S.N	House	Position
1	Green	First
2	Orange	Second
3	Yellow	Third
4	Blue	Fourth

**GOOD BYE AND WELCOME**

We would like to welcome the art teacher Ms Sarita Maharjan, Middle School Math and Science teacher Ms Sunita Adhikari and Grade IV teacher Prakriti Bhattarai Khanal to Rato Bangal School. We also take this opportunity to say good bye to the Science and Math teacher, Ms Seema Lal and Grade IV teacher Ms Agya Khand. We thank them for their contribution to Rato Bangala School.

**ADMISSIONS FOR GRADE I-2010**

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

14 –16 December, 2009 from 9:00am to 2:00pm	Form Distribution
15-18 December, 2009	Prospective Parents visit School by appointment
18 December, 2009	Last date to submit forms
4 February, 2010	Schedule and List for the entrance evaluation to be posted
19 February (Friday) and 20 February (Saturday), 2010	Entrance Evaluation and Parent Meeting

***Term 3 Begins on 10 November for Grades I through X.***