D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," a celebration of reading designed to remind, inspire and motivate families to make reading a priority activity in their lives. A specific time is designated where dropping things and switching to reading books is strongly encouraged. The idea is that reading is much more fun than anything else. People can read alone or be read to for around twenty minutes. Age is no bar and it can start with babies. It can be done in schools, homes, community centers, libraries or even outdoors. Rato Bangala School started the D.E.A.R on 4 September, 2015 and it has been followed regularly. We request you to share this idea and introduce it to your homes and organizations so that it develops into a movement.

SECOND EDITION OF BAL SAHIYA MAHOTSAV

The second edition of Bal Sahitya Mahotsav is scheduled on 6 February, 2016. We have invited New York-based author Peter Lerangis(peterlerangis.com), best known for the Seven Wonder series, to the festival. Mr Lerangis is a best-selling children's author and will definitely add a lot of excitement to the festival. We are also asking for proposals for workshops through www.bsmnp.org. Please spread the word and recommend it to professionals who would add to the programme.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

There were two Adventurous Journeys that took place this term. The journeys were both for Bronze and Silver Award. Since it was the first camping trip after the earthquake, we did not go far. A group of Bronze A-Level participants along with Silver participants made their Qualifying Adventurous Journey to Chobhar, Khokana, and Bungamati. A second group of Bronze participants comprising of Grade IX and X students also followed the same route for their pre-qualifying journey in October.

MODEL UN NEWS

Congratulations to all the participants who attended four different Model UN conferences and performed very well. Nine students from Grade X and A-Level went to New Delhi in April to participate in the Sanskriti MUN. Our students’ performance was outstanding and they were highly praised by the faculty members of the Sanskriti School. Devansh Agrawal and Yash Poddar of Grade X received the Outstanding Delegate and Best Delegate Awards in their Committees. Sirig Gurung was awarded the Best Position Paper and Richa Shrestha and Thinley Wangchuk received Verbal Mention.

Twelve A-Level students participated in the Doon School Model United Nations hosted by Doon School in Dehradoon, India from 21 to 23 of August, 2015. The participants had an enriching experience and enjoyed
the journey from Delhi to Dehra Doon by train.

Ten students of Grade IX participated in Aravali Model United Nations 2015 held in Delhi, on 29 and 30 October, 2015. Sanghamitra Subba received an Outstanding Delegate Award and Charavee Chettri and Bhishan Hari Silwal got Verbal Mentions.

Seventeen A1 students participated in the EIMUN from 1 to 5 October held in Pokhara. All our students stood out in their respective committees and received a number of awards. Alaukik N Pant, Hriti Shrestha and Saudamini Sigdel received the Best Diplomacy Award, Akash Pant was given the Best Strategy Award, Digesh Chitrakar and Pradyot Basnet received the Best Position Paper, Arhant Shrestha and Chhime Sherpa were given Honourable Mention and Rinchenla Lama received Verbal Mention.

**TIHAR CELEBRATIONS**

Tihar celebrations brought a festive mood to the school. As a culmination of the Newar study, students of Grade IV observed Mha Puja on 10 November. Students of Grade V learnt to make Dubo mala and shared their presentation on myths and legends associated with Tihar. Students of Grade III wove Marigold garlands and hung them on entrances of various classrooms and certain sections of the school building. Students of Grade II went around the school singing Deusi-Bhailo songs. Students of Grade I prepared their personally woven Tihar baskets with treats made by themselves, which included pedas and clay diyos.

**CLASS ASSEMBLIES**

The Assembly for Grade II was held on 26 September and that of Grade I on 20 November, 2015. The children put up wonderful plays, poems, dances and songs. Similarly Grades IV, V and VI students also held their assemblies on 21 August, 4 September and 11 September respectively. The performances were appreciated by all.

**SIMULATION ON THE CONSTITUTION**

This year, the simulation of the Constituent Assembly in Grade VIII happened around the same time the Constitution was promulgated. The students took on the roles of representatives of all the major political parties and the debate became very lively and realistic as the students focused on two important topics: Gender issues and the Madhesh issues. The main points brought to the floor was about the importance of services and development reaching the most marginalized groups. There was a very lively discussion about gay rights/marriage and concerns addressing the punishments of perpetrators of rape.

**GUESTS**

On 20 August a group of musicians from Japan enthralled RBS audience with their music. The students of Grades I and II volunteered on the spot to sing the theme song from the movie Frozen. Our little singers were pretty amazing. Shigeru Tawatari, JICA Senior Volunteer of Nepal Police talked to the students of Grades V and IX about traffic rules in September.

**SPORTS NEWS**

The Inter-School Football League started on 7 November. Rato Bangala School, The British School, Lincoln School and GEMS participating in the league. Rato Bangala team also reached the semi-finals of the Third GIHS Football Championship organized by GEMS.

The A Level Basketball Club organized a basketball tournament for girls and boys this term. The matches were competitive and enjoyable. The A2 girls’ team won the tournament in the girls category. Grishma Rajbhandari was declared...
the most valuable player and Hina Shrestha from A1 team was the highest scorer. Similarly in the boys' category, again the A2 team was declared the winner with Sulav Batas as the most valuable player and Abhaya Raj Tamrakar as the highest scorer.

An Intra-School Football Tournament was organized by our very active A Level Football Club. A total of eight teams participated in the tournament. In a nail-biting final match, the A1s defeated the A2s and won the tournament. Well done A1 team! In the Grade VIII Inter-House Football Competition,Orange House stood first followed by Blue and Yellow in the second and the third position.

The fourth and the fifth graders concluded their Inter-House Football and Basketball competitions for the boys. Grade VI and VII also participated in Inter-House Table Tennis Competitions.

DEBATE

Four A Level students have been participating in the worldwide championship debate that involves hundreds of school from all over the world. Organized by the Brewer Foundation/New York University International Public Policy Forum, it is the first and only contest that gives high school students the opportunity to engage in written and oral debates on issues of public policy. The topic of the debate for this year is, “Resolved: Genetically modified organisms are essential to global food security.” The students have just completed the first round and have been shortlisted among the top 64. Congratulations to Aakash Pant, Abhaya Gauchan, Ritambhara Parajuli and Saudamini Sigdel. We wish you all the best for the upcoming rounds.

To mark the 70th Anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 August during the Second World War, a Parliamentary style debate was held in the first week of August for the A Level students on uranium mining. Rajshree Upadhyay, Neha Rajbhandary and Ritambhara Parajuli debated from the proposition side of the government and Aakash Pant, Abhaya Gauchan and Alaukik Nath Pant were for the opposition. Mr. Jib Raj Pokharel, vice chancellor of NAST was the Chief Guest. All the participants were eloquent and the opposition won the debate.

MATH OLYMPIAD

Two teams from Rato Bangala School, accompanied by our Math Club mentor, Mr. Amrit Thapa, went to participate in the Math Olympiad organized by the Math Club of Little Angel’s School in the second week of August. AS and A Level students from 14 different schools participated in the Olympiad held in the Little Angels’ School premises. RBS team led by Praveen Pratap Shah stood first and the team led by Manish Aryan stood second in the team round. Praveen Pratap Shah secured second position in the individual round.

COLLEGE TALK

Representatives from reputed educational institutions in the United States like the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, Columbia University and Bucknell University visited Rato Bangala School in October to meet the students. The sessions were very interesting as the representatives introduced their institutions, and informed the students what was unique about each of them. They also advised them about the admission process.

PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN(P4C)

Twenty-two teachers and administrators attended the session Philosophy for Children(P4C) on 15 November. The session was interactive and involved a lot of thinking and reflection. The participants will be getting certificates from the Society for
the Advancing Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education (SAPERE). The session was conducted by Annie Brown of KISC Equip.

RATO BANGALA FOUNDATION NEWS

Rato Bangala Kitab: In collaboration with Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and USAID, 200 titles of Rato Bangala Kitab books were sent to 5748 schools in 14 earthquake affected districts of Nepal.

Nawa Marga Phase III, Dhading: Nawa Marga Phase III, in collaboration with the District Education Office (DEO), Dhading, took place from 19 September. The one day training aimed at training teachers in child-centered learning approaches in Math, Science and Nepali, covered the entire 16 Resource Centers of Dhading, in a span of 10 days. A total of 37 trainer volunteers participated to train 1039 teachers.

PTTP Graduation Ceremony: The Primary Teacher Training Programme (PTTP) is a collaboration of Rato Bangala Foundation with Kathmandu University and Bank Street College of Education (USA). The PTTP graduation ceremony for 2014-2015 was held on 17 September. A total of 22 Graduates received certificates at the program, attended by Chief Guest Khag Raj Baral, Director of NCED.

Escuela Nueva Study Mission: The RBF team embarked on a journey to Colombia to study the Escuela Nueva model from September 26 to October 4, 2015. Designed in the late 1970s it aims to improve the relevance, quality and effectiveness of schools in Colombia. Centered on the use of an active learning methodology, EN has been adopted in more than 30 countries around the globe. A follow up to update concerned stakeholders after the visit to Colombia was held on 6 November, 2015. It included members from the Department of Education, RBF Board Members and invited guests.

Workshop on Early Childhood Development: Seventy participants attended the workshop on Building Early Childhood Development through Creative Teaching Learning was conducted by Amber Johnston and Kelsey Keither at RBF on 28 September, 2015.

Engo Challenge New Delhi: RBF staff participated in the prestigious Engo Challenge held at the All India Habitat Center in New Delhi on 9 and 10 October, 2015. The highlights consisted of workshops and conferences, attended by more than 1000 delegates from SAARC countries.

Level One Closing 32nd Batch: The 32nd Batch Level One Training Closing Ceremony was held on 4 November, 2015. A total of 29 trainee teachers graduated from the same. The Chief Guest comprised of the Assistant DEO of Lalitpur, Mr. Khem Nath Pokharel. This three month training is best suited for in-service teachers, since learning from the trainings are applied directly to classroom settings.