



FRIENDS

Newsletter of the Rag pickers Education & Development Scheme (REDS) Bangalore, India
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GRADUATION DAY

Bagalur Tailoring Graduation Day was held on 11th January. Staff members present for the day were Mrs. Prema – REDS Bangalore Program Director, Bro. Doss- REDS Deepahalli Program Director, Bro. Jinu, Bro. Lucian, Mrs. Bhanumathi and Mrs. Shasikala. The tailoring girls enjoyed their graduation day by dancing. Certificates and sets of tailoring instruments were given to the trainees. Lunch was served to the girls.



INAUGURATION PROGRAM

Inauguration of new tailoring unit at D. J. Halli was held on 6th February, by Mrs. Prema – REDS Program Director, Bro. Lucian and Mrs. Santhosh Mary. The girls were very happy to participate in the program, since many girls expressed their joyful feelings for having the opportunity to join the tailoring class.

STAFF PICNIC

The 16th and 17th of February was a day of fun and frolic for REDS Bangalore and Deepahalli staffs. A two day picnic was organized to Dharmasthala, Murdeshwar, and Jog Falls, which everyone enjoyed.



WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

Women's Day program was conducted on 8th March at REDS Office, Infant Nilaya, Austin Town. SHG Staff, Mrs. Prema, Mrs. Manjula, Mrs. Shasikala, Mrs. Santhosh Mary and the tailoring girls from L.R.Nagar took part in the program. Sr. Celine gave the welcome speech and spoke about Women's Day. Mrs. Prema, Mrs. Shasikala and some of tailoring girls shared their life experiences. The program concluded with snacks.

Women' Day program was also celebrated with the SHG groups members at IIP Hospital on 28th of March. About 150 women participated in the Women's Day Program. The Chief Guest for the day was Fr. Pragasam – REDS Executive Director. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Fr. Pragasam, Mrs. Prema and SHG Group members. Fr. Pragasam spoke about women's rights and women's involvement in the family. Sr. Celene told about the history of Women's Day. Next a dance was performed by our SHG Staff. Ms. Jyothi and other women shared the joys between them and gifts were given.



PLAY SCHOOL EXAMINATION

Play School Examination was held for 3 days (from 26th to 28th March). About 500 children from play schools and day care centres wrote the exam. The first two days consisted of English and Mathematics, both written and oral, while on the last day games were conducted, and sweets and gifts were given to the children.



GRADUATION DAY FOR PLAY SCHOOLS

Play Schools Graduation Day was held on 18th April at Infant Jesus Community Hall, The Chief Guest for the day was Bro. Sanjay along with other guests: Play School teachers, staffs, Bro Jinu, Bro. Lucian, Bro. Ashok and Bro. Jesuraj. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Bro. Sanjay and other staff members.



Bro. Sanjay and Mrs Prema Manthesh gave speeches about education of

children and their futures. Progress cards and prizes for the children were given by their respective teachers. The children performed dances and recited rhymes. The parents enjoyed their children's performance. All the children enjoyed the program and the snacks at the end.



ANOTHER GRADUATION DAY

L.R. Nagar Tailoring Graduation Day was held on 25th April. The Chief Guest for the day was Fr. Pragasam – Executive Director. Others attending were: Mrs. Prema – REDS Bangalore Program Director, Mrs. Santhosh Mary, Bro. Jinu, Bro. Lucian, Bro. Ashok and Bro. Jesuraj. The tailoring girls enjoyed their graduation day by dancing and performing dramas. A tailoring exhibition was also held. Certificates and sets of tailoring instruments were given to the trainees. Lunch was served to the girls.

REDS SKILL TRAINING CENTRE, DEEPAHALLI

1st January New Year's was celebrated and that same day volunteer Mrs. Felicitas from Germany arrived.

As usual, regular family night programs and birthdays were celebrated.



PONGAL CELEBRATION

On 15th January, a Pongal celebration was organized. This auspicious day is celebrated throughout India. The sweet pongal is cooked in a new mud pot and distributed to relatives and friends along with jaggery and sugar candy. All of the REDS staffs and boys in Deepahalli celebrated Pongal and the day ended with lunch.



REPUBLIC DAY

Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January. We were joined with the Scholastic community brothers in their program.

TOURISTS VISIT

A Group of 21 tourists from Rome led by Fr. Antonio Collicelli, S.M. visited REDS Deepahalli. The trainees welcomed them with garlands and a cultural programme.

A THIRD TAILORING GRADUATION DAY

The graduation program for Tailoring Unit 3 at Parvathi Nagar in Hosur was held on the 3rd of March. An area local counselor and the REDS Executive Director – Fr. Pragasam were the Chief Guests.

REDS – RANCHI

In January, most of the children in our non-formal education program appeared for school entrance tests while some children got results of their Second Terminal Examination. Most of our children got good marks in the examination.

VISITORS

A team of CINI members came from Kolkata to visit REDS Ranchi. They visited and talked about their work with children doing child labour. They interacted with our children. The team also visited a few of the REDS centres.

REPUBLIC DAY

Republic Day was celebrated on 26th January in all of our centres. Flag Hoisting was by our Local Guardians and by our REDS Staff. They told about Republic Day and encouraged the children to be good citizens. After the flag hoisting ceremony, sweets were distributed to all of the children.

PICNIC



On 3rd February, a picnic was arranged for school-going children to Rudungkochoa School, Karsidaag, which belongs to Don Bosco Parish, Hesag. The children enjoyed playing outdoor games and dancing. There was a small village near the school so some children walked there where two sisters live in a hostel with 30-40 children. They helped us with our picnic.

A staff workshop was held between 10th to 12th April at Gyan Deep. Many speakers came and shared their experience and thoughts. The workshop was inaugurated with a lighting of the lamp by Fr. Benjamin Lakra, the Assistant Director of XISS. The aims and activities of the REDS was explained. Fr. Lakra praised their REDS work organized by the Marianists. Bro. Jacob told about HIV- AIDS, an incurable disease, and how to prevent contacting AIDS. On 11th April Fr. Savari Muthu, Advocate in the High Court, Ranchi and an adviser to the Jharkhand Social Service Organization, spoke about Child Rights.

Fr. Augustine told about the relationship among staff and children. Fr. Nicky, S. M., told about the Marianists and their service to society as religious.

NEWS IN BRIEF:

1 st Jan	New Year Celebration
11 th Jan	Bagalur Layout Tailoring Unit Graduation Day
15 th Jan	Pongal Celebration at Deepahalli
26 th Jan	Republic Day Celebration
06 th Feb	D.J. Halli Tailoring Unit Inauguration Program
15 th to 17 th Feb	Staff Picnic
27 th Feb & 31 st March	An awareness program at L.R.Nagar.
03 rd March	Parvathi Nagar Tailoring Unit Graduation day
08 th March	Women's Day Programmes
26 th to 28 th March	Play School examination conducted.
18 th April	Play School Graduation Day
25 th April	L.R.Nagar Tailoring Centre Graduation Day