

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2010

Shubo Noboborsha to all. We have had yet another exciting year to report and celebrate.

School – "Brahagma Ma" Balakendra Established 2004

The school, which is now in its 6th year of running, has helped scores of pupils from the local community with the basics of learning and life-skills. We employ four teachers to cover a number of subjects including English, Maths, Science and General Knowledge every morning. During the mid morning break, each child is provided with nourishing snacks. The children are thriving and show immense enthusiasm for learning. It is a joy to see their progress.

Plans – Extension

We are keen to broaden the activities of Nirban Math and make it a vibrant part of the community. A second storey is being constructed with a view to house vocational training facilities for some young men and women of the neighboring villages. Such training will include sewing, knitting and the making of simple items such as candles and Agarbatti. This should all come to fruition by September 2010.

The second storey is also intended to provide food and lodging to 2-4 meritorious pupils from the nearby area. These children will be selected from amongst the scheduled tribes.

The main hall in the second storey is to be known as "Asoke Hall". It will have a number of uses and will be dedicated to Sri Asoke Sen, a devotee who passed away on 1st March 2007. He spent many happy days of his youth with his family at Santi Ashram and the Math.

Board of trustees and well-wishers

The board of trustees consists of Anima Sen Gupta, Pratima Dhar Roy, Jharna Sen, Nita Biswas, Rita Sen, Jayati Dasgupta, Subrata Roy, Anjan Dhar Roy, Ratna Dhar Roy and Debdatta Biswas. The unerring work and devotion of the board of trustees and Biswanath Bhattacharya, the in-house resident, have been key in running the school and Math. We would nevertheless welcome your help and support, so please, please do get in touch with Debdatta to volunteer your services.

Our heartfelt gratitude and regards go to Sukhen Maharaj for his continued support, guidance and blessings. We offer thanks to Subroto Roy for his support and hands-on

day-to-day local effort. We also offer our thanks for the support and ever presence of Sudhis Das Gupta.

We regret to announce that former Chair Person, Sri H.J. Sengupta passed away on 21 April 09 in Toronto. Donations from his friends and family have been sent to the Math in his honour and we will be planting a tree to commemorate him. Sri H J was the Chair Person who was catalyst in broadening the activities of the Math and giving encouragement and strength to us all.

Maharaj Omkarnathji of Purulia Math passed away during 2009. We are trying to gather details about the new Maharaj. We shall miss his guidance and dedication.

Events commemorating Thakuma

Over the past 24 months, a few devotees have been blessed by the opportunity to visit Bitara, Bangladesh, the birthplace of Thakuma. These devotees who include Anima Sengupta, Pratima Dhar Roy, Nita Biswas, Shankar Sen, Rita Sen, Dipak Sen Gupta and Jayasree Sen Gupta, visited Bitara to offer prayers and Bhog. You are all encouraged to visit and savor the blessings.

Thakuma's birthday celebrations were held on 25th February 2010. It was a joyous occasion which approximately 300-350 people, including local dignitaries, attended. Anima Sen Gupta, Pratima Dhar Roy, Nita Biswas, Rita Sen, Dipak Sen Gupta, Jayasree Sen Gupta, Sudhis Chandra Das Gupta, Subir Sen and Subroto Sen also attended. The date for the 2011 birthday will be held on 16th March 2011. We hope you will be able to join us for the celebrations!

General Administration

The contact list of devotees and donors has now been computerized. Details were circulated last December in order to give all an opportunity to update their contact details. However, we have not received any responses. We therefore attach another copy of the list as a schedule to this newsletter. Please let us know if you have any additions or corrections for the list.

The Nirban Math Trust has the website www.nirbanmath.org and a group email address of nirbanmathgroups@yahoo.com. As you can see, the website needs to be updated. If you are able to devote some time to this, please contact Debdatta (email babs58@rediffmail.com)

How you can help

Our Math is providing education and life skills to the children and young persons of the local community. There is so much more we can do with YOUR HELP. It is so very impressive that a group of 70-80 year old women (and an over-worked school teacher) have devoted so much time and energy to keep the Math running. However help from the younger generations is needed to keep the Math going and to energise its efforts. Please do get in touch with Debdatta to offer your help. Even a small amount of your time (and donation) would make a difference.

We look forward to your support and donations and wish you all the best in 2010.