

# NEWSLETTER – November 2019

Wishing all Season's Greetings & Happy New Year

**Thakuma' s birthday celebrations (Utsab) will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020.** We hope some of you will have the opportunity to attend and grace the occasion.

In the forthcoming Utsab in March 2020,, we have confirmation that some family members from USA will be attending. They will be joined by Kutti and hopefully a few others from Kolkata.

Earlier in the year, as usual celebrations were held for **Thakuma' s birthday, Independence Day** and **Saraswathi Puja** with usual gusto of the children of Balkendra. Some photos will be posted in the web site – its temporarily inactive and will be live again in 7 – 10 days.

As part of the celebrations, most of the school children with their families (some bringing tiffin carriers!) were given a feast.

In addition, there were some special Bhog's at the request of friends and family. The children always look forward to them.

## **School – “Brahagma Ma” Balakendra – Established 2002**

The school continues to provide pupils from the neighboring community with the basics of learning and life skills. We employ 4 teachers to cover a few subjects including English, Mathematics, Science and General Knowledge. Currently, we have 51 – 55 attending .

During the mid-morning break, each child is provided with nourishing snacks. The children are thriving and show immense enthusiasm for learning.

We are thankful for the guidance and assistance given by Sukhen Maharaj of Ram Krishna Balkendra. To ensure the smooth running of the school.

## **Computer Classes**

The computer classes, which started in 2011, in the annex building (Santi Ashram) continue to provide basic computing skills. We are now however only 10 in attendance. Our earlier teacher has rejoined. The PC' and other equipment are aging and so it has been decided to replace them one at a time in 6 monthly intervals.

There is now direct internet connection and these youngsters from Hirna gram can join the **www**.

It is expected that the employability of these students will increase significantly.

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CCTV has now been installed in the Math. It is now possible for any of us to link up during the two daily prayer sessions.

### Other news

Amit, our security guard cum handyman recently underwent an operation. After a 6- week break, Amit has resumed his duties. An additional night guard has been retained on a temporary basis.

The situation in Purulia remains in limbo. A site visit is long overdue and needed so that we are aware of the full facts. This can be communicated to all before meaningful decision(s) are made.

We are tossing up between us (Debdatta, Rita & Dipak) as to who will travel to Purulia.

- Debdatta just recently had a biopsy & on the mend
- Rita has just had a double cataract operation and too
- Dipak is flying into Kolkata and will take the opportunity to visit Deoghar & Purulia.

You may be aware that we have been looking for an elderly person or 2, who would be willing to reside in one of the annexes and help with its maintenance. Recently, we have interviewed 2 persons sp. and one of them has agreed to devote a good par to the Math from March.

Finally, an email has gone out to Gen Next from Anjana about the administration of the Math. It's an Open Forum and all are encouraged to voice opinions and ideas. The fact that it may seem simple or one that was made earlier and perhaps not followed up should not be a reason not to contribute to the dialogue.

We thank all the members and well-wishers for their generous donations and support. We continue to seek your blessings, well wishes, feedback, suggestions and your donations. We further continue to ardently hope that more of you will soon find an opportunity to visit our Math.