

NEWSLETTER – January 2019

Season's Greetings & Happy New Year.

Thakuma's birthday celebrations will be held on 17th March 2019. We hope some of you will have the opportunity to attend and grace the occasion.

On the last Utsab held in Feb'18, unfortunately no one from the family or immediate friends was able to attend. The celebrations were still joyous under the supervision of trustee Subrata Roy, Suken Maharaj of Ram Krishna Balkendra and Tarun. Hopefully, we can do better on the upcoming Utsab(s).

Last year, as usual celebrations were held for **Thakuma's birthday**, Independence Day and **Sarawwati Puja** with usual gusto of the children of Balkendra.

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, with the main one being to mark the passing away of Gouri Sen (past chair-person) and known to all as Ma, Boudi, Jethi, Mami & Didi.

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 5 teachers to cover a few subjects including English, Mathematics, Science and General Knowledge. 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 as we have a temporary tutor following the resignation of the teacher.

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

Investigations to install CCTV in the Math with the view that all you wish to link up can during prayers is still work-in progress. In February, a trial is being planned. In reality, it needs one of us to volunteer to bring it to fruition.

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Other news

Recently, part of the Math in Purulia has been occupied by local youth belonging to Trinamool Congress. Our representative visited the site and found a “Club House” had already been constructed. It will be well-nigh impossible to remove in the current political climate.

For those that are not aware, the Purulia Math is supposed to be legally owned by Nirban Math. It has some agricultural land which somewhat helped to sustain itself.

The matter is with the court. It is our intention to come to an amicable agreement so that further encroachment does not take place and that the sanctity of Math is respected.

Charities

Recently, the Math has been the beneficiary of being named in some endowments of family and friend, with a view to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Math.

However, in practical terms, the Math can only be sustained with involvement and donations from Gen Next and Gen Next Plus. The current generation are all over mid 70's and can barely continue to carry the baton for much longer. The Math straggles along only due to diligence of the Chair-person Debdatta and Rita (Kutti). It cannot and should not be the responsibility of a handful of persons. Surely a larger group can club together to take charge and rotate the responsibilities.

We, the family members and friends, are blessed to be under the care of Thakuma. Thakuma said that “SHE WILL TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN OF DHIREN”. We have all been (and continue to be) the beneficiaries of being under THAKUMA'S Care. Now THAKUMA needs our help and support.

The trustees 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.