

Auro Mira Service Society

*Sri Aurobindo Ashram - Delhi Branch
New Delhi – 110016*

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



*...The days become a happy pilgrim march,
Our will a force of the Eternal's power,
And thought the rays of a spiritual sun.*

‘Savitri’



“ *It is by constant inner growth that one can find a constant newness and unfailing interest in life. There is no other satisfying way.* ”

-Sri Aurobindo



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Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir

School Report 2017-18

*A Journey of Thousand Miles Begins With A Single Step.
Confucius*



The year that has gone by, saw Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir successfully cross a few milestones and pave the way towards traversing many more that would lead the School in the direction of fulfilling its goal. The School endeavours to provide for children a nurturing space for individual thinking and leading to holistic development of their personality. The aim is to create an environment for young minds to blossom freely and develop their intellectual potential and latent skills.

My children are the reason I laugh, smile and want to get up every morning...

Armed with sparkling imagination and a zest to learn, twenty enthusiastic children joined the School this year. The School invited them on 29th November, Pranjali Bhaiya's birthday. This new group was christened SMILE GROUP. Continuous effort by all ensured that these children attended School regularly and in no time these young ones settled down in the new environment. This year ten students who were enrolled in NIOS appeared for class X board examination and six students appeared for class XII examination. Many of these first generation learners performed well in the examination and take keen interest in learning.

Unique treasures received as cherished gifts...

A box without hinges, key or lid was given for Kechla by Shri Manoj Dasgupta, Managing Trustee, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry on 1st March. The box contained a precious treasure wrapped in a speckless white cotton cloth- a pair of slippers used by the Divine Mother. Tara didi gifted a book signed by the Mother to the School.

New additions to the Library...

Textbooks of different subjects for all classes, some children's story books as well as novels were added to the School library. Most of the older students use the textbooks of Science and Social Science and the young ones enjoy practising in the English grammar books in their free time.

Costumes for Special Events...

Colourful costumes for the Physical Demonstration were donated by Sri Aurobindo Ashram-Delhi Branch. These were used for the Sports Day and also on other special events held at the School.

Expert Riders...

All the girls of Faith group and most of the senior boys have learnt to ride the bike and they help to bring things from the ghat and also assist old people. Some members of the staff have learnt to ride a four-wheeler vehicle. They get vegetables for the School from the weekly market at Paliba.

The year rolled past in joyous learning, colourful festivities, special commemorative events amidst frolic and laughter. Visitors to Kechla enjoyed their stay and later evocatively shared their beautiful memories. The children enjoy being a part of the School and the journey continues...

Myriad Hues...

...events at AMVM during the Year

Sri Aurobindo's Arrival in Pondicherry (Darshan Day) – 4th April

On 4th April children went to the Ashram for a special meditation to commemorate the auspicious occasion of Sri Aurobindo's arrival in Pondicherry and settling there to guide all on the Sunlit Path towards Supreme consciousness.



The Mother's Final Arrival in Pondicherry (Darshan Day) – 24th April

On 24th April, 1920 the Mother (Mira Alfassa) finally arrived in Pondicherry. Every year this day is observed as a Darshan Day. In the morning children with all the teachers went to the Ashram for special meditation. While in the evening, all members of the Ashram joined in the March Past and paid homage to the Mother's flag. The reverberating drum beats and the synchronized marching brought every one together in a collective prayer and aspiration.



Raja Parba –Swing Festival - 14th June

Flying high! Touch the sky! A dream to be fulfilled!



Swing Festival or Raja Parba celebrated during Mithuna Sankranti is a three-day festival. One of the most important festivals of Odisha, it welcomes the rain. On this occasion young girls and all the women of Auro Mira Vidya Mandir donned traditional clothes and bindi on the forehead and alta on the feet. All children along with their diyas went to the tree where they had put up a swing. They first worshipped the tree and the swing with deep gratitude and sang the traditional Raja song, 'Banaste Dakila Gaja' and then all of them took turns to sit on the swing. Children relished the traditional Porapitha and Kakra Pitha which was made by Sulochana didi with a lot of love. Delicious lunch was served by Annapoorni didi and Amma. In the afternoon children played Kabaddi. Rai bhaiya and Nilamber's energetic drumbeats gave pace to

the match. The place throbbed with eager anticipation and excitement

School's Foundation Day & Tara didi's Birthday - 5th July

Look forward to the future, for the best things are yet to come.

Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir celebrated the School Foundation Day on 5th July, 2017 with enthusiasm and fervour. The theme of this year's programme was EVOLUTION. The entire school participated wholeheartedly to make the event a grand success. The day began with group meditation in the Ashram Meditation Hall. It was followed by Hawan in the School premises.

The cultural programme held in the morning commenced with the Mother's music, which was trailed by excerpts from the Sri Aurobindo's epic poem, Savitri. The children of Faith group presented a graceful dance choreography based on Sri Aurobindo's sonnet EVOLUTION. This set the tone for the rest of the programme. The students of Joy group presented an action song describing the five elements. Twinkle group performed a dance drama on how the process of evolution in creation has continued through the ages. They traced how human beings evolved and also explored their inventions and discoveries during different periods of human history. Gratitude group through a



creative play presented the essence of different values like perseverance, truthfulness, honesty, sincerity, sympathy, etc. Humility group performed a play based on the development of human mind, its ability of thought and logic.

Children from Aspiration and Golden groups did a play on evolution of different systems of education from the ancient times to the modern period. The children from Concentration group performed a play ASCENT TO TRUTH written by the Mother. For the afternoon programme, the children of Gratitude and Humility group performed dance on the song Ei ama pathashala and Ama tiki parana. Bikanti, Hari and Suryodhan did jazz. Vrinda and Bikanti performed a dance based on the song Barso re Megha Megha. Children of Aspiration and Golden group presented a dance on Jai ho and Gratitude group did Dandiya. In the evening everyone gathered in the Meditation Hall for a collective meditation and the programme concluded with readings from Savitri by the children and teachers.



Raksha Bandhan - 7th August

'Their paths may change as life goes along, but the bond between a brother and a sister remains ever strong'.

Raksha Bandhan is the celebration of the strong bond of love between brothers and sisters and fostering feelings of fraternity. The preparation for the festival started about a month in advance. Children of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir started



making beautiful bands using colourful beads and threads. They used different designs and various patterns to make beautiful and even stylish rakhis. On the day of the special occasion everyone gathered in the assembly hall where a puppet show on Raksha Bandhan was organised by the teachers for the children. The celebrations commenced with invocation of the blessings of the Divine and then the children performed Aarti, put tika on each other's forehead, tied rakhi on each other's wrist and prayed for their wellbeing. Twinkle group joined Surekha didi to sing a song about the sacred relationship of a brother and sister. The hall echoed with numerous raksha bandhan songs sung by the teachers and children.

Chachaji's Birthday - 13th August

Shri Surendranath Jauhar, fondly called Chachaji by all is the founder of Sri Aurobindo Ashram-Delhi Branch. His birth anniversary was celebrated with Hawan in the morning. In the evening a play based on the stories told by Chachaji was presented by Tulsia, Bhuvan and Pranjal bhaiya. Through the festivity, everyone paid homage to Chachaji's indomitable spirit and deep consecration to the Divine.

Babaji Maharaj's Birthday - 14th August

Collective meditation was organised in the Meditation Hall in the Ashram on this special occasion and children reverently remembered Babaji Maharaj - Sri Ramakrishna Das, the great sadhak who worked tirelessly to establish integral education centres in Odisha.

Janmasthami - 14th August

Oh lord, set our heart upon our work but never its rewards!

Janmasthami is celebrated on the eighth day of the month of Savan, which marks the birth of Lord Krishna - an avatar of Lord Vishnu. The students celebrated Janmasthami with exuberant gaiety. The young ones of Joy group were decked up as Radha and Sri Krishna and they performed Dandiya. They mesmerized the audience with their laudable performance. The children from Aspiration and Golden group recited the sonnet Krishna written by Sri Aurobindo. The children of Humility group enacted a skit based on Sri Krishna's childhood. The children played the song Sa..Sa...Sa...Sa Sangeet wala on the flute. The children of Twinkle group sang a devotional song Gopala, in praise of Lord Krishna. Pramila, Shubhra and Jagriti performed Odissi, classical dance choreographed to the beats of the song Kahin Gale Murali Phunka. The programme concluded with the teachers reciting the poem God by Sri Aurobindo.



Sri Aurobindo's Birthday - 15th August

Great is the nation whose god is the Lord...

It is on the same day that we celebrated Lord Sri Aurobindo's Birth Anniversary. On this special occasion we had a collective meditation in the Ashram Meditation Hall. The School offered a musical programme at the lotus feet of the supreme. The programme started with lighting diya and everyone concentrated while the Mother's music was played. Everyone sang a hailing song Ei Bhubana Madhure Gaye, an Oriya song. The students of different groups recited different poems and sonnets written by Sri Aurobindo. The students of Gratitude and Humility group recited Surrender. The poem Who was recited by Aspiration, Golden and Concentration group children. The children of Aspiration and Golden group also presented the Sonnet Thy Golden Light with graceful movements. Concentration group children recited a short poem Invitation and the teachers presented The Divine Worker. In the evening the children wore their marching uniforms and went to the Ashram to hoist the Mother's flag. Everyone sang the national song and the surroundings echoed with the strains of Vande Mataram. Pranjali Bhaiya read from Savitri, the 24,000-line epic poem written by Sri Aurobindo.

Independence Day - 15th August

May you soar high in the realm of freedom!

On 15th August Auro Mira Vidya Mandir celebrated Independence Day with high patriotic zeal. The Indian tricolour was unfurled while the children sang the national anthem. The cultural programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Students of Twinkle Group recited a patriotic poem describing the valour of Rani Laxmi Bai and the children of Gratitude group paid homage to the sacrifice of freedom fighter Baji Rout, the youngest martyr in the history of the freedom movement of India who was born in the Dhenkanal district of Odisha. The patriotic song Dil Diya Hai Jaan Bhi Denge by Suryodhan and Bikanti enthralled the audience. The children of Joy Group performed Badhe Chalo Badhe Chalo an action song and a play based on the life of Bhagat Singh was enacted by the students of Aspiration, Golden and Concentration Groups. All the members of the school sang the national anthem and paid homage to the nation.



Ganesh Puja - 25th August

We bow to Thee oh seer of the seers and the Lord of the invocation May you remove all the obstacles and shower us with bounties.

Vinayak Chaturthi was celebrated in the month of Bhadra to commemorate Lord Ganesha's birthday with a lot of excitement. The idol of the Lord was installed inside the



decorated pandal and the children offered shlokas and bhajans on this auspicious occasion. The musical offering started with meditation music and the students invoked the grace and blessing of Lord Ganesha through chanting of shlokas. The children from Concentration group sang the beautiful bhajan Jaya Mangalamurti. It was followed by a dance

by the students of Aspiration and Golden group based on the bhajan Shri Ganesha. Kumari, Sushila, Chandrama and Talsa offered a dance with Suparna didi along with the bhajan Hai Gana Naya Tere Vina. The girls of Humility group did a dance on the Shloka Mushika Vahan. A Hindi play 'Ganeshji ka Vahan' was put up by Gratitude group. Children from Twinkle and Joy group sang Gajanan Kardo Beda Paar and Jai Ganesh, Jai Ganesh, Jai Ganesh Deva, one of the favourite bhajans of students. Ganesh bhaiya accompanied by Nilamber on the Tabla played Raag Hamir on the Sitar. The musical offering enthralled the audience and created an ambience of eager aspiration.

Diwali - 19th October

An Occasion to Celebrate Victory over Defeat, Light over Darkness.

The students celebrated the festival of lights by enthusiastically illuminating the hostel and the School building with earthen lamps.

Siddhi Divas (Darshan Day) – 24th November

The descent of New Consciousness on earth...

Siddhi day was celebrated in the Ashram in solemn reverence. The children went to the Ashram for special meditation in the morning. In the evening everyone came together in collective aspiration through march past and paid homage to the Mother's flag. Diyas were lit in the Ashram premises and there were readings from Savitri by Pranjal Bhaiya and some of the children.

Pranjal Bhaiya's Birthday - 29th November

Pranjal Bhaiya's birthday is a special occasion in Kechla. The day began with meditation in the Ashram and was followed by havan. The children celebrated Pranjal Bhaiya's birthday through a cultural programme. Mani didi recited a poem on Pranjal Bhaiya and all the children recited several dohe by Kabir. Students of Gratitude group showcased Gopal in the Sweet Shop, while Joy group presented Nanha Pranjal, in which they recreated moments from Pranjal Bhaiya's childhood. Children of Aspiration and Golden sang the song Manda Pitha Gol Gol accompanied by actions. Twinkle group performed the play, Krishna Murti. The girls of Humility group presented the song Shubha Saratara Shubha Sakalare and students of Gratitude group presented Panditji's Mother Tongue. Kumara and Surekha didi melodiously sang Sagar se Gehra. The much-appreciated Gopal and Govind by students of Humility group was followed by Better, when I am dancing by



the girls from Aspiration and Golden group. The other stage performances included Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja by students of Aspiration and Golden group, The Two Colour Coat by Humility group and The Emperor's New Clothes by Aspiration and Goldengroup.



Christmas - 25th December

The yuletide spirit was ushered in with gaiety. A special cultural programme captured the festive mood. The programme began with the Mother's music and sonorous chanting. Joy group rendered the beautiful song Silver Moon by Michael Nesmith. The children joyfully sang carols and other songs one after the other. Twinkle group sang We wish you a Merry Christmas, while Gratitude group took up the strains of Fa la lala la...lala...la ...and move the



mountain. Little children of Humility group sang I'm a tiny star, drummer boy and Long time ago. Aspiration and Golden group delighted the audience with Silent night, Jingle bell rock and the most popular, Joy to the world and the students of Faith group sang In the town of Bethlehem. The teachers too joined in the bonhomie and sang Every star twinkles at the night sky and Gloria. This was followed by a play performed by Hari, Bhuvan, other children and Pranjal Bhaiya. The highlight of the programme was the appearance of Santa Claus after which everyone joyously sang Jingle bells and ate sweets.



Sports Day - 10th January

The annual Sports Day of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir was held on 10th January, 2018. The day started with chanting of prayers by the children and facilitators. At 6:30 in the morning, all the children above Gratitude group gathered for a 6-kilometre Marathon. The vice principal of The Mother's International School, Milan Mala Sarin too joined the enthusiastic children. The day was filled with various types of games and sports. The programme started with lighting of the lamp by chief guest Mr Prasad Tripathy from Matru Bhavan, Cuttack. Mr. Surendra Dash and Ms. Anjali Tripathy were some of the other guests who graced the occasion. The very young ones from Joy, Twinkle, Gratitude and Humility Groups took part in an exciting relay race. Children from Aspiration, Golden, Concentration and New Creation groups participated in a slow cycling race.



The enthusiasm of the guests was palpable and very soon they too joined the race. This was followed by a basketball match played between the children and the facilitators. Amidst loud cheering, the students won the match. The morning episode concluded with tug of war between the mixed groups of children and teachers. The main attraction of the Sports Day was the Physical Demonstration programme by the different groups of the School late in the afternoon. The programme started with lighting of the ceremonial lamp and incense by Ms. Anjali Tripathy and followed by the Mother's music. The students marched past in perfect coordination to the tune of Milke Chalo sung by the children of Faith Group. Children from Gratitude group presented





Yogasana. The audience applauded as the children deftly displayed intricate yogic postures. Little children of Joy and Twinkle group performed a mass drill using hoopla. They spun the hoop in energetic whirling movement along with the rhythmic music. The audience beheld them spellbound and burst into applause every now and then. Next, it was the turn of children of Gratitude and Humility group skating to the tune of Jai Ho. The balance and coordination displayed through various formations was remarkable. Gymnastics is always the most eagerly awaited event of the programme. It is a sport that requires balance, strength, flexibility, agility, coordination, and endurance. And children of Aspiration and Golden group displayed them all through both simple and complex movements.

Six boys from Aspiration and Golden group entralled the audience with their antics on the unicycle. Concentration and Faith group came up with different acrobatic pyramid formations. Twenty-four children from Gratitude, Humility, Aspiration and Golden groups performed a spectacular drill on stilts. Children of Faith group put up Dhamsa, the rural folk dance. A few women from the nearby villages and other children later joined them in. Shri Prasad Tripathy delivered a short inspiring speech praising the efforts of the students and teachers of the School and encouraging them to take the School to greater heights. The programme concluded with Shanti path by all the members of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir. The chief guest distributed sweets and the mementos to all the participants.

Republic Day - 26th January

Republic Day is always celebrated with high patriotic zeal at Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir. Thirty children participated in physical demonstration specially organized to celebrate the occasion. Special attraction for the audience was the creative marching on stilts. All the children literally and figuratively stood tall as they marched very confidently expressing their strong dedication towards the country. Other children from younger classes watched the live telecast of Republic Day on television.

Basant Panchami – 1st February

May the goddess of Knowledge, music, arts, wisdom and learning enlighten us with her knowledge bestow her wisdom and lead towards the perfection.

With nature's resplendence ushering in spring, Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir welcomed the Goddess of knowledge and wisdom. On this auspicious day, the Auro-Mira family prayed for a bright future. Teachers along with the children decorated the stage on which the Mother was worshipped as Mahasaraswati one of her four great aspects. On this occasion children offered their instruments to the Mother Saraswati, the goddess of music. The junior groups put up a musical programme. The surroundings echoed with their sacred chants and bhajans. Children sang the bhajan Shweta Padmasana Devi that was followed by reading from the passage on Mahasaraswati from the book *The Mother* by Sri Aurobindo. Four children from Gratitude group performed a dance with the song Tume Maa Durga, an Odiya bhajan. The children from Humility group sang Namō Sarade Maa and Jayati Jaya Maa Saraswati was sung by the tiny tots of Joy group. Twinkle group children sang Maa Sarade..... Maa Sarade a bhajan in Hindi. The programme concluded with Gaesh bhaiya playing the Sitar, accompanied by Nilamber on the Tabla. He played a Saraswati vandana based on Raag Yaman.



The Mother's Birthday – 21st February

The Mother's Birthday was celebrated with a series of special events and programme throughout the day. The celebrations commenced with collective meditation in the Ashram. The notes of the Mother's music played on while the children expressed their love and tribute to the sweet Mother at the Meditation Hall. In a cultural programme later during the day, Gratitude group presented a graceful choreography set to Durga Stotra as an invocation. Children of Joy group performed the songs, Discover, Explore and Nanhe Hain Nanha Sa Dil with rhythmic actions. Humility group put up a play in English titled Hope for Flowers along with a dance based on the song, Subha Sakalara Shubha Sarata. Students of Aspiration and Golden group presented sinuous movements to the mantric lines of excerpt from Savitri. The little ones from Smile group sang Kami Bear and Star Jump with energetic and suggestive actions.



Birthday of Anuradha Sapru Kohl – 27th February

Birthday of Anuradha Sapru Kohl was celebrated on 27th February. The children stood around her plaque and paid homage by chanting several shloka, offering Bhajans and of course singing the special birthday song. This was followed by a special meal and distribution of sweets.



Holi, the festival of colours – 1st March

Fun filled exciting moments!

Holi was celebrated with lots of enthusiasm. The children applied a paste of turmeric powder and neem. For the recreation of the children the teachers arranged a food stall. Children devoured delicious bits and pieces like watermelon, lassi, pani puri, chana masala, pakoda, biscuits, chocolates, etc. from different stalls. The earrings made through quilling proved to be a special attraction. Children made biryani, sabji and kheer, which were savoured at night out in the open under the moonlight.

Visitors to Kechla this year

Suryadi, Palani bhaiya, Shantidi, Pratibha came to Kechla to conduct a dental check-up camp for the children. Pratibha taught a few basic steps of Bharat Natyam to the young children. Palani bhaiya discussed with the children about how to reuse and dispose waste. Surya di took a two-hour session for the teachers. She explained Aviva's exercise and explained how it can treat serious ailments in the human body. She also made mango chutney and delicious south Indian spicy sauce.



Meeta di reached Kechla on 6th May. She took science classes for Concentration and New Creation group and taught embroidery and stitching to some of the teachers.



On 15th May Kechla welcomed Sulochana didi, a member of AMSS, Annapoorni didi, a Social Science teacher and Naval bhaiya, a well-known art and craft teacher. Sulochana didi taught Home Science to a few students and Psychology to Chandrama. She also conducted a few study circle classes and guided the children towards raising their consciousness. Annapoorni didi taught History to Faith, Concentration and New Creation group. Children fondly recall her loving and caring nature.



During his stay in Kechla, Naval bhaiya took some interesting sessions for the children on craft and painting. Children learnt how to make various things like masks and handmade paper from the waste paper. The students also learnt making and designing beautiful lampshades, baskets, pen stands, paper bags, photo frames, file covers, etc. Children beautified the hostel dining area and the school premises with beautiful paintings under his guidance. He also taught paper marbling, starching, rangoli, stencil and calligraphy to the children. He had brought with him calligraphy sketch pens and beautiful samples of handmade paper which he gave to the School. All the children as well as teachers thoroughly enjoyed his classes.



Parul Mohan, a doctor and Gaurav bhaiya an architect with their son Avi visited Kechla for a few days. Parul didi did a basic health check-up for all the children. Gaurav bhaiya has designed our new hostel building. He spent a lot of time at the construction site and provided valuable counsel to the engineer about the work being done. Gaurav bhaiya also saw all the buildings and campuses and gave inputs and guidance everywhere. Avi gifted a few story books of his own to the School children.

Geetanjali and Utsav stayed in Kechla for three weeks. During their staying Geetanjali taught Social Science to New Creation group and Psychology to a few students of Faith group. She also taught dance to the children. Utsav guided the children on their Science and Home Science syllabus. Their love and affection won the children's heart.



Bhuvana didi came to Kechla with Parthiv and Arjav. Arjav took a few classes for Aspiration and Golden group and also arranged for a picnic. Parthiv taught Physics to students of New Creation group and Bhuvana didi helped the children with Science. Parthiv has been religiously coming to Kechla every year. All the senior students look forward to his visit. While he was here, he worked for 8 hours every day. Besides teaching, Parthiv also taught Robotics. He had carried complete material with himself.



Sunita Sapru along with her husband Subhash Sapru and Brij bhaiya, our Christmas father, arrived at Kechla with a bag full of gifts and sweets for the children on Christmas Eve. They enjoyed the Christmas programme thoroughly and distributed sweets to everyone. Children also performed short plays, poems and songs specially for them. They were very glad to see the varied performances of children.



Suman bhaiya with his wife and children, and accompanied by Krishna Prem Bhaiya and Mallica di from Pondichery stayed in Kechla for a few days. Krishna Prem bhaiya helped Lalu with Maths and Science. Mallica di guided the children during Yogasanas.

Aparajita didi, Rajni didi and her children Sachi and Puska came to Kechla for two weeks. The two little girls adjusted very well and joined the children of Gratitude and Joy group. Rajni didi who is a trained yoga teacher as well as a



primary teacher helped in Joy group and Aparajita didi, a very dedicated lady

spent her time in teaching craftwork to the children of Gratitude group and above. London-born-anthropologist, activist Felix Padel, the great great grandson of Charles Darwin visited Kechla for a day. He played a few classical English songs and some tribal folk songs on his violin. Everyone listened to his captivating performance in rapt attention.



The District Education Officer with his wife and daughter, visited the School and praised Shashi di who visits Kechla regularly. Children wait for her to learn from her and whenever she is in Kechla, she loves to spend her time with the children. She took Yogasana classes for the children as well as for the adults. She also helped Twinkle group in Math and English and the Humility group with their Math.



Veerinder didi and her husband Kewal Singh Virdi bhaiya spent their precious time in Kechla. She taught Biology to the children of Aspiration, Golden and Concentration groups.



Matthew accompanied by his wife Corinne and their children from USA, who were staying in Auroville visited Kechla for three days. They enjoyed their stay and promised to spend time in Kechla during their next visit to India. Children were awestruck when he presented the kirtan Hare Rama, Hare Krishna, tuning it with guitar.

Deheera didi, Parul didi, Vandana didi, Mita didi from Puducherry, Ramesh bhaiya from England, Purva Sharma from Delhi visited Kechla. They spent their valuable time with the children. They visited different groups and were enjoyed the scenic beauty and serenity of the place. During bhajan sandhya they were fascinated by the children's ability to sing soulful bhajans, patriotic songs and some English songs. Children also played beautiful music on their flutes and were accompanied on the tabla. All the groups presented a few bhajans, plays and songs for the guests. They also showcased some of the items of the Physical Demonstration. Parul didi shared her experiences with the Mother in the Meditation Hall. The children heard her about memories awe struck.



Guests recount their experience in Kechla

*Natalie Wischer from Germany wrote to
Pranjal Bhaiya on 8th November, 2017*

Amazing time in Kechla

...I wanted to thank you for the amazing time I had in Kechla!

I cannot express how much I enjoyed the time in this peaceful place!

Teaching the kids, spending time with them and learning something about their cultural background, are things I will never forget in my life.

I had a wonderful stay, and besides the amazing children I really appreciate the welcoming attitude of all the "didis" in Kechla.

I am back in Germany since some days and I miss Kechla and India in general a lot! ...

Natalie



Excerpts from the diary of Paruldi from Puducherry

It was a unique trip to Kechla, a place on the borders of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. It was Tara Jauhar who organized the trip and unfortunately she fell ill and couldn't join us for the entire trip.

We seven friends of all different ages enjoyed in the train up to Vizianagaram. This was followed by a car drive to Kolab Reservoir, where a water launch arrived to take us to the Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir, the school for the tribal children. The beautiful sun slowly set behind the hills and it started getting dark. It was an odd 40 minutes long journey on the motor launch, and almost for the entire ride it was raining. By the time we got off, it had stopped raining, as if timed to perfection, since none of us were carrying our umbrellas! It

was around 7:30 in the evening when we anchored at the shore, and it was pitch dark. We could not even see the ground in front of us without the aid of torch lights. No lights anywhere, it was a tribal area. What an amazing silence and darkness! No words were uttered to disturb the pure atmosphere. We reached our destination in utter darkness.



We had to walk quite a distance with our luggage. We blindly followed in the footsteps of the two young boatmen. At last a big door was seen in the dark but it was locked. We shouted, screamed and in chorus we called out P.R.A.N.J.A.L. several times. With no mobile connection, none of us could call him to tell him that we had reached. One could feel the anxiety, helplessness and fear that took over all of us due to tiredness of 25 straight hours of travel- by train, road



and waters! We all were hungry and extremely tired. After waiting there for around 15 minutes, but which seemed more than that, someone came on the other side with a torch. The big gate was opened and we all heaved a sigh of relief. We were extremely glad to see two motorcycles there, and the elder members of the group were given a ride to their respective accommodations. After putting our luggage and freshening up, we all were taken to the dining area for dinner. Immediately after dinner I was again brought on a bike to the building where I was going to stay. I had a wonderful, relaxed sleep.

I woke up early in the morning by the calls of cocks and the twittering birds on the Rudraksha trees. It was Friday, the 9th of March, 2018.

A unique place of natural beauty, with water and hills all around, shrubs, trees and the greenery with the red soil reminds one of Auroville in the initial stages. What amazed me especially was that all this was the result of one man's effort-dream-toil and love for progress. Where there was nothing, there with toil, effort and love it has become a living dream land- Paradise of loveliness! One has to work in harmony with Nature, with co-workers and the innocent souls who are our future to help bring the country on the right path of progress.

To gain respect one has to respect others in the work field of life. One can see the struggle, will and effort to make and build the place into a garden of beauty, a grand orchard, fruits like bananas, guavas, mangoes, pamplemousse (French name for the big pink fruit which is sour inside) etc. I was happy to see the garden with plants, flower beds, all well planned and looked after with care and feelings, everything well arranged. The garden had lots of tube rose, zinia, many varieties of hibiscus, sunflowers etc. All the plants were healthy. There were plots for greens and vegetables too.

The place also has a windmill. Solar panels keep the entire school complex well-lit and electrified. All the places are at a distance from each other, so one has to walk down the uneven rocky terrain. The Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir has about 78 acres of land, including a farmhouse, cultivated fields of cereals etc., orchards of mango trees, guavas, cashew nuts, cheeku fruits, banana trees, and many other seasonal flower plants and fruit trees.

Our programme for 9th March 2018

The school children welcomed us with havan in the school compound. They chanted shlokas, invoking the Gods and the whole atmosphere was vibrating with the chanting of the children. It was heart-warming to see all the School present there, with the elder children sitting around the central fire, surrounded by concentric circles of younger children witnessing how the seniors were going about the entire process. They all had such natural and effortless warmth for each other that all the children seemed to belong to one single family.

After the havan, we all went to each classroom one by one to interact with the children and see them 'in action'. The classrooms were big and well-ventilated with big windows. The classes are built on raised platforms so that heavy rains do not inundate the rooms. The classrooms face each other and at the central courtyard there are flower-beds, flower pots, along with trees. The library impressed the most. The width and breadth of the collection of reading material, right from Kindergarten to higher level studies of History, Philosophy, Literature, along with extensive spiritual literature was breathtaking. It was evident how much love and exposure the teachers try to give to all the children, and evoke, and cater to as many interests of theirs as possible. It was also nice to see many young and older children deeply absorbed in the various books they were reading.

There are teachers from Delhi but the older children also help. Pranjal is always there for guidance, help and encouragement. It is a guru-shishya method and it is very successful. There is discipline, obedience, interest and enthusiasm.

At 5:00pm, a physical demonstration by the children was arranged for us. The children started with stilts and they lined up in tricolours (white, orange and green). They made formations while stilts marching, matching with the colours. More than 20 boys balancing in harmony in different formations to music. It was amazing! This was done in the football field.

Then our chairs were shifted to the basketball court, where they performed acrobatics, gymnastics, building pyramids, roller skating, mono-wheel cycle formations, juggling with balls, clubs. It was wonderful, superb! What concentration, focussing with full control without any distractions! Most of the children can do all the activities. I found this amazing! What interest, zeal and dynamism! Hardwork and interest are the conditions for success. For one full hour Pranjal and his children kept us fully engrossed in the demonstration. To give a break or rest in between the items, Pranjal with his students gave us comical entertainments through short plays.

At 7:00pm there were collective activities in the Meditation Hall which is in the Hostel area. The children chanted sholka, and everyone sang many bhajans. It was a touching gathering. At about 8:00pm we had our dinner, then each one went to his/her cosy room.

Our programme for Saturday 10th March 2018

As usual I woke up early in the morning. I could see the Eastern sky was lightening up. I decided to take a walk in the orchard of mango grooves, cashew trees, guavas, lemons etc. There was heavy dew and as the sunlight came up it appeared that the wet cobwebs were

studded with diamonds. A beautiful, colorful sight indeed!!

After breakfast we went to the School to attend the cultural programme of the different classes. There were recitations, drama, songs and also games. The older students recited passages from Sri Aurobindo's Savitri and His other poems. Amazing capacity of the students and the sincere effort of the teachers! Pranjali with his students enacted his grandfather's drama of the 'Maharaja and the courtier.' It was done very well, fantastic!

With the youngest children, he acted, recited sang the story of how a gardener plants trees. It started in slow cadence and gradually increased the tempo, and ended again in slow cadence, till the children got tired and all lay down one on top of the other with Pranjali in the middle. It was a touching sight! How Pranjali could identify himself with the young kids.

After lunch, at 2:30pm we assembled for an outing: to climb a hill and go to the viewpoint from where the entire landscape can be seen. We were about 30 including the small children of the school, who were our guides. After walking for about 40 minutes, we reached the foot of the hill we were supposed to climb. It was a gradual climb with shrubs, thorny plants and a narrow goat's pathway. Pramila, one small girl, took extra care of me. She cleared my pathway of thorns and stones and helped me all along. Like me, each one of us found themselves surrounded by 3-5 children guiding them, helping them and actively interacting with them. It was heartwarming to receive their warmth and love which came so naturally to them, and it was truly humbling to see such young ones to be able to express so much love without self consciousness.

The climb was approximately 20 minutes long and once we reached the top, the scene was simply breathtaking. The river was all around the hill, and there was not a soul to be seen! Such a sight in a populous country like ours is rarer than a blue moon! The setting sun's reflection on the waters made it a river of Gold, shimmering and shining gold. It was an unforgettable sight. After absorbing it all in silence, we started back after around half an hour.

Our Programme on Sunday, 11th March 2018

It was the last day of our trip so we all chose to swim in the lake adjacent to the School. We spent the entire morning swimming, chitchatting and seeing the young children take delight in jumping into the waters from the cliffs, and swimming like master swimmers.

At about 12:00 noon we had picnic lunch under big trees in our compound. There was tasty khichuri-papad and lassi served in big leaf bowls. Everyone enjoyed thoroughly. Those of us who were tired, rested in their rooms and at 4:30pm we all had tea together.

At 7:00pm, we had a get-together in the Meditation Hall of the guesthouse. The girls and boys recited shlokas, sang bhajans and played the tabla. I could feel that the whole atmosphere was vibrating with light. Finally, there was a short question answer interaction to know the aim of life and my memories and memorable experiences with the Mother. A feeling of joy, oneness, happiness was felt in the atmosphere.

The next day, on 12th March, we all left early morning. We all were sad to go back, as this trip had filled each of us with something sweet, warm, joyous, and the place itself was full of the innocent and sweet love of young children. We all were witness to the richness of a place untouched by so-called 'development'. From the physical atmosphere, to the psychological atmosphere, everything was as clean as the waters of Kolab, unpolluted, unknotted, in a deep harmony with Nature, both within and without.

Trips and Camps

Trip to Bhubaneswar - October, 2017

A week-long educational trip was organized to few parts of eastern Odisha in the month of October, 2017. The places included were Puri, Konark, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack. Children from Gratitude, Humility, Golden and Aspiration groups along with some older students and nine



teachers got the opportunity to be a part of this trip. Children were very excited and eagerly awaited the trip. They were found busy counting the days a month before they were to embark. For the children of Humility and Gratitude, it was an altogether new experience. They travelled by a train and saw city life for the first time.

The trip started on 1st of October by train. The train compartment was full of children with a few other passengers who enjoyed the excited chattering of the children. One child from Humility group named Shankar went to the upper berth in the train and said, “Didi I am dancing here and have forgotten my hunger”. On 2nd the little tourists reached Cuttack. Accommodation was provided at Cuttack Matrubbhawan. The same day, the group visited different places in Cuttack. Barbati Stadium, Barbati Fort, Jawaharlal





Nehru Sports Museum, Naraj Bridge and Naubaniya Museum were some of the places they visited. In the Museum the children enjoyed watching a 3D show and a grand aquarium. It was the most interesting and exciting part of the whole trip.



Next, they moved to Bhubaneswar to see Natural History Museum, Planetarium, Khandagiri and Jain Caves of Udayagiri, Buddha Temple at Dhaulagiri, and Lingaraj temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Nandankanan, the famous and natural Zoo was also another attraction for the children. Children watched the animals and birds in amazement and their excitement knew no bounds. Jagannath temple of Puri and the Sun temple of Konark were their next halts. Hearing the name of Puri, one thing children visualized, was the sea beach. The moment the group stepped on the Chandrabhaga beach, rain welcomed them. Children enjoyed themselves and spent a memorable time there. They experienced large crowd in the temple and were a little irritated because of the noise. But the interesting part was that the rain water helped them to walk bare footed on the otherwise sweltering roads of Puri. From there, the children proceeded to Kalupada Ghat. It is a place in Khorda district which boasts of an integral school. They stayed the night in that school. Further plans to visit Chilika lake had to be shelved due to a cyclone in the area. Children could only see the side view of Chilika Lake.

On 7th of October the children reached Kechla safely. Overall, the trip was an enjoyable experience and very well appreciated by the kids.

Faith Group Visits South India - November, 2017

Seven girls- Tulsa, Bikanti, Chandrama, Kamli, Kokila, Darshana and Gauri visited Pondicherry in the month of November, 2017.

This was their first trip to the south of the country and the aim was to visit Pondicherry and Auroville to understand the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo Ashram and imbibe the atmosphere of the place. They also visited some of the southern temple towns to understand the history, culture, architecture and rich heritage of the place.

13th November (Tirupati)

The group visited Venkateswara Temple, a landmark Vaishnavite temple situated in the hill town of Tirumala at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. The place was extremely crowded and the students, unfortunately, could not enjoy very much as they are not used to large crowds.



14th November (Puducherry)

Reaching Puducherry in the evening, the children got ready and went to pay homage at the Samadhi of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Later, they went to meet Hansa ben, a 75 year old devotee. She has spent time in Kechla and knows the children very well. After the visit the group went to see Prof. Manoj Das to seek his blessings.

15th November (Mahabalipuram)

Children visited the temples and monuments built by the Pallava dynasty in the 7th and 8th centuries in Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram). All the children had prior knowledge and understanding about the history and architecture of Mahabalipuram, as they had studied them in detail while in Kechla. In fact, they soon realised that they knew more than the guide who had been hired!



Dakshina Chitra

Dakshina Chitra is a living-history museum, dedicated to South Indian heritage and culture, located 25 kilometres to the south of Chennai. In the museum, the children saw the traditional houses and way of living in the four southern states of India.



The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology

The children visited the crocodile bank which is a reptile zoo and herpetology research station. They spent a lot of time learning about crocodiles and their varieties, habitat and also about snakes.

16th November (Auroville)

Next, the children visited Auroville where they spent time at Deepanam School, the sports ground, the bamboo centre, Svaram, a music research centre and the Visitor's Centre. In between they had lunch at the Solar Kitchen.



17th November (Puducherry)

The children attended the 6:00 am Mediation at the School and then went for Darshan to the Mother's room.

Thanjavur

In Thanjavur the group visited the Thanjavur Royal Palace. They first viewed a short film on Thanjavur and went to the medieval library. Then, they visited the palace, the many museums and the art gallery. At night they were hosted by Rama and Sachin Iyer in Old Mathur village.



18th November (Rameshwaram)

The next halt was at Rameshwaram. The crossing of the Pamban bridge was a spectacular experience for the excited group. They visited the famous Rameshwaram temple and participated in the various rituals performed there. Their stay and food were organised by Mr. S.D. Saravana.



19th November (Dhanushkodi)

The children visited Dhanushkodi, the abandoned town situated to the South-East of Pamban and about 18 miles west of Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. The group spent few hours at the beautiful point surrounded by water all around.



Kanyakumari

Kanyakumari was the next stop. The children saw the vast amount of salt being produced on the way and also the wind farms with the uncountable majestic windmills. They visited Vivekananda Rock by ferry and spent time enjoying the serene atmosphere of the place. They were the last visitors to leave the island on that day. The group had eagerly looked forward to viewing the sunset which was not as beautiful as one had heard since the clouds darkened the western sky. The Kanyakumari temple was worth visiting and completed the day's trip.



20th November (Madurai)

The group drove down to Madurai where they were hosted by Aravind Eye Hospital. Dr Natchiar graciously met the children. While talking to the group she motivated them to aim high, work hard and keep smiling. She is not only the younger sister of the iconic Dr Govindappa Venkataswamy, popularly known as Dr V, who was the founder of Aravind Eye Hospital, but also a world renowned eye surgeon in her own right.



The group visited the Aravind Eye Hospital and were impressed by the way they maintain quality, cleanliness and hygiene and also the computerisation and the efficiency that they have achieved. The children appreciated the selfless service of the staff and came to know that their training was an ongoing process. The children also saw the section where patients are treated at minimal and often at zero cost.

The evening saw the children watch the Light and Sound show at Thirumalai Nayak Palace, a 17th-century palace erected by King Thirumalai Nayak, a king of Madurai's Nayaka dynasty who ruled Madurai from 1623-59. This Palace is a classic fusion of Dravidian and Rajput styles

21st November

The group visited the certified organic farm of Aravind Eye Hospital. This was as remarkable as the hospital. However, the icing on the cake was the manufacturing unit of Aravind Eye Hospital where they not only manufacture intra-ocular lenses, but also medicines, sutures, injections and a host of other medical items. The cleanliness and the quality was unimaginable and impressed the children. Seeing the large number of young girls undertaking this mammoth task was an unforgettable and inspiring experience.

Srirangam

The children then travelled to Srirangam where they were hosted by the famous writer-Dr. Prema Nandakumar. They first went to Mount Fort Temple in Tiruchirapalli under the guidance of Ms. Bhuvana Nandakumar who happened to be visiting from the US just for a couple of days. She explained the significance of many rituals and practices in the temple and also provided a religious and historical perspective.



Next, they visited the Church of the Lady of Louvre, that is more than a century old. Mr Nandakumar took the group to the Srirangam Temple to see some religious ceremonies. He also explained everything in great detail.

In a long session with Dr Prema Nandakumar, the children learnt about the significance of temples of Tamil Nadu, the various dynasties and many stories related to the temples. They were told about Dr K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar. Dr Nandakumar spoke to the children about the house in which she is staying and where the children were to spend the night. It was a house which dated back to the year 1790.

22nd November

The group visited the Srirangam Temple and saw everything in great detail. Mr Nandakumar and Bhuvana di were with them. They appreciated the architecture and also saw the damage caused by Malik Kafur.

Puducherry

They, then, returned to Puducherry and paid their homage at the Samadhi. Later, they sat at the beach for a few hours and discussed the philosophy that guides the Ashram.

23rd November

After breakfast at the Ashram dining hall, the children visited the various departments of the Ashram. The tour started with the Dispensary and Embroidery department, followed by the Bakery and Laundry. They spent time exploring each department and absorbing all the details. Then, they went to Sri Smriti and saw all the things used by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother and the innumerable gifts they had received from all over the world. This was followed by a visit to the School and the flower room (Primary section). PIC 73 Anjana ben showed them everything in great detail, even though during that time there were holidays at School. Anjana ben also shared the educational philosophy of the School in great detail. Parul didi joined the group. They visited the Handmade Paper department and saw every step of paper manufacturing followed by production of stationery items. After lunch at the Dining Hall, they saw the Press and all the machines doing their magic in there.

24th November

The group visited Sri Aurobindo's room for Darshan early in the morning. This was followed by breakfast at the Dining Hall. Next on the itinerary was Chitra didi's farm and where the children spent the day working and learning about all the birds and animals that were there.

25th, 26th and 27th November

A good part of the day was spent at Chitra didi's farm. Children became familiar with the different birds and animals. During their stay in the farm the children learnt that one has to be very sensitive towards the needs of the animals and that they should be handled with lots of love and care. All of them enjoyed feeding the birds and animals. The Emu was their favourite and it followed them everywhere. They also helped out in the garden by watering the plants and weeding the farm. The farmhands were charmed by the enchanting old film songs, devotional songs and a few English songs from Jungle Book sung by the children.



Basketball Tournament in Delhi - January, 2018

“I've learnt that something constructive comes from every defeat.”

Twelve girls from Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir went to Delhi to participate in the Girls Inter school Invitational Basket Ball Tournament hosted by The Mother's International School. The girls were Radha Muduli, Sushila Kamar, Neela Gouda, Mansi Gouda, Basanti Krisani, Jayu Muduli, Swati Jani, Kumari Gouda, Brishti Krisani, Maina Krisani, Surya Kudubi and Bhagwati Krisani. Their coach Gulshan Sir guided them and trained them for the match.

The Tournament was inaugurated by Tara Didi, and the girls displayed their skill and strength in every match that they played in the Tournament. In the knock-out match, where they played against Sanskriti School, AMVM scored 19 baskets while Sanskriti School scored 12. The second knock-out match saw the girls play the game deftly where their opponent Bluebells International School could not score a single basket and AMVM scored 26 points. The team reached the semi finals and played against Delhi Public School, R. K. Puram. It was a closely contested match in



which AMVM scored 24 points and Delhi Public School, R. K. Puram, scored 25 points. Though AMVM narrowly lost the semi finals, the spectators were full of praise for the little girls of AMVM whose determination, agility and sincerity won every heart. During their stay in Delhi, the girls of the basketball team also learnt how to Juggle balls which were made of balloon and rice.

Music Camp held at Sri Aurobindo Ashram-Delhi Branch- March, 2018



Twenty-five children of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir in the age group of 11 to 14 years along with four teachers were at the Delhi Ashram for two weeks from 16th- 30th March to attend workshops on Music (Instrumental and Vocal), Sanskrit and Taekwondo.

Children had a fully packed day's schedule for the entire fortnight. During the first half of the day they attended instrumental music sessions under the able guidance of Pt Barun Pal and supported by Radhika Didi, Sachin Bhaiya with specialists Sujeet Bhaiya (for flute), Kowshik Bhaiya (for Tabla), Ramanan Bhaiya (Keyboard), and Ravi Bhaiya (Violin). The music classes would start each day with chanting of the Guru Mantra and singing the bhajan Prabhuji Daya Karo. Barun Palji shared his childhood experiences of learning from his Guru, his father and the importance of listening attentively and discerning sur, the notes and also the taal, the rhythm and beats. Nine children learnt Flute and eight children attended the Tabla sessions. While one child and a teacher were initiated to the Keyboard, another teacher was initiated to the Violin. They learnt the basics of the instruments, finger placement and playing the major scales. Children's skills were fine tuned in both Tabla and Flute. They were taught new compositions and rhythms. They also learnt to play collectively to present an ensemble. Out of twenty-five children, six children had been learning Tabla and Flute since 2013 and had attended such workshops in the past. Though the remaining 19 children had started learning in 2015, it was only through this workshop that they got the opportunity to learn from specialists and accomplished artistes. Nalini Ghanekarji conducted a ten-day workshop on Hindustani classical, vocal music workshop in which she practised Sargam, introduced Raag Durga and also taught the prayer Madhurashtakam in praise of Lord Krishna. Children attended one-hour class every evening for vocal music. In the Sanskrit workshop conducted by Dr. Savitri, children were made to converse in Sanskrit through simulation, activities and games. Initially it was difficult for them to talk in Sanskrit as they did not have a wide vocabulary base to express themselves. The class would start with Udeshya Geetam, Ekta Mantra, and Sankalpah. Children also learnt about time, number counting, opposite words, using conjunctions and some aspects of tenses. For two weeks, Sanskrit classes were held post lunch for an hour and a half. Children read the Durga Stotra in Sanskrit and did chanting as well. During the evening games time, for an hour the children went to learn the martial art, Taekwondo. They learnt basic jumps, kicks, positions, tactics and defense mechanisms. This is only a formal beginning for these children. The young ones have taken their first dip in the vast ocean of music and had a glimpse of the sacred language, Sanskrit. The children humbly offered an orchestra presentation with an exclusive piece by Flute and Tabla players, followed by My Music (orchestra), Jugalbandi and Prabhuji Daya Karo all supported by Keyboards and Violin. Children sang the Madhurashtakam and also presented some songs and a dialogue role play in Sanskrit. This was followed by a Taekwondo demonstration. Thus, the enriching workshops concluded with the children showcasing all that they had learnt from different teachers during the fortnight.



Kechla Project Report

Construction Work

Construction work for the Hostel has been progressing at a slow pace. The completion has got delayed as government is building roads to the village. As a result, construction material could not reach easily and on time. Further, most workers have started working for the government. By the end of March, 2018, more than half the structure of the Hostel had been constructed.



New Facilities

Kechla project has endeavoured to enable sustainable development in village Kechla. Facilities have grown and are continually enhanced to improve the lives of the villagers. One step in that direction is that an engine for motor launch has been purchased and given to Semla village. Along with that one large boat and two small boats too have been purchased for use by villagers of Kechla.



Tree Plantation

Tree plantation has been a primary focus ever since the project started. Every year saplings are planted and taken care of by workers. This has led to an enhanced green cover in the area. In the last year almost 1838 trees were planted in the forests and hills. Tree guards have been put up and regular care is taken to ensure that the trees grow well. The saplings are tended by regular watering and manure is added to the soil as per the need.

Cultivation for Supply to Hostel

Vegetables, pulses and grains are grown to cater to the children in the hostel. The children play an active role in gardening activities. They prepare the soil, plant seeds and take care of the growing plants. In addition to the vegetables, a wide variety of fruits grow in the orchards and the children in the hostel savour them throughout the year.



Given is a list of the rich produce last year:

Bamboo(edible)	Pcs	74
Beans	Kg	405
Bitter gourd	Kg	32
Bottle Gourd	Kg	452
Brinjal	Kg	364
Cabbage	Kg	41
Cauliflower	Kg	28
Carrot	Kg	169
Cluster Beans	Kg	193
Corn	Pc	1623
Cucumber	Kg	88
Dhania	Kg	30
Drum sticks	Kg	16
German Turnip	Kg	86
Ginger	Kg	109
Green Chillies	Kg	11
Ivy Gourd	Kg	12
Jackfruit	pc	43
Lady fingers	Kg	16
Potato	Kg	122
Peas	Kg	95
Pumpkin	Kg	260
Radish	Pc	2731
Ridged Gourd	Kg	33
Snake Gourd	Kg	30
Spinach	Kg	322
Sweet Potato	Kg	47

Tomato	Kg	30
Amla	Kg	11
Banana	Pc	4769
Cherry	Kg	1
Dragon Fruit	Kg	55
Guava	Kg	325
Lemon	Pc	3
Litchi	Kg	371
Mango	Kg	4244
Melon	Kg	8
Orange	Kg	18
Papaya	Kg	391
Pomegranate	Kg	38
Rose apples	Kg	38
Sapeta	Kg	109
Star fruit	Kg	188
Fire wood	Q	409
Urad Dal	Kg	52
Dal Semi	Kg	30
Peanuts	Kg	76
Ragi	Kg	36
Tej Patta	Kg	1
Cinnamon	Kg	2
Rice	Kg	72
Arhar	Kg	61
Lobiya	Kg	14

Dental Camp 2017

This year the following groups were checked and treated:

1. Joy
2. Gratitude
3. Twinkle
4. Humility
5. Aspiration group
6. Golden
7. Concentration
8. Modern New Creation
9. New Creation
10. Faith group

A total of 109 children were checked and 68 dental issues were found in 42 students. Health workers carried out treatment in 57 children. 57 children were given preventive treatment. This year 16 adult patients were checked and 13 preventive and curative treatments were done.

The comparative evaluation since the year 2011 shows gradual decrease of dental problem due regular dental treatment and increased awareness regarding dental hygiene and oral care.

- In the 1st year 95% of students needed dental treatment,
- In the 2nd year 83%
- In the 3rd year 54%
- In the 4th year 34%
- In the 5th year 39%

Observation:

- The awareness on oral health has also improved a lot within the last 6 years.
- Stability of the obturations (Fuji 7 and 9) has been observed.
- Oral hygiene of the students is very good in general.

Adventure Camps Organised at Kechla

The Mother's International School, Delhi

24th September, 2017 - 4th October, 2017

Crimson Sand Dunes

Kechla

There was soil everywhere.

A strange statement, I realize. Of course there's soil everywhere. But there was something so distinct about this soil. It was the most captivating shade of red, and it was

everywhere. It contrasted the yellow swings that overlooked the dining hall, it ran through our feet when we stood in the reservoir, it sustained the patches of roots and leaves, and it came pouring out of our shoes for days to come. With all that talk about Red Sand, I hardly need to mention which trip report this one is. Furthermore, a mere report could hardly do justice to the marvel that exists in a little hamlet in Orissa. Alas, formality must be observed. Between embarking and disembarking on every mode of transport mankind has invented, it had been over 48 hours since we'd encountered a non-negligible span of solid, unmoving ground underneath our feet. So, we were all the more grateful for our landing on Kechla shores. For those of us who'd been here before, the familiarity of the hills and the waves called to us; for those of us who were visiting the first time, it was the excitement of unfamiliar surroundings that created the appeal.

Of course, at 12 in the night, all the rhetoric of imagery was lost on our group of tired teenagers whose entire world, at that point, comprised little over travel dirt. These poetics were for the morning to come, and the days that would follow.

Our routine at Kechla was packed with all the animation of simplicity. Our mornings were characterized by consecutive Shramdan (which showcased the ineptitude of city kids at peeling veggies and weeding patches), breakfast (the food epitomized the beauty of simple, home grown ingredients), and the rush to the school premises (this time, we were actually conducting classes, so punctuality mattered even more).

Nine strokes of the clock sounded "Study Time!" We'd all head off with our respective students to any nook or cranny they'd taken fancy to on that day. This was the kids' first exposure to 'formal studying,' and their training from an examination perspective. The formula of giving notes and tests along with the more appealing visual aids of flowcharts and diagrams was a new experience, and was met with mixed responses. Lab work was something most of the kids enjoyed, and the "oohs" and "aahs" in reaction to experiments like the colour change of litmus brought back fond memories of our own first-time at the lab.

All this is not to say that we didn't have our fair share of fun with the kids. Trips to the library and the science lab were accompanied by endless chatter, and walks down to the water point involved collecting and munching on raw guavas.

This fun was further built on at the time of co-curriculars. The post-lunch School was a potpourri of sounds: piano keys and guitar strums accompanied by sweet singing voices, animated tussles over art supplies, contemporary and classical dance music, and dramatic entries and exits by the youngest kids who had set up their very own theatrical performance. Near the end of our stay, they had got the chance to display their newly flourished talents in a little show they put up.

Alternating evenings tested our 'rough-and-tumble'-ness as we trekked uphill through the wilderness (you'd think I'm exaggerating. Believe me, I'm not.), leaving us drained out and ready for bed. Before turning it, we had an assembly with our students where all of us sang bhajans and contemporary songs alike, occasionally accompanied with instruments.

597 words up till now, and I've still barely scratched the surface of what those 10 days

were. All the tests are over, all the trips to the fruit pickings are memories, and the last echoes of the children's laughter has faded. Only one thing is constant. The red soil comes pouring out of our shoes.

Schools from Telangana 6th -10th January, 2018

A group of 56 students of class VII and 6 teacher/escorts of Sri Aurobindo International School of Hyderabad & New Creation School of Jangaon, attended a Personality Development & Adventure Camp at Kechla, Odisha, in January, 2018. Activities in the camp included morning keep-fit exercises, trekking, bouldering, rappelling, learning eye-care routines, swimming in the Kolab River Reservoir, jumping into the pool formed by waterfall from a height of 6-7 metres, playing games, learning folk dances of England, USA, and Israel, meditation, talks on Health, etc.



Children had a fun time and learning experiences as is evident from their feedback:
“I am very happy, fortunate.. to study in Sri Aurobindo International School because if I wouldn't join this school, then I would not come to this beautiful and joyful trip to

Kechla camp. I am giving only feedback, not suggestions because there is nothing negative... I could learn .. self-dependence” (S.K.R.)

“I always follow a quotation, 'The best view comes after the hardest climb.' After reaching the peak, the view was amazing” (C.N.K.A.)

I liked trekking, bouldering, waterfall, Kolab river reservoir, food, football matches. The camp was an awesome experience and Kechla is a great place” (V.T.)

“I loved jumping in the waterfall” (S.M.)

“I learnt how to fold bedsheets, how to wash plates... We did eye activity.. pouring honey in eyes. Due to this my eyes started becoming bright and sharp” (J.N.)

“We even had .. honey and sun treatment, cleaning our eyes with water, palming, ball-play & fine-print reading... Nirankar Bhaiya .. guided us in activities including folk-dances of the Western countries like Israel & America” (G.T.)

“The camp was very good with lots of enjoyment and fun.. I liked to see so many stars which we don't find in our place... I am going to tell how much we enjoyed to the next batch who is going to come next year” (B.S.); “We also enjoyed very much with our friends here” (K.S.)

“I want to come again and again” (L.V.S.).

The Mother's International School, Delhi

3rd - 8th January 2018

Community Service Programme

A total of 30 students from class 11, of The Mother's International School volunteered as teachers and mentors at the Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir in Kechla in January, 2018.

Each of the volunteers was allotted a student(s) of Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir, a free progress school for the local tribal populace. The aim was to teach children, all first generation learners, and by creating a rapport with them, find different methods to gauge their interests and provide joyful learning experiences. Variety of subjects were taught to the students. Subjects like Math, Social Science and Science were most common, but their favourite, English, invariably found its way into the daily itinerary. Apart from the academic classes, the volunteer teacher group also engaged them in co-curricular endeavours every day after lunch. Children were guided towards various art and craft activities, playing musical instruments and indoor games.



Teaching little children bubbling with eager enthusiasm in a remote place in Odisha helped the volunteers gain an educative experience and they returned enriched and inspired.

Lights of Aspiration



“*Light, endless Light! darkness has room no more,
Life's ignorant gulfs give up their secrecy:
The huge unconscious depths unplumbed before
Lie glimmering in vast expectancy.*”

Excerpt from 'Light' – Sri Aurobindo



*Life is movement, it is effort, it is a march forward,
the scaling of a mountain, the climb towards new revelations,
towards future realisations.*

-The Mother