



Children working in the computer lab

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Ada Lovelace Technology Lab



Vel Ma'm with her students



Vel Ma'm giving a lesson

Greetings Everyone!

As we have come to the end of the school year, it is time to review what has happened so far in 2015. So much has happened recently, I am compelled to update you now with the latest accomplishments at the school.

Here are some of the highlights:

Alpha School launches Ada's Technology Lab!

In March, Alpha school officially launched Ada's Technology lab. As you may know, our supporter, Ms. Hulton, has been journeying to the school to give these children computer education. Starting in December 2013, she has made four trips to the school, also in March and November in 2014 and March of 2015, one month each time. She has founded the Ada Lovelace Technology Lab, named after the world's first computer programmer.

Under her guidance, the children (ages 8-12) have been learning and practicing touch-typing, word processing and drawing skills. They have been introduced to the basic parts of electronic circuits (power source, wiring path, resistance, and switch) and have learned to put together simple circuits using snap connectors. Basic programming has been introduced as well as the organizational skills.

The students are applying their learning and new skills through projects and activities. They created slide shows on such topics as birds, mammals, famous computer scientists, their communities, their Alpha Montessori School, and made greeting cards for their families. They have also made greeting cards for their families using conductive paint and LEDs and cuffs (bracelets) for themselves using conductive thread and LEDs. They are excited to have every minute possible in the computer lab and are learning with lightning speed. In spite of a gap in English and technical languages, the children love their teacher and enjoy their partnership with her.

The lab and the technology program are supported by ToorCon Foundation and Ada's Technical Bookstore, both of Seattle, Washington, USA. We are grateful to Ms. Hulton for her gift of time and love. Our heartfelt thanks also go to ToorCon Foundation and Ada's Technical Bookstore for their generous support. Please see the children's work on our website: www.igniteafl.org/latestnews.



Priya Jha being acknowledged by Anita ma'm



Rakshita presenting her project to parents



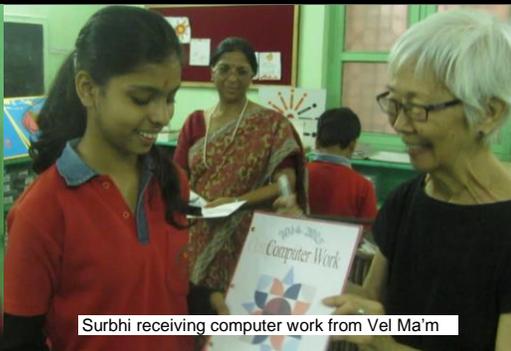
Rakshita receiving report card from Sarita Ma'm



Rishab presenting his project to the parents



Surbhi receiving report card from Pinky Ma'm



Surbhi receiving computer work from Vel Ma'm



The nine graduates and the teachers



Rakshita and Ayesha with Amita Ma'm



Anita ma'm reading Ayesha's dream to her



Ayesha presenting her project to parents



Priya Mishra receiving report card from Sumitra Ma'm



Samarth receiving report card from Anita ma'm



Samarth presenting his project to parents



Rohit with his color wheel

Alpha School's first Graduation! The class of 2015!

In April, Alpha School celebrated its first graduation of nine children with a graduation ceremony attended by the staff, teachers and parents of these children. Prior to the graduation ceremony, each child presented their project to the parents. They worked on class assignments with topics including a model of the eye, how a fan or a light bulb works, the solar system, a tropical rain forest, rain harvesting, countries of the United Nations, and types of levers. Each project was chosen by the child himself/herself, according to their own individual interests.

At the graduation, their dreams for the future were read by their head teacher and they were given their report cards. Their computer work and a pen drive, consisting of two years of their computer work, was also presented to the graduates. The children chose and gave a gift to their teacher.

Please visit the website to see the video: www.ignitealf.org/latestnews.

We have worked for over ten years building and rebuilding the internal educational structure of the school and have come to a major benchmark, our first graduating class! When these nine children first came to Alpha School, the Montessori program for ages three to six was not yet in place, so they were truly starting from ground zero. They arrived without English and for the most part, no Hindi language ability, and came mostly from illiterate families; a pervasive and all encompassing disadvantage.

The children and teachers alike have worked very hard to reach this current stage in their education, starting with every disadvantage imaginable. They have succeeded brilliantly and have all been accepted in other schools with English medium (taught in English.) This is an almost unimaginable accomplishment.

We are so proud of them and who they have become and salute the hard work of the staff and students alike. These nine children are now moving on to their next stage in life. We are all sad to see them leave, yet confident in their inner strength and ability to think, learn, and be good people. We wish them a very happy future as they embark on their life.

This summer, we are in the process of setting up a library and an art room and painting the entire interior of the school. The children and staff are on summer break now until July while the workmen do their magic. It is the start of a new phase for the Alpha school and we are all very excited about the future.

Our sincere thanks go to all of you! We could not have come this far without YOU. If not for your intention for these children's lives, your good will, kindness, and generous support, we would not have made it this far. The kids at some true and basic level understand what they have been given and relish it every day. Words can not express our sincere thanks to you all.

With Love and Gratitude, Amita



Tushar receiving report card from Mohan Ma'm



Tushar presenting his project to the parents



Priya J with her report card



Parents at the graduation ceremony



Rohit being acknowledged by Neelam Ma'm



Rishab being acknowledged by Rajesh Sir