

Greetings Everyone!

Fall 2013

While I was working with the staff and children in India this September, Alpha School celebrated the inauguration of its rooftop garden. The celebration was a huge success as you can see from these photos. At the inauguration they sang songs and produced a Hindi play for the audience. Their pride in their school and their accomplishments was palpable. Such joy and sweetness was transmitted to all of us through their song and dance.



We worked together to transform this space into a dream come true that only needs a bit of time to grow in and deliver on its promise to be a shade sanctuary where the children can learn, play, and be outdoors above the racket of slum life.



As part of the creation of the garden, the children mixed the soil and hand carried it to the 4th floor, one bucket at a time! They are learning to plant vegetables from seed and enjoy being out of doors to watch things grow.





When I asked the children “What will you do now that you have a garden?” They called out: “We will play in the garden! We will observe flowers and leaves closely. We will draw and paint in the garden! There will be butterflies and flowers to see blooming.” Whether or not they will have butterflies, they do have fresh air and can see the open sky. The children are overjoyed. It is already a special place for them as you will see from their thank you note below.

Future elements are needed to complete the rooftop garden. These include plants for the shade overhang, an area of artificial turf, bench seating, and lighting. The rooftop garden provides us the opportunity, rare in our very densely populated location, for the children to grow and learn with nature. We would appreciate any gift toward completing this project.

This is just the beginning of a new chapter at Alpha School! Thank you all for your continuing support! The garden would not have been possible without you.

With great gratitude,

Amita

Thank you card written by a student
(with no prompting or help from her parents or teachers)

