



Spring/Summer 2013

Hello Everyone,
Greetings!

It has already been 10 years!

During my recent visit to the school in April, 2013, the school celebrated its 10th year anniversary. When we started, it was hard to imagine the school would make it this far, much less evolve into a school which provides the highest quality education possible, giving an unimaginable future to these children and their families. Thank you all for making this happen! To honor the school's 10th year anniversary, the children made beautiful handcrafted cards. They acknowledged their "Sir," Mr. Rajesh Batra, the owner of the building and school administrator and their favorite "Ma'am's," Ms. Anita and Mrs. Mohan. Even I (Amita Ma'am) got a card from them. Please see the samples. It was totally surprising to see this kind of gesture coming from the children because no one suggested that they make these cards. It came *only* from them. Where did they get this understanding to acknowledge and express gratitude? It certainly wasn't from the teachers or from their illiterate parents. This is one of countless examples of the depth of learning, thoughtfulness, and creativity that has become a part of these children's every day life.

In ten years, we started with 3 children, who lacked any education, and built the school to where it is now with 60 happy children, receiving Montessori education (ages 3-12), from nursery to 4th grade. 14 of these children are ready to move on to the next level of education this year. These children can understand, read, write and speak English, their third language. They are reading books now and solving problems on their own. It is hard to fathom what this really means. For many, it is difficult to imagine the starting point of absolute poverty and illiteracy that is the everyday truth of life in this community. "If papa can't work today, the kids will eat less tonight" is a common reality in this impoverished community.

We are also proud to announce that Anita Chandel (our elementary teacher) has completed all of the requirements for Elementary Montessori for the first two levels of elementary education (for ages 6-12) and she will be receiving her diploma from the American Montessori Society soon. It is possible she will be the first person in India to get this kind of diploma, certainly for ages 9-12. This happened only through her profound commitment to completing these programs in an extraordinarily quick time frame so the kids could have the education they need and deserve.

Along with the growing educational demand of the students and school comes the growing need for funding the next level of critical projects. In addition to adding classroom space, buying books and materials, and adding teaching staff, one of our most pressing needs is to bring these children into contact with the outdoors – the sky, fresh air, nature and plants. To accomplish this, our project this summer is to build a rooftop garden. There is no land in this slum area for even a tree and a bench, much less a tiny garden. This rooftop space will give these children access to the world of nature where they can plant and grow vegetables and trees.

Thank you for being a part of creating a hopeful future for these children. We so appreciate your continued support. None of this would have been possible without you.

With thankfulness and gratitude,

Amita Bardwick



Alpha Montessori School

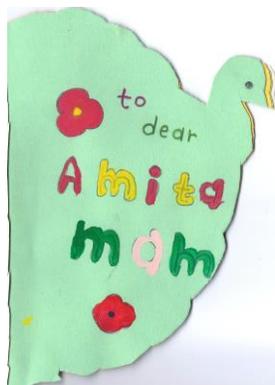


IGNITE: A Foundation for Learning



Happy
Ten
Years
of
Anniversary!
School

Thank You
Very much
for supporting us
Please always stay with
Us
Elementary Class



IGNITE: A Foundation for Learning
241 S. Cedros Avenue
Solana Beach, CA 92075

www.igniteafl.org

