

March 5, 2013

Dear Friends,

Right now, Asha Deep has some special concerns.



आशा दीप विद्याश्रम

- **New English Teacher** We have been searching for a new English teacher so that he or she can be trained before our American volunteer (Sarah) leaves in May. Although we have been searching for a few months now, we have not found anyone suitable. We need someone with good English skills as well as a philosophy of teaching that matches the school's (love-based rather than fear-based teaching). We hope that we can find someone soon so that Sarah can help them learn our curriculum and methodology before she leaves!
- **Siddharth Sir** The burden of running the school in my absence has fallen largely on this man's shoulders. Lately, the job has been overwhelming. This past week he mentioned that he may leave the school at the end of this school year. I definitely want him to stay in the school, if not in his current position at least in some capacity. We are seeking a way to lighten his load so that he can stay in the school. I rely on him greatly to keep me updated on what's happening in the school and also to continue running the school according to its original philosophy.
- **Ankita** I mentioned Ankita in my last newsletter as one of the students that our newest volunteer, Rachel, would be working with. After her arrival, Rachel confirmed what I had suspected; Ankita needs surgery to correct a cleft palate. We had tried (unsuccessfully for various reasons) to get this done before I left, but now it seems that the surgery will be done this week. We are very happy that her family has agreed to this; it is a big step for them. We hope that her surgery will go well and her recovery will be quick. I am so thankful for Rachel who has knowledge in this area and will be able to give Ankita speech exercises that will help her to speak properly after the surgery. If this is a success, it will reinforce Asha Deep's reputation as a school that cares passionately for its students. (This surgery can be availed for free through an organization called Smile Train; you may have seen their ads. Their website is: <http://www.smiletrain.org/>.)
- **Annual Spring Celebration Performance** As you know, every year the Asha Deep community prepares a 2-3 hour variety show for the public. The production of this spectacular brings many benefits including: learning new skills (dance, acrobatics, singing, or drama), the discipline of extra practice, the rewards of working together to accomplish a goal, pride and joy in being on stage in public, the chance to shine, and an important sense of unity in the school. While the rewards are great, the expenses can pinch. If any of you would like to help sponsor this event this year, a special gift would be greatly appreciated! Our total costs will total around \$375, with a breakdown as follows:

stage,lights, and generator (we can't rely on the erratic city power supply!): \$100

stage decorations: \$60

chairs: \$50

costumes and props: \$50

sound system: \$50

videography: \$30

photography: \$35

The program is scheduled for March 25th. We're working hard on preparations so that the event itself would go smoothly. Here are a few photos from last year's show:



stage and decorations



joy!

Thank you so much for your support!

love,
Connie



spectators

