

FRIENDS OF SHAMAYITA MATH

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Dear Friends of Shamayita Math

We had our summer event on June 18. at Bente Hagelunds garden. We were lucky with the weather - it was a beautiful summer day. Even better was it that so many people participated. We were 52 adults and 25 children. We could again this year enjoy Indian music and dances performed by the pupils from Deepshikha's dancing school: "Deep's Dancing Divas". They are all very excellent and charming. We also enjoyed traditional Indian songs and harmonium music. After the cultural event it was possible to get Indian street food and interact with old friends or meet new people.



Deepshikha Daga, Khalil Alashar og some of the young dancers.

It was a very nice event and I hope we can have another one next summer. Lots of thanks to all those who sang or danced or contributed to the good ambience at the event. See more photos her: <https://deepsdancingdivas.dk/photo-gallery/>

The event raised 5965 DKK which is great. We also got a few new members to Friends of Shamayita Math. A warm welcome to you.

One of the leaders of Shamayita Math, Mother Prajnamita has sent a mail with inputs regarding the latest developments. She writes:

Shamayita Convent school reopened on 13th June after one month of vacation. Marang Buru schools (the village schools) practically had a very short summer vacation, 30th April to 8th May, 2022. Our teachers of Marang Buru have been putting a great effort to make up for the learning gap due to countrywide lockdown. The West Bengal Government schools have closed early due to the intense summer heat. This provided us the opportunity to hold Marang Buru for longer hours.

In fact, Marang Buru school is held from 6:30 am till 10 am. In the event extended summer vacation in Govt. schools, the parents have immense interest to send their children to Marang Buru schools. Under normal conditions, students return home at 10 am and join government school from 11 am. Since the parents are unable to provide any kind of education support at home, they feel helpless if the schools are closed.

This year we have added another additional class, i.e. Standard V in all the three Marang Buru schools, as the Government high schools now have classes from Std VI to STD XII (initially it was from Std V). The shed constructed in KB Thol school with the fund from Rotary, has provided us the opportunity to conduct the additional class in that shed. When the school ends, the shed acts as a dining shed, where students have their midday meal.



This is the dining shed

A new filtered drinking water system has been installed in KB Thol school, since the existing water from hand pump had too much of iron. This has added value to the school. After two long years the school is being held with all its scheduled activities mentioned in the calendar.

The Covid pandemic caused disruption to the education system with schools forced to shut down during the lockdown period, and the transition of students and teachers to online teaching-learning. In India, around 250 million students were affected due to school closures at the onset of lockdown induced by COVID-19. The pandemic posed several challenges in public and private schools which included an expected rise in dropouts, learning losses, and increase in digital divide.

But since Marang Buru school continued offline mode of teaching from October 2021, we did not face much difficulty. There are no case of drop out, but learning loss is there to some extent due to school closure in 2020. But soon the gap will be made up, as the school is in full swing this year.

In Shamayita Convent School, we are facing a struggle, as there are many cases of drop out. Many students are asking for concession in school fee, all because the father have either lost his job, or incurred a loss in business. We are arranging funds for accommodating such students in our school. The pandemic has made it crystal clear that nothing can substitute schooling. Education is a process of continuous of developing a child's intellectual, mental and emotional quotient. Using classrooms, laboratories, playgrounds will only be capable of installing life skills among the students. But digital platform has facilitated the communication of the parents with the teachers.

Overall things are coming back to normal. But it will take few more years to recover."

We had our yearly board meeting March 15. Members of the new board are:

Lars Fynbo, chairman
Bente Hagelund, secretary and treasurer
Deepshikha Daga, event manager
Lise Hagelund, volunteers and homepage
Verner Villensgaard, board member
Pia Deleuran, suppleant

Sara Nissen retired from the board. Thanks to Sara for the work she performed.

Presently, we have 11 sponsors for students at Shamayita Maths schools. 10 sponsors support 16 children at the village school, and one sponsor support a student at the Convent School. The sponsors have received pictures of "their" student/s with info about name, age, gender and family.



Here are some of the sponsored children in front of the KB Thol-school – the school we support.

By the end of 2021, we had 48 members. It was nice to get new members during the event. But we hope for more. You can read more on www.friendsofshamayitamath.dk

We have just transferred 26.950 DKK to Shamayita Math including the income from the summer event and the sponsor fees.

I sincerely hope it soon will be possible again to pay a visit or perform voluntary work at Shamayita Math.

I wish you all and your family a very good summer.

Lars Fynbo
Chairman of the board



Vidushi Daga introduces the next dance