

Teacher Training:

- The school has been trying to implement the Ekalavya teaching technique (activity-based learning) in KG1 KG 2, and classes 1 and 2.
- The KG 1 class is now completely Ekalavya-based. The teachers like the technique and the kids also seem to pick up skills like reading, writing, word-recognition quickly
- The Eklavya training schedule to happen in March 2009 did not happen. The last training session was held in July 2008.
- In May 2009, a training session will be held in Kaithi for Asha Samajik Vidyalaya (ASV) schools in and around Varanasi.
- This will be primarily a math skills training camp for 2 days. Vallabh will have more details when the camp logistics are finalized.
- The cost break up for this camp is not yet available.

Health check-up for the students:

- An allopathic child specialist did a health check up for the students in the school. About 100 kids from the school showed up.
- Most of the kids were found to be in normal health.
- A few kids had minor ailments like cold, cough, etc.
- 4-5 children were diagnosed with a minor skin infection. The treatment is ongoing for these children.
- A homeopathic medical camp was supposed to be organized on 29th March but it has now been postponed. This will now most likely happen in August.
- Each month the weights and the heights of the kids are recorded to ensure that their growth is on track.
- There is no immediate need for multi-vitamins for most of the kids. This was a concern when the earlier budget installment was disbursed.

Teachers:

- Ashok is no longer teaching in the school and he is no longer being paid as a teacher. However, since his family owns the land on which the school is located, monthly rent is being paid to his family.
- There are 6 teachers who currently teach in the school including the coordinator Omprakash.
- The school now has 7 classes (KG1, KG2 and classes 1-5).
- Classes 4 and 5 were combined together because of the low number of students
- Rekha, one of the teachers is getting married in April. It is not yet known if she will quit the school after her marriage but it is anticipated that she will.
- If the need arises for a new teacher, in order to ensure that the candidate is up to the mark, they will be appointed on a probationary basis of 2 months before their appointment is finalized
- Any new appointed teachers will be appointed only in the beginning of the next session in July.
- Teachers from both ASV schools (Babnauli and Bainsala) meet fortnightly to discuss teaching content, techniques

- It was decided at the Asha year-end conference held in December 2008 in Puvudham, that teachers from both these schools should meet on the 15th and 30th of each month and exchange their ideas on how to improve their everyday teaching. The venues are alternately at Babnauli and Bainsala. The meetings last on an average of 3 hours.
- The teachers have benefited a lot from these meetings. All teachers have to compulsorily speak up about what they have done in the past two weeks, during these meetings.
- The teachers have become more confident, especially the female teachers.

Other Updates:

- Prateek, an MBA student from IIIT Noida visited the school in December 2008 for a two week internship. His final report with recommendations for the school will be mailed to Asha Austin.
- Final exams for this academic session will be held towards the end of May.
- There was a concern about some students who missed their mid-term exams. Vijaybhai said that the students who missed the exams do not usually take a make up test and will now be taking the final exams directly. But he also said that the teachers conduct regular tests in class other than the scheduled mid-term and final exams to ensure that the students are making progress.
- The kids were taken to the Ballia fair for their outing. This was a day trip.
- The kids also visited a circus and a zoo during this trip.
- Of the students who graduated from class 8 last year, three students joined the government school for class 9. (Raju, Rahul and Dharmendra)