

Apna Skool Newsletter

October – December 2022

Greetings from the Apna Skool family. Once again, we present our quarterly newsletter chronicling the events of the Apna Skool from October to December 2022. In this newsletter, you will have a glance at the activities at the brick kilns as the migrant workers will be back to brick kilns. Apna Skool team has identified the brick kilns where most of the workers will return. Our field coordinators and teachers visit brick kilns for surveying the details of new and old students at brick kilns.

It is a pleasure for us to express our heartfelt gratitude to all well-wishers, donors, and sponsors in the past and present, and partners in our effort to educate children of migrant workers who represent one of the most severely underprivileged groups in India. We look forward to your valuable comments and suggestions.

Apna Skool students have won several prizes in the 68th Wild Life Week at Kanpur Zoo.

- More than 1500 students from 20 private and government schools across Kanpur city participated in Inter school competitions organized during this occasion. Apna Skool students participated in many events including Rangoli, Dance, and Mime and 12 students won prizes and brought accolades through their impressive performances.
- The senior group (group of 8 students) won 1st prize in Yoga Dance, Anjali Saxena, and Soni won 2nd prize in Rangoli in the senior group, Anjali Saxena won 2nd in Elocution, and Halida won 3rd prize in Drawing.



Hindi Poem by Ranno Prajapati (Class 12th):

बच्चों भुल न जाना तुम अपना फर्ज निभाना

बच्चों भुल न जाना तुम अपना फर्ज निभाना,
हंस-हंस भोजन करते हैं जहां एकता की मिलती है शिक्षा,
तुम शिक्षित बन के दिखाना, बच्चों भुल न जाना।
एकता की शिक्षा देते हैं जहां
बतलाते हैं जीवन का भेद जहां
तुम एकता बनाए रखना, खुशहाली बनाए रखना
तुम अच्छे बन के दिखाना, बच्चों भुल न जाना।
गुरु दयालु हैं जहां के गिरते हुए को उठाते हैं वो
टुटे जो हौसला तो धीरे बंधाते हैं वो
तुम ऐसे गुरु बन के दिखाना, बच्चों भुल न जाना।
सिखलाते हैं राष्ट्र प्रेम की शिक्षा जहां
भय दिखला के अनुशासन का पाठ पढ़ाते हैं जहां
तुम अनुशासित बन के दिखाना, बच्चों भुल न जाना।
मिलती है जहां हर सच्चाई की राह
तुम इन राहों पर चल के दिखाना, बच्चों भुल न जाना।
गुंजती है जहां बच्चों की खुशी, तुम ऐसा स्कूल बनाना,
बच्चों भुल न जाना, तुम अपना फर्ज निभाना



Children, do not forget to do your duty.

Where, we eat happily, get wisdom of unity, you become learned person and maintain unity, create happiness.

Where teachers are kind, guide us towards right path, inspire us, Children become such teacher.

Patriotism is being taught, fear teaches us discipline, show yourself by being discipline.

Where path of all truth meets, walk on those paths.

Where children's happiness resonates, make such schools.

Children do not forget to do your duty.

Glimpses of Apna Skool Activities October to December 2022



October 2022:

Celebration of the Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri:

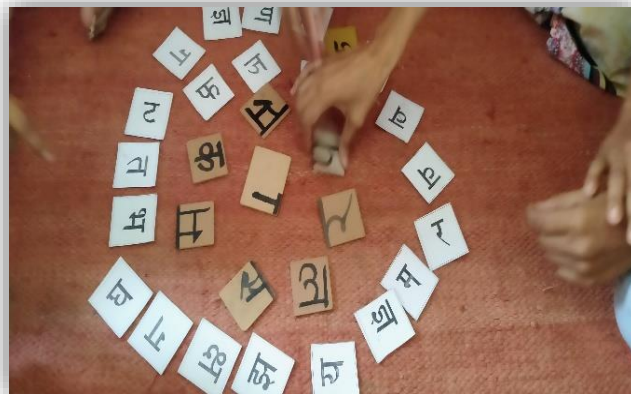
Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary was commemorated in all the centers of Apna Skool. As part of the activities, we organized cleanliness drives, health awareness sessions, and educational activities in the brick kilns and surrounding villages. Students and their parents participated in a cleanliness drive in their respective villages. Students from Apna School planted mango trees and Jamun trees on this occasion and performed *Nukkad Natak* (street play) and Yoga to create awareness among the people of the village.



Apna Skool teacher Pradeep Kumar visited warshaliganj in Nawada district, Bihar and organized a meeting with workers to discuss about workers' rights and celebrated the birth anniversary with the workers and children of the village (Chiraiya, Gambhirpur and Paura Village in Bihar). Apna skool teachers, parents and students also participated in a tree plantation and cleanliness drive during this occasion.

A three days teacher training workshop was organized to prepare for the upcoming session.

A three-day Teachers' Training Workshop for the teachers of Apna Skool was organized. The workshop was conducted by the coordinators of Apna Skool Sunita ji and Shukla ji. They emphasized activity-based teaching-learning methodology for an enhanced understanding of the basic concepts in Hindi, English, and Mathematics among the students of ApnaSkool.



The focus was also on enabling basic skills with respect to listening, speaking, reading and writing within a stipulated time span of six-eight months.

Diwali Celebration at Apna Skool.

Deepavali was celebrated with much fervor in all the centers of Apna Skool. This was also an occasion to showcase the talents of the students through their participation in making colorful greeting cards, posters, and rangoli. Students at the centers in Bihar (Chiraiya and Gambhipur)

villages in Warshaliganj) made a conscious choice to protect the environment and not use firecrackers. They, instead, decided to plant trees and contribute towards climate action.



November 2022

Beginning of the New Session, educational materials and uniforms distribution

Apna Skool centers in Kanpur, reopened in November 2022, after the workers and their families were back from their native villages. As part of an initiative of Apna Skool, 300 migrant children have been enrolled in government primary schools near their respective brick kilns.

Like every year, educational materials such as slate, notebooks, pencils, erasers, and clothing including uniform and winter clothes like the sweater, woolen caps, shoes, and socks were distributed to all the students in Apna Skool centers in Kanpur and centers in Bihar (Chiraiya, Gambhirpur, Padariya, and Khatangi). Additionally, considering the severity of winter, sweaters, and caps to 600 very young children who are not part of the program but reside in Apna Skool (brick kiln) premises, were distributed.



Children's Day Celebration (14.11.2022)

Children's Day is celebrated across India to raise awareness about the rights, education, and welfare of children. It is celebrated on 14th November every year on the birthday of the First Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was known to have been fond of children. Apna School students also celebrated this day with great enthusiasm.

“Children are like buds in a garden that should be meticulously and lovingly nurtured as they are the future of a nation and the citizens of tomorrow. Only through the right education can a better social order be built”
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru



Annual Function of Prayas, IIT Kanpur

The performance of Apna Skool students in the Annual function of Prayas, run by IIT Kanpur student volunteers, was greatly appreciated. They participated in many events including theatre, poetry recitation, and group dance. Their play highlighting the plight of the girl child entitled '*Ladki padha lika kar kya karegi*' was very well received.



Science and Social Science Mela 2022 (12th and 13th November 2022)

Apna Skool and Swami Vivekanand Vidyalaya Lodhar jointly organized the science, metrics, and social science fair and involved the active participation of the students and teachers. One of the primary goals of this initiative is to create an increased awareness of science and build-up up a scientific temperament amongst the larger community including the parents of the students.



Centenary of Smt. Janaki Venkataraman

100th birth anniversary of former first lady Smt. Janaki Venkataraman was commemorated on 22nd November 2022 by the members of Apna Skool. Born in Pegu, Burma (22nd November 1921-13th August 2010) Janaki Venkataraman was devoted to serving the underprivileged, particularly spastic children. She was an activist for animal rights and popularized ahimsa silk. She was a self-taught harmonium player, had a keen interest in painting, and was a connoisseur of Indian classical music. on this occasion a quiz contest was organized and a special lunch with sweets and fruits was served for the Apna Skool students.



The visitor of the Month

Judy Stowe from Mala Foundation, Belgium visited Apna Skool

Judy Stowe from Mala Foundation, Belgium visited Apna School centers in Kanpur and interacted with the students. She also had conversations with women workers in different brick kilns.



December 2022

Apna Skool celebrated the 112th birth anniversary of Shri R. Venkataraman

4th December 2022, Apna Skool celebrated the 112th birth anniversary of former president Shri R. Venkataraman. Teachers described his contribution to the freedom movement and after independence. He was the eighth President of India, a long-term parliamentarian, and one of the most erudite statesmen of our country. On this day, we organized a quiz competition between Apna Skool students and we served special lunch and distributed sweets and fruits to all children this day, we have organized a quiz competition between Apna Skool students.



Christmas Day and group birthday Celebration (December 25)

All Apna Skool centers celebrated Christmas Day on December 25. Christmas day is celebrated around the world commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. All the children and teachers together decorated the Christmas tree with balloons, toffies, balls, flowers, and candles.

At Apna Skool Murari center, teachers and children cut the cake and celebrated the group birthday of all the children of the center. After the celebration, the children played the game and enjoyed it. At all the centers special "Gulab Jamun Rasgulla" was distributed to all the children.



Apna Skool Nutrition Program;

Apna Skool are providing nutritious cooked meals and seasonal fruits to all the children, in our weekly menu we give Paneer, Kheer, Apples/Banana/Oranges, carrots, Eggs, Chikki, Ground nuts, multigrain Laddu, etc. Glimpses of the nutrition program



Functioning Centers of Apna Skool (October 2022- December 2022)

Apna Skool teacher centers reopened in Kanpur at the beginning of October, and all workers have returned yet. This year we had several meetings with BSA Kanpur and government schools nearby brick kilns to enroll all the migrant children in mainstream schools, our volunteer teachers will teach the students in the schools.

Functioning centers of Apna Skool (Oct to December 2022)							
S.N	Name of Centre	State	Name of Teacher/mentors	Centre Timing	Student enrollment		
					Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	Tatiyaganj-1 Apna Skool	U.P	(1) Urmila (2) Kanak	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	26	53	89
2	Tatiyaganj-2 Apna Skool		(1) Manju				
3	Primary School Gadhewa		(1) Pradhumn	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	14	14	14
4	Gangaganj Apna Skool		(1) Renu	12:00 am to 5:00 pm	29	27	35
5	Samrat Apna Skool(Samrat,Bajaj, Bala Ji, Jaiswal Brick Kiln)		(1) Pradeep (Dec. ...) (2) Raksha Bajpai	10:00 am to 3:30 pm	40	23	45
6	Dhamna Primary School (Rama+Deepak +Indra I+Heera)		(1) Mithlesh (2) Astha Sharma	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	40	73	66
7	Murai Apna Skool		(1) Nazma	10:00 am to 3:00 pm	Close	15	44
8	Primary School Fattepurva (993 + R.S Brick Kiln)		(1) Shreya (2) Anuradha	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Close	45	58
9	Indra-2 Apna Skool		(1) Priyanka	10:00 am to 3:00 pm	Close	44	44
10	Loha Apna Skool		(1) Stuti	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Close	35	35
11	Primary School Dedupur (Rama + Vishnu B.K)		(1) Sudha	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	7	17	24
12	Kalra-3 Apna Skool		(1) Nirmala	10:00 am to 3:30 pm	Close	Close	36
13	Primary School Atwa		(1) Diksha Katiyar	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Close	20	28
14	Primary School Amauli Sona Brick Kiln		(1) Priyanka Devi	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Close	38	31
15	Chiraiya Primary school	BIHAR	(1) Niranjan (2) Shivam (3) Pradeep Kumar	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	80	45	35
16	Gambhirpur Primary School		(1) Aman Kumar (2) Priyanka Kumari	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	30	20	12
17	Khatangi Primary School		(1) Chandani	8:00 am to 1:00 pm	33	33	33
18	Students Studying in other Schools who are supported by Apna Skool (Mainstram Education)				63	63	63
Total Number of Students					362	565	692
	Studetns in these schools are monitored by field coordinators						
1	Primary School Mariyani	U.P		9:00 am to 3:00 pm	10	10	10
2	Primary School Shahpur			9:00 am to 3:00 pm	4	4	4
3	Primary School Bheuli (Gold B.K)			9:00 am to 3:00 pm	9	9	9
4	Primary School Tikra			9:00 am to 3:00 pm	20	20	20
5	Primary School Meghnipurwa (Samrat Brick Kiln)			9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Close	17	17
Total					43	60	60

Funding Sources:	
ASHA for Education, Silicon Valley	
Association for India's Development (AID), Portland	Mala Foundation, Belgium
R.V. foundation	Pragati Foundation
Triveni Trust, Prayagraj - Allahabad	
Owners of a few brick kilns, Kanpur: (in-kind)	Many individual donors

Apna Skool Organizational Structure

Principal Co-ordinators: Ms. Vijaya Ramachandran, Shivam Tripathi

Contact information: **Vijaya Ramachandran**

Tel: +91 7408900999;

Email: vijayav26@gmail.com

Shivam Tripathi

Tel: +91 9005663618; Email: shiva@iitk.ac.in

Sub-Co-ordinators: Laxmikant Shukla, B.N. Sharma, Sangeeta Verma, Raju Gaur, Mukesh, Murari Kumar

Transport Coordinator: Kripa Shankar Shukla

Nutrition Coordinator: Sanjiv Shukla

Health & hygiene mentor: Sunita Srivastava

Support our work details:

For making your donations, please write a cheque in favor of or transfer the fund into the following bank details and intimate us for providing you with a receipt that will enable you to claim income tax deduction u/s 80G.

Support Our Work details		
For Foreign Donations		For Indian donations
Account Name	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti
Account Number	40267845617	537202010003642
PAN Card Number	AACTJ0902C	AACTJ0902C
Bank Name	State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch	Union Bank of India, IIT Kanpur
Branch Bank Code	691	553727
Bank IFSC Code	SBIN0000691	UBIN0553727
SWIFT CODE	SBININBB104	

Volunteers

- Prayas, a volunteer group, Students of IIT Kanpur

Important Links:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJhOEa4moNA> A short film on Apna Skools (courtesy Sahara TV)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCIEgMqdsX0> Annual Day function and opinion of parents
- Webpage; <https://sites.google.com/site/apnaskools/>
- Blog: <http://apnaskool-kanpur.blogspot.com/>
- Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/apnaskool>

Newsletter compiled by
Apna Skool Children and Team.