



---

## Newsletter February 2023

---

### ***Season's greetings and a Happy New Year to all!***

It's been wonderful to start the new academic year completely offline as opposed to the past couple of years being online. Our beloved Sloka completes 25 years of educating young minds this year. It is a milestone year for all of us at school. Our deep gratitude to the founders of our school - Mrs. Nirmala Diaz and Mr. Suresh Kuppu for creating this space where children are nurtured at every step.

It has been an eventful and festive year so far. Sloka's 25<sup>th</sup> year celebrations were made more special as the alumni turned up and shared how Sloka prepared them for the outside world. It was indeed a proud moment for the teachers and founders to see the children leave a mark in the world, striving to make it a better place.

**Moving forward with the changing times whilst upholding the strong pillars of Waldorf education in India, Sloka is very happy to announce the commencement of Class XI in the academic year 2023.** Sloka school always looks after its students and we shall not compromise the education and development of those who are with us and those who choose us. For more information, please reach out to us at the addresses mentioned at the end of the newsletter.

### **SCHOOL EVENTS –**

The annual Winter Bazaar - “Mana Sloka Mana Bhagyam” brought the entire school and Waldorf community together in a warm embrace with a colourful and assorted display of the work of children and a wider display of the Waldorf web that includes parents, teachers and children.

Sport is another opportunity for the young ones to experience the perks of discipline - restraint and letting go. We witnessed a spectacular sports event just before the winter break as the children of grades 6-10 sprinted and played together as a team with grace and co-ordination.

Dr. Jost Schieren's workshop during the Dussehra break brought the Indian Waldorf community together once again post COVID lockdown and left us with deep insights into the work that we do. **The Sloka Steiner Waldorf Teacher Training (SSWTT) program (module 2)** is underway and the in-house and visiting participants are making the most out of it. We started off this year with a visit from our beloved mentors and friends from Norway – Ellen Kottker and Wolfgang Kottker. They shared their wisdom and insights which have left us renewed, refreshed and determined to course ahead.

### **CLASSROOM MUSINGS -**

“Each classroom has a story to tell”, that enriches our thinking, warms our feelings and enthuses our willingness to take on different activities.

**Kindergarten** celebrated Diwali mela post-pandemic with great enthusiasm. Children enjoyed the mela immensely. Each festival for the season was celebrated with joy filling each child's heart with love and warmth; delicious delicacies were prepared along with special gifts such as cards, candles and kites to spread smiles across the campus and beyond. Children sprung into the routine of peeling and chopping fruit every day alongside cooking and baking once a week and many other handwork

activities. Now the children knead dough, roll rotis, make buns into lovely shapes and make their own salad with reverence and gratitude.

**Grade 1** children were excited throughout the month of December as it was an activity-filled month for little hands to explore and learn more about the world around them. Christmas time was buzzing with handmade stars, vegetable printed wrapping sheets and a delightful performance by the children.

**Grade 2** children visited Sid's farm on the occasion of Children's day. The trip gave an opportunity to pet and feed the cows at the farm, ride on the tractor, play in the lap of nature, learn a little about farming and plant seeds.

For **Grade 3**, it's a year filled with 'to-do' lists being met successfully with wonder and appreciation by the children. Farming and learning about the farmers alongside a field visit to paddy farm were among the major activities. In the building block, the children pleasantly surprised the school with beautiful dioramas of various archetypal shelters showcasing their creativity. Measurement was learned through churning of butter and making ghee and laddoos for the children of school on Janmashtami. Preparation of pickles, podis and sweets for the winter bazaar gave the children another chance to explore the nooks of the world of measurements.

The children, parents and teachers of **Grade 4** brought together a wonderful and warm winter bazaar. The team is still musing over their experiences. The story of Hyderabad and the class' visit to Golconda fort, Qutb Shahi tombs and Charminar enlivened their imagination. It was heartening and humbling to see the children of Neem section take up the responsibility of maintenance of the entire school on a weekly basis.

The children of **Grade 5** presented Indian geography to the parents. Each child dressed up representing the states and spoke about the landforms, mountains and rivers of India. The highlight was the song – *Mile sur mera tumhara*, which stirred beautiful memories of our homeland. Now, they are all set for their Olympics and we wish them the best.

**Grade 6** has been busy exploring the earth and the skies trying to uncover its secrets. They marvelled at the precious crystals and stones and were in awe of the celestial dance that they witnessed on their astronomy study night under the stars. They also hosted the festival of Harvest – Makar Sankranti and displayed the richness of culture of our land through the celebration of this festival in a skit put together by the students with help from teachers.

**Grade 7** children went on a trip to the temple towns of Tanjore and Mahabalipuram. The teenagers undertook a train journey with teachers and a few parent volunteers. Boarding a train was a first for many children and a second sleeper class added to the novelty. They were left spellbound by the temples, their architecture and the stories. The highlight was the visit to Sri Thyagaraja's jeeva samadhi along the banks of Kaveri in Thiruvavur. The children of Dove section made beautiful models of temples and painted Rajput style paintings as their projects.

Students of **Grade 8** have been industrious in all that they've undertaken. Working towards the class play has been a herculean task as well as the high point for the children of Grade 8. The Griffins section children put up a spectacular show of skill, talent and handiwork for their play - Jane Austen's "*Pride and Prejudice*" which was much lauded by teachers, parents and friends. Post play, their energies have been channeled into working with window art using coloured paper under the tutelage of our beloved mentor from Norway – Mr. Wolfgang Kottker. The classroom is now a serene splash of form and colours. The Phoenix section is rolling up their sleeves and are preparing to present their multilingual play from the epic Mahabharata soon. We wish them the very best for the same.

Art workshop is an integral part of **Grade 9** curriculum in Waldorf School. In grade 8, children express their feelings and emotions through acting and dialogues, but in grade 9 it becomes more internal and self-expressive through artistic experiences. They learn about the history of art and how art changed through the ages in tune with human consciousness. They work with mediums like stone, metal and learn using different tools and techniques with experts. This year, the children worked on Metal embossing and Cyanotype printing as practical activity along with art theory. Many children put up a magnificent display of art work in their 5-day art workshop with Goutam sir.

**Grade 10** students displayed excellent sportsmanship during the sports day. Land survey is an integral part of Grade 10 at Sloka. Every grade 10 looks forward to being part of this survey and this year the survey was done at Pragati resorts. The weeklong activity culminated with the children drawing the complete map of the site at school. Survey brings together Trigonometry, Geography and Physics. It is an experience that will remain etched in their memories. Now with less than a few weeks to go for their Board examinations, the students are coursing through their pre-finals. Wishing them the best for their future endeavours.

**Eurythmy** has been well received by all the children at Sloka school. They greet the teacher with eagerness and are robust in their imitation of the gestures and movements. When school resumed on-campus classes there were all the signs of enthusiasm and openness at the beginning of a class coupled with a lot of struggle in making the most basic movements that are usually taken for granted as being natural to children – like staying together as a circle, moving arms and legs, and lying down to rest as the children had either been torn away or deprived of their social fabric that is established in and largely dependent on being at school for 2 years or more. children’s ability to participate also began to sprout anew. Children in kindergarten are all enthusiastic and look forward to movements and activities that challenge and tickle their imaginative minds! This is supported by stories that consist mainly of consonantal sounds that relate to pictorial elements, i.e., what one sees outside of themselves in everyday life. In grade school, new elements are introduced building upon the work that has already been done. Another exciting part of the lessons in grade school is the musical accompaniment. Where there is singing, and rhythmic clapping and stomping to verses/poems in kindergarten, now the children are introduced to different elements of music through music usually played on the piano and other musical instruments. . The elements of music are present in human speech and that is a truth made visible in eurythmy – that speech and music complement each other. Every block that is being taught or has culminated finds its resonance in a eurythmy lesson for what is learnt is digested and brought alive in a different dimension of the human being through eurythmical movement.

### **HEAD, HEART AND HANDS –**

We are ever so grateful to the staff who worked seamlessly and efficiently through the year and during the holidays tending to every little detail that matters.

For any queries email to the respective departments and we will be happy to help –

Admissions – [admission@slokawaldorf.org](mailto:admission@slokawaldorf.org)

Transport – [transport@slokawaldorf.org](mailto:transport@slokawaldorf.org)

Information - [info@slokawaldorf.org](mailto:info@slokawaldorf.org)

Until next time, signing off with a quote from Mr. Rudolf Steiner –

***“The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility – these are the three forces which are the very nerve of education.”***

***Best wishes,***

***Sloka Team***