

Shanti Bhavan Turns Nine

September 10, 2006. Amid much jubilation, Shanti Bhavan turned nine this year. The teachers, aunts and everyone on campus were busy giving the final touches to the well-rehearsed programme and the venue. Ending a long wait, the clock struck ten. The comperes Bina and Shilpa walked onto the stage, illuminated by the colorful lights. The entire student community participated and held the parents and guests spell-bound. The seventh graders recollect the day...



Dear Friends,

This is the second newsletter we, the students, have created. With guidance from our staff and volunteers, this newsletter has been made possible. We hope that you enjoy this newsletter as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

We have used poems, articles and art work from the junior grades and essays and news events from the middle grades. We would like to thank our fellow-students for their effort, teamwork and co-operation.

Thank you for your messages of appreciation about our first newsletter. We look forward to your response on this newsletter and will welcome your suggestions.

We wish our friends around the world a happy holiday season and a great 2007.

-The Voice of Shanti Bhavan

“The show was really well organised. All of us put our heart and soul to make it a success. I was thrilled to see my friends in different roles entertaining the audience,” said Keshavan.

“The Hindi skit based on the theme of universal brotherhood and the classical dance to the tune of Vande Mataram, a song saluting Mother India, impressed everyone”, says Priscilla.

“At the end of the cultural programme, Dr. George addressed the parents and exhorted them to encourage children to continue their education at Shanti Bhavan and fight the menace of ‘CHILD MARRIAGE’ in society,” Prasanth recalls.

-The Seventh Graders

“It is not benevolence that the poor seek from others; it is opportunity. It is jobs that they seek most.”

- Dr. Abraham George

Wharton@ Shanti Bhavan

On the 7th May, three Wharton students from Pennsylvania, USA, arrived at Shanti Bhavan for two weeks to teach the ninth graders about business. We learned many new things like formal presentation, business plans, SAT test-taking techniques, leadership, interpersonal skills and teamwork. The students were very excited to take part in the program.

“I just can’t express how much we enjoyed and learned” said Vinay Prasad.

Inspired and motivated by the efforts of the Wharton students, Sindhu Manimala expressed her thoughts

Thank U Wharton

They were three special Wharton heroes
Who had smiles like fresh roses
They are Kerith, Irene, and Felipe,
It’s impossible to describe them in just
one way.

You lighted the business potential in us
through SAT,
Our business doors were locked but you
found the key,
Your talents were special in soccer,
You were humorous and jocular,
Best of all was SAT math,
We’d skip anything to attend, even a
bath.
In hopeless times you were there to
encourage,
Impossible to see a heart like yours rage,
Though you spoke quite fast,
In our hearts your words will forever
last,
You won our hearts on merit,
It’s none other than you, Kerith.

Though you were a man of very few
words,
You let our business minds fly like birds,
Leadership and teamwork were
sprinkled with light,

And you definitely made communica-
tion our might,
We enjoyed doing everything with you,
Much, which at first, we never knew,
We had great fun playing basketball,
Everything was great, business plans
best of all.
We really loved doing the business
description,
There’s only one more thing I have to
say,
We truly miss you, Felipe.

From you we learnt to be observant,
You were humorous and transparent,
You indirectly taught us what it is to
teach,
We still remember your classes on
public speech,

Kerith’s Memories of Shanti Bhavan

In the soccer field - Sindhu, goalie extraordinaire, blocked oodles upon oodles of goal shots.....

In the Basketball court- Pushpa caught the ball mid-court, passed to **Bina**, who brought it down to key where **Sheeba**, the girl’s secret weapon scored basket after basket.

Vinay was ubiquitous- present everywhere – while Prakash could dribble like nobody’s business. Finally **Praveen** shot for 2.....

Rajini professes his love for his new found friend Joe Bloggs.....

Anith knows the answers to all questions, even those not asked.....

Stella loves verbal more than life itself.....

Thomas can’t stop talking about how his company, Phoenix is the GREATEST ever.....

Vijay and **Pavithra** banter back and forth about their business plan.....

Felipe deals the cards and **Prakash** takes the cake with a full house !

Maha and **Manimala** scheme to get us more protein... in the form of bugs !!

Mani is guided to create a bell curve around the bottles.

About learning Bhangra, the famous Punjabi dance : Manimala “ screws in the light bulbs.....”

Sheeba, horrified by the arm and leg contortions, demonstrates the correct move with panache.....

Beena, the dancing instructor, twirls in a neat circle.....

We enjoyed doing SAT grammar,
Which helps us not to stammer,
It was very interesting to do operating
plans,
You made each of us a good business
woman and man
You were filled with elegance
Thanks for your classes on ethics,
When you’re around, time runs so fast,
it never ticks,
You are still sweet, we really love you
that’s what I mean,
You are safe in our hearts, Irene.

Wharton

You are impossible to be forgotten

-Manimala, 9th grade

If I were the American Flag

If I were the American flag, I would like to be hoisted on the White House. People would respect me and I would be the glory of America. I would be on clothes, toys, ships, boats, on the Statue of Liberty, and on government and other important buildings. Everybody would salute me on the 4th of July, even the President of America. I would mean power and dignity to the whole world.

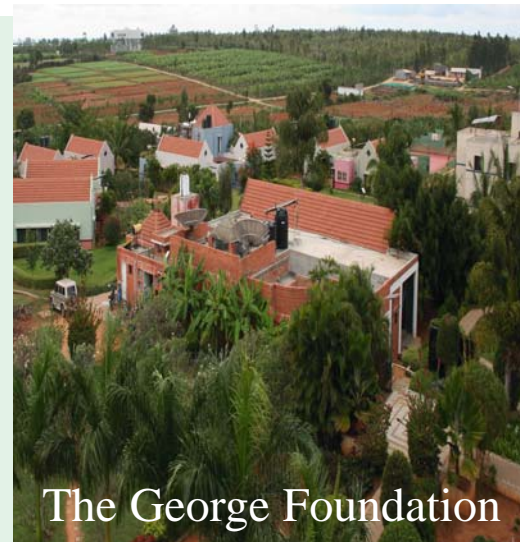
- Papita , 4th Grade



Shanti Bhavan: A Star in the Sky

It's a star in the sky
Amongst the mist of clouds
Slowly rising to shine
It works all day long
Raining knowledge on the children
Lighting their lives to shine
Volunteers come from abroad
Teachers come to teach
Housemothers come to take care
Up, up into space we go
Getting ready to show the world
The talent we have within us
To make the world a better place
for everyone.

-Keshavan ,
7th grade



The George Foundation

The George Foundation
Helping the poor
Educating children

Giving to others
Education so valuable
Outstanding may the results be
Ready for anything
Giving charity to the needy
Everlasting compassion

Fun ways of learning
Outstanding progress
Uplifting the poor
Never stopping to rest
Donating all it has
Always improving
Trying to be the best
Interested in learning more
Overjoyed to be of service
Never giving up its goal.

-Shashi Shekhar. R. , 6th grade

Gestures of An Unseen Hand

An unseen volunteer, a friend, a donor... so many titles for a generous person.... Only giving, and never taking... Who's this? Who's this kind man? It is Mr. Don Ringler, of JanArts/Creative Associates, an organisation that donates educational materials to schools around the world. One of his contributions to Shanti Bhavan is a year's subscription to the National Geographic and other magazines, which interest children of all ages.

Students of all grades and teachers have benefited from his gracious efforts and have used the magazines for research, classroom teaching, and even leisure reading. "Nat Geos have been very helpful in my studies," says ninth grader Mani.

Besides many novels Mr. Ringler has also



sent many CDs and DVDs of recent movies that we watch during weekends, providing endless entertainment. Though he is miles away he celebrated last Christmas with us by giving each one of us a half/quarter dollar straight from America.

We thank you and hope that the next present we receive is a visit from you, **Mr. Ringler.**

-Praveen Kumar Dhul Singh,
7th Grade



Sports Round Up

Up, up Shadow fax!!! Up, up Excaliber!!! The audience cheered as the two teams entered the field. There was so much excitement in the air as Lilly, the captain of Shadowfax, and Prakash, the captain of Excaliber both introduced the players to Dr. George. The game was kickstarted as the referee blew the whistle. The ball moved up and down the field. There was so much determination on the players' faces as they ran to score goals. The audience grew impatient until both the teams finally scored 1-1 and the game ended in a tie. The tension in the air escalated as the two teams entered the tie-break. The excitement reached saturation point when Shadowfax won the game by 4 goals to 3.



Victorious Soccer Team - Shadowfax

Mix 'n' Match in Hockey

There are two types of hockey, field hockey and ice hockey. But, it would be nice to have a combination of both. And that's what the Shanti Bhavan hockey champions were doing in the last two months. We, the eighth and ninth graders, had a roller-hockey tournament and we were divided into four teams. The tournament was held for two weeks until the final match was played on the 30th October. Viji captained his team to victory against Rajini's team by 11 goals to 10. The final was a really tough match and well-played. The game ended, leaving the audience amazed at the young hockey players who had performed like professionals.

-Shilpa & Manikantan, 8th grade

Students Witness IJNM Graduation Ceremony

On the 15th of June, seven of my friends, some staff members and I went to attend the convocation ceremony at the Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media, a highly sought-after journalism institute in Bangalore, and one of the Projects of The George Foundation.

I was waiting eagerly to reach the institute. At last, our bus turned a corner and I was glued to my seat as the magnificent building came into view. We reached the institution half an hour before the ceremony began.

The Assistant Dean led us to the auditorium. I could see so much pride on his face. The auditorium was decorated beautifully with lights. But my eyes were fixed only on the young graduating students. They were seated in the middle of the auditorium and had so much happiness and excitement on their faces.

After a while the program commenced. Many of the students received

their certificates and few spoke about their experience in the institution. It was fun listening to their stories.

After lunch, all of us explored the

Shanti Bhavan students with fresh IJNM graduates



whole campus. The building was really interesting because of its unique structure.

We enjoyed our trip to IJNM and wished we could stay for a longer time but soon it was time to return to Shanti Bhavan. We left IJNM with the memory of that visit buried deep in our hearts.

-Vinay Kumar Raja, 9th grade

Children's Day Bash

In India Children's Day is celebrated on the 14th of November every year. It is the birthday of late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India. In Shanti Bhavan we celebrated this special day with a variety of programs. We watched a different and interesting versions of "Cinderella and Her Step Sisters" performed by our teachers and volunteers.

It was really nice to know the story of what happened to Cinderella and the prince after their marriage. Another event of the celebration was the dwarf show in which dolls danced for us. It was nice to see the dances of different cultures being performed by different people. The teachers and aunties imagined and put up a fine show which was far beyond our expectations.

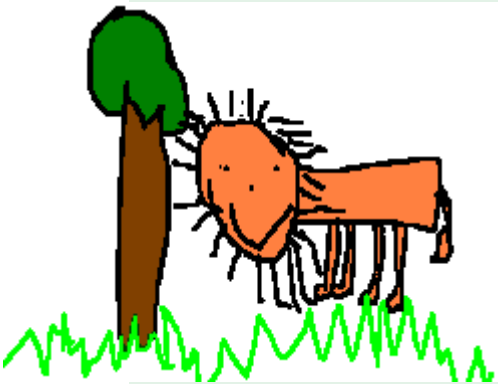
-Prem Prasad Ravi, 6th grade

The Shiny Magic Kangaroo

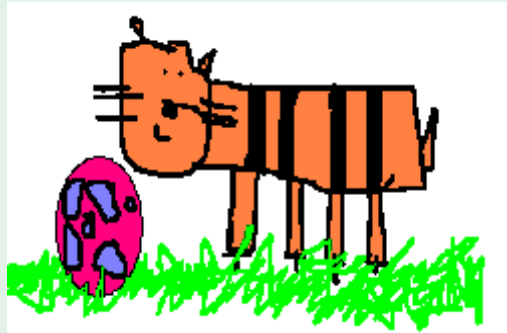
Once upon a time, a Kangaroo was walking in the forest and an ant said "Hello!" to the Kangaroo. The Kangaroo went with the ant to its house. The ant gave food to the Kangaroo. The Kangaroo said "Bye" to the ant and went to his own house.



On the way, a lion came. The lion saw the Kangaroo and ate him up. The lion was sleepy and he slept under a tree. The Kangaroo turned in the lion's stomach and the lion got frightened. Kangaroo made a hole in the lion's stomach by a magic stick and came out. The Kangaroo jumped and went back to his house.



Then, a tiger came and knocked at the door. The Magic Kangaroo opened the door. The tiger said "Hello!" to the Kangaroo. The Kangaroo wanted to play with the tiger so they went to the park. They played nicely in the park with a ball. The tiger kicked the ball very hard and the ball got lost. The Kangaroo said, "It's ok. I'll do magic and bring the ball back." The Kangaroo said the magic words "Zoooh Zoooh Zah!" and the ball came back. The tiger was very happy.



They played for some more time. It became dark and they were very tired. So they walked back to the Kangaroo's house. The tiger nearly got lost but luckily, he saw the Kangaroo who was shining in the dark. He followed the Kangaroo to the Kangaroo's house and both the Kangaroo and the tiger went to sleep.

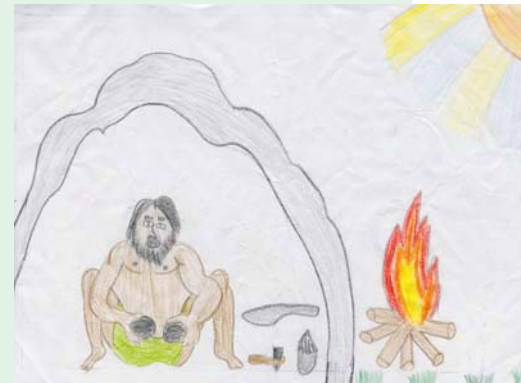
- The Kindergarten Class



How?

How sweet is the sweetest plum?
 How loud is the loudest drum?
 How long can someone wobble?
 How fast can someone gobble?
 How light is the lightest feather?
 How tough is the toughest leather?
 How far is the farthest star?
 How thick is the thickest tar?
 How busy is the busiest bee?
 How large is the largest sea?
 How white is the whitest dove?
 How strong is the strongest love?
 -Nivya, 7th grade

Civilization



Men of the past
 Had no caste
 They lived in caves
 And were as strong as the waves,
 Designed silver and gold
 Beautiful and old,
 And also,
 Axes and knives
 To save their lives

- Thangaraj, 5th grade

Volunteers at Shanti Bhavan

Mira is one of the teachers
With so many features.
Tara teaches geography,
And talks about philosophy.
Rahul likes to read books,
Everything, especially classics.
Mrs. Peggy sings like a bird,
To find an equal is really hard.
Professor Lambert is very kind,
And his character's rare to find.
Emily is good at art and dance,
And throws everyone in a trance.
Rishab is quick in math and
hockey,
Though appears often spooky
Because his moustache and beard
Sometimes appear weird
We thank them one and all,
And hope they return one day.

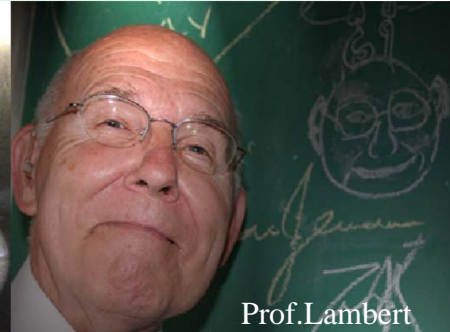
-Vinceya, grade 6



Tara



Orly



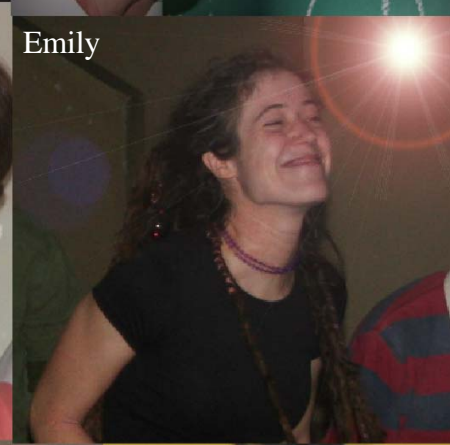
Prof.Lambert



Mira



Peggy



Emily



Rishab



Derek



Rahul

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