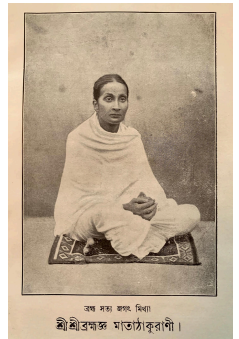




NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023



Dear NM members and devotees,

Hope everyone is safe and well. Apologies for the lateness of Newsletter and appeal for donations for the Math.

Balkendra Nursery continues to flourish under the care and guidance of Anjana, so much so that there is now a long waiting list.

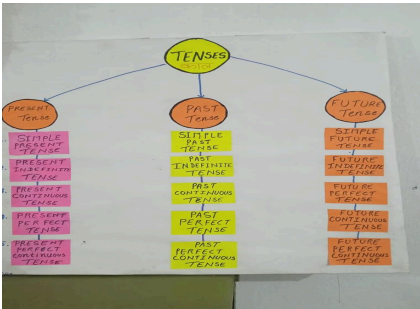
Balkendra ... a place where children come alive with joy and energy.



ORGANIC STATION



MATHS - RE SURFACES

		
SCIENCE CLASS	WORK WITH MICROSCOPE	ENGLISH GRAMMER

Children love to learn. Their faces say it all.

Learning is not on the pages. It is in the children's own work - their drawings, constructions, sharing thoughts, working and making with their own hands and thoughts. They are their masters making **Independent Choices** - at tables, on floors, outdoors, under a tree ... in groups or individually The lessons are their KEYS ... the work is their own.

To this end introducing teachers to children's developmental patterns and new ways and **techniques** of rendering lessons will continue. Habits die hard is well known.

Routines have been put in place. The hope is that maintenance of routines will gradually transform teachers's attitudes and sense of responsibility.

1. Record Keeping forms monitored, recorded and filed weekly
2. New shelf materials per subject, per grade introduced. This is on-going.
3. Chapter quizz, written and oral, following completion of chapter studies, will most likely replace 6 monthly exam, not helpful at this young age or in a tutorial program.

The hope is understanding children's needs and patterns, however minimal, and routines will gradually change teacher's attitudes, improve their sense of responsibility and develop in the children their natural love of learning.

Work continues as per Govt. syllabus

Daily videos go a long way in maintaining a close eye on operations given its remoteness. Amit Mitra has been an invaluable part of this remote training.

Enjoy the children in their new sweaters and uniforms and in their play!

Tailoring Classes

After a successful start with 12 students, the classes has stopped due to the long absence of the teacher.

The classes will be restarted in the New Year and the process to hire new teacher(s) has started.



The target is to have classes for 2 groups of 10 – 12 ladies each.

Repairs

The bulk of the repairs were carried out in 2022. The residual work will be carried out before Xmas'23 by the same contractors who had carried out the earlier work satisfactorily.

On this occasion, the 3 repair items were identified and suggested as 'urgent' by Kunal & Debdatta.

The 3 items are

- Side walls of right hand side open verandah in Santi ashram
- Roof of Old side of 2 storied building damaged due to water leakage
- Falling” boundary wall in Nirban Math -near the well

The computers in Balkendra are all old and needs constant repair. So a program of replacement (1 every 6 months has started in Sept/Oct'23.

Also, two new Inverters were purchased for the Nursery so that power remains during blackout.

Humanitarian Work

Mindful of our finances and that the serious needs due to Covid are now thankfully behind us, we only had limited activities.

Sweaters for students were distributed to all the Balkendra children in Sep'23

We also distributed food packets to the children on 2 occasions.

Eye Camp: The carry over from 2022, is now scheduled for Feb/Mar'24. In the interim, NMT had given a donation of INR 10,000 to an organization called Second Sight who cure blindness.

General Math Activities

Math activities consisted of: - daily pujas - special pujas - special events - campus upkeep - handling of petty cash

Earlier in the year, **Saraswathi Puja** was celebrated with much enthusiasm of the children of Balakendra

There were several other celebrations and feasting including one for Independence Day (15 Aug and not 4 Jul). Many of the Puja/feasts were sponsored by some of our members.



We had visits to the Math in Deoghar by

- Mary Helen, a Thakuma devotee from Alabama . She was present for the Jonmo Utsab in Mar'23. She was pleased with all the arrangements made by Rita and Anjan and coordinated by Surajit



Good morning Ms Biswas. I reached Nirban Math at around 8.45 am. The location is simply ethereal. Ma is very much here. This place throbs because of her silent presence & inexhaustible energy. I am still here & don't feel like leaving. Feels like I have been here forever. Shri Mitra showed me around & I could sense that beautiful things are happening here by Ma's ever flowing grace. This Math is untouched & unspoilt by the vagaries of time. It is still pristine & timeless in its holy essence & serene environment. So much effusive & old world charm of timelessness abound here. I am finally home!! It is all MA 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

- Ajai Madan, devotee of Maharishi Ramana visited in Oct'23 and sent the message below:

08/10/2023, 6:03 pm - Debdatta Biswas, (Bachchu): Warm greetings Ms Biswas. I really had the best day of my life at Nirban Math today. Came in at 8.45 am & left at around 6 pm after the evening Aarti. What I feel today is beyond words & any form of expression through them is bound to fall woefully short. Sri MA's silent presence & loving acceptance made me her own. I am the richest man in the whole world. I promised her that I would live up to her teachings. By Sri Ma's grace I also realised that the only difference between you & other people is the difference you make to their lives. Sri MA came to this world only for making that subtle difference. She touched our hearts & left us spiritually richer than we could ever imagine or be. All of you & even the people at the Math are so humble & selfless. It made me re-examine myself & my values in life. It was truly a meltdown moment for me today. I begged her to shape & color my remaining life as she wishes. Prompted by I don't know what, I picked up some holy sand from just outside Sri MA's shrine. Shall keep it with me as her ever enveloping presence & legacy till my days on this planet are done. All of you are so big as her torch bearers & I am such a small flickering flame. I pray for your good wishes & blessings always. Thank you for everything Ms Biswas. This is the very least I can say in all humility 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Purulia

There has been no further encroachment into our property, following the High Court Order directing the local constabulary to ensure that the Injunction is not interfered with.

Janmostov was also celebrated in Purulia and some 500 devotees were fed.

Negotiations are underway with a reputed firm of solicitors called Legal Options.

More on this to follow.

We thank all the members and well-wishers for their generous donations and support.

We continue to seek your blessings, well wishes, feedback, suggestions and your donations.