

## DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM

Howrah

News Clippings

February 2021

### New houses handed over to six past pupils



***Kajol Bagh in front of her new house***

***Below: Provincial Fr. Joseph Pauria blesses the new houses***

***More photos on page 4***

It was a proud moment for Munna, Krishna, Moni, Rinku, Sagar and sisters Kajal and Payel Bagh as they entered their own house's in *DB Asha Colony* in Kalyani on a wintry December morning. Six newly constructed houses in Kalyani were handed over to them. *DB Asha Colony* has been so named because nine former pupils are already staying in

that locality that makes it 15 houses for ex DBA children and there's room for a few more houses. The day long

Grihapravesh (house warming) program was held on 18 December 2020 in the presence of Provincial (DB Kolkata) Fr. Joseph Pauria and the officer in Charge of the Kalyani Police Station. Fr. Mathew, Fr. Siby, Fr. Jose, Christophe Plais and the Kalyani hostel children were also present on the occasion. The houses were blessed by Fr. Provincial, the keys and the title deeds were handed over to the beneficiaries by Fr. Mathew and the officer in Charge of Kalyani Police station. The construction started in the latter part of 2019 got delayed by a few months due to the pandemic induced lockdown when all activities came to a standstill. The construction work resumed soon after the monsoons in September and the houses were completed in December. The blessings and handing over ceremony was followed by a cultural program and lunch for all.



### **Quarantine**

The process of bringing children back continues with number of children arriving every week. On arrival they are placed in quarantine in the Night Shelter. Presently there are 18 boys in quarantine. After completing the quarantine period they shall move to their respective hostels next week and the next batch of students shall move into the Night Shelter.

### **Low key Christmas celebrations**

Christmas celebrations were muted this year due to Covid restrictions. The boys and girls designed the crib and partook of the special Christmas lunch and dinner in their respective hostels, there were no programs. The Past Pupils Meet was cancelled to avoid a large gathering, the size of the get together usually exceeds a thousand during the Past Pupils Meet and would have been extremely difficult to enforce social distancing norms with a such a large group. DBA children received new clothes and so did children in Howrah station and our ASSP Centres.



*New clothes for children in ASSP's Premchand and Chengail centres*

### **Sports day**

DBA children had an enjoyable day filled with various sporting events on 28 January 2021. This program coming after months of confinement was a relief as the children had a roaring time, they channeled their pent up energies participating in running, cycling, basketball and other events. The sports program was organized simultaneously in Howrah and Kalyani campus. A day earlier on 27 January





Railway Childline organized a sports program for the station children. Prizes were given out to the victors but the happy faces at the end of the day proved that the joy is in participation and that we are winners all.

### **School re-opening & new admissions**

The West Bengal Government has announced that the schools will reopen from 12 February 2021 for Classes IX, X, XI & XII. As per the guidelines the students will have to wear masks and carry hand sanitizers with them, schools are responsible for maintain social distancing norms within the school premises, students are forbidden to shake hands or share their belongings with others. Admissions have also resumed, we have also started enrolling our children in the next class. The children are also attending online classes via smart phones purchased specially for this. As a strike in support of farmers was called on 12 Feb hence our children shall start attending from 15 February 2021.



*Sudipto, Prem and Rahul, all class X ready for school on 15 Feb 2021*

### **Training Programs**



Life skills education workshops were held in December and January for our boys and girls. Training for Counselors was held on 29 January to identify and deal with challenges faced by pre teens and adolescents in the aftermath of the pandemic. Life Skills Education was also held in the Asha Tici hostel for the Class XI + boys.

*LSE session in DBA Howrah*

### **Day Care Centre inauguration**

The Day Care Centre resumed on 25 January 2021 after a eleven month hiatus. 11 children attended the first day. The activities shall be scaled up progressively in the Day Care Centre as well as the contact point in Tikiapara. Children in the 6 to 14 age group for the slums adjacent to the railway tracks shall be attending this centre. All the children are out of school and this Day Care Centre aims to enroll them in schools after preparing them for formal education. Another Day care Centre is proposed in our Bhattanagar Unit as our survey indicates a need for such a centre in that locality.

Thank



You





**Saris distributed to women in ASSP Centre in Uluberia slum area**



**Boys ready for school on 15 Feb 2021**



**Kalyani Children secured third position in the District Parade Competition**



**Childline Awareness Program in Kolkata**



**District Social Welfare Officer hands over the title deed of the new house to Rinku Singh**



**Munna with Fr. Mathew in front of his new house**