



# DON BOSCO Ashalayam

158/18, Belilious Road, Howrah

**Newsletter  
February 2020**

## Director's Message

*Dear Friends,*

*Hope you had a good start in 2020. Happy to inform you, our Day care Centre was launched on 01 January 2020. This centre caters to the vulnerable slum and station children more specifically; school drop-outs and never been to school categories. The Day Care Centre is located in Ashalayam and the outreach point a kilometer away in Tikiapara slum. the project area covers the slum clusters of Tikiapara, Dasnagar and Bhagar and areas around Howrah railway station. The beneficiary communities include migrants from rural Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, UP and Odisha. All children in the Day Care Centre are provided with nutrition, education, sports and recreational facilities. The Board exam for Class X commences on 18 February and our boys and girls are busy preparing for the exams. All the best to them. Thank you for supporting our rehabilitation efforts. God Bless You All.*

*Fr Mathew Parakonath  
Director*



## Don Bosco Feast Day observed as Child Rights Day

The Feast of Don Bosco on 31 January is dedicated to promoting the rights of the most vulnerable children. This year too a rally was held to highlight issues affecting children in India; issues like child labour, right to education, right to participation etc. The rally consisting of 600 children and around 100 staff and volunteers began the two kilometer march from Dhapar Math at 3 PM and reached DBA main campus around 04:15. After a short rest and tea break the program began with Fr. Mathew narrating the story of Don Bosco and the founding

**Fr. Mathew welcomes our chief guest Ms. Sudeshna Roy**





### **Children hold placards protesting female foeticide**

to the Indian Constitution pledging to uphold the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity and maintain the secular character of the nation. The Guest of Honour Mr. Debasish Nath, Inspector in Charge of Bantra Police Station appreciated DBA's efforts in promoting children's rights. Thanks to Mr. Nath our child rights rally went off smoothly as he had deployed police personnel to regulate traffic during the course of the rally.

children and appreciated their on-stage talents. Students of Class XI & XII read out the preamble

### **French Ambassador's visit**



**French Ambassador to India Mr. Emmanuel Lenain is welcomed in ASHA TICI**

The French Ambassador to India Mr. **Emmanuel Lenain** and Consul General Ms. **Virginie Corteval** formally inaugurated the ASHA TICI Hostel in the outskirts of Kolkata. ASHA TICI is training cum social rehabilitation project of DBA in collaboration with Terra Indica. Mr. Christophe Plais was also present during the program. Welcoming Mr. Lenain and Ms. Corteval, Fr. Mathew observed that technology is fuelling rapid changes in the business environment, therefore it is essential to equip the young with multi skill sets to help them adapt to change and be flexible and open minded to learn new skills in the future. The social integration project offers students ample opportunities to learn new and diverse skills needed for career and life. The ASHA TICI boys gave a presentation about the project objectives and activities. Mr. Lenain took a tour of the ASHA TICI Campus and listened intently to the students' experiences and appreciated the students' active participation in the program.

### **Past Pupils Meet & Christmas Gathering**

Children from all DBA Hostels had a grand Christmas celebrations in DBA's main campus in Howrah. Santa came bearing gifts for all and the children had a gala time with lots of entertainment, snacks and delicious Christmas dinner. The day earlier, on 24 December the Past Pupils gathering was attended by more than 180 ex inmates of Ashalayam. Many of them had come with their families. It was touching to see the past pupils showing their kids around the place where they spent their own childhood. The DBA children presented a cultural program for the seniors. The program concluded with a special dinner for all. **(photos on page 5)**



## Sports Camp in Bhattanagar & Kalyani

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A sports camp was held in Bhattanagar from 14 to 16 December and in Kalyani on 28 & 29 December 2019. 144 boys and girls from Bhattanagar and Kalyani Hostels participated in the event. In fact it was a sort of mini Olympics, the sporting event tested the participants skills in rugby, basketball, archery, football, khoko, skating and handball. The children participated enthusiastically and even the cold and foggy winter mornings failed to dampen their spirits. The winning teams and individuals were awarded prizes and a citation. The entire event was organized by the ASHA TICI boys under Sports Coordinator - Akash Sardar's leadership. Incidentally Akash is a resident of ASHA TICI hostel and pursuing a graduate degree in sports management.

### *Skating, archery and rugby events during the sports camp*



## Examinations and Admissions

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Ask any student what they feel about examinations, a good many of them are likely to reply that exams are tough. The anxiety levels keep increasing with the approaching exam dates. To help the students cope with exam related stress motivational sessions were organized for Class X students. The sessions helped students learn effective memory tips and becoming familiar with exam conditions through simulation of exam hall situation. The class X board exams begins on 18 February and for Class XII from March 12 onwards. Children who completed the academic year in December 2019 have been admitted into the next higher grade.

## Claudine and Marie-Pierre visit DBA

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ASA Members **Claudine Groc** and **Marie-Pierre Gouzy** visited and stayed with us from 01 to 06 February 2020. During their visit they reviewed the progress of the ASA funded projects and met with the children and staff. Claudine has been associated with DBA for nearly three decades and the children look forward to meet their Aunty Claudine every year. Claudine presented Fr. Mathew a book containing the thoughts of Don Bosco.



*Marie Pierre (left) and Claudine get a warm welcome from DBA Children*



*Claudine presented Fr. Mathew a book on Don Bosco.*

## French Students visit

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*St. Dominique students with DBA children*

16 students and 4 teachers from Saint Dominique School in France visited DBA on 08 & 09 February 2020. They spent a day each in Ashalayam main campus and Bhattanagar. Their two day program with DBA children included sports, dance, music and interactive sessions where students from both countries got to know about each other's culture and heritage. The Saint Dominique students also visited Asha Shop on Mirza Ghalib Street on Sunday evening.





**Fr. Mathew addressing the Past Pupils gathering on 24 December 2019**



**Christmas 2019 celebrations in Ashalayam**

### **An Appeal**

*Ashalayam endeavors to provide all facilities required for the all round healthy development of a child. For this we need you and look to you for support. You can sponsor a child's medical and clothing requirements or nutrition and/or education for one month or a longer period per your convenience.*

	Expense Head (For 1 Child)	1 month INR	3 months INR	6 months INR	12 months INR
1	Food & Nutrition	2000	6000	12000	24000
2	Education	900	2700	5400	10800
3	Medical Expenses	For 1 year INR 2000			
4	Clothes, Uniform, shoes	For 1 year INR 3000			

**Donors outside India may send their remittances to our bank, details given below;**

**Account No: 11960100048604  
Federal Bank Ltd.  
Howrah Branch  
IFSC: FDRL0001196**

**DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM**  
158/18, Belilious Road, Howrah 711101, India  
email: [mathewpara@gmail.com](mailto:mathewpara@gmail.com), [www.dbashakolkata.org](http://www.dbashakolkata.org)  
Tel: +91 33 2643 9341, 2643 9296  
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## THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS & BENEFACTORS

★ ASA France

★ Frederic Boisset, France

★ DB Mission Bonn

★ Raja Foundation ,  
Netherlands

★ KINDIA Belgium

★ Fr. Andrew & Friends, UK

★ Fondation Anber France

★ SEED, France

★ Rotary Club, Portugate, Spain

★ Terra Indica

★ Erica, Elizabeth & Friends from  
Verien Zur for Derung Der  
Strassenkinder Germany

★ Angela Jacobi & Friends, Germany

★ Constantine, KAB, Germany

★ Mennonite Central Committee

★ Kirsty Moore, UK

★ Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives

★ GOI, Ministry of Labour

★ Decathlon

★ Childline India Foundation

★ GOI, Ministry of Women & Child  
Development