



Shishur Sevay
To Not Feel Alone in the Universe

LIFE AT SHISHUR SEVAY

Quarterly Activity Report January – March 2023

From the Founder

Dr. Michelle Harrison



See how far they have come!
Your continued support has made possible the amazing
success of our Daughters of Shishur Sevay.
Be a part of their continued growth.

ONLINE DONATION

Indian Donation:

<https://shishursevay.org>

All Donations to Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay are tax deductible under 80G

U.S. Donation and Other Countries:

<http://friendsofshishursevay.org>

Friends of Shishur Sevay is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

JANUARY

- As the first year of Children’s Smart Centre (CSC) draws to a close, the beginning of the new session for primary schools begins. Many of our students, are now ready to join the primary sections in various schools and have done well in the interviews.

The West Bengal government schools have a different academic calendar compared to other boards like ICSE and CBSE. So A few students moved on to primary schools in January.



Group hug on the last day of one of the students

We feel very proud of the students who made huge progress in the short time that they were here with us. From kids who would cry to see their parents leave they became confident children starting on their respective life journeys.

Since we began and the word spread we had 40 applicants. We considered the income, occupation and level of education to select the most needy.

- Khusbu has passed Class 12 through National Institute of Open Schooling (Nios) making her eligible for admissions into college, something she is really looking forward to. She is interested to study dance in college.



To prepare her for the college entrance exams, she is getting additional dance lessons from Satyen Sur, our dance and movement teacher, a trained Bharatnatyam dancer who has toured India and Europe extensively.

- One of our girls, studying at Rajubala Adarsha Vidyalaya, a local government aided school was promoted to grade four.
- Two of the girls won medals/shields at their respective schools in their school sports events.



With the shields and medals they won

- This year Saraswati puja and Republic day were on the same day. We celebrated the day that the Constitution of India came into effect along with the goddess of knowledge.



The rituals being conducted by the girls, our childcare workers and Dr. Harrison

FEBRUARY

- We like to celebrate and encourage imagination and creativity. At CSC, we bought a doctor set, the kids had begun playing doctor and patient. One would feign fainting and ask for help and others would fashion themselves as doctors and compounders giving injections and going to their make-believe pharmacy to get the medicines. On the days following that, the doctors had a long line of patients with many competing to be their assistants.



The doctor for the day gets ready with an injection



When the rocking horse 'fell sick,' the resident doctors prescribed rest, covering it with a sheet, and gave it lots of fruits. They even tucked the plastic fruits under the sheet and told the teachers that the horse had eaten all the fruits.

MARCH

- Debashree Bose Mukherjee joined Shishur Sevay as the Program Manager. She is a Dance & Movement therapist and a holistic mentor. She has experience in working with children and adolescents, parents and caregivers with effective developmental techniques for more than a decade. Her expertise in dealing with trauma affected vulnerable young population, suitably aligns her with Shishur Sevay's trajectory.

She is developing programmes for the parents to broaden the reach and utilize the untapped potential of parents as educators. We see three areas of development-

- Working with positive discipline
- Guided reading time with their children
- Self-care techniques for mothers

- Khusbu represented her dance academy, Mamata Shankar's Udayan Kala Kendra, at the Spring festival at Rabindra Bharati University on the eve of Dol Purnima



- Dol Purnima and Holi were celebrated, with lots of colours and fun!



- Mani continues her journey of finishing class ten. She joined a NIOS coaching centre to help her with the remaining subjects.



Mani with Dr. Harrison, in front of her coaching centre

NIOS now has a compulsory vocational course and Mani has chosen Yoga as her subject. She is finishing up a six month course at Sivananda Saraswati Institute of Yoga, and has a trained yoga instructor working with her on the NIOS material as well.

- Children's Smart Centre (CSC) is moving closer to Shishur Sevay. As our rent agreement on the previous place was running out we found a place much closer to Shishur Sevay and decided to move instead of extending the agreement. We will renovate and move in, in early April.



Khusbu and Mani addressing the teaching techniques to the parents at the Parents-Teachers-Meeting where they are the assistant teachers. Once again we had full attendance of the parents.

