

Greetings!

After a year and half of the school being closed due to Covid, we reopened full time in January. My trip in October gave me some wonderful insights and surprises.

During the summer break we did intensive work in remodeling the structure of the school building including repairs, painting, carpet change and fixing rain issues. We partially covered the rooftop garden to provide shade in hot summer and protection from the rain in the rainy season. The elementary section was restructured to give more space for the children and the teachers. Both the Elementary I and the Elementary II classrooms have been combined into one room so the children from one age group can freely move around from one side of the classroom to other side and interact with the other children across the room.

It became clear that the youngest children who come to the school for the first time needed space for themselves. Keeping them with the already "normalized" children was creating chaos and neither group was able to concentrate on their own. To accomplish this, we have converted the top floor art room and the roof-top garden into a classroom for the youngest children. This has allowed the youngest children to move around freely and to explore the garden and do their work inside or outside of the room. It's a perfect age for exploration! These children are happy playing, learning to concentrate and doing the work of tending to the garden, cleaning and working together. By removing the children of the age group 3-4 yrs from the primary section, the remaining children (age 5-6) of the primary section have greater freedom as well. These children are paying much more attention to their own work with far less distraction from the 3-4 year olds.

In Late October, we took four teachers on a retreat away from Delhi with the intention of building a team of teachers who have better relationships with each other and can support each other. For these teachers, this was the first ever excursion to be away from their families. On retreat they were able to engage in something other than their daily life issues and problems. Together, they explored questions of the "self." They were able to look at themselves in a new way, discovering their interests and hobbies and sharing what issues of their lives keep them from engaging in their own projects. What a happy revelation it was for them!

This year Alpha school has reached a new level of maturity, both in its structure and in its operation. The pilot lunch program began in February and grew in July into a shared program of students and teachers which includes food prep, cooking, and serving. This kind of working together brings such joy and bonding to all.

Our graduates still visit us at the end of each school year and share with us their academic progress by showing us their yearly report. They are doing impressively well. They still love their Alpha Montessori School and express their gratitude. We all continue to learn and grow together.

For you, we wish good health and happiness through the holidays and in this coming year. Thank you all for your generosity, good thoughts, and good will. We at the school are so grateful and blessed to have you with us.

With Love and Gratitude,

Amita and the Alpha School gang

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