



*Aasaa, First Mehl, Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji:
Contemplate and reflect upon knowledge, and you will become a benefactor to others"*

By: The Khalsa Primary School Slough Trust and Governing body

It gives us immense pleasure and encouragement to be able to communicate with our fellow Sikhs in Slough and the wider community regarding your own and most prestigious project of "**Khalsa Primary School Slough**".

There will not be any disagreement if we say that most of the parents in our community wish their children to grow up to become responsible, educated and successful individuals.



Foundation Ceremony 3rd October 2005

We are also to a large extent aware of the fact that our kids stand best chance if they are in touch with their religious and cultural heritage. We all in our own ways and varying degrees have been making efforts at family levels to keep them in touch with our religion and language. We take them to Gurdwaras, Cultural programmes, Gurburab celebrations, Kirtan classes and Punjabi schools.

Our desire to want our children to stay close to our religion is in itself proof that we all inside ourselves wish to follow our Guru's instructions and aspire to be true Sikhs ourselves. We might not be aware of this and although quite often we are getting mislead from our path either because of ignorance, external pressures or internal turmoils, we all desire in our conscious or subconscious minds to be Guru's loved ones.

From dream to reality.....

Khalsa Primary School Slough, (as we now call it after suggestions from the community in the preliminary questionnaire filled by the sangat at the ground breaking ceremony) is the fruit of labour of some truly dedicated gursikhs' love for their Guru and for the future of



our children. There have been years of hardwork devotion and firm belief in the need for a sikh school. There has been innumerable circles of discussions, negotiations and applications. There have been frustrating moments of refusals and there have been rewarding jubilant moments of victory. After a lots of ifs and buts, resistance and acceptance, yes and no, today we as a Sikh community in Slough stand proud to have the opportunity to give our children the right education. The dream of a Sikh School is about to become a reality. Many of us were witness to this fact on ground breaking ceremony at the site acquired for the school. This success will not have been possible without the support of local and wider Sikh community. We can take our inspiration from an excellent example set by **Guru Nanak Sikh School Hayes**. This pioneering Sikh School in the UK is not only imparting Sikh values and principals to our children but also setting an example in achieving excellence in education. It recently celebrated being awarded the second highest score in the country for value added performance. It was also in the top 40 schools in the country for sustained improvement.

Current and future issues.....

- Buying of land for the school is completed. Construction is likely to start spring 2006.
- Prospectus will be ready for interested parents in January 2006, and application process can start, with view to start first session in September 2007. You will be informed of dates and deadlines well in advance.
- Process already started for employing the Headteacher of the school. Initial staff recruitment to start after this.
- The tender process for selection of the main contractor to build the school has started. Six prestigious firms want the project and during January 2006 a shortlist will be made and a final winner on site in February 2006.
- Parents who are interested in a place for their children are requested to make their interest known by putting in applications. Definite numbers of prospective pupils is vital to sound planning. The LEA will need to be told well in advance the number of pupils, as allocation of funds will depend on the numbers.

Fundraising

- There is currently a shortfall of £200,000 to be raised by end of January 2006. We have already taken out a £200,000 loan from National Westminster Bank plc. Your ongoing and generous support is requested.
- We thank and congratulate the organisers, sponsors and the local community for a successful hosting of Golf tournament as an invaluable fund raiser and request anybody who can come up with good fund raising ideas and support.

- We invite the local businesses to use this newsletter for advertising their businesses and products. We plan to circulate this newsletter not only to the Sikh community in Slough but also adjoining towns.
- Please set up **regular standing orders** generously. You can fill in the attached standing order mandate and send it back to us.

Ideas for how you can help raise funds for the school

Idea 1: Hold Religious events in your house

Whether it is your child's birthday or another celebration, why not invite Sri Guru Granth Sahib into your house along with your friends and relatives and make a special appeal for funds for the school. We can provide kirtan jathas that will not charge for their service.

Idea 2: Make a list of your friends and relatives

Ask them to raise £500 from their friends and relatives. If you can find 5 people that can do this for you, then you raise £2500. If each of your friends did the same with their friends, the amount would be £12,500! The power of the network.

Idea 3: Appeals

The next time you have a wedding or party, why not invite a member of the school governing body to come and tell your friends about the school project and make an appeal to your guests.

Highlights from Foundation Ceremony Event



*Mohinder Singh (School Governor)
and Slough MP Fiona MacLear*

FOUNDATIONS LAID FOR SIKH SCHOOL

By James Connell - Oct 7, 2005 The Observer

THE foundation ceremony for a town's first Sikh primary school began with a blessing. More than 1,500 Sikhs attended the solemn religious service on Sunday at the school site in Wexham Road, Slough. The £7 million school is mainly funded by the Department of Education and Skills (DiES) with an £800,000 contribution made by Slough's 10,000-strong Sikh community. Half the money has already been raised through individual donations and fund-raising drives over the past five years. Much of this money will go towards improving highway safety and adapting the "roundabout to cope with the extra traffic that will be generated by the project.

The service itself was led by honoured Sikhs chosen to symbolise the Five Beloved Ones, those initiated into the Khalsa brotherhood at the foundation of

the religion. Slough MP Fiona Mactaggart was also present to give her whole-hearted support. Nichhatar Singh Kandola, one of the trustees from the school, told the Observer: "We have been campaigning for the school for five years now. "The foundation ceremony was the final step but one in terms of getting the school set up. We do what we do with any special project. We bring the holy scriptures, say prayers and recite hymns. Building work for the project will begin within three or four months. The school will have a capacity to take 450 children. Around 20 per cent of place will be available to Non-Sikhs.

Highlights from Golf Tournament

The Slough Sikh School Trust held its first Charity Golf Tournament on the 3rd November 2005, over 104 golfers entered the competition at the prestigious Lambourne Golf Club in Burnham, Berkshire.



The purpose of the tournament was to raise much needed funds for the Sikh School. Construction is planned for February 2006 and over £400,000 still needs to be raised from the community. Royal Bank of Scotland was the main event sponsor.

The evening dinner meal was provided and sponsored by Haveli Restaurant of Slough.

Golfers from as far as Manchester, Wales and Southampton turned up to show their support. Over 15 local businesses sponsored the holes on the course. Amrik Singh Khalsi donated £1200 and Ravi Gidar of Goldcare Homes donated £1550 towards the school. A total of £14500 was raised from the event.



Planned Activities for 2006

Charity Fundraising Walk

A walk along the canal from Ramgharia Gurdwara to the new school site is planned during March/April 2006. More details to follow.

Charity Golf Tournament 2006

A follow up event is planned for the 6th July 2006, however it will be bigger and bolder this year. A marquee with upto 250 seating capacity is planned for the evening dinner and dance programme.

The Lambourne Club is set in 180 acres of breathtaking parkland with magnificent old oak and beech trees and 6 picturesque lakes. It is one of the most prestigious private clubs in the region.

Charity Trek to Mount Kilimanjaro, Kenya



As wide as all the world, great, high and unbelievably white in the sun was the square top of Kilimanjaro."
- Ernest Hemmingway, The Snows of Kilimanjaro

Kilimanjaro with its gleaming glaciers, is a magnificent mountain. It stands majestically amidst vast open plains, inviting you to the challenge to climb to the top through the farms, rain forest, pass through the moorland, to highland desert and witness the eternal snow on "The Roof of Africa." In August/September 2006, the trust is planning a charity fundraising trek to Mountain Kilimanjaro in Kenya. Trekkers need to get sponsorship for a minimum of £2500 and require a deposit to cover cost of flights. Forms will be available in January from the school office. We have applicants waiting already, and a limited number for the trip so hurry up to register your place.

School Design – Latest impressions

The picture on the left is an artists impression of a cross section on the main central contemplation zone for the school. It is designed to be a place where children can sit and relax together or as a amphitheatre for small group lectures. Both for the children and the community! The picture on the right is the main sports/dining hall.



Your opinion is valued please write to us at info@sloughsikhschool.org or phone us on 08701 657645. For further information visit us at www.sloughsikhschool.org

The School Governors

The following are the individuals who are current governors of the Sikh School. Further positions for governors are available and any applicants are encouraged to contact the school office for further details.

Arjinder Kaur - Nursery School Teacher (Nurse)

Amarjeet Singh Bhachu -Solicitor, Asst General Secretary Ramgharia Gurdwara, Slough

Bherminder Singh Bains -Telecomms Consultant, Trustee of Khalsa Aid

Dr Gurdeep Singh -Head of Sikh Studies – Guru Nanak School. Panjab Radio Presenter

Dr Gurpreet Singh Kalra - GP

Gurmit Singh Nandra - IT Consultant and Committee member of Ramgharia Gurdwara

Hari Singh Sewak - Retired Teacher, Headmaster at Panjabi School for 20+ years

Jasbinder Singh Bhara -Electronics Engineer

Mohinder Singh Bhandal - Accountant and Local businessman

Nichhatar Singh Kandola - Engineer, Businessman

Narinder Singh Rana - Chartered Accountant

Nirmal Singh -Slough Borough Council Officer and Teacher at Panjabi School Slough

Navraj Singh Cheema -Local businessman

Onkar Singh Randhawa -Local businessman and Secretary of AKJ

2006 Calendars now available

The latest volunteer Mr Tarbedi Singh volunteered to organise the production of the first Slough Sikh School Trust Calendar. These are available free of charge. If you want a calendar then please phone the school helpline. Can we get an image of the calendar please....

YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please help us out and make life simpler for you by setting up a standing order mandate for your donation to Slough Sikh School Trust.

Please fill out the form below and return to Slough Sikh School Trust PO Box 3133, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 7YX

Do NOT send this mandate directly to your bank!

✂ -----**Standing Order Mandate**-----

To [name of your bank]: _____

Address [Bank]: _____

PLEASE PAY: National Westminster Bank Plc Sort Code: 01-08-15

For the credit of: THE SLOUGH SIKH SCHOOL TRUST

Account number: 53546547

Reference [S/O-Donation]

THE SUM OF £ _____ amount in words: _____

Every month and upon receipt of this mandate until further notice in writing.

Date of first payment ___/___/___ If you pay tax at the standard rate or above we can claim the tax back on your behalf at no extra cost to you. To qualify for *Giftaid*, what you pay in income tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year. Please tick to agree.

ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED [please insert your account details here]

Full Name(s) on Account: _____

Account Number: _____ Sort Code: _____

Home Address: _____

Tel No: _____ Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

*Please do NOT send this form to your bank, but return to
Slough Sikh School Trust, PO Box 3133, Slough, Berkshire SL3 7YX
Charity Registration No 1103498*