

JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

celebrations

Diwali and Children's Day made November a very special month for the children of the Jhag Children's Village.

A week-long Diwali holiday from the 1st to the 7th November was enjoyed by all the students of Prem Pathshala. The school organised a pre-Diwali celebration when the students, including those who attend the School on Wheels classes, received sweets and gifts including fire-crackers.

Children's Day was celebrated on the 14th November. A special assembly was followed by a musical program and a painting competition. This special celebration is held to commemorate the birthday of India's first Prime Minister after independence, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. "Chacha Nehru" (Uncle Nehru) was fond of children and was focused on welfare, education and the development of children in India and is therefore very popular among his little admirers.



Children's day

Diwali Celebrations

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prem pathshala

The classroom walls were repainted in November under the school maintenance plan.

As is common practice in India, Prem Pathshala's students use hair oil. Consequently the distemper painted walls were easily marked and discoloured but not able to be washed down. To provide a washable surface, an oil-based paint was applied to the walls up to the level of 5 feet from the floor. The effect is very pleasing. The staff and management of the school requested that the children remain conscious of maintaining the school's infrastructure and keeping things in good order.



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fundraising

On the 24th November, supporters of I-India Project Australia gathered at the Greater Union Event Cinemas to enjoy the latest Harry Potter film - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

Before the screening of the feature film, guests watched a moving and impressive short documentary, filmed and produced by Singapore-based Jon Moore from The Deck TV. The film focused on I-India's "School on Wheels" as it travels around Jaipur, bringing basic education to the most disadvantaged children where they live. Celia Barnett described I-India's School on Wheels bus that operates in the Jhag area where children from the construction slums and marginalised communities in the area are brought to Prem Pathshala to receive basic education, with the aim of developing their skills and enthusiasm for learning so that they become willing and able full-time students in time.

The Big Draw lucky number board raised good funds and the lucky winners received wonderful prizes - Beach towels from J D Keating (Kristie and Tim Rumble), a pack of 48 gourmet chicken kebabs from Advanced Poultry (John Spanellis), a Gelato cake from Sweet Fantasy (Mr and Mrs Georgoulas) and a restaurant voucher from Chilli Jam in Concord with accompanying wine, and \$150 cash. We thank these wonderfully supportive businesses for these very well received donations, which are perfect prizes at the onset of summer. The winner of the cash, young Hamish Snodgrass very generously donated \$50 back to I-India following the screening. Thank you so much Hamish! And thank you sincerely too, to all the other magnanimous people who attended! Your on-going friendship and assistance means so much.

