



ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

April 22, 2019

Himalayan Children's Fund News

Dear Friends,

Thank you for reading and responding to the current needs ~ the blankets and tables for VVI (March newsletter) have been generously sponsored!

The sense of joy at SMD these days is not just a matter of the close of the school year. Students and staff alike are happy that the exam results were very good school wide and much improved over the last two years. Results for the Class 10 students will take a little longer since theirs is a government exam.

The main activity now for the school, monks and nuns is the 10 day annual Mani Drupchen which begins at SMD April 25th. The days of prayers and mantra recitation are open to all and the school yard will be full. Then it will be time for the 2019-2020 school year to begin.

Please enjoy and share the news.

~ Debra Ann

SPONSORSHIP RATES

SMD BOARDING SCHOOL	
Boarding Student	\$900.00*
Day Student	\$420.00

FOR MONASTICS	
SMDBS or SMD Monk	\$480.00
Shedra Monk	\$600.00
Nun (base sponsorship)	\$240.00
Additional for school nun	\$240.00
Monk (base sponsorship)	\$240.00

We will always accept any amount toward sponsorships and find additional sponsors to complete the full fee amount.

* SMD calculates \$935.00 as the actual cost for boarding students, however, HCF is reluctant to increase sponsor fees and will continue to raise additional funds for the support of the school.

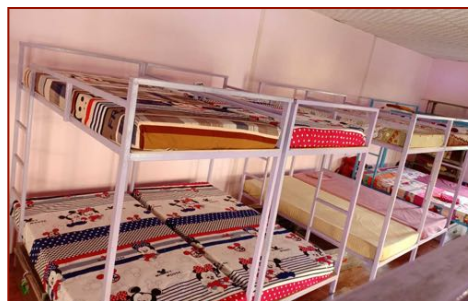
FINAL EXAMS FOR SHEDRA AND SMDBS MONKS



THRANGU TARA ABBEY

Thanks to general use funds for Tara Abbey, given by HCF donors, a new temporary dorm has been built near the kitchen and garden ~ a welcome relief to over crowded living spaces. Since the shedra students returned from Lumbini, the nuns have been sleeping 4 or 5 in rooms built for 2!

With bunk beds (a first at the abbey) the dorm can accommodate 40, which the nuns in charge feel is helpful for keeping track of all the little girls! A puja blessing was performed mid-April and set up is complete.



2018 SMD GRADS FINISHING THEIR YEAR OF SERVICE AT SMD

More stories from graduates who have been giving a year of service before continuing their education. They all have expressed gratitude to Thrangu Rinpoche, SMD staff, and sponsors for making their life extraordinary. *(Note: Football=Soccer)*



Lhakpa Yangchen was born in the Solukhumbu area of Nepal in 2002, joined SMD in 2004, and has had the added pleasure of having her parents work at school. She played football, table tennis and badminton, and competed in basketball tournaments, participated in quiz and spelling competitions, was hostel captain in grade 9 and assisted volunteer acupuncture doctors for 3 years during the Mani Drupchen at SMD. Lhakpa was also an Eco Club member, participated in the

Peace Pal Project and was member of Dog Whisperer when SMD had a dog! She says she learned a lot during the SEE exam, that it was a nice experience, and she had a chance to meet other kids and make friends. She felt that volunteering in the Senior Program would be a way to repay the support staff and teachers for all she received from SMD. Assigned as a Director's assistant, Lhakpa says she has learned many things ~ office work, computers, various aspects of communication and more about Thrangu Rinpoche. She leads the Human Rights Club and helps with the ferret cat project. With hopes of becoming a veterinarian and bringing this service to her village, she says she is grateful to all who have helped her become who she is.



Dawa Tamang was born in Ramechhap in 1998. Relatives familiar with monks from Tashi Choling helped to bring him to enroll at SMD in 2002. While at school he danced and sang in the cultural programs, competed in the Voice of SMD singing competition, played football and competed in the Tsawe Lama Cup, was a room and school captain, 'TV in charge' and joined the Dog Whisperers and Bodhichitta in Action.

Dawa says it was interesting to study and write all the knowledge he has thus far for the SEE exam. He says he wanted to be able to repay SMD for what he has been given by volunteering this year and his mother was very encouraging. At SMD he has been working in the reception office, taking care of receiving the mail from the post office and issuing stationery and exam books for students among many other tasks. Dawa would like to study in the computer track at HIMS in Kathmandu and become a software engineer. Reflecting on his experiences, he said he has been happy to know students from different places and since volunteering he has gained an experience of leadership, learned more about Dharma and Tibetan Traditional culture, how to talk with strangers and he has even learned to cook!



Tsering Dolma was born in Prok village, Tsum in 2001 and joined her siblings at SMD in 2005 since her family feels that education is very important. While at SMD Tsering participated in Eco Club, Student Council, and Library Club. Though a bit shy to sing, she does *love* to dance and participated in dance programs as well as table tennis, basketball and spelling competitions. In grade 9 she was Prayer Captain. At first the idea of the SEE exam was stressful, but lots of hardwork studying

made it easy to give the exam. Feeling that Rinpoche has given her the life she has made her want to volunteer as a Senior. She has been serving in the SMD library this year arranging books, leading Library Club, finding books requested by teachers and reading to the small children during holidays and library time. Tsering Dolma is interested in studying science and becoming a nurse. She has expressed that she is thankful to Thrangu Rinpoche, SMD staff and teachers, friends and 'amazing sponsors'. "Because of them I can know who I am today. I am a shy girl but volunteering is giving me confidence ~ I can know my weaknesses and grow. This is a very good experience."



Yangchen Lhamo Bhandari was born in 2002 in Sindhupalchuk, Nepal. After some time on the SMD wait list she was able to enroll as a day student in 2011. While attending SMD she was busy with creative art and crafts, was a member of Eco Club and the Peace Pal Project. As a member of Library Club she help to arrange books and read stories to the younger children. She won 1st position for running during Sports Day and also for essay and handwriting competitions. She helped with the ferret cat

project and now is a leader of the Human Rights Club. Speaking of the challenge of taking the SEE exam she said: "It encouraged a sense of responsibility and thinking of my future goals. If I do this best, I can have a good start for the next part of my life. So the exam was fun!" Volunteering as a Senior was natural because she wants to help others and knowing the future is uncertain she wants to help now. Yangchen hopes to study science and physics and be able to help her community which lacks the electricity, transportation and other technology that makes life more convenient and organized. As the daughter of a single mother she has experienced the hardship of single parents in Nepal and wants to help with women's rights in the future.



Ashok was born in 1997 in Butwal, Nepal and his father was a driver for many years at VVI in Sarnath. While at SMD he participated in Student Council and cultural dance programs, competed in the Tsawe Lama Cup and also assisted volunteers in a one month Dental Camp. Ashok found that while the SEE exam was hard, it also was exciting. He knew he wanted to volunteer as a Senior and his family gave their approval so he has been working this year in two capacities at

SMD. As an academic office assistant he photocopies and stamps exams, prepares and distributes papers for students and teachers. He also is assistant for the storeroom: receiving, recording and distributing such items as soap and toothpaste for the boarding students. Ashok would definitely like to attend college and hopes to become a teacher. He says he is lucky to be here and that his whole life has changed because of SMD, sponsors, and Thrangu Rinpoche.



SMD students in computer class.