



ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

April 30, 2024

Himalayan Children's Fund News

Dear Friends,

The Mani Drubchen at SMD was well attended as was the Mani at Nubri Hinang Gomba and now, the 2024/2025 school year has begun for SMD, SMDDBS and both shedras.

Tara Abbey nuns are reading the Kangyur on behalf of Thrangu Rinpoche and we are happy to acknowledge some of the SMD grads who are about to complete their year of service to the monastery before continuing their education.

Please enjoy our stories and help us out with a great review. It is easy to share your special story of connection on: [Great NonProfits](#)

Thank you for your kind support.

~ Debra Ann



New monks receive refuge names from Chöje Lama Wangchuk. *Hover for video.*

NUBRI HINANG MONASTERY

Khenpo Choegyal has shared some photos of the annual Hinang Mani Puja along with a video clip of the trek! *Hover for video.*



VVI ~ YOUNG MONKS

Young monks, who are new to monastic life, spend their first year or two studying at VVI and Pullahari in India ~ preparation for being able to enter either SMDDBS or SMD. Once they pass a written and verbal exam, they transfer to Nepal at the beginning of the school year. Here the monks are receiving their results and saying goodbye with last instructions from Khenpo Gendun.



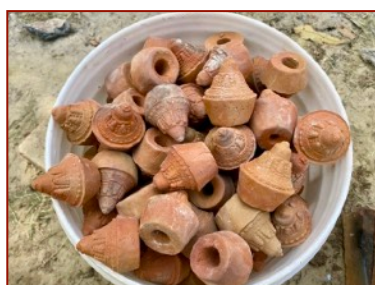
SMDBS

Results day was joyful at SMDBS in Namu Buddha. Grades were much improved from the mid-terms and only a few students will need to repeat the year. 8 of the older students have entered the ngondro retreat at Namu Buddha and one has begun shedra studies. On April 14th, the monks conducted the Phuerab puja to pacify obstacles to the new academic session which began April 15th. Lama Ajo helped to conduct the prayers.



VAJRA VIDYA INSTITUTE

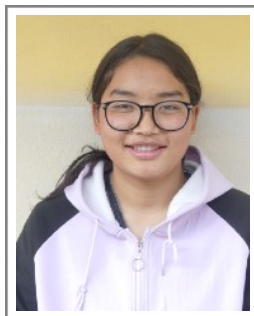
There is a great deal of activity taking place at VVI in addition to the ongoing 2nd year Shedra classes. Roof ornaments are being repaired and painted; the lower level rooms and hallways are being renovated and painted (having been vacated by the young monks). The Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva statue has been moved from the garden near Rinpoche's house to a position next to the Nyerpa office in order to make room for a reliquary statue for Thrangu Rinpoche. (Another bodhisattva statue will be placed near the Dedon Tsokpa office.) Thrangu Rinpoche's reliquary stupa will be a 32ft high Dharmachakra stupa made from the same stone as the Ashok Pillar, which comes from the nearby Chunar Village. Ground breaking pujas and rituals have been performed and the monks are busy preparing mantras and 100,000 tsa tsa's. *Hover for videos.*





Tsering Dolkar Tamang was born in 2004 in Ghyaru, Manang and transferred in 2014 to SMD from the Pullahari School. Tsering liked health related activities while attending SMD. After joining Health Club she was a group leader for 3 years and assisted chair side during 3 GDR dental camps. She also joined Himalayan Makers Guild, was prayer captain for 1 year, room captain for 2 and served 1 year as movie-in-charge. After passing the SEE exam Tsering decided to volunteer at SMD for 1 year and

she is simultaneously attending the first Class 11 to be offered at SMD. She enjoys her work in the Director's office, assisting the Director, Principal, VP, and accountant; helping children write sponsor letters; welcoming visitors, and being very busy. Tsering says she really feels lucky and overwhelmingly grateful toward SMD as she and all her siblings have been raised there. She says SMD is a great school and appreciates that SMD teaches Tibetan, which her previous school did not, and doesn't discriminate between rich and poor. While Tsering is currently studying in the Computer Stream and enjoying it, she says it is good for now, but hopes to go into the health field in the future.



Phuntsok Sangmo was born in Tsum Valley in 2007 and joined SMD in 2012 after her mother passed away. She is the niece of Lama Pema and has 3 sisters who attended SMD before her. Phuntsok shared that arriving at SMD at such a young age, she felt very alone since things were so new and different but her sisters helped her and she soon found a friend from the same village. Phuntsok participated in football, net-ball and basketball teams and in inter-school competitions. She was a member of

Helping Hand, Student Council and room captain for 2 years. Phuntsok says she was nervous about the SEE exam but found it easier than she thought it would be. Her Uncle and sisters approved of her giving service and she enjoys all the things she is learning by working in the Director's office, including talking with volunteers and visitors. Studying grade 11 at the same time is difficult since there is not a lot of time for studies. Class is from 6 to 10:30 AM and office hours are 11:30 to 4:30 PM. She is studying Computer Management for now and undecided for the future. Phuntsok feels great to be part of the SMD family and having the opportunity to receive secular and dharma understanding, "You can't get this opportunity outside."



Choegyul Dorje Lama is from Nubri, Lhi village. He was born in 2006 and brought to SMD by his uncle, Tulku Damchö. A house vice captain, room captain, Eco club member and Health club member, he also assisted chair side during 4 GDR Dental camps. He played football, was umze for 2 years and won an art competition in 7th grade. Choegyul is also a marathon runner and has been competing at the National level. His first time he took 12th position and since then has taken 4th, 3rd and 2nd positions. He is currently training 11 students in running. The SEE, Choegyul says, was good, he worked really hard and had a good result. After the exam he volunteered at Hinang Monastery for 3 months, teaching and looking after the small monks where he learned a lot. Since his return to SMD he has been volunteering in the Director's office and studying Computer Management in Class 11. When the year is finished Choegyul would like to spend the holiday volunteering in Hinang Monastery and also helping his family - 1/2 hour walk away. He says SMD was really good for him, learning to read and write, which was not available in the village, learning to help others, and love and compassion ~ "Without SMD I could not help others." He would like to continue to teach sports and to teach in his home village as he has learned at SMD.

SMD'S FIRST CLASS 11

