



# NEWSLETTER

## DOLPHIN MAGIC SCHOOL



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### **Nobert and Sylvia Visited DMS**

A longtime supporter and the sponsor parents of Sudarshan Tamang, Sangam Tamang and Anjeela Balami has visited Dolphin Magic School and brought a lot of gifts along with them. During their four-day visit in Dolphin Magic School, the pair spent some quality time with their sponsor children and made memories for life. They brought along their daughter Sara, who also got to share these amazing moments in DMS.





The sponsor parents brought plenty of gifts for their sponsor children and the students were happy receiving them. Along with their own gifts, Nobert and Sylvia also brought gifts from their friends for their sponsor children as well as story books and plenty of stationery for the school. It was a wholesome experience for both the sponsor parents and the students and DMS is glad to welcome Nobert and Sylvia once more. It has been a great contribution from both of them and a much-needed support that DMS can never thank enough.



After their visit, the couple and their daughter went on a trek and enjoyed the rest of their time in Nepal. Dolphin Magic School would like to thank them for their continuous contribution and hope to welcome them in future.

### **Volunteers in DMS, Sara and Magdi**

Sara Ehegartner and Magdi Quass have volunteered in Dolphin Magic School for 3 months and did an amazing work in the school during their stay. The volunteers worked on student report as well as helped in administration work.



In three months, the volunteers stayed in the school hostel and got a firsthand experience of the school operation along with Nepalese culture.



Sara and Magdi put their skills and knowledge into helping the school with the much-needed students report. Thanks to them, everything is on order now. Both the volunteers did their very best in their work and DMS is pleased and thankful to have such wonderful volunteers.





Apart from their contribution, they also had a great experience of Nepalese culture and hospitality. Sara and Magdi were in time to experience the biggest festivals in Nepal, Dashain and Tihar and understand the significance of it. They were part of it and definitely enjoyed the rituals and celebrations.



Sara's parents and brother also visited DMS during Dashain and they were pleased with everything they saw. They were supportive of Sara for her decision to volunteer and even took sponsorship for Rachana Ghalan. It was a much-needed support and a great gesture of kindness from her parents. This kind of support truly helps DMS to keep strong and make countless lives better.

Overall, it was a great contribution from Magdi Quass and Sara for their productive time in DMS. The school is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. DMS would like to wish Magdi and Sara all the best for their future and hope to welcome them again.



## Thomas Stuppner Visited DMS



Thomas Stuppner, founder and the chairperson of Friends for Nepal has visited DMS for two weeks. It was a short stay than usual but a very productive one. A lot of new ideas were planned and implemented during the visit and DMS was once again happy to welcome him.

During Tom's visit, Nepal had recently experienced an earthquake in Jajarkot, a district in Mid-western region of Nepal. With more than 150 casualties, the region was still in need of support. So, while Thomas was here, he initiated a collaboration with Chay-ya Nepal and planned the distribution of relief materials. And over the next few weeks plenty of aid such as blankets, jackets, tarpaulin, sleeping bags and food was distributed to the victims. Further relief distribution is also being planned and the relief packages is still being sent.



Another important work that was done during Tom's visit was a meeting with the Dakshinkali municipality officials. Friends for Nepal has a rich history of working together with the municipality during various incidents in the past such as the 2015 earthquake in Nepal and the COVID pandemic. The meeting was to discuss future development in the education sector of the region as well as infrastructural development.





The meeting was positive and the effort was appreciated by municipality officials. This has opened up many possibilities for the future projects for Friends for Nepal.



Furthermore, a teachers meeting was also held during Tom's visit. Discussion was done about the school and its teaching methods. The teachers were asked about their experience during their teaching and if there are ways to improve anything. Further educational development of DMS was also discussed such as a Science Lab and a Secondary level Education. A lot of ideas were discussed and overall it was a productive meeting to strengthen the educational practices of DMS.



Although it was a short visit, a lot of things were accomplished. DMS would like to thank Thomas for his contribution and dedication towards Dolphin Magic School. The school is looking forward for more projects in future.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Terminal Examination Held**

The Second terminal examination of the academic session 2023-24 has been held and the results have been distributed. The 8-day long exam was held smoothly with hundred percent participation of the students. DMS has 3 major examinations throughout the year to analyze the student's progress in education and this is a huge moment for both the students and the teachers.

The teachers get to evaluate their students and their performances through the results and work on anything that needs an improvement before the final examination. The examination is not only the student's evaluation but the teacher's as well. The terminal examination helps to work on the remaining part of the academic year to improve the understanding of the lessons provided and revise if necessary.

The results were distributed shortly after the examination and the parents were informed to collect their children's progress report. The parents were also advised to encourage and assist their children to study at home for further progress.

## **Tihar Celebrated in School**

Like always, this year too DMS had a big celebration for Tihar, a major festival in Nepal. The students and the teachers worked hard to decorate and celebrate the festival of lights in Dolphin Magic School. The school was decorated with flower garlands all around and festival lights were put on. The teachers and the students worked together to make a beautiful mandala in the school yard where the celebration took place.







Tihar is about singing, dancing and getting together to enjoy. That is what happened during the celebration. The students performed Tihar songs and showered many blessings for the school in their performances. Groups of small children danced in the courtyard and sang together. The teachers participated as well. Students and teachers performed various cultural presentations which lit up the day and brought smiles to everyone. Thomas also witnessed the celebration and was delighted to be a part of it.



The day was full of laughter as well as enjoyment and Tihar is certainly all about it. The celebration brought joy to all who were fortunate enough to experience it.



## Jajarkot relief distribution

On 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, a team of Friends for Nepal finished all necessary preparation and left for Jajarkot around 5 p.m. The team left with earthquake relief and several boxes of medicines for the victims of the earthquake.

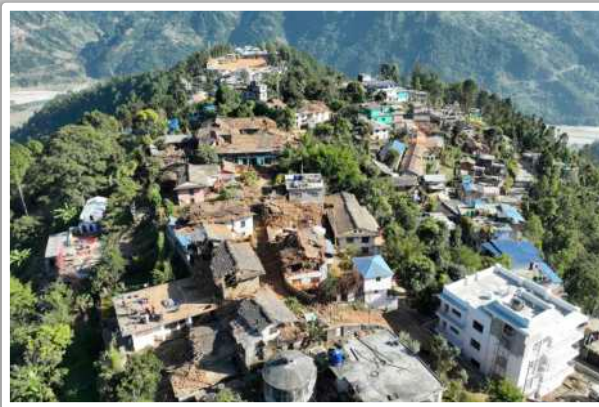


The next day, on 17<sup>th</sup> November, we entered Jajarkot border around 4:00 pm but the area we headed for was still 2 hours away. As we kept driving deeper inside of Jajarkot, we started seeing settlements partially or fully destroyed due to earthquake. People have prepared a makeshift shelter from tarpaulin and bamboo. The further we went; the scale of destruction was larger. People had settled near the roadside and fields. Almost no structure remained standing.





The houses in Jajarkot area were mostly built out of mud and stones which were a few decades old. It was a truly heartbreaking sight and we still had a long way to go. The only relief was to see that other humanitarian organizations have reached out to the people with some basic necessities. After finding a place to stay, the team of Friends for Nepal, Chay-ya representative, a local journalist, and the ward officials discussed a plan for the distribution of the relief in their ward. The plan was to distribute 70 tarpaulin and 60 blankets for the affected people of that ward.



After the distribution was finished, the team had their lunch and headed towards ward no. 1 for further distribution.

Later, we arrived in ward no. 1, Kalpath where the sight was devastating and painful to watch. There was a large no. of tarpaulin settlements in multiple places. The houses were partially or completely destroyed burying the majority of the food storage and clothing. Even the school made out of concrete was collapsed. It was truly a tragic sight.



We had a limited goods to give such as blankets, jackets for children and adults, and sleeping bags. A total of 327 people received either a blanket, sleeping or a jacket. Yet we felt it wasn't enough. The people didn't have enough clothing, proper living place, or a school as the children in Kalpath area will remain without education for a long time.

A large no. of kalpath residents also received medical services. They were treated for general health issues such as fever, diarrhea, wounds, allergies, headaches, coughs etc.



On November 19, Friends for Nepal team, chay-ya representative and the local journalist Bhim Bahadur Khadka left for ward no.6 for delivering the remaining medication to the local health post.

After arriving at the health post, we were received by the health worker and the representative for the ward and we handed over the remaining medications in the health posts. Medications such as paracetamol, pain killers, anti-allergic, betadine, bandages, cough medicines, vitamins, calcium, etc. were donated to the health post. Despite being more than two weeks after the earthquake, no medical or other help has arrived.







Overall observation revealed, people farther from the main roads were deprived of relief. The municipality was holding a huge amount of aid while people in the remote area are struggling every day. People are still in need of warm clothing and headwear (topi). The schools in ward no 1 and 6 are destroyed which will disturb the educational system for a long time ahead. Most people whose homes are destroyed have no means for rebuilding another home and are forced to sleep in a tarpaulin shelter.

As the winter approaches, the livelihood of the people of Jajarkot is only going to be tougher than it already is and the government has no plan to deal with it.

Hats off to the organizations that have provided timely relief for the people in need. Without them the no of casualties would have been unimaginable. It is a sad reality and a tough situation and hopefully the people of Jajarkot and West Rukum will have the strength to overcome this catastrophe.

Friends for Nepal has made a video and posted it on the home page of its website for those who are willing to help in the time of need.

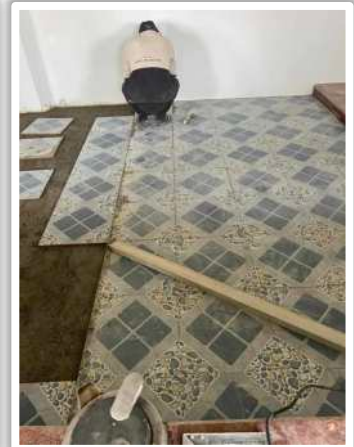


## Construction Work

Dolphin Magic School is gradually developing its infrastructure to provide a sound learning environment for its students and essential construction work is a major boost for the school. A play area for small children is being built and is almost completed.



The play area is being built for Nursery and Play Group students near the playground in front of the office. The play area will consist of an aquarium as well as nature inspired settings to help small children to develop mental and physical and wellbeing. After the completion, the play area is going to be a huge attraction for the children and a great learning environment. DMS has always focused on diverse methods of learning and the play area is certainly going to contribute for that cause.





Furthermore, another construction work is also in progress. The School kitchen is also in near completion. DMS has always struggled with properly organizing the lunch area and the kitchen but after the completion of the new area, there will not be any more problem. A full capacity kitchen is being built which will have a proper dining area, a huge cooking space which will be able to dine all the student at once and more during regular days as well as school events.

Both the construction work is being handled by our trustworthy Kaancha Tamang, who has built the rest of the school foundation. Both the projects will finish soon and will be operational and DMS will only have a few construction to look forward to.

### **Festival Holiday Provided**

Dashain is one of the major festival in Nepal and has a huge significance for Hindus. Nepal being a vast majority of Hindu population provides a week long public holiday for celebration. DMS as usual provided one week of holiday for all the students and teachers. People look at this festival with big importance and even travel from abroad to celebrate with their families. Dashain symbolizes prosperity and wealth as well as good fortune. People celebrate being with their families, enjoying delicacies and visiting close relatives. The school resumed to normal after a week.

After two weeks Tihar was celebrated in DMS and few days of holiday was also given to all staff and students. It is another major festival in Nepal that comes shortly after Dashain. However, it is completely different but equally entertaining. People go around the neighborhood singing, dancing and blessing people for their prosperity and wellbeing. Tihar is also referred as Festival of Lights, and people decorate their homes and celebrate.

After a few days of Tihar holiday the school resumed to its usual routine and everything became normal.



## DMS Gallery













