



Access Times

A quarterly newsletter by Pratham for the English Access Micro-scholarship Program



A day at the immersion camp



Congratulations [... to Access Program] for successfully organizing the camp at Khanpur. Students learned and enjoyed it very much. Thanks for motivating and help them learn in different ways.

Shaikh M Shahid, F/O
Falah Shahid, FD Girls
High School Jamalpur.

From the Editor's desk

Dear Children,

Let us join together in the appreciation of teachers on Teacher's Day. The date on which teacher's day is celebrated varies from country to country. The idea of celebrating Teacher's Day took ground in many countries during the 20th century - In India we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, 5th September, as Teacher's Day. In the USA, National Education Association describes National Teacher Day as a 'day for honouring teachers and recognizing the lasting contribution they make to our lives'. I am sure you agree with this too!

As rightly said by Nicholas Sparks "Teachers inspire you, they entertain you, and you end up learning a ton even when you don't know it."

The last few months was all about learning with our teachers in different ways. Some teachers and students from Pratham Access Program had the opportunity to be part of a National Summer Camp organized by Access English Program in India - where students from various Access Programs in India met and did some wonderful things together, building strong teams and presenting what they had understood through various mediums. Science workshops, art and craft, examples of community service, street plays, speaking English as Radio Jockeys (RJs) and doing the jig - the Zumba, was all part of the learning journey. Keep up the spirit, learn a lot, read a lot, try and make conversations, starting with whatever you know - go Access Students, go! You can do it!

Ms.Renu Seth

Let us know what you feel! Let us also know what else you would like to see in the next issue of your Access Times



Every time we see students smiling, enjoying and learning through various activities of Access program it transpires into great source of motivation for each member of Pratham Access team, and compels us to do a lot more for the students. Thank you students!

Anamika Vaghela, Pratham Access Coordinator



Posing, at immersion camp - Euphoria



Learning through fun activities

4th of July celebrations:

To know more about the United States of America, teachers through photographs and interactions shared about USA's Independence Day on the 4th of July. Children did fun activities like word search, colouring the portrait of George Washington and learning about his contribution to the United States. Children also heard USA's National Anthem and compared National pride of countries.



Celebrating the 4th of July!

Global Village:

Access students participated in an event called 'GLOBAL VILLAGE' organized on the 25th of July, 2015 by AISIEC in a mall in Ahmedabad. There were kiosks of more than 23 countries and over 70 interns across the world gathered under one roof. All Access students and teachers interacted with them and learnt about their culture, food, clothes and other specialties about their countries. Access students got a chance to practice English language in a real life situation and gather knowledge about many countries. It was a fun learning experience for them.



Global village

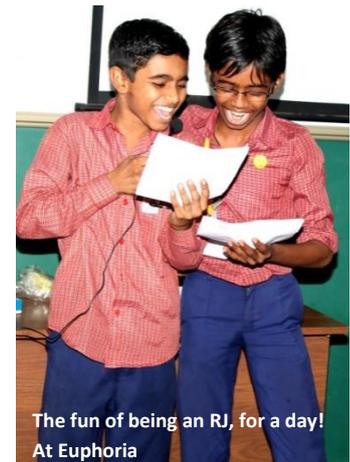
Highlights – June to August, 2015

Euphoria - Immersion camp, 2014-16 marking the end of a successful year of the Pratham Access Program was the highlight between June to August. Euphoria was a platform for students to immerse themselves in the learning environment

We all are different in our religion, background and ethnic groups, but we all respect our differences. We help each other and we work together just like a family. That shows our unity."

Access Program students in Pyay, Myanmar

through various exciting, innovative activities and interactions with other fellow students. The four day camp was buzzing with laughter, discussions, activities and team work. Activities like Zumba, hat making, art and craft, playing handball and many more such interesting sessions were designed exclusively for the students. The favourite of them all was the 'Good morning Ahmedabad' session, conducted by an organization called Read to Speak. Children transformed into Radio Jockeys for a day. The team selected the best recordings and composed a complete Pratham Access FM Radio Show.



The fun of being an RJ, for a day! At Euphoria

Summer Camp - An Access India Summer camp was organised at Ambey Valley, near Pune, Maharashtra. Eight students and two teachers from Pratham Access program were selected for the ten days camp. Students travelled by air for the first time, and were getting a chance to get on a plane, which brought much excitement for them. All the participants of the summer camp stayed at the Ambey valley resort. Students were exposed to several new activities, games, adventure sports, boating, and craft work all done in teams. For most of them the activities was a first time experience, which they thoroughly enjoyed and shared these activities with other students as well.

Enhancement Activities

i) Potluck: Children from FD Girls School, Jamalpur brought in different home cooked dishes and shared it amongst themselves and their teachers in the class. Children brought yummy dishes painstakingly prepared by their mothers or them. They learnt the joy of sharing with an open heart. Ms. Neetu Madan ideated the entire session.



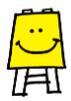
The hat-trick, at Euphoria

ii) The Science workshop: a hands-on science workshop in English language was organized for the students. The workshop was conducted to enhance their understanding of some basic principles of science - refraction of light when it passes through different mediums, straw whistle and working of a solar bulb. Students worked in groups and prepared working models and also learnt a lot of new words.

iii) Readathon: As Reading is an important part of developing the English language skills, an activity called 'Readathon' has been introduced to the students. Students are separated into 4 or more groups and are given



Rock climbing at the summer camp



reading templates to fill in based on the story they read. They have to read as many books as they can along with understanding the main topic and points of the story. They are then given a quiz related to the story, this makes the children read and understand a book better. Readathon is an initiative by two Polish interns at Pratham, to inculcate the habit of reading among students

Class Curriculum Highlights:

Classroom sessions in Access not only equip children with the skill of the English language but also focus on qualitative knowledge exchange. Between the months of June to August, children learnt about different categories of food – food which is healthy and which is not. Along with focus on the new interactive textbook, children were given various exercises centric to the unit they studied. They prepared grocery lists, bifurcated what they eat into categories of – fat, oil, sugar, vegetables, fruits, dairy, grains, meat and other protein. They also learnt about different foods people eat on different occasions around the world. All the classroom sessions mixed with visits and interactions through events like the Global Village make the understanding deeper and more effective.

Access Alumni Association:

With all the love being poured in by ex Access students it was decided to start the Access Alumni Association (AAA) this year, to stay in touch with ex-students and also to organize sessions for them on career guidance, life skill, etc in the upcoming AAA meetings.

Fifty five students were contacted via phone calls and invited for a Pratham Access alumni meet. Students were overjoyed and felt happy reminiscing their good old days, they shared how much they missed the access classes and how if given a chance they would want to join back! Most of the students were really enthusiastic to be a part of Access again via AAA. They expressed that they miss the environment of Access classes especially for:

1. All the fun activities which were done in the class.
2. The friendly nature of Access teachers
3. The feeling of not being afraid to make mistakes in the Access class!
4. All the extracurricular activities like visits to different places, immersion camps, etc.

Fun Learning activities initiated

Making book marks: An activity introduced to allow free thought flow among the students which translated into creative quotes/lines written on book marks made by the students themselves. Students from all Pratham Access Centres were a part of this activity.



I made lots of friends at the summer camp this year. I also realized that English is so important.

Asad,
Student



Moment of exhilaration at the summer camp



The National Summer Camp, this May 2015 provided the opportunity to interact with other members of Access family from all over India and from other part of the globe. The result was broadening of horizons.

Renu Tiwari,
Access teacher



Preparing a model at the science workshop



Listing different type of foods - a classroom activity



Ex-Access students in a discussion with Mr. Sanjay Joshi, Trustee - Pratham



Beautiful bookmarks by the students



Fun corner

Office address:

1, Hare Krishna Bungalows, Bhatha Road, Paldi, Behind Gopinath Khaman, Opposite Fatehnagar Post Office, Ahmedabad - 380007

T: +91 9510370111

E: access.pratham14@gmail.com

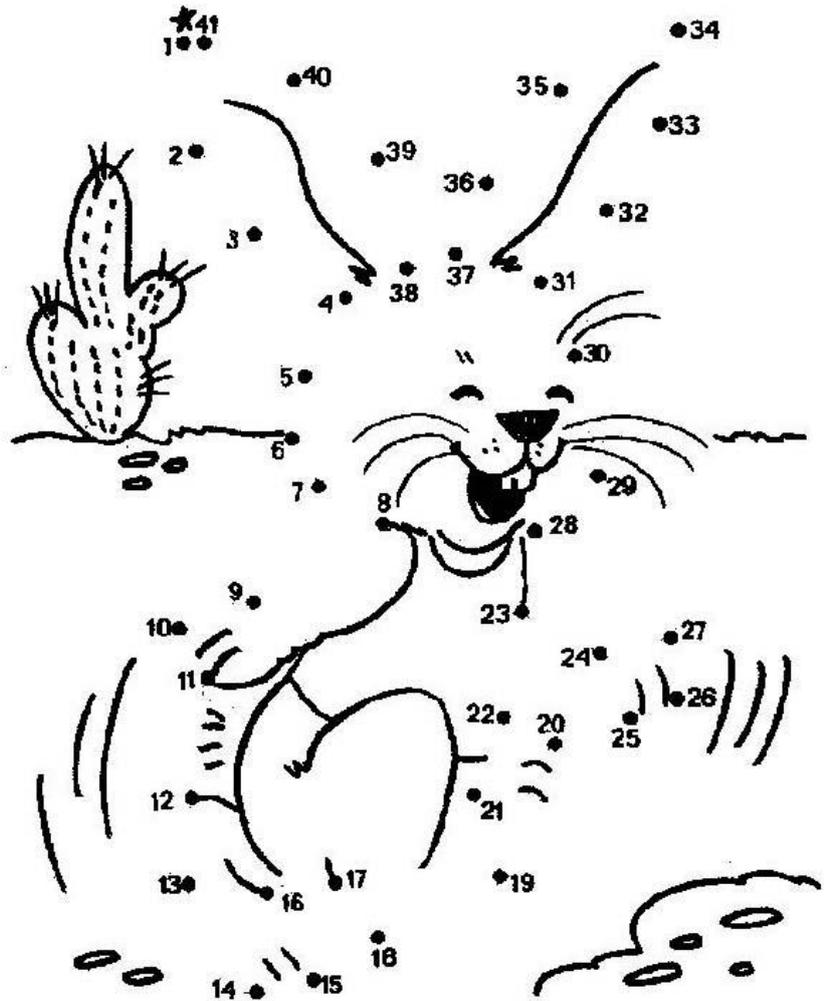
W: www.pratham.org



It's been a great day for us, thank you to all entire Pratham team for such a wonderful opportunity as a volunteer. Thanks for lot's of enjoy, activities, tasty food, Aerobics etc..I am proud on me to be a part of Access, thank you so much Access (Pratham).

Khanjan Patel, ex-Access student, via Facebook

Join the dots to complete the picture



Expressions



This was my first camp. I like most mountain tracking. There, I enjoy very beautiful nature.

Falah,
Student



Ambey valley is a nice place and for the first time I travelled by airplane!

Tarun,
Student



Students got exposed to activities which indeed proved to be very fruitful and productive for them.

Ms. Niharika Chauhan,
Access Teacher



Immersion camp was really a motivational camp for the students. It helped the students to work and adjust with other students in a different environment. These kinds of exposures are beneficial for teachers as well for their learning. I would like to promote such camps even outside Ahmedabad also.

Ms. Anisa Shaikh,
Principal, FD Girls High School Jamalpur



I will never forget the summer camp. I will like to go next year also.

Nusrat,
Student



Euphoria was a very enriching experience for both the students and the teachers!! Great team work by Pratham!!

Ms. Neetu Madan,
Access Teacher

Do you paint/ draw/ sketch; write poems, jokes, stories..! If yes, this is the place for you. Come share with us and through us!
Looking forward to hearing from you soon!