



## **DEENS ACADEMY ROTARY INTERACT CLUB 2018/19**

Deens Academy is proud to be a part of the prestigious Rotary International Organization. The Rotary International Organization is worldwide organization which works toward solving the world's most persistent issues. We at Deens have tried our best over the past year to live up to the name and fame of the

Rotary organization and in our own way contribute to the society. Through our service, we have grown and evolved as individuals and opinions and perceptions towards our society has changed. We have learned to be more caring, loving, kind and responsible. This report looks back at all the activities undertaken throughout this amazing year, during which we have contributed and helped our society.

### **INVESTITURE CEREMONY**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018, 150 eager young students were officially installed as members of the Interact Club, Deens Academy. That was the beginning of a beautiful journey. We were given an orientation by Col. Subramanyam, Coordinator of Youth Services, who inspired us to do our very best in the upcoming session. The event started off with an introduction by the incoming President, Ms Ayesha Khan. We also heard a melodious invocation song by the Indian music choir, under the guidance of our music teacher Dipanwita Ma'am. Later, the outgoing Secretary, Ms Sanskriti Rajan of Grade 9, spoke about the previous year of service and what the Interact members had accomplished. The incoming office bearers were collared and students received their Interact badges. The President of Rotary Indiranagar, the Honourable Mr Jagadeesh, addressed the gathering and wished us all the very best for the coming year. We were all truly honoured to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, and we felt inspired and motivated by his words. The ceremony ended with a vote of thanks and we students pledged to use the opportunities given to us to make a difference in society and bring smiles to others faces.



### **FOOD FEST**

The students of Deens Academy took up the initiative to raise money for the better good of people through the Interact club. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October, the students held a series of food stalls. After all, the way to anyone's heart is through their stomach! And what better way to raise money than a delightful food fest? Several scrumptious dishes were prepared and the creative chefs inside everyone awoke. The stalls were a success and money much more than expected was generated. The students had a lot of fun while also raising money which was used to fund several charity events. We managed to raise large amounts of money for charity and all in all, it was a wonderful experience for everyone. We enjoyed the experience thoroughly knowing that our hard work would serve a good cause.

### **STAFF EYE CHECK-UP CAMP**

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, an eye check-up camp was organized for support staff of all four branches of Deens Academy. It involved check-up of eyes of staff along with advice on treatment for them. Doctors were provided by the Rotary club. Money raised by students was used to fund the same. The camp was a great way of social service. Several students, along with the Interact club student council, helped the doctors through the procedure. Several staff members were informed that they needed spectacles or eye surgery. The school will be providing money for the same. This camp was our small contribution towards a better society. We hope our small contribution will help our amazing support staff to lead a healthy and care free life.



### **VISIT TO KARUNASHREYA**

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. Its not."*  
*The Lorax by Dr. Seuss*

These words very much capture the work of social workers in society. Actions speak much louder than words and our society does not get benefitted unless we decide to do something about it ourselves. With these selfless thoughts, the young interactors of Deens Academy decided to help the society in their own small way. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November (Saturday), 65 Rotary Interactors from Grade 8 of Deens Academy, visited Karunashraya which is a registered charitable trust by the Indian Cancer Society (Karnataka Chapter) and the Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar, to provide free professional palliative care for advanced stage cancer patients who are beyond cure. Karunashraya literally translates to 'abode of compassion' and is nothing less than that. Upon reaching there, we were warmly welcomed by the staff and were shown around the campus. We gained a good knowledge on palliative care and hospice centres.

The students entertained the patients and caretakers with well-organized programs. The patients listened to melodious music, watched energetic dances and enjoyed our humorous skit. We conducted several games for the caretakers and gave them gifts too. Later we presented the patients with a handmade card (on which heartfelt messages were written) and flowers, all made by us. We also had some groceries and fruits which we handed over to them. They were all very happy and we could feel their happiness.

This was a wonderful experience to each one of us because we got an opportunity to glance into a world completely unknown to us which certainly enriched us and gave us a memory to cherish forever.







### VISIT TO THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November Saturday, 40 Rotary interactors belonging to Grade 8 of Deens Academy, visited Agrahara government school, which is quite close to our own school. We made this trip to spread the joy of Diwali amongst the students there. After a short bus ride, we were greeted by kids from Grades 2- 5. We had taken chart papers, colours and so quickly, we started making colourful greeting cards. We helped them by drawing diyas and they filled them with bright and cheerful colours. A lot of children drew firecrackers and lights on their cards and some even wrote "Happy Diwali" across and tied everything together with intricate borders. They even showed us how they had made paper boats and in turn we showed them, paper planes!! We then distributed notebooks which were designed by ourselves earlier on this year. Also, they loved the food boxes which we took with us for them. Sadly, it was time to leave and on our return trip a lot of thoughts were running through our heads. We realised that we had forgotten the times when just making a simple card would bring us so much joy. We also realised that we are not really grateful for anything that we have and have lost touch with the world around us. We had all forgotten this certain happiness that one can gain from simply helping someone else out. Meeting these kids and befriending them has really opened our eyes that happiness can be found everywhere and it's just up to us to grab it wherever we go.



## **INTERACT VIDEO**

The Interactors of Deens Academy took part in the Interact Video Awards of 2019 and made a video which was very different from all the others. The video was made in a "Draw – My – Life "and depicted our journey as interactors with the help of drawings and pictures. The drawings were done by students and pictures had also been clicked by the students, so this video was one which was created with the hands of each and every interactor. The video was shot over a span of 5 days in the school premises and even though it didnot win an award, it helped our mission of spreading awareness on the importance of giving and how helping others provides an individual with a sense of joy which cannot be obtained any other way.

## **FILM FEST FOR GRADE 1-5**

IKFF (International Kids Film festival) 2018, the World's Largest Film Festival was hosted by schools in India and other countries. IKFF endeavours to introduce kids to the magic of cinema and utilize its power to educate & inspire. Rotary India Literacy Mission with the support of Government of Karnataka has collaborated with LXL Ideas for this initiative. Students of Grades 1-5 of Deens Academy, Whitefield got the opportunity to watch some of these movies on 20th November 2018. It was a very entertaining, educative and inspiring programme for the students.



## **GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS VISITING DEENS ACADEMY**

*"We can't help everyone but everyone can help someone.".. -Ronald Reagan*

The interactors of Grade 8 Deens Academy, Whitefield too decided to help others by inviting students from a nearby government school for a film fest. The students got to experience something we all take for granted. It was a lot of fun helping people around us. The visiting students were shown around the labs of the school and explained several scientific concepts. This gave them an amazing opportunity to experience science first-hand as they had no prior experience of this. They were provided snacks after the movie which they thoroughly enjoyed. It was an amazing feeling to see the smiles on their faces and know the joy we brought to them through a simple kind act.





### **ROTARY CLUB FORMAL MEETING**

As the year 2018 came to an end, we Interactors felt that it was important to conduct a formal meeting. In this meeting, the Council provided the other interactors with a briefing on all our achievements across the year and spoke about the different organisations and groups that we had helped. There were also discussions on the little mistakes we had made while carrying out the various projects and everyone was resolute about the fact that these mistakes would be minimised and eventually erased so that our projects would be more successful. There were also discussions on spreading awareness about the future projects which had already been planned and the Interactors also put forth their views on other projects that could be taken up. All in all, every single Interactor left that meeting with their flame for giving back kindled stronger and higher.





### **SPREADING AWARENESS**

Edith Warton once said, "*There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*"

We Deenites have made it our mission to reflect about what we have learnt from other Rotarians and took up the project of spreading awareness on one of the biggest issues prevailing in our society, the lack of Blood Donation.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Republic Day, a group of students visited Prestige Shantiniketan to spread awareness on the same in the form of a street play. A part of the group even conveyed this message through a song.

Later, on 6<sup>th</sup> February, the same group of students visited Forum Value Mall, Whitefield and re-enacted the play and the song in front of a different audience. The students also distributed bookmarks and pamphlets on blood donation and relayed the information of there being a Blood Camp held at Deens Academy later on in that month. We did this to spread the importance of blood donation which we hoped, eventually will have people to come to our school and donate blood in our blood donation camp.







### **BACK TO SOIL INTERACTION**

Vandana Shiva once said, *"In traditional agriculture, the soil is the mother. She is the mother who gives, to whom you must give back."*

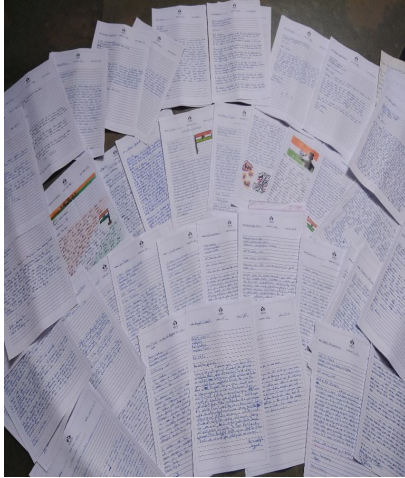
On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2019, Deens Academy was visited by Mr. Shivanand Bellare and our beloved Lata Ma'am to congratulate us on our past achievements with Interact and to inspire us for our future endeavours. Mr. Bellare talked to us all about what Interact is all about. Lata Ma'am touched all our hearts with a series of videos on blood donation which left us all teary eyed. We were all presented with some thoughtful gifts including a pencil with seeds at its end, a postcard which grows into a plant and a paper pencil stand. We all busted myths and came to know that paper did not harm the environment after all. All the gifts and knowledge we received was a part of a campaign called 'Back to soil' which strives to remind us all the importance and benefits of trees. We were all very much inspired and intrigued by this visit and hope that there shall be many more like it.





## **LETTERS TO SOLDIERS**

We, the students of Grades 4-8 from Deens Academy, Whitefield participated in the Letter to Our Soldiers initiative organised by Rotary. We extended this opportunity to the students of Government School, Pattandur Agrahara too. It gave the students immense joy to send letters to their country's real heroes and thank them for all they do, to just give us a good night's sleep. Students let their creative sides shine through and came up with some amazing letters we hope our beloved and brave soldiers will love. We thank Rotary for giving us this opportunity to show our appreciation towards our country's guardians.

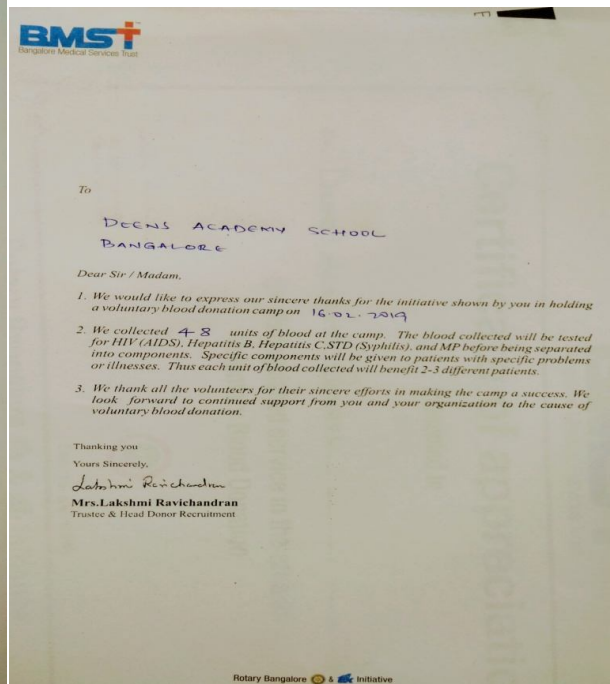


## **BLOOD DONATION CAMP**

Inspired by the thought that when you give blood, you give life, the interactors of the Deens Academy organized a blood donation camp in our school on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. It was heart-warming to see the staff members actively involved in helping us for a good cause. They definitely showed us that they practiced what they preached and donated blood to save someone's life. 48 units of blood was collected and though our contribution may have been small, it was towards a greater cause. We had thought that our satisfaction would be in seeing a large number of units collected but it came from a more unexpected source. The eagerness, parents and staff members alike showed toward donating blood, was overwhelming and the pride on their faces after they donated blood made us truly glad to be a part of something like Rotary. Although several people were unable to donate blood due to several issues, we still pride ourselves on the number of parents who came to the camp. This camp may have been the last project we did with the Interact club this year, but the experience will certainly be etched in our memories forever.







## GOVERNMENT SCHOOL VISIT

Our Rotary Interact facilitator Ms. Rini Muraleedharan and Head Mistress (Middle School) Ms. Sarala Nair visited the Govt school, Pattandur Agrahara, Whitefield to discuss how Deens can help in learning process at Govt School in the coming year.



## DENTAL CHECK-UP/MENSTRUAL HYGIENE SESSION FOR SUPPORT STAFF (SCHEDULED IN THE MONTH OF APRIL)

Although the academic year is coming to the close, the Interactors of Grade 8 has planned for a dental check-up camp for our support staff and assist them in any treatment if necessary. Also we are arranging a Menstrual Hygiene session for staff on the same day. We are very excited about this project as it allows us to show our gratitude and appreciation for our support staff, who work so hard for us every day. They are the very backbone of our school. This is just our small way of saying thank you.

These photographs provide just a sneak-peak into the various activities undertaken throughout the year. They strive to depict the immense growth and evolution that each member of the club has had during the last one year. We have garnered a plethora of emotions, enriched ourselves with life changing experiences and attempted to perceive life around us in a more sensitive and responsible manner. We look forward to continuing this noble venture actively in the coming years and bring about a positive impact on the society.

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