

30TH ANNIVERSARY

2022 is an exciting year for us. Rato Bangala School turned 30. We couldn't have been more pleased about this. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we limited the main day celebration to the virtual space. But the celebration of our Anniversary will continue throughout the year. On the very day, February 10, all the staff wore a red-themed outfit and took a picture of the formation of 30 made by them in the big green field and had a nice lunch. We appreciated our staff for their work, commitment, and dedication over the years.

Highlights of the celebrations were the Tree plantation and community service by A-Level students. We requested 30 students to participate in the tree plantation event. But to our surprise, more than 300 students from Grade I to A-Level participated in this. All the students sent a video of themselves planting a tree sapling. Along with this, the A-Level students did community service.

The students visited elderly care homes and other community schools to provide meaningful service.

IN-PERSON SCHOOL

From January 14, we started full classes for Unit 2 and A-Level students. The time was still unprecedented. But with the cases decreasing and the situation under control, we had decided to take a step further. During that time, Unit I and Pre-K classes were running virtually. We then resumed Unit I and Pre-K classes in full-fledged starting March 7. We were happy to have all the students back at school.

SECOND SECTION IN THE PRESCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that we have now opened a second section at The Rato Bangala Early Childhood Center due to popular requests. We have opened admissions for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten for the academic year 2022-23.

BAL SAHITYA MAHOTSAV 2022

The seventh edition of Bal Sahitya Mahotsav (BSM) was held on 25-27 February 2022. BSM is a children's literature festival initiated to encourage and inculcate a reading habit from a very young age. The theme for this year's festival was Social-Emotional Skills through Literature. It offered Author readings, Panel discussions, Interactive Workshops, and Presentations for students, educators, and parents. Award-winning authors Vivian Vande Velde, Cartoonist Jenny Campbell, SEL expert Dr. Kathleen Campana, and many other authors, educators, illustrators, and experts attended the festival. The festival also launched RBK's first games for children based on its books: Kasto Biralo Memory Game and Pahilo Puzzle.

RBSMUN 2022

We organized the annual RBS Model United Nations on 7-9 January 2022.

The dramatic play at Preschool



Grade III students sowing seeds in the herb garden



There were seven committees; Historic United Nations Security Council (HUNSC), COVID-19 International Health Regulation Emergency Committee (CIHREC), The Emergency Usonian Council of War (EUCW) Balkan Region Council (BRC), Council for Combating Terrorism (CCT), प्रतिनिधि सभा (FPN), The Great Council of Spain (EGCDE).

The theme of this year's MUN was *Shedding Light on the Overshadowed*. The agendas ranged from combating the rise of AI Mourabiton in 2015 to the recent COVID-19 Pandemic in 2019.

We are grateful to Principal Ms. Milan Dixit for welcoming the audience and Chief Guest Ms. Chandni Joshi for delivering the keynote address. It was an enriching experience for all of us.

Hopefully, we will be able to have a physical RBSMUN next year.

JUNIOR RBSMUN 2022

The students of grade VII took part in Model United Nations organized by the RBS MUN club on 11 March 2022.

The topics under discussion were: Addressing the Human Rights Violation in Yemen in United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) and Resolving the Drug War in Latin America in United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Thanks to the A-level students who helped train grade VII students and gave them the confidence to debate and discuss in the committees.

ART EXHIBITION

The artworks of young artists were displayed in Wind Horse's Online Art Gallery for about a month during the pandemic. We are grateful to Mr. Tsedo Lama for providing this unique platform to showcase the talents of our students. It was indeed a good opportunity for RBS Online Art Gallery to work with Wind Horse Art Gallery, Lalitpur. Thank you to our Art teacher Sangay Sherpa for taking the initiative to collaborate.

ROOTS AND SHOOTS AT RBS

Orientation sessions to introduce an environment club under the mentorship of Roots and Shoots (RnS) for grades VI and VII took place on 2 March 2022. Five core members from grade VII with their assistants from grade VI were selected. They will be in charge of creating the club.

The mentors will be mentoring the students to help them create their own set of activities to develop their programs and integrate their

club members into the community activities.

Jane Goodall founded RnS to bring together young people to work on environmental conservation and humanitarian issues.

FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF NEPAL

Simulation of the Federal Parliament took place in grade VIII on 7 March. The students debated on three issues; Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)-Nepal Compact, Land Encroachment, and Brain Drain during the mock session of the parliament. This role-playing was a dynamic learning process indeed.

COFFEE HOUSE

This term, students of Grade VIII set up a Coffee House in class to share the poems they had written during the poetry writing sessions. It was genuinely an emotional gathering of young poets. The various poems written in different poetic forms were of a top-notch standard.

WEB PAGE DESIGN

Interested students from grades VII to IX registered for the web page designing competition. We organized the competition in the computer lab from 9-11 March 2022. The participants were allowed to bring the text, pictures, and CSS codes

Grade V students celebrate completing Unit I studies



with one hour to prepare. Altogether thirty-one students participated in the competition. Ashma Khadka from grade 7 won the competition, followed by Preissa Shrestha from grade 9 and Nirek Man Malla from grade 8 as second and third. We would like to thank Nepali Times, Dhokaima Cafe, and RBK for sponsoring the prizes.

CLOTHES DRIVE

We organized a Clothes Drive for the children of remote areas yet again this year. We would like to thank parents for their contribution.

WORLD POETRY DAY

We celebrated World Poetry Day on 21 March 2022 in RBS with the students of grade VI reciting poems in Chhanda. The jamming session took place in the library led by Ms. Amita and Ms. Sudha. The students revisited poems they learned in the junior grades and were excited to share spontaneously.

GUEST TALKS

Grade IV had a Dental talk program by Dr. Neil Pande on 23 December 2021. He made the children aware of the importance of dental health. He focused on healthy food habits and a balanced diet to keep our teeth healthy.

We conducted a talk program on the Bagmati River and Water pollution by Dr. Nirina Khadgi and Dr. Sasmita Poudel of NAYAN (National Young Academy), Nepal, for grade IV on 8 February 2022 as they are studying *The River System*. They focused on the present condition of the river Bagmati. She discussed the causes of pollution, water-borne diseases, causes and how we can prevent further damage. We would like to thank Dr. Neil Pandey, Dr. Sashmita Poudel, and Dr. Nirina Khadgi.

We celebrated Global Banking week by organizing an interactive session led by Bankers from Nepal Investment Bank. On 21 March 2022, students of grades II and III learned how a bank functions. The students had many queries about how a bank works and contributed their knowledge about it.

Students of grade III visited Nepal Investment Bank at Durbarmarg on 23 March to witness how people have banking transactions carried inside a bank, from a teller to an ATM.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET

Grade III completed its Market Study by setting up its much-awaited fruits and vegetable market on 28 March. Market Study allows them to learn about how food comes to the table. It teaches them about the wholesale and retail process. They

gained multiple skills such as problem-solving, money transactions, estimation, calculation and the importance of interdependence, and what it takes to grow and provide food.

MINI SPORTS MEET

Unit I students had a Mini Sports Meet day on 31 March 2022. They had track and field events and a few fun games. Children practiced their balancing skills and improved their motor skills while playing the games. This event became special for them as teachers also had a race to showcase.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Bronze, Silver, and Gold Journeys
On 10-13 December 2021, Silver and Gold Award participants of A2 completed their practice journey in Champadevi, Manichaur, Shivapuri, and the Lakuri Bhanjyang area. There were 9 Gold and 13 Silver participants in this journey.

Similarly, on 18 and 19 December 2021, 19 Bronze participants who couldn't join the previous practice journeys from A2 completed their remaining requirements of the Award. They completed their practice journey in Namobuddha and Lakuri Bhanjyang area.

The participants who were about to complete their Award also

Qualifying students of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award on their way to Langtang

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 2022



organized one more journey. The school organized the Bronze Qualifying Journey in Phulchoki and Champadevi areas on 28 and 29 December 2021. It was the last Award Journey for the year 2021.

At the beginning of 2022, two Silver participants and 18 Bronze participants completed their Award. A-Level Duke of Edinburgh's International Gold and Silver Award participants completed their Qualifying Adventurous Journey to Langtang valley and Kyanjin Gumpa as their last destination. The expedition started on 22 March and ended on 27 March 2022. 230 participants are pursuing different levels of Award this year as well.

RBS DEBATES

The fourth iteration of RBS Debates took place on 11-13 February 2022. We had invited Adjudicators from Nepal and outside. A total of 135 members participated in the tournament as debaters, adjudicators, judges, Chief Adjudication Panel (CAP), observers, and members of the organizing committee. Two teams received full need-based scholarships. International participation was more this year.

The tournament had five preliminary rounds. The team winning the novice category was AMIGOS. Similarly, the best speaker for the

Open Grand finals was Arik Karim from Team Orion, and for Novice Finals was Sneha Maskey from Team AMIGOS.

The sponsors for the tournament were Asmita Publications, PACAsia, and Dalle; Debate Network Nepal was the advisor. Digital Matter Files supported in organizing two workshops. It was a huge success given the amount of exposure RBS Debates provide to Nepali teams from and outside RBS. Congratulations to the organizers of the RBS Debates.

ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD

We would like to congratulate Aryan Shrestha for securing the Bronze Medal in the 4th International Economics Olympiad 2021 and Aadit Subedi for making his way to the National Competition of Nepal Economics Olympiad 2022.

The National Competition of Nepal Economics Olympiad is an annual national competition for students interested in Economics, Business, and Finance. It is a thoughtfully designed competition for students to test their logical, critical, and intellectual abilities in these three fields. The Top-5 students from the National Competition will get a chance to represent Nepal in the International Economics Olympiad. We would like to Congratulate Aadit

for securing the Gold Medal in the 3rd Nepal Economics Olympiad. This award qualifies him to compete at the International Olympiad in China. All the best, Aadit.

RBS SAT CENTER REOPENED

Rato Bangala School resumed the Standardized Aptitude Testing Center after two years. We reduced the numbers and maintained distance, keeping in mind the safety protocols.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Apart from the regular in-school staff development and the Rato Bangala Foundation courses, enthusiastic teachers have participated in carefully curated diverse professional development courses.

Cambridge Training

Thirteen teachers participated in the Cambridge Primary module from 7-10 March 2022.

Harvard Graduate School of Education

Our Makerspace Teacher, Ms. Tara Nepal, is currently taking a month-long course from Harvard Graduate School of Education on Maker-Centered Learning: Developing Student Agency and Sensitivity to Design.

Mini Sports Meet Day, 2022



Students enjoying being back at school



University Of Applied Research and Development

Eleven teachers from RBS and RBF have joined the year-long Master's degree course offered by the University Of Applied Research and Development, New Zealand. This course aims to gain the skills to be an outstanding educator and leader in different institutional settings to contribute to professional advancement. Experienced practicing educators and leaders came together to develop this course.

This qualification is particularly suited to current and aspiring leaders within education. Our teachers are learning design and technology, emergent technology, educational leadership, learning as engagement, and researching the teacher's practice.

ALUMNI NEWS

Giving back

It was a pleasure to have an alumna come forward to give back to the community. We express our gratitude to Prakriti Mishra (RBS Class of 2006) for contributing \$5000 for education.

She says, "I contribute to strengthening public school education in Nepal to achieve something tangible and measurable.

I feel more connected with the work of RBF and its impact."

It is heartwarming to see the next generation of RBS giving back to the community. The fund is being used specifically for the Early Grade Reading program of RBF to implement EGR training in three urban schools of Kathmandu: Neel Barahi Higher Secondary School, Padma Kanya Bidhyashram Secondary School, and Shree Nandi Ratri Secondary School. This assessment will help Nepali teachers understand and use the Early Grade Reading materials in their classroom in an organized manner. It will further assist in determining each child's reading level and making an individualized plan to grow their reading through tailored teaching.

College Talks By Alumni

When it comes to choosing colleges or exploring career paths, RBS students have access to many resources. Students attend webinars and visits offered by colleges around the world. But, alumni talks are always welcomed by students as they can relate directly to the experiences of their seniors. These college counseling talks help students collect valuable information from alumni about various colleges. Thank you to the following alums for accepting our invitation to talk to the students:

- Raissa Shrestha (Class of 2017) on colleges in Canada
- Sasha Malla (Class of 2017) on colleges in Germany
- Prince Bhandari (Class of 2019) Reet Mainali (2019) Snigda Maharjan (2018) on colleges in UK

EVENT ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

On 112th International Women's Day, in collaboration with Khabar Education, Rato Bangala School organized a discussion program on *The importance of women's role and leadership in education*. Our Co-founder and Director, Dr. Shanta Dixit, shared a presentation on the interlinkage between gender and education. She also shared vital data showing the present context of Education in Nepal.

More than 25 women working in the education sector participated in the discussion. The participants were the representatives and leaders of renowned schools and colleges in Kathmandu, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Nepal Teachers Association, and the Montessori Association. They shared their experiences, learnings, and a way forward in the education sector to build a progressive society.

Mayor of Lalitpur distributing IT materials, RBPOP



Market, Grade III



RATO BANGALA PARTNERSHIP IN OUTREACH PROGRAM (RBPOP)

ICT Assistance

On 7 March 2022, a program was organized by RBPOP to distribute projectors and laptops each to 10 community schools as requested by the Lalitpur Municipality. The Mayor of Lalitpur municipality, Mr. Chiribabu Maharjan, was the chief guest for the program.

We are glad to be a part of the initiation made by LMC to develop all community schools into community-friendly schools. RBPOP coordinator visited 9 out of 10 schools to ensure the planning of schools to make them technology-friendly. An interactive session with principals and LMC officers was held on March 3, 2022, to enable the effectiveness of these materials.

School Improvement in Gorkha and Terhathum

The partnership with Bhimsen Thapa Gao Palika moved forward after signing the MOU between Bhimsen Thapa Gaon Palika and RBPOP on

16 December 2021. The Ward Chief, Mr. Ishwor Pandey, and Director of Rato Bangala School, Dr. Shanta Dixit, signed the MOU. Ms. Milan Dixit, Principal of Rato Bangala School, was present at the ceremony. Two field officers from Gorkha and Aathrai Terhathum will be joining the training in Kathmandu from 27 March till 1 April 2022. They will be working in the partner schools to help teachers and the principals implement the learnings and work closely to report to RBPOP.

Menstrual Health Awareness

In collaboration with Putali Foundation, RBPOP will run a menstruation health awareness program. It will support 90 students from 3 schools and their mothers through training, menstruation hygiene kits, and a menstrupedia comic, a friendly guide to healthy periods.

Material Distribution In Surkhet

As requested by one of the schools in Surkhet, Shree Bhanu Basic School, RBPOP sent stationeries, books, and playing materials to the school

on 3 Jan 2022. The school runs from EC class to grade 5, where most of the students are from marginalized communities.

Early Childhood Development Training

In collaboration with Rato Bangala Foundation, we had organized early childhood development training for 32 teachers of Cohort II from 4-13 March 2022. It focused on implementing 11 essentials in the classrooms developed by RBF.

Pingal Children's Library

RBPOP reopened the Pingal Children's Library, a community library inside the premises of Rato Bangala School, where anyone in the community can visit and enjoy books and have fun learning.

THANK YOU

Thank you Rato Bangala Family for your support and cooperation in the academic year 2021-22. **Have a great break! The school will reopen on 2 May 2022.**

Celebrating 30th Anniversary of RBS

