

Dear Friends of Edulift,

We are pleased to present to you our first newsletter for the year 2016. The previous year was a challenging year for Nepal with the massive earthquake followed by countless aftershocks, and just when the country was on its way towards rebuilding. We were further faced by an economic blockade causing a shortage and massive inflation of basic commodities. Despite these challenges— we are pleased to inform you that Edulift programs by and large stayed on track and we completed all our objectives for the year. My particular recognition goes to our passionate team of Edulift—who continue to fulfill our mission of “rethinking education” each day. Please enjoy reading some of our recent works and highlights .

Best Regards

Tenzin Sonam Gonsar (Founder-Edulift)



Winter With Edulift

CINEMA & photography

Winter break for Srongtsen and Namgyal schools meant fun and engaging winter classes at Edulift. Since the holidays started students have been meeting every day in Edulift to discover the world of photography and cinema. More than 30 students have started using cameras to capture interesting and beautiful images. At first, by the hand of our facilitator Jamyang Tenzin, students were lead to rediscover reality through the camera lens. They were led to find out the basic rules of photography themselves along with discussing and contrasting the result of their works, they learnt how to approach reality through their camera lens.



As the course proceeded, students explored new ways to express and share their interests and ideas. The students started by using photo camera, then moved towards using a video camera in rediscovering reality through the audio-visual media. We will end with a final project where students will work to create a masterpiece through collaborating in a team. Having learnt in the first part of the course how to use a camera and how to capture interesting images, it is time now to create scripts and stories. They discuss interesting things to share with an audience or how they could make their own music video. Students have decided on 5 projects (three music videos and two documentaries). Students are facing different issues to go on with their first plan and need to find different solutions everyday to make their project come into reality. This course is formed to make students understand the audio-visual world, how reality can be reinterpreted through a shooting lens along with how we can share our opinions and ideas in different ways. It is a basic level course but it is a first approach to the media world and discovering its possibilities.

We hope to be sharing our students’ masterpieces soon on our Facebook page and website. Let’s see what they bring out and how they surprise us! We share below some picture taken by our students



“To me, photography is an art of observation. It’s about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I’ve found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.” —anonymous

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Few Select Pictures Taken by Our Cinema and Photography Students

GALLERY



DRAMA

We introduced Drama courses at Edulift during the winter holiday with students of Namgyal High School, Srongsden School, TCV and HIMS. This time we have students from different age group. Through drama we aim to make them expressive, communicative. Also we provide a space for them to gain confidence in public speaking and stimulate creativity in problem solving. It can challenge students' perceptions about their world and about themselves. Since communication and empathy are central to Drama, a student who has explored in the Drama classroom will be better able to understand ideas of themselves and those around them.

"Drama class gives me a platform to think creatively and share my ideas hence making me confident eachtime I express my views"
Tenzin Youdon.



POETRY

Our course deals with poetry in the spoken sense which means poetry that needs to be recited or spoken with tone and intonations to an audience. We have framed a variety of activities through which students will be able to learn the basics in a fun way. With abundance of opportunity to speak and perform in the class we help students unleash their inner voice and the talents in them. We have divided our course into four phases and during which we dealt with developing word association techniques, discovering the process of forming images through words and then exposing our students to different techniques and methods to make a poem more expressive and impactful. We also introduced unconventional methods of



writing poetry like free verses whilst throwing light on the elements of poetry. During our last phase of the course we prepared for our final event and this time round we are preparing an extravagant final event for the poetry course. Through this course,



we help our students to boost their confidence and use poetry as a medium to communicate their thoughts, ideas, feelings and state of mind. We especially encourage the students to gain courage to speak confidently in front of groups. Many of the students often said that the course helped them rediscover themselves and gave them the chance to improve their English within a short span of time. The poetry final event (5th Feb) will be based upon the current situation in Nepal with the involvement of music and dance.

During the Orientation Day held for new students on January 7th for Winter break courses at Edulift our students and their parents and family members got to learn about Edulift programs, meet our facilitators. They were also taken on a guided tour of Edulift office. After that all participants were invited for a tea and snacks.



ORIENTATION DAY

The Final Event -Drama (25th Dec 2015)

“ HOSTEL LIFE ”

Building up a drama production is always an interesting quest. This time it was even more interesting when we decided to build up a drama with more than forty actors and actresses. During almost two months Srongtsen school students from class 8 and 9 were training hard to create an hour long drama production . Edulift was hosting a class everyday with all these students and finding out a way to combine



duty – speaking in English – and wills to share their interests. We finally came out with a play called “HOSTEL LIFE” where students wanted to share how intense and passionate their life can be at their hostel. But it was not an easy trip and the idea didn’t come from the first day. At first we were training im-



mensely, without knowing what to showcase exactly. We went through all the drama aspects: songs, acrobatics, movement and improvisation. We started creating scenes like the whole evolution from the big bang and how the earth came to be till the moment humans organize themselves in societies and create cities and schools, and hostels where many students live. But still at this point we didn’t know where we were heading...

Students passion was great and it was not only useful to create such a complicated and long scene as Human Evolution, but also provided the play with amazing acrobatic group figures. It was incredible to see how students were collaborating to perform difficult acrobatics. And as we were practicing and rehearsing, one day the idea of talking about Hostel Life came into the stage. Students found ways to talk about their life: their fears, their routine, their pranks... And as we were finishing the course, but not yet the play, we decided that the date of the final event would be on Christmas Day. This decision gave us a deadline and we decided to use it as a tool to give more power to our drama. Our students wanted to create some mystery so we decided to make a suspense and enigmatic scene where

finally Santa Claus would appear and it would be a way to celebrate Christmas.



Our play was an amazing way to make students from different classes meet each other and work together as they were strengthening their links and building up their confidence. Students wanted to share their most immediate reality, showing to the audience what happens in the Hostel, how and what they feel and what they do. At the same time they learnt how humans came to be on earth since the

big bang and how to collaborate to make acrobatics. So we all finally celebrated Christmas in the Srongtsen Music Hall with a surprising drama play where forty students from class 8 and 9 were performing their own reality with the magic apparition of Santa Claus.



The Spoken Word Poetry final event was an anticipated day for the students of Namgyal Higher Secondary School and the team of Edulift. The event took place in the morning assembly hall where all the students and faculties of the school gathered before they started their day. The groups for the Spoken Word Poetry course were divided into four groups, where they had each given themselves a team name. The first called themselves Believers, following are Goram which is a Tibetan sweet name, Elastic and White Angels. Each group presented on a topic such as “Friends for Life” (**White Angels**), “I had a Dream” (**Goram**), “Beggar’s Life” (**Elastic**) and “The Journey of Life” (**Believers**). Since the course focuses on Spoken Word Poetry and its unconventional ways of expression, the students were encouraged to be free and break the rules of poetry. Spoken Word Poetry is not only poetry but much of its emphasis is on the deliverance which is the performance of the poetry piece. The students participated with great enthusiasm and also came up with their own creative ideas for their final event performance. The students did exceptionally well and gave their best in front of the large audience of almost 400 staff and students.



POEM OF THE MONTH

mylove

—Pasang Dolma

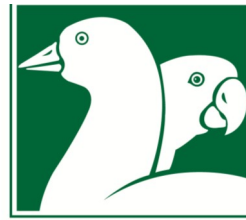
My love for you is as wide as the sky
 My love for you is as infinite as the stars at night
 That no one can measure,
 Neither by humans nor by machines
 My Love
 My love for you is deeper than the ocean
 My love for you is the same as the brightness of the sun
 That can go dim but can never go out
 As the moon and the stars decorate the sky at night
 You have decorated my life, Oh so bright!

As the sun is important for lighting up the day
 You are important for me in the same way
 As air is important for the survival
 You are important for my survival
 As heart beats are important for life
 My heart beats for you my love
 As everybody has a shadow
 I too have one,
 And that is you..

TREE OF CAREER

On 21st January Edulift team led by Miquel conducted a career counseling session with Grade 10th Students from Srongsens High School. The topic was about how decisions in life affect our future. The idea was to make our students think about how life builds up and how our direct environment often affects sometimes our decisions about what to study or which jobs to pursue

The session started with 'career family tree' where everyone wrote down what their parents and grandparents education, occupations and interests were and how it has or hasn't changed over the generations. Many of the participants forefathers were farmers and nomads and their parents are doing businesses and own small shop and they aspire to have more skilled based occupations. Next, Students were facilitated to discuss on decisions they have taken in the past which has affected their present and possibly their future and events which helped them to see what they would like to do in the future. Finally students were facilitated to discuss on which decisions will they take that will affect their career and life. How do they see their life through the ages? The session was attended by 25 students. Following the workshop 96% of the students responded they find it important to reflect upon life events and decisions they make and rated average 4.5 out of 5 for satisfaction with the session.



THE TIBET FUND

POPULATION REFUGEE
AND MIGRATION
US STATE
DEPARTMENT

Thank you from Edulift to all our supporters and collaborators for helping us in our mission to
Re-Think education in Nepal!!!

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