



One By One

Year 18 Issue 2

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“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.”

Robert Frost

Knife Incidents

2 single moms at the Khar school were attacked in the middle of the night by a man with a knife.

No injuries in the first incident, a mother of three (who never falls into a deep sleep) woke and screamed before the man could get two steps inside her hut.

Unfortunately, in the second incident, the man not only got inside but was able to hold the mom with the knife to her neck. The children screamed. Neighbours came running to help but before running away, the man slit her throat. She was rushed to the emergency room where they gave her 8 stitches and told the family they were lucky—the cut was only a millimeter from her carotid artery.

Sexual Harassment— Community Rallies to Get Action

One night at 8 pm, a 12 year old female student from Nallasopara had to go to the washroom. The electricity was out, so her parents asked her 15 year old brother to go with her.

He waited at the bottom of the 6 steps while she went up to the row of toilets. As she was entering a stall, two teenage boys pushed her inside and locked themselves in with her. She screamed and screamed before they covered her mouth. Her brother heard, ran up and quickly managed to push and kick at the door until it opened. The boys ran away.

The whole neighbourhood came to know what happened and were immediately ready to support the family by going with them to the police.

Had the family gone alone, in all likelihood the police would have listened but wouldn't have filed a case because they wouldn't have wanted the paperwork.

Due to the community rallying around the family and not allowing the police to ignore them, the case was filed. The community members were able to identify the teenagers as living in an adjoining chawl (row of houses) so policemen were sent to the two houses. The

boys weren't at home but they apprehended the parents until the boys could be located.

We don't know how the story ends from there. How many days were the parents held? Were they able to apprehend the boys? Did they go to juvenile court? What was the punishment?

However, what we do know, is that the girl was traumatized but reached before she was sexually assaulted.

We also learned first-hand the power in community, and will be working to build Community Action Groups within each chawl in Nallasopara and each slum area in Khar.

Nallasopara Grows Vegetables!

After the first heavy rains of monsoon, teachers and client staff of Nallasopara were excited to convert the old bird sanctuary into a vegetable garden.

Vegetable garden might be an exaggeration at this point, but there is a garden area and there is a vegetable or two in it!

Client Staff and Staff have been overwhelmed by the interest that the students have shown in

learning about the garden and doing the hard work it takes to keep it safe from rats and bugs.

The students have started—on their own—to use the last 5 minutes of their exercise classes to pick-up any garbage on the school grounds.

We hope to one day be able to grow all of the lunch vegetables needed for not only the Nallasopara school but the Khar school also.

It is great to see students accepting responsibility without hesitation, showing interest in their environment and where their food comes from.

Go Green!



Written by Tania unless otherwise mentioned.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Canada:

112 Garland Crescent, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, T8A 2R2

Phone: (780) 467-6254

India:

Phone: (91) 98205-17805

EMAIL: info@one-international.com

Facebook:

/OneTaniaDidi

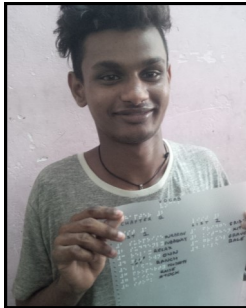
Twitter:

@One_Intrnl

www.one-international.com

Rohit Reads Braille

Though Rohit's health continues to deteriorate, he comes to school with a smile and is excited to be sitting in Grade 10. He is aiming to graduate in 2020—the first in his family. Despite all the hardships he has had to overcome, he is determined to fight on!



Volunteer Corner: Monty does Music

The children of Khar School have been all a buzz lately because Monty Bhaiya has come to teach them music. From teaching the youngest class the names of the different instruments—they even got to try to make sounds out of a trumpet and a flute—to teaching the oldest group music theory.

The end goal is for each group to be able to play a song on recorders and sing a song to the correct beat—not our students' forte before Monty came along!

Monty (16, Canada):

"Seeing the smiles on the kids makes teaching feel amazing. Because of my experience with One! International, I am now thinking about pursuing a career in psychology, social work or counselling. It is very rewarding to help children."



Celebration 2019: "Knowledge Is..."

We are excited about what the theme of our next celebration will mean to different people—guests, students, staff...everyone!

Marilyn:

"Knowledge is of course derived from different types of educational experiences. However it is also gained through: life experiences, the people we meet during our lifetime, the skills we gain through our daily activities including play, the values our elders exemplify for us. Knowledge is gained throughout our life. Knowledge is power. Knowledge demands change and requires responsibility."

Tania:

"Knowledge isn't powerful until it is coupled with intuition and a positive motive."

Geeta S. Iyengar (Indian Yoga Teacher):

"Knowledge has a beginning but no end."

Carl Gustav Jung (Swiss Psychiatrist):

"Knowledge rests not upon truth alone, but upon error also."

Language Crack Down

One of the ways that we are attempting to protect our girls and women is by cracking down on the language that is used around the schools—no matter the circumstances.

Due to the influence of Bollywood movies, children are learning at young ages to speak with double meaning and sexual innuendoes. In the majority of cases, they do not actually understand what they are saying and only repeating what they have heard. However, we believe that what we say has a direct impact on the way we act and if said enough, who knows what could happen.

Two of our client staff have already been fired because after multiple warnings they refused to change their language. Female staff and students were beginning to feel uncomfortable.

We are hoping that by changing language, we will do our small part in making India safer for women.

Donations of All Shapes and Sizes!

"Two weeks ago Nadine asked if we could use an almost new printer. I quickly said 'yes', because my printer had been unhappy and warning me for over two months. I would hit the 'OK' button and it would print anyway. A week ago it gave me my final error message and refused to do anything more. I had obviously disregarded it's messages for one too many times. It was done.

However, I didn't miss a "printing beat". The old printer was unhooked, the new printer was installed and I was printing. Thank you Nadine for a very timely donation." - Marilyn