

# THE MUSTARD SEEDS

The newsletter of the Bubbles Centre for Autism



## The Past Few Months at Bubbles

Celebrations in Bubbles have become an integral part of the enhancement of social skills, joyful learning, community building and thought-provoking processes. Religious festivals from across religions, national festivals and festivals related to our environment are celebrated with great enthusiasm, fervor, and pride. Students are exposed to the essence of the festivals through stories, music, dance, food, discussions and a variety of hands-on activities and projects. One such was the fasting month of Ramzan where students learned about inner discipline, followed by the Eid celebration. We also celebrated Baisakhi, Vishu, Bihu, and Subho Nabo barsho with a sumptuous lunch!



# NGO LEADERSHIP AWARD



Sarbani Mallick and Bubbles Centre of Autism received NGO Leadership award 2017 at a glittering ceremony at Taj Vivanta.

The award recognizes leaders, who are impactful and believe in MAD (Make A Difference). The award is given after a due diligence by a panel of jurors consisting of senior leaders, researchers, academicians and some of the prominent dignitaries. The selection is completely transparent without nomination or funding.



## Spotlight on Meret

**Let's hear what Meret - a 20-year-old volunteer from Germany - had to say about BCA:**

For me "bubbles" was a lucky coincidence. I got sent to Bangalore to be a volunteer at "DPS North" in the first place. Six months in India not only to enjoy a different culture and meeting new people but also supporting the German teachers in DPS. But then the long summer holidays started and I got the great opportunity to help in bubbles and it was a wonderful journey. Being part of the staff which is working so hard to help the students grow makes me very proud. Seeing the bubbles students giving their best and developing so much in these two months makes me even prouder!

Dankeschön and Auf Wiedersehen to bubbles and its students who taught me so much.



# INAUGURATION CEREMONY - PRAGATI



Pragati - the skill development center for adults with autism - took shape to create employability for students of Bubbles when they are adults. This project, consisting of printing, ITES and house-keeping units, will help the expansion of vocational skills and will facilitate the social and economic independence of people with autism. Pragati received funding for its printing unit from ICRA. Mr. Jayanta Chatterjee, Executive Vice President & Head Strategic and Emerging Corporate Group was the chief guest and inaugurated the event.

The event began with auspicious prayers by Buddhist monks from the Mahabodhi Society. Students of bubbles enacted a skit on the skill acquisitions which will be taken up at Pragati. A fashion show by parents and children brought huge applause. Geetha Bhatt created magical melodies with children, which left all spellbound.





## Mission 1000 Launched

Mission 1000 is a GOI Initiative of “Inclusive India” that aims to provide 1000 opportunities to persons with developmental, severe and multiple disabilities, and their families, in 1000 days.

Enable India with DNA launched **#MISSION1000** on Aug 4 along with 25+ company leaders, 55+ NGO leaders (including Bubbles) and 23 leaders from various associations. This is synergistic to Bubbles’ mandate to create valued roles for all individuals with Autism.

## Vision of Umesh Naidu - Trustee Bubbles



**Umesh Naidu -Director: PM Health & Life Care Pvt Limited, Bangalore - speaks about what motivated him to join Bubbles.**

I have always been interested in being a part of an NGO and contributing to society. Autism is an area in India where the service givers for autistic children are very less. The incidence of autism in India is also growing at an alarming rate.

It's in the greater interest of the society to help such children/families and also spread awareness about autism. There can't be better motivation than this to be associated with BCA than this.



# WORKSHOPS & CAMPS



The **Wonder Camp” 2017**, held by Bubbles Centre for Autism was one of the most amazing times for the children, teachers, parents, and interns and was a parent-initiated program. The camp included 10 very talented kids who performed various activities and learned a lot from here.

The program was designed to increase creativity, attentiveness, and engagement. Campers learned through discovery, practice, mentorship, and collaboration.

**Collaborative Theatre** took shape as a beginning of new friendship between the students of Bubbles Center of Autism and Canadian International School. With the guidance of Diana Thloor, the students had two sessions of collaborative theatre. The ice breaker session introduced each other and through various activities and were encouraged to bond with each other, which progressed with theatre where the students of CIS performed an act and students of both schools shared their poems on friendship.



**Workshop on facilitating language and communication skills at Appa, West Bengal**, was conducted by Ms. Sarbani Mallik. She spoke about the importance of communication skills for kids with autism and achieving this in the school and home atmosphere.

# DENTAL SCREENING & EVALUATION



A dental camp was organized at BCA in July conducted by Dr. Umme and Dr. Divya Reddy - Associate Professors in Dept. of Paediatric Dentistry at Sri Rajiv Gandhi Dental College & Hospital, Bangalore. They are extremely understanding of Autism and related conditions and know that children with special needs may not be able to readily communicate any dental pain or discomfort they experience, it results in toothache going unnoticed till it becomes severe. Therefore they are trying to test and validate a behaviour scale that helps parents to look out for the signs of dental decay in special children which may help in timely attention and care.

**HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** We need your support to fund development of Pragati, so that we can create a proper facility and help more adults with autism. Your generosity could make it possible to help them develop new skills and integrate into society as productive and responsible citizens. Among others, there is a plan to open a Coffee Shop, run by adults with autism. These can happen with the generosity of friends of Bubbles and Pragati. Please make your donations in the name of "Biswa Gouri Charitable Trust".

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