



VMS NEWSLETTER 2022

The Victoria Memorial School for the Blind successfully completed yet another eventful and challenging year with the support and trust of all our well-wishers. Each day during the past one year our supporters and well-wishers surprised us with their constant support and faith in us. Throughout the pandemic period the school ensured that learning continues and best possible services were rendered to our students and other beneficiaries by exploring technological opportunities and providing support in terms of basic needs, educational materials, assistive devices like talking calculator, mobile phones, recharging of phones and so on. As the lock down was gradually lifted post the covid-19 pandemic students eagerly returned and the School became fully operational from March 2022.



Welcome back to School, June 2022



Though the children were delighted to be back at school after two years, returning to normal school life and academics after such a long gap was no easy task for students as well as teachers. This required much preparation, patience and understanding, taking into account their emotional and psychological needs. In spite of online teaching during the pandemic, many students had regressed academically and had to be handled with patience and loving care. The school premises were sanitized and preventive measures put in place. As preparation for physical classes, medical camps and counselling sessions were conducted for the students.



OUR BRIGHT STAR

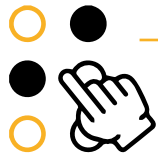


Our SSC exam results for the year 2021-22 were 100% with Pratik Mishra scoring 82%. He has dreams of doing research at ISRO, our Indian Space Research Organization! We have guided him to pursue further studies at St. Xaviers College, Mumbai. We hope to see his dream come true!



Pratik Mishra, SSC Topper of the School 2021-22

THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



provides free education (Marathi Medium), lodging & boarding for students up to 8th standard. Lodging & boarding facilities are also provided to students who have shifted to mainstream schools from Std IX to Std X.

MOVING AHEAD TO THE DIGITAL AGE



Students are encouraged to explore the World Wide Web to research on various subjects and prepare assignments/projects on their own on computers. Many of the classes are now equipped with computers.



Student using computer to listen to his lesson and is making notes on the Brailier

THE MDVI SECTION



The MDVI Section is the functional academic section for the Multiple Disabled Visually Impaired. It prepares students with multiple disabilities with skills to enable them to socialize, become independent and focus on academics. The students are taught Prevocational Skills such as making diyas, torans, chocolates etc.



Student of MDVI section painting Diya

MUSIC CENTRE



Students from Classes 2 to 9 attend music training conducted by Padma Shri Suresh Wadkar's Ajivasan Music Academy. They are being trained in musical instruments such as the harmonium, tabla, flute and also learn singing.

OUR ANNIE BRAILLE LAB



Annie Braille is the world's first self-learning Braille device for the visually impaired it helps younger children to self-learn to type and read Braille.

COMPUTER EDUCATION



Computer class for school for the Blind

Basic Computer Education for our School Students begins from standard 2. Every student gets a computer exclusively for his practical study. The Computer Course is tailor-made for each student as per his/her aptitude.



Computer class for Students of Learning Centre

VMS LEARNING CENTRE



we are happy that the Redevelopment of the Learning Centre building was completed with the munificent support of Mr.Noshir Cawasji Gotla and Nalinkant Dhirajlal Dalal and we were ready to reopen the renovated and refurbished Centre when school reopened after the lockdown was lifted.

Our Learning Centre nurtures children with special needs, both boys and girls, through Individualised Education Programmes. It is a day school with facilities open to children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Mental Retardation, Muscular Dystrophy, Slow Learners, ADHD and other needs on the spectrum. The syllabus is tailor made as per each child's requirements. Pratham and NIOS Syllabus is also offered.

Covid unfortunately was a stumbling block in the progress of the children. Resuming school after two years had made them regress and getting them back on track was no easy task. However, with the patient and loving care of our teachers they have now progressed.



OUR SSC RESULTS 2021-22

(NIOS 10th Board Exams)

Jigisha Shah | 64%

Aishwarya Vanga | 60%

Mahek Doshi | 57%

THE VMS-VIJAY MERCHANT CENTRE FOR LIFE-SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT

continues to provide speech therapy, occupational therapy and psychological counselling to the visually impaired as well as the intellectually challenged children of our schools and from the city.



Counselling session



Occupational Therapy session

An educative session for adolescent girl students was held in the area of health and hygiene. The girls were addressed by Dr. Shilpa Agrawal.



OUR EARLY INTERVENTION CLASSES

conducted for children below the age of 6 is where the child is observed assessed and his/her disability addressed. Teachers work on Functional Development skills such as activities of daily living, communication and basic academic concept development



Vision stimulation activity



A SCIENCE EXHIBITION



was held in November 2022, the Topic being "The Human Body." Students participated with great interest and enthusiasm. Students from neighbouring schools were invited to view the exhibition.

CELEBRATIONS



SCHOOL PICNIC/CAMP



School camp



Visit to Mani Bhavan



Visit to
Nehru Science Centre

A PROUD MOMENT



The School received a "Special Initiative" Award by the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) for providing MS-CIT training to the Visually Impaired.



Students of both The Victoria Memorial School for the Blind and The VMS Learning Centre were invited to sing the National Anthem recently at the opening ceremony of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi 2022 that was telecast on Star Sports 2 and Hotstar.



CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS AND CARETAKERS

Teachers Training Programme

Offline and Online Training Sessions were conducted for Teachers to upgrade their knowledge on disability specific areas and teaching skills.



Teachers attending session on use of Assistive Devices (Annie Thinker Bell)



Fire Drill Demonstration for Care Takers

NAVNIT SHAH LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE

Our NAVNIT SHAH LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE is equipped with Braille Books, Audio Books, Large Print Books, Job Access With Speech (JAWS) enabled computers with Internet access and many other reading aids. Approximately 905 visually challenged members are registered.

ONLINE COMPETITIVE COACHING CLASSES

Online Competitive Coaching Classes are conducted for Banking, Public Service and MPSC exams for youth with visual impairment. Classes continue to be conducted online post pandemic so as to accommodate students PAN India. Guidance, study material and training is imparted to help succeed in the exams and interviews to secure government jobs reserved for them.

TESTIMONY FROM COMPETITIVE COACHING STUDENTS



Siraj Ahmed Sayyed,
Assistant manager-
Union Bank of India

"I am an ex-student of the Victoria Memorial School for the Blind. The School has always provided me with assistance that I required for my overall development. I will always be grateful to the school for preparing me and assisting me throughout the competitive exam".



Namrata Savdavkar,
Senior Accountant-
Indian Railway

"Having got a government job has changed my life completely. It has changed the way people look at me. I am grateful to VMSB for all motivation and guidance and in helping me achieve my dream".



Farha Batliwala,
India Post-
Payment Bank Manager

"I thank the Victoria Memorial school for the Blind for conducting competitive coaching classes which enables us to stand on our own feet. The continuous support of the staff members has helped me achieve what I have achieved today".

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Our Massage Therapy Training Programme that has proved truly successful was restarted recently after a long gap due to the pandemic. After a 3-month training session, trainees are able to get good jobs at salons, hotels and be self-employed as well.



“EYE WAY HELPDESK” IN COOPERATION WITH CIPLA & SCORE FOUNDATION

The goal of this project is to provide vital information in the areas of education, employment, health, assistive devices, government schemes and any other assistance to the people with Visual Impairment.

SOME TESTIMONIALS FROM PARENTS



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers for their continuous care, support and patience. We see a lot of development in our child. We wish the school all the best in their future endeavours.

Mrs. Ruby Ansari, Zidaan's mother

The teachers of the school are very caring and I see lot of changes in my child after joining the school. We highly appreciate the concern and the positive attitude of the teachers and the caretakers towards my child. They take care of even the minute details in terms of his development and report it to us and even educate us on the practices that needs to be carried out at home. We are very happy to see that our child is in the right school.

Mr. Jitendra Mutta, Father of Neev Mutta.



OUR VOLUNTEERS



**Ranjana Mehta,
2016-2023**

“I am very happy to volunteer at The Victoria Memorial School for the Blind. I teach Math to the senior school students and Economics and current Affairs to the Library members. I enjoy teaching them and I feel blessed to be part of this esteemed institution”



**Nandita Damle,
2016-2023**

“It’s an absolutely amazing experience to work with the Victoria Memorial School for the Blind. The school has lot of facilities for the students with visual impairment and learning disability. I teach English Grammar, Reasoning and Math to the Library members I enjoy volunteering in the school and working here has been a life changing experience for me”.



**Abha Desai,
2007-2023**

“Volunteering with the Victoria Memorial School for the Blind is a beautiful experience. Working with school staff and other volunteers of the school is a wonderful experience. To be of some assistance to these students is an honour for me”



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT MAJOR DONORS – 2022



Redeveloped play area with support from Sahachari Foundation



UTI Asset Management Co. Ltd., Morgan Stanley Bank, Cipla Foundation, Sahachari Foundation, Navnit Manilal Shah Foundation, Nihchal Israni Foundation, Alkyl Amines Chemicals Ltd., Tata Investment Corporation Ltd., Fabtech Technologies Pvt Ltd, Vibhuti Investments Co Ltd., Ammada Trust, Lions Club of Bombay Cuffe Parade Charity Trust, Smt. Dayaben Girjashanker Sheth Trust, Krishnadevi Deviprasad Kejriwal Matrisdan Trust, Australian Consulate General, Mr. Noshir Cawasji Gotla, Mr.Nalinkant Dhirajlal Dalal, Mr.Shrenik N Baldota, Ms. Lavina Baldota, Ms.Kalindi Vikhram Philip, Mr. Ramesh Chandak, Mr. Dinesh Vallabhdas Thakker, Ms. Swapna Shashikumar Vijaykumar, Mr. Bharat Nirmal Kapoor.

...AND to our devoted Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff and our dear parents without whom our achievements would not have been possible

OUR STALWARTS

Dr. Preeti Varma - Academic Consultant,
Dr. Salil Jandyal - Executive Officer,
Ms. Shampa Roy – Principal, Learning Centre,
Ms. Rajani Hiremath – Principal, School for the Blind

OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay
Ex-officio Chairperson

Mr. Ramesh D. Chandak - Vice Chairperson/Trustee
Mrs. Mala Goenka - Hon. Secretary/Trustee
Mrs. Anjali Laud - Jt. Hon. Secretary/Trustee
Mrs. Meena Deshpande - Member/Trustee
Mr. K. Ramkrishna - Member

Mr. Sanjiv Navangul - Member
Mrs. Janhavi Apte-Kothari - Member
Mr. Jagdish Thackersey - Member
Mr. Anami Roy - Member

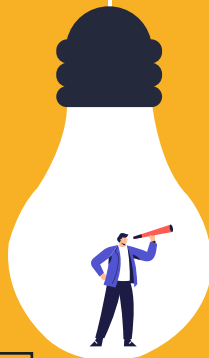


VALUE STATEMENT

MISSION

To provide quality education and rehabilitation opportunities to the differently abled.

To strive for a better quality of life for every visually impaired and intellectually impaired individual by providing education, training and rehabilitation opportunities, thereby making them self-reliant individuals.



VISION

To encourage, nurture and develop differently abled individuals; to empower them to take their place in the world and society, as confident and productive adults.

We thank you for your interest in our activities for the welfare of the challenged and take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy and happy 2023



The Victoria Memorial School for the Blind

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