



**Dear Friends of educo,**

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter! You will be pleased to know that this summer has been going very well for us at educo and we have been kept busy by many positive developments.

**Back to School!**

Our children across our 7 schools went back to school in June. In our school in Central Mumbai, Saibaba Path, we welcomed in a new class of 45 Junior Kindergarten children whilst our oldest children moved into their new home for the year – our newly renovated Standard 2 classroom.

**New Computer Labs**

In June we also opened our second computer lab in Saibaba Path which houses 12 new computers. A big thank you goes to Edith Khorakiwala who donated 200,000 Rupees to equip this computer lab with brand new flat screen PC's. This frees up our first computer lab to provide lessons to the older children attending the municipal school, in the same school building. Our own children in Standards 1 and 2 are now benefitting from daily computer instruction in this brand new lab, in line with our fundamental principles. Edith's generosity will have a significant long-term impact for the children who attend our school.



In Kolkata, our Tangra school also saw the recent opening of a computer lab. This is thanks to the Bird Group (especially Ankur Bhatia & Rakesh Bansal) who kindly donated 10 computers. The Bird Group, a travel IT company, have a long-standing relationship with educo and to date have donated 20 PC's to our schools. As a result of their generosity, vital computer classes are now being offered in the evenings from this computer lab to adults from the local Tangra slum areas.

### **New School Opened in Digboi**

Meanwhile in the village of Digboi in far off East Assam, we founded a new school. Together with our local partners, the Jesuit mission, we have opened a school with 70 pupils in a temporary structure located on land which was donated by one of the local tea companies in the midst of tea gardens. Our aim with this temporary school is to gauge demand for a new school in this area, before commencing building work of a large new school building which will be able to accommodate 1,000 pupils up to Standard 10. So far the school has proven very successful and we are confident there is enough demand amongst the local Community to justify investing in a new large English-medium school.



### **educo and HDFC Standard Life**

In line with our goal for this year to increase our funding base in India, we have been building up a good relationship with HDFC Standard Life, one of India's leading insurance companies. At the end of June we were privileged to welcome over 40 new HDFC recruits to our Central Mumbai school, Saibaba Path. The new joiners spent a very enjoyable day at the school, talking with the children, singing songs and dancing with them, and playing games. We hope this is the start of a long-term partnership with HDFC. From our point of view it is not just about securing funding for the coming years to keep the Saibaba Path school running, it is also about facilitating the interaction between our school children and well-educated young professionals, many of whom come from areas local to the school. These individuals act as vital role models for our children, encouraging them to complete their education and secure themselves similar good jobs in the future.





### **educo india website**

We have also been working behind the scenes to update our online presence, and have completed our new educo India website – [www.educo.in](http://www.educo.in) - please take a few moments to check it out. We are also looking to launch this Autumn a new donation scheme through this website called [Fund a Resource](#). This initiative we believe will help us gain the funds needed to purchase vital resources for our schools, starting with our Saibaba Path school in Mumbai. Our on-going running costs for the school are considerable - especially as we don't charge our pupils tuition fees - hence we are reaching out for your support. We need your help to provide everyday teaching resources for the children so they too can have a safe and inspiring environment to learn in. Your contribution whether big or small has a direct and tremendous impact on the children. This programme will be launched on [www.educo.in](http://www.educo.in) in the coming weeks, so please check back in.

### **Mumbai Marathon**



Lastly we have been busy this summer working out the details of our involvement in the Mumbai marathon which is due to take place in January 2012. The Mumbai marathon is the biggest marathon run in Asia, with the

last one attracting almost 40,000 runners from all over the world. educo is officially registered to take part and along with securing corporate sponsorship, from HDFC Standard Life, we are currently recruiting volunteers who want to run the marathon on our behalf. Already, our long-term educo India volunteer Iain McDonald has stepped up to the plate and has kicked off his 6 months of intensive training! His goal is to raise 2 million Rupees to be spent on our 7 projects in India. This is a massive challenge for Iain as he hasn't run in 10 years so please help him achieve his goal. Should you wish to contribute, please donate via our website [www.educo.ie](http://www.educo.ie) or contact Iain directly on [iain@educo.in](mailto:iain@educo.in)

We hope you have enjoyed catching up with the latest developments at educo, and we thank you for your continued support of our programmes which are vital in improving the lives and outlook for these impoverished children.

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