

Dear friends,

It is back to school time and we have a lot to share with you from both Nepal and Nicaragua. Following are some highlights but for the full story, please mark your calendars for our Seventh Annual Celebration – **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005 (5 to 8 PM)**. This year we are having a catered event of Nepali food and

We hope that you have all had a nice summer and that you are ready for the wonderful Fall that we have here in Colorado. In Nepal, the public schools have a schedule similar to here and in Yarmasing and Dhuskun classes are already in session. In Nicaragua, public schools have their long break from December to February (during coffee harvest) and so the students in Los Pinares are studying for midterms.

We have several exciting things to share:

Changa Sherpa has become the first female student from Yarmasing to pass the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) exam. In Nepal, there is a countrywide exam at the end of tenth grade. If students pass, they get their SLC certificate and it is a major milestone. For example, a student with an SLC certificate could become a government teacher. Changa attended Yarmasing school until fifth grade and since has been a Namlo Scholar at Jaipur Public School. She is now continuing her education in Kathmandu with the help of the same generous donor who helped her at Jaipur.

To put Changa's accomplishment in perspective, only 30% of public school students pass this exam. We are excited for Changa. She shows very clearly the Namlo belief that people will help themselves if given a chance.

This year students in the US will be participating in an expanded Namlo Sister School Program. Since 1999, over one thousand students here in the United States have participated in this program and now it is even better. Besides allowing students the opportunity to connect with the foreign students we are now encouraging "cross-cultural tutoring", where students here develop a unit of study around a specific topic taught in the foreign school. They will gather and/or construct supporting materials and send them along with instructions to the school abroad.

We are very happy to be working with several university level students. As we noted in the previous newsletter, a Senior Design team at Colorado School of Mines developed a water filtration system for Yarmasing. Also, in the Spring, another group of students from Colorado School of Mines under the direction of Dr Jon Leyden prepared grant proposals for Namlo as part of a new class at CSM. In addition, we have had several interns from the University of Denver helping us and a group of students at the Art Institute of Colorado is helping to develop a new brochure. They are all fantastic: they bring great energy and enthusiasm to Namlo.