

Namlo News 1 Jan 31, 02

Dear friends and supporters of The Namlo Foundation

Welcome to our first edition of THE NAMLO NEWS online. This electronic format will replace our hard copy and help us keep operating costs at a minimum. It will also allow us to keep in touch with you more often as we periodically send updates and progress reports on Yarmasing and on the construction of our new school in Dhuskun. If you know someone that should be added to our e-mail list, please send us their address.

THE YARMASING SCHOOL:

We are grateful to the many volunteers that have traveled to Yarmasing, some from as far as Peru, to help with a variety of projects. To name a few: English language classes, forestry management, construction, health screening, first aid training and various art projects. Everybody came back saying their personal stories describing their projects and experiences in an upcoming newsletter.

The graduation ceremonies were postponed for two weeks due to events with the Royal Family but otherwise the school year has been a great success. We were lucky to have our friend, Jeremy Rubingh, represent The Namlo Foundation on graduation day. Jeremy had been studying in Kathmandu as part of a semester abroad program and he had learned enough Nepali to give a speech and to congratulate the children as he distributed school supplies and awards to the top students in each class.

This school year started on August 10th with 113 students in classes one through five. In addition, Yarmasing has a new pre-school with 15 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years old. This is part of a pilot program that is run by the Ministry of Education and the villagers are excited about having qualified for it. Although it is only part time, it will help get the children used to going to school and they will be better prepared to start in kindergarten next year.

The sale of greeting cards made by both the school children and the youth group is helping with the various programs that depend on this source of revenue. The priority of the school continues to be to hire an additional teacher to teach English and some computer classes.

We have recently received a large supply of greeting cards. They have sent us additional designs and we have created packages of five assorted cards that make unique gifts and help the children of Nepal.

WE ARE EXPANDING THE FAMILY:

The big news this year is that we have completed our pre-selection methodology and that a new location has been chosen to build our next school. The name of the village is Dhuskun and it is in the same Sindhupalchowk district as Yarmasing.

Dhuskun had a school that, over the years, has become too small for the 430 students that are currently enrolled in classes one through ten. Due to the lack of space for so many students, some teachers have to conduct their classes outside, with the children having to sit on the ground. They have asked us to help them build a five-classroom elementary

school. They already have about 200 children waiting for a new school and we are very excited about this new project. We will keep you updated about our progress.

SISTER SCHOOLS:

This year we continue to work with the Logan School and we also have been joined by many new friends committed to helping the Nepalese children. Our new sister school, Ralston Elementary is involved in many projects. A group of students from the Society of Women's Engineers at Colorado School of Mines is volunteering their time to assist Ralston Elementary with their activities. In addition, an enthusiastic group of Girl Scouts has joined in and is busy working, among other things, in making a video to send to the school in Nepal. We are also working on creating links between our web site and the sites of our sister schools so that you can directly read their experiences.