



Foundation for World Education

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NEWSLETTER

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THE KECHLA SCHOOL: INTEGRAL EDUCATION IN TRIBAL INDIA

Kechla is a very rural village in the state of Orissa. "The quickest route from Delhi," writes one visitor, "involved 13.5 hours of consecutive travel on a plane, two buses, an auto rickshaw, a boat and lots of walking." Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir, usually referred to as the Kechla School (www.KechlaSchool.org), was founded in 2004 by Pranjal Jauhar of the Auro-Mira Service Society, an NGO linked to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Delhi Branch. The school's teaching system is based on "Integral Education," an innovative, integrative approach to education founded on the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Most of the teachers at the school received their training at the Delhi Ashram's Mirambika School.



A MODEL FOR CREATIVE GIVING

Parthiv Krishna, a ten-year-old from Minneapolis, Minnesota, visited the Kechla School in June of 2012 with his family. After learning of the school's orientation toward serving underprivileged, tribal children, before departing from the U.S., Parthiv created initiatives to gather useful materials to donate.

Knowing that lots of supplies, such as boxes of half-used crayons, used and even unused markers, and partly used bottles of glue are thrown in the trash at the end of each school year, he, with the help of his fifth grade classmates, initiated the *Second Life for School Supplies Drive* at their school. Their efforts generated a good amount of materials that were considered unusable discards by his school but that would prove to be precious resources in Kechla. Parthiv also insisted that, for his tenth birthday, all presents should be items to donate to the Kechla School, and his dedication inspired a number of additional donations from the community, as well. Many of the materials gathered were shipped ahead to India, and the remainder completely filled the family's check-in luggage.

Parthiv, a modest young man, wrote answers to our questions. Aside from a few minor edits, these are his words:

Q How big is the school, what kind of students attend, and what is the surrounding area like?

A There are about 100 students and 10 staff members. About 30 students are orphans that live in the school, and the other 70 walk about 2 kilometers to school from their village and 2 kilometers back to their village every day. The school is in a tribal area surrounded by a reservoir on 3 sides, with an inaccessible fourth side.

“ The school is a safe place where the children can be who they are instead of being treated as child labor in the villages and made to work in the fields.”

Funding the evolution of consciousness around the globe...

Q Who are the students? What kind of backgrounds do they come from?

A The students are tribal children from the area surrounding the school. Before the school was founded they were working in the fields with their parents and fellow villagers. All of their families are very poor, and there is no fee to attend the school as it is run by donations.

Q Can you describe a class and/or a learning activity that you participated in?



A While I was there, I taught the New Creation group, whose members are 8-10. They are pretty fluent in English, but they are still learning grammar.

I taught several classes while there. One of the days was Force and Energy. I taught them about Potential Energy and

Kinetic Energy, and made pendulums. I also taught them about friction.

On the second day, I taught them about dinosaurs. I told them what the word "dinosaur" means, and explained the difference between Carnivorous, Omnivorous, and Herbivorous dinosaurs. I was given 3 dinosaur toys to donate to the school. One was a "Build your own T-Rex," another was a "Dig a Stegasaurus out of the Egg," and the last one was a 4-foot tall inflatable T-Rex.



On the third day, I taught them about the continents. I explained how they were all connected as Pangaea and how they separated. I told them about the animals on the different continents and then let them look at an atlas.

On the fourth day, I showed them 3 kits. One was one of those kits that comes with 12 capsules that you put in water and grow sponge shapes. The second was a kit that comes with a powder that makes snow when water is added. The third one was a kit that comes with tiny balls that you put in water which makes them expand.

Q What's a typical day like for students? What kinds of activities do they do?

A In the morning, they wake up and go to a field about 200 feet from the school and practice drums and bugles. After this they eat breakfast, then go to their respective classes. They stay there until about noon and then go to lunch. They go back to class for an hour until recess. After

recess, they have snack and then go for another hour of class. Then they have dinner followed by meditation. After meditation and bhajans, they go to sleep.

The main activities they do are learning, and playing games. Often, they do plays to improve their English. They sometimes go on hikes in the surrounding area.



Q What do you appreciate about the school?



A I appreciate that the school gives tribal children a place to use their knowledge. It is also a safe place where the children can be who they are instead of being

treated as child labor in the villages and made to work in the fields. The children are also taught responsibility to take care of their own few personal belongings and also the property of the school.

Q What are the school's needs and what challenges does it face? Describe activities you participated in to help the school and its children. How do you think people in general can help?

A The school needs donations because it is completely free for the children and needs funds to function. One difficulty is that the kids sleep on the floor in the classroom and there are all sorts of creepy crawly animals around. Also they all sleep close together so when one kid falls sick, many others also fall sick. They sit on the floor in the hallways to eat, and when it rains heavily they all get wet. *[Editor: We understand the sleeping arrangements have improved since Parthiv's visit.]*

To help the school, I taught there and also organized a school supply and toy drive for its students amongst my friends in Minnesota.

In general, if people want to help they can make cash or school supply or toy donations to the school.



Planting seeds of human unity...

THE ANURADHA SAPRU KOHLS FUND:

DEDICATED TO SUPPORT THE KECHLA SCHOOL IN PERPETUITY

The Foundation for World Education is pleased to inaugurate The Anuradha Sapru Kohls Fund. Dedicated to providing long-term, steady support for the Kechla School, the Fund was initiated by Dr. Krishna Sapru to honor the memory of her daughter. Both mother and daughter admired the work at Kechla and cared deeply for the schoolchildren's welfare

and the ongoing success of the school. Sadly, Dr. Sapru, too, passed away before she could finalize her plans for the Fund. Honoring Dr. Sapru's request, however, her son, Mr. Raj Sapru, in



"Psychic Generosity"
Impatiens balsamina (pink color)
"Gives for the joy of giving". ~ The Mother

consultation with the Kechla School administration selected FWE to manage an endowment that will give continuous financial support to the school in perpetuity.

The FWE Board looks forward to serving the generous spirit and aspirations of both Dr. Krishna Sapru and Ms. Anuradha Sapru Kohls by providing steady, ceaseless support for the school and the schoolchildren that they loved and wished to help. Friends and family of Dr. Sapru and her daughter, as well as supporters of the Kechla school, are invited to contribute, if they wish, to this legacy of love and caring.

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F.W.E. MISSION STATEMENT

The Foundation for World Education awards grants to incorporated nonprofit organizations around the world that support integral education, human unity, conscious evolution, and a transformed world as envisioned by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

The FWE provides a continuous stream of funding for current and future generations through responsible management of its endowment, receipt of donations and bequests, and discerning selection of grant recipients.

The FWE aspires to be instrumental in transmuting financial energy to its true purpose in the unfolding evolution and manifestation of a greater consciousness on earth.

THE EVER GREEN ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

In concert with the vision and action of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother the Foundation for World Education Board views money as Divine Energy to be directed towards the manifestation of higher consciousness. As a garden offers nourishment year after year through wise, careful tending, in managing its Endowment and Dedicated Funds for almost thirty years FWE has cultivated an ever renewing, "ever green" flow of financial assistance to worthwhile projects. FWE charges no management fees for Dedicated Funds such as the Anuradha Sapru Kohls Fund. When planning your estate we invite you to consider giving to the FWE so that your bequest too can benefit a wide number of worthy activities and steadily support the evolution of human consciousness far into the future.

For information on wills, trusts, and estate planning or to learn about the history and scope of action of the FWE Endowment and Dedicated Funds, please visit our website and/or contact us.

"All wealth belongs to the Divine and those who hold it as trustees, not possessors. It is with them today, tomorrow it may be elsewhere. All depends on the way they discharge their trust while it is with them, in what spirit, with what consciousness in their use of it, to what purpose."

SRI AUROBINDO

Long-term giving to transform the earth.

GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATION

The Foundation for World Education invites grant applications from individuals, programs and groups who share the vision for a transformed world espoused by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. *All proposals must be presented to FWE through the auspices of a nonprofit organization* and are subject to review by members of the board before a decision is taken. Proposals must be received by the board **four weeks in advance** of a scheduled meeting. Please email your proposal to the secretary. If your organization is submitting a proposal for the first time, please include a copy of its nonprofit tax exemption status. See below for upcoming application due dates.*

PROPOSAL FORMAT

- **Summary/overview:** Name of your project/program and brief explanation of what you plan to do.
- **Need/rationale:** Justify the significance of your project /program in relation to your organization's mission and the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.
- **Program implementation and schedule:** Explain how you will implement this project. Include a time line and statement of the future viability of this project. Is it self-sustaining after initial seed money from the FWE, or will there be future requests to support the program?
- **Personnel:** Names and qualifications of groups and individuals directly responsible for project.
- **Project's contribution:** What is the duration and extent of influence your project will have for Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's vision of the Integral Yoga? How is your project related to other organizations or individuals currently engaged in the work of the Integral Yoga?
- **Current and future funding:** List sources of income and/or other funding sources for your project.
- **Budget:** Detail income and expenditure.
- **Final and progress reports:** Indicate method proposed to evaluate effectiveness of the project/program while in progress; written final report to be submitted within one year of completion of the grant or grant renewal. Indicate name of person who will prepare the final report.

* DUE DATES FOR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- MAY 2, 2013
- SEPTEMBER 24, 2013
- JANUARY 7, 2014 (for main granting session)

GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2012

Grants \$36,089.40

Auroville (via the Projects Coordination Group) ...	\$15,900
- Seeds of Change/Soma Waste.....	\$3000
- Visitor's Center "Flowers All the Way".....	2200
- Management, Training & Development.....	2000
- Auroville Life-saving Team.....	2000
- Auroville Outreach Media.....	1800
- Auroville Mobility Access.....	1800
- Deepanam School.....	1600
- Legal Uppaya.....	1500
Antioch-Auroville Teacher Exchange.....	2,000
Village Action Micro Finance.....	4,000
Auroville Film Festival.....	1600
AUM 2012 Scholarships	3,000
Lithuanian Translation and Publication.....	3,000
Awareness Through the Body.....	3,000
Calif. Inst. of Integral Studies Symposium	500
Auro Host E-Network.....	2,433
Mickey's Fund Disbursements.....	656.39
- Matrimandir.....	\$328.20
- Matagiri.....	216.61
- Sri Aurobindo Center of Boston.....	111.59



FWE Board Members from left to right: Top row: Margo MacLeod, Bhuvana Nandakumar, Heidi Watts, Paula Murphy, Jerry Schwartz, Gordon Korstange, Bottom row: Dakshina Vanzetti, Jeanne Korstange and John Schlorholtz

How you can participate ...

The Foundation for World Education allocates annual grants through disbursement from its endowment. Since grant requests keep growing, we are able to fund only a portion of the worthy projects we consider each year. We therefore seek to grow in our ability to give grants by increasing the endowment.

The FWE encourages donations, bequests, long term giving, and tax advantaged estate planning. We also welcome the establishment of designated funds for areas of special interest--see our website for further details. As we are a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, contributions within the U.S. may be partially or fully deductible for income or estate taxes. Please consult with your own tax advisor to determine the specific tax benefits that may be available to you. (For additional information on wills and trusts go to www.fwegiving.org.) We are happy to answer questions and work with contributors to build a plan for giving. Your gift to the FWE is a gift to future generations and to conscious evolution in diverse fields of human endeavor.

Foundation for World Education

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