

# TAKTSE NEWSLETTER

SEED THE CHANGE



## Note from the Editors

Greetings! We are excited to introduce our very first edition of the Taktse newsletter. We intend to make it a regular monthly publication keeping you updated with the latest news and development of Taktse. The aim will be to share information about what our kids do at school apart from studying. Not to mention loads of exciting photos.

We welcome ideas and suggestions on what you would like to see included in our future editions. We are all ears! In the meantime, we hope you enjoy our first edition

Ms. Yangchen Bhutia

Mr. Yawan Rai

Mr. Rinchen Pakhrin

## Letter from the Acting Principal

Dear Taktse Family,

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of our activities and plans for the rest of the academic year. I know that this has been a time of upheaval for you, your children, and for the school as we work through the transition in leadership at the school. We want to reassure you that we at Taktse continue to work every day to ensure that your child is challenged and prepared for the years to come!

Here is a quick update:

We had very successful parent conferences with a large number of parents signing up, across the grades. Your participation shows how much you care for your child's education. It is very encouraging and a big support to us. Thank you. If you missed this opportunity and would like to meet, please contact your child's homeroom teachers at the school. We love talking to you about our children.

Taktse Teachers, in the last several weeks, have continued to attend professional development (PD) workshops on change management, how to have a successful parent conference, vision of the school, etc. They continue to work with their mentors to reflect on and improve their teaching and at the same time, plan for the next academic year. Mr. Lauenstein recently led a workshop for our teachers on listening to students, based on an incredible letter from a student expressing injustice. It was a challenging and thrilling PD session. The goal of the PD was to better understand how WE must change if we want our students to be different from us, more prepared for a fast changing world where they MUST have the courage to speak up!

In other PD news, Ms. Yolmo and Rai Guruama, members of the Leadership Team, attended the Art of Leadership program at Harvard University and also completed the Philadelphia Writing Project Summer Institute, along with Ms. Bhawna. We are very proud of them and look forward to sharing their learning with you and the greater community.

The Leadership Team is in the process of selecting teachers for the annual trip to the USA. Each year we send 2-3 teachers to visit schools and attend workshops in the United States. Upon their return, they share their experiences with all of us, broadening the value of these trips. Our teachers, our curriculum and our students have all benefited greatly from this opportunity. The Team is also working on finishing the year strong by planning for the upcoming events, the winter programs and the 2017 academic year.

We are all working to make sure that the final two months of this school year are both demanding and engaging for our students and teachers. We will also be reflecting on our successes and challenges from this past year and setting goals for the year to come. We welcome you to join us in this effort and will be in touch about how.

With our devoted team, Taktse will continue to evolve in exciting ways. As always, we welcome your insights and feedback about what is working at Taktse and what you have concerns about. We will continue to keep you updated on our work. Please always feel free to contact me directly about your concerns, suggestions or ideas.

Thank you for being part of Taktse.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Reshma Thapa-Gurung

Acting Principal  
reshma.thapa@taktse.org



### **Eighth Grade visits G.B. Pant Himalayan Institute of Environment and Development**

After a month of careful preparation and completion of the checkpoint examinations, nothing seemed more exciting for the eighth graders than a day out to G.B. Pant Himalayan Institute of Environment and Development, near Pangthang. The trip involved exploring the centre as well as interacting with some of the scientists there.



### **Dusshera EVS Project on Sources of Water**

During the Dusshera break, the 2nd and the 3rd graders were asked to create a model of any one source of water, e.g. wells, rivers, ponds, lakes, etc. These young geniuses impressed everyone with some amazing models using materials like thermocol, plastic bottles, shoe boxes, cartons, mud and paper.







## Halloween

It was that time of the year when the students and teachers alike dressed up in their “spooky” best. The school was filled with ghouls, superheroes and villains of all shapes and sizes. A fun-filled day of enthusiastic trick or treaters, class parties and a costume competition.



## Dharma Project for Grades 6, 7 and 8

A workshop was led by Lopen Sonam, our dharma teacher, on making prayer flags. The idea was to educate the students on the importance of the different kinds of prayer flags, their colors and their significance. The students learnt how to select colors, print and hoist the prayer flags. According to Lopen Sonam, understanding our religion and traditions passed down from generations is as important as modern education. He also feels that this knowledge is easier to share with a young mind which is at its receptive best.



## OTHER UPDATES

### USA Trip

We have also opened up the application process for the US trip to our high school students. The students are required to write an essay answering one or two questions. They will be selected based on their essay, a recommendation from a teacher and an assessment from their subject teachers.

The application can be found here:

<https://form.jotform.me/amritrai/clone-of-usa-winter-trip-2016>



### New Admissions

Our 2017 Admissions are going strong, with several classes filled. We are deeply thankful for your belief in us and for your recommending Taktse to your friends and family. We are committed to deserving this faith and support, with joy and dedication.



### Bookaroo

Our 8th graders are gearing up for the annual trip to Delhi, which begins on the 21st of November. Along with attending Bookaroo, the children's literary festival, they will visit ancient historical monuments and modern offices like Google and CNN-IBN. A video of last year's trip can be seen here:

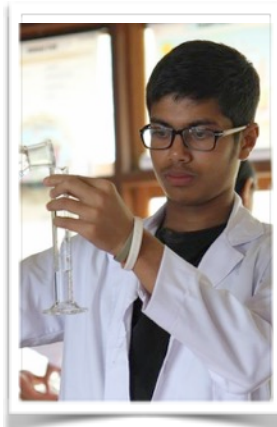
Facebook-<https://www.facebook.com/taktsewindow/videos/vb.100001325199294/1025651037489060/?type=3&theater>

Youtube- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNzP-z-MNa0&t=42s>



### Our Former Students

We are very proud of Amit Agarwal, the first Taktse Engineer, who started at Bennett University, Noida (a Times of India Institution) several months ago. Two more of our graduates Sonam Ugay and Ingsa Hang Subba have been accepted at Endicott College in Beverly, MA, with generous Presidential Scholarships and are studying liberal arts with a focus on maths.





## Art and Crafts

Ms Ritika Jobanputra visited Taktse as an art and crafts resource person. She heads a Design team in Bangalore. She collaborated with our art teacher Mr Amrit and conducted some innovative workshops for the students. Taking her tips, the students were later able to come up with some very interesting works of art.



## New building

We are thrilled to see and share that the new building is almost on its way to completion. The new building will have classrooms, science labs, as well as project, administrative, and flexible community spaces. The new building will also have an art room, a media lab, and a new kitchen and a dining hall. A team of Trustees is overseeing the construction.

## A sneak peek of events lined up for November

1. Bookaroo - 21st November 2016
2. Cross Country- 19th November 2016
3. Grandparents' Day - 12th November 2016
4. Fruit Market - TBD (When the orange season is on!)
5. Children's Day - 14th November 2016
6. Sajong Rice Harvesting -TBD