
Siddhartha School Partnership

Annual Report

2020/2021 School Session



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100% Graduated!

This past year, every one of our grade 10 students completed their high school exams and will receive their diplomas.

This is an accomplishment to celebrate! Most Siddhartha School students are the first in their families to graduate from high school, so these diplomas will open doors and provide new prospects for them and their families. As they embark on this

new path, it is our deepest hope that their education will bring personal success, and we believe that their prosperity will benefit every individual in their community and beyond.

When His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama spoke to students during his 2016 visit to the school, he said, "The realistic way to create more peaceful human beings is not through prayer and religious teaching, but through education." The work of the Partnership embodies this truth. It's what animates and energizes all we do.

The 2020/2021 school year was unprecedented due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lower grades spent the entire year learning from home, while grades 6 through 10 dealt with alternating between at-home and in-school classes several times. Throughout this tumult, our community of parents, students and educators persevered to collectively provide each student with a quality education.

In addition to our 33 graduates, we are proud of our social and emotional learning (SEL) team, who worked to include key SEL curriculum tools in the school journal; we're proud of our support staff, who are the often unseen heroes of the Siddhartha

School; and we're proud of our students who learn four languages before they graduate, preparing them for success in India and abroad.

The Siddhartha School Partnership thanks all of our donors who have provided so much support for the school. Our donors agree with HH the Dalai Lama that education is the path to a more peaceful planet, and I thank you for supporting us in that cause.

With gratitude,



Alexander Stigliano
Executive Director

Siddhartha School Partnership

We Applaud Our 33 Graduates

Tsering Angmo, Padma Lhazes, Tsering Dolker, Thinles Spalzung, Stanzin Lamo, Stanzin Spalzes, Tsering Yangskit, Rigzen Angmo, Thinlay Namgial, Tsering Wangial, Lobzang Tashi, Sonam Chorol, Rigzen Angmo, Tonskit Dolma, Jigmet Stobdan, Rigzen Namgial, Sonam Diskit, Stanzin Chuskit, Rigzen Dolma, Jigmet Chuskit, Jigmet Chostar, Ishey Khando, Sonam Chuskit, Stanzin Namgyal, Thinles Wangdus, Lobzang Chospel, Stanzin Spalbar, Stanzin Ladol, Rigzen Namgial, Thupstan Tsewang, Stanzin Otzer, Sonam Chuskit, Urgain Temet

We Sustain Our Support Staff

Throughout the COVID-19-related lockdowns that kept many of our support staff from performing their work, the Partnership continued to pay the salaries of these crucial members of the Siddhartha School community.

There are so many crucial roles that keep the school up to snuff: drivers, cleaners, cooks, and more. Most of our staff have been at the school a very long time, just like our donor community! This speaks highly of the school leadership and the quality of life we strive to provide for all who walk through our doors. So take a moment to see who you support when you give. These are salaried positions that are full-time.



Mr. Lobzang Tsering (above) has been working at the school since 2013 as a watchman. He is one of the most steadfast and sincere support staff at the school. Besides guarding the school premises, he waters the plants and trees at the school every three days or every other day. His favorite thing about working at the school is seeing the poplar trees growing taller every year. He loves the environment.



Ms. Sonam Lhadol ("Aunty Lhadol," as she is fondly called by the kids), has worked at the school since 2004 as a cleaner and conductor. She cleans and sweeps all the office rooms, staff room, library, computer laboratory, and classroom corridors before school hours begin in the morning. She also works as a conductor, meaning

she rides the school bus to see that the students are picked up and dropped off at school while maintaining all safety precautions. Her favorite thing about working at school is that every staff member and student respects her during her working hours and never makes her feel that she is a subordinate worker.



Mr. Nawang Tsondus is the longest-serving driver at the school. He has been working at the school since 2003. He is fondly called "Ajang Tsondus" by the kids. *Ajang* means "uncle" in Ladakhi. He also drives the school jeep for guests, for the principal, on official trips, and for Rinpoche when he is in

Ladakh. He loves to drive the kids in the bus, and he is, in fact, Rinpoche's favorite driver! He thinks he is very fortunate to be his favorite driver because he has driven Rinpoche to HH the Dalai Lama's palace in Ladakh many times and has been blessed by HHDL as a result.



Mrs. Nilza Angmo ("Aunty Nilza," as she is fondly called by the kids), has been working at the school since 2000, for almost 22 years! She is also the longest-serving support staff. Her two daughters both graduated from Siddhartha School. She tells us that she has seen many students graduate from Siddhartha in the last two

decades, and alumns still remember her well as "Aunty Nilza." She also tells us that she loves to ring the school bell before school starts and at the end of the day as she watches the smiling faces of the kids.

Thank You to All of Our Support Staff!

The SEL Curriculum Goes Home

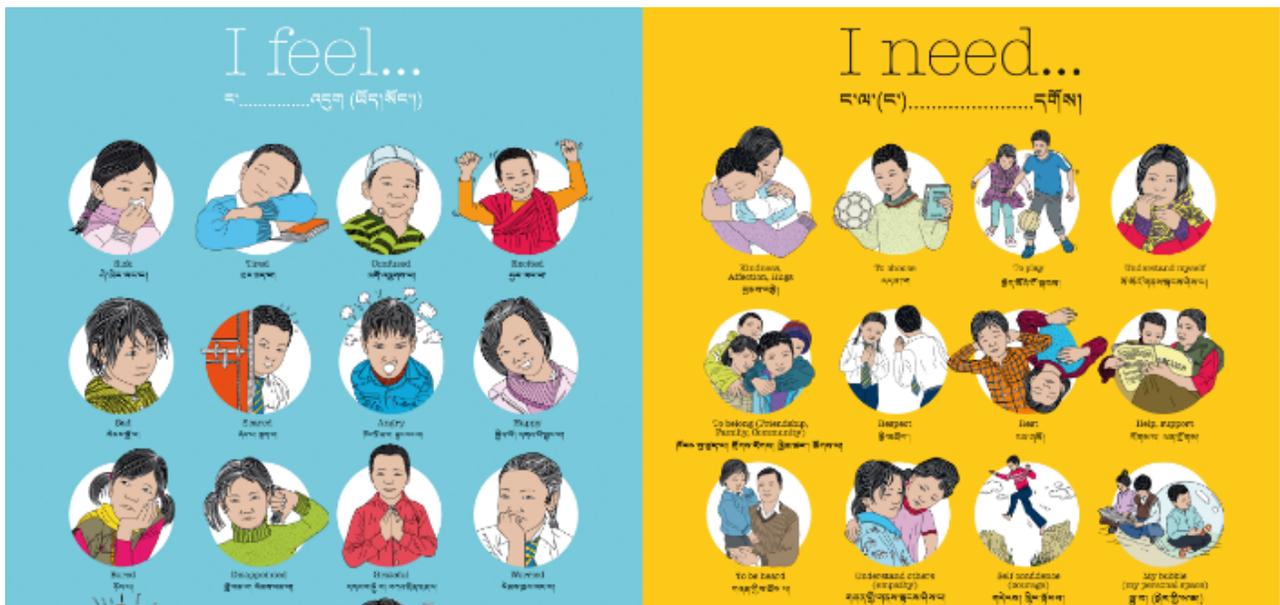
Since 2016, the Siddhartha School Partnership has sponsored the teaching and implementation of social and emotional learning (SEL) in every classroom on campus.

The SEL program gives teachers and students compassion-based learning activities, support for conflict resolution, restorative circles, and secular ethics awareness.

One core SEL activity uses classroom posters (below) to teach students how to identify and verbalize their emotional states, especially the problematic ones.

The posters and other SEL materials are key tools but have not been available to the students during this period of remote learning. So in December 2020, our SEL leadership set out to address the issue.

To that end, we convened Principal Dechen and our SEL leadership team to find solutions to the issue.





After some discussion, the all-star team of educators realized the course of action would be to add the SEL graphics to every student's school journal on the next printing and keep the practice going at home!

The Siddhartha School journal (held by student, above) is a chapbook containing each student's information, school policies, the Indian national pledge, and so forth. Because every student has their own journal, it is a great place to host key SEL materials. Having

decided on this course of action, Principal Dechen and Mr. Rigzin Tsering, Siddhartha School's computer teacher, set about preparing the new school journal's layout.

The new school journals will be printed and in the hands of every student at the beginning of the 2021/2022 school session.

We owe a special thank-you to Jeanne Cosby, whose generous gifts have delivered SEL curriculum and training to the Siddhartha School community!

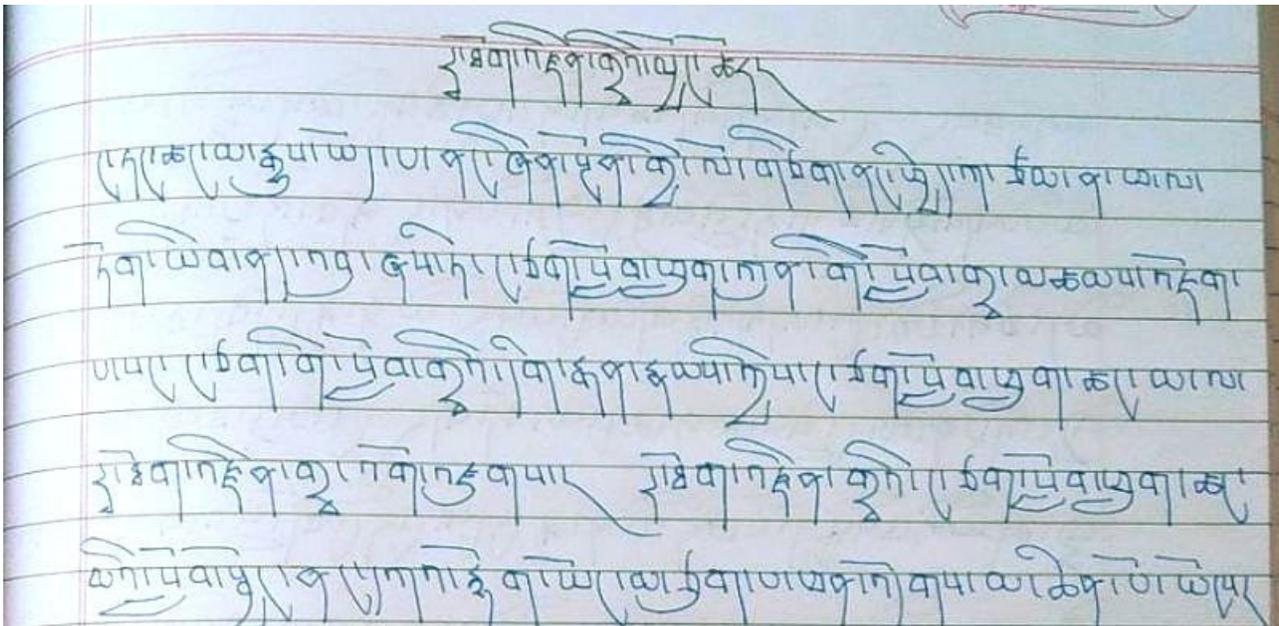


Photo: A Bodhi script excerpt from a competition essay.

Four Languages?

In June 2021, Siddhartha students in grades 6-10 participated in a Bodhi essay-writing contest, but what's Bodhi, you may ask?

Bodhi is one of the four languages that students at the Siddhartha School learn: Hindi, English, Tibetan, and Ladakhi. Though a member of the Tibetic language family, Ladakhi is not mutually intelligible with standard Tibetan.

The Ladakhi language is also called Bodhi or Bhoti. So as a learning tool, Siddhartha School's annual essay-writing competition really challenges the students to fully use this native tongue.

The topic for the 6th and 7th graders was "The Importance of the Usage of Native Language Ladakhi," and the topic for the 8th, 9th, and 10th graders was "Your Experience of Virtual/Distance Classes and Learnings."



THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

The Siddhartha School provides students with a thoroughly modern education that is in harmony with their Himalayan heritage and their cultural traditions.

DONATIONS AT WORK

Siddhartha School Partnership donors support

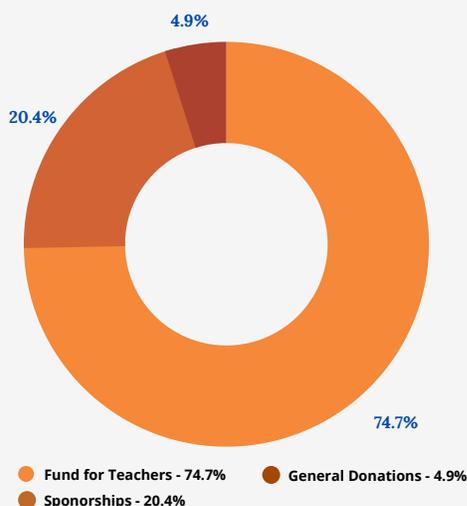
- Teacher & support staff salaries
- Schoolroom & building costs
- Materials & Supplies for Teachers & Students
- Social and emotional learning curriculum & training



DONATIONS & EXPENSES

11/1/20-10/31/21

Donations - \$284,329



Expenses - \$276,000

