

From the Editorial Team...

Welcome to the 2nd Issue of the e-newsletter hoping that you have enjoyed reading the 1st issue.

We would like to hear from you be it the articles you have read or you have something to share with rest of the readers to make the e-newsletter exciting and fun.

The Westgate Mall attack on 21st September 2013 has had a huge impact on all of us. Such a cowardly and tragic attack the terrorists did on the innocent people was unimaginable and un-thought of. This country was robbed of great men, women and children who were to be our future leaders. The injured and the unscathed ones surviving the ordeal of the terrorists' attack are living in fear and taking time to come back to normal life. Oshwal Academy Fraternity had held a memorial service in the honour of the late ones at the Oshwal Primary school ground. A separate tree planting ceremony was held at the Karura Forest to honour the victims of the tragic attack.

President Uhuru Kenyatta led leaders from various walks of life to come together to air their voice and bringing confidence in the country and to its people. And the famous tag line #WeAreOne was born.

Kenya celebrated the 49th Mashujaa Day on 20th October 2013. This is the day we remember our heroes who fought for Kenya's independence and also the country commemorates the people who have contributed positively to our great nation. Diwali and the New Year celebrations were held at various institutions and at the Visa Oshwal Community Centres. With respect to the Government directive, many had a good time celebrating the Diwali with noiseless fireworks. All had a good time eating mithais with luncheons and dinners!

December is the time for many to take a break from their businesses and travel on holidays with their families and friends. It is a time to look forward to the next year in achieving new targets and goals.

Further we have articles written by some of our Sub-committees giving everyone an opportunity to learn more on the latest OERB activities, including the Visa Oshwal Boarding photos with captions.

We hope you have a pleasant reading.

Tragedy at the Westgate Mall on 21st September 2013



It was a sunny day on 21st September 2013 when my wife Manisha and I stepped out of our residence to go to Diamond Plaza after dropping our daughter Niral for her tutorial class. Earlier in the day at 9am I had taken my younger daughter, Hansi, to her friends' house to join the twin sisters in their birthday celebrations.

While at Diamond Plaza I was insisting Manisha that we might as well do our shopping at Chandarana Supermarket instead of going to Nakumatt Supermarket. She was of the opinion of going to Westgate Mall, forget Ukay Centre branch.

When we entered the basement parking of Westgate Mall the time as per my watch was 11.35am. We made our way to Nakumatt Supermarket. While at the supermarket we observed that lights were going off and taking time to come back. Manisha and I were wondering why the mall generator was taking time to start, unlike before.

At 12.35pm, as per the Nakumatt cash receipt, we had done our shopping and were walking out of the supermarket when Manisha reminded me of going to Bata shop to check on my shoes. The shop was across the floor. I thought, aloud, of dropping the shopping bags to our car in the basement but changed my mind as it was already after 12.30pm and we had little time left before picking up Niral from her class at 1pm.

While at Bata I checked on the shoes, tried a pair the attendant had brought from the store and once satisfied I informed him to pack it for me. Before I could take my seat to remove the shoes we all heard loud noises as if the roof was caving down from the direction of main entrance of the mall. We saw people running towards Art-Cafe while Manisha and I were staring at the escalator thinking it was about to collapse.

At that spur of moment we heard gun shots and loud screams from the people running for cover. I told Manisha that we were better off lying down on the floor instead of running out of the shop. The next moment we realized that the staff attending to me had disappeared from the shop.

A lady shop attendant hurriedly locked the door of the shop leaving six of us inside the shop. The time according to my mobile phone was 12.51pm when Manisha rang her sister, Bina, informing her of robbers that had entered Westgate Mall and that we were hearing continuous firing of gun shots but we were safe inside a shop. She asked Bina to pick up Niral from her class. I called my parents who were at home informing them about the robbers invading the mall.

Manisha and I joined the Bata staff members to hide inside the store that was at the rear side of the shop. Manisha checked her Facebook status and we learnt with horror of the terrorist attack at Westgate Mall. Manisha and I remained composed without letting our mind to wander to any unknown ideas.

Niral called us from Bina's phone to find out whether we were doing fine. Niral then called her sister, Hansi, to inform her of the terrorist attack and whether she and her friends were fine. Hansi's friends' father called me informing me that they were at the Village Market and that Hansi was fine. We also spoke with Hansi telling her that all was well with us.

At 3pm we were informed by the Bata staff in charge that it was advisable for all of us to hide in their second store that was on top of the shop. Using the internal ladder we safely made our way to the store and gun shots could still be heard sometimes loud and at times in the distance. Due to the darkness in the store we were not feeling at ease especially we were not sure if anyone would break in to the shop.

One of the staff attendant suffered an asthma attack due to fear and anxiety and we all helped her to calm her down.

Manisha and I had assured our family members of our safety and that no harm had come on us. Many people including my Bank Managing Director and Chairman were calling us every half an hour making sure we were safe.

As this was happening on a Saturday afternoon I also had to send out a message from my mobile phone to my Newsletter Committee members about canceling the weekly afternoon meeting and assuring them of our safety.

At 4.45pm the Police were knocking at the front door of the Bata shop. The staff attendant in charge was called by her Manager to open the door for the Police to come in. We were then escorted out of the shop to the main entrance after staying inside the shop for 4 hours. The sight of the dead people that lay on the floor and pool of blood on the floor was very disturbing to all of us. There was shattered glass and bullets on the floor.

We united with our family members at 5.45pm and all were happy to see us safe and unharmed. Manisha and I were shocked to hear on the TV media about the grizzly attack by the terrorists and killing of the innocent people including the children. Manisha's family members joined us later in the evening to give us comfort. My brother in law and I went to pick up Hansi from her friends' place at 8pm.

That night Manisha, Niral and I did not sleep at all and were instead watching TV for news updates. Hansi was sound asleep probably due to her hardly watching TV during our ordeal at the Westgate.

The following week on Tuesday we all four went for counseling at the Oshwal Centre. To date Manisha and I get affected whenever we hear loud sounds of a door banging or sound of bursting balloons as it brings us closure to the sound of the firing guns.

Manisha and I extend our condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and a quick recovery to all the injured. We also thank to all the well-wishers and also to the people who risked their lives to rescue the shoppers and employees trapped inside the mall.

We pray to Lord Mahaveer to bestow peace, love and harmony onto our great nation Kenya.

#WeAreOne

Manisha and Dipan Gosar Zaverchand Shah

Memorial Service Befitting the Fallen Heroes



On Friday 27th September, the entire fraternity of Oshwal Academy Nairobi met at the Oshwal Primary grounds to hold a memorial service for the victims of the very tragic and brutal attacks at the West gate Mall on the 21st of September. The school students had dedicated a shrine with cards, candles and flowers to the deceased, which included students of the academy – Paramshu Jain, Neha Mashru and Pavraj Ghatuarae (Pablo), along with Mitul Shah of Bidco and Anuj Shah of Sona Shoppe.

After a very emotional receiving of the grieving families of the deceased, the school and invited guests started the memorial with a patriotic national anthem followed by prayers for the departed souls. Students recited a beautiful poem “Remember” by Christina Rossetti, which encouraged us to celebrate rather than mourn the lives that the community lost.

A minute’s silence followed as we paid our last respects to the heroes of the Westgate incident.

Trisha Ramesh Shah paid a tribute from the students to the departed, stating her surprise, “I don’t know what to say, but we must carry on living and continue with our normal lives”. This was followed by a sweet song sang by Neha Mashru’s sisters paying her a touching tribute.

Mr. Banerjee, the school principal, Dr. Mittal, principal of Oshwal College and Mr. Tanmay Lal, the Deputy Indian High Commissioner, gave their heartfelt condolences to the grieving families while encouraging them to live on supporting each other. Mr. Rajesh Shah, Assistant Secretary of the OERB also offered his solace to the anguished families, while also narrating the heroic acts of the deceased. Mitul Shah, the Marketing and Sales Manager of Bidco, was representing the firm at a cooking competition it had sponsored. He lost his life while saving the lives of 20 children. Pavraj lost his life as he chose to remain behind with his immobile grandma, both died unfortunately. The deceased were the fallen heroes of the Westgate attacks, leaving behind a legacy. The memorial ended on a peaceful note as the classmates of the deceased handed over condolence cards to the family members, and students paid their final respects to the departed souls.

Freelance Journalist – Jaini Shah.

Karura Forest Post Rememberance



The memorial for the victims of the Westgate tragedy was organized by Friends of Karura Forest on Monday, 21st October 2013.

OERB were invited to assist in this event. Sharad Rao, Vice Chair of FKF was appointed as Convenor and Rajesh Devchand Shah was appointed as Coordinator for the event.

Only two formal invitations were issued and these were in the form of notifications sent to HE The President of the Republic Of Kenya and HE The Governor of Nairobi County. The other notices were extensively broadcast by News Bulletins on the Radio and Television.

The guests included friends and families of the victims, some well wishers and members of the diplomatic corps. All were dressed in black or white or a combination of the two – due the traditional mourning colors amongst the different faiths.

The ceremony started at 10:20am with the National Anthem followed by prayers by school children from Oshwal Academy – these included Jain, Christian, Muslim and Sikh prayers and echoed the sentiments of the congregation – we may be of different faiths, religion, race color, tribe, nationalities but WE ARE ONE.

The formal part of the ceremony included very short and notable addresses by Prof Karanja, Chairman of Friends of Karura, Beth Mugo, the Indian High Commissioner on behalf of the diplomatic corps and Steven Kahunyo the Kenya Forest Service Coordinator for Nairobi County. There were solemn and moving performances from Oshwal Academy, School Band, Chelata Primary, Kenya Forest Service Choir and also a poem and a song in Latin by an OAN teacher Mr. Makanda.

The overall event was very solemn and somber. The formal event was followed by the tree planting ceremony in a section of the forest now called the 'Amani Garden' was set aside for planting 70 trees in memory of each of those who died.

All the guests were escorted in a very organized manner by the OAN School Band to the site.

A monument was established in the forest and all guests lay white roses in remembrance of the fallen ones.

The event received global coverage and was broadcast live by Al Jazeera. Stories appeared in N Y Times, France, UK, Jamaica, Thailand, Hong Kong, India etc.

Rajesh Devchand Shah

Visa Oshwal Boarding

"In the spirit of all work and no play makes Jack and Jill dull children, we believe that boarding life though primarily involves the pursuit of academic excellence, should have a healthy dose of fun and social activities.

The monthly karogas enable boarders access to the committee members, OAN principal and OAN Primary, Junior High and Senior High Heads and their deputies to mingle in a casual setting. It enables a building of good relations between the boarders and the committee members and creating a constructive dialogue channel to address issues and to allow people to drop their guard and have some fun.

The children sometime come up with various themes for the parties and this Diwali the children decided to have a Diwal-o-ween Party. All the halloween props were prepared by the boarders along with creative costumes and face painting.



Our lovely girls enjoying the crisp and cool breeze of Naivasha's Lake



Sumptuous cakes made by the master chefs of boarding!!



Many cooks certainly do not spoil the broth in this Kitchen!



Our very own Zombie apocalypse!!

"Some people come in your life as blessings. Some come in your life as lessons."

- Mother Teresa

4th Diwali Annual Cottage Fair

Nairobi



Kisumu



Mombasa



Economic Council of Oshwals (ECO) and the Oshwal Education & Relief Board(OERB) held the 4th Diwali Annual Cottage Fair in three centres to empower local home-based enterprises by providing a platform for them to showcase their products and services.

Home makers with exemplary talents in cooking, decorating, arts and craft as well as small –time business owners set up stalls at Oshwal Centre Nairobi on 6th October 2013, Oshwal Mahajanwadi Mombasa on 13th October 2013 and in Visa Oshwal Vanik Community Hall Kisumu on 20th October 2013 ahead of the Diwali festival.

The participants displayed a variety of cakes and confectionaries, savouries, pickles, decorative items, handmade gift items to name a few.

The full day events were packed within minutes from the opening ceremony as curious shoppers thronged the Oshwal premises to make Diwali purchases.

While the ambience was to usher in the festivities relating to Diwali, there was also a donation stall hosted by OERB and Oshwal Aid to raise funds for the 'We Are One' campaign for community policing who had proved to be very useful during the Westgate Mall Tragedy Siege.

In addition ECO also partnered with Kenol Kobil to reintroduce the Kenol Kobil card to members of the community at a discount.

The events also honoured the various chief guests who had spent their entire lives helping to support their families through home based enterprises.

ECO would like to thank the sponsors, in particular Smart Drive. The support by the Visa Oshwal Communities and numerous volunteers in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu is highly appreciated.

The Sporting Life!

The Sports Hub Committee of the Oshwal Education and Relief Board is pleased to announce that a vibrant and new school sports uniform has been procured for the coming academic year. The new uniform will be donned by all school team representatives of the academy. In order to ensure that Oshwal academy teams and coaches can be identified easily, the academies sports teachers will also don track suits of a similar design!

The academy also held a 'sports logo' design competition which was open to all students. The design of the logo was aimed at capturing the essence of the sports philosophy of the academy, by those who live it and breathe it and understand it best – academy students. The enthusiasm and artistic talent on display was evident in the fantastic logos which were submitted by the students. A panel of external judges comprising of art connoisseurs was given the task of selecting the 'winning' logo! The logo, chosen after much soul searching and discussion by the judges, will be displayed on the uniforms and will act as a reminder to all academy sportspersons to display the academies values in all sporting competition!

The role played by sports in a children's development as they progress in life cannot be underestimated. Sport brings together people from different backgrounds and cultures, and provides a common foundation in which individuals can learn from each other's experiences in life. Sports has also been widely acknowledged in developing leadership capabilities in children and teenagers who often have to take quick decisions when in the heat of competition – the learning derived and experience thus gained will enhance the decision making capabilities of the students in the future! With this in mind, the academy is currently experimenting with the use of technology to assist it in conducting post game reviews, and thereby helping sports coaches to refine strategies and improve coaching methods.

While we tend to focus on the winners in any sporting competition, we must bear in mind there are always teams and individuals who give it their all yet are eluded by the grand prize and finish as runners up or in third place. This is no mean feat in itself and the effort exuded by these sportspersons should be applauded and appreciated. This is another important lesson that sports teaches us about life – that not everyone can be a winner all the time and that accepting this fact graciously illustrates a lot about the character of an individual. However, it is important in both sports and in life to be able to give the best one has – and thereby enjoy the fruits of one's honest labour – whether or not this translated into a podium finish. Recent sporting history has provided too many examples of persons willing to do anything to win at all costs – a terrible example which is being set for

future sportspersons, and ruining the very credibility of many different disciplines of sport!

Therefore, while for many budding sportspersons winning is important, we would like to encourage everyone, whether young or old, to partake in physical activity whether it is for competitive, health or leisure purposes. We urge you to take a leaf out of the books of our budding sportspersons and try your hand at any form of physical exercise (after having consulted your physician!). Whatever your exercise regime, make it a regular part of your routine and the benefits will accrue to you over time!

We would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate an outstanding achievement in sport – Chris Froome winning the epic Tour de France 2013! Froome was born and brought up in Kenya till the age of 14, and learnt his trade under the tutelage of our very own David Kinjah of the Safari Simbaz fame (<http://www.safarisimbaz.com>). May you achieve many more tour victories – HONGERA FROOME!

Donation towards Community Policing



Mr. Rajiv Raja accompanied by Mr. Rajesh Shah receiving the donation cheque from Nainesh Shah, Bhavik Shah and Amar Lakhani.

A very special group of children from Sparsh Kenya donated Kshs 10,000/- to OERB on 5th November 2013 towards community policing, which was successful in handling the crisis during the Westgate Mall tragedy siege.

OERB Chairman Mr. Rajiv Raja was very pleased to learn from the children that the donation was from the proceeds collected from sell of promotional items they made for the Diwali festive period.

Sparsh Kenya is run by Mr and Mrs Kiran Devchand Shah and assisted by two able volunteers. You can visit Sparsh Kenya on the Facebook to learn more of their activities.

It is very encouraging and a lesson to learn from these wonderful special children. We wish Sparsh Kenya and the children the very best in the activities they are doing.

Watch this space in the 3rd issue of Enewsletter!

Visit to A to Z Textiles-Arusha



Economic Council of Oshwals took a delegation of 22 people to visit A to Z textiles in Arusha as an initiative to promote best practice in the manufacturing sector, an opportunity to learn from a large and successful group who have developed their companies by focusing on innovation, long term investment and quality.

The trip was a great success, and very well hosted by the A to Z family and VOC Arusha. All participants asked for future trips or visits arranged locally with an idea of progressive learning by sharing knowledge with one another.

Higher Education Loans Vetting and Recovery Committee

The Oshwal Education and Relief Board started with a vision of educating Oshwals many decades ago.

It was quite a visionary thought by our elders then and we all can see the fruits of the policies they started.

We have schools in the country which enable one to study right from the age of 2 until they finish a degree course at the Oshwal College.

Apart from the establishments of schools the Board has enabled many Oshwals to obtain university qualification from across the globe by lending them money to pursue their dreams of obtaining world class educational qualifications. The first Oshwal was lent Kes 2,909.10 in 1953. Since then a further 593 Oshwals have benefitted from this scheme.

In the earlier years to 1981 the amounts lent were less than Kes 100,000.00 per annum as only Kes 1.1m had been lent in this period. However, the increasing demand for University qualifications; increased costs of studying abroad resulted in an increase in the amounts lent. Hence between 1982 and 1997 a further Kes 32.7m was lent under this scheme. The banking crisis in 1998 that left the community and its members stretched meant that the amounts needed to fund University education grew substantially and hence between 1998 and 2012 a further Kes 378m was lent. Just in the last two years-2011 and 2012 close to Kes 109m was lent. Hence since the loans started the Board has lent out Kes 411.8m until the end of 2012.

The increased fees; cost of living and depreciation of the Kenya shilling contributed to a large number of Oshwals applying for these facilities. Although the Higher Education Loans Vetting and Recovery Committee has managed to recover over Kes 191.7m of these loans a substantial amount of Kes 220m.1m remains outstanding.

As one can see the amounts lent in 2011 and 2012 have been substantial and these will continue to grow and hence unless the Oshwals who have taken loans in the past repay the same quickly the Board may find it difficult to continue providing this support in future. We thus appeal to all Oshwals who have taken loans to ensure that they repay the loan quickly so that their fellow Oshwals can continue to benefit from this going forward.

The 5th Oshwal College Graduation Ceremony

The fifth edition of Oshwal College graduation ceremony, which was held on the 28th April 2013, opened to a fully packed auditorium at Oshwal Centre where over 130 Graduands were honoured with degrees and diplomas in the presence of their families, friends and invited guests. More than 300 awards were also given for top performances in academics, participation in students' co-curricular and extension activities, long service and exemplary student mentorship.

The ceremony was graced by Mr. James Mworira, the CEO of Centum Investments Limited, who was the Chief Guest, Office bearers and Members of Oshwal Education and Relief Board (OERB), Office bearers and Members of Oshwal College Management Committee (OCMC), office bearers and members of Visa Oshwal Community (VOC), representatives of Oshwal Academies Nairobi, PKF East Africa, I&M Bank, ACCA, ABE, ICDL, BTEC, British Council, and a host of other guests from the corporate world.

In his Speech, Mr. Mworira advised and encouraged the Graduands never to ignore jobs no matter how small they may seem, but to embrace them enthusiastically and use them as springboards for greater careers.

Speaker after speaker congratulated the Graduands for their achievements and parents for supporting their children, and encouraged the graduating students to go forth into the world with courage and determination and aspire to always leave a mark of excellence in whatever they do.

After the speeches, Graduands were conferred with degrees and diplomas.

Also during the occasion, the graduation souvenir, Reflections, was launched. After the ceremony, all the guests and attendants were treated to an evening of excellent food and refreshments.

Congratulations to the Graduands and all award winners for their remarkable achievements; parents for being there for their children; staff for their selfless dedication, and OERB and OCMC for their support, guidance, encouragement and inspiration.



IBM Visit during Open Day

Saturday, 25th May 2013 was a day full of activity in the College as the departments of Business Management and Information Technology held an open day in order to give an opportunity for prospective students to come to Oshwal College to learn more about the BSc (Hons) in Computing and BA (Hons) Business Studies (BABS) degree Programmes. These two programmes are offered by Oshwal College in collaboration with Greenwich University-UK.

The Speaker of the day was Dr. Amit Dave who is an IBM distinguished Engineer working in the STG Technical Sales team focusing on Middle East & Africa. He gave a talk about the changing job market needs and trends.

The senior academic staff members in charge of these programmes were available to explain to students everything about the programmes right from enrolment to completion. They also gave Information about campus life activities such as games and sports, clubs, students' support services among others. In deed the day was a great success as it gave potential students a wonderful insight into what life is like at Oshwal College.



ABE BTEC, and Prospective Students follow the open day proceedings



Dr. Amit Dave of IBM makes a presentation

ACCA Revision Day: Further Support



ACCA revision classes in session

Every semester, Oshwal College conducts revision classes for all ACCA papers. On 25th May 2013, the college held revision classes for ACCA which were attended by – in addition to the college students -students from other institutions in Nairobi such as Strathmore University, Cornerstone Training Institute, KCA University among others.

Revision classes are crucial to the students in that they not only help the students to learn new examination techniques, but also boost students' confidence by addressing tricky aspects of the syllabus and giving them tips on how to deal with stress and anxiety during exams.

Students also learn the last-minute exam revision tips and also practice critical questions before sitting for the real examinations.

Ameet Shah appointed to US Department of Commerce



On 24th January 2013 Ameet Shah, Co-Chairman of Astonfield Renewables, was appointed to the U.S. Department of Commerce Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (RE&EEAC).

Ameet is the son of Pushpaben and Dr. Lalchand Devshi

Shah of Mombasa. He was the first student from the Coast Province to go to Cambridge. He is an economics graduate from the Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

As a leading developer of Solar PV Assets in developing nations and a base of commissioned power plants in India, Ameet believes that the US has a unique and unrivalled opportunity to supply goods and services to these market.

Ameet's role is to represent project developers in the renewable sector. Issues such as energy efficiency exports, providing advice on development and administration of programs and policies to expand US renewable energy and strengthen competitiveness in the industry will be addressed.

RE&EEAC was formed in 2010, during the Obama administration and is composed of renewable energy companies, energy efficiency companies, organizations and trade associations.

Ameet has an outstanding track record in India forming partnerships with leading international engineering, procurement and construction companies. He has mobilized principal and venture capital investments well over \$150 million over the past 12 years.

We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

JEEP VISION'S – 7 Aside Soccer Challenge Event held on 30th June 2013



This event took place on Sunday, 30 June 2013, at the Burhani Sports Club, Mombasa hosted by Jepee Vision's Jinta Shah, Parit Shah and assisted by Jilna Parita Shah.

The event attracted 26 Senior Teams and 3 Junior Teams. Each team had 7 main players and three substitutes, along with their team captains and managers. The draws were held on 27th June at Burhani Sports Club and witnessed by the team captains.

The event kicked off at 9.15am on 30th June 2013. All the rules were relayed by the chief referee Mr. Idi Hakim Juma (KFF Official). The event had a total of 4 KFF referees. The rules were of simple soccer, with slight twists and changes to make the games interesting including penalty shoot outs.

There were 4 pools and all the toppers of each pool were drawn into the quarter finals leading each quarter. The second positions of each pool were randomly drawn in these quarters too.

The final's was between Al- Bhandar and Muslim Youth which ended in a Penalty Shoot Out. Al Bandhar won the tournament.

Winners and runners-up were awarded with cash prizes, medals, trophies and certificates, semifinalists were awarded medals and certificates and all participants got certificates.

"There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure."

- Paulo Coelho

RHEA SANDEEP SHAH – World Record Holder for 6 digits and 8 digit Square Root Sums



Rhea Sandeep Shah at the age of 13 achieved a tremendous milestone on the 31st of August 2013 at Ankara Turkey, by breaking the World Record for ten 6 digit square root sums in 1 min 30 seconds (90 seconds) and setting the new world record for ten 8 digit square root sums in 3 minutes 7 seconds (187 seconds) on the 5th of September 2013. Her world records will appear in the Guinness Book of World Records 2014 and Alternative Book of World Record 2014. She had also taken part in the 7th Turkey Memoriad Olympiad 2013 in the open category achieving 3 Silver medals in Mental Square root, Mental Multiplication and Calendar Dates (calculating the day of any given date from the 16th Century to the 21st Century) and a Bronze medal in Flash Anzan (mentally adding numbers that are flashed on a screen one after the other).

Previous Achievements

She had taken part in her first competition at the World Mental Calculation, Memory and Photographic Reading Olympiad held in Antalya, Turkey in November 2012. This is an Olympiad held once every four years where talented people from all parts of the world meet to compete. In the year 2012, 89 participants of 67 Countries were selected to participate at the Olympiad. Rhea Shah had represented India during both her competitions in 2012 and 2013 as she was trained under The Child Intellectual Academy in India, however she will be representing Kenya in her upcoming competitions. At the World Mental Calculation, Memory and Photographic Reading Olympiad she achieved 1 Silver and 2 Bronze medal (Mental Square root, Mental Multiplication, Speed Cards) competing in the open category (no age boundary). She was amongst one of the youngest contestants present at the Olympiad. She can mentally calculate 6 digit and 8 digit square roots, 8 digit multiplication and 10 digit addition sums. She can also memorize an approximate of 35 cards from a deck of cards in 5 minutes.

Training and Preparations

Rhea began training for this competition from April 2012. She initially practiced on the abacus and calculated each sum manually on paper before she used the Memoriad software. She trained on a regular basis for 8 to 10 hours. The training session also included morning exercises and Yoga, maintaining a healthy diet, playing chess to increase her level of concentration and once a week she had a session with a child psychologist. With a great amount of dedication and regular practice, Rhea can mentally calculate even faster than a calculator.

Future Endeavours

Her practice continues as she is all set to prepare for the next Mental Calculation competitions to be held in Germany and India 2014. She will also be taking part in the next World Olympiad in 2016 at Las Vegas. Her goal is to break her own world records and increase her speed of calculation in other categories too.

She is currently a student at the Oshwal Academy Junior High School in year 8. We wish Rhea all the best in all her future competitions and we are truly proud of her achievements.