

# Quarterly Newsletter



One School At A Time  
**OSAAT**  
A Safe & Strong School for every child

February 2008

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## Contact Us:

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## A “Magnum Opus” Jumpstarts 2008!

What would you call a 2-day dance and music extravaganza that brought nearly 400 dancers and singers together for a great cause? How would you describe the performances that kept a gathering of nearly 1,000 people spellbound and mesmerized? “A magnum opus” is the sentiment echoed all around by the judges, participants and patrons who attended “Naatya-Raaga 2008”, on February 23-24, 2008. This mega-event, hailed as a premier platform for showcasing the abundant talent of the bay area Indian classical music and dance community, was hosted by OSAAT to raise funds to uplift 3 rural schools this year.

The preparations for this mega-event got underway in October 2007, much to the delight of 37 dance troupes and 38 music troupes. They wasted no time in getting ready with their shows, costumes, music and props. We had to wait list many more and couldn't accommodate them in the end, proof positive that this signature event has been whole-heartedly embraced by the community believing in joining hands with us.

The relentless rain, the horrendous traffic, the cold, miserable weather – none of them could dampen the spirit of February 23, Day 1 of Naatya-Raaga at the McAfee center. It was a day filled with some of the best Kathak, Odissi, Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi dances we have seen. The judges were full of praise for the quality, variety and the creativity exhibited, and struggled with their decisions in choosing the top 3-4 winning teams in each category. It was a magical journey through the most beautifully presented pieces of Indian classical dance about mythological and modern stories of love, honor, devotion, peace, harmony and wonder.

On February 24, day 2 of Naatya-Raaga, the disparity between the atmosphere inside the auditorium of the Sunnyvale Hindu Temple and outside can only be described as incredible. Mother Nature thundered and poured outside, causing everyone to shiver in the cold. Inside, the auditorium was filled with melodious music and comforting warmth created by thunderous applause after each and every team's performance. Some of the most recognized, senior artists like Ustad Surinder Mann, Deepak Ram, Jaya Narahari and Shakuntala Murthy showered their blessings on the participants, who they believe are on the right track to someday becoming just as famous and respected as they are.


The incredible performances everyone witnessed and heard on both days are testimony to the passion Indians in the bay area have for keeping our tradition and heritage alive.

We, the OSAAT family, are grateful for the opportunity to bring the community together in such a joyous celebration to ultimately help hundreds of poor kids in India. Our heart-felt thanks to everyone who contributed as a participant, judge, volunteer, sponsor, donor or attendee.

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"Nrithyakalya", first place winner in the Sr. Semi-classical dance category strikes a pose.	The little gopikas of the "Aavishkar" team took home the second prize in the Jr. Semi-classical category	"Rajguru Sangeet Vidya Niketan", the first place winner in the Jr. Classical music category on Day 2.
		
Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi teams from various Bay area schools dazzled the audience.	Odissi teams from I-Gurukul and Jyoti Kala Mandir were part of a wide variety of classical dances exhibited on Day 1.	"Little kids with big talent" is how one of the judges described the teams that took part in the music contest on day 2.

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## Our Projects for 2008

After screening several proposals that were submitted to us, we have selected 3 needy schools as our projects for 2008 - Vishwa Bharati Vidya Samsthe (Bhadravati, Karnataka), Nazarbad Government School (Mysore, Karnataka), and Thandalam School (Chennai, Tamilnadu). As with all our projects, these schools have been serving a critical need in the communities in which they are operating, and are the only affordable means of education for thousands of kids in those communities. As with all our previous projects, these schools have an overwhelming need to repair, rebuild or construct from scratch, classrooms, door and windows, and drinking water facilities.

Detailed information has been posted on our website [www.osaat.org](http://www.osaat.org) and it is our sincere hope that you will join hands with us to help them.

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## Corporate Donation Matching

OSAAT is now officially qualified to receive corporate grants and employee donation matching from companies such as Microsoft, eBay, Oracle and Google, among many others. Please champion our cause at your place and help us. If you need any help to do so, please contact us at [info@osaat.org](mailto:info@osaat.org)

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## How you can help:

Please donate generously to the projects we adopt. Fundraising is a year-round effort and it is never too late to donate. Every dollar of your donation will touch hundreds of lives in ways that you can probably never imagine. Your donation is tax deductible and you don't need to look any further for a better social investment. You can also volunteer your time and help spread the word!