

ROOF-tops ROOF

Newsletter of the Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund

January 2009

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORPHANED YOUTH IN RUSSIA

ROOF is grateful to Troika Dialog, Linklaters, Clifford Chance, Cushman&Wakefield Russia, Price Waterhouse Coopers and our private donors who SPONSOR STUDENTS! for funding this project for the first semester of the 2008-09 school year!



NEW YEAR NEWS FLASHES!

Two ROOF clubs gathered for a special Christmas meeting to read G. K. Chesterton's "The Flying Stars". Volunteers Oksana Korotchuk, Uliana Shilkina and Maksim Shmakov spoke to us about life in Chesterton's England about traditional English Christmas celebrations.

Our Student Council in action! Among the many issues discussed at our first Student Council meeting was the problem of the Tidy Tea Table in ROOF's main office room. The council decided it would be a good idea to organize student duties to monitor the state of the tea table and established a rota. Now students will take turns tidying up the table and washing the cups. The "Tidy Tea Table" decision is just a first step toward students slowly beginning to take more responsibility for their own life and environment at ROOF.

Post-Orphanage Education Centre student Kesha Ekimov took a trip from Moscow to ROOF's Abilitation Centre in **Porkhov (Pskov Oblast)** for a short stay. He was met by Porkhov project manager Sergey Andreev and residents Anton Safronov and Kolya Kudryavtsev, who were preparing to entertain Stas Kuznetsov and Yulya Ivanova from our Abilitation Centre house in Baranovo. Kesha's trip was part of an ongoing initiative to integrate Moscow and Porkhov projects, sharing know-how and experiences and getting to know one another.

Before the New Year we started our **Christmas chess tournament** at ROOF, which was initiated by our students. They were so eager to play that we've organized the ROOF Chess Cup games for the beginning of 2009. Students and staff participating in the games are: Vikenty (Kesha) Ekimov (student), Dmitry Rostovsky (student), Maksim Mironov (student), Anton Lubny (student), Galina Vladilenovna (staff), Aleksey Sergeevich (staff), Natalia Spasskaya (student), Dmitry Lopukhov (student), Olga Vladimirovna (staff), Vladimir Sukhov (student), Ekaterina Olegovna (staff) and Vladimir Viktorovich (staff).

As the winter break is over, we are publishing the **results for the first term**. The results are expressed as a **rating** which is the arithmetic mean of the final marks in each subject. Marks are awarded on a 5.0 grade scale and read as a decimal number. We have completed the student ratings in the following subjects: Reading, Computer Science, Russian Literature, Russian, English, Maths, Algebra, Geometry, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Social Studies, Independent Working Skills. ROOF especially congratulates the following students who have made the "honour roll" by achieving ratings of 4.0 and above — the best results at our Education Centre:

Vikenty Ekimov (Group 11)
Dmitry Rostovsky (Group 11)
Natalia Spasskaya (Group 11)
Dmitry Lopukhov (Group 10)
Sergey Borisov (Group 7)
Ilya Shimanchik (Group 7)
Konstantin Astakhov (Group 6)
Dmitry Ivanov (Group 6)
Mikhail Davydov (Group 5)
Sergey Egorov (Group 5)

Sergey Ermilov (Group 5)
Lubov Kunaeva (Group 5)
Irina Abramova (Group 3)
Aleksandra Evstigneeva (Group 3)
Tatiana Kuznetsova (Group 3)
Aleksandr Mankov (Group 3)
Vitaly Permyakov (Group 3)
Aleksandr Gavrilov (Group 2)
Maksim Dorozhkin (Group 2)
Vladimir Spigul (Group 2)
Sergey Sychev (Group 2)



Vitaliy Permyakov is one of the students with the highest rating results. This shows how well he has advanced in his studies over the first 6 months of the school year. He is 26 years old and before coming to ROOF in the 2005- 2006 academic year he had completed 8 classes at a school for the severely mentally handicapped. In the 2008-09 school year he is in ROOF's Group No.3, studying at the grade school level. He is willing to study hard, rarely misses a class and works hard on his homework. His strong motivation to study brings good results. Vitaly's goal at ROOF is to complete the 9th grade curriculum at the mainstream level and enter an arts technical college.

ROOF PROGRAMMES IN PODOLSK CITY ORPHANAGE (MOSCOW OBLAST) IN 2008-09: For the 2008-2009 school year in **Podolsk Orphanage No.31** there are 31 children, 22 of whom study with ROOF teachers at various grade levels. They study Russian, Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science and Foreign Language by **ROOF teachers** on a regular basis. 16 students study in a mainstream comprehensive school and are doing quite well. This school year has a few difficult students: some of them have fallen behind their age group academically and some have developmental problems, for which reason they have been sent to individual study courses. These difficulties, however, are being overcome because of the consistent effort of ROOF's teachers.



The results for the first term are very promising: just one student has only a satisfactory mark (3), all the others have good (4) and excellent (5) marks. This was a tremendous success achieved by a common effort of both teachers and students. Initially, the students knowledge base was quite limited, making them less than eager to study until our teachers convinced them that they are smart and capable, and should want to demonstrate their talents to others. Each student needed a lot of persuasion and explanation before our teachers began their pedagogical task — students needed to be convinced that studying and education are worthwhile . By the end of the second term ROOF teachers could already see that children wanted to get good marks. High-schoolers (grade 9 and up) now have individual tutorials with teachers who are preparing them for exams.