

## **Excursion with our students in 2011**

### **Visiting Swayambunath**

The second excursion of students supported by our Austrian pen friends took place in May 2011. We visited Swayambunath which is perched atop a hill on the western edge of the Kathmandu Valley. The ancient Swayambunath Stupa is Kathmandu's most important Buddhist shrine. Narayan, his daughter Tipika and Sangita from EcoHimal Nepal made the trip together with our students.

Before the excursion we discussed with the students how they would like spend the money from their pen friends and they decided on a trip within walking distance where no driving is necessary. The majority of them never had a chance to visit Swayambunath even though they live nearby. So we accepted the students' request and decided to visit Swayambunath and celebrate also Nepali New Year 2068.

Students were met early in the morning at school and taken for breakfast to a small restaurant close to the Swayambunath Hill. Afterwards we walked through the Swayambunath area in detail in a leisurely way. Inbetween students played some games. After this very gentle tour we went to a rooftop restaurant to have lunch. The lunch was a bit late but students were so happy that they forgot about feeling hungry. Lunch was followed by cold drinks with singing and dancing. Arati, one of our students, was dancing almost all the time and Deepak sang the song Maya ta Yasto hoos (Love should be like this). In turn every student contributed some entertainment to commemorate the new year. It was an excellent celebration. A group of local tourist was very impressed by our program and offered a round of cold of drinks to our students.

After the nice new year celebration students went back to school around 5 pm. It was a special tour for the students since new and older students also had a chance to get to know each other. It was the most wonderful trip and students enjoyed it very much.

### **Going to the cinema**

As we had some remaining budget from the support by the Austrian students in St. Pölten we had the chance to watch a movie at the cinema with the students. In November, after the students returned from their holidays, we went to Ganga Cinema Hall in Kathmandu to see the Nepali Movie "Tod". A child from Nepal plays one of the leading roles in this movie – which was very impressive for our students.

Narayan and Keshab, a new team member of EcoHimal Nepal, met the students at their school to pick them up. All of them were very excited and the elder ones supported the youngest ones in getting ready – combing hair, taking baths, brushing teeth and dressing up nicely. We did the half-hour journey by public bus– around 10 km from the school. We took drinks and snacks with us to the cinema hall and enjoyed the movie very much. It lasted three hours – and the excited faces of our students – during and after the movie – made us all feel happy!

Keshab Bhusal, EcoHimal Nepal, November 2011



Visiting the temples of Swayambunath



Turning the prayer wheels – for good luck





Many monkeys live in the temple area – that's why Swayambunath is called "Monkey Temple"



Watching the monkeys





Having fun at the rooftop-terrace



Lunchtime!

## Some Pictures from the Cinema Excursion





