

e-NEWSLETTER

4th Feb - Mentaids Musical Band

Mentaids musical band performed at the Child-friendly Corner at the Kolkata International Book Fair, organised by the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights.

**15th & 16th Feb -
30th National Parents Meet (NPM)**

NIEPID (The National Institute for the Empowerment of People with Intellectual Disabilities), in collaboration with Parivaar NCPO (The National Confederation of Registered Parents Organisations), organised the 30th National Parents Meet (NPM), at the Indian Statistical Institute Auditorium, Kolkata. Parivaar Bengal was the host organisation. Ms. Trina Banerjee, Principal, and Ms. Sutapa Mukherjee (VTC Supervisor) attended the programme as delegates. Ms. Mouli Halder, Ms. Nupur Bhattacharya, Ms. Smita Das, Ms. Sova Neogi and Mr. Abhinandan Mandal, from Mentaids, were volunteers for the host organisation. Mentaids' musical band performed at the cultural programme held on the 15th evening.

A special mention must be made of the unique role Mentaids played in addition to the above. For the first time in the history of the NPMs, an international speaker was invited to make a presentation—Elizabeth Bonker, a world-renowned autistic non-verbal/speaking adult, and the Executive Director of Communication for All (C4A), US, along with two members of her team, Virginia Breen (Executive Chair & mother of Elizabeth) and Gale (Elizabeth's sister). This was made possible by the efforts of our Chairperson, Iona Kundu.

Throughout their stay in Kolkata, the Director, Admin, Lata Bhatia, assisted by special educator, Mousumi Ghosh, took care of the group. Visits to six organisations in the week following the NPM, were coordinated to a major extent by the Mentaids team for Parivaar Bengal.

7th Feb - Programme by Srijon Sabha

Srijon Sabha organised a programme at Aikatan, EZCC, Salt Lake. Students of Mentaids, namely Abhinav Banerjee, Priyanka Neogi, Shalini Karmakar, Somoshree Roy and Shourjyadeep Dutta, performed at the programme. It was attended by Ms. Mousumi Ghosh, Special Educator and Ms. Sova Neogi, Asst. Vocational Instructor.



Glimpses from 30th National Parents Meet (NPM)



**Priyanka Neogi, President, SAFI Bengal
being feliciated by
President & Gen. Secy Parivaar NCPO**

18th Feb - Workshop

Mentaid organised a workshop with the team of Communication for All, at its premises. Ms. Elizabeth Bonker delivered a talk through her laptop, on how non-speaking individuals with neurodiversity can communicate with others. Her mission is to support families and schools who seek to give non-speakers a voice. It was a wonderful learning experience for all the teaching staff and the parents who attended the workshop.