St Dominic's pen pal program and gifts connect students in Perth and Myanmar

Students at St Dominic’s Primary School in Innaloo have had the opportunity this year to connect with students living in the Metta Geha Orphanage in Myanmar through a pen pal project and gift giving.

St Dominic’s Primary School introduced the project early in the year, with Year 3 and 4 students writing personal letters to send with gifts of stationary items to individual students at Metta Geha Orphanage, which is located in the small town of Kanpetlet.

The school also held a ‘rice day’ fundraiser, and used the money generated to purchase educational toys and sporting equipment for the orphanage, run by local resident Tui Tui and her husband Stephen. The centre is home to about 40 children between the ages of one and 18, who have all been affected by poverty.

St Dominic’s teachers Liz Lofthouse and Maggie James delivered the letters and gifts during a three-day visit to Metta Geha during the April school holidays, after journeying along winding roads into the mountainous area in Myanmar’s western Chin State.

The children at the orphanage were delighted with the letters and gifts, and spent hours playing soccer, Connect Four and building with Lego with during the teachers’ visit.

The two St Dominic’s teachers were welcomed warmly during their stay, and left the Metta Geha Orphanage enriched by the experience and with a greater understanding of humility and gratitude, which they have returned to share with their students.

ENDS

Liz Lofthouse is the Year Three teacher at St Dominic’s School and is also an ambassador for The Mandalay Projects. The Mandalay Projects Limited is an Australian charitable organisation, which provides strategic, sustainable, development assistance to a growing number of orphanages and other organisations in developing countries in Asia.

http://www.themandalayprojects.net/the-projects/

This was Liz’s second trip to visit orphanages in Myanmar

Maggie James is the Music and Support teacher at St Dominic’s School. Maggie was delighted to join Liz on the trip to Myanmar to visit The Metta Geha Orphanage.