

With thanks to St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Action for Russian Children (ARC), BKC-IH Moscow, Charity Aid Foundation (CAF), Vitol Charitable Foundation, World Childhood Foundation, GlobalGiving Foundation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Ernst & Young, Clifford Chance, Global Fund for Children, Globus International, HyperGlobus, Linklaters, Nestle, TVAllianceMediaGroup, Centre for Philanthropy and "Cards of Kindness" project, the Future Actually Community of Translators, DeVere Group, Starbucks, Bulgakov House Museum-Theatre, Vladimir Spivakov Foundation, Pokrovskie Vorota Cultural Centre, Masterskaya Theatre and Club, Diell and numerous private sponsors for their help and support of the Step Up Orphan Opportunity Centre.

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Trip to Abramtsevo



Photo by Alexander Maksakov

On March 8th we went on our traditional day trip out of Moscow. This time we visited the Abramtsevo Estate Museum and the Pokrovsky Khotkov Monastery.

The purpose of such trips is not only to visit an interesting place and have a great time in good company, but also to learn about local history, important events and famous people. And it is here that Father Pyotr, who knows a lot about all these places, always helps us!

The excursion was of particular interest for our students who have attended Sony photography courses. They got a chance to use their new photography skills and capture the events of this sunny day.

We are grateful to Father Pyotr and all those who made this trip happen!



Dear friends!

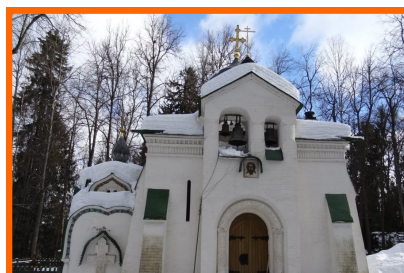
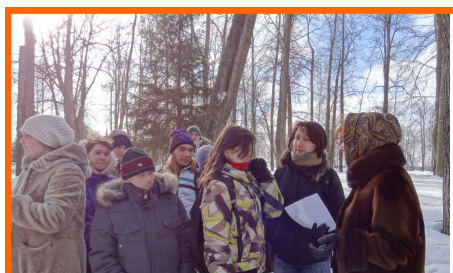
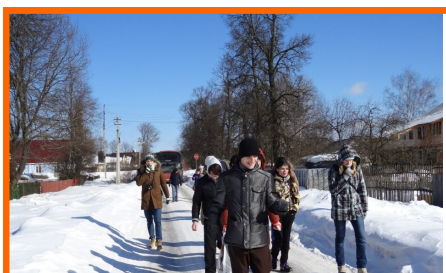
We are delighted to be able to invite you to our Conference on India, during which our students will give presentations. It is the result of much hard work by our Foreign Cultures Club.

Our students will tell you everything about the cuisine, culture, religion and history of diverse and wonderful India.

Come along! And bring your friends!

**April 29th at 6 p.m.
Pokrovskiye Vorota Cultural Centre,
27 Pokrovka Street**

**We are grateful to Elena Voronina,
the director
of the Abramtsevo Estate Museum,
and to the guides for their help
and wonderful tours!**



Coming Soon! A new project from Step Up's students!

Step by Step

March 2013

**"We're a team,
not just boys off the street!"**



The third Blitz Football League, where Step Up's football team came third, finished not long ago. Amongst the participants there were very strong teams including Desperado, Coalition, International School of Moscow, and others. This League didn't differ significantly in format from previous ones, but there have been considerable changes inside our football team linked to the new coach and to the players themselves feeling themselves part of a team. We spoke to some of the participants in our team about these things:

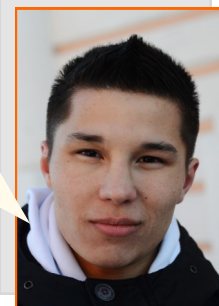


This tournament was a transitional moment, a starting point. It was the first tournament with our new coach. Many things, such as communication, understanding what the coach is expecting from us, we began from scratch. And you need some time for such things to bear fruit. With our new coach we have a new arrangement in our team that pleases us, and will lead to better results in the future. We hope that during the new tournament we will do better, refine our game and win. We have a real chance. You always have a chance to win, even if your competitor is stronger.

Sergei, player

I think that the team has been re-formed; some players came back, and we have found a new coach. Now we have training sessions more often than before. A year ago, our team underperformed, was undisciplined but now everything will be different. There will be a completely different game, and different results.

Misha, player

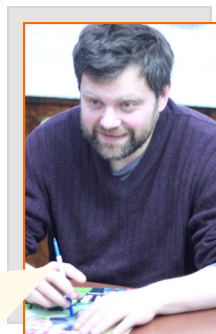


We have a very close-knit team, and great guys who can play better than they do at the moment. It's cool when there are such guys. By and large, our team is young, and promising. In the future we are planning to take part in the Russian Cup... We are buying new football uniform. Everything will be great!

Ruslan, player

I didn't see how the team played before, but, in general, I'm surprised by their performance, their understanding of the game and their efforts. I am grateful to some players who can sacrifice results to the greater good of building a true team, to making the team grow and develop, and to making others play better. This was one of the most important things that happened during this tournament — it is not only victories that are important, but also the growth and development of our players.

Andrei, the coach



We are so proud of you guys!

Maslenitsa at Step Up



Wide Maslenitsa
Photo by Dina Magnat



Volodya, a student, making delicious
pancakes. Photo by Dina Magnat

In March we celebrated Maslenitsa at Step Up. Our students made so many pancakes, both plain and stuffed, that winter just had to give way to spring.

We put together a judging committee, composed of students and teachers, who had to decide whose pancakes were the best. Our students from Group 11, Ruslan and Andrei, won first and second place, and in third place was the wonderful Dina Magnat.

All the pancakes were very delicious. Many thanks to everyone!

This "pancake party" not only fed everyone, but also gave us a chance to gather all our friends and graduates together!



Preparation for the Foreign Cultures Club's presentation on India



Our conference devoted to India is very soon and Step Up students and their teachers are working very hard. Before choosing the topics for their presentations, they attended a talk about India by one of our teachers, Anton Anokhin. He told them many fascinating things about Indian culture, important events and individuals, and the religions and languages of the people who live there. Our students were inspired by Anton.

If you attend the conference you will learn about Ayurveda, curing Mudras, traditional Indian dishes, the Vedas, karma, Indian dances, sport and many other things.

Come and have fun!

A new opportunity to help Step Up online!

Supporting us has never been so easy! Step Up has recently become a participant in the [blago.ru](http://www.blago.ru) program, and you can now make a donation with your bank card in just two clicks of the mouse!

The funds raised will go towards paying for the classes for our students during the academic year.

You can make a donation at:
http://www.blago.ru/want_to_help/donate/111/

To donate in support of our work, you can also visit the "Support Us" section on our website: <http://vverh.su/howtohelp.html>.

Thank you!