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WE, that is, they are all for carrying their blessings forward. These 25 children from Standard VII in Cathedral and John Connon will be performing with children from civic schools to raise money for the Salaam Bombay Foundation, at Blue Frog this Friday.

Learning to give

FROM elite school Cathedral and John Connon in town comes this rather nice story about 25 children from Standard VII coming together to put up a performance at Mumbai's School popular music destination - Blue Frog. This Friday the 13th from 5 to 7 pm and if you are in the paying audience, you will be treated to pop, jazz, contemporary dance and of course the mandatory Bollywood numbers.

The money is to go towards supporting deserving students in the Salaam Bombay Academy of the Arts and rehearsals are going on in different parts of the city in full swing.

The Salaam Bombay Foundation itself was founded in July 2002 and it is Mrinalini Somani, daughter of the founder, who has spearheaded what she calls the Carry Forward

movement to give back to underprivileged children studying in civic and government-aided schools. Through its arts academies, it has been empowering children "to make correct choices", away from destructive habits like gutkha chewing which invariably results in a high drop out rate, towards healthier choices. And what better way to help than through channeling your inner musician, singer or dancer!

Mrinalini has been involved from a young age, and in this particular project, children from the arts academies have joined with her and her schoolmates to perform. That's what makes this initiative different. Besides the arts academies, incidentally, there are also sports and media academies that provide "experiential

platforms".

This year the Foundation has reached out to 50,000 children from 230 municipal and government-aided schools.