

Greetings from the desk of the Principal!

"The answer to every adversity lies in courageously moving forward with faith."

I am sure each one of us resonate with Edmond Mbiaka's words now more than ever. Covid 19 did throw us off the gear momentarily, but soon we moved forward with a new way of life where being safe is most important and working and learning continues with redefined paradigms.

Schools went virtual to ensure that learning continued. Yes, we miss the physical presence of our children, them running around in the corridors, we miss their curious glances, the discussions beside the display board, we miss a casual chat with them in the courtyard or even with a colleague for that matter, we miss the vast open classroom spaces, we miss the noise from the playground.....! I could go on and on. But the reality is that we have to settle for what is possible and celebrate the possibilities.

Let's face another reality with grace. Online teaching cannot be a replica of classroom teaching. A crucial question put forth by many is 'will the teachers be able to cover the syllabus with online classes? Well, my answer to this question is borrowed from a famous quote by Ann Parker. *'Let the teachers uncover the syllabus!'* Let the teachers activate learning and empower the children to explore and assimilate information to construct their knowledge. Let the learners and habits of learning get priority over syllabus coverage. This is exactly what we are striving for. Online classes ensure sustained classroom connections between the teacher, the children and the school community- an important engagement as we all know that learning is a social and emotional activity. We are grateful to our parents for supporting us in this endeavor.

This edition of the newsletter will give you a glimpse of what our children and the teachers have learned and achieved in the last two months. I hope you enjoy reading it!

Important Note:

Starting from this newsletter, Grade 6 and 7 students have been included into the School's newsletter committee. On that note, they have participated in conducting teacher interviews, transcribing it and also contributed in designing the newsletter.

Our learning



happens at home. .

Highlights of June & July

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After Interviewing the Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2 home room teachers, my thoughts are:

Ms. Deepthi, Kindergarten Co-Ordinator and UKG Homeroom teacher: The students like her a lot and she loves her students. She did a lot of fun learning with her students, one of them is when she showed them wooden blocks in which there were painted alphabets for the kids to learn letters more easily.

Ms. Khairon, Grade 1 Home room teacher: One unique project which happened over this online teaching period in her class was learning about Healthy diet through cake making. The learners made the cake together with the tutor and their parents.

Ms. Shivani, Grade 2 Home room teacher: She remarks that her biggest problem was her internet, as it always takes time to load things and sometimes it goes out. Thus, to tackle this issue she makes the classes short and crisp so that it will be done quickly and further the concepts too will be clearer to her students.

- Ahsan (Grade 6)

Kindergarten

LKG:

Children spend the best of their time during the lockdown in developing their fine motor, sensorial, gross motor and social skills through various activities.

Kindergarten children initially started their virtual learning sessions in setting up their own learning spaces.

As they celebrated the family week. Grandparents were also a part of the virtual learning environment by sharing stories, talking of best gardening practices on how to grow an indoor bushy money plant and craft activities for the children.

Happy moments are created virtually through celebrations where children celebrated brotherhood, "Raksha Bandhan" where they made their DIY rakhi and tied up their bond to their siblings.

They celebrated EID and watched the moon that night and they also celebrated Krishna Janmashtami by dressing up and sharing their art works.

Children are learning to become responsible learners by following the given instructions and they are trying to perform under minimal guidance.



Celebrations - Prekg:

Sahana loves celebrating occasions and the joy she gets is evident from the pictures. She loves the process of each activity and thoroughly enjoys it. She involves herself in the activities that are carried out by the parents and brings in joy to the entire family.



World Nature Conservation Day-UKG:

As part of the Nature Conservation Day, the learners in UKG watched a video on the Nagarhole National Park Karnataka, by wildlife photographer Shaaz Jung. They reflected on how it is important for us to save forests as it is home to many

Animals and birds. Together the class came up with answers such as the practice of planting more trees to support our surroundings and conserve nature. The class made bird feeders and placed them in their respective balconies for the birds to have grains and water. They extended this by hugging the trees which as an activity that has a lot of health benefits, tracing the bark of the plant to observe the patterns it makes etc. They also helped birds by making nests

UKG students made paper bags to celebrate World Paper Bag Day



The Art of Story Weaving - (Grade 1):

A story can be written and a story can be weaved. The difference is that one can be disorderly but the other is almost always orderly. The other day children of grade 1 learnt the art of weaving a story and narrating it. Weaving it around a template, having a title, illustrator, character, setting, problem, solution, middle of the story and the end of it. Children came up with creative titles like the Unhygienic Spider man, The Boy Fairy etc. All in all it was entertaining and informative.



How to Bake a Healthy Cake - (Grade 1):

As a part of healthy living, children of Grade 1 learnt how to make a whole wheat flour cake batter with basic ingredients. They were taught about the nutritional advantages of using whole wheat flour instead of the usual refined flour. They then baked the batter in their ovens with the help of their parents. It was a great sight to see, the satisfaction and happiness in them when they were relishing the baked cakes.



Grade 2 students celebrated EID ul fithar with their family and their classmates. They also learned the true essence of the festival that is sacrifice and sharing. They made a beautiful card for their parents and thanked them for the sacrifices they go through for the family. Students prepared biriyani, falooda and enjoyed eating with their friends online.



In Gp, students learned about school life as to how different it was before, compared to how it is now. They also shared their views and experiences in their online classes. They interviewed their parents about their school life and how different it was back then and what are the things that have changed over the years and what's still in common. Students shared their work in the class and discussed the similarities and differences between theirs and their parent's school lives.



Students did an online experiment on how friction works in the different surfaces by rolling a ball over the different surface and they developed an understanding that smooth surfaces have less friction and rough surfaces have more friction. They also did an experiment on gravity where they used different materials to check their gravitational pull. They were also able to connect the uses of force and motion in their daily lives and reflect upon how it would be if there was no force.

Motivating Monday is all about learning something new and motivating each other. Each of the students took turns teaching their friends something new like arts and crafts, they even shared interesting facts and thoughtful quotes to motivate their classmates.



Srivangmayi teaching different bharathanatyam mudras



Salt painting session by Harshaath



Sreela demonstrating different shapes and the names of the shapes to her classmates.



Thoughtful quotes to motivate their classmates by ariana

Tasty Tuesday:

Grade 2 students helped their parents with making and serving breakfast to their family and sat down with them to eat together for Tasty Tuesday. They also thanked their parents for all the love and care by giving them a big hug. Students enjoyed and shared their experiences with their peers during an online class.



Wonderful Wednesday:

Students participated in a quiz about the different wonders of nature and took a virtual tour to the different places which they thoroughly enjoyed it.



Our PE teacher, took a session on yoga where the students learnt some simple and effective yoga postures.

He even talked about how each poses helps keep everyone fit and stay healthy. Students also shared their experience on why it is important to stay healthy and exercise every day.



World conservation day - Grade 2:

Students discussed why nature is important and about the current crises going on that are destroying nature. They discussed why it is important to recycle some materials which if not, will pollute nature such as plastic bottles and containers. They made connections to the lesson where they learned about plants in their science class.

They made connections to the lesson where they learnt plants are an essential part of life on earth. Students made a few items using recycled plastic bottles and tin cans such as pen stands and flower pots. They shared that the only way we can give back to nature is by planting more trees and by reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Observe your surroundings what do you see?

Do u see plants, blue sky, birds?

How do they help us?

What will happen if they are not there?

Nature has given us so many things, what can we give back to nature?

Lets share our thoughts....



After Interviewing the Grade 3 and 4 home room teachers, my thoughts are:

Ms. Sona - Grade 3 Home room teacher remarks that at the beginning of the online teaching period, Strategies like setting essential agreements between the student and teacher has helped in making online learning effective. One among many learning which happened during this period was when the students learned about traditional stories, fairy tales, myths, legends and dialogues through activities like dress up as their favorite character. As sharing and sacrificing are important values, they were integrated during the Eid celebrations. They also learnt about the concept of conservation through mindfully practicing certain duties at home such as switching off fan, closing tap and reusing things.

Ms. Gayathri - Grade 4 Home room teacher felt that the students at first found it hard to accept online classes. Later on, students started enjoying it after few interesting hands on activities. One such activity was observing a plant at home to identify the parts of a flower. This was one way of having experiential learning even during virtual classes (for science).

Further through another activity, they learnt about National Doctor's day.

- Ms. Gayathri Home room teacher came dressed like a doctor which built a lot of curiosity in the students and together they reflected on gratefulness towards their service to our community at these peril times.

Experience as a teacher

- Since Ms. Gayathri is a new teacher, it was a new and challenging experience but slowly a rapport was built with the students through interesting activities such as above.
- On that note, having lunch with the students on screen during Eid celebration made the teacher more connected with the students as well.

- Mirra P.S (Grade 7)

Learners of Grade 3 had a lot of fun learning about Myths, Legends and fairy tales. To enrich their understanding about traditional stories, they dressed up as their favourite characters and delivered interesting dialogues. We had Akilan dressed up as Robinhood, Atharva as Erron Black, Eric as Icarus, Gautham as Thor - the god of thunder, Mahita as Rapunzel, Sahasra as Elsa, Viswagna as our very own Tenali Raman and Charu as Dracula.



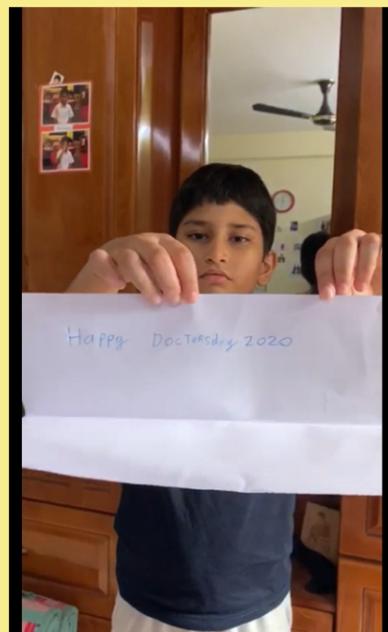
Grade 3

Students learnt how to measure mass of an object using the right equipment. They weighed grocery items they had at home to arrange them in increasing order of weight and to compare them to observe which are lighter and which are heavier.



GRADE 4 Students celebrated National Doctor's day:

On the account of National Doctor's Day which was celebrated on 1st of July 2020. Students of Grade 4 made cards and expressed their gratitude to the doctor's who have been extending their service even during the pandemic and saving the lives of people.



Grade 3: The essence of Eid ul adha - sacrifice and sharing- was explained to the children through the Story of Ibrahim. Children imbibed the essence of the Eid festival by taking a pledge to sacrifice a little bit of their time everyday and helping with the chores at home. As part of the celebration, children helped in making biriyani and falooda at home and had a virtual lunch get together with their classmates. It was a time of shared joy and happiness. Children made cards for their family members who had sacrificed a lot for their happiness and well being.

Grade 3: Students enjoyed observing the life process of living things by creating the 'Magic of life'.

They brought together the magic elements of air, water, sunlight and seeds. They maintained a table to record their observations each day. They saw how the plant showed growth and movement as the roots grew down and the shoots grew up. Sensitivity to the environments was seen as the saplings moved towards light. Reproduction process was seen as the seeds germinated and developed roots, shoots and leaves as they took in nutrition from soil.

They also investigated the various habitat of living things. Children created diorama to represent the living things that adapted to that particular habitat.



After Interviewing Grade 6 & 7, Science, Mathematics, Hindi, French, Library, Art and Physical Education Department, my thoughts are:

How do teachers motivate and engage students in an online environment?

Many teachers keep the students engaged using online quizzes, simulation videos, fun games to the lower grades and DIY projects aimed at higher grades. Further, all the teachers are doing their best to make sure that the students are active and at the same time encourage the learning in the classes using these above-mentioned such activities.

Unique projects done in class during this online teaching period?

In Science, the students of Grade 7 did a working lung model for biology. This model really helped the students learn the concept of breathing and respiration.

For PE, Grade 3 and 4 did an activity on Flexibility and Balance. Students had to position themselves in such a way that their body resembles the alphabet.

For Hindi, the students did conversation between a sabziwala and a grahak for the topic Dialogue Writing. Ahsaan played the role of sabziwala and Mirra played the role of grahak. Both of them delivered their dialogues with actions live online. I believe this activity gave them a live experience and a chance to explore and enhance their Hindi speaking skills.

How do teachers manage their time during the online classes?

Most of the teachers agreed on the fact that at first it was difficult for them but as time passed, following routine was very helpful. Further, many teachers plan their time in a specific way so that they could get some physical exercise during the day due to the sedentary lifestyle during this crisis.

What are the new skills developed by the teachers during this pandemic, if any?

Speaking from their answers, when the teachers were in school most of the environment was controllable and they knew how to respond to it by experience. But in an online environment they really need to engage their students and go beyond their limits. Thus, everyday is a challenging day for them and they are doing a fantastic job to face it.

-Interview conducted by Anirudh for above mentioned activities (Grade 7)



Ahsan Grade 6 student tried a simple experiment at home to explore and learn about the breakdown of substances by microorganism. In this experiment, Ahsan used yeast and sugar at home to observe how yeast breaks down sugar and releases carbon dioxide.



Grade 7 students use household materials such as balloons and bottles to explain the process of inhale and exhale in respiration. Each student made a model and explained it to their peers.



Learning and celebrating festivals with meaning. Expressing gratitude in the form sharing, Anirudh Grade 7 student reflecting upon Bakrid celebrations. Sharing is caring.



Bakrid and Krishna Jayanthi Celebration....

Grade 7 student Abaranji drew the Krishna Patha kolam, welcoming Lord Krishna into the house and into our hearts. Students delved into our culture by learning the traditions through festivals.

Grade 6 and 7

Grade 7 students explored non fiction texts such as different leaflets and learnt how to effectively write one! Each student was encouraged to come up with a business plan or a startup idea for which they wanted to create a leaflet! Each one of the students came up with innovative projects and business ideas and incorporated the features of a leaflet in them! Some of them thought of launching a golgappa (pani puri) business, some thought of a book lending startup and others thought of launching a pastry and snacks business. Students learnt and developed skills such as being a good writer, designer as well as a budding entrepreneur!



The Aurum Bakery

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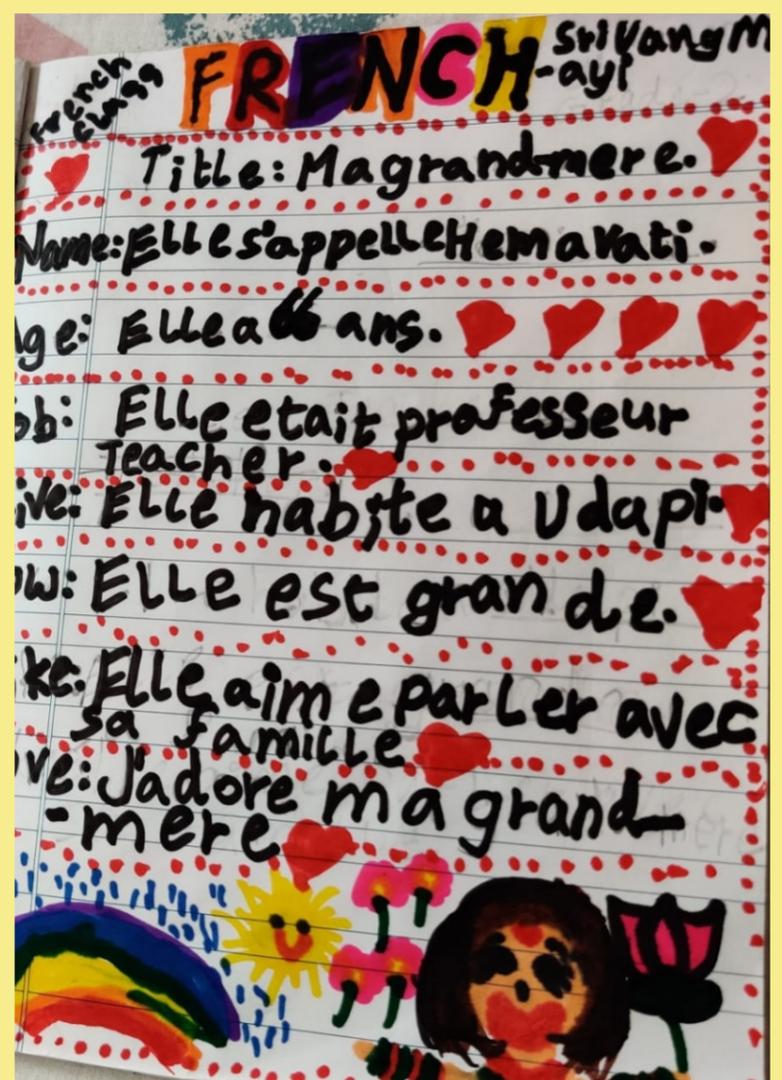
For more information contact:



During a mindfulness session, Ahsan, a grade 6 student, came up with a solution for the people suffering from exhaustion. He researched on various spices and its benefits for relieving stress and fatigue and came up with a face mist called "The Peace Mist"! The face mist included ingredients such as star anise, cardamom, mexican mint, lemon and clove! During this pandemic, students are learning to be innovators, researchers and problem solvers.

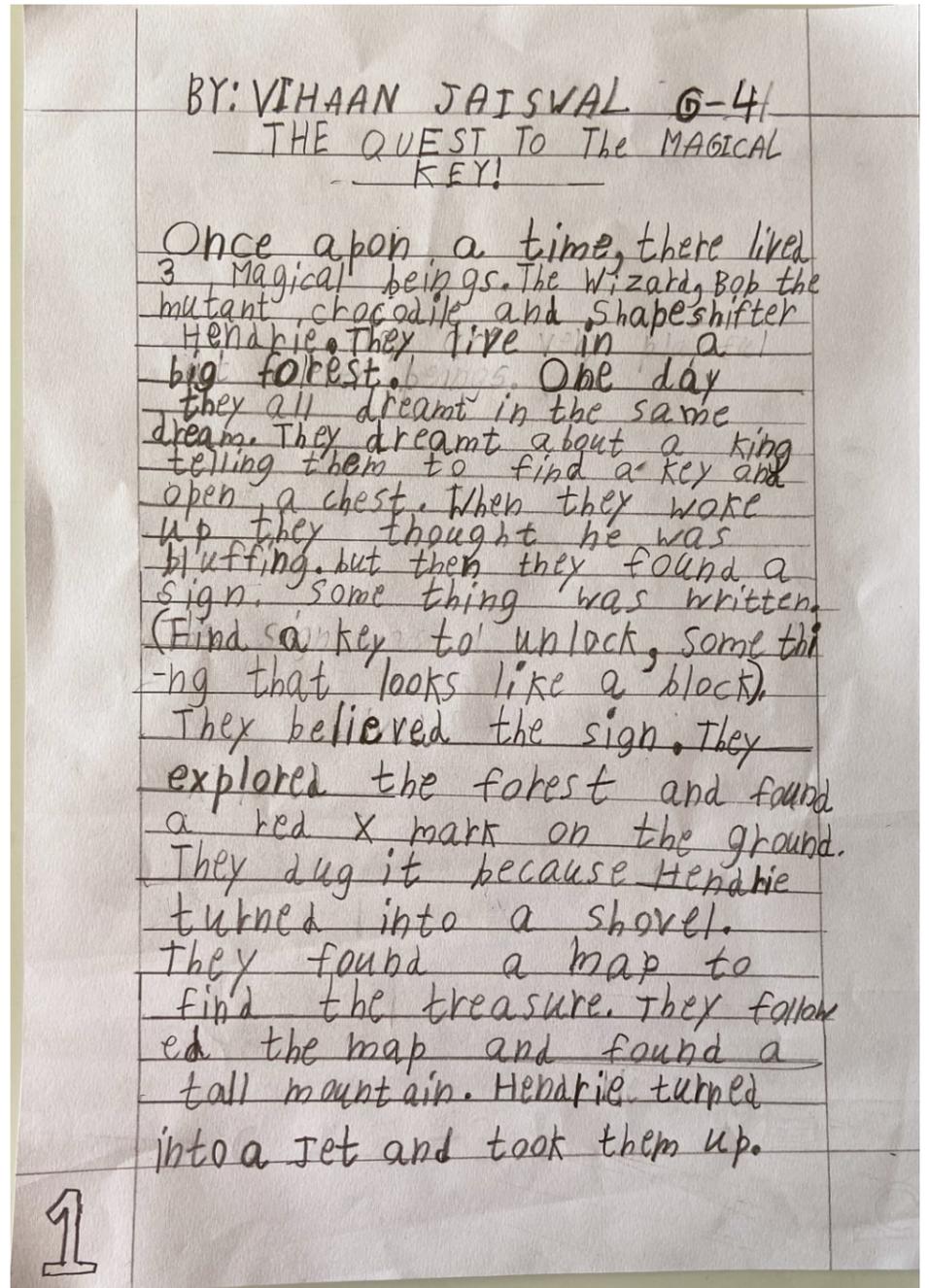
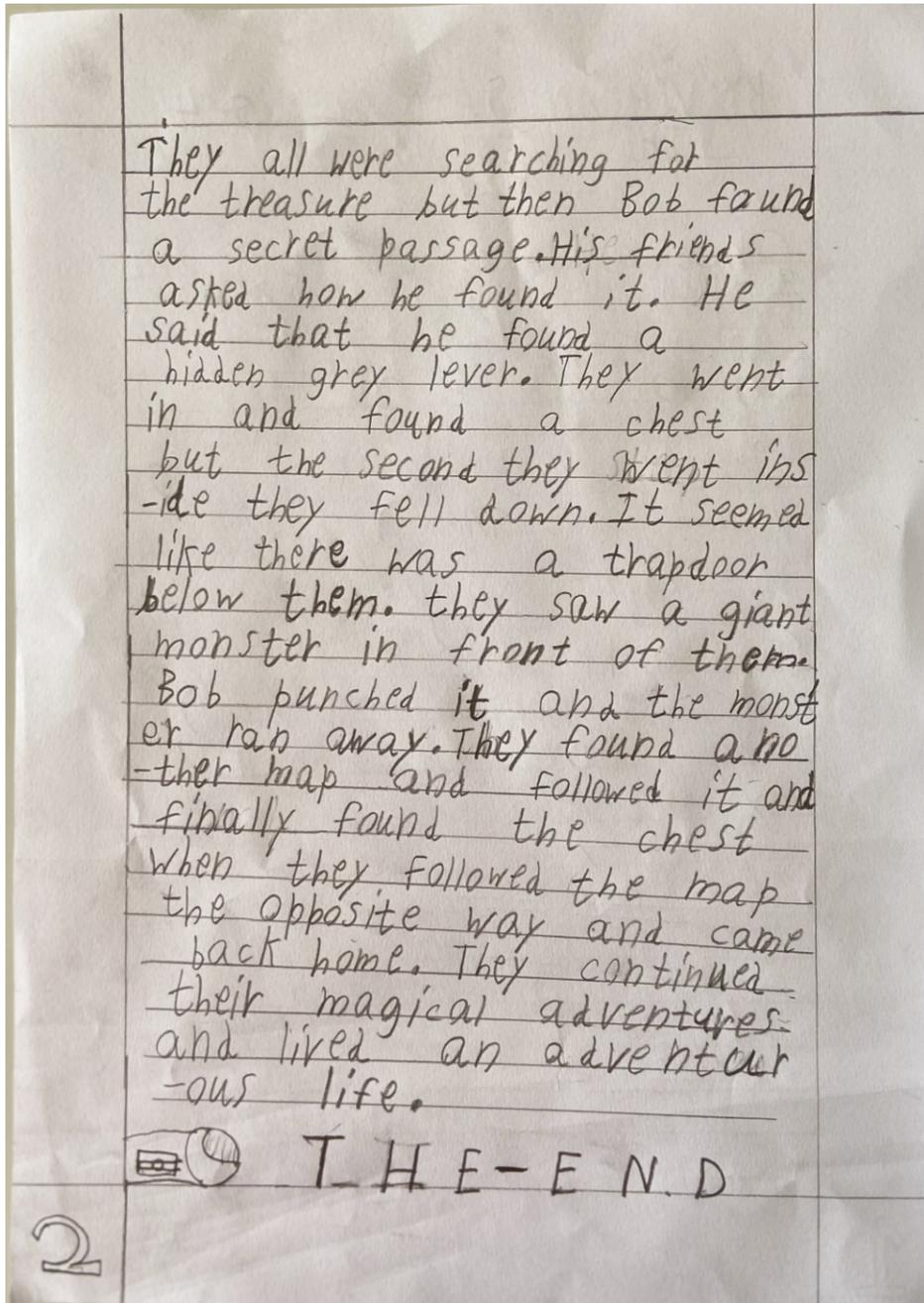
FRENCH

In French class, students learnt how to introduce and describe a family member. Students chose one person from their family and presented them on google meet! Students learnt to develop confidence, speaking skills and felt connected to their peers and family members through this project!



ICT

Fictional story for podcast



As a part of Grade 4's Digital Literacy curriculum, Creating and editing a podcast was taught. They wrote their fictional story to create their own podcast. This activity helped the students to become better creative narrative writers.

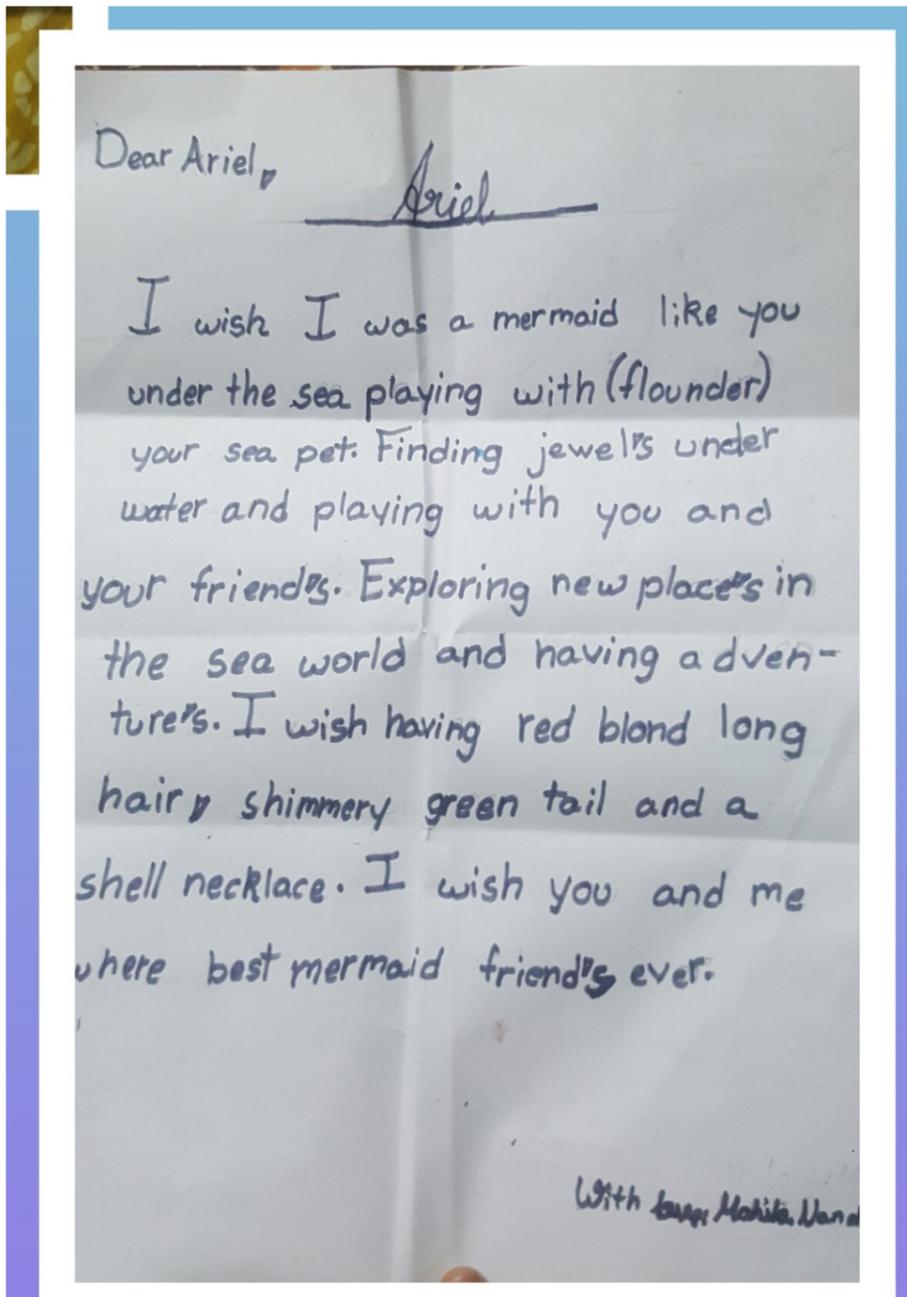
Fictional organization logo

As a part of Grade 7's Digital Literacy curriculum, Official Document creation and template designing was taught. To demonstrate their learning, students were given an opportunity to be an entrepreneur and to create a logo for their fictional organization. This activity motivated them and also gave them confidence to achieve their future goals.



Library:

Mahita from Grade 3 wrote a letter to her favorite character Ariel.



Physical Education

Body movement Exercise:

One of the Grade 2 student is exhibiting alphabets through her body movements for the word "BIRYANI". This exercise aimed at understanding and increasing their Flexibility and balance.

BIRYANI



Grade 3 students engaged in Strength Exercises using Household items such as Bath buckets, Chairs, Mop stick and others....

Grade 6 and 7 learners engaged in a yoga practise to increase their flexibility and improve their mental strength.



Dance

A reflection was done on the dance elements and dance moves to develop their physical balance and coordination. They were introduced to freestyle dancing (beginners level) for a 1 minute choreography using 4 counts and 8 counts. Further the students were taught to use different parts of their body to create different movements. They were also taught to explore different levels, pathways, shapes, balance and direction in space. Children danced with energy and were able to appreciate their own performances.

Grade 3 and 4

A reflection was done on the dance steps in order to identify a wider range of time, space and energy. Students were introduced to the advanced level in Freestyle hip - hop & also learned to perform a small choreography to check their dancing techniques & timing skills. To display confidence while dancing, children were made to memorize and appraise their own movements and sequence.

Grade 6 and 7

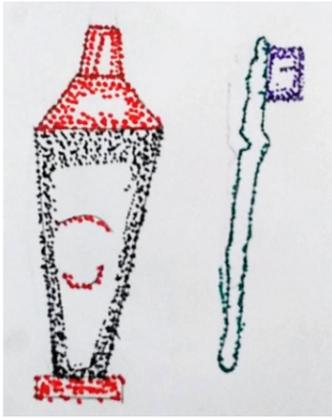
The students of Grade 6 and 7 were introduced to the advanced level in freestyle hip - hop and dance to the music with exact tempo and rhythm. A guided modeling where children also taught a clear beginning, middle and ending for a piece of choreography. Children were also made to perform individually to check their timing skills and dance techniques.

Visual Arts



Students of Grade 1 & 2 made a poster art on pandemic and pattern art on nature. From this activity, students were able to develop complex art making and analytical skills.

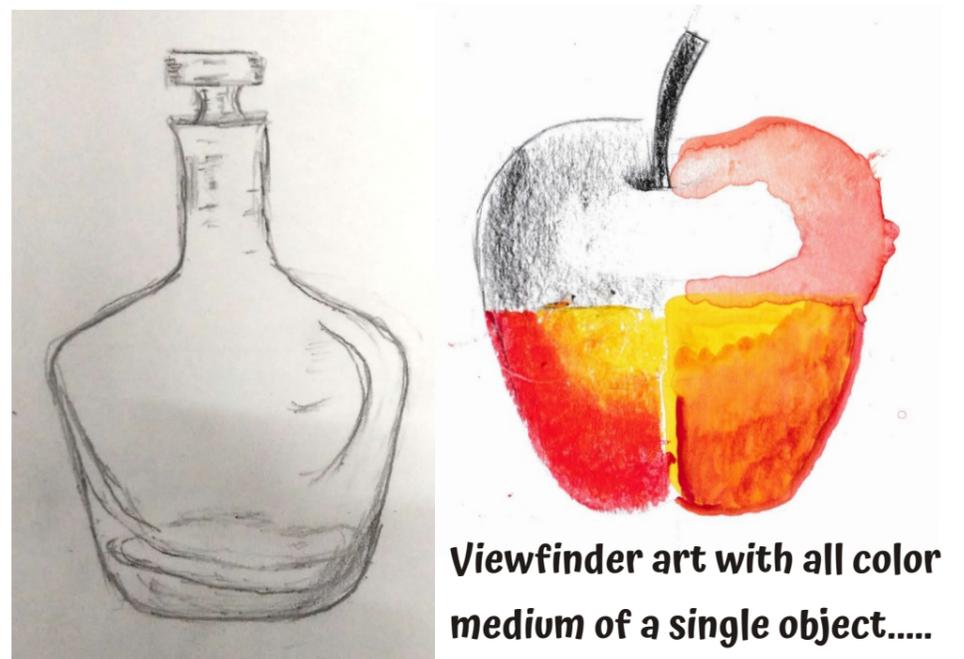
Visual Arts



Students of Grade 3 & 4 learnt techniques like Pointillism and Monochromatic shades. These methods will help students make their future art works with simple strokes and methods.



Monochromatic coloring : This technique is used for making different tones using single color. ➔



Viewfinder art with all color medium of a single object.....

Students of Grade 6 & 7 used various techniques like still life object water coloring, pencil sketching, shading and art using viewfinder in which students use all medium of color like water color, pencil shading, oil pastels and acrylic coloring to draw single object.

Teachers Corner

Hello Everyone!!

I am Ms.Gayathri. I am a new teacher who joined this academic year.

I would like to share with you all about my hobbies. I love learning languages. I have been learning Japanese for the last 2 years and i am currently learning Russian. The person who inspired me to learn languages was my father who was in the army and can speak 5 languages fluently. The reason why i wanted to learn Japanese is because i desired to be good at conversing in various languages.

As I started learning the language, I was very happy to practice the phrases to learn native Japanese. I also have participated in a speech contest in Japanese.

I am also a sport enthusiastic. I started playing sports right from the age of 5, which i still continue. My love for sports started when I got an opportunity to represent my school in Regional and National level tournaments. I have tried playing most of the sports some of them are Basketball, Kho-kho, Football, Swimming, Karate and Cricket.

I also had a chance to play womens cricketers during the college days.

Both of my hobbies have taught me so many life lessons such as perseverance, determination most importantly with love and passion anything is possible in this world.



ESL Support at Sarvalokaa

English as a second language (ESL) at Sarvalokaa is introduced to help learners focus on all the aspects of language learning along with the cultural immersion, in detail. Learning ESL is based on the four strands of listening, speaking, reading and writing, just like any other language. The primary highlight of learning ESL is understanding the usage of English in and beyond the classroom.

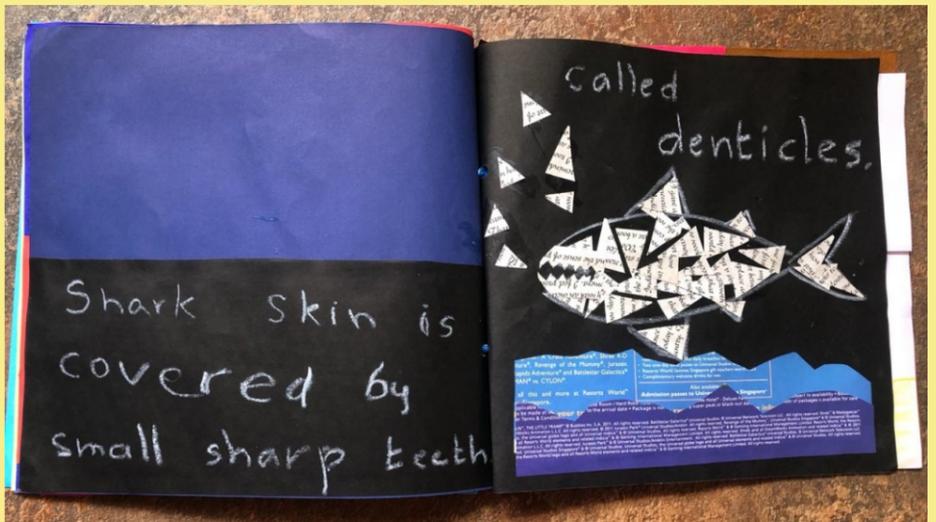
The learners are given ample opportunities to build vocabulary and experience with respect to the day to day functioning of the language in the world around us. Not only the students get acquainted with the grammar rules but can successfully apply them on their own eventually.

The learners are given several opportunities to use the language in different situations, this helps them to understand the kind of vocabulary and language they need when using the language beyond the classroom in the real world.

The activities focus on learning grammar rules, practicing listening, speaking, reading and writing, building vocabulary and cultural significance as well.

Few examples include consciously shifting from using tier one words to tier two words (tier one words are the words that we commonly use in everyday language, whereas tier two words are more specific and mature), learning the elements of descriptive writing (the only kind of creative writing skill that involves all the senses and is most widely used in everyday writing), identifying grammar in our speech and understanding its purpose, parts of speech, figures of speech, and more!
Equal importance is given to speaking and listening by identifying and creating awareness on what does listening and speaking for understanding means and looks like.

Reading is embedded into the curriculum throughout, more emphasis is given on the punctuations, voice modulations, comprehension and phonics. The ESL course gets deeper with every stage levels as the students' progress to higher grades.



As we learn about facts and opinions, we also learn to look at words through a different perspective! Sreela of Grade 2, related to the topic of facts and opinions in the ESL class and created a booklet on Sharks, with a lot of interesting facts about them and had her friends express their opinions about the facts mentioned in the booklet.

RiDdLeS

By Hrithvik (Grade 1)

1) What has a neck but no head?

A BOTTLE

2) What has hands but does not clap?

A CLOCK

3) What has teeth but cannot chew?

A COMB

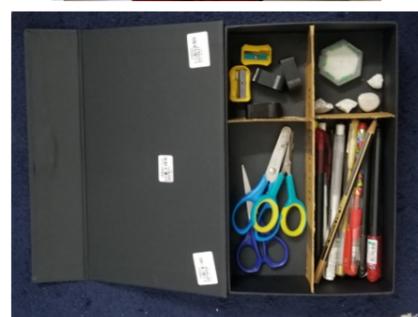
4) I can carry lots of food but cannot eat anything?

A FRIDGE

5) What gets more sharper when you use it?

OUR BRAIN

Students Corner



Students of Grade 4 made their own art stationery organizer using reusable cardboard !!!

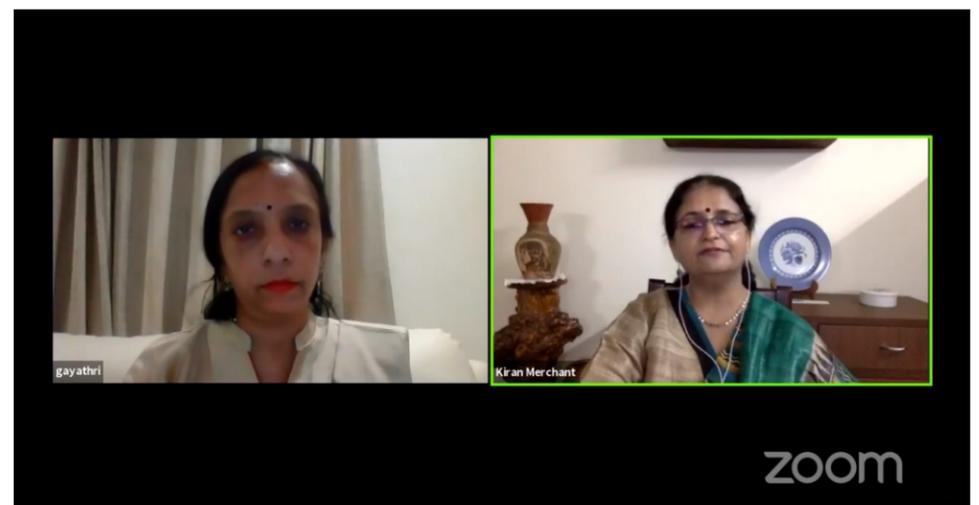
WEBINAR

How we can create better understanding between school and parents now, and when we eventually re-open....

Mrs. Kiran Merchant (Principal and Academic Director of Chettinad - Sarvalokaa Education, International School) spoke to Dr. Gayathri Deepak (Educationist and Founder of Chetana) on 18-07-2020 about how we can create better understanding between school and parents now, and when we eventually re-open.

Here are few insights from session:

In this peril time, most of the parents are going through a lot which primarily involves multitasking. So, the teacher – parent relationship has to be reinvented in order for the new education system to work. Few solutions could be to host review meetings with the parents occasionally to discuss points such as the child’s learning pattern or any doubts that the parents might possess. Secondly, the parents themselves could become familiarized with the apps or technologies that the school is using to facilitate in this new era of online teaching. By doing this, it would also calm the learners down and make them more relaxed.



Independent Learning: Helping Children taking Charge Of Learning

2020, What an unexpected year! Who would have imagined that everyone would have had to embrace the new normal and even schools would remain closed and begin online classes instead!

With schools adopting online classes, would we as parents like our children to become self-motivated, creative and responsible in their learning journey?

So, what is independent learning all about?

In this new normal, what is the role of the parent and teacher in contributing towards our children's learning?

Ms. Mahashweta (our faculty) takes up these questions and more in her conversation with Ms. Maya Thiagarajan (the middle school mentor).



A graphic for the 'Independent Learning' webinar. It features the Chettinad Sarvalokaa Education International School logo and the text 'presents independent learning Helping Children Take Charge of Their Learning'. The date and time are 'June 13, 2020 6pm to 7pm (IST)'. It also mentions 'Insights into effective parenting techniques by' and shows two circular portraits of Ms. Maya Thiagarajan and Ms. Mahashweta.

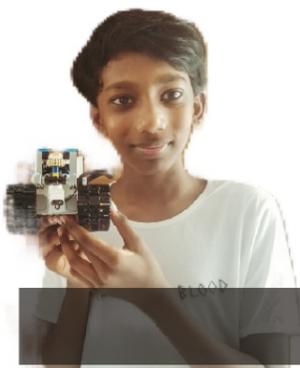
It was an insightful session which reminded everyone to reflect on learning, teaching and education. We discussed that Independent learning is an active process, where the student has the time and space to think, learn, create for himself or herself. In order to help students to become independent, one must help students to learn actively and in an engaged manner. And teachers have to keep in mind to skillfully plan the sessions by balancing the synchronous and the asynchronous classes. It is through the asynchronous sessions that independent learning can take place. We do not want to overload the students but make learning an enjoyable process. Let us ask the following question: What will help students to learn better? That’s what we should do.

Upcoming Events

- Teachers Day Celebration.
- SLC (Students Led Conference).
- Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration.
- Navarathri Celebration.
- Art Fest.
- Halloween Celebration.



Newsletter Committee



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