

Dear everyone,

A happy new year to all of us and our families.

Change and renewal are important to all of life – if life must flourish. May we find or make our work different and challenging, may relationships grow in depth and meaning, may we ourselves evolve in ways that leave us well-placed to find new meaning and purpose in our lives

But we all know that change can also begin with us instead of waiting for it to happen to us or around us. Change can begin in small ways. Edward Lorenz, an American mathematician and meteorologist, discovered (in the mathematical modelling of weather systems) that a slight change in initial conditions could have vast, unpredicted consequences. This led to the ‘butterfly effect’ which essentially stated that a small, seemingly insignificant event could lead to events of great magnitude or significance – translated into daily life: a little act of kindness might lead to a chain of events that prevent tragedy or enable the beneficiary to go on to do things that would change the world and the lives of countless people for generations.

And, so, let us not underestimate the importance of even little things. Let us do good whenever and wherever we can, because good will beget good in some way or another. Warm wishes then for a year of giving and receiving love, kindness, succour, courage and all that help us in our journeys forward.

At our morning Assembly, we shared the information about the Butterfly Effect with our students and gave them examples to illustrate the phenomenon. We then followed that up with an introduction to the Nobel Peace Prize-winning missionary doctor, Albert Schweitzer, (whose birth anniversary is on the 14th of January) and his famous belief in having ‘reverence for life’. We discussed briefly with students ways in which they could also show reverence for life.

A Few Important Announcements

- a) **Sports Day** will be held on Friday, the **8th of February** in the evening (tentatively starting at 5:00 p.m. and ending by 6:30 p.m.)
- b) **Annual Day** (a festival of song, dance and theatre) will be held on Friday, the **8th of March**, in the evening.
- c) We have modified the daily timetable to take time out for these practices and ensured that there is minimum disruption to the academic calendar even as we prepare for these important events. We have, therefore, cancelled all other co-curricular events for the next two months so that we don't try too many things and so confuse or tire children.

d) **We have received permission from the Department of Education to open Grade 5 at TGS.** We would be grateful if parents could assist us in spreading the word about this so that more children benefit from an education that prepares them to be future-ready.

We will inform parents as and when we get permission from other classes.

d) We have sent to all parents the calendar for the rest of the year as well as the tentative calendar for the new academic year 2019 – 2020. Do note the dates and feel free to contact us for any clarifications.

PRE – PRIMARY UPDATES

2) News from the Specialists

a) P.E.

It has been proved that physical education and sport are important to the development of children and young people. So why not celebrate achievements in PE by allowing children to show their skills on Sports Day? The focus of PE this month is all about preparing for Sports Day. (Sorry, but we release no further details for now!)

b) Art

The students of the Nursery and the L-KG painted A-4 sheets of paper with Primary & Secondary colours. They mixed the Primary colours to get the secondary ones. These papers were left to dry and in the next class the papers were cut and assembled to form a collage. This activity was inspired by the art of the children's book illustrator and writer, Eric Carle, who uses this technique to create his beautiful illustrations. The students were read one of his stories as well. The students of the UKG focused on the theme of textures. They did texture rubbings by placing the paper on textured surfaces and rubbing the oil pastels over it to get interesting textures and patterns. These papers were then cut out to form flowers and butterflies which were assembled to form an interesting visual.



c) Music

The Pre-Primary children had fun singing and dancing to the action songs 'Hip Hip Hippo', 'Cheechee I am lovely bird' and 'Rubadub'. They also sang their favourite song 'Rolly Polly'. Students did a listening activity where they had to listen to the clap pattern done by the teacher and follow it.



d) Dance

The moves that students learnt in this period included New Jazz port De Bras, Feet tapping and Port De Bras. Flick and place of feet, also called Kick Ball Change which is used to understand advanced weight shift of legs was introduced along with a revision of past dance steps.



3) Nursery

a) Learning through play

The theme of 'Wheels and Beyond' was introduced. The students began by identifying the different medium used by different



vehicles like those that move on land, air and water. They put together vehicle jigsaws puzzles. They loved to tear paper into pieces and paste them on the template of a traffic signal. They created artwork with their favourite colours and made a train by printing with blocks. Our little but responsible citizens were introduced to basic traffic rules through role play.



b) Literacy

A different kind of excitement was observed in the students when they went to the parking lot to learn about the different parts of a car. Later, videos helped them understand the process through which cars are assembled in factories.



They loved practising their pre-writing skills by tracing the toy cars on different patterns like straight and curved lines according to appropriate directionality.

They were introduced to letter sounds 'p', 't', 'i' and 'n' and associated words with fun games like Treasure hunt, Car race and Ring the Correct Picture. They also loved to listen to the stories "Pete And Polo And The Wash Day Adventure" by Adrian Reynolds which helped

expand their vocabulary and enhance their imagination. The story of 'Thomas And Gordon Off The Rails' by Rev. W. Awdry kept them hooked till the end and they discovered that being empathetic towards each other is important.

The book "What will I be" by Nandini Nayar and Francesco Manetti helped students reflect on their dreams for themselves.

They enjoyed singing their vehicle rhymes like 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat', 'The Wheels of the Bus' and 'At the crossroads'.

c) Numeracy

Shapes, Vehicles and fun were integrated when they put together paper pieces of different shapes to make a vehicle.

Counting became interesting when they matched the number symbol with the value and passed the specified number of cars through cylindrical tubes.

They sorted cars of different colours, counted them and matched them with the corresponding number symbol. Their skill (and their rockets!) seemed to soar a little higher when they ordered square paper pieces from big to small to make a rocket and also seriated the numbers.



They were introduced to number symbols 6 and 7 through matching and pairing activities.

4) Lower Kindergarten

a) Thematic Learning

For this term, the children from the LKG class have started the new theme on 'Materials'.

They focused on the first material 'Paper' where they explored the properties of paper. Through hands-on activity, they found that paper is fragile and can tear easily. It absorbs water and can be used for paper mashing. The children were very fascinated to know that paper is made from trees and spoke about how we can save trees by reducing the use of paper or recycling it. They discussed the different things and objects that can be done using paper. They sorted objects made with paper from a pile of different materials.



'Wood' was the second material that the children were introduced to. They were made aware that wood comes from trees. Through a video they saw that wood is a strong material and so different objects can be made using it. They went round the class and pointed out to different

things made with wood. They distinguished between 'paper' and 'wood' and discussed their similarities and differences.

b) Literacy

Letter sounds 'h' and 'r' were introduced to the children this week. They listened to the story and sang the song for the respective sound, along with action. They gave a few words that began with the letter sound. Tricky word 'me' was introduced to the children with the help of flash cards. They did a recap of all the letter sounds taught to them by singing the songs. They practised writing all the letters on the slate.



c) Numeracy

Children did rote counting of numbers from 1-20. They filled in the missing numbers written on the blocks by playing a game. They were given different coloured pieces of papers to follow a pattern and stick on the paper. They were then introduced to the shapes, 'pentagon' and 'hexagon'. They did a follow-up activity where they had to find and colour all the pentagons.



5) Upper Kindergarten

a) Thematic Learning

We kicked off the New year with the theme 'Celebration' where children will be learning about different events and occasions we celebrate. We discussed about the things they did during their Christmas vacation and on New Year's eve. To discuss about birthdays, we read a story book 'Tara's Party' by Julia Donaldson where children spoke about how and with whom they celebrated their birthdays. They also talked about how their birthday was more special than any other day. Students also watched an animation video about anniversaries and discussed the celebration of a wedding anniversary at home. They were all excited to make a greeting



card for their parent's anniversary and another to show their birthday celebrations. Students followed that up with a blow painting to illustrate Holi celebrations after learning about Holi and watching a video. They will be learning about other different festivals in due course of time.

b) Literacy

The letter sounds 'j' and 'z' were introduced this week with a story, action and song. Students were introduced to newer blends - 'sk' and 'sm' with the help of the story "Frank the skank", and they played a game of pairing the sounds with the 'sk' and 'sm'. Children formed simple sentences using the tricky words 'go' and 'no'. They did the same with words with the sounds 'j' and 'z', and then wrote the sentences on the worksheet.



They came up with new words with the sounds 'j' and 'z' (Jack, jam, jelly, juggle, jiggle, buzz, zip, zoo, zombie, zumba).

Students learned to comprehend short passages this week. Children were able to recollect and perform well for the spell check for sounds and tricky words.



c) Numeracy

Addition practice was done by playing a game with Uno cards where one child picks a card and says the number and everyone writes the number in the note book; later, the second child picks a card and says the number and everyone adds up the sum. A missing number worksheet was also done for revision and writing number practice.



Ordinal Numbers 1-10 were introduced by reading a book "Henry the Fourth" by Stuart J. Murphy and then a running race was conducted to help them understand the concept. Introduction to Doubling Numbers 1-10 was also done in this week by reading the book "Animals on Board" by Stuart J. Murphy. Recap activities were also done for ordinals and doubling numbers and practise for writing numbers 1- 100 was also done. Children were introduced to skip count in 2's with the help of hands-on activities. Children enjoyed doing simple addition and subtractions with the help of different objects.

d) Hindi

Our students learnt the names of different fruit (banana, apple, pineapple, mango, orange, watermelon, pear and grape) in Hindi. They learnt to cut fruits and offer the same to a guest.

Kids learnt the usage of the magic words ‘Thank you’.

They learnt a poem on the Mango (*Peela rang, rasila aam*). Om and Arav helped another student with learning all of the above, thus aiding their learning of the skills of communication. Later they learnt a poem “Naani Naani suno kahani”.



PRIMARY SECTION UPDATES

6a) Grade 4 Assembly:

The world, regretfully, can be unsafe for children as they can be exposed to potentially harmful situations. It is therefore, our duty and responsibility to bring about awareness and equip our children to be in a position to deal with such challenging situations. With this in mind, the Counsellor introduced them to personal safety.

The students of Grade4 shared this information with the rest of the students during Assembly. Amaira, Trisha, Maegan and Juvel took turns in informing the other students about the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch, ways of keeping safe and how to deal with a situation if someone behaved in an inappropriate manner with them. They were reminded and encouraged repeatedly to be vocal if they ever faced such a situation.

News from the Specialists:

6b) Hindi and Konkani:

Grade 1

In Grade 1 the students learnt a new Swar i.e. *Auv*. They recited a poem named ‘*Auv se aurat*’ and practised the letter formation on sand. They read the poem aloud whilst the audio played in the background. The students were introduced to new words. With the help of the words from the poem they framed their own sentences and shared them with the class confidently. And they concluded that learning with learning how to use “*Auv*” *maatras* with other letters.



Grade 2

The students of Grade 2 learnt a new letter called “Və”. They recited a poem called ‘Və se varsha’ and did similar activities described above.



Grade 3

Grade 3 worked with reading skills, vocabulary enhancement and sentence construction skills with the chapter “Kaun Kahaan Rehta Hai”. They got into a conversation with a partner from their class by telling the partner where they live and what the place looks like.

Students did role play and learnt about the importance of working together in a group.



Grade 4



As a follow up of the chapter “Jab Ghar Mein Ek Chuha Aaya” the students did role play. The students later learnt synonyms (paryayvarchi) in Hindi. They framed their own sentences with these synonyms and then made a chart on the same.

Konkani:

During the Konkani class the students learnt numbers from 1 to 10. They performed an activity where they counted things in class and on the campus. They worked in groups where the students gave their partners a sentence incorporating a number and the partner was asked to rephrase the sentence with another number.



c) French:

The French students of grades 3 and 4 revised the numbers from 1-15 by solving Math sums. Using the vocabulary that they are learning, the students were able to point to classroom objects and correctly name them. (C'est un stylo : this is a pen). They were also able to correctly answer the questions Qu'est-ce que c'est? (What is this?)



d) Global Perspectives:

In Global Perspectives, the students worked in groups and discussed about friendship and how we maintain good relationships. They later framed questions for the survey and found out the essential qualities of a good friend. With the help of the questionnaire they went on to make a poster. The students also came to an understanding that many a time there are differences of opinion, and differences in the understanding of a situation and the response to it – all of which lead to conflicts.

e) Art:

The students of Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 worked on designing their own handmade paper portfolio. They were introduced to the definition of what a portfolio is, what it is used for and by whom. They personalized their portfolios by adding unique names/titles and decorated it through prior knowledge of decorative drawing.

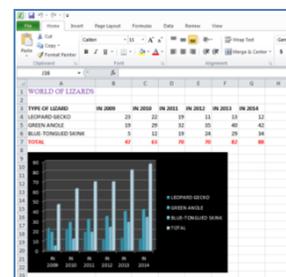
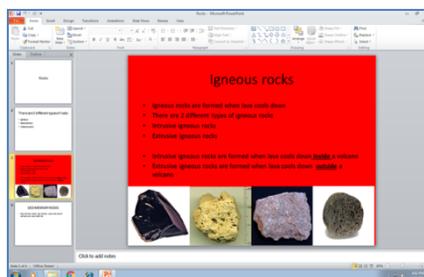
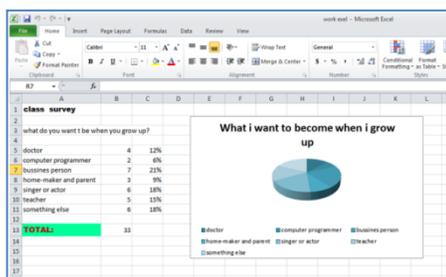
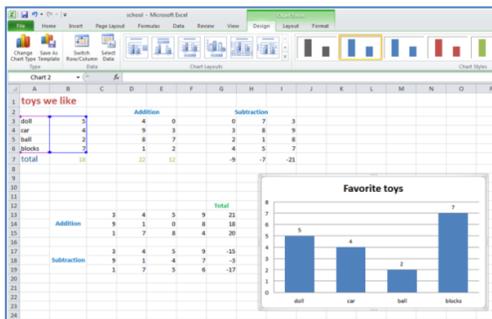
The students of Grade 4 learnt about the famous artist, Gustav Klimt, and his decorative style of painting. These artworks were used as starting points and the students experimented by drawing patterns which incorporated repetition, rhythm, sequence and proportions.



f) ICT:

Over the past two weeks in ICT, students of Grade 1 to 4 worked with Excel and learnt to enter, edit and delete data. Students learnt how to write formulae for various mathematical functions.

While Grades 1, 2 and 3 dealt with basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, Grade 4 worked with summation and percentage formulas. Students also designed and created their own graphs and charts in Excel for the different data collected and learnt to label them appropriately. This week, Grade 2 perfected their presentation skills and Grade 3 started working with a new software called 'Scratch', where they will learn to create some small codes for programs. They created their own 'Sprites', which is an object in Scratch that can be controlled.



g) Library:

Grade I students were given an activity called “The Circle Story”. The students were made to sit in a circle and they were asked to give 3 – 4 words each and build up a story using those words. The story they came up was titled “The Magical Water”. One of the students from the group was asked to write the story as it was narrated. This activity helped them use limited vocabulary to make sentences and enhanced their thinking skills. It also helped them build team work.

Grade 3 students were given a quiz on space. They were divided into two groups. Students had to answer the questions by referring to the reference books in the library. They named their groups as “Space Intruders and “Space Explorers”. Here they learnt to make use of the reference books to find certain types of information.

Grade 4 students came up with their own version of the story based on the book titled “Clown”, with only illustrations in it. Our students did take time to write down the story but the end result was worth the wait. Here, too, their creative thinking and writing skills were put to use. The stories have been put up on the Library wall.



7) Grade 1:

a) English:

The students learnt about the Articles ‘a’ and ‘an’ and how they are used. They learnt a poem ‘I went to school one morning’ where they shared their personal experiences on waking up each morning and being at school. They then recited the poem through actions. They also created a storyboard by drawing pictures to match each event from the poem and adding two new ones of their own.

The following week they learnt about singular and plural where they learnt spellings of words with ‘s’ for plurals and used singular and plural words in sentences.

The students also did the lesson on “The Paintbrush” where they learnt the value of being truthful and the perks of not being greedy. They shared their views and also the morals they

learnt from the lesson. Under creative writing the students wrote on “My dream”. They were encouraged to write about what they are most passionate about and what they wish for.

They also did another poem on ‘I know a man called Mr. Red’. The students worked in pairs and made up some new lines from the poem and had fun presenting it in the class.

The students were introduced to a new topic ‘Reports and Dictionaries’. The students learnt about fiction books that tell stories and non-fiction books that tell facts. They were taken to the library where they selected books and decided whether the book was to be classified as fiction or non-fiction.



b) Science:

Under the topic of living and growing, the students learnt about plant and animal habitats and their local environment. The students went about exploring and finding about the animals and plants in their school campus. They also recorded their observations in their notebooks. They were also shown videos on how different plants grow in different places and how one finds certain kinds of plants and animals in the environment best suited for them. They also did an activity on matching the animals to their homes. The students wanted to learn more about the cold regions like Antarctica and the different kinds of animals living there (other than penguins). They were shown different videos on what types of animals live in cold regions and how they live.

The students also learnt about a healthy and balanced diet; they then designed a healthy diet keeping in mind the different food groups and the quantities of each. They also learnt about unhealthy foods and the consequences of not having a healthy diet.



c) Mathematics

The students learnt about length and when to use the comparative language, e.g. longer, shorter, heavier, lighter. They were aided in this by using objects of different size and weight. They also used a weighing scale to verify their measurements after having made preliminary estimates using non-standard assessment methods

Under numbers and problem solving, the students did patterns on a hundreds square where they marked odd and even numbers. They also learnt about place value and putting the numbers under ones and tens.

The students also learnt about ordering numbers. They used the different numbers cards and worked in pairs as well as independently, and arranged numbers in ascending order. They also solved word problems on addition and subtraction.



8) Grade 2:

a) English

Students demonstrated several ways to create an interesting beginning by taking well-known stories, such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and composing several alternate beginnings. For example:

- "Would life ever be carefree for Charlie and his family?"
- "Clink! A coin dropped in front of Charlie."
- "There was a man who loved candy more than anything else."

Students worked in pairs using one of the story starter methods to create a new introduction that hooked the reader.



They also learnt a poem called "Three Cheers by Barry Buckingham and "The Alien" by Julie Holder". While learning grammar they learnt that when we put certain consonants together they form a sound that we call a blend; they then practised reading and spelling consonant-ending blends.

To identify additional words that contain the ending consonant blends from this lesson and use those words in a short story. Finally, the students learnt syllables in each word. For example, students should stomp twice for 'butter' and so on.

b) Science

Students learnt about three different types of rocks, their characteristics and formation. Children were able to compare and sort rocks by their attributes such as size, appearance, and weight. They also learnt how to use a scale and balance to weigh the rocks.

They watched a video to see how the Stone age got its name. They imagined they were living in that time and discussed what they would use stones for.

Students then went on to seeing how stones are used nowadays: in agriculture, communications, transportation, construction, medicine, manufacturing and arts. From metals, building materials, and fertilizer, to baby powder and the graphite in our pencils, rocks and minerals provide us with many essentials in our everyday life. They wound that up with learning through an experiment and a video how fossils are formed.



c) Mathematics

Students learnt mass in grams and kilograms and when each unit is used. By weighing many objects in grams and in kilograms, students were allowed to weigh, compare and find the difference between them.

Students were put into a real-life situation: asking a student to first determine how much butter, sugar, and flour Rita had by reading the weight on the weighing scale in the picture, then asking them to draw a simple bar graph to illustrate how much of each ingredient was required to make one batch of cupcakes.

Last week we started the unit on 'Time' where students learnt to count time in different units (seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and year) and to read time.



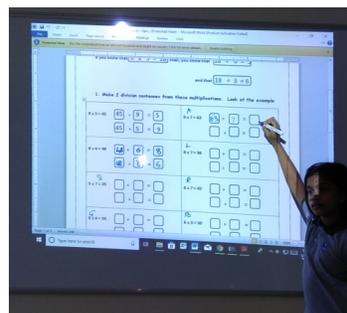
9) Grade 3

a) English

In English Literature students worked on the story of The Happy Prince by Oscar Wilde. They recalled the elements of a story and noted how the author created a setting to make reading enjoyable.

For comprehension skills, they worked on Chapter 3 of the story of Black Beauty by Anna Sewell.

In grammar they worked on spellings, sentence building and vocabulary. They learned about adjectives using prefixes and suffixes and are now able to use them effectively in sentences.



b) Science

In Science, students explored the sense of taste and how smell plays an important part when we eat. They also learned the parts of the eye and (through an animated video) the functioning of the eye.

We have since finished with Biology and have started with Chemistry where the children learned about Materials. They sorted things according to their material and investigated the properties of materials.

c) Mathematics

In Mathematics they recalled Division and solved word problems and quizzes in Mental Math. Our focus has now shifted to Measurement and the children used Standard and Non-Standard units of measurement to measure length of various objects.



10) Grade 4:

a) English

The students were excited to come back to school after enjoying their winter break. They quickly got into learning mode and learned various things like homophones, homographs, formal letter, and composition.

We have all heard “Laughter is the best medicine”. The students practised writing and presenting an opinion based on this adage. Each one took turns to present their work.

Since the students had previously written an informal letter, writing a formal letter didn't take much time.

On another day, the students were given a picture with a list of words and phrases. They were instructed to use at least five of the given words/phrases to write a short composition on the picture.



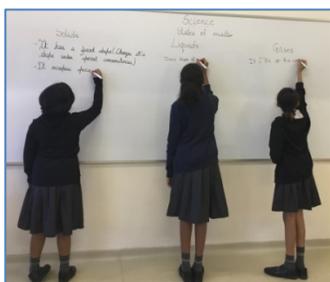
b) Science

The students recalled their knowledge of the different states of matter. The students were taken to the science laboratory to study the viscosity of different liquids like, honey, shampoo, oil and vinegar. They were then asked to predict the time each would take to roll down a sloping surface. The students then conducted the experiment and noted the actual time taken. The results were then compared to the predictions made. The students then made a bar graph to tabulate the results.

Another experiment was conducted to observe the reaction of sodium bicarbonate with vinegar. In this experiment, a balloon in which some sodium bicarbonate was filled, was tied to the mouth of a bottle that had vinegar. The balloon was slowly held up, allowing the sodium bicarbonate to fall into the bottle that had vinegar. As the two mixed, gas was produced, which inflated the balloon. The students then had to deduce the reason for the inflation of the balloon.

The Unit on Magnetism was introduced. The students were shown a video on the Maglev train. They were curious to know how the train worked. They were first told that Maglev was a word coined by joining two words, Magnetic + Levitation. The teacher then introduced the students to magnetism. The students were given magnets and they tested magnetic and non-magnetic materials. They also saw how the poles of a magnet reacted with like and unlike poles.

The students will carry on with this topic, conducting experiments to make observations and enhance learning.



c) Mathematics

'Practice makes a man perfect' and this certainly holds true for Mathematics. Considering that the students have come back from their winter break, concepts done previously were revised through card games and written work.

After this, the students moved on to learning about the Metric system of measurement. They learned about the different measuring devices and also converting grams into kilograms. They went on to solve word problems involving weights and measurements.

d) Circle Time

Over the last two weeks, the students were introduced to parts of the human body and were familiarized with the correct terms. The students were taken through a very important discussion on safety. They were introduced to the idea of appropriate and inappropriate touch. There were shown videos, taken through a presentation and had intense discussions about the same. They were also given the opportunity to present the same during the Assembly.

And with that we end the first Newsletter of the year.

Once again, warm wishes for a happy year ahead.

Regards,

C P Joseph

PRINCIPAL