



# The Gera School Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
(Nursery - Grade 2)

Dear everyone,

The months of October to December have quite a few festivals to celebrate and I was reminded of the parent who came to me some years ago for the admission of his son and said the only condition he was putting for the admission was that the name of God would not appear in teaching or be taken at Assembly or be mentioned in any School prayers or songs, etc. He believed that God did not exist and that the whole 'issue' only caused more divisions among people. That got me thinking and I seek to talk about the two claims (if that does not sound judgemental already) with the avowed intention of seeking the benefit of our students.

Let me take the second – and easier-to-address – part of what the parent said. Yes, the followers of different faith traditions can get into conflict with one another. Even within a faith, there are dissensions and conflicts. People have fought wars, killed and maimed, banished or silenced voices – all in the name of a God of love and peace.

Many secular and religious leaders (especially those of organized religions) discourage questions forgetting that the great prophets and teachers and discoverers asked questions, many questions, many relentless and uncomfortable questions.

But all of this does not justify throwing the baby out with the bathwater. What is first to be understood is that God means different things to different people. Quite frankly, even in one's own lifetime, a person's understanding of 'God' changes at different times of one's life.

I believe we can have faith without insisting that we know all the answers, without reducing the idea and entity of 'God' to that of a mathematical theorem, complete with QED. To paraphrase Paul's words in the Bible, we see dimly now but will see fully later on.

We must be comfortable with not knowing all the answers to our questions but persevere in our faith, knowing that faith is more a verb than a noun and the more we love our neighbour as ourselves, do good to others, be a friend in need, be honest with ourselves and with our work, look after the Earth's resources, etc. **we will live our religion.** In all that we say, in interacting empathetically with our fellow human beings we will discover the divine in the other and in ourselves. *Then we will discover that God is bigger than religion!*

I return to the promise of seeking the benefit of our students. My belief is that schools, while eschewing religious instruction for our children, can and should help children understand and appreciate the enormous good that has come out of religions of the world. (As an example, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and actions were influenced to a great extent by – but not limited to – Hinduism, Jainism and Christianity. He, in turn, directly and indirectly, inspired millions round the world.) Thanks to the beautiful wisdom of our religions and the effect on artists, writers, social workers, statesmen, teachers, thinkers, etc. each of us is now part Christian, part Hindu, part Buddhist, part Muslim... So, with that knowledge, can we adults – forgive me the cliché – be the change and unite ourselves and our students and children in *living* religion and respecting the commonalities of our great faiths without getting side-tracked by that difficult question, "Does God exist?"!

Warm regards,

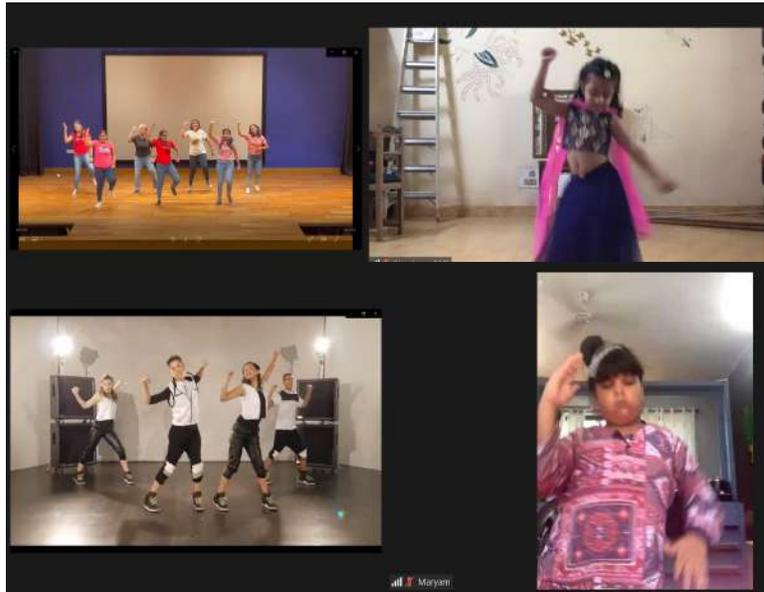
**C P Joseph**

**PRINCIPAL**

## PRE-PRIMARY EVENT UPDATES

### CHILDREN'S DAY

"The secret of genius is to preserve the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm." This year the teachers of TGS had a virtual programme to celebrate children and the child within them. Teachers across Grades performed skits, group dances, songs and speeches for the children. The children had fun as they were involved in 'Guess who it is!'. The children guessed their teachers by looking at their childhood pictures. Finally, the children danced to a few peppy songs and enjoyed their day.



## NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

### I. ART

#### Nursery

The tiny artists in the nursery drew a Rocket ship in space combined with the moon, clouds and stars. They did so by drawing various shapes to form the Rocket. Step by step they drew shapes revising how many sides each shape has as well as colouring inside these shapes in one direction. This activity helps revise the mere basics as well as allows learners to draw anything using simple shapes.



### LKG

Blow painting technique is what the LKG learners practised.

Learners got used to making the paint watery which is

necessary for the paint to flow smoothly when air is blown through the straw. This activity is an interesting one because of the random patterns one creates which at times looks like a monster or a spider and so on.



## UKG

Learners had a challenging art activity: they made a paper fish with a number of folds. Although challenging, learners did quite well. The activity made learners observe and listen carefully in order to understand the folds. Teaching craft, especially origami Online, is very challenging but the UKG learners clearly don't give up easily!

## II. DANCE



The Nursery students were delighted to dance with PomPoms as it really brought out their unlimited cheerful energy. They shook their pom poms throughout the class and even when the music stopped, they didn't!

The students in the LKG were put in the spotlight one at a time as we played a dance game called 'Show me your BEST move!' Each child demonstrated their favourite dance move and then taught their friends and teacher how to do the move. The children were pleased to be in charge and were amazingly thorough in their instructions. We learned a lot of new moves.

UKG students are learning a choreographed routine to a well-loved Christmas Carol. They were requested to get a partner available at home to join in the fun routine and were excited to have their dance partners be a part of their class.

## III. DRAMA

The children rehearsed their lines for the Christmas program. They enjoyed trying out different voice modulation, facial expressions for their character development. We will be working on speaking clearly and slowly.



#### **IV. MUSIC**

Songs with numbers that involved counting were done. The children had a lot of fun and counted on their



fingers as they sang along rhymes like 5 little ducks , ten little fingers, ten fluffy yellow chicks etc. 'I have a little donkey' and 'Old Mac Donald' was also done and each child picked an animal of their choice for the later rhyme. The children also had fun as they learnt rhymes related to plants - 'I'm a tiny seed' and 'We have a little garden'. The kids were eager to learn about the different musical instruments that are there - tuba, castanets, harmonica, etc. It's a joy to watch the children sing and attempt to learn new tunes.

### **NEWS FROM EACH GRADE**

#### **NURSERY**

##### **Thematic Learning**

The learning process is always fun when the learners are involved. Nursery class learned about winter, a season of snowflakes and hot cocoa.

Following safety norms at home and outside for little ones is paramount in today's scenario, this fact was explained in class with an array of examples



## Numeracy

Sequencing is a very important concept for preschool children to develop since it allows children to recognize patterns that make the world more understandable and predictable. In Math, our tiny mathematicians are working on sequencing numbers 1-8. The learners created their own number lines, and made a number chain. Students were excited to sort the coloured pastas in different bowls and threaded the pastas using AB patterns and made a garland for themselves.

## Literacy

Learning letter sounds helps the learners to blend and read words with ease. The learners of the Nursery class were introduced to the letters 'h' and 'r' using a story. As a follow-up activity, the learners went around their house and got items beginning with the letter sound /h/.

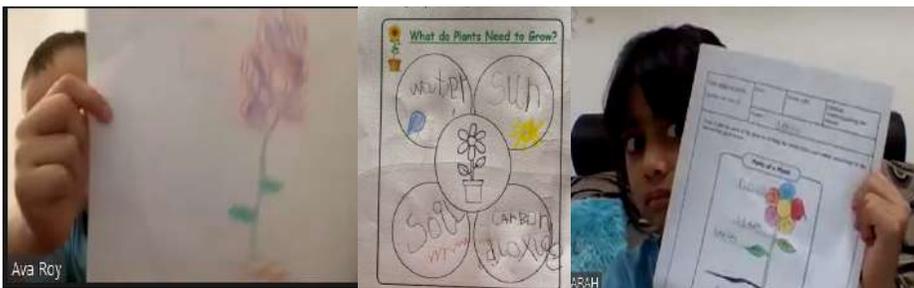


They revised the letters and were able to associate the letter sound with words beginning with the letter sound /s/ /a/ /t/ /i/ /p/ and /n/. The students indulged in some interesting activities like Sequence Jam Sandwich step by step and this helped them in sequencing the events of the story. For recapitulation of letter 'r', they created a 3D robot using materials available at home.

## LKG

### **Thematic Learning**

The students of the Lower Kindergarten learnt how the green plants link the earth to the sky by blending water and minerals from below with sunlight and carbon-dioxide from above to prepare its food. They also learnt the importance and how we all are dependent on the plants.



### **Language**

The learners of the LKG class have learnt the letter 'L/l' and 'F/f'. The students were given an opportunity to practise writing the letters using various materials like playdough, sand tray and pencils. As a follow up activity to the letter l, the students made a 'Ladybug' to enhance their fine motor skills. As the word fold begins with the letter 'f' the learners learnt to fold their handkerchief as it helps them to be independent in their chores.



### **Numeracy**

The students of the LKG practised formation of 2d shapes as they learnt about the number of sides in each shape. They also tried associating 2D shapes to objects in their surroundings, like observing the pentagon shape on the football. With the knowledge of numbers that they are learning to read and write the date by referring to the calendar.



**UKG**

**Thematic Learning**

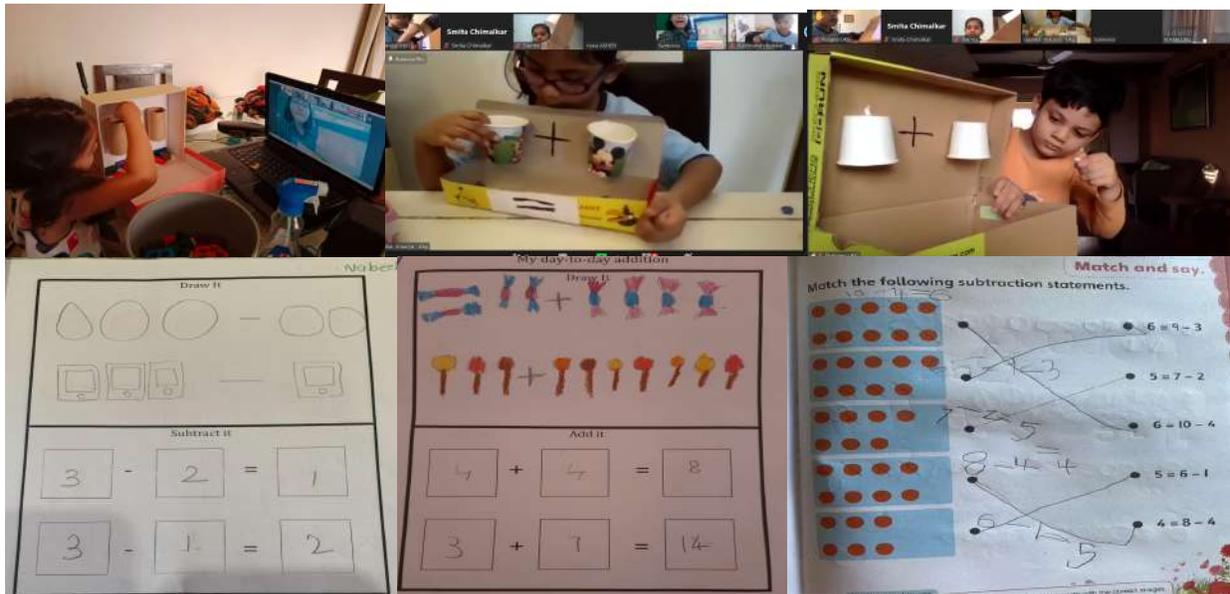
In the ongoing unit of 'Farm to fork', the children worked on a project called 'garden up', where they grew coriander and had hands-on experience on growing their food. The children were thrilled with the results and happily shared them with the class.

It's good to know how food reaches our table. The children looked at whole foods and processed foods this week. They had fun raiding their refrigerator looking for processed and whole foods. They got their hands on whole and processed foods and looked for ingredients in them. It was amazing to see them able to distinguish between the two. This activity will certainly help them to make better food choices in life





## Numeracy

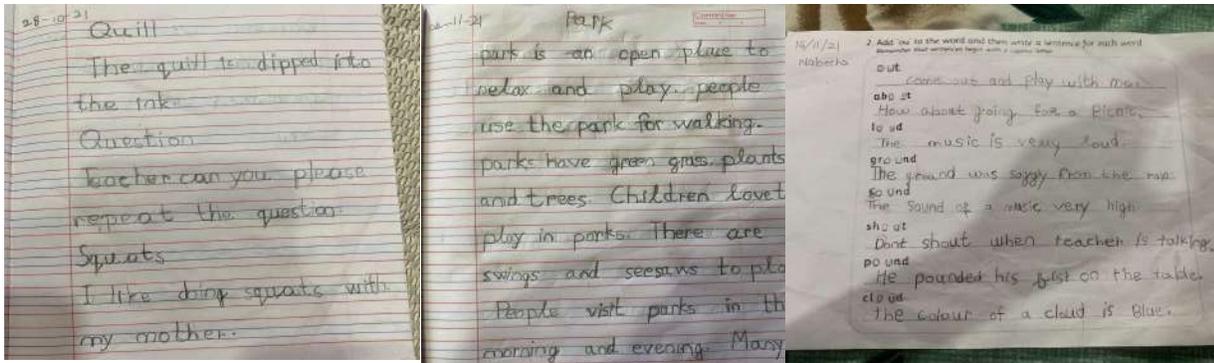


In the Early Years, learning to add and subtract builds a strong base to master math in elementary school. Addition and subtraction skills help the little ones to understand the relationship between numbers and quantities and how they are related to one another.

The children created an adding machine and used it to play and learn addition. They used a variety of manipulatives that gave them hands-on experience with addition and subtraction.

The learners also took back addition and subtraction to their homes and kept a count of all the things and activities they did in the week. They added and subtracted the food they ate, and things at home. It's great to see them apply the skills to their day-to-day life.

## Language



Learning sounds is the basis of any language. English is tricky and needs practice and application. Digraphs /qu/ and /ou/ were introduced to the learners. The children gave examples of words with the /qu/ou/ sound. They used words to frame sentences. The children also recapitulated sounds /ie/ng/ai/oa/ learnt previously. They were engrossed in looking for things around their house that had the sounds they learned.



Tricky words ' come, some and 'said' were covered. The children used the words to frame and write short sentences. The activities done in class helped children boost their confidence with reading and writing skills.

## PRIMARY UPDATES

### NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

#### **I. MUSIC**

Grades 1 and 2

The learners of grades 1 and 2 practised the Christmas Carols ‘Two Front Teeth’ and ‘I’d Like to Teach’.

Learners were given a chance to perform any other song of their choice or play their instruments.



## II. DANCE

As **Grade 1** continues to learn Jazz, I'm happy to see that most are taking keen interest in the dance style. Regular practice and dedication to maintain a graceful form with good attention to minor details will make for a great performance when they will be called to present themselves in the future.

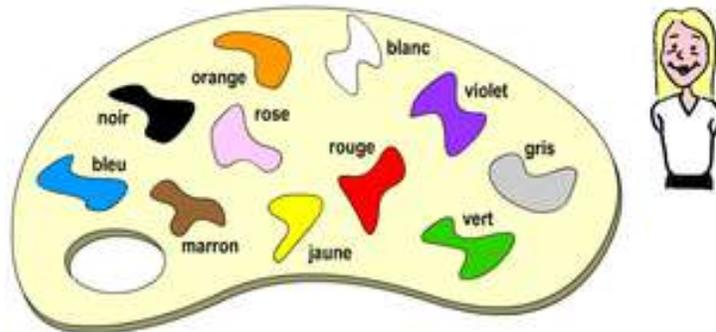


**Grade 2** learners are learning Country Line dancing. Since Line dancing steps are simple and doesn't involve dancing with a partner, it's a social dance that everyone can enjoy; more so, if you like country music. The dances are choreographed with a repeating series of steps that are performed in unison.

## III. FRENCH

### Grade 1

The learners of Grade 1 played a quiz based on colours where their listening and speaking skills were assessed. They are practising to answer short self-introductory questions in French.



### Grade 2

Learners enhanced their speaking skills by constructing short dialogues in French. They are practising to converse in French with their classmates and now they have started short role-plays, for example having a telephonic conversation, meeting with friends in a park, etc.

## IV. HINDI

### Grade 1

Story telling is a traditional and timeless art form which is an effective tool to inform, entertain and educate. That's what Grade 1 learners are aiming for. They learnt how to deliver a story and also identified the concepts of poem along with the activity based on speaking skills.

### Grade 2

Recitation is one of the most important and effective modes of learning a language and

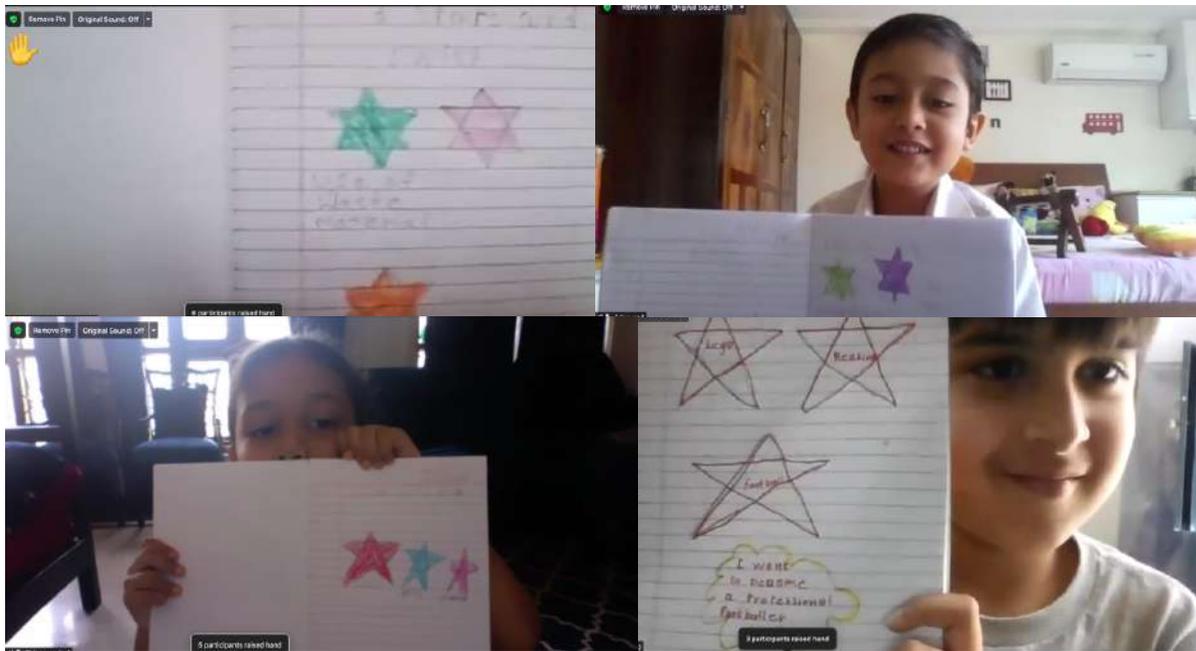
appreciating a piece of literature. Keeping that in mind, Grade 2 learners had a recitation competition in class where they showcased their talent of using proper gesture, voice modulation and picking up new vocabulary.



## V. CIRCLE TIME

**Grade 1** - Over the past two weeks, the learners of Grade one went through the motions of setting themselves goals. The ability to reflect and revise goals is a great way to get themselves onto a productive path of self-development. This was followed by a discussion on manners as part of their view and review event.

**Grade 2** - The learners of Grade Two went into a reflective mode to explore what their strengths and challenges were. To be able to look within is a skill that could propel a child to turn into a better, more compassionate and confident human being. They were also able to identify areas in their lives where improvement was needed. We have moved to the topic 'Respect' and the learners have shown an incredible fluidity in comprehension of abstract concepts like respect.



## VI. COMPUTER SCIENCE

Learners of **Grade 1** continued working on the Frog Hop game. They were able to create a variable to add and store their score.

Learners of **Grade 2** learnt about fixed and variable inputs; and were able to use inputs to change what a program does. They learnt how degrees change movements, and how to recognise errors in a program and fix them. Learners were also able to spot and correct errors in a code.



## VII. ART

### Grade 1: Colour Gradation with warm and cool colours

Learners of Grade 1 created a piece of art using Salvador Dali's art style. The artwork being surreal, rendered in gradation using warm and cool colours. The main focus was to make learners aware of colour gradation and how one can achieve it along with the introduction to warm and cool colours. Why is colour gradation important?



Because it creates depth and looks interesting and not flat. The knowledge of warm and cool colours is necessary in art vocabulary and also to understand the feel of these colours.

### Grade 2: Human portrait using dots, lines and shapes

The learners of Grade 2 painted a human face combining Yayoi Kusama's art style and their own. Learners enjoyed drawing a face using simple lines and shapes along with the use of ear buds to create dots. The Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama would render her works only with dots of different sizes and so Grade 2 learners drew faces in the same style.

## VIII. P.E.

### Physical Education

Learners are in the process of working on developing their fitness through practical lessons, exploring commonly used training methods, where-in they are engaged in High Intensity



Interval Training, Continual training programmes and relating the theoretical aspects taught to make their learning more enjoyable and meaningful.

## NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

### GRADE 1

#### English

“Everyone wants happiness. No one wants pain. But you can’t have a rainbow without a little rain.” This short rhyme holds so much truth about life; the learners of Grade 1 journeyed in the world of poetry to creatively weave poetic lines just like this.



#### Math

Oh, don’t you love to witness these little hands at work? The Grade 1 learners ensured they had fun at learning about capacity and mass. The next time you need assistance with a little helper around the kitchen, make sure to ask for help of a Grade 1 learner!

#### Science

From the chilly Arctic to the tropical rainforests of South America – wouldn’t you love to go on this inter-continental trip? Expressing their love for plants and animals in the most heart-warming way, the learners of grade 1 creatively displayed their models of habitats.



## GRADE 2A

### English

“It felt really good!” said a learner from Grade 2A as he treated fresh lemonade to his House help made all by himself! The learners had a class party to enhance their listening skills as they followed instructions given to them by their teacher to experience fireless cooking and made a sandwich and lemonade for a dear one at home!

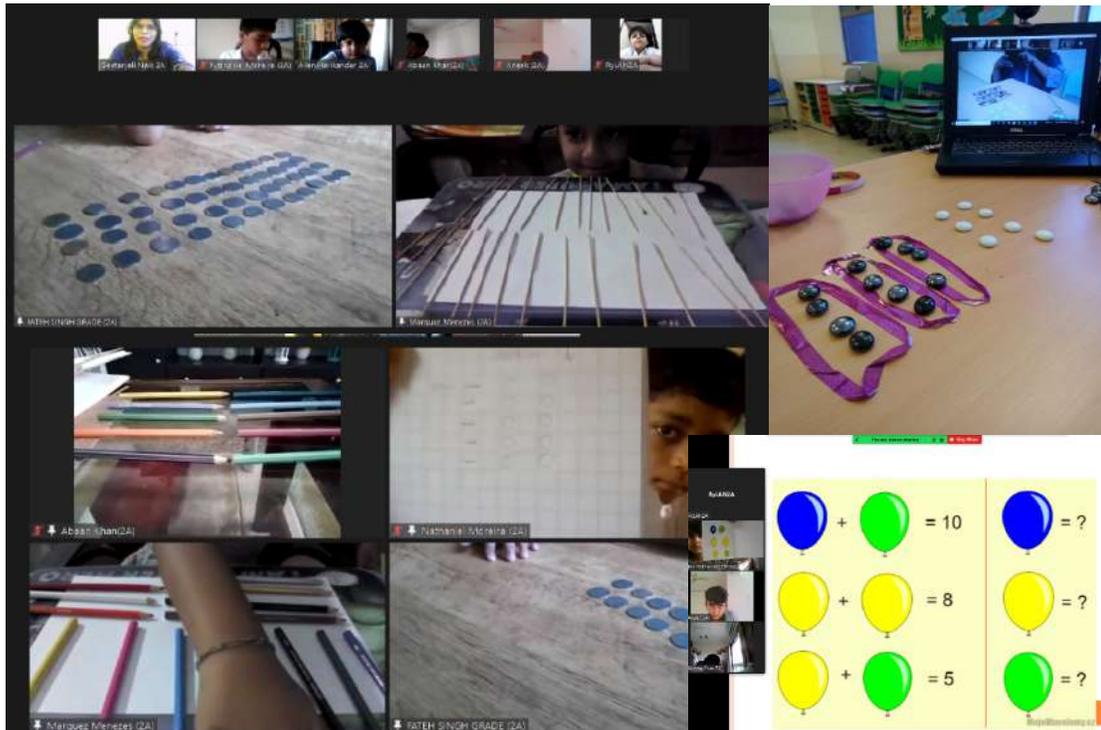
“Just keep grinning till the world stops spinning!” Learners are discovering their rhyming skills in poetry this November.



### Mathematics

While learning core concepts like multiplication and division, the focus was on how to apply division and multiplication skills to real-life concepts. Learners handled money, shared items between friends and cut food into portions as they are beginning to build their division and multiplication skills as part of their everyday life. The idea of introducing these ideas at this age was to help them gain confidence in the subject for them to utilise these skills wherever possible. Application of this concept to real life was taught through a fairy tale story where a Baby Bear is having a party and has invited lots of his fairy tale friends! Use of strategies like number line method and using arrays of division with lots of visual examples made it even easier to understand. Assessment was never so much fun as

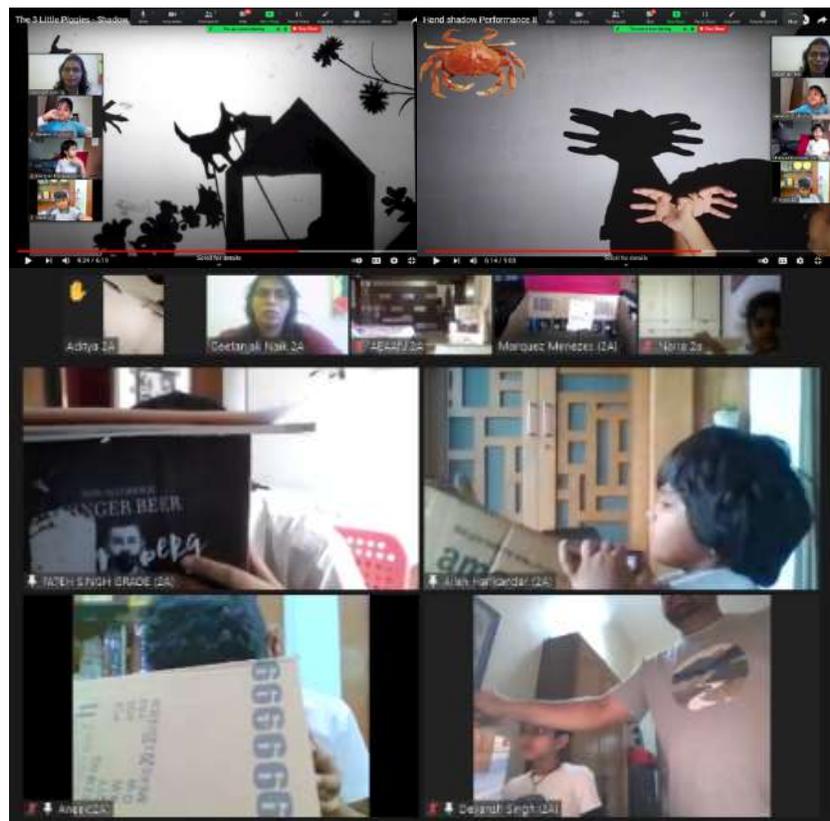
the learners were assessed using technology such as Nearpod and Kahoot which encouraged the learners to answer with a lot of enthusiasm.



## Science

This fortnight, moving ahead with the topic 'Force And Motion', learners learnt about the importance of forces. Through many activities they learnt that Force and Motion are imperative parts of everyday life. The lessons and activities helped the learners become aware of factors like friction, gravity, and magnetic force. Learners also learnt to understand perspective, and use simple machines to help make their work easier.

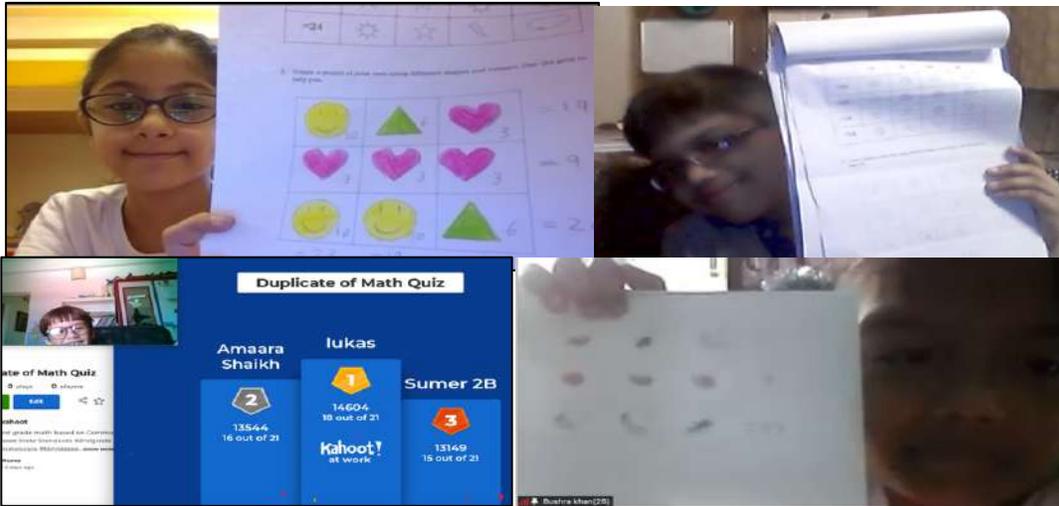
Moms always say that you shouldn't read in the dark, and they are right. Even though you think you see well, you don't know how



much effort your eyes are actually making in order to read what's in front of you. Starting with the new unit, learners were encouraged to investigate light through experiments which in turn helped them to identify light as a form of energy and use observations and evidence to describe that objects can only be seen if they are illuminated by an external light source or give off their own light.

## GRADE 2B

### Mathematics



Knowing how to reason and think analytically through a problem is an essential life skill. This week the learners were encouraged to work on puzzles, which helped them build their problem-solving skills. The learners not only solved math puzzles but also created a puzzle of their own using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

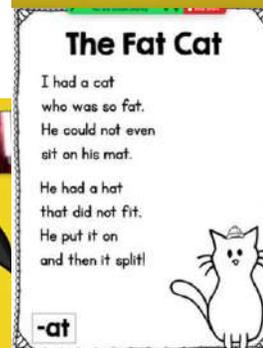
### English

Poetry can speak about emotions, feelings and scenery that an individual experiences in the most musical and magical fashion. When Grade 2 learners are able to use this magic in their communication, it allows them a chance to express themselves in a way that they never thought possible. Our learners in grade 2 are currently exploring the beauty of rhymes and are having fun as they juggle words and are allowing the creative flair into their vocabulary.



### Science

There goes a common saying, "Practice makes a man perfect." This holds true in every aspect of our lives, particularly in



academics. The learners of grade 2B practised all the knowledge, information, facts and trivia learnt under the unit 'Force and Magnetism' through worksheets, quizzes and projects. Learners were asked to create their own 'Magnetic Mouse Maze' and demonstrate the same through a presentational video, before we wrapped for the Diwali break.

This week learners have been introduced to the new chapter 'Light and Shadow' where they shall be learning all about light and its sources, natural and artificial light and formation of shadows through various projects, experiments and PowerPoint presentations.

**With that we end this edition of the Newsletter. The next one (dated 22<sup>nd</sup> December) will be out before New Year's.**

**Regards**

**The Gera School**