

BEGINNINGS

Dear everyone,

Happy New Year! (By the time you get this Newsletter, we will be probably be half-way through the second month of the year. No matter. It is a new day, a new year!)

So, how can we make the year, this month, this week – today! – count? Simple: let's start something we have always wanted to do but did not. Let's make a beginning...

Beginnings are not easy. I was told a story of a man who was digging his plot of land to lay the foundation of a small structure.

He had just finished removing the top layer when a neighbour who was passing that way said, "Congratulations! You have completed the most difficult part."

The man said: "What? I have just started. Only the top layer has been seen to."

The neighbour said: "But that's the most difficult part: to make a beginning."

Quite obviously, it is not enough to make only a start. But let us not nit-pick and let the message of the story get lost. 2024 has come!

To make an earnest beginning is to reveal a desire, a want. A beginning will help us know more about ourselves and help us get in touch with the deepest part of ourselves. The want is actualised, the wish is on its way to fulfilment.

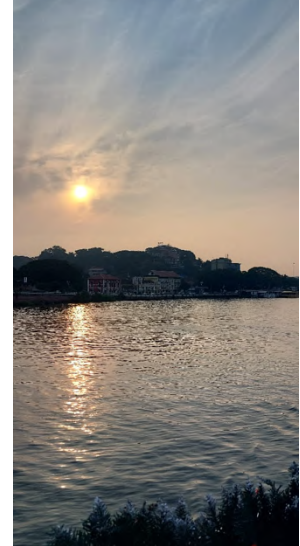
A beginning will be life's longing for itself – *the longing of one's own life*. And, so, we owe it to ourselves (and others) that we use the year to start something that will give us joy and fulfilment, and also benefit others, if possible. (At the very least, a happier person can only be better for the world around.)

A poet said that '*to be born is to be chosen*'. Let's take that further: To be here today is to be **marked**, marked for being a better version of ourselves, marked to take that largesse of goodness, of immense talent and virtue that is in each of us and share it with others. We are fortunate and blessed to see this day, this new year.

As we read this, there will be individuals and whole swathes of people in India and abroad who are battling ill health, loneliness, the death of loved ones, the tragedy of war and of sectarian conflict, etc. Those of us who don't have equivalent privation are blessed. All the more reason to make a new beginning and then see it through to its end. Have a happy and wonderful and fulfilling 2024.

Warm regards,

Carol Joseph
PRINCIPAL



1st January 2024
Dawn breaks over Goa

EVENTS

MAKAR SANKRANTI

The Assembly for the Early Years section on Makar Sankranti began with the children gathering in the auditorium. To set the tone, a brief introduction about Makar Sankranti and its significance was provided, highlighting its cultural and traditional importance in various regions of India. Visual aids such as images and charts were used to engage the young audience and help them understand the festival better. This aimed to captivate the children's attention and instil a sense of cultural awareness.

FOOTLOOSE DANCE EVENT

The Footloose Dance Event for Early Years was a sweet success! The students showcased not only their dance skills but also their confidence on the stage. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to display their talent and enthusiasm for dancing. The event was a hit, and the young performers impressed the audience with their energy and charm.



SING-A-SONG

In the 'Sing a Song' event, students showcased their singing talents by choosing songs of their preference. The objective was to enhance their presentation skills and provide them with an opportunity to perform on stage. The event was successful, with students confidently singing songs in languages of their choice, contributing to a diverse and enjoyable musical experience for all.



GET, GET, SET, SPELL!

Get, Set, Spell was designed to enhance the children's spelling skills in a fun and interactive way. The activities involved both oral and written components, like missing letters, guessing the picture to identify the word, and an oral and written spelling bee.



EARLY YEARS EXCURSIONS

MERCURE GOA DEVAAYA RESORT

The young students of the Early Years embarked on an exciting adventure with a trip to the picturesque Mercure Goa Devaaya resort on the serene Divar Island. The day unfolded with

the thrill of crossing the Mondovi river on a ferry, adding an extra layer of excitement to their journey. Upon reaching the resort, the little adventurers were warmly greeted with refreshing drinks and a hearty breakfast to fuel their day. The highlight for the youngsters was the inviting pool, where their enthusiasm bubbled over, and they were reluctant to leave its refreshing waters. Engaging in games, savouring a delightful lunch, and exploring the resort on foot and electric buggies, the day unfolded as a perfect blend of fun and exploration under the sun. Overall, it was a memorable day filled with laughter and joy for the young explorers.



MUSEUM OF GOA (MOG)

The trip to the Museum of Goa proved to be an enriching and enjoyable experience for the learners. As they explored the diverse display of artifacts and artworks, their understanding of Goa's rich history and vibrant art scene deepened. The hands-on clay activity added a creative touch to the day, allowing the learners to express themselves artistically. The trip not only provided valuable educational insights but also fostered a sense of curiosity and appreciation for cultural heritage. Overall, the combination of artefact exploration and the engaging clay activity made the visit to the Museum of Goa a memorable and impactful learning experience for all participants.



GRADE 1, 2 AND 3 EXCURSIONS **CIDADE DE GOA RESORT TRIP**

On the sunny morning of January 11, 2024, the excitement was palpable as Grade 1, 2 and 3 students embarked on a delightful day out at the picturesque Cidade Goa Resort. The day was meticulously organized, promising a blend of adventure, culinary exploration, and gastronomic delights! The learners engaged in endless fun games and exciting matches of volleyball, football and the much spoken of tug of war. With aprons on and excitement in

the air, the learners created their own sandwiches, experimenting with a variety of ingredients. The day concluded with full bellies, smiling faces, and a sense of accomplishment.



The combination of beach sports, fireless cooking, and a customised buffet lunch not only provided entertainment but also enriched the children's experiences in teamwork, creativity, and appreciation for good food. The Cidade Goa Resort served as an ideal backdrop for a day filled with joy, learning, and memorable moments.

DR. MALIK FARM TRIP

On the 13th of January, learners from Grades 1, 2 and 3 embarked on an exciting excursion to Dr. Malik Farm in Goa, creating a memorable day filled with laughter, learning and engaging activities. This excursion aimed to provide an immersive experience to provide learners with practical insights into agricultural practices, sustainability and the importance of preserving natural resources. The learners had first-hand understanding of farm and dairy practices along with techniques like air - layering used for propagating plants and grafting. The little ones connected with nature's richness by taking a dip in the natural springs

at the farm, not forgetting to mention the lush green fields on either side as they took their very first tractor ride there!



GRADE 4 & 5 OUTSTATION EXCURSION TO DANDELI

The spirited Grade 4 and 5 students embarked on an exhilarating excursion to Dandeli, accompanied by their enthusiastic teachers. The scenic journey commenced with the entire entourage, boarding a comfortable AC bus at 9:00 a.m. from our school. The Whistling



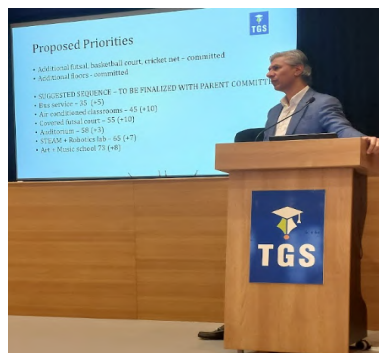
Woods Resort, nestled in the heart of a lush forest along the serene banks of the Kali River in Dandeli warmly welcomed the learners, providing a comfortable stay and an array of delectable dishes. The learners had their share of fun with some river rafting to begin with on day one in the evening, followed by the warm bonfire experience with music and dance before they geared up for day two. The learners were exhilarated as they ventured on a thrilling jungle trek in the midst of the forest as they marvelled at the beautiful birds and

animals they came across. The mission was clear - to ensure the children were not only happy but also safe. The trip ended with bringing back home memories etched in the hearts of all the young explorers and teachers who accompanied them!



MD MEETING WITH TGS PARENTS

On the 19th of January, the Managing Director of The Gera School, Mr Rohit Gera held a crucial meeting with whole school Parents to



address various matters of concern, including infrastructure development, fee structure, and future plans of the school. He provided an overview of ongoing and planned infrastructure developments within the school premises. Updates on construction, renovations and facilities improvements were shared, aiming to create a more conducive learning environment for students. The meeting ended with an interactive session with Parents who shared their feedback, appreciation and concerns.

TÊTE-À-TÊTE

Parents from The Primary Section were invited for interactive sessions with the respective teachers to have a sneak peek into classroom learning. The purpose of the event was to enhance Parent-Teacher collaboration, deepen understanding of the curriculum and showcase the innovative teaching methodologies employed in the classrooms. Parents were divided into groups and guided through different classrooms to be engaged in a range of subject based activities. They had the opportunity to observe on-going lessons and witness how the curriculum is implemented in real-time. Towards the end of each of these sessions, Parents were given an opportunity to share and present their insights and take back from the activities planned out. This event served as a catalyst for strengthening the



bond between parents and teachers, fostering a supportive environment for the overall growth and development of the students. Feedback from parents was positive, indicating a desire for more such sessions in the future.

NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

ART NURSERY

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, children experienced creative craft, and created an artwork based on the theme. The students learnt touch and feel of two layers cut-out of the kite, and understand the process of sticking 2 cut-outs layer by layer, the difference in size, and usage of hand pressure depending on the size of the different cut out. Gentle application of glue has been taught.



LKG

Students have learnt how to draw a butterfly. Using simple techniques, basic study of Scheme, Cool and warm, they have created butterflies using both colours, and keeping 1 colour scheme was also an option. They developed a sense of understanding about colour application.



UKG

How to combine craft and Art in the simplest way was taught to students. They created a house where they visualised their chosen colour of their house or fantasy house, with a paper-cut craft roof. I liked the way they have used their imagination and painted different colours for the walls. It very impressive work in terms of imagination, composition and colouring.



GRADE 1



The young minds of Grade 1 immersed themselves in the Art of making Paper Flowers. The learners eagerly embraced the challenge of transforming simple paper into beautiful blossoms. The crafting session served as a valuable educational experience. Learners honed their fine motor skills through the precise movements required for cutting and folding. Additionally, the activity encouraged teamwork and collaboration as learners exchanged ideas and shared materials.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students were introduced to The Great Hornbill bird study which has very interesting features as it is characterised for its long bill. I chose this bird to make the learners understand about the basic anatomy of a bird and study its colour. Learners have



also shared beautiful stories about Goa's ecosystem and where they have seen Hornbills in real life. This project was done using watercolours and oil pastels.

GRADE 3

The Grade 3 learners were introduced to tinted paper. The tinted paper served as a dynamic backdrop, enhancing the visual impact of the flower pot creations. Each learner brought their unique style to the artwork, experimenting with colours and techniques, fostering a rich environment of individual expression. This art activity not only allowed learners to experiment with a new medium but also facilitated the development of fine motor skills through drawing and painting. The tactile experience of working with tinted paper added a sensory dimension to the artistic process, enriching the overall learning experience.



GRADE 4

Grade 4 learners embarked on a captivating artistic journey, exploring the intricate and often overlooked life of bugs. The project not only ignited the learners' imagination but also refined their artistic skills. Delicate brushstrokes and attention to detail were evident in the intricate patterns and features of each bug depicted. The combination of scientific knowledge and artistic expression resulted in a rich tapestry of bug-themed artworks.



GRADE 5

Still life was taught to learners which describe a work of art that shows inanimate objects from the natural or man-made world, such as fruits, ceramic or terracotta pots etc. Learners learnt to



create the form of the object, study the object and execute whatever they observed about the object, e.g. Light and shade, shading depth, etc.

DANCE NURSERY

The Nursery class students seem so much more confident in dance class and apart from their regular Warm up and favourite dance movement songs like, "Listen and Move", "Follow the leader" and "Put your finger on". The children were given a chance to each perform their favourite dance moves while the rest of us tried to copy the movement. Tanishka won a sticker for being the best dancer in the class. She had not one but three different moves in her bag that she danced with a lot of attitude and aplomb.



LKG

Lkg students will now be working with different types of props this term which will give them a better understanding of using space safely and creatively. After our regular routine, students got a chance to explore dancing with a pair of canes in an unusual way. They were required to dance with a partner, one



leading and the other following. The main focus was dancing safely and in tandem with each other. Students were eager to have a turn and were surprised to experience the restrictions that come with dancing with a partner safely.

UKG

UKG students were given a challenging dance move called the “Grapevine” to master and a couple of them who managed to perform the move successfully and to the rhythm were rewarded with a sticker. In addition to the “grapevine” we will continue to learn a few more challenging moves so we can put together a wonderful dance routine that we can then dance anywhere, anytime.



GRADE 1

The students of grade 1 were introduced to basic ballet movements in 1st and 2nd ballet positions. They were required to learn and practice demi and grand Plie (bend) and they also learnt how to Releve (Rise up) tendu (stretching the legs and pointing the toes while keeping them on the floor). There is a lot to take in in order to perform these simple movements mainly on account of the unnatural positions that the body goes through when dancing ballet like the turnout.



GRADE 2

Students of grade 2 are also learning the basic ballet movements and in addition to the Demi Plie, Grand Plie, Releve and Tendu they have also learned the Rond de



Jambe performed a terre (on the floor) They will require to practise this daily to make their movements more graceful and I hope they are doing the needful.

GRADE 3

In grade 3 we are learning a new dance style which is the “Salsa”. Students were given an introduction to the dance, a brief history about it, its origins



and how to differentiate between salsa and the other styles they learnt in the previous terms, namely, the merengue and the cha cha. Later we began by learning the basic footwork. So far the students have been practising 4 moves. The forward and back basic, the side step, the back step with both feet and the open body move. Some children have picked up the movement quickly but there are a few who are falling into the cha cha step sometimes and require more practice time to perfect their moves.

GRADE 4

The students of Grade 4 are also learning the Salsa this term and were likewise given the explanation about the history and origins of the dance



style before beginning to learn the basic movement. Apart from the basic footwork, they have also been instructed to make a note of the distinct hip movement called the Cuban motion and pay attention to holding their arms in the proper form.

GRADE 5

The Salsa is being taught to the students of Grade 5 and a more detailed description of the dance form was offered to the students including information about the instruments used to



create the rhythm. The Claves, the congas, the cowbell are the percussion instruments that can clearly be heard in salsa music and the students had to learn how to count the rhythm which is an eight count.

DRAMA NURSERY

The children in the nursery enjoyed expressing themselves in dialogue form. We practised articulating our emotions and convey messages in our dramatic way. We shared our likes and dislikes with each other on various topics. The children also loved icebreaker activities like pass the object and act out a line.

LKG

The joy of drama unfolded as children of LKG expressed themselves through storytelling and imaginative play. The little ones were engrossed in acting out different emotions, scenarios at the beach and on a rainy day.



We also created one liners for our characters.

UKG

Drama isn't just about acting – it's about discovering who we are. For the little ones our drama class is a journey of self-expression, laughter, and growth. The little ones enjoyed the fun improv drama energisers. They participated with enthusiasm and enjoyed sharing their ideas with the class.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 enjoyed engaging in the Story and dialogue activity. Their active participation brings a wonderful energy to the room. Each child drew and illustrated their own story scene with characters and dialogue. We worked on different scenes at the beach. After we were done we shared our activity work, ideas, illustration and character along with dialogues with the class.



GRADE 2

Grade 2 immersed themselves in a world of creativity and expression. From imaginative role-playing to collaborative group activities, the class witnessed a vibrant display of enthusiasm.



They happily engaged in activities like Dramatic dialogues, Create and Illustrate a story using prompts. Our theme was at the beach.

GRADE 3

It was Puppet time in school for Grade 3 students. Everyone was assigned a finger puppet and they had to give it a name and a voice. For homework, they had to create or source out their very own puppets, and their



creativity shone through as you can see in the attached pictures. But that wasn't all! They had to narrate a story about their puppets as well.

GRADE 4 & 5

Grades 4 and 5 shared stories about their holidays and were taught five aspects of mime, namely ... No Talking / Facial Expression / Exaggerated Movement / Speed of Movement / Imaginary Props. They are now tasked with preparing a mime that will have them enacting what they wish to become in the future!



MUSIC NURSERY

Students of the Nursery section are now moving on from their initial songs and nursery rhymes into learning a bit more advanced songs. They are currently learning the song, Sing a Song of Sixpence. This gives an experience of singing high and low notes.

LKG

This week, the students were given an outdoor music session. Singing in the open and playing percussion instruments. They played simple rhythms accompanying their classmates who took turns singing.



UKG

Students of the upper KG are learning to sing 'Oh Susanna'. This song has a repetitive melody which goes up and down the scale. It also teaches the Students, that some words are clubbed together and sung faster, while others are prolonged. We had a discussion on

the words and touched upon some states in the U.S.A mentioned. They were then shown a video of young people playing the Banjo.

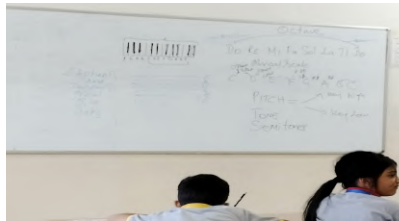
GRADE 1

Grade 1 are being given an introduction to the music scale; the students also explored the keyboard on their own. They are also being shown a documentary about the origins of music.



GRADE 2

Students of Grade 2, are now involved in singing exercises related to the Music scale. They have been introduced and are being taught about the notes of the Major scale, and the notes on the keyboard and about the sharps and flats involved.



GRADE 3

The students of Grade 3 have been reviewing their concepts of rhythm and beat, with some fun games and activities. This term, we are beginning to focus on their



individual singing capacities. In order to do this, we began with a fun talent show, where students could sing their favourite songs. We heard some beautiful renditions of various genres, including pop, country and even rap! A couple of students hosted the show, making for an entertaining time!

GRADE 4

The students of Grade 4 revisited and reviewed the concepts and songs they learned last



term, focusing on proper pitch and emphasising dynamics. We also attempted singing multiple parts in varying rhythms as an exercise, to understand how different voices can create interesting and fun music!

GRADE 5

Grade 5 has been having a fun time learning a new song - "This Little Light of Mine". With additional parts assigned to some students, the class is learning to work as a unit, listening to each other and holding their parts well. The class is now learning to position themselves as a choir and make every song a performance!

CIRCLE TIME / LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

GRADE 1

We started a new topic in January, a topic of utmost importance for self and for interaction with others: Patience. This subject was slowly explained to this grade for clarity. We did role plays to show impatience and then discussed how we could reverse the reactions. The class enjoyed showing impatience, many of them could relate to what they do with each other. We then spoke about what Patience was and the significance of developing this quality. We decided to move the topic gradually to include how we can show patience in our environment and the people in it.



GRADE 2

Grade 2 started a new topic this month, a concept of utmost importance today for self and for interaction with others: Patience. This is a value that many children have not learnt. There was urgency for instant gratification. This subject was explained to the class. We did role plays to show impatience and then someone from the class would come in to show how the same situation could be reversed using a different way. The class enjoyed showing impatience and came up with some good reversals. We then discussed the meaning and significance of developing this quality. We go slowly through this topic to learn to show patience with various people in our environment.



GRADE 3

Grade 3 started this month with a concept of utmost importance to learn nowadays for self and for interaction with others in our environment: Patience. This is a value that many children have not learnt. We discussed how there is an urgency for instant gratification. The environment too gives in quicker to people who show impatience with any delay. This



reinforces the negative behaviour. This subject was illustrated through role plays showing impatience and then someone from the class would step in to show how the same situation could be reversed using a different way. The class enjoyed showing impatience and came up with some good reversals. We established that being patient gets our work done. We then discussed the meaning and significance of developing this quality. We wrote down points of why and how to be patient. We will slowly go through this topic to show patience with ourselves and various people in our environment.

Leadership Curriculum

The learners of Grade 3 have been exploring the importance of 'Growing Up and Puberty', during the Leadership Curriculum classes. Learners are quite comfortable



understanding their own bodies and are now understanding that changes and bodies are different for different sexes. The basics of change are all that they need to be sure with and as the classes have progressed the shyness with which they approach this topic seems to dissipate.

GRADE 4

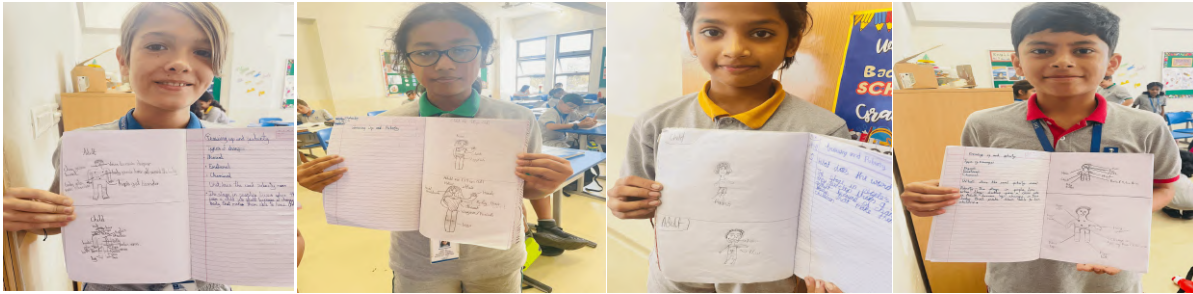
The learners of Grade 4 have been making steady progress in their understanding of the changes that occur during puberty. The first few classes were uncomfortable for some as the language they used to refer to their



private parts was not what they were discussing now. Over the course of time, they have been getting more comfortable in their discussions and in expressing their questions. Post identifying the changing trends in their own bodies, they were asked to now move on to understanding the changes in the body of the opposite sex.

GRADE 5

Terms that have to do with growing up and puberty are always confusing and the learners of grade 5 have been working hard on understanding all these terms. From getting to know the inner workings of the human body, to getting familiar with how hormones bring about external change, Grade 5 has been on a journey that has been eye opening and also self-assuring. A number of learners openly shared how difficult to understand this period of their lives is. From mood swings to confusing situations, they have been going through it all. Now they have discovered a place to vent and clarify their thoughts.



ICT GRADE 1

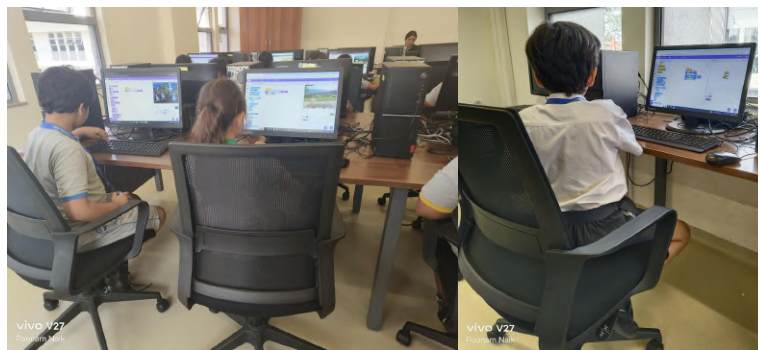
Our young learners embarked on an engaging journey into the world of spread sheets, specifically



Microsoft Excel. During their introductory session, our learners enthusiastically delved into the basics of Excel, starting with locating the application on the computer. With guidance, they quickly familiarized themselves with the main components of the Excel interface, including rows, columns, cells, active cells, and cell addresses. As they navigated through the spread sheet, our budding Excel experts learned how to move efficiently between cells using keyboard shortcuts, enhancing their digital fluency. They were also taught the fundamental skills of entering data labels and values into cells, laying the groundwork for future spread sheet mastery.

GRADE 2

Our Grade 2 learners in their coding journey! They embarked on a creative adventure with Scratch, a beginner-friendly programming platform. In their latest project, our young coders developed a small script that engages users with multiple sets of questions and dynamic responses. Using a combination of blocks such as "ask," "say," and "join," our learners crafted interactive dialogues that stimulate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



GRADE 3

Our young learners of Grade 3 have been fully engaged in manipulating spread sheet data containing results of their survey conducted in the classroom with precision and skill. With a keen eye for detail, they meticulously organized and formatted their survey results, harnessing the power of various formatting techniques available in Excel. Through hands-on practice, our learners explored the versatility of Excel, mastering essential functions such as SUM (), COUNT (), MIN (), and MAX (). By applying these functions to their data sets, they gained valuable insights into summarizing and analysing information, empowering them to draw meaningful conclusions from their findings.



GRADE 4

Our Grade 4 learners displayed an exciting progress as they continue their coding journey with Scratch, a dynamic platform for creative expression and problem-solving. In their latest exploration, our young coders delved into the world of loops, mastering three different types: "forever," "repeat," and "repeat until." With enthusiasm and curiosity, they eagerly learned the intricacies of each loop type and how they contribute to the flow and functionality of their programs. Building upon this newfound knowledge, our learners embarked on an ambitious project, enhancing their existing system to incorporate loop-driven interactivity. Using sprites to ask questions based on random prompts, our learners created a dynamic user experience where participants could respond to the queries.



GRADE 5

Our Grade 5 game developers completed their exciting adventure game, "Frog's Birthday!" In this immersive journey, players are tasked with helping Frog retrieve his birthday gift, located at the far end of his current position, amidst a series of challenges and dangers. Our young developers demonstrated exceptional coding skills, leveraging their newly acquired knowledge of creating and using modules to streamline their code and enhance efficiency. Furthermore, our budding game developers have already begun working on their next project, demonstrating their boundless creativity



and enthusiasm for game design.

PRIMARY UPDATES

FRENCH

GRADE 1

Integrating music into the classroom has proven to be a potent instrument for language acquisition. We take immense pleasure in observing the commendable enthusiasm and progress displayed by our Grade 1 French learners as they embarked on a musical journey to acquire language, with a focus on songs that explore colours and parts of the body. The catchy rhythm and interactive nature of the song makes learning about body parts an exciting adventure through repetition and association with specific actions. The song about colours not only helped the students to correctly pronounce the colours but also to associate them with objects they see on a daily basis. The students teamed up to collaboratively apply their knowledge of the topic "se presenter" by working on a project. Each student crafted an identity card, showcasing their individuality, and these cards were subsequently displayed in the classroom. This engaging activity not only encourages teamwork but also sparks creativity among the students.



GRADE 2

Second-grade French learners have delved into the French language through a series of videos and activities. Recently, they acquired vocabulary related to school stationery and are now encouraged

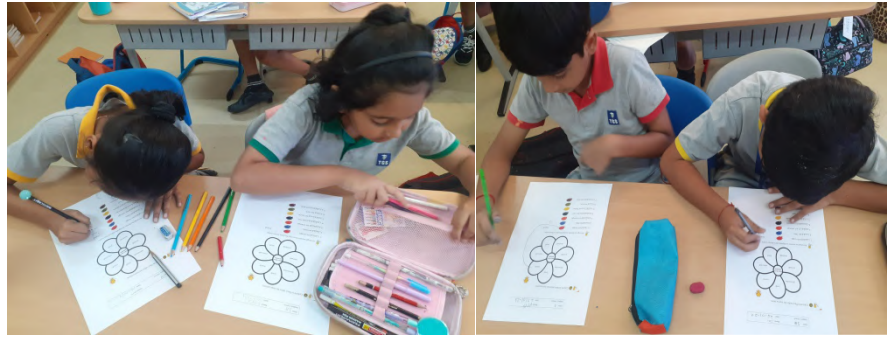


to apply this knowledge in the classroom. Furthermore, the students were introduced to the concept of subject pronouns and verb conjugations in the present tense, specifically focusing on the verb "être" (to be). Subsequently, they were tasked with using these newly learned concepts to construct sentences describing themselves.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 students studying French have been exploring the complexities of gender concepts in the French language, skilfully navigating the shift from singular to plural sentence

structures. Moreover, they have refined their French comprehension skills by immersing themselves in audio and video materials featuring diverse accents, thereby improving their overall language proficiency. The



students have also been acquainted with the notion of indefinite articles in French and have strengthened their vocabulary pertaining to "boissons" (beverages), "fruits," "légumes" (vegetables) and "jours de la semaine" (days of the week).

GRADE 4

Learning family vocabulary and practising descriptive adjectives is a valuable skill for French learners. Exploring passages and revising colours adds a well-rounded aspect to their language development and so the Grade 4 French learners have identified family members, followed by improving their reading skills with a family-based passage, and are now describing their family using various adjectives. They've also revisited French colour vocabulary.



GRADE 5

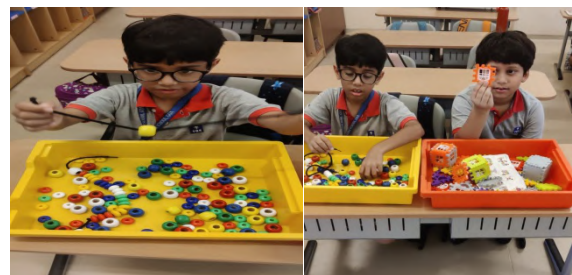
Focusing on irregular verb conjugations, especially in the context of the first group of verbs with ER endings, is a fundamental step in language learning. They explored different food items with their gender, along with learning about partitive articles. It added a practical and everyday dimension to their language acquisition. The ability to construct sentences expressing preferences and desires related to food items is not only linguistically valuable but also culturally relevant. They are now trying to construct small conversations and write short paragraphs using the learned expressions. It is beneficial for reinforcing their language skills.



HINDI

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students are engaging in a vibrant learning experience focused on understanding colours in Hindi. They actively explore their surroundings, identifying colours and translating them into Hindi. This hands-on approach is complemented by the use of colouring blocks and a colouring game, effectively reinforcing their observational, identification, analytical, and



application skills. This dynamic activity not only deepens their understanding of colour concepts but also cultivates a strong foundation in language acquisition and cognitive development.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students have delved into the realm of shapes in Hindi, establishing connections between the theoretical concept and real-world objects. Through a thoughtful analysis of shapes, they have examined various objects in their environment, seeking out distinct shapes. Additionally, they have demonstrated their understanding by documenting and illustrating numerous examples of different shapes in Hindi. This comprehensive activity not only elevates their observation skills but also refines their abilities in identification, analysis, and knowledge enhancement.



GRADE 3

Grade 3 students have recently grasped the concept of 'Sangya' in grammar. To reinforce their understanding, they engaged in solving worksheets centred around this concept. Furthermore, they actively connected the concept to their surroundings by identifying various 'Sangya' words in their environment, thereby enriching their vocabulary. Subsequently, they skilfully applied this expanded vocabulary to articulate and explain different situations using 'Sangya' words.

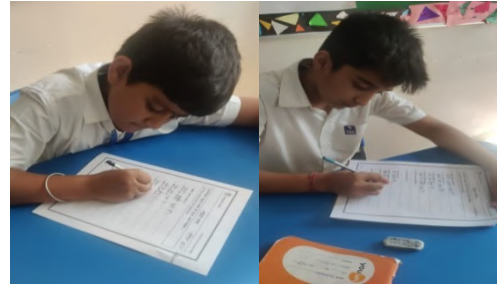
GRADE 4

Fourth-grade students delved into the intricacies of the Indian physical map, comprehensively studying the various states of India and their respective vegetation. Guided by their teacher, they crafted informative charts as part of a thematic presentation, thereby deepening their understanding of their country, individual states, and the crops produced in different regions. The project work involved collaborative efforts among groups of students. In parallel, the learners engaged in the study of grammar, specifically the concept of 'Sangya,' which was introduced and explained by the teacher through the use of videos and PowerPoint presentations. The students successfully completed worksheets associated with this grammatical topic.



GRADE 5

Fifth-grade students have recently mastered the grammar concept of "Sarvanam." This achievement was facilitated through a practical activity where students created various sentences by substituting 'Sangya' words with 'Sarvanam' words. Following this hands-on exercise, they diligently solved worksheets pertaining to the topic, significantly augmenting their understanding of the concept.



P.E

NURSERY



During P.E class activities like Balancing on the beam, hopping etc. also ball relay and obstacle races were conducted. **Balance Beam** is a tool for movement training that would let you gain full body control, strengthen the foot, etc.

LKG



The Curved Balance Beam brings gymnastics-based fitness fun to the playground and develops balance. During P.E class, balancing on a curved beam was conducted. Yoga poses like mountain pose and Triangle pose were also taught. It was great to see learners actively taking part in yoga.

UKG

Obstacle courses are great gross motor activities for preschool-aged children. Learning objectives include



enhancement of gross motor skills, strength, and coordination of large muscles as well as moving the body in relation to objects and other people.

GRADE 1

During P.E class, activities like Ball relay with variations, bib grab and Body parts game were part of it, wherein



Teamwork leads to learning. Individuals have their own set of skills and strengths. When the whole team works as a unit, everyone has an opportunity to learn from each other.

GRADE 2

Yoga brings together physical and mental disciplines to achieve a peaceful body and mind; it helps manage stress and anxiety and keeps one relaxed. It also helps in increasing flexibility, muscle strength and body tone. It also



improves respiration, energy and vitality. Yoga poses like mountain pose, boat pose, triangle pose, etc. were part of P.E class.

GRADE 3

Free hand exercises are a great way to boost your overall fitness as they engage multiple muscle groups



simultaneously, helping to build strength, improve flexibility, and increase endurance. During P.E class learners were actively engaged in activities like Body parts, rob the nest etc.

GRADES 4 & 5

Sports Day Drill took place.





LIBRARY

NURSERY

Thumbs up - Thumbs down

It is a simple method to make sure the students are understanding and to keep them engaged in the lesson. Students were given a story about colours and asked to name and identify the colours.



L KG

Story narration through illustrations

Illustrations help children understand the setting, characters, and tone of a story. Using pictures can also help keep children engaged and interested in learning to read.



NEWS FROM THE EARLY YEARS SECTION

NURSERY

LITERACY

The letter "M, m" and "R, r" was introduced to the class with a touch of magic, sparking curiosity among the children eager to explore the letter and its corresponding sound. Utilizing pictures, the learners associated the sound of the letter 'm' and 'r' with various words. In a delightful activity, they decorated paper mushrooms, adding an element of fun to the learning process. The young learners enthusiastically created a robot that correlated with the sound of the letter 'R'. This hands-on activity provided an engaging and memorable way for the children to associate the letter 'R' with the robots. Further reinforcement of the letter took place through engaging stories and rhymes during class sessions.



NUMERACY

In the Kindergarten section, our little ones in Nursery have been actively involved in a variety of activities. To recap their understanding of shapes, the tiny tots revisited the concepts of triangles and squares, engaging in sorting pictures accordingly. Additionally, they were introduced to the oval shape, using it to craft various objects. The learners dedicated time to reinforce their grasp of the number 8, employing beads, popsicle sticks, and pebbles for a hands-on experience. Simultaneously, they have been diligently practising number correspondence for numbers 1 to 5. In this exercise, they observe the given number and draw a corresponding number of objects.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

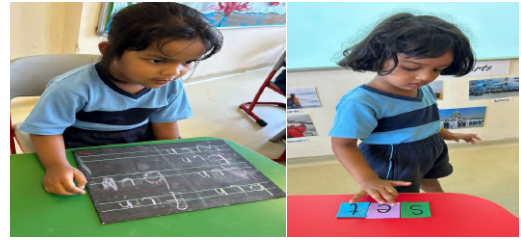
The Nursery children are currently exploring wild animals, finding fascination in the intriguing facts about these creatures. They've gained knowledge about the distinct characteristics that set animals apart from each other. They have also delved into understanding the distinctions between farm and wild animals.



LKG

LITERACY

Students are actively refining their writing skills, focusing on the art of blending and reading three-letter words. This endeavour not only enhances their literacy abilities but also nurtures essential life skills such as communication and is preparing them for a well-rounded approach to learning.



NUMERACY

Our little learners are thrilled as they dive into the world of numbers! From recognizing number names to mastering "less than," "more than," and "equal to," their numeracy skills sparkle with each new concept. Engaging activities like hunting for number names, swatting numbers during calls, and hands-on regrouping with manipulative make learning a blast! Our children also delight in reading number statements aloud.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Students are virtually delving into the landmarks and wildlife of Asia, Africa, North America, and South America. They're concurrently working on presentation and creative thinking skills through class presentations and engaging in discussions on these regions.



UKG

LITERACY

The students of the UKG class delved into the intricacies of language, exploring alternate spellings that added a layer of depth to their understanding of different sounds. They grasped the nuances of spelling patterns such as <ph> producing the /f/ sound, <c> yielding the /s/ sound when followed by <e>, <i>, or <y>, and <g> resulting in the /j/ sound when paired in some cases with <e>, <i>, or <y>. Moreover, they discovered that the /ai/ sound can be written in three main ways: a_e and ay. Alongside these phonetic explorations, the students mastered the usage of tricky words like many, any, before, more, other, and were. This linguistic journey extended into practical application as they framed and composed their own sentences, demonstrating a holistic understanding of the newly acquired concepts.



NUMERACY

The learners of UKG explored the realm of measurements, focusing on understanding mass and capacity. Mass, representing the amount of matter, was measured in grams or kilograms, while capacity, indicating volume, was quantified in litres or millilitres. Standard measurement units were covered, including scales for liquids and rulers for length. Learners engaged in hands-on activities, comparing, predicting, and measuring liquids with a measuring mug, and assessing length using a ruler. These practical experiences not only aided in daily tasks but also fostered a deeper understanding of quantitative aspects in our environment, including diverse weather conditions.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

In this new unit 'Force', the learners explored the dynamics of movement in our surroundings, considering humans, animals, and various objects. We covered voluntary and involuntary movements, including those powered by batteries and electricity. Observing a video, we delved into how animals move. Additionally, we predicted and tested the distance an object could cover, discovering that inclined planes led to faster and longer movements. The class also delved into the fundamental concept of forces, focusing on push and pull dynamics. Learners observed and discussed the effects of these forces on objects, gaining valuable insights into the basic principles governing motion in our everyday environment.



PRIMARY UPDATES

NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

GRADE 1

ENGLISH

Poems provide enjoyment and laughter. They are engaging and fun to read! They encourage kids to move with the rhythms they hear and add actions. Poetry encourages children to express themselves and teaches them a new way of thinking about something. Keeping all this in mind, our Grade 1 learners explored the nuances of listening to, reading and writing short poems. The learners also memorised and learnt to recite poems with expression, poise and voice modulation.



MATH

In order to prepare our Grade 1 learners for the real world and comprehend how much things cost, students were introduced to US and local currency. They learnt the need to understand the value of money, how they can save and how they can create the amounts of money using different coins and bills. Slides and videos on US currency, old Indian coins and banknotes not in circulation now that were used in India earlier, real banknotes used currently in India and a shop with items to learn the MRP of items were all part of their learning experience this fortnight.



SCIENCE



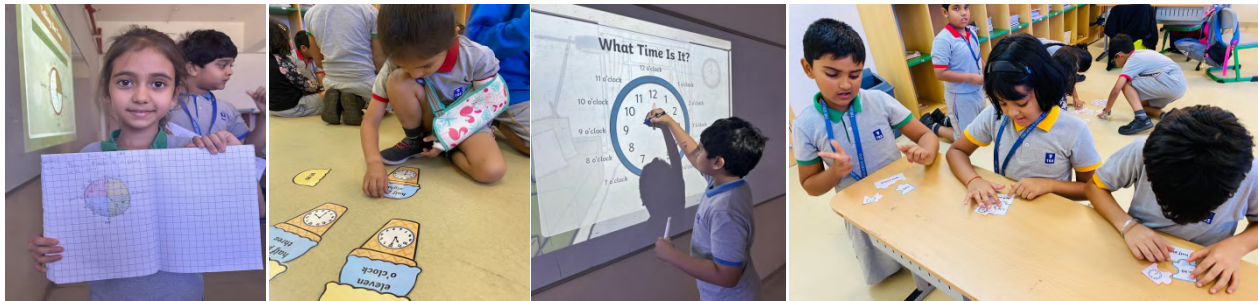
The curious lot of Grade 1 with excitement and avid interest are exploring habitats from around the world to uncover the plants and animals in each and the features of each that help them adapt to their habitat. With engaging dialogue, the learners have expressed their thoughts on the importance of wildlife conservation and the terrible effects of human activities that have caused endangerment and extinction of animals.

GRADE 2 ENGLISH

While letter writing may seem like a lost art in our increasingly digital age, the learners of Grade 2 explored this timeless skill that fosters creativity, communication and a love for language by expressing thoughts and feelings in a unique and personal way. They also worked with their buddies to create word buddies that come together to make new, shorter words called contractions.



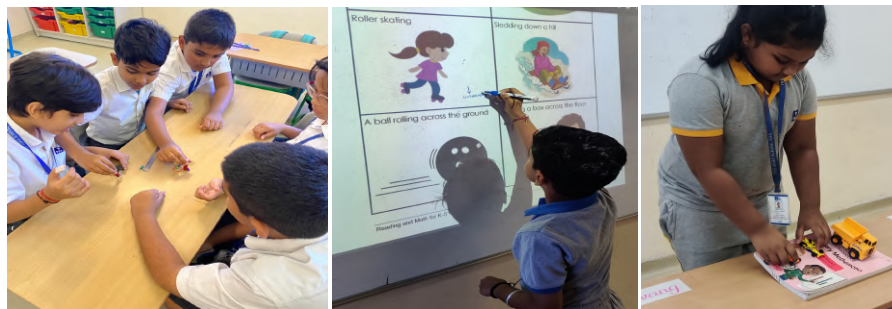
MATH



This month the learners of Grade 2, delved into the concept of ‘Time’, a fundamental aspect of our daily life. Through creative activities, engaging games, and real-world experiences, they are not only learning the basics of time but also developing a lifelong appreciation for the importance of time management.

SCIENCE

The learners have dived into the fascinating world of Friction and Magnets. Friction is like a secret superhero – it's the force that helps us stop, start, and even slows things down. Our second graders have

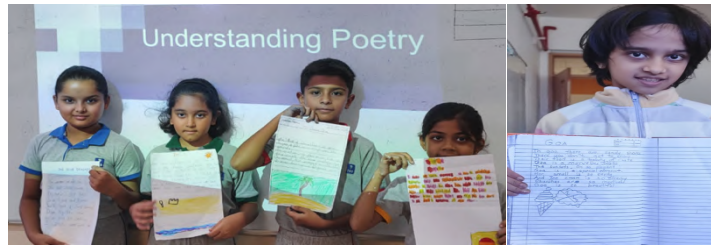


been on a mission to uncover the mysteries of friction. They've rolled toy cars down ramps, slid objects on different surfaces, and have felt the effects of this invisible force. Through hands-on experiments, they've learned how surfaces can be smooth or rough, affecting the amount of friction and making each activity a unique adventure. Now, let's shift our focus to magnets – those magical forces that seem to pull objects like magnets to a fridge! Our young scientists have been exploring the wonders of magnetism by playing with magnets and discovering what materials are attracted to them. It's been a magnetic extravaganza as

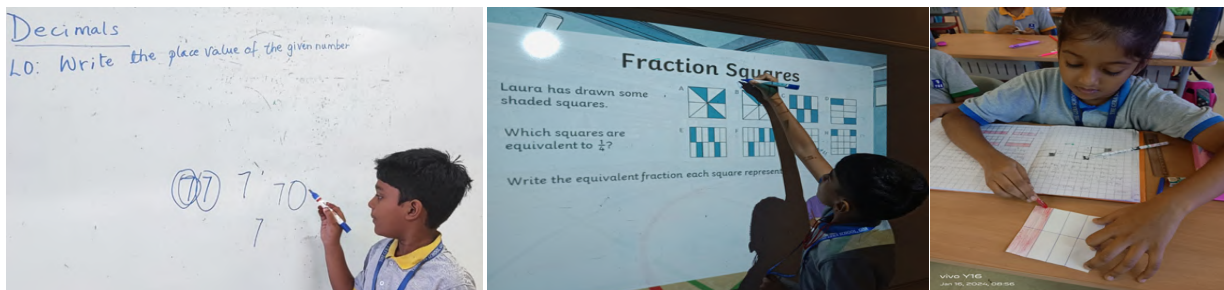
they've observed the invisible forces at play and experimented with the power of attraction.

GRADE 3 ENGLISH

Fostering a love of poetry in kids can have a lasting impact on their lives! Grade 3 worked on using rhyming schemes to write colour poems and integrated their poems with their Theme Presentation on Goa.



MATH



Fractions are an indispensable part of our life and without even realising it, we constantly use fractions in our day-to-day tidings. Imagine you're shopping with your Rs.2000 that you had saved from your birthday money. You really want a few items you've had your eye on for a while, but they're all very expensive. You're waiting for the items to go on sale, and when they do, you rush down to the store. Instead of being marked with a new price, though, the store has a large sign that reads: All items are currently 50% off. This sounds like great news, but without doing some Math, there's no way to know if you have enough money. Knowing that 50% is $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost of each item, it is the best way to get started. Taking this example, learners went solving word problems where they had to use fractions to determine cost after a discount. Later they discussed real life questions like, what about when you're cooking? Have you ever wanted to double a recipe for cookies so you would have more cookies to eat? Or what about telling time? Here again a fraction comes into picture, e.g. what fraction of the day do you spend in school?

SCIENCE

Why is light important in our daily life? Learners have acquired the understanding that vision in both humans and other animals is facilitated by the presence of light, which functions as a form of energy. The Sun serves as a primary source of natural light, and its energy is indispensable for sustaining life on Earth, supporting the growth of



plants and the existence of various species. Additionally, through a conducted experiment, learners have grasped the concept that the Earth undergoes rotation around its own axis and simultaneous revolution around the Sun. This motion is identified as the determining factor for the occurrence of day and night on our planet. Furthermore, in a debate comparing the advantages of natural and artificial light, learners emphasised the superiority of solar lights over traditional lighting options. Solar lights received praise for their energy efficiency, minimal maintenance requirements, straightforward installation process, cost-effectiveness, versatility, environmental friendliness, and safety features.

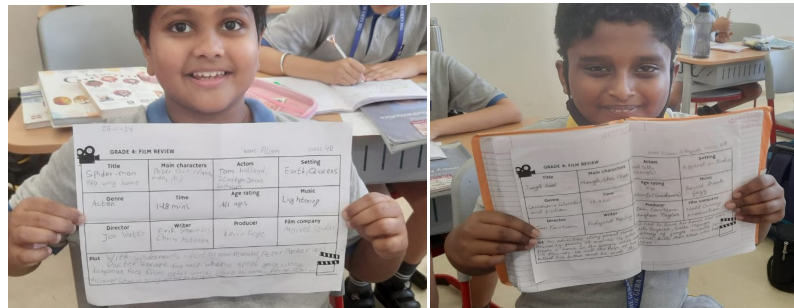
G.P.

In a commendable effort to underscore the significance of education, Grade 3 learners recently staged a skit in class. The performance, executed with enthusiasm and creativity, aimed to convey the paramount importance of education in shaping individuals and society at large. The skit unfolded in a series of scenes, each meticulously crafted to convey specific messages about education. Learners showcased how acquiring knowledge and skills empowered them to overcome obstacles, pursue aspirations, and contribute positively to the society.



GRADE 4 ENGLISH

In the English class, we delved into a different kind of poster and text- Film posters and Film reviews. The learners were explained the purpose of writing reviews which is mainly to assess a film's overall quality and determine whether or not they think the film is worth recommending. They were introduced to the features of a film review and the various elements one needs to include. The learners were also explained that a review is different from a summary and should not give away the story. Having watched the movie 'Maleficent' in class, we wrote a review together. The learners will then be shown a different movie following which they will write their own reviews.



MATH

“Without Mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is Mathematics. Everything around you is numbers”.

Averages, Mode and Median are prevalent in everyday life. From calculating the average score on a test to determining the median income in a neighbourhood, these concepts are essential for making sense of the world around us. By learning these concepts early, learners are better equipped to interpret and critically analyse information in various contexts.



SCIENCE

A Healthy Gut is Key to a Healthy You!

Grade 4 learners have grasped the basics of the digestive system and understood the significance of maintaining a balanced diet. This foundational knowledge sets the stage for a lifetime of healthy eating habits, supporting both physical and cognitive development. Learners used the digestive system model to explain the process of digestion and used suitable scientific vocabulary to explain the concept.



G.P

Our young environmentalists in Grade 4 have been on an incredible journey, turning into news reporters to shed light on global environmental issues. In their recent news presentations, they tackled global challenges like



deforestation, pollution in rivers, endangered species, urbanisation threatening wetlands, and human-wildlife conflicts in agriculture. They showcased their research and presentation skills, proposing solutions to protect our planet. Our young minds delved into the places, organisms, and proposed solutions, showcasing their commitment to protecting our planet. Stay tuned for more updates on their incredible learning adventures!

GRADE 5

ENGLISH

“In a magazine, one can get - from cover to cover - 15 to 20 different ideas about life and how to live it.”- Maya Angelou

The learners of Grade 5 were introduced to the art form of Magazines and Magazine articles. Having covered a range of non-fiction text types, the learners were taught the

difference between magazines and newspapers and examined the various features of a magazine and magazine articles. The learners were then divided into groups, with each given a different magazine. The members of the group had to select an article from the magazine and analyse it for purpose, audience, language and layout. The groups then presented their analysis to the class along with a short summary of the article they worked on.

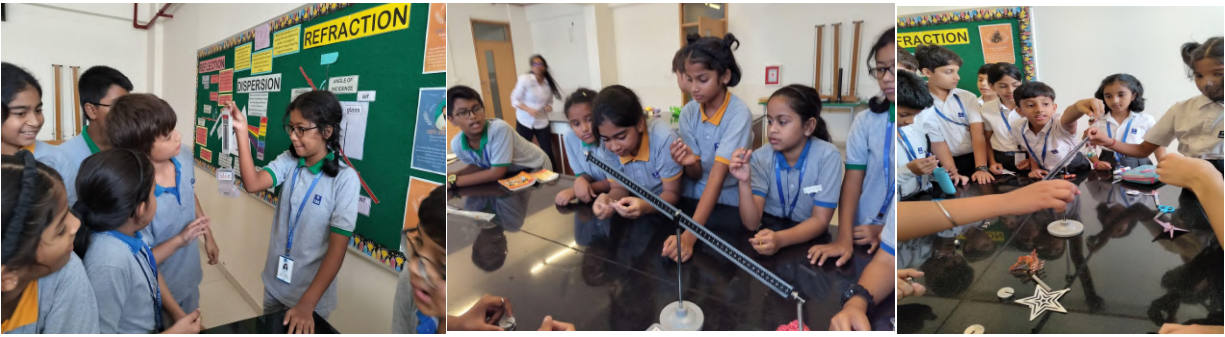


MATH

Our capacity and volume exploration was not only educational but also a hilarious journey filled with unexpected twists and turns. The beakers and glass tubes may have contained liquids, but what overflowed were the joy of learning and the infectious laughter of our young scientists. The classroom transformed into a mini laboratory as beakers, glass tubes, and various scientific contraptions found their way into the hands of our inquisitive learners. The first challenge: Understanding the concept of capacity. As the teacher poured water into a large beaker, the learners' eyes widened with awe. Little did they know that the fun was just beginning. The question on everyone's mind: How much liquid could each beaker hold? One particularly memorable moment involved a tiny mishap when a learner accidentally knocked over a beaker and the class erupted into laughter. It was a reminder that learning is not just about getting things right the first time, but also about embracing the inevitable spills and unexpected surprises along the way. As the children measured and compared volumes, their understanding of capacity deepened. The laughter and camaraderie in the classroom transformed the lesson into a shared adventure, creating an environment where mistakes were celebrated as opportunities to learn and grow.



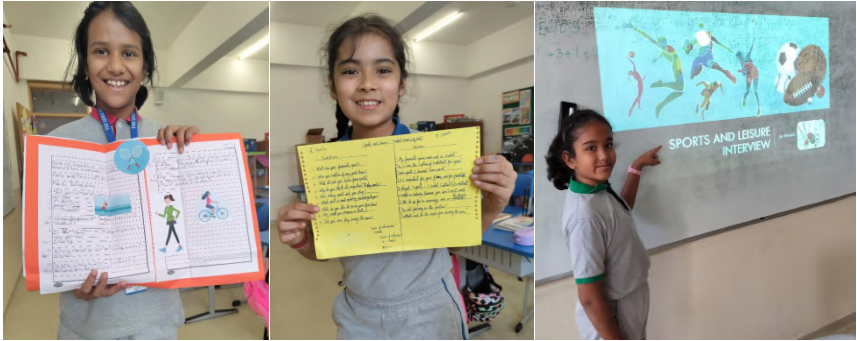
SCIENCE



Climb Mount Everest and you're guaranteed to lose some weight, but not because of the exercise. A person who's standing at sea level weighs slightly more than they would on top of a mountain's peak. Weight is the measurement of gravity's pull on an object. And it varies by location. Weight is a measure of force that is equal to the gravitational pull on an object, whereas mass is a measure of the amount of matter that an object contains. Mass is independent of location, while weight depends on location. Learners of Grade 5 found out the difference between mass and weight and compared the mass and weight of different objects by measuring them on the weighing scale and then doing the necessary calculations. They learned about how astronauts cope with weightlessness. They also investigated the effects of different forces on a ball at rest and in motion with the help of interesting experiments which they did in class with a straw and a ping pong ball.

G.P

This fortnight, our Grade 5 superstars took a unique spin on Global Perspectives. Forget textbooks and lectures—our learners turned into sports journalists extraordinaire! Imagine your child, armed with a notepad and microphone,



transforming everyday adults into sports legends in the making. The journey began with brainstorming sessions to discuss critical questions that would be asked. Learners put on their thinking caps to craft questions that would make sports interviewers nod in approval. "What's your approach to sports? Do you think it is a necessary part of daily life?" was just the beginning! Armed with their questions, our young journalists approached their chosen adults with the gravitas of seasoned reporters. Our tech-savvy learners didn't stop at just asking questions. They took things to the next level by recording their interviews in a format. Grade 5 class gathered for the grand premiere. Each learner took the stage, presenting their interviews to a captivated audience. From the humorous moments to the heart-warming stories, it was a showcase of talent that left everyone quite impressed!

Here we end this Newsletter. The next Newsletter will be for the period 29th January to 10th February.

Regards

The Gera School