

The Gera School deeply mourns the tragic demise of David Dominic Lobo, the two-year-old son of Mr Jonathan Lobo, our Admin Executive. David passed away on the 21st of December. The School extends its condolences to Mr Lobo, his wife Mrs Larissa Lobo, and all other family members.



Dear everyone,

Christmas is happily turning to be a festival that is being celebrated by everyone, insofar as all its visible symbols and traditions are. People buy Christmas trees and have stockings with gifts, and attend Christmas parties (Children love Santa Claus!) and make it a point to buy plum cake and all the other Christmas goodies.

And this is very good. Holi and Diwali are also celebrated likewise. Just as it is rightly noted that learning another language and then its culture helps with international mindedness, so, too, will the common celebration of festivals promote peace and understanding.

But, here let us turn our attention to Jesus.

Jesus is a historical figure though there are aspects of his life that are considered by some as part of Christian mythology. But we could learn from him / his life whether he is part of history or part of mythology, just as we could learn from the life of St. Francis or Lord Krishna.

For this Newsletter, I will just consider just three remarkable features. One of the striking aspects of Jesus was his single-mindedness of purpose. Nothing could distract him from what he had set out to do – not seductive temptation, ridicule, ostracism, wrath of the powerful or even death. It is not easy to have that discipline and focus but to achieve anything requires focus, perseverance and sacrifice – and Jesus serves as an excellent example.

The second is Jesus' ability to work with all kinds of people: he was not exclusivist. All were welcome to his table and he never showed prejudice. He was impatient and hot-tempered at times but he attacked 'the sin and not the sinner'. And if a person was genuinely sorry for wrongdoing, he was easily forgiving. Jesus was not one to fuel sectarianism or disharmony between people.

Thirdly, Jesus was love. He clothed it in sternness and radical notions of duty but he had a soft and dutiful heart. His heart was big enough to accommodate tenderness even for those that society would shun. In his final moments, too, when his body was racked with pain, there was no bitterness and revengeful thoughts; instead, he did not forget to be kind and warm in heart.

“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth” would be so apt for one like Jesus!

I end here. Have a good season and a happy and rewarding 2024.

Warm regards,

**C P Joseph
PRINCIPAL**

EVENTS

NURSERY TO GRADE 3 SPORTS DAY

On 9th December 2023, The Gera School organized its 4th Annual Sports Day for Nursery to Grade 3. The event was graced by a Teacher, Administrator and a distinguished sports person, Ms Sunita Rodrigues, as the Chief Guest. The campus was filled with excitement as the little ones marched the field in the presence of the TGS Parents and Staff Community, not forgetting to mention the Mascot for the event, *Shera*, who waved and cheered the crowd on to mark the beginning of this special day! The March Past was followed by the Torch run which was completed by Zara Bajaj. As the Chief Guest declared the Sports Meet open and released the balloons, the words of the oath filled the air. There was a grand display of skill, sportsmanship, speed and accuracy as the little ones from Nursery to Grade 3 participated in a range of events like Sprint Relay, Partner Race, Knee Throw, Obstacle Course, Balancing The Ball and the popular Hula Hoop Race. It was indeed a treat to watch them in action! Special mention goes to the delightful display of Gymnastics, Martial Arts, the Energetic Flag Drill by Grades 1, 2 & 3 and a spectacular ribbon prop drill performed by Pre-primary which enthralled the audience.





Early Years

LITERARY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

In a world of enchantment, our young minds immersed themselves in captivating stories, embraced imaginative play, and dived into creative activities. This immersive experience aims to cultivate a genuine love for reading and storytelling, fostering a foundation for a lifelong appreciation of the written word. Through these engaging activities, our little learners are not only building essential literacy skills but also nurturing a rich imagination and a passion for the art of storytelling. It's a journey of discovery, where every page turned and every tale shared sparked the joy of learning within each child.

During Literacy Week, the UKG class embarked on a creative journey, weaving a collective story by building upon each successive line. The room buzzed with anticipation as each student eagerly



contributed to the unfolding narrative. The classroom was transformed into a hub of literary exploration as the students eagerly read as many books as possible.

GRADES 1 TO 5

ADVENT ASSEMBLY

On 5th December we had a whole School Assembly which marked the feast of St. Francis Xavier and The Advent Season. Through the Assembly the students marked the importance of the Feast Day as well as shared how each of them can prepare for Christmas by doing little deeds of kindness through the Season of Advent by way of an Advent Calendar.



LITERARY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

POETRY RECITATION

Our focus has now shifted towards delving into the realm of figurative language. As part of this exploration, we have initiated an Intra-Grade Poetry Recitation program. This endeavour serves as a valuable platform for learners to witness first-hand how figurative language is artfully employed in poetry, allowing them to better express themselves through this literary form.



Congratulations to the winners!

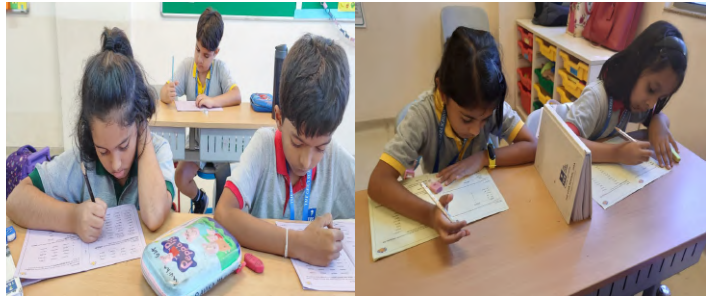
1st Place - Asher Joan D' Souza

2nd Place - Keerat Chawla

3rd Place - Chloe Alemao

INDIA SPELLING BEE SCHOOL-LEVEL COMPETITION

The much awaited and well renowned competition, The India Spelling Bee took place on 13th December for the Primary Students and 14th December for the Middle School students. We have been taking part in this competition for the past three years and our students have been successful enough to stand a chance in the Regionals and the National level.



MORNING ASSEMBLY

Our morning assemblies are a very important part of our school culture, helping to create a conducive atmosphere for learning and instilling a sense of enthusiasm and motivation among our students. This fortnight we have had assemblies on topics like - World Soil Day, Advent Calendar - What is it? International Animals' Rights Day, Goa Liberation Day, What Is Success, Save Energy, Earth, and Self-Affirmation - Think Positive etc.



SAFETY AWARENESS ON THE USE OF VERTICAL TRANSPORTATION

A safety awareness session on the use of Vertical Transportation was arranged for the Primary Section students on 18th December by Elevator and Escalator Safety Trust.



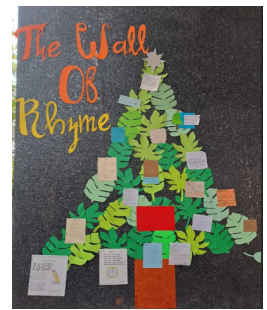
SHORT STORY WRITING WORKSHOP

Throughout the Literary Week, students across Grades embarked on a thrilling journey into the world of imagination and creativity. A Short Story Workshop was held for Grades 4 and 5 by Ms Aarati Gedam, author and member of the TGS Parent Community. The students eagerly participated in a multitude of interactive exercises tailored to hone their storytelling skills. From brainstorming story ideas using fun prompts to crafting vibrant characters every activity was aimed at nurturing their creativity. Moreover, the workshop emphasized the joy of storytelling and encouraged the children to express themselves freely through their narratives.



THE WALL OF RHYME

Step into the world of budding wordsmiths! TGS Students and Teachers penned their emotions, thoughts and visions on The Wall Of Rhyme this December. The Wall Of Rhyme, adorned with the creative outpouring of our students, stands as a testament to their poetic prowess during the Literary Week celebrations.



STORY TELLING SESSIONS

“Certainly all art demands as much skill and reflection as the art of storytelling.”- Hermann Hesse.



Witnessing sheer joy on the faces of the students of Grades 1 and 2 was truly a testament to the magic of storytelling. As part of the literary week, our Principal, Mr Joseph, read to Grade 2 students, and our Grade 8 student, Amaya Mewara, read to Grade 1 students. The session was interactive. The students and narrators both enjoyed the sessions. Both these sessions aimed not only to entertain but also to instil valuable lessons about empathy, creativity and the power of imagination.

GRADES 1 AND 2 ART EVENT

The holiday season just got merrier for Grades 1 and 2! The learners had a fun filled experience while creating a Christmas-themed painting activity.



SECRET SANTA

Students across Grades beamed with joy as they participated in the delightful Secret Santa's gift exchange. The anonymity of the gift-giving process added an element of excitement and intrigue. Every child went back home with a special gift bought by their classmate. The event emphasised the importance of giving and receiving, fostering a sense of unity and kindness within the student body.



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL PROGRAM

The festivities were alive and thriving at the TGS Christmas Special on the 21st of December! The students spread joy through an array of performances that captured the essence of the holiday season. The students sang melodious heart-warming carols and performed to peppy numbers to ring in the festivities. Students across grades put up a play to highlight the Nativity story depicting the cherished tale of the birth of Jesus Christ, reminding us of the true spirit and meaning of this festival.





WINTER FETE

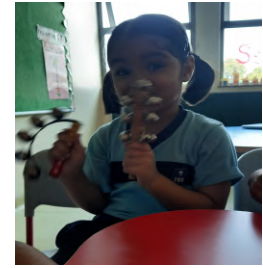
The Winter Fete held at our school was an astounding success, drawing in a lively crowd of parents and students alike. The event was a delightful blend of delectable food stalls offering a diverse range of culinary delights and captivating games that left everyone enthralled. The pleasant morning buzzed with excitement as Parents and Students indulged in delicious treats while participating in various thrilling games and activities. Through this enjoyable event, we not only fostered a sense of community spirit but also successfully raised funds for our school's initiatives and projects, marking it as a heart-warming and fruitful celebration. The proceeds of this event will go to St Joseph's Eventide Homes, at Uccassaim, a place that looks after the elderly and destitute.



NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

MUSIC NURSERY

The Nursery students were completely immersed in the Christmas season, and we sang and danced to several Christmas carols. Of course, being the little ones, their interest in Santa meant they wanted to sing Jingle Bells, which we did. Along with the singing, the students participated in a brief percussion session with Jingle and Sleigh bells, and they each took turns playing these while singing carols.



LKG

As it's the Christmas season, it was only apt to bring in the Christmas cheer in music class too. The learners of the LKG got involved in learning and singing about reindeer, especially a famous Reindeer with a bright nose. Not only did they sing about Rudolf; but the learners also sang and rocked it out to Jingle Bell Rock.



UKG

The Learners of the UKG class grasped the words of Jingle Bell Rock very quickly and sang it with gusto! In our last class before the Christmas break, they sang and danced to their hearts' content and had fun along with their classmates. Even their teachers got into the act, singing and dancing and wishing each other a merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad.



GRADE 1

Over the fortnight the plan was to guide the learners of Grade 1 in learning a Christmas Carol. It is very heartening and fulfilling to share that the learners themselves requested to learn a particular Carol, and that, too, one that you wouldn't expect. They chose to learn and sing- Oh! Christmas Tree. They sang it sweetly and beautifully.



GRADE 2

Grade 2 wanted to sing Jingle Bell Rock. This was already done with the Early Years and so, we decided to do a fun Christmas song for a change. We chose, All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth. Being at an age where many usually lose their front teeth, this turned out to be fun learning to sing with a lisp!!



GRADE 3

Over the last couple of weeks, students of Grade 3 have primarily been focusing on the beat in Music through the use of fun games. Students were made to sit in a circle and the main beat was held by the teacher. We then played 'My Favourite Rhythm', where students had to make statements in accordance to the beat. They also had to play out their favourite rhythm while the rest of the class copied them. We then played 'Follow The Leader: Rhythm Edition', where the leader had to create a rhythm within the beat. This same action was then copied by the rest of the class. The person in the centre had to try to determine who the leader was. Everybody got a chance to be either a leader or a guesser! We also spent some time singing and learning some popular Christmas Carols!



GRADE 4

The students of Grade 4 have been learning about the application of beat in lyrical rhythm. We started off with a simple call-and-response type of game, where one student would



tap a rhythm and others would follow. Students were allowed to clap, stomp, snap, or do any other action which would hold the beat, allowing for a funny and interesting game! We also played 'Musical Scattergories', a game in which a category was given and students had to name things within that category one at a time, without skipping a beat or repeating what someone else had said. This game allowed them to understand the emphasis in the syllables in words and its implication in lyrical rhythm. Although there were a few who struggled to stay on beat, most students did very well! Students also learned Christmas Carols and sang to karaoke tracks! They thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

GRADE 5

Grade 5 finished the song 'Sunshine' by Irving Berlin. They truly embraced the spirit of the song, singing it with great enthusiasm. They learned their parts well with some of them singing an echo for one part of the song. Christmas Carols are on everyone's mind this season, and the students had a blast singing various carols that they knew, as well as some new and unfamiliar ones. We also reviewed the canon, using the song 'Boom-di-a-da'. Students were split into two groups and sang in rounds. Most of them held their part well!



DANCE

NURSERY

In dance class, the nursery students have been enjoying dancing to their favourite dance songs. After an exciting warm-up, we do the happy dance, Listen and move and Wiggle your worries away. Keeping with the festive season, in addition to this, we learnt a new dance routine to the Song “Santa Claus Rock” where the students learnt how to “twist” which was a whole lot of fun. We ended our classes with a calm-down routine with Yogapalooza.



LKG

LKG Students had a lot of fun in dance class, working with a partner to dance and we learnt how to turn with our partners holding both hands making an ark with our arms and turning over. This was quite the challenge but some managed to learn the trick and we added this movement to our dance routine while dancing to the “Santa Claus rock” after we had warmed up and done all our regular dance exercises.



UKG

UKG students love to experiment with their movement in dance class and so after our warm up, they enjoy dancing to popular songs where one of them gets to be the leader and their classmates follow their dance moves. Everyone gets a chance to be the leader and express themselves through dance. After this, we learned a more advanced routine to the “Santa Claus Rock” as it’s such a fun dance. We included the hand jive in the UKG routine to this song and we had a blast dancing to it.



GRADE 1

In Grade 1 we took some time out to select a few students to perform a special Dance for the upcoming Christmas assembly in school and once that was done we learnt a dance routine to ‘Jingle Bells’ as a fun way to enjoy the Christmas spirit and learn new dance moves as well. All this of course after a thorough warm up and dancing to our favourite Zumba song, ‘Dreamers’.



GRADE 2

The students of Grade 2 have been through a beginners' lesson on 'Dance Formations'. This is important when dancing on stage in a group dance routine in order for the performance to look more visually dynamic. We indulged in a group activity where the class was divided into two groups, each having to arrange themselves in the best possible manner in thirty seconds into the formation that I called out. The circle formation was easy to do and the students tried to make their circles as symmetrical as possible in order to garner a point. We also formed a (V), (T) and (X) among other shapes but sometimes the kids got confused and needed direction.



GRADE 3

Grade 3 students continue to work with partners but this time we learnt a simple routine to the Christmas song 'Like It's Christmas' by the Jonas Brothers. Working with a partner is definitely more challenging than dancing on your own but first we have to know our own dance steps thoroughly before we can move on to partner work so those that hadn't practised diligently, did find it more of a struggle.



GRADE 4

In Grade 4 we also learned the same routine as Grade 3 students but got further along into



the choreography. The students have had to learn to be quicker on their feet as the song is pretty fast paced and there are a lot of tiny gestures that need to be danced in a certain way that if not executed properly, changes the move entirely. This was brought to the students' notice and with practice; they should be able to make the moves look effortless. 'Like its Christmas' is a modern song and we have incorporated a little *cha cha* into the primarily Pop Style of dancing.

GRADE 5

Students of Grade 5 have been working on a Dance routine to be put up for the Christmas assembly and although all students were required to learn the dance routine, only a few of them have chosen to perform it



on stage as the rest are involved in some other item in the Christmas program. The students are doing a wonderful job and They have practised wholeheartedly to put up the best performance they can muster. I am confident that they will put up a splendid performance that the audience will enjoy.

DRAMA NURSERY

For this time's Drama sessions, we dived into the captivating world of communication and listening skills. The little ones enjoyed listening to Christmas-theme-based Storytelling and activities. The children paid close attention to the acting guidelines. They stunned us with their responses, ideas and enthusiastic participation.



LKG

In LKG we are learning that listening isn't just about hearing words – it's about understanding emotions, intentions, and the rhythm of the story or scene. We worked on various drama energisers and activities that would help us enhance our listening skills, imagination and creativity.

UKG

In the Drama session, we stressed on how good communication is the backbone of any successful drama activity or performance. The children enthusiastically engaged in dramatic activities, energisers and games that enhanced quick thinking, listening, and responding. The little ones then excitedly put their creative ideas down on paper and shared them with the class.



GRADE 1

In Grade 1, we are learning about how Drama is more than just entertainment; it's a celebration of creativity, expression, and the boundless possibilities of the imagination. Our theme was based on the joy of Dramatized Storytelling! The students enjoyed the theme and engaged excitedly in the activities and energisers.



GRADE 2

In Grade 2 we are learning that the importance of communication and listening skills are not just for the stage; they're valuable life skills. We worked on various dramatic concepts, activities and energisers.

This added an element of interactive learning, enhancing



communication skills, and making it not just informative but incredibly enjoyable for the children.

GRADES 3, 4 and 5

The Intra Class Monologue Competition, elimination round is complete. Some students who were absent missed out on an opportunity to perform in front of their peers. A diverse range of topics were presented and we cannot wait for the final round. Here are some of the finalists! As the last contestants were getting ready to present their monologues, some of the others were preparing for their



Christmas Connection Stories.



EARLY YEARS UPDATES

ART

NURSERY

Students have been learning about different shades of green by using paper craft. They put two green shades together to grasp a basic understanding of light and shade.

LKG

During the Christmas season, students learned how to make a 2D Christmas tree on a black sheet using red and green craft papers. They were taught to distinguish between the colour strips provided to them, and the basic procedure of sticking was explained.

UKG

The students had a great time creating bookmarks for themselves. They learned about the importance of bookmarks and were guided on using two shades and blending them in one section. As a result, they made impressive bookmarks with various colour schemes.

GRADE 1

Our talented Grade 1 students learnt to make creative Santa out of paper. The process not only honed their artistic abilities but also encouraged creativity and self-expression. The joy and pride on the faces of our Grade 1 students were truly heart-warming as they proudly displayed their handmade Santa.



GRADE 2

As students were excited for the Christmas festival which is round the corner, the project was based on a Christmas Theme- What do they like the most about Christmas, given a choice to choose their favourite time, what makes them feel happy, looking at a particular decor, food, scene etc.



GRADE 3

Grade 3 students dived into the festive spirit by mastering the art of crafting Christmas trees using strips of paper. The project not only showcased their artistic abilities but also provided a wonderful opportunity for them to refine their fine motor skills through cutting, folding and arranging the paper strips.



GRADE 4

Grade 4 students embarked on a winter wonderland adventure, mastering the art of crafting exquisite 2D paper snowflakes using



origami paper. Our young artists explored the ancient Japanese art of paper folding, learning the intricate steps to create beautiful and unique snowflake designs. Each fold, crease and cut contributed to the delicate symmetry that defines these winter wonders.

GRADE 5

Self-expression topics can go with flow and can lose the touch of creativity, if no proper guidance is given to a learner. I was very much happy to see deep thoughts portrayed on paper, a topic of their own imagination but having control over when to have an understanding to put a full stop. Basic guidance was given on how to create artwork, having a meaning for free expression and observing the thoughts.



CIRCLE TIME / LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

GRADE 1

In the time of Advent when all adults pray for peace and happiness, the students discussed the concept of Peace. We spoke of what is Peace. Many children had heard of the word, some of them related it to the opposite of Peace. They said 'no war'. Some spoke of why war happens, that's why there is no peace. Their situations were interesting because they related the concept to their simple life. Many children gave examples of how a country could tell another that they were not good people. It was interesting to hear that some children were aware of wars in the world at present. The idea of peace was introduced. We will continue this topic next time as well.



GRADE 2

At this time of Advent when all adults pray for peace and happiness, the students of Grade 2 discussed their understanding of the concept Peace. Many children visualised why wars happen and there is no peace. Some quoted from History how countries went to fight because they wanted more land from another country. We spoke of peace in the world from a larger perspective. Next time we will continue about peace in our daily life.



GRADE 3

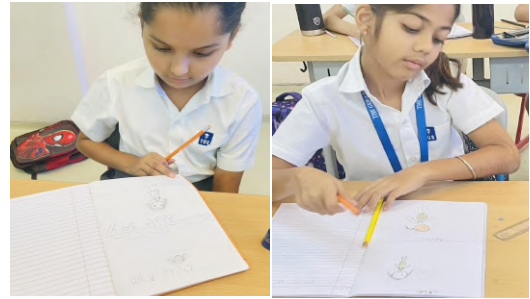
CIRCLE TIME

At this time of Advent when all adults pray for peace and happiness, children too must understand the concept of Peace. With this Grade we could discuss what peace is and who can create peace. Some very well-informed students shared how exploitation of resources causes wars. We spoke of how some nations wanted to take away oil, minerals, etc. from another rich country. They were able to speak about nuclear wars. We were able to speak about how wars started and about how the UN could intervene. We then spoke of how important peace in the world was. We decided to continue our discussion on peace in our daily life next time.



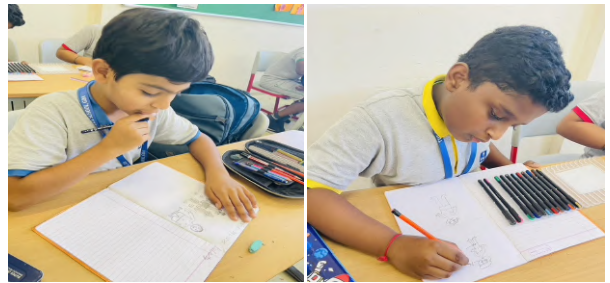
LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

This fortnight, the learners of Grade 3 began with the topic 'Growing Up'. Getting them to first understand the basic physical changes that occur and then get a more complex understanding of what are the other changes that take place during the process of growth and development. Learners are understanding the scientific basis of growth and are very participative and enthusiastic to know more.



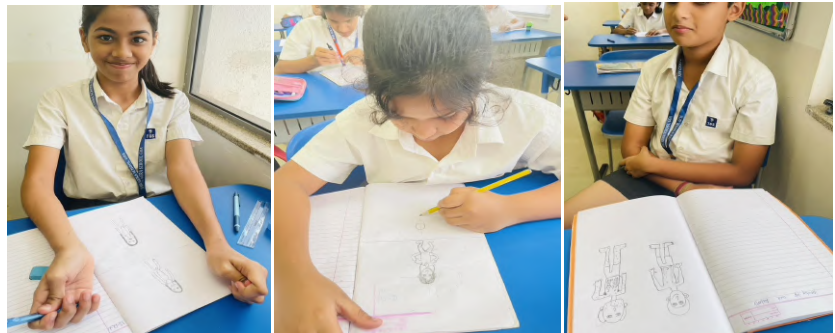
GRADE 4

As learners go through the introduction process to the chapter on 'Growing up and Puberty', a lot of misconceptions are being addressed. Some learners were very confused about their own bodies and labelled the same incorrectly. When talking about private parts as well, there was a lot of confusion that was cleared. A lot of the learners were very interested in talking about social evils like drugs and alcohol and a lot of them kept asking questions like "Why do adults put their bodies through this?" All learners were patient, respectful and responsive during these very informative discussions. As they get more into the topic, I am sure the kind of questions asked will get more complex.



GRADE 5

The learners of grade 5 were very excited to begin discussions on Growing Up and Puberty. Their most widely asked questions had to do with their feelings and emotions getting difficult to understand. Learners drew images of themselves at different stages of development and labelled the body parts they knew. They then marked the physical changes they anticipated from one stage to another. Learners were quite accurate when it came to their own sex. The misconceptions and mistakes began with the discussion on the changes the opposite sex experienced.



ICT

GRADE 1

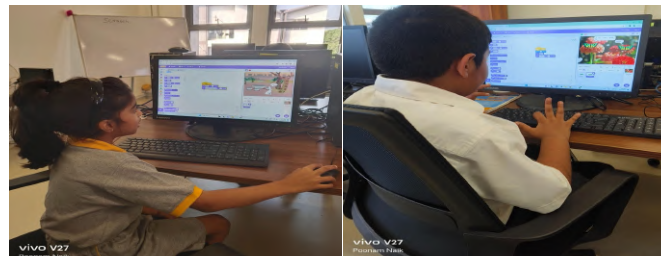
The Grade 1 learners showcased their acquired ICT skills by putting into practice what they have learned so far. They demonstrated their proficiency in handling word processing tools by incorporating various elements such as page colour, text boxes, images, and shapes into



their Word documents. The students eagerly embraced the opportunity to apply their knowledge, resulting in visually appealing and engaging Word documents.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students travelled into the exciting world of online Scratch tools, sparking enthusiasm among them. During this introduction, they familiarised themselves with various components of the Scratch interface and gained proficiency in accessing the online Scratch tool. In their exploration, students learned to craft the stage area by incorporating various Sprites and Backdrops. They successfully composed small scripts using output blocks such as 'say' and 'think,' enabling the Sprites to communicate with the user.



GRADE 3

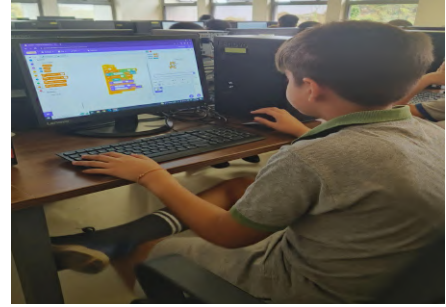
Grade 3 learners embarked on a journey to familiarise themselves with Microsoft Excel, showcasing their ability to locate the tool on the



computer. Building on concepts acquired in Grade 2, they revisited their understanding by identifying various components of the Excel screen. In an engaging and interactive class activity, the learners took on the role of researchers as they planned and conducted a class survey. Each learner crafted a question with multiple options, surveying their classmates to gather responses. The data collected was recorded on paper in tabular format and then transitioned to Microsoft Excel.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 learners were fully engaged in a dynamic coding project using Scratch. Their task involved planning and coding a program requirement, where a Sprite would select a random number and pose a question to the user, which would be seven times the randomly chosen number. In this interactive scenario, learners not only had to consider the logic behind generating random numbers but also had to create a system for the Sprite to ask questions based on this randomness. The users, in turn, would respond to the questions, and the Sprite would then analyse and declare whether the answers were correct or incorrect.



GRADE 5

The Grade 5 learners were brimming with enthusiasm as they advanced their coding skills by delving into the creation of a game using Scratch. The premise of the game centers around Frog's Birthday, where his gift is located at the opposite end of his current position. To retrieve his gift, Frog must navigate through a series of challenges and dangers. In their step-by-step approach, the students began by coding the movement of the frog, incorporating arrow keys to control its path. This foundational step not only addressed the basic mechanics of the game but also laid the groundwork for the more intricate aspects they would tackle in the subsequent stages of development.



PRIMARY UPDATES

FRENCH

GRADE 1

Grade One French learners participated in a series of activities related to Christmas. The incorporation of artistic and writing skills is a wonderful approach to building vocabulary, fostering creativity, and enhancing language acquisition. The students also learned a French Carol song 'L'as-tu vu?' with actions in sign language, not only to add a musical and cultural dimension to the lesson but also to promote awareness and empathy towards those with different abilities. This thoughtful inclusion aligns with the broader goals of creating an inclusive and understanding learning environment. Additionally, the focus on teaching the students to present themselves in French using simple sentences helped the young learners to develop their communication skills and to instil confidence as they navigate through the basics of introducing themselves



in a new language.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 French learners engaged in diverse vocabulary-building activities on topics such as “les boissons” (drinks), “La Fête de Noël”



(Festival of Christmas), “Les Repas” (meals), etc. which not only enriches their vocabulary but also provides a real-life context for language learning. Learners were encouraged to express their food preferences using the expression “j'aime manger” which enabled them to communicate their personal preferences in French, fostering a deeper connection with the language. They also learned a French Carol song ‘L'as-tu vu?’ with actions in sign language to inculcate a creative and cultural dimension to the lessons. This multisensory approach enhances language learning and, as in the case of sign language, promotes inclusivity and empathy

GRADE 3

This fortnight, Grade 3 French Learners learned to present themselves as well as a friend using the third person. The focus on self-presentation and the introduction of verbs like 's'appeler' (to call oneself), 'être' (to be), and 'aimer' (to like/to love) demonstrates a strategic approach to



language learning by incorporating essential vocabulary for self-expression. The exercises on masculine and feminine forms to describe one's profession not only expanded their understanding of gender usage in French but also laid a foundation for understanding gender agreement in French, an important aspect of the language. Learning to present oneself and others in the third person adds complexity to their language skills, encouraging a deeper understanding of sentence structure and grammar. This not only enhances their proficiency but also prepares them for more advanced language concepts in the future.

GRADE 4

It's wonderful to hear about the engaging and collaborative projects that the Grade 4 French learners undertook during the literary week. Working in groups not only fosters teamwork but also allows students to showcase their individual creativity. Creating small Pictionary and dictionaries in French is a fantastic way to reinforce language skills and expand their vocabulary. The project also centred around their preferred sport or game. Crafting an informative booklet on a specific sport or game not only demonstrates



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their linguistic abilities but also encourages research and knowledge gathering. This interdisciplinary approach helps students connect language learning with real-world interests, making the learning process more enjoyable and relevant. Such interactive and hands-on projects contribute significantly to a holistic language learning experience. It's clear that the literary week provided a platform for students to express themselves creatively while honing their language skills.

GRADE 5

Collaborative group work provides students with the opportunity to not only enhance their language skills but also to express their creativity in various



forms. It's fantastic to hear about the engaging and creative projects undertaken by the Grade 5 French learners during the literary week. Creating situations followed by short dialogues in French is an excellent way for students to practise and reinforce their conversational skills. Writing short poems, stories, and songs related to the vocabulary they've learned adds a personal touch to their language exploration and helps them internalize the words and expressions in a meaningful context. The enthusiasm displayed by the students in applying the language and vocabulary learned during these tasks speaks of their active engagement and understanding. Practical application of language skills through creative projects is a key aspect of language learning, and it's clear that the literary week provided a platform for these students to showcase their linguistic abilities in a fun and interactive way. This approach not only enhances language proficiency but also makes the learning process enjoyable and memorable.

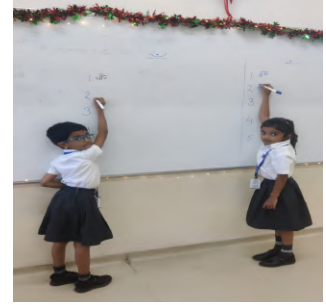
HINDI **GRADE 1**

First-grade learners engaged in a revision of the Varnmala (alphabet chart) through an interactive exercise. In this activity, two students at a time stood in front of the class. The teacher then asked them about a specific Vyanjan (consonant) or Swar (vowel). The students referred to the chart, identified and analysed the corresponding Varn (letter) and provided a vocabulary word that included that specific Vyanjan and Swar. This dynamic activity not only reinforced their understanding of the Varnmala but also actively involved the students in recognizing and applying their knowledge. Consequently, the exercise contributed to enhancing their comprehension and knowledge of the topics.



GRADE 2

Second-grade students immersed themselves in a vocabulary-building activity that involved writing on the board using 'Chandrabindu' and 'Bindu'. This unique exercise not only introduced the students to these linguistic elements but also proved to be an exciting and engaging experience for them. The novelty of working with 'Chandrabindu' and 'Bindu' added an element of enthusiasm as the learners explored and provided different vocabulary associated with these components. As a result, the activity not only contributed to their understanding of the topic but also significantly boosted their confidence through hands-on participation.



GRADE 3

Grade 3 students enthusiastically participated in a reading activity where they read a lesson and responded to various questions posed by the teacher. Additionally, they actively sought out new and challenging words from the lesson, incorporating them into different sentences as they interacted with one another during the reading process. This engaging activity served as both an informative exercise and a confidence booster for the students.



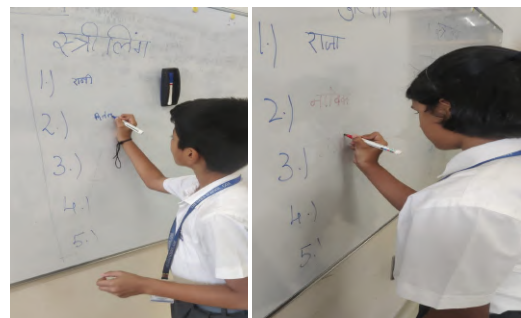
GRADE 4

Fourth-grade students engaged in a lesson on various shapes through a hands-on activity. In this exercise, the teacher provided wooden shapes, each labelled with its corresponding Hindi name to the students. The task was for the students to visualise objects in their surroundings, categorise them according to different shapes in Hindi, and subsequently draw these objects in their notebooks. This activity not only reinforced their understanding of shapes but also facilitated language learning by incorporating Hindi vocabulary. The students were able to enhance their knowledge of the topic through this practical and creative approach.

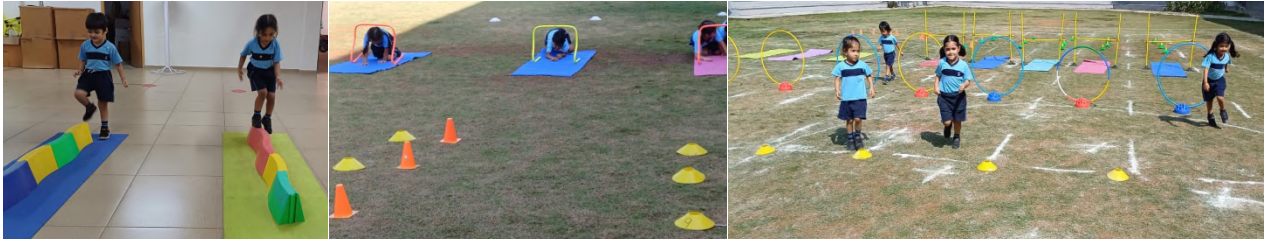


GRADE 5

Fifth-grade students acquired an understanding of the concepts of 'Striling' and 'Purling' through various examples provided by their teacher. The instructor facilitated the learning process by engaging students in a hands-on activity on the whiteboard. During this activity, students were tasked with categorising different living beings based on their understanding of the concepts of - Striling and Purling. This interactive exercise not only reinforced their comprehension but also fostered the development of their creative thinking, knowledge and analytical skills.



P.E NURSERY



Balance is the ability to adjust and control body movement during everyday activities like balancing on a beam, where learners took part actively, also Obstacle course race was conducted with the aim of testing speed, endurance and agility during Sports Day.

LKG

Yoga improves body awareness and helps children to focus their attention on the present moment and on each part of their body. During P.E class learners were actively engaged in yoga where in mountain pose, tree pose were taught. Also, balancing on the beam activity was conducted.



UKG

During P.E class learners were actively engaged in Gross motor skills wherein they were required to control the muscles of the body for large movements such as, walking, jumping, running, balancing and more.



GRADE 1

During P.E. class, Knee Throw event was demonstrated and practised by the learners during Sports Day.



GRADE 2

During P.E class, learners were actively engaged in a Cone Flip activity where-in it was challenging. The student who won did a victory push-up and the other person did jumping jacks until a new challenger arrived. Speed ladder was also demonstrated and practised during Sports Day by the learners.



GRADE 3

Proper foot placement helps develop agility, explosive power and responsiveness that make you a more dynamic athlete and gain greater body control. Speed ladder improves three key fitness factors—speed, agility and quickness which was demonstrated and practised during the P.E class.



GRADE 4 and 5

Sports Day event practices were held.



LIBRARY

GRADE 1

GUEST SPEAKER

We had our very own Grade 8 student, Amaya Mewara, read a story to the students. The students were ecstatic to hear a senior student read to them. They enjoyed the interactive session.



GRADE 2B

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr Carol Joseph, our Principal read a story to the students. The students were overjoyed when The Principal read aloud to them. They had a good time during the interactive session.



NEWS FROM THE EARLY YEARS SECTION

NURSERY

LITERACY

Students were introduced to the letter "d" through an engaging story. They learned to trace the letter. Learners became familiar with the corresponding sound of the letter. Additionally, they learned to associate the letter sound with some words that begin with the /d/ sound. Children brought items to class that started with the letter "d." They participated in a show-and-tell session, providing detailed explanations about the objects they brought, and shared information with their peers.



NUMERACY

In our bustling kindergarten classroom, the children are on an exciting journey of creativity and discovery. This week, our focus is on the introduction to the number 8, sparking enthusiasm among our little learners. They've been hands-on, moulding play dough into rectangles and using the shape to craft charming Christmas trees. Our young explorers even went on a hunt for rectangular objects, turning learning into an interactive adventure. Practising AB patterns with vibrant colours adds a playful touch, while their artistic expressions shine through as they bring colours to various objects.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Students were immersed in the world of farm animals through a lively role play, employing animal models and a farm scene. The interactive experience included a game where students matched sounds to the corresponding animals, fostering an enjoyable learning environment. Throughout this engaging activity, students gained an understanding of the significance of farm animals.



LKG LITERACY

Our little stars had a delightful time in literacy class! Show and Tell was a hit as children beamed while sharing special items. Their keen interest was heartening. During the letter sound recap, the excitement soared with a swatting activity pressing buttons and matching sounds to letters. The room echoed with laughter as they swatted away, making literacy a joyous adventure. We're thrilled to witness their enthusiasm for learning, turning every moment into a stepping stone for their educational journey.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Our little superheroes proudly presented Superheroes them by dressing up as superheroes, everyday heroes, and heroes without capes.



UKG

LITERACY

The UKG students were filled with excitement and surprise as they delved into the intriguing world of Literacy. Discovering various rules, they learned that the digraph "/ph/" produces the sound of <f>, while the letter <c> pronounces as /s/, and the letter <g> emanates the sound /j/. Adding to their newfound knowledge, the students grasped the sight words "any" and "many," incorporating them into their expanding vocabulary. With enthusiasm, they applied these words in constructing sentences, showcasing their ability to not only recognize but also effectively use the words in context.

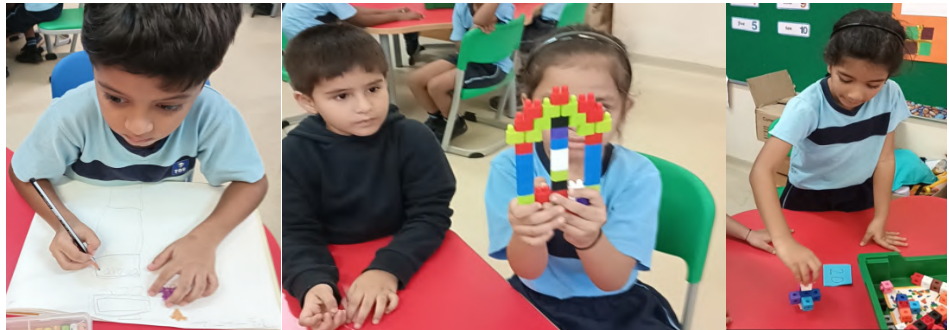


NUMERACY

Our UKG superstars have been busy lately, diving into the world of numbers and measurements! First up, they mastered the number words from 11 to 20. From eleven all the way to twenty, our little learners have got it down pat. But that's not all – they also revisited the cool concept of measurements. They compared sizes and lengths, and to make things more interesting, they tackled some worksheets. Our mini problem-solvers were on fire, putting their newfound knowledge to the test. It's incredible to see our UKG champs growing their skills and having so much fun with numbers and measurements. Keep up the fantastic work, little mathematicians!

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Our UKG kiddos dived into the world of "Forces" with loads of play and exploration! We kicked things off by hanging out in the park, where the children saw things moving all around



them. We got fancy with words like rotate, back and forth, up and down, spin, slide, and more. After our park adventure, the kids drew stuff from home that moves in cool ways. Then came the super fun part – building things! With blocks in hand, they crafted spinners, wavy caterpillars with beads, and even made their own cool robots. It was a blast watching the kiddos get creative and learn about forces in such a hands-on way. Can't wait to see what else they come up with as we keep exploring the awesome world of forces together!

NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

GRADE 1

ENGLISH

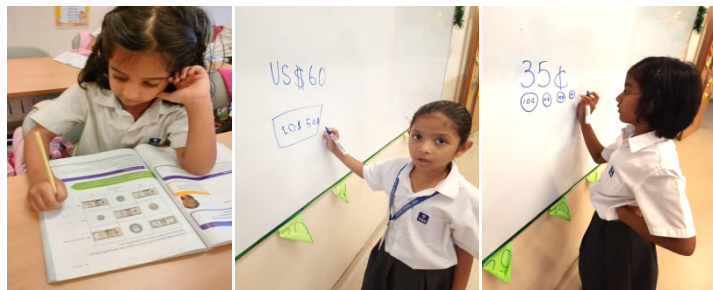
While learning about the Traditional Tale of The Abominable Snowman and working on his Character Description, Grade 1 learners were *as busy as bees* learning about the fascinating world of similes. They have learnt that



similes are fun and a creative way to compare two different things using “like” or “as.” Our young learners have begun crafting their own similes making their sentences more creative. Understanding verb endings is an essential part of developing strong language skills. The learners have been actively involved in learning about different verb endings that indicate actions in sentences and their conversations.

MATH

US currency - Dollars and Cents, Nickels, Dimes, Quarters were introduced to our Grade 1 learners this fortnight. As they delved into the value of Money and its requirements in daily life, they were fascinated with the various bank notes and coins of the United States of America. Through live worksheets, videos and word problems, they manoeuvred through the intricacies of using US currency.



SCIENCE

The enthusiastic and bright learners are travelling places as they are introduced to a variety of habitats. Discussions of the plant and animal life found in places with extreme weather conditions such as the desert and polar regions have enabled learners to identify the special features that have helped plant and animal life adapt to their habitat. The young ones excitedly shared and discussed how desert plants especially succulents such as cacti are maintained in homes.



GRADE 2

ENGLISH

Our young writers have been honing their skills in crafting sentences using Prepositions. They had a hands-on experience of actually placing things in their correct place using the Life Skill of Organization in an activity where they had to clean up a corner of their class or

their desk and then frame sentences using prepositions purposefully based on the activity. While exploring the unit of Letters, learners are now getting familiar with the format and language used in a Formal and an Informal Letter.



MATH

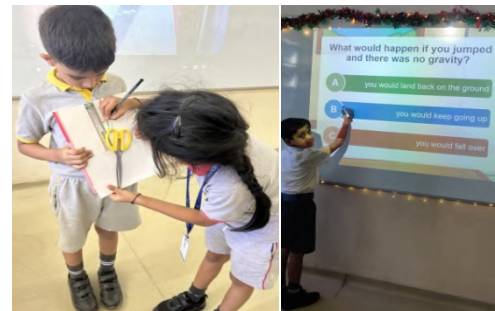
Data literacy is the set of skills that we need to ask questions, collect, analyse, interpret and communicate about Data. Data literacy is the ability to read, work with, analyse and communicate with data.



It's a skill that empowers all levels of workers to ask the right questions on data, build knowledge, make decisions, and communicate meaning to others. Our young learners of Grade 2 focused on the same this fortnight. They worked on Tally, Bar graphs, Pictograms, Venn and Carroll diagrams. They formulated their own questions and conducted a survey in school on the upcoming school fete and represented the same information using tally marks and bar graphs.

SCIENCE

Force is the invisible hand that shapes the way objects move. It can be a gentle push or a strong pull, and it's what makes things speed up, slow down, or change direction. Our students have been actively engaged in hands-on experiments, applying force to various objects to witness the fascinating results. Through their experiences, they've come to grasp the essence of force and its impact on the world around us. With the

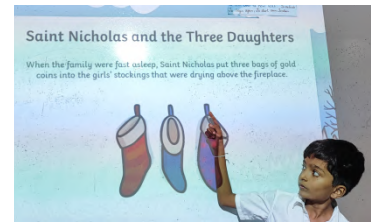


force meter, students measured the force applied during experiments with precision. Gravity, the force that keeps our feet firmly on the ground, is a universal phenomenon. Students have been dropping objects of different masses to explore the

consistent pull of gravity. From bouncing balls to falling leaves, they've observed the influence of this force in everyday life. The excitement of watching objects accelerate towards the Earth has ignited curiosity and sparked thoughtful questions among our young scientists.

GRADE 3 ENGLISH

Why do we teach figurative language? As student's progress in their writing, we want them to extend their use of language. In poetic and narrative writing, figurative language can help with our aim for students to 'Show, not tell' and to paint a picture with their words. Grade3 also took part in an intra-grade poetry recitation competition. December is that time of the year where you look at tradition and decorations. In keeping with the Christmas season, learners were introduced to the actual story of Santa Claus - St. Nichlous. "It's nice to see how children could relate to the story and why stockings hang above the fireplace."



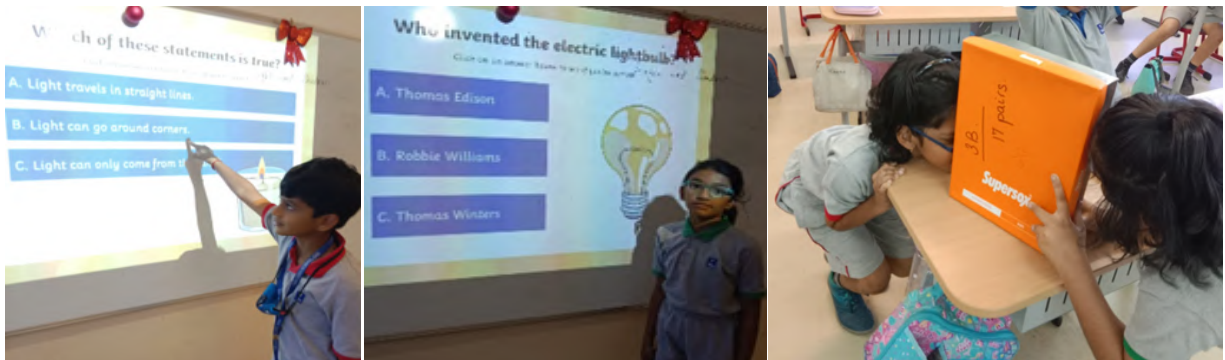
MATH



Fractions are important because they tell you what portion of a whole you need, have, or want. Learners worked to identify different types of fractions.

SCIENCE

Light enables us to see the world around us by differentiating details, distinct colours, movement and brightness. Light is an essential component of the natural world thus, the



students of Grade 3 started their third term with the introduction of a new unit 'Light'. Teaching kids about light helped them understand basic Physics principles and the properties of electromagnetic waves. Students learned about everyday phenomena such as how light moves the fastest and in a straight path, the formation of rainbows, shadows, and the colours of objects through multiple activities. This knowledge improved their abilities to make sense of the world around them.

G.P.

In a recent initiative, learners immersed themselves in understanding and embodying core values centered on empathy, sympathy and compassion. Each learner was tasked with preparing an empathy award for an individual they believed deserved recognition for their empathetic qualities and eloquently articulated the reasons behind their choice, emphasizing instances where the chosen person demonstrated exceptional empathy and compassion. A kindness jar was introduced as a hands-on activity to further reinforce the values of empathy and kindness. Each learner contributed to the kindness jar, which contained chits with different acts of kindness written on them. Learners were instructed to randomly select chits from the kindness jar and perform the acts of kindness specified on each chit. After completing each task, learners documented their experiences



by creating a 'Kindness Rainbow' in their notebooks, illustrating the positive impact of these actions. Through the creation of the empathy award, learners not only recognized these values in others but also internalized the importance of practising them in their own lives. The creation of the empathy award and the implementation of the kindness jar activity have not only deepened the understanding of these values but also provided practical avenues for their application in everyday life. Through these initiatives, learners are not only becoming more conscious of the positive impact of empathy and kindness but

are actively contributing to the cultivation of a compassionate and supportive learning community.

GRADE 4

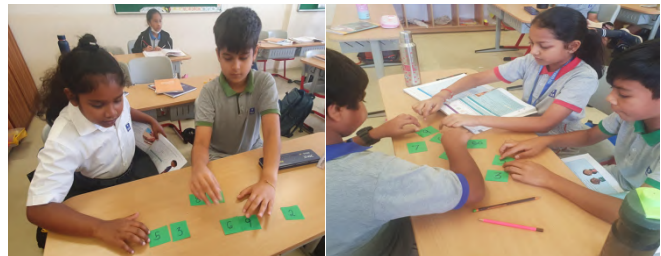
ENGLISH

From the land of Fiction and Fairy tales, we started Term three with our unit on Persuasive Writing. This unit focuses on the different kinds of persuasive texts such as posters, advertisements and film reviews. The learners were introduced to three P's- Persuade Promote and Posters! We then moved onto the four things we keep in mind when writing a non-fiction text- Purpose, Audience, Layout and Language. All this led to the learners keeping these in mind as they designed their own posters. Since Christmas is around the corner, the learners designed a poster for a Christmas party/fete. The mingling of Art and English was thoroughly enjoyed by the learners of Grade 4.



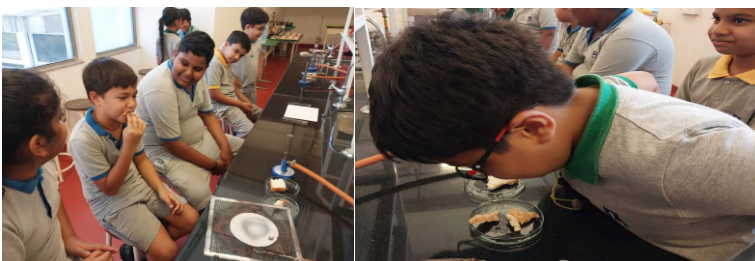
MATH

In the exploration of Mathematical concepts, Grade 4 learners have been introduced to the fundamental notions of prime and composite numbers. Grade 4 learners have demonstrated a developing comprehension of prime and composite numbers. Prime numbers are numbers greater than 1 that have no divisors other than 1 and themselves. In contrast, composite numbers are those that have multiple divisors, including 1 and the number itself. Learners have engaged in various interactive activities, such as visual aids, games, and group discussions, to grasp these concepts effectively. Learners are encouraged to analyze numbers and make logical connections, fostering a more robust approach to mathematical challenges.



SCIENCE

The Grade 4 learners have been delving into the intricacies of the Digestive System; unravelling the mysteries of how our bodies process the food we eat. They conducted an investigation which focused on the initial stage of digestion that occurs right in our mouth.



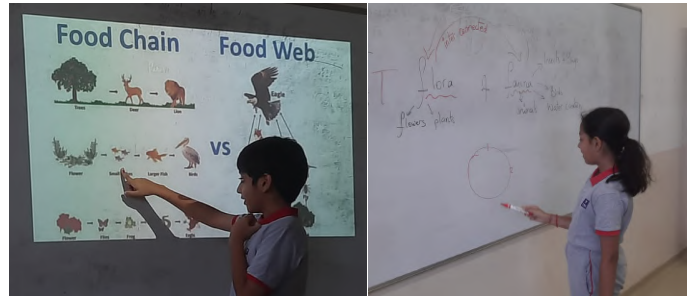
In this investigation, the learners used an iodine solution to observe and understand the chemical reactions between starch and saliva. The iodine solution, known for its ability to change colour when reacting

with certain substances, played a crucial role in helping our young scientists visualise the process of digestion. The learners followed strict safety procedures throughout the investigation. By actively engaging in scientific inquiry, the learners are becoming true scientists, asking questions, making observations, and drawing meaningful conclusions.

G.P

Embarking on a Nature Odyssey

Greetings from Grade 4 Global Perspectives learners! In our recent journey into the enchanting world of Flora and Fauna, profound revelations unfolded. Through class discussions and debates, we delved into nature's intricate tapestry, marvelling at the symbiotic dance between plants and animals. Exploring the ingenious strategies of flowers and the vital role of fauna in ecological balance, we discovered the interconnectedness of all life. Our mission evolved into a commitment to environmental stewardship, shaped by data analysis on Goa's wildlife and ecosystems. Recognizing our symbiotic relationship with nature, we pledged to champion sustainability as aspiring Earth guardians, ensuring a harmonious coexistence with the natural world.

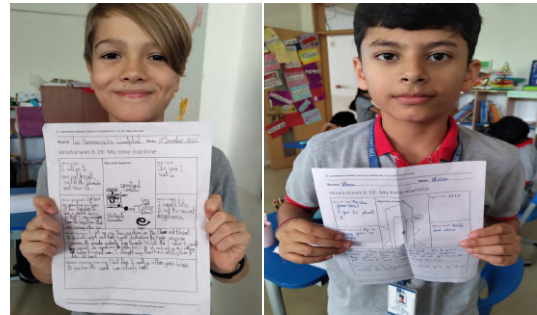


GRADE 5

ENGLISH

"Today's Science fiction is tomorrow's science fact." - Issac Asimov

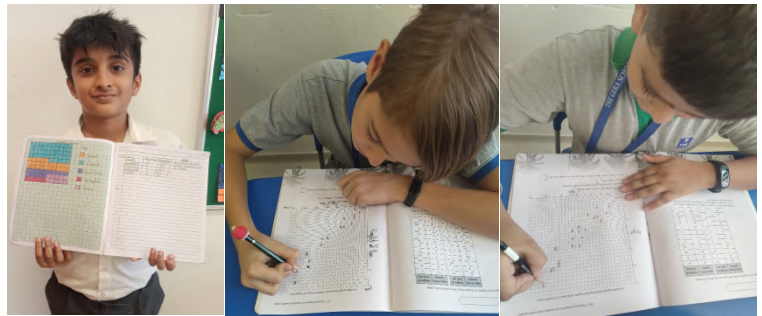
With science fiction, the possibilities are endless. Space travel was once a distant dream but here we are, sending missions to the moon and sun! Term Three began with us delving into the genre of science fiction. We looked at what sets science fiction apart from fantasy and the various elements that make up this genre. The learners were introduced to extracts from two texts- *The Diary of a Space Traveler and Other Stories* and *The Green Book*.



Once we did the reading, we then began the writing. The two writing tasks undertaken were to write a gripping beginning and ending to a sci-fi story and to design a time machine and write about where they'd go, who they'd meet, etc. The genre of sci-fi is one that takes their imagination out of this world, literally. The learners will now write a few diary entries and then their very own science-fiction story.

MATH

In the past few weeks, our young mathematicians have been hard at work mastering the art of creating and interpreting scatter graphs. They started by understanding the basics – plotting points on a coordinate plane, identifying trends, and making sense of the relationship between two variables. Real-world examples and hands-on activities made this learning process not only educational but also engaging. Our students were particularly enthusiastic about applying scatter graphs to analyze data sets, enabling them to draw conclusions and make predictions. It's truly inspiring to witness their analytical skills bloom as they unravel the stories hidden within the plotted points. To add a sprinkle of sweetness to our Math journey, we introduced Waffle Graphs – a creative and visually appealing way to represent data. As our students explored the concept, they learned how to divide a grid into smaller squares or 'waffles' to represent percentages or proportions. One delightful aspect of our exploration was the realisation of how Math is deeply connected to the world around us, including the realm of food. From calculating proportions in recipes to understanding the concept of percentages in food packaging, our students discovered that Math plays a crucial role in the culinary arts.



SCIENCE

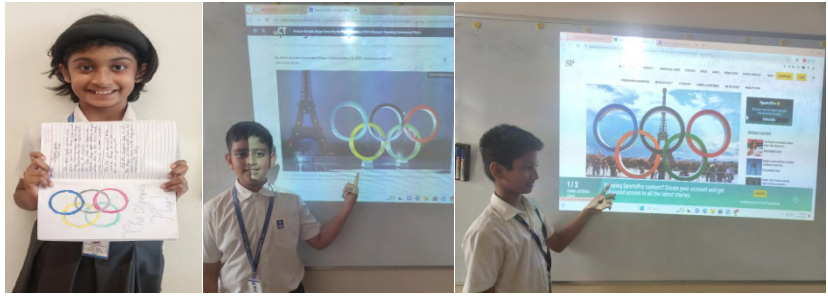
This week learners began an exploration of harmful substances in the Food Chain. As part of our Science curriculum, students were given the opportunity to delve into the world of environmental science and investigate the impacts of mercury, pesticides, plastics, and DDT on our food chain.



Each student chose one substance and conducted thorough research to understand its effects on the environment, wildlife and human health. The aim was to raise awareness and promote a deeper understanding of the importance of a healthy, sustainable food chain. In the spirit of collaboration and knowledge sharing, students created short PowerPoint presentations to showcase their findings. The class engaged in meaningful discussions as they learned from each other, gaining insights into the diverse ways these substances can negatively affect our ecosystems. We are proud of the effort and enthusiasm learners displayed throughout this project. Not only did they deepen their understanding of environmental issues, but they also developed valuable research and presentation skills. As future stewards of our planet, these experiences empower them to make informed decisions and contribute to creating a healthier and a more sustainable world.

G.P.

We are delighted to share with you the incredible journey your children have embarked upon as they dived into the rich history, global impact, and significance of The Olympic Games. This unit of study provided an



opportunity for our students to understand not only the sporting events themselves but also the broader cultural, historical, and global aspects that surround this extraordinary tradition. Our young scholars explored the origins of The Olympic Games, dating back to ancient Greece. They discovered how this historic event transcended time and evolved, eventually leading to the modern Olympic Games that we celebrate today. Learners also delved into the symbolism of the Olympic Rings and the unifying power of the Olympics, bringing athletes and nations from around the world together in the spirit of friendly competition and mutual understanding. They explored how the Games promote peace, cooperation, and cultural exchange on a global scale which were also key points of discussion.

We've reached the end of this Newsletter. The next edition will be out in February and is for the period in January ending 27th January 2024

Regards

The Gera School