

Dear Parents, students, teachers and friends,

Almost every story of someone living this life is a success story. It is just not known to us yet. Our stories (both of triumphs & defeat) and the stories of other human beings have a brilliant effect on our lives: they mould us, shape us, and make us.

In the book, *The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human*, Jonathan Gottschall dives into this idea. "We are, as a species, addicted to story. Even when the body goes to sleep, the mind stays up all night, telling itself stories," he says.

Remember the film, *The Lion King*, when Scar forces Mufasa off the cliff into the sea of trampling wildebeest? And believing it was his fault, Simba exiles himself out of shame! Did you not feel a stir of emotion for Mufasa when he dies saving his son – or against Scar when he confesses his crime to Simba? Why? It is because we are empathic creatures and respond to stories because they cultivate emotion and a sense of togetherness – *a connection!* Neuroscientists have proved that when listening to a well-told story, the same areas of the brain light up on an MRI in both the storyteller and listener. Your brain, as the listener, mirrors the brain of the storyteller. The speakers and listeners' brains exhibit joint, temporally coupled, response patterns. Let's break that down a little...

In other words, when you hear a well-told story, your brain reacts as if you are experiencing it yourself. **Your brain places you inside the story.** It is, therefore, imperative and essential to share our stories with all those around us.

But, of course, to hear a compelling story, we must be prepared to listen. Knowing how to listen to others' stories is just as important as being able to tell our own story. Sharing & listening to stories helps us process and understand our experiences in new ways, and build new connections. Research shows that the better someone listens, the more connected that person feels with the person who is talking. This produces a feeling of bonding and closeness.

How to do it? Practise listening well in everyday conversations. Pay close attention to what the other person is saying. Tune in to feelings as well as the story. When a friend tells you about something, try to imagine how he or she might have felt. Take time to listen to the person in depth. You'll probably notice that you feel closer, more 'in sync' with the person. Interview a friend or family member about a special time in his or her life. For example, ask your parents about their wedding day or get your grandparents to tell you about having their first child. Understanding these stories will lead to compassion. Once we have a connection, we will have the confidence to share our stories of triumph, of loss, of all the things that moved us. In giving and in sharing, we will understand the other better and others will do likewise. Life will be sweeter, no?!

Regards,

**Ms Jessica Sharma**

Lead Communicator  
The Gera School

## PRE-PRIMARY EVENT UPDATES

### Dussehra

The festival of Dussehra and Navratri was celebrated in the Early Years on 14th October 2021. Dussehra marks the end of Navratri and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. Children were dressed in traditional clothes and a small story was narrated to learn about the significance of the festival followed by a Garba Dance.



### Halloween

The students of the Early Years grooved into the Halloween mood on 22nd October 2021. They were engaged in a spooky fireless cooking activity, where each of them made 'Pizza mummy sandwich' and 'Scary Oreo Bats.' The students along with their parents had a 'Spooky character' description followed by a 'spooky balloon monster' experiment where they saw the reaction of vinegar and soda mixture which forms a gas that can inflate a balloon.





## NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

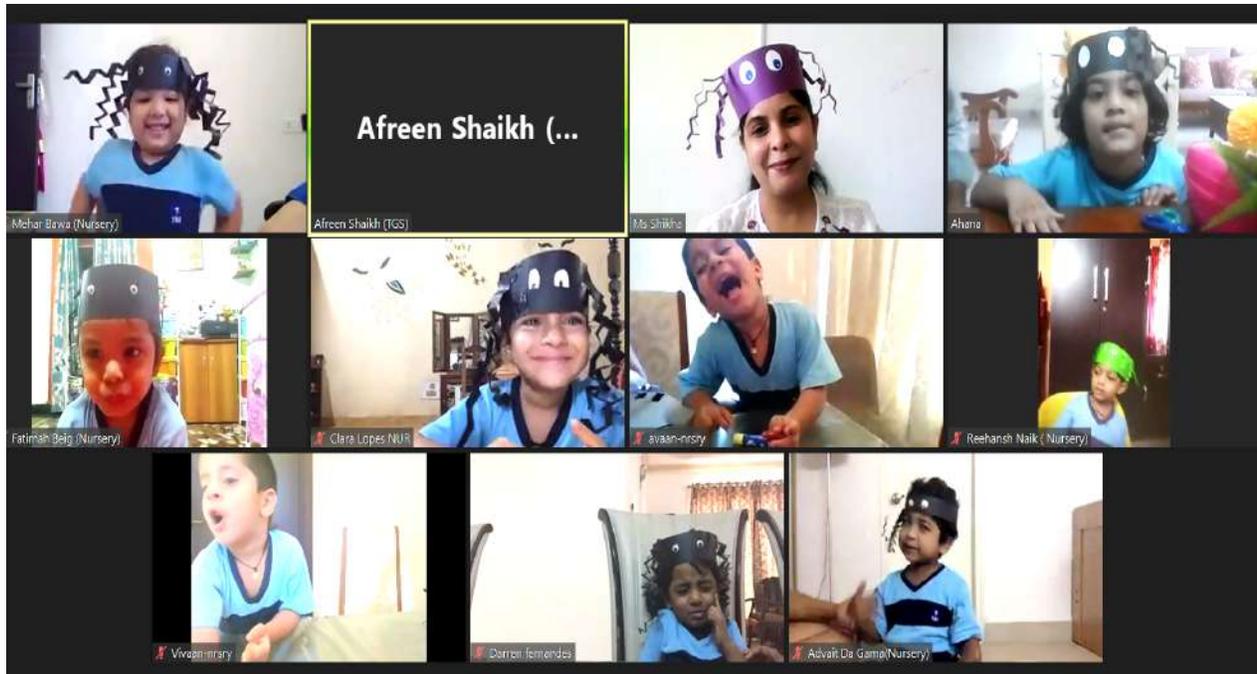
### I. ART

As the time of tricking and treating comes near, nursery tiny tots are bracing themselves and preparing for all the fun for Halloween. The spooky incy wincy spider makes most of the children scream but our brave Bursery class got creative in making a scary spider headgear.

Using the skill of sprinkling, the students of the LKG class made a spooky Jack-o-lantern by sprinkling salt. They were thrilled to see the colour spread through the salt crystals like magic.

The children of UKG indulged in a craft activity for Halloween. They made spooky ghosts with a hand cutout and painted them to look scary. The activity nurtured the children's creativity and imagination. Not forgetting they had fun in the Art class!





## II. DANCE

In dance class, the kids in UKG were taught a choreographed dance routine that exuded energy and Joy. It demanded that they pay attention to details in learning choreography like being able to keep up with the quick-paced tempo of the music and remember the counts whilst also remembering the fixed choreography that they had to learn. It was indeed a challenge and their enthusiasm was invigorating to watch.



## LKG

In LKG class, we danced with pom-poms; these colourful props bring out the sparkle and cheer in our tiny dancers. They also provide a creative outlet and let the mind wander. We used our pom-poms to cheer and to brush away cobwebs alike. All in all, pom-poms got our kids more excited than ever.

## III. DRAMA

### Nursery

The children showed off their drama skills in clever and creative ways for our drama activities. Each child was encouraged to come up with one tiny scene, talk about it and share it with the class. The children enjoyed the activity. They used fun actions, ideas and body movements to describe their scenes.

### LKG

We had a fun and interactive session for Drama class. The children excitedly told each other how they completed their version of the comic strip. They coloured and drew their ideas as well adding imagination, creativity to the comic. Teachers were amazed by the way each child opened up and freely expressed their own story for the comic strip activity.

### UKG

In this drama class, we imagined we were Santa's elves working at the toy workshop, making gifts for children. We worked on our acting skills to portray our elf character using emotion, feeling, body language and voice modulation. The children then shared with the class one toy they were preparing for a child. The students continue to impress me. The children had fun getting into character mode. They were so humorous, creative and spontaneous.





The UKG children were seen humming and are in the process of learning a Hindi song 'Itni si hasi'. It's wonderful to see the little ones sing and have fun during the music class.

## NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

### NURSERY

#### **Thematic Learning -**

Water is precious and water is important. Nursery kids learned all the uses of water. They pledged to do their bit in saving water. The hottest season of the year to enjoy a swim was introduced to the nursery class. The Summer season provides an opportunity to explore many activities. The little masterminds made yummy tangy popsicles to deal with the summer heat.



#### **Numeracy -**

As we continue to count in Kindergarten the children of Nursery were introduced to the numeral 8 and its formation. They quantified numbers 1-8 using beads and clay. This week we had a math twist to form number 8 using the Salt painting technique. Learning about 2D shapes is a must for every early childhood classroom. The tiny tots explored the 2D shape oval and had fun making a penguin using oval shapes.

#### **Language -**

Learning the letters of the alphabet is not as simple as one may think. The core of the

alphabetic principle has two key components—letter recognition and phonemic awareness. Our tiny tots of Nursery were introduced to letter sounds ‘e’ and ‘h’. While learning to associate the letter with its sound they indulged in some creative activities like cotton dabbing on the eggplant and decorating the envelope to enhance their fine motor skills and improve their eye-hand coordination!



## **LKG**

### **Thematic Learning -**

The students of the Lower Kindergarten sowed a promise where they promised the seed to help it grow by giving it the right amount of water and sunlight. (Very sweetly, they also assumed that the seed had silently promised them to grow into a plant in a few days!)



### **Numeracy -**

The students are learning number formation for numbers 1-15. They worked on a number maze and tried integrating numbers in various activities and games played in class.

## Language –

The learners of the LKG class have learnt the letter 'U/u' and 'L/l'. To display their knowledge about words beginning with the letter sound U and L, a few students made objects using playdough and a few did so by drawing them out. As the days go by, the learners are getting better at writing using different methods like sand tray writing, playdough writing and writing on worksheets. They can confidently write the lower and uppercase letters u and l. The students are learning to narrate stories and did a fabulous job narrating stories like Rapunzel and Snow White during the story class.



## UKG

### Thematic Learning –

Food is one of the most important factors that determine a child's growth and development and children need to know where their meals come from. 'From Farm to fork', the ongoing topic in the UKG class is liked by all the children. The children learned where food is sourced from and were able to tell where their meals come from. The learners worked on an assignment and collected pictures, wrappers of different foods and classified them into things



sourced from plants or animals. They presented the chart in class and that helped in developing confidence, and public speaking skills. The learners were seen commenting and appreciating others' work. The following week the children learned the process of germination and worked on projects like making sprouts, growing wheatgrass. As they learnt about grains and wheat, the learners learnt to make the dough and rolled out flatbreads! They now know how we get chapatis. It was a fun-filled experience for the kids.



### Numeracy -

The topic - 'Finding the difference' was introduced to the learners of UKG. The children had hands-on experience as they worked with different materials available at home, like pasta, pebbles, pencils to find the difference. Concrete objects made learning fun and meaningful. The children were made to relate subtraction to their day-to-day life; simple examples were used. The children played a game where they jumped on a number line and had fun as they found the difference between two numbers.



## Language –

The children of UKG had conversation time where they got an opportunity to socialize virtually. Although the screen is a barrier it was lovely to hear children have light conversations with each other. Inviting their friends over and discussing likes, dislikes and hobbies were a few topics of conversation. Literacy was integrated with Thematic learning as the children made a healthy salad of sprouts and relished it while chatting with their friends. This activity helped in developing the children’s social skills and built a bond with their peers.

The children were introduced to tricky words ‘come’, ‘some’, and ‘said’. They learned to use the words in a sentence and then frame sentences of their own. Revision of sounds and reading practice got the learners to read new words and add them to their vocabulary.



## PRIMARY UPDATES

### NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

#### I. DRAMA

The past few weeks have been a mix of holiday joys and festive emotions. **Grade 1** learners were excited to write a letter to Santa and **Grade 2** learners were preparing a Mousetrap. Some showcased their flexibility and some their creativity. Some expressed their emotions through various exercises like JUST A MINUTE and TONGUE TWISTERS or reading of various scripts.



## II. MUSIC

### Grades 1 and 2:

The learners of Grades 1 and 2 practised the two Christmas carols 'Two Front Teeth' and 'Christmas Alphabet'. A new song 'Yellow Submarine' was introduced to grade 1.



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

## III. DANCE

Grade 1 is learning how to dance with a Hat as a prop. The dance style is Jazz and the Choreography is new and interesting with a few challenges mostly coming from the posture that needs to be maintained for the dance to look polished.

### Grade 2:

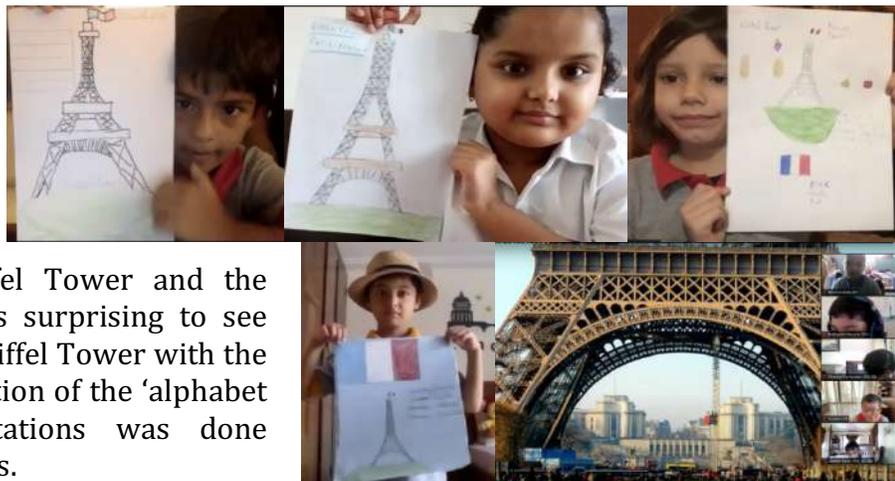
Grade 2 is learning a kids Bop dance called 'Make some noise' which is fun to dance to and the moves are very easy to learn. They enjoy dancing to this music as the tune is very catchy and lively.



## IV. FRENCH

### Grade 1

Colourful week! The learners excitedly learned 10 colours in French. They also learned about the Eiffel Tower and the French Flag and it was surprising to see them draw a beautiful Eiffel Tower with the French Flag! Recapitulation of the 'alphabet vocabulary' and salutations was done through sing-along songs.



### Grade 2

G.K. week! The learners gained knowledge about the country France- capital city, currency, famous cheese, Eiffel tower, famous monuments, national day, famous bread, national game, national anthem etc.

## V. HINDI

### Grade 1

Recitation is one of the most important and effective modes of learning a language and appreciating a piece of literature. So, Grade 1 learners had Recitation competition in class and a colour activity in Hindi. They presented lots of things during the activity.



### Grade 2

Revision helps stop knowledge being lost. Ideally, learners should revise their course material all the time outside class to retain their new skills. Grade 2 learners revised Hindi Matras; a dictation test was also conducted in class.

## VI. CIRCLE TIME

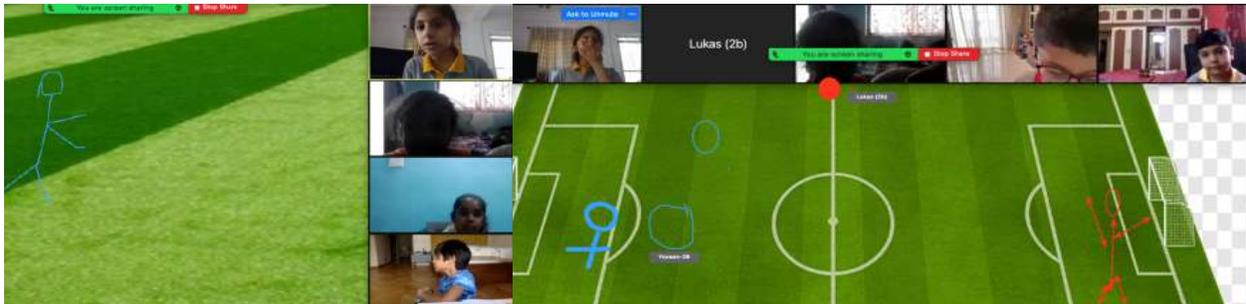
### Grade 1

This fortnight, the learners of grade one delved into the world of goal setting. A life without purpose is like a football field without a goal post. When children learn to set goals for themselves at an early age, they stand equipped to face a world that is constantly changing. Our learners were able to identify exactly what goals were and through a game of 3 stars and a wish, and were able to set themselves a personal goal to work on over the next few weeks.



### Grade 2

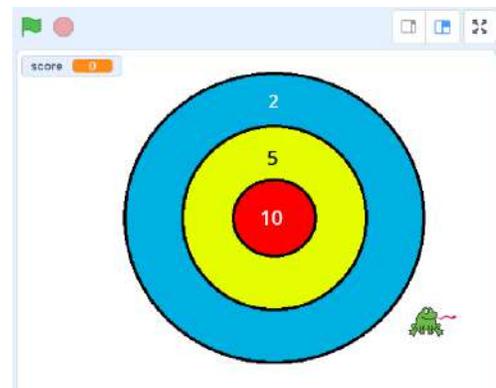
Through a game of 'Positioning My Team', the learners of grade two experimented with setting a football team on a field with no goals. Going through the motions of confusion and then finally just placing themselves randomly on a green screen, helped them comprehend the importance of being able to see a goal and set one for themselves.



## VII. COMPUTER SCIENCE

Learners of **Grade 1** planned a program called the 'Frog Hop Game'. They further worked on a code for the same.

Learners of **Grade 2** were able to change their programs by changing number values (pen size, pen colour, sprite positions, angles, moves) in it.



## VIII. P.E.

The focus in P.E. has been to further enhance knowledge of the Grade 1 and 2 learners by getting them to learn different poses in Yoga. They are being taught both the Sanskrit and English names of the poses along with the different variations. For example, Warrior Pose I, II and III (Virbhadrasana) etc. Learners can now successfully demonstrate Forward Bend and Triangle Pose with its variations.



## NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

### GRADE 1

#### **English:**

Sickle hand Joe and Curly Head Charlie, the two wicked pirates came to life in the stories woven by the little wanderers of Grade 1. Blending all the elements of a story together, the learners explored their imagination and brought to life some amazing characters and twisted tales!

#### **Math:**

As Peter Drucker very rightly stated “You can’t manage what you don’t measure”. The young learners of Grade 1 learnt this through practical application of their time management skills among other things. The learners also eagerly explored every nook and corner of their rooms as they went on a search for objects that can be measured.

#### **Science:**

“If we care for our pets so much and look after our own, why can’t we do the same for the wild animals in Nature? While marble and granite are important when constructing homes, we must be careful how we extract them from the earth.”



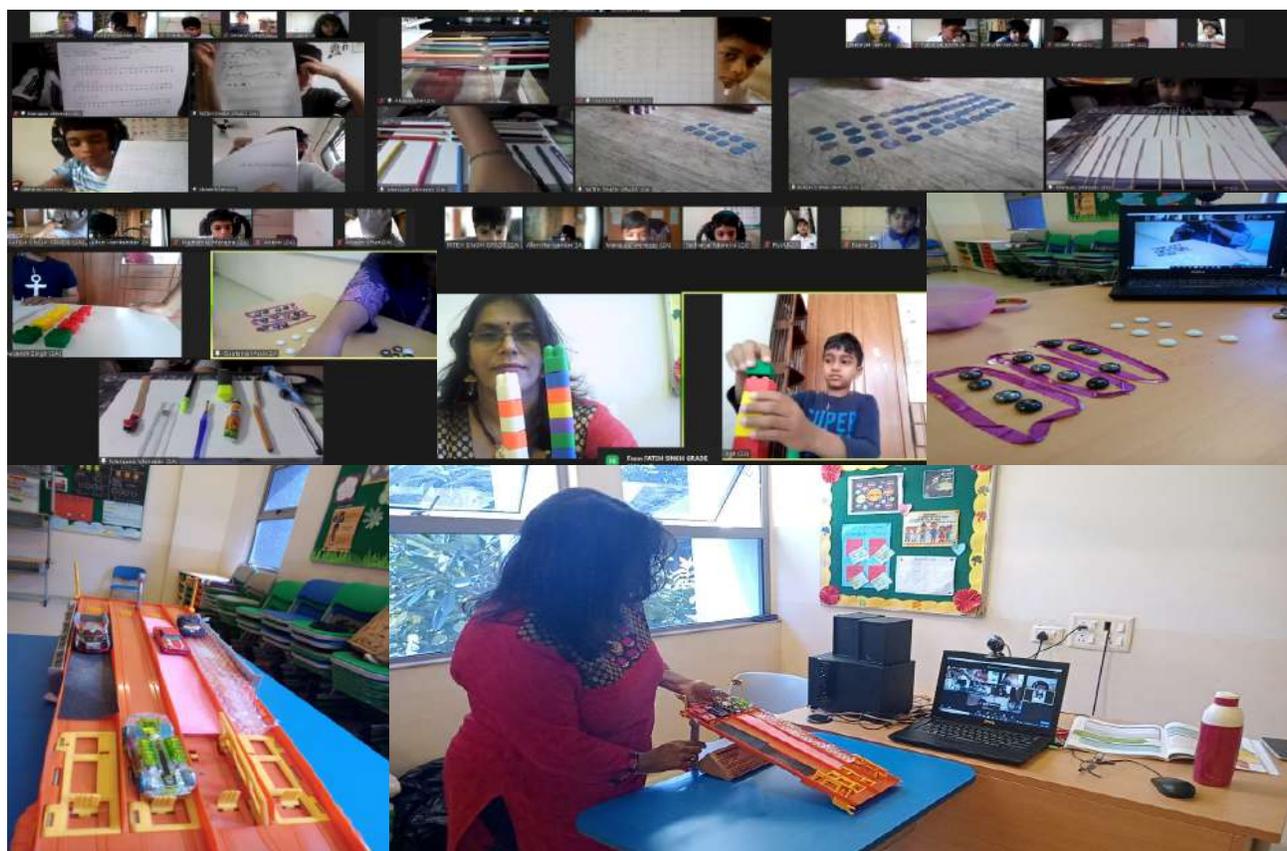
Expressing their views with much ardour for the environment, the learners of Grade 1 engaged in a debate with much gusto. It goes without saying that the current topic on the environment and habitats will be an engaging one.



## GRADE 2A

### MATH:

While learning core concepts like multiplication and division, the focus was on how to apply division and multiplication skills to real-life concepts. Learners handled money, shared items between friends and cut food into portions as they begin to build up their division and multiplication skills as part of their everyday life. The idea behind introducing these at this age will help them gain confidence in the subject. They will be able to utilise these skills in the wider world. Application of this concept to real life was taught through a fairy tale story where a Baby Bear is having a party and has invited lots of his fairy tale friends! Use of strategies like number line method and using arrays of division with lots of visual examples made it even easier to understand.



## GRADE 2B

### Mathematics:

When children handle money, share items between friends and cut food into portions, they begin to build up their division and multiplication skills as part of their everyday lives.

Introducing these concepts at an early age helps them gain confidence in the subject and ensure effective utilization of these skills in later on.

In Grade 2B, the learners were introduced to division using manipulatives and creating arrays from materials around their environment or using the number line to arrive at the correct answer.

**English:**

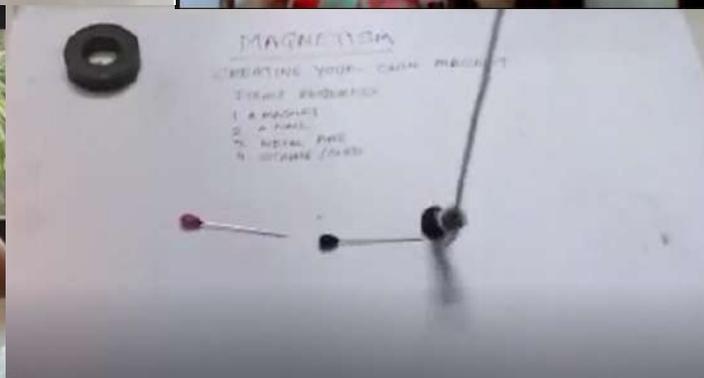
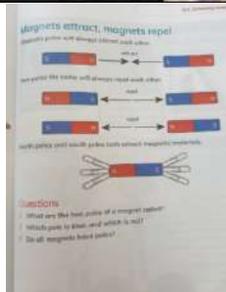
*“Instruction: Something that someone tells you to do” - Cambridge Dictionary*

Learners of Grade 2B have completed the second Unit ‘Instructional Text’. Over the period of last week, we had assessments where the learners were assessed on their understanding of instructional texts. Learners completed worksheets on grammar topics and were asked to write instructions for their favourite party game and read out their instructions on how to play the game to their peers. Learners came up with some interesting games like ‘Guess the drawing’ ‘Fold the paper’ and many more. The learners of Grade 2B were given oral instructions to make lemonade and sandwiches which they then shared with their family and took feedback from them; this is how they concluded the week and the unit.



**Science:**

*“It is called a lodestone, because it carries the load of everything.” “If I have iron in my*



*body, why am I not attracted to a magnet?"* These were some of the questions that the learners of Grade 2b came up with when learning about magnetism. The students have been focusing on Force and have learned about different types of Force like Gravity, Push, Pull and Magnetism. The learners were asked to investigate the properties of Magnets and Magnetic material and how we use them in our daily lives. The young scientists also created their own temporary artificial magnets out of iron nails by watching an instructional video. With this we concluded the topic 'Force'.

**Bye for now. Be back at the end of the month (of November). Have a safe and lovely time during Diwali!**

**Regards**

**The Gera School**