

HIGH - NOTES

CHRONICLES OF SECONDARY SCHOOL



FOREWORD

Dear Parents,

Greetings!

I Hear and I Forget
I See and I Remember
I Do and I Understand
-CONFUCIUS

This beautiful quote by Confucius brings to mind the Learning at AAIS which is fundamentally experiential!

The core of the academic year is between September and February which galores with activities and assessments. This is the time of the year when maximum learning happens.

Our learning engagements provide several opportunities for students to 'DO' and learn. The learner-centric education adopted at AAIS focuses on encompassing methods of teaching that shift the focus of instruction from the teacher to the student.

In this Newsletter, we bring glimpses of a kaleidoscope of events that facilitate various ways of 'Doing' and 'Understanding' for our secondary school students from September to December.

IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022...

AGASTYA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Students of grade 6 & 7 visited the Agastya International Foundation from the 14th to 17th of September, at Kuppam. Here they were encouraged to explore concepts of science and math through various activities and presentations.

The students had an interesting time interacting with the instructors and teachers, at the non-profit institution dedicated to encouraging experiential learning for students.



VISIT TO THE BIRLA PLANETARIUM

Students of Grades 9 & 10 had an interesting learning experience when they visited the Chennai Birla Planetarium on the 15th of September 2022. They were provided a walkthrough of the space exhibits along with an exclusive planetarium show.



AWARENESS & EMPOWERMENT SERIES

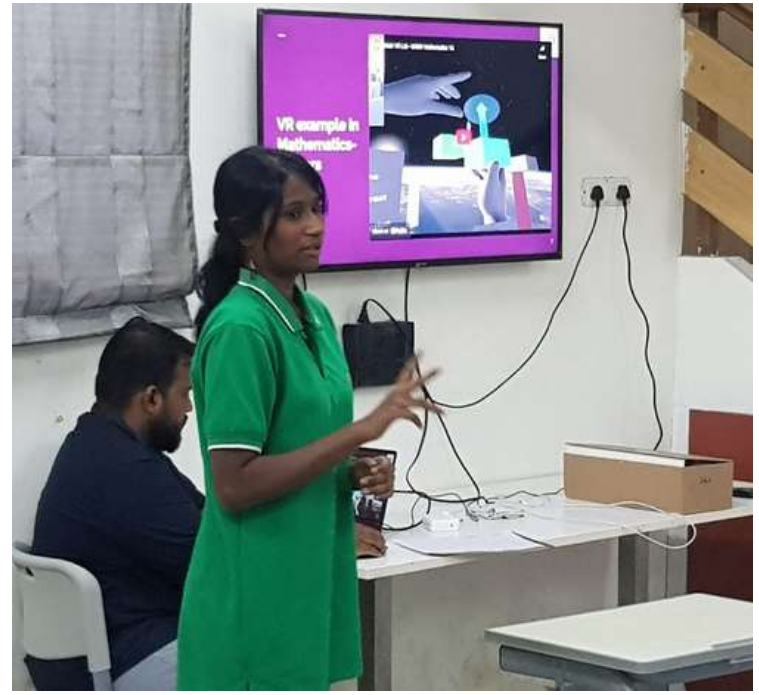
Part 1 - Puberty

As an initiative of the Mahogany - Wellness team, We have introduced "The Awareness and Empowerment Series" for our learners across grades where we focus on the evolving needs of the learners to be addressed by experts in the respective field. We inaugurated the series focusing on Puberty and Adolescence. We believe empowering our learners with the required and right information is vital for creating a safe space for them to support & nurture their overall development. Following a tuning-in session with the counsellor & Biology facilitator, we had renowned gynaecologists Dr. Premila and Dr. Shobana address our middle & high school students with age-appropriate information in the respective ECR & City Campus. The students clarified their questions on their developmental needs and were reassured with clinical information to take care of themselves efficiently.



CRS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

The students of grade 11 and 12 in the city campus engaged in a **Comprehensive Research Study**, wherein they took on a variety of research topics in different subjects; and over the course of a month, collected evidence and presented their findings to the faculty and parents.



IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2022...

A TRIP TO THE MUDUMALAI FORESTS

In the second week of October 2022, students of grades 8 and 9 of both the campuses visited the Mudumalai forests to explore the enchanting world of the stars and the moon. This was a trip majorly to sight the astronomical world that surrounds us. Alongside, students also had a walk through the Mudumalai forests sighting the vibrant flora and fauna of the western ghats, and tasting the crystal clear water from the forest stream. Students enjoyed this great learning event, and wished for more such experiences.



Meeting new people.

1 best moment:
 Nature is a gift to the universe. One best moment is
 I realized how beautiful nature is. The lush green fields
 made me realize that inspire of the people having
 nature, nature gives you the best of its availability.
 I saw the mountains covered with a cotton like
 blanket. The weather was so pleasant.



VIBES

The school was proud to host the Vriddhi Interschool Business & Economics Symposium - VIBES on the 15th of October this term. The first of its kind in Chennai, provided a platform for collaboration between the AS/ A level and the IBDP students. Also, students from different schools in Chennai and other districts actively participated, bringing in their presentations and taking part in conversations. The event was an interesting get together of business and economics enthusiasts. Students got an opportunity to learn from the perspectives of students from different backgrounds.



LITCON

Creativity, Activity and Service, popularly known as CAS is one of the core components of the IB Diploma Programme. As part of this essential core, Palani (IB DP2 student) took an interestingly different approach to engage himself in a project planned out for this component.

He organised a Literature Convention, fondly called 'LitCon' for middle school students.

The students had the liberty to choose their favourite characters from any book, dress up like them and present the persona to their friends. As an extension to these presentations, students split themselves into different groups and went ahead to quiz the participants about their respective characters.



Students were not only provided with a platform to explore their public speaking skills but they also thoroughly enjoyed this creative experience.



IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2022...

CHILDRENS' DAY

At AAIS, We celebrate and treasure every child day in and out. But this day of the year is always extra special as we plan fun activities and events for our learners to celebrate the child in all of us. This year, our in-person celebration of the Childrens' Day was filled with joy. The teachers performed with love and excitement for the learners. There were many performances including singing, dance battles, poetry recitation as a dedication for our learner's enthusiasm. They also enjoyed the day with a fun game with all their peers across grades. The celebrations continued into every classroom with warm wishes and acts of appreciation for our learners throughout the day.



CYBER SAFETY

As part of Mahogany, on the 18th of November, Wellness cluster at AAIS, We celebrated the child safety week with the second part of our Awareness and Empowerment Series about "CYBER SAFETY" as we understand the need & importance of ensuring our learners' safety in the digital world. These sessions are a part of the child safety week celebration which is observed between Nov 14-Nov 20, 2022 by the government of India in different parts of the country.

We had Mr. Sivakumar Periaswamy who is part of our Parent community and has several years of experience in Cyber security and Safety, Digital Transformation and Technology Consulting. He instilled awareness on different cyber threats and empowered them to be safe cyber users.

Our learners participated enthusiastically and shared their experiences with each other. They also pledged together to be responsible and conscious users in the digital world



THE SPANISH OLYMPIAD

Españolímpiadas 2022 was an event conducted at Hiranandani Upscale School, Chennai on 19th November, 2022. The Spanish learners of our school enthusiastically participated in this collaborative endeavour where they got an opportunity to interact with other Spanish language learners, teachers and native speakers and gathered knowledge about different cultures, histories and traditions.

About 50 of our students participated from both the high school campuses and all our Spanish teachers were volunteers at the event.

The team of students and teachers had a wonderful time exchanging knowledge and the joy of learning together.

Our team of Hansini Krishnan, Siddarth Shiva, Dhayamitiran, Adhya Karthikeyan, Srikrishna Ramprasad and Deepika Velmurugan won the award for the best team for the beginner level.



GOETHE SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL

The Goethe Science Film Festival is a celebration of science communication in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America: The Festival presents scientific issues accessible and entertainingly to a broad audience and demonstrates that science can be fun.

From November 22nd to 29th, our middle school students were part of this communion as they explored the theme for this year - "Equal opportunities in Science", while watching some of the movies that were showcased as part of the festival.

In collaboration with the National Council for Science Museums (NCSM), movies were screened based on age appropriate issues and topics. Films that were shown included a short film titled "Every Child is a Scientist" and "Microplastics".

The first was aimed at making students understand that the scientific process was one that can be implemented at any age and was not restricted to labs and adults.

The second discussed an issue that has massive environmental impact, that of microplastics and the risks that they pose to the environment.

The shorts promoted science literacy, a glimpse into alternative realities and also aided the exploration of vital issues and themes.

A follow-up discussion included thoughtful reflections on the students' understanding of the earth around us.



MOVIES SCREENED

Faith's world
Fire in our hearts
Microplastics pollution
Every child a scientist
Women in STEM
Zenith- The great voyage

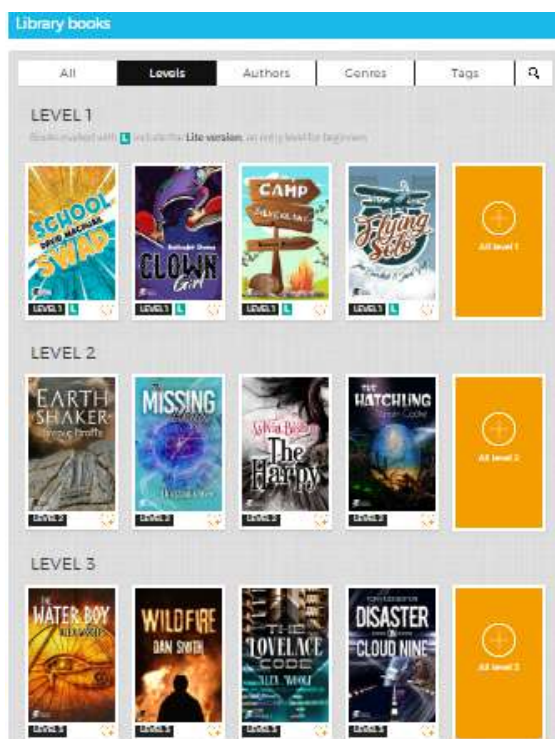
IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022...

THE FICTION EXPRESS – READING PLATFORM READ - ENGAGE - CONTRIBUTE

A novel addition to the learning of English as a subject is the introduction of the reading platform of “Fiction Express”. This is a pilot project for the students of grades 6 & 7, where students not only get an opportunity to read more books but also get to contribute to the making of a novel.

This initiative has been taken especially to encourage and inculcate reading habits in our middle schoolers, so that they are able to appreciate the subject better, and are parallelly ready for the different challenges with the English language in the future. Students are encouraged to read and present their opinion on this platform, and they are also able to check on the discussions and viewpoints of the other students from the different parts of the globe. There are exercises and activities that assist the understanding of students. The English Department monitors the students’ engagement and progress.

Students have started reading titles available in the portal including finished books. They have also begun contributing to the ‘live books’ that are still in the process of being completed.



Latest books	LEVEL 1 School Swap	LEVEL 2 Earth Shaker	LEVEL 3 The Water Boy
Chapters	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
S. Balakumar		3 8 9 9	
Bageeh Alshara		10 10 10 8 8	
Bohra, Aayushi		9 9 8 9 10	2
Chandna R. Srikrishna		10 10 10 9 10	
D. Nehalini		10 9 10 8	
K.S. Shashani		10	
Kaveen, Nitun			
Krishna Menon, Anirudh Krishna		10 10 10 10 10	
H. Alar		10 10 10 10 10	

COLLEGE COUNSELLING

The Career & College Counselling programme aims to give students of Grade 8 and above a peek into various career possibilities and professions that exist to equip them with the right information as they stand to choose subjects and courses of study. The second session was held on December 3rd on careers in Finance. Mr. Shriram Ananthanarayanan, Managing Director of Oakwhite Partners and Mr. Karthik Sundaram, Director, Ad Infinitum Finvest Services, both parents of our students were invited to share their journey and expertise in the field of accounting and finance.

They were given a rundown of the jobs and opportunities available in the sector and tips on how to pursue a career in the space. The students enjoyed getting their doubts clarified and interacting with the guest speakers.



ORANGE DAY:

A new day to celebrate has been added in the AAIS calendar. December 12th was earmarked as Orange Day. The initiative was undertaken to support a project by our IB DP students who wanted to make bio-enzyme using orange peel. The intention was to collect as much fresh orange f=peel as possible. Hence, every student and faculty came together to peel and relish the orange and drop the peels in collection boxes. The faculty and students also demonstrated how to kick start the process of making the bio-enzymes.

It was indeed an interesting sight to see the members of the faculty clad in different shades of orange, the youngest learners peeling and eating oranges, the inquirers who asked questions to understand the process. This was done truly in the AAIS style.



VISIT TO THE ANNA CENTENARY LIBRARY

Students of Grades 9 and 11 visited the Anna Centenary Library this term. This was one among the many initiatives to support the students of Grade 9 to participate in the Cambridge science competition, which requires the students to conduct an investigation for a period of 2 months. The visit to the Library was an interesting learning experience for the students as they were encouraged to come up with an area of interest or a topic for investigation, as they found a platform to discuss the varied books and topics in Scientific journals.



NASA'S MARS ROVER "OPPORTUNITY"

It was a thrilling experience for the students of grades 8 and 9 to be invited by The American Center Chennai to visit the Full-scale model of Nasa's Mars Rover "Opportunity"! Built by Cornell University students, the full scale model was displayed at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. and was sent as an exhibit piece at the U.S.A. Pavilion during the Dubai Expo 2020 from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

This unique exhibit highlights American achievement in Space technology and our collective sense of wonder! Space related activities were curated to engage students and stoke their curiosity! Students were taken on a guided group visit on a space adventure!

Students truly appreciated the knowledge gained and the learning thereof.



THIRAN

The Annual Cultural Fest was brought to a grand close on the 16th of December, 2022. Students participated with great enthusiasm in a plethora of activities and challenged themselves beyond their own comfort zones making all of us proud of their varied talents and potential.

We found our overall champions in Sukhi Bhava Arjun from the Jal House and Keshav Prabhu from the Jal House in the Sub junior category.

Karen Christopher of Jal House and Vishakha Jayakanthan of the Agni house are the Middle School champions.

Ramanujan Venkatraman of the Jal House and Vishruth V S of the Agni House are the High School champions.



ART IMMERSION

Arts are an important part of school education as they build critical and creative thinking in students. As a part of experiential learning, Art immersion programme was introduced to the students of grades 6 to 8. In this programme the students engage with one particular art form for a period of 12 weeks.

Our middle school students of grade 6 and 7 put their act together as they showcased the 12 weeks of their learning in theatre and music. Students explored the basics of mind, body, voice in theatre and music.

They explored concepts of stage presence and space through various theatre games.

Once they eased into it and understood various elements of theatre, students learned to develop a play inclusive of character creation, scene outlines, character arcs, movements and motivation in a scene. They even explored mime.

Before starting rehearsals for their art immersion showcase, they did reading of the script being mindful of how breathing, intonation, volume and tone plays a crucial role in establishing any scene. Students curated and created props for their art immersion showcase.

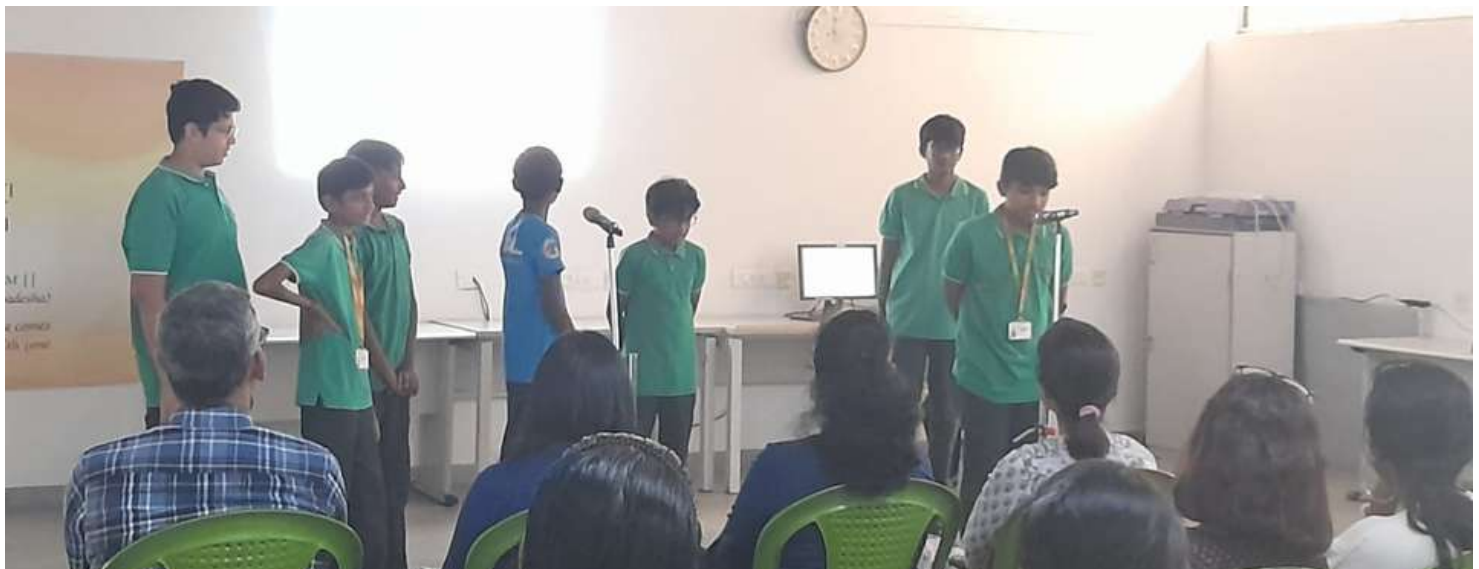
They performed a play on the Christmas themes of teamwork and the importance of being caring and helpful.



GRADE LEVEL MEETINGS

The Grade Level Meetings are calendared to give an opportunity for our Parent community to understand the specifics about the curriculum their wards are in. This time around, the students took the initiative to share and showcase their learning over the last 5-6 months to their parents in various subjects.

The students not only shared the different content that they have learnt but also showed and shared how they learnt the same. Students expressed what and how learnt in creative ways - short skits, engaging presentations - which were well received by the parents.





CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

With Christmas cheer in the air, our learners participated in the traditional game of secret santa where everyone got to be a chrisparent to one of their classmates. They exchanged fun acts of kindness and spread the joy of the season. Gifts and wishes were exchanged.





SPORTS DAY

Students are gearing up for their best performances in athletics and sports for our Annual Sports Day.

GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL GETLIT!

For all those who love reading – the 6th edition of International GetLitt! Reading Olympiad (Winter edition 2022-23 will be held between February 6th - February 10th, 2023

It is open to students of grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. The Reading Olympiad will be held online and children can participate from anywhere in the world.

THE SANGAMAM

Looking forward to a day of exquisite displays and sales in our most celebrated student initiative – Sangamam

THE ART ENSEMBLE

Students of Grade 8, under the guidance of their Art teacher are creating an installation for the Art Ensemble representing the burning theme of “Plastic-the predator”. The grand show will take place in the last week before the school closes for its Christmas and New Year vacations.