

HIGH - NOTES

CHRONICLES OF SECONDARY SCHOOL



FOREWORD

by Ms Akila Srinivas, Principal, Secondary School

The year started with a lot of hope and positivity in the air. However, stepping completely into the physical space has been challenging in multiple ways for the entire community. Though we anticipated most of the challenges and planned intensely during the summer break, surprises were certainly a part of this first quarter of the academic year. Now, taking a deep breath to pause in September to review what has happened amazes all of us!

It is a mixed bag of emotions - of feeling excited, surprised, connected, engaged and proud !! In the words of Bob Beuprez

“Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations.”

Along with the faculty here, when parents take an equal initiative in building awareness of the happenings at school, students are also motivated to stay informed

This helps them to build confidence and strive to reach their full potential.

This newsletter edition brings to you the action behind all those emotions and beliefs.

GET IN THE KNOW:

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GLOBAL EDUCATION AWARDS 2022



Akshar Arbol International School has been recognised and awarded by IKA-2022 Chennai for ***'Excellence in Thematic Education & Sports Programs'***.

Ms Akila Srinivas received the award on July 28th 2022 of ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. She was a panel member of the IKA Summit 2022, sharing her thoughts and experiences on the 'Use of innovative tools and technologies in modern K-12 education'. We are immensely proud and thankful to our team and dedicated staff.

WHAT'S BUZZING?

AKSHAR ARBOL GETS AWARDED

We are proud to share that Akshar Arbol International School has been recognised and awarded three prestigious awards at the Global Education Awards 2022.

- 1) *The School of the Year for Staff Wellbeing – South.*
- 2) *The Best Skill Development Initiative – Editor's Choice.*
- 3) *The Innovative School of the Year – Jury's Choice.*

The jury unanimously agreed that Akshar Arbol International School has a profound impact on the way education is delivered today!

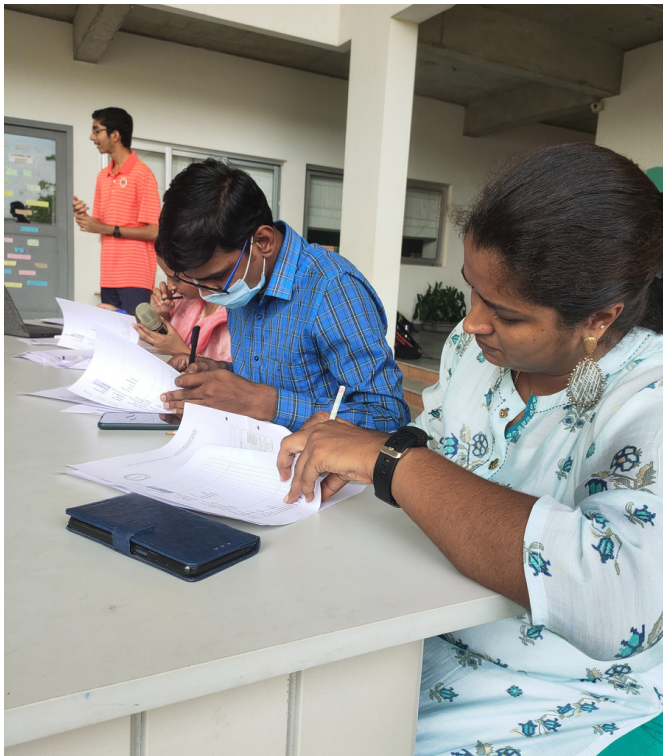
ELDROK INDIA AWARD – INDIA K-12 AWARDS 2022



WHAT'S BUZZING?

THIRAN

Students of Akshar Arbol are gearing up to participate in the School Annual Event - Thiran. The first level of selections just concluded on the 6th of August and the tremendous talent of our students has been a pleasure to watch.



WHAT'S BUZZING?

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The season of nominations and elections at Akshar Arbol began in the month of June.

As a school community, we believe in equal opportunities and the positive features of Democracy. This year began with the election of our student council members.

As goes the culture, all students were acquainted with the entire process of elections where they were witness to the way the campaigns were conducted by the nominated students from High School. They were given the opportunity to understand the candidates and then cast their votes.





WHAT'S BUZZING?

INVESTITURES CEREMONY

Following the elections, was the Investitures ceremony where the chosen candidates proudly adorned their respective badges that were pinned onto their uniforms by the Head of School, Ms. Priya Dixit. The students then took the oath to commit themselves to the responsibilities that they have been entrusted with.

This was indeed a proud moment for the members of the team.

The team of Student Council members of 2022 are:

ECR Campus

Agni Vice Captain: Arfan Khan Jeelany |
Jal Vice Captain: Shambhavi Kumar

Agni Captain: Sarvadh Sathiamam |
Jal Captain: Palani Thevan Rajan

Sports Captain: Ramanujan Venkataraman

The City Campus

Agni Vice Captain: Ashwath Mahesh |
Jal Vice Captain: Sanjith Arun

Agni Captain: Sharvesh A K |
Jal Captain: Pearl Faure

Sports Captain: Niharika Nambiar

ACADEMIA

BACK TO SCHOOL

The Back to School evening was organized in the month of July and the first week of August. This was a great opportunity to meet with parents after the entire period of the pandemic isolation. Teachers found a platform to showcase the activities and learning processes of their students and discuss how the learners can be supported at home.



MATH EXPLORATION



On the 22nd of July 2022, the students of grade 10 of both the campuses shared their experiences and experiments with Mathematics as they demonstrated to the AAIS community the everyday connections between Math and the world around us.

Students were given an opportunity to showcase how they connected math to their day-to-day lives.

In the meanwhile, the students at the Injambakkam campus embarked on an adventure to connect the sacred ratio of Pi to its different and vast applications.

Each student explained their individual research work, understanding, and reflections to their audience. This was a memorable day for the students of both the campuses as they shared their understanding and the awe of the different connections between mathematics and real life.



MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Our high school students attended the Model United Nations conference on the 1st and 2nd of August, 2022. This was an opportunity for the students to represent and critically analyze certain pressing issues in selected countries and discuss possible solutions. This was a platform where students got to recognize and exercise their view points with creativity and critical thinking.

In the words of our students–

. We developed skills of communication and put on tinted lenses to analyze situations from our nation's perspective

- Nithiya

I have learnt the importance of being informed, and the value of clear communication.

1.

- Samrutha

The policy know-how, diplomatic acumen, and public speaking skills that the event required were the elements I most appreciated.

1.

- Sharada

TEACHER'S SPEAKER: DR.KAMAKOTI

Continuous Learning is a part and parcel of everyone's lives at AAIS. Here we are sharing an incredible experience as part of our Transformative Narrative series for this year. We got to interact with Dr. Kamakoti, The Director of IIT Madras.

We got the opportunity to reflect on the approaches to teaching-learning with young minds focusing on bridging the gap between school to college level education. The interesting insights from the session has helped us rejuvenate our classroom practices.



TRANSFORMATIVE NARRATIVE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

As has always been the cult here at AAIS, we encourage our students to take their learnings outside classrooms into the world.

Here are a few glimpses of how they do it:

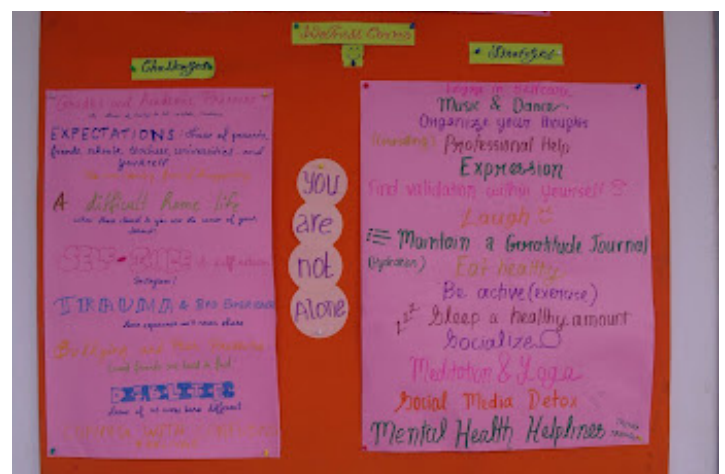
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK CELEBRATIONS:

As part of our wellness programme, we had the month long Mental health awareness week celebrations over the month of July.

Our learners were encouraged to identify the importance of mental health and well-being through different activities.

Each grade explored their perspective and presented it to their peers in different forms.

This provided an opportunity for each of the learners to take responsibility for their wellbeing and promote awareness about the importance of sound mental health promoting holistic development in them.



ART IMMERSION PROGRAMME

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.

In Visual Arts, the students of grade 7 worked over a period of twelve weeks and explored a variety of concepts such as portraiture, still life, Artist copy, Collage, Print-making and product design.

To exhibit their learning, the school conducted the first art immersion showcase for the middle school on the 26th of August. This was a gallery walk, for parents to understand the Art experiences of the students.



ART IMMERSION PROGRAMME

As part of Performing Arts, students of Grade 8 worked on productions exhibiting their talent in theater arts.



This was a culmination of over twelve weeks of practice this term. While the students of the ECR campus showcased a skit on the rights and duties of freedom, the students of the city campus demonstrated the pressing scenario of “Ablism” today where the inherent discrimination of the differently abled members of our society was demonstrated and discussed.

The next important strand in the Art Immersion event is in the field of music. The students of Grade 6 from both campuses presented delightful renditions of popular numbers charming the audience with the melody and synchrony of their voices. This was also the result of the entire term’s learning and unlearning in the subject of music.



FIELD TRIPS

TRIP TO KWALITY MILK FOOD LTD. - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT STUDENTS

The Business studies students from Grade 9 to DP2 went for the field trip to Kwaliti Milk Food Ltd in Kanchipuram district. KMFL has now grown up to be one of the leading dairies in South India, catering milk to Chennai and its suburbs. It is marketing the liquid milk in pouches under the brand name SONA. The students were able to understand how milk factory works with the divisions and segments involved in the processing of milk and other milk related food products like Curd, Paneer, Icecreams and Milkshakes.



KALAKSHETRA TRIP

On 29th of July, our middle school students visited the Kalakshetra campus and experienced the pleasure of witnessing performing arts rendered by incredible artists from Spain and Egypt. The students interacted with the artists and learnt a lot about multi-cultural art forms. This was a memorable experience for them to get a peek into connections of art & language.



TRIP TO YERCAUD

On the 16th of August, the students of grade 10, 11 and 12 from both the high school campuses embarked on a field trip to Yercaud. This trip was organized by Youreka and Inme to create a holistic learning experience for the students away from the classroom. The trip lasted for 5 days and 4 nights at the Youreka campsite.

The students had a great time with engaging and interesting group activities and individual exercises to be completed. It was a pleasure to see the students bond across campuses and grades, learning new things about each other and the world around them.

TRIP TO YERCAUD



GUEST LECTURES

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION :- A GATEWAY TO IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES

On the 4th of August, 2022 Dr. Durba Bannerjee, Assistant Professor at IIM Indore & Dr. Neha Tyagi, Assistant Professor at O.P Jindal University were invited on an online platform to provide more exposure to Spanish as a language

The objective was to facilitate the sharing of experiences while learning to master one of the celebrated Romance languages, Spanish.

Insights on the cultural similarities and differences across Spain, India and South America were discussed and highlighted.

Also, the role of this language in finding jobs was explored and this was followed by an Interactive question and answer session with the speakers.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

YOGA DAY

Learning goes beyond academic concepts. At AAIS, we believe in holistic development and grab every opportunity to take it to our students.

The International Yoga Day was celebrated virtually on the 21st of June, 2022. Mr. Prabhu, our physical educator, demonstrated various yoga asanas to our students and guided them on the benefits of the same.

As a school community, we believe in yoga as a way of living and not just a form of exercise. Teachers often engage and encourage students to follow simple yoga exercises in between classes that help them towards better learning experiences.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

This historically important day was celebrated once again. This time - the 75th Independence Day of our country. This was a joyous occasion where the entire AAIS community got together to celebrate the day and honour the many martyrs, who fought for the country to finally break the shackles of oppression and subjugation.

The event commenced with our Head of School, Ms. Priya Dixit hoisting the National Flag when all the teachers sang the Flag song- "Jhandaa Ooncha rahe humaara".

Students shared insightful information about the country and conveyed the charm and beauty of the uniqueness of the unity in the diversity of the country that is cherished and celebrated world over.

The morning was replete with nostalgia and gratitude as the community together thought of the struggle and sacrifice of the thousands of freedom fighters. Students demonstrated the happiness of being "Indian" through colourful representations of the different states, a skit and a dance.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

A special feature of the occasion this year was the presence of Mr.SGD.Rao, a veteran of the Indian Navy who was witness to the sacrifices of the freedom struggle, graced the occasion with his soulful message of keeping up the integrity of the country reminiscing the cost at which this freedom is being enjoyed today.

The event concluded with the gathering singing the National Anthem with pride and dignity.



CRICKET TOURNAMENT FINALS



**NEW CHAMPS ON THE
PITCH:
THE FINALE OF AKSHAR
ARBOL INTER SCHOOL
CRICKET TOURNAMENT AT
THE M.A.CHIDAMBARAM
STADIUM**

As the sun set on M.A. Chidambaram stadium on the 15th of July 2022, the students of St. Bedes, winners of the Under 13 Inter-School Cricket tournament hosted by Akshar Arbol International School, celebrated their victory over 11 other teams. This match at Chepauk served as a culmination of 3 months of intense competition between 12 schools across Chennai.

The Chief Guest of the day was Shri K. Vasudevadas, an accomplished cricketer who played for Tamil Nadu and Chennai Super Kings.

“We have always placed an emphasis on holistic education, and sports is an integral part of it,” noted Head of AAIS, Smt. Priya Dixit.

Akshar Arbol’s School cricket ground was inaugurated at their ECR campus in late 2019 by the Chennai Super Kings CEO, Mr Kasi Vishwanathan. While the tournament was initially scheduled to happen in 2020, it had to be put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic. After much planning, precaution and concerted efforts from the AAIS faculty, the tournament was renewed this year and brought to fruition, with much pomp and fanfare.

As a first of its kind, Akshar Arbol enabled a ball-by-ball video capture of the entire tournament, coupled with highlights for each game.

The awards for the winning team and individual players were presented by the Chief Guest Sri. Vasudeva Das in presence of Smt. Akila Srinivas, Principal and Sri. Kamalesh Sekhar, Board Member & Head of Sports Initiatives of Akshar Arbol.

AADI STREET FESTIVAL

This year the traditional fest - our very own Aadi Street Festival was filled with high spirited middle and high school students who put up a plethora of stalls, ranging from mouth watering chaat items, to attractive nail and mehendi designs.

Furthermore, an art immersion show was conducted by the students of Grade 6 and 7 where they portrayed their mastery at various art forms.

Along with these festivities, the exchange of friendly compliments and banter from the audience who were present at the event enlivened the spirit of Aadi.

Everybody returned home with tired but joyous faces and the tassel was worth the hassle.





SNEAK PEEK

A Peek into the journey ahead!

- ★ Our learners of Grade 8 & 9 are all set for their journey into the nature of Mudumalai.
- ★ Inter - School events are back in our calendar. Our first Eco-Business symposium is coming soon.
- ★ Also looking forward to the Awareness & Empowerment series - Where field experts interact with our learners to educate them on different self care & well-being practices. The next in line is Cyber Awareness - Strategies and tools to be safe in the digital world.
- ★ Here and Beyond - Sessions related to career building are being initiated by our College Counseling Team.
- ★ The most awaited finale of Thiran! A showdown of various talents and a celebration of uniqueness in everyone.