

PRIMEBYTES



Buzzing from Primary



To New Beginnings!

The first month of 2023 went by in flash, as the Akshar Arbol Community continued its relentless effort to learn and grow together. January marks a new beginning. To adults, new beginnings may mean a promotion or career change, moving to a new city or even seeking to form a deeper relationship with your own mind, body, and soul. To a child, it could simply be a good time to reset and prepare to do things bigger and better, make new friends and learn more! Right from the first day after Christmas break, our students, teachers and parents jumped into action - the various events, classroom stories and experiences throughout the month are surely a testimony to that. Read on to get a glimpse of what turned out to be a very eventful January.

PONGAL-O-PONGAL



“The Greatness of a Culture can be found in its Festivals” – Siddharth Katragadda

ELC learners of AAIS celebrated Pongal on the 12th of January, 2023. They dressed smartly and colourfully in ethnic wear and performed to many enthralling songs and dances. As a part of the celebration, they decorated ‘Ponga paanai’ (earthen pots) using vibrant colours and clay dough as a takeaway gift. The celebration began with a prayer, followed by a message, which reminded the children about the importance of the harvest festival.

When the children inquired about the significance of celebrating the Pongal festival, what a range of responses we heard “We Pray to the Surya God”, “If there is no sun, then there will be no plants, animals or humans, So we thank the Sun God, the plants and animals which give us food”, “We celebrate Pongal to thank our farmers” We finished off with drawing pictures of the Sun, Pongal Pots and Sugarcane, along with Pongal wishes for our parents and wrapped up the day by clicking pictures shouting out “Pongalo Pongal”!.

DING...DONG... DING... DONG..

Ding...Dong...Ding...Dong....! It is the most expected sound for the parents now, we could say. Wonder why? Yes, they await the surprise letter sent by their children. And you might question us now...LETTER??? Yes, it is a letter we posted at the Head Post Office when we visited them, for our unit - How We Organize Ourselves. What an exploration it was, into the work of one of our community helpers - The Postman, and his place of work, as well. We posted letters in the letterbox, watched post-office workers collecting letters from the box, printed the stamps on our letters ourselves, spoke to many office workers at the office, interacted a lot with all officials, and tried understanding the mailing end-end process, noticed the postman's vehicle, a big red mail van and what not.

Our curious inquirers of ELC 2 had a series of questions for the people in the office. "How does the postman deliver our letters to our houses?", "Why have you fixed the CCTV camera at your office?", "We heard about the postman and do we have a postwoman?". And this will not end here, as we plan to post the letters to our grandparents with the postal cards gifted by the workers at the Post Office.





SMALL STEPS!

Small action X Large number of people = Big Impact

As a part of the PYP Exhibition Process, students of Grade 5 welcomed guests Ms Uma Maheshwari and Ms Keshika - volunteers from the Isha Foundation. The session aimed at creating awareness about the issue of soil degradation and the importance of healthy soil through the 'SAVE SOIL' movement.

It was an eye-opening session which helped us to understand the importance of advocating for healthy soil. Students were able to quickly relate to the session and shared their views on why it is important to protect our natural resource - Soil. They were decisive in spreading awareness about this movement and were enthusiastic about it.

Action always begins with us. It was inspiring to see students make personal connections and support this global endeavor!

Small steps do add to make a big wave!

AN EARLY INQUIRY INTO HEALTH



"Health is the greatest gift, Contentment the greatest wealth, Faithfulness the best relationship"
- Buddha

To explore one such gift - Health, we had among us Dr. V. Aarti, a paediatrician who taught our little learners of ELC -1 about the "importance of personal hygiene". We learnt how to follow the daily routine like "brushing teeth, taking a bath, washing hands, keeping our nails clean, and we also learnt the importance of consuming healthy foods.

Our little inquirers were so curious, which was evident from their questions like "*Can we drink juices, is it a healthy food?*", "*Can we eat pizza?*", "*Should we brush two times?*" and "*Why do we need to cut and keep our nails clean?*"

Way to go, our little fellows!



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS



Republic day celebrations at AAIS was all about learning more about our constitution. We had our learners from Grade 1 and 2 who sang patriotic songs and presented a skit which made our hearts swell with pride.

"I developed my communication skills when I conducted the assembly. I was happy that I spoke well"
- Ahmad Dawud

"I was very excited about the assembly. The songs were very easy to remember, and it was fun for me to learn them."
- Batul

THANK YOU FRIENDS! THANK YOU FRIENDS! IT'S TIME TO SAY THANK YOU!!"

"Do you know who we thanked? Our ELC 2 students thanked their parents who joined us at a wonderful showcase of our Learning Journey. Our students made the event extra special by sharing the stage to sing a few rhymes with actions and did a role-play about Community Helpers - the central focus of our Inquiry over the past 8 weeks. The young ELC2 learners hosted the show throughout! Parents spent their time at different centers run by our students, trying their hands at Jumbled Words, Reading Center, Tools Sorting and Guess who?."



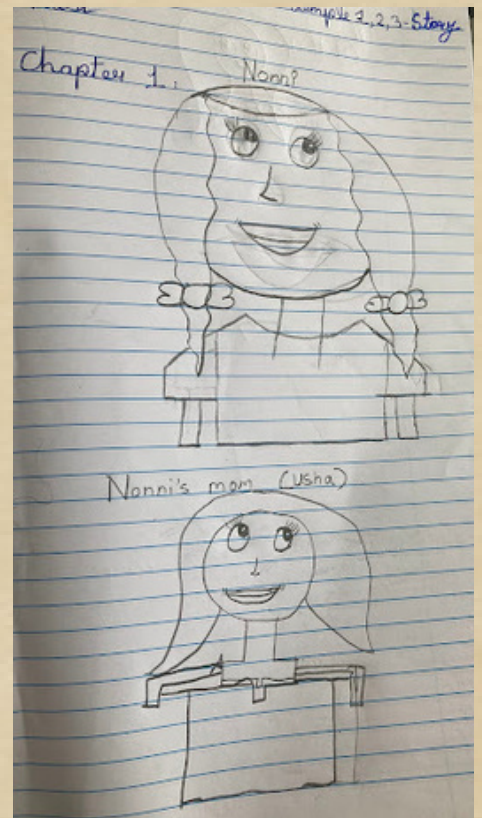
*"The enthusiasm was almost apparent".
"Am happy to see that my child is learning about community helpers".*

"Very good development and happy to see this".

"The School is doing a great job with the learning approach and as parents we feel happy about the regular updates and our periodical involvement."



REJUVENATING READING



“Reading is a passport to countless adventures.” – Mark Pope Osborne.

During a Literature Circle, groups of students gather to discuss a piece of a book or literature in depth. Literature Circles provide a way for students to engage and reflect, as they read and discuss in groups. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add to their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers.

Learners are assigned roles such as Passage Picker, Word Wizard, Artful Artist, Summarizer, Connector, and Discussion Director, and the roles interchange weekly.

This will provide an enriching reading opportunity for our young readers and enhance their Literacy skills.

LETS GO SHOPPING!

Students in Grade 2 are learning about money. What better way to learn about handling money than through the use of role-plays, with modelling as a shopkeeper and buyer, using fake currency. They calculated by adding the amount they spent and subtracting the change they needed. Students enjoyed themselves during this activity.





FIELDTRIP TO FARMGURU

The students of Grade 4 had a chance to visit Farmguru Agritech Center, an Organic Farm in line with their Unit of Inquiry, about how plants sustain life on Earth and contribute to our wellbeing. At the farm, our learners had hands-on experience learning about the entire cycle and process of rice cultivation, from ploughing, to harvesting and pounding. They also gained knowledge about the importance of organic farming and how natural fertilisers such as worm and cow dung contribute to the crops. The trip was enhanced by a different riding experience on the bullock cart.

What better way than this to welcome the Harvest Festival!



BRINGING
IN
A CHANGE!

The much awaited event of each year - PYP Exhibition is almost here!

PYP Exhibition - a culmination of the learning experience for learners in the Primary Years Programme.

Students are in the final phase - The Taking Action stage, where they ideate realistic and consistent actions to bring in a change about the issues they inquired into. As facilitators, it was wonderful to see our Grade 5 students ideate action through inspirations they found in their life experiences. They proved to be agents of their learning, by using their voice and choice responsibly and showing ownership towards bringing a change in the community.

The PYP Exhibition process is truly a demonstration of the skills and attributes, developed by the students, over the course of their Primary years. We are excitedly looking forward to witnessing students using their knowledge, from inquiry, to make an impact for a better world

HOW TO BUILD HEALTHY COMPETITION IN OUR WARDS

As we start this brand new year filled with opportunities, it's important to reflect on the past and carry memories, insights, and hope for the future. When I sat down to reflect on what an incredible year this has been for the learners, I was amazed by how every single learner competed with themselves and others to do their best and be their best self. Be it the competitions with a tangible reward like Thiran or the everyday intangible reward of satisfaction after answering a question first in their classroom, our learners have been enthusiastic participants and competitors all along. It's been a delight to watch them build their individuality, confidence, and identity through it.

While they are at it, here are some ways to support them in building healthy competition as parents.

1. Hype up the efforts: Parents are the biggest cheerleaders in every child's world. Their primary idea of how well they are doing derives from what they see and hear from you. Appreciating and reinforcing their efforts in the activity irrespective of the outcome could be a great way to sow seeds of healthy competition. When the appreciation focuses on how they did something over what they did, they learn to prioritize their efforts.
2. It is Okay not to win: This could be a challenging but rewarding conversation with your ward. Try to reframe losing into 'Not winning yet'. Reframing how we talk about not winning to our wards could help them cope with it. It is important to acknowledge that it is okay for them to be upset/hurt from not winning. It is a reflection of the value and importance of the activity for the ward which needs to be appreciated. It is imperative to remember that 'Your success is not on a comparative scale with others, but yourself from the past.'
3. Focus on the smaller wins: Reflecting with your ward on the smaller wins could be a great way to build a healthy competitive spirit. It would be healthy to guide them in seeing the bigger picture with this being a step in the process. Irrespective of winning or not, guiding them to look at what's ahead of them with a focus on what they can continue doing or do differently to get there could be really effective.

Let us work together to build healthy competition and an outlook of success for your wards with constant support and encouragement.

UPCOMING EVENTS



FEB 1

Global Play day



FEB 10 & 11

PYP Exhibition



FEB 21

Language day



The PYP Exhibition is the culminating learning experience of students in the final year of the IB Primary Years Programme. Mark your calendars to be present at this very important milestone at School.