



primebYtes

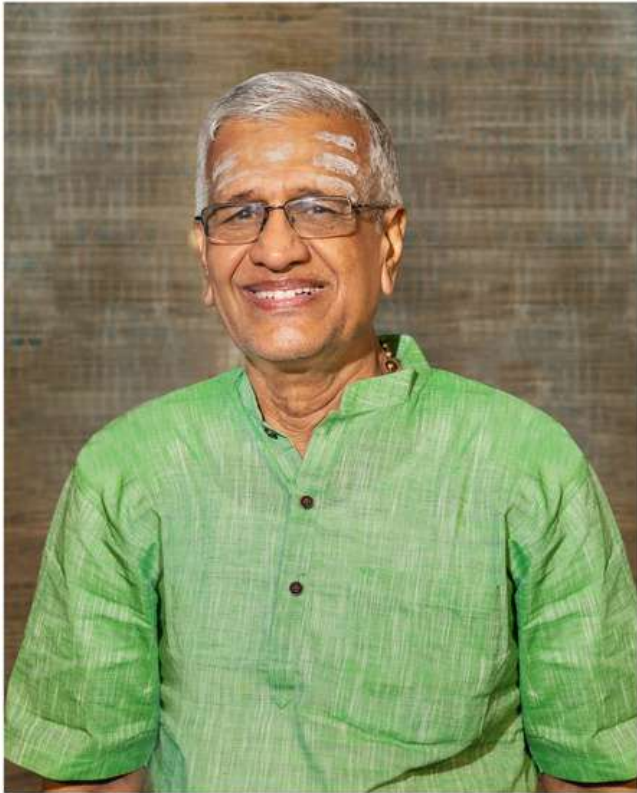
buzzing From Primary



Yet another eventful academic year has ended, and has left the learning community with a lot of memories and learnings. As we wind down and prepare to take the much needed summer break, we cannot help but pause briefly to reflect on the last couple of months here at AAIS. Indeed, reflection is an integral part of IB PYP! And at AAIS, we make sure we are being Reflective at every step of the way. Come join us as we reflect on the many wonderful experiences we had in the last few weeks. These were filled with back to back events, report cards and conferences with students and parents.

At the end of the newsletter, maybe you could engage in your own reflection. Here are some questions for you to think about:

- Which of these left a lasting impression on you?
- Which student activity gave you a new perspective or learning?
- Or did any of these events or field trips inspire you to try something new?



When we as a school community reflect, we would also like to take a moment to think about our humble beginnings as we go back to our roots and express our gratitude to our founder, Mr. R Subramanian.

RS, as he is fondly known, was a rare combination of deep intellect, extreme alacrity, sharp uptake, unadulterated wisdom, brilliant articulation and an amazing passion for tireless work, his colleagues said. The IB PYP attributes of being Principled and Balanced were second nature to him.

He was not only a professional CA, a connoisseur of fine arts (past president of Kapali Fine Arts, a committee member of Kartik Fine Arts and treasurer of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, but also the beloved founder of Akshar Arbol.

Mr. Subramanian's long-term dream has been to build a high quality educational institution, with values that will mold and mentor children to become world class global citizens. Hailing from a family of erudite scholars, he truly believed that education must be holistic, focusing on the 21st century needs of inculcating essential skills and attitudes.

The famous poem "The Brook" by Alfred Lord Tennyson emphasizes "*Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever*". True to that, the AAIS community comes together to always cherish RS Sir's fond memories in our hearts and carry forward his mission and vision, with the hope of inspiring the leaders of tomorrow and ensuring lifelong learning.

Research taken beyond

"Nothing is pleasanter than exploring a Library" - Walter Savage Landor.

We, Grade 3, are entirely in agreement with the above quote. Our field trip to the library was very pleasant. They were glued to the place and we had to pull the learners out to board the van. Our students were engaged in inquiring about the current line of Inquiry, which was about how animals live, grow, and care for their young ones. Our students were introduced to skimming and scanning books to identify the right book for their research. They demonstrated the skill of making notes as they were engaged in reading. All of these help students develop their Research Skills.

Almost every child in the class vowed to become a library member and bring their parents for their weekend outings.



Drop Everything And Read

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." – J.K. Rowling

DEAR was held last month to encourage the joy of reading. All the children and teachers stopped what they were doing as the long bell rang and immediately picked up a book to read. Every area resembled a library, and all the students appeared to be deeply immersed in their books. Even the physical education class took part in DEAR by reading books outside. We firmly think that reading will cultivate lifelong learners in our students.

Here is how our students reflected on the session:

"When I stopped my work and read, it was amazing"

"It was fun for me as I learned new vocabulary"

"Nice relaxing fun and interesting"

"I felt calm and relaxed"



Trip to Toddle Town

“Children learn how to play, most importantly, in play children learn how to learn” – O.Fred Donaldson.

And true to this quote learners of ELC 2 explored play by visiting “The Toddle Town- Kids’ Indoor Play Area ” in Chennai, with playhouses, as part of our finding out the stage of our unit - “How we express ourselves”. We played at the various playhouses pretending to be a Police and a Thief at the Police station, as Fire Fighters at the fire station, a chef and customer at the Restaurant, a Shopkeeper at the SuperMarket, a Hair Stylist and Make-up Artist at the Salon, a Builder at the Construction site. Slides from the castle, ball pit, ropeway, balance walk and maker space were some other places where we enjoyed playing. We were risk-takers walking on the balance walk. We were principled when we took turns to play, and we shared the materials among ourselves. It was a joyful and memorable experience, as we explored more and expressed ourselves more!

And Just like their juniors, learners of ELC 3 also visited Toddle Town to expand their socio-emotional development.

The seven different play urges like Trajectory, Transforming, Transporting, Enclosing etc were observed amongst the learners. When they are allowed to experiment and explore, development always happens. More so when the play urges are handled with appropriate care and activities. And this field trip is one with a responsive environment full of such appropriate activities.





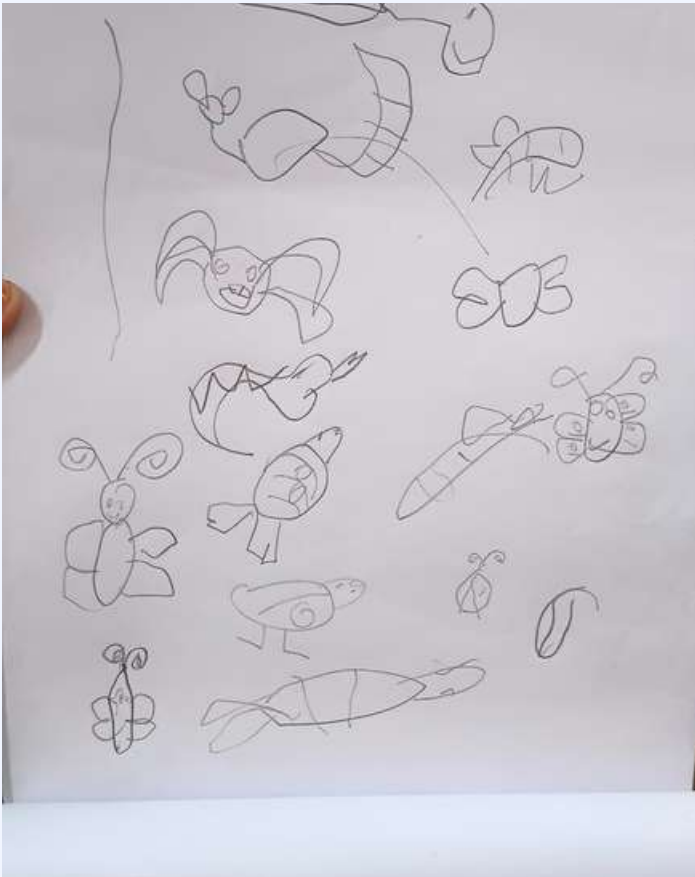
Trip to meet the tiny living things!!

Trips are always fun, but just imagine when you go that with your friends and teachers, of course, it's going to be super exciting and filled with fun. Our ELC 3 learners went on a field trip to meet their mother nature. They explored a small part of the Adyar Eco park as part of their current unit of inquiry, 'Sharing the Planet' where they are inquiring into life below and above ground life and started exploring from the smallest insects to huge banyan trees. The nature walks around the park showcased different insects, reptiles and different plant varieties.

The learners exhibited the attribute of being caring by not stomping the insects while walking and were also enquiring by asking about different trees, insects, the ecosystem etc. to the guide who was taking us through the nature walk. At the same time, they took notes on their notepads by drawing the insects, their names and trees that they saw. They were also compassionate and empathetic towards their peers by taking care of each other during the field trip.

As a take away they reflected saying, "We should plant more trees as it's the home for the little insects", and "We should share our planet with even the smallest living things as we are all dependent on each other."





Everything is Math

“Mathematics is the most beautiful and most powerful creation of the human spirit”.

Our grade 1 learners were super excited when they heard about the Math day celebration. They were actively engaged in creating posters and preparing to explain their understanding of the concepts, in full swing.

They utterly enjoyed this entire process, as they got the opportunity to work collaboratively by sharing their ideas with their peers, helping and guiding their peers, and making posters with their groups.

This was a great opportunity for our learners to identify their own strength, develop their confidence and enhance their thinking and communication skills. Our students improved their conceptual understanding, procedural accuracy, and fluency by using the (CRA) model in our classes. Regular and constant practice sessions helped our learners to demonstrate their knowledge with clarity.

The reason behind this successful event was our learners' co-operation and enthusiasm for Math. I really felt excited to see those happy smiles on both parents' and students' faces.

It was so fun and after math day, my parents and my grandparents appreciated me a lot. I had to explain about the non-standard and standard units of Mass.

- Harsh

It was very fun. I liked the way we presented our concept 'Odd and Even Numbers' to the audience through a game. I am happy that all the parents enjoyed our game.

- Zara

Our Journey from Litter Bugs to Green Warriors!!!

" Think Green, Keep it Clean"

" Make a difference - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

" It is only one straw' - said eight billion people"

These were the quotes that kept resonating in the Grade 1 classroom throughout this month. This has transformed the mindset of the Grade 1 learners - from 'Litter bugs' to 'Green Warriors'. The Unit of Inquiry was about waste management, which has had a significant influence on them. They learned about the different sources of waste, the impacts of waste handling on the environment, and the potential remedies. The learners created posters, and participated in role plays to raise awareness about the impact of waste disposal, waste segregation from dry to wet waste, and the need for people to be mindful of waste disposal. What is even better is that they have developed their own Self-Management skills and ensure that when they are in class, they ensure to use the waste bins to dispose of the pencil shavings, waste papers, and chocolate wrappers and try hard not to litter the classroom. Kudos to these little ones who have gone big to show their mindfulness!



Environment is our Third Teacher

Field trips play a major role in learning. Grade 3 began inquiring into the wonderful world of animals, and to their surprise, there was not one field trip, but 3 exciting field trips to extend their learning this time!

They kicked off the trips by visiting the Pallikaranai Marshland followed by an amazing trip to the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. It offered the students an opportunity to observe birds and crocodiles in their natural habitat. They spotted various birds such as the Indian Robin, Pied Bushchat, Black Drongo, Camel Egret, Little Egret, Indian Cormorant, Barn Swallow, Painted Stork and many other migratory birds and Snakes of various kinds, crocodiles, gharials, iguanas, tortoises, turtles and caimans – The students connected to the behavioural adaptations they learnt in the unit and understood how such a suitable habitat for numerous birds and reptiles.



Our learners witnessed them up close, carefully observing and noting their various physical and behavioural adaptations. The trips produced some great Inquirers, as our learners curiously questioned the staff there. Thank you to our parent volunteers, Mr Avinash, parent of Agastya & Ms. Shilpa Grade 3, who supported us and enriched the experience!

“What is the lifespan of the green python?”

“If the Russell's Viper does not lay eggs, does that make it a mammal?”

“Why does a snake shed its skin?”

“Can a turtle come out of its shell?”

“Who is the predator of the snake?”



“ It is only one straw” said 8 Billion People

The Grade 1 learners hosted the General assembly on 1st March 2023. ‘Sharing the Planet’ being the current Unit of Inquiry, our learners took the initiative to send out an important message to their schoolmate about Waste Management. As 22nd March is observed as the ‘World Water day’, the learners performed a role play, to sensitise everyone on how marine animals are affected by the waste generated by humans and how their life source and their homes are turning unhealthy at an alarming rate. They threw light on the sources and types of wastes, the importance of waste segregation, and how improper waste management has devastating effects on humans and animals. This experience has strengthened their sense of responsibility and to be more mindful about the actions they take here!



Magic Word – TEAMWORK

We at ELC-2 had very little idea as to what Group Play is, so our homeroom teacher asked us to make a castle using the foam blocks. We made one small castle each and kept them together to make a big castle. We took turns to place each of them without disturbing the others and eventually saw that we had one huge castle in front of us and we did it...we understood that this is "Teamwork"!!

Now with our newly found team spirit, we started making a single huge castle together. During this process we respected each other's opinions, we cared, shared and showcased empathy to our peers. We took turns too. We developed our socio-emotional skills this time!! Here is what we made together this time!!



Above and Beyond Our Classrooms!

The learning process at AAIS encompasses guest lectures, which gives our students fresh viewpoints on their Unit of Inquiry. While inquiring about the Transdisciplinary Theme, "Sharing the Earth", our Grade 2 students were given not one, but two of these opportunities. We are grateful to Ms. Ranjani, Lawyer, M/O Aarav R. Sumanth, and Aaradhya R. Sumanth for giving our children the chance to learn more about the many real-time conflicts in our community and how to peacefully resolve them with support from law. Many thanks to Ms. Aathipriya, our School Counsellor, for sharing about affirmations and positive reinforcement tactics that promote responsibility.

These experiences enhanced our learners' capacity for critical thought, as evidenced by their interactions with the visitors. Below is an overview of what they shared as their reflections.

"The Judge listens to two sides of a conflict and provides the best solution" - Hirugh

"When people fight for places and resources, conflict arises" - Akshaya

"Can there be laws for Self Conflict?" - Aaradhya

"I'm proud how high our Indian flag flies during the Independence Day" - Aaradhya

"Due to Internal Conflicts between the states, British ruled India" - Sathvik

"Taj Mahal is turning into yellow because of pollution" - Trriggya

"Sometimes we are in a self conflict when we have to do something which we know is good, but we do not want to do it" - Aarav

Our students went above and beyond simply reflecting; they demonstrated that gratitude is the best attitude by being responsible in their thanks to the guest by creating lovely bouquets as a sign of gratitude.



HAKUNAMATATA

It was a big day for our little learners of ELC-1, as they showcased their learning reflections for the unit "Sharing the planet" during the exhibition "Hakunamatata." They excitedly performed dance and rhymes in front of their parents and confidently took part in the centre time engagements such as solving puzzles, sorting animals, describing animals, clue cards, identifying skin patterns of animals etc. They also demonstrated their communication and thinking skills, as well as learner profile attributes. Each of our learners presented themselves in a confident way that made parents surprised and awestruck. This exhibition helped our young learners overcome their stranger anxiety and build more self-esteem and confidence within themselves.



Illuminarty – Art in Motion

Illuminarty – Art in Motion

The most thrilling and anticipated aspect of the learner's Art education, the Visual Art or the Performing Art, is the Exhibition, where the learners get the opportunity to showcase their beautiful artwork and perform what they had been acquiring to a wider audience. Here is a sneak preview of the 'Illuminarty – Art in Motion' that took place across the grades.

Each student has put in a lot of effort and imagination into creating each piece. Exhibitions of art serve as good examples of how various media and techniques are used to create various sorts of artwork. We believe that a good artist is one who can evoke strong emotions in the viewer through their work, and our students have certainly been successful in this goal. Our students were able to successfully link their learning with their unit of inquiry wherever possible.



To stage stories, the learners used their critical and creative thinking skills. The PYP students were proficient in role-negotiation, ideation, writing, blocking, suggesting music and costumes, designing props and suggesting stage designs.

It has been energising and rewarding to observe the imaginative and curious young minds at work during the Art Immersion. They presented themselves on stage with effective communication and teamwork. The kids have shown amazing potential and true friendship in all they have done, from setting up the sets and props on the day of the performance to improvising when things didn't go as expected.



Music sparks the development of a child's memory, cognition, motor abilities, language, and overall literacy. The activities and games like "pass the beat," "Splat," "1 duck 2 legs," helped the participants focus, keep their rhythm, and improve their hand-eye coordination as we kicked off our Immersion programme.

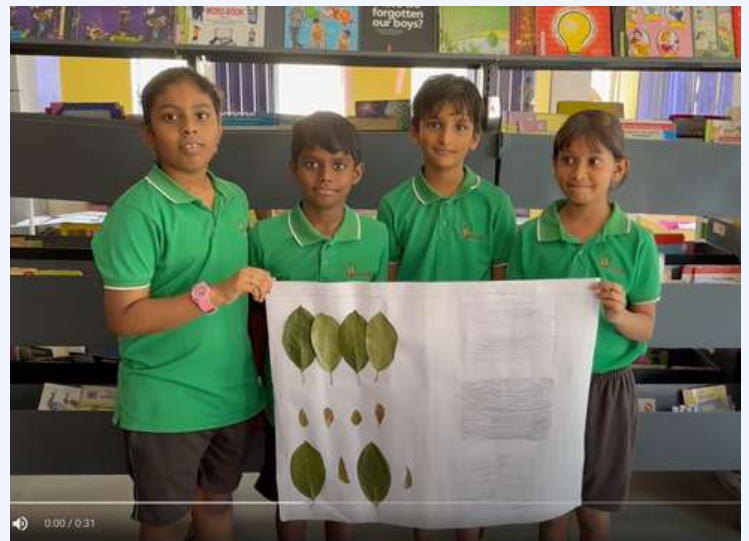
The next phase was to discover the child's musical interests and to improve their listening abilities by letting them listen to music and explain what they hear. They were exposed to and became familiar with musical elements like pitch, rhythm, beat, dynamics, and tempo. Going further, the learners were introduced to songs, primarily in different languages from different parts of the world. Regional folk music is preferred since it's crucial to preserve and value our Indian traditional arts for future generations. Through their spellbinding presentations at "Illuminarty", our learners demonstrated this learning experience.



Math Patterns

'Math is sometimes called the science of patterns'

Math is full of patterns. Students explored the patterns that emerge in nature and how they inspire art and design. The leaf patterns refer to shapes and colours, the wall pattern refers to the self designs on the wall, and the colour patterns on the rainbow are a symbol of hope and culture. The survey done regarding favorite cartoon characters and occupation of people are represented through bar graphs.



கதை கேளு கதை கேளு !!!

Now, who does not love stories? With World Storytelling Day falling on Monday, 20th March 2023, the Early Learning Centre Team at AAIS celebrated it for not just a day but the whole week using various storytelling methods. We began our celebration with Ms Kalaiarasi narrating her own 'Bagful of Stories' about magical animals, where the children also had fun creating their own stories with her.

Day two was all about "Sound stories", as sounds give life to the character. ELC 2 and 3 listened to the story of 'The Ant and The Dove' with an amazing sound modulation of Ms Janani. Students also joined together in making sounds of wind gushing, the ant asking for help etc which made the session more lively.

Day 3 was about dramas! It shows us fascinating characters, imaginary worlds, magical wands, and many more which etch the characters deeply in our minds. We had Ms Sathyapriya who brought life to the imaginary world of the Monkey and the Crocodile which had our learners awestruck throughout the session.

"A Wise Tortoise" was our day 4 story narrated by Ms Jasmine who combined the various techniques. She used different eye-catching objects like a flower vase and soft toys. Students couldn't take their eyes off the storyteller and the wonderful part of the session was that a child reflected on the story saying, "I will say sorry to my grandma that I lied to her", which was the moment for the students to connect their understanding of the story to a real-life situation.

Lastly, we had a roleplay story done by our ELC teachers on the "Two Cats and a Monkey" We had Ms Jasmine play the role of a black cat, Ms Kalaiarasi as a yellow cat and Ms Sathyapriya as a monkey presented with the beautiful voice of Ms Bhavani. Children loved to see their teachers as cats with whiskers and snouts and a monkey with its tail.

The children enjoyed the various story sessions and are enthusiastic about narrating different stories in class which can be seen in the pictures here!!



Congratulations, Class of 2030!



Every ending is a new beginning!

At Akshar Arbol, IB PYP Graduation is a significant milestone in the academic journey of students, and it is also an important event for teachers. It is an opportunity for us, as Teachers, Parents and the entire school community, to celebrate the achievements of our beloved learners. Learners of Grade 4 bid farewell by coming up with some peppy numbers and Grade 6 students were here to welcome 5th Graders by giving them a sneak peek into what they can expect in secondary

Ms SUCHITHRA SINGH:

Seeing our young PYP Graduates walk across the stage, was a momentous occasion and it was a culmination of all their hard work and dedication, over the years. It is a moment of satisfaction and fulfillment for us, as teachers. We, as a learning community, felt a sense of joy and pride in shaping their future.

Ms SIVASHRI S:

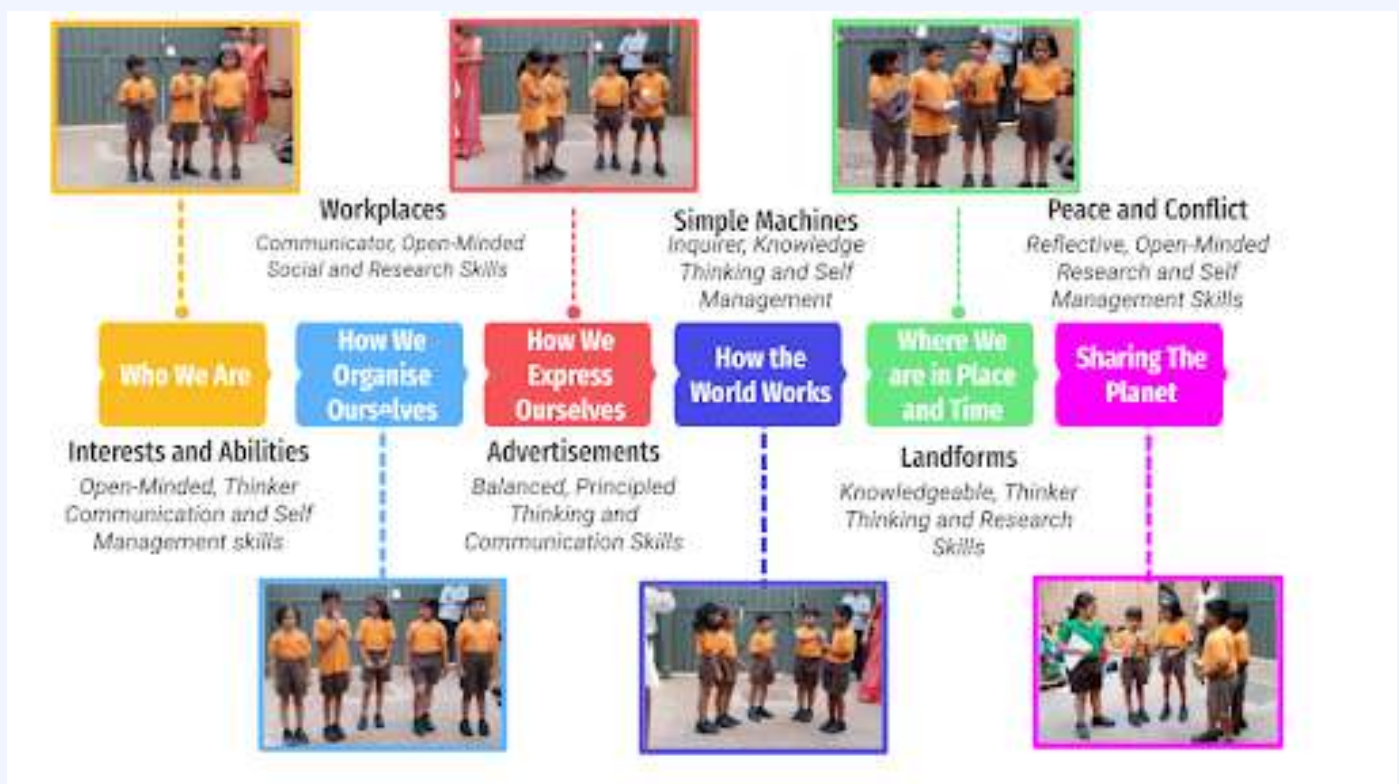
It was wonderful to witness Students, Teachers and even Parents reminiscing the fond memories during the Graduation Day, as we bid farewell to our young PYP graduates and wishing them success in their future endeavors.

We wish our young graduates all the best as they embark on the next phase of their School life. Congratulations once again, and best of luck for a bright and prosperous future.



Time flies when learning is fun!!!

For our learners, learning is always a lot of fun, and showing off what they have learned to a larger audience is even more exciting. During their general assembly, our grade 2 students had the fantastic chance to role-play their learning from the entire year. The learners came up with the idea of displaying their learning across the six transdisciplinary themes in the form of a timeline and role play, as they were learning about timelines and creating role play scripts as part of their language classes. Every single student was meticulous about thinking of scenarios, writing their lines, and acting out their parts. When they eventually lit up the stage with their incredible performances, their commitment was clear, which was positively appreciated by the teaching community and the learner community. Fantastic job, little stars!



A Tribute to PYP!

Our son Keshav completed his PYP exhibition this year by February. Though it was an one day event, the journey for it began when he stepped into AAIS. And that was one common thought which resonated amongst our parents group across grade 5. We wanted to show our gratitude in some way and weren't sure how to go about it. That's when the school informed us about the farewell event. Immediately the ideas started pouring in and it was like preparing for our college cultural. We have always been on the other side as spectators but this time as hosts we had our hands full. It was very exciting to collaborate with fellow parents, gathering pictures and videos of the kids journey, getting their perspective, shopping for snacks and mementos! The kids were excited too as they knew something was going on but not what! Finally the day arrived and we had a fantastic event thanks to the enthusiastic participation of teachers, akkas and support staff. It was fun and emotional at same time. It was a delight to see the teachers and kids turn into one team and play games, dance and participate actively. It is one afternoon that will be in our memory for a long time!

By Prabhu, Parent of Kesav, G5



Women's Day through the eyes of our custodial staff

As the quote says, "It is the biggest blessing to be born as a woman".

Women's day honours this blessing and the role she plays in every walk of life, and celebrates the courage and perseverance of ordinary women. We at AAIS were curious to understand what it means to our custodial staff. Here are some thoughts from our strong women.



"I provide financial assistance for my family, therefore this has truly benefited me and my family quite a bit. I firmly believe that every woman should be financially independent to the greatest extent possible. We observe Women's Day every year, and this year is no different, since we are unique."

- Anandhi Akka

"I am glad to be a mother who has instilled in my kid the value of education. I am pleased with the meticulous way in which I handle my responsibilities, both at home and at work."

- Chitra Akka.





"I don't have a formal education, but I know how important it is, so I give my kids a formal education."
- Sunitha Akka

"I'm glad to work for the school to maintain a clean and safe environment, and I'm proud to be a financially independent woman. I would want to express my gratitude to Ms. Priya and Ms. Prabha on this Women's Day for acting as pillars of strength and caring for us throughout the pandemic
"- Vanitha Akka



"I provide my family financial support, and they support me in this."
- Rajeshwari Akka



"I'm proud to be born as a woman and to be responsible to take care of my family"
- Sumathi Akka

"I'm a self-assured woman who takes satisfaction in raising my family on my own."
- Anjali Akka



From Counselor's Desk

Mindful ways to reconnect with your ward over the summer break:

What better way to wrap up our 'From the Counselor's Desk' for the academic year than exploring different ways to reconnect with our little ones mindfully over the break!

With the excitement of summer takeover and anticipatory emotions that are part of the changes that accompany moving to a higher grade, it's typical to observe a lack of routine and increased screen time among the children over the break. Here are some ways to be proactive in using the break to reconnect and nurture your dynamic with the child.

- **Share & Plan together:** Planning small activities over the break along with your child to spend time together could be a fun and exciting way to share responsibilities with them. This can help build a sense of autonomy, trust, accountability, and routine in them while they enhance their relationship with family and friends around.
- **Build Shared screen time & No-Device zones:** Being part of the digital age, the increase in screen time over the break is inevitable. However one could consciously build some no device routines (eg., Listening circle, reading a book together, walking talks, gardening, mindful eating, etc) into the everyday activity plan. Shared screen time (e.g. Listening to each other's playlists together, movie time, game time, looking at pictures of the academic year together etc.) could also be an effective way to bond while keeping a check on the child's digital activity.
- **Sync your meal & sleep schedule:** While it is essential to be flexible with sleep and meal routines over holidays, it could be helpful to sync it along with your child to ensure that they have a healthy pattern while enjoying their leisure time. Building small activities or rewards to look forward to before a meal or sleep time could be a great way to motivate them towards syncing your schedules.

- Build something together: Creating memories is the most exciting part of summer break. They are bound to experience different situations, emotions, and choices to make. Building something tangible along with your child (Memory board, Summer break collage, break journal) towards the end of the break to represent how they felt over the break could be a great way for them to reflect on their choices while acknowledging the varied emotions, feelings and experiences they have created. You also get a souvenir to cherish which could be an added bonus.

Hoping that you enjoyed reading all of our inputs from the counsellor`s desk throughout the academic year. Wishing you all a pleasant, mindful, and refreshing summer break.

Signing off for now,
Kirthiga Nagaraj
School Counsellor

SUMMER BREAK ACTIVITIES BINGO

PLAY A SPORT

MAKE A POOKOLAM – THE FLOWER CARPET.

BOTTLE ART

CLICK PICTURES AND STICK IN YOUR PHOTOBOOK

PLAY A WORD GAME

MAKE A SELF-CARE ROUTINE

READ YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK.

MAKE A FIRST AID KIT FOR YOU.

READ UP ON SUICIDE PREVENTION AND EDUCATE ONE FAMILY MEMBER ABOUT IT.

PAINT YOUR MIND OUT