
IMAGINE

BALSAM ACADEMY
FIRST QUARTER
APRIL - JUNE 2016-17

"Parent involvement will probably make more difference than anything else we could ever do to help our children learn,"

- Bonnie C Reynolds

PARENT ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Parent orientation program was held to explain to the parent about their involvement in academics. Successful parent involvement can be defined as active, ongoing participation of a parent or primary caregiver in the education of his or her child. Parents can demonstrate involvement at home just doing something as simple as reading with their child, helping with their homework, and discussing school events, by attending school events or volunteering in classrooms.

At the secondary level, the POP was conducted by the Principal Mrs. Chitra Madhavan and Secondary head Mr. Madhavan. The parents were briefed about the grading system in both Scholastic and Co-scholastic activities and also, all their queries were answered. It was an interactive session where the parents were motivated to encourage and guide their children throughout the year.

Year end PTM for the academic year (2015-2016) also was held on 9th of April 2016. Parents are conveyed about the students' annual performance through progress cards that focusses on students' specific strengths and weaknesses in individual subjects and generalizing the level of inter curricular skills and competences. Parents felt free to share their child improvement and whole heartedly accepted the suggestions given by the respective subject teachers.



Non-Teaching Staff Refresher Workshop

It was indeed a great experience for the non-teaching staff to partake in a workshop conducted by Mr. A.R. Rajagopalan, INGENIUS – Driving Standard Academy, Chennai where in they reinforce the rules while on transport. The drivers and the attenders of the transport department actively share their experiences and contributed their good practices on the wheels to their colleagues. Being the representative of Balsam Academy, the drivers swore on their responsibility towards having a safe drive and ensured the rules will be obeyed.

English Encounter Training (EET)

With an objective to enhance the language skills of the facilitators, the English Encounter Training (EET) program was organized by the management. Various activities to enrich all the aspects of the language were conducted. Commendable participation of facilitators fulfilled the objective of the program.

OUR LITTLE WORLD

The cultural event for Kindergarten was on 6th April, 2016 at ARS Mahal on the theme 'Our little world'. Mr. Tamilmaran, Project Director, Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, VIT Vellore was the Guest of honour. All the children of the Kindergarten took part. The dazzling display of dances by children with perfect steps to the tune kept the audience glued to their seats. The show was comprised of colorful, variety of performances by the budding talents of our tiny tots. It was a visual treat; performed brilliantly on stage depicting various educative ideas vividly presented by the children of age 3 - 5 years.

The programme commenced with the welcome speech and the introduction of our theme 'Our Little World' and thereafter children of the Upper primary performed a play on 'Animal protest'. It was heartening to see the 'Fashion Show - Flowers and Insects parade' where children dressed as different flowers and insects expressed how the flower or insect is unique.

Following which, there was a lot of performances connecting the theme performed by the kids. On conclusion of the performances, the Chief Guest felicitated the tiny tot and Staff for putting up an excellent show.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. Our academic sessions started off with the Foundation classes which are designed to make the transition from previous curriculum to present curriculum as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

ASSEMBLY - MY SCHOOL

Our first assembly themed 'My School', was conducted on June 24.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our K1 kids to learn about our School's name, logo and the uniforms. It was briefed to them by our K3 kids. Then they started to recognize the school logo and seemed to have understood the importance of wearing uniforms to school.

MUSIC AND DANCE

In a Dance Club, the students experience the wonder of dance and the joy of performing. Students are exposed to different styles of dance like ballet, hip hop, tap and jazz. They learn to see dance as an art, a way of expression. As the birth anniversary of the Great leader Kamarajar was heading, songs about the great leader were taught. Students were enjoying the moves and were learning to compete with each other.

MAY DAY

It is an occasion to recall with gratitude, the great contribution made by the workforce towards the growth and development of the economy. Balsam observed 'May Day' to celebrate labor as one of the greatest elements of society, the great substantial interest on which we stand.

The day began with a speech welcoming the Support staff, and acknowledging their hard work. A speech by the Secretary of the school lauding the ceaseless efforts of our support staff and thanking them for their selfless services.

The Principal, Mrs. Chitra Madhavan took the opportunity to highlight the priceless contribution of the workers for the smooth functioning of the institution.

Members of the support staff were overwhelmed by the appreciation and in return, expressed their gratitude towards the School Management, teachers and students for their endeavour.



STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The student orientation program was conducted for the secondary students. The session was conducted by the Principal and the secondary faculty. It was meant to help the students at the beginning of the academic year 2016-2017 to understand, examine and devise ways to enhance their scholastic and co-scholastic performance in accordance with the CCE.

The motive of these foundation classes is to prepare the children for formal learning of the basics that they require to learn in Present year. However, the lessons are structured to be in a slightly lesser duration of sitting and listening. More emphasis is put on active learning through movement and strengthening them in the base of the subject. The teacher will develop the child readiness and love towards the subject and improve the confidence of the child to face the new academic year.

The Familiarization Program for Kinders was a were the kids get to see the fun of learning. They were engaged in a lots of activities. There seemed to be a good communication between teachers and students.



INDIAN ASTRONOMERS

The assembly included a presentation on the ancient, medieval and modern astronomers. The contributions of the ancient Indian astronomers and their influence on the modern astronomy were discussed. A quiz was conducted following the discussions where students knowledge on Indian astronomical facts were tested.



CHILD LABOUR

A mime was enacted by the boys of Grade 9 exhibiting great talent by bringing into action the hazards of child labour and the impact it has on the children. An oath was undertaken to abolish child labour by creating awareness in the society.

SCIENCE KITCHEN CLUB



Science clubs channelize the energies of students to make use of their skills and talents to satisfy their instincts and urges, and helps in their overall personality development. It also allows the students to work on their own ideas, hobbies, experiments, etc. Classrooms restrict the students to the school curriculum. Whereas in a science clubs has no curriculums and the students can work with full freedom. As a part of this, Science kitchen club activities were conducted for G3B. The activities were based on the colours, density and pressure. By the end of each activity, students were able to explain the concepts of density, pressure and colours behind them. Science clubs are sometimes considered as the backbones of the curricular activities in the school.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Eco clubs are often at the heart of a school's sustainability activities and help achieve meaningful change within school communities. They inspire, motivate and give students opportunities to build leadership skills. As a part of Environmental club activities for G3A students, 'Recycling' and its importance was demonstrated by conducting activities like Recycling Rangers, Follow that Bottle, Take home Recycling kids and Handmade recycled paper planter. By the end of each activity students were able explained the mechanism of recycling and how recycling helps the environment. Also, questions like 'Where paper comes from? How making paper from used paper benefits the environment?' were answered.



SECONDARY PODS

The Math Olympic club for Grade 9 students had them exhibiting their mathematical skills. The students were excited to solve pentominos, hexominos, and isometric puzzles. Their creative skills were also displayed by the origami-Kusudama.

The MUN club inspired the Grade 10 students to learn and understand the objectives of UN and its functioning. The students were exhilarated when they started planning for a model of the UN.

The Dance and Music club energised the spirit of Grade 8 students as they learnt and performed a Bharathiyar song. They were also taught a few contemporary dance moves.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

The first major event of the year was twitched for all the wonderful spectators. The 10th Student leaders' Investiture Ceremony was on 21st June, 2016. It was presided by Shri. Sundar, Board member along with the Principal, Vice Principal, faculty and students of Grades 6-10. The ceremony started with the school prayer song, followed by the welcome address by the Principal. The badges were given by the Chief Guest. The newly elected student council took an oath to deliver their duties to their best. The pageantry was excellent. Students marched with pride to receive their badges and sashes.

CONTEST

Grade 6 A and B had their PODS Contest on 24th of June.

Grade 6 A took up 'Movie Buzz Contest'. They had to create an animated character on the computer and name it. Students participated enthusiastically.

Grade 6B took up 'Fancy AD Contest'. They had to design a newspaper advertisement of any object of their wish.

FATHERS' DAY

School took an initiative to wish all the valuable Fathers'. On 19th of June Father's day was celebrated. On this day, the significance of fathers takes a peak. A beautiful message was drafted and sent across to everyone.

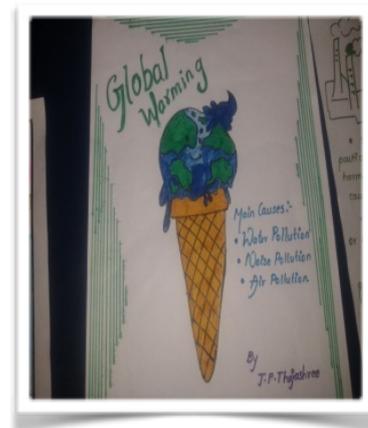
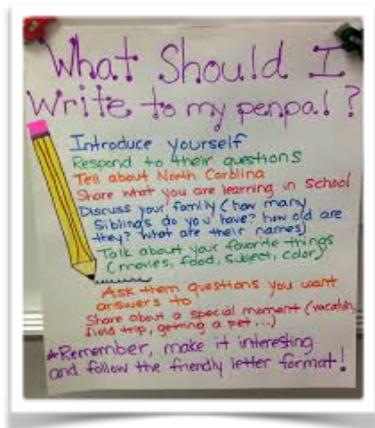
POWER OF YOGA

The International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June 2016 in our school premises. Students and teachers eagerly participated and proved that Yoga is essential for life.



GUEST VISIT

Tooth care was a part of the theme 'Myself'. Ms. Savitha, B.D.S., was invited to pay a visit to the school to help younger students understand the importance of tooth care. Despite the initial hesitation, the students responded well, beginning with everyone introducing themselves. She then briefed them about the role of a dentist, how and when to brush their teeth, and the importance of gargling. A demo on how to brush their teeth was given using a model of a teeth. She then discussed about some healthy food habits, importance of having a healthy teeth and the effects of unhealthy habits on their teeth. Our kids assured her to take care of their teeth and follow a healthy food habit. The kids showed their thanks by presenting a gift made by themselves.



PENS AND LENS CLUB

Students appreciated that Pen pal writing is a conversation on paper and the thing that makes writing to a pen pal more thrilling than a writing exercise at school, is that there's a clear audience. Their family, friends or co-workers were asked if the kids have a friend with living abroad or if they already know someone living in another country. But the student's pen pal doesn't have to be international. It can be just as exciting to get a letter from a friend in another state.

BRAINTEASERS CLUB

The Brain teasers Club is all about critical thinking and problem solving for online students. Club members engaged in a variety of brainteasers such as anagrams, pattern puzzles, logic stories, Sudoku puzzles, and word searches. A Powerpoint presentation on Thinking skills questions and solving puzzles, picture value puzzles were given to the students.

DEBATE CLUB

Introduction to the debate club , meaning of debate, rules follow in debate, types of debate and different video on debate were shown to the students. Topic – “Are video games are good for you?” Students chose logically whether it is good or not value. Each one has chosen and spoken in front of the class.

GEOGRAPHY CLUB

Video based on pollution played and after that students shared their ideas about pollution and recent problems happened due to pollution discussed in the class. <https://youtu.be/tmhiglxga-4>- animated video on pollution.

STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING

The student council meeting was conducted on 25th June, 2016. The school captains, prefects, class buddies, house captains along with the house advisors met the student council head and the Principal. The student council members were briefed about their various roles and responsibilities for the thematic display of board works, pin board works , etc. were discussed. Several committees were formed for uniform policy, lunch and snack policy, language policy, etc. The students are also settled into groups and carried out planning for Independence day and Ganesh Chaturthi day celebrations.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

To make the students understand and appreciate the work of great mathematicians, the grade 10 students conducted an expo on 23rd June, 2016. The works of Ramanujam, Fuler, Pythagoras, Aryabhata, Shakuntala Devi were displayed in the form of models, charts, power point presentations. Grades 8 to 9 visited the expo.
