



" Mathematics is the most beautiful and most powerful creation of the human spirit"

The Government of India designated December 22 as National Mathematics Day (NMD) in 1987. Since then, this day has been widely celebrated throughout the country.

Math Day was celebrated in Balsam Academy to honour the spirit of mathematical learning, to experience the joy of the mathematical sphere, to creatively explore various mathematical concepts, to inspire young children with Ramanujan's life story to pursue careers in mathematics, to eradicate phobia and fear of mathematics among children and adults and to inspire mathematicians to pursue high-end research in the field of Mathematics.

Mohith Pranav P of 4A, Sruthi Varsha S, and Sarveshvaran S of 4B demonstrated how to fold paper into various mathematical shapes such as Triangle, Square, Hexagon, Diamond, and Spira. Ashwin S, Pradeep L, and Divya Prakash S created their own puzzle, which entertained the entire class. Priyadarshan of G5B finished the tables challenge from 9th to 13th in 44 seconds.

Thanesha U V of G5A provided additional details on Indian mathematician Ramanujam, and Himalayan P K of G5C shared mathematical facts with shortcuts.

The students in grades 6 and 7 engaged in a variety of hands-on activities to learn about the Pythagorean theorem, magic squares, congruent triangles, the transversal property, factors, algebraic identities, and surface area and volume. They also built a Math City using these concepts.

In grade 8, the students designed and played board games that helped them understand mathematical principles. They also explored the properties of triangles using models and participated in a cube challenge, where some students were able to solve the cube in under a minute.

In grades 9 and 10, the students shared their knowledge of math concepts with the rest of the class, presenting during lunch and break time to encourage engagement and learning.



Factors:

- Turn finding factors into a game by giving students a list of numbers and having them work together to find all of the factors as quickly as possible.
- Have students create their own math problems involving factors and present them to the class to solve.
- Use interactive online games or apps to help students practice finding factors in a fun and engaging way.

Algebraic identities:

- Create a matching game by writing algebraic identities on one set of cards and examples demonstrating those identities on another set of cards.
- Have students create their own examples of algebraic identities and present them to the class.
- Use interactive online games or apps to help students practice identifying and using algebraic identities.

Pythagorean theorem:

- Create a scavenger hunt where students have to find objects around the classroom or school that are in the shape of a right triangle and use the theorem to determine the length of the missing side.
- Turn the theorem into a game by giving students cards with the lengths of the sides of a right triangle and having them use the theorem to determine the length of the missing side. The first person to get a certain number of correct answers wins.
- Have students create their own word problems involving the theorem and present them to the class to solve.

Magic squares:

- Have students create their own magic squares and try to come up with the most creative or challenging ones.
- Turn solving magic squares into a competition by timing how long it takes each student to solve one and awarding a prize to the fastest solver.
- Use magic squares as the basis for a math-themed board game.

Fun and engaging activities for Math teachers

Congruent triangles:

- Have students create their own flashcards with pictures of triangles on them and use them to play a matching game to identify congruent triangles.
- Create a puzzle by cutting out congruent triangles and having students try to put them back together to form a larger triangle.
- Use geometric manipulatives to help students visualize and understand the concept of congruence.

Transversal property:

- Create a scavenger hunt where students have to find pairs of lines and angles in the classroom or school that demonstrate the transversal property.
- Use geometric manipulatives to help students visualize the transversal property and create their own examples.
- Have students create their own word problems involving the transversal property and present them to the class to solve.



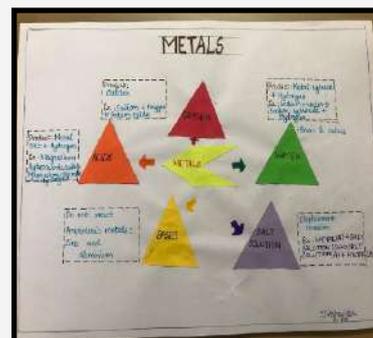
Christmas is a holiday that is celebrated worldwide to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time to give and share with others, and to reflect on the reason for our existence. At Balsam Academy, we strive to embody the spirit of Christmas by spreading love and joy to those on and off campus. Christmas is an opportunity for us to come together as a community and to celebrate the values of unity and togetherness. As we celebrate this holiday, we hope that the spirit of Christmas can be present in our lives every day.

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOMS...

In December, the G6-8 class engaged in a language challenge where students had daily tasks to showcase their skills and improve their language abilities. To support the revision of the concepts covered, various learning strategies were utilized such as worksheets, mind maps, quizzes, diagrams, and concept maps to help the students improve their understanding. Additionally, a memory game was used for spellings and hands-on revision were also included in the revision process. These strategies were carried out explicitly with specific and meaningful goals set for each student. Guided practice with feedback and a gradual progress towards independent mastery by the students were the key highlights of our revision strategy. These revision strategies have helped the students to

perform well in the exams with confidence.

To further enhance the learning experience and understanding of scientific concepts, G8 students participated in science projects that allowed them to conduct experiments and investigations. The students had lab activities on measuring liquids and solids, where they used graduated cylinders and rulers to measure the volume of different liquids such as water, oil and juice, and compared and contrasted the results. Additionally, students used scales and rulers to measure the mass and volume of different solid objects such as rocks, coins, tables and marbles, then calculated the density of each object and compared and contrasted the results, to have better understanding of density concept.





I recently had the opportunity to participate in a Science Exhibition at Omega International School, Kolapakkam and was really excited to be a part of it. The theme of the exhibition was "Toys and Technology," and I knew that my project - a clock I had made, would be a perfect fit.

As I set up my exhibit, I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. I had worked hard to create a functional and aesthetically pleasing clock, and I was eager to see how it would be received by the other attendees.

As the exhibition got underway, I was pleasantly surprised by the positive response my project received. Visitors were fascinated by the unique clock I had created. I enjoyed explaining the

different components and how they worked together to keep time.

One of the highlights of the exhibition for me was when a group of children stopped by my exhibit. They were all eager to see how the clock worked and asked a lot of questions about the technology involved. It was really rewarding to see their curiosity and enthusiasm, and I was glad to be able to share with them.

Overall, participating in the Science Exhibition at Omega school was a truly rewarding experience. I was able to share my work with others and learn from the other exhibits on display. It was a fantastic way to showcase my passion for science and technology, and I can't wait to participate in more events like this in the future.

[Mohammed Ayaan, G9A](#)

The seventh meeting of the Balsam Academy Student Council Body was conducted on December 22, 2022. The SCB's head, Mr. Toji Jose, the captains and vice captains of the respective houses, as well as representatives from every house from Grades 5 to 10, were present at the meeting. The primary topic of discussion was the mirror time check list that was distributed to all classrooms and the need for ongoing monitoring of it. The house representatives of each class were instructed to be aware of all the parameters and assist their HRT's in checking the same. All of the house representatives were instructed to motivate their house members to accumulate merit points for their house. The house captains were given instructions to communicate with their house representatives frequently on the check list points. The SCB head got the opportunity to hear the concerns of the class representatives and assured to respond as quickly as possible.



Education for tomorrow should not focus on teaching the youth about the past, but rather on empowering them to shape the future.

On December 23rd, 32 parents participated in a workshop on Education for Tomorrow, led by the Vice-Principal and Level Monitor. The workshop covered topics such as the changing landscape of education, the increasing use of technology in the classroom, and the shift towards personalised learning experiences.



The leaders stressed the importance of parents staying informed and involved in their child's education and provided tips on how to support learning at home.

Additionally, they discussed the importance of preparing students for college and careers in the 21st century, including the need for students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as building a strong foundation in Math and Science.

A notable moment during the workshop was the story-building activity, where the Vice-Principal, Ms. Priyanga, and the parents collectively developed a story on "Rain" which was well received by all.

PARENT TEACHER MEETING



REFLECTION TIME

On December 17th, the meeting provided an opportunity for parents and teachers to exchange information and work together to support the student's learning and development. During the meeting, teachers discussed the student's strengths, areas for improvement, and progress in different subject areas and provided feedback on the student's class participation, behaviour, and overall performance. Parents also had the opportunity to ask questions and provide additional information about the student's home life and any concerns they had. The aim of the meeting was to establish a positive partnership between home and school to

On December 3, 2022, the team had a reflection time where sub-committee heads presented their monthly reports, recognized excellent contributions from team members, shared success stories, reflected on setbacks, and set future course of action.

The session started with a fun game led by Ms. Vidya followed by administrative and instructional reports presented by Mr. Prabakaran and Ms. Hemakumari respectively. Ms. Shalini, the vice principal, concluded the meeting with reports on extracurricular activities.

This meeting provided an opportunity to learn about what is going on in the school as a whole and to recognize the efforts of all members.

INFORMAL TEA PARTY WITH PARENT REPRESENTATIVES



The informal tea party was held on 3rd December as an opportunity for parent representatives of all sub-committees to discuss the shift from a focus on marks-oriented education to one that prioritises skills development. The event began with a warm welcome by the school principal, followed by an overview of the school's vision and current initiatives towards skill-oriented education.

The attendees were then divided into smaller groups for a more interactive and intimate discussion. The discussions were focused on the benefits of skill-oriented education, the role of parents and teachers in this shift, and the challenges that may arise during the transition. The participants shared their insights and experiences, and provided valuable feedback on how the school can support this shift in the curriculum.

The event ended on a positive note, with the school principal thanking all the parents for their valuable contributions and their willingness to be a part of this change. Overall, the tea party was a successful event, providing an open forum for parents to voice their concerns and suggestions and create a shared understanding on the need for this shift.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The School Management Committee met via video conference on December 31, 2022. The chairperson presided over the meeting and seven members were in attendance. The Head of Operations gave updates on admissions, staff vacancies, and infra maintenance tasks for the academic year 2023-2024, as well as a proposal for infra up-gradation.

The Principal (Administration), discussed about CQIC and CBP training program for staff members. He also updated about the measures taken towards renewals for compliance with regulations laid by the CBSE.

The Principal and Vice-Principal (Academics) shared two videos - 'Glimpses' and 'The Connect' a day before the meeting. Through the videos they presented updates on academic performance, curriculum implementation, and co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

The meeting ended with the Finance Controller presenting the school budget and transport budget for the academic year 2023-2024 and the committee approving the budget with a few suggestions to enhance sustainability.