

IMAGINE

JANUARY NEWSLETTER-2023

ROLE PLAY BY LITTLE ONES



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The "Community Helpers" Role Play Challenge was a great success on January 25th, 2023. Kindergarten students participated with great enthusiasm and creativity, dressing up as various community helpers such as farmers, vegetable vendors, policemen, army men, and doctors. They took their roles seriously and spoke about their characters with confidence and pride, highlighting their duties and responsibilities, and emphasizing the importance of their work in society.

This experience was a memorable one for the students, as they were able to transform into different characters and understand the various roles in society and the significance of everyone's contributions. It is our hope that this will inspire the children to be responsible and engaged citizens in the future.

CLAY MODELLING

The clay modeling activity held for grade 1&2 students in January provided a fun and engaging platform to explore their creativity and imagination. As a tactile and hands-on art form, clay modeling can help reduce stress levels, strengthen hand muscles, and offer therapeutic benefits for mental health. During the activity, students created various objects, such as fruits, a Pongal pot, sugarcane, and the sun, by pounding, squeezing, and rolling the clay. The children thoroughly enjoyed participating in the activity, which further underscores the positive impact that clay modeling can have on personal development and well-being.



GRADE 10 WORKSHOP

The students at our school are preparing for the upcoming Board Examination, and their hard work is paying off! To help them succeed, the school invited Mr. Kannan, the Director of High Aims Motivation Centre, to conduct a session on "Preparing for Board Exam". The

session started with an assessment questionnaire to gauge the students' current understanding of time management. Mr. Kannan then shared techniques for effective learning and memory retention, including the use of



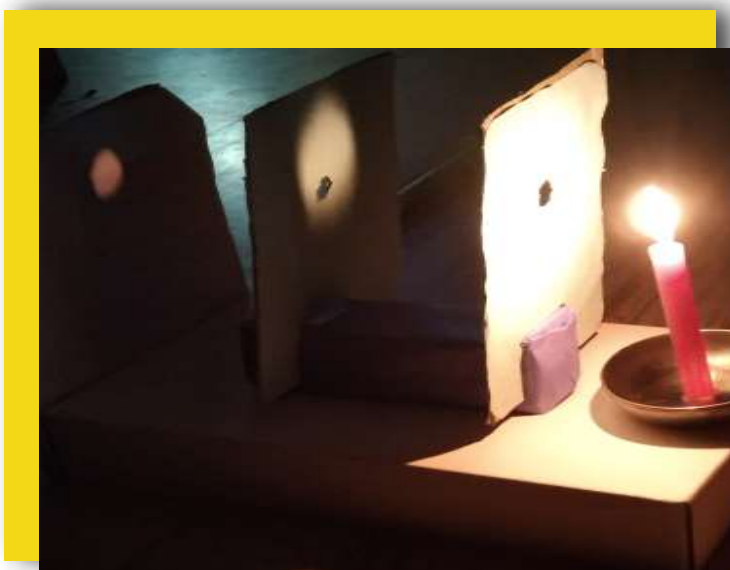
mnemonic devices. He led a guided visualization exercise where the students, blindfolded, were able to focus their minds and improve their concentration.

By the end of the session, the students were motivated and

eager to implement their newfound strategies. They were empowered to create a study schedule that would help them achieve academic success. Mr. Kannan's session was truly a catalyst for their quest for academic excellence.

EXPLORING THE PATH OF LIGHT

The Grade 6 students conducted an experiment on January 5, 2023 to observe the properties of light. With the use of a light source and an obstacle, they demonstrated that light travels in a straight line. This was accomplished through a hands-on demonstration involving a flashlight, a piece of cardboard with a small hole, and a wall or screen to observe the projection. Additionally, the experiment was conducted with different setups, such as using a laser pointer and a diffraction grating or shining light through a narrow slit, to observe the straight-line pattern it creates. These practical exercises allowed the students to understand the concept of light traveling in a straight line and to apply this knowledge in real-life situations.



MAKING LEAF PLATE

As part of their study of forest people and their lifestyles, G4 students made leaf plates in a fun and educational activity. The students were enthusiastic to learn about creating plates using natural materials and showed their creativity and dexterity by crafting unique designs. The students were fully engaged, demonstrating focus and pride in their creations. The end result was a diverse collection of plates, ranging from intricate designs to simple ones.

The activity was a great success and provided a hands-on lesson on the value of natural materials and the process of making plates. The children had a blast while learning and making their leaf plates.



ROLE PLAY

The grade 6 students participated in a role-playing activity aimed at showcasing the differences between rural and urban livelihoods. The activity aimed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the contrasting lifestyles, work opportunities, and resources in rural and urban areas. The students were assigned roles and given scenarios to act out, allowing them to experience firsthand the differences between rural and urban areas. This hands-on approach not only made learning fun and engaging, but it also helped students to grasp abstract concepts and solidify their understanding through practical application. The role-play activity was an effective tool for students to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the rural and urban divide.



A VISIT TO INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURAL FARM

On January 6th, 2023, a group of Grade 5 students went on a thrilling field trip to visit both an industrial site and an agricultural farm. The aim of this field trip was to broaden the students' understanding of different industries and agriculture practices.

At the industrial site, the students witnessed the transformation of raw materials into finished products through various production stages and learned about the use of machines and tools in the process. They were amazed at the intricate process and the role of technology in modern industries.

The second stop of the field trip was an agricultural farm, where the students gained hands-on knowledge about crop cultivation and harvesting. They learned about the various types of crops, watering techniques, and tools used in agriculture. They were able to observe the planting process and the care

given to the plants until they were ready to be harvested. The students also engaged in a conversation with farmers and workers and asked questions about the production process and crops, gaining a deeper understanding of agriculture and the hard work that goes into producing the food we eat.

The field trip provided the students with a unique opportunity to learn about the different types of work that take place in their communities and appreciate the importance of teamwork and collaboration in both industrial and agricultural settings. They came back from the trip with a broader understanding of the world and a newfound appreciation for the industries and agriculture practices that support their communities. It helped them gain hands-on knowledge and broaden their perspectives on the different types of work and industries that exist.



A TRIAL COURT SESSION

On January 25th, Class 8 students staged a simulated trial court session to showcase their understanding of the judiciary system. This was part of their social science curriculum and aimed at helping students grasp the importance of the judiciary in ensuring justice.

The students were assigned various roles, such as judges, lawyers, witnesses, and defendants, and took their responsibilities seriously, conducting the trial with professionalism and enthusiasm. They followed court procedures, presented evidence, cross-examined witnesses, and made convincing legal arguments, demonstrating their knowledge of the legal system.

The trial was based on a fictional case, and the students engaged in lively arguments, putting their skills to the test. The judges listened to both parties and made a fair and impartial decision based on the presented evidence, further emphasizing the significance of the judiciary in maintaining justice. The students learned the practical application of their knowledge and the importance of the court system through this hands-on experience.



PONGAL CELEBRATION

Pongal Celebration at School

The Pongal festival, a significant celebration in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, was marked with great joy on January 15th. The celebration showcased a range of cultural games and activities to celebrate the start of the harvest season. The day began with the preparation and worship of the traditional pongal dish, Chakkarai Pongal, by our Campus upkeep team. The dish was later served to all in attendance.

The staff participated in two entertaining games, the lemon and spoon race and the Uriyadi game. The first involved balancing a lemon

on a spoon while running to the finish line, while the second was a traditional game of breaking pots filled with buttermilk. The non-teaching staff tried their hand at breaking the pot, but it was Mr. Thanigachalam, the accounts officer, who successfully broke it.

The Pongal celebration brought the school community together, fostering a sense of unity and cultural appreciation. The games and activities were a fun way to learn about traditional Indian culture and to celebrate the blessings of the harvest season.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated at Balsam Academy with great fervor on January 26th, 2022. The principal, Mr. Prabakaran, hoisted the national flag, followed by a speech from the Vice Principal, Ms. Shalini, who emphasized the significance of the day and the academy's mission to educate responsible citizens. Quiz and JAM activities were conducted by Mr. Toji Jose and Ms. Prasoon for the staff. The celebration was a resounding success and showcased the staff's deep patriotism and pride in the country.



'குறள் பேசு! வாகை சூடு!'

ஸ்ரீராம் இலக்கியக் கழகம் மாணவர்களுக்கான திருக்குறள் பேச்சுப் போட்டியை கடந்த நவம்பர் மாதம் 27ஆம் தேதி தமிழகத்தின் 12 மாவட்டங்களில் நிகழ்த்தியிருந்தனர். அதில் நம் வேலூர், இராணிப்பேட்டை மாவட்டத்தின் சார்பாக பால்சம் பள்ளி மாணவர்கள் கலந்து கொண்டனர். இப்போட்டியில், மேல்நிலைப் பிரிவில் பத்தாம் வகுப்பு மாணவி ஆதிரை மற்றும் இளநிலைப் பிரிவில் எட்டாம் வகுப்பு மாணவி சாய்சுப்ரியா ஆகியோர் கலந்து கொண்டு முதல் பரிசினைப்பெற்று வெற்றிவாகை சூடினர். வெற்றி பெற்ற இரு மாணவிகளுக்கும் மாநில அளவில் நடைபெறும் இறுதிச்சுற்று போட்டியாக, 'குறள் பேசு! வாகை சூடு!' நிகழ்ச்சியில் கலந்துகொள்ள அழைப்பு கிடைக்கப்பெற்றிருந்தனர். மேலும், திறன் மிகு எழுத்தாளர்கள் நடுவராக வீற்றிருக்க, 29.12.2022 அன்று சென்னையில் உள்ள டாக்டர் எம்.ஜி.ர் - ஜானகி மகளிர் கலை, அறிவியல் கல்லூரியில் சத்தியா ஸ்டூடியோ வளாகத்தில் எம்.ஜி.ஆர் நடித்த மேடையில் நின்று பேசும் தருணங்களை வாய்ப்பாகப் பெற்று அருமையாக உரையாறினர். இவ்வரங்கில் நடைபெற்ற போட்டியில் 12 மாவட்டங்களில் முதலாவதாக பரிசுபெற்ற மாணவர்கள் கலந்துகொண்டு தங்கள் பேச்சுத்திறனை நீயா? நானா? என்பதுபோல் சொற்போரே நிகழ்த்தினர். ஒவ்வொருவரின் கருத்துக்களும் செவிக்கு உணவாகக் கிடைத்தது. இப்போட்டியில் ஆதிரை மாநில அளவில் இரண்டாம் இடத்தை பெற்று அனைவரின் பாராட்டுதல்களையும் பெற்று பெருமை சேர்த்தார் மற்றும் இளநிலைப்பிரிவில் சாய்சுப்ரியா ஊக்கப்பரிசினைப் பெற்று நடுவர்களின் சிறந்த ஆலோசனைகளைப் பெற்றார்.



PARENT TEACHER MEETING

Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) play a crucial role in the education of students. These meetings provide a platform for open communication and collaboration between parents, teachers, and students to promote student success. Recently, PTMs were conducted for Grades 3-8 from January 4th to 6th in batch sessions. During the meetings, homeroom teachers discussed the student's academic performance, including grades, strengths, areas for improvement, study habits, classroom participation, and behavior. Feedback on the student's behavior and participation in class was also provided. Parents were given the chance to ask questions related to their child's education. For students who are considered at risk, their parents from Grades 3-5 met with the Vice Principal, and parents of students in Grades 6-8 met with the Instructional Leader, along with the homeroom teacher and level monitor. Parents were given guidance on how to support their children's education at home. Overall, the PTMs were an effective way to establish open lines of communication and work together to support the student's academic success.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

The Centre of Excellence (CoE), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducted a two-day Capacity Building Program (CBP) for teachers in Ranipet and Vellore district, hosted by Balsam Academy. The program was designed to enhance the teachers' knowledge and skills in the areas of assessment and evaluation. The aim of the program was to enable teachers to evaluate and assess students more effectively, which in turn would improve the overall learning experience. The program was conducted by experienced educators, Ms. Uma K, a former principal, and Ms. Sundari P N, an academic advisor and consultant.

The CBP provided a comprehensive overview of assessment and evaluation, including:

- The importance of assessment and evaluation in education
- The different types of assessments, such as formative, summative, objective, subjective, traditional, and alternative evaluations
- Strategies for effective assessment planning and design, customized to meet the needs and learning objectives of students
- The concept of Assessment of, for, and as Learning with practical examples
- The integration of technology in assessment and evaluation, including the use of digital tools and platforms
- Providing constructive feedback and using assessments for ongoing improvement.
- The teachers who participated in the two-day program appreciated the program and found the sessions to be informative, engaging, and inspiring. They were eager to implement the strategies discussed in their classrooms, which would positively impact the growth and development of their students.

The resource persons were impressed by the way the CBP was organized and the warm welcome they received from the management and personnel at Balsam Academy. They noted that the teachers were intelligent, passionate, and dedicated to teaching, and that the school environment was conducive to learning. According to their feedback, the program was excellently organized, their learning goals were met, and they had a wonderful time interacting with the friendly staff and teachers at Balsam Academy.

