

# JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

JULY 2017

BACK WITH A BANG





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## WELCOME BACK

As we started school after the long summer break, we greeted one another with a bundle of stories! These stories were shared by each student during our circle time. We decided to begin school by sharing our own unique stories. As the teachers and students prepared for a new day of learning, we kick-started it by learning about other's experiences.



**Sharing our summers with one another!**





## COMMUNITY SINGING

**Grooving back to school!**

**What better way to energize than to sing and dance our way to learning? After a long break, we reinvigorated our spirits with a heart community singing session! As the students arrived after a long hiatus, their active dispositions were raring to go! So of course only singing would not cut it! The students were treated to an energetic community singing where we used our bodies and our voices to kick-start the learning!**



**“We love to singa...”**





**“Weather and temperature: clearing up the confusion.”**



## ICE BREAKING

**Together we play, together we stay!**

**Ice breakers are not just for the beginning of the academic year. We started school with a week of ice breaking activities to thaw the summer time languor. The ice breaking activities were geared towards building team spirit as well! And with that in mind, we tapped into the magical properties of theatre exercises to make it fun and energizing. The students worked together as teams, their faces shining with eagerness, as these fun activities created meaningful bonds in classrooms!**

## THEATRE

**Hopping into action!**

**Theatre isn't just a brilliant spectacle! It helps to heal, and it helps to forge! This ice-breaking activity was all about being attentive, and rushing to your friend's rescue! A sure fire way to make things fun is to anthropomorphize. So we decided to do just that. Each class first figured out some defining characteristics of a few animals. We then proceeded to enact those features. This is where the game becomes tricky! While the facilitator asked students to recreate those features at random, their partners within the circle would also have to come to their aid. Many a rabbit, elephant, and duck were thus created, with friends miming the other features. Amidst determined faces and lots of laughter, the students were thinking not just of themselves, but also those around them.**





**Creating the cutest bunnies, together!**







**Behold the elephant's mighty trunk!**





## **CHASING TAILS**

The first ice breaker was filled with action and oodles of fun! Each class was broken up into small teams, and each team was given the task of protecting each other! And what better way to initiate it than to take recourse to the animal kingdom? Each team had a fox, and a monkey with a tail. While the fox chased the monkey's tail with single minded determination, the team worked hard at keeping their monkey friend safe! The ice-breaker activity was a raging success! It broke the inertia of the summer holidays, and helped the students re-create solidarity, all at once!



**The monkey's mighty tail, and the dutiful team members!**



**Fighting, not for ourselves, but for our friends!**





**“Arrey, aur zor se bhaagna hai!”**



## ASSEMBLY

The action packed week after the summer holidays also included an energetic assembly! As the students reacclimatized to school, the also came together to be given a hearty welcome! The first assembly after the summer break was all about restarting our engines! With that in mind, we danced our way to a wonderful session of Zumba, accompanied by the crowd favourite, Gangnam Style!



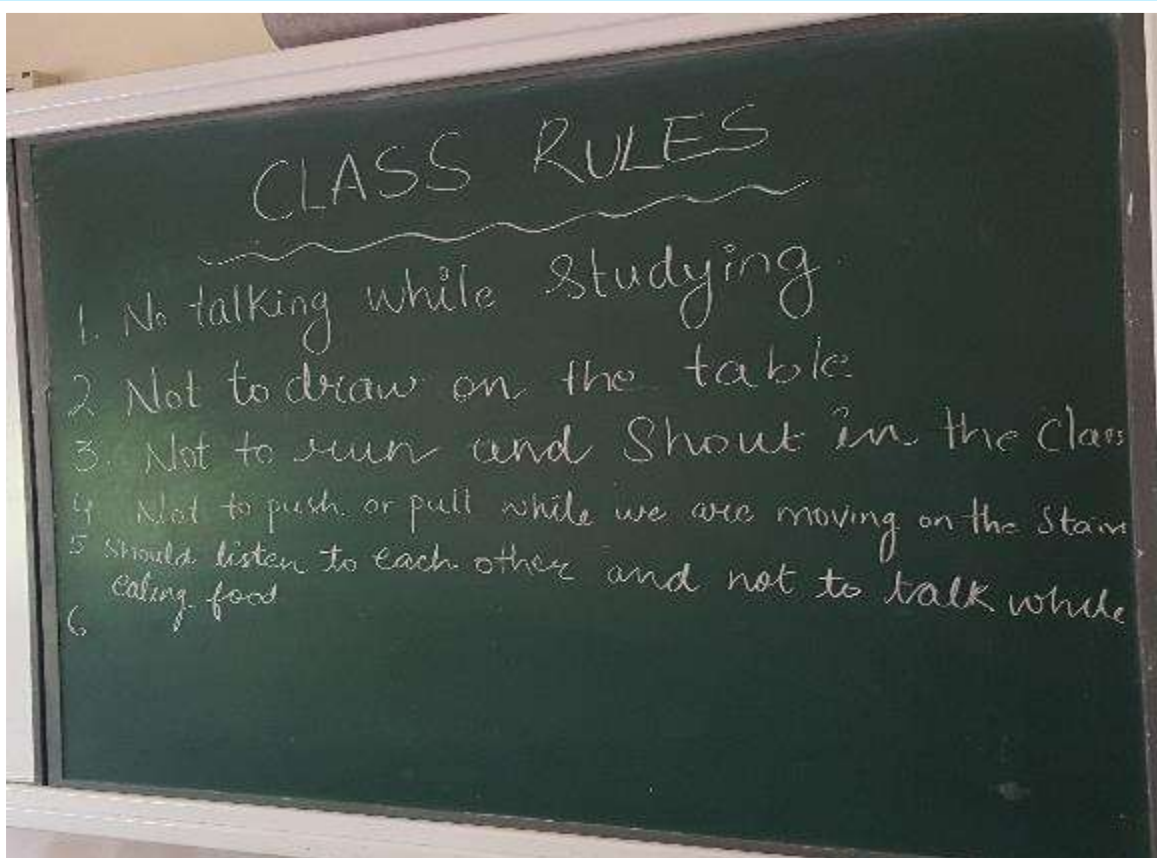
**Zumba session: grooving to “Oppa Gangnam Style?!”**



## By the students, for the students

No, we're not talking about creating havoc! Rules are an integral part of any community. But why do we need rules? And what rules are essential? These are a few of the questions that were raised during our circle time. Students were given the opportunity to reflect on themselves and their surroundings. We came up with problems we face, and which rules would help remove those problems. It was a fruitful discussion, since each class came up with its own set of rules, whilst understanding their value innately.





**Making our own rules; making life easier!**



## IN-HOUSE WORKSHOP

Teachers are students too! All teachers are seekers. We're constantly looking for strategies to make our classroom sessions dynamic and informative. And what better way is there, than to learn from one another? With this spirit, we decided to hold an in-house workshop, where some of our brilliant minds taught us some invaluable teaching strategies. While the rest of us transformed into naughty students for a day, our brilliant facilitators took classes which were innovative, interactive, and fun-filled!



## LEARNING ACROSS THE GLOBE

**Those who cease to learn, cease to grow!**

**The constant exchange of ideas and strategies is what keeps education dynamic. St. Mary's School is known for its inclusive education system. Delegates from the Teacher Foundation in Bangalore visited us to observe these ideologies in practice. A team of educators from the U.S.A visited our school to observe the Junior Section in action. They left with words of praise after watching some of our stellar teachers conduct inspiring classes.**





## The young inventors and their creations!

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, they say! But why does Jack have to choose? Why can't work be fun as well? The holiday homework for the children was meant to exercise their grey cells without compromising on the element of fun! They donned their thinking caps and turned into inventors! And what brilliant inventions they yielded! The students came up with off-beat, fun inventions which could be applied practically to solve every day hassles! And their genius required a special event where they would get appropriate recognition for their hard work! The holiday homework showcasing saw a myriad of glowing faces, as the parents marveled at the wonderful inventions the students put up. In the spirit of an exchange of ideas, the students critically appraised each other's' works, and helped each other out as well!



**Letting our imaginations run wild!**



**The cool android!**



**Words of praise and encouragement from our Principal!**





**Nothing is more satisfying than having your hard work acknowledged!**



**Learning from each other!**



Colourful, and useful, all at once!







**Learning new words, sharing new words!**









**Let's engage the parents too!**



## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**Shining bright, standing tall!**

**Excellence deserves recognition! The young minds in our school are a wellspring of creativity. Aayushi Sansanwal of class I-A, and Siddhant Sayal of class I-C secured the second position in the Riddle Competition held at Mount Carmel on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017! Let's also applaud those who participated with joy, such as Natasha Mohan of class II-C, Sweta Bag, Nevan and Tenzin of class III, Pakhi, Threya, Aatish and Abhinandana of class II, Pranjali, Affan, Anwar of class IV. It's overcoming the fear of participating which creates perseverant winners in the long run!**



**Riddle me that**



**Making stories come alive!**



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Let's connect, let's reflect!**

Gloria ma'am's workshops are as fun, as they are reflective! After a long day at school, the teachers of the junior section, along with some of their colleagues from the senior section, participated in Gloria ma'am wonderful activities. The workshop was focussed on connection. As we explored our state of being, we were encouraged to be mindful of our life states by ma'am. We ended the session by drawing mandalas of our emotional states, and connecting to each other by discussing our joys, fears, hopes, and dreams!



**Why can't self-reflection be fun?!**



**Self-care in the only path to creating happiness for others!**



**Scribbling away at our unique mandalas!**





**Introspection and reflection: Its serious business!**

## SHRAMDAAN

**We're responsible for ourselves, and others!**

**Keeping our environment clean is an essential life lesson which must be instilled early in life. Instead of waiting for others to clean up after us, we must stand alone, and change what we dislike about our environment. The thought behind the noble act of Shramdaan is to help students take responsibility for their surroundings.**

**We had an intense session of Shramdaan as students eagerly toiled to keep their school clean. Hard work turned to team effort, as they helped one another clean up various parts of the school. While the young hands were busy at work, the young minds were absorbing the importance of labour, and of tidying up after themselves!**



**Cleaning up our act!**





**Scrub away, soap away!**





**Responsibility for oneself and one's environment**





**Tiny hands learning to be responsible.**

## BOOK CLUB

**A book a day, keeps ignorance away!**

**We inaugurated our book club on a bright, Saturday morning, on the 29th of July. In association with Scholastic, a small group of students gathered round to discuss the book of the month. With a facilitator from Scholastic, India to guide us, the students went well beyond the scope of the book, to discuss relevant issues plaguing our world. As introspective questions kept popping up, we realized what magic a little extra impetus can do! The hour long session only helped reinforce the joys of reading amongst the young scholars! They left with the hope of sharing the excitement with their peers in the coming months.**







**Books are our best friends!**

## Signing off

Re-acclimatising to school may come with its set of challenges. But we're ready to embrace the learning, as we splash about in the monsoon rains.

### **Contributions**

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**We would also like to thank the junior section teachers for their hard work and dedication!**

