

JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORT

AUGUST 2017

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. COMMUNITY SINGING

2. CLUB ACTIVITIES

3. SHRAMDAAN

4. DENTAL CAMP

5. ASSEMBLY

6. IN-HOUSE TEACHING

7. JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS

8. GLORIA'S WORKSHOP

9. SOLAR ECLIPSE

10. RAKHI CELEBRATIONS

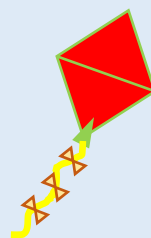
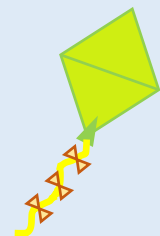
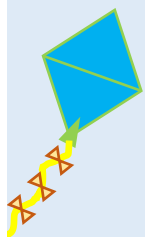
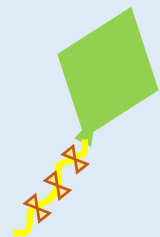
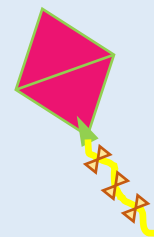
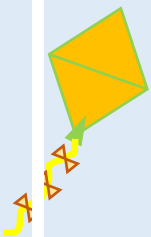
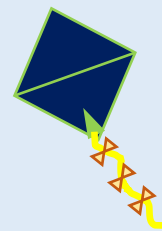
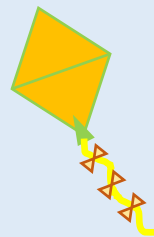
11. INDEPENDENCE DAY

12. CIRCLE TIME

13. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSEMBLY

14. STATE DAY

15. POOKALAM



Freedom of expression, songs of freedom!

COMMUNITY SINGING

Freedom. What do we understand by the word? What does freedom mean to each one of us? The month of August was a month of introspection for us, as we connected each celebration to our own lives. We began the month of August on a vibrant note by singing songs of patriotism. As each sound reverberated within our lives, we got the chance to be grateful for the different kinds of freedom we enjoy. Songs are a beautiful expression of gratefulness. They're also a wonderful opportunity to refuel our own vows to our nation.



"Nanha munha rahee hoon...!"



"Dancing our way to freedom!"



Songs of freedom, songs of encouragement!

Let's broaden our horizons: The freedom of choice!

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Knowledge comes in many forms. 13 club activities opened up to the eager students of the junior section for the very first time! We began our club activities with gusto! The excited faces said it all. The students were ready to learn new things, and immerse themselves in different kinds of learning. Each of the clubs began with a lot of enthusiasm, and from the young scientists to the quiz enthusiasts, every student was eager to participate, relate, and communicate!



Getting crafty!



They need not be taught! They only need be shown the way!



The newspaper: our regular source of general knowledge!



Expressing themselves through colour and form!



Survival skills and jungle jims!



Emote, create, connect!



Getting closer to nature, getting closer to science!



One click away from knowledge!

Freedom and responsibility!

SHRAMDAAN

Each week, as we focused on Shramdaan, we also renewed our determination to be responsible for our environment. In the month of August, we branched out to different parts of our school. With the eagerness of doing hands-on work, came the realization of responsibility towards more than just our classrooms. While the children toiled, they also learned about the value of keeping their environment clean. As we extended Shramdaan to different venues, we also had dialogues about the spaces we're responsible for. The children were learning to take responsibility of their surroundings, not just for themselves but also for generations which are to come ahead of them.



"Ma'am, yeh toh chamak raha hai!"



"Idhar bhi saaf karoon?"



These kids are not sparing the rods! Cleaning up means business!





The library needs some love too!



Our friend, the Rhino, getting spruced up!

Polishing that million dollar smile!

DENTAL CAMP

When we talk of health, we often forget about a crucial part of our bodies; our teeth! The dental camp held for the junior section was a reminder to keep our bodies functioning properly. Each class attended the dental camp with a mixture of trepidation, excitement and sombreness. Going to the dentist is serious business, after all. But the dental camp made it so much easier for them. Each student came back holding their dental reports, resolute about taking better care of their beautiful smiles.



"Ma'am, daanth nahin ethayenge na?"



The freedom to protect, and the protection of freedom!

ASSEMBLY

The first assembly for the month of August was all about freedom and protection. Whom is freedom for? What does freedom mean? And since the idea of freedom is so closely related to protection, the occasion of Rakhi played a major role in our assembly too!

Independence Day is not just one where we temporarily exalt the actions of our freedom fighters. It is also a day when we can ask ourselves what we can do for our nation. But we can only understand our roles for the future when we truly respect the history that came before us! With this in mind, our assembly was dedicated to understanding our freedom struggle. Class III put up a wonderful assembly, where we got to see the dramatization of the fight for freedom.

Whom did we get freedom from? Why did we need this freedom? How did we get this freedom? These were all questions answered beautifully by the energetic performances of the students, as they put up a brilliant assembly filled with theatre and songs. We also talked about the idea of protection. Whom do we need to protect? That was the question on everybody's minds, and students came up with beautiful answers about whom they would like to tie rakhis to. The idea of protection merged in seamlessly with the concept of freedom in this beautiful assembly!



Paying close attention to history is the only way to a better future!



Netaji and the Indian National Army!



Let's get the National Anthem right!



Letters of hope, letters to the man who asked for non-violence during the time of bloodshed and tears!

The freedom to evolve!

IN-HOUSE TEACHING STRATEGIES

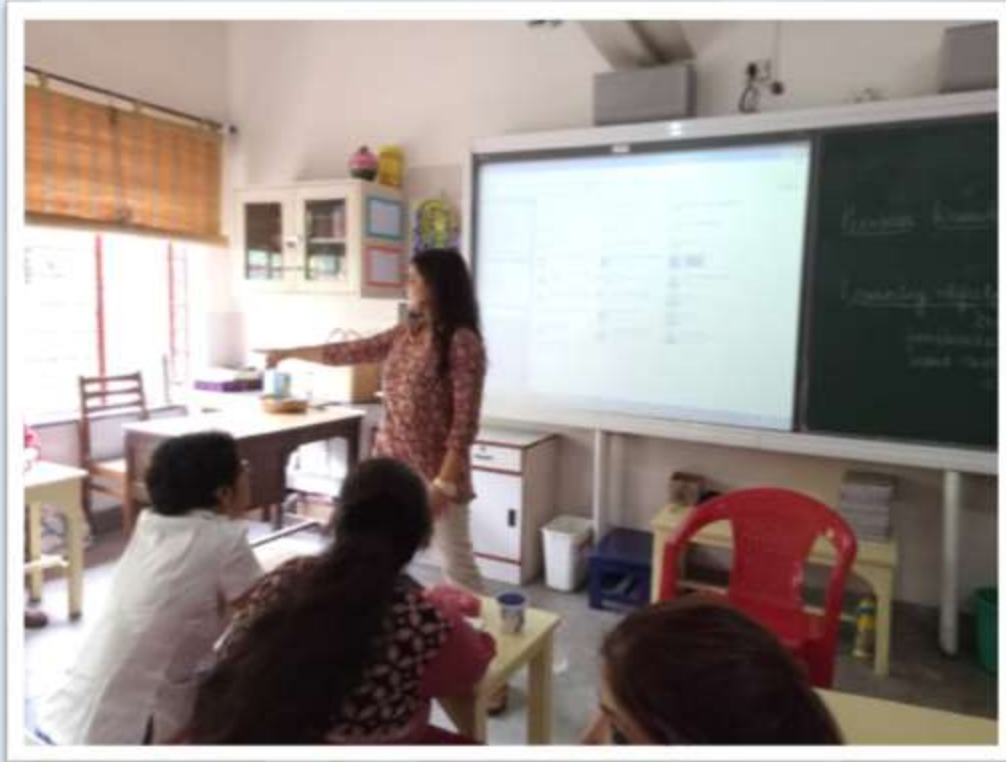
Teachers are learning every day! We learn from our students every moment, and we learn from each other too! Sharing knowledge is the best way to spread it, so why limit it to sharing with the children? This month's in-house teaching strategies workshop was all about clearing up basic concepts. Teachers became students as we learned from each other, and gave constructive suggestions on how to improve ourselves on a daily basis.



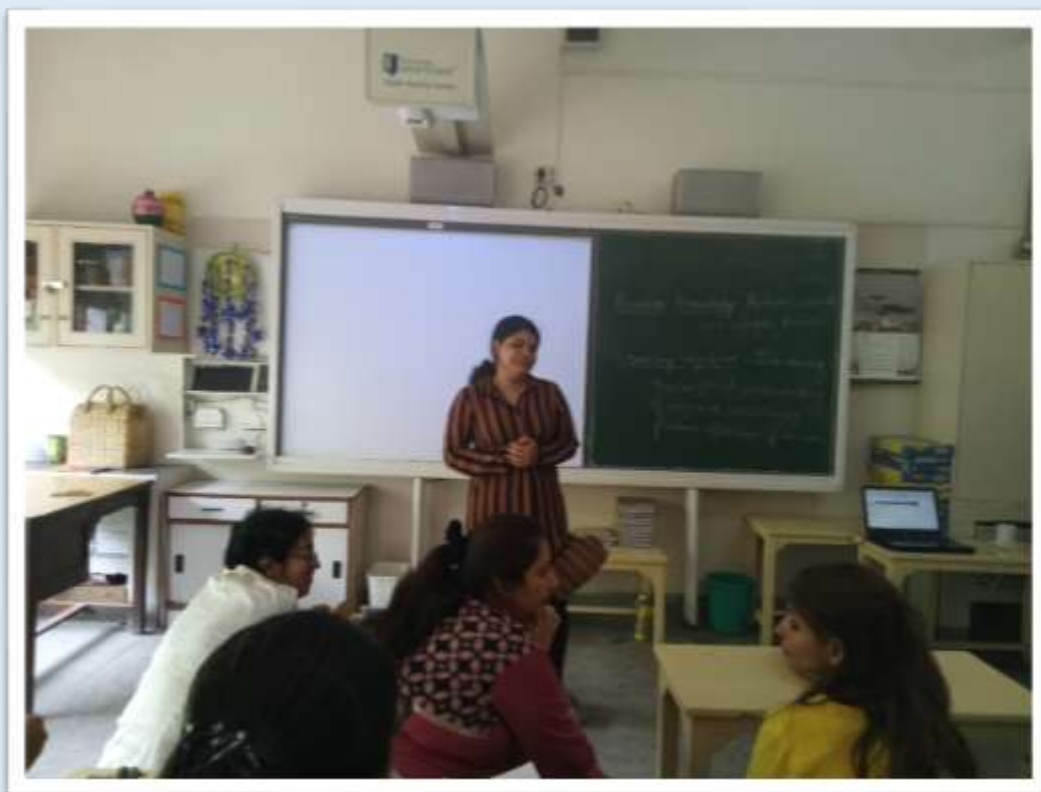
"Mera answer sahi hai na?"



Zero ke baare mein nahin pata, toh zero hi milega!



Learning to communicate! Learning to know each other!



"Action time for action words: verbs!"

Krishna lives in all of us: Empowering ourselves!

JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS

The festival of Janmashtami is celebrated throughout the country. It is celebrated with pomp and splendor, and we pay our respects to the playful and wise Krishna. But the Junior section decided to approach the festival in a unique manner. We merged creativity with introspection, as each class celebrated Janmashtami differently. We all focused on a unique characteristic of Lord Krishna, making connections to our own lives.

The young minds of class 1 decided to relate to the courage of Lord Krishna. Each student talked about showing courage in their own lives. Each of their ideas found its own beautiful place in the colourful tableau, displaying a colourful peacock feather!



Krishna and courage!

The freedom to protect, and the freedom to be protected ran deep within the voices of the students of class 2. As they prepared to scale their own personal mountains, they created a beautiful display of the Govardhan Parvat, also a small reminder of how much these majestic landforms need protection too!



Class 3 carried the eternal torch of hope, as they focused on the hopeful nature of the playful god. Their tableau was a multi-faceted expression of each student's hurdles, and the hope that they carry to overcome these challenges.



Hope lives in nature, hope lives in coming together!

Class 4 can be a daunting period for most children. Between finishing junior school, and preparing to enter middle school, they find themselves at the crossroad of major changes. To persevere in all their activities is to never give up, no matter how challenging the situation may be. They connected to Krishna by imbibing perseverance. Their art became an expression of their determination, as they displayed woven mats, made patiently and carefully, despite its mind-boggling structure!



"Haathi Ghora paalki, JAI KANHAIYYA LAL KI!"

The freedom to celebrate! The freedom to interpret!

ASSEMBLY

The beautiful culmination of Janmashtami celebrations happened with a vibrant assembly. The students were quizzed about the life of Krishna, and what they learned from his struggles. The assembly's show-stealer was a wonderful dance drama about the god's life. The students sat awestruck as the young performers regaled us with playful and poignant scenes from Lord Krishna's childhood! Our wonderful assembly concluded with the Handi Phor being a playful reminder of how we should keep trying to surmount our obstacles until we achieve victory!



If we fall once, we'll only get up and try again, till we succeed!



Success and team work looks like this!





The freedom to let go of all our scraps!

GLORIA'S WORKSHOP

Gloria ma'am always conducts deeply introspective workshops, which went quite well with our theme for the month! The workshop started out simply. We were asked to make paper patterns by tearing out bits of paper. But the finished pattern wasn't as important as the bits torn out and thrown away. Her whole workshop focused on why we need to focus on those bits. Those were the unpleasant parts of ourselves which we needed to address, not just to be better educators, but also well-rounded human beings. The session ended with hearty discussions where she encouraged us to talk about what we want in our lives, and how that might be different from what we actually need! It's always refreshing to get in touch with our emotions during her insightful sessions!



What are our scraps all about? And how do we let go?

The freedom to know, the freedom to behold!

SOLAR ECLIPSE

One assembly was dedicated solely to the momentous solar eclipse that happened recently. Since the solar eclipse was not actually visible on this side of the globe, we dedicated ourselves to learning more about the phenomenon instead. The junior section was enthralled with a beautiful theatrical depiction of how an eclipse occurs. We talked about the meanings of the different terms related to this natural phenomenon, and we ended with a witty video which talked in details about the eclipse.



The grand eclipse: when the planets dance!



Badges are not about power! They're about responsibility!



One step closer to being dutiful citizens!

Liberty of thought and expression!

RAKHI CELEBRATIONS

Rakhi is commonly known as the promise of a deep and abiding bond between a brother and a sister. The sister, through the holy thread, extracts the promise of protection from the dutiful brother. But why must the brother be the only protector? And is the sister the only one who needs protection?

These were questions we asked ourselves and our students. And the results were glorious. Each class came up with its own unique expression of Rakhi, with a strong foundation of thinking outside the traditional box!

Class 1 went to visit their successors at Santa Maria. There, they tied Rakhis to the foliage all around them, promising to protect the space, even if they weren't there anymore.



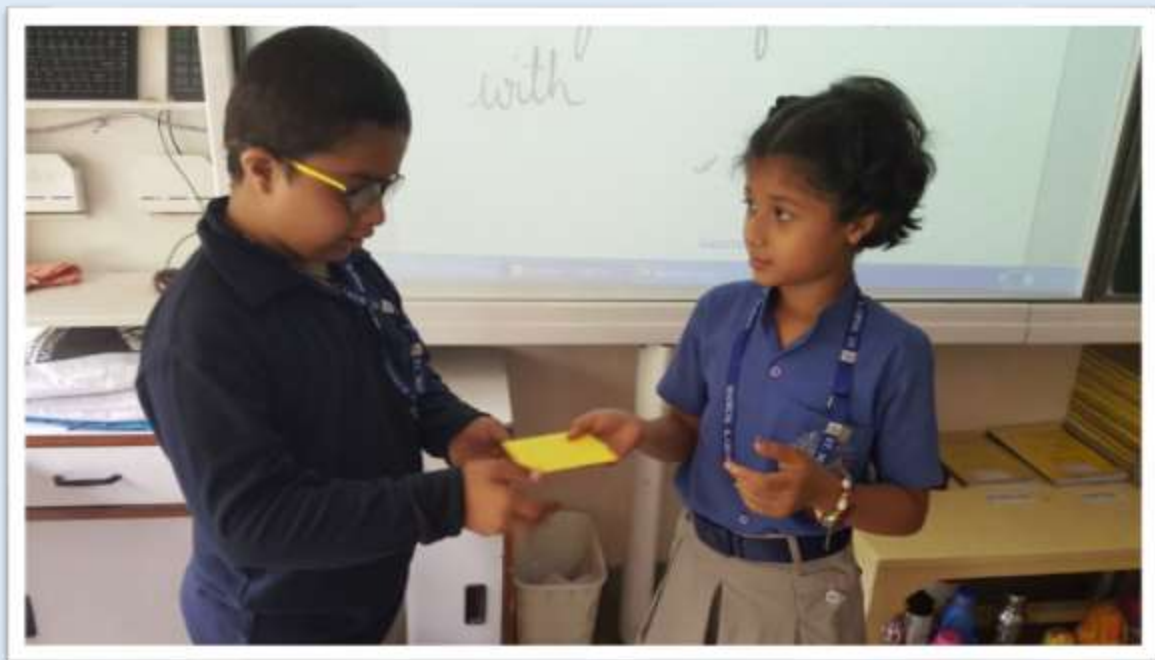
"Guard bhaiyya hamesha protect kartey hain! Poorey school ko protect kartey hain!"



Class 2 established their bond with nature by tying rakhis to the trees all around them. They vowed to protect mother nature, just as mother nature provides unquestioningly.



Class 3 extended the understanding of protection to the unsung heroes all around them. Each student made a thoughtful card for the one person they feel secure with, in school. As they went and delivered their beautiful cards, each section conducted dialogue about how we understand safety and security in our environment.



Cards of love and belonging, cards of eternal gratitude!

Class 4 decided to imbibe the spirit of learning at a green school! Rakhis need not come at the cost of nature! So we decided to collect materials from our homes to create our own Rakhis. Small, inconsequential objects came together beautifully to form colourful Rakhis made by the loving hands of the students.



Reuse and recycle: remembering to protect our environment too!

The freedom of opportunity: understanding independence.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

This Independence Day was dedicated to a special guest of honour. Farmers from Tamil Nadu have been protesting at Jantar Mantar for quite a while. They have been demanding more government involvement and intervention, as their situations have been devolving, and farmer suicides have been escalating. Our guest of honour was one such farmer, who had been imprisoned for his struggle. As we celebrated 70 years of our country's freedom, the flag hoisting done by him was a somber reminder of how our country needs to grow by leaps and bounds. It was a sobering moment of understanding how freedom has different meanings for everyone.

As we facilitated him and thanked him for his powerful presence amongst us, parents from the junior section involved themselves in the festivities, by exhibiting glowing examples of their creativity. The customary Prabhaat Pheri was also done with a lot of vigor, while the senior sections decided to clean up the areas around the school.



Discipline and rigour!



Sobering our celebrations with a thought for those who cannot celebrate!



Parents and students coming together to get creative!



Independence Day is a wonderful opportunity for the community to bond!



Independence from littering!

Empowering by sharing, empowering by speaking out!

CIRCLE TIME

Our Circle Time days for the month of August was closely connected to understanding freedom, facilitating protection, and freeing ourselves from the shackles that hold us back from being shining citizens! Each circle time was a period of introspection for the students. It was also incredibly affirmative for each one of them to be able to speak up and speak out.



Coming together, sharing with each other!



We listen, we speak, we empathise, we realise!



"Ma'am, mujhe bhi bolna hai!" speaking up, and how!



Connecting to our class slogans, connecting to our environments!



When we're serious about hearing each other out!



Contemplating about ourselves, and contemplating about others too!



Sharing bravely and fearlessly!

Freedom with rights and responsibilities

ASSEMBLY

Do we know what freedom really means? Does our freedom impinge on another person's life, or does it encourage people? These are questions which were raised during our special assembly, dedicated to understanding Freedom at a deeper level. While the cry for freedom may resonate deep within every life, the compassion to understand others and be responsible for our surroundings must merge with our need to fly unfettered!

Witty theatrical representations during the assembly addressed freedom being misunderstood as an excuse for irresponsible behaviour. Students learn best when they are allowed to decide the moral of the story for themselves! And that's exactly what they did. As they got the freedom to understand and interpret, they realised the importance of freedom being negotiated with rights and responsibilities. Freedom for one should never come at the cost of freedom for all.



Yeh freedom aakhir hai kya?



"Teacher toh nahin hai, kuchh bhi bol sakte hain?"



Does good behaviour limit our freedom? Or does it expand the idea?



Weaving wonderful stories, and learning from each one of them!"



Colours galore! The beauty of Pookalam!

The freedom to explore, the freedom to create!

STATE DAY

State days are much-awaited events in the academic year! As each class focuses on a different state of India, each class comes up with their creative expressions of the knowledge they have been gathering. Each class kicked-off the first round of state-day presentations with their unique and colourful representations of the beautiful states. With a multitude of mediums, the classes covered a wide variety of topics. And for each of their creations, they decided to do their bit for the environment, and use only what was necessary. Most of the beautiful depictions were made from recycled materials sourced from their houses and the school. With the spirit of a truly green school, we did not let creativity come at the cost of wastage!

From the thriving street theatre of Delhi, to the ancient technology of the village huts in Gujarat; from the breath taking natural beauty of Arunachal Pradesh, to the making of silk in Tamil Nadu, each class put up a beautiful show.



"Dilli ke baarey main jaantey hain?"



High rises, rising high. The ever expanding NCR!



Dilli, past and present!



"Aapko pata hai, Yamuna kitni gandi ho gayi hai?"



"Dilli metro hai yeh!"



The breath-taking colours of Arunachal Pradesh!



"Keep a prayer!"



Maps and boundaries, coming alive!



Holding down the fort! History and diversity in Arunachal Pradesh.



Are they simply rivers? Or are they timeless providers?



Hard at work! The traditional crafts of the wonderful state!



Let's explore our rich diversity!



Greetings!



The beautiful clothes from Arunachal Pradesh!



You want to see Tamil Nadu on a plate?



The natural goodness of Tamil Nadu!



Weaving patterns and weaving knowledge together!



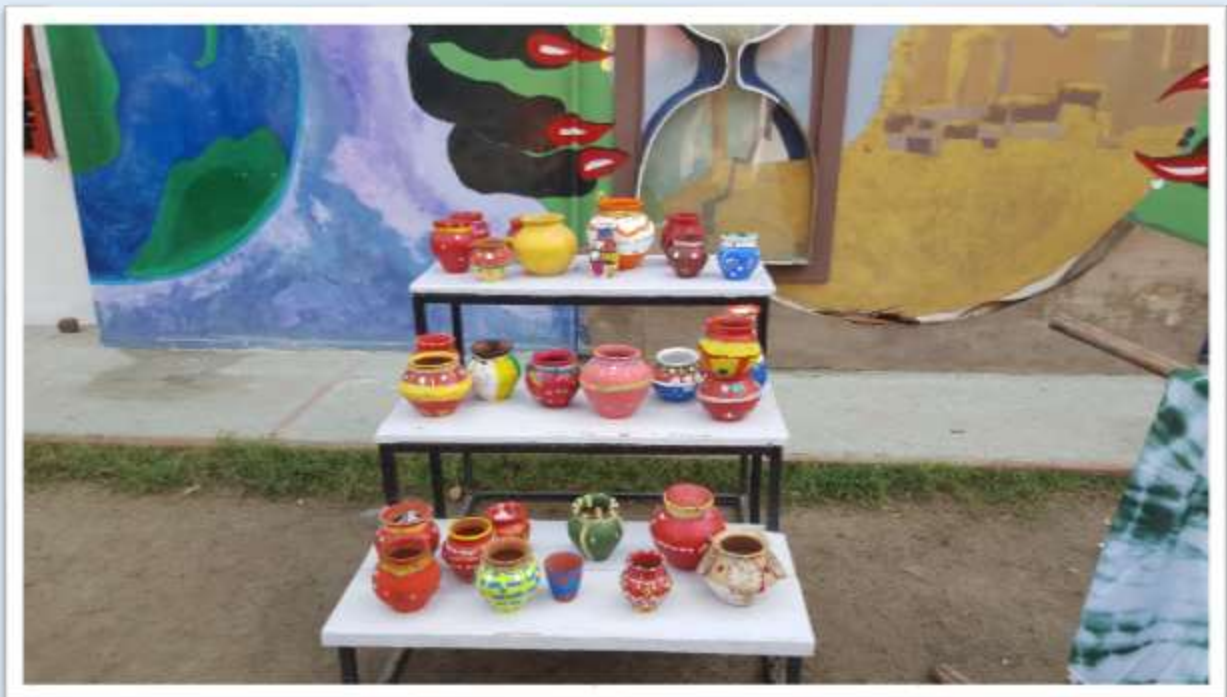
The decadent silks of Tamil Nadu! The gorgeous colours from the state!



"Sir, yahaan bohot tarah ke transport hain!"



"Namaste, and welcome to Gujarat!"



Beautiful creations from the villages of Gujarat!



Walking in the footsteps of history! Let's not forget the steps we have taken to come this far!"





"Arrey! Woh toh Gujarat in the present hai, yeh Gujarat in the past hai naa!"



The famous lions of Gir! Do not be fooled by their cute depictions!
They're majestic creatures!



Serious issues can be tackled with humour too!!



Lovely, showing off the lovely creations from Gujarat!

The freedom of diversity, the freedom of opportunity!

POOKALAM MAKING

Festivals go far beyond their religious connotations. They become an opportunity for the community to come together and bond. Each class decided to include the parents in the practice of Pookalam making, towards the celebration of Onam. As parents came together, beautiful patterns formed out of the creativity which a diverse group of people brought with them. Students, parents and teachers worked together to create gorgeous designs, bonding together during the process.



The beauty that comes out of working together!



Uniting different colours and patterns!



The festival of abundance, the festival of gratitude!



Towards Onam, celebrating as a community!

With this spirit of harmony as a community, we observed the Aazadi Utsav as a month which can bring people together, and create harmony during the trying political climate! It was a wonderful opportunity for us to revisit the importance of working together, to revisit our responsibilities to our environment and our nation, and to remember and pray for those who may not have as much freedom as we do! Humein chahiye azaadi, apne liye, sabke liye!

Contributions

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