

How one Gurgaon school overturned attitudes and changed perceptions: the candidacy journey of a PYP school.



Ms. Navina Chadha,
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The need for education to change with the times is more important now than it has ever been. However, when the time comes for parents to decide on a school and curriculum for their own children, there is often a resistance to choosing a truly unique and innovative programme, frequently due to an unfamiliarity compared to the traditional education that parents themselves received as children. Yet, in order to succeed in the workplace and in life beyond the classroom, the needs and requirements of today's learners are very different to the needs of generations that have gone before them. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP), designed for children aged 3 – 12, offers a flexible and tailored programme that empowers students to take ownership of their own learning, while equipping them with the skills to succeed and flourish as they progress into their further studies.

Traditional education systems rely on a process of rote learning, where information is taught to be memorized and recited as a measure of inherent understanding. The PYP, on the other hand, provides a flexible, inquiry-led framework, which enables schools to build and adapt a unique curriculum that is relevant both to the local context of the school and the interests of its students.

GD Goenka Global (GDGG), founded in 2018 and based in Gurugram, Northern India.

Is an IB Candidate School that is in the process of implementing the PYP for children from Pre-Nursery up until, and including, Grade 5. During this candidacy phase, we have been working with the IB to ensure that we are aligning our teaching practice and school philosophy with the IB's values in order to be authorized as an IB World School. Our mission is to create a learning environment that allows children to unlock their potential in a safe, respectful and enjoyable setting which is conducive to learning.

When we first decided to embark on the IB candidacy journey, reactions were mixed from our parent community. Some of our parents who were familiar with the IB were excited by the opportunity and those who were unfamiliar were more apprehensive as to what the changes would mean for their children's learning experience. So, what we were working towards was bringing everyone to a shared perspective, rather than starting from scratch. We made efforts to share information with our parent community about the IB's presence across the country and we invited them to learn more about the IB's recognition by local and international schools and universities. We were also able to draw on stories from local alumni who advocated for the IB's programmes, which was really helpful.

A core part of getting our community onside was communicating to parents that they are equal partners with us in their child's learning journey. As a school we strive for complete transparency with our parents; we distribute a lot of newsletters, photographic evidence of their children's work and we regularly invite our parents to engage in various activities in a classroom that explore and celebrate the importance of international-mindedness so that there are many opportunities for inclusion and collaboration.



Through this engagement process, the initial resistance from some parents to the PYP has now transformed into appreciation and endorsement. One of the crucial influencing factors is also the change parents see within their own children, which has had a significant impact on their perception of the programme. In particular, for parents who went through the traditional rote learning system themselves, now see a significant difference in their children's enthusiasm and agency in their learning when compared to their own experiences.



There was also a preliminary misconception that the IB programme was more targeted towards children who planned on studying abroad after graduating and, as such, the curriculum was not as relevant for the local people. In response, we were swift to demonstrate to our parents how the IB philosophy maps to the national curriculum, as well as introducing them to the IB learner profile and the approaches to learning (ATLs) skills. By being able to demonstrate how the PYP framework simultaneously honours the state curriculum, creates space for content to be moulded to the interests of the students to encourage and is able to reflect current affairs around the globe, we have been able to address these misconceptions. The PYP takes into account everything that is being done in the national system, but goes beyond it with the innovative teaching methodology.

The most important thing that we have seen throughout our candidacy journey is true value of prioritizing student agency, this is a key point of

difference which makes the IB stand out. By focusing on developing agency, students grow more confident, improve their decision making and develop critical thinking skills, which in the current global state of change we are all experiencing, will be vital skills in their future.

For more information about the IB and its programmes please visit: www.ibo.org.

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ART SMART

KG Seasons Paint | KG Abstract Floral Art | Nursery Children Exploring | Grade-1 Recycled Newspaper Art | Tissue Art



Impressionists Style Four Seasons Paintings by Kindergartners



Yuvani,
Plums A

Arushi,
Plums A



Pragunn, Plums A



Kindergarten Abstract Floral Art Project Inspired by American Artist

Tissue Paper Painting: Exploring tools of Personal Hygiene to Create Art.

Our little Plums explored the science of absorption while painting on tissue papers using watercolours.



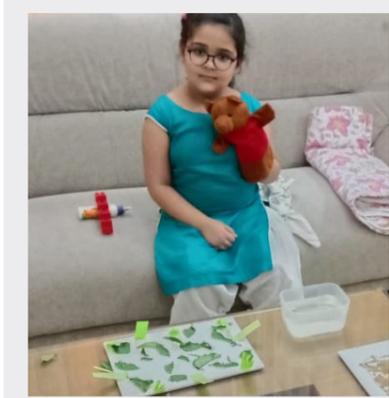
Recycled Newspaper Art Project by Grade 1



International Literacy Day is an international observance, celebrated each year on 8th September. Students of Grade 1 A read the story 'Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me' by Eric Carle. The story encourages a discussion about reasoning, epistemology, and the conflict of imagination and reality.

Through the illustrations, children had an understanding that there are different ways to see and understand the world. An understanding of reality as well as of imagination are equally important for knowledge. However, with imagination, many things are possible. Imagination is helpful in looking at the world around us and a way of gathering information about the world and concepts that are difficult to understand.

Grade-1A



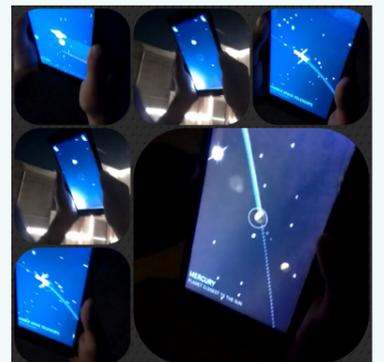
My understanding of Performance Poetry

- I understood about Performance poetry.
- I have learnt different sounds like swish, Spash, Swish, Spash.....
- I have learnt many adjectives like big, wet and beautiful.
- I have learnt prepositions - over, into and under.
- I have learnt that Bear got spooky eyes, wet nose and sharp teeth.
- I have learnt how to make a tunnel with paper. *Saimaira Galhotra, Grade-1A*

"Budding astronomer Sidhaartha Sati" I love to gaze at the starry night. I used my Research Skills to see planets in the sky. I could see-Mercury-the Red Planet; Venus-the hottest and brightest planet; Saturn-The planet with a ring and Hubble Space Telescope.

I enjoyed it a lot and will go on a space journey in future.

Siddharth Sati, Grade-1B



Making Connection with Nature

Students learnt about Capillary Action in plants with an experiment "Moving water" during Fun Friday class.

Grade-1B



Never Refuse To Reuse Friends!

I used old oil cans, bottles and other things to create these things. I am a creative child who cares for nature.

Vivaan Kadam, Grade-1B



Vivaan Kumar, Grade-1B

Poster on COVID-19 Awareness



Avoid Large Crowds



Do Not Meet Infected or Sick People



Do Not Touch Your Face esp. Mouth, Eyes, Nose



Do Not Travel Unless Necessary

No Pollution

"Hey Mr. Scientist, is it true? I heard someone say our sky was once blue. I just see a dull grey sky when I look up at the sky. Hey Mr. Scientist, tell me why? Stop pollution! Stop pollution from filling up the sky! "Hey Mr. Scientist it is really sad we are responsible for why our air is so bad. The smoke from our factories and our cars is filling the air with chemicals that harm. Stop pollution, stop pollution from filling up the sky! "Hey Mr. Scientist my heart wants to cry. I want back the clean air and the blue sky "Hey little one don't you cry. Scientists are working day and night to catch the smoke from our factories and cars that are filling the air with chemicals that harm us. We will find a way to control human smoke, we will take control and save our world.

Mauktik, Grade-2

Population

Hey World! Please control the increasing population. How should we live in a growing population? We are not getting a job nor any resources here due to overpopulation. Hey World! How to live here? Also, due to the large population people have started belonging to the poverty line and have to survive here. So please world, control the population. To control the population, the government should issue some guidelines. Even the common man should also think about it

Aadvik Kumar, Grade-2



How to keep a Friendship

Today, I am going to tell you the recipe for friendship. For keeping a friendship you need 1 cup of love, 3 cups of communication, 1 spoon of kindness, 2 bowls of help, 6 jugs of trust, and 1 glass of connection. To keep a friendship, always remember to connect with your friends. We need to care and share with our friends.

We should always help our friends in need.

I and Vyaan are best friends. We are always there for each other in times of need. I love being a friend of Vyaan.

Mauktik, Grade-2

How to be safe from Covid-19

Covid-19! It all started in Wuhan-China. Last year December 2019 Covid-19 was discovered in humans. Common symptoms were cough, sneeze and cold. Now it has spread all over the world. Lots of people have caught it.

To be safe from covid-19, we have to follow below rules:

- 1** Don't take off your mask while you are outside.
- 2** Always take your sanitizer while going outside.
- 3** Avoid going to public places.
- 4** The first thing to do when you enter the home is wash your hands.
- 5** Keep drinking warm water.

If we follow the above rules, we can be safe from Covid-19.



Vyaan Kalyani, Grade-2

Halloween

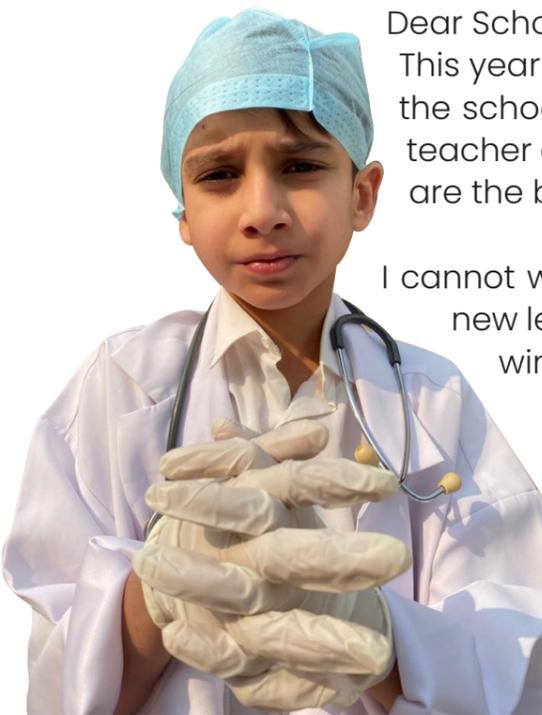
The tradition of Halloween started in the European countries during ancient times when the last evening of summer was celebrated as the day when people lit fires and dressed as ghosts believing that this would ward off evil spirits

Halloween fever had spread across school and grade 3 students enthusiastically geared up for the celebrations that was culminated on October 30th.

Grade-3



Oh School, I Miss You!



Dear School,

This year I could not see you due to a lockdown caused by COVID 19. I miss my daily journey in the school van and conversations en-route with my friends. I miss the presence of my class teacher and the company of my classmates. The knowledge and lessons given by Ms. Bhagat are the best lessons in life. I miss the taste of scrumptious food offered in the school canteen.

I cannot wait to swim and dive in the newly constructed swimming pool. I am eager to learn new lessons about golf and skating. I wanted to improve my performance on Sports Day by winning a race.

One day I dreamt that school has commenced and I am enjoying myself with my friends. I pray to God that the Corona Vaccine is invented soon and all students get to attend their school. There is no fun without school life.

Missing you.

Vanisth Soni, Grade-3

Can Teachers be replaced by Computers ?

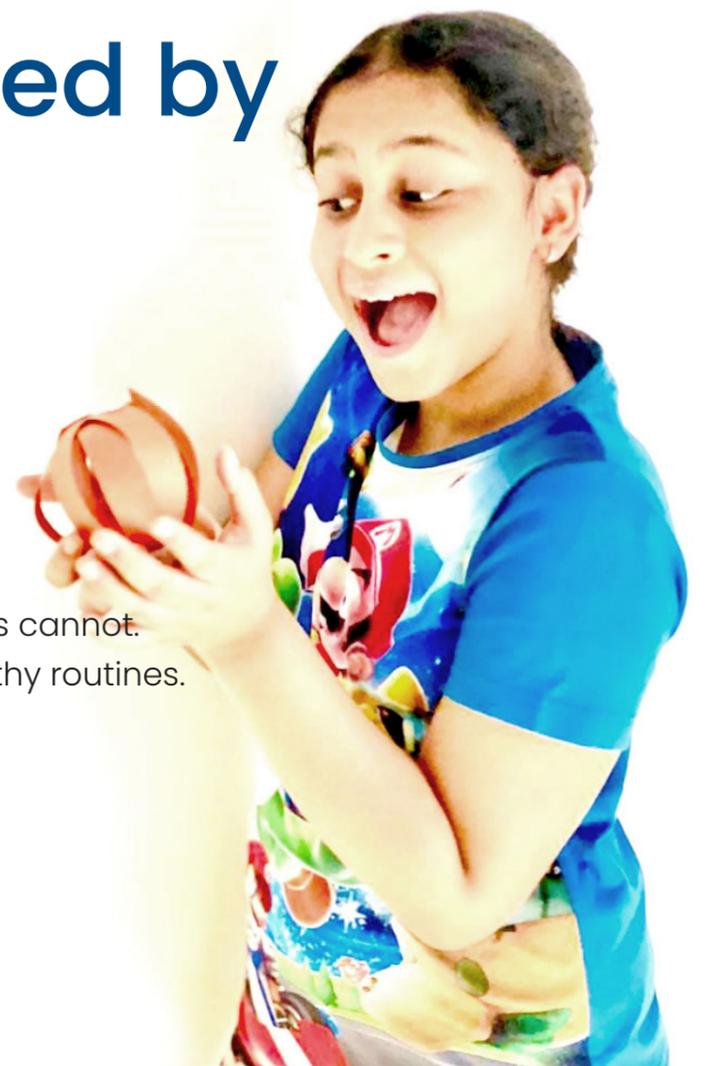
Teachers cannot be replaced by computers.

- Yes, teachers cannot be replaced by Computers.
- Do you wonder why?
- Here is what is in my mind.
- Teachers understand our problems but computers cannot.
- Computers can just tell the answer but teachers make learning fun.
- Teachers can see if we are happy or sad and cheer us up but computers cannot.
- Learning over computers is not healthy but teachers make us learn healthy routines.
- Teachers can teach computers but computers cannot teach teachers.

So, No teachers cannot be replaced by computers.

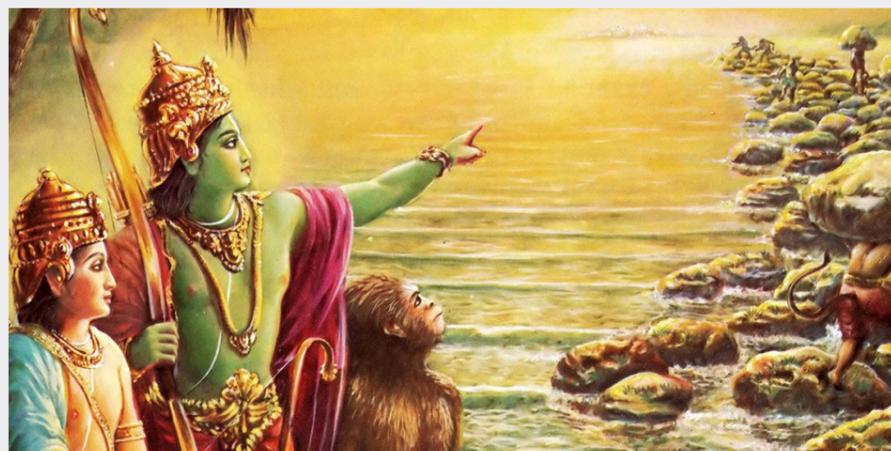
TEACHERS ARE THE BEST !

Annika Sharma, Grade-3



How to survive without sleep

The deadline is looming. You are tossing and turning. So much is going through your head. Oh no, it's already 2 a.m. The anxiety is increasing and sleep is elusive. Now it's 3 a.m. and only four hours until the alarm goes off. This is not good. How to survive without sleep. The human body has basic needs like food, water, and sleep to keep functioning at an optimal level. So sleep is vitally important. That's why we spend a third of our lifetime in dreamland. But, why is it crucial? What's going on with our bodies while we are sleeping? Sleep is restorative and works as an auto-repair mechanism for the body. It also plays a critical role in memory retention and bolstering our immune systems. Most of us can survive without sleep for a reasonable amount of time. But studies show only sleeping between four or five hours a night makes you four times more likely to have a car accident than drivers who've had eight hours of sleep. Likewise, those getting less than five hours of sleep risk an almost three times greater chance of suffering a work-related mishap than colleagues who manage at least seven hours. In 1964, a 17-year-old named Randy Gardner stayed awake for 11 days and 24 minutes without medical aids or stimulants as part of a high school science project. Gardner had help from friends who took him on long drives, blasted loud music and made multiple trips to the donut shop. After two days, he had trouble focusing, couldn't identify objects based on touch, and was unable to engage in tongue twisters. On day 3, he was losing his coordination and become moody. On day 5, he experienced hallucinations and paranoia and began having issues with his short term memory. By the final day, his speech was slurred, and his mental acuity and attention span severely limited. Gardner was able to make a full recovery without any long-term effects, but the experiment proved even a small deprivation of sleep has a big impact. Unfortunately, in today's 24-7 world, it is not uncommon to be faced with a night or two of no sleep. So whether it's work or an unfortunate life circumstance, we need to figure out ways to cope if we can't get a full night's ZZZs. How can you stay awake? Why isn't coffee the best solution? What can simple breathing do to help?. **Aksh Ahlawat, Grade-4**



Ramayana an entire Saga

Ramayana is a saga about Shri Ram. Ram Ji was born to the King Dashratha of Ayodhya. Four brothers Bharat, Lakshman, Ram, and Shatrughan went to Vishwamitra's ashram. Vishwamitra taught them principles and educated them. Ram Ji broke Shiv's Dhanush and married Sita. Ramayana is a saga about Ram Ji. Ram Ji went to the jungle along with Sita and Lakshman. Ravana took Sita away to Lanka. Ravana was very intelligent but diverted his powers towards bad deeds and hence became an evil power. Ram Ji made an army along with Hanuman and Sugreev and started heading towards Lanka. They started a war with Ravana and won, symbolizing good over evil. The day when Ravana was killed is marked as Dussehra. Ram Ji came back to Ayodhya along with Sita and Lakshman. He was crowned the king of Ayodhya. The day Ram Ji returned to Ayodhya is marked and celebrated as Diwali. The story made me learn that though Ram Ji's life was full of tragedies he proved to be a living example of sacrifice, love, devotion and principles.

Siddhim Sehgal, Grade-4

Effects of Pollution

The process in which some toxic pollutants are added to our environment is called pollution. It makes the environment harmful to all living beings. Pollution mainly happens because of man-made activities, whether done unknowingly or deliberately. Nowadays, it has become an important issue worldwide. Many countries are facing defective childbirths and high mortality rates due to pollution. It makes natural things like water, air, soil, etc. harmful for both humans and animals. The pollutants that mix in the air directly affect living beings, as they get into the body directly while breathing. Water pollutants are in the same way hazardous for living beings. In today's time, manufacturing and construction units are significant sources of pollution. People living next to a manufacturing group often fall ill, either by noise or air pollution. But the irony is that humans are the ones who are deliberately polluting the environment. We can't get a pollution-free world. But still, we can decrease the level of pollution around us by becoming more sensible and controlling our activities, causing pollution. It is creating sudden changes in the ecosystem. This is directly or indirectly leaving adverse effects on the lives of human beings, animals, and plants.

Agrim, Grade-5



Solution

Trees should be planted on a large level to increase oxygen in the air. We should compromise with our consumerist approach. We have to understand the difference between need and want. Plastic bags should be avoided to decrease the level of land and water pollution. We should avoid using personal vehicles and move towards car-pool, as more vehicles create more harmful gases and noise. We should maintain a proper drainage system to protect the water from getting polluted. Natural activities cannot be stopped, but we can control our actions. If we do so, we can minimize the impacts of pollution in nature.

Agrim, Grade-5

OH COVID!!

OH COVID!!

What have you done?
Your little mistake,
Have made us locked in.

We cannot go out to play
Or let anyone in to stay.

We are so bored,
And parents are so tired.
We cannot go to school,
But teachers are all here online!

We cannot meet our friends,
But parents have become our new friends.

There is something good
But also a lot of bad.
Please Covid do something
To clear your mistake.

We want to live like a free bird,
Not like a caged animal.

Jagteshwar Singh, Grade-5



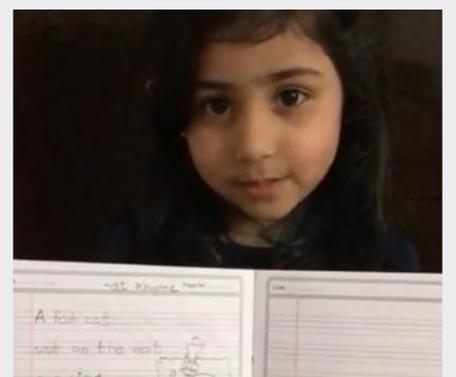
Happy & Fit



'-at' Rhyming Words

Patterns of short vowel words, you can help students learn to spell sets of rhyming words with a simple rule--change the first part (the letters that come before the vowel) and leave the ending part (the vowel and letters that follow it). For example, if students can spell or read the word cat, they can then figure out how to spell or read the words bat, fat, hat, mat, pat, rat, and sat by replacing the beginning letter c with other letters.

Peaches A (KG)



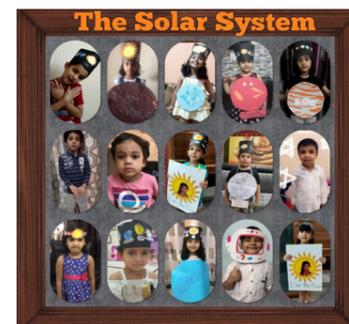
The different seasons affect our daily lives, from what we eat to what we wear, the things we do and the things we see all around us. Our little budding inquirer, Vyara inquired about the effect of different seasons and reflected upon the same through a "Show and Tell" activity in which she presented different seasons and their effect on humans and plants.

Peaches B (KG)



Water is the basic necessity for the functioning of all life forms that exist on earth. If we talk about our personal lives, water is the foundation of our existence. Our daily activities are incomplete without water. Students of Peaches B displayed the attribute of being Inquirers while researching about different sources and uses of water in accord with their current Unit of Inquiry. They further reflected upon their understanding of the same by creating posters.

Peaches B (KG)



Everyday kids experience events that are new to them. They learn new words, which help build their vocabulary, and develop a creative and curious mind. Creative writing develops physical skills, emotional and intellectual skills. When a child begins to write their ideas down, completing the story develops a range of important life long skills. It helps their ability to focus, improves their dedication and commitment and problem-solving abilities. By developing these fundamental skills, the child can apply these in other areas of learning and success.

Peaches C (KG)





Online learning can accommodate a wide range of learning styles and use a variety of methods geared to different learners. It is important for online instructors to ensure, participants engage in proper internet etiquette. Yuvraj displayed excellent self-management and thinking skills, while illustrating few essential agreements which kids need to follow during online classes.

Peaches C (KG)



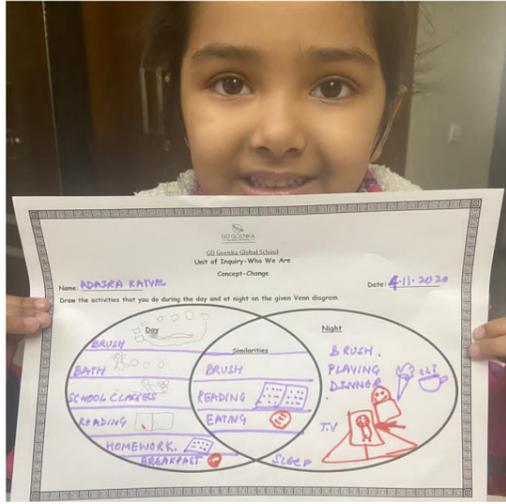
A role-play is not only a fun and a playful activity but also a key component in children's learning. Devanshi did a role play of a doctor and displayed the attribute of being Reflective while reflecting upon her understanding of "Effect of Seasons" on our health and what precautions we need to take during the change in season".

Peaches B (KG)



Natural objects with open-ended possibilities often encourage children to engage in richer play experiences. Natural materials have a sensory benefit. They provide more tactile stimulation to children to help them improve their hand/finger awareness and coordination. Nursery students created their facial features using natural materials (leaves, flowers, twigs etc) from the environment.

Plums Grade (Nursery)



A Venn diagram is an illustration that uses circles to show the relationship between things or finite groups of things.

Venn diagrams help to visually represent the similarities and differences between the two concepts.

Nursery students displayed their understanding of the different activities done by them during the day, night, and at both times of the day.

Plums Grade (Nursery)



Diwali is the Indian festival. It is called the festival of lights. Diwali symbolizes the victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. People wear the finest clothes, illuminate their homes with diyas and perform Puja. Nursery students celebrated Diwali by wearing traditional clothes, decorating diyas and making yummy lanterns.

Plums Grade (Nursery)

Art and Craft

Art and craft has a very soothing and calming effect on children. It is beneficial for their fine motor coordination, self-regulation, bonding, and fun.

Keeping this in mind our little kiddos from Strawberries indulged in various Art and Craft activities. They made hand-printed giraffes and elephants. This helped them to develop and enhance their eye-hand coordination as well as creativity while learning about colors, shapes and textures in a fun and relaxed environment.

Grade Strawberries (Pre Nursery)



Music

Music is a channel to stimulate the mind and body. It affects the child in all the areas of development, right from when they are born.

Keeping this in mind, children were made to listen to and recite exciting action rhymes and poems like-

"If you're happy and you know it"

"Are you sleeping?"

"Boogie-woogie song", etc.

The children displayed great zest and enthusiasm while singing different rhymes and songs.

Grade Strawberries (Pre Nursery)



Play Dough Molding

Playdough molding is highly beneficial in enhancing fine motor skills, pre-writing skills, creativity and imagination in a child. It also has a calming effect on children while developing their hand-eye coordination.

A play molding activity was conducted where the students were given play dough to mould it into small balls and make numbers and letters out of it.

Grade Strawberries (Pre Nursery)



VIRTUAL ASSEMBLIES

Peaches-A | Peaches-B | Peaches-C | PLUMS-A | PLUMS-B | Grade-1 | Grade-2 | Grade-3 | Grade-4 | Grade-5

