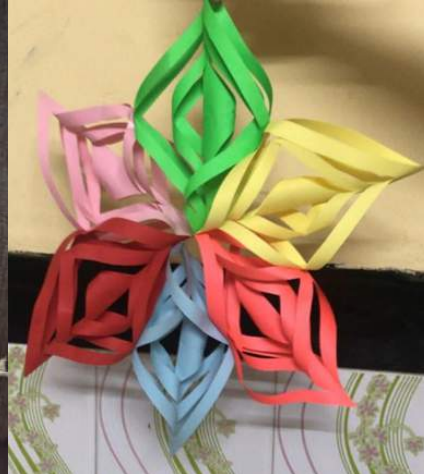




Kalpavruksha
a Steiner inspired school

NEWSLETTER



GLIMPSES FROM THE LAST MONTH!

CONTENT

- *Celebrations in month of December*
- *Grade activities*
- *Blog- How Waldorf Kindergarten is Different.*

CELEBRATIONS IN MONTH OF DECEMBER

BOOK READING WEEK CELEBRATION:

In December, every grade celebrated book reading week from 6th to 10th December 2021. Children took their favourite few books and read them through this week. To add to their interest, parents and grandparents read them stories too. On the 10th of December all the grades had a small celebration to conclude this reading week. Students in grade 1 enjoyed hearing new stories from their parents, grandparents a day earlier and the next day they narrated the same story to the whole class. Grade 3 students on the last day of the book reading week, dressed up as their favourite character from the book and enacted a small scene from the story. Grade 4 students drew their favourite character from the stories they read. Grade 5 students participated with great enthusiasm. As they are aware of the kinds of books they like to read, they picked up their favourite characters to enact in the class. They also drew them.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION:

The Christmas celebration was astounding across the grades and kindergarten. Everyone had their special way of celebrating. The fervour for the festival was created by singing carols. Kindergarten celebrated Christmas throughout the week. They started with winding of twigs with threads for constructing the stars. During Christmas celebration week, they made star out of twigs which they had prepared earlier. They made paper fairy and fruit salad on celebration day. Grade 1 students prepared Christmas tree with twigs and thread ,later they also enjoyed making Mug brownie. Grade 2 made a Christmas tree with twigs and decorated it with various embellishments. Grade 3 celebrated by making a Christmas tree and also painting one using the wet on wet technique. Grade 4 made wonderful Christmas cards and baked delicious chocolate chip wheat jaggery cookies. Grade 5 prepared the snowflakes. The students prepared wonderful greeting cards to gift their parents. Along with it, they also loved preparing sweet dish named 'kul kul' which they relished shortly after.





EDUCATING THE FUTURE

TEACHERS ARE WORKING HARD AT PREPARING SOME REALLY GREAT LESSONS FOR OUR YOUNG LEARNERS, SOME OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

KINDERGARTEN:

Kindergarten did winding of twigs with threads for preparation of stars. During Christmas celebration week, they made a star out of twigs they had prepared. They made paper fairy and fruit salad on celebration day.

Children were engrossed and enjoyed activities by exhibiting their creativity with full of enthusiasm.

GRADE 1:

In the language block, students learnt to read the known verses. Also various rhyming words were introduced to them.





GRADE 2:

In Grade 2 through nature stories, the teacher is able to imaginatively connect the child to the greater world and how nature works. The children show greater alertness in noting what happens around them. This helps the children to develop a caring and loving attitude towards nature. These stories also form the basis for science concepts are brought to them in the higher grades.

Nature stories and being in nature helps make happier children.

GRADE 3:

In grade 3, In order to learn the concept of Money, the students of class 3 made their own clay coins and then bought and sold things in a virtual market. There were fruit sellers, vegetable sellers and even fisherwomen in our market place!!





GRADE 4:

Grade 4 started with their second Humans and Animals block. The whole animal kingdom is presented as a reflection of human being. They explored and learnt about various animals. Each animal is specialized in a unique way. Grade 4 students also tried their hands at cooking various delicacies.

GRADE 5:

The geography block had numerous activities to be carried out like, drawing, painting, drawing of the state map, learning the folk songs of the respective states and also written form of the Dravidian language. It was fun to even dress up according to the attire that is worn in those states which gave a complete feel about the region and their traditions.



Following is a blog written by one of our teachers, Do give it a read!

How Waldorf Kindergarten is Different.

When I first walked into a Waldorf Kindergarten, I was amazed to see how amazingly simple and yet elegant it looked. There were no flashy colors, no cartoon characters with huge heads and tiny limbs or the fair and skinny princesses staring at me. This classroom was furnished to look much like a home, with cotton curtains, rugs, a rocking horse and wooden tables and chairs. There was a small kitchen corner with traditional wooden kitchen set. A teepee stood in a corner near a wooden loft. There was also a cradle with a cloth doll sleeping peacefully in it. A cozy corner with pillows and a rug had a little girl playing gleefully with her doll. I had seen such a classroom for the first time and I was mesmerized.

Teachers consciously choose playthings for the classroom that will nourish a young child's senses, and envelopes them in beauty. Toys in the classroom were made from natural fiber and materials. The major difference between this Waldorf Kindergarten and the conventional ones was that the children here are encouraged to use their imaginations as part of the process of discovery and learning. In a traditional classroom, the child will be given objects and toys to play with. The Steiner method expects the child to create her own toys and other objects.

Waldorf teachers model meaningful, purposeful work in the classroom by engaging in activities such as cooking, cleaning, gardening, or knitting. Out of imitation, children engage in, and help with, all these activities. The children are learning real life skills, as they become confident and capable helpers.

Another feature of the Waldorf classroom was the beautifully made Nature table. The teacher changes it according to the seasons and festivals. Natural materials like pinecones, logs, blocks, coconut shells, seashells and lots of dupattas are used to create this beautiful piece of art!

However, this was not all. The curriculum here was different too I was told. I thought of 'Twinkle Twinkle little star', 'Johnny Johnny' and 'Baa Baa black sheep'. Not only had I memorized these as a child but had even taught it for years. While planning my first lesson plan my co - teacher showed me rhymes and songs which I had never heard of before. These were in accordance to the seasons and the festivals. The rhymes and songs had animals, insects, birds, elements of nature and so much more! Moreover, they involved a lot of movement and gestures which help the children to develop their sense of balance and movement.

In a Waldorf early childhood classroom, ample time is allowed each day for unstructured, imaginative play without teacher's interference. One might say that free play is the heart of a Waldorf kindergarten morning.

Over all my journey of being a Waldorf Kindergarten teacher has been an exciting and enriching one. Each day brings new learnings and experiences. And I am loving every moment of it!!!

**-Pooja Surve
Kindergarten teacher**



UPCOMING EVENTS

• **MELA**

