



kalpavruksha

a steiner inspired school

NEWSLETTER



BACK TO SCHOOL!

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CELEBRATIONS IN MONTH OF MARCH



HOLI CELEBRATION

We celebrated Holi on 17th March. All the grades and kindergarten made organic colours. Green colour was made out parsley and spinach. Pink colour was made out beetroot. We used turmeric for the yellow colour. Students picked, plucked, grated and squeezed all the colours from the vegetables. They all had fun celebrating with their friends after a very long time. We also had puranpolis after our Holi celebration. They were all very delighted. Furthermore, we also saw a puppet show.

“FOR EVEN THE WISEST CAN LEARN INCALCULABLY MUCH FROM CHILDREN.”

— RUDOLF STEINER, HOW TO KNOW HIGHER WORLDS



EDUCATING THE FUTURE

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

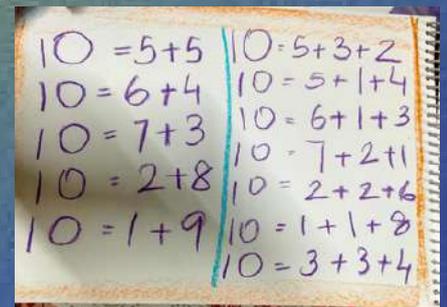
KINDERGARTEN:

Holi was celebrated in class by making organic colours using Beetroot, Spinach and Turmeric and also made rose syrup with fresh rose petals.

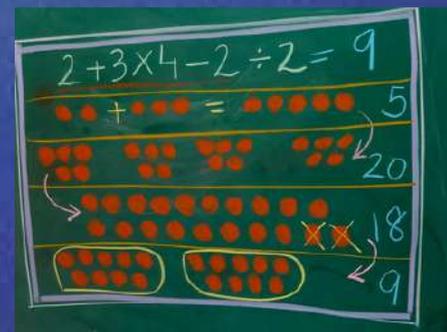


GRADE 1:

Story sums involving the four processes, i.e., Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and division were solved concretely in the main lesson books. Along with practicing individual processes sums.



We had a wonderful Holi celebration where we made organic colours using a mix of Spinach, coriander and cornflour for green colour and a mix of turmeric and corn flour for yellow colour.





GRADE 2:

Knitting is one of the first skills learned by a grade 2 student. The criss cross motion and cross body movement when the knitting needles cross each other (right at heart level), helps promote healthy brain development. When the two sides of the brain communicate through cross body movement (also achieved in other areas of the curriculum), it strengthens the pathway between the two hemispheres and primes the brain for higher learning in middle school.

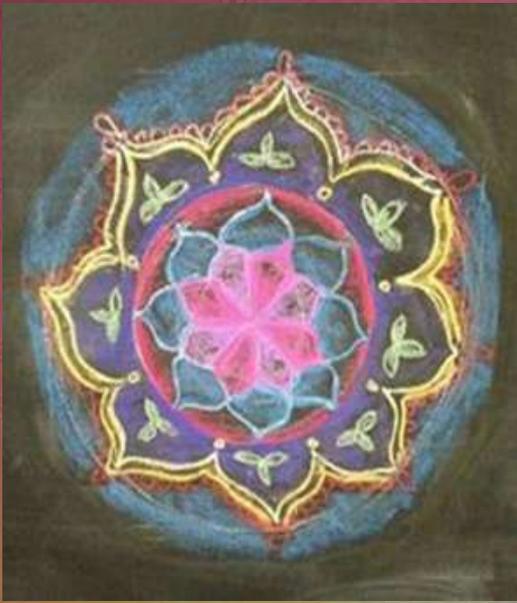
Handwork lessons are more than a means of promoting dexterity and skill. Through rhythmically repeating movements and exercises while working on tasks suited to the age of the child, the hands help to bring about both a strengthening of the will and of the capacity for logical thinking.



GRADE 3:

The music curriculum in a Waldorf School is in harmony with Rudolf Steiner's view of child development. Steiner states in his lecture, "As early as possible the children should come to feel what it means for their own musical being to flow over into the objective instrument...if you can you should choose a wind instrument, as the children will learn most from this and will thereby gradually come to understand music... the human being feels the whole organism being enlarged. Processes that are otherwise only within the organism are carried over into the outside world." Seen here are 3rd Grade students practicing the recorder.





GRADE 4:

In fourth grade, we began with a reader- Charlotte's web. Empathy and reverence towards animals are brought out through reading. In this block we'll help children develop an instinctive feeling for grammar and the connection between words in a sentence. We spun a spider's web with recycled sticks and yarn.

GRADE 5:

The geometry block brought in good level of enthusiasm among the students as the concepts that they learnt was all about free hand geometry. The topics covered were the basic concepts of geometry, circle and its components and types, parallelogram, rectangle, square, trapezium and trapezoid and their properties. The concepts about these shapes were crystal clear to the students as they included the body movements and keen observation of their surroundings.



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

When the sun peeps through the clouds at the break of dawn, when the sleepless streets get ready for another tiring and crowded day, when the hissing waves of the Arabian sea, after its long journey, kiss the shining sands on the beach, the Mumbaikars wake up and add to the flurry of activities that the city has always been known for.

This is the time when the senior citizens living close to the sea, walk down to the beach and start their day. Morning walk by the sea, meeting old and new friends, laughing their hearts out at the laughing clubs, and kick-starting their day is a norm with many old-timers.

Unlike other days, Mr. Kulkarni, had a young, mischievous but inquisitive lad accompanying him for the morning walk - his grandson Prithvi. It was Prithvi's vacation time and he was in Mumbai to spend the holidays with his grandparents.

Mr. Kulkarni was an active member of the laughter club which assembled every morning. His friends were already there and he was surprised to see Sharma Ji after a long time. He exclaimed, "Arey wah. Sharma Ji! All the way from Bandra!" Prithvi heard the word 'Bandra' and was amused. He repeated, "Bandra? Is it a place where Bandars live, Dadu?", he asked. "No. Even humans live there, like apna Sharma Ji", said Mr. Reddy and they all burst out laughing.

"You know Prithvi, that's an interesting observation. In fact, the name of the place Bandra comes from the word "Bandar" which means 'port' in Marathi. Similarly, there are a lot of other places with interesting histories attached to the origin of the modern names".

"Like Colaba", said Mr. Reddy. "It comes from the word 'Kolis' and the name of the area was called Kola-bhat which became the Colaba of today."

"Do all the names in Mumbai have such an interesting history", asked Prithvi. "Not all of them, but there are a lot of names like that", said Mr Kohli. "The one I like the most is Chowpatty". Prithvi after hearing the name started singing, "Chowpatty jayeinge, bhel puri khayenge..."

"Yes, the same Chowpatty. Chow means four and patty actually mean pathways. It is a place where four pathways meet."

“What’s your favourite name Dadu”, asked Prithvi. “I have two names which are my favourites. Both of them mean the same. Do you know what Coorli means?” Prithvi nodded a ‘no’. Sharmaji asked, ‘isn’t it a local name for crab?”. Mr. Kulkarni said ‘yes’. “And do you know what ‘Chimbori’ means? That is another name for crab. So now guess the name of the places”, said Mr. Kulkarni. Mr. Reddy replied, Chembur could be from Chemburi... and Mr. Kohli said, Coorli sounds like Kurla. Mr Kulkarni was impressed and he says, “Congratulation you have won 1 crore rupees like Amitabh Bacchan from Kaun Banega Crorepati”. Everybody laughs at this joke.

“This is so interesting Dadu”, Prithvi says. “But how come they have such interesting names?”

Mr. Kulkarni says, ‘that is because Bombay or Mumbai as it is called now has a very interesting history. Are you interested in knowing it?’ Prithvi nods a ‘yes’.

“Bombay was gifted to Britishers by the Portuguese when the daughter of the then Portuguese king married King Charles II.

The Portuguese came as invaders and became rulers of the islands of Bombay & Salsette (Thane & sub-urban Mumbai). Serene landscape with rice fields, somewhat hilly terrain, sandy beaches, abundant greenery, large salt pans, and most importantly its natural harbors Bombay and Salsette was a picturesque land and the Portuguese called it Bombay Ailha da boa Vida (the island of Goodlife) and to Bombay Harbor Buom Bahia (Good Bay). It was home to them. They constructed churches, houses, mansions, monasteries & defensive structures like watchtowers & forts to protect Bombay from invasions.

After the Portuguese left the country, the then British king became the ruler of Bombay. After a few years, the king decided to rent out Bombay to the East India Company.

The seven islands of Bombay would have been very beautiful. When it became the major trade hub spot, people from different parts of the country came and settled down there.

“So Dadu, if all the places have interesting names, I am sure the name Mumbai also will have some interesting history attached to it?”

“Yes”, replied Mr. Kulkarni and continued. “The earliest natives of Bombay, the Kolis used to worship the sea goddess.

*She was called Mumbadevi. So, this city derives its name from the Goddess.”
“Uff... that is a lot of serious conversation, Mr Kulkarni”, said my Kohli. “It’s
time to loosen up and burst out laughing”. All of them agree. ‘Why don’t you
join us, Prithvi?’ Mr Kulkarni asks Prithvi. ‘Dadu, I want to play with the
sand’, says Prithvi and picks up a twig that was lying around. With a full-
blown smile of a happy child, he writes these lines on sand.*

*“Like the rainbow,
Where seven colours emerge from one.
Like the symphony,
Where seven notes play as one.
One city now,
Once seven islands.
Mumbai now, Bombay always.
Once a lush green land,
Now delightful heaven,
Once a rented piece of land,
Now a promising dreamland.
With interesting names for its lanes,
With speeding buses and local trains.
A divine name that blesses everyone,
Mumbai is a city that is second to none.”*

*-Shomita Nair
Grade 2 teacher*

