

LOWER SECONDARY JUNIOR MIDTERM, 2017 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our midterm newsletter! The students have been working very hard. Here is a sneak peek into what the children have done this term.

ENGLISH

'News' - was the unit the seniors were exposed to from the text building skills series. The focus was to facilitate their understanding of what is formal or informal use of language, distinguish features and structure of a newspaper article, differentiate national to local news, recognize implied meanings, be aware of the writer's choice of language to influence reader's opinion (bias) and test the validity of what they read, argue their point of view.

To achieve these objectives, the students were engaged in a variety of activities and dramatic approaches (role plays and interviews). They read different texts, discussed and worked on connected writing.

Reading a-z leveled texts and related worksheets in addition to comprehension passages were used for the juniors.

Writing - Students were introduced to a few writing techniques, (metaphors, personification), sentence types and parts of speech. In addition to creating short stories, using story starters, they learned to write essays (persuasive and compare and contrast).

MATHEMATICS

This term students had lots of activities in maths class. We worked on Meera's thinking math program which is based on activities and challenges followed by worksheets and mathbuddy tasks. We did many pattern activities with them, they were taught triangular numbers, square numbers

through rainbow activity, learnt multiplication through area model, did a locker activity for square numbers and found out the patterns, students were taught area and perimeter through various activities. Children were given puzzles in between to upgrade their logical thinking, students learnt fractions through different shapes, quessenoire rods and block activities, they learnt about binary system and how to convert a decimal system to binary system and vice versa. They learnt place value through it. They are also introduced with pythagoruous triplets and Knot theory.

INQUIRY BASED LEARNING (HISTORY)

Middle school students chose diverse inquiry topics which covered a gamut of subject matter. From historical and modern events, ancient and famous

sport, Gods as well as mythical creatures to mysteries, they had fun exploring and discussing.

The topics were highly student centered; they ranged from life of 'The Mayans', 'The Romans', 'The Aztecs', 'The Greek Gods' to other historical events such as 'The Russian Revolution', 'The Persian Wars' and 'Ancient sports'. Some of them investigated on a few modern events such as 'history of modern cars', 'history of makeup', 'history of drama', and the rest spoke about their exploration of mysteries like 'mythical creatures', 'the Bermuda triangle, 'the wow signal' mysteries of modern times, 'the disappearance of an airliner', 'the evolution of the Earth', 'The Volcanoes' 'strange colours of fruits' and the famous sport 'tennis'.

The students were engaged and totally involved in understanding the topic and it helped develop analytical thinking, decision making and fair-mindedness, skills they would need to learn to apply in real life situations.

Their posters, reports and PPT presentations, reflect their learning process and methods followed in addition to creativity and critical thinking skills.

INQUIRY BASED LEARNING (SCIENCE)

The middle school children are learning the skills of experimental processes this term. They are getting hands-on practice with skills like measurement, observation, identifying and controlling variables and drawing conclusions.

They are a part of an inquiry based on soil, where these children are mainly carrying out related experiments on pH, decomposition, etc. in the lab.

As part of the field work, the children were engaged in a project carried out at the Hebbal Flyover to learn about nature in an urban setting.

ICT

This term student started with Lumosity which is an online program consisting of games that will help improve memory, attention, flexibility, speed of processing and problem solving. Students learnt power point presentations with voice over . Project work on input and output devices was done by students.