

LOWER SECONDARY NEWSLETTER – TERM 1, MARCH 2018

All students are encouraged to do their best, present their work with pride and respect the effort of their peers.

We have completed the first term of 2018 at Buddhi and the children have learnt so much. They have all been involved in class projects and getting to know one another better through these team assignments.



School reopens on 23rd May, Wednesday. Wish you all a great, fun filled summer vacation.

ENGLISH

Being a compassionate and genuine friend is essential, and so we began the academic term with some interesting and fun activities related to the novel 'BFG' written by Roald Dahl. These activities helped explore some marvellous themes such as unlikely friendship; which encourages one to think / wonder why one should ever judge people by their appearances but instead celebrate the differences in others and understand that everyone has human rights. There were opportunities to reflect on personal aspirations and dreams, which empowers one to believe in their ability to overcome challenges and also understand what bullying is and how to prevent it.

The class next moved onto reading and reviewing 'The Malgudi Days', a collection of short stories written by R. K. Narayan. The children thoroughly enjoyed reading and were awestruck at the brilliant expression by the author, the way he presents his story plot and describes the characters' experiences in eloquent language. The children were inspired by the way the author was able to the impact on the reader's emotion through his simple stories.

Reviewing texts is an important aspect of language learning and each story/text is read and discussed. Children share their interpretation, inferences and summarize the main events. They are encouraged to create their own short stories, using a few characters if they wish, or compare two stories, keeping some points in mind (how are they different or similar - setting, important relationships and characteristics of important characters etc. and which story is well written and why?)

Here are some of our students' opinion / perspective on the novel study.

“Malgudi Days is a collection of 32 short funny, witty and touching stories written by R K Narayan. These short stories all happen in the same place called Malgudi, an imaginary town. This place is located near Sarayu (a river in south India). Even though Malgudi is an imaginary place, we did not feel like it was imaginary as we flipped through the pages, engrossed in the tales of the town's people. These wonderful stories carry the scent and sound of south India. All these stories will seem faintly similar but are truly vastly different from each other. Each story deals with simple people and their simple problems in their simple lives. Some stories carry humor will others are so surreal that they might make you cry. Once you read these heartwarming stories, the memories will live with you until your grave”.

By - Pavani Gajjar

Mathematics at Buddhi is more than numbers and calculations. Our goal is to develop mathematical thinking in our students and see the applications of their learning in everyday activities. Continuing on the success of our “Math Week” in December, the students started the year working on complex concepts through simple hands on activities. We are fortunate to have Meera Raghavan to guide our teachers in developing these concepts and our math classes are where teaching and learning happens simultaneously.

Students were introduced to geometrical terms like points, lines angles, circumference by folding paper plates! Beginning with paper folding to find the centre, then continuing folding to form equilateral triangle, different shapes like square, trapezium, parallelogram and then tetrahedron. Followed by opening and seeing lines and points emerging and shading helped in understanding how angles are formed. This activity was followed by drawing a circle on A4 paper using compasses and repeating the same folding. The students then went on to form arcs and joining points to form hexagon and finding midpoints and measuring sides using a ruler. The children went on to measure angles using the protractor and lo and behold it all makes perfect sense now'. The class then moved on to drawing triangles given sides or two sides and included angles. This enabled them to understand the theorem 'sum of any two sides of a triangle is greater than the third side'. Next the class worked through the concept of perpendicular by folding butter paper to understand perpendicular and parallel lines.

In addition to the thinking maths sessions, the middle school group also worked on the fundamentals of “number” during their 1x1 sessions. These sessions focus on understanding skills through mathbuddy tasks and we would like you to encourage your children to complete the tasks set by their teachers.

We celebrated 'pi day' at Buddhi where the students worked through some cool activities that helped them understand the correlation between the circumference and diameter of a circle and the role of pi. Maya, Yashodhara and Manav recited 'pi' to 15 decimal places!! Kudos to our young mathematicians.

INQUIRY BASED LEARNING – HISTORY

What better way to understand one's history by exploring where our ancestors came from originally and how do we get back to our roots in this busy internet crazy world?

These were a few ideas and questions explored as part of IBL classes and then, we decided to challenge the children to investigate and discover about their own ancestors through an interesting research cum team work (with parents) through a project 'Family Tree'.

What emerged were interesting collations of information and a buzzing computer lab for digital output of the same. The information they gathered about their grandparents and great great grandparents included their date of birth, death, the place they lived and migrated, profession, interests and aspirations, siblings and children, any unusual fact such as similar looking relative over generations or triumphant personal moments (war – veteran or any other special achievements).

The students made interesting photo albums of their ancestors and were fascinated to learn about their lifestyle. This somewhere rooted them in this fast-paced world as they became aware of their family history.

Our students' have shared their feelings about this exploration journey, please read.

DOING THE FAMILY ALBUM

Making a family album is a very interesting idea; I had never actually thought about making a family album before. But I realised it is a fun and helpful thing to do. And it actually makes you spend time getting to know your extended family better.

It is helpful because it actually gets you thinking about who your ancestors were, and where they came from? And it is interesting because when you do the research you start getting a little more curious about them (your great, maybe great-great-great, grandparents), what it was like in their time? What they did? Have any genes passed on?!

I was lucky enough to have at least one person from either side of my family who has been collecting information. When I was putting together the information I found that we have some of the names of the 6 and 7th generation! That was really exciting.

When you reach as far back as you are able to, it leaves you with a sense of wonder and thought that makes you wish you knew those people.

Maya

This term's IBL project for the Buddhi Middle School group was to make a family album about each one of us students and our parents and their parents and theirs and so long as recorded by each of our families. The album is about each of the couples in their respective generation, information from their date of birth to passions to migrations and many interesting facts about our families. Students would try to go as far back as they could, trying to find any information about their lives, most went back three generations, to their great grandparents, and some could go all the way back 6 or 7 generations!! We students in middle school have briefly taken all that information and formatted it into albums for you to see, and maybe for our future to continue and learn about their ancestors. We had a lot of fun and we learnt a lot about our families and many things that we were never exposed to, such as accomplishments and their troubles. Hope for others to see how we have done!

Manav

INQUIRY BASED LEARNING – SCIENCE

The middle school children have learnt about "inside living things" this term. They learnt about cells as the basic unit of life and how together they perform several important functions inside organisms. The children have read five different nonfiction booklets related to this theme. They read and discussed news articles, fun facts, snippets, career files. Quiz was also conducted on the topics covered. Several videos were shown related to what they had learnt. As a part of hands on activity, the children prepared three dimensional models of plant cells and animal cells. This made them understand the parts of cell much better. As a part of their inquiry, the children have come up with one interesting question related to what they have learnt. They have researched about it and presented it in the form of digital posters. They have also been given one investigation question each, where the children have to experiment, observe, record, take survey, take interviews and then have to present it.

ICT

The middle school children were introduced to the concept of graphic design through MS Word and open source software GIMP.

To test their design skills, the children were first asked to make physical posters on "Gratitude", where they were given newspapers randomly and were asked to pick 2 pictures from it and write why they are thankful to it. Through this exercise they were made aware of elements of advertising like conceptual understanding of the topic and converting it into interesting Headline, explanation through body copy, and adding catchy graphics.

The next project was done on Word, where students were given a write up on "Teachers" and were asked to graphically design the same using techniques of wrap text, downloading png images from the net and inserting them and applying borders to the pages.

Having understood the concepts of designing, the children were introduced to the open source software GIMP, where they learnt to resize document size, colour the page, place images, text, work with Layers and finally save the layout in jpeg format. They then used these skills to make interesting layouts in their Science projects

This term we started with basics of MS word, MS power point and Keyboard tutor . Keyboard typing tutor has 20 lessons . They need to finish each lesson and print result in PDF format.

The middle school children were involved in various activities related to the Science unit, 'Inside living things', this term. They explored and learnt about cells as the basic unit of life, how together they perform several important functions inside organisms. As part of their learning process, they came up with interesting questions, conducted research and presented their findings, which they collated in their posters.

Since the students were learning the open software GIMP, in ICT the same time, we decided to enable the students to get a practical outlook of the software by doing the Science project digitally in place of the usual chart presentation. A google search on images related to their project, laying out the page with illustrations, writes up and editing skills were borrowed from their ICT knowledge into their Science project.

A glimpse on the projects will further reveal their workmanship or should we put it as GIMPmanship

The term ended with the children involved in master chef. The entire middle and high school students worked together to showcase their talent in the field of culinary art. We wish students and parents a wonderful summer vacation and looking forward to seeing you on 23rd May, Wednesday.