

# Inspirational journey

APRIL 29, 2013 - MAY 4, 2013



## 5 DAYS OF A MAGICAL WORKSHOP



Within a blink of an eye ended another joyous Academic Year 2013. And again, a group of Auro Mirra International School Didis journeyed to Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry to experience and rejuvenate themselves and take a step further towards the joy of learning.

The purpose was not so much to enhance the technical know-how of teaching, but to understand and experience the beauty and the simplicity of it.

Meditation sessions conducted by Harvinder didi helped us understand that meditation takes one to a different level, one step further from what you know, to explore the unexplored

within us. It opens up new dimensions within oneself and helps you to focus more. It helps you to think out of the box. In fact, it takes you to the realm beyond thinking or boxes!



Stories are often told by teachers to inculcate values in children. Shiv bhaiya gave the didis an insight into story selection, how stories form a major part in character development, connecting to the values residing deep in us.

A simple and beautiful language, Sanskrit is known by many only as a language rich in shlokas and mantras. It was an eye opener to all the diyas, to experience its power, which has stood the test of time, can do such wonders, not only in terms of

its scientific nature, but also in developing the inner faculties, like logical thinking, imagination, creativity, memory. And it has much more to offer! We have to thank Dr Sampadananda Mishra for this. Harvinder Didi helped the didis take a step further in the Integral Project Method, a more practical approach to the topic, where children decide the project, discuss, do the research on their own, and carry out the work by themselves with little or no guidance. They make a presentation, and also give their feedback and introspect. Simiben provided Diyas with the intricate details in observing a child, the interactive session encouraged didis to come up with queries or difficulties faced during teaching.



## THE POWER OF SANSKRIT



Sanskrit - a language in vogue for ages, has a tremendous impact on the body, mind and the soul of those who had tasted it.

It is the oldest and root of many languages. The articulation of words brings a vibrating effect which enhances brain activity and lends itself to the power of expression. It serves as a very powerful and beautiful tool to achieve the aim of Education.

The chanting of “Om” and shlokas and mantras all pointed to the same fact.

It’s an irony how we have overlooked this beautiful language as the saying goes “A prophet is not recognized in his home-town”.

Let’s join hands in reviving this splendid language!

Simi Ben **Senior most Teacher in Ashram who has taught generations**

Didi: How do I solve a case when children have an argument?

Simi Ben: Children are much smarter than we presume them to be, they can resolve their issues amicably without any adult intervention most of the times. However, when it comes to physical the adult should intervene.

## ART OF STORYTELLING



Shankar Bhaiya  
(Faculty at Auroville)



We as children have heard stories from our grandparents, who in turn heard it from their grandparents.

Stories are the greatest legacy that can be passed on and cherished. Careful selection of stories followed by, activities has a great impact on

the child’s personal growth.

A child’s imagination is very alive and enactive and what he or she can do in the world of imagination can influence his daily life very deeply.

Silence, before and after sessions was rejuvenating, as it helped to process, and listen to my thoughts. - Jubailene



Is Knowledge a piece of cake, which can be sliced and gobbled?



Harvinder Didi

## LET'S PLAY

### Dialogue between a baby and the mother camel.

**Baby:** Why do we have long limbs, thick eyelashes and big humps?

**Mother:** To protect ourselves in the desert.

**Baby:** Then what are we doing in the zoo???



### COUNTING THE SECONDS:

The diyas were asked to look at the clock, and count the seconds after the start signal is given and it is stopped after a few seconds. The result is not revealed since the focus of the game is to build the capacity of concentration to a single or multiple things. The game, of course has to be chosen for the appropriate age.

### THE INTEGRAL PROJECT

Harvinder Didi, took the diyas a step forward on The Integral Project, based on the three Principles of Sri Aurobindo. Didi worked on how to implement these principles in the Project Method. According to these Principles, Project is not restricted to models and age of the child, but it touches all dimensions of the Education, like Literature, Art, Linguistic, Numeric, Geographical, Socio-emotional skills.

Children have the choice of selecting a Project they want to work on. Here each child with some guidance, does her own research, compile, experiment, infer, share, present and reflect. The diyas are available for any help that the child requires.

### FOLLOW THE PASSAGE:

Read a passage from a book and ask the children to keep a count of a particular word e.g. "the". This game could be varied by using two words like "our" and "a" This helps in developing auditory skills and memory.



### STRINGING THE BEADS:

Diyas were given a box of beads and string, and were asked to make a chain with it. The idea behind was to improve the concentration, observation and pattern.

## OBSTACLE GAMES



Activities were designed as to develop all aspects of the body. Some of them were like throwing a ball through a moving ring which involves eye hand co-ordination. Multiple concentration games like bouncing the

balloon on a bat and simultaneously picking the balls randomly scattered on the floor and dropping them into the basket which helps to build our capacity to focus on single and multiple things.



"I realized that the teacher also becomes a student, because there is a possibility of learning from the student."—  
Vasundhara Didi



## AASHIRWAAD



### Experiencing Grace

In 1960 Mr. B. and his entire family were planning to attend a wedding in Hyderabad, for which they had to go by train.

They came to seek the blessings of the mother before travelling, The Mother was not very keen, but let them go. Half way through the journey, Mr. B fell from his bed with a thud. Getting up, unhurt, he realized the train had derailed and all the bogies in the front and the rear, except on the one on which his family was travelling had derailed.

Till this day, he feels that it is sheer mother's blessings that has protected him and his family and will continue to do so.

## SETTLED MIND

Shiv Bhaiya, *The Coordinator*  
*Aurobindo Society,*

Shiv Bhaiya has spent more than a decade, led us into the intricacies of character building through story telling. This should be followed by activity in a measured way.

He also led us into concentration and memory games.

Values are not developed in children because values are always taught as a set of instructions and children are expected to follow them without getting connected to the heart.



"Interaction with SimiBen and her approach to child related problems, inspired me the most. In all it was a fun-filled and a great learning experience."

— Geetha Didi

Sushanto, *The Artist,*  
*Aurobindo Society*



"What does art mean to you?" We were given a leaf each, all we had to do was to see it for a long while, and capture it on the paper. This was how we made the connection with the flower, like the mesmerizing fragrance of the flowers, touch of the wind, rustling of the leaves.

One lost count of time as everyone was engrossed in bringing out the artist in them. Art is beyond drawing, painting and imagination...