On August 25 2018, AMIS hosted its Exhibition day for students of all grades and welcomed parents to witness the academic and creative growth of their children. The school was bedecked in dazzling colours. A rangoli made with flowers that stated ‘Happy Onam’ which fell on the same day welcomed visitors to the school.

At every nook and corner of the school, students had something to offer. In the park, a street play in Kannada was performed by students which encouraged people to speak in Kannada. It also showed the benefits of learning Kannada. In the wisdom courtyard, a show on the different dance styles of India such as Bharatanatyam, Manipuri, Kathak, Mohiniattam, Odissi, Kuchipudi and Bhangra was put up. Children wore traditional costumes and staged graceful performances giving spectators a glimpse into the culture of the states the dances have originated from. The Hindi department chose to portray the nine core emotions believed to comprise all life forms on earth. ‘Navras’, as it is called in Hindi demonstrates how life and emotions are interdependent on each other. Each child was an emotion personified and expressed it by dancing, reciting and enacting.

The science display was all about water. It covered various topics from viscosity, cohesion to buoyancy. Every property of water was explained by interesting experiments demonstrated by students. They also explained the lesser known features and facts about water. The mathematics department put up a skit which contrasted the inaccurate methods of measurement used by people in the past and the confusions it led to with the current standardized methods of measuring and the evolution of the International System of Units.

A puppet show from the English department was a humorous take on an alien’s visit to a school on earth and being confounded by the noises, fights and mess made by children. The distressed alien is relieved and pleased after promises made by a little girl to never fight and keep the school clean. The art and craft department displayed art forms like nail art, Mandala designs, doodles, Warli, tattoo designs and Picasso art. Students in the computer display had designed an interesting and educational game which attracted many parents and had some of them hooked to it. There was also a Sanskrit skit about birds performed by children who enunciated their Sanskrit dialogues loud and clear.
Children in grades one and two recited poems in English, Kannada, Hindi and Sanskrit. While some were humorous others were profound. Another group of students had a number of clever riddles which put parents in a fix and made them think really hard! In all, it was a day that proved that learning happens everywhere and in every imaginable way regardless of the limitations of classrooms and the rigid textbooks. We had some amazing feedback from student volunteers about Exhibition day practice sessions and volunteering work.

Treasuring Gandhiji’s memories—Gandhi Jayanthi

A well known saying goes, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”. Keeping this principle in mind, Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm at AMIS. The programme was hosted by students of grade six. A serene ambience prevailed as the programme started with an earnest prayer “Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram” sung by students of UKG. Varidhi P Chajjed of class six presented a brief inspirational episode from Gandhiji’s childhood to highlight his courage and integrity as a child. The story inspired students to follow the path of truth despite all odds. The programme ended with a group song “Hind Desh Ke Nivasi” sung by students of Calendula group which espoused the ideal of unity in diversity and urged citizens of the country to live in harmony, solidarity and unity. The song induced a patriotic vigour in the students and gave rise to a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude for this great leader of the nation.
Independence day was celebrated in school with immense zeal and great preparations had been made to commemorate this landmark event in Indian history. Everyone eagerly waited for the celebrations to begin as the beautiful day dawned. Children assembled in the school ground for the flag hoisting ceremony. Harvinder didi hoisted the flag as everyone stood in attention, saluted and sang the national anthem. The day also marked Sri Aurobindo’s birth anniversary. Naverdo Sandeep from grade eight spoke about the life, achievements and philosophy of Sri Aurobindo. He also enlightened the gathering on this great man’s instrumental role in India’s freedom struggle.

Apart from the medley of patriotic songs and the dance performance this year, the cynosure of the programme was the debate presented by students of grades six, seven and eight. However, the students of grade six stole the show with their strong, convincing and persuasive arguments. The next attraction of the day was a drill which demonstrated the gradations of sound with the varying exercises.

The programme came to an end with a very exciting and engaging quiz that had participants and others in the audience racking their brains for the right answers. Children and teachers relished the sweets given to celebrate this momentous day and carried in their hearts lasting memories of a marvelous celebration.

A Ride in the Metro – Experiential Learning

The morning of 25th September saw a bunch of excited second graders board the bus to Byappanahalli to reach their destination, the metro station. The second graders had just completed a lesson called “The Song of the Train” and for a more practical experience they went on a ride in the metro. Seventy two students, escorted by their teachers got into the Bengaluru metro, popularly known as ‘Namma metro’ at the Byappanahalli station. Students were shown smart cards used by some passengers and told that it was one of the modes of payment of train tickets other than coins. Safety measures and precautions like standing away from doors, boarding one at a time were also explained to them. Students excitedly pointed out various places they recognized along the way like their homes, work places of their parents as well as identified various stations like Halasuru, MG Road etc. They also got the feel of the underground metro station, where they disembarked. In all, it was an informative as well as a fun field trip, which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

The Sound and the Story - Music PEP Session

In everyday life we tend to consciously or unconsciously ignore listening. Listening creates a higher sense of awareness along with the ability to identify and accept change. Music, in particular, is known for its healing and soothing benefits to relieve stress and anxiety.
The PEP session conducted on 28th July by Kevin Rodrigues focused on how music could become an important part of integral education. Besides bringing joy and excitement to children, music becomes an apt medium to teach various disciplines of education like poetry, social science, psychology and science. It also aids in building vocabulary. Parents began the session by taking a simple listening test. They were made to sit in silence and listen to the words of a song that they had never heard before. They had to grasp as many words and keep in mind as many lines as possible. Once the song was over, they were asked to recollect the words of the song. After the many different lines of the song was put together, parents were made to understand the meaning and purpose of the song. They were then guided through twenty minutes of vocal warm up and breathing exercises that pushed them to their limits. A discussion on communicating with children followed next. The session concluded with a passionate rendering of the song "Stop crying your heart out" by the music teacher. It was a musical session that imparted knowledge and infused in everyone a strong vibe of positive energy.

"To stay in your children's long-lasting memories, you have to be in their lives today." - Parent’s Day

Parent’s day was celebrated in Auro Mirra on 20th July 2018 with a desire to cherish the beautiful relationship the school shares with its parents and to acknowledge the unconditional love of parents for their children. The day was proof that parents at Auro Mirra are not only proactive but immensely creative and talented too. This special day was a perfect opportunity for enthusiastic parents to unveil the lesser known facets of their personality as gifted performers. The performances could have easily given any seasoned artist a run for his/her money. The delightful faces of children further bolstered this fact. The celebrations kicked off with an amusing puppet dance where parents donned the role of puppets. It was a powerful combination of melodious singing and interesting choreography. The peacock dance and other classical dance performances lined up for the day left the audience in rapture. The instrumental music played by parents had the children singing along.
A solo singing performance without any music was testimony to the fact that a real entertainer can have the undivided attention of the audience by mere strength of his/her performance alone. The mega event of the day was a group song sung in many languages by parents dressed in the traditional attires of the many states that make up this country. The uplifting performance was a tribute to the Indian nation which stirred deep patriotic sentiments in everyone. The untiring efforts of parents was rewarded profusely by the thunderous applause and laughter from the children.

**Nature's Gift - PEP Session**

The pre-primary PEP session was held on the 22nd of September and the subject of the session was kept a secret. After a general introduction on the objectives and the need for a PEP session, parents were asked to guess the hidden items kept covered which would lead them, on guessing correctly, to the subject of the session. After the correct guesses were acknowledged, the topic of the session was revealed as ‘Vegetables’. The aim of the session was to give parents a glimpse into how the topic of vegetables is introduced to children at the pre-primary level. Leading parents into the first level of the session, the nursery teachers asked them to imagine themselves as pre-primary kids. They were asked to pick up a vegetable, observe its colour, shape, size and compare it with the other vegetables. Emphasis was laid on names, colours, shapes and sizes in order to develop vocabulary and pre-number concepts in children.

The second level was conducted by L.K.G teachers who introduced sensory activities to explain the concept of leafy vegetables. Parents were asked to distinguish between edible and inedible leaves, after they had smelled, touched and tasted the greens. The benefits of eating leafy vegetables was discussed. This was followed by a fun game where parents were asked to form a circle and name the vegetables in a particular rhythm. The hurdle was they weren’t allowed to repeat the name of any vegetable and break the rhythm. Apart from vocabulary enhancement, the game focused on improving faculties of the mind such as memory, concentration, alertness, rhythm and music.

The third level was taken up by UKG teachers and parents were introduced to vegetables with seeds in them. They were asked to observe the colour and shape of the seeds. Later they were taught the spellings of some vegetables in an amusing way with actions. Thus, began the process of language acquisition. In the final segment of the session, parents were asked to share their thoughts on this learning experience. They explained they were surprised to know how learning about vegetables involved learning names of vegetables, their colours and shapes and thus led to the development of sensory skills, faculties of the mind, language skills etc.
Parents were then informed that gardening also formed an important part of learning where children grew and tended plants, thus connecting them with nature closely. After the interactive session, a power point presentation was shown to give parents a taste of the various activities conducted in relation to the subject of vegetables. Thus, the session proved to be an informative and beneficial one along with an element of fun for parents.

Kindling of flame – Teacher’s Day

On the beautiful sunny morning of 5th September 2018, we students had a wonderful surprise for our teachers. A delightful programme conceptualized and ready to be executed solely by children! We had all been working hard and making cards with heartfelt messages for our teachers for the big day. The waiting was indeed punishing and we had to exercise a great deal of self-control from letting out the secret. When the day finally arrived, we couldn’t control our excitement and bombarded our teachers with cards, flowers, hugs and infinite love. Soon it was time for the programme. We started the programme with silence and had Deeksha Vijay and Sahana V.R from class six recite a poem written by them as a tribute to teachers. It was followed by Jaanvi Singh’s speech on Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the great teacher, scholar and scientist whose birth anniversary is celebrated as Teacher’s day. The programme continued with an energetic dance performance by the girls of class five and six and it was followed by a melodious song sung by Mohammed Nihaal Khan and Mishant S. There was also a gymnastics display by children from different classes. Meira Anna Haridasan from class four then came up on stage and presented an emotionally loaded song called “Meri ma”. A series of musical performances followed next. The most enjoyable part of the programme was saved for the last. It was a hilarious skit on ‘The types of teachers’ presented by students of class eight, which had teachers in splits. Sachith V.P and Naverdo Sandeep from class eight followed it up with a musical fusion where Sachith beat boxed and Naverdo played the keyboard. Finally, we handed over the cards to our teachers and support staff: We ardently hope that our teachers enjoyed the day we had planned and executed for them. It’s the least we could do to show our gratitude, love and appreciation for their tireless efforts to bring out the best in us.

Gargi Rajeev & Urvi Krishna

Grade 7, Raintree group