



AURO MIRRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

#110 Gangadharchetty Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore - 560042

Website: www.auroschoolsulsoor.org Tel: 080 25580888 / 7760977548



Of uniqueness and uniformity

Why don't you have uniforms for the children in your school?

This is a question that pops up often enough before many of us, so it's worth sharing our perspective. When it comes to making choices, we have to choose between two or more goods, and not a simplistic 'good vs. evil' debate. We have to select our hue from the rainbow. Not that there is anything wrong with the other strands, it's just not the one you pulled from the colourful fabric that stretched before you. So why did we choose to not have uniforms for our little ones?

For one, we wanted to create a different learning environment. An environment where the heart could flow and flourish, where children felt comfortable and at ease, where learning didn't become synonymous with a straight jacketed approach, rigid and strict lines, dull and dreary routines, and mere mechanical memorisation. If we can help a child to grow freely, develop a capacity to flow and love, we've given her/him a great gift. Our effort is to not 'administer' learning but help to facilitate it. This is a different paradigm, it requires efforts that explore dimensions that many of us haven't had a chance to experience as children, it calls for some definitive changes and departures from traditional models of organised education. Here's the challenge - we are not talking about a utopia where angels descend and make a magic world, we are talking about the world all of us live in. We are our own angels and magicians, we have to make the change! That can be a really tall order!

What does this have to do with not having uniforms you may wonder, can't we do this while they wear the same clothes every day? How can we do away with the wisdom that suggests that all are equal, besides, you don't have to bother thinking what the child will wear the next day and children will not pester parents to buy them 'those' clothes! True, uniforms do make life easy in many ways. As children grow, especially as they reach their teens, discipline becomes an important quality which needs to be inculcated. Uniforms may be helpful at a later stage, and we will consider this for older children.

For younger children, a more colourful and friendly environment is reinforced by letting them come in colourful, every day clothes (with a suggested dress code), rather than a 'uniform'. This is in line with our other features which help to give more 'space' for expression - open classrooms with fluid spaces, a rich natural environment (yes, it is okay to climb a tree and read here!), small class numbers, easy access to teachers, headmistress, staff and any other 'authority figures'. If the child is not to become just another Xerox copy or identical 'product', is to receive individual attention, is to grow with confidence then a free flowing, natural environment certainly helps. A child is seen as an entity and a presence, with her/his own identity and journey. An environment is often subtly absorbed and growth happens wordlessly, without direct 'lessons', so we try to have colour and fragrance, light and beauty through children and flowers.

- Harvinder Kaur (Director, ICIE, Sri Aurobindo Society)

Issue 5, April 2014



ring out the old, ring in the new

Pongal, Sankranti, Lohri... let's wish happy new year in many different ways!

There are more Indias within India... so are its many new years, each celebrated in their own unique way. Understanding the ethos and traditions surrounding these new years, is something we follow at AMIS.

The many Indias came alive in our school campus when we recreated Sankranti (from Gujarat), Lohri (from Punjab), Pongal (from Tamilnadu) and our own Karnataka's Sankranti.

Pink, yellow, purple green... virtually a child's palette of colours was the beautiful rangoli decorated by the didis that brought in the festivities. A pot brimming with rice pongal placed at the centre of the rangoli, surrounded by three sugarcanes presented the festival as it is celebrated in Tamilnadu.

Children shared the minute details of Maatu Pongal celebrated for three days in Tamilnadu along with its significance. Songs and dances revolving around Pongal were soulfully sung and performed by the children.

"Oh! Paar! Kati Kati Lo Katgayi!" The one who manages to cut the maximum kites is the winner in Gujarat. No wonder they call Sankranti as Kite Festival in Gujarat. Children dressed as Gujarathis, flew colourful kites and exchanged Chikis to mark this western state's celebration of the new year.

Balle, balle! Our school's little Punjabis arranged sticks to be lit on the sandpit and danced an enthusiastic Bhangra around it, displaying the Lohri celebrations.

Karnataka's own traditions were on show with children wearing beautiful flowing silk skirts, visiting the neighbourhood and sharing the sweet treats of the festival saying each time

"ellu bella thindu olle mathadi" (Treat everyone with sweets... and speak sweetly...).

One more way of celebrating Sankranti in a diverse, multicultural India.

The program ended on this sweet note with the distribution of til and jaggery (traditional sweet) to one and all at the school.



ALL ABOUT BEAUTY

Beauty LIES in the eyes of the beholder
All one needs is the eyes for it...

A highly engaging and inspiring PEP session was conducted by Ms. Harvinder Kaur, director, ICIE for parents of the school. Exclusively meant for couples (the school aunties pitched in and took charge of the little ones), the parent-couples thoroughly enjoyed the session. A video clip was played and everyone was asked to pen down their feelings. After sharing their views one more intense clip was played.

Each had their own experience to share and the emotions experienced were manifold. The first clip created a sense of panic, disturbance, fear, smallness, humility, greatness, etc. It reflected mixed feelings, whereas the second clip for many, largely signified life, growth, childhood and vastness.

A striking factor common to both the clips, as far as the parents experienced was the existence of beauty.

After sharing their experiences, parents were given some cream to dab on their faces and get ready to be Picasso. Their partners were their canvas and they had to display their vision of beauty through the brushes and paints. What one finally saw were some genuine works of art!



HOLI & FROLIC EVERYWHERE. COLOURS & PETALS IN THE AIR



A riot of natural colours welcomes each one as they enter the AMIS campus. The campus looked even more bright and colourful on the occasion of Holi. The children not only enjoyed colouring one another, but getting coloured too.

Didis applied colours and showered petals on the children which was immediately reciprocated by the children setting the stage for fun and celebration. Children for a change sprayed colours on trees and danced to melodious music played in the background.

The tiny tots of Nursery had their share of fun and joy in the water pool, splashing, floating, swimming and gurgling with happiness.



BUNDLES OF TALENTS

“When I said that we were going to perform a fusion dance, the boys weren’t enthusiastic. A few days of practice and their interest grew, as did their excitement. Soon they were the first ones to come forward and start the practice. I am happy and excited that the children performed well”.

- Kavitha didi

“One of the parents was dead sure that his son has developed cold feet and wasn’t willing to dance at all! But the parent was totally zapped and amazed at the way his son danced on the Celebration Day. It was a fulfilling moment as a didi to see the parents happy and appreciative of the hard work put in by all of us”.

- Shwetal didi

“Since Sanskrit is not our mother tongue or our medium of instruction, it was a challenge for us and the children to make Ekalavya, the Sanskrit skit, a successful venture. But, the children’s efforts and dedication helped us overcome the language barrier and finally, the result was evident for proud parents to see!”

- Vasundhara didi

“The song was selected, the steps were ready, the costumes were planned. I was all set to say “Action, Take One!” and reality hit me, as I realised I am not the protagonist! I could hear the unspoken words from the little performers... We are the hero and we want to be treated like one! Once past the negotiations and words of encouragement, the kids did what true heroes would do. Saturday evening release was a box office success. I am grateful for the experience, since it brought out my hidden talents. Who says only children come to school to learn? I feel I am a student once again!”

- Jubailene didi

“I wanted something different for my children and so zeroed in, on the Chinese Dance. Making the children dance to the tune of music, along with the props was not an easy task. But, in the end lot of footwork, intricate movements and hard work by the little ones made it a visual treat”.

- Priya didi



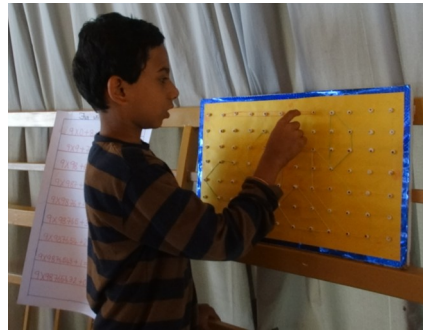
Creativity at its Best

Languages

Tools to make learning of languages like Hindi and Kannada easy was demonstrated as the importance of



language learning was emphasised on. Children presented poems and number rhymes in all the languages.



Mathematics

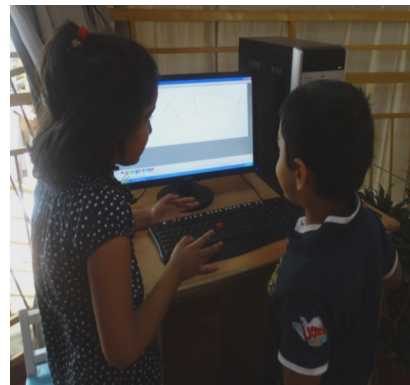
Maths is one subject that many have difficulties with. Mainly because of the lack of the right technique and approach to un-

derstanding the subject. So, lots of dot activities, square grid nail board and simple games were on display to amply prove that learning maths can be fun and joyful.



Art and Craft

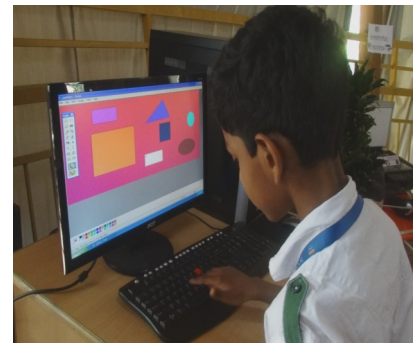
The campus came alive with the children's creation that was showcased in different hues and colours by each class didi in their own unique way. On display were the children's handmade art and craft works like a bride's flowing gown, Zebras peeping from behind the leaves, photographs in beautiful frames made from ice-cream sticks. The list was



Computers

The different components of the Computer was on display. Children explained the

functions of various parts of the computer and its applications. They also proudly displayed their mastery in MS Paint brush.



endless as was the satisfied smile on the proud parents as they went around partaking in the visual delights. Each class was a spectacular treat.

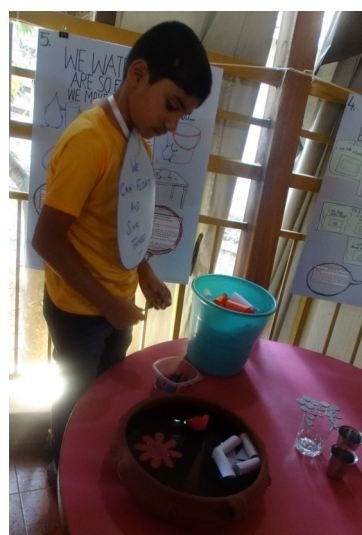


Fun with Science

Exciting experiments, using daily concepts in life, to which we don't attach any significance. We do not question Why, What, How aspects of any matter. So, the idea behind these experiments was to arouse the curiosity and the enquiry based approach

Water Experiment

Students from the Catharanthus group presented their project on water. Guiding interested parents through the charts, they demonstrated some of the interesting



properties of water using very simple materials, objects and water, of course! The charts also displayed how these different properties were explored by the students in their class through various experiments.



in children, instead of just accepting what is served on a platter. Few of the experiments were Newton's Disc, Law of motion, Density of Saline and fresh water, experiments related to Olfactory and Taste receptors and Diffusion.

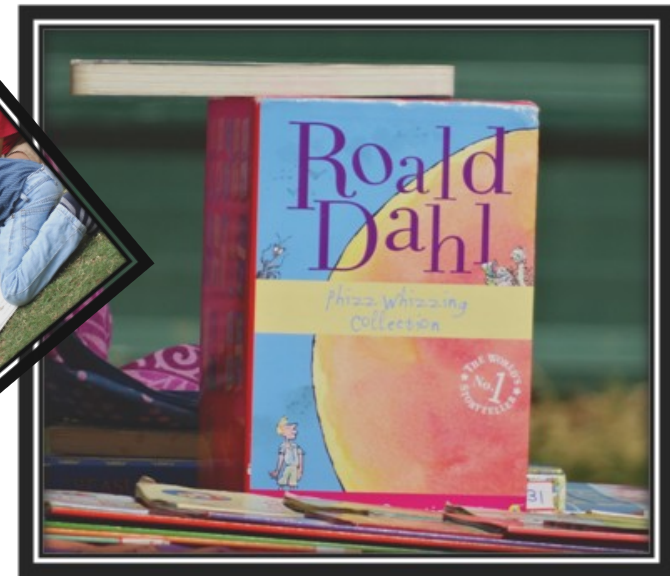


We had a special DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) programme on 12th March 2014. It was the last DEAR programme of the year and DEAR volunteers planned to make it a memorable session. The volunteer-parents together with the library project team from Calendula group, Class IV, decorated two wheel barrows with colourful charts and streamers and filled them with books. One wheel barrow was filled with books for pre-primary children and another one had books for primary children. This wonderful idea came from 'Biblioburro' which is a travelling library that distributes books to children loaded on the donkeys. The programme was created in Colombia, by Luis Soriano.



After assembly, the library project team pushed two wheel barrows slowly on the pathway along the sand pit and lawn, calling out "Come, pick books and read" as they moved and stopped at each kutir. Children came out of their classrooms and picked up books and sat all around the kutirs to read - on the lawn, in the sand pit and even on trees! Children had lots of fun reading books and the programme ended with each child being given a card to write their feedback.

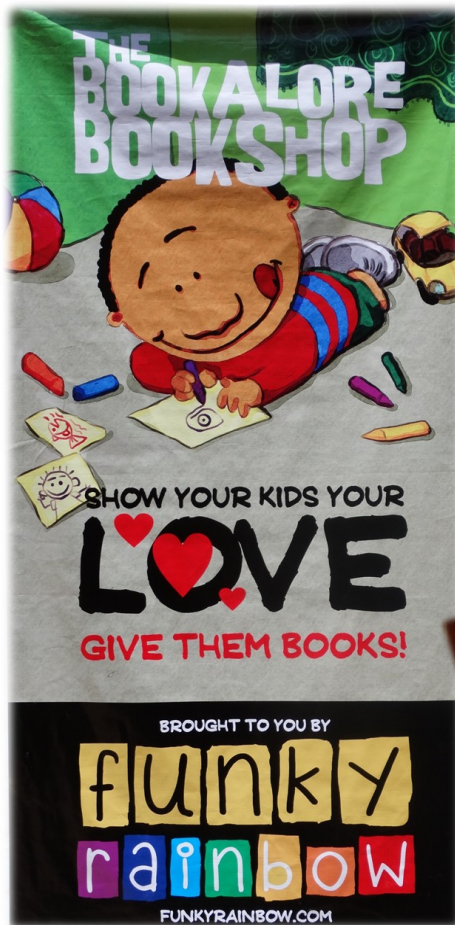
- Aman (Calendula, Grade IV)
Library Project Team on behalf of the rest of the team including Sanjana, Bhavana, Varun, Srilakshmi and Aryan.



Good news for booklovers! The library will be open from the 15th of April 2014 between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm to issue books. Make your holidays wonderful, with books every day!

BOOKALORE @ AMIS

The much awaited event went live with power-point presentation by Asha followed by an activity on kindness. The children were eager to listen to stories and grabbed the books from the display counters as if they were chocolates. The parents mind boggling, earth shattering dilemma, while choosing the books was amusing and entertaining. For us, didis, it was an enriching experience to further enhance our skills as story tellers, as we watched Nandini Nayar and Poile Sengupta weaving beautiful stories and enchanting the kids into a make believe world of making dough. Radhika Chadha captured the attention of kids despite the distractions around and further made it memorable for children by asking them to make a collage of "Snoring Shanmugam".





MA°+S→TI+ MA°→TH

In service training sessions form an integral and important aspect of the teacher's growth. AMIS conducts regular workshops for its staff both in Pondicherry and the school campus for the benefit of both teachers and children.

Monica Kochar, a resource person associated with Aurobindo society conducted a math workshop for the teachers of AMIS which extended over a span of fifteen days. It was an effort to dispel the myth that Maths is a difficult subject both for the teachers as well as the students.



MATH TEST!

$3 + 3 \times 3 - 3 + 3 = ?$

- a) 18
- b) 12
- c) 03
- d) 06

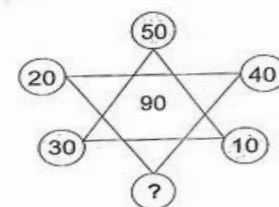
Extensive planning, demonstration, implementation of the strategies by the teachers were a part of the curriculum. Minor but important aspects like classroom setting arrangements, ways to make children feel important and responsible including different approaches based on activities and evaluation techniques are some of the highlights of the workshop.

Techniques to improve concentration was also shared.

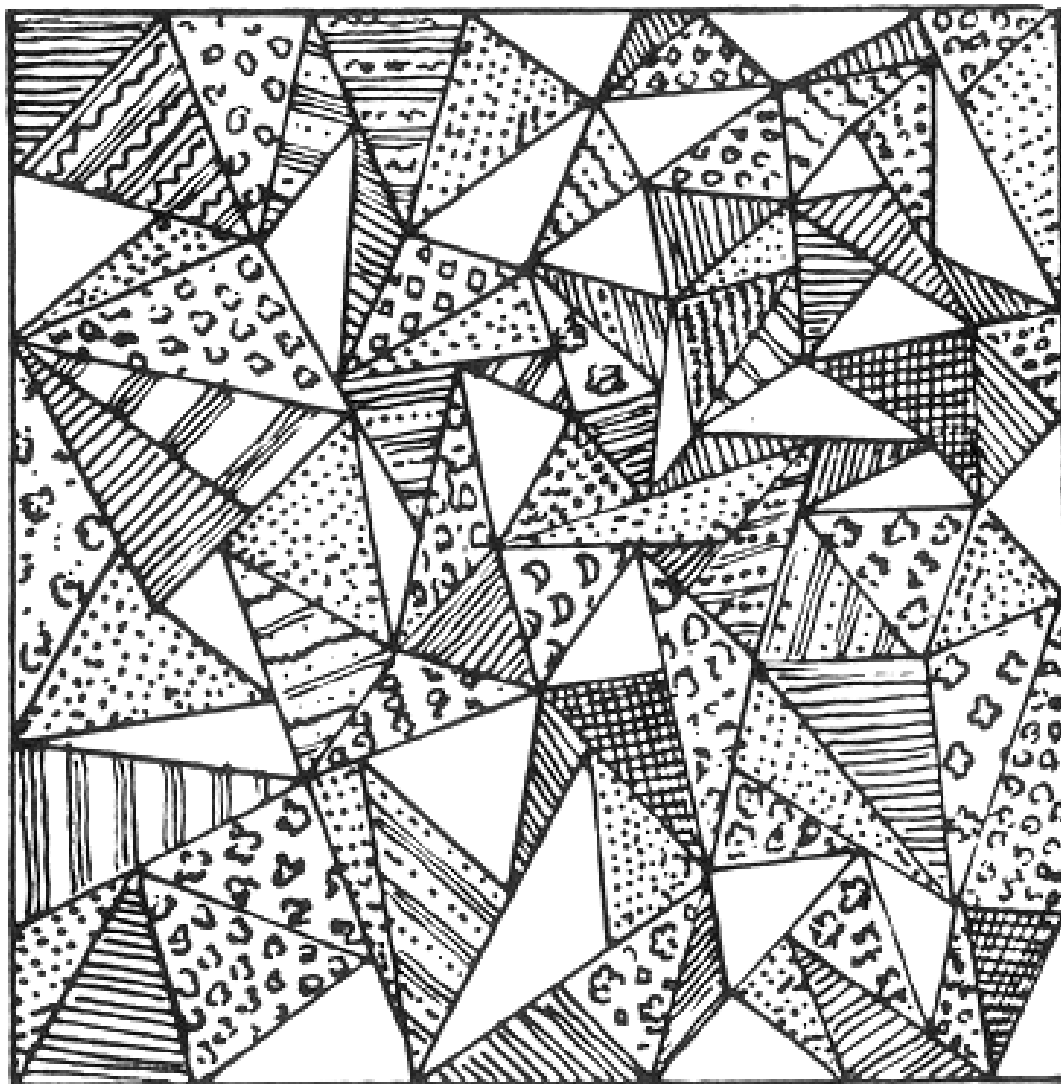
What evolved at the end of the session was a group of more confident, enthusiastic and motivated teachers eager to experiment and implement the ideas in classroom situations. Well! our teachers are waiting for more such workshops in different fields.



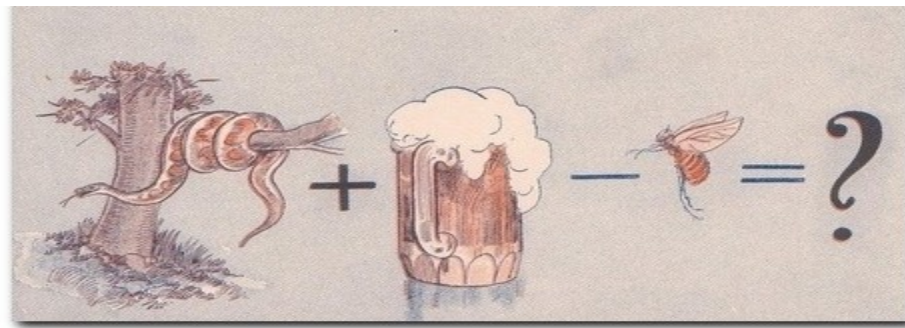
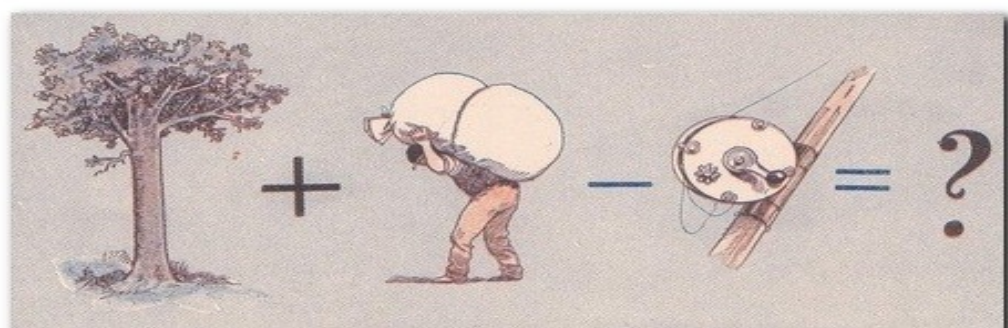
Study the figure below. What is the missing number?



A perfectly symmetrical star is hidden in the design below. Can you find it?



Two animals are spelled out in the rebus puzzle below. Can you figure each of them out?



Auro Centre for Excellence

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your enthusiastic response regarding Auro Centre for Excellence (ACE). We will be commencing Carnatic Vocal, Bharathnatyam and General Fitness classes from 2nd May 2014.

*Venu: Auro Mirra International School
Time: 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm
(Classes will be conducted twice a week)*

For more details contact:
Mrs. Jyothika
ace@auroschooolsulsoor.org



Dear parents,

The train has arrived at the station. It's time to take a break before the journey resumes again. Your patience has helped the train reach this far without any major hitches and with your continued support it will definitely reach its abode. The synergy of all the well wishers has seen us through testing times and lighter moments.

I take this opportunity to thank every one of you in this endeavour. We wish you a happy vacation with your family before it's time again to board the train. Vacations are also fun ways of learning. We therefore have shortlisted a few activities for your child to take up during the holidays.

The School will re-open on the 2nd June 2014. Information regarding books and stationery will be intimated later through sms or mail.

While you enjoy your holidays we will strive to make your return a more exciting one.

*Yamini
Headmistress.*



Happy Holidays

