



AURO MIRRA **BUBBLES** AUGUST 2013

Dear friend,

What's the theme song of your life? What is the value that stands out the most in you and the life you live? What is the center point of the wheel that makes your world turn? Before you read further, pause, close your eyes and think of the word that stands out in the basket of values, the flower that spreads fragrance in your life...

Is it compassion, courage, diligence, generosity, calmness...? Was it easy for you to come up with this - too easy perhaps or really tough? Where did your values come from and how? What values are we passing on to the children in our lives and how? Have we given this conscious and serious consideration? How high is this in our list of priorities?

These questions are not to be left for leisurely mental strolls when we have time, they define and shape our lives as much as those of our children. They are as important as the food our children eat - more so, in fact. Yet, the issue of values has always been tricky, and it is a question of how deep do you want to dive. Most of us don't want to plunge deep enough because we don't know where it will lead to. We may end up in a totally different world, like a child following the flight of a butterfly.

Yet, it cannot be escaped that as we grow we imbibe values around us either consciously or subliminally. A child will end up with some kind of a value system, whether it is deliberately inculcated or picked up subconsciously. How does one deal with this? After all, it is not like teaching alphabet or mathematics. It is all very well to say that the teacher and parents have to be living examples (of course!), but there are so many other influences in a child's life, so where will the values come from?

As a conscious step towards this, the school has introduced a value based theme per month. This theme-value has also been mentioned in the school diary given to children. The purpose of this is to focus on this theme/value collectively. In school, through poems, stories, interactions, presentations in assemblies and every other way possible a value is highlighted. This serves to become a catalyst and somewhere a seed is sown. Transformation is a long journey, so it is not that we expect sudden and immediate results, when it comes to the growth of children. It is however a sincere and serious attempt to take a step forward towards conscious awareness of basic human values.

Parents too can contribute and strengthen this effort at home, by sharing stories, experiences, and activities around the same theme. If parents have something special to share they can come and speak to the class didi and offer to share their experience/talk/game with the other children too. The objective is to create a concentrated awareness on the value taken up so that the children can be led into a journey where they can explore themselves and world around them in the light of this value.

We hope you will join hands in this and help to create a beautiful environment for the children and everyone around.

Warm regards,

Harvinder

(Director, India Council for Integral Education,

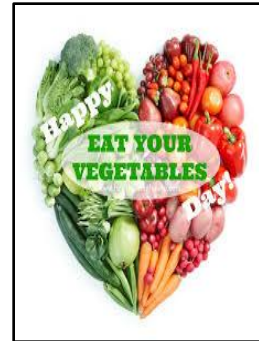
Sri Aurobindo Society , Pondicherry

EAT YOUR VEGETABLES



Vegetable salad day

Auro Mirra observed vegetable week from 17th of June to 21st of June. End of the week, we celebrated vegetable salad making day. Children were provided with different vegetables like cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes, broccolis on this day. Didis helped the children in scraping the vegetables and dicing them for preparing the vegetable salad. Spices were added to the colourful vegetables..children were proud to distribute the salad to the didis of all classes. They also enjoyed eating it. Their excitement was so high, that they wanted to prepare the vegetable salad again and again.



Vegetable fancy dress

It was an extension of vegetable salad week. Children were looking very beautiful in their colourful costumes. Some of them were dressed as carrots, cauliflowers, brinjals, tomatoes, cucumbers and many more. Children went on the stage, spoke about the vegetables and sang rhymes. The children were intrigued by their peer's colourful outfit.





MUSIC DAY



On 7th June 2013, in Auro Mirra we celebrated music day. Let us first understand the importance of music in our lives. We listen to all sorts of music. In fact it would be more logical to say that man thrives on music at every stage of his life. There is music when he is happy, sad, heartbroken, afraid, melancholy and of course in ecstasy. Hence there is music from his birth to death. Above all there is a refined music that is the food for the soul.



“The role of music lies in helping the consciousness uplifts itself towards the spiritual heights. Music too is an essentially spiritual art and has always been associated with religious feeling and an inner life. But, here too, we have turned it into something independent and self-sufficient, a mushroom art, such as is operatic music. Most of the artistic productions we come across are of this kind and at best interesting from the point of view of technique. I do not say that even operatic music cannot be used as a medium of a higher art expression; for whatever the form, it can be made to serve a deeper purpose. All depends on the thing itself, on how it is used, on what is behind it. There is nothing that cannot be used for the Divine purpose - just as anything can pretend to be the Divine and yet be of the mushroom species.” (- The Mother)

We- the Didis at Auro Mirra took this opportunity to explain to the children about the importance of music. One of the parents set up a band in the court yard and played some interesting tracks, followed by Vasundhara Didi’s performance with the veena, Priya Didi strummed the guitar and there was a huge display of musical instruments in the library and the children were brought to the library so that they could have a visual treat of the numerous musical instruments. Their happiness of this new experience gleamed in their eyes and their laughter was purely sound of music.

IMPROMPTU SPEECH



Each class didi was supposed to explain to the students what impromptu speech was.

When I explained to the children what an impromptu speech was, their eyes were filled with awe but it had a strangeness about it. It was as if they were silently asking me "Seriously, I need to talk for one full minute on a topic that I picked on spot?"

Some of the children started whispering to each other, exchanging their nervous feel.

The others were totally shocked, so it seemed or where they praying, I was not too sure.

Before the fever of nervousness could get the better of everyone I quickly explained to them the reason for conducting such a session- it improves their thinking process, enhances their speaking skills and gets rid of their stage fear.

In the courtyard the mats were put and the children sat their silently waiting for the brave ones to step forward to start the session.

Jothi-di who was conducting the show finalized that the students of fourth and fifth will speak first and the rest would follow.

Initially it was tough as the children wanted other topics than those that they had picked from the lucky draw!

Gradually as students started speaking, there was no sign of nervousness at all and to my surprise I noticed that they were enjoying it thoroughly with many wanting a second chance to go up on the stage. Later there was a long queue of students cheering their friends who were giving the speech and eagerly awaiting their turn.

This session lasted for about two hours and finally we had some disappointed students who did not get a second chance as we were running out of time.

When it was time to go home a lot of students told me that they thought it was going to be tough but instead they enjoyed it. Some also specified that a few topics were tough but challenging. Above all most students were curious and eager to know when another such session would be conducted.

I smiled to them and said, soon....very soon

NATIONAL PARENT'S DAY

On National Parent's day, the parents of the students studying in Auro Mirra put up two fabulous skits and Purnata – di sang a beautiful song.

The first skit was based on the famous story –The Three Little Pigs. The children watched with utter silence and enjoyed the program thoroughly.

The second skit was –Making a scene. This was a comedy skit and the children were laughing their hearts out.



PEP SESSION

PEP Session is a Parent Enrichment Program, where the parents learn new techniques and help, enrich the child's sensorial learning abilities. The entire group of parents were divided in six groups and each group were instructed to enter all the 6 kuteers, one by one after they finished their activity in every kuteer.

Didis had chosen every activity very carefully, which focused on different aspects of concentration. Eg. body balance, auditory skills, creativity, hand eye coordination, fine motor skills, visual Concentration, etc.



INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

FIRST DAY EXPERIENCE OF ALL TEACHERS

Little flowers entering the garden coming for the first time with their parents. First day of school was a rediscovery of ourself. We didis were also scared like a child who were going to face a new bunch of children. Children were exploring the environment with wide open eyes, trying to absorb everything around them. Didis welcomed the curious onlookers with a smile, hoping that the smiling faces will come smiling again tomorrow. Children looked very happy in their colourful dress and enjoyed sitting in open class rooms as it was their first experience of this kind.

EXPLAIN IT TO MY WATER BOTTLE

A small girl from UKG was crying as it was time to go home but her mother had not come to pick her up.

The frightened little girl's class teacher who was waiting with all the other UKG children noticed the little girl crying and approached her to find out what the problem was.

The little girl with tears in her eyes told her teacher that she was unhappy that her mother had not come to pick her up.

The teacher consoled the girl and told her to wait as her mother might have been caught up with some work.

The girl assured her teacher that she is strong and will not cry.

The girl had kept her water bottle next to her which was leaking and suddenly the girl called her teacher and said, "I am a strong girl and I will not cry but who will explain this to my water bottle, see, it is still weeping for my mommy!"

Sri Aurobindo Society regularly organizes various programmes and workshops which help towards self growth and awareness. If you are interested you can get more information from:

www.aurosociety.org