



AURO MIRRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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BUBBLES

LESSON FROM THE SKY!

That day, a lesson fell from the sky - quite literally! The morning assembly was going on, and all the children were singing gloriously. Varun was standing near the tree in the front row so he had a clear view. I was standing a little far off, when I saw Varun pointing out that something had fallen from a tree on to the mud. It was a baby bird that had fallen from its nest on top of the tree.

Someone came out of the line to rescue the little mite, picked it up and put it on a leaf in the grass, happily noticing that it was still alive. Then he went back to the line. After the assembly, some teachers and children gathered around it. I too became curious to see what was happening. The tiny bird was still alive.

"You shouldn't have touched it, now the mother bird won't take it back!"

Ouch! The hard fact came from an adult!

"Why?"

"We don't know exactly why but birds often don't accept eggs that have gone into the hands of humans."

"You have to take care of it now!"

In no time from who knows where, fine twigs were gathered, a nest was made, after some consideration, the improvised nest was set in a card-board box and hunt started for the right spot to house the new school entrant!

"Which bird is it *didi*?"

"I don't know, but it's beak looks like a babbler's beak. Why don't you google some pics and find out?"

In five minutes they were back!

"It's either a kiwi or a babbler!"

"I haven't seen any kiwis around here! Must be a babbler but we won't know for sure till it grows up. And considering it's hurt and alone, you'll have to take good care to make sure it lives."

"It must be hungry, what shall we feed it? Will it have chocolate - or my lunch?"

"Do you really think the mother bird feeds its babies chocolate or bread?"

"No. They catch worms! Oye! Let's catch a worm or insect and feed it!"

The air had started to buzz – and not with insects! Questions and intrigue floated all around us.

"But usually the mother birds crushes and softens the worm before feeding it to the babies, doesn't it?"

"Umm, okay we'll crush the insects but we can't eat it and then put it in the baby's mouth!"

Meanwhile the little baby bird shrieked, after all it was its life and mouth they were talking about!

"We will do some research and find out about what they want to eat and other things."

The bird fell from the sky, it lived and it was a real life lesson. The beauty was the in the sensitivity and the curiosity of the children. All the teachers and children had a living lesson built around this episode. One of them thought of taking this up as a project topic for their class. Children have the freedom of selecting and suggesting a project they'd like to work on, and this provided a golden opportunity.

I left for Pondy shortly after this and checked to see what happened to the bird a few days later. The bird was no more in the nest – it had grown and flown, we hope!



- Harvinder Kaur, Director, ICIE.

WITH A PINCH OF SALT!

“We never know the worth of water until the well is dry” — Thomas Fuller

World Oceans Day provides a unique opportunity once a year to honour our world's oceans that make up about 70 percent of the earth and also connect us all. The concept for a “World Ocean Day” was first proposed in 1992 by the government of Canada at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Every year, a distinct theme is proposed for this day. This year the theme

was “Together we have the power to protect the ocean”.

Commemorating World Oceans Day on June 8th in AMIS, was a small contribution on our part towards the bigger cause and concern and an endeavour to awaken the conscience of our children about the importance of the oceans of the world, before our “well is dry”! The chil-

dren of the primary classes were briefed about the importance of the day and why the need to dedicate a day for this cause had arisen.

“Cooperation” being the theme of the month in AMIS, the children were made to realise that just like the innumerable small droplets of water which together make up the oceans of the world, the innumerable people

of the world working together have the power to protect the oceans. They were shown a few short videos on the hazards that have encompassed the oceans of the world. The videos also educated them about steps that can be taken by us to conserve the oceans for the future.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT MONTH

This year it was decided that the World Environment Week will be extended to a month filled with activities directed towards the improvement of the environment.

Throughout the month, didis shared stories, songs and facts about the threats to the environment and about the measures that are being taken in an attempt to heal the world around us.

Each class came up with the idea of an activity that they would pursue throughout the month, in order to keep their immediate environment, the school campus, clean and green. While most of the classes planted new seeds in the campus, some tried to implement the idea of recycling or the reuse of paper and engaged them-

selves in paper mache craftwork and also make chalk boxes out of newspapers. A few classes also decided to identify areas in the campus that needed cleaning and with the help of diya and aunties, they were successful in improving the look and beauty of the AMIS campus. During the week, Mr. Francis, an agricultur-

al ecologist, inspection and certification specialist, very kindly volunteered to talk to the children about ways of saving our environment and left us with messages like, “Use environment for need not for greed”, which still reverberate in our hearts.

WHY GROW UP ?

“One of the greatest satisfactions in our work here at the studio is the warm relationship that exists within our cartoon family. Mickey, Pluto, Goofy, and the whole gang have always been a lot of fun to work with. But like many

large families, we have a problem child. You're right, it's Donald Duck.” —Walt Disney

Donald Duck Day commemorates the debut appearance of Donald Duck on June 9th 1934, when

he featured in the Silly Symphony cartoon The Wise Little Hen. The toddlers of Pre-Primary gleefully watched some Donald Duck cartoons and celebrated the birthday of the naughtiest cartoon

characters on the 9th of June. The class didis too were more than happy to steal a moment to reminisce about their own childhood!



OFFERING A PIECE OF MYSELF

"I can feel the twinkle of his eye in his handshake". —Helen Keller

....Such is the impact of a genuine heartfelt handshake! We at AMIS wanted to convey to the children the beauty of the simple gesture of a handshake. Day in and day out, we shake hands with numerous people but how many times do we do it not just for the sake of performing a ritual but to show to the person our love, goodness, warmth or care; is a question we posed to the children. While we spoke, it was a joy to observe the change

in expression of the children. We didis could literally see the twinkle of realisation in the eyes of most of the children. On June 21st, the children were asked to shake hands with anyone they wanted to express their love, gratitude and acceptance to. Ivan Zupa introduced the concept of World Handshake Day, in an attempt to unite the citizens of the world. As a symbolic gesture of world handshake, a letter was prepared wherein

children filled in their wishes and ideas of their personal interpretations of "World-Handshake" and shared with other children. By this simple gesture of exchanging letters, children can reach out and symbolically shake hands with other children, learn more about each other and get a better understanding of the differences in this world. We too distributed these letters to the children of classes III, IV and V and asked them to pen

down their personal details and thoughts on what world handshake meant to them, and share it with one person, towards whom they wanted to extend their hands of companionship. Some of the children came up with some lovely interpretations of world handshake and happily shared those with a new friend.

SERVICE IS WORSHIP

The United Nations General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day. The UN Public Service Day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of

public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. A few children of the primary section did the role play of a doctor, a teacher, a lawyer, a station master, a soldier and a farmer, during the assembly and enlightened the

others about the importance of their services to us. At the end of the presentation, the children were asked to find out why a farmer was actually not considered to be a public servant. Some of the children did make an



effort to find out and the next day, they shared their views on the same.

YES, WE CAN !

"The best and the most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."
—Helen Keller

The children of Alaman-da group (class V) beautifully presented to the

school, the life story of the prolific American author, political activist and lecturer, on June 25th. They recreated the important phases of Helen Keller's life and beautifully portrayed the rela-

tionship between Helen Keller and her teacher cum companion, Anne Sullivan who had held Helen Keller's hand and guided her from darkness to the light of the world of knowledge. Through

the life story of Helen Keller the children imbibed the virtues of perseverance and determination.

THANK YOU!



In our busy world, how often do we really pause for a while to appreciate the new day, the sun, the air we breathe, the life that we are so busy living, the colours around us, the fact that we are gifted enough to touch, feel, see and hear the gifts of nature? The answer is, almost never! Thus we at AMIS decided to have an “Appreciation Month” wherein not only the children but

also all Didis and Bhaiyas (Diyas) made it a point to appreciate each little gift that we are fortunate to receive. Through various stories and sharing of personal experiences, children were made to realise the beauty of appreciation. They over time, realised that heartfelt and genuine appreciation for people in our lives is magical and essential to our ability to create happiness,

and loving relationships with people around. Our happiness knew no bounds when we saw children, including toddlers, appreciating aunties, diyas and friends in school. Some of them shared in the Assembly how they had gone back home and appreciated their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters for their love, care and support.

EAT RIGHT, BE BRIGHT!



Vegetables, nature’s gift to man, rich in nutrients always gets a step motherly treatment, for the kids favour junk food.

Second week of July was observed as “Eat your vegetables” week. Throughout the week, children were encouraged to eat lots of vegetables

as part of their snacks and lunch. The same was practised by diyas as well. Children were told about the importance of vegetables. A song on vegetables became the favourite among all children. At the end of the week, children brought in raw vegetables and gave various shapes to their imagination in the form of vegetable

carvings. While some made birds, others made rabbits, man with a hat, a boat, while some went with the flow and the final products were left to our imagination and interpretation!



HAND SHAKE FROM THE HEART

Hugs have a way of making us feel warm and fuzzy inside. Apart from making us feel protected and loved, this touching gesture can also do wonders for our well-being, such have been proved by psychiatrists and psychologists. So whether it's a simple squeeze, a big

bear hug or some cute cuddling -- there are plenty of reasons why we should embrace the act of, well, embracing someone. While we passed on this message to our children on July 17th, we also warned them against hugging strangers. Throughout the day the children

were seen hugging their friends, aunties and as soon as any didi or bhaiya entered the class, the children would swarm around them, to hug them. It turned out to be a delightfully joyous day for both the children and the Diyas at AMIS.



FAST, FEAST AND FUN



Cultural celebrations and festivals are common to people all over the world. Festivals are celebrated at AMIS in order to introduce students to

diverse people and culture and to experience the beauty and humanity in other cultures. It is in this spirit that Ramzaan was celebrated on July 28th. Some children dressed in their traditional festive attires and Parveen didi narrated the story

behind the celebration of Ramzaan. The children were enlightened with the facts that Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, improvement and increased devotion and worship, while the followers of Islam fast for 29/30 long days. Parveen didi, along with some children showed us, how prayers are offered to God,

during this time. Post this, the children and Diyas embraced each other while greeting Id Mubarak and traditionally the celebrations were rounded up with the distribution of dates to one and all.



THE PROMISE OF LOVE

Raksha Bandhan has come to be known and celebrated as the festival of the brother and sister bond. It is believed that brothers give their all, to protect their sisters

who selflessly protect us from all evils and odds. So on August 11th, the children at AMIS, tied colourful hand-made "rakhis" on the wrists of all those who through

different ways and gestures have made them feel safe and protected. Diyas were overwhelmed with happiness when the children tied rakhis on their wrists.



ENHANCING OBSERVATION

Parent Enrichment Programme or PEP sessions are held each month at AMIS, which give the parents an insight into the various games and activities that are played with the children each day, first thing in the mornings and also once a week, as part of their weekly time table. The first session for the academic year 2014-15, was held on July 25th. The session was thrown open to parents of children belonging to Lower Kindergarten (LKG). The theme for the session was "Observation". We had around twenty parents attending the session and it turned out to be a fruitful and interactive one, for both the parents and the Diyas.

Here are the excerpts from some of the parents

"The theme for the PEP session was "Observation". Through the session we parents could get an insight into how the observation skills of the children, between the age of three and five years, could be increased. The session had activities which will help the children to stay focused, improve concentration and sharpen their memory.

"As a parent of Inaya, studying in LKG, I found it extremely helpful, since kids of this age are generally quite observant. So these activities can be channelized in engaging them. We were also shown the different ways in which these activities can be simplified or made more challenging for the children, based on their capabilities and interests. I found this session extremely helpful and enriching and I am looking forward to attending many more such sessions."

Regards,

Khairunissa Hirani (Mother of Shayan – 5th standard and Inaya – LKG)"



SEALING FRIENDSHIP!



The bond that we love and choose to bind ourselves in was celebrated on August 4th. Though appreciating and showing our love and gratitude towards our friends needs no specific date or time, we at AMIS did not want to miss out on the day, set out for those special people who bring so much joy and happiness into our lives. The children were reminded

about the importance of friends in our lives and also about the fact that we need to express our appreciation and love towards them. With the help of the didis the children had made friendship bands which they tied on each other's hands as a symbol of an everlasting promise to stand by each other through thick and thin. Throughout the day, the children proudly

showed off their friendship bands to all the didis and bhaiyas (didas).



WHEN BEST WORDS WERE PUT IN THE BEST ORDER

When flowers wake each morning
By Kenn Nesbitt

When flowers wake each morning
they don't have to make their beds.
And lettuce leaves aren't told to comb
the hair upon their heads.

You'd never tell asparagus
it shouldn't play with spears.
You'd never ask a stalk of corn
to wash behind its ears.

A mushroom doesn't have to
clean its room, and you'll agree
a tree won't have to study hard
to learn geometry.

I guess it should be obvious
from listening to my rant.
I'm tired of being a person;
I would rather be a plant.



Music is a part of everyone's life. Children love to recite rhymes and poems and learn a lot from them. In Auro Mirra, "Poetry Week" is conducted every year, where every child is encouraged and given an opportunity to perform on stage and exhibit their potential. Over the years, the didis and bhaiyas (diyas) have witnessed a gradual improvement in the children who used to shy away from their performances. Since the first year, the children have gained confidence and they recite the poems beautifully with appropriate expressions and voice

modulations.

This year, August 11th to 16th was the poetry week. It was filled with fun and enjoyment for both the children and the diyas. Children came dressed in different costumes and came with props that were appropriate to their poems. Since morning the children were excited and waiting eagerly for the poetry sessions to begin. It had the same effect on the diyas as well. It was wonderful to listen to a variety of poems recited by them. As a self motivated farmer who sings to

make his labour easy, the aim of the poetry week was achieved as children learn a lot of things through poetry.



NEW ARRIVAL

On August 13th the toddlers dressed up as young Krishnas and Radhas, on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami celebrations in AMIS. The celebrations started with the senior children telling us all the significance of the day

and the traditional way in which it is celebrated. This was followed by a song on lord Krishna sung beautifully by the children of Spathiphyllum and Catharanthus groups. The children of Calendula group did a spectacular dance perfor-

mance. The celebrations were rounded up by eating "makhan" or white butter by the tiny Radhas and Krishnas of Nursery. As a tradition, chikkis were distributed to all diyas and children, on this auspicious occasion.



FREEDOM RINGS IN OUR HEARTS



On August 14th the children gathered together to celebrate the 67th year of independence of our motherland from the shackles of the British rule. The celebrations commenced with the

children of the Catharanthus and Calendula group reading out Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's speech on the eve of Independence, in 1947. This was followed by a patriotic song sung melodious-

ly by the children of Upper Kindergarten (UKG). The comperers for this programme, the children of Class I and III did a splendid job of being informative as well as entertaining with their

speech on Independence day in English and Hindi. The children of Calendula and Alamanda groups mesmerised us with their action songs. They also put up a very short skit in Sanskrit, telling all, the importance of our motherland. At the end, the children of Daisy and Spathiphyllum groups left us enthralled and spellbound with a spectacular drill performance, followed by a pyramid formation. By tradition the celebrations were concluded with the singing of the National Anthem and the distribution of rasgullas to all.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Field trips help students interact with what they are learning. The experience goes beyond reading about a concept. They are able to see elements with their own eyes rather than reading and believing in what the textbook is telling them.

To the School Neighbourhood

On August 22nd the children of Class II, both the Spathiphyllum and the Daisy groups, were taken on a field trip to the neighbourhood of the school, to get a first hand insight into the important places that they have learnt, should be present in any neighbourhood. Their trip began with their visit to the hospital, where they

were given a tour of the various consultation rooms, the outpatient department, the scanning room, X-ray room, operation theatre, etc. The children seemed to be really intrigued to see the scanning and the X-ray machines. This was followed by a visit to the post office. They were excited to see the mail box. A

Personnel at the post office was kind enough to explain how the local letters are segregated based on the various regions and then sent out for distribution. The children's next stop was the ATM, where they were amused to see the machine. When money was withdrawn





from the ATM by a didi to show them how the machine worked, they were eager to know from where the money came. Later they visited the adjoining bank, where the manager explained in simple words what the bank does and encour-

aged them to save their money and have their own accounts. The penultimate stop was at the Ulsoor police station where the children were very excited to see the Lock-up but at the same time was disappointed that there were no “thieves” in the lock-up! The trip was rounded up by a visit to the Ulsoor Fire

Station, where the children saw the different types of fire engines, rescue vans and the uniform that the fire-fighters wear while attending to an emergency. At the end of the trip, though the children were tired, most of them were happy that they visited so many places, that too for the first time!

To the Bannerghatta Biological Park



For the children of the Champa group (senior KG), the topic chosen for their Project was, “Lion”. Thus a field trip to the Bannerghatta Biological Park was planned, so that the children could go on a safari and see lions at very close proximity. On the day of the trip, none of the children could contain their excitement. During the safari, at the park, the children saw 5 lions and 2 lionesses lazing around. There was no end to their happiness. Lions aside, they also saw white tigers as well as the Royal Bengal Tiger, during their safari. While the chil-

dren were having fun, the didis reinforced all that they had learnt about lions through pictures, videos and stories. At the end of the trip, we were very sure that the experience of this safari will be engraved in their hearts and minds for a long time.

All the children of Class I were taken on a field trip to Bannerghatta Biological Park on 27th August. The purpose of the trip was to let the children spend a day at the zoo, before they could start on a chapter with the same name, in Eng-

lish. On reaching the park, it was difficult to keep the children from the cages, as they were extremely excited to see the animals.

Throughout the day, the children saw various species of birds, wild dog, jackal, wolf, bear, hippopotamus, alligator, red ear turtle, python, etc. At the end of the day, the didis and aunties were worn out but the children’s excitement had grown manifold, having seen so many live creatures, which they generally don’t get to see easily.

CELEBRATING THE LORD OF VICTORY

Celebrations were held on August 28th in the honour of Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles and the God of all beginnings. The senior children enlightened us all about the significance of Lord Ganesha and the festival. The celebrations started with the lighting of the lamp, followed by a

beautiful bhajan sung by the children of Catharanthus (class III) and Spathiphyllum (class II) groups. The children then performed a wonderful skit in Kannada, telling us all how Lord Ganesha got his elephant head. It was a joy to hear the children with a different mother tongue, speak-

ing Kannada with such élan. The celebrations were concluded with a bhajan sung by the didis while some of them performed aarti before the idol of Lord Ganesha. As a part of tradition followed in AMIS, Modak was distributed to all children.



THE COLOURFUL WINDOW OF ILLUSION!

We all tend to take for granted most of the things as well as days in our lives. Whether we're sitting at our computers, watching television with the family, or even playing with our handheld games, we are inundated with a bright parade of colours. By commemo-

rating Colour TV Day on June 25th we wanted to remind ourselves and break to the children the fact that this hasn't always been the case. When Television was first introduced we had nothing but black and white images, really more of a myriad shade of

grey. In 1951, an event came to pass, that changed the future of broadcast entertainment forever. The primary children were shown videos on the various stages of television that existed since its discovery, way back in the 19th century. The children seemed to

be fascinated by the very idea that the television that they see today is comparatively a very recent development. They were utterly intrigued to see the pictures and videos of the earliest forms and versions of televisions.

IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH

The children of AMIS gazed eagerly at the assembly arena when the children of Class II enacted a short skit on the "Colours of Friendship". It sketched out the meaning of the theme of the month, "Cooperation". Seven children acted as the seven colours of the

rainbow, who broke out into a heated argument about who was the best of them all. Eventually Rain stepped in to make the colours realise that though each of them was different, each had some unique qualities and when they joined hands with one another, they

formed the beautiful Rainbow that stretches across the sky after the Rain washes the earth. The children not only thoroughly enjoyed the skit but through it, were made to realise that all living things should live in peace and harmony and between us there

should be no division but mutual respect and appreciation of one another's gifts as well as of our differences.