

1st October 2020



CHRONICLES OF NPSI, CHENNAI

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance – Alan Watts

Dear Parents,

Greetings!

As we near the end of Term 1 of this academic year, we look back on the past months as an immense learning journey for all of us as a community. Every industry, every country, every home and every individual has witnessed change in various measures and yet, we continue to power through. At NPSI too, our students and staff have stayed strong in spirit through these times. This month saw us make several strides on the academic and co-curricular front.

Facetime Initiatives Audio Narration with Early Learning

We continued with blending and reading support for our youngest learners during live sessions. Reading sheets and e-books have been sent to inculcate the reading habit and help them appreciate reading time better.

Children started their written tasks by practicing with tracing patterns and slowly moving onto notebook. To support their written work, teachers shared audio narrations, aimed to giving clear instructions and creating a classroom atmosphere.

Portion Completion and Revision

In the scholastic area, focus was on portion completion for Term 1. Extensive revision was conducted across subjects and grades to recap concepts, revisit principles and strengthen understanding. Quizzes, written and oral tasks, worksheets helped students assess their own understanding.

PTMs

Teachers from Early Learning met parents on a one-on-one basis this month, with interactions based on feedback forms and an assessment of the student learning journey so far.

We kicked off PTMs with students of grades 9 to 12. The Principal followed by the subject teachers met parents in staggered sessions that allowed parents to seek an update on their wards, clarify doubts and chart the way forward. Our Primary and Middle School Coordinators and subject teachers met students and parents in grades 1-8. In this manner, our faculty have met a total of 1100 students and their parents through this month.

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Science at Home

The success of our science activities last month encouraged us to extend it to the students of grades 1,2 and 3. For Grade 1, the concept of white light being made of 7 different colours was proved by the colour spinner. Students coloured the colour spinner and then demonstrated how all the colours merged together which appears as white to the eyes. Students also discussed about Sir Isaac Newton as he was the scientist to prove this theory. Students enjoyed the activity and looked forward to sharing this with the family.

Students of Grade 2 enjoyed the jellyfish in a bottle activity. Children prepared the jellyfish themselves. When they added colour and flashed the lights, they were thrilled. They revelled in experiencing the beauty of science in front of their eyes.

Students of grade 3 enjoyed making a loop glider. They used colourful papers and presented it well. Following the instructions, they were able to make it successfully and enjoyed flying it at home.

Book Reading Session

We had special book reading sessions arranged for grades 1 and 2. Maya Sara Karthik, a young author from grade 5 read excerpts from her debut book-The Pari and Kayal adventures –Saved by Sid. Our grade 1 students listened intently as Maya shared stories of what inspired her to become a young author. Imitating sounds of various animals from the book, ‘Hogbert’s Spring’, Maya held the little students in rapture.

Grade 2 had Tanisha Gopinath, a young author from grade 8 reading excerpts from her debut novel ‘Crystallis Castle - Pet Panic’. The young writer took the children through an interactive session with another book –The littlest Angel # 1 :Lily gets her wings .Children were all ears to Tanisha as they discussed and summarised the chapters with vocabulary of new words learnt.

Verse with my friends - Poetry Time

With delicate voice modulations and innovative props, students of grades 1 to 3 recited poems to enthral their peers. From poems written by prominent poets to some of other own writings, children narrated with confidence and it was a delight to listen and watch them perform.

English Enhancement Sessions (EES)

We curated special EES for students of grades 4 and 5 which witnessed full attendance. Children actively shared their views on various stories, favourite authors and expressed their desire for different genres. Avid discussions on content, storyline, characters and plots ensued and students even requested for EES on a recurring basis.



Math o Magic

In an effort to provide our students with practical knowledge and some tools to create a positive and lasting impact in the process of learning Mathematics, we introduced Math-O-Magic, a series of short and stimulating Math activities. A potpourri of mind-expanding puzzles and activities to enhance, enlighten and entertain were worked out with students of grades 4 – 8. They were aimed at honing their logical, geometrical, mathematical and verbal skills, while building on concepts and skills that were already learnt and enhance their competence and confidence in the subject.

Cookery

In a welcome break from academics, our students from grades 3 to 8 donned the chef's hat and cooked up some delicious dishes and snacks. From sweetened rice flakes to marie biscuit cupcakes to a rainbow salad, we saw some lip-smacking dishes with splendid plating. Children enjoyed the opportunity of serving these dishes to their parents.

Projects

We are happy with the progress made with respect to projects for Grade 11. Our students have been diligent with their work and have been completing projects as per the schedule. We hope to wrap up project work for Grade 11 by the end of next month.

We continue to follow up on projects for grades 9,10 and 12 and hope students will submit them as soon as possible.

Events and Competitions

The month began with Early Learning's celebration of Coconut Day or Naarali Pournima. Teachers discussed five senses, used a variety of descriptive words, and engaged the students with higher order thinking, all while having fun and trying out a different kind of snack! Children unleashed their creativity by painting coconut shells with patterns of flowers, dot painting and lady bug.

*We received warm and heartfelt wishes from our students on the occasion of **Teachers' Day**. We had beautiful videos coming in from our senior grade students. Grade 12 adopted a unique approach, each one sharing their personal wishes in one curated video that was truly touching. A live session was conducted by students grade 11 for all the teachers. From a dance to a quiz, Dubsplash and other fun events, they really outdid themselves.*

*For **Grandparents Day**, we had our Early Learning students proudly introduce their grandparents in a live session. While some seniors relived their childhood and shared some memories, others narrated a story and shared a traditional recipe.*

*Storytelling is a powerful tool to improve oral fluency and absorb concepts that underpin literacy and literature. Early Learning celebrated **Story Time** with children narrating their favourite stories.*

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We had two **guest speakers** who addressed our students in very different genre. Ms Pooja Praful spoke to our grade 8 students about 'self-acceptance'. She used various activities to help students understand the importance of appreciating and loving oneself. The students of grades 9 to 12 had an invigorating session with Mr Anand Mathew Kurien who covered physics and science related concepts and connected them to real life. From the little acts of OCD that people exhibit in life to selecting the seat of the bus that would be most comfortable, Mr Anand offered a fantastic perspective into the ubiquitous nature of science.

The month also witnessed Early Learning celebrate **World Tourism Day**. Our little ones recognised and celebrated global oneness through a dress up event by donning creative costumes with apparel and material available at home to represent countries right from India and China to UAE, USA, Egypt and New Zealand.

The Little Brigade is a unique initiative undertaken by the NPS group to spread awareness about COVID 19. We look forward to the videos from students which will be converted into a special show.

We have received numerous entries for Indian Classical Dance and Indian Light Music and our judges are truly enjoying their time watching these videos. Results of all competitions held in Term 1 will be revealed next month.

Achievements

Many of our senior students have been using the lockdown to their advantage and attending online MUNs. In the Minerva MUN that was held this month, Karan Nair, Rakshan P, Tarashree Dorairaj and Neeraj Variar were awarded Best Delegates. Parth Jaju and Pranav Krishna received High Commendation. While Abhinav Karthik and Joshith Bysani received a Special Mention, Tia Raj, Pravind D Christopher, VS Tharun and Navitha Manivannan received Verbal Mentions.

With numerous activities, revision and portion completion, September sped past. We are confident our students will perform well in the upcoming reviews. Best wishes to all!

Warm Regards

Ms Sudha Balan

Principal, NPSIC

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