

Vol. 3
September
Newsletter

NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, KORAMANGALA

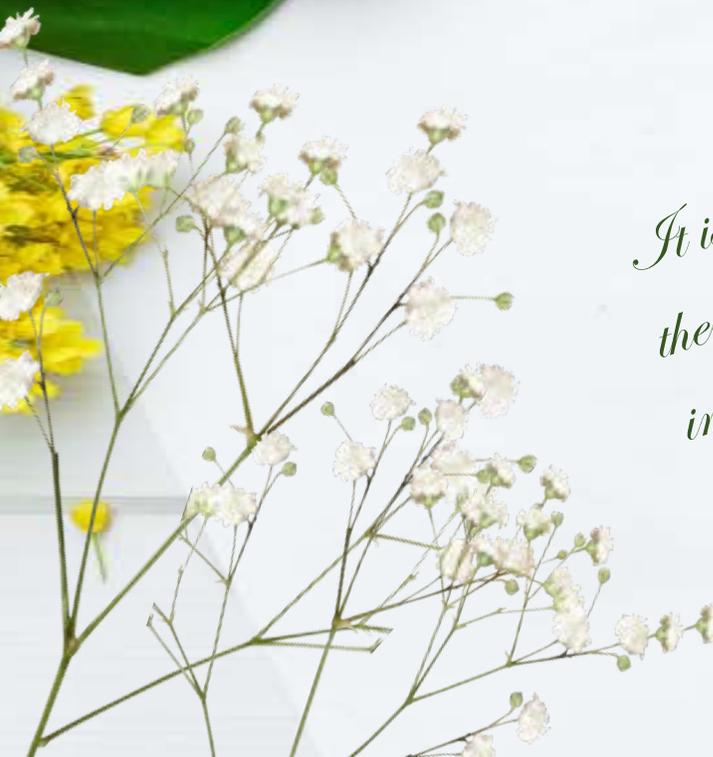
TIDINGS

from
Early and Primary Years

Reading is an adventure, a journey into a world, peopled with characters, plots so fascinating, which makes you go through a gamut of emotions, embroil you in another's imagination and leave you feeling that you've lived their lives....

And so.. we embark on yet another narrative, bringing you the happenings in September.





It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations—something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own. —Katherine Patterson



LITERATI: ..of books and more....

So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well: They begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky. –William James

September 8 was widely celebrated as International Literacy Day, a special day to celebrate literacy is certainly something we at NPSKRM support, but think that our attention should be squarely on literacy year-round. As teachers of bilingual children, books and reading have always been at the heart of our efforts to nurture the minority language.

Magic of learning and joy of reading is what we wanted to deliver to our primary students at NPS, KRM.

Gr 1-5 had an exhilarating Book Week celebration from Sept 6th-9th 2021. Staying at home, away from the school library, we tried bringing the library to them at home. .

Numerous activities were curated for each grade ranging from story telling sessions, cosplay, puppet making, thematic class assemblies, design a book cover, buddy reading and much more.

We invited some eminent guest speakers to conduct special sessions for each grade. Ms. Minati Kapur enthralled Gr 1 students with the art of storytelling and voice modulation.

Ms. Nandita Bharath transported Gr 2 students to a magical land with her storytelling skills, facial expressions and creative usage of puppets. .

Gr 3 students had the opportunity to listen to a musical story by Ms. Renu Chamarty, a professional story teller, youtuber and resource person from Scholastic.

Gr 4 students were given valuable tips on creative writing and how to get started on writing by Ms Trina Roy, again, a resource person from Scholastic. Keeping in line with Novellascape-their novella writing project, students got an ample opportunity to interact and ask her many questions about the elements of a good story. They also designed book covers with guidance from their computer teachers.

Ms Trina Roy, interacted with Grade 5 students and gave them an insight to “Reading Matters” and the countless benefits reading brings to our body, mind and soul. She also explained the history of reading and scripting to the students and they were absolutely delighted to hear it all.

Ms. Nanditha Bharat

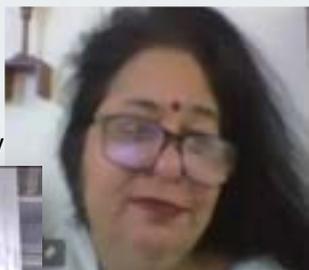


Ms. Renu Chamarty

Ms. Trina Roy



Ms. Minati Kapur

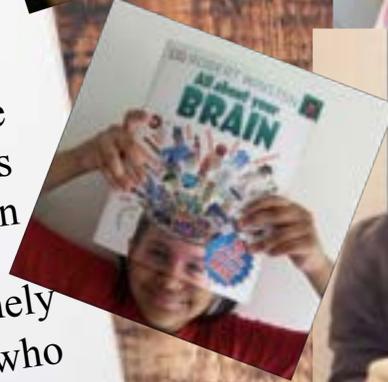


LITERATI: ..of books and more...

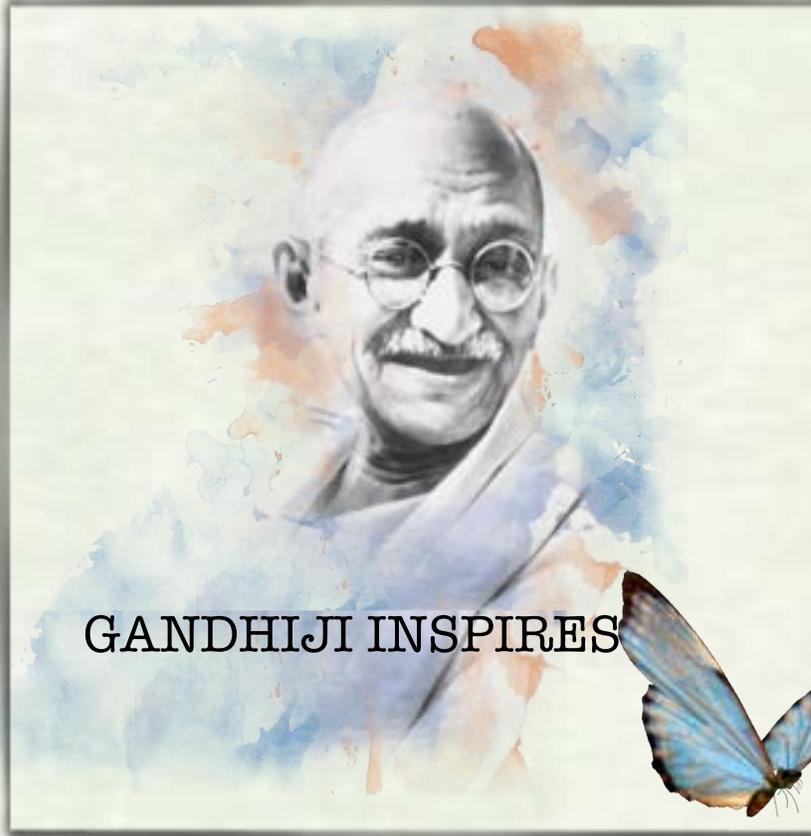
*“Books are a uniquely portable magic”
- Stephen King*

The language teachers too used this occasion to regale students with regional folktales and the art teachers beautifully combined art integration to create some fabulous puppets, foldables, bookmarks and much more. In Life Skills, the students were introduced to different genres of books, various autobiographies and the difference between fact and fiction books.

The Book Face Photo Challenge brought out some extremely imaginative and inventive ideas from the students who thoroughly enjoyed uploading their pictures and sharing with their peers. We express heartfelt appreciation towards our parent pool who partnered enthusiastically with us to make this Book Week enjoyable for the children



Remembering Gandhiji through his ideals..



GANDHIJI INSPIRES

Mahatma Gandhi said - "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. We need not wait to see what others do".

Let's be the harbingers of the change we wish to see in others.

खुद वो बदलाव बनिए जो आप दुनिया में देखना चाहते हैं।

Be the change you wish to see in the world...so said the Gandhiji, father of our nation, a leader whose staunch support of nonviolence and ideals won the respect of the world.

Stories from Gandhiji's life were narrated for a week. Every day a new story...the young minds absorbed ideals of Gandhiji through anecdotes from his life. Short discussions were held after each story reinforcing the values Gandhiji advocated. What better way to instill ideals and values in our students.

Here is one such anecdote from Gandhiji's life....

A mother once brought her child to him asking him to tell the young boy not to eat sugar, because it was not good for his diet or his developing teeth. Gandhi replied, "I cannot tell him that. But you may bring him back in a month."

The mother was angry as Gandhi moved on brushing her aside. She had travelled some distance and had expected the mighty leader to support her parenting. But she went home and returned after a month.

Gandhi took the small child's hands in his own, knelt before him, and tenderly communicated, "Do not eat sugar, my child. It is not good for you." Then he embraced him and returned the boy to his mother. The mother, grateful but perplexed, queried, "Why didn't you say that a month ago?" "Well," said Gandhi, "a month ago, I was still eating sugar. So how do I preach to the young minds?"

Gandhi Jayanti Week

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever”-Mahatma Gandhi

This year marks the 152nd birth anniversary of the Mahatma, Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated digitally by the students of the Primary Years from 23rd September to the 29th September. A special Assembly was conducted, where children dressed up as Gandhiji and presented his teachings and philosophy.

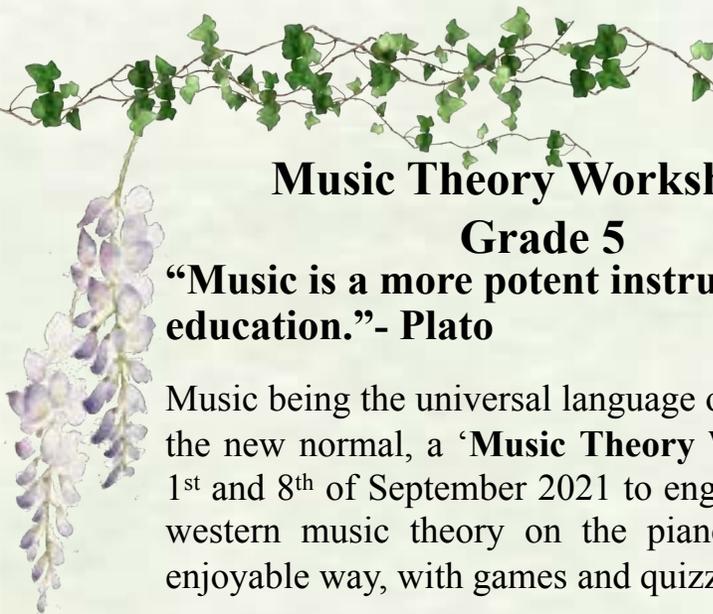
Students also dressed up as different personalities like Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama, Indira Gandhi and spoke about the profound influence Gandhiji had on these leaders.

Interesting anecdotes and stories related to the life and times of Mahatma Gandhi were shared with students to pay rich tributes to the Father of the Nation. The students reflected on the stories and shared the morals in the class. Gandhiji’s role in freedom movement was also shared through a video presentation with the children.

The week encompassed creative activities such as craft, songs and dance to bring out the Gandhian thought to which children could relate to. Quotes by Gandhiji were shared throughout the week on the team post.



Images from the role plays and assemblies



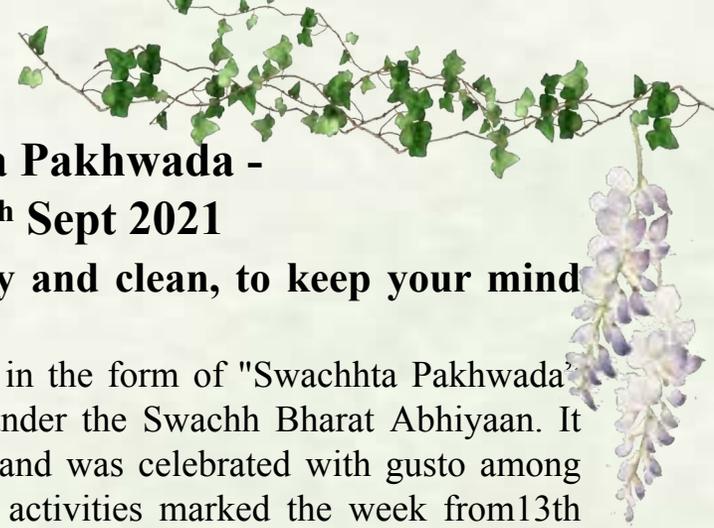
Music Theory Workshop – Grade 5

“Music is a more potent instrument than any other form of education.”- Plato

Music being the universal language of mankind, online education being the new normal, a ‘**Music Theory Workshop**’, was organized on the 1st and 8th of September 2021 to engage and teach the fundamentals of western music theory on the piano and guitar. in an exciting and enjoyable way, with games and quizzes.

The session covered materials reading and naming of notes on the staff, to clefs, time value of notes. The intent of this workshop was to ease reading of sheet music easier, in turn making it significantly easier to create original pieces, and also to understand and interpret music.

Anushka Ramakrishnan, Aadya Jayadutt and Devarati Mukherjee of Grade 9 organised and conducted the two – day workshop.



Swachatta Pakhwada - 13th -17th Sept 2021

“ Keep your surroundings tidy and clean, to keep your mind fresh and keen”

A **nationwide cleanliness initiative** in the form of "Swachhta Pakhwada" from 1st to 15th September, 2016 under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. It focused on cleanliness and hygiene and was celebrated with gusto among the primary students. A plethora of activities marked the week from 13th September 2021 to 17th September 2021.

Various activities from a quiz on safety during the Pandemic to poster making with a tag line highlighting the importance of health and hygiene were a part of the weeklong celebration. The activities were designed to create more awareness among our young learners. Students of Grade 5 did a buddy presentation for the students of Grades 1 and 2 on the importance of health and hygiene.

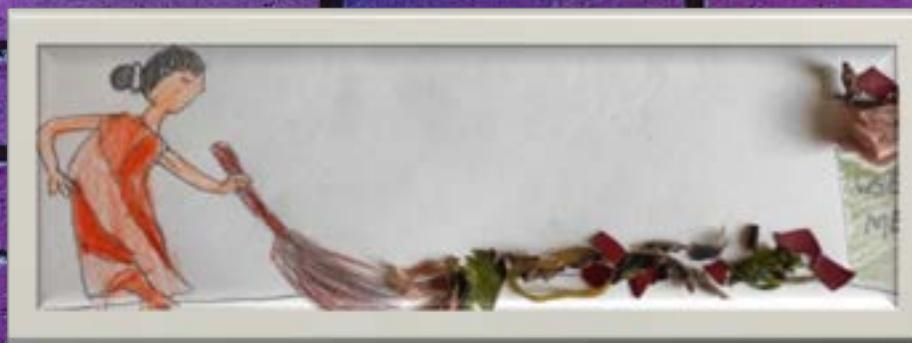
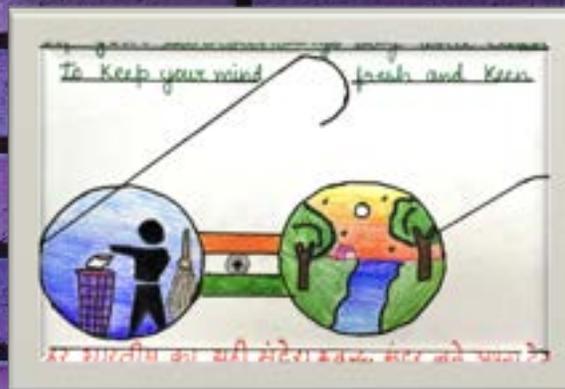
Creative writing for Grade 4 was on the topic – ‘Cleanliness matters’, and Grade 5 wrote on –‘A day in the life of a Pourakamika’ after research on the cleanliness warriors of Bengaluru and saw wholehearted participation among the students. Many interviewed pourakarmikas as part of the research giving them a first hand glimpse into the lives of the pourakarmikas.

Mask decoration was done as part of the art classes with students expressing their creativity on N5 masks. The special assembly on Swachatta included a visual presentation on –‘Reduce, Reuse and Recycle’ was an apt culmination to the week.

Swachhata Pakhwada



Students took the Swachhata Pledge



The Life of a Purvakarmika

My Life

"If only people would not litter so much"

Namaste! I am a Purvakarmika, commonly known as a sanitation worker. My name is Matangini and I am a contract sanitation worker at the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). I work on the streets throughout the day, wearing my orange reflective jacket, ensuring that the roads are swept clean and kept litter-free.

Daily Routine

"There is an unexplainable satisfaction in seeing the clean roads"

My day begins at the break of dawn. After my chores at home are done, I come for work at six a.m. in the morning. I sweep the roads and clean the footpaths and dividers. I do my assigned part, which is cleaning half a kilometre stretch of road. I have three breaks in the entire day until seven in the evening when I set my broom down.

Difficulties & Dangers

Apart from the inherent danger from the fast-moving vehicles, we sanitation workers are exposed to pollution and harsh weather constantly. Our work load increases during festivities or if there is any special event. On these days there is hardly any time to rest as we walk continually in our assigned area to pick up litter. Cleaning areas near food carts is an extremely difficult task, as, despite the availability of dustbins, people don't use them. It also gets difficult during peak summers and the monsoons. During summers I carry a huge water bottle to keep myself hydrated.

Changing Times

Times are changing, and in the last 30 years, India has doubled the amount of waste it generates. Other than that, India generates 62 million tonnes of waste each year. However, the city I clean has been ranked among India's cleanest cities. Let us all work together to make our nation a better place. Jai Hind!

Please note: The essay is based on the life of a real 49-year-old Purvakarmika named Sanyasamma. She works in Visakhapatnam, and takes extreme pride in her job.

8-9-2023

A day in the life of a Purvakarmika

After everything I do, I ask them for a glass of water and they don't give me! Why? Because I am dirty. I clean garbage. I am a *sepa* *Kuvachari* also known as Purvakarmika.

Hundreds of women like me and from 17-60 years clean the streets of Bangalore like this city produces around 5000 tonnes of garbage everyday, we ensure that you can still call this the 'garden city'.

We work from 6am to 2pm and earn just ₹ 6000 a month. An average worker like me pushes around 150 kg of garbage in carts everyday up and down the street! We work every SINGLE day of the year, all 365 days.

When I get back home, I have another job as a domestic worker in the evening. I am cook, cleaner and do the chores. After everyone eats, I eat dinner and sleep by 12 pm. Husband or any male does not help at all! It's just a woman's job.

Bangalore, also called 'The Garden City', produces 5000 tonnes of Garbage everyday, and cleaning it is a Herculean task for just a handful of people, known as Purvakarmikas. These women ensure that you can still retain the name 'garden city' and let go of 'garbage city'. After all they do, they are looked down upon the society as they perform our so called 'odd job'.

Students expressed their views through, posters essays and speeches, and interviews with pourakarmikas



Musings.....

The Paradigm Shift to the E-World!!

With the onset of e- banking, e-mails, e-books, e-cards, e-quotient, e-learning, eco-friendly its almost as if the entire human race is gravitating to the E-World, which made me ponder, how can another very important e-value be left behind; for those who have not got it yet, I am referring to **empathy!**

As the nation celebrates Gandhi Jayanti on October 2nd, I am reminded of a powerful quote by the Mahatma, “**The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but humane**”, the significant ‘e’ playing its role here, again.

To say that, Gandhiji’s use of empathy, a key trait used in emotional intelligence, was a major proponent for his success in gaining the admiration of the people of India, will not be incorrect. They followed him because he was fighting their fight, he was one of them, and he lived in such a manner that reflected their lives.

Empathy is at the heart of what it means to be humane. It includes valuing other perspectives and people, to walk in someone else’s shoes, so to speak. In my experience as a parent and teacher, even though most adults feel that raising caring children is a top priority, often children aren't hearing that message. As educators, we do ensure that empathy is a salient moral value featuring every year as a theme of our class assemblies and other events at NPS.

Empathy is always important, but what’s undeniable is the pandemic of 2020 has revealed the need and strength of empathy in our day-to-day interactions.. We are all going through an inexplicable phase where all of us are facing similar experiences, regardless of which nationality, religion, age, socio-economic group we belong to. Sad, to say that it took a pandemic to unite the world, just as envisioned by our great leaders, and now it’s our turn to construct further on this very positive foundation.

A child who learns empathy and compassion grows into an adult with the kind of full, happy and successful life every parent hopes their child will lead. Let us put all our efforts into raising a generation of kids who can change the world. If we succeed, it will be the numero-uno value we can gift as parents to make the world a better place and if we don’t, at least we can say, we tried!

I conclude in the words of Barack Obama who addressed the concern for a national empathy deficit- “*I think we should talk more about our empathy deficit – the ability to put ourselves in someone else’s shoes; to see the world through the eyes of those who are different from us –When you think like this, when you choose to broaden your ambit of concern and empathize with the plight of others, whether they are close friends or distant strangers; it becomes harder not to act; harder not to help.* Ultimately, peace is just not about politics. It’s about attitudes; about a sense of empathy.

Anju Chokani





News from Early Learning Years...





Discipline is doing what you know needs to be done, even when you don't want to do it



Like every other value, discipline too must be inculcated in our children right from a very young age. Discipline is not about enforcing rules and strict guidelines for children, it means teaching them responsible behaviour and self-control.

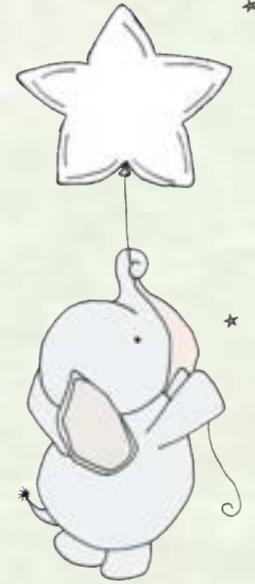
Keeping this in mind, the Early Years focussed on this essential value for the month of August.

Teachers after speaking about the importance of discipline, related it to real-time experiences including following class rules, listening attentively while someone speaks and wait patiently to speak.

We at NPS KRM believe that the intent of discipline is to give a child the foundation that will help them live a better life as they grow older.



EY SPORTS DAY - SPECTRUM



During the month of August, NPS Koramangala added yet another feather to its cap, by conducting the first Virtual EY Sports Day – Spectrum 2021. Sports teaches discipline, develops a spirit of sportsmanship, inculcates team spirit and instils leadership qualities.

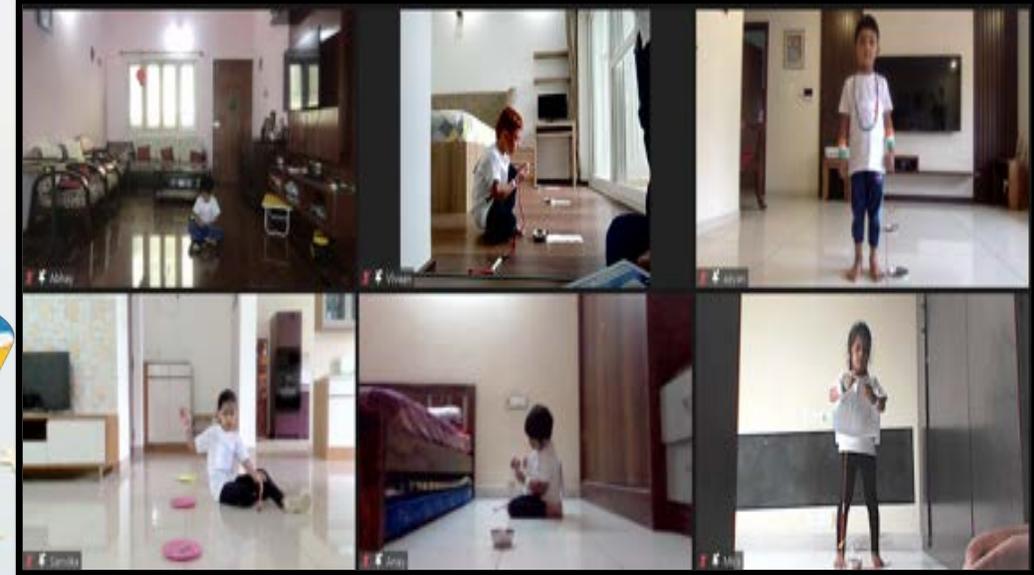
As a tribute to our nation's 75th year of Independence, the theme chosen was 'Tri-Colour'. During her address to the audience, our Principal Ms. Jyotsna Nair reiterated the need to include free and unstructured play time every day and the need to read everyday to help children develop a love for reading.

Children participated in various age-appropriate races like stacking, crawling, balancing, stringing, and overcoming obstacles enthusiastically. Children also demonstrated their culinary skills by making tri-colour sandwiches. Their performance and the enthusiastic participation brought out smiles.

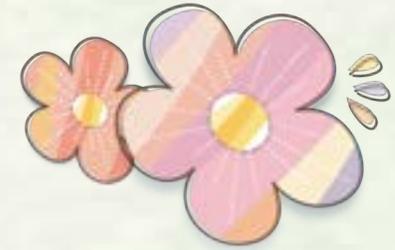
The certificates that were presented by the parents and grandparents came as a pleasant surprise to the children. The Finale was a performance that included swaying to the foot tapping beats of 'Indiawale' followed by the National Anthem. Parents supported the little ones by applauding the efforts put in by every student and teacher alike.

Over 250 students between the ages of 3 to 6 years participated in the Sports day. It included 8 different events spread over the entire month of August. **'Freedom in our mind, faith in our words and pride in our souls!'** was an emotion that echoed in the minds of the parents and teachers alike.

Glimpses of the Sports Day excitement



*August saw the culmination of two topics
Food We Eat and Living and Non-living things.*



‘Food We Eat’

“A healthy outside starts from the inside...” Keeping this in mind the KG1 showcased a classroom presentation on ‘Food We Eat’ on 26th August 2021. The highlight was eating the right food is the key to a healthy body and mind.

Children made a presentation on various topics like meals of the day, tastes of the tongue, sources of food, healthy and junk food. Through music, song, dance, drama, and storytelling; children displayed their understanding on the topic.



Am I Living? Or Am I Not?

“Living things need non-living things to survive.”

The culmination of the EVS topic Living and Non-living was held on Thursday, 12th August 2020 for the KG2 students.

Teachers organized a fun day with games and fun activities. The children were able to demonstrate their understanding on the topic - characteristics of Living and Non-living things. Students were quick and spontaneous with their answers and this drove home the fact that learning can and should be fun.





Parent Teacher Conference -

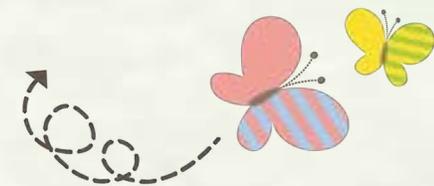
It was held from the 4th to 25th of September. Teachers met and discussed in depth the academic progress of each child with the parents. The parents were unanimous in their appreciation for the quality of teaching learning on the online platform.

The culmination of two EVS topics - People Who Help Us by KG1

‘You have two hands. One to help yourself, the second to help others.’ was the essence of the ‘Dress Me Up’ event as students of **KG 1** participated in the culmination of the EVS topic ‘People Who Help Us’ on 23rd September 2018.

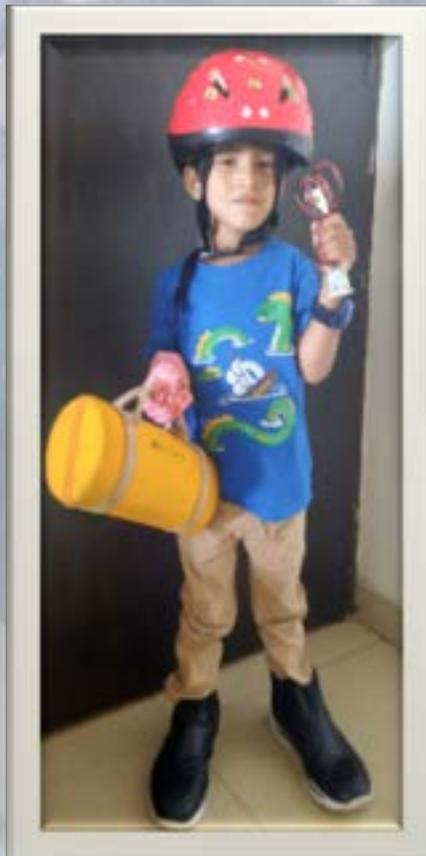
Children came dressed up as people who help us and brought along the tools that each profession uses. The children displayed amazing oratory skills during the event. Parents were invited to speak to the children about their respective professions.

This marks the end of two months filled with joyful learning!



People Who Help Us

Learning is so much fun!



Let's nurture the nature so that we can have a better future.

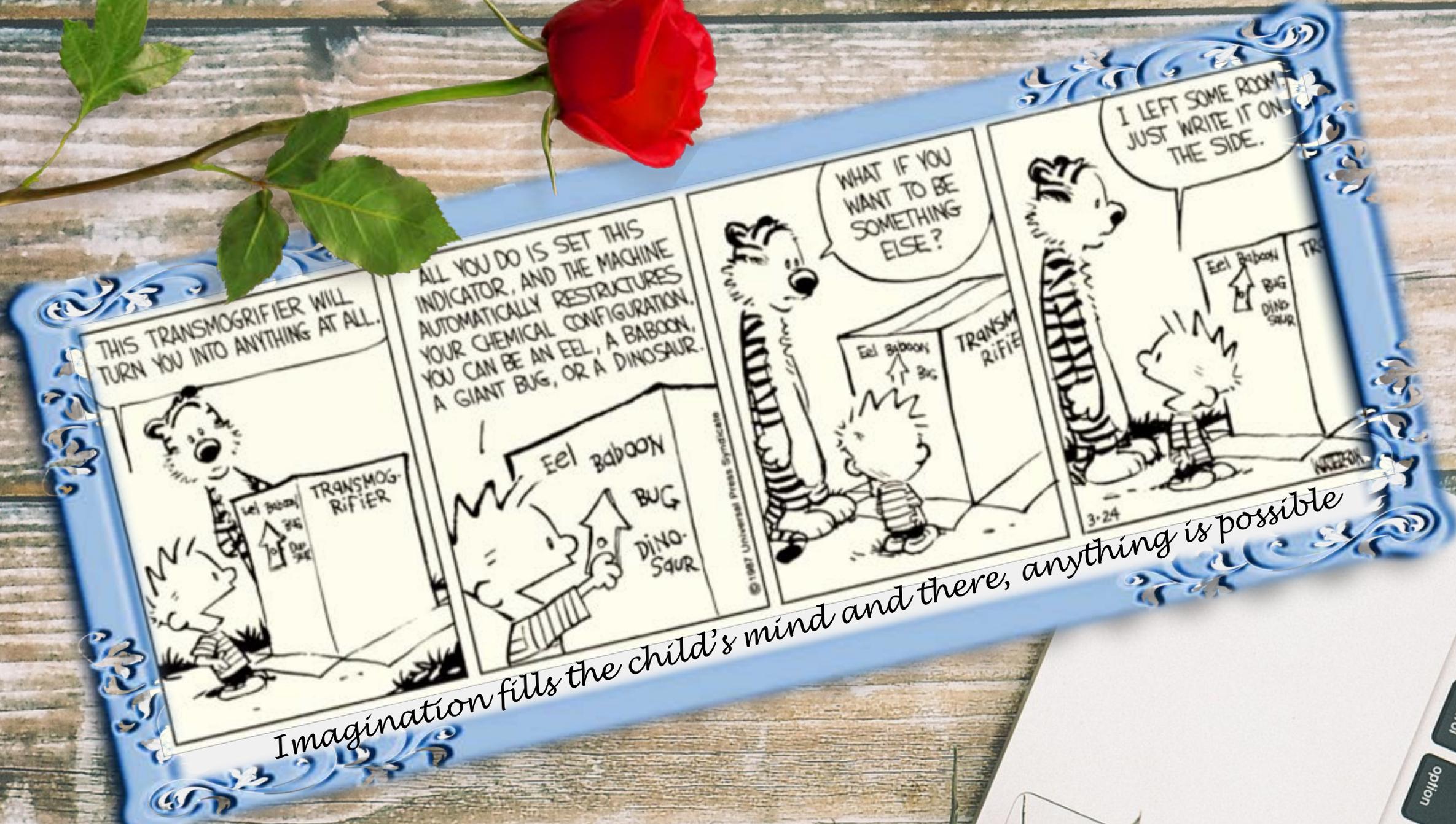
As a culmination of EVS topic 'Plants', 'Green Day' was organised on 25th September 2021 for the students of KG2.

Parents, children and teachers came dressed in green and brown. Students accessorised their dress using head gears, necklaces, bracelets, made of leaves and flowers. They also made 'Eco-friendly Tree' using materials they had around their house. It was a day filled with a lot of excitement, family bonding, fun activities and of course hands on learning.

The children and all attendees took a solemn pledge to save and care for plants and trees. Children participated enthusiastically in all the activities planned of them. They made 'Magical Tree' and gave it magical powers', 'Edible Tree' was completely edible and depicted the different parts of the tree.



KG2
Green Day



THIS TRANSMOGRIFIER WILL TURN YOU INTO ANYTHING AT ALL.



ALL YOU DO IS SET THIS INDICATOR, AND THE MACHINE AUTOMATICALLY RESTRUCTURES YOUR CHEMICAL CONFIGURATION. YOU CAN BE AN EEL, A BABOON, A GIANT BUG, OR A DINOSAUR.



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WHAT IF YOU WANT TO BE SOMETHING ELSE?

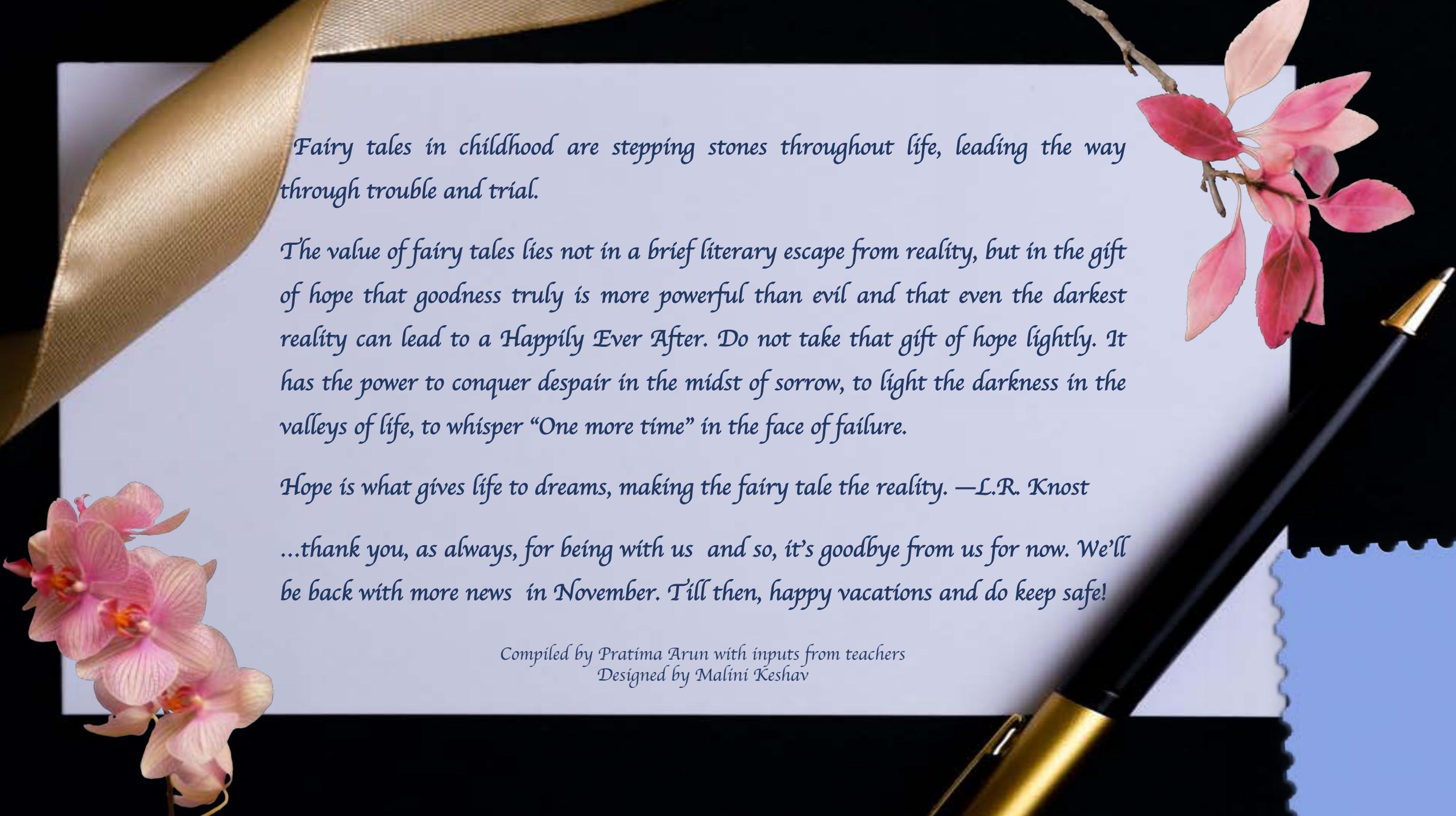


I LEFT SOME ROOM. JUST WRITE IT ON THE SIDE.



Imagination fills the child's mind and there, anything is possible





Fairy tales in childhood are stepping stones throughout life, leading the way through trouble and trial.

The value of fairy tales lies not in a brief literary escape from reality, but in the gift of hope that goodness truly is more powerful than evil and that even the darkest reality can lead to a Happily Ever After. Do not take that gift of hope lightly. It has the power to conquer despair in the midst of sorrow, to light the darkness in the valleys of life, to whisper "One more time" in the face of failure.

Hope is what gives life to dreams, making the fairy tale the reality. —L.R. Knost

...thank you, as always, for being with us and so, it's goodbye from us for now. We'll be back with more news in November. Till then, happy vacations and do keep safe!

*Compiled by Pratima Arun with inputs from teachers
Designed by Malini Keshav*