



The Gera School Newsletter

15th February 2025

(Nursery – Grade 5)

Dear everyone,

Let me begin with a simple thought experiment.

You are in your early forties and are going on a voyage. Your ship sinks but you survive. You manage to reach a remote island. The island is divided into two halves. Moving from one half to another is not possible / permissible.

In one half, because you are an outsider and the only one of your 'kind', you are treated well. You are fed, housed, clothed and taken care of in every possible way. You are not permitted work. You may do nothing. You must enjoy living by yourself and for yourself.

In the other half of the island, you are expected to work but the quantum and nature of work are left to you, so long as you made a meaningful contribution (within your capacity) to that part of the island.

Which half would you go to?

Almost all people spoken to wanted the second option. *"Who wants to do nothing?", "How boring life would be if I only ate, drank and slept for endless days!", "Life would be meaningless."* were the refrains. More than a hundred and fifteen years ago, a Harvard philosopher, Josiah Royce, stated that in order to feel that life is worthwhile, we needed to seek a cause beyond ourselves. It could be anything: a person, a project or a creature or plant, but it had to be beyond ourselves. That cause gave life meaning and purpose. Without those two, life was not worth living. (Later on, this would evolve into what psychologists called 'Transcendence'.)

The other point made is the need to care for a legacy. What if we were to know for sure that immediately after our death, our world as we knew it would all end and nobody or nothing would survive? How would it affect the way we lived our lives, especially the later years?

Let us combine the above two to extract two simple but profound lessons for the children in our care: Let us have something in their lives above and beyond themselves. Let us begin by making children be involved in other people's lives (take them along when visiting an elderly relative or neighbour or someone who needs assistance in some way or the other, help with making something for them or doing something for the person), making a card or buying something for the domestic helps with their pocket money when birthdays come round, pitching in when the neighbourhood comes together to celebrate a festival or an occasion, or when the church or temple needs hands to help, helping out a classmate or someone in the building who is unwell....

Then help them see the difference. Almost always, people will tell them that they are missed or that they valued the service rendered, or that the assistance given made a significant difference to their situation, etc. Over time, children will learn for themselves the lesson that just as there is a life beyond others, and we give our time and our energies and our other resources to ourselves, there is also a life beyond us where we look to live for others and give of our self and our time and our resources to others. We can – and must – find that balance to lead happy, productive and fulfilling lives.

Regards,

C P Joseph
PRINCIPAL

EVENTS

EARLY YEARS TETE - E - TETE

On 21st January, The Gera School hosted *Tête-à-Tête*, an interactive session immersing Early Years parents in active learning. Through hands-on activities, interactive games, and group quizzes, parents experienced how young learners engage with the curriculum. The session highlighted the role of curiosity, exploration, and engagement in learning while strengthening the home-school partnership. It was a rewarding experience, offering valuable insights into experiential learning in early childhood education.



PRIMARY TETE - E - TETE



"Teachers and parents are the architects of a child's future, building a foundation of curiosity, support and resilience. By fostering open communication, encouraging a love of learning and setting high but achievable expectations, they create an environment where children feel valued, understood and empowered to reach their fullest potential."

In order for our parents to experience how our teachers engage with students in the classroom, we invited them to school on the 28th and 31st of January. It was a wonderful

opportunity for them to gain an insight into the teaching methods and strategies that support their child's learning. It also gave parents a chance to ask questions and learn how we can all work together to foster a positive learning environment.



6TH ANNUAL DAY SPORTS DAY

The recently held Sports Day for the students of Nursery to Grade 5 was a grand success, filling the Bambolim Stadium with a spirit of sportsmanship. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of renowned Goan sportsperson, Mrs. Juliana Colaco, whose inspiring words resonated with both students and parents alike. The day was packed with a range of thrilling events. The little ones of the Early Years delighted everyone with their enthusiastic participation in fun races, partner races and obstacle courses. The excitement continued as students of Grades 1 and 2 took on their very first relays and Formula 1 events, demonstrating remarkable coordination and teamwork. For the older students of Grades 3,



4, and 5, the competition intensified with the Under-8, Under-10 and Under-12 races, where they showcased their running prowess. Another highlight of the event was the Gymnastics display by the girls at the end of the programme. Their skilful performance was applauded by all. Mrs. Juliana Colaco, in her address to the parents and staff, left everyone with profound words of wisdom, encouraging them to foster their children's

growth. "Don't let your children become, let them be," she advised, emphasizing the importance of nurturing each child's unique potential.



NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

MUSIC

NURSERY

The Nursery students participated in sessions where each child had a turn to express themselves through song. This was conducted as an interactive game in which students formed a circle and passed around a soft toy. When the music stopped, the child holding the toy moved to the centre and sang a song. In another activity, students connected with the lyrics through actions.



LKG

Students have been enthusiastically practising their song performance for the upcoming UKG Graduation Day, refining their vocals and coordination to deliver a heartfelt presentation.

UKG

UKG students practised responding to prompts through the song *Pontius Pilate*, singing "Parlez-vous" when cued. They also learned the song's lyrics and explored its rhyming words. They were also introduced to note values as a foundation for their transition to Grade 1.



GRADE 1

These past Music classes were all about self-discovery. The students of Grade 1 were taken to the music room and allowed to choose any instrument of their choice and play it freely. This gave them the



freedom to try the instrument and experiment. We also had a Karaoke session where the students chose the song they liked singing.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 students were taught the song, 'My Grandfather's Clock'. They loved singing it. Some of the students also expressed this song through an Art piece. We also had a singing competition. A student was chosen to be the moderator and was given a chance to award points and give feedback to the singers. This encouraged the students to take charge of a group, assess and give unbiased feedback according to what they feel and hear.



GRADE 3

Students of Grade 3 were given a free hand to choose an instrument and play it. They tried the instrument without any guidance so that they could experiment with sounds and get a feel for the instrument. They were then asked to exchange or choose another instrument and try it. There was also an outdoor class, where students worked on their theory books, discussing and helping each other, asking questions or sharing their thoughts on Music and the instruments they have been learning privately.



GRADE 4

Students of Grade 4 continue their journey into Goan folk music as we listen to the different styles and explore their features. Further, through the workbooks, students continue to discover new notes and have also learned how to sing in Solfege (Do, Re, Mi etc.), focusing on forward and backward movement between consecutive notes. We



did this through a fun activity where a 'jumping jack' was assigned and students had to sing notes along the scale as the jumping jack moved forward or backward.

GRADE 5

After completing the Dulpod, students of Grade 5 are now learning the Mando, "Adeus Korcho Vellu Paulo". This is one of Goa's most famous Mandos. The slower pace of this musical style has a few of them grumbling, however, we balance it out with some fun upbeat songs as well. Students also continue with their theory workbooks and are currently learning notes in the Treble clef.



DANCE

NURSERY

Nursery students were introduced to a new dance prop—the hand fan—enhancing their creative expression through movement. As the fans were made of paper, they



practised the Cambridge attribute of *Responsibility* by handling them with care. Students explored various dance movements, some following demonstrations while others experimented independently, making the session both engaging and enriching.

LKG

The hand fan was also introduced as a prop in the LKG dance class, where students explored freestyle creative movements to Chinese fan dance music and Flamenco *abanico* music. They later learned simple choreography set to JJ Heller's *A*



Mother Like You, enjoying the graceful movements. Using two fans – one in each hand – added an extra challenge for some, enhancing their coordination and fine motor skills.

UKG

The hand fan was also introduced as a prop in the UKG dance class as part of this term's exploration of different props. Students began with freestyle creative movements, experimenting with Chinese fan dance music and Flamenco *abanico* music. They then progressed to a slightly advanced choreography using two fans, demonstrating impressive

recall and coordination. The dance was performed to JJ Heller's *A Mother Like You*, allowing students to express grace and fluidity through movement.



GRADES 1& 2



Students of Grade 1 and 2 are learning Basic Ballet movement. After going over our Plies and Tendus during warm up, the students were introduced to 'Battement' kicks. We progressed to a battement from 'Tendus' to 'Degages' and then the Battement as we went across the floor in turn. Students struggled with the sweeping motion of the foot and with pointing their toes but with practice showed some improvement. They also had to be reminded to hold their posture especially as they continued to drop their arms when they were required to maintain them in Second position. A lot to take in for the little ones but they tried their best.

GRADES 3, 4 & 5

The students continue to learn new moves in Hip Hop and they were given the opportunity to make groups in class to compete with one another for bragging rights during an impromptu dance competition amongst their classmates. New moves learned include the Top Rock, Criss Cross, Wu Tang, Reebok and the



Roger Rabbit. Many students are yet to master the basic bounce and rock in order to make their movement more authentic but the students enjoyed learning this style of dance as it is a genre that they are quite familiar with.

DRAMA NURSERY

The Nursery children had an exciting time in their drama class, using their creativity to bring animals and birds to life. As they learned about different creatures, they formed mini-sentences such as “The lion roared loudly” and “The vulture flew in the sky,” acting them



out with movement and expression. This engaging activity helped them expand their vocabulary, improve communication skills, and boost their imagination while having fun.

LKG

LKG students explored the world through drama, creating monologue lines inspired by different locations, such as New York, Machu Picchu, Paris, and the Great Wall of China. They used their creativity and imagination to brainstorm ideas, which became the foundation for mini-scenes. Through actions, expressions, and dialogue, they brought each setting to life. This interactive approach helped them build confidence, enhance storytelling skills, and develop a deeper understanding of acting out different scenarios.



UKG

UKG students explored the world of idioms in a fun and creative way! Working in teams, they used idioms learned in class to create unique story



plots and dialogue. From “Raining Cats and Dogs” to “Think Outside the Box” and “A Piece of Cake,” their imaginative stories took shape in exciting ways. To bring their stories to life, they acted them out using props. This interactive experience enhanced their understanding of language while building teamwork, confidence, and performance skills.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students are having an exciting time in their drama class, working in pairs to create their very own **Woosh Stories!**

Using props to spark their imagination, they are developing creative storylines and bringing them to life with expressive actions and voices. This fun-filled activity helped them build teamwork, storytelling skills and confidence in performing. With each "woosh," their stories took exciting twists and turns, making their drama class a truly magical experience!



GRADES 2 & 3

Students in Grades 2 and 3 are stepping into the roles of storytellers and directors in their drama class! Working in teams, they are cooking up some exciting story plots with unique characters to create their own **Woosh Stories**.

As students guide their classmates in bringing these stories to life through acting, they are developing essential skills in teamwork, leadership and creativity. Using expressive movements and props, their performances are becoming more dynamic and engaging. It has been amazing to watch their ideas unfold.



GRADES 4 & 5



Due to Sports and other holidays, I was not able to work with Grade 4 students.

Drama is ultimately about creativity and play. Group exercises bring an element of fun, spontaneity and light-heartedness to the class, which can serve as a release from stress and allow students to enjoy the process of learning through play. Group exercises teach students how to work together toward a shared goal. Collaboration requires listening, responding, compromising and supporting one another.

'Reflection Confusion' was the name of the game that tested the observation skills of the students. 'Man over Machine' was an activity where each group had to act out a machine, with visuals and vocals.

ART NURSERY

The Nursery children had a wonderful time exploring an aqua-themed art project. They created waves using watercolours, experimenting with shades of blue to capture the ocean's movement. They also learned about sea corals, adding vibrant colours to bring these underwater wonders to life. Through this collaborative project, they shared ideas and helped each other create a stunning ocean scene. It was a joyful experience that allowed them to express their creativity while learning about marine life.



LKG

LKG students had an exciting week filled with creativity and imagination. They began by making a turtle, carefully following step-by-step instructions to colour it, which helped

develop their fine motor skills and attention to detail. They also embarked on an imaginative journey by creating their own unique islands, starting with a simple drawing and bringing their ideas to life through artwork. This hands-on activity encouraged them to explore their creativity while developing the ability to create something original and beautiful.



UKG

UKG students worked on beautiful island craft artwork that required careful planning and patience.



While the teacher assisted with cutting the pieces, the children were responsible for assembling the scene step by step. They learned to appreciate the sizes of the pieces and the importance of positioning them correctly, considering angles and overall layout. This activity helped develop their critical thinking skills as they carefully affixed each piece, creating a unique island scene. It provided a wonderful opportunity to practice attention to detail, spatial awareness, and creativity while working as a team.

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students had a fun and colourful time learning how to create a watermelon using a red and green colour scheme, exploring the concept of complementary colours. They also discovered bubble wrap texture and how to apply it to their artwork, making their watermelons feel more lifelike. The class was introduced to printmaking techniques, where students pressed materials onto paper to create textured patterns. Through this hands-on process, they learned about colour application and how to create visual interest by combining different textures and colours in their art. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to explore their creativity while learning new artistic techniques!



GRADE 2



Grade 2 learners had a wonderful time creating **3D butterfly crafts** using bright colours, patterns and symmetry. This hands-on activity encouraged them to use their imagination while developing fine motor skills. The classroom was filled with excitement as they carefully designed and assembled their butterflies, resulting in a beautiful display of creativity.

GRADE 3

Grade 3 learners took their understanding of **background, middle ground and foreground** to the next level through a creative **3D craft project**. While they had been introduced to this concept before, this hands-on activity helped them grasp it even better. By layering different elements, learners created depth and perspective in their artwork, making their scenes more dynamic and engaging. The results were impressive, showcasing both their creativity and growing artistic skills.



GRADE 4

Grade 4 learners were introduced to the imaginative and dreamlike art of Marc Chagall. They learned about his unique style, characterized by bold colours, floating figures and surreal compositions. Through this lesson, students discovered how Chagall combined

memories, emotions and fantasy in his paintings. Inspired by his work, they began creating their own artworks, experimenting with colour and storytelling to express their creativity!



GRADE 5

Students from Grade 5, began a still-life project, painting pears using both watercolour and poster colours. They focused on capturing the delicate gradients and subtle shadows, experimenting with the different techniques each medium offers to bring the fruits to



life on their canvases. These projects allowed students to refine their skills while exploring the beauty of detail and colour. The work is still under progress.

CIRCLE TIME / LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

GRADE 1

Grade 1 learners continued their reflection journey with a "Reflection Jar" activity, where each child picked a chit and answered a thoughtful question. In the following week they explored the concept of Respect, starting with their understanding of respecting others and gradually moving to self-respect and respecting their bodies. While the idea was new to many, they engaged well in discussions about its importance. Some learners even shared how they practise self-respect daily, making them meaningful and reflective!

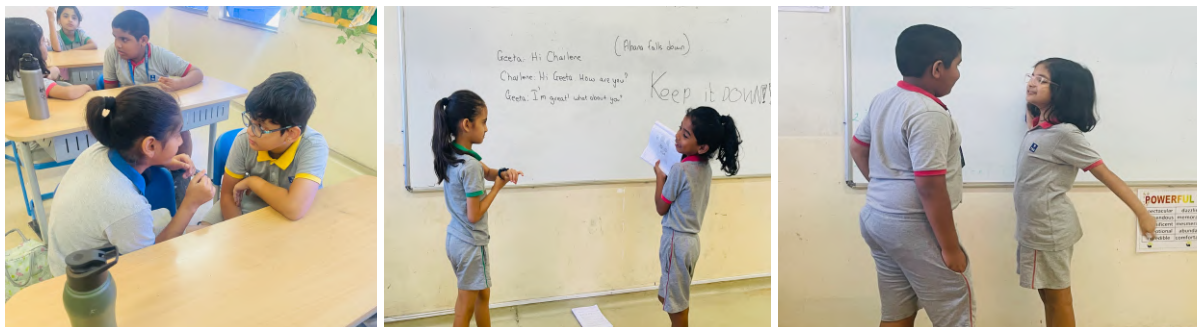


GRADE 2

Grade 2 learners have been exploring self-respect and body respect through discussions and the ongoing “My Body Treasure Map” activity. After sharing their thoughts, they traced a student’s body outline on chart paper and each child has been adding ways to respect themselves and their body, like writing ‘Eat well’ on the stomach! This interactive process is helping them understand that their body is valuable and deserves care and respect.



GRADE 3



During Circle Time, Grade 3 learners continued their reflection journey with a "Reflection Jar" activity, where each child picked a chit and answered a thoughtful question. A new topic was then explored—Respecting yourself and your body. Students shared their thoughts on what self-respect means and how they practice it in their daily life, deepening their understanding of valuing and caring for themselves.

The learners of Grade 3 have been exploring the topic ‘Bullying’ during their Leadership Curriculum classes. In doing so, they have also been working in pairs to script and then act out what they have understood about the various forms of bullying and also how to deal with bullies if they find themselves in those situations. Right from working together to the wonderful situations they came up with, the learners of this Grade demonstrated how well they have understood the topic.

GRADE 4

The learners of Grade 4 have been scripting role plays on Bullying. These role plays will be performed by other groups from the ones who have scripted it. Understanding that bullying is universal and knowing that the experience of fear, helplessness and at times

anger need not be so commonplace is what learners need to understand. Given this theme, learners are delving deep into their own experiences and it is clear that a lot of them have notions of how they would have liked their issues to be solved.



GRADE 5

The learners of Grade 5 have been scripting role plays to demonstrate their understanding of the various forms of bullying we have been discussing. Learners from this grade have quite a treasure trove of experiences they have either had themselves or have heard from others, making it strikingly clear that bullying is a social evil that has become too common and accepted in our society. 'No more' is the message we want to send. No longer will we use the insecurities of others to cause hurt and pain. Instead, we will use every opportunity we have to share kindness and compassion. This theme has especially overruled bullying in this Grade and I couldn't be more proud.



ICT

GRADE 1

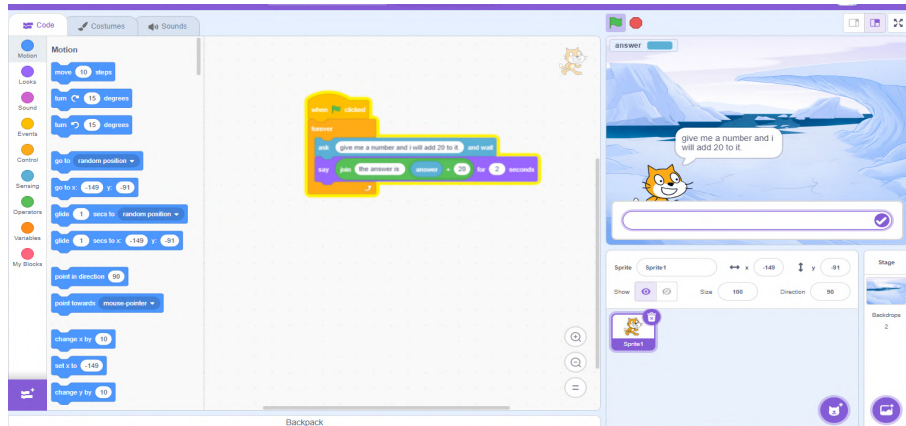
Our Grade 1 learners were introduced to the Spreadsheet tool and they explored its various uses. They learned how to locate the most popular Spreadsheet tool, Microsoft Excel and identified key components such as rows, columns, cells, active cells, labels and values. They also practised locating cell addresses, enhancing



their understanding of spreadsheet navigation and organization.

GRADE 2

Grade 2 learners explored coding in Scratch by designing a program using operator blocks like add, subtract, multiply, divide and join. Their code allowed a Sprite to ask for a number, perform calculations using operator blocks and display the final answer. Learners also incorporated a forever loop to enhance the functionality of their program, showcasing their growing coding skills and creativity!



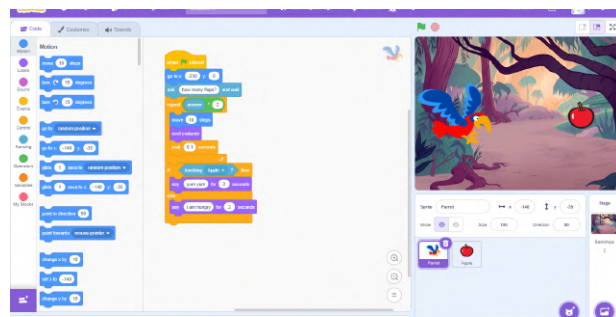
GRADE 3

Grade 3 learners embarked on a journey to familiarize themselves with Microsoft Excel, showcasing their ability to locate the tool on the computer. Building on concepts acquired in Grade 2, they revisited their understanding by identifying various components of the Excel screen. In an engaging and interactive class activity, the learners took on the role of researchers as they planned and conducted a class survey. Each student crafted a question with multiple options, surveying their classmates to gather responses. The data collected was recorded on paper in tabular format and then transitioned to Microsoft Excel.



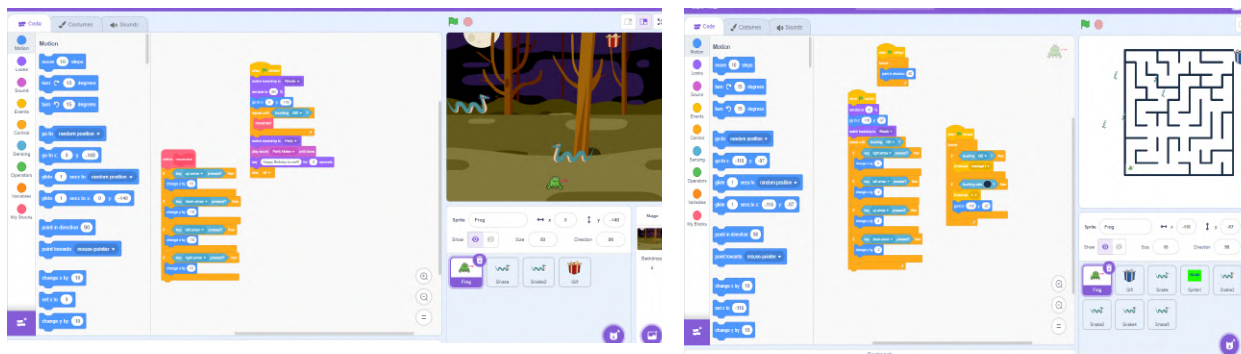
GRADE 4

The learners of Grade 4 completed the code for the “Hungry Parrot” game. They made the parrot chase an apple and a strawberry. They also designed a new game “Chase your Dinner” in which they selected a Robot Sprite who was chasing for his dinner. The learners showed their creativity through these two games.



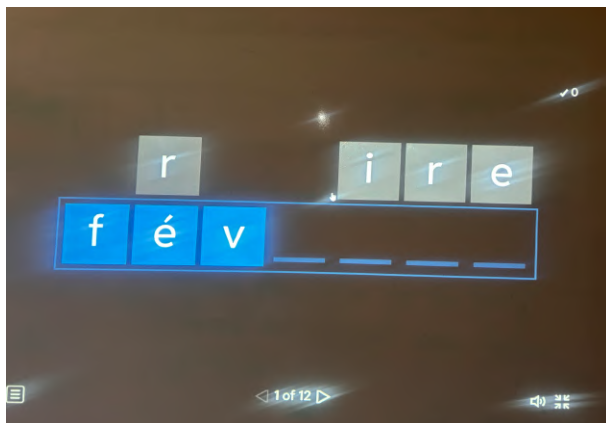
GRADE 5

Our Grade 5 game developers completed their exciting adventure game, "**Frog and the Maze**". In this immersive journey, players were tasked with helping the Frog retrieve his birthday gift, located at the far end of his current position, amidst a series of challenges and dangers. Our young developers demonstrated exceptional coding skills, leveraging their newly acquired knowledge of creating and using modules to streamline their code and enhance efficiency.



PRIMARY UPDATES

FRENCH GRADE 1



Over the past two weeks, Grade 1 learners focused on vocabulary, practising spellings to reinforce previously learned words. They enjoyed an interactive quiz, revising days, months, fruits, vegetables and classroom objects.

Learners were introduced to "C'est" (This is) and "Ce sont" (These are) alongside the definite articles "un," "une," and "des" (masculine, feminine and plural). They then practised constructing sentences using "C'est" with the correct article based on gender, such as "C'est une trousse" (This is a pencil case). Additionally, learners worked on responding to the question "Qu'est-ce que c'est?" (What is this?), enhancing their ability to describe objects accurately. The activities made learning engaging and helped strengthen their understanding of French sentence structures.

GRADE 2

Over the past two weeks, Grade 2 learners explored countries and nationalities in French,

focusing on gender differences and the spelling changes for feminine nationalities.

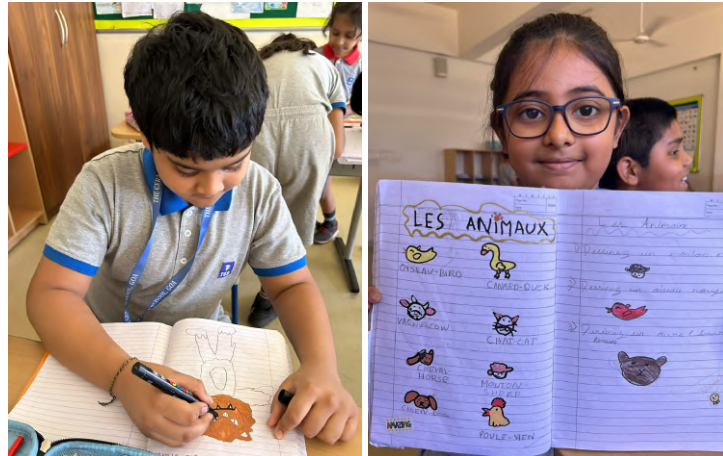
They practised identifying and using these nationalities correctly in sentences, reinforcing their understanding of gender-based word variations. Building on their prior knowledge, they also



revisited describing adjectives and applied them in a fun and an interactive way. They described their classmates using the adjectives they had previously learned, making meaningful sentences in French. This activity was particularly enjoyable as the learners were excited to use positive and kind words for their friends. Engaging in peer descriptions not only strengthened their vocabulary and sentence structure but also encouraged teamwork and appreciation for one another. Through these exercises, learners gained confidence in forming grammatically correct sentences while expanding their ability to describe people accurately in French.

GRADE 3

This fortnight, Grade 3 students expanded their vocabulary with a variety of animal names, such as Oiseau (bird), Cheval (horse), and Vache (cow). They also practised describing these animals using colour adjectives, creating sentences like un chat blanc (a white cat) and un canard jaune (a yellow duck).



To bring their learning to life, students were introduced to a charming French story, Ours brun (Brown Bear), written by Eric Carle. By combining their new vocabulary of animals and colours, they were able to understand and engage with the story. Not only did they enjoy reciting the story in French but they also learned the catchy Brown Bear song, which helped reinforce their learning in a fun and musical way!

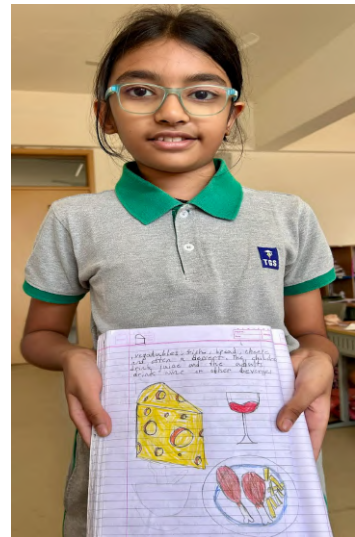
In addition to animal vocabulary, the students were introduced to the French cultural topic of les fêtes en France (festivals in France). They learned about the various festivals celebrated throughout the year, discovering what each month brings. For example, in January, on fête le Nouvel An (New Year is celebrated), and in February, on fête la Chandeleur (Candlemas is celebrated). This exploration gave the students a wonderful glimpse into French traditions and the festive spirit that marks each month.

GRADE 4

The students began by studying the key meals of the day in France: *le petit déjeuner*

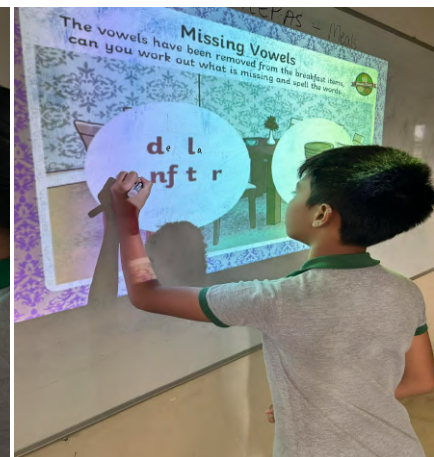
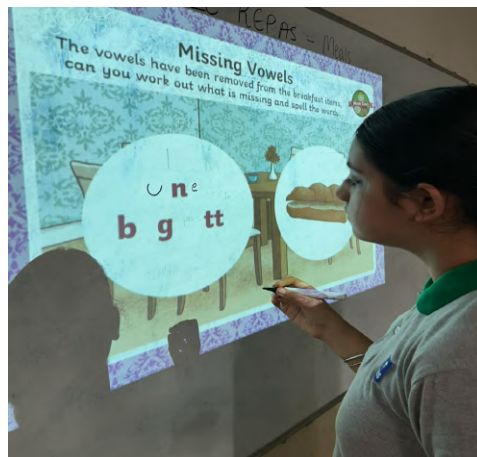
(breakfast), *le goûter* (afternoon snack), *le déjeuner* (lunch), and *le dîner* (dinner). They learned about different food typically eaten at each meal and how these meals vary between French and Indian cultures. This comparison sparked lively discussions about mealtimes, showing how different countries approach food and dining.

To deepen their understanding, Grade 4 learners also revisited the vocabulary of food items (*la nourriture*) in French, such as *le pain* (bread), *le fromage* (cheese), and *les fruits* (fruits). They practised conjugating the verbs *manger* (to eat) and *boire* (to drink) to describe their own meals. For example, students were able to form sentences like: *Pour mon petit déjeuner, je mange du pain avec de l'œuf et je bois du chocolat chaud* (For my breakfast, I eat bread with egg and drink hot chocolate). This study of food and meals not only helped learners expand their vocabulary but also provided an insight into the cultural importance of meals in France.



GRADE 5

This fortnight, Grade 5 learners revisited key grammar topics, focusing on the conjugation of *-er* and *-ger* verbs in the present tense. They practised sentences like *Nous nageons dans la piscine* (We swim in the pool), strengthening their understanding of



regular verb conjugation. Learners also explored vocabulary related to professions, learning how to describe occupations with sentences like *le musicien compose de la musique* (the musician composes music) and *le boulanger fait du pain* (the baker makes bread). This allowed them to apply their verb knowledge in real-life contexts.

Further grammatical practice included forming negative sentences, such as *Il ne parle pas bien espagnol* (He does not speak Spanish well), and converting masculine sentences to feminine ones, like "*le professeur est intelligent*" (the male teacher is intelligent) to "*la professeure est intelligente*" (the female teacher is intelligent). This revision solidified their grasp of key grammar concepts.

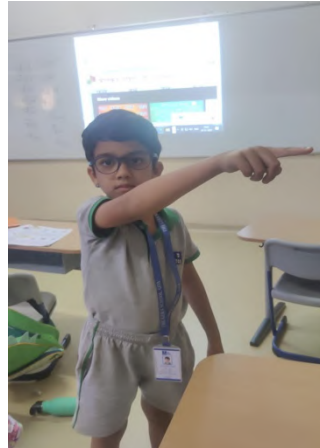
HINDI

GRADE 1

Grade 1 students learned Word Reading, Colours, Birds' Names and Flowers' Names in

Hindi through various activities. For Word Reading, the teacher introduced words with pictures, encouraging students to pronounce them. Students practised reading individually and in groups. The activities included identifying words from pictures, matching incomplete words, turn-by-turn reading with sentence formation and solving simple word puzzles. For colours, students identified objects by colour, coloured pictures as per instructions.

They played a game where they found objects matching the colour name spoken by the teacher. For Birds' Names, students identified birds from pictures, guessed birds by their sounds and answered riddles related to birds. For Flowers' Names, they identified flowers from pictures, matched names with images and recognized flowers by their fragrance.



GRADE 2

Grade 2 students were engaged in various activities to understand sentence formation, colours, birds' names and flowers' names. In sentence formation, they identified complete sentences, created short ones, arranged jumbled words and competed to form the most interesting sentences. Students also formed sentences from pictures, completed incomplete ones and collaboratively built a short story. For colours, they identified them through objects, coloured pictures and found matching objects in a game. While learning birds' names, students identified birds from pictures, guessed them by their sounds and solved riddles. Similarly, for flowers' names, they recognized flowers from pictures, identified them by their fragrance and matched names with pictures in a fun activity.



GRADE 3

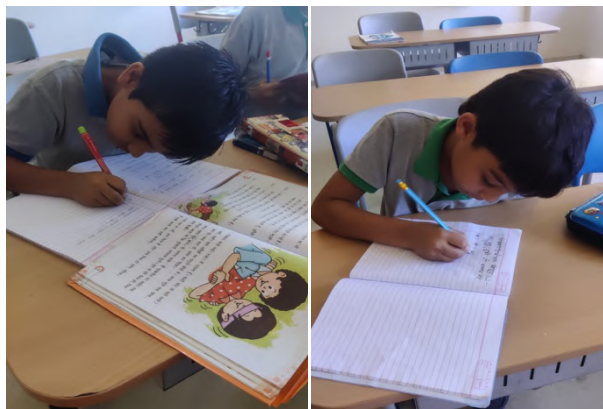
Grade 3 learners enjoyed engaging activities to understand punctuation marks and adjectives. For punctuation, they interpreted sentences without punctuation before seeing them correctly written. They identified punctuation marks, inserted them into sentences and selected correctly punctuated ones in a game. Learners also wrote sentences from pictures, completed a story with punctuation and participated in a role-play on its importance. In a team game, students correctly placed punctuation marks. For adjectives, students identified them in sentences, described pictures and objects and formed sentences by adding adjectives to given words. They completed sentences with



appropriate adjectives, created dialogues and played "Adjective Bingo", marking adjectives from teacher-given sentences.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 learners grasped various topics through engaging activities on punctuation marks and adjectives. For punctuation, learners inserted missing punctuation into sentences, identified correctly punctuated sentences in a game and created sentences using pictures. They completed an incomplete story with proper punctuation and wrote short dialogues in pairs, presenting them to the class. For adjectives, the teacher introduced the concept through classroom objects. Students underlined adjectives in sentences, described objects and used adjectives in picture descriptions. They completed sentences with suitable adjectives and played "Adjective Bingo". They also completed a story using adjectives, wrote dialogues in pairs and played a game where they described nouns with the most interesting adjectives to earn points.



GRADE 5

Grade 5 learners explored punctuation marks and adjectives through various activities. For punctuation, the teacher read a



passage without punctuation, prompting a discussion on its importance. Students learned different punctuation marks with examples and corrected errors in given sentences. They completed unpunctuated sentences, answered quick-fire questions and wrote a picture-based story with correct punctuation. They also inserted punctuation into incomplete dialogues and played a team game to identify punctuation marks. For adjectives, the teacher introduced the concept using classroom objects. Students identified adjectives in sentences, described objects and created picture-based sentences. They completed sentences with suitable adjectives, played "Adjective Bingo", and finished a story using adjectives. In pairs, they wrote and presented short dialogues using adjectives.

P.E

NURSERY, LKG & UKG

In the P.E sessions, early years students engaged in Sports Day practices that included a

march past, drills, and competitive races. They diligently built their coordination, speed, and teamwork skills. These activities not only enhanced their physical fitness but also fostered a sense of discipline and sportsmanship, preparing them for upcoming events.

GRADES 1 TO 5

In the P.E sessions, students of Grades 1 to 5 were engaged in Sports Day practices.

LIBRARY

LKG & UKG

In the library session, students engaged in Author's Chair, a well-liked teaching method that fosters communication skills. They were encouraged to think critically and express their ideas confidently. This interactive activity not only nurtured a love for reading and storytelling but also promoted active listening, contributing significantly to their overall language development.



GRADE 3

Story narration through resources given: Through stories, students told about objects. This interactive tool helped students to think about how we interpret things. This storytelling technique was used in volunteer and community organizations to promote constructive dialogues and relationships.



NEWS FROM THE EARLY YEARS SECTION

NURSERY

LITERACY



In Nursery class, students are in the final stages of learning the remaining letters of the alphabet. This week, they focused on the letter sounds for J and U, associating them with words to strengthen their letter-sound connections. To reinforce the sound of U, they engaged in a fun letter U hunt using button beads. Additionally, they practised fine motor skills by covering a jar-shaped cutout with paper tearing. Another creative activity involved painting an umbrella, beautifully representing the sound of U. Alongside these new letters, students also revisited previously learned letters to reinforce their understanding and refresh their learning.

NUMERACY



This week, our Nursery learners engaged in exciting activities to strengthen their understanding of numbers and spatial concepts. They practised number sequencing from 1 to 10 using flashcards and identified missing numbers on the number line as a challenge. The concept of 'Tall and Short' was introduced by comparing tree and building heights, making learning more interactive. They also explored positional words through the engaging **"Where is the Bear?"** and **"Where is the Sheep?"** games, describing the positions of the bear and sheep in sentences. They illustrated positions by drawing objects like the sun, tree, flower, and bird to reinforce their learning.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Our nursery learners explored the fascinating world of birds from around the globe. They identified and classified them as flyers and non-flyers, sparking curiosity through an engaging bird trivia session. Additionally, they began their journey into the topic of Transport, where they were introduced to different types of vehicles and are learning to distinguish between public and private transport.



LKG LITERACY

Students have been developing their skills in blending and reading CVC words and tricky words, and they have also begun exploring beginner readers to build their confidence and fluency.



NUMERACY

The enthusiastic young learners of LKG immersed themselves in the concept of doubling up to double 5, strengthening their numerical understanding through engaging activities that reinforced early arithmetic skills. They also developed their analytical abilities by sequencing objects in ascending order of length, systematically marking them as 1, 2, and 3 to enhance their grasp of size comparison. Additionally, they were introduced to the fundamental concept of weight, where they explored the differences between heavier and lighter objects through hands-on experiences. This comprehensive learning approach fostered their curiosity and laid a strong foundation for future mathematical and cognitive development.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

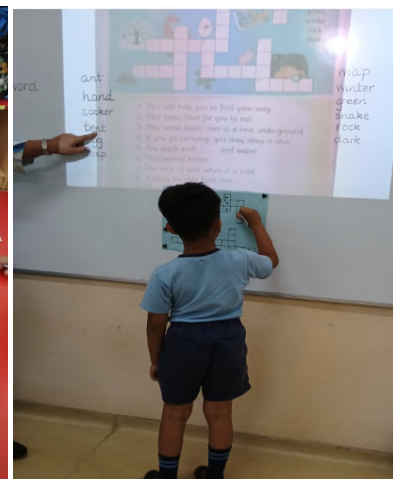
Students have explored the landmarks and animals across the seven continents and shared their findings in a show-and-tell session, highlighting their favourite landmarks.



UKG

LITERACY

Our young learners of the UKG undertook an exciting journey with tricky words like goes, does, made, and there, strengthening their vocabulary in a fun and interactive way. Adding to the magic of storytelling, the children were introduced to key elements of a story, sparking their imagination and helping them understand the essence of every tale. Our



stars of UKG also took their first steps into creative writing by composing a short piece on "Myself." This activity encouraged self-expression, helping them confidently and joyfully put their thoughts into words! UKG learners eagerly put their problem-solving skills to the test as they decoded a crossword puzzle using the given clues, sharpening their thinking and reasoning abilities in a fun and engaging way!

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

The UKG class embarked on an exciting journey into their new theme, 'Materials in My World.' They explored different materials such as paper, plastic, and fabric, through hands-on activities. The children learned to distinguish between materials and objects while discovering the unique properties of each material. They also gained an understanding of how these properties influence the choice of materials used in making various objects. This interactive learning experience sparked their curiosity and enhanced their observational skills.



PRIMARY UPDATES

NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

GRADE 1

ENGLISH

The little ones of Grade 1 have embarked on an adventure of their own in the last couple of weeks; as they explored stories by famous authors, did a book review and



finally used their creativity to craft their own story. They have also worked on spelling rules such as the /k/ rule and the rule for doubling letters. This has equipped the learners to be more confident of their spellings when working independently to write short stories. The learners have also recited short poems for a class poetry recitation that has helped build on their confidence and poise when facing an audience.

MATH

The topic on Measurement has excited the learners of Grade 1. They were thrilled to use various standard units of measurement to identify the mass and capacity of various objects. Through class activities and discussions, learners were able to make estimates to identify the quantity as well as the unit of measurement. With clarity of thought and self-assured answers, learners could state that medicine is measured in millilitres, while a can of petrol is measured in litres. Similarly, the mass of an apple is measured in grams, while a sack of potatoes is measured in kilograms.



SCIENCE

Our Grade 1 learners have kicked off an exciting new unit on Forces and Movement! Through hands-on experiments, fun games and real-life examples, they explored how different forces like push and pull affect the world around us as well as how force can change the shape of objects. The learners were thrilled to see how bending, twisting, stretching and squashing can alter the form of materials. From squishing play dough to stretching rubber bands, students discovered how force can change the appearance and structure of things in fascinating ways, helping them not just explore Science but also experience it.



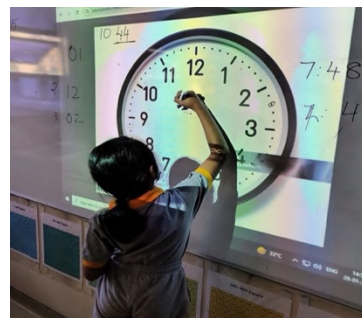
GRADE 2 ENGLISH



The young learners of Grade 2 are embarking on a journey through inspiring Myths and Legends. Through the story of *Robinson Crusoe*, they are discovering valuable life skills such as resilience, perseverance and hard work, fostering an attitude of never giving up. But the learning doesn't end there! With the help of storyboards, learners are honing their creative skills by planning their thoughts and structuring the flow of a narrative. This immersive process is empowering them to write their very own stories. Learners explored the art of writing character portraits by observing Mulan's qualities and describing her with powerful adjectives like determined, courageous, daring and resilient. Learners also set goals for reading as part of this unit.

MATH

Our Grade 2 learners have been exploring the concept of Time! They have learned to read and record time using both analogue and digital clocks. Through hands-on activities, learners practised identifying the hour and minute hands, matching analogue and digital times and understanding the importance of time in our daily life. Engaging group games, interactive discussions and worksheets helped reinforce their learning.



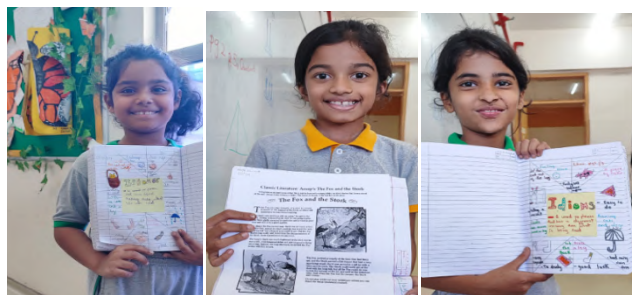
SCIENCE

This fortnight, Grade 2 astronomers explored the Phases of the Moon! 🌑🌒🌓 As the Moon orbits Earth, we see it change shape. We learned about the New Moon, Crescent, First Quarter, Gibbous and Full Moon phases. The Moon doesn't produce light, it reflects sunlight! To understand this better, we did a fun activity using a flashlight and a ball to see how the Moon's shape changes. The learners were also encouraged to track the phases of the Moon.

GRADE 3

ENGLISH

Grade 3 learners explored idiomatic expressions, using them in context to enhance their understanding of prose. They strengthened their comprehension skills through the lesson *The Single Shard*, making inferences and referencing the text. By analyzing the main character, learners reflected on the value of honesty and its relevance in their own lives.



MATH



This week, our young mathematicians dived into the fascinating world of 3D shapes and their nets. Students are learning to identify and recognize the nets of cubes, rectangular prisms and pyramids while observing how these flat patterns fold into solid figures. By analyzing how shapes connect to real-world applications, they are strengthening their

spatial reasoning and problem-solving skills. Understanding nets helps in various fields, from packaging design (unfolding a box) to architecture (constructing buildings) and even engineering (creating blueprints for structures). Students were encouraged to find everyday examples of 3D shapes, such as a cereal box (rectangular prism) or a pyramid-shaped tent and we discussed how they might unfold into nets. Through hands-on activities and discussions, students explored how different shapes behave, move and fit together. This learning experience encouraged critical thinking in Geometry beyond the classroom.

SCIENCE



This time, our Grade 3 students have been investigating the fascinating world of Electricity! They identified common electrical appliances and explored how they work. Through hands-on experiments, students built simple circuits, learning about different components like wires, bulbs and batteries. They also discovered which materials conduct electricity and which act as insulators, realizing that metals are great conductors! Students shared real-life examples of conductors and insulators. Navneet observed that metal spoons heat up quickly when placed in hot food, showing that metals are good conductors while Manad pointed out that rubber handles on electrical tools prevent shocks, proving that rubber is a good insulator. These connections helped students understand how electricity works in everyday life! Using their new knowledge, students created labelled circuit diagrams and conducted exciting tests to classify materials. Their curiosity and enthusiasm made this unit truly 'electrifying'!

G.P.



In recent classes, students have been learning to locate India on the world map and analyse its unique geographical features. One of the highlights was an engaging mapping activity where each learner received a place card of a state or union territory and had to find its location on a large map displayed on the board. They then identified the capital city of their assigned state and explored its neighbouring states and countries. As part of their geographical exploration, learners also examined whether their state was next to an ocean, a desert or a mountain range. This hands-on approach has helped them build a strong understanding of India's diverse landscapes while enhancing their map-reading and analytical skills.

GRADE 4

ENGLISH

This fortnight students were engaged in story sequencing and they crafted their own endings for Cinderella and Blackberry Blue. A memorable line from Cinderella, "When the prince found her, he knew she was the one", inspired learners

to create their own twists on familiar stories. In Blackberry Blue, the quote "He wandered through the woods, searching for

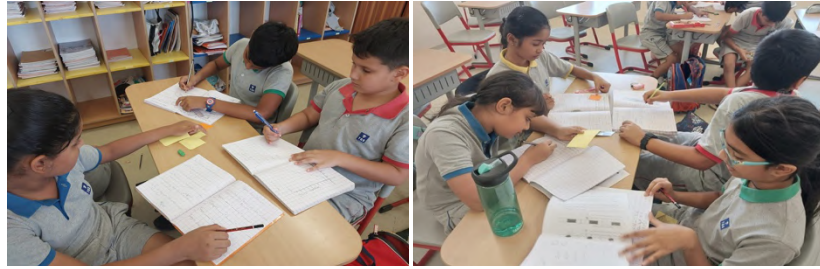
answers", sparked thoughtful conclusions. Additionally, students worked with picture cards to sequence the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, reinforcing their understanding of narrative flow. These learners strengthened their grammar skills, including homophones, homonyms and tenses, while fostering creativity and critical thinking. Passage comprehension strengthened their reading skills and interpretation. These activities helped learners improve their writing, grammar and critical thinking, building a solid foundation for effective communication.

MATH

Grade 4 learners have explored Waffle diagrams, Line graphs and Frequency diagrams, enhancing their data collection, organization and interpretation skills. Waffle diagrams helped visualize proportions for easy comparisons, while line graphs tracked changes over time in real-life scenarios like temperature and step counts. Additionally, students began learning about perimeter and its real-life applications, such as fencing gardens and



framing pictures. These lessons reinforced the practical use of Math, strengthening their analytical and problem-solving skills.



SCIENCE

Grade 4 learners have delved into the fascinating world of the digestive system, learning about the key organs like the mouth, esophagus, stomach and intestines and their role in



digestion. To bring their learning to life, they created models using everyday materials such as straws, cotton, clay, etc. and presented their models to explain how each organ functions. In



addition, learners compared the digestive systems of different animals, like squirrels and rabbits, understanding how their diets shape their digestive structures. Learners also researched the role of the appendix in humans and other animals, gaining an insight into its function in digestion.

G.P.

Our Grade 4 learners have embarked on an exciting journey through History and Geography with the chapter "Navigating History and Shaping the World." They have been analyzing how historical events influence our present and how geography shapes human lives. Through interactive activities like KWL charts, learners explored their prior knowledge, raised thought-provoking questions and reflected on new discoveries. They were also introduced to the concepts of AD and BC, along with their modern alternatives. A key discussion point has been imagining life without History, what if we forgot the past? This activity encouraged learners to evaluate the importance of historical records in shaping societies, cultures and identities. As they continue their learning, learners will develop a



deeper appreciation of how History and Geography are interconnected and influencing the world we live in today.

GRADE 5

ENGLISH



This fortnight, Grade 5 students were busy sharpening their grammar skills, tackling everything from collective nouns to possessive adjectives. We also dived into the world of comparative adjectives, where learners compared their current bedroom to their dream bedroom. Some of those dreams were very fancy! We even tackled persuasive writing, with students passionately arguing whether pets should be allowed in school (Spoiler: Some students might just want a pet hamster for a class mascot!). In addition, we worked through checkpoint papers, where students learned strategies for answering questions effectively. As Einstein said, "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough."



MATH

If you ever thought Math was all about numbers on a page, think again! Our latest lesson on measuring volume had students rolling up their sleeves, splashing around (just a little!) and putting their problem-solving skills to the test. The task? Measuring the volume of Cubes, Cuboids and Containers using formulas and real-world experimentation.

Hands-On Activity: Armed with measuring tapes, rulers and some very questionable estimations, students first calculated the volume of wooden cubes and cuboids using the formula. But the real fun began when we moved on to measuring the capacity of various containers. Students brought in empty bottles, boxes and even a few mystery containers from home. The challenge? Predicting how much water each could hold before actually measuring! Excited guesses ranged from "500 ml" to "about as much as my water bottle" to the ever-confident "a LOT!". Reality, however, had a way of humbling some enthusiastic estimators. Water was poured, spilled (Oops!) and carefully measured to check if their calculations matched reality. Spoiler alert: Not all of them did!

By the end of the lesson, students weren't just measuring volume, they were appreciating it in action. And while a few of them might have ended up with slightly damp sleeves, they



left class with a clearer understanding of the topic (and possibly a newfound respect for measuring jugs!) Who knew Math could be such a splash?!



SCIENCE

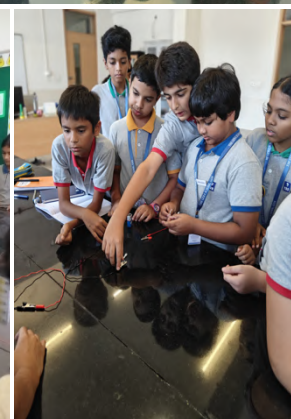
Have you ever wondered how the lights in your homework or why some go out when one bulb fuses while others stay on? Our young scientists had a good week experimenting with different types of Circuits to find out! 🌟

Simple Circuit: They began with a basic setup, one bulb, one battery and wires, learning how a closed path allows electricity to flow. 💡

Series Circuit: Next, they built a series circuit where multiple bulbs shared a single path. They were surprised to see that if one bulb was removed, the entire circuit stopped working! ⚡

Parallel Circuit:

Finally, they explored a parallel circuit, discovering that each bulb had its own path to the battery. Unlike the series circuit, removing one bulb didn't affect the others! Through these hands-on experiments, students gained valuable insight into how circuits power the world around them.



G.P.



What if every meal told a story? This week, our Grade 5 students took a flavourful journey across India, discovering how food and traditions bring people together in unique ways! From sizzling spices to sweet delights, they explored the rich diversity of Indian cuisine and culture.

North India: They learned about Punjab's buttery dal makhani, Rajasthan's crispy dal bhaati churma, and how wheat-based dishes dominate the region.

South India: Fluffy idlis, crispy dosas and fragrant coconut curries showed them how rice and spices shape southern flavours.

East India: Bengal's famous rosogolla and Assam's tangy masoor tenga (fish curry) highlighted the influence of rivers and coastal life.

West India: From Gujarat's dhokla to Maharashtra's vada pav and Goa's seafood delights, they saw how History and Geography influence food choices.

Beyond food, students also explored vibrant festivals like Diwali, Pongal, Eid and Christmas, learning how traditions unite people across cultures. This hands-on experience helped them appreciate India's beautiful diversity!

In History, students got to know the story of Human Evolution, the journey of species to adaptation, survival and the relentless pursuit of progress. One of the most remarkable aspects of this journey is how early humans stood erect, began using tools and overcame the challenges posed by the changing climate and different ice ages.

This brings us to the end of this Newsletter. The last Newsletter for academic this year will be for the period 17th February to 20th March 2025.

Regards

The Gera School