



The Gera School Newsletter

6th July 2024
(Grade 6 – Grade 10)

The Power of Positive Self-Talk

Dear everyone,

Who do you think we should talk to the most? It's not our friends or family, but ourselves. Our inner dialogue shapes how we perceive the world and ourselves. But are we mindful of our inner dialogue? Do we notice whether our inner words are negative or positive?

Positive self-talk is the practice of speaking to ourselves in an encouraging and uplifting way. (e.g. telling ourselves *"I am capable"* instead of *"I'm not good enough"*, or *"I can do this if I try"* instead of *"I can't do this."* It's a technique anyone can use to replace negative self-talk and negative beliefs with positive ones, leading to improved self-confidence, greater self-esteem, and better mental health.

I've seen first-hand how positive self-talk empowers children to believe in themselves and face challenges with confidence. This habit cultivates resilience and a growth mindset.

I remember a moment with a child who was struggling with a challenging Math problem. Frustration was mounting, and negative words started creeping in: *"I can never do this. It's too hard."* I gently nudged him, "What if we say, *"I can figure this out with practice."* ? Let's try it together.' Slowly, the tension eased as we shifted our focus to what was possible rather than what seemed impossible.

Here are some tips that might help us in our parenting / mentoring journey:

- **Lead by Example:** Children learn from what they see. Model positive self-talk in your own life, especially during moments of difficulty or stress.
- **Make it Routine:** Incorporate affirmations into daily routines, such as during breakfast or before bedtime. Consistency helps reinforce positive thinking.

Two rituals that we could make a part of our routines are:

- a) Reflecting on gratitude at the end of the day. This way we focus to what we have (abundance and blessings) rather than what we don't have (lack or scarcity mindset).
- b) Using affirmations: Sometimes, starting each day with affirmations such as, 'Today I will be brave' or "I will learn something new" or "I will be kind to others" set a positive tone for the day ahead and deepen our connection as a family and a community.

Let us witness magic unfold as these practices nurture resilience and a positive outlook in our children and in ourselves because the words we speak to ourselves shape the lives we lead.

Warm regards,

**Ms Shivangi Reja,
Early Years Coordinator**

EVENTS

INTER-HOUSE MATHARON QUIZ COMPETITION - GRADES 6 TO 10

Matharon 2024: A Thrilling Mathematical Showdown - Our school recently hosted Matharon 2024, the inaugural inter-house Math-based quiz competition for students from Grade 6 to 10. Held on June 27th, this exciting event saw enthusiastic participation from students across all four houses: Hercules, Pegasus, Phoenix, and Polaris. The journey to the finals began on June 13th, 2024, with a written preliminary round. The finals were a fierce battle of wits and numbers, with each house fielding a five-member team. The competition was structured into five rounds. Each team displayed remarkable skill and teamwork, making the competition a tight race. However, it was Phoenix house that ultimately emerged victorious, clinching the title amid rapturous cheers from the audience. Matharon 2024 was a resounding success, highlighting the mathematical talents within our student body. We look forward to making this competition an annual tradition, fostering a love for math and healthy competition among our students.

Congratulations to the winners!

1st Place: Phoenix - Samaya Bansal (6B), Noam Lobo (7B), Neel Srivastava (8), Joshua Fernandes (9), Oishik Panda (10)

2nd Place: Polaris - Sarvadnya Bhise (6B), Tanvi Varddman (7A), Ananya Kamat (8), Jahan Menon - Kress (9), Jadon D'Souza (10)

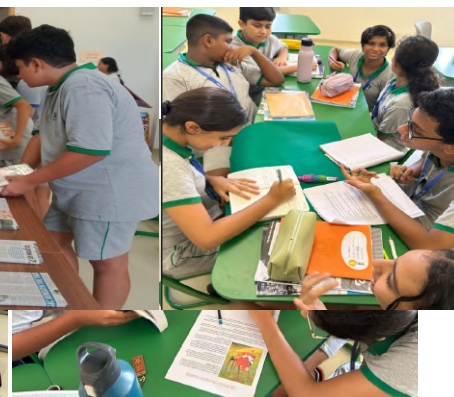
3rd Place: Hercules - Vihaan Mahajan (6B), Ryle Frank (7), Vruddhi Rajani (8), Taksh Parekh (9), Marcel Padgaonkar (10)

4th Place: Pegasus - Akshara Pai Angle (6A), Megan de Souza (7A), Vaishnavi Vedant (8), Ian Lemos Godinho (9), Kanish Chimalkar (10)



LITERARY WEEK

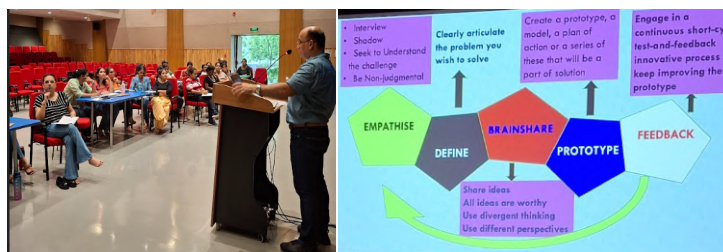
Our school recently celebrated Literary Week, an engaging event that fostered a love for languages and encouraged creativity among



students. Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of activities and competitions in English, Hindi, and French. In English, students showcased their writing talents in Story Writing, Autobiographical, Narrative, and Descriptive writing competitions. They enjoyed the process of crafting their own stories and narratives, exploring different styles and themes. Hindi activities included Show and Tell, Lekh Lekhan (essay writing), and role plays. These activities provided students with an opportunity to express themselves creatively and improve their language skills in a fun and interactive manner. French students embraced the challenge of rewriting the endings of famous fairy tales, offering fresh and imaginative perspectives on classic stories. They also went on a cultural tour to explore French festivals, traditions, and francophone culture, and were introduced to French art and artists. Literary Week was a wonderful reminder of the love for language and provided students with a platform to be creative. It was a week filled with enthusiasm, innovation, and a deep appreciation for the literary arts.

STAFF WORKSHOP

This fortnight, Life Skills took centre stage as on both working Saturdays, the teachers underwent intense training sessions on the Life Skills programme which is one of the cornerstones on which the school is built. First, Ms. Charlene, our Life Skills Coordinator, along with our Principal Mr. Joseph conducted a session to help the teachers arrive at a clear plan of action to insert Life Skills into their respective subjects.



This session enhanced the clarity about the Life Skills programme and enabled teachers to choose from the array of skills at their disposal. The Principal, Mr. Joseph, then conducted an insightful session as part of our initiative to include Life Skills in the curriculum. The workshop focused on Design Thinking and its five pillars, providing a structured approach to addressing any problem or situation. The five pillars of Design Thinking were introduced, Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test. These stages guide individuals through understanding and solving problems with a 'user-centred' approach. The session also highlighted the crucial differences between Reacting and Responding. The workshops were an enriching experience, equipping staff with valuable skills to approach challenges thoughtfully and creatively.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The school Annual General Body Meeting was held on Friday, 28th June at 2:30 p.m. in the school Auditorium. The school had received 5 fresh nominees for the year 2024-2025 and was elected unopposed to the Working Committee 2024-2025. The nominees introduced themselves and outlined the ways in which they would contribute to the school and the PTA. The following parents are the Working Committee



members for the year 2024-2025: Ms Aafreen Hasan (Early years), Ms Veolla Dias (Grades 1 & 4), Ms Liesel Duarte (Grades 2 & 3), Ms Femina Andani (Grades 5 & 7) and Ms Maithili Kulkarni (Grades 9 & 10) along with existing Working Committee members, Ms Latika Gulyani (Grade 6) and Ms Radhika Rajani (Grade 8).

NEWS FROM THE SPECIALISTS

MUSIC

GRADE 6

Students of Grade 6 start every class with vocal exercises, which help us open up our voices and prepare for the class. We have been working on a few new exercises which help students expand their understanding of intervals in music. Though a few have been struggling to manage without piano cues, most have been managing well. The students continue to work on Ae Watan, learning new parts of the song and adding in harmonies.



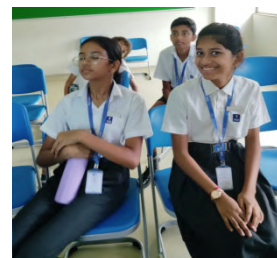
GRADE 7

Students of Grade 7 start every class with vocal exercises, which help us open up our voices and prepare for the class. We have been working on a few new exercises which help students expand their understanding of intervals in music. Most of the students have been managing without cues from the piano,; however, some of them are still struggling a bit. Students have been working on the song Jai Ho, which has been shaping up nicely. With additional harmonies, echoes and other parts, the song is finally coming together.



GRADE 8

As with every class, Grade 8 begins with vocal exercises, which help us open up our voices and prepare for the class. We have been working on a few new exercises which help students expand their understanding of intervals in music. Students have been working on the song, Vande Mataram. Due to the complex nature of the song, students have had to work hard to understand and follow the music. However, the song is slowly coming together.



DANCE

GRADES 6 & 7

Students of Grade 6 and 7 continue to learn new dance moves of the Chhau folk dance.

Movements like the “Sindoor Teeka”, “Antt Muda” and jumps like the “Ghoda dumka” and “Baagh Dumka” were taught and practised.



DRAMA

GRADES 6, 7, 8 & 9

Taking the mime competition further, students of Middle school were required to commence their Scenario Creation. Each house needed to provide scenarios or short scripts where students must use mime to convey the story, emotion, or conflict. Before they started blocking the moves, they were encouraged to conduct exercises that stimulate imagination, such as creating invisible objects or navigating through imaginary spaces.

We also discussed Challenges and Solutions vis-à-vis mime

1. Overcoming Self-consciousness: Mime requires students to be comfortable with their bodies and expressions. Create a supportive environment where students feel safe to take risks.
2. Clarity of Expression: Help students understand the importance of clarity in mime. Through demonstrations and examples we were able to illustrate effective versus ineffective techniques.

Grade 6A students having fun with a warm up activity called Stretch it. Grade 6B students paired up to loosen up with some stretching and pulling exercises.



GRADE 7



This is not a warm up! This is Polaris from Grade 7A practicing their mime and Pegasus students from Grade 7B are discussing ideas and gestures for their mime.

GRADE 8 and GRADE 9

Grade 8 team from Hercules is almost ready with their presentation. Team Polaris from Grade 9 (pic on the right) is seen practicing an unique and sensitive mime.



ART GRADE 6

Grade 6 students are having a good time learning creative typography, which involves the art of arranging and designing text in visually engaging and expressive ways. It goes beyond simply selecting fonts and includes manipulating typography to convey motions, messages, and aesthetics effectively. The concept of a grid and its importance in typography has also been taught in this art project. It also encourages joy through creative expression.



GRADE 7

Grade 7 learners have recently embarked on an artistic journey inspired by the renowned artist Georgia O'Keeffe. They have been learning to paint flowers using watercolours, focusing on capturing scale and proportion. Our young artists explored the beauty of nature through close-up and vibrant depictions of flowers.



This project has not only enhanced their watercolour techniques but also allowed them to appreciate the intricate details and colour found in the natural world.

GRADE 8

Our Grade 8 learners have been busy creating stunning collage landscapes in their recent art lessons. Using various shapes, patterns, and textures, they have crafted unique and imaginative scenes that showcase their creativity and artistic skills. This project encouraged students to think critically about composition and how different elements can be combined to form a cohesive and visually appealing artwork.



GRADE 9

Grade 9 learners have been honing their artistic skills by working with charcoal, focusing on drawing still life compositions. This project has provided them with a deeper understanding of the versatility and expressive potential of charcoal as a medium. Through careful observation and practice, the students have learned various techniques, such as shading, blending, and creating texture, to bring their still life drawings to life. This experience has not only improved their technical skills but also enhanced their ability to capture the intricate details and forms of everyday objects.



CIRCLE TIME / LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

GRADE 6



The learners of grade 6 have been very active during CT classes. From evaluating questions that would require them to seek improvements in their favourite products to exploring their love for nature, they have come up with some brilliant discussions. During Leadership Curriculum class, learners have been involved in a process that has allowed them to look at goal setting from a very deep perspective. From looking at long-term, big goals, we moved backward to smaller steps that those goals can be broken down into. Finally they have taken the first rung of their goal ladder to evaluate and to work on this year.

GRADE 7

This fortnight the learners of grade 7 continued on discussions they started about inventions they wanted to improve. Some debated about the importance of uniforms while others questioned how electric cars were eco-friendly now but would eventually cause more harm to the environment. During Leadership



curriculum classes, the learners of grade 7 broke down their long term goals into smaller, more achievable steps, finally choosing the first rung of their goal ladder to scale this year.

GRADE 8

This fortnight, the learners of Grade 8 reflected on the question, *“What according to you is most important, ending world hunger or global warming?”* Learners got into animated discussions and raised some very valid points in support of their choices. During leadership classes, learners wrote down vision statements that they arrived at post some very deep reflection. It was amazing to see them get reflective as well as creative with their work.



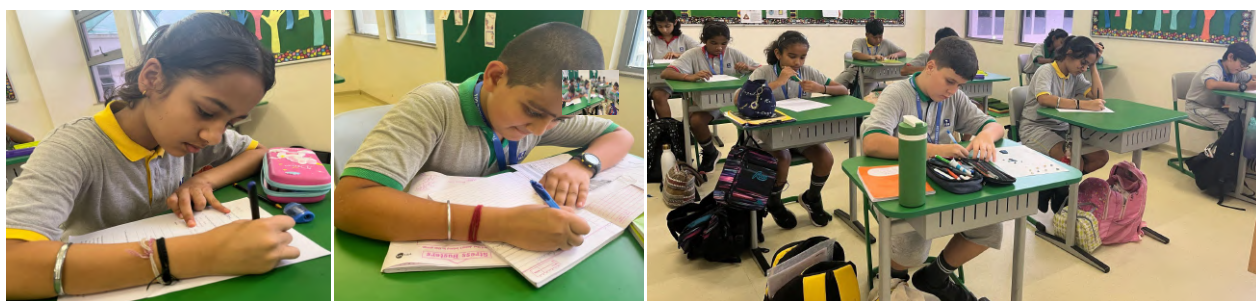
GRADE 9

The learners of Grade 9 used their skills of evaluation and reflection to go deep and evaluate their personal vision. Being able to visualise a future they haven't lived and create a statement from that visualisation was quite interesting. Some of them were very creative with their vision statement while some chose to play it safe by using various examples as inspiration.



ICT

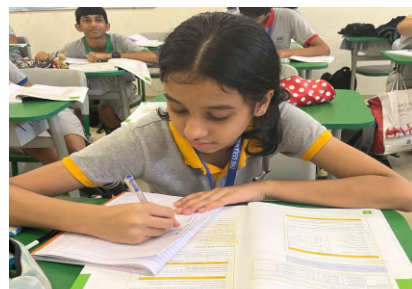
GRADE 6



Learners are now moving from Scratch to Python. They were able to compare the Scratch and Python IDE, and give their views on the same. Learners were introduced to the Python shell; where they learnt to write basic I/O lines of code. They were taken through the working of a code on a computer, and were later able to explain how and why a code is translated using an interpreter.

GRADE 7

Learners were introduced to the different types of networks that exist (LAN, WAN, MAN, PAN). They were able to explain the difference between each network, along with the security threats that could persist when a network grows in size. Learners also found solutions to strengthen a network's security from the threats discussed in class.



GRADE 8

Learners were able to explore various Chabot's, and differentiate between the types that



exist. They also revised the coding concepts in Python, and the concept of data types; which they will further use to code a Chabot of their own. Learners further discussed the iteration process that programmers use for development; and will be using the same to design their programs.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GRADE 9

Learners solved a few exam style questions on completion of the first chapter 'Data representation'. They started with the next chapter in which they were introduced to logic gates, and their working. Learners will further learn how to draw logic circuits using these gates, and then write logical expressions for a given problem statement.



GRADE 10

Learners covered a few network-related concepts. They later tried a 'flip class' in which they presented topics covering various internet security threats, and their preventions/solutions. Learners learnt the use of embedded systems, along with various different input and output devices. They were asked to create presentations on the same, which will be reviewed in the upcoming classes.



FRENCH

GRADE 6

This fortnight, the Grade 6 French learners excelled during their French Literary Week. Under the teacher's guidance, the class was divided into five groups, each assigned a unique topic. The overarching theme for Grade 6 was "Cultural Tour," and a few of the topics were as follows:

- a) Les créateurs de mode français (French Fashion Designers)
- b) L'art et les artistes français (French Art and Artists)
- c) Tour de la cuisine régionale (Regional Cuisine Tour)

The project was thoroughly explained to the students, emphasizing the importance of research and creativity. Each group dived into their topics with enthusiasm, conducting detailed research and expressing their findings creatively. Their presentations were confident and fluent, showcasing their hard work and understanding.

The research work of each group was presented meticulously through deltaic charts that were highly informative and visually appealing. The students' ability to convey complex information in a clear and engaging manner was impressive, making the French Literary Week a remarkable success.



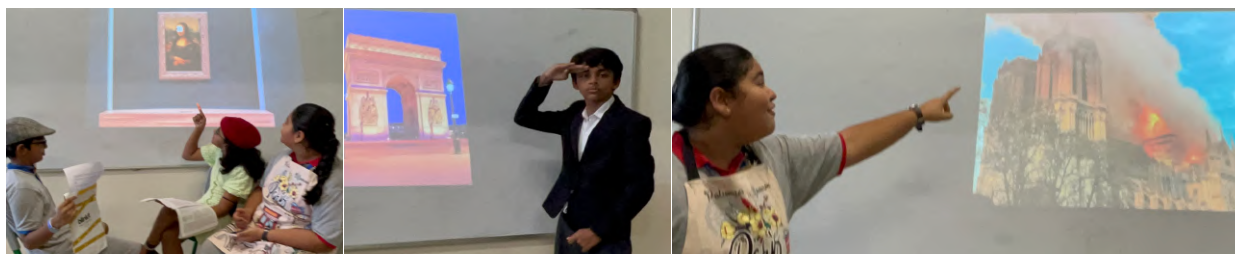
GRADE 7

To celebrate Literary Week, Grade 7 learners have honed their dialogue writing skills by creating comic strips to showcase a Francophone country. Each student conducted thorough research on the country's culture, language, customs, religion, and festivities, presenting their findings through a series of dialogues. Furthermore, students improved their listening skills through audio exercises focused on topics such as shopping and discussing daily life, commute, hobbies, and activities. They expanded their vocabulary through comprehensive tests, boosting their confidence in writing in French. To refine their grammar skills, learners practiced using various prepositions related to countries, cities, towns, and means of transport. They also sharpened their understanding of irregular verb conjugations through worksheets and practice exercises. Overall, these activities have not only enriched students' language proficiency but also cultivated their creativity, teamwork, and confidence in expressing themselves in French.



GRADE 8

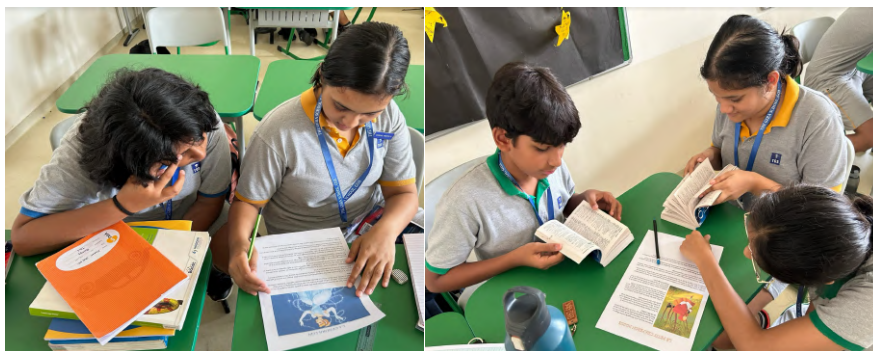
This fortnight, the Grade 8 French learners excelled during their French Literary Week. Under the teacher's guidance, the class was divided into two groups, each assigned a unique topic for a presentation. The given theme for Grade 8 was "Historical Tour," with



the topics being: a) Notre Dame, b) Eiffel Tower, c) Arc de Triomphe, and d) Le Louvre. Their presentations were confident and fluent, showcasing their hard work and understanding. The research work of each group was meticulously presented through a short video presentation, where they spoke fluently and confidently. This process enhanced their skills in larger stage communication and public speaking. The learners' ability to convey complex information in a clear and engaging manner was impressive, making the French Literary Week a remarkable success.

GRADE 9

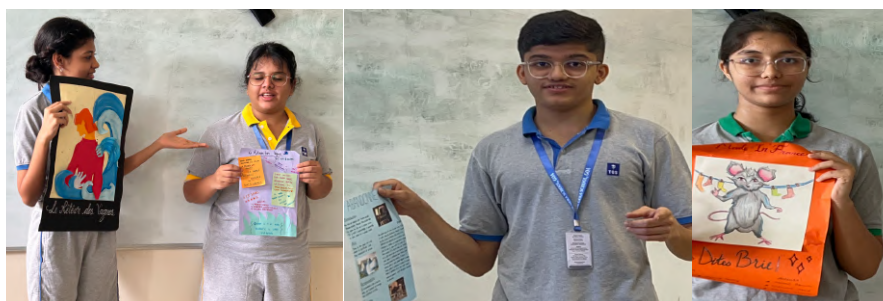
During Literary Week, Grade 9 students have creatively reimaged the endings of classic fairytales such as "Cendrillon" (Cinderella), "La Petite Sirène" (The Little Mermaid), "Blanche-Neige" (Snow White) and "Le Petit



Chaperon Rouge" (Little Red Riding Hood). This engaging project not only strengthened their language abilities and storytelling coherence but also provided a platform for exploring their creativity. Collaborating in groups facilitated teamwork, enabling them to delegate tasks, generate ideas, and collectively craft compelling story conclusions. In addition to their literary endeavors, students have delved into French and Francophone culture through music. One activity involved honing their listening skills by filling in missing lyrics from the song "Voyage" by Desireless, using vocabulary related to their current lesson. Furthermore, to strengthen their oral proficiency, students partnered to create dialogues focusing on family roles, relationships, daily routines, and personal preferences.

GRADE 10

This fortnight, the Grade 10 French learners participated enthusiastically in the Literary Week. During this time, we conducted a "View and Review" activity where learners watched four short French movies. Following the screenings, each pair of students wrote a detailed movie review and created a self-explanatory, creative poster with their chosen taglines from one of the films they viewed. This paired activity encouraged collaboration and teamwork. The students beautifully presented their movie reviews, adhering to all the guidelines provided by the teacher. Their posters showcased impressive creativity and effort, reflecting their dedication. The taglines they created were not only catchy but also added a touch of irony, demonstrating their understanding of the films. Overall it was a



constructive effort that highlighted the learners' analytical skills, creativity, and ability to work together effectively.

HINDI

GRADE 6

The learners engaged deeply with the poem 'Jai Rashtriya Nishaan' which helped in the inculcation of the values of equality, compassion towards the less fortunate, and the importance of being good human beings. They expanded their vocabulary with words like Malay, fahar, samata, kshamata, hahakar, ran, santan, janani, focusing significantly on

pronunciation and enriching their language skills. Furthermore, they underwent a Maukhik (Oral) Assessment test on the poem, which bolstered their confidence. Through this poem, they also grasped grammatical concepts such as upsarg, pratyay, and paryayvachi shabd. Additionally, they acquired practical knowledge such as days of the week, months of the year, and numbers in Hindi, applying these skills in their daily lives. During the Literary week, they participated in a 'Show and Tell' activity where they showcased family pictures from their travels, eloquently describing their experiences.



GRADE 7



The learners delved into the poem 'Aahvaan', discovering its message about the importance of hard work and not resigning oneself to fate but striving to shape a brighter future and showing an appreciation for hard work and determination in shaping one's destiny. This experience expanded their vocabulary, introducing words like dosh, vyartha, saanche, mukh, bhagya, bhavana, udyam, vidhi deep, and others. They focused intently on pronunciation, enhancing their language skills significantly. They underwent a Maukhik (Oral) Assessment test on the poem 'Aahvaan', which contributed to building their confidence. Additionally, they learned about different types of pronouns ('sarvanaam ke prakaar') through a mind map and applied this knowledge practically. They also grasped the concept of synonyms ('Anekaarthi shabd') and its application. During the literary week, they participated in a 'Samvad Lekhan' Competition where they observed a picture and

imagined the conversation taking place, incorporating idioms ('Muhavarein') such as khoon paseena ek karna, mehanat ka fal meetha hota hai, ankhon kaa tara, eid kaa chand hona, among others, into their writing. Overall, these activities not only enriched their language and literary skills but also fostered creativity and confidence.

GRADE 8

The learners engaged in a variety of enriching activities centered around language and communication skills. They began by watching an interview 'Sakshatkar' of Mr. Sumeet and Ms. Shabina, where they learned about the concept of interviews and subsequently practised writing 'Sakshatkar lekhan'. They further applied this learning by conducting interviews with family members or relatives, gaining practical experience in this form of communication.

Throughout these activities, they also learned and utilized idioms 'Muhavarein' such as Kaan bharna, khaak chanana, khaak

mein milana, ghee ke diye jalana, ghode bechkar sona in their 'Samvaad Lekhan' exercises. Additionally, they explored 'Kabir ke dohe', which imparted lessons about the power of words and the importance of using language wisely and respectfully. During the literary week, they participated in a collaborative activity called 'Role Play', where they worked in groups to write and perform role plays. This activity not only fostered creativity but also promoted teamwork and confidence among the learners. The incorporation of idioms in their role play further enhanced their understanding and application of figurative language.



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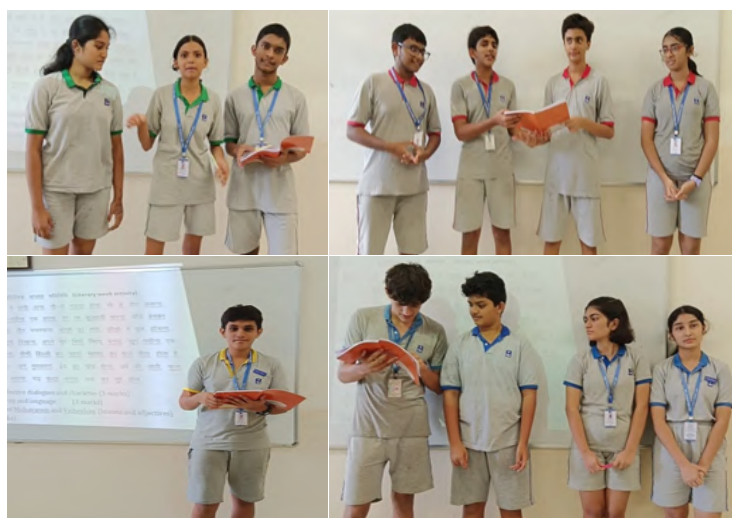
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GRADE 9

They explored diary writing by studying various examples and practising on topics such as reflecting on their birthday celebrations and describing their entire day's experiences. They confidently presented their entries to peers, enhancing their communication skills. Additionally, they engaged in the 'Thinking Beyond' activity where they selected a picture as a group and created poems, stories, or dialogues inspired by it.



Later, they participated in a listening activity designed to improve their listening skills, preparing them for their IGCSE examinations. During Literary Week, they collaborated again, this time using idioms and adjectives to craft stories, promoting teamwork, mutual respect, and public speaking proficiency. They used Muhavarein such as Muh mein paani aana, nau do gyarah hona, ghee ke diye jalana, etc.

GRADE 10

The learners delved into the art of speech writing 'Bhashan lekhan', focusing on essential elements such as structure, clarity of thought, and persuasive language.



They applied these skills to craft speeches on topics like Instagram vidhyartiyon ke vikas mein saadhak yaa badhak hai' and confidently presented their perspectives, honing their abilities in critical thinking, writing, public speaking, and self-assurance. Additionally, they participated in a listening activity where they analyzed conversational audio, aiming to enhance their comprehension and analytical prowess. Subsequently, the students explored

'article writing' ('Lekh lekhan'), studying examples to understand effective composition. They then wrote articles on topics such as 'Chat GPT vidhyarthiyon kaa mitra ya shatru hai' and presented their articles with confidence, emphasizing writing proficiency, creativity, and critical thinking. Further, they engaged in a 'Article Writing Competition' during Literary Week, where they were provided with topics and success criteria, fostering a competitive spirit and showcasing their writing skills.

P.E

GRADES 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10

In cooperative games learners work with one another in order to achieve a common objective. It reduces emphasis on competition and increases emphasis on social aspects on working in teams and groups. Learning to cooperate includes a core set of skills needed in many other game forms. In PE, learners are also developing their knowledge and skills to prepare for various fitness tests as a part of their assessment program in Term 1 along with participating in various cooperative games to develop their social aspects.



LIBRARY

GRADES 6A & 6B

Mystery Bag: The Mystery bag was designed to encourage students to read different books and different kinds of books. It contained book titles that were specifically intended for that



section and that the students had not previously selected.

GRADES 7A & 7B

Library Treasure

Hunt: The titles that were intended for their section but were not frequently read by the students served as



the clues given to the students.

GRADE 8

Library Treasure Hunt:

This activity is for students to better understand the library and to see all that it has to offer. Students learn a lot more about the library than they knew before.

Clues given to students lead from book to book, from section to section in a random way.



GRADE 9

Blind Date with a book: It is a mystery book wrapped in paper. The surprise element is that students are unaware of the author and the contents in the book. This concept enables readers to expand their reading repertoires by guiding them towards books that are outside their comfort zone. It encourages the readers to explore new genres and authors in a fun and exciting way.



NEWS FROM EACH GRADE

GRADE 6

ENGLISH

Grade 6 students focused on autobiographical writing, exploring the themes of travel and life lessons. These class exercises helped them enhance their creative writing skills. We also read and discussed Chapters 7 to 9 of *Black Beauty*, specifically delving into the themes of empathy and kindness. These classes equipped students with the ability to understand different perspectives and express them clearly.



MATH

Grade 6 students explored the world of integers, learning the concepts of addition and subtraction using a hands-on approach with red and yellow tiles. This method allowed them to visualize positive and negative numbers, making abstract concepts more concrete. By physically manipulating the tiles, students developed a deeper understanding of how to combine and separate integers. This engaging activity not only enhanced their math skills but also encouraged collaborative learning and critical thinking. The use of colourful tiles made the learning process enjoyable and memorable, paving the way for future success in mathematics.



PHYSICS

Grade 6 students engaged with the topic of air resistance, focusing on observing and understanding "particle resistance" as a model for air resistance. Through hands-on activities, they discovered how the number of particles encountered affects the level of resistance experienced. By conducting experiments and analyzing their results, students connected theoretical concepts to real-world applications. This interactive approach not only deepened their comprehension of air resistance but also fostered scientific inquiry and critical thinking.



CHEMISTRY

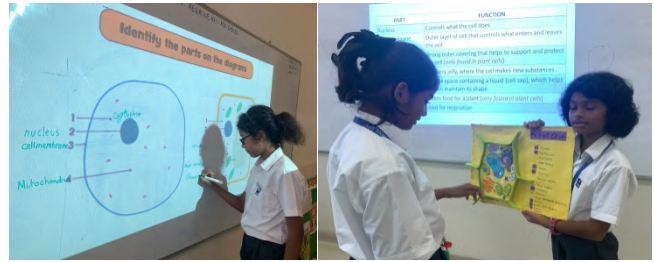


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Grade 6 students explored chemical hazard symbols and their meanings. They planned and executed an experiment to determine the acidity or alkalinity of various substances. Additionally, the students were introduced to the concept of particle model, using it to gain a deeper understanding of the states of matter.

BIOLOGY

Grade 6 students revisited the functions of various organ systems and learned that plants, like animals, have organs and organ systems. They discovered that bones are organs too. The students were introduced to the comparison of plant and animal cells, studying the different organelles and their functions. They also compared these cells to 3D models for a more in-depth understanding.



G.P.

Grade 6 students delved into the topic of 'Sport and Recreation,' focusing on the mental health benefits associated with participating in sports activities. Students uncovered several significant advantages for mental well-being, such as engaging in sports helps reduce stress and anxiety by releasing endorphins, the body's natural mood lifters. Through class discussion and presentation, students highlighted that regular physical activity also promotes better sleep, which is crucial for maintaining mental health.



HISTORY

In a recent classroom activity, students of Grade 6 delved into the topic of government. The students learnt about the different types of government by engaging in a hands-on activity of building the tower. Through this engaging activity the students explored how the different types of government- dictatorship, monarchy and democratic government functions, its advantages and disadvantages and examples from around the world. The students also successfully completed a formative assessment on the topic Mesopotamian Civilisation.



GEOGRAPHY

The Grade 6 students engaged in a group discussion to explore the differences between a globe and map. The interactive session allowed them to compare the physical and functional aspects of both tools. Students noted that the globe provides a three-dimensional, accurate representation of the Earth's shape, while maps offer a two-dimensional detailed view of specific areas. The students also successfully completed a formative assessment for understanding the key concepts of the formation of landforms. The assessment highlighted their grasp of the material.



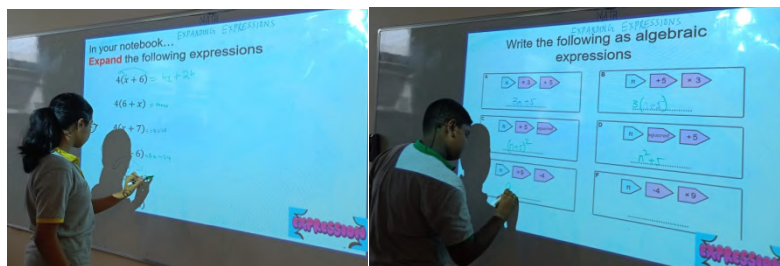
GRADE 7 **ENGLISH**

Grade 7 students delved into the art of narrative writing, learning the different features of narrative writing. Over the next two classes, they produced engaging suspense and adventure stories. This endeavour helped them hone their skill of crafting engaging stories. We also explored Chapter 2 of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which helped build on their literary analysis skills.



MATH

Grade 7 students tackled the topic of expressions, focusing on evaluating, substituting, and expanding them. Through a series of interactive exercises, they learned to evaluate expressions by substituting values for variables, making abstract concepts more tangible. They also practiced expanding expressions, enhancing their algebraic manipulation skills. This hands-on approach not only strengthened their understanding of mathematical expressions but also encouraged critical thinking and problem-solving. The lesson was both challenging and rewarding, laying a strong foundation for more advanced algebraic concepts.



PHYSICS

Grade 7 students learned that by examining the slope of a distance-time graph, we can determine how fast an object is moving. A steeper slope indicates greater speed, while a gentle slope suggests slower movement. This discovery has empowered us to analyze real-world scenarios, such as car journeys or running races, using mathematical tools. Furthermore, understanding the interpretation of distance-time graphs has opened up a new way of visualizing motion. Whether it's identifying periods of rest, steady movement, or acceleration, each segment of the graph gives us clues about what the object is doing at any given moment.



CHEMISTRY

Grade 7 students revisited the components of chemical reactions and the evidence indicating a reaction has occurred. They were introduced to both word and symbol equations. To enhance their understanding, they observed exothermic and endothermic reactions.



BIOLOGY

Grade 7 students conducted an experiment to investigate changes in breathing rate. They created a model to understand the respiratory system's parts and functions. They also explored the concept of the skeleton and joints, learning about the skeleton's functions and identifying different types of joints. To enhance their understanding, they used 3D models of joints and the skeleton.



G.P.

Grade 7 students explored the various positive impacts that social media has on today's youth. In groups as well as individually, the students carried out a class presentation explaining the key benefits that social media offers. While one group looked at social media platforms providing a space for young people to connect and communicate with peers from around the world, fostering global friendships and cultural exchange. The other group looked towards social media as a powerful educational tool, through which students can access a wealth of information, participate in online learning communities, and engage with educational content that enhances their knowledge and skills. Additionally, the class unitedly opined that social media offers a platform for creative expression as well.



HISTORY

Grade 7 learners learnt about the lives of the Mughal emperors Akbar and Shah Jahan. Through an engaging role-play activity. By portraying key figures and events, students explored Akbar's policies of religious tolerance, administrative reforms. The students also learnt about Shah Jahan's contributions to architecture, including the Taj Mahal. The immersive experience allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of the emperors' personal and political life.



GEOGRAPHY

In the recent Geography class, the students of Grade 7 explore the structure of the atmosphere through a collaborative group activity. Divided into teams, the students prepared charts and learnt about the distinct layers:



the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, ionosphere, thermosphere and exosphere. The students delved into the features and significance of each layer. The activity effectively deepened their knowledge of how the atmosphere supports life and protects the planet.

GRADE 8

ENGLISH

Grade 8 looked at ways to catalogue their holiday experiences from Travel Writing. Travel writing has a way of transporting the reader to new places. When done well, it can even inspire others to explore, experience new things, and gain an appreciation of different cultures. For Literature, the students were exposed to Shakespeare and his writing which includes



one of his famous plays from his first folio - The Merchant of Venice. As Shylock notes, he is still a human being even though he is Jewish. This is a lesson some today still have not assimilated. Our society has much to learn from The Merchant of Venice, including the value of mercy, the risks that attend debt, and the evils of anti-Semitism.

MATH

Math Activity: Substitution with Dice

This activity aimed to consolidate students' understanding of substitution in complex expressions. Conducted in pairs, with peer checking encouraged, it used dice as the primary resource. Students derive numbers from the dice for substitution, record each



result, and analyze the impact of different types of numbers, such as negatives or fractions. They document their reasoning and choose additional numbers to test their initial statements, promoting critical thinking. Assessment focused on students' ability to make educated statements and refine them based on new evidence. This engaging task enhanced understanding of substitution, encouraged analytical skills, and fostered collaborative learning.

PHYSICS

Grade 8 students have been exploring the fascinating world of radiation and heat absorption, discovering that black dull bodies are superior absorbers and emitters of heat compared to shiny or white objects. This insight has given us a deeper understanding of how different surfaces interact with heat in our everyday lives. In addition, we delved into the processes of evaporation and boiling, comparing and contrasting these two essential ways that substances change from liquid to gas. From understanding how evaporation cools down our bodies to witnessing the vigorous bubbling of boiling water, we've seen first-hand how energy transforms matter.



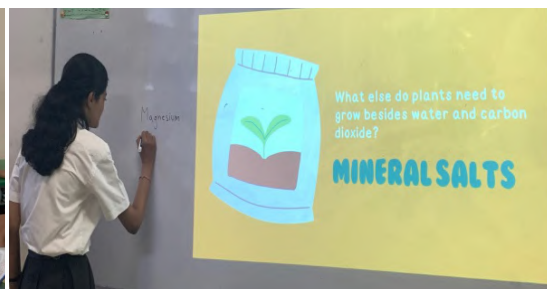
CHEMISTRY

Grade 8 students engaged in an activity using a "Grouping the Elements" worksheet, which helped them understand the development of the periodic table. They also completed questions related to the periodic table chapter, reinforcing their learning.



BIOLOGY

Grade 8 students explored plant vessels, learning about xylem and phloem. They examined a cross-section of root hair and studied the transpiration stream. We also discussed essential mineral salts for healthy plant growth and a discussion on the importance of fertilizers, including the differences between organic and synthetic fertilizers.



G. P.

Students of Grade 8 have been actively engaged in gathering information about sustainable solutions to ensure a better future. Under the topic 'Sustainable Living', their focus is on the three pivotal principles: reduce, reuse, and recycle. These young scholars discovered that by reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling



products, we can significantly minimise our environmental impact. Through group discussions and class presentations, they learned that reducing consumption can be achieved through mindful choices, such as opting for products with minimal packaging and conserving energy and water. Reusing items, like clothes, electronics, and containers, helps extend their lifespan and reduces the need for new resources. Recycling materials, such as paper, plastic, and metal, transforms waste into valuable resources, thereby reducing pollution and conserving natural resources.

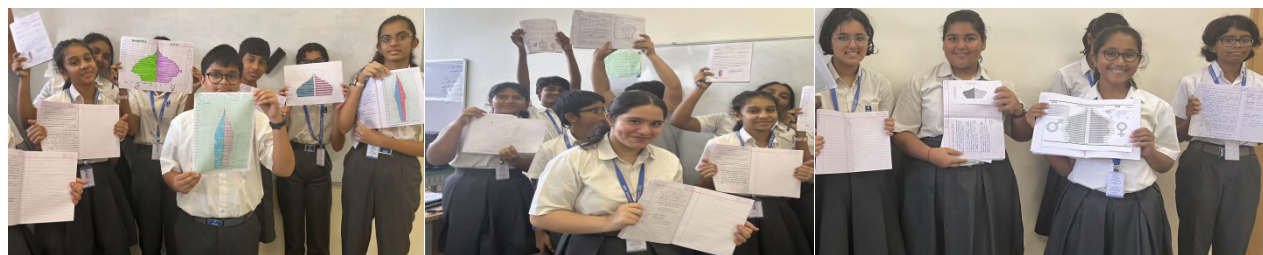
HISTORY

The learners have enjoyed learning about the Indian Parliament. Our potential young politicians were filled with questions as we engaged in discussions on the importance of the Legislature, the role of the President and the features and composition of the Lok Sabha. It was heartening to see them question how the legislature is important for society and to take on their roles as MPs, Speaker and the PM and President of India in a role-play that will follow soon!



GEOGRAPHY

The students were introduced to the topic on Population. They analysed what leads to certain places being over populated or less densely populated. They also looked into the population features of rich and poor countries. They reflected upon Population with regard to all time world statistics and were able to analyse the number of birth and death per second across the globe. Finally, students presented their understanding of a Population Pyramid and chose a country to speak about.



GRADE 9 ENGLISH

In Grade 9, our students honed their descriptive writing skills. They wrote stunning pieces for the Literary Week competition and the figurative language and vocabulary used were rather impressive! We also played a vocabulary quiz on the theme of moods, tone and atmosphere.



Competition truly does bring out the best in our students and the quiz with its subcategories of Categories and the like enthused our English learners! Engaging in textual

comparison too (between a magazine article and a blog) enabled them to use their analytical skills to analyze language and stylistics in various pieces of writing.

MATH

In Grade 9, our students are exploring statistics with a focus on scatter diagrams and the line of best fit. These tools help them understand relationships between variables by plotting data points and visually interpreting trends. Learning to draw the line of best fit allows students to summarize data trends, make predictions, and assess the strength and direction of relationships. Mastering these concepts enhances critical thinking and analytical skills, enabling students to make data-driven decisions in both academic and real-life contexts. Additionally, this foundation in statistical analysis prepares them for more advanced studies in future grades. Through engaging lessons and practical applications, our Grade 9 students are gaining valuable insights into the power of statistics, equipping them for success in a data-driven world.



PHYSICS

We've made exciting strides in our Physics lessons recently! We successfully tackled the concept of moment of force, understanding calculations involving weight and perpendicular distance from a pivot. This understanding has provided us with insights into how forces act to create rotational motion and maintain equilibrium. Moreover, through engaging demonstrations, we studied how to locate the center of gravity of irregular objects. This method not only illuminated why objects topple or remain stable but also highlighted strategies to enhance stability. Understanding these principles is crucial in fields ranging from engineering to architecture, where stability plays a pivotal role in design and construction.



CHEMISTRY

Students explored the fascinating world of matter. They learned to compare and contrast between atoms, elements, compounds, and mixtures. Exploring the structure of an atom, they discussed and practised writing electronic configurations of various elements and understood the existence of different isotopes. Additionally, students tackled the calculation of relative atomic mass. They were also introduced to redox reactions, writing chemical formulae of compounds and the art of balancing chemical equations. They discovered why it is crucial for equations to be balanced in chemical reactions.



BIOLOGY

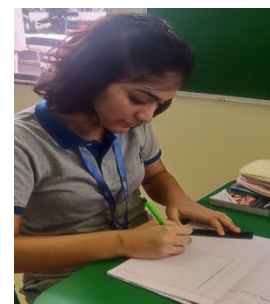
After learning the basics of preparing samples for microscopic viewing, our students took their studies further by exploring the structure of organisms in greater detail. Through interactive demonstrations,



they became more confident and began creating their own temporary slides. They also learned about the various organelles found in plant and animal cells and were able to explain the function of each one. Additionally, students practiced determining the magnification of photomicrographs, enhancing their understanding of how microscopes help us see the tiny details of cells.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Learners studied the different measures of business size and examined the suitability of these measures in the given case. They also discussed the reasons for why some businesses grow while others remain small. In this discussion they came up with different factors like type of industry, size of market, availability of raw materials, handcrafts and custom-made items' business etc., which limit the size of a business. They examined the components of a business plan and the need of a business plan for a business. They also studied the different ways in which governments support businesses.



G. P.

Having worked upon the transport networking system previously, the Grade 9 Students now shifted their focus towards finding viable solutions that would address the issue of Traffic Congestion. Under the topic 'Transport System' the students looked at various factors leading towards traffic congestion at different parts of the globe. Addressing the issue by providing solutions through PowerPoint presentations, the students touched upon various factors like high-end vehicle ownership, inadequate road infrastructure and urban sprawl contributing towards traffic congestion. Students divided into groups offered a wide range of solutions from implementation of congestion pricing to expanding road capacity and also mooted the idea of carpooling and ridesharing.

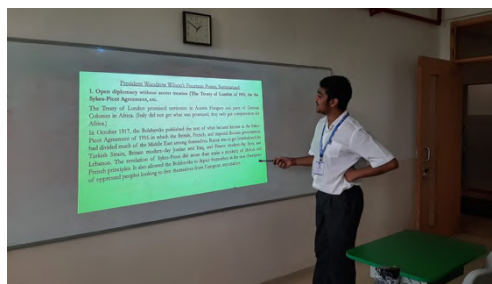


HISTORY

From the Treaty of Versailles and the politics behind it, we moved on to the League of Nations, its controversial Articles, its composition and organizational structure. We examined the good work done with refugees, labour laws and working conditions, and with

health matters; then we moved on to a closer analysis of its many failures at peace keeping (while noting a couple of small successes).

The Great Depression of the 1930s was up next and its impact on the American economy, the world economy,



the political consequences of the economic problems. We often say we live in an interconnected world **now** but even a century or so ago, a country could be dragged into conflict – or suffer unemployment and unrest and hunger because of events thousands of miles away!

ECONOMICS

Having discussed the role of price mechanism in allocation of resources, the learners now focused on how the market force of Demand works. They examined the law of demand, the demand schedule and the shape of a demand curve as well as the changes in quantity demanded resulting from changes in price. They worked in groups and analysed real-world news articles on factors causing changes in demand and illustrated the possible effects on demand diagrams.



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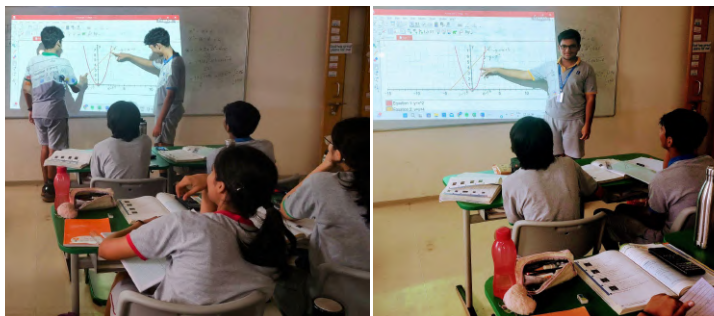
GRADE 10 ENGLISH



Stylistics is important because it allows for the integration of language and literature in education, benefiting both teachers and students. It provides a way to analyse the language patterns in texts and understand the relationship between linguistic choices and literary interpretation. To help the students master the art of Style Analysis they were grouped together to help them identify such patterns in writing whilst learning from each other. Each student had to identify a word/phrase and explain how it brought out a certain effect in the passage.

MATH

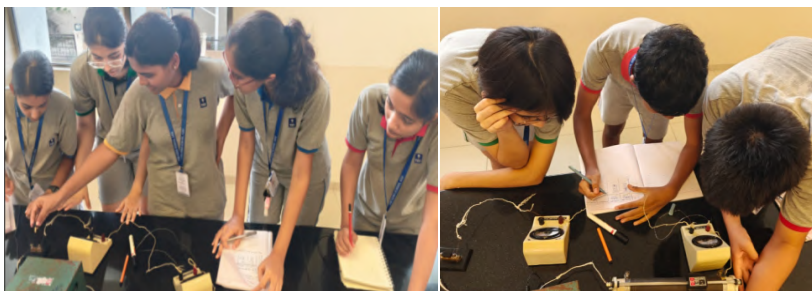
This term, Grade 10 students explored functions and their graphical representations in Algebra, covering linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. They learned to plot points, identify intercepts, and understand the slope of a line, which helped them visualize mathematical relationships and changes. By



analyzing graphs, students saw real-world applications like predicting trends and solving practical problems. Mastering these concepts develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills, essential for advanced math courses and standardized tests. Additionally, this knowledge lays the groundwork for careers in STEM fields, where data interpretation and analytical abilities are crucial. Overall, learning about functions and graphs equips students with logical problem-solving tools, preparing them for future success.

PHYSICS

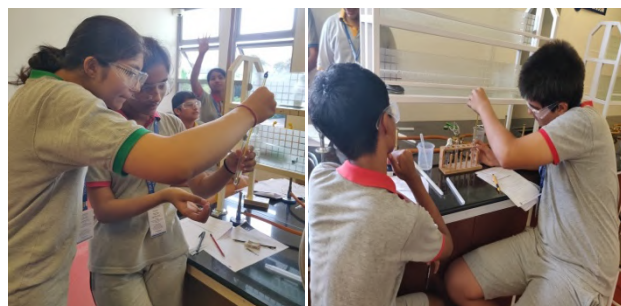
Grade 10 had an exciting time diving into the intricacies of electromagnetism in our recent physics lessons! Students explored the inner workings of generators and motors, gaining a deep understanding of how these devices convert energy



between electrical and mechanical forms. Applying Fleming's left-hand rule helped us predict the direction of motion of conductors within magnetic fields, while Fleming's right-hand rule illuminated the direction of induced currents—a crucial skill for understanding electromagnetic processes. Furthermore, our exploration extended to transformers, where you discovered the functionalities of step-up and step-down transformers in altering voltage levels efficiently. In the physics lab, students engaged in practical experiments to calculate the resistance of wires, applying your theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios.

CHEMISTRY

Students explored the chemistry of alcohols, carboxylic acids, and the creation of esters. They learned about the general formulas of these chemical series and identified the unique properties of each one. In the lab, students observed first-hand how carboxylic acids react with metals, carbonates, and alkalis. A highlight



of the week was a demonstration of the reaction between ethanol and ethanoic acid, using a catalyst to produce a sweet-smelling ester. This practical session not only reinforced their theoretical knowledge but also gave them valuable hands-on experience in observing chemical reactions.

BIOLOGY

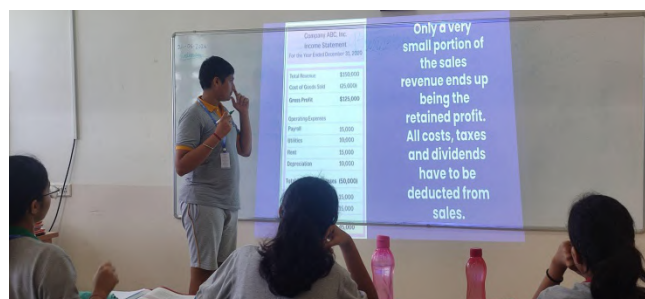
Our students dived deeper into the fascinating world of neurons and tested their reaction time. They explored the reflex arc, learning how electrical impulses create instant reactions and how this process helps maintain homeostasis in the body. They



studied feedback systems that regulate blood glucose levels and body temperature, understanding how the body maintains balance. The students also examined hormonal systems and their roles in the body. Finally, they investigated the tropic responses in plants, discovering how plants respond to environmental stimuli. This comprehensive exploration enhanced their understanding of both human and plant biology, highlighting the intricate systems that keep living organisms functioning.

BUSINESS STUDIES

In the concluding chapter of the unit Business Finance, Learners studied the various ratios to conduct analysis of accounts. Learners observed the charts showing the annual growth rate of three countries - USA, India and Sri Lanka over many years and came up with the findings that the GDP growth has an up and down pattern over the years and also in some years like 2009(the great recession) and 2021(Covid), all countries show a common dip in GDP. They related these observations to the different phases of the Business Cycle. They also discussed the effects of various economic events like economic growth, recession, mass unemployment, exchange rate fluctuations etc. on Businesses.



G. P.

Grade 10 students under topic 'Humans and other Species' worked at how to analyse, evaluate and reason out upon the given text in terms of argument and evidence. They looked at the following questions and sought answers while attempting the exercise: a) How good is the argument in the text? b) What reasoning is used for the argument? c) Does the author give any evidence to support the reasoning? d) Are there any gaps? What else might you need to find out before agreeing with the



argument? As a resource material they were provided with news reports pertaining to 39 flamingos getting killed after being hit by an Emirates aircraft flying over Ghatkopar East while it was in its final approach before landing at Mumbai airport. Two perspectives in terms of official statements were presented before students to carry out the exercise.

HISTORY

On January 1, 1991, the Soviet Union which was the largest country in the world, covering some 8,650,000 square miles (22,400,000 square km), nearly one-sixth of Earth's land surface ceased to exist. The



dissolution of the Soviet Union was the process of internal disintegration within the Soviet Union (USSR), which resulted in the end of the existence of the country and of its federal government as a sovereign state, which in turn resulted in its constituent republics gaining full power. For Grade 10 students to study and make a presentation on an event like this would help them understand how it is important for all government systems to keep up with the times and ensure they provide for their people. The ultimate power rests with the people and throughout history one sees massive change in the course of history for these reasons.

ECONOMICS

Learners studied about the foreign exchange rate fluctuations and the effects of these variations on different economic variables. They analysed how appreciation of a currency can cause a fall in exports and a rise in imports, which in turn will cause a current account deficit. It was interesting to see learners come up with interesting contradictions to this in the real world. For example, Shaan rightly pointed out how despite having a high exchange rate, the Kuwait Dinar has a current Account Surplus due to its resource abundance and a very strong economy. Learners also discussed the causes and consequences of current account deficits.



Hope you enjoyed reading this fortnightly account of what your wards did in school! Our next Newsletter will be for the three weeks ending 27th July.

Regards

The Gera School