



b - In Touch

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“ Educating minds.... strengthening roots.... To build a better tomorrow ”

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SAP's the way to grow...

We at **Buniyaad**, put, our collective minds together and decided to gift kids a life long friend - **NATURE (PLANT)**. Our **SAP (Students Adopt a Plant)** initiative plans to introduce children to their buddies, plants as young as them, which they can care for. This activity is not only about sowing seeds for Nature-Care but also an easy-to-learn lesson for kids to take up responsibility, albeit a small one at this stage.



Together we can

Thus, the **Buniyaad** team prepared 3 pots of young plants and gifted them to the Nurseries, with a few easy-to-follow instructions on how to nurture the same.

Under the class-teacher's supervision and guidance, the students have to water the plant, turn its soil, protect it from insects and strays etc.. For suitable motivation, the plants' growth and health will be monitored periodically.



The Nursery which achieves this will be declared to be the winner and given suitable recognition/ prize.

All the Nurseries will be given appropriate feedback to help them meet criteria for healthy growth of the plants. Based on all the aforesaid factors, the end of the Academic yr. 2009-2010 will see the plant that has grown healthy and big!



the better of the Mother Nature, but was given a short shrift by the ever vigilant class-teacher and the young ones.

Encouraging feedback was received from all quarters along with their unique experiences. In Nursery 2, a goat was an additional fear-actor. It conveniently chewed off a few leaves, but was vociferously stopped by the young guardians. In Nursery 3, Sun God tries to get

Activities in Nurseries

This section brings to you what our busy-bees have been busy doing. Oh, a fun load awaits them as they cruise through their Academic Year. The details of celebrations that follow are in chronological order.



Working hard to play

Gandhi Jayanti :

All the enthusiastic readers of our Newsletter may, by now be familiar with the agenda at **Buniyaad**. But there are always new converts. So for them as well as for those who may have forgotten, **Buniyaad** team takes pride in not only educating students minds but also aiding their overall awareness & development. For this purpose, special care and effort is taken by the team to ensure celebration of all National Festivals.

Mahatma Gandhi has been and will undoubtedly always be an integral part of any Indian. On the occasion of **Gandhi Jayanti** this year, we decided to teach the students a couple of the high ideals which were preached and practiced by **Mahatma Gandhi**, those of truthfulness and honesty. The famous story of a small pencil which Bapu could not bear to lose for fear of wastage was narrated to them. A huge picture of **Gandhiji** was shown to students and **Gandhiji's** personality and his clothes were described in detail highlighting the saying – ‘SIMPLE LIVING HIGH THINKING’

Diwali

The festivities for Diwali in Oct.'09 were celebrated in **Buniyaad** Nurseries just before we closed for the Diwali Vacations.

One of the objects of **Buniyaad** is to provide ample opportunities for hands-on experiences. Though children are young, they are still given a

chance to understand and replicate relevant parts of their surroundings.



Tamaso Maa Jyotirgamayaa

Hence, **Buniyaad** team gave some blank diyas, which were painted by students as they may have seen their mothers or aunts do at home. For the very same reason, flowers were especially provided and were put to good use by creating beautiful Rangoli patterns. Yes, we can still call it Rangoli because the flowers were colourful!!

Painted diya/diyas was reverently placed in & around the Rangoli and lit by the class teacher with lot of exciting chatter from all the tiny workers. The accompanying prayer was that we may be given the strength to help abolish the darkness of illiteracy to the best of our capability.

Children not only worked but played as well. They played indoor games and in some cases got the chance to exhibit their talents, which thrilled them immensely.



Colours of d-Light

In some classes, children danced to some old songs like ‘Din Din Diwali’. Sweetmeat and

Namkeen was distributed and relished by all. The happiness and joy on their cherubic faces conveyed that Diwali has been ushered in already. We proceeded for the holidays with a promise to start the Indian New Year with as much zeal as we showed in the First Term.

Parent Teacher Meeting

The re-opening of the respective Nurseries in Nov.'09 saw the parents invited for the first **Parent-Teacher meeting** for the academic year 2009-2010.

As most of us are well aware, whether from ye-old-student-days or as new-age-parents, this is the personalized time for each parent to converse with the class-teacher. This interaction assists parents to understand better the course of action that has been charted out for education and growth. How well is a child doing and how can they, as loving guardians, can be the wind under their children's tiny but powerful wings, to propel them to greater heights.

In Nursery 2 the class teacher, **Mrs. Matode** came up with an innovative and fun way to ensure that we see regularity in attendance. She announced a prize for the three students who were most regular in attending school. It certainly reflected on these students performance during their respective assessments. It also made some parents renew their resolves to discipline their own lifestyles.



Proud recipient of 'Student with max attendance' Award

The correlation between attendance and performance, and how it will help students achieve desired results was pointed out to all parents during their one-to-one meeting with the teacher. Since, this was a very practical solution with tangible results, the class-teachers in the other two Nurseries are contemplating about adopting the same.

Children's Day

Who can forget Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was one of the architects of Indian Freedom Movement? Soon it was time to have birthday celebrations for Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, something very close to our heart. Relax; we are talking about the much awaited and much enjoyed Children's Day celebrations in all the Nurseries. A rose sticker was stuck on each student's hand as a special Children's Day gift to help them associate it to Pt. Nehru. The students were told about the immense love Panditji had for children and how he was famously known as Chacha Nehru for this very reason.

All the children were playfully engaged in the popular game of passing-the-parcel. For each child who got the parcel, there was a gift waiting. The winner was overjoyed at being the recipient of the prize after a long dodging game.

A prize worth holding onto



Christmas Celebrations

Ho, ho, ho!! The familiar chuckle of children's beloved Santa Claus!! By the way, ho ho ho also means 'excellent' in Cantonese. This must be the reason why Christmas finds young and old, rich and poor in excellent spirits.

The students were introduced to lovable Santa Claus by means of a special activity. A smiling face of Santa was presented to each Nursery and they decorated it in the traditional colours of red and white. The ruddy and jovial face was coloured pink. Special care was taken to highlight his white beard, moustache and eyebrows by carefully sticking cotton on it. The well-known cap was painted bright red with a white tuft of cotton at its top. Students, teachers and volunteers celebrated Christmas by throwing a party for themselves.



Santa Claus as a toddler

Being Christmas, our choices of sweets veered towards cake, chocolates, and savouries. All the tiny tots made merry and danced to the tune of a relatively well known Christmas carol of Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle all the Way.



Let's make merry!!

We had a small group of ladies from Powai who work together on students providing special educational techniques and aids come forth to celebrate Christmas with the students of **Buniyaad**. They further ushered in Christmas by giving the

students little takeaways. Nirupama has a few words to share with us ... Read on to know what.

Art and Craft Corner

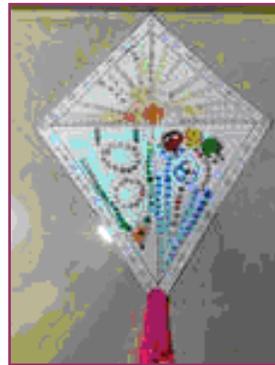
Art is an expression of self. Allow us to add Craft to it, since students in **Buniyaad** get many chances to express themselves through various Art and Craft projects.



In this case 'self' was made up of the entire class at one go. Students and teachers showed amazing enthusiasm and creativity when presented with the opportunity to artistically decorate Vegetable-block-printing Craft project.

The art material and supplies were not your run-of-the-mill types. No, Sir!

And you read, it right, it was a vegetable-printing project!! The very same vegetables that the students were taught about!! **Buniyaad** team provided a huge paper kite to each Nursery as well as the vegetables and colours.



The class teacher had to chalk out a pattern to colourfully adorn the paper kite. It was exciting to watch children adapt to new 'brushes' with which to execute the design adopted / decided by their respective teachers.

None of the children were disorderly or botchy.

Far from it, they were quite focused on getting the correct imprints on the proper areas as defined by the teacher. That they had to use a thin ladyfinger or a bit fat potato, a differently shaped beetroot or a long carrot was not one of the things that came in the way of their diligent work.

Our Partners **Xoriant**, were represented by their employees, who graciously agreed to devote time to be a part of the Craft competition in each Nursery. Each of them had to award marks to their respective Nursery based on the criteria of planning, execution, execution and creativity.



Winning Entry

The final decision was reserved for **Mrs. Shoma Majumdar** who is a professional artist. She judged all the three pieces of finished work as finished products and declared the Kite from **Nursery 2 Milind Nagar** to be the best.

Congratulations to the children and their teacher!!

Cancer Awareness Campaign

Continuing the crusade started by **Vasantha Memorial Trust**, on 6th Nov. 2009, **Mrs. Jayalakshmi Krishnan** conducted the Cancer Awareness Campaign in the **Park Site Vikhroli** and **Park Site Raigad Chawl** Nurseries. As a part of the Project **Pudhu Vasantham**, volunteers educate women about how to do a breast self examination, crucial in early detection of breast cancer.

Along with dissemination of information, a unique approach to help self-diagnosis was introduced. A medically created specimen of the affected body-part was handed out to the audience. Thus, the participants had a practical as well as theoretical knowledge of the subject. This feel-and-learn methodology was crucially helpful, especially for the curious but hesitant audience.

During the Awareness Camp, the participants were taken aback when a bundle of myths was set afire in the torch of knowledge and information.

General Health Check-up

As a part of the objectives for a healthy child, **Buniyaad** team ensures that students in all the Nurseries are provided with a General Medical check-up.

Dr. Usha Chennuru conducted thorough medical examination of the young ones, with adequate feedback from the respective parents. In some cases parents were advised future follow-up with a specialist. A few of them were gently advised to follow basic precautions like avoidance of excessive sweets and cold eatables for children.

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Photos by: Saigita/Valli

Feedback from various quarters

Buniyaad is fortunate to have people around who motivate and prod us in the right direction. Our team is humbled by the observations made by **Mrs. Nirupama** and hence we bring to you a few of her thoughts regarding contribution to society.

I was so glad and grateful that I visited you the other day with my friends. You are doing great work and am sure that whoever is visiting your centres will be greatly inspired to also contribute to the society in some way.

This was my observation on that day: You (Valli) and the other members of **Buniyaad** are at one strata of the society and the teachers at the Nurseries are at another. But both are equally involved and committed to the work each one is doing. What this goes to show is that if someone wants to contribute to the society, they can just go ahead and do it- no matter where they stand or how they are placed in society. Hats off to all of you.

Nirupama

This is the feedback we got at nursery no.: 3. As we completed the competition and were leaving, the parents were waiting outside to pick up their wards. They saw the completed kite and expressed their eagerness to look at it as the kids were mentioning at home about the competition. We agreed to it. They were very happy to look at it and expressed their feelings that their child was doing well and has improved a lot, especially a grandparent of a ward named Raj was happy and told us that her grandson has made remarkable progress as he could not converse earlier and now he speaks dime to a dozen. Our observation is that Raj has definitely shown progress but at time he is withdrawn. All this feedback we got as we stepped outside the nursery, on our way back.

As volunteers of **Buniyaad**, we were overjoyed.

Hema Kodi/Anuradha Sahai

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