



Annual Day Celebrations

All around, there were tiny little fairies all dolled up in fancy clothes and multi colours, holding on to their teachers fingers with excitement while their parents and siblings looked on with pride and a little trepidation. It was to be their very first stage performance, the first of many more to come in life. The first one is always special and at the tender age of four years, this was their very first school annual day celebration. The Nickelodeon banner ‘Smart Place to Play’ with it’s child caricatures brought in cheer.

March 24th 2013, earmarked the annual day celebrations of the Nursery students of *Buniyaad*.

Kutchi Bhavan, Powai was packed to capacity with expectant parents and curious siblings and the nervous yet immensely proud teachers and volunteers of Buniyaad. **Mridula Gupta** and **Binu Pillai** were the gracious comperes, who steered this event to a

splendid completion. Volunteers from Xoriant Solutions and Anglo-eastern Maritime Training Centre, who had come to help out Buniyaad were seen around ushering



and minding the tiny tots – holding their hands. The events started off on a traditional note as Mrs Saigita Narayan, the chairperson of Buniyaad, escorted Prof.M.Mukunda Rao to do the

honours of Lighting the Lamp. As the light of the lamp illuminated the stage, the little ones were all gathered together for their very first performance on stage- the prayers. A midget sized yet resplendent Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati were surrounded by all the other participants as they devoutly chanted the various shlokas taught to them.



As the stage was prepared for the first dance, two young volunteers **Sagarika Sriram** and **Atharv Agrawal** came forward with bubbling enthusiasm to make sure the audience was kept entertained between the programs and ensured that there were no dull moments at all. With a back drop of a projector, the young ones doled out various interesting questions and brain teasers and handed out prizes to those who answered them correctly.



The stage was now set and the thumping beats of a Goan song ‘*Ye Nari Ye*’ filled the expectant air. The students



of Nursery No. 4, IIT Tirandaaz, little girls in multicoloured dresses and boys all handsome in black and white swayed and entertained the awe struck audience. It seems the auditions of the little masters dance show is definitely happening in the wrong place!

http://www.buniyaad.org.in/goan_dance.html

After more of brain teasers for the audience, it was now the turn of the the older

‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star’, ‘Johnny Johnny Yes Papa’ etc. The girls in candy floss pink and the boys in bright blue kept the audience on their toes as the enthusiastic parents could barely keep to their seats!

http://www.buniyaad.org.in/rhymes_dance.html

Now was the turn of the students of Nursery No. 3, Parksite to set fire on stage with their scintillating performance of the **Koli dance**. As the curtains



were drawn apart, one’s gaze was captivated by the young fishermen and fisherwomen in their authentic costumes. The thumping performance ended with loud whistles and tumultuous applause all around.

http://www.buniyaad.org.in/koli_dance.html

The next performance took on a more serious note as the students of English Conversation class, Group 2 came on stage with their strong message of ‘**Be woman. Be proud**’. Small skits within the play, conveyed the importance of many topics like educating women, raising voice against sex determination and female foeticide and women voicing out their issues without fear. For both the plays, the teachers in the English conversation classes have contributed their time and effort and Buniyaad is grateful for this.

Mrs Radha Kannan, a Trustee of Buniyaad, came forward to felicitate the people from various walks of life, who had contributed to the smooth running of Buniyaad either monetarily, intellectually or by devoting their precious time. Some of those who were called on stage were the representatives of the main sponsors like **Nickelodeon**, a division of **Viacom 18** and **Hathway Cable and Datacom Ltd.**, **Mr Jagdish Kumar**, **Mr. H. Gehaney**, **Capt. Sudipto Dasgupta (Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training)** etc. This event was also supported by



students of the English Conversation class, Group 1 to convey a message through their short skit in English. The play was titled ‘**Girl child- Ek bacchii**’ and it conveyed, very effectively, the message that girls are not a bane to their parents but their biggest asset, especially in old age. The roles were taken up by students of the English class, who are also the teachers of the Nursery classes.

The next set of children who hurried up the stage for the next act were students from Nursery No. 6, *Amrit Nagar*. They mimed and danced to the tunes of various **Nursery Rhymes** like



Hewlett Packard. Efforts of all the Class Teachers were appreciated with awards and certificates, which were handed out by **Mr Haresh Gehaney, Head-Corporate Communication, Hathway**, one of the main sponsors of the event. This was also the time to



announce the highly treasured award – the ‘Best Teacher’s Award’. For this Academic year, the winner is **Mrs. Mitali Yadav**. The Award was given away by Mr



H. Gehaney – Head, Corporate Communications, Hathway. Our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Yadav on this achievement. The way forward was touched upon by Mrs. Kannan detailing the **Asha Kiran** scheme and the **Karthik Pillai Award** as well as the editorial

initiatives. Mrs. Kannan was supported by **Ms. Shreya Kodi**, who took care of the visuals in the presentation. Few parents of ex- students also came on stage to express their gratitude to Buniyaad and share the success stories of their children with the rest of the parents. It was a heartening moment for the teachers and the volunteers alike...



If it is a time for merry making, can the Gujaratis be far behind!!!! Nursery No. 1, *Parksite* students, the gujarati ‘*bhais*’ and ‘*behens*’ of Buniyaad, gyrated to the steps of ‘*dholi taro dhol baaje*’ – **garba style** and thrilled the audience with their energy.



http://www.buniyaad.org.in/garba_dance.html

Hygiene and cleanliness play a very vital role in our lives and the earlier it is inculcated in the minds of the children, the more habituated they become to it. The students of all the Nurseries came forward in groups with colourful placards and tuneful rhymes, to depict the importance of personal cleanliness, dental hygiene and keeping the surroundings clean.



Sardars and Sardarnis, students of Nursery No. 2, *Milind Nagar*, added the **Punjabi tadka** by performing **bhangra** on the popular number ‘*nagada, nagada*’...such an energetic dance, that even the teachers and volunteers could not hold back their whistles!! Kudos to the young dancers for maintaining high energy levels till the last refrain of the song.

http://www.buniyaad.org.in/bhangara_dance.html

All that India stands for was stringed together in a **patriotic number** by the children of Nursery No. 5, *Filterpada*. The music was specially pieced together for the dance. The golden days of yore were brought alive, when *Rani Laxmi Bai*,



Chatrapati Shivaji, Gandhiji, Bhagat Singh, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar came on the stage and paid respect to Mother India. The Defence Forces sent their bravehearts in uniform (size – extra small please) as if to reassure all present that the future of India is as safe as can be. It is creditable that the children who were dressed up elaborately for roles, kept all their paraphernalia together and patiently waited for their turn to give a power packed performance.

http://www.buniyaad.org.in/patriotic_dance.html

The little fairies of Buniyaad, had waited patiently for many hours and toiled hard for many days, to entertain their proud parents and aspiring teachers. It was now their turn to be entertained! Team Buniyaad surprised

the little ones with a fabulous magic show, that set off peels of laughter and squeals of delight and made their first appearance in front of the world a very happy one...
‘Coming together is a Beginning, Staying together is Progress and, Working Together is Success.’



We are immensely thankful to the all the organisations and individuals who have been constantly providing encouragement by their partnership with Buniyaad. We are grateful to the team of Volunteers right from the youngest ones to the professionals who devoted their precious time on Sunday to make the Annual Day a great success.

For many more pictures of Annual day, visit

http://buniyaad.org.in/activities_annualday.html

Inspection of the Nurseries

Amidst all preparations that were taking place for the Annual Day, Nurseries were still maintaining academic schedule. Inspection of all the Nurseries was carried out in the month of February-March. **Mrs. Renuka Sethunathan**, a trained teacher from Early Childhood from Treehouse was the Inspector.



Inspection by an external authority helps in maintaining good teaching practices in Buniyaad. We bring to you an excerpt of her experiences with Buniyaad.

My experience of visiting the Buniyaad Nursery and Playgroup schools was an amazing one. Having been a teacher myself, i am aware of the necessary infrastructure required for running a play school and since these centers were run for the under privileged, I was not expecting much. But what I saw

really overwhelmed me. Despite having limited resources the teachers in their own unique way are doing their best .I was very impressed by the class display, the efforts taken to make flashcards, number charts etc. Of course all this is possible only because of the unstinted support from the volunteers. I found the teachers to be very motivated and they made good efforts to interact with the children in English. The curriculum designed for Buniyaad is also very comprehensive right from the bhajans, shlokas, nursery rhymes, the stories to the worksheets.

Personally, for me too it has been a very humbling as well as an enriching experience.

I want to thank all the members of Buniyaad for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I really appreciate all of you for supporting such a noble cause.

KUDOS! to all of you.

-Renuka Sethunathan

Open House in Buniyaad

Soon after the Annual Day it was Assessment time and Teachers, volunteers and students changed gears and got ready for the second term assessment. All the students in all Nurseries performed very well. However, there are three students whose performance is par excellence. They are **Aditya S Vishwakarma** from Nursery No. 5 as the **Best Student - Male**, **Shruti Patwa** from Nursery No. 1 as the **Best Student - Female** and **Aditya Bansode** from Nursery No. 2 as the **Best Academic Performer**. Best Academic Performer is an award instituted from this Academic Year 2012-13 and



is called the **Karthik Pillai Award** which has a cash award of Rs.5000/- along with a trophy and a Certificate. Many congratulations to the young achievers!!! For more pics, visit

http://buniyaad.org.in/activities_reports.html

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