

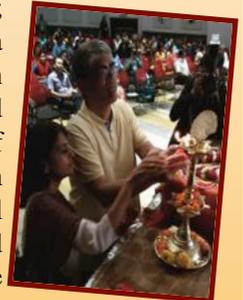


**Buniyaad Playgroup and Nursery, in association with Forstar Frozen Foods Pvt. Ltd., celebrated Pragati Utsav 2019, on February 17, 2019 with pomp and gaiety.** The biennial celebration was held at the auditorium of the Nahar International School, Chandivali. Young 'Friends of Buniyaad' welcomed guests to the venue, which was throbbing with positive energy. The auditorium was vibrant with colourful banners of our **Event Sponsors Forstar, Nickelodeon, and Partners of Buniyaad, Anglo - Eastern Maritime Training Centre, Xoriant Solutions Pvt. Ltd. and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).** The year – long hard work of children and teachers was showcased as charts and exhibits that decorated the hall and attracted crowds of parents and guests alike.

*'Teach the children, so it will not be necessary to teach the parents'- Abraham Lincoln;* this line appeared to sum-up the sentiments of parents, who made special efforts to be a part of, and cheer, for their child's debut...



Lighting of the lamp and chanting of the prayer 'Asatoma sadgamayaa...' urging mankind to progress from darkness to light, also set the tone for **Pragati Utsav'19;** which was a festive celebration of the growth and development of India, replete with its rich cultural heritage and diversity. The Dances and Skits



centered on the poignant themes of India's *pragati* in the areas of Agriculture, Defence, Bollywood, Sports, Environmental Awareness and Women Empowerment. Children with folded hands and smiling faces welcomed all by reciting their very own Buniyaad prayer, among others... Ms. Richa Mohan, Corporate Trainer and Ms. Archana Rajgopalan, an Associate C.A. and a certified Information System Auditor, conducted this Event splendidly.



From the Green Room to the stage... it was an absolute buzz of activity! It was a beautiful sight... hard to imagine, but children as young as 3-4 years old were seated in organized groups with discipline. They were being dressed up in colourful costumes and they cooperated while getting make-up done.



Teachers, parent- and Corporate volunteers were on their toes getting the children stage-ready. Upon enquiring the young performers told you about the dance that they were going to perform, albeit shyly. Their eagerness and enthusiasm rubbed off on everyone around them.



Conceptualized on a song on Swachh Bharat, tiny-tots from **Nursery 4** presented a dance that highlighted the message of **Clean Environment**. Children represented different states of India, and a child even dressed as our respected P.M.!



Another endearing action dance '**Tik Tik...**' was presented by **Nursery 1**. Decked up in colourful red and blue dresses, this act focused on **Plastic Ban**, which was also the theme for Editorial Initiative this year.

Collectively, they gave the message that people from all over our country should work together to achieve the aim of **Swachh Bharat**.



Students of **Nursery 6** presented a dance on a medley of popular Bollywood songs centering on Sports; the medley was called '**Dhaakad ghar laayenge Gold**'. The highlight was the wonderful coordination of three sets of children dancing on stage.



Right next on cue was a riveting performance on the concept of Sports development - '**Get ready to fight, Baghi**', presented by **Nursery 5**. In this performance children honoured eminent sports personalities from India in Wrestling, Badminton, Boxing, Cricket, etc.

*Jab maidan mein ho dwandw aar-paar, Khiladi hamare naa mane haar  
Karkay ek mitti- paseena aur khoon, Machaa dein har khel mein dhoom*

After completing their song and dance, the young students would quickly fall in formations. They enthralled all with nursery rhymes in their sweet lilting voices, and actions set to the rhymes.



Between such adorable acts Ms. Mohan kept the spectators captivated by asking tricky riddles. These caught the fancy of the crowd as winners were presented with prizes!



Next performance was by young hi-tech *kisaans* from **Nursery 8**. They swayed to the peppy beats of evergreen song *'Mere Desh Ki Dharti'*. Kids presented it so well that it left the audience cheering 'once more'! Theme was India's growth in the field of agriculture.



Patriotic emotions of children from **Nursery 3** were visible when they performed on the medley of evergreen numbers *Nanha munna rahi, Desh Rangeela, Suno gaur se'*. Dressed in the colours of *Tiranga*, it was an energetic dance with props of army tanks, navy ships and airplanes.

When the teacher asked, *'Desh ki raksha karega kaun?'*, children replied in unison *'Hum Karenge!'* Team Buniyaad and the esteemed audience paid tribute to the soldiers martyred in the Pulwama attack by observing two-minute-silence.



Students of **Basic English Conversation** program presented a galvanizing skit. Based on the life of Mrs. Sudha Murthy, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, this act emphasized **Gender Equality**. Touching upon Indian women shattering the proverbial glass-ceiling, this was an impeccable performance!



From Basic to Advance... In fluent English and brimming with confidence, students of **Advance English Conversation** program staged a skit on **Plastic Ban**. With situational examples and settings, they exhibited how society can stop indiscriminate use of plastic by adopting economical and sustainable alternatives.

'Bollywood' was coined to recognize the formidable presence of Indian Cinema in the Global entertainment arena.



To highlight this facet **Nursery 7** danced to a medley of tunes of popular Bollywood numbers *'Bhumro, engine ki see ti chogada'* and won many hearts. This song showcased a pan-India '*lok-kala*' (folk dances); right from Gujarat to Kashmir to Rajasthan.



**Nursery 2** gave a power-packed performance on the very famous and peppy Marathi song *Zingaat*. From a progressive movie, *Sairaat*, this song illustrated the growth of Indian cinema in being socially relevant. Full of energy and verve, these little ones rocked the stage.



Mrs. M.V. Subhalakshmi, Vice Chairperson of Buniyaad, gave a very informative presentation. It was a kaleidoscopic view of different activities in Buniyaad Nurseries kids learning Gross Motor skills, colouring, experiential learning, computers, inter-nursery competitions, awareness camps, nutritional supplements, etc. The highlight of this segment was the launch of **QR Code for Buniyaad, vide BHIM UPI**, by **Mr. Mayur Shende**, from Business Development Department of NPCI. With this launch, **Buniyaad goes digital!** In his personal capacity, Mr. Shende took the initiative to be the first person to support Buniyaad by using the app and the QR code. Mrs. Subhalakshmi also shed light on the **AshaKiran Scheme**, under which deserving students receive financial assistance for further education in mainstream English-medium schools. The Vice Chairperson called upon Representatives of Partners in progress, Corporate and Individuals, for felicitations by Buniyaad. We expressed our thanks by way of a Green- Gift to **Mr. Jiju Pillai, M.D., Forstar**, **Mr. Yogesh Damle from IOTL**, **Mr. Sunil Gambani of Divya Enterprises...** to name a few.



The most awaited and much coveted, Best Teacher's Award and Second Best Teacher's Award for this Academic year 2018-2019 was given away by **Mr. Srikrishnan, of Planners and Investments** who sponsors these awards. This year **Ms. Vidya Ahire, Nursery 5, Filterpada**, won the Planners and Investments Award for the Best Teacher. The award for the second-best teacher was given to **Ms. Sarika Matode, Nursery 2, Milind Nagar**. These awards are in recognition of teachers' outstanding performances in the fields of elementary education, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

The **Grand Finale** to the Event was the dance by Teachers on the song *Ghoomar*. Teachers' love for their work and organization reflected in the way they involved themselves in the dance and how they trained their students to perform as well...



*Kuch parvat hilaana hai* came as an inspirational dance presented by **Nursery 9**. It brought together children dressed in attires of different segments of population of India. They depicted 'Incredible India' of Tomorrow!

Team Buniyaad would like to thank management of Nahar International School, *Chandivali*. We also thank parent- and other Volunteers for the day: Ms Sheetal Kotnis, Mr Vivaan Patra, Mr. Rakesh Yadav from **Xoriant**, Mr. Srinivasa Rao, Capt Saldanha, Ms. Pooja Idnani, Ms. Venezia, Mr. Deepak Deshpande from **Anglo- Eastern**, Ms. Ajitha Singh, Mrs. Vani Vishwanath - guest of NPCI, and our esteemed **Guest Editors Mrs. Hema Subramanian and Mrs. Nabamita Mukherjee**.

As we draw curtains on a spectacular and fun –filled day... Buniyaad children went home happy and delighted to receive a bright and colorful school bag from **IOT Infrastructure & Energy Services Ltd**.

For more pictures [http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_annualday\\_PU2019.html](http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities_annualday_PU2019.html)

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