



The air resonated with excitement with over 165 kids, Corporate & Buniyaad volunteers, teachers and some parents; all gearing up for the evening!!

A couple of Friends of Buniyaad - young and bubbly greeted all with sweetmeats. They were promoting Buniyaad by selling smart bookmarks, the proceeds of which would go towards the Asha Kiran Scheme.



Expression of gratitude and appreciation as sentiments from parents was a humbling experience.. They were in awe of the dedication and tireless efforts in developing their children, instilling right values and equipping them to be a part of society with pride. Parents shared their confidence in their kids' ability to gain admission in good English medium schools.



A serene idol of Lord Ganapati and a large diya were the first signs that heralded a splendid evening ahead... The event started on the dot of 3.00 pm with the ancient tradition of lighting the lamp symbolic of Buniyaad's endeavour of educating minds, strengthening roots, to create a better tomorrow..



Mrs. Ruchika Kumath and Mrs. Archana Rajgopalan were the compères and anchors for Splendour 2017 who welcomed the guests enthusiastically.

Mrs. and Mr. Sunil Patil, parents of a Buniyaad student were invited to light the lamp. This was accompanied by chanting of 'Asato-Maa', a universal prayer to dispel darkness.



Buniyaad Prayer 'God who made the Earth' and invocation of the Almighty for a successful event set the tone for the splendid evening ahead...

A large stage was embellished apropos to the grandeur of the event. The very first performance of the evening was a dance on the song *'Deva Shree Ganesha'*. A magical performance by children from Nurs. no.7 was presented; with the bell, the conch and all the other hand made props. A cute boy dressed up as Lord *Ganesha*, was flanked by two boys holding hand-made fans to keep the Lord in good humour!!



Ms. Rajgopalan took everyone through the spectacular journey of Buniyaad from its inception till date. Currently there are seven nurseries educating 165 students and has a total of 1195 students who have travelled through the doors of Buniyaad.

In addition, it conducts English Conversation Courses for ladies in Basic and Advanced levels. Buniyaad's **Asha Kiran Scheme** launched in 2011 has benefitted our ex-students.

A couple of parents whose children have benefitted from this scheme, proudly highlighted the fact that the girl child no more would be confined to the walls of the kitchen but was now empowered to execute whatever they dreamed and imagined about.

The entire program was interspersed with mind –tickling, witty riddles.. While correct answers were lauded and suitably rewarded, some answers provided extra entertainment for the audience!

The next event was **'Crazy Frog'**, an energetic dance program where the little ones from Nurs. no. 4 danced to the tunes of a melodious song. The performance saw children dressed in vivacious red, orange, black and yellow, all of which enhanced the



colourful appeal...

Mrs Tiwari, parent of AshaKiran beneficiary, Astha Tiwari, talked about their experience of how Asha Kiran scheme has touched their lives in a dramatic and transformational manner. Mrs Tiwari, who is educated till std. five, spoke generously of the way Buniyaad teachers get completely involved in the lives of the students. Both Mrs Tiwari and Astha have learnt through Buniyaad's teachings that 'Time is Precious!', and that there is no age limit for learning. While most of Ms Rajgopalan's statements touched us in a special way, one sentence, which

struck a chord was, "If you educate a woman you educate a generation..." Mrs Tiwari has amply exemplified the same...

Dressed in shimmering white and silver costumes, children of Nurs. No. 2 appeared as embodiments of the song *'Taare Zameen Par'*. Head-bands with stars worn by the boys, and girls dressed up as butterflies moved around the dais. As the dance finished and kids gleefully waved to the audience, they were rewarded with boisterous appreciation!!



The subsequent event saw Ms. Mitali Yadav take the stage to announce the presentation of a skit called **India goes Digital**. The same was extremely well presented by the students of the Advance English conversation class. It explained the importance of opening a bank account, using credit card facilities etc.



The short play effectively underscored the impact demonetization has had on an average Indian family. Then it was time for yet another fantabulous performance...

After the captivating dance performance that concluded with loud cheer, **Ms. Prajakta Dhotre** shared her journey, beginning with elementary village education, to the milestones she is achieving after working with *Buniyaad* and learning to speak in English at the Basic English Conversation Program. It was overwhelming to hear such a transformational journey.



This time the tiny-tots from Nurs. no. 5 looked resplendent in golden and green costumes, dancing to the tunes of '**I Am A Gummy Bear**' song.

Next dance performance took one to the Koli villages alongside the Sea. Against the background score of '**Dariya Kinare Ek Bungalow**', children from Nurs. no 3. danced on the stage as little *Koli* boys and girls. All smiling and beaming faces...



Ms. Saigita Narayan, Chairperson of Buniyaad shared a few words. Through experiential learning lives are transformed at Buniyaad... This was evident in the audio-visual presentation, which educated the audience about the mission, philosophy and achievements of Buniyaad. Her message highlighted the belief that



Buniyaad lays emphasis on concentration of the mind and development of character.

It reaches out to less/under privileged sections of the society, teaching pre-school activities, at the same time imparting moral values and conducting extra curricular activities. Ms Narayan also touched upon **AshaKiran**, the financial assistance wing of Buniyaad, and how it has been a relentless support system. It supports young minds from Junior K.G. to Standard IV where student assistance could be between Rs. 9000/- to Rs. 13,000/- per annum.

The presentation gave us a 'reel life view' of the 'real life activities' done in a fun way at *Buniyaad*.

It was an honour for Team Buniyaad to felicitate our Sponsors, Partners in our Journey, esteemed guests, and Friends of Buniyaad. Ms Rajgopalan took the stage and invited guests of honour on the stage for felicitations. A note of thanks was also extended to **Partners Xoriant, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Center, Hathway Cable and Datacom Ltd. HD (who will also telecast the program).**



Mr Jiju Pillai, MD of Forstar Frozen Foods Pvt. Ltd. - Associate Sponsor of SPLENDOUR 2017 spoke of the values supported by Buniyaad emphasizing on good quality education to the underprivileged. Representatives of esteemed Sponsors and Partners gave away prizes to teachers for competitions held during the year.





Amidst loud cheers and whistles feisty li'l *Radhas* gave a piece of their mind to naughty *Krishnas*. It was children from Nurs. no. 1 who brought the house down by dancing on the catchy number '*Radha Teri Chunari...*'

The students of Basic and Intermediate Level English Conversation class performed a skit on **Cleanliness**. This taught us the importance of cleanliness in a fun way. The English Conversation students dressed up as mosquitoes and flies and emphasized the importance of keeping our surroundings clean.



The '*itte se*' children pulled at the heartstrings as they danced on the lovable song '*Itti Si Khushi*'. This performance by Nurs. no. 6 was last but not least in the sequence of the heartwarming Nursery Performances!!



Sponsor of the best teacher award, **Mr. R. Srikrishnan** was invited to give away the fiercely guarded secret; the most coveted - Award for the Best Teacher... Mr. Krishnan is an entrepreneur in the field of Investments & Planning. From this Academic year 2016-17 the Runner –up Award has also been instituted.



This year the **Planners and Investments Award for the Best Teacher** was given to **Ms Sarika Matode** from Nursery No. 2. The very first award for the second-best teacher was given to **Ms. Bharati Ahire**.

These awards are given in recognition of their outstanding performances in the field of elementary education, moral value education and extra-curricular activities. One could see surprise, glee and excitement on their faces while accepting the Award!!



True Splendour of colours manifested in the finale... a dance number presented by teachers on the song 'Yeh Desh Rangeela'. This song extolled different hues of Mother India.



An evening well spent finally came to an end with all of us standing for the National Anthem. The parents were then seen rushing to their children to hug and congratulate them. What a proud moment it must have been for them. The fearless first time performers, the tiny-tots, were truly the Stars of the day!! All the children went back with sweet memories, filled in school bags; a gift from TOI, with stationery gifted by Mrs. and Mr.



Kumar, a color box from Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Center, and a toy-car gifted by Mrs and Mr. Kannan. Team *Buniyaad* is grateful for all the support that our Sponsors, Partners, Friends of Buniyaad and our Families extend to us; special thanks to our guest editors **Mrs. Iris Alvares and Mrs. Nabamita Mukherji**; a big thank-you to **Mr. Patkar** for clicking delightful pictures. We also express our sincere thanks to '**The Byke, Suraj Plaza**' for organizing a special luncheon, in appreciation of the work put in by Teachers, Staff, and Volunteers for English Conversation Classes and Team Buniyaad.

Collectively you buoy up our spirits, reinforce our vision, fortify resolve and bring a peppy spring to our steps on the journey for "Educating minds, strengthening roots... for a better Tomorrow."

For more pictures: http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities_annualday.html

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