

**CONTENTS:**

- Celebrating Diwali**
- Second Art and Craft Competition**
- Teachers' Picnic and Article Writing**
- Get Set Go... Sports Day Celebrations**

**Diwali Celebrations**

The festival of lights, *Diwali*, illumines not just our homes, but also our hearts. It was a day of party laced with learning at *Buniyaad* Playgroup and Nursery. The tiny tots showed their joy by painting and decorating the earthen *diyas* given to the Nurseries. Each *diya* was then mounted on used-CDs making a beautiful *diya* with stand. The little ones were taught how to be safe during *Diwali* celebrations. Chocolates, notebooks and crayons from Friends of *Buniyaad*, and goodies by volunteers made the day sweeter. The occasion gave the children an opportunity to experience the festive spirit of sharing and caring with their friends. For more pictures, visit: [http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_diwali.html](http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities_diwali.html)



**Second Art and Craft Competition**

Arts and crafts enhances cognitive skills and builds creativity. To encourage our little learners and to bring out their creative best, Second Art and Craft

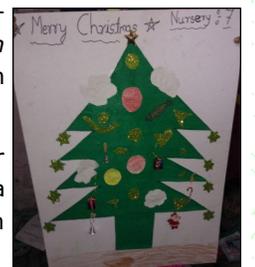
competition for the Nurseries was organized in December, 2017. The teachers and children responded with great zeal to this fun-filled learning experience. The promising display of beautiful art and craft works made by the students with their teachers' help was appreciated by our corporate volunteers who were also our onsite judges.

For this competition, the Nurseries were given green felt paper, trinkets and other Christmas decorations to create and dress-up a Christmas tree. All the students and teachers had fun doing this activity and the students were very excited about the Santa Claus stickers.



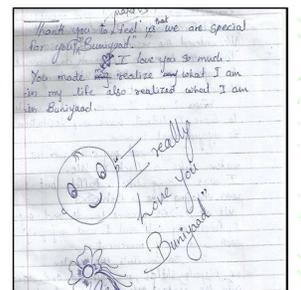
Our guest judge Ms.Ruchi Srivastava adjudged the winners. Ms. Ruchi is trained in fine arts from College of Fine Arts, Kolkata. Based on various parameters, *Nurs. No.2 (Milind Nagar)*, Ms. Sarika Matode and her team were declared the winner (top right). This was followed by *Nurs. No.7 (Dakshin Swami Narayan Nagar)*, Ms. Bhagyashree Bhoi and her team, were chosen as the runner-up (bottom right).

Feedback from our corporate volunteers helps us in our works, in this light here are a few quotes given by our corporate volunteers: *All in all a very good effort by all—Saylee Pote, Xoriant. Overall a good effort—Vanitha Fernandes, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Centre.* We thank them, because their presence and enthusiasm encourage our students and teachers. For more pictures, visit: [http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_art2.html](http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities_art2.html)



**A Peek into Teachers' Picnic—Article Writing**

In *Buniyaad* we believe that—'together we make a difference!' Our teachers are ever willing to put in their best efforts to make a difference in little children's lives. To acknowledge and appreciate their hard work, *Buniyaad* organized a fun-day-out for our teachers at Manas Resort, Virar. The Editorial Team organized an article writing competition for our teachers. They were asked to give a catchy heading and write about their experiences. The teachers exhibited their flair in English and *Sarika Matode from Nurs. No.2* was adjudged winner for her impressive narration. Her article was titled '*Umar 55 ki, Dil Bachpan ka, at Manas Resort*'. Excerpts from Sarika's article: "*Buniyaad has given us an opportunity to fill our lives with joy and happiness... I jumped into the swimming pool and waddled like a duck... I got out of my daily routine life and became a small child. There was no workload, no tension, no fikar of anything.*"



## Get Set Go... Sports Day Celebrations

The morning of December 22nd, 2017, rang the bell of joy and enthusiasm marking the Sports Day of *Buniyaad* Playgroup and Nursery, at Ambedkar Udyan, Powai. Children, teachers and volunteers all came together to participate in true sporting spirit. The little achievers, with glittering smiles assembled in an organized manner, and were seated with their teachers. We could see teachers absorbed in preparing the tiny-tots for the upcoming sports challenges. The event kicked off with 'Flat



**aces'**, where all the children participated in multiple rounds. The best of each round was selected to run the semi-finals and then the finals. The winners of the Flat race were: *Aryan Harendra, First prize (Nurs. No.7); Sai Sandeep, Second prize (Nurs. No.6).* The third prize was shared by *Samarth Bola (Nurs. No.5) and Ria Pawar (Nurs. No.7).*

The winners of this event were: *Ms. Vidya Ahire, First prize (Nurs. No.5); Ms. Priyanka Jadhav, Second prize (Nurs. No.3).*

'Returning from school', was the first theme race that was conducted for our little racers. While running towards the finish line, kids had to stop mid-way, remove their water bottle and school-bag. This race brought out the sportsmanship spirit, not only in children, but also in teachers, parent-volunteers and volunteers. One could see them jumping with joy, whistling, clapping in excitement and cheering the kids on. The winners of the theme based race were: *Ayush Yadav, First*



*prize (Nurs.No.3); Sona Gadvi, Second prize (Nurs.No.6); and Harshita Andhale won the Third prize (Nurs.No.2).*

The following race was 'Under and Over race' where children had to run under and over ropes to reach the finish line. When we say sports are fun, we mean it! Team *Buniyaad*, tweaked the race to make it more fun-filled. The final round saw children running under the 'human arcs bridge'. The winners of the 'Under and Over race' were: *Tanmay Chougule, First prize (Nurs. No.1); Vishaka Salve, Second prize (Nurs. No.2); Prajwal Pawar, Third prize (Nurs. No.1).*



Once the children had their fill of sports and games, it was time for *Buniyaad* teachers to have some sporty fun.

Two races were organized for the teachers and office staff, 'Blind Woman's Bluff' and 'Wobble-Walk'.

In the former, participants were required to identify various food items like *dal*, cereals, spices, etc. within just one minute. The twist was that they could not make use of their olfactory senses!



The winners of this event were: *Ms. Vidya Ahire, First prize (Nurs. No.5); Ms. Priyanka Jadhav, Second prize (Nurs. No.3).*

For the 'Wobble-Walk' the participants were asked to walk to the finish line with a big softball between their knees. Amidst the slip and struggle, all the teachers had an enjoyable time showing off their fun side to the children.

Winners of this event were: *Ms. Bharati Ahire, First prize (Nurs. No.1); Ms. Neelam Shrivatsav, Second prize (Nurs. No.6).*



Kudos to winners for bringing out their hidden talent to the fore! The remarkable day ended with prize distribution and singing the



National Anthem. After this, the food packets and refreshments were distributed to everyone. For more pictures, visit:

[http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities\\_sports.html](http://www.buniyaad.org.in/activities_sports.html)

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