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Vol. XVIIIssue HighlightsApril 2010

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

**Republic day:**

26<sup>th</sup> January is recognized & celebrated as the *Republic day of India*. It is India's great national festival. At all our nurseries, it was celebrated with immense enthusiasm & participation by all the children.

In *Nursery 2*, children gathered together to partake in this activity. Each child painted one



hand with a colour of the flag namely orange, white or green, then imprinted the image on a chart paper forming a huge circle to signify unity and harmony.



In *Nursery 3*, children made the national flag using crepe paper in the three significant colours of the flag. It was the first day for

the new teacher **Ms. Zanjad** and she helped the children to participate enthusiastically in this activity.

In all nurseries, the activity ended with the children singing patriotic songs and the National Anthem. To brighten up the day, the children were treated to sweets and lollipops.

**Holi:** Colours are an integral part of any Indian festival. So much so, that we have a festival of colours. Yes, it's Holi that we celebrated in all the Nurseries of **Buniyaad**.

In *Nursery 3*, students palm painted white T-shirts with colours. Then they filled coloured water in spray bottles and sprayed it on the T-shirts making vibrant and colourful patterns. The teacher took care that the students didn't get wet while playing mock Holi. Students

applied colour on each others' foreheads and were given sweets, salt savouries and chocolates. They were told an inspiring story about how we must avoid buying artificial colours and instead use things like turmeric, beetroot and spinach available at home to prepare safe organic colours.

**Annual Sports Day:**

*All work and no play,  
makes Jack a dull boy.*

And we have *Mayur, Snehal, Aryan, Rajlaxmi* as well.

We learn life's most important lessons on the sports field like strategizing for victory, evaluating opportunities to win and sizing up competition to understand sportsmanship.



**Chak de Bachche!**

These form the foundation, **Buniyaad**, of everyone's growing up years. Need we explain further, why Sports activities are on par with our Academic activities?

Having said this, allow me to accept that this is purely a grown-up's attitude which permits them to be wise in retrospection. Children are blessed to be blissfully unaware of trying to convert each occasion into a lesson for life. They are gifted with the ability to enjoy the moment for what it actually is, a joyous day out filled with games, fun, sunshine and a refreshing breeze.

On 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2010, children from the three **Buniyaad** Nurseries walked into *Ambedkar Park* near *L&T* as bright rays of sunshine on a beautiful day.

The **Buniyaad** team had put in a lot of effort to come up with events that would stimulate children physically and mentally. Hence, the leap-frog race for the under 4 years category required the children to have good hand & leg coordination all the while keeping their sights trained at the finishing line. Hop they did and how!!

The Mat race was a joint effort. The little participants needed to understand what the partner required and provide the same. Then there was an additional picnic for above 4 yrs of age. But here they had



to prepare for picnic as fast as they could. They had to don a hat and pick up a basket and load it with fruit, flowers chocolates.

Children enjoyed all the races so much that some would not stop running even after reaching the finish-line. All of them were encouraged to learn and implement that one must finish the task one undertakes, and to not lose heart and interest mid-way.

Since a healthy competitive spirit is essential for one's growth, a mention of the winners of various events is mandatory. In the above 4 yrs category, the winners are as follows: Christopher Steven – 1<sup>st</sup> & Sanket Ghadge -2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50m Running Race, Christopher Steven – 1<sup>st</sup> & Sanket Ghadge -2<sup>nd</sup> in the 'Running for Picnic' Race, Pranali Khade – 1<sup>st</sup> & Chirag Gayakwad – 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Mat Race. In the below 4 yrs category, the winners are as follows: Rohan Patil – 1<sup>st</sup>, Shubham Singh – 2<sup>nd</sup> & Caitany Tanpatil – 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Running Race 50m, Snehal Paikrao – 1<sup>st</sup>, Nihal



Yadhav –2<sup>nd</sup> & Shubham Bhalerao – 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Football Race. Parth Padavekar – 1<sup>st</sup>, Ragini Singh – 2<sup>nd</sup> & Snehal Shinde 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Frog Race.

Teachers were asked to pit their wits against each other when they tore a sheet of newspaper to come up with lengthiest continuous strip. They also played Ball in the Ring. Not as easy as you think!! They had to dunk balls with their back to the ring. All of them were vociferously cheered by the audience whose voice levels belied their ages.

A perfect ending to a perfect day came with Pavbhaji, sheera and juice handed out with extra TLC.

**Fancy Dress and Poem Recitation Competition:**

Our students exemplified the motto 'Mind over Matter' as they transformed commonplace objects into exceptional props to portray characters for the Fancy Dress competition. The theme for this event was 'Community Helpers'.

Hence, a plain white dupatta thoughtfully pinned on the head, turned a sweet smiling girl into a professional Nurse. A wicker basket filled with vegetables prompted the judges **Ms. Vidhya Mouli & Ms. Anima Ranjan** to ask the *bhajiwali* what she had in store for them. After she identified all the vegetables in English she coyly asked "kaay pahije?" The doctor was efficient as he examined the patient and





prescribed medicine. An ordinary stick and broom put together was a weapon yielded by Sweeper pledging to keep the surroundings clean. Our local *Doodhwala*, took rounds of the area and doled out milk, litre by litre. Teachers, of course, had enough role - models around, but the new generation still had something to add.

One can imagine that it was an extraordinary day for all the students. To step out of the comfort zone of



their Nurseries, familiar surroundings and faces, stepping on the stage, in front of Ms. Nirupama Rao and Ms. Vithika Krishnan, the judges of the Poem Recitation Competition and still remembering all the lines of their respective poems. Sweet lilting voices sometimes inadvertently reciting sounds instead of words was charming.

In the **Fancy Dress Competition**, the age group of 3 - 4 yrs saw *Michelle Vaz* stand 1<sup>st</sup>, *Rajlaxmi Patil* stand 2<sup>nd</sup> and *Pranav* stand 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the age group of 4-5 yrs, *Christopher*, *Chirag* and *Sanket* stood 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. The **Poem Competition** saw *Michelle Vaz*, *Pranav* and *Subham Singh* stand 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the 3 – 4 years age group. In the 4 – 5 yrs age group, *Sanket Gadge* stood 1<sup>st</sup>, *Sheetal Pated* stood 2<sup>nd</sup> and *Snehal Paikrao* stood 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A heartfelt note of thanks to all the judges, who put every participant at ease!! The judges encouraged them by clapping and cheering and popping a sweet nothing in their mouths at the end of each performance. One of them expressed it poetically that

'*Aam ki thandi chaaon*' helped them get into the mood for the day.

A special remark from one of our volunteers present at the **Fancy Dress & Poem Recitation Competition**:

It was very interesting to see all our tiny tots dressed up in different attires. All the kids, be it the bhajiwali or gas supplier, to the teacher were good. It will be very difficult to point out any particular favourite as I sincerely feel that at their age, all that matters is participation. It would have taken a lot for these kids to come up in front of an audience.

So for me, each one is a winner.

**M. V. Subhalakshmi**

**General Health Checkup:**

The last Medical health check-up for the Academic year 2009-10 was held on 06<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2009 by Dr. Usha Chennuru. She examined all the students and followed up with respective parents regarding the course of treatment which was recommended in the earlier check-up camps.

To mention a case in particular, a student was advised to increase calcium intake as it was severely hampering his ability to carry out even his daily activities. Dr. Chennuru not only recommended medication but also took keen interest in the enforcement of the same. She was very appreciative of the parents who took the Doctor's advice and administered proper care and medicines. Today, as a result of the combined efforts, the student has overcome his weakness and is a bright student in the Nursery.



**SAP Initiative:**

As we promised earlier in our **4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue Vol. XV Nov 2009**, the *Editorial Team* has been regularly monitoring the plants that were given to the three Nurseries under the **SAP** (Students Adopt a Plant) **Initiative**. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the plant at Nursery 3 could not survive. We were regularly updated about the unfavourable conditions.



Nursery 1



Nursery 2

The other two plants have not only survived, they are thriving; a visual treat for the students and teacher when they come to Nursery every morning.

The accompanying photographs are proof of job well executed. Mrs. Bharati Ahire, Nursery 1 class teacher will be

felicitated for the best thriving plant. The felicitation will be held at the beginning of the academic year 2010-11 in June when the next Editorial Initiative will also be duly announced.

**Annual Reports & Awards:**

Every year, **Buniyaad** awards the most deserving students from all their Nurseries for their all - round performance. At the close of the academic



year 2009 -10, the **P. T. Sundaram Award** for the **Best Male Student** went to **Mst. Pranav Waghmare** from Nursery No.:1 and the **Smt. Swarnambal Sundaram Award** for the **Best Female Student** went to **Ms. Mehak Pal** from Nursery No.:2.

**Inspection of Nurseries:**

An Inspection of the three Playgroups & Nurseries of **Buniyaad** was conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of March, 2010. The Nurseries were judged on different criteria like interaction of the teacher with her students in English, their responsiveness to her, curricular, extra-curricular, class behaviour, etc. **Ms. Priti Patkar**, a **Social Worker**, adjudged Nursery No.: 1 as the best.

**In Memoriam...**

The **Buniyaad** family offers its deepest & heartfelt condolences on the sudden & untimely demise of **Mrs. Vaishali Wankhede**, Class Teacher of Nursery 3, in Jan 2010. We extend all our sympathies and prayers to the grieving family.

**Launch of Buniyaad's Web Site:**

**Buniyaad** added yet another feather to its cap with the launch of its own website. Our partner, **Xoriant**, an IT firm, has always extended its support to **Buniyaad** in its endeavours to provide quality education. **Mr. Saurabh Sharma & Ms. Madushree**, **Software Engineers** under the direction of **Ms. Ranjana Singh**, **Head (HR)**, **Xoriant** have been the brains behind the construction of the web site. The **Buniyaad** team commends the efforts of all our friends and well-wishers at **Xoriant** who have always smilingly been willing to go that extra mile.

We also welcome **Ms. Iris Alvares** on board the Editorial Team.

So what are you waiting for? Check out our website at '**buniyaad.org.in**'.

**Tête-à-tête**

In a free-wheeling interview **Ms. Jaya Swarup** discovers how the journey has been for **Mrs. Bharti Ahire**, Class Teacher, Nursery 1, with **Buniyaad**.



**What was your motivation to take up teaching in Buniyaad?**

One of the main reasons is the desire to teach children. After completing SSC, I had always wanted to continue learning or keep in touch with English, which could not happen due to various circumstances.

So when I got to know that **Buniyaad** is running an English Medium Nursery, it was as if life offered another chance to realize my ambition.

**Do you use any special teaching techniques for teaching children?**

My first step is to provide visual connection, something which students can relate to, like pictures objects, etc. Then I follow it up with lots of repetition of the same. Simple usage of standing, sleeping lines and curve helps them in character recognition, be it Math or English. Keeping in touch with syllabus already covered on a daily basis.

**If a conventional teaching method doesn't yield results, how do you work around it?**

I have a customized approach for each child. Some need gentle prodding and some pushing. The trick lies in understanding the child's psychology.

**In what ways has Buniyaad helped you?**

Buniyaad has helped me realize my desire to be associated with an English speaking Institute. Working with volunteers and specifically Saigita Madam has taught me that we can be busy with our lives, but still make space for others. I have tried to do the same. Buniyaad volunteers treat me with immense respect. I am sure that I must have made mistakes in my learning stages, but I was always extended support and not criticized. That has helped me build confidence.

**What have your students taught you?**

Love is, by far, the smartest and the best education aid of all. I am really proud of all my students.

**Footnote** - At the time of interview, **Bharti** was proud and happy to have won the **Best Teacher Award 2009 - 10**. She literally had tears in her eyes when she said, "I'm not teaching for any recognition but I'm really happy that my hard work & contribution has been recognized in this manner. The prize money of Rs.3000/- is really worth Rs.3 Crores for me, I'm never going to spend it."

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