



EKLAVYA SAMACHARA

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EKLAVYA EARLY YEARS

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sensorial Day	5 March
Albert Einstein's Birthday	14 March
Holi	14 March
Annual Day	22 March
Shaheed Diwas	23 March
Dirty Day	28 March
Ramzan Id	29 March
Gudi Padwa/Cheti Chand/Ugadi	30 March
Vincent Van Gogh's Birthday	30 March

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents' Workshop Dates: 1 March, Sat 10am – 11:15am
15 March, Sat 10am – 11:15am

Celebrations

31 Jan, Block Room Day: Children of TG, PG and KG celebrated Block Room Day on 31 January. They enjoyed the different planned activities, from working with rangometry shapes to making structures with the Unit Blocks and even Anji Play. Each activity was designed to stimulate their logical thinking, problem solving, design thinking and spatial intelligence skills. The children were thrilled to participate in each and every activity and their joy and enthusiasm was readily apparent.

* A note on Anji Play has been published in the Parents Corner



Crawling through the Obstacle Course



Pure joy comes from True Play



Crossing all hurdles



Learning to make our own seesaw



Collaborative fun!



Little builders



Cooperation and teamwork



Making our new home



Building a balance beam



Ingenuity and creativity



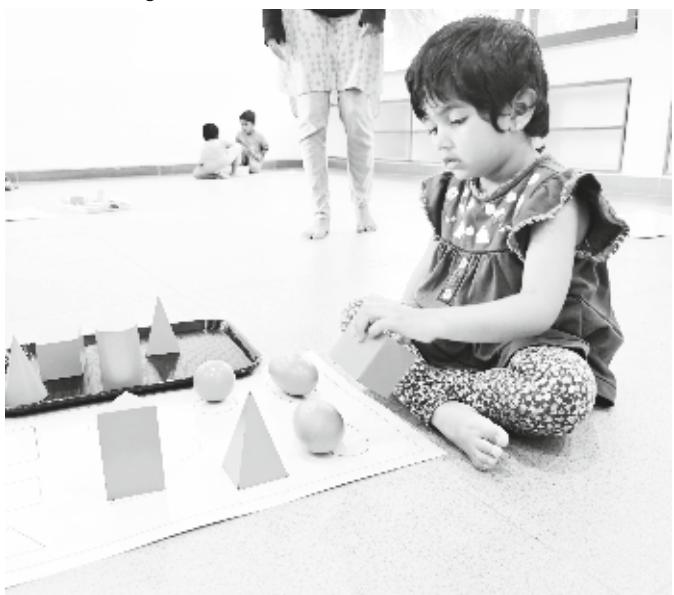
Building skyscrapers



Constructing castles



Problem solving



Grey cells at work



Looking at the Block Room materials in a new light



Patient work



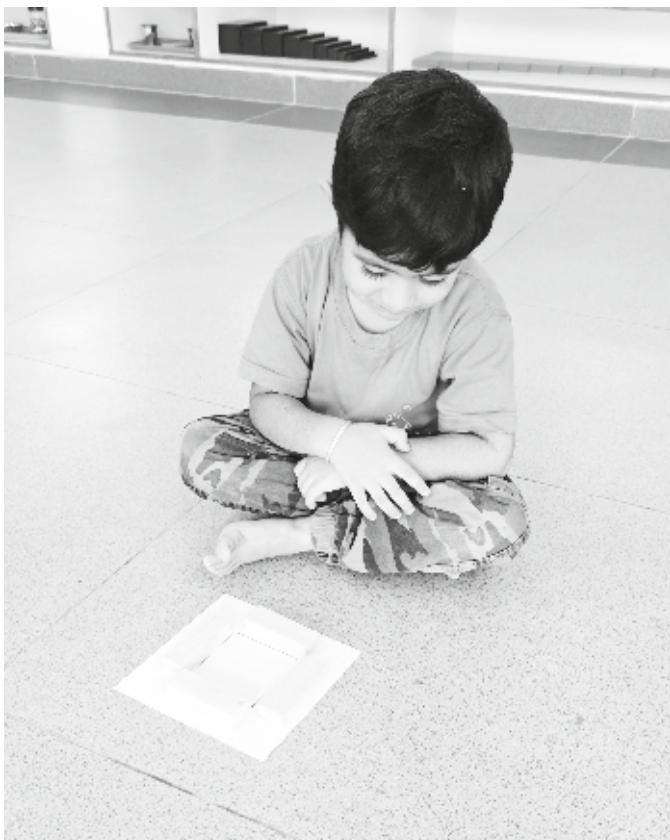
Making towers



Fun with dominoes



Rangometry shapes - making sailboats



Understanding negative space



Encouraging each other

11 Feb, Thomas Edison's Birthday : Children of TG, PG and KG learnt about Thomas Edison on his birthday. They learnt about his life and his greatest invention - the light bulb. Children also observed a light bulb and understood how it works and were keen to learn how electricity works as well.



15 Feb, Galileo Galilei's Birthday : Children of TG, PG and KG learnt about Galileo Galilei, his life and his discoveries a day before his birthday during Circle Time. They learnt about telescopes and astronomy and were intrigued by the idea of observing planets and stars.



19 Feb, Shivaji Jayanti : On the occasion of Chhatrapati Shivaji's birthday, children learnt about him, his childhood and heard a childhood story of shivaji which described his bravery, patriotism and principled nature. They also saw a portrait of Shivaji.



Sports Day : - On 22 Feb 2025, Eklavya Early Years hosted the Second Annual Sports Day. It was a day full of joy and excitement. Children had been preparing for it for over three weeks. The Sports Day began with an energetic drill dance. The Chief Guests of the Sports Day were Mrs Anup Kaur and Mr Sukhbinder Singh, grandparents of Nehmat Caur Virdi of KG1a

Children were excited to run a variety of races such as Balancing the Ball Race, Rolling the Box Race, Making Dominoes Tower Race and Obstacle Race among others. Each child was encouraged, and the Chief Guests awarded each of them with a medal and certificate.



Excited to race!



"Look my Mumma-Papa!"



Welcoming the Chief Guest



And it begins!



Dancing with pom poms



Feel the rhythm



Run fast...



Balancing the ball



Beading race!



A spectacular audience



Placing the beads in the bowl race



Collecting bowls race



Obstacle race



Quick matching



Rolling the box race



Fastest fingers first



Hunting for treasure



Builders of tomorrow



Partner race



Fly like the wind



Intense concentration



Pouring perfectly



Parents race!



Fostering cooperation



Educators' race



Well done!



Bravo!

26 Feb, Black & White Day : Children of PG and KG celebrated 'Black and White Day' by doing various activities related to the two colours. They came dressed in black and/or white and admired the display of black and white objects in their classroom including a keyboard and an X-ray. They also observed and discussed the black and white photos put up in the corridors. Children did black and white related art - Q-tip painting on a dalmatian (KG) and cotton pasting on a swan (PG).



Curriculum

PLS - Folding Napkin : KG children learnt how to fold a napkin horizontally this month. The children did this work beautifully and with a lot of patience. They took up every opportunity to practice it and were keen to ensure that the corners of the napkin were neatly brought together while folding.



PLS - Folding Handkerchief : KG children learnt how to fold their material, neatly after they practised with the napkins. Folding handkerchiefs requires greater skill and accuracy as the hankies are usually made of thinner fabric and does not have the guiding black lines that the folding napkin material have.



PLS - Washing handkerchief : Children of PG and KG enjoyed the 'Washing Handkerchief' activity a lot this month. They were eager to give their hankies a good scrubbing and were following each and every step demonstrated by their Class Teacher perfectly. One could see the efforts they had put in as the hankies were clean as a whistle.



Knobless Cylinders : PG children worked with Knobless Cylinders this month. They enjoyed making various structures and exploring their creativity. They worked both individually and in groups, thus cementing their socialization skills along with the refinement of the visual sense.



Sensory Walk : Children of TG regularly went for a Sensory Walk this month around the school as part of their daily curriculum. They smelt the Ajwain plant, mint leaves and lemongrass and enjoyed observing the different flowers and leaves in our gardens.



Circle Time - Passing the Bell : TG children enjoyed doing the Passing the Bell activity this month. In this activity, they have to pass a bell around in a circle ensuring that during the passing, the bell does not ring or make a single sound. This is a very challenging activity as it requires tremendous concentration and steadiness of hand. As a next step, they learnt not only to pass the bell without making a sound, but to also mimic perfectly the ringing of the bell in a rhythm when they received the bell. For example, when the first child takes the bell, she rings it say three times in a particular rhythm. Then she passes it on to the child next to her. That child must also receive the bell without a sound and then when she has it, she must remember to ring the bell three times in exactly the same rhythm. This activity continues so on and so forth, strengthening not only their hand control and concentration, but also their memory, auditory skills and sense of rhythm.



FMS - Transferring water from bowl to bowl using a spoon:

After learning how to spoon grains and lentils, KG children took up a challenging activity of transferring water using a spoon. This required greater fine motor skills, patience and concentration from the children. They were excited to practice it and tried their best not spill even a drop of water.



Science/Geo - Insects: Children of PG and KG observed insects and learnt that insects have six legs and two antennae. They learnt this through observation in nature and flash cards. Serendipitously, almost as if Nature knew that our little ones were learning about insects, the KG children found a dead beetle just outside their sliding door in the morning. This beetle was beautifully and reverentially observed by both PG and KG.



Learning about Nature's Gifts: Our PG and KG children observed the water meter installed at the school's Overhead Tank. This meter shows the amount of water used by the school. Each child read the meter and tried to visualize how much 9,000L is with their hands. We discussed how water is a free gift of Nature and how we must try to reduce wastage. We will continue to discuss with them that we must measure our water consumption so we can measure wastage and try to reduce our per capita consumption overall. We will extend this further by discussing how each of us can start measuring water consumption in our homes through a water meter and work towards water conservation in our homes as well.



Art - Painting: Children of PG enjoyed free painting this month and explored colours to their hearts content.



Art - Crumpled Paper Painting: Children of TG learnt how to crumple paper and paint with it. Printmaking using crumpled paper was a very enjoyable activity for them and they relished the experience of dipping the paper into the paint and observing the different shapes that the crumpled paper made on their sheet.



GMS - Kicking a football: KG children learnt how to kick a football correctly this month. They enjoyed this activity thoroughly and practiced maintaining their overall body balance and eye-leg coordination.



EEY Outreach

EEY Outreach : Here are some glimpses of an event held at Eklavya Early Years on 15 Feb. Children enjoyed balloon painting, movement activities and even a science experiment that demonstrated the concept of differing air pressure and principle of a vacuum.



P A R E N T C O R N E R

This Block Room Day, we organised our first session of Anji Play for our KG children. Anji Play is the brainchild of Ms. Cheng Xueqin, a former Director of Pre-Primary education in Anji County, China. It is a philosophy for early childhood education that espouses the fundamental belief in the ability of the child and is committed to the idea that all children should experience long periods of self-directed, independent and creative play.

We came across Anji Play while watching a documentary on a brilliant play designer named Cas Holman (Abstract: The Art of Design on Netflix), and were instantly fascinated by it. We have since spent a lot of time trying to understand how Anji Play works and have also spoken to a wonderful Swedish educator (she had spent time in the schools in Anji County), who shared over 7000 photos of Anji Play in action and a detailed report of it with us.

Based on the principles and practices of love, joy, risk, engagement and reflection, in Anji Play children work with

abundant local, natural and readily available loose materials such as ladders, tyres, sticks, planks, etc. In our case, children worked with cardboard delivery boxes of all shapes and sizes, scooter and cycle tyres, bamboo sticks, and wooden planks. Each of these materials were technically considered waste materials and were then repaired and refurbished for the children. Another commonality between all these materials is that all of them are suitable for open-ended creative play.

In true Anji Play spirit, the children were only briefly introduced to the materials through a small but creative structure made by the educators. Within minutes of starting play, the children had dismantled it and had started making their own structures and play out of it. A cardboard box became a microphone while a plank of wood with tyres underneath became a balance beam. Castles grew out of cardboard boxes supported together with wooden planks and bamboo sticks. And instinctively children learnt that materials such as the bamboo sticks and wooden planks required safe handling and therefore, asked for a lot more cooperation and coordination between them.

KG children played with the materials for almost an hour. Their excitement never waned because the games kept changing. If the castle-making was over, lifting tyres around their friend or starting a chocolate shop became the next game. Their creativity was on full display and the joy that emanated from it was palpable.

Children will be having Anji Play sessions henceforth as a part of the regular curriculum and we are excited to witness their creativity, imagination, and ability blossom. We look forward to facilitating True Play for all our students.