



EKLAVYA SAMACHARA

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Jan 2024

EKLAVYA EARLY YEARS

Vol. 1 / Sr. 4

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Vasant Panchami	14 February
Galileo Galilei's Birthday	15 February
Shivaji Jayanti	19 February

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents' Workshop Dates: 3 February, Sat 10am – 11am
IPEM: 2 March, Sat

Field Visits

5 Jan Field Visit to Church - This month, children visited the Our Lady of Vailankanni Church in Yelahanka. They keenly observed the idol of Mother Mary, Jesus Christ on the cross, the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree, and large Nativity Scene depicted in the Church. The children also learnt about altar and how devotees pray in the Church.



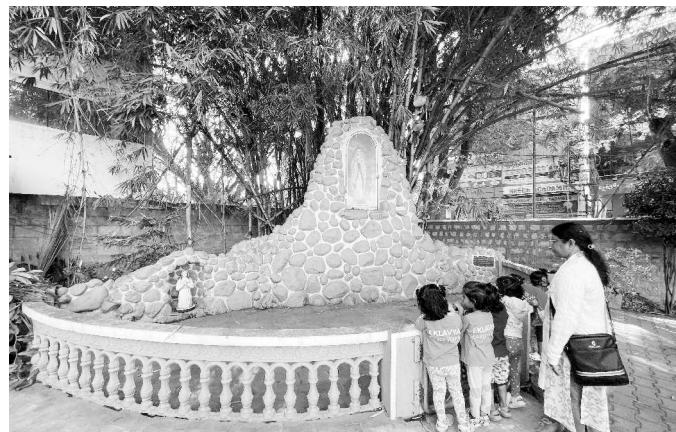
Listening intently to details about the church



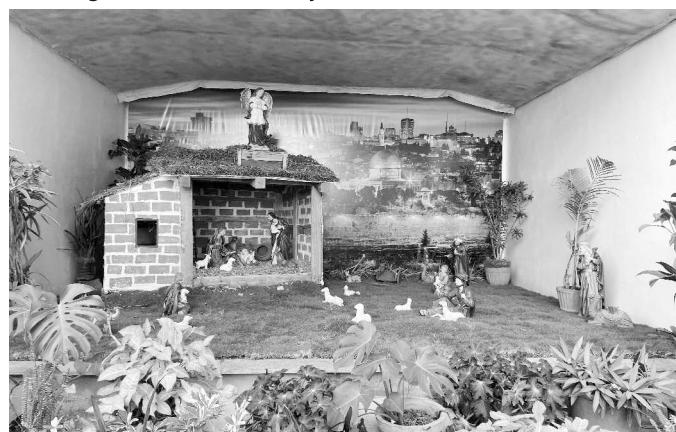
Admiring the Christmas tree



Observing Jesus Christ on the cross



Learning about Mother Mary



Enjoying the Nativity Scene

Celebrations

12 Jan Makar Sankranti / Pongal Celebration - Children celebrated the festival of Pongal / Makar Sankranti by first learning during Circle Time about why the festival is celebrated. On 12 January, they watched sweet Pongal being prepared in an earthen pot over a wood fire. They first observed all the ingredients, smelling the cardamom and tasting the cashews and jaggery. Then they observed the rice and lentils boiling and finally, enjoyed eating the delicious Pongal.

During the day, they also admired the elaborate and intricate 'Kolam' design near the classrooms, made a kite and enjoyed watching the soaring kites flown by expert kite flyers. Finally, they played with kites of their own and enjoyed imitating the experts they had just seen.



Making their own kites



Fly fly little kite!



Relishing the delicious Pongal



Intently watching expert kite flyers



Observing the intricate kolam



Observing the earthenware



Tasting the sweet jaggery

26 January Republic Day - Children and educators celebrated Republic Day with great enthusiasm and excitement at Eklavya Early Years. The celebrations began with flag hoisting, followed by singing the National Anthem and then some lively performances by the children. First, they danced to नन्हा मुन्ना राही हूँ and then recited a beautiful Hindi poem with accompanying actions. They also learnt about how to take care of the flag and to treat it with utmost respect. Finally, they heard a beautiful story about Gandhiji when he was a young boy and learnt that instead of adopting a tit for tat approach, they should be more large hearted, generous and forgiving.



Flag hoisting



Vande Mataram!



Beautiful poetry recitation



Learning about the Indian Flag



Carefully placing the flag in the classroom

Khari Kamai

29 Jan Khari Kamai Donation - Children of PG and KG had participated in our Khari Kamai project in December 2023. They had earned small amounts of money by performing age-appropriate tasks such as filling water bottles, watering plants, keeping their clothes in the cupboard and so on. Through this project, they learnt at a young age to value money and to always earn it through honest and hardworking means. Parents were also thrilled to see their little ones helping them around the house and doing their work diligently and sincerely.

In January 2024, we sought to find the most appropriate and impactful way to donate the hard-earned money of our children.

The Khari Kamai of our children of Eklavya Early Years was used to purchase drawing books and sets of 18 wax crayons for 36 underprivileged children of the local Aanganwadi. Rashmi Ma'am and Sobhana Ma'am personally visited the Anganwadi and gave each child their own set - one drawing book and one set of crayons. They also spent time with the children, singing songs and playing games with them.

The children were overjoyed to receive their gift and we hope that these books and crayons are used to give expression to their beautiful imagination and creativity.

The children of PG and KG were told how their precious Khari Kamai was going to be used prior to the donation. The look of satisfaction and happiness on their faces was truly heartwarming.



Curriculum

Practical Life Skills : Folding Napkins - Children of KG learnt how to fold napkins into halves – laterally and diagonally. They learnt to do this work with accuracy and care. They also learnt to be meticulous and patient while doing this. Finally, the process of halving the napkins and then quarter folding them gave them a foundational (concrete and sensorial) understanding of geometry and fractions.



Folding Clothes - Children of KG learnt how to fold a t-shirt. It was wonderful to watch them doing it very carefully and meticulously. Through this activity, they not only learnt a valuable life skill, they also improved their concentration and eye for detail.



Wearing Socks - Children of Play Group learnt how to wear their own socks this month. They identified the different parts of the sock and learnt how to put their foot in the mouth of the sock and then pull it.



Washing Utensils - Children brought steel utensils – plate, bowl and spoon – from home and learnt how to wash and dry them after eating. Children learnt in detail about how to wash the vessels correctly using a sponge and dishwashing liquid. They enjoyed the process a lot and did it very diligently. They also enjoyed the novel experience of eating on a plate instead of their tiffin box in Eklavya Early Years.

Sweeping - Children of PG and KG learnt sweeping this month. Their dedication, meticulousness and concentration while doing this work was really beautiful to watch.



Circle Time : Junk Food vs Healthy Food - During Circle Time this month, children were taught about the benefits of eating healthy food and the negative effects of eating too much junk food like biscuits, instant noodles, chips and wafers, etc. The children identified many items as junk food and discussed how it lacks nutritive value and causes health problems such as indigestion.



Floating and Sinking - Children collected natural objects such as twigs, leaves and stones from their Nature Walk to Kogilu Lake and then conducted the Floating and Sinking experiment. They were curious to see which object would float and which would sink to the bottom. Their happiness at saying the term 'floating' or 'sinking' after identifying what happens with the object in the water was wonderful to watch.



Storytelling : The Axe and the Woodcutter - Children heard the story 'The Axe and the Woodcutter' several times this month. During repeated re-tellings of the story, the children enjoyed holding and playing with the axes created by the educators and were keen to talk about what they learnt after listening to the story. The values of honesty and truthfulness were highlighted by the educators through this story.



10 Jan Green Day - Children celebrated Green Day by dressing up in various shades of green. They also collected all the things in their environment which are green in colour. Then they sang a "green" song, and conducted a sensorial exploration of green vegetables such as broccoli, peas, and cabbage

Kindergarten children conducted a project of inquiry by figuring out which two primary colours combine to make green and how many different shades of green they can make using these two colours. They also collected lots of fallen green leaves from the garden and stuck them on a tree in their classroom. Play Group on the other hand, enjoyed sticking leaf cutouts on the tree.

Finally, all the children did sponge painting with green colour in their drawing books, and curiously and wondrously watched a 'colour changing' science experiment.



Creating a lush green tree



Sponge painting!



Curiosity and wonder



Inquiring minds



Collecting everything that's green



Leaf sticking



Exploring green vegetables

Block Room - Children of PG and KG enjoyed playing with the wooden materials and blocks during Block Room time this month. They created not only complex and large structures out of blocks but also imaginative and thoughtful ones. They also showed a greater openness to trying to playing with different kinds of wooden blocks, especially ones that were more challenging. Children also showed progress in their puzzle solving skills this month.





Painting Standing / Sleeping Lines - Children of KG practiced painting standing lines and sleeping lines on a chart paper this month. They improved their fine motor skills, strengthened their arm muscles and learnt how to control their movements with a brush.



Minal Ma'am's Class - Our guest educator Minal Ma'am worked with the PG and KG children on patterns this month. Children went through several books identifying patterns (stripes, spots, etc) of different animals. Then, the children were given a viewfinder each and asked to find patterns in the mural on our walls and around our campus. Children were delighted to have the viewfinder and were excitedly pointing out various patterns. Next, each child created different kinds of patterns using shapes, dominoes and finally by sticking colourful pom poms in a specific pattern on an ice cream stick.



Farming - Children harvested fresh and crispy spinach leaves this month. They enjoyed the process of learning how to expertly pluck the leaf from the stem. They also learnt to identify which leaves weren't ready to be harvested.



Art : Sticking Winter Cutouts - Children stuck the winter cutouts brought from home this month. There was a lot of vibrant conversation about different festivals celebrated during the winters, winterwear, winter food and so on among the children. Children were also excited to show each other and the educators the pictures they had brought and stuck it in their drawing books with pride on their own.



Wall painting - This month, we painted our walls a bright and cheerful yellow. Children were also given an opportunity to briefly paint the walls with a roller. All of them were incredibly excited to paint the wall and beautifully took turns to do it.



Flag Painting - Children painted an Indian flag in using their fingers. They learnt about the flag colours and enjoying painting with green and orange paint. They also first learnt to prepare green paint by mixing blue and yellow paint together.



Clay Work : Making a caterpillar - Children of PG and KG enjoyed making a caterpillar with clay this month. They practiced their rolling skills and were thrilled to make little legs and eyes for the caterpillar.

Using a Polpat and Rolling Pin - Children learned to roll the clay into a flat circle using a polpat and rolling pin this month. This activity improved their fine motor skills and taught them to work with a lot of concentration and patience.



Construction Update

Construction Update - Civil construction for the campus of Eklavya Early Years is on in full swing! Our children helped us lay the foundation stone and offered their prayers during the Bhoomi Pooja on 14 Nov 2023.

It is very satisfying to see our dreams and designs of over 2 years manifest themselves as the columns and beams make their way up.

The construction is being carried out in such a way that there is no inconvenience during school hours.

The building is being constructed in 2 phases. Phase-1 would be ready to occupy soon after we begin the next academic year, while phase-2 would be ready later in the same year.



EEY Outreach

26 January Sobha City - Eklavya Early Years hosted an event at Sobha City during which children of all ages enjoyed playing with different kinds of puzzles, wooden blocks and materials. Children spent hours either creating large and fanciful structures, or working with utmost concentration on solving a particularly tricky puzzle. We were glad to see children having so much fun.



STEAM Workshop - This month, Eklavya Early Years conducted STEAM workshops focusing on learning about patterns. Children also heard Panchatantra stories and performed science experiments that ignited their spirit of inquiry.

