

ਬਦੇਹ ਬਾਪੁ ਭੋਵਾਭੋਵ

Our Newsletter
Aug - Sep
2022

Editorial

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of the Advaya Shaale newsletter.

The months of August and September have felt like a constant run on the treadmill. We have been occupied with celebrations, events and day to day episodes and have just about managed to stay one step ahead everyday. Not to mention, the ongoing academic pursuits and the block review followed by the PTM's. The kitchen team too, has been dishing out special items on account of all the celebrations! All departments of the school have eagerly awaited the Dussehra break, to recharge and start running again!!

It was a pleasure to interact with the parent community once again thanks to the Hindi Diwas...there is a feeling of normalcy returning.

The assembly which we started as a trial has now become a much awaited gathering for Grades 1 through 7 and we hope it remains an ongoing tradition at Advaya Shaale.

The parent talks by Latha Teacher will continue in the coming months. We sincerely urge all of you to please be a part of the Grade relevant talks. We are noticing a gradual erosion of the very basic ethos of Waldorf Philosophy in the community. We are trying all we can to remind you all and ourselves of the minute details that make up this beautiful education philosophy called Waldorf, but we can achieve this for our children only with a combined effort. There needs to be more dialogues between the parents now and as a school, these monthly gatherings are one of the platforms we can provide. Hope to have a full house in the next few talks!

The calendar for the next few months also looks busy and we have a mix of celebrations, field trips and classroom activities coming up. Time to put on our running shoes again and hop on to the treadmill!

Requesting for parent articles, poems, stories once again...we want to hear from you too!

Hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Signing off, on behalf of the whole Team

Shivali

Festivals and Waldorf Schools

- by Ms Latha Madhusudhan

Rudolf Steiner laid great emphasis on the role of festival in developing a community of 'spirit.' He stated that "When people strive once more to fill the course of the year with spiritual understanding for the festivals, the year will be imbued with real cosmic significance."

Our ancient Seers developed festivals as a way of life to better the quality of life. Honouring festivals was a way of keeping time. Some were Cyclical experience, relating to the diverse movements of the sun, moon, and stars, creating the year and seasons. The other aspect of festival relates more to celebrations as a linear experience of time from our own life story and developmental milestones eg the 'thread ceremony (Navjot, upanayana) or Puberty or birth and death to name a few. The third aspect could be the religious festivals/rituals, birthday of local saints and the like that is localized. According to the state in which these great figures were born.

Today the festivals have become significant in bringing the community together, they bestow colour, diversity and joy, a break from the monotony of everyday life. Most of our festivals as also pointed out by Steiner denotes the coming together of the earthly and cosmic forces - an annual rhythm where Mother earth breathes out and there is a surge of energy and light. It may also occur. when mother earth breathes -in and the growth forces cease; the activity is more inward, and a festival is then marked as a new beginning of hope and awakening. There also comes a period of pause/ rest in between and at these significant points of change there appears a festival bringing a mood of anticipation and change for both children and adults and the community. So in the ancient times humans were more connected to nature and the festivals came out of this dynamic understanding of nature. Today to bring back the connection Steiner claims the creation of annual festivals by contemplating the seasonal cycle of the year is essential for contemporary mankind. Today Waldorf schools face a great challenge in planning the festival rhythm. Apart from the school celebrations, the calendar has to include the four seasonal festivals as per the cycle of the year. The question then arises of the many different religious festivals of the land plus the festivals around the world that needs to be understood and integrated in a borderless modern world. What is the inner significance of the festivals? What cultures or traditions need to be passed on? What needs to be left out? Can too many festivals cause an inner imbalance or a "Festival Indigestion"? These are a few constant questions that we can all ponder on as a community. Selecting a few festivals and making them a conscious soul elevating experience that is meaningful and transformative for the children and the family can help children mirror traditions and values.

Sometimes not just logical and scientific explanations but Mystical connections help children to connect to the self too. Festivals are a metaphor for the human psychological process. E.g. of Diwali and Dussehra where the “Victory of Good Over Evil” is repeatedly stressed through the slaying of the demons signifies more a spiritual victory of slaying one’s inner negativity and transforming the self by dropping off unwanted qualities.

Attempting to Integrate such qualities and bringing about an interfaith and interlinked connection through the celebratory aspects of food, customs clothes, stories can bring about respectful forms of festival celebration of the various cultures and religions. A developing Waldorf school like Advaya Shaale will need to reset, refine and redefine goals of festivals and celebrations so that an intercultural and dynamic approach can make festivals and celebration more relevant for today’s children. The parent community is always welcome to share their thoughts.... We are listening!

Activity Grade 3

As the third grader continues to move through the nine-year change and the experience of separation from the world, an inner need arises in them to build their own sanctuary.

We started our housing and shelter block, exploring about different animal and insect homes. Through the Old testament story, we saw why Adam and Eve wanted a house to live on earth, once they were sent out of paradise. We explored and discussed about how houses were made with the materials available around them in their environment.

We learnt about

A Tepee

A Yurt

Log houses

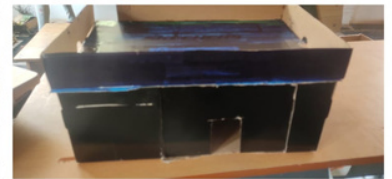
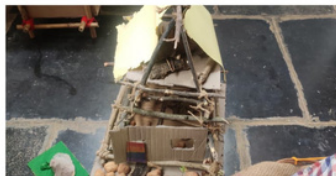
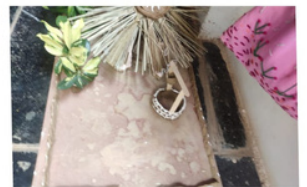
Pueblo/ Adobe houses

Stilt houses

Houseboats

Bhungas

Through these houses, children understood how each house is designed to suit a particular environment, weather condition or the kind of people. Children then came up with their beautiful model homes and proudly exhibited to the school, with all the information that they had collated in the whole of the month.



Janmashtami



The Krishna Janmashtami festival marks the birth of Krishna, one of the most popular deities worshipped by Hindus. He is thought to have been born in 3228 BC. His birthday is celebrated eight days after Raksha Bandhan, a festival celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters. Gokula is another name of lord krishna ,janma meaning birth and astami meaning 8th day .



Hindi Diwas



This year we celebrated Hindi Diwas at school. The celebrations were spread over 3 weeks, within which the Hindi Teachers involved the children in various activities in the class, with the sole purpose of kindling an interest in the language.



14th September, saw a day long celebration with parents and some well wishers coming forward and performing for our children. The celebrations culminated with a hindi book sale and a sweet stall, wherein the children could sample sweets from some of our Hindi speaking states.

We hope this has given them a peek into this beautiful language, unique to our country.



Grade 4 Local Bangalore visit



Your Parerga Bangalore Trip

As a part of Local History and Geography block, children were taken for Bangalore darshan. The van with children started from Advaya at 8:45 am.

We first reached Bangalore Fort situated near KR Market. Children saw remnants of the Fort which included the Dilli gate and two bastions. The old fort area includes Tipu Sultan's summer palace and his armoury. From here we left for Bull temple situated in Basavanagudi. The significant part of the temple was the gigantic stone monolith idol of Nandi. The temple is one of the biggest one dedicated to Nandi. From here we went to see the historical watch tower at Lalbagh built by Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. On our way back we saw Vidhana soudha, the seat of state legislature of Karnataka and High court of Karnataka.



GRADE 6 & 7 TREKKING

On 20th August, Grade 6 & 7 went on a nature trail to Avalahalli forest near JB Kaval park in Bengaluru as a culmination to 'Asia's Geography' block in Grade 6 and 'Health and Hygiene' block in Grade 7. A walk amidst nature as we tried to see our learnings and questions with a different lens, in a natural environment.

We observed how every life process is interlinked (breathing, warmth, circulation etc)

Grade 6 children questioning about the biome around, investigating rocks as they are connecting with the mineral world within.



Conference at Sloka School, Hyderabad

Sloka School in Hyderabad hosted their annual conference from the 24th to the 28th of September this year. The conference largely aims at bringing all the Waldorf School's in the country under one roof. Highly experienced and well respected members of the Waldorf Pedagogy conduct interactive sessions for the participants. The Sloka school teachers. also engage participants in various artistic activities so there is a breathe in and breathe out for the attendees too.

This time we got to hear from Dr. Jost Schieren, who has been a part of the Waldorf Academia since 1996. His current research focus is on educational research and discussion of the theory and practice of Waldorf education. About 10 schools from across the country participated and after 2 years of 'pause', the energy and enthusiasm was palpable. . The conference was very well organized with the entire school staff working together in perfect unison.

Our Teachers with Dr. Schieren



Sloka Conference 2022 Participants



News in Pictures



A Day with Katherine Lehman, a Waldorf Educator of more than 30 years



Parent Interaction Session

Golu Display by Grade 1



Honing our artistic skills with Rahul , a Sr Waldorf Art Teacher



Ground cleaning by our parents

News in Pictures

Ganesha Chaturthi, Independence Day,
Onam, and Dussehra Celebrations



Thank You

Credits

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For contributions/feedback please reach out
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from you!