

VOLUME 5: JANUARY 2023

HAPPY
new
YEAR

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS


SPORTS DAY
2023


KITE
FESTIVAL
2023

VISIT TO THE TOY FACTORY - BY MAHUA



Thanks to Tapas for arranging such an invigorating trip for the learners where they could actually experience the whole process of wooden toy making from a log to a finished product. There are ten to twelve independent units of toy factories within a particular area called 'craft park'. It is unbelievable that these factories export their products all over the world and create job opportunities for hundreds of artisans who reside in and around Channapatna. Generally toys are made by machines here but as these are not automated, the precision and skilful work of the artisans is praiseworthy. Some hand-crafted art pieces were also at the display which were undoubtedly remarkable. Our learners interacted with the artisans and got to know that to keep up their standard in the national and international market they do not compromise with the quality of their product. For e.g. they use only natural colours made out of spice, leaf etc everywhere. Learners had the opportunity to talk to a designer who took the initiative to show them how measurement is used while making a design. They recently started conducting activity sessions too where children are taught to assemble and paint some parts of the toy and take that home. We missed that as we were not aware of it.

The last segment was a joyous one where they all got the chance to buy a toy of their choice. The in- factory in-charge and his assistants guided and cooperated their fullest to make it an exciting one. The toys for sale were quite expensive and it was amusing to see the learners manage their money to buy the best with the least amount! Seeing their valiant attempts to manage money and frustration on their face for not getting what they wanted, people there gave some toys as free gifts. Learners were beaming with joy and the smile on their face was priceless indeed!





ANECDOTES

Karun, Anirudh, Sahasra

From the beginning they decided to collect the money from all and buy something for the school. I overheard them saying- ' School always gives us so many things, we should also do something for the school.' While buying the toys it was actually a hard choice for the kids to refrain themselves from buying anything exclusively from themselves. Thus, the numbers of contributors started dropping off drastically. Still three of them stuck to their mission of buying something for the school with their meagre 300 rupees. They started conversing, ' Though ma'am said we can't force anybody, still they can come and join us'. Their honest desire was rewarded and others somehow changed their mind and started contributing the money they had left with. The joy and smile on their face was no less than winning a trophy after a tough fight. This thoughtful gesture of theirs indicates that Tapas is moving in the right direction.

Vivaan

follows his instinct and steadily reaches to a concrete solution. He was sure of buying something for himself. As he was left with some more money which he contributed to the group. After he came out from the store he swayed both of arms in the air and said, ' I am so happy that I could buy toys for the school as well as for myself. Now I am relaxed.'



CAR PROJECT - BY REETU



The car project began in full swing 2 days after the SOTM. Now that their house was made (Project 3), the learners were so excited to build a car for that house. This project gave the learners the need and opportunity to learn forces, push, pull, magnetism etc. What really struck them was the concept of friction, as confused they were in the beginning, they started to identify friction everywhere they went- by doing cartwheels or writing in their book.

However, was this limited just to science? Absolutely not! They did origami by making a car and enjoyed learning through the art of folding paper.

One additional thing that they did was building a prototype. They built a draft model of the car with all their effort and energy. This was followed by a rigorous feedback session. They gave feedback with this in mind "Be kind, specific and helpful." But the best part was when they broke their model, something they made with their blood and sweat because it was not good enough! We wish to hone this attitude of them being able to restart if they didn't do well!





Masterclass by Ravi

We had a master class by Ravi who is a driver by profession. We introduced him as a “car expert” much to his amusement :) The learners were fascinated by his knowledge of the car parts and called him an automobile engineer which left Ravi beaming! This session was followed by a quick discussion about how skilled our support staff are.

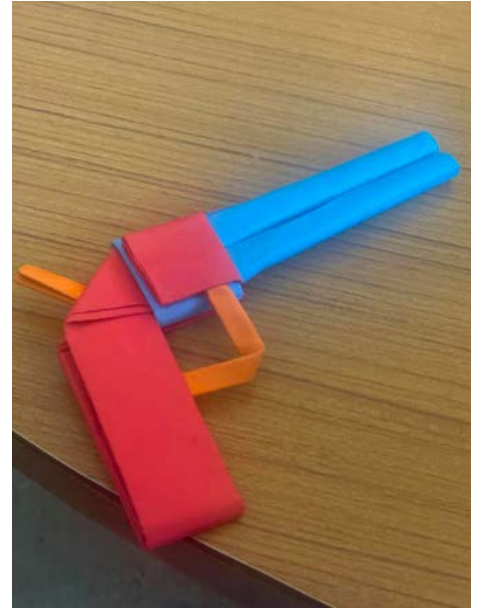


Christmas

As always, December did not disappoint- with all its festivities and celebrations. Children loved decorating their little tree with ornaments created by the waste material in school. We all (including the support staff) played “secret-santa” where all of us were supposed to play Santa by making a handmade present. And boy, were we surprised by our learners’ creativity :)

Media Club

Our media club ventured into their first small play directed by Disha. We think it was about a boy, a Santa and a very upset reindeer :D



Sports Day/Kite Festival

We finally had our very first sports day! It was everything we imagined it to be :) There was excitement, a little bit of competing spirit and a whole lot of joy on a beautiful January morning! Learners participated in different drills, displays and races which they seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed and did not hesitate to show off in front of a very enthusiastic audience!



Introducing Anusha Biswas

An 'edu-ecosystem enthusiast' - this is exactly how I perceive myself.

Having gained various perspectives through my dynamic educational pursuits over the years via co-learning, facilitating and administering, I see myself as a seeker and a constant learner.

In Henry Ford's words - "Anyone who keeps learning stays young" and I genuinely intend to stay so.



PARENTS' CORNER - BY NAMRATHA (ADI'S MOTHER)

Three plus years we have been Cooped up indoors since the pandemic era, working from home within 4 walls and forever tied to our virtual worlds day in day out, or have been young mothers attending to the eternal task of child rearing and home care.

In such a state of mind when the Kite festival idea was proposed, just the thought of making kites and flying kites along with the little ones kind of lit up our own inner child perhaps and brought in so much excitement to all of us 😊

On one hand the feel good factor of keeping up a seasonal tradition alive and on the other hand a unique kind of activity to come forward and have fun along with not 1 not 2 but a whole class full of children !!

Parents as learning partners is a concept all of us are aligned to and it felt great to be collaborating for a fun filled event alongside the Sports Day occasion.

It all began with Parent Captain Mr. Raghudevur volunteered to be the coordinator and created a whatsapp group to exchange ideas.

A couple of zoom sessions, half dozen activities proposed from excited parents, one small excel sheet (coz well we live by it !!) t brainstorming and a few polls later we managed to finalise a few parent initiated events.

Masked Collage, Kite making, Rangoli and a Significance of the Festival Trivia sharing were the most voted for and finalised.

With all the support form Sumathy ma'am in coordinating and helping us source the crafty knick knack requirements the outcome of the activities was vibrant and Josh was always high- this time kids and parents alike ! 😊

We began by some little gyan exchange session on the significance of the festival of Sankranti.

Kite Making incharge Ms Shruti picked up an easy DIY unique Kite idea, did a hoke testing, and once "it flew" we decided to go ahead with the design. (Why should Kite be "Kite shaped" ??? 😊 as long as "it" is lightweight, paper made, has a tail, a string and can fly !!) And thus we made our kites via live demo and kids enjoyed Kite Sprinting 😊

Next on the list , Mask taped collage making coordinated by Mr Raghudevur. Each family had to pick up the small collage allotted to them and make patterns and fill up the colors of their choice OR stick to directives from their boss babies and follow suite to fill up the collage!

Once all the collages were complete the mask tape was peeled to reveal a beautiful Jigsaw arrangement reading the word TAPAS !

A picture perfect outcome indeed..

The last activity was a one of a kind colouring activity ! Not on paper, but on the ground !! NOT with colour pens or paints but with Rangoli powder! With coordination from activity incharge Ms Anuradha there were ready to fill large rangolis drawn on the ground and kids had a super fun time filling the various parts of the rangoli with random colours and colour fusions of their like with no emphasis on colour symmetry! 😊

In all, this little event gave us a good opportunity to connect with all the parents and interact. The sports day as well as the Kite festival gave us a good chance to relive the joyful memories of our own sports day back during school times but this time we made Sports day memories ALONG with Our children! 😊

Note by Shalu (Vudith's mother)

Thank you for giving this opportunity. First thing, I would like to thank the Tapas team for making parents also involved in the event. We have not seen this anywhere. Parents have always been an audience but here it's very nice to be a participant with our own child. Learners and parents enjoyed it. I felt it was like a family Funda. I would like to thank the parents who have taken initiative and executed the kite fest so beautifully.

An ode to our first campus – Tapas (Banashankari Stage 3)

BY NISHANTHI

When you look for a space to make your own, where you can think, write, cook, dance or just be happy is a place they say that makes a house, a home!

Our first ever campus, the ' Banashankari Campus' was our home, it brought us so much love! With the light it brings in every room and a sense of calm, it took us all in with its hands wide open. From the first step taken to come in, the path created, the outdoor spaces, the paintings that give us a sense of who we are, designed with utmost love & care. These are all things we will miss but we are also mindful that we get to reimagine these for a new place that we will shortly start calling home!

We experienced some incredible journeys, including our very own, we have created memories that will last us a lifetime in just one place. But then again this will never be just a place for us!

A home that we need to bid adieu to, to move forward and create some more memories!

Last Day:



BY PREETHI

The first home of Tapas, when we first met, looked at us squinting through the beautiful windows. 'Are they worthy of the joy I can give?', Home wondered. As the first few days passed and the work began, the Home was nudged, prodded, dug up, nailed into and it really bothered her, but finally, Home was really happy with the makeover given!! Beaming with pride, she was ready to welcome the new inhabitants.

The Tapas learners walked in, unsure of what to expect, probably scared that they may be bored or shoved into a dark, dingy place. The learners slowly stepped into Home. With all the warmth that she could muster, Home welcomed them with her bright light and airy rooms. Soft and gentle was her touch, never allowing for a smile to wane. Home created a safe space for the Tapas learners to learn, explore and grow. There was always laughter, a warm meal and comfortable places to read. And, most importantly, Home was always there to offer her unconditional love.

It makes us sad to leave this beautiful Home, for we are moving to a new adventure. The New Home is well, new. It promises more wonderful memories with some interesting new spaces for many more Tapas Learners to explore.

But, we know that Home will always be a part of our memories and hearts. Thank you, Home, for being such an amazing friend and home to the Tapas learners. You have truly made a difference in our lives! 'Goodbye Home' say the learners, young and old alike, knowing a piece of them will forever stay with her, 'Goodbye' says Home, all teary eyed, a piece of her lodged in every learners' heart, 'goodbye' she says again, knowing that there will be more children who will walk through her doors one day. She squints again soon enough, looks like another adventure is underway!

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 Tapas

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Tapas
Early Years