

Faith Group Report

April- September, 2013

The faith group truly has a lot of faith in the inherent goodness of human kind and this makes these children joyful and happy. Every child in the faith group is loving and responsible. They are also disciplined, organized and with their joyousness, they spread a lot of positive energy around. Most of these children are deeply connected to their tribal roots and really like making garlands with different types of flowers and leaves. Some of these children can play a 'dholak' and some can play the 'harmonium' too.



In the last six months, a lot of collective effort has been made in all spheres of learning. The children have been trained and encouraged to inculcate better habits and some children have sincerely tried to improve habits like proper use of the toilet and sitting in the right posture. They also seem to be more involved while they are praying or even dancing. They are also trying to sleep, as well as wake up on time and bathe and brush on time.

All the children from the Faith group are very active and enjoy sports like football, basket ball, table tennis, gymnastics, cycling and fun games. They play these games regularly, helping them to develop a balanced, flexible and a healthy body.

In these last few months the group *diyas* have tried to address the lack of confidence in some children when they are asked to express themselves. Regular practice and reading of a particular topic again and again for better understanding has been tried in the group. This was done through

plays and stories, with a lot of emphasis on proper pronunciation. Reading exercises were conducted within the group, the children were taught how to talk properly and various communication exercises were done within the group. A gradual change in terms their confidence in spoken English or speaking fearlessly in front of others is for everyone to see.



Adventurous & spirited, the children of the faith group have a keen interest in exploring new places and spaces. The group visited the forest close to the school, they have been spending a lot of time in the Ashram garden to pluck fruits from the Lakshmi Taru tree (known as *dalda* in Kechla) and guavas too. We also made a trip to the Kolab dam to see how the electricity is produced and visiting Deomali, the highest mountain peak in Orrisa was the cherry on top. The children loved the adventure associated with each of these activities. Finally all the children of this group along with some other children from other groups visited Delhi and a few other places in North India in the first half of this session.

Tuesday is the '*paratha*-making' day and the *parathas* are prepared by the children of the Faith group for dinner. Not only does this activity give them an opportunity to work together, they have also learnt how to work in the kitchen, how to keep things properly, besides cleaning and serving food systematically.

The children have also worked hard to refine their aesthetic ability and improve their skills in drawing and painting. As a result of constant reminders and regular monitoring their hand writing has also improved significantly. During these last few months, we have also had regular sessions within the group on 'how to keep things in their places nicely'.

The children have learnt to change the day and the date in the dynamic calendar and are being encouraged to take turns in writing their own messages every day. This has helped them to bring clarity to their thoughts and translate these thoughts into writing. The children are also being taught to use computers and they are getting better and better by the day.

Projects

Through the last six months, four projects and six major topics have been undertaken by the Faith group.

Project 1 -Solar system and Energy

Children have always been curious about the way the universe functions. They were eager to know about the Sun, the planets, the moon and the stars. Some of the children wanted to know about how light came from the solar panel and water from the windmills. The children were then divided into two equal groups. One group took up and studied the solar system and the other group took up the subject of energy. They children drew the solar family and coloured it. They made different models with the help of waste materials. They went to visit Kolab Dam as the study tour. Also they went near the solar panel and wind mill to observe properly. In spite of most of them observed to movement of start and the shape of the moon in the sky.



Project 2 -The Jungle

The children were elated with the thought of visiting a jungle. The entire school came together to perform the 'The Jungle Book'. Some teachers from Mirambika along with Sulochana didi helped the children prepare the play .

All the children of this group collected grass, branches of the tree and drew the picture of animals, birds, river , pond, etc. They made the puppet with used socks and enjoyed indoor games like scrabble and speller, memory game etc. The children went to visit Jungle collect flowers seed, varieties of plants, feather of birds and some fruit like mangoes. They made Aam papad with mangoes. They enjoyed Mountain climbing.

Project 3-Measurement

This project was conducted by the group *diyas* along with the children together. Measuring solids, liquids and gases were explored and the children studied topics like humidity, temperature etc. The children spent their time measuring height, length of classroom's furniture, wall and floor, weight of sugar sack, rice packet, cabbage, potatoes by guessing and then using the balance. They learnt the use of weight machine.



They did the four operations namely kilometer, centimeter, meter, kilogram and gram, simple percentage, mental math and distance, weight and volume of liquid.

They divided four groups. Each group has measured one of them and wrote down in the measurement notebook. They were (1) Temperature (2) Rain water (3) Humidity (4) Wind movement.

Project 4 – Human Body

Human body was studied and discussed under the special guidance of Dr. Parul when she came to Kechla. The children learnt about the functions of various parts of the body. Different exercises done by the children like Eye blinking, the gymnastics and also learnt the value of pranayam. They know the importance of food for a healthy body and serving of food is necessary for all. They took responsibilities of serving in the meal time turn wise.

The children could count of Heartbeat of their own body and the used signs "<" and ">". They learnt measuring units like meter and centimetre and the use of weight machine and height line. They had a discussion about different Systems of our body such as – Respiratory, Circulatory, skeletal, digestive and nerves system. They saw a model of skeleton and identified the name and joints. They learnt about the functioning of stomach, Liver, pancreas, heart, small and large intestine, kidney and other parts of our body through drawing.



Mathematics

In Mathematics the students of the faith group are now capable of identifying (i) the size of planets, (ii) ascending and descending order of number and (iii) four operations within two digit orders.

English

Through this topic the children took turns to maintain the 'dynamic calendar'. They changed the day, date and month and wrote personal messages every day. Every day all the children read the calendar aloud and try and converse in English.

Sanskrit

Over the last few months the children of the Faith group have been enhancing their vocabulary in Sanskrit. They were told stories in Sanskrit and have also learnt some new songs in Sanskrit like *Matribhumai Namah*, *Baaram Pariwah*. Though Sanskrit is not their first language, the children have to be given credit for learning these songs in as few as seven days.

Hindi

Despite the fact that we have not been able to give as much attention to Hindi as we should have, most of the children have still managed to learn quite a bit of Hindi and are talking as well as writing in this language fluently.



Creative Exploration

All through these last six months, the children have been completely involved in their projects and activities. Some of the extra activities they have done are:

Activity-I, Letter-writing: The children wrote a letter to their friends in different places. Most of them wrote in English while two of them wrote in Oriya. Through this activity they learnt to use, and write on a postal card, to be conscious about their handwriting, sentence making, use of punctuation marks and the importance of a proper address.

Activity-II, Food: Through the activity on food the Faith group studied the functions of food, the name of vitamins and what happens when the body lacks vitamins.

Activity-III, Mine and Minerals: The children discussed the meanings and the names of various minerals and read books related to this topic.

Activity-IV, Our Country: The children visited Delhi and a few other places in North India in September 2013. This study tour helped them understand and know more about the geography of India and how unique every state is. To mark August 15th, the children made tri-colour head gears, drew posters of freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Balgangadhar Tilak, Subhash Chandra Bose and also presented a cultural program.

Activity-V, Recitation: The children have learnt, and can recite poems and songs like 'Who' by Sri Aurobindo, 'I salute my flag', 'happy happy', Oriya song – *Ameragami kalia* and some songs in Hindi like *Ham sab bhartiya hain*, *Sarfroshi ki tamanna aab hamare dil me hai*.

Activity-VI, Doll making: The children learnt the technique of quilling and doll- making with wool.



The projects ended with an exhibition in old Library of the school.

Observation

We observed: Their understanding is good, but most of them had lack of confidence needed a lot of practice to explain the project. We will give more attention for their improvement.

As the Mother says "Life must blossom like a flower opening itself to the Divine". This is the aspiration we have for our children in the Faith group, as we continue to work harder and move ahead fearlessly.

