

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The children of this group are diligent and eager, allowing them to take bigger leaps in learning the language. Being the older, mature ones, they take a steady approach towards discovering what English has to offer.

They have a keen interest in reading and are able to pick up new words. Their spelling and pronunciation has improved over time. They are able to construct sentences and stories though a couple of them are still learning the ropes.

In the translation activity a few of them are particularly good and others are still catching on. They are now more comfortable with the usage of the correct tense. Show active interest in grammar classes and have a burning curiosity to listen and learn new things. They have all taken up reading and that has helped them considerably.



ART APPRECIATION

There are two parts to Art Appreciation - Theory and Practical

a. Theory- Various concepts like foreground, middle ground, background, perspective, proportion, three dimensionality, colour, light and shade, profile and front view etc were introduced through activities/games like "Look and Describe", "Perceive and Analyse." The concept of light and colour – frequency and wavelength, reflection and refraction, colour perception, structure of the eye was explained citing daily scientific encounters [rainbow is a refraction of light] and carrying out minor science experiments [mixing primary colours of slight]

The idea of historical time with large and small units was introduced [Prehistory and History, A.D or C.E and B.C or B.C.E, Ancient, Medieval and Modern]. Art history, cave paintings, Egyptian art and Greco- Roman Art was covered. The instruction of Renaissance art movement has begun. Each movement is introduced using an array of images, historical anecdotes and short documentary/art historical films.



The group makes regular, brief entries in their diary about various art movements and styles. The teaching of art is not considered as an isolated event but is intertwined with history, politics, geography and science. The discussion on Cave paintings begin with historical division of time as Palaeolithic Age, formation of natural caves through the wearing of the rocks, spatial location of the caves under study. Similarly, discussions on Greco – Roman art begin with understanding the extent and might of the Roman Empire and Renaissance follows on the heels of Reformation, scientific discoveries and explorations.

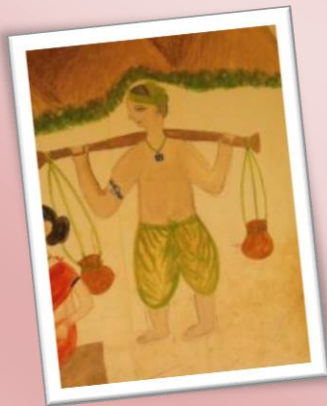


A “Word Wall” was made to help revise Elements of Art and other concepts integral to their course.

b. Practical - Still life, portraits and nature drawing have been practised using careful observation and study. Parallel to the art movement in theory, the practical comprises of re-appropriating the style [classical Greek, ancient Egyptian, cave art, perspective and proportion of the Renaissance etc] and adopting it to immediate surroundings and locales. Activities followed include re-imagining one’s village if conceived by Egyptian hands, re-creating cave paintings using simple materials like natural, organic colours and twigs and so on. The result of the latter was an artistic transformation of a huge hostel wall treated with scenes replicating quotidian village life and surroundings. The mural work is a laborious effort of feet.

FAITH GROUP

OCT '14 - MAR '15 REPORT



To understand the principles of Renaissance art, an engagement with perspective drawing was followed by anatomical studies. Live sketching was introduced by placing Faith group pupils in other learning groups as silent observers of anatomy and human postures. Such a novel exercise was initially met with hesitation and embarrassment to later transmute into enthusiasm and confidence. The complex human body was simplified and hence de-mystified using lines as well as shapes. The once frightening exercise of figure drawings has gradually come to be more approachable.

There had been an initial aversion to water colours probably with the lack of acquaintance with the joyous medium. Simple technique demonstrations and encouragement has helped them to explore the medium readily.



The group so far has had little exposure to art and elements of art. They had confined themselves to decorative and “pretty” pictures. The group has been successfully training their eyes to observe the shape, forms and colours in nature and objects.

A wide range of everyday objects like pencils, spoon, and scissors has been studied as well as landscape and human figures have been sketched. Though most of their work has employed pencil sketching or oil pastels, water colour as a formal technique has been introduced recently.

MATH

The children are at different levels, while one child is currently doing Book-8, two each are doing Book-6, 5 and 4.

The ability, independence, speed and accuracy vary from child to child. Some of them forget the concept and process of calculation and need to be reminded again and again.

To give the children practical experience on money operations and handling, we played the role of a buyer while other groups set up a market. Keeping record of more than Rs. 1000 was difficult for many.

FAITH GROUP

OCT'14- MAR'15 REPORT



On the occasion of Diwali the faith group children set up their own shops, selling eatables, stationery and clothes. Many of them were not able to handle customers, selling and managing money properly. Some made lot of profit while others ended up in loss.



HOME SCIENCE

The group comes for home science twice a week. During the session October to March three topics were taken up. They enjoyed different activities done along with practical's like cooking in different ways, cleaning, performing the responsibilities in the family.

My Family And I - In this chapter we discussed about

- What is family

- Family cycle
- Taking care of family members
- Care of young children in family members
- My relationship with family

Under activities and practical for this we made the family tree using the dolls made of old cloth. In the family tree all the members relationship in mother's family and father's family were introduced.

Method of Cooking - Following points were focused in this topic

- Importance of cooking
- Methods of cooking
- Advantage and disadvantage of different type of cooking
- Cooking by moist heat - Stewing, Steaming, Pressure cooking
- Cooking by dry heat - Baking, Roasting, Grilling
- Frying

In activities and practical - Children made charts on methods of cooking. They learnt egg dishes like Swiss omelet, Indian omelet, Latki. They also made spice tea using the lemon grass, cardamom, tej pataa and ginger etc. They also made chilla, potato chips, palak pakoda, pulao.

Health & Diseases

In this topic the students were introduced to :-

- a) Health and hygiene
- b) Disease
- c) Different types of disease - deficiency disease, communicable And non -communicable disease
- d) Their symptoms
- e) Its prevention and treatment
- f) Care of a patient

Under activities and practical they prepared charts for classification of disease, deficiency and communicable diseases

ODIA LANGUAGE

Faith group students have started preparing for NIOS exam. We have covered three chapters from the syllabus of NIOS in the last session.

These chapters are :-

- a) Mada handi katha (folk tale)
- b) Khadyotika (poem)
- c) Rebata (story)



Through these chapters the students have learnt

- a) some grammar concepts
- b) explanation writing
- c) writing skills through question and answer method
- d) reciting a poem
- e) making a play and enacting
- f) new vocabulary

SPORTS

The girls of this group are very active when it comes to games and rarely miss their game slot. They play Football, Basketball, Volleyball and a range of minor games. They also go running and practice dance.

All of them enjoy Basketball and most of them are very good in the game and some even extend their superiority in football. They are able to follow a simple motto 'Stay cool, stay calm' as they weave and pass the ball around, running for offence or holding the defence.

Recently, Volleyball had been started and there too, they have shown promising signs. They heed well to any advice given but instead of blindly following, they tune it to their own style and improve on a self-learnt basis.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

CHILDREN'S DAY

The girls performed the song 'I have a dream' (ABBA) on 'Children's Day'. They also made sketches to do a bulletin board.



PRANJAL BHAIYA'S BIRTHDAY

The girls were much enthused, they made a rangoli with flowers and also presented a traditional Indian folk dance with a beautiful Odia song.



CHRISTMAS

The faith group presented three songs, 'Silent Night', 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and 'Feliz Navidad'. They had problems with pronouncing certain words in the song but by the end of it, they were much better in their delivery.

They did the rounds very well and were able to hit high notes. They all like singing and all participated with equal gusto while giving a very convincing performance that captured the Christmas spirit.

SPORT'S DAY

The entire day was packed with celebrations, fun and joy. The girls participated in various demonstrations.

Aero Wonders - Aerobatics Corner – All the senior kids participated in doing dare devil stunts that drew admiration and applause for all the viewers. The girls of Faith group were not only agile, they also provided necessary muscle and structure.



Joyful Jesters - Circus Corner – This included all the funny but tough skills that one sees in a regular circus. The kids learnt stilt walking, juggling, skipping etc. Chandrama was exceptionally good in juggling, being the only one to master three ball juggling. Purva walked on the stilts as though she had them all along. Kokila was seen jumping up and through skipping ropes like a nimble elf. The three of them did not draw attention to the fact that they had just learnt all these activities.

Skills on Wheels - Skating Corner – The kids truly lived up to the name Skills on Wheels as they whizzed all over the court, sometimes on two and sometimes on one leg. Tulsa was in this group and she not only skated well, she also managed to score a basket while at it. Bikanti too showed her skills as she maintained a high speed with an easy grace. What was inspiring was the fact that both of them learnt skating just prior to the event.





Lazium Dance Corner – A graceful dance performance by all the senior girls along with an accompanying instrument that was made of small metal discs, called the lazium. Its chime sounds compliment their coordinated movements.

Happy Feet - Football Corner – Here the kids showcased various football drills that included passing, shooting, heading etc. Kamli demonstrated her natural athletic flair as she shot goals and headed with confidence. Brinda too was part of the demonstration and what started as a struggle, soon saw her becoming accustomed to the ball as she gave stronger passes and shot with more accuracy.

MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

The Faith Group was active in providing stories for the drama, which consisted of a compilation of about 13-15 mini stories that was wound into an entire script. They were not able to participate in the play as they travelled to Delhi and their input ended there.



Trip to Delhi

All the seven girls of the Group went to Delhi for a 1.5 month study tour. The purpose of the visit was to cover substantial portions of various subjects' curriculum. The MIS teachers did Home Science, History, Computer Science with them.



In the afternoon they were doing social studies with Mr. Ashok Acharya.

Barun Pal ji - Focussed on harmonisation in vocal music.

They learnt basic exercises and steps of Bharatnatyam and Odissi at Matri Kala Mandir.

They also joined the vocal music class of Premshila di.

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OCT '14 - MAR '15 REPORT



Every Sunday the girls spent hours learning and very diligently practicing calligraphy, quilling, book folding, etc with Naval Bhaiya.

They also visited the National Gallery of Modern Art with Ashutosh Sir of MIS. He explained them about different types of art, artists and also how art portrays the lifestyle of our ancestors has been evolved from generation to generation.



Children went to watch a cultural show with Ashram inmates. Children enjoyed the Goti Pua Nritya of Odisha and they were highly inspired by the program prepared by the blinds.

FAITH GROUP

OCT '14 - MAR '15 REPORT

They also went to see the book fair at Pragati Maidan with Kartik bhaiya. Children visited to different stalls and enjoyed reading books there itself. As a few children have started learning French, bhaiya bought them some French story books.

During their month long visit to Delhi, Faith Group girls went through general, dental checkup and treatment. Kokila went through detailed diagnostic tests. They also attended an eye camp, learnt exercise for better vision.



Children also performed Hawan ritual in the memory of Shri Anil Jauhar near Chachaji's shrine. The attendees (some foreigners and Ashram inmates) were flabbergasted with their diction.

Karuna didi an ashram inmate as well as a popular singer of the ashram talked to the children about advantages of Hawan. Children did Hawan on all Sundays with Sima Didi.

The trip concluded with the girls making "Thank You" cards for all their mentors and collecting loads of blessings from everyone.

FAITH GROUP

OCT'14- MAR'15 REPORT

