

New Creation Group Report

April 2013 - September 2013



Aspiring to move towards progress and being open to learning in every sphere of life is a collective goal that all the children in the New Creation group share. In these last six months we have made progress both as a group as well as individually. Every one of the fifteen children in the group is special and unique— both in their thinking, as well as the interests they have. However, what keeps them together is the love, the kindness and the harmony they all seek as a group.

In the month of April, most of the children in the group were eager to work on the topic of light. The group was divided into sub groups and the smaller groups worked on different areas of light like colours, mirrors and light, light travelling in a straight line, speed of light, artificial and natural sources of light etc. The children also played with finger shadows, making different animal figures with it and watching themselves in the mirrors - all of them enjoyed these activities. At the Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir we have always believed that learning becomes more effective when it is practically experienced. While working on this topic the children consulted a lot of books as well as an encyclopedia.

Each child in the group made his/her own model and prepared some activities to bring in further clarity. Models like the colour wheel, day and night, eclipse, rainbow, model of an eye, microscope, colours and lenses etc were made. Making these models was not an easy task, but with a lot of help and encouragement from the group diya, the children did a good job. A very interesting activity was a



shadow drawing of each other's face. The group also worked on a shadow puppet play in two separate groups, based on original stories written by the children themselves. These were then presented to the other groups.

The school's birthday is a day that all the children await eagerly, there is celebration in the air, as each group prepares excitedly to present something special. The New Creation group decided to write a song in English and even composed music for it with the help of the group diya and bhaiyas. The song was called the 'The song of Auro-Mira' and this is how it reads:

The song of Auro-Mira

Trees and birds sing in a sweet tone
The cool breeze makes her dance
The water of the dam surrounded her
Flowers and plants adore her up with their beautiful fragrance
Children who bring cheer to her face
This is our Auro-Mira who is our very dearest
Mountains and trees who protect her
And like a crown who they rest above her
Who shares her love shares all she has



And likes to see our cheerful endeavors
This is our Auro-Mira for whom we are here
She has given us a place to learn and dance freely on our own way
She is always watching over us
Where ever we may go, both you and I
We salute to thee and bow down at your feet

“Whenever we sing this, each word fills our heart with great respect and a living presence. While we meditate upon her, the beautiful moments of the past as well as the present inspired us to put it on paper.

Nature has been very kind to us and bestowed upon us riches like the jungles and the hills around, a big, beautiful dam, birds, animals and an air that is fresh and cool. As a group whenever we think of these bounties we feel blessed. Keeping this feeling in mind, the group decided to work on Kechla and its beauty. For this too, the larger group was divided into sub groups and each group had about two to three children. Each group explored their favorite aspect of Kechla like it's trees, flowers, fruits, herbs, birds, life style of the people (occupation, crops, dress and language etc, festivals) areas around the ashram and its geographical study etc.



During this project, the group spent time collecting information from the villagers as well. Some groups also used the library to find out more about these subjects. The group also went to different jungles to observe as well as take photographs. All of these works were collated into a book which was named '**Our Kechla and Its Beauty.**'

Academically too, the group progressed well.

In maths during this period, the group enjoyed working on maths by doing different activities like drawing and coloring, cutting, pasting and playing card games etc. Throughout the session, the children worked on - multiplication and division, odd, even and prime numbers, fractions -types of fractions, conversions, like, unlike, equivalent fractions and word problems related to fractions. Most of the children have developed speed and accuracy in calculation resulting in better confidence.

Through the last few months the children of the New Creation group have made a great effort in learning and comprehending the English language. The group had gone on a visit to Panchgani, Pune

in the month of March. On their return, we found that they had had many interesting experiences and that preparing a full-fledged trip report would be a good project to undertake. The final report was complete with articles, photographs, anecdotes, informational boxes and even cartoons. The articles included one on a visit to a school for slow learners, a visit to Lal Mahal (Shivaji's home), a bird watching excursion, and one of the children even wrote about his first experience on a western style toilet!



'Storytellers' was the next project that the group took up. The children were given the freedom to choose any book from the library, read it on their own, and then tell the story to the others in the group. Some of the stories the children chose included Aesop's fables, and folktales from across the world and from our very own Panchatantra.

A forthcoming project includes a grand production of the Disney classic 'The Jungle Book'. While we have assigned parts to the children, the production is still underway and should be ready in another three months. Since the Disney film is a musical, there are several songs including classics like *Bare Necessities*, *The Elephant March* and *I Wanna Be Like You*. The other songs the children learnt, apart from the ones from *The Jungle Book*, were BJ Thomas' *Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head* and Doris Day's classic *Whatever Will Be*.

The children have been taking a keen interest in creating colourful pieces for the display boards in our language lab. We have separate spaces for the children's work, one dedicated to poetry called the 'Poetry Wall', and another titled 'Mandir Magazine' where the children put up short articles, stories, pictures or anything interesting about the things that they see and do in school. Our latest reading project is RK Narayan's 'Swami and Friends'. We read the novel as a group, giving the children an opportunity to practice reading out aloud and at the same time discussing new words.





From the diyas

"This is how we have nurtured our little one's during this session, and in the process we feel enriched simply by being with them.

With lots of love and aspiration for each one of them to be a 'true child' of The Mother :

Srinath, Rabindra, Vidotma and Kartik,

The New Creation group diyas