

Group Report: New Creation

October 2013 - March 2014



The last session concluded with the month-long trip that most of the students made to different parts of North India, including Haridwar, Delhi and Nainital. After coming back to Kechla the discussions centered around the different places that they had visited.



On settling back into their regular routines, the children were asked to decide what they wanted to work on. Several projects emerged from this e.g. trains, automobiles, cars, seasons, food, clothes, big cats, snakes, house, reptiles, vertebrate and invertebrate.

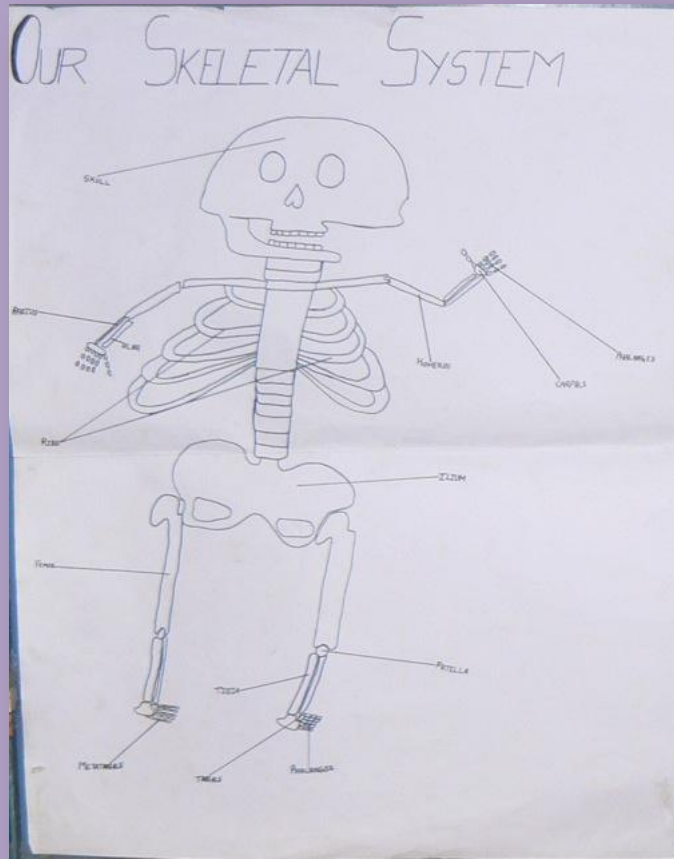
Some children chose to work alone and some decided that they would like to work with a friend. The children chose books from the library and read most of them all by themselves or sometimes with the help of their *diyas* and then wrote down whatever they had understood. Eventually after preparing the topics well, these were presented to the school.

Towards the end of November the annual sports day was celebrated in our school. The children of the New Creation group participated in different activities like *yogasan*, pyramids, gymnastics and cycling. The practice for these activities went on for a month and finally it was presented to the parents, some students from MIS and a few guests from Koraput. The children also enjoyed some other sporting events like fun and relay races. Basketball and football matches too were enjoyed a lot by the children.

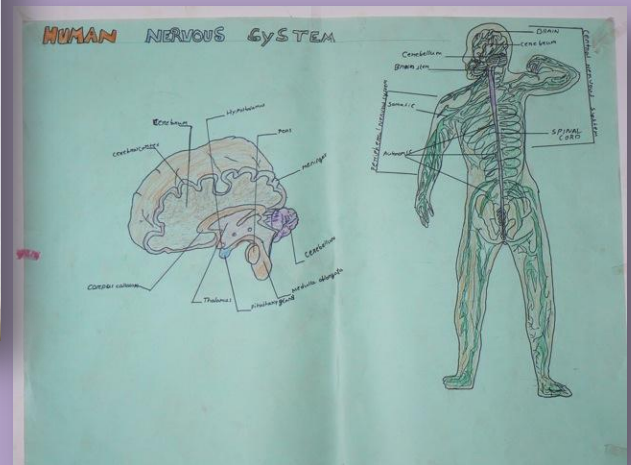
In December, Tia Pleiman an art therapist from Auroville, visited Kechla and conducted art workshops with children. The children experimented with free drawing, colouring, sketching, painting, and writing a story based on art work. They also made some posters related to the sports day. All the paintings were exhibited on the field on the sports day.



On the occasion of Diwali, the children learnt two songs - *puju matre sawaswati and prem mudita manse kaho* and presented it before the school. Christmas too was celebrated with great enthusiasm and excitement. All the children learnt a new carol 'jingle bell rock' and practiced 'little drummer boy'.



During this session the children worked on two topics -one group worked on fish and other on human body. In the topic on human body the focus was on different systems -digestive, muscular, respiratory, nervous and skeletal system. Different charts and models were made and then presented to the school.



Post the settling in at Kechla, the group decided to pick up where we had left off with many of our projects, the biggest one being the production of The Jungle Book. Practice for the play was resumed and everyone -the children and the teachers were all involved in preparing the costumes and sets for the play, which we finally presented in April.

English: Since most of the children are now quite fluent in English, substantial amount of time was spent on focusing on their comprehension and writing skills. While reading the *diyas* would ensure if the children are following the text and whether there are any problems with comprehension. Until now the children would only answer orally and we felt that it was the right time to introduce them to answering questions from short and simple passages.

This was initiated with a simple poem - the Walrus and the Carpenter, from Lewis Carrol's Alice in Wonderland. The poem would be dictated to them and they would be asked to write it down. After every few stanzas the *diya* would go over the lines and the children would correct their spelling mistakes etc. The meaning of the lines would also

be discussed briefly before asking the children some simple questions based on what they understood in the poem, which they later wrote down. The group also worked on the use of adjectives when describing an object or a person.



While writing as well as speaking, it was noticed that the children often make mistakes in subject-verb agreement, the use of articles etc. So the next exercise was to reinforce these fundamentals before moving to other writing exercises. Over a period of a few weeks the children were regularly given sentences, taken mostly from things they say to each other on a daily basis, and asked to fill in the blanks with the suitable forms of the verbs – have, has, do, does and the use of a, an and the.

Hindi: After coming back from Delhi we started with the Hindi text *Rim-Jhim* with the children. The children would read the text and then answer the questions given in the book. Learning grammar was also initiated. Concepts like *sanyuktakshar*, sounds of different letters, breaking up a word and emphasizing the correct pronunciation was done with the group.

Mathematics: Mathematics is taught in a very different way at the Auro-Mira Vidya Mandir where we firmly believe that each child moves at his or her own pace. New Creation group is a very good example of this. Bhavna and Basant from the New Creation group were doing class 4 level mathematics in the month of October. In March, they were on the verge of completing class 5 level maths. Mathematics does not come naturally to these children as concepts of money, measurement and fractions are not used by them in their day to day life. Fractions and measurements were studied as a topic, and the children did practical activities with objects to get a grasp and relate to the topic. All the children from the New Creation group love maths and are surprised when children from other places or schools, say that they do not like maths!



