



# REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

BY MINHAJ ARASTU, PRINCIPAL

Just over 100 years ago, Hyderabad faced a pandemic that drove people to less crowded gardens, temples, and dargahs around the city. In my own family, I have heard tales of our Bada Bagh near Chandrayangutta, where hundreds of relatives and others took refuge in 1916. Hearing tales from elders, it used to sound like an extended picnic, but now that we are living through our own pandemic, I understand that spending time in Bada Bagh must have been a huge disruption and challenge. This issue of Fenestra is itself a mark of the disruption that COVID-19 has caused. We are publishing this edition digitally and in a simple format. Fortunately, some of our documents are available online, but most of the students' work that we wanted to present is left behind at school.



## Impact on students

When school closed in mid-March, some students were writing public examinations and others were preparing for summative assessments. Teachers shifted online and started providing revision exercises through WhatsApp, Google Forms and Google Classroom. We are happy to see that in both campuses, a majority of students completed most of the remote learning tasks. This time, we were revising concepts already taught. But, maybe this experience will help us to use remote learning tools to teach new concepts in flexible ways. For example, in the coming year, we hope to use online learning resources for practice and remediation.



## Impact on teachers

For teachers, the lockdown has pushed them to improve their computer skills to ever greater heights. We had a webinar crash course about Google Classroom for the primary teachers. Our regular meetings moved to Zoom and Google Meet. Our online repository of data and documents, Google "Drive" has gone into "overdrive". In a priceless opportunity for self-development, teachers and admin staff are taking part in countless online courses and webinars. 'Working from home' (WFH) used to be every professional's dream, but now that we have lived it--interrupted by house chores and demanding children--I think we are all having second thoughts!

## Impact on parents

We must thank and appreciate the parents. You have also learned new technologies, supported your child's learning, and remained patient as we reoriented all our operations. We know that all families are not the same and that remote learning through the internet is not accessible to all. We are trying our best to provide support through a helpline and later on, with face-to-face remedial teaching. As parents, I think we have all rediscovered that the home is the first school and that children learn so much while cutting vegetables, folding the clothes, and conversing with family.

## Many questions remain

We are signing off this year from afar. Many issues remain unclear: When will schools reopen? How will children be safe in schools? How will families, businesses and schools function after the economic lockdown? For now, we pray for our community and the world to be healthy. When we return from quarantine, God willing, we will be stronger and more determined to develop a well-educated society.

# KEEPING KIDS ENGAGED THROUGH HOUSEWORK

BY RUHENA FATHI, VICE PRINCIPAL

A question to ponder upon.....When does a child start the journey of learning? It would seem logical to think that they start learning when they are born, but in fact, the learning process starts much earlier than this. Believe it or not but the child starts learning when he is still in the mother's womb. Of course, the child gains a lot of understanding about the different things he observes in his environment as he grows.

We all have started to accept the fact that the children will be at home for quite a long time because of the CoronaVirus Pandemic. The thought of staying at home with kids during lockdown has built up a certain level of stress and anxiety for parents. It has become important to not only keep the children busy during the day but also to make time to sit with them and plan their day.

Here are a few ideas and suggestions which you could follow to engage your child and simultaneously learn and teach values and skills. Let the children help you in your daily chores like putting clothes in the washing machine; folding clothes, arranging the dinner table; filling water bottles; cleaning the table; organizing their toys, books and clothes; watering the plants; cleaning and laying their bed; helping their grandparents (serving water). This is not the end; there are many more ways in which you can productively engage your child.

I would like to explain this through an acrostic:

**C – Caring:** teaching the children what they need to do to take care of themselves, their home and their family.

**O - bring the Outside inside:** Due to lockdown the child is not allowed to go outside so make him understand its importance and how he can keep himself busy even when he is inside.

**V- teach them Values and Virtues:** Give time to your children and spend time with them by talking about good manners, discipline, family traditions and culture.

**I – Involve in household chores:** This gives children an experience of relationships. Skills like communication, negotiating, cooperating and working as a team will be enhanced.

**D- Don't give up:** Don't let the children wander and waste their time in unproductive work. Motivate them to keep doing their best to overcome this situation.

You can motivate your child to get involved in chores by:

- doing the chore together until your child is ready to do it on her own.
- being clear about what each person's chores are for each day.
- talking about why it's great that a particular work has been done.
- show interest in how your child has done the job by praising him. use a reward chart to track completed chores and give small rewards like choosing a TV program or deciding the family meal.





# MOVING FORWARD IN THESE BLEAK MOMENTS

BY SHEHERBANOO FATHI, VICE PRINCIPAL- CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Dear parents,

We thank you for the support that you have extended during this challenging time. You have been multitasking as caretaker, parent and teacher and I am sure it will go down as the most memorable era of your life.

To further extend our support I have compiled all the resources used and added a few more to ensure that learning for your child is ongoing and you as parents have some ideas to work on. Consider this time to be a God's gift that you share with your child in an otherwise hectic life schedule.

The resource **Inquiry Through Play-supporting PYP resources (1)** is a resource for parents of early learners. Also, a **Parent Guide to Personal Inquiries in PYP (2)** provides suggestions on how you can support older children with their personal inquiry. Students can also carry out personal Inquiry using this template. You engage learners in reading and to scaffold constructive Inquiry Follett has shared a wide range of books to sign up for a limited time period.

Another interesting resource put up by World View Education. Check the **Video (3)** for further details and follow their Instagram handle – worldview.education for more updates. Besides these, here are some free **E books (4)** for all ages offered for a limited period and **PYP online resources (5)** shared by IBO and developing **Approaches to learning skills (6)** as shared by Toddle. All the resources are free and for a limited period so sign up as soon as possible and make the best of it.

Happy Learning!

Links to resources:

- (1)  
<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/117bf04eac9f45eda7d6b7afaf671ba0/inquiry-through-play-supporting-pyp-parents.pdf>
- (2)  
<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/117bf04eac9f45eda7d6b7afaf671ba0/parent-guide-to-personal-inquiries-in-the-pyp.pdf>
- (3)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3ZULyb8LEc>
- (4)  
<https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/68994>
- (5)  
<https://www.pypresources.com/resources/online-learning/online-learning-resources>
- (6)  
<https://www.toddleapp.com/learning-library/2020/04/04/build-ib-approaches-to-learning-at-home-a-collection-of-diverse-challenges-across-skills/>

**NOTE:** Please copy paste the links above to check the resources listed.



**Working on gross motor skills**



**Hamza trying to relate the objects he found at home with letter "g"**



**Team work-differentiating healthy and unhealthy food**



**Completing tasks at home**



**Dressed up as healthy food**



**Remote learning going on**



**Sorting puzzles**



**At play2grow**



# PPI



Students dressed-up as community helpers



Role play



Playing memory game for cognitive development



Playing is fun!



Field trip to Zoo in related to the unit  
Animals are friends



Field Trip to PLABO in related to the unit  
community helpers



# PP2



Proudly explaining the function of roots



Demonstrating that plants need water to grow

Awed to see a "No Leaves" plant





Fancy Dress Nutrition Week



Sowing seeds to see the growth of a plant (Journal writing)



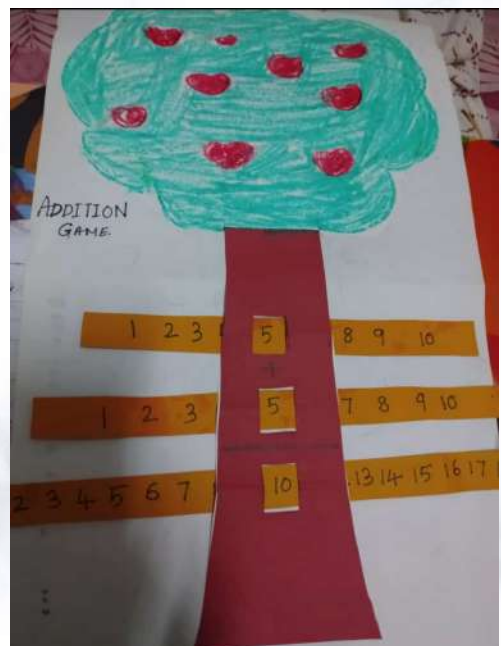
Character Dress up (Thirsty Crow)



Illustrating a story



Arranging germination of a seed in sequence



Remote task (Addition)





Students building their vocabulary during circle time

Students dressed up as healthy food items and performed in school assembly during nutrition week



Students collecting different types of leaves



Students collecting different types of leaves



Students learning to tally data through hands on activity



# Class 1



Life cycle of water



Traffic Light Activity



Students celebrating Diwali during ongoing topic Celebration

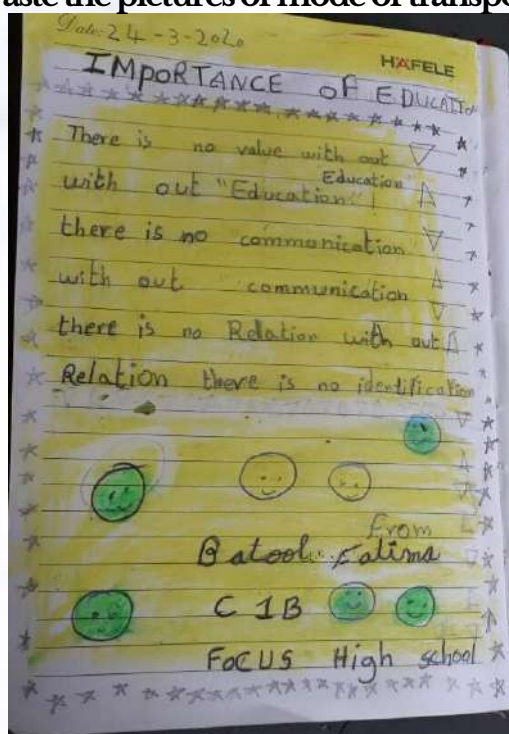


Math Day





Paste the pictures of mode of transport



Student work



Making shapes on Geo board



## My Happiest Day

By Mohammed Abaad Bin Zubair, C-IC

It was an important day for me as our school had handwriting competition from Rainbow Art Centre (Gujarat) and 9th All India Child Art Competition from Marathi Art Academy (Gujarat). I was too nervous that what would happen in that competition and guess what .....Alhamdulillah, I got Gold Medal in Hand Wiring Competition and Bal Ratana Award in art competition by the grace of Allah!!!My name was announced in the assembly I was so happy that I got Gold Medal and Bal Ratna Award by beloved Principal Mr. Minhaj.



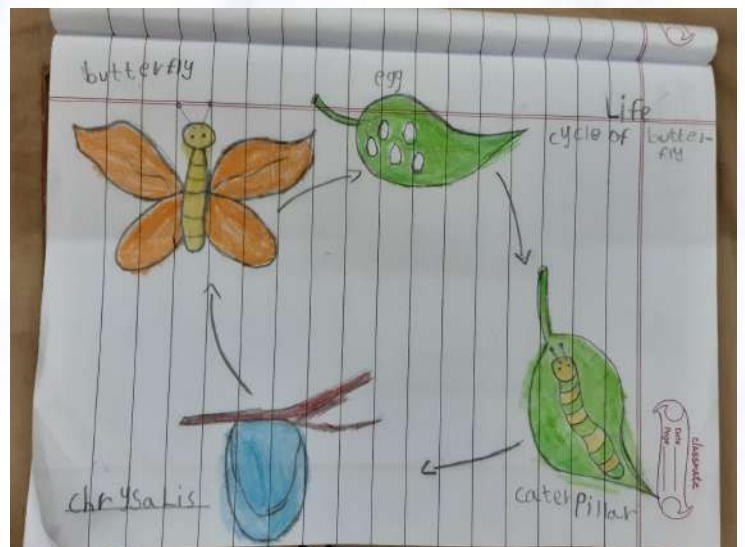
## Literary Fest

By Husna Fatima, C-IC

I like to share my experience to participate in Language Literary Fest: "UMANG" which was held in Glendale Academy International School. I was selected to participate in Urdu poetry about Mango. My teachers and parents help me practice a lot and prepare well for poetry and I have been dressed like a mango. That morning we went to school and met our other participants and then we went to Glendale Academy. Each and every participant performed on the stage. When my turn came, I halted many times in between, my teachers encouraged me to complete the poetry. By participating, I have learned, never to give up and be confident. I will like to thank my teachers and school for giving me this great opportunity in the event to show my talent.



Action taken-Life cycle of plant done

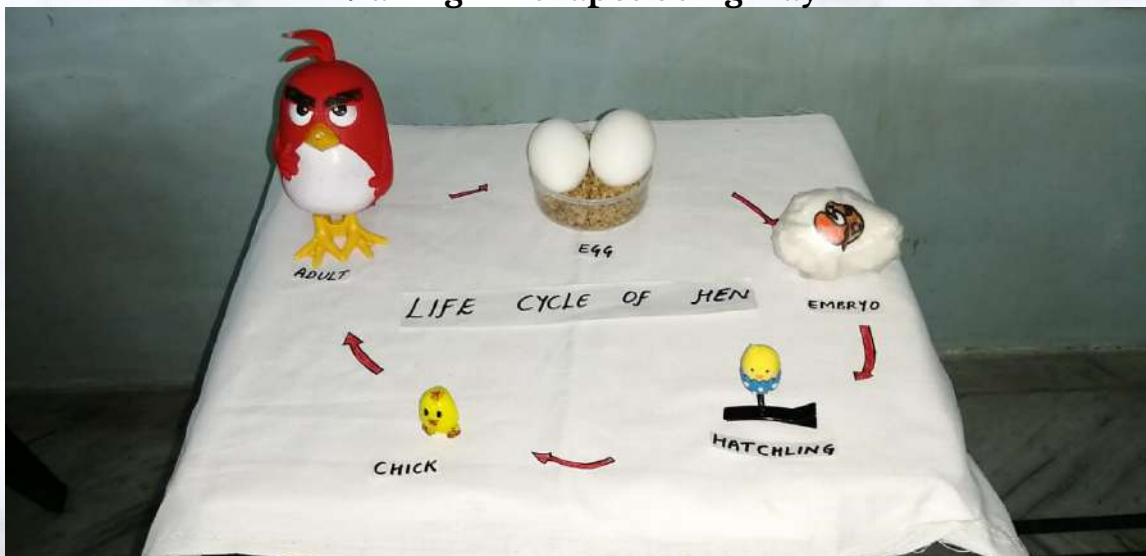


Life cycle of butterfly during Remote Learning





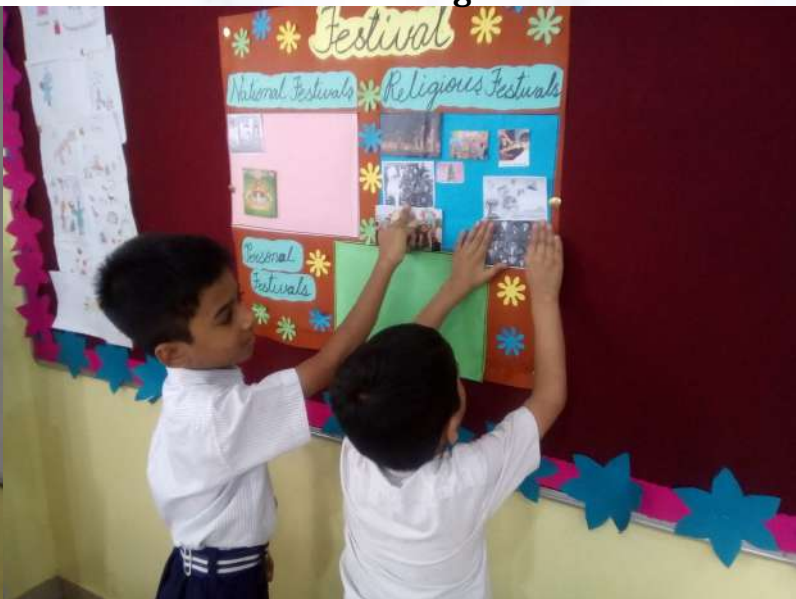
Making 2D shapes using clay



Life Cycle of Hen created by student of class 1D Zainab Begum



place value



Sorting out activity



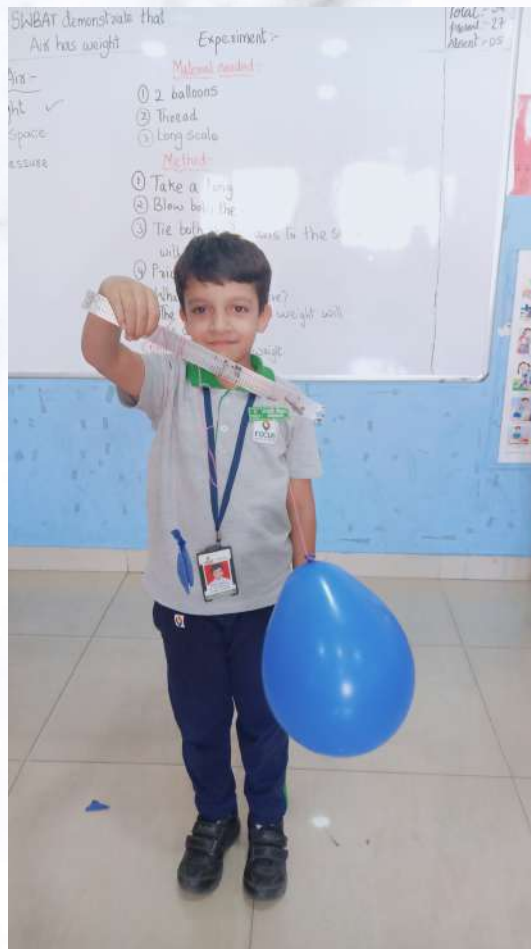
# Class 2



Math Exhibiton - Tally Marks station



Math Exhibition - Addition



Student demonstrating experiment to prove that air has weight



Students making paper fans in relation to the topic - Air



Math Exhibition - Weight Station





**Children involve in food pyramid activity for the unit health and wellbeing**



**Respiratory activity**



**Engaged in differentiation activity**



**Students enjoying session by Mr Hyder for the topic organisation**



**Relaxing themselves by meditation**



**Tug of war**





Engaging parents in mathematical patterns activity in math week

Make & play with pinwheel to tune into the topic Air



Proud toppers of hand writing competition



Implementing organisation skills at home



All set to tell about time in math week



Exploring the properties of air



Making paper fans to tune into the topic Air



Best out of waste: Making study table organizers



# Class 3

## Be Thankful

By Syeda Nisa C 3 A

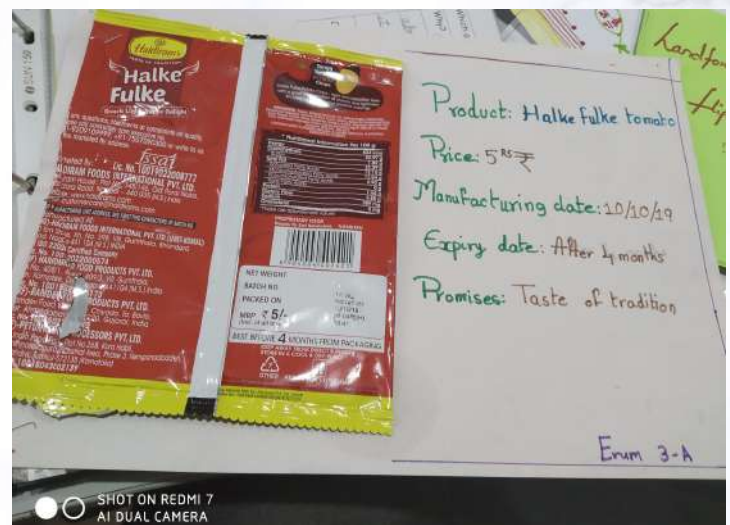
In a small town, there lived a girl named Sally. She used to go to school every day and had a lot of friends. She always used to think that why should I always go to school, why can't I sit at home and enjoy? One day there was an announcement that everything is going to shut down, even the schools for one month due to some disease. Sally was very happy that now she can be at home and enjoy, after some days she was feeling very bored, she missed her friends and was unhappy she wanted to go to school and meet her friends but she could not do so. She did not have anything to do at home, that time she realized how important it is to respect what we get and be happy in our life and be thankful to God for everything.



Flying high with rights and responsibility

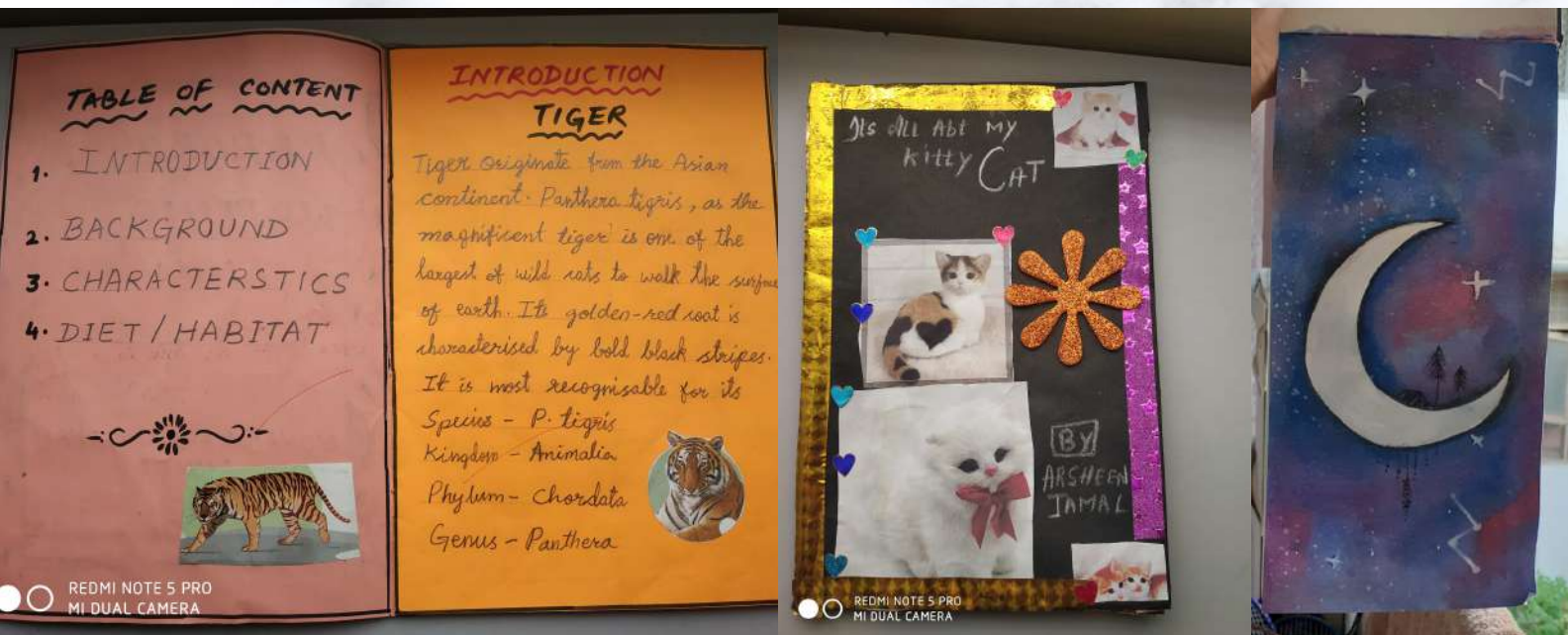


Rights & Responsibilities at school



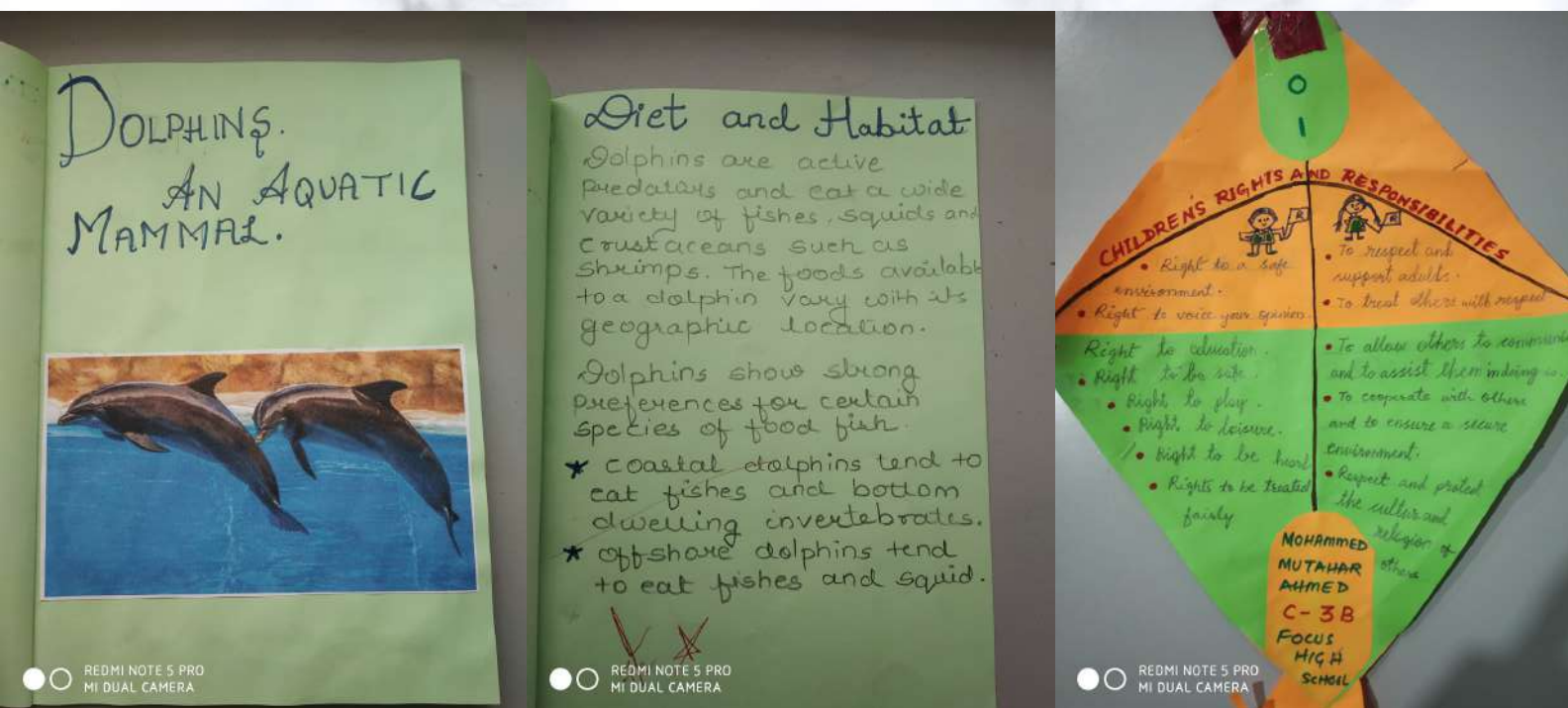
Collecting the product information





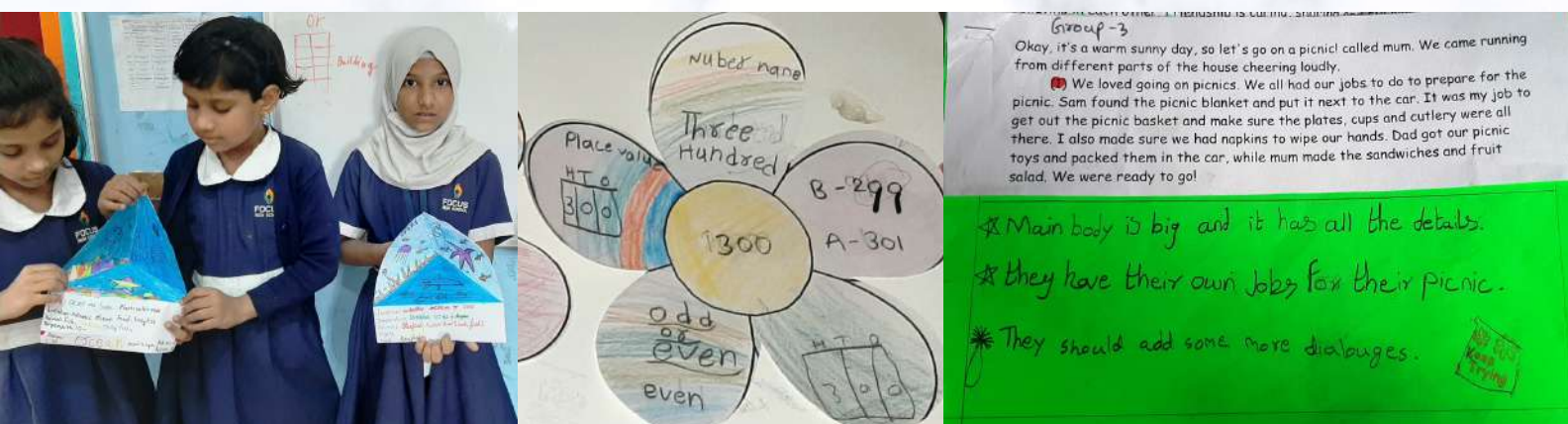
Report writing

Tabinda



Learning about mammals

Right and responsibilities



Presenting information about a habitat through 3D triorama

Exploring a number

Analysing main body in a story and writing 2 stars 1 wish



## Remote Learning Tasks ATL (Attitudes to Learning) Skills Challenges

By Syeda Kulsoom Jafar, C3 Homeroom Teacher  
& TL

After an unexpected lockdown was announced in the state in order to contain the spread of the Coronavirus disease, the teachers and students had to completely rely on the online system to continue learning. Apart from the usual subject related quizzes and assignments, I planned to post challenging assignments to check for ATL skills in my students. This idea was taken from the toddle website.

Initially apprehensive of the responses I'd receive, I kept the task very simple by asking students to attempt only one challenge out of the list of options available under one skill and share their photos or videos. To my surprise I found a good number of variant responses, thereby encouraging and appreciating submissions. The responses were visible to the whole class on Google Classroom and the number of participants increased everyday. Students enjoyed attempting all the challenges listed under each ATL Skills.

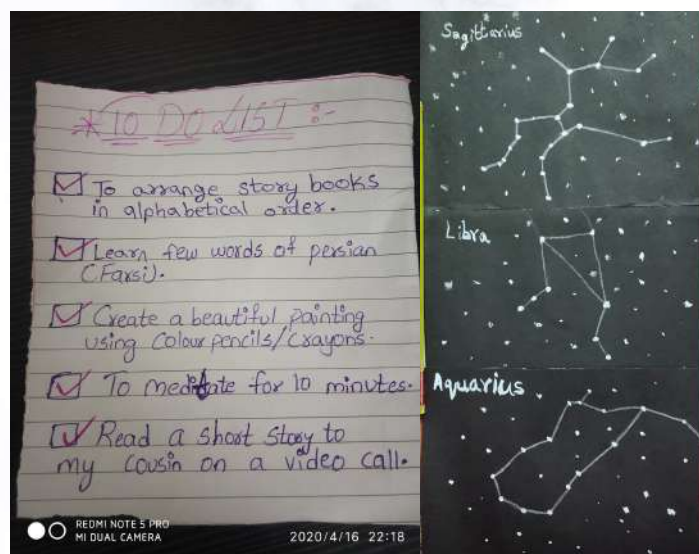
Although these tasks were not subject-specific, they helped me as a teacher to come across hidden talents of students. Besides keeping kids constructively engaged, these tasks helped students in a number of ways such as:

- to learn the organisation through sorting activity (thinking skills).
- to present self through videos (social skills).
- to create and display dialogues using puppets (communication skills)
- to analyse changes taking place within self and surrounding (research skills)
- to observe the routines of people at home and create routines for self. Practice mindfulness (self-management skills)

Nevertheless, active parental engagement played a pivotal role in acting as a bridge to help the teachers and students stay connected.



**Self management Nafay**



**Organization skills**

**Research skill  
zehra razvi**



**Enjoying story telling**



# Class 4



Sorting activating



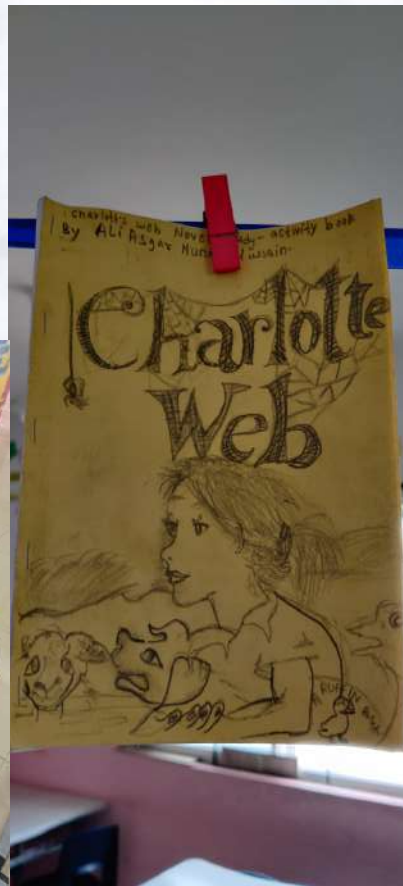
Hands-on activity(how machines work)



Group activity on Exploration



Putting clues together after treasure hunt activity



Designing the cover page for Novel study



Field trip to Birla Science Museum



Exploring different kinds of Forces



Exploring different kinds of Forces in Birla Science Museum



Learning pronouns during fall



## My Experience in Remote teaching & learning

By Arshiya Maryam, CT of C4 B and MATH Team Leader

In humans, it's a psychological fact that whenever a person is asked to do what they have never done before, they think they just can't do it! But when situations arise, directly or indirectly, they start learning it. This is what happened with remote teaching & learning.

Therefore, **YOU LEARN THINGS ONLY WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE IT'S HARDSHIPS.**

When I came to know the city had been locked down, the first thing that struck my mind was: How would I teach my students? Being an educator, when I first started to think about teaching online, I realized I had a lot to learn. Our school came up with a solution of sending assignments via Google forms and then shifted to Google classroom. This helped us maintain our connection with the students. Teaching online is a lot of work. It is nothing compared to a classroom-based course. Hands-on activities that I have used effortlessly in the classroom couldn't be used at all for virtual teaching, Hence, I created new activities which were easy to understand and follow.

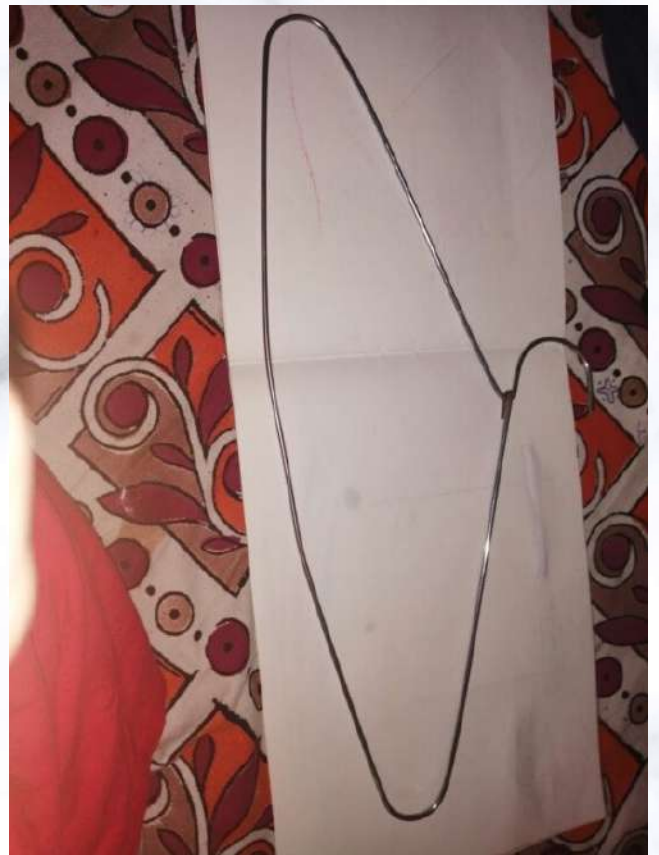
**My Work Experience through Google Classroom:**

To make it brief, I had given many assignments, but the one which I really liked was this:

The task assigned for C4 students: Look around your house and take pictures of objects which are in the form of an equilateral triangle and Acute angled triangle.

And here are some responses:

It was amazing to see how effortlessly the students did their work. Allow students a chance to observe and explore, they will definitely do wonders and surely amaze you!





## East or West, Focus is the best!

By Fariha Mahmood, C4B

I am a proud student of a school whose mission is to build a community of lifelong learners that aims to excel in all aspects of life. Let me tell you all about my journey at Focus School.

I have been studying at Focus since my early years of learning and have come to accept this institution as a second home. Since PP1 until C4, my teachers have been friendly, brilliant and completely wonderful. My teachers made learning interesting, enjoyable and easy to understand. I also had many experiences outside our school campus. Apart from yearly field trips, I had the opportunity to participate in extracurricular events in other international schools. I also enjoyed being a delegate at Primary Model United Nations at Oakridge International School. It was a very good learning experience.

I am eagerly waiting for the new academic year to start and hoping to have much more fun! I thank all my teachers from the bottom of my heart for everything that they have done for ME!



## Quarantine time

By Ibrahim Wali Ullah, C4B

As we all know due to the Coronavirus outbreak we have quarantined ourselves in our homes. I have heard that most of us are feeling bored. Are you really? You shouldn't. You have got this quality time to spend with your family and got ample time to strengthen yourselves. If we do things systematically and in an organized way then everything goes right. We can increase our vocabulary skills, helping parents in household chores; isn't that a good idea? you can even plan things to make a schedule. Go ahead grab this opportunity, it's definitely going to fetch you a lot! On the contrary, I know how badly we're missing our school. Though we have online classes due to the lack of social interaction, we are missing our very dear teachers and peers. Those determined and enthusiastic teachers (Ms. Amena & Ms. Arshiya) fill our hearts with more spirit to study harder and get good grades. Truly missing you all my dear teachers!!

## Exploration song

By Ali Asgar & Ali Mohd.

There are many famous explorers, in this world, Who were very curious to discover, new places,

Their names are, Christopher Columbus, Alexander the great, Vasco Da Gama, Captain James Cook, Neil Amstrong, Kalpana Chawla, Marco Polo...o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o,

There are many famous explorers, in this world  
We inquired about a topic, and came to know,  
That we can explore about ANYTHING,  
ANYTHING, ANYTHING...

If you can be an explorer you can explore,  
space, land and sea, and a lot of wealth and  
fame to our country.....

Some explorers like Christopher Columbus, Alexander the great, Vasco Da Gama, Captain James Cook, Neil Amstronng, Kalpana Chawla, Marco Polo...o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o.o,

There are many famous explorers, in this world....



## When I grow up.....

By Raniya Vasaya, C4B

I want to become a teacher like Ms. Amena because I have always admired her the way she teaches and would love to teach students the way she does and teach all kinds of students. Education is the first priority for humans. Through education, we learn manners, discipline and also understand others' perspectives. We can earn money and get respect only if we are educated. Education makes our country powerful in the world. So I want to become a teacher and educate people.

## My Dad, My Role Model

By Zainul Hasan Abedi, C4B

I admire lots of people in my family and relatives but the person whom I admire the most is my FATHER because I have heard about a lot of his achievements through relatives and my grandparents. He was brilliant in studies as well as sports.

During his school days, he was a topper in his academics and achieved lots of awards. He was broadcast live on a local news channel for achieving first prize in an essay writing competition held at the state level. He loved to play football and cricket in India and when he went abroad, he also played for the UAE cricket league.

For 14 years he played for UAE's biggest club Fly Emirates team, and also against various international players like Dravid, Sehwag, Ganguly, Flintoff, James Anderson and Dinesh Kartik. I remember going along with my father to his practice sessions and matches whenever I had time during my stay in Dubai. He is my ROLE MODEL and I admire him the most. I want to become like him both in academics and sports. My father tells me that one day I may become a better player than him and play for the Indian team.

## RIDDLES

By Mohd. Humza, C4B

1) What gets wet while drying?

Ans: A towel

2) A black dense forest, one big highway and a cave?

Ans: Dense forest-hair, big highway-forehead, cave-mouth.

3) What can we catch but not throw?

Ans: Cold

4) What kind of band never plays music?

Ans: A rubber band

5) If you have it you don't share it..If you share it you don't have it?

Ans: A secret.

## Learner Profiles

By Ali Asgar, C4B

My experience this year has been very enriching and interesting and I have improved myself a lot through the Learner Profile attributes. I have been a courageous person and accepted many challenges, participated in different activities like Reader's theatre, Maruti art competition and classroom presentations.

I learnt to think before I speak, and now I respond rather than react or rush to answer. I voiced my opinions and considered other's ideas and became a great communicator. I have become knowledgeable by inquiring and working hard towards my studies. My teacher loves me for constantly researching about various things and that is the reason why I am an amazing inquirer! I implemented these changes not only in school but also at home as well. I learned to show respect and understand people around me by being an open-minded person. These qualities helped me gain admiration from people around me.



# Class 5



## Key to fitness. Performing yoga for nutrition day

## Branches of Government



## Showcasing student agency and choosing a task

## Students debating on a topic

## Brainstorming ideas



## Filling bucket with positive words



## Student dressed up to depict their identity



Dressed up to show aspects of their Identity





**Preamble**



**Kids teaching kids workshop**



**Taking action!**



## Model United Nations

By Sakina, C5C

My journey this year was a great success and I would like to thank all my teachers and parents for supporting me. I have gone through a lot of experiences, but the most remarkable one was going to the OakPMUN. It was my first participation in the Model United Nations. Our teacher made us read a passage and asked us questions based on the same. She assessed us based on a rubric and I thought that it is something very small, but when I got to know more, I loved it!. The instructions and training my teacher gave, the experience high school students shared and my parent's support kept on motivating me every day. On the main event, everyone was nervous and excited at the same time. The moment we reached Oakridge International School, we attended the opening ceremony and were ushered to our committees. I was in the committee ECOSOC and my chairpersons were Mr. Shreyas Kuchibholta and Mr. Kedar Veerareddy. The general speaker's list {GSL} started and I spoke as much as I possibly could, which both the chairpersons liked. After the GSL, we motioned to a formal debate {moderated caucus}, which started quite boring but when the informal debate {unmoderated caucus} began, it was very interesting. Most of the time people were just reading papers and I decided not to do that because the Executive Board {EB} did not like it. The first day gave me an idea to perform on the second day. The following day I was well prepared and not nervous. When I entered back in my committee, I was the one who initiated the GSL. Gradually we progressed with the committee sessions and concluded with making the resolution paper.

This was followed by the closing ceremony which included the prize distribution, and I prayed for myself and my friends to achieve awards. A while later I realised my name was called out for the noble mention. I went on the stage and I wanted to cry! When I came back from the stage, I hugged my teacher and cried out of happiness. I thought of my mom and dad at that time. Everyone congratulated me, and I would say it was all because of my hard work and dedication towards it. I would love to go there again!





## **A Reflection on the PYP Exhibition.**

**By Ifraaz Mohiuddin Siddiqui, C5C.**

The journey of my Exhibition was Amazing! I chose to work on the 17th Sustainable Development Goal: Partnership all Goals. In this goal, I have learned a lot about partnership. Throughout the PYPX, I was paired up with four goals: Goal 04 - Quality Education, Goal 06 - Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 08 - Decent Work and Economic Growth and Goal 14 - Life Below Water.

Working with these goals I have learned something new. I learned novel ways of saving water in goal 06, and the importance of safety in goal 08 among other ways of making our planet sustainable. We also had a 'Kids Teaching Kids workshop wherein we went to the lower grades and taught them about our goal and all other SDG's and how they are important for our world. It was quite challenging to work with 4 goals simultaneously and contribute towards the goal I chose as well.

Sometimes I had to miss my mentor meet and collaborate with other goals during their mentor sessions and I feared that I was not putting in my best efforts towards any one goal. My tasks were divided and scattered, yet I managed to keep them bound and work towards bringing about sustainability.

Nothing is impossible in this world! All you have to do is try and try until you succeed and that's exactly what I did. I tried and I didn't lose hope. And I finally succeeded. On the main event on 19th February 2020, I, along with my group, emerged a winner mainly due to my perseverance and belief in myself.

## **My first and last year in PYP!**

**By Batool Fatima, C5A PYP Head Girl**

In June 2019 I embarked upon a new journey called PYP and was quite excited about it. I had no idea that I would get a chance to participate in so many events. Each event was as different as it was wonderful. I participated in a Mushaira, Intelligem contest, math exhibition, math quiz, MUN at Oakridge and finally the much-awaited PYP exhibition. I never anticipated that I would be chosen as PYP Head-girl. It was indeed surprising. I do hope I've lived up to the expectations of my teachers!

Besides all of this, I made a lot of new friends. I loved the PYP curriculum but all good things come to an end. I almost felt like I started my PYP right now and it's going to end soon. This year I made wonderful memories which will linger on even when I move to MYP. My class teacher and co-teachers were very friendly. But I'm pretty sure that all my friends from C5 are feeling the same and would always miss PYP!



# Hindi



Students making three letter words



Students making two letter words



Activity of making two letter words



Activity of swar akshar



Student reading two letter words from Hindi Handmade book



Group activity of making two letter words

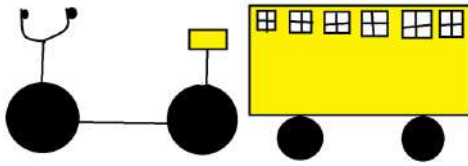


# Urdu Day at Focus

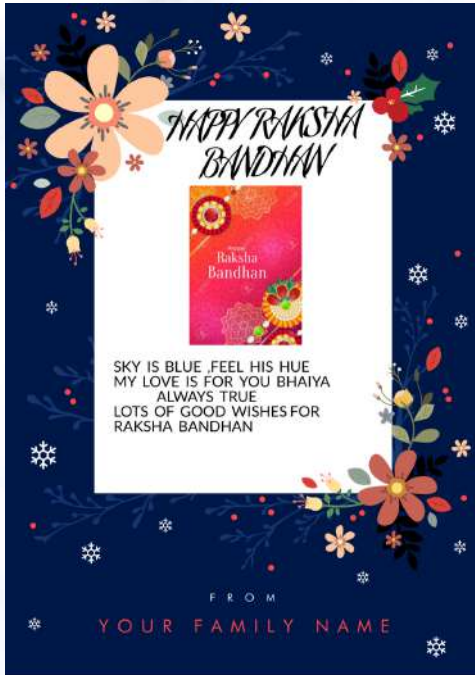




# ICT



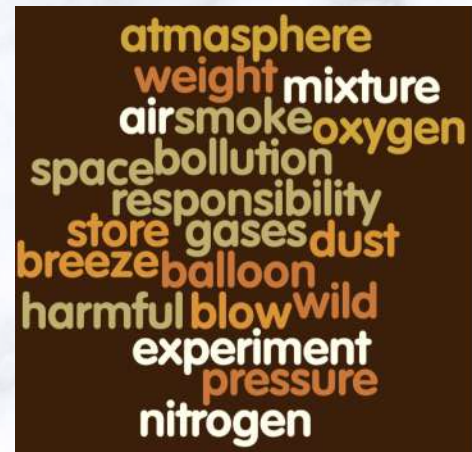
C1 students drew means of transport using paint tools



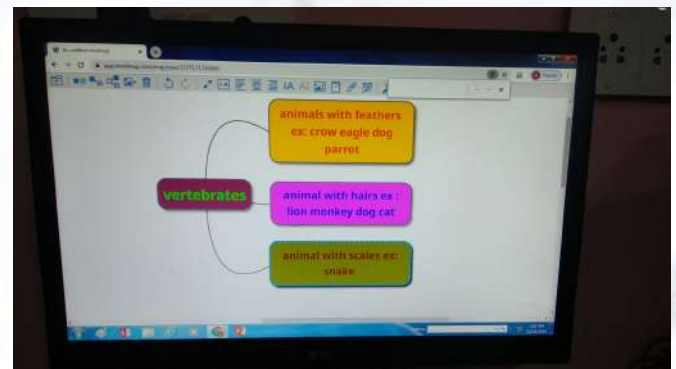
Created poster on Rakhi



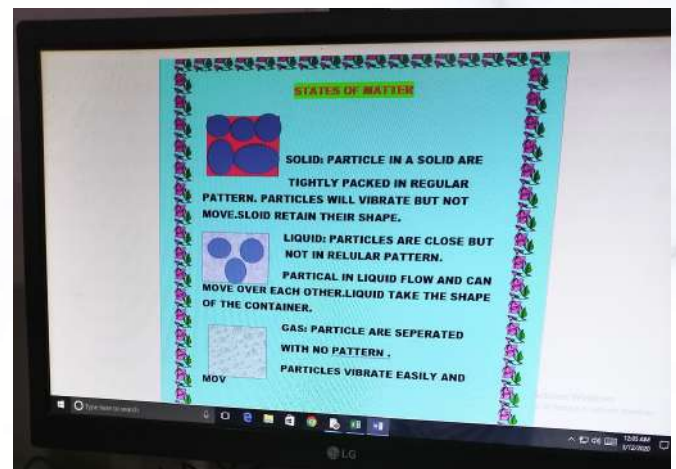
C5 Students created poster on peace and conflict using infographic



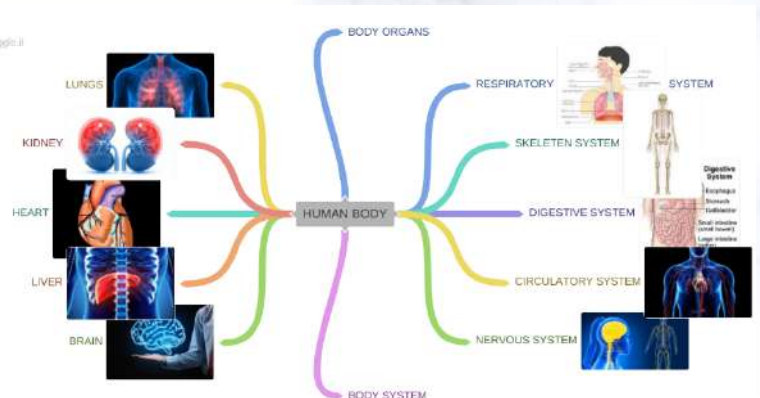
C2 students created word cloud



C3 Students created mind map



ICT integration



HUMAN\_BODY mind map using coggle



# Physical Education

## The Importance of Physical Education

By Syed Hasan Nawaz, Physical educator & Team Leader.

Physical education is one of the important factors in schools as well as in today's life. It is very essential for the students to maintain and balance their mental and physical strength. Now the question goes, why is physical fitness so important...? It plays a very significant role in developing their physical health. It subsequently reduces the risk of diseases at a later age, it gives good cardiovascular health and promotes muscle and bone development. Physical education also provides psychological benefits such as improving general mental health, concentration levels, awareness, and positive mood. Another trend is the incorporation of health and nutrition to the physical education curriculum.



PYP Cricket fest at OIS Bachupally



Zainul Hasan Abedi of C4 winning third position in short put throw



Taqi Zamin and Mehdi of C5 making a mark at the PYP Sports Fest





**Bringing laurels to the school**



**Faraz Ali Abedi of C5 securing first position in 200mts race**



**PYP Network Football fest at Meridian**



**PYP Sports fest at OIS Bachupally**



# The Making of PYPX!













# **My First Experience as a Student Council Member**

By Syed Ali Raza Kirmani, C4A

My first experience as a student council member is an unforgettable one, it was like a dream come true after a long waiting period I still rejoice the moment when I was called on stage on the occasion of the Investiture ceremony to receive my badge and take an oath as a Student council member, it was a moment when I felt like an important member of the school.

All these years I was just thinking of becoming a student council member which was a matter of pride but, soon I realized that I was wrong! With the badge came responsibilities, the responsibility to maintain discipline in and out of the classroom, the responsibility to make sure everyone speaks in English, the responsibility to check disputes during short breaks and lunch.

I also had opportunities to sit with all the other student council members and discuss the problems going on in school. We worked out on solutions for various issues amongst students and to an extent, we were able to bring down the problems. It was a great learning experience for me. I learnt to be more communicative, express my thoughts and ideas firmly and understood the importance of being well mannered and disciplined. Last but not least, I improved my overall language skills as well because the Student Council members were strictly instructed to communicate only in English.

I thank my teacher Naaz ma'am for giving me this opportunity.





# Reading Reflection

By Atiya Fatima Parent of Daniya Baseer, C1D

With easy access to gadgets in every household, books are seldom preferred as a means of recreation. This was exactly the scenario in my home too. Being an avid reader, I expected my daughter to naturally replicate the enthusiasm towards books; little did I know the efforts it would take to make her a reader. We shopped together and bought books that she chose which were merely attractive additions to our bookshelf. Getting her to read was a Herculean task and I almost lost hope by the time she turned 5.

Some people think that reading is a straightforward task that's easy to master. In reality, it's a complex process that draws on many different skills. Together, these skills lead to the ultimate goal of reading and comprehending what has been read. Falling under one of the major categories of approaches to learning (ATL), reading is an excellent way of building effective communication skills. This is precisely what I was aiming at and hence was deliberate for my daughter to become a proficient reader. Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. As we read, our brain decodes letters phonetically, makes connections, and conducts various visual and auditory processes.

A week after her 5th birthday, I came across the solution to my biggest concern - the Let's Read book..! My daughter loved the book right from day 1 and so did I. For her, the print was just the right size and easy to read; and for me, it was all in order. I didn't have to flip through pages to search what my child could comprehend best. We started with reading a few words each day and progressed rapidly to one page per day. I was elated to see her read and develop a love for reading. There was also a massive shift in her vocabulary. The more she read, the more she came across new words and used them in daily conversations.

Focus school places great emphasis on reading right from the early years. A child is first taught to identify letters by their accurate sounds (phonics) and then gradually moves onto how two letters stand together to represent a single sound (digraphs). By the end of Class 1, the child learns to read basic sentences, hoardings and even adverts in the newspaper. Their library classes are filled with fun reading activities like the reader's theatre, building a story pyramid and sketching a character profile to name a few. The Guided Reading Program for students from C2-C5 is another step towards building a love for reading in students. With interesting stories and catchy graphics, these sessions ultimately help students develop their spelling skills and build their confidence in reading.

Books are now a part of our family vacations, road trips and stay-overs. She even carried it to the hospital where she read through the waiting time for her appointment, attracting admirable glances from onlookers.





## Amazing Learnings of my Little One!

By Syeda Sara Fatima Mother of Mirza Muzammil Hussain Baig, C4B

My Son Mirza Muzammil Hussain Baig, a student of Class 4B, had an overall successful academic year with a lot of LEARNINGS to his credit and more specifically, this credit goes to Ms. Amena and Ms. Arshiya.

The concepts of UOI, actually influenced his overall development, getting to know the 7 habits of the highly effective people, helped him do his work first, he would begin to think with the end in mind and he just loves the song, which he hums always. Then the "Role model" concept also got imbibed in him wherein he knows now whom to look up to and who can be his role model. He adores an international Football Player, Cristiano Ronaldo. A few days back he asked me "Mom, is the current situation a 'Natural disaster'?"

The other important one from the top of my head is the "Exploration" topic, wherein he got to know about explorers like Neil Arm Strong, Kalpana Chawla, Christopher Columbus. Through "Biodiversity", he learnt terms like symbiosis, ecosystem etc. though it was during the lock-down period, his aforementioned teachers provided video clips accompanied by worksheets and he watched the videos and provided his inputs with enthusiasm. Overall it has been a good learning and a fruitful year! What I felt the most was the boost of self-esteem and confidence that he gained, which as a parent is very important for me. I wanted to thank his teachers, Ms. Amena and Ms. Arshiya for their extended help and co-operation from time to time, which has made a huge difference in his learnings as well as his personality. Thanks again and I look forward to another exciting and most importantly, a SAFE academic year ahead. I now conclude with a secret prayer that you are there with Muzammil next year as well!

## Resolving conflicts

By P. Ragunathan Parent of R Kannan, C5B

I would like to take this opportunity to convey a small interaction involving my children. I came to know about the current UOI topic, Peace & Conflict, a few weeks ago and Kannan was actively discussing that at home.

On 22 November, while we were returning home from school, Kannan's sister was in a bad mood and continuously complaining about her problems with her friends at school. Kannan and I were listening to her attentively and understood that she was unhappy about her friend's attitude towards her.

At one point of time, in the heat of the moment, she told me that she was not going to talk to her friend anymore. She wanted to take revenge or something so that her friend could understand how she felt. Initially, I tried to console her but later kept quiet because of her mood, but Kannan, who was sitting beside her listening to her problems patiently, took an initiative in a calm and composed manner. I was really surprised and very amused about it. The following is how Kannan tried to help her distressed sister: "Why are you starting the conflict again? Revenge is not the solution. She made a mistake. Ok. But why do you have to do the same mistake? Won't you want to become friends again? We are studying the same topic in class. Peace and conflict." He tried his best to explain things to his sister and finally concluded like: "Ok, these are things I would like to say and finally it is your choice to take it or leave it."

I saw that my daughter was able to calm down a bit and started thinking. I was surprised at his maturity. It is clear that this unit at school has been quite beneficial for him. Thank you, teachers, for your efforts which made this possible.



## Remote learning

By Munazza Sadaf, Mother of Syed M  
Mubaarak, Nur-A

Through remote learning, my kid and I had a very good experience as we both enjoyed doing the activities along with the videos which school was providing. Remote learning is definitely a part of the future of education, but not the only future of education.

As for my kid, who is still in the pre-primary stage of education, needs face-to-face interaction more than online learning. It is very difficult to manage this remote learning at home. For example, assignments have to be done only by parents reading it out to their kids, as pre-primary kids do not know how to read or operate computers.

Use of technology was very easy for remote learning activities, as every step of online education was guided through email, Text messages and other means of communication by the school. Some of the research suggests that technology will take over most of the human work but there will always be a place for the classroom to learn, communicate and nurture kids into better human beings. My child's behaviour was very pleasant during remote learning as he was able to recollect the rhymes and alphabets, numbers etc which was taught at school by watching videos and pictures shared and was able to learn new topics like wild animals, pet animals, birds etc.

I am very thankful to the teachers and appreciate their efforts in providing online assignments and homework on a daily basis, discussing and clearing our doubts through social media, providing us useful websites/links from where we were able to engage our kid to develop his skills through educational as well as physical activities.

I would also like to use this platform to thank the Principal, Vice-principal, teachers of Nursery and all other teachers and staff of Focus School for their unprecedented

support and guidance in this unforeseen times for providing multiple learning experiences for both students and parents by motivating them and engaging them with effective learning activities.

Finally, I would like to conclude by quoting "Dr APJ Abdul kalam" who says "The purpose of Education is to make good human beings with skill and expertise, but enlightened human beings can be created by only teachers". Hence I believe that Remote learning is the best medium of education in this present scenario, but in longer run classroom education is the best gift a student can be blessed with.

## Being organized helps!

By Ms. Rabab, Parent of Hussain, C2C

The meaning of true education is when what is taught is imbibed and followed in our lives. Not every teacher can educate and impart the values and skills in their students. Kudos to the team out there who has so successfully taught my child to be organized. I had been struggling to find ways to make my child develop skills like time management and organizing his books, toys and other things.

You have made it possible! Not only is he more organized but also follows the steps of organisation - identifying the tasks, breaking into smaller tasks and delegating them to his younger sister. So now the little one is also learning to take instructions and follow his footsteps and impressing me with the wonderful work she does in arranging the things in their room.

Thank you and keep up the great work going!!



## Testing times

By Farhat Ahmedi, Parent of Hamza Ahmedi,  
Nur-A.

In these testing times of pandemic coronavirus and amidst lockdown situations the remote learning through virtual classes and apps adopted by several schools was indeed a great initiative taken. Focus School too adopted this way of combining technology and education. Google Classroom app was a platform supporting this. Though I had my own apprehensions if this step will work out successfully for my 4yr old child who is just in nursery, but it did!

The app was quite easy to use and kids were allotted assignments based on things that they learnt in the classroom throughout the year. There were interactive videos to help out such young kids. What I found very useful through this process was that parents became more engaged in child's learning and they also got detailed insights of their child's shortcomings and what are his strong interest points which earlier they used to know only during PTM's only.

Being a Cue math teacher myself and having conducted online math classes for my students I know how much a teacher has to put in the effort to equip herself with the required resources and tech knowledge to carry out a smooth virtual learning experience yet sometimes glitches and errors do occur which shouldn't be a point of criticism.

I would personally appreciate the efforts of the teachers and school authorities who did their very best in making the remote learning experience easy and accessible to all parents. This is the age of AI and with proper parental guidance, there's no reason online learning cannot be as successful as offline learning.

## Virtual Learning Experience

By, Hajera Nishath, Aamir Jameel Saad Hussain  
- Nursery A

With schools temporarily closed, the education system had to shift dramatically. Through digital distance learning, where technology is available, it can help children continue learning at home. Remote learning has provided a list of free and open digital platforms, apps and content that can be useful.

Suddenly parents and teachers are mobilizing remotely to provide the structure needed to educate children of all ages. In many cases, parents working from home are also trying to teach their children. It requires a rethinking of teaching and necessitates a different approach.

I have always believed that every parent was their child's first and only life-long teacher. So, being a teacher for your child is natural. it's something we do every day. The only thing different is the context. Younger children require lots of adult supervision.

I recognize and applaud management and especially Mrs Sara for the time and support she has provided to ensure remote learning for children which was so successful. Thank you!. My Son misses your Homely School environment and looks forward to reconvening as a school community soon.





Interacting with parents during the PYPX



Delegates in a committee session



All geared up



Demonstrating their understanding of SDG's



Colourful display for the PYPX



Clean water and sanitation for sustainable development





Spreading the message of sustainability through Qawali



Thank you dear grandparents!



Delegates ready for the MUN



Ted Talk on SDG's



Republic Day Celebration



Math Inter House Quiz Competition



# Celebrating International Mother Language Day





# Math Evening at Focus







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