



"Brick-Beat"

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Dear Parents,

Greetings! It has been a few months since the start of new academic year, and there have already been a lot of exciting learning opportunities for our students and teachers. With this newsletter, we share glimpses of pre-school activities over June and July months.

The first few months are crucial for children as they settle down in their new classes with some new friends and teachers. During this period, we give children time to learn how to follow routines, develop friendships, express their feelings and needs, and start to learn in a more engaged manner. Our teachers get an opportunity to undergo many professional development workshops during the summer, helping them to grow and start their new teaching year with more confidence and creativity.



The initial Parent- Teacher meetings and Home visits also set the stage for a more deeper parent-teacher collaboration to follow throughout the year. We are also thankful to parents and family members who volunteered into the classrooms as visiting experts, and who shared resources for projects and other activities. We now gear up for our Projects, which will take children and teachers through an exciting and emergent learning journey. The coming of Diwali will also mark the onset of various major events, which the children will celebrate and enjoy thoroughly.

We celebrated the convocation day for our 7th batch of ECCE Training program participants to laud their efforts and development as ECCE professionals. We also started the **8th Batch of 'Redbricks Training Program in Early Childhood Care and Education** in July,' which now has a batch of 13 students – with some of them being Redbricks Parents. We appreciate the enthusiasm for learning and trust that our parents have shown by enrolling themselves for this program. We wish them all the best for their learning journey ahead in this exciting training program. At Redbricks School-Santej, we achieved an accolade from the *British Council* by being recognized once again with the '**International School Award**' for inculcating internationalism in school activities.

I recently got an opportunity to speak at a public event on education organized by *TIDE foundation*. I shared my thoughts on 'Purpose of Education' highlighting the responsibility of schools towards nation building. With the recent environment of the fee regulation debate, I think it is important we remind ourselves of our true purpose as schools- which is to develop well-balanced, capable and responsible citizens to lead the nation.

We thank all our parents for their continuous support in helping us achieve our purpose.

Best wishes,

Renita Handa

Founder and Director-Academics
Redbricks Education Foundation

JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

Classroom Insights

EYP 1

Transition: EYP Stage 1, our youngest group of children began their schooling this session. Starting school involves an excitement as well as a challenge for the children and parents.



To ease out the separation anxiety during the first two weeks parents were invited to be with the children in the class. A stimulating environment goes a long way in the learning process of children. Different learning corners to explore during indoor free play, different medium of art, different ways to play during outdoor play, helped children to get familiar with the new environment and settle down in the class. They advanced in their social skills by interacting and playing with their peers.



Studies have shown that children who listen to stories have better listening skills, higher levels of empathy, enhanced imagination and better understanding of the world. At school different strategies like blackboard, flash card, books, hand puppets and stick puppets are used for telling a story to these little children, which make it more interesting and enjoyable.



During Story time, children shared their curiosity and ideas in different ways, few of them put on the hand puppets and enacted, few scribbled on the blackboard, whereas others asked questions related to the story. To make the story telling more interesting and engrossing, the story 'Bubbles goes to school' was introduced in an innovative way. The teachers created a scene of the school playground using wooden blocks along with strings and clay to make swings and slides and a crayon box to make

a tunnel and for the characters of the story finger puppets were used. The school building, classes, chair and tables were made out of colourful wooden blocks. Children were glued to their places but after the teachers finished the story they played with the setup of school trying to repeat the new vocabulary learnt.



EYP 2



The first few weeks were planned keeping the transition phase in mind. The activities were developmentally appropriate as well as enjoyable. Painting is often the first exposure children have to art, which isn't surprising and there are million different ways to do it and the initial way to start with is 'free painting.' As Pablo Picasso said it best "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up" We give our children this opportunity to be an artist of their kind. This activity was a group activity where children did free painting on easel sheet using different colours like red, blue, green, yellow etc. Children were seen

mixing colours making patterns and drawing different shapes and structure on the sheet. It was a visual treat to see how they were collaborating and conversing with each other and settling in the new class environment.

We all Indians love to play and watch cricket no matter if we are adults or children. Children of EYP 2 were given exposure to this game during the outdoor free play session where, children played cricket as part of a structured game during outdoor session. Teachers explained the rules of this game to the children and then demonstrated it for them. Children were very excited to play this game, some of them did batting while some did balling, some were jumping while some were running after the ball to catch it. Children enjoyed playing this game and all of them were fully engaged in it. Excitement was seen all over their faces and lots of physical (gross motor), linguistic and socio-emotional development were observed during this session. Regular outdoor play enhances children's overall development.



Junior KG

During the art session children were encouraged to make stick and finger puppets out of paper cutouts. Children were given shapes like circle, triangle, rectangle along with an ice cream stick. Children recognized these shapes, drew smiley faces on it, pasted them on a candy stick and narrated their own story using them. Through this activity teachers observed socio emotional development as they did the activity in a group and expressed emotions, creative development as they made the puppets and language development where children narrated their own story using the stick puppets.



During the language session children were seen engaged in word games. Word games benefit the brain because they activate parts of the brain that deal with language and word finding, which forces the brain to exercise, work, and be active. A healthy spoken vocabulary is essential to developing effective reading and writing skills. So to increase their word bank we played a very interesting game. In this game a child has to say a word, the child sitting next to him will repeat that word and add his own word and then this pattern continues. They learn new words from their friends and also have to remember what their friends had said. It was very well played by the children. Through this game children were exposed to new words which they can use in their daily conversations.

Senior KG

One of the most important aspects for young children is developing an awareness of their emotions and expressing them appropriately. Children's responses to the different feelings they experience everyday have a major impact on their choices, behavior, and how well they cope and enjoy life. In one of our group discussion sessions, we focused on the concept of emotions. The objective of conducting this session was to give an opportunity to children to express their feelings and emotions. To make the activity interesting, cutouts of various emotions like happy, sad, angry, crying, excited etc. were placed upside down. Children flipped one after the other different emotion cards and tried to guess the emotion. Children thoroughly enjoyed it as they got a chance to enact those emotions. Later they also narrated the situations in which they felt different emotions. After that there were many instances in class where they related the situations to the emotions they felt.



During the theme of "My Body" children were exposed to the internal organs and their functions. Knowing about the heart is one of the most exciting adventures for preschoolers. It seems to be a difficult concept, but when done in a fun way they find it very engaging. Children were shown the video of heart to know about the structure and shape of the heart. They were asked to make a fist and explained, that the size of the heart is same. Children were curious to know about the heartbeats. First they felt the heartbeat by placing their hand on the left side of the chest. Then they felt their own heartbeats by doing a strenuous activity of running and jumping. They were able to differentiate between the two situations. Children related to different situations where their heart beats faster.

Resource Person Visits

Storytelling:

Junior KG had invited grandparents during "My family" theme to come and spend some time with the children. Mrs. Bhavna Metaliya grandmother of Khushi Metaliya and Mr. Shailesh Jani grandfather of Maurya Dave took an initiative to visit children to interact with them. They narrated the story of a "Crocodile and the Monkey" and Mrs. Bhavna Metaliya also recited rhyme of "Ek biladi jadi" with actions. Mrs. Pallavi Shah grandmother of Aanya Shah was welcomed by the children with a song "Grandma Darling" and then she narrated a story in Hindi "Firoza" whereas Mrs. Meena Shah grandparent of Vihaan Shah narrated the story of "Shivoo".

Visiting Expert:

Ms. Priyanka, a dentist by profession came to visit Senior Kg children during "My body" theme. Through a Powerpoint presentation, she explained in detail how to take care of the teeth and the precautions to be taken to avoid cavities. She demonstrated the correct way of brushing. The children were also exposed to the set of denture. Before leaving she handed a set of toothpaste so that children are encouraged to brush regularly.

JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

Field Trips- Learning Outside Classrooms

EYP 2

As Part of Myself theme, children of EYP 2 A, B and C visited a joint family to explore more about joint family. Children visited the family of their peer. Children were more than excited to go by bus for the field trip. The families were excited to have all the children of their ward's class to their home. Children were introduced to the family members, their daily routine and also took a tour of their house.



They got to learn about the different rooms in the house like living room, kitchen, Puja room and bedroom along with the garden area. This trip helped them to understand the concept of joint family, its members and relations between them like grandfather, grandmother, uncle, aunt, cousins etc. in a better way.

Celebrations

Music Day: "Where words fail music speaks"

World music day was celebrated at Redbricks School. Students danced on songs using props. They enjoyed playing different musical instruments like Tabla, Tambourine, Harmonium, Piano and Drums. One of the teachers Mrs. Nabagata Debnath took the initiative to play the harmonium and also sang for them.



Parent Cooking Day: Parents from each class participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. They came up with different delicacies like sweet corn bhel, monaco toppings, chocolate sandwich, chocolate balls etc. The preparations were done by the parents along with the children during the snack time and then children were served the same.

Father's Day: Fathers play an important role and to show their love for the fathers the children made cards by scribbling, finger painting and colouring and took the card back home to gift it to their father.



Messy Day: Children enjoyed becoming messy where they messed up with multani mitti and used their hands and feet to mess up with colours, traced alphabets, made designs and took the imprints on the paper. Senior Kg children used the spray bottles filled with shampoo and colour and sprayed it on the easel sheet to create different designs.

Achiever's Day: Story of Geeta Phogat was narrated through a powerpoint presentation where the children were familiarized with the challenges and hard work that she faced in her life time. The children got to know about her successes, dedication and achievements attained through wrestling.



Plantation Day: On the plantation day the children came dressed up in green colour to represent the environment. They brought pots from home and were provided with seeds and soil. They underwent the entire process of growing plants by sowing seeds in the soil, watering them and placing them in the sunlight. They watered the plants to see them grow till a week and talked about how they are taken care of.

REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Investiture Ceremony

Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. - Warren Bennis

The Investiture Ceremony was held on 15th July, 2017 in the Redbricks School campus, Santej. New Office Bearers for the session 2017-18 were elected by the student body through voting. The event was presided over by the Honourable Chief Guest **Ms. Milina Bose**, (Woman Director of Claris Lifesciences Limited and Claris Injectables Limited).

The ceremony commenced with a Welcome song by the students of Classes 5 and 6, followed by the conferring badges and handing over the house flags to each Council member. Office Bearers were honoured with the responsibility of leading the School with their commitment, confidence and competence. They were appreciated and encouraged with motivational words and rounds of applause by the students, principals, teachers and other staff members. This was followed by oath taking ceremony in which the council members and the house mistresses (for respective houses) vowed to serve the school to the best of their abilities and fulfill their duties with sincerity and commitment. Ms. Milina Bose congratulated the newly elected Student Council and wished them luck for their future endeavors and ceremony came to an end with the National Anthem.



Foundation day



As Colin Powell rightly said, **“There are no secret to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.”** The 8th Foundation day of Redbricks school was celebrated with enthusiasm and zeal. To celebrate our venture into building a nation with young leaders who are insightful, confident and independent through our principles and beliefs, we at Redbricks School organized the Foundation Day. Students who demonstrated persistent hardwork and impeccable behaviour and undying commitment in whatever they chose to do, were honoured for their school wide participation and accomplishment throughout the year. The show started with inspiring words by our chief guest **“Minakshi Balkrishna”**, and our founder- Ms. Renita Handa. This was then followed by the award ceremony.

The students were given awards for their innovation, academic achievement, discipline, regularity, sports achievement, out of school participation etc.

Professional Development Workshops

As teachers make a difference everyday, we believe in updating teachers with all the changing trends in education system. To fulfill this purpose, many subject specific workshops for integrating curriculum in various subjects were conducted by Ms. Rupa Shah (English Programme Mentor) and Ms. Veena Das (Math Mentor).

A two days workshop on **“Implementing Bloom’s Taxonomy in Classroom”** was also organized for teachers by Ms. Minakshi Balkrishna.

Many other interactive workshops pertaining to teachers’ professional development such as **“World of Children’s Literature”** by Ms. Rupa Shah, **“7 Habits of Highly Effective People - Stephen Covey”** by Ms. Pooja Bajaj, and **“Implementing Core Values of the School into real life”** by Ms. Renita Handa were also conducted to enhance their various teaching and planning skills.



REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

BRITISH COUNCIL - International School Award

We are proud and delighted to share that Redbricks School has once again received the prestigious British Council International School Award for years 2017-20.

The award recognizes the efforts of schools to integrate an international dimension into the learning process, thus helping to broaden students' horizons and enabling them to build global perspectives.

For this award, throughout the year, the students and teachers were involved in a wide variety of projects and activities, keeping in mind the international dimensions in educational practice. The students were greatly benefited as these activities exposed them to comparative insight of the world cultures. For this the school also collaborated with Gilberts Elemey School, USA, and worked on activity like "Penpals" where they exchanged the letters and shared about each others' culture.



Student Achievements



Aditya Rathi of class 5 achieved the 'Merit' position in the India Cube Association's National Selection Championship (age group of 10 to below 16 years).



Rishaan Vijh of Redbricks School Class 5 participated in the St. Xavier's Loyola 2nd Open Ahmedabad Ranking Table Tennis Tournament' 2017, securing 3rd position (Bronze medal) in the Under 10 category for boys.



Aarna Rathor of class 1 won a trophy for securing 3rd position in solving 3*3 rubrik cube in 1 minutes and 13 seconds, in the National Cube championship.



Aahana Rathor won a Merit Gold medal for solving 3 cubes in less than 3 minute in the National Cube championship.

Teachers' Professional Development - Pre-school Team

For the new academic year 2017-18, our teachers went through intensive training equipping them with latest knowledge of curriculum, strategies, innovative ways of improving learning and development of our children. Many experts of the field conducted full day workshops like Workshop on mathematics by Ms. Veena Das, Non Violent Communication by Ms. Uma Oza, Thinking skills by Ms. Minakshi Balkrishna, World of Children's literature by Ms. Rupa Shah, Innovative Art techniques by Mrs. Vineeta Nahar and, Puppet making by Mrs. Rita Jain. We also had intensive summer training for our new team members who went through training sessions on Early years education, curriculum, project approach, Mathematics and Language in Early years etc. The purpose was to equip them with right knowledge and tools to be more effective early years educators.

Redbricks Training Program in ECCE - Batch 8 commenced on July 10. This is a great opportunity for aspiring early years educators and mothers of young children to gain insight on nurturing young minds through their formative years.



PARENT ARTICLE

ROUTINES ARE IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN

For most of us, our lives involve a series of patterns—routines we perform almost every day, like stopping at the same place each day for coffee on the way to work. This is also very true for babies and toddlers. While we play a part in creating routines in our children's lives, we may not fully realize the role they play in young children's development.

Routines help babies and toddlers learn self-control.

Consistent routines, activities that happen at about the same time and in about the same way each day, provide comfort and a sense of safety to young children. Whether it is time to play, time for a snack, a nap, or a loved one to return, knowing what will happen next gives babies and toddlers security and emotional stability. It helps them learn to trust that caring adults will provide what they need. When children feel this sense of trust and safety, they are free to do their “work,” which is to play, explore, and learn.

Routines can bring you and your child closer together and reduce power struggles.

Stable routines allow babies and toddlers to anticipate what will happen next. This gives young children confidence, and also a sense of control, such as when parents say: “It is bedtime. Would you like to brush teeth now or after we get your pajamas on?” Routines can also limit the amount of “no’s” and behavior corrections you need to give a toddler throughout the day, since your child can better predict what should happen next: “I know you want a cracker. But it is clean-up time now. Remember, after clean-up, it is snack-time.”

Routines guide positive behavior and safety.

Routines are like instructions—they guide children's actions toward a specific goal. Routines can be used for many reasons, but two of the most important are ensuring children's health and safety, and helping children learn positive, responsible behavior. For example, children wash hands before they have snack, or must hold an adult's hand when crossing the street.

Routines support children's social skills.

As babies grow, they come into contact with more people and begin to learn patterns and routines for social interaction. Greetings, good-byes, and chatting with others are examples of routine interactions that teach social skills. These interactions are also opportunities to help our children develop language skills.

Play-time and mealtime are two routines that are very social times for children and parents alike. Through talking, taking turns, sharing toys, learning to wait, and helping others during these activities, young children learn important social skills that will help them later on in school.

Routines help children cope with transitions.

Depending on your child's temperament, transitions between activities may be easy or more difficult. Going from play to lunch, lunch to the store, the store to home...and especially transitioning to bed time, can be challenging. Routines (like bedtime routines) can help make transitions easier. Some parents use a timer or a “5-minute warning” to prepare their toddlers for a change in activity. Others use a book, song, or special game. Special rituals can also help transition a child from one caregiver to the next, such as this routine:

Routines are an important opportunity for learning.

Daily routines are often thought of as just “maintenance” activities: meal time, running errands, getting ready for bed, taking baths. But these everyday actions are rich opportunities to support your child's learning and development, while having fun. Routines offer the chance to build self-confidence, curiosity, social skills, self-control, communication skills, and more. Take grocery shopping:

Midori (aged 2) and her mom wheeled through the supermarket. Midori pointed at the apples and her mom said, “Look at the red apples and the green apples. Don't they look yummy?” She held one out for Midori to touch: “Feel how smooth they are.” Then she picked up a plastic bag and turned back to Midori: “Why don't you help me choose some to bring home?” Together, they counted out five apples and put them in the bag. Midori tried her best to help, but those apples were hard to hold! It took two hands to get one in the bag. “Nice work!” said her mother, “Thanks for helping.”

Here, a simple interaction in the produce section opened the doors for practicing language skills, taking turns, talking, using one's senses, and learning about numbers. It also provided a chance to nurture Midori's self-confidence and self-esteem as her mother let her know that her thoughts and interests were important. Midori's mom also let her know that she was capable of doing important things, like choosing and bagging the apples.

Routines provide the two key ingredients for learning: relationships and repetition. So enjoy these “ordinary” moments with your child. If she's having fun with you, she's learning, too!

Source: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2016/02/power-routines/>

CREATIVE CORNER



Havisha Shah | EYP 1 A



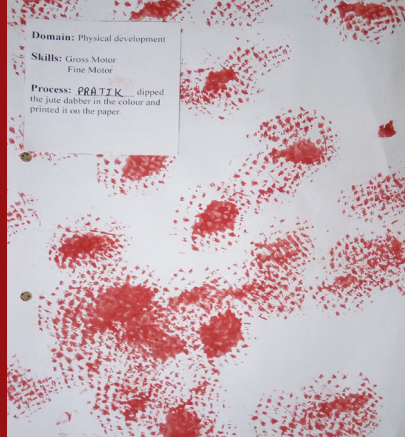
Pasting Activity | EYP 1 A



Rehan Thakker | EYP 2 A



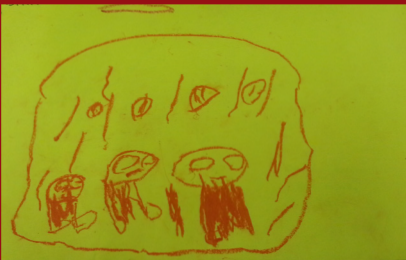
Mirraya Mankodi | EYP 2 B



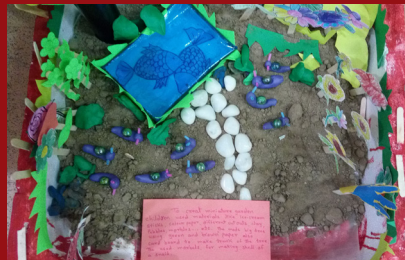
Pratik Jangra | EYP 2 D



Pasting Activity | EYP 2 A



Rudra Rozia | Junior Kg. A



Miniature Garden | Junior Kg. B



Ritisha Roy | EYP 2 A



Avani Gupta | Senior Kg. A



Prabjot Waliya | Senior Kg. A



Priyanshi Bansal | Senior Kg. B



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