

"Brick-Beat

Vol.10 No.3 June 2019

Dear Parents,

Greetings! We are excited to have students back on campus after the summer break.

This newsletter is to share with you the glimpses of activities from January to April 2019.

The highlight of this quarter was the *Children's Work Exhibition* titled *Inquiry to Invention* based on their projects – 'Sounds', 'Movements' and 'Light.' This yearly exhibition at Kanoria Gallery was yet another opportunity for children to learn life skills, for teachers to develop professionally and for



parents to learn about their children's immense potential. The exhibition left everyone spell bound with an insight into the minds of young children.

We also celebrated our 10th Foundation day in the month of March this year. The journey of Redbricks Foundation started with a small pre-school a decade back, and we are proud to see its growth as one of the best Pre-K to 12 schools in the country. We feel immense gratitude for the parents who trusted us with their full hearts through all these years. A variety of celebrations, field trips, visiting experts for children as well as teacher and parent education workshops kept us engaged in learning with fun. Annual day and Senior KG Convocation were two heart-touching celebrations for the entire team.

In primary to senior school, children also undertook exciting projects using the 'Project Approach' methodology. Under Interest Centers, primary school children explored their naturalistic and logical-mathematical intelligences through 'Nature Art' and 'Game Design.' Curricular projects on Science and Social Science topics helped children explore complex concepts through real-world and inquiry experiences.

Our Class 10 students made us proud by achieving a 100% result in ICSE examinations, with the top scorers scoring more than 90%. Many of our Class 5-10 students made us proud by scoring amongst top 10% nationally in the ASSET examinations, which are application based tests assessing students for higher order thinking.

When we reflect back on our 10 year journey, we feel the fulfillment of having developed a school with a robust curriculum, pedagogy and culture where children learn to think for themselves, enjoy learning and are prepared to be successful in real life. Looking forward to your continued support and co-operation in the next decade to come.

Best wishes,

Renita Handa

Founder and Director-Academics Redbricks Education Foundation

Classroom Insights

EYP 1

A real science center is interesting, inviting, and offers opportunities for children to explore, discover, and use their senses. It helps them to instigate their sense of inquiry. During the project on 'Sounds' various scientific experiments were conducted to help children observe the changes. One experience was observing the movement of salt particles due to vibrations created from their own voice. For these young children it was almost like a magic and they were excited to see the patterns created.





Humans are social animals and thus social structure plays an important role in their development. The first social interaction that takes place in a child's life is with his family. During the theme of 'Myself' an activity was conducted to familiarize the children to a big and small family. Children got their family photographs, introduced each member to their peers and teachers. They scribbled on a sheet with crayons and then pasted their family photographs on the sheets which the teachers displayed in the class. Children loved to observe, point and talk about their photos with their peers leading to interesting exchange of thoughts amongst them.

The ability to identify 'Colours' is considered a milestone in child's cognitive development. Most of the toddlers are able to identify the common colours in their environment and are able to share their preferences. An activity of creating shades and hues was planned, where children were given different colour paints along with black and white. They were encouraged to mix these colours with dropper and see the hues and shades emerge. Children were amazed and excited to see the change in colours formed due to their experimentation.



EYP 2

Teaching science through project approach helps develop a child's resourcefulness, particularly their skills at goal setting, planning and problem solving. During the mega project on 'Sounds' different experiments were conducted to help children understand, how sound is produced, heard and how sounds move things. 'Ear drum experiment' was conducted where a medium size glass bowl was covered with a cling wrap and rice grains were placed on it. The bowl was placed close to the music system where a song was played, children were excited, anxious and happy to notice rice moving and jumping. They discovered that there is a connection between the music played and the movement of the rice.





When children engage in pretend play, they are actively experimenting with the social roles of life. During the theme of 'Milk and Milk Products' a dairy parlour was set up in the pretend play corner, where empty milk packets, tetra packs, tins, sweet boxes, wrappers of milk, chocolate, ice cream, cheese, butter along with cash box, small cardboard box refrigerator and product delivery van were placed. Through play they reinforced their understanding of milk products, their delivery and storage.

The theme of 'Stories' provided children with the opportunity to know more about different genres of stories, authors and illustrators. Children decided to make their own story book. They selected their favourite story, coloured the outline images of the characters and pasted them on small chart paper cutouts. Later they assembled the papers in sequence of a story, added the title and name of the writer on the front page and bar code and price on the backside of the book. Children were very excited to see their own creation and wanted to go through it again and again.





Children love to play with balls and 'Balls' as a theme is effective as children learn about different textures, size and use of different balls. Ball pool was placed in the pretend play corner in indoor free play session, where different coloured and textured balls were placed for children to see, touch and explore. Children counted, matched and sorted balls along with their peers. The concept of inside and outside was also reinforced through this play.

Junior KG

The project on 'Movements' provided children with the opportunity to explore the science of Movements. Experiments were conducted to explain the concept of force and friction. An inclined plane was created with different surfaces and children were encouraged to roll various types of balls like heavy, light and observe how friction alters the movement of balls.





Children are used to seeing 'Paper' around them in different forms and were aware of its uses in day to day to life. It was a totally novel experience for them when they got the opportunity to experience the process of making paper in the school. They made handmade paper in the classroom using paper pulp, which was made from old newspaper. This was not only an excellent tactile experience but also helped them to understand how recycling is important for our environment.

During the theme of 'Food', as part of Pretend Play a Super Market was created with empty cartons and food packets. This was a good opportunity to enhance and exercise their mathematical and social skills. The children were observed to be shopping for fresh, frozen and packed food and also paid at the cash register using paper currency.





'Seasons' was a theme where children had a lot to share as they could relate to it in their daily lives. They shared about food, clothing and feelings about different seasons. Opportunities to express their feelings and emotions when it rains, or when they have to get out of the comfort of blankets in winter helped children to think about their individual responses towards these situations. This helped them to identify their emotions and label them which is of immense worth for their socio emotional development.

The theme of 'Water' was mostly explored through first hand experiences and experiments. Children observed how water changes its form from solid to liquid (ice cube to water) and from liquid to gaseous state when it is heated. Through these experiments, children were able to understand the water cycle and the important process of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. A video presentation further helped them to understand the process in detail.



Senior KG

Science projects help develop a children's resourcefulness, particularly their skills of goal-setting, planning and problem-solving. The mega project topic '**Light**' stimulated the children's intellectual curiosity. Children were able to construct their understanding of the characteristics of light namely- it is a form of energy, which illuminates, travels in a straight line and refraction through observations and experiments. This helped them to learn about transparency, reflection and shadows.





Teaching children about 'Colours' is a great way to give them some vocabulary for describing the world around them. In one of the art sessions, children were provided with a paper where three overlapping circles were drawn. They painted the circles with primary colours like red, yellow and blue and could see the secondary colours like green, purple and orange forming when the colours overlapped. This helped them to understand the concept of formation of different colours.

Eating and tasting vegetables can be a great sensory experience for children and a fun learning opportunity. In the group discussion during the theme of 'Vegetables', children were blindfolded and were asked to taste different vegetables. They determined the primary taste sensations i.e. bitter, sour and also how they felt while tasting it. After tasting they classified them as raw and cooked and were motivated to use vocabulary like sticky, juicy, chunky etc.





During the theme of 'Bags' in the Math Readiness session children were asked to observe the colours of their school bags and collect the data. Later they prepared a pie chart with this data This activity helped them to represent data in a simple and easy way and strengthened their mathematical concepts in a practical way.

Celebrations

Uttarayan

Uttarayan is celebrated in Gujarat by flying colourful kites. Children made mini versions of kites and were overwhelmed to see the campus decorated with it. Children enjoyed flying the kites with their peers in the garden area and danced on the tunes of Uttarayan songs.





Republic day celebration

The 70th Republic day was celebrated in school, where the school was decorated with tri colours and children too came dressed up in tri-coloured clothes. Kindergarten children gathered for a common assembly where they were explained the meaning and importance of Republic day.

Art week

Art week was planned, where parents and children together did various art activities involving different art tools and techniques. Children were happy to carry their creations home as a take away.





Vasant Panchmi

For the first time the school celebrated the festival of Vasant Panchami with full enthusiasm and excitement. The dress code was yellow colour, symbolizing the significance of the colour of spring. Celebration began with orientation of the festival followed by making floral rangoli, puja and dance and song performances.

Mother language day

India being a diverse country there are many languages spoken. To mark the importance of each language we celebrated Mother language day where each child dressed up in her/his state attire and shared about it in their own mother tongue.





Safety week

Safety week was celebrated to raise awareness about general safety to children. They were oriented regarding their personal safety at home, school and on the road.

Foundation day

The 10th foundation day was celebrated with fun and frolic. Four stations were installed in the campus which included games zone, art zone and selfie corner for children to explore and have fun. Puppet theater was arranged where, children enjoyed listening to the story narrated by educators.





Holi

The most colourful festival of our country 'Holi' was celebrated by playing with organic colours and flowers. Children enjoyed applying colours to their peers and teachers, danced on holi songs and listened to the story of Holika Dahan. They were also briefed about the safety measures while playing holi.

National science day

National Science Exploration day was celebrated where different stations were organized in the outdoors for the children to explore different science concepts through experiments. Children were intrigued to see the volcano eruptions, magnetic maze.





A **picnic** was planned for EYP 2 and Jr.Kg children in the garden area of Sugam Ville, where there was a huge open space where children could run, hop, skip and play with their peers. The day was spent by dancing on the music, playing cricket, bowling alley and sharing food.

The **Sr.Kg** children had their **Convocation ceremony** to celebrate their success of completing their Pre school years and moving to the Primary. They expressed their feelings through a song.





Year end celebrations

What a better way to end the academic session with different interesting indoor and outdoor activities like splash pool, movie show on projector, making take-ways and a potluck party.

Annual day

'Change makers' was the theme taken for the 10th Annual day, where children performed on various songs and presented a thought provoking skit.



Workshops for Parents and Teachers

Mrs. Sharmistha Chakraborty conducted a workshop for Kindergarten parents on 'Self Development of children'

Mrs. Uma Oza, an educational consultant conducted a workshop for parents on 'Effective Parenting' identifying, breaking and changing patterns of behavior.

Parents of EYP 2 attended a workshop on 'Meaningful engagement of Children' which was conducted by our educators.







Field Trips

EYP 1

The visit to 5 Acres of kindness, an **animal farm** provided opportunities for children to see and connect with animals and birds, their habitat, food, and care. They saw and fed animals like horse, pig, turkey etc.

During the 'Animals' theme children were taken to **Sundervan Park** to see animals and birds. They saw animals like crocodile, tortoise, rabbits, reptiles like snake and birds like pigeon, love birds, turkey, parrot.







EYP2

Children visited **RCA academy**, where they got hands on experience to explore different musical instruments.

Children were taken to a toy store **Hamleys**, where they got an opportunity to explore different kind of sounds and movements of toys thus helping them to get an idea how they work.

During the theme of 'Stories' a visit to Crossword Bookstore was planned. Children explored a variety of books including big picture books, textured books, sound books, pop up books, cloth books and storybooks.

Children went on a field trip to **Flourish** Dairy Store. They saw the display of different milk products like cheese, butter, butter milk, paneer and flavored milk.

To explore different types of balls and games associated with it, children visited **Decathlon**, where they explored different balls and the games they are used in.









Junior KG

Children of Section A were taken to **Prahladnagar Amusement Park** to understand the technical aspects of the joy rides in detail. This helped them to know the mechanism of how joy rides move.

Children of Section B were taken to **Mask dance studio** to explore how our body parts move in different ways. They got an opportunity to explore different dance forms through body movements.

Children of section C were taken to **Toyzapp** a toy store to explore different types of board games and other sports equipment. They were also briefed about the different rules of different games, number of team members required, etc.

Children of Section D were taken to Hindustan infrastructure solutions to explore construction vehicles.

During the theme of 'Paper' children got an opportunity to visit Kalamkhush where they got to see how paper is made out of cloth.

During the theme of 'Food' children visited Flourish store to see different food products. They saw different types of cheese, flavoured milk, yogurt and ice-cream and also got an opportunity to see the live process of making ice-cream from raw ingredients.











Senior KG

Students of class Sr.Kg C and Sr.Kg D visited **Khoj Museum** during the Mega project '**Light**'. They were shown models of earth, sun and moon through which they were explained the concept of rotation and revolution.

Children wanted to explore more about artificial lights and to support their interest they were taken for a field trip to **Electrolight shop**. They explored different types of artificial lights like ceiling light, mirror light, outdoor light, chandelier, smart light etc.

As a part of theme 'Bags' children were taken to the Bags shop to explore different varieties of the bags. They observed various features, material, uses and cost of the bags.







Children's Work Exhibition at Kanoria Gallery

'Inquiry to Invention' was the theme of this year's mega project where children did a scientific inquiry on Sounds, Movements and Light. They discovered different properties through experiments, field visits and interaction with resource persons.



Resource People Interactions

EYP1

Mr. Pruthvik Soni was invited to give information on how different musical instruments work, different sounds produced from it and how they are played.

Mrs. Mehak Bardia, parent of Sia Bardia took initiative to come as a resource person and show children the process of making soaps with different colours and fragrances.







EYP2

Mr. Rajesh Gaikwad was invited to introduce children to various musical instruments and sound produced from it. He played various instruments and gave information on how its played and what is it made of.

In house teacher **Ms. Sweta Raghuvanshi** narrated the story of 'Three little pigs' with beautiful hand and stick puppets and props.

During 'Air' theme parent of Shaanvi Shah- Mrs. Kruti Shah, Hara Dave- Mrs. Priyanka Dave and Ridhaan Patil- Mrs. Vidhi Patil took initiative to conduct few experiments to show the properties of air to the children.









Jr KG

Jr.Kg A - **Mr. Chintal Shah** who is a technical engineer by profession explained the basic mechanics of how manual and battery operated rides work through a story, power point presentation and demo.

Jr. Kg B - A Puppeteer had been invited to show children the tricks and knack of moving the puppets where he showed how different body parts can be moved with different techniques like strings, pipes and hands. Also Ms. Amruta Trivedi, a Martial Art teacher in Karate was invited to show children how to keep the body fit and how the body can be used for self defense. Jr. Kg D - Mr. Saurabh Gupta an Architect by profession, had been invited to talk about the basic mechanism of movements of different construction vehicles like dumper, concrete mixer, JCB etc.

Mrs. Amrutha Dodiwala (Mother of Rishva Dodiwala, Sr.Kg) nutritionist by profession was invited to share about healthy eating.









Sr KG

Rishi Shah and Arya Shah (students) visited our school with their self built electric circuit. They explained to children about the components of the circuit as well as the flow of electricity in the circuit.

Vegetable vendor visited the school with real vegetables and weighing scale. Each child was given certain amount of fake currency which he/she used to buy vegetables from the vendor.







REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Convocation Ceremony

A strong feeling of gratification both by parents and students of Class 10 was expressed during the ceremony. The students were full of happy memories and appreciation for the experiential learning opportunities given to them throughout their school journey and were voicing their opinions and aspirations with full confidence.





Grandparents Day

Thanking grandparents for their unconditional love, wisdom, and encouragement the students of class 5 and Class 6 performed a skit on 'Gratitude' and planned varied activities including a campus walk. The grandparents thoroughly enjoyed and many exclaimed that they were actively participating after almost forty years.

Holi Celebration

Traditions being an integral part of learning and enjoyment, the students paid observance to the ritual of Holi Dahan and applied tilak with 'Gulal'. The students of Class 6 showcased a small skit titled 'Play safe during Holi'.



Annual Day Celebration of Class 1 - Class 11

'Change is the only Constant'

The theme for the 10th Annual Day was 'Changemakers' - recognizing and appreciating individuals who have made a difference. The theme was to nurture the potential to bring about constructive change in each individual. Change is synonymous to life. It is an integral part of our existence, be it in the form of societal change or individualistic. The event was addressed by Dr. G Immanuel, Chairperson, Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) Board, and by Mr. Aditya Handa, Founder of Redbricks Foundation. Both the speakers focused on educational achievements, classroom culture, and about the great teaching-learning practices adopted today. All the breathtaking performances by students depicting different forms of change like environmental, women empowerment, an amalgamation of cultural changes, karma, patriotism and social upliftment was the crux of this function. The stage craft added beauty to the spirit of the theme co-relating to change and timeline. The live jugalbandhi performing to the song Vande Mataram, was a perfect end to the evening.









Professional Workshops for Parents and Teachers



Maths Workshop for Parents - A workshop for parents was conducted at AMA to bring forth the pedagogy of the maths program undertaken. Various practical activities were conducted which enhanced lucid understanding.

ASSET Workshop - ASSET exams are taken by students from Class 3 onwards as a diagonistic assessment tool to gauge their conceptual and application of the topics. Post assessment an orientation was conducted by the academic coordinator from Education Initiatives for teachers to understand and analyze the reports for revisiting and reteaching the concepts better.

Curriculum Planning by Expert mentors - English workshop was designed for greater understanding of literature by decoding and understanding the underlying meaning and varied perspectives brought into the text by the author.

A Hands-On learning session of Maths was conducted to understand how the students can comprehend mathematical concepts. For effective teaching learning processes to be documented the School Co-ordinator organized a workshop on 'Effective Documentation', the Academic Coordinator organized an in depth orientation on 'Understanding by Design'.



REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Interest Centers Exhibition at Kanoria Gallery

The students of primary school showcased their learning through an Interest Center exhibition organized at Kanoria Art Centre. It comprised of two modules, wherein **Class 1 and 2** focused on the **Naturalistic intelligence** module, while Class 3 and 4 focused on the **Logical Mathematical** module.

Discovering the wonders of Nature - Class 1 and 2 students explored their own nature- centric sides with a purpose of understanding the wonders of nature, utilizing them to create upscale DIY natural products and being sensitive to nature and made creative master-pieces in the form of photo frames, twigs and string art, leaf and stone painting, jewellery made from stones and shells and pista shell bowls. Objective of the module was met when the students understood that a person having naturalist intelligence is sensitive to nature and appreciates it.





Patterns, Symmetry, Asymmetry and Relationships - Class 3 and 4 students designed games based on logical mathematical intelligence stimulating mental reasoning and deductions. Challenges in games stimulate cognitive thinking, deductive reasoning, detecting patterns and logical reasoning abilities. Creating interactive games was part of their learning experience. The students brainstormed in groups and created games with rules, like 'Hopscotch using Hula Hoop', a real life size Maze made of cartons, 'Speedometer' and many other logical number games were designed. The game zone was an attraction for all the visitors.

Project Culmination -Class 1 to 6

Redbricks pedagogy advocates learning for life through the 'Project' approach which is an experiential learning methodology for in depth exploration of concepts and reinforcement of subject integration. Keeping the learning spirit in action the students showcased their project culmination on different themes class-wise. The said themes for Class 1 to 6 were 'Houses', 'Transportation System', 'Earth and Space', 'Simple and Complex Machines', 'Light, Shadow and Reflection' and 'Electricity and Magnetism' respectively, which the students excelled by using collaborative skills, creativity and imagination, in making working models and props. Community members who visited the culminatory exhibits were enthused by the informed and confident presentation given by the students.





An Author Visit

The adventure traveller and author of the covered literature book "My journey to the Magnetic North Pole"- Pretty Sen Gupta was invited to share her experience about her journey to the North Pole. She shared some very interesting insights and the difficulties faced. She spoke on societal perception about a married woman traveling alone and going on challenging adventures. The students were fascinated by the thought of adventure travelling and loved the interaction.

ASSET Winter 2018

The Redbricks students have shown an overall good performance and reached the National level in ASSET Winter Exams 2018. The student who made it to the **Outstanding Performance Category- (Top 1% nationally)** is **Anshi Mistry from Class 6A**. Seven students from Class 4 to Class 9 joined the **Distinguished Performance Category - (next 5% nationally)** and thirteen students from Class 3 to Class 10 were a part of the **Creditable Performance Category (10% nationally)**.



ICSE Results of year 2018-19

A proud moment for both parents and school, with the second batch of **Class 10 (ICSE)** board examinations students securing a 100% results. The students who excelled and scored overall greater than 90 % are Buland Shah and Disha Sharma.



91.33 Disha Sharma













Tirth Parikh Nisha Chaudhary

Aadya Trivedi

Molin Dave

PARENT ARTICLE

Kids & Tech: Tips for Parents in the Digital Age

In a world where children are "growing up digital," it's important to help them learn healthy concepts of digital use and citizenship. Parents play an important role in teaching these skills.

Tips to Help Families Manage the Ever Changing Digital Landscape:

Make your own family media use plan. Media should work for you and within your family values and parenting style. When used thoughtfully and appropriately, media can enhance daily life. But when used inappropriately or without thought, media can displace many important activities such as face-to-face interaction, family-time, outdoor-play, exercise, unplugged downtime and sleep.

Treat media as you would any other environment in your child's life. The same parenting guidelines apply in both real and virtual environments. Set limits; kids need and expect them. Know your children's friends, both online and off. Know what platforms, software, and apps your children are using, what sites they are visiting on the web, and what they are doing online.

Set limits and encourage playtime. Media use, like all other activities, should have reasonable limits. Unstructured and offline play stimulates creativity. Make unplugged playtime a daily priority, especially for very young children.

Screen time shouldn't always be alone time. Co-view, co-play and co-engage with your children when they are using screens—it encourages social interactions, bonding, and learning. Play a video game with your kids. It's a good way to demonstrate good sportsmanship and gaming etiquette. Watch a show with them; you will have the opportunity to introduce and share your own life experiences and perspectives—and guidance. Don't just monitor them online—interact with them, so you can understand what they are doing and be a part of it.

Be a good role model. Teach and model kindness and good manners online. Because children are great mimics, limit your own media use. In fact, you'll be more available for and connected with your children if you're interacting, hugging and playing with them rather than simply staring at a screen.

Know the value of face-to-face communication. Very young children learn best through two-way communication. Engaging in back-and-forth "talk time" is critical for language development. Conversations can be face-to-face or, if necessary, by video chat with a traveling parent or far-away grandparent. Research has shown that it's that "back-and-forth conversation" that improves language skills—much more so than "passive" listening or one-way interaction with a screen.

Limit digital media for your youngest family members. Avoid digital media for toddlers younger than 18 to 24 months other than video chatting. For children 18 to 24 months, watch digital media with them because they learn from watching and talking with you. Limit screen use for preschool children, ages 2 to 5, to just 1 hour a day of high-quality programing. Co-viewing is best when possible and for young children. They learn best when they are re-taught in the real world what they just learned through a screen.

Create tech-free zones. Keep family mealtimes, other family and social gatherings, and children's bedrooms screen free. Turn off televisions that you aren't watching, because background TV can get in the way of face-to-face time with kids. Recharge devices overnight—outside your child's bedroom to help him or her avoid the temptation to use them when they should be sleeping. These changes encourage more family time, healthier eating habits, and better sleep.

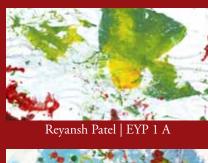
Don't use technology as an emotional pacifier. Media can be very effective in keeping kids calm and quiet, but it should not be the only way they learn to calm down. Children need to be taught how to identify and handle strong emotions, come up with activities to manage boredom, or calm down through breathing, talking about ways to solve the problem, and finding other strategies for channeling emotions.

Remember: Kids will be kids. Kids will make mistakes using media. Try to handle errors with empathy and turn a mistake into a teachable moment.

Media and digital devices are an integral part of our world today. The benefits of these devices, if used moderately and appropriately, can be great. But, research has shown that face-to-face time with family, friends, and teachers plays a pivotal and even more important role in promoting children's learning and healthy development. Keep the face-to-face up front, and don't let it get lost behind a stream of media and tech.

Reference: https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx

CREATIVE CORNER





Group Activity | EYP 1 B



Navyaa Savla | EYP 2 A



Hazel Gajjar | EYP 2 B





Priyansh Hemlani | EYP 2 D



Taraana Zaveri | Junior Kg. A



Myra Vaidya | Junior Kg. C



Shaurya K Shah | Senior Kg. B



Advay Thakkar | Junior Kg. D



Dhwani Goyal | Senior Kg. C



Aryaman Iyer | Junior Kg. B

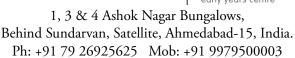


Muskan Jangra | Senior Kg. A



Ria Parikh | Senior Kg. D





redbricks school

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