



**2019-20 : Edition 6**

*If you can dream it,  
you can do it!*

*Always remember  
that this whole thing  
was started by a  
mouse.*

*- Walt Disney*



**BOWL OF SPROUTS**

*Had your dose of crunch today?*

# THE CREATIVE CHILD!

*- from the desk!*

## *Hello Reader!*

The focus of this edition is....the CHILD.

We have witnessed an explosion of creativity from our students both within and outside school...that demands to be shared!

*Research, Projects, Stories, Illustrations, Artwork!!*

Our students are taking us to new places with their own unique and imaginative work! This edition takes you on a roller-coaster of creative and original work by the children of Sprouts!

**A simple idea shared by Founder Principal, Smita Vishweshwar is sure to reap rich results in a child's growth.**

Sprouts is committed to provide various platforms that allow for children to tinker with thoughts and ideas! Prof Srinivas Krishnan muses on the path that 'Creative Expressions' has taken...and where it can go!

Visits by child-centric adults like Ms. Janaki Sabesh and Mr. 'Poochi' Venkat added zing and zest and made interactions so alive and vibrant, they will linger and be relished and enjoyed for a long time!!

*"Do not ask your children to strive for extraordinary lives. Such striving may seem admirable, BUT, it is the way of foolishness.*

*Help them instead to find the wonder and the marvel of ordinary tomatoes, apples and pears.  
Show them how to cry when pets and people die.  
Show them the infinite pleasure in the touch of a hand.  
And make the ordinary come alive for them.  
The extraordinary will take care of itself."*



*We are fortunate to have parents who are/have been part of the teacher community at Sprouts and they reflect on the dual roles they play/have played – we thank them for their contribution to this edition! These reflections can reassure and revalidate decisions!*

***So, Dear Reader, we invite you to get on board the Sprouts Roller-coaster and Marvel, Delight, Wonder and Revel in this edition of 'Bowl of Sprouts!'***

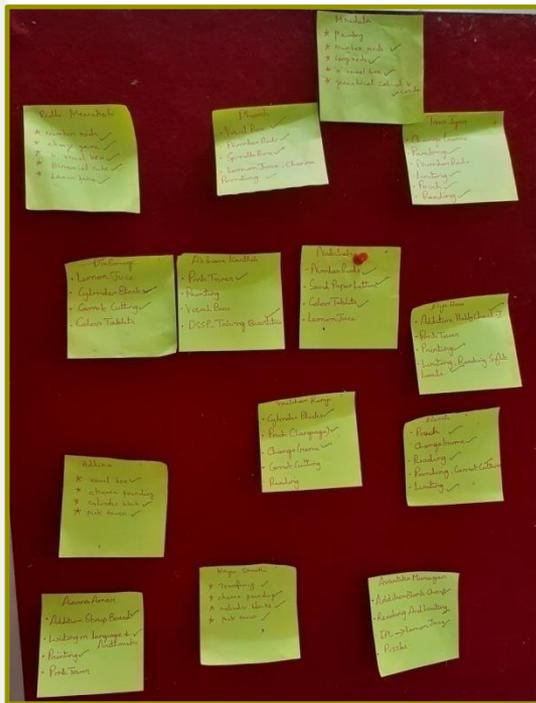
# Pinning Responsibility! Remarkable Exercise in the Primary!

*The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.*  
- Denis Waitley, Motivational Speaker / Writer

*There's Learning.. And then some more Learning!*

As important as it is for children to acquire academic learning, equally so if not more are the LIFE-SKILLS that need to be internalized too!

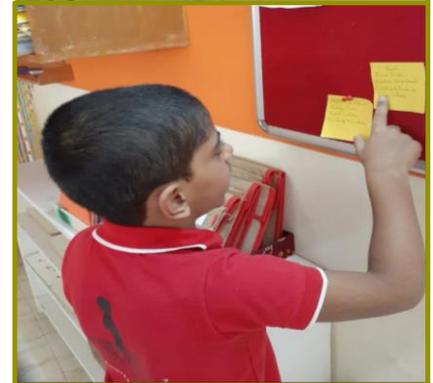
Skills such as Decision-Making, Assessing, Prioritizing, Focusing, Commitment...the list is pretty much endless!



The yellow chits that you see pinned reflects the work that a student in the Primary has decided for himself/herself.

A practice, adopted on a suggestion by Smita Ma'am, this exercise is reaping immense rewards!

The excitement of planning and deciding for oneself the activities for the day, the monitoring of the work and the sense of satisfaction in seeing a tick signify the completion of an activity....it is amazing to observe the sense of ownership and pride of accomplishment that the young ones hold as fundamental life skills take root in the Primary!



***Life-Skills are not learnt during adulthood; they take root during tender formative years and get strengthened with learning activities that naturally nurture their growth!***

# Stroking the Embers of Creativity....

- Prof Srinivas Krishnan muses

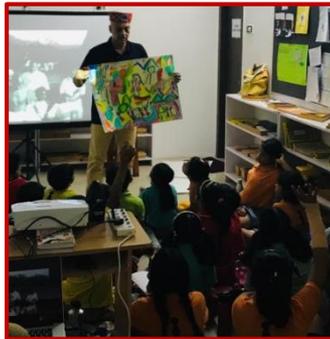
The *Creative Impressions* class has evolved into a platform to explore each child's synthesizing capacities. There is merit in interdisciplinary work because it typically leads to different perspectives. For example, students are having the opportunity to view a short animated film and rather than be a passive viewer, they are discussing the story line with their friends in their own way - allowing for deeper observations.

The **Red Book** has been handed to each student, allowing us to examine the trajectory of each child. A few children who are silent in the class are breaking new ground with their fabulous jottings and sketches.

The classroom discussion allows each child to observe the temperament of the other and strike out comments in unfamiliar directions based on the documentary they have viewed. Each comment is a fresh insight in the road ahead.

*Prof Srinivas Krishnan anchors the 'Creative Expressions' project with the senior students of Sprouts!*

*Prof Krishnan reflects on the path that this project has travelled since Jun '19!*



*"You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives."*

*- Clay P. Bedford*

Some of the topics covered so far..

- Resilience
- Flight of Canadian Geese & a Humming Bird
- Migration
- Letting go and moving on
- Largest flowers around the world
- Sharing
- Gratitude

In summary, those who dip in the discussion are seen to spike up in the Red Book, allowing them to be part of the ocean of truth (knowledge) and shared with all their buddies in the classroom. One can only hope that the child sees as many bypaths to celebrate in the years to come... and as educators, we hope to live the day when we have a "creative expressions from alumni" section in this newsletter.

# The India Project

## - by the Upper Elementary

*Project Day by the Upper Elementary!! What brought it on?*

*Well.....Students were heard saying....*

*“It’s our Theme for Annual Day this year!”*

*“We need to first know about our very own country, before learning about others.”*

*“India is so full of history!”*

*“There are so many monuments, so many things to see and learn!”*

*And thus... The India Project was born, worked upon and presented by enthusiastic students on Saturday, 30Nov19!*

### The Process of Learning was...

**Interesting**....as different formats such as models, charts, booklets, posters and maps were used to share information!

**Fun**...involving research, group talks and discussions and creation of clay models!

**Responsible**...taking responsibility for one’s work...division of work and working together as a group! Learning to agree /disagree / respecting another’s idea / view

**Exciting**...as new discoveries were made and shared and learning for the whole group grew...and grew!

**Creative**...with drawing and painting, cutting and pasting, collage making, experimenting with colour, writing formats and styles!



### Outcomes as docketed by the Adults...

**Unlimited Learning** in so many spheres that left the adult in a state of wonder!

**Pride and Joy** expressed by children as they worked this project...impossible to express with words!

**Dedication and commitment** to completing a piece of work to the exclusion of anything else!

*Probably what sums up the spirit that moved The India Project is this comment by a 9 year-old student who looked upon his 5 day long work and remarked -*

*“This is so satisfying!”*

**This is what Montessori is all about! This is what Sprouts is all about!**

*There is MAGIC in the night .....*  
*.....when pumpkins GLOW by Moonlight!*

*So Charmingly our Toddlers Spook!*

*And Tall Tales of Halloween from the Upper Elementary Bloom!*  
*The Spill-over of Halloween continues to Haunt'n Charm'n Delight!*



**THE HAUNTED PUMPKIN PATCH,**  
*by Maitreyi, Dhrithi*

After school, our teacher took us to the pumpkin patch, our teacher broke the flashlight and turned into the ghost with bat wings. Charlie Brown turned into a Dracula! The children screamed and dropped their candy on the pumpkins, which turned into jack - o - lanterns. They all yelled "Hails the witch"! A witch appeared with a bloody book. She came near the kids and teacher, ran to a child and scratched her. A boy punched the witch and she turned him into a frankenstein. Then they started laughing and took off everything. It was an only a Halloween trick.



**THE TOFFEE,** *by Aadhyanth, Abdul Hafeez and Dhruvan Kottaaram*

In a dark and a spooky forest at the stroke of a midnight and old man arrived. He ate too much candy and had trouble in walking. A witch came by and offered him a butter caramel cake flavoured candy (his favourite candy) and he had finished his studies so he took it and ate them. Then his stomach started to rumble a little did the man know that it was a self destroyer toffee made by the queen of witches (a chemistry lab head). After he ate those candies his skin colour changed from peach to black and then to red and green and purple and it also shuffled his inner organs and his outer organs and melted them. After some time the effect of the candies was gone and he took the remaining toffee and threw it at the witch and she immediately died and the old man ran home. He narrated the incident to his wife who said "it was a nice joke" and she went off. The old man went for a breakfast and his wife gave him a butter caramel toffee and he shrieked and ran away.

**A NEW DIMENSION,** *by Mahimaa, Sarah, Arundhati and Fatema*

One spooky Halloween night, when I was going trekking, I saw an old abandoned house. I was very curious and decided to explore it. I went inside, and went in the elevator which stopped at the sixth floor. A creepy woman came out and tried to murder me. I escaped by reaching the 10<sup>th</sup> floor. I went into a room and got lost. I tried opening another door which led me into another dimension. I was completely lost in that house. I stayed there until the next Halloween. And the same lady came and let me into my dimension.

## From Both Sides Now!

- Aruna Kottaaram, Parent & Resource

As Dhruvan gets ready for school today, like every other day with a special 'spring' in his step, I can't help wondering/ sighing about how the concept of learning has evolved so well for this lot of schoolers. Lucky kids! They get to go to 'work' to a place they love!

To me, what stands out most in these children is their confidence. Almost every child who has been in Sprouts for a reasonable amount of time, exudes this characteristic. I've had the interesting experience of seeing shy, apologetic and nervous new-comers transform into an articulate, funny and energetic lot in a matter of months!

Mine has been an enriching experience of teaching some and learning a lot. It has given me a lot of insight into how a child can be inspired and motivated.

I am guessing that this is more or less similar to my children's experiences as they are learning effortlessly, happily!

It is not surprising that every Saturday towards the noon, we are all wishing loudly, "Why can't Sprouts work on weekends too????!!!"

*Children astound me with their inquisitive minds. The world is wide and mysterious to them, and as they piece together the puzzle of life, they ask 'Why?' ceaselessly.*

*- John C. Maxwell, Author*



*Aruna, parent and Resource at Sprouts, practitioner of Kalaripayattu, has been working with the senior students these past couple of years, training them in this ancient martial art. A firm believer of the discipline that this art inculcates in an individual, her no-nonsense yet friendly approach has students eager to learn and hone on new skills. Sports Day saw them display a few of the movements they had learnt!*

*A strong physical art form, learning Kalari will only make our students fit, flexible, alert and agile....physically and mentally!*

*Thank You Aruna for your time and sharing your knowledge with the students of Sprouts!*

# The Wow Factor..... ..... that Captivates!

*"I am youth. I am joy. I am freedom!" said Peter Pan."*

*- J.M. Barrie, Novelist/Playwright*

## *Moments that THRILL the Adults!*



*Instinctive Response!  
Delightful Moment!*  
**Annika Ashwin** of **Primary 1** widening her ear drum when the Directress said, "listen carefully to the change concept in stamp game."

**Adhvik, Gianna and Niharika** of **Primary 1** enjoying working with blank chart as a group activity during their lunch break!!  
*Work....is PLAY*



**Shiv Saraf** of **Primary 1** made a seasons craft card by himself and brought it to school to explain about it to his peers and teachers



*When Connect is Made!  
What a thrill!*  
Seeing a the picture of a brick from the "k" picture series **Trishiv** of **Primary 1** spontaneously said "it's a cylinder block"



During the Musical Instruments week, Preethi aunty came in to sing for the **Toddlers**. Before singing a song, she asked the group, who their most favourite person was... expecting a response of either father or mother from them. **Little Dhamayanthi** of **Toddler 1** ready response was to raise her hand and say "ME"!! So much self love!



**Rithvin** of **Toddler 3** who has been reluctant to work with any material till now since the last term has picked up and started working and that is indeed a big WOW moment for us at the **Toddler** environment.



## From Both Sides Now!

*-Tripura, Parent & Directress*

Kids spell love as T-I-M-E. - *John Crudele, Columnist / Journalist*

*Tripura with the Tots from  
Toddler!*



“I was anxious and full of questions when I first enrolled my first born in Sprouts. Within a week I was convinced she was in the safest place possible! As parents, we felt important and valued, especially when all our questions were answered by the staff at Sprouts, not once but many times over!! “

Within a month's time we could see a positive development in our child, like caring for her things, cleaning up after playing. Celebrations over the year, through which a whole process of learning happens, contribute the zing and fun elements that keep spirits and enthusiasm levels at a constant high!

A unique feature to Sprouts are the many windows provided for parents to observe the child at work in School; quite an eye-opener for parents to realize just how independent and capable their tiny tots are!

We enrolled our second child when she was 18 months old, confident that she is completely in safe hands. We are seeing her bloom into a responsible child. We are often amazed by her actions, they are so matured and organized. Even before she turned 2, she was putting on her shoes independently and placing them later in the designated area one shoe after the other. She insists on doing her work, despite being offered help!

I always wanted to be in the company of children as I love their innocence and pure love. Smita Ma'am was kind enough to take me on as a teacher and welcome me into this beautiful family of Sprouts!

From day one I have found myself learning – from the children, other teachers, akkas and Smita Ma'am.

From the other side of the wall, I see the effort and love invested in ensuring children cherish their time at school.

*“I never thought I would be able to love and cherish other children like mine, but I'm discovering as a teacher, that a simple smile from them will make me happy and small frown will make me worried. I am walking the whole spectrum being on both sides and I say I cannot ask for more!”*

# Children's Work - the Lower Elementary

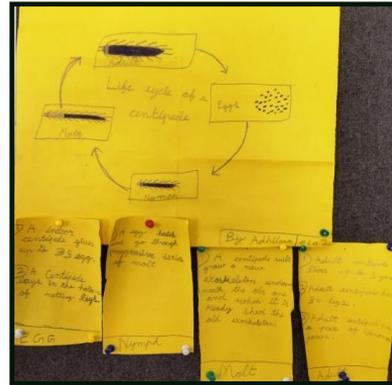
*"I think that the best thing we can do for our children is to allow them to do things for themselves, allow them to experience life on their own terms... let them be better people, let them believe more in themselves."*

*- C. JoyBell C, Author / Poet*

*A Sampling of work by the children of the Lower Elementary! It's diverse...it's individual...learning!*



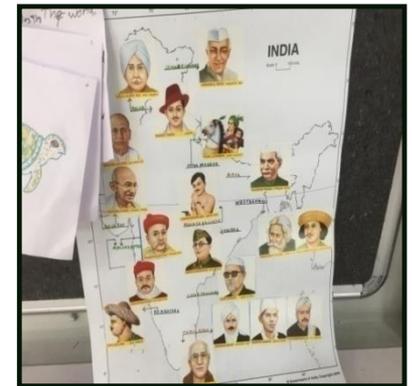
Solar System model by Madhumitha Krishnan, LE 2



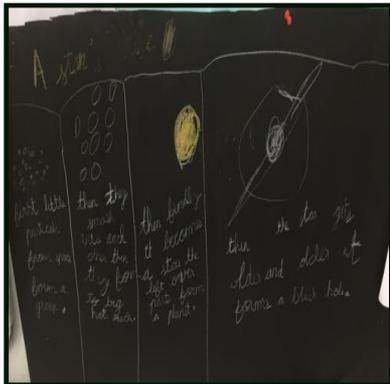
Life cycle of a Centipede By Adhiban, LE 2



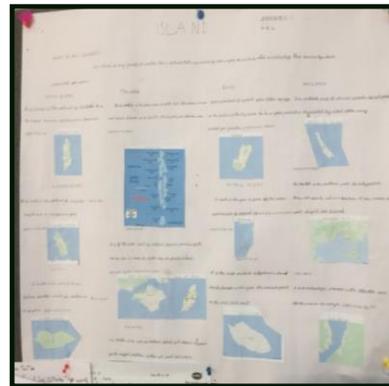
Peninsulas by Kushala, LE1



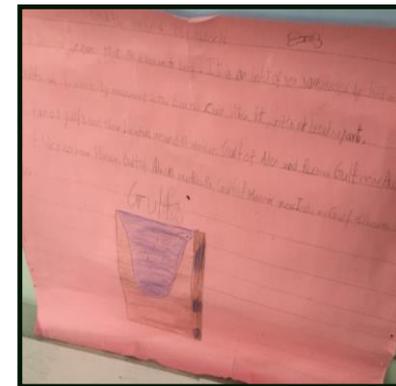
Freedom Fighters of India by Ashwin V, LE 1



On Stars by Aradhana, LE1



Islands by Ashwin V, LE 1



Gulfs around the World by Avantika, LE 1

# Children's Work - the Lower Elementary

*Children are not things to be moulded, but are people to be unfolded.*

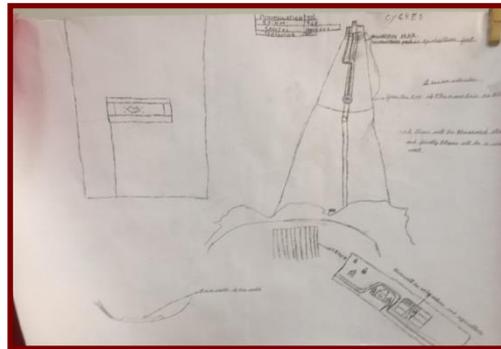
*- Jess Lair, Author*

## The Topic : 'My Country – a soul creation by myself'

*The uniqueness of each work only reflects the individual thought process that each child invests in his/her work!*



Udhi Manoj



Ashwin V



Avantika Nitya Vepa



*It's GREAT to see a lovely drawing, neatly executed featured in The Curious Owl!*

***Congratulations Shrutika S!***

*Hope to see more!!*



## From Both Sides!

- Gowri Viswanathan, Parent / Guest Faculty

I am honest when I say that, as a sleep deprived mother of a 2 year old, I had only 3 expectations when I was looking for a “play school” for my daughter (hygiene and safety ones aside) - for her to be potty trained, help her fall into a routine (especially with sleep) and for her to play and interact with children of her age. These fell in place quickly and I saw how much she was learning in this “play school”! In about a year’s time I remember that my daughter pretty much had a song to sing about everything (crows, rabbits, bears, rainbow, continents, sharks, penguins, moods etc) and she was learning so much by just singing songs! She even passionately advocated planting more trees and saving water!



As a parent I fell in love with the idea of the child choosing the material to work and working with it as long as the material interested him/her. I have seen the child’s (both my own and other children) love and desire to work with these Montessori materials that are so beautifully thought through, and presented to a child in the Sprouts. Like every child at Sprouts, my daughter was engaged in self-correcting activities, working independently or collaboratively, learning hands-on while building her self- confidence!



Another aspect of the Montessori philosophy that touched me was the bond that the Adult (teacher) has with the child. My daughter had a hard time leaving me and going into her environment. Traumatic as it was for me, the parent, it was reassuring to see how she was handled, so lovingly and with understanding by her Adult at that time, Ms. Aishwarya. The bond they created made it easy for me to handle my emotions. My daughter is now a happy youngster in the Lower Elementary! The “play-school” has been a joyful learning journey for my daughter (and me!). I am thankful too, for the encouragement to train myself in Montessori philosophy!

*Children aren't colouring books. You don't get to fill them with your favourite colours.*

*- Khaled Hosseini, Author – The Kite Runner*



# Children's Work - the Early Adolescence

*“Teaching is not about answering questions but about raising questions – opening doors for them in places that they could not imagine.”*

*- Mirza Yawar Baig, Speaker, Author, Life Coach*

The quote rings true! A myriad doors open for students that allow them to visit, explore, internalize and take on from there!  
We see the ‘Take – On’ through their Presentations, Art Work, Illustrations and more! Sharing some of the ‘work’ by the Students of the Early Adolescence!!



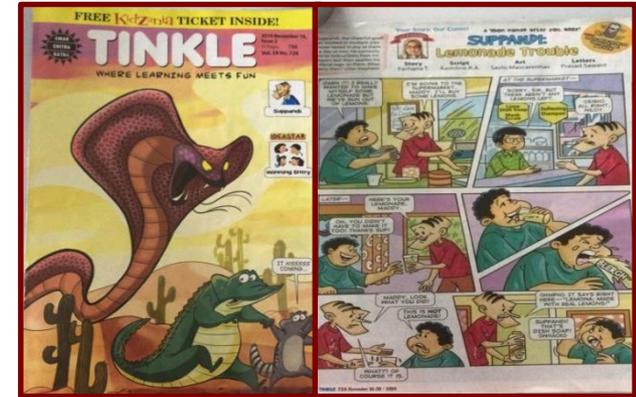
Ikshika, Aaroush & Tejeswini with  
Smita Ma'am & Padmini Ma'am

Students present a poem written in the 1600s by Jean de La Fontaine. Greatly influenced by the stories of the Panchatantra, Aesop's Fables and East Asian tales, he too used animals in his poems and stories to convey a moral.

This poem, “Le Corbeau et Le Renard”, teaches the reader not to fall for flattery and lose what one has. Accompanied by a chart to convey the meaning, students transported the audience to a space in another century with a beautiful rendition of the poem!



An illustration by Aaroush Ramesh of class 6 of Stan Lee “his hero”, an American comic writer, publisher and editor



Exploration and Creativity yield sweet success!

Farhana's story featured in Tinkle magazine!

And...we are delighted to share the same with you!

# Children's Day Celebrations! Woo – Hoo!!!

*“The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.”*

— W.B. Yeats

*EVERY day is a Celebration at Sprouts! The degree tends to vary though!  
Celebrating Children's Day!*

While huge Art-Scapes made for some serious creative time, the highly talented **Toddler** team put together dance, a puppet show and a skit to enchant the toddlers!  
Yummy snacks and take-aways wrapped up a thoroughly satisfying day in the Toddler environment!



Amazement filled the air as a Magician from **Magic Raja Entertainment** pulled out trick after trick from inside his sleeves with the help of the Primary children! Eyes opened wider and wider as they saw magical transformations happen before them! What a Children's Day in the Primary!



Along with Ms. Janaki Sabesh, the excited **Primary** children sang, enacted, clapped, stomped and lived the stories of Ostro the Ostrich and Anansi the naughty spider!! Laughter resounded the environment!



# Children's Day Celebrations!

*- Stretching the Flavour' o Fun!!*

*If you can give your son or daughter only one gift... Let it be enthusiasm.*

*- Bruce Barton, Author / Politician*

Every child is different kind of a flower, and all together, make this world a beautiful garden!!



Children's Day Celebrations in the LE saw the exuberant making and playing with slime.....mimicry...interactive play...dance and song...and of course.....a yummy take-away and a collage to remember! Recollections of teachers of their childhood transported the children to a different time! A meticulously planned day of laughter and celebration!



Meanwhile in the Upper Elementary and Early Adolescence environments....a Treasure hunt with clues in multiple languages...dance by the directresses...visit by a clown...a day of fun...adventure...and lots of laughter! And...a take-away for every student to take home in celebration of Children's Day!



## From Both Sides Now!

- Anbu Selvi, Parent & Resource!

*Teach your children they are unique. That way, they won't feel pressured to be like everybody else.*

*- Cindy Cashman, Author / Intuitive Coach*

*Anbu, Parent and Art Teacher at Sprouts. Architect by profession, she brings her own unique style of introducing Perspective through various art forms and mediums, thereby pushing the boundaries of thoughts and insights in the young minds at Lower Elementary. Her work with the children has been reflected in our Annual Day production last year and more recently, during the Theatre Fest!*

*Anbu shares her journey at Sprouts as Parent and Teacher! Thank you Anbu, for the same!!*

Being a parent who is passionate about gentle, child-led methods of education and being an adult, working with children in a Montessori set-up at Sprouts, gives one a very good vantage point to look at both ideas and practical implementation.

In a world which is constantly trying to sell us the next big idea, we have chosen to follow the child. This puts considerable pressure on us, both as parents and as educators. As parents, we may feel anxious about our choice to walk a different path. As educators trying to straddle parental expectations for what education should look like and staying true to the Montessori philosophy - the struggle is real. We, as parents, tend to seek validation of the Montessori philosophy in wondering about the possibilities for our children in the future. Although no Montessori parent can truly escape this line of thought, the validation already exists in the everyday – in the small things between getting themselves ready to school and wanting to “research” as my 6 year old says nowadays.



*Making 'Slime' on Children's Day with the children!!*

As a work environment, Smita ma'am has been more than enthusiastic in providing me a space to work freely and has always been as excited about new ideas as I was, when discussing them with her. The three years of being with children and other educators has amounted to a huge personal growth.

Having seen the elementary environment at work as a single environment in the toddler campus and having seen it grow into many buildings and environments – one gets excited for all the things these environments are going to be as we go – most importantly one in which we can say:

***“the child is the curriculum”***

# Interactions with Adults!

## - Mr. 'Poochi' Venkat came a-calling!

Transfer of information...received inputs docketed away for further exploration, exchange of questions and responses.....active, vibrant learning happening!!

This is what happened when the expert of the insect world, Mr. 'Poochi' Venkat spent time with our young enthusiastic students!

Questions flew...answers given...and a whole list of 'Do you know?... Emerged!

It seemed that the list of doubts and questions the children had for Mr. Venkat was endless! It was heartening to see him respond in great detail to each and every question posed! Altogether a wonderful foray into the world of bugs'n beetles'n dragonflies'n busy bees!!!

*I am just a child who has never grown up. I still keep asking these 'how' and 'why' questions. Occasionally, I find an answer.*

*- Stephen Hawking*

### *Here's a list of a few 'Do You Know....*

- insects need to eat all the time? Time between meals is resting time!
- the spider is not an insect....but a butterfly is!
- the way to attract insects is to sweat and then visit their habitat! They are lured by the salt in the sweat!
- insects get attracted to nectar for the salt in it... not the sweetness
- the jewel beetle and tiger beetle exist only in an extremely healthy ecosystem.... and...they are found in Chennai!
- if you get stung by an insect there's no need to panic.... in fact...your immunity gets a boost!
- if you see a dragonfly fly upside down with its wings open, it's shielding itself from the sun?
- insects can be trained just like animals?



*Such a delight when young minds connect with a knowledgeable one!!*

# Interactions with Adults! – Caring for Health!!

- Dr. Preeti, Dentist

*Cleanliness and order are not matters of instinct; they are matters of education, and like most great things, you must cultivate a taste for them.*

*– Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister, United Kingdom*

A visit to the dentist can be pretty daunting, but when the dentist comes a-visiting to school AND is the mother of a classmate as well.....well.....it becomes sort-of fine and... even fun!?!?

The importance of good dental care was explained by Dr. Preeti in simple terms with examples. Diagrams brought teeth structure to life and use of a model helped children understand the various stages of tooth decay.

Our children as always, had numerous questions to ask and get clarified! Altogether a active, participative session, this was followed through with a dental check-up by Dr. Preeti a few days later!  
In all, a very educative, fun session with Dr. Preeti!



*Thank you Dr. Preeti, for your time at Sprouts!*

# THE TEAM

Smita Vishweshwar

Isha Antony

Adah Ramona

Bhuvaneswari Murali

Tripura Gurajada

Sujatha Jaishankar

Geetha Venkat

Sarini Subramanian

S. Gayathri

Preethi Bharath