



**Edition: 6**

*“Education is not  
preparation for life;  
Education is life itself”*

*—John Dewey*



**BOWL OF SPROUTS**

*Had your dose of crunch today?*

# FIELD TRIP- OFFICERS TRAINING ACADEMY

## Extraordinary Visit

A typical, usual day in Chennai, but an extraordinary visit to the OTA – Officers Training Academy for students of the EA environment! What a learning experience it was!

Taken around the Academy by two officers, Mr. Dharmendra Singh and Mr. Rajesh, the students got to see the following:

- The ‘White House’, where as students got to see various terrains and territories, they also got an insight into the kind of training required to survive and win in all extreme conditions ranging from 21,000 feet above sea level in the Siachen Glaciers to 55-degree heat in the Thar Desert!
- Gear for survival, bomb mechanisms, tank models and missiles and the smart uniforms that a serving member of the Armed Forces wears with pride
- The Brahmos Missile - the world’s strongest missile, built by India and Russia.
- The tour of the OTA included obstacle and target training centres, training fields and the parade ground to name a few!
- A reality check that those in the OTA train to serve and protect our country at any cost was experienced by our students and teachers in the mess (cafeteria), when they were informed that a plate of every meal is first served in the memory of the cadets who lost their lives in service of our country before others are served– a touching, but telling gesture.

It was a thoughtful group of students who returned to school post the visit to OTA, filled with immense regard and respect for the officers who wear their uniforms with pride and serve with a smile!

**Sprouts Salutes all our Soldiers!! JAI HIND!!**



# OFFICERS TRAINING ACADEMY



# GEOMETRY WORKSHOP

Sprouts organized a GEOMETRY workshop for parents to help them get an insight of how Geometry is introduced to children in the Toddler, Primary, Elementary and Early Adolescence Environments.

Geometry is a very practical science that involves shapes, measurements, areas and volumes and has far reaching applications. Teachers shared how children were not merely 'taught Geometry', but helped to learn the subject through their experiences in the environments.

Every child goes through a different learning experience using age appropriate materials in their respective environments. A toddler child is helped to get ample exposure of shapes and dimensions. The Primary child, being on a sensorial learning plane is helped to explore Geometry through his/her senses (visual, muscular, kinesthetic, stereognostic). The child is also given precise terminologies to categorize and express his/her understanding. An elementary child, who is in the questioning plane, is helped to reason out and figure concepts using concrete learning. The materials that an elementary child works with support his/her need to question and arrive at solutions. The child is slowly moved to abstraction (working on paper) in the Early Adolescence, thus giving him/her ample scope to revisit and consolidate his/her learning in all developmental planes, laying a strong foundation for further learning.

When the process is experiential, the learning is phenomenal.

A Montessori child is always independent and self-sufficient , can thrive in any learning environment and will always stand out in a crowd.

The workshop was a wonderful learning experience for both parents and teachers



# GEOMETRY WORKSHOP

The Teachers of the Elementary Environment are explaining the concept of **Lines and Angles** via this presentation

Question and Answer Session



# CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS - TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Children's Day was celebrated with great fun, festivity and laughter in all the environments. Teachers of each environment reflected their in-depth understanding of the age-group and the enthusiasm with which they took on the challenge to pack in practice sessions in an already packed day was a treat to see! Such was the eagerness to showcase their theatrical abilities!

**The Toddler environment – Puppet Show, Primary environment – Bringing Rhymes/ Songs to Life and Lower Elementary – Skit and Dance performances, Upper Elementary and Early Adolescence – Science Experiments Show**

That the children enjoyed every single moment just revealed the fact that the teachers understood so well the mind set and age-group of the students in their care! From the puppet show for the toddlers to the songs, dances and skits for the Primary / Lower Elementary and Science show packed with interesting experiments for the Upper Elementary and Early Adolescence, the children were entertained, amazed, awe-struck at the visual variety on display! It was truly a beautiful Children's Day at Sprouts!! The Happy pictures say it all!



**C  
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**TODDLER**



**PRIMARY**



**LOWER ELEMENTARY**



**UPPER  
ELEMENTARY  
& EARLY  
ADOLESCENCE**



# MIND MAPPING SESSION

Mind Mapping is an easy way to brainstorm thoughts organically without worrying about order and structure. It allows you to visually structure your ideas and help with analysis and recall. A mind map can turn a long list of monotonous information into a colorful, memorable and highly organized diagram that works in line with your brain's natural way of doing things. This technique brings a renewed sense of enthusiasm to the classroom because it encourages student confidence and sense of skill in mastering the assigned materials.

The visibility of Mind mapping provides an effective approach for promoting better understanding in students. It harnesses visual appeal through color, symbols and images and encourages students to make sense out of ideas by constructing them in ways that are meaningful to them.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018, our students of Upper Elementary and Early Adolescence welcomed Ms. Ruchi Mohunta- a renowned and licensed Mind Mapping trainer. She has successfully conducted mind-mapping sessions for children in various schools in Chennai as well as for some of the top Corporate Companies in the City. The session began with an introduction to mind mapping and the pioneer responsible for introducing this amazing technique to the world – Tony Buzan. He created this process where, our imagination works with association with what we know, to convert the information we get into final knowledge. It was an interesting insight learnt, both by the children and adults.

It is interesting to note that although the content of the mind map is supposed to be varied and creative, customized to each person's thinking and need, there are a set of guidelines that are to be followed when working with the same. Not following these guidelines will make the mind map lose its purpose.

The students thoroughly enjoyed this session and found it very interesting and useful. A lot of positive feedback was received. Our children immediately put into effect the Mind Map Technique in their learning. Now their answer sheets are very colorful with their maps! Mind Mapping has shown our students yet another path to an enjoyable learning process.



# MIND MAPPING SESSION



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Christmas Carnival  
(Toddler Environment)**

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

- **Christmas Carnival  
(Primary , Elementary & Early  
Adolescence Environments)**

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018

## EUREKA MOMENTS

- Few children of primary 1 were encouraged to do written work as a small group. They all seemed very excited for some reason and the noise soon reached unacceptable levels. The adult was quick to point this out. As she began to state the ground rule Eapen took over and said, " Have you all seen the Toddler children abide by the ground rules in their environments?" (Clearly imitating the statement made by the adult in a previous relevant situation) To which Bhoomi quickly retorted, " Let's not copy them"!! The adult could not help but laugh and enjoy the moment!



- When Nabeel of Primary 4 was a little apprehensive about finishing his lunch, Dia stepped up to help her friend. She even fed him few spoons and asked him to finish his lunch so that he doesn't feel hungry. Her compassion towards her fellow human being is laudable.



- Vinayak of Primary 2 discovering the many possibilities of arriving at zero using a Subtraction Strip Board.



- Shruti.S is seen engrossed in her discovery of arriving at a square of 10 using the Addition Strip Board material.

# AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

## I AM A SOCCER BALL!

Here I am in the dressing room of Real Madrid with my two friends Trickster and Goalie. I was a very new soccer ball, all set to make my debut versus Valencia in La Liga.

My dress is backed by multiple layers of polyester blend, which gives me the strength, when players kick me. My bladder is made of latex rubber.

After I was created the man placed me on a shelf of a store called “Real Sports and Sport Wear” in Madrid. Just beside me was Goalie my first friend, who was made up of the same material as me. After almost a month I was bought by Cristiano Ronaldo and my friend Goalie was bought by the Real Madrid’s team captain Sergio Ramos.

On my way with them, I befriended my second friend Trickster.

And here I am today, sitting in the dressing room waiting for my debut match. Good bye friends! The match is about to kick-off!

- **Aadhyanth (Elementary)**

## – I AM A SNIPER GUN!

I was born in a factory of guns. People working there carved me into a special shape and they attached onto me a barrel, trigger, ammunition, hatch and a scope which was designed to make long range skills.

After I was made I was placed on a shelf in a shop that sells guns. Right next to me was a box of sniper bullets and many other guns like shotguns, AK47 and mini guns.

One day, I was sold to a person. He mistreated me so much. He threw me in the water and my barrel and trigger were rusted. He then threw me on the road and my barrel was broken.

Then a soldier saw me and picked me up and took me home. He fixed my barrel and polished my trigger. He killed 40 enemy soldiers using me. I was no longer an ordinary sniper.

I was now the Noble Sniper. I was happy that the soldier now took good care of me and never sold me to anyone.

- **Dhruvan (Elementary)**



# AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

## I AM A POPCORN

I am in this paper cup in the movie theatre. I was bought by a family to eat, while they watched a movie. But I wasn't always this delicious a food. I'll tell you my story.

I was once a seed sowed by a kind farmer. He kept me in good soil, watered me everyday and gave me good sunlight. I grew into a plant which gave lots of corn.

Days passed and I turned ripe. I was harvested. It was painful being plucked. But worse was yet to come. They peeled me; it was like being stripped naked. Then with a knife they removed my kernels. That hurt a lot! Then I was dried in the hot sun. Canned, put into a truck and driven away.

Eventually we reached a grocery store. I was unloaded and kept on the shelf. Days turned into weeks. Then one day, a cook came and bought me. He loaded me into his car and drove away.

The cook stopped when we reached EA Mall, where he went to Escape theatre. There he put me into a sauce pan over the fire and covered me. I started to crackle and pop. Something white came out of me. Then I was scooped into a paper cup and bought by this family.

So before being eaten I see my life for one last time.

**- Guhan (Elementary)**



## OVERNIGHT VISIT TO SEMPULAM

The farming program for our EA students continues on its journey as they plot their learning progress in the rice field under their care at Sempulam. The overnight visit in early November was a packed one involving both theoretical sessions and practical work in the field.

### **A few areas of key learning were:**

- Pests and predators that harm and protect the rice saplings. Amidst much squealing, both students and teachers waded in the slush to collect live specimens to get a better understanding!
- Making different kinds of organic pesticides and then taking them to the field for spraying. In the process a discovery was made that the use of a bunch of long leaves makes for a better spray than a spray pump!
- Different kinds of soil and their characteristics; comparing the various soils in areas such as elasticity, water holding capacity, presence of nutrients, aeration capacity and draining capacity.

No visit to the farm is complete without the mandatory early morning milking of the cows, cleaning of the cattle shed, collecting fodder for the cattle, feeding and bathing the goats! For the teachers, it was a beautiful experience to see our enthusiastic students learning, discussing, questioning the Resource Teachers from Sempulam in the field, in the cattle shed, while feeding and bathing the goats in the most appropriate setting.

Even as our students learn about topics that are connected with curriculum, the intangible learning that they are internalizing is invaluable as they connect with Mother Earth at Sempulam.





# OVER NIGHT STAY AT SEMPULAM



# METRO TRIP - WITH A DIFFERENCE!

In an attempt to help students internalize their second language – Tamil, Hindi or French better, as part of a language workshop, students of the EA environment along with their respective language teachers took a ride on the Metro in the city. Teachers felt that a public area provided the best setting for students to see, internalize, understand and respond in a language other than English. The Metro ride gave the EA students a different kind of experience, whether it was studying hoardings and sign boards, purchasing tickets at the counter in their mother tongue, or carrying on a conversation with their teachers during the ride employing the second language they learn at school. An exercise like this simply proved that any space can prove to be a classroom! It was an excited group of students who returned from that trip and enthusiastically wrote about their metro ride in....Tamil, Hindi and French!!!

சென்னை மெட்ரோ

நான் சென்னை மெட்ரோ ரயிலில் பயணித்தேன். அங்கே மெட்ரோ ரயில்கள் மிகவும் விரைவில் செல்கின்றன. நான் மெட்ரோ ரயிலில் பயணிப்பது மிகவும் சுவாரஸ்யமானது. நான் மெட்ரோ ரயிலில் பயணிப்பது மிகவும் சுவாரஸ்யமானது. நான் மெட்ரோ ரயிலில் பயணிப்பது மிகவும் சுவாரஸ்யமானது.

मेट्रो स्टेशन!!!

हम 9 नवम्बर 2017 को मेट्रो स्टेशन गए थे। उस दिन मौसम बहुत सुहावा था। स्टेशन भी साफ-सुधारा था। वहाँ बहुत सजा आया। मुझे थोड़ा जाबर प्रसन्न हुई कि भारत में परिवहन का स्तर उच्च हो रहा है।

Le Metro

Le 1 Novembre Jodi nous, les EA sommes allées en Metro. Nous avons acheté et composé des billets. Alors nous avons départ de Nandam est sommes allées à aéroport.



# REASONING MIND!

The elementary children are children of age 6 – 12 years beaming with a lot of energy and are great thinkers. They have something called the reasoning mind, always wanting to know why things happen this way. Could there be any other way? Does this rule hold good for everything or just for Geometry? The child with all the questions. How? Why? When? And where?

Every child in the elementary is unique and children love doing research on what interests them the most. From the colour of the sun to the dinosaurs, they all want to know why.

Great stories and key lessons are amazing concepts that act as guides to kindle their imagination, awakening their reasoning mind to see beyond what has been offered.

Every concept offered across all subjects, has a story to tell and that enlightens the child towards research. There are several '**Formats of Research**' like Note making , making 'How to' books, Personal Narrative, Paragraph writing and Synonyms which are great tools in allowing the child to explore, discover, create a whole new world for himself. These tools help the child absorb all that he has explored in his environment.

Parents can be of great support to help the child continue working with his creative imagination. Here are some ways

- Sharing stories, asking them questions, helping them to find the answers
- Taking them out
- Talking about different topics
- Doing a lot of reading along with the child
- Setting aside time everyday where the family reads together, thereby encouraging reading which is a skill essential for research and also helping the child discover new ideas.
- Children can have a membership in a nearby library making way for the child to explore and explode in creativity, thinking and discovering
- 'Coming In' is also an interesting tool to kindle the interest for the child. Parents, grandparents and relatives sharing their experiences and creativity also helps to build their knowledge on research



# REASONING MIND! (Contd)

Every child has a role to play and each is in their journey evolving, thinking analytically, creatively and innovatively, just being who they are, and together making a difference.

Reasoning  
Children at  
Work



# PERCEPTION

Perception is everything. Perception drives people's behaviour every day. What people perceive is usually what they believe, and this is based on what they hear, see and think. We tried to learn how a child perceives through simple experiments and the results were just stunning. We were also able to see how the perception changes from a three-year-old to a 12-year-old.

A scene was enacted to the Early Adolescent children, who had to guess what it was and in turn enact it to their friends. This was done till all of them had a chance to watch the scene and enact it as well. They were then asked to pen down their thoughts. The initial scene was bathing an elephant; each one's perception was different and we got a variety of answers such as cleaning a window, waving at people, exercising, dancing finally ending in someone picking up a stone and throwing it away.

After getting to know what the scene was all about they came up with answers as to why and what led them to perceive the scene in different ways. This gave us an insight into how children actually take up information and how everything that we do is being absorbed by them. A small action such as turning the head left to right was perceived as head movements(exercising) by the child.

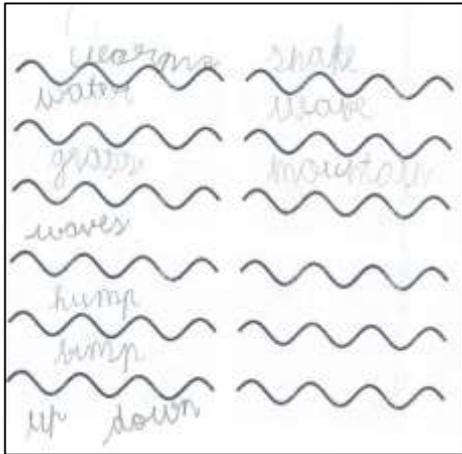
A tree with empty branches was given to the children of Elementary and they were asked to write the first word that came to their mind when they heard a particular word. They were given three different words; Mother, Father and Friendship. The children drew leaves and wrote down the words neatly inside them.

Similarly a paper with curvy lines was given to the primary children and they were asked to write down the first word that comes to their mind when they look at the lines. We got a lot of answers such as springs, waves, water, brick slabs, mountains, my sister's hair to beaches.

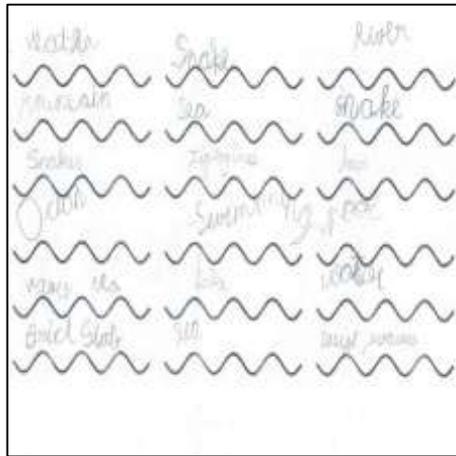
Summing up their answers we came to understand that the child's mind is different; it sees the world for its possibilities. There lies the beauty of a child's perception.



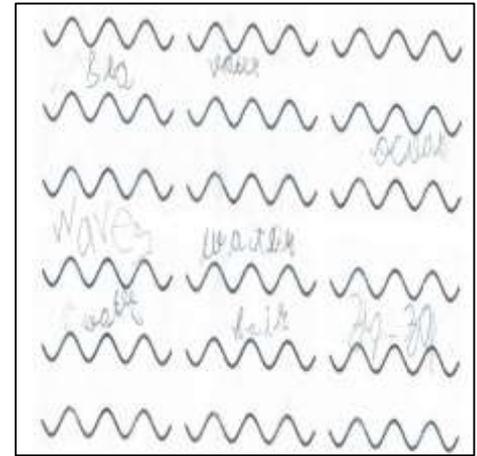
# PERCEPTION



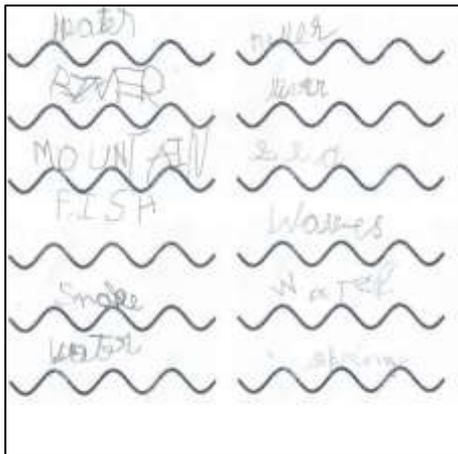
Primary 1



Primary 2



Primary 3



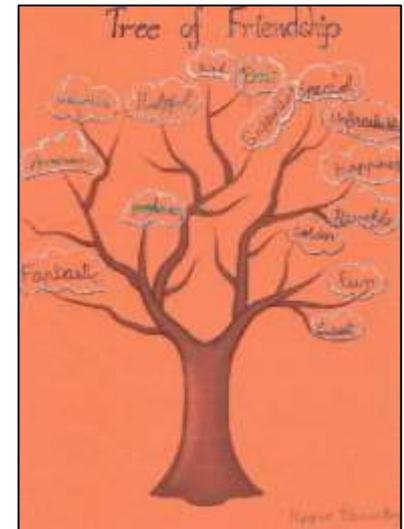
Primary 4 & 5



Lower Elementary 1



Lower Elementary 2



Upper Elementary



# HUMOUR ME!!

What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping?

**A dino-snore!**

What do you call a funny mountain?

**Hill-arious**

Use simple past tense of the words shown in the picture to fill up the crossword.

13. build

14. speak

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

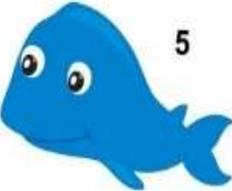
10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

9. 8. 7. 6. 5.

write come leave cut give

# RATTLE YOUR MIND!!

What color...?

1  2  3  4  5  6  7 

Solution

## Sight Word Search

Find the hidden sight words in the puzzle below.



a	e	r	s	a	i	d	o	w	p
m	g	s	a	r	d	n	q	h	g
i	e	x	b	l	u	e	o	e	e
n	d	e	l	d	r	d	a	r	d
e	c	s	z	a	c	h	a	e	s
e	h	e	l	e	d	a	n	e	a
u	e	u	o	u	q	v	z	u	a
z	r	x	o	k	e	e	a	k	s
s	e	s	k	x	s	m	a	k	e
a	e	z	v	u	a	x	z	o	u

blue look mine make  
have where here said



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**BOWL OF SPROUTS**

*Had your dose of crunch today?*

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