



2019-20 : Edition 3

“The best inheritance a parent can give his children is a few minutes of his time each day.”

*- O. A Battista,
Canadian-American
Chemist / Author*



BOWL OF SPROUTS

Had your dose of crunch today?

A HAPPENING MONTH!

– from the desk!!

An investment in Knowledge pays the best interest.

– Benjamin Franklin

*Author, politician, scientist, inventor, humorist, statesman,
diplomat - one of the Founding Fathers of the United
States!*

August - a month filled with celebrations!

Exciting Sports Day  Independence Day  Festivals and celebrations 

Meticulous planning and preparation for each event ensures smooth operation and a joyous, meaningful experience for the students!

For the teacher body, the momentum of that experience, sense of relief that it went well is all the time available; for the next event has already sprouted and commands all attention and energies!

Meanwhile, in the environments learning abounds and delights the hearts of the adult body at Sprouts!

One marvels at the original expressions of the students as observations and quips pop-out during planned sessions in the environments and unexpectedly, when one is least prepared!!

Our children are simply perceptive, amazing, independent individuals! Their calm self-confidence reveals itself during circle time and presentations. It is a privilege for an adult to be part of a child's world!

The beginning of the School Choir under the tutelage of Mr. Srinivas Krishnan, the all time new experience of Theatre, under the guidance of Mr. Karthik, the study tour to Agra and Delhi by the senior students with Ms. Ruchi Mohunta, are all new avenues that provide rich inputs that will only add to the evolution of each child in his/her holistic growth curve!

There's much that we at Sprouts, are SO grateful for! Including the sparkling showers that brings relief and delights the soul!!

Take your time to savour this 'Bowl of Crunch! Happy Reading!!!



EXCITING EXPERIENCES!!!

Experience is the Teacher of All Things!

As the quote states, it is the experience of SOMETHING that instils a thought... leaves a mark... creates a print... becomes a learning... evolves into character!!

The Sprouts Children's Choir is proving to be a marvellous space for children to learn and experience language, feeling, discipline, teamwork and togetherness through music and song! Barely a month into the choir, the rendering of songs on Independence Day revealed just how much can be achieved when the mind is willing!!

Willing participation, enthusiastic singing, exposure to MUCH variety – MUCH to look forward to with the Sprouts Children's Choir!!



The Theatre Fest is yet another Exciting event in Sprouts... More about it further down the Newsletter!!!

THE FIRST-EVER THEATRE FEST!



Karthik, Crea Shakthi

An initiative to learn through drama. Presenting a Workshop Production performance by the students of the Lower Elementary through a Theatre Fest!

Earlier this year, Sprouts and Creashakti were presented a challenging opportunity to integrate education and performance through a theatre experience; Theatre, already having a strong presence in school.

Stories On Child's Rights - By Vedika Agarwal, Founder, Yein Udaan, an NGO working towards holistic development with under-privileged children. Important issues and concerns, sensitively crafted as stories, to create awareness in young children. This is what the Theatre Fest is all about!

Introduction, discussion, questions and responses; exposure, awareness and understanding of a significant subject - **Child's Rights**. Topics such as privilege, child labour, good touch, bad touch were elaborated and discussed. Children analysed the plotlines to create characters, scenes that eventually evolved into plays. 6 stories; 6 plays; 6 interlude-sketches.

Next, giving **visual form** to written matter. July/August saw students step into the characters in the plays and bring them to life, through discovery and explorations, thereby making the play, their own.

This journey has a few observations worth sharing:

That a serious topic such as Child's Rights COULD be projected sensitively to a group of 6-9 yr olds, lending to open discussions - something, somewhere internalized, to surface in time.

The process of the presentation- Some found the learning of passages challenging...yet persevering nevertheless; children, with theatre experience of earlier years breezing through their lines; new entrants to theatre finding and claiming their space in the newness of it all! Helping one another, working together as a team.

Working with a mixed age group lends beautifully to observe the phases of growth of the children by the adult body! As with any creative space, learning is a journey, and presentation, merely a 'station' along the way! Each of the children bring their understanding of Child's Rights, through a theatre experience to the stage!

With Sprouts, now a hub for theatre in South Chennai, the prospects to explore through Drama looks...Exciting!

Come September...The Theatre Fest Invites You All!



Sports Day! - A Silent Celebration!

"Little Children are a Treasure,
Their Worth you cannot Measure!"

Is it possible to experience a Silent Celebration? Without cheers and whistles...and claps?

In a totally unique celebration of the Sports Day event in the Toddler Environment, this is EXACTLY what happened! The adult body discovered that celebration could be reflected with....just a smile!



Here's what the Toddler Team had to say:

'Being with toddlers, we strive to be different and mindful of the tiny tots work cycle. This year, the sports day at the toddler campus was a silent event with the little ones working their way in to the activities and the parents were present showing their support with proud smiles. The children worked on activities like banana cutting, Wood polishing, Hand washing involving elaborate steps. It was an event where we witnessed peace, excitement and sheer joy at the same time.'

Sports Day! – *On the Playing Field!*

Reaching high keeps a player on his toes!

Drumbeats and Music! Drills and Displays! Innovative games and events!

These and more marked the exuberant Sports Day for the Primary, Lower and Upper Elementary and Early Adolescence Students!! Catch the action in the picture collages below!



India! Our Country! Our Vision!

In India, you're taught that there are certain qualities that make you a divine human being.

- Deepak Chopra

Love, Respect, Kindness and Care for another gets sown in the Toddler Environment!

The very way of functioning of the **TODDLER Team** ensures that the little ones imbibe these qualities naturally....as naturally as breathing!

The Independence Day Celebrations in the Toddler Environments carried the message for the Parents, no doubt, BUT the joy of the songs carrying messages of Patriotism, Pride, Love, Respect and Peace made it a very tangible experience for the little ones; As adults and toddlers bonded over songs, a commitment was made to raise children as caring and compassionate individuals, free of prejudices that give rise to conflict!



National Symbols are carefully chosen as they are distinctively characteristic to India.

The Primary integrated our traditional art-form of Rangoli with our National Symbols in a breath-taking display, in celebration of Independence Day! – The Glorious Flag, the Powerful Tiger, the Immortal Banyan, the Gorgeous Peacock, the Sleek Hockey Sticks, the Peaceful Lotus and the Lush Mango.....

Feast your eyes on our symbols so painstakingly crafted by our PRIMARY Team!



India! Our Country! Our Vision!

"Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to those who dream and work."

-Dr. A. P. J. Kalam

An Inspiring Independence Day!

A meaningful morning on 15th August with the students and teachers of the Lower and Upper Elementary, and Early Adolescence gathered together to honour Independence Day!

Questions on what Independence means elicited meaningful responses from the children... **'Freedom, not to be attacked by enemies, happiness, flag hoisting, Gandhiji, peace, free life...and more'**!

Such honest, heartfelt responses!

Music resonated the air as the Sprouts Children's Choir presented their FIRST ever performance – stirring songs spiritedly rendered, under the guidance of Prof. Srinivas Krishnan!

Presentations by the Early Adolescence students on Great Stalwarts like Bharatiyar, Bhagat Singh and Sarojini Naidu brought History right into the Present!



RAKSHABANDHAN! – the bond that ties!

Siblings are the people we practice on, the people who teach us about fairness and cooperation and kindness and caring quite often the hard way!

Rakshabandhan is a much awaited and joyously celebrated event as siblings renew their love and commitment for each other – the application of the ‘tikka’ on the forehead, the blessing of the ‘aarthi’, the tying of the ‘rakhi’ or sacred threadpoignant practices that renew the bond between brother and sister!



Sprouts believes in sowing in the young, the seeds of love, harmony and togetherness!
Delight in the pictures taken in the Toddler environments, celebrating Rakshabandhan!



DID YOU KNOW?



This beautiful and sensitive occasion finds presence in our mythological stories! History too.... reveals that Rani Karnavati of Mewar sought protection and requested help from Mughal Emperor Humayun, by sending him a ‘Rakhi’!



RAKSHABANDHAN! – when bonds get forged!

Brothers and Sisters, Peas in a Pod, Bumps on a Log, Bugs in a Rug, Birds of a Feather, Partners in Crime, Friends Forever!!

In a beautiful spin....when it was discovered that break-time for the students of the Early Adolescence coincided with the Rakshabandhan celebrations in Primary 5, it was but so natural for the senior students to be part of it all...tikkas were applied, rakhis were tied, bonds created!! Just so apt!!



From the EA Team:

“Without prior notice a P5 teacher invited our children to their environment to celebrate the day with the tiny tots... It was an extremely overwhelming sight to see the little boys and girls waiting at the threshold for the older kids... It was truly a beautiful sight to see the little ones exchange Rakhis and sweets, forming a beautiful bond with our EA children!”



In 1905 when the Partition of Bengal divided the nation, Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore started Rakhi Mahotsavas to strengthen the bond of love and togetherness between Hindus and Muslims of Bengal, a tradition that continues even today!

Meanwhile.....A LEARNING CURVE...is essential to GROWTH!

The most important attitude that can be formed is that of desire to go on learning!!

- John Dewey

(Psychologist / Educational Reformer)

Celebrating a festival....

Spending time with material...

Making presentations

Exploring, experiencing the learning....

Never to be forgotten.....

Snapshots from the Environments!!



Learning as a group



Browsing through books



Or, just exploring at will...



Adding to the festivities – Rolling little ‘cheedais’!!



A LEARNING CURVE...is essential to GROWTH!

If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow!

- John Dewey

Tangible learning happening in the environments! SUCH a beautiful way to learn!!



Getting ready for a lesson on three dimensional figures!



Working with metal insets and First Knowledge cards in Botany in the LE!!



Working the concept of Rotational Geometry!



More...materials to learn with! – Addition strip board, metal insets and grammar boxes!! Pics from the LE!



Showing how Volcanoes erupt!



India! Our Country! Our Vision!

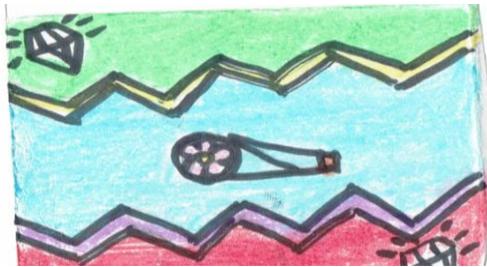
"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."

Our young minds of the Upper Elementary are highly creative and original in their thinking! A simple, fun in-class activity to redesign our National Flag produced 'WOW' results! Every flag reflected emotion, vision and profound thought!



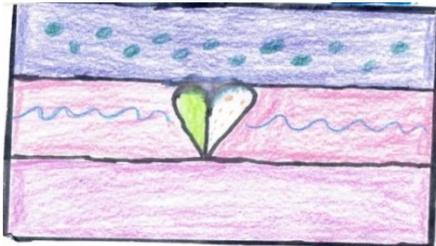
National emblem of the country filled with **orange**, white and **green** colours of our existing flag.
The **blue** colour was added to show that there is justice received / given at the end

By: Arundhati



Green and **purple** is for our trees, plants and flowers.
Blue is for water.
Red represents love for our mother earth.
Diamond is the sun shining bright and giving us life.
The wheel is for the clothes that Gandhi ji made.
Yellow is for peace.

By Aathmika & Maanya

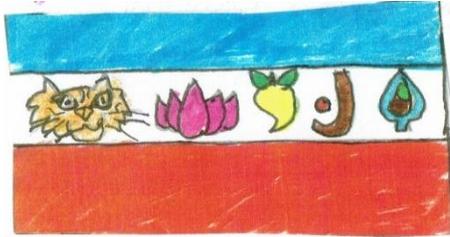


Heart means family.
A **blue** wave depicts the ocean and sea.
Purple and **Pink** are the soft colours which mean strength, life & friends.

By Sai Adithi & Harshika

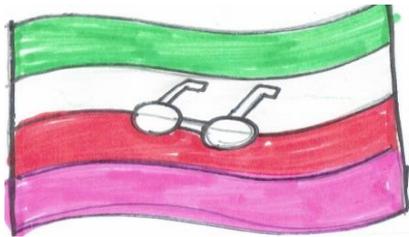
India! Our Country! Our Vision!

When Learning is purposeful, Creativity blossoms.
When Creativity blossoms, Thinking emanates.
When Thinking emanates, knowledge is fully lit.
When knowledge is lit, Economy flourishes. - Dr. A.P.J.Kalam



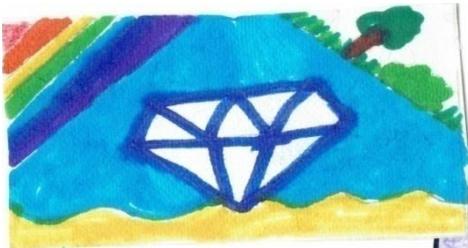
Blue is for progress., **Red** stands for the sacrifices of our fore fathers.
Tiger represents courage and bravery., Peacock feather is for royalty.
Mango is for kindness., Hockey stick and a ball for sportsmanship.
Lotus is for peace.

By Aadyanth, Hafeez & Dhruvan



The Mahatma Gandhi's spectacle stands for non violence.
Green stands for nature. White stands for peace.
Red stands for fire in the heart. **Violet** stands for respect.

By Camie, Tanveer & Darsh



The rainbow depicts the colours of our country.
Our country shines like the diamond in the centre.
The trees and greenery stands for nature.
The **yellow** & **blue** stand for the beautiful tropical region of our country.

By Mahimaa & Drithi



Orange is for the Indian culture
Red speaks of the varied and vibrant traditions followed in our country.
Sun represents the bright future while
Shades of **Blue** represent the different tribes and communities in India.

By Fatema & Sarah

WOW – O – WOW!! – the things they say and do!!!!

Children SEE magic because they look for it!!



Rakshann, Toddler has been singing the national anthem at every opportunity possible after the independence day. It was a delight to watch him sing with a wide smile on his face...

Dhamayanthi, Toddler loves her song time so much that she sits whenever she feels like singing, calls her friends and starts her own circle time!!



While using the sports ladder to take the children to the main campus from the Primary 5 campus Aneka was quick to notice that the children walking using the ladder represented a millipede as they formed a long body with many legs. – *Delightful observation!*



TRANSPORTATION YOGA



Yoga and Mind -Yes!
Yoga and Fitness - Yes!
But, Yoga and Transport????

The children of Primary 3 related different yoga postures to different means of transport!!



Reflections of a Student!!!

Writing is the Painting of the Voice.

- Voltaire,
(French Writer, Historian and Philosopher)

*By her own
hand.....*

A beautiful and
vivid essay by
Soaumya, Class
8, Early
Adolescence!

To paraphrase
Voltaire...**her
writing is the
painting of her
thoughts!**

*An Expressive
Eruption of a
Thought Flow!!*

MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Life is just not a gift, it's a Surprise gift and I got one too. I was the first child in my family and I was as ~~not~~ mischievous and bubbly as an elephant's calf. My mom told me I was a "Beigeaning blue bell" confidently spreading my petals but still soft at the edges. I was a dazzling daughter, a super peppy child and a champion in ~~winning~~ winning hearts with my smile.

It was a bright Friday morning in early June, and a very special day for my parents and me, as it was my first birthday. Time flew by and it was a year since I was born. My house was decorated with balloons and lights; my dad ordered a chocolate cake and we celebrated our hearts out. This day became even more special when my parents realised that they were going to be blessed with another child. Later that summer, my parents decided to leave me with my maternal grandparents in Gujrat, because my mom faced difficulties in taking care of me due to her health issues.

In another months time I was deprived of my parents. Eventhough ~~it~~ it was a strenuous situation for me, my grandparents played a very important role in helping me settle and get along with other kids in the neighbourhood. My house there was a beautiful one, with ~~to~~ three enormous rooms and a sizeable balcony, with pale walls surrounded with appealing shapes of stars, triangles and circles blooming along with fresh green leaves. It maybe a little difficult to believe but I was having a great time with my grandparents.

At 10⁰⁰ clock every morning, I used to rose my grandfather to my kindergarden, where I made many friends and had lots of fun. My grandmother used to pick me up from school ~~at~~ two hours later and we used to ~~to~~ walk along the street like tortoise. The velvety empty sky that was lit up with brilliant stars, made me sleep. Usually over the weekends, I used to visit my cousins and a few relatives in the locality with my grand~~mother~~ - mother.

As time went by the bond between me and my grandparents grew deeper and stronger. I was nearly two when my grandparents told me that I got a baby sister. I laughed and jumped in amusement to see my parents and my little sister. Mid-november when winter was on its way my parents came to Gujrat to take me home. I was super excited but at the same time.... My childhood memories, particularly this one was like a "wates egg!"

ACHIEVEMENT! – A Thrilling Moment!

We are proud of the efforts **Satchit** and **Aadyanth** invested and the sweet success that they achieved!!
Congratulations to our young Sproutians!!!

Satchit of Lower Elementary 2 scored 3 points out of 8 in a chess competition (7 rounds) conducted by Annie Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kancheepuram District and won a trophy and certificate! A PROUD moment for our little champ Satchit!!



It is deeply satisfying to win a prize in front of a lot of people!!

State Level Championship – Karate
PROUD WINNER!!



I went to a State Level Karate competition on 11th Aug, 2019. There were totally eight contestants in my category of 21kg -25kg (body weight). There were totally three rounds which I had to play. The first two rounds I won, but the third round I lost. It was a tough competition, where my competitors were also very experienced.

It was a great feeling to have won. I was honored with a trophy and a certificate. It was a great experience, and was happy to have to played with such good players!

- Aadyanth, Upper Elementary

WORKSHOPS – *Presenting the Montessori Way!*

The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be ignited.

- Plutarch, Greek-Roman Biographer / Essayist

Our Primary and Lower Elementary parents attended workshops conducted by our teachers on various topics! Workshops provide the right ambience for the adult to link to the child along with the teacher body, to connect in a common space allowing for free exchange of information, reflections, queries and concerns to take place. The presentation of the materials that facilitate a beautiful internalization of learning concepts, brings the world of Montessori to the Parent body!



Language & Arithmetic workshop by the Primary



Culture workshop by the Lower Elementary

“The workshop was very useful and elaborate, and we got a clear idea about what the child will be doing in class. Clear explanations by the teachers!” – Ms. Karthika, Parent of V.Akshada (Primary 3)

“It was nice to know how children learn about the human evolution, through interesting stories narrated in an engaging way and how the system beautifully integrates everything. Attending these workshops sometimes help us connect the dots when they come back with a new information or question”.- Ms. Kantha Krishnan, Parent of Sahaana (Lower Elementary 1)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT!! – tidbits from Akanksha!!

Akanksha Thomas is our in house counsellor who moves with the children on a daily basis, and some of her inputs are incredible!

Parenting a **Generation Z**

(born in early 2000) and/or a **Generation Alpha**

(born after 2010) child in the present time can be daunting, given the general decline in morality and ethics.

Probably the greatest responsibility parents have towards children is to help them evolve into morally upright, responsible and law abiding global citizens. Research shows it is impossible to make any moral judgement without emotions.

As parents, committing to invest time and effort in providing right moral training will help a child become emotionally strong and stable.

Working together, with the right values and virtues nurtured in our children, the path is set for them to grow into valuable and contributing individuals in the future!!

“Prepare the child for the path and not the path for the child.”



**How Parents can
Help Children
Internalize Values!!**

Some tips for parents to consider!

➤ **Parenting is ‘caught’ rather than taught:**

More than our words, it is our actions that are caught and learnt by our children. Role modelling values ourselves is the best way to help children internalize them. For instance, teaching a child kindness is best imparted when kindness is shown to the child and others around.

➤ **Look for teachable moments:**

The best teachable moments are during non-conflict times when the child is in his or her peace zone. No one likes being told they are wrong when the mind is in conflict. Receptivity works when the mind is in a calm and peaceful state.

➤ **Appropriate reasoning with teaching:**

Children may know what to do but not why it needs to be done. For example, teaching a 5 year old not to pluck flowers from a public garden with a reason that they are there for all to enjoy will help the child understand the value and act more responsibly in similar situations in the future.

THE TEAM

Smita Vishweshwar

Isha Antony

Adah Ramona

Bhuvaneswari Murali

Tripura Gurajada

Sujatha Jaishankar

Geetha Venkat

Sarini Subramanian

S. Gayathri

Preethi Bharath