



RESIDENT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear parents,

2021 is bringing good news in the form of vaccine and we can only wait with great anticipation the day we will welcome our students back into our premises physically. Proud to say that we have managed to conduct many activities and all classes online including our Student Led Conference, Sports Day, Outdoor Classroom Day, Virtual Museum Tours, Dance and Music Competitions, Storytelling sessions, Mandala art, and many more.

We have shared monthly reports for every subject in every class which has enabled parents to keep track of their child's progress. By being a witness to a classroom, rather, inside a classroom, you have also appreciated a teachers' patience and hard work in keeping her class motivated, learning and under control at all times. You have sent us many notes of appreciation which have motivated us to continue the work we are doing. One of our classes you have particularly appreciated was the Sunshine Smiles which focused on emotional and mental well-being of the children. It brought forth a lockdown gratitude journal from the students and helped lessen the loneliness and despair.

We have conducted many workshops for parents as well. The parent webinar series included health, emotional intelligence, eye care, anti-spanking amongst others. We have celebrated Women of Substance – the Mothers of Swarnim who besides looking after home and hearth are managing professional lives with aplomb. We invited many guests to interact with our students like celebrity chef - Ms. Manjri Agarwal; Psychologists - Dr. Smaranika Tripathy, Ms. Riddhi Patel, Ms. Pragati Sureka amongst others.

Students of Swarnim International School brought accolades to the school by bagging the Zonal Ranks in the SOF National Science and Mathematics Olympiad conducted by Science Olympiad Foundation in February, 2020. We also won the most prestigious awards from Education World – Kolkata's number 1 in Value for Money, Online interaction and Health and Hygiene; Kolkata's Number 2 pre-primary school; Early Childhood Association (ECA) Top 50 non franchised preschools of Asia and Hall of Fame 2019-20 Top 10 Primary Schools by Association of Primary Education and Research (APER).

But maybe our greatest achievement of them all was being able to hold on to the attention of the students for these 12 months. Winston Churchill famously said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste." We believe we lived upto this. But despite meeting the challenges of the new normal successfully, we await the day when we can go back to normal. To this end, we urge parents to take the vaccine so that we can usher in the normal soon and bring our students back to school.



HEADMISTRESS'S MESSAGE

We have wrapped up the most unusual session with the hope of a better year ahead in our hearts. The pandemic has wrought havoc in many lives and we pray that health and happiness for everyone are restored soon. We must draw lessons from the crisis and work towards overcoming it.

In crisis, we have all become better learners. We learnt that a crisis is both danger and opportunity. And the teaching community is the biggest proof of the limitless possibilities human mind cradles and brings forth when required. The entire schooling system transformed overnight into a shared virtual space which dissolved the barriers of traditional privacy norms. It turned the student-teacher-parent locus upside down. Student and parent shared the same physical space and the teacher was at a distance. Initially, this new arrangement was perceived as a hindrance which curbed the sovereignty of the school and teachers but gradually we turned it into a progressively enriching family-school partnership.

Parents and teachers play an important role in children's learning, development and well-being. Research shows that family-led learning is vital. Online classes strengthened this bond where communication barrier was removed, parents were directly involved with school activities. Teachers too had a better understanding of a child's psychology since they could see the child in the home-setting. At Swarnim, we walked the extra mile to create a family –friendly school by organizing a series of webinars exclusively for parents, providing direct access to teachers through emails, giving regular feedback and updates on social media, publishing the bi-annual newsletters etc.

We have witnessed how this crisis turned technophobic people into avid and successful technology users. Can't we create a crisis to turn reluctant learners into dynamic active mentees? Swarnim is always looking to turn obstacles into opportunities. Our teachers always check whether their lesson plans can do the 3 C's – connect with students; challenge them enough with a 'crisis' and create champions.

We are now preparing for a few more months of online schooling with more confidence, more digital skills and deeper insight gained from earlier shortcomings.

We can only achieve our goals with another 'C' – cooperation from parents.

CURIOUS CLASSROOMS GLIMPSES

"Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activities of learners"- John Caldwell Holt, famous American educator.



Nursery – DUMB CHARADE

As we all know that 'Dumb Charade' game involves explaining and identifying the name of a song or a book through mime. Our Nursery children dressed up and acted out popular rhymes by using different gestures, facial expressions and their friends had to guess the rhyme. The focus was to reinforce non verbal communication skills and creativity.

LKG - FUN WITH EVS

LKG children enthusiastically participated and revised various EVS topics they covered throughout the year by playing the game "GUESS WHO AM I". Children dressed up as Birds, Vegetables, Insects, Body Parts, Seasons, Colours, Transport, Communication etc. and gave various clues to their fellow classmates who in turn guessed who they were. It was a recapitulation experience with lot of color and fun.



UKG - CVC WORD WHEEL

"Words and ideas can change the world."

Our little thinkers of UKG created a CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) word wheel to incorporate their learning about three-letter words into an interesting cognitive exercise where they matched a consonant with two-letter words to form a three letter word. CVC word wheels gave our children the practice to manipulate the initial sound of a given CVC word family and form new words. This exercise increases vocabulary and reinforces the concept of phonics.



Class 1 – SCENERY WITH SYNONYMS

The vernacular students of class I were introduced to the topic "synonyms" in a very interesting way. Synonyms were taught as "Ek Naam Aur" in Hindi and "Areka Naam" in Bengali classes. The children were asked to draw scenery and label each thing with multiple names. E.g. Aasmaan – Nabh, Pahaad – Parwat, Ped – Vriksh, and for Bengali Bari- Griha, Surjo- Robi, Phool- Kusum etc.



Class 2 - FINISH THE STORY

The aim of this game for Class II was to create a complete story as a team. Children were divided into groups and each child had to contribute a few sentences and then the other children took turns to continue the story and complete it. The activity developed each player's story weaving skill and acted as an inspiration for the future wordsmiths.

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Class 3 – READER'S THEATRE

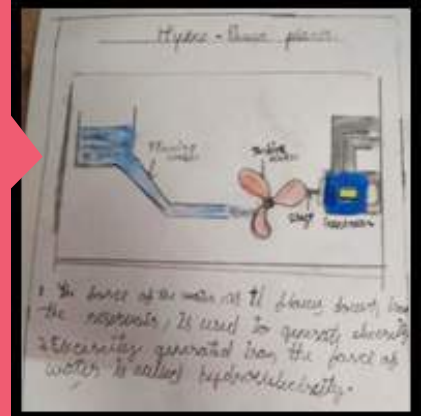
Children enacted the story of "The Pied Piper Returns". They understood the script and immersed themselves in the story. They did a dramatic presentation with special costumes and well rehearsed dialogue delivery. They also learnt to identify various characters, the varying moods of each character and displayed the emotions wonderfully.

Class 4 – HYDROELECTRICITY

Students showcased their understanding of the concept of hydroelectricity generation through drawing and explanation.

Students were very excited to know about the facts how a dam creates electricity. Through this topic they learnt the difference between exhaustible and inexhaustible sources of energy.

Students could relate it with real life and how it is helpful in irrigation facilities, flood control and in the generation of electricity.



Class 5 – MONEY MATTERS

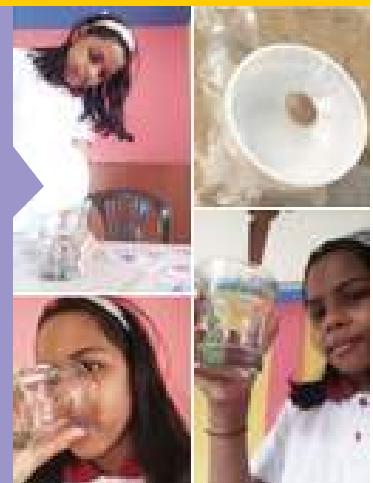
To help students become familiar with the purpose and value of money, an activity was designed for class 5 students wherein they set up shops of various items in the virtual platform and enacted as sellers.

They could understand transaction of money in sale and purchase of goods and how to count change, learnt the difference between cost price and selling price, calculate profit and loss and prepare bills. The activity aimed at imparting two very important life-skills: how to handle money and its importance.

Class 6 - ENERGY CONSERVED IS ENERGY GENERATED

With a constantly growing human population the need for energy is also increasing. Today, having realized the energy crisis that we are headed to, we have put a step forward in using renewable sources of energy. Children of Class VI were sensitized about this topic.

They did 'Desalination of Salty Water Using Solar Energy'. They were asked to take a bowl full of salty water covered with a plastic sheet. They had to keep it in the sun and observe. They did this experiment and observed droplets of water on the plastic sheet. Hence they concluded that using the heat from the sun we can desalinate water and make it fit for drinking. They inferred that since fresh water available to man is decreasing with the growing population, we need to look for other sources. Sea is the biggest source of water but it is not potable. One can set up such desalination units of bigger size to generate potable water.



Class 7 – INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS

Class VII was at their creative best when they came up with their unique product designs and marketing ideas. Each child designed a product that can be used to make our daily lives easier. Then they pitched their ideas in the class and discussed how they could market those products with lucrative deals. One child remarked, "If only I had the chance to sell this in the real market, I would be so rich!" Children learnt how to defend their ideas and establish them successfully through this exciting activity.

HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS

"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



Durga Puja



Work is Worship



Prize Distribution



Annual Dance Competition (Online)



Durga Puja Craft



Book Reading - SMITA JEE



Outdoor Play



Songs of Hope



Diwali & Children's Day



Halloween



Student Led Conference

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National Pollution Prevention Day



Sing-along



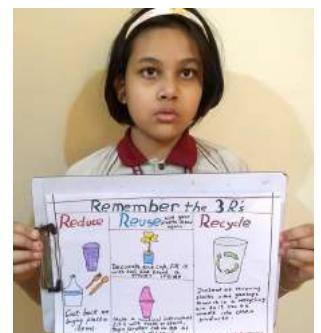
National Energy Conservation Day



Christmas



Netaji Jayanti



National Science Day



Swami Vivekananda Jayanti

International Mother Language Day




Saraswati Puja



Republic Day

SCIENTIA POTENTIA EST: KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Teachers of Swarnim International School attended various online workshops between October 2020 to March 2021 to empower themselves in order to extend all possible guidance to their students in the online classes.


 Middle school teachers attended a webinar on NEP 2020 Implementation in schools on 9th November. The resource person was Dr. Ameeta Mulla Wattal, Principal of Springdales School.

 Primary teachers attended an online workshop by educationist Scott Thornbury titled "Learn .Teach. Engage". It was organized by TISB Training Academy between 23rd to 26th February.

 Pre-Primary teachers attended a workshop on spelling rules, Jolly Phonics between 11th-16th December. The resource person was renowned educator Malaika Ribeiro.


 Teachers attended a series of webinars by Centre For Teacher Accreditation (CENTA) :


- Education World's India School Rankings and the role of the Teachers.
- Fostering Interaction in the Virtual English Classroom.
- The Art of Questioning.
- Climate Action Day


 Workshop on Five Skills of Jolly Phonics was attended by the Pre-Primary teachers by early childhood educator Sue Lloyd.

 Teachers attended various workshops conducted by Stones 2 Milestones :

- Help Children build L,S,R,W.
- Augmented Reality.

 Webinars on Basic Hindi and Teaching Hindi Creatively was attended by Hindi Teachers. These were organized by Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA).

 Primary Teachers attended a webinar on Environment Online-Tips and Strategies conducted by Chaz Pugliese, Director of Teacher Training at Pilgrims, UK on 9th October.

 Teacher trainer Scott Thornbury conducted an online workshop on Grammar Lesson which was attended by the Primary teachers on 7th November.



About Jolly Phonics

Chris Jolly is Managing Director, and owner, of Jolly Learning Ltd. He founded the company in 1987, initially publishing some boxed reading games. He published the first part of Jolly Phonics in 1992.



Authors of Jolly Phonics

Sue Lloyd taught for over 20 years in Woods Loke Primary School (Suffolk). Within her school, she began to use phonic methods, and developed and improved them from research, advice and the practical experience she and her colleagues gained.

