



kangaroo kids

BILLABONG HIGH
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

KELAMBAKKAM

where learning has a purpose



Cherries

BILLABONG HIGH INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL KELAMBAKKAM

5th July 2020, ISSUE 87

Dial V for Virtual classes

Regardless of how much teaching experience one has, there's often a good measure of anxiety when we teach online classes. The pedagogical hurdles, technical and gadget issues, as well as the absence of a physical connect portrays the struggles of an e-classroom. Without an ounce of doubt, one can say that teaching online has opened up interesting possibilities. The "take it anywhere" and friendly nature of online teaching has drawn more bouquets than brickbats and hence upping the level of classroom delivery has become a daily challenge.

As part of upping their skills, our educators were part of a power-packed e-session titled "Dial V for Virtual Classrooms". Helmed by Ms. Deidre Gokhale, Head of Learning & Development, KKel, the session was a treasure trove of strategies & resources to make classroom delivery effective, exciting, and interactive. The focus was also on creating learning experiences that allow students to take charge of their learning. It was a live wire session as the educators became students and were subject to several mini-challenges. The takeaways from the session helped strengthen the command of our facilitators over content delivery & technology.



A tour into space

The 5th graders boarded their virtual space shuttle and took a trip into space where they explored the earth, moon, and various satellites that are present in the solar system. This virtual tour was enjoyed by our starry-eyed students with much enthusiasm.



Our future warriors

Our junior kindergarten heroes celebrated doctor's day and understood the importance of the doctors in our society. They enacted as doctors and gave us their golden pieces of advice to protect ourselves from the pandemic. They learned about winter this week and did the winter feel activity with the ice cubes. They also learned about wind and did the paper blowing activity. We can surely see a lot of future doctors from this lot urging us to save our society forever.



Winter is here

Winter is a great time for kids to enjoy their vacations and get cozy in their blankets. It gives time to indulge in various activities like snowball fighting, building snowmen, ice hockey, and more. This week nursery students learned about the cool winter season and they were excited to make winter hat using cotton balls. They also learned about day and night by dramatizing activities that are done day and night time. It included going to sleep, waking up, get dressed, eating breakfast, going to school, playing with friends, brushing teeth. The session ended up with a ladyfinger printing activity and through that, they made star printings on paper and were happy to show that they made twinkle twinkle little stars in the sky.



Winter Hat



Our Little Hearts and their Big Thanks!

This week our little Dinosaur enthusiasts discussed the prehistoric giants, their characteristic features, and probable reasons for their extinction. They also learned about the various causes of animal endangerment and the need to protect them. They enjoyed pattern creating, skip counting, and made dinosaur fossil on the dough. On July 1st, 2020 our senior kindergarteners and the teachers celebrated the National Doctor's day. Our little hearts created videos, drawings, and greeting cards to express their gratitude to the entire community of doctors for their dedication and selfless care to the patients. Our beloved Doctor Ms. Shankari, graced the occasion and shared a few words amidst us. We virtually celebrated our student Joshni's birthday on 3rd July 2020. Here is a glimpse of a few wonderful moments from this week.

-Ms. Bauviya Sekar, Sr.Kg Teacher.



திருவள்ளுவரின் வாழ்க்கை வரலாறு

தமிழ் ஆசிரியர் திரு. சத்தியானந்தம் அவர்கள் உலகப்பொதுமறையாம் திருக்குறளை நடத்தினார். சாதி, மதம், பேதம் இல்லாமல் உலகில் உள்ள அனைத்து மக்களுக்கும், ஒவ்வொரு காலங்களுக்கும் ஏற்ப பயன்படக்கூடிய கருத்துக்களையும் தருகின்ற திருக்குறளை பற்றி எட்டாம் வகுப்பு மாணவர்கள் அறிந்துக் கொண்டனர். மற்றும்

திருவள்ளுவரின் வாழ்க்கை வரலாறு மற்றும் திருக்குறளில் பொதிந்துள்ள கருத்துகள் ஆகியவை கலந்துரையாடல் செய்யப்பட்டது. மாணவன் வேதாந்த பட அட்டையில் மூலம் திருவள்ளுவர் பயன்படுத்திய ஓலைச்சுவடி போன்றும், திருவள்ளுவரின் குறிப்பும் எழுதி அவற்றின் பெருமையை தன் செயல் திட்டத்தின் மூலம் வெளிப்படுத்தினான்.

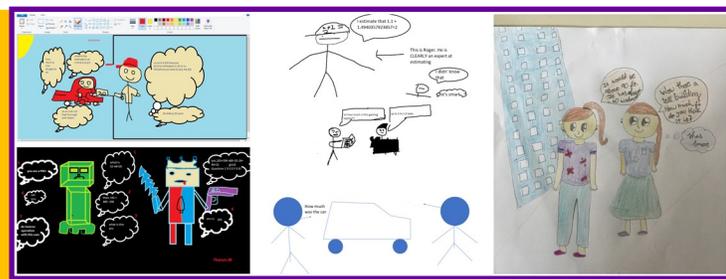


Vedanth

Vedanth

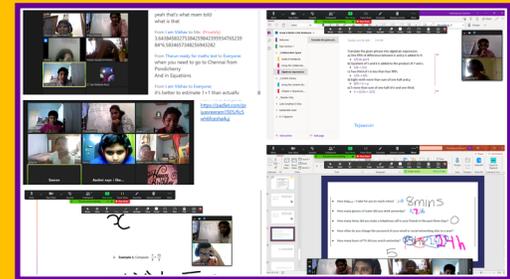
Math-A-Toon

We believe that students can understand Mathematics better by indulging in activities that pique their curiosity into the underlying concept comprehension. An exercise to reflect and to gauge concept clarity, the students were challenged with creating cartoon character(s) that is good with estimations & inverse operations in real life. Rising to the challenge our doodling stars of Grade Seven wowed one and all with their beautifully etched illustrations. Our young artists put up vibrant cartoon style characters engaging in math conversations using speech bubbles. The characters and the fictional universe they belong to were etched with immense detail. This activity managed to extract the children's ideas, pinpoint areas of uncertainty and crucially, identify misconceptions.



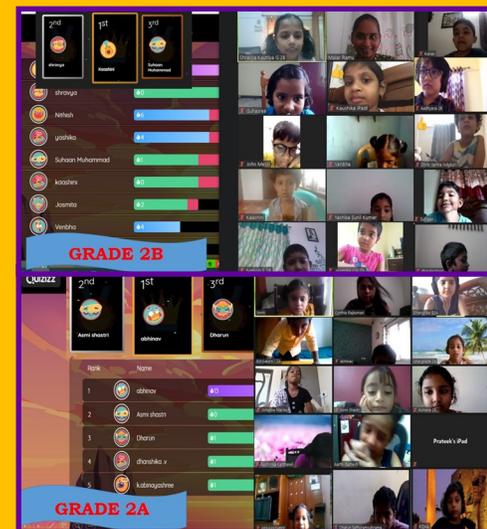
Collaborations Galore

The collaboration was the buzz word this week as our students engaged in an active exchange of ideas & thoughts. The digital platform was the perfect opportunity for our students to develop rapport and cohesion through icebreakers, team building activities, and reflection exercises. These activities helped students engage with the content through peer to peer learning. The seventh graders indulged in an interesting starter activity to estimate the number of steps from where they were sitting for the online classes to the door closest to them and compared them. They also recorded their group power by putting their takeaways on a virtual digital board. The eighth & ninth-graders demonstrated their problem-solving skills on the digital boards bringing the essence of a physical classroom. Student collaboration is indeed the way to go to promote learning.



Gamified Learning

Gamified Learning integrates game mechanics into the process of learning. Pedagogical research findings within the field of psychology suggest that online, outside of class quizzes provide students with positive learning outcomes. It also was amazing that the online quizzes coupled with immediate feedback regarding the percentage of correct answers given would be viewed positively by students as an effective means of learning the concepts. Researches never went wrong and it's all happening in Grade 2 now. Educators were thrilled to see the complete participation of all their students. Students were electrified with excitement and participated with complete dedication. Achievement with enjoyment. Isn't that interesting?



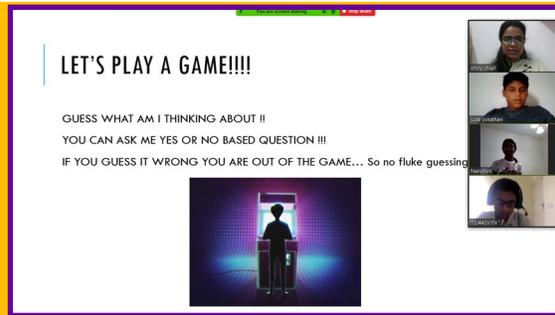
चित्र वर्णन

कक्षा 8 की छात्राओं ने चित्र को देखकर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। छात्राओं ने सुंदर भाषा शैली का प्रयोग करते हुए, प्रदर्शित चित्र का वर्णन किया। छात्राओं ने अपने व्यावहारिक भाषा को प्रभावशाली बनाने का प्रयास किया। इस प्रकार उनकी कल्पना शक्ति, वैचारीक क्षमता एवं लेखन क्षमता में वृद्धि हुई।



Guess my thoughts

Our 8th graders got the chance to play a fun game as a part of their introductory lesson on Dichotomous keys. Each student got the chance to be the thinker who would think of a famous personality. The other students were supposed to ask yes or no based questions to the 'thinker' who would respond accordingly. The students would then compile the thinker's answers and would guess the personality. This game paved the way to make them realise the dichotomous keys used in classification which also had two choices at each stage, ultimately leading the learner to the name of the unknown organism.



Group Activity Online

Ever imagined being split into groups when you are on a virtual platform? Our 7th Graders are relishing the experience as they got to discuss with their team members by being split into teams. The breakout rooms created were used by the learners to pool in their thoughts on how the decisions by King Charles had ultimately lead to the Civil war.

The teacher visited each virtual room and listened to the groups discussing and coming up with a decision. Once the decision was made the breakout rooms were dissolved and each representative from the groups came forward and shared their views. It was indeed a fun activity to witness the students collaborate on a virtual platform.



Post Card Writing

It's one of those great holiday traditions, almost as "British" as a bucket and a spade on a beach. They send postcards to tell their friends what a great time they're having. Postcards are short, positive, and predictable in their content. Postcards are a fun way to keep in touch with loved ones back home back ages. Many people feel that writing a letter or postcard is more personal and close to their hearts. It can be a prized possession if received from someone you are fond of. Our students of Grade 2 tried their writing skills and composed a message for their loved ones and even designed a stamp.

Also, the learners learned about the history of the postcard and the world's first postcard. They were excited to know about the hand-painted design on card, posted in Fulham in London to the writer Theodore Hook himself in 1840 bearing a penny black stamp.



Imaginary Lines leads to Imaginations

Confusions gave way to the learners to know much more about their planet – “The Earth”. What are these lines all about? Is it there on the planet Earth? How are they helpful for us? And why are the lines called imaginary? The mathematical concept of vertical and horizontal lines has given a clear picture to study climatic zones and Time zones of the world. The latitudes and the longitudes which form the grid made the learners develop their understanding of the planets. The Subconscious mind which is meant for imagination glowed in all my learners and they were able to imagine accordingly.



Colours fills life -The physical features of India

We, the grade 4 students did an activity on the physical features of India. We used grains and pulses to mark the different features of Our country like Deccan Plateaus, Plains, Mountain Ranges, Islands, and ghats. This made us understand the physical features of India and the beauty of our country. The snow-covered mountains, Flowing rivers, valleys, the green plains, the tableland all beautiful and unique in its way. As learners how we all are unique in our way. The moral which we learned from our EVS class is every feature has its own specialty and we need to admire and protect the beauty of our country and pay gratitude to be the citizen of this wonderful motherland. The session was filled with fun learning.



-Aarav (Grade 4)

Universal Science

Cream and the moon

We the students of grade 5 are learning about the phases of the moon. We all were so interested to learn more about the natural satellite of our planet. We tried our own way to present the learning of the phases of the moon with the help of materials available at home. Few of us used Oreo biscuits to present the activity. We loved and enjoyed the class so much.

-Hiren Kumar (GRADE 5 IG)



Exploring the Magnificent PALACES

The students of Grade 3 had a lovely time exploring the beautiful and magnificent palaces. During their virtual English classroom, they were transported to the Palace of Windsor castle in England and the Padmanabhapuram Palace at our very own Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu. It was a wonderful experience for the children as the majority of them had not visited any palaces so far. They enjoyed the virtual tour to one of the oldest castles and learned about its historical importance. Students appreciated the architectural wonder at their homeland and were awestruck watching the unparalleled beauty of the largest wooden palace in Asia. At the end of the session, the little artists illustrated and wrote about their beautiful palaces as part of classwork.



READERS are Leaders

Grade 4, children were given the challenge of Reading any book by their favourite author this week. During their English Literature session, they were awestruck by the capability of a little Reader, who is none other than 'Matilda', a four-year-old girl who took them all to the world of Books. The Young minds at BHIS-K took up the challenge and have started reading books from their favourite genre every day without fail. They are so eager to discuss about their favourite characters and give them a chance, they are even ready to pen down a book. We have even young authors in our school. While few of our Readers found the books penned by famous authors viz, J.K.Rowling, Enid Blyton, Roald Dahl, Dick King-Smith, Rachel Renee Russell, H.G.Wells interesting, few relished the books penned by Indian Authors like Ruskin Bond, Sudha Murthy, and R.K.Narayan. Reading is always a pleasure and we are sure, our children would keep their promises and continue to explore the world of books!



Handmade Abacus Scale!!!

Moulding clay is one material that is effective in supporting fine motor development in a child. Modeling clay or dough enhances finger strength. This effort contributes to developing hand muscles and coordination. But how does it help in Math activity? Clay is one of the perfect choices for learning a wide variety of Math concepts. Give a clay or dough to a child and see how it stimulates their imagination and creativity. As they enjoy the texture and dough consistency of the clay and try to mould it into interesting shapes. Here the grade 3 students have applied Modelling clay in making an abacus scale to represent a 5-digit number and learned the number concepts.



- Ms. R. Steffi, (Math Educator)

The Government

The prior understanding of the children was tested with the help of the question -What are the learners able to visualise when they hear the word 'Government'. Though the



word is not new to the children, the understanding was checked to build on the concept of Government for the VI graders. As expected, the children came up to the conclusion of any one person holding a particular power as the government. In this activity, the teacher had to undo the understanding of the concept 'government' to enable the children to reinforce the concept. The plenary was quite interesting as the children brimmed up with the understanding of the class with their best answers. The children were asked to share their opinion on the impact on the common people in the absence of the Government. They were able to know the importance and relevance of government for the wellbeing of the people. Hypothetical questions like this stir their understanding and the application of the acquired knowledge which comes in the higher order of thinking.

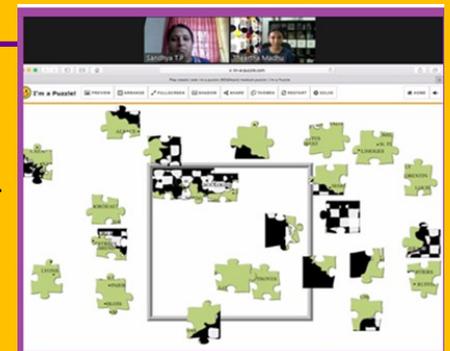
Re-reading facts

Very few people will be unaware of Rosa Parks the civil activist in the USA who stood up for the equality of the African Americans. The role she played in motivating the people to fight against segregation was easily explained to the learner of grade VII with this beautiful video which was used as a teaching aid for discussing the topic of equality in other democratic countries. The authentic first source of learning where Rosa Parks herself explains the events that happened on December 01 of 1955 which triggered the Civil Rights movement in the USA was enjoyed and appreciated by the learner as she expressed her surprise in the strength Rosa Parks exhibited in this interview when she was 82 years. These videos radiate positive thoughts to the children.



Maps decoded

Do you think maps cannot be learned through Puzzle...! We have tried that as well. The students of grade IX learned the map of France and got familiarised with the places of France which witnessed great historic events during the late 18th Century. The students have shared the link for the puzzle and were asked to try to solve it. More attempts will make it easy to solve the puzzle and indirectly it helped the learners to know the places. It was not only educational but was also very interesting for the learners. This was followed by a normal traditional practice of plotting the places on the map through the annotation feature in the zoom app that led to the completion of map learning for the learners. The same activity was done by students of grade IV with India Map.



Hall of Fame !!

Tharun of Grade 7 bagged the gold medal in the 116th Regional Abacus Competition held by BrainObrainfest. Kudos young champ !!!



Seed to sprout!!!

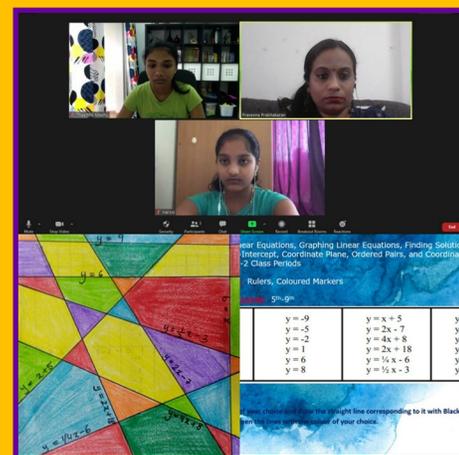
The active engagement of students in giving opportunities to learn through doing, and reflection on those activities, which empowers them to apply their theoretical knowledge to practical endeavours in a multitude setting in and out of the virtual classroom. Our Grade 5 students had a live demo and they practiced to dissect a seed and to label them. Students practically experienced the parts of the structure by dissecting a kidney bean on their own. During the session, students learned about the seasonal exposure, environment factor, consequences that occur for a seed to germinate which made the session interesting to learn. And they also learned the value of sacrifice, as the seed sacrifice itself to grow like a plant /tree to bear fruits/flowers.



How COLOURFUL GRAPHS

The Ninth Graders students were given the opportunity to exhibit their creativity in math class, by incorporating art projects into its units. The students were given free rein on what they should use like Crayons, coloured pencils, markers, chalk, and many to add colour to their design.

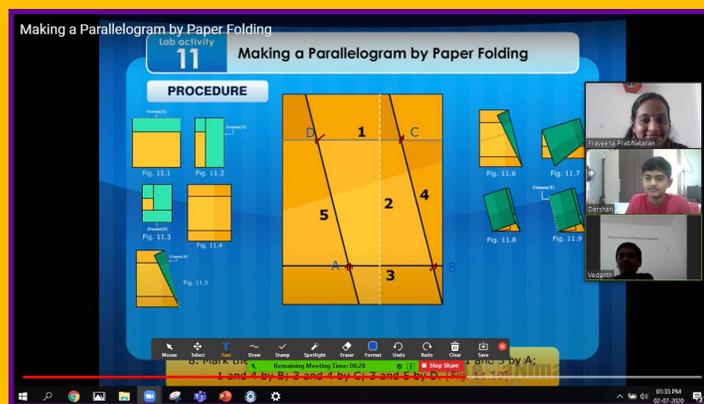
It was amazing how giving choices increases engagement! The facilitator encouraged them to put together a nice colour scheme to make their final product visually appealing. Students chose at least 12 equations from the given 24 equations of straight lines, gave 3 pairs of co-ordinates, and plotted them. Students created an exciting mixture of intersecting lines that produced sections and it was coloured to achieve their own unique stained-glass window effect in a plain sheet.



-Ms.Praveena Prabhakaran (Math Educator)

MATH ORIGAMI

In the instance of teaching quadrilaterals, paper folding served as a very effective method for enabling Eighth Graders to see from a symmetry perspective, which in turn provides a sound conceptual base for the classification of quadrilaterals. The facilitator used paper-folding method to make students confident about the attributes of the shapes like Parallelogram, Rhombus, Rectangle and Square, and the inclusive relationships between them instead of giving them a formal proof. The informal observations of the students by paper folding constituted their intuition and helped them to make sense of formal reasoning and proof.



-Ms.Praveena Prabhakaran (Math Educator)

French Revolution digitalized

The learners of grade IX were encouraged to recall the involvement of women in the French Revolution. Different series of event that led to the outbreak of the French Revolution was discussed across two weeks and the association of women in each event was discussed during those particular periods. Now it was time for the learners to pick the role of women from all the events that they have come across. It was quite interesting as the children had to recall the entire topic discussed earlier and a quick rewind on identifying the presence of women to be done with the given time. This activity served the purpose as the children though initially found it difficult, with the guidance they were able to recall and could connect the series of events and the role of women in the revolution. The broader objective of this activity is to encourage children to observe even small unnoticed events mentioned in history, so that their observation skills, analyzing skills, consolidating the points can be useful in interpreting history.



Right to Education

The government initiatives for bringing equality in the society was discussed in the class for the VII grader. Different policies are adopted by the government irrespective of any political party that forms the government. The collaborative efforts of UNICEF and the government of India initiates various steps for educating the children. The role of social advertisements in reaching the concepts to even the uneducated lot of our country was explained to the learner. RTE one of the profound initiatives to enrich the children to convert them to human resources was highlighted.



Charts to the rescue

Charts make understanding easier. The process of passing a bill to the law was easily explained with this simple chart. There are other procedures involved other than mentioned in the chart which was explained to the children and asked to recall and explain. So the monotony of seeing, reading, and recalling voluminous concepts was made easy with this simple chart.

