





ZOOMING INTO THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

Lockdown Notwithstanding

Even as Mumbai, the city that never sleeps went into a long hiatus, its infamous traffic grinding to a stop, at Billabong High International School, there was no question of putting education on pause. This was the general consensus at most schools across the city and indeed the motto at Billabong High International School. The management - strong in its commitment to bringing best in class lessons to students - was determined to begin Academic Year 2020-2021 with no holds barred.

Teachers and the management came together to rework lessons and make them viable for virtual lessons. We worked around the fact that readers, textbooks and other reference material would be unavailable to students and faculty alike. We manoeuvred solutions and gratefully, also found support and cooperation in our students and their parents as we identified ways and means to make resources available to everyone.

Classes began full swing on April 1. No doubt there were teething problems with some students struggling to sign in to the designated classrooms on Zoom, some finding creative ways to get entertained rather than educated and others taking their time to adjust to the new normal. But within a laudable three days, we saw things fall into place. Both students and teachers looked like they had been doing things this way their entire lives. Of course a technical glitch came along every now and then to remind us that this was new to everyone.

But it was a means. A means to soldier on in our efforts to educate our students and better still, a means for the students to maintain familiar territory, to see their classmates and to surge forward with their studies. After all time and tide waits for no man, and also for no virus as we have recently learned. We had readers shared via Zoom's share screen feature, PE conducted remotely (if YouTube can fitness train, why can't we, we told ourselves) and even art classes.

We are happy to say that we are on track with portion for the academic year thanks to diligent efforts all around.

FROM THE *Teachers' Desk*



Virtual Schooling as the name suggest is not just a platform but a life time experience which has taught all of us, the real meaning of being versatile. It also took us through the learning curve of blending technology with our curriculum.

My team and me rehearsed ample times so that there were no errors when we go live.

It was indeed challenging, understanding corners of the house, managing household noise for a seamless video experience with our children and then teaching our curriculum.

In these trying times when there were limitations with regards to the resources available for making the teaching aids, I am glad that with my creative ability I was able to manage and make all the teaching aids available. This was an amazing experience looking forward to make learning, fun virtually.

- Shruti Vishwanathan, PSY 1 Teacher



COVID 19 has been a challenging time for everyone. None of us were prepared for the new normal. However, through the sheer will, we adapt and overcome.

In a live virtual classroom environment, we teachers engage with students in a more personal and interactive manner.

The most rewarding aspect is the enthusiastic response that we have received from the students. Students have been at home since many months.

A virtual classroom session acts like an outlet for them to express themselves.

The activities and assignments help to utilise their time.

- Preeti Vaidya, Grade 1 teacher



A SNEAK PEAK INTO *KKIS Andheri*

Our young learners and teachers have accepted the challenges faced by the whole nation while the teachers and parents were their backbone.

Meanwhile preschool explored the world of **'Animal Kingdom'**.

Celebrated 'World Book Day' where our young learners were very successful in taking us to their imaginative world by story weaving.

'Animalagic' was amusing for our learners using a collage of different colours and papers to shape it into their favourite animal. Oh! It was delight to watch each one of them turn into **Eric Carle**.

Summer fun was a refreshing welcome of a new season, with beach wear, sand toys, lemonade and slices of tropical food was fun and a learning opportunity for our children.

Fashion parade was an event blazing the ramp with their innovative seasonal wear it was a treat to the eyes. Children dressed in their favourite clothing was an amazing activity to learn about the different seasons. Yellow day was a joyful introduction of the warm colour to the young learners. The monochromatic dressing, decor and objects all in yellow made it a fun event.

Showcasing all these events under one roof was a task by itself, It's yet proven once again that our learning and teaching process will never stop whether it's in our traditional classrooms or in our virtual classes.



A SNEAK PEAK INTO *BHIS Andheri*



Shakespeare Day

Our students celebrated Shakespeare day by watching a puppet musical of his plays, penning down sonnets, rewriting Shakespearean stories and even writing letters using the archaic language.

Earth Day

पृथ्वी की देखभाल करना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है। हमारी आने वाली पीढ़ी को स्वस्थ धरती का आकार देना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है। इस बात का बोध कराने के लिए हमारे विद्यालय द्वारा विश्व पृथ्वी संरक्षण दिवस पर सभी कक्षा वर्ग में उनकी आयु शिक्षण के अनुसार हर वर्ग की गतिविधियाँ तथा कला कृतियों के उपक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें सभी विद्यार्थियों ने अपनी योग्यता का भव्य रूप से प्रदर्शन किया। तथा विश्व पृथ्वी संरक्षण दिवस के महत्व को समझा और संरक्षण जागरूकता का प्रण लिया।



World Book Day

The World Book Day was the perfect opportunity to let their creativity manifest into something extraordinary. It was much welcomed by our students as they too worked enthusiastically and shared their amazing work with us.

A SNEAK PEAK INTO *BHIS Andheri*



First Inter House Competition

BHIS Andheri hosts academic year's first set of competitions.

The school went with a virtual poetry recitation competition for grade 1 and 2 students in order to instil love for poetry and to develop recitation skills amongst them.

Grades 3, 4 and 5 were encouraged to put themselves in the shoes of healthcare workers who are being celebrated as the heroes of the present moment in a competition entitled speak like a healthcare worker.

Grades 6, 7 and 8 brought stories and standup comedy to the table (or to the screen to be more precise) in an Open Mic competition called Words Social.

All the competitions witnessed a delightful response and commendable content. We are proud of and in awe of our students.



Speak like a
Health Care
Worker



We promise to see you soon with yet another exciting edition.