



## MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER PRINCIPAL

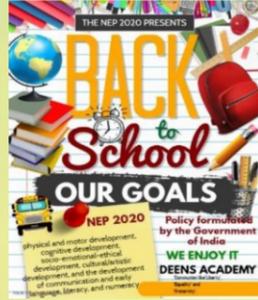
Resilient as we are, celebrating the various festivals even through the pandemic! While we adapt and modify our life to the challenges that are coming our way, I wish the Deenites and their families, safety, tenacity and alacrity.

*Ms. Shanthi Menon, Founder Principal*

### Section 1: NEP 2020 – Students' views

#### 1.1 A Digital Poster - prepared by Aafreen Mohammed: 7B

A student's life is so well captured in the poster; Education policy being a key element for all learners. Aafreen: 7B, has tried to bring in the education policy in her environment of school and has reflected on various aspects where an education policy can be connected and has an impact on. It is a sheer treat to our eyes to see her imagination flow free to express through this digital aid!



#### 1.2. NEP 2020 and Overview- by Lakshya Tripathi: 6D

NEP (National Education Policy) 2020 is a huge step for Indian education. This policy has many changes from the previous policy and a lot better changes. This policy has a 5+3+3+4 structure.

5 – Kindergarten      3 – Preparatory School  
3 – Middle School      4 – High School

In NEP 2020, there will be less cramming of subjects and more practical. There will be no silos. There are board exams for 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but the team of experts who are guiding this process are still thinking about the board exams of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The board exams will be made easier, looks like. In our school, we will have 10 bagless days throughout the year. This would allow children to have more interest and opportunities to expand their minds. Children would be involved in more activities and experiments. In the new policy, children will have more freedom to choose their subjects. So, my understanding is that NEP will give rise to job creators, instead of job seekers.

#### 1.3. New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) - by Leroy Narang: 6A

While going through my Civics classes, I was curious to understand the working and function of government in democratic country like India. And, one day while my grandfather was reading newspaper, one of the articles with the title, 'The New Education Policy 2020 is set to be a landmark in India's history of education', caught my attention. Being a student, I wanted to understand on how our government's functioning can impact schools and especially how this new policy will impact me. Hence, I read couple of related links on web and it led me these observations:

This is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the 34-year-old National Policy on Education, 1986. This means I was so far following same schooling system which my parents have undergone. The 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. This means that the Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but it will be redesigned to encourage holistic development and hence students will not undergo the pressure of marks; probably the board exams will have low stakes.

I can select subjects of my liking across streams, as there will be no stiff separation between Arts and Sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams. Students can select subjects of their liking across streams. I like doing coding and learning new things, which was so far fun for me. But now, I can have coding and data science as my subject, as part of vocational skill-based courses from class 6 to 11 introduced by this policy.

We are multi-lingual society and hence no language should be imposed. With this policy students can choose mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5.

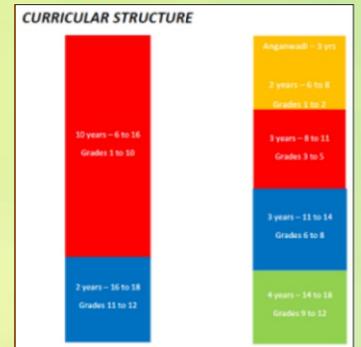
I see these changes are for good and convenience for all students and hence I welcome this policy of government. I also realized how government's functions in area of education can affect our lives, including students'; transforming Curricular and pedagogical structures. As a future citizen, I look forward to contribute in my own mini ways to our country's educational system; I am many of us, youngsters are looking forward to many such developments ahead.

#### 1.4. National Education Policy 2020 - by Rachana: 6A

The National Education Policy of 2020 may seem like a mystical being to us learners. But, the workshop that Shanthi Ma'am – our Founder Principal conducted has helped me demystifying it. When we analyze it, we understand that it helps us in several ways. So, let me demystify the NEP 2020 for you all!

**Introduction:** The National Education Policy of 2020 provides a superior and a fair learning for all students. Education teaches us to respect everything around us and be a good citizen to our country by following the fundamental rights and duties and guides us as citizens how can we change the world for better.

**Focus Areas:** The NEP aims equity. When I say the word equity, I mean that there is equality for both rural and urban population. It also focuses on respect to the diversity of the local. This means the schools will be concentrating on the culture and diversity of the state. The main part of NEP is that we move away from rote learning for exams. There will be different modes of assessing a child - like speaking skills, confidence, academics and presentation. Every student is supposed to have education up to the age of 18. The NEP also aims on sharing resources such as school complexes and teachers within different schools under its arena. It also wants the tutors to give individual attention towards slow learners and special children. There will be equality and connect between the curricula across. There will be 10 days in a year, where pupils do not need to carry their books. The NEP may seem stressful, but it is very helpful. I am sincerely thankful to Mumtaz ma'am for adding me into the amazing session with Shanthi Ma'am. The session was interesting and thank you Shanthi ma'am for your time and efforts.



#### 1.5. 'Education Is the most powerful weapon to change the world' – Aadyabir Singh: 6B

And, like everything needs a reform sooner or later, even the most powerful needs a reform. National education policy 2020, is an extension of the previous National Policy on Education, 1986. Introduced on 29th July, 2020, this extension aims for 'creation of greater opportunities for individual employment'.

Changes this policy is trying to bring:

- A new 5+3+3+4 structure rather than a 10+2 structure.
- Introduction of bagless days- More focuses on vocational learning rather than rote learning.
- Teaching subjects in languages comfortable by the student.
- Offering some subjects at 2 levels- The students can choose whether they want a higher level or a lower level of education pattern of a specific subject.
- Multiple entry and exit options in degree courses. If the students wish to drop or stop studying a specific subject, they can but at a specific period in time.
- The Midday Meal Scheme will be extended to include breakfasts. More focus will be given to students' health, particularly mental health, through the deployment of counsellors and social workers.
- Board exams will be made easier and students will be allowed to take it twice.
- Instead of exams being held every academic year, census assessments will be held at key stage in classes 3, 5 and 8.
- Coding is to be taught from 6 th grade.
- Aims to make students a 'global citizen'.
- Improving the skills of the teachers along with the students.

**My perspective:** I strongly feel that it will be a tremendous help for all students in the nation, that will give an opportunity for education. From Mandatory learning to extension of Mid-day meal to breakfast, this policy aims for development for all segments of society. I feel it will be beneficial for students like us in the following ways. There will be less chances of failure because students can drop of some specific subjects which, they do not like and are not good at. Help us learn and understand concepts better due to the introduction of vocational learning rather than rote learning, we will be taught basic life skills and activities in a younger age, which was elusive before. The thought of 'Bagless days' automatically brings a smile on our face, making learning more thrilling. Offering some subjects at 2 levels and allowing us to drop off subjects at a specific point of time, thus allowing us to focus on the subjects we like rather than all subjects. Aiming to make students global citizens, will help us students adapt to changes very quickly. This will help us a lot especially in our future life.

**Section 2: Fitness goals as a Deenite – Students' voices on the annual theme**

**2.1. Life during lockdown! – by Arnav: 4B**

2020 is a year of lockdown and quarantine,  
the life experienced a heartfelt breakdown!

In this lane people have had irritation and anger,  
but in the same lane lies happiness and joy,  
the people suffered from poverty and hunger previously,  
but this lane is a good boy,  
In this lane, if you take a peek,  
you will get what you seek.

What about the life inside this lane?

Peter talks with his family, and they talk to him,  
Jame's father says - staying in the house is fun; in many ways,  
enjoying with your family has never come in days.

Everyone is busy with their own chores and work,

Margret's mother says- never, in those days we took care of ourselves,  
My family and I never knew what it meant to clean and dust so many shelves.

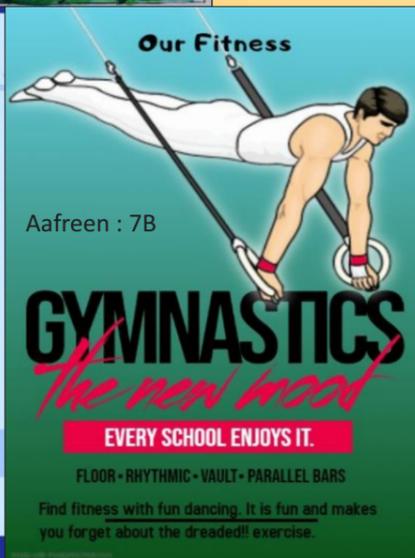
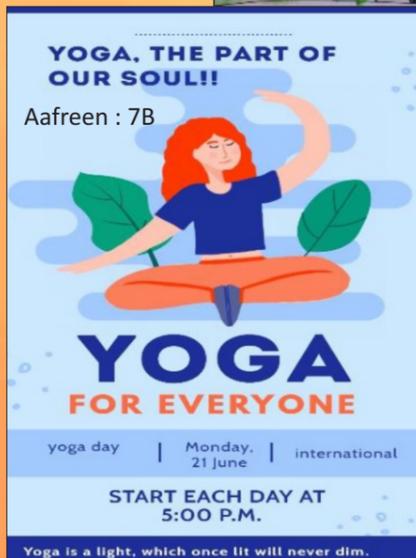
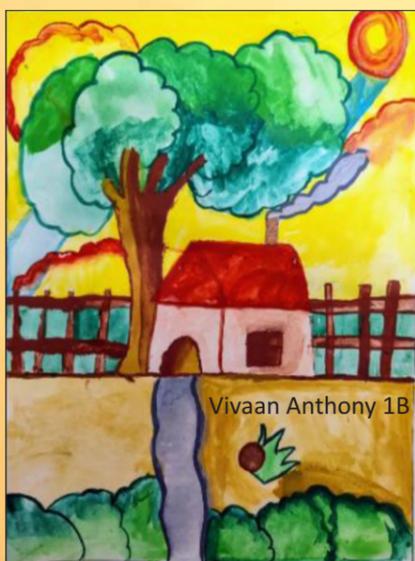
George's brother says- never in months have I spent my leisure time,  
it's lockdown, Oh goody, have fun!

Mary's grandmother says- I just loved to grow, plant and see those apple  
trees so happy and cook,  
those yummy bakes which fill everyone's tummies.  
Every bit that keeps me awake and steady!

**2.2. A picture is worth a thousand words – by Adyaa Pandey**

This artwork by our young Deenite – Vivaan: 4B, depicts a calm, serene environment. Clean surroundings lead to clean minds and a healthy body. The other two creative posters are digitally made by Aafreen: 7B to convey the importance of fitness activities in human life.

Let's take a pledge to keep our surroundings pristine and work towards a fitter body and a sharper mind.



**Section 3: Festivals of India**

India is a very diverse yet united country. In India, there are many religions and thus, many festivals. The Hindus celebrate Diwali, Dussehra and Holi. Christians usually celebrate Christmas and Easter. While the Muslims celebrate Eid, Ramadan, Muharram etc. These festivals depict a lot about our traditions. We continue to follow our ancestral tradition of celebrating these festivals with the same vigour. Each festival has a history behind it. For example, there are festivals like Makarsankranti which mark the beginning of harvest time. We should celebrate all these festivals with happiness and joy.

**Reported by Kate: 7A, Adyaa: 7C, Jyotsana: 7B, Rishit: 7B, Navya: 7B**

**3.1. Festivals of India: by Saumya Jain: 9C**

Happiness is lost in this busy world,  
Sometimes come to share a word,  
Those times across these lands like jewels,  
They are called the festivals.

Across these lands in the east,  
Lies a country with small miseries,  
But, overshadowed by happiness fantasia,  
A country of festivals called India.

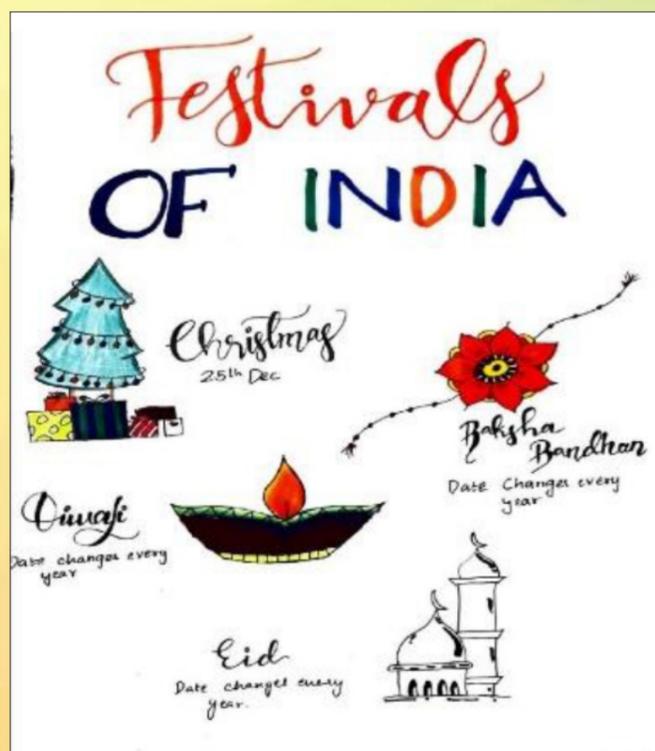
Here there is a festival each day,  
It can be January, February, March or May,  
Festivals different from place to place,  
Religion to religion, season to season and state to state.

Religious are Eid, Diwali and Holi,  
Christmas and many many more they vary,  
Even one festival celebrated in many ways,  
Joining people all together with love message it says.

Navrati in Gujarat,  
Same as Durga Puja in Bengal with a happiness blast,  
Ganesh Chaturthi in Maharashtra,  
And Kharchi Puja in Tripura.

Even harvesting is a festive moment,  
It's all the happiness with time spent,  
Baisakhi in Punjab,

Bihu in Assam and Onam in Kerala,  
Ugadi in Andhra Pradesh and Pongal in Tamil Nadu,  
All with different styles and colours,  
Not free second in this festive buzz .



Artistic work – by Rhea Menon: Grade 9

**3.2. Festivals bring happiness – by Avni Thampi: 7B**

Festivals are celebrated by all. Festivals bring happiness, peace and good health to all. Festivals give us way to express our beliefs, values and happiness. Take a look at the image, Our friend Aashrit:3C, has written few lines on Dussehra in Hindi language. Dussehra is also known as Vijayadashami. On this day Ravan's model is burnt and the good side wins over the evil side.



**3.3. Diversity brings happiness and values to our table – by Adyaa Pandey: 7C**

Being someone who's lived in USA for a big part of her life, I have always asked myself this question - Why do we celebrate Indian festivals with so much excitement and fervor? So, today I would like to go in a deep thought on this question and tell you my understanding of one the festival that we celebrated recently - Dussehra.

We know that Dussehra celebrates the victory of Lord Ram over Ravan. I decided to explore even further and I must say I am enlightened with what I've found. Dussehra in Sanskrit means 'Dasha Hara', which means removal of ten bad qualities within you. They are: 1.Kama Vasana (Lust) 2.Krodha (Anger) 3.Moha (Attachment) 4.Lobha (Greed) 5.Mada (Over Pride) 6.Matsara (Jealousy) 7.Swartha (Selfishness) 8.Anyaaya (Injustice) 9.Amanavta(Cruelty) 10.Ahankara(Ego). So, Vijaydashami, the other name for Dussehra, is the victory over these ten qualities.

Having seen the enchanting Ramayana and Mahabharata episodes on TV and reading about the fascinating life lessons through Gita, personally I think these scriptures have a deep impact on our life. Ramayana teaches us what we should do in life, Mahabharat teaches what we should not do in life and Gita teaches us how we should live our life. Indian festivals one or the other way celebrate these life lessons as shown in our scriptures. If we stay aligned to what they recommend, we can have a fruitful and prosperous life.

**3.4. Festivals of our Motherland, India – write by Jyotsana: 7B and image by Aber:4A**

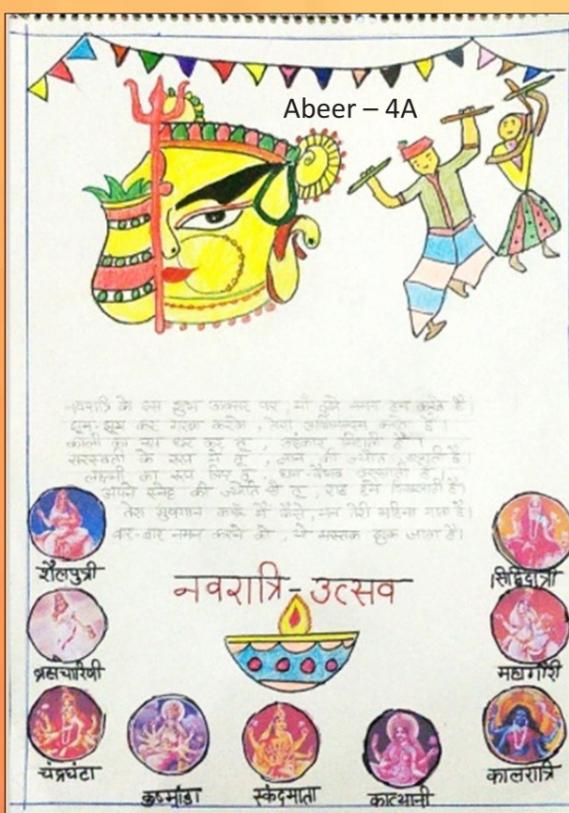
Our country, India is one of the most diverse and variegated land in the whole world; different cultures, practices, traditions and beliefs. There are copious festivals in India, and even different ways of celebrating each festival. The greatness of a culture can be found in its festivals. Diwali, Dussehra, Onam, Makar Sankranti are few exemplars of festivals.

Bethink how it was mentioned that, there are different ways of celebrating each festival? Well, yes. For instance, the ten bright and vibrant days in October are celebrated differently by various people. Dussehra, Navaratri, Durga Puja are the different names for the festive season in October.

The Gujarati custom is to dance each night with traditional clothes and dandiya sticks. People of eastern India, do an elaborate Durga Puja. People of the South display colourful dolls in stair like structures (golu) and invite friends and family over. Either way, each custom provides a wonderful opportunity to socialize and have some mouth-watering dishes.

Pongal, Makar Sankranti, Bihu also elucidate a harvest festival; just celebrated and acknowledged differently by people across the country. Pongal is celebrated by the people of the South. It is celebrated by cooking a dish called Pongal. The people circumambient around the vessel chanting “pongalo pongal.” Makar Sankranti is celebrated in Karnataka. Kite flying and having a scrumptious feast are the main activities planned. Bihu most popular in Assam, is celebrated by dancing and singing. The significance of these festivals is to show the people's gratitude to the Sun God.

At the end of the day, festivals provide jollification to everyone with a dollop of one's culture and folklore.



**3.5. Our National Festivals – Our National Carnivals: write up by Rishit:7B**

In India, every festival is like a national carnival. People with different ethnicities and different moods come together and celebrate oneness in diversity. The eye meets all the vibrant colours and the mind forgets the monotony of our daily lives. Where every religion holds hands and brightens the horizon with smiles and hugs, that is the India we are part of! My friends, Snidha: 3B, Vedaansh: 2C, Smruthi: 3C and Brinda: 3C, have presented their expressions on Festivals they celebrate, through their art work.



**3.6. Festivals of India- written by Nakshatra: 6B.**

The rich and lively festivals of India are a homage to our diverse tradition and culture. Festivals of India are dependent on Lord's birthdays, traditional myths, seasonal changes, relationships, and much more. Right from childhood, infants in India are part of every festival celebration in the house. This helps them understand the rituals of each festival and they develop a liking for the festivities. As they grow older, they get fonder of these festivals and they want to celebrate it with ecstasy. India is one of the largest countries in the world to celebrate numerous festivals. These festivals bring us closer to each other as well as to the country, and fill us with a feeling of patriotism. Festivals are larger than life celebrations of various things. Festivals give us all a chance to celebrate both the small and the big things in life. Our established traditions have gifted the country with various festivals and relish. They bring peace and joy between communities. India is a very cultural and diverse country, and so are the festivals. Festivals fill our lives with enthusiasm and colours. Festivals are significant. They are the occasions of family gatherings, the exchange of sweets and greetings, paying our respect and thanks to everyone, relaxation, joy, praying, fasting, ceremonies, and favors from gods and elders. These festivals very well reflect our country's unity in diversity. They make us forget about our cultural and religious differences. They unite people and they come together for the purpose of celebration and bliss. They create a strong bond of humanity. Some of the famous festivals of India are-

**Diwali:-** Diwali which is celebrated through the varied cultures of the country with enthusiasm, irrespective of different religions and societies. It is also known as the festival of lights. We light candles and decorate our homes with Rangoli. We worship goddess Laxmi and Lord Ganesh on this special day.

**Holi:-** Holi is one of the most significant festivals of India, which is mostly celebrated in the month of March every year. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil, truth over lie and happiness over sorrow. We play with colours on this special day and eat sweets.

**Dussehra:-** Dussehra is the most popular Hindu festival which is celebrated for 10 days. Dussehra signifies the victory of Lord Ram over the demon Ravana in the Indian epic of Ramayana. It is one of the festivals that celebrate the victory of good over evil in Hindu religion.

**Ramadan/Eid–Ul-Fitr.** Eid or Id-ul-Fitr is the biggest festival of the Muslim community. People of the Muslim community in the whole world celebrate this day with great enthusiasm. Ramadan is a holy month for the Muslim community. All Muslims fast every day throughout the month until the moon of Ramadan appears.

**Christmas:-** Christmas is a Christian festival, it is celebrated on 25th December every year. In Christianity it is the festival of joy celebrated by everyone. On the eve of Christmas, all Christians brightly light up their houses and gardens. It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Ganesh Chaturthi.** This festival usually falls in the month of August or September. It is the day on which Lord Ganesh, the youngest son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi was born. Ganesh is considered the God of Wisdom and Knowledge.

Festivals are important and must be celebrated with love, joy and passion. Monish: 6B, has beautifully presented different festivals through his work. Festivals are very important and are one of the very things that make India the country that it is today. They bring us closer to each other, and make us rejoice in our glorious heritage.



### 3.7. Festivals of India – written by Tanisha Bose: 5B

India is the land of festivals. Here, people celebrate different types of festivals depending on their culture. While the Durga Puja is the main festival for the Bengalis, the Christian folks celebrate Christmas with grandeur. Thus, festivals are divided into three types: national, religious and seasonal. National festivals are celebrated all over India in memory of the sacrifices of our great leaders. Everyone celebrates them with great patriotism. Ex: Republic day, Independence Day. The religious festivals are celebrated according to different religion. Ex: Diwali, Christmas, Eid. Seasonal festivals are celebrated depending on a particular season. Harvest festivals are also known as Seasonal festivals. Ex: Bihu. Festivals are very important as they unite people with great joy and happiness. They fill our lives with colours and enthusiasm. Now let's see how a few of them are celebrated :

1. Independence Day: National festival - Independence Day is celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August every year in India commemorating the nation's independence from the United Kingdom in 1947. On this day, the Indian prime minister raises the national flag at Red fort.

2. Raksha Bandhan: Religious festival - Raksha Bandhan, is a popular Hindu, annual ceremony, celebrated in India, Nepal and other parts of the Indian Subcontinent. On this day, sisters of all ages tie a *rakhi*, around the wrists of their brothers.

3. Diwali : Religious festival - Diwali, the festival of lights, usually lasts for five days. It marks the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance." People prepare for the festival by cleaning, renovating, and decorating their homes and workplaces with diyas and rangoli. They also wear their finest clothes and offer *puja* to Lakshmi the goddess of prosperity and wealth, they also light fireworks, and have family feasts, where sweets and gifts are shared.

4. Bihu : Seasonal festival - Bihu is a set of three important Assamese festivals in the Indian state of Assam—Rongali or Bohag Bihu is observed in April, Kongali or Kati Bihu is observed in October, and Bhogali or Magh Bihu is observed in January. The Rongali Bihu is the most important of the three, celebrating spring festival.

In India, we do celebrate many festivals. Festivals help us to get united with others and to be happy and joyful especially in a country like India.

**Kate: 7A, reports:** My friends, Swaraj:5B, Shreshtha: 5E, Khayati: 5E, Arnavi: 5E, Saanvi: 5E, Prisha: 5B, have presented their art work on different Festivals.



### Section 4: Classroom activities

#### 4.1. Kindergarten class – some unique activities conducted for UKG students- by Teacher: Thilagam Sathesh

Who doesn't like activities that give you colourful rewards or a sense of care towards nature? UKG students are no exception to this. As they started this new academic term, the teacher organised various activities for them to engage in. The main objective of the activities was to make them open-minded to several things. She shared that the involvement of all her students was fantastic. She was impressed by the vocabulary words used by them. Green Day was where they actively participated in wearing green clothes, drawing green objects. They celebrated Yellow Day with delicious corn bhel. And what better way to engage with nature than to germinate seeds on your own. As the excitement rose, the children shared the pictures of their plants. It was great interacting with the Teacher: Thilagam Ma'am. The interview is attached:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/c6604dc1-eb5a-484e-a2cd-ca44d470d1fc>

Reported by Sanyukta: 7C

**Green Day:** Children celebrated green day by drawing pictures of Green objects in their drawing books. Also, they had lot of fun in making race car and caterpillar out of healthy food like cucumber, carrot and tomato. It was so good to see them cleaning the vegetables, before they started to make the car and caterpillar models.



**Yellow day-** Children celebrated yellow day by making beautiful yellow ducks out of the clay. They also enjoyed making corn bhel.



**Seed germination -** Teachers explained the kids about the importance of growing plants. Teachers also encouraged them to plant few seeds in their garden. They heard well and then they themselves participated enthusiastically in the activity of planting seeds. They also clicked pictures and shared with us, once they saw tiny leaves emerging out of their seeds.



**Peppa pig Rewards -** To encourage the kids, after they answer well, we played peppa pig dress game. Each kid was given chance to dress up peppa with beautiful costume cut outs. Children had a good time playing this game



**4.2. Maths a whole new world of fun and delight  
– activity conducted by Sravanthi Ma'am for Grade 1**

Math a whole new world of fun and delight. Scholars express their thoughts of Math as complexity. Although it may be fun and fascinating for a few, however, it may be a nightmare for others who have trouble identifying numbers. Math then becomes boring simply because children find it hard to understand. Math means solving problems – but learning Math itself is becomes a problem.

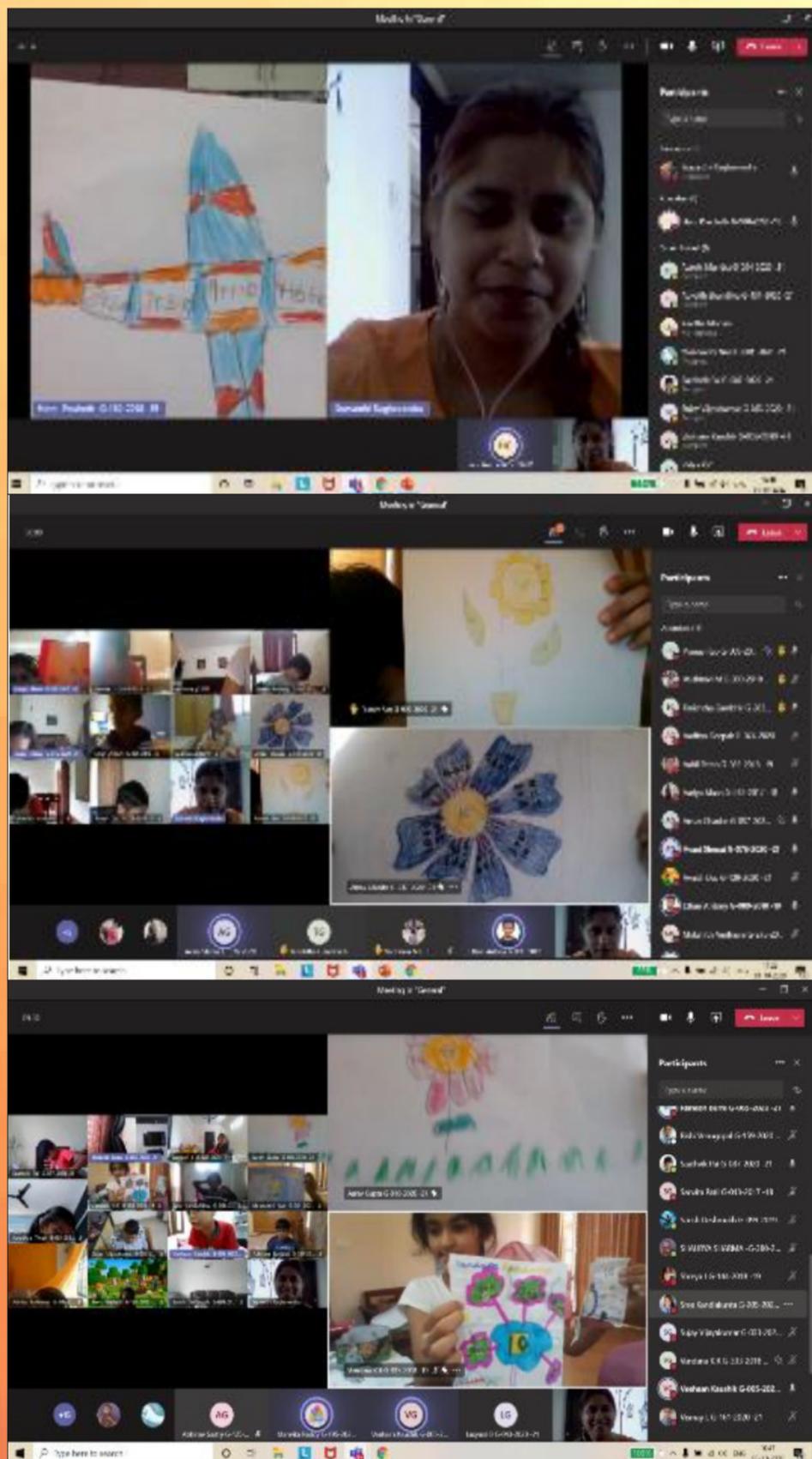
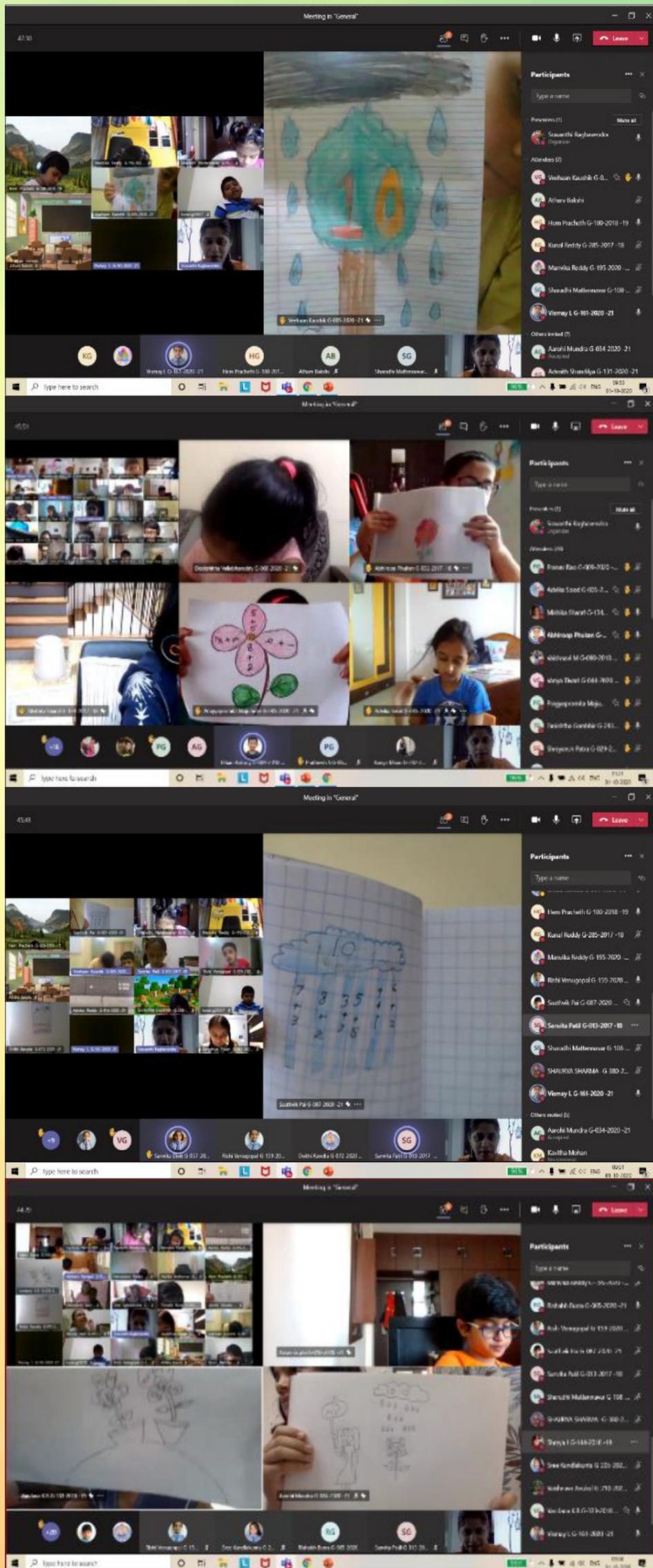
Where is Math used in daily lives? Why is it seen difficult for many students? Complexity? No Fun? How do we improve our Math skills? How do we remember formulae, steps, rules? These questions do arise for many of us and then we remember our teachers for their help and guidance.

I had this opportunity to interview the Grade 1 - Math teacher – Ms. Sravanthi, a teacher with lot of experience and is passionate to make young ones learn Math in a fun way.

Who said numbers bonds are complex or not easy to remember? When the right element of fun and creativity is added anything becomes simple and memorable. That is how the students of Grade 1 enjoyed learning number bonds in their Math class. They used pictures like flower pots, rain and clouds rainbows and airplanes to solve the missing addends and complete the number bonds of a given number. At the end, the output was - a fruitful learning session with loads of smiles. *Math for sure plays a vital role in our daily lives!*

**Reported by Aafreen: 7B**

Interview link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/c9222ea5-772b-4aea-93f2-d78de9909ee1>



**Newsletter Team:  
Mentors: Ms. Mumtaz B. and Ms. Mary Judith**

Newsletter team for October 2020		
7A	7B	7C
Kate	Jyotsana	Debanjali
Innila	Aafreen	Adyaa
Mitali	Nikitha	Mayank
Navya	Nishita	Sanyukta
Amritha	Avni	Sarvesh
Dhurva	Rishit	Tanya
Nirmay	Ishita	Vedanth