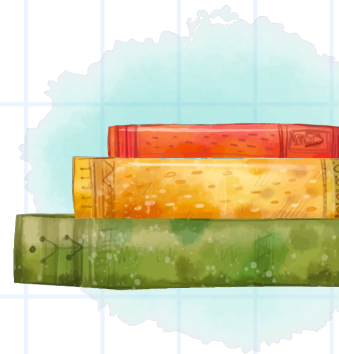
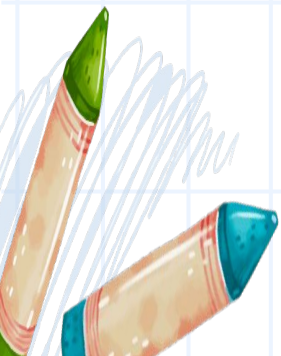


November 2023 | Vol. 4

*The
Communiqué*

Nahar International School



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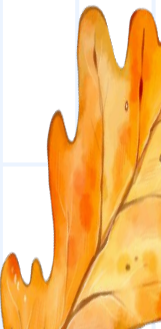
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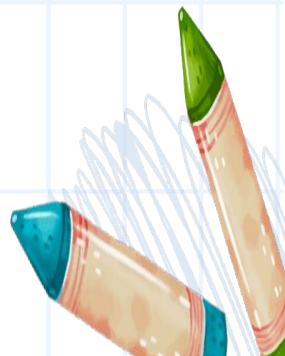
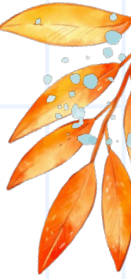
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NIS attribute of the month

Collaboration

To work towards a common goal in harmony, using cooperation and effective communication as tools for success.

Children at the age of 6 years move to primary school, and there is a huge shift in their developmental stage, from sensory-motor to pre-operational stage. From the age of 7 years, they move to the concrete operational stage, where they develop language, expression, and independence, which are keys to collaboration. Children learn to play together, share, take turns, and follow set patterns. Hence, this is the best age to set healthy routines in young children. They enjoy team games that have a common goal (like filling a tub with water) and work collaboratively to achieve their goal. We have pair-and-share activities, group sports, a buddy system, group discussions, group presentations, and group projects. What makes this more fruitful is that each one of them emerges as a winner.

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high”

– Rabindranath Tagore.


NIS does not believe in competitions in the primary stage, as we strongly believe that a non-competitive environment promotes healthy participation and opens up children’s minds to attempt new activities without the fear of failure and, most importantly, of being judged. Children participate as a team; they win and lose as a team, thus promoting a strong emotional bond and camaraderie among their peers.

How do we get children to collaborate at NIS?

Circle Time - It’s the most valuable time of the day when the kids gather around as a class and share their likes, dislikes, facts, and opinions on a topic. As they develop the power of language in the primary stage, they become stronger in their views and reflective of their words and actions. When you bring these together with a common purpose or goal, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Physical Education - We create a safe environment at NIS, where children are heard and valued, where we celebrate the diversity of attributes yet complementary strengths and prepare them to succeed. Children indulge in non-competitive sports and games, thus learning to achieve common goals. Be it swimming, skating, football, or gymnastics, they learn to play the sport collaboratively and understand the power of teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation. At the heart of this culture lies a shift in mindset – from Me to We.

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Group Discussions - As language develops from the age of 5 years to 14 years, we at NIS create an environment where children participate in some very interesting discussions. Initially, it starts with simple activities like sharing their likes and dislikes. However with the use of child-centric pedagogy like flip classrooms, outdoor classrooms, and the use of technology, the teachers can conduct insightful group discussions and debates on a wide variety of topics that help broaden their knowledge and perspectives.

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”
- Benjamin Franklin



Recently, our Grade 4 students engaged in project-based learning based on the topic ‘Reading labels,’ which was linked to our UNSD goals - Good Health and Well-being. Students had to read food labels on packaged food, research the various ingredients in them, and find the hidden ingredients that make processed food unhealthy. They calculated the nutritive value of the food products and did a comparative study of the same food made fresh at home. This entailed group research work, group activities, group artwork, and group presentations in class. The project was carefully designed by teachers and rolled out keeping in mind differentiated learners in class. A few students took the lead in procuring the packaged food, some took the lead in research, some in artwork, the others collaborated to come up with interesting presentations.


The beauty of these collaborative projects is that they provide learning opportunities, both individually and collectively. There is a role that fits each child, and every child works collaboratively to achieve the desired learning outcome. Children appreciate each other’s strengths and contributions, which boosts their self-confidence and reinforces a sense of self-worth in their abilities and efforts.

Therefore, at NIS, we believe that diversity must be welcomed. No idea or opinion is a bad idea (within boundaries, of course). In empowering students to become the best that they can be, a teamwork culture celebrates their unique perspectives and achievements. It is this trust and safe environment that helps our children to live the NIS dream where ‘Every Child Is A Star.’

-Ms. Anjali Balan
Head of Primary



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EVENTS

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United we stand, divided we fall

The students of grade 4E delivered an inspiring assembly on the theme of unity. Each student showcased their unique talents in groups, emphasizing the idea that they were part of something great. Representing each finger, they demonstrated that, despite their diverse skills, when united, they could achieve anything. Through various displays, they illustrated the power of collaboration and underscored the message that coming together allows us to accomplish remarkable feats. The assembly concluded on a harmonious note with a song that beautifully encapsulated the essence of unity.



Chris Gayle Inspiring Future Generations

Cricket legend Chris Gayle's visit to NIS turned an ordinary day into an extraordinary memory, leaving an indelible mark on our school community. His charismatic presence and inspirational talk on perseverance and sportsmanship exceeded all expectations. Students gained valuable insights into his illustrious cricket career. The school grounds buzzed with enthusiasm as everyone seized the chance for photos, creating a visual tapestry of joy. Mr. Gayle's encouragement to dream big and work hard resonated with the audience.

This event not only united our school community but also fostered a sense of camaraderie, celebrating a shared passion for cricket and excellence. Heartfelt appreciation goes to Mr. Gayle for gracing us with his time and charisma, creating an exceptional day at NIS. Here's to more moments of inspiration and camaraderie!



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Breaking the 'Wall of Silence'

Ever wondered, What are the correct pronouns used to address people? What does it mean to say 'boy?' What does it mean to say 'girl?' Does it depend on what they look like or behave or what body parts they have? What if someone has some of that but not all of that? Do we get to say who we are to the world? The questions are unending yet the answer is very simple. It is to break the 'Wall of Silence.'

Ms. Anju Kish, a certified sexuality educator, and her team helped break through the barriers in addressing these questions through sessions on 'Sexuality and Safety Education.'

These sessions aimed to provide accessible, accurate, inclusive, and positive information to pre-teens and adolescents and teach them the skills required to grow up healthy and safe with a responsible attitude.



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Dynamic Leaders in the Making

The air resonated with the solemn oath-taking, wherein each council member pledged to uphold the school's ideals and values. This was followed by impassioned speeches from the Head Boy and Head Girl, radiating hope, determination, and the promise of positive change. Principal Ms. Vandana Arora delivered insightful motivation, emphasizing the transformative power of leadership and the pivotal role the council plays in shaping the school's ethos.

The ceremony concluded with the national anthem, signifying not just an event but a celebration of the ethos and spirit that define Nahar International School.

Amid an atmosphere charged with anticipation and promise, Nahar International School recently hosted its Investiture Ceremony, a symbolic event marking the transition of leadership to a new cadre of visionaries. The ceremony commenced with the presentation of appointment letters and badges to the newly appointed council members, symbolizing the inception of their journey into a year of responsibility and honor.



From Books to Beaches

IBDP-I and AS Level students embarked on an unforgettable and insightful trip to the Andaman Islands. On the first day of the journey from Mumbai to Chidiya Tapu, they were greeted with a breathtaking view of clear waters and lush green islands, even from the aircraft. The environment exuded a tropical paradise essence upon arrival in Andaman.

Day two involved a challenging trek to a lighthouse amid rain, fostering teamwork and overcoming fears. An intertidal walk evoked a realization of the insignificance of existence compared to the vast sea. On day three, a scavenger hunt and a ferry ride to Havelock Island tested skills, emphasizing the importance of language.

Day four featured snorkeling, initially intimidating but ultimately awe-inspiring. The day ended with beach play and reflection. Day five brought a raft-making challenge, with teams facing practical challenges but ultimately succeeding. The trip concluded with a musical night, leaving the group both slightly upset upon leaving but rejuvenated to return to their daily lives.



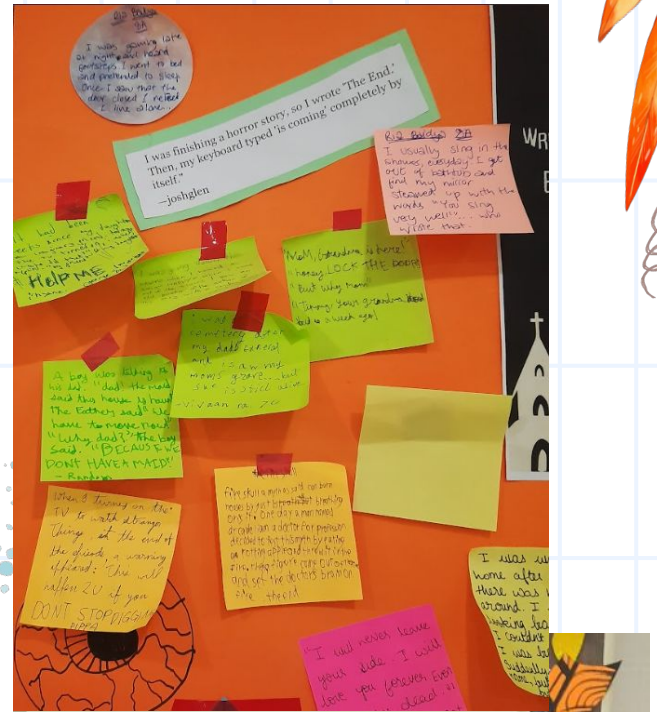
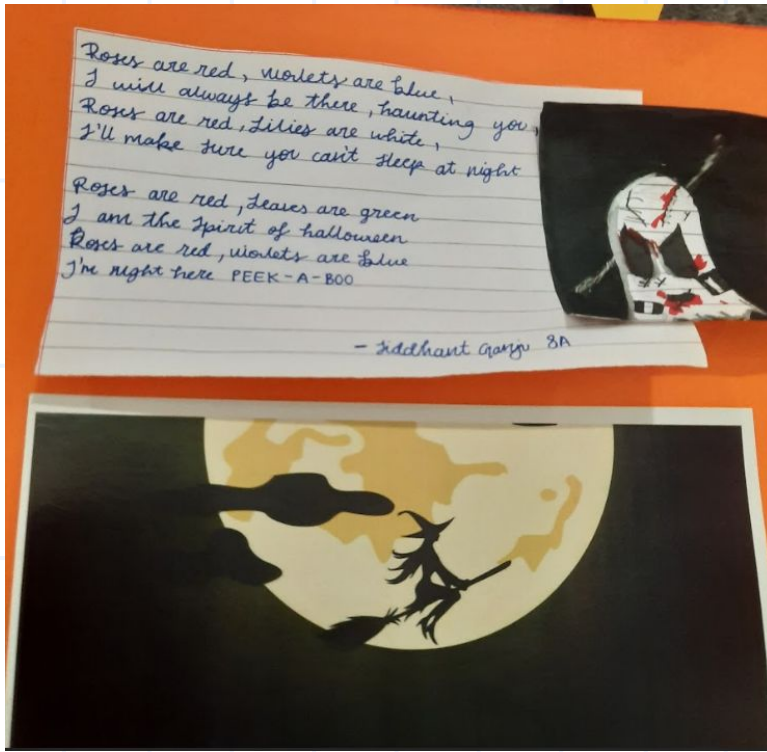
Ever Witnessed a Rainbow Cabbage?

Our young learners embarked on a journey of discovery as they explored the transformation of red cabbage watercolor. They observed that adding lemon juice turned the water into a pink hue. Introducing baking soda caused the liquid to change to a bluish-green color, and the addition of baking powder resulted in a green tint. Finally, when vinegar was incorporated into the cabbage water, the mixture transformed into a beautiful shade of pink. Throughout the experiment, the children giggled and marveled, experiencing a sense of wonder and curiosity. The magic of science and the joy of discovery blended seamlessly, leaving an indelible mark on the minds of our young learners.



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A Spooky Indian Halloween Celebration



Middle school students enthusiastically embraced interactive poster activities, pooling their creativity to conjure monstrous shapes and lines. Simultaneously, they weaved chilling one-line horror stories on post-its, adding an extra layer of eerie excitement to their collaborative efforts. Facilitators, keen on enhancing the experience, delved into the realm of Indian ghost stories, captivating students with tales of spirits and the supernatural during these engaging sessions. The fusion of creativity and folklore made for a memorable and educational journey for all participants, showcasing the vibrant imagination of these middle school learners.



Students Crafting Personalized Clocks

The children of grade IA delved into the concept of time, concluding their exploration by creating personalized clocks in a lively and engaging manner. To reinforce their understanding of time, they actively participated in crafting their own clocks, a process that also honed their fine motor skills.

Each child received a template to cut, fostering precision and dexterity. The subsequent task involved arranging and affixing the numbers in the correct sequence and positions on the clock face. The final step included labeling the clock hands as minute and hour.

The children were captivated as they witnessed their creations come to life, eager to interact with and explore the functionality of their individual clocks. This hands-on activity not only solidified their grasp of the concept of time but also provided a fun and memorable way to review and apply the knowledge gained throughout the learning process.



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Criminal posters in school corridors!!

The students of Grade 6 immersed themselves in the world of imagination by creating wanted criminal posters, a unique and engaging way to develop their descriptive writing skills. This activity enhanced their descriptive skills by stimulating creativity, fostering critical thinking, and promoting collaboration. The outcomes were truly remarkable - students crafted rich descriptions of their imaginary criminals, designed visually appealing posters, and showcased improved writing fluency. The collaborative nature of the activity also led to positive peer interaction, as students engaged in discussions, provided feedback and shared unique perspectives. What made this session particularly delightful was witnessing the children thoroughly enjoy the process of creating their own imaginary characters. The classroom buzzed with excitement, reflecting the boundless possibilities that active learning can unlock.



Today a reader, tomorrow a leader

NIS partnered with the esteemed Spiffing Book Fair to host a dynamic Book Fair, exclusively tailored for primary students. This vibrant event featured a diverse collection of books, ranging from unique publications to cherished series. The carefully curated selection aimed to kindle a love for reading from an early age, exposing children to various genres and topics. Our thoughtful approach sought to open doors to new worlds, encouraging a sense of wonder and exploration in the enchanting realms of literature.

This initiative reflects our commitment to creating engaging experiences that transcend traditional education, shaping the minds and hearts of our students. The Book Fair was not just an event; it was a gateway to a universe of stories, adventures, and limitless possibilities for our budding readers.



Fostering Global Changemakers

The Diplomathon World Symposium, a distinguished two-day conference held at Nahar in collaboration with the Members of the International Association (MISA), proved to be a resounding success. Bringing together students from Grades 3 to 12, the event served as a vibrant platform for active participation and collaboration on global issues, ranging from Technology Disruption to Sustainable Living, Resource Scarcity, Economic Challenges, and Industry Advancements. Our award-winning team provided comprehensive training, empowering students with diverse perspectives and practical skills. The symposium, beyond its educational significance, stands as a testament to our commitment to nurturing future leaders and innovators on a global scale.



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NIS Beyond Borders

The DMUN Foundation, a student-led non-profit organization initiated by 14-year-old Jaewon Choi from South Korea in 2022, has been making significant strides in the field of global education. The foundation is dedicated to educating youngsters about politics and international relations through Model UNs and essay competitions.

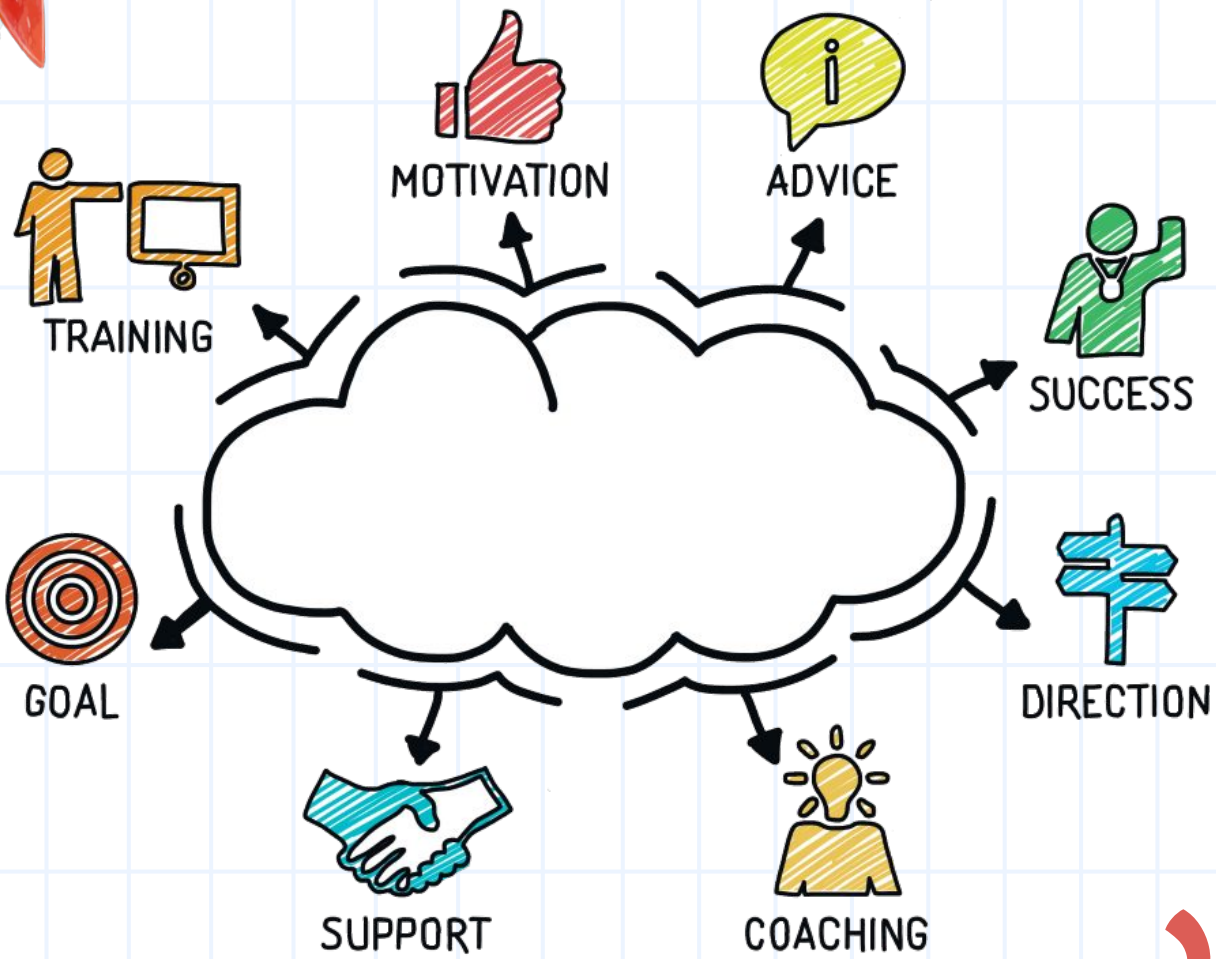
The 4th and 5th of November marked an exhilarating weekend for students as they had the unique opportunity to participate in one of DMUN Foundation's flagship events – the "Sustainability Forum." This event proved to be a valuable platform for students to engage in discussions about climate change, aligning with the ongoing COP28 summit in the UAE.

Participants had the privilege of meeting and interacting with students from various corners of the world, including India, the Middle East, the USA, Canada, Europe, the Philippines, Indonesia, and South Korea. The international representation at the forum created a diverse and enriching environment, allowing our students to broaden their perspectives and forge connections with peers globally.


As a chair at the forum, I can attest that students not only actively participated but also thoroughly enjoyed the event. The Sustainability Forum not only provided a platform for intellectual growth but also served as a catalyst for the formation of friendships across borders. The enthusiasm expressed by our students is a testament to the success of the event, and they eagerly anticipate the prospect of participating in future conferences hosted by DMUN Foundation.

- Avi Contractor






MENTORS' COLUMN



A Guide to Practicing Critical Thinking at Home

Critical thinking has become one of the most important skills of the 21st century. In simple words, it means having the ability to acquire and process information in a way that leads to analysis and evaluation of the evidence, and reasoning to make informed and effective decisions. It goes beyond simply acquiring and memorizing information; instead, it focuses on the ability to acquire and process information independently, logically, and critically. In other words, it is like having the ability to use mind power, understand the information, make sense of it, and make smart decisions.

In today's time when children are bombarded with information through various sources of media, they need to learn how to evaluate what they are hearing and seeing to form their thoughts and beliefs. It allows kids to gain a deeper understanding of the world, including how they see themselves in the world. This equips them to manage their relationships at home and school, and later on at work. Surprisingly, it can be taught to children as soon as they start to speak and understand language.



Critical thinking happens when children can draw on their existing knowledge, experience, and problem-solving skills. It can be fostered not only in school but also at home with consistent efforts. Activities that can be tried at home to promote critical thinking are:

1. **Puzzle play**: Introduce age-appropriate puzzles that require problem-solving and spatial reasoning. Jigsaw puzzles. Sudoku. Crossword puzzles. These are excellent choices.

2. **Storytelling Adventures**: Encourage your child to create their own stories, characters, and plotlines. This not only sparks creativity but also develops narrative thinking and the ability to foresee consequences. For example, once they finish reading the book, ask them what would have happened to the characters in the near future.

3. **Cooking Collaborations:** Involve your child in the kitchen. Cooking activities require measurement, sequencing, and problem-solving, offering a tasty way to develop critical thinking skills. They also begin to grasp that actions have consequences and learn to predict outcomes. A bonus point is that it also prepares them for another life skill, cooking.
4. **Board Games and Strategy Games:** Introduce board games that involve strategy and critical decision-making. Games like chess, checkers, and strategic board games provide a fun platform for developing skills in evaluating and predicting the future with each move.
5. **Nature Exploration:** Take nature walks and engage your child in observing the environment. Ask questions about the plants, animals, and weather, fostering keen observation and analytical skills.

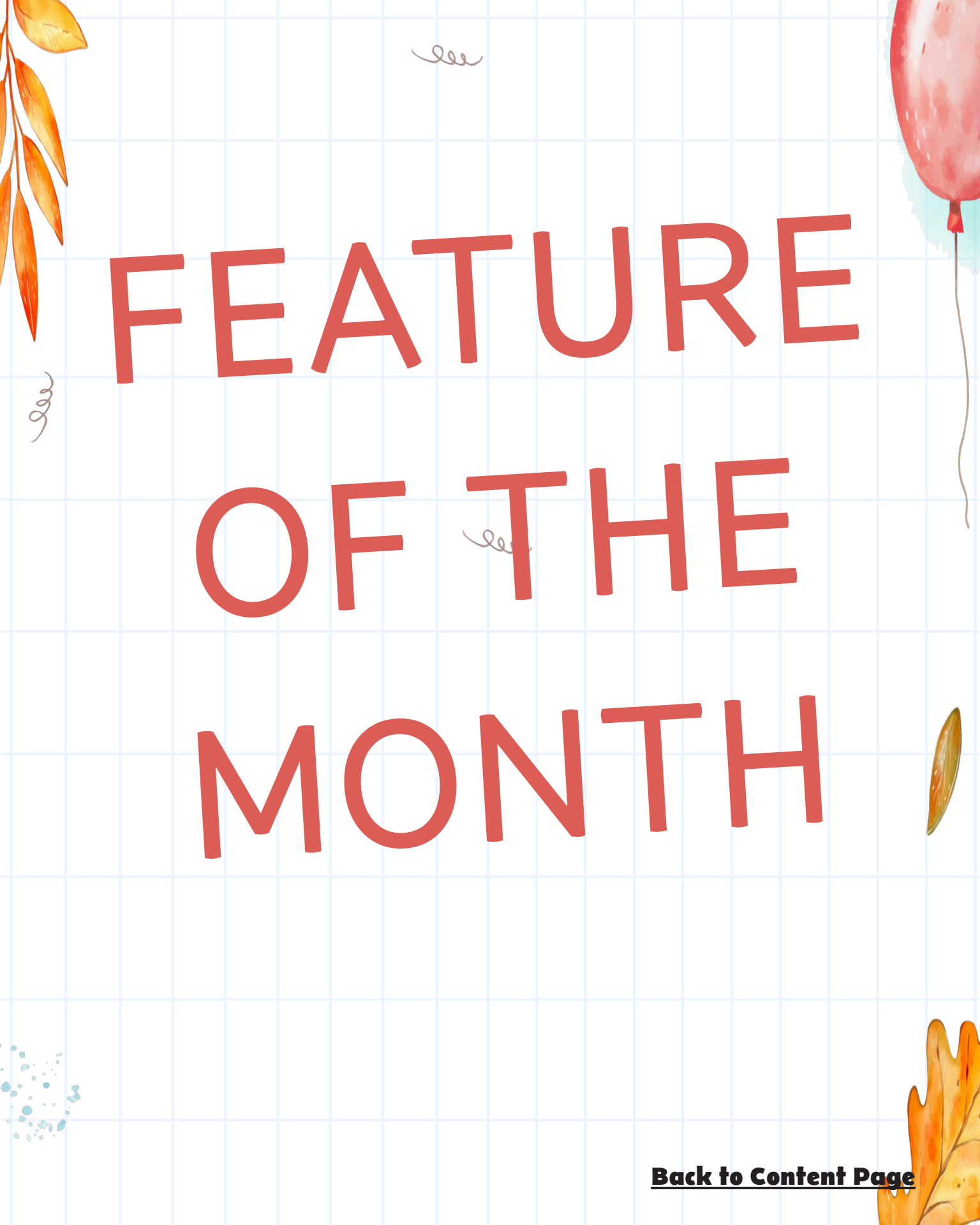
These activities aim to promote thoughts of compare and contrast, explain why things happen the way they happen, evaluate ideas and form opinions, take the perspective of others, predict what will happen in the future, and come up with creative solutions.

Fostering critical thinking in your children equips them with the tools to navigate an ever-evolving world. It nurtures a mindset of curiosity, resilience, and creative problem-solving. By engaging in these activities, you not only support your child's academic journey but also cultivate skills that will serve them well throughout life.

- Sakshi Kaur
Psychology Facilitator



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FEATURE OF THE MONTH

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Festival of lights

Pre-primary

Our school radiated Diwali joy as Pre-Primary students, dressed in cultural attire, showcased their craftsmanship with vibrant decorations and rangolis. The stage came alive with lively Diwali songs and dances, including a heartwarming surprise performance by our dedicated teachers.

Laughter filled the atrium as children explored the Diwali mart curated by parents, while traditional games and mithai added joy and sweetness to the festivities. The day concluded with each child taking home a personalized goodie bag filled with Diwali crafts and beautifully painted diyas, ready to illuminate their homes.



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Primary

To kick off the festivities, students congregated in the school's swimming pool area, for a swimming pool party. Under the guidance of teachers, they crafted intricate torans that adorned the entrances. The festivities continued with a captivating story session, where students were transported to a magical world. In an effort to promote sustainability, the school organized an innovative workshop on recycling.

Collaborating with their teachers, the students also transformed their classrooms into vibrant spaces with radiant Diyas, lanterns, and torans. The festivities took a captivating turn with mesmerizing magic and bubble shows, involving students' participation and sheer delight. The air was filled with unparalleled joy as students shared sweets and savories with their classmates, fostering moments of camaraderie.

Children embraced the festive spirit of Diwali and Children's Day with a series of engaging events for our students. The physical education teachers orchestrated lively games. The students immersed themselves in a craft activity that cultivated creativity and instilled a sense of sustainability by repurposing old CDs. Their unwavering dedication shone brightly as they infused their learning environments with a festive atmosphere.



Secondary

This year, students took the reins in planning activities! They crafted diyas, prepared coconut ladoos, and arranged them in handmade boxes. These meticulously packed boxes were prepared with love and enthusiasm, serving as tokens of heartfelt gratitude for our school support staff—an expression that truly embodies the spirit of giving within our school community.

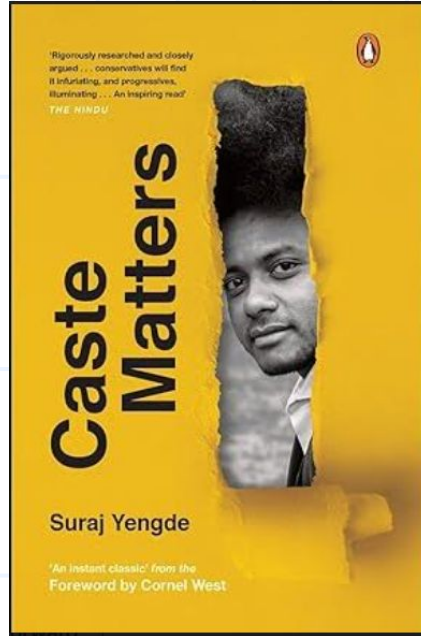
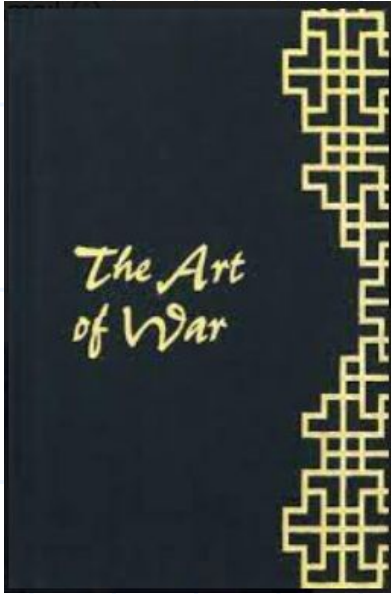
Students also unleashed their creativity by adding vibrant rangoli designs to the corridors. As part of the Children's Day celebrations, each class organized a delightful potluck, with students bringing in an array of delectable dishes to share with their classmates. Following this scrumptious feast, students engaged in various activities, creating moments filled with laughter and camaraderie. From spirited games like musical chairs to intellectually stimulating challenges such as Taboo, every student found joy in these shared experiences.



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Library

NEW
ARRIVAL



OVER 2 MILLION COPIES SOLD

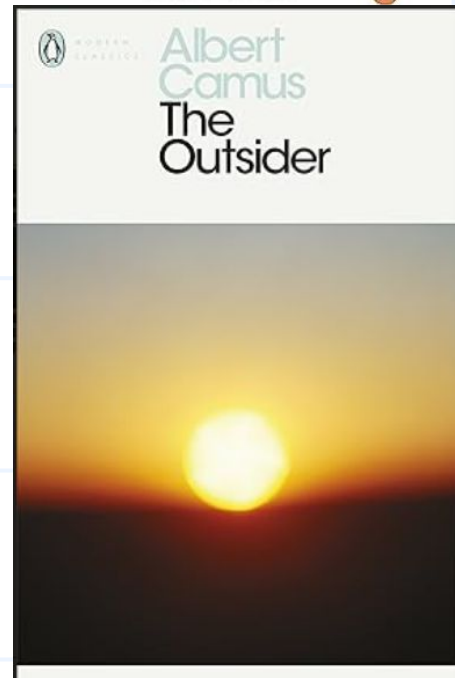
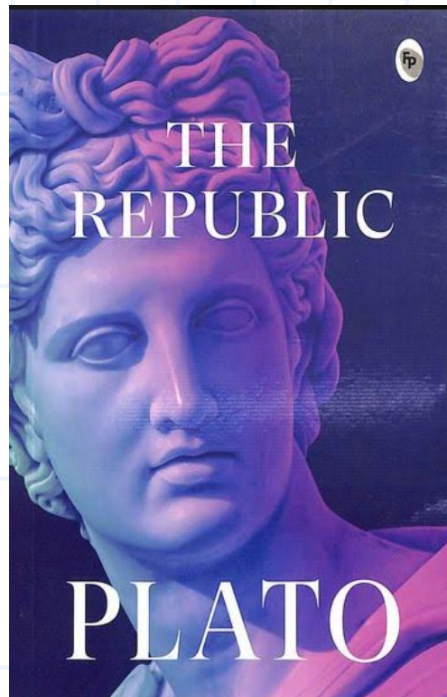
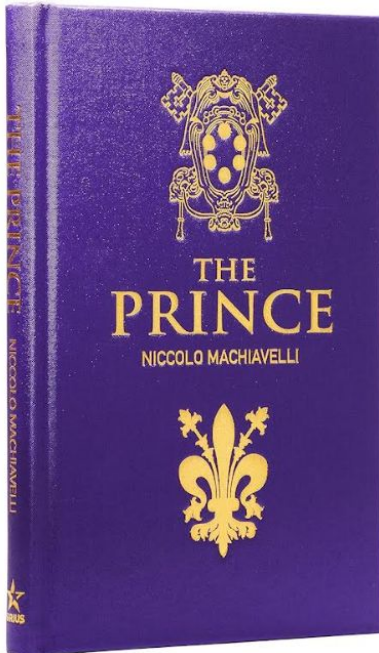
'This book
blew my mind.'
Adam Grant

A former FBI
hostage negotiator's
books for talking anyone
into (or out of) just
about anything

NEVER SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE

NEGOTIATING AS IF YOUR
LIFE DEPENDED ON IT

CHRIS VOSS
WITH TAHL RAZ



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November - December Highlights

- Sports day
- Joy of giving
- National Math Day

Upcoming Events

- Republic Day
- Nahar Premier League



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