The EDWARCE Times

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Mentor Corner

Teacher Training Programme

Our teachers are lifelong learners themselves. They undergo regular trainings on a variety of subjects throughout the year. They are continuously guided, coached and encouraged by a highly experienced academic leadership team. Here's a glimpse into our training programme as the teachers gear up for the beginning of the Academic Year 2017-18.

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The Inside Scoop

Vivero Child Care Centre, Magarpatta



The Vivero International Child Care Centre saw a grand opening on 27th March 2017. The center's aesthetically designed environment replicates all the warmth, comfort and security of home. Set up in a beautifully landscaped 7500 sq.ft premise at an unobtrusive location within Magarpatta City (Pune), the Child Care Centre is a perfect blend of modern architecture with naturally lit spacious classrooms and boasts the highest standards of safety and hygiene. Here's a glimpse into our new centre.

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Event Report

Annual Day and Summer Camp



The culmination of the academic year 2016-17 was marked with enthusiastic children performing at their Annual Concerts and K2 children smiling away to glory at their Graduation ceremony. The happy parents and teachers cheered on. For the summers, our Vivero and Serra schools organised an array of engaging and awe-inspiring activities that revolved around interesting Summer Camp themes.

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HR Movements

Edvance's most recent updates on new recruitments, promotions and developments that help retain and sustain a highly qualified, experienced and diverse work force.

Parent Chronicles

Read what parents say about our Tech Studio and how it helps add a whole new dimension to learning.

Reach Out

To reach out to our parents and give them regular updates about their child, our Parent Handbooks prove to be an effective communication tool as they give details about the child's day at school.

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The Chairman's Note

The momentum at Vivero and Serra schools has gathered speed and as you will see in this edition of our Newsletter, we have had an exciting and packed roster of activities that has facilitated our children, teachers and care-givers in acquiring fresh layers of knowledge and life lessons, amidst a great deal of joy.

As you are aware, our curriculum promotes a healthy mix of learning opportunities, through inquiry and exploration which stimulate curiosity and thinking in children. Our projects for our pre-schoolers in the last few months have included community awareness, environment management, ecology lessons, sustainable living, power of art and craft, collaboration and team building.

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What's the Buzz

Social and Community Awareness in children



Our children are not only part of a sheltered school environment but also active members of society who have greater responsibility to the community in which they live in and to the world. Our children undergo field trips and schools forge partnerships with broader groups undertaking social work in the community at large. Read about some of the initiatives undertaken at our schools in this direction.

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The Chairman's Note

Dear Parents,

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Each activity or project has spun out different activities that combined different skills, leading to more meaningful learning for children so as to make them feel proud of their own talent. At Edvance, our effort is to continuously facilitate children to think of the world around them and find their own solutions and answers to the new questions that they daily face. More than anything else, children feel empowered in an integrated environment, while thinking laterally and all the while learning tolerance, empathy and a real-world understanding of diversity.

Our children are remarkable. In all the planned and spontaneous integrated activities at Vivero and Serra,

they have never ceased to surprise and delight us in the ways they expand our universe with their diverse and unique world views. I have no doubt that these children would make great lifelong learners and responsible global citizens.

Dr. Arun Arora Chairman, Edvance Group

Mentor Corner

Celebrating Reggio Founder's Birthday

Loris Malaguzzi was the founder of Reggio Emilia's educational philosophy. He participated in the conceptualising and building of Reggio Emilia's network of pre-schools, that has impacted pre-school education worldwide. Today over a 100 countries have adopted his teaching philosophy. His birthday which falls on 23rd February, is celebrated at Vivero schools, with a variety of fun activities

Loris Malaguzzi day at Vivero HSR

A spectacular Creative Day was organized, whereby children earnestly expressed themselves through various 'languages' of art, craft, music, cooking and dance. With great enthusiasm, the children then displayed their work in an exhibition that showcased all their "WOW" moments.







Loris Malaguzzi Day at Vivero Powai

As a contribution to the community, teachers of VIDYA - a NGO that works with under privileged children were invited for a knowledge sharing session. The objective was to inspire and motivate the teachers to achieve greater heights. Teachers of Vivero Powai shared Reggio inspired learning activities using materials readily available in the environment

Loris Malaguzzi day at Vivero Kalyani Nagar

To honor Loris Malaguzzi's ideology, Vivero put together a recycle bazaar. Children used bottles, cartons, toilet paper rolls, egg cartons, etc to make innovative objects like robots, pencil holders, foosball table, Ferris wheel and photo frames amongst other wonderful things. The K2 children decided a selling price for their items and sold them which enhanced their entrepreneurial skills. K2 children group 'Praying Mantis' used pots, pans, spoons and every day objects to create music. It was wonderful to watch them create rhythm and follow the beats in front of a large audience.









Teacher Training Program at Vivero

At Vivero it is our constant endeavor to build a team of teachers who are passionate and zealous about what they do. To help us take our passion further, we have teacher induction programs at the start of every academic year and professional development workshops throughout the year.

The induction programme and initial teacher training, helps teachers acquire knowledge and skills to meet our quality standards and provides a foundation for continuous professional development enabling them to become better facilitators. The programmes include instructional mentoring which is provided by carefully selected and experienced mentors in a supportive school environment. The teacher training programme helps integrate a teacher model in a way that teachers understand

their role as a researcher. The teachers are encouraged to find new evidence and make new discoveries in connection with education thereby exploring the best teaching practices to suit the individual requirements of children. Professional development also occurs in informal contexts such as discussions among colleagues, independent reading, research, observations of a colleague's work and learning from peers. Vivero centers also conduct periodic outsourced workshops to benefit the professional development of teachers. One such workshop conducted at Bengaluru was entitled- 'Mindfulness'. This workshop focussed on: How a teacher can take care of her emotional needs; how she can stay focussed in a disruptive and chaotic environment; how she can stay calm and composed through a

busy day. It further guided teachers on how to transition from one activity to another, how to build an emotional connect with her children and how to address attention and behavioural issues with children. Our teachers benefited immensely during this workshop as it gave them a great insight into how they can increase responsiveness to children's needs while handling their stress levels better. It also worked as a great motivational factor for our teachers to work on their self-esteem, self- regulation and empathy. The workshop was interactive, learner centric and came with exciting opportunities for the participants to learn and practice skills. As teachers achieve their full potential, Vivero International Pre-school supports their vision of achieving individual learner's potential.







Teacher Training Program at Serra





At the beginning of yet another Academic Year, we geared up for the Academic Teacher Training Program that focused on "International mindedness" as one of the modules of training. Howard Gardner describes "declining ego-centrism" as the basis of human development. The ability to see things from more than our own perspective enables us to be more open-minded and therefore more internationally-minded. Therein perhaps lies the most helpful way of defining international-mindedness: a journey from 'self' to 'other'. Our teachers help children learn to develop a strong sense not only of themselves and their own identity, which is crucial, but also a deep sense and awareness of other people's cultures, countries and customs. That's how we offer them a great opportunity to be truly 21st century global citizens.

Living in an interconnected world as we now do and facing complex challenges ranging from climate change to terrorism to poverty elimination will require a generation of problem solvers and creative thinkers who see problems not from one perspective but from many. These global challenges and problems will ultimately be faced by children part of our schools today and what better chance do we have to help solve these challenges than by helping our children from the earliest age possible develop that strong sense of the 'other'. This will help facilitators cater to a greater global consciousness.

The teachers were guided on how to increase knowledge of other cultures and promote concern for global environmental issues. It also highlighted attitudes of children related to their sense of connection to, interest in and responsibility for the global community and the behaviors associated with this perspective, thus directing towards the affective change that might result from practices in the classroom and the broader school environment.

The teachers were also given an insight on Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP), an approach designed to promote young children's optimal learning and development. Teachers who are committed to DAP enact that commitment in the decisions they make about materials, interactions, curriculum, and instruction. To make good decisions they must know a lot about the children in their care. The flexibility of our curriculum allows the facilitators to use DAP in such a way that it involves teachers meeting young children where they are (by stage of development), both as individuals and as part of a group; and helping each child meet challenging and achievable learning goals. This module guided our teachers to maintain appropriate expectations thereby providing each child with the right mix of challenge, support, sensitivity, and stimulation. With their knowledge, skill, and training, teachers in collaboration with families can ensure that programs promote and enhance every child's learning.

Support Staff Training

Our Pre-school and Childcare Support Staff also attended a training on grooming and etiquette. This included tips for self-presentation and hygiene. The Support staff was motivated and introduced to basic greetings and communication in English. Apart from this, our skilled support staff demonstrated creative ways of adding aesthetic value to the class and school environment.

The Childcare teachers were taken through a special training on establishing a routine for childcare program, classroom management, curriculum delivery, dealing with behavioral issues in children and soft skills enhancement. Hands on activities such as transition songs, group games, art of story narration and importance of healthy habits for staff and children gave them an insight into basic essentials of a Childcare program.



The Inside Scoop

Vivero Child Care Centre, Magarpatta

The Vivero International Child Care Centre saw a grand opening on 27th March 2017. The center's aesthetically designed environment replicates all the warmth, comfort and security of home. Set up in a beautifully landscaped 7500 sq.ft premise at an unobtrusive location within Magarpatta City (Pune), the Child Care Centre is a perfect blend of modern architecture with naturally lit spacious classrooms and boasts the highest standards of safety and hygiene. Stimulating classrooms, a scientifically developed curriculum and concept based play-zones are specially designed to encourage inquiry based learning. The entire premise has been made child friendly and includes safety gates, grills and fire extinguishers. The centre offers personal care and attention to children between 6 months to 12 years. The area is divided in different zones for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and after school children. A play house, a puppet theatre, a small library, age appropriate toys and loads of activities keep children engaged and stimulated helping them utilize their time productively. The infant and toddler rooms are infant toddler friendly replete with foam padded flooring to avoid any

Well trained child care supervisors ensure that each child's needs are well attended to. Health takes precedence with weekly sanitization of sleeping areas, toys and equipment. The centre also has a qualified and registered nurse. Food is prepared fresh under the supervision of our in-house nutritionist. Thereby ensuring a warm, caring environment for children.







Science Experiments to explore the topic "Energy"

The unit "Energy influences our lives and environment" started on an interactive note. Children were excited to explore "heat energy" by playing outdoors under the sun and were able to relate to the topic well. The concept of various forms of energy namely heat, wind, electrical, magnetic and muscular were grasped effectively by children through various hands-on projects and activities.

Children thoroughly enjoyed participating in activities like fetching water from the wells thereby experiencing muscular energy. They were excited to make kites and a windmill to understand the concept of wind energy.

A visit to an electrical power station steered the minds of the children and they were inquisitive to learn and discover electrical energy. A group of children led by Swar from Vivero, Sarjapur were so inspired that they created a mini table fan out of a plastic bottle. Some children made an air pump to fill air in the balloons and were ecstatic to play with them.







Event Report

Summer Camp at Vivero - Imagineers





School is out and children couldn't be happier! Of course, their major plans for the summer are to sleep-in until late, screen-time, keeping cool with popsicles & the pool, lazing around. But there is still so much time to kill! So to make the most of the summer and also make it fantabulous for the children, Vivero had an array of amazing, awesome and awe-inspiring Summer Activities that ensured children had an exciting & fun summer.

Imagineers was the theme of the camp - This saw the children learning all about building and creating using resources from the environment. Their imagination was given a free rein and they had a blast during the entire three weeks.

The camp was divided into five segments-

- Creative Bootcamp where the children enjoyed a host of creative activities such as sculpting, painting, mudplay and origami
- Inventors Wheel saw the children learning various forms of Art eg - Warli, Claude Monet, Tie/Dye to name a few
- Spatial Awareness was the most loved as the children had a chance to jump, run and play while participating in fun physical activities like - Animal Yoga and Artist Tag
- Concertino exposed the children to a host of Music that they enjoyed creating along with their self made instruments such as - Guitar, Tambourines, Wind chimes and Drums
- Gastronomical Encounters, everyday saw them making a snack that was both tasty and healthy and encouraged our master chefs to try their hands at making and tasting some yummy titbits like - Ladoo, Fruit faces, Juices and Sandwiches

The children and teachers equally enjoyed the camp and summer got more enjoyable for all

Summer Camp at Serra - One World Many Tales

At the end of the academic session, the Serra centers organized Summer Camp titled 'One World Many Tales'. A lot of activities were planned and successfully carried out.



This summer camp entailed a journey of exploration, imagination, reinvention and construction. The children pioneered ideas and brought life to their imagination as they immersed into possibilities of art, science, cooking, fitness and much more that involved technical thinking and enhanced their cognitive and creative development.

In keeping with our core philosophy of encouraging 100 languages of children, 'One world many tales' introduced them to the magical world of storytelling in all its myriad forms. Not only did they get exposed to classics but they also created their own



stories! The classrooms were all set with cozy story telling corners, the puppet theatre, and loads of cushions to laze on while listening to the stories. Our children enjoyed listening to stories by famous authors like Martin Waddell, Dr. Seuss, Drew Daywalt and Leo Lionni. The children also expressed themselves while exploring the stories through mini art workshops. They were exposed to stories using different mediums like puppet theatre, DIY craft, read aloud, role play, audio visual and many more. They also explored different stories in open spaces and expressed through dance, drama



music and movement. Children were introduced to a culinary world too, where they dished out engine sandwiches, chocolate & chikoo milkshake, biscuit canapés, lemonade and pinwheel sandwiches. They enjoyed the experience of fire-less cooking.

All the children had fun while practicing life skills like teamwork, coordination, self-confidence and learning and following rules. The children were thrilled about their creations and had a great time at the camp.

Annual Concert



Annual concert is one such event which each one of us (including children, parents and teachers) look forward to. It gives children an opportunity to showcase their learning before a live audience. Planning for the concert begins much in advance and our teams ensure that it is an enjoyable as well as a memorable moment for the children. Participation and experiential learning thus form the key aids of multi-tasking and this is what the children exhibited at the show. Our teams weaved the performances around dynamic themes like 'Spectrum of colours', 'Elementos De Tierra', 'Magic Bus', '100 Languages of Children', 'Twirl around the World', 'Toyland', 'Spectrum of Colours' and 'Lights, Camera, Action'

Staying true to our philosophy of 'Partnering with Parents', our parents performed for the children at some of the centres. Our graduating batch of K2 children proudly marched to receive their well-deserved graduation scrolls. We wish them good luck and wish that wherever they go, they go with all their heart.

A glimpse into the frolic at our Annual concerts:



















Parent Chronicles

Parents speak about our Tech Studio



When we think about young children, we think about endless energy and learning. However, all children have different learning styles. Here, at Vivero, the Tech studio provided what the children needed. A new style of learning that enhanced their creativity, sharing of learning and also gave them endless joy. It has made learning easy and effective as it is integrated into the curriculum. I found my daughter more involved, interested and focused. It has broadened her horizon and improved her presentation skills. Creating her stories from imagination using different apps improved her storytelling skills. The Tech studio provides a great platform for the children of 21st century to showcase their learning.

Aditi Kaul Tiku, Sheen's Mother Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Pune



Serra International's Tech studio has been an innovative addition to the curriculum. Ethan has gained immense learning from the hands on experience given by his teacher Ms Sabrina to use the iPad and the multimedia tools. He was able to create his own story and present it in front of the small audience at the school. This public speaking and use of technology is a necessity today to develop a child's self confidence and also present day computer skills"

Harry Alexander, Ethan's Father Serra International Pre-school & Child Care, Pune



We all know the negative effects of technology and what the smart phones/ tablets have on our children. But it is also important to know the positive effects keeping in mind the usage and exposure limit we can have on our children. At Vivero, I am really happy that the children have been given an exposure to use the tablets in a way to benefit them for education. I feel it is a very positive way towards exposing how children can use the limited time they get on tablets to help them learn something in a more practical and interactive way and I'm excited to find a new way to help my daughter understand things better in a realistic way.

Smitha Kamath, Anvita's Mother Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Bengaluru



The Tech Studio at Vivero International Preschool has helped Hem express himself more creatively. Apps like Chatterkid and Storymaker have brought out an artist in him. Now every story he makes starts with drawing a picture to explain the concept behind his story. Explaining the story with characteristics of the people involved and the reason for them being part of the story is something that Wows everyone at home. I can't thank Vivero enough to help in his overall development.

Chandani Kukreja, Hem's Mother Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Bengaluru



The Apple iPads promote interactive sessions in the classroom and help students better understand concepts due to the demonstrative nature of the apps. This makes learning fun and interesting. Today's children are exposed to whole new media as compared to their parent's generation and as a parent, I try to be as open to the use of technology in learning.

Avantika Pinge, Arjun's Mother Serra International Pre-school & Child Care, Pune

What's the Buzz

Vivero powers Social Awareness Initiatives

Our children are not only a part of a sheltered school environment but also active members of the society who have greater responsibility to the community in which they live in and to the world. Our children undergo field trips and schools forge partnerships with broader groups undertaking social work in the community at large. Some of the initiatives undertaken at our schools in this direction:

Entrepreneurship by spreading light

As part of the Entrepreneurship project, the children of K1 class at Vivero Mumbai, decorated 'diyas' using vibrant colours and recyclable materials. The teacher facilitated the children in inviting parents and selling these diyas at a minimal price. As a culmination to the project, the teacher asked the children as to what would they like to do with the money they had collected? As a suggestion, the teacher sensitized the children towards how the elders in an old age home miss their loved ones during festivals. To this, the children collectively decided to purchase some fruits, cookies and small gifts to share it with the elders and celebrate diwali





with them. The teachers identified an old age home in the locality and along with the children visited the home. The children not only shared the goodies but also sang songs and danced along with the elders. At the end of the visit there were joyous and content smiles on the children as well as the elders who showered love and blessings to the visitors!

Road safety



Children of Pre-Nursery at Vivero Mumbai, were exploring the different transportation systems in the classroom. As a part of this exploration, the teacher sought to explore the road safety norms with the children. She conducted a walk with the children in the locality to observe the zebra crossings, traffic signal, no parking signs and a fire safety hose pipe and their uses and significance. Before the children stepped out of school, the teacher and the children agreed upon a few safety rules - walk in a line, listen to the teacher, no running on the road, to be followed while they are outside the school. The children also spent time observing different vehicles and how they move on roads, making them aware of safety precautions, and traffic signs and symbols.

Cleanliness drive



In line with the third line of inquiry "My role in the community' children of Nursery at Vivero, Bengaluru tidied up their environment by picking up pieces of papers and dry leaves in the school compound. This helped the children understand that as tomorrow's global citizens, it is their responsibility to keep their environment clean and tidy. They were explained the need to keep the surroundings clean, with the increasing number of health and environmental issues. Our children took the initiative beyond classrooms to make sure that they do their bit and contribute towards keeping their school and homes clean as well.

Global Warming campaigning



The K1 children of Vivero, Bengaluru campaigned on 'Global Warming' which provided them a platform to take initiative and express their ideas. The goal of this project was to create an awareness of our sensitive eco system and the need to take care of it. The children started off by making placards for saving trees, saving animals, saving water and controlling pollution. They further went campaigning inside their school to spread awareness and spoke about their ideas and gave their views. It was an engaging activity that made them proactive and empathetic towards the environment, a step towards being a responsible global citizen. It also provided a great opportunity for teamwork as they worked together as a team to brainstorm ideas.

Creating Sustainable Environments

At Serra and Vivero, we actively promote environment friendly practices. It is our constant endeavour that our children embrace a responsible and symbiotic relationship with our planet. Our schools include a dynamic recycling corner where children develop ingenious articles with what would have been otherwise worthless objects. Through hands on learning experiences, children are encouraged to contribute towards sustainability and the environment at large.

As a part of this initiative, our children undertook a variety of projects:

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Making a compost pit



To inculcate a sense of respect for the environment, the children of Vivero, Whitefield (Bengaluru) and Vivero, Powai (Mumbai), explored the concept of using food waste to recycle and create compost. The teachers facilitated the children with videos and pictures of how a 'Compost bin' is made. As a part of



the project, children were engaged in segregating wet waste and dry waste on a daily basis. Experiential learning was at its best as they learnt how 'microorganisms' work, breaking down the organic matter into compost. Later, as the compost cooled down they witnessed larger organisms such as



millipedes, sowbugs, earthworms and others contribute in transforming waste into 'compost'. To make use of what they had created, the children sowed seeds in the garden and used the compost to fertilize the patch.

Recycle Bazaar



Children of Serra, Magarpatta and Aundh (Pune) organized a Recycle bazaar. As a part of the project, children selected material of their choice from the 'Inventor's recycle corner'. The teacher encouraged the children to brain storm on useful things that could be created from the waste materials. She



recorded a wide variety of responses. From the list created, the children shortlisted and shaped up dynamic toys and utility products like planters from recycled plastic bottles, flower vases from CDs, spinning tops, bottle cap floaters, paper roll cars, cardboard roll speakers and so on. The children



organized a 'Bazaar' to showcase their creations. Parents were invited to witness the wonderful creations by their children. They were delighted to see the vibrant creations of the children.

HR Movements

Bengaluru

- Ms. Sharayu Thampi is promoted and made Head Academics and Training for Vivero International Pre-schools pan India
- Ms. Zainab Pradhan has been designated as the Academic Coordinator for Vivero schools in Bengaluru and will be working with Ms. Sharayu Thampi
- Ms. Rachna Jha has taken over the responsibility as the School Head of Vivero International Pre-school, HSR Layout from
 Ms. Sharayu Thampi in addition to her current responsibility as the School Head of Vivero International Pre-school, Sarjapur
- Ms. Pavithra Balachandran is promoted as the Deputy School Head of Vivero International Pre-school, HSR Layout
- Ms. Bhanumathi P is promoted as Vice Principal Enrolments at Vivero International Pre-school, Indiranagar
- · Ms. Taranpreet Brar has joined as the Parent Relationship Executive of Vivero International Pre-school, Mahadevapura
- Ms. Roopa Radhakrishna is now the Parent Relationship Executive of Vivero International Pre-school, HSR Layout
- Ms. Chandani Ramnane is promoted to the role of Corporate Relationship Manager

Pune

- Ms. Bhakti Bhatia and Ms. Shivani Mehrotra have been promoted as the School Heads of Serra International Pre-school, Aundh and Serra International Pre-school, Kharadi respectively
- Ms. Radhika Srinivasan is promoted as Vice Principal of Serra International Pre-school, Wakad
- Ms. Namrata Menon has taken over the role of Parent Relationship Manager of Vivero International Pre-school, Kalyani Nagar from Ms. Brinda Fidvi
- Ms. Dhara Sanghavi has joined back as the Parent Relationship Manager at Serra International Pre-school, Aundh. Ms. Ritika Kataria is currently on Maternity Leave
- Ms. Sanchi Jain has taken over the role of Parent Relationship Executive of Serra International Pre-school, Magarpatta from Ms. Sejal Oswal who is shifting to Serra Wakad

Mumbai

- Ms. Jasleen Arora is promoted as Vice Principal (Academics) at Vivero International Pre-school, Powai
- Ms. Anuja Gaikwad is promoted to be the new Parent Relationship Executive of Vivero International Pre-school, Powai

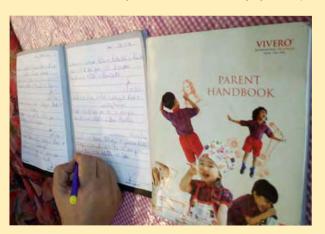
North India

• Ms. Tripta Tarunesh joined us as the School Support Manager in North India. She takes over from Ms. Randeep Sethi who has relocated to Andhra Pradesh

Reach Out

Parent Hand Book

At Vivero and Serra, parents are considered partners and we believe communication is the key to any relationship. We encourage parents to communicate regularly with the teachers. We also support active participation of our parents in their child's daily activities at school. To facilitate this two way communication, the Parent Handbook is a step in this direction. Each child (Pre-school and Child Care) is given a handbook, that must be carried to school everyday. We encourage parents to check the handbook on a regular basis. Parents can also send notes to the teacher through this handbook, encouraging two-way communication and interaction.









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