

# The EDVANCE Times

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## Mentor Corner

*Fostering Internationalism*

Around the world, the idea of an egalitarian education is gaining ground and it is our duty towards the next generations to plant the belief that all cultures, languages, festivals, food and social mores are ultimately human in nature. This universal outlook creates a liberal and democratic child - a global citizen of tomorrow.

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## The Chairman's Note

Christmas is a season not only for rejoicing but also a time for reflection, a time to look back at the year gone by and prepare for the year ahead. Let us welcome 2018 with new beginnings, fresh starts and new ways!

We firmly believe that we must always strive to do better tomorrow than we did today. Our team resolved to celebrate the New Year by bringing about a monumental change in several of our Serra schools in Pune. They worked tirelessly, thoughtfully and diligently over a long stretch and planned meticulously to transform Serra schools located in Aundh, Wakad, Magarpatta and Kharadi to Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care Centres.

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## The Inside Scoop

*Vivero launches its seventh centre in Bengaluru*



We are delighted to announce the launch of Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care at Bellandur - RMZ, Ecoworld. Our world class, exclusive and unique educational service will be available to the families of RMZ employees with effect from January, 2018. The campus is located right in the heart of the tech park, parallel to 'The Bay' - RMZ's food court.

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## Event Report

*Halloween, Literacy Week and more*



Vivero International Pre-schools in the true sense of being international organize festivals that are celebrated in India and globally. Halloween, Literacy Week, Indian Nights and Rally for Rivers are events which provide children an opportunity to experience and participate in diverse socio-cultural settings thus imbuing valuable socio-cultural education in an informal setup.

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## What's the Buzz

*Our New Initiatives*



Our curriculum is constantly evolving to keep pace with the needs of a 21st century learner. New initiatives are periodically introduced to inspire and challenge our children. With these new additions, we strive to foster collaboration, critical and creative thinking, communication, reflection and much more.

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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.

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## Parent Chronicles

Read what parents say about our Child Care programme and how it helps working parents ensure the holistic development of their child

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## Keep in Touch

It is a well established fact that a warm 'home-school' connect plays an important role in providing parents valuable information about how their child is progressing at school and which stage the child is in the learning journey. This is crucial to every child's success.

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## The Chairman's Note

Dear Parents,

Christmas is a season not only for rejoicing but also a time for reflection, a time to look back at the year gone by and prepare for the year ahead. Let us welcome 2018 with new beginnings, fresh starts and new ways!

We firmly believe that we must always strive to do better tomorrow than we did today. Our team resolved to celebrate the New Year by bringing about a monumental change in several of our Serra schools in Pune. They worked tirelessly, thoughtfully and diligently over a long stretch and planned meticulously to transform Serra schools located in Aundh, Wakad, Magarpatta and Kharadi to Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care Centres.

Teachers were re-trained, infrastructure bolstered where necessary, curriculum updated, new learning engagements added and processes made more robust.

At the same time we are moving swiftly to make our young learners future ready. Drawing inspiration from the future and sustenance from the present, we continue to work in creating an educational blue print that enhances the capabilities of our 21st century children in all our schools.

I thank you for your unstinted support and wish you an exciting and joyous New Year full of new beginnings.

Dr. Arun Arora  
Chairman, Edvance Group

## Mentor Corner

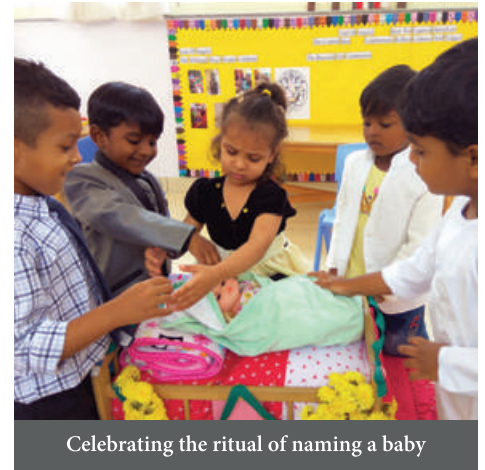
### *Fostering Internationalism*



Japanese Fan dance



Creating 'pookalam' for Onam



Celebrating the ritual of naming a baby

Around the world, the idea of an egalitarian education is gaining ground and it is our duty towards the next generations to plant the belief that all cultures, languages, festivals, food and social mores are ultimately human in nature. This universal outlook creates a liberal and democratic child - a global citizen of tomorrow.

At Vivero, we strongly believe that children will create a more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect for each other in spite of their differences. Our micro-worlds no longer exist in isolation, they are integrated with the world around us. Our children thus, must respect and honour various aspects of their global counterparts. At Vivero, we have children from different regions of

India and the rest of the world. They bring with them rich culture and traditions. All our children display healthy curiosity and sense of exploration of new physical appearances, food choices and languages. The Vivero approach encourages them to embrace and learn through interactions with all peers.

Our teachers guide children to respect and appreciate each one's traditions through various events, celebrations and activities conducted across the year. They consider multi-lingualism, global engagement and intercultural understanding in all teaching learning practices. This widens the scope and enhances the children's exploration of the environment and develops their sense of international-mindedness.

At school, we introduce art by Michelangelo, Mondrian, and the Pointillism style. This familiarizes the children with art forms across the world. When we dance to a tune, the children can keep step with the Japanese fan dance or Dandiya with equal vigor and enthusiasm. The children have even dramatized the Spanish matador and cooked salsa, created small dragons in art and even explored dragon dance from China. When our children learn an international language they are equipping themselves for a global experience.

It makes us immensely proud and satisfied to inculcate a global outlook amongst our young learners. Building global citizens is our purpose & hope for a better world.





Immersing the 'eco friendly' Ganesha



Introducing each other in different languages



Sharing the Joy of Diwali



Blowing the 'Shofar' for Rosh Hashanah



Painting ceilings, like Michelangelo



Celebrating St. Lucia's Day Festival

## Refresher Training Programme

Our teachers are committed to continuous improvement of their own skills, so that they can reflect on their teaching methods.

In order to support this passion of our capable teachers, a Refresher Training programme was designed and conducted to acquaint them with international best practices. These trainings not only increase the effectiveness of teachers, but also adds to their skill sets, self-confidence and determination.

The recent refresher training conducted at Pune and Mumbai witnessed considerable excitement and eagerness amongst teachers. Some sessions conducted were:

- The 21st Century Educator
- Promoting Internationalism
- Loose Parts Play
- Conducting Effective Circle Time

The training encompassed interactive sessions, exciting activities, hands-on learning and teachers' personal reflections.

At Pune, skilled trainers were also invited to do a session with the teachers on ways to use play dough and clay with children, enhancing storytelling skills, as well as ways and techniques to include yoga and music as a part of the learning medium for our young learners.



## The Inside Scoop

### *Vivero launches its seventh centre in Bengaluru*



We are delighted to announce the launch of Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care at Bellandur - RMZ, Ecoworld. Our world class, exclusive and unique educational service will be available to the families of RMZ employees with effect from January, 2018. The campus is located right in the heart of the tech park, parallel to 'The Bay' - RMZ's food court.

We offer top-tier educational programmes, avant-garde facilities, passionate educators, professional management, and a rich learning environment. Our enriching Child Care programmes are thoughtfully designed to enable mothers to rejoin the work force after maternity leave by providing the child not only a reassuring 'home away from home' but also an encouraging atmosphere that facilitates her/ his holistic development.

Purposeful planning, careful thought and genuine intention has gone behind the design and layout of this massive 8500 sq. ft. campus merging indoors with outdoors as in a typical Reggio Emilia school.

The fascinating environment nourishes a child's curiosity and nurtures her/ his creative thinking. The entire facility

is spread over the ground floor, making transition time a comfortable, convenient and enjoyable process.

The children will love the well-lit classrooms, freshly prepared nutritious food in the in-house kitchen, tasteful ateliers, creative play spaces, tech studio, music studio and much more.

### *#SerraisTransforming*

In order to adequately prepare our children for life in a 21st century global society, education must weave digital and research based strategies together into a comprehensive approach. It is essential to build within our children the skills necessary to adapt to the rapidly changing global environment. We must encourage collaboration and the development of critical thinking skills; inspire creativity and innovation whilst empowering our children to apply what they know to novel situations.

To further equip our children and teachers to adapt to the dynamically changing teaching and learning environments, we will be transforming our company owned Serra International Preschools in Aundh, Wakad, Kharadi and Magarpatta to Vivero International Pre-school & Childcare.

This transformation will further empower our faculty to adapt to the digital innovation and integrate innovative learning methods to optimize student learning. Through this endeavor, teachers and the evolved curriculum together will transform our system to one that is reflective of the needs of today's children and the world.



Exploring math concepts with open ended materials



Multi sensorial corner to enhance fine motor skills



Using natural materials to explore insects



## Event Report

### *Spook-tacular Halloween!*

Vivero International Pre-schools in the true sense of being international organize, festivals that are celebrated in India and globally. Halloween is one such event which provides children an opportunity to experience and participate in a diverse cultural setting thus imbibing valuable socio-cultural education in an informal setup. This event which was celebrated across many of our schools, witnessed children and adults dressed in their most 'Spooktacular' costumes, celebrating with much enthusiasm. The schools were decorated like bewitching haunted houses with monstrous graveyards and cob-webs all around. Thoroughly getting into the Halloween spirit, the children dressed up in spooky costumes went trick or treating with their vibrantly coloured baskets- all made from recycled material! Arrangements were made to create creepy tattoos, freakish games and some devilish art- that kept our children and their parents equally engrossed.

Without a doubt, the Halloween celebrations at each of our schools would be talked about for many more nights!

A glimpse into the event at:

#### Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care, Mumbai



#### Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care, Pune





## Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care, Bengaluru



## Indian Nights Carnival

The Indian Nights carnival organized at Magarpatta City, Pune, swept away children and parents in a rush of exciting activities. Well planned and organized shows truly showcased the vibrancy of Indian culture and traditions.

The guests were pleasantly welcomed to the beats of the live 'dhol' that set the vibrant tone of the Carnival. Thereafter, the fervour intensified with the puppet show, flash mob by teachers and the peppy beats played by the DJ.

Stalls offering various handicrafts, jewellery, clothing, decorative murals, handmade soaps and macramé wall hangings provided a splendid shopping experience. Some games like Feeding the Ravan, Coin the Coin, Snakes and Ladders and Toss the Ring kept the parents and children in a joyful tussle of winning and losing, each equally fun-filled. The DIY stalls set up by the teachers provided the children and parents a firsthand experience of Indian art and craft as they created decorative

lamps, bottle hangings, photo frames and 'torans' which they proudly took home. The *Khau Galli* served gastronomical delights like chaats, dosas, biryani and paranthas that kept both the children and the parents coming back for second and third helpings.

This was a Carnival to remember! The children, parents and teachers created a bagful of delightful experiences and memories.



Parents and children engaged at the DIY stalls



Children creating photo frames to capture their memories



A parent enjoying application of herbal Henna on her palm





Satiating to scrumptious snacks served at Khauli Galli



Children exploring the powdered colours to create Rangoli



A father helping his child to create a lantern

## Literacy Week

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go! - Dr. Seuss

Someone has rightly said - literacy is a human right and the foundation of all learning. At Vivero, we recognize this as imperative and celebrate 'Literacy week' to mark the 'World Literacy Day'. To help children foster an even greater appreciation of reading, an entire week is dedicated to literacy related activities inside and outside the classroom.

Throughout the week, children read stories, share ideas, learn about famous authors and illustrators and take a deeper look at characters in a story. They also learn to make connections between literacy and other learning domains such as numeracy and art. It is a great way for children to better appreciate the importance of stories.

During the week we invite, parents and grandparents to volunteer and read stories of various genres to children. Grandparents often share various folk tales with the children. The props and the puppets used by the story tellers bring the stories to life! The teachers also introduce the children to other forms of storytelling through puppets, mime, music or a skit.

Along with storytelling, teachers encourage various literacy related activities that lead to enhanced vocabulary, improved listening skills, strong phonetics and inspiration for imagination. The children of K1 and K2 are encouraged to explore different styles of writing and illustrating as they read books written by some popular authors like Dr. Seuss, Mo Willems, Laura Numeroff and Eric Carle. Activities like these inspire the budding writers which lead them to create their own storybooks.

A sneak peek into the Literacy week celebrations at our schools:



Narrating a story to their peers



Narrating the story of Goldilocks & the Three Bears



Drawing inspiration from Eric Carle



Library set up for the Literacy week





Provocation for various story telling techniques



An enthusiastic grandmother narrating a story



Literacy engagements for children to explore

## Rally for Rivers

As global citizens of the 21st century, it is important that we sensitize our young learners about caring for the environment. As a step in this direction, some of our schools participated in the nationwide campaign - 'Rally for Rivers', which aims at creating awareness of nourishing and reviving our water bodies. Through everyday engagements and discussions, the teachers sensitized the children on the issue of our fast depleting rivers. During the discussions, children made agreements like 'not to waste water' and to 'plant more trees'. Some suggestions on ways to nurture and nourish these rivers were also drawn from the children. Parents were also encouraged to participate in similar discussions at home.

To spread the message amongst the community, children created placards and banners and placed them around school. The teachers seized this opportunity by encouraging the children to undertake a 'Rally for rivers' drive on a busy street to propagate and motivate people passing by to support the initiative. This exercise facilitated children to comprehend the importance of our rivers and also learn that creating awareness has a positive impact.

A glimpse of our pre-schoolers expressing their understanding of saving water for the future:



"Save Rivers & Forests" campaign



Creating posters for the campaign



Spreading awareness within the school



Children, parents and teachers spreading the message to the passersby



Children parading with posters in the neighbourhood



## What's the Buzz

### New Initiatives

Our curriculum is constantly evolving to keep pace with the needs of a 21st century learner. New initiatives are periodically introduced to inspire and challenge our children. With these new additions, we strive to foster collaboration, critical and creative thinking, communication, reflection and much more. Some of our new initiatives are:

#### Elementary coding

At our schools, we have introduced age appropriate technology tools (iPads and Apple TV) to allow seamless integration of technology into the curriculum. To encourage children to engage in a more meaningful and powerful learning experience, we believe that just as children use special skills to learn a language to communicate, code literacy is a requirement for participation in the digital world. *Vivero Junior Pro* has been integrated into our pre-school programme such that our children not just learn and use languages to instruct the computer, but learn other life skills such as logic, problem solving, collaboration, resilience, math concepts and more.



#### Digital citizenship

Young children are often exposed to cyber risks such as technology addiction, cyber bullying and privacy invasion. They can also absorb toxic behavioural norms that affect their ability to interact with others. At our schools, we integrate and use technology to improve learning outcomes and therefore the need to introduce 'Digital Citizenship'. This initiative enables children to use digital media in safe, responsible and effective ways by ingraining DQ (Digital Quotient) skills.



#### Digital portfolio

Documenting children's work in a systematic way allows children, families and teachers to be aware of the child's learning and development. It makes their learning visible. As a step in this direction, we are introducing child driven digital portfolios to capture all the work done by them in the Tech Studio. Thus empowering children to independently document what they learn at school and share it with their teachers, parents and peers. We are optimistic that this initiative will encourage self-inquiry, self-reflection and act as a powerful tool for improving and developing greater self awareness.





## Civic Management

Our children are not only part of a sheltered school environment but also active members of the society who have a greater responsibility to the community in which they live and to the world in general. We endeavor to educate the 'whole child' for a life of active and responsible citizenship. As a part of this initiative, our teachers facilitate projects and engagements where children are encouraged to actively engage with their surroundings to improve and make the world better and more peaceful. In the course of these engagements through play, children learn to become a member of a social group and follow rules, foreshadowing the skills and behaviors of a civically engaged adult.



## Culinary programme

Early years are important to promote healthy dietary behaviours amongst children. The *Wholistic Meals* programme aims at developing healthy food habits and etiquettes through exposure, modeling, accessibility and availability. The teacher would also facilitate children in understanding values and attitudes related to acceptance of variety of nutritious foods. Through simple cooking experiences, children would be introduced to new tastes and experiences. These engagements not only help develop healthy food habits but also peer bonding and self confidence.



## Student led conference

For years parent-teacher meetings have the teacher as an active contributor to a child's progress. The child is often passive or even absent during these meetings. Student led Conferences are instrumental in helping children being the active protagonists of their learning process, giving them opportunities for reflection, engagement, and ownership of their learning. In the student-led conference format, children and teachers prepare together and then children lead the conference while teachers facilitate. The child comprehends the complete process of learning, takes the parent through the journey of learning and is able to answer the questions the parents ask. Through this initiative, we endeavor to engage families in richer and more transparent conversations about children's progress.



## HR Movements

### Pune

- Ms. Aarti Kanwal joined as the Vice Principal of Serra International Pre-school, Wakad. She has taken over this profile from Ms. Radhika Srinivasan who is shifting to a new school.
- Ms. Amreen Tharani has taken over the role of Parent Relationship Manager at Vivero International Pre-school, Kalyani Nagar from Ms. Namrata Menon
- Ms. Anna Trisal joined as the Parent Relationship Executive at Serra International Pre-school, Kharadi
- Ms. Sahiba Sehgal joined the Corporate team as Marketing Executive

### Bengaluru

- Ms. Tanu Samak has taken over the role of Parent Relationship Manager at Vivero International Pre-school, Whitefield from Ms. Srijana Sachdeva who is shifting to Mumbai



## Parent Chronicles

### *Parents speak about our Child Care programme*



I am happy to have found a childcare where I feel my child is well taken care of and loved. Meher had been going to another day care for 2.5 years prior to joining Vivero and hence she had major withdrawal when we shifted her. But the teachers, Supriya and Charul were extremely warm and patient with her and very soon she was in love with the place and was looking forward to going there. They never had even a hint of irritation in their voice even if I called up multiple times to enquire about my daughter. Meher also enjoys the activities held there and we look forward to hearing her stories & songs and also receiving small bits of craftwork at home. The didis do a wonderful job of caring for the children. Thank you for providing a safe, educational and fun environment during the last 3 months that Meher has been attending childcare.

**Shruti Tulsyan, Meher's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Powai



Just taking out a moment to bring out certain aspects of Vivero which have made my experience delightful. It was a heart-breaking decision to put Khumani in day care. The first day like any other mom, I cried too. However, since that day I have wondered why did I cry in the first place. Vivero looks after my baby as their own without leaving anything for me to worry about. There have been days when I have forgotten to send diapers, or wipes, but Vivero team has taken care and been kind.

The best part is that even though my baby was about 10 1/2 months old at the time of joining, the staff ensured some discipline and a lot of learning for her. I am surprised at Khumani's abilities, be it responding to instructions such as sit down or sleep or performing an action song!

Logistically, pick up and drop are timely and that's a big help as I am a working parent. Undoubtedly Vivero has become an extended family in every sense of the word, as everyone embraces Khumani with loads of love and care. Heartfelt gratitude for taking care of minutest aspect and cheers to Vivero. Look forward for your continued support!

**Swati Sakpal, Khumani's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Pune



Some of the daycares nearby are so focused on the children, but they do not offer scheduling options that working parents' need. Some are over- focused on what the parents need or want to hear as "paying customers" that they may neglect the true best interest of the child. Vivero manages to serve both the children and the parents' needs very effectively.

The entire staff demonstrates levels of passion and professionalism which we rarely see in the education world. They are all very kind, courteous, graceful, respectful, and very well-educated themselves. They work tirelessly to set ideal examples for the children of how people should behave and cooperate together.

They give countless additional hours after regular hours to lend a hand to a child in need, a parent, or to just make an extracurricular activity extra special. They do it so willingly! The staff is never too busy to sit down and discuss anything that is on your mind, whether a concern you have with your child, suggestion or idea you may have, or just a simple question you need an answer to. They genuinely listen, and care.

Vivero focuses on so many important values like service, humility, kindness and courage.

It's a place my daughter has made great friends and memories and learned invaluable lessons that will stay with her forever. Vivero is and always will be a blessing to our family!

Every day Aadya comes home from school saying they've had a great day!!!

**Dipti Shelar, Aadya's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Pune



We moved from USA last year and were in search of a good preschool for Myesha. Our key expectation was a school which had the warmth of home but at the same time could inculcate positive habits, follow a systematic routine and provide an encouraging environment for her mental development.

It's been a year and I can proudly say we made a great decision by choosing Vivero - we would like to thank the teachers, School Head, PRM along with the aunties for taking such good care of Myesha- we couldn't have asked for a better school! This also reflects in our decision to start Myesha with the Vivero Day Care - where she is thoroughly enjoying herself and at the same time learning so much- her speech, ability to reason and learning skills have really developed. We also appreciate the constant initiatives to keep the children and parents engaged- a great balance of fun and learning which makes it a special place.

Starting school is a milestone and thanks for making it a memorable one for Myesha and us!

**Debanjana Kapoor, Myesha's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Bengaluru



## Keep in Touch

### Monthly Newsletters

It is a well established fact that a warm 'home – school' connect plays an important role in providing parents valuable information about how their child is progressing at school and which stage the child is in the learning journey. This is crucial to every child's success.

At Edvance Pre-Schools, we believe parents are the primary teachers for their children and therefore we partner with parents to offer rich learning experiences to stimulate the children's minds.

A good relationship starts with effective communication and Newsletters make for a great medium for the school to communicate with parents.

A school newsletter essentially communicates the school developments and other relevant information. The school head shares articles on various topics of parenting which prove to be great insights for young parents. It comprises a brief update on the events at school along with a glimpse by way of pictures of children celebrating the event. The school head newsletter strengthens the bond between the school and the parent community.

We also share a Class newsletter which further ensures that parents are a part of the learning journey of children. This newsletter is class specific and provides a glimpse into the learning engagements at school, the unit of enquiry, projects and graphics. It also is a great platform to celebrate the many achievements of our children. Our young learners are always exploring, innovating and discovering various concepts which truly deserve to be showcased and cherished, what better medium than the newsletter.

So while you wait to browse through our next publication, do remember that not only will the newsletter provide you with useful information but it will also exhibit moments of the child's day at school- a memory forever to be cherished and etched in the hearts of our proud parents.



An initiative of

**EDVANCE**  
GROUP OF SCHOOLS



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