



O nanna chetana,
aagu nee aniketana

THE BRIGADE SCHOOL @ J. P. NAGAR

Memorable Events ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

Ashwini Nachappa, National Athlete and Social Worker, was Chief Guest at the school's Annual Sports Day on 28 August. Mysterious and intriguing Egypt, the theme for the year, was beautifully showcased with attractive props and accessories worn by the students in the Mass PT displays. Samyama Sagare Venkatesh (Std 5C) and Amrita S (Std 8A) were adjudged Best Student in Sports Junior and Senior respectively. Ganga House was the Best House in Sports.



Ganga House wins 'Best House in Sports'.

Annual Sports Day— Pre-primary, 19 Sept:

Tiny tots participated with enthusiasm and sportsmanship in games like fruit basket, passing the ball, pyramid building and football. A relay and a march past for the UKG students was



Students performing in the Intramural Cultural and Literary Fest.



A dramatic aerobics display.

the highlight of the programme.

Intramural Cultural and Literary Fest, 20 & 21 Oct:

For the first time, the annual competitions in Art & Performing Art and Mindspace Activities were conducted at a two-day Intra-school Intramural Cultural and Literary Fest. Teachers, parents and alumni were invited to judge the competitions.

Annual Staff Day:

Teachers of all three Brigade

schools were treated to a fun filled, action-packed get together at The Brigade School @ Malleswaram. Teachers participated in games and a talent show where the teachers showcased their talents in Art & Performing Art.

Annual Field Trips:

Students from Stds 1-10 took a welcome break from their academics to go on their much-awaited Field Trips to different destinations.

Competitions & CONGRATULATIONS!

Chirag Bipin Kundgol (Std 9B) clinched the Boys Under-16 800 M Freestyle Gold in the CBSE National Level Swimming Championship held at Bhopal between 11 and 14 November. He has broken two new records and set a new meet record in the same event. New Meet record—400 mts Free Style 04:31:71, 800 mts Free Style 09:24:22

The Brigade School won the Buoyancee School of the Year Award. The team comprised Bharath Kayyar (Std 10B) and Sanjan Das (Std 7C). Bharath Kayyar won the Buoyancee Student of the Year award.

The Brigade School created a hat trick by winning the MI Overall Championship for the third consecutive year at the Gear Innovative International School Multiple Intelligences Odyssey.

Rotary Club of Bangalore

Debate: Sanjana Rajshekar (Std 10A) won at the Interschool level and Anagha Smriti (Std 9B) won at the Preliminary level.

Painting Competition:

Interschool Rankings: Group A: Karishma H. Bhandari (6A), Group B: Anish S Mysore (Std 4A) and Chaitanya Tejas (Std 4A)

Akhil Bharitiya Nagrik Vikas Kendra All India Handwriting

Competition: Piyusha K (Std 10B) won the Kala Ratna Award for Best Handwriting.

Interschool Spell Bee

Competition: 68 students qualified for the interschool level; 20 students won at the interschool level.

IMPORTANT OCCASIONS & SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

Independence Day: In full patriotic spirit, students of Stds 4 and 5 sang 'Hum Sab Bharatiya Hai' while those of Std 6 recited the poem 'Abhinandan'. Ms Githa Shankar, Chairperson, Brigade Foundation distributed the prizes in sports for Stds 1-3.



Hiroshima Day.

Hiroshima Day: On 8 August, students of Std 4 remembered Hiroshima with a brief account of the dropping of the Atom Bomb. Saba Shah (Std 4C) enacted the role of a survivor. The consequences of using nuclear weapons were portrayed through a dance.

Teachers' Day: Students put up a delightful programme that included a dance, choreographed to the song 'Choti si asha'; a classical and western music show; a quiz for teachers and dumb charades.

Literacy Week: Special assemblies—in Hindi, English and Kannada—for

Literacy Week began on 5 September. The importance of literacy and the necessity of educating the girl child were the subject of the Thoughts for the Day. Role-plays and skits were also part of the assemblies.

Dasara: Highlights of the Dasara programme included a beautiful rendition of the song 'Baraiyya Baraiyya O Krishnaiyya' by Std 2 and a powerful portrayal of Mahisasuramardini through dance.



Mahisasuramardini dance.

Kannada Rajyotsava: Kannada Rajyotsava was appropriately commemorated with a special assembly on 4 November at which students spoke about Kannada Gnanapeta Awardees.

Children's Day: Teachers organised a special programme that included a humorous skit, songs and dances. Prizes for the intramural competitions in the Arts and Performing Arts and MindSpace activities were distributed by Ms Githa Shankar, Chairperson, Brigade Foundation. Winners were: Vighnesh Iyer (Std 4C)—'Best Student in Mindspace Activities (Junior)'; Bharath Kayyar (Std 10B)—'Best Student in Mindspace Activities (Senior)'; and Ganga House—'Best House in Mindspace Activities'.

“Nine tenths of education is encouragement.”

—Anatole France



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THE BRIGADE SCHOOL @ MALLESWARAM

Independence Day Special Assembly

Highlights included a graceful dance, 'Desh Rangeela', by students of Std 5 and the performance of 'Aao bachchon tumhe dikhaney', a patriotic song, by students of Stds 3 and 4.

Annual Sports Meet

The Annual Sports Day was made even more exciting by the joint participation of The Brigade School @ Mahadevapura! Students took part enthusiastically in all competitions and many prizes were won. The tiny tots of



Desh Rangeela dance.

pre-primary enjoyed participating in the various novelty races.

Teachers' Day

On 5 September, teachers from all three Brigade Schools congregated at The Brigade School @ Malleswaram for a morning of

fun and games. This was followed by a scrumptious lunch at the Galaxy Club.

The Chinese Festival

As an integration activity, students of Std 2 made dragon masks and dressed up in traditional Chinese attire.

Dasara...

At a special assembly for Dasara, a dance drama on the life of Lord Rama was staged by the students of Std 5. Students of Std 4 contributed to the festive spirit

with a lively 'dandiya' performance.

...and Diwali

The Festival of Lights was ushered in by Std 5 dancing to the 'Ashtalakshmi Stotra', beautiful lamps in hand. A student of Std 4 then spoke about the merits of a 'Green Diwali', in which one could enjoy Diwali and protect the environment at the same time.

Rajyotsava

At a special assembly on 31 October, students sang a song describing the serene beauty of Karnataka. The state's diverse cuisine was also on display—delectable fare enjoyed by both staff and students.

Mindspace Activity Day

Celebrated on 4 November, Mindspace Activity Day showcased projects done by the students to the parents. Enthusiastic children confidently answered questions. Pre-primary children displayed their skill at using Montessori materials and spelling formidable words using the techniques of phonics. Parents were pleasantly surprised to see how much the little ones knew!



Integration activity: Gingerbread Man.



Teachers' Day.



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THE BRIGADE SCHOOL @ MAHADEVAPURA

Sports

At the Intra-school Annual Athletic Meet, budding athletes leveraged speed, stamina, grit and perseverance to emerge winners in various events. Shaurya Soni was judged Best Athlete.

Intra-class quiz competition

Conducted for Stds 4, 5 and 6, the Quiz showcased both the

enthusiasm of the young participants and the confidence of the quiz mistress, Mrs Monika Kohli. After a grilling final round Team C (Shaurya Soni and Kaustab) were declared winners. Team D (Josh Abraham Paul and Arjun Mahajan) were declared runners-up.

Fancy Dress

The fancy dress parade by the students of Stds 1 to 4 brought out an amazing variety of

characters—from mermaids to angels and fairies (appropriately armed with magic wands).

Children's Day

Entertainment...

Our enthusiastic facilitators ensured that Children's Day was memorable and enjoyable. The programme featured a classical dance by Mrs Simi Ojha, a song by Mrs Shruti Sharma and team and a mime by Mr Chandrakant and team.

...and Field Trip

Thirty-four students of Stds 1-6 were taken for an educational field trip to the HAL Aerospace Museum and Heritage Centre on Children's Day, accompanied by teachers, Miss Nina Ajgarni, Mrs Renuka Mahesh and Mrs Merry Eby. The hour-long tour was interesting, informative and much enjoyed.



Fancy dress participants.



Mrs Shruti Sharma and team singing on Children's Day.

A school should be a happy place to come to.

INTERVIEW

As Chairperson of Brigade Foundation, Githa Shankar has been involved in The Brigade Schools from the time they were just a concept. Under her leadership, The Brigade Schools have taken shape, taken character and taken off. All three schools—in J. P. Nagar, Malleswaram and Mahadevapura—have earned the reputation of being institutions of all-round excellence. In this interview, Githa Shankar talks of the initiatives and challenges involved in making the schools what they are ...



Are there any initiatives unique to your schools?

Brigade Foundation has set up a Knowledge and Information Bank—KNIB—as a central resource centre for all our schools. It contains education-related resources and information—with respect to teaching, curriculum development and training ... much of it original material. We have basic textbooks that anchor the curriculum but we enhance it with various activities.

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Could you give us an example?

We choose a place as a theme every year; either one foreign country, or one state in our country, so that children learn in detail about that place during the year. The theme of the year is adapted in our different activities ... Sports, Mindspace Day projects, in our Cultural events, of course.

What do you think of the Montessori system?

We are into Montessori in a big way with our Jump Start pre-school system in all our schools. Montessori teaching methods are logical, there's a good flow to learning, to how the curriculum opens out. We combine our Montessori teaching with traditional methods...some memorising of times-tables and poetry... Montessori isn't stressful, because it isn't testing them. If they can do it, they know it. If they can't do it, then you help them. And it is activity based, so you get the attention of the children. They also learn a lot of useful practical life skills.

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What are some of your biggest challenges?

We make efforts to identify children with learning problems so they can be helped early.

The over-arching challenge is helping everyone learn. Children with learning disabilities, for instance ... we have to recognise this early on. At the Jump Start level itself, we make efforts to identify children with learning problems so they can be helped early.

You've spoken of the importance of a school relating to the community. Can you expand?

A school has to be a hub in a community... we have to engage with the community. There are different ways we try and do this. We have made spoken Kannada compulsory up to fifth standard, so that children speak the language of the state. We identify a nearby institution, generally an educational institution—in the case of our school at J.P. Nagar, for instance, it is the Ramanamaharshi Academy for the Blind—and engage with them by working alongside them. The experience is a two-way benefit—our children tell us they have learnt so much from the children they help.



Are the three Brigade Schools similar?

The three schools may be located in different areas or follow different boards, but the basic method of teaching, the centralised training, the role of KNIB and Jump Start... all remains the same. When it comes to the ninth standard, we will go a little more Board-oriented, so that the children do as well as possible in the Board exams.

What do you think contributes to the success of a school?

Obviously, staff, infrastructure, the students themselves... but I would add: the processes that are followed. I want to systemise our processes. See, a school may be very good because the Principal is very good. But what happens if she leaves? Schools shouldn't be person-dependent. The values that we uphold and the practices that we encourage, those we don't tolerate ... these should be known—and followed.



What do you consider an important factor in motivating children?

Children should have something to look forward to; that's very important. We try to get interesting people to come into school to engage with the children. We try to make lessons more multi-dimensional. So if they are doing a Shakespeare play, we get them to enact scenes ... I've just tied up with Nisha Millet to teach swimming in all our schools. The hands-on presence of an Olympian will inspire the kids to want to swim better. It's important that children feel inspired. Ideally, in every subject we should be able to engage with someone like that. If anyone in that kind of position is willing to work with us, I'd be delighted.

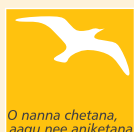
What is your biggest concern?

There are so many different kinds of children. Some may have troubled backgrounds, some may be advantaged, some may have learning disabilities, some may be gifted ... how do you see that everyone is alright, how do you create a more level playing field? We try and see that when they are in school—between 8:30 and 3:30, which is quite a bit of their waking time—that they are safe and happy and hopefully not bowed down by work or personal concerns. A school should be a happy place to come to; children should want to come to school.

What are the best moments?

The best part is being with the kids: the things they say, the things they do, when you see something happening in class that is the outcome you were hoping for... that is the best part of it. Children seem to be happy at our schools. Parents have been very supportive. People around us seem happy to send their children here. That's the best reward. It's an indication that we've done something right and it makes us very happy.

THREE CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS. THREE LOCATIONS. ONE APPROACH AND VISION.



THE BRIGADE SCHOOL
@ J. P. Nagar

Nursery to Std 12



THE BRIGADE SCHOOL
@ Mahadevapura

Nursery to Std 6



THE BRIGADE SCHOOL
@ Malleswaram

Nursery to Std 6

Academic Year 2011-12 For more information on our schools, please visit our website:

BrigadeSchools.org