



**Epistemo**  
Vikas Leadership School

# Epistemo Lemur's News



### A note from the Principal

Greetings and Welcome to the 2019-20 school year at Epistemo. This year brings excitement and a new beginning to the adventures of learning for each learner. The start of the school year is an opportunity to affirm my mission to provide quality education. My confidence comes from my team that has been very busy this summer working hard to learn innovative pedagogical tools, develop plans and put in extra effort to get ready for the new academic year that has started beautifully.

This year will provide important transitions and the acquisition of new skills that will enhance each student's ability to apply learning in many ways. We are committed to providing a challenging and rigorous curriculum that would help each student progress at a developmentally appropriate rate and provide a safe environment for all students.

I value the social and emotional development of each child as they move from one-mile stone of their growth to another. I value life-long learning and aim to make your child's learning experience at School engaging and exciting.

As the principal of Epistemo, I believe that, it is my responsibility to maintain and to continue to build a supportive and collaborative spirit at our school. I expect the parents to actively participate in their child's learning by being present at school whenever the school sends an invite. Together with your cooperation, we will build on the traditions of the past and meet the challenges of the future in innovative and exciting ways.

Warm Regards,

Hema Surapaneni



Greetings from Epistemo!

It is the month of June- the month of roses and butterflies, when pleasant sights & the youthful bloom of nature make the world a feast for our senses. With weary summer bidding its good-bye, and the monsoon showers making sudden appearances like long lost friends, school days too have had their share of charm in this beautiful month of June. Here's a look-back at all the happenings of the month of June.

### Parent orientation Meet.

Parents of new and existing students for the coming academic year attended an orientation meeting conducted by Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni in the auditorium on Saturday, June 8, 2019. The meeting was called for with the aim of orienting parents and letting them know as to what to expect in the academic year and also equip themselves for it. Parents also had the opportunity to meet and interact with the teachers of the different classes. The presentation covered various aspects of curricular and co-curricular activities, rules, regulations, expected behavior, the pattern for conducting examinations, the extracurricular activities, the support required from parents and various other points of mutual concern. A welcome letter, outlining the guidelines for a strong teacher parent partnership in the nurturing of children was sent out by the Principal.





## First Day of School.

It was celebration time on reopening day as the students got back with friends and teachers in a flurry of excitement and happiness. The pre-primary wing was a hub of activity, as the tiny-tots joined the school for the first time on 12 June. It was hustle and bustle all around, and the school wore a cheerful look as students headed towards their wing in their new and tidy uniforms. Teachers had decorated the Tiny Tots wing with festoons, ribbons and creative bulletin boards to cheer up the little ones and create a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere. The children received a warm welcome from the school and the management





## Assemblies

The most awaited reopening day started with a warm welcome assembly. Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni spoke to the students on the occasion, welcoming them and issued common instructions and agreements to have a disciplined and an effective year ahead. The names of the House Mentors, coordinators and members of the prefect board were announced.

The assembly also featured a welcome surprise for the students with the introduction of the newest member of the petting zoo- a puppy, who was lovingly named Scooby by the students. We were very proud indeed of the enthusiasm and love with which our students warmed up to the menagerie of animals that add their daily share of love, laughter and learning in our school.

The assembly on Friday, June 21 was conducted by students of Socrates House from grade 7. The theme of the assembly was based on the value of appreciation. Through a role play and value talk, the students emphasized how appreciation can make a difference to the attitude and personality of people around you. The assembly held on the last Friday of June on the 28, highlighted the value of appreciation. The day's assembly was presided over a special guest, Mr. Kamal Prasad Patede, Kendriya Vidyalaya, and our beloved Principal.

Grade 7 students of Odysseus House presented the thought for the day and news. The value of appreciation comes from understanding and respecting others. Taking the example of Mahatma Gandhi's life example, the Pythagoras House members of Grade 7 demonstrated the value successfully. A dance performance on the same value was presented by Archimedes House.

Following her address to the students, the principal felicitated selected students from Grade 1 to 7 with an appreciation badge for good behavior. The band conducted by Grade 5 was the highlight of the assembly.





















## Events

### World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment Day, GHMC, in collaboration with WaLC Alliance and HMWSSB organized a session on water conservation and rainwater harvesting at Phoenix Arena on 5 June 2019. The event was presided over by Chief Guest Mr. M. Dhana Kishore, IAS and Guest of Honour Ms. Harichandana IAS. Some of our students along with their teachers participated in the event. The event was organised to raise awareness and bring about positive change in dealing with rain water harvesting and waste management.

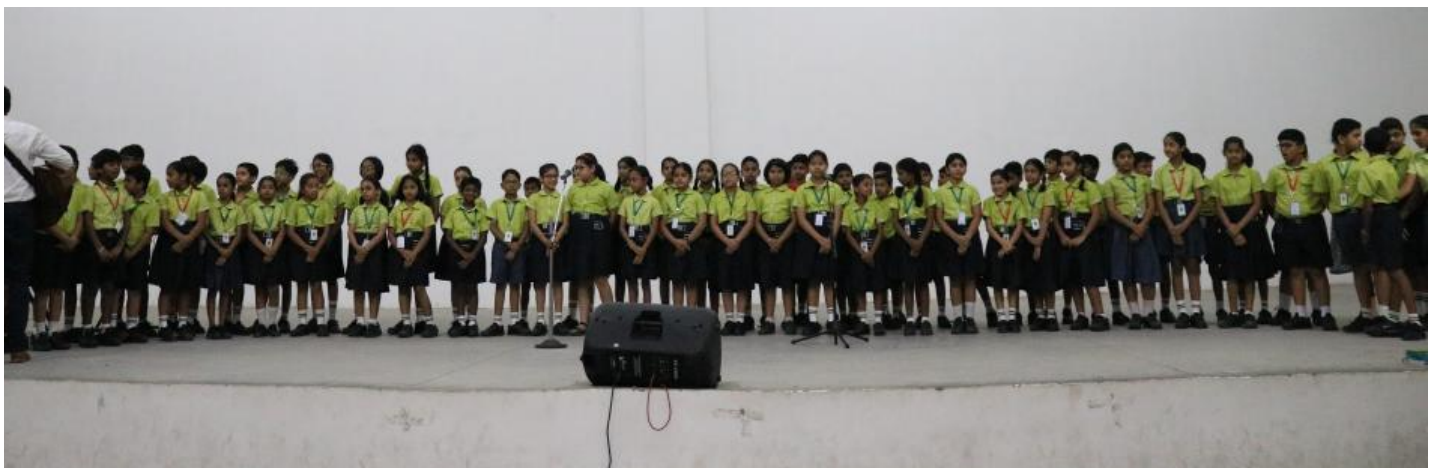


### International Yoga Day

The school also celebrated International Yoga Day & World Music Day in the assembly on June 21. Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; self-discipline and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature. Keeping this thought, lemur too joined hands and minds to perform yoga at the school auditorium. The International Music Day celebrations added colour, beauty and liveliness to the day. A choir of about 85 lemur presented a splendid song, 'Believer' which was an instant hit with the young audience!









### **Investiture ceremony:**

Investiture Ceremony 2019-20 for conferring the newly appointed members of the prefect council and school body with the badge of office, was held on Saturday, 22 June at the school auditorium. It was an occasion for the students to re-affirm their commitment to the school and renew their vows to serve the alma mater with complete dedication as a new crop of leaders take over the mantle for the coming academic year.

The ceremony got off to a good start with the prefect council welcoming and escorting the guest of honor, Dr. Gautham Kumar, Founder Serve Needy Foundation and other dignitaries to the podium in a ceremonial march.

The program began with the school song, followed by the investiture ceremony, where the office bearers were conferred with the badge, sash and flag of office.

The chief guest and dignitaries took the salute of the school platoon and the Houses in the march past that followed the Oath taking.

Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni addressed the students, congratulating them on putting up a splendid show despite the last minute glitches and changes in the venue. She also stressed on the importance of leaders being humble and ready to take on assigned responsibilities without regrets or misgivings, as it was a great opportunity for all the members to learn leadership and life-skills. She advised the school council to take onus and charge of all the activities and events in the coming school year.

Dr. Gautham Kumar, renowned social reformer and founder of Serve Needy Voluntary organization addressed the students, and talked about the need for students to join hands to serve society. Serve Needy is a registered NGO working to make India a hunger-free country. Their massive feeding program called Anna Data caters to thousands of marginalised poor and homeless people supporting them with food, shelter and medical care. Mr. Gautham implored the students and school leaders to act as role models and serve the country by working in service of others.

Mr. Konda Vijay, founder of Hope Foundation also addressed the students on the occasion. The program ended with the vote of thanks by Head girl Smrithika followed by the National anthem.









## School Inspection

On June 28, Epistemo hosted some dignitaries who visited the school premises and spent time observing the classes and activities conducted in school. The day went off smoothly, and the dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the teachers in planning and executing so many different activities in such great detail.

## PP Events

Students of Pre-primary celebrated World Yoga Day and World Music Day with great enthusiasm on 21 June on Friday. The tiny-tots were introduced to the ancient science of yoga for perhaps the first time, but the flexibility and energy displayed by our kindergartners was amazing! The little ones tried some cute and kid-friendly yogasanas including Dhanurasana (Bow Pose), Marjaryasana (Cat pose) and Bhujangasana (Cobra pose), Bitilasana (Cow pose).



## Father's Day Celebrations

A father's selfless love is pivotal in nurturing the child and there could not be a more universal celebration than the one that celebrates the accomplishments and efforts of Father.

Celebrating this precious bond, the Pre-primary celebrated Father's Day on 29 June, 2019. Lemurs have performed dance, music and planned some surprise activities for their fathers, even they have taken part with them. Like PP1 made sandwiches for everyone and PP2 had some sports activity. It was really a wonderful day for kids and fathers.









### **Sports:**

Spoorthi Chava of grade 9 participated in the National Ranking AITA Tennis Championship held at Roots Tennis Academy, Zirakpur (Punjab ) on 17th June'19 under - 18 category and reached quarter finals. Continuing her winning streak, she also went up to the semi finals in the All India Tennis Tournament champion series conducted in the third week of June.



### **Fire Drill**

A Fire drill was conducted in our school premises on June 19 2019 with the help of sports faculty. This exercise was in integration of a grade 7 English lesson topic on FIRE.

The purpose of the fire drill was to ensure that everyone knows how to exit safely as quickly as possible if a fire, smoke or other emergency occurs. Students were trained to recognize the sound of the fire alarm as this can help to reduce confusion, panic, and any disorderly behavior in an emergency. It also served to familiarize teachers, students and other responsible people with their role such emergencies.



The Students of Grade 7 were trained by Mrs. Kanaka Durga, sports HOD on all aspects of evacuation in the event of a fire, and were assigned the duty to help all the other students to evacuate the school during the fire drill.

Drill monitors from Grade 7 along with sports faculty helped the students (accompanied by respective teachers), exit their classes quietly and reach the assembly point where attendance was checked before dispersal to the classes.





## Exams:

### Cambridge Checkpoint Exams:

The results of the Cambridge checkpoint exams in Math, Science and English were declared on June 20th. There were a total of 13 entries from grade 8 for Math, Science and English. Our students have come out in flying colours, scoring a very high average of 4.5 in English, 5.2 in Science and 5.6 in Math out of a maximum score band of 6. Epistemo congratulates the students for their splendid performance and hopes that our school will continue to grow from strength to strength in this regard.



Cambridge Checkpoint exams in English, Mathematics and Science are conducted by the Cambridge board at grade 5 and grade 8 level, and give valuable feedback on learners' strengths and weaknesses before they progress to the next stage of education. The tests are marked in Cambridge and provide schools with an external international benchmark for learner performance.

### **Cyclic Tests**

Cyclic tests for grades 1-10 are conducted in the third and fourth Tuesday of every month. In June, assessments were conducted for English and Math across all grades. These grades will be considered as part of formative assessments for students.

### **Remedial sessions & Special Classes**

Addressing a recurring concern of parents, Epistemo has allotted 3 remedial classes per week for each grade in the first hour of the day. After school special classes have been scheduled for students of grade 10 in all the main subjects. It is expected that the additional emphasis and extra practice will help the students approach the board exams with confidence.

### **Clubs & Competitions**

The school has introduced a range of clubs- Literary, Civic Literacy, Work-education and Entrepreneurship in this academic year. These clubs are part of our effort to inculcate life-skills and confidence in our students to face up to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This month the clubs featured Master Chef & literary club activities like crosswords (grades 1-4), storytelling (grades 5-8) and Story writing (grades 9 &10).







## Classroom Activities

The Children of Grade-4 who are learning about circuits in science had an interesting time, with hands-on activities being conducted in the classroom. Students had fun with circuits, creating both open and closed circuits with simple materials like cardboard, pins and wires. The young 'engineers-in-the-making' also observed the light bulb up close and identified the parts of the bulb.





Students of grade 10 created a model of Nephron using readily available materials like glass paints, oil paints,



Students of grade 5 did a role-play activity on the circulatory system-The learners did a role play on blood and the path that it follows in and out of the heart, moving in sequence through the different chambers of the heart, to the lungs for gaseous exchange and again back to the heart to be supplied to the entire body. They enjoyed the activity and at the same time learnt about the tricky circulation route in a fun way.



PP Kids had some fun matching hands-on, the Capital and small case letters in the pick and say activity that was aimed at familiarizing the students with the English alphabet.









## Field Trip

A Field trip was organized for grades 8-10 on 28.6.19 to Zinda Tilismath & Parle G factories in Nallakunta. Students had the opportunity to observe up-close, the manufacturing processes for two very popular products that continue to remain popular with the public many decades of their launch. It was an interesting day of learning and assimilation for our inquisitive young lemurs. A write up by P.Pardhavesa on the trip is featured in the Student speak section of the newsletter



## Professional Development

In the intervening first week of June before the school reopened for students, Principal Ms.Hema Surapaneni conducted a series of workshops for the teachers in several key areas such as Time Management, classroom Management, Learning Environment/Spaces, teamwork, concept mapping and life skills.













## Student Achievers:

Krish of Grade 1 won appreciation and applause for his generous gesture in donating dog food for Scooby.

Krithika from pre-primary went a step further, donating her two prized rabbits that were gifted by her grandfather to the school menagerie.

This month's 'Student Speak' features a thank you note from one of the students, appreciating the school for adopting Scooby and a few other write ups.

That was the school this month. Wishing you a very happy and eventful July!

Best regards

### Appreciation letter to the principal

Respected Principal,

I appreciate your efforts to bring in pets in our school. I felt very happy when you first brought Scooby to school. He could be left alone ~~of~~ on the streets, but you brought him to our school. My brother and I have always wanted a pet, especially a puppy, but our mother wouldn't allow us. We often tried to pet the street pups but our parents were worried about their sanitation and, as we couldn't leave them alone when we went on holidays. I am very glad that you have unknowingly fulfilled our dream. You have a very big heart for animals as well as for children...

I am very happy to be one of your students.

Yours truthfully,

Tamanna Yadav, Grade 8A



## Student-Speak

**This section will feature interesting write-ups, poems and artwork by our students.**

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The students of grades 8, 9, 10 went on a field trip on the 28th of June. In this field trip, we got to know about how Zinda Tilismath and the iconic Parle G biscuits are made.

At the factory of Zinda Tilismath, we were told about how the unique unani medicine is manufactured in an eco friendly method and about all the ingredients that go into it. The facility was built around a century ago and still continues the legacy of the founder, late Hakim Mohd. Moizuddin Farooqui. He is known for researching and developing the medicine. We were even explained about the deep meaning inside the logo and the trademark of Zinda Tilismath. The facility produces five other products, making it a total of six products. These include Faaroky tooth powder, Zinda Balm, Zint Lozenges and two flavors of churan: raw mango and kaala khatta. After the tour of the factory, we were given complimentary samples of all the products.

After the Zinda Tilismath factory, we moved on to our next stop, the Parle G factory. The facility we went to manufactured the iconic Parle G and Hide and seek biscuits. We were taken into the facility where prepared dough of wheat, milk, sugar and oil were molded into rectangles and sent for baking where the temperature varies between 150 to 300 degrees Celsius. Then they were taken to the packing station where freshly baked biscuits were packed into wrappers. We were given a packet of warm biscuits after the tour of the facility.

Students of 8A, 9th and 10th grade went on an educational field trip this Friday. The first place that they visited was the Zinda Tilismath factory. Zinda Tilismath is a 100% herbal and natural Unani medicine, which is used to treat more than twenty common ailments. It was founded by Hakim Mohammed Moizuddin Farooqui. The guide at the factory listed out all the ingredients used to make the product and explained their purpose. It is made of Eucalyptus oil obtained from the Tasmanian Blue Gum plants in Ooty, menthol crystals that we get from the peppermint plant, camphor of medicine grade, Thymol crystals and Rangbasa.

Following the explanation, the students were led to a laboratory where the process of making the product was explained. Eucalyptus oil stored in blue barrels are poured into steel containers, and all ingredients except Rangbasa are added into it. The mixture is let to sit for 48 hours so that the ingredients are dissolved in the oil. Finally, the Rangbasa or the dye for the medicine is added separately as it doesn't dissolve in the oil.



The students then found out that the factory is eco and environment friendly as well as a power saving factory. This was evident though the fact that there is no combustion in the factory and there was negligible electricity used on site.

Next, the pupils watched the workers pack the product bottles into boxes along with the directions. They tried packing some themselves as well. The speed and efficiency with which the workers did the packing was truly astounding.

At the end, all students received complimentary products made at the Zinda Tilismath factory, and took a few clicks with them.

The group then proceeded to the second and final stop - the Parle G factory. As the children ate lunch, they watched an informative but innovative video that explained the process of making Parle - G products. The students then set out to watch the process live, after putting on hair caps to maintain hygiene. The live demonstration consisted of various steps - the first one being baking, where the dough is baked at various levels ranging from 150° to 300°. The second step was the cooling, followed by packaging.

Here too, everyone received a complimentary Parle - G biscuit pack. The trip ended with the group posing for another set of pictures with the biscuit packs.

The trip was a good learning experience for the students and the teachers as well. It combined fun with knowledge to make the learning process exciting.

Smrithika

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We thank the school for giving us this opportunity to discover the making of two extremely popular products.