



Epistemo
Vikas Leadership School

Epistemo Lemur's News



Greetings!

As we step into the short, sweet, nevertheless exciting month of February with the pleasant prospect of spring in the air, we are happy to present to you the various highlights of a rather eventful January here at school.

Events & Happenings:

Ethon 2019: Let's start right away with what was indeed the highlight of school events this past month. The 3rd edition of Ethon, the Marathon run, got off to a splendid start at Epistemo – Vikas Leadership School in the early hours of 26th January 2019. Running for a cause is a great way to contribute to social awareness, while also staying fit. Students, parents and veterans from the local community participated in the Marathon run with great enthusiasm and energy- all for the cause of Swachh Hyderabad.

The event saw participants from all walks of life- students from different schools, parents, athletes, senior citizens and young children gathered with a prime motive to achieve swachh goals by the year 2020. The goals for Swachh Hyderabad 2020 includes the planting of 10000 trees, recycling of 1000 kg waste material and reducing carbon dioxide emission through use of renewable energy. The event started off at 6.30 am with some brisk Zumba to warm up the participants. Following the Zumba session, the marathon was declared open by Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni, and flagged off by Chief Guests Shri Rajendra Chaitanya and Shri N. Shankar. The participants set off in a flurry of excitement, eager to express their solidarity with the government, and with the city, doing their bit for a better, cleaner, greener, loveable and livable Hyderabad!!!

The run was followed by the flag hoisting ceremony, and the tri-colour was hoisted with full honours by Chief Guest N. Shankar. Prizes were distributed to the winners in various categories. Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni. Chief Guests Mr. N. Shankar and Mr. Rajendra Chaitanya addressed the audience on the occasion, stressing on the importance of standing up for one's country and doing one's bit for the environment.

Following the event, volunteers joined the staff for the clean-up and plantation drive that was organized outside the campus



GHMC Community Connect: On Thursday, 10 January, students of Epistemo participated in a community connect event conducted by the GHMC at Nallagandla Lake. Our students had the opportunity to interact with Government officials from the Health, Forest, and Environment departments.

The officials interacted with the children and appraised them of the various programs launched by GHMC to protect and sustain the clean environs of the city. They also appreciated the various initiatives taken by Epistemo under its Go Green Program.

Following the interaction, the children participated in a plantation and cleanliness drive at the lake. A Nukkad Natak on the importance of saving water, and sustaining our environment was put up by our students. Ayushi & Rithika of Grade 6 made a speech the importance of conserving water.

As part of its community connect outreach, Epistemo has decided to adopt the Nallagandla Lake, and in collaboration with GHMC will be actively involved in the maintenance and beautification of the water body. GHMC officials greatly appreciated this gesture, and promised to support the school in this regard.





Career Counselling for grades 8, 9 & 10:

A career counselling session for grades 8, 9 and 10 was organised on 3 January with the objective of giving an insight into different career choices available to students. The resource person for the event was Prof. Niyaz Ahmed, Senior Director of



ICCR, Bangladesh in Dhaka under the Foreign Service leave from the University of Hyderabad. Dr. Ahmed spoke to the students at length about the different career choices available to students who are interested in pursuing further studies in Biology and related disciplines.

Students actively responded with thought provoking questions and achieved valuable learning on patenting ideas, open access to scientific journals and cloud computing.

Dr. Ahmed threw some light on the patenting ideas, stressing that exclusive ideas need to be published and patented with the help of a patent writer. He motivated the learners to provide solutions to emerging global concerns and survival problems like disease, malnutrition and epidemics.



Special Assemblies: The weekly school assembly saw the students of the four houses put up special presentations around the themes of respect, values & principles.

The special assembly for the week ending 11th January was presented by 9th and 10th grade students of Pythagoras House. The theme for the week's assembly was the value of "Respect" that is such an important part of character building.

Students put up a small skit explaining the importance of values like respect, good manners and being kind to others. It was a learning experience for all the students, as the skit sent across the message that that one can change the attitude of people with kindness, compassion and respect.

The special assembly for the week ending 18th January was presented by students of Socrates and Odysseus houses.

Following the prayer, Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni addressed the students on the importance of choosing words with care and carrying oneself with dignity and self-discipline. She had words of praise for the exemplary conduct of the students of grade 1B and the entire school applauded the little lemurs for their self-discipline and sincerity in the absence of their class teacher. Co-curricular certificates and medals were presented to students who bagged prizes in inter and intra-school sport events.

Prizes were also given away to our helping staff who had enthusiastically participated in the Rangoli competitions organised as part of Sankranti celebrations.

The special assembly for the week ending 24th Jan was presented by the students of Odysseus and Socrates. The skit put up by the students demonstrated the value of respect and the importance of being principled in a very impressive and effective way.

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were given away to the winners of IEO. Principal Mrs. Hema Surapaneni awarded "Star badges" to the most disciplined students of every grade.

Value Education: With an aim to inculcate values in children that are necessary to build meaningful & fulfilling lives and careers, the school has decided to recognize one defining trait or character each month that will be highlighted in the school assembly presentations, classroom transactions and day to day interactions. Students displaying these traits in their everyday life are recognized and rewarded in the weekly special assembly.





PTM: Parent Teacher Meetings were conducted for students of grade 10, on 26 th January after the Ethon event to give parents the opportunity to take stock of preparation levels & academic concerns pertaining to their child keeping the board exams in mind.

Parent Meet: Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni met up with parents on Saturday, 5 January, to present a report and appraise the parents of the closure and follow up of various action points raised in the previous meeting held on 10 November 2018. She also communicated to them the various initiatives and improvements undertaken by the school in the last three months.



Field Trips:

Grades 9 & 10: Keeping in view the importance of field trips and practical knowledge in the shaping of young minds, Epistemo organised a trip for students of grade IX & X to visit the TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences on 19th January, 2019.

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is one of the premier centres of scientific research in India that works at the very cutting edge of world science, bringing visibility and international



recognition to scientific efforts in India, and a field trip to its campus was bound to be interesting and exciting for the students.

Students had the opportunity to explore the labs and interact with scientists, professors and research scholars on campus. They also got an insight into the contributions made by TIFR in the fields of research, development & technology- TIFR has been instrumental in developing India's first super computer "TIFAC" and also the world's first and only x-ray satellite used to scan stars.

Students visited different research laboratories in campus like the Laser lab, Spintronics lab and the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance lab and interacted with the scientists in charge.

It was an interactive forum for the exchange of new knowledge and opportunities for stimulating young minds.



Grade 4: Students of grade 4 went on a field trip to a 'Bee Farm' on 22 January and had the opportunity to observe for themselves, the practice of apiculture- rearing of bees for the collection of honey.



The students went around the farm and observed man-made hives and the equipment used in the collection and extraction of honey. They also understood the role of bees in the preservation of eco-system and the different products that are manufactured by bee farms. The session was quite

informative and children enjoyed learning about honeybees.



Pre-primary: Students of the pre-primary had the opportunity to observe animals first hand at the zoo during the field trip organised on 4 January 2019. Students experienced animals in their natural habitats. It was truly a fun trip, with the children enjoying a picnic lunch in the ambient greenery, with animals all around.



Hands on learning:

Pre-primary wing: It is accepted that the consumption of ample fruits and vegetables is beneficial to one's health but children are often reluctant to eat them. Students of Nursery and PP1, had a hands-on experiential activity on 3 January wherein the little ones learnt observed the colour & fragrance of fruits and vegetables and enjoyed their texture and flavour as well. The activity was aimed at familiarizing the little ones with the names of different fruits and vegetables, vocabulary related to taste, colour and texture and more importantly, introduce healthy eating habits among pre-schoolers and kindergarteners.



Pre-Primary Activity: Pre-Primary's had an interesting and colourful show and tell activity in which they used appropriate words and spoke at length about the weather, clothes, food and activities associated with various seasons. They also had the opportunity to observe for themselves the importance of water in the growth of plants, through the classroom experiment



Life Skills: Healthy food like salad is not always liked by young children, but we can make them more interesting and inviting for the children by presenting them creatively. Making attractive plate presentations for healthy food is an art and lemururs of grade 1B, 2A, 2B & 2C learnt this art in their life-skill classes. Students learnt how to arrange sliced cucumber, carrot, radish, tomato, and beetroot in a creative manner while the educator explained the nutrition values of eating salad every day. The salad presentations done by the kids were very appetizing, and the children relished salads during the break. Students of grade 4B and 6B also tried their hand at fruit and vegetable carving, having fun as they carved up a banana to

look like a dolphin, and a fierce looking eggplant into a cute little penguin!





Circle time with the Principal: With the objective of inculcating values, principles and life-skills in young learners and grooming them to be responsible, caring citizens, Principal Smt. Hema Surapaneni has initiated a circle time with the students in small groups, where discussions are initiated, and value talk & reflection are used as an instruments of change. Classes 1, 7 & 8 had their circle time with the principal this week.



External Exams & Events: The results of the English Olympiad were declared, and winners were felicitated with medals in the school assembly. Students of our school have done exceedingly well in the exam, bagging five gold medals, six silver medals and 5 Bronze medals.



We are proud to announce that Harshith Gottimukkula of grade 4 won Medal of Distinction in International English Olympiad in the English Olympiad exams conducted earlier. Other winners of gold medals include Pavani Balasubramaniam of grade 1, Sohan P. Thomas of Grade 2, Kanika Kumar of grade 3, Ryan Majumdar of grade 4, Adit Gandham, Akil Jagatha of grade 6, Ababta Vakasyvranabuan if grade 7 and Smritika Vasi Reddy of grade 9.

Silver medals were bagged by Divija Susanna Veeravalli, of grade 2, Anuprabha Khatua of grade 3, Dinesh Kaushik of grade 4, Yashraj Chandorkar of grade 5 and Danvita K of grade 6 .

Krishna Mishra of grade 2, Illhan Ahmed Baig of grade 3, Aranya Jana of grade 4, Hariharan of grade 5 and Tanvi Agarwal of grade 6 won the bronze medal.

The National Cyber Olympiad for identifying and nurturing IT skills in students was conducted on January 31. A total of 46 students registered for the exam.

Students of grades 8 and 9 participated in the Jawahar Navodaya Literary fest on January 31, under different categories such as Essay writing, pencil drawing extempore etc. under the theme “Swachh Bharat and Swaasth Bharat”. Srujana .E of grade 8B won the first place in the Essay writing competition, and Guru Sai.M of grade 8b stood second in the extempore competition.



Student Achievers:

A Revanth of 9th grade won the first place in the 200 M finals of the state level track and field events conducted by School Sports Promotion Foundation and was presented with the gold medal. He has qualified for the National levels in the track and field category. He also won gold in the 100meters sprint in the Athletics Youth Championship conducted by Hyderabad District Athletic Association.



Thanuja of 10th grade was presented with the bronze medal for shotput in the U-16 category, and sports faculty Mr. B. Sudarshan was felicitated with a memento of appreciation for officiating the SSPF state meet.

In the Badminton Invitation Competition conducted by GHMC, B.M Varshita of II C and Harshita of IVB won gold in the Under 6 and Under 10 category respectively. B.M Jaswanth of IV C won silver while Varun Tej of grade V won bronze.

Spoorthy of grade VII, has brought laurels to the school in tennis, winning the ITL UTR Ranking tournament conducted by Noor Tennis Academy. Chanakya from grade 6th and Guru Sai of grade 8 qualified and participated in the second round of Byju's NIE scholars championship conducted on 27 January.



Professional Development Workshops:

Epistemo strives to continuously upgrade and update the skills of its teachers in the pursuit of excellence. Our teachers attended the following workshops in January.

The School Excellence Conclave , organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry on 5 January at the TCS auditorium, was a forum for teachers across schools to meet up and address issues related to teachers and teaching. It also served as a platform to discuss and brainstorm ideas, strategies



and solutions for up-skilling and up-scaling the education sector.

The conference sought to bring out into the public forum the need for teachers to lead the change in the education sector, and also how schools, governing bodies, managements and systems to could help bring about this change. Five of our teachers, Ms. Bhargavi, Ms. Vani, Ms. Radhika, Ms. Supriya and Ms. Bindu Sridhar attended this conclave.

English faculty Ms. Lavanya and Ms. Sarada attended a work shop on creative writing and teaching of literature at the Hyderabad public school, Begumpet on 25 January. The workshop sought to provide inputs to teachers on how to inspire and motivate young learners



towards literature by exploring and experimenting with new ideas.

We are happy to announce that Ms. Bindu Sridhar, Head of Department, English has stood first both in the city of Hyderabad and the state of Telangana in the CANTA Teaching Professionals Olympiad 2018, conducted by the Centre for Teacher Accreditation. The award carries a citation and cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- sponsored by Reliance Foundation for Teachers.

CANTA Certification is a high-quality assessment of teaching competencies which are structured as five Micro-Credentials. It is based on the internationally bench-marked standards and connects outstanding teachers to career growth opportunities and professional development in 47 cities in India, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.



In House Professional Development: Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni held internal sessions with the staff on Lesson Plans and Curriculum Planning for the coming academic year, and streamlining learning patterns to address heterogeneous learning groups.



Awards:

Epistemo Vikas Leadership School has been awarded the "Best Innovative Pre-School in Hyderabad" in the second edition of Pride of Indian Education Awards held on 19th January, 2019 at Constitution Club of India in New Delhi. Pride of Indian Education (PIE) award is bestowed upon India's Top Universities, Colleges, Institutes, Coaching Classes and Education Professionals/Educationists who have made a difference in the Education sector.



That was the school this month.

Wishing you an interesting and exciting February ahead.