



Epistemo
Vikas Leadership School

Epistemo Lemur's News



Note: In a nod to popular opinion and feedback, we have decided to rename the Monthly Newsletter so that it reflects news and events of the same month to avoid confusion in the minds of readers.

Greetings from Epistemo!

A new month is a new beginning, and as always, we approach the new month with a resolve to find opportunities hidden in each day.

While we look forward to all the hidden opportunities that March has to offer us, here's all the learning and fun that happened in the February gone by.

Events & Happenings in Campus:

Brighter Minds & Values workshop: The right attitude, values and personality can make all the difference for students who want to make a mark in their career. On February 1, 2019, students of grade 8,9, & 10 attended a guest lecture on 'Brighter Minds and Values' by Mr. Ramakrishna Mallela, HR trainer, faculty, coach and mentor, who is also an panel trainer at the Tata institute of Social Science. Mr. Mallela interacted with students and spoke about the poverty of values in the young generation. He explained the importance of being thoughtful and reflective about one's actions and speech. It was a very interesting session for the students to learn about how thoughts, words and actions reflect values and beliefs, and the need for raising the bar personally for success and fulfilment in life.



Cambridge Checkpoint Exam and the introduction of IGCSE stream for grades 9 and 10 in the coming academic year, in addition to the existing CBSE stream.

Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni explained the various nuances of the CIE curriculum and its role in shaping the minds of learners. She spoke at length about the curriculum, assessment patterns and feedback involved in CIE in comparison to CBSE, explaining to the parents that they could choose between Cambridge & CBSE streams at the end of grade 7 or 8, depending on the needs, aptitude and goals of their children. The presentation was followed by an open house where she addressed a number of questions raised by parents and students with regard to Cambridge curriculum.



Taekwondo Belt test: A belt test was organised for students of Taekwondo at the school campus on February 14. The event was presided over by Mr. Satish Goud- Grand Master 7th Don, President of Telangana Taekwondo Association and Founder of Temple Arts. It was an action-packed program with students executing the punches, kicks, katas and other routines to perfection. The participants were awarded their belts, and graduated to the next level. Chief Guest Mr. Satish Goud and Principal Mrs. Hema Surapneni addressed the students on the occasion.



Fond Farewell: On Saturday, February 16, the school bid a warm farewell to the outgoing Lemurs of 10th grade. The farewell party was organised with great enthusiasm by the students of 9th grade who endeavoured to make it a truly memorable event for the passing out batch.

The school auditorium was festooned with a photo booth with gold and silver shining stars and dazzling lights to befit the occasion. Young ladies glowed in beautiful lehngas while the gentlemen carried themselves smartly in suits as they joined their friends and teachers to reminisce the joyous moments of school-life.

Events started off with series of songs followed by the treasure hunt and a round of musical chairs where everyone had a good time. A few teachers relived the memories of the year that had gone by.

Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni addressed the outgoing batch, motivating them to achieve their full potential and do their best in the upcoming board exams and in the future beyond.

An incredible dance item presented by class IX students was well applauded, with grade X students also joining them for a scintillating dance performance.

Class X students cut the farewell cake along with Principal ma'am and other subject teachers. The occasion ended with snacks, sorrowful goodbyes and exchange of best wishes for the bright future ahead.





Science Day Celebrations: On February 22, Epistemo celebrated Science Day with a great deal of enthusiasm and scientific temper. In the extended special assembly in the auditorium, students from grade 1 to 9 exhibited their STEAM projects, Robotics and science related projects.

The programs put up by the students included a role play on the seed of plant and photosynthesis, songs, narration & 'Nukkad Natak' on waste management. Students also made presentations, shared insights and displayed models on prototype robots, aquaponics, genetically modified crops, sensors, vending machines, circuits, organic farming, earth movements and phases of moon, pulleys and sound waves. **Click on the below link of Organic Farming**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Re1bedDv970>





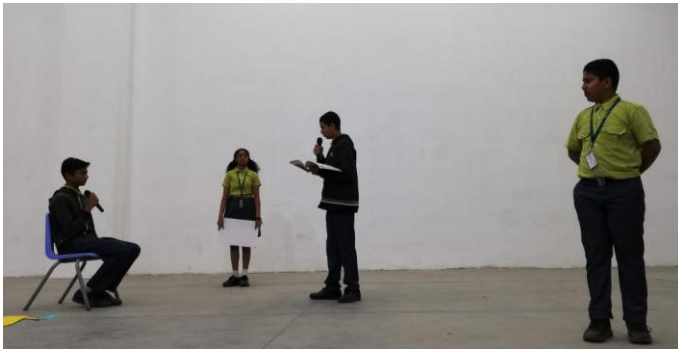
Special Assemblies: The special assembly conducted for the students of Pythagoras house, and was centered on the theme of 'Caring'. The assembly began with prayer. Students presented a Hindi skit on the value 'caring'. The essence of the theme was further explained by Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni lucidly to add to what the students witnessed through the play. The school also felicitated winners of various inter-school competitions.

Students of Odysseus house presented the assembly on Friday, 22 February, highlighting the value of caring. Through the skit and value talk, they conveyed the message that caring is not just

taking care of loved ones, but also to care for those in need. Keeping with the theme of caring, the following students were presented with star badges for being caring and empathetic to those around them:

Kyonthra (grade 1A), Arna (grade 2A), Sreenidhi (grade 3C), Tavi Reddy (grade 4C-), Toshith (grade 5A), Sharanya (grade 6B), Abhigna (grade 7), Parthavesa (grade 8) and Purab (Grade 9) were felicitated for being the most caring individuals.

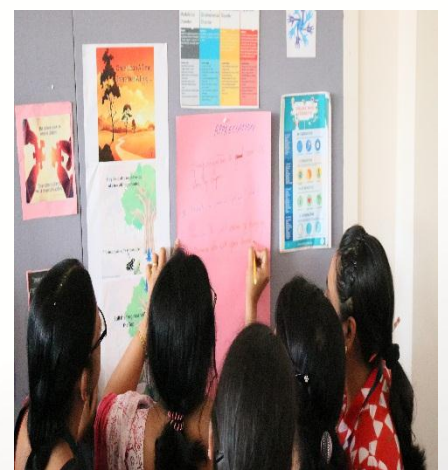
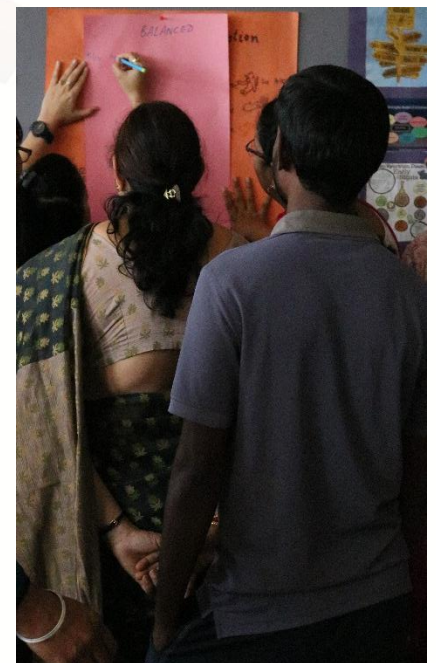
The assembly also saw displays, skits, songs and presentations by the students on the occasion of Science Day.



The Final exams for grades 1-9 are being conducted in school from February 27 to March 8. Students across grades are working very hard and putting in their best to come out with flying colours in the final summative assessment of all their learning for this academic year.



Professional Development for staff: During the staff meeting Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni discussed the implementation of the global perspective curriculum in the coming academic year, emphasizing the need for students to develop attitudes, knowledge, and skills needed to live and work in today's diverse, interconnected world. International mindedness & global perspective is rightly labeled a twenty first century skill, and it was felt that there is an overriding necessity for young students to acquire exposure to the subject in a systematic way. In the professional development session that followed, staff discussed and presented various methods to bring in global perspective into every day learning.



External Exams & Events:

INTACH: The hard work of the students of the film-making team paid off at the Film-it fest organised at Jubilee Hills Public School, earlier this week. The students, under the guidance of Ms. Vani Marri, had contributed four short films as entries to the Intach Film festival, and won in two categories- Best Concept Award for Street Play and Best Cinematography Award for our short film - 'Sculpture Art Interview'. Kudos to the winners!

Click on below link

<http://filmit.openfutures.com/2019/01/19/224238.mp4>



NASO: Ten students from our school who cleared the first round of National Astronomy and Science Olympiad, appeared for the second level online exam on 14 February. The students are, Yashraj. C, Sai Ritwik Kumar, Neil Arnav.K and M. Hariharan (all from grade 5), Y. Siddharth from grade 6, Rishab Garai, Tamanna Yadav and Akshat Saxena from Grade 7, Suya Pranav K and G. Sashank from Grade 8.

NASO is a platform for young students to explore, discover and nurture their knowledge and interest in the fields of space and astronomy. Top six winners of the final round of this Olympiad that is conducted worldwide will be sponsored for a 7 days trip to NASA Kennedy Space Centre, Houston.



Times of India Super League Quiz: Times of India has declared the results of School Super league Quiz conducted earlier in February, and Chanakya (Grade 6) and Guru Sai (Grade 8) have been presented with a Tab and school bag as a mark of appreciation for their exceptional performance proficiency in Maths and Science. Keerthana of Grade 9 and Surya Pranav of Grade 8 also received certificates of appreciation. The other participants who took part in the quiz are Rohan Vaddiyil (Grade 4), Aadit Gandham (Grade 5), Tamanna Yadav(Grade 7) and Revanth Ayinala (Grade 9)



Cambridge Community Meet: On February 23, Principal Ms. Hema Surapaneni and Cambridge Coordinator Ms. Vani Marri attended the Cambridge Community Meet hosted by CHIREC International School, Hyderabad.

Heads of the Cambridge affiliated schools in twin cities took part in the program. The participating schools were appraised of various initiatives undertaken by Cambridge to support and enhance the delivery of Cambridge Curriculum in schools, school review visits and academic event calendars. A proposal for a newsletter (quarterly) was raised, with Epistemo and two other schools taking initiative.

The meet ended with an interactive question and answer session and the gathering was informed that the next community meet will be held at Birla Open Minds International School.



Entrepreneurship program: On February 22, the students of the entrepreneurship program got the opportunity to attend an interactive session with Mr. Srikanth Talluri, founder of IN-CUBE Business Incubator for the creation of future curricula for entrepreneurship courses at the school. Mr. Talluri, with his abundant industry experience, vast exposure, deep understanding and global network will help our school design an entrepreneurial program to promote a culture of Innovation among the students.



Student Achievers:

Surya Pranav of grade 8 and Arya Goyal of grade 9 bagged 2nd position in the quiz organized by TIMES NIE on February 2, 2019.

Spoorthy & Geethika of Grade 7, along with K. Anirudh and Jayin of grade 6, who participated in the State level ROBOTIX competition held at Shantiniketan International School were presented with certificates and mementoes.

T. Rohan of grade 3A received a medal for having won second position in 12th Telangana Talent Search Roller skating championship 2019, organised by the Youth Roller Skating Foundation.

Spoorthy Chaava of grade 7 has emerged as the champion in the girls under 14 Category of the ITL Genesis Cup 2019. Congratulations to the winners.



Activities galore:

Hands-on Skip Counting:

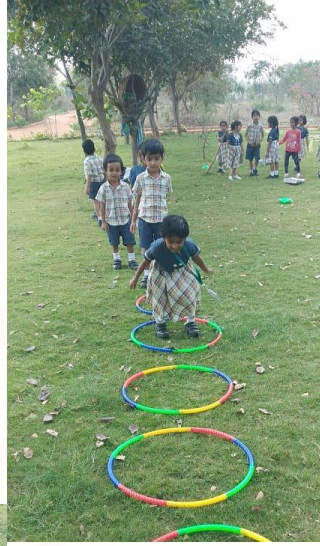
Skip counting is one way to build a strong foundation in multiplication. On 13th February, Lemurs of PP2 had a field day, stacking cups into towers, while also seeing for themselves what happens when they skip count. These kind of simple, hands-on activities are regularly incorporated into the Kindergarten math routine to ensure that learning math is not just easy, but fun as well!



Jigsaw Mix and Match: Solving jigsaw puzzles help children develop excellent hand eye co-ordination and sense of sequencing and logic. Students of nursery and PP1 completed a jigsaw puzzle on wild animals followed by a speaking activity.



Playing under the shade of the trees, and running around in the soft grass is always fun! PP students had the opportunity to experience nature close up, smell the unfiltered outdoors and enjoy themselves at a nearby park on Tuesday, February 19.



It is a great honour and pleasure to announce that our Principal Ms Hema Surapaneni has been featured in the “Hundred Highly Effective Principals of 2018” Award, and was felicitated at a grand award ceremony organised in New Delhi by AKS Education Awards. The award is based on 360 degree feedback from all stakeholders including the management, students, teachers and parents. Epistemo congratulates her for her boundless passion for innovation in education that has fetched laurels for both her and the school.



Epistemo has yet again proved its mettle at the 9th School Leadership Summit held on February 1, 2019 at Bangalore. Our director Mr. Anil Kolli represented our school at the awards ceremony as speaker in the panel discussion on The Evolving Concept of Safety, Security and Hygiene in Schools. In the same function, our school was felicitated for being ranked among the Top Schools of India.



From this month onwards, our newsletter will include an additional section called 'Student Speak' that will feature interesting write-ups, poetry and artwork by our students. Do read and enjoy!

That was the school this month. Wishing you a productive and eventful March!

Student-Speak

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

Report on the Cambridge Workshop

Guru Sai, Grade 8

During the morning hours of the 2 February, 2019, an orientation session was held to help students and parents of grades 7 & 8 decide between CBSE or IGCSE for the foreseeable future.

The conference began with Principal ma'am giving a presentation on the 2 boards that the school adhered to, namely, CBSE, and IGCSE. It covered their positives, and negatives, methodologies, teaching style, staff, their global presence, and their curriculums among a plethora of other aspects. The presentation stressed on the poor, and outdated 'talk and chalk' method that CBSE followed, the brick-like rigidity and lack of application-based questions, and most importantly, their dependence on marks, and the fiendish way the students had to prepare to obtain them. However, it was also stated that as 'simple' and 'easy' as CBSE was, it was the route that would prepare students best (in terms of knowledge) for nationwide competitive exams. The presentation then followed up with how the IGCSE curriculum was more than flexible enough to tend to each and every student's needs, aspirations, and level. Its global standard set it apart from most national boards and focused on student activity helping the student learn, rather than a chalkboard teaching them, along with its aim of teaching 21st-century skills coincided with an in-depth conceptual understanding, was praised upon by the host, and parents alike. Soon after giving a peek at the lives of students and faculty in Cambridge schools through audio-visual means, the presentation was wrapped up, and the parents and students were free to ask any question regarding the topic.

Starting with the parents, the second half of the session was confronted with questions relating to 'how this switch, from or back to CBSE, (if the student took part in it), would affect their school life', 'whether IGCSE was tougher than CBSE', 'how grading took effect on the student in Cambridge', and 'if IGCSE prepared its learners to tackle competitive exams in India, if the students decided to attempt them as an IGCSE learner'. Once both parents and students and parents were satisfied with the answers provided to them, the session wrapped up with the students being sent back to resume their classes, and parents being thanked for giving their time and discharged from the school

This in-depth comparison and question-and-answer session was intended to give parents and their children the information necessary to help them choose between CBSE, and Cambridge, for this decision would not only have effect on the next 2 to 3 years of the students but would seep into their life, affecting each and every action, an event that the student would encounter.

Report on Intach Film Fest Experience

Srujana, Grade 8.

We, the students of Epistemo have poured in blood and tears into creating four short films for the INTACH film festival. We were invited to the film-it fest to share our experience with other schools. Eight students from Grade 8 were taken to Jubilee Hills Public School to attend the fest.

We left the campus at 9:00am and reached JHPS in an hour. We were accompanied by our teacher, Ms. Vani Marri, who ensured our safety throughout the journey.

Many schools from all over the city, had uploaded their movies to INTACH and were gathered in the auditorium. An introduction speech was given followed by a prayer song and a welcome dance. This was followed by a small talk given by Ms. Anuradha, she told us about the importance of culture and tradition.

Then, Mr. Abhishek, a staff member from INTACH, spoke about the film fest and appreciated everyone for their hard work. Later, students were asked to share their experience through a speech, a song, a dance or a mime. All of them showed their passion and interest towards filmmaking. We chose to perform a mime and were very happy with this decision as no other school thought of it. We were also provided with snacks.

Later, all the short films another by the students were shown to us. We really enjoyed watching the informative and inspirational films. We were shown a short film made by Mr. Anurag, a passionate movie maker. The movie had all of us at the edge of our seats. Mr. Anurag believed that making movies required originality. He also added that you don't need fancy equipment for shooting a film, a simple smartphone camera is sufficient if you have true love for filmmaking. He encouraged us to start thinking bigger than ourselves.

Finally, Ms. Anuradha presented the awards. We won the Best Concept Award for our Street Play and Best Cinematography Award for our short film - 'Sculpture art interview by students'. We were awarded with books and certificates. All of us were ecstatic as our hard work and effort paid off.

We had a truly memorable time at JHPS. These memories are ones that we will cherish forever. We hope to participate in more forthcoming events like this one.

Lost in a Book.

Y. Baghavat, grade 6.

I opened a book, got lost my thoughts, and soared free...

Now no one can find me.

I left my chair, my house, my road..

my friends and my world behind me.

Report on Interactive session on Entrepreneurship

Surya & Guru Sai, Grade 8.

On February 22, the students of the entrepreneurship programme got the opportunity to attend an interactive session with Mr. Srikanth founder of IN-CUBE for the creation of future curricula for entrepreneurship courses at the school.

The session was infotaining- as in an amalgamation of both fun, and information.

We, the students, gave our valuable inputs on the shortcomings of previous programmes along with plausible solutions to the same. During the course of the session, the students also tried to puzzle out the difference between an innovator and an entrepreneur. Mr. Srikanth, in the latter half of the session, also cast light on the stepping stones to the path of entrepreneurship.

We appreciated the fact that we had a say in what would be taught to us- which is what made the experience unique.