

BLUE GEMS MONTESSORI

8TH GRADUATION DAY

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Good evening Chief Guest of the Day Jyothi ma'am. Correspondent ma'am, dignitaries off the dais, parents, grandparents, teachers and my dear students! It has been a great year and students and teachers have been busy as bees in their respective environments Lavender, Lemon, Honey Dew, Crimson, Melon and Indigo.

A typical day in the Montessori begins like this. They are received at the gate by their aunties and then at the door by one of the Level III anna or akka with a lovely greeting of a high five or a hug or a hand shake! They come with their mind made up to work at one of the areas of work namely Sensorial, Practical life, Math, Language, Botany, Zoology, Geography, Art or Culture. You'll see children braiding, sweeping, mopping, folding clothes, pouring, smelling, working with materials, reading, writing or observing someone else at work. Being in a mixed age group classroom helps them to learn from each other. They will also be seen caring for their environment or caring for the plants.

They are also taken to the vegetable garden where each environment has a garden patch to work on and they love weeding and watering and love watching the peacocks too.

Unlike traditional classrooms, Montessori learning environments are designed to fit the specific needs of each child's stage of development. Learning is all about the activity and independence of the child to find out what they need at each particular moment.

Three-year-old children arrive in the prepared environment ready to develop and perfect their abilities. They learn best through real-life activities that support independence and self-efficacy; manipulation of objects to provide concrete sensorial experience; and open-ended exploration leading to the refinement of their movements, sensory perceptions, language and the development of their intellect. All members of this expanded community of 3 to 6-year-olds thrive through opportunities to follow their own interest, freely choose their own activities, develop their capacity for concentration, and engage at their own pace their emerging powers of reason, imagination, and sociability.

Materials and activities are designed to support self-directed discovery and learning, and so is a perfect match for this developmental stage. They are organized around Practical Life activities that develop both independence and social skills; Sensorial activities that refine sensory perception; the development of Spoken Language, Writing and Reading skills; and Mathematical activities that develop fundamental mathematical concepts; as well as activities that reflect upon our human understanding of geography, history, biology, science, music, and the arts. The trained adult guides the children along this journey, helping them become well-adapted individuals, ready to take a positive, pro-social place in their world. Pictures of students working in their environment will be projected on the screen a little later.

They enjoy Sports with the Edusports Curriculum and look forward to their outdoor play time. They enjoy music and songs and look forward to Solomon uncle's music classes. They also have water play and are very disappointed when parents do not permit them for this activity.

Even Snack time is not a fixed time and each child learns to wait for their turn to sit at the Snack table. They love going on a campus walk and even visit me at my office. They visit the garden maintained by the seniors and even visit the Security cabin. The idea is for them to learn the dignity of labour.

Circle time is a great way for preschoolers to get a sense of community with other kids their age and enhance their social skills and improve their attention span. We introduced the Pick & Talk and Show and Tell activity for the Circle time and children prepared enthusiastically for the same. They learnt to present complete sentences in English about the object in their hand.

Now moving on to the activities of the year, we try not to disturb the Montessori students from their environment except for very important celebrations or sports

A Parent Orientation was conducted for the parents of Level I students and Mrs.Uma Raman was the resource person. She oriented parents on the Montessori philosophy and the FAQ's on Montessori. She

helped parents to understand what is expected of them to help the child settle down in a Montessori environment.

Ms.Hycinth, was selected as the Coordinator of the Montessori and she has been monitoring the smooth flow of the curriculum. Ms.Vaishnavi, Ms.Hermal Beena, Ms.Mahalakshmi and Ms.Geetha were sent to the Navadisha Montessori Institute to attend the Assistant's course as a refresher course. They came back and shared their learning with their colleagues during their reading sessions which happens every evening. Ms.Sivashankari, a fresher from Krishnammal College, has been sent to Navadisha for a year's course and will join Blue Gems in June 2019.

The Kiddies Meet was held on 18th December 2018 and Mrs.Gayathri, Correspondent of Jaycee Higher Secondary School was the Chief Guest of the day. The students put up a fantastic show and the Chief Guest spoke on the importance of Physical activity in the life of young children.

The Montessori students are a part of all our Religious and National celebrations like Diwali, Ramzan, Christmas, Bharathiyar Day and Pongal. Children's day was super fun with students enjoying the magic show and the story telling. I would like to appreciate Baby Sakthivel and his parents, who have never missed both the Independence Day and the Republic Day celebrations at School. He is the first student to report to school on this day in all these three years of his school life so far.

A parent athletic meet was organised on 8th September 2018 by Edusports and 70 parents took part in the various athletic events and team games. I thank all the participants for making the day a grand success

I thank all the parents of our Montessori students who visited our Annual School Exhibition, the CPS Extravaganza, and encouraging our students

The Annual Medical camp was held on 28th, 29th and 30th November 2018 and doctors from PSG Hospitals tested the Vision, hearing and

general health of all the students. Vision, Ear wax, cavities and obesity were the general problems and the reports have been sent to the parents.

On Vijayadasami, Vidyarambam was done to 60 students out of which 15 students have joined the Pre Montessori programme that we call The Buttercups and they have been attending school since then. They will move into Level I in June.

60 Students are graduating this year and are moving into Grade I. Their transition was started in January and they have been given a lot of training in reading and writing.

When it comes to social transitions, again the Montessori students have an edge. Children in Montessori classrooms have learned principles such as courtesy, respect, positive decision-making, conflict resolution, and more. These skills serve them well as they adjust to a new environment and meet new people.

I close with one note to the parents of our Level III students. Prepare them mentally for school for the first few days of Grade I. They will need all your encouragement because they will move into a traditional classroom and will go through a whole new routine. They

will have two new teachers and they will miss everything they have had in their first three years of their schooling. So, help them to settle down in their new environment. Talk to them a lot and listen to them a lot. Read to them or engage them in a game every evening

With these few words I close my report and wish you all a happy evening! Thank you!