



# "Brick-Beat"

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**Dear Parents,**

Greetings and welcome to the new academic year 2018-19. A very warm and special welcome to the parents and families of children who have joined Redbricks this year. This is a milestone year for us at Redbricks, as we will complete 10 years of existence and spreading our passion for quality education.

This newsletter covers happenings from the first quarter - June to August 2018 - at the pre-school with some glimpses of activities from the primary to senior school. These are perhaps the most difficult months for pre-schoolers as they transition into newer classes with new routines, curriculum, teachers and even friends. In this stage, they require special warmth and care from their parents and teachers to help them adjust and feel secure.



Our teachers have conducted most of their home visits, and this marks the beginning of one more year of collaboration between parents and teachers. Over the years, we have observed the numerous benefits of a strong parent-school relationship. Continuous and constructive communication helps both teachers and parents to understand children's needs, growth and behaviours with a contextual perspective. It helps them to strategise and provide better socio-emotional and academic support for children's strong development. Parents who attend regular school meetings, workshops, and other events create a positive image about the school in their children, understand the school's academic approach better and therefore are able to create a home environment consistent with the school's pedagogy. In this new academic year, we urge all parents to be active participants in their child's schooling journey by all constructive means possible.

This quarter was full of learning and development workshops for teachers giving them insights into the world of child development and on creating stimulating learning environments. Children enjoyed the transition activities, many celebrations and visits by various resource people. At the primary to senior school, investiture ceremony marked the beginning of the year with a newly formed student council. Lot of enriching school-wide activities through celebrations and the house program uplifted children's spirits. More students brought pride to the school through their achievements on various external platforms.

A special achievement was that our first batch of Class 10 ICSE students scored 100% pass result with the highest scorer bagging a 90% result. They also earned bronze award by the IAYP organization, which promotes leadership and adventure amongst youth through their skill-based, adventure-based and community service projects. Redbricks vision for its students has been to achieve academic excellence along with holistic development. This achievement has been a testimony to the success of this approach.

With that note, we wish a year full of progress and achievement for all our students and a joyous parenting journey to all our parents.

Best wishes,

**Renita Handa**

Founder and Director-Academics  
Redbricks Education Foundation

# JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

## Classroom Insights

### EYP 1

#### Transition

Starting a Pre school is a big step for a child and there is excitement as well as anxiety for the child as well as parent. To ease out the separation anxiety during the first two weeks parents were invited to be with the children in the class. A stimulating environment goes a long way in the learning process of children. Different learning corners to explore indoor free play, different art mediums, different activities during outdoor play, helped the children to get familiar with new environment and settle down in the class. They advanced through their social skills by interacting and playing with their peers.



Playing music and moving to a beat provides stimulation to young children and this was evident when children participated enthusiastically in the rhymes and action songs along with the teachers. Children clapped in glee with the rhyme “Hickety Pickety Bumble Bee” and some of them said their names as soon as the teacher said “Will you say your name for me?” In the coming days they were seen prompting the teachers to repeat the rhyme.

Listening to stories helps children imagine the characters and places, enhances creativity making them more imaginative and open to ideas and free thinking. With young children use of different props for narration is very appealing. The Story of “Mittens” was narrated with finger puppets, a chair was created with wooden blocks and snowfall with cotton. After the teacher narrated the story the children were curious to explore the finger puppets and create snow themselves.

### EYP 2

#### Transition

The first few weeks were planned keeping the transition phase in mind. Different fun filled activities helped children bond with peers and settle down in the new class.



Children have an innate love for stories. Stories create magic and a sense of wonder about the world. The children listened with rapt attention to the story of “The Hungry Caterpillar” which the teachers narrated with voice modulation, expression and props. It helped them to enhance their imagination and exposed them to the concept of In-Out, names of different fruits and days of the week.



Providing opportunities for children to actively use their senses as they explore their world through ‘sensory play’ is crucial to brain development. A “texture walk” was planned where children walked on different materials like pebbles, sand, silk and jute. The feel of these different materials was expressed by children through gestures and words.

An opportunity to beat the heat and also have some fun was when children took a splash in the pool. There were some who were apprehensive of getting into the pool whereas there were some who refused to end the play. Doing things together is a great way to bond with peers.



## Junior KG

### Transition

Appropriate behavior fosters a positive classroom environment. Engaging students on the first day of school in creating of a set of rules helps them to learn acceptable behaviour in a positive manner. Junior kg children engaged in creating some simple classroom rules which they recall everyday and try to follow through. These rules made along with children goes a long way in inculcating self discipline.



As a part of the “My Family” theme, children were asked to bring photos of their families. Needless to say they were excited to introduce their family members to their teachers and peers. It was also an opportunity to learn about joint and nuclear family and how each member plays an important role in a family. They loved to share about the things they do together as family.

During the art session children made stick and finger puppets out of paper cutouts. Children were given shapes like circle, triangle, rectangle along with an ice-cream stick. Children recognized these shapes, drew smiley faces on it, pasted them on a candy stick and narrated their own story using them. Beyond enhancing their creativity it also was a good exercise for them to express their emotions.



## Senior KG

### Transition

During the transition, children did an activity to build awareness about their neighbourhood. They were encouraged to think, recall and share about the places they see near their homes. Children mentioned places like ice-cream shop, garage, market, hospital. They were then asked to observe and see the different places near their school. To give a visual clarity teachers introduced them to the concept of a map by drawing it on the board. These kind of activities help children develop observation and logical thinking skills.



A school walk was organized to familiarize the children with the school campus, the different rooms and the different people who work here. They interacted and asked questions to the Principal, Security guards, Kitchen staff, persons involved in the Administration. Students came to know about the contribution of different people towards the functioning of the school.

Pretend play is an important part of children’s development. Through pretend play children learn about themselves and the world. When children engage in pretend and imaginative play, they are essentially experimenting with the social and emotional roles of life, by assuming the role of different characters or by using objects in their own way.

During the theme of “My Body” a doctor’s clinic was set up in the classroom, complete with tools used by a doctor, weighing scale, examination table etc. Children were seen to play different roles with some being patients and some being doctors and nurses. It gave the teachers an opportunity to see their observation skills, their creativity and interpretation. Such opportunities when they get to behave like grown ups are not only fun for children they are also opportunities to learn to solve problems, coordinate, cooperate and think flexibly.



# JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

## Celebrations

### Messy Day

Children love getting messy, and making things messy. We thought of integrating messy day celebration with some art and lots of fun. Some children express their feelings better through creative activities. Keeping this in mind, a fun filled activity day, was scheduled for the students to showcase their creativity and imagination without any limits of getting messy. It was a lovely sight to see the children play with potter's clay, multani mitti, soap water without any inhibitions. The activities helped in exercising their motor skills, recognizing colour cues and exploring different textures.



### Achievers' Day (Kindergarten)

There is a sense of pride and contentment when we achieve our goals and dreams overcoming all challenges. Arunima Sinha is an achiever who overcame hurdles of her life with positivity and strength. She was a national level football player who lost her leg in a tragic accident. She is the world's first female amputee to climb the Mount Everest. When children were told about her achievement they got the message that if we have willpower then despite all the odds we can achieve our goal. 'I can and I will' was the slogan taken back home.



### World Music Day

Everybody likes and enjoys music in different forms. We celebrated "World Music Day" in our school by creating 'Redbricks FM Station' where they sang lovely songs. Teachers exhibited and shared about different singers and various musical instruments. They also got a chance to explore different musical instruments. Everybody went home being a little more musical.



### Plantation Day and Environment Day

On 29<sup>th</sup> of June the school had organized "Plantation Day" and "Environment Day" for children. Children were very excited to plant seeds in their pots. They were briefed about the importance of plants in our lives and how plants and trees help to keep the environment clean. For the next few days they were being responsible by taking an initiative of watering the plants on a regular basis and see them grow. They also did an activity to observe the pollution in the air.



## International Yoga Day

When children learn techniques for self health, relaxation and inner fulfillment, they can navigate life's challenges with little more ease. Children derive enormous benefits from Yoga. Physically, it enhances their flexibility, strength, coordination, and body awareness. When OM is chanted in a group the effects are amplified and produce immense positive vibrations. All children participated enthusiastically in the yoga sessions conducted by our teachers.



## My Favourite Toy Day (EYP)

Toys are a very important part of each child's life. The best toys engage children's senses, spark their imaginations and encourage them to interact with others. Children got an opportunity to get their favourite toy to the school and show it to their teachers and peers. They also learned the joy of sharing with their peers. Their vocabulary was also enhanced by describing their toy and listening to others doing the same.



## Fathers' Day

A Father plays a very important role in every child's life. He is the role model or a Super Hero in the child's eye. To appreciate the special bond of father and the child, we celebrated "Fathers' Day" at school where children did various art activities to express their love for their fathers.



## Home visits

At the beginning of the session the teachers visit the homes of the students. These home visits help in building closer partnership, positive communication between home and school. During the home visits children expressed their excitement by showing their favourite toys, their rooms to the teachers. Knowing their habits, interests, likes/dislikes, routines helped the teachers in settling the children in the new environment.



# JUNIOR EXPERIENCES

## Workshops at Redbricks Pre-school

### Workshops for Teachers

Our Founder **Mrs. Renita Handa** conducted a vision session for the new members of Redbricks family. They also underwent some training sessions on early years education, curriculum planning and Project Approach.



With the start of the new session there were some workshops conducted for our teachers aiming at their professional development. **Ms. Paras Mahendru** who has many years of experience in ECCE conducted workshops on Enabling Environment and Observation, Planning and Assessment.



**Mrs. Urvi Shah** talked about various strategies of reading which can be used with young children to inculcate a love for reading.



The team was oriented about the essentials of children's safety and 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)' by **Mrs. Uma Subramaniam and Mr. Siddharth** from Aarambh India, Mumbai.



A workshop on using theatre-based pedagogic tools to discover the body's potential for harnessing knowledge through non verbal communication was conducted by **Mrs. Uma Oza**.



Our principals **Mrs. Sharmistha Chakraborty** and **Mrs. Sutapa Mishra** attended a Leadership Training for Managers by Dale Carnegie in Bangalore.



## Workshops for Parents

**Mrs. Sharmistha Chakraborty** oriented the new parents about the school's approach towards Early Years Education and the school program.



All parents were briefed about the year's curriculum by the respective class teachers.



## Visits by Resource People

**Puppet show-** A puppet show was organized for the students of kindergarten during the transition period. Children were totally engrossed to see the puppet show with lots of laughter in between.



**Grandparents'/Parents' Visits-** As a part of the ongoing theme "My Family" in Junior Kg, grandparents/parents were invited to conduct a few story sessions. We had Mrs. Anju Shah (Grandmother of Aarya Dakwala) Mr. Bhargav Shukla (Father of Charmy Shukla), Mrs. Falguni Shah (Grandmother of Myra Vaidya) and Mr. & Mrs. Gautam Shah (Grandparents of Krivit Shah).

**Doctor-** During the theme of "My Body" for Senior Kg, Ms. Sandhya Mistry a Doctor by profession and parent of Hridaan of Senior Kg visited the school to give children an insight about the functions of different body parts. It was an engaging session which enhanced the learning experience of the children.



# REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

## World Nature Conservation Day

World Nature Conservation Day was celebrated on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. This day emphasizes the need and importance of healthy environment for a sustainable living, and the well-being of present and future generations. To spread awareness on this very pertinent issue, **students of Class 6** hosted a special assembly explaining the critical problems, result of various types of pollution and its repercussions that affects every living form on this planet due to our fast and unhealthy life style. They also conducted a quiz that revolved around the varied aspects of conserving nature and to test general awareness about our environment.



## Investiture Ceremony

At Redbricks, we believe in constantly working towards our mission of creating global leaders of tomorrow by giving them exposure and opportunities today. To further this cause students and teachers of Redbricks organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Investiture Ceremony with great pride and joy. After enthusiastic canvassing and voting which went on for three days, the results were declared and the Redbricks Student Council was formed. The event was lent grace by the presence of the **Chief Guest - Dr. Amit Jani**, whose presence itself is motivation enough for our young leaders. To top it off his speech on leadership left them inspired with a new energy. Following this, the student council members took an oath with great dedication to serve the school council.



## World Population Day

We celebrated “World Population Day” on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. **Students of Class 8** conducted a special assembly where they explained the critical problems arising due to the over-population in this world and its adverse effects on humans. They presented it in the form of a News Report. The poem recited on World Population Day was quite moving and food for thought for all.



## International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2018 was celebrated by organizing a special yoga session in which all the students performed various ‘asanas’ and understood the importance of Pranayam under the guidance of our sports teacher - **Mr. Vipul**. He also performed Sirshasana on the occasion. **Mrs. Ranpaara** (Parent) shared the benefits of yoga and meditation and its importance for a student with regular practice. She conducted a meditation session for all students which they really loved.





# REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Fathers' Day

Redbricks celebrated Fathers' Day with craft and creativity where children in their own way expressed their love for their Fathers. Children engaged themselves in making colorful and creative scrolls, certificates and greetings with warm wishes and messages for their beloved fathers and enjoyed sharing the same with their peers.



## Foundation Day

A much awaited event of the year at Redbricks is our school's Foundation Day which falls on 14<sup>th</sup> March. This year, it was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Santej campus. On this day our students received awards by the hands of our esteemed chief guests for the occasion - **Mr. Aditya Handa, Founder of Abellon Group of Companies** and **Dr. Megha Bhatt, an Environmental Scientist and Educator**. Students were recognized and awarded across various categories like Emerging Einstein, Best Sports-person, Artist of the year, Student of the Year, Emerging Leader, best attendance, Subject Toppers etc.



## Enhancing Language Skills through House Activity

One of the house activities focused on developing students' language skills. **Class 1 to Class 4 students** participated in Bingo, where they smashed sentences to showcase their communication efficiency, and **Class 5 to Class 11 students** participated in Pictionary and Relay without Delay. The students and teachers had a good exchange of learning and fun during the activity.



## Professional Development Workshop

All the teachers of Redbricks attended a session by **Ms. Uma Oza** where they discussed and learned the importance of loving oneself.



They took part in games and activities that focused on touching base with one's own prospective and capabilities while learning to practice mindfulness and love oneself.



**English Language Mentor - Ms. Rupa Shah** conducted workshops on how to build vocabulary in students and introducing new ways to read in a class with and by students, other than the conventional ones.

# REDBRICKS EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Student Achievements

It gives us immense pleasure to share that some of our students from Class 9-10 have cleared the bronze level of 'The International Award for Young People Program'. The students are **Aaryan Shah, Yash Pandya, Devansh Radhanpura, Tirth Parikh, Molin Dave, Disha Sharma, Kathan Raval, Buland Shah and Nisha Chaudhary.**



**Pari Gulabani, Class 5A**

Awarded for her  
Creditable Performance  
in UCMAS at state level

**Dhairya Mistri, Class 5B**

Awarded for his  
Outstanding Performance  
in ABACUS Program

## Proud moment- Announcement of Class 10 Results

It's celebration time...100/100 achievement of Maiden Redbricks ICSE batch

The ICSE Class 10 results are out and we are delighted to announce that our maiden batch of students has brought great pride to the school, teachers and parents, with a 100% result. Yash Pandya scored 90% in his ICSE results and topped his class.

Kudos to the students on this outstanding achievement...We are grateful to their parents for their continued support and encouragement...



## Mindfulness for children

### What is mindfulness?

Mindfulness is a whole body-mind state of awareness that involves ‘tuning in’ to the present moment, with openness and curiosity, instead of ‘tuning out’ from experience. Mindfulness is a state of being fully awake to life – being aware and undistracted in the present moment. It is about focusing attention on the present, rather than thinking about the past or worrying about the future- which is often our brain’s default mode.

Mindful awareness is something that we all possess and that can be strengthened through practice. Mindfulness can be developed through formal sitting meditation practices, or through informal everyday mindfulness activities that use the senses to anchor the attention: such as mindful walking, listening to music, eating or conversation. Mindfulness is a clinically proven tool to support wellbeing and mental health by reducing stress and allowing life to be experienced more fully.

### Why practise being mindful?

The way we interact with our kids has a huge impact on the way they think about themselves and their levels of personal resilience. Ellen Langer and team, a world-renowned mindfulness researcher found that children not only prefer to interact with mindful adults, but actually devalue themselves following interactions with mindless adults (Langer, Cohen & Djikic, 2010).

### The benefits of mindfulness with children

- Research shows that mindfulness training increases connectivity in the frontal lobe of the brain, which is linked to improved attention, memory processing and decision making abilities.
- Mindfulness training involves tuning in to internal and external experiences with curiosity resulting in increased self-awareness, social awareness, and self-confidence.
- Mindfulness training increases children’s ability to self-regulate their emotions, especially difficult emotions such as fear and anger, through breathing and other grounding techniques.
- Mindfulness has been shown to improve empathy or the ability to understand what another person is thinking or feeling, which improves children’s awareness of others and helps them to build positive relationships.
- Mindfulness training has been shown to reduce the severity of depression, anxiety and ADHD in children.
- Mindfulness builds resilience by giving children skills to help them to cope better with stress, as well as engage more fully with themselves and the world.

### Mindfulness for parents

The best thing parents can do to help their children become more mindful is to commit to some regular mindfulness practises themselves! The more present and mindful you are with your children, the more happy, mindful and resilient they will be. Mindfulness training can assist parents to remain in the present moment and engage more fully when interacting with their children. Research shows that parents and carers who practice being mindful around their children contribute to improving their child’s sense of self-worth and self-esteem.

- **Mindful play:** Dedicate a window of time each week to mindfully play with your child or children. Turn off all other distractions such as TV, and put your mobile away and on silent. Try to give them your full attention during this time and if your mind wanders off to all the things you should be doing, that’s fine – that’s just what minds do! Use your child as an anchor to come back to every time your mind wanders away.
- **Mindful cooking:** Cooking together can be a great way to spend quality time. Help your child notice the colours, smell and taste of the ingredients as you add them to the meal, and the touch of the different items as you cook.
- **Mindful dinnertime:** Create a time for your family to appreciate and savour their food at the start of a meal by spending the first few minutes of dinner in silence, just eating and enjoying the food. It’s a surprisingly nice activity to do with the whole family, and if done regularly, can become a lovely ritual.
- **Mindful teeth brushing:** Getting kids to brush their teeth can be a challenge, so why not make it a challenge, by inviting them to try to do it mindfully with you? Invite them to pay attention to the feel of the brush in their mouth and the sensation and taste of the toothpaste. Ask them three things they noticed that was different about their brushing tonight than from the previous night.

# CREATIVE CORNER



Mehar Nagpal | EYP 1 A



Mahiman Patel | EYP 2 A



Twara Patel | EYP 2 B



Group Activity | EYP 1 B



Shanaya Shah | EYP 2 C



Group Activity | EYP 2 D



Tishya Ajmani | Junior Kg. A



Sarthika Pandey | Junior Kg. B



Anaya Devdiwala | Senior Kg. A



Anay Vachhani | Junior Kg. C



Group Activity | Junior Kg. D



Shaurya Shah | Senior Kg. B



Mahi Kanwar | Senior Kg. C



Rishva Dodhiwala | Senior Kg. D

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