

IMAGINE

FIRST QUARTER

Active April

- Student Orientation Program
- Visit to SAME DEUTZ tractor manufacturing unit
- Workshop: Adolescent health and hygiene
- Assembly
 - Books our treasure
 - Reading vs Writing
 - We get a lot when we share
 - Sun Protection
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

To present an insight on kindness, the Primers had an assembly on WE GET A LOT WHEN WE SHARE where they presented songs, stories, quotes and mime which had the audience thinking.

The assembly on SUN PROTECTION included a presentation by the students of the Middle and the Secondary on the relationship between sun exposure and skin cancer; students participated in activities promoting the benefits of sun protection.

Dear Parents,

We are off to a great start this year. Students, Teachers and Staff have come back after a short break re-energized and focused on making it a successful academic year, again.

Let's glance into the happenings of April, not as a snapshot but as a special issue in itself that attempts at reproducing the words and thoughts that progressed the entire month.

"Future orientation is combined with a notion and expectation of progress and nothing is impossible".

Alan Dundes

STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAM

This program was designed to help our future students explore the academic environment and the opportunities for them. The orientation sessions was followed by foundation or enrichment classes in all levels where small groups of students met the faculty, staff, and orientation leaders to discuss and assess their academic and life goals. It gave students the opportunity to research their academic abilities, interests and educational plans before their first semester classes.

Field Trip

Students of Grade 9 and 10 visited Same Deutz tractor manufacturing unit, Ranipet. The Assistant coordinator accompanied the students and explained the technical aspects in the manufacture of

Tractors. It was a great opportunity for our students to get practical exposure of machines used in the manufacturing of Tractors. It was a superlative experience for our students. The students followed it up with an interactive session with the instructors of the industry which helped them acquire more practical knowledge and to take industrial visit seriously as it could prove to be an advantage for their future endeavours. The visit was indeed a unique experience for our students.

"A room without books is like a body without a soul."

-Marcus Tullius Cicero



Books play an important role in everyone's life. We learn a lot from them. They take us into a different imaginary world. Corroborating these benefits of books, an assembly on '**BOOKS, OUR TREASURE**' was organized where the primers presented different quotes, facts and stories which encouraged the audience to cultivate the habit of reading.

The students of Grade 8 exhibited their oratory skills in an assembly on Reading v/s Writing. Students displayed various videos, quotes and facts to reflect their views. The assembly turned into a debate where students put through their own thoughts but towards the end students understood that reading and writing are just two directions of the same path.

PERILS OF THE PRE-TEEN. A workshop to make the students aware of the common adolescent health associated problems was conducted exclusively for girls which was presided by Mrs. Chitra Madhavan. She gave a very informative presentation on "Adolescent Health and Hygiene". The students were advised about the benefits of eating right food and exercising. A question box session was held wherein the students put all their queries in a box which were then picked up for answering by the experts.

Balsam observed the **SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN** across all the levels. The Department of Social club was at the forefront of this "Clean India Drive" from day one. A variety of programs had been designed to keep students as well as the teaching and non-teaching staffs involved and be a part of this mission. The department introduced the mission and illustrated the day-to-day activities to be performed. This was followed by students of Secondary in Social Work, cleaning their respective classrooms under the guidance of their respective class teacher in-charge. Discussions were held under the guidance of Mr. Sudharshanan, Vice principal with the topic being "Sustainable Cleanliness- An occupational responsibility of the Service Staff". However, "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" should not be a mere one-time exercise.

The assembly on **SUN PROTECTION** included a presentation by the students of the Middle and the Secondary on the relationship between sun exposure and skin cancer; students participated in activities promoting sun protection.



Summer is no vacation when it comes to **REPAIR & MAINTENANCE** of the school campus.

As students headed out for holidays, the knocks of hammers and the strokes of brushes soon filled the vacuum as we utilized the break to carry out repair and maintenance work. This is the only time of the year where we can take up renovation, whitewashing and maintenance work as children are away.

We assessed if additional desks would be required to accommodate new admissions and also arranged for textbooks and uniforms for the students. This was also the time for us to upgrade the math and language labs.

Balsam observed **MAY DAY** to celebrate labour as one of the greatest elements of society, the great substantial interest on which we stand.

The Management hosted a lunch and distributed gifts to the support staffs following which they had an entertainment program including some fun games organized by the physical education department.

Balsam reverberated with sounds of victory when the **CBSE CLASS 10 RESULTS** were announced.

Our third batch of Class 10 students registered 100 percent results. Out of 22 students who appeared for the board exams in the month of March, one student has achieved 10 grade points and 3 students achieved A1 grades, 13 other students achieved A2 grades and the rest 5 were graded with B1.

Indeed a very pleasing set of results which reflects both the hard work of our pupils, and the support they have received from staff and parents throughout their time at the school.

Momentary May

- Repair and maintenance
- Getting a fresh look
- Setting up greeneries
- May Day
- CBSE Class 10 results
- Parent orientation program
- School calendar
- Training and capacity building
- Platform to develop

The School core committee members of the school met for the next year's plan and drew up the school calendar and the class time-tables giving a proper balance to academic and co curricular activities. A copy of the Academic calendar has been given to the parents in the orientation programs.

Reaffirming our commitment to the concept of providing quality education, within the landscape of cultural and socio-economic diversity from which children enter the portals of the school; we organized an orientation Program for the parents of the new entrants on 28th May. We made the gathering aware of the newly adopted curriculum, the culture and working atmosphere of the school and highlighted the vital role played by proper dietary habits and stress free life style to maintain sound health.

GETTING A FRESH LOOK. To gain a fresh perspective in welcoming the new entrants we have designed safety doors in the K1 classes. The wooden doors will ensure aeration and safety of kids.

We set up greeneries in the second fortnight of May under the guidance of our Director Mrs.Asha Rani Balam

The **ORIENTATION PROGRAM** for the Lower and Upper Kindergarten on 30th May provided the parents with an Insight on school curriculum. In an interactive session, we answered the queries of the parents who further actively participated in the brain storming initiated by the Head of the School where she emphasized upon the pivotal role played by parents in the upbringing of children and in helping them to tide over the cares and concerns related to childhood. The Educational coach from EZ-Vidya also gave a clear insight on the Chrysalis Program.



The staff of Balsam, along with the administrative team, took a giant leap in taking what was a very difficult and trying situation and made it a positive. In working as a professional staff, we developed and are currently implementing several innovative programs that will directly impact the learning of our students. The major change made that will influence teaching and learning most significantly is teacher evaluation, training, and sustained professional growth. To meet this need, the facilitators participated in training and capacity building programs. The following themes were

carefully selected after a clear study on the requirements of training at various levels.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING. As part of continuous professional development the Instructional leaders designed an orientation program to enhance the teaching and learning process. The facilitators participated in the workshop enthusiastically. The following themes were carefully selected after a clear study on the requirements of training at various levels.

The teachers also had a **PLATFORM TO DEVELOP** their artistic skills by dancing, dramatizing and story narrating. The physical education trainer Mrs.Venkattamal trained the staffs on few yoga postures which would help them keep fit. The teachers went on with their much needed summer break from 16th May.



School commenced on 4th June 2015 and everyone looked forward to yet another exciting year of learning opportunities. The session started with new hopes and dreams. Everyone was filled with great enthusiasm, and children were eager to meet their old classmates and friends.

The onset of the new academic session began with making the little ones familiar and comfortable in their new environment. With an attempt to encourage the children in becoming knowledgeable and caring young learners; the little ones were initiated into the world of inquiry from the word go.

The **FOUNDATION PROGRAM** for the Kinder helped to create positive relationships between teachers, students and community agencies that set the stage for a smooth transition for the future success. The activities enabled to know more about our kids and helped create a friendly atmosphere. The Kindergarteners are playing really well alongside each other, singing the song and saying numbers and shapes. They have settled in very well to school life and have got the year off to a fantastic start - well done Kindergarteners.

It was a proud moment for the entire nation as our traditional yogic practice was recognized internationally and the UN declared 21st June as the **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR YOGA**.

WHOLE SCHOOL

- How to utilize the non teaching hours productively.
- Enhancing competitiveness.
- 7 habits of mind.
- Class room display-ideas & effectiveness. Appreciation triggers Optimism.

MIDDLE & SECONDARY SCHOOL

- How to manage the adolescent girl student?
- How to manage inquisitive learners?

ENGLISH

- As a skill than a knowledge subject.
- Learning made fun filled and interesting.
- The beauty of debating skills.

SOCIAL

- Benchmarking in social sciences.
- Remembering chronologies and timelines.
- Social sciences data collection techniques.

SCIENCE

- Differentiated instruction.
- Application of extended learning.

MATHS

- Math in real life Math in origami

TAMIL

- Observation skills
- Easy ways to grasp grammar

Jubilant June

- Kinder foundation program
- World Environment day
- International day of Yoga
- Grandparent Visit
- Visit a Dental Clinic
- Investiture Ceremony
- Talespin Contest
- Recitation Contest
- Assembly
 - My School
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
 - Silly little plays
 - Folktales
 - Discovering Myself
 - Our farmers
 - Co-existence in harmony
- Budding poet contest
- Hindi Highlight

A working Sunday: The heritage club and the Sports team of our school organized the yoga day celebrations. The students and the teachers of Secondary practiced asanas with immense enthusiasm and fervor.

Our K1 kids visited **DENTAL CLINIC**. During the visit the dental doctor talked to the children about keeping their teeth healthy and clean and gave them tips on how to brush their teeth. A couple of the children dressed up in the dentist's clothes to show everyone what the dentist might look like when they went to visit. All the children learnt a lot in the session and went home with big smiles.

Balsamites celebrated **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY** on 5th June with full enthusiasm. The students World environment day of the Secondary established an indigenous organic garden in the school premises. Students elevated slogans and displayed posters regarding different environmental issues. The Secondary team and the SUPW coordinator interacted with the students, spoke about threats to the environment and facilitated students understand the importance of the three P's - Protect, Preserve and Promote 'mother earth'.

K1 students invited a **GRANDPARENT** to join for a morning at school. Grandparent helped the students make some bright and wonderful artwork. The children enjoyed reading books with the grandparent.

Grandparent narrated a story for the kids. He also shared some of his happiest moments with them and he was more delighted to receive the gift from the kids.



'If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more than you are a leader'

- John Quincy Adams

The **INVESTITURE CEREMONY** of Balsam Academy for the academic session 2015-2016 was held in a special ceremony at the school Assembly Hall. The event was presided over by our beloved Correspondent Smt. Saroja Balaram, the source of inspiration; Head of the school Mrs. Chitra Madhavan, Deputy Head of the school Mr. Sudharshanan and all the faculty members witnessed this ceremony.

The ceremony was held with lots of enthusiasm and gusto. It was initiated with the World peace prayer followed by lighting of the lamp signifying removal of darkness denoting the path of wisdom and divinity. The motivational song was sung beautifully by our students. Thereafter the dignitaries gave away the badges to all the captains & vice-captains of all the three houses and clubs. Our newly elected student council took an oath in front of the whole school to be true to their posts and duties assigned to them.

The School captain and the School Vice captain shared their thoughts on taking this esteemed responsibility and the office bearers were congratulated by our beloved Correspondent. The School Director conveyed a thoughtful message for the newly elected members and inspired the students by her speech as she spoke on the importance of the badge.

The event ended on a note of positivity and willingness, with the prefects promising to do their best in whichever way they can. They were ready to encounter the challenges that would come on their way & would work upon their weaknesses as well. In this way, the investiture ceremony concluded with lot of hopes & aspirations for our future leaders & it was a great success with the participation of all our students & teachers, without whom it would not have been so impactful.



"The sense of language has also been strengthened by reciting more"

- Wei Shusheng

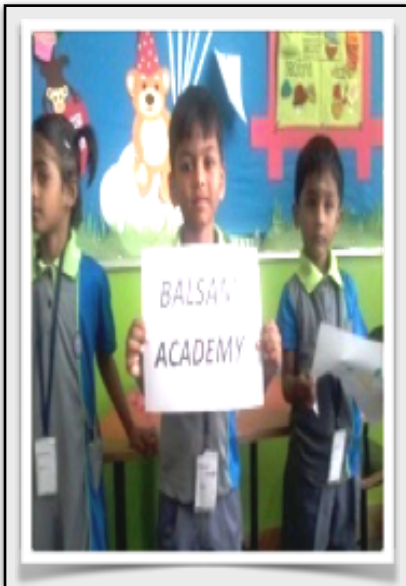
S. No.	Leadership	Name of the Student	Class
1	President	Ashwini K	G8A
2	Vice-President	Prtithvi Raj M	G7B
3	Secretary	Avinash R	G10A
4	Treasurer	Nirmal Kumar K	G9A
5	Sports Captain	Deepika E	G10A
6	Sports Vice-Captain	Shakthi S	G8A
7	Community Outreach Captain	Subash M	G10A
8	Community Outreach Vice-Captain	Janani Shakthi M G	G8A
9	Beyond Academics Captain	Mohan Kumar S	G10A
10	Beyond Academics Vice-Captain	Bhuvaneshwari B	G9A
11	Alpines Captain Sr.	Vinaitheerthan C	G10A
12	Alpines. Vice-Captain Sr.	Krisheega Varsha E	G8A
13	Grands Captain Sr.	Harini S	G10A
14	Grands Vice-Captain Sr.	Joselyn Diana Cindrealla M	G8A
15	Himalayans Captain Sr.	Lakshmi Hari Priya T	G10A
16	Himalayans Vice-Captain Sr.	Kiruthika E L	G8A
17	Alpines Captain Jr.	Karunya K S	G7B
18	Alpines. Vice-Captain Jr.	Thirisha P	G7B
19	Grands Captain Jr.	Shalom Grace V	G7A
20	Grands Vice-Captain Jr.	Jason Daniel	G7A
21	Himalayans Captain Jr.	Felsiya C	G7B
22	Himalayans Vice-Captain Jr.	Hazel Andrea J	G6B

And so in the process of escalating our kids in language we conducted **RECITATION CONTEST** for the Primers. Everyone took part in the Recitation Contest. The children got an opportunity to exhibit their talent and confidence with the beauty of expression, rhyme, rhythm and music of words. The Preliminary round was conducted in the classrooms from where three children from each of the two sections were selected for the Final Round. What a beautiful way to express something through innocent words and actions in a melody with all smiles and giggles.

The assembly on **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** was conducted with the prime objective of creating awareness among students of the Primary level that we are running out of space. The assembly helped them learn the importance and necessity of the three R's of the environment: reduce, reuse and recycle. Students gained a real time experience on reusing by decorating the assembly hall with reusable things such as papers, buttons, cups, bottles, broken things and also did some collage works etc. Students rocked the stage with their enthusiastic performance of skit and song.

Once upon a time... these four little words have the super power to immediately transfer your children and you to another reality. Tales have the power of altering your children's minds. What stories and tales you tell your child and how you narrate them is of utmost importance.

As tales play an important role in child's life a **TALESPIN** contest was conducted in the Primary level. Students prepared for the competition and narrated the story with gestures and facial expressions.



An assembly on **SILLY LITTLE PLAYS** provided a platform to Grade 8 students to expose their theatrical skills with expressions and dialogues by enacting a drama on importance of right decisions in life which was followed on by a group discussion on theatrical skills.

The maiden assembly on theme **MY SCHOOL** was conducted on 19th June by the Kindergarteners. A wonderful opportunity for our K1 kids to know about Balsam from their fellow wards. The K3 student's staging on about Balsam, the school logo, uniform and all other facts of Balsam fascinated the Preschoolers to feel attached and happy about Balsam.

"Hidden talents are abundant, needed is the insight to identify them."

And for the curious young minds, the assembly on **DISCOVERING MYSELF** prompted to recognize their talents. G3 students enacted a skit that won the applause of the viewers. Students watched a video on how to discover one's strengths and weaknesses. The Primers were instilled that they alone are the judges of their worth and their goal is to discover the infinite potential in them, no matter what others think.

"Farmers offer a glimmer of hope for a safe and healthy future."

The assembly on theme **OUR FARMERS** was presented by the students of the Primary level where the students watched a presentation on the procedure of raising crops. Students learnt about the farmers, their hard work and the agricultural yield. Hence, realizing that the farmers play an important role in human's life on this earth, the students assured that they would have a high regard for farmers and henceforth would treat them with respect and dignity.



The assembly for the Primers on **CO- EXISTENCE IN HARMONY** provided a platform to explore, understand, educate, and establish a system to ensure harmonious co-existence at all levels of living: individual, family, society and nature. Students understood that they should always aim at complete harmony of thought, word and deed for their betterment in life. They also watched a video on „harmony“. The assembly concluded with a prayer song glorifying the harmony we live with.

Students were able to bring to light their aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of language in the form of poetries by means of the **BUDDING POET CONTEST** conducted for the Middle and Secondary students. Through this competition, students got a chance to display their innate talent as a poet. Our budding poets got to prove their mettle in the final round where they developed their creative instincts.



THE CANDLE'S FLAME

Here is a lighted candle,
which is easy to handle.

It gives us light,
And make the surrounding bright.

See the candle with bright flame,
And can we be the same?

So spread the light
And make your future bright.

நாட்குப்புறக் கதைகள் FOLKTALES

“உடனும் உயிரும் பிரியாதவை. அதுபோன்று மனிதனோடு சேர்ந்து, மனித வாழ்வை இனிக்கச் செய்வது - நாட்குப்புறக் கதைகண்ணி நாட்குப்புற கதைகள்; அதாவது போக்ரெயில்ஸ் என்பது யாராலும் எட்டிலோ, ஓலைச்சுவடிகளிலோ எழுதி வைக்கப்படாதது. வாய்வழியாக பல தலைமுறைகளைக் கடந்து இன்றும் கூறப்படுவதும் கதைகளாகும். நாட்குப்புற கதைகள் முதன்முதல் தோன்றிய விதம்; அந்த காலத்துல ஆதி மனுஷங்க இருந்தாங்க இல்லையா, அவங்க வேட்டையாடிச்சென்று திரும்பியவுடன் தன்னோட அனுபவங்களை மற்றவர்களுக்கு சொல்ல தொடங்கியதிலிருந்தே இந்த நாட்குப்புற கதைகள் தோன்றியதாம். அதோட இல்லாம அந்த காலத்தி- டுந்த மக்கள் தங்கள் குழந்தைகளின் வாழ்க்கையில் தன்னம்பிக்கையும், நல்லொழுக்கத்தையும் வளர்க்க தானாக கற்பனைக் கதைகளை கூறத்தொடங்கியதே இந்த நாட்குப்புற கதைகளின் தொடக்கமாகும் என்றும் கூறுகின்றனர். மாணவர்கள் நாட்குப்புறக் கதைகள் உருவான விதத்தை உணர்ந்து கொள்கின்றனர். நாட்குப்புறக் கதைகளின் வகைகளை அறிந்து, இசையை கேட்டு, மகிழ்ந்து நடனமாடினர். இத்துடன் காலவழியாக முடிவடைந்தது.

D Thalir Mahizhan

Grade 7

कक्षा आठवी की छात्रा
अक्षया ने मुहावरों को बड़े
सुंदर ढंग से कहा और
साथ ही उनकी व्याख्या
अपने सुंदर शब्दों से की।
जिससे उनकी भाषा के
ज्ञान का प्रतीत होता है।
उन्होंने अच्छे उदाहरणों
का भी प्रयोग किया। कक्षा
दूसरी व तीसरी के
विद्यार्थियों ने खाने की
तहजीब के बारे में बड़े उत्साह
से सीखा और उसका आनंद
लिया।

Lots of events have
happened, all in all a truly
exciting start to the 2015-16.
Please keep checking the
school website for important
updates and messages.

LIFE OF A FLOWER

Once in a foggy winter morning;
I saw a friendly little flower blooming.

Its face was bright like a moon;
Not aware of being plucked soon.

No words to describe it
So I sat next to it...

The tender petals were wrapped up
Like a pink fairy cup

It soon had its bath,
By the gardener in his path!

I wished the flower a better luck
To stay away from being plucked

It was not too late
A child came to decide its fate

Plucked the flower in a moment
And scampered back in enjoyment

Now the little flower is hidden in history,
This is life which remains a mystery.

