



Saksham

10th Anniversary Issue
Newsletter 2018-2019



Dear Parents,

As another eventful and fun school year comes to a close, its time for a small recap of the months gone by.

The past year has been a roller coaster with hardly a dull moment. The school has been constantly buzzing with activity and excitement and the time has just flown by! On behalf of the management, staff and children, a huge thank you to everyone who was with us on our journey this year.

Here is a short roundup of all that we have done at Saksham in the last year....

Celebrations: Just like other years, this year too was packed with celebrations. Beginning with **Earth Day** in April and ending with the **Annual Day and Graduation Ceremony** and the much awaited **Annual School Picnic**, in March, 2018- 2019 saw us celebrate a full **Sports Week, Halloween, Literacy Day, Laughter Day, International Tiger Day, World Animal Day, Hindi Diwas, Children's Day and Friendship Day**. We celebrated families and relationships with **Mother's Day** in May and **Grandparent's Day** in October. It was an honor to have so many loving and proud grandparents amongst us that morning!

Festivals: At Saksham we take our festivals very seriously and make them fun for the children while teaching them about India's cultural diversity. Once again this year saw us celebrate **Janamashtmi, Holi, Dussehra, Raksha Bandhan, Diwali, Ganesh Chaturthi, Eid, Guru Nanak Jayanti and Christmas**, all with the same enthusiasm and enjoyment. This Christmas saw us take festivities and the joy of giving to our support staff too during the **Secret Santa's** after school Christmas bash.

National Days: The spirit of patriotism is always celebrated at Saksham with the children on **Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanthi and Republic Day** all with equal fervour. These days, this year like earlier years, saw the children sing patriotic songs, hoist the National flag and speak about our freedom fighters and national symbols. Our little ones even did a small March Past on Republic Day with great enthusiasm and vigor.

Visits, Outings and Exciting Days: The long hot summer of Delhi makes visits and outings a little bit uncomfortable for almost 6 months of the year. However, our Summer Camp continues to be highly popular and packed with scores of children having a blast.

We are now in the process of **planning Camp 2019!!** Our children at Saksham get to make the most of the autumn, winter and short spring season to go on fun and educative outings in the NCR. This year we went to the **Deer Park for Nature Walks**, had thrilling **Splash Pool Days**, educative visits to the **Post Office, Fire Station, Gurudwara and Gandhi Smriti**, a school visit by a Doctor, and some great times at the **National Rail Museum and the Annual School Picnic**. We also had a blast cleaning our environment during the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan** with our colorful brooms. **World Animal Day** saw Saksham being visited by four of our furry friends, **Sam, Google, Django and Raichu**. The jury is still out on who was happier, the children or the dogs! As always we had a very well attended and educative **Alumni Meet** this year too. Our **Anthropometric Health Check** of every child by Athika Health Solutions was greatly appreciated and may soon become an annual feature!

Awards and Accolades: It is with a great sense of pride and achievement that this year we received the **Merit award for Holistic Development (Northern Region) by Education Today**. The recognition of our efforts towards providing the best education and the faith shown by you all encourages us in our constant endeavor to improve the standards of education and inculcate a love for learning in our children.

Green Initiative: We are happy to state that we have taken our policy of minimal waste forward and we now discourage gift wrapping, using of plastic packaging, use of single use plastics, disposable crockery and cutlery. We also segregate our waste material and compost our **kitchen waste into manure** on a regular basis with the **in house composting facility** begun in April 2018 on **Earth Day**. Our children are being taught basic habits of putting off lights and closing taps when not in use so as to inculcate the habit of energy conservation.

New Additions and Add-ons: A heartfelt welcome to some dedicated and loving teachers who joined us this year. **Lannan Shangjam, Charu Pareek and Alka Khurana** joined us in September and soon became an integral part of our children's lives at school. We also welcomed our new **Music teacher, Malanthou Pamei**. Malan has several years of experience in teaching singing and music to young children in a fun way and his class is always thrilling and full of excitement. **Divya Bhargava**, who has worked at Saksham in the past now returns as our Office Assistant. We look forward to our journey together with these talented people. 2018 - 19 saw us begin our **After School Enrichment Program** under which we offer **Lego Classes** by Bricks 4 Kids, **Musical Ability Development** by Anubha who follows the Music Together Program and evening **Sports and Agility Classes** by our very own Sports Guru.

Farewells: It was with a heavy heart that this year we had to bid goodbye to **Rachna Sharma, Tithi Prabhakar, Manvi Mehra, Ashish Martin Chauhan and Vinita Singh**. All of us at Saksham wish them the very best for the future. March 2019 is here and we are now gearing up for another super session at Saksham! Looking forward to the days ahead. Do join us on the ride!

Warm Regards
Team Saksham



Mommy's Day Out at Saksham.....

An insight to a day's activities of preschool kids was a memorable experience gained through spending a day in the classroom of Aanya and Aadya, my twin daughters, on an invite from their class teacher Nidhi Ma'am. It was also a milestone footprint of my motherhood memory.

On 10th August, I joined the class midway through the preparation and rehearsals for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. It was a delight to see all the children enjoy every moment.

Immediately after the practice session, all the preschool children were sprayed with mosquito/ insect repellent before taking them off to Deer Park for a nature walk, a wonderful learning tool and an enjoyable and hopefully lifelong practice.

At Saksham, it is believed that experience is knowledge gained through involvement and observing the environment, thereby sowing seeds in the little minds to relate with and take note of their surroundings.

Delighted chuckles from the kids as soon as they entered the park conveyed that they were enjoying every moment. Inside the gate, Nidhi Ma'am explains to the kids that the purpose of getting outside in nature is to enjoy the diversity and beauty found in natural world in which we live. The kids were asked to look around and tell her what they saw. This excited the kids all the more.

I believe that Nidhi ma'am's question-answer session during the walk was meant to catalyse and cultivate curiosity and acute observation skills amongst children thereby laying a strong foundation for the rest of their learning journey, a life-long pursuit.

It was awesome to hear the kids respond using their 3 senses – smell, sight and hearing. It went something like this – look that's a pigeon, there's a crow, oh wow a yellow slide, hey look a caterpillar, green grass, trees and look green leaf; Oh wow a peacock, look a doggy, a brown one! Hey look, a deer. That's when kids exchanged pleasantries like how are u and I am fine with the deer and the peacocks.

Every moment was enjoyable observing the kids. Among them I found the observer, the wanderer, the inspired, the playful one and the seriously curious one.

After the walk, we returned to the school / classroom. It was then time for the snacks-break. The humid weather during the walk played a bit of a spoil sport and had drained the kids; As a result, the kids were so thirsty that they almost emptied their water bottles and did not eat much. Nidhi ma'am took the right decision to give the fruit serving after the Montessori class.

Montessori class was characterized by class and age-appropriate activities where kids make choices themselves with added support from Devyani Ma'am. Simply observing the proceedings, it became clear that this activity helps and allows the child to develop motor skills and learn decision making.

Next was Martin Sir's musical rhapsody class, which is more than just a singer with a guitar. It is where concepts are taught through fun and engaging kids, which entertains while educating having a long-term impact on musical and academic learning. The atmosphere was joyful, game like, full of singing, dancing, instrument playing, quizzing and imagination! Each kid participated with full zeal and passion.

Now to some serious academics. It was time for kids to write the letter 'K' and colour the Kangaroo. Colouring at this age has an important place in our kids' development. It gave them an opportunity to practice and develops skills such as concentration, fine motor and co-ordination for early writing skills and correct finger grips.

The weather watcher activity was full of fun and educational. It was a two-way interactive process that broadens children understanding of weather and climate by making observations about the day's weather, date, month of the year etc. I found it to be a great way to teach children about science especially since weather is something children can easily relate to and understand.

It was unbelievable how many things had been packed into a single day with so much ease.

With that we came to the end of the fun-filled day. My day in my twin's classroom was a wonderful learning tool for me too, and a lifelong enjoyable and memorable experience of motherhood.

Sujata Jain
Mommy of Aanya and Aadya Jain



Saksham HALL OF FAME

2018 - 2019

<u>VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL</u> Bhuvik Ahluwalia	<u>SHRIRAM SCHOOL</u> Gayatri Gautam	<u>DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, NOIDA</u> Reyaansh Verma	<u>SANSKRITI SCHOOL</u> Myrah Pipil Verma Shanaya Sahai Kumam Gupta
<u>DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, RK PURAM</u> Vishnu Verma Kimayra Kathuria Aavya Singh	<u>RAGHUBIR SINGH JUNIOR MODERN SCHOOL</u> Ariana Saigal Aarohi Saigal	<u>MANAV RACHNA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL</u> Krishiv Vajpayee	
<u>MOTHER'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL</u> Aarini Gandhi	<u>DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, VASANT KUNJ</u> Arshika Soni Aadvik Chauhan	<u>BHATNAGAR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONAL SCHOOL</u> Pulkit Ahuja	
<u>DELHI POLICE PUBLIC SCHOOL</u> Pratham Yadav	<u>BIRLA VIDYA NIKETAN</u> Siddharth Sivam Pillai Kiansh Gupta	<u>SANTA MARIA INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED LEARNING</u> Ravya Chaudhary Rishika Rohilla Vedika Jain	
<u>GREEN FIELDS SCHOOL</u> Devyansh Konwar Madhur Nainar	<u>HOLY CHILD AUXILIUM</u> Sharanya Mathur	<u>AMBIENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL</u> Riddhi Vashisht Ayaan Makhija Mguyen Minh Quang	<u>TAGORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL</u> Aanya Jain Aadya Jain



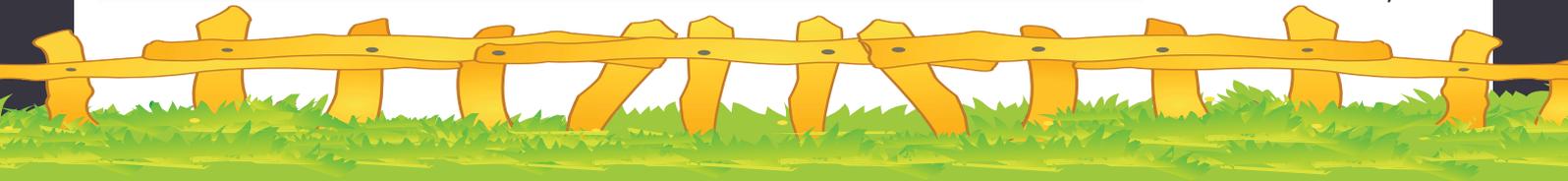
Flag Hoisting



Splash Pool Days



World Book Day



The Joys of Grandparenting

I am a seafarer. When I joined the Indian Navy I had to get up early enough - before the first light of dawn - to 'shoot' the stars with a sextant and plot the ship's position. It is a beautiful sight to witness dawn breaking in the clear blue skies over the sea. Waking up early had become a habit over the years. It was a time that I had entirely to myself: to read, to reply e-mails and WhatsApp messages and catch breaking overnight news on TV as I brewed my first cup of tea. The old morning routine has now been elevated to a new high.

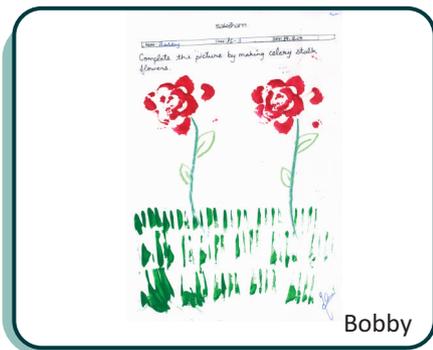
Each morning I still wake up early and do many of the things but I snuggle back in bed, pretend to snore and await the pitter patter of young feet to come and give me a warm hug and say "Wake up Dadu ! What a lovely way to start the day !! Ranjana and I consider ourselves blessed to have our three-and-a-half years' old twin granddaughters Aarohi and Ariana living with us. They say old age is filled with loneliness and one is encouraged to lead a busy social life to ward off the loneliness. But with our grandchildren living under the same roof there is never a dull moment. It is a great emotional experience for us grandparents to watch the adorable girls growing up. Upon return from school they rush to Dadi to share with her all that they did in class that day. It is to the credit of Saksham that they have a new experience every day.

At the age we are, Ranjana and I count among the grandparents who are considered 'old school' by the modern generation's nuclear family which has often been described as DINKS (Double Income No Kids). And, when they do have them kids, they often send them to boarding schools so as to be able to pursue their individual challenging careers. In the past India always prided itself on the Joint Family system. It was a subject of intense study in our schools. Together with it we learnt the core values of respect for elders, developed an eagerness to learn from their experiences and always received pearls of wisdom as we sat at their feet hearing of their journeys of life. Twamev mata cha pita had a meaning ! Today we try to pass on the values of life to our grandchildren and their innocent minds. Grandparenting has given us a new meaning to our lives.

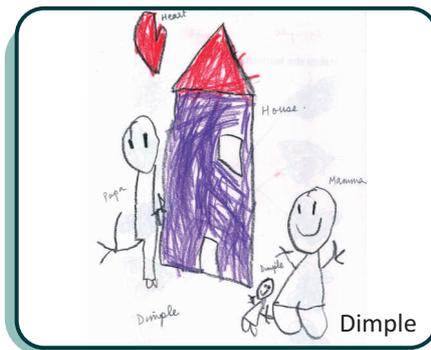
We are grateful to Saksham and respect its management and its teachers who have worked so hard to make our grandchildren ready for their next school. May the school grow from strength to strength. In conclusion I want to say that our appreciation comes from years of teaching experience. Ranjana and I both hold B Ed degrees !!

Commander Arun Saigal, Indian Navy (Retd)
Grand father of Ariana and Aarohi Saigal

Hands At Work



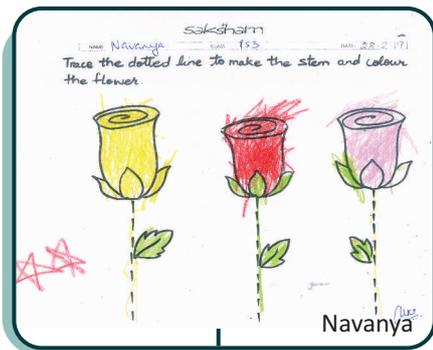
Bobby



Dimple



Rishika



Navanya



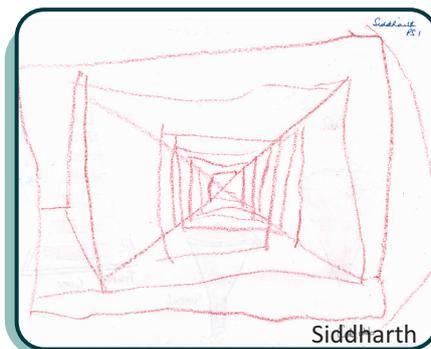
Le Ho Thao Bach



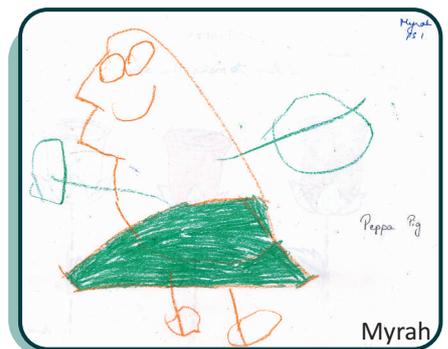
Ravya



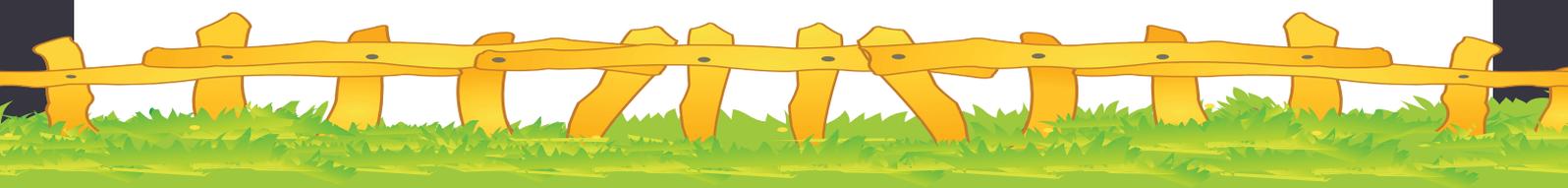
Rishaan



Siddharth



Myrah





Visit to Gandhi Smriti



Baking Day



Sand Play



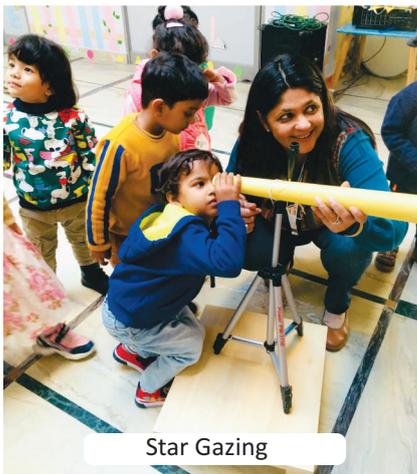
Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan



Sports Meet



Visit to a Gurudwara



Star Gazing



Artists at Work



Fun in the Sand Pit



Making Music Together



World Animal Day



Visit By Electrician



Mothers Day

Appreciation Letter

Our son, Rudrashish Vashisth, studying in Senior Prep of Saksham Pre-Primary School has improved upon his interpersonal skills since he joined this renowned institution. The exposure provided by the school in practical nuances of childhood has helped him in communicating his needs & desires in a much prolific manner. He has developed confidence in public speaking and his communication has definitely shown improvement due to the practical approach used in language classes, including French. The school's focus is evident by the fact that each member of the staff knows every child personally & it is amusing to see that it is also vice versa. Our sincere gratitude to the Saksham Team for helping Rudrashish grow into an all-rounder child, which will enable him to learn, understand & adapt with various aspects of education as well as life.

Shivani Vashisth
Mother of Rudrashish



Top Preschool Award

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