



The Somaiya School



March 2018
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RAYS - The TSS Newsletter

March 2018



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Parents:

Welcome to the year-end edition of RAYS. As the academic year drew to a close and another is underway, it's noteworthy to see progress made at all levels in the past year: be it teacher training programs / workshops where the staff is trained and reskilled to deliver the best to their students, assembly sessions held for Primary and Secondary through this year 2017-18.

Our Grade 10 students have wrapped up their Board exams and as the rest of our school has received their report cards and move up to the next grade, we welcome into our fold the newest batch of Nursery students who never fail to amaze us with their innocent smiles. We also warmly welcome all the new admissions between Grade 1 & 10.

The teachers are all geared up with the timetable, year plan and a whole lot of props and educational material which makes it exciting for our students to walk the "Back to School" experience. Wishing every student a happy and successful 2018-19 !!

It has been our endeavour to raise the bar consistently, and this newsletter is a window to the same. I would love to hear from you how we can work better to engage in a meaningful and productive manner. Please do reach me at principal.tss@somaiya.edu

Best,

Ms. Parveen Shaikh

(Principal—TSS)

SPOTLIGHT : MS. TANDRA CHAKRABORTY

Q: What drew you to teaching as a career ?

A: I was working in the Travel & Tourism sector for over 2 years, and then did a stint at Vivekananda School as a Music teacher for 4 years. I simultaneously completed my B.Ed. & PGDME and found that I could relate to teaching as a career. I then moved to Udayachal School and taught there for over 8 years. The wonderful experience at Udayachal was a foundation to my teaching days and I have never looked back since.

Q: What / Who has been a single most influence in your life ?

A: My father, a retired Scientist was and is very proud that I chose teaching as a career. My parents were my role models, and I am very lucky to have a loving family in my daughter and spouse who encourage and support me in all endeavours.

Q: Teenage is a difficult age, when it comes to school students and their emotions. As a class teacher how do you handle it?

A: Every child presents a learning experience to me. One cannot stop learning irrespective of age. With my experience, I am learning everyday on how to approach the teens and be a friend to them. Having an open door policy and being a counsellor to them (rather than just a teacher) helps them open up and they trust you better because you have earned it.

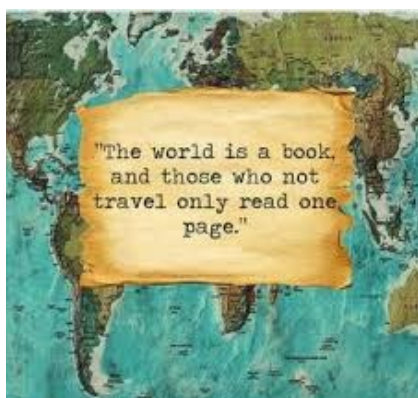
Q: How has your experience been so far at TSS ?

A: I was very dynamic from day one and got the chance to use most of my skills. I am very thankful to the management for letting me teach the subjects I am passionate about.

Q: What are the life skills that kids of Gen Y need to possess to be successful?

A: Gen Y needs to accept changes willingly and ask questions with a purpose and stay positive no matter what. They also need look at life beyond the boundaries of gadgets.

Q: Any quote that influences you ?



Ms. **Tandra Chakraborty** is a teacher of many talents including being an avid traveler, a former music teacher and a voracious reader.

With an M.Com, B.Ed. and a PGDME (all from Mumbai University), she counts Economics and Business Studies as her Core subjects, and teaches these as well as geography & English at The Somaiya School.

Tagore's works as well as English Classics appeal to this uber-cool teacher who's very pragmatic about how teenagers can be understood better.

She lives in Mumbai with her spouse and daughter.

TSS Communications thanks her for her time and a free wheeling & informal interaction peppered with valuable insights.

SPOTLIGHT : MS. NEHA BUDHRANI



Ms. Neha Budhrani who joined TSS in April 2017 is an eternal learner for life. She's continuously challenged herself to achieve more and has a varied array of credentials to her name . A Chemistry graduate, she has a M.A in English Lit, A B.Ed (Eng and Science) and a PG Diploma in Counselling Psychology.

She is supported by her family who again are into continuous learning : her mom is a veritable *Vipassana* practitioner, her sister is an Engineer—turned—photographer & her brother is a BFA graduate.

TSS Communication thanks Ms. Neha for her time and inputs for this interview.

Q: What got you interested in teaching ? And how has your career traversed into the current role?

A: I have been quite curious and inclined towards learning right from day one. I was quite keen to take up teaching as a career. Therefore my B.Ed. and M.A happened right after my graduation in quick succession. At my previous stint at Garodia school, I had a child who was borderline autistic , but was very capable. In my endeavour to understand him better, I ventured into completing my course as a certified Counselor from Xavier's Institute of Counselling Psychology.

Q: Its been a steep learning curve at every stage. From teaching Primary kids to counselling to now your role at TSS. What has been the most satisfying moment in your entire career so far?

A: The entire career graph has been extremely satisfying so far. But the most touching moment has been that the autistic child I encountered at my previous organisation wouldn't show his feelings to anyone, but gave me an "I LOVE YOU" card to me at the end of the term. That moment vindicated the faith that I had put in myself to push forward and raise the bar continuously.

Q: What has been your experience of TSS so far?

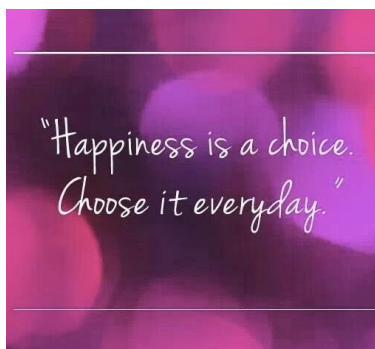
A: In the short span of a year at The Somaiya School, I already feel at ease. All the staff members, coordinators and Principal Ma'am made me very comfortable and made the transition very smooth. They entrusted in me and handed over responsibilities which boosted my moral be it compering The Annual Sports Meet or Khel Junoon, it motivated me to put my best foot forth. The creative freedom provided to the teachers at The Somaiya School is commendable, it lets you bring your best work in. I am also part of the MUN Club / Diplomathon so that's a wonderful experience to be amongst the next generation of students (especially at the secondary section)

Q: What are the life skills that Gen Y needs to possess to be successful ?

A: According to me, there is no one skill that generation Y needs to possess. It has to be a mix of many skills and qualities. The most important being inculcating the virtue of honesty and compassion. Without compassion, passion is meaningless.

Q: What are the quotes / thoughts that motivate your life ?

A:



HAPPENINGS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Bengal Florican Event



The students of TSS (Grade 3-5) presented a skit n song on the endangered species—the **Bengal Florican**—at the Fine Arts Society, Chembur. The **Bengal florican** (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), also called **Bengal bustard**, is a bustard species native to the Indian subcontinent, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List because fewer than

1,500 individuals were estimated to be alive as of 2013.

The event was organized by Saevus Eco Achievers. They were accompanied by their parents and witnessed what different schools are doing to save some endangered species. The students spoke about the things done in school to create awareness like using it as a logo on the worksheet, on Sports Day and Annual Day invite. The following students were part of the event >>>

3A	3B	3C	4A
Jiya Doshi	Namasvi Shah	Anayaa Sharma	Anvika Paharya
Jaini Shah	Kaavya Parekh		Aaddya Nayak
	Prisha Doshi		Aditi Kamble
	Maulik Desai		Ananya Arun
			Krish Vakharia
4B	4C	4D	5A
Sanvritti Patil	Paritosh Kulkarni	Riya Raja	Rudraa Amin
Diya Shah		Kavya Ved	Ritvik Karaka
Shanaya Shah		Akshay Joglekar	
Mayank Sharma		Prisha Kataria	
		Rajeshwari Roy	



Muktangan Workshop for Science teachers



The structure of an atom workshop at Muktangan was something I was looking forward since a long time. Being a chemistry teacher, making the topic interesting and more activity based was always a challenge for me. My objective behind attending this workshop was making the topic of atoms fun and interesting and explaining the complicated topic with help of activities to the students. This workshop definitely met my expectations. I learnt various activities related to the topic which definitely will enhance my teaching learning process in the class.—Ms.

Akshata Shetty (teacher—TSS)

WORKSHOPS

Udayachal visit

The teachers from The Somaiya School visited the Udayachal School (vikhroli) in two batches—on **8th February 2018** and **14th February 2018**. Following are some impressions from the staff:

“Only one word comes to mind when Udayachal School comes into question; - SIMPLICITY.. The classrooms are hands on and activities are planned around the topic being taught which allow the student to physically comprehend what is being taught. Teachers are allowed to innovate different methodologies in the classroom. It was indeed learning and an enlightening experience for all.” - Ms. Soraya Chaukulkar.

“The sessions incorporated activity based learning and impressive teaching aids. All the teaching aids were meant to be reused or were upcycled, even the displays in the classrooms and demonstration material was upcycled made from either used worksheets or waste material which is easily available. They used music to inculcate active listening habits. In totality, it was an experience which inspired and motivated us as teachers to put our best foot forward.”

“The vegetable patch ground was used to grow various plants n vegetables mainly done by students. The taking care n watering was done by students. The vegetables grown would be used to cook delicious food items which would be served to students. It was indeed an enriching experience.” – Roshan Malkani

“The school provides the following to its fullest: Values and Indian culture, Innovative teaching aids , All round development , and much more. . I take back a lot of learning and memories along with it.” - Ms. Nikita Mehta.

“It is great to observe integrated learning happening throughout the primary section.” – Ms. Kalyani Vinod.



AECED Workshop

Ms. **Pragati Bhosale** (Art Teacher—TSS) attended the AECED workshop which focused on **Art Therapy in Classrooms**. It was facilitated by Ms. **Oihika Chakrabarti** who is a certified art psychotherapist. The 2-day workshop revolved around Art Therapy and its working. Few pictures were shared to understand the topic better. The participants were also trained on how to identify students who needed art therapy. Peppered with case studies and TED talks made this workshop memorable.



WORKSHOPS

CPP (Child Protection Policy) Workshop

UNICEF uses the term 'child protection' to refer to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage. Schools must mandatorily create and implement a **Child Protection Policy** and must efficiently include child protection into their processes, curriculum and staff recruitment. A workshop on CPP was attended by Ms. **Sharvari D** (Secondary section coordinator), Ms. **Jasmine Shah** (Pre-primary Coordinator) & the principal Ms. **Parveen Shaikh**. This workshop encompassed the impact of physical and mental abuse on students. Interaction with different stakeholders of the ecosystem was an added feature. The DN Nagar Municipal School Principal, staff, students and Parents were co-participants in this workshop.



Plumbing and Welding Workshops



Students of Grades 7 & 8 were exposed to a plumbing and welding workshop at the Somaiya Engineering College within the SVV Campus. Different methods were explained to the students, and some of the activities were conducted live. These workshops give a fillip to the technical knowledge of the students.

Feedback from the workshop by Ms. **Freya Halgekar** (7C)

"The Plumbing workshop was a great experience. I particularly liked the fact that it was also a practical session. During the practical session, everyone was engrossed in the activity. Hitherto unexplored, this workshop taught us the importance of skilling in this profession. I thank my school a lot for this new experience and look forward to many such more!"

TALENT CORNER

मनभावन घर

कु। स्मृता मुधुस्वामी

कक्षा - 9 " अ "

एक स्थान जहाँ मिलती है शांति,
एक स्थान जहाँ नहीं है कोई भ्रान्ति,
एक स्थान जहाँ मिले ढेर सारी खुशियां,
एक स्थान जहाँ बह जाये अश्रु राशियां,
एक स्थान जहाँ मिलें ममता की छाया,
एक स्थान जहाँ हैं न कोई माया,
ये है मेरा मनभावन घर,
खुशियों की चाबी है घर ॥

सबका प्यार और आशीर्वाद लेकर,
इसको बनाए प्रेम की धरोहर।
ये है मेरा मनभावन घर,
खुशियों की चाबी है घर ॥

बच्चों की किलकारी
सुनकर,
धन्य एंड मग्न हो जाए देखकर ॥
पिता का क्रोध देख,
रूठ जाए बेचारा घर।
माँ का गाना सुनकर,
झूम उठजाये मेरा घर।
ये है मेरा मनभावन घर,
खुशियों की चाबी है घर।

न है किसी से कोई घृणा,
न है किसी से कोई दुश्मनी,
बस रहते हैं भाईचारे से,
इस नोकझोक भरी,
दुनिया में।
ये है मेरा मनभावन घर,
खुशियों की चाबी है घर।

Manbhavan Ghar—a poem by Smrita M



Art on reducing Carbon Footprint—Mst. Shrey Sheth (7C)



SPECIAL EVENTS



Haydn Baryton Trio

The **Haydn Baryton Trio** performed at the Somaiya School exclusively for the students of the Primary Section. In attendance, was the complete staff of The Somaiya School which had the privilege to be

present at this magical performance. The Haydn Baryton Trio was founded in 1980 in Budapest to revive Joseph Haydn's almost 200 compositions for baryton. Baryton is a plucked stringed instrument similar to a cello. It was popular in Europe in the 17th to 19th century. Mr. Kakuk Balazs is the founder of the band, . The other are Mr. Sandor Jozsef and Mr. Kaszanitzky Andras both of whom have won accolades for their work and performed in several countries. Our students were given the opportunity to see them recreate their magic on their instruments. Students of Grade 1 and 2 were also presented with a chance to see the Baryton up close. The assembly in totality was an experience of it's own which will be cherished. Text Inputs—Ms. **Neha Budhrani** (Teacher-TSS)



Holi Assembly at school



The Holi assembly was conducted by grade 1 wherein the students through the assembly taught us all about the wonderful festival of colour that we know today as – “Holi”. The students performed a skit on the history of Holi and how and why it is celebrated. A video was also shown on the history of Holi. There was also a presentation wherein the students brought about awareness of how we can celebrate and have fun by playing Holi in a safe way. A master class on how to prepare home-made colours was also given Text inputs—Ms. **Soraya Chaukul-**

kar—teacher—TSS

Students from Grade 8 & 9 participation in the debate and Quiz competition held at Maharashtra Seva Sangh, Mulund. The finalists topics for the debate included “Should India opt for

MSS Quiz Competition

Nuclear Power Generation? “& “Should India invest largely in Space Technology ?” for

team A & B respectively. In both the topics, the team debated against the motion. Team A comprising **Malhaar Dhavale, Riya Botadra, Debanjan Bhattacharjee & Sree Prabha Nair** won the 4th position & Team B comprising **Tanish Chheda, Arnav Dhamankar, Manay Mehta & Soumil Sanghrajka** won the 2nd position and a cash prize ! Kudos to all the winners !



Gymnast Champion

Ms. **Joanne Lerin** (8B) won 4 medals at the recently held District level Gymnastic

completion. She won a Gold- for beam event , silver - for Team event, Bronze- overall performance & Bronze- uneven bars. Team TSS congratulates Joanne on this amazing performance.



Mst **Debanjan Bhattacharjee** (9B) won the silver medal and cash prize of Rs.

Homi Bhabha Science Award

2000/- at the recently held Homi Bhabha Science Awards Ceremony. The project was submitted on “ Action Research Project on Sustainable Tourism .” The paper focuses on Mumbai and its beaches, and presents ideas to promote sustainable tourism in the financial capital of our country.



SPECIAL EVENTS.. CONTD.

Opera House Performance

Students of TSS sang the National Anthem at **Royal Opera House** on the occasion of Hungarian National Day. The following students were part of the event

- Mst. **Vidyut Ganesh Subramanian** - 5B (Vocals), Ms. **Nithya Kannan** -5A (Violin), Ms. **Rasika Mankapure** - 7A (Vocals), Ms. **Anuva Dwibedy** –7B (vocals), Mst. **Arnav Shah**—7B (Guitar), Mst. **Tanish Chheda** - 8B (Harmonica) & Mst. **Akshat Dhotre** - 8B (Cajon Box).



Integrating art into Social Science

An integrated curriculum allows students to pursue learning in a holistic way, without the restrictions often imposed by subject boundaries. Integrated curriculum incorporates investigative process, technology and hands on learning. When it comes to fostering those skills in the classroom, integrated study is an extremely effective approach and keeping this in mind, here at The Somaiya School we try to connect subjects with art and craft as it awakens joy in creative expression and knowledge. We had integrated History with Art for students of grade 3. The Harappa Civilization which is a chapter in the History syllabus of grade 3 was integrated with art in the most interesting way. The History teacher had introduced the chapter to the students and it was during that same time that the art teacher introduced students to the art of seal making. She also explained them what are seals by showing a video on Harappa seals. At the end of the session, we loved the smiling faces of our students and as teachers, we were able to actually teach children something engaging and of value without worrying about the assessment. We are sure these students take back memories of the school and will also recall and cherish it throughout their life time.

Text inputs—Ms. **Varsha Kotian** (teacher—TSS)



BEST BEHAVIOUR AWARDS

Annual Best Behaviour Luncheon and medals—Primary Section

On the closing of the academic year, we celebrated our students' good behavior by facilitating the best behaved student from each class with a medal, a certificate and lunch party with the Principal, Primary Coordinator and their fellow well-behaved students from other classes. The topic of discussion between the teachers and students at lunch was how to help other students improve their behavior. The following were the student awardees. The **overall best class annual award** went to **Grade 2A**

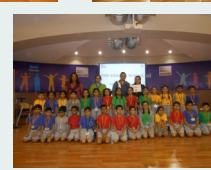
Grade	Name	Grade	Name
IA	Azain Sheikh	IIIC	Riya Shah
IB	Ahaana Sharma	IVA	Aarush Verma
IC	Krishiv Shah	IVB	Mihika Iyer
IIA	Hridhaan Jagad	IVC	Harshita Yadav
IIB	Mikhail Desa	IVD	Yash Vengurlekar
IIC	Vihaan Vaidhya	VA	Nithya Kannan
IIIA	Manan Shah	VB	Naiti Bohra
IIIB	Manan Zaveri		



Best Class awards (Dec- Jan) & (Feb-March)

As part of the ongoing bi-monthly awards for best class, **Grade 8A** was awarded best class for secondary & **Grades 1C & 3C** were awarded best grades for Primary section for Dec–Feb period. In a special school assembly, these awards were given out in the presence of the respective class teachers, principal, section coordinators and special educators team. Several students from Grade 1-10 also got individual best behavior awards.

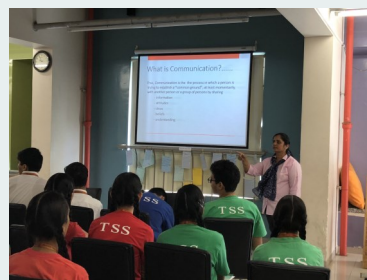
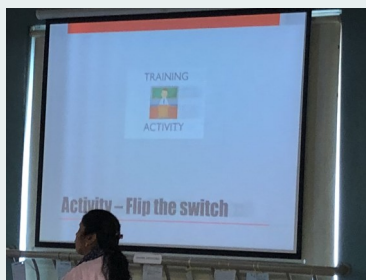
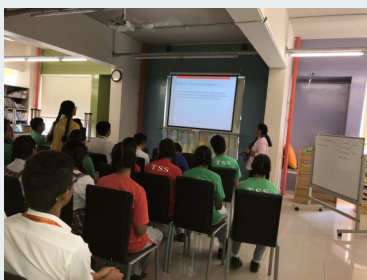
For the months of Feb–March, Grades 2A & 1C bagged the best class awards.



COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING

Students of **Grade 9** attended a **Communication Skills training** on 12th Feb 2018. It was conducted by the in-house staff Ms. **Kalyani Srinath**. The program was very well received and there is a training planned for the current batch of Grade 8 (class of 2017-18) too. The exercise involved many role play, reflective, Q&A sessions along the following topics : Communication Model, Components of Communication, Effective communication at the school, Communicative leadership skills, Team building skills, Barriers to Communication, Verbal and Non Verbal communication etc.

The following are some glimpses of the training program along with student responses captured:



Some feedback from the event:

"The content was organised and easy to follow. I learnt more about communication skills, esp one to many from this program."

- Mst. **Dev Thakkar (9B)**

"The objectives of the training were very clearly defined. My key takeaway from this program has been better communication"

- Mst. **Pranav Shidaye (9A)**

"What I liked most about this training was the participation and interaction of the students rather than just being a trainer-led delivery program" - Ms. **Yutika Pathak (9B)**

"I hope to have more such training programs in the school. What I liked was the fact that speaking with confidence is extremely important." - Ms. **Bhakti N Baswan (9A)**

"I shall apply the learning from this training to speak confidently in front of a large crowd. I would have also liked to have had more activities for this program " - Ms. **Urvi R Chalke**

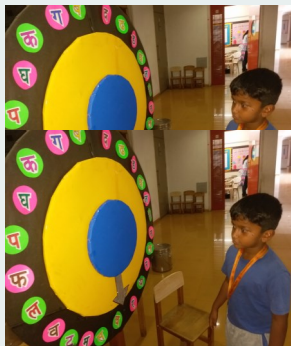
MARATHI DIWAS CELEBRATION & NO FIRE COOKING

Marathi Divas was celebrated on 27th Feb with great enthusiasm, a special assembly was held wherein the parents of grade 3 and 4 were invited to each of the classes and students performed a song, skit, discussed about different emotions in our daily life and about different festivals. Kavi Kusumagraj's birthday is celebrated as Marathi Divas.

An Assembly was conducted for students wherein various songs and dances were performed that was thoroughly enjoyed by the students. Grades 1 and 2 also enjoyed a few games conducted by the students of Grade 5 and 6. The '**Abhiman Geet**' was sung with pride by all the students. Grades 5—8 had a special assembly comprising song, dance, quiz and presentation on famous Marathi personalities.

The students of **grade 1, 2, 3 & 4** prepared **Pizza Fresca Bites, Soya Sticks Bhel, Bhakarwadi chat & fruit cones** for the non-fire cooking. They thoroughly enjoyed the process of preparing the food which was relished.

Text inputs : TSS Marathi teachers Ms. **Amruta S** & Ms. **Yogita P**



STORY TELLING WORKSHOP

On 1st March 2018, the teachers of the pre-primary, primary and the library team participated in a **story telling workshop** conducted by Mr. **Craig Jenkins**. Craig Jenkins is a dynamic and charismatic storyteller with over ten years experience of performing and running storytelling workshops across the world. He has shared stories in the UK, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Italy and the United States of America. Fresh, contemporary, full of emotion and full of fun, his performance style is one of a kind and beloved by children (and adults!) of all ages.

The workshop began with a round of introductions and understanding Mr. Jenkins philosophy behind practising the oral tradition of storytelling. His tale for the day was about two birds who are ready to welcome a little baby into the world. He focused mainly on the opening scene of the story. The listeners were invited to participate in the session by adding sounds and songs wherever appropriate and also mixing movements and gestures to make the story come alive. Mr. Jenkins's sense of humour ensured that the workshop was easy to comprehend and extremely engaging.

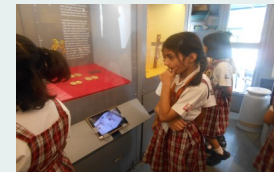
At the end, he asked the participants to share their learning. While the group agreed upon the need for creative storytelling from a very young age and the remarkable impact of music and movement while working with children, some members also highlighted the importance of choosing the right kind of story, making it their own and presenting it in a manner that is a reflection of their personality.

Mr. Jenkins session, without the use of presentations, props or puppets, was a breath of fresh air amidst the year end activities and rise of technology in education

Text inputs—Ms. **Nirupama** (Library Educator—TSS) ; **Pic Credits** : Ms. **Huma**



MUSEUM ON WHEELS



Museum on Wheels is a pioneering outreach initiative for the city of Mumbai, a Bus with travelling exhibitions on different themes, which change periodically. The Bus is designed to reach mainly schools, colleges, NGOs within the city of Mumbai and beyond 'The Museum on Wheels' is a dedicated Museum bus carrying travelling exhibitions of the Museum to distant places in a customized air-conditioned bus. The bus is fully equipped with display cases for objects, interactive demo kits, art supplies, audio-visual equipment and digital media such as touch screens and digital tablets to set up exhibitions in semi urban and rural areas, aimed at providing information and insights into a wide range of subjects in a fun and interactive manner. The students also got bookmarks as take away which had words written in an ancient script. Students made the most of their visit and had an amazing experience. (Text Inputs—Ms. **Priyanka Dey**, Primary teacher—TSS)