

## Ganesha time at The Somaiya School!!!!



**15 September 2015, Mumbai:** Every year it is a tradition at The Somaiya School to usher in the Elephant God in an eco-friendly manner. Children from Sr.KG to grade 8 tried their hand at making Ganesha idols under the guidance of the Art and Craft teacher, Mr. Pankaj Patil. It was an exciting experience for the children to put their fingers in clay and produce beautiful idols of Lord Ganesh in different sizes and shapes.

It was very beautiful sight to see the children very lovingly and protectively carrying their creations home. The pride and joy in their efforts visible on their faces made it a very satisfying session for all. This activity enabled students to respect and appreciate the environment. They learnt to use eco-friendly materials to mould and create idols that can be immersed in water without causing pollution to the environment.

According to Raashi Shah, student from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, The Somaiya School, said "It was a fun session with a clayey mess all around. But at the end of the day it was a very challenging and satisfying experience albeit an exhausting one. After these sessions, I have realised the effort of the artisans and the sculptors for their tireless and painstaking efforts in creating these idols year after year, and we all must appreciate and respect them. Our humble salute to all the artists who unfailingly enthral us with their art and craft and bring to us the Lord in their innovative and breath taking displays".

Speaking about the artistic learning of children, Parveen Sheikh, Head – Pre Primary & Primary, The Somaiya School "Eco friendly Ganesha workshop is our way of using this important festival to convey the message of being environment friendly, for us that's the true essence of the festival".

Mrs. Kavita Vaidya Principal, The Somaiya School said, "Building on the long tradition of environmental care at Somaiya Vidyavihar, we encourage our students to play an active role in working with various aspects of nature.

Eco friendly Ganesha making is an activity to orient children to value and preserve nature as we are using medium which does not pollute water, and tap potential in the child in terms of child's interest in mud work or sculpture".

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