



# EXCELSIOR

*Ever Upward*



## Looking Back with Satisfaction

The last few months of a school year are invariably very fast-moving. While some may look on this period as stressful, we at EPS consider it as a time to celebrate the conclusion of another satisfactory and eventful episode in our teaching and learning journey. This is when teachers and students endeavor to bring their scholarship of the year to a fitting conclusion, filling in the gaps in the learning and strengthening the principles taught and understood. As preparations for the final assessment begin, the teaching community prepares to ensure that students have absorbed the knowledge and are ready to be assessed, but not stressed about the assessments.

This year, we had another brilliant reason to celebrate. The year 2020 saw the valedictory to the Decennial Celebrations of Excel Public School. At this time, our hearts are filled not only with pride and joy, but also gratitude – to all who have made this possible. Whether it is the Management, which is extremely helpful and supportive, the model Parent Community, which is sincerely and heavily involved in all activities of the school, the Teaching Community which constantly pushes boundaries to bring out the best in the students, or the Students themselves, who challenge themselves and everyone else around them, to be and do nothing but the best, we thank all. Furthermore, we enter the second decade of our existence with the confidence that, together, we will achieve more.



'A picture is worth a thousand words!'

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## Solar Eclipse

On Dec 26, 2019, we in South India were treated to a cosmic spectacle – a total eclipse of the Sun. At EPS, a telescope was arranged on the terrace to enable interested students, parents and other Mysoreans to watch it. A group of about fifty viewers turned up for this occasion. However, the VIP of the occasion – the Sun itself – was absent since thick cloud cover played spoil sport. Still, those present enjoyed the spectacle that was telecast from Sri Lanka on video feed.



## An Encounter of a Different Kind

On Jan 11, 2020, students of 8th std. were taken to an old age home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. There, the students conducted an entertainment program for the inmates of the old age home, which was thoroughly enjoyed by them. Then the students got to interact with the people they saw there. They found the people to be very kind and delighted to talk to them. Before they left, one of the sisters gave a very emotional and inspiring speech on following dreams. Students came back to campus reminded of the value of elders.



## Fit-athon 2020

An initiative which is not followed up with action is a doomed effort. But if it is reinforced with timely activities, it is bound to become a huge success. The Fit Movement launched by the Government was an excellent initiative, which needed to be reinforced. EPS stepped up to the plate by starting a new tradition – the Fit-athon 5km cross country run. The event was flagged off on Jan 18, 2020, at 7 a.m. Over more than 700 students and parents showed up on the clear, cool morning with their running shoes on. The circuit marked out was perfect – a little challenging, yet doable by all. The winners began trickling in after 15 minutes, as the best of the bunch showed their superiority. However, everyone who ran or walked achieved their personal best that day. Another tradition for the days to come, perhaps?



## Creation, Collaboration and Communication in Action

On Jan 25, 2020, students of grades 1 to 4 gave a fitting sequel to the wonderful Open Day that their seniors had conducted by giving an awesome performance of their own. The theme of the Junior Open Day was 'Plastic Pollution'.



Staging a jungle festival as it were, students enacted a synopsis of the Disney magnum opus 'The Lion King'. Everything from the costumes to the backdrops to the acting was perfect and the children wowed the audience. Students also enacted a dance drama in Kannada titled 'Bhuvanatha yaaru' to emphasise on creating a good environment for living.

Children focused on "App fun; Apt fun" to show creativity with computers, while in the Math sector, they promoted thinking and tried to make the concepts of math much easier to understand by dividing them into Math Gallery and Fun with Math. 'Beat Plastic Pollution' and 'Good food, Good life' were the themes from the EVS station. Students of classes 3 and 4 enacted a skit on awareness of plastics and its harmful effects, separating single time use of plastics and recyclable plastics. Creativity, collaboration and communication were apparent everywhere as models, games, charts and the very popular puppet shows were used to help in the learning of concepts.

## Celebrating Republic Day Meaningfully

More often than not, festivities for Independence Day and Republic Day are conducted as a matter of course. Speeches and programs are performed as rites, paying lip service and being essentially meaningless. Not so at EPS.

The 71st Republic Day was celebrated at EPS on Jan 27, to ensure that maximum number of students would be present. Furthermore, the occasion was utilized effectively to make the event a meaningful one. After the flag hoisting and the administration of the pledge, the Principal, Mr. Mathew KG, gave a talk in which he recounted the circumstances surrounding the adopting of the Constitution, which were hitherto unknown to many in the gathering. He then expatiated on how the Preamble to our Constitution encapsulated the entire tome, and how we had a role in preserving and upholding this sacred document of our nationhood.



It was a truly meaningful exercise, which resulted in many students and teachers becoming the wiser for it.

## Waste to Wealth

On Jan 30, 2020, the students and teachers of the Eco-club visited a waste management unit situated at Kumbarkoppal, to learn about what happens to the different kinds waste we generate. On reaching the place, they learnt many things about segregation and disposal of waste. In the course of their visit, they were able to appreciate the fact that there are many people behind the smooth running of such kinds of units without expecting profit or fame. It was a very informative visit, and they realized that everybody could contribute a bit in reducing the misery of the people working in such units, by starting waste segregation at home to help the waste management process.

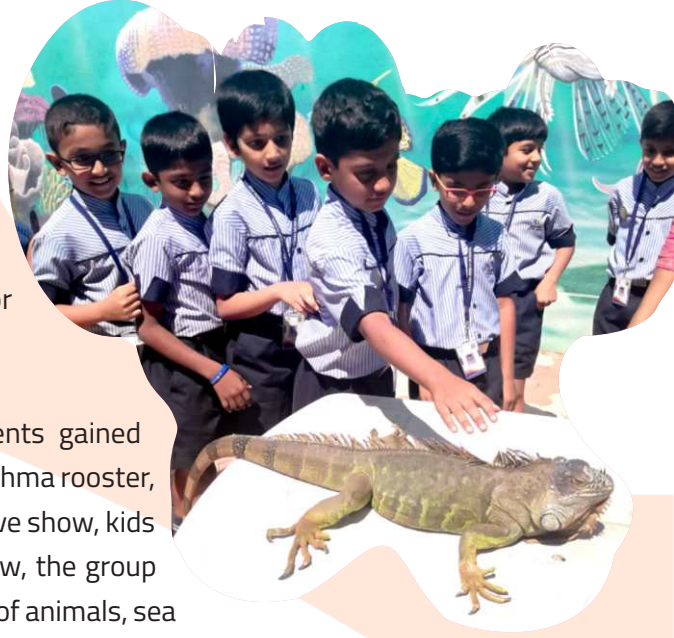


## Wild Wonders

On Feb 17, 2020, the students of Grade 3 at EPS visited Planet Earth Aquarium, which is the only Aquarium and Farm of its kind in the Mysore City limits and exhibits various types of fishes, animals, birds, reptiles and farming activities, that provided the kids an opportunity for experiential and contextual learning.

On arrival at the arena, a pet show was organized where students gained knowledge about displayed animals - python, iguana, Persian cat, Brahma rooster, guinea pig, rabbit, poodle, hamster and white rat. During the interactive show, kids had an opportunity to touch and feel the animals. After the pet show, the group were given a tour which was an excellent opportunity to see varieties of animals, sea creatures and plants.

The knowledge acquired from this field trip was applied in the classroom to undertake various assignments according to their subjects - Habitats of animals in EVS, letter writing on the topic of a field trip in English and bar graph creation in Math using data observed in the field trip.



## Corona Virus Awareness Talk

In the case of a health crisis, there is no greater handicap than ignorance. In order to debunk the various myths that are currently making the rounds about the Corona virus threat that appears to be looming on the horizon, and in order to shed light on the various preventive measures, a special assembly was organized on 5 Feb, 2020. Dr. Praveen Kulkarni, Associate Professor, from JSS Medical College's Community Medicine department was the resource person invited. Dr. Kulkarni explained the situation, the disease and various ways of prophylaxis. His 8-step method of hand washing was a great hit amongst

the students. This was a very effective method of dealing with the knowledge gap regarding the disease. A short video clip regarding the disease, the organism and the preventive measures was also screened for all classes.

## Rites of Passage

Send-off parties at school are very important rites of passage for children.

To say good-bye is very hard, but good-byes are an essential part of growing up. The students of class 9 bade a farewell to their seniors (Batch 2019-20) on Feb 14, 2020. The students had scripted, choreographed and planned the entire program with some guidance and assistance from their teachers. A student spoke about getting to know his





seniors. Some students of class 10 spoke about their fond memories of their school.

The Class 12 Farewell took place on Feb 12, 2020. It too was a day to remember, filled with fun, emotions and so much more. There was a special assembly in which a couple of students shared their thoughts and memories. The Principal wished them all the very best for all their future endeavors. This was followed by a program by the students of Class 11. The departing batch was also taken on a journey down memory lane through a series of photos and video messages from teachers. A couple of them shared their memories and the teachers shared their thoughts.

The whole EPS family gives their best wishes to the outgoing batches.

## Celebrating the Valedictory Year

The Annual Day of Excel Public School was held on Feb. 10, 2020. This year's celebration was special, since it was the Valedictory for the Decennial Year of the institution. The



Chief Guest was the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Mysuru District, Mr. Abhiram Shankar, and the Guest of Honor was Professor G Hemanth Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mysore.



While Prof. Hemanth Kumar narrated amusing anecdotes of



the times when he had studied under Prof. Dhananjaya, Mr. Abhiram Shankar was wistful that he had never got a chance to study at a school like EPS. An attitude of gratitude pervaded the function, as the students and staff thanked parents and management for their constant support and encouragement of the school and its activities. The Principal, Mr. Mathew KG, highlighted the achievements of the school, its students and its faculty in his report.

The cultural program was unique as always, with the choreography and costume designing done by the versatile faculty. Some parents had volunteered in the Green Rooms and with their invaluable help, teachers were able to accomplish the make-up of the participants too. In all, 735 students participated in the dances, drama and musical extravaganza, a record in itself. All in all, it was a truly splendid event, a spectacular end to the Centennial celebrations of EPS.

## Growing Pains

The first step to dealing with a problem is to acquire knowledge about it, as knowledge gives confidence with which to find solutions. With this in mind, a session called 'Reaching the Age of Adolescence' was held on Leap Day, Feb 29th, 2020 for students of 8th std. This session was presented by Dr. Hema Raveesh, Cardiologist and Assistant Professor at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences



and Research. Herself a mother of an adolescent, Dr Hema was very diligent in imparting to the children information on various aspects of adolescence, both physical and mental. Along with learning about the changes caused by adolescence, students also learnt about saying no to drugs, nicotine and alcohol.

## Spreading Wings - Studying Abroad

Today's students are no longer constrained to study in their home town. To help students explore overseas study options, a session was arranged for the students of classes 10 to 12 on Jan 24, 2020, in the school auditorium. The school hosted Gen Next Education, Bangalore, who was responsible for bringing in University Admission Officers from Eastern Michigan University, Marian University, University of New Mexico, University of Delaware and West Virginia University, all accredited US Universities.



It was an interactive and informative session wherein students had an opportunity to meet Admission Officers and talk about admission requirements, scholarships, financial aid, etc. Chances are bright that this will be a first step towards an overseas academic experience for many.

## Fit Body, Happy Mind



Neglecting physical fitness in the young results in lifelong problems for them. With this in mind, a session was held on Feb 29, 2020, for Class 6 to educate the children on the benefits of physical fitness and exercise. The instructor was Ms. Asmita M Shah, who ensured that the children were adequately informed about the importance, modes and benefits of physical exercise.

## Safety Rules

Freedom of citizens to move around is intertwined with the responsibility of all in following traffic rules. The most important time to teach people these rules is in childhood. With this in mind, a session on traffic rules was held on Jan 13, 2020, at EPS. On that day, children of the high school were reminded of these rules by the VV Puram Traffic Inspector Mr. Swamy Naik and Traffic wardens from Team Mysore. Seeds of responsible action were planted in their young minds, and due to this, they will undoubtedly grow into caring and responsible adults as well.



## Broader Perspective

To measure themselves against the world beyond their school, Excelites eagerly participate in individual and team competitions on interschool, interstate and international levels.

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