

Cambridge
House



4 December 2015

Week At A Glance

From The Director



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An update from every teacher on what your children have learned over this week.

Unit Of Inquiry

A few tips on how to support your child discover the World through our UOI's.

Dear Parents,

Everyday is a festival at TLC, with the children celebrating their learning and their little successes. We encourage our students to take pride in their achievements, both inside and outside the classroom, continuing the tradition of excellence, which is our motto.

This month the UOI is festivals, which are a part of the annual rhythm of our lives. At TLC, festivals create a feeling of community, as the children celebrate all major festivals throughout the year. The UOI helps them connect the dots and see the differences between the festivals in spring, monsoon and winter.

This is the last newsletter before the holidays. Hope you enjoy the break and wish you a wonderful New Year.

Kind Regards,

Usha Lamba
Director



News From Our Classrooms

An update from the
teachers

Explorers And Adventurers

December began with the introduction to a new Unit of Inquiry on Festivals to our Explorers and Adventurers. Teaching children the importance of festivals and how they bring together families and friends is very important. With lots of artwork and fun activities, this week started off in an exciting way. With the spirit of Christmas all around, our little ones were thrilled to learn new songs and rhymes and it was great to hear them humming along to some lovely tunes.

Artwork this week included the colouring and decorating of a Raksha Bhandan, splashing bright colours onto a holi outline, making a beautiful Christmas Tree and the colouring of a mosque. Through these interesting activities, the children were explained about the significance of each festival and the ways in which it is celebrated.

Special Thursday was Group Art and

Craft and the children all got together to make a beautiful, bright and sparkly Christmas tree. With bells and stars and all things nice, each child had something to contribute to the tree.

In the area of Montessori, the children have been working with Colour Box 1 and have started to recognize their basic colours.

Next week we have our TLC Annual Day 2015 and with the children having put in a lot of effort, they are therefore very enthusiastic to show their dance skills in front of their parents and family. We wish all of them the very best!

Discoverers

The new month of December, started with the new UOI of Festivals. There was an excitement in the class as each child talked about their celebrations of their festivals.

We discussed almost all festivals we celebrate in India like Diwali, Holi, Eid, Guru purab, Ganesh Chaturthi. We have however left the festival of Christmas for discussion for next week. Children recounted what they do in their festivals from wearing new clothes, eating delicacies, visiting relatives and friends and exchanging lots gifts and toys.

We on our part told them the reason why each festival is celebrated and also mentioned the National festivals of India being Independence Day and Republic day.

Retaining the excitement in the class, we did lot of artwork connected to the different festivals celebrated; worksheets related to the UOI were done in class.

For the Special Thursday group art activity our class made a lovely chart based on our national festival. We highlighted the centre of the chart paper with the bright tri colours of our flag and pasted pictures our leaders and freedom fighters. In the area of Montessori, the children revised some of the old activities, while others were introduced to EPL activities of pouring water from one glass to another, folding mats and rolling mats.

Enquirers

With a palpable air of Christmas, New Year and the winter break setting in soon, we started the week with the Jingle bells song, Rudolph the red nosed reindeer and we wish you a merry Christmas. The children too could feel the excitement with all our art and work sheets celebrating festivals that are as beautiful as they are diverse. The enquirers counted Christmas ornaments and trees in their work sheets.

For their art work, they merrily blotted a picture of a shirt with the colours of Holi. They also decorated a bell for Christmas with glitter and paint. And the traditional art of making rangoli was enjoyed by the children by colouring beautiful patterns on their art paper. For the children, each part of our culture, traditions and diversity took shape through such exercises.

On Special Thursday, the entire class used green and red craft paper to weave a Christmas wreath. The activity was done to the accompaniment of the Christmas songs we had all learnt.

In Montessori, the children did sand paper tracing of numbers and letters and worked with geometrical solids. We also read about Spot's attempts to bake a cake. The children enjoyed the idea of baking and decorating a cake as a surprise.



Rangers

Early this week we ended our UOI on the theme transport with a quick revision and moved on to the topic of inquiry for the month of December which is 'Festivals'. To begin with, children were encouraged to speak about when festivals and our little Rangers were only too happy to share their experiences with the class, as much of the knowledge comes from observing the cultural traditions followed in the children's homes and around them.

This week we have mainly focused on two of the very popular festivals celebrated around us Diwali and Ramzan and children were involved in solving worksheets on circling pictures related to Diwali and Ramzan, marking the starting sounds, circling the odd picture out and counting and adding the

number of moons.

On special Thursday for group art, our children made a Happy Holi Chart which they decorated with their multiple coloured thread paintings.

In science this week, we discussed heat / ice melting and all the children solved a work sheet on the same whereas in Geography, the children are learning about classroom mapping and to begin with they are being asked to name the location of objects within the classroom.

In Montessori children are doing opposites and plurals and are reading the pink series. Going forward next week children will be introduced to the other important national festivals of India as we also discuss many more important regional festivals.



UOI: Festivals

Activity

1. Festivals are valuable learning experience for children. Parents are requested to show pictures of different festivals and explain to the child how each is celebrated.
2. You can help your child to make a huge cut out of the Christmas tree. You can ask the child to colour it green. Let him/her decorate it with colourful streamers, stars and other Christmas decorations. Put a big star on the top of the tree.
3. You can ask your child to help you make “Kheer” or “Payasam” which is an important part of most Indian festivals.

Celebrating festivals do help our children develop both roots and wings. There are certain traditions that we, as a family, follow on a few festivals that are important to us. Involving our children in a meaningful way will help them contemplate on the meaning behind the festival.

There are battles between good and evil, there is a celebration of life from a tiny seed to the big oak tree, there is renewal of faith and internal cleansing that takes place with our festivals. The organisation can include games, craft activities, decorations, stories, songs, poems and scriptural readings.

India celebrates holidays and festivals of almost all the faiths of the world. Each festival is marked by certain symbols and houses are decorated in specific ways. For Diwali, people illuminate their houses with coloured lights, diyas and rangoli designs made with rice flour. During the Christmas season people have Christmas trees decorated with stars, tinsel and streamers. For Ganesh Chaturthi images of Lord Ganesh made of unbaked clay are worshipped. For Eid, people clean and decorate their house and cook many yummy dishes.

Here are a few activities that we have put together for you, please go ahead and use your own imagination, and the things that are readily available in your home to create simple activities for your child.

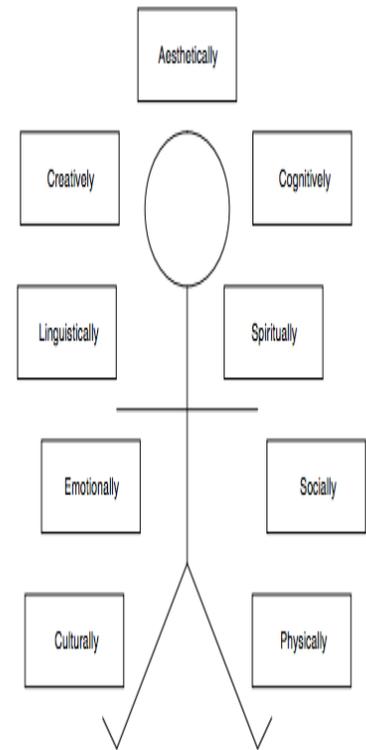
Upcoming Events

TLC's Annual Day: 12 December 2015

Children really enjoy their experiences with Special Thursday Drama through out the year. This gives them opportunities to create, perform and respond to their own imagination.

The Annual Day gives them a chance to participate as a part of a larger picture, working creatively with other children or preparing for solo performances.

Roleplay and pretending is natural and essential to the all round development of young children. The Annual day is a powerful educational opportunity moving from drama/role play at school to the important experience of participating in performances on a professional stage.



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This Newsletter is written and compiled by our Director and CEO, Usha Lamba. Please send your Feedback and comments to: usha.tlc@gmail.com

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