

EARTH MONTH AT SANTA MARIA



Earth Month was observed at Santa Maria from **19th April, 2023 - 12th May, 2023**. It was almost a month long introspection to understand how we can contribute to save our planet Earth. We took part in various activities to become aware of the threat our planet is facing.

On **19th April 2023**, Earth Month was announced with a news presentation. Children discussed important things like what all Earth has given us? Environmental issues that planet earth is facing. What do you think will make Earth sad/happy? Which was followed by a video named '**The beauty of earth**' on the theme 'Knowing Mother Earth'. Children were thrilled to see the animals, birds, volcanoes, waterfall, mountains and other gifts of nature.



The young Santa Marians participated throughout the month by singing songs like "One seed.....", "If you love our beautiful Earth.....", "Earth we're in it together....", watching thought provoking videos, participating in discussions and talking about how they can help contribute and be a part of 'Earth Day'. Activities like **taking a pledge**, sowing seeds, campaigning for saving natural and human made resources, going on nature walks and making useful articles by recycling waste material. All this brought in a great level of awareness.



Taking a pledge

In the same vein, all the classes were engrossed in the following activities (integrated with components of the day and focusing on **different areas of development**) throughout the month and enhanced their knowledge about Earth Day:

❖ **Fine Motor Development - 'Becoming Independent':**

- Every class recycled waste paper, cartons, boxes etc. to recreate something useful like a **paper bag, gift wrapping paper** etc integrating skills like **folding, sticking, printing, painting** etc.



Folding and Sticking

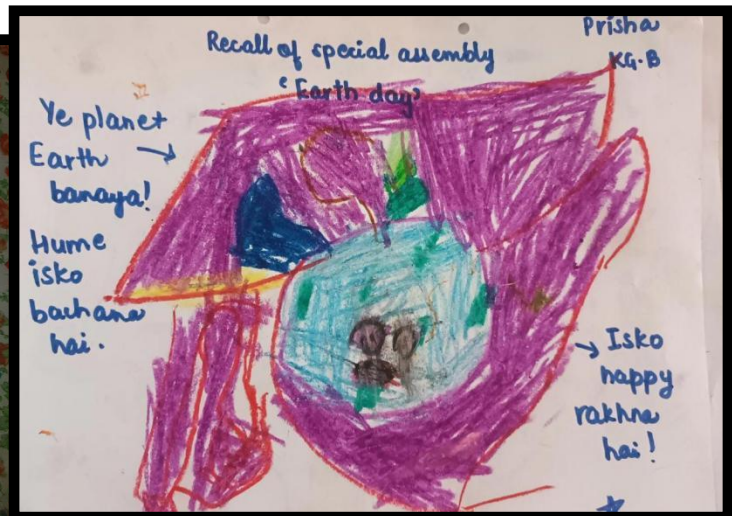
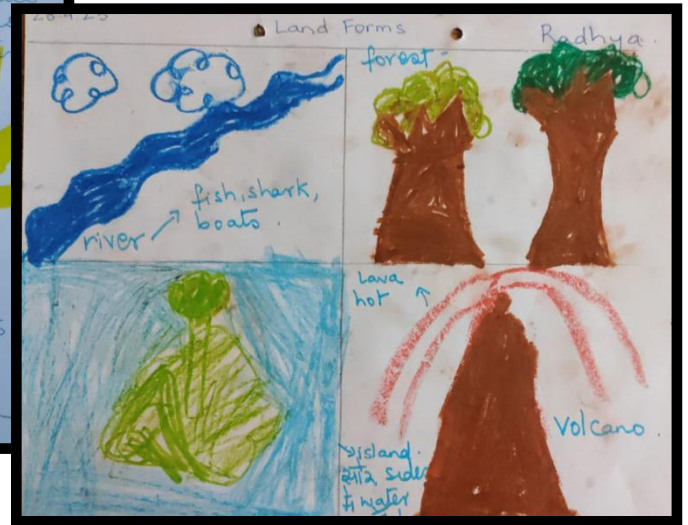
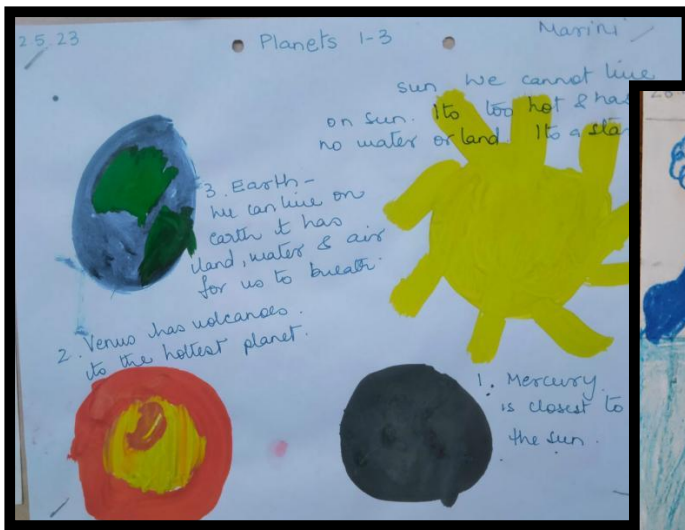


Printing



Sponge painting

- In order to bring in more awareness about our planet children illustrated the Earth, its landforms, phenomena of day and night and their thoughts about Earth Day.



- Prep children coloured the world map using crayons with a key showing blue as water and green as land to understand the composition of our Planet.

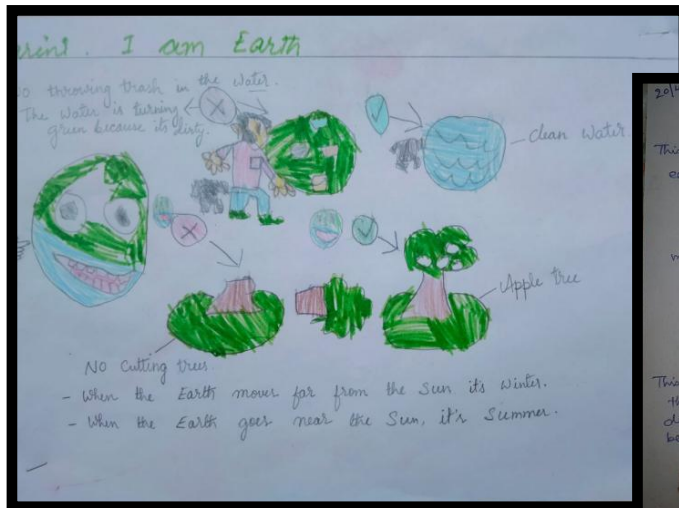


Understanding the 3 elements of earth

Map work

❖ Intellectual Development - 'Becoming an Explorer':

- Children used their imagination to do an illustrative recall of stories based on the theme 'Earth Day'.



- Going on nature walks to **observe** the environment in order to understand the various elements in nature.



- **General Awareness:** To add to the month long activities, news presentation were done through role-plays by the children and teacher to know more about the blue planet and to show the environmental issues that planet Earth is facing in order to help everyone **think diversely of possible solutions**.



Presentation on landforms of the earth



Knowing more about the landforms



Presentation on planets and the solar system

Understanding how day and night occurs

On **20th April**, Prep children took over the assembly with the slogan **“Save water, save life”**. They presented a short role-play to show how water is important for life on earth but due to its misuse we are causing water to be polluted and wasted. This inspired children to take care of the planet’s much needed component - Water.



On **24th April**, Preps campaigned in the assembly displaying banners with slogan **“Go green, don’t cut trees, grow more trees”**. They presented a role-play on the environmental issue - **deforestation** followed by singing the song - ‘One seed..’. This helped children to understand the importance of trees for everyone on Earth and also sensitize them towards going green.



On **25th April**, Preps campaigned in the assembly on **“Say no to single use plastic”** through a role-play and a video - **‘Plastic Planet’** depicting the harmful effects of single use plastic on our environment.



On 27th April, Preps campaigned in the assembly raising slogan “Be kind to animals”. A short role play inspired children to take care of all creatures on earth.



On 10th May, a presentation on **segregation of waste** into dry and wet was done, reinforcing on the use of green and blue dustbin in each classroom.



❖ Language Development - 'Empowered and Confident':

- During Earth Month the Green warriors of Prep C campaigned in different classes and **spoke confidently** with their banners for various causes - Save electricity, Save water, Plant more trees, Recycle waste materials, Say no to single use plastic, Do not litter and Be kind to animals. They also handed out **Earth day pledge** to be put up in each class.



Campaigning by the children

- Circle time discussions on environmental issues like polluted rivers, disappearing forests and animals etc helped children to internalize, **reflect and talk** about different ways in which they can help contribute save 'Mother Earth'. Their valued inputs were recorded and put up on the '**Speaking Tree**' (made out of waste) in each class.



❖ Socio Emotional Development - 'Knowing myself and the World around':

- Stories based on planet Earth and its resources were narrated through different mediums in each class.



Shadow puppetry of the story - 'Happy Earth'

- Children worked collaboratively in group activities like making a collage on topics like sad and happy Earth.



- **Life Skills:** The 'Green Warriors' of S.M.I.L.E. contributed towards cleaning and making the Earth a better place by picking up fallen leaves, flowers, twigs and throwing in the compost pit. This helped them to understand recycling of bio-degradable waste.



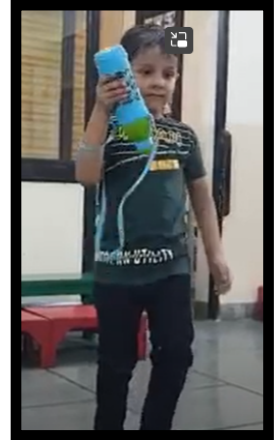
- **Special Assembly by Prep C:** On 26th April, the children of Prep C presented a skit that created awareness about the problems plaguing Earth and actions one can take to take care of earth.



Earth is choking and is in danger



Plastic bag menace



Wastage of water



Make eco bricks



Rainwater Harvesting - Reuse water

Children were also told about **inspiring stories** of the following environmentalist who have worked to make Earth a better place.

Ramveer Tanwar – The Engineer who quit his job to revive India’s dying lakes and ponds.

Jadav Molai Payeng – The forest man of India who converted a waste land into 1,360 acre forest.

Aparna Surampudi – The girl who has saved many threatened and endangered birds.



Ramveer Tanwar



Jadav Molai Payeng



Aparna Surampudi

All children took a pledge a promise to look after planet ‘Earth’. To conclude the song ‘We’re in it together...’ was sung in unison by all highlighting the fact that we have only one earth to save, share and take care of.



❖ Bonding with nature:

- On 24th April, children from each class experienced the excitement of **planting seeds** of Babool - Keekar along with their class teachers and 'Jaglal uncle' in a painted paper cup.



Painting paper cups



Filling soil in the paper cups



Sowing seeds



Carrying it to plant at home

- On 8th May, each Prep class adopted a tree in the school to bond with the whole year.



Prep B - Pomegranate tree



Prep C - Fig tree



Prep A - Plum tree

Events conducted for Earth Day over the month made us aware that the planet's resources are finite and will not last forever. The activities were meant to sensitize the children to preserve and protect what Mother Earth has given us. **"We only have one Mother Earth, so we have to take care of her"**.



Children enjoyed the activities done during the month. A month long intensive participation planned for Earth Day helped children to realize how important it is to take care of the environment and to protect our planet. And how young minds and hands can contribute and can make a difference.



Nature collage



Bug watch

We will continue helping young children bond with nature by giving them more such opportunities round the year as bonding with mother Earth is going to be an ongoing theme. We will be taking up more interesting topics under Earth sciences round the year.



Warm Regards,
Mussarat Begum