

## Onam Celebration at SMILE



**Namaskaram to all,**

**At Santa Maria Having a cultural exchange during festivals is an integral part of learning and building a strong cultural belief.**

**Santa Marians celebrated Onam on 29<sup>th</sup> August. Children of Nursery showcased a special assembly on this occasion. Ms. Sangita, class teacher and Ms. Jyoti, Assistant Teacher of Nursery, gave a quick overview of why Onam is celebrated and what it signifies.**

**Onam is a ten days long and the biggest festival celebrated in Kerala. It is celebrated for the love of their great king Mahabali. It is also celebrated to mark the end of the monsoon season and to welcome the harvest festival.**

**The presentation began by singing a melodious song 'Adaab shastriyakaal' sung by the children to welcome the audience.**

**After that, a harvest scene was shown to teach children about what is harvesting.**



**A lovely Thiruvathira Dance followed the presentation. The Pulikali tiger dance performed afterwards and mesmerized us all. Children demonstrated their skills by dancing with the rhythm and beat of the music.**



**Santa Marians were made aware of “Onam Sadhya” the yummy and healthy food served on the banana leaf on Onam. It is a multi- course pure vegetarian meal with more than 25 dishes. The meal consists of dishes from across the state.**

**The real fun started with the welcome of Mahabali was followed by an iconic boat race called “Vallamkali” snake boat race. The enthusiastic group of children in the boat race displayed their rowing skills well synchronized to the tune of the song Kuttananda Punchayile.**



As part of a cultural exchange on August 29<sup>th</sup>, all students took part in creating "Pookalam," a traditional floral rangoli, which improved their fine motor and creative skills. The delight with which the kids participated in the activity—giggling and laughing while engaging with one another—was heartwarming to witness. They created lovely geometric patterns and filled them with fresh grass and flower petals.



Finally the children enjoyed eating banana chips the traditional Onam treat.

Last but not least, the nursery's Onam assembly ended up being successful because extensive preplanning had been done. The teacher talked to the children during circle time about Onam as a harvest festival before starting with the actual rehearsals. During the assemblies, the children were also shown videos on the Onam festival. The Mahabali narrative was also told to the children. All these preparations had contributed to the show's extraordinary success.



Regards,  
Report by SMILE  
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