

Prep Annual Election - Year 2023



Voting in India is a Constitutional right if one is a citizen over 18 years of age. It is our duty as responsible citizens of India to make informed decisions and choose the best candidate from those presented.

Every Santa Marian can choose and vote for their favorite candidate. Santa Maria have been conducting elections since 2014 to help children understand participatory democracy.

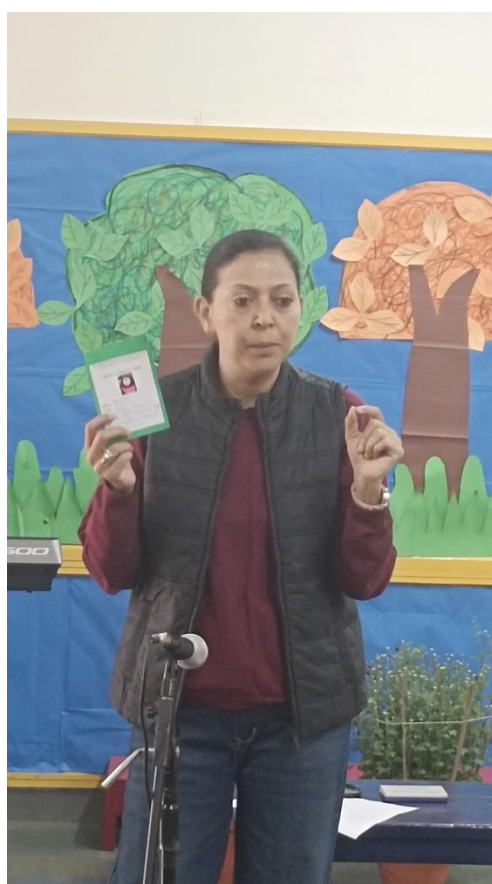
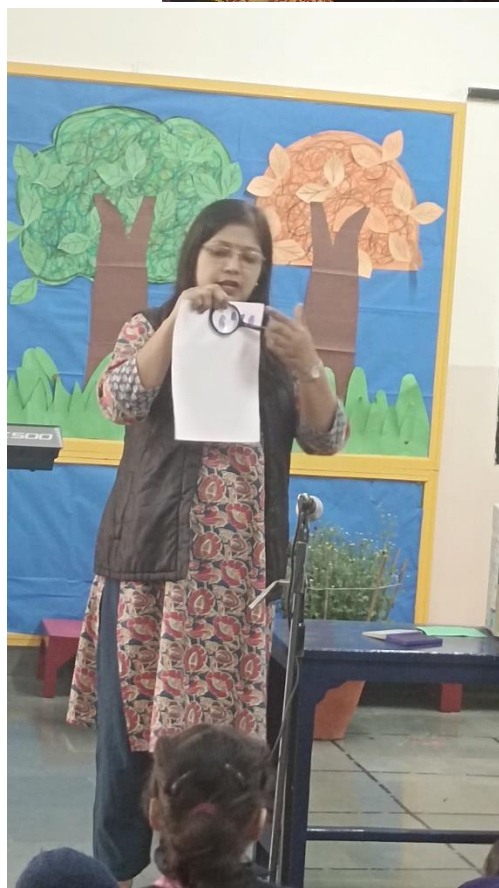
Thus December 4th 2023 was announced as the day of Elections for Preps. A lot of preparation was made for choosing "The favorite animal of Santa Maria of votes." -The three candidates selected were **The Western Tragopan (also called Jujurana) (threatened)**, **The Woolly Mammoth (extinct)**, and **The Red Panda (endangered)**. In the process children and teachers discussed to understand the meaning of threatened, extinct and endangered.

Printing of voter's ID cards and ballot paper was in full swing. The



campaigning started soon after children were asked to do research on these animals and then campaign for them using posters. They even dressed up like them. The idea of freedom to choose was explained and the message was conveyed clearly that 'think and choose'.





Each child was issued a voter's ID card that had a photo and important information filled in. The importance of the voter's card was discussed in the assembly and circle time.

The procedure of the election was explained. Children were not taken for granted. Proper electoral terminologies were used like biometric data, unique finger print, ballot paper, indelible ink, (we would substitute it with marker pens) election booth, election officer, which are now part of their vocabulary.

Opinion Poll

Short interviews were taken by the reporter of Santa Maria to know the reactions of the citizens of Santa Maria.

And the opinion poll suggested interesting outcome. Seemed like there was a tough competition between Woolly Mammoth and Red Panda.

Nishant "Woolly Mammoth will win because he has cute eyes like me."



Deergath, "Woolly Mammoth he jitega kyu ki hum ne use vote diya hai."

Vasundhara- "Red panda will win because he has cute and we all have voted for it."



Avighna's reaction after the election- "I don't know why Jujurana did not win. I voted for it. Next time I will go to the mountains, I will look for it because they live there."

Soha- "Red Panda will win because it is endangered."



Vilohit- "Woolly Mammoth will win because it is it is the strongest cousin of elephant and extinct."





Election Day

As the Election Day began, young Santa Marians with their voter's ID card were ready to participate in the annual Elections. The play ground was converted into a polling station. Parent volunteers graciously came forward to assist in the Election process.



Children queued up in front of the polling booths, patiently got their fingers inked and stamped on their favorite animal before folding the ballot paper and putting it into the ballot box.





As soon as the voting process came to an end, counting of the votes started. Everyone gathered in the field and waited for the results to be announced with excitement.



The results were announced and we had a winner in none other than **Red Panda** who won by good margin.

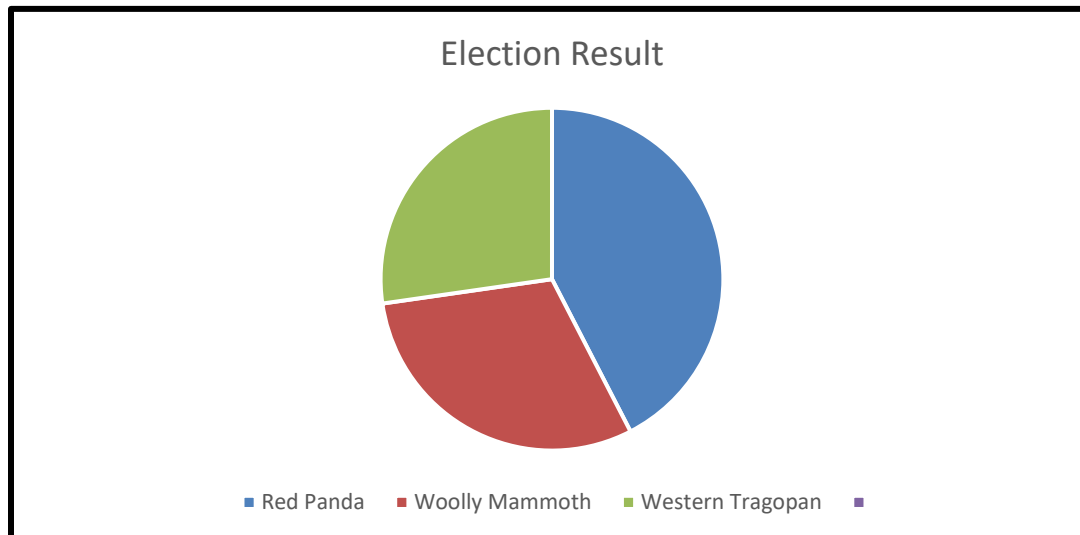


Final Tally

1st place- Candidate Red Panda with 28 Votes

2nd place- Candidate Woolly Mammoth with 20 Votes

3rd place- Candidate Western Tragopan with 18 Votes



Congratulations to all the participants for showing excellent sportsmanship.

Thank You!!

Team Santa Maria