

## Onam Celebration at Santa Maria

Santa Marians celebrated Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The Children of Prep-B showcased a special Assembly on this day with great joy and enthusiasm.

On September 1, 2017 news presentation was given to make children aware about of Kerala. Children were helped to locate it on the map of India. Children also saw a video which depicted how Onam is celebrated in Kerala.



In the assembly on September 4, 2017 children were made aware of the festivals, diverse culture and various traditions of our country. This was followed by the famous story of King Mahabali.



A small skit was presented in the form of role play- A family visits Kerala. They see girls doing Pookkalam (floral arrangement). This was followed by the Kaikotikali dance performed by the girls in the traditional Pawada and blouse. They surprised everyone with their dance movements and the ability to recall the steps accurately.



In the series of events the family then sees the Snake Boat race known as Vallam Kali. The Boat men rowed the boat matching their movements to the rhythm of the song- Kuttananadan Punjayile..... Their actions on rowing were mind blowing. As the song ended the enthusiastic racers shouted with joy -Arpo! Hurray!





The family then sees the Famous Fiery Tiger Dance called as Pulikali Dance. The tigers matched their actions to the drum beats and danced with lot of energy.



Finally everyone was told about 'Onassadya'. It's the yummy and healthy food served on banana leaf. It's considered as Onam feast. Children thanked their mummy papa and said "Nanni" means 'Thank you.'



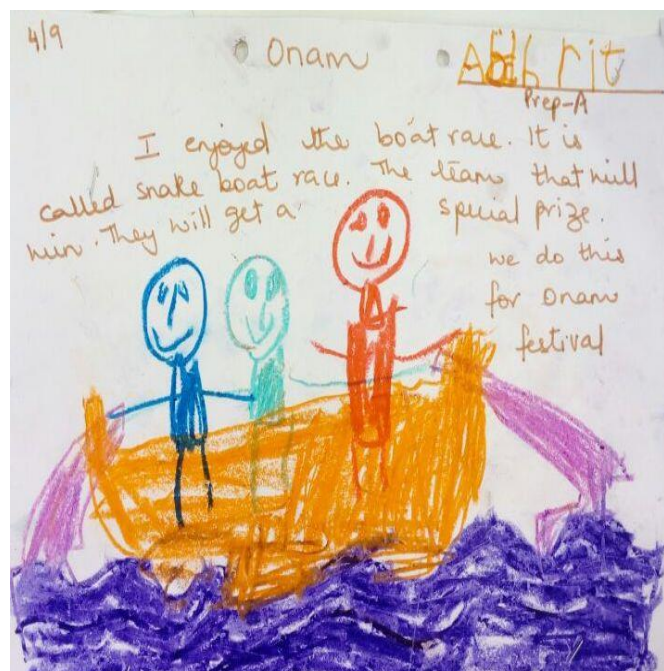


After the assembly children were dispersed to their classes. Thereafter they participated in making the 'Pookalam' the traditional floral Rangoli. All classes went for the nature walk and collected the flowers, leaves and grass to make floral Rangoli. This was a part of their cultural exchange and enhancing their creative and fine motor skills.





Last but not the least children did the illustrative recall of the Assembly 3+, 4+ and 5+. Beautiful drawings came up showing the understanding of the assembly and their fine motor skills.



The assembly was enjoyed by everyone.



Thank you

Preeti Sodhi

S.M.I.L.E.