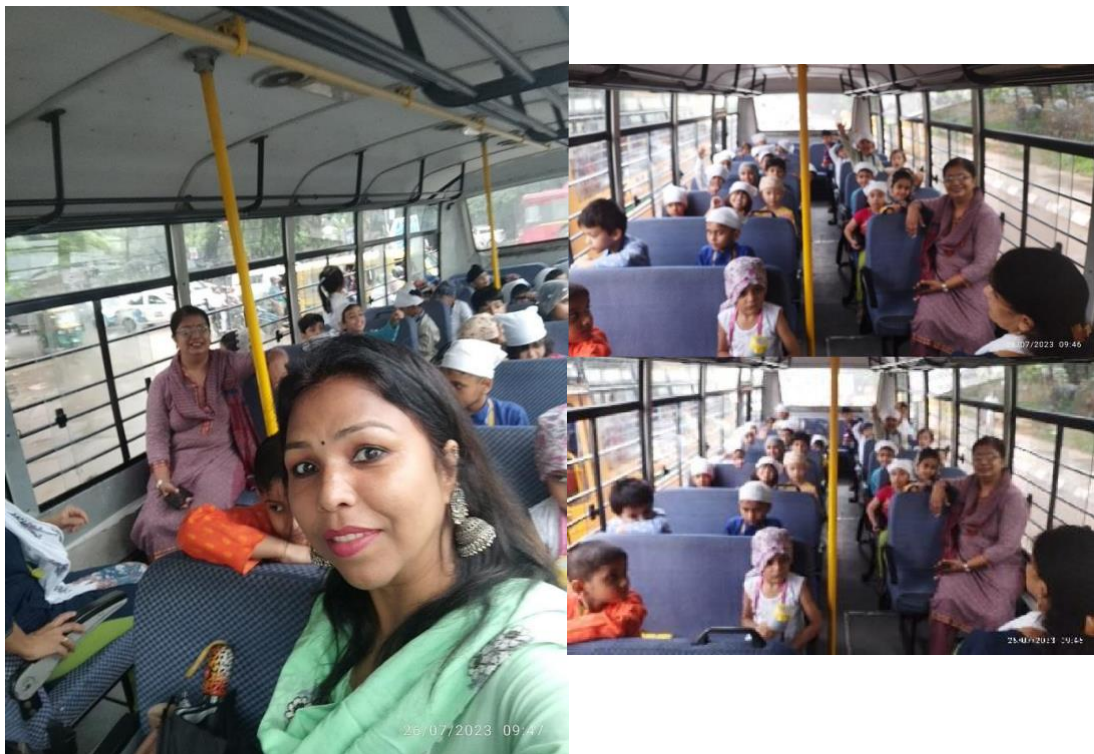


A Memorable Journey of Cultural Exploration: A Visit to the Mosque

In Santa Maria School, whenever there is an outing, a dedicated parent volunteer accompanies the students to observe and support their learning experiences. Once again, I had the privilege of being selected as a volunteer to join the students on a captivating field trip.

The journey commenced on the 26th of July at 9:30 AM. Though I arrived ten minutes late, to my relief, the school bus was still waiting for me. As I stepped inside, I was warmly greeted by Seema Ma'am, Mussarat Begum Ma'am, Ritu Datta Ma'am, and Elizabeth Ma'am surrounded by a delightful group of children dressed in their kurta pyjamas and salwar kameez as per the guidelines.



The atmosphere in the bus was filled with excitement and joy as we embarked on the ride to our destination. Upon reaching the mosque, I noticed inscriptions in Arabic at the entrygate, though my knowledge of the language limited.



The students demonstrated remarkable organization and familiarity with mosque etiquette. They removed their shoes/slippers at the designated area and proceeded to wash their hands and feet, following the traditional customs before namaz.

During the tour, the students were guided through the mosque's architecture, with fascinating insights into the design and the materials used in the construction. The class teacher expertly led the groups



of students, who absorbed the information with great enthusiasm.



Inside the magnificent hall of the mosque, I observed the devoted sitting area for Maulvi Sahib, and it was evident that the mosque also served as a madrasa, educating students in Islamic studies. Maulvi (Mufti Nizam) Sahib shared intriguing religious information about Islam, which complemented the preliminary knowledge provided by Ma'am before the trip. The students were further treated to a melodious song by a talented madrasa student, dedicated to Mohammed Sahib.



After this enriching experience, fruit drinks were distributed to the students and adults alike. We continued to explore the mosque's various features and activities before heading back to the bus for our return journey.



Upon reaching the school, the students were encouraged to responsibly dispose of their waste in the



dustbins, showcasing their disciplined behavior. The trip was truly exceptional, offering an invaluable learning experience and a unique opportunity to gain insights into different religions.

In conclusion, I remain at a loss for words to fully describe the contagious energy and enthusiasm displayed by the students throughout this remarkable trip. It was indeed a memorable experience that not only enriched their knowledge but also fostered understanding and appreciation of diverse

cultures and beliefs.

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Prep A