

Eureka SuperKidz News

12 Districts, 49 Blocks, 42000 Children

Eureka goes online!



We recently started online classes on Google Hangout at our Royapettah evening centre. The classes have been a great success and it's great to see that the children come to class at 5:30 sharp in the evening to learn from their "Khushbu Ma'am." (more on page 2)

LITTLE CREATOR - DISTRICT LEVEL



SCIENCE QUIZ AT VEMBAKKAM



CLASS 3 WONDER KID



INTERNS' RESEARCH STUDIES



EUREKA GOES ONLINE

Khushbu, one of our Eureka Fellows, who has been teaching at our Royapettah evening centre for more than a year now was not able to come to class for 10 days due to personal work. She did not want a long break between the classes and wanted to continue teaching



despite her personal commitments. We decided to try online classes through Google Hangouts. So webcam and speakers were bought and a system was set up on the 2nd floor of our office. Nandhini and Bina, the other two tutors at the centre, help Khushbu on the ground by ensuring attendance and discipline at the classes while Khushbu teaches daily from her home. The children are very excited to see their Ma'am on a computer screen and learn from her virtually.

Inspired by the success of these online classes, we plan to experiment the same with our other centres and also allocate child-to-child mentors who can teach and guide the children virtually.

Little Creator Event - takes the next step!

In our last newsletter we shared with you that our Project Managers were busy organising the Little Creator event in their respective blocks. The Little Creators event has been conceptualized to encourage and showcase children's creative skill levels. The teams are represented by three children, one each from class 3, 4 and 5. These children divide three tasks of story writing, story drawing and story telling amongst themselves.

The little creators event aims at igniting and enhancing children's imagination by making them illustrate, write and



recite an incident or a certain topic that is relevant in today's world. We at AID INDIA believe that holistic development of a child and the little creators event augments the theory of learning through imagination.

After conducting block level events, we conducted district level events in last week of February and first week of March. All our working districts, including Trichy, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Vellore East & West, Cuddalore, Thiruvallur Krishnagiri, Thiruvannamalai and Kancheepuram have completed the event. The district level winners will head to Chennai in April for the final round.



Science Quiz at Vembakkam

We conducted a Science Quiz for class 6-8 students at Mamandur Village in Vembakkam Block on Sunday, 21 Feb. It was a great success and all the children not only had lots of fun at the event but also learnt a lot about science and allied concepts. The 13 villages of the block were represented by a team of 3 children at the Science Quiz. These children were shortlisted through a written test taken prior to the event.

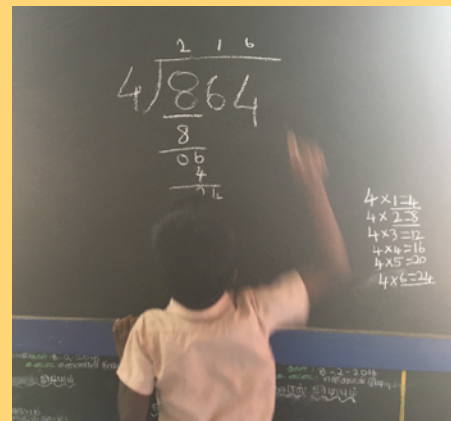
On the quiz day, we again shortlisted Top 6 teams through a group written exam. The top six teams went through three rounds - conducting experiments, rapid fire and long elaborate questions - to compete for the Winners' spot. The winning team - Pillanthangal village - performed exceedingly well. It was great to see children shout out answers to some of the tougher questions. The winning teams received their gifts and certificates from Mamandur Panchayat President D. Raji and Ward Member N. Puspa. The teachers of the winning centres were also awarded with "Super Teacher Certificate" as they trained their children for the quiz and ensured they could answer complicated conceptual questions.



CLASS 3 WONDER KID - JAYAKUMAR!

Very rarely do we find a 3rd standard child who is able to solve complex Math problems without breaking a sweat. Division is taught in 4th standard and expected to be mastered by the students of 5th standard. However, during one of our visits, *wonder kid* Jayakumar volunteered to solve a 3-digit by 1-digit division problem on the class black board without any hesitation. He solved it with ease, despite the pressure of being watched by visitors and his peers.

Jayakumar studies in 3rd standard in Bhagvathapuram government school in Thiruttani Block, Thiruvallur district. To him, his teacher Mr. Velu is a huge inspiration and Eureka's material has helped him understand concepts better. Jayakumar says that his interest in Math was spurred by a combination of the Eureka flashcards and worksheets, and Mr. Velu's teaching style.



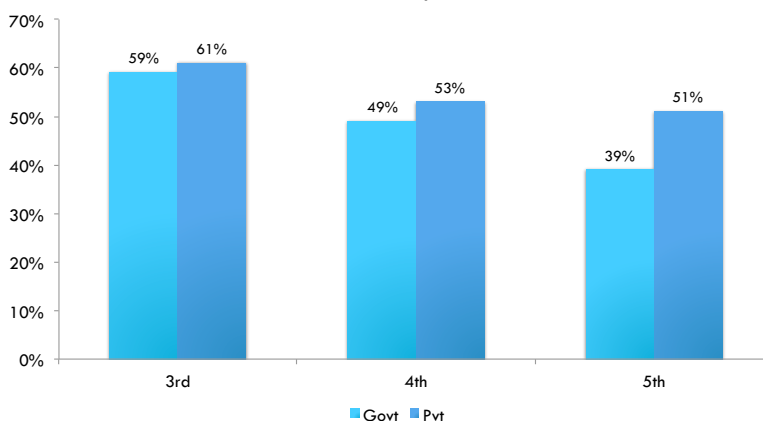
He has also taken a keen interest in teaching math to his peers in areas in which they lag behind. This, he says, gives him further confidence in his ability to do well and stay focused. He wants to give back to the society when he grows up by joining the Police forces. We are sure Jayakumar will achieve his dreams and we wish him all the best!

Interns' study on govt/private schools' skill levels and teachers

We had a group of five interns from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) do internship with AID INDIA in February. They studied skill levels of children in government and private schools and best practices of teachers in different educational institutions. They also created content for our Eureka Schools.

Their studies showed that Tamil skill levels are higher in government schools while English levels are higher in private schools. Math skill levels are almost the same in both the schools except for complex skills, where private school children perform better.

Analysis of Math skills across classes
Class 3: Subtraction; Class 4: Multiplication; Class 5: Division



The studies also revealed key differences between working behaviour and mindsets of government and private school teachers. Since private school teachers have the fear of being fired, they work harder than government school teachers who have lifetime job security and very less accountability.

The group studying best practices and motivation for teachers found out that almost all teachers are motivated by making their children learn better. However, given the large amount of course content, most teachers are driven by “finishing the course on time” than ensuring 100% children learn their target goals.

We are thankful to the interns for devoting their time to AID INDIA and for helping us with our research studies.

What's Brewing in March ?

- Preparation for Eureka Little Creators Event at Chennai on 9-10 April
- Final skill evaluation for the academic year 2015-16
- Eureka SuperKidz planning and preparation for next academic year

Call out for volunteers

We are looking for volunteers

- To help conduct the Eureka Little Creators event at Chennai
- To visit the centres and observe classes
- To conduct evaluations and analyse large data of results
- To teach English reading at the centres
- To prepare worksheets and workbooks in Maths

Please get in touch with Selva aid.selva@gmail.com if interested in any of the above.