



Academy of Learning

**Diya Academy of Learning**  
**Annual Report**  
**2017-18**

Diya Academy of Learning is an initiative by August Foundation, a non-profit organization aimed to enhance the quality of education and bring values as a part of it. School has classes from pre-primary to grade 10. In pre-primary, a mixed approach of kindergarten and Montessori style is used. From grade 1 onwards it follows CBSE board curriculum. Campus is of 5 acres with two buildings and different playgrounds. Infrastructure is designed to cater to the holistic approach taken for the development of students.

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ The year started with great news of our grade 10 third batch results. It was a 100% pass with two 10 CGPA.
- ◆ Medals and Awards achieved in Olympiads and External exams

Name of the Olympiad	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Medal of Distinction
IEO	8	6	6	2
NSO	1	0	7	8
IMO	1	0	7	7

- ◆ Received Best School Award from All India Citizens Development Centre

Activity	Award Received	No. Of Winners
Drawing	Kala Ratna Award 2017	4
Handwriting	Kala Shri Award 2017	3
Essay Writing	Kala Bhushan Award 2017	3

- ◆ Enhancement of infrastructure to maintain safety and security
- ◆ Digitalisation in terms of communications
- ◆ Theme based celebrations to bring in the secular environment
- ◆ Participation in many in house and external competitions to bring the competitive spirit among students
- ◆ Annual sports meet and annual day to showcase students' talents
- ◆ Active participation by parent volunteers
- ◆ Grade wise field trips and outstation trip
- ◆ Successful completion of teacher training second batch

Let us take a review our journey through this academic year

## **ACADEMICS**

A holistic approach is taken in imparting knowledge throughout. The whole plan revolves around four pillars of education

- ◆ Learning to know
- ◆ Learning to live together
  - ◆ Learning to do
  - ◆ Learning to be

Activities play an important role in learning concepts, so every subject includes enrichment activities that initiate interest in students. Learning by doing has been an integral part of our academics. As a part of it, "Young Engineers Programme " was initiated for grades 8-10 where students were using their creativity and knowledge to build machines and robots under the guidance. Subjects were not taught in isolation and were integrated as and when it was required. Many grade wise activities were arranged throughout the year which was evident how students are able to understand the concept rather than compartmentalizing it in different subject headings. Education beyond classrooms was one of the highlights during this session. Many subjects were handled outside the four walls of classrooms. Teachers' creativity was evident when they used many outdoor games to teach concepts and revising those. Weekly meetings of teachers with subject experts helped them to plan in ahead and monitor the progress of children in terms of learning outcomes. Grade wise meetings were also held in particular to discuss about each child in those classes. These meetings were the key for teachers to understand guide and follow different teaching practices. Examination department is functional under the guidance of all subject experts which makes sure the quality of question paper and meeting the true objective of conducting exams. Students who need extra help in terms of academics are called for remedial classes after the school hours or one any working Saturdays, so that individual attention can be given to improve their scores.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

All festivals are celebrated within the campus. This brings in the values among students to respect every religion and culture. Many theme based celebrations are also conducted within this

tenure. A few to quote are friendship day, environment day, father's day , language day, teachers' day , children's day

## **COMPETITIONS**

Many house wise competitions were held to create a healthy competitive environment between children. Students were divided in four houses so as with teachers too. Each competition was taken with full energy and enthusiasm and they tried every bit to win the competition. These competition provided a platform for children to work as a team to learn cooperation and collaboration. In today's world Diya believes that it is very essential to improve our students' social skills so that they can become a good citizen and work for their country. A few competitions are cited below

◆ Collage making ◆ Slogan Writing ◆ Wall Magazine ◆ Article Writing ◆ Talent Hunt - Dance, Singing, Instrumental, Monoacting ◆ Creative Writing ◆ Pictorial Representation (Grade 3 to 5) ◆ Fancy Dress Competition (Gr1, 2) ◆ Rangoli Competition ◆ Poem Recitation ◆ Singing ◆ Story telling ◆ Handwriting & Essay Writing ◆ Pick and speak

## **ELECTIONS**

One of the main initiatives was to conduct a democratic election and making a student council with elected members. The whole procedure to conduct an election was followed where teachers acted as election officers and the nomination procedures were followed under their guidance. Google forms were made in place of ballot papers to maintain the secrecy as well as to make the result announcement quick. Students from grades 3-10 were guided to cast their votes in staff room which was set like a "polling booth". An ink mark was given on their left index finger as a proof of casting votes to make it more authentic. Results were announced the very next day and council members were handed over the responsibilities during an investiture ceremony.

## **EXTERNAL EXAMS AND COMPETITIONS**

Students understand their caliber when they compete with other school students. This was the motive behind giving them an exposure to various external exams and competitions. A list of external exams was conducted throughout the year, in which many of our students came up with flying colours. Our students also participated in many inter-school competitions including quizzes, theatre fest etc. It was a platform for them to see students of other school and compare themselves with their preparation. Students shared this feedback and promised to improve their preparation before their next competitions.

## **ANNUAL SPORTS DAY**

Annual sports day was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> November, Saturday. Both Montessori and main school students participated in the event. Many individual and house-wise competitions were held. The Montessori section presented a host of splendid field displays involving mass student participation. A number of races too were lined up for them. The REST Olympia was kicked off by a majestic March Past by the four houses, and colourful, mesmerizing, and perfectly synchronized drills presented by different classes. Once the races began the air was filled with cheering and tons of encouragement. The games organized for the parents saw an impressive participation. The day ended with the Sapphire House being declared as the Overall Sports Champions. It was a day filled with sportsmanship, enthusiasm and memories to cherish.

## **LIFE SKILL ACTIVITIES**

*Life skills* are usually associated with managing and living a better quality of life. They help us to accomplish our ambitions and live to our full potential. Any skill that is useful in your life can be considered a life skill. Diya believes in preparing children for life rather than giving only bookish knowledge. We always try to arrange programmes which give our students an exposure and awareness about various life skills. Yoga being part of our curriculum is practised by every child in Diya. A fire fighting workshop was conducted to prepare them for emergencies. Our students participated in an awareness rally “Greenathon” to spread the message of environment conservation. Our students celebrated the friendship day by tying a friendship band to all trees in our campus. They took an oath to protect them as a friend in need is a friend in deed. A special assembly was also arranged to remember our honourable Prime Minister’s vision of Swach Bharat. Our students took an oath to keep their country clean. To make it as a habit week wise rolling trophies are circulated for the neatly maintained class. Values need to be instilled in behaviour rather than teaching as a separate subject. This was the idea behind arranging a special assembly for our support staff. Our students made special cards for our support team and honoured them in a special assembly. Students presented a mesmerizing cultural programme for everyone.

## **NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION**

Newspaper is the greatest and the most useful gift received by man with the invention of the printing. Bringing this into education is something that supplements the overall learning. We started NIE for grades 3-10 where newspapers are given to every child. As it brings a lot of knowledge and information, teachers are also trying to make use of it in their regular teaching periods. The quizzes, highlights, exercises are all small activities which complement what teachers are teaching in the classes. Our students had sent a few articles which came published and was praised by many.

## **GUEST LECTURERS**

Nothing can be better than gaining knowledge from someone’s own experience. Guest speakers usually enhance students learning experience and are able to tackle all the queries related to their field of expertise. Diya believes in giving our students a real world life experience from

the position of someone who has been there. Among other speakers, the most important one was Dr. C.D. Prasad who has a vast experience of 33 years working in the field of space technology in India's own pride ISRO. His immense knowledge was delivered in the simplest way it could be to reach out to students and make them feel proud on India's achievements in the field of space technology.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

This year Diya witnessed a bunch of enthusiastic parents volunteering themselves in different areas that they could support school, right from different shows, trainings, planning a new venture to even taking remedial classes. We are very thankful to all those parents who came forward to be a part of our family and we hope to see many more numbers adding up in the future years.

## **EDUCATIONAL TRIPS**

Educational trips always broaden the educational experience and make a subject more relevant. This was the main objective of taking students for various field trips and the outstation trips. Grades 1-6 students were taken to HAL museum where they could explore different types of aircrafts used in India for various purposes. They were also taken through a video to show how India has progressed in the field of space technology. Grades 7 -10 field trip was to educate them about various cropping patterns and agriculture methods. They were taken to MG farm where they could see different crops, animals and understand various practices followed in agriculture and animal husbandry. Outstation trip was something that Diya tried it for first time. Students of grades 6-10 were taken a 3-days trip to historically important places in Karnataka. Sight of those monuments and explanation by tourist guides was good enough for students to accept that History indeed is an interesting subject.

## **TEACHER TRAININGS**

A good **teacher** unquestionably determines the development of a student through the teaching-learning process in schools. But as the technology is growing in its field many of our students are becoming smarter day by day. So it becomes an untold responsibility of a teacher to keep her updated on every aspect of teaching – learning process. Based on need analysis Diya teachers attended a few workshops in this academic session. Few topics are listed below:

♦ **Effective Communication and Presentation Skills** ♦ **Creative Montessori** ♦ **Active Learning** ♦ **Communication** ♦ **Learning Methodologies** ♦ **Phonics** ♦ **Planning for Learning** ♦ **Classroom Communication** ♦ **Teaching- Learning** ♦ **Multiple Intelligence** ♦ **Language of a learner** ♦ **Learning Disability** ♦ **Creative Learning Techniques** ♦ **Google Training** ♦ **Creative Teaching** ♦ **How to make Maths Interesting Creative Worksheets**

We are also happy to announce that we have completed second batch of “Finishing School of Teachers” training programme successfully this year. Almost 30 teachers took this course and empowered themselves in the field of education.

## **DIGITALIZATION**

As the world is rushing towards more digital communications, Diya also tried to take its baby steps in the same direction. We created Google groups of parents and were informing all important information through emails. Information included daily reports of every day academics, Newsletters for the month, circulars etc. This was welcomed by all parents as they were feeling a part of the institution due to regular communications.

## **PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS**

PTMs are the time when both parent and teacher sit together and share their thoughts about the child. Diya believes that more interaction will result in a strong bond between parent and teacher and thus it will help the child to grow in a positive environment. This was the motive behind calling parents to school and spending time with them to discuss the problems and solutions. These regular interactions helped our teachers to plan their classes to engage their students in a most appropriate way rather than lesson deliveries.

## **CHANGES IN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Safety of students and staff is of utmost importance while we do any changes in the infrastructure. Keeping this in mind changes were made to enhance the corridor heights, more numbers of high definition cameras were installed, levelling and boundary for play grounds were done. Enhancement of library both in terms of number of books and infrastructures was done to make the learning more fun filled and comfortable. Diya always try to improve in all terms as it gives us an opportunity to do things which otherwise we wouldn't be able to do. Our ultimate goal is to imbibe the real value of education and prepare our students for a better world. So we try to keep improvise our methods and approach to raise the standards and benchmark so as to make our students competent for the outside world!!!