

Independence Day Celebration at S.M.I.L.E.

Independence means enjoying freedom and empowering others too to let them do so.



Everyone at Santa Maria celebrated the 71st Independence Day with great enthusiasm and zeal on 11th August'17. The celebration became a wholesome and fulfilling experience through the on-going activities happening in all classes and in the morning assembly for the last one week. These activities helped create awareness about our Independence, what freedom means to everyone. During the week children engaged in various activities like:

- Watching a beautiful story of a bird that wanted to be free.
- Circle time discussion on **what does freedom means to you?**
- **Theme Talk on the national symbols like the Flag.**
- Singing age appropriate patriotic songs like "hum saathi hai hum rahi hain..." and "Look at the flag..."
- Learning by doing activity in which children painted the national flag and made beautiful tricolor decorations that were later put up in the classrooms and corridors.



On Friday morning, Santa Marians gathered in the school lawn, holding the National flags in their hands. We were pleased to be joined by some of our Parents.



The Independence Day celebration at S.M.I.L.E. began with 'Prabhat Pheri', which literally means 'early morning rounds'. Prabhat Pheri was a non-violent way of expressing ones views and a way for the common man to participate in the freedom struggle. Wearing their pristine white kurta pyjamas, and the Tiranga waving in their hands, the Preps marched along and sang and chanted slogans in unison. 'Bharat Mata ki jai!!! Inquilab zindaabad!!! Hum Bharat ke naye sipahi...' This was well complimented by by showering of beautiful rose petals by the children standing upstairs in the corridor.



Hoisting of the National flag followed Prabhat Pheri. Children waited patiently for the right moment to sing the National Anthem.



The air was filled with the feeling of patriotism and happiness as children sang together. We all took a pledge this Independence Day to make our city Poly bag free. A news presentation was given for children to understand how harmful plastic bags are for our environment.



The children of Prep-C presented a heartwarming story of animals locked in the Zoo. The story depicted what freedom meant for these animals.



We all were taken down memory lane as our Prep-C children posed as leader's spearheading the Independence struggle.

- Bhagat Singh: Inquilab zindabad, Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai.....
- Sarojini Naidu: Main Bharat ki pehli mahila governor hoon. Mujhe Bharat ki kokila ke naam se bhi jana jaata hai.
- Mahatma Gandhi: Main kahta hoon karo ya maro. Angrezo Bharat chhodo.
- Rani Lakshmi Bai: Main apni Jhansi kisi ko nahin doongi.
- Jawaharlal Nehru: I am the first Prime Minister of free India. I love children and children call me "Chacha Nehru"
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: Tum mujhe Khoon do, Main tumhen Azaadi doonga.



Finally our tiny tots from K.G-B ended the celebrations on a high note with the song "Time to be happy is now....." The song very relevantly gave a beautiful message that freedom brings happiness to all and that true happiness can only be found by sharing it with others. This was children's first stage performance in K.G and they did it confidently.



As always the children of S.M.I.L.E found an interesting way to recall this special day by painting the impressions that were left in their creative minds.



"FREEDOM IS MAKING OUR CHOICES"- Quote

Even though perceptions and expressions were different. Understanding the concept of freedom was unanimous when we celebrated this special occasion.

Valuable anecdotes on [what does Freedom mean to you?](#)

Eshwin and Elvis: Free to watch T.V.

Saanvi: Free to wear anything.

Anita: Free from being afraid.

Dev: Freedom from all problems.

Ishti: Free to go to the park.

Ishya: Free to go to Almora.

Laksh: Free to eat junk food.

A parent: For me freedom means not to get up early to make the children ready for the school.

The day ended on a sweet note as children received colorful gems for this special occasion for every Indian.

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