

Onam Celebration at SMILE

Namaskaram to all,

Santa Marians celebrated Onam on the 13th of September. Children of Nursery A and B showcased a special assembly on this occasion. Ms. Sangita and Ms. Nikita class teacher of Nursery, Children were given an overview of why Onam is celebrated and what is its significance.

Onam is a ten-day-long festival celebrated in Kerala through various festivities. It is an official harvest festival of the Kerala and is also connected to the legendary King Mahabali.



The presentation began with the greeting song 'aadab satsriakal...'

Children were introduced to the state of Kerala, famously known as "God's Own Country." It was described as a region with enchanting backwaters, lush green tea plantations, and the diverse wildlife that inhabits within. Its distinct art form like Kathakali, was also showcased. Traditional attire worn by people of Kerala were also highlighted as children walked in wearing a pawda and mund.

Scene 1

"King Mahabali entered with his entourage, and everyone was thrilled and excited to see him. The children learned about his qualities; he was depicted as a helpful and kind-hearted king who deeply loved his people."



Children performed the graceful and traditional Kaikotikali dance in their pristine 'Pawadas', They looked absolutely delightful and mesmerized everyone with their beautiful dance.





The energetic tiger family enthralled us all with the Pulikali tiger dance. The little ones of Santa Maria came dressed up in tiger costumes looking ferocious and mighty as a tiger and matched their actions with a foot tapping drum beats.



The real fun started with the iconic boat race called "Vallamkali". The enthusiastic group of children in the boat race displayed their rowing skills well synchronised to the tune of the song Kuttanadan Punjayile.



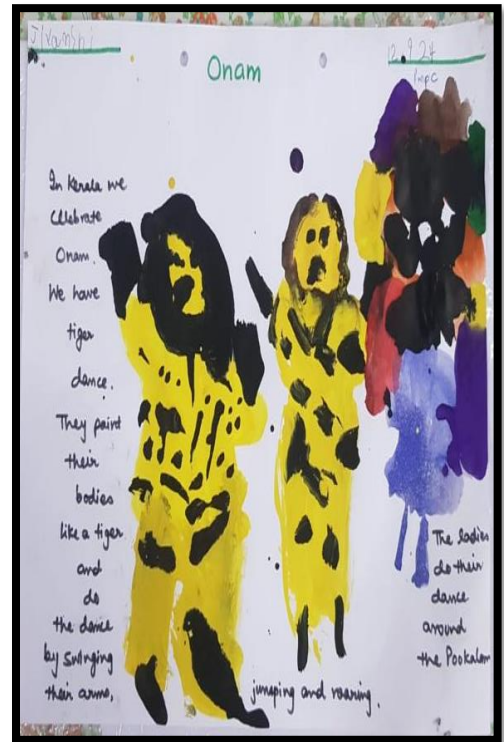
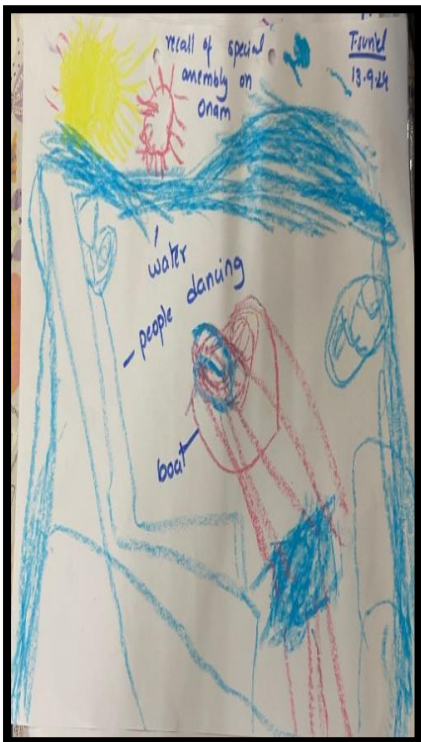
The most impressive part of the Onam celebration was the grand feast called “Onasadyam. The yummy and healthy food is served on the banana leaf on Onam. It is a multi-course pure vegetarian meal with more than 25 dishes. The meal consists of dishes from across the state.

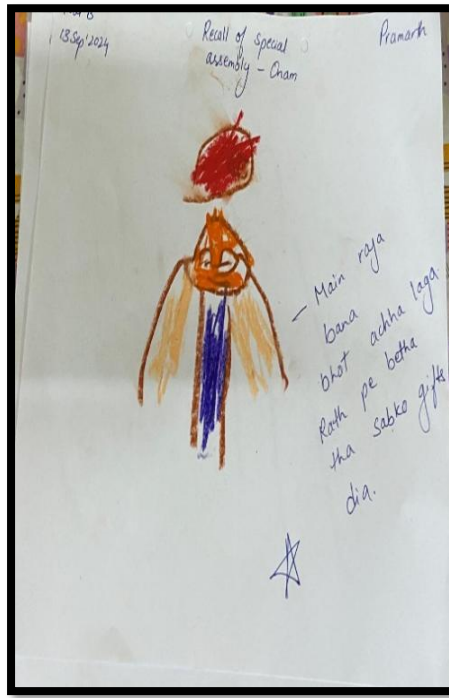
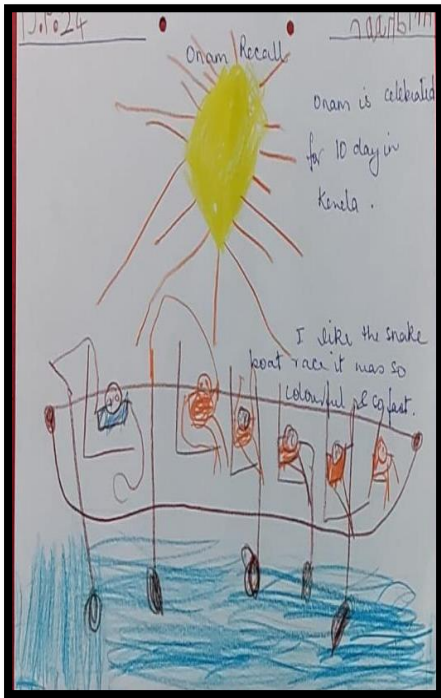


All classes participated in making "Pookalam" as a part of creative thinking. Everyone took turns to make it in their small groups. It was heart-warming to see the joy with which children engaged in the activity as they giggled and laughed while interacting with each other. They made beautiful geometrical patterns and filled them with blocks icecream sticks.



Onam recall - Through their vibrant drawings children eagerly recalled their favourite part of the Onam festival.





Lastly, children were overjoyed with Onam festivities as they were served special Onam goodies, Kaaya varuthatha (banana chips) and sarkara upperi (jaggery coated banana chips). Children enjoyed every moment of the day with so many eventful activities.

Regards,

Report by SMILE

Nikita Swami