



Samvaad

Chandigarh's Monthly CCT Newsletter
August 2020

Leader Speak

"It gives me immense pleasure that the efforts of the teachers to promote Critical & Creative Thinking among students are being acknowledged and we are initiating a monthly CCT Newsletter to document the same.

I wish all the members of Chandigarh's education fraternity the very best and hope that the Newsletter becomes a medium to showcase best practices for PISA preparedness in Chandigarh and that we become a role model for other states who intend to participate in PISA in the future.

I would also like to congratulate all the members of the curation committee and the review committee on successful publication of the first edition of this Newsletter."

**-Sh. S. S. Gill, IAS
Education Secretary, UT Chandigarh**



Initiatives led by SCERT

- To ensure coherent access of resources by students and teachers, the subject expert groups mapped the resources with learning outcomes as per the taxonomy of NCERT and uploaded the same on DIKSHA via Vidyadaan
- To ensure continued efforts towards enabling creative and critical thinking skills of students, following resources were disseminated during the month of August
 - PRAGYATA - The Digital Education Guidelines by MHRD (in both English and Hindi medium)
 - Teachers Energised Resource Manuals (TERMs) for Science and Mathematics: Grades 6 to 10
 - HARSHIT /Joyful Learning comic booklet series part 5, 6,7 created by the Scientific Literacy core group
 - Eight weeks Alternative Academic Calendar for Upper Primary Classes and Students Learning Enhancement Guidelines by the Ministry of Education (MoE)

Poll of the month

Do you feel monthly CCT assessments are helpful in preparing students for PISA?

Submit your answers at

<https://forms.gle/XvrbKwRWdFj7CQcj8>

Stories of Adaptive Leadership

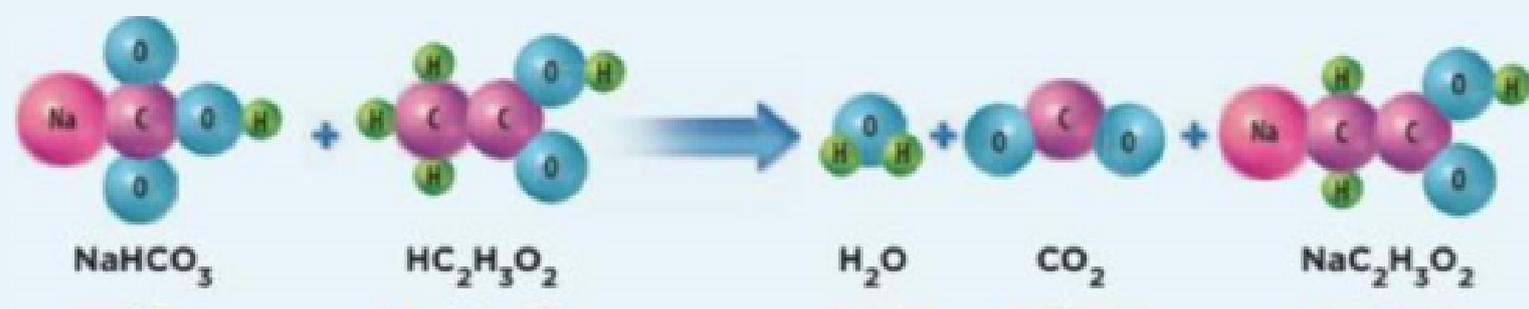
Learning in times of COVID-19



Since the only way we can reach our students is now virtual, all schools in Chandigarh are coming up with ways to ensure continued learning for everyone.

Government High School, Daria and Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 33 have led such initiatives where students continue enhancing their scientific abilities by performing simple experiments at home. While the team at GHS Daria enabled students to understand the concept of Tyndall effect, GMSSS 33 team enabled students to distinguish between physical and chemical changes they observe around them.

Using material easily available at home, students gained conceptual understanding of these science topics and being hands on activities these definitely spiked maximum participation.



Safety Kit for COVID-19

Necessity is the mother of invention, and DAV 15 team upheld this at their annual summer camp this year. Because of the ongoing pandemic, the celebrations had to be moved online and the theme had to be relevant for students and parents.

During the 6 day event, all students of the school learnt to create their own masks, shoe covers, protective caps, soaps and a DIY hand wash that they could make at home.

A session on nutritious diet to boost immunity in these times was also held.

It is with initiatives like this that schools become pivotal in a society's growth.



CCT Torchbearers

Funny Fall-outs of COVID -19

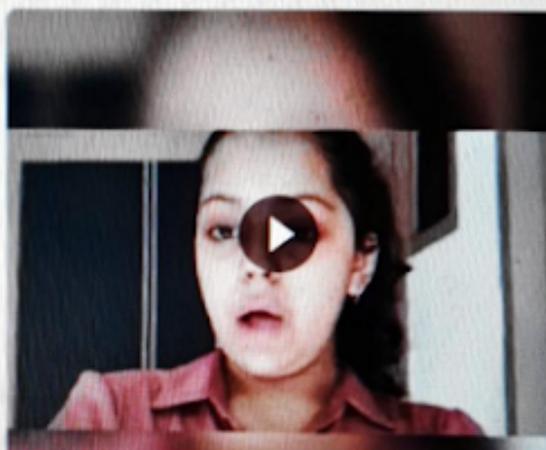
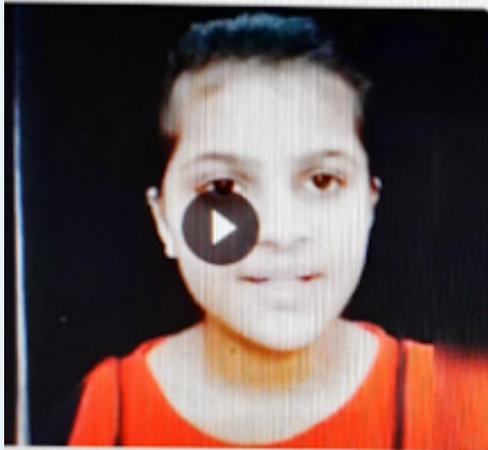
Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 16 has cracked the code for enhancing language skills among their students and keeping their spirits up at the same time. The dark cloud of COVID and its impact on the mental health of students are hard to ignore. Keeping this in mind, the team at GMSSS 16 decided to use 'Funny fall outs of COVID 19' as a theme on which students were expected to find the silver lining in this grim



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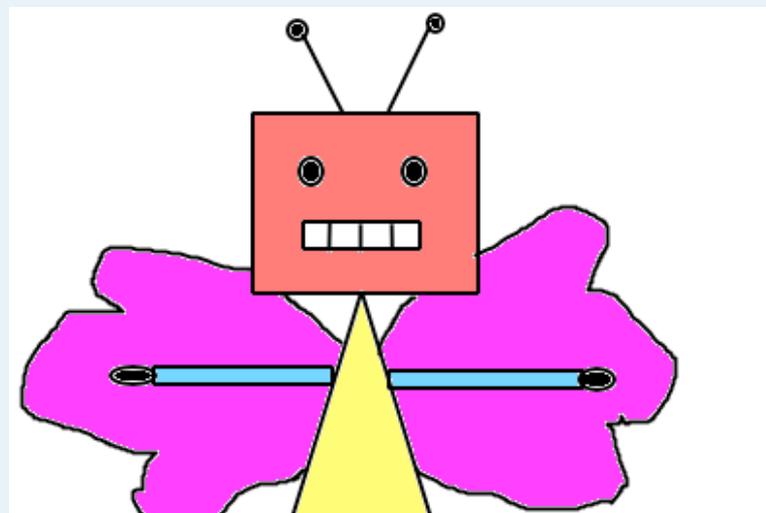


situation and record their take on it. From the videos shared by students, their enthusiasm to engage in this activity was evident. Besides, the opportunity to speak their mind, record and share was definitely a breather for students. A lot of reading goes into this before one

speaks with proper stress, speed and intonation and through a speaking activity, the reading skills of students are organically enhanced. The school intends to continue sharing topics that require introspection and insight on the part of the students.

What's that Weird Creature?

One of the challenges that the online teaching and learning methodologies have posed is garnering students' attention and sustaining it throughout a session. Sacred Heart School initiated an exercise to ensure students are actively engaging in learning new vocabulary, enhancing creative



writing skills, stimulating critical thinking abilities and being able to recapitulate understanding of shapes and structures.

Students were instructed to draw a figure on the basis of a conversation being narrated to them by the teacher. The conversation was between two women who were discussing a “weird creature” which one of them had seen in the park. The usage of voice modulation and other finer nuances lent to the “mysteriousness” of the figure. They had to pick up the verbal cues describing the figure and draw it accordingly.

Climate Change - An integrated learning experience



St. Kabir School initiated an activity to integrate scientific literacy with computer learning.

The purpose of the activity was for students to be able to relate to a pressing real life crisis of climate change and the threats it poses to our environment

An online brainstorming session was conducted by the teachers post which the students were asked to research using internet, encyclopaedia etc. and make a report on how climate change is

affecting agriculture, biodiversity, human health, flora and fauna. The activity was further integrated with computer and students were asked to present their research in the form of a Flipbook. The enthusiastic participation of students encouraged the teachers to design more such integrated sessions for science and computer to enhance better learning and interface with technology. Also, on seeing the positive response from students, the teachers conducted innovative sessions of tinkering in the Atal Tinkering Laboratory of the school. Some students also created detailed research plans

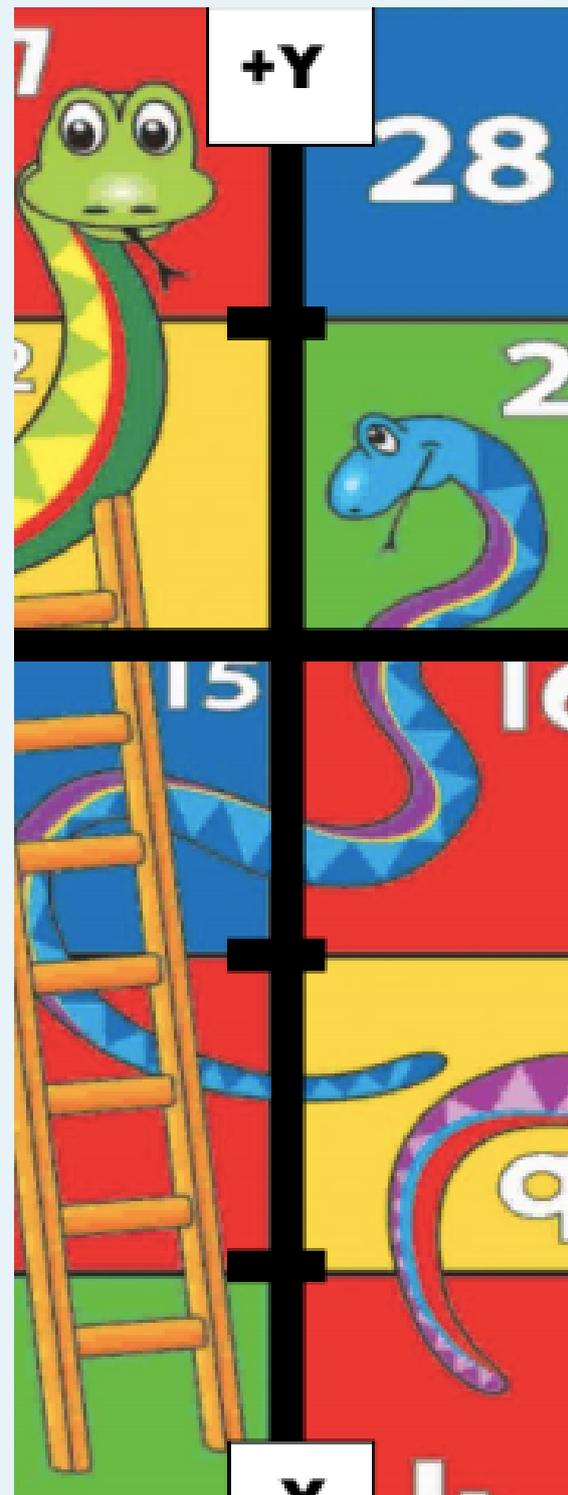
around the theme and also conceptualised building a prototype of a Geothermal plant to demonstrate how to utilize Geothermal energy and convert it into electricity that could be used in our houses resulting in reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

Fun with Coordinate Geometry

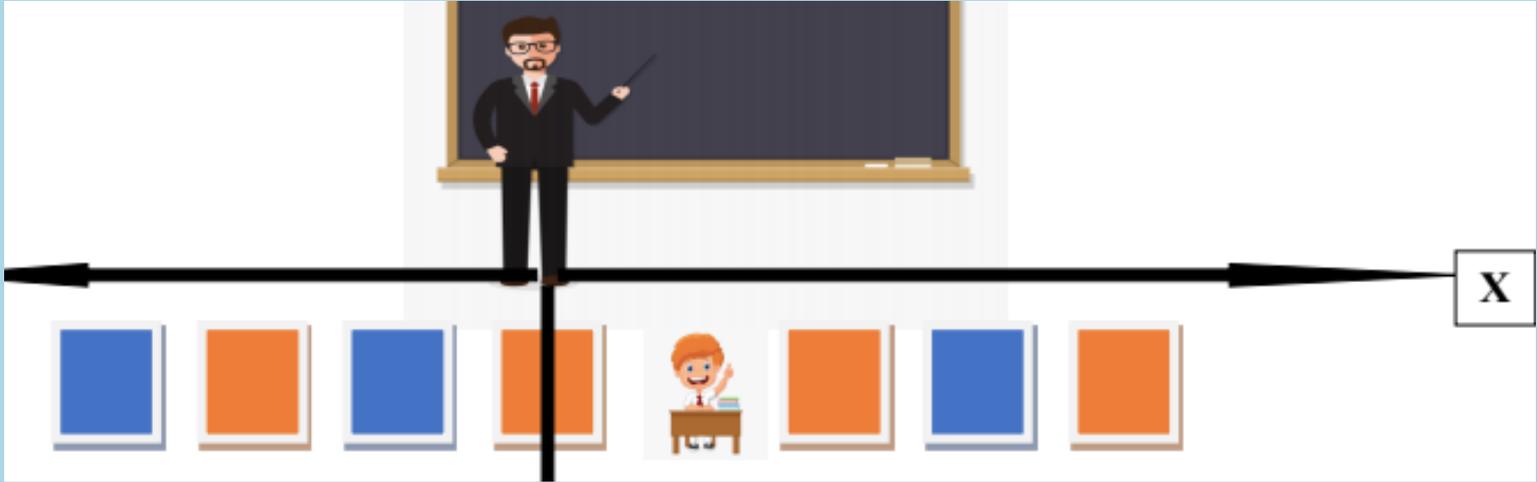
St. John's School has been focusing on enhancing mathematical literacy skills of their students. Among other initiatives, one such activity was 'Fun with Coordinate Geometry'. This weekly challenge was organised to help students understand and enjoy the concept by demonstrating its relevance to their lives. In addition to core mathematical skills, this activity also involved reading, discussion, and analysis of the problem at hand.

The first part of the activity was a snakes and ladders game based on the principles of coordinate geometry, which was a fun and relatable way of approaching an important mathematical concept. The next part required students to use coordinate geometry to estimate their seating position in a post-COVID classroom.

This served multiple purposes. It helped students understand the practical applications of the concept, reinforced the need for social distancing in these times and also touched upon the area of health and infectious diseases, which is a content area for scientific literacy in PISA.

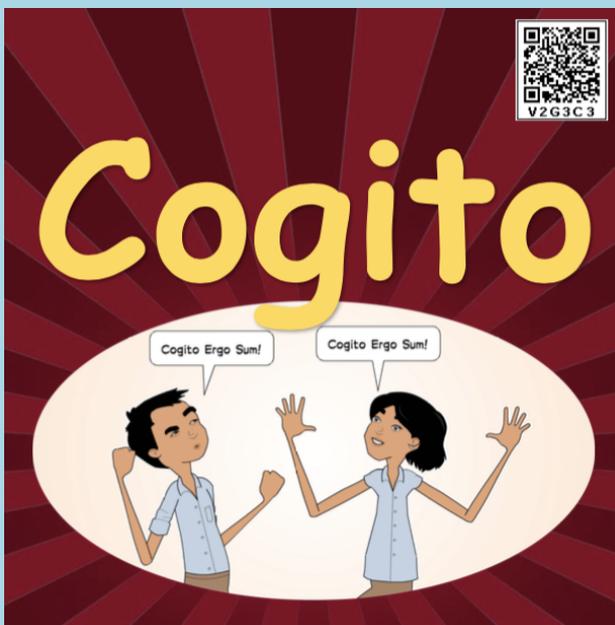


Students enjoyed playing the game of snakes and ladders and showed great interest in solving a problem that was relevant to them - their classroom seating. The team hopes to engage students in a similar way, by showing them the real-life applications of what they learn which is the core focus of PISA



Resource in Focus

Cogito - A fun way to learn at home!



'**Cogito**', the comic book is an easy and fun read for students to develop their creative and critical thinking abilities.

The comic book is designed as a conversation between two friends. Throughout the comic, we see that the friends are not just chatting, but also exchanging ideas and learning important concepts such as analysis, facts vs claims etc.

from each other.

Cogito is an attempt to make students understand everyday terms and concepts necessary for critical and creative thinking, in a way that is clear and engaging. Teachers must encourage all students to read the comic book and also check their understanding of the concepts covered in it.

Cogito can be accessed directly on DIKSHA or by scanning the given QR code



Your Opinion Matters!

Please share your feedback on this edition of Samvaad - Chandigarh's Monthly CCT Newsletter by visiting the link below

<https://forms.gle/jarmFNhteWeBhdCd7>

