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YORKLAND News

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Deepavali celebration 2022

Dear Parents,

On 21st October, our Yorkland children came together to celebrate Deepavali, the festival of lights. For our kindergarten children age group, to understand an abstract concept like Deepavali could be rather vague. The introduction to this wonderful festival is taught by tangible learning where our children can see, hear, touch and taste.

Haven't all of us heard of Murukku, it is one of the favorite snacks for Deepavali! This year, two days before Deepavali celebration, our children gathered to spin off some murukku in Yorkland! A combination of rice flour and roasted gram flour, rich ghee and fresh coconut milk are used to make the dough.

All children have their chance to fill the dough into a simple murukku maker where they get to press and spin off the murukku shapes. Oh, what fun, the children had squeezing off the shapes onto greased paper. From there, Aunty Anny flips off the murukku into stove filled hot oil. She fries them; batch by batch till they take up a crisp golden-brown color.

Crispy crunchy murukku is safely stored it into airtight containers. For Deepavali morning snack, murukku along with homemade cookies are served. To spread the cheer, children did also bring back home, a few murukku pieces. Hope our parents did taste them as well!

Teacher told the children a tale where a vengeful demon king attacked innocent villagers and animals, they were finally saved by a young prince whom fought and killed the demon king, in the end. This battle victory is celebrated as Deepavali where it is the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

The next on the list is indeed, Rangoli. Rangoli is an art which consists of making geometric designs on the floor using coloured rice. We spilt into 4 groups; where the teachers begin by drawing the outline in thin, light chalk lines.

Then each group of children are assigned with coloured rice to fill up the columns. Rangoli are believed to have spiritual as well as scientific benefit, where running symmetrical pattern and applying colourful rice through the fingers activates nerve centres in the brain.

This year's Deepavali lunch surprise is a home banana leaf rice lunch experience for the children. The meal consists of tomato rice, non-spicy egg curry, stir fried french beans, cucumber yogurt salad with papadam. There were lots of smiles and surprises on our children's faces when they caught hold of the banana leaf meal. They loved the experience, as it is fascinating change from their usual plates.

We hold the faith that all these festival experience would be a pleasant and yearning childhood memories filling the children's thoughts.

Another interesting happening in the month of October is where Yorkland team had a pleasant opportunity to host our Waldorf community visitors, consisting of Thai Waldorf kindergarten teachers and Belgium trainee teachers. We all had a fruitful brainstorming and sharing our teaching experiences that would certainly be utmost helpful in continuous improvement.

We would like to proudly share that Teacher Iren have recently attended and successfully completed the 1st module course on "The Three-Year Part-time Course for Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Training" held in Bangkok. The course is a distinguished learning held for course of 10 days in which is attended by approximately 40 participants from all over Asia.

From this course module, Teacher Iren was able to venture and engage further with her teaching experiences. Various areas that are already in our teaching plate were looked into from newer and updated perspectives such as to nurture today child's imagination and life forces, a re-walk on different stages of child development, enhanced storytelling techniques, effective movement circles, finger games, and artistic practice and craft. These enhanced learning would be more helpful in stimulating and enhancing imagination of our children! Right away, it has been put into work for example we are engaging the children through an inspired voice tone which pose a calming mood effect as well. More to come, we happily assure you.

Upcoming Events

In a wink of an eye, it is time for our 3 big children, Angie, Dorothy and Yuan Rui to graduate. Our graduation will be held on the 18th of November [Friday]. This year we have 3 children graduating i.e. 2 girls and a boy. Each of them has prepared their "Star Crowns", weaving bags and musical instruments for their big day. Together with the smaller children, they are now practicing their speeches, songs and poems earnestly in the class and eagerly looking forward to their graduating day.

To the graduating parents, please mark this important date in your calendar. We are inviting only parents of the graduating children to join us on this day. Enclosing the day's programme and song sheet for your kind attention.

Note: Please kindly take note that we have rescheduled the Graduation ceremony from 11th November 2022 [Friday] to the new date, **18th November 2022 [Friday]**. We do sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Yorkland's Garden Stories

We welcome a new member to Yorkland, a little rabbit called ***"Bun-bun".***