

Access Times

A quarterly newsletter by Pratham for the English Access Micro-scholarship Program



My parents wanted to learn English when they were small. They are happy that I am learning English.

Saba Shaikh,
Access student,
Gayatri School

From the Editor's desk

'The proof of the pudding is in the eating', so goes the proverb - In the first Access Times we talked about the Access Program class roll out, and the newsletter we have in our hands today, will give you snippets of the participation, community service days, by the Access Students and how Learning at Access, happens during out of class situations as well! We hope this will let you know about the fun and learning happening as part of the Access English Microscholarship Program.

During this quarter, among other activities, students participated in Community Service. Community service was all about sharing learning of the English words and stories, with younger and older children, of the urban learning centres and also in schools. It was an amazing experience for all of us, to observe and to witness the enthusiastic efforts of the Access students for 'sharing' - and making sure the younger kids had fun and learnt new words too. The Access students learnt the importance of sharing and it has given them immense joy. Community service as part of Access is not only to make students understand the concept of community service but also to make them realize the far reaching effects it can have on society as a whole.

Ms.Renu Seth

Let us know what you feel! Let us also know what else you would like to see in the next issue of your Access Times



It was a great experience for me to teach spoken English to children in Access way... The vocabulary words, enhancement activities, community service not only made them learn English, but also made them confident.

Sudha Shah, Access teacher



Learning through fun activities

Fun filled activities ruled the class rooms. From exciting experiments to outdoor activities is how the students continue to learn.

The 'vocabulary cards activity', in which around 130 words have been sent through SMS to the students, has worked well. Children enjoy doing the activity and in turn, have been able to build on their vocabulary. Teachers have reinforced the vocabulary usage through the following activities:

- Dumb charades: the teacher writes some of the words sent via sms on the board. Each student chooses one word which they explain through their actions in front of the entire class. Other students have to guess the correct word.
- Audio recordings, students are asked to recall any one word from those sent and then they have to make sentence on it, an initiative to track their learning.
- Comprehensive vocabulary worksheets are also given to build on their understanding.

When teachers are our friends, learning is even more fun!



Highlights - January to March, 2015

Performing simple science experiments was so much fun for the students, which they are familiar with, in their first language, Gujarati. The same experiments were carried out, using English terminology - like the process of photosynthesis, combustion, demonstration of revolution and rotation of the earth using candle and globe etc. The basic prior knowledge of the children made it interesting to perform in front of the class and challenging to carry out the activity *with the change in language*. **Initiated by Amit Karandikar at FD School Juhapura and Gayatri school**

A total of 201 students in 2014-16 are a part of the Access Program

Enhancement Activities:-

i) Happy streets- Raahgiri Day : A stretch of a main street, in the heart of the city on Sunday mornings, is reserved for cultural activities ranging from yoga, dance, street painting, cycling, etc. 22 students from Vikas Gruh High School participated in this event on 22 March, 2015. Students prepared poster presentation on famous women achievers in the history of the world, as the theme was, *'Weaving stories of Women's lives'*. They also loved doing Aerobics, Zumba, and Graffiti. They surveyed 110 people at the event asking them five questions each on their experience and on significance of the *Raahgiri* day. This gave the students an opportunity to practise their newly learnt English skills in real life situations.

ii) Visit to the Indroda Nature Park, Gandhinagar: A fun filled green park for learning about nature and wildlife, while enjoying being outdoors, observing and learning. Students filled in their 'pre-while-post' activity sheets, and this made them see, learn, understand and remember.

iii) Visit to Science city, Ahmedabad: An exposure visit to the science city was organized on 21st March 2015 for Access students. They also celebrated International day of forests at the premises of Science City, presenting their views on conserving forests and taking part in a drawing competition.

Teachers training workshops are looked forward at Access, for reflection and sharing and new learning. At every workshop, the 'framework of learning' has a component of one teacher bringing a 'lesson plan' and demonstrating the process during the workshop.

Community service activities: Community service activities have been carried out by Access centres in the last quarter. The objective the students had laid out was to teach children new words of English which they could understand and use. Student's shared simple words used in English Language with kindergarten children. To make it fun and enjoyable for the tiny tots the students did skits, story-telling, sang rhymes and took a session on names of colours.



Teacher Training Workshops



Students at Indroda Park While' activity



Making friends with the Balwadi children - Community Service Day



These activities were so much fun for the little kindergarten children and for the Access students as well. Access students experienced a lot of direct and indirect learning, like communicating with the children and saying the dialogues as simply as possible for the kids to understand and enjoy.

Class Curriculum Highlights:

Classroom learning in the Access classes included activities that used pair and group work. Peer learning has been effective as well in the Access classes.

Highlights of topics the students went through in the last quarter

- Days of the week with emphasis on correct pronunciations
- Talking and writing in 'third person'
- Description of a house/apartments, which was a fun learning activity as they could relate to all the that was being taught and finally knew what each item in their house was called in English
- Different occupations

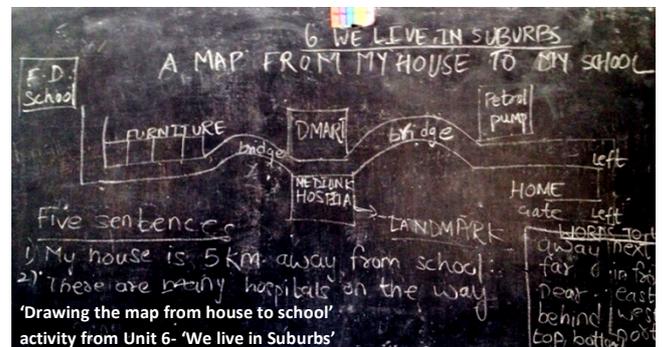
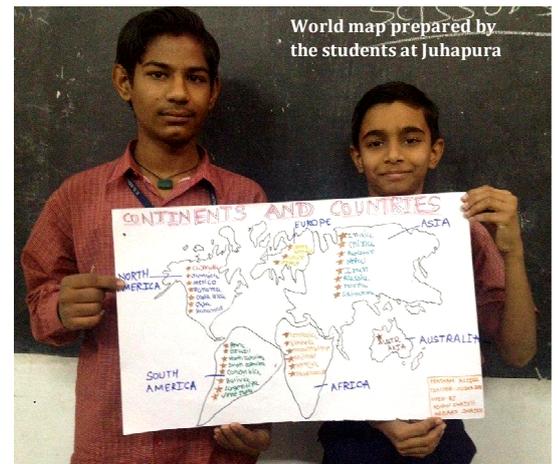
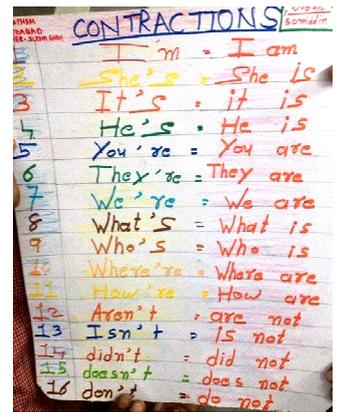
Access teachers continually create lesson plans and put in efforts to make each class/session fun, interesting and interactive.

Home visits: It was heartening to meet parents and family members during the home visits and give updates on Access Classes and talking about their child's participation in the class. There was great interest in knowing more about the activities by some parents and positive feedback on the use of English words at home! The home visits were seen to give value to the Access Class and motivated parents to encourage their child to attend Access classes regularly.

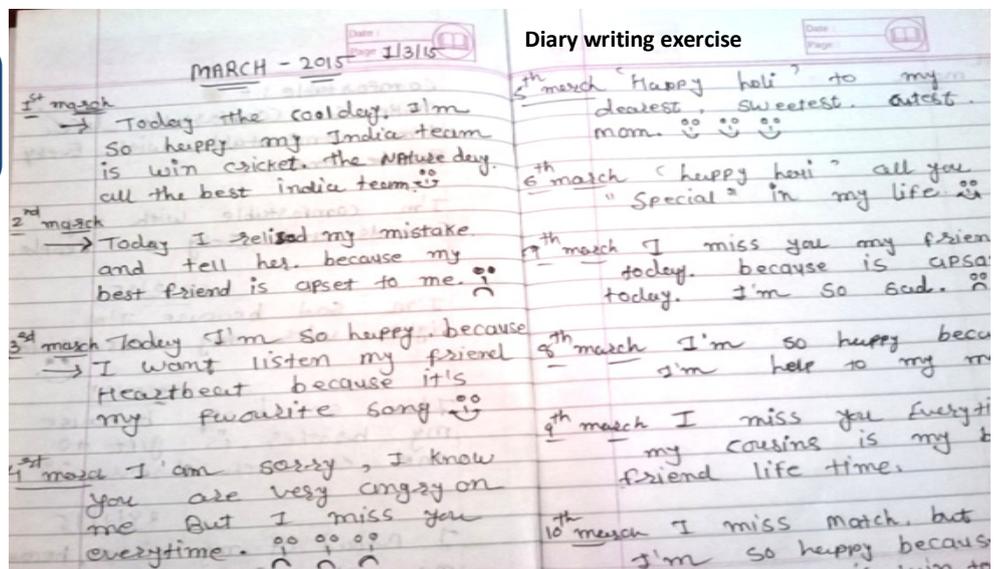
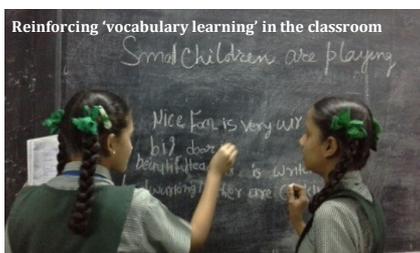
Fun Learning activities initiated

Diary writing: Access students imbibed the habit of writing a diary on a daily basis. It motivates the students to share their daily routine activities, feelings in few lines every day, and also reflecting back on what was done in the class. Initiated by **Neetu Madan** at **FD Jamalpur Girl's school** and **Vikas Gruh School**.

Survey activity: One the most enjoyed regular class activities is the survey activity, in which students are divided in groups and each group prepares a questionnaire and then interview each other. On the basis of the answers, each group analyses the results and derives the conclusions and finally presents their findings either as a pie chart or in points. This encouraged learning in groups. Initiated by **Renu Tewari**, **Juhapura High School**.



Access has a new batch at the Vikas Gruh School Hostel in the month of February 2015





Fun corner

Office address:

1, Hare Krishna Bungalows, Bhatha Road, Paldi, Behind GopinathKhaman, Opposite Fatehnagar Post Office, Ahmedabad - 380007

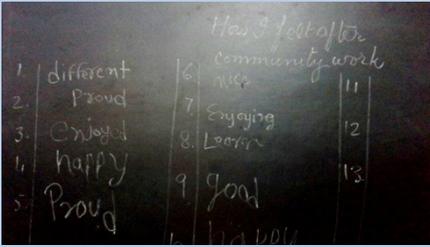
T: +91 9510370111

E: access.pratham14@gmail.com

W: www.pratham.org



Presentations - Women in History



Express feelings in one English word after Community Service Day

Word Search

W Z U C C L X P N E R N R M S V C T G J
 G T A N I F A H D E C Q U E Q E T A F D
 V R A A D S L A X R P P X Q P M A Q W U
 E E M L S E C D Q A X Z N F G E G F W D
 Z Z Z I L E R A A W E X P A N D A D Z L
 T U V F D A H S L E N N R D K F W T C A
 R E G J P I F D T B P U W I R Q G L A O
 V Y D R S Y O M R A L I M I S D F O R G
 K Z Z E U N V U B O N E N J E V E A E T
 W B P W O I A V E Y P D G I B N T H F G
 Z M Z S G F N G N V X H N O R J E J U J
 I I A F N V M H G E I F Y A X H P W L F
 O N F E G E E O G D Y T S S E S S I O T
 O C O M F O R T A B L E C H M L J N N A
 E S H Z T K I V Q V Y N K A D I P P P M
 G G S L O E P W F V C H M R S T W J A E
 W J K Q B Y M D O Q D H E E U X Q K T F
 I S A E K A M T D U V J O S K O N N F V
 T C F Z D P T L Q L K E X R X I O L O T
 P Y P E X M A D H Q R V O D K G R E A D

- Search the following words in the grid**
- ACTIVE
 - BEWARE
 - CARE
 - CAREFUL
 - COMFORTABLE
 - DECADE
 - EXPAND
 - FAT
 - GOAL
 - LEAN
 - MAIL
 - PASSIVE
 - READ
 - REPEAT
 - SHARE
 - SIMILAR
 - TALL
 - TAME
 - UNDERSTAND

Can you spot the common alphabet in all the words given in the list?



A honey bee must tap two million flowers to make one pound of honey.

- Upcoming events:**
- 1) Immersion camp
 - 2) Summer camp

Some food trivia



Chocolate manufacturers currently use 40 percent of the world's almonds and 20 percent of the world's peanuts.



Potato chips are American's favourite snack food. They are devoured at a rate of 1.2 billion pounds a year.

We welcome contributions in the form of paintings, poems, jokes and other fun learning snippets for Access Times, from our eager, earnest, energetic students and teachers.