



## About UnSchool

UnSchool is an extended home with an environment that is designed to harness creativity and foster original thinking. Besides focusing on core skills, the facilitators at UnSchool are passionate about helping the kids learn how to learn. Critical questions are asked about the world around us. Instead of just focusing on the “How” or “What” or “When”, the conversation begins with the “Why”. Each child’s learning journey is crafted individually and is intended to maximise their joy and accelerate their progress. Best learning happens when you gain experiences. The kids at UnSchool (also known as explorers) embark on weekly expeditions to explore the world around them. Current topics are researched and discussed.

With the goal of amplifying the voice of the kids, UnSchool publishes “The UnTimes”, a twice a month newspaper that carries articles and other work by children, for children. The newspaper has already achieved a circulation of 10,000.

No two days are ever the same at UnSchool. Exciting topics such as Chess, 3D printing, Laser Cutting, VR, coding, Robotics, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Hindi English, Marathi, Mandarin, Astronomy and History are a staple for all kids; age is not a limitation. Everyone, young and old, kids, their parents and the teachers all are pushing the boundaries of their understanding, together.

Creating interest in knowing more, building confidence to talk about it and having freedom to write about it. This is what learning should be all about. If we want our kids to change the world tomorrow, to solve the massive problems that face humanity today,

we cannot be teaching them in a way that looks backward, is safe, and without risk. **To dare is to loose one’s footing momentarily. To not dare is to lose oneself for all time.** We invite you to join the UnSchool journey, and dare to do different, think different, be different!



*Address and Contact Details mentioned on the last page*

## Creativity Never Sleeps

By Rashmi Walimbe

For many kids – and their parents – Arts & Crafts goes with camp like peanut butter goes with jelly. Campers LOVE the imaginative, relaxed, fun projects they get to make while hanging out with their friends in the summer. Some prospective families, though, worry that their child is not artistic or believe that their child does not like Arts & Crafts or think that he or she should really focus more on playing sports or climbing the rock wall or learning to swim the butterfly.

This year the kids at UnSchool experienced some unique form of arts and crafts.

**Cold Ceramic Pots** - The kids decorated the pots using the mould it clay, mirrors, tooth-picks and old pen refills.

As this was a directed activity, they were given a baseline for creating a design the children added their own unique artistic touch as per their creativity. The pots were then painted and succulent plants were planted in them.



**Decoupage** - Decoupage or *découpage* is the art of decorating an object by gluing colored paper cutouts onto it in combination with

special paint effects, gold leaf and other decorative elements. Commonly, an object like a small box or an item of furniture is covered by cut-outs from magazines or from purpose-manufactured papers.



The kids amazed us by decorating the bottles using mod podge and decorative tissues each bottle turned out to be unique. They found the best way to upcycle the old items from their house into beautiful decorative pieces.

#### Stocking Flowers -

Nylon flowers (stocking flowers). Both the appropriate terms used for the same handmade flowers. However, they were very popular in the 70s. They are no longer crafted very commonly anymore. Since flowers are not used to decorate spaces like before.

The kids at UnSchool along with the teach

ers explored a lapsed art of making nylon flowers.

As the teachers demonstrated the technique, the older kids tried to follow the instructions.

The material used were wires, stockings/nylon cloth, thread, tape

They had a choice of selecting their favorite colors for making the flowers.



## Creating Life Long Learners

By Shubha Pradhan

The aim of education should be to create lifelong learners, but for this education has to be "seriously amazing".

Is our present educational system giving this experience?

We all know that the answer to this question is in the negative. Let's find the reasons that brought us to this situation?

At first we need to know how learning takes place in humans. Unlike other animals the homo erectus or humans are not born with fully developed brains. We are born with the learning organ "The Hardware" called brain that keeps writing "the Software" all through the life.

So learning is a lifelong process for us humans. Even at the age of 80 we are still learning new technologies of operating on clouds to connect with people all over the world.

Now, how do we learn with this organ. Is it a one time achievement? The answer is no. Human brains are not efficient machines. We learn after practicing the act several times. Remember how we learned to walk, to talk, to cycle? We learnt through many mistakes, falls and failures.

Learning "by doing" has also been an integral part of learning. Actual working with our hands and body as in the age old Guru Shishya Parampara. That has been the ideal way of learning. Nature being the greatest teacher Ashram system was the proven age old system of education in the past.

However, with the population explosion and the need to spread literacy among the masses and with the influence of the Western culture we forgot our age old system. The system that is being followed for the past 200 years is a mockery of education. By cutting off our students from nature we have confined them within the walls of the classroom to learn from a blackboard. Besides few science practicals there is no learning by doing. Education today means information on paper.

Getting such information on different subjects, mugging it up and reproducing it in a stipulated time at given intervals is only helping in creating robots.

The need of the next century is not to create robots, but to create better human beings, creative thinkers who would work for better

ment of the world, As adults who would empathize with the world problems of this damaged planet that our generation would be passing on to them.

In the past teachers and books were the only source of knowledge. However today information is available to anyone at a click of a button. So the role of a teacher as a knowledge provider becomes redundant. After teaching the three basic skills of reading writing and arithmetic.

The role of a teacher is much more complex now. It is to make the students think, work in collaboration and to find solutions to the world problems. The world is changing at a neck breaking speed. Mega trends keep pouring every year for us to accept.

As facilitators developing expert thinking in any domain needs lot of research on the part of the teacher.

As facilitators the new challenge is in order to solve the complex and wicked problems of the modern world we need hybrid expertises that crosses borders of discipline. The best of the brains need to be attracted to early childhood education and school education.

Such well read and proactive facilitators will be able to develop future generation.

Only such innovative facilitators can inspire and mould students into reflective innovative, imaginative, creative thinkers and life long learners.

# R.M.S TITANIC

By Shlok Ranawade (11.10 years old)



Few weeks back after have finished reading one of the Harry Potter Novels. I was searching for another Book at UnSchool Library, and here found a wonderful book “TITANIC The Artifact Exhibition” which had wonderful facts of Titanic.

**R.M.S Titanic** was the biggest manmade moving object at her time. J. Bruce Ismay the managing director of White Star Line, and Lord James Pirrie, Chairman of the vulnerable Belfast shipbuilding company, Harland and Wolff, conceived the idea of building three lavish vessels Titanic (the and

largest of all), Olympic and later Britannic the largest moving objects at their times. Titanic being the largest ship of its time had the following specifications: -

Length	882 ft and 8 in
Breadth	92 ft and 6 in
Height	175 ft

**Titanic’s** three anchors weighed 31 tons and it took 5,890 tons of coal to fire it’s 29 boilers that supplied electricity to the ship

powered its massive engines.

On May 31 1911 Titanic was launched in the water, though it was launched the ship was far from complete the insides of the ship were not complete even the funnels were not attached, to complete the whole ship it would take ten more months.

But at last, after everything was done Titanic was ready for her first (and last) 7-days (actually 5-days) journey from Southampton to New York with captain Edward J. Smith and 2,228 people onboard not knowing that 1,523 people from them are going to lose their lives.

Number of passengers saved and lost: -

	First class	Second class	Third class
Saved	199	116	181
Lost	125	168	529

**Few more facts are;** The suites of first class costed around 2,000 dollars that means around 50,000 dollars today. There was one suite which was the best suite and it costed around 4,000 dollars which means around 1,00,000 dollars today.

Our School, “UnSchool” has amazing collection of books, because of which we can get knowledge on various different topics.

## My Review...On the book

By Reyansh Baralay (8 years old)

“WHY”?

This book is about a little girl whose name is Lilly. She always asks her parents “why”?

For example, when they were at the shop and her dad said we need to buy toilet paper

Lilly asked why?

What do you want for breakfast, Lilly asked Why?

While her dad read a story book to her, she

questioned Why?

One day she was at the park she was playing with her friends

She saw a big shadow she looked up and she saw a massive Thargon spaceship

A group of Thargons oozed out of the ship and said we will destroy your planet everybody was afraid Lilly asked why? Thargons said its their mission to destroy planets. Lilly

asks them Why? They said it brings glory to the Thargon empire but because Lilly questioned Why? they said we will go to our planet and think about it after discussing with their chief.

So they go into their spaceship to get an answer for her question why. Lilly thus saves the planet earth from being destroyed and makes her father proud of her. But when her father goes to tell her so at night she again asks him the question WHY.

Written by Lindsay Camp the book is about the most annoying question children keep asking but this very question saves the planet Earth from an alien attack.

# The Art of Cooking

By Ashwini Jamdade

Cooking is the art, technology and craft of preparing food for consumption with or without the use of heat.

Cooking with kids offers a wide variety of opportunities to learn and grow! There are many benefits of cooking with kids.

**Enhances Fine Motor Skills:** Mixing the ingredients, rolling the dough and using cookie cutters are all great ways to enhance a child's fine motor strength and control.

**Increases Math Ability:** Cooking involves a great deal of measurements. Kids will learn various measurements such as cups, teaspoons and tablespoons. They will also understand fractions as well as utilize addition and subtraction skills. Cooking help to enhance basic math skills! Cooking together brings everyone together and creates a bonding experience. Here in UnSchool the students enjoyed these summer cooking activities.

## Paan Gulkand Shots

Paan Gulkand Shots are made with fresh paan leaves and gulkand. This refreshing drink is perfect to serve during summers.

Ingredients :-

Fresh paan (betel leaves) - 10

Gulkand - 5 tbsp

Fennel seed powder - 1 tbsp

Milk - 4cups

Water - 1cup

Method:

Rinse the betel leaves in water and finely chop them. In a blender, puree the betel leaves, gulkand and fennel seeds with some water. Add chilled Milk and blend until smooth. Sieve the mixture through a fine strainer. Mix well and serve the paan shots drink in glasses.



## Chocolate Walnut Brownie

Ingredients :

Chopped Dark Chocolate - 170gms/1.5cup

Butter - 113gms/1/2cup

Sugar - 320gms/1.5cup

Salt - one pinch

All purpose flour - 1.5 cup/

Baking powder - 1 tsp

Vanilla extract - 2 tsp

Walnuts - handful

Buttered Cake tin

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180 degree celsius.

Butter the tin.

In the microwave, melt butter and chocolate compound together.

- Now add sugar and vanilla to the butter and chocolate mixture.

- Mix well to combine.

- Now add sugar and vanilla to the butter and chocolate mixture.

- Mix well to combine.

- Now add sugar and vanilla extract to the butter and chocolate mixture.

- Sift the all-purpose flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt in it.

- Mix well to combine.

- Gently fold the walnuts into the batter.

- Pour the batter evenly into the baking pan.

- Bake the brownie in a preheated oven for 30-35 minutes, or until the center is set.

- Insert the toothpick in the center to check if the brownie is baked. Make sure not to over-bake the brownies.

- Remove from the oven and place the pan on the cooling rack.

- Let it cool completely in the pan, remove and cut into the desired size of squares.



## Strawberry Jelly

Ingredients:

Weikfield strawberry jelly crystal - 1 packet

Water - 500ml

Sugar - 3 to 4 spoons

Method :

Mix the content and premix powder in a bowl. Pour boiling water and sugar in the bowl having the mixture. Stir the mixture until it completely dissolves. Pour the mixture in moulds, jelly will be set at room temperature in 45 minutes. Refrigerate before serving. Enjoy as is or with fresh fruits, fresh cream or with custard.

# A fun day at Unschool, planting "Succulents" with children.

By Bertha Singh



Children were made to feel the texture of all the different materials needed for the succulents. Potting Mix.

- 1) cocopeat
- 2) Sand
- 3) Perlite
- 4) Garden soil
- 5) Neem cake and
- 6) vermi compost.

They were asked to fill their pre decorated pots firstly with stones, this was done as the pots did not have any holes for water to drain. All excess water would collect around the stones not affecting the plant. Thereafter the children combined all material and made ready a potting mix Which was then put in the pot along with the Succulent plant. After this it was time to add some more beautification, so the Children put some colourful sand and stones to enhance it's beauty. The children were also explained about the succulents

water needs. Succulents don't need that much water or manure as our regular plants. They are happy with little water and manure already present in soil. Children were given the knowledge of water requirements which is :-

**Summer time: Once in a week (full water)**

**Winter time: Once in 15 days ( 10 ml)**

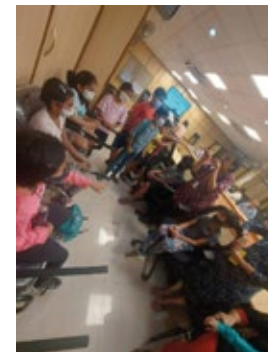
**Rain time : Once in a month (10 ml)**

They need sun exposure, and make sure the water is dry in few hours, So it's best to water during the day. All Children were very excited and seemed to have a lot of fun during this activity. B Wishing the children all the best for taking care of their new plant.

# World Honey -Bee Day

By Tanaya Jadhav (8 years old)

We visited Honey Bee Research Institute and Mushroom Project. We went for a field visit to honey bee research institute on International. Honey Bee day and on same page. We saw a museum and took part in drawing competition. They gave us complimentary honey bottle and snacks. We saw actual Honey bee box later we went to see the mushroom farming in Pune agriculture college. We saw two types of mushroom; one was button mushroom and other oyster mushroom.



# Fun with Science

By Vaishali Chavare

At UnSchool Month of May was packed with a variety of hands-on entertaining activities.

Children of all ages actively participated in respective activities. Each Monday was kept reserved for fun experiments in science. Experiments conducted for groups of children between age 4 to 7 (junior group) were easy to understand and easier to perform. It included ...

## 1. Rotation of the Earth and formation of Day and Night

For Understanding terms like Rotation of the Earth around itself, a model of the Earth and the Sun was made. Children were made to know the formation of day and night as an effect of rotation of the Earth around the Sun. They enjoyed singing song on rotation of the Earth.

## 2. Earth's Revolution and eight planets

The term revolution of the Earth was introduced through children's activity. They were introduced to the eight planets of our Solar System.

## 3. States of matter...

Introduction to the word 'matter' and its presence in three fundamental states was done. For this three states of water, solid-ice, liquid-water and gas-steam of water was demonstrated as an example.

## 4. Observing and Identifying different slides under the microscope.

Microscope and its different parts were introduced to kids. Use of microscope was demonstrated by showing different slides like fish scale, house fly wings. Peacock feather, mosquito, and onion epidermis were shown to them.

## 5. Making an Ice pendant—

children made an ice pendant by applying pressure to the two ice cubes and running a thread through it. They also wore it and enjoyed cool ice pendant in hot summer time like a 'personal cooler'

## 6. Treasure Hunt with Invisible ink messages

Kids learned the use of lemon juice to write the message and use of heat to reveal it through this activity. They played treasure hunt with the clues written in invisible ink of lemon juice.

## 7. Oxygen is necessary for burning.

Candle burning brightly in the open air extinguished when covered with glass. Cause behind it was explained to kids in simple words. Kids learned that oxygen is necessary for burning.

## 8. Stand on paper cups

The concept of weight was introduced to kids. How a single cup cannot withstand the weight of a person and gets crushed was shown.

Few cups were arranged together and covered with a piece of cardboard. This arrangement now could hold the weight of the child without crushing. Kids tried to figure out the weight distribution concept in their own way.

## 9. Lava Lamp—

Children were shown a simple way to make a lava lamp at home by using simple ingredients like oil, water and an effervescent tablet. Kids had fun watching colourful lava lamp work. They were made aware of the reasoning simple words behind the rising bubbles as releasing of Carbon Dioxide gas

is released

Additional activities / experiments were conducted for kids of age 8-14

## 10. Separation of soluble substance from its solution....

kids made salt solution and then tried to separate the salt from salt solution by the means of heating. They also tried to separate sugar crystals from its solution.

## 11. Generation of static electricity (Triboelectric effect)...

It involved introduction to the concept of static electricity, its generation and daily life examples. Kids generated static electricity by rubbing objects like comb, balloons and tried to attract bits of papers towards it. Reason behind such attraction was then discussed with kids.

## 12. Understanding the concept of Density (making colour bands of different density liquids)

Kids performed experiment for understanding concept of density and how different density liquids do not mix with each other was seen by mixing water, oil and sugar solution. Different bands of three liquids were clearly observed.

## 13. Making own Onion Epidermis Slides...

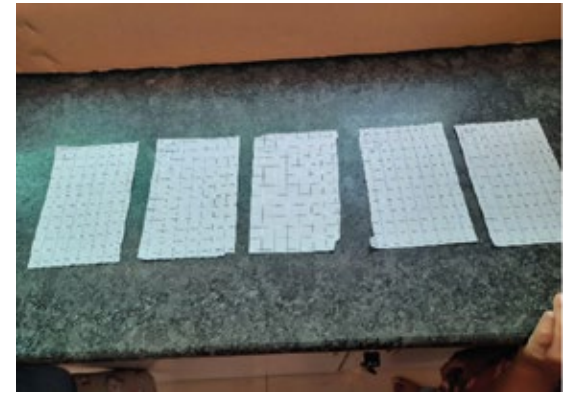
Children took lot of interest in making their own slide of onion epidermis and observed different parts of onion cells under the microscope.

## 14. Stringing the ice cubes

Cool summer activity of stringing an ice cube by using salt and cold water was done successfully even in summer time.

Great Success !!

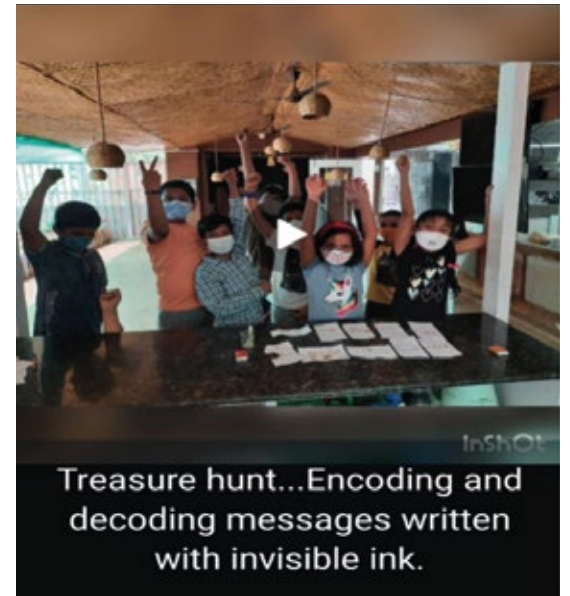
Kids loved to participate and perform these activities. After all, learning by doing is the only way for acquiring permanent knowledge



*Invisible ink messages*



*Rotation of the Earth and formation of Day and Night*



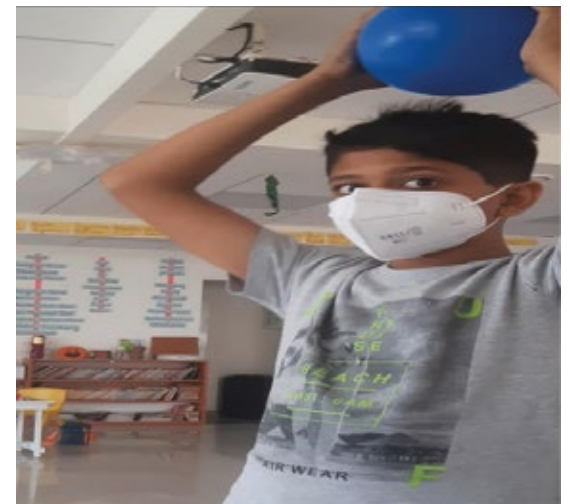
*Treasure hunt...Encoding and decoding messages written with invisible ink.*



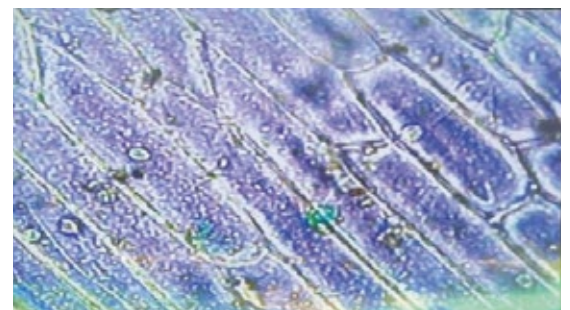
*Separation of soluble substances from its solution*



*Invisible ink messages decoded*



*Static electricity Generation*



*Making own Onion Epidermis Slides...*



*Observing and Identifying different slides under the microscope.*



*Standing on paper cups*



*Lava Lamp*



*Making of ice pendent*



*Stringing of Ice Cubes*



*Density experiment*

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