

# SURKHIYAN सुरखिया

SEQUENCING AND  
STORYBUILDING IN K2

EARLY YEARS  
PYJAMA PARTY

MAPPING SKILLS  
IN PRIMARY



LITERACY  
CLUB EVENTS

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH  
COLUMBIA SEMINAR

APRIL BOOK  
RECOMMENDATIONS

# Welcoming in April at GICLM



Teachers and students have been very busy during the month of April at GICLM. This month was focussed on Literacy and Science. A plethora of activities laced with fun and learning happened in school. From Nursery to Grade 11, many activities took place in classes which demonstrated the Literacy Initiative undertaken by the school. K2 had a sequencing and story building session; Grade 3 and 4 read their class novels “One and Only Ivan” and “Charlotte’s Web” and analysed them; Grade 6 made the story mountains; Grade 9 had a debate competition and Grade 11 had a slam poetry competition. Activities like these gave students the opportunities to improve their writing, reading and communication skills

Science lessons focused on hands-on activities for learning various concepts. K1 had an experiment called fireworks in a jar; Grade 3 built and tested electrical circuits; Grades 4 and 5 did many experiments as part of their IPC unit 'Investigators'; Grade 4 learnt about friction and magnets and Grade 7 did experiments on separating mixtures.

Other fun learning opportunities were the designing of clothes by Nursery and learning numbers by making a number pouch. Grade 11 learnt Psychological concepts by playing charades and a very entertaining Hot Seat activity. Meanwhile, Business Management students had an engaging lesson about marketing mix.

Finally, the representatives of the University of British Columbia also visited our school and our students and parents had an opportunity to learn about their campus and courses. Additionally, when it comes to learning, our teachers all consider themselves lifelong learners. This was evident by the professional development attended by our Art teacher, Mr Amit Kawale. We also bid farewell to one of our efficient teachers – Ms Arya Phaltankar. The children showered her with compliments and gifts and we wish her well for her future endeavours.

All in all, April was a month packed full of action which just goes to show that we are now back in full swing. At GICLM, we continue to help students learn by engaging their minds in everything they do.

**Ms. Elza Eldo**  
**IBDP Coordinator**



## Passion for Fashion!

Our little designers worked so hard on the project which was assigned to them by their Nursery tutors during the month of April. It was so much fun to see the students creating things together in a group! From casual to funky clothing, we enjoyed this activity in our art classes. For the activity, we used some papers, buttons and other craft items for decorations. We asked the students, "If you were fashion designers, and you could make your own clothes, what would you make?" Students then picked the colours they liked to wear, and they decorated the clothes. It was so fun to look at all the designs and switch them around! Here's our Nursery students getting creative in the most colourful way.

Nursery



## Make Your Own Number Pouch!

Nursery class students enjoyed creating their very own pouch this month. They used paints and number stampers to create them. This was a perfect activity for maths work stations and to improve fine motor skills. Students enjoyed stamping the numbers and the dots as per the particular number they chose. It was an overall fun way to learn numbers and count at the same time. At the end of the lesson, tutors mentioned that they can use any object to count and put inside their number pouch that matched the printed number they received. Learning numbers was fun and easy with this activity.

Nursery



## Fireworks in a Jar

A fun science experiment that our class of K1 students enjoyed produced 'fireworks in a jar'. This simple activity had the children explore the science of liquid densities in a truly mesmerising way. K1 students were in awe of the results of this easy experiment and wanted to make fireworks again and again!

KI



## Table Étiquette

Good manners are social skills that help children succeed in life. Whether you're eating at home, dining out, or having dinner with friends, good table manners for kids are an important part of every meal. When we teach children good mealtime etiquette, we are giving them important tools for social interaction that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

As a part of our life skills lessons, this month our K1 students engaged in a hands-on experience using cutlery as a medium to express what they liked, disliked, or to give a message to the server. They also had an opportunity to cut up toy fruit and vegetables that were held together with velcro.

Overall it was a fun and engaging session for the students!

KI



## Sequencing and Story-Building

Sequencing is an important readiness skill that provides a foundation for both reading development and inquiry. It helps to organise information and ideas efficiently. This concept helps children learn to recognize patterns, and it also helps them to understand and predict. Sequencing skills encourage young learners to comprehend stories, retell stories and understand past events. This activity also encourages students to understand the sequencing concept of first, next and last. With this in mind, our K2 children had to sequence a story with pictures. The teacher gave different pictures related to the story; they had to arrange the pictures from the start to the end. Students were then encouraged to narrate the story in their own words and they also wrote a short passage with some assistance from their tutors.

K2



## Swimming Sessions

During the month of April, we started swimming sessions for our K2 children. It was delightful to see our little ones excited and a bit anxious as they stepped into the water for the first time. They soon got comfortable with various exercises and enjoyed splashing water on each other.

K2



## Easter Fun

K2 children had a fun time playing treasure hunt in class when they had to find the hidden treasure with the help of clues given by their peers. They also played a game wherein they had to pin the rabbit's tail in the correct place while blindfolded. Such activities help children to mingle with their classmates, promoting healthy physical and social development.

K2



## Earth Day!

It is very important that students learn to take care of the environment. Early Years students at GICLM celebrated Earth Day by watching Mother Earth stories, creating Earth Day artwork and by promising each other to save our planet Earth, thus making it a better place to live!

Happy Earth Day!



# Pyjama Party!

What an amazing amalgamation of colourful pyjamas, mushy pillows, soft toys and fun it was during the 'Pyjama Party' at GICLM for Early Years students. Dressed up in their snazziest night dresses and carrying their favourite story book for a sleepover with their best friends, the children made the most of this day. To top it all off, Chinese cuisine was provided and enjoyed by all.

The Playgroup classroom was also transformed into a cosy corner with bean bags and mats for the students to get comfy. The children were thrilled to share their story books with their best friends during the Buddy Reading Session. The objective behind the Pyjama Party was to assert independence amongst children, to develop social connections, and to encourage reading, as this celebration was a part of World Book Day. It was truly mesmerising to see our little tots energetic and cheerful!



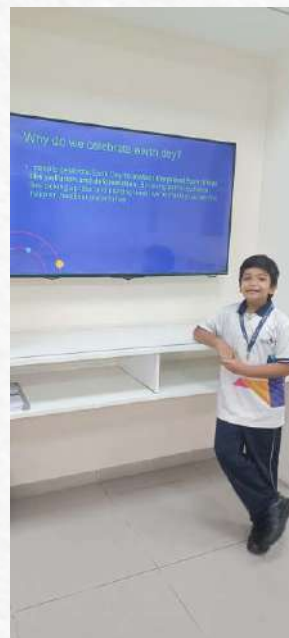
## Powered To Be Electric

With the current IPC unit 'Bright Sparks', Grade 3 has been eagerly building and testing out circuits. They were taught about the different components of an electrical circuit and the impact the components have to create an open and closed circuit. Students then had the opportunity to collaborate amongst their peers to arrange the components in the manner to allow the LED to light up. Students recalled their knowledge and applied it to their practical as they got to test it out. They enthusiastically experimented with different scenarios to see various results. To further their investigations, students also had the opportunity to test different materials to determine whether they act as conductors or insulators for electricity. It was a delight for them to predict and test out the results of the different materials. Through experimentation, students gained a better understanding of circuits and how electricity flows through to power items. Here are a few glimpses from the experimentation.



## Spotlight Our Planet, Not Just Today – But Everyday

Every year Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 – a day to raise awareness and educate ourselves on environmental issues affecting our planet every year. Though it is celebrated on this day, it is important that the actions we take are not limited to one particular day. This year, Grade 3 was given the task to research and learn about Earth Day, and the different ways they can make an impact to help the planet. Together the class presented different ideas on PowerPoint about how they could contribute to help the planet. Some thought of ways we can donate particular plastics or waste materials to companies; eat homegrown vegetables; sort out our wastes; reduce water consumption; reuse materials and more. Together they understood that little changes to their lifestyles could make a big impact. Regardless of the information shared, they learnt that it was nonetheless more important that they take the steps to implement these solutions and practise them daily for a better tomorrow. Take a look at some of their ideas below and think about the actions you can take!

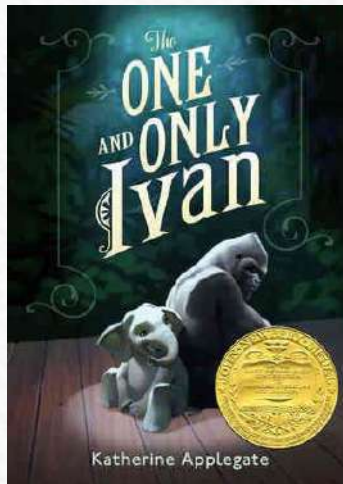




# Fur is Greed, Not the Need

Grade 3 has been engrossed in their new class novel for this month, "One and Only Ivan". The story revolves around Ivan, a gorilla who lives with two elephants, Stella and Ruby, and a dog, Bob, in Big Top Mall. Together these animals share their stories from their childhood and compare them to the liberation of other animals.

To further understand how different animals are treated, Grade 3 took it upon themselves to research and learn about different species of animals that face such treatment. Grade 3 researched and presented information about animal cruelty and the mistreatment of animals such as rabbits, dogs, tigers, horses and rhinos. They collaborated and shared various problems, the current actions being taken and how we could support the issue. It was definitely interesting for Grade 3 to learn about the world around them, the role they can play and how such issues are often buried from the public eye. Grade 3 was definitely concerned about the well-being of some of these animals, and were enthusiastic to help make a positive impact.



## Let's Investigate, Let's Learn

The exit point activity in IPC is used to celebrate and share one's learning. With this in mind, the students of Grades 4 and 5 donned their investigator hats and had an amazing time sharing how and what they had learned for their unit 'Investigators'. After presenting, they invited the students of other grades for various hands-on experiments. They conducted simple investigations to seek answers to queries like, is this solution an acid or a base (using the pH strips)? Is this a fair test? Which scientific method would you use? They also understood that they had just begun the process of investigation and that there were a lot more things to explore and learn.



## Forces: Learning about Friction and Magnets

Students of Grade 4 were introduced to the concept of friction with various demonstrative activities. They understood how friction impacts our daily lives. In the follow up activity, the students conducted experiments to find out what kinds of surfaces generate more or less friction.

Through these simple experiments, the students learnt what causes a magnet to attract certain metals. They could also determine which objects are magnetic and which are not as well as predict the motion of magnets based on their knowledge.



## Celebrating Reading

Novel study is an opportunity to build a love for reading. To celebrate the reading of the class novel, “Charlotte’s Web”, the students of Grade 4 engaged in various interesting activities. They wrote poems based on their chosen character, a book review to recommend the book to other potential readers and prepared questions to interview their favourite characters.

Through this activity, the students not only developed their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills, but they also got an opportunity to practice and refine their skills in a much more engaging manner.



## States of Matter: Crystallisation

This month, the students of Grade 4 conducted experiments in class to learn more about the changes in states of matter. Hands-on experiments were conducted to teach the students about solids, liquids and gases. These fun activities helped students understand some concepts involving the states of matter such as condensation and evaporation.

Learning about crystals was a fun way to gain knowledge about different types of solutions. The students learnt how to make crystals and were also allowed to design and conduct their own experiments. They enjoyed observing the scientific changes over time. Over the course of the week, they all watched the crystals form and grow.



## Mapping Skills

Geography is a field of Science that is dedicated to the study of land. During the month of April, students of Grade 2 used the concept of exploring the map of India for the topic of 'Tourism' in IPC. They identified the places that they have visited as tourists and located them on the map. This gave them an opportunity to get acquainted with the different states of India and also our neighbouring countries. This mapping activity induced the feeling of inquiry about places and the logic of directions.



## Chemistry Fun!

We, the students of Grade 6, did something different and enjoyable during our Chemistry classes this month. We all were allotted some subtopics related to the Earth in groups which we had to present to our fellow classmates. We got to be teachers, did a ton of experiments and looked at various models. Everyone was engaged, took part in conversation and had something to take back from every presentation. It was fun and overall a unique way of learning which we all enjoyed!

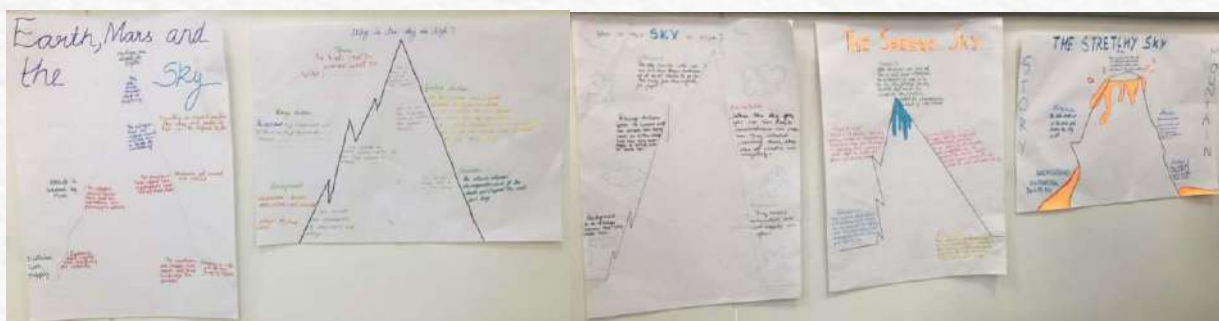
**Barbie Vora**  
Grade 6



## Story Mountain

When discussing our unit on 'Folktales', we read a short tale called "Why Is The Sky So High?" about an old lady who swept up the dust around her home, and, as a result, forced the sky high up into the atmosphere. Once we had read and discussed the story, our English teacher, Mr Andreas, asked us to think about other reasons why the sky would be so high that would fit the mould of a folktale. After doing this, we were tasked with making a 'story mountain' to outline the plot of our folktale idea. A story mountain includes the steps of writing a story, which is drawn to fit the usual pattern of a mountain with the 'Climax' of our tale at the top. This activity helped us expand our imagination and creativity as folktales are fictional. We were also allowed to make different variations in the drawing of our mountains. Take a look at some of our work!

**Vibha Gangawane**  
Grade 6



## Class Debate

During the month of April, the students of Grade 9 took part in a class debate as part of the Literacy Club. To prepare, we were told to plan a debate based on the topic 'Should the Metaverse be the Future or Not?'. Two students were supposed to debate with each other, one for the motion which means that Metaverse should be the future, and the other student had to talk about how Metaverse can/should not be the future. After expressing their point of views, the judges questioned them based on what they spoke about within the given time limit which was 5 minutes during the 'rebuttal' stage. Through this debate we got more in depth knowledge of the Metaverse because of the research we did and by listening carefully to our peers.

How about you? Do you think the Metaverse is the future?

**Syed Maroof**  
Grade 9





## Separating Mixtures

Flipped Learning is an excellent teaching approach to use while revising a topic. The goal is to create positive learning outcomes in terms of communication and teamwork abilities, as well as the competencies of critical thinking.

With this in mind, during the month of April, Grade 7 students presented their understanding of the topic, “Separating Mixtures” in groups of two. They did the research work on their topic provided for them at home. They also made a PowerPoint presentation and planned for different hands-on experiments to present in the class in front of their peer group. In their presentation, the students also included a variety of demonstrations like distillation, decanting, filtering, among others.

The students not only reviewed and reflected on content learned in class, but also spent the class time on active and collaborative learning activities with the teacher working as a guide.



**Ms Meera Rawal**  
**Science Faculty**

## Roman Art and Architecture

The students of Grade 7 took on the topic of Ancient Rome this month in History class. For the exit point, we were given an activity to do. It was fun and helped us learn about Roman art and architecture. In this activity, we were given a chance to replicate one ancient Roman architectural feat. We could choose between Roman armour, aqueducts, the Roman number system, roads, frescoes and their own painting styles. Our History teacher, Miss Sarita, had allocated two classes for creating the same. While making the art, we understood the significance of it and overall the activity served as a culminating project for what we had learned in the entire unit.

**Dev Mehta**  
**Grade 7**





## Grade 11 Slam Poetry

Slam poetry is a form of performance poetry that combines the elements of performance, writing, competition and audience participation. This month, IBDP 1 was given the opportunity to take part in a Slam Poetry Competition, organised by the English Literacy Club.

This was a new concept to many of us. To begin, we were supposed to write an original poem and sing it if we wanted. Most of us had never written a poem before, therefore it was a new but exciting experience. My classmate, Harshini and I decided to take part as a group. She wrote a poem and I composed it into a song. I had never composed a song before, but when I started it almost came naturally to me.

I was absolutely amazed when I heard the beautiful poems written by my classmates. This competition made so many people realise that they had a talent for writing poems. Everyone in the room was so engrossed by the beautiful poetry. We could really relate to the depth of the words of the poems which brought back memories for many of us. Many people in the room were in tears listening to the poems.

This event was a great success, as it brought about a spark of confidence in each one of us. Also, I am proud to announce that Harshini and I received the 3rd prize!

**Ishika Sonthalia**  
**Grade 11**



# University Meet

On April 19th, our school organised a university visit with the University of British Columbia. Students of Grades 10, 11 and 12, along with their parents were invited. A representative of UBC started with a small presentation on the campus, culture and curriculum. We got to learn about work experience during the program (Co-op), cultural and club activities available on campus, post graduation work opportunities and many more advantages of choosing UBC. The representative outlined the requirements of the application process like the essays and the prerequisite classes required for the students' chosen major. At the end of the event, parents and students were able to ask questions personally to the representative.

As a student of Grade 12, I have already completed all of the research and therefore this visit was much more helpful for the younger students who are now planning their application process. Indeed, many students were able to gain insight into the navigation process of identifying the right path towards selecting universities. As I am planning on going to UBC this fall, this visit was of great help, as it allowed me to interact with the UBC representatives and solve my queries about faculty and residence! With the school holding many such university visits in the future, the students will surely benefit from these experiences.

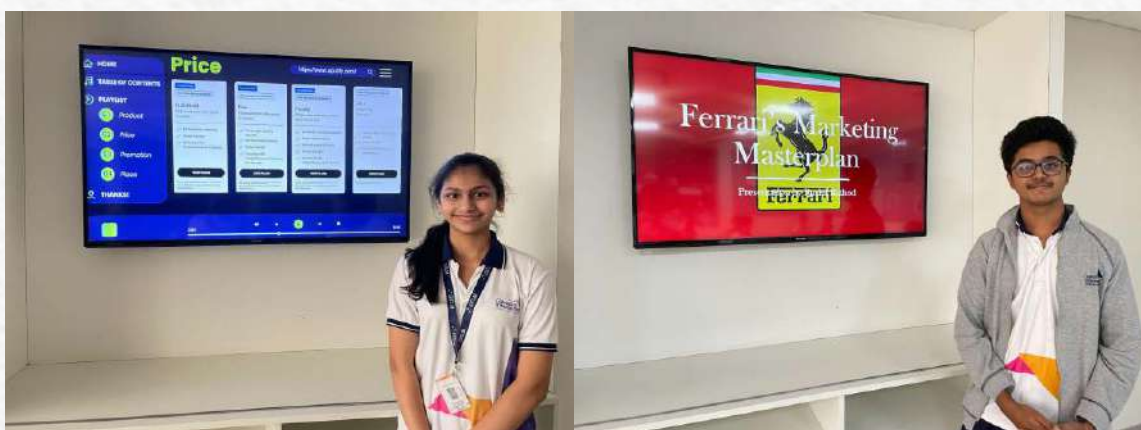
**Ananya Sudhir**  
**Grade 12**



# Marketing Mix Analysis and Presentation

Grade 11 students learnt the 4Ps of Marketing – Product, Price, Place and Promotion in Business Management during the month of April. They demonstrated their knowledge of the marketing mix through presentations to the class based on their research and analysis of the marketing mix of a product or company of their choice. Such learning experiences give students opportunities to apply their learning to the real world and develop their research and communication skills all while boosting their confidence in public speaking.

**Ms Monika Koradia**  
**Head of School Operation**





## Professional Development

At the end of April, I got a chance to attend a workshop arranged by IADEA at Kiran Nadar Art Museum, Delhi. For this workshop, Art teachers participated from all over India. During the workshop itself, I got a chance to see three famous artists' work: K.Ramanujan, Somnath Hore, and Atul Dodiya. The show was curated with a warm and positive approach.

After visiting the museum, all teachers involved created artwork based on the familiar theme of 'isolation'. It was a wonderful experience to see isolation from everyone's perspective. Later, we attended the India Art Fair, where we met the artists in person and understood their journeys. Ms Kirti Sood, who curated the show, explained the connection between the artists and their work. Overall, it was a fantastic experience. Thank you to GICLM for sending me to this fruitful workshop. I cannot wait to share what I learned with my students in our upcoming art classes!

**Mr Amit Kawale**  
**Visual Arts Faculty**



## Goodbye, Ms Aarya

Ms Aarya has been such a good teacher to all of us. She's improved my German drastically. I have learnt a lot from her! It's so sad that she has to leave us, but her words and presence will always stay with us. She definitely made our educational journey memorable. We will miss her a lot. Best wishes for wherever she goes and whatever she does!

**Kashti Dedhia**  
**Grade 8**



Ms Aarya has been an amazing teacher. She improved my German drastically by taking extra classes after school. She also made us do a lot of exciting activities. I am very grateful for her. I still can't believe she is leaving us. It is sad to say goodbye to someone as awesome as she is, but the joyful thing is that your teachings will never depart from me. Thanks for being an incredible teacher!

**Naman Barola**  
**Grade 8**

You are special to all of us; we appreciate you, and we will greatly miss your words of wisdom and encouragement. Thank you so much for all your effort. Thank you for setting an amazing example for each one of us.

**Riona Shah**  
**Grade 6**

Aarya Ma'am is an amazing teacher. She taught me many intriguing things and made my life brighter. We all were truly blessed to have a phenomenal teacher like her. I want to express my gratitude to her for being a remarkable teacher, and a spectacular guide to each one of us. So, with a heavy heart and teary eyes, we bid her a goodbye. She will indeed be missed!

**Vihaa Shah**  
**Grade 6**

Dear Aarya Ma'am, you have been a great teacher. Thank you for working hard and making a difference in our lives. We thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent together learning, playing and laughing. Please always remember that we will miss you a lot for all that you have taught us. You have taught us not only German, but the way to lead a good life. Putting aside our mischief and pranks, today we just want to say thanks. We wish you all the best for your future endeavours! Wir werden dich vermissen.

**Hriday Agarwal**  
**Grade 6**

Goodbye Miss Aarya! Tschüss auf wiedersehen! We waved our final goodbye to miss Aarya this April. She has been a part of GICLM for the past four years and has always made each one of us feel special. I vividly remember the times when I would struggle in German in Grade 5, but she made life so much easier in Grade 6. I am truly grateful to have learnt under her. She always made the classes interactive and fun! Indeed, she has a special place in our hearts and we can't be more thankful! Miss Aarya, you have left us with heavy hearts and tearful eyes as we say goodbye to you! You have been a great mentor and we will always look up to you! All the best for your future endeavours!

**Shona Ganatra**  
**Grade 9**

Last week we bade farewell to our dear German teacher – Ms Aarya Phaltankar. With her infectious enthusiasm, engaging and fun teaching style, Ms Aarya generated a lot of interest in the German language, especially amongst Primary students. She also encouraged her students to participate in various competitions with some great achievements. She will be missed not only by her students, but also her colleagues too! We hope her new place is full of happiness and fun as usual and we wish her the best in all her future endeavours.

**Ms Uma Iyer**  
**German Faculty**





## April Fool's Day!

April Fools' Day is an annual custom on 1st April consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes. Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fools!" at the victim. Ever wonder where April Fools' Day comes from? Well, surprise! The joke's on you. Nobody seems to know its true origins. However, historians do have some clues. For one thing, we do know that April Fools' Day customs date back to at least Renaissance Europe, but it's likely the tradition originated long before then.

This mirth celebration is celebrated differently in every country. For instance, in the UK (United Kingdom) April Fools' Day is celebrated by pranking one another and later revealing the prank to the victim by yawning "April fool!" and the victim is then known to be the "April fool". In Ireland, it is tradition to entrust the victim with an "important letter" to be given to a named person. That person would read the letter, then ask the victim to take it to someone else, and so on. The letter, when opened, contained the words "send the fool further".

April Fools' Day is widely celebrated in Ukraine and has the special local name Humorina. This holiday arose in 1973. An April Fool prank is disclosed by declaring "First of April, I trust nobody" to the target. The festival includes a large parade in the city centre, free concerts, street fairs and performances. Festival participants dress up in a variety of costumes and walk around the city fooling around and pranking passers-by. One of the traditions on April Fools' Day is to dress up the main city monument in funny clothes. Humorina even has its own logo. Happy April Fool's Day!

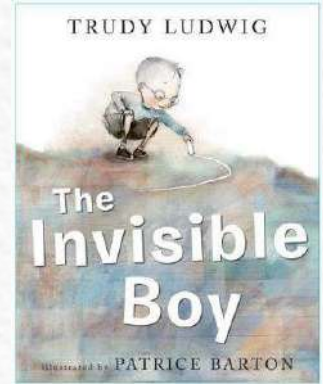
**Vihaa Shah**  
Grade 6



# April Book Recommendations

## Grades 1-3: *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig

This book is a beautiful narrative that demonstrates how simple acts of kindness can help children feel included and develop. An unseen kid may become a friend with a single act of compassion. Meet Brian, the boy who can't be seen. It's one of the best stories I have come across. It teaches to always give people a chance and to like them for who they are.

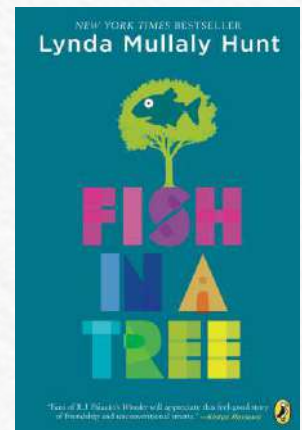


## Grades 4-5: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a gentle rabbit, is owned by Abilene, the nicest person on the planet. However, he becomes lost one day and then embarks on a lengthy trek across oceans to reach boats and hospital beds. Throughout it all, he never loses faith that he will be reunited with his beloved Abilene one day. Personally I can't say enough about this amazing tale. It was a great message to see Edward change throughout the novel. Sincere and humble. A must-read for any age!

## Grades 6-8: *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has managed to deceive a number of intelligent individuals. She is able to disguise her inability to read every time she transfers to a new school by inventing creative, yet confusing distractions. Mr Daniels, her new teacher, recognises the brilliant, imaginative child behind the troublemaker. Ally learns not to be so harsh on herself with his support, and that dyslexia isn't anything to be embarrassed about. Ally begins to feel free to be herself as her confidence builds, and the world begins to open up with possibilities. I like how in this book she learns that she — and everyone



## Grades 9-12: *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

A family boards a raft in the hopes of finding safety and freedom. Their home has been ripped apart by violence and disaster, so they embark on a lengthy journey to Europe. Everyone will be exposed to unimaginable hazards such as drownings, explosions and betrayals. However, there is always the possibility of a better tomorrow for everyone. I found it interesting that despite the fact that the children are separated by countries and decades, their tales will eventually be linked by unexpected ties.

**Drisana Zaveri**  
**Grade 8**



## Guest Lecture

Our Visual Arts faculty member, Mr Amit Kawale, was invited to Euro School Airoli as a guest lecturer for their Grades 9 and 10 students. Mr Kawale has eight years of experience teaching IGCSE Art and Design. One of his students was the topper in the country for the batch of March 2020. Based on his experience, Euro School invited Mr Kawale as a guest lecturer. He took the session for an hour and explained all the necessary instructions and also presented the portfolio of the country topper student. It was a great experience for the students and it enabled them to understand the expectations of IGCSE Art and Design better. At the end of the session, the students were inspired and motivated after seeing the portfolio up close.



## Music Jam Sessions

Every alternate Friday in our school, we are overwhelmed with excitement. None of us can wait for the Friday Fun Jam to begin! During these famous sessions, our music teacher selects a couple of students who are up for the challenge, asks them to prepare a musical performance, and present it on Friday during lunch time. The students performed pieces from a variety of genres- there was something for everybody! This was an opportunity to enjoy and relax on Fridays, as it is the last day of the week. Personally, I really enjoyed this experience because I was able to sing as well as listen to other people perform!

**Sreshta Kanakadandi**  
**Grade 6**



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# Engaging Minds, Changing Futures

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