

# MEMOIRS

August | 2025-26



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## *People - The Faces & Voices of RaK's*

### *Mentor Spotlight - People of RaK's*

At RaK's, every Monday begins with inspiration — a moment to celebrate the mentors who make learning come alive. Through Mentor Mondays: Spotlight, we bring you glimpses of project-based and experiential learning experiences from our Science Department — where curiosity leads the way, exploration fuels understanding, and discovery becomes a shared joy between mentor and learner. Each project tells a story of imagination, inquiry, and meaningful engagement — reflecting the essence of RaK's belief that learning happens best when it's experienced, not just explained.

### *Mentor Spotlight- People of RaK's*

*Mentor Mondays at RaK's – One Shift.*

*Huge Impact. One Voice Every Week.*



*Ms. Riswana*



*Ms. Nikhila*



## Places - Learning Beyond The Walls - TRIPS@RaK's

### Grade 4 Annual Trip to Chennai - Learning by the Sea

When our Grade 4 learners set out to Chennai, they weren't just travelling—they were stepping into a world where science, heritage, and the natural environment came alive with meaning. The trip unfolded as an invitation to see, to wonder, and to reflect.



At the Birla Planetarium, young minds tilted skyward, reaching beyond the familiar to imagine galaxies and possibilities far greater than themselves. The visit to the DakshinaChitra Heritage Museum grounded that sense of wonder, reminding learners that identity is also found in the stories, traditions, and craftsmanship passed down through generations.

Perhaps the most profound experience came with the Bay of Life Ocean Literacy Programme. A dawn turtle walk along the sands and hands-on interactions with marine educators made the ocean not just a backdrop, but a teacher. Here curiosity met responsibility, as learners began to understand what it means to be custodians of the natural world.

By the shore, discovery took on many forms. The MGM Marine World, the Crocodile Park, and the delicate beauty of the Seashell Museum opened windows into biodiversity, sparking conversations about how life adapts, survives, and flourishes. Standing before the Shore Temple and gazing at Krishna's Butter Ball, learners saw how nature and human hands together have etched lessons of resilience and artistry across centuries.



The final stop at Phoenix Market City was a lively reminder of the balance between tradition and modernity, where learners reflected on how spaces of leisure and commerce are also part of the human story.

This journey by the sea was not about visiting places, but about discovering connections—between past and present, nature and humanity, curiosity and responsibility. Our learners returned with eyes that see wider, hearts that care deeper, and the confidence that every experience can shape them to thrive with purpose.

## *Grade 5 Annual Trip to Bangalore – Curiosity Takes Flight*

For our Grade 5 learners, Bangalore unfolded as a city of stories—where science met imagination, and nature walked hand in hand with innovation. Over three days, their journey was more than sightseeing; it was a celebration of curiosity, courage, and connection.



At Vels Innovative Film City, wonder lit up young eyes as learners moved from the marvels of cinema and wax figures to the playful thrill of dinosaurs and aqua adventures. Laughter echoed through the Haunted Mansion, yet beneath the fun lay a deeper truth: that creativity, when nurtured, opens doors to worlds both real and imagined.



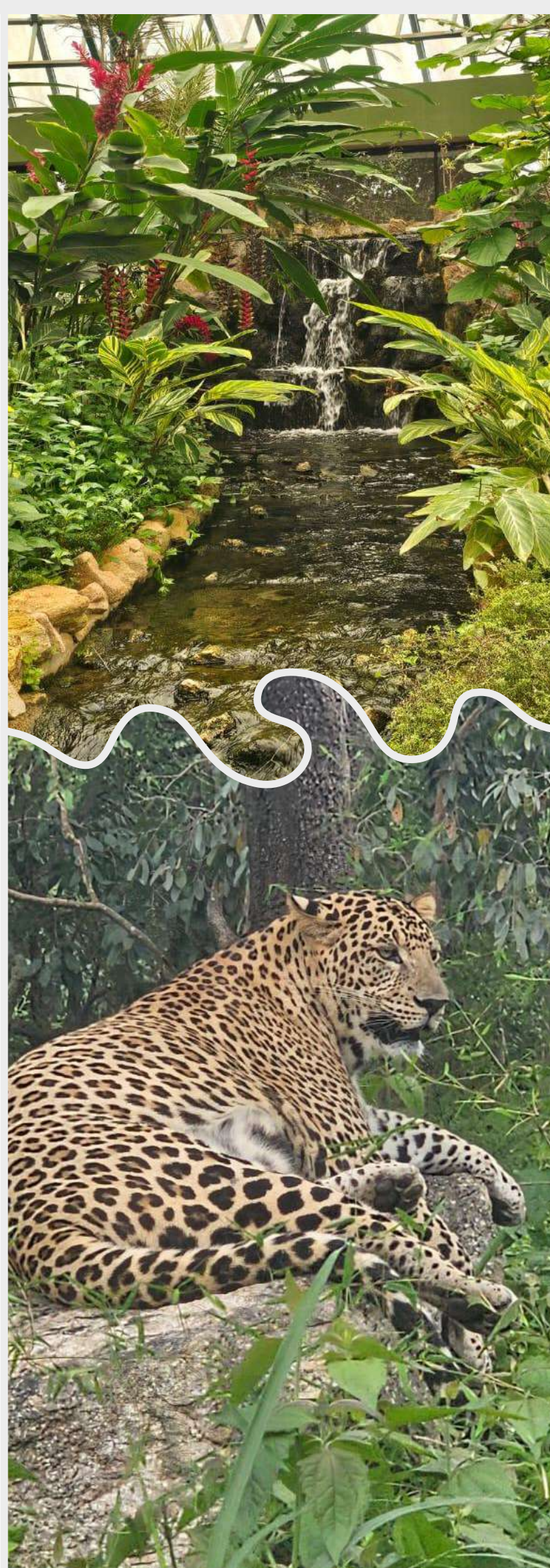
The following day brought them close to the wild heart of nature at Bannerghatta National Park. Tigers, elephants, and myriad species reminded our learners of the delicate balance we share with the natural world. Their reflections here were as profound as their excitement.



Science and innovation took centre stage at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum and the HAL Aerospace Museum, where learners marvelled at how ideas transform into inventions that shape the future. It was discovery in its purest form—hands-on, inspiring, and real.



Through it all, what shone brightest was the spirit of our learners: embracing responsibility, navigating new experiences with confidence, and supporting one another with empathy. They returned not just with photographs and souvenirs, but with widened horizons, stronger friendships, and the quiet pride of living the RaK's way.



## Grade 6 Annual Trip to Hyderabad – Where Heritage Meets Wonder

For our Grade 6 learners, Hyderabad was more than a destination—it was an unfolding story. A city where minarets and museums stand alongside gardens, lakes, and studios, it offered our learners a chance to see how history, culture, and creativity coexist in harmony.

From the quiet grace of Birla Mandir to the timeless arches of the Charminar, they discovered how the past continues to whisper lessons of resilience and identity. In the galleries of the Salar Jung Museum, curiosity was sparked by treasures that told stories across time and continents.



There was also joy and play—snowball fights at Snow World, laughter shared at Lumbini Park, and wonder at the sheer scale of imagination on display at Ramoji Film City. Each experience became a canvas for reflection: what it means to belong, to create, to marvel, and to care.



What made this journey unforgettable was not only the city's splendour but the way our learners embraced it—with open hearts, eager minds, and a spirit of responsibility. They returned carrying more than memories: they brought back deeper friendships, greater confidence, and the realisation that learning shines brightest when it is lived.



## Grade 7 & 8 Annual Trip to Mumbai & Lonavala – A Journey of Discovery and Challenge

Mumbai welcomed our Grade 7 and 8 learners with its timeless energy, history etched in stone, and a spirit of innovation that never sleeps. Over five unforgettable days, our learners immersed themselves in experiences that stretched their thinking, stirred their curiosity, and tested their resilience.

The iconic Gateway of India and the ancient splendour of the Elephanta Caves offered lessons in heritage and perspective, while the sweep of the Bandra Worli Sea Link reminded them of the boundless possibilities of human ingenuity. At the Nehru Science Centre, discovery came alive through interactive exhibits that connected ideas to real-world wonder.



The journey took an adventurous turn in Lonavala at Della Adventure Park, where courage and camaraderie were put to the test. Whether cycling in the sky, rappelling down heights, or navigating rope challenges, every learner found themselves pushing limits, encouraging peers, and realising their own strength.

What stood out was not just the places they visited, but the way our learners carried themselves—responsible, reflective, and respectful. They embraced new environments with open minds and returned with friendships deepened, confidence strengthened, and perspectives widened.

This trip was more than a journey—it was an affirmation of RaK's philosophy: that true education lies in experiences which nurture independence, inspire resilience, and help every learner thrive with purpose.



## Grade 12 Annual Trip to Munnar – Reflection in the Hills

Munnar welcomed our Grade 12 learners with misty valleys, rolling tea estates, and skies that seemed to stretch into possibility. For our senior-most learners, this journey was more than a school trip—it was a pause before new beginnings, a moment to reflect on who they are and who they are becoming.

One of the highlights was the jeep safari to Kolukkumalai Peak, home to the highest tea plantations in the world at 7,130 feet above sea level. The steep climb, the wind-whipped views, and the sheer scale of nature reminded learners that the greatest heights are reached not only by effort but also by resilience and perspective.

As they trekked through trails and stood at high vantage points surrounded by clouds, conversations deepened, laughter echoed, and silences became meaningful. Tea gardens and village visits brought lessons in patience, community, and perseverance, while quiet dawns and dusks reminded them of balance and stillness in a world that often moves too fast.



But beyond the scenery lay a deeper purpose. Learners took responsibility for themselves and one another—managing time, money, and choices with growing independence. Every instruction followed, every decision made, was a rehearsal for life beyond school.

The trip was also about togetherness—shared meals, group treks, playful photographs in the mist, and heartfelt reflections on friendships that have shaped their years at RaK's. These moments will remain as anchors, carried with them long after they step into their next journeys.

In Munnar, our learners discovered not just a place, but a truth: that thriving with purpose is about awareness, responsibility, and courage. And as they gazed across horizons blurred by mist, they knew they were ready to embrace the wider horizons that await them.



# Purpose - Learning That Matters

## Grade 6 Product Pitch: Young Entrepreneurs in Action!

As part of their Global Perspectives theme on Local and Global Brands, our Grade 6 learners transformed into young entrepreneurs. Through collaboration and research, they identified everyday needs and designed creative, thoughtful products with clear purpose.

From inventing catchy, alliterative brand names to mapping complete branding strategies, they showcased not just imagination but also an impressive grasp of business fundamentals. With confidence and clarity, they pitched their products to an audience—mirroring the professionalism of seasoned entrepreneurs.

This experience went far beyond classroom learning. It nurtured critical thinking, communication, and creativity, while instilling the responsibility to connect ideas with real-world needs. Witnessing our learners embrace entrepreneurship so early is a reminder of how purposeful learning equips them to thrive with confidence and vision.



## Grade 6 | Global Perspectives Beyond the Classroom

### Local to Global: Understanding Brands

What happens when lessons step outside the classroom and into a café? You get learning that's alive, relevant, and unforgettable.

As part of their Global Perspectives journey, our Grade 6 Raksters explored three iconic cafés in Coimbatore—Annapoorna, Café Coffee Day, and Starbucks—representing the local, national, and global. Each space became a living case study as learners observed how brands craft their identity, engage customers, and thrive in a competitive world.

With tools like SWOT analysis and Venn diagrams in hand, learners dug deep—examining everything from logos and menus to pricing and customer experience. Even a simple act of mindful ordering turned into a lesson in how businesses position themselves and shape perceptions.

This was more than a field trip; it was brand immersion at its best. Every stop brought fresh insights, every observation sparked inquiry, and every discussion connected classroom concepts to the world outside.

True to RaK's mission, our learners were not passive spectators but active investigators—asking questions, making connections, and drawing meaning.

Because at RaK's, learning does not stay inside four walls—it lives wherever curiosity meets purpose. And this experience was a powerful reminder that the world itself is their classroom.



## Curiosity Comes Alive – Grade 2 | Place-Based Learning

### Exploring Fossils, Preserved Animals & Insects

At RaK's Pallikkoodam, learning doesn't stop at the edge of a desk — it flows into the world beyond. As part of their inquiry into Fossils and Animals, our spirited Grade 2 learners stepped into the Gass Museum in Coimbatore for a place-based learning experience that sparked wonder at every turn.



Surrounded by a captivating collection of fossils, preserved animal and bird species, and intricate insect specimens, learners immersed themselves in a living timeline. They examined delicate wing patterns, traced insect life cycles, and reflected on the vital role these tiny creatures play in our ecosystem. Each exhibit became a bridge — linking ancient life forms to the present, theory to reality, and curiosity to understanding.



#### What Made the Difference

- Hands-on exploration that turned observation into discovery.
- Real-world connections between classroom concepts and living examples.
- A surge of curiosity, inspiring thoughtful questions and critical thinking.
- Learning beyond the classroom, proving that every environment holds lessons waiting to be found.

This was more than a museum visit. It was a reminder that the local environment is a living classroom — one that deepens understanding, nurtures a love for learning, and helps every Rakster see the relevance of their studies in the world around them.

Because at RaK's, we don't just teach curiosity. We take it on field trips.

## **IGCSE Chemistry Class—Like Never Before!**

At RaK's, learning goes beyond textbooks and labs. Our IGCSE Chemistry learners combined creativity, collaboration, and hands-on innovation to transform complex concepts into exciting, interactive projects.

### **Why:**

At RaK's, we believe learning isn't just about memorising facts—it's about curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Our IGCSE Chemistry learners explored how understanding concepts deeply can spark confidence and innovation.

### **How:**

Through experiential learning, gamification, and design thinking, learners took chemistry beyond the textbook and lab. They transformed complex topics like organic chemistry into six interactive teaching and learning aids, refining their ideas through testing and feedback.

### **What:**

This experience was more than chemistry—it was learning how to learn. Learners honed problem-solving skills, creativity, and teamwork while producing meaningful, hands-on projects.

### **Who:**

Guided by Ms. Riswana, supported by Mr. Mick, and inspired by a new cohort learner who challenged ideas and offered insights, the class demonstrated how mentorship and peer collaboration push everyone to think bigger and aim higher.

At RaK's, we don't just teach subjects—we ignite curiosity and inspire learners to create, innovate, and thrive.



## *Grade 9 Online meet with an international poet - A Poetic Journey with Dr. Hali Sofala-Jones*

On August 20th, 2025, students at RAKS had the privilege of engaging with Dr. Hali Sofala-Jones, a Samoan American poet and Assistant Professor of English at Middle Georgia State University. Dr. Sofala-Jones introduced her poem “Fractured” and led an insightful discussion that inspired thoughtful questions from students about her inspiration, characters, and themes.



Students admired her willingness to be vulnerable and open in her writing, gaining a deeper appreciation for how personal experiences shape creative expression. The lively exchange enriched their understanding of literature—not just as words on a page but as a reflection of human emotions and connections. The session concluded with Dr. Sofala-Jones reciting “Fractured,” leaving a lasting impact on the learners.

Through this interaction, students recognized the power of vulnerability in writing and the importance of asking insightful questions to uncover deeper meanings, broadening their appreciation of poetry as a form of human storytelling.

## *Business Studies learners Red Truck*

Popstop, a brand created by the students is an initiative taken by students of IGCSE Year 2 Business Studies to develop a hands-on experience of what it's like to run a startup-up selling pop-corn. This experience will help students pick up skills like leadership, resource planning, organising, marketing, customer service and cost-control. Students will be fully in-charge of planning and designing the menu, the prices, marketing their brand through posters, word-of-mouth promotion and also handle sales

### *Grade 11 - PopStop – A Taste of Enterprise!*

Our IGCSE Year 2 Business Studies learners have popped up with a brand-new venture – PopStop! Designed and run entirely by the students, this popcorn start-up is more than just a delicious treat; it's a real-world learning experience.

From leadership and resource planning to marketing, customer service, and cost control, learners are exploring every aspect of entrepreneurship hands-on. They're taking full charge of the journey—designing the menu, setting prices, creating eye-catching posters, spreading the word, and handling sales with confidence and creativity.

With PopStop, our young entrepreneurs aren't just selling popcorn—they're gaining the skills and mindset to take on future challenges with flair.

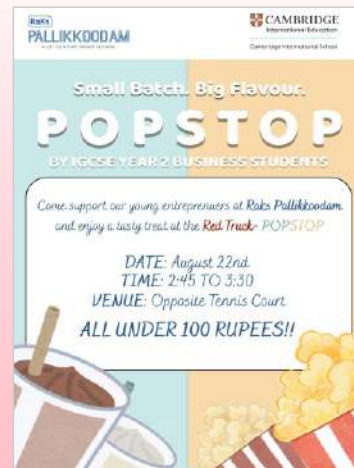


### *IGCSE Year 1 – Food Truck Venture*

Learning served hot, the RaK's way!

IGCSE Year 1 Team 1 kick-started their very own food truck venture—a bold step into the world of business. From planning and pricing to promoting and selling, our learners gained a real taste of entrepreneurship.

It wasn't just about food—it was about teamwork, creativity, and the spirit to lead and thrive. Yet another example of how RaK's turns classrooms into real-world experiences.



## Continuous Professional Development (CPD) at RaK's

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# CAMBRIDGE

International Education

Professional Development Centre



## CPD2 - Building relationships in the classroom

### CPD Spotlight: Start with the Heart

Our recent Professional Development session focused on Kindness, Gratitude, and Empathy in the Classroom — exploring how positive behaviour, safety, and belonging create the foundation for thriving learners.

Mentors reflected on the key idea that positive behaviour is not managed, it is modelled. A safe, welcoming space builds both academic excellence and emotional well-being. When learners feel they belong, they grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually.

Through interactive exercises, mentors explored practical strategies for classroom presence and connection:

- Being prepared before Day One with clear behaviour goals and routines.
- Greeting learners by name at the door, building connection and punctuality.
- Leading with calm authority, addressing disruptions with dignity.
- Prioritising belonging, ensuring no learner feels excluded.
- Bringing your best self, modelling empathy, consistency, and care.

The session concluded with a powerful reminder: everything begins with emotional safety. At RaK's, we believe that starting with the heart ensures every learner not only learns, but truly thrives with purpose.



## CPD<sup>3</sup> – Behavioural Agreements: Responding to Oversharing with Kindness

Venue: Library

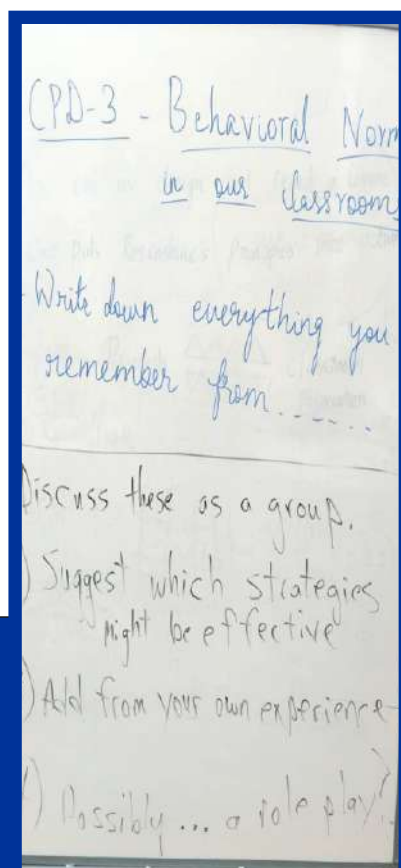
The third session of our Continuous Professional Development (CPD<sup>3</sup>) series invited mentors to reflect on a delicate yet common classroom moment: what happens when a child overshares?

Through a fictional case study, mentors explored the balance between kindness and boundaries, and how behavioural agreements can serve as living documents of trust rather than rigid rules. Together, they discussed strategies that protect both the child's voice and the group's flow—listening with empathy, gently redirecting, setting aside one-on-one time, and affirming trust while guiding towards balance.

The session reminded us that oversharing is not a hurdle—it is a window into a child's need for connection. When met with empathy and clarity, it becomes an opportunity to nurture trust, responsibility, and belonging.

Takeaway: At RaK's, behavioural agreements are not about enforcement, but about understandings rooted in kindness.

We understood that: Oversharing is not a hurdle — it is a window into a child's need for connection. When guided with empathy and clarity, it can transform into a powerful opportunity to strengthen trust and belonging.



## CPD3 - Building relationships in the classroom

### CPD on We Belong

Venue: Library

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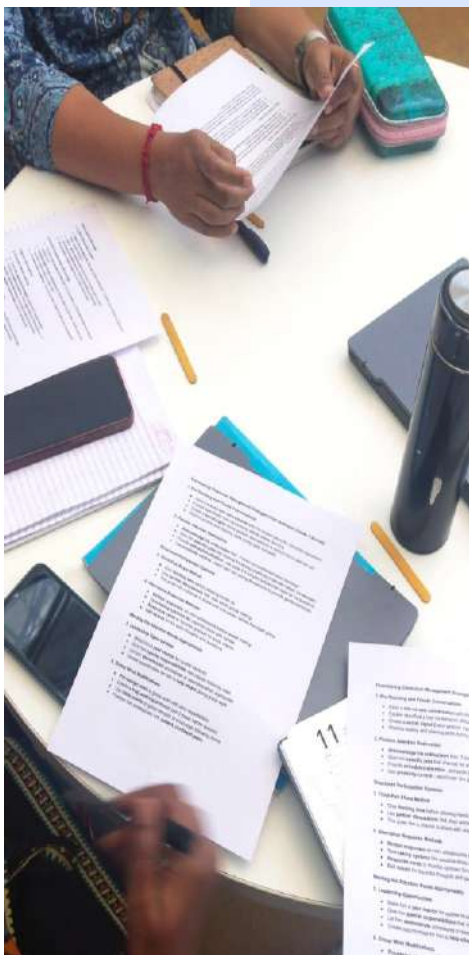
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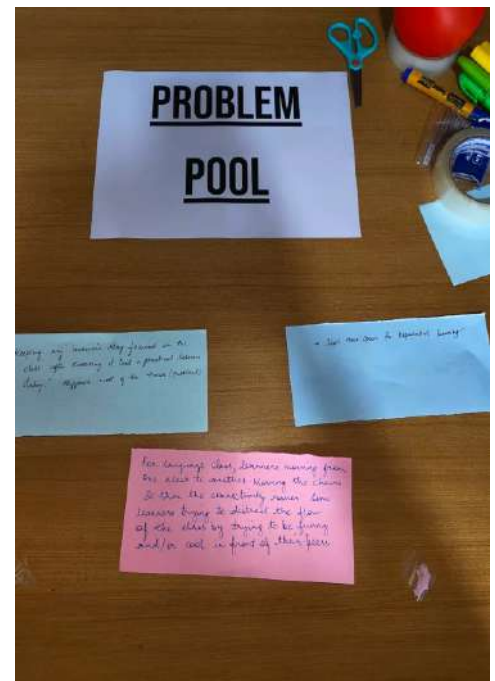
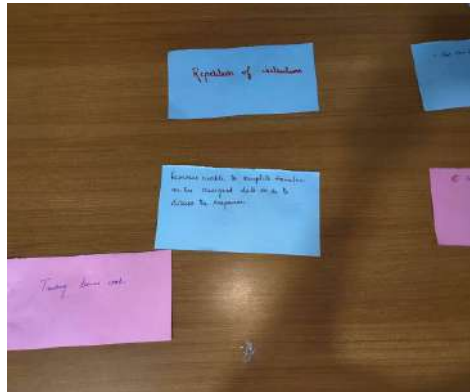
## Professional Development @ RaK's – Active Learning in Action

At RaK's Pallikoodam School of Excellence, professional development is not about theory alone—it is about practice, reflection, and impact.

Our mentors recently immersed themselves in an Active Learning workshop facilitated by Ms. Abinaya, where real student challenges became the heart of the conversation. They explored strategies such as Think-Pair-Share to tackle disengagement during revision, Gallery Walk to build systems for group discipline, Problem-Based Learning to rethink homework routines, and Role-Play to ensure every learner has a voice in discussions.

The workshop culminated in mentors co-creating their own definition of active learning—anchored in RaK's belief that learning is most powerful when it is active, collaborative, and meaningful.

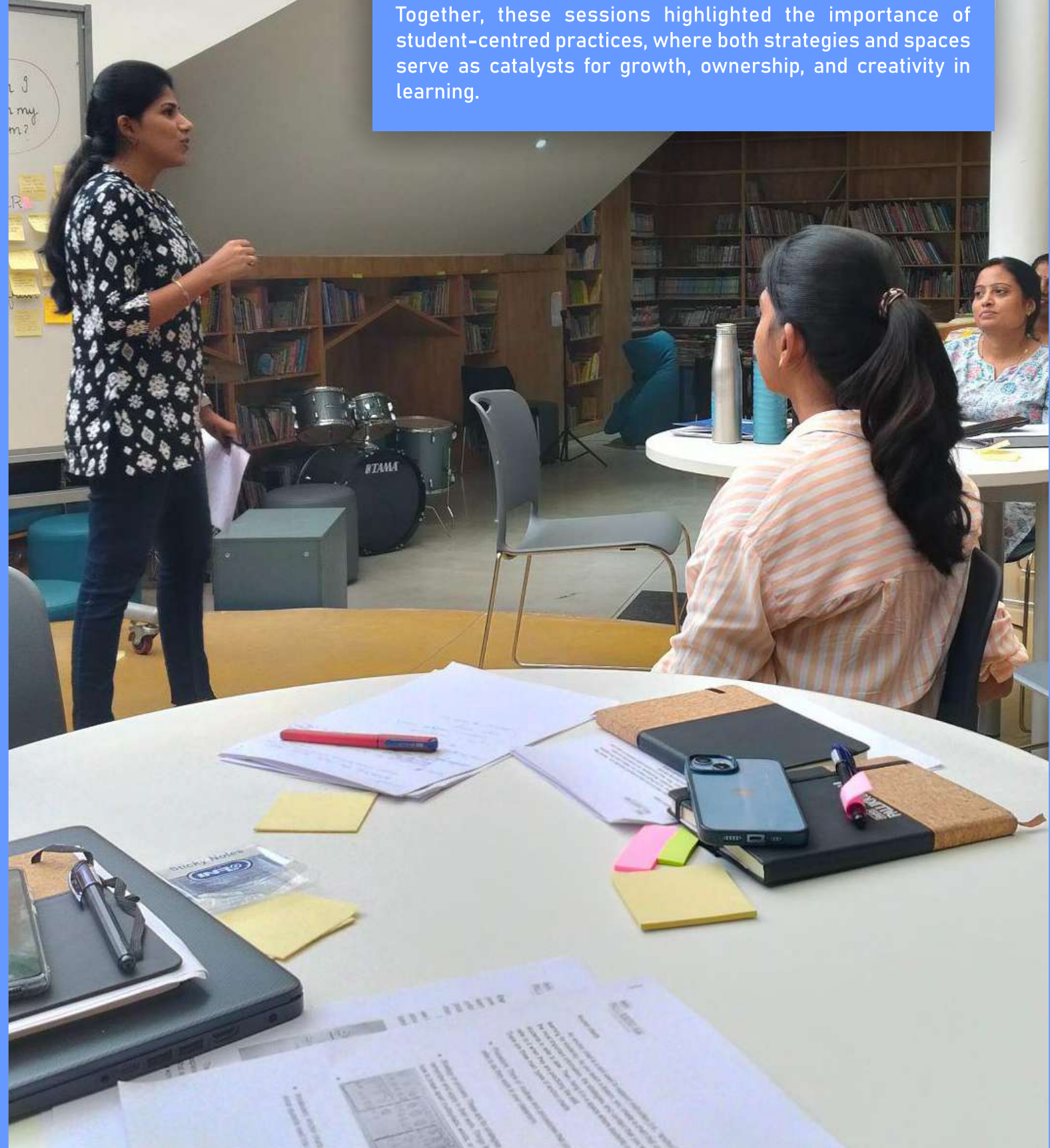
We celebrate our educators for embracing growth, reflecting deeply, and keeping learners at the centre of everything they do.



## *Owning Classroom Spaces and Creating Learning Walls*

Facilitated by Ms. Sharin and Ms. Esha Mathew, this session encouraged teachers to reflect on their learning environments. Mentors discussed how classroom spaces can mirror the identities of learners, while learning walls can showcase student voice, celebrate achievements, and make learning journeys visible to all.

Together, these sessions highlighted the importance of student-centred practices, where both strategies and spaces serve as catalysts for growth, ownership, and creativity in learning.



## Rosenshine's Principles of Learning

Rosenshine's principles-practical implementation through action plan

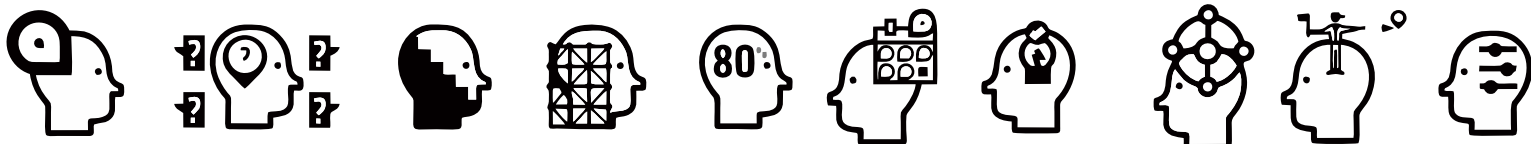
The principles are often used by most of our peers in many forms as part of their classroom practice. However, as practicing teachers ourselves we presented evidence-based practices we used this term in diverse forms. Though the content was from science the context is applicable to all subjects.



The session linked neuroscience supported strategies which effectively worked in our classes to motivate and protect the working memory capacity of our learners' along with creating an environment of metacognitive habits to make thinking visible. The session was concluded with extended learning for those who wanted to stretch their horizons with active learning and visible thinking routines that aligned with Rosenhine's principle.



The session was presented in three steps- beginning with reflective questions as used in Rosenshine's Principles followed by gallery walk to interact with peers and discuss the categories they would put the evidence. Soon after a brief discussion with mentors connecting practice to theories like-ZPD, spacing and interleaving and cognitive load theory. A host of guiding questions were given to help them work on the next phase of an implementation model using the practice to theory connection which they can embed to their current practice.



## Rhythms

### Independence Day



### Independence Day



## Grade CA 11 sleepover

### A Night to Remember



The Grade 11 CA learners shared an evening of joy, laughter, and togetherness at their much-awaited sleepover. After dinner, the campus came alive with football matches, card games, and a movie under the stars.

It was more than just an overnight stay—it was an opportunity to bond as a community. Mentors and learners, peers and friends, came together in the natural environment of RaK's, creating memories that allowed children to simply be children.

The night was a gentle pause from routines—an experience of unwinding, connecting, and celebrating the spirit of RaK's Pallikkoodam.



## Krishna Jayanthi



## Ganesh Chaturthi



# Subject Matter Experts @ RaK's Wild Saturdays

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Chess**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Fusion Dance**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**MUN & TEDx Club**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Reading Circle and Creative Writing**

*THE LOST ELEPHANT AND THE SOUL TREE*  
ANIL A. HANITADASA

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Digital Art and Design**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Indian History and Culture**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Organic Gardening**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Robotics & Coding**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Edible Science**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Math Club**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Photography and Film Club**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

**PALLIKKODAM**  
A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MODEL SCHOOL

**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Education  
Cambridge International School

**Young Entrepreneur Club**

# Thrive with Purpose

# Wild Saturday

## *Sports as Hidden Curriculum*

At RaK's, we see sports not just as competition, but as a hidden curriculum that builds resilience, teamwork, and character.

### *Tips Trophy League (Under-17 Girls)*

Our Under-17 girls' football team secured 3rd position among 10 teams. With 2 victories and 1 tough loss, the team showcased grit, determination, and collaborative spirit on the field.



## *RAIS Badminton Tournament*

- Under-10 Girls – Ishaanvi clinched 3rd place. She won her first match against Golden Gates School and, after a hard-fought semi-final against TIPS Erode, secured her podium finish.
- Under-12 Girls Doubles – Achala Mahalakshmi and Sahashra (Grade 5) also brought home 3rd place. They won their opening match against Golden Gates School and, after a competitive semi-final against CS Academy, earned their well-deserved spot on the winners' board.

At RaK's, every match is more than just a game—it's a life lesson in perseverance, strategy, and sportsmanship.



## *RaK's Rhythms Wrap Up - Celebrations and Recognitions*

### *RaK's Pallikkoodam at YBMUN Chapter-V*

With immense pride, we celebrate our 40 delegates from RaK's Pallikkoodam who once again made history at the YBMUN Chapter-V, hosted by Yuvabharathi School, Coimbatore, on 23rd & 24th August 2025.

This year, our learners rose beyond the role of delegates—mentoring juniors, collaborating as a team, and strengthening the RaK's MUN community: Lead. Thrive. Excel.

From debating AI in Health & Hygiene to championing equitable access to space, they showcased diplomacy, resilience, and critical thinking—emerging with accolades across multiple committees.

### *Award Highlights*

- Crisis: Best Delegate – Micah | Hon. Mention – Waiga | Verbal Mention – Vinay
- UNHRC: High Commendation – Tanmay
- WHO: Verbal Mention – Yasmit | Best First Timer – Saurav
- UNCUPUOS: High Commendation – Paarventhan | Verbal Mention – Arya
- UNEP: Best Delegate – Aathmika | Best First Timer – Ohm
- ECOSOC: Best Delegate – Navya | Hon. Mention – Namit
- UNW: Verbal Mention – Saifaan
- SOCHUM: Hon. Mention – Aksera | Best First Timer – Yeshwanth



Every delegate embodied the spirit of global citizenship and the power of the student voice in tackling real-world challenges.

The RaK's MUN team—five-time champions, soaring higher, leading stronger.

## Upcoming Beats - What's Next @ Rak's

- Onam
- Rakathon Training
- RaK's Trekathon
- RAIS Badminton and Tennis

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**Mail : [info@rakspallikkoodam.com](mailto:info@rakspallikkoodam.com)**

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