

## THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AT S.M.I.L.E

Christmas is a time when one prepares oneself to welcome Baby Jesus, our Savior into our hearts and our lives. It is also a time when we give and forgive each other. Christmas is celebrated everywhere as a joyous family affair, we too, at Santa Maria celebrated Christmas as a happy time for our children. The preparation for Christmas started from the month of October with Christopher Sir listing names of Choir children. On the other hand teachers spent time discussing the script for the Nativity play.

Meanwhile a beautiful crib was made at the heart of Santa Maria. Interestingly many children used to visit the crib and even pray.



Christopher sir and I went to each class and sang Carols along with the choir children and gave the message of love, peace. We also made children aware of the significance of Christmas. Children were requested to bring a toy to give to children who are less privileged.



This is also a time when lot of team work and coordination is needed to get the work done in smooth and effective way for the grand day. Coordinators groups were made to take care of each department like the decorations, props, costumes for children, carol singing and more. Last but not to leave behind the other important staff members of the school: all didi's who were there taking care of the tea and snacks for the teachers and working hard to keep Santa Maria looking neat and tidy.

It was very important to give the right message to small children, the true message of Christmas. And this responsibility was rightly carried by all the teachers when they told the story of Christmas followed by cutting of the Christmas cake, which children relished and many of them asked for a second serving.



Children were also asked to illustrate their Christmas wish. Beautiful thoughts and feelings emerged through their drawings.







On 19<sup>th</sup> of December, we had a dress rehearsal for prep classes' nativity play followed by a dance presentation by nursery on "Rudolph the red nosed reindeer" and "I wanna hippopotamus for Christmas".



It was amazing to see, during the rehearsal that how talented our little prep children are. Oh! And the choir, it was unbelievably, mesmerizing. The air was filled with happiness as Santa made a grand entry with a bell.

The delight was uncontained especially as he brought candies for all. Dress rehearsal also gave us an opportunity to showcase this spectacular show for our Kg and nursery children.





### The Christmas day (21st December):

The most awaited day was here, the ground was all dressed and ornate with decorations, lights and sound systems. Children were all dressed up and thrilled, waiting for the evening. The program began with welcome speech followed by a Christmas carol. The preps captivated the audience by enacting the scene of Nativity (musical Nativity) and gave out message of the birth of Jesus very humbly. They also exhibited their talent by performing fascinating dances adding to the festive atmosphere.





Our Honored Chief Guest Rev. Father Vincent Salvatore praised and appreciated the efforts of the little ones, the choir and the teachers. He also expressed his delight on seeing such enthusiasm in the children who brought the spirit of Christmas to life. The school support staff was acknowledged for their help as Santa distributed gifts to them. School also appreciated Parent volunteers who extend their valuable help time and again. Some of the parents also took the opportunity to thank and congratulate the teachers and other members of Santa Maria.

I would like to conclude this report by adding a piece from Pope Francis homily- "Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Yet precisely where the incarnate Son of God came into the world, tensions and violence persist, and peace remains a gift to be implored and built."

As we rejoice and celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas, let us not forget to thank baby Jesus for coming into our lives. Let us together prepare ourselves to welcome him into the homes of our hearts.

I wish everyone with compliments of the season.



