

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Mind Tree School, Kharar, Greater Mohali, was founded in the year 2013 with the mission to nurture the innate potential of students so that they may evolve into ethical, open-minded and competent individuals who are able to excel in whatever they choose. The school has managed to carve a niche for itself as an institution of repute and has made its mark in the academia.

The hallmark of Mind Tree School is its rigorous commitment to academic excellence. We believe in learning that goes beyond the boundaries of a set curriculum. The school has a well crafted curriculum designed on scientific principles so as to make the most of the formative years of children. The curriculum aims at developing thinking classrooms where children just don't devour bundles of facts and information but learn to think, learn to question and learn to analyse and interpret. The focus is on instilling creative skills, communication skills, critical thinking skills and collaborative skills.

The academic year 2020-21 began in a new way. With all the uncertainties surrounding us, we reassured the parent community that the Mind Tree team was working hard to brace up to the situation and that next to the health & safety of our Mindtreeans, the continuation of their learning journey was our top priority. In order to mitigate the impact of the unprecedented crisis, we at Mind Tree launched a robust remote learning plan, making a shift from the physical classroom to the virtual classroom on 28 March 2020 and then expanding it to all grades in a phased manner while also providing students with subject related content as well as assignments. The addition of subjects was done in a phased manner considering the fact that the transition from classroom to online learning was very sudden and secondly, students would take some time to adjust and might experience a lack of personal support and guidance due to radical change in the mode of learning. With the passage of some time, it was heartening to note that students adapted themselves remarkably well to the altered online paradigm. The virtual classes were quite interactive and went a long way in developing the spirit of resilience and independent work habits in students. Assignments and assessments were a regular feature of the curricular programme.

As for our kindergarteners, we started with the asynchronous mode of online learning. We shared weekly assignments with parents. These assignments served as reinforcement as well as enrichment. Our teachers especially curated video lessons for our little Mindtreeans which focused on the core concepts to be learnt. The links of these video lessons were embedded in the assignments. We also provided them with other e-learning resources such as links to stories, picture books, rhymes, guided drawing and fun activities. Slowly and gradually, as the children acclimated to the altered online paradigm we made a shift to the synchronous mode of online learning.

Not limiting ourselves to scholastic areas, the teachers conducted a whole gamut of co-scholastic activities to add a zing to children's learning. Group discussions, extemporaneous speaking activities, role plays, story telling, art activities, sketching, painting, collage making, project making, slideshows, video/film making, etc. were an integral part of the learning programme. Art integrated education was embedded in classroom transactions not only for creating joyful classrooms, but also for imbibing the Indian ethos through integration of Indian art and culture in the teaching and learning process at every level. As part of this CBSE initiative students enthusiastically participated in the Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat programme wherein they researched, compared and contrasted the cultures, physical features, climatic conditions, flora & fauna, histories, crops, harvest festivals, cuisines, etc of the paired states. The Mind Tree fraternity got together virtually to celebrate Independence day with much fervour, reinstating that come what may, our spirits will keep soaring high. Practical work in Science and Maths was initially undertaken via OLABS followed up by physical lab sessions when the school reopened for some days.

Mind Tree School also launched its school mobile application in order to help the stakeholders create a better connect with the day to day school activities of their wards, examination, attendance, reports, homework, fee payment, etc.

Teacher Orientation Programmes were a regular feature in the school calendar, whereby the teaching faculty was kept abreast of the latest techniques and trends in education as well as school pedagogy. The faculty members attended the workshops hosted by the CBSE, some of which include the ones on Experiential Learning, Art Integrated Education, Multi disciplinary projects, Innovative Teaching Strategies, NEP 2020, etc.

We are so proud of all that our Mindtreeans have accomplished during the past year despite trying circumstances. Our remote learning plan demonstrated how we tried to pull it off together as a school community, providing students with learning opportunities to maximize their academic skills even during these hard times. We were committed to provide our children the best we could. Despite the challenges, the Management, the faculty and our Mindtreeans joined hands and worked in tandem to make the learning journey a success.