



NEWS FROM THE



Deepavali Lights Up Kindergarten!



On 7 October 2016, the kindergarten students of the Swiss School in Singapore celebrated Deepavali. A cultural celebration rather than a religious one, it was a spectacular show of costumes, artwork and theatre.

TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL

Deepavali is a Hindu festival that commemorates the return from exile of the Hindu God-king Rama and his wife, Sita. The Hindu epic, the Ramayana, illustrates the triumph of good over evil as Rama – with the aid of the monkey god, Hanuman – battles the demon, Ravana. The tale is replete with fantastic scenes of valour and fantasy. At the end of the story, Rama and Sita return home to a jubilant welcome, accompanied by a display of fireworks and glittering oil lamps.



On the day of our celebration, the children dressed in colourful clothes and carried diyas, small clay oil lamps, to the chanting of Gayatri Mantra Bellissimo. The colourful display of oriental motifs and music created an ethereal



otherworldly feeling. Each child placed his or her beautifully painted diya on the mandala in a festive restatement of the belief that good ultimately triumphs over evil.

CHARMING PERFORMANCES AND SNAKE CHARMERS

The children's charming performance of the Ramayana story was a triumph in itself. They had rehearsed with great dedication in the preceding weeks, so much so that on occasions they had suddenly broken into song in their classrooms!

Next the children were treated to an enthralling snake charming performance. Clearly the show created quite an impact on them, going by their requests to the henna artist to create snake designs. The American python was a favourite!



CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY, DIVERSITY

It was a feast for the eyes to see the children sprawled on the floor creating mandalas, working with their peers and parents. Indeed it was a fitting image to sum up the day – a wonderful and colourful celebration of creativity, community and diversity.

Article courtesy of Aditi Dastidar
Photos courtesy of Camilla Businger