

GRADE X PARENTEER PROGRAM

The students of our Grade X conducted the “Parenteer Program” on 11 August 2023. The “Parenteer Program” is a session conceptualised and conducted by The Orchid School, Baner. It is a unique initiative where a parent actively participates in conducting a session for students in their ward’s class. The aim of this initiative is to bridge gap between parents and students while offering fresh perspective on learning through expertise experience.

“Ms. Manjiri Mahajan”, is a prominent Landscape Architect and Co-Founder of “Sama Landscape Architects”. Her experience in designing outdoor spaces that harmonize with nature’s elements enriched the students with an exciting learning environment. During the session, Ms. Manjiri Mahajan engaged the students with her experiments and experiences in the field of gardening.

She aptly titled her talk “Edible Story” where she shared about her personal experiences about the last decade where she shifted her focus towards ‘going organic’ – wherein she practiced ‘less damage to the environment’ by growing her own food, changing certain habits in her household, and harmonising her daily routine with the environment.

Through her talk of “Edible Story” students incorporated concepts like climate, rainfall, soils, landforms, farming practices, crops, crop rotations, pest control, organic fertilizers and pesticides etc. She educated the students about the financial aspects of farming and the issues faced by the farmers, thus nurturing the values of sensitivity and mindfulness among them.

Ms. Mahajan emphasised on the application of the ‘Three R’s – Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse’ of climate change at home. She explained the importance of ‘Reduce, Recycle and Reuse’ by citing simple techniques such as reusing kitchen water, making compost, making NPK fertilizer, tricks to avoid plastic, making Reetha cleaner at home and much more. She emphasised that using these techniques at home will help in combating climate change.

Ms. Mahajan’s expertise and experience sharing helped students to understand the important aspects like biodiversity, ecology and conservation. She shared her travelogue stories with students through pictures of sacred groves and beautiful natural ecosystems from her travel. By sharing examples of the Yellowstone National Park, The Whale Pump, and The Valley of Flowers she explained the crucial role of all the layers of the food chain and the trophic levels.

Ms. Mahajan concluded her session by sharing her hands-on experience as a co-founder at Sama Landscape Architects where she created magnificent spaces like eco ponds, streams, mini forested areas by being mindful about ecology and client needs. Ms. Mahajan practices to apply the principles of landscape architecture in a mindful manner leading to a minimum damage to the existing environment.

In conclusion, the Parenteer Program facilitated by Ms. Manjiri Mahajan was a wholesome experience for the students as she combined curriculum concepts with real life experiences thus creating a refreshing approach to learning.



