



RATO BANGALA ONLINE SAMACHAR

APRIL 2021

This has been an unprecedented school year for all of us. As the academic year started in April 2020, so did the lockdown. And as we complete this entire 2020-21 online, we are seeing the pandemic surge again in Nepal and the region.

The resilience shown by the students, teachers, parents and staff members has helped us to move forward adapting and adjusting to all the changes we encountered. It was a drastic change for teachers as well as the parents who had to support the children for the new way of schooling as well as safety and mental and physical well-being.

Thank you to the RBS family for the support and cooperation that you have demonstrated this year.

BAL SAHITYA MAHOTSAV 2021

The sixth iteration of the Bal Sahitya Mahotsav was held from 21 to 28 February 2021. It was a pleasure to have Dr. Usha Jha, member of the National Planning Commission as the Guest of Honor for the Opening ceremony and Dr. Dorothy Barnhouse, writer and educator based in New York as the Keynote speaker.

Bal Sahitya Mahotsav is Nepal's first children's literature festival. It was started in 2015 with the vision of creating a movement to develop good reading habits, and now, in its fifth edition, it has become one. The purpose of Bal Sahitya Mahotsav is to foster a vibrant and joyful reading culture amongst children in Nepal

and to increase the awareness of the importance of reading.

BSM 2021 came with a difference and it taught us that going virtual has its perks. This edition helped us to access writers, illustrators and educators and participants from all around the world. The festival featured readings by international and national writers and storytellers; interaction with authors and illustrators; curated reading, panel discussion, writing, art and drama workshops for young readers; play readings by authors, and much more. Popular international and Nepali authors of children's books conducted reading and discussion sessions for children. We were honored to have world renowned authors conduct interactive sessions with the children. Thank you to Peter Lerangis, Bruce Coville, Marcus Pfister and David Heathfield. Thank you to the workshop conductors and panelists and participating educators, parents and children.

BOOKS IN FIVE LANGUAGES OF NEPAL

Considering that language and mother tongue play a vital role in the development of personal, social and cultural identity, Rato Bangala Kitab launched 15 children's picture books at the BSM in five different languages of Nepal: Maithili, Newari, Tamang, Bhojpuri and Tharu.

MEDIA LITERACY WEEK

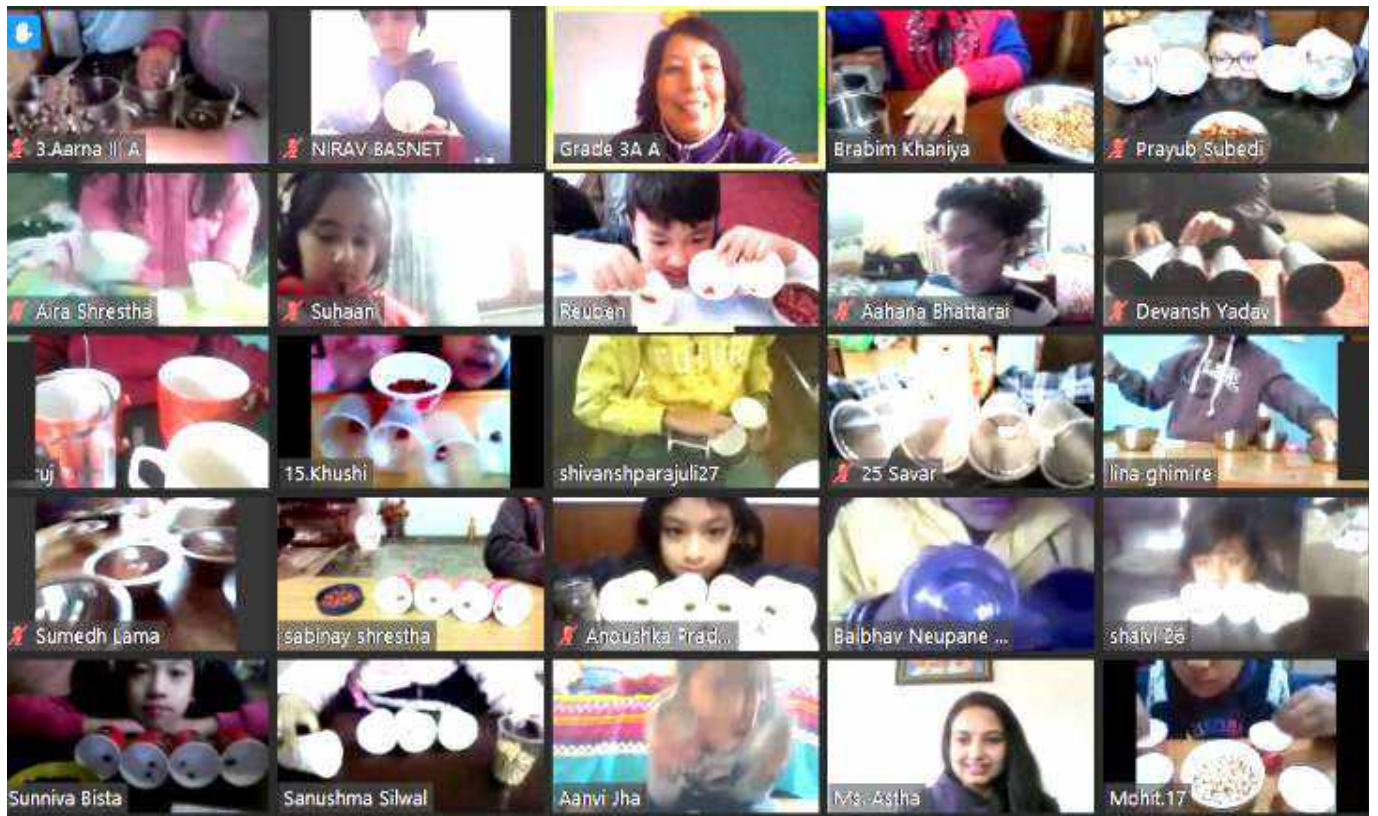
Media Literacy Week was held from 14 to 18 December, 2020 to boost the school community's awareness of

the power of media in general and of digital media in particular. Students from preschool to A level engaged in age appropriate awareness activities and projects. Guest speakers added to the students' understanding of what it means to be a responsible, respectful digital citizen and media literacy through interactive sessions. We developed the five-part Digital Citizenship Guidelines for Parents in English and Nepali. Thank you to the guest speakers Mr. Madhu Acharya, Mr. Rajib Subba, Mr. Kunda Dixit and RBS alum Atulya Pandey for giving us their valuable time to conduct meaningful sessions for the students.

The A Level students also indulged in a number of activities be it logo designing, presentations or workshops. A1 and A2 Forms prepared presentations and activities regarding the different aspects of the media such as Fake News identification; how gullible the consumers can be, its pros and cons and many more. A workshop was organized for their peers and teachers on 'Building Healthy Digital Habits' in collaboration with YLAC India (Youth Leaders for Active Citizenship India).

STORY-TELLING CLUB COLLABORATION WITH PRIX JEUNESSE

Kirsten Schneid from Prix Jeunesse Foundation conducted virtual Storytelling Club sessions from Germany consisting of five two hour sessions in total. The Story telling club promotes resilience, creativity



Grade III students learning division using cups and beans



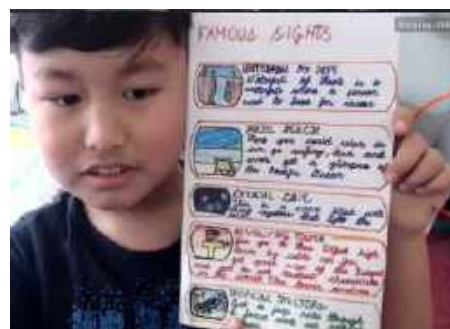
Group presentation of movable tools kids made for SS Tool Study Unit, Grade I



Yuvaan, Grade I with his watering can while doing Tool Study



Suprabal, Grade I with his Axe for the Tool Study Unit



Reuben, Grade III sharing his brochure about famous sights



Sajiva, Grade II with her Thank You Card



Aryash Grade V with his 3D model of Nepal



Atharv Grade IV with his River Model



Aranya Grade II with his model of Wheels and Axle



Siddhant, Grade II with his model of Wheels and Axle



Presentation by publisher Ms Monita, on publishing tools: part of Tool Study, Grade I



Neetyan, as a shopkeeper: Market Study, Grade III



Lijan, Grade IV with her Fiction Story Booklet



Grade III Market



Suhaani, Grade III selling goods in the virtual market



Meet the Authors from Grade II



Samipya, Grade III as a smart seller



Dental talk By Dr. Neil Pande for Grade IV students



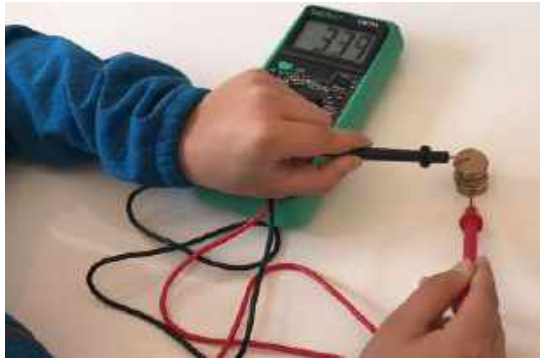
Baibhav, Grade III with his cash counter during the market set up



MAKERSPACE



Ransh, Grade II sharing his tower design



Pragyan's coin battery generated 3.39 V, Grade VI



Pranav, Grade III with his home made Weighing Scale



Kiara, Grade I enjoying making and playing with her Family Board Game- Houses and Ladders



Aishani, Grade I testing her popsicles sticks bridge



Abja, Grade III testing her cardboard bridge



Atulya, Grade I testing his cardboard bridge design



Shavar Lal, Grade VI, Chain Reaction Project



Ayansh, Grade V sharing his Drink Dispenser Fountain



Ayansh, Grade V making and testing his Coin Battery

Aarohi, Grade II working on her Tower design



Aarya, Grade V, looking through the Pin Hole Camera designed by her



and mental health of children and makes them aware of their own strengths. The first iteration was conducted with seven RBS students from grades IV to VII where the students engaged in reflecting and telling their own personal stories through interactive activities, drawing and writing. Thank you for your active participation: Nityaa from Grade 4, Aadhar, Kairabi, Shobhaya from Grade 5, Manika and Aarav from Grade 6 and Shreebisha from Grade 7. We have plans to take the Storytelling club further to children around the country with Rato Bangala Foundation.

IN-PERSON SCHOOL

The A2 students came for their practicals and practice tests from January 2021. The A2 Mock exams were held in school from 12-27 March and the A2 students are now preparing for their Cambridge final examinations which will begin from April 26, 2021. We wish them all the best for their upcoming final examination.

The A1 pre term examination was held in school from 17-26 March. Their physical classes were scheduled to begin from 31 March but due to pollution in Kathmandu we had to wait till April 5 to begin classes.

Grade X students came for physical classes and grade IX had their Mock exams from 15-26 March.

Grades VIII and X had their practice and term examinations at school from 4-12 April. We look forward to the time when we can revert to in-person classes for all.

RBSMUN 2021

Change, uncertainty, variability, transition are a reality of life. And the COVID 19 pandemic has made this very apparent to navigate this ever-shifting world, young people will need to be adaptable. And the organising committee of A Level for

RBS MUN 2021 have proved that they are.

This year, the conference adopted a theme which read, "Defining Moments in History," with the intent of discussing important historical events that have shaped the face of the world as we know it today. They very successfully brought a blend of conventional UN bodies and specialised agencies, all discussing historical issues that have shaped the modern world—an unprecedented selection of committees.

The Virtual RBS MUN was held from 22- 24 January. It was an honour to have Ms Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, the UNDP Resident Representative for Nepal as the keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony. National and International participants joined us virtually with great enthusiasm and appreciation.

Congratulations to the Secretary General Devansh Dutta, Deputy Secretary Generals Rachel Parajuli and Saharsha Dhan Tuladhar and the capable and talented dais members of this student-run conference.

LEARNING ABOUT TOOLS

Grade I studied had a Tool study unit where they explored Tools we use and know. They made connections of people's job to tools, importance of community helpers job and finally created their own movable tools. For the culminating activity they made a collage of tools and a 3D model of movable tools. They also learned about the tools used to publish a book.

WHEELS AND AXLES

Grade II learned about how wheels and axles are used in our daily life. They studied how wheels and axles are used not only in vehicles but also in some simple machines as well. They made 3D models of some simple machines with wheels and axles.

LIBRARY STUDY

Another interesting event was the Library Study for grade II where they researched about how to set up a library. They interviewed librarians and gathered information on how to smoothly operate any Library. To learn more about how an author writes a story. Experts from the press also gave information about how a book is published. Culminating Activity for Library study was a library setup by children in their homes. The children even read the stories they had written in the writers' workshop to their parents, teachers and other students from unit 1.

MARKET STUDY

Market Study was the most awaited study for grade III. After researching different types of markets and also studying how food comes to our plates, children set up their own market, this time virtually. Parents and other students visited the virtual market set up by the students. Market Study gives them the opportunity to learn about different market set up as well as teaches them how to transaction in terms of money, estimation and importance of farmers who are the providers.

RIVER STUDY

River Study was the main highlight of grade IV. They studied about the source, mouth and other terms used for water bodies. The most important aspect about river study is the heightened students awareness about the importance of keeping our rivers clean. Dr. Nirina Khadgi also had a session with the children about the conservation of river Bagmati. For the culminating activities they made the 3D model of the river system

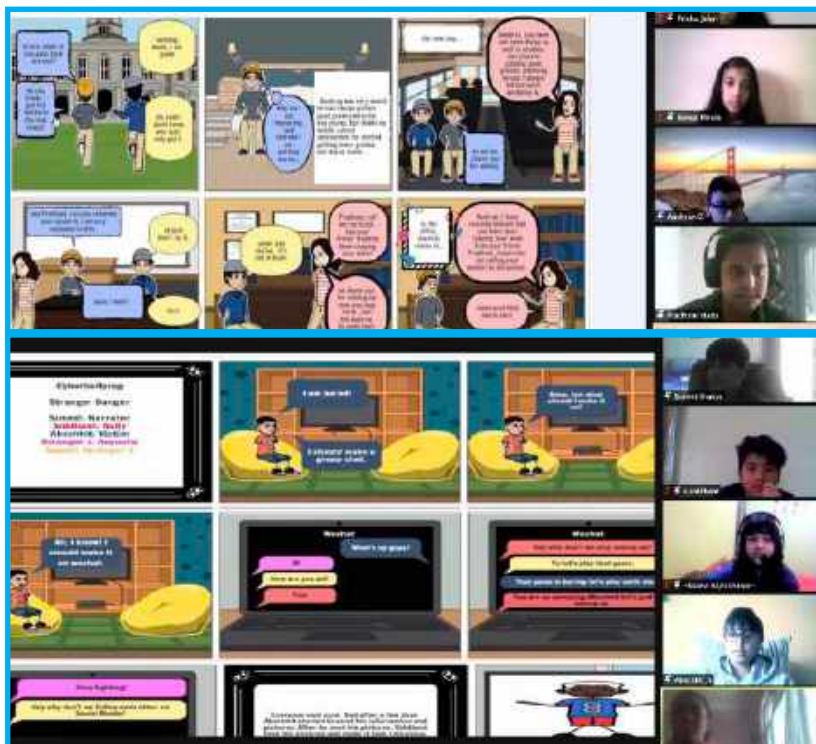
ALL ABOUT THE TEETH

Dental study is an important study unit in grade IV. Students learn all about teeth and their functions. Dr. Neil Pande visited grade IV to speak

MEDIA LITERACY WEEK 2020/2021



Guest Speakers: Rajib Subba, Kunda Dixit, Madhu Acharya and Atulya Pandey (left to right)



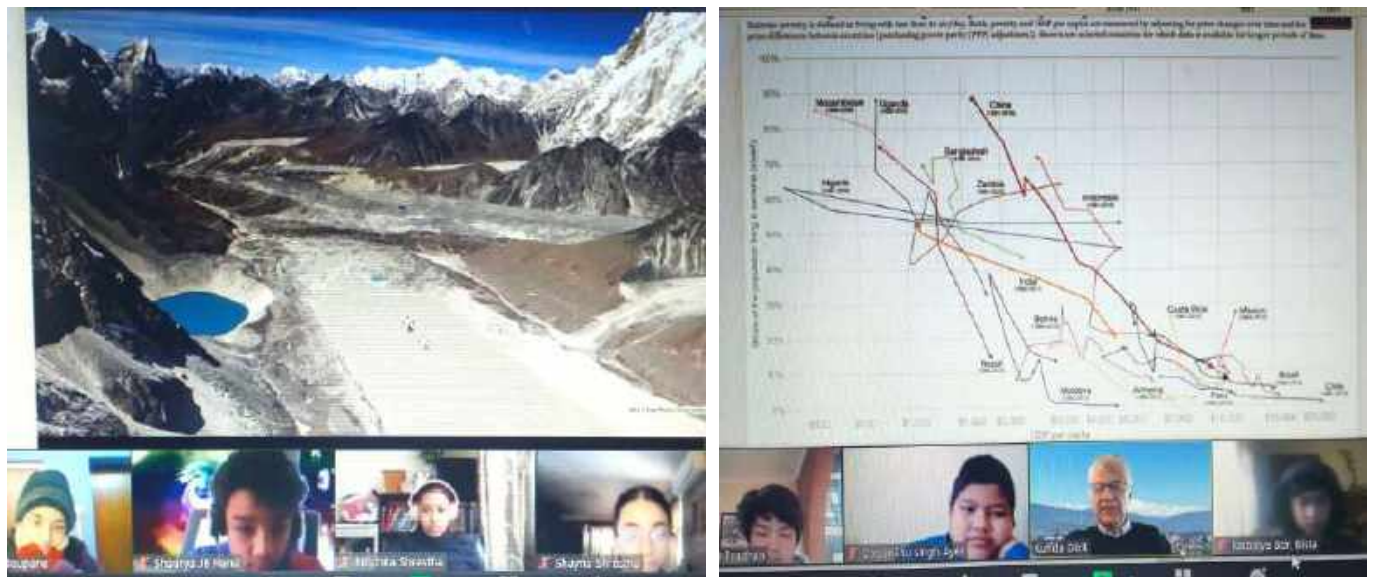
Grade VI students presenting their storyboard



Poster presentation



Literary Panel– Heroes Gods and Monsters, Grade VI



An enlightening talk program on Nepal by Mr. Kunda Dixit in Grade VII



Literary Panel– The Diary of Anne Frank, Grade VII



Virtual Presentation of 3D models based on Anne Frank's Diary by Grade VII

to students about oral health and why it is so important to take care of our teeth. At the end of this study they all made the model of the human teeth.

NEPAL STUDY

Nepal Study was the main focus of grade V, so this term they focused on the physical aspects of the country. Different activities were done virtually to learn about the physical and political division of our country. At the end children made the 3D model of our country.

JUNIOR RBS MUN 2021

On 19 February 2021 Junior RBSMUN took place virtually. The students of grade VII were divided into two committees, United Nations Human Rights Council and African Union. The topics they dealt with were the situation in Yemen and combating terrorist activities in African nations. The guidance provided by A level students allowed the delegates of Grade VII to represent their countries and conduct themselves in an admirable manner.

LITERARY PANEL

Grades VI and VII students were involved in conducting a Literary Panel based on the books studied this term. They took the role of a character from the book and interacted with each other. The costumes and props they used added to the quality of their presentations. Well done!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Mr. Ram Chandra Parajuli, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program in charge, conducted physical and virtual presentations about the program to grade IX students. We have been running this program successfully in school and we hope to see students reach their goals and achieve the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Some students were successful in

receiving Bronze and Gold Awards this year. Congratulations!

Ten students from RBS received their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award on 30 November, 2020 at the Virtual Gold Award Ceremony. We are proud of you Aneesa, Dipson, Drishti, Ishwari, Jaya, Prashanti, Prince, Rn, Samyak, Sanskriti, and Shreesh.

OUTSTANDING ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY SUPERVISOR

Congratulations to Uttam Thapa, RBS Award Leader of Duke of Edinburgh's Award, who was also awarded for being an Outstanding Adventurous Journey Supervisor. Thank you to the Award team from RBS and to the DOE national office.

COLLEGE PLACEMENTS

The college placements this year saw student getting into prestigious colleges like Williams College, Cornell University, Mt Holyoke, Dickinson, Franklin and Marshall, Lafayette, Kenyon, Hamilton, Denison, Hobart and William Smith, Clark, Hollins, Syracuse, Trinity, Depauw, Union, Haverford, Boston College, Davidson, Washington and Lee, Hampshire, Manhattanville, UMass Amherst, Drexel, Bard Berlin, Jacobs Univ, Utrecht University Netherlands, Knox, Beloit, Sewanee, Purdue, Drexel, Loyola Marymount and more.

UNDP-RBF COLLABORATION

On the occasion of International Women's day, UNDP in partnership with Rato Bangala Foundation organised a Poetry competition with the theme "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world" where the students from seven provinces of Nepal recited poems on women's empowerment and leadership. Barsha Mahato from Shree Adhunik Rastriya Secondary School, Bagmati Province was declared the

winner by a panel of judges that included Yogendra Yadhava, Bimala Tumkhewa, Deepak Rauniyar and Dr. Divya Dawadi. Mahato's Maithili language poem was entitled, "Nari Nai Chhai KeKro Par Bhari" which depicted women not as a burden but as empowerment.

Prior to the main event a poetry workshop for the teachers/principals of the schools participating nationwide was conducted by Miss Sudha Ojha and Ankur Guragain. Samridhi Bista, Ankur Guragain, Yash Dhakal, Yangchen Lama, Sabhyata Shrestha facilitated the provincial and national events.

RBS DEBATE CLUB GOES PLACES

The debate club has been very active with online training for members over the community platform 'discord'. The members participated in WDF pro-ams, Hongkong WSDC, Christ University Parliamentary Debate, Qatar Universities Debate League, to name a few. Larisha, the president of the club along with her team organised the RBS debates from 18-20 December, 2020. After Mahakumbha 2021, Larisha (A2), Nirupam and Shalupa (A1) have been selected to represent Nepal. The event will be hosted in Macau from July 25th to 5th August. We wish them the best.

RBS STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Level 2 with 3DI

Level 2 of 3DI training was conducted by Craig Hansen of 3DI Institute New Zealand with twelve RBS teachers in March 2021. They had an enriching experience discussing the ADDIE Model, Zone of Proximal Development and Merrill's Principles of instruction. They also had case studies on macro and micro structure of learning intervention. They were introduced to different applications to manage the digital learning and had to submit a project on micro/macro intervention of learning.

RBSMUN 2020/021



Ms Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, the UNDP Resident Representative at the RBSMUN 2021



HISTORIC NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION



HISTORIC SECURITY COUNCIL



INTERNATIONAL PRESS COUNCIL AND PRESS CORPS



HEAD OF LOGISTICS AND CORE LOGISTICS



आपतकालीन संकट बैठक



SECRETARIAT



EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE ARABIC STATES



INDIAN DECOLONIZATION ASSEMBLY



HEADS OF IT





Story-telling Club in collaboration with Prix Jeunesse



UNDP-RBF collaboration on the occasion of International Women's day



Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awardees



PTA meeting



Distribution of educational material



Early childhood students enjoying playing material in Shree Bal Binod Secondary School, Natole, Lalitpur



Students of partner schools busy in BSM orientation workshop

Staff Development with Judith Gold

The grade 1 team has been meeting with Bank Street trainer Judith Gold from New York, to plan an entire unit on Tools this term. Judith is a long time staff developer at RBS.

Community of Inquiry Course for Teachers

The entire group of teachers from Preschool, Units 1 and 2 have completed the training on implementing the Community of Inquiry in the online classroom. The session was conducted by the leadership team lead by Principal Milan Dixit with Coordinators Rekha Pandey and Jenny Manandhar. The teachers have gone through the important aspects of being effective online teachers.

Forest School Leader Training

Our physical education teacher, Mr. Rabindra Maharjan, is taking the Forest School Leadership Training which is a year long in depth accredited program based in the United Kingdom. It is a training package designed to provide skills and knowhow to teachers and other professionals to create an environment for outdoor education that helps students to get engaged and explore the woodlands and natural landscapes in a unique way also promoting holistic development. This will mean that we will have a highly qualified forest school member with us who will help us take our forest school program forward.

Creative and Engaging Storytelling for Teachers (Crest)

Grade IX teacher, Ms Archana Rai, took part in the Creative and Engaging Storytelling for teachers course (CrEST) March 13- 28 by David Heathfield, International storyteller and trainer. In this course she not only learnt the techniques of storytelling but also the importance of the oral tradition of storytelling as well as the power of stories in celebrating cultural diversity.

RBS PTA REPRESENTATIVES

Two parents each represent Grades I-III, IV-VI and VII-X respectively in the RBS Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Parents will qualify for the PTA representative candidate only after their child has completed a year at Rato Bangala. This year two places will be vacant in Group 1 which is composed of grades I through III and one place will be vacant in Group 3 which is Grades VII-X. We look forward to having enthusiastic parents volunteer for these positions. Please be in touch with Prakriti Karmacharya at prakriti@ratobangala.edu.np you are interested to nominate yourself to be a representative. We thank the PTA representatives for their advice and support through the year.

RATO BANGALA PARTNERSHIP IN OUTREACH PROGRAM (RBPOP) UPDATE

Orientation Session for Students

In order to take the Bal Sahitya Mahotsav(BSM) to all the community schools in Lalitpur, RBPOP organized a BSM orientation session for 72 students of Grades VI-VII from 11 community schools. They learned different activities and sessions that can be organized in BSM

Orientation Session for Principals

School leaders from those 11 schools participated in the BSM orientation session. They learned about the children's literature festival and showed their commitment to organize BSM in their own schools.

ECD cohort II Training

4 days ECD training for 10 schools of cohort II was organized with all safety precautions. Ms. Kalpana Parajuli along with the trainers from RBF handled the training where the EC teachers learned to make material for their classrooms and participated

in sessions on teaching Language and Math.

Brainstorming Session with Principals

Under Early Childhood Development Project, principals of 22 partner schools participated in a day long workshop where they enjoyed different play based learning activities. An interactive discussion session on parent education was conducted. The notes on the discussion are taken as the first step on developing a parenting education package which will be organized for the parents in the 22 schools.

Books and stationery materials distribution to EC class

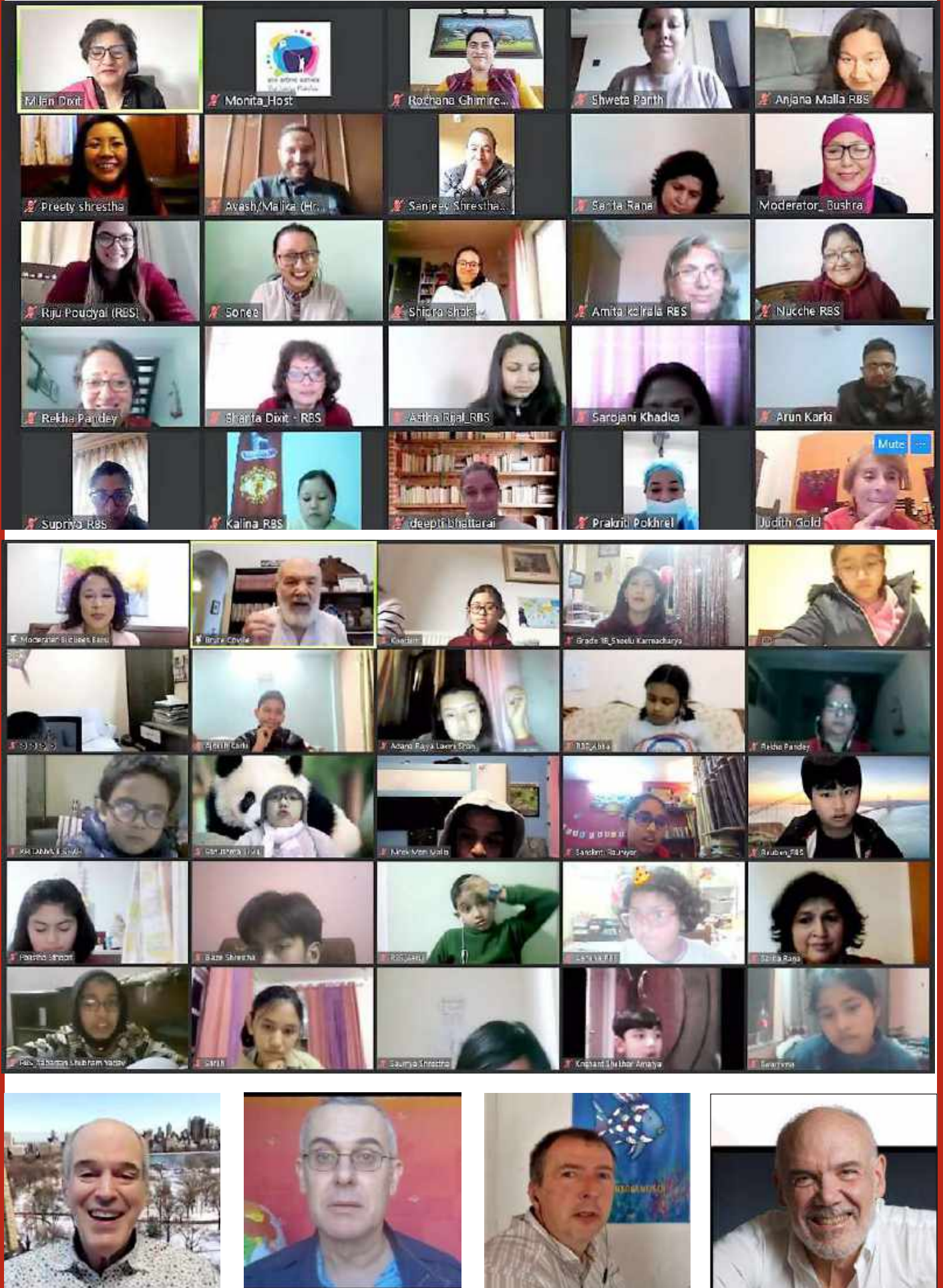
RBPOP distributed material to 1,000 students of early childhood class in 22 partner schools. Each packet included 2 reusable masks, sketch books, drawing books, a packet of pencils, erasers, sharpener, crayons, exercise books, story books, and a set of eight dice. Material for the ECD classroom included playing materials like puzzles, shape sorting box, set of eight dice, number fish and shape stacks. The objective is to help children engage and learn while they are at home as the pandemic has made schools very irregular. RBPOP Board members participated in the distribution program.

Radio Program

A unique radio program called Bal Sikai has been aired for the past several months through a network of 200 radio stations nationwide. The program started during the nationwide lockdown period and has been aired continuously. Originally planned for students, a separate episode for parents and teachers has also been added. As of now, the program is aired three times a week, two sessions for students and one for teachers and parents. A total of 101 sessions have been aired, 89 for students and 12 for teachers and parents.

***School is scheduled to reopen on 27 May, 2021
Have a great break. Stay safe.***

BAL SAHITYA MAHOTSAV 2021



Peter Lerangis

David Heathfield

Marcus Pfister

Bruce Coville



Kanak Dixit



Beth Norford





Promina Shrestha

Nicola Streeten

Kripa Joshi

Dorothy Barnhouse

Stacy Pigg

Gina Gaglino

Monita Gurung