

Deep dive into ocean education with Global Pathways School

I, Dr. Monta Ray, the mascot of IOCEAN, along with the Zooreach educator team comprising of Payal Molur, Tandrili Baruah, and Swaathi Na made its first official visit to Global Pathways School on 12 July 2023, to conduct an engaging and informative workshop on ocean education for the students. Ms. Sruthi M., the teacher in charge had attended our IOCEAN workshop for educators and decided to invite us for a special workshop with her class 6 students. With a mission to promote ocean education, the workshop aimed to spread more awareness about the ocean and its biodiversity. However, little did we know that an unforgettable adventure was about to unfold.

Students captivated by an array of fascinating ocean specimens.



Immersed in wonder.

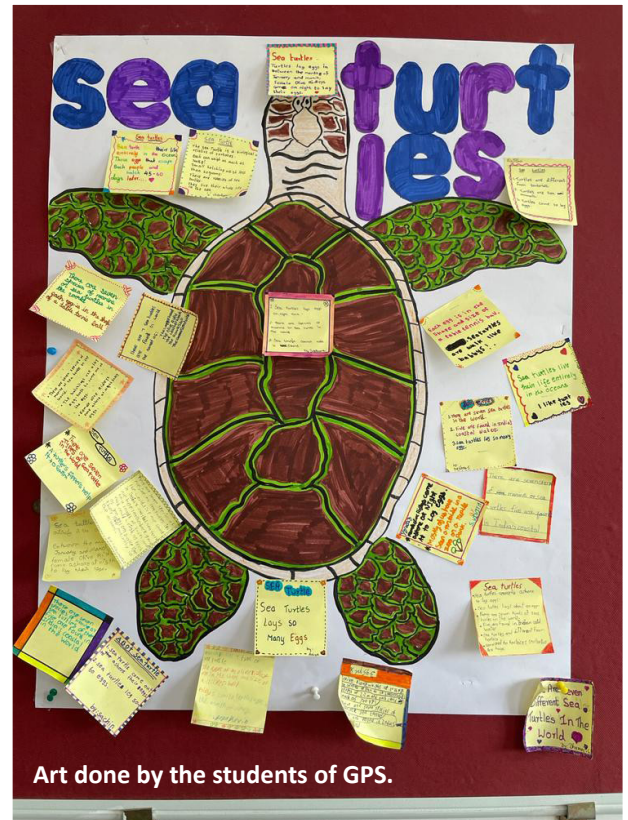


Students taking a vow to protect the ocean.

All fifty students gathered in anticipation in one classroom, their eyes shining with excitement welcomed us with a warm 'good morning'. As the workshop began, Payal introduced me, Dr. Monta Ray, to the kids as they took pledge to be friends with me and communicate whatever they learnt in the workshop to other people.

To kickstart the event, Tandrali gave a presentation to all the kids present in the classroom. She spoke briefly about my home, the ocean, the friends that share the space with me, the interconnectedness between humans and the ocean, the threats we face, and how everyone can work together to make the ocean healthy. The students listened intently; their minds transported to the depths of the ocean. At the end of the presentation, the kids were astonished by the number of species present in the ocean and how much is left to be discovered.

The students were then divided into two groups of twenty-five each. One group of students taken up by Tandrali and Swaathi was introduced to the different marine specimens. They learnt about the different parts of the species, how to differentiate between a male and a female and the vital role



Art done by the students of GPS.



Students sharing their feedback on the workshop leaving their thoughts on sticky notes.

they play in protecting our planet and us. The students marvelled at how tiny the species looked compared to the ones shown in cartoons. They were also amazed to see with their naked eyes the intricate life that existed just beyond their shores.

The second group was given the task of making their own imaginary animal based on the information they had learnt till now by Payal. It was wonderful to see students exploring their creativity and coming up with such imaginative ideas like a jelly fish that had tentacles made of heart, a fish that had the structure of a map and many more. After one hour, the teams were switched allowing them to take part in both the activities.

To encourage continued learning, the team provided students with a wildlife booklet and they urged them to explore further and

6-4
I Learnt more about Bio diversity thank you for teaching me.
I saw crab, shell, sea horses etc... and thank you for showing me the those sea animals. I want to now more about sea animals

D. Aniga

It was intresting to learn about and it and I was willing to see the animals which you all showed next

as I want to learn more about sea animals to



Ocean insights with captivating presentation.

embrace their roles as ocean ambassadors. The workshop concluded with feedback from the students and what more they want to learn about the ocean. The students left the workshop filled with a sense of responsibility and a newfound passion for the ocean.

Acknowledgments: I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the principal of Global Pathways School, Latha Ma'am and Shruthi M. Ma'am for the trust and belief in our efforts and for their support in conducting the workshop successfully.

Testimonial from Sruthi M, Teacher, Global Pathways School: "IN ONE DROP OF WATER ARE FOUND ALL THE SECRETS OF ALL THE OCEANS" -Kahlil Gibran

It was a good kick start for our students of Grade 6 to know more about ocean biodiversity. We are feeling privileged to thank Ms. Payal and the team who took initiative to sharpen the knowledge of our students in the ocean and its current situation in this era through their engaging presentations, sharing experiences, activities, learning the sea creatures through touch and feel concept. The interesting part of this session from our students' end was, they got an opportunity to see many rare sea specimens which broadened their level of thinking to the next level. As a teacher it's easy for us to collaborate their workshop experience with our academics in teaching science. As one GPS community, we thank the team for keeping up their good work in empowering the student's community on ocean biodiversity which will be a slingshot to tomorrow's future in conserving many ocean species.

Tandrali Baruah, Educator, Zoo Outreach Organisation