

Celebrating the journey of childhood

SUJATHA SUBRAMAN

DAV Public School in Nerul conducted a unique two-day event titled 'Bachpan' to celebrate childhood and focus on challenges associated with the growing up years.

The inaugural event commenced with a prayer song followed by DAV anthem. After the welcome song and dance, principal Jose Kurian in his welcome address greeted all the guests and special invitees. He said, "The aim of Bachpan is to promote talent among students by providing the right platform and to bring a collaborative effort through interaction between parents, teachers and students. And to rekindle and strengthen all possible avenues for children to be happier, stress-free and above all cared for, rightly understood and unconditionally loved by all parents, teachers and elders."

Principal Kurian stated, children are often traumatised, confused and rendered helpless and are forced to nurture within themselves. They may be in pain or hurt that may go unhealed all their life if children and their parents are not made conscious, aware and equipped with right guidelines, directions and knowledge.

Bachpan, which commenced on a grand note witnessed some power-packed performance by the students on stage. Students also participated in various competitions and activities while their parents and teachers relived their childhood joys. The chief guest on the first day was popular personality from the ad world Prahlad

Kakkar. Prabod Mahajan, vice president of DAV Group welcomed the chief guest and appreciated the school for organising the event. Mahesh Chopra, treasurer of DAV Group also graced the occasion. Principals from various DAV institutions and other schools in Navi Mumbai like DPS, Balbharti, Apeejay, St Mary's were also present dur-



Qawwali performance by students



Several activities were organised as part of the event



Students have a gala time at the two-day event

ing the inaugural session. Addressing the gathering, the chief guest stated, "I love working with children as they have a pure mind hence can be moulded easily. I have a scuba diving school in Andaman Island, where children are being trained. Today's children are lucky as they have a wide choice with respect to their career. During our times, it was

a limited choice. Whatever you do, do it with passion and success will be yours."

Bachpan depicted various aspects of childhood from healthy diet to modern day challenges like drug abuse. Through skits, posters, charts and talk show these issues were communicated to the visitors. Cultural programme on stage included drama, qawwali,

group dance competition and fashion show. Dandiya dance was again a fun experience for all. Magic show, interactive story telling session, art exhibition were the other attractions which children cherished.

The following day, Dr James Thomas, Cardiac surgeon from DY Patil University graced the occasion as the chief guest. He urged students to take advantage of the opportunities provided in the school which will enable them to explore their hidden talents. The

entire school wore a festive look resembling a mela or carnival. Each classroom depicted one important aspect related to childhood like tips for good parenting, how to boost self esteem in children etc. Serious issues such as health concerns due to obesity and the importance of balanced diet were also highlighted. The classroom addressing the topic child safety and security included information on how to prevent accidents, how to keep small

children away from gadgets etc. The classroom dealing with drug abuse contained detailed information on the harmful effects of drugs on our body ways to overcome the addiction and tips for parents to identify children of substance abuse. In short, it was two days of edutainment where fun and information were available on one platform.