This magazine is by the Media and Communications Class at Auroville’s The Learning Community (TLC). Kids aged 10-15 participate. We aim to develop writing skills and understanding of how Media works. You can pick it up at PTDC or read its laminated version at the library. Facilitated by Petra.
EDITORIAP  (Don’t read it rap it)

By Petra and Milo

In this issue you’ll learn a lot like saving squirrels and what not to assume is magic these days. And you can read about ways to produce slow motion or reach the top of a mountain. It may be a flop, this issue of Squeak, but we care not for we get a lot out of creating the lot. So go on, read about Japanese comics and Wow. And work on the fun-mix!

Squeak [skweek]

Slang: to confess or turn informer; squeal.

For feedback, questions or to request a pdf-version of the magazine please e-mail TLCSqueak@auroville.org.in. To donate, use TLC Trips Account 3229, and mention “SQUEAK”.


We thank Audrey and others for your continued generous support!

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How to raise a baby squirrel

The type of squirrel we find here in Auroville is called Striped Palm Squirrel. Many people think they are chipmunks because they look alike but they are squirrels. Chipmunks have stripes on their faces and their bodies, squirrels don’t. These furry, fluffy creatures you see squeaking in the gardens and the forests belong there, but if one falls out of its nest what do you do?

The Striped Palm Squirrel has a lifespan of 10 to 15 years. The female makes a cosy nest out of leaves and vegetable fibre, or other fibre, located in a tree, a gap in a roof or in a hole in the wall. The babies are born blind and fur-less and drink milk every hour, until they reject it. Then they slowly feed on fruit and, after that, raw grains, shoots of plants and nuts and buds. After about three months they are able to survive on their own and the mother leaves.

If a baby squirrel falls out of its nest do not put it back! Why? Because the mother recognizes it only from the scent she has rubbed on it, and if that scent is different because you picked the baby up she will kill the young squirrel, thinking that it is not her baby. Rather take the squirrel inside and if it has its eyes closed and does not have fur yet, make it a small nest. Use a loose towel and cover the squirrel so that it is kept nice and warm. Make the nest so that the squirrel can crawl out if it is too hot. Also make sure the towel is not too tightly closed as the squirrel will not be able to breathe. Put the towel carefully in a basket and always be very gentle with the delicate creature. If the full nest fell out and is still intact, use that instead, at least until it becomes smelly, which often happens, at which point the squirrel mother makes a new one and you can switch to the towel. If there is more than one squirrel from the same nest you can put them together, but if from different nests put them separately because even if they were just born they will kill each other if mixed.

Baby squirrels make a rather loud and high-pitched cry for food. To prepare a mixture of ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts), see this box for instructions:

**ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts)** is a special combination of dry salts that is mixed with water. You can get it at the pharmacy. Here is how you prepare it:

1. Put the contents of the ORS packet in a clean container. Check the packet for directions and add the correct amount of filtered water. Too little water makes it too salty and not healthy to drink.
2. Add only water; do not add to milk yet.
3. Stir well and heat it up so it is not cold but also not too hot.
4. Keep clean and put in the fridge after use.

Put the prepared ORS in a small plastic syringe (without needle) and hold the squirrel up right (head up). Slowly put a small drop on the mouth and be careful not to put the drops on the nose, otherwise the squirrel cannot breathe. If the squirrel licks it up that’s a good sign that the squirrel is healthy and strong. If the squirrel does not eat it, the liquid is either too cold or the squirrel is not hungry. Squirrels do not eat if they are cold, so check on this. Not even their feet should be cold; it is not good for them. Try again to feed after half-an-hour or so. Keep putting drops on the mouth until it does not lick it up anymore, and then put the mixture in the fridge. Softly and carefully rub the belly of the squirrel with your finger in an up-to-down motion so that it can poo and pee (the squirrel’s mother does this with her tongue).
Repeat every hour, for 10-15 minutes, even at night. For the night put the squirrel in the cloth nest and heat up water. Put the water in a bottle and keep next to the cloth so that it heats up the cloth through the night. Make sure it is not too hot and change when cold. As long as the squirrel has its eyes still closed, feed it 40% milk + 60% ORS (as for Day 5 - see hereunder for proportions). It should be fed every 1-2 hours, even at night. Once it opens its eyes, feed as per Day 6 and so on.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Only ORS</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30% milk + 70% ORS</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60% milk + 40% ORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10% milk + 90% ORS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40% milk + 60% ORS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>70% milk + 30% ORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20% milk + 80% ORS</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50% milk + 50% ORS</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>80% milk + 20% ORS</td>
</tr>
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From Day 5 onwards add a little honey. From Day 10 onwards use 90% milk + 10% ORS until they reject the milk. Don't forget to change the mixture from time to time before the milk goes bad. If the baby squirrel is crying at night it is not necessarily hungry but may simply be missing its mother. Know that they love cuddles.

When the squirrel opens its eyes and starts growing fur you can feed it every two to four hours. It will start to run around, so better get quite a big basket that can close, or a big cage. Still give the squirrel its towel to sleep and cuddle in, though. If the squirrel is big and has a fluffy tail and jumps and runs around, you can start every other meal with a mixture of 90% milk and banana. Just blend it with a mixer and check if the squirrel likes it. If it does, put a small slice of banana or papaya in a little pot in the cage and see if it gets eaten. If yes, put some more but make sure that you still give milk with honey every day.

Once the squirrel rejects milk it already has little teeth so you can give, in small amounts, different kinds of local fruits, non-citrus, like banana, watermelon, pineapple, papaya, mango and chickoo. It is very important to keep a small bowl of water. It should not be too deep or wide because squirrels cannot swim. Don't ever wash a squirrel unless really necessary. Make it a small playground out of branches, leaves, bark and other natural stuff. And from time to time put in a branch of neem, tamarind or banana leaf, as they will play with, chew on, or hide in those.

After a week of fruits you can give a bowl of grains, e.g. raw rice, red dhal, black dhal, corn, nuts and seeds. Anything raw goes, but they usually love corn. During the final few weeks it is important not to touch the squirrel, but to teach it to be scared of you. Otherwise, when you let it free it will be tame and will easily get caught by other animals. Because it is not used to being harmed, it will go up to a dog, e.g., like it would to you, only it would get eaten. Also, during these weeks I put a clay pot somewhere in the cage, with some hay inside, so that the squirrel can make its own nest inside that too.

Very important is that you can only let the squirrel free after two to three months, or it will not survive by itself. Take the cage to a forest nearby and hang it in a tree, to keep safe from mongoose. Open the door and leave the cage there for a day or two. I also hang the clay pot in the same tree, horizontally, so that no rain gets in. If the squirrel has not yet left the cage maybe it is too early and in that case take it back and try again in the same place the following week.

For me, it is always the hardest to let squirrels go and every time I want to keep them forever. But then I see other squirrels in the garden or the forest and how they love to jump around from tree to tree, from branch to branch. So I see that they are meant to be wild and free and that it would not be fair to keep them from running around in the open. When you let the squirrels go they are happy and can start a new adventure in the beautiful forest, meeting other squirrels, all thanks to you.

*By Lore, age 15, who also took all the photos and has cared for more than 15 squirrels so far*
I think people like watching magic because when they leave after a show all they can think about is: “How did it happen?” To me, normally, if something is very complex, I don’t like to try to figure it out, but with magic it is different. I enjoy trying to figure magic out even though I rarely find the answer. The fact that magic is so hard to understand is what makes it amazing to me.

The definition of magic is “the power of apparently influencing events by using mysterious or supernatural forces”, but in my opinion what makes something magic is if there is no logical answer to how the act happened.

**THE HISTORY**

The term “magic” comes from the Greek word mageia. Long, long ago Greeks and Persians had been at war for centuries, and the Persian priests, called magosh in Persian, came to be known as magoi in Greek. Ritual acts of Persian priests came to be known as mageia, and then magika which eventually came to mean any “foreign, unorthodox, or illegitimate ritual practice”.

For years and years people have been practising magic and sorcery, although it wasn’t tricks then, but rather sorcery was really being accomplished. The first form of magic was associated with the devil or evil and was more connected to the supernatural. It was not the same as how we think of magic today. In 1584, a man from England called Reginald Scot published a book called “The discovery of witchcraft”, part of which was about devil magic and the fear factor.

**A TRICK YOU CAN LEARN!**

All you need for this trick is an ordinary pack of cards. Ask a member of the audience to take 21 cards and after memorizing any one card, to shuffle them. You now have to locate this card. Deal the 21 cards into three piles in rotation, face upwards. Ask the person who choose the card, which of the piles contains the chosen card. Pick up the other piles making sure the indicated pile is between the other two. In total do this three times. The selected card is now the 11th card in the pack of 21.

**MY MAGICAL GRANDFATHER PETER**

My mother’s father (my grandfather) was not what you would call a magician, but he did magic. So I decided to interview my mum and grandma on what they thought of his magic and how it opened them up to debunking the claims that magicians used supernatural methods. I also wanted to know how it was to live with someone who did magic.

It turns out he didn’t do that many tricks but the one that both my mum and grandma liked the most was a trick where he pulled his thumb off the rest of his hand. They liked this trick not because it was hard to do or actually that amazing, but because of the atmosphere that he created around himself using his awesome magic words, like *drumbachi, feshcalabow, suck my toe, cerpies, capala, haha*...
He also used lots of facial expressions, told stories that went with the trick, and so on.

When I asked them how good they would rate him on a scale from one to ten they said nine for precisely that reason, i.e. the atmosphere that he created around himself. My mum also said “it sowed the seed and I now believe in magic and that’s what counts more than actually delivering the trick.” Neither of them knows exactly where or who he learnt his magic from but my grandma thinks he picked some of it up from magicians that used to pass through the town.

My mum reckons he did his magic because he liked an audience and needed to believe in the unbelievable. And, simply, he just wanted to inspire people. Neither she nor my grandma remembers the first time he did magic for them but mum says: “His magic words were a greeting. When other people saw me they would say hello, but he would start with *drumbachi*...”

She also told me that she thinks magic is an essential part of a kid’s upbringing because kids are still open to the unknown!

*By Jasmine, age 14*

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**S l o w  m o t i o n**

I really like slow motion. I’ve played around with it quite a lot. The style is achieved when each film frame is captured at a rate much faster than that which it will be played back at. When replayed at normal speed, time appears to be moving more slowly. A term for creating slow motion film is “over cranking”, which refers to hand cranking an early camera at a faster rate than normal. i.e. faster than 24 frames per second (fps).

Slow motion can also be achieved by playing normally a recorded footage at a slower speed. This is usually used at football, basketball and other sports, when something is worth observing more closely. But, in my opinion, the quality is worse that way; because the slower the frames pass you will need more fps.

For example, the normal frame rate is 24 frames per second. If I shoot a video with that amount of fps and then turn it into half the speed, it will display 12 fps and it will look like it is buffering or of bad quality. The traditional method for achieving super-slow motion is through high-speed photography. It is a more sophisticated technique that uses specialized equipment to record fast phenomena, usually for scientific applications.

Slow motion is ubiquitous, i.e. used a lot, in modern filmmaking for capturing cool stunts or dramatic moments. Slow motion works really well with water and with scenes of something, or someone, falling.

*By Yam, age 14*
Manga

Manga are Japanese comics, which are sometimes translated into other languages. Manga are always in black and white. It is not the same thing as anime, because manga are books and anime are Japanese animated series. The first manga created did not have a name and was created in 1902 by Kitazawa. I am going to write here a little about different famous manga, which are also normally made into series (anime).

1) Dragon Ball

One of the first manga ever made and the first one that I read was created by Akira Toriyama and edited by Shueisha from 1984 to 1995. It is a manga of 42 volumes and 444 episodes (for the anime). Dragon Ball tells the story of Son Goku (you pronounce it Son Gokou) in a magical world where he needs to fight all kinds of people that want to govern the universe. Some of them will become his friends and some will die.

My point of view: “Good but a bit repetitive”. By Satyavan, age 13

Poem: Faith

His feet dragging on the sand
And the wind almost
Blowing him off balance
But still pulling out of himself
The last bit of energy
So faithful he was
Whether death was gonna take him or not
Though he knew it was
Almost gonna be impossible
To reach his destination
The storm was raging louder
And the wind was getting
Stronger stronger stronger
Till suddenly he felt nothing no
Pain no sand under his feet
Then a big yellow light
Appeared in front of him
Blinding him for seconds and
In front of him was his paradise
What he was always looking for
His dream came true it almost felt
like magic

Poem and illustration by Asia, age 11
UNSOLVED MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD #3

I've wondered what things are unsolved in this world of ours, so I got together this list of mysteries of the world, from the Taos Hum to the Nazca geoglyphs. Read on to find out some of the unsolved.

The "Wow!" signal. The "Wow!" signal is the name given to the radio signal detected by Jerry R. Ehman on 15th of August, 1977. He was working on a SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) project at the Big Ear telescope of Ohio State University. The signal bore unexpected signs of being sent by aliens around the Chi Sagittarii star group.

By Eunsu, age 11

To the tippy top

We, meaning Eunsu, Satyavan and I, woke up at around 7.30am and played cards, a fun game called Danish Buster. We played until 8 and then went to the main rock to enjoy the sunlight and give company to the team that were preparing breakfast. Then, at around 8.30, everyone else came and we ate. About half an hour later we heard the church bell. It started with a little melody, then nine loud blows, one after the other. Each hour this would happen, except at ten o’clock there would be ten blows and at eleven there would be eleven blows, etcetera...

Anyway, at 9am we went to pack our bags because at 9.30 we were leaving on a trip, a trip up a mountain. So we went to our tents. I shared a tent with Eunsu and Satyavan. It was a nice tent though it was very small. It was meant for four people but I honestly think it was meant for only two, but I guess also for three people it was okay. At first we were going to be five people, with Abhay and Jalin, but in the end they left because we had a small argument. We told them that it was way too small for five, so they agreed after a while and shared a tent somewhere else.

We were ready at around 9.20 and left at 9.30. We started by walking through a forest of mango trees. It was so peaceful and it almost seemed like we were all characters in a fictional story walking through a magical forest, because of how beautiful it was. Also the way the trees grew and the bright green grass really gave you that feel.

On one side of the mango plantation there was an old house missing a roof. It was only one room though so it is more likely it was shed of some sort. The shed was made from bricks and concrete,
but you wouldn’t really notice that since the whole room, inside and outside, was covered in moss. We walked in a line on a small path through the deserts with patches of greenery to an opening. We came through to see miles and miles of farms, most of which were filled with tapioca stumps. In the distance there were mountains, and one of those mountains we were going to climb, climb to the tippy top! So we kept walking with the sun watching us from above our heads and with the bright blue sky to admire. Not a single cloud in sight. It was very beautiful and all but also very, very hot.

At that point I had taken the lead and started navigating the group. I probably wasn’t that good at it, but it was fun and none of the adults were very sure on what we were aiming for. The only plan was to get to the top. I liked it as it was more of a “go with the flow” kind of trek. After about 45 minutes we reached the start of the mountain! By then we were all quite tired, but we kept moving as we wanted to get there by 12 noon and have lunch. Now I think it was around here that everything went downhill (but still up the mountain) as at around this point we got a bit stuck. There was no clear way through and a lot of the people in the group had got stung by fire ants!

I could see an overgrown path and that we had two choices; we could either go back, or keep going. Now I probably made the wrong choice... I ran through, bush whacking to the other side, where there was a small clearing. Jalin came after me and we waited there for about ten to 15 minutes. Then the others came and we kept walking up. I was bush whacking the rest of the way up and Jalin was clearing the way a little more to make it easier for the others to walk through the dense jungle. And finally we were there. Well, not at the tippy top but at this really nice rock with a big tamarind tree above us to provide shade. But still after everything I was not yet satisfied, because I wanted to be at the tippy top! Not here.

So I tried to persuade Jalin and a few others to come with me to the tippy top, but Jalin was the only one that followed. So we walked for about two minutes until we came across a large dirt road that went all the way down the mountain. At first I was depressed since everything we had gone through was in vain and all the scratches on my legs were pointless. But then I was just happy that at least we didn’t need to go back down the way we had come because we could use the dirt road back. So we took the dirt road up a little more. The road kind of twirled around the whole mountain, so we were up in no time. At the top there was a small temple and next to that a more bushy area and a few rocks like steps, almost, to a medium sized rock in the centre of all the bushes. So we climbed to that rock. And from that point you could see everything and the breeze dried off all the sweat and if you stood up you really felt like a God looking down at everything. Jalin left to get more people and came back with Abhay and a slice of bread. He gave the slice of bread to me and said “it's lunch”. I ate it in two bites. Soon after we left to meet the others. We told them about the road and the beautiful rock and the temple. Then we packed up and left. We left at around 2pm and reached the camp by 4pm. It was a fun trip and I got to the tippy top!

*By Milo, age 13*
Answers to the Riddles in issue 5

1. It is raining heavily. Five people get out of a big car, four get wet and one doesn’t, how is it possible? No raincoat, no umbrella. Answer: one person is in a coffin
2. If you have two you have two, if you have three you have three, but if you have one you have none, what is it? Answer: choice(s)
3. It makes mountains fall, trees topple and plants wither, what is it? Answer: time
4. Why did the cyclops close his school? Answer: He had only one pupil
5. What do frogs do with paper? Answer: ripit, ripit, ripit
Photo from the recent play Citizen One, by Jesse and Johnny with help from TLC and many others. Photo by Marco Sarolli:
Hidden stuff found – answers to last issue By Jalin

See: Safety pin, Ear, Squid, Hand, Candle, Shark, Fork, Eye, Sword, Key, Bottle, Face, Bomb, Mushroom, Ring

E-mail us if your unit wants to put a message on this page and support the printing of the Squeak:

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