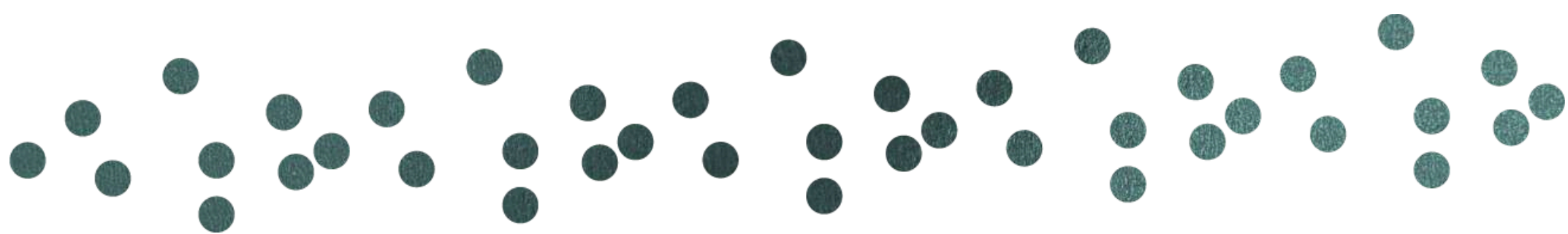




Learning... Through the Eyes of Our Learners

MAY 2026



Across the Bridge to Leadership

Model African Union didn't choose me. I chose her. Her, because this supercurricular seems so graceful, yet powerful at the same time, just like the attributes of a woman. Growing up as an only child left me far behind, akimbo from other developing children. Shy, timid, constrained, insecure, overlooked, unsure of my own voice, yet a dying passion for diplomacy, leadership, and public speaking. Public speaking was a 'me' thing; I loved it when I did it.

But leadership? No one ever took me seriously – way too short, funny-looking, or just not carrying the charisma those other girls did. Giving up was my next option, until MAU met me across that bridge. She didn't just boost my sense of belonging, she treated me like her own, bringing joy and smiles even on the rainiest days.

Arguing across the room, delivering silent but killing speeches, and almost every time trembling behind the podium. She made me realise that being born a leader was insufficient, but how you develop the skill and mould it in little, unexpected moments that show who you are. She led me to find peace in myself and confidence in my mistakes. Convention always links MAU to law, economics, and other reading subjects, but MAU changed that perspective for me.



Debating on topics like "Strengthening African Health Systems in a Shifting Global Order" interlinked deeply with my passion for diplomacy and medicine as well, helping me untangle my confused thoughts.

This topic did not only expose me to health sectors, dangerous diseases with little to no cure, or how to manage these situations with independence and maturity, but it also ignited a flickering sense of empathy for people living within these realities, something I did not know I lacked all along.

Maybe, in the end, she did choose me. She chose to shape my understanding of leadership, not as power or recognition, but as service, empathy, and the courage to speak even when my voice trembles. MAU did not simply teach me how to debate across a room, it taught me how to stand firmly within myself.

The girl who once stood quietly behind the podium now dreams of standing before nations, not because she believes she is the loudest voice in the room, but because she has finally realised that her voice deserves to be heard.



THE WINTER WITHOUT SNOW

The flowers appeared dull. The grass bowed low. The sun shone on me, and it felt like needles. The Honour Roll Ceremony was held at school this morning. The field was full of people, with the award winners and their parents seated at the front. As they took their seats, they chatted excitedly while waiting for the ceremony to begin.

If I were there, I too would have been excited and shared my speech about my experiences with them. Their parents sat on the other side. Although they were more reserved than the children, pride still showed clearly on their faces. It must have been a wonderful moment for them. With a grand round of applause, the ceremony began. Their smiles could not be hidden.

As they walked onto the stage one by one, sunlight fell on them; songs surrounded them, and hands clapped for them, as though they were the main characters. Indeed, they were the main characters on the stage today. Watching from behind, I could see their happiness, their pride, the honour they had earned. Watching them, I began to think about myself. Which person on the stage was not my friend? Which person there had not studied with me? We spent time together, studied together, enjoyed ourselves, and played together.



So, what caused me not to be one of them? Was it because I had not adapted well? Because of English? Because I was unlucky? No – none of those reasons were true. I should not hide behind such excuses. I know where my weaknesses lie, and I did not devote enough attention or effort to improving them. Winter is cold, white, and harsh, without vitality. Leaves have fallen, and trees are coated in frost. Yet people do not give up during winter. Instead, they endure the snow, continue to grow quietly beneath the surface, and wait patiently to welcome their spring.

Perhaps this is my winter, a season of disappointment, silence, and reflection. Watching from behind the crowd hurt more than I expected, but maybe I needed this moment. Maybe I needed to understand that success is not simply given through wishes, but earned through discipline, effort, and persistence.

Today, I was not the one standing beneath the sunlight on the stage. I was not the one receiving applause or holding an award in my hands. But winter does not last forever. Spring always follows. And when my spring comes, I want to stand there knowing that I truly earned it.

STRENGTH FROM WITHIN

This month, my greatest source of inspiration was not simply a person, but an experience. The Lower 6 form trip from Accra to the Volta Region began as something light-hearted and exciting, yet it became a journey that challenged me, tested me, and ultimately changed the way I see myself.

The first day felt effortless. At the Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary, laughter came easily as monkeys leapt above us, bold and playful, even jumping onto our shoulders to snatch bananas from our hands. Everything felt warm, simple, and carefree. In that moment, the trip seemed like nothing more than a joyful escape from routine.

The second day, however, became a true turning point. Our hike up Mount Afadjato stripped away that sense of ease almost instantly. The path was steep, uneven, and relentless. Step by step, the climb demanded more from me than I believed I could give.

Gradually, I fell behind until I was the last person on the trail. At one point, it was only me, a teacher, and another student, surrounded by a quiet forest that made every fear seem louder. I was afraid of what I could not see, afraid of slipping, and afraid that I would not make it to the top. Although the people beside me encouraged me, the reality was that no one could climb the mountain for me. Every step had to come from my own strength and determination. In those moments, I realised that inspiration is not always something you wait to feel before you act;

sometimes, it is something you build within yourself as you continue moving forward, even when things become difficult. Each step felt small and almost insignificant, yet together they carried me forward. I began to understand that true strength is not about never struggling, but about continuing despite the struggle. When I finally reached the top, it did not matter that I was the last to arrive. What mattered was that I had made it there through my own effort.

Having attempted the hike years earlier and stopped halfway, standing at the summit this time made the achievement even more meaningful. I had proven to myself that I could accomplish what I once believed I could not. The journey down tested me once again. I was part of a small group that took more than two hours to descend, long after everyone else had returned. We were exhausted, our legs aching, yet we kept going. Even after that, we still walked to the Wli Waterfalls and back. Looking back now, I realise that what carried me through was not only the encouragement of others, but also my own determination to finish what I had started.

Later, at the Wli Waterfalls, as the cool mist settled gently on my skin and the steady roar of the water filled the air, everything suddenly felt calm. Watching the waterfall, I saw more than its beauty. I saw persistence – constant, steady, and unyielding. In that moment, I realised that I had shown that same persistence throughout the journey.

The next day, on our way back, I stared out of the window, taking in the beautiful greenery around me, and reflected on how deeply this trip had inspired me. It changed the way I saw myself. It taught me that fear does not mean weakness, and that being last does not always mean failure. More importantly, it showed me that I am capable of far more than I often believe. While others may encourage me along the way, the true source of my strength comes from my own willingness to keep moving forward.

Now, when I think about the future, I no longer see challenges as things to avoid. Instead, I see them as mountains to climb, step by step, at my own pace. In the end, the greatest inspiration I discovered on that trip was not around me – it was within me, proven by the simple fact that I kept going and finished the journey on my own two feet.



Marissa Siriboe -L6A



TURNING FAILURE INTO MOTIVATION

This month, I had an experience that inspired me to make a positive change in my academic life, especially in Chemistry. For some time, I had not been performing well in the subject because I found certain topics difficult to understand. Instead of studying harder, I sometimes ignored the subject and failed to put enough effort into my work. I often completed assignments late and did not revise my notes regularly. As a result, my performance in class continued to decline.

Everything changed when I received the marks for a recent Chemistry test. When I saw my score, I felt extremely disappointed in myself. I knew that the marks did not reflect my true ability because I had not prepared adequately for the test. At that moment, I realised that if I continued with the same attitude and study habits, my results would never improve. Seeing those marks made me think seriously about my future and the importance of education. I understood that success does not come easily and that I needed to work harder if I wanted to achieve my goals.

After receiving my results, I decided that I needed to make a positive change. I promised myself that I would become more serious about my studies and manage my time more effectively. I started setting aside time each day to revise my Chemistry notes and pay closer attention during lessons. Instead of being afraid to ask questions, I now try to speak up whenever I do not understand something in class.

I have also begun practising more sample questions and reading ahead before lessons so that I can understand topics more clearly. One person who has greatly encouraged me is my Chemistry Teacher, Mr Essumang. Even though my marks were poor, he did not discourage me or made me feel hopeless.

Instead, he encouraged me to believe in myself and reminded me that improvement comes through hard work and determination. He always tells us that failure should not stop us from trying again. His advice and encouragement gave me confidence and motivated me to do better. Knowing that my teacher believes in me has inspired me to take my studies more seriously. Since making these changes, I have started to feel more confident and responsible. Although improving in Chemistry will take time and effort, I am determined to continue working hard.

I now understand that mistakes and failures can teach valuable lessons if a person is willing to learn from them. This experience has helped me become more focused, disciplined, and motivated to succeed in school. In conclusion, seeing my poor Chemistry test marks was an important experience that inspired me to make a positive change in my life. With the encouragement of my Teacher, Mr Essumang, I have decided to work harder and improve my attitude towards learning. I believe that if I remain determined and committed, I will achieve better results in Chemistry and in all other subjects.

Nana Ama Aubynn -F4A



FROM WATCHING THE GAME TO BEING IN THE GAME

It has been quite a strange month in my life. I think the moment I finally told myself, “Let’s go outside and do something,” became a turning point for me. I realised that I had spent too much time complaining and waiting for others to solve the problems in my environment. Ever since I was a little child, it has been my dream to protect the environment, but in recent years, I felt that I was not doing enough and was only caring from a distance.

At first, I was surprised when I joined the Red Cross. I had always admired the work they did, but nothing compared to actually being there with them. The volunteers were always ready to help whenever they were needed. They were not simply saying they wanted to help people; they were actively doing it. This showed me that leadership is not mainly about ideas or speeches. It is about being reliable, attentive, and committed when people need you most.

Two days later, I walked along the beach and was shocked by the amount of rubbish there. This beautiful place was covered in litter. What I had only seen on the internet or read about in books was happening right before my eyes. I remember standing there feeling both sadness and disappointment. Then I thought about the attitude of the Red Cross volunteers. They did not say, “That is not my problem. They did not merely complain – they took action.

”At that moment, I realised that I wanted to do the same thing. That was how I came to learn about the Clean Ocean Project Ghana. I discovered more about the work they do and the effort they put into protecting the ocean and cleaning our shorelines. I cannot wait for the next clean-up at Nungua Coco Beach, for the sake of both the environment and the people who live nearby. Cleaner beaches lead to healthier and happier communities.

This experience has truly changed my way of thinking. I am now working to reduce my own plastic consumption and encourage others to do the same. Sometimes the problem feels so large that it seems impossible to make a difference. However, this past month has taught me that even small actions can have a significant impact. By seeing the work of the Red Cross and the Clean Ocean Project, I have learned that anyone who truly wants to create change can make a difference in society.

I want to be part of a cleaner and better future. This month has taught me a great deal about leadership. Leadership is not about watching others take action; it is about stepping forward and doing something yourself. I also want to encourage other young people not to wait until they are older before making a difference. We can join organisations that support our communities right now. It is time to get started. I am excited to serve and help make our beaches beautiful again. Most importantly, I have learned that if change is going to happen, we must take responsibility and be willing to take the first step.

STANDING UP FOR MYSELF

Over the past month, one important thing I have learned that truly excites me is how to stand up for myself. Before, I often stayed quiet when something bothered me or when I felt treated unfairly. I thought it was easier to avoid conflict, but I started to realise that staying silent sometimes made me feel worse about myself.

Learning to speak up has helped me feel more confident and respected.

Standing up for myself does not mean being rude or aggressive. Instead, it means calmly expressing my thoughts, feelings, and boundaries. For example, if someone says something that hurts me, I have learned to respond by explaining how it made me feel instead of ignoring it. This has improved my relationships because people now understand me better. What excites me most about this skill is that it is something everyone can benefit from. Many people, especially young people, struggle with confidence and fear of judgment.

Learning to stand up for yourself can help build self-respect and reduce stress. It also teaches others how to treat you properly. I believe this is something others should know because it is not always taught in school, yet it is very important in everyday life. It helps in friendships, family situations, and even future work environments. Overall, learning to stand up for myself has been empowering, and I am proud of the progress I have made.

THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY

The Queen's Commonwealth is more than just a piece of writing we do in school. For many students, it is a chance to pour their hearts onto paper and express their thoughts, feelings, and creativity. Some students may love writing, while others may find it difficult, but Commonwealth gives everyone an opportunity to add their voice. Even though we all have different names, backgrounds, cultures, and experiences, at school we become one big family united through our ideas and imagination.

One of the most special things about the Commonwealth is how it brings students together. Each topic challenges us to think deeply and work creatively. We are placed into groups based on the questions we choose, and through this we learn teamwork, communication, and confidence. I still remember my Commonwealth story from last year. I thought my story would only receive participation, so I did not expect much. To my surprise, I won a silver award.

That experience taught me an important lesson: writing is not only about skill or perfect grammar, but about stories that come sincerely from the heart. Commonwealth also teaches us to believe in ourselves and in others. Every student has a unique story worth telling, no matter where they come from.

It does not matter what car you ride in, what shoes you wear, or what hairstyle you have. What truly matters is your courage to express yourself and your willingness to inspire others with your words. Everyone deserves a chance to participate, learn, and grow through writing.

In conclusion, Commonwealth is not simply a competition or an assignment; it is a celebration of creativity, unity, and self-expression. It reminds us that everyone makes mistakes, and every mistake is part of learning and improving. Most importantly, it teaches us that we rise by lifting others. Through the Commonwealth, students can discover their talents, build confidence, and understand the power of words to bring people together.

Hafeez Abdul Razak - F1A

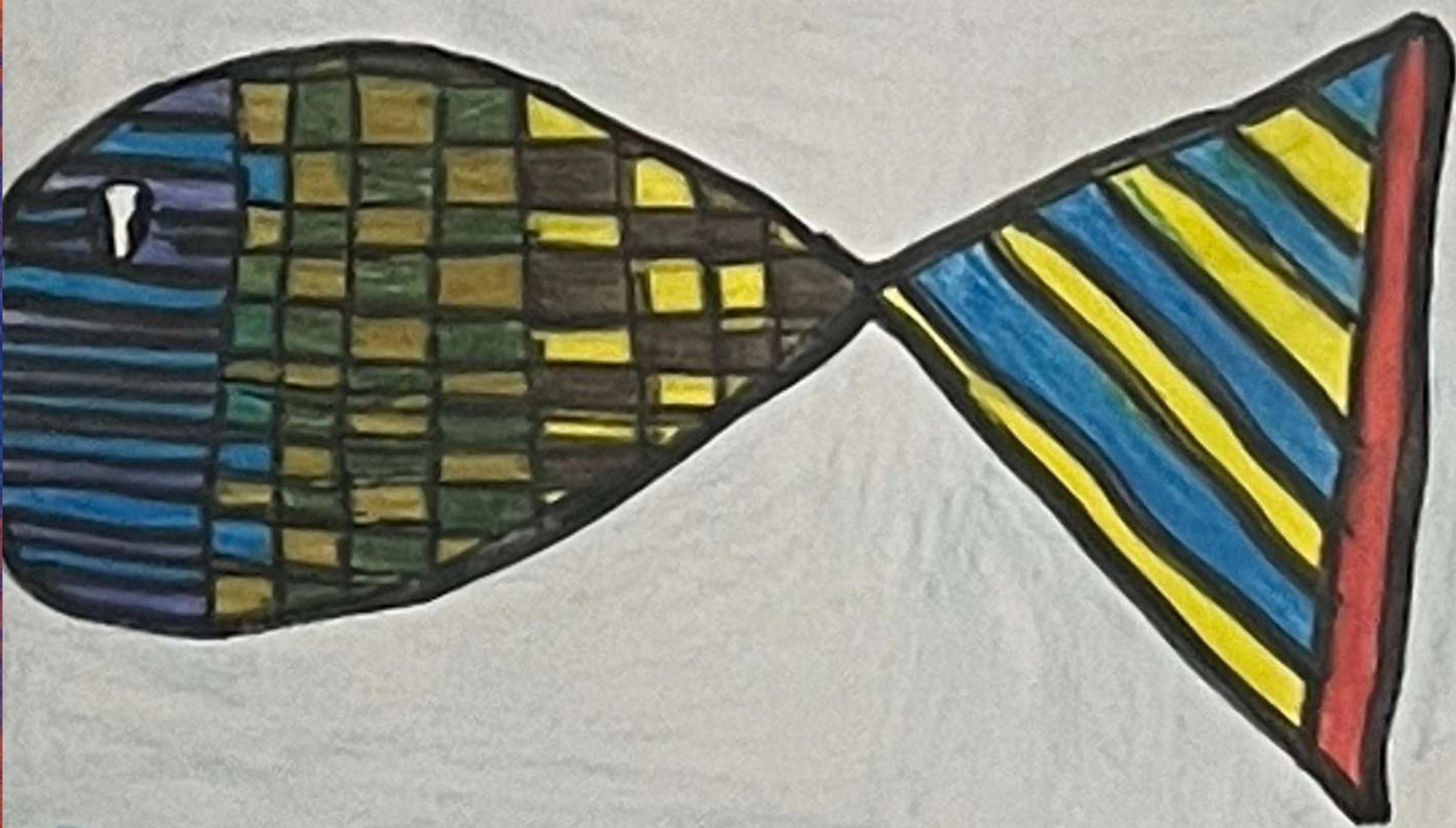


The Symbol of Life and Peace

I chose to draw a fish to represent Life. The fish lives in water and it is very vibrant. That is what Life is about. I also chose the patterns and multiple colours to show diversity. Embracing diversity brings peace. A peaceful life is enjoyable. I got this idea from our Art lesson.

Boateng

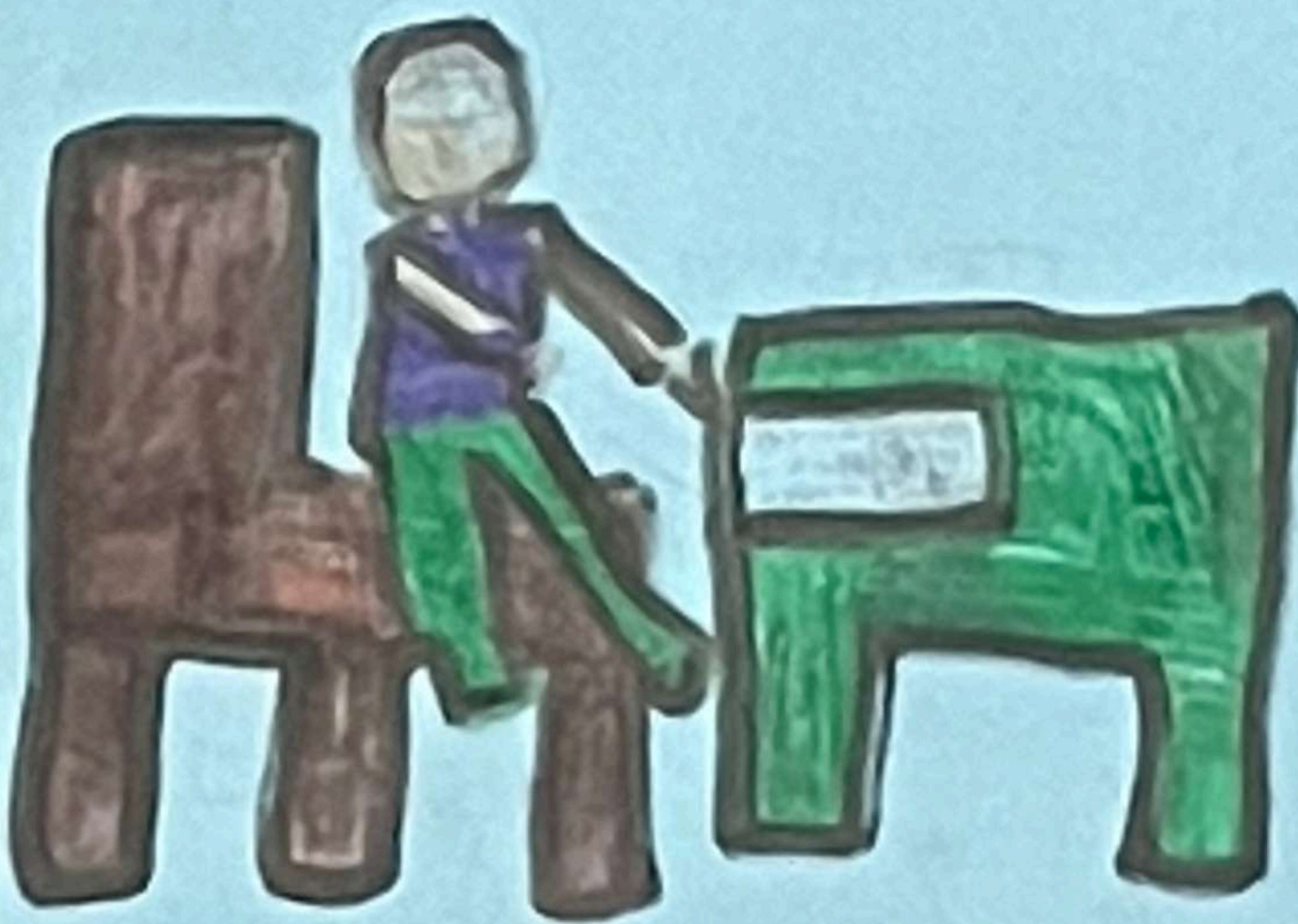
Aiden C2W



Aiden Boateng-C2W

Spot the odd One Out Adventure

Non-verbal reasoning was difficult for me at first because the patterns and shapes were confusing. With practice and guidance, I began to understand how the shapes and patterns work, now I can look carefully, think logically and solve the questions better. I am proud of the progress I have made.



By

Harshwardhan Sharma

Diya (lamp)

Today during Art lessons I learned about a Hindi temple lamp. It is called a diya. The lamp is small and made of clay. It has oil and a tiny flame. It gives light and makes people feel calm and happy. I like drawing the diya and coloring the flame. I learned that different people have special objects for their belief. I feel happy that I learned something new. Next time, I want to learn more about how people use the diya.

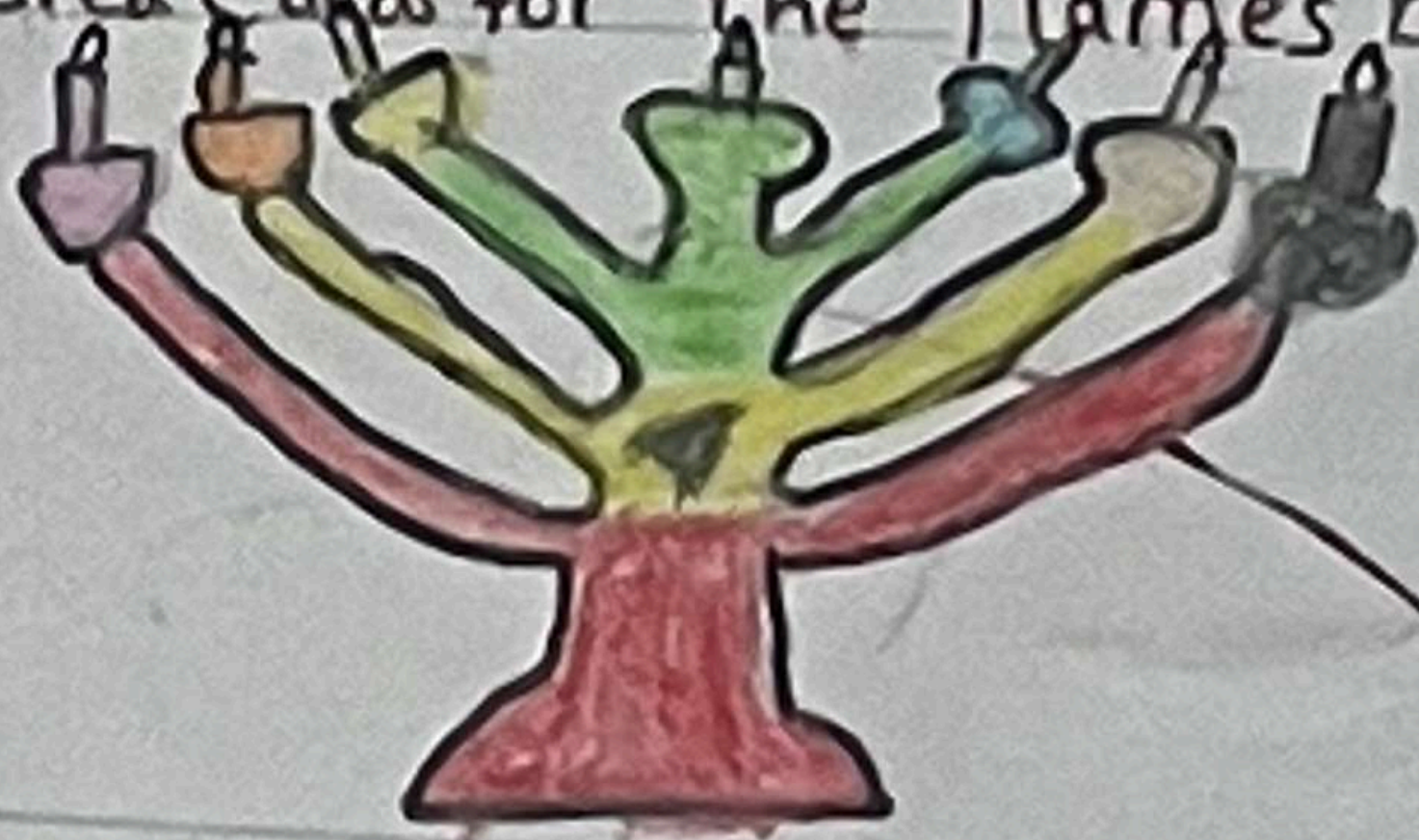
diya



Eleanor
Anatovi-Kelvin
C2 East

The Candle Light

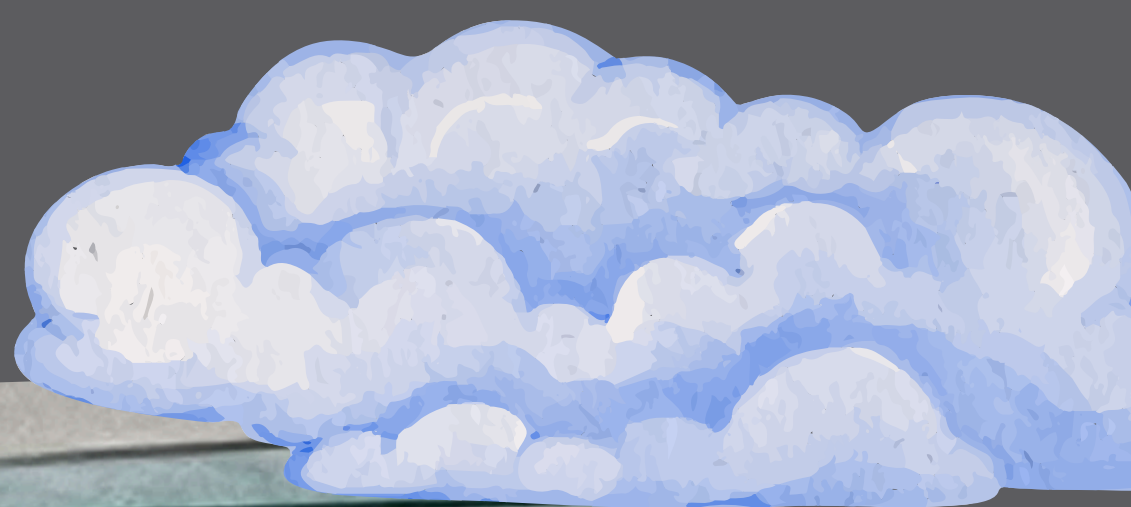
Today in Art, I made a beautiful collage to celebrate Hanukkah. It was a very busy and happy afternoon. I used bright green and pink to make the candle sticks to build a Menorah. I had to count carefully to make sure there were enough branches. I used a shiny coloured cards for the flames because



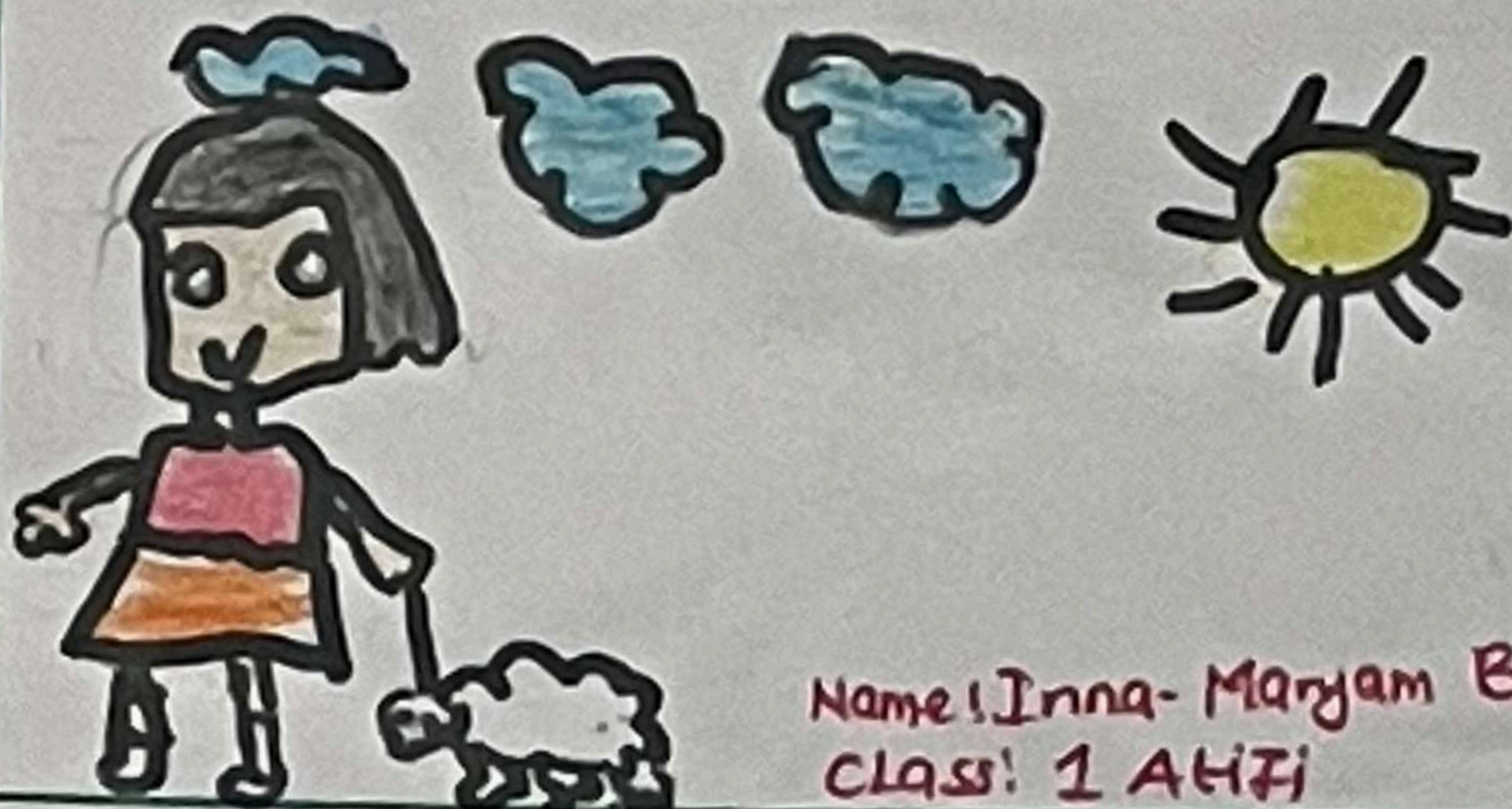
Hanukkah is a Festival of Lights. Tearing paper was fun but sticking on the candles was a bit tricky. Next time, I want to try using different materials like soft cotton wool to make it look even better!

Imani Kampira - C1W

Imani Kampira - C1W



All about the weather



Name: Inna-Maryam Boateng
Class: 1 AIFI

This term we learnt about the weather in science class. We learnt that the weather can be sunny, rainy, windy or cloudy. My favourite weather is sunny because I can play outside with my friends. I also like rainy days because I can listen to the rain. Learning about the weather was fun and amazing.

MY PAINT APP

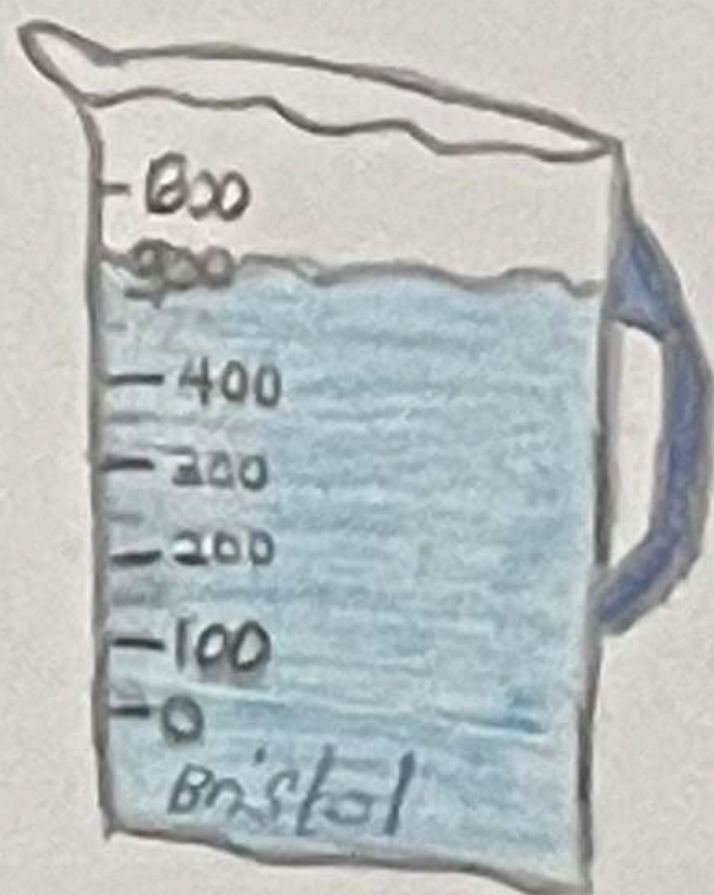
This term in computing, I learned about paint and Multimedia. I used the paint app to draw and colour pictures using different shapes, brushes and colours. I also learned how to use the undo button to fix mistakes, so I was not afraid to try new things. In multimedia, I created funny faces and pictures. I added text to make them look interesting. I enjoyed being creative and making beautiful pictures on the computer.

By: Analiese Tengey



Exploring the World of MEASURING!

Through measuring activities, I am able to develop a better understanding of length mass and capacity using everyday objects and standard units, I enjoyed using rulers, scales and measuring containers to compare and estimate measurements. Hands on activities helped me to see how measuring is useful in my daily life and improved my confidence in reading and recording measurements accurately. I was excited when I was able to solve measurement problems independently.



**It is impossible to
begin to learn that
which one thinks
one already knows.**

-Epictetus