

Walking with the :

Celebrating Ashadi Ekadashi

Pune, Maharashtra | 27th June, 2023



The showers of monsoon bring with them an array of festivals, Ashadi Ekadashi being one of them.

On 27th June, 2023, the students of Grade I and II celebrated Ashadi Ekadashi with great enthusiasm. The objective of the celebration was to inform students about the culture of Maharashtra since it was a visually and linguistically expressive way to celebrate Maharashtra's glorious heritage, culture and tradition. The occasion itself teaches us to forget enmity and embrace one another and create bond of love in an environment of cultural harmony.

With students dressed up as devotees: boys wearing dhotis, kurtas and topis; and girls wearing sarees and traditional dresses, two students dressed up as Lord Vithal Rukmai.



Teachers told the importance of the day, informing students that Ashadi Ekadashi is also known as MahaEkadashi. On this day, the devotees worship portraits of Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi. They spend the entire night singing hymns and prayers whilst keeping a fast.



They were also informed of how the famed Pandharpur Waari Yatra comes to an end on this day. Pandharpur God, Vithoba, an embodiment of Lord Vishnu is revered with devotion. The religious procession, or yatra, is a 17-day great event that draws travellers to this location. Palkhis featuring images of Maharashtra's saints are also carried by them.

An image of Saint Dnyaneshwar is bought from Alandi; Saint Namdev's image is brought from Narsi Namdev; Saint Tukaram's image is brought from Dehu; Saint Eknath's image is carried from Paitan; Saint Nivruttinath's image is carried from Trimbakeshwar; Saint Muktabai's image is carried from Muktainangar; Saint Sopan's image is carried from Saswad; and Saint Gajanan Maharaj from Shegoan.



"Warkaris" is a name given to pilgrims. They perform Abhangas dedicated to God. Even a story was shown to them. Students took a round of the auditorium singing and dancing with the palkhi in their hands, and even played fugadi with their teachers. It was a moment worth cherishing.

In this way, teachers explained the importance of festivals which students enjoyed a lot.

Meantime, the pre-primary section of S.B. Patil Public School also arranged the Ekadashi palkhi procession. The little warkaris looked very cute in their traditional attire as they chanted "Vithhal Vitthal, Jai Hari!!"

Class teachers explained the importance of Ashadhi Ekadashi and the palkhi procession to students who understood the tradition. Teachers also narrated stories of Sant Dyaneshwar Maharaj and Sant Tukaram Maharaj.



The atmosphere was filled with gaiety and spirituality as students started the palkhi procession by reciting Bhajans and Abhangs of Sant Tukaram Maharaj and Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj.



All teachers and staff members were enchanted by the enthusiasm of the tiny tots as they chanted, “ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय, ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय”

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय”