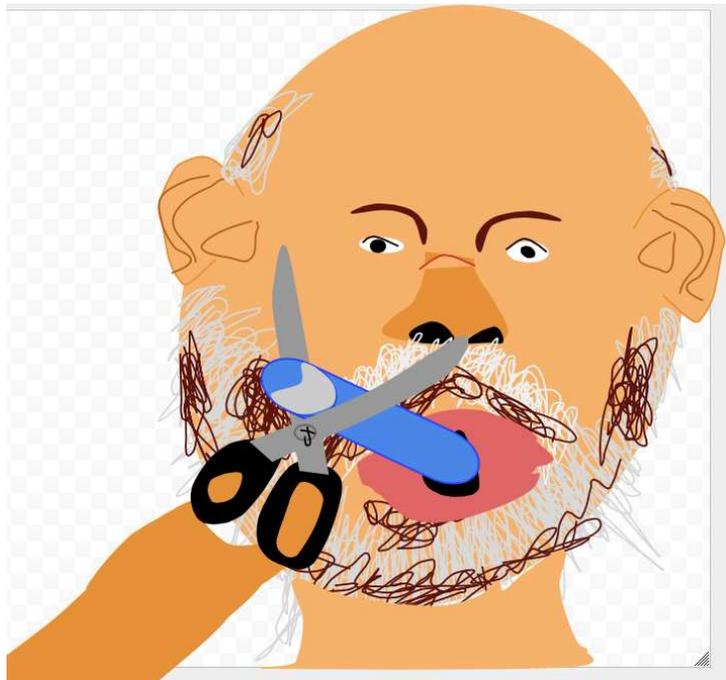


Phoenix Kids Blog

Betsye Sargent, The Phoenix School, 89 Margin Street, Salem MA, 01970, USA
Phone (978) 741-0870
phoenix@phoenixschool.org

Skype with Arvind Gupta on 25th November 2014

BY NOEL K



I think that the skype was very interesting unlike most skypes because Arvind Gupta was talking about toys and fun while including learning on a tremendous scale and I think that that is very very cool. I think that it seemed to get nearly everyone interested in the skype it was amazing that he was able to grab everyone's attention with trash because I know that lots of times I am not interested in nearly anything. The creativity put in the toys was inspiring because say I made a toy using what I learned in the skype and the things I already knew it would be amazingly amazing to me. My favorite part of the skype was when he answered my question (which was What do you see for the future of your toys?) because his answer was that all the kids would be happy and because of that they would not cause war. I think that it was amazing that he was able to see so much possibility in trash.

BY ELEANOR K



I think that it was good to skype with Arvind Gupta because we got to ask questions and learned about his toys. I think that it was good to learn about his toys because then we can make other toys. I think that it was good because we got to learn about balancing. I think that we should do that again because we learned alot.

I learned that the floating forks and the nail one is similar. I learned that velcro and yarn can help blind kids. I learned that it is possible to make a paper butterfly flap its wings. I learned that he likes it when you try some of his toys. I learned that you need a certain kind of magnets for the ballerina one to work.

BY SARAH

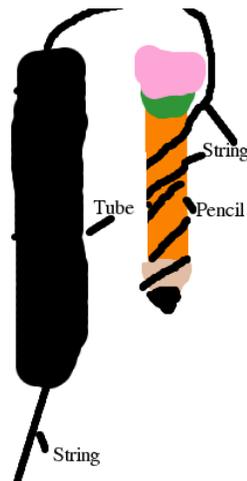
Today we Skyped with Arvind Gupta. He is a man who lives in India and makes toys out of trash because he said one part of India is kind of a poor country so he makes toys that everyone can afford. When we Skyped with him today he showed us lots of different toys like a drawing slate made of velcro that comes with a pen that dispenses yarn and when you draw with the pen on the velcro slate the yarn sticks and makes a picture that you can feel. Arvind made this toy because there are many blind children in India so if a blind child drew a picture that they can feel they will be able to picture what they are drawing. Arvind has also made many other toys all to benefit schools in India that do not have that many science materials and they can not afford them, so all of Arvid's toys involve science. I think all of Arvind Gupta's toys are really awesome and I think it was a great idea to make toys for kids who can't afford other toys.

BY DETRIC R



I liked skyping with Arvind Gupta today because we got to see his toys and we got to share some of our toys that we made. My favorite toys are the noise straw because it can make a funny noise and the balloon car because it can teach kids how air can push things around.

BY BRYNNER E



Skyping with Arvind Gupta was really amazing because he makes great toys out of things that people throw away. I learned that since eggs are small salt acts as a platform because it can hold up the egg. Arvind Gupta's toys were really helpful because they showed think that usually work. skyping with with Arvind Gupta was really inspiring because he let me know that toys are helpful for people.

I made a pen for blind people because he made one but I made a different design. I felt like making this because I want blind people to have fun with drawing. My pen works by putting a string on a pencil and putting the pencil through a tube. Once that is done all you have to do is rub it on velcro paper and you did it!

BY LEXI G

Arvind Gupta was really cool to skype with because we got to see some of his toys and how he built them. We also got to share some of our toys that we made after watching of his videos. We asked him some questions too. When he was talking and showing us his toys that he invented, I was thinking of some questions that I could ask him. I couldn't think of anything at first but I kept on thinking.

One of the toys that he made, and that I liked was the bottle box. I thought it was really cool because you could keep all of the small things that you owned in it. At first I had no idea how he had made it but I searched it up when I got home. It was really cool. I tried to find all of the things that I would need but I didn't so I decided that over Thanksgiving, I would try and make it.

BY ELLIE



When we skyped with Arvind Gupta I thought that he was very talkative and he had a lot to show us. He showed us some of his toys. He makes toys for kids all over the world to make and use. He even has a youtube channel that has all of his how-to-do-its. He showed us how to make one of his noise producing straws.

At first I was not interested, but after the first five minutes I was super engaged. When he showed us his toys I wanted to jump into the screen and play with all of them because they were so interesting. My favorite toy he made was the one that uses a battery to make some wire spin. I want to try that soon because it is cool with electricity. I think that I liked it because he went from one toy to another, not even stopping for our questions. At the end he did let us have some questions, though. I had a question right after we stopped, but I could not ask it then. It was, "Do you ever run out of ideas and have a creator's block?" because that happened to me once. I thought it was fun and I cannot wait to make some of his toys!

BY MIKAILA C

I really liked doing the Arvind Gupta skype because we really got to learn the science of toys and recyclables. He started doing them because a lot of kids in India are very poor so he uses recyclables to make the toys. When we skyped with him he showed us a lot of toys. I learned that when you flatten a straw at the bottom it makes a very funny sound?

I tried his egg science with the salt and it worked really well. You just have to press down and it stands up. I didn't try anything else just the egg one.

I thought the skype went really well because we learned a lot about how to make toys and what they do. I liked when he made the straw sound because of its sound. I thought that he liked to talk more about our toys and his toys because I didn't really get to ask all of my questions

How did you come up with all of these ideas?

BY HARPER

Today we got to Skype with Arvind Gupta and we got to see a lot of his toys which was very cool. Arvind Gupta's goal was to make toys educational and so that everyone can afford them. My favorite toy that he made was probably the levitating pencil because it looked like it took a lot of thought to come up with that. Arvin Gupta showed us a really cool pen that helps blind kids draw by feeling the drawing so that way they can have fun with drawing too. I noticed that a lot of his materials were cheap and easy to find. He made them this way so that way the kids in India can have fun because India is a big country but a lot of the people there do not have much money so they want them to have fun while paying very little for the supplies they need to build it.

I learned a lot about how counterbalance works. For example with the balancing ballerina there are magnets on a kind of cardboard stick. The magnets add enough weight that the feet pretty much latch onto the wire so that way it will not fall. If you move the magnets up on the stick then it will wobble around more because it does not produce enough weight for it to work.

During the Skype he showed us all of the things that he made. They were really fascinating because they were all different and none of them were the same. Everytime he showed us a new toy, I was always amazed at what he made because each one was different and had a different way of working. I think that he showed us about 30 or 40 of his toys that he made. I think that this was a great way to communicate with people around the world.

What I thought was cool was that he decided to make toys instead of something else. The cool thing about these toys is that they are very easy to make and kids can use them in science and to just have fun and play with them.

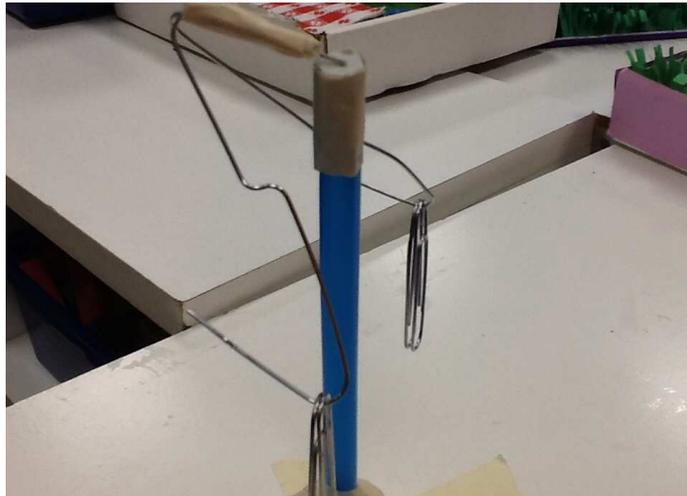
BY MAYAN

Arvind Gupta builds toys that teach kids about physics and balance. Only two schools across the world got to Skype with him and we were one of them. We prepared questions for him about him building his toys. Gupta toys are also a lot like Calder because they involve balance and physics to allow them to be so mesmerizing. Skyping with Arvind Gupta wasn't really what I expected because he had a different personality than I thought he would have. He was very kid like because he was curious about all of our toys we had made and he was excited to show us his. I loved seeing some of the toys that he made and how simple they were. One of my favorite toys was a propeller made by two straws that were interlocked perpendicularly. Another toy that was really cool was when he made a toucan balance on his finger like a real bird. In order to be able to do that he used paper clips as weights. I would have never imagined to even try to make a toucan balance with only paper clips. I think that the balancing toys that he made were astonishing. They looked just like sculptures in the Alexander Calder exhibit. The way they balanced seemed to defy physics even though that's exactly what he used to figure out all of his toys. My favorite balancing toy was the floating forks. He figured out that by wedging two forks and some toothpicks together it is possible to balance the contraption on the tip of another toothpick jabbed in a bottle half filled with sand. Arvind Gupta was so down to Earth too. He was so excited to know that some of us had built toys and he was even more excited to share his knowledge with us.

I was blown away by his philosophy because it was so original. He probably knew that when kids don't have a good school system or any education they won't learn anything like science and physics. However, if they were to pick up the trash around them they would be able to study a cool toy that not only made them laugh, but it also taught them a tremendous amount of knowledge about how balance works and how shapes can balance in weird ways.

I was so happy that we were one of the two school who got picked to Skype with him and I can't wait to start using his techniques in our mini Calder Sculptures.

BY ELLA L



I loved skyping with Arvind Gupta because he is a famous toy maker in India and all over the world and I got to show him a toy that I made with his inspiration. I loved when he wanted to show us some of his toys because I was hoping that he would do that. I think that Arvind has a great job because he gets to play around all day and sometimes makes a toy or two.

I think that Arvind enjoyed skyping with us as much as we enjoyed skyping with him. I enjoyed the part when Arvind showed us his toys that he made. I think that I should have got into it more because it was interesting. I have never had science as one of my talents but toy making has started to change that around. I wish I had got the chance to ask a question but then again I did show him my toy.

I loved skyping with Arvind Gupta and he is very very fun to talk too because he has a great spirit and is always smiling.

Did anyone in particular inspire you? Why did they if so?

BY JAMES L



When we skyped with Arvind Gupta I knew that he was giving up valuable time and he is a very famous person. When we skyped I noticed that he is a very talkative person and he is aware of what he was saying. He was very nice and he was happy when he heard that some people in our school tried the ideas and watched the videos. When I went up and I showed my balloon powered car he was happy that I was inspired by him and I made a toy using recycled materials. Barbara and Betsye even added it to the holiday gifts list and I was happy to see that they like my idea.

When we skyped with him he seemed to have a lot to show us and he had built a little thing well we were skyping using straws. When he showed me the little propeller it gave me the feeling that his toys were not just ones you push back and forth. His toys were entertaining. Some of my other feelings were that he was making toys considering that 3,000,000 people in India were blind so he took a sheet off velcro and made a yarn pen so the blind people could feel their drawing.

<http://www.arvindguptatoys.com/films.html>

BY ANNA L

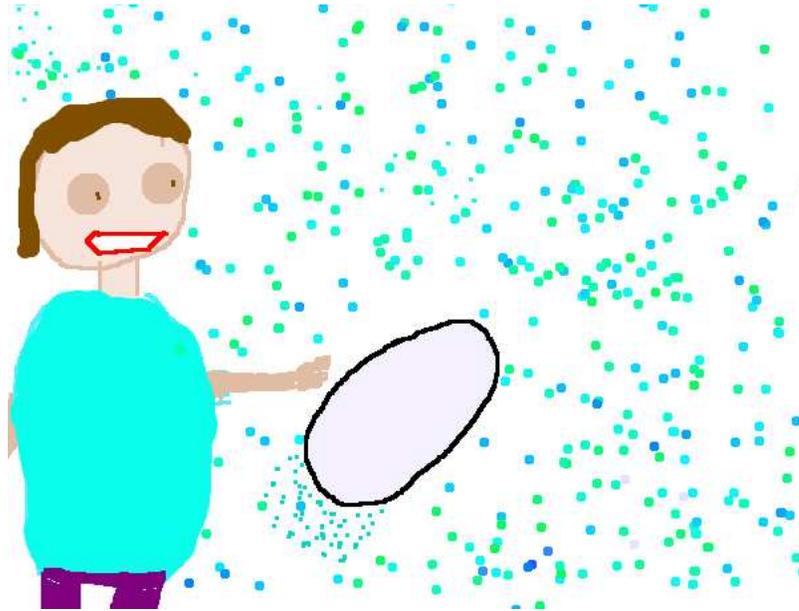


Today we Skyped with a famous toy maker named Arvind Gupta. He makes a lot of toys out of recyclables. He lives in India. He thinks that all kids should have toys not just the rich ones.

He said use the stuff you have. When we skyped he showed us a lot of his toys. my favourite toy is one that is made for blind people it has string in a pen and a velcro base so you can draw on it with the yarn. We got to ask him some question but I did not get to ask him But if I did ask him one I would of asked did someone inspire you to start making toys. I was so happy that I got to Skype with Arvind Gupta.

I tried the egg and salt. It worked. I learned that a egg and a box can stand on salt without anyone holding it because the egg smushes the salt so it makes walls. I also tried one that you used to straws to make a propeller it did not work. I think it did not work because I cut it too big and I used the same size straw and you were not supposed to use the same size.

BY NICK C



Today we skyped with Arvind Gupta and he noticed that kids in India are really poor and they don't know science so Arvind Gupta created toys for kids that teach them science. I thought it was really cool to skype with Arvind Gupta because we got to ask him some questions and he answered them and he showed the toy we were talking about. You probably think he really doesn't care about toys and just doing it to make money but he actually is trying to teach kids all over the world science because when we told him that we had some toys we made by ourselves and he was so eager to just look at more and more to figure out what we figured out by looking at his videos.

BY ISABELLE S

Skyping with Arvind Gupta was really neat. I was happy to see a lot of the toys he had shown on the Ted talk as well as some new ones that we hadn't seen yet. His ideas are creative and whimsical yet super simple. It was so cool because all of his toys took like less than 5 minutes to make. All of the toys had some information/knowledge that you would learn about by playing with them. The flexagram showed the food chain, the matchbox was practically like a pulley system, the pumps showed how it was built, and the valves inside, the kazoo straw showed about sound and vibration, and the propeller kind of taught wind power. It was all really interesting to learn about.

Arvind Gupta told us that India is a very poor country so by making really simple easy to make toys, the kids in India can have fun for a low cost. One of the most important things he said was the reason he was making learning toys. A lot of kids these days play on the computer or video games. Most games are shoot'em up games where you kill bad guys with guns. Arvind Gupta makes fun toys that many kids love. If we start making toys and playing with them instead of playing video games, there might be a greater chance of less violence.

My favorite toy he made was the one for blind people. It was an absolute genius idea and it looks like a lot of fun. He took a medium sized piece of cardboard, and stuck velcro all over it. Then he made a pen with, instead of ink, wool/yarn would be dispensed out of it like a fishing rod. When he drew with the wool pen on the velcro covered cardboard, the yarn stuck on the velcro and it stayed the shape he drew.