

Mallya Aditi Aviation Club Workshop, 2016

On the 9th of November, the Mallya Aditi Aviation Club held an Aviation Workshop at MAIS. The workshop, open to 6th and 7th graders aimed to kindle an interest in the world of aviation. By working on interesting, fun, yet challenging activities, the students were able to get a grasp of what the field had to offer and how they could contribute towards its development. We, the core-committee, saw it necessary to have an appropriate combination of theoretical and practical work. Hence, the workshop began with a discussion of the basics of flight. The topics covered included control surfaces and flight dynamics.

As we were teaching young and energetic minds, we saw fit to make the theoretical portion of the workshop as interactive as possible in order to conduct a structured session. We were very pleased to see how responsive, and in fact intuitive, the students were. They seemed to comprehend and internalise concepts rather well and actively participated in discussions.

We then moved on to what most of the students considered to be the more enjoyable section of the afternoon - the practical work. This involved teaching the students to make a special kind of paper aircraft called an omniwing and demonstrating a powered paper aircraft. The students were eager to build the omniwing, taking a keen interest in its unique design. By making a catapult for the omniwing, students were able to launch their own planes and observe how the “flying wings” behaved. The omniwing also provided the perfect platform for us to actually demonstrate the effects of the control surfaces. We had also prepared a paper aircraft that was fit with a battery and core-less motor. The plane was able to sustain stable flight for almost 30

seconds in the field. This introduced the students to the field powered flight, a crucial step in the journey to more complex and sophisticated topics. We are very happy with the results of the workshop and are eager to see what these students will do with their newly-discovered passions in the future.