



The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter



GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Knowledge Village
M. Palada Post, Ootacamund - 643 004, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India
Visit us @ www.gsis.ac.in | www.gsfs.ac.in

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International Service Officers visit GSIS



A delegation of student officers from the Defence Services Staff College meeting the Principal, Dr. P C Thomas

A delegation of student officers drawn from the civil services, paramilitary forces and International Service Officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force of the Commonwealth and friendly foreign countries visited GSIS on 31 May 2015. The **Principal Dr. P C Thomas**, the **Senior Vice President Mrs. Elsamma Thomas** and Members of the Academic Council received them at the chapel lawns of GSIS in the Palada Campus. **Brig. Suresh Kumar(Retd)**, Senior Vice Principal (Administration), briefed them on the history, growth, vision, mission, objectives and other aspects of the school. They went around the campus and were shown the new HSS block, dining hall, library, classrooms, laboratories, audio-visual



The student officers at GSIS



Brig. Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd), Senior Vice Principal (Administration), holds a briefing for the student officers

rooms, stables, stadium, swimming pool, squash courts, gymnasium and co-curricular block. They also visited the Fernhill Campus.

The student officers are undergoing training in the prestigious Defence Services Staff College at Wellington.

GSIS hosts Orientation Programme for Members of Staff

19 & 20 July 2015

“It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.” - Meister Eckhart



The Founder-Principal, Dr. P. C. Thomas, speaking to the teachers



Members of staff attending the orientation programme

To create magic for both the old and the new members of staff were the members of the Academic Council and teachers each of whom provided inputs regarding the areas of their expertise. **The Founder-Principal, Dr. P. C. Thomas’s** session followed the self-introduction of the newcomers. He motivated the staff members to put in their best in the work allocated to them by not only congratulating all for the excellent results of Good Shepherd International School (GSIS) students produced in all the board examinations but also by focusing on the oft-repeated words in GSIS, that is, ‘Raise the bar’. The Principal informed the teachers about the arrangements for the entry of the newcomers. Besides this, he announced the need for all to feel at home at school.

The session by **Mrs. Sheila Alexander**, Senior Vice Principal (Academics) pointed out the philosophies of the Founder-Principal: Dr. P.C. Thomas’s philosophy of the five Ps (Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance), the need for the teachers to render personal attention to each student, discipline and making GSIS a home away from home and Mrs. Elsamma Thomas’s focus on the three Ms (Merit, Majesty and Mastery). Mrs. Sheila Alexander also pointed out the need for teamwork and discussed the Coordinators’ challenges.

Mrs. Anila Ann Mathew, the Director of Counselling, in her presentation entitled ‘Connect the Dots’ spoke about the nature and the means of developing one’s Emotional Intelligence. The pre-lunch session came to an end with the



An activity during the programme: an ice breaker game to get teachers involved



An activity during the session on Disaster Management and Crisis Control

presentation of **Mr. T. Suresh**, Coordinator, Curriculum and Professional Development, 'How to Sustain the Development of Formative Assessment' which was Part I of a workshop on Formative Assessment.

The post-lunch session comprised three presentations, two of teamwork, the first 'Appreciation and Understanding the Human Mind' conducted by **Ms. Bonbon, Ms. Manjushree and Ms. Uma** and the second, 'The Importance of Teamwork' by **Mrs. Rita Chandran**. The interactive session and team games proved to be the ice breaker and all the teachers decided to work together for the entire academic year. The day ended with a session on a totally unique topic: it was 'Investment Planning' by **Mr. Dantu Sebastian**, the Chief Finance Officer.

The second day comprised two main sessions: 'Professionalism and Attitude' by **Brigadier Suresh Kumar, VSM** and 'Back to Basics' by **Mr. Ajith P Jacob**, the Director of Activities. While the first session made the teachers motivated to be morally courageous and master the art of communication, the second made them aware of the need to practise good manners and be considerate towards one and all.

The usual though highly informative Disaster Management and Crisis Control session by **Mr. Srikumar Sikari** was sandwiched between meetings conducted by the Sr. Vice Principal (Academics), the Section Coordinators and the Heads of Department. The two-day hectic orientation programme concluded with the selection of the office bearers of the Staff Club and the Open Forum which brought forth many praises and a couple of suggestions for the school. All were geared up and enthused to begin a new academic year with a great deal of anticipation regarding the students whom they would be catering to during the year.

Orientation Programme for New Students



New students passing the ring



A dance presentation during the orientation programme

I am most privileged to be a part of one of the most reputed schools in India - Good Shepherd International School. The school organised an Orientation Programme on 31 July 2015 for all the new students during which we got the opportunity to showcase our talents.

The programme commenced with the inspiring speech of **Mrs. Anila Kalyan** and the school prayer. This was followed by a beautiful song by Ms. Shikha Kurian who took the initiative to sing a melodious song. The most exciting activity was passing the loop, which was very entertaining. It made us feel that we are a part of the school activity. Girls of Grade IX put up an energetic group dance. Riya of Grade IX played a mellifluous tune on the violin. Rachael, Rhea and Kushi of Grade IX sang an English pop song. The ballet dance by Nikitha Ann Antony of Grade VIII came next. The dance recital was rhythmic and ethereal. This was followed by a group song by Sandhya, Kavya, Harika and Kirthini of Grade VII. Srikush of Grade IX stole the show by playing a melodious number on the piano which made everyone fall in love with the music. Citra of Grade IX also portrayed her talent by singing a lovely song.

Last but not the least, there was a stunning musical concert by the music department and the staff band that had us enthralled in harmony. We all appreciated the music department with a standing ovation.

This orientation programme has helped the new students to overcome their feelings of loneliness, anxiety and homesickness. They felt more comfortable and recharged to continue their journey at GSIS with determination, enthusiasm and pride. Truly, 'A HOME AWAY FROM HOME' experience.

- Ms. Shamanvi Vakkalanka, IB-1A

A Live Music Performance!



Mr. Debendranath Sarangi singing popular Hindi songs

Mr. Debendranath Sarangi, IAS (Retd), a former Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu and a Member of the Board of Governors, GSIS, entertained the students and staff of GSIS by presenting a melodious music concert on Saturday, 02 May 2015. He has performed in many live concerts and indoor events in the past.

The concert began well and kept getting better as it progressed. He sang popular Hindi hit numbers of India's renowned and most loved Bollywood playback singers of the 60's, 70's and 80's. His playlist was versatile, featuring legendary artistes like Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Mukesh. The songs were a mix of the uncommon and the familiar. He unearthed the rare and the forgotten melodies bringing them back to life. His sheer talent and depth in voice suited each occasion and every mood. The concert mesmerized and inspired the audience. He charmed them with his pure solo unplugged music. He brought in positivity into their lives and rejuvenated them.

Ms. Uma Sripathi, Ms. Preeta C and Mrs. Rema Madhu also joined him in a few of his melodious renditions. This is his second public performance at GSIS. His zest for music and passion for singing is still youthful. At the end, he deserved and received a standing ovation.

Camera Surveillance Room

Surveillance Camera Systems are readily available and are increasingly used in some schools, business establishments and public places. Many schools in India and abroad are utilizing them to monitor movements and activities of students, staff, visitors and strangers in their campuses.

GSIS has installed state-of-the-art surveillance systems at their GSFS, Fernhill and Palada Campuses. Cameras are installed in classrooms, stores, hallways, lobbies and playfields and they are running at all times to provide constant mass surveillance. The Camera Surveillance Room is manned by IT personnel and an instructor from the co-curricular department from 0700 hours to 2000 hours on working days to monitor the camera feeds. The Camera Surveillance Room has equipment and monitors to view these surveillance cameras, most of which are day-night cameras. The Network Video Recorder and associated storage space facilities provide a data back-up of 15 days. More than 320 cameras at various campuses provide real-time images of all activities and recorded data. All interactions are recorded for review.



Camera Surveillance Room in the Palada Campus

The continuous monitoring will strengthen response to emergency or crisis situations in the campus and act as an effective deterrent to theft, mischief and future mishap. This is an additional safety initiative that will provide a protective umbrella to the physical security of the school premises.

Science of Handwriting Analysis

“Sending a handwritten letter is becoming such an anomaly. It’s disappearing. My mom is the only one who still writes me letters. And there’s something visceral about opening a letter - I see her on the page. I see her in her handwriting.”

- Steve Carell



Mr. Mathew Thomas addressing the audience

It was the 1st of May, with a difference for the students of Good Shepherd International School. The auditorium was full, the students awaited another session with a Guest Speaker and a few hushed voices murmured about their handwriting as the day’s expert was a graphologist.

A bright exuberant young figure emerged as the Chief Guest, **Mr. Mathew Thomas**, a certified graphologist from the esteemed KAROHS International School of Handwriting Analysis, California, USA and mesmerized the young audience with the horizon of his knowledge in handwriting analysis. He has completed the Master course and has been awarded the diploma of the Certified Master Handwriting Analyst (CMHA) under the tutelage of Dr. Erika M Karohs, a well-reputed industrial psychologist and graphologist.

He is a member of the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation, based in California, which is dedicated to the advancement of handwriting sciences. At the age of 16, Mathew is the youngest to be a member of AHAF and possibly the youngest certified graphologist in the world. He has also been accepted to work on the Diploma of the Société Française de Graphologie, France. He has written an article on graphology which has featured in *The Hindu*. Presently a student of Grade XI at Gregorian Public School, Kochi, Mathew has lectured on the subject at several venues across Kochi.

Mathew has to his credit **Matt-e-metrics**, a start-up handwriting analysis practice to deal with personality assessment needs for individuals and the corporate sector. Besides his unique repertoire of knowledge, Mathew enjoys theatre, music, cricket and chess.

Another Year of Excellent Board Examination Results!

The academic year 2014-15 witnessed many milestones of excellent achievements in academics. Our students appeared for the **Indian Certificate of Secondary Education [ICSE]**, the **International General Certificate of Secondary Education [IGCSE]**, the **Indian School Certificate [ISC]**, the **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme [IBDP]**, **Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint Examination**, **Cambridge Primary Checkpoint Tests** and **The Trinity College London [TCL] Theory and Practical Examinations**.

All the Examination Boards announced their results. We are very happy to present a brief report of the results of the Board Examinations held in the academic year 2014-15.

Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination – March 2015 [Grade X, ICSE]

The ICSE examinations were held in the school from 26 February to 30 March 2015.

Of the 44 students who appeared from Good Shepherd International School in the academic session 2014 – 2015 for the examination, **36 secured distinction** and **8 were awarded first class**. **The topper scored 96%**. 10 students scored 90% or more, 19 students scored 85% or more and 30 students scored 80% or more. The school registered a centum pass percentage this year as well.

Results of ICSE Examination 2015 (Science)

Total Appeared	: 39
Distinctions	: 32
First Class	: 7
Scores of 90% & above	: 9
Scores between 80% & 90%	: 17
Scores between 70% & 80%	: 9
Scores between 60% & 70%	: 4
School Topper	: Avantika Poddar (96%)



Avantika Poddar

Results of ICSE Examination 2015 (Commerce)

Total Appeared	: 5
Distinctions	: 4
First Class	: 1
Scores of 90% & above	: 1
Scores of 80% & above	: 4
Scores between 70% & 80%	: 1
School Topper	: Abhyuday Sureka (90.8%)



Abhyuday Sureka

The school average for different subjects is shown below:

English - 77%, Second Language - 83%, History, Civics & Geography - 83%, Mathematics - 71%, Science - 74%, Computer Applications - 94%, Economics - 87%.

In most of the subjects, the Mean Grade achieved by our students is higher than the All India Average. Most of our students have done exceptionally well.

International General Certificate of Secondary Education - May / June 2015 [Grade X, IGCSE]

The **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)** examinations were conducted at GSIS from 28 April to 10 June 2015. A total of 73 candidates of GSIS appeared for the examinations.

Our students have done well. The information given below outlines the overall results:

Distinctions	: 29
Merit	: 36
Number of A*s in individual subjects	: 98
Number of As in individual subjects	: 165
Number of Bs in individual subjects	: 150
Number of Cs in individual subjects	: 126



Ishaan Chopra

Results of IGCSE Examination 2015 (Science group)

Total Appeared	: 60
School Topper	: Ishaan Chopra [9A*s]

Results of IGCSE Examination 2015 (Commerce group)

Total Appeared	: 13
School Topper	: Bhavesh Joshi [3A*s, 4As & 2Bs]



Bhavesh Joshi

Ishaan Chopra, the School Topper in Science group, secured A* in all the nine subjects he appeared for. Rijul Narwal, Roshan Kurumoorthy Ravishankar, Abheshek Satish Pandey and Siddhi Suri gained 7A*s each. Our students notched up 98 A*s, 165 As, 150 Bs, 126 Cs & 63Ds. 40% of all Grades achieved are A*s & As. The excellent result is a testimony of the hard work and determination of our students.

Indian School Certificate Examination – March 2015 [Grades XI & XII, ISC]

The **Indian School Certificate (ISC)** examinations started on 09 February and ended on 26 March 2015.

25 students from GSIS appeared for the ISC examinations. The school achieved cent per cent results. **7 students scored 90% or above. 22 students secured distinction and 3 were awarded first class.**

Results of ISC Examination 2015 (Science)

Total Appeared	: 10
Distinctions	: 10
Scores of 90% & above	: 4
Scores between 80% & 90%	: 6
School Topper	: Vibhushan Balaji Neethi Mohan (93%)



Vibhushan Balaji Neethi Mohan

Results of ISC Examination 2015 (Commerce)

Total Appeared	: 15
Distinctions	: 12
First Class	: 3
Scores of 90% & above	: 3
Scores between 80% & 90%	: 7
Scores between 70% & 80%	: 3
School Topper	: Siddhant Deepak Jain (91.8%)



Siddhant Deepak Jain

Our students achieved a higher Mean Grade than the All India Average in most of the subjects. Consistent work has helped our students perform well.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme – May 2015 [Grades XI & XII, IB]

A total of **32** students took the two-year Diploma and appeared for the IBDP examinations in May 2015.

Overview of the results:

Diploma Awarded	: 30 candidates
Diploma Course Awarded	: 2 candidates
Average Diploma score of GSIS students	: 33.84 points
Highest Diploma score awarded to a GSIS candidate	: 41 points
Mean grade obtained by GSIS students	: 5.39



Anjali Sabu Nair

The distribution of the individual scores of the School Topper is shown below:

School Topper : **Anjali Sabu Nair [41 points]; three 7s & three 6s**

12 students achieved maximum scores of 7 points and 28 students acquired scores of 6 points in different subjects. Students achieved the highest score of 7 points in French AB. SL, Hindi B SL, Business & Management HL, Psychology SL, Economics SL & HL, Environmental Systems & Societies SL, Physics HL, Chemistry HL, Mathematics SL & HL.

The school average grade is higher than the world average grade in most of the subjects. 3% of our students achieved a score between 40 and 45 points and 50% of them scored between 35 and 39 points. **Congratulations** to the IB students for doing so well in the board examination!

Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint Examination – April 2015 [taken in Grade VIII]

80 students appeared for the Cambridge Secondary 1 Checkpoint examinations held in the school from 20 April to 22 April 2015. The tests were conducted in English Papers 1 & 2, Mathematics Papers 1 & 2, and Science Papers 1 & 2.

Most of our students did well in the tests. **Siddhi Sanjeev Desai** secured the **first position scoring 17.8 points**. She achieved the highest possible score of 6 points in English and Mathematics and 5.8 points in Science. **One student in English, fourteen students in Mathematics and three students in Science secured the highest Checkpoint score of 6 points.** Subject averages in Mathematics and Science are **4.5 & 4.6 points** respectively.



Siddhi Sanjeev Desai

Well done!

Cambridge Primary Checkpoint Tests – April 2015 [Grade VI]

Cambridge Primary Checkpoint Tests for students of Grade VI were held in GSIS on 20, 21 & 22 April 2015.

33 students appeared for the tests held in the Examination Hall at the Palada Campus. **Aashish Prakash Parmar** and **Nabeeha Mahanta** topped the batch of students with a maximum possible score of **18 points each**. **Both scored the maximum of 6 points each in English, Mathematics and Science**. **Aashish Prakash Parmar, Nabeeha Mahanta** and **Maansi Suri** were awarded the maximum score of **6 points in English**. **15 students received the maximum score of 6 points in Mathematics** and **10 students secured the maximum score of 6 in Science**.

Congratulations and best wishes!



Aashish Prakash Parmar



Nabeeha Mahanta

TCL Practical Music Examinations - November 2014

Our students appeared in the **Trinity College London** Music Examinations from Initial Grade to Grade 6. **184** students took the Practical Music Examinations in November 2014. The candidates appeared for the practical examination in **Piano, Violin, Cello, Viola, Keyboard, Classical & Plectrum Guitars, Recorder, Drum kit, Snare drum, Trumpet, Xylophone and Baritone**. Candidates performed three (or sometimes four) pieces, and technical work featuring scales and arpeggios, exercises or orchestral extracts. They also appeared in two supporting tests from a selection including sight reading, aural, musical knowledge and improvising.

44 students achieved **Distinction**, **75** secured **Merit** and **59** were awarded **Pass** certificates. **Well done!**

TCL Theory of Music Examinations - May 2015

The school registered **473** students from the Initial Grade to Grade 6 for the TCL Theory Examinations in May 2015.

194 students secured **Distinction**, **132** were awarded **Merit** and **81** received **Pass** certificates. **Congratulations!**

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Examinations

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is now part of the educational experience worldwide and is regarded as a new 'literacy' alongside reading, writing and arithmetic. It can contribute to universal access to education, uniformity in education, delivery of quality learning and teaching, teachers' professional development and more efficient education management.

ICT is taught at the Primary and Middle School of GSIS to achieve computer literacy and develop ICT competence. Students learn key IT skills, logo (logo language) and a range of software applications. They analyse, design, implement and evaluate ICT systems, develop understanding of the implications of technology in society and awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments. They combine theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications to solve problems, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software and website design. Students develop lifelong skills, which will be useful to them in their work and prepare them for future employment.

Our students from Grade 2 to Grade 7 appeared for the **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Examinations** conducted by the **Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)** in the academic year 2014 – 2015. The examination evaluated their knowledge, understanding and skills of ICT systems. They appeared for the examinations at three different levels of stage 1 - 'Initial steps', 'Next steps' and 'On track' covering different modules. The overall results are mentioned below:

Grades 2 & 3: Initial steps :-

Number of candidates : 32

Merit : 32

Grades 4 & 5: Next steps :-

Number of candidates : 74

Merit : 58

Pass : 16

Grades 6 & 7: On track :-

Number of candidates : 171

Merit : 84

Pass : 87

All the students successfully completed stage 1 of all the three levels and were awarded stage 1 certificates. This performance is a testimony to our students' aspirations and steadfast commitment to achieve the highest standards of excellence.

Meritorious Students Awarded Scholarships

Students who top the ICSE and IGCSE Board examinations and will continue in Grade XI & XII in Good Shepherd International School will be awarded "**Scholarship for Academic Excellence.**" This is an educational assistance given to bright students who have achieved excellent results in the Board Examinations held during the academic year 2014 – 2015.



Shivam Garg
(ICSE - Science)



Ratul Jain
(ICSE - Science)



Abhyuday Sureka
(ICSE - Commerce)



Ishaan Chopra
(IGCSE - Science)



Roshan Kurumoorthy Ravishankar
(IGCSE - Science)



Rijul Narwal
(IGCSE - Science)



Abheshek Satish Pandey
(IGCSE - Science)



Sarvagya Sanjay Pandey
(IGCSE - Science)



Bhavesh Joshi
(IGCSE - Commerce)

These scholarships are awarded to our students for academic excellence by the **Good Shepherd International School** and the **Trust of the Old Shepherdians' Association (OSA)**. The following two tables show the details of the scholarships awarded by **Good Shepherd International School** and the **Trust of the Old Shepherdians' Association** for the academic year 2014 – 2015:

ICSE Science & Commerce

Name of student	Course	Board Examination results	Scholarship	
			GSIS	Trust of OSA
Shivam Garg	ICSE (Science)	95%	2 lakhs	2 lakhs
Ratul Jain	ICSE (Science)	91.2%	2 lakhs	1.5 lakhs
Abhyuday Sureka	ICSE (Commerce)	90.3%	2 lakhs	1 lakh
Total			6 lakhs	4.5 lakhs

IGCSE Science & Commerce

Name of student	Course	Board Examination results	Scholarship	
			GSIS	Trust of OSA
Ishaan Chopra	IGCSE (Science)	9A*s	2 lakhs	2 lakhs
Roshan Kurumoorthy Ravishankar	IGCSE (Science)	7A*s & 2As	2 lakhs	1.5 lakhs
Rijul Narwal	IGCSE (Science)	7A*s, 1A & 1B	-	1 lakh
Abheshek Satish Pandey	IGCSE (Science)	7A*s, 1A & 1B	-	1 lakh
Sarvagya Sanjay Pandey	IGCSE (Science)	3A*s & 6As	-	1 lakh
Bhavesh Joshi	IGCSE (Commerce)	3A*s, 4As & 2Bs	2 lakhs	-
Total			6 lakhs	6.5 lakhs

This initiative to provide financial support to eligible students encourages them to succeed in school and make their dreams a reality.

Camlin Art Education

Kokuyo Camlin Ltd. organized an Art workshop titled **Camel Teachers Summit 2015** at YWCA, Anandagiri, Ooty, on Saturday, 25 July 2015. Three Arts teachers of GSIS – **Mr. C Anandan**, **Mr. Patel Nirav** and **Ms. Thenmozhi** attended the session.

IAYP Training Workshop



Teachers at The Lawrence School, Lovedale

Eleven teachers from three schools attended a two-day **IAYP [International Award for Young People] training programme** held from 24 July to 25 July 2015 at The Lawrence school, Lovedale. Three teachers of GSIS – **Mrs. Shanthi Baskar, Mr. Siju T Mathew** and **Mr. Mathew Lawrence** attended the workshop.

Over the span of two days, the teachers were given in-depth knowledge regarding the four domains of the programme, i.e. Skills, Service, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey and also the Residential Project for the Gold Award Programme. The programme began with an introduction of attendees through an icebreaking session. The national trainer, **Mr. Bivujit Mukhoty**, introduced IAYP to the participants. Next, **Mr. Kapil Bhalla** explained the philosophy of IAYP and conducted a session on Service. **Mr. Ajith Jacob** took an interactive session on skills. On the second day, training on Physical Recreation by Mr. Jacob, Adventurous Journey by Mr. Bivujit and Residential Programme by Mr. Kapil provided an engaging, interactive and fun-filled session for the teachers. After a session on risk minimization, the programme concluded with the presentation of participation certificates to all the participant teachers.

Nilgiris District Cricket Team



Master Dwij Dipak Patel



Master Nithik Chalasani

Two students of GSIS – **Master Dwij Dipak Patel**, FM 3D and **Master Nithik Chalasani**, FM 2C were selected by the Nilgiris District Cricket Association to the Nilgiris District Under-14 yrs cricket team. They participated in the Tamil Nadu Under-14 yrs Inter District Cricket Tournament held at Theni from 31 July to 02 August 2015.

Nilgiris District Badminton Championship



Ishan Abhay Shah



Aanya Devabhaktuni

The Nilgiris District Badminton Championship was held at Anna Stadium, Ooty, from 07 August to 09 August 2015. We are happy to inform you that **Master Ishan Abhay Shah**, 9B, was the winner in the singles event in the U-15 yrs category. **Ms. Aanya Devabhaktuni**, FM 3A, was a member of the doubles team that achieved the runner-up position in the U-15 yrs category.

Well done!