



The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter



GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Knowledge Village
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Visit us @ www.gsis.ac.in | www.gsfs.ac.in

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Reminiscences of NASA Space Camp 2015

"It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and reality of tomorrow"

- Robert Goddard



Students and chaperones who attended the Space Camp at United States Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama

Attending Space Camp at **United States Space and Rocket Center**, Huntsville, Alabama was a grand dream that came true for our students and staff from 24 May to 29 May 2015.

The school group of fifty students (including one student from Good Shepherd Finishing School) and four chaperones- **Mr. James Milton, Mrs. Shanthi Baskar, Mrs. Ruth Sheeba and Mr. Ajith P Jacob** – left on 22 May to the United States to return by 09 June 2015 after a successful Space Camp programme in Huntsville, Alabama and a splendid time at the theme parks in Orlando, Florida.

At Space Camp, our students were involved in the difficult programmes offered there - Space Academy, Advanced Space Academy, Aviation Challenge Mach II, Aviation Challenge Mach III and Robotics Academy. The six days at Space Camp were a wonderful and enjoyable learning experience for all with a lot of simulation and mission exercises, team building activities, building and flying model rockets, laboratory work, watching IMAX movies related to the subject, visiting the Space and Rocket Park, studying the exhibits at the Davidson Centre for Space Exploration, making new friends etc.



Students undergoing training at the Space Camp



Enjoying a roller coaster ride at SeaWorld in Orlando



The Lost Continent Area, Universal's Islands of Adventure, Orlando

In Florida, the school group had a great time at Busch Gardens, Sea World, Aquatica, Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure and Magic Kingdom from 31 May to 05 June. All participants treasured their moments at the theme parks with a lot of mirth and enthusiasm, having enjoyed the mind-racing roller coaster rides, the brilliant shows, the innovative awareness programmes to conserve and protect Nature, the exciting games, the exotic snacks and the very relaxed ambience of the parks.

The ice cream social and the pizza lunch party sponsored by the Rotary Club of Decatur for the school group on Sunday, 24 May was very well appreciated and happily remembered. Our students presented to the Decatur Rotary gathering a couple of songs and a dance besides gifting souvenirs to the community members. The school group was also able to find time to visit the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta this time on 23 May.

Cheers to the US NASA Space Camp school group who made it happen in May/ June 2015!

This is what they said...

A few eminent personalities from India and abroad recently visited GSIS. This is what they have mentioned in their comments in the Visitors' Book.

Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai, NM



Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai, NM, Chief Instructor (Navy), DSSC, Wellington, was the Chief Guest of the 13th Annual Inter School Athletics Festival held at GSIS on Saturday, 22 August 2015.

"Privileged to associate with the GSIS (once again) and be part of the Inter School Meet. The verve and vibrancy is very evident in every facet of the school. Keep up the good work."

- Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai

Lt. Gen. S Pattabhiraman, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, SM



Lt. Gen. S Pattabhiraman, Former Vice Chief of the Indian Army, was the Chief Guest at the Good Shepherd Model United Nations held at GSIS on 17 September 2015.

"It has been a unique privilege to have taken part in the GSMUN 2015 and thanks to Dr. Thomas. Having gone through an enlightening experience and having seen a truly world class institution providing such wonderful ambience, it is indeed a "Jewel in the Crown" of India's educational institutions.

Keep up the high standards, Dr. Thomas! You are doing a yeoman's service. May God Bless!"

- Lt. Gen. S Pattabhiraman

Mr. Maroof Raza



Mr. Maroof Raza was the Chief Guest at the Good Shepherd Model United Nations held at GSIS on 18 September 2015. He is a **Consultant and Strategic Affairs Advisor** at **Times Now**.

"Most impressed with the Vision of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and their kind and wonderful hospitality. Thank you."

- Mr. Maroof Raza

Dr. Graham Ranger



Dr. Graham Ranger, the **Director of School Support & Evaluation** at the **Council of International Schools (CIS)**, was the Chief Guest at the Good Shepherd Model United Nations held at GSIS on 19 September 2015.

"Thank you for asking Ann and I to visit on the occasion of the GSIS MUN. I am impressed by the vision of Dr. Thomas and the Board, the strength of the drive to excellence and the outstanding community feel of your school. You are perfect hosts, and in your ambition to achieve internationally-benchmarked excellence, you have a school to emulate.

Thank you, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas."

- Dr. Graham Ranger

Mahatria Ra



Mahatria Ra, motivational speaker and Chennai's own millennial self-help guru, visited GSIS on Tuesday, 22 September 2015 and delivered a talk on **'Infiniteism'**, the path that inspires breakthroughs in anyone who desires abundance in any sphere of human endeavour. The students attended the live discourse at a Special Assembly held at GSIS and Mahatria Ra answered their queries.

"Let the global citizens of the world emerge from GSIS. Let love, happiness, peace and abundance spread across the globe through Shepherdians. Let the Lord preserve the vision of GSIS as His own. Let most and more happen through GSIS.

I felt so loved in the campus by all. I leave behind my love, vibrations and silence over here. This is just the beginning..."

- Mahatria Ra

Students Test Their Skills At The Annual Inter School Athletics Festival 2015



The Chief Guest, Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai, NM, Chief Instructor (Navy), Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, hoisting the Athletic Festival flag

Good Shepherd International School organized and hosted the 13th Annual Inter School Athletics Festival on Saturday, 22 August 2015. Students were encouraged to participate in events that suited their interests and abilities. It had been a day of high emotions as students ran, threw and jumped in a series of hard-fought events at the Inter School Athletics Festival.

The Chief Guest, **Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai, NM**, Chief Instructor (Navy), Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, hoisted the Athletic Festival flag. The Chief Guest took the salute at the march past presented by the GSIS Brass Band, Pipe Band and the participating school contingents. The athletes carried the torch and lit the Athletic Festival flame. **Brig. S. Suresh Kumar, VSM (Retd)**, Senior Vice Principal (Administration), welcomed the gathering. The Chief Guest addressed the athletes and administered the Athletic Festival Oath. The participants solemnly pledged to uphold the spirit of true sportsmanship. The guest of honour then declared the Athletic Meet Open. **Mr. Ajith P Jacob**, Director of Activities, expressed his gratitude.

A colourful cultural presentation preceded the track and field events. The athletic events included events such as long jump, high jump, discus throw, shot put, sprints, middle distance running, relays and other track and field events. These events of the day were filled with exciting victories and near misses for many of the athletes.

Seventeen schools from the Nilgiris participated in the one-day sports event held at the Palada Campus. Over 700 athletes from the following schools participated in the Athletics Festival:

1. Rex Senior Higher Secondary School
2. JSS International School
3. Riverside Public School
4. Nazareth Convent High School
5. Cliff Rock Creative School
6. Oxford International School
7. Gurukulam Matriculation School
8. Crescent Castle Public School
9. Crescent Castle Matriculation School
10. Nilgiris Matriculation Higher Secondary School
11. Woodside School
12. The Lawrence School
13. International Community School
14. Mahatma Gandhi Matriculation Higher Secondary School
15. Brindavan Public School
16. Hebron School
17. Good Shepherd International School

The Sports Meet came to an end with a Closing Ceremony during which the prizes were distributed. The students who won the first, second and third places in each event were awarded certificates. The closing remarks of **Mrs. Sheila Alexander**, Senior Vice Principal (Academics), was followed by the National Anthem. The day ended on a jovial and heart-warming note, heralding the year ahead, filled with promises for all the young athletes.



Inspection of the Guard of Honour



March past of the athletes



Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai, NM, takes the General Salute



Athletic Torch Run



Rear Admiral Sudhir Pillai, NM, addressing the athletes



Athletes taking the Athletic Festival Oath



Girls presenting a dance performance



Girls' sprint in progress



Discus throw



High jump



Long jump



Boys' relay race in progress



Girls' relay race in progress



Winners on the podium

69th Independence Day Celebrations at GSIS

"If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions, I should point to India."

– Max Mueller



Senior Vice Principal [Administration], Brig. Suresh Kumar, VSM [Retd], hoisting the national tricolour flag

When the dawn breaks on a new day, the day becomes special as it commemorates freedom. The **69th Independence Day** celebrations in GSIS brought together students of both the campuses under the canopy of the luxuriant sky of a free India, an India that has gained freedom from the shackles of bondage, an India whose free citizens salute to the tricolour fluttering in the breeze.

To mark the occasion, the national flag was hoisted by the Chief Guest, Senior Vice Principal [Administration], **Brig. Suresh Kumar, VSM [Retd]** who considered this act of hoisting the national tricolour as a great privilege and honour bestowed upon him. The emcees for the occasion presented the solemn ceremony with the grandeur of eloquent speeches and melodious patriotic renditions.

Sherwyn Kalyan of Grade 12 reiterated the necessity to respect each other because our pride lets in the idea that "we got freedom not because we fought for it but because we stopped fighting amongst ourselves." Unnati Agarwal, a student of Grade 10 spoke about the great martyrs of freedom. The Chief Guest in his message to the school described the 'Growth of India's Soft Powers' and the pace with which India has progressed.

The patriotic songs range from the mellifluous *Vande Mataram* to *Sare Jahan Se Achha and Hind Desh Ke Niwasi Sabhi Jan Ek Hai...*, presented by the Indian music choir. The morning air was rejuvenated with the aura of patriotism. The expression of gratitude was given by **Mrs. Anila Kalyan**, the Director of Counselling.

The variety programme presented by the students of GSIS commenced at 11a.m. with a welcome note by **Mr. Dominic Jude Hurst**, Coordinator of Middle School. Paying rich tributes to our poet and freedom fighter Rabindranath Tagore, he highlighted the concept of freedom, "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high," in adulation of our national heritage and culture.



Master Sherwyn Kalyan delivering the Independence Day speech



Independence Day address by Ms. Unnati Agarwal



Independence Day address by Brig. Suresh Kumar, VSM [Retd]



Flag hoisting Ceremony in the co-curricular block



Dance by Grade 7 Girls



Students from Middle School perform a skit on Independence Day

The students from Middle School presented an excellent dance recital on A. R. Rehman's tribute to the nation 'Vande Mataram'. The team of emcees had representatives, one posing as a grand old man who criticized the modern system, another as a representative of the modern youth who strives to bring about changes, and this team along with the performers from different grades showcased the themes of Women Empowerment, Fundamental Rights, Unity in Diversity and the true meaning of Independence. In this kaleidoscope of performances, there were songs, skits and a dance drama, all vividly expressing the themes cherished and perished in the Indian context. The enthusiasm and creativity of the student community was the forte of this programme. The programme was mind-blowing.

The interludes in this programme came as an informative and informal speech by **Mr. T. Suresh**, Coordinator of Curriculum and Professional Development, songs by the teachers' team headed by Dr. George Mathew, and a vocal number presented by the Oracle band.

The programme culminated with the expression of gratitude by the High School Coordinator **Mr. Kalyan Ram**, who got a standing ovation from the audience for his marvellous speech interspersed with wit and humour.

'Hindi Diwas' Celebrated at GSIS

On 14 September 2015, Good Shepherd International School celebrated 'Hindi Diwas', commemorating the adoption of Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India. The event serves to propagate the Hindi language and its cultural heritage and values.

As the years have passed, the language seems to have lost its importance among the people. With the influence of the Western culture, Hindi seems to be just another language. The Hindi learners of our school came together to promote the importance of this language and to keep it alive.



Students singing Hindi songs



Students enacting a short Hindi skit



Zealous celebrations on 'Hindi Diwas': Students reciting Hindi poems

The School celebrated this day by organizing a special function. The Chief Guest for the function was **Mrs. Deepa Suresh**, Vice Principal, Fernhill Campus. The function was made memorable by the various musical performances and a hilarious drama presentation by the tiny tots of the Fernhill Campus. The programme was a Hindi-based event where all the formalities and performances were presented in Hindi language. The senior Hindi learners of Palada Campus performed dances and recited poems in Hindi to show their talent and fluency in the language. The teachers also came forward to recite poems and sing songs in Hindi. The 'Hindi Diwas' speech was delivered by **Master Yash Sharma** of Grade 9. He elaborated on how Hindi is involved in every leading field today and yearns for importance. Mrs. Deepa Suresh enlightened the students with the 'dohas' of Hindi poets and instilled valuable life skills in the minds of young students. The function was a perfect blend of fun and learning event during which all Hindi learners understood the value of Hindi as our national language.



'Hindi Diwas' – A day of jubilation and celebration

- Master Ishaan Dulhani, XA

Onam Celebrations at GSIS

Malayalee students and staff at GSIS celebrated **Onam**, Kerala's rice harvest festival, with much fervour and enthusiasm on Friday, 28 August 2015.



Onam Pookalams at GSIS

Floral decorations / *Pookalams* were laid in different places in the school campus. According to the legend, the *Pookalam* decorations are put to accord a hearty welcome to *King Mahabali* who is believed to pay a visit to his erstwhile kingdom and the people of Kerala on the day of *Thiruvonam*. *Malayalees* were dressed in their traditional Kerala attire and all students and staff irrespective of their caste, creed and religion celebrated Onam and enjoyed *Onasadya*, a grand feast served for lunch on banana leaves.

Raksha Bandhan Celebrated

The Shepherdians celebrated **Raksha Bandhan** at the Palada Campus on Saturday, 29 August 2015. On this auspicious day, sisters tied *rakhi*, 'the knot of protection', on their brothers' wrist to share the strong bond between them. This festival symbolizes the sister's love and prayers for her brother's well-being, and the brother's vow to protect her throughout her life.



Students celebrating Raksha Bandhan in the Palada Campus

Aviation Challenge Awards



Master Shashwat Gutgutia and Master Tejaswaraj Singh Bhatia with the Awards and Certificates

Our students recently attended a **Space Camp** at the **U.S. Space and Rocket Center**, Huntsville, Alabama, in the United States. At the **Aviation Challenge Camp**, they trained with a team that flew a simulated fighter jet, learned critical land and water survival skills and mastered Top Gun flying drills. The Aviation Challenge Camp encompasses teamwork, leadership skills, decision-making and fun in a weeklong educational programme that promotes science, technology, engineering and mathematics while training students with hands-on activities and missions.

Two Shepherdians – **Master Tejaswaraj Singh Bhatia** and **Master Shashwat Gutgutia** received **Aviation Challenge Awards** at the Camp. Master Tejaswaraj Singh Bhatia, FM 4D, received the **Award for the Best Cadet**. He was part of the Aviation Challenge MACH III Programme, a programme specifically designed for students who have an interest in military aviation and the mechanics of flight. **Master Shashwat Gutgutia**, 10B, also a member of the Aviation Challenge MACH III

Programme, received the **Top Gun Award** for winning the Top Gun challenge during the weeklong competition. They also received certificates in recognition of their completing the requirements for AVIATION CHALLENGE involving an intense curriculum in aeronautical sciences, as well as water and land survival. The Awards and Certificates were presented to them during the Graduation Ceremony that was held in Huntsville, Alabama on 29 May 2015.

GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL

Reporting and Orientation Programme of the 9 Months' Batch and the 3 Months' Batch of Students for the year 2015-2016



Mrs. Neetha Nataraj, Dean, GSFS addressing the parents and guardians during the Orientation Programme



The parents and guardians during the open forum

The 9 Months' programme session and the first session of the 3 Months' programme for the year 2015-2016 commenced on 29 July 2015 and 6 August 2015 respectively. The course period of the 9 Months' programme is from 29 July 2015 to 29 April 2016 and the course period for the 3 Months' programme is from 6 August 2015 to 6 November 2015. The second session of the 3 Months' programme for the year is scheduled to be from 15 January 2016 to 15 April 2016.

The reporting of the students was followed by Orientation for the Parents. The Orientation Programme for the parents of the 9 Months' batch of students was chaired by the President of GSFS, **Dr. P.C. Thomas**. The welcome address was delivered by **Mrs. Elsamma Thomas**, the Principal of GSFS. The Senior Vice Principal (Administration), **Brigadier S. Suresh Kumar** addressed the audience. The session was followed by an open forum during which the parents shared their concerns and queries. The Vice President of GSFS, **Mrs. Julie Pradeesh** was also present at the Orientation. The Orientation Programme and Induction to the Course for the students of both the batches was conducted by **Mrs. Neetha Nataraj**, Dean, GSFS.

The Orientation Programme for the parents of the 3 Months' batch was chaired by **Mrs. Elsamma Thomas**, the Principal, and the Orientation was conducted by **Mrs. Neetha Nataraj**, Dean, GSFS. The Senior Vice Principal (Administration), **Brigadier S. Suresh Kumar** addressed the gathering. The open forum clarified the queries of the parents, and the session was adjourned after tea.