



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
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Orientation Programme organised at GSIS prior to the beginning of the II Term



Members of the Staff attending the Faculty Orientation Programme

The **Orientation Programme** for the teachers was held on Friday, 15 January 2016 in the Mowbray Hall. Each term begins with moments of motivation to energize the teachers to meet the demands of the term ahead. The morning began with the Welcome Address by the Senior Vice Principal (Academics), **Mrs. Sheila Alexander**, who emphasized the need to be more empathetic and compassionate towards the children entrusted to our care.



*Mrs. Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal (Academics),
welcoming the members of staff*



*Brig. Suresh Kumar (Retd.), Senior Vice Principal (Administration),
addressing the staff*



*Mr. T. Suresh, Coordinator, Curriculum & Professional Development,
interacting with the members of the staff during the programme*



*Mr. Sridhar Balan, an academician and columnist,
conducting a training session*

Brig. Suresh Kumar, Senior Vice Principal (Administration), familiarized the teachers with the Green Building Concept. He stressed on the need to conserve water and energy and the importance of segregating waste at the source and recycling. He also mentioned the aspirations of the school to bag the platinum certification awarded by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

Mr. T. Suresh, Coordinator, Curriculum and Professional Development, addressed the gathering on the topic 'Mindfulness for Peace and Happiness', a philosophical and psychological approach to self-awareness and peace. The teachers had a taste of the mindful meditation during the orientation.

The special guest for the day was **Mr. Sridhar Balan**, who reflected on the future of books and publishing. **Mr. Udhay Shankar** spoke to the teachers about dining etiquette and the need for each individual to observe certain manners in formal and informal situations.

The orientation programme continued with Section Coordinators' meetings and Faculty meetings during which the goals and ideals of the teaching community was reiterated. The day came to an end with a course on safety and disaster management led by **Mr. Srikumar Sikkari**, Executive Director of Infernotech Engineers. Teachers were trained in search and rescue, and a drill was conducted.

The GSIS team got off to a brisk and enthusiastic start and we hope to face an eventful and blessed 2016.

Tribute to the Nation: GSIS Celebrates 67th Republic Day!



Mrs. Vimala Rani Jacob, Coordinator, Higher Secondary School, hoisting the national flag

The morning of 26 January witnessed a fervour of festivity in the Palada Campus with the school community gathering together on the greens of the co-curricular block to celebrate the 67th Republic Day of the nation. The bugle call announced the arrival of the Chief Guest, **Mrs. Vimala Rani Jacob**, Coordinator, Higher Secondary School. A commendable homage was paid to the 'Tiranga' with the tune of *Jana Gana Mana* reverberating through the hills. Motivating speeches were delivered by **Master S. Akshay**, ISC 1A and **Ms. Muskan Agrawal**, XB who highlighted many facets of our Motherland and how, today, we stand proud as a free Nation.

The students of the Indian Music Choir paid rich tributes to our Motherland with Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's composition-*Vande Mataram*. They also presented two patriotic songs-*Nanha Munna Rahi Hoon* and *Sare Jahan Se Accha*, which were much appreciated by the audience.

The Chief Guest of the day enlightened the audience about the meaning of Republic and the contributions of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar who was Independent India's first Law Minister and the principal architect of the Constitution of India. He campaigned against social discrimination against untouchables, supported the rights of women and motivated the young minds to be responsible Nation Builders.



Students of Indian Music Choir singing patriotic songs



Master S Akshay, ISC 1A, addressing the students



Ms. Muskan Agrawal, XB, addressing the students



Mrs. Vimala Rani Jacob addressing the students and staff



Students assembled on the greens of the co-curricular block



Students playing the guitar



Students perform a musical show



Students displaying their skills in drawing and painting

The day also saw the liberation of colour on canvas by the young budding artists of the Middle school. The Art Department organized a painting event during which the students and teachers painted their expressions in beautiful strokes of their brush and colours. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks from **Mr. Dominic Jude Hurst**, Coordinator, Middle School.

Christmas Celebrations: A Time to Give and Forgive

Students and staff of GSIS celebrated Christmas with a festive spirit earlier on 28 November 2015 in the Palada Campus auditorium, but there was no less enthusiasm as the school organized a colourful cultural programme and celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. Thanks to the management, administration and the efforts of the teachers for making this a success.



Teachers perform a Nativity Play



Santa distributing sweets and gifts during the Christmas Celebrations



Children sing the traditional Christmas hymns

The school wore a festive look, with the auditorium decorated with Christmas stars and colourful lights. A Christmas tree was beautifully decorated and the school was immersed in festive spirit as the choir children, dressed in party clothes, sang melodious Christmas chorales like “*Crazy Crazy Christmas*”, “*The Reindeer Rocks*”, “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*”, “*What Child Is This*”, “*Silent Night*”, “*We Three Kings*”, “*Joy to the World*”, “*Silent Night*”, “*Jingle Bells*” and “*Santa Claus is coming to Town.*” A wonderful nativity play was enacted on stage. The staff presented the colourful nativity play relating to the birth of Jesus Christ wherein they dressed as Joseph, Mother Mary, the Angel, the shepherds and the three Kings. The virtues of care, love, fortitude and helping the poor and needy were impressed upon the students through this play. **Rev. Fr. Vincent Paul** delivered the Christmas Message to the school community.

A staff member attired as Santa Claus appeared and distributed Christmas goodies among the students. Students and staff wished each other a **Merry Christmas**. The students were in a festive mood and enjoyed each and every moment with fun and frolic.



Choir students singing Christmas carols

GSIS Team Wins Nilgiri Library Debate Competition



Master David Fredy Paul and Master Aayush Agnel Dantas pose with the Nilgiri Library Rolling Shield after they won the Annual Inter School Nilgiri Library Debate competition

The Annual Inter School Debating Competition was held at the Nilgiri Library in Ooty on Saturday, 14 November 2015. The competition was organised by the 156-year-old Nilgiri Library that houses more than 30,000 books and is the hub of several cultural activities in the Nilgiris.

Thirty-two speakers from sixteen schools from various parts of the Nilgiris district vied for the top honours. With the National Smart Cities Initiative of the central government and the topic chosen for this year's debate being "The nation is not yet ready for smart cities", we were sure that it was going to be an interesting debate.

Two students represented each school presenting their arguments, one supporting the motion and the other against it. **Master Aayush Agnel Dantas**, FM 4A, argued in favour of the motion and **Master David Fredy Paul**, IB 2A, against the motion. Each participant was expected to speak for a time period of four minutes without referring to any notes. Three judges were assigned to select the 3 best speakers and the top three schools from the group. There were many brilliant speakers presenting their credible arguments. The audience witnessed keen competition as the event has grown in popularity and more schools evinced interest over the last few years and participated in the debate competition. With hard work, practice and passion, the participants set the

standard very high. The audience also became better informed about the smart cities initiative of the government. Our students were brilliant and they spoke with great fluency and ease. They handled the pressure quite deftly, expressed their views with eloquence and argued their points in a very convincing manner.

At the end of the heated debate which lasted for more than two hours, **Master David Fredy Paul** was adjudged the **best speaker** and the GSIS team was declared the **winner!** Our students bagged the coveted **Nilgiri Library Rolling Shield**. Apart from the rolling shield, they received gift vouchers. **Master Aayush Agnel Dantas** received a cash voucher worth

₹1200 and **Master David Fredy Paul** was awarded a cash voucher worth ₹2400. They can use these vouchers to buy books from Higginbothams, a local bookstore in Ooty.

Winning a debate competition at this level is not an easy task. We congratulate both of them for their hard work, dedication, passion and perseverance!

Inter House Classical & Folk Dance Competitions 2015 High School & Higher Secondary School

Dance is a part of our Indian culture. According to the local traditions and having imbibed features from other parts of the country, different forms of dances originated and developed in different parts of India. Some might have had their origin in religious activities of the distant past. **Classical dance** has developed into a type of dance-drama and most of the classical dances in India enact stories from Hindu mythology. Each form represents the culture and ethos of a particular region or a group of people. The dancer acts out a story almost exclusively through gestures. **Folk dances** are developed by groups of people who reflect the traditional life of the people of a certain country or region.

In the **Inter House Classical & Folk Dance Competition** held at GSIS on 30 November 2015, the results are as follows:

Grade IX : Classical Group Dance



Summer House team



Winter House team

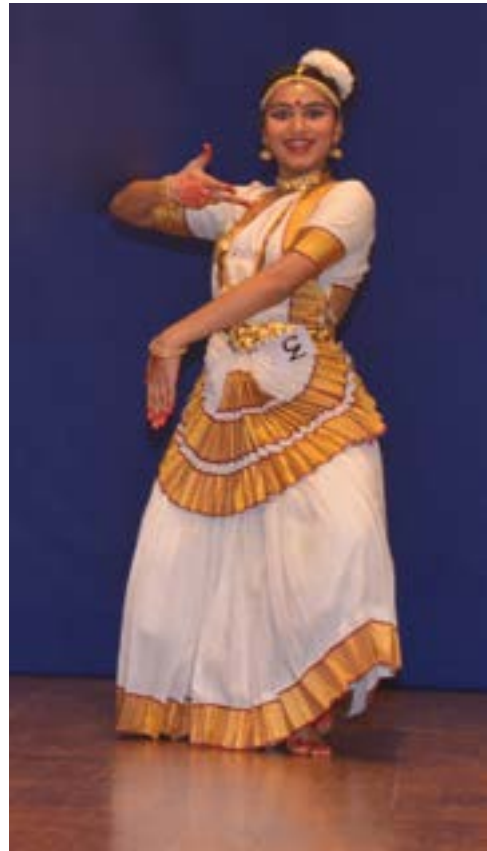
Names of students	House	Position
Pooja A	Summer	I
Eva Ann Raju		
Nairuti Vishnubhai Patel		
M Sathvika	Winter	II
Ardra Ravindran		
Rhea Jain		
S Ashmath	Spring	III
P U Harini Sankar		
G Swathi		

Individual Prizes in Classical Dance

Names of students	House	Position
Eva Ann Raju	Summer	I
Rhea Jain	Winter	II
Nairuti Vishnubhai Patel	Summer	III



Eva Ann Raju



Rhea Jain

Grade XI : Classical Group Dance



Autumn House team



Summer House team



Winter House team

Names of students	House	Position
Archa Varghese Alukka	Autumn	I
Deepthi Dhinesh		
Yachi Sipani	Summer	II
Yashita Jadon		
Mootha Vaishnavi Dhriti	Winter	II
Valliammai Karuppiyah		

Individual Prizes in Classical Dance

Names of students	House	Position
Mootha Vaishnavi Dhriti	Winter	I
Yachi Sipani	Summer	II
Archa Varghese Alukka	Autumn	III
Archana Viswanath	Spring	III



Mootha Vaishnavi Dhriti



Yachi Sipani

Grades IX & XI combined: Folk Group

House	Position
Spring	I
Winter	II
Summer	III



Spring House team



Winter House team

Congratulations to the winners!

Inter School Hockey Tournament 2015



GSIS Hockey Team (U-14 yrs division)



GSIS Hockey Team (U-16 yrs division)



GSIS Hockey Team (U-19 yrs division)

The **Annual Inter School Hockey Tournament** for boys was held in Hebron School, Ooty, from 20 November to 24 November 2015.

In the U-14 yrs division, the **GSIS team** secured the second place. In the final match, **The Lawrence School, Lovedale**, defeated GSIS team. The score was 2 – 1.

Five schools participated in the U-16 yrs division. The **GSIS team** emerged runner-up on the basis of goal average. The winners of the competition in this category was the team from **Hebron School**.

In the U-19 yrs division also, the team of **Hebron School** bagged the first place. The **GSIS team** secured the runner-up place on the basis of goal average. **Well done!**

Inter School Soccer Tournament 2016

The Annual Inter School Soccer Tournament for U-19 boys was held at the Palada Campus Open Air Stadium of Good Shepherd International School on Friday, 29 January 2016.

The following six teams participated in the tournament:

1. Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) Team
2. The Lawrence School, Lovedale
3. Riverside Public School, Kotagiri
4. The Laidlaw Memorial School & Junior College, Ketti
5. Good Shepherd International School - Team A
6. Good Shepherd International School - Team B



GSIS U-19 Boys' Football Team A



The football match in progress

In the final match, **Good Shepherd International School - Team A** defeated The Laidlaw Memorial School & Junior College and won the trophy. Score: 1 – 0

The following prizes were also awarded:

- Best Player** : **Master Nikhil V** (GSIS – Team A)
- Best Defender** : **Master Parth Bansal** (GSIS – Team A)
- Best Striker** : **Master G Piranesh** (The Laidlaw Memorial School & Junior College)
- Most Promising Player** : **Master Kazaan D** (The Lawrence School)

Mr. Ajith P Jacob, Director of Activities and **Mr. V Kalyan Ram**, High School Coordinator, gave away the certificates and trophies.

Congratulations!

GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL

Indian Cooking Fiesta



Team Excellence that served Rajasthani dishes



Rajasthani cuisine



Marathi dishes



Punjabi flavours

The **Indian Cooking Competition** of the 9 months' batch of students was held on 23, 24 and 25 January 2016.

The Atrium at the Finishing School Campus turned to a cultural hub on all the three days. Students of the three Houses - Excellence, Emancipation and Elegance participated in the cooking competition and presented their cuisines in the following order – Rajasthani, Punjabi and Marathi cuisine.

The food and beverage training sessions at the Finishing School helped the students to explore their culinary skills and creativity while preparing and presenting the cuisines. The students tried their cooking prowess and created culinary delights.

The judges selected the following teams and their cuisines in recognition of the excellent food and beverages that they prepared and presented to them:

First Position : Team Excellence (Rajasthani Cuisine)

Second Position : Team Elegance (Marathi Cuisine) & Team Emancipation (Punjabi Cuisine)

Well done!

***“Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny.”***

- Mahatma Gandhi