



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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Synchronised CIS / NEASC Team Accreditation Visit



CIS & NEASC teams seen along with the Senior Management team and the Members of the Academic Council

A team of eminent educators and evaluators nominated by the CIS and NEASC came to GSIS for a Joint CIS and NEASC Accreditation visit from 02 February to 08 February 2019. The purpose of this visit was to study whether the school meets globally recognized standards and promotes qualities and skills that they are seeking in the learning community. The teams of **Ms Angela Gunn, Mr Ben Wiggins, Mr Stephen Chatelier, Ms Shireen Fathima (CIS Team)** and **Ms Robin N B Rosenfield, Mr Rabih Murr, Ms Hebat Allah Taja (NEASC Team)** carried out a rigorous, thorough evaluation to assess whether the school meets the international CIS and NEASC Standards for Accreditation.

The Team expects the school to demonstrate and deliver what it promises in its Vision, Mission and Objectives. Going further, the school must also commit to continuous action to address recommendations that arose from the internal and external evaluations and thus demonstrate commitment to on-going school improvement. The school has already carried out an in-depth self-study aimed at strengthening the school's programmes and operations.

The **Council of International Schools (CIS)** is a membership community that provides professional services to individuals, schools and higher education institutions. CIS is an internationally-recognised symbol of high quality and Members of



Members of the CIS & NEASC teams in discussion with the Senior Leadership team of GSIS



Observing classroom activities



Classroom observations and informal conversations with students



The teams at the indoor rifle shooting range

excellence in education. The CIS works collaboratively to shape and develop international education. CIS supports its members constantly and purposefully pursues improvement in all areas of the school plans for the future. CIS is a globally-recognized accreditation authority that has a philosophy of education suitable for students and is committed to the development of the students' global citizenship. It focuses on the quality of teaching, student learning, as well as protection of students and their well-being. The award of CIS accreditation shows to the community members that they are achieving the very best possible standards of care and education for their students. Membership to CIS and its accreditation provides surety that the school has achieved high standards of professional performance in international education and has a commitment to continuous improvement.

CIS International Accreditation is validated and accepted by universities and colleges in countries like the United States, Thailand, Australia, the United Kingdom and around the world. Over 500 of the top universities in the world are part of this membership community. They recognize CIS International Accreditation and endorse the quality and rigour of international education provided to students in CIS-Accredited schools. They value and prefer students who graduate from CIS-Accredited schools for admission to their institutions.

The **New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)** is an independent, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization with its headquarters in Burlington, Massachusetts, United States. It connects and serves over 1500 public, independent, and international learning communities in the US and worldwide. NEASC focuses on holistic approaches to improving education and partners with schools and other organizations all around the world to do so. NEASC is dedicated to helping schools reach their individual goals, and to supporting a quality educational experience for all students. The NEASC is working to establish and maintain high standards for all levels of education. A globally recognized standard of excellence, NEASC Accreditation attests to a school's high quality and integrity. It is based on a rigorous set of Standards which define the characteristics of high quality, effective learning communities and encompasses all aspects of a school, center, or institution's operation. NEASC Accreditation is a system of accountability that is ongoing, comprehensive and voluntary. In accordance with the independent, voluntary nature of accreditation, the Standards are



The visitors appreciate the students' art displays



The teams evaluating emergency preparedness of students and staff during a mock fire drill

developed and reviewed periodically by the NEASC Commissions and the membership in order to remain in alignment with current research, best practices, and related governmental regulations. It fosters institutional growth grounded in the experience and expertise of practicing educators.

Dr P C Thomas Initiative Trust: Assistance provided to Tribal School at Thorappalli in Gudalur



Mrs J Innocent Divya, IAS, the Collector of Nilgiris, and Brig (Retd) Suresh Kumar, the Senior Vice Principal (Administration), seen along with the students of the tribal school in Thorappalli

Dr P C Thomas Initiative Trust is a non-profit entity committed to serve the people of the backward areas of the Nilgiris District and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region irrespective of caste, religion, colour, race or gender.

The first project undertaken by the Trust has been the assistance provided to the Tribal School at Thorappalli, Gudalur, in the Nilgiris. The Trust provided the following assistance of approximately Rs 15 lakhs:

- Twenty-three double bunkers with mattresses.
- Twenty benches and desks.
- Ten tables and chairs.
- Tiles were paved in front of the school in an area of approximately 5000 sq ft.
- Constructed a security fence along the existing perimeter wall of the school compound.
- Added a false ceiling in the kitchen.
- General upkeep and maintenance of the entire school campus.

The facilities were handed over to the school authorities on 22 January 2019 in the presence of **Mrs J Innocent Divya, IAS**, the Collector of Nilgiris. This is a small step to improve the quality of life of the 120 students studying in the tribal school, out of which 63 are resident students.

70th Republic Day Celebrated at GSIS



The Chief Guest, Brig (Dr) Pankaj P Rao, unfurling the National Tricolour at GSIS on the occasion of the 70th Republic Day

Good Shepherd International School celebrated the **seventieth Republic Day** of India with solemnity and fervour. Students, teachers and all the members of the school community assembled in the open air stadium of the school at 9:00 AM to participate in the hoisting of the national flag.

A majestic bugle call announced the arrival of the Chief Guest - **Brigadier Pankaj P Rao**, Commandant of the Military Hospital, Wellington. **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, Senior Vice Principal (Academics) and **Brigadier (Retd) Suresh Kumar**, Senior Vice Principal (Administration) presided over the celebrations. Brigadier Rao hoisted the national flag and the school community sang the national anthem. The Indian Music Choir led the school in the singing of the national anthem and *Vande Mataram* – two iconic tunes that bolster our sense of national pride.

A number of speeches by the students of the school and musical performances by the Indian Music Choir marked the celebrations. **Master Shiv Manish Punjabi** of grade 7, spoke about the challenges that India currently faces and the importance of self discipline to build a strong nation. **Ms Aastha Dinesh Dulhani** of IB-1A, drew attention to the challenges that lay in India's path to glory. The speeches in a nutshell reflected the patriotic spirit of the students. In their own ardent ways their speeches reminded the students of the ills that are plaguing India and served as a clarion call to students to serve their nation. The bubbling enthusiasm of the students to contribute to their nation cast a spell of optimism.

The **pièce de résistance** of the day was the address by the Chief Guest Brigadier Pankaj Rao. An accomplished surgeon with a first-rate academic and service record, Brigadier Rao, in his speech, emphasized the need for honesty and sincerity in dispensing one's duties and the significance of conformism and law-abiding citizenship;



Arrival of the chief guest



A warm welcome!



The Chief Guest, Brig (Dr) Pankaj P Rao, during the flag hoisting Ceremony



The Indian Music Choir singing the national anthem and vande mataram



The Chief Guest, Brig (Dr) Pankaj P Rao, seen along with the Senior Vice Principal (Academics), Mrs Sheila Alexander and the Senior Vice Principal (Administration), Brig (Retd) Suresh Kumar



Master Shiv Manish Punjabi addressing the audience



Speech by Ms Aastha Dinesh Dulhani



Welcome address by Master Sriniketh Krishnan

he also advised students to cultivate an attitude of care and concern for their environment. He urged them to ponder on these ideas and wished them his best. The chief guest's speech, free of any customary rhetorical flourishes, was informed by a rare candour and instantly earned the rapt attention of the students.

Master Sriniketh Krishnan of IB-1A, in his welcome note to the Chief Guest highlighted certain remarkable achievements of Mr Rao. A memento was presented to Mr Rao on behalf of the Good Shepherd Family. **Ms Yashvi Navneetbhai Vadalia** of IB-2A, expressed gratitude to the Founder-Principal **Dr P C Thomas**, the Chief Guest of the day Brig Pankaj Rao and all the members of the Good Shepherd International School. The celebrations came to an end with the singing of the national anthem.



The Chief Guest, Brig (Dr) Pankaj P Rao, delivering the Republic Day Address



Expression of gratitude by Ms Yashvi Navneetbhai Vadalia



Presentation of a memento to the chief guest



A view of the audience

Cricket News



Master Mayank Ahalani

Master Mayank Ahalani, IB-1D, represented the Nilgiris district U-19 cricket team and participated in the Tamil Nadu Inter-District U-19 Cricket Tournament held at Tirupur from 14 February to 15 February 2019.

Well done!

Born To Lead: Investiture Ceremony of the New Prefects' Council



Slow march of the new Prefects' Council



Inspection of the Guard of Honour



The Chief Guest taking the salute during the Investiture Ceremony

The morning of 16th February, gaily welcomed the rising sons and daughters of Good Shepherd International School. The leaders, proudly standing tall in their attire, holding high their banners, led the school's contingents. Hailing their allegiance towards the house mottos, each marched forward.

The Chief Guests for the day were **Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, AVSM, NM** and his wife, **Mrs Sunanda Khanna**. Their presence filled the air with solemn reverence making the budding leaders reverberate with zeal and enthusiasm. The Chief Guest inspected the Guard of Honour and took the salute at the march past of the contingents. The four houses and the sea cadets along with the bands surged forward smartly, never wavering from their goal. The Chief Guest and his wife awarded the Badges and Certificates to the members of the new Prefects' Council.

*"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."*

Thus the baton was passed from the leaders of yesterday to the leaders of tomorrow. Each new proud brave-heart received the badge and pledged to do their duties faithfully and sincerely. **Mrs Julie Pradeesh**, Vice President and Vice Principal of GSIS, delivered the welcome address. The Chief Guest gave an invigorating speech, which energised the investiture ceremony. The expression of gratitude was given by **Mr Dominic Jude Hurst**, the Coordinator of the Middle School. After the school anthem, the proud parents were treated to high tea at the swimming pool quadrangle.



March past of the Sea Cadet Corps



March past of the Girls' Pipe Band



The Chief Guest, Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, AVSM, NM, and his wife, Mrs Sunanda Khanna, seen along with the Senior Vice President



The new School Captain and the Boys' House Captains marching forward



Award of badges and certificates

The day waited for the next chapter of the programme, the Graduation Ceremony and the graduating batch trooped down to their boarding houses to don the graduating robes with their mortar boards.



Welcome Address by Mrs Julie Pradeesh, Vice President and Vice Principal of GSIS



Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, AVSM, NM, speaking on the occasion



Expression of gratitude by Mr Dominic Jude Hurst, the Coordinator of the Middle School



The gathering of prefects, other students, teachers, parents and guardians

Graduation Ceremony of the Grade 12 Students: Fare-thee-well

Some, who had looked longingly at the bigger-than-life gate of the school, weeping to go back home are now looking once again at the same gate with eyes full of hopes and dreams. Those toddlers had come clutching the fingers of their mothers, learnt to hold the hands of their teacher and thereafter learnt to walk on their own. The glowing sheen on their faces and the twinkle in their eyes said it all.

The students, with their eyes skimming the audience for their parents, sighed under their breath, "See, I have grown!" They were welcomed lovingly with a rose. They marched their graduation procession following the footsteps of the Chief Guests, **Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, AVSM, NM** and his wife, **Mrs Sunanda Khanna**, and the Coordinator (Higher Secondary), **Mrs Vimala Jacob**, along with the Senior Vice-Principal (Academics), **Mrs Sheila Alexander**.

As they took their seats they were hailed by the juniors for their achievements and their goodness. The invocation was led by **Ms Eliza Elizabeth George** of Grade 12. **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, Senior Vice Principal (Academics), welcomed the gathering. **Master Sriniketh Krishnan** of Grade 11 gave the farewell speech. A toast in reply was aptly given by **G Swetha** and **G Swathi**, two out-going students of Grade 12, who had joined the primary school of GSIS way back in 2007. **Master Prabhraj Singh Bhatia** of Grade 12 led the out-going batch in their Graduation Oath. Each graduating Shepherdian received the certificate of graduation from the Chief Guest.



Out-going batch of 2018-19 Grade 12 students

Then it was the time for the achievers of the batch 2018 – 2019 to be felicitated by the Chief Guest. He also had encouraging words of wisdom for the children, exhorting them to take good care of health as it is the most important thing in life. He rightly said that one learns till the end of life, so not to stop learning and growing. **Mrs Vimala Jacob** gave the Expression of Gratitude.

The batch sang the delightful number:

*“Hey pretty smiling people
We’re alright together, we’re alright together
Hey pretty shining people
We’re alright together, we’re alright together, hey”*

before their proudly beaming parents and teachers. The bitter-sweet words indeed brought the truth to light that today as they stand together, they are pretty shining people. But once they step into the wider world of life, they will miss this togetherness, this bond, this fine feeling. Then with candles alight they promised to pass on the school’s legacy as well as the values to the ensuing batches. Following the Graduation Ceremony, the out-going students, their parents and guardians attended a graduation luncheon hosted by the school.



The Chief Guest and his wife being escorted into the auditorium



The Ceremonial March



The Chief Guest and his wife during the Graduation Ceremony



The Principal, Senior Vice President and Vice Presidents



Invocation by Ms Eliza Elizabeth George



Welcome Address by the Senior Vice Principal, Mrs Sheila Alexander



Reply to the Farewell Address by Ms G Swetha and Ms G Swathi



Students of Grade 12 taking the Graduation Oath



Presentation of Graduation Certificates



Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, AVSM, NM, addressing the staff, students, their parents and guardians



Expression of Gratitude by Mrs Vimala Rani Jacob, the HSS Coordinator



Mrs Sunanda Khanna lighting the Graduation Lamp

“All real education is the architecture of the soul.”

- William Bennett

Orientation of Staff: Ushering In The New Session

"Leadership and Learning are indispensable to each other."

- John F Kennedy

16 January 2019



Staff Orientation in progress



Welcome Address by Mrs Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal (Academics)



Mr Praveen Chellapan speaking on 'Learning Architecture'



An interactive session in progress

The new year, 2019 was ushered in by an **Orientation Programme** for the academic staff, organized on Wednesday, 16 January 2019. The programme was anchored by the Director of Counselling, **Mrs. Anila Kalyan**. The Senior Vice Principal (Academics), **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, delivered the welcome address. The day aptly began with a silent invocation. The group was reminded of the words of the spiritual leader, **Mahatria Ra**, *"Putting age into life is ageing, Putting life into age is growing."* Growing only stops at the grave.

The speech reminded us that the day we stop learning, we stop growing and consequently we become redundant. But with aspiration come challenges; thus we are treading the path of transformation.

The joint evaluating team of the **Council of International Schools (CIS)** and **New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)** visited our school from 2nd February to 8th February 2019. A video presentation of a short motivational talk on *Entrepreneurial Learning* by **Heidi Neck**, Professor of Entrepreneurship at Babson College fired up our latent leadership qualities.

The teachers prepared themselves for the upcoming CIS / NEASC visit by honing their teacher expertise. Learning has undergone a radical change, where students are no more taught but their prior knowledge is facilitated. Thus it is imperative to have student-initiated courses and student-centered classrooms, where they have a choice of what they



Mrs Sangeetha Ray and Mrs Shanthi Bhaskar speaking on 'Governance, Leadership & Ownership'



Dr Deenaz Damania: An introduction to the exciting human psyche

learn, how they learn and how they demonstrate their learning. **Mrs Sheila Alexander** closed her presentation with the song 'One Moment In Time' by **Dana Winner**.

As a measure to further teachers' understanding about ACE, the Domain Heads and the Architecture, Culture & Ecology of Learning (ACE) Heads took us through the framework for the evaluation, International accreditation and the learning principles, respectively. There were some interesting demonstrations by the teachers to show how a model class would be with the learning principles being evident. The Vice Principal (Academics) summed up the whole session by recalling 'Where do we need to improve?'

The programme was punctuated by the session of **Dr Deenaz Damania**, Owner of Synergy Consultants and Tenerife Center for Counseling and Personal Growth, Bengaluru. The session threw light on the 'The Journey of Self-Discovery'. Dr Damania's talk on 'An introduction to the Exciting Human Psyche' captivated all the staff members. The day ended with high tea and the members were well-gearred to put their learning to practice.

Christmas Celebrations

"Christmas is a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today's Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday."

- Gladys Taber



Our students playing string instruments

Christmas brings cheer to the life of students in schools. On 3rd December, 2018, the students and staff at GSIS got together and participated in several activities and events for a Christmas celebration. A special assembly was organized in the auditorium. The essence of Christmas came alive when the students and teachers got together and shared their joy and cheerfulness.



Students singing Christmas carols



Nativity Play in progress



Nativity Play: Recounts the story of the Nativity of Jesus



A scene from the Nativity Play



Arrival of Santa Claus

The programme started with a prayer by **Mr Dominic Jude Hurst**, Middle School Coordinator. The teachers of the Middle School put up a nativity play to showcase the birth and the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. The teachers dressed up as Joseph, Mother Mary, Shepherds and the Wise Men to enact the play and the learners of the middle school were a part of the choir. The audience joined in with the traditional carols with great enthusiasm. The Christmas message was given by **Mr Ajith P Jacob**, Director of Activities. The Strings Orchestra and the Big Band of the Western Music Department presented a musical tribute that mesmerized the crowd and rocked the auditorium with their spellbinding, melodious rendition and pulsating music. The programme concluded with the arrival of Santa Claus, who brought sweets and chocolates and made the Christmas celebration a memorable one by evoking the spirit of Christmas among the audience.

The event spent in joy and festivity exuded warmth, generosity and goodwill. It was a great way of getting into the Christmas spirit. Christmas always brings cheer, love and fun.

Inter House Classical Dance Competition 2018

High School & Higher Secondary School

Indian classical dances are traditionally performed as an expressive drama-dance form of religious performance art. The **Inter House Classical Dance Competition** for girls of High School and Higher Secondary School was held in the Palada Campus auditorium of GSIS on Monday, 26 November 2018. The results in the various categories are mentioned below:

Grade 9 : Classical Group Dance

Names of students	House	Position
Diyansha Magesh	Autumn	I
Devanshi Agrawal		
Jhanavi Sahu		
Kristi Shadija		
Mangalam Karuppiah	Winter	II
Reanne Kurien		
Kashvi Agarwal		
Nitya Nilesh Dhanani		
Akshita Muthukumar	Summer	III
Vibhuti Nitinbhai Hapani		
Ravina Jaywant Patil		
Rajvi Vilish Patel		



Autumn House team



Winter House team



Summer House team

Grade 11 : Classical Group Dance

Names of students	House	Position
Aastha Dinesh Dulhani	Autumn	I
Gayatri Dinesan		
Krupa Dharmesh Mehta		
Jasneel Kaur Anchan		
Harina Ashish Amin	Spring	II
Varsha John Gaddala		
Shivangi Agarwal		
S Saaikiran		
R R Varshitha	Winter	III
P Nikitha		
R Abinaya		
Nikita Ann Anthony		



Autumn House team



Spring House team



Winter House team

The aim of the dance programme was to provide a platform to promote various classical dance styles among students and promote their talent. The girls of GSIS have been perfecting the art of several forms of classical dance styles such as Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi and Kathak, to name a few. The dance performances drew huge applause from the audience and it gave the participants a pleasant experience.

Congratulations to the winners!

Inter House Dramatics Competition 2018

Middle School



Scenes from the play, 'The Little Prince'



A scene from the play, 'The night that changed it all'



A scene from the play, 'Moana'

The **Inter House Dramatics Competition** for students of Middle School was held on Friday, 23 November 2018. The results are as mentioned below:

Best Play : **'The Little Prince'** by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (by Autumn House)

This play, **'The Little Prince'**, tells the story of a world-weary and disenchanted Aviator whose sputtering plane strands him in the Sahara Desert, and a mysterious, regal "little man" who appears and asks him to "Please, sir, draw me a sheep." During their two weeks together in the desert, the Little Prince tells the Aviator about his adventures through the galaxy, how he met the Lamplighter and the Businessman and the Geographer, and about his strained relationship with a very special flower on his own tiny planet.

Second Best Play : **'The night that changed it all'** - An adaptation of **Black Comedy** by Peter Shaffer (by Winter House)

Third Best Play : **'Moana'** by Ron Clements & John Musker (by Spring House)

Best Actor : **Master Teerapat Sripiboonpanich** (Autumn House)

Best Supporting Actor : **Master Taher Tambawala** (Autumn House)

Best Actress : **Ms Angelinaashita Ashish Rajwadi** (Autumn House)

Best Supporting Actress : **Ms Megha Elizabeth Stephen** (Autumn House)

Congratulations to the winners and all the participants!

Inter School Hockey Tournament 2019



The **Annual Inter School Hockey Tournament** for boys was held at Brindavan Public School, Coonoor, on Sunday, 10 February 2019.

In the U-15 yrs division, the **GSIS team** emerged the runners-up in the tournament. In the final match, Crescent Castle Public School, Ooty, defeated GSIS. The score was 4 – 0.

Well done!

GSIS Hockey Team (U-15 yrs division)

GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL International Cuisine Cooking Contest

“What’s in front of you is a whole world of experiences beyond your imagination. Put yourself, and your growth and development, first.”

- Phylcia Rashad



House Emancipation team seen along with the Principal and Dean of GSFS



Students engrossed in the preparation of food

One of the wonderful opportunities available for the girls at GSFS is to showcase their culinary skills. They work side by side with expert chefs to prepare traditional cuisines of various countries. They also learn table manners and dining etiquettes.

From 13th to 15th February, 2019, the 9 months’ batch of girls celebrated their culinary skills by participating in the **Group Cooking Evaluation for International Cuisine** which is also a part of their cooking curriculum. It was three days of fun and engaging cooking event and contest. The rules for the contest were simple. The teams of girls chose cuisines of the best countries in the world as themes of the cooking contest. Each team had prepared an elaborate menu which comprised welcome drink, starters, soups followed by the main course and dessert.

Experienced chefs from Taj Savoy, in Ooty, were the judges to taste and evaluate each dish and the cooking skills of the participants. The **House Emancipation** presented Mexican cuisine and displayed their MasterChef skills. They emerged

as **winners** in the exciting contest. Team Elegance came second. They presented Italian cuisine with a lot of culinary creativity. Team Excellence was placed third. They impressed the judges with their presentation of Mediterranean food.

The girls were very impressive at their cooking skills and expressed a lot of enthusiasm. We all have a passion for good and tasty food. Don't blame us if they make you hungry.



A Fabulous Afternoon and A Grand Welcome!



Delicious food for lunch well presented



Perfect blend of tasty food, creative ideas and warm hospitality!

"Your diet is a bank account. Good food choices are good investments."

- Bethenny Frankel