



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

April 2021 | Volume 10 | Issue 5

Graduation Ceremony



The Co-Founder & Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, presenting the Graduation Certificates and special prizes to Grade 12 students

GSIS organized a **Graduation Ceremony** for the grade 12 students of 2021 on Saturday, 20 March 2021. Only students of Grades 11 & 12 were allowed inside the auditorium and all of them were already tested negative in RT-PCR tests. The family of the graduands, other students, friends and visitors were restricted from attending the ceremony to avoid a large public gathering. Overall, the gathering constituted only the graduands, their selected teachers and the speakers



The Ceremonial March



The Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, seen along with the Principal, Mrs Sheila Alexander and the Coordinator of Higher Secondary School, Mr T Suresh



The Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, the Principal, Mrs Sheila Alexander and the Coordinator of Higher Secondary School, Mr T Suresh seated on the dais



The Head Girl, Ms Dhyani Khoont, presenting flower bouquet to the Senior Vice President

on stage. The wearing of masks and social distancing guidelines were followed in accordance with the COVID-19 safety protocol.

The programme started with a ceremonial march. The graduands entered the auditorium led by the Senior Vice President, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, the Principal, **Mrs Sheila Alexander** and the Coordinator of Higher Secondary School, **Mr T Suresh**. The invocation prayer was led by **Master Jemil Pranav Patel** of grade 12 which was followed by the rendition of the school song and the school prayer song. The Head Girl, **Ms Dhyani Khoont** of IB-2B, greeted the Senior Vice President with a flower bouquet. The Principal, **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, delivered the welcome address. She introduced the chief guest of the event, **Dr Siva Kumari**, Director General of the International Baccalaureate.

Ms Denize Everlene D'Souza of grade 11 gave the Farewell Address and **Ms Eve Saha** of grade 12 replied to the Farewell Address. The President of GSIS, **Mr Jacob Thomas**, then addressed the audience. The Head Boy, **Master Devya Robin Goenka**, administered the graduation oath to the graduating batch of grade 12 students. The Graduation Hymn, "O God, Our help in Ages Past", followed. The Co-Founder & Senior Vice President, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, presented the Graduation Certificates and the Special Awards to the students.

The chief guest, **Dr Siva Kumari**, virtually addressed the students. She apprised them of the various skills and life lessons required to equip them better in their journey of life. The Coordinator of Higher Secondary School, **Mr T Suresh**, expressed his gratitude to the chief guest and all the members of audience present. Soon, the Graduation Lamp was lit by the Senior Vice President, Principal, Coordinator of Higher Secondary School and Director of Activities. The students sang a medley of four songs - "Rivers and Roads", "Gone, Gone, Gone", "Don't Give Up On Me" and "We Are The Champions." The graduating grade 12 batch of students lighted their candles and moved out singing "Pass It On", the graduation hymn composed by Kurt Kaiser, an American actor and composer. They also attended the special graduation luncheon. The ceremony was livestreamed so that other students, friends and family could watch the graduands walk across the stage as they received their certificates and trophies.



Grade 12 students taking the Graduation Oath



Students receiving their Graduation Certificates



Students receiving special trophies and certificates



Lighting of the Graduation Lamp



Students singing the graduation hymn, 'Pass It On'

The Inception Day



Prayer by the Head Girl, Ms Mangalam Karuppiah, ISC-1A



The school choir singing the School Song and the School Prayer Song



School prayer by Master Pramukh Prashanth Halagappa, 5B



Speech by Ms Daparathi Meghana Chowdary, 8A

Good Shepherd International School celebrated its **Inception Day** on Sunday, 21 February 2021 with great enthusiasm. It was on 21 February 1977, forty-four years back, that **Dr P C Thomas** and **Mrs Elsamma Thomas** founded the school with a vision to impart an all-round and holistic education to students that engage all aspects of the learner, including body, mind and spirit.

During these 44 years, the school made enviable progress in academics, co-curricular activities and infrastructure. According to the **EducationWorld India School Rankings (EWISR) 2020-21**, the world's largest and detailed schools' ranking initiative, **Good Shepherd International School, Ooty** has been **ranked No. 2 International Residential School in India** and **No.1 International Residential School in Tamil Nadu**. The school has achieved this ranking based on an extensive survey conducted by the Delhi-based Centre for Forecasting & Research, one of India's top market research and opinion polling companies during which they interviewed well-informed individuals, parents, principals, teachers, educationists and senior school students across 28 cities countrywide. GSIS has made advances in its educational programmes, renovated its facilities and improved services provided to the community.

A virtual programme was organized at GSIS to remember and celebrate the Inception Day. The programme started with a prayer by the Head Girl, **Ms Mangalam Karuppiah**, followed by a rendition of the school song and school prayer song by the school choir. **Master Pramukh Prashanth Halagappa** of 5B chanted the school prayer. **Ms Daparathi Meghana Chowdary** of 8A delivered a speech. A vocal ensemble followed during which our senior girls put on a show of musical performance. They sang the famous thanksgiving hymn, '*Thanks to God for My Redeemer,*' which was originally penned by the Swedish lyricist, August Ludvig Storm. The hymn primarily reminded us to think on the object of thanksgiving and that thanksgiving is about past, present, and future. Thanksgiving is an act of remembrance — of what God has done in the distant and recent past and is doing in the fast-vanishing present, it is also an act of anticipation — of what God will do in the unknowable future. **Master Bhavya Sarawgi** of FM-4D then gave a speech. In her address, the Co-Founder &



A Vocal Ensemble: Girls singing the hymn, 'Thanks to God for My Redeemer'



Speech by Master Bhavya Sarawgi, FM-4D



Address by the Co-Founder & Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas



Speech by Ms Eve Saha, IB-2A



Address by the President of GSIS, Mr Jacob Thomas

Senior Vice President, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, described the evolution of the educational programmes in the school and the journey of the school from its inception in 1977 with a strength of 54 students to its present eminence and standing as No. 2 International Residential School in India. The speech by **Ms Eve Saha**, IB-2A, followed. The President of GSIS,



Musical performance by the Acoustic Band



A video presentation of 'The Journey of Good Shepherd International School'



Expression of Gratitude by the Middle School Coordinator, Mrs Deepa Suresh



Ms Diyansha Magesh, IB-1A, as the emcee of the event

Mr Jacob Thomas, in his address, said that there are so many who had toiled along with his father and mother to create this great institution and they are forever grateful to their commitment, dedication and service to education. A musical performance by the acoustic band followed during which **Ms Harshita Amitkumar Khemka** of IB-2B rendered her musky and melodious voice to sing **The Carpenters song**, *'Top of the world'*, written and composed by the American pop duo, Richard Carpenter and John Bettis. Well done! Ms Harshita is an amazingly talented singer with a mesmerizing voice.



A Vocal Ensemble: Girls singing 'There shall be showers of blessing'



The School Choir singing the School Anthem

A video presentation of 'The Journey of Good Shepherd International School' followed. The Middle School Coordinator, **Mrs Deepa Suresh**, gave the Expression of Gratitude. The senior girls then presented a vocal ensemble. They sang, 'There shall be showers of blessing', a beautiful hymn written by the lyricist, Daniel Webster Whittle and its music composed by James McGranahan. The programme ended with the rendition of the school anthem by the school choir.

"Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning."

- Gloria Marie Steinem

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)



The Test in progress

The **SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)** is a standardized test widely used for college admissions in the United States. Seven candidates appeared for the **SAT (A1 & B1)** examination that was held at GSIS on Saturday, 13 March 2021. Of these seven candidates, six of them appeared for the **SAT A1** test and one for the **SAT B1** test. Four of the candidates, namely Meet Dobariya (IB-1C), Poorvash Muthumaheswaran (IB-1C), Aryan Bhavesh Patel (IB-1B) and Aaryan Jain (IB-1B), are students of GSIS.

GSIS is an official SAT examination centre to administer the SAT tests. Students strictly followed the existing COVID-19 protocols and related guidelines including wearing of masks and following social distancing norms while taking the test.

Mr Cyrus S Poonawalla visits GSIS



The Co-Founder & Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, presenting a bouquet to Mr Cyrus S Poonawalla



Mrs Elsamma Thomas seen along with Mr Cyrus S Poonawalla



Mr Cyrus S Poonawalla with the Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, the Principal, Mrs Sheila Alexander and the prefects



Mr Cyrus S Poonawalla in conversation with the Senior Vice President

Mr Cyrus S Poonawalla is a businessman and the chairman of Poonawalla Group, which includes Serum Institute of India, the Indian biotech company that manufactures vaccines. Serum Institute of India is one of India's top biotech companies and the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by number of doses produced and sold globally. He visited GSIS on Thursday, 25 March 2021.

He was a recipient of the **Padma Shri** in 2005 for his contribution to the field of medicine. He was awarded the Ernst & Young 'Entrepreneur of the Year' in 2007 and 2014 in the category of Healthcare & Life Sciences. He was also awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by The University of Massachusetts Medical School and an Honorary Doctorate of Science by the University of Oxford.

Primary Year & Middle Year Programmes (PYP & MYP)

We are happy to announce that GSIS will be expanding its **International Baccalaureate (IB) programme** in the upcoming 2021-22 academic year to include **Primary Year & Middle Year Programmes (PYP & MYP)**. The school is expanding its role as an IB World School and the introduction of the PYP and MYP programmes will make its IB programme contiguous from grades 3 to 12.

The school plans to launch PYP for grades 3 to 5 with 60 seats (1 section each) and MYP for grades 6 to 9 with 120 seats (2 sections each) – for a total of 180 seats. **The Primary Years Programme (PYP)** is for children aged 3 – 12. The PYP offers an inquiry-based, transdisciplinary curriculum framework in a future-focused education. It nurtures and develops young students as caring, active participants in a lifelong journey of learning. **The Middle Years Programme (MYP)** is an educational programme for students between the ages of 11 to 16 and is intended to prepare students for the two-year IB Diploma Programme. This is an important milestone in the future growth of GSIS.