



The Shepherd's Monthly Newsletter *Voice*



GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Knowledge Village

M. Palada Post, Ootacamund - 643 004, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India

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Investiture Ceremony 2020: GSIS swears in new Prefects



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd), former Chief Election Commissioner of India, presenting the badge and certificate to Master Devya Robin Goenka, the Head Boy of GSIS for the academic year 2020 - 2021, during the Investiture Ceremony held in the Palada Campus

Members of the new Prefects' Council of Good Shepherd International School for the academic year 2020 - 2021 will remember 15th February, Saturday, 2020, as a red-letter day. These new prefects embody the vision and mission of their school and are the deserving few who carry within them a strong sense of honour, integrity and leadership skills and they can guide the others to become nation builders of tomorrow.



Inspection of the Guard of Honour



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd), took the salute at the ceremonial march past of the contingents



March past of the students of Autumn House



March past of the brass band

Members of the Prefects' Council assembled in the open air stadium of the Palada campus for the swearing-in ceremony. Parents, guardians, members of staff and other students were seated in the pavilion to witness the event. **Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd)**, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, was the Chief Guest of the **Investiture Ceremony**. Mr Navin Chawla joined the 1969 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and served the nation for 36 years. During his illustrious career as a civil servant, he has held important assignments in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Department of Consumer Affairs and in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and rose to the level of Secretary in the Government of India.

The Chief Guest inspected the Guard of Honour presented to him and took the salute at the ceremonial march past of the various contingents. Members of the new Prefects' Council moved forward in a 'slow march.' The school choir and the student community sang the school song and the school prayer song followed by the school prayer. **Master Devya Robin Goenka, IB-1C, Ms Dhyani Khoont, IB-1B** and other members of the prefects' council took their oath of everlasting faithfulness and loyalty to the school which shall be reflected through the performance of their duties according to their respective roles. The badges and certificates were conferred by Mr Chawla as the prefects walked up to the dais. **Brig Suresh Kumar (Retd), VSM, Senior Vice Principal (Administration)**, welcomed the gathering. **Mr Navin Chawla** gave a formal speech during which he requested the teachers to realize the genius in each child and instill confidence in them so as to transform them into remarkable adults brimming with confidence, ready to conquer the world. The Director of Activities, **Mr Dominic Jude Hurst**, gave the expression of gratitude and the ceremony ended with the rendition of the school anthem.

The Principal, Dr P C Thomas, the Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, the Vice President, Mrs Julie Pradeesh, Mr K S Sripathi IAS (Retd), Mr V Selvaraj, IAS (Retd) along with several other members of the board of governors of GSIS graced the occasion.



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd), seated along with the Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas and the Senior Vice Principal (Administration), Brig Suresh Kumar (Retd), VSM



The new House Captains carry their House Flags



Slow March of the members of the new Prefects' Council



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd), presenting certificates to the newly-inducted office bearers



Welcome Address by the Senior Vice Principal (Administration), Brig Suresh Kumar (Retd), VSM



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd) speaking on the occasion

Graduation Ceremony for the Grade 12 Batch of 2018 – 2020



Graduands of 2018 – 2020 batch



The Ceremonial March of the Grade 12 students

Graduation Ceremony of the Grade 12 students (2018 – 2020 batch) of GSIS was held in the auditorium of the Palada Campus on Saturday, 15 February 2020. 82 students of IBDP and 28 students of ISC, adorned in their graduation gowns and caps, attended the ceremony.

The occasion was graced by the presence of **Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd)**, former Chief Election Commissioner of India. During his illustrious career as a civil servant, he has managed important assignments in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Department of Consumer Affairs and in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The ceremony was also attended by students, faculty, parents, guardians and family members of the students.

The programme started with the Ceremonial March of the Grade 12 students. **Ms Pavanrat Sakulsacha, IB-2A**, gave the invocation. The school choir presented the School Song, School Prayer Song and the song – *Time of our lives*. The Senior Vice Principal (Academics), **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, delivered the welcome address. The chief guest then unveiled the portrait of **Mother Teresa**, the Founder of the *Missionaries of Charity*, a Roman Catholic religious congregation that has over 4,500 nuns and is active in 133 countries. **Ms Harshita Amitkumar Khemka, IB-1B**, gave the farewell address and **Master V P Laksith, ISC-2A**, gave the reply to the farewell address. The School Captain, **Master Sriniketh Krishnan**, led the students through their oath taking ceremony. The choir and the graduating students recited the graduation hymn, *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*.

The graduates then came up and walked across on the stage one by one to receive their scrolls. The chief guest, **Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd)**, felicitated the Grade 12 students with certificates of graduation and distributed special trophies to selected students. Their smiling faces were welcomed by rapturous applause from the audience as they



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd), Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, seen along with Mrs Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal (Academics) and Mr T Suresh, Coordinator of Higher Secondary School



Invocation by Ms Pavanrat Sakulsacha



The School Choir singing the School Prayer Song



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



Students, members of staff, parents and guardians seated in the auditorium

received the scrolls and trophies on the dais. The gathering was then addressed by the chief guest. In his address, he recollected his long association with **Mother Teresa** who is honoured in the Catholic Church as **Saint Teresa of Kolkata**. He urged the students to give one little helping hand every day to somebody who may need it. **Mr T Suresh**, Coordinator of the Higher Secondary School, gave the expression of gratitude. This was followed by the lighting of the Graduation Lamp by the chief guest, **Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd)**, the Senior Vice President, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, Vice President, **Mrs Julie Pradeesh**, Senior Vice Principal, **Mrs Sheila Alexander** and the Coordinator of Higher Secondary School, **Mr T Suresh**. The programme culminated with the Graduation Batch Song and the hymn, 'Pass it On'. The Grade 12 students and their family members then attended a sumptuous graduation luncheon which was hosted for them by the school in the dining hall.



Students taking Graduation Oath



The Chief Guest unveiling the portrait of Mother Teresa



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd), along with Mrs Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal (Academics) and Mr T Suresh, Coordinator of Higher Secondary School, during the Graduation Ceremony



Farewell Address by Ms Harshita Amitkumar Khemka, IB-1B



Reply to the Farewell Address by Master V P Laksith, ISC-2A



The Chief Guest presenting special trophies to outstanding students



The Chief Guest presenting Graduation Certificates



The Chief Guest addressing the students, members of staff, parents and guardians



Expression of Gratitude by Mr T Suresh, Coordinator of Higher Secondary School



The Chief Guest lighting the Graduation Lamp



Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd), in conversation with the Principal, Dr P C Thomas



The graduating batch of Grade 12 students (2018 – 2020)



Graduation luncheon in progress

From the Visitors' Book...



Mr Navin Chawla at GSIS

"I am indebted to Dr P C Thomas and Mrs Elamma Thomas for having invited me to the Investiture and Graduation ceremonies of the Good Shepherd International School today. This was preceded by a tour of the School where Brig Suresh Kumar (Retd), VSM, showed me some of the many facilities.

As one who spent 9 years in a Public School (Sanawar), I was able to appreciate in great measure the range of facilities in sports, academics and extra-curricular activities that this school provides. The obvious pride the students took in their ceremonies yesterday is testimony to the school's achievements.

I must congratulate and commend Dr and Mrs Thomas, who have created an excellent institution. Their obvious dedication and vision have successfully nurtured a fine school. My good wishes will remain with the school, its teachers and members of staff."

- Mr Navin Chawla, IAS (Retd),
Former Chief Election Commissioner of India,
15 February 2020

GSIS remained closed during the lockdown period

GSIS remained closed during the entire lockdown period starting on 16 March 2020 as per the government directive. The order was issued by the government in the wake of the outbreak and spread of *novel coronavirus* in India and many other countries and the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declaring COVID-19 as a pandemic.

In the interest and well-being of the students and members of staff and as a precautionary measure, the school asked the parents / guardians to take back their children. Subsequently, members of staff also took leave from the school and the staff and students made safe passage home. The online teaching will continue. The school will reopen for regular classes after receiving the guidelines from the government.

National Science Day Competitions 2020



Aayush Sarawgi

Aadhavan
Balachandran

Jaivik Zadaphia

Amrith Ram
Kancharla

Hridyansh Agarwal

Riddhi Agarwal

National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February every year to commemorate the discovery of *Raman Effect* by the Indian physicist, **Sir Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman** on 28 February 1928. The **Radio Astronomy Centre (RAC)** celebrated National Science Day on Friday, 28 February 2020. The Radio Astronomy Centre is part of the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the well-known Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) which is funded by the Government of India through the Department of Atomic Energy. The RAC is an institution with international reputation situated 1 km away from Muthorai, near Udhagamandalam (Ooty), in the beautiful surroundings of the Nilgiri hills.

The institution provides stimulating environment for the front-line research in radio astronomy and astrophysics with its excellent and highly qualified staff.

The Radio Astronomy Centre launched a Science exhibition from various research organisations and also organized a series of associated events such as Science quiz, Science model, painting and essay writing in English & Tamil. Our students participated in the competitions held on 14 February 2020 and visited the exhibition held at the Radio Astronomy Centre on 28 February 2020. The following students of GSIS bagged prizes in the competitions held at the Radio Astronomy Centre:

Names of students	Class	Event	Performance
Aayush Sarawgi	FM-2D	Science Quiz: Level 1	Second Prize
Aadhavan Balachandran	FM-2B		
Jaivik Zadaphia	FM-2D	Science Model: Level 1	First Prize
Amrith Ram Kancharla	IB-1D	Essay writing - English: Level 3	Second Prize
Hridyansh Agarwal	8B	Painting: Level 1	Second Prize
Riddhi Agarwal	IB-1B	Painting: Level 3	Third Prize

Your work speaks volumes of the kind of person you are – efficient, organized and result-oriented. The way you have put up all your efforts on this work deserves every bit of appreciation. **Well done!**

Jio Vichaar Entrepreneurial Leadership Certificate



Students who took up the Jio Vichaar Entrepreneurship Challenge (JVEC)

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited is a telecom network company in India and has its headquarters in Mumbai. JIO stands for 'Joint Implementation Opportunities'. It is the largest mobile network company in India and third largest mobile network company in the world. **The Jio Vichaar Entrepreneurship Challenge (JVEC)** is a secondary school entrepreneurship competition introduced by **Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited** and **Wheaton College**, Massachusetts in the United States.

It aims at bringing together a dynamic community of innovators and entrepreneurs in India to develop extraordinary and viable solutions to impact our world in one of the four impact areas: Culture, Community, Connectivity and an Open Category.

Our students from the higher secondary school comprising **Master Varshil Rajeshbhai Sakhia, IB-1D, Ms Maanya Raju, IB-1A, Ms Krishnapriya Andru, ISC-1B, Master Devya Robin Goenka, IB-1C and Master Devansh Mirani, IB-1C**, completed the online course on entrepreneurial leadership conducted by the Wheaton College and were awarded certificates on successfully completing the coursework and requirements of the entrepreneurial leadership course. **Jio Vichaar Entrepreneurial Leadership Certificate** was awarded to all the five participants for successfully completing the leadership course conducted by Wheaton College. The students now look forward to their business plan being accepted for the future course of action for the project.

Teams compete for the opportunity to be nationally recognized in addition to anticipated awards from sponsors that may include investment opportunities, scholarship opportunities, and internships to support the scholars as well as the growth of their solutions into a real business. The team of GSIS has already submitted their business plan of making edible cutlery. This business plan is to create entrepreneurial opportunities for women in the lower income strata of the society. They have named their project as *"EatUrSpoons."* If their business plan is accepted, they will go into the next round where the team will have to present their ideas before a panel of experts and make a pitch for their startup to investors. We are sure that the students' efforts will pay off and the team will be going into the next round.

Science Exhibition held at GSIS



The Senior Vice Principal, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, inaugurating the science exhibition



The science exhibition in progress



Students operating a remote-controlled robot



Model of a hydraulic crane

“The Science of today is the Technology of tomorrow.” Following the profound words of **Edward Teller**, a Hungarian-American theoretical physicist, the young intuitive minds of the students of the Middle School ventured into a technological path of Science. A science exhibition was organized in the auditorium of the Palada Campus by the students of Middle School on Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

Mrs Elsamma Thomas, the Senior Vice President of the school, inaugurated the exhibition by cutting the ribbon. The young scientists and inquirers displayed their enthusiasm for the sciences by showcasing a plethora of scientific phenomena that included the green environment, conservation of water, ultrasonic devices, models that used optical illusions, utilization of solar energy, models on circulatory system, a coronavirus model and projects on hydraulic effect. The exhibition was ‘coloured chemically’ by the department of Chemistry with reactions and effects that twitched the curiosity of the audience. The Department of English was also a part of the exhibition with their amazing travelogues made by the students as a part of their holiday homework. The Department of Mathematics organized few arithmetic games for the audience focusing on the numerical and thinking skills of the audience. Following the fascination that the human race has had with robots, which are believed to substitute a wide range of machinery in the immediate future, the learners of the Middle School assembled and programmed the robots that could perform some very interesting activities.

Any reference to this enthusiastic event would be immaterial without the mention of Senior Vice Principal (Academics), **Mrs Sheila Alexander** and Coordinator of Middle School, **Mrs Deepa Suresh** and all members of staff of the Middle School for their support and guidance.

“Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.”

- Immanuel Kant



Model of an electromagnetic crane



Model of a wind turbine generating electricity



Colour juggling with chemicals



Model of a vacuum cleaner made by our students



Students launching a flying saucer



Model of a hydroelectric power generator

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

- Marie Curie

Students participated in Annual Swimming Sports competition



Inauguration ceremony in progress



Swimmers taking oath



Start of boys' freestyle event

The **Annual Inter-house Swimming Championship** was held in the heated swimming pool of GSIS from 28 February to 29 February 2020. The swimming championship is an occasion our swimmers look forward to every year. The cold weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of our students as they gathered at the poolside to participate in their annual swimming carnival.

The championship was inaugurated by **Mrs Deepa Suresh**, Coordinator of Middle School. **Ms Maanya Raju**, IB-1A, took the oath on behalf of all the participants. A large contingent of students and members of staff were present to cheer the students. The young swimmers raced along the length of the pool and set the pool ablaze with their nippy strokes. Boys and girls faced stiff competition between equally matched contenders as they participated in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, medleys and relay events. The relays added to the excitement of the day and caused an audible gasp from students, staff and other swimmers alike.

The races in the different divisions were won by the following houses as mentioned below:

Divisions	Houses
Inter Boys	Summer
Inter Girls	Autumn
Senior Boys	Autumn
Senior Girls	Autumn
Super Senior Boys	Winter
Super Senior Girls	Autumn



Start of the girls' freestyle event



Boys' backstroke event in progress



Girls' backstroke event in progress



Girls' breaststroke event in progress

The following students won the championships in the different divisions:

Names of students	Class	Divisions	House
Pawankumar	FM-2D	Inter Boys	Spring
Sayesha Ghosh	7A	Inter Girls	Autumn
Alan George Kurian	FM-3D	Senior Boys	Spring
Shanaya Priti Bhandari	FM-3A	Senior Girls	Autumn
Akhila Chandran Babu	FM-3A		Autumn
Mayanka Agarwal	IB-1D	Super Senior Boys	Autumn
Lekisha Aminesh Agrawal	FM-2A	Super Senior Girls	Winter

Three new meet records were also set as mentioned in the table below:

Names of students	Class	Events	Divisions	House	Performance
Alan George Kurian	FM-3D	50m freestyle	Senior Boys	Spring	31.11 secs
Adhwait Pritesh Panchal	FM-2C	50m freestyle	Inter Boys	Summer	32.22 secs
		25m freestyle			14.78 secs

Rules and regulations of International Swimming Federation (FINA - *Fédération Internationale de Natation*) were followed for this event. This year, it was the turn of the students of the **Autumn House** to lift the **swimming trophy** as they scored the highest overall score. **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, Senior Vice President of GSIS, gave away the prizes and declared the championship closed. It was a lot of fun and excitement and the students felt very proud of each other.



Girls' relay race in progress



Trophies for the champions



Boys: Winners on the podium



Girl students standing on the winner's podium





Closing ceremony in progress



Mrs Elsamma Thomas, Senior Vice President, addressing the students



Students of Autumn House with the Swimming Trophy



The Senior Vice President distributing the individual championship trophies

“Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better.”

- Pat Riley

Inter House Dance Competition 2020

Middle School

Dance is an artistic expression – a form of happiness, joy and entertainment - created with the intent to express or communicate emotion, feelings and ideas. Dance involves a lot of physical exertion, display of skills and is much more than mere sport.

Indian Classical Dances are traditionally regional, all of them include music and recitation in a local language or Sanskrit, and they represent a unity of core ideas using a diversity of styles, costumes and expressions. On Saturday, 07 March 2020, the **Inter House Dance Competition** for girls of Middle School was held in the Palada Campus auditorium of GSIS.

Grades 7 & 8 : Classical Duet Dance

Students and staff enjoyed the splendour of **Indian Classical Duet dances** performed by the Middle School girls. The girls put on energetic displays and the duos came alive with opulence and grandeur in stellar dance performances under the floodlights. The results of the Classical Duet division are mentioned below:

Names of students	House	Position
Srinithi Jayavel	Spring	I
Hanisha Yama Patel		
Dwiti Manish Sambaragi	Autumn	II
Sayesha Ghosh		
Boppana Apoorva Anjali	Summer	III
Daisy Arvindbhai Viradiya		
Natalie Sarah Bunyan	Winter	III
Janani Jayanthan		



Spring House team



Autumn House team



Summer House team



Winter House team

The following students were the individual winners of the Classical Dance competition:

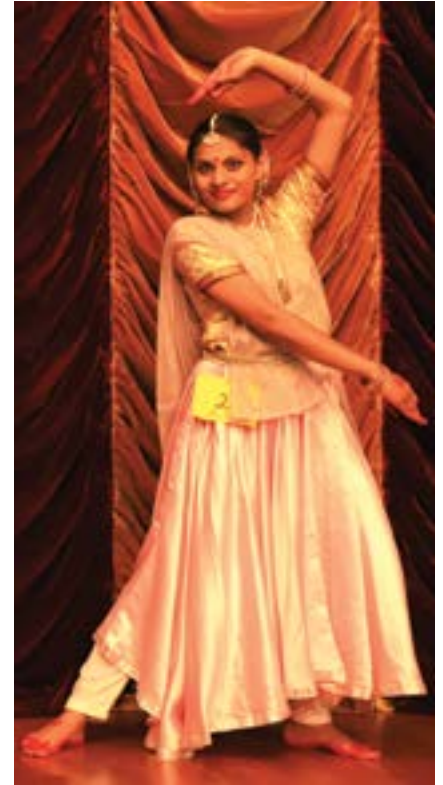
Names of students	Class	House	Position
Sayesha Ghosh	7A	Autumn	I
Srinithi Jayavel	8A	Spring	II
Boppana Apoorva Anjali	FM-2A	Summer	III



Sayesha Ghosh



Srinithi Jayavel



Boppana Apoorva Anjali

It requires a lot of self-confidence, determination, dedication, enthusiasm, hard work and courage to stand in front of a crowd, perform and excel in dance. **Well done!**

Grades 7 & 8: Folk Dance



First Prize: Autumn House team



Second Prize: Winter House team



Third Prize: Summer House team

A folk dance is a dance developed by people that reflect the life of the people of a certain country or region. The **Inter House Folk Dance Competition** for girls of Middle School was also held in the Palada Campus auditorium of GSIS on the same evening. The result is mentioned below:

House	Position
Autumn	I
Winter	II
Summer	III

The audience witnessed a scintillating dance performance of the talented Middle School girls. They displayed their skill and talent as they performed with grace. The occasion also showcased the uniqueness of Indian culture and traditions. **Congratulations to all the winners!**

*“When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor.
It’s to enjoy each step along the way.”*

- Wayne Dyer

GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL

INDIAN CUISINE

“Indian food touches your soul before it touches your taste buds. There is heaven in every bite”.



1st Place: Team Emancipation



2nd Place: Team Excellence

Visitors to India greatly appreciate the mouth-watering flavour of authentic Indian cuisine. **Indian cuisine** consists of a wide variety of regional and traditional cuisines native to the Indian subcontinent. Several factors such as religion, in particular Christianity, Hinduism and Islam, cultural choices of people and traditions greatly influence Indian cuisines.

Indian cuisines use a number of vegetables and fruits such as the potatoes, tomatoes, chillies, peanuts, guava, other locally available vegetables, fruits, spices, herbs, and they vary substantially in different regions based on the range of diversity in soil type, climate, culture, ethnic groups and occupations of people. Indian traditional food is widely appreciated for its fabulous uses of herbs and spices.

Indian cuisine has shaped the history of international relations. Europeans had significant spice trade with India for centuries and they had bought spices from India to distribute in Europe and Asia. Many vegetables and fruits were also introduced in India from foreign countries. Also, historical events such as foreign invasions, trade relations and colonial



3rd Place : Team Elegance



Indian cuisines cooked and presented during the competition

rule have played a role in introducing certain foods to India. Indian cuisine has also influenced other cuisines across the world, especially those from Europe, the Middle East, Southern Africa, East Africa, Southeast Asia, North America, Mauritius, Fiji and the Caribbean.

Our students of the 9 months' programme are taught the techniques of cooking different types of Indian cuisine. They were able to master the art of Indian cooking which is diverse in all ways and had the opportunity to experience the taste of lip-smacking Indian cuisine. The cooking style varies from region to region and it is divided into South Indian and North Indian cuisine. An **Indian cuisine cooking competition** was organised in Good Shepherd Finishing School on 22, 23 and 24 January, 2020. The judges very much appreciated the effort and skill of the girls. The following teams emerged winners of the competition:

1st Place : Team Emancipation

2nd Place : Team Excellence

3rd Place : Team Elegance

The ideas highlighted through this event were time management, presentation, hospitality, taste, aesthetic appeal, organizing skill, creative ideas, team spirit, skills to work with time limit, poise and grace, knowledge of Indian regional cuisines, ingredients, servings and settings. **Well done!**

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

- Virginia Woolf