



# *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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## Future Kerala Education Conclave 2017: Honouring the Achievements of Educational Leaders from Kerala



*The Principal, Dr P C Thomas*



*Mrs Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal (Academics), receiving the 'Golden Leaf Award For Education Excellence' from the Honourable Governor of Kerala, at Future Kerala Education Conclave 2017 held in Kochi*

**Future Kerala Education Conclave 2017** was held at CROWNE PLAZA in Kochi on Wednesday, 21 June 2017. The one-day event included thought-provoking sessions and informative, enlightening speeches delivered by eminent dignitaries. The conclave discussed value-oriented education system, education reforms and the future of the education sector which triggered several constructive responses from many educationists.

Eminent entrepreneurs and educationists who have contributed greatly to the field of education were honoured for their achievements. **Dr P C Thomas**, Founder-Principal of Good Shepherd International School, was awarded the **Educon 2017 Golden Leaf Award for Excellence in School Education**. **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, Senior Vice Principal (Academics), received the award from the Honourable Governor of Kerala, **Shri Justice (Retd) P Sathasivam**, on behalf of Dr P C Thomas.

Delivering the keynote address, the Honourable Governor of Kerala, Shri Justice (Retd) **P Sathasivam** said, "We need to re-engage and re-align the education landscape according to the changing needs of the society and industry. The



*The Honourable Governor of Kerala, Shri Justice (Retd) P Sathasivam, delivering his address*

*education environment is constantly changing, and using the present technology we can revamp our education sector. We have to promote, help and fulfil a commitment to build world-class educational institutions across the state, keeping up with the international standards.”*

Padmashri M Chandradathan, Former Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Dr Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), Dr Kuncheria P Isaac, Vice Chancellor, Kerala Technological University, Dr M Radhakrishna Pillai, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Dr A Ramachandran, Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), P Kunhikrishnan, Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) Sriharikota Range (SHAR), Dr B Ashok, IAS, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Dr M C Dileep Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (SSUS), Kalady, Dr G Gopakumar, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala, Dr Rose Varghese, Vice Chancellor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Kochi, Dr T P Sethumadhavan, Director of Entrepreneurship, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU), Dr M K C Nair, Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS), Prof J Philip, Former Director, IIM, Bangalore, Dr Varghese Kaipnaduka OIC, Director, Girideepam Business School (GBS), Mr Paul Mundadan, Chairman, Federal Institute of Science And Technology (FISAT), Mr Arjun Hari, Artificial Intelligence Expert & CEO, WUDI DATATECH and other dignitaries shared their valuable thoughts during the event.

The school community and all stakeholders felicitate Dr P C Thomas for his invaluable visionary leadership and commitment towards excellence in education.

### ***Words of Appreciation...***



*Mr Jožef Drogenik*

***“I’m so much impressed with the level of everything in this “Institution.” I see it’s much more than a school! Everything is so good and carefully planned and kept in order. With your contributions, the Indian youth have a great future! Congratulations!”***

**- Mr Jožef Drogenik,  
Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, New Delhi  
30 July 2017**



*Mr Bharat Joshi*

*“ What a wonderful visit. Good Shepherd is an educational oasis, set in this idyllic location, it appears to be providing a 21st century education – 3D printer and all – to create global citizens and future leaders. I leave wiser, albeit 1 kg heavier.”*

- Mr Bharat Joshi,  
British Deputy High Commissioner & Head of Mission, Chennai  
30 July 2017

## Fresh and Fervent: The 2017 Orientation Programme



*Members of staff attending the orientation programme*



*Introduction of new members of staff*



*Members of staff attending a workshop*

Good Shepherd International School organized a two-day orientation programme in its Palada Campus on 18th and 19th of July 2017 for the benefit of the new and existing academic and co-curricular teachers working in both the campuses. This programme was organized before the start of the new academic session to enhance innovative teaching techniques, share and gain knowledge and make the teaching and learning process more relevant and related to day-to-day situations.

The new academic year 2017-2018 began with freshness and fervour as all the listeners (the teachers) proved to be active and excited to begin the year well, improving their approaches to teaching and learning, eager to bring out the best from the students. The tone for this was set when Vice Principal (Academics), **Mrs Sheila Alexander** spoke about the *Three E's - To Educate, To Equip and To Empower* - necessary to bring out the leader in every child entrusted to our care. Besides using the acronym of ASPIRE (Aspiration and Achievement, Self-Awareness, Professionalism, Integrity, Respect and Endeavour), she emphasized the need to change from Data-driven decision making to Decision-driven data analysis. She provided a lot of resources to enable the improvement of our school, particularly *Mind Their Hearts* by David Boddy. Earlier, the new members of staff who joined the school in this session came forward and introduced themselves to the group during the assembly.

The next session was conducted by the Vice Principal (Administration), **Brigadier Suresh Kumar VSM (retd)**, who presented a three-pronged session: the History of GSIS, the Facilities of GSIS and the Future of GSIS. The presentation of the Curriculum and Professional Development Coordinator, **Mr T Suresh**, was focused on *Learning How to Learn*. The highlight of his presentation was the identification of *Focused Thinking* and *Diffuse Thinking* and the means to arrive at these two Modes of Thinking.



*Members of staff participating in various activities*

The Director of Counselling, **Mrs Anila Kalyan**, brought to light a novel word and its implications, that is, IKIGAI, a Japanese concept meaning 'a reason for being.' She posed four questions enabling self-reflection and thus, pointed out the need for prioritizing. The Orientation Programme for the day ended with the Section and Department Meetings to which all the teachers took forward the spirit to bring out the best to be the best.

The next day, **Ms Christine Maurice** talked to the teachers about *Inclusive Education* and the importance of including students with diverse needs in the classroom providing opportunities for them to learn and accept individual differences. **Mr Ajith P Jacob**, Director of Activities, elaborated on *The Millennium Onward*. **Mr Mathew Lawrence**, a teacher facilitating the study of Spanish at GSIS, took a session on 'Student Engagement.' A meeting of the teachers handling the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) was also held. This was followed by collaborative faculty meetings. The programme ended with an open forum during which the management addressed the queries raised by the teachers.

## We do not teach anymore: we facilitate

From 15th to 17th July 2017, the IB Asia-Pacific In-school Workshop on Diploma Programme Approaches to Teaching and Learning (ATL) took place in the auditorium of Good Shepherd International School. The workshop leaders were **Ms Naaz Kirmani** and **Mr Mohammed Zawid Naseem**, two scholarly people who hold leadership positions in their respective schools and are highly experienced in the world of IB accreditation and evaluation and workshop leading.

The workshop comprised ten sessions spread across three days. The workshop started with setting expectations for the workshop after an ice-breaking session. Right from the ice-breaking session till the final session on workshop leaders and Inquiry Questions, the workshop leaders modelled the Best Practices of effective Teaching and Learning practices and kept the participants engaged through activities. All the eleven Teaching and Learning skills identified by the IB were modelled by the workshop leaders when they were enabling the participants to explore all of them.



*The workshop leaders: Ms Naaz Kirmani and Mr Mohammed Zawid Naseem*



*The workshop in progress*



*The participants engaged in activities*



*A trip to a nearby village*

The participants also gained a great deal of inputs from each other as the members of each group kept changing: while once a group comprised teachers from the same IB subject group, for another activity there were heterogeneous groups. The highlight of the workshop was a trip to a nearby village with a focus on exploring the concepts that each group chose. The various presentations that followed took the leaders by surprise as all the groups had chosen different topics and a great deal of study had been undertaken by all the members. Many assumptions were proved false and the entire exercise was an eye-opener for all.

The workshop ended with appreciation by both the school management and the workshop leaders who had a lot of praise for the school, the hospitality, the management and the nature of participation in the workshop. All the participants were geared up to put into practice whatever they had learnt and bring out the best from the students.

## The Shepherdians attend Space Camp

Space is a continuous area of vast expanse which is free, available and unoccupied. And on Earth we are not left with free space any more. NASA Space Camp is the closest you can get to seeing yourself on an expedition to Mars in the near future.

It has been 52 years since National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) did something as significant as having a man, or woman, walk in space. Launched in 1982, the Space Camp inspires and motivates young people to experience space and simulate a mission to Mars, train like an astronaut, build rockets, go underwater, train like a fighter pilot and hone land and water survival skills, build, design and compete in a week for air, water and land robotics, and learn about space history.



*The Shepherdians along with the chaperones who attended the space camp*



*The Shepherdians along with the Rotarians in Decatur*



*The U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama*



*Students at the space camp*



*Students at the Busch Gardens, a theme park in Tampa, Florida*

A group of 45 students from Good Shepherd International School, Ooty, attended the NASA Space Camp from 29th May to 2nd June, 2017 at Huntsville, Alabama, USA to realize the dream of reaching Mars for themselves.

Of all the planets of the solar system, Earth and Mars, the third and fourth planets of the Solar System are very similar to each other. Despite the similarities, Mars is essentially like no other planet. It has water and organic molecules.

With the Russians putting the Sputnik and the humans in space and outcompeting the United States as far as space technology went, a civilian space agency was formed in 1958 called NASA. The founding father of the Space Programme and the Space Camp was Dr Wernher Von Braun. **Dr Wernher Von Braun**, the famous scientist often called as the 'Father of Rocket Science,' made rockets which sent humans to moon after he designed the Apollo programme in 1969. His mind was already set on having man landing on Mars.

The Mars generation is the generation of today who have it in them to explore and go ahead to realize their dream of going to Mars. The young astronauts of the space camp have their Mission Mars agenda clearly written in their mind as they move out of the camp into the reality of living on Earth.



*Girls at the entrance to the Universal Studios in Florida*



*Boys near the Volcano Bay, a water theme park in Orlando*

The Shepherdians shine bright and clear wherever they go, which was proved by **Master Nithik Chalasani** of FM 4C who got **The Right Stuff Award** in Aviation Challenge Mach 2 group of the space camp. Congratulations to him!

The students also got an opportunity to meet the Rotary Club members of Decatur, Alabama, where they were invited by Mr Mark and Gay Maloney for a get-together at their beautiful home over a pizza lunch which had Rotary Club of Decatur President, Rotary Club of Decatur Past Presidents, the Vice Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation and Past Vice President of Rotary International and the Past District Governor, all come to welcome the students and wish the Principal and Senior Vice Principal the best wishes and good health. The students staged a small cultural event and sang the school song and school prayer, and gave souvenirs as a token of gratitude to the Rotarians. In all, it was a chance for interaction and learning of American food and lifestyle.

The week's stay at Space Camp was followed by a week of fun and frolic at various theme parks in Orlando. The students visited the beautiful Busch Gardens, Sea World, Islands of Adventure, Volcano Bay Water Park and Magic Kingdom. It was a dream come true where all the wishes were granted by the fairy with one move of her magic wand. We were transformed in the land of fun, beauty, adventure, learning, culture and great food. The students could not have asked for more.

## The Tricolour unfurled at GSIS on Independence Day



The 71st **Independence Day** was celebrated in Good Shepherd International School on Tuesday, 15 August 2017. It was heartening to see students celebrating Independence Day with so much zeal and zest. A spirit of patriotism and festivity prevailed as students attended the morning assembly and participated in the various cultural activities.

The ritualistic bugle call announced the arrival of the chief guest. **Mr Pradip Chakraborty**, Senior History Teacher at GSIS, who was the chief guest on this Independence Day, hoisted the national flag at the co-curricular block quadrangle in the Palada Campus. The national anthem was then played by the brass band. **Master Sriniket Krishnan**, FM 4C and **Ms Ghanta Hari Chandana**, IB 2A, addressed the students and elaborated on the freedom struggle. Rendition of popular patriotic Hindi songs - *Vande Mataram*, *Nanha Munna Rahi Hun* and *Pyara Hindustan Hai* - by the Indian music choir induced patriotism and made all revel in the nation's glory.

In his Independence Day address, the chief guest spoke on varied issues. He described the untold sacrifices of the freedom fighters during the freedom struggle and also mentioned the names of a few lesser-known freedom fighters, the great souls who had sacrificed their lives for an independent India and carved their names in history with nothing less than their boiling blood. Pitching for harmony and peace, he urged the students not to support aggressive and regional nationalism. **Master Ishaan Vinod Dulhani**, the Head Boy, expressed his gratitude to the staff and students for their support and kind assistance extended to all the participants.

*The Chief Guest hoisting the national flag*



*The assembly in progress*



*Master Sriniket Krishnan addressing the audience*



*Ms Ghanta Hari Chandana speaking on the occasion*



*The Indian music choir singing vande mataram*



*The Chief Guest addressing the students and staff*



*Senior girls dancing to the tune of the music*

In the cultural programme that followed in the stadium, our junior and senior students choreographed and showcased a number of Indian folk dances accompanied by Bollywood background music. They displayed spirited movements in their colourful costumes infusing a pleasant charm to the afternoon. They enthralled the gathering for more than an hour with their colourful and lively dances much to the delight of the audience.





*Junior students dancing*



*Senior students dancing*



*Senior boys dancing*



*Senior girls dancing*



*Dance presentation of the Junior students of the Fernhill Campus*

## Nilgiris District Badminton Tournament 2017



*Ishan Abhay Shah*



*Nilay Agrawal*



*Fatima Dechawalekul*



*Aanya Devabhaktuni*

The Nilgiris District Badminton Tournament was held at Anna Indoor Stadium, Ooty, from 02 August to 05 August 2017. Our boys and girls participated in the tournament and performed well as mentioned below:

S. No.	Names of students	Class	Category	Position
1	<b>Ishan Abhay Shah</b>	ISC -1B	Boys' U-17 singles	Runner-up
2	<b>Nilay Agrawal</b>	ISC -1B	Boys' U-19 singles	Winner
3	<b>Fatima Dechawalekul</b>	FM -1C	Girls' U-13 singles	Runner-up
4	<b>Aanya Devabhaktuni</b>	IB - 1A	Women's doubles	Winner

**Congratulations!**

## District Cricket Team

**Master Aryan Bhavesh Patel**, Grade 8A and **Master Meet Dobariya**, Grade 8C, were selected to represent the Nilgiris U-14 cricket team. They participated in the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association Inter-District U-14 Cricket Tournament that was held at Thanjavur from 21st to 23rd July 2017.



*Master Aryan Bhavesh Patel*



*Master Meet Dobariya*



*Master Dwij Dipak Patel*

**Master Dwij Dipak Patel, IB-1B**, represented the Nilgiris U-16 cricket team and participated in the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association Inter-District U-16 Cricket Tournament for P R THEVAR Trophy that was held at Tiruvarur from 30th June to 2nd July 2017. He was the captain of Nilgiris under- 16 District team. **Congratulations!**

## Joint Installation Ceremony of the Interact and Rotaract Clubs, Ootacamund

The new team of Office-Bearers of the Interact Club of Good Shepherd International School and Rotaract Club of Good Shepherd Finishing School were invested with their Badge of Office for the academic year 2017-2018 on Saturday, 16 August 2017. The ceremony was held in the Palada Campus auditorium during which the baton of responsibility was handed over to the new office-bearers. The Chief Guest for the event was **Rtn. Mrs Geetha Srinivasan**, President of the Rotary Club of Nilgiris West.

The ceremony began with a procession of the dignitaries and the office-bearers of the Interact and Rotaract Clubs into the auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Rtn. Mrs Geetha Srinivasan. The meeting began with a prayer by Ms Khushbu Khatri of GSFS. The Chief Guest, Rtn. Mrs Geetha Srinivasan addressed the gathering. Reports were presented. Heartwarming and inspiring speeches followed. The new office-bearers were soon installed. The Chief Guest presented the Collar, the Badge and the Gavel to the new Presidents of the Interact and Rotaract Clubs.



*New Office-Bearers of the Interact and Rotaract Clubs for the year 2017 - 2018*



*Rtn. President Mrs Geetha Srinivasan addressing the gathering*



*A partial view of the audience*

Students of Grade 9, 10, 11 & 12 are members of the Interact Club. The following students of GSIS are the new office-bearers of the Interact Club:

- President : Hridey Batra, IB-1D
- Vice President : Aanya Devabhaktuni, IB-1A
- Secretary : S Rooshni, ISC-1B
- Treasurer : Prathmesh Fomra, IB-1C
- Directors : Vijaya Lakshman Meka, IB-1D [Community Service]  
 Shanmuganathan S, IB-1C [Vocational Service]  
 Nabeeha Mahanta, FM-3B [Club Service]  
 Sakshi Chintanbhai Vaghani, FM-3B [International Service]  
 Danielle Luzanne D'Souza, IB-1A [International Service]

All students of the 9 months' batch (52 girls) of GSFS are members of the Rotaract Club. The following students of GSFS (9 months' batch) are the new office-bearers of the Rotaract Club:

- President : Sukhjot Kaur
- Vice President : Vinita Agrawal
- Secretary : Priyanka Inani
- Treasurer : Shreenithy
- Directors : Sonal Agrawal [Community Service]  
 Mahima Bansal [Vocational Service]  
 Prerna Mundada [Club Service]  
 Thivyaa Muthusamy [International Service]

Both the Interact Club and the Rotaract Club are actively involved in social service, many charitable projects and awareness programmes in the Nilgiris district. The Interactors had the opportunity to mingle with the Rotarians and the Rotaract members of GSFS. We are confident that the Interactors and the Rotaractors will continue the legacy of their seniors.