



# *The Shepherd's Voice*

Monthly Newsletter



## GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Knowledge Village  
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Visit us @ [www.gsis.ac.in](http://www.gsis.ac.in) | [www.gsfs.ac.in](http://www.gsfs.ac.in)

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## CIS International Certification



*Mr Stuart McLay, Associate Director, School Support & Evaluation, Council of International Schools, presenting the International Certification to the Principal, Dr P C Thomas and the Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas*

Good Shepherd International School was awarded **International Certification** by the Council of International Schools on 2nd May 2017. **GSIS is the first and only school in India and one among the five schools in the world to earn this prestigious award** for its commitment to the development of global citizens and international education programmes after being methodically and meticulously examined by the Council of International Schools Evaluation and Support Officers.

The **Council of International Schools (CIS)** has over 700 member schools spread across 110 different countries. Of these 700 plus member schools, approximately 450 have achieved full accredited status and GSIS is one among them. The school demonstrated its progress through a project-based, collaborative learning model in its evaluated and developmental journey focussed on the attributes, values and a range of skills for its global citizenship education. The school was involved in putting the school's Mission and Vision into practice, evaluating competencies and commitment, developing curricular and co-curricular programmes and exploring the importance of community support.

This accomplishment demonstrates significant school-wide commitment to international and intercultural learning for students. This award is an endorsement of Good Shepherd International School in developing a student body with all of the skills, knowledge and values of outstanding global citizens. This achievement validates the school community's provision of international education and demonstrable outcomes, reflecting students' growth as global citizens. This is an achievement to be recognized and shared throughout the school community. The process involved a collaborative effort on behalf of the staff and the school community beyond the classrooms to develop Global Citizenship Standards and Benchmarks. It is the result of many years of focussed work with a keen sense of purpose. The faculty, staff and the school community took this in-depth, 18 months long certification process very seriously to achieve international competencies. GSIS has the capacity to not only continue its growth, but to support others in learning to develop a student body with all skills, knowledge and values required for global citizenship.

**Congratulations!**

## International School Award

It gives us immense pleasure to share with you the assessment results for the International School Award (ISA) 2016-17. The portfolio submitted by the school has been approved and GSIS has been successfully awarded with the **British Council International School Award** for the period 2017 – 2020.

**Congratulations!**

## IB Diploma Programme: Five-Year Self-Evaluation Process

An IBDP Evaluation Team visited GSIS on 1st, 2nd & 3rd of March 2017 as part of the **five-year self-evaluation** process. The Team evaluated the IB Diploma Programme, the ongoing process of action and reflection, to ensure that the standards, practices and requirements of the programme are being maintained. As part of the process, the school was also engaged in a self-study that is a key element in the school's continual improvement.

GSIS has been commended in the Five-Year Evaluation Report for the meticulous implementation of the standards and practices for the IB Diploma Programme.

### *Words of Appreciation...*



**Smt. Nirupama Rao**



**Shri Sudhakar Rao**

*“Our visit to GSIS has been memorable in so many ways. Dr Thomas and his gracious wife, Elsamma, personify the best in human kindness, warmth, dignity and grace. Their hospitality has made us feel truly at home. The GSIS is a model institution, and the care and dedication with which it has been built, brick by brick, over the years, shines through every arch and alcove. The students are so energetic and filled with good cheer. The Founder’s Day celebrations were a feast for the eyes and ears. GSIS sets a very high bar for other schools to emulate. May you continue to inspire others to learn from the power of your example. Your vision and commitment make us proud.”*

- Smt. Nirupama Rao, IFS (Retd), Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India  
&  
- Shri Sudhakar Rao, IAS (Retd), Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

## 41st Founder’s Day Celebrations: A Brilliant Performance and a Magnificent Display



*Bugle call announcing the arrival of the chief guest*



*A musical presentation*



*A warm welcome to the chief guest!*

On 15th of October when the school celebrates the birth of a dream of a visionary and an educationist, the school sparkled in its brilliant dazzle. The evening of 15th witnessed an august presence of **Shrimati Nirupama Rao, IFS (Retd)**, the Former Foreign Secretary and retired Ambassador of India and **Shri Sudhakar Rao, IAS (Retd)**, the Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, alongside the enthusiastic parents and warm wishers. The beautiful rendition of Indian classical dances in their spectacular costumes enthralled the viewers. Our Shepherdians danced to the melodious live music and soaked in the vibrant spirit of the event. Our secular spirit made us present the *Sufi dance*, a spiritual practice in Sufism, where the essence of the dance is a communion with the divine.





*The chief guest along with Shri Sudhakar Rao, IAS (Retd), the Principal, Senior Vice President and Mr Stuart McLay*



*The school choir singing the school prayer song*



*Music rendition by the Symphony Orchestra*

But the event which mesmerised all was the grandeur of the jungle kingdom presented in a musical presentation, *The Lion King*, which is a story of Simba's journey to fulfil his destiny. It would be unfair not to give due importance to the well-synchronized *Light and Dark presentation* by the Fernhill students. As the night darkened, our little Shepherdians brought light through their message of the necessity to protect the environment. The musical ensembles, with their fine blend of notes and tunes soothed the charged air of excitement.

After a long spell of wet and dampening weather, the sun shone in all its splendour on the D-day of 16th. The day began with the spectacular display of the march past with the brass band, pipe band, equestrian finesse, house marches and the Sea Cadet Corps. The formation of the peace symbol and the school motto of three T's - *Truth, Trust and Triumph* - on the foreground to the tune of melodious old numbers was remarkable! The traditional dance of the Hawaiian people and of the Mauritian people, *Hula and Sega*, by the junior school students won everyone's heart. Our hearts skipped a beat when the gymnasts jumped through the fiery trials which kept all eyes glued on them. The sonorous Indian classical music, the rhythmic and vigorous djembe drum beats filled the school's air.



*Junior School presentation*



*Pooja dance: Saraswathi Vandanam*



*Junior students performing a Marathi folk dance*



*Sufi dance*



*Ashtalakshmi dance: Dances of India*

**Mr Stuart McLay**, the Associate Director of School Support & Evaluation, Council of International Schools, presented the certification plaque to the **Principal Dr P C Thomas**, as a fine appreciation of the founder's contribution to the world of education. The trophies for Excellence in Academic and Co-curricular activities at school were distributed to the deserving Houses. The day was brightened by the enlightening speech by the Chief Guest, Shrimati Nirupama Rao. We marvelled at the way she bridged the unexpressed yet inherent connection between our school motto of *Truth, Trust and Triumph* with our Country's watchword.

The Good Shepherd air smiled back at the happy smiling Shepherdians, going home for their mid-term break. The joyous culmination of all hard work and fine tuning of skills brought in a warm yearning for some quality time at home.





*Welcome Address by the Principal, Dr P C Thomas*



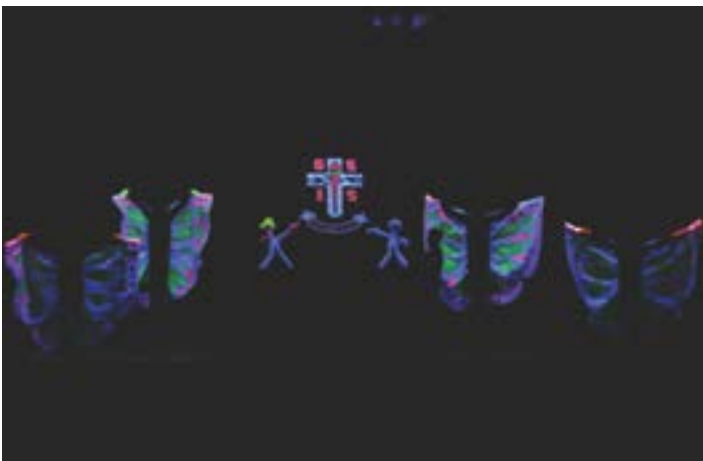
*Address by the chief guest, Smt. Nirupama Rao*



*Expression of Gratitude by the Vice President, Mrs Julie Pradeesh*



*Students performing a stage show: musical presentation – Lion King*



*The Light & Dark presentation*



*Parents and guardians in the dining hall*



*The Horse Contingent*



*Inspection of the Guard of Honour*



*March past of the Brass Band*



*Band Display*



*Drummers' Call*





*The chief guest along with the Principal, Senior Vice President, Shri Sudhakar Rao and Mr Stuart McLay*



*View of spectators in the stadium*



*Display of mountaineering skills*



*Gymnastics display*



*The Old Shepherds along with the Principal*



*Indian music ensemble*





*Equestrian display*



*Percussion Ensemble: Boys playing African djembe drums*



*Address by Mr Stuart McLay*



*Prize distribution*



*Prize distribution*



*Winter House: Winner of the Cock House Shield*

## Special Eye Check-up Camp held at GSIS



*Eye check-up by THE EYE FOUNDATION, Ooty*

**Eye check-up Camps** were held at GSIS on 22 September, 26 September & 03 October 2017. A team from **THE EYE FOUNDATION**, Ooty, examined all our students and some staff and gave the necessary advice for any clinical condition such as external eye infections, vision loss caused by nutritional deficiency, presbyopia, myopic vision, cataract, glaucoma, etc.

Optometrists performed refraction on patients who have refractive errors, presbyopia and outdated glasses. Patients diagnosed with acute problems were referred to their hospital at Ooty for further investigation and treatment.

## Re-connecting with Nature



*The Kamraj Sagar Lake, Ooty*



*Enjoying the pristine beauty of the Shola rainforest*

We have spent more time indoors in front of screens. We have become less aware of the plants, insects, worms and birds in our backyard and neighbourhood. Students' alienation from nature is a concern and it is harmful to their spirit and health. They are no longer able to identify common plants and animals in their backyard. Ecological issues cannot be taught without a student being passionate enough to embrace the environment and having a passionate guide who can make the discipline come alive.

Students may not know the scientific names of common plants and animals in their neighbourhood. A guide will be able to transmit the knowledge to the next generation. Children may stare at leaves, watch insects and animals or listen to calls of birds. Some of them become obsessed enough and may later become experts. We want all young people to have more exposure to nature so that they can discover the joy of re-connecting with nature.

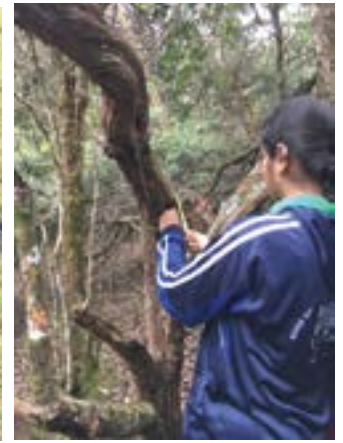




*Checking for the presence of lichens on the trunk of a tree*



*Collection and disposal of trash, refuse & garbage waste in the shola forest*



*Forest mensuration: Analysis of forest data*

A group of students of Good Shepherd International School made a three-day visit from 4th August to 6th August 2017 to the Nilgiris as part of their IB ESS / Biology curricular demands and came back much more enriched. It is a different experience to go with a group of students for a field trip to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve - the forests, lakes, dams, the watersheds, wetlands, the pristine shola forests and discover the Nilgiris for its hidden treasures. The place has surprised them with its immense beauty, diversity, fauna, flora and cultural prosperity.

The first day was the visit to the Avalanche forest and the Emerald lake. On the second day, the students were able to participate in a ritual performed by the Toda tribe of the Nilgiris. The third day was devoted to pollution study and it started with a walk around the Ooty lake during which the sources of pollution and the effect of tourists on the lake were identified.

We were trekking and discovering the area. Words cannot describe the peace and the pristine clean fresh air experienced. The blue-violet Nilgiri *Stobilanthes* (Karvy / Kurinji) flowers were in bloom along the mountainside. We observed the bushes of the beautiful *Nilakurunji* that flowers every 12 years. Students carried out a cleanliness drive along the banks of the Ooty lake and did a classification of the various types of garbage / waste that were procured.

A successful and quality field trip requires teacher preparation and interaction. Field trips support student learning and they work best when they provide support for students to explore in a personally meaningful way. Field trips expose students to new experiences and can increase their interest and engagement in science. They provide hands-on outdoor experiences and an opportunity for students to encounter and explore novel things in an authentic setting. Students said that they learned much more about the environment during the 3-day field trip than what they had learned during the past year in the classroom.

## Basketball



*Master Aditya Singh*

**Master Aditya Singh**, Grade 9A, represented the Nilgiris district basketball team in the sub-junior category. He was selected to the Tamil Nadu state Basketball team and participated in the 44th sub-junior Basketball Championship that was held in Rajasthan from 08 October to 14 October 2017.

**Well done!**

# Pascal & Gauss Contests

The CENTRE for EDUCATION in MATHEMATICS and COMPUTING (CEMC) of the University of Waterloo in Canada develops and administers **Pascal & Gauss Contests** which are internationally recognized Mathematics contests to help to inspire the next generation of students to develop an interest in and love for Mathematics.



*Anushka Agrawal*



*Avinash Yarlagadda*



*Hariharasudhan Swaminathan*

Grade 9 students of GSIS appeared for the **Pascal Contest** held on Wednesday, 01 March 2017. More than 64000 students from 1500 schools participated in the 2017 Pascal Contest. The names of the top three students of GSIS who had excelled in this contest are mentioned below:

1. Ms Anushka Agrawal, FM 4A - 127 points
2. Master Avinash Yarlagadda, FM 4D - 124 points
3. Master Hariharasudhan Swaminathan, FM 4E - 122 points

**Ms Anushka Agrawal** has won the School Champion Medal.

The **Gauss Contests** are an opportunity for students to develop their mathematical problem-solving ability. Our students of Grades 7 and 8 appeared for the Gauss Contests on 11 May 2017. The following students are the top three scorers in GSIS:

## Grade 7



*Vedaant Vinodkumar Jain*



*Shreyaan Jain*



*Achuthanand Madanapalli*

1. Master Vedaant Vinodkumar Jain, FM 2C - 120 points
2. Master Shreyaan Jain, FM 2C - 118 points
3. Master Achuthanand Madanapalli, FM 2D - 117 points



## Grade 8



*Hrishi Khemka*



*M K Pritesh*



*Jidapa Larpcharoentavee*



*Maanav Kumarpal Shah*

1. Master Hrishi Khemka, FM 3B & Master M K Pritesh, FM 3A - 134 points each
2. Ms Jidapa Larpcharoentavee, FM 3A - 126 points
3. Master Maanav Kumarpal Shah, 9B - 120 points

**Well done!**

## First In Math Online Programme

Students of GSIS are using the **First In Math Online Programme** since 2012. Students of Grade 1 to Grade 8 are enrolled in this programme.

**First In Math** provides the path to mastery in Mathematics by fueling a child's innate thirst for knowledge through comprehensive content in an engaging format. The programme drives success in every academic area. Skills that might take months of conventional practice can be mastered in a matter of days through these practice techniques. First In Math online provides immediate feedback, thus making practice meaningful and engaging. Students become immersed in a progression-based, interactive environment where new skills are acquired and improvement is continually recognized. Improvement is self-directed and new habits replace old, unproductive habits. The broad content also covers addition through algebra. Significant results can be achieved in minutes every day.

The following students of GSIS are the top players at the national level in this programme for the academic year 2016 – 2017:

### Grade 6



*Siddh Kekin Dedhia*



*Adhik Raghuram*



*Sneha Rosalind*

1. Master Siddh Kekin Dedhia, FM -1A : solved 26,181 problems
2. Master Adhik Raghuram, FM -1A : solved 22,614 problems
3. Ms Sneha Rosalind, 7A : solved 19,911 problems

### **Grade 7**



***Snehit V G Swamy***



***Darshil Kedia***



***Dhanu Adhav Aravindan***

1. Master Snehit V G Swamy, FM - 2B : solved 51,468 problems
2. Master Darshil Kedia, 8B : solved 27,060 problems
3. Master Dhanu Adhav Aravindan, 8B : solved 14,514 problems

### **Grade 8**



***Maanav Kumarpal Shah***



***Shreyansh Agarwal***



***Suryansh Jagdish Saboo***

1. Master Maanav Kumarpal Shah, 9B : solved 19,428 problems
2. Master Shreyansh Agarwal, 9A : solved 12,816 problems
3. Master Suryansh Jagdish Saboo, 9B : solved 8586 problems

The best way to build a strong foundation and improve your Mathematics skills is by solving Maths problems using the First In Math Online Programme. It is a good activity to acquire and reinforce essential Maths skills.



# Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Examinations, 2016 - 2017

**Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** is taught at the Primary and Middle School of GSIS to achieve computer literacy and develop ICT competence. They combine theoretical and practical studies focusing on the ability to use common software applications to solve problems, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases, interactive presentation software and website design. Students learn key IT skills, logo (logo language) and a range of software applications. Students develop lifelong skills, which will be useful to them in their work and prepare them for future employment.

Our students from Grade 2 to Grade 7 appeared for the **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Examinations** conducted by the **Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)** in the academic year 2016 - 2017. The examination evaluated their knowledge, understanding and skills of ICT systems. They appeared for the examinations at three different levels of stage 1 - 'Initial steps', 'Next steps' and 'On track' covering different modules. The different modules were held throughout the year along with the monthly and terminal examinations for Grade 2 to Grade 7.

**246** students took the examinations (Initial steps – 28, Next steps – 67 and On track – 151) out of which 163 students got Merit and 83 students achieved pass standards.

The overall results are mentioned below:

## **Grades 2 & 3: Initial steps –**

Number of candidates : 28

Merit : 28

## **Grades 4 & 5: Stage 1 Next steps –**

Number of candidates : 67

Merit : 41

Pass : 26

## **Grades 6 & 7: Stage 1 On track –**

Number of candidates : 151

Merit : 94

Pass : 57

We are delighted to share the outstanding results and are very proud of our students and teachers who have trained them in achieving impressive results. We also received excellent feedback from CIE for the examinations held in 2016 - 2017. This performance is a testimony to our students' hard work, determination and dedication. **Well done!**

## GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL Mehendi Design and Nail Art Competitions: Intricate designs on the palm

Traditionally, according to Indian culture, girls apply henna during religious festivals such as Eid al-Fitr or Bakrid and before major life events such as marriage. In this traditional art form, usually, the arms of the ladies are decorated using the dark green henna paste.

The school helped the students learn and explore these skills during their beauty therapy sessions. Henna is extracted from a shrub and is used to dye skin, hair and fingernails. Henna tattoos can be applied on arms, hands, ankles, belly and backs. But they are usually applied by an artist to the skin of the hands and feet, where they normally last the longest. Girls decorate beautiful, intricate designs on their arms; they decorate the nails as well. Many girls put henna tattoos just for fun also and the design lasts from one to three weeks depending on how long the paste is allowed to dry and the wearer's lifestyle. The designs may be of different patterns representing different tags such as ladybug, black and white, stripes, floral, polka dots, etc.



*Mehendi design competition in progress*



*Creative and innovative mehendi designs*

The **Mehendi Design and Nail Art Competitions** for the 3 months' batch of girls were held at Good Shepherd Finishing School on 17 August 2017. The results of the competition are mentioned below:

**Mehendi Design competition:**

- First position : Ms Bala Sugirtha
- Second position : Ms Sneha Antony
- Third position : Ms Shamal Saklecha

**Nail Art competition:**

- First position : Ms Reshma Rose Bastian
- Second position : Ms Namita Doshi
- Third position : Ms Pooja Bothra

The competition tested their creativity in designing and the designs created were a splendid sight.

**Congratulations!**

*“ Every human is an artist. The dream of your life is to make beautiful art.”*

**- Don Miguel Ruiz**