



The Shepherd's Monthly Newsletter *Voice*



GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Knowledge Village
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Visit us @ www.gsis.ac.in | www.gsfs.ac.in

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GSIS Celebrated 72nd Independence Day



Smt. Nirupama Menon Rao, IFS (Retd),
hoisting the national flag

Good Shepherd International School celebrated India's **72nd Independence Day** on Wednesday, 15 August 2018, as a mark of homage for the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation and for their undaunted pursuit of *swatantrata* for every Indian. The Guest of Honour, **Smt. Nirupama Menon Rao**, retired Indian Foreign Service officer, delivered the keynote address for the students and the staff members who congregated inside the Good Shepherd auditorium.

After the unfurling of the tricolour, Smt. Nirupama Rao and the other dignitaries entered the auditorium for the remainder of the event. The Indian music choir sang *Vande Mataram*, the national song of India. **Ms Eliza Elizabeth George** of Grade 12 welcomed the chief guest. She introduced Smt. Nirupama Rao to the gathering. Ms Eliza dealt with Smt. Rao setting up the South Asia Symphony Foundation to build bridges across South Asia. **Ms Gayatri Madan Lund** of Grade 12 was prepared with the Independence Day speech and her speech focused on a few eminent writers such as William Dalrymple and Julia Carney. She quoted from the first stanza of the poem *Little Things* which was written by Julia Carney about how beauty can be captured by the minutest of things around us. This inspirational poem is about the value of living in the moment and the power of small acts of kindness. The girls' Indian music choir sang *Aye Watan* which was suited for the occasion as the song speaks about patriotic fervour. Smt. Rao's speech touched upon the duties of a good citizen and the Indian Constitution being the basis of all laws passed by our government. The rendition of the song *Chhodo Kal Ki Baatein* by the choir followed.

Master Devya Robin Goenka of Grade 10 gave the expression of gratitude. He thanked the Principal **Dr P C Thomas**, the Senior Vice President **Mrs Elamma Thomas**, the Academic Council members, the Finishing School students and all others present.

At a special musical evening organized in the auditorium under the aegis of South Asian Symphony Foundation, our students and selected musicians from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and India whirled the audience as they were treated to a mesmerizing musical night.



The Indian music choir singing Vande Mataram



A view of the audience



Welcome Address by Ms Eliza Elizabeth George



Speech by Ms Gayatri Madan Lund



Smt. Nirupama Menon Rao, IFS (Retd), delivering the Independence Day Address



Expression of Gratitude by Master Devya Robin Goenka



A musical performance



Brass ensemble

Good Shepherd International School, Ooty, ranked No.1 International School in India for 2017 – 2018 on the parameter of life skills education



Good Shepherd International School – Palada Campus

In **EducationWorld India School Rankings 2017-2018**, the top 10 day, boarding and international schools – across all categories (all-girls, all-boys, co-ed, day-cum-boarding, etc) – were ranked as under on the parameter of life skills education.

We are happy to inform you that **Good Shepherd International School is ranked No.1 International School in India** for 2017 - 2018. Good Shepherd International School was awarded a rating of 92 points out of 100. The country's Top 1000 primary-secondary schools were assessed and ranked based on 14 parameters. A sample respondents database of 12,367 educationists, principals, teachers, parents and students in 27 cities countrywide were interviewed by staff of the Delhi-based C fore, to rate and rank the country's Top 1000 primary-secondary schools.

We congratulate the management, staff and students of the school for this outstanding achievement!

Nilgiris District Badminton Championship 2018



Nilay Agrawal



Brinda S U



Fatima Dechawaleekul

The Nilgiris District Badminton Championship was held at Anna Indoor Stadium, Ooty, from 28 July to 31 July 2018. Our students participated in the tournament and performed well as mentioned below:

S. No.	Names of students	Class	Category	Position
1	Nilay Agrawal	ISC - 2B	Boys' U-19 singles	Runner-up
2	Brinda S U	IB - 2A	Girls' U-17 doubles	Runner-up
	Fatima Dechawaleekul	FM - 2A		
3	Brinda S U	IB - 2A	Girls' U-19 doubles	Winners
	Fatima Dechawaleekul	FM - 2A		

Congratulations!

ACE Training Workshop: Sharing Experiences



The workshop in progress



Ms Darlene Fischer interacting with the teachers



Group activities class in progress



The new term commenced with an invigorating one-and-a-half day workshop on ACE – the three pillars of ACE learning being *Architecture, Culture and Ecology*. The workshop was conducted by **Ms Darlene Fischer** and it featured NEASC Learning Principles focusing on student-centric education.

The intellectually stimulating session, which was conducted in the auditorium on the 16th and 17th July 2018, extended a warm welcome to the teaching fraternity by engaging the members of the staff in activities which effectively defined learning as an experience of shared understanding.

Session 1 was the exploration of the definition of learning and it featured analysis of the definition of learning in GSIS. Learning initiates “a lifelong journey of positive transformation, through engagement in a wide variety of experiences.” Ms Fischer lauded this definition as it was aiming at positive transformation, which aimed at developing a student-centric learning system which would guide students to have autonomy in their learning.

The nine Learning Principles were discussed with a thorough understanding and analysis of each, and examples were cited of how they were being incorporated in the learning community. Ms Fischer, through these sessions, gave a practical training to the teachers on designing authentic activities which would essentially be student-centered, giving them voice and choice. She reiterated the importance of reflection which gives scope for improvement in the approaches to learning and teaching skills.

Student engagement and autonomy formed the crux of these sessions. Along with it she also helped the teachers derive a good understanding of conceptual teaching and learning, bringing into focus the ‘Big Ideas.’

The Day 2 Session focused on building student skills. This was followed by the reviewing of curriculum maps to look for ACE and developing Student-Directed Learning [SDL] activities.

Videos were shown of cases of SDL in some schools and connect to Learning Principles. Video recordings of some classes from GSIS were shown and Learning Principles identified along with challenges faced.

Reflection plays a crucial role in this student-centric learning system. Ms Fischer lay emphasis on Reflection as a post-learning necessity to evaluate and analyse learning, identify the challenges and apply strategies that can bring about improvement. Each Learning Principle was analysed meticulously and examples and experiences discussed.

The last part of the session was the reviewing of Unit Plans to incorporate autonomy in learning, different perspectives, opportunities for research and reflection and developing Self-Directed Learners. Teachers worked in pairs in modifying the curriculum to incorporate the changes. The session was a great platform for learning and sharing experiences.

Professional Development Workshop for Teachers: Assessment of Learning



Dr Anita George addressing the teachers



Interactive presentation and discussions

In keeping with the school’s policy to provide regular professional development sessions for the members of staff to ensure academic and social success for the students enrolled in the school, the school invited **Dr Anita George**, a workshop leader and a teacher trainer, for a three-day in-house workshop on Assessment on 13th, 14th and 15th of July 2018. Though the workshop was meant for assessing the students of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, it catered to the educational needs of the school: to improve the skills of Assessment of Learning in the teaching community, both academic and co-curricular. Those staff members who attended the workshop will disseminate what they have gained to the rest of the teaching community in later professional development sessions.

The workshop was divided into nine sessions, the resources for which were sent to the participants much in advance of the sessions. Hence, the participants were well-prepared for the workshop. Each session comprised activities and discussions providing the participants with a platform to exchange experiences of assessment and individual



The teacher-training workshop in progress



The participants seen along with Dr Anita George, the workshop leader

understanding of the best practices. Dr Anita George also enabled the participants to read enriching articles on Learning, Assessment and Development.

The nine sessions were the following:

Session 1: Introduction and Pre-assessment

Session 2: What is Assessment?

Session 3: DP Summative Assessments I (Compare and Contrast)

Session 4: DP Summative Assessments II

Session 5: Instructional Approaches that Promote Learning

Session 6: Feedback

Session 7: Formative Assessment (Lesson Ideas)

Session 8: Understanding by Design and Backward Design

Session 9: Learner Profile and assessing for learning (synthesis)

When the workshop came to an end, all the participants came to realize that there were a lot of commonalities among the various subjects of the IBDP. The rationales for assessment methods are the same: we gauge knowledge and understanding, application and analysis, synthesis and evaluation, and finally, the selection and use of appropriate presentation and language skills. The participants felt equipped to assess learning more effectively and also to share more platforms of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary discussions.

The Warm Welcoming Session of the New Scholastic Year 2018 – 2019



The Orientation Programme in progress



Academic and co-curricular staff



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



Ms Ela Singh and Mr Sumanto Dutta briefing on Staff Guidelines



Introducing new teachers to the staff



The Principal, Dr P C Thomas, addressing the staff members

Though the inclement weather greeted the new academic session 2018 – 2019, the enthusiasm could not be dampened by the frosty wind. The existing teachers as well as the newcomers brightened the auditorium with their fervour. The academic Vice Principal, **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, began the session by giving due glory to the Almighty, by playing a hymn of thankfulness. She laid stress on our school's motto, *Truth, Trust and Triumph* and how the school moves ahead on the wheels of its dynamic power.

Our revered Principal, **Dr P C Thomas**, thanked the teachers for their endeavour for working towards the acme of educational field and being awarded the **No. 1 International School** by the *EducationWorld*. He asked the teachers to continue in their endeavour to raise the bar because the quality of the school is neither in the grandeur of the infrastructure nor in the vastness of the campus. The children, who are the citizens of tomorrow, are moulded and shaped in the cradle of the school, since the destiny of India is decided in the classroom.

At the outset it was befitting to make the newly-inducted staff feel more at home, thus there was a session of formal introductions of each member of the staff. For the smooth functioning of the school, we need to refresh our memories with staff guidelines. These were read out and explained by our teachers, Mr Sumanto Dutta, Ms Ela Singh, Mr Sunil Kumar Pysluri and Ms Grace Sarah Knight.

As the CIS and NEASC evaluation visit is imminent, it calls for wrapping up of our requirements like framing a Child Protection Policy in accordance with the UN Conventions on Child Rights. Thus, Mrs Mary Mohan Varghese and Mrs Sibi Gladys Thomas enlightened the teaching staff of our roles of being parents in school.

There was a sweet breather in the morning session and all enjoyed the special high tea. Thereafter, the teachers got their timetables to be oriented towards their academic year.



Mrs Mary Mohan Varghese and Mrs Sibi Gladys elaborating on Child Protection Policy



The Senior Vice Principal (Administration), Brig Suresh Kumar (Retd), addressing the staff members



Chartered Accountant Mr Ramasubramaniam, talking about filing of income tax returns



An open forum for redressal of grievances

The afternoon session began with an evaluation of the results declared by the Council of Indian School Certificate Examination, India and the International Baccalaureate, Geneva. The section Coordinators had a brief meeting with their respective flocks and made them aware of what is expected from each of them. Later in the day, we had our Senior Vice Principal (Administration), **Brig Suresh Kumar**, briefing us on punctuality, cleanliness in school and quarters and the importance of enhancing one's personality and self-esteem. Followed by Brig Suresh, **Mr Ramasubramaniam** enlightened us on various aspects of Income Tax Returns, reiterating on the deadline for the same.

The day of chequered events was concluded with the Open Forum by the Senior Management team of the Principal, Dr P C Thomas, Senior Vice President, Mrs Elsamma Thomas, Senior Vice-Principal (Academics), Mrs Sheila Alexander and Senior Vice-Principal (Administration) Brigadier Suresh. The teachers had an opportunity to place their discomfort before them, which were promptly addressed and redressed. The discussion concluded with a quick overview of the duties of the teachers escorting the parents of the new students of the session.

The eventful day came to an end with tea and snacks, with the teachers looking forward to a new illuminative scholastic session.

Induction to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme 2018: Introduction to a rigorous, broad and balanced education

On Monday, 23 July 2018, the students of Grade 11 who have opted to pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) underwent an **Induction Programme** in order to be familiarized with the system and the IBDP.

The Induction Programme commenced with the Welcome Address delivered by the Founder-Principal, **Dr P C Thomas**. The main focus of the Principal's address was the need for Discipline. Consistent hard work and following a disciplined regimen will stand the IB students in good stead and help them bring out their best. The address by the Senior Vice



The Principal, Dr P C Thomas, addressing the new IB students



A view of the audience

Principal (Administration), **Brig Suresh Kumar (Retd)** pointed out that he would constantly support the students when they required administrative support. The Senior Vice Principal (Academics), **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, spoke about how the IBDP works in Good Shepherd International School. She focused on the fact that it is a programme that is centered on skills. Besides, she showed a video from the school topper K R Amuktha, who, despite being highly reserved, was able to score 43 points. The Higher Secondary and IBDP Coordinator, **Mrs Vimala Rani Jacob**, explained the IB Learner Profile to them by showing them a video. The Senior Vice President, **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, pointed out the evolution of GSIS as 'a home away from home' through four decades and explained how the students could adapt to the surroundings and make their dormitory life a rich and fruitful one. The Director of Activities and CAS Coordinator, **Mr Ajith P Jacob**, explained what CAS is all about and pointed out the need for all to take it seriously. The Higher Secondary Section Counsellor, **Mrs Mary Shiju Joseph** spoke about the role of the Counselling Department in training the students for IELTS and SAT and in providing career guidance in India and abroad. The Teacher-Librarian, **Mrs Sakhvir Lawrence**, gave a list of the resources in the library and spoke about the extent of support that she would provide the students for their Extended Essay and other research work. Finally, the Coordinator for Curriculum and Professional Development, **Mr T Suresh**, focused on the need for students to adapt themselves to concept-based teaching. Besides, he pointed out that since information is growing at an exponential rate, concept-based learning is all-important. IB also enables students to make ethical decisions and hence, he pointed out, it is a Programme that caters to the development of life-skills.

The Formal Induction Programme was concluded with a mood of anticipation and eagerness being infused in the students who were all determined to make the best of the opportunities that they would be provided with.

Cricket News...



Master Aryan Bhavesh Patel



Master Arnav Nalamothu

Master Aryan Bhavesh Patel, FM 3B, was a member of the Nilgiris District Cricket Association under-16 team, which participated in the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) Inter-District Cricket Tournament for **P R Thevar Trophy**, held at Dindigul from 6th to 8th July 2018. Master Aryan has scored an unbeaten 103 runs against Tuticorin district on 7 July 2018. **Well done!**

Master Arnav Nalamothu, FM 3E, represented the Nilgiris District Cricket Association under-14 team, which participated in the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) Inter-District Cricket Tournament held at Thiruvannamalai from 27th to 29th July 2018. **Well done!**

Music Workshop

A Music **Workshop** was organized in Good Shepherd International School from 11 – 15 August 2018. The workshop was a part of the South Asian Music Workshop Series guided and conducted by **Mrs Soundarie David** with **Smt. Nirupama Rao** and their team of music experts from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan and India.



Young musicians from Afghanistan at the concert



String Ensemble



Rendition of the South Asian Anthem



Music Workshop leaders

The music experts trained the students in singing, vocal techniques and gave formal instructions in playing musical instruments such as woodwind, string, brass, piano and keyboard. Our students and selected musicians presented a grand performance at a special musical evening held in the school auditorium on 15 August 2018.

Music has the ability to stir the senses, trigger emotions and transcend the boundaries of hearts and minds. The harmony of music connects cultures and is one of the several arts that has the power to bring people together with a positive energy. The musicians enthralled the audience with their flawless performance.

Dance Workshop held at GSIS

A **Dance Workshop** was organised at the Palada Campus of Good Shepherd International School from 23 – 29 July 2018. The Dance Workshop was conducted by a Mumbai-based dancer, **Mr Naresh Kathak**, a professional dancer with many years of experience in the dance industry and who has perfected his dance skills. He is trained in styles like *Kathak*, *Hip-hop*, *Contemporary*, *Jazz* and *Bollywood*. In his professional career spanning over 16 years, he has trained several Bollywood celebrities and added innumerable feathers in his cap.

Mr Naresh Kathak and his group shared their knowledge, technique and style of choreography to help students become better dancers. Focussing on technique and pedagogy, he provided an environment that has encouraged creative excellence in talented and enthusiastic dancers to develop coordination, self-confidence, strength, rhythm, self-discipline and flexibility through individual attention over the course of training. Mr Naresh and his team were able to impart quality dance training to our students fairly quickly through their brief sessions. They provided dance training to all the students who have the zeal to dance. They shared not just professionalism, but they also provided space for creativity and expressions.



Dance presentation of students of Grades 2 & 3



Boys of Grade 6 dancing in Bollywood style



Girls of Grades 7 & 8 love disco dancing

After their training, the students presented their performance at a special gathering organized in the Palada Campus on Sunday, 29 July 2018. Junior students from the Fernhill Campus performed *jazz funk* dance based on *Live It Up*, a song originally sung by **Nicky Jam**, a Puerto Rican singer. *Jazz funk* is a powerful, sensual and diva-like dance style that has taken its elements from *hip-hop*, *jazz* and *waacking*. Students of Grades 2 & 3 performed a dance based on the song, *I Like To Move It*, which was originally written by *Reel 2 Real* and adapted by *Dreamworks* for the movie *Madagascar*. Boys of Grade 6 performed a dance taken from *Dangal*, a Hindi sports drama film. The dance is characterized by free, exaggerated and highly energetic movements. Boys of Grade 7 performed Mambo, a Cuban musical genre and dance style. Grades 7 and 8 girls performed a disco dance, a dance dependent on strong, rising vocal music over a steady beat and bassline. Boys of Grade 8 danced according to the tunes of the hip-hop music. Boys of Grade 9 performed an athletic and acrobatic rock and roll partner dance that appeared in *Munna Michael*, an Indian action dance film. This dance originated from lindy hop, an American dance. Grades 9 & 11 girls took steps according to the rhythm of *Tip Toe*, a song by American singer and songwriter **Jason Derulo**, featuring vocals from Moroccan-American rapper **French Montana**. The boys of Grade 11 and girls of Grades 10 & 12 displayed their dance skills by dancing Bollywood style to the tunes of the popular Hindi songs *Sau Tarah Ke* and *Heeriye*.

The school works hard to bring the best trainers for the students as the training sessions are interesting arenas for sharing knowledge. Dance is an important activity in the school as it is a wonderful form of art that allows students to experience the joy of movement and music in a supportive environment.



Boys of Grade 7 performing Mambo, a Cuban musical form of dance



Grade 8 boys dancing according to the tunes of hip-hop music



Grades 9 & 11 girls taking steps according to the rhythm of the popular song, Tip Toe



Girls of Grades 10 & 12 dancing Bollywood style



A rock and roll dance show by Grade 9 boys



Boys of Grade 11 taking Bollywood style steps according to the tune of the popular Hindi song Sau Tarah Ke

Orientation Programme for the New Students



Master Sriniketh Krishnan sharing his experience



Ms Avani Didwania delivering a motivational speech



A music performance of the new boys



A dance performance by the girls

The **Orientation Programme** for the new students was an informal programme welcoming the whole batch of Grade 11 and new students in other classes. It was held on Friday, 27 July 2018. The hour-long programme was arranged to give the newcomers to the school a warm welcome, helping them to settle down in this new all embracing world where the exploration of knowledge , imbibing virtues, discovering self potential and learning to live in harmony go hand in hand.

The programme commenced with a motivational speech delivered by **Ms R Abinaya**, a new student from Grade IB-1A. This was followed by an English song recital by the girls of Grade 11. The song, *Girls like you*, was a beautiful rendition of a popular number which was enjoyed by the audience. Next to follow was a group dance performed by the girls of Grade 9. The presentation of a foot-tapping dance number by the middle school boys was immensely rejuvenating. It energized the batch infusing them with a positive approach to life and the future which lies ahead of them.

Ms Avani Didwania of ISC-1B inspired her friends by her motivational speech, 'Beauty within us', a quintessential topic which builds up confidence in a world where teenagers suffer from varied kinds of insecurities. After the rendition of a group song by the middle school girls, **Master Raunak Chowdhary** of ISC-1A entertained the audience with his rendition of a melodious song *Back to you*.

Master Sriniketh Krishnan of Grade IB-1B enlightened the newcomers about the plethora of experiences served on a platter in GSIS. The prefects organized many games to enliven the evening.

The Senior Vice Principal [Academics], **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, congratulated the new batch and conveyed her appreciation and wished them a very successful academic year ahead in their respective academic programmes.

Junior Students of Fernhill Campus visit Grace Mission Trust

“ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

- THE BIBLE (NIV) - Matthew 25:35-36



Girl students seen along with the girls of Grace Mission Trust



GSIS junior girls teaching young girls to dance



Food distribution to the needy children



Distributing books

On Saturday, 4 August 2018, twenty-one girls of the 5th and 6th grades visited **Grace Mission Trust** in Ooty. Grace Mission Trust runs a children’s shelter Home for destitute children that houses 18 girls studying from 2nd to 12th grade.

The students from GSIS and the children shook hands and interacted with great ease. They asked for each other’s names and grades. The children enjoyed the company of our students and staff. A 2nd grade girl named Jacqueline sang a song and the other children performed a dance. GSIS students joined the children and danced along with them. Our students sang an action song, danced and shared jokes that made the children laugh. They also taught the dance steps to the children and together they put up a joint performance. Our students distributed books, colour pencils, crayons, pencil boxes, cookies and cake.

The children and our students developed a strong bond in a short period of time. The children were excited and thanked the GSIS students for their love and affection. This trip made our students empathetic towards the children at the Grace Mission Trust and made them realise how blessed they are to have their own families. They also took a group photo to make it memorable. The children of the Grace Mission Trust wanted the students to visit them again very soon. Our students also requested for more of such visits arranged for them.

GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL

The New Batch of Girls Showcase their Talents

“The person born with a talent they are meant to use will find their greatest happiness in using it.”

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



The 9 months' batch of girls showcase their talents



Performance of the 3 months' batch of girls

An evening of surprises, wonder, joy and entertainment! The **Talent Night** for the 9 months' batch of girls was held in the Atrium of the GSFS Campus at Good Shepherd Knowledge Village on Monday, 30 July 2018. The Talent Show of the girls of the 3 months' programme was held on Sunday, 5 August 2018.

The new girls possess a lot of different talents and we are not fully aware of the kind of talents they have. The event was an ice- breaking session for the newcomers that gave them a platform to showcase their talents both as a team and as individuals. It was a wonderful occasion to present, demonstrate and promote their talents and celebrate themselves as Finishing School girls. The school has given them the opportunity and encouragement to entertain and display their raw talents.

A multitude of singers, dancers and instrumentalists were lined up with their variety of performing talents during the inspiring and delightful evening. The event also played a vital role in boosting their confidence level. Students of the three Houses - *Elegance*, *Excellence* and *Emancipation* were given specific themes to work on. Girls of the 9 months' programme had to highlight specific social issues. The performance of Elegance house members was based on the theme 'Gender Discrimination'; the House Emancipation performed on the theme 'Life of a soldier and his family' and House Excellence displayed their performance on the theme 'How television influences a family?' The programme along with the entertainment made the audience realise some of the specific issues prevalent in our society. House **Emancipation** emerged as the winners, followed by Excellence and Elegance.