



The Shepherd's Monthly Newsletter *Voice*



GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Good Shepherd Knowledge Village
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42nd Founder's Day Celebrated

"Stars don't beg the world for attention; their beauty forces us to look up."

- Matshona Dhiwayo



Winter House: Winner of the Cock House Shield

The Founder's Day was celebrated at Good Shepherd International School with great enthusiasm and majestic grandeur to pay homage to the Founder-Principal, appreciate his vision and dream, and work towards fulfilling them. Good Shepherd International School observed its **42nd Founder's Day** on 15 October 2018. The day marks the birthday of **Dr P C Thomas**, the Founder-Principal of the school. The two days of celebrations on the 15th and 16th of October 2018 started with an evening entertainment programme on 15 October and culminated in a morning outdoor programme in the open-air stadium on 16 October.



Musical presentations



The Chief Guest, Mr Harsh Mander, IAS (Retd), and his wife being escorted to the auditorium



Pooja dance



The School Choir



Junior students presenting an action song

Students presented a cultural extravaganza on 15 October that included musical presentations, dances and hand mime. The programme commenced with a fanfare, *Bugler's Dream*, that began with a *timpani* and *euphonium* cadence. A distinctive theme in woodwind and brass soon joined the music. **Mr V Selvaraj, IAS (Retd)**, Chairman, Board of Governors, Good Shepherd International School, welcomed the gathering of students, teachers, parents, guardians and other guests. The programme was attended by **Mr Harsh Mander, IAS (Retd)**, who, as the Chief Guest, addressed the gathering on both the days. *"It is such a joy to see a school that is able to teach every child as a treasure, and one that gives us spaces to discover our strengths and to explore our genes, to develop our own special space in the world and to understand what makes our own soul find itself,"* said Mr Harsh Mander, as he addressed the gathering. **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, Senior Vice President, expressed her gratitude. The parents, guardians and other guests were then served a sumptuous buffet dinner in the dining hall.

A general salute and guard of honour to the chief guest, march past of the four houses – Winter, Summer, Autumn & Spring, the sea cadet corps, the school band, the flag contingent and the horse contingent, band display and drummers'



Tribal dance



Yoga dance



Welcome Address by Mr V Selvaraj, IAS (Retd)



The Chief Guest, Mr Harsh Mander, IAS (Retd), addressing the gathering of parents, guardians, teachers, students and guests



Expression of Gratitude by the Senior Vice President



Bharatnatyam dance: Gaja Mahotsav

call, dance and music presentations, display of mountaineering, gymnastics and equestrian skills were the highlights of the morning outdoor programme on 16 October. During the march past, the junior and senior pipe and brass bands displayed their talent by playing the following tunes: *Nanthini*, *We will take the High Road*, *Blue Mountain*, *The Gorkha Brigade*, *The Army Star* and *Jyoti*. During the Band display, they created different formations symbolizing the school's motto *Truth, Trust and Triumph*, and played the tunes of *Swagatham*, *Congratulations*, *Amazing Grace*, *A Garden in India*, *Neeley Gagan*, *Abide with Me* and *Sare Jahan Se Achha*. They delighted the audience with their pulsating beats during the drummers' call. Our young mountaineers displayed the techniques of *jumaring*, *rappelling* and other skills that they learned under the close supervision and training of their instructors. It was also a display of courage, strength and persistence. The gymnasts demonstrated their courage, skills, strength, discipline, agility and athletic talent while performing their dives and somersaults. During the equestrian display, our students showed their skills, prowess and how well they could ride each horse, navigate jumps and turns. The training sessions of the students were designed to promote their co-curricular and all-round development. All the students displayed immense talent and enthusiasm leaving the audience spellbound. Their talent was amazing and enthralling.



The Chief Guest viewing the march past of the contingents



The Chief Guest, Mr Harsh Mander, IAS (Retd), and his wife, Mrs Dimple Mander, seen along with the Senior Vice President, members of the Board of Governors and other dignitaries



March past of the Sea Cadet Corps



Band display in progress



Students of the Primary School performing a fusion dance



Students displaying their mountaineering skills



Gymnastics display



Indian music ensemble

Mrs Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal (Academics), delivered the welcome address. **Mrs Dimple Mander** distributed the special awards and prizes. The prize distribution was a moment of pride and honour for all the winners and achievers. The students were awarded prizes in the academic as well as co- curricular activities. Scholarships were distributed and the board examination toppers of Grade 12 were awarded the **Elsamma Thomas Gold medals**. **Winter House** was awarded the **Cock House Trophy** for the year 2017-18. **Mrs Elsamma Thomas**, Senior Vice President, met and interacted with all the Old Shepherdians who attended the programme. They were thrilled to be back in the campus again and interact with their old teachers and new students. **Brig (Retd) Suresh Kumar, VSM**, Senior Vice Principal (Administration), delivered the expression of gratitude.

The annual report of the school for the year 2017-2018 highlighting the Vision, Mission, growth, academic details and achievements, scholarships awarded, sports and games update and activities update, was presented to the parents and guardians. The programme concluded with the rendition of the national anthem, marking the end of yet another annual celebration and festivities.



The Old Shepherds seen along with the Senior Vice President and Senior Vice Principals



Equestrian display: Mounted gymnastics



Students playing djembe drums



Ms Anushka Sarawgi, school topper of the ISC Science Board Examinations, receiving the Elsamma Thomas Gold Medal



Prize distribution

From the Visitors' Book...



Mr Harsh Mander, IAS (Retd)

"The annual day displays of dance, music and sports by the students of GSIS were absolutely scintillating. The students of this extraordinary school are fortunate to have such a dedicated and accomplished faculty, and the finest facilities to develop their potential across academics, art, music, dance and a range of sports. A day must come when every child in India should have access to similar facilities to blossom to their full potential. Our gratitude for the warm and graceful hospitality that GSIS extended to us, especially Dr & Mrs Thomas."

- Mr Harsh Mander, IAS (Retd), Writer and Social Activist

Learning Leadership Skills at the Space Camp

"Mystery creates wonder and wonder is the basis of man's desire to understand."

- Neil Alden Armstrong



Our students along with the chaperones

Neil Alden Armstrong, the American astronaut and aeronautical engineer, was the first human to step on the moon on 20 July 1969. He was the first man to walk on the moon. As he set his foot on the lunar surface, he said, *"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."* For Armstrong, it was just one small step on the Moon, but for mankind, the journey to the Moon and the first step was a monumental advance of technology, human spirit, determination, ambition and wonder. It was the culmination of a fantastic leap of scientific progress.

Twenty-three students of GSIS along with three chaperones embarked on an educational tour to the United States from 25 May to 11 June 2018. They attended the NASA Space Camp, held at the US Space & Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, USA, from 25 May to 1 June 2018. The camp provided the ultimate educational experience that illuminates real-world applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

During the one week training at the Space Camp, our students explored the facilities at the US Space & Rocket Centre, shuttle manufacturing sites, rocket building and launch sites and interacted with NASA astronauts. They participated in a variety of space-related and innovative activities such as robotics, journey in a shuttle launch simulator, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) camp, Mars Mission training, scuba diving, climbing the pamper pole and rock wall, and other exciting activities. Students learned about the principles of aviation, and put that knowledge to the test in a variety of flight simulators. They also learned about the history and mechanics of space flight, along with land and water survival skills.

The Aviation Challenge Mach III Programme at NASA Space Camp challenges the students in the fields of aerodynamics, aeronautics and jet propulsion. This military-style programme used simulated, realistic combat scenarios and hands-on activities to give trainees an understanding of the basics of survival in the wild and human physiology during flight. The training programme built piloting skills and reinforced leadership, teamwork and decision-making. **Lalrempuii Hmar**, FM 4B, received **The Right Stuff Award** in the Mach III programme, the highest level in the Aviation Challenge camp.

On 1 June, our students attended the Graduation Ceremony that was held at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration in Huntsville, after which they travelled to Decatur to meet the Rotarians and attend a pizza lunch & ice cream social, organized by **Mr Mark Maloney**, **Mrs Gay Maloney** and other Rotarians in Decatur at the house of **Mr Tab Bowling**, the Mayor of Decatur.

Students also visited several theme parks - the *Busch Gardens*, *SeaWorld*, *Universal Studios*, *Islands of Adventure*, *Aquatica Water Park* and *Magic Kingdom*. Our students are thrilled to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and experience, which we are sure, will have a lasting impact on them. The trip was a fantastic mix of interesting, exciting, educational, fun, hands-on activities for students.



Students get a taste of underwater astronaut training in a water tank



Students ascending the pamper pole



Students attending the pizza lunch organized by the Rotarians



Students in Busch Gardens, a theme park, in the city of Tampa, Florida



Our students in AQUATICA, SeaWorld's water park in Orlando



Students in Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom in Orlando

“NASA spent millions of dollars inventing the ball-point pen so they could write in space. The Russians took a pencil.”

IELTS Results

The **IELTS (International English Language Testing System)** is a widely accepted English language test to assess English language skills. The IELTS is used to measure the language proficiency of people who want to study or work where English is used as a language of communication. Good Shepherd International School is a registered test Centre for conducting IELTS tests. The IELTS test assesses the abilities of the candidates in listening, reading, writing and speaking in English. The IELTS also has a face-to-face speaking test to assess English language communication skills. The test scores are accepted by over 10,000 English-speaking organisations worldwide, including institutions, business and immigration authorities.

Seventy-eight students of Grade 12 appeared for the IELTS tests at GSIS on 8 September 2018. IELTS score is from zero to nine for each part of the test – Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. The test scores are reported as band scores on a scale from 1 (the lowest) to 9 (the highest). The overall band score is the average achieved from each part of the test. The IELTS overall test results are mentioned in the table below:

Overall band score achieved	Number of students
9	0
8.5	1
8	18
7.5	26
7	16
6.5	16
6	1

Ms Khushi Bhavin Parikh, IB-2B, secured an overall band score of 8.5, the highest among this group of candidates.

13th TAISI Leadership Conference: Agile Leadership



Mrs Julie Pradeesh, Vice President and Vice Principal of GSIS and Mrs Sheila Alexander, Senior Vice Principal (Academics) at Taj Lands Ends, Mumbai, the venue of the conference



Mrs Julie Pradeesh and Mrs Sheila Alexander seen along with Mrs Neerja Birla, Chairperson of The Aditya Birla World Academy, Mumbai

Mrs Julie Pradeesh, Vice President and Vice Principal of GSIS and **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, Senior Vice Principal (Academics) attended the **TAISI (The Association of International Schools of India) Leadership Conference** held at Taj Lands Ends, Mumbai, from 27 September to 29 September 2018. The Association of International Schools of India (TAISI) was founded in 2005. Its primary objective is to create a platform on which the stakeholders of schools in the region can engage in the form of dialogue, workshops, cooperation, sharing and alliance building. TAISI is actively involved

in professional development for teachers, leadership building for Heads, student learning and skill development for students.

According to **Mrs Anu Monga**, Chairperson of TAISI, we have to be adaptive and ready to change. *“Having a mindset that encourages constant improvement, within the environment that we find ourselves in is the key,”* says Mrs Anu Monga. Several international educators, senior educational leaders, experienced educational administrators and eminent speakers addressed the gathering. The three-day conference tried to bring international schools in India together for the advancement of international education, intercultural understanding and friendship. TAISI is keen to develop regular, on-going, in-service opportunities for administrators, teachers and students within the region.

Wildlife Week Celebrations



The quiz programme in progress

Nature and its wildlife are beautiful gifts of God. We have to honour and preserve its natural biodiversity to strengthen our natural environment. Wildlife preservation and human progress are connected to each other on our planet. Preservation of wildlife is the plan to manage the fauna and flora alongside human progress. Along with other factors, the activities of humans has also caused the extinction of a variety of species and they are never to be seen again.

Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India during the first week of October. The weeklong programme was organised by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department from 2nd to 8th October, 2018. The purpose was to preserve wildlife in India. As part of Wildlife Week celebrations, the Nilgiris Forest Department organized several special activities such as awareness programmes, public meetings and competitive events that are connected with the wildlife conservation. Competitions of painting, elocution and quiz were organized at the Government Arts College in Ooty for the students of nearby schools and colleges.



Ms Gyanvi Sarawgi



Master M Mohit Prem Kumar

Two students of GSIS – **Gyanvi Sarawgi**, ISC-1A and **M Mohit Prem Kumar**, ISC-1B, secured the first place in the quiz competition that tested their knowledge of wildlife and other environmental issues. The quiz competition was conducted on 29 September 2018. The aim of the programme was to improve awareness as well as the consciousness of the local people towards wildlife preservation.

ICSE / ISC Biology Workshop held at GSIS



ICSE teachers along with the resource person, Mrs Kashmira Gundevia



ISC teachers along with Mrs Kashmira Gundevia



Session in progress for ICSE teachers



Interactive session for ISC teachers

A **Biology Workshop** was held in Good Shepherd International School, Palada, for ICSE (Indian Certificate of Secondary Education) and ISC (Indian School Certificate) teachers from the Nilgiris and Coimbatore from 20 September to 22 September 2018. The training programme was organised for the benefit of Biology teachers of Council affiliated schools to address curriculum concerns, methodology and evaluation at the ICSE / ISC level. It also aims at enhancing their knowledge in their own subjects beyond the specifics of the examination curriculum. The resource person was **Mrs Kashmira Hoshang Gundevia, MSc (Zoology), BEd**, Principal, Maneckji Cooper Education Trust School, Mumbai. She has a teaching experience of 32 years in Biology at the ICSE level and 27 years at the ISC level. She has conducted many Biology workshops for teachers and students at ICSE (Grade 10) and ISC (Grade 12) in different schools across India. She has also participated in panel discussions on education in various institutions. She is also a recipient of numerous awards in education. Mrs Kashmira is associated with the Council for the ISC examinations for the past 35 years.

The workshop began with a welcome address by **Mrs Sheila Alexander**, Senior Vice Principal (Academics), GSIS, followed by the introduction of 30 teacher attendees for ICSE (20th September) and 17 for ISC (21st and 22nd September). A total of six GSIS teachers for ICSE and three for ISC had the privilege to attend the workshop.

The teachers were given in-depth knowledge of the syllabuses focussing on the frequently asked topics, expected marking points, key terms, key concepts and also practical part of the subject. The resource person interacted with the delegates and answered all the queries put forward by the teachers. On the last day (22nd September) of the ISC workshop, teachers were assigned to four groups for an activity session- two groups were asked to present a model class based on any ISC topic of their choice and the other two groups were asked to prepare a board pattern question paper for Grade 11 and Grade 12. An effective feedback was given by Mrs Kashmira at the end of the session.

It was an enlightening workshop for all the biology teachers. A new Facebook group titled "ISC Biology Teachers" was created by Mr Vivek Indrajith of Isha Home School, Coimbatore, for sharing useful resource links and videos. The programme also played an important role in bringing teachers from different schools in the Nilgiris and Coimbatore together wherein they got an opportunity to network, share their specific concerns and get insights into functions of other schools affiliated with the Council, which will in turn benefit the students. The training programme was enjoyable, enriching, memorable and successful. The delegates were happy to attend the workshop as it was conducted by such an experienced professional. The presentations covered a wide range of topics and yet were all connected by common interests.

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

– Albert Einstein

Literature and Performance Workshop at GSIS



Workshop participants



Literature and Performance workshop in progress

The students of the Literature and Performance of the IBDP attended a two-day workshop on the 27th and 28th of August, 2018. The workshop was led by Mr Siddharth and Ms Chanda of the Coimbatore Arts and Theatre Society.

The workshop touched on topics such as Voice, Body Imagination and Ensemble work. Students were involved in activities that included Tableaux, Mime, Improvisation, Readers' Theatre and Role-Play. Students recorded a radio play as part of the workshop. They transformed short stories into stage language, proxemics, costume and action by devising and creating characters, blocking the play and rehearsing.

The two-day workshop culminated in a performance by the students. Students had an opportunity to push their limits and explore themselves through drama. It helped them to build their self-confidence and tap into their creativity.

“Literature is the art of discovering something extraordinary about ordinary people, and saying with ordinary words something extraordinary.”

- Boris Pasternak

GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL

Dessert-making Competition



The team that was awarded the first place seen along with the Dean and the judges of the competition



The team that secured the second place



The team that has won the third place



A view of the variety of desserts displayed during the dessert-making competition: Food to whet the appetite

Good Shepherd Finishing School offers regular culinary workshops to enhance the cooking experience of the young ladies. A competition was organized on Thursday, 4 October 2018, to test the dessert-making skills of the young ladies in the campus. Most of us, dessert-lovers, love to cook and crave sweet, starchy foods, and make our own desserts. Everybody relishes sweet snacks and it replenishes our so-called 'hormone of happiness' as it is savoured with joy.

The pretty ladies of the 9 months' batch planned and made a variety of desserts which were a treat for the palate and a delight for the senses. The team comprising **Ms Aastha Baid, Ms Mahalakshmi, Ms Hirla Patel, Ms Jyotsna Jain and Ms Kaarshini Bhandari were awarded first place** in the competition. The team of Ms Jasreet Kaur Bhatia, Ms Aditi Arjun Naik, Ms Dhara Patel, Ms Bhakti D Patel and Ms Kanumilli Jhanvi secured the second place. The team of Ms Richa Jindal, Ms Muskaan Gupta, Ms Lalith Chitra and Ms Rahmath Aboobaker Faisal won the third place. **Well done!**

The students displayed their team spirit, leadership qualities and their hospitality skills during the competition. They also followed the rules of handling utensils, table setting and food service etiquette during the event.

"There is no better way to bring people together than with desserts."

- Gail Simmons