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Global Learning



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**ABU
DHABI**
CAMPUS
OPENING
IN 2015



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GIIS Tokyo Students



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Rahman at GIIS



**SPECIAL
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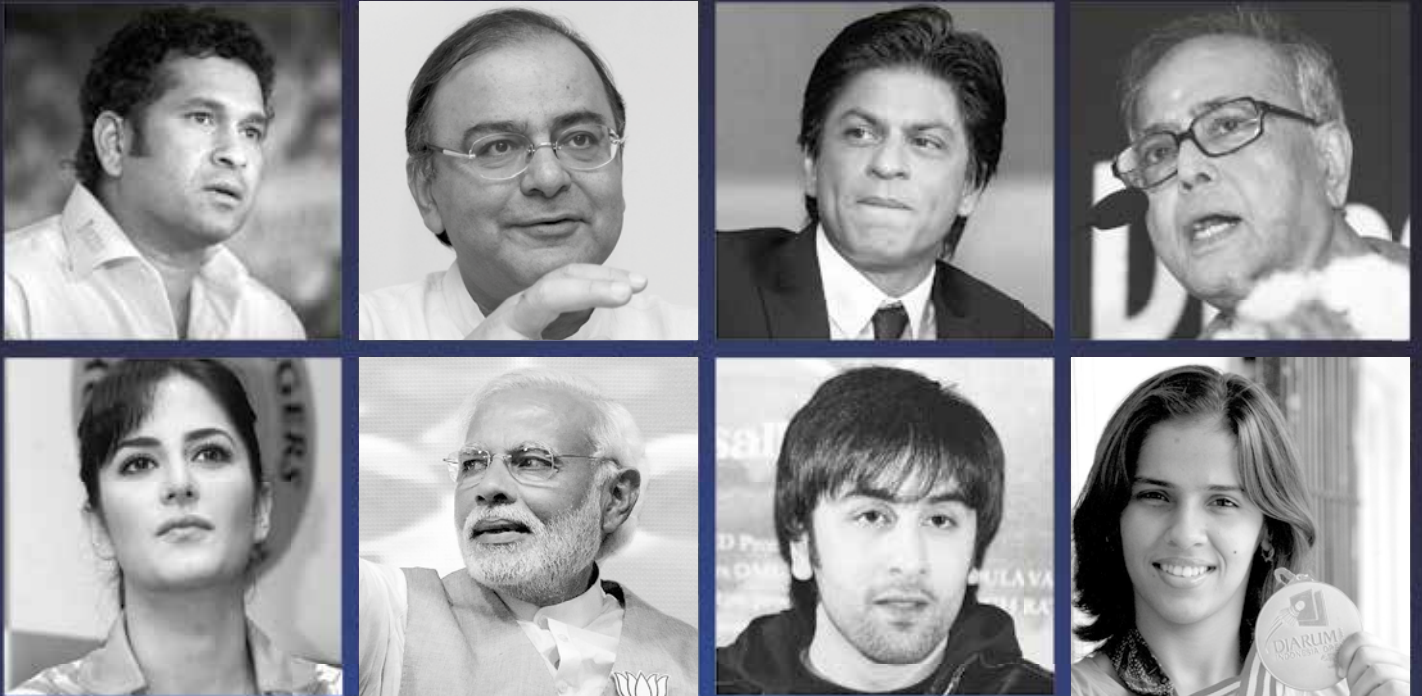
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**WHEN IT COMES TO
THE INDIAN PERSPECTIVE,
IT MATTERS WHO IT'S FROM.**



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to make them future-ready

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Because, the future is not what will be but what we will make.

Website: www.globalindianschool.org | www.globalschoolsnews.org

Global Schools Foundation

Global Schools Foundation (GSF) was initiated with an aim of providing quality education to the expatriate community in Singapore. The Foundation has completed more than 12 exemplary years marked by international recognition for achieving excellence in school education. Following high standards in governance, established academic criteria, and well-administered management processes. The Foundation's mission is to cultivate and nurture its students into global leaders of the future.

Global Indian International School

Global Indian International School (GIIS) – established under Global School Foundation's guiding principles – is an international network of award-winning institutions, with 20 campuses in seven countries. Known for their learner-centric and skill-based teaching methodology, GIIS schools offer holistic learning and personality development opportunities for students.

GIIS schools have been honoured with 36 international and national awards over a span of six years for achieving excellence in school education. GIIS boasts a strong multicultural environment as students from diverse nationalities are enrolled across its campuses.

GIIS is a preferred international school offering curricula for Nursery to Class 12 education, offering International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), CBSE-International and Global Montessori Plus.

GIIS IN SINGAPORE IS BIZSAFE LEVEL 3 CERTIFIED

Global Indian International School (GIIS) in Singapore has received the bizSAFE Level 3 certification awarded by Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council. Achievement of the bizSAFE Level 3 certification is subsequent to an external assessment of the risk management implementation at GIIS by an MOM-approved WSH auditor, and compliance with requirements in the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSHA) and its subsidiary legislation.

The bizSAFE Level 3 certification recognises the commitment of the organisation towards workplace safety standards. GIIS is now part of the bizSAFE community as a bizSAFE Enterprise.

VISION

To become a Global Role Model for Teaching and Learning.

MISSION

We nurture GLOBAL students into men and women who will be distinctive leaders committed to the spirit of excellence, through high-quality education imparted by globally experienced and caring teachers who build strong virtues and values while focusing on all round development, creativity and entrepreneurship.

CORE VALUES

Manage with Information and Metrics
Agility and Adaptability
Honesty, Integrity and Ethical Practices
Attitude before Knowledge
Team Work
Mentor, Coach and make a difference
Ambience for Learning

CULTURE STATEMENT

GIIS schools – Schools that Learn

GIIS schools have become Safety Centered, Vision Directed, Values Driven, Student Focused, Analysis-based, Learning Enabled, Team Facilitated, Process Managed, Quality Managed and Result Oriented.

QUALITY POLICY

GIIS strives to enhance Learning through:

- Adherence to Quality Management System
- Sharing of Best Practices
- Actionable feedback based on Stakeholder Satisfaction Surveys

QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Based on GIIS Quality Management System, Quality Policy, and Vision, Mission & Core Values, GIIS will continually strive to ensure:

- a. Compliance with our Quality Management System
- b. Learning at all Levels
- c. Stakeholder Satisfaction
- d. Adherence to our Values

Be part of your child's special learning moments

Get a glimpse of your child's schooling experience through our vibrant social media channels. Our students showcase their energetic, creative and youthful vigour in various activities, performances and events on a daily basis. We capture these moments for you. So stay connected – anytime, anywhere – to see how we nurture young minds for a better tomorrow.

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My Global Campus



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MESSAGES



*Dr Justice C S
Dharmadhikari*

**Co-Founder and
President, GSF**

Nurturing children for the future is a significant task that needs to take into account how globalisation affects them and by instilling the right values that will guide them in their lives. At Global Schools Foundation (GSF), we strive to develop in our students qualities such as loyalty to truth, spirit of service and fearlessness.

The teachers at GISS are an inseparable part of each student's life. Throughout their school career, teachers are admired and emulated by the children. Teachers must have a mother's heart.

Mahatma Gandhi had said, "The school must be an extension of home and there must

be concordance between the impressions which a child gathers at home and at school, if the best results are to be obtained." Gandhi held the belief that education is not an end in itself but it is the most powerful weapon which creates genuine characters. He believed that true education is a life process which helps in cultivating a spirit of cooperation, tolerance, public spirit and a sense of responsibility. All these qualities are considered as disciplines for the development of human personality. Such disciplines can create a harmonious balance between individuals and the social aim of education.

GIIS students are encouraged to inculcate values which will make them responsible citizens.

The academic session has continued to provide an excellence driven, world class and holistic education provided by our foundation. We have thoroughly worked upon this respect for traditions, together with a progressive attitude towards the future, academic rigour with a caring heart, and an appreciation of the individual with the warmth of a cohesive school community.

Education is changing rapidly. New initiatives in terms of teaching methodology and best practices from the world's renowned institutes need to be integrated on a regular basis.

Our results this year speak for themselves both academic and non academic in all fields. I urge our faculty in confidently repeating the same and bettering it with the best of their ability. My wish for GISS is to inculcate in our students a caring attitude for self, for others, for country, for the world and of course for the environment.

I wish everyone my best wishes in this endeavour.



Chandu Borde
**Co-Founder and Vice
President, GSF**

Educational institutions all around the world along with the aspirations of students and parents have undergone critical transformations with time. Having successfully completed 12 years of instituting quality education for all, GISS has been making meaningful educational transformations and accomplishing world-class standards of academic excellence.

The continuous effort to reinforce the commitment to achieve that extra mile helps students discover and reach their personal goals in life. This is evident in the school's consistent show of excellent academic results and a diverse alumni body. GISS' multicultural and inclusive learning environment with a futuristic curriculum in place enables every student to carve a niche for them and become a responsible Global Citizen. GISS has received 36 international awards for excellence in school education and performance standards which is a testimony to the success stories that the faculty and the management have worked towards over the years.

As the school continues to



Atul Temurnikar
Co-Founder & Chairman, GSF

grow under the Global Schools Foundation (GSF) with 20 campuses in seven countries, its strong vision of becoming a role model for teaching and learning is intensifying. Synergy across the campuses globally in imparting value-based, holistic education not only ensures standardised teaching methodologies but also engages students in a way that enhances their 'Global Learning'. GSF now aims at further expanding its presence worldwide so that more and more students get to experience the GISS ethos. The aspiration is to provide top quality education to all.



JOURNAL

// p10. EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Moved by GIIS Tokyo Students' Rendition of Vande Mataram

For many students across the world, the opportunity to see or interact with a head of state is limited through media channels. An opportunity to meet and interact with an inspiring leader in person is a rare occasion that warrants a memorable learning experience.

On September 2, 2014, GIIS students had that rare opportunity to interact with none other than the Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi, who was in Japan on a state visit.

Mr Modi was attending a community interaction with the Indian diaspora at an event hosted by the Ambassador of India to Japan, Her Excellency Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, and was attended by various top officials and dignitaries of Japan's Indian community.

Mr Modi caused a stir among GIIS Tokyo students when he interacted with them. The students and teachers of GIIS Tokyo Campus enjoyed the honour of being asked by the embassy to sing the opening song to mark the Prime Minister's visit to the school.

In the august presence of the Prime Minister, GIIS Tokyo students along with their peers from another school, sang a special rendition of "Vande Mataram" ("I praise thee, Mother"), exclusively arranged by the teachers of GIIS Tokyo.

In his address to the Indian community, Mr Modi recalled that in the 1980s, Vande Mataram was a favourite song he used to sing every day and being able to sing along with the GIIS Tokyo students was a memorable experience. After the beautiful rendition of the song, Mr Modi praised the students and greeted them in person, after which he posed for a group photo with them.

During the group photo, Mr Modi asked Master Kai Fuchigami, a Japanese student from GIIS Tokyo, to stand in front of him and then placed both his hands on Kai's shoulders and joyfully moved his ears, making him nod his head.

Mr Modi also put forth a suggestion that the Indian community passed on important Indian traditions to the young generation by organising competitions such as a best 'safa' or head-turban tying competition. He added, "I encourage students to learn about culture through playful means. All families should speak in their mother tongue at meal times to retain an atmosphere of Indian culture.

At the closing, GIIS teachers Ms Sarbani Choudhury and Ms Ashwini Bapat had the privilege of singing the national anthem in the esteemed presence of the Prime Minister. Also present at the event were Ambassador Aftab Seth, Country Director, GIIS (Japan); Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman and Co-Founder, Global Schools Foundation; and Ms

Rajeshwary Sambathrajan, Principal, GIIS Tokyo Campus.

As the event concluded, the Prime Minister shook hands with members of the community and wished them well. The entire proceedings were beamed live on Doordarshan TV channel and several other channels.

For the students of GIIS Tokyo Campus, the year would best be remembered as a truly historic one in which they not only saw their favourite leaders, but also got an opportunity to meet with them in person. In April this year, the students were also thrilled by the Japanese 'Prince's' private visit to the school, during which he enjoyed a rich multicultural performance by the Japanese and Indian students of GIIS.





Farhan Akhtar received a red carpet reception upon his arrival at GIIS Queenstown Campus

Farhan Akhtar Enthralls Fans at GIIS Campuses

“It is truly possible to achieve anything you want in an honest way if you are willing to submit yourself to the cause,” writer, director, singer and actor Farhan Akhtar told Global Indian International School students. It was yet another glorious moment for students as they engaged in a dialogue with the immensely talented film icon, Farhan Akhtar as a part of the **GIIS Leadership Lecture Series** on April 12, 2014. The rousing event was hosted at the GIIS Queenstown Campus in Singapore and was simulcast live across all GIIS campuses worldwide through myGIIS, the school’s information portal; thereby connecting thousands of students and parents who interacted with the inspirational actor-director and asked him questions over the live video link.

As a role model and achiever in

the field of performing arts, Mr Akhtar has influenced many young minds. He was received by Mr Atul Temurnikar, Co-Founder and Chairman, GSF; Mr Kaustubh Bodhankar, Deputy CEO, GSF; and Mr Rajiv Vasudeva, Country Director (Singapore), GIIS. Other dignitaries included Mr Subodh Gore, Mr Sudan Wargantiwar, Mrs Aparna Temurnikar, Mrs Wrushali Bodhankar, Mrs Smita Wargantiwar, Mr GSS Rao; and Principals - Ms Madhu Khanna, Ms Melissa Maria, Ms Sheela Karia and Ms Rekha Varghese.

Mr Akhtar, who arrived at the campus to an enthusiastic cheering from the students, first paid homage at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi along with Mr Temurnikar. The excitement among students was palpable as he made his way to the auditorium. As he stepped in and waved to the students, a thunderous

chant of Mr Akhtar’s name broke out in the audience. After lighting the traditional lamp to mark the commencement of the event, Mr Akhtar watched with attention as GIIS students presented a band performance of his songs followed by a dance sequence on songs from his movie *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*.

Following the performances, Mr Akhtar was invited on stage with Mr Temurnikar. Mr Akhtar was greeted by a reverberating applause as he addressed the audience. “This is the best time of your life. Enjoy it,” he said. “When we are children, we need right people to guide us. I was fortunate to receive the right guidance from my teachers and parents,” Mr Akhtar added.

The visit was a motivational experience for students from GIIS campuses across South East Asia. It served to instill the right influence in developing courage, character and strength - values that will guide these budding leaders in their future careers. Previous speakers under the GIIS Leadership series have included industry stalwarts and achievers such as **Sachin Tendulkar** - legendary cricketer; **Dr A P J Abdul Kalam**, former President of India; **A R Rahman**, Academy award-winning musician; and Nobel Laureate Professor **Richard Ernst**, among others.



Mr Akhtar extended words of encouragement to students of all ages



The internationally-renowned music composer participated in a panel discussion with the students of Class 12 at the GIIS Queenstown Campus in April

Music Genius A R Rahman's Visit Creates a Heat Wave Among Students

Oscar and Grammy award-winning music composer of internationally-acclaimed films such as *Slumdog Millionaire*, *127 Hours* and *Warriors of Heaven and Earth*, A R Rahman, visited the Global Indian International School (GIIS) Queenstown campus on April 29, 2014 as a part of the GIIS Leadership Lecture Series.

It was an event that connected more than 700 students from 20 GIIS campuses across the world, as the dialogue was simulcast live through myGIIS portal,

the school information website allowing students to join in the conversation with the singer and songwriter to ask him questions over a video link.

Mr Rahman arrived at the campus to loud cheers by students. Before proceeding to the campus hall, he paid homage to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi along with Global Schools Foundation Deputy CEO Mr Kaustubh Bodhankar, Global Schools Foundation COO and Regional Director, Middle East and Africa Mr Kamal Gupta, GIIS Country Director

(Singapore) Mr Rajiv Vasudeva, Mrs Aparna Temurnikar, Mrs Smita Wargantiwar, GIIS Singapore Principals and team members. As he stepped on stage, students started cheering and clapping enthusiastically.

The event was also attended via video conferencing by students from GIIS campuses in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Noida, Indore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad - Uppal and Chinchwad - Pune in India.

In a first for the series, four Class 12 students from GIIS Queenstown Campus conducted a panel discussion. Students

Mayur Mohapatra, Shinil Raina, Swarnima Sirca and Utkarsh Dutta facilitated the interactive session between Mr Rahman and other GIIS students. Mr Rahman was in Singapore for a one-day concert, Infinite Love, held on April 30, 2014 at Gardens by the Bay - The Meadow.

Taking to the stage amidst excited cheers, Mr Rahman fielded questions from students and spoke about his motivations and influences. Students from GIIS campuses in Chinchwad, Hyderabad - Uppal campus, Indore and Noida in India as well as students from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur took turns to speak to their favourite composer.

The double Grammy Award-winner showed tremendous humility as he answered questions from the students. When Class 10 student, Prarthana, from GIIS Kuala Lumpur Campus asked him who he admired in his personal and professional life, Mr Rahman answered: "I admire people who are uncompromising, patient, fair and do not jump at every provocation. What I believe is that we are all capable of many extraordinary things but there is a step-by-step process for that. We need to lay the seed inside our heart and watch that grow. Things will orchestrate in such a way that if you lay your seed, you will definitely see something extraordinary grow. When I see people who have really extraordinary qualities, I really admire them. It's not one, its many people."

Mr Rahman also spoke about



Mr Rahman received a warm and enthusiastic welcome upon his arrival



A R Rahman was modest about his achievements and talked a lot about music to the audience

anxiety before his first performance. He said, "I felt so jittery. Even before my performances now, I feel a little jittery but things are better. I was an introvert once upon a time. I used to feel scared standing in front of many people."

As a passionate musician, Mr Rahman is a firm believer in the power of music. Answering a question from student Vivek Mallampatu of Class 10 from GIIS Uppal - Hyderabad Campus on the importance of music in one's learning years and school life, Mr Rahman said, "Music actually opens up something that is unexplainable within ourselves because we react to certain things in certain ways. If you are in a bad mood and you play music, it calms you down. When you play an instrument, it gives you discipline. Music has its own science. I have seen other musicians perform rather well in other areas too. And we can appreciate good music better when you know classical music."

Later in the discussion he also added his thoughts on the importance of music in the world, "People write a song and it changes the world. Music is healing. Most of the religions have music as prayer; for example, Hindu music, Christian gospel, Sufi Qawwali; they are almost like therapy or prayer and that explains a lot," he said.

On a lighter note, curious students wanted to know where Mr Rahman gets his inspiration and motivation. Class 9

student Aparna Sajit from GIIS East Coast Campus asked, "Where did the idea for Infinite Love come from?" To which Mr Rahman answered, "Infinite love means unconditional love. The message behind it is: never cease, or never stop, loving. Actually, love is not for receiving; it is for giving. You expect people to give you love but when you give love it is a better thing. It's not only about helping other people; you will feel good about giving. It's a state of mind; on a spiritual and mental level, it feels very, very good. Love is such a thing. So if you take Infinite Love's concept, it could be love between a mother and a child. I took the inspiration from my love for own son and wife and made the song."

Mr Rahman's visit was an uplifting experience for students across all GIIS campuses because it not only allowed them to pick the mind of a great musician but it also allowed them to strive towards excellence in whatever they do. Previous speakers who have attended the GIIS Leadership series include personalities such as Nobel Laureate Professor Richard Ernst; Ms Leela Samson, Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification; Olympic Gold medallist Mr Abhinav Bindra; film director Mr Mahesh Manjrekar; actor Mr Sachin Khedekar; leading actor Hrithik Roshan; film director Mr Rakesh Roshan; and movie actor and director Farhan Akhtar.

GIIS Wins Highly Prestigious Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Service Award 2014

“Global Indian International School Pte Ltd has been declared the winner of Golden Peacock Innovative Product/ Service Award for the year 2014 (for Nine Gems - Multi Dimensional Identity of a Holistic Teaching Methodology) by the Awards Jury under the Chairmanship of Justice P N Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India and Co-Chairmanship of Justice (Dr) Arjit Pasayat, Chairman, Authority for Advance Ruling (Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax) and former judge, Supreme Court of India & Former Chairman, Competition Appellate Tribunal of India.”

Golden Peacock Awards Secretariat



GIIS was declared a winner of the illustrious Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Service Award during the awards ceremony in May

Strengthening its international footprints with glowing recognitions, GIIS has been declared winner of Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Service Award (GPIPSA) 2014 by the Institute of Directors.

The award was presented at a specially organised Golden Peacock Awards Ceremony on May 23, 2014 in Trivandrum, India in the presence of a distinguished gathering of business leaders, jurists, academics, environmentalists, economists, legislators and policy makers from varied industries and verticals during the 24th World Congress on Total Quality & Leadership.

GPIPSA is designed to encourage systemic innovation in organisations, in order to offer products and services required for the 21st century. The award was presented to Mr Kaustubh Bodhankar, Deputy CEO, GSF; and Mr B G Shenoy, Director, Global Centre for Educational Excellence; by Mrs Sheila Dikshit, Governor of Kerala in the presence of Mr

S Chakraborty, Chief Executive, Innovative Financial Advisors; Lt Gen J S Ahluwalia, PVSM (Retd), President, Institute of Directors; Lt Gen Surinder Nath, PVSM, AVSM, (Retd), former Chairman, UPSC and Vice Chairman, Institute of Directors; and Prof Colin Coulson-Thomas, Chairman of Adaptation Ltd, Policy Publications Ltd, Bryok Systems and Cotoco Ltd, UK.

Mr Bodhankar was applauded for his presentation at a plenary session on 'The Role of Leadership in Driving Excellence & Sustainability'. His address outlined "How a leader must institutionalise excellence in his organisation by giving direction through formulating the vision, mission and values; by stating high performance expectations of himself and the entire organisation and by being a role model himself, so as to create a sustainable organisation." He communicated how GIIS has devised multiple communication approaches for the different set of stakeholders and expounded upon the attributes of the organisation's culture statement and how the leadership

has linked it to the core values. "Leadership must respond to the continued changes in the industry dynamics and competitive landscape," he stressed. "Leadership needs to continuously challenge the status quo and explore opportunities for innovation and creativity. For example, at GIIS, we have created innovation champions to promote creativity amongst our teachers and students," he adds.

While concluding, he expressed, "At GIIS we have won 31 international and national quality awards, a strong testimony for our leadership of having institutionalised excellence."

The Golden Peacock Awards were initiated by Institute of Directors, an apex association of Directors, in 1991. The Golden Peacock Awards Secretariat receives over 1,000 entries each year for various awards, from over 25 countries worldwide.



GIIS Honoured with 'ICONS of NOIDA' award by The Times of India



In the recent past, Noida has emerged as an iconic new business hub of India. This is a matter of pride for all those who have helped the city in becoming what it is today.

Times of India (TOI) felicitated the iconic personalities who have contributed to Noida by launching a coffee table book – ICONS, in a distinguished gathering of leading industry stalwarts. The occasion was graced by the presence of Mr Rama Raman – CEO, Noida Authority, who released the first copy of ICONS. 'ICONS of Noida' was awarded by TOI to salute the achievers for playing a significant role in the growth story of the National Capital Region.

GIIS won the 'ICONS of Noida' award for introducing global education to the city of Noida. GIIS, with its proven track record has been recognised as

an education institute that has the credentials to successfully introduce new-age learning, inculcate best practices and impart training by setting world-class benchmarks for holistic development of students. Mr Atul Temurnikar – Chairman, Global Schools Foundation said, "The education sector is close to my heart; a sector which holds growth potential and is a catalyst for shaping a better tomorrow."

Mr Rajeev Katyal-Country Director, GIIS India said, "It is indeed a moment of pride for GIIS to be recognised by TOI for its exemplary work in Nursery-12 education." GIIS has won innumerable awards of national and international stature. The 'ICONS of Noida' award is another feather in the cap for an institute that is constantly striving to deliver its very best to the student fraternity across the globe.

GIIS East Coast Campus Wins IMC RBNQ Performance Excellence Trophy 2013

GIIS East Coast Campus was awarded the IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Performance Excellence Trophy in Education 2013 at a prominent award ceremony held on March 19, 2014 at YB Chavan Auditorium, Mumbai.

The prestigious award was received by Mr B G Shenoy, Director, GCEE and Ms Madhu Khanna, Principal, GIIS Queenstown



Campus from Mr Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India, accompanied by Mr Niraj Bajaj, Chairman, IMC RBNQ Award Trust and Mr Suresh Lulla, Chairman, IMC RBNQ Awards Committee and Mr Shailesh Vaidya, President, Indian Merchants Chamber.

The IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Award 2013 saw the presence of experts from the industry, including Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Chairman, Narayan Hridayalaya group of Hospitals; Ms Meenal Kshirsagar, Retired Reader French, University of Mumbai; Mr K Maheshwari, MD, GRASIM; Dr Adi Dastur, Obstetrician and

Gynaecologist; Dr KB Kushal, DAV regional directorate; Mr Prasad Menon, Tata Quality Management services; and Mr Sunil Alagh, SKA advisor on the panel of judges.

To recognise excellence, IMC's Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Award Trust presents the IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Awards and the IMC Juran Quality Medal. The IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Awards were presented to 25 organisations across six categories; namely, manufacturing, service, small business, overseas, education and health care. IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Award is one of the most prestigious national quality awards in the country. The awards were named after the late Ramkrishna Bajaj, past president, IMC, and a leading industrialist.

Annual Exhibition at GIIS Balestier Campus Showcases Extraordinary Talent



The Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) was organised at GIIS Balestier Campus on February 8, 2014 for all classes. The Parent teacher meeting offered a platform for sharing useful inputs on the students' overall development as per the Nine Gems Model. During PTM, the entire gamut of work done by students across all segments and classes were displayed at the annual exhibition titled 'Transcending Boundaries and Celebrating Uniqueness'.

Different teaching and learning styles using varied methods such as project-based learning, problem-based learning, activity-based learning and experiential learning were the key highlights of the display.

The CBSE-*i* (CBSE International) exhibition, entitled 'Transcending Boundaries' showcased the implementation of the core activities related to the various themes prescribed under the CBSE-*i* curriculum.

Badminton and Soccer Teams from GIIS Balestier Campus Outshine Their Opponents

GIIS Balestier Campus Soccer team emerged as winners to grab the coveted gold trophy at the ACSIS Under-10 Tournament after a round of wins against teams from international schools, including National Public School, Nexus International School, Tanglin Trust School, and Stamford American International School. GIIS Balestier Campus team won a convincing final against the GIIS East Coast Campus.

The GIIS Balestier Campus Badminton teams (Boys and Girls) battled it out against UWC Dover, UWC East and GIIS East Coast Campus at the ACSIS Badminton Under-11 (Division 1) League matches. The girls cruised to victory at all the three matches

against their opponents to clinch the gold trophy. Meanwhile, the boys garnered points at the end of the matches to win the bronze trophy. In the Division 2 League matches, the school's Boys badminton team put up a feisty fight against their opponents from NPS, Overseas Family School and UWC (Dover). Their two wins from the three matches placed them in the third position to win the bronze trophy.



GIIS Balestier Campus Marks a Colourful 68th Indian Independence Day

As a prelude to the 68th Independence Day of India, GIIS Balestier Campus held joyous celebrations on August 14, 2014.

Students and staff attired in shades of the Indian tricolors as well as traditional costumes, set the mood for the day, which began with a special assembly put up by students of class 1A.

During the morning assembly, students spoke about the history of India's struggle for freedom, while an evergreen Indian patriotic song was brought to life in a foot-tapping dance performance. The patriotic spirit was palpable when the hall reverberated with the recital of the Indian National Pledge. The vibrant mood continued with a Tamil song rendered by students of the Tamil Language Department. After the performances, students and teachers assembled in the school field and formed a tricolor outline of the map of the Indian subcontinent. As Ms Sheila Karia, Principal, GIIS Balestier Campus hoisted the National Flag, the Indian National Anthem was sung fervently by the assembly in a passionate tribute to commemorate the special day.

GIIS Balestier Campus Students Bag Merit Award at Green Wave Environmental Care 2013

Ananya Narendra Nath, Surabhi Bansal, Rishikesh Samant of Class 6A and Pratyush Bansal of Class 3B from GIIS Balestier Campus were the proud recipients of the Merit Award under the Primary Category in the 'Green Wave Environmental Care' Competition 2013 organised by the Sembawang Shipyard Corporation. The students developed a 'Drip Irrigation System' for home use.

Every year, Sembawang Shipyard encourages students in Singapore to submit projects for 'Green Wave' that aim to involve the community at large; particularly the students, to facilitate learning that concerns the care, protection, and maintenance of the environment so that they can contribute to Singapore's efforts in sustainable developments.

The award and a cash prize of S\$500 were presented to the winners by Mr Lawrence Wong, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth; and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information. The winning project focused on developing a simple and cost-effective drip irrigation system for potted plants, which could prove to be very effective for home owners when they go away on short vacations or on frequent travels, and also for senior citizens who forget to water their plants regularly.



Young Toy Makers of GIIS Balestier Campus Bring Creativity to the Fore

On April 23, 2014, an exhibition was organised at GIIS Balestier Campus to display the exhibits of the Sony Creative Toy Competition. The Sony Creative Science Award (SCSA) is an annual competition jointly organised by Science Centre Singapore and Sony Electronics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, with the support of the Ministry of Education and the Agency For Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

The main objective of this competition is to promote creativity among the students. The competition also provides an opportunity for students to learn about science beyond the classrooms in a fun and enjoyable way. Students from all classes exhibited their hand-made toys based on scientific principles. These simple yet intricate working models were presented to the judges by the students to demonstrate their perception of logic and technical know-how.

This exhibition was to celebrate the final phase of a project rolled out almost two months ago by the GIIS Balestier Campus; a series of students and teachers workshops at the Science Centre; a two-hour parent workshop in school; and an initial round of displays were organised. GIIS Balestier Campus is an active participant of the prestigious Inter-school Sony Creative Toy Competition and has been awarded laurels for its participation in the past.



Inauguration of School Cafeteria

The cafeteria at GIIS Chinchwad Campus was inaugurated on May 29, 2014 by Dr Anand Gokhani. Dr Anand Gokhani, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, also a prominent diabetician, spoke about the importance of health and nutrition and its corroboration in the modern day lifestyle after inaugurating the cafeteria.

The formal inauguration of the cafeteria was meant to coincide with the Parent Orientation Day. Eager parents freely interacted with Dr Gokhani as he

addressed their concerns. The informative session took the parents through various aspects of healthy nutrition; the danger of carbonated drinks and shocking facts about milk were shared.

The fact that Mahatma Gandhi was a great advocate of a simple eating diet was a pivoting point of discussion during the session. It was an informative and eye-opening experience that definitely gave parents a lot to re-assess and re-plan about their families' nutritional needs.

Creative Writing Workshop

With the world shrinking and technology influencing the way we communicate, writing creatively is fast becoming a dying art, and GIIS Chinchwad Campus is taking action to counteract this problem.

With the 140-character limit set by social sites such as Twitter, for example, writing with depth has become somewhat of a challenge. It takes brevity to a whole new level, leaving very little creative licence for those with a poetic bent of mind. The same goes for reading as a desirable habit.

To re-ignite the love for writing, GIIS Chinchwad Campus organised a creative writing workshop for young readers and budding writers, with renowned author Ms Kimberly McAuthor as the guest teacher.



Ms McAuthor shared interesting anecdotes from her journey as a writer and gave valuable tips on creative writing. This short but engrossing session was lapped up by the enthusiastic students, who walked away with a firmer conviction that reading and writing can be good fun.

Giving New Life to Waste



"There is no such thing as 'waste'." That was the belief behind students' efforts in making greeting cards out of discarded material to wish teachers a Happy Teachers' Day.

Students at GIIS Chinchwad Campus made it their goal to create something useful from waste materials such as newspapers, ribbons, old greeting cards, CDs, wrappers and more.

This activity encouraged creative thinking that led to the students expressing themselves in an artistic manner. They cut, molded, pasted and stitched all manner of waste materials together to create greeting cards made from the heart. These special 'upcycled' cards were then given to their favourite teachers on Teachers' Day.

Making the Right Moves in Chess

Winner of the Inter-School Chess Championship, Titiksha Roshan had recently received kudos from GIIS Surat Campus.

Many of the school's students had also participated in the chess competition organised by the Swami Narayan School on July 17. Around 300 students from top schools in Surat; namely P.P Savani, Bhulka Vihar, Vashishtha, Swami Narayan Mission, Ryan International School, Fountainhead school, Vibrant Academy, Bright English School, Radiant Academy, Tapti Vally, Jivan Bharati and B.N.B School participated in a competitive game of chess. The age-group specified for participating boys and girls was below 14.

In the boys' category, Suyash Tiwari, a student of Class 8, GIIS Surat secured second place in the tournament, and Titiksha Roshan of Class 8, GIIS Surat won the tournament in the girls' category. Sports Excellence is one of the important achievements of GIIS schools across the globe. "Our students have done us proud over and over again by winning many tournaments at state, district and national level. It is heartening to see the Surat team excelling in sports such as chess, cricket, skating, martial arts, football, archery and many other sports. Chess is an important game as it not only trains the mind to think strategically but it also disciplines the body and helps in achieving holistic growth, which is the cornerstone of our educational offerings," said Mr Rajeev Katyal, Country Director, GIIS India.



GIIS Surat Campus Shows Love on Earth Day

We make our home a newborn world

*"Simple gifts of nature that all join into a paradise
Now we must resolve to protect her
Show her our love throughout all time
With our gentle hand and touch
We make our home a newborn world
Now we must resolve to protect her
Show her our love throughout all time
With our gentle hand and touch."*

Earth day was celebrated at GIIS Surat campus to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Students of Classes 1, 2 and 3 made a bird house and a platter for feeding the birds. Students from higher classes went to Karan village and carried out Shramdan by cleaning and watering the local park. GIIS Surat adopted a 'Peepal' tree and undertook the responsibility to nurture it through a sustainable programme, as an attempt to preserve nature's treasure trove.

A session on awareness towards Mother Earth was conducted by Mr Hemant, a local environmentalist

and Mr Mehul from Prayas, an NGO dedicated to the conservation of the environment. They educated the children on the various attributes of nature that are under threat by modernisation without consciousness and shared their views on how the conservation of the environment needs to be adopted by everyone. Children enjoyed watching Chakachak, a film on environmental issues by Sai Paranjaype, which is based on the story of a group of children who took up the challenge of creating a garbage-free environment while their parents failed to do enough to curb the problem.

Students from GIIS East Coast Campus Participate in Sea Shore Life Programme

On May 29, 2014, the students of Classes 9 and 10 enthusiastically participated in the Sea Shore Life Programme, organised under the able guidance and support of National Environment Agency (NEA) as a part of SEWA and green initiatives undertaken by GIIS East Coast Campus.

The students went to Pasir Ris beach for a clean-up drive. They were divided into groups of eight and each group had to collect trash from a sector of the beach. Each group was tasked with collecting two bags of trash such as plastics, broken pieces of thermocol, dry leaves, weeds and old coconuts shells. The rubbish collected from that area alone amounted to a surprisingly large quantity of plastic bags, bottles and cans. The students successfully



cleaned the beach and grass patches near the beach with great team effort.

It turned out to be a fun and meaningful activity for the students, which motivated them to continue helping the environment by participating in beach clean-up sessions. It also gave them a better appreciation of nature and the need to take care of

our environment while enjoying it.

Aashay Chouhan, a student of Class 10 said that by participating in this programme, he is now more aware of the need for social responsibility and cleanliness in order for Singapore to remain green and always clean. This takeaway lesson was concurred by several other students.

Hiroshima Day – Peace Day

The resonating energy of this significant day flowed through the school and infused students with a sense of purposeful solemnity.

August 6 is the day in which all GIIS Campuses observed Peace Day; the day that Hiroshima endured the tragedy of a Nuclear bomb attack. To commemorate this day and to honour the memory of the victims, the students participated in specially organised events, with the goal of

spreading the message of peace across the globe.

A short video of the tragic day was screened during the assembly, which deeply moved the students. This was followed by inspiring messages from Peace Messengers that were read aloud to the audience. The assembly ended on a poignant note with the beautiful ballad "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" by Sinéad O'Connor.





Parent Engagement Programmes

Effective learning cannot take place in isolation, as an activity involving only the teacher and the taught. The world in which children live is a tangled web of relationships and influences. This is unlike the ancient days of Gurukul where parents had nothing to do regarding the education of the wards. Hence, parents' participation in modern times is absolutely essential.

GIIS Bangalore Campus has taken the initiative to engage parents in activities such as parenting workshops, games, music and dance.

1. Positive Parenting Workshop

One of the most popular programmes was the Positive Parenting Workshop conducted at the GIIS Bangalore Campus by Mr Shiv Khera, a renowned author and educationist.

Parents from GIIS campuses located in Noida, Surat and Indore in India as well as Singapore and Malaysia also participated in the workshop through a video conference. Mr Khera addressed the multiple issues faced by young parents today regarding the nurturing of their wards. He held an interactive session with the parents and answered many queries that opened their minds to new views.

2. Emotional Intelligence Talk

GIIS Bangalore Campus organised an interesting talk on Emotional Intelligence by

Mr EV Swaminathan, a renowned Trainer, Teacher, Counsellor and a Consultant in Mumbai.

3. GIIS Super Champs

The highlight of this Parent Engagement Programme was the GIIS Super Champs, which was a joint undertaking by GIIS Bangalore Campus and EduSports. The Mega Sports event was aimed at encouraging team spirit amongst kids and strengthening parent-child bonding.

4. Annual Sports Meet

The Annual Sports Meet was a spectacular show of talent and capabilities. The Meet emphasised the importance of a child's overall development. Both brawn and brain are equally important for a holistic growth.

5. Celebration of Grand Parents Day

A unique event was the celebration of Grand Parents Day by GIIS Bangalore Campus. Around 40 grandparents were treated to a wonderful dance performance by the students of the school. The Grand Parents were given the chance to speak to the children about their lives, anecdotes from their past and to narrate stories to them.

6. Mom N Me Cooking Competition

This programme by GIIS Bangalore Campus brought parent and student together in a

shared activity. The mother-and-child duo had to make a yummy dish that compared well with the best dish of the day.

7. Parent-Child look alike competition

A highly entertaining programme was the Parent Child look-alike competition. The ingenuity and creativity of the parents were demonstrated through this activity. Various types of innovative and fascinating costumes were presented. Both parent and child dressed alike as firefighters, a bunch of green grapes and robots, among other equally creative costumes.

8. Recycled Wrap

This was a programme that aimed to impart to the students the importance of the environment and the need to recycle. Jute gunny bags were transformed into jackets and paper was used to make extremely chic skirts. Parents walked the ramp attired in such recycled eco-friendly material.

9. Dad N Me Young Einstein

Dads were equally involved as seen during the Dad N Me Young Einstein session. Many innovative ideas were presented and various experiments demonstrated. The programme provided a good opportunity for fathers to spend time with their children and to share their enthusiasm.

10. Independence Day Patriotic Song Competition

On August 15, GIIS Bangalore Campus hosted a Patriotic Song Competition in which each team consisted of a parent and child. It was a truly moving and enriching experience that saw each team belt out a patriotic song with fervour. Both participants and the audience learnt more than just about patriotism from the performances; it was also a wonderful opportunity to witness bonding at its best.

11. "I am Smarter than a 5th grader"

A quiz competition called "I am Smarter than a 5th grader" invited parents to answer questions from the wide range of subjects studied by the students. The children found it highly amusing to see their parents struggling to answer the questions.

GIIS HiQ Quiz 2014 Enhances General Knowledge



On September 4, 2014, GIIS East Coast Campus organised the GIIS HIQ Interschool Quiz Competition for the students of Classes 1 and 2. Teams representing all the three GIIS Singapore campuses and Bedok Green Primary school participated in the event. GIIS HIQ Quiz competition, encourage students to think beyond their curriculum and enhances their general knowledge.

Team Sauropods was represented by Siddhant Vyas and Siddhant Subramanian from GIIS East Coast Campus. Team Raptors was represented by Shaun Hayden and Okkar Aung from GIIS Queenstown Campus. Team Dinobirds was represented by Amith Menon and Iniyah Uthaya Sankar from GIIS Balestier Campus. Team Theropods was represented by Chua Yi Chen and Royston Sim from Bedok Green Primary School.

The quiz included a variety of topics such as science, math, Asian countries and its flags, language skills and general knowledge. Each participant surprised the audience by giving correct answers to most of the questions asked by the Quiz Master. The contestants used Mimio devices to answer their questions and handled state-of-the-art technology aptly. It was a tough competition and the proud winners were given trophies by Ms Melissa Maria, Principal, GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore.

The Winners of the competition:

Winner - GIIS East Coast Campus

1st Runners up - GIIS Queenstown Campus

2nd Runners up - GIIS Balestier Campus



Kindergarten Students Participate in the GIIS HiQ Quiz 2014

On September 4, 2014, GIIS East Coast Campus hosted the GIIS HiQ Inter-campus Quiz 2014 for the students of Kindergarten 2.

Eighteen participants from all three GIIS Singapore Campuses, with six participants from each campus, gave their best shots in the quiz. The eventual six teams were named Carnation, Daffodils, Jasmine, Marigold, Petunia and Lantana. Before the commencement of the quiz, the Quiz Master briefed the participants on the rules.

The participants displayed teamwork, alertness, promptness and coordination as they moved from one round of the quiz to the other. It was a wonderful experience for all students and a big step forward in boosting the enthusiasm of young minds. Each participant explored various topics viz. science, math and current affairs, which enhanced their interest in discovering more about the world.



Students Learn About Rhythm Through Music and Movement

Research proves that there is a correlation between music making and the workings of the human brain. Researchers have linked active music making with increased development in language skills, self-esteem, listening skills and math skills among students.

Music also is a great tool for stress relief and it encourages creativity in students. Children naturally respond to music, which helps them to learn about rhythm and to develop better motor coordination skills.

Students of Kindergarten 2 (K2) from GIIS East Coast Campus enjoyed a fun-filled music session that familiarised each of them with the workings and nuances of a musical instrument. Towards the end of the session, the students sang and danced along with the music that they had composed during the session.



Kindergarten Students Get Creative in Learning Tamil

Learning a second language has been proven to boost students' creativity, empathy and cognitive functions, thereby boosting students' chances of achieving increased academic and career success. Keeping this in mind, GIIS East Coast Campus kindergarten teachers planned an activity based on the Global Montessori Plus curriculum.

Kindergarten 1 students learnt the names of community helpers in Tamil and coloured pictures while matching each name with the coloured picture. Having learnt the names of fruits and vegetables in Tamil language, Kindergarten 2 students coloured pictures related to the theme.



New Student Council Members Inducted at GIIS Balestier Campus

GIIS Balestier Campus hosted the Investiture Ceremony of the office bearers on May 5, 2014. The auditorium was filled with proud parents, students and teachers to honour and induct the newly-elected Student Council members with badges of responsibility.

Each parent of the newly-elected members had the privilege of pinning the badges on the newly elected Student Council members.



It was a cherished moment for all.

The campaign process for the election was a learning journey for the students, which began with the filling in of application forms for the position of council member. All forms were scrutinised and votes were canvassed, with posters creating a buzz of excitement and anticipation. All candidates used the morning assembly as a platform to introduce themselves and to seek votes.

The prospective candidates faced a panel of interviewers comprising senior faculty members who asked probing questions on value systems and leadership qualities. This was the inaugural year for GIIS Balestier Campus to introduce an online voting system for council member elections.

There were 53 members from the newly-elected student council members led by the Head



Boy and Head Girl. The investiture of badges was followed by the oath-taking ceremony, which was conducted by the Principal.

Special invitees gracing the occasion were Ms Aparna Temurnikar and Ms Smita Wargantiwar, while the keynote address was delivered by Mr Indranil Bhattacharya.

Students from GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore participated in the Indian New Year Integration Celebration, which was organised by the Indian Activity Executive Committee on May 24, 2014 at the Tampines East Community Centre. Guest of Honor, Mr Mah Bow Tan, Member of Parliament for Tampines GRC graced the occasion.

The event had a record number of participants of 1,000 residents and students from the Singapore primary school, secondary school, madrasahs, various International schools and the US Navy Community.

GIIS East Coast Campus participated in the event with a record number of 90 participants. During the celebration students put up various performances which included an Indian percussion fusion performance by 15 students, a Bharatnatyam dance recital by 10 students,

GIIS Students Participate in Indian New Year Integration Celebrations



a semi-classical medley of South Asian languages by 15 students, and Rabindra Nrittya (Bengali dance based on Kathak) and a Bhangra dance by 50 students. All performances were highly praised and applauded by more than 1,000 spectators.

This was the first time that seven regional Indian New Year celebrations were held under one roof in Singapore for the occasion of Tamil Puthandu (Tamil/Ceylonese Tamil and Chetti Melaka-Indian Peranakan community), Ugadi (Telugu and Kannada community), Vishu (Malayalee community), Gudi Padwa (Marathi community), Cheti Chand (Sindhi community), Vaisakhi (Punjabi community) and Pohela Boishakh (Bangladesh/Bengali community).

GIIS students also had a hands-on experience in flower tying and thoranam weaving (Coconut shoots). Students also had a chance to tantalise their taste buds with exotic Indian sweets.

Sustaining Creativity at RWCC

GIIS East Coast Campus hosted the GIIS Real World Challenges Convention (RWCC) 2014 to encourage students to participate in activities that pursue global excellence. Held on January 17, 2014, RWCC saw participation from GIIS East Coast Campus, GIIS Queenstown Campus, GIIS Balestier Campus, and GIIS Tokyo Campus students in various events.

The stimulating theme of the event 'Sustaining Creativity' gave every student a wonderful chance to demonstrate their highly creative side. The amazing 'Art Beat' exhibition displayed innovative paintings done by students which were inspired by leading artists from around the world. As a part of RWCC 2014, five competitions were held - Transformation Turncoat, Quality Circle Presentation, Essay Writing, Fashion Show with a difference and an Art competition.

The Real World Challenge Convention started off with great enthusiasm, where contestants with focused determination braced themselves for tough competition. Judges and guests on the other hand, ardently anticipated and relished the display of flourishing talent from this generation. The first event was the Fashion Show where students from Kindergarten to Class 2 creatively portrayed the components of the physical world through snappy styles and outfits.

The next event was the battle of wits known as 'Turncoat', where participants surprised the audience with speedy cognitive skills and high-calibre logic and reasoning on various topics as well as their oratorical abilities. Each participant had been given a different topic, which resulted in engaging speeches that entertained the audience.

Quality Circle Presentation was a key event at RWCC. Proper cleanliness, code of conduct and citizen virtues are essential in each community, and the pressing issues concerning them were delineated in the Quality Circle



Presentation, with each team bringing in well-informed and articulated concepts and ideas on the problems gripping schools and society today. The Essay Writing and Art Competition were pre-judged events. The topic for the Art competition was "The World We Want to Live In" and the topic for the essay writing competition was "Water-Essential Ingredient to Sustainability".

While the judges were deliberating, the audience continued to be entertained by a great dance performance by the students.

The programme concluded with a prize presentation by Principal Ms Melissa Maria who was accompanied by special guests from SPRING Singapore. Ms Smita Wargantiwar handed the prizes to the winners amidst jubilant cheers and happy congratulations.

Fun with Maths

GIIS East Coast Campus kindergarten students enjoyed learning about the place value of numbers. After learning to combine quantities with symbols in the Montessori lab, students of K2C had fun working on the topic of '10s' and 'ones' using dice (created by using an old shoe box) while paired up with another student. This activity enhanced interpersonal skills.



The Carnival Spirit Arrives at GIIS Chinchwad Campus

GIIS Chinchwad Campus celebrated its much-awaited event - The Hobby Club Presentation by the students of Grade IV - VIII followed by the Mega Carnival - Fiesta Fantasia on February 08, 2014. The occasion was graced by Principal Dr Amrita Vohra, Vice Principal Ms Sheela Menon, Head Mistress (Primary) Ms Rina Bana and guest of honour Ms Vaishali Borde.

It has been an earnest endeavor on the part of GIIS Chinchwad Campus to fairly balance academics and extracurricular activities. Taking this forward, GIIS Chinchwad presented a Hobby Club display to showcase the skills acquired by students in the course of the session.

The theme of the presentation was "Aspirations". Students from their respective hobby clubs exhibited their best skills. The extraordinary performance, which depicted the famous tale of 'Tansen' followed by the melodious performance of the Raag Bageeshari as well as captivating dance performances were testimony to the fact that dreams and ideas can be fulfilled with a strong sense of vision and commitment.

The Carnival - Fiesta Fantasia proved to be an opportunity for students, teachers and parents to enhance and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Visitors enjoyed the offerings from the food stalls, while the game stalls captured the attention of the young and the old. Parents and senior citizens alike had a chance to revisit their childhood and enjoy the moment. Another highlight was The Mickey Mouse bouncing house and the balloon shooting range, which captivated the attention of toddlers.

'Mamma Mia' was a segment which exclusively showcased the entrepreneurship skills of the

Momprenuers at GIIS Chinchwad Campus. Alluring dance numbers were played, attracting teenagers who showed off their dancing abilities. A flash mob dance, live entertainment and lucky draws added to the vivacity of the evening.

The Carnival featured a beautiful blend of performances, scrumptious food and fun-filled games, providing a one-of-a-kind experience that set expectations for even better carnivals in the coming years. It was an apt finale to end ECA/CCA activities for the session before the students face the next onset of assessments.



GIIS' Little Einsteins Discover the Wonders of Science

GIIS' integrated approach to connect classroom learning to the practical facet of education for each child was well manifested at The 'Einstein in Me' exhibition organised by GIIS Queenstown Campus in Singapore on March 7, 2014 for K2 students. The exhibition presented the perfect opportunity for students to understand the world around them and gain an interest in scientific phenomena. Science involves using knowledge that has been generated through process skills, and performing experiments gives children's curiosity a boost to explore the world around them. 'Einstein in Me' showcased the kinaesthetic and speaking skills of students, as children deftly combined the challenge of explaining and demonstrating their presentations based on principles of gravity, expansion of wooden sticks, molecules, magnets, colour change and more.

The students showcased their scientific skills and practical demonstrations, encouraged by enthusiastic parents who showed their support. They all had a wonderful time explaining their experiments to Guest of Honour Ms Madhu Khanna, Principal and Ms Rekha Varghese, Vice Principal, GIIS Queenstown Campus along with class teachers and friends. Several parents took time off to create a meaningful learning experience and to rekindle their child's natural sense of wonder.

GIIS Inter-School HiQ Quiz and Exhibition Boosts Scientific and Mathematical Aptitude in Students

GIIS HiQ Inter-school Quiz and Exhibition provides a platform for enthusiasts to explore their scientific and mathematical skills on a competitive platform.

On February 12, 2014, the GIIS Queenstown Campus organised the GIIS HiQ Quiz (Science and Maths) competition for the sixth consecutive year with a show of participation from GIIS East Coast Campus, Yuvabharathi International School and GIIS Queenstown Campus.

The maths quiz had the auditorium buzzing with five interesting and challenging rounds. It turned out to be a tough competition, with GIIS Queenstown Campus team winning the Aryabhata Rolling trophy.

For the first maths exhibition held as part of the GIIS HiQ quiz competition, students from IGCSE showcased models, charts, puzzles and games, projecting their creativity, interest, innovative thinking and ability to link mathematics with the real world.

The most notable ones were



the models of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, and the world's largest observation wheel - the Singapore Flyer. The students impressed spectators with their interesting explanations of the mathematical principles behind these

models. Besides these models, the students also displayed working models based on the central angle theorem, rotational symmetry and inclinometer.

These promising young scientists breathed passion and vision into the future of

science as they competed for the coveted Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Trophy.

Each team from the participating schools consisted of three participants from Classes 7 to 9. The quiz was based on science concepts covered in these classes. The teams were designated A, B and C through a draw of lots. There were four rounds: mind quest, science in action, visual and rapid fire.

Students answered the quiz questions enthusiastically, culminating in two tie-breaker sessions at the end. The audience comprised Class 7 and 8 students, while IB Year 1 students anchored the event as emcees.

Mr Srinivas Vasudevamurthy, Ms Deepika Sodhi, and Ms Anjali Dharmadhikari presided as judges for the exhibition, who selected the first, second, third positions from the various exhibits.



Global School Awards for Excellence 2014 Bestows Honour for GIIS' Students and Staff Members

Global School Awards for Excellence 2014 recognised and honoured 402 exceptional individuals for rising above all challenges to do their best in a glittering ceremony, held on September 13, 2014.

Honour was bestowed upon students, teachers and administrative team members for their exceptional performance and contribution to the organisation, at a prestigious ceremony held at GIIS Queenstown Campus in Singapore. The event was graced by Guest of Honour, HE Ms Vijay Thakur Singh, High Commissioner of India to Singapore; special guest Lt Gen (Retd) Sudhir Sharma, Member, Advisory Board, GIIS India; Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman & Co-Founder (GSF); Ms Kirtida Mekani, Member, Advisory Board, GIIS Singapore; Mr Kaustubh Bodhankar, Deputy CEO (GSF); Mr and Mrs Sudan Wargantiwar, Mr Rajiv Vasudeva, Country Director (Singapore), GIIS; Mr B G Shenoy, Director, GCEE, Mr GSS Rao, Director, Operations, GIIS, Principals and Vice-Principals of three GIIS campuses in Singapore as well as students, parents, dignitaries, teachers and administrative staff members.

The evening began with the emcee drawing attention to the prominence of Hindi language. Vishwa Hindi Divas (World Hindi Day) is commemorated each year on September 14. President of the Global Schools Foundation, Dr Justice C S Dharmadhikari always reminds students about the importance



Class 6 student Anfas Hasan receiving the GIIS award for co-curricular excellence



GIIS Innovator award winners with H.E. Ms Vijay Thakur Singh and the management team

of the national language in their lives with reference to the Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, which was initiated by Mahatma Gandhiji in 1936, and is currently helmed by Dr Dharmadhikari.

Renowned academician Sir Richard W Livingston had rightly said "A fundamental principle of education should be to make the pupil realise the meaning of excellence, of the first-rate, and to send him out of school and college persuaded that it is his/her business to learn what is first-rate and to pursue it - in all the great fields of life."

The fifth, GIIS Subject Proficiency Award will be presented to winners in their respective campuses. These students have excelled in multiple spheres of learning under the Nine Gems™ model. Their perseverance have made the school, their parents and teachers proud. Several students made their debut at the Global School Awards; making excellence a new habit. For many others, it was setting yet another record in their excellence-filled career. The Global School Awards were instituted in 2008 to recognise the undying commitment and performance excellence of students, teachers and staff at GIIS. The prestigious event is a celebration of the GIIS spirit to persevere and triumph. The award ceremony motivates all to excel in what they envision as their boundaries and set new targets for themselves. GIIS teachers have been hailed and recognised for their passion to inspire generations of students at school. With consistent motivation, confidence and enthusiasm, GIIS teachers have awakened the lives of their students with creative expressions and knowledge. "Those who educate children well are more to be honoured than parents, for these only gave life, those the art of living well," said Greek philosopher, Aristotle.

The awardees received trophies and plaques from HE Ms Vijay Thakur Singh, Lt Gen (Retd) Sudhir Sharma and Ms Kirtida Mekani who did the honours for different categories. They were accompanied on the stage by Mr Atul Temurnikar, Mr Kaustubh Bodhankar, Mr Rajiv Vasudeva, Mr GSS Rao and GIIS Principals.

Performances at the event included a foot-tapping number, 'Enchanting moves - The joy of dance', performed with grace and charm by GIIS Balestier Campus students. A mesmerising performance by students of GIIS Queenstown Campus, titled 'Harmony in Symphony' which showcased a fusion of various dance forms. Students of GIIS East Coast Campus presented an energetic performance, 'Fusion Fiesta', with applause from members in the audience.

GIIS Queenstown Campus Conducts Workshop for Parents of Preschoolers

On August 22, 2014, GIIS Queenstown Campus organised a workshop which aimed to provide fostering tips to the parents of GIIS preschool by the GIIS Queenstown Campus' counselor Ms Kavitha Nair on "Parenting Preschoolers".

Ms Kavitha Nair is a licensed special educator from Rehabilitation Council of India and has been a part of GIIS family since 2013. She spoke

on different forms of parenting styles, outcomes of adopting different parenting styles and tips and strategies to handle misbehaviors and power struggles. Besides this, a brief note on 'Piaget's Stages of Cognitive Development' also delved more into students' progress through a series of four key stages of cognitive development. According to

psychologist Jean Piaget, each stage is marked by shifts in how students understand the world. Piaget believed that children are like "little scientists" and that they actively try to explore and make sense of the world around them.

In addition, parents were also introduced to 'Erik Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development' that occurs throughout the lifespan. The session discussed common concerns raised by parents, such as the need to strike a balance between support and control, and the importance of playing an active role to teach, show and model appropriate behaviour or discipline to raise today's children.

The workshop proved to be informative as all aspects of a typical preschooler's physical, social, intellectual and moral development were discussed. The assembly ended on a positive note as reassured parents gave positive feedback to the event and seemed comforted with the tips shared at the forum.



The School Became a Mini-market!

Nothing more than real-life experience can make children learn for life. In the spirit of this belief, young learners from GIIS Chinchwad Campus Nursery became 'friends' with fruits and vegetables.

A mini market was created in the classroom, giving them a hands-on experience. Drumstick, green chili, apple, banana, chickoo, custard apple, pomegranate, sweet lime, orange, ginger, potato, onion, ridge gourd, fenugreek and many other different types of fruits and vegetables were displayed.

Each fruit and vegetable was explained by the facilitators. The curious ones touched, smelt and held the samples in their hands while learning. A few fruits and vegetables were also cut to display their interiors while the facilitators explained about the function of seeds.



GIIS Queenstown Campus Wins Most Inspiring Eco Award



On July 3 2014, Singapore's largest business-led environmental awareness campaign, Eco Action Day, recognised six commendable organisations for their sustainability efforts in making a difference for the environment this year.

The organiser, Ricoh Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, together with supporting partners and supporters, participating organisations and the Eco Action Award winners, celebrated the campaign's achievements. A record total of about 180 organisations participated in this green movement, with the majority made up of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Corporations.

GIIS Queenstown Campus, winner of

the Most Inspiring Eco Award, has been playing an active role in environmental sustainability since 2009. The school has been engaging its students and promoting environmental awareness by organising environmental carnival and competitions, launching e-learning waste management for students and even incorporating environmental projects into the students' academic performance review.

The school has also initiated many outreach programmes to promote energy and resources conservation at community centres and residential areas. "Our teams work very hard year-round to take eco initiatives to a new level and to find innovative means to support

environmental concerns in a meaningful way. A prestigious award such as this will spur on our team to work even harder," conveyed Mr Rajiv Vasudeva, Country Director (Singapore), GIIS.

Congratulating GIIS Queenstown Campus team on the eco-worthy achievement, Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman and Co-Founder, Global Schools Foundation said, "Singapore's green movement is well supported at GIIS with our students matching footprints with the eco-wise progress in the community. The green curriculum adopted by GIIS Queenstown Campus has encouraged students to undertake recycling drives, energy-saving measures and e-waste management to name a few. Winning the Most Inspiring Eco Action Award is quite heartening for our team."

Towards the end of this year's Eco Action Day Campaign, Mr Nobuaki Majima, Managing Director of Ricoh Asia Pacific, applauded the record participation in the campaign, saying, Eco Action Day is not just about one organisation or one person's effort, and it is definitely not just about Ricoh. It is everyone's effort and support that make it happen.

Powered by GIIS, Times Now Felicitates Winners of the Inaugural 'NRI of the Year' Awards

India's leading news channel, Times Now celebrated the success and achievements of Indians across the world with the announcement of the winners of 'NRI of the Year' awards. The event was presided by the Honourable Cabinet Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs - Mr Vayalar Ravi as the Chief Guest. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr Amitabh

Bachchan, who was felicitated with India's Global Icon Award.

The first edition of the Times Now ICICI Bank NRI of the Year awards powered by Global Indian International School (GIIS) awarded individuals under six different categories: Entrepreneur, Professional, Student, Arts/ Entertainment, Philanthropy and Social Good and contribution to India.

The achievers were contestants from the US, Canada, Singapore, the UK, and the Middle East including Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait.

Class 12 student Aastha Chouhan from GIIS Queenstown Campus in Singapore was the Winner of the NRI of the Year Award in the Student category.

The event was attended by Dr Justice C S Dharmadhikari, President and Co-Founder, Global Schools Foundation (GSF); Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman and Co-Founder, GSF; Mr Kamal Gupta, COO and Regional Director, Middle East and Africa, GSF and Mr Rajeev Katyal, Director,



Know Your Lunch Box's Carbon Footprint

The month of June is dedicated to Food and Environment. On June 5, 2014, our learners from Classes 9 and 10 observed World Environment Day. The highlight of the day was the rather unusual 'community lunch time'.

All students gathered at the cafeteria for a communal lunch. Not only was food shared, but ideas and opinions on what classifies as local food and global food were also discussed. Conversations revolved around topics such as seasonal food, good healthy food, sourcing of local and global food products and calculation of the carbon footprint for a typical meal.

This session allowed co-facilitators, who are the parents of the students, to gain valuable insights into creating dinner conversations that interest and benefit the entire family.

Grand Inauguration of GIIS Ahmedabad

Global Indian International School (GIIS) celebrated the grand inauguration of its Ahmedabad campus located in Godrej Garden City. It is a spectacular new academic facility that will significantly contribute to the growing need of global education in the city of Ahmedabad.

The occasion was graced by Mr Pirojsha Godrej, Managing Director and CEO, Godrej Properties Ltd; who did the honours of unveiling the plaque along with Mr Chandu Borde, Vice President, Global Schools Foundation (GSF). Mr Godrej received a warm welcome from Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman and Co-founder of GSF; Mr Subodh Gore, Governing Board Member; Mr Rajeev Katyal, Country Director, GIIS India; Mr Caesar D'silva, Principal - GIIS Ahmedabad Campus; and the entire GIIS family.

The students at GIIS Ahmedabad greeted their special guest with a traditional welcome, after which the top management escorted him to the main function area, where an enthusiastic audience awaited his arrival. Mr Godrej viewed the model of the school building and the facilities that GIIS has promised to deliver to its students.

Mr Godrej was impressed with GIIS's focus on achievement through

innovation and excellence. "My congratulations to the GIIS team on the inauguration of this new school. We hope the citizens of Ahmedabad and Godrej Garden City benefit tremendously from this outstanding School," said Mr Godrej.

Mr Borde addressed the parents affectionately and shared with them on the fundamental values of the foundation. Mr Katyal elaborated on the various facilities and plans for GIIS Ahmedabad and reiterated the commitment of the school towards its students. The programme was interspersed by a musical performance that left the audience spellbound.

Mr Borde felicitated Mr Godrej with a shawl as a mark of acknowledgement for his presence and presented him with a memento that represented four generations of the Godrej legacy.



GIIS India. Dr Justice Dharmadhikari was invited on stage with Mr Shekhar Suman to do the honours of giving the NRI of the Year Award for the Professional category. For the same Award category, Mr Temurnikar and Mr Praseon Joshi also gave away awards to other notable winners.

The Times Now ICICI Bank NRI of the Year Awards was powered by GIIS. The nominations process was supported by various organisations from around the world, including Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), New York & Tri- State, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), USA, Singapore India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), Singapore India Business Association (SINDA), UK India Business Council (UKIBC), British Asian Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) and TIE, Singapore, The India Club, Dubai, among other Indian regional language associations.

GIIS Inaugurates New Integrated Campus at Nishikasai, Tokyo



Many distinguished guests were present during the opening of the GIIS Nishikasai Campus

Global Indian International School (GIIS) opened doors to a new integrated campus at Nishikasai, Tokyo on April 5, 2014. The inauguration event was graced by India's Ambassador to Japan, HE Mrs Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa who presided as the guest of honour.

Distinguished guests present for the event included Mr Tomohiko Taniguchi, Special Adviser in the Prime Minister's office and Professor of Keio University; Mr Masami Tada, Mayor of Edogawa Ward, Tokyo; Mr Shuuichi Mori, Chief of Kasai Police Station and Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department; Mr Nobuo Hasegawa, Chief of Kasai Fire Station and Tokyo Fire Department; and Mr Asano, Chief of Education Department, Edogawa Ward, Tokyo.

Also present were Dr Justice C S Dharmadhikari, President and Co-Founder, Global Schools Foundation (GSF); Ambassador Aftab Seth, Country

Director - GIIS Japan and Former Ambassador of India to Greece, Vietnam and Japan; Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman and Co-Founder, GSF; Mr Kaustubh Bodhankar, Deputy CEO, GSF; Mr Rajeev Katyral, Country Director, GIIS India; Commander Bharatkumar Unercat, Director - Infrastructure, GSF; and Mrs Rajeswary Sambathrajan, Principal, GIIS Tokyo Campus.

The new campus brings all the classes from Nursery to Class 10 under one roof, thereby fostering a more cohesive school culture, enabling better administrative oversight and allowing for better management of critical functions such as transport and security. Spread over three floors, the new campus is spacious and includes amenities like activity rooms for dance, music, martial arts and yoga, learning labs, a multi-purpose hall, audiovisual rooms with video conferencing facilities, an infirmary and a roof-top play area.

GIIS Tokyo Campus Excels at National Chess and Cricket Tournaments



Sudarshan Krishna Bhatia of GIIS Tokyo Campus exhibited a brilliant performance in national chess and cricket tournaments held at Fuji and Kamata Japan.

These tournaments were organised by the Japan Chess Association and Japan Cricket Association respectively.

Sudarshan Krishna's team, My Y, became the national Runners-up in the Under 15 Cricket Championship, a National Tournament organised by Japan Cricket Association. Krishna - a regular bowler of Team My Y, took 8 wickets in the tournament and received the Japan Cricket Association Best XI Member award. Team My Y also became the National Champions in the Under 19 Cricket Championship, a National tournament held by Japan Cricket Association. Krishna displayed commendable bowling skills, taking 3 wickets in the finals.



GIIS Students Come in 3rd in Prestigious Sembcorp Water Technology Prize 2014

On May 31, 2014, Sembcorp Water Technology Prize 2014 organised a workshop to acquaint participants with the rules and regulation of the competition. More than 20 schools from all over Singapore participated in the event. Four teams from GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore participated in the competition.

The rigorous full-day training gave the students confidence to face the next phase of the Sembcorp Water Technology Prize 2014 competition. The objective of the competition was focused on the treatment of surface water on a large scale.

Participants learnt about the different methods of water treatment - coagulation, sand filtration, and filtration using polymeric hollow fiber as well as ceramic membranes, and were tasked to build scale models of these systems. The students realised from several hands-on experiences that much effort is required to purify water.

On June 1, 2014, teams from different schools were given 1.5 hours to work on each system. At the end of the competition, the teams presented

their analyses to a panel of judges and pitched their winning solutions for Singapore's water treatment system. One team from Classes 9 and 10 and two teams from Class 11 attended a hands-on session to discover the intricacies of water treatment.

The judges declared the results, accumulated 20 percent from the training conducted on May 31, 2014, 50 percent from the actual competition and 30 percent from the presentation by the participants.

Out of all the GIIS teams, Shreya Tripathi, Ashmita Bid and Akash Vijay Pillay of Class 11 bagged the third prize in the competition.

The award presentation ceremony was held at Marina Bay Sands on June 3, 2014. Guest of honour Dr Grace Fu, Second Minister for Environment and Water Resources gave away the prizes to the top 3 winners.

The competition proved to be a highly enriching experience for the 16 GIIS participants, who not only gained in-depth technical knowledge but also learnt about teamwork and the values of resilience and cooperation.

Investiture Ceremony 2014 at GIIS Chinchwad

The Investiture Ceremony to formulate the Student Council, 2014-15, also an occasion, to respect and acknowledge the potential leaders of the future, was held amidst great excitement and zeal on the April 25, 2014. The function was graced by the Principal of the school, Dr Amrita Vohra, the Vice Principal; Mrs Sheela Menon; Mrs Vaishali Borde (Global Schools Foundation); and other dignitaries.

The solemn ceremony started with the inaugural song by the talented school choir followed by a yoga display and an aerobics performance that exemplified perfect harmony and synchronisation. The relevant insignia and the prestigious School and House Flags were handed over to the Office Bearers by the School Heads. The Oath Taking Ceremony, initiated by the Principal, involved the school's freshly appointed Prefectural Board pledging to uphold the school motto of loyalty, truthfulness and honour in high esteem. They also pledged to make the welfare of the students their utmost priority and to work for the betterment of the school. It was definitely a great moment for the newly elected Office Bearers.

During the Principal's address, she advised the elected members of the Students' Council to be a role model for the other students of the school. She inspired and encouraged them to excel in their future endeavours. However, it was not a walk in the park for the chosen ones. The nominees had to go through a rigorous panel interview and a mock poll session followed by the exciting experience of campaigning. The entire process was aimed at familiarising students with the democratic system followed in our country.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks followed by the national anthem.

Caring for the Planet

Global education includes pushing for agendas such as non-pollution and inculcating an eco-friendly mindset in making the planet a healthy place for all. These values



of preservation and conservation come from an awareness that is built over a period of time and is best ingrained early in individuals who are young and are able to make a difference in the world. Inculcating these values has been a continual endeavour of Global Indian International School, and it has been heartening to see the students develop these values and move forward as pioneers of such causes.

Disha Tiwari, a student of Class IV of GIIS Indore, is one such individual who has started young. She has resolved to persuade people to quit smoking. When she was six years old, she had stayed in a hotel that reeked of stale cigarette smell. That was in 2011, and it left a lasting impression on her. Now, at nine

years old, she is carrying out an anti-tobacco campaign in a big way. A day before the national No Tobacco Day, Disha, together with her mother Sangeeta Tiwari, organised a drive at Regal Square in Indore. During the drive, she informed people about the lethal effects of smoking. She and other volunteers distributed pamphlets and drinking water to passers-by to spread the awareness.

Disha keeps a diary with her at all times, and when she spots anyone smoking in a public place, she will ask him to quit smoking and sign on her diary to pledge his promise. "I ask if they mind that I speak with them. Then, I will tell them about the dangerous effects of smoking and request that they quit," said Disha. While most people appreciate her initiative and smile at her request, Disha has had to face rebukes from many people. There have been times when people have shouted at her and told her to mind her own business. But she continues undeterred. Disha has held awareness programmes at many places including Holkar College, C 21 mall, Ujjain and others. GIIS supports and encourages her endeavour to bring about a change in society.

The students of GIIS Chinchwad Campus also sang in union to the tune of "jagore jagore jagore", evoking their love for their motherland. "Bhinn desh ke wasi" was a treat from the students of GIIS Indore Campus, who reiterated unity through diversity. The students played musical instruments to accompany the vocals. GIIS Noida Campus sang with gusto "Apni dharti, apna ambar, apna Hindustan", a composition by the music teacher, which was based on classical ragas. GIIS Bangalore Campus presented, "duniya jaan le, pehchan le" in choir form with excellent voice modulation. Following after, the group from GIIS Surat Campus presented a tough song "sau ragini se Bharat", which was based on mixed ragas and accompanied by the guitar and synthesiser.

The students exhibited fantastic coordination and confidently presented their group songs. As a result, the judges found it difficult to choose a winner given the fact that each team excelled in showcasing singing skills. The criteria for judging were based on voice, rhythm, lyrics, song selection and presentation. GIIS Indore Campus won the first position with GIIS Ahmedabad Campus took the second position, with the third position presenting a tie between GIIS Malaysia Campus and GIIS Chinchwad Campus.

"Eventually every team is a winner. The talent of these young singers is truly amazing," said Mr Rajeev Katyal, Country Director, GIIS India.

The efforts of GIIS in keeping the spirit of solidarity and love for the country alive through music is one of the important facets of its 9 Gems Model™.



Inter-GIIS Competition on Patriotic Songs

The inter-GIIS competition on patriotic songs was held on August 14, 2014. It was an effort to instil the spirit of patriotism in the students of GIIS. It was remarkable to witness choirs from campuses across Noida, Bangalore, Indore, Surat, Ahmedabad and Kuala Lumpur come together in a video conference to participate in a singing competition. The use of technology has not only broken down geographical barriers but it has also facilitated meaningful bonding.

The competition was judged by external judges such as Ms Meera, a dance therapist and proponent of Carnatic Music who specialises in the use of music to develop the abilities of physically and mentally

challenged people. She judged the competition from GIIS Chichwad Campus and Ms Soma Dikshit, HOD at Indrapuram Public School who is a Master in History, Bachelor of Fine Arts and Sangeet Visharad from Gandharva Mahavidyalay, judged from GIIS Noida Campus.

GIIS Ahmedabad Campus started the competition with, "Ekta mein anekta, Hind ki visheshta". The students swayed to the beat and presented a melodious tribute to the freedom fighters of India.

Next in the competition were the students of GIIS Malaysia; who soulfully sang "Insaf ki dagar se". It was a moment to behold when Indian students from overseas expressed such fervour and

GIIS India Honours Hiroshima Day

On August 6, 2014, GIIS held the annual Peace Memorial Ceremony under the aegis of its Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Universal Values to sensitise the students towards the important agendas of world peace and ban of nuclear weapons.

The PEACE Cranes; Messengers of Universal Peace

There was a little girl called Sadako Sasaki who survived the bombing. She was then two years old. The radiation from the bomb gave her leukemia when she was 10. Sadako believed in an old Japanese story that if you made 1,000 paper cranes, you would be granted a wish. She decided to fold 1,000 cranes and wish for good health. She died before she could complete them, and her school friends finished making them for her. Sadako had said: "I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world." Each year, thousands of paper cranes from all over the world hang from Sadako's statue in Hiroshima's Peace Park. The cranes and her message are a good reminder that we must never give up on peace.

GIIS Ahmedabad Campus

GIIS Ahmedabad Campus commemorated Peace Day as 'Heal the World' in collaboration with NGO 'Yuva Unstoppable' at Thaltej Municipal School. The whole school participated in folding paper cranes and children from Classes 5 and 6 prepared a skit on the story of Sadako and 1,000 cranes of peace and hope. The day began with a special assembly on Peace Day, followed by a prayer song. The students then took an oath for peace. Students from Classes 3 to 6 visited the nearest Municipal School "Thaltej Prathamik Shala", and shared the message of peace by conducting a small cultural event in the school.

GIIS Bangalore Campus

The students of KG 2 organised an origami activity for folding paper cranes. The story of Sadako was narrated to the students and they observed a few moments of silence



to pray for peace around the world. The students drew the story of Sadako in their art books. They also held their paper cranes and took a pledge that they will never cause harm or injury to anyone.

GIIS Indore Campus

All the students folded paper cranes and took a peace pledge. A nun from Brahma Kumari Ashram shared her thoughts on peace. The students depicted the message, "Say no to War" and "Ensure Peace".

GIIS Noida Campus

The day was marked by the children of Classes 1 to 7 making prayer flags for peace. Children wrote a prayer for peace on the pieces of cloth distributed to them. The idea was borrowed from the Buddhist custom of prayer flags strung in memory of the departed praying for peace to their souls. The flags strung together with ribbons were put up all around the amphitheatre and other places in school on August 6. A special assembly was conducted to remember Sadako. After a peace march, the students sang a beautiful song, originally written by Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to spread the message of peace.



GIIS Surat Campus

Students of GIIS Surat Campus also conducted a special assembly in remembrance of Peace Day and showed a video to students depicting the harmful effects of nuclear bombings on Japan. They folded paper cranes and placed them on the display board.

GIIS Chinchwad Campus

Each class conducted a unique activity to mark Peace Day. The day started with a 'Peace March' by the students of Class 1 followed by a story-telling activity by Class 2 with 'peace' as its theme. Students of Class 3 wrote peace messages and placed them on an art-tree to form a 'Tree of Peace'. Class 6 made 'Peace Posters' and the students of Class 5 enacted an interview with great emissaries of peace. Class 6 conducted a skit spreading the message of peace based on Indian mythology. Classes 7 and 8 participated in an elocution and a debate activity respectively based on consciousness of peace and war. Students of Class 10 had a class discussion on the topic of 'Various Aspects of Peace' whereas the students of Class 10 exhibited their creative writing skills by writing poems on peace.

The presentation of a plethora of activities conducted across classes and campuses with a central theme of 'Peace' made it unique. "Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time". GIIS took this opportunity to sensitise its students to the importance of peace.

Lessons for a Lifetime – A Life-changing Field Trip to Gawdewadi



Students of different ages from GIIIS Chinchwad Campus accompanied parents who are farmers into the fields to help with the work. For about 2.5 hours, they toiled alongside their parents before school started for the day. After a good morning's session, they went home, freshened up, and were ready for more learning at the 102-year-old Zilla Parishad Shaala at Gawdewadi Village, in Ambegaon Taluka. From cleaning the

premises (including toilets) to regular maintenance, these daily chores are carried out by the students. When the school bell rings, these students go home to carry out chores before their parents return from the fields.

Experiencing is believing and the excursion proved to be an eye-opener for these city-bred students. Students from Classes 6, 7 and 8 visited the village on an educational field-trip, co-organised by the Vanarai Trust, which left them with happy memories and life lessons. As the Sarpanch Gawde of the Village revealed, about 50-60 families who had migrated to Mumbai seeking progress have actually returned to this village – one among them was his own family.

It is not often that the President of India, scientist Vijay Bhatkar, Dr Raghunath Mashelkar, Governor of Maharashtra visit one village to learn about sustainable living. These were the discoveries that the students made during the trip:

1. Every home in the village uses bio-gas generated from cow dung
2. This completely reduced felling of trees and hence improved the green-cover of the area (an initiative by Dr Dharia)
3. This development caused an increase in rain fall
4. With Vanarai's help in establishing water-sheds, rain-water harvesting was implemented
5. Water is always available throughout the year for farming
6. Farming is completely eco-friendly/organic – no chemicals or fertilisers are used
7. The tastier, natural produce from the farms fetches a higher price in the markets for a prosperous community
8. Produce includes custard apple, tomato, sugarcane, lemons, ground-nuts, cucumbers, fenugreek leaves and potatoes
9. Waste generated from the produce is fed back as cattle-feed
10. The result of healthy, happy cattle is a robust dairy farming practice that delivers milk twice a day to the city's dairy at a premium price

Cricket Legend Steve Waugh Visits GIIS Ahmedabad

Stephen Rodger "Steve" Waugh, a former Australian cricketer and fraternal twin of cricketer Mark Waugh visited the students of GIIS Ahmedabad Campus amidst much fanfare from enthusiasts of the sport on July 22, 2014.

Steve was escorted by the students and Mr Caesar D'silva, Principal of GIIS Ahmedabad Campus to the school building, where he received a traditional welcome with tika and garland. He addressed the gathering of students and teachers and shared his cricketing experience with the attentive audience. He was pleasantly surprised by the



originality of the questions raised by the students and was overwhelmed by the quality of interaction that took place. The teachers and students had prepared a storyboard for Steve to highlight his achievements, and he

was impressed by the creative display. He toured the school and found the learning environment impressive, especially the spacious classrooms. He remarked that the environment and the uniform of the students exuded a vibrant image. He also visited the pre-primary section and interacted with the tiny tots. The students were overjoyed to interact with Steve.

The GIIS team presented Steve with his portrait and a half bust of Gandhi, the leader of universal peace, as a token of appreciation. He autographed a cricket ball and bat which is now the prize possession of GIIS Ahmedabad Campus.

"This school has just begun and seeing the energy of the children, I can feel that the school has a tremendous future potential," shared Steve.

The Grand Launch of the Multi-purpose Hall at GISS Noida Campus

The state-of-the-art Multipurpose Hall at GISS Noida Campus was inaugurated by a famous Bharata Natyam exponent, Ms Rama Vaidyanathan, who graced the occasion with her enchanting dance recital. GISS Noida Campus, in association with Spic Macay, arranged for this special classical dance programme by Ms Vaidyanathan to celebrate the beginning of performances in the presence of GISS parents and students.

After a melodious and soulful welcome song by the GISS choir, the students danced to the energetic Kalbelia from Rajasthan as Ms Rama Vaidyanathan took to the stage and transformed the hall into a temple; a sanctum sanctorum where one could sense the spiritual element of dance and the connection the dancer has with her art.

True to the Spic Macay tradition, she explained to the

students about the rendition. Thereafter, she proceeded to express it through her dance.

The audience was transported into a world of music and dance, setting expectations for more of such regaling performances.



Classroom Learning With No Boundaries

When was the last time you ever witnessed a group of children having open, generative and wholesome discussions about beliefs and mindsets, in a classroom? Truth be told, it is most likely an occurrence that has never happened to most.

However, over the past two months, our young leaders from Classes 8, 9 and 10 have been discovering the power of Systems Thinking, via weekly sessions. We call them 'Wondering Together Sessions'. These are not debates where groups align for or against a perspective. This is a 'generative conversation' where a group of highly inquisitive and brutally honest Systems Thinkers come together to uncover beliefs and mindsets. Topics that are most challenging or troublesome are reflected upon to understand different sides to the story before coming to a balanced viewpoint. This is a paradigm shift in education for students. We're sure you will join in the transformation over the next few months.

Learning is Fun at the Sense Booth



Sense Booth day was celebrated by the GILS Indore Campus Pre-Primary students.

In keeping with the theme of "My Body", the five senses were introduced to the children through demonstrations by the teachers and a variety of hands-on activities for the children.

Five classrooms were converted into booths for each sense - hearing, smell, touch, taste and sight. The children moved from booth to booth to experience different activities. The teachers had planned activities that captured the essence of each sense and excited the curiosity of the young ones.

The Touch Booth

The kids went to the touch booth to feel and experience different textured objects by rubbing their hands over the surface of different objects.

The Taste Booth

The taste booth is definitely the place where the kids looked forward to some yummy treats. Teachers had lined up snacks to taste like chocolates and sugar, salty

chips to spicy black pepper and the not so favoured bitter gourd and sour lime juice.

The Hearing Booth

The children experienced listening to the sound of many different items, ranging from a conch to whistles and bells. Musical instruments provided tones and pitches of varying types. Children enjoyed playing drums, flutes, mouth organ, cymbals and keyboards.

The Sight Booth

The sight booth had various activities that kids performed, while the teacher

explained how light travels in straight lines into the eye and how it is interpreted by the brain.

The Smell Booth

The smell booth had smelling bottles with good smells and bad smells. There were sweet smelling perfumes, rose water, fragrant roses and jasmine, aromas of different spices, lemon grass, garlic and fruits and vegetables.

The students learnt many amazing facts and the sense booth day left them with a sense of wonderment about themselves and the wonderful world around them.

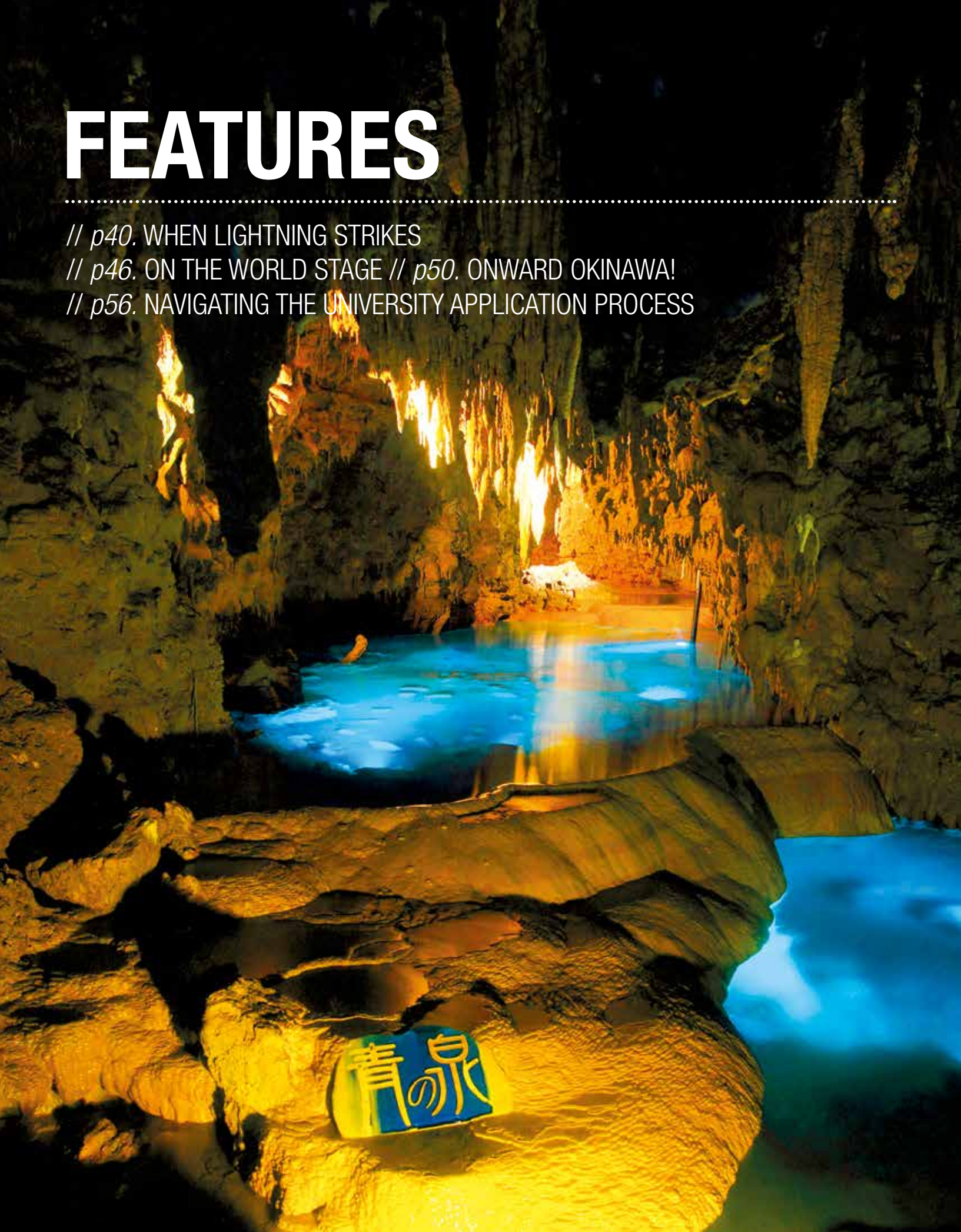


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WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

From brilliant balls of lightning to ghostly glowing haloes, surprisingly little is known about Nature's electric light show. **Katia Moskvitch** unravels the biggest mysteries surrounding an awe-inspiring phenomenon





Thunderstorms rage worldwide every day, mostly in summer, sending some 100 electric bolts to the ground every second. And yet, we know surprisingly little about lightning. Yes, it's a natural electrical discharge both inside the cloud and between a thundercloud and Earth, a spark of charged particles zipping through the air. But it's hard to study, because it is impossible to predict where and when it's going to strike. So what mysteries of this natural phenomenon are waiting to be unlocked?

“They can be red, orange, purple or green and eye-witness accounts report them passing through glass windows”

**COSMIC ORIGINS?
LIGHTNING COULD START IN SPACE**

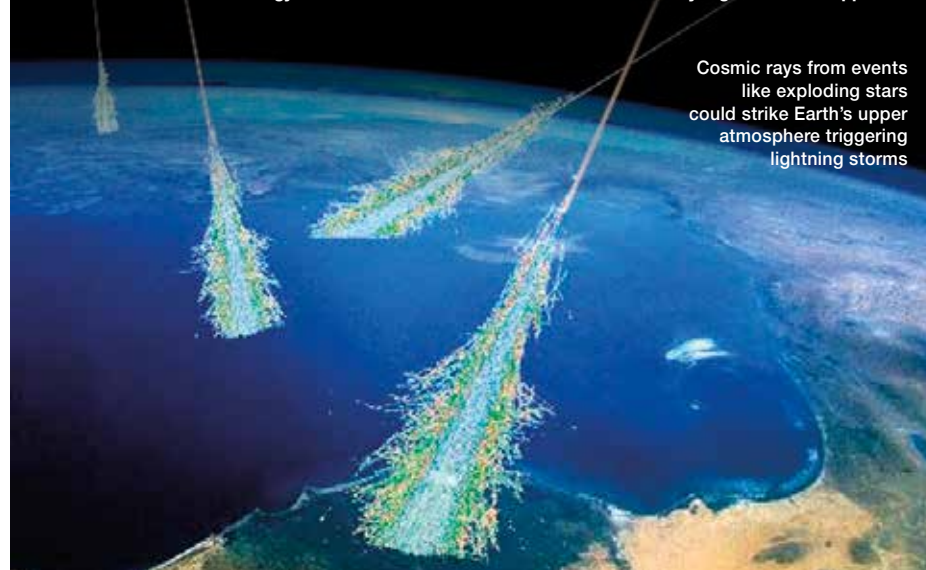
Researchers are still unsure about what exactly causes lightning, but there are two main theories. The most popular is that lightning is triggered by ice or water particles inside a storm. When a thunderstorm is brewing, hail and ice rush downwards, colliding with warmer water droplets on their way up. As the two fronts crash into each other, electrons are torn from the droplets and stick to the ice, making the water in the upper reaches of the storm positively charged and the ice lower down negative.

Near the surface of the storm the electric fields build up, allowing small discharges to initiate there. “Somehow these small discharges join together to make bigger discharges and eventually form a ‘leader’ – a big spark,” says Joseph Dwyer, a lightning researcher at the Florida Institute of Technology.

This ‘leader’ travels through the air at speeds of around 360,500km/h (224,000mph), and the temperature of the lightning strike can be as much as 30,000°C – five times that of the surface of the Sun, says Chris Stone of the Morgan-Botti Lightning Laboratory at Cardiff University.

Another theory is called electron runaway breakdown – and it assumes a completely new physical phenomenon. This electrical discharge is caused by high-energy particles known as cosmic rays. These are mostly protons that are blasted out from energetic events like exploding stars. Cosmic rays travel across space and hit Earth’s upper atmosphere, producing highly energetic showers of ionised particles that are accelerated to close to the speed of light. These showers might be able to trigger lightning in a storm cloud, and the cloud’s initial electric field does not have to be very big for this to happen.

Cosmic rays from events like exploding stars could strike Earth’s upper atmosphere triggering lightning storms



A possible sighting of ball lightning captured in 1978

**BALL LIGHTNING:
FLYING SPHERES**

These strange balls of electricity are seen during intense thunderstorms as glowing orbs. They can be yellow, white, red, orange, purple or green and eye-witness accounts report them passing through glass windows without leaving a hole. Reports of ball lightning go back for centuries, but the phenomenon has been difficult to study as the balls are elusive and their appearance unpredictable.

In 2012, for the first time ever, ball lightning was properly captured on video. A team of Chinese researchers accidentally recorded it while observing a thunderstorm. A glowing sphere about 5m wide suddenly appeared when a bolt struck the ground. It vanished after 1.6 seconds – but the scientists were able to record a spectrum and high-speed video footage of the mysterious orb.

The data showed that the ball lightning mainly consisted of silicon, iron and calcium, the same elements as those found in the soil. This supports an earlier theory that ball lightning is mostly the result of a lightning bolt striking the ground and vaporising mineral grains in the soil. But how the long-lasting sphere is constructed is not understood, says Martin Uman, a lightning researcher at the University of Florida.

Blasts of gamma-ray radiation are thought to be a common occurrence during the collapse of stars

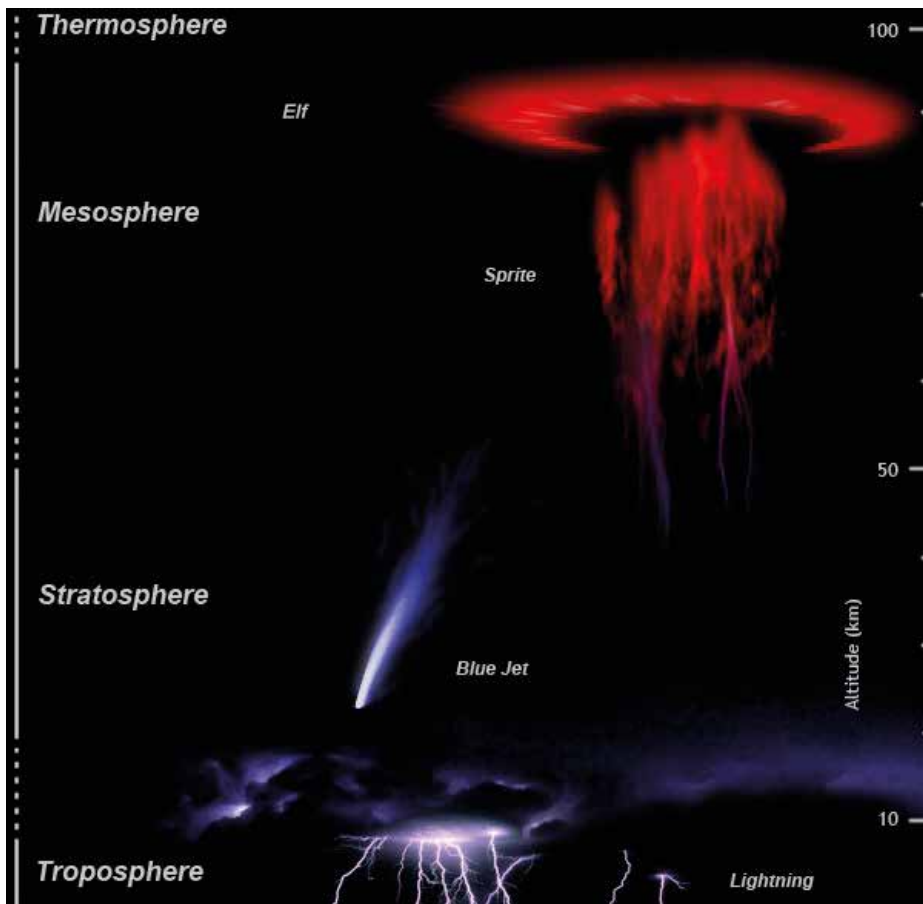
DARK LIGHTNING: INVISIBLE AND POWERFUL

Not all lightning is visible. Sometimes, lightning flashes can be just unexpected pulses of very powerful radiation. These extremely intense bursts of energy are called Terrestrial Gamma-Ray Flashes (TGFs). These types of outburst are usually found out in the cosmos, being spat out by collapsing stars. The blast created by a TGF is millions of times more energetic than the flash of light we see from lightning and scientists know they're there from radiation readings taken during storms.

Recently, researchers have suggested that these bursts of energy are brought about by so-called 'dark lightning' – an exotic, invisible form of lightning. It can be more energetic than normal lightning, but since it does not involve a hot incandescent channel, it emits very little light.

It's thought that normal lightning triggers the dark kind. "A fully charged thunderstorm is like a cocked pistol. Lightning is what pulls the trigger, causing dark lightning to go off," says Dwyer, who came up with the term 'dark lightning'. "Once triggered, dark lightning can take over and discharge the cloud faster than normal lightning. Perhaps one in every 1,000 lightning flashes are dark lightning – but we don't know the exact number."





ELVES MYSTERIOUS HALOES

Emissions of Light and Very low frequency perturbations due to Electromagnetic pulse Sources, or ELVES, are reddish, dim, flattened, expanding haloes. They are horizontal, ultra-fast flashes of electricity that happen in the atmosphere just below the boundary of space.

ELVES are thought to result from an extremely powerful electromagnetic radiation pulse that stems from some lightning discharges. As the energy passes upwards through the base of the ionosphere – a region of the upper atmosphere – it makes the gases there glow briefly.

They are as bright as sprites, but only usually last for a millisecond. They can spread radially to more than 300km (185 miles), and occur some 100km (62 miles) above the ground. ELVES were first observed off the coast of French Guiana by a Space Shuttle mission in 1990.

Researchers predicted ELVES before the first observation, theorising that lightning pulses heating the lower part of the atmosphere could trigger such an emission.

SPRITES GLOWING RED JELLYFISH

One form of lightning takes place in the upper atmosphere near the edge of space. They're called transient luminous events (TLEs). Scientists are unsure what causes TLEs, but the widely accepted view is that they are electrically induced forms of luminous plasma, or ionised gas – and are usually generated when powerful positive cloud-to-ground lightning strikes.

The most common type of TLEs are sprites – flashes of bright red light that happen above thunderstorms, at about 80km (50 miles) up in the atmosphere. They were first captured on camera in 1989, and later also seen by scientists studying video from the Space Shuttle. They can even be seen with the naked eye and appear for just a fraction of a second. Sprites usually resemble a glowing red jellyfish just above a thunderbolt, but they can also look like a carrot, an angel, or broccoli, with hanging tendrils underneath.

BLUE JETS EERIE, BRIEF DANCES OF LIGHT

The blue blasts of energy emerge from the top of active thunderstorms at heights of 40 to 50km (30 miles up). They reach speeds of 100km/s but only last for about a quarter of a second. They can be seen with the naked eye – huge eerie cones spreading upward from clouds during raging thunderstorms. Blue jets are brighter than sprites, but occur much less frequently and don't appear to be directly triggered by lightning. Researchers believe that their appearance may be caused by strong hail activity in thunderstorms.

They were confirmed by studying video from a Space Shuttle mission in 1989, but are rarely seen. "All the upper atmospheric phenomena remain mysterious," says Stone. "Lightning is unpredictable and this limits a complete explanation of how and why it occurs. After hundreds of years of scientific investigation it still remains one of nature's most mysterious events."





POSITIVE LIGHTNING THE OTHER WAY AROUND

Most lightning is negative – carrying a negative charge from the base of the cloud down to the ground immediately below. However, occasionally lightning can originate from the top of a cloud, where the air is positively charged, striking a patch of comparatively negatively charged land further away.

Positive lightning occurs across very long distances, carries an electrical current of around 300,000A and can exceed a billion volts, says Stone. “This means that positive lightning is around 10 times more powerful than negative lightning. It usually consists of only one stroke whereas negative lightning will typically consist of two or more strokes.” It’s thought that positive lightning makes up only about five per cent of lightning strikes.

KATIA MOSKVITCH is an award-winning science and technology journalist

**“Positive lightning
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On the World Stage

Technological advances and seamless cross-border communication have put the spotlight on the concept of global citizenship. GLIS has been using a unique curriculum which to not only equip the students with multiple skill sets but also grooms them as tomorrow's leaders who are the best of the breed



It was almost 20 years ago that the world's richest man, Bill Gates, predicted that we would be living in an interconnected bubble of technology. In his well acclaimed book *The Road Ahead*, Gates talked about the information superhighway which would change the way we would interact, live and play. His prediction is now a reality. If a tweet can fuel the fires of a revolution, a flippant picture posted on Facebook can also derail one's career and come back to haunt years later. In a complex world which is being redefined by the widespread use of communication technology, the challenge is to be aware of the direction and pace of change.

The natural corollary to all these changes is also that with the advances in technology, the nature of jobs has transformed, requiring us to be highly adaptable to a rapidly globalised world. "Although a bit like crystal ball gazing, we at GISS are always trying to identify trends and technological shifts to be able to provide our students with necessary skills to be leaders of tomorrow," explains Global Indian International School Chairman and Co-founder, GSF Mr Atul Temurnikar.

So what does it mean to be a global citizen? According to the website *Open Democracy* "A global citizen is someone who identifies with being part of an emerging world community and whose actions contribute to building this community's values and practices." Striding towards this very goal, GISS has put in place its principle of *Nine Gems™* format of curriculum development. With the aim of creating a

"A Global Student is somebody who has aspirations on a global level and benchmarks himself with the global best in everything he does," Mr N R Narayana Murthy, Former Chairman Emeritus of Infosys Technologies

Global Student who is sentient, confident and erudite; GISS pioneered the concept of combining learning with imparting life skills.

This approach is unique as it combines learning with the aim to develop logical thinking and encouraging a problem solving attitude. "Academic excellence is only one aspect of our focus," explains Mr Temurnikar. The overall aim is to instill an international outlook, cultural sensitivity and sportsman spirit in the students so they aim at achieving excellence at multiple levels.

EMPOWERING THROUGH GLOBAL EDUCATION

Education is a great empowering tool. It opens doors to the job market, fosters leadership and gives us courage to combat inequality on the basis of our knowledge and skills. "Education empowers people with the knowledge, skills and values they need to build a better world," said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012 when he launched the UN Global Education First Initiative. Under this



initiative United Nations has focused its energies to propagate universal values through education.

The principles of this initiative are that 'education must be transformative and bring shared values to life. It must cultivate an active care for the world and for those with whom we share it with. Education must also be relevant in answering the big questions of the day.'

The Maastricht Global Education Declaration forms the basis of the UN Global Education First Initiative launched in 2012. The principles of which are:

- Global education is education that opens people's eyes and minds to the realities of the globalised world and awakens them to bring about a world of greater justice, equity and Human Rights for all.

- Global education is understood to encompass Development Education, Human Rights Education, Education for Sustainability, Education for Peace and Conflict Prevention and Intercultural Education; being the global dimension of Education for Citizenship.

Mr Kaustubh Bodhankar, Deputy CEO of the Global Schools Foundation (GSF), agrees. He describes a Global Student as one who learns across boundaries and one who is able to work in a cross-cultural environment to gain knowledge to achieve a particular purpose. He adds, "A Global Student is one who has freedom of will,



freedom of intellect, and the freedom to make choices. These choices will allow him to excel in his chosen field, and to become a leader and contribute back to society."

CREATING A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

GIIS understands that in order to influence and shape global citizens who will go on make large contributions on an international

level, it has to start cultivating Global Students from an early age. These days, it is not only about academics. Children and youth need to know how to face challenges in a climate where change is constant.

Not only do students have to excel in academic studies, they also have to be active in other fields—including social skills—to be able to relate to others who are of different cultures, backgrounds, traditions and values. Through its various extra-curricular programmes and leadership development activities, the curriculum at GIIS emphasises the importance of teaching young people to respond and cope with the changing environment—even if these skills are not necessarily picked up from textbooks. "The quality of the teachers and faculty members are very critical when it comes to making decisions for the future," Mr Temurnikar explains. "A child who is exposed to many cultures will learn much more. We

"Today, the world is flat. We believe in building foundations for our students whose talents and skills will sustain and triumph over the next 30 to 40 years," explains Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman and Co-founder, GSF

are living in a small world—it's a global city. We have to know how to deal with various situations. If we are exposed to the world, we are prepared for that."

In order to shape Global Students to be Global Citizens of the future, GIIS has increased its focus on the 'holistic education' paradigm where the institution provides students with multiple platforms to explore and nurture their innate potential. The Global School Nine Gems™ model is an approach that combines learning with Personality Development/ Speech and Drama; Creativity Development; Sports Excellence; Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development; Fine and Performing Arts, and Foreign Languages; World Outside-Community; Action and Service; Ethics and Discipline; and Clubs and Hobbies.

For a Global Student, one of the most important qualities to have is to be well-rounded. This is a person who has a holistic approach—not just to what he knows but to the way he applies things. It's not just learning about the world through Geography and History, but also learning about the world through its people, customs and conflicts. This is a person who grows up to bring people together, rather than somebody who drives a wedge between people.

One of the Global School Nine Gems is the World Outside-Community outreach programme where students are encouraged to be aware of the challenges faced by the local and international communities. Activities include visits to charitable organisations such as those for senior citizens and the aged sick. Another Nine Gem is the Leadership and Entrepreneurship programme where students are encouraged to come up with innovations and workable business models to transform innovations

into economically viable products or services.

The holistic education approach is implemented to provide students with a solid foundation in growing up to be ready to face challenges in a rapidly changing world.

"We believe in building a foundation for students at the primary stage," says Mr Temurnikar. "Therefore, we are inculcating values and preparing them to face challenges," he concludes.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Being a Global Student has become increasingly important today as we see many multinational companies opening up offices across the world. A Global Student, therefore, should be able to work across cultures and across developmental statures—whether a highly advanced industrial country or an underdeveloped country—and be able to contribute and be a productive member in any society in the world. The nature of how the world functions and how businesses are conducted have shaped the need for people to think globally.

A Global Citizen has to aspire to form sympathetic and intelligent understanding of other cultural

NEW FRIENDSHIPS, NEW PERSPECTIVES

Over a short span of four days, Class 8 students Richa Rajadhyax and Parinaz Bavaadam from the GIIS East Coast campus spent their time building a roller coaster out of straws and masking tape, participating in the Walk for Rice charity event, helping senior citizens clean and paint their homes and running around the Joo Chiat neighbourhood in an Amazing Race. While the objectives of the International Friendship Camp held at the National Community Leadership Institute were to forge new friendships, the students went home with more than new friends. They learnt about the importance of time management, how helping the less fortunate is vital and realised the importance of making friends from various countries and religions.

This friendship camp is only one of many programmes made available to GIIS students to expose them to an international environment as well as hone their leadership skills.

environments in order to succeed in an interconnected world. It is also crucial to form the ability to absorb from others and live in an environment where there are mutual advantages of give and take.

Successful leaders understand the power of globalisation and how it has become vital to reach out to all levels of society. The Chairman Emeritus of Infosys Technologies, Mr N R Murthy, believes that the mindset of Global Citizens can be shaped at a young age, especially when it comes to understanding the power of globalisation. "A Global Student is one who is very comfortable in multiple cultures; who is very comfortable living in different parts of the world; who is very comfortable working in different multicultural teams and is somebody who has aspirations on a global level and benchmarks himself with the global besting in everything he does," Mr Murthy summarises.







Onward, Okinawa!

No longer just a sidekick to Japan's other glitzier cities, here's why Okinawa is primed to be the next big thing

words **NATALIE JOY LEE**

images **OKINAWA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU & NATALIE JOY LEE**

As with diamonds in the rough, Okinawa is much like these gems – on many fronts unpolished, but with due care and mastery unravelled to reveal valuable offerings. Located about two-and-a-half hours away from Tokyo's twin international airports of Narita and Haneda, it currently takes nearly 11 hours to get from Singapore or Malaysia to Okinawa, inclusive of transit time [ours was at Taipei]. Not that we minded – neither did the numerous tourists from Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong and China – which together crossed the six million mark in 2013.

And as a further sign of a rosier future, Singapore Changi Airport and the Okinawa Prefectural Government on 25 March 2014 inked a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the aviation network between the two cities. This would include plans with airline partners to create direct flight paths, from Singapore and other regions. Kickstarting the collaboration are chartered flights, helping to create and further develop the Singapore-Okinawa market – and with good reason too.

Japan's fifth largest island (Okinawa has 160 islands) is on all counts nature, history and modernity on tap: our recent trip there peppered with UNESCO Heritage Sites, cultural practices still dearly cherished, stunning water passages and gardens, and 24-hour shopping frenzies fuelled by a robust economy (Okinawa's airport ranked fourth in cargo transaction volumes in 2010). Sidelined no longer, this is Okinawa unwrapped at its core – an independent country whose original name was 'Ryukyu' until it joined Japan in 1879, its people's strong sense of identity and culture a riveting spirit that has lasted till this day.

NAHA CITY

KOKUSAIDORI (INTERNATIONAL STREET)

One of Naha City's poster faces, take your time along the 1.6km-long street packed with stores and restaurants on both sides. To get oriented, look for Tenbusu where at level one you'll find the Naha City Tourist Information centre. Along the way look for Don Quijote – one of Japan's leading discount chains; a Walmart equivalent of sorts. The brand's only outlet is open 24 hours. Expect a grand assortment of over 60,000 items across electronics, luxury brand retail, beauty and skincare, alcohol, vehicle parts and accessories, outdoor gears, gadgets, costumes and much more. When at Saion Square, be sure to turn in to popular shopping complex, Cargoes (also directly connected to Makishi Station).

The mornings offer a different sight at Makishi Public Market, also known as the locals' kitchen. Walk south from the Mutsumi Bridge intersection and find yourself immersed amongst fresh seafood and local produce, where you can pick your purchase and head upstairs to the restaurants where chefs will whip up a delicious meal in a jiffy. Sundays are car-free days from noon till six in the evening, stretching 1.3km between the Kumoji intersection and Makishi station, perfect for grabbing special deals and catching street performances while having a picnic on one of the tables set up specially for this weekly event.

Getting there: Kencho-mae, Makishi or Asato Monorail Station



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Tsuboya Yachimun Pottery Street
Today's agenda involves creativity as we arrive at Tsuboya Yachimun Street, walking on cobbled limestone grounds that have survived 500 years including WWII, the houses and shops still retaining its charms of yesteryears. Locating a handsome brick house within the inner sections, we've come to Ikutouen – a pottery house that has lasted six generations, staff ready to pass the tradition on to one and all. A few options are available: ¥3,000 for a basic bowl, plate, or incense stick holder across various levels of difficulties and time frames; or ¥4,000 if you choose to have staff inscribe intricate carvings on your creation.

A group quickly chooses to craft an incense stick holder in the form of a shisa (lion). In Okinawan culture, the animal is revered and often found at the entrance of homes and shops, the one with mouth opened is the male lion and is also synonymous with luck, while the female has her mouth closed and protects the family from disasters. Choosing a simple bowl, a local potter gets my machine ready and guides me through the surprisingly difficult process. The slightest jerk could twist the malleable clay out of form, where equal parts meekness and strength had to be exercised by instinct over the 30 minutes needed. Requiring double the time, the shisa group had already completed the lion's body and proceeding to attach the head on. Although it was clear everyone were amateurs with all the misjudged kneads and wrong detailing – but the clearly guided process was still immense fun

nonetheless, peppered with frequent bouts of laughter.

All works require a month of processing and drying, where a basic shipping fee will get the final product to almost anywhere worldwide. If that's too much work, simply head to its commercial store Guma Guwa down the main street. Neat rows of glazed pots, crockery and knick-knacks line up for your attention, intricate details and quality assured. Address: 1-22-33 Tsuboya, Naha City, Okinawa, Japan. Open 9am to 630pm, classes till 4pm (www.ikutouen.com; +819-8863-8611).

Getting there: Himeyuri-bashi bus stop / Makishi Monorail Station (10-minutes walk)

1. A bustling day at Kokusaidori, Okinawa's most famous shopping street

2. Pottery making at Ikutouen, located at Tsuboya Yachimun street

3. Ikutouen's retail shop selling delicately printed and handmade crockery



2

Sunset Cruising

A good crowd had already settled onto the cruise christened 'Moby Dick' by 430pm, and as the ship got ready to sail off, the dinner buffet (from ¥4,200) was all ready for tucking in as well. Really a comfortable setting just for relaxation and informal get-togethers, the mostly local crowd reacted receptively to the live music performance, tapping their feet politely to the beats of popular English oldies, and even enthusiastically singing along when Okinawan folk music came on. Food was served in a typical Western style, though the highlight was on the upper deck, where couples had sidled up and taken private corners, capturing images of sunset and planes darting across the blue sky on their way to the Naha domestic and international airports (+819-8866-0489).

MANGA SOUKO NAHA

Just one floor is enough to keep your senses on high alert, this 24-hour second-hand shop crammed from wall to rack to floor of every imaginable item you can think of – whether it's games, guitars, toys, books, home appliances, fashion garbs, accessories, bags, shoes, manga, or even fishing equipments!

Sorted according to category then brands via alphabetical order, a quick glance at the tag will tell of its price as well as quality (i.e 8/10). Ladies might particularly enjoy the luxury brands corner – an entire section filled with watches, preloved Chanel, Prada and Gucci bags where we spotted a vintage YSL bag going for ¥6,500, and also an accessories cabinet housing the likes of Tiffany & Co. Take time at the clothing racks too, where a Zara top could start from ¥2,000, and the patient duly rewarded – we got a Burberry blue label knitted top in mint condition at just ¥1,100.

Toys dating back to the 1960s are common, tables are set for comic reading and gaming areas too, CDs of all genres and artistes you can think of, vintage guitars, gorgeous Japanese crockery sets going at ¥300. And because the items change daily thanks to Japan's fast-paced consumerism scene, it's not uncommon to head back once every few days with Yen in hand, though credit cards are also accepted. Address: Naha City Takara 3-1-12, Okinawa (www.mangasouko-naha.jp/e; +819-8891-8181).

Getting there: Akamine Monorail Station, three-minute walk to destination

SAN-A NAHA MAIN PLACE

Omoromachi is downtown Naha's shopping and entertainment hub, and when there it's impossible to miss this huge shopping mall located right next to T Galleria Okinawa – also since crowds start streaming in from 9am till midnight daily. A staple meeting place for locals since 2002, Naha Main Place



houses over 100 stores over two storeys, where anchor tenants Comme Ca lsm and the Super Suits Store are on level one, as is Starbucks for you to grab a coffee to last the spree. Parents may pop by the second floor's Namco Land kids zone, fitted with amusement rides, video gaming and music pod facilities to entertain the kids while you shop. European labels blend with specialty labels including Infine, Wing, Molsok, Missel and Tender Kids, and of course a 100 Yen Plaza to complete the experience.

Getting there: Omoromachi Monorail Station



T GALLERIA OKINAWA BY DFS

There's no need to wait till your flight home before getting shopping done at duty-free prices, since T Galleria Okinawa is Japan's only duty-free store that's located outside the airport. The massive downtown duty-free area makes it easy for tourists – simply flash your passport and return flight details at the entrance counters, where a tagged card will ensure your purchases are ready for collection at the airport when you depart.

First stop will be the beauty and fragrances floor, laden with international brands including Paul & Joe (no longer found in Singapore),

as well as Japanese favourites RMK, Anna Sui and Shu Uemura which are more attractively priced here. Further in on level one begins the fashion stores – Ralph Lauren, Chloe, Kate Spade, Tory Burch, Marc by Marc Jacobs and more. A small café in the middle serves as a great resting point, otherwise Pine Tree Bless on the third floor catering American and Italian main fares will be able to satisfy hungrier tummies. Address: 4-1 Omoromachi, Naha City, Okinawa, Japan (www.dfs.com/en/tgalleria-okinawa; +811-2078-2460).

Getting there: Omoromachi Monorail Station

WHAT TO EAT

Located directly across Rihga Royal Gran Okinawa and walking distance from Asahibashi Monorail Station, Akatonbo is a small establishment serving up all manners of typical Japanese fare. However, when the menu is in full Japanese, the way is to always follow as locals do – so we picked Okinawa's signature braised pork belly dish, otherwise known as rafute (rah-foo-teh). Succulent strips of tender meat that melted in our mouth, the pork is typically slow-cooked and simmered in soy sauce, glazed over with brown sugar for a fantastic savoury-sweet union. Address: Higashimachi 11-19, Naha City, Okinawa.



4. Get your hands on past-season items at heavily discounted prices at Manga Souko

5&6. Pick from Manga Souko's diverse range of second-hand items

7. Fulfill retail therapy at Japan's only duty-free store out of the airport

NAHA CITY & CHATAN

SHURI THE OLD CAPITAL

Built in the 14th century, Shuri was the name of the old capital during the time of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Shuri-jō (Shuri Castle) served as the prosperous administrative centre and home to the kings for centuries, till Okinawa became inducted into Japan in 1879. Standing above a hill dominating Naha City and the port, the castle is characterised by richly-coloured decorations especially in the main hall, Seiden – where its design and colour differ significantly from those on mainland Japan. Though fires and the 1945 Battle of Okinawa had destroyed the castle time and again, restorations since 1992 have kept features including the iconic Shureimon Gate alive.

Getting there: 10-minutes from Central Naha City, nearest monorail: Shuri station.

ASHIBINAA OKINAWA OUTLET MALL

Shopaholics will have a field day here sorting through over 100 branded store names, where both female and men's wear are evenly represented. The range starts from mid-end such as Quicksilver, OP, LeSportsac and Billabong, to the higher-end Brooks Brothers, Armani, Marc Jacobs, Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger. Watch brands are represented by Swatch, Follie Follie and G-Shock, most fashion brands also having an offshoot store for their kids and/or baby series. Do note that shops with a 'tax free' sign indicates foreign travellers need to present their passports and spend over ¥10,001 to qualify. While resting



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between meals (Baskin Robbins, Starbucks, Italian Tomato Cafe Jr, A&W), Wi-Fi is available, as are mobile phone charging stations (www.ashibinaa.com).

Getting there: From Naha City, take Route 58 in a southerly direction.

MIHAMA AMERICAN VILLAGE

Built on reclaimed land, the village is a nostalgic spot for international tourists, former military personnel and families, in part due to Okinawa's role after its fall to the Americans in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, also one of the bloodiest battles in WWII. After the war, a large number of U.S. military stayed on in Okinawa, where the city's strategic position was deemed pivotal in sending support to the wars in Korea and Vietnam. Along with the military units came support infrastructures such as families, schools, entertainment options, thus greatly increasing the Americans' presence. Okinawa was returned in Japan in 1972, though the U.S military presence lingered, with their bases intact till now and over 52,000 Americans still living amongst the Okinawans.

The best place to go if you would like to deviate from Japanese fares, the American Village stocks famous fast-food giants A&W hamburgers, Starbucks and Baskin Robins, with a Thai and even Indian food thrown into the international mix. Its theatre features both Western and Japanese films, where many locals head to the Seaside Square for its bowling centre, game arcade, karaoke and stores. Dragon's Palace is another two-storey building filled with stores, but known more for its great variety of arcade games, a section even for kids. Jusco

1. The iconic Shureimon Gate that leads to Shuri Castle

2. The beachside Ashibinaa Okinawa Outlet Mall

3&4. The harrowed corridors of the former navy underground HQ; and its entrance fronted by a memorial monument



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shopping mall is likened to America's Wal-Mart, though you might wish to portion time for Depot Island – a large hub of five buildings hawking American retail brands and Okinawa island style accessories and fashion.

Getting there: Take bus numbers 28,29 or 120 from Naha Bus Terminal and alight at the Gunbyoin-mae stop. Mihama American Village is a five-minute walk away.

FORMER NAVY UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS

A number of monuments and sites remain reminding the city's role in 1945's Battle of Okinawa, such as the Peace Memorial Park and Cornerstone of Peace, the latter a collection of stone plates inscribed with the names of fallen soldiers and civilians. The former Navy HQ is another thought-provoking site, going through several hundred metres of underground passageways and rooms that served as base for the Japanese in war. Many sailors committed suicide here after they realised they were fighting a losing battle towards the end, where the grenades used has left marks on walls till this day. A museum tells the story including a translated message by Vice Admiral Ota (one of the leaders who led the Japanese to war) before he killed himself.

Admission: ¥420

Getting there: Nearest monorail: Onoyama-koen Station.

YOMITAN & ONNA

YOMITAN VILLAGE

We arrived at Yomitan Village near dusk, to boisterous chatter and wafts of sizzling meat on grill, the entire village of about 100 families had sent representatives to gather in the village's main pavilion area to welcome their overseas friends. A 28km drive north from Naha City, Yomitan sits by the East China Sea and is home to some of Okinawa's best beaches such as Cape Zampa and the Maeda flats. Today, the fishermen had risen early and returned triumphant with their fresh catches, including a 30kg tuna that would later be masterfully dissected. For now, the stage was set for a gigantic communal barbecue with tables filled with different food ready for grill, and dinner a simple matter of going round picking the food you wanted. There weren't any fancy chefs – just locals who had come after work still in shirt and tie, or retirees eager to meet their overseas guests. It was a heart-warming sight to see the spattering mix of dialogues exchanged, as Americans, Taiwanese, Indonesians and Singaporeans overcame language barriers in deliberate will. Tucking into superbly marinated fish, seafood and meats, pots of delicious broth, hearty portions of yaki-soba, the atmosphere was further heightened by Okinawan folk dance and song. Although fully-aware through news reports that Okinawa is home to over 900 centenarians – it was another matter to watch these rather elderly folks up in spritely song and dance, the band leader eagerly showing me the ways of playing the three-stringed sanshin – which predates even the Japanese shamisen we typically find.

After the village chief made his speech to resounding cheers, cameras started clicking as the great tuna made its appearance. Like a scene out of Tokyo's Tsukiji Fish Market, we watched – gripped in awe – as with a single cut of his blade the fisherman



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seamlessly removed half the tuna and down to its bones in a remarkable show of skill. To soak further in this spirit of warmth and cheer, Yomitan Village offers homestay options from a short three-hour lunch-cooking session, to a nine-hour full day interaction with a local family. Included activities include farming, traditional handicrafts making, Ryukyu playing, kimono-donning and barbecue nights, plus additional optional marine sports, ceramic art, whale shark snorkelling and more choices. Log on to www.churamura.com to book, or email info@churamura.com (www.vill.yomitan.okinawa.jp.e.iq.hp.transer.com).

Getting there: About 30 minutes drive from Okinawa Expressway: Okinawa Minami I.C.

WHALE WATCHING /FISHING

In between Yomitan and Nago City, the resort coastline of Onna brings in the local holidaymakers eager for their slice of sun and sea, water babies for diving and marine sporting opportunities. Our boat takes us out about 20 minutes into sea before stopping by a quiet spot, the driver slash fisherman coming to the front to guide us on baiting. Sliding shrimps to hooks, the wait is made easy thanks to



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5. Friendly locals at a barbecue cookout slash get-to-know session, a popular event as part of Yomitan village's homestay option

6. Numerous boats come out for fishing trips, whale-sightings and diving sessions along Onna's picturesque coasts

gorgeous weather and peaceful surroundings, the smell of salt on skin a refreshing relief from hectic city life. After more than a few catches, our boat zooms along towards Maeda Point where many speedboats are already parked, heads with snorkels bobbing in the crystal clear waters. A popular dive site, intermediate and advanced divers head towards the 'Blue Cave' – a wall that drops to a depth of 60 metres, revealing a cave illuminated in deep gorgeous blue tones that can only be seen underwater. Back to land; be sure to walk towards an entire area of white tents, housing umi budo, also known as sea grapes – a variety of seaweed that tastes just like the sea. High in minerals and low in calories makes it a popular local snack, also served as a garnish with sashimi or seafood rice bowls.

WHAT TO EAT

After Onna, make a pit stop at Hanagasa restaurant for lunch. Serving Okinawa's famous soba – which is nothing like mainland Japan's brown buckwheat noodles – the fat, yellow and curled wheat flour noodles are wonderfully chewy, bathed in a light yet flavoursome broth and paired with tender pork pieces. Then, head next door to Okashi Goten (+819-8982-3388; www.okashigoten.co.jp).

Dedicated to showcasing Okinawan produce such as purple sweet potatoes (Beni Imo) and muscovado (sugar), this is the best place to pick up snacks and souvenirs for one and all, not forgetting to grab one of their deliciously refreshing sweet potato flavoured ice-cream (¥280).



Navigating the University Application Process

Choosing and applying to a university of choice can be daunting. GISS alumni and university placement officer, **Seema Kaushik**, share some advice

Second-year University of Edinburgh law student **Neelesh Chakraborty** had a hard time deciding what to pursue for his university education. The GISS Queenstown Campus alumnus admits to being completely lost when he had to think about the next step after completing his IB programme.

Fortunately for him, he had help from two GISS teachers who guided him through the process. They conducted counselling sessions with Neelesh and introduced him to the idea of pursuing a law degree.

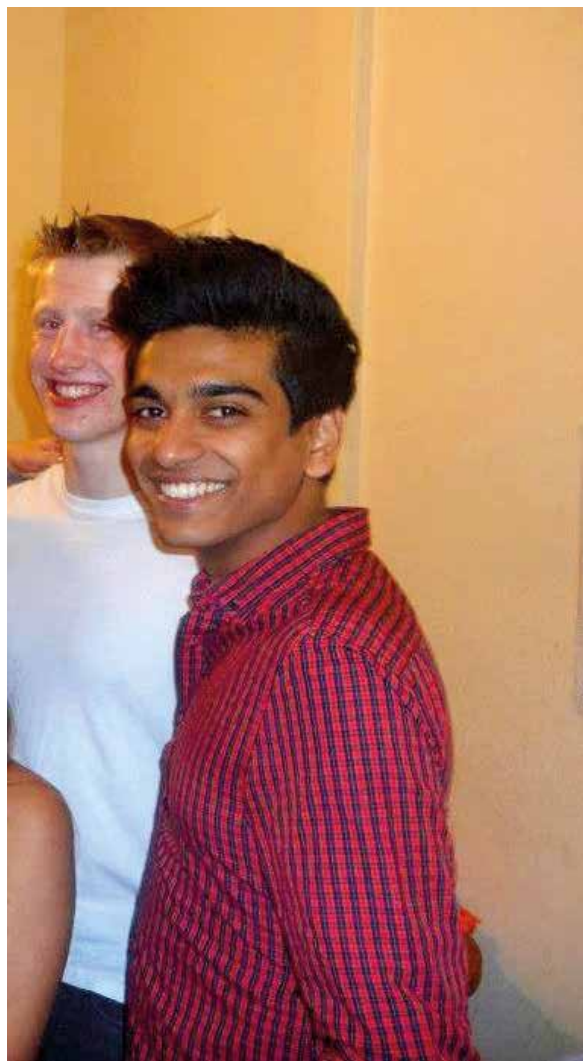
"While I had been entertaining the idea in my head for a while, I did not think I was exactly 'law material'," Neelesh recalls, "Turns out they were right and I was wrong. Law was my calling and after sitting and sieving through the many universities with reputed law programmes in the UK, I opted for the University of Edinburgh. Not only is it currently ranked 11th in the list of top Universities but has a heritage spanning to the 1500's."

As one of their first important life decisions, it is no surprise

that many young adults find choosing the right university a daunting process. Not only will they attain professional qualifications at university, they will also learn valuable skills that will prepare them for adult life. Choosing the right path is therefore paramount.

Applying for university placements can also be a stressful and confusing process. As Neelesh's experience showed, getting help from teachers and counsellors can help tremendously. Staff at GISS are well equipped to help students from Class 10 onwards gain the necessary wisdom to select and apply to their desired institutions. GISS' Career Counsellor, Ms Seema Kaushik, guides students in choosing and applying to universities.

Doing research and planning ahead of time is crucial, according to Kaushik. Prestigious universities such as Ivy League colleges Harvard University, Columbia University and Yale University in the United States receive thousands of applications from top students from all over the world. In



February, Yale announced that it received a record-high of 30,922 applications for the class of 2018.

The same goes for top universities in the United Kingdom, which include Cambridge, Oxford and Imperial College London. It was reported in *The Guardian* that in 2012, a total of 580,000 prospective undergraduates submitted their applications to universities through UCAS, a centralised online application system.

In Singapore, admissions to universities—including top public academies National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Technology and Design—are highly competitive as 70 per cent of placements are allocated to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.

Third year Mechanical Engineering student at the National University of Singapore, **Yashaswi Agrawal** opines “NUS offers the highest ratio of academic reputation by fees. Therefore, I decided to make a financially sound decision and chose NUS. I had applied to several universities in the USA as well, but the application process for NUS was much simpler as compared to universities in USA. There was no essay required (unless you are applying for a scholarship) and the application fee was significantly lesser than that of universities abroad. I was given the option to choose for eight courses; however, I chose only the one that I wanted to pursue – Mechanical Engineering.”

Students should do a bit of soul searching first before deciding on which university to apply to. “Start with what



you want to pursue as a career, and then choose the university that is strong in that particular faculty,” Ms Kaushik advises, “Students can also look at the rankings of each university as well as the student culture at the campuses.” In the United States for example, there are two kinds of universities—state universities and private universities. The former is less expensive but the latter tend to have a more diverse student body with many students coming from all over the world. Tuition fees in the States average at around US\$60,000 (approximately \$76,150) a year, while fees in the United Kingdom for international students are around £38,500 (approximately \$79,690) a year.

It is advisable to apply to at least 10 universities so that there is “a mix of two to three aspirational institutions, a couple more attainable universities and two to three realistic options”.

Parents of students who are entering university can help by speaking to their children but not forcing them into any course. “Show them the options and support your child’s ambition,” Ms Kaushik says, “At the end of the day, the child should make

the decision on his own.”

For GIIS Queenstown alumnus **Taijasi Sharma**, choosing to study Medicine at the University of Dundee in the UK was an obvious one. She explains, “I chose Dundee because it’s a very prestigious medical school. It is ranked amongst world’s top 200 medical universities and it is UK’s top 10. Since it has been my childhood dream to become a doctor, I wanted to go to a university whose degree would be recognised all around the world and based on my experience so far, it has been a great decision to study at Dundee.”

However, she found the application process stressful. Taijasi explains, “From shortlisting universities to getting the perfect scores, it was very overwhelming if not done right. I took help from our school career counsellor and read articles on the Internet about the top universities I wanted to go to and shortlisted five of them, as required by my UCAS application. All my teachers were very supportive as well, writing recommendation letters and helping me edit my personal statement.”



APPLICATION SPECIFICS

Being familiar with university application procedure is helpful when navigating the possibly complex process. Applying to universities in the States is more comprehensive compared to applying to universities in other countries. Students have to list down all the schools they have attended in the past. Scores from the past four years will also be evaluated. The universities will assign an additional essay more tailored to the course on top of the Common App essay. The Common App essay is a personal account where students can describe their interests, aspirations and passions.

Applying to universities in the United Kingdom is simpler.

Applicants submit their forms through an online system called UCAS, which allows each applicant to apply for up to five colleges. In the online form, students are required to submit just one personal statement.

The most straightforward and non-discretionary application process is to universities in Singapore. Prospective students simply have to submit their applications online.

When it comes to assessing students for admissions, universities tend to give equal weightage to academic performance and personal achievements. The latter can be in the form of co-curricular activities, social engagements and community outreach activities. University admissions officers tend to look for each individual's passion and interest in their past activities and personal statements. In the essays what is assessed is how passionate the students are. For example, if a student is interested in applying for Medicine, universities will look for projects or initiatives he has taken on, such as volunteering at hospitals.

Medical undergraduate Tajjasi recalls being intimidated by the interview process. "To please a bunch of people at the first meeting seemed a bit nerve wrecking," she says, "After a few mock interviews over the internet and the few books to help me through the interview, I could pull through. Once the interview started, all my bookish knowledge flew out of the window and I realised all I had to do was be myself."

Prashanti Balaji who is currently pursuing a BE Hons degree in electronics and communication engineering at Bits Pilani Dubai Campus had applied online for all the universities outside of India – NTU, NUS, HKU and Bits Pilani Dubai Campus. She recalls, "I had to submit my board exam scores and other achievements online in the application form. It was a nerve wrecking process because my preference was either NTU or NUS, like everyone else, though I was not sure whether I would make it." Her advice for students is "to follow their heart and pursue only what they want to do and not what their parents want them to do. As far



as the university is concerned it depends on a lot of things, the monetary aspect and the scores. I would suggest that they should definitely apply to NTU, NUS and HKU because they are the best in South East Asia and fairly affordable.”

GUIDING HANDS

GIIS helps students prepare for university application by conducting workshops on application essay writing. In addition, students are asked to attend career-counselling sessions as early as Year 11 where they will be guided on their university and career paths. Parents who are concerned about selecting universities can also meet with teachers and guidance counselors.

Universities will also hold talks at GIIS to highlight what their campuses have to offer students. Those that have held talks include institutions such as SP Jain, NUS, NTU, McGill University and University of British Columbia.

When it comes to admissions, GIIS students are at an advantage because of their pedigree. Universities tend to look at the quality of past students when assessing prospective students. They also consider the brand name of the school and the confidence of the teachers’ predicted grades. For example, at GIIS, teachers are known to predict scores realistically, and the school’s grading system is rigorous.

Another reason why GIIS students are at an advantage in entering prestigious universities is because the school employs results analysis to determine where each student is weak in and thereafter focus on intensive coaching on specific areas.



The school is academically focused to make sure that its student gets a good start in higher education—along the way, it will look at how it can help students using results analysis and suggest mentoring sessions or intensive coaching where needed.

While the school can help in preparing students in applying for the right university, the onus still lies in the applicant in preparing for his or her university placement. For that, GIIS Queenstown Campus alumnus and current Mechanical Engineering undergraduate at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, **Mayank Kumar**, has this to share: “One important suggestion would be to start early. The entire process can be confusing and complicated as the time-span it covers is exactly the time when one is studying for one’s board examinations. One inevitably has to write something about oneself, and present a curriculum vita for

most American and Canadian universities. So, it is better to kick-start the application process a few months ahead.”

“While Academics are important make sure you get involved in other things as well because if you have nothing else to show, your college application may not hold a lot of weight,” reveals Yashaswi. He adds further, “A lot of students today have the misconception that college essays determine if they get admitted into a university or not. While college essays are important, they are not the factors that break or make the deal (unless is one writes a below par college essay of course). Do try to write good college essays, but don’t spend too much time on them. You can always use this time for better things. For example, leadership skills are something that all colleges look for. Make sure that you have them and something to show for them. Remember, high school is a part of your life that will never return. Try to make the most of it!”



VOICES

// p61. PROFILES ON GIIS TEACHERS AROUND ASIA

SINGAPORE

Dr. Anju Sharma teaches Hindi to IB, IGCSE, and CBSE students

Dr Anju Sharma teaches Hindi to IB, IGCSE, and CBSE students at GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore. She believes only education can help us construct a better world and a better future as it inspires and guides young minds to succeed in their life. She would like to teach Sanskrit and moral education at some point and feels that teaching provides a sense of service and helps to make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Dr Sharma also feels that to be a successful teacher one should have command over the subject, a sense of humour, and a fair-minded approach. She is most inspired by her father; he had taught her the importance of discipline, honesty, and commitment in life.



Louella Peres is a kindergarten teacher at the GIIS Balestier Campus, Singapore

What attracted you to become a teacher?

Teaching is a special calling. As the saying goes "Teaching is a vocation, not a job". I love being with children and was inspired by the passionate teaching of many of my teachers.

Apart from what you are teaching at present what other subjects would you like to teach?

I enjoy working with the 4-6 year age group. They never cease to amaze me and it is a joy to watch and be a part of their learning journey.

What aspects about being a teacher interest you the most?

Teaching is rewarding profession in that you are learner along with you students. Even at the kindergarten level, the children make you think with the questions they pose and amaze you with the way their minds work.

What is your most treasured memory as a teacher at GIIS?

The love and adoration I get from my students. Each time I hear "I really, really love my teacher" or "My ma'am is the



best;" An appreciation from a parent "I wish you could be my child's teacher always" all fill my treasure of memories at GIIS.

When the going gets tough, what do you do?

At GIIS, Balestier we have always received guidance and support from our seniors and the team spirit is amazing. I draw my inspiration from my mentors and colleagues and face all situations head-on.

Who inspires you the most in life and why?

My mother-in-law had been a dedicated teacher for 42 years. Her stories of how she keeps meeting former students now successful in different fields have been my inspiration.

Delphine teaches French to Classes 3 to 10 at the GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore

Delphine teaches French to Classes 3 to 10 at the GIIS East Coast Campus. When she was in France she used to teach ancient Greek and Latin. Someday she would like to teach philosophy and drama to senior students who would enjoy the essence and flavour of those subjects. As a teacher, she spends her time learning from students and colleagues and in learning something new from each one of remains young at heart.

Although Delphine's association



with GIIS students and the staff has been for a relatively shorter period she was touched by the event on Teacher's Day when students awarded her with Miss Beautiful Eyes - it made her feel that they have already come to accept her as part of their community. She notes that to be an effective teacher we must use our sense of humour to deal with situations in a professional manner so that we may sail through difficult times. The French teacher is learning to take things one at a time so that she may accomplish tasks and look at things with a better perspective.

Rema Rajiv teaches subjects such as Math, English, and cultural studies to kindergarteners at the GIS East Coast Campus, Singapore



What attracted you to become a teacher?

Ever since I became a mother 16 years ago, I realised that I had a passion for working with young children.

Every evening when I took my daughter to the playground, I interacted with her friends. I loved listening to them and found that when stimulated, their response was amazing and it ignited a spark in me – this coupled with the feedback that my friends gave me about my interactions and the rapport I had with kids convinced me that my career path had to be steered in the direction of Early Childhood Education.

What is your most treasured memory as a teacher at GIS?

Last year I had a brilliant student who had a mental block about eating her snacks and would vomit every single day the moment

she would open her snack box. Her mother also did not want me to push her to finish her food. Being lenient with the child, meant sending across a wrong message to all the other students in the class that it was okay to waste food. I had to request the mother to let me handle the child my way. It was a tough struggle every day for me to get her to finish her food and after 4 persistent months I finally succeeded in getting her to enjoy the variety of food her mother sent. She would proudly show off whatever she brought to school and relish it. I felt I had won the battle.

So dealing with children with eating problems/behaviour problems and being able to convince them in my own way, taking it up as a challenge – seeing a positive change in them within the course of a certain period gives me great satisfaction.

What are some teaching career tips that you would like to share?

Be honest, sincere, organised and have a passion for the job. Working with kindergarteners is no child's play as one tends to expel a lot of energy while

working with little kids. At the same time, it can be immensely satisfying as they take their little steps followed by bigger strides in their learning journey.

If there is one mantra that you could impart to students today, what would it be?

Honesty, hard work, sincerity and dedication to whatever one undertakes always pays off – one may not be able to see immediate results but with perseverance, will get noticed.

Who inspires you the most in life and why?

My mother, who had to endure a lot of hardships having lost my father very early in life – the way she brought up both my brother (a heart patient) and me, taught us how to pull ourselves through difficult times without spelling it out. She didn't do this loud and clear but in her own subtle way, thereby toughening me up before I became a teenager. I can now pull myself through tough times thanks to those difficult days I had to go through early on in life.



Rashida Paghdwala teaches Theory of Knowledge (TOK) to IBDP year 1 and 2, Language and Literature to IGCSE Class 10, and English to CBSE Class 10 and CBSE I Class 9 at GIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore

What aspects about being a teacher interest you the most?

I have a thirst for knowledge. Being a teacher allows me to learn along with students. I always believe students bring fresh ideas and are immensely innovative. The process of give and take of knowledge makes it very interesting for me. Besides,

with students you develop a lifelong relationship. I am very proud to say my ex-students are still in touch with me. It is an amazing journey.

What is your most treasured memory as a teacher at GIS?

I have been teaching for the last seven years and there have been several treasured memories for me. It is difficult to pick one or two. However, if I have to still pick one then it has to be the drama night. About three years ago, we had organized drama night for the first time in the school. It was a new experience for me. From scriptwriting to teaching acting and even deciding on the music, it was a great experience. All thanks to the students who made it so special for me. They cooperated in every aspect and brought ideas on the table. We all worked very hard to put Shakespeare Macbeth and Euripides together successfully.

What are some teaching career tips that you would like to share?

Teachers used to be very methodological in their approach and gave lots of exercises to assess knowledge. I try to do same thing but with interaction. To develop love for the subject among students, I involve them in group activities so that they get chance to discuss their ideas with their peers and work together as a team for the assignments. I also encourage oral presentation to ensure student's confidence takes shape.

When the going gets tough, what do you do?

I never give up. Whenever I face a difficult situation, I priorities my things and take a plunge.

If there is one mantra that you could impart to students today, what would it be?

Students should not fear failures. Also, change the way you see your future and don't blindly follow views of others. It is your life and your quest, go find your answers.

Swagata Chakraborty teaches English and SST to fifth graders at the GISS Balestier Campus, Singapore

Swagata Chakraborty teaches English and SST to fifth graders at the GISS Balestier Campus. She enjoys the unique experiences that come with dealing with every individual child and is a proponent of continuous learning and self-improvement. Her most treasured memory at GISS involves a child who was always nervous and shy in a group but one day finally managed to go on stage with confidence to say thank you to all his teachers. She was deeply involved with his progress and was touched when he told her before he left, "Ma'am, I will miss you."

Swagata notes that it is important to have confidence and to face challenges together as a team when the going gets tough. She encourages people to never stop smiling as smiles will help with the ride over the rough weather. She is most inspired by her late grandmother as the latter was an enlightened lady who possessed modern thinking and was always open to suggestions and challenges. Her grandmother was a firm believer of the quote "There are two gifts you should give your children, one is roots and the other is wings."



INDIA

Sheetal Joshi is an English Teacher in GISS, Ahmedabad Campus, India, and the Class Teacher of Class 4. She has a M.A. B. Ed. and is currently pursuing a M.A. in clinical psychology



What attracted you to become a teacher?

I did my M.A. in journalism and started my career as Junior Feature Editor with Times of India, but I was never satisfied with my job in spite of the glamorous career of media. After my daughter's birth I left my job and dedicated my time to watch my little angel grow. Teaching occurred to me when I was offered a position as a teacher in my daughter's school as a teacher for slow learners. The difficulties these children face in learning attracted me to "BE A TEACHER". Helping these children learn gave me a lot of satisfaction and happiness. Now I believe that there was always an urge in me to be with children and contribute to their learning skills – perhaps this attracted me to become a teacher.

What aspects about being a teacher interest you the most?

1. You contribute in the making

of a successful person.
2. You learn and unlearn various lessons of life from the little wonders you teach.

What is your most treasured memory as a teacher at GISS?

I was overwhelmed with love and affection showered on me on this Teacher's Day by my students who came with poems, essays, and cards for me. It was in fact the most treasured moment for me as a teacher in any school.

Who inspires you the most in life and why?

I once read a quote "When I die and reach heaven, I want to thank God and tell him I was able to use all the talent he bestowed on me in this life." This quote has always inspired me and I still feel that as a teacher I should be the medium where children explore the talents bestowed on them by God. At the same time I also want to come up with best creativity I have for my children.

Sajitha Nair teaches all subjects to kindergarteners at the GISS Noida Campus, India



Sajitha Nair teaches all subjects to kindergarteners at the GISS Noida Campus. One aspect of teaching she really enjoys is when she can make each day a new

beginning, promote learning, and provide timeless guidance to all her students while helping them shape up their dreams. The support, guidance, training interaction with other campuses and freedom to work excites her, and the appreciation received from the principal on Teacher's, along with the positive feedback received from parents, are the most valuable

memories to her as a teacher at GISS.

Sajitha feels that a teacher must possess patience and be able to understand the needs of every child in the classroom and that he or she should consistently come up with innovative ideas to make learning interesting to children. When the going gets tough, rather than give up she tries her best to find a way to solve the problem. She believes that every problem has a solution that can only be achieved if we think at ease and that tough situations give immense learning experiences. Her teacher, parents, family, and students are her greatest sources of inspiration as these are the people who have inspired her to grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually to become a good mother, teacher, and human being.

Rashmi Pawah is currently teaching at the GIIS Noida Campus, India and teaches all subjects to Class K-2 (KG)

What aspects about being a teacher interest you the most?

A teacher never gets old or outdated. He/she is always updated with the frequent changes in the education system or in society. This is the most interesting aspect of teaching.

What are some teaching career tips that you would like to share?

I think GIIS is an open-ended institute that provides lots of opportunities for growth. Everyone should be ready to accept any responsibility so that one can explore his or her strength and weakness and move ahead.

When the going gets tough, what do you do?

"When the going gets tough you should be tougher" is a renowned saying which is truly applicable to me.

If there is one mantra that you could impart to students today, what would it be?

There is no short cut to achieve success in life. Hard work and smartness work together.



Sarika Bhatia teaches all subjects at pre-primary level at the GIIS Indore Campus, India

What attracted you to become a teacher?

Teachers have been given a great gift – the power to change lives, helping individuals realise their full potentials, making a positive difference in their world, and above all putting a smile on a child's face.

What aspects about being a teacher interest you the most?

Making a positive contribution to children's lives, helping them overcome their mental blocks, counselling parents so that they can understand children's issues when they are growing up so that the children do not suffer.

What is your most treasured memory as a teacher at GIIS?

When one of my student's parents came and thanked for helping their child overcome his inability to speak and overcome his fear of coming to school so much so that that he now never wants to miss a class.

What are some teaching career tips that you would like to share?

A teacher should gain the love and trust of students first before delving into teaching. A teacher should be open to different approaches and strategies as each student is different and allow each student the opportunity to shine and express himself. A teacher should have the ability to motivate the students and communicate regularly with parents as to aid the learning of the children.





THAILAND

Mrs Ritsomboon teaches art to Classes 1 to 8 and work education to grades 7 to 9 at the GIIS Bangkok Campus, Thailand

What attracted you to become a teacher?

Personally, I love children and feel very happy all the time when I teach them. My day brightens when I see them and motivates me to work to my best ability for them.

Apart from what you are teaching at present what other subjects would you like to teach?

Apart from teaching I want to study child psychology in order to adapt my teaching methodologies that would further guide me to deal with children who have behavioral problems.

What aspects about being a teacher interest you most?

As a teacher, you see the fruits of your efforts every day and the incredible joy in seeing the difference they make as students and gain new insights.

What are the some teaching career tips that you should like to share?

I personally feel that a teacher should have a command of the content they teach and set high expectations for their students and hold the students to those expectations. But the most important is a teacher needs to lead or follow,

as the situation demands and hold a heart of a "mother".

If there is one mantra that you could impart to students today, what would it be?

The children in today's world fail to express gratitude towards their elders and loved ones. It seems to be missing a lot because of environment and modern world. Through the medium of ART and creativity the mantra I would impart would be of values and gratitude towards one and all.



Sabiha teaches English to Classes 5-8 at the GIIS Surat Campus

It was her passion for teaching the young generation and moulding them to be the best human being that drew her to this vocation. She would like to teach geography at some point as the subject unravels the mysteries of the earth and is happy when she gets to know the students better and reach their level of understanding. Sabiha advocates meditation and healthy activities and is most inspired by Amitabh Bachhan as the actor is not only able to converse in several languages but also inspires the common man with his warm a personality.

Who inspires you the most in life and why?

Although there are many eminent personalities who have inspired me, some of whom are Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Maharani Laxmi Bai, one person I admire the most is Mr Dheerubhai Ambani (Reliance Industries) because of his entrepreneurial skills, tenacity, and strong willpower – all of which helped him achieve objectives and be concerned about his team members and associates.

Gopinath teaches math and various sciences at the GIIS Bangkok Campus, Thailand

Gopinath teaches math and various sciences at the GIIS Thailand Campus. He comes from a family of headmasters, teachers, and scientists and teaching was thus a natural course for him. He would like to teach astronomy and planetarium sciences, and even business administration, and

some point, and especially loves the profession as it gives him the ability to mould the students and the capacity to make the future and realise the dream of millions.

Gopinath believes every effective teacher must have that burning desire to shape students' careers and that the classroom transforms into temple of learning for the devoted teacher. He feels that learning today is much



Cyril conducts Montessori training and is into his second year as a work education instructor to high school students at GISS Bangkok Campus, Thailand

What attracted you to become a teacher?

I never thought that I would become a teacher since my dream was to design and build houses, but I do believe that I was born to be an educator and teaching is my vocation and calling.

What aspects about being a teacher interest you most?

It is not only the sharing of knowledge to the students but seeing them happy each time they are in the class and seeing them grow up into successful individual with their studies inspired me to become an excellent teacher.

What is your most treasured memory as a teacher at GISS?

The annual School Camp and our trip to GISS Singapore are one of my most treasured memories as a GISS teacher. It was not only an educational trip but it was also bonding created between a student and teacher, at the same time we had loads of fun.

When the going gets tough, what do you do?

When the going gets tough...
Go out...get some fresh air and wear a smile...it's contagious.

If there is one mantra that you could impart to students today, what would it be?

Education is a journey! You may fail once, twice or thrice...the best thing is you never stop picking up yourself and start making a step forward.

To be ahead...never stop learning!

Who inspires you the most in life and why?

My mother inspires me the most in life. She is determined and willing to do anything to give the best to all of us, her children. She is a strong woman but loving in nature.



more than school, books and scores and that there is an ability in every student to transform oneself into a complete human being – one who is filled with the passion to succeed and succeed in helping others. His greatest inspiration comes from the young people who have the ability to shape a better world.

JAPAN



Sobia Ahmed is the Department Head for English at the GISS Tokyo Campus, Japan

Sobia Ahmed is the Department Head for English at the GISS Tokyo Campus.

For those of us who choose to enter into the teaching profession, do not expect to get rich. The fact that we help our students to become better individuals is a reward in itself.

I joined GISS Tokyo Campus in September 2010 and my journey so far has been a pleasant one. It is a school where all the teachers, students, parents and the Principal work together as a team and complement each other's efforts. I believe

that they all play a vital role in helping a student reach his/her paramount potential.

GIIS is the kind of school where the teachers strive to provide the students with an environment that is both encouraging and challenging. I am proud to be a part of a school that cares and nurtures the children so that they grow into responsible global citizens. I am proud to be a part of the school that gives significant importance to character education, building relationships and beginning one's day with the intent to improve someone else's.

I invite you all to visit GISS Tokyo's beautiful campus and experience first-hand all our school has to offer.

SPOTLIGHT

// p68. ACADEMIC RESULTS

// p78. SAT EXAMS

// p80. SPORTS STARS



Within the walls of the University of Edinburgh, the sixth-oldest university in the English-speaking community and one of Scotland's ancient universities (credit Wikipedia)

IGCSE Class 10 Results 2014

100% GIIS students secured Distinction or Merit in Class 10 IGCSE Examination

Bringing laurels to the school, students from GIIS Queenstown and East Coast Campuses made their mark in IGCSE Class 10, 2014 exams with excellent academic accomplishments. 100% students from both, GIIS Queenstown and GIIS East Coast Campuses scored Distinction or Merit. The superb results for yet another year running were an outcome of meticulous planning and learning imparted by teachers and students' focus to attain the highest goals.

In his message to students and teachers,

Mr Rajiv Vasudeva, Country Director (Singapore), GIIS conveyed, "Students have displayed exceptional determination to attain success with not only good planning but great execution as well. As someone has said, 'If you make a commitment to get something done, you need to follow through on that commitment.' And our students have done that perfectly with committed support from teachers. The intensive coaching and mock exams conducted by both campuses have contributed to ensure the best for each student."

GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore

Out of the 52 students who appeared for IGCSE in 2014 from GIIS Queenstown Campus, 15% students scored A*(star) in all subjects they appeared in (4 students scored 9 A* in all 9 subjects and 4 students scored 8 A* in all 8 subjects). The top scorers who lead with 9 A*s are Kanteti Sai Alekhya, Amitesh Sivaraman, Megha Joshi and Vibhu Krowidi.

An elated Megha Joshi said, "At GIIS, I was fortunate to have an all-rounded holistic education. With an equal balance of academics and sports, GIIS's practical approach to learning had made all my classes interesting and engaging, ensuring my fullest attention and dedication to my studies and extra activities."

Amitesh Sivaraman shared, "I have been blessed with excellent teachers in school. They have laid a foundation stone for creating a passion to studies. I take this opportunity to thank all my teachers, my family, friends for encouraging me to succeed. It was mainly the holistic learning approach to the IGCSE curriculum at GIIS which spurred me to do the best in the examinations."

GIIS Queenstown Campus: Class 10 IGCSE Results Highlights

- 100% students secured Distinction or Merit
- 83.4% overall A* and A grades scored against 78% in 2013
- 31% students secured 7A* and above
- 100% students secured A and above in Additional Maths (10% increase from 2012-13)
- 100% students secured A and above in Tamil (2012-13 was also 100%)
- 94% students secured A and above in Chemistry (17% increase from 2012-13)
- 91% students secured A and above in Biology (13% increase from 2012-13)
- 91% students secured A and above in Business Studies (10% increase from 2012-13)
- 90% students secured A and above in Physics (8% increase from 2012-13)

“The remarkable achievement of 100% students scoring A in Tamil is the result of their consistent hard work and regular practice. The students have worked with full dedication for solving, analysing and comprehending the Tamil text. I congratulate all of them for their outstanding performance.”*

- Ms L Radhika, Tamil Teacher, GIIS Queenstown Campus.

Top-scoring Academic Performers (Queenstown)



Kanteti Sai Alekhya



Vibhu Krovvidi



Amitesh Jayaraman



Megha Joshi



Vishara Prakash



Pooja Swarup



Mukund Narasimhan



Rasika Kale



Anuraj Rawat



Sundeep Veluchamy

GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore

Leading at the top in GIIS East Coast Campus were Sriniketh Sukumar, Aditi Ganesh, Ariyka Nath and Aarushi Khandelwal - all with 9 A*s.

"Scoring high in the IGCSE exams was a goal set in my mind for almost 2 years," expressed Aarushi Khandelwal, one of GIIS East Coast Campus' four toppers with 9A*s. She elaborated, "Hard work, efficient study methods

and the fantastic guidance of my teachers were what made it possible. Another great contributor to my grades was the close-knit, helpful atmosphere of my school. I found that I never had to work long hours, or even miss sleep for any exam to achieve my goal, because paying attention, being regular in my work and asking questions sufficed."

GIIS East Coast Campus: Class 10 IGCSE Result Highlights

- 100% students secured Distinction or Merit
- 87% students secured ICE distinction (7% increase from 2012-13)
- 12% students secured a perfect 9A*s. (50% increase from 2012-13)
- 29% students secured 7A*s or above
- 100% students secured A* in Tamil (No students opted for Tamil in 2012-13)
- 100% students secured A and above in French (30% increase from 2012-13)
- 96% students secured A and above in Chemistry (6% increase from 2012-13)
- 94% students secured A and above in Mathematics Extended (2% increase from 2012-13)
- 93% students secured A and above in Physics (1% increase from 2012-13)
- 91% students secured A and above in Biology
- 87% students secured A and above in ICT (13% increase from 2012-13)
- 81% students secured A and above in Business Studies (6% increase from 2012-13)

Top-scoring Academic Performers (East Coast)



Aarushi Khandelwal



Sriniketh Sukumar



Aditi Ganesh



Ariyka Nath



Tanya Ramesh

IB Diploma Exams 2014

IB Diploma Class achieves record-breaking results

GIIS students scaled new heights of success in the International Baccalaureate Exam 2014 with 61% students scoring 35 points and above. The phenomenal results achieved by the students were testimony to the hard work and dedication put in by them during two enriching years 2012-2014 for which the school and its teachers applaud them. The class average stands at a high of 36.4 points.

The school achieved groundbreaking results with 82% students receiving grade A in Hindi and 100% students receiving

grade A in Tamil, Mathematics, World Studies and Geography Extended Essay.

Ms Deepa Chandrasekaran, IB DP Coordinator, GIIS Queenstown Campus conveyed, "I am happy that the IB batch of 2014 has produced excellent results - a testimony to the efforts of the students and dedication and commitment of the IB team. The months of planning, streamlining the processes of benchmarking and the focused attention paid to students equipped the students to handle the rigour of the IB DP programme and the exams."

IB is meant to be a very rigorous programme, but in GIIS there is a light hearted atmosphere which encourages students to have a balance between the studies and co-curricular activities.

- Kaustav Das

GIIS IB Diploma Results 2014

- Ranked among IB worldwide toppers Kaustav Das achieved a perfect score of 45/45
- 7 students achieved near-perfect scores of 44/45
- 22 students achieved IB scores of 40 and above

GIIS IB Diploma Results since 2007

- 3 IB worldwide toppers
- 12 students achieved near-perfect scores of 44/45
- 52 students achieved IB scores of 40 and above

GIIS IB Diploma 2014 Results Highlights

- 33% students scored grade points 40 and above
- 61% students scored grade points 35 and above
- School average is 36.4 grade points
- 25% students got A grade in TOK
- 36% students got A grade in EE
- 82% students scored A grade in Hindi EE
- 50% students scored grade point 7 in Business SL
- 65% students scored grade point 7 in Economics SL
- 67% students scored grade point 7 in Tamil SL
- 100% students scored grade point 7 in History SL
- 100% students scored A grade in Tamil EE
- 100% students scored A grade in Mathematics EE
- 100% students scored A grade in Geography EE
- 100% students scored A grade in World Studies EE

IBDP School Toppers 2014



Kaustav Das



Ashwini Sridhar



Varun Rajagopal



Kaustubh Jagtap



Samita Kamath



Aravind Srinivasan



Kanika Gakhar



Anirban Banerjee



Bhumika Lamba



Naman Sharma



Paras Bhatt



Akshay Nayak



Anantya Bhatnagar



Srishti Arora



Tanvi Ambulkar



Pareen Chaudhari



Kuhuk Parashar



Kanaka Kulkarni



Ashish Agarwal



Salonee Phanse



Vibha



Pratik Malshe

NAME

MARKS

Kaustav Das **45/45**

Ashwini Sridhar **44/45**

Varun S Rajagopal **44/45**

Kaustubh Jagtap **44/45**

Samita Kamath **44/45**

Aravind Srinivasan **44/45**

Kanika Gakhar **44/45**

Anirban Banerjee **44/45**

Bhumika Lamba **43/45**

Naman Sharma **43/45**

Paras Bhatt **43/45**

Akshay Nayak **42/45**

Anantya Bhatnagar **42/45**

Srishti Arora **42/45**

Tanvi Ambulkar **42/45**

Pareen Chaudhari **41/45**

Kuhuk Parashar **41/45**

Kanaka Kulkarni **41/45**

Ashish Aggarwal **41/45**

Salonee Phanse **40/45**

Vibpha **40/45**

Pratik Malshe **40/45**

CBSE Class 10 Exams 2014

A showcase of brilliant academic proficiency in CBSE Class 10 2014 results from GIISS students across Singapore, Malaysia and Japan



Results Highlights (GIIS Queenstown Campus)

- 64.44% students scored CGPA 9 and above
- School average stands at 9.1
- 100% pass in CBSE Class 10
- 28.88% students scored perfect score of CGPA 10 (increase of 31.18% over previous year)
- 47.77% students scored CGPA 9.5 and above (increase of 22.2% over previous year)
- 64.44% students scored CGPA 9 and above (increase of 34.73% over previous year)
- 81.1% students scored A2 and above in English
- 78.3% students scored A2 and above in Hindi
- 77.8% students scored A2 and above in French
- 72.2% students scored A2 and above in Science

The Class 10 results announced by Central Board of Secondary Examinations (CBSE) for both, CBSE National and CBSE International exams trained limelight on the excellent academic progress for GIIS students of Queenstown Campus in Singapore and Tokyo Campus in Japan who appeared for CBSE National examinations, and students of East Coast Campus in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur Campus in Malaysia who appeared for the CBSE International (CBSE-i) examinations.

GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore

In the Class 10 CBSE (National) Board exams 2014, GIIS Queenstown Campus achieved an outstanding average School GPA of 9.1; a remarkable feat achieved as an outcome of great efforts put in by students and praiseworthy mentoring by the faculty.

GIIS Queenstown Campus Toppers

NAME	CGPA	NAME	CGPA
Aakash Vijay Pillai	10/10	Nikitha Prasad	10/10
Abhiroop Bansal	10/10	Nithin Balasubramanian	10/10
Ashis Santhosh	10/10	Ramya Srikanth	10/10
Ashmita Bid	10/10	Saksham Kaushik	10/10
Avneet Minhas	10/10	Salunke Somesh	10/10
Eshkeerat Kaur	10/10	Shantanu Bharat Modak	10/10
Gayatri Mathur	10/10	Shaurya Agrawal	10/10
Harsh Mahajan	10/10	Shreya Tripathi	10/10
Jaanvi Lakshmi Gopalakrishnan	10/10	Shubham Vinod Saraf	10/10
Mathangi Krishnan	10/10	Soma Arunachalam	10/10
Mrigank Ketan Shah	10/10	Swapnil Das	10/10
Nelisha Ann Maria	10/10	Varsha Sathish Kumar	10/10
Neha Doraiswamy Iyer	10/10	V Pallavi	10/10

“Our results are a testimony of the dedicated effort put in by our teachers and students, as well as the trust our parents have put in us. The strategy was to ensure that all students appearing for the exams were given enough practice papers and thorough revision besides the psychological support and motivation to excel in the board exams. Time set aside for intensive coaching, year round monitoring of academic performance of students and increasing the focus and momentum at the appropriate time of the year has also been instrumental towards this achievement.”

- Ms Melissa Maria, Principal, GIIS East Coast Campus

GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore

Excellent results from students from GIIS East Coast Campus for the CBSE International (CBSE-i) Class 10 Examination 2014 has raised the academic bar yet again! Nearly 65% students secured a perfect CGPA score of 10, while 89% students scored CGPA of 9 and above. The School Average score stood at an outstanding high of 9.7.

Results Highlights (East Coast Campus)

- 31 students appeared for the board exams of CBSE-i Class 10 in March 2014
- 100% students passed
- Overall School Average is 9.7 CGPA
- 64.3% students scored a perfect score of 10 GPA
- 89.3% students scored a CGPA ≥ 9
- 100% students scored GPA 10 in Mathematics (Elective)
- 100% students scored GPA 10 in French
- 100% students scored GPA ≥ 9 in English
- 100% students scored GPA ≥ 9 in Tamil
- 95% students scored GPA ≥ 9 in Hindi
- 93% students scored GPA ≥ 9 in Mathematics (overall)
- 89% students scored GPA ≥ 9 in Social Science
- 89% students scored GPA ≥ 9 in ICT
- 86% students scored GPA ≥ 9 in Science

GIIS East Coast Campus Toppers

NAME	CGPA	NAME	CGPA
Aditya Bhawalkar	10/10	Ramanathan Padmanabhan	10/10
Anushka Gaikwad	10/10	Ramiah Arunachalam	10/10
Deepali Prasanna	10/10	Raqib Ahmed Khan	10/10
Gautami Langarkande	10/10	Shitole Tejaswi Ankush	10/10
Harini Kanagam	10/10	Shreyash Shitanshu	10/10
Keerthana Kandasamy	10/10	Shwetha Sunderrajan	10/10
Kevin Nathaniel	10/10	Sravya Sridhar	10/10
Prahlad Ramesh	10/10	Surabhi Athalye	10/10
Rajendran Ramesh Babu Gauthama Siddarth	10/10	Vinaya Venkat	10/10

GIIS Kuala Lumpur Campus, Malaysia

A total of 53 students appeared for Class 10 CBSE-i 2014 exams from GIIS Kuala Lumpur Campus, Malaysia, and made the school proud as the School Average stood at an outstanding CGPA of 9.37.

Results Highlights

- 100% PASS RESULT
- School Average is CGPA 9.37
- 47 % [25 out of 53] students have scored CGPA 10
- 73% [39 out of 53] students have scored CGPA 9 and above
- 90.5 % students have scored A2 and above in English
- 66.0% students have scored A2 and above in Second language
- 84.9% students have scored A2 and above in Mathematics
- 79.2% students have scored A2 and above in Science
- 90.5% students have scored A2 and above in Social Science
- 84.9% students have scored A2 and above in ICT

GIIS Kuala Lumpur Campus Toppers



Anirudh Narayanan



Ashwin Nachiappan



Bhavani Ponnurangam



Dalehny Vineisha Deivendran



Dalehny Vineisha Deivendran



Ishita Kedia



Komal Appaso Shendge



Lakshay Arora



Maharaja Mukherjee



Naisthika Kumar



Nalini Moorthy



Nandita Raajkumar



Pallak Srivastava



Pappitha Raja



Pooja Devaraju



Prachi Khajanchi



Raadhesh Kannan



Rakshanda



Shah Kevin Jatin



Shweta Dagade



Siddhant Bhatia



Srivardhini Veera Ragavan



Subiksha Subbiah



Ujjiti Pandey



Vandana Anil

CBSE Class 12 Exams 2014

Performances of students from GISS Queenstown Campus and GISS Kuala Lumpur Campus in the CBSE 12 exams this year reflect the continuing push for excellence across GISS campuses

GIIS Queenstown Campus

Gaining an upper hand over their peers from competing schools in Singapore, GISS Queenstown Campus students achieved exceptional scores, to bring laurels to the school in 2014 CBSE Class 12 exams.

GIIS Queenstown Campus: CBSE Class 12 Result Highlights

- 46% students scored 90% and above
- Lekshmi Madhukumar tops with 97.4%
- School Average stands at 86.1%
- 100% Pass Results
- 76% students scored 80% and above
- 87% students scored 75% and above [Distinction]
- 92% students scored 70% and above
- 81% students scored 90% and above in English
- 71% students scored 90% and above in Mathematics

Highest Scores Subject-wise

- Mathematics: 99
- Chemistry: 99
- Economics: 99
- English: 98
- Physics: 98
- Computer Science: 98
- Biology: 97
- Business Studies: 95
- Accountancy: 95

GIIS Queenstown Campus Toppers (Science stream)



Lekshmi Madhukumar



Raj Singh



Amala Srilatha Natarajan



Sadhana Srinivasan



John Varghese George



Aalap Asurlekar



Vinit Ponshe



Ayush Mishra



Yash Chitale



Anubhav Nayak



Ashar Alam



Pryanga Prabakaran

GIIS Queenstown Campus Toppers (Commerce stream)



Bhavi Doshi



Sanjana Rao



Raoul Pereira

“ The combined enthusiasm and commitment of the teachers, the timely completion of syllabus, working with the pupils not only in groups but also individually, the sense of competition among students to excel have all contributed to the remarkable results. I think over time we have indeed carved a niche for ourselves, least of all among the cluster of educational institutions in the city. It should be our endeavour to keep up this momentum and raise the standards and goals for ourselves as we go along. ”

- Ms Madhu Khanna
GIIS Queenstown Campus Principal

“ The great results are indicative of the hard work put in by our students, and they have taken the scores to a higher level this year. ”

- Ms K P Sheeja,
CBSE Class 11-12 Coordinator for GIIS Queenstown Campus

GIIS Kuala Lumpur Campus, Malaysia



Akshaja Chand

The two students from GIIS Kuala Lumpur campus who appeared in CBSE Class 12 exams put in their best to score well.

- Akshaja Chand secured 92.60%
- 100% Pass Result
- School Average 83.8%

“ A lot of people would like to move mountains, but few of them are willing to practice on small hills. Congratulations on completing this first stage of your future career! The excellent result is the outcome of the arduous work and conscientious effort of our students and teachers. Well done! ”

- Ms Mamta Bhargava,
Principal, GIIS Kuala Lumpur campus,
Malaysia

World's Top 50 universities offer admissions to GIIS graduates in 2014

The choice of a good university becomes a key step towards starting off on a great career path, and year on year, GIIS students have gained offers of admissions to universities in United Kingdom, United States, Singapore, Canada, Hong Kong and India.

After having secured excellent results in both IB Diploma and CBSE Class 12 examinations, GIIS' 2014 graduating batch of students in Singapore have secured admissions into Top 50 leading universities across the world.

GIIS' Placements in Singapore's Top Universities

Thirty two percent (32%) of GIIS' graduating cohort of 2014 have received offers of admissions to Singapore's leading universities, including National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore Management University (SMU).

Focused Approach to Career Counselling

The focused approach for career counselling at GIIS clinches top university placements for the graduating class students each year. They can count upon steadfast support and guidance from the GIIS Career Counselling Cell to make the right choice for their tertiary careers. Informed choices can be best made in consultation with parents and in this endeavour, the guidance from GIIS Career Counsellor plays a key role.

"We endeavour to provide high quality education as well as equip our students with best tools to succeed in the outside world," says Ms Seema Kaushik, Career Counsellor at GIIS. She adds further, "We support our students and parents in identifying suitable higher studies options through a well structured programme in Junior College, for both IB Diploma and CBSE,

which includes one to one counselling, career fairs, information sessions, university visits and SAT workshops."

Presentations by Leading Universities at GIIS

The Career Counselling Cell at GIIS shares an excellent rapport with prestigious universities worldwide and their admissions officers, ensuring regular updates and latest information on university application and admission process.

Additionally, GIIS hosts presentations by universities from Europe, America, Canada, Australia, Singapore, Middle East and India for Junior College students each year. These presentations facilitate informed decision-making for students about their career choices, as well as understand the application and admission process.

Some of the universities GIIS Students secured placements at this year:

United Kingdom

- Imperial College London
- University College London (UCL)
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Imperial College London
- University of Edinburgh

United States

- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- John Hopkins University
- University of Pennsylvania

Singapore

- National University of Singapore
- Nanyang Technological University
- Singapore Management University

Canada

- University of British Columbia
- University of Toronto

India

- NIT, Trichy
- Delhi University
- International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad
- Manipal University

Australia

- University of New South Wales
- University of Melbourne
- Australian National University

Hong Kong

- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



University of California, Berkeley



Rockefeller Building of UCL

GIIS Students Secure Top Scores In SAT Examinations

GIIS students have retained an upper hand in competitive SAT and SAT subject tests, designed to assess the academic readiness of students for university education year on year.

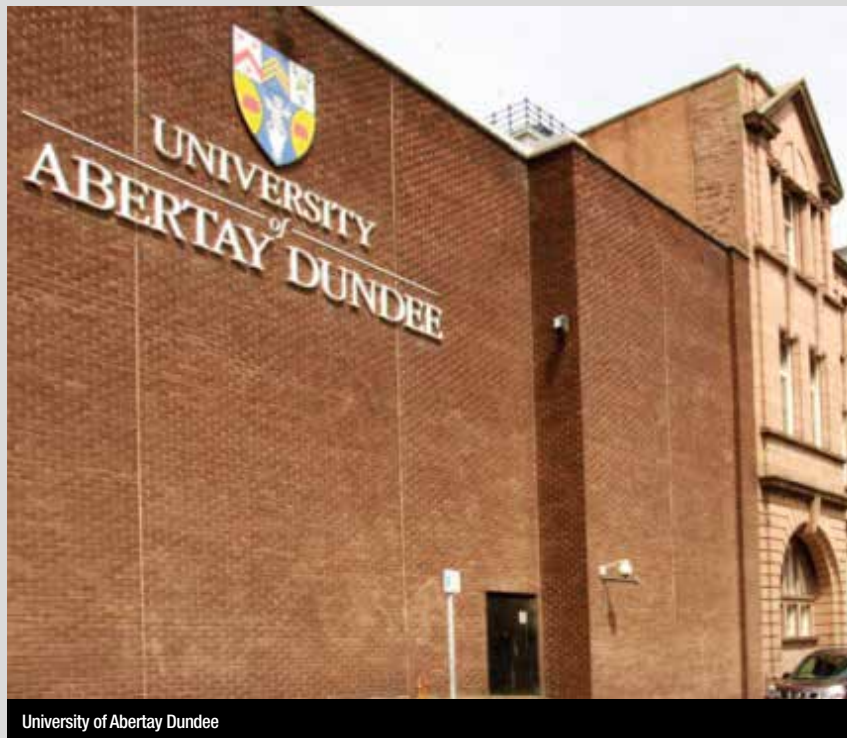
Admissions to universities worldwide entail a competitive application process. Several universities worldwide measure the academic success of an applicant based on SAT scores.

Exam scores of SAT, which stands for Standardised Admission Test, are considered to be an important component of the admission profile. SAT tests the academic skills and knowledge

required for admissions in US-based universities.

SAT 2 is the subject test that demonstrates the students' content strength in a particular subject. Students take SAT subject test to showcase knowledge in subjects of their choice to make their university applications distinct/stand out.

The school provides coaching and mentoring for SAT tests to students and tracks the students' performance closely to prepare them for the exams. In 2013-2014, around 85% GIIS students from CBSE and IB Diploma appeared for SAT tests, while around 55% students appeared for SAT 2.



University of Abertay Dundee

Top Scores In SAT1

NAME	Out of 2400
Samvid Kurlekar	2340
Yash Chitale	2320
Kaustubh Jagtap	2280
Varun Rajgopal	2280
Anantya Bhatnagar	2260
Naman Sharma	2200



Samvid Kurlekar



Yash Chitale



Kaustubh Jagtap



Varun Rajgopal



Anantya Bhatnagar



Naman Sharma

Top Scores In SAT2



University of Edinburgh

NAME	SAT2
Symantak Das	2400
Ayush Mishra	2400
Yash Chitale	2400
Kaustav Das	2400
Kaustubh Jagtap	2400
Ramanujam	2400
Anirbaan Banerjee	2390
Lekshmi Madhukumar	2380
Tushar Hari	1600 out of 1600
Vyom Kelkar	1600 out of 1600
Ashish Aggarwal	1600 out of 1600
Samvid Kurlekar	1600 out of 1600



Symantak Das



Ayush Mishra



Yash Chitale



Kaustav Das



Kaustubh Jagtap



Ramanujam



Anirbaan Banerjee



Lekshmi Madhukumar



Tushar Hari



Vyom Kelkar



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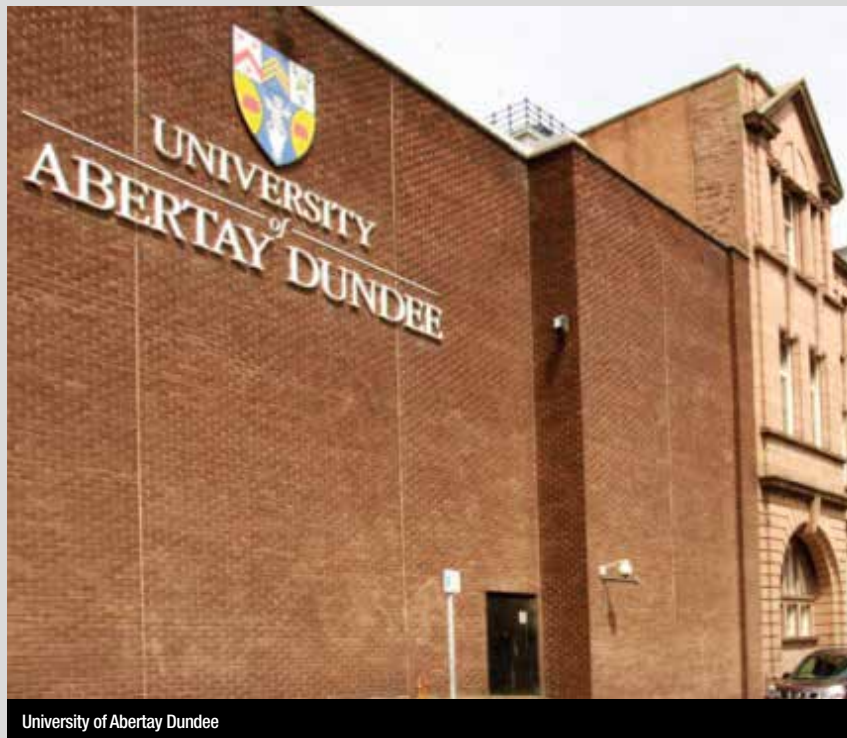
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Samvid Kurlekar



Yash Chitale



Kaustubh Jagtap



Varun Rajgopal



Anantya Bhatnagar



Naman Sharma

Top Scores In SAT2



University of Edinburgh

NAME	SAT2
Symantak Das	2400
Ayush Mishra	2400
Yash Chitale	2400
Kaustav Das	2400
Kaustubh Jagtap	2400
Ramanujam	2400
Anirbaan Banerjee	2390
Lekshmi Madhukumar	2380
Tushar Hari	1600 out of 1600
Vyom Kelkar	1600 out of 1600
Ashish Aggarwal	1600 out of 1600
Samvid Kurlekar	1600 out of 1600



Symantak Das



Ayush Mishra



Yash Chitale



Kaustav Das



Kaustubh Jagtap



Ramanujam



Anirbaan Banerjee



Lekshmi Madhukumar



Tushar Hari



Vyom Kelkar



Ashish Aggarwal



Samvid Kurlekar

SPORTS STARS

Find out more about the training regimens and ambitions of the athletes of the GISS Queenstown, GISS Balestier, and GISS East Coast Campuses

Queenstown Campus, Singapore

Sai Ashish Jana from Class 8IGC has been playing badminton for four years and is a school champion of the sport. He trains up to four times a week and has competed against other international schools and in various local tournaments. A big sports fan who had picked up badminton because of his peers, Ashish also used to represent the school in basketball before he narrowed his focus. He credits Lin Dan and Roger Federer as his greatest inspirational figures and especially admires the latter for never giving up his game. The well-spoken teen has not only become fitter because of his sporting commitments but has also gained enough self-esteem to overcome stage fright.



Ashish trains up for four times a week



Class 8 IGCE black belt holders. L to R: Yash Karmarkar, Pavitra Thyagarajan, Khushi Sinha, Tevya Mathew, Aishwarya Singh, Akshay Sunil Kumar, and Mihika Joshi, with Master Albert Ong (Taekwondo Federation)

Aishwarya Singh from Class 8IGC has been practising taekwondo for four years and earned her black belt in 2012. She trains for three hours every week and is especially good with board breaks. Aside from the Korean martial art Aishwarya plays basketball and has a NASSA gold in swimming. She credits Sachin Tendulkar as her greatest inspiration and says that her commitment to taekwondo has not only given her good defence reflexes but also discipline and confidence.

Pavitra Thyagarajan from Class 8IGC has been practising taekwondo for three years and earned her black belt during her first attempt in 2013. She

trains for three hours every week and is especially good at executing high kicks. The renowned martial artist Aaron Banks inspires her the most, and in now being able to protect herself better Pavitra hopes to be able to teach the combat sport one day so that she may enable others to do the same.

Mihika Joshi from Class 8IGC has been practising taekwondo for three years and earned her black belt in 2013. She trains for three hours every week and is also active in tennis and basketball. Having picked up taekwondo as a child as her mother had felt that she was too sensitive, Mihika now not only has better defence reflexes but also higher self-esteem. She

Aditya Sudarshan from Class 12A has been playing cricket since the age of four and is at present the captain of the under-19 national team. He picked it up as his father watched a lot of the bat-and-ball game on TV and he wants to make the man as happy and proud. Aditya trains up to six times a week during competitions and aside from a

NASSA gold in swimming also has well-rounded exposure to many other sports. He credits his coach Dale Steyn as his biggest inspiration and notes that aside from a boost in fitness and confidence cricket has enhanced his leadership qualities as he has learnt to explore what he can do for his team and how to support members when down.



considers Serena Williams her biggest inspiration and looks forward to both teaching the martial art and competing in tennis one day.

Khushi Sinha has been practising taekwondo for five years and earned her black belt in 2013. She took up the martial art to fulfill her father's wish for her to be proficient in self-defense. Also a member of the school's basketball team, Kushi looks up to her father, a hockey player, and Michael Jordan as her greatest inspirational figures and acknowledges that her involvement in sports has not only made her braver but also a finer team player.



Shivank Bhatnagar from Class 9ACBSE has been playing tennis for four years and is the title winner of a 2012 under-14 India tennis championship. Although he had initially aspired to be a notable table tennis player like his father, the latter had instead encouraged him to pick up tennis. Today, aside from training six times a week in tennis, Shivank swims and plays table tennis for leisure. The captain of the school tennis team credits Roger Federer as his greatest inspiration and says that tennis has provided him with discipline and a focused mind. He hopes to be able to play at the Wimbledon Championships and Grand Slam tournaments with his family watching him play one day.

Nivan Bajaj from Class 9CBSEI has been playing basketball for three years and is the captain of the school team. He has participated in a wide range of trials and tournaments and practises at least two hours daily. An athlete who also jogs three times a week, Nivan was initially coached by his brother but has since moved on to being trained by major names in the sport, one of which is an ex-NBA player. He is most inspired by Rajon Rondo and is looking to join the national team in the near future. Despite having suffered several sprains and fractures as a result of his involvement with sports, the driven teen's passion for sports still blazes and he emphasises that attaining accomplishments would not be so tough as long as the commitment is continuous.



Balestier Campus, Singapore



The young but ambitious sports stars of the GISS Balestier Campus

Annapooraneeswari Palani from Class 6C has been playing badminton for three years and has participated in various interschool matches. She is the title winner of a prominent tournament and at present trains twice a week. Annapooraneeswari credits Saina Nehwal as her greatest inspiration and says that badminton has not only allowed her to make more friends but also made her mind freer.

Arya Bhatia from Class 6B has been playing badminton for five years and has participated in various interschool matches, several of which he walked away from with awards. Aside from training thrice a week the current sports captain has also won medals from tournaments for cricket, tennis, and table tennis. Arya looks up to Sachin Tendulkar and is glad that sports has not only made him fitter but allowed him to make more friends.



Annapooraneeswari looks up to Saina Nehwal



Arya is currently a sports captain

Sruthika Bhargavan from Class 6C is in the athletics team and recently won a bronze award from her participation in an interschool race. She trains once a week and because of her father's influence also plays badminton. Sruthika looks up to P. T. Usha the most and is happy that she has been able to showcase her talent in running.



Sruthika enjoys running and badminton

Prithvi Narayan from Class 5A has been playing cricket for four years and has not only participated in various interschool matches but also earned a bronze medal in 2012. She picked up the sport because of her father's influence and aside from training twice a week is also active in football. Mahendra Singh Dhoni is Prithvi's biggest inspiration and the girl hopes to be able to play for India one day.

Neil Karnik from Class 6C has been playing cricket for three years and has not only participated in various interschool matches but was also part of the team that came in first during an interhouse tournament in 2013. Aside from training twice a week he also plays football and golf, the latter of which he also competes seriously in outside of school. Neil credits Shane Watson as his greatest inspiration and says that cricket has not only made him a better bowler but also a more patient individual. He hopes to be one on the national team one day.



Prithvi and Neil have participated in various interschool cricket matches



Aadit trains in school and at ESPZEN

Aadit Shelh from Class 6A has been playing football for three years and picked it up after being inspired by the 2010 World Cup matches. He has participated in various interschool matches and was part of the team that won gold during the 2014 interhouse competition. Aadit trains both in school and at ESPZEN and has also won several accolades in cricket outside of school. Lionel Messi is the boy's biggest inspiration and he hopes to gain more stamina over time.



Shieladitya is also an award-winning sprinter

Shieladitya Basu from Class 6B has been playing football for four years and trains both in school and at ESPZEN. He has participated in various interschool matches and was part of the team that won gold during the ACSIS competition in 2014. An avid sprinter that also won a silver medal during an interschool race in 2013, Shieladitya credits his father for his interest in sports and enjoys watching EPL matches with him. Lionel Messi and Arjen Robben are his biggest inspirational figures and he especially admires the latter for his speed, dribbling skills, and outstanding sportsmanship. He is glad that football has made him more disciplined and looks forward to playing against older and better players so he may learn from them.

East Coast Campus, Singapore

Arjun Mathur from Class 8B has been playing football since the age of seven and having won several accolades in various large-scale competitions now plays for under-14 and under-16 teams. A sporty all-rounder, he used to sail when he was younger and now also plays cricket. Arjun trains up to four times a week and is most inspired by the confidence and dribbling skills of Lionel Messi.



Aside from football, Arjun also plays cricket

Mohd. Faizaan Shaikh from Class 6A has been in track and field since the age of seven and aside from having won several medals from interschool competitions also earned three gold medals during the 2013 ACSIS under-10 races. He picked up two golds and one silver during the 2014 ACSIS under-14 races and aspires to be like Usain Bolt one day. A football fan, Faizaan is most inspired by stars such as Lionel Messi, David Beckham, and Roberto Carlos.



Faizaan has won several awards



Pranav is most inspired by Novak Djokovic

Pranav Suri from Class 7C has been playing tennis since the age of seven. Although he had initially joined it as a leisure sport, he now plays seriously and has won a few medals from various interschool competitions. He credits Novak Djokovic as his greatest inspiration and makes it a point to wear his lucky charm – a Tsonga shirt – during competitions. Pranav notes that tennis has not only sharpened his concentration but has also enabled him to make decisions more quickly.



The inspiring sports stars of the GIIS East Coast Campus



Atharav first picked up karate at age five

Atharav Shitole from Class 6c has been practising karate since the age of five and in 2013 won gold during the National Karate Championship. Although he had first picked it up because of his sister's influence, Atharav came to develop a passion for the martial art and today trains twice a week. He is most inspired by Dojo Sensei David and is glad to know that karate is not about attack but defence.



Nikhil also has several gold awards in running

Nikhil Kabra from Class 5C has been playing basketball since the age of five and aside from being part of the team that won gold in a 2012 ACSIS match has also earned several

gold medals in track and field. He trains three times a week and looks up to both Michael Jordan and Usain Bolt. Nikhil is thankful for his parents' support and looks forward to becoming a better sportsman.

Pranav Sudarshan from Class 6C has been playing cricket for six years and trains three times a week. He has won awards for several under-11 tournaments and is also active in shot put and ball throw. Pranav credits his elder brother, a student at the Queenstown Campus, as his biggest inspiration but is also a big fan of Virat Kohli.

Hanshul Singhania from Class 10A has been playing cricket since the age of eight and has participated in various interschool and intercountry matches. Mahendra Singh Dhoni is his greatest inspiration and aside from being able to keep fit, Hanshul is glad that the sport has not only helped with his attitude off-field but has also improved his abilities as a team player.



Cricketers Pranav and Hanshul



Badminton has enhanced Parisi's partnership skills

Parisi Shirke from Class 9B has been playing badminton since the age of ten and trains thrice a week. She has won several awards in various interschool tournaments and has also earned medals in short-distance running and relay running. Parisi credits her mother as her biggest inspiration as the latter used to play badminton in her younger years. She is glad that the sport not only maintains her fitness but allows her to value partnership.

Varun Shah from Class 7B has been playing badminton since the age of six and trains five times a week both in and out of school. He has won many awards in various tournaments and looks up to both Lin Dan and Lionel Messi. The sport has not only allowed Varun to keep fit but also cultivate important qualities such as discipline and sportsmanship.



Varun trains both in and out of school

GIIS Kuala Lumpur hosts soccer tournament



GIIS Invitational Soccer Tournament. Winners Team with Mamta Bhargava (Principa) and Bitto Saini (Head of Department)



GIIS Invitational Soccer Tournament
Final Match with JSKL VS KTJ



GIIS Invitational Soccer Tournament GIIS Malaysia Team A
vs ST Johns International School

GIIS Kuala Lumpur (KL), Malaysia, organised the GIIS Invitational (U-15yrs) Soccer Tournament on May 24, 2014. It was a day filled with prodigious sportsmanship as the footballers played with fervour and fortitude. The event was held in the DBKL ground in Brickfields, KL, Malaysia. GIIS organised this tournament for the first time and was a huge success. It helped students in exchange of skills among them.

The tournament title was won by Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar Secondary School (Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia), second position was secured by The Japanese School of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the third position was held by ST John's International

School, KL, Malaysia. From GIIS, KL, event organiser and Head of Physical Education Department (Games & Sports), Bitto Saini, conveyed heartiest congratulations to the winners and sincere thanks to all the teams for their support to make the tournament a success.

The eight prestigious institutions participated in the tournament included Global Indian International School, KL (Team A), Elc International School, Sg Buloh, ST John International School, The Japanese School of Kuala Lumpur, Regent International School, REAL International School, Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar Secondary School and Global Indian International School (Team B).

GIIS Surat Campus students excel in Chess Championship

Winner of Inter-School Chess Championship, Titiksha Roshan receives kudos from Global Indian International School (GIIS), India. Titiksha, is a student of Class 8, GIIS Surat Campus, who won the tournament in the girls' category. The students of GIIS Surat Campus participated in Chess competition held on July 17, 2014 by Swami Narayan School (India).

In the boys' category, Suyash Tiwari student of Class 8, GIIS Surat Campus secured a second place in the tournament. Sports Excellence is one of the important offerings of GIIS across the globe. "Our students have done us proud over and over again by winning many tournaments at state, district and national level. It is heartening to see the Surat team excelling in sports like chess, cricket, skating, martial arts, football, archery and many other sports. Chess is an important game as it not only trains the mind to think strategically but



also disciplines the body and helps in achieving holistic growth, which is the cornerstone of our educational offerings," said Mr Rajeesh Katyal, Country Director, GIIS India.

Around three hundred students from top schools of Surat, namely P P Savani, Bhulka Vihar, Vashishtha, Swami Narayan Mission, Ryan International School, Fountainhead school, Vibrant Academy, Bright English School, Radiant Academy, Tapti Vally, Jivan Bharati and BNB School participated in a competitive game of chess. The age-group specified for participating boys and girls was below 14.

Education Exce

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	Global Performance Excellence Award World Class 2014 <i>GIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore</i>		Global Performance Excellence Award Quest for Excellence 2013 <i>GIS East Coast Campus, Singapore</i>
	Global Performance Excellence Award World Class 2014 <i>GIS Balestier Campus, Singapore</i>		Special Commendation for Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award 2013 <i>Global Indian International School in Singapore</i>
	Global Performance Excellence Award Best in Class 2014 <i>GIS East Coast Campus, Singapore</i>		IMC RB National Quality Award Trophy 2012 <i>GIS Balestier Campus, Singapore</i>
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	IMC RB National Quality Award Performance Excellence 2013 <i>GIS East Coast Campus, Singapore</i>		Singapore Quality Class Star 2012 <i>GIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore</i>
	2nd Global Benchmarking Award 2013 Finalist <i>Global Indian International School in Singapore</i>		Singapore Quality Class Star 2012 <i>GIS Balestier Campus, Singapore</i>
	2nd International Best Practice Competition 2013 Top Four Finalist and Runner-Up <i>Global Indian International School in Singapore</i>		Global Performance Excellence Award World Class 2012 <i>GIS East Coast Campus, Singapore</i>
	Golden Peacock HR Excellence Award 2013 <i>Global Indian International School in Singapore</i>		Global Performance Excellence Award Best in Class 2012 <i>GIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore</i>
	Golden Peacock Eco-Innovation Award 2013 <i>GIS Balestier Campus, Singapore</i>		Global Performance Excellence Award Quest for Excellence 2012 <i>GIS Balestier Campus, Singapore</i>
			IMC RB National Quality Award Performance Excellence Trophy 2011 <i>GIS Balestier Campus, Singapore</i>

Illence Awards



**Global Performance Excellence Award
World Class 2011**

GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore



**Global Performance Excellence Award
Best in Class 2011**

GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore



**Global Performance Excellence Award
Quest for Excellence 2011**

GIIS Balestier Campus, Singapore



IMC RB National Quality Award 2010

GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore



Singapore Quality Class 2011

GIIS Balestier Campus, Singapore



Singapore Quality Class 2011

GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore



Singapore Quality Class Star 2010

GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore



**Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship
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**International Asia Performance
Quality Award Best in Class 2010**

GIIS Kuala Lumpur Campus, Malaysia



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GIIS Kuala Lumpur Campus, Malaysia



**International Asia Performance
Quality Award Best in Class 2009**

GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore



Singapore Quality Class 2008

GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore



**IMC RB National Quality Award
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GIIS East Coast Campus, Singapore



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From top left clockwise: Samita, Kaustav, Varun & Ashwini

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The faculty at GIIS helped me master the art of dedication and perseverance.

Samita Kamat

IBDP 2014 Topper with a near-perfect score of 44/45
GIIS student from 2010-2014
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

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There is so much to do in IB Diploma in the two years and our teachers were always there to guide us even after school in every aspect.

Kaustav Das

IBDP 2014 Topper with a perfect score of 45/45
GIIS student from 2005-2014
College of Engineering, Georgia Tech, USA

I feel what makes GIIS experience unique is firstly, the personal dedication of the teachers and the attachment they share with their students. This alongside the focus on education that GIIS has makes this environment a very competitive one.

Varun Rajgopal

IBDP 2014 Topper with a near-perfect score of 44/45
GIIS student from 2003-2014
Dept of Economics, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

I think what makes IB Diploma programme special at GIIS is the competitive environment which pushes you do better each time and peers who always help you do your level best.

Ashwini Sridhar,

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