Integrity Excellence Empathy

CNIS *Chronicle*

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BRITISH COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD, BRITISH COUNCIL GLOBAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Christ Nagar International School, News Letter Vol. 21 Easter : 2013

The First Indian Parliament Session Revisited

With the unique objective of giving firsthand experience to the students on parliamentary procedures, Christ Nagar International School organized an Interschool Model Parliament Session commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the first session of the Indian Parliament. Students from various schools in and around Trivandrum City participated in the event held on 31 January 2013 at the Old Legislative Assembly Hall, Govt. Secretariat. Shri O Rajagopal, former MP and Union Minister and Adv A Sampath MP were the Chief Guests who did not conceal their pleasure on being invited to witness such an exceptional feat by school students.

The session offered the rare opportunity for students as well as the audience to peep into the annals of the Indian history and also to witness great personalities of yesteryears coming alive in flesh and blood. It was also an opportunity to pay homage to our long lost leaders like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Azad, Dr. Radhakrishnan and many more.

Shri O Rajagopal was all praise for the organizers for enabling the students to have first hand information on parliamentary procedures. He remembered the great leaders of the first Government who contributed immensely towards the successful working of the Parliamentary system. It was an opportunity for him to tread back in time and relive his memories as a parliamentarian.

Adv A Sampath said that he is happy and proud to be a part of the 15th Lok Sabha. The Parliament is the actual voice of the people. He congratulated the school authority for having given the children the golden chance to travel in a 'time machine' and visit a time in the history which is almost unknown to them. The Old Legislative Assembly Hall provided the exact ambience of the first session of the Parliament.

Heera L Bright of Lecole Chempaka who had put on the garb of the legendary Annie Mascrene emerged the Best Speaker of the day, followed by Abin Harris of St. Thomas Central School (Ananthaswami Ayyangar) and Renjitha Rajan of Saraswathi Vidyalaya (S N Sinha). Consolation prizes went to Neha Joe of Christ Nagar International School, Narayan SA of St. Thomas Central School and Gopika HH of St. Thomas Central School.

The effort of four long months became fruitful and the students found the session really inspiring and informative. Getting into the shoes of the great parliamentarians was a once in a lifetime opportunity for them. It is encouraging to see that the aim of the school to sensitize the students to their social responsibilities is in the right direction.

Visit to Koliyoor Nursery School

The CNItes visited the children of Koliyoor Nursery School, Vizhinjam on 22 December and celebrated Christmas with them, cutting a cake and presenting cultural programmes.

They distributed gifts and chocolates and it was rewarding to watch CNItes caressing and cuddling the children of the nursery school. It seemed that the future of the world is safe in their hands.The month of December was set aside by the CNItes to collect toys, books, clothes and other useful items for the children under the Xmas tree of CNIS.

IGCSE & A Level Results

The CNItes have done it again! Christ Nagar International School is proud of its 10th and 12th Graders for having brought home excellent results for the IGCSE and A Level Examinations.

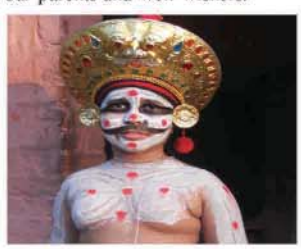
CNItes Nandana Shyam secured an A* in all the eight subjects, followed by Anupama Manilal who got 6 A*s and 2 A's in the IGCSE Examination. Sharon scored all A's in the A Level Examination. Congratulations to all the students on their creditable success!

Gram Darshan

CNIS can proudly say that the charitable deeds of CNIS are channelized in the right direction. It is a never ending process which will be etched in golden letters in the history of CNIS.

We can be rest assured that we have taught our little ones the real meaning of charity. The inmates of the Santa Maria Old Age Home, the little kids of Koliyoor Nursery School and The Cancer Aid Society are just a few hands who tasted the magnanimity of the CNItes. We hope we will be able to reach up for more in the future.

Heartfelt thanks to the support of our parents and well wishers.



Donate Blood and Save Lives

The Class Assembly of Grade II I conducted on 10 January 2013 was an eye-opener even to the adult community of the school as the tiny tots reminded everyone of the significance of the act of blood donation. CNIte Abhav Nair briefed the audience about the importance and safety of Blood Donation through one of the traditional art forms of Kerala – "Chakyar Koothu" wherein the performer narrates incorporating commentary on some current socio-political issues. In his presentation, Abhav verged on the vitality of this life saving act and also urged to keep in mind the need to be safe while getting involved with it. In his hilarious but solemn presentation, he tried to annihilate the fears in everyone's mind regarding blood donation.

Model SAARC Summit

With a view to enhance the awareness of the student community on international affairs, CNIS organised an Interschool Model SAARC Summit on 19 January 2013. The Summit was the replica of the SAARC Summit held in Addu, Maldives, in November 2011, on the theme, 'Building Bridges'. The event was flagged off by the Honourable District Collector, Mr. K N Satish IAS.

The Model SAARC Summit was the first of its kind in Trivandrum city and it proclaimed the need for regional cooperation to fight the issues in the area. Four agreements were signed by the eight member states on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters, Seed Bank, Multilateral Arrangement on Recognition of Conformity Assessment and Implementation of Regional Standards. The summit also took up the issue of environmental degradation and adopted a declaration to implement existing commitments to combat climate change.

Students from prominent schools in Trivandrum, who were selected out of an elocution competition held at Christ Nagar International School in November, were the participant delegates. Sharika of Saraswathi Vidyalaya, who occupied the Chair of the Honourable President of Pakistan, bagged the award for the Best Performer. The Honourable President of Sri Lanka represented by Sridhar Krishna, also from Saraswathi Vidyalaya stood second, tightly followed by Gitanjali Krishnakumar of Arya Central School who represented the President of Maldives, the Chair Person of the Summit.

The event provided a golden opportunity for the students to get involved in global affairs, something which they otherwise overlook. It was part of the humble efforts of the school to bring the students closer to both national and international affairs.

As part of the Model Summit, an inter-school dance competition, selecting traditional dance forms from among the SAARC nations, was also conducted. Lecole Chempaka stood first in the competition, followed by Christ Nagar International School and Lecole Chempaka International School, respectively.

Christmas Celebrated

The joy of giving is what makes the season of Christmas special. Upholding this, the CNItes celebrated a very special Christmas on 21 December. Dr. Alexander Jacob IPS, DGP (Prisons) and Adv K Chandrika, Her Worshipful Mayor of Trivandrum adorned the chairs of the Guests of Honour. The completed activities of Gram Darshan, our charity organ, were remembered and the forthcoming activities were glanced through. The children of Koliyoor Nursery School, Vizhinjam, received the copious love of the CNItes in the form of new clothes and gifts. Dr. Alexander Jacob IPS waxed eloquent on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and said that it should not go waste. Today's world is full of selfishness and conceit, so the new generation should take in the message of Christ and act accordingly so as to make the world a better place.

Adv K Chandrika was all praise for the initiative taken by the school towards creating awareness among the children on managing waste effectively. She said that this is exactly the predicament faced by the citizens of Trivandum nowadays. She inaugurated the distribution of the scavenger fish, Malaysian Vala, to the Kanakanagar Residents' Association, as part of the waste management activities of the school.

The cultural extravaganza that followed proclaimed the purpose of Jesus Christ's birth on earth which was to save mankind from all sins committed due to the infliction of evil. The theme of the triumph of good over evil was presented through the story of a man who was captured by Evil and then rescued by Virtue, only to realize that unity with the son of God is the only way of living one's life, fruitfully.

No Time to Waste

The shooting for the fictional documentary of the school, 'No Time to Waste', culminated on the dazzling hills of Ponmudi on 29 December. It was a day of euphoria for both students and teachers as it marked the successful finale of our year long activities on waste management. Mr. Satheesh Venganoor, the Director of the documentary, gave a sigh of relief and opined that it was at once rewarding and enlightening to work with a group of enthusiastic and disciplined children

Republic Day Celebrated

The little ones of Grade I G took the audience back through the annals of Indian history and paid tribute to the great leaders and soldiers of yesteryears whose toil brought freedom to India. The class assembly on 23 January was a true reminder to everyone about the day India became a Republic after freeing herself from the clutches of colonialism.

Club Activities

The third term was challenging as far as the activities of the clubs are concerned. All the teachers in charge of the various clubs were enthusiastically involved in designing and carrying out demanding activities for the member students. Needless to say, all those activities have definitely contributed towards our mission of bringing out the best in our students, academically, culturally, socially and professionally. As the names aptly suggest, the Arts Club, the Drama Club, the Leaders' Club, the Writers' Club, the Cookery Club, the Space Club etc., every club has been instrumental and successful to a large extent, in chiseling out the personality of every student thereby making him/her develop, from a holistic perspective.

Star Day

The new members of the Prefects Council were sworn in and the stars for academic proficiency were given away in a solemn ceremony held on 21 January. It was done with a view to acknowledge the high fliers and also to encourage the students to excel in both academic and co-curricular activities in order to be successful in the long journey of life.

Drama at Nishagandhi

The CNIS Drama team, who won the covetous title of the Best Play in the All India Annual Inter School Drama Competition organized by the British Council, staged their play at Nishagandhi Auditorium on 7 February 2013 for the general public, in the Drama Festival.

A Special Visitor

Ms. Anna Bella, a visitor from Italy, gave a talk on Yoga and the Chinese Tai Chi, on 28 January. It provided an extraordinary experience for the students by offering a complete meditative exercise to the body.

CNIS *in the WORLD MAP*

Air Quality Egg Sensor System Installed at CNIS

Christ Nagar International School has yet again made its mark in the international virtual space. The school has been successful in installing the Air Quality Egg sensor system that is designed to allow anyone to collect very high resolution readings of NO2, Humidity, Temperature and CO concentrations outside of their home.

Christ Nagar International is the first insitution in India to attain the unique status. Air Quality Egg is a community-led air quality sensing network that gives people a way to participate in the conversation about air quality. It is composed of a sensing device that measures the air quality in the immediate environment and an on-line community that shares this information in real-time.

This system is unique in that it measures the air quality in the immediate environment and not in a faraway place as is normally done with the existing devices. Thus, it helps to understand the dynamics of local pollution. It is developed by an internet community of designers, technologists, developers, architects, students and artists from the Internet of Things Meet ups in New York and Amsterdam. It is supported by Science Learing Centre, Bristol - UK and British Council. www.airqualityegg.com

Mayor of German City visits CNIS

Goethe-Zentrum, Trivandrum, the German cultural institution is all set to connect the students of CNIS with some of their German counterparts in the town Kaiserslautern in southwest Germany. As a prelude, a delegation led by the Mayor of that city, Klaus Weichel visited CNIS on 1 March 2013. As part of the exchange programme, twenty students and two teachers from each city would stay in the other school for a period of two weeks. The expenses will be borne by Bosch Foundation through Goethe-Zentrum and Max-Mueller Bhavan in New Delhi.

Class Magazines

Sensitizing the children to their social and moral responsibilities is one of the missions undertaken at CNIS. With this view, a competition of class magazines was conducted on the topics, Road Safety, Deforestation, Health & Hygiene, Child Labour, Fighting Disabilities, Chemicals that Affect Normal Life, Deterioration of Family Ties, Sexual Assault against Women, The Role of the Social Networking Sites and Media in Social Issues and Life behind Bars: Crimes and Juvenile Delinquency.

The students, under the guidance and leadership of energetic and talented teachers, donned the garb of editors and came out with stunning and very informative manuscript magazines.

The treatment meted out to the topics given was exemplary and professional. The titles and the articles that analyzed the social issues to their utmost depths, showed a mark of variety and versatility.

The magazines were released by the Academic Coordinator, Mr. Thomas Mani, in a special Assembly held on 17 January. The overall title of the Best Magazine was bagged by 'Redemption' published by the Grade 11 students, Aswin S John being the Chief Editor.

Cambridge ESOL Workshop

Four of our teachers in English, Ms. Gleena Johny, Ms. Lekshmy Rajan, Ms. Sabitha PR and Ms. Roshni Raj, attended the two days skills workshop organized by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations on 8 & 9 February at Hotel Residency Towers.

The workshop focused on the Cambridge English tests and also the teaching of YLE, KET & PET for schools. The workshop was an extremely invigorating experience and it helped the teachers equip themselves with the latest trends in English teaching as well.

Managing Waste: the CNIS Way

Christ Nagar International School has taken up a unique year-long activity of creating awareness among the students on the waste disposal problem that happens to be a perennial issue in our city. The practice of segregating the waste in the school which was flagged off in the II Term is still continuting.

The school has decided to distribute the unique breed of scavenger fish, Malaysian Vala, to the households in the Kanakanagar Residents' Association as a humble step towards finding a solution to the fuming issue of waste disposal in the city. Her Worshipful Mayor, Adv K Chandrika inaugurated the programme on 21 December during the Christmas Celebrations of the school.

Most of the CNItes are of the opinion that after getting involved in the waste management project of the school, they could realize the dimension to which the problem of waste disposal in the city has grown. CNIS hopes that the students would be able to continue with the legacy their school has given them.

Adolescent Education: an Out-reach Programme of CNIS

'Adolescent Health and Life Skills Training' is the title given to the unique programme that reaches out to the high school students in and around Thiruvananthapuram city.

This is a pioneer step undertaken by CNIS in collaboration with **Centre for Adult Continuing Education and Extension (CACEE)**, University of Kerala. The first session of the series of workshops successfully concluded on 6 December 2012, the participants being the students of Nirmala Bhavan School.

The second session was attended by Mannam Memorial Residential Higher Secondary School, Karamana. A total of 72 students attended the sessions from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm on 15 January, 2013.

The first session of the day was on Life skills conducted by Dr. Rajeshwari K. (Reader in M.Ed, Govt. College of Teacher Education) and the second session about issues and phases of Adolescent Development, was made fruitful by Dr. Arun, (Asst. Professor in Psychiatry, Medical College).

The students were trained to develop their abilities to cope with stress, improve communication skills, assertiveness and peer- refusal skills. This awareness workshop was found to be beneficial and educative for the present generation to lead a successful life.

The success of this unique venture has prompted us to extend the programme to the underprivileged high school students of the various Government schools in and around Thiruvananthapuram city. Undoubtedly, this exactly is our humble objective.

Individual Feats

Agnivesh Jyothiraditya of Grade 4 secured the first rank at the National Science Talent Search Examination (NSTSE). He has also got the 29th rank at the State level English Olympiad.

Ritin Mohan of Grade 8 participated in the competition, 'SPARK: Catch Them Young', organized by Infosys Technologies, Trivandrum. He has got the unique opportunity to do a project at Infosys during the summer holidays.

Adithya Neelamana of Grade 3 bagged the first position at the State level English Olympiad and the 34th rank in the International level. He has also been qualified for the second level of the National Science Olympiad and the International Mathematics Olympiad.

Arjun Manivannan of Grade 3 secured the 6th, Maushmi of Grade 5 the 15th and Raiza of Grade 2 the 29th positions respectively at the State level English Olympiad.

The CNIS Drama team gets recognized again

The CNIS Drama team who bagged the Best Play title at the Annual Inter School Drama Festival organized by the British Council is staging their play a second time for the public audience, as part of the bimonthly programme of 'Theatron Today' at Hassam Marakkar Hall, Trivandrum on 1 May 2013.

Seminar on 'Crimes against Women'

Christ Nagar International School and Sankamitra Fine Arts Society collectively organized a seminar on crimes against women on 25 January 2013 in the school Seminar Hall. It was inaugurated by Dr. Lissy Jose, Member, Kerala Women's Commission. She said that the factors that instigate the younger generation to enter into crimes should be reduced and that women should be socially empowered. They need to be given equal representation in all work places.

"We cannot have a police force exclusively for women, but the general policing machinery should be strengthened in order to fight crimes against women," Sri Jacob Punnoose IPS, Retd DGP, strongly opined as he was presenting his paper on 'Efficient and Effective Policing'.

Delivering the key note address, Sri C Divakaran MLA, stressed the need to bring about legislative amendments as the first step to check crimes against women.

Sri TP Sreenivasan IFS (Retd), Vice Chairman and Executive Head of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, voiced the disillusionment suffered by the Western world which used to look upon India with reverence as a country of unmatched cultural heritage and practices.

Dr MG Sashibhooshan discussed the cultural contradiction that India is facing today. He asked how has a culturally rich country like India plunged into such a pathetic condition. He put forward two suggestions so as to make policing efficient and effective thereby enforcing a drastic cut in the number of crimes.

In a hilarious presentation, Sri Justin Padamadan, Clinical Psychologist, discussed the psychological and social impact of sexual violence. He put forth a series of steps to be implemented on a war footing to minimize this impact. The society should treat rape victims with a little more sympathy and concern. The first and foremost thing is that there should be an open communication between the children and parents so that when something untoward happens, the children can disclose it at least to their parents who should resort to the next step at once.

The seminar provided a befitting stage for eminent personalities playing different roles in the society to come together and discuss a very pertinent issue that has recently rocked the entire Indian society. Sri V Santharam IPS (Retd), the Founder of Sankamitra Fine Arts Society presided over the function which was felicitated by Sri B Rajan of Maharaja Studio. Rev Fr Josey Kollammalil, Principal, Christ Nagar International School, officially welcomed the gathering and Dr P Anitha Damayanthi proposed the vote of thanks. Sri P Cyriac Mathew, Retd Principal, University College, was the moderator.

Annual Day

Christ Nagar International School celebrated its Annual Day on 23 February 2013. Dr. David Fincham, Professor, St. Mary's University, UK, inaugurated the function. Women empowerment, a topic with a lot of contemporary significance, was the theme chosen for the Annual Day. The colourful cultural programme that followed the formal function provided food for thought for a flabbergasted audience.

Ten great women personalities of all times, ranging from the legendary Joan of Arc to the present day prodigy, Malala Yousafsai of Pakistan came alive in front of their eyes and proclaimed that it is the woman herself who should fight and regain her individuality.

The Flag Folding Ceremony was also carried out along with the Annual Day Celebrations that marked the official close of the activities of the school for the academic year.

Ethnic Day and Social Day

Ethnic Day and Social Day were celebrated on 8 March. The students were allowed to wear the traditional dress of any country or state. The Social Day was a unique one as the food brought by the students was shared by the entire school.

The inmates of the Santa Matia Old Age Home, one of the recipients of our year long charity work, were also invited to partake in the celebrations.

Connecting Classrooms Enriching Education Professional Workshop

British Council and Christ Nagar International School, Trivandrum, are collaboratively organizing a workshop titled, 'Enriching Education' for teachers from 15 to 19 March 2013, at Mariarani Centre, Sreekaryam, Trivandrum. The workshop is meant to strengthen the beliefs of incorporating international dimension and global education in school curriculum. As part of taking the activity to the classroom, the students of Christ Nagar International School will get a chance to partake in the workshop on 19 March.

A note of gratitude

As rightly said by Mr. Gopakumar and Mr. Victor, the President and the Secretary of the Kanakanagar Residents' Association respectively, no school except CNIS in Trivandrum, has taken the initiative to couple with the Residents' Association of its locality and plan activities which would be beneficial for the student community as well as the general public. We planned and implemented various projects and tasted success in all of them, waste management being the foremost. The students and staff of Christ Nagar International School thank the office bearers and members of the Association for their inimitable support and assistance in the activities of the school. We solicit their kind cooperation in our future ventures also.

Prayers for the Fearless Girl of Delhi

The CNites got together on 29 December for a solemn cause, remembering and offering prayers for the girl who was gang raped and killed in Delhi. A special prayer session was arranged in front of the Christ Hall Monastery. The students and teachers offered flowers and songs to the departed soul. CNites Aparna And Nandana spoke in remembrance of the sacrifice of the girl.

German Visitors

We had a delegation of esteemed visitors from Germany on 23 January. It was a day of revelry and pride for the CNites as they got the rare chance of meeting as many as twenty three distinguished personalities together. They belonged to different walks of life and shared their unique and individual experiences with the students. They were deeply touched by the hospitality of the young CNites. The students presented a slice of the Indian culture before the visitors by way of an eye-catching display of their talents in dance and music.

The Germans actively participated in a few of the activities conducted as part of the International School Award projects. They also gave very pertinent talks on some of the topics. Overall, it was a revitalizing experience for both the students and teachers.