

GRADS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Annual Report 2022-2023

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Principal

Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom. If any man were to meditate on that which the Scriptures, sent down from the heaven of God's holy Will, have revealed, he would readily recognize that their purpose is that all men shall be regarded as one soul, so that the seal bearing the words "The Kingdom shall be God's" may be stamped on every heart, and the light of Divine bounty, of grace, and mercy may envelop all mankind.

Baha'i Writings

The session 2022-2023 was an enormously challenging one after two consecutive unpredicted and unprecedented years throughout the world. The sudden lockdown in March 2020, had closed the session without a proper wind-up and farewell. About 50% fees of the previous session could not be realised as many parents prefer to pay fees at the end of the session. Suddenly the school had to be shifted from offline to online mode. Thanks to my diploma course on Online Teaching and Blended Learning from University of New South Wales, Australia way back in 2015 when I could not even dream about its urgency. I immediately trained my teachers on online teaching and collaborative learning. Grads International School was the first school in Gautam Buddha Nagar to shift the whole school online in April 2020 so that children do not miss out the fun of online learning and parents do not panic. Online school was a joyful adventure for both teachers and students. In spite of doing all household chores without domestic help, teachers made videos of songs, dances, dramas, memes for their dear students to make them happy in those gloomy and terrifying days. Teachers constantly kept in touch with parents to understand the student's needs and well-being.

Understanding that many parents had been hard hit in their job sectors and livelihoods were at stake, the management had decided to reduce 25% of monthly fees in 2020-2021. The school management had also decided not to increase fees for consecutive 3 years.

During the first semester, the school had to face a tremendous financial crisis as only 10% of parents had submitted fees. The messiah said, "Be generous in your days of plenty, and be patient in the hour of loss." We surrendered to Him faithfully. Our undeterred teachers and staff members agreed to work with reduced salaries. But in spite of our best efforts, many parents didn't agree to continue studies online in the fear that screen addiction and radiation problems might affect children adversely. There were also gadget crunches in many families which restricted students from attending classes. The school tried to solve this problem as much as possible by stretching school time and spacing classes considering siblings.

As every cloud has a silver lining, so was the COVID affected world. Each and every family re-established itself as the first school in the life of a child. The quantity and quality of family time were redefined. Children could experience the true human value when their parents and neighbours were taking care of each other and showing concern. This pandemic has brought out humanity at its best which otherwise was receding day by day. But undoubtedly, there was a huge learning loss in students during these two years of lockdown. Most of the students returned to the school lost in indecision, indiscipline and unlearned. Our teachers devised their own strategies to bridge the learning gaps in students

with utmost care and compassion.

At Grads, the core values of the school, humanity, service and peace are reflected in its actions and in curriculum planning. Our teachers attended a plethora of workshops and webinars during the whole session from COE, CBSE, Sahodaya School complex, Safal and from good experienced resource persons across the world. I, being the Principal of the school and a CBSE resource person, took sincere efforts to train teachers on implementation of NEP 2020, acquaint parents with NEP 2020 and empower students with learning strategies (Learning how to Learn), POCSO Act and Chuppi Todo Campaign, Sustainable Development Goals, personal safety, personal health and hygiene, taking care of emotions of self and peers and above all establishing peace in the school campus. In this endeavour Grads International School hosted capacity building programmes (CBP) for all neighbouring schools on NEP 2020 by Mrs. Mayuri Dutta, an educationist and National Convenor for Vigyan Vikas Manthan; Art Integration Workshop was conducted under COE Noida by Dr. Ashok Arora of NCERT and Mr. Manoj Tyagi of National School of Drama. The school also hosted SAFAL Master Trainers Program for teachers of Amity International School, Noida and DPS, Dadri.

As a part of the curriculum, we celebrated all Indian festivals with pomp and show and observed the important days and the birth anniversaries of Great Indians with enthusiasm. Under the Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat project of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, students participated in the cultural exchange programme for the North Eastern States of India at Birla Institute of Management and Technology, Greater Noida. Under this Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat project to foster Multilingualism, the school has started Malayalam classes which are conducted by teachers of Kerala Association on every Sunday and we wish to start many more language classes in near future.

Aligned with NEP 2020, the school organised different activities for 10 bagless days - fun day in school, visit to Ice cream factory, visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament Library, visit to Pragati Maidan to participate in Daakroom and Amritprex activities organised by Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, Govt. of India, Gyan Utsav at PUSA Institute, STREE 2020 - National Conference and Expo at JNU, Delhi , on Role of Women in Science Technology, Research and Entrepreneurship Enhancement for Atmanirbhar Bharat, family day at Movie Theatre to watch motivational film and many more.

Grads International students have participated in International online presentation competition on Sustainable Development Goals organised by Global Eduleaders Forum and Univacvest University, Floriano, Brazil where students from 14 countries participated.

Students of Grads International School won the best presenter award and received accolades. Our students also participated in a number of interschool festivals and competitions, viz, MUN at Blue Bell Model School, Gurgaon, Holy Public School Greater Noida, Hillwood Academy, Greater Noida, Noida Education Academy, G. D. Goenka Public School, Greater Noida, G. D. Goenka Public School, Gaya; Father Agnel School, Greater Noida; Gems Literature Festival, Gems International School, Gurugram, City Montessori School, Lucknow to name a few. Everywhere they made their footprints noticed. As regular activities students also participated in Vigyan Vikas Manthan and Spell Bee and fared well. There were a plethora of in-house activities and competitions for students so that each and every student got a chance to participate according to his/ her preference and competency. On the basis of the results of inter-house competitions, **the Overall Champion for the session 2022 - 2023 is the Emerald House.**

Every year in the month of August, Grads International School organises Jashn-e-Azadi, an India Quiz competition on different themes under the Sahodaya NCR East banner. During lockdown, in 2020, the India Quiz festival was shifted to online mode. In 2020, the theme was 'India winning over calamities'. This online programme opened up the competition to distant schools of India and also to Indian Schools all around the world. This year 854 students all around the world participated in the competition. To commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence, this year the theme was 'Struggles and Patriotism that made our Bharat Mata Free'. The festival took place from 13th August to 15th August 2022. The final round took place on Independence Day evening with a cultural show by students. The President of CBSE Sahodaya Gulf Countries and the Principal of Abu Dhabi Indian School, Dr. Malathi Das was the chief guest.

The winners in the Junior Group were -

- Winner - Indian School, Sur, Oman
- First Runner-up - Cambridge School, Noida
- Second Runner-up - Jaypee Public School, Noida

The winners in the Senior Group were -

- Winner - Sunbeam English School, Varanasi
- First Runner-up - Indian School, Al Gubbara, Oman
- Second Runner-up - Indian School, Sur, Oman

The quiz was conducted by Quiz Masters Anindita Bhasin and Nitesh Bhasin.

Last session, a number of important dignitaries chaired as chief guests and were honoured by the school management. We were delighted to have the brave Indian soldier, the Bangladesh Liberation War hero Vir. Chakra Awardee Col. Ashok Kumar Tara and his wife Academician Madam Abha Tara; Major. Md. Ali Shah, the motivational speaker and Bollywood actor; Prof. C. B. Sharma, Ex Chairman NIOS; Dr. Dharamveer Singh, DIOS, Gautam Buddha Nagar; Mrs. Aishwarya Lakshmi, BSA, Gautam Buddha Nagar; Dr. Abhilasha Gautam, Principal, Army Institute of Education; Dr. Veenita Agarwal, Principal, Satyam College of Education; Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Director, Government Institute of Medical Sciences; Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dean, Gautam Buddha University; Dr. A. P. Singh, HOD, Department of Psychology, Gautam Buddha University; Dr. Cheena Chawla, PUSA Scientist and Animal Activist; Father Sebastien, Director KEUS Health Centre; Advocate R. K. Usha, Social Worker; Sister Pramila Judith, Principal, Father Agnel School and other media people and erudites.

The students participated in all the programmes announced for school students by CBSE, Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh, be it Road Safety Prabhat Pheri, Anti Tobacco Campaign, Unity Run and Human Chain on Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's birth anniversary, project Veer Gatha, observing Nutrition Week, Deworming drive, Anti Corruption awareness competitions etc. As a part of the Road Safety drive an oath taking ceremony was organised for all staff members of the transport department of the school. In this endeavour, in collaboration with the Hindu and Indo Gulf Oil, 250 helmets were distributed to students who commute by cycle or by two wheelers.

Grads International School is committed to SDG. It has collaborated with NGO Jaago Bharat to make eco bricks with single use plastics and in vermicomposting projects; with Green Dream Foundation for recycling E-wastes; with Addya Found for helping underprivileged children; with Abha Mission for Social Health and Education for generating awareness and in Joy of Giving/ Daan Utsav and with Saksham Bharati for skill building of underprivileged students. The school has also collaborated with Vikas Vishranti Apna School underprivileged

children for social inclusion, shram daan and in Joy of Giving where uniform, books, notebooks and stationery items are given to Apna School children from time to time. Last season, the school won many awards which included the institutional awards for excellence and personal achievement awards for the Director, the Principal, Vice Principal and teachers. The CBSE Sahodaya Model School Award for Sustainable Development Goals presented by the Secretary CBSE, Shri Anurag Tripathi ji is one of the highest honours. On the National Science Day, the school organised a Sustainable Development Goals Exhibition where 100% students from Nursery to grade XII participated to showcase all 17 SDGs in an amazing way. Judges, Engineer Sh. Nirupam Paul, Scientist and Animal Activist Dr. China Chawla and Entrepreneur and MSME mentor Er. Dolly Bhasin, were overwhelmed by the astounding work of the students and teachers. A blood donation camp was also organised on this occasion.

"Let your acts be a guide unto all mankind, for the professions of most men, be they high or low, differ from their conduct. It is through your deeds that ye can distinguish yourselves from others. Through them the brightness of your light can be shed upon the whole earth. Happy is the man that heedeth My counsel, and keepeth the precepts prescribed by Him Who is the All-Knowing , the All-Wise."

-Baha'i Writings