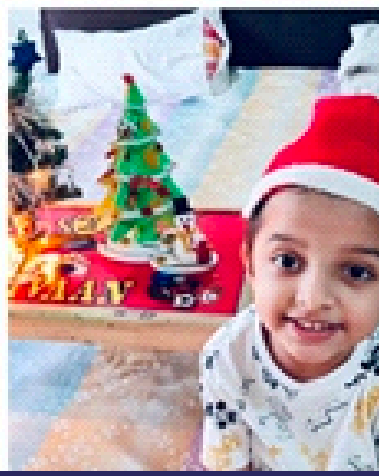
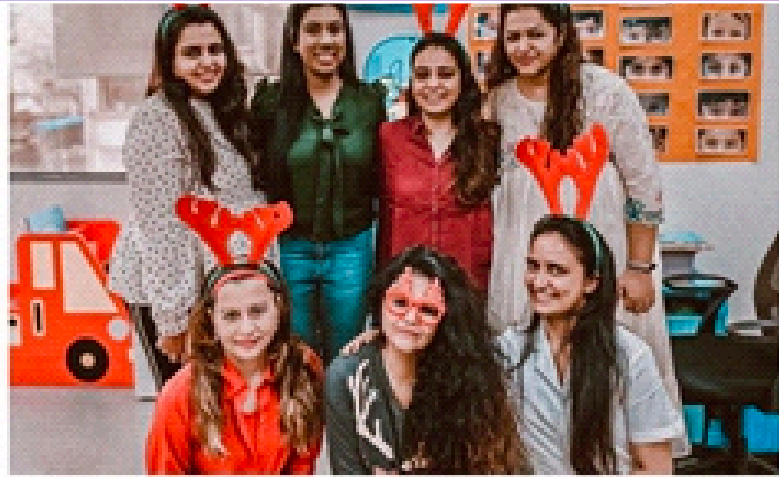


# SURKHIYAN सुरखियां

OREO MOON PHASES  
ACTIVITY IN K2

MAKING ELECTROMAGNETS  
IN GRADE 5

STUDENT'S SPORTING  
ACHIEVEMENTS



PHYSICS FUN  
IN SECONDARY

FROM BENCHES  
TO BOARDROOM

IBDP MOCK EXAM  
STUDENT INTERVIEWS

\* Cover photo is the Early Years Department Christmas celebration





# Developing Fine-Motor Skills in Nursery

**Your child's mastery of fine-motor skills will allow him or her greater independence.**

When combined with increasing hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills also open new doors to exploration, learning, and creative expression. To learn to write or draw, a child's hand must be strong and coordinated enough to hold a pencil steady for a long period; dexterity and coordination must be up to par.

An area of development that is encouraged in Nursery is fine motor skills, or use of the hands. Just as gross motor skills enable your child to perform important everyday tasks, such as getting out of bed and going up and down the stairs, fine motor abilities allow for increasing independence in smaller, but equally significant matters: opening doors, zipping zippers, brushing teeth, washing hands, eating with fork and spoon and so on.

A lot of art and craft activities motivate children to play and experiment in a fun and relaxed environment. With this in mind during the month of December, our little ones of Nursery enjoyed making a snowman



using a bottle. They started by making cotton balls and dropping them into the bottle using a pair of tongs. Another simple cut and paste paper craft activity with the letter H made them think critically about their knowledge of the alphabet. Our young learners were awestruck to see the letter H turn into a gingerbread house, focusing on the process of cutting and sticking by following the instructions. They were happy to see the end product.

Getting the children involved and ready to learn some basic chores gives children a sense of pride, achievement and independence. It is never too early to teach kids the proper way to set the table. They also learnt the basic setting by naming and placing each piece of tableware in the correct spot. This not only increased their vocabulary, but also

provided social tools for interaction when they learned to eat with a fork. Kudos to these little ones of Nursery for the effort they put in this month!

**- Nursery**

## Kids Love Painting!

Painting is a super engaging and creative way to practice early math skills. Using a Christmas tree, the number counting activity we did as a class gave our kids a chance to practice counting as they coloured their own Christmas trees with the help of their pointer finger (index finger).

**- Kindergarten I**



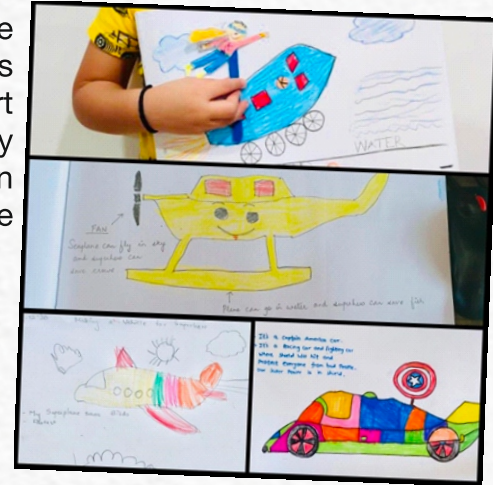


# Making a Vehicle for a Superhero!!

Many superheroes have their very own super vehicles. Some superheroes can't fly and need help getting around to save the day. This is when a super vehicle comes in handy. K1 tutors planned this fun art activity where kids had to design and draw a superhero vehicle. They were told that the vehicle can be drawn with a specific superhero in mind. It could be a flying, driving or sailing vehicle and should be portrayed in the most creative ways they could think of.

This truly was a fun and creative-learning session with K1 students!

- Kindergarten I



# Investigating the Moon and Building Vocabulary in K2

The Moon is fascinating to people of all ages. From songs to folk tales, the Moon has been a part of our life since childhood. Little ones especially love to observe and learn about the beautiful changing ball in the sky.

K2 children were encouraged to notice the changing shape of the Moon over some time. They explored how the Moon's shape or moon phases change over the month with their favourite cream biscuits. Children enjoyed a bit of edible astronomy with the Oreo Moon Phases activity wherein they made the phases of the Moon by removing the cream accordingly and carving out the moon phases. They also got to learn a few interesting facts about the Moon through stories. Their tutors also demonstrated rotation and revolution with the help of a globe and a ball.

To further strengthen the foundations in the developmental progression of reading, children were involved in various activities which are an effective way to develop language and communication skills. They were encouraged to build as many sentences as possible with the list of words mentioned in their vocabulary table. They were also asked to recollect and write at least three to four words from the beginning letters of a word provided to them. Children also had to arrange the words in the proper order to unscramble a given sentence. They were also given a few words which they had to use to write two rhyming words. These language building activities help children to think, recall, and reproduce their previous and stored information which in turn builds up their language structure.



- Kindergarten 2





# Merry Christmas!

Christmas is the festival which inspires the spirit of sharing and caring. Soaking in the spirit of Christmas, students of the GICLM Early Years Department celebrated the festival with enthusiasm on December 22, 2020.

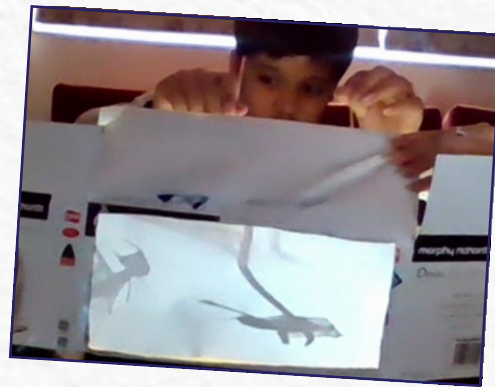
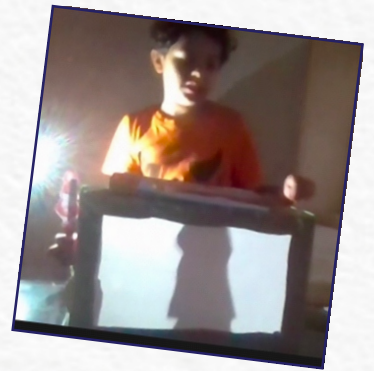
Kids were beautifully dressed in red, white and green (Santa's favourite colours). The students and tutors sang melodious carols and danced beautifully. Students enjoyed creating different Christmas activities, making open sandwiches, and decorating a cake. The significance of the festival was explained to the students through a Christmas story. The boundless joy of celebrating the festival was visible on the faces of all our young learners.





## Fun with Shadows

Shadow puppetry was performed by the students of Grade 4 while learning about light and shadows in Science during the month of December. Through this activity, students were able to explain and model how a light source and an object creates a shadow. Then, through shadow puppetry, they examined how the light travels and how an object's shadow is affected by the intensity and position of the light concerning both the object and the surface on which a shadow is cast. They also learnt that distance changes the size of the shadow. Well done, Grade 4 students!

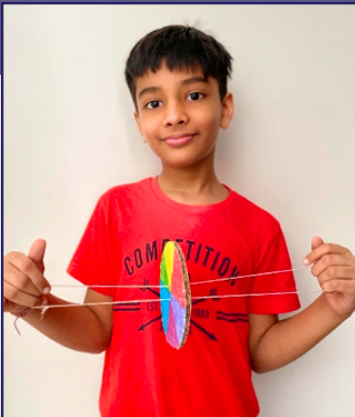


- Grade 4

## The Coloured Disc Activity

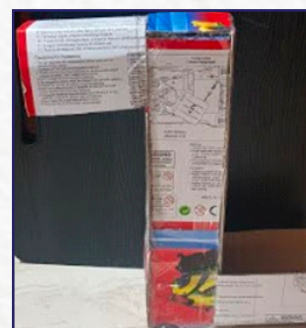
Through this activity, Grade 4 students investigated the splitting and mixing of light. They learnt that the white light could be split up into seven different colours and also that the white light can be made by mixing the seven colours. They also observed that by spinning the disc quickly, the eye sees all the colours together and so the disc appears white.

- Grade 4



## The Coloured Disc Activity

Students of Grade 4 learned the properties of a 'periscope' and how to design one that works. They examined how the carefully placed mirrors in the periscope change the path of light, making it possible to look over walls, around corners, and even behind obstructions. The students understood the reflective properties of light and were able to identify solutions to view objects outside their direct line of sight using the reflective properties of light.



- Grade 4





# Inspiring People Around Us

For the ongoing IPC unit 'Express Yourself', students learnt different ways to express their emotions. One of the activities conducted in Grades 4 and 5 was the 'Mime Activity'. The students made use of movements and gestures to express themselves without using speech. They understood that mime is the art of expressing feelings by attitudes and not a means of expressing words through gestures.

This Mime activity helped gain confidence and awareness of self and others. It also encouraged physical control, simplicity of thought, and movement, and more importantly, it helped stimulate our students' imagination.

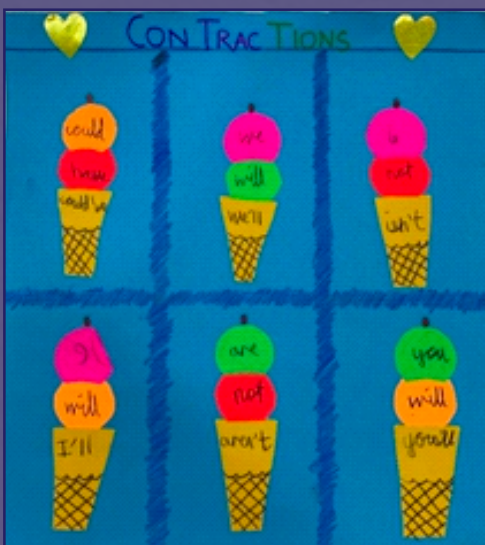
- Grades 4 and 5



# Contracting Our Words

We all know that when kids make art, it promotes creativity. We also know that creativity is extremely important for a child's development. It not only develops their motor skills, but also helps in mastering skills and gaining self-esteem. During the month of December, students from Grade 2 used their creativity to understand that the word contract means to squeeze together. They were assigned the task of displaying different contractions as pieces that would be fused to form the new word. It was a good way to blend language with art to develop their grammar skills. The class enjoyed displaying their work to showcase their understanding with the creation of their charts!

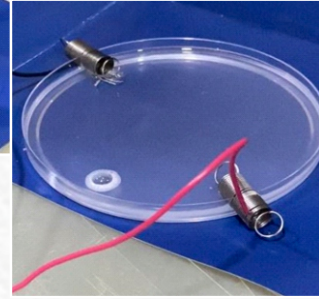
- Grade 2





# Making Electromagnets

Students of Grade 5 were shocked while working with some of the electromagnetic magnets they created during their lessons this month. An electromagnet is a type of magnet in which the magnetic field is produced by an electric current. Electromagnets usually consist of wire wound into a coil. A current through the wire creates a magnetic field which is concentrated in the hole, denoting the centre of the coil. Take a look at some of the experiments our Grade 5 students designed.



- Grade 5

# Chocolate-y Discoveries

Our young investigators from Grade 3 recently set up some experiments to understand the changes in state materials can undergo. With their ongoing science unit 'Solid, Liquid and Gas', as well as their IPC unit 'Chocolate', students conducted a few experiments at home to determine the effects on chocolate. They experimented with different wrappers, sources of heat and cooling, and different types of chocolate. After their investigations, they concluded how materials changed when they are heated, the best materials to use to prevent chocolate from melting, the melting points of different chocolates, and the impact chocolate has on one's health and teeth when consumed regularly. The kids enjoyed conducting and visualising the different states of chocolate with various experiments. Although the results differed, the students were delighted by their chocolate-y discoveries as they saw the chocolate change states!

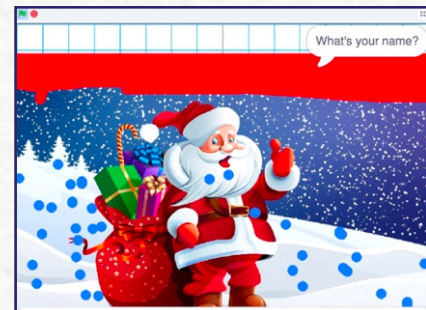
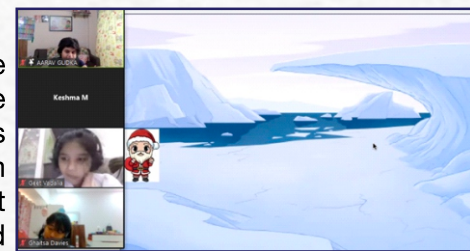


- Grade 3

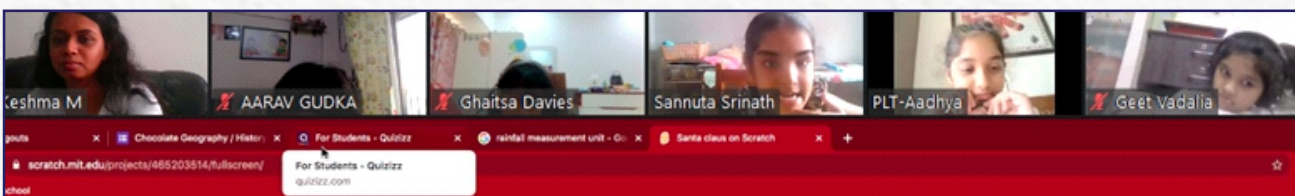
# Scratching Our Way to Christmas

With Christmas around the corner, students from Grade 3 used Scratch to code their very own E-Santas. Scratch is a programming language and an online community where children can program and share interactive media such as stories, games, and animations. Upon learning how to plan and create a program that asks questions on Scratch, students were to create an E-Santa Claus that would prompt users (students) with questions Santa would ask at the mall and determine the presents the user would like to receive. With the festive spirit in mind, students were eager to put their creativity and skills to work with their unique codes. Some decided to add sound effects, while others choose to animate their Santa, or have other characters join in on their stories. The kids were eager to share their creations with their peers and showcase the interesting things they were able to code in such a short amount of time.

As Covid-19 continues, our students continue to develop their technological skills during this period and passionately await to discover the many different things they can learn related to technology! Keep an eye out for these young coders and the programs they shall create in the near future!



- Grade 3





## Christmas in Germany!

HoHoHo! Our favourite time of the year is here and Santa's little helpers of Grade 2 were more than excited! They all dressed up in Christmas colours and were busy discussing the gifts that they wanted from Santa Claus.

In this class, the students learnt about Christmas traditions in Germany. They saw videos where German children celebrated Christmas and learnt about "Adventszeit" and "Nikolaus". They also saw many pictures of the beautiful Christmas markets in Germany. Not only did they learn how to say Merry Christmas in German, but also enjoyed German Christmas songs. They also learnt a new set of vocabulary for Christmas!

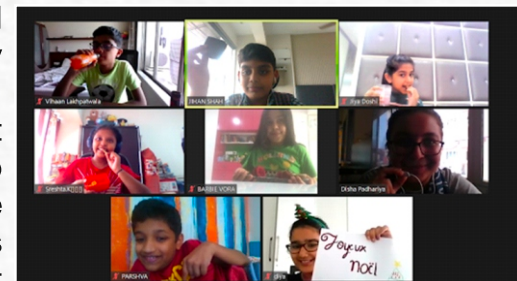
It was a wonderful experience for the students, as they not only expanded their knowledge of the German language, but also learnt about the German culture, customs and traditions.

- Grade 2



## Joyeux Noël!

Grade 5 French students celebrated Christmas online with joy and glee. Everyone was dressed in red, white and green colours. They first watched a video regarding the Christmas celebrations in France. It was an edifying video which highlighted some amazing facts about French Christmas. They also learnt some Christmas vocabulary. To uphold the true spirit of Christmas, each student spoke about one quality that they noticed in one friend in the class. The celebrations ended with a feast. Everyone ate chocolates, chips and had soft drinks. It was a delightful lesson!

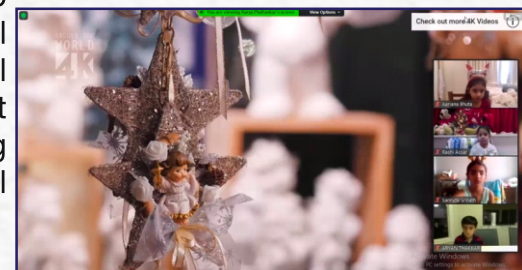


- Grade 5

## We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

Christmas is a time of giving, caring and sharing. To celebrate this spirit of Christmas, all students of Primary grades came together in an online Zoom session. They were dressed in Christmas colours and wore embellished reindeer headbands and other accessories. The session began with a video highlighting Christmas celebrations across Europe followed by another video showing Christmas lights and décor. The videos were edifying and mesmerizing. Another video featuring the story of a family who upholds the virtues of this festival and reunites for celebrations was shown to the students. In the end, all students and tutors were asked to pen down one virtue or value that they would ask as a Christmas gift from Santa. From lending a helping hand at home, to inculcating values of being kind, students shared all kinds of prayers. It was truly a joyful celebration.

- Grade 2



## Fun With Words

For the Christmas celebration during Hindi class in Grades 2, 3 and 4, the students learned about the history behind Christmas. They learnt why and how we celebrate Christmas in India. In the worksheet students later completed, Santa's picture was given and the students had to colour the sheet, stick cotton, and write Santa's body parts and clothes' names in Hindi. They also had to write five sentences on the spirit of Christmas. From this activity, students were able to learn new vocabulary related to this holiday.

- Grades 2, 3 and 4

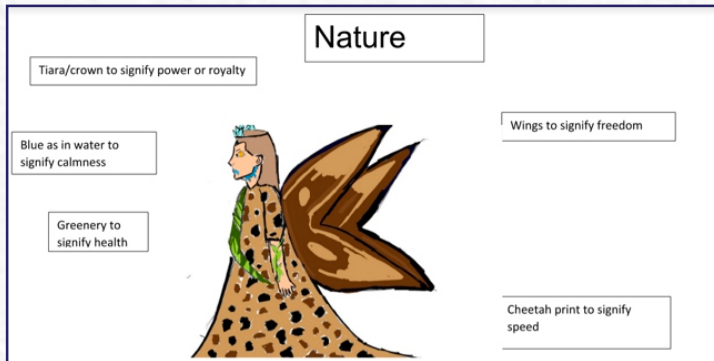




# Character Analyzation and Design

For an English novel study of The Hunger Games, students of Grade 7 were assigned a task in which they had to write a 220-word essay on their favourite character thus far. They also got the chance to be creative and design a costume for a tribute. For the essay, they were required to think about all aspects and traits of the particular character that they chose. This helped to get their minds working and allowed them to recollect everything they read about in the previous chapters.

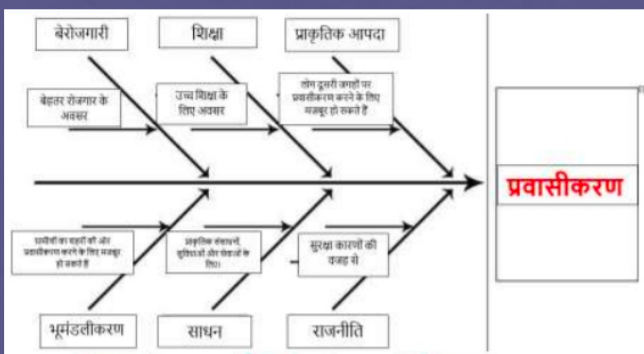
On the other hand, students also designed costumes using online tools or a piece of paper. They had to think about particular district's and themes to make their costumes unforgettable and unique. Here's what one of the students came up with.



Jia Sankhla  
Grade 7

## फिश बोन गतिविधि (Fish Bone Activity)

गतिविधि की शुरुआत में आई बी डी पी 1 और 2 के छात्रों को मुख्य विषय 'अनभु' के अंगुलि उपविषय 'प्रासीकरण' को मनोरंजक िरि के से समझाने के लए फिश बोन गतिविधि (Fish Bone Activity) आयोजित की गई। जजसमें छात्रों ने प्रासीकरण के कारण और प्रभािता राभ एि हातन को बडी ही सरसि के साथ विषय की गहराई को समझा और उसे प्रस्िु फकया। गतिविधि के कारण विषय को समझना छात्रों के लए बहुि ही आसान हो गया। इस प्रकार उन्होंने विषय के सभी पहरओंु को न लसिग राष्ट्रीय बज क अंिराग्रीय स्िर पर जानने और समझने का प्रयास फकया।



## वेन डायग्राम (Venn Diagram)

कां 11 वीं और 12 वीं के छात्रों को मुख्य विषय अनभु के उपविषय को पढ़ाने के दौरान कुछ हटकर और रूचिकर बनाने हेतु हहदीं कां में वेन डायग्राम (Venn Diagram) करवाकर विषय को समझाने का प्रयास ककया गया। इस गततवचि में छात्रों ने दो त्योहारों राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय (हदवारी और किसमस) की जानकारी पढनेऔर ििााा उपरीत मुख्य जानकारी को बबदीं ओुीं में लखकर उनके बिकी समानता को भसू बद्ध ककया। इतना ही नही, एकबत्रत की गई इन जानकारर्यों को कां में प्रस्ततु भ ककया गया। छात्रों नेइस गततवचि का जमकर आनींद उठाया, इस बात का प्रमाण उनकी प्रस्ततुत और ििाााा द्वारा ाात ककया जा सकता है।





# Physics Fun!

Grade 9 students have had a lot of fun this past week making interactive presentations and learning how to present them uniquely. Over the past few years, we have been making a lot of presentations which have helped our understanding of various concepts more effectively through the creation of visual aids. Not only this, but making presentations have skyrocketed our communicative, listening, and speaking skills related to physics. Presentations on various concepts allow us to polish and enhance persuasive skills. On the other hand, we as individuals get a chance to interact with our audience and convey messages. They also keep the audience engaged and interpret the mindset of listeners. For this lesson, our class was divided into five teams and each team had a different concept to cover.

**Jia Suri**  
Grade 9

## “Christmas Star” 2020: The Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn.

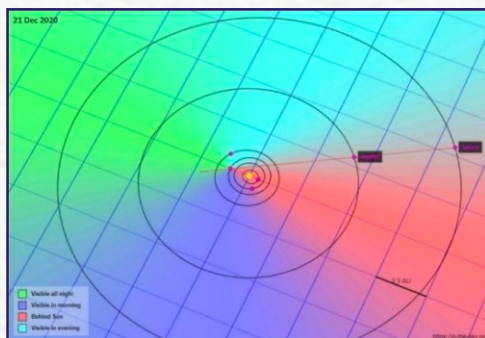
You may have seen the movie “Thor” and the famed conjunction of the nine realms in it. When the nine realms align, something strange happens. We see gravitational anomalies and we can travel across the nine realms with ease. Something similar is happening in our solar system.

The word conjunction comes from Latin, meaning to join together. In the English language, conjunctions relate to clauses brought together in sentences with words like “and”. In astronomy, conjunctions relate to two or more objects brought together in the sky.

Astronomers use the word conjunction to describe meetings of planets. When two objects are in conjunction in our sky, they are located along the same line of sight in space as viewed from Earth. Jupiter and Saturn have conjunction about every twenty years. One such conjunction happened on December 21, 2020.

Between October and December of 2020, we could watch Jupiter and Saturn draw close together in our sky! We could watch this celestial spectacle an hour post-sunset towards the south-western sky. For all you amateur astronomers, it would have been visible for the entire month of December.

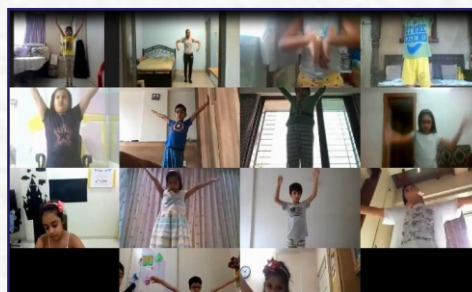
So why is this a “Great” conjunction and not just a conjunction? According to Kepler’s Laws of Planetary Motion, planets move faster in their orbits if they are closer to the Sun. Conversely, the further a planet is away from the sun, the slower it moves.



**Chitra Krishnan**  
Secondary Science Teacher

## Roll, Camera, Action: Ad in the Making

Students of Grade 6 have been busy honing their screen acting skills last month during their Drama classes. After some intense sessions on designing an ad film, as a part of their screen acting task, students were not only able to conceptualise an advertisement, but were also able to work effectively in two groups to write their own scripts with a short breakdown. The brainstorming sessions resulted in two interesting ad films — the first one was an ad campaign for the adoption of stray animals and the other was an advert for a hypothetical mask designed for comfort and maximum protection from all kinds of viruses. Take a look at our students in action!





## Is it Science or Serendipity?

The word serendipity comes from the fairy tale “The Three Princesses of Serendip”. It is a fairy tale about three princesses who make chance discoveries almost by accident. The scientific world is also full of such stories and hence the term, “serendipitous discovery”. There are numerous examples where discoveries and inventions came about by accident. The scientists and inventors who experienced these fortuitous moments had one remarkable trait though, they were keen observers and had great attention to detail. In the words of the great Louis Pasteur:

**“Dans les champs de l'observation le hasard ne favorise que les esprits préparés.”**

**(In the fields of observation, chance favours only the prepared mind.)**

**-- Louis Pasteur; Lecture, University of Lille (7 December 1854)**

Louis Pasteur was one such great scientist and discoverer. He has held numerous positions as a professor of Physics and Chemistry and has helped revolutionise research in vaccines over the past century. Numerous discoveries have been attributed to him; however, some of the path-breaking work done by Pasteur certainly had a dose of “Lady Luck” associated with them.

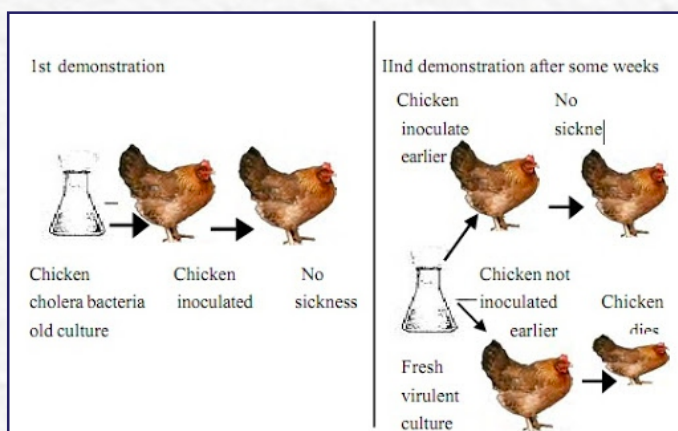
In 1849, Louis Pasteur resolved a problem concerning the nature of tartaric acid. Luckily, Pasteur left a solution of tartaric acid on his windowsill overnight. The temperature dipped below twenty-six degrees and the solution crystallised. Pasteur noticed that the crystals came in two asymmetric forms that are mirror images of one another. Had he not left the solution on the windowsill that night, he may have never discovered the principle of chirality. However, we must also credit him for the fact that his keen sense of observation led him to experiment further and dig into more details.

Another strange and serendipitous moment came when Pasteur was on the verge of discovering the science behind vaccines. Pasteur and his assistants had succeeded in isolating a microbe from the chickens which were sick or dead from cholera. Pasteur was searching for a method of preventing the disease, but no matter what he did to the “broth” of microbes or the chickens, all injected chickens died. Finally, he gave up and headed for a vacation. He told his assistant to take over the job of injecting the chickens while he was gone. Here comes the twist, as his assistant too went on vacation and left the task unfinished. When the men returned and injected chickens with the batch of bacteria that had sat around for a few weeks, none died, indicating to Pasteur that the batch of bacteria had been weakened or attenuated. This serendipitous moment of both men going on vacation led to the creation of attenuated bacteria resulting in the first vaccine.

Wilhelm Röntgen stumbled upon X-rays while he was studying cathode rays. He noticed a glow coming from a nearby chemically coated screen. He dubbed the rays that caused this glow X-rays because of their unknown nature.

We can go on and cite numerous examples from the proverbial apple that hit Newton’s head to the famous ‘successful failure’ that led to the discovery of radioactivity by Henri Becquerel. Einstein too had his moment when he saw the clock tower rapidly fade away when he was aboard a bus. This led to his famous thought experiment “What If I rode on a beam of light?”, and the rest, as they say, was history. This event led to Einstein discovering the postulates of the Theory of Relativity.

As we close 2020, we should look back on how quickly the world has reacted to the Pandemic. We no longer need serendipitous moments to get out the next generation of vaccines. Today mankind has progressed to greater heights and can predict the orbits of Saturn and Jupiter to the last second, hence can we say that future discoveries will not need a generous dose of lady luck? Only time will tell!



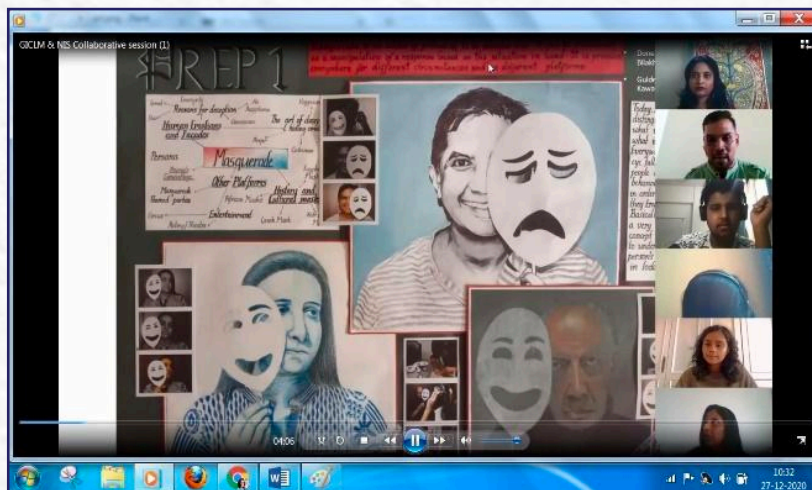


## Until We All Win!

I would like to take this opportunity to share this beautiful bond of collaborative learning through an online session at a zoo. As artists and art facilitators, we were brainstorming and thought of sharing our students' best works of Component 1 (Coursework) and Component 2 (Controlled Test). This sharing session included Ms Shalaka Ambekar and Ms Charu Mathur from Nahar International School, and myself, Mr Amit Kawale, with our IGCSE Art and Design Grade 9 and 10 students, as well as some students from A levels and IBDP. Both the schools collaborated in a session on understanding the assessment criteria through last year's country topper student Miss Mehek Bilakhia from Garodia Education, and A scorer Miss Radhika Punetha from NIS. In the session, they discussed their complete journey of about one and a half years until their exams in March 2020.

The session was conducted on Zoom, Tuesday 22nd December 2020 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm and was divided into two parts by both the teachers with some questions and answers with the students. Twenty-six students participated, including three teachers. We are sure the students must have gained a lot from this session and can aim for high quality outputs this academic year.

Thank you to Ms Shalaka Ambekar (Nahar International) for this wonderful session and looking forward to many more creative ways of learning.



## IB Mock Exams During Lockdown due to the Global Pandemic COVID-19.

Due to the COVID outbreak in India since March 2020, there was a lockdown until September 2020, which has since eased up for people working jobs. Since then there have been slow cooldowns on the five-month lockdown, but as it stands, there have not been any relaxations for school to resume in-person.

I found the online examinations difficult compared to having them in-school. The reason being that IB examinations are strict, with no margin for error. However, with examinations at home, it is nothing compared to the stress and anxiety of sitting in an IB examination room. Moreover, writing the question paper with teachers invigilating you very strictly and with your parents watching over your shoulder is an added stress. I think the experience for the IGCSE students would be similar with the IB because the rules are almost the same. We are all definitely hoping to come back to school soon to finish up our preparations for the IB exams in 2021!

**Gauresh Kuradia, IBDP II**





Here is some feedback from fellow students from IBDP as well as teachers:

The mid-year examinations, despite the current situation we are in, were conducted professionally. Teachers diligently invigilated us during each paper with our writing space clearly being shown. There were strict rules put in place in regards to our microphones and videos to avoid any insincerity. All in all, the school has managed to adapt well to the given circumstances.

***Sanjana Lakhpatwala, IBDP II***

Online exams were much more convenient for the students during the lockdown. Writing the exam from home resulted in lower exam pressure for me. As it was the first time that I appeared for an online exam, it took me some time to get accustomed to the new conditions. With the efforts put in from the teachers and the students, I would say that the online exams were carried out pretty well.

***Aryan Shah, IBDP II***

Technology changes the dynamics of everything that we are doing. I remember during the time that I was a student, the ones who can use the scientific calculator are the rich ones, what I used then was a solar-powered basic calculator. Since I cannot afford to have a scientific calculator, I used my book of logarithm to find values to use for my examination. Fast forward to the new age of technology, to our pandemic situation, and being up to date with the newest gadgets is becoming more of a necessity than a luxury.

It is indeed difficult to have an online examination, but I feel that our students were able to handle this tough situation with class and maturity. Our GICLM students first experienced exams in an online setting around May of this year, and I can say that it was a unique experience for them. Teachers also need to adapt when it comes to invigilating and marking tests. Nevertheless, glitches with an Internet connection, submission, etc. did not hinder us from making our online examination successful.

One thing I just wish to point out is this: our GICLM students proved themselves to be honest and diligent. Since examinations are done at home, the temptation of opening another tab to search for everything while taking the test is always there. However, the values and respect that happens inside our virtual classrooms paved the way for an honest online examination. This shows that we truly are working towards our mission of Engaging Minds and Changing Futures.

***Mark Andre Orcine, Math Teacher***

The December 2020 exams were the second set of exams that I had to give online. Given the current situation, the online examinations were a necessity and worked quite well.

These online exams had their advantages and disadvantages. For example in normal exams, few students tend to come under the pressure of trying to finish the exam early when they see their peers submitting the papers early. However, this case was avoided in online exams. Another advantage is that after-exam stress is avoided. In normal exams, students tend to discuss the answers, which stresses them out. The probability of this happening is low with online exams

One problem I faced was regarding the time constraints. Sometimes I'd lose track of time and I'd have to race through the questions at the end. However, I handled this problem by keeping constant track of time throughout each exam and planned the amount of time to give for each question. Even though online exams and online school is a new concept, we are getting accustomed to this new norm and learning to be flexible in our capacities.

***Dheemahi Udupa, IBDP I***

With online classes being the routine during this COVID-19 pandemic, it was inevitable that the midyear exams were also going to be online, just like the other ongoing continuous assessments that we have been having since March 2020. As a language teacher grappling with assessing different skills, I see more of the disadvantages than advantages to this method. On the one hand, it is not easy to invigilate an online exam since one cannot monitor the remote site with 100% efficiency. During the speaking and the listening exams, there was the usual problem of a stable wifi connection and sometimes I had to repeat my questions three or four times! The other major disadvantage of this way of conducting the exam is online corrections. For a language exam, it is inevitable that all questions cannot be answered in one word and that there are essays to be corrected which require us to constantly and continuously look at the screen to mark the answer scripts. I found this much more time-consuming and bothersome than the regular corrections and also caused severe eye-strain. I do hope we do not have to repeat this at the end of this school year!

***Vidya Rao, French Language Teacher***







“Necessity is the mother of invention.” That is how I would sum up my entire entrepreneurial journey in one sentence. That one necessity of mine was what took me from playground to platform back then, and today it is taking me places including being named the youngest Forbes panellist, Tedx speaker, a receiver of the Global Child Prodigy Awards 2020, receiver of the Youngest Entrepreneur Award, and a lot more. To know how it started let’s go back in time to 2017... I was twelve when an eye-opening incident occurred. Forgetting my books at my uncle’s place and requiring them to be delivered to me on the same day led me to discover that there is no such thing as a last-minute delivery company providing a service which is actually a big need in the busy city

in Mumbai. A problem was not what I saw, as for me it was an opportunity and within the past four years I have learnt victory comes from finding opportunities in a problem. It is an opportunity to do something unique, something out of the box.

I started brainstorming on this idea I had and worked to find possible solutions to make same-day delivery possible within the city of Mumbai at reasonable prices. This is how my company PapersNParcels was born. I planned to collaborate with the dabbawalas for the deliveries of our parcels and for the same I approached the president of the Mumbai Dabbawala Association with my idea of digitizing the end to end logistics industry in Mumbai. He sat with me and listened to my idea with patience and when I asked him if he was willing to collaborate with us he burst out in laughter and said, “beta tum bade ho jao phir hum business ki baat karenge.” At this point in time what mattered was the drive inside me, the enthusiasm I had for this project, and not what Mr Subhash Talekar or other people said to try to pull me down. Not having the fear of rejection led me to try again and again, traveling with dabbawalas for half a month until I got the dabbawalas on board with us and that is when my idea became a reality. What is inside you is more important than what is outside you, even if you are left with nothing but a strong inner self, you will find a way to get back up and stand on your feet.



I was naive enough to think that the path from there was going to be easy, but the challenges had just begun. The algorithm, manpower, training, operations still needed to be worked out. My school assignments test and schedules were also a factor. There were days when I was working on three hours of sleep. During our lows, I also felt like giving up, but constant guidance and motivation from my father and seniors helped and today is paying off for me.

Within just two years of functioning, my company came into the limelight of all media houses, investors, and other companies. As a result, my first business venture of PapersNParcels was acquired by an MNC on the 23rd of February 2020. That’s a glimpse of my success story with PapersNParcels.





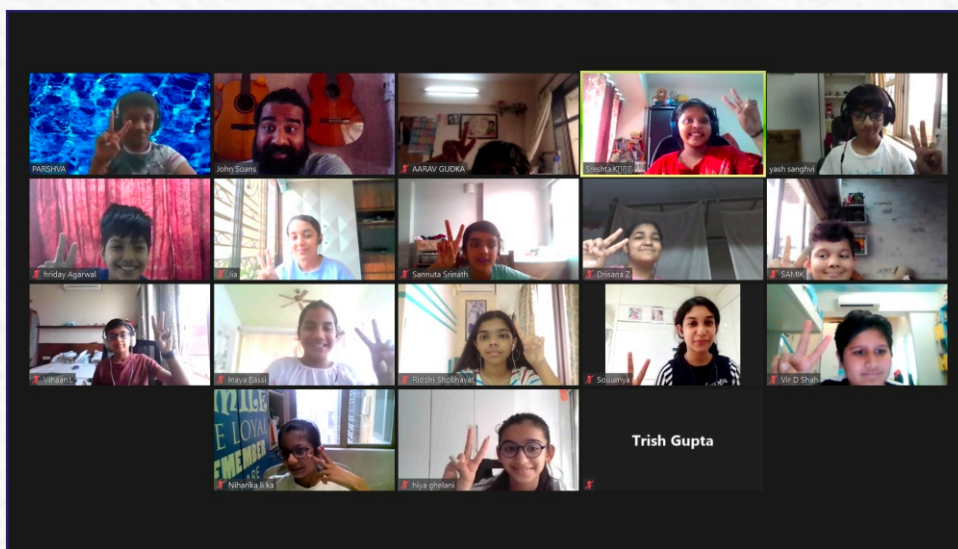
# A Few Favorites of Our Students

Long before the pandemic hit us here at home we saw people across the globe making music together from their windows and balconies during the lockdown (feat. Italy). Those videos showed us how important music is to us all. When people produce music in synchrony, they later feel a stronger connection or affiliation towards one another and are also more likely to trust each other and cooperate.

No one anticipated doing classes on video calls for this long. Especially our music lectures have been even more challenging with Zoom-induced limitations, yet our children have powered through with ease. Like our past years, we would have loved for the December edition to be about our Annual Play, but this lockdown has not dampened the spirits of our kids and we have used this time to prep and audition for the much-awaited Annual Play in creative and unique ways.

There is a reason music is found in every known culture. Music moves us at multiple levels — the body, the brain and the group. The interpersonal synchrony that we achieve through making music links our minds and bodies, enhances social cohesion, and strengthens bonds. Right now, in the midst of a period in which the need for social bonding is perhaps greater than ever, we are glad to have our students at GICLM make music together. Sing on, together!

**John Soans**  
Music Teacher



## Interview with National Taekwondo Winner- Arunima Deb, IBDP I

Recently a student of our school, Arunima Deb of Grade 11, won third place in the All India National competition for Taekwondo. She is now training for the Olympics, which will be held in 2024. I had a short interview with the champion, who we hope can inspire you and serve as a role model for similar talents and accomplishments.

Q: How did you get interested in the sport?

AD: I was four and a half when I started Taekwondo. I always saw the older kids doing cool stuff so I insisted on doing so myself.

Q: What motivates and inspires you to climb the ladder of success?

AD: What motivates me are the little kids at our Taekwondo studio, Skye Martial Arts, who look up to me and aspire to be like me.

Q: What are your future plans with regards to the sport?

AD: My future plans as of now are to continue to train as much as possible, be it quarantine or not, and compete in international online competitions.

Q: Would you like to give a few words of advice to aspiring athletes at GICLM?

AD: It's very important to build a strong body, mind and spirit. It'll help you in whatever you choose to do.



**Nysa Phulwar**  
Grade 11





# Go Karting

Go Karting is the base for any kind of four-wheel motorsports. As I aspire to work in this field, I need to strengthen my base. Go-kart racing is the basic and competitive form of racing because it all depends on the driver's skills. I chose to pursue motorsports with Rayo Racing, and practice and race at Ajmera Indi Karting.

I finished my basic training in 2019, and until March, I worked on fine-tuning basic skills and learning all I could before finishing my pro training. In March 2020, the global pandemic affected India as well, and as a consequence, there was a nation-wide lockdown, which affected me a lot because I was about to finish my pro training in May 2020.

Clash of Pros 2020-2021 saw twelve racers (including me) enter in the Pro Senior category. The competition was tight, I was the least experienced, and for me gaining experience was primary, and of course scoring points as well. The race was held on 5th and 6th December 2020. Saturday was the practice session for one hour, and on Sunday, it was the qualifying round, which decided the grid position for the race.

In the Qualifying Round we had ten minutes to set our personal best times, which then decides the grid position. I was extremely excited, but in order to have a strong lap time, I needed to be calm. I went in two minutes late because there were ten drivers already on the track, and to set a strong lap time, I needed a huge gap, which is only possible when there are fewer drivers out on the track. I went for four hot laps, where it required full focus and commitment from me. After four hot laps, I pulled back massively and started to control temperatures in the tyres and cooled down the engine for one more lap at the end. The end of the qualifying session was a mess! The driver ahead of me was driving to slow me down massively, and I had to overtake him and was pushing for that one final fast lap. Then, on the penultimate corner, my kart was damaged, and I lost my right tyre. The axle broke, and I was absolutely gutted, because I knew that it was an improvement on my previous time. Nevertheless, moving on I tried to maximize everything from 7th place on the grid.

For the first race I started 7th and lost three places due to a very poor start, which pushed me down the pecking order. However, a very messy race stirred up opportunities, which I took with open arms, allowing me back into 7th place by the end of the third lap. I had to hold the position until lap twenty. In the closing stages I was able to overtake two more drivers and ended up finishing 5th in Race 1. It was an action-filled race. I had a smile on my face because track position is what mattered most for Race 2, as it was a reverse grid.

In the second race I started 5th again, and made up two places to the third position after the first lap. Then my engine started to lose revs, and it started to get difficult to keep up. I stuck to following my racing line, and defended hard when I could, but on the straights, I was a sitting duck, which resulted in me finishing 7th.

For race three, I started in the sixth position and gained two positions, which was strong for my amount of experience. However, the last race was disastrous. I gained two positions and was almost about to gain one more. I had my nose halfway into the corner and the driver ahead of me squeezed me into the corner. My axle broke again which resulted in a DNF (did not finish) for me.

You can see the video of me crashing below. The one on the right is me. There was a lot to learn for me personally and things to take care for the next race. I am sure that I will be able to reflect on my performance in this event and do even better next time. The next race is scheduled for the 16th and 17th of January 2021. See you then!



**Gauresh Kuradia**  
**Grade 12**





## Focus on Our Teachers: Dance - Starting Early

I first enrolled myself in a dance class when I was twenty-three, and began my professional dance training at twenty-five. Before I was introduced to dance, I had spent a considerable amount of my time in labs while completing my Masters' degree in Science. Soon after my Masters, I chose to become a writer and landed myself a job of reporter/writer at a health portal. I may have started dance classes as a hobby with no intention of taking a huge plunge in my career, but something transformed me over a period of time. My interest turned into a passion for learning more and that passion just deepened with every class I attended. So, when I was offered a full-time position at the same dance school, for the first time I saw the possibility of doing what I really enjoyed every day. It took me three months to think, evaluate and make the decision, which I am glad I finally did. However, that was just the beginning. I knew the path forward was not going to be easy for me. I had practically signed up for professional training in dance at an age when most professional dancers are already halfway through their careers, while some are even at a turning point and exploring other aspects of the field.

Going through those gruelling training sessions in ballet, contemporary and jazz for four to five hours every day wasn't a cakewalk. I wasn't 'gifted' or 'a born dancer', as they say. I had to work very hard to build technique, develop strength and flexibility and understand balance and coordination. My body resisted training and my muscles were always sore. But the joy of dancing, being able to move beautifully and performing on stage always took away every bit of that excruciating pain. I realized I had to give it my all if I wanted to get rid of that lag phase in starting my training. As a result, I cannot emphasize the importance of early training in dance enough. My journey would have been completely different if I had started dancing during my school days. I now truly understand the impact of early training since I have started teaching. Teaching dance made me understand that there are different types of bodies, and each body reacts to technical training differently. Young bodies are more likely to absorb training faster, which makes it easier to build a firm foundation for technical skills.

Posture, alignment and stance are aspects that make a huge difference when students learn dance at a young age. These aspects are not only important from the perspective of dance, but are also crucial in helping children carry themselves in their daily lives. This year I have seen our students become self-aware and conscious of their surroundings through dance. Over a period of time, I watched my students become more confident, disciplined and develop a sense of commitment. I saw their progress towards acceptance of failure and willingness of restarting with the same vigour.

Dance is the only art form that engages the mind, body and soul, all at the same. This high form of physical, mental and emotional engagement leads to holistic development in students, the benefits of which extend beyond classroom education. The values learned through dance impacted the lives of all my students, even those who took training without the intention of becoming professional dancers.

I have been fortunate enough to witness and be a part of the transformation of hundreds of students who have trained with me before, and I am glad that I continue to see a similar pattern at GICLM. It fills my heart with joy when a student from Early Years shows me a perfect 1st position of feet, with erect spine and stillness, or when students from Primary grades display teamwork while practising choreography multiple times. In less than a year, I have seen students with no inclination towards dance begin to approach the subject with interest, and students with great potential and inclination towards dance striving for perfection. I feel proud that the students have grasped the base of foundational skills to a great extent in 2020 and are continuing their training with the same enthusiasm in 2021





## Garodia Alumni Around The World



I still remember singing the school song, “Reach for your dreams...” and how true it has been to describe my journey with Garodia Education.

I joined GICL in 2007, a small class of thirteen students. It was a big change for me to move to an international school, but it changed the course of my life for the better. First, the supportive teachers and welcoming atmosphere helped me decide on a career path, make informed decisions to study abroad, and most importantly, made me equipped and capable enough to do both of those things in the most effective way.

After IBDP, I pursued a degree in Economics and Environmental Studies at New York University (NYU). I am currently working in the Development and Communications Department of the Bronx River Alliance, an organization, which is a part of New York City Parks and Recreation. The alliance seeks to improve and restore the Bronx River corridor and greenway and works to provide healthy, ecological, recreational, educational, and economic resources for the communities that rely on the river, through policy, planning, and fieldwork. The organization champions

environmental protection, biodiversity, and economic growth in the third-highest population density of New York City.

At the age of eleven, GICL sent me for a girls exchange program to Singapore. I went on to travel to represent the school in the years to follow. I also was fortunate enough to be a part of a very unique experience, Mini-München (a play city created for children and young adults). Through this experience, I learned German and went to Munich, Germany where I lived with a German host family and learned to embrace a different culture. I was also part of the Winchester International Symposium held in South Africa to discuss the issue of poverty as faced by different nations. At the symposium, I learnt from eighteen other incredible individuals from all over the world and was guided by eminent international personalities in the field. These experiences helped me become independent and taught me to deal with challenges. It also made it easier for me to interact with people and build a network for myself. I discovered myself along the way.

In my IBDP years, while researching for my Extended Essay in World Studies, I picked Economics and Environmental Studies. My research made me realise my inclination for sustainability, which was still a fairly new and developing field. I am currently pursuing a career in sustainability. Because of the support I received from my teachers at the time to pick a research topic that was not getting widespread attention, I was able to look at a career choice that has now become critical as we look at climate change/global warming as an existential crisis that requires all countries to cooperate and save our planet.

Garodia Education made sure that we received a holistic education. Through the CAS program in IBDP, we were involved with different causes — be it girls education, beach clean-ups, and helping differently-abled children. In particular, GICL gave me the resources to help Aawhan Palak Sangh, which is a parent-run organization that helps adults with special needs. We organised various programmes with them, but one particular instance stands out. We had invited them for the Sports Week and spent time playing games with them, challenging them to do more. The school was also able to collect in-kind donations for them and in this way, we were able to provide the resources these adults needed. The organization was especially elated to see them participating in the activities we had planned and were very grateful to receive the support they did. This organization was especially important to me because my mother also worked for this cause. In this way, the school has contributed to our growth as individuals too.

I’m always proud to witness all the incredible things my schoolmates are currently doing in different parts of the world with the career paths we have picked and we all know that the Garodia Education family will always be a part of whatever we achieve.

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्!

**Madhur Bhadsavle**  
Garodia Education Alumni





# From the Desk of our University Guidance Counsellor

Academic year 2020-21 has been quite an unpredictable year in quite a few ways for the UGC office. As the entire school has worked online, there were a few challenges we had to face where student admissions were concerned. To begin with, all the SAT examination centres in the city were closed and students were unable to appear for the college preparedness test. Nonetheless, since most of the Universities changed their admission policy this academic year and declared test optional, it did not hinder the admission process of the students. The PSAT examination that was scheduled for Grade 10 students at school in October also had to be cancelled, keeping in mind the government regulation of school closure. The plans of our IBDP students during this period to pursue some co-curricular activities or internships were also curtailed. University presentations took a new mode with all of them going virtual.



Accommodating ourselves to this new circumstance, our secondary students participated virtually in informative sessions hosted by Universities from the USA, Canada and Germany. Certain workshops on topics such as financial aid, common application procedures, and writing effective essays were also conducted by these universities.

To give a glimpse to our current Grade 12 batch, most of the students specifically applying to the US, Australia, and some European countries are already done with their application and have received offers as well. Additionally, a few of our students have received their offers with a considerable amount of scholarships included. The career choices of the current batch vary from business management, finance, and computer science to biological sciences and the fine arts. This semester, the focus of application would be on the students applying in India, UK and Germany, with some virtual sessions from Indian universities.

The visibility of our students' academic achievement is evident with the requests I continue to receive from universities all over the world to address our student body. As we step into the second semester, in addition to hoping that situation will be back to normal soon, I am also optimistic that our students will continue to receive excellent university offers with great scholarships to accompany them.

**Suchetha Vasant**  
**University Guidance Counsellor**



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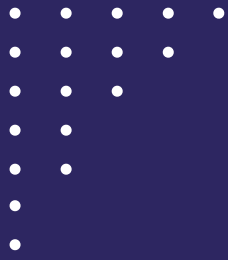
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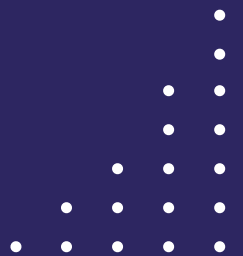




# Engaging Minds, Changing Futures

At GICLM, we believe that education is all about the possibilities of curiosity, learning, discovery and achievement.

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