

SURKHIYAN

सुरखियां

SCIENCE FUN IN THE
EARLY YEARS

ENGLISH ESSAY
WRITING COMPETITION

WOMEN'S DAY ARTICLE



GERMAN PASCH
SCHOLARSHIPS

MUSIC AND THE MIND

COLLEGIO CLAUSTRO
MODERNO MONTGOMERY
BELL ACADEMY
SYMPOSIUM

GICLM as a Centre of Excellence in Learning



In 1969, Parmeshwari Devi Gordhandas Garodia set up a small school with seven students in a garage. Her vision was to provide education to the community which she resided in. This has expanded to bring world-class education to our current Garodia Education students. Today, we have around three thousand students involved in a variety of different programmes under the Garodia Education Umbrella.

At GICLM, we set international standards for learning, development and care of our young learners. Games, play and invention, sensorimotor training and arts form the main mediums for their learning. Children unleash their curiosity and hone their love for learning in a safe environment.

At GICLM we believe that Early Years education is important in a child's development. It not only lays the foundation for later learning, but also has a long-term impact in every child's life. It is for this reason that we are delighted to enter into a partnership with FinlandWay, as we share the same vision and drive to make a difference.

The aim of FinlandWay is to bring in a more personalised programme of learning that identifies a child's potential and provides the opportunity to realise it. FinlandWay's emphasis on equality, opportunity and excellence coincides nicely with our vision here at GICLM. We look forward to a prosperous and exciting journey sharing our experiences and achievements.

Additionally, during the month of March, the much-awaited Spring Break gave not only the children, but also the teachers an opportunity to unwind and relax. It also gave our IGCSE and IB exam groups some time to prepare for their online mock exams.

Last but not least, of course who could forget Holi? Holi is known as the festival of colours. It is celebrated across the country with joy by all people irrespective of their faith and race. The festival is strongly believed to revive relationships and strengthen emotional bonds between people. This year was a little different, as our students celebrated Holi online. It was great to see all our children dressed in white kurtas and kurthis playing with organic colours and water with their families at home.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Holi!

Ms Priyanka Maligail
Head of Early Years Department



Activities Galore!

When children came back online, after a short break, recapitulation of letters and numbers were done in a fun way through a lot of activities.

The alphabet sensory bin play experience is the perfect way for young learners to boost those letter recognition skills. Finding the letters hidden in the sand or rice pit using a spoon was a little challenging for our little ones, but they did it with their full enthusiasm. After finding a letter, they placed it on the wooden board in the correct order of the alphabet, telling the sound of the letter scooped and the picture associated with the sound.

Matching the uppercase and lowercase letters, the “Hop to It” game was designed to help focus on letter recognition and this activity had the kids thoroughly engrossed. They matched each frog with a lowercase letter to its companion lily pad with the uppercase letter. “It is easy and we are enjoying it,” they all cried out during the game.

Our children sure love numbers! Another activity where the tutor had the kids count the choco-chips on the cookie and place them in the cookie jar had them totally captivated.

It is also not too early to introduce our Nursery students to cutting! After cutting a newspaper a few times, these little masters were instructed to cut along the dotted straight lines to help them find the missing pencils. It was nice to see them try and do it with interest and focus

The benefits of these activities are numerous. They include: concentration, hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, sensorial exploration, bilateral coordination skills and visual perceptual skills. These activities also strengthen hand muscles, promote the understanding of patterns, and focus students' attention. These little ones enjoyed each and every activity. It was a roller coaster ride for them throughout the month of March, filled with activities that they enjoyed.



Nursery

STEAM in KI

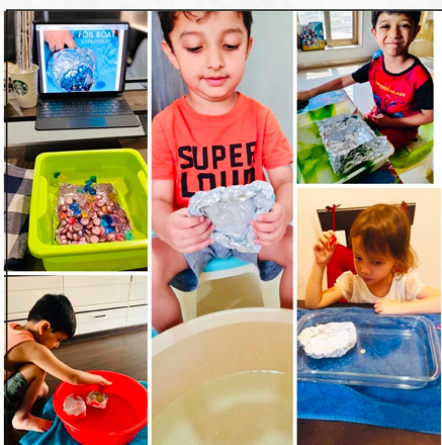
In this STEAM Activity, our K1 students exercised problem-solving, safety, and fine motor skills. By using their name in this art, the class tutors reinforced letters and name recognition. The tutors also encouraged our preschoolers to collect some art and craft supplies from their kitchens at home such as spoons, butter knives, forks and more. Seeing their completed name craft in their room resulted in a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Take a look at our students' hard work!

Sunken Ships

K1 students loved designing and making tin foil boats and testing how well they float. They investigated how many gems each boat can hold before it starts to sink. The students enjoyed this fun challenge. Here's a glimpse of the activity!

Kindergarten I



Coin and Water Experiment



During the month of March, our children were encouraged to predict how many drops of water can fit on a five and ten rupee coin by doing a fun and fast experiment. They were also asked to observe the dome formed when water is dropped onto the coin. They were shown coins which are in use currently and also some old coins which were used in the past. Children learnt the magic of surface tension and how to manipulate the dropper. This activity helped them to enhance their counting skills, learn about area, compare how many drops of water could fit on the two coins according to the size and why each time the count would vary from their peers, as well as developing thinking and observational skills.

Science Fun

Children already know that objects which are heavy in weight sink in water and objects which are light float on water. After further brainstorming in their little minds, they were asked to explore what would happen if we immersed a peeled orange and an unpeeled orange in water. Children were engrossed in making predictions and loved peeling the orange during the activity. Their tutor also introduced them to carbonated water and showed them why grapes sink in plain water, but rise and then fall in the water mixed with soda. The tutor and the children also discussed how carbon dioxide is being absorbed by plants and is exhaled by human beings. This activity encouraged their scientific minds to observe, predict, analyse as well as think critically about density.



Kindergarten 2

Happy Holi!

The festival of Holi is strongly believed to revive relationships and strengthen emotional bonds between people. This year, the colourful festival of Holi was celebrated online at GICLM by Early Years students.

Children were first explained about the scarcity of water and the need to save it. Also, keeping with the norms of our current COVID situation, students were urged to stay home this Holi and enjoy with their friends and family members they live with. Along with their tutors, the children enjoyed watching the video and played Holi online by using organic colours.

Happy Holi to all!



Holi

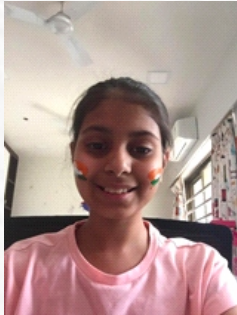
Holi is a festival of colors and joy. Indians celebrate this ravishing festival with pomp and gaiety. It signifies the victory of good over evil.

It all started when Hiranyakashyap meditated on top of a mountain, and Lord Vishnu granted him one wish. Hiranyakashyap asked Lord Vishnu to grant him power which will not let any man or woman, animal or bird, neither at night nor in the day slay him. Lord Vishnu was a man of his word, so he granted him his wish.

Hiranyakashyap was a very egoistic man, so he asked everybody to not only worship him as King, but also think of him as God.

His son Prahalad was a devotee of Lord Narayana, so his father was envious and petulant. His daughter, Holika, too had magical powers. Whenever she would touch anything hot, she would not get burnt. Together, Hiranyakashyap and Holika made a menacing plan.

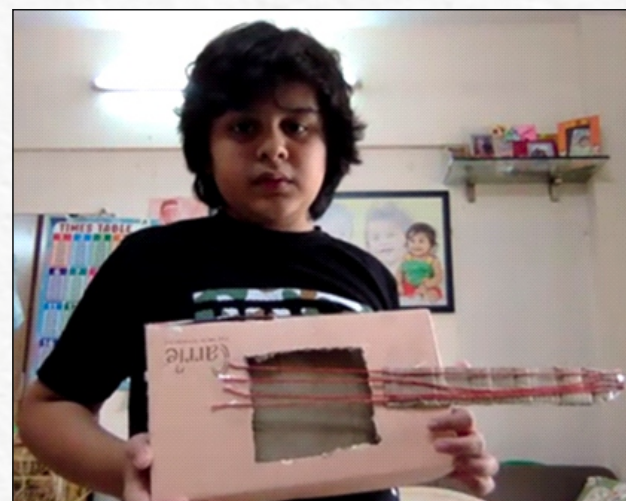
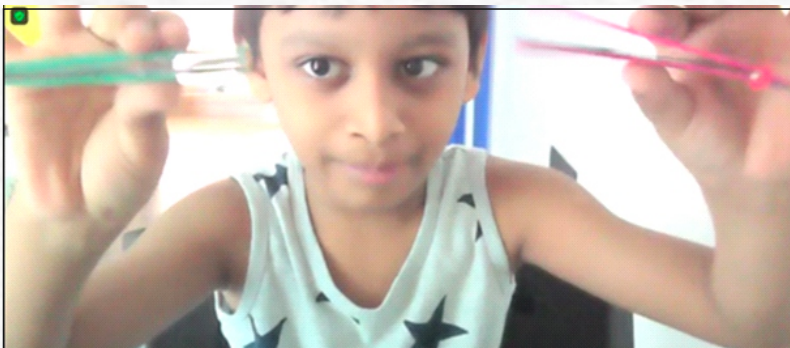
Holika took Prahalad into a huge fire and sat with him so that it would burn him and lead to his demise. In return, Lord Narayana didn't let Prahalad burn, but made his sister Holika burn. From that day on we celebrate Holi to rejoice the victory of good over evil, but to me Holi is special because it is such a positive festival. I get to splash water on my friends with water guns also known as 'pichkaries', plus I get to put Holi colours on them too!



Riona Shah
Grade 5

Recycled Instruments

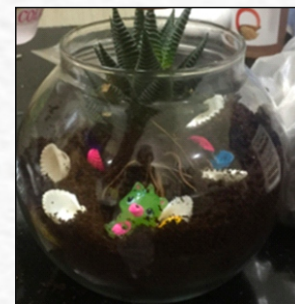
With the current "Sound" unit, students from Grade 3 had the opportunity to collect and experiment with materials in their homes to create sound. They experimented with a variety of materials around the house to understand different volumes, pitches and sounds. Through this, students understood sounds need material to travel through and that some materials were much better transmitters of sound than others. They created and experimented with different instruments to showcase their understanding of how sound travels and the noise it can make. Students also enjoyed creating and explaining the origin of their creations. Our sound experts also learnt about the best ways to minimize noise around the house. In case things are noisy around the house, don't forget to ask them about how to reduce noise so that your ears don't hurt. Take a look at some of their sustainable creations!



Terrarium Activity: Garden in a Cookie Jar

For the unit 'Black Gold', the students of Grades 4 and 5 learnt about greenhouse gases, and how these gases got their name from the greenhouse. To know more about how a greenhouse works, the students created a terrarium. In simple language, a terrarium is usually a sealable glass container containing soil and plants that is kept shut. For this activity, students planted small plants in cookie jars that looked just like a miniature garden.

Through this activity, they observed how the sunlight (just like in a greenhouse) enters through the glass of the terrarium and warms the plants, and also how the glass holds in some of the warmth. They learnt that in the same way the sunlight comes through the atmosphere to warm the Earth's surface, some of the warmth in the Earth's atmosphere is held in. In the end, they understood that the greenhouse doesn't let the warmth escape, and that's exactly how greenhouse gases act!



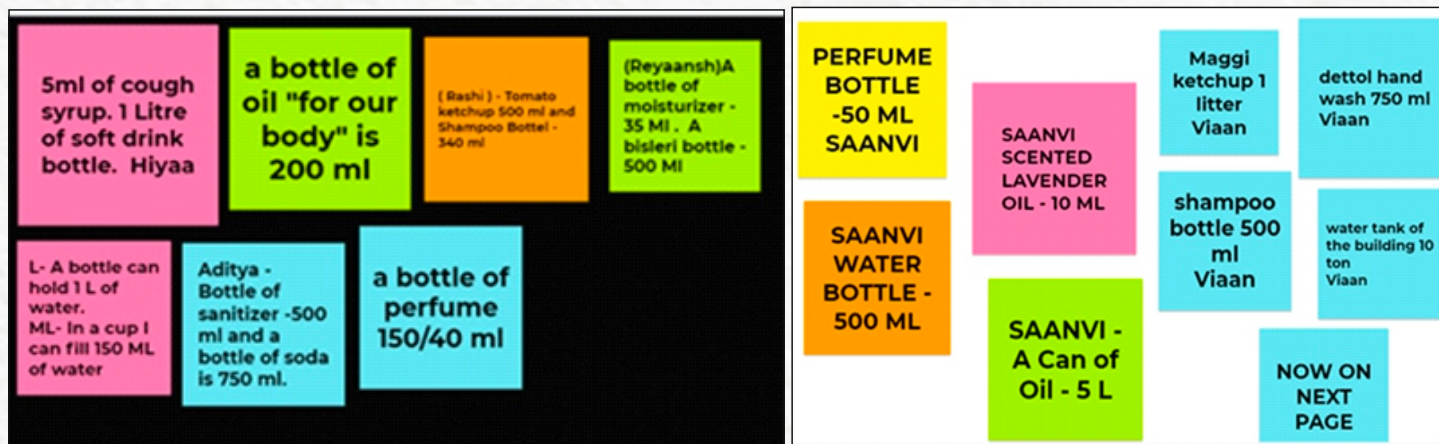
Scripts in Drama

For Drama, the students of Grades 3 and 4 were assigned a combined task. During the task, different students were given a certain personality/character to play in an already written script. The script was titled 'The Mystery Club and the Case of the Missing Pearls'. Students met up during class hours as well as in their free time on Zoom to practice and perfect the script. This particular case was about an extremely rich woman named Mrs Monroe and her missing pearls. Tasks like these help enhance the students' knowledge on different genres in drama as well as improve their acting skills.

Using the Power of Observation and Visualization to Learn

Modern society simply could not exist without measurement. Twenty-first century civilization is inconceivable without the indispensable measurement tools on which everyday life depends. Time, size, distance, speed, direction, weight, volume, temperature, pressure, force, sound, light, energy — these are among the physical properties for which humans have developed accurate measures, without which we could not live our normal daily lives.

Students of Grade 2 used Jamboard to identify the different units of capacity which was a beautiful learning experience for them. It was easy to understand the units of capacity, as they could visually see each object with different measurements. This gave them an opportunity to understand the concepts using their observation of the things we use in our daily lives.



The Jamboard collage contains the following sticky notes:

- 5ml of cough syrup. 1 Litre of soft drink bottle. Hiyaa
- a bottle of oil "for our body" is 200 ml
- (Bashi) - Tomato ketchup 500 ml and Shampoo Bottle - 340 ml
- (Reyaansh) A bottle of moisturizer - 35 ml. A bisleri bottle - 500 ml
- L- A bottle can hold 1 L of water. ML- In a cup I can fill 150 ML of water
- Aditya - Bottle of sanitizer -500 ml and a bottle of soda is 750 ml.
- a bottle of perfume 150/40 ml
- PERFUME BOTTLE -50 ML SAANVI
- SAANVI SCENTED LAVENDER OIL - 10 ML
- SAANVI WATER BOTTLE - 500 ML
- SAANVI - A Can of Oil - 5 L
- Maggi ketchup 1 litter Viaan
- dettol hand wash 750 ml Viaan
- shampoo bottle 500 ml Viaan
- water tank of the building 10 ton Viaan
- NOW ON NEXT PAGE



Separating Techniques

In Chemistry during the month of March, the students of Grade 7 had a direct demonstration of the topic 'Separating Techniques'. Despite the online barrier, they did a practical experiment to grasp how the decanting and filtration methods work to separate mixtures. For comprehensive understanding, the components used to make the solution were mud and water only. They were first asked to stir both of the components together and allow the mixture to settle. We then proceeded to display how decanting relies on different densities of the substances, while filtration is based on the difference in the size of particles. As we continued to observe the practical, students simultaneously explained the concept step-by-step to show their understanding.

Science experiments are an opportunity to introduce students to the concepts of observation, prediction and testing. The students thoroughly enjoyed this experiment, as doing a Chemistry practical online was an unexpected, yet enjoyable learning experience.

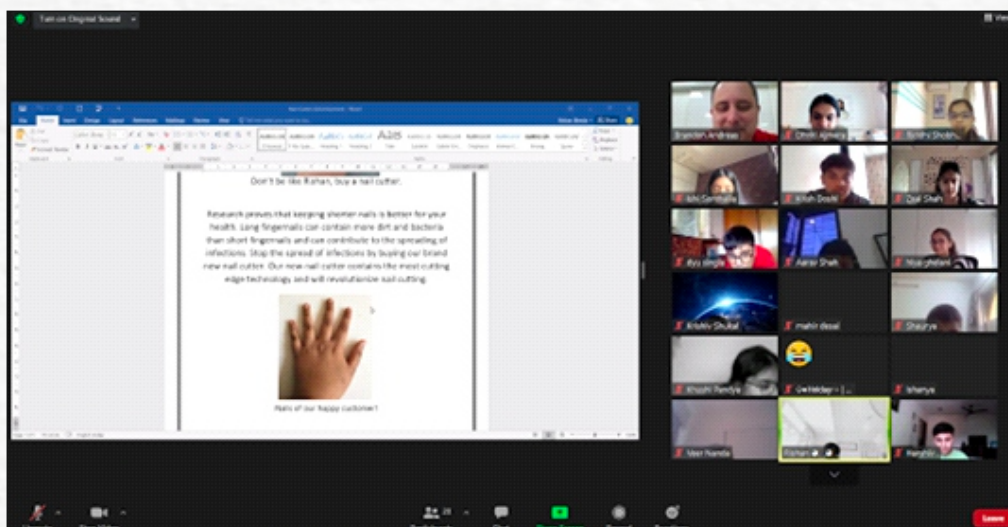


Riya Vijan
Chemistry Teacher

Advertising Dull Objects

Never do we realise that basic things around us could be turned into something witty by using creativity and language. This is exactly what Grade 8 thought to undertake for an English task. The motive for this task was to expand their learning about different techniques of advertising like bandwagon, humour, testimonial and more. During the task, the class was broken up into groups of three and were asked to advertise simple objects like baskets, nail cutters and wheelbarrows. Each group had to utilise any of the two techniques learned in class. Some steps included were writing up the content and then presenting it in either posters, word documents, PowerPoints, or some other visual. Different groups curated various kinds of posters, some being instructional, while others used photoshopped pictures.

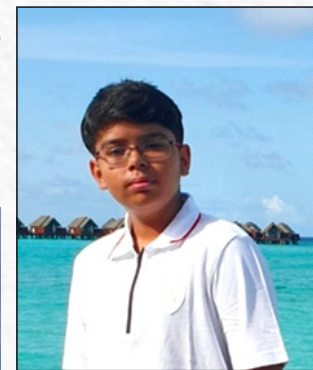
Jia Sankhla
Grade 7



German PASCH Scholarships for GICLM Students

GICLM Students Siddharth Vethody (Grade 11) and Siddh Vora (Grade 9) have recently been named lucky recipients of the German PASCH Scholarship for 2021. The students were selected after careful examination of their academic progress, and evaluation of their essays and interviews. The two students will be attending a two-week-long digital youth camp 'Visions for the Future' in June/July 2021. These students will get a chance to meet and associate with students from different countries on themes related to the future. Through this exposure, the students will be able to train their German language skills and prepare and present their projects. A youth conference awaits the students at the end of this youth camp.

This opportunity will be an enriching experience for our students and we wish them good luck and hope they have a good time at the youth camp.



Uma Iyer
German Teacher



Changing the World

What is a leader? A leader is someone who has a vision that revolutionises the world. A vision could be as small as stopping people from littering or solving the global warming crisis. Leadership is an attribute that is present in all young minds. The ability to showcase one's talent depends on the exposure he/she gets as well as the opportunities present. In my experience, GICLM has been nurturing young minds in fields that consider being a leader a prime quality. Additionally, notable universities like Harvard and Yale think of leadership as an unparalleled trait. Therefore, at the beginning of March, we were introduced to a wonderful platform to portray our ideas in a writing competition titled 'Leaders For Tomorrow National Essay Writing Competition' in our English class.

The competition allowed students from Grades 8-12 to exhibit their potential solutions to world problems. Kids are often belittled for their age, and their ideas are thought to be of little importance, although they are supposed to be the future leaders of tomorrow. GICLM on the other hand allows their students to prepare for the outside world by writing about their vision.

The prizes for this competition include a substantial cash reward and a trip to South Korea. Luckily for us, the art of writing an essay that beautifully expresses one's self has been taught to us by our English teachers here at GICLM. This opportunity, ability and vision were woven into one beautiful piece of writing by each of the participants.

The theme of the entire competition was 'UN SDG GOALS'. This was a very promising area and of great interest to me. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world. The SDGs are unique in that they cover issues that affect us all. They reaffirm our international commitment to end poverty, permanently, everywhere. They are ambitious in making sure no one is left behind. More importantly, they involve us all to build a more sustainable, safer, more prosperous planet for all humanity by invoking the leader inside everyone.

I, myself, found participation in this competition both very rewarding and a great challenge. I tried to cover solutions to all the potential problems described in the UN SDG goals while taking a fictional stance. My narrator narrated a life story that began with gender inequality and finished up with solving all the world's problems through sustainable long term solutions.

Stay tuned for the results in the coming months!

Devam Desai

Grade 9

MORE THAN 100 PRIZES TO BE WON

WEEK LONG TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA

PRIZES WORTH MORE THAN 5 LAKHS

02 TOPICS FOR THE COMPETITION

Participants can write the essay on any major development issue faced by India with respect to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The essay should identify a problem and explore potential solutions.

Example:

- ☑ The Covid-19 Pandemic has drastically changed the traditional model of education. Suggest possible ways we can achieve the sustainable development goal of quality education for all whilst taking into account the changes that the pandemic has brought about.
- ☑ Achieving the SDG of Gender Equality is vital for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Critically analyse the role of the school and family in achieving gender equality.
- ☑ 77% of the waste in India is disposed of in open dumps, 18% is composted and only around 5% is recycled. Discuss this issue in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals of Climate Action and Responsible Consumption and Production.

Note: Participants can also choose any of the topics mentioned above for their essay.

Music and the Mind

During our study sessions or while researching, I often find myself looking for music, and there are times where I just shut everything and finish my assignment. The Florida National University says that music helps reduce stress, reduce test anxiety, improves performance, among many other benefits. However, what genres you should listen to?

It is highly suggested for you to listen to music you have never heard, as it shifts your focus from the music, and puts it on secondary while keeping the primary focus on your studies/research. There are many mixes and live streams on YouTube, but after a while, you will find yourself used to those songs again. In fact, as I am still learning the relationship between music and studies, personally, I have found out that there is a lot more music than pop, rap, EDM, and electronic. Starting off, you can pick up superbly minimal music, there are not many lyrics, and you can actually enjoy the music, and not keep skipping the song. If this music is not of your preference, you can browse for music in your favourite genre and spend a few minutes putting them on a playlist and feel the beats and finish your assignments or research.

But where do I start you might be asking? If you are looking for music out of your zone, various artists make independent music which brings about motivation and focus. One of my new favourites is 'Solomun'. There are many one hour or more music videos you could find on YouTube, which include minimal lyrics.

Then, there is 'ARTBAT', which is innovative and different music. Personally, when I was done exploring, I switched to rock and '90s, '80s English music. I realized that there is so much more to the music: the beats, the drums, guitars and the piano, vocals and many other elements. I even stumbled upon 'Red Hot Chilli Peppers', which is a great band, and one of my favourite songs is 'Californication'.

Then, there is daft punk and electronic music which is hands down the best duo, according to me at least. Their music is purely electronic. My favourites by them would be 'Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger' and 'One More Time'.

It was a fun ride, and now, there are many more artists left to explore and get to know when it comes to music. Music is certainly something that motivates me, and as the academic year is about to end soon, it would be great to get your mind completely clear and focused by finding the right music.

Gauresh Kuradia
Grade 12



CAS Project: Teaching the Children of CRY

IBDP 1 students are teaching lower classes as part of their CAS collaboration with the NGO CRY. We at Surkhiyan have interviewed GICLM students participating in this program to better understand how their experiences have been so far and what they have gained from this project.

Teaching children, especially online, has made me realise that teaching is not an easy job. It has been an eye-opener for me in the sense that it has made me understand and sympathise with the problems our teachers face when teaching us. It has also made me aware that qualities such as leadership skills and communication skills that are being enhanced while teaching now would help me in my career in the future.

My partner and I teach English to Grade 6 students. Along with teaching various grammar concepts, we give them five words each week. They have to learn the meaning of the words and make a sentence for each word. This helps them to improve in their vocabulary. Also, it helps us brush up on our vocabularies and previous knowledge. Teaching these children has definitely improved my communication skills. Being a teacher is not just teaching, we actually play a noteworthy role in these students' lives. It has most definitely enhanced my leadership qualities as well.

Teaching underprivileged children is a very effective way of helping the community, as we are making these children better educated and more self-sufficient. It is making an impact on these children's lives and providing them better opportunities for education and a better future.

Lopamudra Bareja, Grade 11

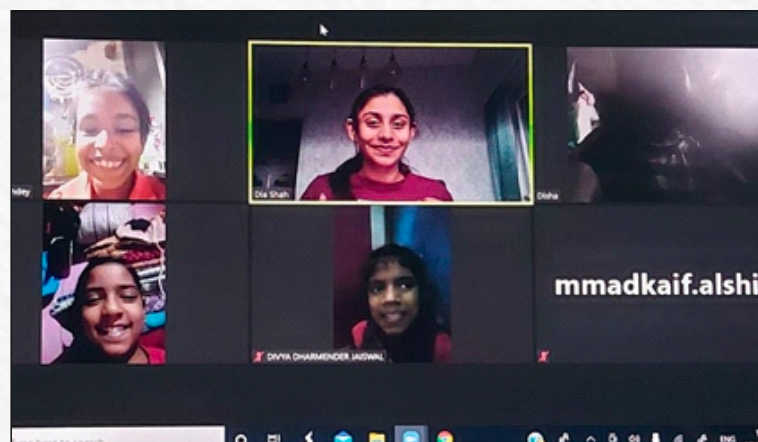
I feel teaching helps recollect a lot of the basic knowledge and relearn it while teaching the subject. Being in Grade 11, I personally forgot a lot of facts that I get to revise with the children and that has been a great experience. I teach Grade 4 students Science, and I tend to revise all the fundamental topics, which also helps me.

When it comes to education, any method used to spread knowledge is effective. Education plays a vital role in our lives, so this is surely an effective way to positively impact the community in which we live. Every class I see the students wanting to learn more, read more and acquire more knowledge, it just makes me smile. Even though these children are underprivileged, it doesn't define their capabilities, as they are all extremely bright and intelligent.

Dia Shah, Grade 11

Honestly this project has helped me brush up on my studies as well. As learners, I understood many different concepts that I may have misunderstood in the past. I teach Grade 6 English and through this, I learned how difficult it is to teach online and what the teachers must be going through daily. It also helped me visualise and understand different aspects of English as well as online learning in an interesting way. I could also gain a greater understanding of the lifestyles of our students while I was conversing with them. This is definitely an interesting way of helping the community, especially when we are totally familiar with what we are dealing with and it isn't something that would require extra attention and work. It helped us to understand a lot of things and also helped partly in self-growth.

Riya Hirani, Grade 11



This experience helps us improve our collaboration and leadership skills as well as communication skills. As young adults, these skills will come in handy for our future, and by collaborating with younger and underprivileged students, we will learn these skills through a unique and challenging experience.

I personally teach the students different concepts in English. Each week, we try to cover a new topic and build in grammar in order to increase their skills gradually. From this experience, I get to understand and apply my prior knowledge and also push myself to communicate the ideas better with these learners.

I think this is a good way of helping the community, because without this opportunity, many students wouldn't have a chance of getting good education during the pandemic. With the help of our teaching, at least they will get a basic foundation of the topics which they can build on later in their schooling.

Dheemahi Udupa, Grade 11

I think this project helps us understand our concepts better. It also makes us more involved with the real world and educates us on the situation that many are presented with. Overall, it helps us develop as better IB students.

I teach the children Science. I hope for them to learn and improve their skills and answer questions on the examination better after my help. One other aim is for the students to improve their English and reading skills. Even though I teach them Science, I also try to incorporate as much English into the curriculum as possible to help them become better prepared for the world that lays ahead.

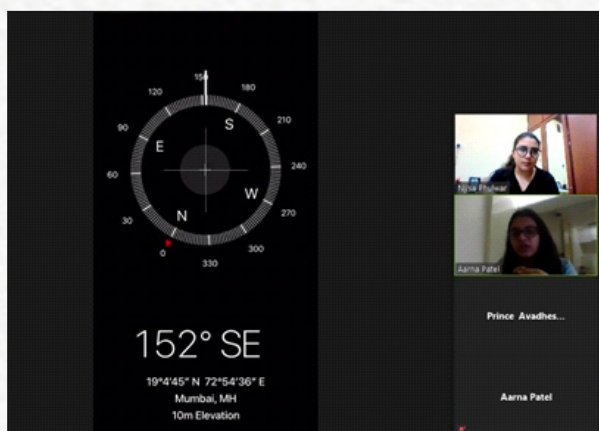
Education is one of the key ways to help make the world a better place. Collectively, we must be teaching around forty students, and while it is not a huge number, it is indeed making a difference in their lives and helping them become better individuals.

Nysa Phulwar, Grade 11

My experience in teaching the kids from CRY has truly been an amazing experience so far. I teach English to Grade 4 with two of my classmates, and I seem to learn a new life lesson every class — be it resilience, overcoming adversity, or just plain humility! Being a teacher at the tender ages of fifteen is not just a responsibility, but a notable role as a leader in the childrens' lives. I personally feel that my leadership skills have improved tremendously after I started the teaching program at CRY. Furthermore, educating the underprivileged is a very effective way of helping the community. With education, everyone has the ability to make wiser decisions for the betterment of society. As much as I wish that I could teach them in person, bringing smiles on my students' faces online is something I will cherish for a lifetime!

Ninupta Srinath, Grade 11

Lopamudra Bareja, Grade 11 **Devam Desai, Grade 9**



¡Buen Provecho!

'Bon Appetit!' or as we say it in Spanish '¡Buen Provecho!'

Since we started the Grade 11 class for Spanish Ab initio this year, we have covered a range of topics such as personality descriptions, clothing, neighbourhood descriptions, and more. However one topic that seemed as interesting for the students to learn as was for me to teach was 'La Comida y la bebida' — food and beverage. Food is something that seems to connect all of us, irrespective of where we come from. Not only did we learn about how the different food items are called in Spanish, but we also learned of various dishes popular in many Spanish speaking countries.

Most of us, including the students, have come across some of these dishes due to the growing popularity of world cuisine. Any guesses? Yes, we spoke of churros, nachos, tacos, tapas, and other dishes such as paella, quesadillas, gazpacho and flan that aren't as popular in Mumbai, but play a key role in Spanish cuisine. Speaking of food and food habits of our own compared to the different Spanish speaking countries gave the students an insight on how food and ingredients used can be an integral part of one's culture and how it influences social constructs as well.

In relation to food items, the students also expressed their food habits and how a healthy diet can influence a healthy lifestyle. We also discussed the 'imperative' form of verbs by understanding how recipes use them and also how a recipe is made in Spanish. An interesting activity that was done by the students in March occurred when they had to conduct a cooking show in Spanish, with one being the host, and the other being a chef. Although it would be fun to get our hands on some actual food in the school building, the students really seemed to enjoy this unit and activity and hopefully took away some tips on Spanish cooking.



Guacamole con nachos

Ingredientes para 6 personas: dos aguacates, un tomate, dos cucharadas de cebolla picada, una cucharadita de ajo picado, uno o dos chiles picados, un poco de zumo de limón, sal y una bolsa de nachos. Preparación: se pelan los aguacates, se colocan en un recipiente y, con un tenedor, se aplastan hasta obtener un puré. Se pela el tomate, se quitan las semillas, se corta en trocitos pequeños y se añade al puré. Luego, se añaden la cebolla picada, el ajo, los chiles, el zumo de limón y la sal. Se acompaña con nachos.



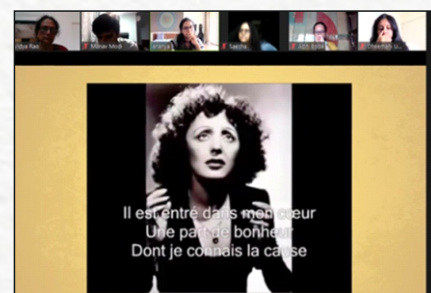
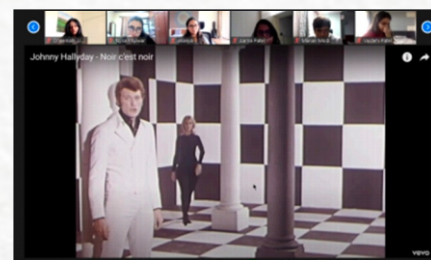
Ms Honey Khanna
Spanish Teacher

Songs and Learning a Language!

What better way to learn a foreign language than through music: through songs sung in that language. During the month of March, our French students did exactly this by looking for feet-tapping or soulful and haunting numbers to present before their friends in class. The students had to choose 'une chanson' (a song), listen carefully to the 'paroles' (lyrics) and find some information about the 'chanteur/chanteuse' (singer).

The same task was given to two different groups, Grade 9 and Grade 11, with different learning objectives in mind. While the presentation was all about being able to communicate orally in French for the students of Grade 9, it was also an exercise to familiarise themselves with new French vocabulary, pronunciation and also get acquainted with a little bit of French culture. On the other hand, for Grade 11 it was more of an exercise to analyse and appreciate the 'paroles' and understand what the 'chanteur' was trying to communicate.

Music has a way of capturing the many facets of a culture, including its people and their language. Songs can be useful tools in the learning of vocabulary, sentence structures, and sentence patterns. Obviously using songs can also help learners improve their listening skills and pronunciation and probably the greatest advantage is that it is enjoyable!



Ms Vidya Rao
French Teacher



Indian Achievers Forum

In the month of February, I was approached by the Indian Achievers Forum on LinkedIn to be nominated for two categories of awards. IAF, founded by the son of late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, is an apex body that promotes and encourages commendable achievements from all over the country every year. I applied for two categories, knowing that never in the history of IAF has one person, for one achievement, won two awards! But anyway, what is this achievement? It dates back to the year of my board exams, where I achieved an excellent result of 97.2%. But more than the result, it is about my journey...

Inspired by my father, I have always believed in the Pareto Principle, which asserts that 80% of outcomes result from 20% of all causes. I knew that just studying was not going to get me anywhere, so I clearly prioritised what I wanted to achieve that year.

What is fascinating about my story is that I did not enroll in any extra coaching or tuition classes, and on top of that, I also participated in a number of extra-curricular activities like MUNs. One apt example is my society's annual cricket tournament – NVPL 2020, where I was dedicated and practised with my team for months, even during my prelims! There were days when I came home from practice late at night and had a prelim the next day. Agreed, this was an adventure, but this in turn helped me focus while writing the exam the next day. So you see, win-win! I also played an hour of cricket every single day, even the days before my boards! While my friends were busy studying, I took the time out to build my mind and fitness, and even win the tournament! It's fascinating to know that a tenth grader could afford to devote so much time to things outside academics, but this was exactly the mentality that I had aimed to redefine.

So you see, studying is not everything; the life experiences that you gain outside your textbook matter much more. There are these experiences that will not only shape your personality, but also your values and beliefs. My childhood taught me not to focus on the marks, but the intelligence and the skills. I did refine my time management and prioritising skills, which further helped me achieve such a feat.

I know that everyone may not be as bright in academics as others, so my advice to you would be to focus on the things that are really going to matter in your life, and not be saddened by any academic pressure in the process. Whatever your goal may be, set it out precisely, and then focus only on the process. From my story, I hope to pass on the message that if your goal and processes are clear, then the biggest of setbacks cannot bother you; however, if you are not focused, then even the slightest of distractions can draw you away! All the best to all of my classmates in this final term of the academic year!



Tanish Chheda
Grade 11



The Waves of Feminism



In the honor of Women's Day, we need to explore the topic of feminism and how it all started. The purposes and characteristics of the different movements in feminism are differentiated by a classification of waves. The first wave started in the early 20th century in the western world and focused majorly on providing basic legal rights for women, like voting and property rights. The wave ended successfully with the introduction of an amendment in the American constitution that provided voting rights to women.

The second wave started in the 1960s and focused on reproductive rights, civil rights as well as anti-war concepts. The anti-war movement revolved around the Vietnam War, whereas the civil rights focused on discrimination, unequal pay and inadequate support services for women. This wave transformed into the third wave, which started in the 1990s, which focused on the failures of the second wave. The third wave focused on intersectional feminism, which recognises that various forms of inequality that operate together and aggravate each other. The third wave worked towards gender, racial, and social justice and was therefore important to queer movements.

Somewhere in the middle of the first wave, on March 19, 1911, a million men and women rallied in the support of women's rights in the US. This movement inspired many other countries to organise similar rallies and therefore came into existence 'International Women's Day', celebrated every year on March 8th, which now celebrates the social, economic and political achievements of women all over the world.

Dheemahi Udupa
Grade II

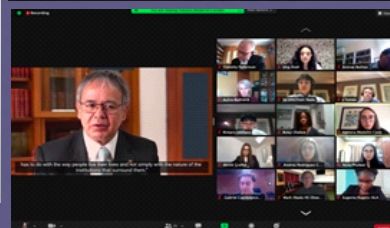
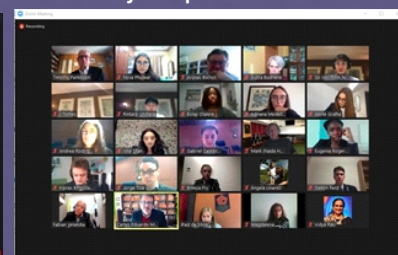
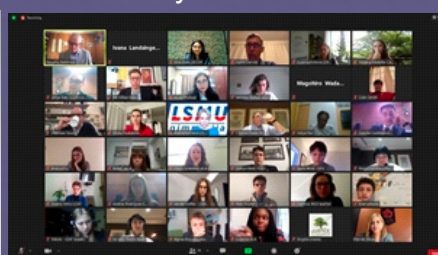
Collegio Claustro Moderno Montgomery Bell Academy Symposium

CCMMBAIS, which takes place every year between the months of March and April, explores ideas in great detail and allows students from across the world to share these ideas on one central theme. Postponed from last year, Isha Shah and I, under the guidance of Ms Vidya Rao, explored the topic of Justice over the past few months while preparing for the symposium, which was held on the 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th of March this annum.

Hosted by Collegio Claustro Moderno, a renowned school in Bogota, Colombia, we had the opportunity to speak to the Ex-Minister of Justice and a former Ambassador to the UK, Mr Carlos Medllin and Judge Ms Diana Rivera, who explained the elemental concepts of justice to us. We also made a 'Personal Project' where we interviewed a Criminal Lawyer on the subject of the Retributive Theory of Law and how we can improve upon it.

After a period of online discussions and essay writing, we attended the symposium online over Zoom which was an incredible experience. We had discussions between ourselves over subjects like 'Building an Ideal World', and 'How well can justice systems cope with the particular modern challenges of environmental justice and social justice?' We then created presentations for the same.

The second week we had more discussions and finally we, as a group, drafted an accord that suggested the ways in which we as a society and community can make the world a more just place to live in.



Nysa Phulwar
Grade II



Teacher of the Month: Ms Smitha Sanu

IBDP Physics Activities and Their Importance in Student Research

Physics is the most fundamental of the experimental sciences, as it seeks to explain the universe itself from the very smallest particles, currently accepted as quarks, which may be truly fundamental, to the vast distances between galaxies. As said by Dr Leon M Lederman, "Physics is a tortured assembly of contrary qualities: of scepticism and rationality, of freedom and revolution, of passion and aesthetics, and of soaring imagination and trained common sense." Despite the exciting and extraordinary development of ideas throughout the history of physics, certain aspects have remained unchanged. Observations remain essential to the very core of physics, sometimes requiring a leap of imagination to decide what to look for. At the school level, both theory and experiments are important for conceptual understanding for students. They should complement one another naturally, as they do in the wider scientific community.

The Diploma Programme physics course allows students to develop traditional practical skills and at the same time also master new scientific techniques and methods. It also allows students to develop interpersonal and digital communication skills which are essential in modern scientific endeavours and are important life-enhancing, transferable skills in their own right.

Practical work and research activities are a vital and integral part of group four science courses in IBDP, providing students with the experience of investigative and experimental activities within and outside the classroom. It enables them to develop a wide range of skills such as investigation, design, manipulative skills, data processing and analysis, evaluation, teamwork and communication. The opportunity to undertake investigations and hands-on experimentation allows them to engage in many of the processes encountered by scientists, and to appreciate the nature of scientific thought and investigation.

In my journey with GICL/GICLM over the last five years, we have performed many such activities which not only allowed learners to have hands-on experiences, but also trained students in gaining a variety of research-oriented skills. Some of such activities included finding acceleration due to gravity by video analysis, and modelling radioactive decay using a beer's foam. Students perform all these experiments digitally, using the LoggerPro application. This involves taking a five-minute video of the required experiment and then analysing the video frame-by-frame. Such experiments are not only fun to conduct, but also give students the knowledge about software like LoggerPro and how they can be used for every aspect of the experiment, right from recording to data collection to analysis. Such skills are mandatory for their individual investigations, especially in group four subjects.

Other than technological based learning, students have also performed activities in astrophysics! This included studying the star data charts and comparing the brightness of other stars to the brightness of our Sun. Students then plotted the data from the chart on the graph provided on the chart paper. Students in IB Physics have also collaborated with CAS in the past. In this activity, IBDP1 students gave a brief introduction to astrophysics and the wonders of the universe to Grade 9 students.

Overall, I have enjoyed this enriching journey of teaching and learning over the last five years of my teaching experience in IBDP at GICLM. I would really want to thank the editors and the students behind Surkhiyan for giving me this opportunity to share my journey with our community.

Ms Smitha Sanu
Physics Teacher



Alumni Article

Thinking back at my time with Garodia Education, I have three memories that seem very imperative for my growth as I entered college. The interactions with my teachers, the opportunity to take part in the theatre program and the year I was captain of my house. These three distinct factors played a major role in how I dealt with my time at university and subsequently how my time post-graduation is going. The teachers that shaped the way I think of GICL made the largest impact on me figuring out the way I wanted to live my life. I realized my potential through the influences from teachers who taught me their crafts, may it be Physics, English, French, Sports or Theater.



At Garodia International, I faced challenges with subjects that I did not care about, but in hindsight, those moments seem very important and I often find myself thanking the teachers who forced me through those times. The low number of students in my classes was a significant factor for the learning process, and I find that to be the reason the teachers could influence me as well as they did. The Theatre Program is by far the most cherished memory of mine. I absolutely loved the entire process from getting to skip classes to actually being able to act and perform three incredible characters (a loud and obnoxious judge, a wise God and one forgettable police officer). The process laid out by the two directors for whom I worked was incredibly rewarding. I remember the days we spent learning the lines and then acting it out in the three attached classrooms and then in the school auditorium, followed by rehearsals at the main stage. That really resonated with me and helped me realize my learning potential. The energy in the school seemed different because of the collaborative nature of the theatre process with actors, dancers, singers, costume design and prop design all converging towards one goal.

Last but not the least, I have to thank whoever was involved in the Student Council Selection Committee for giving me the opportunity to be the captain of my house: an honour that I still find unbelievable. It made me realize the importance of influencing an individual to do what is right for the team. I remember making difficult decisions and having students dislike me, but reaping the benefits by collecting the most points at the end of the year. The feeling of going up on stage and winning something that took an entire year to accomplish – after the team struggled to win for three years – became a very important lesson in looking at the bigger picture. I never get held back for not seeing any progress daily because now I have the patience to wait for the change in the long term. That is thanks to the journey I had as the captain of my house and the faculty that chose me. I find myself lucky for having enrolled at Garodia Education. The seven-year journey with my friends and the environment created by the teachers nurtured my growth. Since leaving India, I have graduated from Pennsylvania State University with two bachelor's degrees in Film Making and Industrial Engineering. The feat of completing two degrees was as daunting as it was fun. I realized very early on that I have four years and way too much free time to just leave with one major. I mustered the courage and took up the challenge of completing eight years worth of studying in only four. All that is thanks to the mindset I had leaving Garodia International.

Mr Adhyaksh Amarnath

Film Maker and Graphic Designer for Pennsylvania State University

From the Desk of Our University Counsellor: Trending Careers Post-Pandemic

When did God laugh the most? The answer is 'When you showed him your future plans'. No time in history would this joke be more appropriate than the present situation we all are in. Looking back at this last one-year, a lot of our plans have either been shelved or taken a different route to fit into the present situation, be it on the personal or professional. At this juncture, it becomes imperative for us to step back and analyse our choices and goals because we need to remember that there is an opportunity in adversity.

Considering the present scenario, some of the careers options worth paying close attention to are:

Digital Marketing: With more people making use of e-information, digital marketing has become a lifeline for companies as they seek to reduce marketing expenditure and follow their customers online. In addition, with new social media platforms coming in and creative content being curated especially for the digital medium, there is going to be a need for digital marketers.

Cybersecurity Professionals: With companies shifting to remote working, it has become crucial to secure the networks, confidential data, and employee operations against the many security threats. Sectors like healthcare, education, retail, financial institutions, and even government organizations rely on cybersecurity experts to secure their enormous data and online payments. Thus, there is definitely a rise in employment opportunities for cybersecurity professionals.

Pharma Sector: There is going to be a huge boom in the pharma sector and bio-based careers like bio-informatics and research which is all set to grow by leaps and bounds.

Data Analytics: Data consumption is hitting new records post the pandemic. From OTT platforms to smart gadgets, data is the one common currency.

IT Sector: The evergreen IT sector will continue leading the pack. However, some innovations would be needed. Students looking for a career in this field need to learn coding, robotics, machine learning and artificial intelligence to keep pace with the growing demand.

Freelancing Options: This one opens up a door to several opportunities like content writing, fashion designing, graphic designing, photography, public relations, coder/programmer, translator or marketing. Obviously, all of these fields require a specific skill set, but not one that's hard to develop.

The careers that are likely to face a decrease in demand during Post-Covid would be:

Hospitality: Post the pandemic, the hospitality sector is in doldrums. It will take a while before it gets back up to its former glory. So, if you are looking for a career in hospitality, you probably have to wait until things get back to normal.

Event Management: Crowds drive events and hence the revenue. Post Corona, it will take a while before people throng into clubs, stadiums and auditoriums.

Traditional Advertising: The traditional advertising sector is in bad shape. 'Print' is losing out to digital and this has resulted in many magazines and other newspaper sections shut permanently. The advertising agencies are also bleeding. So, any budding advertiser must understand that digital literacy is essential for a good sustainable job in this field.

To conclude, When the future seems uncertain, it is wise to pursue a diverse portfolio of options instead of just sticking single-mindedly to one. Even in better times, choosing an appropriate career is never a perfectly straightforward process. Acquiring soft skills like digital literacy and the ability to adapt to the evolving work environment will play an important role in such times.

Suchetha Vasant
University Guidance Counsellor
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