

# SURKHIYAN सुरखियां

GERMAN QUIZ  
CHAMPIONSHIP

GARODIA FINLANDWAY

HINDI DIVAS



TEACHERS' DAY

COMMUNITY SERVICE  
ACTIVITIES

INTER-HOUSE  
COOKING COMPETITION



# GICLM as a Centre of Excellence in Learning



Early Years Education is the seed for lifelong learning and a brighter future. We at Garodia Finlandway understand this and take care of not only the psychological, but also the mental development of children while creating the best possible environment for their holistic growth. We believe that each child is unique and therefore nurturing also has to be personalized. We take each child's specific requirements into consideration along with their learning journey.

Garodia Finlandway conference was recently held online where we had more than five hundred participants, teachers, principals of various schools, educators, parents and other members of the community who wanted to understand and know more about the curriculum and how can it support inclusive education by providing age appropriate experience through guided learning and free play. The response we got from this conference was overwhelming.

Our students also celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi this month with great splendour during their online sessions! Early Childhood students were all excited and kept shouting 'Ganapati Bappa Morya' while they were creating their very own Ganapati activity card with decorative art and craft material. The students also had fun making and munching on chocolate coconut laddoos. The story of Lord Ganesha and why and how he was named as the elephant-headed God was narrated to the children, and an eco-friendly Idol was selected in order to promote environmentally friendly practises.

To encourage children to celebrate our national language "Hindi Diwas" was also celebrated in the Primary years. A recitation competition was held where children read poems on fruits, vegetables, humour and idioms. It was great to see our students enthusiastically taking part and speaking with confidence.

Also, a big thank you to all our students for creating and sending in sweet Teachers' Day messages. To make us feel even more special, our Director Mr Nishant Garodia and his wife Mrs Deepal Garodia, arranged for a little bag of goodies to be delivered to all our teachers as a token of appreciation. This sweet gesture really made us teachers feel special, appreciated and happy.

The health and safety of our students is of vital importance. GICLM has the highest expectations and meets World Health Organization safety standards. Ongoing workshops and briefings not only with our teachers, but also with our security and Sodexo staff have been conducted regularly. Our Head of School Mr Ian Davies along with the Senior Leadership Team have been working around the clock on strategies to create a safe learning environment for our students as they begin returning to school.



**Ms Priyanka Maligail**  
**Head of Early Years**

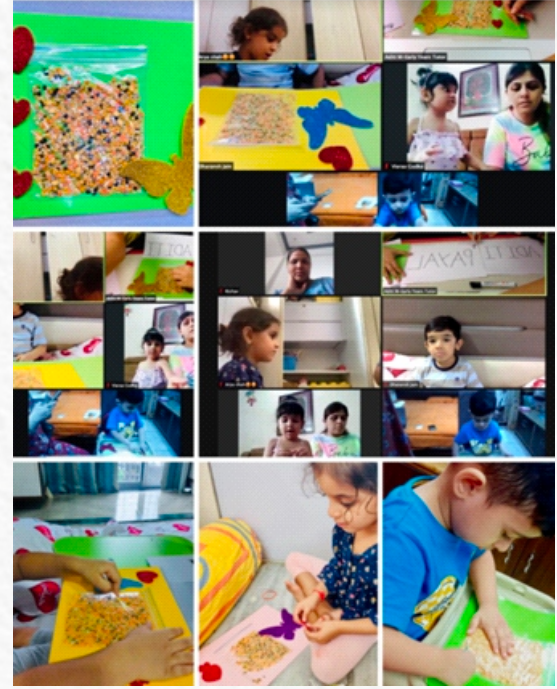




# International Literacy Day!

Literacy is the development of oral language to communicate to others. It is also the development of fine motor skills so that students can gain the ability to be able to properly hold a pencil that will eventually produce the written word. Literacy is the recognition of letters and sounds in the alphabet, and is the understanding of print concepts such as reading left to right, and how to form letters. This month, our Nursery students at GICLM were busy learning and writing letters from their own names. Tutors and parents of Nursery class made great use of lentils for the kids to trace the letters they learned. Have a look at the students learning to write and recognising letters.

## Nursery



# FinlandWay in K1



A preschool is the first place where a child steps into school for an early learning experience. Here at GICLM, it is definitely an enriching atmosphere. However, seeing is believing...

The ABCs are the building blocks of language. Learning to write the letters of the alphabet and identifying their sounds is the base for developing language skills. As our little ones in K1 leap into learning to write the letters, visual-learning forms a very important part in order to identify, recognize and associate. This month one letter was introduced each week and so too were various activities revolving around the letter that helped our little ones of K1 to learn, understand, remember and recollect. Letters Aa, Bb, Cc and Dd were introduced this month along with some activities that included making a Boat (craft activity), Non-Fire Cooking (fruit salad), and so on. It was nice to see our young learners engrossed in all the activities they did.

Additionally, as part of our Garodia FinlandWay lesson, children discussed the difference between Marcos the monkey's home, Bruna the dragon's home and our homes (humans). They also discussed how animal homes differ from our homes. Later they had a creative session where they built a 3D home for themselves with various rooms in it. It was a session that was thoroughly enjoyed by our little builders!

## Kidergarten I





## Exploring a Diagram

To begin this activity, the tutor engaged the children in a discussion wherein the different types of shops and stores (e.g., sweet mart, grocery shop, medical stores, dairy products, garage etc.) we come across in our daily life were mentioned. Children were very much familiar with the toy shop and the mall, as they had all been to those places. They were also asked to think of places, shops, buildings and other landmarks they come across on their way to school. Children were encouraged to follow instructions and draw a diagram which depicts their path to school. This activity enhanced their vocabulary and spatial awareness.

### Kindergarten 2



## Ganesh Chaturthi

Early Years students celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with great splendour during their online sessions this month! They were all excited and kept shouting 'Ganapati Bappa Morya' while creating their very own Ganapati card with decorative art and craft materials. The students also had fun making and munching on chocolate coconut laddoos.

The session ended with a lot of learning, which included the story of Lord Ganesha as well as opting for an eco-friendly Idol (keeping our concern for the environment in mind). Happy Ganesh Chaturthi to all of our GICLM community members!





# Kinderuni Meisterschaft – German Quiz Championship



**Jeehaan Tataria**  
Class 3

Digitale Kinderuni Meisterschaft (Digital Children’s University Championship), which is a quiz show based on the video lectures of Kinderuni, was organized by the Goethe Institute. The concept of a Children’s University is widespread in Germany, as most German universities offer teaching units led by well-known professors to children ages eight to twelve.

By solving a series of unusual – and rather non-scholastic – assignments, young students collect badges that help them advance through the university’s course of studies. After completing a Bachelor, Master and Doctorate degree, children eventually graduate from the Kinder University as professors. This elaborate system is based on a highly successful modern didactic method called “gamification”. The following GICLM students participated enthusiastically in this championship: Jeehaan Tataria, Rashi Assar, Kiara Shah, Dhruvteesh Rupani, Aarav Gudka, Riona Shah, Vihaa Shah, Hriday Agarwal and Kian Singla.

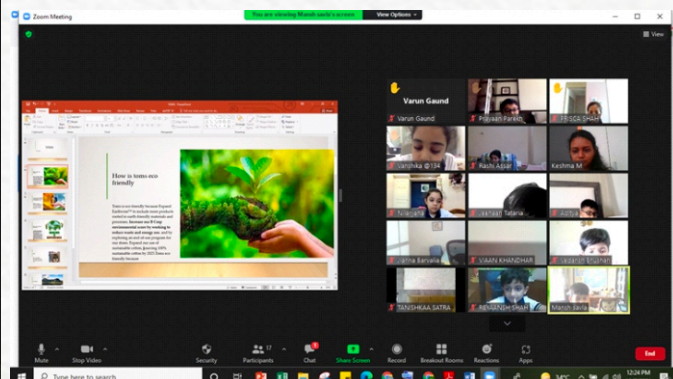
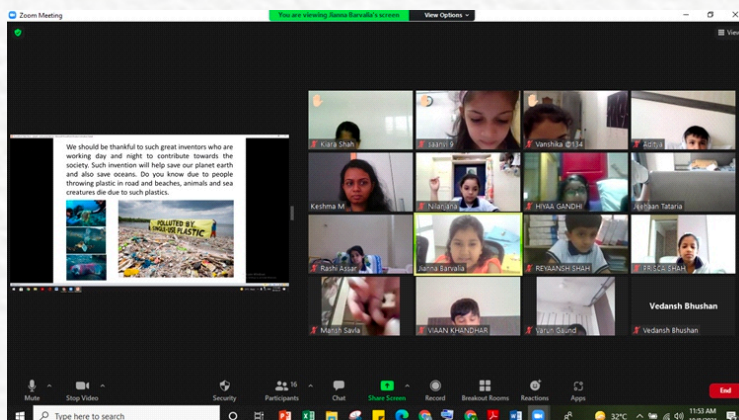
Our youngest student, Jeehaan Tataria (Grade 3), won the preliminary round of the Digital Kinderuni Championship. As a winner of the preliminary round, Jeehaan has also won a scholarship to attend a digital youth camp in November as well as Kinderuni goodies. On Sunday, 3rd October he participated in the finals and stood first and became the Ultimate Kinderuni Champion! He competed with students from Iran, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan as well as other cities of India. For his great accomplishment, Jeehaan has won a Lenovo Tablet as a prize. We wish Jeehaan and all our GICLM German students all the best in their German language learning journeys .

**Ms Aarya Phaltankar**  
German Teacher

## Hopes for a Greener Future

Upon learning about the negative impact humans have on the environment in different ways (pollution, oil spills, deforestation, etc.), students from Grade 3 took a look at the positive initiatives people are taking to help improve these problems. To help them really understand this idea, students were asked to research and present to the class some of the different ways people are contributing to make a positive difference for the environment.

Some researched companies around the world, while others researched communities or individuals within the city taking action today. There were many interesting and fascinating finds from chopsticks being recycled to make furniture, shoes being made from chewing gum, companies making solar powered windows, as well as communities composting all their garbage for months in Mumbai! Together, they learned about the various ways they can help contribute, the little changes people can make to their lifestyles, and why we should respect the environment. Here are a few glimpses of students sharing their PowerPoint presentations as they encouraged all of us to take action for a better tomorrow!





## Hindi Divas

The Hindi Divas celebration brought about a spectacular display of enthusiasm amongst our Primary students. Their performances wowed the judges due to the amount of effort and planning that went into them. Besides reciting their chosen poems on the given topics, students also put ardent efforts into their costumes and background decorations to enhance their performances and complement the content of their poems. The children and their parents did a great job making their performances a splendid hit, despite costumes and props holding no marks in the judging criteria.

A combination of competitiveness and creativity was witnessed in its true spirit. The judges couldn't stop gushing over the efforts put in by the students to uplift the event to a paramount height of success. It gives me great pride to have received a chance to teach and mentor such bright young minds. The celebration of Hindi Divas at GICLM this year was hands down one of the best witnessed by me in my teaching career as a Hindi teacher. It is even more impressive that this all happened despite the constraints of organizing a stage event online.

**Ms Sushma Sharma**  
**Primary Hindi Teacher**



## Science Fun!

Observational skills are essential when it comes to Science. Scientists use observation to collect and record data, which enables them to construct and then test hypotheses and theories. Scientists observe in many ways – with their own senses, or with tools such as microscopes, scanners or transmitters to extend their vision or hearing. These tools allow for more precise and accurate observations. The scientists of Grade 1 have donned their scientist hats to observe the growth of mustard seeds. They were very excited to observe the mustard seeds grow and to see the roots come out. This activity helped them work on their basic observation skills and increased their inquisitiveness.





## Communication is Key!

Good communication skills in life ensure everyone around you can understand you and you understand them. This month, Grade 3 class focused on the IPC Personal Learning Goal – Communication. The IPC Personal Learning Goals are qualities the children learn to embed to succeed in today's world. They are built into learning tasks for each subject so that students get the opportunity to practice and learn these personal goals. The students presented the importance of good communication, the different methods of communication, and how individuals can become good communicators. They also had to learn to communicate effectively themselves while learning online to collaborate and put together their presentations and skits. Here are some tips for you to improve your communication skills too!

Five Effective Communication Strategies:

1. Listening – being a good listener and not just waiting for your turn to talk
2. Use non-verbal communication to relate, engage, and establish meaningful interactions
3. Be clear and concise – don't talk too much or too little
4. Be friendly
5. Be confident when interacting

## Ganpati Paper Collage fun!

We all know that Ganpati is one of the most important festivals of the year, and it plays a great deal of importance to our school and community. Every year in art class, all Primary grade students do a particular project to highlight the importance of Ganpati. All students put in a lot of effort to make a drawing to celebrate the Elephant God and his importance in our society. While completing this project, students also took time to learn about and discuss the importance of this festival. Take a look at some of the beautiful creations from some of our students.





# Grooming Future Leaders

We at GICLM have wonderful opportunities for students to develop their leadership and mentoring skills, and one such platform for this is the Student Council. A student council represents the voice of all the students and actively works with the school management and teachers to promote a better learning environment. It helps students cultivate and develop soft-skills like communication, teamwork, organization and public speaking, which are all required in their future careers. While standing for elections for the Student Council, and while campaigning and trying to reach the student body for votes, students learn the value of networking and the skills necessary for successful networking.

In order to nurture a competitive spirit amongst students and inculcate a strong sense of belonging, the students at GICLM are divided into four Houses – Agni, Jal, Prithvi and Vayu. The Student Council for 2021-2022 includes Captains and Vice-Captains from these four Houses, the Sports Captains and Vice-Captains, and the Class Representatives from each Grade. The announcement about the elections of the Student Council was received with great enthusiasm and the students were excited to learn that there would be more opportunities to foster their skills since there were to be two Captains and two Vice-Captains for every house, which would include a boy and a girl. The same opportunity was extended to the Sports Captains as well. All students from Grades 6-8 were given the opportunity to nominate themselves for the post of Vice-Captain and for the post of Captain, nominations were invited from the students of Grades 9-12.

While the Sports Captains were to be selected on the basis of interviews with the SLT, the House Captains were to be elected by their respective House members. The students rushed to meet the deadline of 14th August 2021 for the nomination, and then prepared themselves to give a speech before their House members, canvassing for their candidature. Elections were held through Google forms on 18th August. For the candidates, it was a chance for critical self-reflection and self-appraisal as they put forth their talents and abilities and of course made promises about many things.

After the elections, the first Inter-House competition was the Literary Quiz and the House Captains faced their first challenge – convincing their House members to be a part of the quiz, since the event was thrown open to all the members of the House of a particular Grade category. The Quiz was definitely a huge success with all students participating with a keen competitive spirit! I am sure all future events and competitions will be equally successful.

We look forward to the Student Council working as a team to create a harmonious relationship among the members of the school community and to foster a sense of loyalty and pride in all their fellow members. Three cheers to the Student Council of GICLM 2021-2022!!!

## STUDENT COUNCIL 2021-2022

Sports Captains: Miss. Arunima Deb and Mast. Rahul Mehta  
Sports Vice-Captains: Miss. Tvisha Kamdar and Mast. Samyak Kamdar

Agni House Captains: Miss Aarna Popat and Mast.Hriday Jain  
Agni Vice-Captains: Miss Vihaa Shah and Mast. Tanay Mehta

Prithvi Captains : Miss. Aarna Patel and Mast. Bhavya Doshi  
Prithvi Vice-Captains: Miss. Sreshta Kanakdandi and Mast. Dev Mehta

Jal Captains: Miss. Anugraha S N and Mast. Parva Doshi  
Jal Vice-Captains : Miss. Jia Sankhla and Mast. Trish Gupta

Vayu Captains: Miss. Vaidehi Patel and Mast. Siddh Vora  
Vayu Vice-Captains : Miss Souumya Kothari and Mast. Parshwa Lakdawala





# Learning about Places in the City with a German Song

During the month of September, the Grade 7 German students got an opportunity to learn about different places situated in a city. These included Café, Bibliothek (library), Sporthalle (sports arena), Kaufhaus (shopping mall) and many more. The new thing here was learning a peppy song related to these places! This was completely new to us. Basically, we were given the structure of the song that had a common chorus. Each of us then had to change the structure and customize the song. What we found most exciting was the chance to sing a Karaoke version of our song! This was a fun way to learn new vocabulary about an interesting topic, and singing along really made learning the language exciting and enjoyable!



**Dev Mehta  
Nirva Shah  
Grade 7**

## PSHCE Service Projects

This month, students from Grades 6 to 10 are starting to indulge in different forms of community services in their PSHCE lessons. As of now, they are yet to finalise the details and are currently in the planning stages of this activity.

Teachers and students hope for this activity to go on for about a month or even more! Everyone is putting in a lot of hard work and are hoping that it will be a success. We came up with tons of ideas, out of which some fell perfectly into place, while others needed to be altered to fit the purpose of the community service project as outlined by our PSHCE Coordinator. Everyone is hoping to get started as soon as possible. Indeed, all students are eager to be of good use to our community and provide all the help we can in such difficult times!

**Sreshta Kanakadandi  
Barbie Vora  
Riona Shah  
Grade 6**



During our PSHCE lessons this month, Secondary students were given the opportunity to plan and carry out a community service. In Grade 8 particularly, we did a variety of things to help, including: teaching underprivileged children, conducting a donation drive, and planting trees!

During the donation drive, we collected old clothes, books, and toys which were later donated to Bal Anand orphanage, a non-profit organisation operating in Mumbai. Along with that, we taught science and geography to underprivileged kids. Also, in an attempt to make India greener, we planted different seeds of moong, apples and peppers. This task was both worthwhile and fun to carry out. Not only did it teach us the importance of doing good, but it also helped us understand our community from a completely different perspective!

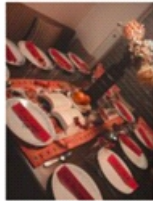
**Drisana Zaveri  
Grade 8**



# Enlightenment Dinner Party



In order to view ideas of the past fully, we had to see it through our own eyes and experience it. To accomplish this, the students of Grade 8 set up an Enlightenment Dinner Party! This party consisted of many thinkers that were part of the Enlightenment period that was the major cause of change and revolution.



For this activity, our class was divided into pairs in which we had to plan and review the entire dinner party. We had to keep in mind the details that ranged from the theme, types of tables, and decorations, right to the food, menu and invitations! We researched about all the twelve thinkers that would be part of our party in order to plan our seating chart as well as dialogues of the prospective guests. This gave us a deeper understanding of the ideas, thoughts, beliefs, influences, experiences and advancements of each historical figure!

**Drisana Zaveri**  
**Grade 8**

## Our Experience in IB



My experience in IB has been amazing so far. One aspect of IB that I really appreciate is the balance between academics and extracurriculars. We get to pursue our own interests and showcase our skills through numerous activities. IB helps build a good level of communication too. We can put forward our perspectives, preferences and voice out our own opinions. It has helped me boost my confidence to a great extent. This program has helped me articulate my own thoughts and views. IB is mainly helping me with my personal development. I have personally been able to explore a lot through this program in many different aspects. This has let me focus a lot more on my own interests and to work towards developing my skills related to them.

**Moksha Shah**

IBDP is definitely different from what I was used to in the ICSE board. It's a change that is still unfolding, but I'm looking forward to it. I am beginning to settle in with its workings. Even though it can be overwhelming at times, it encourages and challenges me. I am really enjoying it and it is a very unique experience. Personally, I love the practical aspect of IBDP.

**Parva Doshi**



Being new to GICLM and to IB is something that I initially thought would be way out of my comfort zone. However, IBDP has given me a lot more freedom to explore and align my perspective, but with a lot of freedom come responsibilities. Whether it is meeting deadlines or preparing for a test, everything has taught me how to be responsible. The last three months have been bustling and frantic, but our teachers have helped us through all of it. They have guided us and let us explore this path ourselves. Doing IB in a new school is definitely challenging and overwhelming, but the past three months have taught me some valuable skills such as time management, meeting deadlines, preparing early in the right way, and many more. Our whole class is welcoming and everyone is helping the newbies out. These past few months have allowed things to settle down and take their place, so I think it is time to boost myself up and give my two hundred percent in everything I do from here on out!

**Anugraha SN**





# An Interview with the New Psychology Teacher and Counsellor



## **What are your educational qualifications? What do you specialise in?**

Ms Amretta Dandona has completed her Master of Arts (MA) in Counselling Psychology after three years of undergraduate and two years of postgraduate studies. She has given the NET exam to become an assistant professor in psychology, and has received a diploma degree in Human Resources and Development. Lastly, she also underwent more specialised training to become a counsellor along with her first job.

## **Can you explain what interested you and what motivated you to become a psychologist / psychology teacher?**

Ms Dandona knew from a very young age that she had the ability to calm people down and console them. She also realised that she knew how to be there for them during their hardest times. Additionally, after she completed tenth grade, no mainstream subject like math or science appealed to her, which led her to pick psychology in eleventh grade. She had absolutely no idea as to what it was, but it turned out to be one of her best decisions and she knew right then that if she wanted to have a successful career, it had to be in the field of psychology!

## **If you were not a teacher, what would you be?**

When asked this question, Ms. Dandona didn't have to think twice. She never thought that she'd be a teacher, as she was more inclined to become a counsellor since she spent a lot of time training for it. Her introduction to the teaching profession was very abrupt and was suggested to her by her professor. She wasn't employed at that time and her professor suggested the teaching path, as she is good at public speaking and had all the required degrees and expertise in the field. This is where her career took off! If given the choice now to become a counsellor, she says that she would not drop teaching for it. She truly enjoys her job and is extremely hard working and dedicated towards it. She also says that she is always there for anyone who needs to talk and she can always be the counsellor figure in their lives.

## **What is one of the most interesting things that has happened in your career so far?**

She gave an example of her student who she taught in Grades 11 and 12. While teaching this student, she noticed a few changes in her behaviour and how she wouldn't want to interact with her classmates. After discussing it with her, Ms Dandona realised that she was facing a bunch of challenges stemming from her family. Ms Dandona continues to talk to her regularly, even after the student has graduated, and she says that her proudest moment is to see her grow as a person, better herself, and overcome her personal challenges.





### Any words of advice for aspiring psychologists?

“Psychology is a very vast topic and is prevalent in your everyday life,” she said. To do something successfully in this field, you have to identify your personality and traits along with the subject. An example she gave was that a lot of times students are good at research and enjoy sitting in one place to find relevant information, while other students may be good at the more vocal aspect of psychology and may be better at helping others by listening and giving small words of advice. Lastly, some people may be better at testing and applying the research in labs. Here, all the three types of students can be psychologists, but different working in aspects of psychology such as becoming a clinical research associate, counsellor, or a clinical psychologist respectively. Therefore, she said that when one looks for possible careers, one will have to consider multiple different aspects of themselves.

### How do you feel about the school environment? Were you able to settle down comfortably?

Ms Amretta said that even though we are not able to physically be in school, she felt extremely warm and welcome here at GICLM. Adding on, she also feels like the school understands that all she wants is the best interest of her students and they respect her voice and decisions.

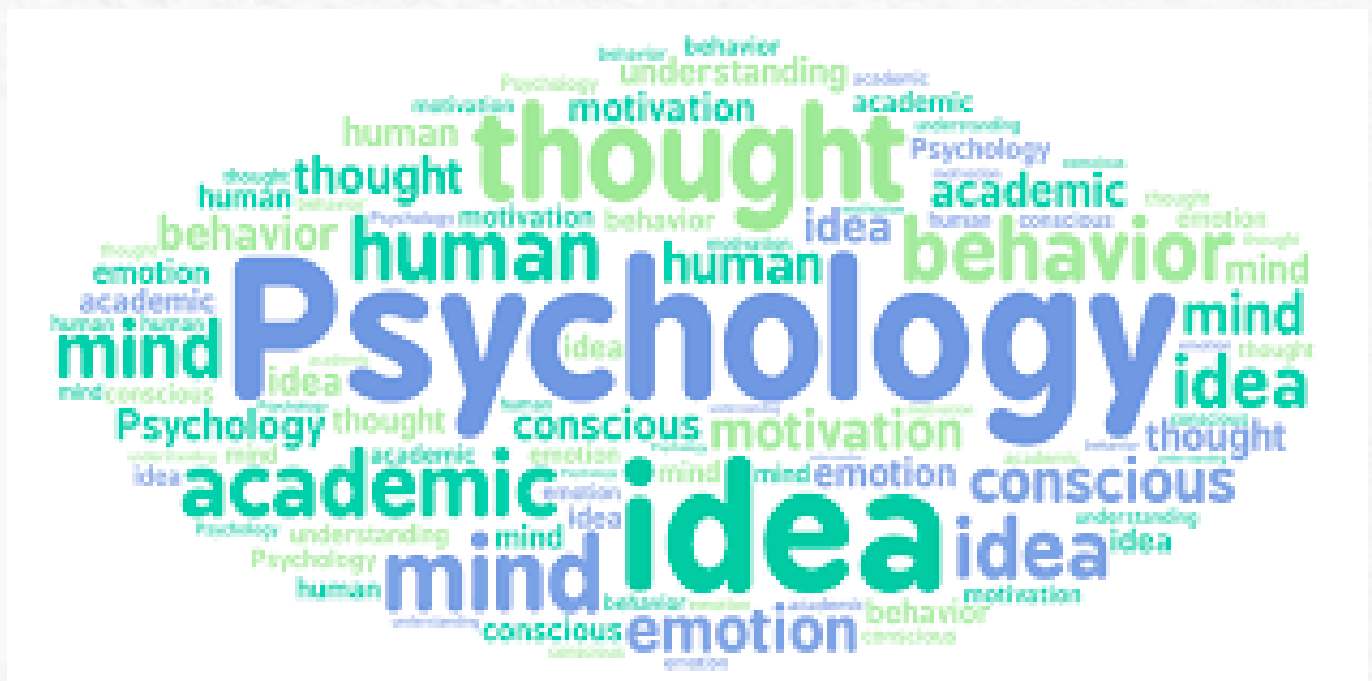
### Is there anything particular that you are looking forward to?

Currently during the pandemic, she understands that her student’s mental health is not very great. Hence, all she is rooting for and wants is for her students to go to school at least once in a week to bring back the joy and excitement of coming to class. So, the only thing Ms Dandona is looking for right now, is to have her students back in school and to be able to teach face to face again!

### What do you do for enjoyment and to relax?

Ms Amretta loves art! All the way from making cosmetics for herself and her family to diamond paintings, cement vases, magnets to the latest trend of resin art. She is fully prepared with all her supplies to make keychains and trays! She said that this is something she loves to do when she doesn’t have the motivation to do anything else and it calms her down.

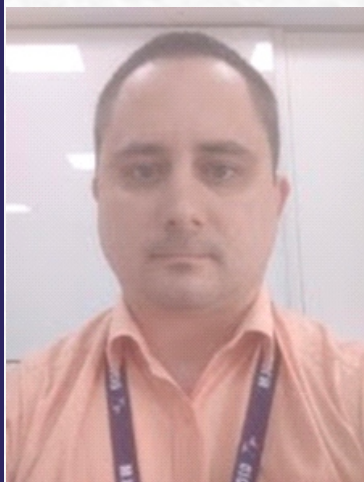
**Ananya Sudhir**  
**Grade 12**





# Teachers' Day Interviews

Happy Teachers' Day to all our phenomenal teachers who never fail to make all our classes as intriguing as possible. Thank you for being our guides and our mentors. We appreciate you and all your efforts to make us the best. In honour of Teachers' Day, I interviewed a couple of my teachers, their answers were quite unexpected.



**Mr Brandon Andreas: English Teacher and School Magazine Club Tutor**

**How many years have you been a teacher?**

This is my 11th year teaching.

**What difference have you seen in the kids from the day you started teaching and the present generation?**

Today students are much more dependent on technology compared to when I first started teaching. Although we used technology in the classroom when I first started teaching, today I couldn't see myself or my students going a day without it!

**What is the top quality you want your students to have?**

Most of all I want my students to be honest and trustworthy individuals. Throughout your years in school you will develop from children to young adults, and while academic achievement is something that is very important in life, maturing into someone that people can count on and look up to is something that I believe is fundamental for all future success.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

In ten years, I see myself in the same place I am right now! I hope to still have the opportunity to be in the classroom helping to mould the next generation of young minds.

**What is the best thing about being a teacher?**

The best thing about being a teacher is being able to meet and interact with so many brilliant students and educators. I have learned so much over this past decade from such a wide variety of different people. I wouldn't trade the experiences I have had as a teacher for anything!

**How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your teaching methods?**

The current pandemic has really shaken up the way teaching and learning takes place. I think everyone would agree at this point that teaching through Zoom just does not have the same personal feeling as being in the classroom, face to face. However, I think it is not all bad, as the pandemic has really made us as educators re-evaluate and upgrade our teaching practices. For example, the integration of web platforms such as Padlet into our English classes has allowed the collaboration between classmates to continue.

**If you weren't a teacher, what would your profession be?**

Great question! I think if I were not a teacher, I would be a chef, as I love to cook and enjoy delicious meals with my family.



**Mr Mark Orcine: Mathematics Teacher**

**How many years have you been a teacher?**

This is my 15th year of teaching.

**What difference have you seen in the kids from the day you started teaching and the present generation?**

Students now are very "techie". Some, even at a young age, know coding already. Also, students now are very proactive. They can do several activities within a week without being supervised.

**What is the top quality you want your students to have?**

I always put a premium on proper attitude and behaviour.





**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

Probably still teaching!

**What is the best thing about being a teacher?**

If I see my students making a difference in their community, being successful and happy in what they do, that is very fulfilling and makes being a teacher worth it.

**How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your teaching methods?**

Covid-19 has affected learning a lot. Being a teacher is “always on the go” work. Physical activities that will help students learn are limited. However, we as teachers must face what is presented to us.

**If you weren't a teacher, what would your profession be?**

There are two things I am passionate about aside from teaching. First, I might be a dog breeder, as I really love dogs. Second is probably a chef, not in a big restaurant, but a small home-cooked food stall or something like that.

**Mrs Sarita Shetty: History Teacher and Primary IPC Tutor****How many years have you been a teacher?**

I have been teaching for 10 years.

**What difference have you seen in the kids from the day you started teaching and the present generation?**

Students today believe in self-learning, they make use of technology and other resources to gather information. Basically, learning has become proactive now.

**How is teaching in GICLM different from other schools?**

In GICLM we are given the liberty to devise new tools to enhance the teaching and learning process. This helps teachers grow and develop into expert educators.

**What is the top quality you want your students to have?**

I want my students to have a desire to know more and possess great enthusiasm to learn.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

Ten years from now I will be happy to still be working as a teacher.

**What is the best thing about being a teacher?**

As teachers, we too learn as much from the students we teach, and we touch so many lives.

**How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your teaching methods?**

Because of Covid-19, I had to adapt to the virtual environment. I had to be more creative to keep my students engaged and to create a friendly and inviting learning atmosphere.

**If you weren't a teacher, what would your profession be?**

If I wasn't a teacher, I would probably join my family business.

**Vihaa Shah**  
**Grade 6**





# Shri Ganesha - Lord of Auspicious Beginnings

Lord Ganesha is the famous elephant-headed God worshipped by Hindus. He is righteously claimed to be the lord of Wisdom, Wealth, Knowledge, Sciences and Prosperity.

## Ganesh Chaturthi Festival

The festival is celebrated among Hindus, which lasts for 10 days. It is celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Ganesha. We were all happy to enjoy the Ganesh Chaturthi holidays from the 10th - 14th September 2021, but have you ever wondered the Symbolic Reason behind this holiday? Lord Ganesha has many features that are applicable and need to be adapted in various aspects of our lives. As a student, I feel we should take the following lessons from the deity:

1. **Big Head** – symbolises **Think Big, Out of the box and do not seize to learn**
2. **Small mouth** – symbolises **talk less, do more**
3. **Pair of Large Ears** – symbolises **Listening** to others **Attentively** more than you talk
4. **One Broken Tusk** – represents that **Sacrifice** is needed for the **Pursuit of Wisdom**
5. **A Large Stomach** – symbolises **Digest All Good** and Bad in life
6. **Small eyes** – symbolises **Concentration** and **Focus** and to look beyond what you see
7. **The Trunk** – symbolises **High Efficiency** and **Adaptability**
8. **Ladoos** – are the **Rewards of Hard Work**, the sweetest thing of all
9. **Mushak (Mouse)** – represents the **Desire** and **Ability** of the Lord to reach every nook and cranny of the mind
10. **Prasad** is exchanged symbolising Giving and Sharing
11. **Axe** – to cut all Bonds and Materialistic Attachments

## Ganesh Chaturthi 2021

This year, the festival commenced on the 10th of September 2021. The deity presides at homes of people as well as in Sarvajanic Pandals especially constructed for the occasion. The deity presides for a customised timeline of 10 days, 7 days, 5 days, 3 days, and 1.5 days.

## Welcoming the Lord

The Lord is welcomed a day prior, generally to accommodate various offerings and celebrations involved with the festival.

## Lighting of the Lamp

The auspicious event commences with the lighting of a lamp. Light symbolises Knowledge, Dignity, Hope and Truth. Lighting the lamp helps you clear negativity from your mind and soul. This clears up space for positive thoughts to enter.

## Offering Prayers

We had been privileged to honour the deity at our abode for 1.5 days. The day was scheduled with lots of prayers and visitors coming to our home to seek blessings of the Lord and distribution of the Prasad. When Lord Ganesha is brought home, we perform Aarti (sing him praise) twice a day. The purpose of doing Aarti is the waving of lighted wicks before the deities to show gratitude, love and to honour the Lord. Aarti is also accompanied by the ringing of bells, playing of musical instruments and clapping to radiate positive vibrations at home. Some people continue the same ritual for 5, 7 or 10 days.

## Gauri

The 5th day is called the Gauri. In many places, Gauri is considered as Lord Ganesha's sister and in some places, they believe Gauri is an avatar of Goddess Parvati, who is the mother of Lord Ganesha. Devotees of Goddess Gauri worship this day to attain wealth and prosperity.

## Why is Ganesha Worshipped First?

A lesser-known fact is that whenever we visit a temple, we usually worship Lord Ganesha first... but do you know why? All human thoughts are expressed in the language of words, but the language of Gods, Goddesses, and Deities who live in the astral world is the language of light. It is believed that Ganesha has the 'superpower' to convert the language of words to the language of light so that human thoughts may reach the Gods.

## Ananth Chaturdashi - Visarjan, Immersion

The idol of Lord Ganesha is immersed in water so that he may return to his home after his stay at the house of the devotee and the temple where all rituals take place. Earlier immersion was carried out in oceans, lakes, ponds, rivers, and other water bodies. In wake of the increased call to protect the environment, eco-friendly idols with home immersion possibilities have been adopted. This year, we also opted for an environmentally friendly deity at my home. Saying goodbye to your loved ones is always hard, but for a fact, I know that lord Ganesha will come next year too and bless each one of us with his extraordinary powers.



*"Don't tell Ganesha how big your problems are, tell your problems how big your Ganesha is."*

**Shona Ganatra**  
**Grade 9**



## Spread a Blanket

A lot of people in hospitals don't get the comfort or warmth of home, which is why my brother Krish and I decided to raise funds so we could provide blankets to the children in the PICUs and the Covid ward at Wadia Children's Hospital. It started with talking to potential donors and slowly evolved to anyone who was willing to lend a hand. Our initial goal was to collect enough to supply 125 blankets, but after the final count, we were able to buy not only the blankets, but also accompanying bed sheets and pillow covers.

It was truly a great experience to learn how to talk to people about our goal and even more gratifying when we got to hand-deliver the blankets to the nurses at the hospital. The smile on everyone's faces after looking at the colourful covers was a very heartwarming sight! I certainly hope to keep continuing different projects like this to help the people in our community and share my joy with everybody.



**Riddhi Shobhavat**  
Grade 9

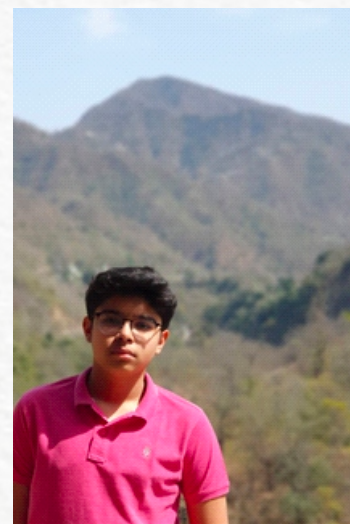


## Microsoft PowerPoint Competition

Hi, I'm Siddh Vora from Grade 10 and I recently participated in the "Sankalp 2021 Microsoft Office World Championship – National Round" for Microsoft PowerPoint 2016. It took a lot of practice, hard work, diligence, and discipline to perform well and earn the title of "India Winner". I had a wild experience during the entire process of participating in the championship, in both the regional and national rounds. I highly recommend all of you to participate in this competition in the future.

As I started my preparations, I experienced a plethora of emotions. It was initially difficult to figure out how to go about working on the GMetrix software, and I often faced low scores in the practice sample papers. My morale was down, and I didn't think I was competent enough to participate. However, consistent practice and the able guidance of the Sankalp Team improved my performance. In some time, I was starting to ace the question papers in a lower average time. I realized patience and focus were the most important qualities one needs when one has to solve complex tasks in the shortest period of time. I was thoroughly prepared for all the modules of PowerPoint. Not only was I pleased to experience content while my skills developed during the practice period, but I was also proud of myself for never quitting.

The day of the competition was nerve-wracking. The expectation was to crack every challenging task in the least possible time. Was it even possible? Due to my immense composure, I was able to get a full score (1000/1000) in just 37 minutes. This is how I won the accolade of "India Winner 2021", and I will be representing India at the World Championship where over 100 countries will send their winners. I'm looking forward to representing GICLM and India in the World Championship.



**Siddh Vora**  
Grade 10





# Inter-House Cooking Competition

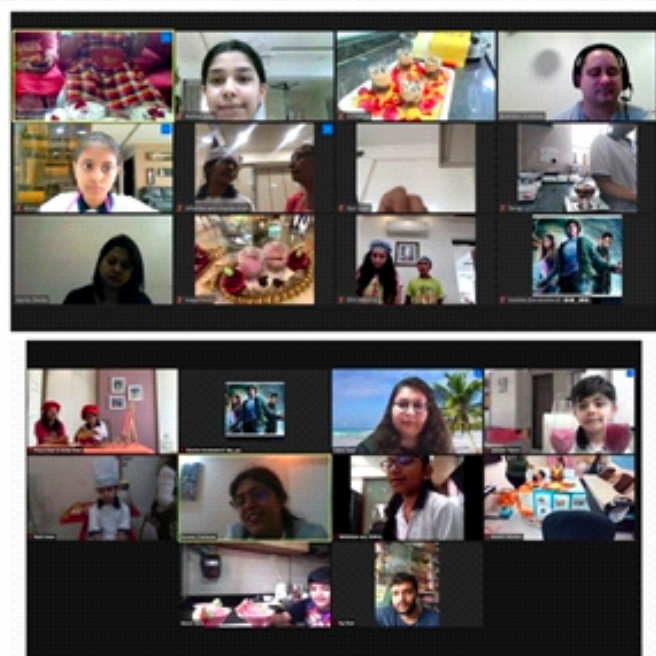
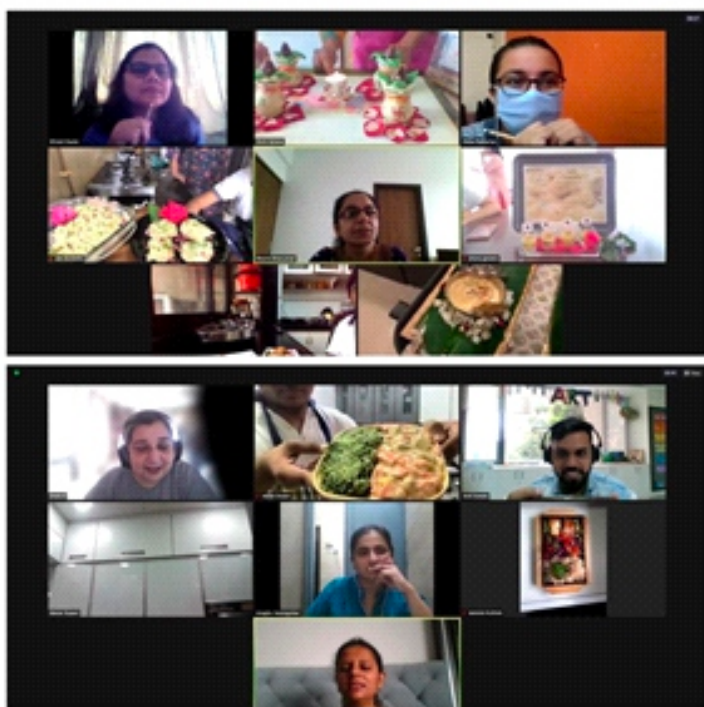
We have all been stuck at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but that surely did not stop the creative minds of our GICLM staff. This year, GICLM hosted an Inter-House Cooking competition for Grades 1-12. This competition took place online, where all safety cooking guidelines were taken into consideration. For Grades 1-8, extra safety precautions were taken by pairing students with their parents in order to create their dish.

The judging criteria for the students was based on the following:

1. Nutritional Value (students prepared a nutrition card for their dish)
2. Presentation
3. Creativity

In the end, the Inter-House Cooking Competition was indeed a success. Each and every competitor put in a lot of effort to make their drink/dessert/dish, leaving the judges blown away by the incredible creations the students were able to whip up. It was a great Saturday morning and a lovely way to begin the weekend for all the members of the GICLM community!

**Sreshta Kanakadandi**  
**Barbie Vora**  
**Grade 6**





# Transferable Skills



As you start your career, you need to be equipped with certain specific skills pertaining to that profession, and as you move on, you are likely to add more professional skills such as certain platforms or tools. While these are job specific skills, other transferable skills are very important to help you climb the career ladder. Transferable skills can be explained as the skills that you use in every job, no matter the title or the field. Some of the transferable skills worth mentioning are:

- **Problem Solving Skills** helps not only to identify that there is a problem, but also helps to identify what is causing the problem and find a way to implement a solution.
- **Analytical Reasoning** is in some ways, part of your problem-solving skills, taking the larger problem and breaking it down into smaller problems to identify a solution.
- **Critical Thinking Skills** are used in the evaluation and interpretation of information to make a judgment, come to a conclusion, or choose a course of action. They also look at the evidence and evaluate it to help to decide if the information is more opinion than fact before using it to back up a decision.
- **Leadership Skills** include one's ability to take the lead on a project and get a team to follow through and accomplish shared goals.
- **Adaptability** is yet another skill that goes a long way while climbing your career ladder. As you work in a role, you may discover that you need to adjust due dates, workflow, or even how you approach your job.
- **Teamwork** means working together as a group to achieve a common goal and make positive contributions to the group to help it succeed.
- **Communication and Writing Skills** include your ability to share ideas and information in a clear and concise manner, leaving no room for misunderstanding. Employees with effective written communication skills can convey messages and information clearly despite the lack of visual cues.
- **Active Listening Skills** can be defined as the ability to listen and understand what the other side is saying and is essential to solve a problem for a client or resolve team conflicts.
- **Creativity** is not only limited to drawing or painting skills, but is also about how you approach tasks and solve problems. Creative thinkers find novel solutions to the problems they face. They use these skills to help their employer see things differently and solve problems in new ways.
- **Management Skills** help you manage tasks from start to finish. You make sure everything stays on time and also adjust the timeline when things are not going as planned. It is also making sure people get things done and helping them overcome any stumbling blocks they may encounter.

Developing these skills are very essential, as employers today seek transferable skills in their staff because, in general, employees with these skills have the tools that help them go beyond their job description. In situations like changing careers, transferable skills play an essential role in helping you make that switch. To reflect, these skills can be developed throughout your schooling years. Taking active participation in school activities including internships or volunteering for CAS projects gives you an opportunity to hone these skills.

The most important aspect of transferable skills are that they are yours to keep! They help you land a new job, no matter how "unmatched" your professional skill set might appear to be. No matter where your career takes you or where you take your career, the transferable skills you develop will always be there for you, helping you adapt, change, and grow professionally.

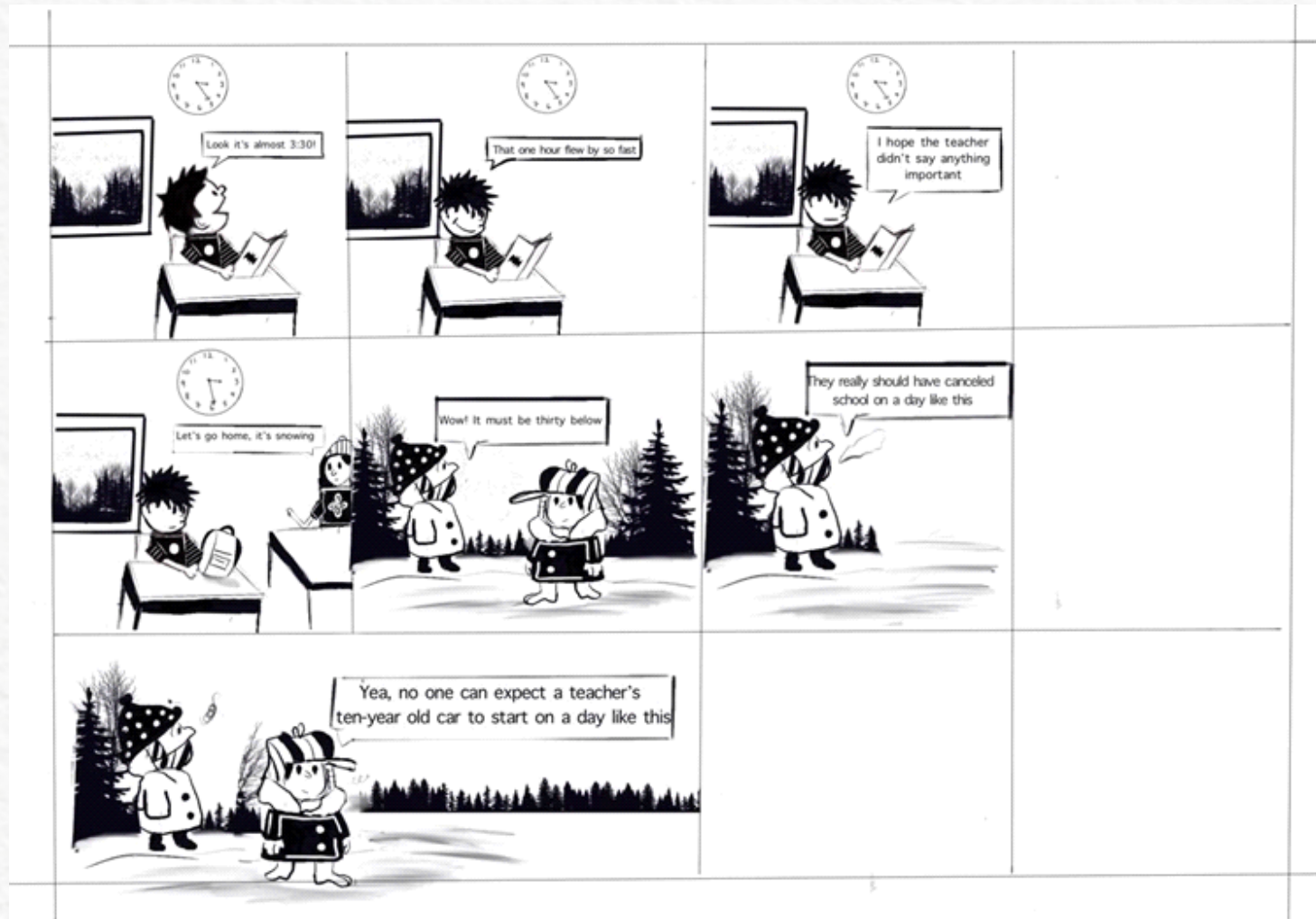
**Ms Suchetha Vasant**  
**University Counsellor**





# Festivities of September

## Comic strip-



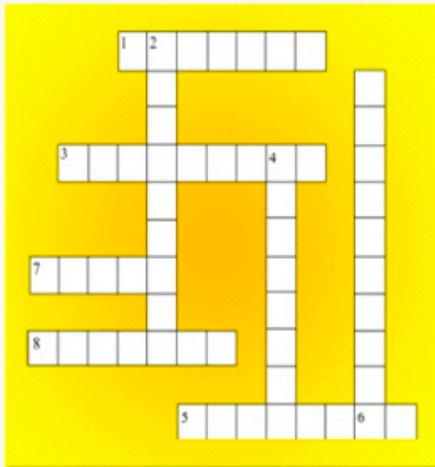
Comic written and illustrated by Drisana Zaveri  
(Grade 8)





# Festivities of September

## Crosswords and Word Search



### Across

- The name given to Lord Ganesha as he has only one tusk.
- Lord Ganesha is known as the remover of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ganesh Chaturthi is believed to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of Lord Ganesha.

### Up/Down

- Brother of Lord Ganesha.
- Ganesha has \_\_\_\_\_ the body of a man and the head of an \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated in this Hindu month.
- The most commonly depicted mount (vahana) of Lord Ganesha.
- Lord Ganesha is the son of Shiva and \_\_\_\_\_.



decoration	ganapati	ganesha
goddesses	gods	idol
modak	puja	sweets
visarjan	worship	

Crossword and word search created by Kashti Dedhia and Jia Sankhla (Grade 8)

Chief Editors: Jia Suri and Jia Sankhla

Section Heads: Kashti Dedhia, Riona Shah, Misha Shah, Dheemahi Udupa, Riddhi Shobhavat

Photography Head: Aanya Patel

Writers: Emaan Parekh, Syed Maroof, Aryan Pariani, Ananya Sudhir, Lopamudra Bareja, Sreshta Kanakadandi, Vihaan Lakhpatwala, Drisana Zaveri, Arav Doshi, Vaneesha Kothari, Dev Mehta, Shona Ganatra, Vihaa Shah, Devam Desai, Riya Hirani, Hriday Agarwal, Siddhant Sheth, Gitika Pariani, Barbie Vora







# Engaging Minds, Changing Futures

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

Join us to create  
endless possibilities  
for your child's education



Garodia International Centre for Learning Mumbai  
Plot No. 55 , 90 Feet Road, Ghatkopar (East).  
Mumbai - 400077.