



ECHOES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Let go of yesterday. Let today be a new beginning and be the best that you can, and you'll get to where God wants you to be.

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--Joel

Osteen

ECHOES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Warm greetings from Kasiga School!

“Danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high & failing but in setting our aim too low & achieving our mark” said Michelangelo .It is in this quest that we, at Kasiga School, embarked on a journey to create new benchmarks. The month of July 2016 was a testimony to the same.

The month witnessed activities which leave the teacher and the taught, very elated and proud .It began with Shivam Gupta winning the first Gold IAYP Award. Engaging activities of Subject weeks of English, Geography and Music Department made it an interesting month. The month closed with the debut of **Silver Fiesta, an annual Inter School Movie Appreciation Contest**, broadening the frontiers of cultural and academic enrichment. It is always heartening to see students scaling new heights in such diverse fields. With your unwavering faith and firm support, we hope to achieve greater heights and be the best among the best.

--- Dr. Neeta Bali

FIRST GOLD IAYP AWARD

On behalf of the Kasiga School fraternity, we would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Shivam Gupta, a student of A-Level, on receiving our first GOLD IAYP AWARD.



The IAYP Award Programme was first introduced in the United Kingdom in 1956 as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The aim was to motivate young people aged between 14 and 25 years to become involved in a balanced programme of voluntary self-development activities to take them through the potentially difficult period between adolescence and adulthood. The Award's concept is one of individual challenge, giving young people a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which encourage personal growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility to themselves and service to the community, either individually or as part of a team.

The prestigious award was presented to Shivam Gupta at the Gold Award Ceremony held on July 14, 2016 at the India International Centre .He , IAYP Coordinator, Mr. Aji Kumar ,received the Award from Mr. Abbas Ali Baig, former Indian cricketer.

It is a matter of great pride for everyone at Kasiga School and we applaud Shivam for this major accomplishment.

CAREERS IN COMMERCE BY CAREER COUNSELLING CELL

The Career Counselling cell of Kasiga School, organized a session for grades XI, XII, AS and A levels, on the 9th of July 2016. The resource person was the senior commerce teacher, Mr. Rajneesh Tiwari who apprised the students of various career options related to Commercial Studies.

In today's times, there is a gamut of career options. One is no longer forced to choose from traditional vocations that were pursued by one's parents and their parents before them. In recent years, Commercial Studies has become a stream that is quite popular among students of grade 11. It's challenging but is also quite scoring.

The session focused on 4 popular career choices in commerce – **CA, CS, ICWA and Investment Banking**. The students were familiarized with the respective job profiles, course details, subject requirements and financial packages. The Career Counselling cell plans to continue with sessions like these for all streams by drawing upon the immense resources that are available within the faculty pool.

It is hoped that these sessions will inculcate a sense of purpose and focus in the students and steer them towards being more and more career oriented.



GETTING INTO THE GROOVE- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

After a long languid summer vacation, it was time to churn up some fun and whet the minds. To awaken the child hidden in the teachers, a few exciting activities were organised to tap the latent potential of the Kasiga teaching fraternity.

The opening day witnessed presentations on two topics 'Opening the Classroom Door' and 'Seeing the Learner'. This was followed by an extempore' contest where the representatives from various groups of teachers chose their topics by chit picking and spoke quite eloquently. To everybody's surprise the science teachers proved to be a surprise package with their 'gift of the gab'. The second day started with the remaining presentations being set in motion with topics like 'Assessment of Learning' and 'Role of the Community in Learning' which sparked a healthy debate and question answer sessions. The best part, however, was the 'Ad Mad' session where the groups created and presented their enactment to sell a product. All present experienced hilarious moments and broke into a riot of laughter.



All joined heartily in the revelry just like family members enjoying a good movie. It blurred the distinction between the designations and spurred everybody into action. Needless to say, it was the much needed mind freshener that the staff members required before the start of a hectic academic schedule.

The third day continued in the same spirit having all the ingredients of a truly unforgettable experience.

A renowned company called INME, which conducts nature walks, adventure sports and trekking expeditions, was invited to Kasiga School to conduct a workshop for teachers to help them introspect on the teaching-learning process. The workshop was held primarily to promote and focus on the need of team building and collaborative learning.

The day witnessed a host of activities namely 'Little Discoveries', 'Transporter,' 'Let it Roll' and so on. These activities helped the teachers either to showcase or cultivate their organisational, leadership and team building skills or to reveal their discipline levels while working towards a certain goal. It also brought out the need to innovate, improvise and most importantly 'to practise what you preach'.

Through an absorbing and engaging session of games and activities one realised the need to cultivate and adhere to certain values and rules before trying to make the learners abide by them. An experience to savour one might say!

THE ENGLISH WEEK



The English Week was organized by the English Department from 11th to 16th of July, 2016, with the students of Junior and Middle School participating in the Inter House Spell Bee and English Recitation Competition.

For Spell Bee, each House was represented by a team of four members from grade 6 to grade 8. The first four rounds were solo rounds in which each member of the team had to spell out the word individually. The fifth round allowed the teams to spell the word as a group. The sixth round was the Jumbled Word Round in which each team was shown a slide of four jumbled words and they had to come up with the right word along with its spelling. All teams appeared to be aptly geared up for the contest as they spelt out words correctly one after the other. The tension amongst the audience as well as the participants became more and more palpable with each round. That is when some members faltered and made some careless mistakes and one team's loss turned into a gain for the others. The contest ended with Everest House emerging as the winner while Pacific House was the runners up.

The Amazon House and Nile House ended in a tie in the third position. Everyone appreciated all the participants for their level of preparedness, presence of mind and control of nerves in this closely fought contest.

The Spell Bee was followed by the English Group Recitation Competition. The theme for this competition was 'Humour' and the light hearted poems recited by all the Houses charmed the audience. The performances were awarded points based on poise, diction, memory, expression and presentation. In this competition, the winners were Pacific House followed by Amazon and Nile in the second and third position respectively.

The event ended with the declaration of results of both the competitions. While the winners in each category looked jubilant, the teams that didn't make it looked grim but determined to cover up in the next round of competitions.



MUSIC RESONATES IN THE CORRIDORS OF KASIGA SCHOOL

Kasiga School came alive on Tuesday, the 26th of July, with the magic of music resonating in its corridors, presented by performers of SPIC MACAY - Sikkil C. Gurucharan, the vocalist accompanied by V Sanjeevji on Mridangam and K. Balaji on Violin.

SPIC MACAY, “*the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth*”, is a non-profit, voluntary organization dedicated to promoting an awareness of Indian culture in educational institutions throughout India.

For the past 38 years, SPIC MACAY has exposed thousands of students to various forms of Indian Classical music, dance, folk art, craft and folk theatre by organizing lecture demonstrations and concerts by legendary performers in schools, colleges and professional institutions. Students are selected for national scholarships and National Conventions each year. The movement stands on the shoulders of its volunteers who work selflessly in organizing the programmes as they realize the importance of saving the country’s cultural heritage.

The performance commenced with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the Head of School, Dr Neeta Bali, the Deputy Head Mrs Nalini Pathak and the guest performers from SPIC MACAY, Sikkil C. Gurucharan, V Sanjeevji and K. Balaji. A brief introduction of the artists was given by Ketan Kapur to the students and staff present on the occasion. Mr Gurucharan expressed his admiration for the beautiful ambience of the school which provided the perfect setting for artists like him to bring forth their best performance.

Sikkil C. Gurucharan, a recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, is a leading musician and a youth ambassador for Carnatic music.

Gurucharan has not only made a mark in the traditional concert but has also worked to broaden audience appeal by creating collaborative projects with world renowned musicians while retaining the spirit of the art form.

He has several albums of the genre of Carnatic devotional and contemporary music and has collaborated with John McLaughlin, Mandolin U. Srinivas, Louis Banks and many others.

Sikkil C. Gurucharan, with V Sanjeevji and K. Balaji, then began with the recital of various soulful pieces like *varnam*, *jaganmohini*, *saptasura* and *bhajan* which enchanted the gathering.

In the question-answer session held after the performance, Mr Sikkil said that art is an integral part of our lives and the two complement each other in a way that one without the other would be incomplete.

The programme culminated with the Head of School presenting the guest artists with a token of appreciation. Dr Bali, on behalf of the school, expressed her sincere thanks to all the artists for their visit to the school to enlighten young minds about our rich culture and heritage.



THE SILVER FIESTA

Ask a layman, a growing teenager or just about anybody what would he/she prefer doing after a hard day's grind, the most common reply would be that he/she would like to watch a movie. That brings us to the paramount importance of movies. So is it just a motion picture with different characters essaying various roles to the accompaniment of different backgrounds, sounds, dialogues? Or is it a lot more?



With this in mind, Kasiga School came up with a novel plan to help the student fraternity plunge into the world of movie making and soak in its hitherto unknown facets. The Silver Fiesta is an annual Inter School Movie Appreciation Contest where students of Kasiga and ten other schools got an opportunity to witness the movie appreciation in a nutshell and also learnt how to critique a movie. In a country crazed with Bollywood, movie watching being the most popular pastime and movie reviewing becoming a much sought after career option; it is only apt that we expose our students to learning

the nuances of movie reviewing and critiquing.



The day started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by the school choir singing “It shall be my endeavour”. This was followed by a presentation titled “Fire Stone” by Kygo. In her welcome address, the Head of School Dr. Neeta Bali said that the ‘Silver Fiesta’ came into being after having envisaged the enormous potential of the modern day students, their varied interests and their avid interest in movies. She hoped this initiation would go a long way to mark a thrilling journey through the collaborative

effort of various schools.

It was then time for the screening of the Italian movie “Life is Beautiful” (La vita è bella) .An introduction to the film was given after a brief discourse on the horrors of Holocaust and the role played by it in the movie. It proved to be a great choice to be screened, as intense discussion about various aspects of the movie followed after the movie screening.

After a sumptuous lunch, all the participants were escorted to their respective classrooms for a brain storming session to prepare for their presentations. After a draw of lots, the presentation of critiques began. It was an overwhelming session where the insight, analytical abilities, and eloquence of the students came to the fore as they spoke with the air of a gifted orator. After an engrossing session, the cultural show began with a magical fusion performance which regaled the audience. One could sense anxiety and anticipation in the air as the prize distribution ceremony followed soon after.



Lawrence School, Sanawar bagged the 1st prize for their outstanding presentation while Welham Boys and Unison World School won the 1st and 2nd Runners-up trophies. The Jury’s Choice Award was bagged by Yadavindra Public School.

Although there were only a few winners, the participants of various schools had a wealth of experience to carry back. Kasiga had embarked on a glorious journey ahead. Needless to say, Silver Fiesta will continue to be an Annual Inter School Event.

STUDENT'S CORNER

My first two days in Kasiga:

As I took my first, very tentative steps into the school with my family, I observed that we were going to a place where beauty prevailed everywhere and the infrastructure was unlike anything we had ever seen. After arranging all of my belongings, it was time to say the dreaded 'goodbye' to my parents. With a lump in my throat I did the inevitable. "The journey ahead is going to be tough, so brace yourself"---I told myself. With my mind full of apprehensions, I went to sleep. It was the need of the hour, especially after such a tiring journey. I woke up a few hours later only to find my warden asking me to come to the dining hall for lunch. Her amiable disposition helped me calm down the storm brewing in me. I made friends quickly as many students welcomed me with beaming smiles. This was my new home. I had already started sensing it. Kasiga became my new family and I am looking forward to a splendid time ahead.

----- **Pulkit Ralhan (Class VII B)**