

Graduation Ceremony



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The red disk of the evening sun retiring behind the majestic Nilgiri Hills, signalled the arrival of an emotion filled moment in the lives of the twelfth graders, the senior most of the student body. The Graduation Ceremony had arrived in Good Shepherd International School. It was an auspicious day for the 12th graders; joy and sadness made a cocktail in their hearts as it was an end and a beginning, the end of their restricted and cosy school life and the beginning of life in the real world.

At 6:15 p.m, the bugle call announced the arrival of the chief guest Mr. Sundara Rajan. The ceremonial march performed by the graduating students followed the arrival of the chief guest, accompanied by a melodious tune conjured by the symphony orchestra. The invocation was rendered by Nikita Garg of Grade 12. Then the school choir mesmerized the audience by their tantalizing performance. The songs sung by the choir swayed the audience forcing a well deserved applause at the end of each song.

Then the staff choir by the teachers, entertained the audience with an inspiring performance. This was



The Chief Guest, **Mr. M. S. Sundara Rajan** delivering his address

promptly followed by the welcome address delivered by our Vice Principal Mrs. Sheila Alexander. Then Aanchal Gaur of Grade 11 gave an emotional farewell speech which summoned tears to the eyes of all. An equally emotional reply was delivered by KV Naveen Basheer even before the tears had time to dry from the eyes of the audience. Then the duet "For Good" was sung by Jyotsna M Sasthy and Dipanjan Dey who stole the hearts of their audience. Finally, the Graduation Oath was taken by the 12th Graders, which was led by



Mridul Jacob (Former School Captain). After the oath the school choir was back to sing the Graduation Hymns – “O God, our help in ages past” and “God will take care of you”. The presentation of the Graduation certificates and various awards were done by our chief guest and his wife. Each 12th grader proudly collected his certificate and the award from the chief guest. It was a moment of pride for everyone present in the ceremony.

After the distribution of the certificates and awards, our chief guest addressed the audience and gave a very inspiring speech. He was then followed by Mr. T. Suresh (Higher Secondary School Coordinator) who finally proposed the vote of thanks. The end of the ceremony was marked by the symbolic lighting of candles the song “Pass it on” which was sung by the graduating batch and the graduation choir.

Soon after this emotional and sensational song the Graduation Ceremony came to an end with the graduates carrying forward the light belonging to their alma mater.



The Graduating Class of 2009



FAREWELL SPEECH

The moving finger writes
And having writ, moves on
Nor shall all my tears
Or all my sighs,
Bring back those bygone days...
Good evening, respected Guest of Honour
Mr. Sunder Rajan, Mrs. Lalitha Sunder Rajan, Principal
Dr. PC Thomas, Senior Vice Principal Elsamma Thomas,
Mr. Pradeesh, Vice President, Mrs. Julie Pradeesh, Vice
Principal, Mrs. Sheila Alexander, Parents and guardians
present here, members of staff and my dear friends.

Time flies doesn't it? It just seems like yesterday.

Dear seniors, our dorm life began like one those Enid Blyton's juvenile fictional, St. Clare girls or O' Sullivan twins.... I still remember vividly those maiden days were filled with fire-spitting glares, candid advice, run-of-the mill repartees and what not ! But as seasons come and go, the cold war thawed and friendship blossomed in those frigid spaces that hung between us. Once dismissed as bossy, you were now a beacon of light to us. Once thought to be rude, you were now our rescuers. You sustained us through our ups and downs preventing us from becoming rudderless derelicts. But now, with clutched fingers, moist eyes, constricted throats and a sigh, we all tell you that its time to say 'Good bye'

Time is like a river, neither can you halt its flow, nor can one touch the same ripples again .But when we go down the memory lane, it always brings a smile to everyone's face. How can we ever forget the 'blond community' consisting of Nikita Tayal, Srilakshmi, Nav preet and Soha, all under the helm of blond god Geeta Lakshmana Naga Venkata Alapati Akila Ambika Krishnaveni. Our in-dorm beauty parlour Sabita? Have you ever experienced a stormy thunder under a closed



Aanchal Gaur delivering the speech

roof? Well, the High Secondary school is immune to former Head Girl Nikita Garg's Hawa and Chantell's round-the-year cough. Have you ever heard people laughing as if there is no tomorrow? If not, step in to Ave Maria's and there will be Reba flat on the floor, laugh echoing. Okay, now let me tell you a story. There was a boy, who studied French Lang B. One fine day, I guess, an auspicious one for him, in his exams he got an Abinitio paper and then a remarkable event occurred. He realized that he is a Lang B student only after 10 minutes! Guess who - "D Jason Patrick" his motive of life being, 'keep slow'. Our Mr. Bean, Asad and D Anda-Aditya Patel. One just can't ignore the animal community that exists in the batch. The "dude" of the stable-Anshul Malhotra, Riddhi Purohit who moooooos 'that thing' all the time and Larisha "D dino, Roshan - " D Panda" and rabbit- teeth, Bindiya. It is like a nightmare for Nupur when it comes to our beloved "Angrezi" songs. Karmate's styled- "Jai Maharashtra", kuch Khatti kuch Meethi - Nishtha and Davanishi. The encyclopedia of old songs- Dharmistha . "The girl too different for life" - Heena. The next Adolf Hitler-Akshat Choudhary and Akash Chatterjee our next... Shah Rukh Khan. We have some unusual couples in GSIS like

Abhishek Kunappa and his Valentine, the Math's book.
Deep and his Comb
Ashish and his asrtix
And not to forget Sachin Ramesh and his florescent night dress.
Pooja Hadole and her fixed bathroom, not to forget her 2 white buckets "with handles".

The batch of 09 proudly leaves a legacy for the up coming batch - "THE GREAT BOOK OF LAME JOKES". Let me read a few of them for you:
According to Aadarsh, the easiest of way of becoming fast is to buy a Fast Track watch.

Another one by Sanket, to grow mango trees just drop maaza on the ground

Now I want to ask you a question. When you run, do your hands ache or your legs.??? Well in Mansi's case, it's the hands and we thought that legs ache, didn't we?

Well Mansi, your hands may ache but I may never tire of singing praises of you people. But be cautious, as the road ahead is tricky and one may get lost. Today selfishness and greed takes over the feelings of love and sympathy, but hard work, belief and determination clears the way towards success. What the caterpillar thought to be the end of the world was the beginning of a butterfly, and you are at one such moment of your life. As butterflies fleeing their cocooned existence, as birds flying from their safe nests, you leave this nest, the home called GSIS. You are its flag bearers, soar higher and higher. The world awaits to be conquered by You!!!!

The lighting of the candles and the traditional hymn 'Pass it on'



GRADUATION SPEECH - THE BATCH OF 2009

I have seen quite a few graduation ceremonies and heard quite a few amazing speakers but I did not in the least expect myself to be standing in front of you to deliver the reply to the toast. It is with mixed feelings that I am addressing this gathering. Good evening to everybody present here.

"Why does it take a minute to say 'hello!' and forever to say 'Goodbye!?' Is it so hard to part? We all know that we will go on our separate paths after a few days. We have to face the day when we part, when we know that life is going to get tough, when we know that people who have been with us for the past 13 years are going elsewhere.

When I joined this institution I was just 4 ½ years old and this campus had just been inaugurated. I was the happiest soul back then, not because I loved the people here but because we kids had a nice park to play in. I think I have changed a lot since then. Now it is not the park but the people here who keep me happy. Every person I met here was special. From Kindergarten to Grade 12 my life was moulded by this institution. I still remember my class teacher, Miss Selena who taught me A, B, C, D. then there was Ivy Miss who made us sing 'I am a Barbie Girl' for the Founder's day function. It all seems to have taken place yesterday. Every year that I spent here went by faster than the previous one. Before I could even manage to hold on to my good memories, my time here was coming to an end. It is like one long journey, where I took off when I was 4 ½ and I am going to land when I will be 17. During the journey I was always ascending to a higher altitude, then there was a time when everything was calm and smooth. Then came the frequent turbulences where many people who were with us left us. Then came a time when the plane was refuelling and nearly everyone got down. This was after the Class 10 Board Exam. When the journey started again there were only a few old passengers and quite a lot of new ones. My 11th and 12th were quite memorable. Like every batch that passed out even we had our fair share of arguments and quarrels. Quoting



K.V. Naveen Basheer delivering the Graduation speech

William Blake, "It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend." Yes, it was hard but we did forgive each other and maintained our unity.

I have learnt the true value of friendship. A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the nicest things you can be. This place is truly special because I have met such amazing people here. I am glad that I got 13 years to make friends and now, I have a lifetime to keep them. Each place in the school is special because it has memory attached to it. My earliest memories are from kindergarten. I remember going for milk break holding Srilakshmi's hand. I am glad that she is here to end the journey with me. There are two others as well: Chris and Reba were always with me. I guess this place has indeed been a home away from home for the four of us.

All of us had a lot of fun. The Duke silver trip that we had last year is unforgettable. I still can't believe that we trekked through the tiger zone with just one torch and two candles at night. Though this was scary there were other scary incidents in the dorm as well. There was always a new ghost story in the dorm at night. Sachin, Ashish, Harsh, Akshaydeep and the rest, I will never forgive you for the sleepless nights we had. What was

more scary was Pratik Karmate's shouting in Marathi in his sleep every single night. Then there was the time when the SAT exams approached. Our SAT students, Akshit Kurani, Akshat Choudhuri, Anshul Agrawal, Aditya Patil, Umair, Avishek and Hamza were discussing the English section of their practice papers in Hindi! Speaking of English, I don't know how Karan Aswani gets an amazing accent during every school function. Every batch has a silent killer. We have two: Shankar and Abhishek to build a hand twisting machine. The most interesting day of the week was a Saturday because there had to be an argument between Dhiren (our genuine Tottenham fan) and all the wannabe Man U fans. Even if warden switched off the TV our very own sports' centre, Asad was always on, which made Zameer suspect him of suffering from a hyperactive disorder. Sports was always a concern for the boys because our very own Adith Manohar started the hand cricket league after his leg got injured. The best part was that Akash Chatterjee was always providing full support for the new game by playing against Sanket and Adhiraj just because he was the games' captain. The boys always thought about their personal gain but the girls were not so. I say this because Mansi Patel came back for her 11th just because she didn't want the boys to feel short. For some time pink was the batch colour because of Chantelle Lobo and her pink movement. Our general Knowledge is good and we are all familiar with the 'Did you know' boxes in magazines. Well our GK came from Riddhi Purohit who always had a brand new "You know what?" every morning. The memories are galore and I am sure all of us will retain them forever.

Principal Sir, Ma'am, I know this school, is your baby. Many of us have seen your baby grow from just two buildings to a small township. There was something that we did not realize. We ourselves were growing up with your baby. Your baby was our playmate and friend for 9 months in a year. In the process of protecting your baby you were protecting mine and everyone else's future. It was your discipline and care that brought us up. Thank you, Sir and Ma'am.

This is to my parents whom put me here at such a young age. Thank you for doing so. I know I complained a lot

when I was a child but now I know I am going to miss this place.

This is to all my teachers. I know many of them are not here, like Pramod Sir, Seal Sir, RK Sir, Hema Miss, Bala Sir and Shastri Sir. On behalf of my batch I apologise to all the teachers if we hurt you in any way. More importantly, I would like to thank you all for guiding us along the right path. You are all amazing teachers and we hope to get teachers like you in the future as well. We will also never forget the wonderful dorm parents who were with us through these years. I never thought I would say this but I am going to miss the food here. For the last two years Mr Suraj and Mr Ramesh and his crew have been providing us with amazing food. Thank you, sirs and thank you, chechis and annas, for taking care of all our needs.

Finally, my friends, I wish each and every one of you success in life. I hope we can create history. There is a saying 'We can already follow a built path or we can make our own path and expect others to follow it.' As we depart let us do so with smiles on our faces, and with a hope that we shall meet again, I wish you all good luck for the future.

Thank you!

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATION CERTIFICATES

