

INAUGURATION OF GOOD SHEPHERD FINISHING SCHOOL



Ms. Shovana Traxl Narayan

(Padmashri and Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee)

Chief Guest at the Inauguration of Good Shepherd Finishing School on 27.07.2003

Shovana Narayan, a living legend, has blazed a trail in Kathak, bestowing it with dignity and enriching it with a deeper and wider canvas of expression and dimensions. Her name is not only synonymous with Kathak but also with ennoblement. One of the foremost Kathak dancers 'par excellence', Shovana is a visionary, who has amalgamated the best of both the worlds, the past and the present and who is leaving behind a legacy of believing and living a personal commitment. She displays an infectious zest for life but which rests on a solid foundation of rigorous training and sensitivity, deep thought, intensity and incredible hard work. She is individualistic, contemporary and ever dynamic, which make her performances mesmerizing. She has also worked in collaboration with nationally and internationally known Indian and western dancers and musicians. Her concern for people and humanity, have seen her dancing passionately to various social themes either through new panoramic vistas of interpretations of Kathak's traditional repertoire or through new choreographies. By presenting a soliloquy to 'Shakuntala', she rejuvenated the narrative tradition of the North-Indian dance form. She is in fact the first dancer to work on philosophical themes and on the lives of contemporary sages such as Vivekanand, Ramana Maharshi, Ramkrishna Paramhansa and Gandhi. She is, perhaps, the first dancer to have conceived, conceptualized and brought out a dance video on the philosophy and legend of the immortal Khajuraho temples. Her dedication as a guru of excellence can be seen in her disciples, who have become acclaimed young dancers of the country.



It was a colourful function at which the Good Shepherd Finishing School was inaugurated in the Auditorium of the Palada Campus at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, 27th July 2003. The function witnessed the august presence of Padmashri Shovana Narayan; Mr. B J Chacko, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Good Shepherd International School; Ms. Carol Andrade, Editor, Times of India supplements; Ms. Vinitha Ramchandani, Correspondent, Times of India; Mr. Dinesh Chandra Hegde, Assistant General Manager of Vijaya Bank, Bangalore; Mr. Surendra Shetty, Assistant General Manager of Vijaya Bank, Chennai. The function was also attended by the members of the press in the Nilgiris, the parents and guardians of the first batch of eleven students of Good Shepherd Finishing School and the students and the members of faculty of Good Shepherd International School.

In his welcome address Dr. P C Thomas outlined the principles behind the Finishing School concept. *"It was my cherished ambition to conceptualize, a basically western idea, an Institution which envisioned a programme, not merely academic, but one that would invest young ladies, who have completed their Pre-University examination and before they go to the Universities for professional development, an opportunity to imbibe certain social skills, for which chances are limited in Schools or in the Universities. The programme seeks to cultivate certain basic social and professional traits, which could combine with academic skills, to produce a competent lady socially and professionally. The Finishing School for girls aims to cultivate social and academic skills like Public Speaking, Time Management, Leadership*

The Chief Guest Ms. Shovana Traxl Narayan lighting the lamp



Introduction of the First Batch of Students of Good Shepherd Finishing School

Qualities, Body Language, Transactional Analysis, Interior decoration, Multi Cuisine Cooking, Table Setting, Flower Arrangement, First Aid, Health and Hygiene, Home Nursing, Physical Fitness, Yoga, Meditation and many others which do not find a place in the Higher Secondary or the University Curricula in India and abroad. We are sure that the programme would endow the young ladies with the necessary confidence and abilities which would stand in good stead when they choose to build an Institution or a family."

In her address, Ms. Shovana Narayan observed satisfaction that the syllabus included a plurality of subjects and skills, which will pave the way for the unity of competence, professionalism and achievement of young women in the modern times. She also expressed her appreciation of the idea cited in the prospectus of the school that the spirit of education is the spirit of freedom and liberty of the individual, so that the individual's life soars high above, like the flight of an eagle. She was all praise for the new avenues of diversification in education and Dr. P C Thomas's urge for new initiatives and new horizons of human efforts.

The dean of the institute, Mrs. Tulsi Bhatia elaborated upon the course offered and introduced the first batch of the Good Shepherd Finishing School Students.



The Chief Guest Ms. Shovana Traxl Narayan delivering her address

Ms. Carol Andrade, Editor, Times of India supplements and Ms. Vinitha Ramchandani, correspondent, Times of India visited the school on the occasion of the inauguration of the Good Shepherd Finishing School and conducted interviews with the first batch of students.

Ms. Vinitha Ramchandani, Correspondent, Times of India interviewing the first batch of students of the Good Shepherd Finishing School



THE VISITING DIGNITARY

The Governor of Mizoram,
His Excellency Shri Amolak Rattan Kohli's
Visit to the School on 07.08.2003

His Excellency Shri Amolak Rattan Kohli
addressing the students
during the morning assembly



His Excellency Shri Amolak Rattan Kohli
signing the guest book.
Seen with him is the Principal, Dr. P. C. Thomas



His Excellency interacting with the GSFS students

Excerpts from the speech of The Governor of Mizoram, His Excellency Shri Amolak Rattan Kohli

Through school and college education, through professional education, you make a career for the children. They become adults to face the world, but then, what do they want to achieve? Which is the ultimate achievement for every individual? It is they who have to decide. There is a time in the life of a student, when he or she has to decide where he/she is heading for. This is important, keeping in view your natural talents, the interest which you have developed over a period of time, the surroundings to which you have been exposed, environments which you have seen and experienced and then all the success stories in the world which you have heard during your entire career as a student. I found out that most of our children are getting education, where the career is decided by the parents because they are financing the education. They have the right to decide and many a time it comes into direct conflict with their children's natural interest as well as the natural talents which they have acquired. People follow others, not realizing they are different individuals, have different traits, have different etiquettes. You are a distinct personality by yourself. Why then should you be a follower? Why not a leader? You must go along your way. These are the few questions I had raised and finally what I am going to discuss today is not my original idea, but it is my conclusion by interacting with almost two thousand different educationists over a period of three years.

I divide education into two parameters: one is training and the other is the development of individuals. Training further has three components, one is acquisition of knowledge, the second is upgradation of skills, and the third is developing a positive mental attitude. These are the aspects of training which teachers or others can help you, and you can also learn on your own. Then comes the development aspect of every individual. Development also has four components, the first is increase of IQ - Intelligence Quotient, the second is increase of PQ - Physical Quotient, the third is increase of EQ - Emotional Quotient and the last is increase of MQ - Moral Quotient. When I talk about IQ - Intelligence Quotient, it relates to your wisdom. The school can give you any amount of knowledge, it can give any amount of skills, it can develop your positive mental attitude, but nobody can give you wisdom. Wisdom is your own acquisition over a period of time and what is wisdom? Successful implementation of all these things to achieve results for you, for your society, for your nation and when you come out successful, the world will call you a wise person.



His Excellency watering a newly planted sapling



Mrs. Amolak Rattan Kohli planting a sapling

THE VISITING DIGNITARY

The Chairman and Managing Director of the Indian Bank, Mr. M B N Rao paid a visit to the School on 29th February, 2004.

The Chairman and Managing Director of the Indian Bank Mr. M. B. N. Rao signing the Visitors' Book



Mr. M. B. N. Rao seen with the Principal, Dr. P. C. Thomas



Snapshots of the function

The Chairman and Managing Director of the Indian Bank, Mr. M B N Rao paid a short visit to the Palada Campus on 29th February, 2004. He also visited the Senior Campus and had a look at the Library, Computer Lab and the senior girls dorm. At the Palada Campus, he and his wife Mrs. Hansa Rao were welcomed with bouquets and this was followed by the general salute and the band display by the senior Brass and Pipe bands. The Brass and the Pipe bands displayed two colourful formations which symbolized that the world today should be united, peaceful and harmonious. The first formation depicted the beautiful rays of the sun.

After this, both the bands played the tune "Amazing Grace" which was followed by the foot-tapping Drummers' call, conducted by Mr. Subramaniam, the senior Pipe band master and the leading drummers were Tapasya Hadole and Shivani Singhai. Ashrafunisa Khan, Angad Singh, Hiteshi and Aadavan were the base drummers. This was followed by the tune "Abide With Me", conducted by Mr. Bhaskaran Pillai, the senior Brass band master and the trumpet echo was given by Ashish Modi.

The Chairman also witnessed the colourful gymnastics performed by the boys of the Palada Campus and the breath taking equestrian show. After the function, our Chief Guest was totally impressed by the discipline of the students, the will power and the patience they bore to put up the show under the hot sun.

INTER SCHOOL SPORTS FESTIVAL

Mr. Alastair J Reid, Principal, Hebron's School at the Closing Ceremony of the Inter School Athletic Festival at Good Shepherd International School, Palada on 15.08.2003.

No one lights a lamp and covers it with a bowl or puts it under a bed. Instead he puts it on the lampstand, so that people will see the light, as they come in. The experience of sharing nourishes and enriches life in a community.

The Inter School Athletic Festival was held at the Athletic Stadium of the Palada Campus on 15th August 2003 (Independence Day) at 9.30 a.m.

The Inter School Athletic Festival torch was lit by the representative athletes of the Lawrence School, Hebron School, St. Hilda's School and Nazareth Convent High School. Along with these English Speaking Schools of Ootacamund, were JSS Public School, Rex Higher Secondary School, Breeks All India Secondary School, Breeks Memorial Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School and, of course, Good Shepherd International School participating in this amiable, fraternal and competitive Athletic Festival. The main objective of the Athletic Festival was to bring together the English Speaking Schools of Ootacamund and share the Athletic facilities that the Good Shepherd International School could provide, which is remarkable in its quality and splendid in its location. Also the event was in joyful response to the requests from the various Heads of the English Speaking Schools to avail of the facilities in our School. A total of 145 boys and 170 girls participated in the festival. The Opening Ceremony witnessed the March Past of the athletes, to the accompaniment of the march tunes, played by the Palada Brass and Pipe bands. After the Athletic Festival oath, Mrs. Pamela Clarke, Principal, St. Hilda's School, declared the meet open.

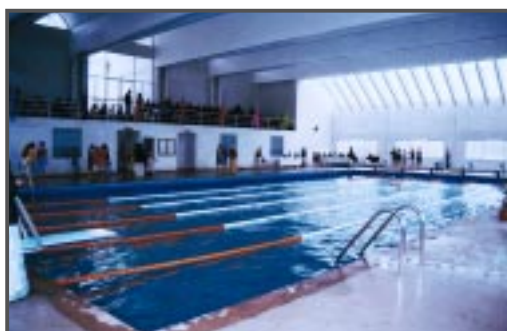
There were 43 events comprising the Track events, the Throws, the Jumps and specially the Relays for various categories (from the Sub juniors to the Super seniors). The Sports Festival progressed with clockwork precision under the skilful organization and supervision of Mr. Subhas Mathew (Headmaster of the Good Shepherd International School, Palada Campus). Certificates were awarded to the winners of these competitions by the Heads and the PET's of the participating schools. The Relays formed the icing on the cake and all the nine schools were the winners in one or the other relay / event. The ceremony came to a close at 12.30 p.m. with Mr. Alastair Reid, The Principal, Hebron's School and President of the Association of the Heads of English Speaking Schools in the Nilgiris, complimenting and commending the exuberant participation of the Nilgiris fraternity of English Speaking Schools. He also urged the athletes to be good-principled in life, citing the example of Eric Liddell, a man who would not run on a Sunday. The occasion was a memorable one, an area where the schools could come together for a while. The Festival was well received and appreciated in its efforts to promote the spirit of sport and fair competition. It is our pleasure to offer this facility to the schools in Nilgiris, which, we believe, would bear fruits in future.



INTER SCHOOL SWIMMING GALA



A swimming gala cum competition was held on 29th November 2003 between Good Shepherd International School and Hebron School at the Palada Campus of Good Shepherd International School. On the day of the event, the indoor centrally heated swimming pool held a gala atmosphere as the participants arrived. Mr. Alastair Reid, Principal of the Hebron and Mrs. Reid were the Chief Guests. Sportive spirit prevailed among the competitors and certificates were given to the winners in various categories.



**VIEWS
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