



# VIN-Views, Ideas & News

*AN EXPRESSION OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNG GOENKANS*



## Musings...

*BY DR. MANISHA MEHTA*

*In this column, I will be talking about an important attribute, that students need to imbibe, of being a risk taker. History has enough examples where many distinguished personalities have exhibited extraordinary fearlessness in facing challenges life threw at them. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and many others have taught us the value of fearlessness. They were not afraid of thinking differently and were ready to face the consequences of their action in order to achieve their goals for the betterment of society.*

*I am sure that every Goenkan has the determination to conquer their fears and forge a path unique to themselves. At the same time, let me caution you that being fearless does not mean being disrespectful or*

*aggressive. "Fearlessness" requires a lot of discipline, of both body and mind. I can assure that at GDGWS my dear students will always have the freedom to create a distinct path for themselves and the courage to fly high in the sky of success.*



Dr. Manisha Mehta  
Deputy Head of School  
Head, IB Diploma Program

## IN THIS ISSUE

- REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS
- AN ENERGETIC WELCOME
- GDGWS PDP SESSIONS
- JOLLY PHONICS SESSION
- CAMBRIDGE LOWER SECONDARY ONLINE ORIENTATION
- IBDP ONLINE ORIENTATION
- SEL ACTIVITY
- IBDP PDP SESSION- CRITICAL THINKING
- GCEI INTERNATIONAL MEET
- EXAMINATION SKILLS WORKSHOP
- INDO-BANGLA EXCHANGE PROGRAM
- INTERACT CLUB
- BASANT PANCHAMI CELEBRATIONS



## Republic Day Celebrations 2023



GDGWS commemorated the solemn 74th Republic Day with immense patriotic fervor and zeal on 25th January 2023 which was a red-letter day in the history of our country. The student-led celebration infused the spirit of solidarity and patriotism leading hearts to swell with pride. The event commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag and was abounded with presentations by various clubs, an integral part of SAP (Student Activity Programme) rich with enthusiasm. It was truly an exhilarating visual treat.



The students exhibited a gamut of visuals ranging from the Live Orchestra of National Anthem, Nukkad Naatak evoking the spirit of responsibility and belonging, group dance and choir to sharing some amazing facts about the Indian Constitution. An interactive quiz about the same kept the audience engaged and added value to their learning.



Dr. Manisha Mehta, Deputy Head of School and HOP-IBDP, shared valuable information about the Indian Constitution and inspired the students with her motivational words advising all the students to abide by the constitution of their motherland and fulfill all their duties as responsible citizens. The event concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

### Republic Day Celebrations by GDGWS Boarders



On the occasion of Republic Day, various engaging activities were arranged in the boarding. The boarders participated in a quiz competition based on Indian history. They enjoyed kite flying, which was a great visual treat, seeing numerous kites fly high in the sky. Republic Day was well spent with engaging activities, and active participation of all the boarders.

### An Energetic Welcome !

The students were welcomed back to a wonderful year full of fun and learning with the positive energy and dedication to excellence in education! After a relaxed and recharged break the students were ready to start a new year.







## GDGWS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS



Teaching is a remarkably rewarding pursuit if one is able to enable and empower learners. However, it is also about being a confident and committed teacher with a sound balance of a healthy mind and a healthy body. We expect our teachers to innovate, continuously learn and create an engaging learning experience. At each stage, a teacher gets involved and strives to deliver to the best of his/her ability. In a performance-driven world, it becomes increasingly stressful to fulfill the demands of students while ticking all the deliverables in a limited timeframe.

Nowadays, the importance of physical and mental well-being of teachers needs to be emphasised upon more than ever. Education or any activity that involves an exchange of knowledge should involve a consistent focus on mental and physical wellness. In this endeavour a wonderful session on the physical, emotional and psychological wellness of staff was conducted at G.D. Goenka World School by the guest speaker Ms. Vaani Pahwa Bhalla - An Integrated Wellness & Medical Fitness Strategist, keynote speaker, a classical dancer who is also creating holistic health & wellness blueprints for global organisations. She spoke about the connection between the psychological and physical wellness, about importance of movement and gave a great tips for improving body postures and fitness.

The session concluded with the insight that as a school, we must think out of the box and deliver holistic solutions that would ensure both mental and physical wellbeing of teachers. These solutions should be implemented consistently keeping their long term impact in mind.



### IBDP Session on Critical Thinking

GDGWS IBDP head Dr. Manisha Mehta conducted a PD session on the topic Critical Thinking.

Critical thinking plays an important role in education. It helps students to think in an analytic and rational way. In addition, it encourages students to make life decisions and evaluate all aspects while solving problems. Critical thinking in the classroom helps students think in different dimensions.



GDGWS conducted professional development sessions about vertical planning, alignment and an array of team building activities for whole school staff.

Vertical planning and alignment in GDGWS is the how and the when of what we teach. It's about linking lessons, skills and assessments together as a holistic experience. It helps us prioritize, focus, reinforce and place learning in new contexts.

Vertical planning and alignment requires teachers to think beyond their classroom walls and collaborate with their colleagues. Together, they can organize around a curriculum that focuses on developing those skills further.

The departmental meeting happened for different departments which was led by CODs of the departments. Vertical planning was done in different classrooms where teachers discussed on how integration of subjects can be done and how the skills of the students can be enhanced.





## Professional Development Sessions for GDGWS Teachers



### ✓ *Team Building Session*

Building a sense of team unity for teachers is important for growth and moral support as the school year begins. Team building activities also create a climate of cooperation and contribute to collaborative problem-solving, develop empathy and trust in the group and in yourself, enhance creativity, and boost self-esteem.

Such sessions help schools make better decisions faster and helps learners apply those skills in new ways. There were team building activities organized for the whole staff by the PE department at the soccer ground. Activities such as dodge ball, hoopla race, wood skiing race were organized. All teachers participated and had a rejuvenating experience.



### ✓ *Inquiry in Classrooms*

A session was conducted by Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan in the Assembly Hall on the process of how teachers can initiate inquiry in classroom. The staff was divided in departmental teams and were taken through an array of hands on activities. Every department selected a topic for any of their subjects and proceeded with the steps on how enquiry would be done on it.

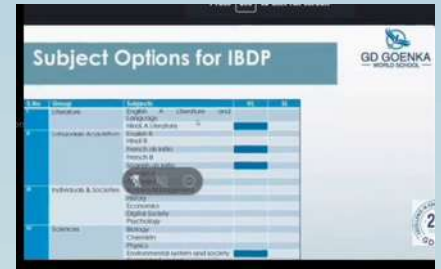


### ✓ *Morning Yoga and Meditation Session*

A session on meditation and yoga was conducted by Mr. Ramesh Karwasasara in the assembly hall. Whole staff participated in the relaxing session of different yoga poses and meditation through the process of "dhyaan" along with breathing.



## IBDP Online Orientation



An Orientation Session was held on 14 th January, 2023 for students who will be taking admissions in IBDP for 2023-2025 session.

The program began with the Head of Program IBDP, Dr Manisha Mehta introducing the purpose of the session which was to help students make informed decisions regarding choice of subjects. The HOP then talked about how purposeful the curriculum, IB assessment criteria, grading and requirements is along with the working of the program. She highlighted that the program/curriculum is in synchronization with the real world and certain colleges also give credit to IBDP students.

The Chair of Departments added details about their specific subjects and differences between HL and SL levels. The most informative part was the guidance provided about how students should be conscious about their admissions to the universities and thus make informed choices. Parents and students cleared their doubts during the open session . One to one interaction with parents will be happening in the coming weeks for better clarity and making decisions regarding their subjects in Grade 11 IB DP.

## ***Jolly Phonics Session***

A Jolly Phonics session was conducted for parents of grades Nursery and Kindergarten to make them understand the five basic skills in Jolly Phonics. Parents were engaged in hands-on activities to get a better understanding of phonics to help the children in their foundation years by correlating sounds with symbols , letter formation, blending to form words , identifying sounds in words and tricky words.



## Interact Club Campaign

Interact Club of GDGWS in association with Bhagat Singh Foundation initiated a "Humein padhao Humein Badhao" campaign. It was indeed an enriching learning experience.





## ***GCEI International Meet***



The students of G.D. Goenka World School took part in the recent GCEI summit- an international division comprising schools from North America, Africa and Southern Asia- in order to stress the importance of the ever-growing issue of food scarcity all across the globe.



The students had partnered with their companions from CRMS, a US-based institution, to discuss the problems prevalent regarding food scarcity in their respective areas. They then presented the conclusions drawn from results of multiple surveys taken by them and proceeded to elaborate on the plans for implementation of feasible solutions for the same. In doing so, they demonstrated a caring and reflective attitude. Overall, we're proud to announce the GCEI summit a success.

## ***Cambridge Lower Secondary Checkpoint Orientation***

Cambridge Lower Secondary segment conducted an online orientation on 13th January to apprise the parents and students of grade 8 about the coming up Cambridge Checkpoint Examination.

The session was taken up by the Head of Programme, Ms. Deepti Kaushal. She gave a thorough detail of the objectives, process and explained the pre-requisites. Parents attended the session and clarified their doubts. It was an enriching experience.



## ***SEL(Social & Emotional Learning) Activity***

"Individually we are one drop but together, we are an ocean."

Students of Grade 2 displayed team spirit through 'Ants on a Log', a creative game of strategy and balance. This SEL game encourages self- management and communication skills among the team members while working together to change positions without knocking any of their teammates off of the line. Students thoroughly enjoyed the game.



## EXAMINATION SKILLS WORKSHOP



GDGWS wishes good luck to all the students appearing for Board Examination in the March 2023 series.

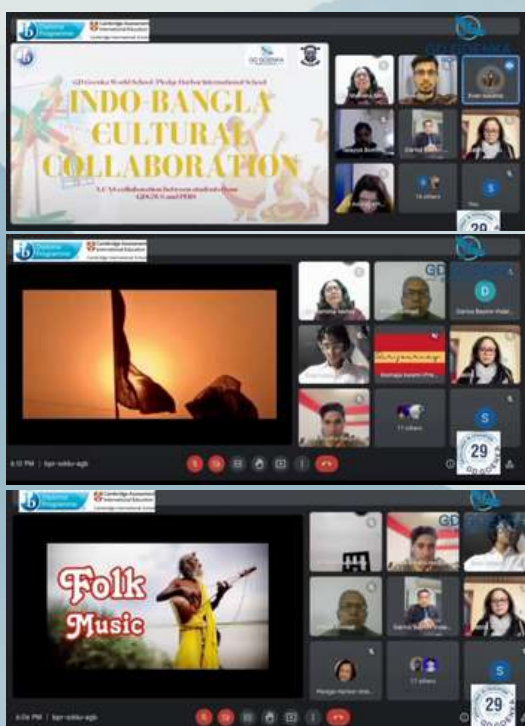
An examination skills workshop was conducted wherein the IGCSE Coordinator - Ms. Asha Yadav shared the examination protocol to be adhered to during the examination. She also shared some valuable tips with the students to surmount their fears so that students fare well in the upcoming board examination. Students carefully listened to the tips shared and together took an oath to give their best for the board exams.

A special ceremony was held for our students which commenced with Saraswati Vandana & lamp lighting by IGCSE Coordinator Ms. Asha Yadav, the form tutors and students of Grade 10, followed by a short prayer.

The program culminated with giving away the statement of entries to the students by the FT's along with the Prasad. The students departed among wistful wishes and dreams for a bright future promising to keep the GDGWS flag flying high.



## Indo- Bangla Cultural Exchange Programme



The closing ceremony of the 6 month long CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) project between Indian and Bangladeshi students that took place on 19th January 2022 was a heartwarming event that brought together the diverse cultures and traditions of both countries. The students spoke about their experiences and shared their insights on the importance of unity in diversity. They acknowledged that while they came from different backgrounds, they had much in common, and that by working together, they could achieve great things. The ceremony was a celebration of the cultural exchange and the friendships that had been formed over the course of the project. The students pledged to continue working together and to promote unity and understanding between their two nations. Overall, it was a meaningful and impactful project that emphasized the importance of cultural exchange and understanding in today's world.



## Basant Panchami Celebrations



The PYP segment, GDGWS conducted a special assembly to celebrate the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami. The event commenced with Saraswati Pooja to seeking blessings for knowledge and prosperity. The students showcased their talent through musical and dance performances. This was followed by apprising all students about the significance of the festival. The children feasted upon 'yellow laddoos' reflecting yellow as the vibrancy of life.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Commencement of IGCSE Board Exams
- Session on Adolescence with Grade 5
- Grade 7 presentation- Kahaniyyon Ka Pitara
- Examination Workshop for Grade 11
- PYP Sports Day

## Compiled, Collated & Designed by

Ms. Swati Naithani  
English Language Educator

Parth Agarwal  
Grade-11

Khushi Jain  
Grade-11



**K-12 RESIDENTIAL AND DAY BOARDING**  
**60 ACRE GD GOENKA EDUCATION CITY**  
**FOR ADMISSION ASSISTANCE CONTACT-9818171304,**  
**9818171277, 9818171302**  
**GDGWS.GDGOENKA.COM, GOENKAGLOBAL.COM**  
**GD GOENKA WORLD SCHOOL, SOHNA ROAD,**  
**GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122103**